

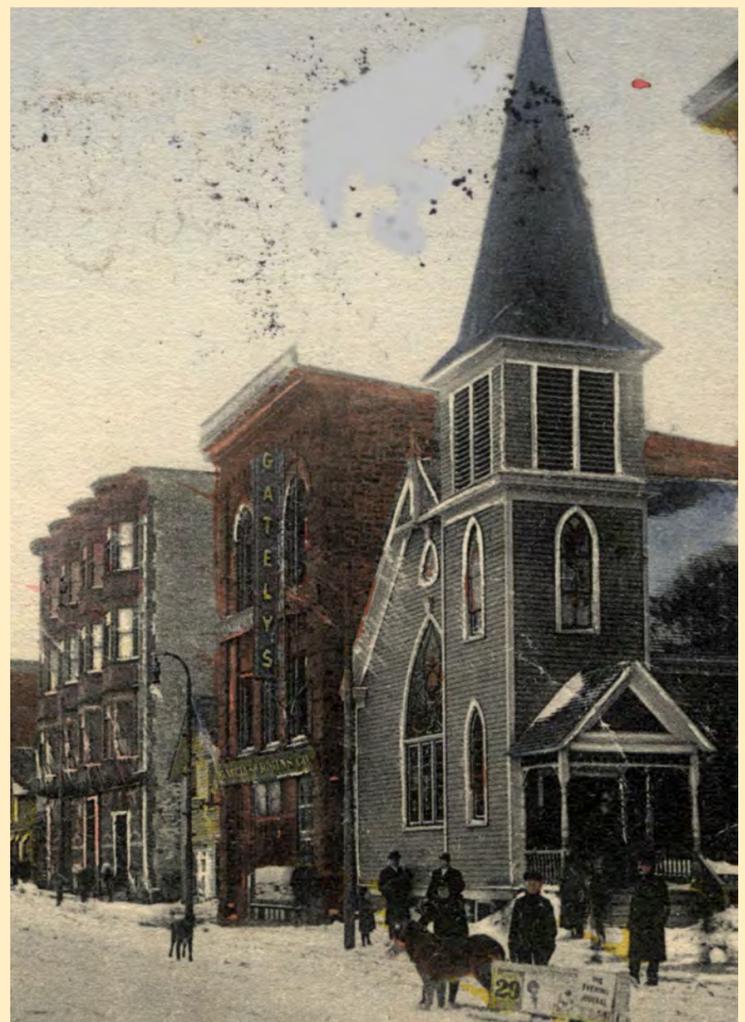
311 6th St. ca.1975



NPS, KNHP, Marzene, Slide #56, Vertin Apts. Ca. 1925

The lots now occupied by the Keweenaw Home Nursing and Hospice building were formerly occupied by a number of historic buildings. By 1893, the lots were occupied by 5 houses, a stable, and a saloon. In 1897, there were 8 houses on these lots. By 1908, there were four houses on lot 8, the south lot, and a four-story apartment building with two commercial storefronts had been constructed on the front half of lot 7, the north lot. This impressive building was probably built by the Vertin family. In 1908, the storefronts on lot 7 were occupied by a grocery store, and a tailor.

By 1917, there were four storefronts; two were occupied by barbers, one by a tailor, and one by a print shop. By 1928, Lot 8 was occupied by a one-story garage known as Taxi Pete's. The lots now used for the Keweenaw Home Nursing and Hospice parking lot were once home to other historic buildings as well, including Gately-Wiggins Company's three-story department store, the Swedish ME Church and parsonage, and two other houses. Taxi Pete's, the Vertin apartment building, and the Gately-Wiggins store were all destroyed in a catastrophic fire in 1972. The church and parsonage were later demolished.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Mason postcard, 6th Street, ca. 1910

Around 1913, the commercial spaces in the Vertin apartment building were occupied by National Tailors, Matt Chopp, proprietor, Suprenant & Moletz, barbers, another tailor, and the Croatian Printing & Publishing Company, which published the weekly newspaper, the *Hravatski Radnik* (Croatian Worker). It is likely that this paper supported the strike.

RED JACKET 1913 – WINDOWS INTO THE PAST