# The Monroe Building ca.1890

KNHP, Coppertown Box 32, Calumet PC, Oak St. ca. 1920

This part of Red Jacket developed later than the area to the east around 5th and 6th Streets. This site remained vacant until sometime around 1890, when W. J. Monroe, a painter, built a shop near the rear of the lot, with a stable behind. Monroe advertised as a house, sign, ornamental, and carriage painter. Sometime between 1898 and 1900, he removed his shop, and built the existing commercial building, with two storefronts and apartments above. For many years, the east storefront was occupied by a saloon.

When the building was first built, this saloon was owned by Michael Schmalzel, a Slovenian immigrant who belonged to the Slovenian Catholic parish across the street, sponsoring a small but prominent window over one of the entrance doors when the existing church building was built. Many of his fellow parishioners patronized his saloon here. For much of this building's history, the west storefront was occupied by a candy store. Around the turn of the 20th century, it was owned by a partnership of Greek immigrant families, the Antiohos and the Anegones. Many local residents remember it as Ludd's store, in later years.

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Album 8 #025, Oak Street ca. 1928

In 1913, the east storefront here was occupied by a saloon, which was owned by Joseph Scheringer at that time. Sheringer and his family lived in the east apartment upstairs. The west storefront was occupied by a candy store owned by the Antioho brothers. George Antioho managed the store here, and lived upstairs. The Antiohos had a second store at that time, located at 443 5th Street. In 1913, this building was still owned by the estate of its original owner, W. J. Monroe.