

# Sorsen Block 1903



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Mounted, Oak Street ca. 1910

Before the Sorsen Block was built, this site was occupied by a smaller wood-frame commercial building. This early building was occupied by a number of businesses over the years, including a drug store, and a harness and bicycle shop. In 1903, the existing building was built by Charles J. Sorsen, the physician who established the Northern Michigan General Hospital in Laurium, now known as Aspirus Keweenaw. Northern Michigan General Hospital was one of three hospitals in the Calumet area.

The Sorsen Block was home to Dr. Sorsen's pharmacy, a jewelry store, and a barber shop. The second floor was used for professional offices, including at one time a masseur, or massage therapist, and Sorsen's brother's dental office. Cross Country Sports has occupied the building since 1962. The second floor retains its historic character, and is now used for apartments.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Foster Album 16, Oak Street 1930

In 1913 the Sorsen Block was home to the Metropolitan Pharmacy, managed by John W. Kivela, and the Levin Jewelry Company, owned by Alexander Levin. Offices upstairs were occupied by two physicians, Henry M. Joy, and Albert T. Lawbaugh. Dr. Lawbaugh was also the superintendent of the Tamarack Mining Company hospital, which was about half a mile up Oak Street in Tamarack Location.

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