

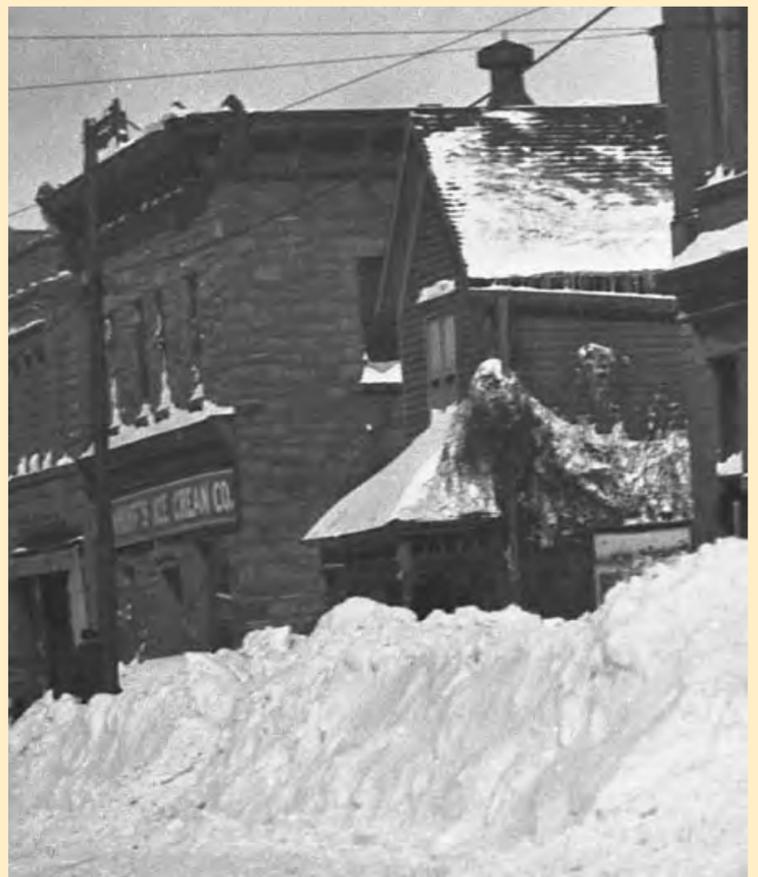
304-306 6th St. ca.1895



MTU Archives, 3189_I, Bastian smith shop, ca. 1910

In 1884, the south part of this site now occupied by the one-story wing of the Jilbert building was occupied by a blacksmith shop, a stable, and a dwelling. The north part of this site now occupied by the two-story portion of the existing building was occupied by a shed and a stable. Sometime between 1893 and 1897, the existing two-story building was built. It was owned by Edward Ryan and used as a warehouse and heating plant for the Ryan store across the alley from this building on 5th Street. Steam was also sold to neighboring buildings for heat, and supplied through steam tunnels.

In 1898, the house on this site was occupied by Eliza Bastian, the widow of Richard Bastian. She rented the blacksmith shop to various blacksmiths over the years. On May 17, 1917, the Ryan store was destroyed in a catastrophic fire. By July of that year, the two-story part of this building served as the Obenhoff Ice Cream Company's factory. Sometime in the 1940s, the Bastian buildings were removed, and the one story wing was added to this building, with a remodeled front. Sometime between 1948 and 1957, Jilbert's Dairy bought this building, and their operations were based here until they moved to Marquette in the 1970s.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Marzene Slide #093, Obenhoff's & Bastian House, ca. 1925

In 1913, the blacksmith shop immediately north of the Michigan House was closed and vacant. In 1912, it had been operated by a smith named Oscar Ingman, who lived in Laurium. The blacksmith shop was owned by Eliza Bastian, who lived in the house north of the shop. In 1913, the two-story part of the existing building was still owned by the estate of Edward Ryan, and was used as a warehouse for the Ryan store just behind it on 5th Street.

RED JACKET 1913 - WINDOWS INTO THE PAST