



**Front - Title/Description**

**Italian Hall Tragedy**

By December 1913, thousands of area copper miners had been on strike for five months. They were fighting for union recognition, safer working conditions, shorter workdays and better pay. On Christmas Eve hundreds gathered on the second floor of the Italian Hall to attend a holiday party for strikers' families. As the children filed to the stage to receive presents, someone yelled "Fire!" People panicked and rushed toward the exit. There was no fire. Many were trampled on the stairs. Officially, seventy-three people died; more than half were children under ten. Despite a Congressional hearing and a coroner's inquest, the person who yelled fire was never identified.

**Significant Date:**

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

**Registry Year:** 1986    **Erected Date:** 2012

**Marker Location**

**Address:** Seventh Street, between Elm and 203.

**City:** Calumet

**State:** MI    **ZipCode:** 49913

**County:** Houghton

**Township:**

**Lat:** 47.24812000 / **Long:** -88.45512900

**Web URL:**

**Back - Title/Description**

**The Italian Hall**

The building that stood on this site was called the Italian Hall, and was home to the Societa Mutua Beneficenza Italiana, which aided immigrants and others in need. Built in 1908, the hall housed a saloon and an Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company store on the first floor. A main hall with a dining room, a barroom, and a stage were on the second floor. The hall was the site of one of Michigan's worst tragedies. On Christmas Eve 1913, seventy-three people died due to a false alarm of "Fire!" When the building was razed in 1984, the archway from its main entrance was saved. In 1989 the Village of Calumet, with the help of Operating Engineers Local 324 and the Friends of Italian Hall, created this park dedicated to those who died in 1913.