

## 917 McKinley Avenue

### Louisville Holiday Home Tour 2007

This recently constructed home was designed with the goals of incorporating both old and new elements and of having it blend in well with the surrounding neighborhood.

#### *Design of the New House*

The homeowner retained a Fort Collins architect, Kristen “Bink” Owsley, to design this one-of-a-kind house. Owsley had previous experience with designing houses in the historic part of Fort Collins. She brought to this project her expertise in blending the American Craftsman architectural style with a more contemporary style.

The homeowner feels that he and Owsley attained a “little big house” feeling for the house and successfully avoided a “McMansion” style that would have overpowered the neighborhood. The influence of the Craftsman style can be seen in the overall design and shape and in the exposed rafters. More modern is open floor plan of the first floor and the thought given to the flow of the space.

Describing the design process, the homeowner said that he had the most opinions on kitchen and bathroom features that he wanted to make sure would be included. His favorite part of the house is the openness and flow of the first floor, which includes a front living room, kitchen, dining room, and back living room. This great room’s open riser staircase, made of ash wood, helps to contribute to the open feel. He plans to place a piano in the front.

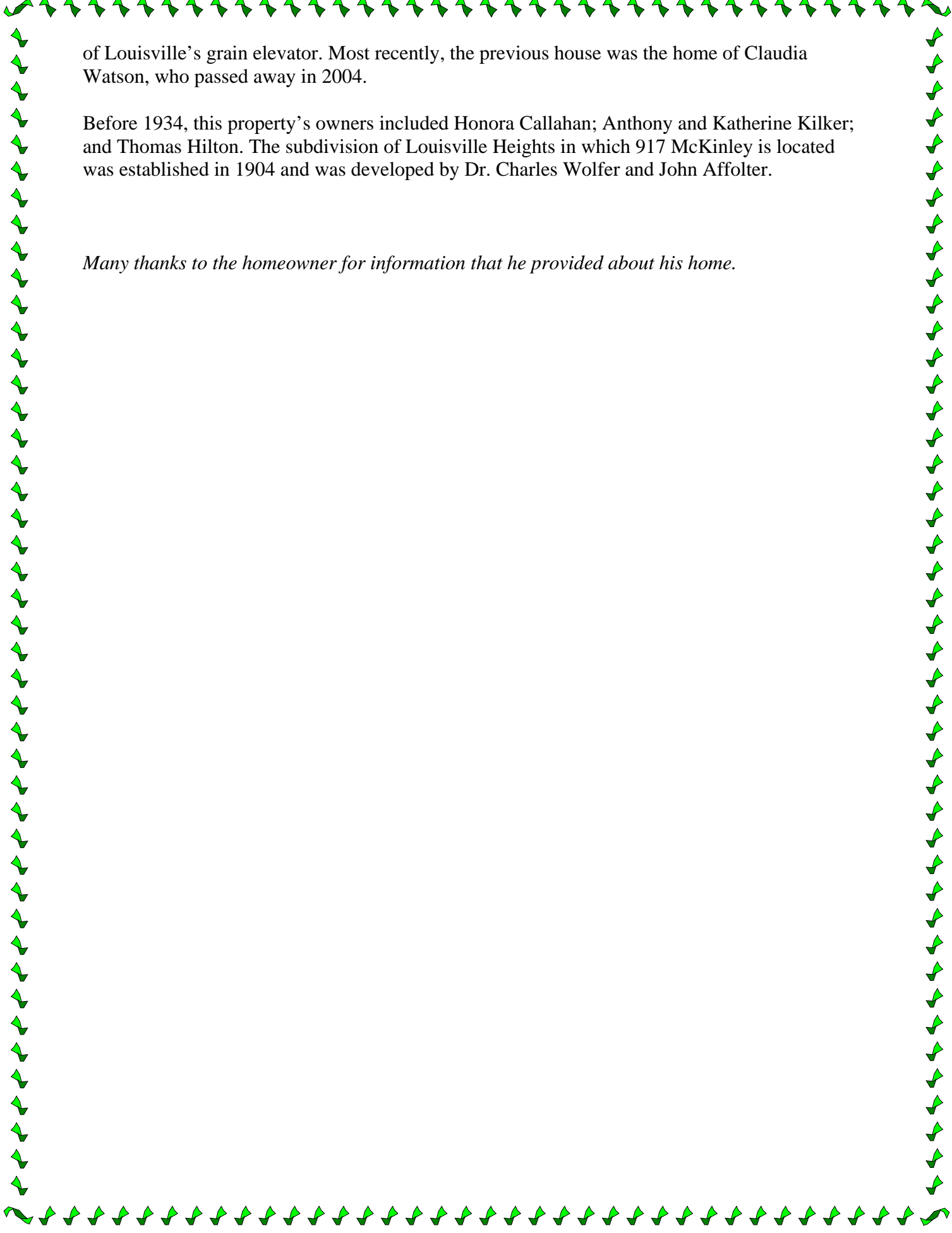
Outside, another open riser staircase curves up from a flagstone landing to the front door.

The homeowner tried to be as energy efficient and “green” as possible in his choices for the house. For example, the tile in the kitchen was made of recycled glass. The lumber and windows from the old building were donated to an organization for reuse.

The owner has made plans for not only the house itself but also for the landscaping around it. A landscape firm did the physical labor on the walks and other areas. He has put in thirteen trees and many plants on the property.

#### *Previous House at this Location*

Some Louisville residents may recall this location as having been the site of the home of the related Moore, Boydston, and Watson family. This property was in their family from 1934 to 2004. Zura Moore in 1934 was the recent widow of Howard Moore, who had been the manager



of Louisville's grain elevator. Most recently, the previous house was the home of Claudia Watson, who passed away in 2004.

Before 1934, this property's owners included Honora Callahan; Anthony and Katherine Kilker; and Thomas Hilton. The subdivision of Louisville Heights in which 917 McKinley is located was established in 1904 and was developed by Dr. Charles Wolfer and John Affolter.

*Many thanks to the homeowner for information that he provided about his home.*