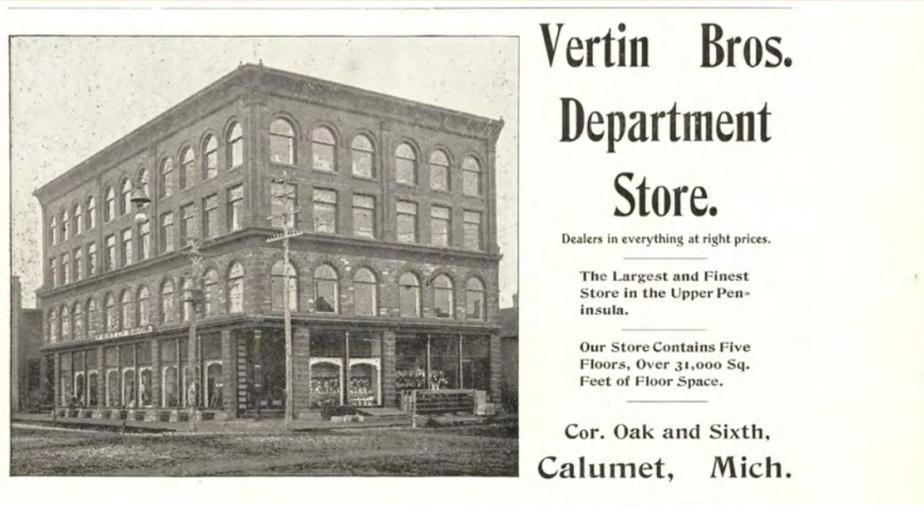


# Vertin Bros. Dept. Store 1891



Known as the 'big store' in the Copper Country, the Vertin Brother's Department Store sold many necessities and novelties to satisfy a variety of customers from the sophisticated socialite to the common miner.

NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Curto Album 2 #137, Vertin's Ad ca. 1910

This corner was previously occupied by the Provincial House, a small wood-frame hotel and saloon. In 1891, Slovenian immigrants John and Joseph Vertin built the lower two floors of the existing building.

Business boomed, and in 1899, two additional stories were added to the building, according to designs by architect Charles Maas. Later, another one-story addition was made to the south side of the building, on a site formerly occupied by a barbershop and three dwellings. The heating plant in the Vertin building at one time supplied steam heat to handful of other nearby buildings. The store eventually expanded across the alley into the Caesar Block next door, which housed the menswear department. However, in 1985, with mines closed and thousands of families gone, the store shut its doors after nearly 100 years of serving the community.



NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Marzene, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Red Jacket, 1909

In 1913, the Vertin Building was a bustling department store selling groceries, crockery, dry goods, furniture, millinery, clothing, and appliances. Women's clothing kept pace with the current fads as buyers would travel to Chicago and New York to buy the latest fashions, making them available here in Calumet just days later.

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