





Address: 24 Hillcrest

Lot No. 30 Plan 296

Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Kalnay

Construction: Brick, with Cupola or belfry. Victorian Bracket  
Italianate design.

Date built: 1870c.

Map information:

Registry Office Information: Crown grant: 1832 James Shaw  
1833: Walter Ross  
1853; Frances McKay  
Mortgage 1854: George Robertson  
1888: G. Robertson to his 3 daughters  
Margaret, Mary & Jeremia  
1941;; Alfred Lazier  
1969: Kalnay

Directories of Hastings County information:

Other factual information:

Interviews: Mrs. Kalnay and Miss Masson  
Mr. Davy Robertson lived here around 1870. He was a city official.  
Mr. R. wished the vacant property (now a parking lot) to become a  
park, and suggested it to the city. A Mrs. Cronk, (descendant of Capt.  
Meyers) owned the property and offered it to the city of the park, but  
the city refused it. Mr. & Mrs. Cronk were very upset. Mr. Cronk  
decided to build houses on it. Miss Masson's mother used to tell of  
it being an afternoon's entertainment to go and watch Mr. Cronk's  
men digging out the foundation's and the city men filling them back in.  
Mr. Cronk finally won his case with the city and to get even he had  
the front of the houses facing John St. and the back complete with  
out door privy's and unfinished, facing Mr. Robertson's house. Mr.  
Cronk also bought the lot next door and built two horrible little  
houses to further annoy Mr. Robertson.

## 24 Hillcrest

This house is another example of decorative High Victorian architecture. The architect has mad~~the~~ the house come alive with variation and decoration.

First of all the basic square plan has a strongly projecting bay to one side housing an elaborate entrance consisting of a doorway with arched transom and arched, separate sidelights. Above these are a pair of arched windows capped with rounded moulding.

The windows of the other bay are both again different: the lower a bay window, the upper a square headed window with square moulding.

The house is finished with brackets under eaves and quoins on the corners, and the dominant element - a belvedere on the roof, topped with a finial. The belvedere also sports small rounded windows, vertical boarding, small brackets, and dentils.

The character of the house is Italianate, especially in the tower like feeling of the projecting bay and the crowning belvedere, and in the large brackets.



1870

24 Hillcrest

permission letter  
mailed Nov. 10/77

This house is now owned by Mr. Mrs  
Kalnay.

It was built for Mr Harry Robertson  
who lived a very active social life.  
He was a city official.

At that time the property facing his  
house (now the parking lot on John St)  
was vacant. He thought it would be  
nice to have that property made into a  
park and suggested it to the city. Mrs  
Cronk a descendant of Capt. Meyers, owned  
the property & they offered to give it to the  
city for park land but the city refused the  
offer. Mr. Mrs Cronk were very annoyed  
by this decision. Mr Cronk decided he would  
build houses on it. It was an afternoon's  
entertainment to watch Mr Cronk's men  
digging out foundations & the city men piling  
them back in. Mr Cronk finally won  
his court case & was able to continue with  
his building, but to get even with the  
city he had the front & attractive part, facing  
John St with the back of the houses never  
properly finished & the sheds - privies facing Mr  
Robertson's house.

Mr Cronk then bought the lot next door  
to Robertson's and put up two of the most

horrible little houses as close to the road as possible. These were always rented and of course being the type of houses they were, to the poorest of the poor.