

A View from the Top

Proctor house was built in 1853 by Isaac Chamberlain Proctor and expanded in 1867, by Isaac's son, John E. Proctor. The house was originally called Milbank in reference to the many saw and flour mills the family owned on Butler Creek.

John E. Proctor was a successful entrepreneur whose businesses included the mills, banking, a general store, and the shipping of goods across the Great Lakes. It is believed that the expansion of the house was financed by profits that John E. Proctor made from shipping during the American Civil War. The belvedere, or widow's watch, was built into the roof of the house to allow J.E. Proctor to watch his ships come and go from his 200-foot wharf south of Brighton on Presqu'île Bay.

Not only was J.E. Proctor a prominent businessman, he was also a leader in the community of Brighton and played an instrumental role in the growth of the area. He served as the local magistrate, village councillor and was the local reeve for eight years.

Proctor House had been slated for demolition in 1972 but was saved when local citizens formed Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) and campaigned to save the "mansion on the hill". Proctor House Museum opened in June 1976 and is open to the public for tours during July and August.

The belvedere provided J.E. Proctor an excellent view of Presqu'île Bay.



The Proctor family including Charlie, Mother, Cora, John E., Helena, Stella and Mrs Proctor.



The Proctor family was very wealthy and decorated their home with fine furniture and paintings.

