

Home of local doctors comes full

In the previous century Henry Corby amassed such a large liquor distilling empire that the Village of Corbyville was named after him, giving him something like his own fiefdom.

And so befitting a king, his

home at 126 Bridge St. E. was a little like a palace in its day.

Corby built the liquor empire that today is called Corby Distilleries Ltd. and so he could afford a spacious house in Belleville's east end. In 1875 he built that house and today

it is owned by Dr. Greg Hunt and his wife, Nancy. It is appropriate the Hunts bought 126 Bridge St. because the house is best known as the home of two physicians, doctors George Clinton and Austin Walters.

Corby's time in the house was brief. Hastings County directories list him as living on George Street by 1879.

The house appears to have been divided into apartments some time after Corby's departure.

In 1909 Dr. Clinton was living at 128 Bridge St. but it is likely this is the same building as 126 Bridge St. and that the street numbers changed. City directories list Clinton and several other prominent citizens living there. They include C.H. Vermilyea and D.S. Thornton in 1909 (128 Bridge St.). Vermilyea owned the Oak Hall and Thornton was secretary-treasurer of the Belleville Iron and Horseshoe Company.

Clinton and these two men resided there well in to the

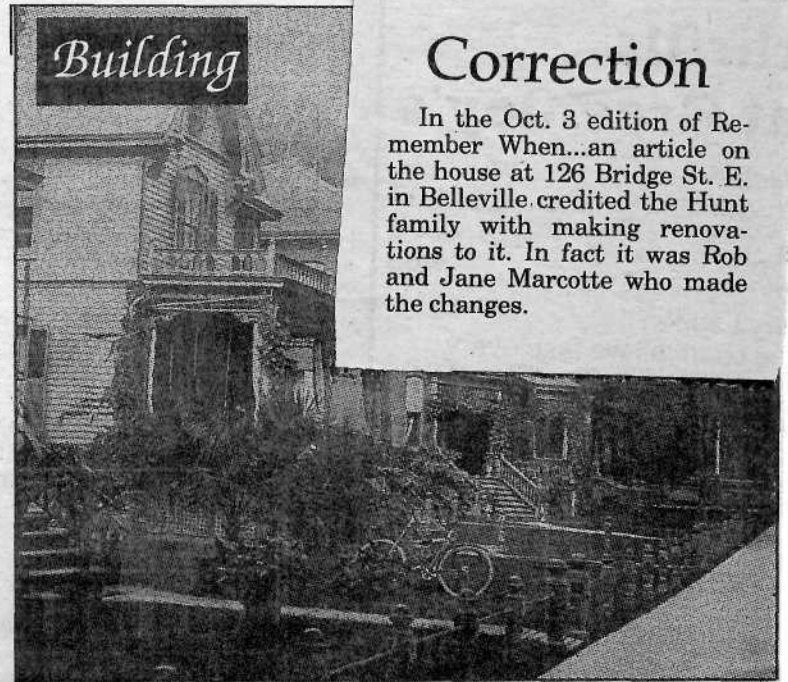
1920s and Clinton remained until 1937 or '38, when Dr. A.C.H. Walters took possession of the house. He stayed until the mid or late 1960s and continued renting apartments.

This is evident today as the house has six bathrooms, some of which were added after the house's construction.

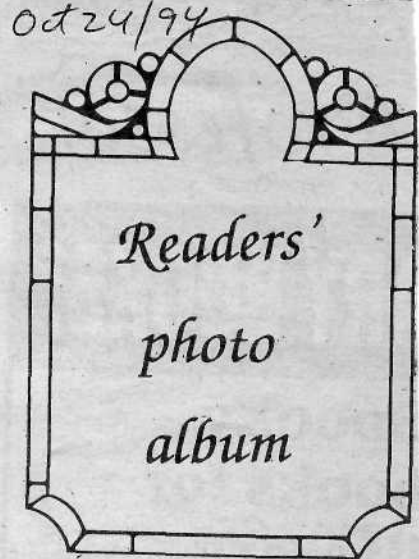
There are also four fireplaces with tiles around each of them. The tile in one fireplace has a scene depicting a mother sewing, with three children sitting at a table involved in various activities. Another fireplace has columns on each side.

Other features of the house reveal its age. Lights are turned on by pushing in a pebble-like button and hot water radiators.

Building



A view of Bridge Street showing the former Corby home second from the left with gazebo-like porch.



Correction

In the Oct. 3 edition of Remember When...an article on the house at 126 Bridge St. E. in Belleville credited the Hunt family with making renovations to it. In fact it was Rob and Jane Marcotte who made the changes.

126 Bridge St. E.



Hastings County Historical Society

Bridge Street in Belleville looking west.



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