218 5th Street ca. 1875

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Foster Album 16, 5th Street 1930

218 5th Street was built sometime after the great fire of 1870. In 1884, there was a boots and shoes store here. By 1898, William H. Richards and James Hocking had gone into business here, selling clothing in the storefront downstairs, and sharing the apartment upstairs. By 1903, the business partners were able to afford their own homes in Laurium.

In 1907, Richards had left the partnership, and established an independent clothing store in the Lisa Block on the corner of 6th and Oak Streets. In 1916, Penberthy and Spehar had a clothing store here. They carried Hart, Schaffner, and Marks Clothes, and advertised as "the home of good clothes." In 1930, this building was home to Ward's Electric Company, which sold electric lamps and appliances. Herbert Ward lived upstairs. In later years, this building was home to Lepisto's sporting goods store, and then the Anthony family established The Office Shop here.

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Album 15, 5th Street 1898

In 1913, the building above was occupied by a clothing store owned by James Hocking. At that point, Hocking was in business independently, although he had briefly been in partnership with Alfred Michaelson after his former business partner had set out on his own. The strike in 1913 made for a tough business climate in Red Jacket, as striking workers had very little money to spend on clothes – or anything else.