

IRON MOUNTAIN CENTRAL HISTORIC DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES APPLICATION – 2013

*[Researched and Written by Robert O. Christensen,
National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, Michigan]*

Summary Paragraph

The Iron Mountain Central Historic District encompasses the city's central business district and also adjacent areas containing the historic county courthouse complex, several school and church buildings, and the former public library. The district is irregular in form and has a maximum north-south length of about 2300 feet and east-west width of about 2000 feet. Its streets form a rectangular grid plan except for the gently arcing Stephenson Avenue, the city's main street. The district contains 144 buildings in all. These date mostly from the early 1880's to the mid-1960's, but include twelve newer buildings. Landmark buildings include the 1896 **Dickinson County Courthouse**, Late Victorian commercial blocks built with walls of the local red sandstone, Neoclassical and Art Deco former bank buildings, a Mission Revival-influenced commercial building, Neoclassical movie theater, large Late Victorian, Neo-Gothic, and Arts-and-Crafts-influenced churches, and Neoclassical and Art Deco schools.

Narrative Description

The city of Iron Mountain owes its founding to iron mines. The site of the **Chapin Mine**, the city's first and by far the largest producer, has marked the center of the community from its establishment down to the present, with the city's larger part containing the primary business district extending to the south and southwest and a smaller but still extensive part of town known as the North Side extending off to the northeast. Twin Chapin Ponds, the two separated by a narrow embankment

containing Stephenson Avenue (US-2/141) and an adjacent former railroad line, mark the mine site and are key physical features of the city. The ponds now fill pits formed by subsidence of the ground over underground workings. The ground above the underground workings began to subside even before 1890, forming pits that, when pumps that kept the vast amount of groundwater under control were shut down in the 1930's, quickly filled with water. Low hills extend east and southeast from the east pond and west and northwest from the west pond, the eastern hills comprising a cluster of peaks that include **Millie Hill** or "Iron Mountain," the site of the first iron ore discovery, located directly east of the downtown's north end.

The Central Historic District is located in the city's larger south section. It encompasses Iron Mountain's downtown and directly adjacent areas containing the county courthouse complex, several of the city's historic churches and school buildings, and the former **Carnegie Library**. The irregularly shaped district's north edge is located less than a quarter mile south-southwest of the Chapin Ponds. The ground is nearly level except for small areas at the northeast and southeast corners and at the northwest edge where the ground surface begins to rise as the lower edges of the hills. A now largely vacant tract of land between the Chapin Ponds and the district's north edge once contained Chapin Mine-related development. Older residential neighborhoods adjoin the district on the east and southeast, west, and southwest.

Stephenson Avenue (US-2/141) forms Iron Mountain's and the district's primary street. The four-lane road enters Iron Mountain from the east through modern

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strip development and makes a broad curve, turning more northerly as it approaches the district. The road makes a broad arc through the seven blocks of the district, curving north-northwesterly at the district's lower end, then north, and then finally more east-northeasterly. North of the district Stephenson continues north-northeast across the embankment between the East and West Chapin Ponds and along the west edge of the North Side neighborhood, eventually turning more westerly toward and into Wisconsin a couple miles away.

Within the district the arc of Stephenson's route slices through what is otherwise a grid of east-west and north-south streets. D Street marks the district's southernmost edge, and the district's east-west streets – northward from D they are C Street, B, A, Hughitt, Ludington, Brown, and Fleshier Street – have sixty, seventy, or eighty foot wide rights-of-way. Distances of 260-280 feet separate each street from the next. The north-south streets begin on the east with Iron Mountain Street, which runs north from C Street. The curving Stephenson Avenue comes next, then Merritt Avenue, which runs south only as far as A Street, then Carpenter, Prospect, and Stockbridge Avenues, and finally Kimberly Avenue, which forms the district's westernmost edge. The north-south streets are less evenly spaced than the east-west ones, averaging around 250 to 350 feet apart. Platted width for the north-south streets' rights-of-way was sixty feet, but Stephenson and also Carpenter, which became a major artery in the early 1920's with the sudden development of Kingsford, to Iron Mountain's immediate south, have been widened.

Stephenson Avenue's arcing course gives Iron Mountain's downtown – and the Central Historic District – a highly distinctive, perhaps unique form among Michigan communities. The avenue's course as platted in the city's founding years closely parallels the former alignment of the **Chicago & North Western Railway**, which was completed here in 1879. The line closely paralleled Stephenson until north of the **Chapin Mine**, then gradually curved more northwesterly toward Wisconsin. The original plats show the railroad right-of-way a uniform fifty foot distance west of Stephenson in the downtown area. This narrow separation has resulted in commercial buildings along Stephenson's west side with long facades on Stephenson but depths of only about thirty feet – the **Commercial Bank Building** located between A and B Streets is the extreme example, a block long, but only about thirty feet deep. Along Stephenson's east side, platting was more conventional: narrow-fronted and deep commercial lots, averaging thirty foot frontage by 120 foot depth as opposed to fifty or sixty foot frontage and 120 foot or greater depth on the side streets.

Entering the district from the southeast along Stephenson at D Street, the Late Victorian, towered **Dickinson County Courthouse**, with its adjacent castellated former sheriff's residence/jail, stands well back from the road on rising ground in its block long square on the right. The courthouse square is located at the south edge of the old downtown area rather than in the center of town. Directly opposite the courthouse is the one and two-story 1950's modern **Iron Mountain Motel**, like the **Commercial Bank** another long and narrow structure arranged along the road

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and with its back to the one-time railroad right of way.

Northward from the courthouse block Stephenson's east side is lined with one and two-story commercial buildings, with only a few gaps. The primary gap is located in the 200 block, one block south of the district's north end, where a modern bank building stands in the center of its block, back from the sidewalk line and with landscaped lawn/plaza and drive-up teller areas around it that occupy the rest of the block face. Most of the buildings stand at the sidewalk line, but near the district's north end, north of the middle of the 100 block between Flesheim and Brown, the building line angles sharply away from Stephenson to the east. This change in direction reflects the former location of a railroad siding that ran directly in front of the two buildings (now part of **Fontana's Supper Club**) into the Chapin Mine property located north of Flesheim.

Buildings along Stephenson's east side include remodeled falsefront wooden and brick Late Victorian ones dating from the 1880's and 90's, two Neoclassical former bank buildings dating from the 1920's, and simple Commercial Brick buildings constructed in the 1920's to the late 40's. Seven of the thirty buildings on Stephenson's east side in the district date from the 1969-90 period, and several other late nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial buildings also display facades entirely rebuilt during the 1960's to the early 2000's. North of the courthouse and old jail, visual highlights among the historic buildings along Stephenson's east side include the 1920's **Wolfe Brothers Building**, with its intricate cast concrete detailing contrasting with the yellow-buff brickwork, located on the C Street corner

north of the courthouse; two Neoclassical former bank buildings at 515-17 Stephenson and at the northeast A Street corner; and the row of brick buildings in the 100 block between Flesheim and Brown Streets, several dating from c. 1890 and one from the 1910's, that all feature inventive detailing in their upper façade brickwork.

On Stephenson's west side the **Iron Mountain Motel** with its narrow fringe of parking occupies the frontage between D and C Streets opposite the courthouse. Buildings on this side of the street have broad fronts on Stephenson but very shallow depths because of the nearby former railroad right-of-way. The **Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center** building, a Modernist structure with its symmetrical front dominated by a zigzagging folded plate roof center section, stands between B and C Streets at the midpoint of the block's frontage. The **Commercial Bank Building** with its five-story center section occupies nearly the entire frontage between B and A Streets; visible from everywhere along Stephenson in the center of town, the Art Deco building is one of the city's pre-eminent landmark buildings. Two attached two and one-story buff-white brick commercial buildings of straightforward early post World War II modern design fill the frontage in the next block north between A and Hughitt Street, and an additional two-story building of similar design is located at Hughitt's northwest corner. Beyond, mid-block, stands the late 1880's former **Chicago & North Western passenger depot**. Long ago converted to commercial use, the stone-trimmed brick structure, with wood-shingled gables and broadly projecting eaves supported on massive timber brackets on either side, retains much

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of its historic character. The northernmost block in the district on Stephenson's west side between Ludington and Brown Streets (the east side extends one block farther north to Fleshier) contains **The Timbers Motor Lodge**, a now vacant inn built in the early 1980's around the railroad's 1920's freight building.

The first blocks of the east-west streets east of Stephenson have been included in the district to the extent that they retain downtown buildings. East B fronts the phone company exchange complex, with its Neoclassical 1920's building facing north on the street. The complex extends south through the block to C Street. East A between Stephenson and Iron Mountain Street is now lined with city parking lots except for one modern building; thus it is omitted from the district.

But E. Hughitt and E. Ludington, the next streets to the north, are visual high points in the district because of their variety of building forms and styles and the presence of some of the district's architectural landmarks. E. Hughitt is solidly built up with older commercial buildings east to Iron Mountain Street except for a small gap on one side near Stephenson and an area on the south side at its east end that forms the north edge of the city parking lot to the south. The street's buildings include not only wooden falsefront and Commercial Brick buildings, but also a red-brown sandstone block whose façade presents Richardsonian Romanesque features and another Late Victorian building with especially fanciful gabled and turreted façade (and sandstone side and rear walls). There is also a notable example of 1950-era Modernist commercial design.

E. Ludington Street has old buildings along both sides east to Iron Mountain beyond small gaps near Stephenson. Unlike E. Hughitt, which runs on level ground east to Iron Mountain Street before beginning a steep rise into the east side residential area, E. Ludington begins to slope upward from just east of Stephenson. The topography rising steeply to the east together with the variety and quality of architecture along the street give E. Ludington outstanding visual appeal. Along the street's north side are the massive **Wood Sandstone Block**, much the largest red sandstone building in the district and city, a cross-gable Gothic church with tall spire, standing at the northwest Iron Mountain corner, and, just beyond the corner, the Neoclassical former Public Library building.

The short block of E. Brown, next north, now contains no buildings. E. Fleshier's south side retains two old commercial buildings, and a third early frame building that, located at the southeast Fleshier/Iron Mountain corner, once housed commercial uses is also included in the district. The **Chapin Mine** property fronted Fleshier on the north, and no historic buildings are now present. Thus Fleshier itself forms the north boundary on Stephenson's east side.

Ludington Street west from Stephenson the two blocks to Carpenter Avenue and then Carpenter Avenue running south from the Ludington Street junction toward nearby Kingsford and on to Wisconsin, forming part of state trunkline M-95, is only secondary to Stephenson (US-2/141) in importance as a traffic artery within the city and district. Angling west from Stephenson, Ludington Street passes **The Timbers Motor Lodge** and another large modern non-contributing commercial building, then crosses the

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Milwaukee Road tracks and, just beyond, Merritt Avenue. The Milwaukee Road's alignment through Iron Mountain dates from only a few years after the Chicago & North Western's. Coming from the south, the line (a single line of track remains in place) follows a straight south-north course through the district that runs just east of Merritt Avenue, then continues northerly past the city's North Side. Merritt, a narrow paved road, runs along the railroad's west side south to A Street. It fronts on only one building, the large wooden one-time **German Hotel**, which stands east across the tracks from it just south of Hughitt. Merritt, a boundary line between early plats, forms the dividing line between east and west street addresses in Iron Mountain.

West beyond Merritt Avenue, Ludington passes the city's 1930's post office building on the south side and the former **Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes** bowling alley on the north. One block farther west, highway M-95 turns south on Carpenter. North from the Ludington corner, a less busy two-lane Carpenter, with parking on both sides, runs uphill into an old residential neighborhood on the low hill that fringes the district on the northwest. The district extends only one block north of Ludington west of Stephenson, including both sides of Brown Street to just west of the intersection with Carpenter. A 1930's brick former funeral home, its broad and low front facing east on Carpenter, stands at the northwest Ludington corner. Two of the district's six historic churches stand on the hillside marking the north corners of the Brown/Carpenter Avenue intersection and the district's northwest corner, the wooden Late Victorian former First Presbyterian, the city's second oldest church building, and the former Swedish (Wesley) Methodist

Episcopal Church, an early twentieth-century brick auditorium church of Gothic inspiration.

Carpenter Avenue/M-95 running south from Ludington is largely a commercial street and has been widened to four lanes. Early wood store buildings and Commercial Brick and other early-mid twentieth-century brick buildings stand along and just off Carpenter within the district. The street serves as the primary connector between Iron Mountain and its near neighbor to the south, Kingsford, a city that sprang up from nothing in the early 1920's around the then newly established and rapidly expanding Ford sawmill and manufacturing operation. For this reason Carpenter has long been a prime location for gas stations. Four service stations dating from the 1920's to the 1950's, one with an attached garage, stand along the approximately four blocks of M-95 within the district. Near the district's south edge along Carpenter also stands a 1930's Arts-and-Crafts-inspired fieldstone building that is one of the six historic church buildings in the district.

As Stephenson Avenue forms a major divider separating the narrow east side of the downtown district from the much broader part to its west, Carpenter Avenue forms a major north-south divider that separates the two block wide section east of it to Stephenson from the two-to-three block wide section that extends west in part as far as Kimberly Avenue. The east-west streets in the two block wide area between Stephenson and Carpenter contain a mix of commercial and residential uses. West of Stephenson C Street is omitted from the district because it now contains no older commercial development along it. The north side of B Street and part of the south side west to the Milwaukee Road line are

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included in the district because the area contains the 1914 **Milwaukee Road depot** on the south side and a short row of old commercial buildings on the north side dominated by the 1920's **Braumart Theater Building**, the largest of the old-time movie theaters built in Iron Mountain's downtown and the only old movie theater now standing. A small segment of B Street immediately west of the tracks on the street's north side is included because it contains a large wooden building originally occupied as a livery stable. Otherwise there are no historic buildings, and few buildings at all, standing along the portion of B Street between the tracks and Carpenter, and this part of B Street is omitted from the district.

A Street (next northward from B) between Stephenson and Carpenter is a microcosm of the entire district, containing late nineteenth-century houses, a large early wooden lumber shed building, and typical early twentieth-century store buildings – plus one of the district's visual and architectural landmarks, a 1920's broad-fronted red brick building with Mission gables and tiled pent roof, and also the former **Red Owl Supermarket**, built in the 1950's. Hughitt just west of Stephenson passes a large c. 1960 concrete block warehouse that now serves as part of a large furniture and appliance business extending northward through to Ludington Street. Just beyond, at the northeast corner of Merritt stands a falsefront store building that is one of the district's oldest buildings. To the immediate west the block between Merritt and Carpenter, once a key part of "The Midway," the city's early prime drinking and "entertainment" area, is now largely open space, retaining only two of the old wooden

buildings and one Commercial Brick building. Piecemeal demolitions since the 1930's and 40's plus the demolition of a number of buildings in the late 1960's to expand the parking lot for the post office building facing on Ludington, the next street to the north, have resulted in the block's present bleak appearance.

Ludington Street immediately west of Stephenson passes the larger north frontage of the warehouse complex/now furniture and appliance store that extends through the block south to Hughitt. **The Timbers Motor Lodge** fills the east half of the block west of Stephenson between Ludington on the south and Brown on the north. Beyond Merritt on Ludington there is the 1930's Art Deco post office building on the south side, with its overly large parking lot to the south and west, and on the north the former bowling alley, with several old houses beyond to the intersection with Ludington and the brick funeral home across Carpenter along the district's west edge.

Brown Street, the district's northernmost street west of Stephenson, has also lost some of its historic building stock, leaving gaps in the streetscape, but it retains important landmarks including the early 1920's former **Northern Ballroom Building**, 1880's-1930's **John Russell/I. Zacks & Co. Building**, and the early 1900's **Bolognesi Building (Mayme's Bar)**, in addition to two early wooden buildings. Standing in Brown Street and looking directly east, the peak of **Millie Hill**, the "Iron Mountain" where the first ore discoveries were made, stands straight ahead.

The western end of the district beyond Carpenter Avenue extends west two blocks to Stockbridge Avenue between B and

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Hughitt Streets, with a small area west one more block to Kimberly Avenue. The district boundaries were drawn this far west to encompass several school buildings and churches that are important historic and architectural landmarks in the city. The city's high and junior high (now middle) school buildings, separated by the twin-towered Neo-Gothic **St. Joseph (now St. Mary and St. Joseph) Catholic Church** dominate this part both of the district and the city. The **Junior High School**, a 1930's Art Deco building, faces north on Hughitt and on parking lots north of it between Prospect and Stockbridge. A large 1990's expansion, tied to it by a pedestrian bridge across Prospect, extends east nearly the full block between Prospect and Carpenter.

St. Joseph Church stands at the northwest A Street/Prospect Avenue corner immediately south of the 1930's **Junior High School** building. Its spired towers are widely visible from the blocks around it and the east-facing towered front is a highly visible landmark terminating the view west along A Street from as far away as Stephenson Avenue. The century old **Iron Mountain High School** building stands in the next block south, its broad front facing south on B Street between Prospect and Stockbridge and the back part just across A Street to the church's south (the public school facilities have been expanded with large, low buildings along A Street between Carpenter and Prospect built in the mid-1960's and early 2000's). In the next block of B Street west of the high school stands the early 1950's International Style **St. Mary and St. Joseph (now Bishop Baraga) School**, also facing south on B Street. Diagonally across the B Street/Prospect Avenue intersection from the high

school stands a second Neo-Gothic church, **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**, built in the early 1950's. The part of B Street within the district also retains a small number of old houses.

INVENTORY

Streets are listed in alphabetical order, with east coming before west and north before south, and properties on the east and north sides of the streets are listed before those on the west and south sides. Addresses are listed in ascending numerical order on each side. **All buildings contribute to the district's historic character unless specifically noted. Buildings are listed as non-contributing to the district's character and significance if they are either (1) less than fifty years old (as per the national register criteria) or have lost too much of their historic character – this evaluation based primarily on what is presently visible from the street out front – to contribute to the district's character. This determination may be re-evaluated if changes are proposed and new information on a building's surviving historic features becomes available.**

Following descriptive and historical information on each property sources of information specific to that property are listed. However, the listings do not include general sources of information used for all properties. Such general information sources include the Sanborn fire insurance maps, city directories, and the painstakingly detailed *A History of Iron Mountain's Business District from 1879 to 1942* and *Business Blocks, Iron Mountain, Dickinson*

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County, Michigan, prepared by long time Iron Mountain historian William J. Cummings. The sources noted following each entry do not include the specific sources cited in Cummings' works listed above – for the full details the entries for those buildings in the above-cited Cummings works should be consulted. Newspaper research done for this project focused on years following those Mr. Cummings has so extensively researched, particularly the late 1940's and 1950's when so much building and renovating was going on, but also included review of earlier newspapers to locate information on earlier buildings, particularly those beyond the immediate downtown area covered by Mr. Cummings' work, such as west of Carpenter Avenue.

A Street East, South Side

107. Service & Supply Co./Lake Shore Engineering Co. Building (c. 1926, 1939, 1941) Nat Bolognesi, Iron Mountain, contractor for 1939 addition; Bolognesi & Vicklund, Iron Mountain, "carpenter contractor" for 1941 addition

This 2-story commercial/office building has a broad front along A Street but very shallow depth. The front and east narrow end facing Stephenson are finished in reddish-brown brick while the rear and west end are faced in a smooth cement finish. Standing on a concrete foundation that shows a little bit of rubble stone masonry at the base on the east end, the building is visually divided into two sections. The eastern one-third is marked by low Mission Style shaped gables on the front and end with concrete parapets, and the longer west

end's north front is capped by a low red tile pent roof. A decorative cartouche appears below the front gable, while a clock face appears below the east end one. The building's front and east end contain numerous round-arch-head windows, while windows in the west end and back are all square-head. Square-head window openings in the lower front of the western section of the building – slightly taller and narrower openings alternate with slightly broader but lower openings – are infilled with now painted over glass block except for a small horizontal light in each. A 1940's photo shows the taller openings each filled with a steel sash window, each lower one containing a solid door that rests on the concrete foundation wall. The 1950's-looking front entrance in the center of the building's eastern third is outlined in vertical ribbed aluminum and has a projecting flat-topped aluminum cap. The 1940's photo shows a narrower round-arch-head door with a somewhat smaller dentil-trimmed flat-topped canopy. A projecting aluminum-trim glassed-in entry enclosure across part of the front near the western end of the building has been added in recent years sheltering one of the doors.

This site contained a small building that served as part of the **Meyer Coal Company** yard. A Rigoni family history in *Born from Iron* (179) states that **Christ Rigoni** bought the business in 1921 and was joined a year later by **Jake Smith** to form the **Rigoni & Smith fuel and building material business**. In 1924 the coal and building material supply business was reorganized as the **Service & Supply Co.** Service & Supply and the Marquette-based **Lake Shore Engineering Works** merged as the **Lake Shore Engineering Co.** as of December 3, 1938, with Service & Supply

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becoming a division that continued the building material and fuel business.

From the Sanborns it appears that Meyer/Rigoni & Smith's building stood where stands the east end of the present building. The Sanborns are inconclusive about when that 2-story brick building with a stone basement was constructed, but the building shows in the 1891 map. A *News* story of 8/6/1947 suggests that the present building's east end incorporates the earlier building in remodeled form. In any event, nothing of that earlier building is evident in the existing building except perhaps the rubble stone masonry visible at the base of the foundation on the building's east end. The building as it stands today dates from the 1920's-40's.

About two years after the 1924 purchase, the **Service & Supply Co.** began work on remodeling the building, with the existing small building "raised" and the first floor extended to the present west end of the building. The 8/6/1947 *News* article states that this work was completed in 1936, but the date was perhaps 1926; the 1930 Sanborn shows a 1-story building occupying the entire present footprint (much of the history presented in the 8/6/1947 article seems suspect). Soon after Service & Supply's merger with Lake Shore, additional office space to accommodate the company's general offices was provided by building the 2nd story at the east end; a 1/6/1939 story states that a crew was then removing parts of the roof for the addition and that it would be done in about one month. An 8/25/1939 article shows the east end 2nd story in place. By April 1941 work was completed on giving the west part of the building a 2nd story to provide more space for company offices – specifically the stenographic and

accounting departments, according to a 4/19/1941 *News* story. A photo in the article shows the now completed building.

In 1947 **Dr. Willis H. Huron**, physician and surgeon, purchased the building. He and **Dr. Donald R. Smith** shared space there until early 1955, when Dr. Smith moved his offices to 100 West A. By 1959 and until about 2008 the building housed the offices of **Champion, Inc.**, construction contractors.

News: "Lake Shore Engine Works, Service and Supply Merge," 12/3/1938; "Lake Shore Company to Have Offices Here," 1/6/1939; "Lake Shore Engineering Co. Services Lake Superior District," 8/25/1939; "New Addition to Service and Supply Unit Completed Here," 4/19/1941; "Physician Buys Former Lake Shore Building," 8/6/1947; adv, Dr. Huron moving to building, 10/10/1947; "Dr. Smith Will Move to Own Building," 12/29/1954.

A Street West, North Side

100-102. Payant Building (c. 1922)

2-story building of simple Commercial Brick design with dark red brick front and east side facing Merritt Avenue and concrete block west side and rear wall. The front contains large storefront windows in the center, their transoms now covered up, and an entry at either end of the façade, the west end one apparently providing access to the 2nd story. The street-side façade contains a large window near the front and paired and single windows elsewhere. The upper story contains paired windows along the Merritt side and 2 triple windows in front.

A shed-roof 1-story extension across the entire back is clad in vertical T-111 and

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composition siding below an asphalt shingled pent roof on the Merritt side and in concrete block elsewhere. A 1988 survey photo shows the Merritt side faced in brick and containing two garage doors with a narrow pier between. The main building and this rear extension show in the 1923 Sanborn map, the rear extension listed as of masonry construction like the rest. Another extension, a narrow-fronted flat-roof 1-story brick one to the west or left fronting on A, fills the space between 100-102 and the building next west, 104. This extension does not appear in the last, 1949 Sanborn, but likely dates from soon after.

This building does not show in the 1918 Sanborn map but appears in the 1923 one with “undertaker” listed as the use. A May 3, 1922, *News* story on the newspaper moving into temporary quarters following a fire a few months earlier makes note of **Payant Bros.** moving into their new building at Merritt and A, presumably this building (Cummings, *Business District*, 50). The 1913 directory lists **Payant Bros. (Alphonse and Andrew), tailors**, at 207 East A. The 1925 to 1941 directories list **Joseph A. Payant’s undertaking establishment** here and also **J. A. Payant & Co. (Joseph A. Payant and Sol Beauparlant), real estate and insurance** and also representatives for the **Detroit & Northern Michigan Building & Loan Association**. **J. Robert Rochon** joined Payant in the funeral home in 1946 and it became the **Payant-Rochon Funeral Chapel**. Early in 1950 Rochon bought out Payant’s interest in what then became the **Rochon Funeral Chapel**. The small west-side extension may have been added soon after as part of an “extensive renovation program” that was ongoing at the time of the 1950 sale to Rochon. The funeral

home soon moved elsewhere, and **Dr. Donald R. Smith’s** medical offices opened in the building’s ground floor January 10, 1955 and remained here until about 1968. By 1959 **J. A. Payant & Co.** had moved out. The building’s 2nd story contained residential quarters.

News: “Rochon Buys Former Payant Funeral Home,” 1/3/1950; “Dr. Smith Will Move to Own Building,” 12/29/1954; adv, Dr. Smith’s office opening as of 1/10/1955, 1/8/1955.

104. Office Building (between 1884 and 1889)

1 ½-story gable-front wood building with large shed-roof dormers on both sides of roof. Faced in wide exposure wood shingles, the building has a 2-story front, but broadly projecting cornices with flared lower ends that, ending in oversized returns, come down to the top of the ground story. The front’s ground story contains an entry at left and a picture window with narrow double-hung section at either end. The one upstairs window contains a single 2 (horizontal) by 3 (vertical) sash and is flanked by slotted shutters. An early 20th-C. photo (Dulan, 244) shows a 1 ½-story clapboarded building with lower gable and a simple door and window downstairs and small gable window in front.

The 1888 Sanborn shows a small dwelling set well back on this lot. In the 1897 Sanborn, a building that looks to have the same general size now stands at the front of the lot and is labeled an office. Succeeding Sanborns through the 1949 one show the same thing. The building’s appearance suggests renovations in the 1920’s or 30’s that added the cornices with their flared lower ends, the larger upstairs

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window, and shutters – but these changes plus the shed dormers and picture window may all date from renovations in the 1950's after the Laing office use ceased.

The building seems to have started out as a house but in 1892, when the **H. H. Laing Lumber Co.** was established and opened its lumber yard across the street, the building became the company's office. This use by Laing likely continued until the early 1950's, when the company added an office section to the main building across the street. **J. A. Payant & Co.** soon moved here from 100 and used it until the late 1960's and **Dr. Smith**, who had previously had his offices in 100, also occupied quarters in this building in the late 1960's and early 70's.

Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 106.

106. House (pre-1889)

2-story gable-front wood house, now clad in vinyl siding and with horizontal slider windows in the main front section. A hip-roof enclosed projection across the front presumably was once an open porch. In the back half of the house, the eaves, it appears, have been raised maybe 2 feet to allow for taller 2nd-story windows, the rear part of the roof rising in a gentler slope to the ridge at the same height as in the front section. **Non-contributing due to loss of all historic character on the exterior.**

The 1888 Sanborn, the first to cover this area, shows this house. The 1913 directory, the first to list this address, lists laborer **Thomas Perkins** and wife **Harriet**. The use likely remained residential until **Awrey's Radio & Television** occupied it about 1953. An advertisement in the April 4, 1955 *News* shows the then newly remodeled storefront (now gone). A 1988

survey photo shows the front of what was by then again a residence faced in vertical T-111 siding up to the base of the 2nd-story windows, with the gable clad in a random ashlar-pattern asphalt siding. The house remains in residential use.

News: "Remodeled Shop Opened Here Today," 4/2/1955; adv with photo, 4/4/1955.

110 A Street West. St. Arnauld House (pre-1889)

Small 1 ½-story gable-front house, with 1-story gabled rear ell. The house contains a broad single-light window – possibly a replacement for an original "cottage window" – next to the modern door, with its metal awning, downstairs in the front and a small double-hung window upstairs. The present plain raking cornices are not original but may be similar to what was originally there. The house is now sided in wide exposure composition siding.

The 1888 Sanborn, the first to cover this area, shows this house. **Albert St. Arnauld**, listed as a laborer, miner, and teamster in the directories in different years, and other family members lived here until 1925 or later. The house has remained in residential use to the present.

116. House (pre-1889)

2-story gabled-ell house, now with a commercial use downstairs. The building is now sided in wide exposure vinyl siding and has had its windows replaced with modern single-light, slider, and low double-hung windows. A shallow shed-roof extension in front of the upright is now faced in rockface coursed two-against-one ashlar stonework and has a deeply recessed central entry and a square store window on either side.

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A 1988 survey photo shows brick where the stonework is now visible.

The 1888 Sanborn, the first to cover this area, shows this house. Early 20th-C residents included the families of stock dealer **Peter Chiplovitz** in 1907-08, miner **Jerry Distasio** in 1913, and section hand **Ralph Manello** (or **Minella**) in 1925 and 1935 (the 1935 directory also lists **Carl A. Minella**, assistant manager of the **Kingsford Motor Car Co.**). The Minellas continued to live there into the 1940's. The 1949 Sanborn is the first to show the building as a store, but **Minella's Sandwich Shop** at that address published an advertisement in the 2/26/1947 *News*, listing spaghetti, sandwiches, and pies as featured offerings. The brick storefront renovation visible in the 1988 photo may date from around that time. The *News* contains several advertisements during October and November 1948 for the **Swedish Diner**, offering Smorgasbord, at this location. **Frank W. Anderson's Northway Film Service** (later **Frank's Photo Shop**), specializing in commercial photography, moved to this location in 1949 and was still here in 1955.

News: adv, moving to 116 W. A, 10/29/1949; adv, 5/13/1955; "Service Is the Most Important Operation in the Business of Frank Anderson's Photo Shop," 6/24/1955.

122. Commercial Building (c. 1922)

Narrow fronted and deep 2-story store building. The ground story has concrete block side walls, the front corners featuring rockface quoins, and a modern recessed center entry storefront with diagonal boarding and a shingled pent roof overhang. The 2nd story is topped by a flat

roof that slants gently downward to the rear. Its walls, pierced by narrow double-hung windows, are faced in natural-finish boarding applied diagonally. The concrete block ground floor extends back beyond the 2nd story. A 1988 survey photo shows the same finishes as at present.

A masonry building is not shown at this location in the 1918 Sanborn map, but does appear in the 1923 one. The map's information on number of stories and use is not readable on either the 1923 or 1930 map microfilms. The 1-story rear extension does not appear as late as the 1949 map. The 1925 directory lists a "dairy," operated by **Edwin C. Hendrickson**, at this location, and the next, 1935, directory lists the building as a warehouse for the **Asselin Creamery of Norway**. The *News'* extensive coverage of the formal dedication of the **Asselin Creamery Co.'s "Giant Milk Bottle"** housing the company's offices in nearby Norway in July 1930 included a picture of **Asselin's "Ice Cream and Butter Distributing Branch,"** then housed in this building. The picture shows the walls to the top of the 2nd story being concrete block, with the two front upstairs windows located as at present. The tall upper façade was faced in smooth block or possibly a stucco-like finish that rose to a plain projecting front cornice. The storefront was asymmetrical, with a large window on the left (west), entry near the center, and larger window on the right. By 1959 **Landry's Pharmacy** was the occupant.

News: Full-page adv, "Announcing the Formal Dedication of the Giant Milk Bottle Housing the Offices of the Asselin Creamery Company, Norway, Mich., Wednesday Evening, July 9th," containing picture of "Ice Cream and Butter

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Distributing Branch,” 7/7/1930. (The Norway milk bottle was demolished during the 1980s.)

[220]. Industrial Arts Building (1964-65)

1-story flat-roof red brick school building, with lower portion along A Street and slightly taller windowless section along the north side. The building’s exterior finish matches that of the **Iron Mountain Public Schools Administration Building** directly south across A Street. A broad recessed entry is located along the west (Prospect Street) side and the south side presents a symmetrical fenestration with three evenly spaced sets of paired windows toward either end and a broad expanse of brick wall between.

The building was built for the school district as an adjunct of the high school, located across the street.

News: Picture, “Iron Mountain School Construction,” 8/25/1964.

A Street West, South Side

101-05. H. H. Laing & Co. Building/now St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry (c. 1900; 1949-50)

Broad-fronted 1-story gable-roof frame building with a stepped falsefront. The broad gable roof rises from low eaves on either side and has a gable at the south (rear) end but is hipped, coming down to the top of the falsefront, at the north street end. The roof slants at a lower pitch over the outer portion on either side, and these side sections do not appear in the 1949 Sanborn map. The front is asymmetrical, with a projecting Roman brick-faced entry/office area, with projecting metal strip

cornice, at its right end and a garage door, with 5-section window above, in the center. The main entry is placed at the deep end of an inward-slanting recess in the office projection that also contains a broad window area. The falsefront is faced in very wide exposure horizontal wood sheathing laid in overlapping layers like shingling. The building’s other facades are clad in a variety of materials – the rear, containing a center garage door, in wide exposure composition siding, east side in asphalt siding, and west side in concrete block.

The 1897 Sanborn map shows the **Laing lumber yard** already in operation at this location. This building was in place by 1904, labeled on the Sanborn as a lumber shed. The **Laing Lumber Company** remained in operation at this site until about 1980. A News story 10/21/1949 reports Laing’s obtaining a building permit for a 36 x 29-foot office-salesroom plus 17 x 10-foot “extension” at this location. The present front likely dates from this time, as may the extensions along either side.

News: “Early October Building High for 3 Months,” 10/21/1949.

117. Red Owl Supermarket/now St. Vincent DePaul Store (1957) Novara Bros., Contractors and Builders, Iron Mountain, contractor

Large 1-story flat-roof former grocery supermarket with its entry at the northeast corner facing east toward a large parking lot. The walls are of concrete block except for brick on the street-facing façade and around the entry on the east side. The front facing A Street contains a window band extending across all but the west end – the window area now covered over with

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paneling except for a small area near the entry at the northeast corner – and there is another smaller window area, with opening also now reduced, on the east façade south of the entrance. A projecting flat-top aluminum canopy, supported by three small round metal columns around the entry, extends across the building's front facing A and partway along the east side above the entry area. Vertical metal paneling rises from canopy-top height to a level several feet above the walls on the two primary elevations, north and east, and contains the store name signboard in the center of the street side. Square-plan metal piers along either side of the entry rise to a height well above the rest of the building and house a store sign panel below a horizontal connector between their tops.

Owner **Mrs. Nazira Jacobs** had this building constructed for the Hopkins, MN-based **Red Owl supermarket chain** to replace their two previous local stores. It was designed by the company's in-house designers. Construction began in late June 1957 and was completed by about the end of the year. The Grand Opening of the store took place 1/21/1958. The sign panel towering over the entry then displayed the chain's logo depicting the bright red face of an owl, with large eyes, peering downward. The **Red Owl store** occupied this building until about 1976, followed briefly by **True Value Hardware** and then by **Dooley's IGA** into the early 1990's. The building has housed the **St. Vincent de Paul store** since about 1997.

News: "Construction of Supermarket Slated to Start Next Week," 6/21/1957; "New Red Owl Store to Offer Every Modern Convenience," 6/28/1957; "New Red Owl Supermarket Will Open Tomorrow Morning," 1/20/1958; "Grand Opening

Program at New Red Owl Store Tomorrow," 1/20/1958.

[201] – Address listed as 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way. Izzo-Mariucci Fitness Center (2002-03) Blomquist & Associates, Iron Mountain, architects

Attached to the **High School gymnasium** to the west and used today mainly in concert with it, the building is a contemporary flat-roof 2-story red-orange brick structure with primary facades of reversed design on Carpenter and A Streets. Each presents a round-columned front, with large glass windows, downstairs and brick upper façade with narrow windows above toward the intersection and a projecting blocky windowless brick section at the outer end of the façade. The center houses a weight room, wrestling room, concession/meeting area, conference rooms, and offices. **Non-contributing because of recent date of construction.**

Construction of the **Izzo-Mariucci Fitness Center** was funded from proceeds and donations from the annual golf classic hosted by Iron Mountain natives **Tom Izzo**, Michigan State University basketball coach, and **Steve Mariucci**, then coach of the Detroit Lions football team, beginning in the late 1990's. Best friends, the two were both graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1973.

Barnas, Jo-Ann. "Mariucci's firing still stings in northern Michigan town." *USA Today*, 12/15/2005.
http://www.usatoday.com/sports/football/nfl/2005-12-15-mariucci-hometown_x.htm.

Price, S. L. "Lean on Me." *Sports Illustrated*, 6/30/2005.
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1105226/1/index.htm>.

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“Recent Projects,” Blomquist & Associates,
<http://www.blomquistarchitects.com/projects.htm>.

[217] – Address listed as 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way. Administration-Physical Education-Music Building (1964-65)

3-part structure comprised of low 1-story administration section at A-Prospect intersection, slightly taller 1-story music building to its south, with west wall on Prospect, and taller gymnasium forming the complex's east side. The buildings are flat-roofed and faced in red brick. The administration building has a deeply recessed entrance facing Prospect. Its design along A Street, with paired windows between brick wall segments, mirrors the Vocational Building across the street, built at the same time. The gym is a windowless brick box.

News: Picture, “Iron Mountain School Construction,” 8/25/1964.

B Street East, North Side

100. Store (c. 1903)

1-story single-storefront brick commercial building. The front retains a bracketed wooden Late Victorian cornice but no other trim. Currently occupied by the **Underground Pub**, the building displays a front of simulated rubble stone veneer, with a recessed entry and narrow slit windows, topped by a broadly projecting pent roof – the whole appearing to date c. 1970's (a 1988 survey photo shows the same finish). A small section at the building's back end

has a shed roof. Behind it a vertical board fence shelters an outdoor seating area. An indistinct 1930's or 40's photo shows an early 20th-C.-looking storefront with tall transoms above.

The 1904 Sanborn, the first to show this building, lists it as a **confectionary**. The 1907 directory lists **Mike Mitchell's confectionary, ice cream, and fruit store** at 102 East B. The building was owned by **Joseph Cordy**, one-time proprietor of the nearby **Central House hotel**, by the early 1920's. It housed the **John Anegon confectionary shop** by 1913. Items in the *News* refer to **Christ Anegon and Arthur Mitchell's Iron Mountain Candy Kitchen** in 1921 and **Mitchell & Anegon's St. Paul Candy Kitchen** in 1924 in this building (*News*, 10/21/1921; 2/28/1924). **Jacobs Restaurant**, owned by **Myke Jacobs** and sister **Ann De Rosier**, was about to open here when the front was photographed for the *News* in September 1952, following use as “Anegon's café” (Picture – New Jacobs Restaurant, 9/10/1952). An advertisement for “Jacobs Tasty Foods” appears in the 4/27/1955 *News*. (W. J. Cummings states that the restaurant was operated by **Bob Jacobs**, a brother of **Myke Jacobs**, for many years. His sister was named **Lola**. **Myke** and his wife **Rosa** operated a **small restaurant on North US-2** where **Edward's Chevrolet** is now located. **Myke and Bob operated Jacobs Motors**, selling Chevrolet automobiles, I believe, on this same site, and the little restaurant building was abandoned in the back for some time. **Nazira Jacobs**, mother of **Myke, Bob, and Ann**, sometimes cooked in the restaurant at 100 East B Street – communication, 12/2012).

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**104-08. Braumart Theater Building
(1924-25; addition 1925) Herbst &
Kuenzli, Milwaukee, architects;
Foster Construction Co., Milwaukee,
contractor**

Broad-fronted 2-story building with limestone-trimmed buff brick façade that combines Commercial Brick design with Neoclassical flourishes. The building is comprised of the main theater building, with 3-part symmetrical upper façade, at left, and the 1925 addition, a single storefront wide section at the right-hand (east) end. The 3-part theater building's front contains in the center the movie theater entry and marquee, both rebuilt most recently sometime between 1988 and the theater's closing in the 1990's. There are paired and single windows upstairs in the office space along the front, and a tall attic containing arches filled with basketweave brickwork above the paired windows. The roofline is marked with raised arches at the ends and small squared-off projections at regular intervals aligned directly above the keystones of the paired window arches. The attic is dominated by a limestone-clad center portion that, rising above the rest of the parapet, displays antae supporting a low gabled entablature topped by an anthemion antefix. Beneath the parapet a broad arch spans the second-story windows below. Each end of the front displays a narrow slant-sided second-story projection that rises to an anthemion-decorated classical cornice and ball-finial-topped dome form below the parapet's raised arch. The west end projection rises above a corbel bracket detailed classical lintel for an entrance to the second-story office space. The entrance has a modern aluminum and glass door but retains its

original architrave trim surround. The rest of the ground story front has been refaced since 1988 with a smooth exterior insulation finish system (EIFS) finish but retains pre-1988 aluminum-trimmed doors and windows. A 1988 survey photo shows the ground level faced in pigmented structural glass, with dark hued bulkheads and light-colored upper surfaces. The building's side and rear walls are built of red-brown brick. The structure is spanned by a four-slope (broad gambrel) roof carried on steel trusses.

The **Braumart Theater** occupies the entire back end of the building. Twinned in the 1970's with the loss of nearly all the historic classical-inspired interior finish, the theater closed early in January 1996 after an eight-screen theater opened east of town the previous April. The space has been reopened as a single theater again but no restoration has been accomplished. The entire ground-floor frontage was also renovated in the 1970's and 80's and contains the theater lobby and concession space (originally there was a store space at each end of the front, with the theater lobby only occupying the center front space). A stairway at the west end leads to office space across the front in the second story and a short set of stairs to the second story of the 1925 addition.

The eastern addition matches the rest of the façade, with basketweave brickwork in arches over the windows and the small projections along the roofline. Its second story stands a few feet above the level of the office space in the theater building itself because the ground slopes upward slightly to the east. The storefront has been rebuilt to match the rest. The ground floor contained commercial/office space, the second story office space. The Braumart

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was built for the **Colonial Theatre Company**, which owned two other Iron Mountain and three Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, theaters. The name is a combination of parts of the names of the company's two owners, **August E. Brauns** and **Martin D. Thomas**. Construction began 9/3/1924 and the 1000-seat theater opened 4/21/1925. Construction of the 2-story east addition began in May 1925, and a shoe shop moved into the first-floor commercial space early in October. The theater's front and lobby were remodeled the first time in 1935, the front with a new marquee, pigmented structural glass, and chromium trim. Since 1988 the front has been refaced so that none of the 1930's work survives, and the lobby area renovated as well. The Braumart currently serves with the owner's consent as the "Performing Arts Center on B Street." A non-profit organization, **Friends of the Braumart**, hopes to purchase the building as funds become available.

A long-time tenant has been the **Miller Agency, Inc.**, the city's oldest insurance agency, established by **Rudolph Miller** in 1890. The agency moved into the building in 1953.

Dulan, 174.

Friends of the Braumart, "Braumart Theatre Chronology 1922-1935."

Herbst & Kuenzli. Moving Picture Theater for Messrs. Braun & Thomas, Iron Mountain, Mich. Copy of plan sheet, dated Oct. 1924. Friends of the Braumart.

News: Miller Insurance Agency Inc. in Braumart Building, 10/17/1953; "Curtain closes on downtown theater," 1/5/1996.

110 B Street East. Cordy Building (1921)

2-story store/office building of trapezoidal form (rear façade is significantly shorter than the front) and simplified Neoclassical styling. The whitish brick building displays classical piers at the front corners in the 2nd story supporting a metal classical cornice with dentil band beneath and a plain brick parapet. The upstairs front contains two broad triple double-hung windows and the exposed east side paired double-hung ones – all these windows outlined in raised brick surrounds and set upon projecting sills that extend beyond the windows themselves. The east side's ground floor windows are singles. The ground floor front has been modernized with bronze anodized aluminum trim. The storefront now presents a slant-sided recessed center entrance flanked by large windows above tall brick bulkheads, and there is a broad glass entry with very tall "transom" above at the left (west) leading to the 2nd-story stairs. The building's short rear façade is constructed of a darker brick.

The building was constructed for **Joseph Cordy**, owner and one-time proprietor of the **Central House** hotel that previously stood at this site. It was to house the **Christ Anegon & Co. restaurant** in the basement and ground floor when it was completed about the beginning of 1922 (*News*, 10/21/1921). The 2nd story contained offices. In 1935 and 1941 the building's ground floor contained **Sim's Drug Store**, **Edwin J. Sims**, proprietor (Sims died early in 1941), and **Edward Izzo**, cigars. As of 1947 the storefront contained **Stephen's Jewelry**. In 1954 then owner **James Mancini** sold the building to **Mario Pietrantonio** and **Peter DeCarlo**; Mario Pietrantonio ran a **billiard hall** in the building at the time.

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News: Adv, 4/5/1947; "Manci Brothers to Sell Business Buildings in City," 5/27/1954.

200-02. Stores (built during 1918-23 period)

Narrow 1-story 2-storefront painted brick commercial building with plain brick piers at ends of façade and separating storefronts and tall brick sign area containing a large recessed panel above each storefront; vinyl-sided storefronts, 200's with a center entry and square shop window each side, 202's with the door at right and a pair of large windows to the left.

The 1918 Sanborn map doesn't show this building, but it does appear in the 1923 map. The 1935 directory lists **Mrs. Clara Michaels' Women's Fashion Shop** at 202. An advertisement in the 9/23/1949 *News* announced a Grand Opening for **Bell's Fashion Shop**, ladies' ready to wear, at 202.

204. Store (built in 1884-88 period; renovated 1918-23 period)

1 ½-story single-storefront brick building with gable-front roof and stepped front gable; exposed east side wall clad in fiberboard, with enclosed 2nd-story staircase and landing. The front retains brick piers edging the façade and flanking a center entry; these with low brick bulkheads outline a large shopfront window that, flanking the center entry on either side, is now infilled – except for a slider window – with vertical boarding. The 2nd-story front contains two windows, now mostly covered by a business sign.

This building first appears in the 1888 Sanborn as a house. The 1892 directory lists **Edward Peterson**, who ran a saloon at

117 S. Stephenson, living here; the 1902 directory shows miner **John Tremberth**; and the 1913 one **Abe Abraham**, manager of **Michael Khoury's fruit and confectionary stores** at 305 and 533 S. Stephenson, as the occupant. The 1923 Sanborn shows the building converted into a masonry-walled store, perhaps first as **James H. Mandley's restaurant** (and the Mandley family residence). The 1930 Sanborn shows the use as "vulcanizing," and the 1935 directory lists **Orlando F. Tramontine's Central Garage. Hayward's House of Gifts and Cards** opened at this location in 1945 and remained in business here into the 1950's.

News: 8/14/1945; adv, 10/1/1953.

212 B Street East. Dr. James L. Browning Office Building/now Bellin Health Up Primary Care (1947; 1999)

Painted brick-fronted concrete block building, 1-story in front and 2 stories in the rear, where the ground slopes down. A vertical joint in the block shows where the rear half of the building was added in 1999. The front contains a door, with small gabled shelter above it, at the right-hand (east) end and a single broad glass block window, with two center clear glass sections. The sides feature single and paired double-hung windows. The building now has a gable-front form, with synthetic shingled gables (part of the work done in 1999), but originally had a flat roof behind a concrete-cap parapet that had a low gable in the center (a 1988 survey photo shows the original gable treatment still in place). A small modern gable-roof concrete block shed stands behind the building.

The *News* listed **Dr. J. L. Browning's** recent completion of a 28 X 44 foot doctor's

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office, the front part of this building, as part of a feature on new building projects in the city ("Six More Projects on Building List," 10/30/1947). The building has housed the offices of three physicians since its 1947 construction – **Dr. James L. Browning**, 1947-63, **Dr. J. M. Schroeder**, 1965-86, and **Dr. Douglas L. Villa**, 1986 to the present.

Information provided by Dr. Villa, 7/2012.

B Street East, South Side

101. Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway (Milwaukee Road) Depot (1914)

1-story long and narrow building with hip roof that projects broadly around all sides. The long west side faces the tracks. The narrow north end, near B Street, is fronted by a deep low roofed *porte cochere*/shelter supported by square brick piers at each front corner and midway along the east and west sides. The piers, with their concrete bases and wooden capitals, and the *porte cochere*'s wooden frieze and projecting cornice provide a suggestion of Neoclassicism, but otherwise the building's red brick exterior is simple and straightforward in its design. A center entry in the narrow north end behind the shelter provided the primary public access into the depot. The long west side has a slant-sided bay window in the office area and two large freight doors near the south end, the east side a projecting square-plan section near the midpoint containing bathrooms plus another freight door near the south end. The depot is currently boarded up and vacant.

The **Milwaukee & Northern** was completed from Chicago to Iron Mountain in September 1887, and through service to Ontonagon established by January 1893. In July 1893 the line became the Lake Superior division of the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway**. This building replaced a wooden structure that, built about the time railroad service began, was moved a short distance away and made into a freight station when the present depot was built. City directories have the building in use as a passenger and freight station until about 1968 and as a freight station operated by a spin-off railroad, the **Escanaba Lake Superior**, until the early 1990's, but a 1988 survey card photo already shows the building boarded up. (The freight depot was recorded in the 1975 Upper Peninsula Historic American Engineering Record survey but has since been demolished.) The 1914 Iron Mountain depot is virtually identical to the same railroad's 1914 Iron River depot, which is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

211. Michigan Bell Telephone Building (1925; 1964) Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Detroit, architects (1925); Herman Gundlach Construction Co., Houghton, contractor for 1964 expansion

2-story, hip-roof Neoclassical building; buff brick walls with limestone base, beltcourse, pedimented entry surround, and window keystones in the broad, symmetrical front facade. Today the building stands at the northwest corner of a complex comprised of 1964 and subsequent additions. The low flat-roofed buildings are built of a brick of somewhat

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lighter hue than the original building except for a slightly recessed red stacked brick 2-story transition zone east of the 1925 building's front. The additions embody a bare, unadorned aesthetic that features only a few louvered window-like openings. The 1925 building is visible from Stephenson, and highly visible from the well patronized city parking lots behind the buildings fronting on Stephenson in the next block north, while the rest of the complex is sited largely out of the common line of sight. **The 1925 building is Contributing, the rest of the complex Non-Contributing because less than fifty years old.**

The 1925 Iron Mountain building was one of the first of a great many exchange buildings constructed around Michigan by **Michigan Bell** in the first few years after its founding in 1924 as a consolidation of earlier companies including the **Michigan State Telephone Company**. The association of the phone company with the Detroit architectural firm **Smith, Hinchman & Grylls** (today's SmithGroup) began in 1904 with the predecessor **Home Telephone Company of Detroit** and continued down to the 1970's. In 1964 Michigan Bell constructed a \$200,000 addition behind the building. Work began 6/1/1964 and was to be completed by December 1964.

Holleman and Gallagher, 83, 213; News: Photo, "Construction at Michigan Bell," 8/4/1964.

B Street West, North Side

100. Livery Barn/Garage (built between 1888 and 1891)

1-story broad-fronted wooden building with jerkinhead form in front, rising above a

tall falsefront, and tall gable at the back overlooking a hip-roof rear section. The building's left (west) side and rear (north) are 1 ½ stories in height, the east side 1 story in height. The exterior is finished in narrow vinyl clapboarding. The broad front contains a central entry flanked by large single-light window on either side, the whole sheltered by a cloth canopy, and there is a garage door at the west end. Otherwise the front, including the tall falsefront, is blank. A 1988 survey photo shows the façade faced in what appears to be elongated horizontal enameled metal panels and the side in a wide exposure synthetic clapboard siding.

The 1888 Sanborn shows a 1-story **warehouse**, only half as deep as the current building, at this site. The 1891 Sanborn shows a large 2-story building, and the 1897 one labels it a **livery**. The 1923 map shows it as a **garage**, with a repair shop in the back part and a narrow "supply room" added along the south 2/3 of the east side. The 1892 directory lists the **Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose and Fred Gage) livery and stable**, and in 1899 **Louis M. Hansen** took over the business. The building was run as a livery barn under several different proprietors until 1915, when building owners **Calvi & Tollen** had it renovated and converted into an **auto garage** and leased it to **John Lloyd and Garnet James**. The garage included a rear machine shop addition, 24 by 36 feet in size, that has since been removed. **Lloyd & James** were to open their garage and **Buick dealership** here about February 1, 1916. Later occupants included **Winkler Motor Company**, an **Oldsmobile dealership**, between about 1925 and 1930, **Johnson's Garage** as of 1935 and 1939, and **Ace Buick Sales and garage** as of

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1941. By 1947 the building became the **Blackstone Garage**. By 1961 it housed the **Peninsula Oil Company** and **Gerry's Shell Service Station**. Peninsula, a distributor of Shell products, used the building til [*sic – until*] the mid-to-late 1980's. **Laydon & Maynard, CPA's**, were the occupants by the early 1990's. Despite the loss of historic exterior finishes the building contributes to the district as the last of the city's livery stable buildings.

Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 139, 238-39.

News: adv, 6/10/1931; "Johnson Opens Buick Agency and Service," 3/19/1941; adv, 3/28/1947; 75th Anniversary Souvenir Edition, 7/2/1954.

106. Store/now Kingsley North Custom Jewelers (c. 1890?/c. 1950s and later)

1-story flat-roof store; back 2/3 faced in wide exposure synthetic siding, front 1/3 in vertical boarding above a half-height horizontal random ashlar stone base. The front presents a door at the left and two slider windows. A horizontal board canopy projects outward from the front and sides about 2 feet at its base, then slants outward to a flat top five or six feet high. A 1988 survey photo shows a c. 1950s-looking light-color brick front, with aluminum trim, extending most of the way across the front above a low bulkhead and the door near the west side as at present – the whole sheltered by a very low projecting pent roof beneath the plain parapet. **Non-contributing because no historic materials are now visible.**

This lot contained two small side-by-side wood dwellings by 1891, but by 1897 only the west one was still present. The 1930 Sanborn shows it still a dwelling, but the

1935, 1939, and 1941 directories list it as **Vincent M. Granger's barber shop**. The 1988 photo shows the **Hollingsworth & Krause Law Office**.

222. House (c. 1890)

2-story gable-front clapboarded house displaying on the west side a slant-sided bay window topped by squared-corner gabled section and to the rear a 1-story hip and gable-roof wing with enclosed 2nd-story staircase. The house's front features a hip-roof porch, with square wood posts at the corners, standing on modern brick base and vertical stained wood siding on the front wall beneath the porch roof. The house's front gable displays panels and narrow vertical boarding. Behind the house, fronting west on Prospect Street, is a 1 ½-story 2-bay side-gable wood garage, with exposed rafter ends and novelty siding.

This house does not show in the 1888 Sanborn map, but is present in the 1891 one. A small outbuilding, perhaps the present garage structure, also shows at the present location in the 1891 map. The 1925 directory lists **Mrs. Margaret Larson**, widow of **Alf Larson**.

300. Iron Mountain High School (1911-12) D. Fred Charlton of Charlton & Kuenzli, Marquette, architects; Foster Construction Co., Milwaukee, general contractor

Occupying the entire block bounded by B, Stockbridge, A, and Prospect Sts., the 3-story Neoclassical school presents a broad symmetrical front to B Street. The limestone-trimmed red-brown brick school stands on a low stone base that rises to window sill level. A broad beltcourse

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separates the ground story from the upper two stories. In the base the brickwork at the corners, in piers, and between the windows is banded, with every sixth course recessed and formed of rowlocks. The center portion of the front projects slightly and contains a shallow *in antis* portico of four Roman Doric columns between brick antae. This rises above a limestone corbel-supported classical lintel surmounting the broad square-head main entrance and a large window on either side up to a flat-topped two-part entablature containing the label SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Above the beltcourse the banding – now a recessed course of headers and stretchers forming every fifth course – is restricted to the corners, antae edging the center projection, and piers between every second window. The main cornice is a broad but simply detailed classical one.

Each narrow end displays a paired column portico about a center entry in the base and continues the same beltcourse and brickwork patterns of the front. A gymnasium/auditorium wing, with large glass block windows, centered in the rear façade gives the building a broad T-shaped footprint, the gym serving as the T's base or shaft. The glass block windows were installed in 1956 (*News*, 6/20/1956). A low flat-roof 1-story addition, its corners and upper edge finished with banded brickwork complementing the school's, fills the angle between the back of the building's front part and gym's west side.

The school was designed to be fireproof, with reinforced concrete floors, hollow-tile partitions, and terrazzo floors in the corridors, coat and toilet rooms, and showers. Other floors were of "Sarco asphalt mastic." Wood was confined primarily to the doors, door and window

frames, and window sash (*Press*, 10/3/1912). The building's assembly hall/auditorium retains its Neoclassical architectural character, which includes a stage area with projecting square-head proscenium framed by paired Ionic paneled pilasters supporting a massive entablature.

The building is set well back from B Street. A 10/3/1912 dedication article refers to **Manning Bros. of Boston** being retained to plan the landscaping, but early photos show little evidence of landscaping. Sidewalks in the present alignments, running incurvilinear fashion from the two front street corners up to the area before the main entrance, show in c. 1950 postcard views. The front lawn contains three metal flagpoles ranged in front of the main entry. These stand back of a centrally positioned sign, "IRON MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL, Presented by the 1985 Student Council," on a gray granite slab set within red brick piers on a broad brick base.

The *Iron Mountain Press* contained a copy of the architect's presentation drawing for the building in its 5/4/1911 edition, only one week after voters approved a \$100,000 bond issue to finance a new building. The **Foster Construction Co.** was soon engaged to superintend construction of the new building, and the school board sought to use local labor as much as possible. The **Puritan Brick Co. of Hamden, Ohio**, provided 150,000 vitreous face brick for the exterior and the **Turner Brickyard of Vulcan** provided interior brick under a subcontract with the **J. R. Holfeltz Co.**, another Ohio firm. Construction began in June or July 1911. The completed building was opened for public inspection 9/20/1912. The building remains in use as Iron Mountain's high school.

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Iron Mountain Press: “New High School,” 4/13/1911; “Special School Election,” 4/20/1911; “Affirmation Vote,” 5/4/1911; Presentation drawing, “Proposed High School at Iron Mountain, Mich. Charlton & Kuenzli, architects,” 5/11/1911; “Best in Peninsula,” 5/11/1911; “Favor City Folks,” 5/25/1911; “Contract Let for Moving Central School, 6/8/1911; “New High School” brick, 7/20/1911; “New High School” progress of construction, 1/11/1912; “Reception at High School,” 9/19/1912; “Iron Mountain’s New High School,” 10/3/1912.

News: “Bids Asked for Work at High School,” 6/20/1956 (glass block windows).

[400] B Street West. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (2000) Albert E. Santoni, Iron Mountain, designer; Mellon Construction Co., Iron Mountain, contractor

Gable-roof **Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** built with walls of random ashlar masonry comprised of blocks of widely varying size. The chapel has a deeply recessed double-door entrance topped by a broad window with low pointed-arch head. The sides contain small square-head windows, the altar end two pointed-arch windows and, above and between them, a round stained glass window of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the three windows were once part of St. Mary Mission in nearby Quinnesec. The chapel stands in its own grounds landscaped with small trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, and is fronted by a small parking lot. **Non-contributing because of recent date of construction.**

The chapel in the nuns’ home that formerly stood at the site was used as the first Eucharistic Adoration Chapel during

the mid and late 1990’s. That building was demolished in the spring of 2000 and the present chapel constructed that year. The building’s designer, **Albert E. Santoni**, was president of the Kingsford-based **Dickinson Homes, Inc.**, a buildings manufacturer specializing in homes and apartment and commercial buildings.

History provided by **Margo Tedeski**, July 2012.

406. St. Mary & St. Joseph School/now Bishop Baraga Catholic School (1953-54) L. M. Schober of Foeller, Schober, Berners & Jahn, Green Bay, Wisconsin, architects; L. A. Postl & Son, Iron Mountain, contractor

L-shaped flat-roof 2-story school building of International Style design, with red brick walls and limestone trimmings. The front facing B Street contains the main entrance, with limestone pylon supporting a projecting flat metal canopy, set into the angle next to a slightly projecting unit at one end of the building. The building’s long sides are pierced by large windows set in bands and outlined in limestone. The windows contained slightly less than half-height lower sections – divided into two or three vertical parts each and containing fixed uppers and hopper lowers – and taller upper sections filled with glass block. Today the windows have slightly over half-height lower sections containing sliders and opaque panel uppers. A broad limestone zone between two windows at the midpoint of the Kimberly Street façade displays a cross cut in shallow relief. The building contains 12 classrooms. Blacktopped play areas adjoin it to the east, and there is a larger grassy playground (not included in

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the district) located north of the alley behind the school.

News: "Postl Gets Contract for Parochial School in City," 6/17/1953; "New Parochial School to be Opened Tuesday, Sept. 7," 9/1/1954; "Bishop Noa Officiates at Dedication of New School," 9/20/1954.

B Street West, South Side

217. Larson House (built before 1888)

2-story hip-roof building, now faced in wide synthetic siding; front windows are now horizontal sliders while windows on other facades include double-hung and sliders; central double-decker front porch with plain square wood posts and open metal railings. Behind, fronting on the mid-block rear alley, is a modern side-gable garage, with matching siding.

The 1888 Sanborn, the first to cover this area, shows a footprint that matches the front section of the house. The 1897 map shows a rear ell as at present. The Sanborns down to the last, 1949 update show a porch across the front. The 1925 city directory lists **Mrs. Carolina Larson**, widow of **S. A. Larson**, residing here, and the 1961 directory still lists Larson family members, **Mrs. Kathryn Larson** and **Ronald P. Larson**, along with **Mrs. Anna Johnson**, at this address.

221. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (1952-53) Harry W. Gjelsteen, Menominee, architect

Neo-Gothic church faced in random ashlar Lannon stone over concrete block. The church is a symmetrical-front structure with a steep gable-roof nave, without side aisles, and a more narrow chancel that

continues under the main roof. Its front is dominated by a square-plan tower that projects fully from the center of the front and contains the main entrance, set into a shallow pointed-arch recess. The top of the tower is a square-plan, crenellated belfry containing a louvered Gothic arch opening in each face. Gabled extensions project to the east from the nave of the north-facing church. A basement level that rises partly above ground contains the offices and parish house.

The parish's former church building, an 1890 wooden Gothic building standing at the same location, was badly damaged by fire a few days before Christmas 1950. The new building was completed in time for Easter services in early April 1953 and dedicated May 31, 1953.

The church demolished their former rectory building, a foursquare-type house located next door to the east at 219, late in 2012, apparently for a future parking lot. The house, built sometime during the 1923-29 period, was last used as the rectory about 1998.

News: "Heavy Damage by Fire at Trinity Episcopal Church," 12/21/1950; "Holy Trinity Parish Votes New Building," 8/14/1951; "Bids for New Church to be Opened Soon," 6/2/1952; Photo, "Easter Services at New Church," 4/4/1953; "New Articles of Furniture Dedicated at Holy Trinity" – about building dedication, 6/1/1953.

Brown Street East, North Side

100. John Russell Building/now Summers Lumber Co. (built sometime during 1884-88 period; rear and east extension probably added

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1937-38; metal building east end built later)

L-shaped 1 and 2-story complex comprised of what seems to be three buildings.

- Narrow-fronted and deep 2-story brick building along the west side of the property. The former storefront area at the narrow front end contains two small horizontal windows below what appears to be the old storefront frieze and a small cornice. There is a door on the building's east side. The 2nd story contains 2 widely separated square-head windows in front, single square-head windows of different sizes along the west side, and single and double windows on the east. There is a very tall, unadorned and windowless attic area and the roof slopes downward toward the back. This building appears in a pre-1938 WPA/assessor photo as housing **I. Zacks & Co., wholesale meat and fruit**. The second story contained three segmental-arch-head windows with raised caps displaying incised detailing, and the front was topped by a bracketed wood cornice.
- Behind the first building and wrapping around part of its east side is a 1-story concrete block building fronted east of the first building by a loading dock with shed-roof canopy. The side and rear elevations contain only a few small windows. The building's west side parapet steps down in two steps as the roof slopes downward to the rear.
- The third building, adjoining the second on the east, is sheathed in vertical ribbed metal siding and also has a roof that slopes downward to the rear. There are two loading dock doors in

front and another garage door on the east side.

The July 1884 Sanborn map does not show this building, but it is present in the April 1888 map, identified as a general store. The 1892 through 1913 directories list **John Russell's general store** at this location, with **Baptist Hall** upstairs as of 1892. A March 10, 1924 *News* story noted that **John Russell** "came to Iron Mountain in 1884 and has conducted a **grocery and dry goods store** here for the last 40 years." The **Masons** dedicated the former Baptist Hall space as their lodge quarters 3/14/1888 (Russell was a Master Mason). They moved into the **Fisher Block** – now demolished – on E. Ludington in 1891, but moved back to Russell's building for a time before returning to the Fisher Block, their home until 1958 (the 1897 Sanborn map shows the Masonic temple in the former Baptist Hall space – by 1911 the Masons were back in the Fisher Block. For a time beginning in 1910 what was then called Russell Hall upstairs was occupied by **R. F. Dundon's Actual Business College**. In 1924 the **Chalmers & Burns Confectionary Co., wholesale confectioners**, leased the building from Russell, who was retiring from business. Chalmers & Burns occupied it until about 1937. Early in 1938 **I. Zacks & Co. (Isadore and sons Max and Maurice Zacks), a meat and fruit wholesale business**, established in 1905, completed a major renovation to the building. The firm (now with **Max and Maurice Zacks** as owners) sold the building to **Mose Cohodes & Son** in 1952. I. Zacks & Co. must have added the lower rear extension to the 1880s building and the taller part of the section that projects east from this rear

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extension – these additions, but not the metal siding-clad east end building of the complex – show in the 1949 Sanborn update and were likely parts of the 1937-38 renovation. **M. Cohodes & Son, Inc., a meat wholesaler that expanded into a general food wholesaling business,** operated out of this building until the late 1980's.

News: "New Plant of Zacks Company Fully Modern," 3/15/1938; "Mose Cohodes and Son Buy Meat Business," 4/19/1952; "Iron Mountain Masonic Lodge Nearing 70th Anniversary," 10/2/1958.

114 Brown Street East. Bolognesi Building/now Mayme's Bar (built between 1904 and 1908)

2-story red brick store building with 5 square-head windows in the upstairs front and an upper front simply detailed with a paneled brick frieze and low-relief corbel table below the plain parapet. The storefront is entirely finished in T-111 vertical siding, with an off-center door flanked by a slider window on either side. A modern projecting sign hanging from an old metal stanchion at the 2nd-story level identifies the bar by name and as "The Beacon on Brown." The west side wall is pierced by a scattering of single double-hung windows in the second story. A shed-roof 1-story extension (added in 1993, the long-time bartender reports; a 1988 survey photo does not show it) clad in vinyl siding projects from the building's west side near the front. A 1-story building stands adjacent to the building on the east side. An enclosed staircase rises along the east side, its lower portion incorporated into the next-door building, to a shed-roof extension

along much of the east side at the second-story level.

The barroom interior is largely finished in modern diagonal boarding, with a billiard table and games in the 1993 west side. The original bar area in the building's east side retains the original dark wood mirrored backbar against the east wall. It displays an unfluted Ionic column, with capital loosely based on Scamozzi, at each end supporting a smooth flat-topped entablature with its projecting cornice at the ceiling. The dark wood bar itself is Moderne in finish, with raised horizontal metal strips across the front beneath the bar counter and a vertical wood fluting treatment on the projecting counter front, and appears to date from the 1930's.

A c. 1939 WPA/tax assessor photo shows the building's broad front as housing the **Milano Restaurant**, with two storefronts – one, beneath the west two windows, with a recessed entry at the right, the other, beneath the three eastern windows, with a recessed center entry.

The September 1904 Sanborn map shows a **frame store** at this location, the next (August 1911) this brick building, containing a **saloon**. The building has housed a bar and/or restaurant for its entire history. The 1908 state gazetteer lists the **Joseph Bolognesi saloon**, and the 1913 city directory lists the saloon at this location; it seems likely the present building was built by about 1908. The 1925 directory lists the **Roma Restaurant** and the 1935 one (with Prohibition now over) as **Joseph Bolognesi's tavern**. In the later 1930's and at least as late as 1941 the building housed the **Milano Restaurant**, still owned by **Joseph Bolognesi**. A 1937 advertisement lists **Marie Bolognesi** as manager and **Mario Cecchini** as chef. The

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Bolognesi family lived upstairs. The 1959 directory lists **Strong's Bar**, with **Jack S. Strong** as proprietor, and in 1963 **Mrs. Mary F. Strong** is shown as proprietor. The 1966 directory lists **Mayme's Bar**, still with **Mary Strong** as owner. By the late 1970's **Robert J. Bouche**, who is listed as bartender by 1972, and wife **Nancy M. Bouche**, Mary Strong's daughter, were proprietors. The bar remains in Bouche ownership today. The west third or so of the building's street level, now incorporated into the bar, contained a **barber shop**, listed as **Don's (Donald J. Scholke)** in the 1959 directory, down to the mid-1970's at least, and perhaps down to 1993, when the bar was expanded.

News: Milano adv, 2/20/1937.

116. Store/now Sully's Hair Styling (built between 1904 and 1911)

Narrow-fronted 1-story brick building with shed roof sloping downward from east wall of 114. Diagonal corner entrance set into T-111 finished front end. The side elevation contains several double-hung windows (one infilled) plus a square window (also infilled). A flat-roof rear extension is also finished in T-111 siding. A 1988 survey photo shows the front still faced in brick, with a separate door at the far left (west) side that led to 114's 2nd-story staircase. **Non-contributing because of the present exterior finishes.**

Part of the building's brick front section, with its front set back from 114's, shows in earlier Sanborn maps, but the front section's present footprint extending out to the same front line as 114, first appears in the 1949 Sanborn update. Though now occupied by a separate business, in its early days this building was apparently

simply an extension of the **Roma and Milano Restaurants**. The 1964-78 directories list attorney **William J. Bolognesi's** office at this location. **Sully's Barber Shop** is listed in the directory for the first time in 1988.

Brown Street East, South Side

109 ½. House/later Shed, Barn, and Garage (1884 or before)

1 ½-story small square-plan wooden building set well back from the street. Standing on a tall rubble stone foundation, the wooden building has a leanto roof with the gable end facing the street. It has asphalt siding and plain cornerboards and raking cornices. The only windows are small, now closed in ones in the front and rear gable. An 8-step wooden staircase leads to the only door, located at the east end of the north façade.

The earliest (July 1884) Sanborn map shows this building, identified as a dwelling, standing behind a store building that was located next west of 111 E. Brown. The 1892 directory lists **Julius Conciani**, a mason, residing on the alley at the rear of 109, presumably this location. The building shows as 109 ½ E. Brown on the 1891 Sanborn. The 1897 map labels it a shed, the 1904 a stable (possibly with dwelling above – the microfilm version is hard to read). By the early 1920's its use was listed as a garage.

111. Store (c. 1884)

2-story gable-front wooden store building with falsefront, the whole clad in random ashlar-pattern asphalt siding. The building's front contains two paired double-

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hung windows upstairs, and the other facades contain single and double windows, mostly in the second story. A deeply recessed left-hand (east) entry leads into the storefront, which has a slider and two modern horizontal windows set into T-111 siding – the former opening outlined by random ashlar-pattern synthetic siding sides, bulkheads, and transom area. An enclosed staircase, sided in asphalt siding like the rest of the body of the building, rises along the building's east façade. The building's rubble stone foundation is exposed on the east side, where the ground is depressed. A 1-story wooden store building once stood against 111's east side. A 1988 survey photo shows the front the same as at present except for a small porch sheltering the east-side staircase.

The 1884 Sanborn map shows this as a "New Store." The building contained a saloon during its early years. The 1892 directory lists **G. B. Tramontin's National Saloon**, with the upstairs housing the Tramontin family until at least 1907. The saloon was operated by **C. W. Johnson** as of 1902 and **Oscar Sand** as of 1907. The 1913 directory lists the building as vacant. It housed **Modern Laundry & Dry Cleaning**, founded by **Harry Johnson** and **Edward E. Broullire** early in 1924, until 1948, when the business moved to a new building on S. Carpenter. **William Folley** bought out Johnson's interest during 1925. By the time of the 1948 move **Broullire and Fred Folley** were proprietors. The 1959 directory lists **Julius Clout's Wholesale Supplies**, paper products and cigars, and that and successor firm **Clouts & Swanson Wholesale Supplies, Inc.**, remained there until the late 1990's.

News: "New Laundry to be Opened Here," 3/25/1924; Ownership change,

4/27/1925; "New Laundry Building to be Erected," 4/24/1948; "Modern Laundry and Cleaners, S. Carpenter," 5/14/1949.

Brown Street West, North Side

100-02. Northern Ballroom and Garage Building (1923) Worden-Allen Construction Co., Milwaukee, contractor

Large 2-story steel frame Commercial Brick commercial structure with red-brown wire-cut brick exterior on the Brown (south) and Merritt (east) sides and plain brick in the west and north (rear) facades. The building has a four-slope roof, with the outer slope on either side steep and the inner one sloping very little. The south front is comprised of two parts, with broad piers separating the parts and at the building corners. The broad, symmetrical east three-quarters of the façade has a storefront area (now enclosed in T-111 except for a row of small windows), three broad horizontal windows upstairs (now infilled with T-111), and a broad center and two smaller outside windows in a third story only apparent at this end (also now infilled with T-111). A 1948 photo shows the upstairs windows all steel sash 3 lights tall. The front has a large square panel of basketweave brickwork at the outer edge on each side. The parapet rises gently at each end toward the middle, where there is a slightly raised flat-topped central section. The front's western quarter contains two doors, beneath a simple dentiled classical cap, at ground level, twin windows upstairs (infilled with T-111), and three blind triangle-head panels in the attic. The pier edging each side of this west part displays near its top a raised shield form, with

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triangular bottom, complementing the blind panels between and just below them. An egg-and-dart molding and small cap crowns the parapet in this part of the front.

The long east side elevation is divided into six bays by more of the broad piers and contains more large window areas (most also largely or completely infilled with T-111) plus pedestrian and vehicular entrances. The north (rear) elevation contains more large infilled windows, while the west side wall is windowless.

The building's lower story is now divided into several office and commercial spaces and retains few historic features. A staircase inside the west door on the building's south front leads to the **Northern Ballroom**, still a large open space with a maple dance floor set off from the much smaller south end by a carpeted balustrade with two entries. The room displays the bare brick exterior walls, with steel beams supporting the roof trusses and the Warren roof trusses themselves exposed to view – the trusses supporting the four-slope roof built mostly of angles. No stage is now present. The south end, which presumably would have contained a concession area, contains modern finishes. There is an apartment in a small third-floor area at the building's south end overlooking the hall.

This building was constructed for **George Jacksin** and **George Davich**. A 1931 *News* story lists its construction date as 1923. The building's ground floor originally housed the **Northern Garage**, including **Rollins Auto Sales and Service**. As of 1930 the **Northern Motors Plymouth/Chrysler dealership** was housed there. The 2nd story contained the **Northern Ballroom**, of which **Jacksin and Davich** were proprietors. The ballroom was described as containing a balcony and

coat-check area at the south end. Late in 1927 management of the ballroom was assumed by **F. E. Parmelee & Sons**, local architects who were also proprietors of the **Nightingale**, another local dancing venue, and the name changed to the **Winter Garden**. By 1930 no advertisements for dances at the Northern were appearing in the paper, but the place was still being used for occasional events such as a **3rd Annual Flower Show** in August 1930 and a 5/15-16/1931 Carnival sponsored by the **Iron Mountain Women's Club**. Worden-Allen took possession of the building when Jacksin and Davich defaulted on a mortgage they held. In early 1930 the Masons took an option on the building, but they were apparently unable to swing the purchase. **W. D. Cochran** leased it in October 1931 for his **trucking operation**, which at the time, early in Cochran's career, involved five trucks and freight lines connecting Iron Mountain with Green Bay and Ironwood. The 1935 directory lists the entire building as vacant, but by 1939 it housed the **Chalmers & Co.** "wholesale confectionary." An advertisement for **Chalmers & Co., Inc.**, with photo of the building, in the 1948 edition of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau's *The Lure Book* (44) states: "Catering to Wholesale Needs Since 1924. Wines, Beer, Tavern and Fountain Supplies, Cigars, Confectionary, Drugs, Paper, etc." Later directories often list the building as vacant, but it was used as **warehouse space by Montgomery Ward** from about 1962 to 1977.

News: Northern Ballroom event advs, 11/8/1927 and 5/12/1931; "Cochran Leases Garage Building for Enterprises," 10/20/1931; "Assessment of Garage Unfair, Agent Asserts," 11/10/1931.

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Upper Peninsula Development Bureau,
The Lure Book, 44.

108 Brown Street West. House (built before 1889)

1 ½-story gable-front house sided in asbestos siding; fronted by enclosed and windowless vinyl siding clad hip-roof porch; raking cornices; pair of old 2/2 wood windows in front gable. Abundant vegetation renders all but the front invisible. A c. 1940 WPA/assessor photo shows a clapboarded house with a turned-post front porch.

The 1888 Sanborn map, the first to cover this area, shows the house. The 1892 directory lists **Z. Frank**, proprietor of a store at 110 E. Brown that sold confectionary, fruit, and canned goods, vegetables, and smoking supplies, along with “writing materials and temperance,” residing here. Other early occupants included **John Reynolds, Sr., and Jr.**, the latter a laborer, as of 1902, **James Olds**, a laborer, and other Olds family members as of 1907, and fireman **Frank Hill** and wife **Selma** as of 1913.

110. House (built before 1889)

1 ½-story gable-front wood house with wide exposure asbestos siding; modern enclosed front porch topped by deck with tall railing. The porch/deck and abundant vegetation largely obscure the house. A c. 1940 WPA/assessor photo shows clapboarding, a screened-in hip-roof front porch with clapboarded railings, and a shed-roof rear extension. **Non-contributing at present due to extent of exterior renovations.**

The house appears in the 1888 Sanborn map, and a rear addition appears in the 1891 map. Early occupants included **F. W. Parker** as of 1892, **Mrs. Mary Colburn**, a caterer, as of 1902, and members of the **Martin family** from before 1907 until at least the early 1940's. **Charles H. Martin**, a miner and later ropeman, and his wife, **Susan**, lived here, with Mrs. Martin residing here following her husband's death by 1925. The 1941 directory still lists Mrs. Martin and other family members, but also **Marcus J. Townley**, school board superintendent, and **Mrs. Leonor Townley**, manager of the **A & P Store**, 407 S. Stephenson.

112. House (built sometime during 1897-1904 period)

1 ½-story gable-front wood house with narrow side-gable projection at right (east) and a small shed dormer on the left (west) roof slope. The house displays wide exposure synthetic siding, projecting eaves with raking cornices, and narrow double-hung windows. There is a small gable-front door porch. Overgrown shrubs by the sidewalk line obscure the view of the house's lower story. A c. 1940 WPA/assessor photo shows the house with clapboard siding, a shingled front gable, and the door porch with turned posts.

The 1888 Sanborn map shows a house on this lot, but along the east rather than west side of the lot. The 1904 map is the first to show a house at the present site at the west edge of the lot. From the house's style as revealed in the c. 1940 photo, this was likely a replacement house rather than the 1880s one moved. Early residents here included the **Lane family** as of 1892 – including **Frederick and W. H.**, respectively

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a warehouseman and clerk for the **Milwaukee & Northern Railway** – and the **Graefes** – **Joseph E.** was listed as a laborer as of 1902, station engineer as of 1907 and 1913, and pump operator as of 1925 – as late as the mid-to-late 1930's.

116 Brown Street West. Swedish M. E. Church/later Assembly of God Church (1907-08)

Cross-gable dark red brick building comprised of two arms, with a square-plan tower in the angle. Standing on steeply sloping ground, with a tall stone foundation beneath the south arm facing Brown Street, the church is finished with pointed arch main (tower) entry and windows, all capped with simple brick heads. The south-facing gabled front contains a single large Gothic window and east and west gabled end each a tall window in the center and lower one each side. The south-facing front entry, reached by a long concrete stair, has non-original double doors; the pointed-arch window above is now boarded up. The tower's two street-facing sides above each contains a round window, also now boarded up. The upper part of the tower, once comprised of a four-sided wooden belfry topped by pointed spire, has been removed. The building has not been in use in recent years.

The building is closely modeled after a pattern-book church design, plan 277, in Benjamin D. and Max Charles Price's *Church Plans*, 1907 edition (see Significance section, Architecture). It was constructed for the **Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church**. The cornerstone of this building, the congregation's third, was laid 6/3/1907, and the completed building dedicated 6/14/1908. The church name

was changed to **Wesley M. E. Church** in November 1939, with the **Rev. Charles J. Swanson** as pastor. In 1944 this church and the **Central M. E. Church** merged, forming **Trinity**. Trinity used this church building until early 1954, when they moved to a new church on S. Carpenter. From 1954 through 1979 the building housed the **Assembly of God Church**.

News: "Wesley Methodist Church to Observe Fiftieth Anniversary," 5/9/1940. Erickson, *High Lights in the History of The Trinity Methodist Church*. Price, *Church Plans*, plan 277.

200. First Presbyterian Church/now Francie's Traditional Designs (1885-86)

Standing on a steeply sloping hillside site, the church is a cross-gable-roof wooden Late Victorian/Stick Style building with a pyramid-roof square tower located in the angle between the building's two arms. It stands on a rockface red sandstone foundation except for a small rear section, built on a concrete block foundation. The clapboarded walls are subdivided vertically by applied stickwork and horizontally between stories in the side gable facing Carpenter by a broad band of vertical boarding that extends across that end at the top of the first-floor windows and around the tower. The band of vertical boarding continues across the façade of the south-facing front gable, intersecting a broad, arched window centered beneath the gable in the south front. The gables display stick-and-pierced-work gable ornaments, and the belfry is an open one, with posts framing twin openings with stickwork heads of Gothic arch pattern below the tall pyramid roof. An enclosed front entry porch displays more stickwork trim. The church

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retains its original windows, some containing margin-light sash. An old rockfaced concrete retaining wall fronts the property along the sidewalk line. An enclosed gable-roof front entry vestibule, with stickwork trim matching the main building and a broad pointed arch entrance, was added between 1930 and 1940 according to the Sanborns, and a low one-story gable-roof extension in matching style at the back (north) end of the auditorium does not appear in the 1949 Sanborn update and was apparently added later.

The interior retains its old wide pine board floor and gabled auditorium ceiling, with diagonal dark narrow beaded board ceiling and sets of raised ribs running from either side to support small quatrefoil-decorated triangular trusses below the peak. Folding doors separate the rectangular main auditorium to the west from a smaller overflow area to the east. At the auditorium's north end is a round-arch chancel, raised three steps above the level main floor.

The **Presbyterian Church** was established in December 1884. Plans to build a church building costing about \$3000 were reported in June 1885 and the new building was completed by early February 1886. The Presbyterians occupied this church building until moving to a new church in Kingsford late in 1958. For a time in the 1970's **Trico Opportunities, Inc.**, made use of the building as a welfare workshop. The **Pine Mountain Baptist Chapel/Church**, a Southern Baptist Convention group established in 1981, took possession of the building in 1983 and occupied it until sometime in the 1990's. Pine Mountain installed the present bell, brought from a former Baptist church in Munising. **Francie's Traditional Designs**,

a furnishings store and design studio that specializes in commercial work, has owned the building since about 2000. The owners came on the scene at a time when the building's future was much in doubt. They have been exemplary stewards in lovingly restoring and maintaining the church building, Iron Mountain's second oldest.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, 12/6/1884, 12/13/1884, 6/27/1885, 2/6/1886 – information provided by William J. Cummings. 7/31/2012.

News: "New Presbyterian Church Designed for Maximum Use," 10/4/1958; adv, 1st Presbyterian offering old building for sale, 10/8/1958; "Dedication of Presbyterian Church to Begin on Sunday," 10/10/1958; "Pine Mountain Baptist Chapel plans refurbishing project," 6/30/1984; "Renovation work complete at Pine Mountain Baptist," 2/8/1986.

Information from Francie's Traditional Design owners, 7/2012.

Brown Street West, South Side

117. House (built 1888 or before)

2-story gabled-ell, with 1-story gabled rear ell, all now clad in vinyl clapboarding. A hip-roof porch, partly enclosed as a vestibule at the end next to the upright and with several wide modern wooden piers above vinyl-siding clad railings, extends across the front and side of the house's wing. The house's windows are mostly modern double-hung ones. **Non-contributing at present due to loss or covering up of all historic exterior finishes.**

The house appears in the 1888 Sanborn map, the first to cover this area. Still a residence, the house had as early

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occupants the families of teamster **Edgar W. Lathrop** as of 1892, **O. J. Pierson** in 1902 and **O. T. Pearson** in 1907 (both listed as carpenters, perhaps really the same person), and **William J. Baumgartner**, principal of **Farragut School**, as of 1913. A 1988 survey photo shows deteriorated asbestos siding.

113 (Rear, along north side of alley). Commercial Building/Garage (1930s)

Tall 1-story nearly square-plan concrete block building with flat roof slanting gently downward toward the rear. The block is a smooth-finished type with recessed edges that is not seen elsewhere in the district. Standing along the north side of the alley behind (south of) the house at 117, this building displays a large garage door at the east end of the south (alley) side and several small windows up high in the walls. The only pedestrian door is on the north (rear) side toward the house. The 1940 Sanborn update shows the roof as concrete on steel joists.

The 1940 Sanborn map, which shows updates since 1930, is the first to show this building, which stands at the back of property that then contained a store building at 113 W. Brown. The building as shown in the 1940 map is marked “**Wholesale Meats & Vegetables**” in the west part and “**Auto**” in the east. A 1988 survey photo shows the **United Sign Corp.** as the occupant. Most recently the building housed **Mark’s Window Cleaning, Inc.**

117. Garage (c. 1940s)

Located along north side of alley just east of Mark’s, 2-bay hip-roof concrete block garage with doors facing east. Lawn

in front of the doors suggests the doors see little use for vehicle egress. The garage does not show in the 1930 Sanborn but does appear in the 1949 update.

201. House/now I Am Art Gallery (built 1888 or before)

2-story gabled-ell with 1-story ell extending west along Brown. Standing on a rubble stone foundation, the house has plain raking cornices and wide exposure composition siding. The upright is fronted by a hip-roof porch with non-historic turned posts. Most windows have been replaced with modern sliders or casements. The building’s front yard displays several sculptural pieces made from scrap materials. A c. 1938 WPA/assessor photo shows clapboard siding and the front porch with square columns above clapboarded railings. **Non-contributing at present due to loss or covering up of all historic finishes.**

The house shows in the 1888 Sanborn map. The **I Am Art Gallery** opened in December 2010. The gallery “was organized by a group of local artists who will be opening their doors to the arts in education, adults and children alike, and showcasing collections of artists work both local and around the world” (*The Daily News*, 12/15/2010).

Carpenter Avenue South, East Side

301. Samme’s Standard Service (1951) L. A. Postl & Son, Iron Mountain, contractor

1-story concrete block gas/service station with front and narrow ends clad in

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porcelain enameled metal tiles – the tiles were described as being in red, white, and blue, but are now painted in gray so that little of the color shows. At the left is the office area – originally with an open glass front that extended nearly halfway along the north side as well but now much more enclosed with T-111 vertical siding and low windows plus two modern doors – and at the right (south) two garage bays. A broad and low gable-front roof replaced the original flat roof, probably during the 1960's. The exposed concrete block rear façade retains six original glass block windows in the garage section. The station's forecourt is paved in concrete and a small post-1988 flat-top canopy supported on two steel columns sheltering the pump island stands in front of the building. A metal standard that once held a gas brand sign stands at the Carpenter/Ludington intersection.

Use of this site for gas stations began by the early 1930's. The 1935 directory lists a **Standard Oil Station**. **Samme's Standard Service** had its reopening in its new quarters June 22-23, 1951. **Samme Abraham** bought the business in 1943 and in 1946 began operation of **Samme's Cabs** from this location as well. By 1961 it had become **Rudolph W. Lundholm's Lundholm Standard Service Station**. From the early 1980's to about 2008 it was **Hamm's Amoco Service Station** and then **Hamm's Service**.

News: "Grand Opening, Sammy's Standard Service," 6/21/1951; "Newly-Built Gas Station Is Reopened," 6/22/1951.

401-03. Sammy's Pure Oil Service Station/now Mark's (c. 1950's)

L-plan 1-story flat-roof concrete block building comprised of slightly taller

rectangular structure placed broadside to the road and slightly lower wing projecting toward the street from the right-hand (south) end. The main part has 2 street-facing garage doors at the north end and large steel sash windows in the north end wall. The narrow forward projecting section, clearly an addition as shown by the vertical joint in the concrete block where it is attached, is also built of concrete block and angles slightly southward from a right angle from the main building's north-south alignment. Its north and west faces are set back a few feet from the vertical board front of a canopy extension of the roof (not present in a 1988 survey photo) and from the west end of the wing's south wall, which extends out to the roof's edge. The wing's north front contains a door and slider window; the other facades are windowless. The building stands close to the road and is fronted by a shallow concrete forecourt.

The 1961 directory lists **Samuel Abraham** as proprietor of the station.

405-07. Bond Building (c. 1924)

2-story 2-storefront red Commercial Brick building with concrete-capped parapet that rises in a gradual slope on either side to a low raised flat-top center section. The upper façade with its twin paired windows on either side above the storefront windows displays brickwork banding below the 2nd-story windows and parapet and panels outlined by brickwork in the frieze plus concrete lozenge patterns in the parapet's center. In the ground story front large store windows are separated by a recessed central entry containing a store entrance on either side and a central door to the upstairs. The side and rear walls are faced in buff brick.

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The building does not appear in the 1923 Sanborn map, but the 1925 directory lists the **Edward J. Hammel Co., plumbing and heating**, in 405, the north store space, and the **Ernest Bond painting and decorating shop** in 407, the south store (Bond then had a second shop across the street at 412 Carpenter), with the offices of **Drs. Bertram M. Bailey and Hugh R. Sigler** located upstairs. The **Bond Decorating Co.** – painting, decorating, wallpaper, and, later, rugs and carpeting – remained at the 407 address until the mid to late 1980's, when they moved to 215 E. Hughitt. The Bond firm appears in the first, 1892 Iron Mountain directory as **Bond & Gill (John Bond and Frank Gill)**, "Artistic decorators, painters and paper hangers. Dealers in paints, oils, glass, wall paper," at 709 River Ave. By 1905 **John Bond** was listed as a **furniture dealer** only, with **Ernest Bond**, "painter," listed for the first time. Ernest Bond soon made a name for himself as a specialist in artistic interior finishing.

By 1935 and into at least the early 1940s the **Paul Electric Co., Lawrence J. Paul**, owner, occupied the north store space; he and wife **Angeline** lived upstairs. By 1951 a **Maytag Appliance store** occupied the north store (adv, *News*, 5/26/1951).

411. Johnny's Service Station; Hallenbeck Service Station (between 1923 and 1930) and Garage (1953)

2 attached buildings that occupy the northeast Carpenter/A corner.

- The 1920s service station is a small rectangular 1-story building, now with rockface two-against-one coursed ashlar stone facades and roof with low

concave-profile faces surrounding a flat central area. The building contains a single broad window and 2 side-by-side entries (one now infilled with vertical boarding – perhaps it was a restroom entry) in the front. The building stands at an angle facing the intersection.

- The 1-story 1953 garage stands to the north, the south half of its front in line with the service station front northwest to the Carpenter sidewalk line, north half angled at 45 degrees to south half, parallel with Carpenter. The front is faced in two-against-one coursed ashlar stone similar to the older building. A construction photo shows a concrete block underlying structure. The angled part of the front contains a large garage door and shop window, the north part a deeply recessed entry at its north (left-hand) end and broad former window area, above low stone bulkhead, filling most of the rest of the width of that section – now infilled and leaving only two large vertical frosted and clear glass block windows toward the center.

The 1925 directory has no listing for this address, but the 1935 directory lists the original part of this complex as **Johnnie's Service Station**, with **John Fauri** as proprietor. The 1939 directory lists **Gordon's Texaco Station**, operated by **Gordon A. Schultz**, and the 1941 directory has **Hank's Service Station**, managed by **Henry A. Dessereau**. An ad for the **Hallenbeck Oil Co., Gulf dealer**, appeared in the 4/2/1951 *News*, and the Hallenbeck garage "annex" was illustrated in a collection of photos of "Business and Residential Construction in Twin Cities at New Peak Since 1950" in the 5/9/1953 *News*. In the early 1960's **Jack B.**

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Larson's Zero Cab Co. and Larson's 24-Hour Marathon gas station operated here, in the late 1960's into the 1980's **Joseph G. Cerasoli's Cerasoli Motors auto repair shop**.

503 Carpenter Avenue South. Superior Bagels and Subs (c. 1950s-60s; c. 1997)

Small 1-story flat-roof commercial building clad in fiberboard. The building is comprised of a slightly taller section that projects a few feet forward of lower sections of unequal length to the north and south. The front section has a shallow flat-top canopy extending from end to end.

A 1988 survey photo shows the central and southern parts of this building housing **Superior Auto Sales**, with the north section not present. The central section shows as constructed with concrete block walls and a garage door in the north end and three small square windows and a door on the west (front) side, the present two windows and central door perhaps aligning with the north three windows in 1988. The south-end section was faced in large window areas, with enameled metal panel bulkheads and upper façade. The 1998 city directory is the first to list **Superior Bagels. Non-contributing due to extensive alterations since 1988.**

701. Dick's Texaco Service Station and Garage/now Auto Tech Service Center (1955)

2-story gable-topped hip-roof building with attached 1-story 3-bay flat-roof garage, the whole finished in smooth stucco or concrete, presumably over concrete block or tile. A steel column-supported pent roof

gas pump canopy (no longer containing gas pumps) fronts the complex. At the north end, with its side on C Street, is the 2-story building containing the store space, with broad glass window in front, and residential units upstairs. A pair of doors (one of them the upstairs access) sheltered by a hip-roof canopy is located at the east end of the north side façade. The upstairs contains large metal sash picture windows and smaller casements. The building's hip roof rises to a small gable roof containing louvered gable ends at front and back.

Attached to the 2-story building's south end is the 1-story garage building, its walls finished like the other building. The garage contains two tall drive-in bays and a shorter one at the south end. The south end façade contains a large glass block window.

Auto service stations have stood on this corner since the 1920's, with the **M. J. Schenk & Co. station**, with **Max J. Schenk** as proprietor, listed in the 1925 directory. **Joseph Andreini** and **Richard Gagnon** had this 1955 station constructed. A half-page advertisement of the station's Grand Opening in the July 8, 1955 *News* provided a photo of the newly finished station. The 1-story garage bay section then included only the two left-hand (north) bays, the north one displaying a "MARFAX LUBRICATION" sign over the door, the south a "WASHING" sign. A signpost bearing the **Texaco** star logo stood on the street corner. **Gagnon** operated **Dick's Motor Sales & Service**, used cars, here as of 1961, but **Gerry's Texaco** was the occupant after that into the 1970's, followed by 1980 by **Mel's Texaco**.

Carpenter Avenue South, West Side

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306-10. Commercial Building (late 1940's)

1-story flat-roof concrete block building with, from north to south, an office area, garage door, pedestrian entrance, and another garage door and pedestrian door. The office area contains a broad window at the north end and shorter window around the corner on the north facade, with a round metal column at the corner. The north facade contains four large steel sash windows and an additional garage door at the west end. The south facade corresponds with the north facade of 200 W. Hughitt and its western extension.

The 1949 Sanborn shows the building, with its north half listed as "auto repair" and the south part as a machine shop. An advertisement for **Advance Auto Body** at 306 Carpenter appears in the 2/17/1949 *News*. By 1952 **James P. Fontecchio's Jimme's Auto Body Shop** occupied no. 306. As of 1955 the **Hosking Tire Co.** was listed at that address (adv, 9/21/1955).

406. House/Barber Shop (built between 1911 and 1923)

Small 1-story gable-front wooden building now clad in vinyl siding except for the lower portion of the front (and extending slightly around the corner on each side), which is faced in a synthetic rubble stone veneer. A low vinyl-clad falsefront supports an asphalt shingled pent roof. The front contains a center entry flanked by single 6/6 modern window on each side; the south (left-hand) side also contains two small windows. A 1988 survey photo shows larger storefront windows and the exterior clad in asbestos shingles. **Non-contributing at present due to loss of**

covering up of all historic exterior finishes.

The 1923 Sanborn is the first to show this building, then labeled as a dwelling. While the 1930 Sanborn also shows a house, the 1949 update identifies it as a store. Following the 1939 directory, which still lists the building as a residence, the 1941 directory lists **Johnson's Barber Shop, Henry G. Johnson**, proprietor. An advertisement in the 9/14/1953 *News* states that **Stephen's Jewelry** now occupied "Hank" Johnson's former barber shop (Stephen's previous location was in the **Braumart Building**), but on May 10, 1955, the *News* carried another adv reporting that Johnson was back in business at the same location. The barber shop was later **Christensen's**. The building continues to house a barber shop, now **Rick's Haircuts**.
News, 5/26/1951

412 Carpenter Avenue South. Arnold Building/now The Cut Above (c. 1885-90 period)

2-story gable-front wooden store building with tall falsefront. The building is now faced in vertical T-111 siding except for the c. 1920s storefront, which presents red brick elements – piers at either end and bulkheads below the large windows that frame the recessed slant-sided center entry – and old dark metal window frames. A projecting sign marquee above covers the former shopfront transom area. The lower story's side and rear facades contain a mix of double-hung and slider windows, the upstairs double-hung windows. In back a hip-roof enclosed sunporch in the second story rises above side-by-side gabled ell and shed-roof garage projections. A 1988

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survey photo shows the exterior the same as at present.

This building contained the **Arnold butcher shop** and then **grocery** from the early 1890's until the mid-1960's. The 1892 directory lists the building as **Louis Arnold's meat shop** and residence. By 1907 the store was **Arnold Brothers**, with **Otto and Robert Arnold** as proprietors. The business was known as **Arnold's Grocery Store**, with **Clarence E. Arnold** as owner, in 1939. It continued in business as **Arnold's Market** down to the mid-1960's. Family members continued to reside upstairs in the building through this entire time period. **Henry M. Yantorni's Henry's Refrigeration & Appliances** was the occupant from about 1966 to 1975. **The Cut Above beauty shop** has been here since about 1980.

News: adv, 12/22/1954.

514. Main Street Pizza (c. 1996)

Freestanding 1-story hip-roof building clad in vinyl clapboarding above brick panel bulkheads. **Main Street Pizza** first appears at this location in the 1997 directory. A 1988 survey card shows a wooden falsefront store building here. **Non-contributing because of recent date of construction.**

600-08. McKinney Block ("McKinney Flats")/DeGayner Building (built sometime during 1888-91 period; remodeled 1931)

L-plan 1-story wooden building, with gently rearward slanting roof, that extends around the corner onto B Street. Standing on a stone and concrete block foundation, the building contains 3 storefronts facing

Carpenter plus another with a diagonal entrance at the B corner. The south 2 storefronts have recessed, slant-sided center entrances, the 2nd from the B corner its recessed entry at the south (left) end. The exterior is finished in asphalt shingling in a random ashlar pattern and in vertical T-111 siding. The doors and large storefront windows all appear modern. There is a simple low projecting wooden cornice.

The building was constructed for **F. W. McKinney** of Manistique as an adjunct to a west-side development known as Lawndale he planned in the boom times around 1890 (see Stiles, 17). Identified in the 1891 and other early Sanborn maps as the **McKinney Block**, the building was originally 2 stories in height and contained commercial spaces at the corner and facing B Street and residential facing Stephenson. An early postcard view shows a pattern of double-decker bay windows for the residential units – whether 2-story townhouse-type units or separate apartments up and down can't be determined – along the Stephenson façade beyond the corner section. The 1891 map shows four residential units south of the corner store space, the 1897 through 1911 maps five residential (with the corner store space reduced in size). The next, 1930 map shows the 1st-floor residential units all converted to store spaces and a millinery store occupying the entire store space from Stephenson along the B Street side.

The building was renovated into a single story store building following a severe fire May 14, 1931. At the time of the fire the ground floor housed the **Iron Mountain Gas Company office** in the corner section, **Em's Pasty Shop**, **Stomberg's Self Serve Grocery**, **Allyn's Dress and Hat Shop**, and **O'Connor's Bake Shop**. The post-fire

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remodeling was carried out under the direction of **Neil F. Gill**, resident engineer for the **Phelps-Drake Construction Co.** The building owner, **E. J. DeGayner**, made the project his own Depression-relief activity by employing around 25 unemployed local workers for the project.

News: "Five Business Places Burn Out," 5/14/1931; "DeGayner Flats Building to be One Story High," 6/2/1931.

612. Seventh Day Adventist Church Parsonage (1940s)

1 ½-story Cape Cod with a pair of oversized gabled wall dormers in front; slightly projecting gabled front entry; wide vinyl siding; concrete block foundation.

The building does not show in the 1940 Sanborn map but is present in the 1940 map updated to 1949.

614. Seventh Day Adventist Church/now New Hope Church of God (1936-37)

Large towerless gable-roof church building of Arts-and-Crafts design with rubble fieldstone walls and front and rear gables faced in stucco. The stonework is beautifully done, with larger stones outlining door and window openings and serving as quoins at the corners. The roof displays wide eavesboards, with scalloped lower sides at the ends, and exposed rafter tails. The church's symmetrical front, projecting beyond the auditorium's side walls on either side, presents side-by-side gables, each containing an entry and casement window, below the stuccoed main gable. In the upper front the roof is supported on a triangular stick bracket on each side and the gable contains a stickwork ornament. The church's windows are all square-head

multi-light casements. Windows in the partly above-ground basement level are of glass block. A square cornerstone now incorporated into the building's southeast corner stonework reads "Dedicated to the Glory of God May 14, 1949."

A brief notice regarding progress on the church building in the 6/17/1937 *News* states that work on the church began "about a year ago, with labor largely recruited from the congregation, the basement and foundation have been completed and it is expected to complete the walls by July 1. Only a comparatively small amount of paid labor has been employed, and this largely for special installations." The church appears in the 1940 Sanborn map for the first time. A 1985 newspaper story on the church states that the local **Adventist Church** was established in 1889 and that "In 1936, the group purchased the property of the present church building and brought up **Magnus Hanson**, an expert stone mason from lower Michigan. Hanson, along with members of the church, laid the huge quantity of field stone...." The story cites the church's then pastor, the **Rev. Kenneth Wilson**, as the source of this information. A thorough review of the *News* from the time around May 14, 1949, provided no information.

News: "Many Expected Here to Attend Church Meeting," 6/17/1937; "Seventh Day Adventists keep holy the Sabbath," 2/23/1985.

706-10 Carpenter Avenue South. Ayoub Building (between 1925 and 1930)

1-story broad-fronted red Commercial Brick store building. Front parapet with concrete cap and square and vertical

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rectangular concrete pieces as decorative accents; central section of parapet on each side raised, with south storefront's taller than north one. Each half now contains a single broad storefront. North storefront has vinyl siding as bulkheads and infilling one window area and a slanting modern canopy; a metal sign lanyard projects from the midpoint of this store but now has no sign. South storefront is also modern with a hip-roof canopy. A slightly recessed bricked-in vertical slot at the building's midpoint may have contained an entry; directly above at the parapet is a concrete plaque bearing the **Ayoub Building** name. The side walls are faced in vertical ribbed metal siding.

Iron Mountain businessman **Don Khoury** states that **Ayoub** is a **Lebanese-Syrian name** and that the original owner may have been from Michigan's Copper Country (nothing to confirm the Copper Country connection has as yet been found). The 1925 directory contains no listings for these addresses. The 1931 and 1941 directories list **Mrs. Carrie Vellenett, wholesale confectioner**, in 706; **Mrs. Catherine/Katherine Betzler's grocery** (called **People's Food Store** by 1941) in 708; and **Milo E. Hansen's Dickinson County Motors**, Hudson and Terraplane auto dealers and garage, in 710. **People's Super Market** is listed at 708 in the directories from 1959 til *[sic – until]* about 2000 and **Dickinson County Motors** at 710 til *[sic – until]* about 1985.

Fleishiem Street East, South Side

205. Store (between 1888 and 1892)

2-story single-storefront red brick Late Victorian with 2nd-story entry at right;

storefront infilled with modern wooden materials and brick bulkheads, leaving door in center bay and small windows in right and left, but retaining the original decorative iron piers in place; a 1988 survey photo shows a large storefront window, with transom, still in place on either side of what was then still a recessed slant-sided entry. The 2nd story presents square-head front windows, their top thirds infilled, with rockface stone caps, and the upper façade below the parapet is detailed with projecting piers supported on corbelled brickwork and with sawtooth and dentiled brickwork. The upper façade detailing includes brickwork in X-patterns in the piers. The building is freestanding, separated by a few feet from an adjoining commercial building to the east. The right (west) side wall is now clad in horizontal metal siding, where an adjoining building has been demolished, and contains no windows.

The building does not appear in the 1888 Sanborn map but is present in the next, 1891 map. The 1891 and 1897 Sanborns show the occupant as a **general store**, while the 1892 directory lists **Robert J. Hancock's and William Sundstrom's hardware**. The 1902 directory shows **S. P. Sandmark's jewelry store**. The 1911 Sanborn lists the building as a **flour warehouse**, while other editions down to 1930 show the occupant simply as stores. Not until the 1949 Sanborn is use of the building as a lodge hall indicated, but Cummings notes the upper story contained a meeting space, used by a **Swedish lodge, North Star Lodge (Norsjenan Lodge No. 15) of the Scandinavian Aid & Fellowship Society**, and as a performance space during a period in the early 20th C. "There was a stage area in the building, and **Ole Skratholt**, the famed Swedish

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*[Researched and Written by Robert O. Christensen,
National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, Michigan]*

comedian, appeared on this stage...” (*Business District*, 8). The building now houses a **VFW post**.

207. Store (between 1888 and 1892)

2-story single-storefront red brick Late Victorian with segmental-arch-head windows with brick caps and a plain, slightly projecting cornice. The storefront retains round iron columns marking the outer edges of the recessed central entry and on the left side of the right-hand upstairs entry; the storefront has been infilled with a stuccoed treatment with a modern slider window on either side of the square-plan entry with its double doors (a 1988 survey photo shows few changes from present conditions). The lower story of the (east) side wall facing Iron Mountain Street is finished in rough stucco like the storefront and capped with an asphalt shingled pent roof. The rear façade is also stucco-finished.

Early Sanborns beginning with 1891 list the building as a **bakery** or **combination bakery/grocery**, and the 1902, 1907, 1913, and 1925 directories list the **Hallberg & Osterberg bakery (Peter Hallberg and Charles S. Osterberg)**, with the **grocery** in operation by 1907. The upstairs contained apartments.

301. Tirschel Saloon/House (early 1880s; c. 1900)

2-story gable-front wooden building entirely sided in vinyl “clapboarding” in late 2011 or early 2012 but until then mostly in random ashlar-pattern asphalt siding, partly in vinyl clapboarding. The windows are modern single double-hung ones. A shed-roof porch around the center front entry has

thin square post corner supports and wooden clapboarded railings. On the west side facing Iron Mountain Street a second entry features a gabled hood with Eastlake stickwork gable ornament. At the south end of the building is a 2-story hip-roof section. Directly south of the house built into the hillside fronting on Iron Mountain is a small 2-story gable-front building containing a garage. It also was recently vinyl sided but was previously finished in asphalt siding matching the house and with some vinyl siding, but some of the asphalt siding had come off and the underlying horizontal boarding was exposed. **Non-contributing at present due to removal or covering up of nearly all historic exterior finishes.**

The Sanborn maps from 1884 through 1897 show this as a 1-story building, a **drug/stationary store** in 1884 and **saloon** in 1888 and 1891. In the 1904 map the building has the same footprint, but is now shown as having 2 stories, with the 1st floor vacant and 2nd a dwelling. A photo probably from the later 1890s or very early 1900s shows a two-story building with a storefront and tall falsefront above the second-story windows at the north end – no evidence of either the shopfront or falsefront survives. The 1892 directory lists the building as the residence of **Martin Slang**, but in the 1902 directory the occupant was listed as **Joseph Terschel [Tirschel], agent for the Leisen & Henes Brewing Co. of Menominee** – this presumably meaning the building housed a **saloon** that sold the Menominee firm’s products. By 1905 Tirschel’s operation, clearly labeled a saloon, had moved to 101-103 W. Hughitt, and 301’s occupant is unclear (this directory has no house number list). The 1913 directory shows the building vacant, the 1935 one as the

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residence of painters **Enar and Samuel Enarson** and **Metta, Mrs. Samuel Enarson**.

Hughitt Street East, North Side

100. Store (built by 1884)

2-story gable-front wooden store building with falsefront. The front is faced in modern wide-exposure unpainted horizontal weatherboard above a c. 1950 brick storefront with recessed slant-sided center entrance with interlocking untrimmed bricks at the angles and low bulkheads. The street-facing storefront windows each contains a modern paired double-hung window with horizontal board infill around it, and the windows facing the entry recess are entirely infilled with more of the boarding. The side and rear walls are faced in random ashlar-pattern asphalt siding. At the back is a short 1-story hip-roof extension, with an enclosed 2nd-story staircase along its west side. There is also a steel fire escape midway along the building's left (west) side leading to a 2nd-floor entrance and an enclosed 2nd-story staircase on the right (east) side. Windows are mostly modern double-hung ones. A 1988 survey photo shows a c. 1950 storefront with large windows flanking the entry and the upper front faced in random ashlar-pattern asphalt siding matching that existing on the sides and rear. A c. 1939 WPA assessor photo shows this building with clapboard siding and 6-over-6 windows, its falsefront capped by a simple cornice with single brackets at each end and in the center, and its storefront a 3-part one with recessed central entry but with paneled wood bulkheads and wooden storefront posts. Contributing, despite

exterior renovations, as one of the downtown's oldest buildings.

Against part of the building's east wall is a 1-story tall section of brick masonry wall left from a building that stood next door to the east. The wall's front end displays a remnant of c. 1950-looking random ashlar stone veneer that fronted this now demolished **Hosking's Uptown Service** building (adv, *News*, 11/29/1950).

The first, 1884 Sanborn shows this building already present, listed as a dwelling. The 1888 map notes a **Chinese laundry** in the building, and the 1891 one a saloon (the **Montreal House hotel and saloon** then stood next door to the east). In 1897 the building shows as housing a **confectionary**, in 1904 and 1911 a **saloon** again. The 1892 directory lists **William Graf's saloon** here, with **James Alexander (or Jim Alexandre)**, laborers at the **Chapin Mine**, living upstairs. The 1902 directory lists the **John Vercelli (or Vercella) saloon**, with painter **Thomas Langdon's** residence upstairs. The 1913, 1935, and 1959 directories all show the premises vacant, but a 7/2/1923 *News* item in the "About Town" columns makes note of **Claude Burby's restaurant** at that location. The 1941 directory lists the **Payne's photographic studio**, **Bud W. Payne**, proprietor. Contributing, despite exterior renovations,

104. Schulze-Burch Biscuit Co.-D & B Distributors Warehouse/now Andreini Furniture & Appliance (c. 1960)

Broad-fronted flat-roof tall 1-story concrete block warehouse/commercial building that broadens slightly toward the rear. The 3-part front is comprised of a central third containing a center entrance

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storefront, with low upper set of windows above, beneath a projecting flat-roof canopy, and an outer section to either side containing a projecting flat-top canopy above the storefront windows with blank upper wall. The side walls display a regular pattern of small steel frame windows.

The building was constructed as a **warehouse/distribution center for the Schulze-Burch Biscuit Co.**, wholesale bakers. A 1963 L. L. Cook Co. postcard aerial view of downtown Iron Mountain shows the building in place, with a railroad siding entering the south front through an open portal that filled the entire space below the central canopy. By 1966 **D & B Distributors**, who already occupied the building directly behind (north) at 103-11 E. Ludington, expanded into this building as well. Since about 1974 the building has housed part of **Andreini's Furniture & Appliance**, which also occupies the former D & B space as well.

208 Hughitt Street East. Dockery/Logic Clinic Building (c. 1923)

2-story commercial/medical clinic building; sides and rear built of concrete block, front in random ashlar limestone downstairs and red brick with gray brick trim upstairs around windows and forming an elongated panel in the frieze. The front presents a center entry with triple window on either side and an upstairs entry at the far right (east). A broadly projecting asphalt shingled pent roof extends across the entire front above the ground floor.

This building first appears in the 1923 Sanborn map. Advertisements for **Swanson Bros. plumbing and heating** and **Fred T. Hord's shoe repair shop** opening stores in the building during April

and May 1923 and a reference to **Hord's Shoe Shop** being located in "**Dr. Dockery's New Building**" in a June advertisement make clear the building was then recently completed (*News*, 4/30, 5/12, 6/30/1923). In 1925 **Drs. Michael F. Dockery and Andrew Nelson** had their offices in the building, and the **Hord Brothers (Fred T. and Charles A.)** had their "**shoemaking**" shop and the **Swanson Brothers (Oscar C. and Edward)** their **plumbing shop** here. **Fred Hord's Hord's Shoe Shop** was still located here at least into the 1940's. A small advertisement in the 7/17/1933 *News* announced the removal of **Dr. W. Herbert Huron's** offices to the Dockery Building, and the directories also show an additional physician in 1935 and dentist in 1941. After World War II chiropractor **Dr. Frank O. Logic** moved his **Logic Clinic** to the building; the present random ashlar storefront *may* date from the early post-war period. By 1959 and down to the present the building has housed the **Mellon Chiropractic Clinic**. A tenant of the building in the early 1950's was **Mrs. Louise "Dolly" Draxler's New York Bridal Shop** (the shop moved to the **Occhietti Building**, 326 S. Stephenson, late in 1955).

News: "New York Bridal Shop Fashion Headquarters for U. P. Brides and Attendants," 10/14/1955;

216. Monitor/Salvation Army Building (between 1891 and 1898, 1953)

1 and 2-story building comprised of 2 sections, a 2-story gable-front wooden building, with falsefront, and a 1-story gable-roof concrete block rear extension.

- The wooden front section is now clad in vertical T-111 siding but retains its

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falsefront with bracketed wooden cornice. The front contains a center entry with broad window on either side, the whole capped by a copper-clad canopy whose tall slanting roof has a concave form. A lower 2-story frame extension to the building's right (east) is also finished in T-111 and has a single large window in its ground floor. A photo of the building taken in 1949 when it went out of use as the **Salvation Army headquarters** shows a simple projecting wooden storefront cornice and tall transoms above a center entry storefront with large 4-light window on either side above wooden bulkheads. The 2nd story contained two windows in front. A 1988 survey photo shows the building looking the same as it does today.

- The large gable-roof rear building displays large glass block windows, each with a small horizontal hopper window, in the side walls and a central vehicle entrance in back.

The 1897 Sanborn lists the building's use as "**news**." This may be shorthand for newspaper: the 1902 directory's street index lists **The Monitor, James M. Enstrom editor/publisher**, at 216. (There is some confusion in the 1902 directory, since an advertisement in the same directory listed the office address as 220 – but the street index lists this as a "**sales stable**" run by **John Marsch**.) The 1902 directory's advertisement noted that *The Monitor* was "The only Swedish language newspaper published on the Menominee Range." The 1904 and 1911 Sanborns show a **jewelry shop** as the occupant, and the 1907 and 1913 directories list **Swan P. Sandmark's jewelry and repair shop** and residence here. The building became the

local **Salvation Army Citadel** in 1922 and continued in that use until a new one was completed in 1949. Soon after that **Frank Sikora, Jr.**, purchased and remodeled the building to house his **Sikora Sheet Metal & Furnace Works**. Sikora added the concrete block rear extension in 1953. This business, now with **Richard Hansen** as owner, continues to occupy the building. Contributing, despite substantial alterations to the front section, because of its important historical associations.

News: "Campaign Planned to Build New Salvation Army Home," 4/5/1947; "New Salvation Army Citadel to be Dedicated Thursday," containing photo of old citadel, 5/7/1949; "Sikora Opens Business in Own Building," 6/18/1949; Photo of cement block building for Sikora, "Business and Residential Construction in Twin Cities at New Peak Since 1950," 5/9/1953.

218. Williams Building (c. 1924)

2-story with red Commercial Brick front and concrete block side and rear walls. The front has raised brick quoining along each side at the 2nd-story level and two paired windows upstairs, each with an elongated horizontal panel of basketweave brickwork outlined by raised headers in the frieze above it. The ground floor has brick piers and bulkheads and contains an asymmetrical storefront with offcenter "center" door flanked by a broad window on one side and half-width one on the other. At the right (east) end is a 2nd-floor entry.

The building does not show in the 1923 Sanborn map but is present in the 1930 Sanborn, the use then labeled "**battery repairing**." The 1925 directory lists the **Iron Mountain Battery Co.** and **Willard Battery Sales and Service** at this location.

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The 1935 directory lists **Oscar R. Anderson and Stewart R. Houston's Community Motor Service**, "Automotive Repairing Specializing in Fords, Chevrolets and Plymouths." A fire that destroyed the building next door at 220 in March 1940 resulted in smoke and water damage to four apartments in this building's 2nd story. The building's ground floor and basement were occupied by **Montgomery Ward** for storage at the time.

News: "\$20,000 Loss in Williams Building Fire," 3/7/1940.

220 Hughitt Street East. Williams Building (1940)

2-story with red Commercial Brick front and concrete block side and rear walls. The front is broader but similar in design to 218, with quoined corners upstairs, a pair of triple windows upstairs with a horizontal panel of basketweave brickwork in the frieze centered over each. The ground floor façade is symmetrical, with a recessed, slant-sided center entry. The entry's sides and the front on either side are pierced by modern 12-light windows – 3 in all on either side of the door. A 1988 survey photo shows the ground floor containing large windows, with transoms, filling most of the front on either side of the entry and also the slanting sides of the recessed entry.

The July 1940 update of the 1930 Sanborn shows this building with the notation "from plans" – indicating the building was planned but not yet built. A building that occupied the site of 220, at one time the **Kurz livery stable**, was destroyed by fire 3/7/1940. A *News* story of 9/24/1940 notes as new construction a 2-story, 32 x 80 ft. building for the **Williams & Son Plumbing Co.** that, located on the site

of their recently burnt building, would contain a rental store space on the 1st floor and four furnished apartments upstairs. The address given, 206 E. Hughitt, doesn't make sense, and this was likely the building. Various advertisements in the *News* during 1947 and 1948 show **Johnnie's Furniture** and then **Johnnie's Appliance** as occupants of this replacement building until about 1971.

News: "\$20,000 Loss in Williams Building Fire," 3/7/1940; "New Building, Remodeling, Repairs, at 10-Year Peak," 9/24/1940.

222. Northway Studios Building (1930s)

Broad-fronted 1-story commercial building with plain brick front and concrete block side and rear walls. The front contains a broad double-door central entry, perhaps originally a vehicular entrance. To the right (east) is a narrow storefront with its door – an original wooden one with large single light in the center – on the left and a single large square window above a brick bulkhead on the right. To the left a modern triple window with brick bulkhead now fills the same width as the right-hand storefront. Another storefront, the reverse of the east-side one, may have filled this space. A modern vinyl canopy rises above the storefront, screening the lower half of the brick upper façade from view. A 1988 survey photo shows a wood shingle pent roof covering the entire upper façade above the windows. A single window filled the space now occupied by the triple window.

The 1930 Sanborn map does not show this building, but the 1940 update does, labeling it a **garage**, with space for three trucks. The 1949 Sanborn update labels it a **warehouse**. A fire 3/7/1940 destroyed

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the building next door at 220. Though the address, 222, given in the article about that fire suggests the building at this site may have been destroyed in that fire, the Sanborns show nothing to suggest the present building is not the one built in the 1930's. Various advertisements in the *News* during the 1947-49 period indicate that the **Northway Photo Studios** was then an occupant. **Mrs. Gwen Daly** bought the studio in 1954 and the **Gwen Daly Studio** remained in operation until about 1987.

News: "\$20,000 Loss in Williams Building Fire," 3/7/1940; Northway adv, 4/30/1948; "Art Display Arranged at Studio," 9/9/1954.

224. St. Louis Hotel (between 1888 and 1892)

Long 2-story wood gable-front building with stepped falsefront. Clad in wide exposure composition siding on the sides and back and narrow vinyl siding in front above the storefront (a 1988 photo shows the same compo siding in front as well), the building has a symmetrical storefront with recessed, slant-sided center entry. The bulkheads and bases of the brick piers at the outer edges are made of or surfaced in concrete, and the metal window trim appears to date from the 1920's-40's. The storefront is sheltered by a modern metal pent roof (the 1988 photo shows a wood shingle pent roof of the same dimensions). The building's long east façade facing Iron Mountain Street contains 2 widely separated doors and the upstairs contains single and paired double-hung windows.

The 1891 Sanborn labels the building only as a **saloon**, while the 1897 through 1930 maps identify it as the **St. Louis**

Hotel. The 1892, 1902, 1907, and 1913 directories all list **John Watsic** as proprietor of the hotel – called the **St. Louis House** down to 1902 and the **St. Louis Hotel** in the 1907 and 1913 volumes – with wife **Mary** and other family members. The 1925 directory lists **Mrs. Rose Moudry** as the hotel's proprietor. The 1939 and 1941 directories list the **Big Jo Bakery**, with **Felix A. Whittock** and by 1941 **Felix and Ed Whittock** as proprietors, and the family residing upstairs. The **Whittock Supply Co.**, a **wholesale plumbing and heating business founded by F. A. Whittock (sons Jack and James soon became partners)**, occupied the building from 1949 until July 1953, when they moved to a new building on S. Milwaukee Ave. **Meyers Viking & Vac** and then **Downtown Sew & Vac** have been the occupants since about 1980.

News: Whittock's adv, 4/1/1949; Jimmie's adv, 11/12/1954; Whittock's adv, 4/1/1949; "Whittock Supply Company, Fast-Growing Enterprise," 9/17/1955.

Hughitt Street East, South Side

103-05. Stores/now Hats Off Hair Design and Denny's Barber Shop (1940s)

1-story building containing two small store spaces, a gable-front one at 103 and hip-roof one at 105. The building is finished with a red brick lower portion extending all the way across the front up to window sill height, with vertical board-and-batten siding above. The front gable and side and rear walls are clad in wide exposure composition siding. Each store has its own entrance with matching awning. Windows include triple section picture windows plus one-over-one windows.

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The building first appears in the 1949 Sanborn showing two store spaces, but it has been lengthened by the addition of the gable-front section since 1988. A survey photo from 1988 shows only the hip-roof section, faced in wide exposure aluminum siding.

201. Anderson, Tackman & Co. Building (c. 2000)

1-story reddish-brown brick office building with tall asphalt shingled mansard roofs on the two street-facing sides; evenly spaced single-light horizontal windows; simple entry facing Hughitt. **Non-contributing because less than 50 years old.**

Housing **Anderson, Tackman & Co.**, a **CPA firm**, since its construction, the building first appears in the 2001 directory.

205-07. Khoury Building (1947-48)

Broad-fronted 1-story 50 X 100 foot store building with white brick front and concrete block side and rear walls; dramatic façade in which the storefront part of the north-facing façade slants gently inward from east to west, capped by a horizontal metal slab canopy that extends out to the sidewalk line. At the northwest corner piers flanking a front entrance and vertical windows in the front end of the west side wall are finished in grayish-white pigmented structural glass with maroon horizontal accent stripes at door jamb level. Above the deepest part of the canopy at the building's northwest corner (facing toward Stephenson), a flat-topped feature with open front for display and a quarter-round footprint rises well above the flat-top parapet. Its front is filled with the original

flat sheets of rippled opaque glass – one facing Hughitt, broader middle one diagonally positioned, the third facing Stephenson. The storefront's nearly floor-to-ceiling windows have been infilled with smaller vertical windows set in vertical board or T-111 siding, but a low stainless steel or aluminum bulkhead remains in place.

The building was constructed for **Tagau (Khoury) Jacobs** (the *News* says for her children **I. J., Sam, Michael, and Nick Khoury**) as investment property. Late in 1948 the building was leased to the **National Food Stores grocery chain**. A meeting space in the basement was used by the **VFW** as a recreation center and for events such as **Montgomery Ward spring fashion shows** during the building's early years. After 1958, when National Food left, separate east and west side store spaces were leased out until 1980; a 1974 photo shows a **Sears catalog store** in the east storefront and **Herb's Meat Stores, Inc.**, in the west. In 1980 the **St. Vincent De Paul Society** expanded from the east space into the entire building. Today the **Blackstone Pizza Company** is the occupant.

News: "Permit for Khoury Tops Month's List," 11/8/1947; "Food Firm to Occupy New Khoury Store," 11/24/1948; "National Food Store into New Khoury Building on E. Hughitt," 2/11/1949; adv for event at VFW Recreation Center, 3/8/1954.

Personnel recollections of, and Jan. 1974 photo supplied by **Don Khoury**.

209. Blight House/Happy's Lunch Room (between 1888 and 1892, c. 1950)

2-story brick building with front refaced in red brick c. 1950; symmetrical storefront with center pilaster-and-triangular-pediment

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colonial entry flanked by a square single-light window on either side; austere upper façade containing a paired and a single double-hung window and, between them, projecting chain-supported metal pole from which hangs a sign identifying the business. The unornamented upper façade is topped by a plain concrete cap. A c. 1939 WPA assessor photo shows the earlier brick front of the building with three segmental-arch-head windows upstairs and with a 3-section storefront, with recessed center entry between large windows, and an upstairs entry at the right (west). The front had a slightly projecting beltcourse below the frieze and simple corbel brickwork detailing below the parapet cap.

In its early days this was a hotel known as the **Blight House**, with **William Blight** listed as proprietor in the 1892 directory and **Thomas Nichols** in 1902. In the 1904 Sanborn the building shows only as a dwelling. The 1911 map shows a **millinery shop** here, and the 1913 directory lists **Mrs. L. M. Nelson's millinery shop** along with the Nelsons' residence. **William E. Drake** and then **William J. Williams** operated **restaurants** here in 1925 and 1935. **Cecil Hostettler's restaurant, Happy's Gem Tower** or **Happy's Lunch**, was in operation here in 1939, and Happy's Lunch remained in operation until about 1968.

News: Adv for Happy's Lunch, 10/1/1949.

211-13. Store (between 1913 and 1923)

1-story red Commercial Brick building with brick piers at the ends running up to a plain concrete lintel with simple classical cornice; above, the frieze contains a row of five horizontal panels outlined above and

below in rowlock bricks, with square concrete blacks at the corners, separated by vertically positioned rectangular concrete blocks. The parapet, rising above a projecting beltcourse of rowlocks, has broad raised sections, crenellation-like, aligned with the panels below and short and narrow sunken segments between aligned with the vertical blocks separating the panels. The storefront is a recent renovation, with a recessed slant-sided center entry and square window on either side outlined by modern panel infill. A c. 1940 WPA assessor photo shows a recessed center entry containing two side-by-side doors with a large window either side and transom across the top. A 1988 survey photo shows the storefront infilled with a rubble masonry treatment, with paired center entries flush with the façade and a low slider window on each side.

A 30 x 30-ft. full-width brick rear extension, half as deep as the original building, was added in 1940. It displays what were originally three vehicular entrances, the center taller than those on either side – the two left-hand (west) ones infilled with synthetic siding and each containing a pedestrian entry, the east one still containing a garage door.

The 1925 directory lists **Oscar E. Johnson's Eureka Vulcanizing Co.**, an **auto accessories and Goodyear and General tire dealer**, and the **Northern Battery Service**, owned by **Frank E. and Edward O. Lindquist**. A 5/4/1933 advertisement for Eureka notes that the business was established in 1913. By 1935 Eureka Vulcanizing was the sole occupant. The 1940 rear addition was built "to provide drive-in service," according to a story in the *News*. Construction began 9/9/1940 and was to be completed by 11/1/1940. The

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building housed Eureka Vulcanizing until about 1961.

News: "New Building, Remodeling, Repairs, at 10-Year High," 9/24/1940.

215 Hughitt Street East. Eskil Block (1891)

2-story Late Victorian commercial building of inventive form and highly decorative finish. Downstairs there is a storefront with the usual recessed center entrance on the left; it retains its fluted iron pier with anthemion-decorated capital at the left-hand (east) end and its storefront cornice with nailhead or raised pyramid band. To the storefront's right (west) an arched portal, decorated with stubbier piers containing detailing similar to the storefront pier, leads into a recessed entry containing a pair of doors. Directly above the recessed entry a semi-octagonal oriel, with bell-shaped metal-shingle roof projects from the 2nd-story façade. A tall metal shingle-clad gable at the upper façade's left (east) end visually balances the bell-roof oriel. The second story has a side-gable roof, with the middle section clad in standing metal seam roofing. This middle portion of the second story was originally a photographer's studio and had an all-glass "greenhouse" front and slanting roof. The ground-floor storefront has been modernized with vertical board bulkheads and transom and a modern door with vertical light on one side. The upstairs photographer's studio glass front has been replaced with a solid wall containing two pairs of casement windows and the other front windows with single vertical light casements. A rectangular central metal panel near the upper end of the center part of the roof (back of the photographer studio

roof) once contained the building's name, **ESKIL**, and was topped with a central broken pediment bearing the date of construction, **1891**. These features were still present c. 1940 when the building was photographed as part of a WPA project working with the city assessor's office.

The building was constructed at the same time as the **Robbins Block** adjoining it to the east and shares a stone party wall. The Eskil's exposed west side wall is also constructed of rubble sandstone. The building's main roof slants gently downward toward the back from the peak at the back of the photo studio roof. At the back is a tall but shallow rear wooden extension with 2-slope roof; the Sanborns indicate it was added between 1923 and 1930. Behind is a much deeper 2-story flat-roof frame extension clad in T-111 siding, with shingle pent roof across the southern end; this addition postdates 1949.

Jorgen Johansen Eskil had this building constructed to house his **photography studio** and an apartment upstairs, reached by a stairway through the arched right-hand entry, and rental store space below. Eskil sold his **Eskil's Art Gallery** in 1904 to **Ali Numa Chatelain**, who ran it until May 1910. **Nels M. Nelson** then ran the studio until his death in August 1921. The **Archie Studio** followed Nelson, run by **James Archie** from 1921 until his death in 1940 and then by his widow and son **David W.** until David's death in 1954. The studio moved next door to the **Robbins Block**, 217 E. Hughitt, apparently in the wake of a fire May 24, 1941, that gutted the second floor. The ground floor's east store space was initially occupied by **shoemaker Alfred E. Hunting** and the west store by **harnessmaker L. K. Graham**. Early 20th-C. tenants included a **general and a**

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grocery store and an **auto sales business**. One later store tenant was the **Tony Izzo & Sons shoe store and repair shop**, which operated here from 1953 until about 1960 as an adjunct to their **Izzo Shoe Hospital** business on W. Hughitt. By 1961 and until 1979 a **Western Auto store** occupied the entire first floor.

News: "Hord Sells Business to Izzo and Sons," 5/8/1953; "New Owner Takes Over Archie Studio," 5/17/1954.

217-19. Robbins Block (1891)

2-story 2-storefront commercial building with walls constructed of Iron Mountain red-brown sandstone, the front finished in rockface random ashlar, the sides and rear of rubble masonry. The ground floor contains two storefronts, each with a recessed central entry flanked by large windows, separated by side-by-side upstairs entry doors in the center. The storefronts, with their transoms extending across the entire façade, retain metal trim that appears to date from the 1920's. The second story and attic above are divided into three sections by vertical piers of semi-round profile that rise above piers on either side of the 2nd-story's middle window and extend upward to the underside of a flat-top section of the building's parapet in the center of the façade raised a few feet above the lower sections of parapet to either side. Below this middle parapet the name **ROBBINS** is carved in raised letters on a single sandstone block and, below that, a smaller block contains the date, **1891**, also in raised numerals. The slightly broader end sections of the façade on either side each contains a single and a double window at the 2nd-story level. The attic's front is blind except for a low square-head

louvered opening on each side. A projecting cap, with a band of small rounded corbels below, tops the parapet above these side sections. The building's east and west side walls contain no windows, while the rear façade displays single and paired windows plus main and basement level doors.

The building was constructed for **Albert Eleazer Robbins** and initially housed his **furniture and undertaking businesses** at 217. In the building's first years the **City Bottling Works**, producers of "pop and soft drinks," occupied the building's basement.

217. Following Robbins 217 continued to house a succession of **undertaking establishments**: **L. M. Hansen**, who operated a livery stable at 411-13 S. Stephenson, with **J. W. Burbank** as funeral director, as of 1902; **J. W. Burbank** and his son **Robert G. Burbank** as of 1907 and 1913; and finally **John B. Erickson** from before 1925 – perhaps from the business's establishment in 1913 – until about 1937 when he built a funeral home at 200 W. Ludington. By 1939 **Waldon's Pool & Billiard Parlor** was the occupant. The **Archie Studio**, a **photo studio**, moved here following a 1941 fire that destroyed the previous quarters in the **Eskil Building** next door. **Dora Maurina (Wilson)**, a former employee, ran the studio from 1954 until the mid-1960's, changing the moniker to "**Portraits by Dora**." **Aldo R. Andreoli** then ran his **Aldo Lee's Photo Studio**, the last photo studio in this location, until the early 1970's.

219. The 219 storefront contained **William H. Mitchell's** and then the **Wright Brothers' general stores** into the first years of the 20th C. The **Sanitary Laundry**, founded by **Charles Kaufman**, was in business here from 1911 until 1949 or later;

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by 1939 **Guy McCamant** was the proprietor. The 1961 through 1967 directories list another laundry, **John M. Mindok's Mindok Laundry**.

Upstairs. The 2nd story contained **Robbins Hall**, a meeting space rented by various groups over the years – **S. H. & E. F. No. 15, a Scandinavian fraternal organization**, made use of the hall as of 1902, while the **Knights of Pythias** and the **Christian Science Society** were both occupying upstairs meeting spaces as of 1925. The 2nd story contained the K of P Hall until the early or mid-1990's.

The building suffered a severe fire on the evening of 10/18-19/1939 that severely damaged **Waldon's** and also caused damage to the **Sanitary Laundry** and the **Knights of Pythias** lodge rooms.

News: "Loss in Blaze at K. P. Building," 10/19/1939; adv, public dancing party at K of P Hall over Archie Studio, 2/7/1947; adv for Archie Studio, 10/10/1947; "30 Years Service" about Sanitary Laundry, 7/27/1949.

Press: adv, Charles Kaufman opening Sanitary Laundry at 219 E. Hughitt on June 5, 5/25/1911.

Hughitt Street West, North Side

122. Store (front built between 1890 and 1897; back half between 1897 and 1904)

Small 1 ½-story gable-front wooden building with falsefront; 2-story shed-roof frame extension, only half the width of the front building, across the rear. A modern storefront, faced in vertical T-111 siding, has a recessed center entry and a small square-head window on either side. The upper portion of the front, with its two

double-hung windows, and the side and rear facades are clad in wide exposure vinyl siding. An open wooden staircase along the back wall of the main building leads to a 2nd-story back entrance. A 1988 survey photo shows the storefront then faced in wide vinyl siding like the rest of the building and containing a horizontal slider window on each side of the entry instead of today's vertical double-hung windows. A c. 1939 WPA assessor photo shows a clapboarded upper front, with 2-over-2 windows, above a recessed center entry storefront displaying wooden trim, including paneled bulkheads. The falsefront was capped with a slightly projecting cornice without any brackets.

The 1891 Sanborn map shows this and the next lot to the west, where 124 stands, as an "open amusement place." The 1897 map shows the front the front half of this building, and the 1904 map the back half added. The 1897 map labels the building a **harness shop**, the 1904 and 1911 maps a **cobbler or shoe shop**. The 1902 directory lists **J. Demers, shoemaker**. The 1925 directory shows a **Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (A & P) grocery**. The 1961 directory lists **Sullivan's Barber Shop, Dale Sullivan** as proprietor, at this address. Most recently the **House of Fashion store** was located here.

124. Flaminio Saloon (built between 1890 and 1897; block rear extension built 1930s)

Broad-fronted 2-story gable-front wooden building, with 1-story flat-roof concrete block building attached at back. Above the storefront, the wood building's walls are faced in wide exposure vinyl siding. Where the vinyl has warped or

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pulled loose on the left (west) side brick-pattern asphalt siding is visible. The front façade rises a few feet above the roofline: short flat-top sections at either low end transition into parapets that slant with the roof slope up to a central raised area, with low gabled cap, in the center third of the front. The storefront itself appears to date from the 1950's **Iron Mountain Bar** period and has an asymmetrical form with a deeply recessed entry at the left (west) and half-height windows to its right. A pier at the left, tall bulkheads below the windows, and the right-hand third of the façade (beyond the windows) are faced in random ashlar synthetic stone. A square, now empty sign area occupies part of the random ashlar wall toward the right-hand end of the façade. The building has no windows downstairs in the side walls and the front, sides, and back contain narrow double-hung windows upstairs. A 1988 survey photo shows the building, then containing the **Hub Bar**, with a wood shingled pent roof across the front.

An enclosed stairway at the back connects the wooden building with the concrete block one that stretches out behind it to the north. The concrete block building is severely plain in finish, its walls topped with a simple concrete cap. The long east façade of the block building is aligned with the east side of the wooden building, while the west façade projects a couple feet beyond the wood building's west façade. The block building "front" seems to face east – there are a single and a double door entrance on that side along with window openings now covered up with plywood (two windows on the north side are also boarded up). The west side facing Carpenter contains four windows now infilled with concrete block.

A building first appears at this site in the 1897 Sanborn map. The Sanborns through 1911 label it a **saloon**. The 1907 directory lists **Angelo Flaminio, liquors and cigars**, here, with him and wife **Teresa** also living there (the 1902 directory shows **Flaminio** operating a saloon in the next building west, now long gone). During the 1910's the building housed **Angelo Flaminio's saloon**, which, son **Ernest Flaminio** reported in a 1987 interview, served "near beer" for a year after Prohibition began before having to close (Cummings, *Iron Mountain's Business District*, 186). A **billiard parlor** was the occupant in 1925, but following Prohibition the building housed a succession of taverns – including **Pat's Tavern** as of 1937, **William Tirschel's M & M Tavern** and, later, **Dutchie's M & M Bar**. The 1961 directory lists the building as housing the **Iron Mountain Bar**, with **Nick Simone and Dino Romagnoli** as proprietor. By 1970 **Dino Romagnoli's Dino's Bar** was listed, and by 1980 **Elroy C. Furno's The Hub Lite tavern** replaced it. Since the mid-1990's the building has briefly housed the **Iron Mountain Pub** and, from 1999 to about 2007 "**Janie's Bars**."

The 1930 Sanborn map doesn't show the concrete block extension, but the July 1940 update does, labeling it "**wholesale beer & private garage**," with space for three trucks.

News: Pat's Tavern adv, 1/2/1937.

200 Hughitt Street West. St. Arnauld Saloon/now Galaxy Sports (c. 1890; 1930s)

2-story gable-front vinyl siding-clad wooden building with falsefront. The storefront contains a deep slant-sided

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recessed entry flanked by large slider windows, the whole topped by a large shingled pent roof. There are two windows with modern double-hung windows and additional double-hung and slider windows in the 2nd-story east side wall. The falsefront has a raised flat-top center section to cover the top of the front gable. As shown in various early photographs, the building was clapboarded with a tall paired-bracket-detailed falsefront. The front displayed three 2/2 windows with low gabled caps upstairs, the east side overlooking Carpenter seven more 2/2 windows, with no windows downstairs on that side. The saloon's storefront had the usual recessed center entry and wooden paneled bulkheads and posts supporting a paired bracket storefront cornice above the large six-light windows that all but filled the front on either side of the entry. Around the corner facing Carpenter, where there is still a large store window, was one more large multi-light store window. The oldest photos show an open staircase to the second story rising along the west side from near the front. Slightly later photos show the staircase's lower end (the only part visible) already enclosed. A 1988 survey photo shows the upper front and upper side facing Carpenter clapboarded, the lower side faced in what seems to be composition siding, and the upper front retaining 3 double-hung 2/2 windows with low gabled caps. The c. 1950-looking storefront had large windows over concrete block bulkheads flanking a recessed central entry.

The 1888 Sanborn shows a building at this site, but the 1891 map is the first that shows what seems to be today's footprint. Maps through the 1911 one show the building's function to be a **saloon**, and the

directories from 1892 through 1907 list the **Edward E. St. Arnaud Saloon**, with the family residence upstairs. The July 1940 update to the 1930 Sanborn map shows the building housing an **auto parts store**, with a large one-story concrete block machine shop addition to the west from the north end of the old building's west side (north of 202 W. Hughitt) that was not present in 1930. **John Angera**, who had taken over this **Iron Mountain Auto Supply store** in 1951 after previously running **Iron River Auto Supply**, died in August 1955. Iron Mountain Auto Supply remained the occupant until about 1997, followed about 2000 by **Galaxy Sports**.

News: "John Angera Died Suddenly at Hospital," 8/5/1955; adv, closed today out of respect, 8/6/1955.

202. Store/now Nadiya's Bridal Shop and Alterations (1890s; 1920s)

1-story commercial building with flat-top parapet front clad in wood clapboarding. The left (west) side wall is of concrete block, while the west slope of a gable-front roof over the west part of the building is visible above it in the narrow space between this building and the one to the west. The front currently contains a center-entrance storefront, with slider window each side above a paneled wood bulkhead, and a simple wood storefront cornice, toward the right (east), and a narrower section with a single window toward the left. A c. 1939 WPA assessor photo shows a narrow clapboarded storefront on the left (west) with a window and door to its right, set against the still-present west cornerboard of the east storefront. The east storefront then, as today, had a three-part form with the entry in the center. The clapboarded

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piece of wall between the east storefront's right-hand cornerboard and 200 W. Hughitt contained a door.

The 1897 Sanborn shows a **barber shop** occupying the west half of the site – the gable roof is presumably a part of that structure. The 1930 map shows the east half of the lot now also built upon. In the 1949 update map the building is shown containing two stores.

204-06. Quality Cleaners Building/now House of Fashion (1947)

Broad-fronted 1-story building with red brick front that reads as two separate stores and concrete block side and rear walls. The east part of the building has a low five-step parapet, a quoin detail at the front corners with every sixth course slightly recessed, and a horizontal panel, outlined in header and rowlock brick bands, extending two-thirds of the way across at frieze level. The storefront contains a central door outlined in a broad area of vertical-board-look fiberboard siding and broad original aluminum-trim windows over brick bulkheads on each side. A cornice-like metal detail spans the storefront's top. The west half of the front is treated much plainer, with a central door with transom above and a relatively small window set midway in the front on either side. The exposed west side wall displays projecting concrete block piers that form structural bays each containing one of the windows like those in front. The block rear façade contains a large central double door and several large vertical windows.

The *News* of 6/7/1947 reported **Ernest Flaminio's** planned construction of a 60 X 75 foot building for his **Quality Cleaners**, for which he had just received a building

permit. This building's footprint matches those dimensions. Quality Cleaners was previously located at 302 Carpenter. The business remained at this location until about 2005, when it moved elsewhere.

Hughitt Street West, South Side

101. The Music Tree (c. 2000)

Long 1-story ribbed metal building, with flat roof sloping gently downward to the east, set back from the street behind a parking lot. The north-facing front is finished in unpainted horizontal wood siding, with a projecting low gabled entry faced in cultured stone in a rubble masonry design. A raised sign panel in front of the entry uses vertical log posts and the diagonal board sign panel is supported by horizontal logs at top and bottom. **Non-contributing because of recent date of construction.**

From the directories it appears the building was constructed c. 2000.

119-21. Store/most recently Deli on Hughitt (c. late 1940s)

Broad-fronted and deep 1-story commercial building with red-brown brick front that displays what appears to be its original storefront containing a recessed center entry, with 4-unit large aluminum-trim windows each side set on very low brick bulkheads. The storefront itself is topped by a very slightly projecting slant-top metal canopy. The plain brick upper façade has a simple concrete slab cap. The building's side walls are clad in vertical ribbed metal sheeting, but the Sanborn map shows concrete block construction.

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The building first shows in the 1949 Sanborn map. **Paul's Electric Co.** was the occupant in 1949 (adv, *News*, 4/7/1949). The 1961 directory lists Paul Electric in 119 and **Henry's Refrigeration & Appliances** in 121.

301. Central Elementary & Middle School.

The school complex is comprised of two buildings connected across Prospect Street by a pedestrian bridge.

[200 Block]. Central Middle/Elementary School Addition (1994) Greiner, Inc., Architect/Engineer; Champion, Inc., Iron Mountain, construction manager

1 and 2-story flat-roof brick building that fills the north half of the block bounded by Carpenter, Hughitt, Prospect, and A except for a paved basketball court area, surrounded by tall chain link fence, at the Carpenter end of the block. It contains a deeply recessed entry in the center of the Hughitt facade and a loggia beneath the 2-story north end of the Prospect façade that is fronted by square-plan masonry piers. The building is faced in salmon-colored brick but displays accent trim in light tan brick – as beltcourses, “quoins” at corners and in piers, in stepped details above entry and loggia openings, and in various square and rectangular panels in the walls. Only a small number of single or triple windows – the latter with brick piers between the sections – pierce the walls. **Non-contributing because of recent date of construction.**

An enclosed flat-roof pedestrian bridge spans Prospect at the 2nd-story level connecting this building with the original

junior high building to the west. It is faced in panels of a pinkish Gunite-like material, with whitish accents, and contains large horizontal windows extending nearly from end to end through which the Warren truss supporting structure is visible.

301. Iron Mountain Junior High School (1938) F. E. Parmalee & Son, Iron Mountain, architects; W. C. Smith, Inc., Duluth, general contractor

3-story light orange brick building of Art Deco design filling the north half of the block bounded by Prospect, Hughitt, Stockbridge, and A. The school's broad front faces north on Hughitt and displays a 5-part form, with narrow slightly projecting east, central, and west sections and broader recessed areas between containing banks of paired windows separated by slightly projecting piers with square concrete heads displaying stylized anthemion forms. The narrow central section rises above the broader areas to either side. It is fronted by a short, broad flight of steps, with massive concrete parapet on either side, that leads to a broad recessed entrance flanked by piers that rise to an attic. A concrete slab, cast with shallow-relief plant forms in three panels, caps the entry recess and also serves as a bulkhead for the windows above. The central section contains three windows each in the 2nd and 3rd stories, the vertical window bays separated by more of the shallow raised piers, also capped with concrete squares containing anthemion reliefs. The central section's attic displays vertical chevron panels aligned with the window centers and a cap formed of horizontal flutings with a stylized corbel detail at each end. The narrow end

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sections contain no windows but are faced with similar raised piers, with anthemion caps, at each end and three narrow piers, with simple concrete caps, at regular intervals between. A beltcourse of soldier bricks intersecting the side piers just below the anthemion blocks forms a base for the plain brick upper façade with its flat-top concrete cap. The building's narrow end walls are simply finished, with a double and a triple window in each story on either side of a single-bay center section that projects outward about five feet and contains a double window in each story. The back of the school presents a broadly U-shaped form above a 1-story part toward the west that includes a boiler room. The inner-facing upper facades in back are faced in light tan brick. The building presents double-hung windows; originally these were 6/6s, but now they are 2 horizontal-light over 2 horizontal-light, with the topmost "light" in each window a dark panel.

The junior high was built to rectify overcrowding in the **Hulst School**, used as the city's junior high following completion of the high school in 1912. Its projected cost of about \$200,000 was partly financed with a PWA grant of \$89,860, representing 45% of the projected cost. When initial bids came in well above the architect's estimates, the specs were "adjusted" to substitute less costly materials; a second round of bids came in within budget. Demolition of the **Central School** at this location began early in January 1938. By late April construction of the basement walls was well under way. Students from Hulst moved into the new building just before the Christmas break, and the school board held an open house 1/12/1939. The building remains in use as part of the middle school.

News: "Board Accepts PWA Grant for Junior School," 10/6/1937; "All School Bids Far in Excess of Allotment," 10/16/1937; "Extension of PWA Grant is Granted City," 12/2/1937; "Second Opening of School Bids Saturday Night," 12/14/1937; "Duluth Firm is Low Bidder on School Job," 12/20/1937; "Central School Being Razed for New Structure," 1/4/1938; "Hulst Students Will be Transferred," 12/15/1938; "Students Move from Hulst to New Building," 12/21/1938; "Open House Tonight at New School," 1/12/1939.

Ludington Street East, North Side

206-16. Wood Sandstone Block (1891)

Massive 2-story Richardsonian Romanesque block with walls of brownish rockface random ashlar Iron Mountain sandstone (with less regular chunks used in the side and rear walls). The front of the 130-foot long building is divided into 7 sections with flat-top parapets – a central one slightly taller than the rest, and 3 sections on either side, the central ones slightly narrower but also slightly taller than the ones to either side (but not as tall as the building's central section). Round piers in the 2nd story and attic capped by "pine cone" finials form transitions between the sections. The 2nd story contains transomed square-head windows – doubles and paired and triple, with thin masonry units separating the paired and the central triple windows. The ground story front displays 3 broad arches at the left (west) end that, now containing large windows, once housed fire engine bays. At the right (east) end decorative iron piers and pairs of round columns between each set of piers

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supporting iron lintels front modern storefronts that harmonize in their design and proportions with the building's historic character.

The block was built for leading Iron Mountain businessman **John R. Wood**, president of the **First National Bank**, and called the "Sandstone" block to differentiate it from Wood's other large brick block that contained the bank, located just to the west at the corner of Stephenson. The architect was likely **J. E. Clancy**, then of Iron Mountain, but no documentation has been found thus far. The building initially contained six store spaces on the ground floor and office space and a hall upstairs. The newly established **Dickinson County government** leased space in the building for offices and courtroom late in 1891 and occupied it for the next 3 years. Following this use the building was renovated to house the **Hotel Wood**, opened in June 1896. This use was short-lived, and the city purchased the building late in 1900 and it served as **Iron Mountain City Hall** for nearly the next century. The west end ground floor eventually was taken up by **Engine House No. 1** and the **police station**. In addition, the **post office** occupied 212, the 4th store from the left, when the building opened and, expanding into 210 as well by 1911, occupied this space until the present post office building was constructed in the 1930's.

The city moved into the present city hall building in 1994, and the Wood Block now contains commercial and office uses.

206-16 (Rear) City Garage and Warehouse (1933) Harold L. Senseman, Iron Mountain city engineer, designer

Built back to back with the full length of the Sandstone Block, this building, constructed with random ashlar walls of roughly squared-off blocks of the same local brownstone, has a 1-story main section that extends 2/3 of the overall length at the west end and a slightly taller 2-story unit at the east end. An angled corner at the northwest contains a vehicle entrance. The west part displays closely spaced square-head steel sash windows with smooth-face stone slab caps that span the walls between the windows as well. The east section contains a paired double-hung window in the 2nd-story rear.

Plans to construct this building, intended to house a garage for city and water department equipment and include stock rooms and a repair shop, were reported in the *News* early in May 1933, and in late June work to clear the site began using a labor force of unemployed workers paid for with federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds. The Oliver Iron Mining Company through its Iron Mountain superintendent, **George J. Eisele**, offered the city the brownstone from the engine house at the Chapin Mine's C Shaft for the building's walls. The city's crews dismantled the engine house at the recently closed mine and used the stone to construct the new garage/warehouse. The building was in use by late November, with construction all but complete.

The 1897 Sanborn shows a separate stone **steam laundry building** at the northeast corner of the Sandstone Block property, perhaps built as part of the **Hotel Wood** operation; it stood where the east section of the garage currently stands. After the city took over the building, they added a wooden public works shed, with what the Sanborns appear to show as a

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stone façade facing the rear alley, across the back of the property west of the former laundry, and **converted the laundry building into a tool house and “lockup.”** A narrow courtyard or public works yard then separated these buildings from the 1891 building. The 1904 Sanborn shows the shed in place. The 1930 Sanborn shows that by then another masonry building connected the former laundry with the 1891 building at the east edge of the property. The 1933 articles about building the new warehouse mention only a wooden shed structure located behind the Sandstone Block. Thus, it is not clear whether these other structures that show on the 1930 Sanborn were still present. It seems possible the garage/warehouse incorporates walls from the former steam laundry and other structures previously on the site.

Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 143, quoting a 6/21/1900 newspaper article about the city purchasing the Sandstone Block, refers to the steam laundry as a stone structure.

News: “Plan to Build Warehouse Is Being Talked,” 5/6/1933; “City Prepares to Begin Work on Warehouse,” 6/30/1933; “Rock Crushing Plant Will be Running Soon,” 7/1/1933; “Street, Water Main Projects to be Studied,” 7/13/1933; “Mine Building Stone Donated for Warehouse,” 7/26/1933; “Construction of City Warehouse Is Moving Ahead,” 8/17/1933; “Improvement of Streets Moving Forward in City,” 9/25/1933; “Construction of City Warehouse Nearly Finished,” 11/25/1933.

218. Ludington Street East. House (between 1884 and 1889)

1 ½-story wood gable-front with 3rd (basement) story beneath built into the hillside. The front of the 1 ½-story original house with its plain raking cornices is set back from the house’s lower part, which stands almost on the sidewalk line. A deep enclosed low hip-roof addition, perhaps once an open porch, fronts the house’s lower story. Beneath the house, with its front aligned with the front of the extension noted above, is a fully above ground “basement” story. The basement and main or 1st stories fill the narrow side space between the house and adjoining Wood Block. A broad staircase with stone parapet/retaining wall rises alongside the house’s right (east) side up to a side entrance at the main floor level. Access at the basement/street level is through a deep recess at the house’s right-hand end. An asphalt shingled pent roof extends across the front above the ground story. This ground floor front is faced in plastic synthetic random ashlar around the entry and in a strip below an adjacent picture window and to the corner by the Wood Block. The rest of the exterior is faced in wide exposure composition siding.

The 1888 Sanborn shows a 2-story house at this location. The next, 1891 map shows the house with the extensions reaching to the Wood Block already present. The basement story, likely housing commercial space from the first, was probably also present by then as well (though the map doesn’t make this clear). An 1889 newspaper story identifies the building as housing the shop of **John Saving** and the 1892 directory lists him as a **merchant and custom tailor**. The 1897 map shows an office use, and the 1902 and 1907 directories list **L. T. Sterling’s insurance and real estate business**, with

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residential upstairs. Later occupants of the basement storefront included **James L. McParlon's City Dye Works and Sewing Machine Exchange** in the 1910's and 20's and **Gust Anderson Painting & Decorating** as of 1940. **Jay's Sewing Machine & Supply** installed a new "vitolite plate glass front" in 1948. A 1988 survey photo shows this no longer present dark-hued structural glass front.

News: "Gust Anderson Will Open Paint Shop," 4/22/1940; "Glass Front Feature of Remodeling," 6/17/1948; Jay's adv, 12/9/1949.

224. Immanuel Baptist Church/now Morgan Stanley Investments (1907-11) Edward Demar, Sault Ste. Marie, architect; Henry Koepke, Iron Mountain, contractor

Fronting on Ludington and with its narrow end facing Iron Mountain Street, the former Immanuel is a gable-roof rectangular brick auditorium church building of Gothic inspiration. It stands on a rockface stone basement that transitions from being largely above ground at the west end on Ludington to only a few feet high at the northeast corner on Iron Mountain because of the rising ground. The main entrance faces Ludington at the intersection of the streets, and to its immediate west rises a partly projecting square-plan tower with open belfry and tall pyramid roof. The walls and tower contain tall and short narrow Gothic windows, and there is a broad Gothic window in the center each of the narrow east end and, below a subsidiary gable, the broad south side. The former auditorium retains its tall trussed ceiling and much of the basic historic interior plan. The stained

glass windows and the bell remain in place. A 1988 survey photo shows the belfry's corner piers faced in wood shingle and the church's east gable apex displaying a triangular gable ornament of side-by-side pointed arches.

The church was built for **Immanuel Baptist Church, Iron Mountain's "English" or "American" Baptist congregation**. In 1919, with that congregation declining in numbers to the point where they were about to disband, the **Swedish Baptist Church** obtained the building. In 1920 they assumed the Immanuel name carved on the church's cornerstone. The Swedish Baptist Church was founded in Norway, MI, in 1880 but moved to Iron Mountain in 1883. The congregation used this building from 1919 until 1960, when they built a new building elsewhere. The building served as the **United Pentecostal Church** in the 1960's, briefly about 1980 as the **Southern Baptist-affiliated 1st Baptist Church**, and from 1983 to about 1993 as the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**. It currently houses a **Morgan Stanley brokerage**.

News: "Christian life is focus of local church branch," 6/22/1985.

300 Ludington Street East. Carnegie Public Library/now Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum (1901-02) J. E. Clancy, Green Bay, WI, architect; William H. Sweet, contractor

Library Building

L-plan 1-story (above raised basement) hip-roof Neoclassical building; tall basement walls of rockface coursed ashlar

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National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, Michigan]

masonry and superstructure faced in smooth-finished coursed ashlar – all of Bedford (Indiana) limestone. Asymmetrical in form, the library's front presents a projecting entry section at the right, topped by a pedimented 4-column Ionic portico, and the main reading room to its left set back and displaying large round-head windows capped by radiating stone voussoirs in front and on the left (west) side. On the west facing Iron Mountain Street the rear part of the building is set back behind the reading room's west façade. A verandah, standing on a rockface limestone base reached by matching staircase, presents more Ionic columns below a hip roof. The broadly projecting classical cornice is decorated with oversized modillions. The projecting entry area displays the words "**Carnegie**" in the entablature above the portico and "**Public Library**" in the frieze over the entry, and the date, **1901**, in the pediment.

Grounds

- Retaining Wall: The front lawn at the sidewalk passing the building's front and the broad walkway leading to the staircase to the front entry are bordered by low concrete retaining walls. Old photos show that this used to continue along part of the west (Iron Mountain Street) frontage as well, gradually declining in height, but that part is no longer present.
- World War I Gun: A World War I gun (modified for use in World War II) with 3" bore stands just to the east of the walk leading to the front entrance. It was obtained sometime since the building's museum use began.

Library Building History

Following up, apparently, on a request to **Andrew Carnegie** for financial assistance to build a library made by Iron Mountain school superintendent **L. E. Amidon**, Carnegie agreed to provide \$15,000 once a site was provided and the city agreed to provide \$1500 annually for support. Work began late in August 1901 and construction of the library was completed in April 1902. Carnegie ultimately provided \$17,500 for the building and furnishings. The building housed the library until the present **Dickinson County Library** building was completed in 1969. Since 1974 the Carnegie library building has been the home of the **Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum**.

Cummings, *Evolution ... Public Library*, 2, 6-17, 27-28, 30-35.

Ludington Street East, South Side

101. Store (1922 or 1923)

2-story red Commercial Brick commercial building with narrow front facing north on Ludington and long side west on Merritt. Raised piers frame the ends of the front and rise to low square-head caps above the roofline. The parapet below the clay tile cap is faced in a band of soldier bricks placed on end above a row of rowlock bricks. The upper front presents two paired double-hung windows. The storefront itself is modern, with vinyl clapboarding outlining an off-center entry flanked by side-by-side double-hung windows beneath a tall, broadly projecting pent roof finished in standing seam metal. A c. 1939 WPA assessor photo shows the storefront comprised of a recessed double-door entry at the left (east) end of the façade, with the rest of the front above a

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low bulkhead filled with a broad multi-light window comprised of a narrow fixed window at either end, large casements inward from them, and a broad fixed window in the center. The west side presents a regular pattern of single windows upstairs, although the back three now contain smaller windows in the old window openings. In the downstairs west side the fenestration is less regular, with an entry near the center and sliders toward the rear. The rear façade is constructed of concrete block and contains a small shed-roof 1-story extension, now clad in T-111 siding. A 1988 survey photo shows an entirely different 1960's-looking storefront with vertical ribbed metal siding above and below a window strip, and a recessed entry at the left (east) end.

The 1923 Sanborn was the first to show the building, which must have been built shortly after a fire on 2/25/1922 destroyed the previous **Anderson Building** at this site that housed the **Tribune-Gazette newspaper**. The 1930 map shows a store space in the north end and “**bakehouse**” in the rest of the building – the 1935 directory lists **Claude Frickelton's Frick's Bakery**. In 1947 **Nissen Appliance Co.** was the occupant (adv, *News*, 9/4/1947).

103-11. D & B Distributors-Iron Mountain Freight Sales/now Andreini Appliance & Furniture (c. 1950s; c. 1960s, c. 1973, 1988)

Large 2-story commercial building with broad north front on Ludington and long east-facing side elevation visible from parking lot. The ground floor presents large store windows separated by shorter sections of vertical boarding, all of this above low brick bulkheads, along the

Ludington face, and there is a broad angled corner section at the east end of the Ludington frontage finished the same way. The main entrance, flanked by windows plus more of the same vertical boarding, is located at the north end of the east façade. Farther south the east façade is faced in brick with fewer windows. The upper façade presents a full height standing metal seam mansard roof that forms a broad canopy on the Ludington side and partway along the east side facing Stephenson Avenue. The south part of the east side displays a lower slope pent roof, with the upper part of the wall visible above, clad in similar standing seam metal material. The back side of this east end of the building butts into the west part of 104 E. Hughitt. In back the building's flat-roofed 2nd story is constructed of vertical ribbed metal siding and contains only a single broad double-hung window facing west. The metal 2nd story rises above a smooth concrete block ground story structure along the building's south side. Part of this concrete block structure projects as a flat-roof 1-story wing west to Merritt Avenue just south of the back of 101 E. Ludington.

Several masonry buildings occupied the Ludington frontage in this area in the early and mid-20th Centuries, but the present building seems to date from the 1950's, 60's, and 70's. A 1963 aerial post card view of downtown Iron Mountain appears to show a 1-story building occupying the entire footprint of the current building, including the concrete block structure now visible along the south side. A 1988 survey photo shows the part of the building fronting on Ludington under construction, with the 2nd story and tall mansard roof unfinished. The 1959 directory lists **Iron Mountain Freight Sales** at 103 E. Ludington. Directories from

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1961 through 1973 list **D & B Distributors** and then **Iron Mountain Freight Sales** – both these companies merchandise wholesalers – here. The 1974 and subsequent directories list **Andreini's Appliance & Furniture**. This business was founded by **Joseph Andreini** as **North Side Service** about 1928. A 1957 *News* story reported that **Walter Andreini** had purchased the business, of which he was formerly manager, and reorganized it under the **Andreini's Home Appliance** name. The store occupied space in the now demolished **Fisher Block** located directly across the street before moving into the present building. **Non-contributing because of extensive renovations or reconstruction in the 1970s and 80s.**

News: "Andreini to Conduct Own Establishment," 4/5/1957.

211. Obermeyer Store (c. 1912)

Brick with plain Commercial Brick front containing broad central entry and pair of horizontal windows above, all now closed in; there is now a small horizontal window on either side of the blocked-in front entry, but brick infill below each suggests a longer window once existed on either side. The building is 2 stories in height in front but has a steeply sloping roof that provides only 1 story height at the back. The exposed right (west) side façade has a rubble stone foundation, pierced by several infilled windows, and the ground story a single low segmental-arch-head closed-in window. A 1988 survey photo shows a recessed slant-sided central entry, with small glass block window in each slanting side.

The 1911 Sanborn map shows no buildings on this property, where a **blacksmith and wagon shop** had

previously stood. **Rosemary Formolo's** biographical sketch of her father, **John Obermeyer**, in *Born from Iron* states that Obermeyer, who had come to Iron Mountain from Milwaukee about 1898 and established a **plumbing business**, built this building to house his plumbing shop about fifteen years after his arrival in town. The 1913 directory lists **Obermeyer's plumbing business** here. Formolo's sketch states that in the 1920's her "father and mother converted the front part of the building into a style shop." The 1925 directory lists **John and Maud Obermeyer's The Style Shop ladies' clothing store**, and the 1935 and 1939 directories **Horton's Café**. The 1949 Sanborn shows the building as a store. The building also served as the first home and studios of **radio station WMIQ** upon its going on the air January 25, 1947. It now serves as part of *The Iron Mountain News'* plant located next door to the east.

Dulan, 176.

News: "Radio Station WMIQ Opened Today After Approval by FCC," 1/25/1947.

213. Iron Mountain Daily News Building (1922, 1925) Emmett Markley, Manistique, contractor for 1922 building; F. E. Parmelee, Iron Mountain, architect for 1925 addition

2-story Commercial Brick building faced in red-brown brick with accent strips of yellow-buff brick above the 2nd-story front windows and above a classical cornice that projects above slightly raised piers at each end of the façade. Above the cornice a parapet in the center in a low gable form rises to a raised flat-top center area. The 2nd-story façade contains 4 pairs of double-hung windows separated by brick piers.

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The downstairs retains the upper parts of similar piers that once presumably separated now infilled tall storefront transoms, while the lower storefront has been entirely rebuilt with a central door and irregularly spaced windows on either side. A 2nd-story entrance at the left is also closed in. A 1988 survey photo shows a conventional storefront treatment, with a central bay containing the entry flanked by large windows – the whole capped by an enclosed transom.

The building was extended in length by 50 feet in 1925, the extension with its plain brick side walls barely distinguishable from the 1922 building. Its rear (south) façade is dominated by large, square steel sash windows in both stories.

The front part of the building was constructed in 1922 for **The Iron Mountain News**, whose previous plant at 101 E. Ludington burned 2/25/1922. The 1923 Sanborn shows the printing plant occupying the entire original 1922 building except for the front half of the east side, which contained a **Western Union telegraph office**. The 1925 expansion provided additional space for the *News*' offices and printing plant, but the front half of the 1922 building continued to house a separate store at least through 1949. **Mrs. G. H. Markell's Dairy Bar**, featuring a 30 x 10-foot "dance square" with "electric phonograph," occupied the space late in 1939, following **Horton's Restaurant** as the tenant. The building continues to house *The Iron Mountain News*.

News: "Award Contract for New School," about Palmer School but notes same contractor as for original News Building, 6/26/1923; "'Dairy Bar' To be Opened Tomorrow," 12/20/1939; "Today Is 31st

Anniversary of The Iron Mountain News," 4/11/1952.

217 Ludington Street East. Store (between 1888 and 1892, c. 1920s)

2-story gable-front frame building with a later red Commercial Brick front. The front displays a pier at each end rising to support a simple classical cornice with low stepped parapet above containing a horizontal, 4-sided panel outlined in brick and with concrete blocks marking its corners. The 2nd story contains 3 window pairs, the 1st a deeply recessed entry at each end, with a large modern slant-sided central shop window area between. A now covered up transom above has its own cornice and extends between the piers at each end of the façade. The left-hand (east) entry retains its floor finished in small square and hexagonal ceramic tile in white and accent colors.

The 1891 Sanborn map shows 217 housing a **furniture store** and the 1897 map lists the store space as vacant. The 1904 map shows a laundry, and the 1907 directory lists the **White Steam Laundry, J. Pattinson**, proprietor. By 1911 the building housed an "**electric light office**." The 1913 directory lists both the **Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power Co.** and the **Peninsula Power Co.**, both with **Otto C. Davidson** as president, as having offices here. Iron Mountain Electric Light & Power continued to occupy the building in 1925, and the **Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company** in 1935 and 1939. The building's brick storefront was a modernization done probably in the 1920's.

217 (Rear). Electric Transformer House (c. 1920)

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Located directly behind 217 facing on the alley is a very plain narrow and deep 1-story brick building with stepped side walls presumably revealing the slant to the roof. The south front features only a tall vehicle entry with modern metal door, and the side walls a few small segmental-arch-head windows toward the north (rear) end.

This brick building shows in the 1923 Sanborn for the first time and is listed as an **electric transformer house**. By 1949 the building was being used for stove storage.

219. House (between 1888 and 1892)

2-story wood house with stuccoed walls and front-gable roof with plain raking cornices without returns; hip and shed-roof front and west side porches, both enclosed. A house first shows on this lot in the 1891 Sanborn map (a house of similar dimensions shows on the next lot west in the 1884 and 1888 maps; *possibly* it was moved to this location when 217 was built). The front and west porches were added between 1911 and 1923 according to the Sanborns. The building has apparently always served as a house. Early residents included **Peter Murray** and **Charles W. Palmer**, both railroad workers.

221. Keast Building (between 1888 and 1892)

2-story front-gable building with falsefront. The Sanborns show the building clad in brick veneer, but the exterior is now faced in wide exposure composition siding except for the former storefront, now finished in vertical boarding or T-111. The front displays a center entrance with a modern slider window on each side set into

a larger frame. The upstairs front contains 2 more sliders set into larger former openings. An enclosed staircase rises along the building's left (east) side to an enclosed corridor at the 2nd-story level projecting from that side of the building. A shallow pent roof extends out from the corridor's base to further shelter the space beneath. Contributing, despite substantial exterior renovations, as one of the downtown's early generation of store buildings.

Miner **Joseph A. Keast** owned and lived in this building during its early years. The 1892, 1902, and 1907 directories both list him and other family members. The 1891 Sanborn shows the building housing a **hardware store**, but the 1892 directory lists **Arthur Flatt's news depot**. Late in 1897 the Keasts leased space in the ground floor for a **Free Reading Room**. It is not clear how long this lasted, since there was already a community library at the high school and the **Carnegie Public Library** opened nearby in 1902. In later years the building has served only as housing.

Cummings, *Public Library*, 9-10.

Ludington Street West, North Side

100. Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes/now Superior Carpet & Tile (1940) George Wallner, Iron Mountain, designer

1-story red-orange brick commercial building, with rounded corner facing the Ludington/Merritt intersection. The street-facing facades display three parallel horizontal bands, each formed of a single course of dark red stretcher brick that projects slightly outward from the wall plane – one corresponding with the sills of small,

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medium-height windows facing Merritt, the next higher with those windows' heads and with the sills of similar-sized windows in the Ludington façade, and the uppermost corresponding with the heads of the Ludington-side windows. The main entrance is a diagonally positioned one, with modern aluminum single door with large sidelight and a transom, that faces the intersection. Above it is a flat-top projecting metal canopy with rounded corners. The brick upper façade above the entry makes a quarter turn between broad slightly projecting piers that mark the ends of the two street-facing facades and rises above bands of rowlock and soldier bricks to a flat-top parapet raised about two feet above the top of the pier on either side – the piers themselves rising another approximately two feet above the wall parapet facing either street. The piers are formed of vertically stacked dark red bricks alternating with slightly recessed red-orange brick stacks. The outer stack is 1 ½ bricks wide, the three inner stacks of raised dark red brick header-width, and the four alternating recesses of red-orange brick also header-width. The quarter-round street corner's upper façade contains a large slightly sunken panel with cutout corners. Its once smooth but now badly scarified surface at the bottom contains what appears to be the word "**BOWLING**"; nothing else is now visible. A raised vertical concrete ornament projects from the center of the upper façade just above this panel and rises slightly above the parapet.

There is an aluminum-trim door near the west end of the Ludington façade and four short windows placed high on that façade to the door's east. A c. 1940 WPA assessor photo shows the windows, now boarded up, each containing four vertical lights. The

east façade contains four square mid-level windows, each with four lights, plus several door openings, one now bricked in, and a modern garage door entrance.

This **bowling alley building** replaced the **previous bowling alley building and adjacent Anderson Tavern building** at this location that burned down 10/31/1939. The owners, **Ray Derham**, **Peter Tomassoni**, and **Joseph Crispigna**, soon retained city engineer **George Wallner** (who also maintained a private practice) to design a replacement building. The new building with its ten alleys and a 40-foot long bar along the south side opened 3/15/1940 and had a formal opening 4/13-14/1940. The local **Miench Contracting Co.** *may have been* the builder. Miench placed one of a number of congratulatory advertisements in the paper at the time of the formal dedication along with other subcontractors and suppliers, but the adv does not specifically state they did work on the building. An advertisement in the June 6, 1954, *News* stated that the **Recreation Bar**, with **Pete Tomassoni and Joe Crispigna** as proprietors, was reopening. The building housed **Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes** until about 1985.

News: "Fire Destroys City Bowling Alleys, Tavern," 10/31/1939; "Recreation Alleys to be Rebuilt," 11/7/1939; "Contract to be Let for New Alleys," 11/28/1939; "Recreation Alleys Will Open Friday," 3/13/1940; adv. for formal opening, 4/12/1940.

112. House (built 1888 or before)

2-story gabled-ell with wide exposure synthetic siding. A hip-roof open porch with Tuscan columns fronts the house from side to side. Windows include single and paired

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double-hung plus a cottage window near the front door. A 1-car garage with low gable-front roof and siding matching the house stands to the house's immediate west. A c. 1940 WPA assessor photo shows clapboard siding.

This area was not included in the 1884 Sanborn map. The house shows in the first, 1888, map that covers the area.

116. House (built 1888 or before)

Upright and wing, 2-story upright and 1-story wing with small leanto in back. Standing on a rubble stone foundation, the house retains its plain raking cornices and clapboarding in the gables but has otherwise been extensively remodeled, with sheets of T-111 as siding and some windows replaced with sliders (although some of the openings for the old double-hung windows remain, with modern windows). The wing's front projects forward of the upright's front, perhaps incorporating what was once an open porch. Forming its right-hand (east) end is an open gable-roof door porch. A c. 1940 WPA assessor photo shows clapboard siding and no porch. A 1988 survey photo shows the house with its present finish. **Non-contributing at present due to extent of exterior modernizations.**

This house shows in the first, 1888, Sanborn map that covers this area. The 1892 directory lists mason **Charles Rawn** and **James Granville**, "vocalist," living here. The building still serves as a residence.

122 Ludington Street West. McDermott-Zacks House (built 1888 or before)

Upright-and-wing, 2-story upright and 1-story wing plus 1-story rear ell; plain raking cornices and asbestos siding; old 2/2 windows set in plain frames with low gabled caps. Standing on a stone foundation, the house displays a square-plan hip-roof bay window in front; a broad front porch that, spanning the wing's front and sheltering the front entry in the upright, has short Tuscan columns rising above solid board railings to support a roof that forms a continuation of the wing's front roof slope; and a porch with square-plan posts across the rear ell's west side facing Carpenter. A c. 1940 WPA assessor photo shows how little the house has changed – the only difference then being clapboard siding.

Behind the house fronting on Carpenter at the alley is a gable-front 2-car garage sided in asbestos siding matching the house.

This house shows in the first, 1888, Sanborn map that covers this area. An early occupant of the house was **Henry McDermott, superintendent of the Lumberman's Mining Co.**, and other family members, listed in the 1892 directory. McDermott, credited with discovery of the main **Ludington Mine** ore deposit in 1882, was listed as superintendent of the **Munro Mine** in the 1907 directory. By 1913 and at least into the 1940's members of the **Zacks family** lived here. The 1913 and 1925 directories list **Isadore Zacks** as a cattle buyer and slaughterer, and the 1939 and 1941 directories list him as part of **I. Zacks & Co.**, meat and fruit dealers at 101 E. Brown, with son **Max Zacks**.

200. Erickson & Son Funeral Home/now Ludington Centre (1936-37; 1954-55)

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G. A. Gustafson, Iron Mountain, contractor for 1954-55 addition

1-story red brick building that occupies the Carpenter frontage north of Ludington to the mid-block alley. The main section at the Carpenter end has a jerkinhead roof and shingled gables, the south end one displaying a small fanlight. An addition along the entire west side has a low slanting roof concealed from view by a low parapet at each end. From the center of the gabled south end projects an enclosed large entry sided in vertical fiberboard paneling. There was originally an open porch of the same dimensions (minus the small gabled entry proper) with a square-plan Colonial wood column at each corner and a delicate "Chippendale" balustrade around the top containing small-dimension wooden crosspieces forming lozenge patterns (the low parapets at the north and south ends of the west-side addition also originally displayed balustrades of the same design). The east façade facing Carpenter contains in the center a deep flat-roof porch that, supported by a square brick pier at each corner, functioned as a "drive-up" for a drive that curved gently out to the street to the south. At the north end on the east side are two garage bays (the south one now made into a pedestrian entry). The building's windows are mostly single double-hung ones. A small concrete block addition projects from the building's north end.

John B. Erickson established the **J. B. Erickson Funeral Home** in 1913. Son **Everett** became a partner in **Erickson & Son** in 1934 and early in 1937 the business occupied this new building. **Everett Erickson** became sole owner in 1952, and in 1954-55 the building was expanded with

the large west-side addition and the original building's interior extensively remodeled. A *News* feature on the progressing renovations stated that the addition and remodeling was entirely planned by the Ericksons, father and son. In about 1971 the funeral home vacated the building for the present **Erickson, Rochon & Nash Funeral Home** location at 901 S. Carpenter. The 1972 directory lists **Northwestern Mutual Life** as the occupant. The building has served as an office building since then.

Photo, c. 1940 WPA assessor project.

News: "New Erickson Mortuary Has All Facilities," 2/8/1937; "New Annex Doubles Capacity of Erickson & Son Mortuary," 3/31/1955; picture of "Enlarged, Remodeled Erickson Funeral Home," 7/4/1955; adv, Erickson & Son, 7/4/1955.

Ludington Street West. South Side

101. Iron Mountain Post Office (1934-35; 1968) J. Ivan Dise, Detroit, architect, with W. A. Stewart and L. R. Hoffman, Detroit, associated; McGough Brothers, St. Paul, MN, contractors; Harry W. Gjelsteen, Menominee, architect for 1968 addition

1-story broad-fronted flat-roof building of Art Deco design, faced in buff brick, with limestone trim. The original building, with ground dimensions of 93 feet in front by 65 feet in depth, displays a very slightly projecting center section containing the main entry flanked by broad limestone piers, each with an eagle carved in relief as a "capital," supporting a limestone frieze inscribed with the building's name, **UNITED STATES POST OFFICE**. Another horizontal limestone slab that tops a broad

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window above the front entry below the frieze is carved with a shallow sunken panel that contains in raised letters, **IRON MOUNTAIN, MICH.** The front to either side contains three broad sets of square-head windows set in shallow recesses between broad areas of brickwork (the east side facing Merritt displays four similar windows, also set in shallow recesses). A chevron band of brick between upper and lower limestone bands forms a beltcourse above the windows extending around the front and ends below a brick frieze. There is a simple dentil detail below a plain concrete parapet cap. A broad staircase between brick parapets leads to the small concrete terrace in front of the main entry (a concrete ramp now also leads to the terrace's east side), and the building rises above a projecting limestone-capped brick base.

- Murals: The lobby contains five large well preserved murals on the general theme of **Westward Expansion** painted by Bulgaria-born artist **Vladimir Rousseff** in 1935-36.
- Addition: The post office was expanded in 1968 with an extension that abuts the original building in back and on the west side, away from the downtown. The larger part of the extension, directly behind the old building and extending about 20 feet east toward Merritt, maintains the height, brick color, and façade detailing of the original. Another part that extends westward another approximately thirty-five feet, containing loading docks on its west side, is lower but is set back perhaps five feet from the front façade and also maintains the same brick color and chevron and water table details. The addition's plain rear façade is of red brick.

- Large paved parking areas adjoin the building on the south and west.

Planning for a new post office to replace the quarters in the **Wood Sandstone Block** used for several decades were underway by 1931. In May 1931 the present site, then containing several buildings, was selected. Plans by architects **Dise, Stewart, and Hoffman** were completed early in 1932 and bids requested early in 1933. Contractor selection was delayed by price disputes with two of the four property owners and, once the government obtained title to the last properties by mid-May 1933, a new review of all proposed post office projects under newly installed President Roosevelt resulted in further delays. Construction finally took place in 1934-35. The building was expanded in 1968 to house a **Sectional Center Facility** that served as a distribution center for Upper Peninsula post offices, but that use has ceased. The large parking lot is all but unused.

News: "James Seeking an Early Start on Postoffice," 7/29/1931; "Detroit Firm to Draw Plans of Postoffice," 11/28/1931; "Architect to Display Plans of Postoffice," 12/18/1931; "Postoffice Bids Will be Called for on March 3," 2/27/1933; "\$105,470 Bid Low Thus Far on Postoffice," 4/3/1933; "Postoffice Site Finally Bought by Government," 5/13/1933; "Postoffice Job Halted Pending Policy Outline," 5/26/1933; "Another Delay in Postoffice Project Here," 6/28/1933; "Funds to Build Postoffice Made Available," 11/11/1933.

U. S. Postal Service, *Historic Significance Survey* for Iron Mountain Post Office, 1982.

Merritt Avenue South, East Side

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407. German Hotel/American Hotel (between 1884 and 1888)

2-story wood building, with end-gable-roof on north half and 1-slope roof that slopes gently to south on south half, the gables stepped and ends of south-half roof framed by flat-top vinyl-sided parapets. The exterior is now clad in diagonal wood siding downstairs and narrow vinyl siding upstairs. Low pent roofs cap the ground floor across the east-facing front and south side. The front entry is edged with 1950's-looking random ashlar masonry, and the windows are modern 1/1s. Despite the modern finishes the building retains its basic historic form. A c. 1900-1910 photo shows a simply detailed clapboarded building with numerous 2/2 windows. The north part of the west façade was topped by a gable with plain raking cornices and contained a center entry storefront, and the sloping-roof southern part displayed the same raised parapets present today, though finished in clapboarding then. A 1988 survey photo shows the entire building faced in a stuccoed finish and displaying a large sign for **Bootlegger's bar or club** on the upper façade. Contributing, despite substantial exterior renovations, as one of the downtown's early generation of commercial buildings and for its importance in illustrating the **city's early saloon history**.

The north part of this building, with two small 1-story wings on the south side, first appears in the 1888 Sanborn, labeled a "saloon." The 1891 Sanborn shows the building, by now called the **German Hotel**, housing 2 side-by-side stores, the north one still a **saloon**. The 1892-94 directory lists **Marsch & Gothe (John Marsch and Fred Gothe)** as proprietors. Still labeled the

German Hotel in the 1911 map, the building had the saloon across the west end on the north side and a dining room at the west end in the south half. In late November 1920 **Anton Lavorich** bought the hotel from **Reinhart Goethe**, changing the name to **American Hotel**. Within a few days Lavorich with several others was arrested for liquor law violations. In the 1923 and 1949 Sanborns, the building shows as the American Hotel; the 1949 map shows stores at the ground floor level. The city directories of 1935, 1939, and 1941-42 all list **Anton Lovorich** as the proprietor.

Cummings, *Business District*, 407 S. Merritt.

Prospect Avenue South, West Side

414. St. Joseph Catholic Church/now St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church (1931-33). Derrick Hubert, Menominee, architect; Joseph P. Doheny, Merrill, WI, contractor

Large twin-towered Neo-Gothic church building facing east toward Prospect. Constructed with walls of gray-white (with tan and brown flecks) rockface random ashlar Lannon stone, the church takes the form of a nave with transepts and a rectangular sanctuary. The front is symmetrical, comprised of a square-plan buttressed tower at each end flanking a narrow gabled front with deeply recessed center containing a segmental-arch-head entrance below a broad east window with low arched head. Shallow niches on either side of the window contain standing figures of Mary holding the baby Jesus on the left and St. Joseph on the right. At the front gable peak a deeper niche, with projecting base and Gothic canopy, contains a

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National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, Michigan]*

standing figure of Christ, with crown of thorns and holding a cross and lily. The towers each contain segmental-arch-head entrances in their bases and paired lancets, filled with louvers, in each face of the belfry that tops the square-plan structure. The towers have pointed metal pinnacles at the corners and tall four-sided metal-clad spires installed in 1998, replacing similar but somewhat shorter wooden originals, which had been removed in 1968 due to deterioration. The sides present large pointed-arch windows separated by large buttresses. The short gabled transepts display a taller center and shorter side Gothic windows in their outer faces and buttresses at the corners. A granite cornerstone at the southeast corner lists the cornerstone-laying date of 1931 and the name of the pastor at the time, **Rev. Fr. Joseph H. Dufort**. The cornerstone from the previous church is placed at the building's northeast corner. Broad flights of steps, the center one leading to the main entrance flanked by massive random ashlar parapets, lead up to the church's entrances.

This church was built for **St. Joseph Parish** following a 4/16/1930 fire that destroyed the previous church, constructed in the 1890's. Newly installed pastor Fr. Dufort masterminded the planning for and construction of the church for the 850-family parish, the second largest in the Upper Peninsula diocese (after the Cathedral parish in Marquette). Construction began in August 1931, and on 12/6/1931 **Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond Jacques**, a former pastor of the church representing the Bishop of Marquette, officiated at ceremonies marking the laying of the cornerstone of the new church. The first mass in the new church was celebrated 9/15/1932 and the first Sunday services held 9/18, but the interior

finish, including flooring and pews, was not completed until 1940, parishioners using temporary seating until then. **St. Joseph** and **St. Mary**, whose nearby church building had burned in 1938, began worshipping together in 1940, and the two churches were formally merged into **St. Mary and St. Joseph** in 1942. This building suffered its own devastating fire on January 5, 2003. The stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross were saved, but most of the present artfully decorated interior dates from after the 2003 fire. Shortly before the fire, a low flat-roof addition providing a rear vestibule and entrance from a large parking area, restrooms, ramped corridor, and elevator was constructed directly behind and along the west part of the north façade. This is faced in random ashlar masonry similar to the rest of the building and contains a broad glassed-in area fronting the vestibule.

Johnson, *Seasons of Faith*, 191-95.

News: "Work Started Today on New St. Joseph's Church," 8/17/1931; "Finish Foundation of St. Joseph's Church," 11/7/1931; "Church Corner Stone Will Be Laid," 11/30/1931; "Church Corner Stone Will Be Laid on Sunday," 12/5/1931; "Corner Stone of New St. Joseph's Is Laid" and "In the Corner Stone," 12/7/1931; "Work on New Church Being Pressed Hard," 9/16/1932; "Priest Offers Thanks to Those Aiding Church," 9/22/1932; "Blessing of Bell to Mark Merger of Congregations," 1/6/1940; "Blessing of Bell Marks Parish Merger," 1/8/1940 – Bishop Plagens authorizes work on completing interior after Easter.

**Stephenson Avenue South, East
Side**

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105-07. Stores – named Chapin Building by 1925 (built in 1889-91 period).

2-story 2-storefront long brick Late Victorian building with front aligned along a former railroad siding leading to the Chapin Mine – thus not parallel with Stephenson. The building has a trapezoidal footprint, widening significantly toward the southwest end front to back and with its front façade a third longer than the rear. The upper front façade is divided into two four-window long outer sections flanking a narrow central bay that, outlined by slightly projecting piers, contains a single window (above a doorway leading to a central 2nd-story staircase). The top of the building's front displays a highly decorative treatment of short projecting piers that, springing from corbelled brickwork, demarcate sunken brickwork panels in the frieze and dentil-like brickwork bands above and below. The short piers display brickwork forming an X-pattern. The exposed brick northeast side wall is partly faced in stucco, and the rear facades are now covered in vertical ribbed metal paneling. A shingled pent roof caps the building's ground floor in front and on the northeast end, and the ground floor in front is faced in a windowless rubble fieldstone treatment constructed c. 1986 as part of renovations for **Fontana's Supper Club**, which occupies this and the adjoining building to the southwest. An early photograph owned by **Keen Scott** illustrates the building with its two open storefronts flanking the center upstairs entrance, the left or northeast storefront, at least, being of conventional center-entrance form.

This building was built in the wake of a disastrous fire on December 18, 1888, that destroyed much or all of this block and

perhaps more. The building first appears in the November 1891 Sanborn map, not being in place in the April 1888 one. The 1891 Sanborn identifies **Carlotti's Livery** as the occupant of the northeast part of the building and a **saloon** in the southwest part (the 1892-94 directory lists **George Emma's saloon** and the 1897 Sanborn still shows a saloon). The northeast space is listed as vacant in both the 1897 and 1904 Sanborns, but contained a **furniture store** in 1911. By 1923 it housed an **auto repair shop** (the 1925 directory lists **Fred. H. Gustafson's garage** and **Louis Johnson's auto sales**). The southwest storefront served various tenants but was also apparently often vacant. It housed a **garage and auto repair** as of 1923 and 1930 according to the Sanborns, but by 1935 and at least into the early 1940's was occupied by **Louis Johnson's tavern**, known by 1939 as the **White Star**. **Otto and Linea Sallman (or Salmen)** were proprietors of the **White Star** in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The building's upstairs seems to have housed a **boardinghouse** plus individual residences and offices in its early years.

News: "City Approves Tavern Licenses," 4/14/1948; "Permits Approved by City Council," 4/15/1953.

109-15 Stephenson Avenue South. Stores (built in 1889-91 period).

2-story 3-storefront brick Late Victorian building fronting partly west-northwest on Stephenson (at its south end) and partly northwest on the former Chapin Mine siding. The 5-sided building has its south façade on an east-west alley, an east-southeast-facing rear façade, and north façade adjoining 103-107. The front's

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second story retains its segmental-arch-head window openings, three above each of the former storefronts, with their raised brick caps. Raised piers separate the sections of upper façade aligned with the former storefronts below and rise to support a top section and parapet decorated with corbelled and sawtooth brickwork bands outlining a frieze in which the bricks in each course alternate in color between red and yellow-buff. The entire ground floor in front is finished with a shingled pent roof cap and windowless rockfaced stonework matching 103-107, part of the work done c. 1986 for **Fontana's Supper Club**. The building's unadorned brick south side wall contains segmental-arch-head windows in the 2nd story, while the rear façade is clad in vertical ribbed metal paneling like 103-07's. An arch-roof open timber canopy leads to a shed-roof wooden entry for the restaurant located at the building's southeast corner, adjacent to rear parking. **Fontana's Supper Club** occupies the ground floor of this and the adjoining 103-07, with the bar and restaurant in 109-15 and the kitchen in 103-07. The bar and restaurant remain largely as finished c. 1986.

Like 103-07, the building was built following the 1888 fire and first shows in the November 1891 Sanborn map. The 1891 Sanborn lists a **barber shop** in the northeast storefront and **saloons** occupying the two southwest storefronts. The 1892-94 directories list **John Virsella's saloon** in the center and the **Walter & Barnardi saloon** in the southwest stores, and the 1904 Sanborn shows saloons as still the occupants. Later occupants included the **Bluebird Café**, 1924-25, in the middle storefront, followed by **James A. Mitchell's City Cash Market** in the later 1920's and the **City Flower Shop** in the northeast and

center storefronts in the 1930's and early 40's, at least. The southwest storefront contained a succession of restaurants in the late 1920's, 30's, and early 40's that included the **Coney Island Red Hot stand**, **Crystal Lunch**, and **Crystal Inn**. No. 109 contained the **City Flower Shop** in 1950 (adv, *News*, 5/9/1950). A 1978 survey photo shows the original iron columns flanking the entrances in the two more easterly storefronts and the western storefront, containing the **Buddy Bar**, faced in pigmented structural glass around a square window of glass block outlining a small clear glass central light. Glass block also then edged the jambs of the recessed entry.

117. Store (built in 1889-91 period).

2-story red brick Late Victorian building with yellow-buff brick trimmings. The upper façade is divided by raised piers into narrower side and a broad central section, the side ones each containing a single window, the central a pair of them. The windows' raised, segmental-arch-head brick caps, the upper portions of the piers corbelled out from the lower portions, panels in the frieze between the piers, and beltcourses outlining the frieze and below the parapet are constructed of yellow-buff brick. The upper piers display an X-pattern design similar to 103-07, and there are bands of sawtooth brickwork below the beltcourses outlining the frieze. The current storefront is enclosed with a deteriorated vertical boarding treatment, with no door and two slider windows (this treatment installed between 1975 and 1988). The upstairs front window openings have been blocked down at the top, with the present double-hung windows filling only the lower

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two-thirds of the openings. The building's exposed north side wall is of brick, the rear wall now faced in vertical ribbed metal paneling.

The 1891 Sanborn map is the first to show this building. It lists a **clothing store** on the ground floor, with a **saloon** in the basement and offices on the 2nd floor. The 1892-94 directory lists **C. A. Patterson's hardware store**, offering "hardware, stoves, tinware, watches, clocks, jewelry, sewing machines, pianos and organs," at this address along with **Edward Peterson's saloon** and the offices of architect **J. E. Clancy**, the designer a few years later of the **Dickinson County Courthouse**. (Did Clancy design this wonderful, if neglected, building that contained his offices? At present there is no documentation.) The 1902-04 directory lists **J. A. Sundstrom's hardware store**, but the 1904 Sanborn shows a **saloon**. Later occupants included the **Iron Mountain Light and Fuel Company** and **Louis A. Fox's clothing store** along with residences and offices upstairs. By the late 1930's **William Protogere's Majestic Lunch** was the occupant, and from 1941 until at least 1948 the **Beckstrom & Greenquist Decorating Co. (Harold Beckstrom and Dan Greenquist, proprietors)** had its store there.

News: "Restaurant Opens in New Location," 1/25/1941; "Paint Store Partners in New Location," 3/27/1941; Beckstrom & Greenquist adv, 4/2/1948.

119. Store (built in 1889-91 period).

2-story red brick Late Victorian Panel Brick building with decorative accents in yellow-buff brick. The upper façade contains four square-head windows capped

with yellow-buff brick arches containing sawtooth brickwork. A beltcourse of yellow-buff brick spanned the façade from side to side above the windows, serving as the base for the arches, but the window-head sections have been cut out. The beltcourse rests on soldier courses set sawtooth fashion placed in a row across the façade just below the window heads. The frieze and parapet above the window arches display more contrasting red and yellow-buff brickwork. Projecting piers that edge the façade rise into square-head pedestals just above the parapet, and a small raised area in the façade's center is framed by small piers of similar design. The present storefront contains an aluminum-trim door, with tall, narrow window adjacent, at the left end and a large window flanked by a small window on either side toward the right-hand end, the rest of the storefront infilled. Above the façade is surfaced with a thin stucco skin up to near window-head height in the 2nd story and there is the trace of a gable design in the stucco above the storefront – the stucco and "Alpine" gable treatment shows more fully in a 1988 survey photo. The 2nd-story window openings have been infilled at top and bottom so that the current inappropriate windows are shorter than the originals. An early 20th-C. photograph reveals that the raised area in the parapet's center once rose into a low gable framing the still present arch panel the raised area contains; the gable is missing, as are elongated "round" finials that capped all the piers. The original storefront was of the recessed center-entry type, with an iron column on either side of the entryway. The entry to the upstairs staircase was located at the right-hand end where exists the present entry.

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The 1891 Sanborn lists a **clothing store** here along with a **saloon** in the basement and offices on the 2nd floor. The 1897 and 1904 Sanborns and the 1902-03 directory all show a **confectionary and furniture store**, listed in the directory as **Frank Grossbusch's**, the Grossbusches living upstairs. The 1907-08 and 1913 directories list the **Gately-Wiggins Company**, selling **clothing and furniture**, here. In 1947 the building housed **Hoyle Sign Art Supply** (adv, *News*, 4/5/1947). **Cecconi's Self Service Super Market**, previously located at 114 W. Hughitt, opened here in May 1950. A post card view from the early Cecconi's years shows the stucco treatment already present, likely installed as part of the 1950 renovations. Directories from 1959 through 1970 list **LaCount's Super Market**. A 1975 survey photo shows the store vacant but still bearing the LaCount's sign. While the stucco treatment was already present, the Alpine detail was not (it shows in a 1988 photo). The directories after the mid-1970's list only apartments.

News: "Cecconi's to Open in New Quarters," 5/8/1950; adv for Cecconi's in new location, 5/23/1950.

127-29 Stephenson Avenue South. Kingsford Motor Car Company Building (1917).

2-story Commercial Brick building with 69 foot frontage on Stephenson and 120 foot depth on Brown Street. The brickwork of the upper façade on both streets features a corbel-detail parapet above two rows of sunken panels and a beltcourse of vertical soldier bricks above the second-story windows. Above the front entrance and the storefront windows in the front and the first

two bays on the side is a row of horizontal sunken panels. The 5-bay front displays 4 bays of large store windows downstairs and large square-head window openings upstairs plus a narrow off-center bay containing the front entry and a small window upstairs. The storefronts are non-original, with aluminum-trimmed windows and transoms infilled. The upstairs windows are smaller replacements, with the openings infilled above and to either side (a 1988 survey photo shows the 2nd-story windows apparently brand new, still with the manufacturers' labels on). The 7-bay Brown Street façade contains entrances toward the front and more of the square-head window openings. The rear façade is plain, with segmental-arch-head window openings upstairs.

Local **Ford dealer Edward G. Kingsford** had this building constructed to house his dealership and auto service garage. The main floor was to contain offices, show room space, and the stock room while the upstairs would house the repair and service garage. A full basement was to be used for car storage. An *Iron Mountain Press* story of May 3, 1917, about the time construction on the building began, reported that Kingsford had "received and sold over sixty cars" during the past ten days. Moved from a previous location at the corner of Stephenson and Fourth, the **Kingsford Motor Car Company** occupied this 1917 building until about 1962. From the later 1960's into the 1970's the **Michigan Consolidated Gas Company** used the building as an office.

231. First National Bank & Trust (1990-91) Blomquist & Associates, Iron Mountain, architects

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Large rectangular 1 and 2-story building of contemporary design, faced in square dark red-brown block with yellow-buff brick accent strips below rooflines. The building's ground story has a nearly square footprint, but the second story section is L-shaped, the recessed angle facing the Stephenson-Ludington intersection. Both stories feature strips of large nearly floor-to-ceiling windows set back from the wall plane, with square-plan piers between them. The building is set back on a landscaped full block frontage with the entry and plaza at the Ludington corner. There is a banking drive-through of matching design and a parking lot on the north side. Small utility building faced in matching clay tile at rear. **Both non-contributing because less than fifty years old.**

301. Khoury Building (1947-48)

2-story brown brick office building with main entrance in the center of the broad Ludington Street side. The Stephenson and Ludington facades meet at a slightly obtuse angle, so that the building's east end façade is significantly longer than the west facing on Stephenson, and the Stephenson-Ludington corner is treated with angle squints of uncut brick that leave shallow recessed "pigeonholes" at their ends. The asymmetrical main Ludington façade contains a broad glassed-in entry area capped by shallow rectangular fascia canopy with vertical board sides. To the entry's left (east) the ground floor contained two large windows set on low concrete bulkheads; both have been infilled with matching brick except for several low horizontal windows set below the former window lintel level. To the entry's right the ground floor contains three more horizontal

windows of the same height and set at the same level – the three resting on a continuous concrete sill. The 2nd story is finished with a row of double windows (a single at each end) with continuous sill and lintel extending almost from end to end of the façade. Large raised lettering above the 2nd-story windows at the Stephenson end of the Ludington façade spell out **FLEURY, SINGLER C.P.A.** The building's narrow façade on Stephenson contains a long concrete panel, bearing the **KHOURY BUILDING** name in incised letters, below the roofline. This façade contains a low horizontal window, with a utilitarian metal door – set at the right-hand end of a broader opening now otherwise bricked in – at the right end of the façade, on the ground floor, and a large bank of windows with concrete sill and lintel matching those on the Ludington façade, in the 2nd story. The east façade is plain.

This building was constructed for **Samuel A. Khoury**, who had acquired the property, located next door to his property at 305, in 1943. The building's ground floor originally contained three store spaces, a large one facing Stephenson and small ones fronting on Ludington at the building's east end. **Ernest Baldrice's music store** and **Occhietti's Jewelry** were early tenants along Ludington, while the **New York Fashion Shop** occupied the west end facing Stephenson (by 1961 and until the mid-late 1970's **Hayward's House of Cards & Gifts** occupied the Stephenson storefront). Early office suite tenants upstairs included **Benson Optical, accountants Clement F. Fleury and James Ochietti**, and **Dr. Theodore B. Fornetti**, a dentist. In March 1955 **Fleury and Dr. Fornetti** bought the building from the Khourys. At that time the **Iron**

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Mountain Linoleum Co., Ochietti's Jewelry, and Rita and Jenó's Tailor Shop were the ground-floor occupants and **contractor Robert Joiner, accountant Cecil Johnson, and Floyd Eymér, Michigan Bell plant chief,** had offices upstairs in addition to the Fleury office.

News: "Old Landmark Bought by Sam Khoury," 7/8/1943; "Baldriga to Move into New Building," 7/29/1947; Occhietti's Jewelry Grand Opening, 11/23/1947; New York Fashion Shop in New Khoury Bldg. corner of Ludington, 4/7/1948; "Benson Optical Firm Opens Laboratory in Iron Mountain," 5/3/1949; "Accountants Open Office in This City," 10/25/1949; "Fornetti and Fleury Buy Building," 3/17/1955.

305 Stephenson Avenue South. Store (pre-1884).

2-story gable-roof wooden building with stepped falsefront; upper façade and south side above adjoining building clad in white stucco, with horizontal and vertical grooving suggestive of a metal panel finish, c. 1950's, but with two vertical windows now present that do not show in a 1988 survey photo; aluminum-trim c. 1950's or 60's storefront, with slant-sided recessed entry at right and rockface random ashlar manufactured stone piers and bulkheads plus more recent metal pent-roof storefront canopy; gabled back end clad in vinyl siding. An 1890's photo reproduced in *Born from Iron*, 29, shows a clapboarded upper front with flat-top falsefront topped by a cornice supported by four pairs of brackets, the bracket pairs aligned between the three 6/6 upstairs front windows. A c. 1947 post card view shows the same stepped front, possibly faced in asphalt siding though too

indistinct to tell for certain, with several windows in the second story.

The 1884 and 1888 Sanborn maps show a **dry goods store** and **millinery shop** as occupants. An 1889 newspaper story notes **Schuldes millinery store**, probably located in this building, and the 1892-94 directory lists it and **Joseph Bitterly's "Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Musical instruments and Optical goods" shop** at this location. **Saloons** followed from about 1890 til [*sic – until*] at least 1908. By 1913 **Michael Khoury** had one of two downtown **fruit and confectionary stores** here. An 8/1/1930 *News* advertisement lists the store as **Khoury's Candy Kitchen. Khoury's Beer Garden** and then **Khoury's Restaurant** later occupied the building. In 1948-49 the restaurant's proprietor, **Samuel A. Khoury**, transformed the restaurant space into **Khoury's Cocktail Lounge**, transferring his liquor license from his former bar at 215 Stephenson. A 3/14/1949 *News* story notes that Samuel Khoury had been in business 22 years. The bar became **Ernest Ozororicz's Flying Finn Tavern** by 1961 and **Dick's Bar** by 1967. By 1969 **Cudlip's Drug Store** was the occupant.

News: "Khoury Gets Final Okeh on Transfers," 2/2/1949; adv for Khoury Cocktail Lounge, 2/4/1949; "Restaurant Converted into Lounge," description and adv for contractors, 3/14/1949.

307. Store (pre-1884).

Narrow 1-story wooden building; recessed c. 1950's storefront with angled window above glass block bulkhead, transoms above door and window, flat metal canopy projecting at one end, and rough stuccoed pier at right; stuccoed

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upper façade matching 305; rear façade faced in vinyl siding. A 1988 survey photo of the front shows pigmented structural glass on the right end storefront pier (now gone) and facing the entry wall left of the recessed door. Most of the façade trim is now painted white, but the structural glass left of the door is still present.

The 1884 Sanborn map shows a **harness shop** here. By 1888 and into the 1890's the building housed a **cigar store and "factory."** By 1897 and until at least 1913 a **barber shop** was located here, and later a **news stand and smoke shop**. The 1939 and 1941-42 directories list **Wilbert Safranek's Bon Ton Sweet Shoppe** as the occupant, and the Bon Ton was still there in the 1960's. By 1969 the occupant was the **Camerland store**.

News: Adv, April 1947.

309-11 Stephenson Avenue South. Cameron Building/Angie's (built in 1888-91 period; c. 1962).

2-story building with upper front façade finished in enameled metal panels bearing the store name in raised lettering – **ANGIE'S** angling down the façade and **BEAUTY SUPPLY & BOUTIQUE** horizontally below. The ground floor contains upstairs doorway at left, and storefront, angling gently inward toward a center entrance, at right. Piers at the ends of the façade and outlining the upstairs doorway and store window bulkheads are of brick (a 1988 survey photo shows dark-hued enameled metal or structural glass panels where the brick is now visible). The entire façade with its aluminum-trim storefront door and windows appears to date c. 1960. The building's side and rear walls are faced in ribbed vertical metal

sheeting. Old photos reproduced in *Born from Iron*, 29 and 94, show the building as a brick Italianate with the second-story entry to the left and storefront to the right. The storefront has large plate glass windows above low bulkheads and iron storefront columns flanking a slant-sided recessed central entry. Four 1/1 upstairs front windows have segmental-arch heads capped with raised brick caps with prominent stone or cast stone keystones. In the upper façade a band of blind arches springing from corbelled brickwork supports the topmost eight or so courses of brickwork, each of which is corbelled outward slightly from the one below. A late 1940's postcard view shows the same front. **Non-contributing at present due to no historic exterior finishes now being visible.**

This building does not show in the 1888 Sanborn map but is present in the next, 1891 map. The 1891 Sanborn lists a **dry goods, clothing, and boots and shoe store** here, and the 1892-94 directory **John J. Cole's "Clothing, hats, caps, gents' furnishings, boots, shoes, etc." store**. Other early occupants included a **jeweler/optician, milliner, and Hanson & Johnson's dry goods, clothing, and shoe store**. In 1913 the **Fugere Brothers men's clothing and shoe store**, established by **Gilbert P. and Frank X. Fugere**, opened in what was then called the **Cameron Building**. The store was still in business here until about 1962. From about 1962 to the early 1980's the building housed the **Shoe Bazaar**. By 1984 **Angie's Beauty Supply & Boutique** was the occupant.

The upstairs housed **Sophus H. Mortensen's photo studio** during its earliest years (1891 or earlier down at least

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to 1902) and also the **Michigan State Telephone Company offices** for at least a few years in the early 20th century.

313-15. Stores (pre-1884; expanded and remodeled in 1924-30 period; 2nd floor removed 1930-47 period).

1-story 2-storefront building with 3-bay north (313) storefront containing recessed slant-sided center entry and much narrower south (315) storefront, with recessed slant-sided entry and window at one side. The 1920's storefronts have simple matching Commercial Brick bulkheads and paneled piers and retain the 1920's metal window trim. A projecting wood shake shingle pent roof canopy fronting both shopfronts and low vertical board and batten falsefront treatments above appear to be c. 1970's renovations (both appear in a 1988 survey photo). A c. 1947 postcard view shows both storefronts with large transom areas (where the pent roofs are now) and low apparently brick gabled rooflines, 313's with an upward projecting half-round form at the peak and a low finial form at each end and 315's with just the low gable form – the present vertical board and batten treatment in each storefront appears just tall enough to mask the perhaps surviving gable forms. The building's brick rear façade, part of the later 1920's remodeling, contains square-head door and window openings.

The building's north store is the lower part of a 2-story gabled wooden structure, with bracketed falsefront, that shows in the 1884 Sanborn map and in old photographs. Its upper front contained three tall square-head 2nd-story windows below the falsefront cornice with its three sets of paired brackets. The space occupied by the narrow 315 store remained open, except for

a 2nd-floor staircase for 313, until sometime between 1911 and 1924 when the front part of the space was enclosed to house the stairway. Between 1924 and 1930 the present brick 313-15 storefronts were installed, the space now occupied by 315 was extended back to the east to align with the back of 313, and the present brick rear facades installed. The 1930 Sanborn still shows 313 with its 2nd story, but in the 1947 map the entire 313-15 buildings shows as 1-story.

The 1884 and 1888 Sanborn maps list 313 as housing a **wholesale liquor store**, with offices upstairs. The 1891 map shows the building's ground floor containing a **saloon** – presumably **Moriarty & Allen's "Fashion Sample rooms,"** featuring "Imported and fine Kentucky whiskies, ale, porter, beer, etc.," as well as "Imported and Domestic cigars," according to the 1892 directory. The 1897 through 1911 Sanborns show a **drugstore** and **jewelry shop** here – the 1902 directory lists **druggist and news agent Arthur Uddenberg** and **Rahm & Rhylander (Gust Rahm and Carl Rylander), jewelers and "dealers in musical instruments, sewing machines, talking machines [phonographs], etc."** Uddenberg's store remained here until at least 1913, while **Rahm & Will (Louis J. Will), jewelers and opticians**, replaced Rahm & Rylander by 1907. By 1925 **Fugere Brothers** had expanded their **men's clothing and shoe store** located next door to the north into 313. In 1949 **Perina's Millinery** was located in this building (subsequent advertisements and directory listings identify the business as **Perina's Hats or Hat Shop** down to the early 1970's and **Perina's, Inc.**, after that). The 1961 directory lists the address as 313, with the

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R. J. Harris jewelry store in 315. During the mid or late 1970's Perina's moved to 321.

The south store (now 315) was built between 1924 and 1930. The 1949 Sanborn lists this as 313 ½. The **Huguet & Webb (Mrs. George L. "Odianna A." Huguet and Anna L. Webb)** millinery shop, listed at 313 ½ in the 1925 directory, may have been located here. **R. J. Harris, jeweler**, had his shop here from at least the late 1940's to the early 1960's, followed in the later 1960's by the **Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio, Mrs. Sandra L. Marlett Beauty Shop**, and **Eve's Beauty Salon**.

321 Stephenson Avenue South. Freeman Building/Perina's (c. 1899; 1916).

2-story building now with upper façade clad in synthetic siding – plain wide-exposure "weatherboarding" in the lower part, which carries the store name, **Perina's Mata Brown Shoppe**, and rounded-butt "shingling" in the upper portion, which contains a central decorative fan-shaped device. This treatment extends a short distance around the exposed brick north side wall. A 1988 survey photo shows the same horizontal siding but not the round-butt shingle treatment. The c. 1960's storefront, sheltered by a more recent shed-roof canopy with round-butt shingled front and ends, has aluminum-trim windows above a low bulkhead of bricks laid in vertical stacks and a recessed entry at the right end. Old photographs show a red brick Late Victorian building with a bracketed metal cornice topped by a signboard in the center. The upper front contained four segmental-arch-head

windows. The original upper façade was still evident in a c. 1947 postcard view. A 1960's post card view shows the upper façade white and clad in what appears to be enameled metal panels. **Non-contributing at present due to the removal or covering up of all historic exterior finishes.**

The building was constructed in the wake of a January 11, 1898, fire that destroyed the two previous buildings on the site. The 1902 directory lists **Abe Kramer's saloon** and the 1904 Sanborn shows a **saloon** there. The 1911 Sanborn shows the building housing a **clothing store**. This was likely **John I. Khoury's The Boston Store**, listed in the 1913 directory. In 1915 Khoury's store went out of business when the store space was leased out from under him to the **F. W. Woolworth Company**. The building, then known as the **Freeman Building** and owned by **Edwin Freeman**, was remodeled and a 30-foot extension added to the rear in 1916, the work done by **Hans Nelson** of Green Bay, Wisconsin. The store opened June 16, 1916, and was still in business here in the early 1940's. By 1961 **Martha Post women's clothing** was the occupant. The **Wolverine Discount Store** replaced it by 1967, and by 1973 the building housed **The Drug Store**. **Perina's, Inc.** moved here from 313 in the mid or late 1970's and remains in business at this location.

323. Montgomery Block/Fugere's (1887; c. 1898; c. 1960).

2-story brick Late Victorian building with two single and one paired window in the upstairs front, all with raised brick caps. No cornice is now present. The brick side wall is exposed along the south side. The

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back part of the building is constructed with rubble walls built of local sandstone and has a shed roof that slants downward toward the south. The current c. 1960's storefront is slightly recessed, with its right-hand side slanting gently inward from the end toward the middle, where the door is located. It has aluminum trim and low brick bulkheads. A modern stuccoed signboard contains the current occupant's name, **Salon 323**. Postcard views from the early 1960's and 1970's and a 1988 survey photo show the building's then windowless upper front faced in enameled metal panels and bearing the store's name, **Fugere Brothers** – the panels a bright turquoise blue and the store name in assertive red in the 60's and 70's but the panels painted white by 1988. Early photographs show a slant-sided bay window projecting from the front's second story where the double window is now and a low cornice with tall central gable containing the building's name and date of construction. A. c. 1947 postcard view shows the brick upper facade with the right-hand double window and a corbelled brick detail below the cornice-less parapet.

The 1888 Sanborn does not show this building, but its now lost cornice plaque listed the building's date as **1887** (see Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 29). The building was badly damaged by fire January 11, 1898, but was apparently repaired or rebuilt within the old walls since the front retained the same appearance. Pre and post-fire photos in Dulan, 29 and 28, respectively – the post-fire view postdating the June 1900 construction of the downtown bandstand visible in the background (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 143) – show virtually the same appearance). The Sanborns indicate the stone rear section was added in the 1898-

1904 period. The 1891 Sanborn indicates the building's north side housed a **jeweler** – the 1892-94 directory lists **A. I. Le Veque, jeweler and watchmaker** and “Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Optical Goods and Musical Instruments” – and the south side a **boot and shoe store**. The 1897 Sanborn lists a **confectionary** in the north side and **boots, shoes, and clothing store** in the south part. 1904 Sanborn shows a **saloon** – presumably the **B. Kramer & Co. saloon and billiard parlor**. By 1925 the building housed the **Dillon & Laughlin (Charles M. Dillon and James A. Laughlin) United Cigar Store and billiard parlor** (a 1920's post card view shows a “United Cigars” sign hanging from the 2nd-story bay window). In November 1929 the **J. J. Newberry store** opened in the former United Cigar space. It remained in operation here at least into the early 1940's. **Fugere Bros.** opened a second store here (the earlier one at 311) by 1961, and closed the old store at 311 by 1963. This Fugere Bros. store remained in operation until sometime in the later 1980's.

333. Ben Franklin Store/now Franklin Square Building (1969)

1-story 3-storefront long reddish brown brick office building with large windows above low bulkheads facing Stephenson and an almost windowless façade along Hughitt. A projecting canopy along both street fronts is faced in light tannish-orange concrete aggregate panels. The initial occupant was a **Ben Franklin Stores** outlet. Ben Franklin moved out about 1983. **Non-contributing because less than 50 years old.**

407-09. Jacobs Building (1923-24).

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2-story single-storefront Commercial Brick building with red brick front; side and rear facades now faced in vertical ribbed metal paneling. The upper façade retains two triple windows, with a horizontal sunken panel in the brickwork above each midway between the window lintel and the parapet. A very low gable faced in concrete rises atop the parapet's center third. The building's front below the 2nd-story window sills is faced in plain vertical boarding and displays a storefront, with left-side entry, at the left and a recessed double aluminum door entry to the basement – now or most recently housing the **Alano Club** – at the right-hand end.

Standing on the site of a building that burned in 1915, the **Jacobs Building** was built for **Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jacobs** and opened early in 1924 with the **Stern & Field men's clothing and furnishings store**, the sixth in a small chain of stores owned by investors from western Upper Peninsula cities, as the primary tenant. The 1925 directory lists **George P. Leanes' billiard parlor** in the building's basement and several small shops, including **Samuel Jacobs' jewelry store**, plus offices in the 2nd story. In 1931, when Sam Jacobs retired and sold out his jewelry business, **Mrs. Jacobs** moved her **The Grey Shop, imported linens at first but then ladies ready-to-wear as well**, into his former quarters, where the shop remained until she sold out in 1953. By 1935 an **A & P (Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.) grocery** was likely located there, with **Samuel J. Khoury's billiard parlor** in the basement and several shops and apartments upstairs. The **A & P** and then a **National Foods store** occupied the ground floor until 1948, when the **S. S. Kresge**

department store, which had occupied the no longer standing buildings to the north beginning in 1926, expanded into this building. **The Avenue Bar**, established by **Samuel J. ("Bokey") Khoury** in the later 1930's and later run by **Nicholas J. Khoury** and finally **Joey Jaff**, remained in operation in the basement into the 1980's.

News: "Mrs. Jacobs in Business Here for 50 Years," 5/13/1950; "Pioneer Business Woman Sells The Grey Shop," 7/18/1953.

415 Stephenson Avenue South. Plaza Central Building (1982)

Broad-fronted 1-story commercial/office building with central entry flanked by a broad window area to either side that rests on a low brick base extending across the front; the façade above the brick base is faced in vertical boarding. A tall projecting fascia canopy, faced in vertical ribbed metal paneling, extends across the front. **Non-contributing because less than 50 years old.**

This building is one of two that replaced a row of three 2-story buildings that burned February 28, 1982. The previous building housed **Don and Donna Christy's Western Auto Store**, which moved to this location from 215 E. Hughitt in 1979, and the Christys had this new building built to house the store.

News: "Downtown fire victims making plans," 3/6/1982.

421. Isabel's Apparel Store/now The Advertiser Building (1982)

1-story building with red-brown brick façade that recedes in several steps back to an offcenter entry, the windowed setback area capped by a very steep metal seam

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pent roof that is more than half the façade's overall height. **Non-contributing because less than 50 years old.**

Like 415, this building occupies part of the site of the buildings destroyed in the 1982 fire. It was built to house **Isabel's Ready-to-Wear women's clothing. Mose and Isabel Pasten** established their women's apparel store at this location in the early 1950's and Mrs. Pasten had this building constructed at the old location after the fire.

News: "Downtown fire victims making plans," 3/6/1982.

427. United States National Bank Building/now Downtown Plaza (1921). Frederick E. Parmelee of F. E. Parmelee & Son, Iron Mountain, architect; G. A. Gustafson, Norway MI, masonry contractor.

Large (66 foot frontage by 122 foot depth) 2-story Neoclassical building faced in "chocolate" brick, with Bedford limestone trim. The front facing Stephenson displays four massive brick piers, with limestone pedestals and capitals. These rise at the ends of the façade and flanking a deeply recessed center entry – along with two more that spring from corbels above broad 1st-floor storefront windows and rise in the 2nd story between a pair of 2nd-story windows aligned with the storefront window on either side of the center entry below – to support a tall entablature. The entablature contains triglyphs and rosette-like circular devices in the frieze, a dentiled cornice, and tall parapet. The side elevation facing A displays a simplified pattern of slightly raised piers with undetailed limestone trim pieces suggestive of bases and capitals extending up to the entablature. The front

and side facades feature large rectangular limestone panels below the 2nd-story windows. The 2nd story contains paired double-hung windows in front, except for a triple window in the center, and triple windows on the A Street elevation – all originally displayed 9 over 1-light wood windows, with the upper sash containing top and bottom rows of square lights and the center row of lights being long, vertical ones. Today's windows are one-over-ones. The A Street elevation is windowless in the ground level except at the east end, where there is a second entry and a single storefront (originally 2 storefronts). The north side elevation is a blank wall now faced in vertical ribbed paneling, and the rear or east is of plain brick with triple windows upstairs.

The **United States National Bank** was established late in 1920 and had this building constructed the following year. The bank's offices occupied the ground floor's southwest corner overlooking the intersection, with the entrance off the center entrance. The building's north side, north of the central lobby, contained a deep store space soon occupied by the **J. C. Penney store**, and the southern frontage along A Street east of the bank contained two small store spaces. A **bowling alley and billiard parlor** initially occupied the basement and the upstairs contained seventeen 2-room office suites initially occupied almost entirely by dentists, physicians, and lawyers. The United States National Bank failed during the Depression, and beginning in 1939 and until about 1978 the **Montgomery Ward & Co. department store** occupied both the former bank and J. C. Penney spaces. Following Ward's departure, the building was purchased in 1980 by **Don and Donna Christy** and the

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first floor renovated into a still-operating mini-mall operation known as **Downtown Plaza**.

News: "Ward Store Will Open Thursday in Former U. S. National Bank," 5/3/1939; "Development efforts continue," 3/9/1982.

501 Stephenson Avenue South. Koffman's Store/now Iron Mountain City Hall (1985; 1994). Blomquist & Associates, Iron Mountain, architects for Koffman's and city hall remodeling

Broad-fronted flat-roof 1-story contemporary building faced in brown square brick; diagonal corners at both ends of front and at rear corner on A; front façade near A set back from street but projects forward in two steps toward south end, with copper hip-roof canopy over central front entrance forming one of the steps. There are similar copper canopies over central side and rear entries as well. The facades contain large windows flanking the canopy-topped entries but otherwise few windows. **Non-contributing because less than fifty years old.**

A modern **4-sided tower clock** (1999) standing on a column-topped square pedestal base stands at the Stephenson/A intersection in front of city hall. Made by the **Verdin Clock Co. of Cincinnati**, the clock was purchased by the **Downtown Development Authority** with funds raised from the community.

Founded in 1944 by **Elmer Koffman** as the **Outlet Store** on W. Hughitt, the store moved to 623 Stephenson in 1952 and in 1958 to 501, evolving into **Koffman's Store for Men**. The store ultimately expanded into four buildings along the Stephenson frontage and sold both **men's and**

women's clothing and shoes. During 1985 the complex was replaced with the present building. After the store failed the city acquired the building and renovated it to serve as city hall, replacing the quarters in the **Wood Sandstone Block** on E. Ludington they had occupied since 1900. The present city hall retains the Koffman store exterior as it was built.

News: "Koffman's marks 25th anniversary," 10/8/1983; "Last stand," 5/3/1985.

Information from Blomquist & Associates, 7/2012.

515-17. American Security Bank (1920-21). A. Moorman & Co., St. Paul MN, architects/contractors.

2-story single storefront wide bank building, with Neoclassical Bedford limestone upper façade. In the upper façade four broad piers formed of ashlar masonry rise to stylized capitals that support a broad entablature with dentiled cornice and parapet topped by low gabled form. Three upstairs front windows contain what appear to be original eight-over-one wood windows. A plain projecting, corbel-supported pediment for what was a central entrance remains in place below the center window. A one bay wide extension of simple Commercial Brick design in buff brick, with horizontal bands of soldier brick and a concrete beltcourse and cap, stands to the right of the Neoclassical section and, forming part of the 1920-21 building, provides upstairs access. The Neoclassical building's ground story façade now displays a multi-hued brick front, with broad horizontal window, beneath a metal pent-roof canopy. This appears to date from the mid-1960's, when the **Frankini jewelry**

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(next door at 521) expanded into this storefront. The north side façade is now clad in vertical ribbed metal paneling, and the south and rear stuccoed. A 1-story rear extension is clad in vinyl siding. A c. 1950 post card view shows the left-hand edge of the façade, with a limestone pier not as broad as the upstairs Neoclassical pier framing a large window with tall prism glass transom below the console-supported bank entry pediment – this storefront presumably work done in 1929.

The **American Security Bank** was organized in September and October 1920, and plans for a new building announced in the November 4, 1920, *Iron Mountain Press*. **A. Moorman & Co.**, “bank builders,” designed, built, and equipped the building. The bank opened in its new quarters May 14, 1921, but failed sometime before November 1929, and in that month **Angelo B. Bracco’s City Drug Store** opened in the building. Bracco, who came to Iron Mountain in 1919, sold the business to **Sherman Kellstrom** in April 1956, but City Drug remained the occupant until the mid-1960’s. **Frankini’s Jewelry** then expanded into the first-floor space from next door to the south and remained until about 2000.

The **Ellen Blixt Shop** opened in a 20 x 30-foot basement space in 1928. Run by Blixt with sister **Viola**, the store specialized in **Scandinavian imports**. It was featured in the January 1953 *The Gift and Art Buyer* trade journal.

Following the bank’s closing, the building’s upstairs has housed office space.

News: “Bracco Sells Drug Store; To Retire After 40 Years,” 4/2/1956; “Gift Shop’s Anniversary Wins National Recognition,” 3/6/1953.

521. Frankini Building (built 1930s).

2-story single storefront commercial building with painted brick front featuring two paired windows upstairs with horizontal band of soldier bricks at window lintel level and a simple concrete cap parapet; recent 3-bay Colonial storefront with wooden piers rising to entablature with cornice and a slant-sided recessed center entry flanked by paired windows. The building has 2 sections from front to back – a nearly square 2-story front section, with brick side wall exposed on the south side, and another 2-story section of similar size behind the front part, its partly exposed south side wall stuccoed and the rear façade clad in vinyl siding. A slightly lower rear section (added after 1949) that shows in a 1963 post card view has been removed and an open porch added. A 1988 survey photo shows a recessed central entry storefront with aluminum trim and multi-color brickwork matching those still present in 517-19. The present Colonial storefront was completed in 2006 (date information provided by **Jonathan Ringel**).

A 2-story wooden building occupied the site in 1923. The 1930 Sanborn still shows the wooden building but the 1940 update shows it replaced by the present brick one. The **A. C. Frankini jewelry store**, founded in 1916, occupied the old wooden building prior to February 1924, when the **Nolinberg Bakery**, an Iron River-based business, moved into the space. By 1939 Frankini was back at this location, presumably in the present building. **A. C. Frankini & Sons, jewelers**, remained in operation here until about 2000.

News: Adv, 3/14/1949 (listing store founding date).

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525-27 Stephenson Avenue South. Stores (1930 and 1931; c. 2004).

1-story 2-storefront building faced in front and back in recent wide-exposure shingle-pattern pressed metal siding that rises well above the storefronts. Each storefront contains a deeply recessed center entry with storefront window either side. The south half of the rear façade projects well beyond the north half.

This was historically two separate masonry store buildings of Commercial Brick design. The 1930 Sanborn map shows two 2-story wooden buildings, one then described as “fire ruins.” No. 525 was built in 1931 for brothers **Louis and Abe Kotler** following a fire that destroyed the previous building. A 6/24/1931 *News* article about the new building described the planned building as having 30-foot frontage and 90-foot depth and stated that the front would be divided into two storefronts, one 20 feet wide, the other 10. The same story referred to the building next door to the south as the “**new Quality Hardware building**” – thus that one was presumably built in 1930 to replace the wooden one shown in the Sanborn.

The 1939 directory lists the **Gambles Store hardware** at 525, and a c. 1950 post card view shows the north store bearing a hanging Gambles Stores sign. Later post card views show a large Gambles sign covering almost the entire upper façade. A c. 1960 post card view shows 527 containing **Quality Hardware**. It appears the two buildings were first combined into one about 1980 for **Edith Gazza’s Hayward Interiors**, “Everything to Make a House a Home.” A 1988 survey photo shows the two structures combined into one, with a modern front completely

different from today’s. The present storefront was done c. 2004 by **Tom and Jennifer Nettle** for their **upscale clothing store** then located there (information on 2004 storefront provided by **Jonathan Ringel**). **Non-contributing because no historic features now visible.**

News: “Work Will be Started Soon on Structure,” 6/24/1931.

535-37. Store (c. 1883; between 1923 and 1930).

2-story falsefront gable-roof wooden store building with 1-story Commercial Brick extension along back part of south side fronting on B Street. The front and sides of the 2-story building are faced in vertical T-111 siding except for the storefront facing Stephenson. The shopfront is faced in vinyl siding and has a deeply recessed slant-sided center entry and a large window on either side, plus another large window around the corner facing B Street. About midway along the building’s south side is a shallow shed-roof 2-story projection, also entirely faced in T-111. B Street angles off Stephenson at a more than 90 degree angle, and a small 1-story Commercial Brick section containing a single storefront projects from the wood building’s south side at its east end. This extension has its entrance at the narrow end facing toward Stephenson and three storefront windows facing south on B, each with a slightly recessed panel in the brickwork below in the bulkhead and above, below the simple concrete parapet cap. Early 1960’s post card views show the wooden building with 3 front windows upstairs and with a roofed-over staircase from the Stephenson end leading up to the south-side projection’s 2nd story, which contained large windows in its

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2nd-story south façade. The shopfront had the same deeply recessed center entry, but windows entirely filled the areas on either side and around the corner, all resting on low bulkheads. Contributing, despite substantial exterior renovations, as one of the downtown's oldest buildings.

Iron Mountain historian **William Cummings** believes this is the downtown's oldest surviving commercial building, built c. 1883 for **Richard Williams**. The building does not show in the 1884 Sanborn map but is present in the 1888 one. The 1888 map lists the building as a **meat market**. The 1892 and 1902 directories both list **meat markets**, **R. J. Kneebone's** in 1892-94 and **Richard White, Sr.'s** in 1902-04, with residential uses upstairs. The 1913 directory shows one of **Michael Khoury's two fruit and confectionary shops** on Stephenson at this location. **Sam Khoury** was the property owner by about 1921 and **Abe Khoury** purchased the property in August 1923. Subsequent uses included a **confectionary** and a **grocery**. **William and Mary Khoury's City Fruit Market** began business here in April 1946 and remained into the early 1980's. By the early 1960's extensive signage on the facades labeled the store the "U. P.'s Largest Hobby Shop" and offered souvenirs, toys, gifts, moccasins, etc., along with liquor.

The narrow brick corner storefront with broad side facing B, no. 537, housed **H. Vernor Bryroff's barbershop** as of 1935. The Sanborns indicate it was added between 1923 and 1930. An early 1960's post card view still shows a barber pole in position at the corner near the entrance for what was then **Alvin Thompson's barber shop**.

607 Stephenson Avenue South. China Gardens Restaurant (c. 1920s; c. 1987)

1-story flat-roof building whose front faces north on parking lot at the B Street corner. Faced in wide exposure synthetic siding, the restaurant presents a central entry, marked by a small wood post door porch, in the center with two square windows spaced along the façade to either side and interspersed with octagonal Chinese decorative panels. A vertical-board-and-batten fascia clads the upper façade and forms the parapet for the front. The west (Stephenson) side presents more of the siding between thick brick projections that divide the façade into thirds and support and separate standing seam metal pent roofs. The rear or east side presents more of the horizontal siding plus T-111 siding. A 1988 survey photo shows projecting piers and slanting roofs similar to those still evident on the Stephenson façade also on the north-facing front. Today's horizontal siding was not evident. **Non-contributing because no historic structure is evident.**

Though nothing old is visible, this building may be a renovation of a building or buildings constructed between 1911 and 1923 (as shown by the Sanborns). As of 1923 the site contained a **masonry garage** in the back half and, facing Stephenson, a wooden section containing a **drugstore** at the north end, **tire shop** in the center, and, perhaps, entrance to the garage (the microfilm is hard to read) at the south. The 1940 Sanborn update shows a **restaurant** in the building's northeast corner fronting B, two stores facing Stephenson, and beer and wine storage in the southeast section. A small projection at the south end of the

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building's east side present now does not appear in the Sanborns through the 1949 update. The **China Gardens Restaurant** has occupied the building since about 1987.

615-21. Max A. Cohodes Building (1922).

Broad-fronted 1-story commercial building with dark red brick front and plain brick side and rear walls except for modern brick and vinyl sided treatment in southern 2/3 of rear façade. The center part of the front parapet is raised and contains a long horizontal metal date/name plaque reading, **19 MAX A. COHODES 22**. The parapet rests on a corbelled brick band, and below it is a band of shallow panels sunken into the brickwork, two in each side section and three in the broader central section. The storefronts in the southern 2/3 of the front have been rebuilt with red brick up to transom height, plywood covering the transom area, and large windows plus a recessed entry near the right (south) end for the **Cornerstone Church**. The north storefront has also been entirely rebuilt, with an aluminum center entry flanked by red brick areas each containing two small vertical windows. The transom area is clad in vertical paneling that contains the current occupant's name, **Dickinson County Title & Abstract Co.** All of these storefront changes are evident in a 1988 survey photo.

The building was constructed for **Max A. Cohodes** in 1922 as an income property. Early in 1940 **I. Zacks & Son** bought the building. The 1923 Sanborn shows this building divided into four stores, with hollow tile walls separating them. One of the original tenants was the **Joseph H. Cohodes department store**, which operated until the early 1940's. The 1925

directory also lists **Louis H. Cohodes' meat and grocery store**. Other stores housed in the building in 1925, according to the directory, included **Abraham G. Buchman's Buchman's Drug Store**, and the **Buchanan & Villemur Company furniture store and undertaking business (Frank X. and Joseph Buchanan and Dolphis F. Villemur)** – Buchanan & Villemur built a new funeral home at 1117 Carpenter Ave. that year. In 1935 along with the **J. H. Cohodes Department Store**, a **Gambles Stores automotive accessories store**, a **beauty shop**, and a **restaurant** were located here. Tenants as of 1940 included the **J. H. Cohodes store**, **McDonald beauty shop**, **Standard Printing Co.**, and **Confeld's Ladies' Apparel Shop**. A c. 1950 post card view shows a **carpet and linoleum store** in the north storefront, **The Hob Nob restaurant** in the middle, and **O-K Auto Parts** in the south.

News: "Zacks and Son Buy Cohodes Building," 2/7/1940; "J. H. Cohodes Succumbs at Miami, Fla.," 3/24/1953.

623-29. Wolfe Brothers Building (1927). William G. Pagels, Chicago, architect; G. A. Gustafson, contractor.

1-story 4-storefront long Commercial Brick building with long facades on both Stephenson and C Streets. The yellow-buff brick building's upper facades above the storefronts are outlined and decorated with cast concrete trim. Each bay is outlined by piers semi-octagonal in section, with a square paneled cap, on either side and by the storefront lintel below and the parapet cap molding above. Each bay displays a horizontal bar with superimposed central lozenge shape and a band of square blocks

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outlined by a beltcourse below and cap molding above in the parapet. The parapet of a diagonal bay at the street corner rises well above the parapet to either side and is finished with an arched treatment above a shield device containing plant forms. Yellow-buff brick piers separate the storefronts facing Stephenson. There are currently three storefronts – one, with deep center entry and large windows below boarded-over transoms, occupying two bays at the building's north end; a second, recently rebuilt, wood-trim one with recessed central entry and large transomed windows, filling four bays in the center; and a third, at the corner, with corner entrance and continuous windows, the whole capped by a shabby flat-topped metal canopy. The building's south side – the ground rises toward the east – has a walk-down exterior staircase leading to a side entrance to a restaurant. The south side east of the corner storefront contains only a few small windows, now covered over. The rear façade is utilitarian in design, built of plain brick, and with segmental-arch-head door and window openings.

Morris and Harry Wolfe, Chicago merchants, Morris a son-in-law of **Max A. Cohodes**, had this building constructed as income property on the former site of the **Hansen livery**. The building's occupants as of the 1935 directory included **H. I. Miller's restaurant** and the **Erickson & Johnson grocery (Sol E. Erickson and Gust P. Johnson)**. The 1941 directory lists 625 as **Miller's Grill** – a c. 1930's post card view shows the interior with its tall wooden booths along one side. A c. 1950 post card view shows what is now the middle storefront with two business places, **Izzo's Cue Center** in the north and **Benso's Fine Food** in the south. **Louis Izzo's Izzo Cue**

Center occupied the 625 storefront until about 1963 (the last few years along with **Erwin Thate's Erwin's Good Food Restaurant**).

News: "Outlet Store Opens in New Quarters," 4/5/1950.

705 Stephenson Avenue South. Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail; J. E. Clancy, Green Bay, WI, architect; E. E. Grip & Co., Ishpeming, contractor

Courthouse (a on map)

The hip-roof 2-story (above raised basement) courthouse is Late Victorian in design, containing a strong Richardsonian Romanesque effect in the broad and massive arch at the base of the central front tower. The building has a roughly T-shaped footprint, with the broad-fronted rectangular main section the head of the T and the short rear wing its shaft. The building's walls are constructed of rockface dark red brick above the basement of rockface reddish-brown local sandstone. The smooth water table, beltcourses, and window sills and the rockface window lintels and base of the front tower with its massive, broad arch are of light brownish Portage Entry sandstone. The cornices are of metal. The roof, originally clad in slate, is now finished in asphalt shingles. A square-plan tower projects slightly from the building's front façade and rises freestanding above the hip roof to a tall, pyramid roof. The massive archway at its base that frames the recessed front entry springs from a polished grayish granite column on either side. Large gables with windows now cap the ends of the building's front; these were not present originally, but were apparently added in 1935 as part of a

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renovation to provide sleeping rooms for jurors and a jury room between them in the tower's 3rd floor. The tower contains a Seth Thomas clock that was installed in 1935 and electrified in 1955. Inside, the front entrance leads into an encaustic tile-floored semi-octagonal lobby surrounded by key county offices. A lower pair of staircases inside the entrance rise to a landing above the entrance, from which a central upper staircase leads to the 2nd story. The 2nd story, originally mainly housing a large courtroom, has been entirely remodeled over the years. Its primary spaces are the circuit courtroom, which occupies the central part of the main front section, and a second courtroom in the 2nd story's rear wing. The circuit courtroom was entirely remodeled in its present form in 1956, the work completed by local contractor **Chris Jensen** just in time for the opening of court session on May 7, 1956 (*News: "County Court Room Ready"* – photo, 5/5/1956).

Sheriff's Residence and Jail (b on map)

Standing just to the courthouse's southeast and facing south toward D Street, the 2-story castellated building has an L-shaped footprint and is constructed with exterior materials matching the courthouse – coursed ashlar foundation walls of rockface Iron Mountain reddish sandstone and superstructure faced in dark red rockface brick – except for the east (rear) façade of the back part of the jail, which is simply finished in plain brick. The building's walls are topped with parapets corbelled out from the wall planes below and topped with crenellations, and contain square-head window openings with massive rockface sandstone sills and caps. The south or front section, almost square in plan except for a round tower rising a half-story higher

at the southwest corner, contained the sheriff's residence. It is fronted by a one-story open brick porch with arched openings and crenellated roofline. The building's L-plan 2-story rear wing contained the jail cells, metal bars remaining in place in the 2nd-story rear windows.

In 1935 a flat-roof 2-story wing was added connecting the east side of the jail with the courthouse. Its east front aligns with the east side of the jail's rear section and projects slightly beyond the courthouse's rear façade. Faced in plain brick on the east and north facades visible from the grounds, the extension provided additional cells upstairs and a "county officers' garage" downstairs. Two triple windows downstairs on the east side may mark old garage door locations. A small more recent flat-roof 1-story entry with glass doors now projects from the addition's north end. The sheriff's residence/jail now house county offices.

Courthouse/Sheriff's Office and Jail History (1896)

Dickinson County, Michigan's newest, was established in 1891 from parts of Menominee, Marquette, and Iron Counties, and Iron Mountain designated as the county seat. The county first leased space in the **Wood Sandstone Block** and then in the **Fisher Block**, both on East Ludington Street, but in 1895 began to consider construction of permanent county buildings. The board of supervisors appointed a committee "to investigate as to advisability of procuring a site and erecting a courthouse and jail." Early in January 1896 the committee reviewed plans submitted by a number of architects – **N. B. Parmelee & Son** of Iron Mountain; **A. W. Maas** of

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Marinette, WI; **Charlton, Gilbert & Demar** of Marquette; **W. F. Hilgreen & Co.**, Cedarburg, WI; **J. E. Clancy** of Green Bay, WI (formerly of Iron Mountain); **D. M. Harteau**; and **Geo. F. MacDonald** – and recommended acceptance of J. E. Clancy's plans. The board adopted Clancy's plans, and after approval by the voters early in March for bonding the county for \$32,000 payable over fifteen years, approved purchase of the present courthouse site for \$3546.07 after reviewing numerous proposals. Early in April construction bids ranging from \$25,800 up to \$39,300 (the high bidder also providing an alternative bid of \$49,500 using marble) were received from nine contractors from the western Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Chicago. The contractors appended various cost-reducing alternatives. In the end the board approved the bid of \$23,300 of **E. E. Grip & Co.** of Ishpeming that included various changes including using local sandstone for the basement instead of the "Duck Creek stone" listed in the specifications and reducing the thickness of the 2nd-story walls from 17 to 12 ½ inches. The heating contract went to **C. L. Anderson** of Ishpeming for \$2400 (the **Lake Superior Steam Heating Co.** actually did the work, for \$2440) and the plumbing contract to **Case & Co.** of Green Bay for \$1224. Architect J. E. Clancy received \$905.45 for design of the buildings and preparing contracts (the newspaper reports his offer of providing an on-site construction superintendent for another \$603.66, but it is not clear whether this was done). Construction of the courthouse and jail began in early May 1896, the slate roof was being installed in early August, and the completed courthouse and jail were occupied in late December.

Stephenson Avenue Retaining Wall (1897); W. H. Sweet, Iron Mountain, contractor

A low retaining wall of rockface Iron Mountain sandstone in coursed ashlar edges the entire Stephenson frontage of the courthouse block next to the sidewalk. Only the two top courses of a taller wall that once rose four or more courses above sidewalk level are now visible above the raised grade. The wall was originally capped by a fence of gas pipes between cedar posts.

War Memorial (1923, 1998) (c on map)

Paveglio Brothers, Iron Mountain (1923 memorial stone); **Flour City Ornamental Iron Co.**, Milwaukee, 1923 plaque designer/manufacturer

Standing in a small landscaped plaza in front of the main courthouse entrance, a broad light pinkish granite tablet monument (the main slab weighs an estimated 13 tons according to newspaper accounts) contains front and rear memorial tablets. A bronze tablet that, facing the street, has a frame decorated with various military insignia and symbols, contains a "**Dickinson County Service Roll**" containing lists of those who served in the Spanish American War and World War I. It was "Erected and Dedicated by the Children of the County May 30, 1923." The \$5000 cost was raised by Dickinson County students through pledges, candy sales, "kindergarten plays," and dances put on by the teachers. The Decoration (Memorial) Day 1923 dedication was celebrated by an estimated 8000 county residents, including 4000 students. The 1923 memorial is stated to be the first

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public monument job for **Paveglio Brothers** (later **Peninsula Granite and Marble Company**), a stone cutting and carving business founded by **August and Peter Paveglio**, who immigrated to Iron Mountain in 1909 after learning the stone-cutting trade in Italy. The monument “was sponsored by **Judge R. C. Flanagan** and the school children of the county” (Mingesz, 128-29; *News*: 2/9, 2/14, 2/19, 3/23, 4/17, 5/3, and 5/31/1923).

The rear side facing the courthouse contains a second memorial listing county veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism. This memorial was dedicated June 8, 1998.

Flagpole (d on map)

A tall white-painted metal flagpole stands in the courthouse’s front lawn about midway between the courthouse’s southwest corner and Stephenson Avenue.

Stephenson Avenue South, West Side

200. The Timbers Motor Lodge (1982-83)

Roughly L-shaped block long 1 and 2-story hotel complex extending between Brown and Ludington Streets and along Ludington nearly to Merritt. The complex is comprised partly of a 2-story linear guestroom section that fronts on a parking lot separating it from Stephenson. A stucco-finished lower story, with pairs of large windows alternating with blank areas of wall, supports a second story finished in alternating sections of steeply sloping shingle roof and broad shed dormers that, also sided and roofed in shingling, each contain broad windows for two adjoining

rooms, the windows aligning with the ground-floor ones. The second story projects several feet out from the lower, with triangular timber brackets located at the outer edges of the dormers. The south end of the guestroom section contains an entrance. At the south end of the complex fronting on Ludington Street stands the hotel’s public area, its east end complementing the guestroom area in character while the west side is finished in vinyl siding and has a flat roof. This west end section does not show in a 1988 survey photo. **Non-contributing because less than fifty years old.**

The Timbers is built around the former **Chicago & North Western Railway freight depot**, a block-long one and two-story brick structure built in 1926. The building had been sold by the railroad in 1962 to the **Penny Oil Co.**, who used it as a “warehouse for oil products received by rail, primarily for industrial customers.” Penny Oil shareholders **Francis Brouillette**, **Dr. Larry Andreini**, and **James C. Blomquist**, whose **Blomquist and Associates architectural office** was housed in the south end of the building remodeled for it in 1968, bought the property around 1980. Work began on converting the freight station into the lodge August 27, 1982, and **The Timbers** opened about the beginning of June 1983. It closed about 2010 and the property is currently for sale.

News: “Timbers Motor Lodge opens for business in downtown Iron Mountain,” 6/4/1983.

302 Stephenson Avenue South. Poor Boy Roy’s Restaurant (1957(?); c. 1988)

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Small 1-story hip-roof restaurant building clad in vinyl siding. **Non-contributing.**

In 1957 an 18 x 30 foot concrete block-wall **Dairy Queen store** was built at this location, replacing a previous Dairy Queen, located on the north side of the 100 block of West B. Iron Mountain contractor **Clyde Brockington** built the 1957 building. **Poor Boy Roy's** is the same building, expanded and much remodeled. A 1988 survey photo shows a **Subway sub shop**, faced in what appears to be vertical ribbed metal siding, here. The directories suggest Subway would have just opened at this location. The present fenestration pattern suggests Poor Boy Roy is the former Subway shop with a narrow section added along the south side since 1988.

News: "Dairy Queen Store Under Construction," 5/8/1957.

310. Chicago & North Western Railway Depot/now Stevens Decorating Company Store (1889)

Long and narrow 1-story former depot sited with its broad, side-gabled front along the sidewalk line. The walls are constructed of brick above a chest-high base of rockface limestone ashlar, with the gable at each end clad in wood shingling above a broad band of square stuccoed panels outlined by stickwork, the base of the shingled peak flaring outward above the stucco band. The broadly overhanging roof on each long side – the back or west side once faced on the tracks – is supported on substantial open triangular timber brackets. A slant-sided bay window projects from the midpoint of the broad west side originally facing the tracks. Directly above, a semi-octagonal dormer, with large window in the

center face and an oculus window on either side, projects from the center of the roof. The dormer is capped by an octagonal pyramid roof and its shingled walls flare outward slightly toward the bottom like the gable-end shingling.

Blacktop-paved parking with a sidewalk next to the building has replaced the former railroad line and platform. As built the depot had overhanging roofs on the narrow ends as well as the long sides and open narrow hip-roof canopies over the platforms north and south of the depot – these are no longer present.

The **Chicago & North Western** reached Iron Mountain in June 1880 and the first depot went into operation during July. This building replaced the original wooden depot, which became a freight house. It went into service in December 1889. Passenger service to Iron Mountain on the Chicago & North Western was discontinued about 1950. In July 1953 **Bert Harvey** purchased the building from the railroad. His **Bert Harvey's Sports Shop**, previously located at 100 E. Hughitt, opened there in April 1954. **Smitty's Sporting Goods, Harold and Eva Smith**, proprietors, replaced Harvey's in 1965. Since 1954 the former depot has housed various stores.

News: "Harvey Sports Shop to Open in New Home," 3/31/1954; Photo, Bert Harvey's Sporting Goods, 2/23/1955; adv, Grand Opening of Smitty's Sporting Goods, 9/29/1965.

324-32. Occhietti Building (1955-56) Nicholas Dal Santo and Louis Sacchetti, general contractors

Simply detailed 2-story building with broad front along Stephenson and shallow

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depth; light tan brick in front and south end facing Hughitt and concrete block on two rear facades; angled corner facing Stephenson/Hughitt intersection. A projecting flat-top metal canopy caps the mostly glass front and extends partway around the south (Hughitt) end. The upper story contains double-hung 1/1 windows. The present 1st-floor bulkheads and storefront trim replaces original trim and very low bulkheads that appear in a 1988 survey photo.

This building initially housed **Occhietti Jewelry** in its south storefront, the **New York Bridal Shop**, **Friendly Fashions**, and the **Anderson Barber Shop** in the rest of the ground floor, and offices upstairs. The local **Miller Manufacture & Supply** made concrete blocks and “lightweight slag blocks” for the building. The building was constructed for the brothers **Ben and Roland Occhietti**, proprietors of **Occhietti Jewelry**. Occhietti’s and the three other shops all had formal openings 12/5/1955. The upstairs office space was not completed until early 1956. Occhietti’s Jewelry remained until about 2000, followed by **Michael’s Jewelry**.

News: Picture showing foundation in place, 8/6/1955; “Occhietti Jewelry Offers the Best Merchandise at Lowest Possible Prices,” photo of new building with windows not yet installed, 10/14/1955; announcement – Occhietti’s Jewelry open in new building, 11/29/1955; announcements – Anderson barber shop and New York Bridal Shop open in new building, 11/30/1955; “New Occhietti Building Occupied,” with photo of completed building, 12/3/1955.

400-08. Mancini Building (1948; 1956)
Harry W. Gjelsteen, Menominee,

architect; Moline Construction Co., Escanaba, contractor; Novara Brothers, general contractor for 1956 addition

1-story building with broad front along Stephenson and shallow depth. Faced in light tan brick on the front and north end facing Hughitt and concrete block in back, the building contains broad window areas, with low concrete bulkheads, separated by narrow brick piers. A diagonal corner entry is capped by a small projecting flat-topped canopy. A second, double-door entry near the south end of the front is set at the back of a deep 5-sided recess.

This and the adjoining **Dworsky Building** to its south were designed by the same architect to complement one another in design. This building was built for brothers **James and Rudy Mancini**. Plans reported in the 4/7/1948 *The Iron Mountain News* indicated the building was to house their **J & R Sporting Goods store**. Completed by November 1948, the new building housed the **Shoe Bazaar** in its south storefront by late November 1948, and **David Kushner’s Kushner’s Children’s Ware** – “Tots-to-Teens and In-Betweens” – in the middle store by mid-February 1949. A post card view probably taken in the building’s earliest years shows a sign for **Mancini’s Mens Wear** above the building’s north end. **William and Henry Wright**, William formerly the main floor manager at Colenso’s next door to the south, bought Mancini’s in 1953, and it became **Wright’s Mens Wear**. In May 1954 the Mancini brothers sold the building to a group of investors that included **Mr. and Mrs. James Drey** and **Dr. A. E. Miller** of Iron Mountain along with **Seymour Symons** of Chicago; **James Mancini**

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planned to move to Green Bay. In 1956 a 25-foot addition was made to the building's north end. Wright's was to occupy the addition, with Kushner's to expand into the former Wright's space. Kushner's expanded store opened 6/29/1956.

News: "Two Stores to Occupy New Building," 4/7/1948; Shoe Bazaar to open in Mancie Bldg. Nov. 23, 11/20/1948; "Specialty Shop Opened Today in Mancie Building," 2/14/1949; Wrights buying Mancie's Men's Wear, 3/21/1953; "Mancie Brothers to Sell Business Buildings in City," 5/27/1954; Kushner's adv, 4/27/1954; "Addition to Building Under Way," 4/4/1956; "New Addition to Kushner's Opens Today," 6/29/1956.

**410-26 Stephenson Avenue South.
Dworski Building (1948) Harry W.
Gjelsteen, Menominee, architect;
Moline Construction Co., Escanaba,
contractor**

Like 332 and 400 S. Stephenson, this simply detailed 2-story building also presents a broad front to Stephenson but is shallow in depth. Like the others, it is finished in light tan brick, with concrete block rear façade. The 5 broad bays facing Stephenson have low concrete bulkheads. The storefront at each end of the front angles inward from one end to a recessed door located near the other end. Upstairs the front contains one broad central window opening, now containing twin pairs of slider windows with strips at the top and bottom of the opening infilled. The south end wall containing two paired windows each with double-hung 2/2 (horizontal-light) windows is now covered up by a newer building, but one pair of similar windows survives in the north façade. An early 1950's post card

view shows that the building's ground floor in the southeast corner bay was deeply set back, with a column at the corner supporting the second story and a rounded flat-top canopy projecting at the corner similar to that over the corner entry at the opposite end of the block in 300 S. Stephenson. The front contained broad, 20 x 9 foot windows in the center of the ground and 2nd stories.

This building was constructed for brothers **Max and Paul Dworsky**. The Dworskys had come from the Dakotas in 1922 and founded **The Men's Store**. Construction of this building, intended to house their expanded store, began in April 1948. During the course of construction the Dworsky brothers sold the business (but not the building) to **John Colenso**, a former clothing buyer at The Fair in Chicago and Oak Park, IL. Completed about 11/1/1948, the new building initially housed **Colenso's**, a large **men's and women's store** with its men's department downstairs and women's on the 2nd floor. The store remained in operation until January 31, 1981 (closing date provided by **W. J. Cummings**).

News: "Two Stores to Occupy New Building," 4/7/1948; "Work Begun Yesterday on New Building," 4/30/1948; "Every Modern Feature in New Colenso's Store, To Open Soon" and "'Dworskys End 30 Years of Merchandising," 11/26/1948.

430. Store (c. early 1950s)

An addition to 410-26 more than a separate building, this 2-story (with 1-story rear section) light tan brick building is designed to complement 410-26 but is slightly lower in height. Its front contains a large storefront window and adjacent recessed corner entry. A projecting canopy

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with dark vertical ribbed anodized aluminum front extends around the building's front, side, and rear and, in the rear, beyond this addition to front a projecting columned rear entry to the building. A 1988 survey photo shows a different flat-roof canopy, only half the height of the present one, in the same location. The 1988 photo does not show the 1-story rear extension.

500. Commercial Bank Building (1929; 1965-66) A. Moorman & Co., Minneapolis, architects for 1929 building and 1965-66 addition; Phelps-Drake Co., general contractor for 1929 building; R. G. Joiner Co., Iron Mountain, contractor for 1965-66 addition

2 and 5-story Art Deco bank/office building that fills the entire 500 block frontage between A and B Streets but, like the other buildings on Stephenson's west side, has a depth of only about 30 feet because of the railroad formerly located just to Stephenson's west. Faced in brick of hue ranging from buff to reddish brown to brown and with limestone and reddish-buff terra-cotta accents, the building is comprised of a 2-story base that extends from end to end of the block and a 3-story central "tower" rising from what was originally its approximate midpoint – before an addition at the north end. In the wings of the original building the base is subdivided by raised piers that rise to square terra-cotta "capitals." The 3-story tower, rising above the largely limestone-clad central part of the base with its main entrance outlined by ornament loosely classical in derivation, displays broad vertical piers between banks of single windows. The building presents a lavish display of

architectural terra cotta, including plaques containing ramshead representations as caps for the piers, spandrel panels displaying stylized plant forms, and large eagles facing diagonally outward from the corners of the raised center of the tower's roofline. The building's narrow south end is finished with piers and terra-cotta ornament identical to the front, while the back or west façade is finished in brick without any ornament.

The 2-story north wing was extended 2 bays to the north in simplified though complementary style in 1965-66, the brick contrasting slightly with the rest in its more reddish hue. Prior to the 1965-66 renovation, the building's north end contained a double door, framed by terra-cotta piers and entablature, located at the end near Stephenson. As part of the renovation, it appears, a new entry was created in the east front of the original building two bays north of the tower section, (where none was present before) and the terra-cotta frame moved there.

A long flat-roofed extension, added later, housing today's drive-in banking operation projects at a right angle from the center of the rear facade.

The building's north wing initially housed the **Commercial Bank** (later the **Commercial National Bank**), the space today occupied by the **Northern Michigan Bank & Trust**, while the main central entry served then and now as the entry to the upstairs offices. The building's south wing's ground floor originally housed **Buchman's Drugs**, a drug store with lunch counter, from the time of construction down to owner A. G. Buchman's death in 1953, followed by **Weber's Drugs**. The south wing today contains office space. After the end of Prohibition, part of the building's basement

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level housed a bar, **Char's Bar and Cocktail Lounge** in 1938, then later **Squinch's**, which was renamed the **Four Lane** after Stephenson was widened to four lanes in 1948. The Four Lane remained in operation until the mid-1970's.

The short 1965-66 north end addition to the building was built to house the bank's first drive-in teller window, with a drive-in entry off A Street and exit onto Stephenson. The 2nd story of the addition contained a new board of directors' room and conference room. The A Street drive-in has been bricked in but the location is still evident, while the exit onto Stephenson is now reconstructed with 3 windows that match the rest.

During the Commercial Bank Building's first year it was the subject of a visit by "human fly" **Jerry Hudson**. The 7/14/1930 *News* reported plans by Hudson to scale the building to the top of the flagpole and "give an exhibition" the following day at 7:30 p.m. Hudson, who had reportedly climbed both the Woolworth Building in New York and the L. C. Smith Tower in Seattle, had recently scaled Hancock's Scott Hotel and the Northland Hotel in Marquette. There was no follow-up story in the paper; whether Hudson actually performed the feat is not clear.

News: "Human Fly' to Climb Building Here Tomorrow," 7/14/1930; adv for Char's Bar, 10/10/1938; "A. G. Buchman, Prominent Druggist, Died Last Night," 11/25/1953; "Commercial Bank to Have New Addition, Drive-In," 9/24/1965; "New Drive-In Facility at Bank Here," 4/14/1966.

**600 Stephenson Avenue South.
Dickinson County Area Chamber of
Commerce (1964-66) James C.**

**Blomquist of Nelson Associates,
Architects, Iron Mountain, architect**

Located at a high visibility spot on the outside of a broad curve at the southern entrance into Iron Mountain's downtown, this 1-story New Formalist building has a broad symmetrical front on Stephenson. The 3-part building is comprised of a taller, slightly recessed center section capped by a dramatic zigzag folding-plate roof, with projecting wood-trimmed eaves, flanked by lower slightly projecting flat-roof windowless red brick wings. The 7-bay center section with its zigzag roof contains a pair of glass doors in the center bay and, in each of the three bays to either side, a floor-to-ceiling narrow window on either side of a central panel faced in orange-red aggregate. Wood posts separating the bays rise to the large horizontal beams that support the low angles of the zigzag roof. The roof seems to "float" above the façade on a strip of windows spanning the front beneath it. The building's 5-bay side sections are subdivided by recessed dividers. Every sixth course of red brick is very slightly raised to provide a horizontal accent. The ends of the narrow wings are also treated with the recessed dividers. On the back side, the center part of the building extends outward to provide additional space.

The building's grounds also contain a parking lot, located behind, and a small landscaped plaza to the north up to B Street. The plaza contains outdoor tables and seating, with brick-pier fencing and shrubbery separating them from the sidewalk on Stephenson, and small areas of tree plantings and lawn along with concrete sidewalks. An information signboard is supported by a structure with a brick base and substantial square-plan

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brick piers. Contributing, despite being less than fifty years old, because of the building's great importance as an important community project.

Ground-breaking for this building, designed to house the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Area Chamber of Commerce, Upper Peninsula Tourist Assoc., Iron Mountain-Kingsford Builders Exchange, and Dickinson Area Industrial Development Corp.**, took place 7/7/1964. "Project Pride," as it was termed at the time – the project to build a new chamber of commerce/visitor center building in a highly visible location – was largely built using donated labor and materials. The building was stated to be 90% complete, with the interior incomplete, by early October 1965. It was dedicated May 12, 1966. Housing the county chamber and serving as the regional travel information center since its construction, this is a very fine example of New Formalism and all the more notable as the work of one of Iron Mountain's own architects.

News: "Ground-Breaking Tuesday for New C-C Building," 7/6/1964; "Ceremony Marks Start of Work on New C-C Building," 7/8/1964; "Building Fund Drive to be Launched at Breakfast," 10/5/1965; "Chamber Opens Drive to Complete Building Fund," 10/7/1965; "C-C Building Dedication Will Be Held on May 12," 4/22/1966.

700 Stephenson Avenue South. Iron Mountain Motel (1954-55) Oscar Leaf and Calvin Calvini, Iron Mountain, contractors

2-story motel building with single-unit 1-story extension at each end, with its broad front facing Stephenson. The 177-foot long

building has a concrete-trimmed brown brick front and side walls and a concrete block rear wall. The ground story is fronted by a verandah with decorative metal supports on low brick wall segments. A broad slant-sided projection in the center presumably housed the office. Open metal staircases at either end lead to a deck, outlined by open metal railings, that fronts the 2nd-story units and covers the ground-floor extensions at either end. The 2nd-story's flat roof, with its broad front overhang, slants gently to the rear.

Described at the time of its completion as "ultra modern in every respect," this building was built as the **Iron Mountain Motel for Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fornetti**, who were also proprietors of the **Moon Lake Cabins and grocery store** north of Iron Mountain (Michael's father, **Anton**, had started that business in 1925 and Michael took over in 1948). Construction of the Iron Mountain Motel began in August 1954, and the motel had its official opening on February 16, 1955, just in time for the skiing try-outs for the 1956 Olympic Games held that month at the Pine Mountain Ski Area. The motel contained eight units downstairs and seven up. The Fornettis operated the motel until the later 1970's, changing the name to **Downtown Motel** by 1967. Later owners made it the **Downtowner Motel** by 1980. The building now houses efficiency apartments.

News: Photo, "Fornetti motels under construction near courthouse," 8/28/1954; Photo, "Fornetti motel should be ready next month," 1/8/1955; "Ultra-Modern Motel Booked Solid for Ski Tournament," 2/23/1955.

Period of Significance

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Begins with initial development and platting of the downtown (oldest standing buildings dating from early-mid 1880s, dates uncertain). Ends with completion of Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center and public school buildings (extensions of high school).

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Containing buildings dating from the 1880's to the 1960's and later, the Iron Mountain Central Historic District meets national register criterion A under **Government** for containing the Dickinson County Courthouse complex, housing county government since its completion in 1896, the post office building, in use since the 1930's, and the Wood Sandstone Block, which served as City Hall for nearly a century (1900-94) and as the county courthouse briefly before that in the 1890's. The district meets criterion A under **Commerce** as the location of Iron Mountain's central business district since the city's beginning, retaining buildings that collectively have housed much of the city's commercial activity, including leading businesses over the years. It also meets criterion A under **Ethnic Heritage** for its numerous buildings that reflect the important roles in downtown development of five of the city's many ethnic groups – the Swedes, Italians, French-Canadians, Lebanese-Syrians, and Jews. The district is also important under criterion A for housing buildings significant in Iron Mountain's **educational history**, the high school, junior high school, and Catholic parochial school – all still in use as schools after sixty to one hundred years of use.

Finally, under criterion A, the district possesses significance for housing buildings that reflect important aspects of the city's long **social and recreational history** such as meeting places for fraternal organizations and bowling alley, movie theater, and ballroom buildings. In addition, the Central Historic District meets criterion C for its many **governmental, institutional, church, and commercial buildings that illustrate and represent a broad range of high style and vernacular late nineteenth and twentieth-century currents in American architecture.**

Narrative Statement of Significance

The title of Iron Mountain's 1979 centennial history, *Born from Iron*, celebrates the city's early history as an iron-mining boom town. Although the first notice taken of iron ore deposits in the area was contained in an 1851 report by **federal geologists J. W. Foster and J. D. Whitney** on explorations carried out in 1847-50, settlement at the site resulted from explorations for Bessemer quality iron ore in what became the **Menominee Iron Range** begun in 1872 under the direction of **Nelson P. Hulst** for the **Milwaukee Iron Company** (Dulan, 2-3, 24-25). The Menominee Range was the second of Michigan's three western Upper Peninsula iron ranges to be explored and developed. Its exploration followed early work in the Marquette Iron Range, located approximately fifty miles north-northeast, whose development began in the 1840's, and preceded development of the Gogebic Range, located at the peninsula's far west end in the Wakefield-Ironwood area and

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National Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, Michigan]

west into Wisconsin, which began in the early 1880's. The Menominee Range takes an irregular form that extends from the Waucedah area, about fifteen miles east of Iron Mountain, past Iron Mountain and Crystal Falls to the Iron River area twenty-five miles northwest of Iron Mountain, and also includes parts of adjacent Wisconsin.

The **Milwaukee Iron Company** failed during the mid-1870's economic downturn, but Hulst, now employed by a new **Menominee Mining Company**, continued his explorations in the late 1870's. Other explorers were also in the field. Newspaper reports from early August 1878 state that **John Freidrich** (his name is spelled **Frederick** or **Fredericks** in other sources), "exploring for **Dalliba & Outhwaite**, of Cleveland, for sometime," made the initial Iron Mountain discovery on the north slope of "Iron Mountain" or **Millie Hill**, part of the cluster of low peaks overlooking the east side of today's city of the same name, during July 1878 (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 36; Andreas, 486-87, 499). The site, located in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 31, became one of the early mines, the **Millie** or **Hewitt**. Freidrich's work in late July and early August 1878 showed that the ore deposit extended northwest across the line into property in section 30 under the control of the Menominee Mining Company, and led directly to the discovery of the main iron ore deposit and the development of the **Chapin Mine**, in the future by far the largest iron producer on the Menominee Range (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 36). Hulst attempted to purchase the 120-acre parcel at the site from its owner, **Henry A. Chapin** of Niles, Michigan, but Chapin had been alerted by the previous explorations and refused to sell. The Menominee Mining

Company's lease and royalties soon made Chapin very wealthy. His large brick Queen Anne home in Niles was built in 1882-84 from fifty cents-per-ton Chapin Mine royalties. The Chapins eventually moved to Chicago. Their house, turned over to the city of Niles in the early 1930's, has served as Niles' city hall ever since. The large brick carriage house has housed the city's historical museum for most of that time.

The first **Chapin Mine** shaft was opened during 1879 and the first ore shipments made in 1880. By September 1882 the mine employed over 1900 workers and operated ten shafts, and by the end of 1885 it had produced a total of 1,151,451 gross tons of ore. During 1886 the Menominee Mining Company sold its Chapin Mine operations to a new **Chapin Mining Company** and in 1898 Chapin was acquired by the **National Steel Company** of Cleveland. In 1901 the **Oliver Iron Mining Company**, by then a **subsidiary of the U. S. Steel Corporation**, purchased the Chapin and several other local mines (Dulan, 7, 15; MI Comm of Mineral Statistics, 1896: 74). By 1900 the mine had produced a gross output of 9,369,900 tons of ore (Dulan, 6-7; MI Comm. of Mineral Statistics, 1881: 228; 1882: 264; 1885: 110; 1887: 39).

Numerous other mines were opened in the immediate area during the 1880's and 1890's beginning with the **Millie** or **Hewitt**, the site of the first Iron Mountain ore discovery in 1878, which went into operation in 1880 and shipped its first ore in 1881; the **Ludington Mine** in 1880; the **Hamilton**, located between the Chapin and the Ludington on Iron Mountain's northwest side, in 1883; and the **Pewabic**, located east of town, opened in 1887.

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The Chapin was by far the area's and the Menominee Range's leading iron ore producer, but the nearby **Ludington Mine**, located to the Chapin's northwest, also became a major early producer. The mine first went into production in 1880, but in 1882 what became the main vein was discovered. Production rose to 52,519 gross tons in 1882 and to 124,194 in 1885 (MI Mineral Statistics, 1881: 232-3; 1882: 265; 1885: 112). The Ludington was initially owned by the **Lumberman's Mining Company**, dominated by leading Menominee and Marinette lumbermen **Samuel M. and Isaac Stephenson** and **Harrison Ludington** (Ludington was from Marinette but had moved to Milwaukee; he became governor of Wisconsin). Lumberman's also owned another early Menominee Range producer, the **Stephenson**, located ten miles east near **Norway**, but its ore was largely mined out by 1882 (MI Mineral Statistics, 1880: 207, 213). Early in 1896 the Ludington and Hamilton were consolidated with the Chapin Mine.

The rapid development of Iron Mountain's mines beginning in 1879 followed the establishment of railroad connections. The **Chicago and North Western Railway** was the first to build to the Menominee Range. The railroad had completed a connection from Chicago as far north as Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1862. In 1871 the line was extended the fifty-five miles northward to Marinette, Wisconsin, at the Lake Michigan mouth of the Menominee River on the Michigan-Wisconsin border. The plan was to continue the line northeastward along Lake Michigan to **Escanaba**, sixty miles distant, to connect with another line the company already controlled that brought ore down from the

Marquette Range mines. But the new ore discoveries in what soon came to be known as the Menominee Range caused the C&NW to instead build due north from Menominee to a point closest to the range, and then east to Escanaba. The line was constructed north to a future connecting point at what became the village of **Powers** and through to Escanaba during 1872.

Work on a line westward into the range by a **Menominee River Railroad** owned by major investors in the C&NW was to begin in 1873, but the poor economic times delayed the start for several years. In 1876 the route as far as the newly discovered mine site at **Quinnesec**, a few miles east of the future Iron Mountain, was surveyed, and work on the road began about the beginning of 1879 after the C&NW purchased the road from the investors. Assisted by a new land grant authorized by the Michigan legislature early in 1879, construction on the extension west of Quinnesec to the Iron Mountain site and to the Menominee River crossing into Wisconsin at Twin Falls began in October 1879. By early June 1880 the Chapin Mine was shipping ore and by July 10 the line was built west to the state line. Iron Mountain's first depot opened by July 24, 1880 (summarized from Cummings, *All Aboard!*, 2-54).

A second railroad, the **Milwaukee & Northern**, was extended to Iron Mountain during 1887. The line, running north from Chicago via Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Menominee, was completed to a point about twenty-five miles south of Iron Mountain by 1885. Work on the extension began in March 1886 and the line was completed to Iron Mountain by early October. This new line was built in a north-south direction through central Iron

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Mountain just east of Merritt Street. By 1888 the line was extended north to Champion, and by 1890 connections were made to Ontonagon, Houghton and Hancock, and Marquette. The Milwaukee & Northern was acquired by the **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway** in the early 1890's and in July 1893 became that road's Lake Superior Division (*All Aboard!*, 66-69, 99).

Iron Mountain's development began with the **Chapin Mine**. **Joseph H. Sandercock**, who arrived September 15, 1879, found only a small collection of Menominee Iron Company tents at the site, but more permanent structures began to appear soon after. *Born from Iron* states that the first wooden structures were built about in line with a southern extension of Vulcan Street – these buildings, located northeast of the downtown, stood in what is now the East Chapin Mine pit/pond; they were removed in 1885 due to the beginnings of the cave-ins and ground subsidence above the Chapin Mine underground workings that marked the beginnings of the Chapin Pit (Dulan, 25-26).

In December 1879 owners **Samuel M. and Isaac Stephenson** and **Joseph Fleshiem** executed their "**Plat of Iron Mountain City**," the first land subdivision in the future community. The plat noted that the land was surveyed and platted by surveyor **J. A. Van Cleve** on October 29. The area encompassed by the plat includes much of the heart of the present city, bounded by Merritt Avenue on the west, the back line of lots on the north side of Fleshiem Street on the north, the back line of lots on the south side of Hughitt on the south, and on the east the east lines of the fourth lots east of Iron Mountain Street on the east-west streets.

The **Stephensons** and **Fleshiem** were businessmen from **Menominee**. The brothers **Samuel and Isaac Stephenson** were investors and officers in the **Lumberman's Mining Co.**, which had established the **Ludington Mine** in Iron Mountain and the **Stephenson Mine** northeast of **Norway**. Long before that they were leading lumbermen in a city dominated in its early days by sawmills. Each was a partner in and at one time vice-president of one of the oldest and largest of the Menominee companies, Samuel in the **Kirby-Carpenter Co.** and Isaac in **N. Ludington & Son** – both firms established in the late 1850's. They were also leading figures in the **Menominee River Manufacturing Co.**, the boom company that managed the river for the annual log drives and delivered the logs to the owners' mills from their enclosure at the mouth of the river, and in the **Green Bay & Menominee River Navigation Company**, which operated the steamer *Union* on a Menominee-Green Bay run in the 1867-75 period. **Samuel M. Stephenson** owned the **Stephenson Hotel** in **Menominee**, built in 1881, and was one of the founders, and the first president, of Menominee's **First National Bank** in 1884. **Joseph Fleshiem**, a successful insurance and real estate agent and owner of a property abstract business, was also an associate with the Stephensons and others in the **Lumberman's Mining Co.** (Menominee Centennial Corp., 17-19, 24-26).

The Stephensons and Fleshiem obviously named Stephenson and Fleshiem Streets after themselves. Brown Street was likely named for **Augustus C. Brown**. Brown was the **Menominee Iron Company's general agent or superintendent**. He was another

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Menominee lumberman and Stephenson associate who had been a partner and one-time vice-president and general manager of **N. Ludington & Co.** operations and also an investor in and secretary and treasurer of the **Menominee River boom company**. He was also one of the owners of the *Union* in the 1860's before the sale to the Navigation Company (Andreas, 484, 494-95; MI Mineral Statistics, 1880: 202; 1881: 228). Ludington Street was presumably named for one or both of the Ludington brothers at one time involved in the N. Ludington & Co. lumber business, **Nelson Ludington** of Milwaukee and Chicago or his brother **Harrison Ludington**, who had become Wisconsin's governor by the early 1880's (Andreas, 483, 494). Hughitt was likely named for **Marvin Hughitt, general manager of the Chicago & North Western Railway** at the time the railroad built the line to Iron Mountain. He became general manager in 1872 and served as the road's president 1887-1910 (Grant, 43-44, 99).

This first plat guided the future development of what became the center of the city. It established the first part of Stephenson Avenue that, running in an arc along the east edge of the C&NW line, was extended in later plats to form the street's broad curve along the railroad line through the city's central and southern sides. This set the basis for the city's future grid pattern of east-west and north-south streets that cuts across this one curving one. This first plat also encompassed the site for the future C&NW depot, located just south of Ludington Street on Stephenson's west side. The location of the depot must have been a critical factor in both the early platting history and the development of the business district. The first small wooden

depot, first used in July 1880, was replaced with the present building (not used as a depot since about 1950) in 1889 (*All Aboard!*, 78-79).

In late 1879 the first stores opened along Stephenson in the area near the depot and northward toward the **Chapin Mine**. **Charles Parent** and **Frank Ayers** seem to have been the pioneer merchants in the downtown in late 1879, Parent establishing a general store on Stephenson between Brown and Ludington and Ayers opening his general store at the southeast corner of Stephenson and Ludington. In June 1880 **A. P. Swineford** wrote in a *Menominee Iron Range* booklet (17) that "As yet the new town consists of few buildings, principally saloons,..." But the **A. T. Andreas** 1883 *History of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan* reported that by 1881 the value of the iron ore deposits was fully established, and "the town sprang up as if the ground had been touched by a magic wand" (499).

In May 1881 the Stephensons and Joseph Fleshiem executed a second plat, their "**Stephenson & Fleshiem First Addition to Iron Mountain City.**" This second subdivision expanded the platted area west the two blocks from Merritt to Prospect Avenue and had the same north and south boundaries. It contained the first part of Carpenter Street, probably named for **Augustus A. Carpenter**, a partner in and president of another leading Menominee lumber firm, the **Kirby-Carpenter Co.**, in which S. M. Stephenson was also involved. Carpenter was also a major investor in the **Lumberman's Mining Co.** and served as president by 1885 (Emich, 18).

This plat was followed in June 1882 by a "**Stephenson & Fleshiem Second**

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Addition” that added two more blocks just to the west of the First Addition, including the first part of Stockbridge Avenue, presumably named for **George E. Stockbridge**, discoverer of the **Ludington Mine and the Lumbermen’s Mining Co. general manager** (Dulan, 7; MI Mineral Statistics, 1880: 213). One month later **John L. Buell**, **William H. Jenkins**, and **Augustus Spies** executed their “**Buell, Jenkins & Spies’ First Addition to Iron Mountain City**” encompassing a rectangular tract directly south of the original Iron Mountain City plat that extended from Merritt on the west to four lots east of Iron Mountain Street on the east and from mid-block south of Hughitt to mid-block south of D Street. **Peter L. Kimberly’s “Plat of Kimberly’s First Addition,”** executed in August 1883, encompassed the area bounded by Merritt on the east, the two Stephenson & Fleshiem plats to the north, the rear lot lines mid-block south of D Street on the south, and west to the fourth and fifth lots west of Stockbridge on the east-west streets. **Thus by late 1883 the entire central part of Iron Mountain, including the entire Central Historic District area, was already platted.**

Iron Mountain Village and City

The site of Iron Mountain was located within Breitung Township of Menominee County when Breitung was established in 1877. The burgeoning settlement was without any government separate from the township until October 1887, when the county board of supervisors approved establishment of village government over a

one square mile area. The first election, held early in November, resulted in lumberman **William S. Laing** becoming the village president (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, opening pages, 81).

A primary incentive to obtaining municipal government may have been the inadequacies of fire protection under the township. Iron Mountain residents set up a volunteer fire department prior to the village’s establishment, but in the wake of a fire at the end of December 1886, *The Current*, the newspaper in nearby Norway, complained that the department received little support from the township and had only a “one-horse hose cart, [so that the men] are compelled to get into the shafts and pull it themselves” (*The Current*, quoted in Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 78-79).

Village government evidently proved inadequate for the growing town, and Iron Mountain remained a village for only a very short time. A special census in February 1888 showed a population of 5291. A referendum on adopting city government resulted in a vote of 156-15 in favor of incorporating as a city. In the wake of this vote the City of Iron Mountain was established April 2, 1888. The exact process followed in establishing Iron Mountain as a city is not clear, but there were evidently concerns that the procedure used didn’t fully comply with state law. The state legislature rectified any irregularities with Local Act No. 294 of 1889, which, enacted into law February 28, 1889, formally organized and incorporated the city, legalizing the previous proceedings (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, opening pages; *Local Acts ... at the Regular Session of 1889*, 27). The 1890 federal

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census showed the population risen to 8599.

Dickinson County

Early Iron Mountain formed part of Menominee County. Dickinson County was established in 1891 from parts of Menominee, Iron, and Marquette Counties. Approval for the new county by the state legislature followed various new county proposals for the Menominee Range beginning in 1885. The initial efforts resulted in formation of Iron County, which included part of the future Dickinson, from Menominee and Marquette Counties in 1885. A new effort that, led by Iron Mountain citizens, began late in 1890 succeeded in May 1891 in approval by the legislature for establishment of Dickinson County, with Iron Mountain as its county seat (Cummings, *Dickinson County Courthouse*, 1-14). Iron Mountain has remained the county seat ever since.

Downtown Iron Mountain

The first plat of land in Iron Mountain, surveyed October 29, 1879, included the early heart of the city centered on Stephenson between Fleshiem and Hughitt. This became the heart of the early city because of its location near both the **Chapin Mine** and the **Chicago & North Western depot**. The first stores in the embryonic business district soon located here. Mrs. A. D. Stiles' history of early Iron Mountain states that **Frank Ayers**, a bachelor from the state of Maine, who had been exploring [for ore] in this vicinity ... was the first to have a building ready for occupancy. It was located on the southeast

corner of Stephenson Avenue and Ludington Street.... Ayers procured lumber from Marinette and cut cedar in a nearby swamp for studding and floor sills. After the building was completed he put in a small stock of "Lumber-Jack" furnishings, including mittens, overalls, stockings, shoepacks, tobacco, liquor, etc. Later he started a **restaurant**, the first in the place.... He next added **groceries and meats**. In the spring of 1880, he sold a half interest to **William Doucette**. About two months later Mr. Doucette became sole proprietor and Mr. Ayers left for parts unknown.

Charles E. Parent, Sr., should have the credit of having been the **first general merchant** in the town, as he came here in November of 1879, bringing a stock of **general merchandise** and commenced business in a tent. His family still remained in Menominee. He soon had a building in readiness located on Stephenson Avenue, between Ludington and Brown Streets (Stiles-Unger-Davidson-Amidon, 3-4).

In June 1880 A. P. Swineford, in his *The Menominee Range*, said of Iron Mountain, "As yet the new town consists of but few buildings, principally saloons...." But a 1/29/1881 story in *The Florence Mining News* (Cummings, *Dickinson*, 54) noted the following businesses: the **Kern Bros. hardware**, in a two-story building nearing completion; **C. E. Parent general store** (the article refers to Parent as the "first settler"); **C. S. Greece's restaurant, the Commercial Dining Hall; D. T. Adams' new music hall**, nearing completion; the **E. Bannerman general store** and **Bannerman's adjoining Iron Mountain House hotel; Steller & Frederick drug store**, opening soon; **Ben Marchand "liquid dispensatory"; Branch & Parent**

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livery stable, “with sample room attached” (presumably meaning saloon); W. S. Laing meat and poultry market; Joseph Borch’s “confectionary, nuts and eatables” store; and Louis Dittmar’s shoe shop. Most of these businesses occupied buildings along Stephenson’s east side between Fleshier and Hughitt.

During the 1880’s Stephenson’s east side built up rapidly with wooden commercial buildings. The few 1880’s photographs of the downtown – a mid-1880’s one shows the north end of the 300 block of Stephenson between Ludington and Hughitt and a later 1880’s view shows the 200 block between Brown and Ludington – picture nearly solid rows of wooden one and two-story buildings, mostly falsefronts, with the three-story gable-roof **Jenkins Hotel**, built in 1881 by **Henry W. Jenkins**, at the northeast corner of Ludington.

The 1886 Beck & Pauli birdseye view shows nearly solid development of wooden commercial buildings along Stephenson from Fleshier south to A, with scattered commercial buildings in the next two blocks down to C Street, plus numerous commercial buildings on Brown, Ludington, and Hughitt from east of Stephenson west toward Carpenter. The 1890’s Sanborn maps show the commercial development expanding more onto A and B Streets near Stephenson and west to Carpenter. *Born from Iron* contains numerous illustrations of the business district’s early wooden commercial buildings – see pages 28-29, 44-47, 92-95, 113, and 115. Many buildings contained residential units, and often a combination of residential and commercial and office uses, upstairs, and, along streets other than Stephenson itself, houses often stood alongside commercial

buildings. The district today contains more than a dozen of the late nineteenth-century wooden commercial buildings. The buildings at 111 E. Brown, 100 E. Hughitt, and 305 and 535-37 Stephenson are the oldest of the downtown’s wooden store buildings; dating from 1884 or earlier, they are true pioneers from the city’s earliest boomtown days.

One of the large wooden buildings of the boom times of the late 1880’s and early 1890s was the **McKinney Block** at the southwest corner of Carpenter and B Streets. The McKinney was the brainchild of Manistique businessman **F. W. McKinney**, who, Mrs. Isaac Unger stated in her part of the Iron Mountain history begun by Mrs. Stiles, planned to develop a residential subdivision known as Lawndale on the city’s west side and to remake Hughitt Street leading west from Stephenson into the city’s prime business street. McKinney built his McKinney Block with a half block frontage on Carpenter’s west side and a combination of apartments and commercial space as part of this development. A few distant, indistinct photos show the building in its original two-story form, with a tall-roofed tower angled across the Carpenter/B corner and a series of double-decker bay windows along the Carpenter façade south of the corner commercial space. McKinney, according to Mrs. Unger, sold out his interests just before the development collapsed with the economic woes that began in 1892 and continued into 1894 (Stiles-Unger-Davidson, 7). Badly damaged in a 1931 fire, the building was cut down to a single story, as it stands today, and rebuilt entirely as commercial space.

Even during the 1880’s the concentration of side-by-side wooden

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buildings along Stephenson resulted in destructive fires. Late in January 1883 a fire destroyed five buildings in the 200 (Brown to Ludington) block, and another fire at the end of December 1886 burned three more buildings. Then, on December 18, 1888, thirteen buildings, most of the block between Fleshem and Brown, was destroyed. Although these buildings were all less than ten years old, they were described in the newspaper account as “old frame structures” and “wooden rookeries” (Cummings, *Dickinson*, 61-2, 78, 86-7).

After this last fire the city enacted its first fire limits ordinance, but even before that a few brick commercial buildings were being built. A newspaper story stated that **Oliver & Penglaze**, owners of one of the buildings burned in January 1883, planned to build a three-story brick building on the site (Cummings, *Dickinson*, 61). This apparently never happened, but **grocery/dry goods merchant John Russell** did build the (now much altered and expanded) building at 100 E. Brown sometime in the 1884-88 period to house his business and an upstairs hall that served during its early years as the **Masonic Temple** and **Baptist Hall**. The **Montgomery Block** at 323 S. Stephenson and the first part of the **Commercial House hotel** (demolished 1987) on West B opposite the Milwaukee & Northern depot were built in 1887.

Many masonry buildings along and just off Stephenson soon followed. The **Wood Block/First National Bank** at the northeast Stephenson/Ludington corner and the **Parent Building** located next door to the north at 219 Stephenson were built in 1888 and the **Spencer Block** (soon to be the home of the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society store**) in 1889 on East B opposite

the railroad station (all demolished). The four buildings at 105-119 S. Stephenson were all built following the fire of December 1888; the Sanborn insurance maps indicate that 105-119 and the two buildings around the corner at 205 and 207 E. Fleshem were all built by late 1891 – these may be some of the buildings Mrs. Stiles refers to when she states “In the year 1889 we saw the construction of many new business places...” (Stiles-Unger-Davidson-Amidon, 12).

The year 1891 marked a dramatic turn in the business district’s development with the construction of four large masonry buildings. One of these, the **Fisher Block**, located at 108-110 E. Ludington, has been demolished. Built for owners **Hiram D. Fisher** of Florence, Wisconsin, and **Edward J. Ingram** and **Oliver Evans** of Iron Mountain, the block, the first three-story commercial building in the city, contained two store spaces at street level, two office spaces upstairs, “each with a fireproof vault,” and two halls, initially occupied by the **Masons** and **Knights of Pythias**, upstairs (Cummings, *Business Blocks*, 14-16).

Still standing are the adjoining **Eskil and Robbins Blocks** at 215-19 E. Hughitt and, at 206-16 E. Ludington, “**Wood’s Sandstone Block**,” so-called to differentiate it from the brick Wood Block next door west at the Ludington/Stephenson corner built for the same owner, **John R. Wood** of Appleton, Wisconsin. The Robbins and the Sandstone Block are both constructed of the local red-brown sandstone, the Eskil with its side and rear walls of the stone. The largest nineteenth-century commercial building in Iron Mountain, the Wood’s Sandstone Block, initially contained six

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store spaces at street level and eleven office spaces plus a hall upstairs (Cummings, *Business Blocks*, 45-47).

The central part of Iron Mountain included in the district contains at least ten commercial buildings dating from the 1880's and twenty-two more that were built during the 1890's or perhaps late 1880's. These numbers exclude another fifteen houses built during the 1880's and 90's and the former **First Presbyterian Church** at 200 W. Brown, built in the mid-1880's, the 1889 **Chicago & North Western depot**, 310 S. Stephenson, and the 1896 **courthouse and jail**. The nineteenth-century commercial buildings are:

- 104 West A: **H. H. Laing Lumber Co. office** (later 1880's), became Laing office 1892
- 100 West B: **Hoose & Gage/Hansen Livery** (c. 1890)
- 100 W. Brown: **Russell Building** (mid-1880's)
- 111 E. Brown: **Store** (c. 1884)
- 412 S. Carpenter: **Arnold Store** (c. 1890)
- 600-08 S. Carpenter: **McKinney Block/DeGayner Building** (c. 1890, remodeled 1931)
- 205 E. Fleshier: **Store** (c. 1890)
- 207 E. Fleshier: **Store** (c. 1890)
- 301 E. Fleshier: **Store** (c. 1880's)
- 100 E. Hughitt: **Store** (early 1880's)
- 216 E. Hughitt: **Monitor Building** (1890's)
- 224 E. Hughitt: **St. Louis Hotel** (c. 1890)
- 209 E. Hughitt: **Blight House hotel** (c. 1890; remodeled c. 1950)
- 215 E. Hughitt: **Eskil Block** (1891)
- 217-19 E. Hughitt: **Robbins Block** (1891)
- 122 W. Hughitt: **Store** (early/mid 1890's)
- 124 W. Hughitt: **Store** (early/mid 1890's)
- 200 W. Hughitt: **St. Arnauld Saloon** (c. 1890)
- 206-16 E. Ludington: **Wood Sandstone Block** (1891)
- 217 E. Ludington: **Store** (c. 1890)
- 221 E. Ludington: **Keast Building** (c. 1890)
- 407 S. Merritt: **German Hotel** (later 1880's)
- 105-07 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (c. 1890)
- 109-115 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (c. 1890)
- 117 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (c. 1890)
- 119 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (c. 1890)
- 305 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (pre-1884)
- 307 S. Stephenson: **Store** (pre-1884)
- 309-11 S. Stephenson: **Stores** (c. 1890)
- 319 S. Stephenson: **Store** (c. 1899)
- 323 S. Stephenson: **Montgomery Block** (1887)
- 535-37 S. Stephenson: **Store** (c. 1883)

Iron Mountain 1900-1920

In 1900 Iron Mountain's population stood at 9242. Although this was 1600 more than in 1894, when the national economic downturn along with the flooding of key mines led to high unemployment and removals from the area, it was only a few hundred more than in 1890. Though the population fluctuated over the following two decades, the 1904, 1910, and 1920 censuses all show the population below the 1900 figure; the 1920 federal census lists a population of 8251. The gradual decline of

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mining in the early twentieth century, with few new industries to take its place, stood at the heart of the decline.

Iron Mountain's most important new industry during this time period was the **Von Platen (later Von Platen-Fox) sawmill**. Although lumbering was an occupation in this part of the Menominee River valley even before mining began, most of the logs were floated down the river to mills in Menominee, Michigan, and Marinette, Wisconsin, at the mouth of the river on Green Bay of Lake Michigan. The construction of railroad lines opened the region to the establishment of large sawmill operations to which logs could be brought and lumber and other products shipped out by rail, but until 1910 Iron Mountain itself had no large sawmill operation.

The **Von Platen Lumber Company** sawmill was built in 1910 on property at the south end of the city where the **Veterans Administration Hospital** currently stands. Boyne City lumberman **Godfrey Von Platen** established the mill to utilize wood brought by rail from a 12,000-acre timberland tract located in Iron County he had acquired ten years earlier. Iron Mountain businessmen assisted the project by purchasing the 160-acre property, located along all three of the city's railroad lines, and selling Von Platen a portion for his mill (the mill eventually occupied the entire property), and Von Platen was able to obtain freight concessions from the railroads for the logs and finished products. The mill went into operation before the end of 1910. Additional timberlands were purchased, the largest being a 172,000-acre tract in 1920. In 1920 the firm was reorganized as **Von Platen-Fox, Inc.**, with **Von Platen family members** and **Myrton J. Fox**, long time Iron Mountain manager,

as owners. The mill employed up to 300 workers. It remained in operation until 1943 when the available timber ran out (Cummings, *Dickinson*, 204-5, 210-11, 257-58; Dulan, 76; *News*, 11/30/1940).

During this twenty-year period it appears that only a few new commercial buildings were constructed in the central business district. Surviving buildings from these years include the **Bolognesi Building (Mayme's Bar)**, 114 E. Brown, built probably around 1908; the c. 1912 **Obermeyer Building**, 211 E. Ludington; and perhaps the building at 211-13 E. Hughitt, built sometime during the 1913-23 period. The largest built during these years is the **Kingsford Motor Car Company building** at 127-29 S. Stephenson, built in 1917 for a **Ford automobile dealership** owned by auto manufacturer **Henry Ford's** cousin-by-marriage, **Edward Kingsford**.

1920's Iron Mountain

During the 1920's Iron Mountain experienced boom times. Contributing to the city's growth and development was its central location in the Upper Peninsula, at the intersection of key highways in the region. The automobile, still a rare sight in 1910, became a ubiquitous form of transportation for long as well as short-distance travel by the 1920's. As a result state and local governments pushed programs of road improvement during those years. Michigan's 1905 law establishing the state highway department also initiated a system of state support for road improvement. A 1913 act began the development of a state trunkline system, authorizing financial incentives to local governments for reconstructing roads to meet state standards, and a 1919 act

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provided for “the construction and maintenance of trunk line roads by the State Highway Department” (*Eighth Biennial Report*, 7). An Upper Peninsula map in the 1916 biennial report shows an embryonic trunkline route, the predecessor of today’s US-2, across the south side of the peninsula that, labeled Route 12, followed Stephenson through Iron Mountain. State trunklines were first designated with numbers as a result of the 1919 highway act, and the southern cross-UP route became state Highway 12 and was incorporated into the federal aid highway system in 1927 as US-2. A 1919 map in the *Ninth Biennial Report* also shows other state routes already established that roughly correspond with today’s main roads toward Marquette, Houghton, and Green Bay.

Automobile travel around Iron Mountain was swelled by growing commercial traffic as well as growing tourist and visitor traffic made possible by improved roads. The fall hunting season, which had brought visitors by rail in the past, took on a new and greater importance in the 1920’s as far larger numbers arrived by car. During hunting season the *News* contained extensive advertising that highlighted local stores, accommodations, restaurants, and nightclubs that welcomed and counted on the area’s visitors. While much new development in the form of tourist cabins, combination stores and gas stations, and nightclubs took place around the edges of town and farther out in the country, the motor vehicles owned by visitors passing through town as well as local residents resulted in a proliferation of auto-service-related development well beyond what was seen in the previous decade, including auto dealership and repair garage buildings and,

particularly, gas stations – some of it located within the district.

The Ford Boom

Central to Iron Mountain’s 1920’s boom times was the “Ford Boom.” In early 1920 the news broke that the **Ford Motor Company** was planning to build a sawmill and factory to make wooden automobile components somewhere in the western Upper Peninsula. Ford had recently purchased 400,000 acres of timberlands in the area of Lake Michigamme in Iron, Baraga, and Marquette counties to provide the company with its own source of wood for manufacturing parts. At the time lumber from the northern woodlands was shipped to the company’s plants in Detroit, made into parts, and then re-shipped to branch assembly plants. Ford’s plan was to establish a sawmill and body parts factory near the sources of the raw materials and ship the parts directly to the assembly plants.

Henry Ford with son **Edsel** and company general manager **C. W. Avery** visited several Upper Peninsula towns, one of them being Iron Mountain on July 7. Menominee, Marquette, and Republic were also mentioned as prospective sites. By July 16 Ford had decided on Iron Mountain, and on the 17th Ford engineers arrived in the city. Work at the site, soon connected to the **Chicago & North Western Railway**, began before the end of July. The company eventually purchased 3000 acres. The tract was located just south of Iron Mountain and fronted east on Carpenter Avenue.

The first part of the plant to be built was a **sawmill**. Planned to be three times the size of the **Von Platen-Fox sawmill**, it went

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into full operation during December 1921 (it was doubled in capacity in 1924). A first “**body plant**” was built in 1921 and went into operation in March 1922. Later in 1922 this first building was enlarged and a second plant added. A third body plant was built in 1923. By March 1924 the three body plants were making sixty-nine different body parts and producing an estimated 350,000 wooden parts per day. A **chemical or distillation plant** that converted the waste wood into wood alcohol, wood tar, gas, oil, and charcoal went into operation during September 1924. As the Ford operation expanded, the company built the **Ford Dam and Hydroelectric Plant** on the Menominee River nearby to provide an adequate power supply. The power plant was completed in June 1924.

Employment at the Iron Mountain Ford operation, initially estimated at 2000 to 2500, reached 2200 by September 1923, 3000 two months later, 3500 by February 1924, more than 5200 by late September 1924, and over 7000 during October 1925. During 1920 Ford began developing a **residential area near Crystal Lake** on the company’s property just south of Iron Mountain and built fifty houses, the first of many more Ford eventually built. At the same time other developers began a rush of new subdivisions and home-building on nearby properties.

The new residential development, accompanied by commercial development, created a new boom town where little had existed a few years earlier. Establishment of a separate **Village of Kingsford**, named for **Edward G. Kingsford**, Ford’s cousin-by-marriage and head of Ford’s Upper Peninsula operations, was authorized by

the voters August 29, 1923. **A census, conducted by city directory workers employed by R. L. Polk & Co. and completed December 10, 1924, revealed a population of 5106 in Kingsford and 18,349 in Kingsford and Iron Mountain together.** For Iron Mountain itself, this represented a population increase of 5000 in only four years (summarized from Cummings, *Kingsford*, 1-233).

The Ford Boom in the Business District

The “Ford Boom” of the 1920’s resulted in a building boom in Iron Mountain’s downtown larger than any since the boom times of the late 1880’s and early 1890’s. Heralds of the coming boom seem to have been the bank buildings constructed for the **American Security Bank** and the **United States National Bank** in 1920-21 and 1921, respectively. Located at 515-17 and 427 S. Stephenson, the banks were both built for new institutions chartered at the boom’s beginning. The **Max A. Cohodes Building** at 615-21 S. Stephenson came soon after, in 1922. It initially housed **J. H. Cohodes’ department store** and several other stores.

The largest still standing buildings resulting from the boom were the **Northern Ballroom and Garage**, the **Braumart Theater Building**, and the **Commercial Bank Building**. The Northern, located at the business district’s north edge at 100-102 W. Brown, was built in 1923 to house a large commercial space downstairs, initially occupied by an auto dealership and garage, and the Northern Ballroom upstairs. The Braumart, outdistancing the city’s other movie theaters in size and amenities, was

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built in 1924-25 at 104-08 East B Street. It included second-story office space across the front, but was expanded beginning only one month after completion in 1925 with additional office space at one end. The Commercial Bank Building, built in 1929, fills the entire 500 block frontage along Stephenson's west side. Iron Mountain's landmark building of the 1920's, the two-story building topped by a three-story central "tower" contained not only the bank's quarters but also office and commercial space that housed a drugstore for decades and also a long-time bar, located in the basement.

The "Ford Boom" resulted in new development throughout the downtown area encompassed by the district, along Stephenson and Carpenter and the east-west streets from Brown down to B between Carpenter and Iron Mountain. Many of the commercial buildings that give the business district its character today date from this 1920's boom period. At least the following commercial buildings in the district appear to date from the "Ford Boom" years:

- 100-102 West A, **Payant Building** (standing in 1923, probably built early 1920's)
- 104-08 East B, **Braumart Theater Building** (1924-25, addition 1925)
- 110 East B, **Cordy Building** (1921)
- 211 East B, **Michigan Bell Building** (1925)
- 100-102 W. Brown, **Northern Ballroom and Garage Building** (1923)
- 404-07 Carpenter, **Bond Building** (c. 1924)
- 411 Carpenter, **Hollenbeck Service Station** (between 1923 and 1930)
- 706-710 Carpenter, **Ayoub Building** (between 1923 and 1930)

- 208 E. Hughitt, **Dockery Building/Logic Clinic** (early 1920's)
- 218 E. Hughitt, **Williams Building** (c. 1924)
- 101 E. Ludington, **Stores** (1922 or 1923)
- 213 E. Ludington, **Iron Mountain Daily News Building** (1922, addition 1925)
- 407-09 Stephenson, **Jacobs Building** (1923-24)
- 427 Stephenson, **United States National Bank Building** (1921)
- 515-17 Stephenson, **American Security Bank Building** (1920-21)
- 615-21 Stephenson, **Max A. Cohodes Building** (1922)
- 623-29 Stephenson, **Wolfe Brothers Building** (1927)
- 500 Stephenson, **Commercial Bank Building** (1929)

The Depression and World War II

In Iron Mountain the 1920's began with the Ford Boom, but the 1930's began with the city sliding into the worst of economic times. The Iron Mountain area and Dickinson County reached their economic nadir at the beginning of 1933. Out of a county population of 29,491, there were 6000 registered as unemployed, an estimated eighty-five percent of the work force. The Chapin Mine, the area's largest, employing 1000 as of 1925, closed down for good in 1932 after a number of years of decline. At Ford, which had employed over 7000 a few years earlier, all operations had been suspended the previous fall. The area's sawmills were also shut down. An **Iron Mountain Relief Home**, located in a building at the corner of W. Hughitt and

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Carpenter, opened in November 1932. It served more than 14,000 meals of donated food in its first four months and 5071 meals during April 1933 alone. The home moved to 214 E. Hughitt in April, but closed at the end of July, after serving 80,000 meals, because of lack of support (*News*, 1/12, 4/17, 5/3, and 7/29/1933). The county opened a **Central Relief Depot** or county relief office, containing the offices of the county poor superintendent and county employment agent and space for a welfare committee in charge of clothing distribution, in one or more spaces in the **Wolfe Building**, 623-29 Stephenson, in June (*News*, 5/24 and 6/16/1933). The city was an early recipient of federal **Reconstruction Finance Corporation** assistance in 1933, and the *News* carried frequent notices of work relief projects, most commonly road repair and reconstruction projects. RFC labor relief workers provided part of the labor for the city warehouse built as a rear addition to the then city hall building in the summer and fall of 1933 (*News*, 6/30, 7/26, 9/25, and 11/25/1933).

While the local economy improved from this low point in the later 1930's, new building during the decade comprised only a few projects – although they were large ones. One major project, construction of a new **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, still Iron Mountain's largest church building, beginning in 1931, resulted from a fire that destroyed the parish's former home in 1930. Federal appropriations built one important project, a new **post office** on W. Ludington in 1934-35, and provided a major share of the cost of another large structure, the **Junior High School** on W. Hughitt, in 1938.

A key development of the 1930's was the creation of the **East and West Chapin Ponds**. The ponds filled former mine pits on either side of an embankment that carried the **Chicago & North Western Railway** and highway **US-2/141**. The Chapin Mine was always an underground operation, but a large mine pit began to form in 1885 with the first cave-ins of the surface above the mine's underground workings. Pits nearly one hundred feet deep eventually developed. Iron Mountain's mines were "wet" to the highest degree and required massive pumping to prevent flooding. The Chapin Mine closed down for good in 1932, but the pumps remained in operation for a time. In 1935, when the pumping was discontinued, the flow, estimated at 3,500,000 gallons per day, created East and West Chapin Ponds in the pits that were eighty to ninety feet deep by 1940 (*News*, 5/6 and 5/16/1940).

During 1939 the state began to plan for rebuilding US-2/141 at the Chapin Ponds location. In early 1940 the right of way was still owned by the Chapin heirs, with whom the state was negotiating. On May 3, 1940, with the ponds still rising at a rate of about an inch per day, an eighty-foot long section of the highway suddenly collapsed into the East Pit, precipitating a truck and four cars into water reported to be twenty-six feet deep (*News*, 5/3, 5/4, 5/6/1940). The collapse cut off the primary connection between the main part of Iron Mountain and the city's North Side and severed the Upper Peninsula's primary east-west highway. Nevertheless, there were no casualties, and the *News* was soon reporting the developing local humor about alternative strategies for crossing the gap: "there was talk today of a 'ferry service' across the pit. Others suggested a breeches buoy, to haul

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passengers over ‘at two bits a head.’ While others said that, when warm weather comes, they will swim across” (*News*, 5/4/1940).

By mid-May the state determined on pumping out the pit and constructing a new embankment of stable material, with a forty-foot wide road surface at a level with the **Chicago & North Western tracks** to the immediate west. Title was obtained from the Chapins and the work carried out during the next year. The pits became ponds again when the pumping ceased and are today key physical as well as historic features of Iron Mountain.

Post World War II to 1965

Following the depression and World War II years when little building took place, in the late 1940’s Iron Mountain entered into a new period of construction and renovation. This happened despite a gradual and continuing loss of population – from 11,652 in 1930 to 11,080 in 1940, 9578 in 1950, and 9229 as of 1960 (Kingsford’s population also dropped from a high of 5771 in 1940 (up from 5526 in 1930) to 5084 as of 1960). **A key factor in the population decline was the closing of the Ford industrial complex, with its sawmill, chemical plant, and body plants, in December 1951.** As steel replaced wooden components in automobiles during the 1930’s and 40’s, the plant lost much of its purpose. Used primarily for fabricating station wagon bodies into the early days of World War II, it switched to building wooden gliders for the war effort during the 1942-45 period before going back to station wagon bodies again after the war (Cummings, *Kingsford*, 287-88, 304-18).

A few months before its closing the plant employed 1800 workers. An April 29, 1952, *News* story on the impact of the Ford shutdown stated that, while the **Kingsford Chemical Co.**, which had taken over the chemical plant, employed about 340, about 540 men had left for jobs elsewhere since the plant closed, and the county had 2000 unemployed. Over the next year **Perfex Corp.** moved its **Controls Division**, which made automatic temperature controls and aircraft instruments, into the former **Body Plant 1** (in 1955 **General Controls Co.** replaced Perfex) and the **Aluminum Specialty Co.**, an aluminum household utensils manufacturer, began the production of projectiles for 105 mm shells in the former **Body Plant No. 3**. The company expected to employ as many as 600 (*News*, 8/10/1951; 4/29, 5/22, 7/28, 12/16/1952; 4/4/1955). While the total employment in the former Ford plant may have approached the 1800 employed there in mid-1951, it did not approach the employment there during the peak in the 1920’s.

During the early post-war period the Chicago & North Western was in the process of phasing out railroad passenger service to Iron Mountain. By 1949 the railroad’s Iron Mountain passenger service was reduced to a single daily round trip of a train known as “**The Scooter**” that ran from Iron River via Iron Mountain to Powers, providing a connection with the company’s “Peninsula 400” on the Chicago to Ishpeming line (the “400” series of trains on the various C&NW lines were named for the line’s initial high-speed passenger service between Chicago and Minneapolis – 400 miles in 400 minutes). The C&NW sought approval from the Interstate Commerce Commission to drop

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“The Scooter” in August 1949. Public testimony at an ICC hearing during October included the observation that the train was “antiquated, obsolete, rough-riding and extremely dirty,” but strong opposition to discontinuing service was expressed (*News*, 10/13/1949). Scribbins, 152, provides an illustration of “The Scooter.” In late October the ICC ordered Scooter service curtailed because of a coal strike. Restoration of service was authorized one month later, but the railroad may never have placed “The Scooter” back in service. Bus service to meet the “400” at Powers eventually replaced the train (*News*, 10/3 and 11/14/1949, 4/10 and 7/7/1951).

The railroad sold its Iron Mountain depot in July 1953 (*News*, 3/31/1954). The building, still retaining much of its historic character on the exterior, has housed various stores since that time. (The C&NW dropped its last service on the Michigan part of the Chicago-Ishpeming line in 1969 – this marked the end of railroad passenger service in the Upper Peninsula (Scribbins, 165)).

As the C&NW was dropping service, the Milwaukee Road was advertising its once-each-way-per-day through passenger service between Chicago and Ontonagon, Michigan (on Lake Superior) on the south-bound “Hiawatha” and north-bound “Chippewa” (adv, *News*, 9/14/1949). But the Hiawatha/Chippewa service from Channing, north of Iron Mountain, to Ontonagon was dropped in December 1953 (*News*, 11/28 and 12/24/1953) and railroad passenger service to Iron Mountain ended in the 1960’s.

New Development in the 1945-66 Period

Despite the slow population decline in the early post-war period and the economic distress caused by the Ford plant closing, the city entered into a period of new development during these years. There seemed to be a progressive spirit during the period that was reflected in an editorial on “Building a New Town” published in the June 7, 1948, *News*:

An Iron Mountain resident has returned from Chicago with this story:

Sitting in a hotel lobby he struck up a conversation with a man sitting next to him. The talk got around to hometowns, and the man asked: “Where are you from?” The answer: “Iron Mountain.” And the reply: “Iron Mountain – isn’t that the town they’re tearing up, to build a new one?”

It’s a true story, illustrating the unique impression gained by visitors to this city, and others who have learned what is currently in progress here. It is also a forceful slogan for civic promotion: “The Town They’re Tearing Up – To Build a New One.”

Part of the “tearing up” was the construction – getting underway at the time of the editorial – of a new **Iron Mountain Veterans Administration Hospital**. Iron Mountain and Kingsford civic leaders began a campaign to secure a VA hospital for the area in 1945, and secured presidential approval in August of that year. Architects **Fugard, Olsen, Urbain & Neiler** of Chicago were retained to prepare plans in July 1946 and construction began in March 1948. The **Gust K. Newberg Construction Co.** of Chicago built the 265-

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bed structure with its adjoining complex of garden apartment buildings for staff. The completed complex, whose presence continues to dominate the south side of the city, was dedicated March 5, 1951. It was anticipated that the hospital would employ as many as 360 (*News*, 2/1 and 3/4/1950)

“Tearing up” may also be a reference to the reconstruction of Stephenson/US-2 and 141 that was also underway at the time. During 1948 the state widened Stephenson into four lanes. Work went on north and south of the downtown during spring 1948 while the state and city considered plans for the downtown. The city council requested four ten-foot driving lanes, a seven-foot parking lane on either side, and two-foot gutters. Post card views from the 1950’s and early 60’s show that the four-lane Stephenson as rebuilt retained parallel parking along its full east side and along the west except in the blocks between Hughitt and B Street. State highway commissioner **Charles Ziegler** and **Mayor Erminio Raffin** presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony and parade celebrating the reopened, rebuilt Stephenson October 7, 1948. **Squinch’s Bar**, located in the basement of the **Commercial National Bank Building**, celebrated the new road by changing its name to the **“Four-Lane Bar”** (*News*, 1/18/1949).

“Tearing up” may also refer to new building along Stephenson, a first phase in a period of rebuilding and renovation in the business district that continued through the 1950’s. In the late 1940’s at least eight new commercial or commercial/office buildings, including four along and just off Stephenson, were built in the district, and a number of other older buildings modernized. Another spurt of building and remodeling activity in the mid-1950’s,

seemingly following a short hiatus in the immediate wake of the Ford closing, resulted in at least four additional new buildings, two substantial additions, and other modernizations (these totals reflect buildings still standing within the district and exclude ones whose dates of construction are only tentative). The following buildings standing today in the district were constructed or modernized during the 1945-65 period:

- 101-05 West A: **Laing Lumber**, 1949-50 remodeling
- 117 West A: **Red Owl Supermarket**, 1957
- 212 East B: **Dr. Browning office**, 1947
- 301 Carpenter: **Samme’s Standard Service**, 1951
- 411 Carpenter: **Hallenbeck Garage Annex**, 1953
- 701 Carpenter: **Dick’s Texaco Service Station and Garage**, 1955
- 306-10 Carpenter: **Advance Auto Body**, late 1940’s
- 216 East Hughitt: **Sikora Sheet Metal & Furnace Works** rear building, 1953
- 205-07 East Hughitt: **Khoury Building**, 1947-48
- 209 East Hughitt: **Happy’s Lunch** remodeling, c. 1950
- 204-06 West Hughitt: **Quality Cleaners Building**, 1947
- 200 West Ludington: **Erickson & Son Funeral Home** addition and remodeling, 1954-55
- 301 Stephenson: **Khoury Building**, 1947-48
- 324-32 Stephenson: **Occhietti Building**, 1955-56
- 400-408 Stephenson: **Manci Building**, 1948
- 430 Stephenson: **Store**, early 1950’s

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- 700 Stephenson: **Iron Mountain Motel**, 1954-55

The downtown's post-war period of development is defined for purposes of this national register nomination as ending in 1966. This time frame is a few years under the arbitrary fifty-year cutoff for historic significance under the criteria for listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places – under the criteria properties less than fifty years old cannot be viewed, except under extraordinary circumstances, as eligible for the register or as contributing to the overall significance of a district such as this Iron Mountain Central district. But this end date for the district's period of significance has been selected to recognize the historic importance of three buildings constructed in the mid-1960's: the **Iron Mountain Public Schools' 1964-65 Administration-Physical Education-Music Building**, 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way, and **Industrial Arts Building**, 220 West A, and also the 1964-66 **Dickinson County Area Chamber of Commerce Building**, 600 Stephenson.

The 1966 completion of the Chamber of Commerce Building marks the end of the post-war period of building in Iron Mountain's downtown. The highly visible building marks the entrance into the business district from the east and south, the directions from which most visitors approach the city, whether from Michigan's Lower Peninsula or from Chicago, Milwaukee, or Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The plan to build a single building of modern design to house the key agencies charged with promoting economic development and as well serve as a symbol of the progressiveness of the county and the cities of Iron Mountain and Kingsford took on the name "Project Progress" as it

developed in the early 1960's. The effort was modeled after a similar "Project Pride" in Escanaba that produced the still-functioning Chamber of Commerce Building in that city. In 1955 **R. S. Kesler**, then **president of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Area Chamber of Commerce**, had first proposed a new building, saying the chamber's growing "size and enthusiasm" demanded newer and larger quarters than those the chamber was then using in the **Dickinson Hotel**. He proposed building at the site of the "tourist booth" the chamber then occupied – the site ultimately used (*News*, 9/21/1955). The new building would house the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Area Chamber of Commerce, Upper Peninsula Tourist Association, Iron Mountain-Kingsford Builders Exchange**, and **Dickinson Area Industrial Development Corp.**

Iron Mountain architect **James C. Blomquist** of **Nelson Associates**, Architects, designed the C of C Building. The ground-breaking took place July 7, 1964, and the completed building, built largely using donated labor and materials, was dedicated May 12, 1966 (*News*, 7/6, 7/8/1964; 9/30/1965; 4/22/1966). It remains in use today, still an ornamental entry to Dickinson County's leading city.

The District Post-1966

The years since the mid-1960's have offered a fair share of challenges to the vitality of Iron Mountain's central core as the commercial, social, and cultural center of the city. These challenges have included new commercial development outside of the downtown area, fires that have destroyed buildings along Stephenson itself, piecemeal demolition of historic

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commercial buildings, and removal of parking along Stephenson.

The 1958-59 development of property east of the VA Hospital out to Stephenson for a new **Joseph Selin & Sons Co. furniture store** seems to mark the beginning of commercial development along Stephenson south and southeast of the business district that has now made this the true commercial heart of the Iron Mountain-Kingsford area. The proposal to rezone the thirteen acres for an 80 X 200-foot structure brought forth a (well-founded) concern expressed by one council member about expanding the commercial area in that direction: that an expansion there would “depreciate the present business section” (*News*, 10/25/1958). Until the 1960’s the city’s primary concern in relation to the downtown seems to have been providing adequate parking (by 1963 the city had acquired the east part of the block bounded by Hughitt, A, Stephenson, and Iron Mountain and also property north across A Street from the Champion Building west of Stephenson and created public parking lots there).

Major commercial developments south of the business district followed the initial Selin store. The **Shopko department store** on S. Carpenter in Kingsford opened about 1970, the first **K-Mart store** near Shopko about 1975, the **Midtown Mall** on Stephenson’s west side just north of H Street about 1977, and **Birchwood Mall** in Kingsford just south of Shopko about 1978. A bigger **K-Mart** opened on Stephenson at the city’s southeast edge about 1991, and a **Wal-Mart store** well beyond K-Mart a few years later. In the wake of the first of these new developments during the 1970’s two downtown chain stores, **Montgomery Ward** and **J. C. Penney**, closed, and **S. S.**

Kresge followed during the 80’s. Some of the leading locally owned stores also closed their doors: **Colenso’s**, the large men’s and women’s clothing store in the Dworsky Building, 410-26 Stephenson, closed in the early 1980’s, **Fugere’s** men’s clothing and shoes, another local fixture, at 323 Stephenson, in the late 1980’s, and **Koffman’s** clothing store, 701 Stephenson, around 1990.

The 1980’s also saw the destruction of several of the downtown’s historic commercial buildings that added much character to the district. Two major fires in the 1980’s destroyed five of the seven buildings in the 400 block on Stephenson’s east side. Other buildings disappeared one by one through demolition, including three key landmark buildings. The **Commercial Hotel/Dickinson Inn** on East B was the city’s primary downtown hotel from the construction of the original part in 1887 until its demolition in 1987. The 1888 **Wood Block**, 231 Stephenson, was demolished about 1989 for construction of the present **First National Bank**. The three-story 1891 **Fisher Block**, 108-110 E. Ludington, a prime example of the work of early Iron Mountain architect **James E. Clancy**, was demolished in 1990 after some structural issues surfaced.

Downtown Iron Mountain Today

Iron Mountain’s downtown has seen its ups and downs over the years, and the 1980’s seem to mark a low point in some ways. But more recent years have seen significant steps taken toward revitalization. The city’s **Iron Mountain Downtown Development Authority**, established in

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1978, has come to embrace as a goal enhancing and promoting “the economic and social vitality of the Iron Mountain central business district by cultivating a unique and quality atmosphere that attracts and retains business, shoppers, and residents while maintaining our historic character...” (DDA mission statement). The DDA and its **Iron Mountain Main Street Program**, established in 2006, have worked on streetscape improvements and aesthetic improvements to the downtown parking lots. They sponsor an annual Italian Fest and a weekly Farmer’s Market during the summer months. The DDA now actively promotes restoring the downtown’s historic architecture. A design committee works to educate local business and property owners and also contractors on historically sensitive design for downtown buildings. Through participation in the **Michigan Main Street Program**, Iron Mountain downtown business owners are entitled to design services, including consultation and schematic designs, for fifteen properties from the **State Historic Preservation Office** (designs for five have so far been prepared). The DDA offers low-interest loans and grants for historically sensitive commercial façade improvements in the city’s downtown. The city’s strong support for the downtown that includes support for preservation and appropriate rehabilitation of the downtown’s historic building stock is bringing about an ongoing pattern of revitalization.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF IRON MOUNTAIN’S

CENTRAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

I: GOVERNMENT

The district contains buildings long associated with Dickinson County and Iron Mountain city government and the Post Office.

The **Wood Sandstone Block**, 206-16 E. Ludington, served Dickinson County as its courthouse in the 1891-94 period and then beginning in 1900 served as the Iron Mountain City Hall. The massive Iron Mountain sandstone building was constructed for businessman **John R. Wood** in 1891 and completed late in the year. As built it contained six store spaces at street level and eleven office spaces plus a meeting hall in the second story. **The newly created Dickinson County leased five of the office spaces and the hall for a courtroom/county board meeting room from late 1891 through late October 1894.** In 1893 two more office spaces were leased. The county vacated the Wood Sandstone Block late in 1894, during the mid-1890s business depression, in favor of cheaper quarters in the **Fisher Block** (demolished), which stood at 110 E. Ludington (Cummings, *Dickinson County Courthouse*, 20-22, 25-6, 29).

In June 1900 the Wood Sandstone Block was offered to the city for \$9200, thought to be less than half what it cost to build nine years earlier. The city occupied the building as the Iron Mountain City Hall during December 1900. The large building offered an opportunity for city services to be consolidated into one building. Prior to this the city occupied part of the Fisher

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Block from 1896 to 1900, but still used for the fire department's quarters for the area south of the Chapin Mine a wooden **Engine House No. 1** on Ludington Street's south side just east of Merritt. This building shows in the first (1884) Sanborn map and was used by the volunteer fire department. Behind it facing Merritt stood the **city's small "lockup" or jail. In the Wood Sandstone Block city offices, council chamber, and police department occupied the second story, while part of the building's ground floor contained the fire house (the Sanborns suggest the fire station initially only occupied one bay but had expanded to the three western bays by 1923, with the police station next to it to the east).** The remainder of the first floor contained rental store spaces, part of the space occupied by the **post office** until the present post office building on W. Ludington was completed in 1935. **The Wood Sandstone Block served as the Iron Mountain City Hall from 1900 until 1994, when the city moved into the present City Hall building at 510 Stephenson.**

The Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail have served Dickinson County government continuously since their construction in 1896, housing the county's circuit court, meeting space for the county board, and office space for the principal county offices through the entire time down to the present. The courthouse is the only one the county has ever owned, Dickinson County government's previous quarters having been in rented space in the **Wood Sandstone Block** in 1891-94 and the **Fisher Block** in 1894-96. The sheriff's residence/jail was the county's first; before the building was built, the county lodged its

prisoners in Menominee County's jail in Menominee. The former sheriff's office/jail now houses additional county office space.

The present Iron Mountain Post Office building at 101 W. Ludington has been in use since its completion in 1935. The city's post office was established in 1880. The 1884 Sanborn does not show where the post office was then located, but the 1888 map shows two locations, one on Stephenson's east side just north of Hughitt, the other in the then brand new First National Bank Building, northeast corner of Stephenson and Ludington, in the building's east end fronting on Ludington Street – the same location shown in the 1891 Sanborn (perhaps the office was in the process of moving to the First National Building from Stephenson in 1888). The December 1897 Sanborn shows the post office located in the **Wood Sandstone Block**, the future City Hall, occupying the third store from the east end. The office expanded into the next store to the west by 1912 and occupied this location until the present building was completed in 1935.

Planning for a new building began in 1931, but price disputes with property owners and then, once plans were completed, a new review of all post office projects in the early months of newly installed President Franklin Roosevelt's administration delayed the beginning of construction (*News*, 7/29 and 11/28/1931; 2/27, 4/3, 5/13, 5/26, 6/28, 11/11/1933). **The Art Deco-influenced building was built in 1934-35.** It was expanded in complementary style in 1968 (Dulan, 43; U. S. Postal Service 1982).

II. COMMERCE

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From Iron Mountain's earliest days the Central Historic District area has encompassed the city's primary business district. From the time the first few businesses located along the east side of Stephenson in the 200 and 300 blocks down to recent years, when much of the city and region's business activity has become focused along the part of US-2/141 at the city's southeast edge, the area along Stephenson in the 100-600 blocks, Carpenter in the first few blocks south of Ludington, and the east-west streets between Iron Mountain Street on the east and Carpenter on the west has housed the greatest part of the city's commercial activity. Within a few years after pioneer merchant **Charles A. Parent** set up his store in a tent in 1879, the embryonic business district along and just off Stephenson expanded to include a broad range of stores and services. The business district's buildings housed general stores; grocery and dry-goods, clothing, boot and shoe, millinery, fruit and confectionary, jewelry, drug, hardware, and furniture stores and undertaking establishments; banks; bakeries and butcher/meat shops; barber shops and photographic studios; lumber and building material stores; livery stables and blacksmith shops; hotels and restaurants; and, of course, saloons and billiard parlors. **Parent's store** at 219 Stephenson, for example, was a true general store, offering, as defined in the first, 1892 directory, dry goods, carpets, boots and shoes, gentlemen's furnishings, groceries, flour, feed, crockery, glassware, and "general merchandise." Upper stories of downtown commercial buildings housed not only living quarters but also a variety of physicians and dentists, opticians, attorneys, insurance and real estate agents,

and small commercial establishments such as tailor, millinery, and jewelry shops.

By the early twentieth century these types of businesses and occupations were joined or replaced by department stores; gifts, book, and stationary stores; sporting goods stores; paint and decorating, home furnishings, carpet and linoleum, electrical appliance, and plumbing and heating businesses; laundry and dry-cleaning establishments; a funeral home; and auto-related businesses, including repair garages and auto dealerships, gas stations, and auto parts stores. National chain stores made their entry into the business district in the 1920's-40's as they did elsewhere across the nation, and in Iron Mountain's downtown included department store chains such as **Montgomery Ward**, **Woolworth's**, **Kresge**, and **J. C. Penney**; drugstore chains such as **Walgreen's**; and grocery chains such as **A & P** and **National Food Stores**.

The heart of the business district by the early twentieth century extended from the 200 to the 600 blocks of Stephenson and included adjacent portions of the cross streets from Ludington to B. By the 1920's and 30's the leading stores were becoming focused in the 300 and 400 blocks. This included the city's oldest department store, **A. Sackim Co.**, founded by **Julius Rusky** by 1890 but fully acquired by **Abe Sackim** in 1894, located at 331 Stephenson (*News*, 5/15/1923), and leading national chain stores located in the 400 block – the **Kresge**, **J. C. Penney**, and **Montgomery Ward** stores. Penney's established its Iron Mountain store in 1922 – it was the chain's 351st store (in October 1949 the chain reported 1603 stores) and one of sixty opened in a four-month period that year by the company (*News*, 10/19/1949). Kresge

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established its first store in 1926 at 405 Stephenson and expanded in 1936 and 1949 (*News*, 4/23/1949). Montgomery Ward, begun in Chicago in 1872 as a mail order operation, opened a store in Iron Mountain in 1936 and moved into larger quarters at 427 Stephenson in 1939 (*News*, 9/13/1955). Another chain store, Walgreen's – founded in 1901 by Charles R. Walgreen, Sr. – opened its "Ace Drugs, Walgreen agency" Iron Mountain store at 411 Stephenson in 1951 (*News*, 6/20/1951). Of the buildings that housed these stores, only those that once housed Ward's and the south third of the Kresge's store are still standing.

While the larger department and clothing and shoe stores and many smaller businesses were located along Stephenson itself, almost from the first many smaller stores and service businesses began to set up shop just off Stephenson, particularly in the first block to the east and the two blocks to the west between Stephenson and Carpenter. The side streets in the district area from Brown and Ludington south to B contained many of the downtown's stores and shops, service businesses, and offices through much of the city's history down to the last few decades.

Though many of the downtown's older commercial buildings have burned or been replaced with new buildings in the last several decades, the district retains a large body of older commercial buildings that possess a collective significance for housing much of Iron Mountain's commercial activity over the years. The discussions of the following selected buildings and the stores and other commercial enterprises they housed both hint at the broad range of commerce the district's buildings contained and highlight

some of the buildings that have special significance in terms of the businesses they housed. Some of them housed businesses important in terms of apparent stature in the community or years in operation while others are significant for housing the same types of businesses over long periods of time.

Groceries

Independent grocery stores were a common feature in the district from its earliest days until well into the twentieth century.

- The **John Russell Building**, 100 E. Brown, housed **Russell's grocery** from its construction in the mid-1880's until 1924. The wholesale meat and fruit business of **I. Zacks & Co.** renovated and expanded the building in 1938, occupying it from then to 1952, and **M. Cohodes & Sons**, another meat and, later, general food wholesaler, from then until the late 1980's.
- Another of the early store buildings, the **Arnold Building** at 412 Carpenter, housed a succession of **Arnold family meat and then grocery stores** from at least the early 1890's down to the 1950's.
- The building at 535 Stephenson, one of the oldest if not the oldest building in the downtown, housed various meat shops from the 1880's into the early twentieth century and then later a succession of **Khoury family-owned stores** operated there that offered **fruit, confectionary, and groceries**. **William and Mary Khoury's City Fruit Store**, which opened in 1946 and occupied the building into the early 1980's, focused more on liquor, toys, and hobbies by the 1960's.

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- The 1923-24 **Jacobs Building**, 405-07 Stephenson, housed early chain store groceries in Iron Mountain, a **Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (A & P)** and then a **National Food Stores** grocery, by 1935 and down to 1948.
- Providing a much larger space, the 1947-48 **Khoury Building**, 205-07 E. Hughitt, replaced the Jacobs Building nearby around the corner as the **National Food Stores** location from the building's completion in 1948 until 1958. A **Sears catalog store** later occupied part of the building.
- The **Red Owl Supermarket**, 117 West A, opened in 1958 and remained here until 1976.

Clothing and Shoes

- The c. 1890 building at 309-11 Stephenson housed several clothing and boots and shoe stores plus a millinery store prior to 1913, when the **Fugere Bros.' men's clothing and shoe store**, founded by **Gilbert P. and Frank X. Fugere**, opened there. Fugere's remained in operation here until about 1962, then continued in business at 323 Stephenson until the late 1980's.
- **Colenso's men's and women's store**, 410-26 Stephenson, opened in 1948 and remained in operation until 1981. Designed for it, the store's sleek building contained three floors of merchandise, with the **Mi-Lady Shop** for women on the second floor and **The Men's Store** on the first. Colenso's was the outgrowth of **The Men's Store**, established in 1922 by brothers **Max and Paul Dworsky** and previously located in a (demolished) building across the street. The Dworskys

planned the new building but sold the business to **John Colenso**, a former clothing buyer at **The Fair in Chicago and Oak Park, Illinois**, as the building was being completed.

Department Stores

- **Joseph H. Cohodes' department store** occupied part of the **Max Cohodes Building**, 615-21 Stephenson, when that building was completed in 1922 and remained in operation into the early 1940's.
- No. 323 Stephenson, later the home of the **Fugere's store**, housed a **J. J. Newberry store** from 1929 at least into the 1940's.
- No. 427 Stephenson, built in 1921 for the **United States National Bank**, which failed during the Depression, housed the city's **Montgomery Ward store** from 1939 until the mid-1970's.

Drug Stores

- **Abraham G. Buchman's Buchman's Drug Store** was a tenant in the **Max A. Cohodes Building**, 615-21 Stephenson, as of 1925. Buchman's occupied the south end store space in the **Commercial Bank Building**, 500 Stephenson, shortly after that building was built in 1929 and until the proprietor's death in 1953. **Weber's Drugs** then opened in the same space and continued in operation into the 1970's.
- **City Drugs** opened in the former **American Security Bank Building**, 515-17 Stephenson, in 1929 after the bank failed. Original proprietor **Angelo B. Bracco** sold out to **Sherman Kellstrom** in 1956, but the store

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remained in business there until the mid-1960's.

Jewelry/Gifts

- **Arthur C. Frankini's Frankini Jewelry Store** occupied space in a wooden building at the site of the present brick building at 521 Stephenson in the early 1920's and by 1939 (and perhaps well before that) the **A. C. Frankini jewelry shop** was back at this same location. The present brick building, probably built during the 1930's, housed the store in its later years. The store expanded into the former **City Drug** space next door north, 517 Stephenson, when that store closed in the 1960's, and operated in both storefronts until about 1999.
- A basement shop in the **Jacobs Building**, 515-17 Stephenson, housed **Ellen Blixt's gift shop** known simply as the "**Ellen Blixt Shop**" from 1928 until the mid-1950's. The store specialized in Scandinavian imports.

Banks

The district contains three historic bank buildings, the 1921 **United States National Bank Building**, 427 Stephenson, 1920-21 **American Security Bank Building**, 515-17 Stephenson, and 1929 **Commercial (National) Bank Building**, 500 Stephenson; the United States and American Security banks were short-lived institutions that, founded at the beginning of the **Ford Boom**, failed early in the **Depression**. A fourth bank building in the district, the **First National Bank & Trust Building**, 231 Stephenson, although housing the successor to the city's oldest bank, founded in 1887, dates only from 1990-91.

- The **Commercial Bank (later Commercial National Bank) Building**, 500 Stephenson, was built in 1929 for the city's second oldest bank, the Commercial Bank, founded in 1892. Today the **Northern Michigan Bank & Trust Co.** maintains an office and drive-in bank in the building, which also houses what was at the time of construction prime rental office space.

Offices

- The **Miller Agency, Inc.**, the city's oldest insurance agency, has had its offices in the **Braumart Theater Building**, 108 East B, since 1953. The agency was founded in 1890 by **Rudolph T. Miller**. German-born but educated in Sweden, Miller (1864-1933) migrated to the United States in 1886. His business in its early days catered particularly to the city's immigrant communities, selling not only insurance and real estate but also steamship tickets, and making a reputation as a place where the newly arrived could obtain advice for making their way in the new land (Rudolph also served as mayor in 1909-13). Under son **Carl G. Miller** the agency became solely an insurance agency, as it remains today.
- Accountants **Clement F. Fleury** and **James Ochetti** were early tenants in the second-story office space in the **Khoury Building**, 301 Stephenson, when it was completed in 1948. Fleury and **Dr. Theodore B. Fornetti**, dentist, another original building occupant, bought the building in 1955, and it continues to house the successor firm of **Fleury, Singler & Co., CPA**, today.

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Building Materials and Construction

- Two buildings of the **H. H. Laing Lumber Co.**, an office (converted from a house) built in the later 1880's and a larger shed building built c. 1900, with a front office addition likely built in 1949, survive at 104 and 101-05 West A. **Laing Lumber**, established in 1892, was an important supplier of lumber and related building supplies and remained in business until about 1980.
- The c. 1926-41 **Champion Building**, 107 East A, has been occupied by two key components of the city's building heritage over the years. Built c. 1926 and expanded in two additional construction episodes down to 1941, it served until the late 1940's as part of the **Service & Supply Co.'s** and – beginning in 1938 – the **Lake Shore Engineering Co.'s Service & Supply Division's** yard operation that offered coal and also building materials such as brick and cement. From the later 1950's down to about 2005 the building housed the headquarters of **Champion, Inc.** **Champion**, whose services today include construction contracting and mobile concrete production, grew out of **Medio J. Bacco's M. J. Bacco Construction Co.**, a highway-building firm established in 1909, and the **Champion Gravel Co.**, founded in 1921 by **Bacco** in partnership with the **Spear family** of Marquette, Michigan (**Champion, Inc.**, home page, <http://www.championinc.com/our-company/our-history>). **Champion** vacated this property about 2005.
- The **Sikora Sheet Metal & Furnace Works**, established by **Frank Sikora, Jr.**, in 1949, has occupied the 1890's

building at 216 E. Hughitt from then down to the present. The firm built the large rear addition in 1953.

Painting/Decorating/Wallpaper

- The c. 1924 **Bond Building**, 405-07 Carpenter, housed **Ernest Bond's Bond Decorating Co.** from its construction down to the later 1980's (the firm remains in business on E. Hughitt).

Funeral Parlors/Homes

- The 217 (west) storefront of the 1891 **Robbins Block**, 217-19 E. Hughitt, housed undertaking businesses from the building's construction in 1891, when 217 held **Albert E. Robbins' furniture and undertaking business**, down to 1937, when **John B. Erickson** moved to a new funeral home building at 200 W. Ludington.
- The c. 1922 **Payant Building**, 100 West A, was the location of **funeral parlors** – initially **Joseph A. Payant's** and, later, the **Payant-Rochon Funeral Chapel** and then the **Rochon Funeral Chapel** – until the early 1950's.
- The present **Ludington Centre Building**, 200 W. Ludington, was built in 1936-37 and expanded in 1954-55 to house the **Erickson & Son Funeral Home** and served that purpose until about 1971 when they moved to the present **Erickson, Rochon & Nash Funeral Home** location, 901 S. Carpenter.

Barber Shops

- No. 406 S. Carpenter has housed a succession of barber shops almost continuously since **Henry G. Johnson**

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opened his **Johnson's Barber Shop** there about 1940.

Laundries

- The 1888 Sanborn map lists the use of the early wooden building at 100 E. Hughitt as a "**Chinese laundry**." This seems to be the last standing in the downtown and district of a number of buildings that housed Chinese laundries. *The Menominee Range* newspaper of 6/20/1889 makes note of **Sing Kee's Chinese laundry** on Hughitt Street, the 1892 directory of two Chinese laundries on Ludington Street, and there are subsequent listings of one or two in each of the sporadically published directories down to 1925. Chinese first migrated to the United States during the California Gold Rush beginning in 1848, but discrimination, anti-Chinese local laws, and, beginning in 1882, federal laws excluding most new Chinese immigration left Chinese Americans with few options for making a living. Because the worst discrimination was practiced on the west coast, where most of the Chinese resided, by the 1880's and 90's many Chinese were moving east to Midwestern and Eastern cities and towns looking for opportunities. Laundries and restaurants became popular options for them because they required little initial cash outlay and little knowledge of English and could rely on family members for labor.
- The 219 storefront in the **Robbins Block**, 217-19 E. Hughitt, held the **Sanitary Laundry**, established by **Charles Kaufman**, from its 1911 founding until 1939 or later. In the

1960's the same storefront housed the **Mindok Laundry**.

- The **Modern Laundry & Dry Cleaning**, founded by **Harry Johnson** and **Edward E. Broullire**, occupied the c. 1884 building at 111 E. Brown from 1924 until 1948, when the business moved to new quarters.
- **Ernest Flaminio** had the building at 204-06 W. Hughitt constructed for his **Quality Cleaners** in 1947. The building housed the business until it moved to new quarters about 2005.

Photography Studios

- The 1891 **Eskil and Robbins Blocks**, 215-19 E. Hughitt, were two out of a number of buildings off Stephenson that housed photography studios. The **Eskil Block** was built by **Jorgen Johansen Eskil** specifically to house his photo studio (along with other rental commercial space). It housed photo studios continuously from its completion down to 1941, when a fire caused the studio to move next door to the **Robbins Block**. The last of a continuous succession of photography studios that began with Eskil's operated in the Robbins Block until the early 1970's.

Restaurants

- The downtown district along and just off Stephenson contained numerous restaurants over the years, including several drugstore lunch counters. No. 209 E. Hughitt is one building that housed a succession of restaurants beginning by 1925. They include **Happy's Gem Tower**, later simply known as **Happy's Lunch**, which was in

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operation from about 1939 until about 1968.

Hotels

Iron Mountain's early hotels had one feature in common – a location within easy walking distance from one or both of the railroad stations – since most travel was by rail in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One of the city's first hotels, the three-story gable-roof wooden **Jenkins House**, was built at the northeast corner of Stephenson and Ludington, across the street from the Chicago & North Western depot, in 1881.

The **Jenkins House**'s reign as the city's finest hotel was short-lived. In 1887 the **Commercial House** became the primary hotel in the city. Expanded and renamed over the years, finally becoming the **Dickinson Inn**, it operated for a century before its closing and demolition in 1987. The hotel stood on the south side of West B Street west across the tracks from the **Milwaukee & Northern/Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul depot** and opposite 100 West B. Built for Mr. **Vivian C. Chellew**, the building opened with a Grand Ball in January 1888. Renamed the **Milliman House** about 1907, the hotel was expanded once within a few years and then again in 1913 and 1921. Renamed the **Dickinson Hotel** in the late 1930's, **Dickinson Hotel & Steak House** a few years later, and the **Dickinson Inn** in 1972, the hotel served as the downtown's primary lodging place, housed a popular restaurant, and was a key meeting place for local business groups and organizations. Despite purchase in 1979 by investors intent on returning the hotel to its glory days, the hotel fell on hard times in the

1980's and closed in 1987 (summarized from Cummings, *A Fond Reflection*).

The **Commercial** was the leading, but not the only early hotel building in the business district area. The 1891 **P. Patient or Harding Hotel** at the southwest Hughitt/Carpenter corner (demolished) and the short-lived (1896-1900) **Hotel Wood** in the **Wood Sandstone Block**, 206-16 E. Ludington, were also in the general class of hotels that business travelers and visitors would use. Other smaller and presumably more low-end hotels existed for various lengths of time in locations primarily just off Stephenson. Of the downtown's older hotels there are only a few survivors.

- The former **German Hotel** (later **American Hotel** and then **American Inn**), 407 Merritt, was built probably in the later 1880's, and first shows as the German Hotel in the 1891 Sanborn map. A name change to American Hotel about 1920 presumably reflected the unpopularity of anything "German" in the World War I era. The hotel remained in operation as the American Inn into the 1960's.
- Another of the early lower-end hotels was the **St. Louis House** (later **Hotel**), 224 E. Hughitt. **John Watsic** served as proprietor of the hotel from its opening apparently around 1890 until the late 1910's or early 1920's, and his wife and family also lived there. The hotel was in operation at least until 1925 and possibly well beyond.
- The 1954-55 **Iron Mountain Motel**, 700 Stephenson, represented the newer post-World War II generation of lodging designed, despite its downtown location, primarily for auto travelers, with a setback from the street fronted by parking spaces for visitors' cars. The

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original owners, the **Fornettis**, operated the motel until the mid-1970's.

Carriages and Cars

- The c. 1890 building at 100 West B is the last surviving building in the downtown that housed a **livery stable**, initially the **Hoose & Gage** and later the **Hansen livery**. The building became an early **auto repair garage** and dealership in 1915 and by 1947 was known as the **Blackstone Garage**.
- No. 127-29 Stephenson housed the **Kingsford Motor Car Co.**, a **Ford dealership and repair garage owned by Edward G. Kingsford** from its 1917 construction until the early 1960's. Kingsford (1862-1943) became a Ford dealer in Marquette in 1908, but soon moved to Iron Mountain. He was Ford's cousin by marriage – his wife, **Mary Flaherty Kingsford**, was the daughter of **Nancy Ann Ford Flaherty**, the sister of **Henry Ford's father William**. Often the spokesmen for Ford during the early years of the Ford operation in what became Kingsford and the vice-president of the **Michigan Iron, Land and Lumber Company** that Ford initially established to operate his Upper Peninsula interests, Kingsford established his Ford dealership and garage at the Stephenson/4th corner in 1913 or 1914 and ran the business until his death, building this new building in 1917. Kingsford moved his shop/service/parts department to a new location on S. Carpenter in 1934, but retained the 127-29 Stephenson location as his auto salesroom (obituary, reprinted in *Kingsford*, 270).
- The angled corner building at 411 Carpenter is the oldest surviving **gas**

station of the many built along Carpenter and Stephenson in the 1920's, dating from sometime in the 1925-30 period. The complex, with its 1953 garage "annex" built when it housed the **Hollenbeck Service Station**, has continued to house service station and auto repair businesses down to the present.

- The **Dick's Texaco Station building** at 701 Carpenter has also housed service station and auto repair businesses since **Richard Gagnon** and **Joseph Andreini** had the building constructed in 1955.

III. ETHNIC HERITAGE

From the first Iron Mountain had an ethnic diversity that would be the envy of a much larger city. Yankees from New England and upstate New York and people of English and Scottish, Irish, German, Polish, Slovenian, Swedish and all other Scandinavian, Italian, French Canadian, Jewish, and Lebanese-Syrian heritage were present from or almost from the first – even a few Chinese. Iron Mountain, like other Upper Peninsula mining towns that sprang up quickly out of wilderness, represented opportunity for everyone from the already successful looking for new investment opportunities to the indigent immigrant looking for a place where they could make a living. From the city's earliest days, it appears, no single ethnic group or groups dominated the city's commercial life or governmental structure.

While a more in-depth study of Iron Mountain's ethnic history would detail the contributions all the city's many ethnic groups made to the city's development, this nomination will focus on standing historic resources in the central/downtown area and

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the important associations with the city's ethnic communities they reflect.

Swedes

People of Swedish heritage have formed a substantial portion of Iron Mountain's population from the city's earliest days. Between 1850 and 1930 an estimated one million Swedes emigrated to the United States. Significant Swedish emigration began in the 1840's following the 1840 elimination of "the old requirement for the king's permission in each case..." to emigrate (Barton, 14). While the number of Swedish-born residents in the U. S. in 1865 was likely no more than 25,000, widespread crop failures in 1867-68 that ruined many small farmers spurred the first heavy migration in the next few years. The number had risen to 776,093 according to the 1890 census, with the greatest part of it being poor farmers who settled in the Great Lakes and prairie states. The lures for Swedes included cheap Midwestern farmland under the 1862 Homestead Act and cheap transportation to America. By the late nineteenth century, low wages in Sweden's developing industries also served as a spur to emigration (Barton, 37-38; Hancks, 22). While earlier migration went largely to rural areas in the Great Lakes and prairie regions, by the 1880's and 90's much of the immigration was settling in the growing cities and mining communities.

The first settlement of Swedes in Michigan took place near Kent City, Kent County, in 1853, but the 1870 census shows only 2406 Sweden-born residents in the state. The greatest wave of Swedish immigration to Michigan took place in the 1870-1900 period. Michigan's commissioner of immigration released the first Swedish language materials in 1884.

The number of Swedes who settled in Michigan was small in comparison to other Upper Midwest states such as Minnesota. In 1890 and 1900 Swedes made up less than two percent of the state's population. They settled in numerous small communities throughout Michigan, but in the Upper Peninsula, and particularly the iron mining counties of Dickinson, Iron, Marquette, and Menominee and also Houghton County, with its copper mines and smelters, they established substantial Swedish communities (Hancks, 25-27). Ishpeming became the leading Swedish city of the Upper Peninsula, but Iron Mountain and Iron River were not far behind.

Iron Mountain's draw for the early Swedish arrivals was typically work in the mines and lumber camps, but within a few years some Swedes were operating stores, bars, and other commercial enterprises in the business district. By the early twentieth century persons of Swedish heritage ran a substantial percentage of the business district's stores and other commercial activities. Early Swedes often lived on the city's North Side and the city's first Scandinavian church, the **Swedish Lutheran**, was built there at Fourth and Vulcan in 1882. But over time the east side overlooking the downtown area became the city's primary Scandinavian neighborhood.

A number of buildings within the district reflect the city's early, longstanding, and substantial Swedish-American presence. Two of the district's six churches housed "Swedish" congregations. The former **Immanuel Baptist Church**, 224 E. Ludington, was built in the 1907-11 period for an "English" or "American" Baptist congregation but turned over to the **Swedish Baptist Church** (soon renamed Immanuel) in 1919 when that congregation

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disbanded. The Swedish or Immanuel Baptist Church, established in Iron Mountain in 1883, occupied this church building from 1919 to 1960.

The **Swedish (later called Wesley) Methodist Episcopal Church**, 116 W. Brown, was built in 1907-08 as the third home of this congregation, established in 1890. The church merged with **Central**, the city's other Methodist church, in 1944, and the united church, **Trinity**, used this building until 1954.

Two other still-standing buildings in the district housed the city's leading Swedish organization outside of the churches. The 1892 directory shows that one of the upstairs halls in the **Robbins Block**, 217 E. Hughitt, was already serving as a meeting place for **North Star Lodge No. 15 of the S. H. & E. F.** or, as listed in English, **Scandinavian Aid (or Scandinavian Aid and Fellowship) Society**. By 1902 a **Syskonring, or Ladies' Auxiliary**, was also using the hall. The building at 205 E. Fleshem became North Star Lodge's home within a few years. Despite the name, the S. H. & E. F., founded in Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1872, was thoroughly Swedish-American. The society's primary purpose, as reported in a 1909 article in the Negaunee *Iron Herald*, was "to provide sick, disability and death benefits for its members" – along with fellowship between Swedes (*Herald*, 10/1/1909). The 1909 *Herald* story reported the organization having about fifty lodges scattered all the way to the Pacific coast. In 1915 the society merged with the **Scandinavian Brotherhood of America** and **Scandinavian Brotherhood of the West** to form the **Scandinavian Fraternity of America** (Westman, 433). The city cemetery contains a large gray granite

obelisk monument that, placed on the society's plot presumably in the early twentieth century, was "**Erected by North Star Lodge 15 S. H. & E. F. To the Memory of Brothers Passed Away.**"

Numerous buildings within the district housed businesses owned by Swedish-Americans. The following are a few notable out of the very many examples:

- **James N. Enstrom's Swedish-language newspaper, *The Monitor***, occupied the wooden building at 216 E. Hughitt (front part of Sikora) for a few years at the beginning of the twentieth century.
- No. 207 E. Fleshem contained the **Hallberg & Osterberg bakery and grocery** and their family residences in the early twentieth century and down to after 1925 (see photo, Dulan, 91).
- The **Eskil Block**, 215 E. Hughitt, was built in 1891 for **Jorgen Johansen Eskil** and housed his **Eskil's Art Gallery** photographic studio until 1904 in the second-story space during its early years. Eskil, "one of the pioneer photographers of the Menominee Iron Range, opened his first studio in Florence, Wisconsin, in 1883. By 1889, he had branch studios in Iron Mountain, Norway and Iron River" (Cummings, *Business District*, 85).
- The adjacent west storefront of the **Robbins Block**, 217 E. Hughitt, housed **John B. Erickson's undertaking establishment** from sometime in the 1910s or early 1920's – perhaps from the founding of the business in 1913 – until about 1937.
- The **Erickson & Son funeral home** then moved to its new building at 200 W. Ludington (now the **Ludington**

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Centre) and continued in operation there until about 1971.

- The building at 100 West B housed horse-and-buggy and auto-era transportation-related businesses owned by members of the Swedish community. **Louis M. Hansen's livery stable** beginning in 1899 and **Emil Johnson's Johnson's Garage** and **Gottfred R. Johnson's Ace Buick Sales** and garage in the late 1930's and early 40's, at least.

Italians

Nearly six million people from the area now encompassed by the nation of Italy have migrated to the United States since records were kept, the vast majority after 1880. This post-1880 migration was a mass movement of peasants and poor workers from all parts of Italy, but especially southern Italy, encouraged to migrate both by the abundant job opportunities here and the lack of opportunity at home. Although most typically agricultural workers at home, the men commonly found jobs in heavy industry in America. Although the vast majority of Italians came to and remained in the industrial cities of the northeast, Italians settled in all parts of the country (Femminella, 430).

Small populations of Italians began to appear in the industrial cities of the Midwest, particularly Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit, in the 1860's, 70's, and 80's, and expanded in the 1890's and more rapidly in the early 1900's. In Michigan by 1930 73% of the 43,087 reported Italian-born Michigan residents resided in Wayne County. At that time only 11% resided in the mining counties of the Upper Peninsula (Magnaghi, 1-2).

But Italian immigration to Michigan really began in the 1850's with a small vanguard coming to the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country mostly to work in the mines. After the Civil War work in the region's rapidly expanding copper and iron mines and in lumbering brought a growing stream of immigrants from many parts of Italy. The 1890 federal census listed 988 Italian-born residents in Menominee County, which then included Dickinson – most of them probably from the Menominee Iron Range area in what soon became Dickinson (the 1900 census showed only fifty-seven for Menominee County). In the 1900 census 1200 Dickinson residents born in Italy were reported, and in the 1910 census 1457 (the numbers dropped in the 1920 and 1930 censuses as jobs in the county's iron mines declined). Magnaghi calls these figures all "conservative" – i.e. undercounted – noting an unofficial census in 1906 by Italian vice consul **James Lisa** of Calumet that showed over 5000 Italians in Houghton County alone. The official figures for Italians in Houghton County are 1894 in 1900 and 2634 in 1910 (Magnaghi, 25). In any event, these figures are for persons born in Italy and do not include the children and grandchildren.

Calumet, followed by Iron Mountain, were the two Upper Peninsula cities with the largest Italian populations. In Iron Mountain Italians were present from the start-up of mining around 1880, mainly coming to work in the Chapin and other mines. Favorable reports sent or brought home encouraged new arrivals. Magnaghi reports that "Italians from Trentino, Piedmont, Lombardy, Venetia, Abruzzo, Molise, Latium, Friuli, Calabria, Sicily, Emilia-Romagna, and Liguria resided in Dickinson County" (9-10). **Fr. Peter**

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Sinopoli, who arrived in 1902, estimated the population of the Italian community then as about 3000. Fund-raising activities for a new church for the Italians that year included appointing solicitors for the various regions from which the parishioners were drawn – four each were appointed to wait on residents from Umbria and Napolitano, three each for Marche and Abruzzi, two each for Pimonte, Lombardia, Veneto, and Toscana, and one for Tirolo, suggesting the relative numbers from each province at the time (*Fifty Years of Grace*, unkn. pp.).

Many came from a few towns, the new arrivals brought over by favorable reports from already arrived family members and friends from the same towns. A number came from one town, Capestrano, in the province of Abruzzi, northeast of Rome – a 1903 story in the *Iron Mountain Press* stated that “two or three hundred” who were natives of that town were then residing in Iron Mountain and had organized their own mutual benefit society “to take care for the sick and provide for widows and orphans” (Jan. 31, 1903). Magnaghi lists no fewer than twelve such Italian mutual aid societies founded in Iron Mountain between 1886 and 1910, some of them based on provinces of origin (67). The *Press* article also noted the recent establishment of a **co-operative general store** in which only natives of Capestrano could be stockholders. **Fiore Gianunzio**, whose father and mother **Nunzio and Isabella Gianunzio** were both from Capestrano, notes a second town, Aquila, near Capestrano, from which many early Iron Mountain Italians emigrated (Gianunzio, 21).

From the first Iron Mountain’s North Side became the center of the city’s Italian community, as Italian miners and their

families occupied company housing there near the Chapin Mine. The Chapin, the primary employer, separated the North Side from the rest of the city, located south of the mine. Subsidence of the mine workings’ overburden, forming the Chapin Pits, that began early in the town’s history, and the flooding of the pits to form the Chapin Ponds in the 1930’s further emphasized the North Side’s physical separation from the rest of Iron Mountain. The 1886 Beck & Pauli view shows the extensive development already present in the North Side east of Stephenson. The area’s main streets included Vulcan and Fifth, which today retain a number of the early wood and brick store and tavern buildings.

The North Side also contains Iron Mountain’s primary historic Italian landmark, the **Immaculate Conception Church**. The Italian Catholic parish was established in 1889. The present reddish sandstone church, the parish’s third, was built in 1902-03 under the direction of **Fr. Peter Sinopoli**. It was planned by Fr. Sinopoli and built largely using parish labor. The church’s traditional Italian Renaissance-inspired design, with a campanile at the back, strongly evokes the Italian heritage of the congregation.

While many of the Italian men went into the mines, almost from the first, as seems to have been typical in the Upper Peninsula mining towns, some Iron Mountain Italians found opportunities to start small businesses – in the early days most typically saloons, grocery stores, and bakeries that required relatively little start-up capital and catered to a largely Italian clientele. By 1887 Italians owned at least five saloons in Iron Mountain, by 1889 six.

If the North Side was the center of Iron Mountain’s Italian community, central Iron

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Mountain also contained businesses and some buildings owned by members of the community. Several buildings still standing in the district housed Italian-owned saloons in their early years. The 1891 directory lists 111 E. Brown as containing the **National Saloon**, owned by **G. B. Tramontin**, and the middle storefront in 109-15 Stephenson (now part of **Fontana's Supper Club**) as housing **John Virsella's saloon** (the state gazetteer lists a **John Versella** or **Varsella** saloon as late as 1903). **Angelo Flaminio's saloon**, 124 W. Hughitt, may have been in operation as early as 1901 and ran until Prohibition. In the 1950's and into the 1970's the same building housed **Nick Simone Dino and Romagnoli's Iron Mountain or Dino's Bar** (the building's present street-level storefront appears to date from those years).

The last in operation of the business district's old watering holes established by members of the Italian community is **Mayme's**, 114 E. Brown, the one-time **Joseph Bolognesi saloon**. The saloon, probably already located in the present building, is first listed in the 1909 state gazetteer. Bolognesi ran the business as a saloon, then as the **Roma Restaurant** during Prohibition. Afterwards it operated as a tavern and then as the **Milano**, a **bar and restaurant**, with **Joseph or Marie Bolognesi** as manager. Through the entire time, at least into the 1940's, the Bolognesi family lived upstairs.

Numerous Italian-owned businesses flourished in the central business district area through much of the twentieth century. Some were operated by members of the early families here, while others were established by much later arrivals, some if not most drawn by the presence of the city's existing large Italian community. The

following are some of the key Italian community-related landmarks in the district:

- 521 Stephenson: **Frankini Jewelry**. **Arthur C. Frankini** was part of an early Iron Mountain Italian family, listed as part of the first, 1903 confirmation class at **Immaculate Conception Church** (*Fifty Years of Grace*). The Frankini jewelry store was established in 1916, according to an advertisement in the 1954 Iron Mountain seventy-fifth anniversary souvenir edition of the *News*. The store was located at 521 Stephenson until 1924, but then moved to a now demolished building at 207 Stephenson. By the late 1930's the store returned to the old 521 location, occupying a new brick store building. **A. C. Frankini & Sons** remained in business here, expanding also into 515-17 in the mid-1960's, until about 2000.
- 515-17 Stephenson: **City Drug Store**. Prior to **Frankini's Jewelry** expanding into 515-17's lower story, the building housed **Angelo B. Bracco's City Drug Store** from 1929 to 1956, when Bracco sold the business. Bracco, born in Calumet, came to Iron Mountain in 1919 after service in World War I, working at **Siebert's Drug Store** and the successor **Cudlip's Drug Store** at the northeast Stephenson/E. Hughitt corner (this building demolished). Bracco opened City Drugs after owning the **Central Drug**, located at the southeast Stephenson/East A corner where **City Hall** now stands, from 1924 to 1929.
- 313 and 315 Stephenson: **Perina's**. **Mrs. Charles (Perina) Pastore** established **Perina's Hat Shop** at 315 Stephenson in 1940, buying out the previous **Rollins Hat Shop** from **Mrs. Paul Rollins**. Under Rollins the store

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had been a hat shop only, but Mrs. Pastore added millinery, lingerie, sportswear, and accessories, and eventually carried all types of women's apparel. Perina's occupied 315 until 1955, when the store moved into larger quarters in 315. **Perina's Inc.** relocated to 321 Stephenson in the mid-late 1970's and remains in business as of 2012.

- 301 and 324-32 Stephenson: **Occhietti's Jewelry. Ben Occhietti** opened a **jewelry repair shop** on E. Ludington in 1947 and expanded into a **jewelry business** the following year. Brother **Roland** joined him in the business in 1949 and then, after serving in the Korean War, returned to the store in 1952. Occhietti's Jewelry became one of the original tenants in the **Khoury Building**, 301 Stephenson, when that building opened in 1948. The Occhiettis had the **Occhietti Building**, 324-32 Stephenson, constructed in 1955-56, and Occhietti's Jewelry occupied the corner store in that building from the late 1955 opening until about 2000.
- 700 Stephenson: **Iron Mountain Motel. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fornetti** had the motel built in 1954-55 and operated it for several decades. Fornetti's father, **James Fornetti**, another member of the 1903 **Immaculate Conception** confirmation class (*Fifty Years of Grace*), had also been involved in the hospitality industry, having established the **Moon Lake (log) tourist cabins complex**, with a store, at the far north edge of town in 1925.

Public social life in the Italian North Side seems to have focused on **Immaculate Conception Church** and several privately

owned meeting halls, but at least one meeting place within the central Historic District, the **Northern Ballroom**, 100-04 W. Brown, reportedly hosted dinners of the **Italian Women's Club** during the 1920's (Dulan, 89).

French-Canadians

Iron Mountain's early settlers also included many French-Canadians, and the Central Historic District contains several buildings associated with that community, including the city's pre-eminent French-Canadian landmark. In the second half of the nineteenth century Quebec experienced a rapidly growing rural population, with much of it reduced to subsistence agriculture or to working on the larger commercial farms that were gradually driving out smaller farmers. Some of the displaced small farmers became wage-earners in Quebec's cities, particularly Montreal, whose industrial economy boomed during these years, or became homesteaders in the Canadian West, but during the second half of the nineteenth century a larger number elected to move south of the border. The migration from rural Quebec to the United States continued well into the twentieth century, rising to an all-time peak in 1923 before rapidly declining in the next few years. The textile mill cities and towns of New England acquired the largest part of this French-Canadian immigration, with the Quebec-born population in the New England states rising from 103,500 in 1870 to 573,000 in 1900.

But next to New England the Midwest became the leading destination for French-Canadians. In 1900 the Midwest contained one-quarter of the total population of Quebec-born American transplants. In the

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1906-30 period, out of nearly three million French-Canadians who immigrated to the United States, nearly three-quarters settled in New England, but another 361,000 French-Canadians, nine percent of the total French-Canadian immigration, came to Michigan. In the later nineteenth century the largest concentrations of French-Canadians were to be found in the Saginaw Valley because of the sawmills and in the Keweenaw Peninsula because of the copper mines, but the western Upper Peninsula's iron mining communities also attracted large French-Canadian populations. The heyday for French-Canadian settlement in the Iron Ranges ended by the very early twentieth century. In the early twentieth century Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie became the leading Michigan destinations for French-Canadian immigrants (Ramirez, 15-20, 50, 72-75).

Born from Iron states that French-Canadians began to settle in Iron Mountain as soon as mining began and that the West Side generally west of Carpenter from Ludington Street on the north down to about B Street on the south soon became the center of their community. Many of the earliest French-Canadians worked for the mining companies, typically handling above-ground jobs rather than the underground mining. But from the first some of the French-Canadians engaged in business. Mrs. A. D. Stiles' 1914 Iron Mountain history states that "**Charles E. Parent, Sr.**, should have the credit of having been the first general merchant in the town, as he came here in November of 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and commenced business in a tent. ... He soon had a building in readiness located on Stephenson Avenue, between Ludington and Brown Streets."

Parent's building is gone, but other buildings in the district survive to reflect the historic French-Canadian presence. Although *Born from Iron* identifies the area west of Carpenter Street as the center of the community's residential area, A and Hughitt just to the east between Stephenson and Carpenter also contained the homes of a number of early French-Canadian residents. While most of the early wooden buildings in this area have been demolished over the years, the short row of early houses that remains standing on the north side of the 100 block of West A includes two occupied by French-Canadian families in their early days:

- 110 – residence of **Albert St. Arnauld**, laborer, miner, and teamster over the years, and other family members until the late 1920's or early 1930's and then members of the **La Vasseur family** at least into the 1940's.
- 116 – residence of **Adolph St. Arnauld**, proprietor of a saloon at 216 W. Hughitt, and **Claire Vallette**, a sawmill worker, as of 1892.

Like the Italians, French-Canadians also operated a number of saloons in the downtown area, particularly in the city's early days. The wooden falsefront building at 200 W. Hughitt appears to be the only survivor among early buildings that housed French-Canadian-owned saloons. This housed the **Edward E. St. Arnauld saloon** from the early 1890's or before to sometime after 1907.

Several downtown buildings housed important businesses associated with members of the French-Canadian community:

- 309-11 Stephenson. This building housed **Fugere's clothing and shoe store** for about fifty years. The Fugeres

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were one of the early French-Canadian families in Iron Mountain, coming from St. Genevieve, Quebec, to Quinnesec in 1878 and then soon after to Iron Mountain's North Side. Brothers **Gilbert P. ("Gilly") and Frank X. Fugere** established the store in 1913. It remained in operation at the 309-11 location until about 1962. Fugere's moved to 323 Stephenson about 1962 and remained in business until the late 1980's (Turk and LaFave, 147, in Dulan).

- 100-102 West A. The brick **Payant Building** was built c. 1922 for **Joseph A. Payant's undertaking establishment** and also **J. A. Payant & Co., a real estate and insurance firm**. The funeral home, bought out by **J. Robert Rochon** in 1950, occupied this building until 1954, and J. A. Payant & Co. for several more years.
- **DeGayner Building**, 600-608 Carpenter. One of the tenants of the building after its 1931 renovation to a one-story four-store building was **Romeo Rocheleau's Home Bakery**, which operated here from 1932 to 1964. Rocheleau's specialty was Cornish pasties. A food item first brought to the area by the early Cornish miners, it became popular with tourists, and Rocheleau reportedly sold 4-5,000 pasties a week during the summer months, using a roadside stand along US-2 and two busses converted to mobile concession stands for sales at fairs and other events (bio by Wm. Rocheleau in *Born from Iron*, 132).

St. Joseph (now St. Mary and St. Joseph) Catholic Church

Iron Mountain's primary French-Canadian monument is **St. Joseph (now St. Mary and St. Joseph) Catholic Church**, whose parish complex stands inside the district's west edge. Although completed and occupied since the late 1930's as the home of a multi-ethnic parish, the church stands on the site occupied by a succession of French-Canadian Catholic churches and was planned and its construction carried out as a French-Canadian project – even the architect being of French-Canadian heritage.

Iron Mountain Catholics formed a part of **St. Mary's Parish in Quinnesec**, a few miles to the east, when that parish was established in October 1883, but the parish was founded just as Quinnesec's early mines ran out and as Iron Mountain's were booming; within two months two-thirds of the congregation had moved the couple miles over to Iron Mountain. A **St. Mary's Church** was built in Iron Mountain in 1883-84 and, when the building was completed, **Fr. Melchior Faust**, the **pastor at Quinnesec**, moved to Iron Mountain. In 1889 **Immaculate Conception**, an **Italian parish**, was founded, and a church for it was soon built on the North Side.

In 1890 the first **St. Mary's Church** burned. Soon after, the French-Canadian part of the St. Mary Parish was separated from St. Mary's and formed into a new **St. Joseph Parish**. The remaining non-Italian Catholic population, including Irish, Slovenians, Germans, Poles, and other nationalities, built their own brick, Gothic St. Mary Church nearby. Under **Fr. Honoratus Bourion** and several successors the French-Canadians built a brick, Romanesque **St. Joseph Church** in the old location beginning in 1893 and, finally nearly complete, dedicated it June 1, 1899

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(Rezek, II, 337-44; Johnson, 191-93). A large certificate that, containing an illustration of the new church, was apparently prepared to present to those who contributed to the new building, listed as benefactors not only a long list of local French-Canadians but also numerous local **Ste. Jean de Baptiste societies** from Michigan to New England.

Wind-driven burning debris from a garage fire four blocks away set **St. Joseph Church's** wood shingle roof ablaze on April 16, 1930, and the brick veneer wooden structure was entirely destroyed. The economic hard times and the question of whether to rebuild at the old site, so close to another Catholic church, St. Mary's, or at some other location, resulted in inaction. Services were held in the nearby **Bijou Theater**, which stood on part of the site where **Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes**, 100 W. Ludington, stands.

Fr. Joseph H. Dufort, who arrived in May 1931, began by conducting a parish-wide canvas that established strong support for rebuilding at the old site. Plans for a new church were obtained from Menominee architect **Derrick Hubert**. Hubert, seemingly the leading architect in the western Upper Peninsula at the time, may have been a logical choice to design a church for the Upper Peninsula's second largest Catholic congregation – but the fact that he was French-Canadian (born in Kankakee, Illinois, the center of a large French-Canadian area, of parents from Quebec) may well have contributed to his chances. Fr. Dufort likely selected Hubert, perhaps after seeing other Catholic churches the architect designed, including St. John the Baptist in Menominee.

Under Fr. Dufort's direction volunteers began clearing the remaining debris of the

old church in August. The foundations of the new building, built mostly using rubble stone from the old church, were completed in November 1931. A *News* story on the progress of the work noted Fr. Dufort's own program of providing relief for unemployed parishioners by utilizing them as much as possible, with two groups each working one week and off the next – the article reported sixty-seven at work one week and forty-eight the day before the reporter visited.

The cornerstone, a granite block donated by Iron Mountain granite works proprietor and stonecarver/artist **August Pavaglio**, was placed December 6, 1931, with **Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raymond Jacques** of Escanaba, former pastor of St. Joseph, officiating. The first masses in the new building were celebrated in September 1932, but with the interior unfinished. The seats were the ones from the **Bijou** and they rested on a bare concrete floor.

In 1938 the **St. Mary Church** also burned. In the wake of this new disaster discussions concerning a merger of the two parishes began. Members of the two parishes began worshipping together in the unfinished St. Joseph in 1940. The completion of the interior, delayed for years by the indebtedness for the work done in the early 1930's, was made possible by the addition of the members from St. Mary. In 1940 the interior was completed. Formal action to establish a single St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish took place in 1942.

Early in 2003 this church, too, suffered its own severe fire disaster, with much of the interior destroyed, but some interior features, including the stained glass, were not lost, and the building was refurbished and remains in use today.

Lebanese-Syrians

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Families originally from the Middle Eastern Ottoman province of Syria played a significant role in downtown Iron Mountain's development and business activity beginning in the early twentieth century. "Syria" prior to the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1917 was a larger area than the present nation of the same name; it included, in addition to today's Syria, part of Turkey, present-day Lebanon, and "Palestine" – today's Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza. Within Ottoman Syria in 1861 a part of what is now the nation of Lebanon was set apart as Mount Lebanon. Mount Lebanon differed from most of the empire in having a substantial non-Moslem population of Christians of the Eastern Rite sects (Hitti, *Syrians*, 35-37). Beginning in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and continuing until 1924 when immigration from the region to the United States was largely cut off by new restrictive American immigration policies, thousands of "Syrians" – more than half from Mount Lebanon alone – migrated to America, establishing a small presence widely distributed across the country. An estimated 110,000 Arabic-speaking immigrants, nearly all from Syria, migrated to the United States between 1881 and 1914, and another 16,000 between then and 1924 (Hooglund, 3; Khalaf, 20). The immigrants, like the population in general, were largely Christians of the Eastern Rite sects, primarily Maronites, who accepted the Roman Catholic pope as spiritual leader but had their own liturgy, and Greek Orthodox (Hitti, *Syrians*, 35-39; Naff, 41-43). By 1910 more than half of the Syrian immigrants were concentrated in the states of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, largely in the industrial cities – but they also formed notable communities

in the industrial cities and towns of Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. The 1920 federal census showed Detroit with the nation's second largest Syrian community (after New York City), numbering 3858, but small Syrian communities developed in many of the Lower Peninsula's growing industrial cities and in the western Upper Peninsula mining towns as well (Hitti, *Syrians*, 67).

Naff (77) suggests that Syrian immigration to the United States may have been set in motion with the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. She cites evidence that the empire's government encouraged peddlers, including ones from Mount Lebanon, to sell their goods at the fair as part of the Turkish exhibit, and that Syrians were present at Philadelphia. Philip K. Hitti, the first historian of Syrians in America, stated that the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago really constituted "the first general bugle call to the land of opportunity," with traders from Jerusalem and Ramallah being especially active in marketing olive wood articles and other curios there (*Syrians*, 48).

Hitti and Khalaf cite as key causes for the development of this migration from Mount Lebanon itself demographics and economic conditions – a growing population and few economic opportunities in a land unsuitable for agriculture, with no mineral wealth and little industry. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, providing a more direct sea connection to the Orient, destroyed the overland commercial traffic that had passed through Syria and all but destroyed the formerly important silk industry by greatly expanding the market for cheaper oriental silk.

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Hitti and others cite as reasons for emigration from Syria (Hitti, *Syrians*, 48-56; Khalaf, 24-33; Naff, 82-92):

- Political causes – lack of freedom, governmental corruption, and high taxation under the Ottomans.
- Sectarian violence – Christians formed a minority in Syria and suffered from sectarian violence from time to time, particularly in the 1841-60 period; Mount Lebanon was established as a semi-autonomous Christian enclave region within Syria in 1861 as a result of European intervention following a particularly severe outbreak of Ottoman-instigated violence in 1860 in which an estimated 11,000 Christians were massacred (Hitti, *Syria*, 224-26; Naff, 28-29). The legacy of persecution was likely an important factor in encouraging emigration.
- Military conscription – Christians, previously spared the empire's otherwise universal military conscription, became subject to it under a new constitution adopted in 1908; escaping conscription became a factor in emigration after that.
- Indirect influence of missionary activities – American missionaries acquainted people with the English language and with American geography, history, and methods of life, drawing a picture of a better life.
- Also serving as inducements to migration were the successful immigrants to America who returned to Syria with stories and material evidence of their success in the golden land. Growing numbers of tourists and also steamship agents also spread stories of opportunity in America.

Writing in the early 1920's, Hitti stated that "The Syrian is a trader wherever and whenever he can be, and a laborer only where he must be. But in either case, he is industrious, acquisitive, and frugal, and therefore almost always economically independent" (*Syrians*, 69). The earliest Syrian immigrants, whether from Mount Lebanon or other parts of Ottoman Syria, were almost exclusively youthful males who came to America planning to make money peddling and return home. Early traders were typically traveling pack-peddlers and offered religious items, notions, and laces. But women were soon recognized as an asset in a trade that catered largely to women on rural farms; thus the migration pattern soon came to include families who planned to stay permanently. Hitti found that by the 1920's Syrians in America tended to be dry goods or lace merchants, grocers or confectioners, or peddlers – not the pack-peddlers of the early days but salesmen or women who carried sample bags from which regular women customers could order household necessities more cheaply than from regular stores (Hitti, *Syrians*, 70; Naff, 128-46).

The pioneers of the Iron Mountain Lebanese-Syrian community seem to have been mainly members of the **Khoury and Jacobs families**. Many of the early Iron Mountain members of these families were actually from a single extended Lebanese family known as the **Makdissi** or **Makdeski** in their home country. Immigration clerks through miscommunication imposed the Khoury and Jacobs names the families have used since their arrival in the United States.

One of the first arrivals in Iron Mountain was likely **Abraham or Abe Khoury** (c. 1866-1941), who came to Iron Mountain

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about 1887 according to his obituary (*News*, 3/14/1941). Like other early Lebanese-Syrian arrivals, his name does not appear in the local directories until much later – the 1902 directory lists an A. Khoury, perhaps him, with occupation shown as peddler. His wife, **Mary (Khoury) Khoury** (c. 1872-1932), came to Iron Mountain when she was about twenty years old – about 1892. Four of her brothers also settled in Iron Mountain.

John Isaac Khoury (1876-1917) and **Tagau Y. “Margaret” (Brady) Khoury** (1880-1955) were also early “Syrian” settlers in Iron Mountain. Mrs. Khoury was born in Zahle in the Mount Lebanon area in what is now the central part of Lebanon. A 1950 newspaper story stated that **Mrs. Khoury (later Mrs. Sam Jacobs)** arrived in the United States in 1893 (*News*, 5/13/1950). They were married in Iron Mountain in 1900 (*News*, 5/13/1950, 11/14/1955).

Brothers **Abe, Sam, and Jacob Jacobs** were also among the earliest Lebanese residents of Iron Mountain. The Jacobs were from Fiah (now Fiaa or Fih), located about ten miles west-southwest of Tripoli in today’s Lebanon. In 1939 **Sam and Jacob** were part of a gathering of 200 natives of the town, “all related by blood or marriage,” who gathered in Iron Mountain with the intention of forming an organization. Jacob was designated general chairman, with Sam to “assist” (*News*, 8/12/1939). **Abe and Samuel** are both listed in the first, 1892 Iron Mountain directory, Abe as a store clerk and Samuel simply as a boarder residing on W. Brown. **Abe moved to Crystal Falls, where he eventually owned a candy store, but later moved back to Iron Mountain** (Miller, 74-75, 249, 262). **Sam moved to the Crystal Falls area but**

also returned to Iron Mountain, reportedly in 1920.

A biographical sketch of **Jacob N. Jacobs** published in the 1980 Iron River area history states that he “came to this country in 1888 with his father, **Nicholas Jacobs.**” The sketch narrates a story of trial and tribulation with similarities to what other Lebanese-Syrians experienced, and ultimate success through persistence and determination. Beginning with a sea voyage where, because of inexperience with the language, they arrived in New Orleans rather than the intended New York, they set off on foot along the railroads north and arrived in Chicago after sixty days. Migrating to Milwaukee and Green Bay, they then came to Iron Mountain, where Nicholas’ wife joined them in 1898. The family returned to Lebanon in 1900, where Jacob married **Nora Makdeski**. In 1902 they returned to Iron Mountain. The 1907 directory lists J. N. Jacob, with wife Nora, as a peddler. **In 1907 the family moved to Crystal Falls, where Jacob with Sam founded a jewelry store** that was still in operation in 1980 (Bernhardt, 404; Miller, 249, containing **Jacobs Bros., jewelry**, in 1913 list of Crystal Falls businesses).

Iron Mountain’s Lebanese-Syrian community has never been large in terms of the city’s overall population, but members of the community – particularly members of the **Khoury and Jacobs families** – have played a major role in Iron Mountain’s business district in terms of owning businesses and commercial buildings. A number of buildings in the business district have housed businesses owned by the city’s Lebanese-Syrian community. While buildings at 215, 409, and 431 S. Stephenson that housed early twentieth-century Khoury-owned businesses that

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primarily offered fruit and confectionary have been demolished, a number of buildings associated with old Lebanese-Syrian businesses survive. For example:

- No. 535 S. Stephenson, one of the downtown's oldest buildings, housed one of two fruit and confectionary stores along Stephenson owned by **Michael Khoury**, one of the sons of **John Isaac and Tagau Khoury**, for a period in the 1910's. Later, from 1946 to 1980, another Khoury enterprise, the **City Fruit Market**, occupied the building. **William Khoury**, one of **Abraham and Mary (Khoury) Khoury's** children, with wife **Mary (Carom)** and sister **Evelyn (Khoury) Vercella** and her husband **Peter**, established the store in 1946, but William and Mary soon bought out the Vercellas. The store branched out into souvenirs, gifts, moccasins, etc., over the years.
- No. 319 S. Stephenson contained another important early Khoury commercial enterprise, the **Boston Store**. This clothing store was established by **John I. Khoury** sometime after 1904 and closed in 1915 when Khoury lost his lease and had to liquidate.
- No. 100 East B was occupied by a restaurant owned by members of the Jacobs family during the 1950s. **Mykle or Myke Jacobs** and sister **Ann De Rosier**, children of **Abe and Nazira Jacobs**, opened their **Jacobs Restaurant** in 1952. By 1959 brother **Robert Jacobs** was running the restaurant.

But the downtown's surviving building with the longest association with the community is the early wooden store building at 305 S. Stephenson. Built in the

early 1880's, it housed Khoury businesses (and for a time family members) from about 1910 down at least to the 1960's. The 1913 directory (the first since 1908) shows the occupant as **one of Michael Khoury's two fruit and confectionary stores** (the other at 535, as noted above). The 1925 directory still shows **Michael Khoury's fruit/confectionary store**, and also **Michael and Mary Khoury** living there along with clerks in the store, **Albert, Anna, Rose, and Samuel Khoury** – some or all of them children of **Abraham and Mary (Khoury) Khoury**. By 1930 the business was being called **Khoury's Candy Kitchen**. The 1935 directory lists **Abraham and Mary (Khoury) Khoury's son Samuel A. Khoury, confectioner**. By 1939 it was **Khoury's Beer Garden**, and in 1947 **Khoury's Restaurant**, both operated by Samuel. In 1948-49 **Samuel A. Khoury** renovated the restaurant into **Khoury's Cocktail Lounge**.

The community not only owned businesses in the downtown but also built several of the downtown's commercial buildings. The first of these was the **Jacobs Building** at 407-09 S. Stephenson (a previous building at this site that housed a Khoury fruit/confectionary store had burned in 1915). **Sam Jacobs and wife Tagau (Khoury) Jacobs** had the building constructed in 1923-24. Lewis C. Reimann traces Sam Jacobs' career in his *When Pine Was King*. Reimann states that Jacobs opened a saloon at Crystal Falls but closed it after a street fight that began in the saloon resulted in a death, and that Sam with his brother (he must be referring to Jacob) then opened the jewelry store in Crystal Falls. Sam's function was to make the rounds of the area's lumber camps selling jewelry and taking broken watches,

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etc., back to town for repair. “By 1920,” Reimann states, “he had enough money to start a jewelry shop of his own in Iron Mountain...” (Reimann, 109-10).

Reimann is anything but a “scholarly” source, lacking footnotes and bibliography, but his history accords with pieces of information from other sources. The *Mansfield Township Centennial, 1891-1991*, lists **Sam Jacobs**’, in operation in 1905, as **one of the saloons at the Mansfield Mine Location near Crystal Falls** (87), and Miller cites the 1913 Crystal Falls business directory listing the **Jacobs Bros. jewelry store** (249). **Jacobs and Tagau (Khoury) Khoury, John Isaac Khoury’s widow**, were married in 1920, three years after John Isaac Khoury’s death. The move to Iron Mountain and the establishment of his own jewelry store may have dated from that time.

Sam and Tagau Jacobs’ Jacobs Building, 407-09 S. Stephenson, housed their own businesses plus rental commercial and office space. **Sam Jacobs moved his jewelry shop** from a location on West B into quarters in the building’s second story and ran it until he retired in 1931 or 32. **Mrs. Jacobs ran her The Grey Shop**, an imported linens business she later expanded to include women’s apparel, upstairs as well until 1953 (Cummings, *Business District*, 168; *News*, 5/13/1950, 7/18/1953). The 1935 directory lists **Samuel J. Khoury’s billiard parlor** and the 1939 and later ones his **Avenue Bar** in the building’s basement.

Khoury family members built two substantial downtown buildings in the early post World War II years. The **Khoury Building** at 205-07 E. Hughitt (now **Blackstone Pizza**) was built in 1947-48. Newspaper articles report that the building

was constructed for brothers **Samuel, Michael, Nick, and Isaac J. Khoury**, but **Don Khoury**, whose father was Samuel, states that their mother, **Tagau (Khoury) Jacobs**, was really the owner. The building, perhaps the most stylish of the city’s new commercial buildings constructed in the decade after the war, was built as a rental property that could house one or two businesses.

Another **Khoury Building** at 301 S. Stephenson was also built in 1947-48 as an income store and office building for **Samuel A. Khoury**, who had bought the property, located next door to his restaurant (later cocktail lounge) at 305 Stephenson, in 1943. The property then contained a fire-damaged wooden building. The Khourys sold the new building to two of the building’s office tenants, accountant **Clement F. Fleury** and dentist **Dr. Theodore B. Fornetti**, in 1955 (*News*, 7/8/1943, 3/17/1955).

A fourth downtown building built by the Lebanese-Syrian community is the former **Red Owl Supermarket** (now the **St. Vincent DePaul Store**) at 117 West A. **Mrs. Nazira Jacobs**, widow of **Abe Jacobs**, had the building constructed in 1957 at a cost of \$104,000. Mrs. Jacobs leased the building, planned for Red Owl by the company’s in-house designers, to the chain. A newspaper story reported that son **Myke Jacobs** negotiated the deal. **James F. Jacobs**, manager of a Red Owl store in Kingsford since 1954, became the manager of the new store (*News*, 6/21 and 6/28/1957; 1/20/1958).

Finally, a list of downtown Iron Mountain buildings associated with the city’s Lebanese-Syrian community is incomplete without including the **Downtown Plaza** (originally **United States National Bank**)

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Building, 427 Stephenson. Since about 1980 a major tenant of the building's downstairs commercial space has been **The Wishing Well**, a gift shop owned by **Don Khoury**, a member of the third generation of Lebanese in the city. Khoury opened his first shop nine years earlier in the back part of a building at the corner of Stephenson and A where City Hall now stands and moved after two and one-half years to the **Khoury Building** at 205-07 E. Hughitt before moving into the Downtown Plaza (**Don Khoury**, 8/10/2012).

Jews

Iron Mountain's first Jewish residents formed a part of the massive 1880-1910 migration to America of Jews predominantly from eastern Europe, primarily from areas then part of the Russian Empire that today include much of Poland, Latvia and Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and northern Romania. Jews in these areas tended to be more urban than rural and, much more so than the general population, were small tradesmen and businessmen involved in clothing and shoes; food products; building construction; metal and woodworking; tobacco products; and trade in agricultural products (grain, cattle, furs, hides), or were factory workers or small-scale factory owners or petty traders or storekeepers – avocations many took up once established in the United States (Joseph, 21-3, 42-55).

In the Russian Empire by the early twentieth century, **Samuel Joseph** reported in his 1914 book, "special laws relating to the Jews have multiplied greatly until they now consist of more than a thousand articles, regulating their religious and communal life, economic activities and occupations, military service, property

rights, education, etc., and imposing special taxes over and above those borne by other Russian subjects" (Joseph, 57). In 1882 new restrictions were imposed on where the empire's Jews could live, resulting in expulsions from lands outside a government-defined Pale of Jewish Settlement that excluded 95% of the empire.

In 1881-82 began the first pogroms, government-sanctioned riots-murders-expulsions of Jews that were justified by the government as resulting from the misery of the peasants "due to their exploitation by the Jews[;] ... the pogroms were the instinctive expression of the fury of the peasants..." (Joseph, 63). Many pogroms followed in the coming years, particularly in 1906, when the government unleashed a new rampage in response to widespread unrest over working and living conditions. Jewish immigration in the 1881-1910 period totaled over 1.5 million, with over 1.1 million of them from the Russian Empire, their numbers peaking during and just following the worst pogrom outbreak years in the early 1890's and from 1899 to 1907 (Joseph, 21, 56-69, 93).

Iron Mountain's first Jewish residents came from the Russian Empire in the later 1880's. They were part of a pattern of Jewish migration that brought small numbers of Jews to communities throughout Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula's mining towns, in search of economic opportunity. Early Jewish immigrants sometimes became peddlers at first, traveling by horse and wagon, to make their way until they could afford to establish their own stores or other businesses. **Iron Mountain's Jewish community has never been very large, but in 1909 they did establish a synagogue, purchasing a**

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former **Swedish Methodist church building and moving it to the northeast corner of Kimberly and West A** (outside the district), where it stands today (Cohodes, 149-50 in Dulan; Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 195).

The **Rusky Bros. general store**, with **Sam and Isaac Rusky** as proprietors, may have been Iron Mountain's first Jewish business, listed in the 1887 state gazetteer. Located near the center of the 200 block of Stephenson, it called itself "**The London Store.**" There were soon other Jewish businesspeople: among the losses listed from a fire in the 100 block of Stephenson in December 1888 were the **notions shop of M. Goldstein & Co.** and the **Silverman, Davis & Levy clothing store** (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 86). The 1889 state gazetteer lists several more Jewish-owned businesses, including the **M. Levy & Co. general store**, with partners **Mandel and Henry Levy** and **Isaac Unger**.

Abraham or Abe Sackim, who came to Iron Mountain from Chicago as a youth in 1888, first worked in the Rusky store, but in 1892 partnered with **Julius Rusky** in the **Rusky & Sackim general store**. Two years later, according to a 1923 story, the partnership was dissolved and Sackim founded his own store (this account differs some from what is reported in a 1955 article (*News*, 6/6/1955) but seems to agree more closely with state gazetteer and city directory information). Sackim's store, called "**The Paris Store,**" was located near the south end of the 300 block of Stephenson. The **A. Sackim Co. department store**, incorporated in 1909 with **Ben and Sam Seaman** as partners, became and remained one of the downtown's largest stores until the late 1960's (*News*, 5/15/1923). This

Rusky/Sackim store building was demolished decades ago, but several substantial buildings in the Central Historic District area survive to illustrate the contributions of the small but influential Jewish community to Iron Mountain's commercial life.

A prime example is the **Max A. Cohodes Building**, 615-21 Stephenson. This large commercial building was built for the founder of a key family of Jewish businessmen in Iron Mountain, **Max A. Cohodes**, in 1922 at the beginning of the "Ford Boom." Cohodes (1862-1931) was born in Vilnius, in what was then part of the Russian Empire but is today Lithuania. He migrated to New York in 1898 and soon settled in Marinette, Wisconsin, where his twin sister lived. Working as a peddler (he was by trade a **harnessmaker**), he raised money to send for his brother **Aaron** and then his wife **Zelda** and six children. The Cohodeses settled in Iron Mountain in 1902 where Max A. Cohodes eventually established a **furniture store**.

Cohodes (the 1925 directory lists him as involved in real estate) built his **Max A. Cohodes Building** as an investment property, but in its early years one of the occupants was son **Joseph H. Cohodes' general merchandise or department store**, which operated into the early 1940's. J. H. Cohodes (1889-1953) learned the clothing trade at the **A. Sackim store** in Iron Mountain, then served as manager of **Sackim's Crystal Falls store** until 1922, when he opened his own clothing store in the new Cohodes Building (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 310; obituary, *News*, 3/24/1953).

The *News* noted his election in September 1931 as **president of the Upper Peninsula Zionist Service Bureau**

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(*News*, 9/19/1931) and reported on a number of his speeches before various groups in the coming years. **Born in a land where persecution of the Jews was a daily fact of life, J. H. Cohodes became a leading figure in the Upper Peninsula in speaking out against the growing Nazi menace in the late 1930's.** On December 8, 1938, for example, Cohodes addressed the subject "Judaism in the World Today" before a **Kiwanis luncheon at the Dickinson Hotel**. Introduced by **Rev. Fr. Frank A. Siefert, pastor of St. Mary's Church**, Cohodes spoke to his presumably mostly Gentile audience on what was happening to the Jews in Germany and the lands under their control, pointedly noting that "We Jews are merely the flowers at the funeral of Christianity" (*News*, 12/9/1938: "Cohodes Attacks Persecution of Jews in Speech"). Two months later at a **Rotary luncheon** in another speech he pointed out that Nazi persecution was involving not only the Jews but Catholics and Protestants as well (*News*, 11/29/1938: "Cohodes Sees German Abuse of Christians").

Along with the **J. H. Cohodes store** and also brother **Louis H. Cohodes' meat and grocery market**, another of the early tenants of the **Max A. Cohodes Building** was **Buchman's Drug Store**, located at 615 Stephenson according to the 1925 directory. **Druggist Abraham G. Buchman** was born in what is now Latvia in 1884 and migrated to the United States as a youth. He entered the drugstore business at **Rapid River** in 1899, then moved to **Gwinn** by the early or mid-1910's. The 1913 and 1915 state gazetteers list a **C. G. Buchman, druggist**, there, while the 1917 one lists **A. G. Buchman**, presumably a correction. Buchman settled in **Iron Mountain** in 1922, at the beginning of the

"Ford Boom," perhaps moving into the Cohodes Building then. In 1929 he moved the store to the southernmost end of the **Commercial (National) Bank building**, 500 Stephenson, where it remained until Buchman's death in 1953 (*News*, 1/15/1938; 11/25/1953).

Next door to the south of the **Max A. Cohodes Building** at 623-29 Stephenson, Chicago merchants **Morris and Harry Wolfe** had their large one-story **Wolfe Brothers Building** constructed in 1927. Morris Wolfe was Max A. Cohodes' son-in-law, having married daughter Anne in 1919 (a *News* story on construction of the building states that both Wolfes were Max Cohodes' sons-in-law, but the Cohodes family history in *Dickinson County* does not mention Harry).

The building at 100 E. Brown has associations with both the Cohodes family and with another important early Jewish business, **I. Zacks & Co.** Built as a store in the mid-1880's, the building was renovated and expanded in 1937-38 to house the **I. Zacks & Co. meat and fruit wholesale business**. **Cattle buyer and slaughterer Isadore Zacks** established the business in 1905, and by 1938 sons **Max and Maurice** were also partners – the well preserved house the Zacks occupied for over thirty years stands nearby at 122 W. Ludington within the district. Max Zacks' 1956 obituary states that he was born in Villna, Lithuania, in 1902 and came to Iron Mountain in 1910 (*News*: "Max Zacks Dies After Long Illness," 5/5/1956).

In 1952 **I. Zacks & Co.** moved elsewhere and sold the building to **Mose Cohodes & Son**, another **slaughtering and meat processing operation**. This business was founded by **Moses Cohodes**, another of **Max A. Cohodes'** sons, by the

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mid-1920's, and Moses' son **Philip** joined the firm in 1937. **M. Cohodes & Son, Inc.**, expanding into a **general food wholesaling business**, operated out of this building until the late 1980's.

A number of buildings along Stephenson and adjacent side streets housed clothing stores owned by members of the Jewish community. Some of the associated buildings have disappeared but one that survives is the 1948 **Manci Building**, 400-08 Stephenson. One of the two original tenants was **Kushner's infants and children's wear and accessories store**. **David Kushner** was born in Boston but came to Iron Mountain from Chicago after four years in the Navy during World War II. A *News* story about the opening of the store during 1949 states that Kushner was then engaged to a granddaughter of pioneer Iron Mountain Jewish merchant **Abe Sackim**. Kushner's was successful and in 1956 the store expanded into another store space to the north (*News*: "Specialty Shop Opened Today in Manci Building," 2/14/1949; "Addition to Building Under Way, 4/4/1956).

One other major commercial building associated with the Jewish community is the **Dworsky Building**, 410-26 Stephenson. Long housing the **Colenso's store**, this large building was built in 1948 for brothers **Max and Paul Dworsky**, who migrated to Iron Mountain from the Dakotas in 1922 during the early days of the "Ford Boom" to establish **The Men's Store**, first located on E. Ludington and then across the street in a now demolished building in the 400 block of Stephenson. Paul Dworsky had run a store in Bismarck, ND, while Max had been secretary-treasurer of the nineteen-store Weinstein Co. dry-goods chain (it also had a wholesale hosiery,

underwear, and general dry-goods store in Minneapolis). The Dworskys had this building constructed in 1948 to house an expanded store, but sold their business (though not the building) to **John Colenso** while the building was under construction (*News*: "Every Modern Feature in New Colenso Store, To Open Soon," 11/26/1948).

IV. EDUCATION

The Central Historic District contains three of Iron Mountain's most historic school buildings, the **Iron Mountain High School**, **Junior High**, and **St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic School**. Public education in Iron Mountain began in 1880 with the establishment of a **Breitung Township School District No. 2**. The first school building, a two-room structure at the northeast corner of Brown and Iron Mountain Street, near the Chapin Mine, opened in January 1881. Sometime in the 1882-84 period a second school was built to serve the North Side. This North Side building was quickly outgrown and replaced with the six-room **Chapin School** in 1889 (Dulan, 54).

Iron Mountain High School

In 1884 the two-room **Brown-Iron Mountain Street school** was replaced with an eight-room **Central School building** that, located on Prospect's west side north of West B, the site of the future **Iron Mountain High School**, initially housed all grades for the entire part of the city south of the Chapin Mine plus the city's high school. The first high school class was graduated from it in 1889.

This building, like the **Chapin School**, was quickly outgrown, and additional grade

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school buildings soon followed to house the growing school population. In 1892 **Hulst School**, a much larger building, initially housing the high school in a small part of the building along with lower grades, was constructed on the hillside overlooking the downtown on the east. The building was named for early Menominee Range iron ore explorer and Menominee Mining Company superintendent **Nelson P. Hulst**. A massive structure, with a round tower and walls of Amberg, Wisconsin, granite, it was designed by **James E. Clancy**, who planned such other landmark early buildings on the Menominee Range as the Iron County and Dickinson County Courthouses and the Florence County Courthouse in Florence, Wisconsin (Dulan, 54).

Separate two-story wooden annexes known as the **Lowell and Fulton Schools** were added within a few years, but by early 1911 the high school, with its 258 pupils, occupied the entire building, only a small part of which was the high school at first, to a "crowded" condition. After a first failure, a second referendum to bond the district to raise \$100,000 for a new high school won by a vote of 352-230 early in May 1911 (*Press*, 4/13, 4/27, 5/4/1911).

Only a week later a presentation drawing for the new building, planned by **Charlton & Kuenzli** of Marquette, appeared in the *Press*. By late May the **Foster Construction Co.** of Milwaukee, who had recently built large school buildings in Gwinn, Ironwood, Iron River, and Stambaugh, was hired as contractor, and early in June the moving of the **Central School** to clear the high school site began. Central was moved to a location on W. Hughitt where the **Junior High or Middle**

School now stands (*Press*, 5/11, 5/25, 6/8/1911).

The *Press* provided scant coverage of the progress of construction of the high school building, but in its September 19th edition announced that, "The splendid new high school building will be thrown open to the public tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock and remain open during the evening." The October 3 issue contained a full description of the building, giving much attention to the fire-resistive construction of reinforced concrete floors, hollow tile partitions, floors of terrazzo in the corridors and lavatories and "Sarco asphalt mastic" elsewhere, and wood used only for doors, frames, and sash. The paper reported the architects' claim that the only other such fireproof school in the Upper Peninsula was the then recently built high school they designed for Calumet (*Press*, 9/19, 10/3/1912). The Iron Mountain High School remains in use today as the city's high school.

The high school facilities were expanded in 1964-65 with construction of new **Administration-Physical Education-Music and Industrial Arts buildings** across Prospect Avenue from the 1911-12 building and flanking A Street. To the Admin-Phys Ed-Music Building the **Izzo-Mariucci Fitness Center** was added in 2002-03. Containing weight and wrestling rooms along with meeting and office space, the building was funded from proceeds and donations from the city's annual golf classic hosted by Iron Mountain natives **Tom Izzo**, Michigan State University basketball coach, and **Steve Mariucci**, then coach of the Detroit Lions football team, beginning in the late 1990's. The two were both graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1973.

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Junior High (now Middle) School

Following construction of the high school in 1911-12 the **Hulst School** housed the city's junior high school. By the late 1930's Hulst was again being called "congested," the junior high too large for the available space. During 1937 the school board retained Iron Mountain architects **F. E. Parmelee & Son** to design a new junior high and obtained a **federal Public Works Administration grant** of \$89,860 toward the estimated \$199,690 project. After initial bids came in too high, the board brought in a second architect, **Raymond La Vee**, from Appleton, Wisconsin, as a consultant to look at substituting materials to reduce costs. With La Vee's revised specs, contracts for the job were successfully awarded in December 1937, the main construction contract going to the **W. C. Smith Co.** of Duluth for \$128,842 (*News*, 10/6, 11/11, 11/16, 12/14, 12/20/1937).

Demolition of the old **Central School**, which occupied the new junior high site since being moved there in 1911, took place in January, and the new building was completed and occupied just before the Christmas break in December 1938. The school board held an open house January 12, 1939 (*News*, 1/4, 12/15, 12/21/1939; 1/12/1939). The building, with a 1994 addition across the street to the east, continues to serve as a school, now **Central Elementary and Middle School**.

St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic School

Although Iron Mountain's Catholic parishes date back to the 1880's and 90's, the city had no Catholic school until the 1950's. **St. Mary and St. Joseph was the city's first Catholic school**. The school was built in 1953-54 and dedicated by **Bishop Noa** in September 1954 (*News*,

6/17/1953; 9/20/1954). While St. Mary and St. Joseph was under construction, **Immaculate Conception**, the city's North Side church, also began work on its own grade school under the direction of pastor **Fr. James McCarthy**. The **Immaculate Conception School** was occupied in September 1955 (Dulan, 37). Both schools operated until recent years, when it became clear only a single building was needed. Today St. Mary and St. Joseph serves as the city's Catholic grade school under the name of **Bishop Baraga School**.

Carnegie Public Library

The district also contains the former Iron Mountain library building. This building is significant for its sixty-five year use as the city's public library building and for its association with the library philanthropy of steel magnate **Andrew Carnegie**.

Iron Mountain's first public library was a **Breitung Township library** housed in a small wooden building near the north end of Carpenter Avenue. Established in **Quinnesec**, located in Breitung Township, in the late 1870's or early 1880's, it was soon moved to Iron Mountain. When Iron Mountain became a village and then a city in 1887-88, separating from Breitung, this first library was moved back within the township to Quinnesec.

A **new Iron Mountain library** was then established at the **Central School** and contained 110 books by late 1891. When the **Hulst School** was completed in 1893, the library was moved there. By the fall of 1897 the library had grown to a reported total of about 2100 volumes.

In mid-March 1901 the *Iron Mountain Press* reported receipt of a letter by school superintendent **L. E. Amidon** from **Andrew Carnegie** containing an offer of a

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\$15,000 grant to the city for a library building contingent upon the city providing a site and agreeing to provide at least \$1500 a year for support. It is thought that reports of recent Carnegie donations for libraries in Ironwood and Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula may have inspired Amidon to write to Carnegie. Late in 1901 Carnegie agreed to provide an additional \$2500 for stack room and furnishings (Cummings, *Evolution ... Public Library*, 2, 6-14).

Between 1888 and his death in 1919 Andrew Carnegie provided funding for 2509 public library buildings throughout the English-speaking world, including sixty-one in Michigan. Until 1898 Carnegie made only a few library gifts, primarily in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area near his steel mills and residence, but in 1898 he began a much more broad program of library building and equipment grants. As was typical of these Carnegie library grants by this time, Iron Mountain's grant was made contingent upon the community agreeing to provide a site and annual support equal to one-tenth of the grant (Bobinsky, 3, 13, 43).

By mid-July 1901 the board of education obtained the site at the northeast E. Ludington/Iron Mountain Street corner and engaged architect **James E. Clancy** to design the building. Local contractor **William H. Sweet**, whose bid of \$12,900 was accepted, began work in late August and the building was completed in mid-April 1902. An open house was held April 15 (*Evolution ... Public Library*, 14-17).

The building served as the city's **Carnegie Public Library** until 1960, when a **Dickinson County Library system**, authorized by a county-wide referendum as a response to ongoing budget shortfalls, took over management of the county's two

libraries. Planning for a new library building in Iron Mountain began in 1963 and the building in use today was constructed in 1967-69 at a location a block and a half south of the old library. In 1971 the former Carnegie Public Library building was sold to the **Menominee Range Historical Foundation**. The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum opened in the building during 1974 (*Evolution ... Public Library*, 27-28, 30-35).

V. SOCIAL HISTORY

Iron Mountain's first city directory, published in 1892, makes clear how quickly fraternal and other social organizations became established in the boomtown settlement. Nationally the post-Civil War years were a time not only of massive expansion for older fraternal organizations such as the **Masons** and **Odd Fellows** but also for the founding of new ones. **Many of the fraternal organizations were established to promote preservation and celebration of the heritage of specific nationalities or ethnic groups.** The later nineteenth century also saw a proliferation of mutual benefit associations that combined a social, fraternal aspect with insurance plans for members by which dues provided some form of life, funeral, or injury or sickness insurance. Such mutual benefit associations had their heyday in the late nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries when industrial accidents were frequent, governmental oversight of working conditions weak or non-existent, and company provisions for injured or sick workers also inadequate or non-existent. In an industrial town like Iron Mountain their value would have been

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recognized. The **Ancient Order of United Workmen**, founded in Meadville, Pennsylvania, in 1868, may have been the first fraternal mutual benefit association, establishing a death benefit in 1869.

The first Iron Mountain directory lists **Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Sons of St. George, Improved Order of Red Men, and Scandinavian Aid and Fellowship Society** bodies already established and a **Knights of the Modern Maccabees** tent recently organized. The next, 1902 directory lists these plus the **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), Ste. Jean Baptiste Society, Catholic Order of Foresters, Society Fraterlante**, and the **National Protective League**. And these directory listings include only one of the nearly dozen Italian social and mutual benefit associations established in the city's early years, most of which presumably held their meetings and social events in the North Side.

The city's first fraternal organization may have been the **Masonic Iron Mountain Chapter No. 121, A.F. & A.M.** The chapter began in 1886 when the lodge at Quinnesec was split into separate Iron Mountain and Norway lodges and Iron Mountain Chapter No. 121 received its charter. By 1892 the city was served by three Masonic bodies, including also **Lodge No. 388, A.F. & A.M.**, and **Iron Mountain Chapter No. 44, Order of the Eastern Star**. The 1925 directory lists only Lodge No. 388 and Eastern Star Chapter No. 44.

A hall in the second story of the **John Russell Building**, 100 E. Brown, served as the city's **Masonic Hall** in 1888-91 and then again briefly in the later 1890's, but for most of the time from 1891 until 1958 the city's Masonic organizations had their Masonic

Hall in the **Fisher Block** (demolished) at 110 E. Ludington. The Masons, presumably looking for larger quarters, took an option on the **Northern Ballroom Building**, 100-04 W. Brown, early in 1930, but eventually backed out. They bought a former freight warehouse building at Woodward and Carpenter, south of the district, in 1950 and occupied it as their temple in 1958 (*News*, 11/10/1931; 1/13/1938; 2/18/1950).

The 1892 directory shows that the **Knights of Pythias** and the **Ancient Order of United Workmen** also had their meeting places in the **Fisher Block**, but another then recently completed building, the **Robbins Block**, 217-19 E. Hughitt, was an even more popular meeting place for many of the city's fraternal and other organizations. The building's two second-floor halls then accommodated all of the following: **Sons of St. George, Scandinavian Aid and Fellowship Society Lodge No. 15, and Improved Order of Red Men Menominee Tribe No. 37**. The 1902 directory reveals that the following all then had their meeting places in the Robbins Block:

- **Knights of Pythias Hematite Lodge No. 129**
- **Ladies of the Modern Maccabees Corbin Hive No. 680**
- **Ancient Order of United Workmen Iron Mountain Lodge No. 146**
- **Sons of St. George Victoria Lodge No. 262**. Like the United Workmen, the Sons of St. George is also a mutual benefit association that, founded by Englishmen in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1870, is dedicated to "preserving and celebrating our English heritage and traditions" ("The Sons of St. George"). The Cornish who formed a substantial

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part of the city's early mining force likely comprised much if not most of the membership.

- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) P. O'Connell Post No. 426 and Woman's Relief Corps P. O'Connell Corps. No. 238.**
- **St. Joseph Society No. 5 Branch, auxiliary to the Ste. Jean Baptiste Society.** The Ste.-Jean-Baptiste Society began in Montreal and Quebec in the 1830's and early 40's and soon spread to numerous towns in Quebec province. Societies appeared in the new French-Canadian communities in the United States. By 1900 societies existed in the Upper Peninsula at Calumet, Escanaba, Marquette, Menominee, Negaunee, Republic, and Sault Ste. Marie, as well as Iron Mountain. The Iron Mountain society, founded June 24, 1889, had as its mission to serve "the cause of the French-Canadian nationality of upper Michigan; to unite our nationality as much as possible and to help each other as brothers..." The society had a mutual benefit aspect as well as a social/fraternal one to promote the "observance of moral principles and the protection of patriotism and the love of country..." (*News*, 6/21/1939).
- **Catholic Order of Foresters**, three different "Courts." First established in 1869 on the plan of the older Foresters association, the Catholic Foresters offered death, funeral, and sick benefits.
- **Society Fraterlante.**
- **National Protective Legion.** The Legion, founded in Waverly, New York, in 1890, is another combination fraternal and mutual benefit association.

- **Scandinavian Aid and Fellowship Society No. 15** and the **Syskonring Ladies' Auxiliary.**

- **Modern Brotherhood of America.** Founded in Tipton, Iowa, in 1897, the Modern Brotherhood was another fraternal insurance association. The Brotherhood moved its headquarters to Mason City, Iowa, in 1915.

Hematite Lodge No. 129 of the Knights of Pythias maintained by far the longest presence in the **Robbins Block**, meeting there until the mid-1990's – the 1925 directory also shows the **Modern Woodmen of the World** meeting in their hall. The Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington, DC in 1864 by Justus H. Rathbone, who hoped that a fraternal association that, in President Lincoln's words, "breathes the spirit of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence," could help bridge the divide between North and South in the aftermath of the Civil War. Not a mutual benefit association, the order holds loyalty, honor, and friendship as its ideals.

The **Odd Fellows (International Order of Odd Fellows or IOOF)**, another of the fraternal organizations typically establishing their presence in a community early in its history, occupied a hall in a now demolished building at 421 Stephenson. The 1888 Sanborn map shows the building, with the IOOF hall in the second story, with the notation "to be built." By 1925 the **IOOF's Crescent Lodge No. 374** had moved to the then recently built **United States National Bank Building** (now **Downtown Plaza**), 427 Stephenson. The **Maccabee's Women's Benevolent Association** also then met at the **Odd Fellows Hall**.

Iron Mountain's Elks (Benevolent Protective Order of Elks) Lodge No. 388,

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established in July 1901, occupied quarters in the second story of the **Bond Building**, 405-07 Carpenter, in the mid-1920's, after first meeting in rooms in the **First National Bank Building**, 200 block of Stephenson (demolished). By the late 1920's the lodge moved into the **former Ford Office Building** on E. Ludington, built 1920 (demolished), where they were located until the 1970's (*News*, 6/1/1950).

The district also contains the one-time **Salvation Army Hall**, located at 216 E. Hughitt (now **Sikora Sheet Metal**). The Salvation Army operated in Iron Mountain as far back as 1892 (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 107). They occupied this building from 1922 until May 1949, when they moved to a new building at West C and Foster streets, west of the district (*News*, 5/7/1949).

VI. ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION

Saloons and Bars

Iron Mountain was an industrial town full of hard-working – and hard-drinking – workingmen. The saloon was a primary form of recreation in the city's early days. The Sanborn insurance maps and early city directories bear testimony to the number of saloons – especially in the north side of the business district nearer the mines along Stephenson and nearby on Fleshier, Brown, Hughitt, and Merritt. The 1884 Sanborns show twelve saloons within the small area encompassed by the maps then, the 1888 maps, which cover the entire area, list twenty-six within the downtown area, and the 1891 maps thirty-two, including sixteen along Stephenson's east side between Fleshier and B and eight on the north side of W. Hughitt between Merritt

and Carpenter (this includes ones at Merritt's northeast corner and Carpenter's northwest corner). The numbers were only slightly reduced in subsequent Sanborns down to 1911, the last series that indicate use beyond the word "Store" – but the concentration of seven along Hughitt's north side in the Merritt-Carpenter area remained constant.

A several block stretch of Hughitt Street early received the name "The Midway." While the heart of it seems to have been the one block area between Merritt and Carpenter, it was said to extend from a block east of Stephenson west to Carpenter and beyond. The 1891 Sanborn map shows an "Open Amusement Place" with "five piles of benches" at the present sites of 122-24 W. Hughitt. Perhaps this apparently short-lived open-air entertainment place gave the area its nickname or perhaps, as Cummings suggests (*Iron Mountain's Business District*, sections 28-29), "because early carnivals were set up on Hughitt Street." Whatever the source of the name, the area soon attained a reputation for hard drinking – long time Iron Mountain merchant **G. P. "Gilly" Fugere** reminisced in 1955 that "there was more whiskey consumed in that one-block area [Merritt to Carpenter], per 24-hour day, than in any area of similar size in the world" (*News*, 11/30/1955) – that continued even after Michigan's and then the national Prohibition went into effect.

Police raids had little impact until early May 1926, when a coordinated raid put in motion by the county prosecutor and city police chief following evidence gathering by four private investigators resulted in numerous arrests along Hughitt and nearby streets for not only liquor violations but also prostitution, illegal gambling, and general

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fleeing of the patrons after they were liquored up. Twelve places were raided. Another large-scale raid in early May 1928 hit more places. The area's something less than toney reputation began long before the 1920's, but one of the newspaper stories on the 1926 raid opined that the Ford boom bringing the "flotsam and jetsam of humanity" with it contributed to the problems (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 283-86, 289-91).

Since the 1920's most of the former saloon buildings in The Midway and its general area, including all but one (it appears) of the business places hit in these raids have been demolished. A storied, albeit sometimes unsavory, part of the city's history has all but disappeared. And today's gaps along the West Hughitt and East Brown streetscapes are not recent scars: the 1949 Sanborn updates show many of the buildings gone even then. Four of the old saloon buildings have survived – the buildings at 100 E. Hughitt, 124 and 200 W. Hughitt, and 407 Merritt. The latter, the former **German Hotel** and then the **American Hotel**, may be the last survivor of the places raided in 1926 and 1928 (it was also raided earlier, in 1920). These buildings all have value for the city in reflecting the story of the city's colorful pioneer boomtown days. The **German/American Hotel** has a special significance as the city's Prohibition landmark – apparently the only downtown Iron Mountain building left to reflect that exotic history.

If Prohibition – and the closing of the mines – put a death knell on most of the older bars along Hughitt, Prohibition's end created opportunities for new drinking establishments to open. Shortly after Prohibition ended, **Samuel J. Khoury's**

Avenue Bar opened in the basement of the **Jacobs Building**, 407-09 Stephenson, and **Char's Bar and Cocktail Lounge** in the basement of the **Commercial Bank Building**, 500 Stephenson. The Avenue Bar remained in operation until the mid-1970's. Char's soon became **Squinch's Bar**, owned by **Quinto Spera**. **August and Albert Mariucci**, who bought the bar from Spera in January 1949 along with **Ray Cecconi**, renamed it the **Four-Lane Bar** in honor of the then recent rebuilding of Stephenson Avenue and ran it until the early 1970s (*News*, 1/18/1949).

Another downtown bar, **Khoury's Cocktail Lounge**, received considerable attention from the *News* when it debuted early in 1949. Owner **Samuel A. Khoury** remodeled the building at 305 Stephenson in 1948-49, replacing his **Khoury's Restaurant** at that location with this new establishment and moving his liquor license here from a former bar at 215 Stephenson. The interior of the new lounge was portrayed in a post card view – perhaps the only downtown Iron Mountain drinking establishment so recorded. The view shows a Moderne interior with linoleum floor and curving bar and mirrored backbar – bar and backbar topped by a curving, molded canopy below the ceiling that may have reflected light upward off the ceiling. In its early years, at least, Khoury's was one of the few in-town venues that featured **live musical entertainment**. Under several later owners, the lounge survived until about 1968.

Only one of the old-time downtown bars remains in operation today, **Mayme's** at 114 E. Brown. The **Bolognesi Building**, containing **Joseph Bolognesi's saloon** downstairs and the family residence upstairs, was built between 1904 and 1911,

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probably around 1908. The business operated as the **Roma Restaurant** during Prohibition, but became a tavern again by 1935 and was operated as **Strong's Bar** in the early 1960's by **Jack S. Strong**. **Mrs. Mary R. Strong**, who ran the bar after her husband's death, changed the name to the still-used **Mayme's** by 1967.

The Movies

"Lemaire's Cinematoscope," described only as moving pictures of human beings and moving objects, shown in March 1897 at **Rundle's Opera House**, located on W. Ludington where the post office now stands, may have been the first "movie" presentation in Iron Mountain. An "Edison projectoscope" presentation, including a boxing match, followed at Rundle's in May. Actual movie theaters may have begun with the **Bijou**. **Located in the wooden former Armory, on the site of the Iron Mountain Recreation directly opposite the post office/Rundle's Opera House site, it opened in April 1907.** The proprietor was **Martin D. Thomas**. A second motion picture house, the 425-seat **Marion**, opened on E. Hughitt early in 1912. A third, the **Colonial**, which opened in December 1916, seated 931 in floor seating, opera chairs in the balcony, and three boxes. The theater, designed by leading Upper Peninsula architect **Demetrius F. Charlton**, was breathlessly described in the newspaper as "second to no theater in all appointments north of Milwaukee." The proprietor was **August E. Brauns** and the manager the same **Martin D. Thomas** who had established the Bijou. The Colonial remained in operation until the 1950's (a parking lot occupies the site today) and the Bijou until the early 1930's, but the Marion served as a movie theater only a few years

and then was converted to a **dance hall** known as **Marion Hall** (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 128, 130, 215-16, 242-43, 263).

Iron Mountain's pre-eminent movie house for size and architectural distinction, and the only old theater building still standing, is the **Braumart Theater** located on B Street just west of Stephenson. The theater/office building was constructed for **Brauns and Martin** to serve as part of their **Colonial Theater chain of theaters in Iron Mountain and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**. Built in 1924-25, the 1000-seat theater opened April 21, 1925. The name, combining parts of the owners' names, was selected through a contest. Sound equipment to show "talking pictures" was installed in 1929 (Friends of the Braumart).

In March 1947 plans were announced for a second, larger theater, with seating for 1150, to be located directly behind the Braumart, but after this initial announcement, nothing further was reported on this plan. Instead, in 1952, when Thomas took over full management of the Braumart as part of a group of about twenty theaters he was previously running in association with a Milwaukee company, he constructed a **drive-in** at the US-2/141 intersection southeast of Iron Mountain. The drive-in opened in August (*News*, 3/13/1947; 5/24, 8/7/1952; 6/2/1955). The Braumart itself was twinned during the 1970's but closed early in 1996 a few months after an eight-screen theater complex opened southeast of town. A "Friends of the Braumart" group is hoping to purchase the building in the future.

Bowling

Another pastime that gained in popularity in the early twentieth century in

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Iron Mountain and around the nation was bowling. It is believed that modern bowling was brought to this country in the nineteenth century with the waves of immigrants from the German states. In 1895 advocates for standardizing the game across the country formed the first national association, the **American Bowling Congress** (Schmidt, 2-5).

Iron Mountain's former Armory housed both a roller skating rink and, as of 1905, a bowling alley along one side, before it became the Bijou Theater in 1907. This small, short-lived bowling alley may have been the city's first. After the Bijou closed, sometime around 1930, another bowling alley opened in the building. Owned by **Ray Derham, Peter Tomassoni, and Joseph Crispigna**, this bowling alley was **destroyed in a late October 1939 fire that burned the Armory and a tavern building next door.** The owners built a new **Iron Mountain Recreation Lanes** at 100 W. Ludington, on the site of the two burned buildings; it opened March 15, 1940. The new building contained ten alleys and a forty-foot long bar (*News*, 10/31/1939; 3/13/1940). By 1959 **Peter A. Tomassoni's The Recreation Co.** was the owner.

Son **Ronald P. Tomassoni** took over the business in 1961. In 1978 he opened a second bowling alley in Kingsford. The 100 W. Ludington bowling alley remained in operation until about 1985, when Tomassoni completed a much larger **Recreation Lanes & Lounge** on Iron Mountain's far north edge at 1555 N. Stephenson. (Ronald Tomassoni's 2010 obituary noted his long interest in youth bowling programs. "It was always Ron's dream to see Bowling as an accredited Varsity letter sport in Michigan's high

schools, and he worked tirelessly to fulfill that vision. In 2005, bowling became a Varsity sport in the state of Michigan, sanctioned by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. His Iron Mountain High School Varsity bowling teams attended local conference, regional and state tournaments. In 2009, his IMHS boys bowling team placed first in the Division 3 State Tournament, bringing the first State Championship trophy to Iron Mountain High School.")

Dancing

The 1920's to the early 1950's were the "**Big Band Era**" when **ballroom dancing** became a national leisure-time pastime. Large and small cities saw a decade long rush of ballroom and dance hall construction during the 1920's, while a vast number of public community halls and school gymnasiums, and lodge and club halls in smaller cities and rural communities served as dance venues during the period. In addition, the rising popularity of the auto for personal transportation beginning in the 1920's brought into being a new generation of dance halls in out-of-town resort locations as well, followed after the end of Prohibition in the 1930's by growing numbers of roadhouses that featured live music and dance floors along with food and drink.

In Iron Mountain **Marion Hall**, the no longer extant **former Marion Theater** on E. Hughitt, seems to have been one of the first of the new dance halls. The place was renovated in 1921 with a hardwood dance floor with chairs around it and a balcony with chairs (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 263). The 1925 directory also lists the **Forzoca Dance Hall** at 514 6th on the North Side.

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Several of the leading dance halls were located outside of town. The **pavilion at the Hamilton Lakes Resort** east of Iron Mountain between Loretto and Waucedah was in operation in 1923, and the **Pine Gardens dancing pavilion** at Badwater Lake, a few miles northwest of town, opened during 1924. Expanded the following year, it contained a 60 x 115-foot dance floor, lunch room and kitchen, and separate fountain area. **The Nightingale dance hall**, also located at Badwater Lake, opened in 1925. Run by **Claude Parmelee**, whose brother **Gale** was the architect, the building was slightly larger than the recently completed Pine Gardens and finished with a stuccoed Spanish exterior and tile roof (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 269-72, 274, 276-77).

All of these structures have disappeared, but one 1920's **ballroom/dance hall building**, the **Northern Ballroom**, 100-04 W. Brown, survives within the Central Historic District. The building was constructed in 1923 with commercial space downstairs and the ballroom occupying the second story. An August 1925 *News* story reported that the ballroom was to be decorated by "lightning artist" Harry King with a series of six twelve-by-twenty-foot "representations of snow scenes in keeping with the fir trees used for decorative purposes, and the significance of the name chosen for the dance place" (*News*, 8/11/1925). Articles in the *News* during 1925 list bands booked for the ballroom including "Paul Biese and his Victor recording orchestra, Ernie Young's orchestra of Chicago, Coon Sanders, the Original Kansas City Nighthawks, the Southern Serenaders and others" and note local dancing instructor **Frank Maher's** "attempt to establish a record for mileage

covered during 24 hours of continuous dancing" during and following a regular evening dance (*News*, 4/6, 12/18, and 12/21/1925).

In November 1927 **F. E. Parmelee & Sons**, who operated the **Nightingale Ballroom**, assumed management of the **Northern** as well. Changing the name to the **Winter Garden**, they planned to operate it only during the winter season. By 1930 the ballroom was apparently being used only for occasional events, and sale of the building to local freight line operator **W. D. Cochran** in 1931 seems to have ended the building's ballroom use (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 288; *News*, 11/8/1927; 5/12, 10/20, 11/10/1931). Today the ballroom retains its maple floor but little other evidence of the onetime ballroom.

VII. ARCHITECTURE

The district is notable under **Architecture for its broad variety of building types and styles dating from the early 1880's to the mid-1960's**. A number of buildings possess more than local architectural significance as fine examples of their types and styles and some possess importance as notable works of their designers, which included local and Upper Peninsula architects and some from beyond the region.

Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence/Jail

A key architectural landmark in Iron Mountain and Dickinson County as a whole is the 1896 Dickinson County Courthouse complex that also includes the adjacent former Sheriff's Residence and Jail built at the same time. The T-plan courthouse with its **Richardsonian Romanesque** entry and tall tower in the center of the broad front

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facing Stephenson is already listed in the national register. It is distinguished for its impressive size and height, its rugged rockface exterior built using a variety of local and non-local materials – rockface dark red brick, reddish-brown local and light brown Portage Entry sandstone, and the gray granite of the columns – and for its decorative finishes, including the broad columned arched entry with its swag and dentil details and the octagonal lobby with its colorful encaustic tile floor and Victorian woodwork. The sheriff's residence/jail, built at the same time and using the same rockface dark red brick, looks the part of a castle/fortress, with round corner tower and castellated parapet.

The planning and construction of the county courthouse and sheriff's residence/jail are well documented through the meeting minutes and committee reports of the county board of supervisors printed *verbatim* in the newspaper week by week. In March 1896 county voters approved a proposal to bond the county for \$32,000, payable over fifteen years, to purchase the present courthouse site and construct the buildings. The county board of supervisors had previously reviewed a number of offered possible sites and selected the present courthouse property, described in a newspaper story as "a commanding one and decidedly convenient to the business center of the city." The board also reviewed plans by seven architectural firms for the courthouse and sheriff's residence/jail, including leading Upper Peninsula architects **Charlton, Gilbert & Demar**, **Charles W. Maas**, then of Marinette, Wisconsin, and an Iron Mountain firm, **N. B. Parmelee & Son**. They selected those by **James E. Clancy**, now of Green Bay, Wisconsin, but previously residing in Iron

Mountain. Clancy had designed the **Fisher Block** in which the county then had its offices and may well have designed the **Wood Sandstone Block** they used before that as well. Through discussions with Clancy prior to seeking bids for the project, a change was made in the above-basement exterior wall finish to rockface brick – this presumably to reduce costs, although it is not clear what was originally planned (Cummings, *Dickinson County Courthouse*, 31-2, 36-7, 40-41).

In March 1896 the board advertised in the Iron Mountain newspaper, *The Range-Tribune*, for separate bids for the general construction contract, for plumbing, heating and ventilating, and for the steel and iron work for the jail. Nine contractors, from Iron Mountain and Ishpeming, Michigan, Chicago, and various places in Wisconsin submitted bids for construction of the building, most submitting additional bids for using alternative materials. In April the board accepted a \$23,300 general construction bid from Ishpeming's **E. E. Grip & Co.** after requesting bid revisions for several changes from the original plans from three leading bidders. The primary changes were the substitution of apparently less expensive Iron Mountain sandstone for "Duck Creek stone" from the Green Bay, Wisconsin, area for the basement walls and making the second-story walls twelve and one-half rather than seventeen inches in thickness (*Dickinson County Courthouse*, 38-43).

Bids for the jail's steel and iron work were received from five firms, with the bid of \$3218 from the **Champion Iron Co.**, Kenton, Ohio, being accepted. The heating and ventilating contract was awarded to **C. L. Anderson** of Ishpeming for \$2440 and the plumbing contract to **Case & Co.** of

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Green Bay for \$1224.96. As with the general construction contract, some bidders provided alternative bids based on omitting work that could be postponed until later if the funds were not available (*Dickinson County Courthouse*, 42-43).

Construction of the courthouse and sheriff's residence/jail began in early May and was completed in late November or December 1896. The building followed the general pattern of county courthouse design in the post-Civil War era. It provided office spaces for the primary county officials, each with its own vault, in the ground floor grouped around a large central lobby, and spaces behind the lobby for the county school administrator and "agriculturalist." The upstairs contained a broad T-shaped courtroom, with jury and prosecutor's rooms behind it, and in front on either side of the central staircase, a judge's and committee room. The building was up to date in having men's and women's bathrooms. These were located at the back of the ground floor just inside a rear entrance to the building – perhaps intended for use by the public in the nearby downtown as well as building employees and visitors. Upstairs there was a single toilet off the jury room.

The 1896 courthouse and jail are key architectural landmarks in Iron Mountain's downtown and the Central Historic District. The courthouse with its very tall hip roof and central front tower topped by a pointed octagonal roof stands out from everything else in the city. Its Late Victorian design exhibits a Richardsonian Romanesque influence in the massive rockface sandstone blocks of the basement, arched main west entry with its granite columns supporting broadly radiating voussoirs, and the arched openings in the tower's front and

side faces. The jail, constructed with walls of rockface brick above the sandstone block basement that match the courthouse's, displays a castellated character that symbolizes the building's function as a "castle" or "keep" for prisoners. Effecting a castle or fortress-like appearance was common practice for county jails during the nineteenth century, though seemingly less so in Michigan than in other states such as Indiana. Relatively few of these buildings have survived – all or nearly all in non-jail use today.

Library

Among the city's public buildings the former **Carnegie Public Library**, 300 E. Ludington, is also a key architectural landmark. Built in 1901-02, the Bedford (Indiana) limestone-faced **Neoclassical building** stands on a tall rockface base, with upper walls faced in smooth coursed ashlar. It has Ionic porches and large reading room windows with arched lunette tops. Its asymmetrical form, with a projecting portico-topped gabled entry at the right-hand end, may reflect both the lot's relatively narrow frontage and also the sloping topography. One of the first Michigan library buildings funded by Andrew Carnegie, the building was constructed in the period before Carnegie offered much in the way of advice on library design and well before he and his secretary James Bertram instituted a formal process requiring approval of plans. Carnegie financed sixty-one library buildings in Michigan (Bobinsky, Table 18), but there has been no systematic survey and research done on the surviving Michigan examples by which to make comparisons. In any event, the asymmetrical form distinguishes it from the typical early

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twentieth-century public library building with its symmetrical, portico-centered façade.

Architect James E. Clancy

James E. Clancy designed the 1896 **Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail** and the 1901-02 **Carnegie Public Library**. He may well have designed, as well, the **Eskil and Robbins Blocks** on E. Hughitt and the **Wood Sandstone Block** on E. Ludington, but there seems to be no surviving documentation.

Clancy (1854-) was born in Ontario (Canada West, as it was known at the time) and was living with his parents, Peter and Mary Ann Clancy, at Bedford, Frontenac County, in the Kingston area, at the time of the 1861 Canadian census. The 1871 census shows the family living in Kingston itself. By 1881, when his eldest child was born, he and wife Delia A. Clancy were living in Wisconsin (Ancestry.com). The October 25, 1890, *The Diamond Drill*, contains a report taken from a recent *Iron Mountain Journal* that Clancy, “residing at present at Antigo, Wis., was in the city [Iron Mountain] on Friday and has decided to locate here permanently.” His 1890-91 Iron County Courthouse in Crystal Falls was then under construction, and his Florence County Courthouse and Jail in Florence, Wisconsin, recently built. During the summer of 1890 Clancy had designed a house for Max Berlowitz and a building for the Bank of Crystal Falls in Crystal Falls (*The Diamond Drill*, 8/2 and 8/9/1890).

Clancy made Iron Mountain his home during the next few years. The 1892 directory lists his office address as 117 Stephenson and lists as his specialty “Designing and superintending the construction of public buildings.” Clancy designed the demolished 1891 **Fisher Block**, formerly at 108-10 E. Ludington, and **N. P. Hulst High School building** (Cummings, *Fisher Block in Business Blocks*; Storms, 1902-03 Directory, 29). He may also have designed – though there seems not to be any clear documentation for these – other major buildings of the early 1890’s boom period such as the 1888 **Wood Block** (demolished), 221-33 Stephenson; 1891 **Wood Sandstone Block**, 206-16 E. Ludington; 1891 **Eskil Block**, 215 E. Hughitt; and 1891 **Robbins Block**, 217-19 E. Hughitt. Later, in 1898, he designed the (demolished) **Levy Building**, 415-19 Stephenson (see *Business Blocks*, 33). Walter R. Nursey in his 1891 *The Menominee Range* referred to Clancy as “leaving stable legacies of his skill in every town in the range” (92).

The 1893-94 state gazetteer and business directory lists him as still resident in Iron Mountain, but his name is absent in the next, 1895-96 gazetteer. In Iron Mountain, the poor economic times resulting from the mines being mostly shut down must have left few opportunities for architects. Clancy relocated to Green Bay, Wisconsin, probably leaving town in the 1893-94 period. From 1895 to about 1897 he reportedly practiced in Green Bay as

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part of Clancy & Foeller with Henry Foeller, who soon after founded his own firm (see Leonard M. Schober entry below). The newspaper coverage of the selection of Clancy early in 1896 as architect for the new Dickinson County Courthouse makes it clear that the architect was located in Green Bay by then, but does not mention Foeller (see Cummings, *The Dickinson County Courthouse and Jail*, 32-38). Clancy is listed in the Green Bay directories through the 1905 edition. The Green Bay directories were published in odd-numbered years at the time, and the next, 1907 edition no longer lists him. His history after that is unclear at present.

Schools

Iron Mountain High School

The High School, 300 West B, is notable in architectural terms for Iron Mountain and Dickinson County in several ways. **The 1911-12 building is Iron Mountain's and Dickinson County's pre-eminent Neoclassical building with its symmetrical block long, three-story façade dominated by a projecting central four-column *in antis* Tuscan portico and Tuscan-column entry porch at either end.**

The building is also important from an architectural and engineering standpoint for its fire-resistant construction – still rare at the time for public school buildings in the Upper Peninsula (if not the state at large). The new building featured reinforced concrete floors, hollow tile partitions, and terrazzo floors in the corridors, coat and toilet rooms, and showers. Wood was

confined to the doors, door and window frames, and the window sash. At the time of construction the architect claimed that only one other Upper Peninsula school, the Calumet High School, featured this type of fire-safe construction. School buildings constructed up to this time typically were entirely timber frame buildings with wooden floors and finishes throughout and still often had timber-frame gable or hip roofs. The same architect's own large high school building in nearby Norway, constructed in 1906, was one such structure. The building was destroyed by fire in August 1912, only six years after construction, leaving nothing but brick walls standing (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 178-79, 219-20). Landmark school buildings such as the Calumet and Iron Mountain buildings and Chicago school architect John D. Chubb's high schools in Escanaba and Negaunee, all built around the same time as Iron Mountain, likely had a significant influence in raising fire-safety standards in the 1910's. In 1915 the Michigan legislature adopted a Michigan school building law, Public Act No. 17 of 1915, for the first time requiring state review and approval of plans for most school buildings (it was amended in 1919). Primary concerns then were about heating, ventilation, and sanitation (Michigan, State of; Superintendent of Public Instruction 1926-27, 20-22), and state requirements concerning fire safety apparently came much later.

The Iron Mountain High School is also significant as an important commission by **Demetrius Frederick (D. Fred) Charlton**, a key figure in the architectural profession in the Upper Peninsula in the early twentieth century.

Architect D. Fred Charlton

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Charlton, according to Steven C. Brisson, author of a master's thesis on the architect, "was the first professional architect to reside permanently in Michigan's northern peninsula" (Brisson, 42). A native of Kent, England, Charlton (1856-1941) worked for leading Detroit architects Gordon W. Lloyd and William and John Scott before moving to Marquette in 1887 to open a branch office for John Scott & Co. to handle their Upper Peninsula work. Charlton opened his own office in Marquette in 1890. Robert W. Gilbert, who joined the firm in 1891 and left in 1904, established a Milwaukee office in 1895. Edward O. Demar, an associate of the firm from 1895 to 1901, opened a short-lived Sault Ste. Marie office. A fourth member, Edwin O. Kuenzli, headed up the Milwaukee office after Gilbert left, serving until Charlton dissolved the firm and retired from practice in 1918.

Charlton's firm is thought to have designed hundreds of buildings across the Upper Peninsula and beyond, with about 175 identified thus far (Brisson, 45). It produced many of the region's most important buildings during the twenty-eight years it was in operation, including such surviving landmarks as the Marquette County Courthouse, Hancock and Ishpeming City Halls, and the Negaunee fire hall (Brisson; Smith-Dengler House national register nomination, Houghton Co.). Charlton's Marquette office designed numerous Upper Peninsula public school buildings under the Charlton

& Kuenzli firm name. In addition to the Iron Mountain High School, these include the 1907-08 Bessemer High and Grade School, Calumet High School, Marquette High School, 1906 Norway High School, and Republic High and Grade School (Bruce, *High School Buildings*, 148-49, 175-76; Bruce, *School Architecture*, 128; Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 178-79). As noted above, the Iron Mountain High School constitutes a major example of the firm's work for its size and impressive Neoclassical architecture and for its role as one of the early examples of fireproof construction among Upper Peninsula schools.

Junior High School

Iron Mountain's 1938 Junior High (now **Central Elementary and Middle School**) is the city's only school building constructed during the 1930's and is a fine example of the public school architecture of the time. Like many of the decade's school buildings, its design reflects **Art Deco styling** in its overall blocky, angular form and in chevron panels and stylized designs capping the front's vertical piers and above the front entry. Like many public school buildings built during the Depression in Michigan and across the country, it was built with funding assistance from President Roosevelt's federal **Public Works Administration**. The building's construction came near the end of the long career of one of Iron Mountain's most important architects, **F. E. Parmelee**, and the school itself is one of his largest and most important buildings along with the 1921 former **United States National Bank** (now **Downtown Plaza**), 427 Stephenson.

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Architect Frederick E. Parmelee

Frederick E. Parmelee (1864-1947) was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The 1891 Iron Mountain directory lists N. B. Parmelee & Son, “contractors and builders,” comprised of Nathaniel B. Parmelee (1837-1915) and son Frederick. The Parmelees were likely working in the area as far back as 1886: a newspaper notice about “Messrs. Parmelee and sons” renovating an old school building into a church in Vulcan in 1886 likely refers to them (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 76). In the 1902 directory the firm, now termed Parmelee & Son, is listed as “architects,” and in the 1905 directory as “architects and builders.” An advertisement in the 1902 directory illustrates the still-standing **John T. Jones House**, 703 Grand Blvd., as one of the firm’s products. F. E. Parmelee’s obituaries report that he had resided in Iron Mountain sixty-three years (i.e. since about 1884) and that he had been engaged in architecture and contracting for forty years, retiring two years earlier (*News*, 6/12 and 6/13/1947). The 1913 directory lists him in practice on his own but also has a separate listing for another Parmelee architect, Charles H. Parmelee. The 1925 and 1935 directories list the firm of F. E. Parmelee & Son, with Gale F. Parmelee, but by 1941 the two are listed separately.

F. E. Parmelee seems to have been the leading architect in the Dickinson County area in the 1910’s to 1930’s. His buildings within the

district include, in addition to the 1921 **United States National Bank Building** (see discussion below), the 1925 addition to the (1922) **Iron Mountain Daily News Building**, 213 E. Ludington (whether he designed the 1922 building is unknown), and the 1938 **Iron Mountain Junior High School** (done under the F. E. Parmelee & Son name, with Gale F. Parmelee). Newspaper articles in Cummings, *Dickinson County*, reference various other Parmelee buildings in Iron Mountain and vicinity: 1909 **Current Building, Norway**; 1913 **von Platen Lumber Office**, Iron Mountain; 1914 **North End fire station**, Iron Mountain; and 1916 **Taylor Building**, on Stephenson within the district but demolished (198, 223, 229, 239). Parmelee-designed buildings in Iron Mountain and Kingsford noted in *Kingsford: The Town Ford Built in Dickinson County, Michigan*, also include the 1920 **Michigan Iron, Land & Lumber Co. office building** (later **Elks Temple**), E. Brown, Iron Mountain; 1922-23 **Kingsford Heights or Woodward Avenue School and West Breitung Schools**, Kingsford; and 1926 **Lincoln and Roosevelt Schools**, Kingsford (11, 46, 59, 255).

St. Mary & St. Joseph School

Now the **Bishop Baraga Catholic School**, the 1953-54 parochial school is a crisp example of the **International Style**. The term “International Style” is a name coined in America for the abstract Modernist architecture that appeared in 1920’s Europe but only slowly made its way

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to America before the late 1940's and 50's. This new Modernism rejected both the historic styles of architecture and the stylized decoration of the Art Deco and Moderne of a few years before in favor of a new stripped-down approach to architecture that emphasized clean cut lines, planar surfaces, and absence of ornament. The school's walls are basically flat planes pierced by long horizontal window bands that are outlined by raised limestone strips of starkly angular profile, with the individual windows separated from one another by broad flat vertical limestone slabs. As built the structure's windows all had upper portions of glass block, a characteristic material associated with the style and period; this served the practical purpose of admitting light into the classrooms while controlling the brightness. The school remains a fine example of the International Style school architecture of the 1950's.

Architect Leonard M. Schober

The school's architect was Leonard M. Schober. He also designed the 1953 **Guardian Angels Church** in Crystal Falls (*News*, 6/19/53). L. M. Schober was then a partner in the Green Bay, Wisconsin, architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahn. The firm was founded by Henry Foeller (1871-1938), who was born in Alsace and came to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1885. Early in his career Foeller practiced from about 1895-97 with James E. Clancy in Green Bay as Clancy & Foeller but then on his own until 1907, when Max W. Schober became his partner in Foeller & Schober. In 1929 Edgar H.

Berners, an employee since 1925, became a partner. The company acquired the Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahn name in 1940, and remains in operation in Green Bay today as Berners-Schober Associates, Inc.

Max Schober's son Leonard M. Schober (1916-) was born in Green Bay and trained at the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1939. He served as a draftsman with FSBS&J, then became a partner in 1941.

From the first the firm ran a general practice in northeast Wisconsin that designed a broad range of building types. Koyl 1966 lists the firm's principal works by then as primarily school and college buildings in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory lists four buildings by the firm, most notably the 1958 Shawano County Courthouse in Shawano – mostly in an International Style vein like St. Mary and St. Joseph School (Koyl 1966, 623; Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory, www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi).

Sources:

- Koyl 1966, 623
- Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory, www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi
- Port Washington, WI, Architects & Builders, <http://www.ci.port-washington.wi.us/history/Survey/ARCHITECTS&BUILDERS.htm>
- Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., Our History,

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http://www.bsagb.com/history_text.html

Churches

The district contains six church buildings that were constructed in the period from 1886 to 1953 for congregations and parishes founded in the nineteenth century.

First Presbyterian Church

The 1885-86 **First Presbyterian Church**, 200 W. Brown, is a fine example of the eclectic **Late Victorian wooden Protestant church architecture** of the 1880's. Iron Mountain's second oldest church building, it is a cross-gable-roof wooden building with a pyramid-roof bell tower at the street corner end in front of the side-gable section, a great round-arch (south) front window, and stickwork façade treatment and gable ornaments. The broad arched window is suggestive of the broad arch form characteristic of "**Richardsonian Romanesque**," an architectural style that, inspired by the massive Romanesque-inspired masonry architecture of Boston architect H. H. Richardson, was in vogue in the 1880's and 90's. The stickwork detailing, exemplifying what is today commonly termed the "**Stick Style**," resulted from the inventive combining and modifying of features from various styles and periods of architecture; its forms were very loosely based on forms from the timber architecture of England and western Europe, especially, it seems, France and Switzerland. This picturesque architecture flourished for a relatively brief moment before a reaction to its lighthearted approach to design set in toward the end of the nineteenth century.

Beneath the picturesque form and detailing the church is of a general type

frequently built by non-liturgical Protestant congregations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a broad auditorium space (west/left side) and a wing at the east/right that, separated from the auditorium by folding doors, could accommodate the Sunday school and also be used as overflow seating as needed for church. Auditorium churches with floors that sloped down toward the pulpit/worship center and seating in concentric arcs radiating out from it so that all congregants faced it came into widespread popularity in the 1880's and 90's for Protestant denominations in which preaching of the Word was paramount before losing popularity in the 1920's. Books on church design directed primarily at a Protestant market such as George W. Kramer's *The What How and Why of Church Architecture* (1897) promoted the virtues of the auditorium plan.

First Presbyterian did not have a sloping floor or its pews in arcs radiating out from the pulpit like many of these churches, but the auditorium's relatively broad form would have served much the same purpose in bringing the congregation closer to the pastor and pulpit than in churches with longer naves. The survival of this large wooden building, with its tower, wood siding and delicate wooden trim, and much of its interior finish intact, so many years after its original congregation left for new quarters is little short of miraculous: all praise is due the current owners for their long and no doubt costly stewardship of one of the city's landmark buildings.

Swedish M. E. Church

The 1907-08 **Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church (later Wesley and then, briefly, Trinity Church)** is a red

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brick, cross-gable auditorium church with a square-plan tower containing the main entrance in the angle between the two wings. The building bears such a strong resemblance to church plan no. 277 in Benjamin D. and Max Charles Price's *Church Plans*, 1907 edition, that it seems clear that plan was the design source, even to the small, square-plan side entry near the tower (see Dulan, 33). The Prices, architects based in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, published plan books for churches from the 1880's into the twentieth century (more than half the 120 plans in their 1907 book are for auditorium churches). Containing predominantly designs for relatively small and inexpensive churches, these books must have been a godsend to smaller and rural congregations far from professional architectural talent. The Prices' plan books were very widely used – examples of churches modeled after Price designs can be found in many states west to the Pacific and in Canada. Another Price plan, no. 28A in the 1907 edition of the plan book, was used for a second Iron Mountain church, the 1889 **Central Baptist Church** (demolished), once located at 112 West B (as built the plan was reversed, with the tower at the right rather than left as in the published plan). Some churches are so closely patterned after specific designs as to suggest they were built from plans ordered from the architects, while many others are more loosely patterned after specific designs or perhaps combine features from more than one design, suggesting the plan book itself served as the design source.

The Iron Mountain church, like many examples, is somewhat simplified from the pattern book design: its large windows (now boarded up) are divided into two large

sections by a central mullion rather than the three shown in the design, the ornamental stickwork in the design's front and side gables is lacking, and the church's now removed wooden steeple had a four rather than eight-sided spire. Even in its present condition, though, this Iron Mountain example is important as an example of a building based on a design by this key firm in Protestant church design in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Immanuel Baptist Church

The 1907-11 former **Immanuel Baptist Church**, 224 E. Ludington, now sensitively rehabilitated to house a **Morgan Stanley office**, also combines a Protestant auditorium building form with "churchly" Gothic features including the steeply pitched roof, the large and small pointed arch windows, and, inside, the timber roof trusses visible in the former auditorium. A part of the building's importance in architectural terms relates to its being the product of an early and important Upper Peninsula architect, **Edward Demar** of Sault Ste. Marie.

Architect Edward Demar

Edward Demar (1864-) was born in Vermont but studied architecture in Toronto and then practiced there and in Winnipeg before moving to the Upper Peninsula in 1886. Demar worked for architects J. B. Sweatt in Marquette and B. H. Pierce & Co. in Hancock, and for contractor E. E. Grip & Co. of Ishpeming, but then in 1891 entered into partnership with Andrew Lovejoy in Lovejoy & Demar, architects, in Marquette. In 1895 Demar joined the firm of Charlton &

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Gilbert of Marquette and Superior, Wisconsin, the firm becoming Charlton, Gilbert & Demar. Demar joined the firm's Milwaukee branch office, established in 1895, in 1899. He moved to Sault Ste. Marie and opened what was at first a branch of the firm in 1901. Demar seems to have severed connections with the firm shortly after his arrival. He practiced in Sault Ste. Marie until 1920, when he moved to Port Huron. That city's 1920 directory (only) lists him. His history after that is unclear.

Edward Demar is best known for the **Marquette City Hall**, built in 1894-95 while he was part of Lovejoy & Demar. During his early years in Sault Ste. Marie he designed the 1902-03 First Presbyterian Church, 1903-04 Adams Building, Loretto Academy, and the 1904 Newton Block – all in Sault Ste. Marie (Adams Building national register nomination, Chippewa Co.). Along with Immanuel Church, Demar designed at least one other building in downtown Iron Mountain, the now demolished 1916 **Colonial Theater**, Iron Mountain's finest prior to construction of the **Braumart** (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 242-43).

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Two of the district's churches exemplify the Neo-Gothic of the early and mid-twentieth century, the 1931-33 **St. Joseph (now St. Mary and St. Joseph) Catholic Church**, 414 S. Prospect, and the 1952-53 **Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity**, 222 West B. St. Joseph's is an imposing

example that seems to have no peers among the relatively few Neo-Gothic churches of the Upper Peninsula for its size and exterior finish. The church's great size reflects the parish's status at the time as the second largest in terms of members among Catholic parishes in the Upper Peninsula after the Cathedral parish in Marquette. St. Joseph's construction during the darkest days of the Great Depression – though the interior was not finished until 1940 – was a major achievement. The church, like Holy Trinity, is faced in Lannon stone from Wisconsin. It is a steel frame structure that displays twin spired towers at the front corners, transepts, and a gabled sanctuary. Sculptured figures of Christ, Mary holding the baby Jesus, and St. Joseph adorn the upper front façade, and the church retains its original stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross despite fire damage in 2003 that required a major interior reconstruction. Since 1940 the church has served what were formerly two parishes; the two were formally merged in 1942.

Architect Derrick Hubert

The 1931-40 **St. Joseph Catholic Church** is a major work of Menominee architect Derrick Hubert. Hubert (1870-1949) was born in Kankakee, Illinois, to French-Canadian parents. A carpenter in his youth, Hubert took correspondence courses in architecture from the School of Architecture of the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Following this training, in 1902 or 1903 he established an architectural office in Menominee and continued in

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practice almost to his death. Hubert was apparently a conscientious student and would have been a fine advertisement for ICC's School of Architecture. He designed buildings in Escanaba, Houghton, Newberry, and many other places in the Upper Peninsula and nearby Wisconsin, as well as some of the most prominent buildings in Menominee itself. These included the Menominee Community Building, which, located in the 900 block of 1st Street, continues to visually dominate downtown Menominee; the Commercial Bank Building at 949 1st; the Lloyd Manufacturing Company building at the north edge of the city; and two churches and a hospital (Menominee Centennial Corp., 131; Ontonagon School national register nomination). Hubert designed at least one other Iron Mountain building, the 1927-28 **Dickinson County Infirmary**, located southeast of town (Cummings, *Dickinson County*, 291-92).

Seventh Day Adventist Church

The 1936-37 **Seventh Day Adventist Church** (now **New Hope Church of God**), 614 S. Carpenter, is a broad, high-roofed steeple-less building of **Arts-and-Crafts-inspired ("Craftsman") design** that uses artfully constructed rubble masonry walls and simple stickwork detailing under the projecting eaves for decorative effect. Michigan should be known everywhere for its fieldstone architecture built using the rocks and boulders of varied color left over much of the landscape by several episodes

of glaciation. Other northern states have much of this architecture, too, but it's hard to think that other states have more or better examples. Fieldstone is one of the unsung glories of Michigan architecture.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church is an outstanding example of the type. Its masonry reflects a careful composing of the stones, employing such devices as rosettes formed by narrow stones radiating out from a round central one in each of the front gables and alternating larger boulders set vertically with smaller ones set flat as quoining for the corners. The plain stucco treatment of the upper front gable and the simple wooden bargeboards with scalloped lower ends, the exposed rafter tails, and the stickwork brackets and gable ornament complement the rugged masonry in projecting an overall image of strength and unaffected simplicity.

A single brief notice in the *News* in June 1937 about progress on the building's construction states that work was being done for the most part by members of the congregation, with only "a comparatively small amount of paid labor ... largely for special installations." A 1985 article on the church states that the church "brought up **Magnus Hanson**, an expert stone mason from lower Michigan," and that "Hanson, along with members of the church, laid the huge quantity of field stone" (*News*, 2/23/1985: "Seventh Day Adventists keep holy the Sabbath").

Construction of the new church may have followed – or inspired – a similar scenario to that employed in building the Adventist Church a couple years later in Iron River in 1939-40. For that building, according to a 1940 *News* story, following approval of a building program in June 1939, "members of the parish visited

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Dickinson county, to select some hundred tons of field stone. Later the men went to the wood lot of a member of the church, where trees were felled and fashioned into rafters and beams.” The construction work was done by members of the congregation, including four men working full-time, under the direction of Elder C. J. Tolf. The paper noted that “While the men work on the building – some full time, others in their spare time – the women prepare and serve hot meals to them” (“Adventists Do Much with Little Money,” 10/18/1940). The fieldstone church, which was to be completed by January 1, 1941, remains a highly visible landmark at Iron Rivers’ east edge.

Commercial

A broad variety of commercial buildings dating from the 1880’s to the 1960’s contribute to the architectural significance of the Central Historic District.

The district’s oldest commercial buildings are its narrow-fronted and deep, two-story wooden store buildings with their gable roofs concealed behind a flat-topped falsefront that rises above the gable peak. They were faced in clapboarding or other wood sidings and typically displayed several windows in the second-story front above the shopfront with its central entry flanked by large window areas. The flat-topped falsefront typically featured decorative brackets below a projecting cornice. Early photographs show a great many examples along Stephenson’s east side and throughout the broad area between Iron Mountain Street on the east and Carpenter on the west – see, for example, *Born from Iron*, pages 28-29, 44-48, 113, and 115. Today within the district

only ten of these buildings still stand. They are located at:

- 111 E. Brown
- 412 Carpenter
- 100 E. Hughitt
- 216 E. Hughitt
- 224 E. Hughitt
- 122 W. Hughitt
- 124 W. Hughitt
- 200 W. Hughitt
- 305 Stephenson
- 535 Stephenson

None of the surviving falsefront wooden store buildings retains a high state of historic integrity. All have been resided in different sidings, have modernized storefronts, and replacement windows. Despite the changes, these buildings are important as examples of the commercial architecture of Iron Mountain’s pioneer iron-mining boom period. All date from before 1900, and a few – 111 E. Brown, 100 E. Hughitt, and 305 and 535 Stephenson – date back to the early 1880’s, fewer than five years after Iron Mountain’s initial settlement. Keeping these buildings and encouraging their reuse should be a public policy goal.

The Central Historic District retains a small number of masonry Late Victorian buildings. Most are located in a small area near the district’s northeast corner, along Stephenson’s east side in the 100 block and in the 200 blocks of E. Flesheim, E. Ludington, and E. Hughitt. Above the much remodeled ground stories, the five c. 1890 brick buildings at 205 E. Flesheim and 105-119 Stephenson – **Fontana’s Supper Club** **historically forms two buildings** – retain intricately detailed brickwork characteristic of the 1880’s. These buildings’ upper facades feature extensive corbelling,

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dentilwork, sawtooth brickwork, bricks forming X-pattern panels, and contrasting red and yellow-buff brick used for decorative effect. Rehabilitated with more historically sensitive ground stories, these buildings, along with the equally old but less elaborately detailed 207 E. Fleshiem, could form a most dramatic north entrance into downtown Iron Mountain that says historic in no uncertain terms. There are historic photographs of these buildings that can help guide more sensitive street-level rehabilitations in the future – including views from a 1975 survey that show much in the way of details now missing.

East Hughitt and Ludington contain three outstanding examples of Late Victorian commercial buildings in Iron Mountain's central business district – the **Eskil Block**, **Robbins Block**, and **Wood Sandstone Block** – that were all built in the boom year of 1891. Built with side and rear walls of reddish-brown sandstone, the two-story **Eskil Block**, 215 E. Hughitt, has a highly picturesque front featuring a projecting semi-octagonal oriole window at one end that, topped by a bellcast roof and rising above a recessed arched entry porch, visually complements a sharply pointed gable in the façade's other end.

The **Robbins Block**, 217-19 E. Hughitt, has a rugged **Richardsonian Romanesque appearance** because of its rockfaced stone front and massive, rounded upper façade piers with their pine cone-like finials. The building's front as well as side and rear walls are built of the same reddish-brown sandstone as that used in the adjoining **Eskil Block**, which came from the Iron Mountain quarry located on the city's northwest side.

The 1891 "**Wood Sandstone Block**," 206-16 E. Ludington, is the **downtown's**

largest Late Victorian building and the city's largest structure built with walls of the local sandstone. The building's two-story, seven-bay long front displays the **same Richardsonian Romanesque-inspired character as the Robbins Block**, with the same rockface random ashlar stonework and rounded piers with finials in a front whose roofline undulates between alternate lower and slightly taller sections. Broad, arched openings in the ground story at the building's west end (now glassed in) resulted from early twentieth-century fire bay renovations made when the building was converted to city hall use. The building's one-story rear extension, also built with walls of the same Iron Mountain sandstone complementing the design and construction of the 1891 building, were a 1933 addition for a **City Garage and Warehouse**.

Iron Mountain's early twentieth-century commercial buildings are predominantly built in a commercial vernacular known as "Commercial Brick" in which the brickwork detailing more than references to historic styles of architecture provides the "style." Eighteen buildings along Stephenson, Carpenter, and several east-west streets built primarily during the 1920's but as late as the late 1940's – the 1947-48 **Khoury Building**, 301 Stephenson – display Commercial brick details such as:

- Panels of brickwork outlined by single bands of raised headers or stretchers at each end and rowlock or soldier bricks across the top and bottom. The panels are typically located between the upper and lower windows or in the upper façade above the top row of windows and below the parapet. The outlining bands or other details may be in brick of contrasting hue – as in the matching

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buildings at 218 and 220 E. Hughitt – and the panels may contain brickwork of contrasting form such as diagonal, herringbone, or basketweave pattern. Typically the recessed paneling takes a horizontal form, but in the 1917 **Kingsford Building**, 127-29 Stephenson, the panels have a vertical orientation and form two rows below a beefy corbelled brick cornice in which the projecting corbels rise above the piers between the stacked panels. **The Kingsford Building is one of the outstanding landmarks of Commercial Brick design in the city.**

- Front roofline of low non-historic-pattern “geometric” stepped form or with a low central gable form with raised center area flanked by gently slanting area on either side – the **Daily News Building** and the one next door east at 213 and 217 E. Ludington, along with the **Bond Building**, 503-07 Carpenter, and **Northern Ballroom Building**, 100-04 W. Brown, all feature such geometric rooflines.
- Ornament in limestone, cast concrete, or terra cotta in non-historic form – often of simple geometric form such as squares, circles, or triangles. Such ornament was often loosely based on Neoclassical or other historic styles of detailing. The **Daily News Building** is a prime example. Its front, nominally **Neoclassical**, uses abstract pendant triangular forms in the piers separating the windows in place of Neoclassical capitals.
- Obtuse squint quoins at the building corners or flanking the storefront entry using uncut brick, forming projections or recesses. Both the **1947-48 Khoury** and **1956 Occhietti Buildings** use such

squint corners. (Textbooks on brick masonry disapproved of this type of construction where the brickwork left recesses (“pigeonholes”) at the angles that served as water conductors and dirt collectors; nevertheless it was a popular form.)

The **Wolfe Brothers Building**, 623-29 Stephenson, is unique among these Commercial Brick buildings for its display of “geometric” ornament in cast concrete – vertical and horizontal rectangles, strips, lozenge forms – that dance across the broad upper facades facing Stephenson and B Street. The diagonal corner bay displays a simple shield design. Even the vertical piers that subdivide the façade are “geometric,” semi-octagonal in cross-section rising to square block “capitals” with recessed centers. This 1927 building was designed by **William G. Pagels**, an obviously talented but today little known Chicago architect. The building’s broad middle storefront along Stephenson has recently been given a much more appropriate treatment.

Two early 1920’s former bank buildings exemplify the **Neoclassicism** often used in bank design during the 1900-30 period. The 1920-21 **American Security Bank Building**, 515-17 Stephenson, retains only its Neoclassical upper façade, with broad projecting piers and massive entablature with projecting cornice, the street level having been rebuilt several times since the bank closed later in the 1920’s. But the Neoclassical upper façade is a fine job, showing a highly successful contrast between the monumental, seemingly overscaled (for this relatively small building) forms of the piers and cornice and the inventive, intricate, Greek key-inspired design of the pier capitals. **A. Moorman &**

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Co., architects, planned the building (see below).

F. E. Parmelee's 1921 United States National Bank Building, now the **Downtown Plaza Building**, 427 Stephenson, is a much larger combination commercial and office building of distinctive design. It uses the **Neoclassical styling** so favored for bank buildings at this time in a way that is both formal and inventive. The broad front façade displays massive piers, with classical capitals, that support a full-bodied entablature replete with triglyph and wreath details. At the same time the design is more inventive than usual in the way the middle pier on each side of the front exists only in the second story, rising from a projecting pedestal, leaving the space beneath for a large store window. The front combines Neoclassicism with Commercial Brick touches in the large and small panels beneath the second-story windows. In the long side facing A Street the Commercial Brick elements take over. **Along with the Junior High School, this is one of F. E. Parmelee's best buildings.**

The 1925 **Michigan Bell Building**, 211 East B Street, is another fine **Neoclassical commercial building**. It now forms the front face, overlooking the city parking lots behind the Stephenson stores so that it is visible from a block away, for a much larger complex of nearly windowless buildings that complement the 1925 building in their low height and brick color. The limestone-trimmed buff brick building is reserved and unpretentious in its Neoclassicism – with a low hip roof and broad symmetrical front that displays only a triangular pediment-topped classical central entry, windows with splayed brick caps and keystones, simple quoining, and recessed horizontal mortar

joints every six or seven courses in the ground story.

Architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls

The **Michigan Bell Building's architects** were the Detroit-based architectural firm Smith, Hinchman & Grylls (SH&G). Tracing its history back to 1853, SH&G (now SmithGroup) was in the 1920's one of Detroit's largest architectural firms, with over 200 employees, and carried on a general practice across much of Michigan led by commercial and industrial work. The firm had an ongoing relationship with the **Michigan Bell Telephone Company** and its predecessor companies in Detroit that began with design of the Home Telephone Company's Main City Exchange in Detroit in 1904 and continued into the 1970's. The Iron Mountain building was likely designed by **Amedeo Leone**. One of the firm's lead architects, who was hired on in the 1910's and continued until his 1961 retirement as the firm's secretary, Leone was trained at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in New York and during his early years in practice was known as a "scholarly classicist" (Holleman and Gallagher, 83, 94-96, 106, 158). Though far from one of SH&G's finest buildings from this time period when they were producing some of Detroit's greatest buildings in the city's financial district, Iron Mountain's Michigan Bell Building is a solid example of the firm's local offices for Michigan Bell in the years

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just before they turned so strongly to Art Deco.

Braumart Theater Building

The 1924-25 **Braumart** is **Iron Mountain's only movie theater building dating from the era of grand movie theaters** in the early decades of the twentieth century. Although the theater auditorium was twinned in the 1970's, resulting in the loss of most of its historic architectural finishes, the building's broad-fronted **Neoclassical and Commercial Brick exterior** remains largely intact and the Braumart remains **one of the city's key architectural landmarks**. Refurbishing the building for theater and public auditorium use while preserving intact the existing historic features in the lobbies and auditorium is a highly worthwhile goal and could serve as a major focal point for a downtown renaissance.

Architects Herbst & Kuenzli

Milwaukee architects Herbst & Kuenzli were the **Braumart's designers**, planning both the 1924-25 building and a matching 1925 store/office addition along the east side. **William G. Herbst** (1885-1959) and **Edwin O. Kuenzli** (1871-1948) partnered in the firm from 1918 until Kuenzli's retirement in 1942. Herbst, born in Milwaukee and trained at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, opened his own Milwaukee architectural practice in 1911 and partnered with William Hufschmidt from 1912 until Hufschmidt's death in 1918. Also born in Milwaukee, Kuenzli was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture

in 1899. Hired by the Milwaukee office of Charlton, Gilbert & Demar (headquartered in Marquette), Kuenzli became a partner in the firm in 1903 and remained with it under the Charlton & Kuenzli name until 1918, when Charlton retired. Herbst & Kuenzli seem to have had a general architectural practice. One of Charlton & Gilbert's commissions was the 1914 **Delft Theater** in **Escanaba**, and, along with the Braumart, the Cinema Treasures website attributes the now demolished 1921 **Delft Theater** in **Iron River** to Herbst & Kuenzli.

Sources:

- Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission, *Historic Designation Study Report: Albert P. Kunzelmann House*, 5. Chatal/word/kunzelmann house/Kunzelmann study report.
- Copper Country Architects website; Edwin O. Kuenzli. <http://www.social.mtu.edu/CopperCountryArchitects/ch.htm>.
- Cinema Treasures website; Delft Theater, Iron River. <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/11154>.

Commercial Bank Building

The 1929 **Commercial Bank (later Commercial National Bank) Building**, 500 Stephenson, is not only **Iron Mountain's pre-eminent Art Deco building but also one of the key examples of the style in the entire Upper Peninsula**. The building is comprised of a two-story structure that fronts a full block of Stephenson and a "tower" that, at the building's midpoint, rises an additional three

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stories above the two-story base. The building is notable for its lavish display of terra-cotta ornament. Panels that serve as “capitals” for the piers that separate the window banks and that top each window in the banks of windows are intricately detailed with stylized plant and flower forms and ramsheads, and an eagle with outstretched wings guards each of the tower’s top corners.

Architects A. Moorman & Co.

Both the 1929 **Commercial Bank** (and its 1965-66 north end addition) and the Neoclassical 1920-21 former **American Security Bank Building**, 515-17 Stephenson, were the work of St. Paul, Minnesota, architects A. Moorman & Co., specialists in bank design. The firm’s founder, **Albert Moorman** (1860-1927), was born in Germany but immigrated with his family to Chicago in 1864. Trained as a woodcarver in his early years, he started a furniture company in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1905, and soon branched into designing bank fixtures and interiors. “This led his firm to begin designing and building small banks throughout the Midwest, and eventually it became one of the most successful designers of small-town banks in the region.” Following Albert Moorman’s 1927 death, sons **Frank** and **Al** and partners **E. A. Tyler** and **Kindy C. Wright** ran the firm, which continued in operation into the late 1970’s. About 1920 the firm published *Representative Examples of the Work of A. Moorman & Company in the Design, Construction, Reconstruction and Equipment of Bank Buildings*, a book

on bank design and furnishing featuring their work. This probably did much to enhance the firm’s visibility and reputation in the upper Midwest region. No other Michigan Moorman bank buildings have thus far been identified beyond the two Iron Mountain buildings, but Gebhard and Martinson identify two Minnesota banks by the firm and the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory lists three of their banks in that state:

- Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Lamberton, MN, 1941 and 1955, a transitional Art Deco/International Style building (Gebhard and Martinson, 343);
- First National Bank, Hibbing, MN, 1920, described as “Classical Beaux Arts” in style (Gebhard and Martinson, 203);
- Northwestern State Bank, Chippewa Falls, WI, 1924, a Neoclassical building with façade similar to American Security’s;
- Thiensville State Bank, Thiensville, WI, 1930, a structure combining simplified Neoclassical and Art Deco touches;
- Union Bank & Trust Building, Evansville, WI, 1952, a transitional Art Deco/International Style building.

Sources:

- Albert Moorman bio, A. Moorman & Co. collection, University of Minnesota Libraries, accessed 6/27/2012
http://prime2.oit.umn.edu/primo_library/libweb/action/dlSearch.do?institution=TWINCITIES&onCamp

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[us=false&query=any,contains,a.%20moorman&indx=1&dym=true&highlight=true&lang=eng&group=GUEST&vl\(freetext0\)=a.%20moorman&fromSitema](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ah/ahsearch.asp?us=false&query=any,contains,a.%20moorman&indx=1&dym=true&highlight=true&lang=eng&group=GUEST&vl(freetext0)=a.%20moorman&fromSitema).

- Gebhard, David, and Tom Martinson, *A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota*, 203, 343.
- Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory, A. Moorman & Co., <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ah/>.

Service & Supply/Lakeshore Engineering Co. Building

The **Service & Supply Co./Lake Shore Engineering Co. (Champion) Building**, 107 East A, exemplifies the **Mission Style**, which used motifs such as shaped parapets, tile roofs, and arched windows inspired by the early Spanish missions of California. The style surfaced in California even before 1900 and spread in the early twentieth century to all parts of the nation. Although a small first part of the building was constructed probably in 1926, the current form reflects large additions in 1939 and 1941 – it is these additions, made long after the height of the Mission Style, rather than the 1920's work that include the shaped gables and tile pent roof. **An appealing hint of the exotic, the building is unique in Iron Mountain's downtown and Central Historic District area in its Mission Style character.**

Post World War II Commercial Buildings

The area along and near Stephenson between A and Ludington Streets was the locale of significant new construction in the early post World War II period, with five

new buildings. The new buildings displayed clean-cut lines, with plain unadorned eaves, streamlined horizontal display window bands across the street-level fronts, and, in several cases, light-hued brick or other cladding materials – this new aesthetic broadly reflecting the **International Style**. Pioneered in the 1920's and 30's but coming into its own in the United States after World War II, the International Style was a conscious rejection of past styles in favor of modernism. It was seen as a new straightforward approach to design for new times. Iron Mountain businesspeople clearly reacted to the new design aesthetic with caution, appropriating the simplified aesthetic, the broad bands of large windows for storefronts, and the lighter color palette in several of the new buildings, including the 1948 **Dworsky**, 1948/1956 **Manci**, and 1955-56 **Occhietti Buildings** at 410-26, 400-08, and 324-32 Stephenson, but not abandoning such time-tested features as the standard double-hung windows for second-story office areas seen in the Dworsky and Occhietti Buildings.

Architect Harry W. Gjelsteen

Menominee architect Harry W. Gjelsteen designed both the 1948 **Manci and Dworsky Buildings** as well as the 1952-53 **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**, 221 West B Street. Gjelsteen (1906-), born in Menominee to Norway-born parents, went to work for Menominee architect Derrick Hubert as an apprentice draftsman in 1925 right out of high school. Graduated from the University of Michigan School of Architecture in 1931 and licensed in 1933, Gjelsteen served

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three years during the 1930's as area engineer for Menominee County for the **Works Progress Administration** and later served as "field architect for construction work at Newberry State Hospital." He became a partner with Derrick Hubert in 1940 in Hubert & Gjelsteen, Architects, and then in 1947 established his own practice, Harry W. Gjelsteen, Architect. For Iron Mountain Gjelsteen also planned the "modified Gothic" **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**, designed about 1952 and built 1954 (*News*, 5/20/1952; 3/19/1954), located outside of the Central Historic District. Other important projects in Michigan included the 1949 High School and Central Grade School in Menominee, 1950 St. Joseph-Lloyd Hospital in Menominee, 1951 First Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls, 1955 St. Luke's Hospital and Marquette Prison Cell Block G in Marquette, 1956 City-County Building at Sault Ste. Marie; and 1958 Northern Michigan University Married Students Apartments in Marquette (Menominee Centennial Corp., 119; Koyl 1955, 198; Koyl 1962, 250; Gane, 326).

But the most dramatically "new" of the early post-war commercial buildings in the district is the 1947-48 **Khoury Building**, 205-07 E. Hughitt. To make a design statement the building uses color – along with white brick, pigmented structural glass tile in grayish white accented with maroon – and new design elements not seen previously in the area – a storefront that slants inward beneath a projecting

horizontal canopy and a rounded-corner display feature raised above the roofline at the corner. **Despite some deterioration and insensitive renovations, the Khoury Building still stands out as a fine example of early post-war Modernism and merits a full exterior restoration.**

Chamber of Commerce Building

The Central Historic District's key example of Mid-Century Modern design is the 1964-66 Chamber of Commerce Travel Center building, 600 Stephenson. The broad-fronted, symmetrical building with its dramatic folded plate roof was constructed largely using donated labor and materials to house the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Area Chamber of Commerce, Upper Peninsula Travel Association**, and other Dickinson County agencies charged with economic development. Located to be highly visible at the primary entrance into the downtown, the building spoke to the vision of progressiveness the twin cities and the county wished to express through the building's high quality contemporary design. Today the building can still serve as a symbol of the region's progressiveness in maintaining and utilizing a building of exemplary design that illustrates the city's long term goals of revitalizing the downtown through protecting and enhancing its historic character.

Architect James C. Blomquist

Iron Mountain architect James C. Blomquist designed the **Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center**. An Iron Mountain native, Blomquist (1937-) was graduated from the University of Michigan School of Architecture in 1960 and received his architectural license in

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1965. He was hired by the Wausau, Wisconsin, architectural firm of Nelson Associates (Roderick A. Nelson) to work in their Iron Mountain office in 1961 and in 1964 was made manager of the office. In August 1965 Blomquist was made a full partner in Nelson Associates. The partnership came shortly after work began on two important Iron Mountain projects Blomquist designed, the **First Lutheran Church** and the **Monastery of the Holy Cross building for the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Iron Mountain**. The 1965-66 church and monastery buildings, like the Chamber of Commerce, are notable Modernist buildings. In 1970 the firm was reorganized as **Blomquist, Nelson & Associates**, and about 1978 it became **Blomquist & Associates**. Son **Mark J. Blomquist** appears in the 1980 directory for the first time as a draftsman for the firm and became a partner about 1985. Directories list James C. Blomquist as part of the practice down to 2000. Other important early commissions of his include the **Holy Spirit School, Norway**, built 1967; **First Lutheran Church**, Gladstone, 1969; and **Pine Manor Nursing Home**, Kingsford, 1969 (*News*, 7/8/1964; 4/1, 5/7, 8/3, 8/20/1965; Gane, 80).

News: "Ceremony Marks Start of Work on New C-C Building," 7/8/1964; "Blomquist Licensed Architect," 4/1/1965; "Champion Gets Contract to Build New Monastery," 5/7/1965; "Cornerstone Laid for New Church" (First Lutheran), 8/3/1965; "Blomquist Full Partner in Firm," 8/20/1965.

Verbal Boundary Description

Property in the City of Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, MI, described as follows: Beginning at intersection of center of S. Stephenson Ave and Fleshiem St; thence E along centerline of Fleshiem to pt in line with E line of 301 E. Fleshiem; th S along E line of 301 E. Fleshiem to N side of alley; th W along N side of alley S of 301 and 200 block of E. Fleshiem to pt in line with W line of alley behind 100 block of S. Stephenson; th S along W line of said alley to pt in line with S side of alley N of 200 block of E. Ludington; th E along S line of alley located to N of E. Ludington to NE corner of 301 E. Ludington; th S along E line of 301 E. Ludington to center of E. Ludington St; th W along centerline of street to intersection with centerline of Iron Mountain St; th S along centerline of Iron Mountain St to centerline of E. Hughitt; th W along centerline of E. Hughitt to pt in line with E line of 217-19 E. Hughitt; th S on sd E line to N line of alley S of 200 block of E. Hughitt; th W along N side of alley to W line of alley located E of 400 block of S. Stephenson; th S along W line of sd alley and along W line of alley located E of 500 block of S. Stephenson to pt in line with S line of alley N of 200 block of B Street East; th E along S line of sd alley to E line of 212 B Street; th S on E line of 212 B East to centerline of B Street East; th E along sd centerline to intersection with centerline of Iron Mountain Street; th S along sd centerline to C Street and then along centerline of vacated Iron Mountain Street to centerline of D Street East; th W along sd centerline to intersection with centerline of S. Stephenson.

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Th NW'ly along centerline of S. Stephenson to pt in line with S line of 700 S. Stephenson; th W'ly along S'ly line of sd 700 S. Stephenson to rear line; th NW'ly along SW'ly rear lot lines of 700 and 600 S. Stephenson to center of B Street East; th W along centerline of street to pt in line with E line of 101 B Street East; th S along E line of 101 B Street East to center of C Street East; th W along centerline of C Street East to E line of railroad line property; th N along E line of railroad property to centerline of B Street; th W along centerline of B Street West to pt in line with W line of 106 B Street West; th N along W line of 106 B Street West to N line of alley S of 100 block of A Street West; th W along N side of sd alley to centerline of Carpenter Ave; th S along centerline of sd Carpenter to intersection with centerline of C Street West; th E along centerline of C Street West to pt in line with E line of 701 Carpenter; th S along E side and W along S side of sd 701 Carpenter to centerline of Carpenter Ave; th S along centerline of Carpenter to pt in line with S line of 706-710 Carpenter; th W along sd S line to W line and N along W line of 706-10 Carpenter to C Street West and N along W lines of 614 and 612 Carpenter to N line of alley S of 200 block of B Street West; th W along N side of sd alley to centerline of Prospect St; th N along centerline of Prospect to intersection with centerline of B Street West; th W along centerline of B Street West to intersection with centerline of Kimberly Ave.

Th N along centerline of Kimberly to S side of alley N of 400 block of B Street West; th E along S side of sd alley to centerline of Stockbridge Ave; th N along centerline of sd Stockbridge to intersection with centerline of W. Hughitt St; th E along centerline of W. Hughitt to pt in line with W

line of 204-06 W. Hughitt; th N along W line of 204-06 W. Hughitt to S side of alley N of 200 block of W. Hughitt; th E along S side of sd alley to centerline of Carpenter; th N along centerline of Carpenter Ave to intersection with centerline of W. Ludington St; th W along centerline of W. Ludington to pt in line with W line of 200 W. Ludington; th N and E along W and N lines of 200 W. Ludington to S line of alley N of 200 block of W. Ludington; th E along sd S line of alley to point in line with W line of 201 W. Brown St; th N along W side of sd 201 W. Brown to centerline of W. Brown; th W along sd centerline of W. Brown to pt in line with W line of 200 W. Brown; th N along W line of 200 W. Brown to S line of alley N of 200 block of W. Brown; th E along S line of alley N of 200 and 100 blocks of W. Brown and 100 block of E. Brown St to E line of 116 E. Brown; th S along sd E line of 116 E. Brown to centerline of E. Brown St; th E along centerline of E. Brown to centerline of S. Stephenson; th NNE'ly along centerline of S. Stephenson to Point of Beginning.

Boundary Justification

This irregular boundary defines the area that includes downtown Iron Mountain's historic buildings plus the county courthouse, historic school and church buildings, and the historic library building that stand at the edges of the historic downtown area.

- On the east, east of Iron Mountain Street, is the city's old **East Side residential neighborhood**. The area along East A Street east of Stephenson Avenue is excluded because it is given over to city parking lots.

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- On the north, northwest, and west, the district is adjoined by an **old residential area**. The omitted area west of Stephenson and north of Brown Street contains a recently built professional building standing on ground that was previously vacant. Much of the ground north of Fleshiem Street once contained parts of the Chapin Mine complex. This area is partly vacant and partly redeveloped with newer commercial/industrial properties; it contains no historic buildings.
- The complicated southern boundary results from the inclusion of property that contains significant historic resources, such as the former **Milwaukee Road Depot and livery barn** along B Street West near a southerly extension of Merritt and the area along Carpenter Avenue south of B Street West, and the loss of historic buildings in the area along B Street West east of Carpenter.