

Holiday Home Tour
Louisville, Colorado
December 2, 2006

941 Garfield Avenue

A History of Doctors

The house at 941 Garfield is best known for having been the home and office of Dr. Lucius F. Cassidy, who was a “mine doctor” and treated Louisville and Superior patients for 50 years starting in the early 1930s. The property also has the distinction of having been owned by three different Louisville doctors and of even having a connection to the Louisville Public Library.

For more information on Dr. Cassidy and his family, see the attached lead article in the Fall 2006 issue of *The Louisville Historian*.

Lucius and Helen Cassidy purchased the property in 1936 from Dr. Alvin Crannell, who was also a mine doctor who had his office and home in the building.

The property at 941 Garfield was also associated with a third Louisville doctor. Dr. Charles Wolfer and John Affolter were business partners and developers who bought and resold much of the Louisville Heights subdivision. They acquired this particular parcel in 1905 and sold it in 1907.

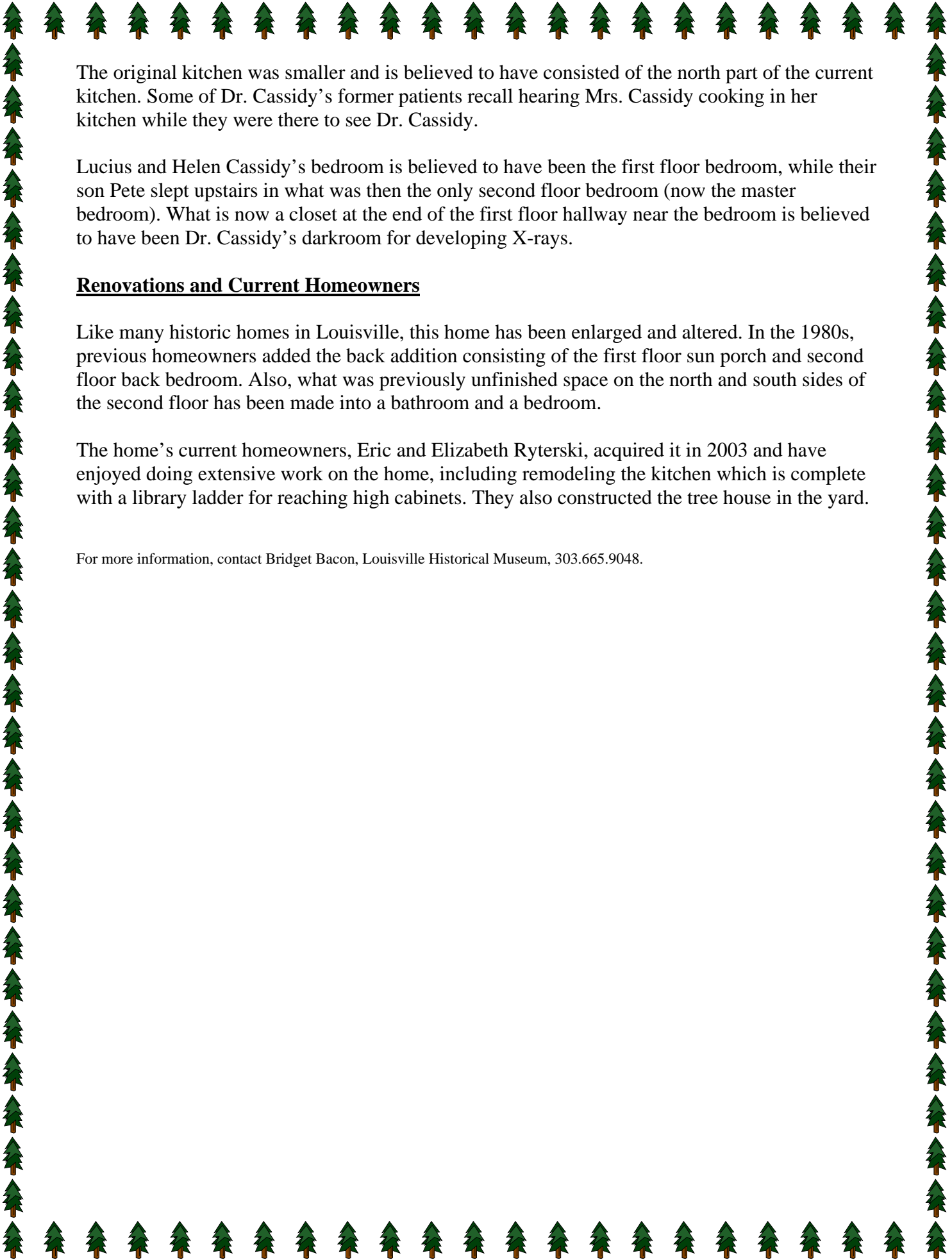
There is some conflicting information as to when the house was built on the property. According to County records, it was constructed in 1930. However, a building is shown on the property on a 1909 Louisville map, and the Crannell family is believed to have lived on the property beginning in 1918 when Dr. Crannell acquired it. A possible explanation is that the first house was torn down, or partially torn down, to make way for the 1930 structure that appears to have been specifically designed with a waiting room and medical examining room on the south end.

Dr. Alvin Crannell and his wife, Mayme, had a daughter, Kathleen, who graduated from Louisville High School in 1927. In the 1980s, Kathleen, then a California resident, donated her family’s reed organ that had been in their Garfield home to the Louisville Historical Museum. It is now on display in the Tomeo House.

As a high school student, Kathleen Crannell was part of a small group of Camp Fire Girls who began to collect books for a library in 1924. These books formed the nucleus of today’s Louisville Public Library.

The Layout of the House and Office

Dr. Cassidy’s waiting room and examining room were located on the south side of the house. Where there is now a window into the dining room from the porch, there was a door going into the waiting room. Dr. Cassidy’s examining room was to the west of this waiting room, where today the south end of the kitchen is situated.



The original kitchen was smaller and is believed to have consisted of the north part of the current kitchen. Some of Dr. Cassidy's former patients recall hearing Mrs. Cassidy cooking in her kitchen while they were there to see Dr. Cassidy.

Lucius and Helen Cassidy's bedroom is believed to have been the first floor bedroom, while their son Pete slept upstairs in what was then the only second floor bedroom (now the master bedroom). What is now a closet at the end of the first floor hallway near the bedroom is believed to have been Dr. Cassidy's darkroom for developing X-rays.

Renovations and Current Homeowners

Like many historic homes in Louisville, this home has been enlarged and altered. In the 1980s, previous homeowners added the back addition consisting of the first floor sun porch and second floor back bedroom. Also, what was previously unfinished space on the north and south sides of the second floor has been made into a bathroom and a bedroom.

The home's current homeowners, Eric and Elizabeth Ryterski, acquired it in 2003 and have enjoyed doing extensive work on the home, including remodeling the kitchen which is complete with a library ladder for reaching high cabinets. They also constructed the tree house in the yard.

For more information, contact Bridget Bacon, Louisville Historical Museum, 303.665.9048.