Laurium is noted for its spectacular mansions and prominent homes built during the copper mining boom years of 1890-1915. Laurium, at one time, was the largest incorporated village in the US.

Laurium started as a mining claim of the Laurium Mining Co. The company did not find commercially viable copper deposits so in 1877 it platted 20 acres into building lots on 6 blocks of Calumet, Osceola, and Hecla St. between First and Fourth Street. The first lots were sold in 1880. The only remaining log house at the Calumet area post office. To do so they had to change the village name, and changed it to Laurium. In 1929 the Village of Red Jacket changed to the Village of Calumet.

In 1895, residents wanted their own post office separate from the Calumet area post office. To do so they had to change the village name, and changed it to Laurium. In 1929 the Village of Red Jacket changed to the Village of Calumet.

Land developers and speculators such as Ernst Bollman, John Duncan, & Paul Roehm platted additions. For example, Duncan purchased Block 54 for $9600 from the Laurium Mining Co. and sold the 24 individual lots for $475-500 each. Real estate was booming and some people doubled their investment in as little as 2 years in the 1900-10 period.

By 1906 Laurium had 40 grocery stores, 4 hotels, 10 meat markets, 33 saloons, 11 schools, 6 churches, 4 railroads, 4 theatres, a streetcar line and gas lines were being run. During this period the investors in Calumet & Arizona Mining Co. started to receive their dividend checks and created a mansion building boom. By 1929 C&A had paid out $65 million in dividends. By the 1930’s Laurium had an airport on the east side of town by the depot.

The 1913 strike, technology, competition with western mines and then the Depression caused the decline in Keweenaw copper mining and Laurium’s population. By the 1950’s the population had dropped to 3000 and hundreds of buildings standing in 1917 had been demolished. The 1968 strike ended mining in the Calumet area and was almost a deathblow to the area. Many more buildings were lost to fires, neglect, and demolition in the 1970’s & 1980’s. The 2000 census listed 2100 people. Since the 1990’s many of the formerly run down buildings have been restored to their former glory.

Where original house prices are stated, remember that miners were making about 25 cents/hour. Laurium lots typically sold for $400-600 in 1900 period, and by 1905 prime lots were $1500-2500.

The complete Laurium National Register Nomination and additional old photos of Laurium buildings and people can be seen on the website below.

www.Laurium.info

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Calumet & Arizona stock.
west of US41. Probably an investor in
Joseph & Delia Ouellette. Clerk in
Ins. Co-director, real estate investor, lumber business.

Thielman. Partner in Armstrong-Thielman Lumber Co. & VP of State Savings
Bank and was on Mich. Gov. Warner’s
staff. Captain in the Spanish-American

Capt. William H. (b.1866) & Margaret
— famous citizen “The Gipper” was born in
the house. He was a nationally famous All
American Notre Dame football player in
1920.

George (b.1895-1920) Laurium’s most
famous citizen “The Gipper” was born in
this house. He was a nationally famous All
American Notre Dame football player in 1920. Ronald Rea-

gan played the part of George Gipp in the
Movie “Knute Rockne: All American”.

Joseph & Delia Ouellette. Clerk in
Charles Briggs’s store on Depot St.
west of US41. Probably an investor in
Calumet & Arizona stock.

Capt. William (b.1846) & Margaret Weir. Born in Scotland and immigrated to
U.S. in 1870 and to the Keweenaw in
1872 worked for C&H as a mine captain until his retirement in 1907. This
$15,000 building was designed by Maass Bros. Architects.

Capt. William H. (b.1866) & Margaret
Thielman. Partner in Armstrong-Thiel-
man Lumber Co. & VP of State Savings
Bank and was on Mich. Gov. Warner’s
staff. Captain in the Spanish-American
War.

Frank S. & Jane Carlton. Mr. Carlton
made his fortune in hardware selling
heavy equipment to mining compa-
nies. The Carlton Hardware was lo-
cated in Calumet at NW corner of Fifth & Elm

Methodist Episcopal Church could
seat 1000 people, built for $14,000

Designed by arch. C. Maass and built for $4500

Robert & Johanna Grierson. Bookkeeper

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Cong-
regation moved from Scott Street in
Calumet to this location.

Charles Maass (1871-1959) Prominent
local architect that designed most of
Laurium’s mansions. Bought this lot
with an existing small house, enlarged
to 2500 sq.ft. and dramatically improved it to the present home. This house is now used for vacation rental.

 Norman (1863-1949) & Minnie Mac-
Donald. Immigrating in 1869 from
Germany, Norman’s father, Daniel T.
MacDonald opened Calumet’s first
drug store in 1870. Norman made his
fortune as a founder, officer and investor in the Calumet &
Arizona Mining Co. This 7,000 sq.ft. mansion is now a B&B

of numerous mining, railroad, and banking companies. He was the first president of the International Hockey League. Maass Bros architects designed this 13,000 sq.ft., 45 room,
9 bedroom mansion. It was built for $50,000 and $35,000 of furnishings and decorations were added. It is now a hotel with 10 guest rooms. Tours daily 11am-5pm.

Dr. Donald & Caroline MacQueen. Partner in the Macqueen & Siberly Pharmacy bought small existing house and greatly enlarged it. Caroline was daughter of Ludlow’s at 73 Fourth
Street.

Elizabeth J. Ludlow, widow of Capt.
William Ludlow.

Charles Anderson. Contractor and car-
penter. He built many of the fine Laurium
houses including J. Daniell and Calumet’s
Michigan House in 1905.

William & Elisabeth Reynolds. Origina-
lar smaller home built by Nelson &
James Turner. In 1900 Reynolds paid
$1007 for it then enlarged to 3000
sq.ft. and improved it. He owned Reynolds Meat Market on
Hecla St, was a VP of First National Bank, and Laurium Presi-
dent 1909-1911

Charles Briggs School. This 10 class-
room brick and sandstone building
was largest of the Laurium schools.
Built for $30,000 and closed in 1977. Horace Mann School was located be-
hind the Briggs where the parking lot is now. Briggs was a
prominent Keweenaw businessman and president of
Calumet & Arizona Mining Co for 20
years.

John J. MacLaurin. Originally a much
smaller home. He was a carpenter and a
manager at Bray Lumber Mill on Lake Lin-
den Ave. Sold to William Boone, a plumbing contractor, in
1905 who doubled the size of the building to its present ap-
pearance.
The porch was removed and converted into a duplex in the house before building his mansion. Glass in 1899 for $4900. Thomas Hoatson paid $7200 in 1902 for this and built the park. Concerts started in 1938. 

W — 309 Pewabic, 1937
Daniell Park. Erected on the site of a large home built by W. J. Duncan in 1900. The park's three lots were sold by W. Thielman to John T. Daniell for $750 in 1937. Daniell donated the lots to the village for a park. Village spent $150 to raze building and build the park. Concerts started in 1938.

X — 243 Pewabic, 1906
James (1846-1923) & Eliza Hoatson (1850-1936). A founder, director and VP of the C&A Mining Co. He also had a mansion in Hollywood, CA and his own Pullman car.

Y — 240 Pewabic, 1898
Johnson, Jr. (1858-1934) & Anna Vivian (1860-1948). Designed by architects D. Fred Charlton, R. William Gilbert, & Edward Demar. First National Bank President and became owner of the Vivian Department Store after his father died.

Z — 229 Pewabic, 1907
Dr. Richard D. Jones. Dentist. Designed by architect P. H. MacNeil

a — 209 Pewabic, 1898
Duncan Campbell. An architect & contractor, sold this house to Clara J. Douglass in 1899 for $4900. Thomas Hoatson paid $7200 in 1902 for this house before building his mansion. The porch was removed and converted into a duplex in the 1940's.

b — 205 Pewabic, 1898

c — 116 Pewabic, 1903
James Edward & Elsie Fisher. Assist. Secretary of C&A Mining Co

d — 200 Iroquois, 1906
John & Lucy Kingston. A lumber contractor, originally from Keweenaw County, had exceptional wood trim installed in his home.

e — 213 Iroquois, 1906

f — 221 Iroquois, 1906

g — 242 Iroquois, 1899
Charles L. Fichtell, (b. 1863). Owner of the Fichtell Drug Store in Calumet

h — 317 Iroquois, 1898
Dr. Alexander T. LaBerge. Physician

i — 327 Iroquois, 1913
Gordon R. (b. 1870) & Lou Campbell. A prominent lawyer & Secretary for the Calumet & Arizona Mining Co. He became its president in 1921. He built his prior home across the street at 320 in 1902.

j — 78 Fourth, 1907

k — 94 Third, 1906

l — 228 Florida, 1906
James McNamara. He was in the insurance business.

m — 124 Florida, 1907
William H. Richards. In the clothing business & owner of Central Hotel in Laurium.

n — 101 Tamarack, 1896
John Torreano. Built as a four unit rental, it’s been a single family home since the 1950’s

o — 70 First, 1905
German Lutheran School. Closed 1929, VFW Hall until 1990’s

p — 163 Woodland, 1900
William John James. Miner

q — 101 Willow, 1895
Paul P. & Anna Roehm. Sandstone & masonry contractor, Laurium President 1905-1909. Investor in mining companies. A steam plant was located on this property that heated all the houses in his neighborhood.

r — 117 Willow, 1895
Dr. Albert (1844-1923) & Margaret Lawbaugh. A leading physician, he had his office and pharmacy in this house. Started as physician for Phoenix, Osceola, & Tamarack mines.

s — 107 & 109 Hecla, 1905
John & Victoria Torreano. Although it appears to be a mansion, 1908 insurance maps show it as a duplex. It is now a 4 unit apartment.
**BUSINESS**

Laurium’s business district started out on Osceola St. but by the late 1890’s Hecla Street had become the main business thoroughfare with smaller business districts on Lake Linden Avenue and First Street.

1 — **342 Hecla, 1894**
Vivian Store, 1894-1936. Originally a 2 story building designed by architects D. Fred Charlton & R. William Gilbert for Johnson Vivian, a mining captain with wide business interests. The third floor was added 1898 and a bay in 1906.

2 — **323 Hecla, 1900**
Marta Block. Dominick Marta and wife Catherine built this building for his bakery on the first floor and had professional offices on the second and third floors. He lived in the house in back. By 1930 the offices were apartments.

3 — **320 Hecla, 1898**
Peter LaPointe Saloon, Wine & Liquor dealer. He lived on the second floor.

4 — **317 Hecla, 1905**
Faucett Block. William H. Faucett built this for his business. Laurium Hardware was on the first floor. Faucett Brothers & Guck Real Estate & Insurance on the second floor.

5 — **315 Hecla, 1905**
Glocke Block. Frederick C. Glocke.

6 — **310 Hecla**
Village Hall, 1914. Original brick building built in 1898, extensively remodeled in 1914 by architect Fred Maass for a cost of $8000. Large ballroom with a stage and balcony seating located on second floor.

7 — **301 Hecla, 1907**
First National Bank of Laurium Superior Pharmacy (MacQueen & Sibilsky) was located on first floor next to bank. Professional offices on the second and third floors.

8 — **300 Hecla, 1901**
State Savings Bank. Designed by architect Carl E. Nystrom, this bank had professional offices on the second floor and a bowling alley and ballrooms on the third floor. Now a doctors office.

9 — **201 Hecla, 1900**

10 — **88 First, 1905**
Saloon

11 — **64 First, 1896**
Bosch Brewing
Beer Depot, distribuition office, and manager residence on second floor.

12 — **116 Osceola, 1899**
Tinette
Laurium Printing Co. An Italian newspaper, The Italian Miner, was printed from 1900 to 1950’s on the first floor. An Irish Pub was located in the basement.

**GONE**

300 Tamarack, 1900.
Earnest (d.1905) & Bertha Bollman mansion. A real estate developer and village President 1902-05, platted 3 additions to Laurium. Calumet & Arizona Mining Co. director. This 7000 sq.ft sandstone mansion was inherited by his son-in-law Col. John P. Petermann.

Petermann owned a chain of stores in the Keweenaw, president or director of several banks, owned the Eagle River Hotel. Financial problems during the depression caused the loss of this building to demolition in the late 1930’s and loss of the property to the St. of Michigan in 1940 to back taxes.

220 Pewabic, 1903
Duncan School. Torn down 1940.

145 N. Iroquois, 1900
Irving School.

125 Lake Linden, 1891
Sacred Heart Schools. Torn down in 1960’s Schools Convent. Convent was designed by Maass Bros. and built for $12,000.

146 Lake Linden, 1899
Holmes School. Known as the Florida School. Burned 1903. Torn down 1940.

333 Hecla, 1900

Palestra Ice Rink, 1904
Located at the east end of 3rd & 4th Street, south of present Gipp Arena. It had seating for 3000 people. Moved to Marquette in 1921.

402 Hecla, 1907
Palace Hotel & Saloon

1905