

# Murphy Block ca.1880



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Mounted, Oak & 5<sup>th</sup> Panarama ca. 1910

The Murphy Block was built sometime around 1880. It first housed a saloon, but by 1888 it was leased by the government for a short time and served as the Calumet Post Office.

By 1893, the Murphy Block was home to a grocery store. Four years later, the main floor had been made over into another saloon. In 1914, the exterior of the building was modernized. By 1916, the building was home to the Hocking clothing store.

In later years, the Murphy Block was used by the Salvation Army as a meeting hall with classrooms upstairs. The large display windows were removed and a glass panel façade was installed at that time. In 1968 the building was purchased by Leonard and Lillian Oikarinen. The building was then used as a warehouse for the antenna center and ski shop next door, with an apartment upstairs. The building was purchased by the present owners in 1993. Since that time, they have restored the storefront windows to their ca. 1914 appearance.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Mason postcard 5<sup>th</sup> at Oak, ca. 1935

In 1913 there was a saloon in the Murphy Block, owned by Jacob Decker. Around that time, Decker lived at 228 Tamarack Street in Laurium. His bartender, Otto Decker, lived nearby at 313 6th Street. This particular saloon had previously belonged to Joseph Decker, who had since moved to Detroit. It's likely that all of the Deckers were related.

**RED JACKET 1913 - WINDOWS INTO THE PAST**