

# UNION BUILDING 1889



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Petermann GP#383 Union Building ca. 1910 by Myrno Petermann

The Union Building was built in 1889 by an association or “union” of fraternal groups. It has always been a prominent structure, not only because of its size and corner location, but also because of the events that took place inside.

In addition to lodge meetings, the upper floors hosted wedding receptions, recitals, plays, and other events. In the 1970s, it was sold to a private individual. Years of neglect, compounded by water damage from a leaking roof, began to take their toll on the structure.

Watching it deteriorate, and knowing the building’s historic importance, the local community advised the National Park Service to acquire it for use in interpreting Calumet’s social history. Keweenaw National Historical Park’s Calumet Visitor Center opened at the Union Building in 2011.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, KHVM Masons 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1920

In 1913, the Union Building was home to Calumet Lodge #271 Free and Accepted Masons and Hecla Lodge #90 Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as well as other fraternal organizations. Around that time, the ground floor was occupied by commercial tenants such as the post office, and the Keweenaw Printing Company. Built on land leased from C&H, labor union activities on the premises were strictly prohibited.

RED JACKET 1913 – WINDOWS INTO THE PAST