Curto Block 1895

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Album 10 #023, Italian club "Coseritti del 1883" ca. 1900 – similar to those who met in Curto's Hall

A two-story house occupied this site in 1884. In 1895, the house was moved back on the lot and the front portion of the existing building was built by Marco Curto, attached to the front of the house. The saloon here was first known as Curto's Place. Sometime between 1897 and 1900, the house was demolished, and the back part of the existing building was built in its place. Sometime between 1916 and 1926, the Shute family took over the business from the Curto family.

During prohibition, the bar officially sold "near-beer" and other soft-drinks, but according to family stories, also clandestinely sold alcoholic beverages in the basement. Workers in the soft-drink parlor would tap on the radiator pipes to alert patrons in the basement when enforcement officials came in for an inspection. In 1989, the Shute family sold the building and the business; it is currently owned by John Vertin and Brad Wagner. The village of Calumet owns the elaborate backbar and stained-glass canopy.

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Album 6 #012, Christmas Card, 6th Street ca. 1915

In 1913, this building housed a saloon, as it always has. There was an apartment upstairs where the Curto family lived. There was a public hall upstairs, too. The hall was used by the Cigar Makers' Union, Local No. 413, but it was mostly used by Italian groups such as the Giuseppe Garibaldi Celibi Society (for young Italian bachelors) and the Club Alpino Pont and Locana (for people from the Pont and Locana areas of Italy). Italians were one of the ethnic groups known for supporting the strike in 1913.