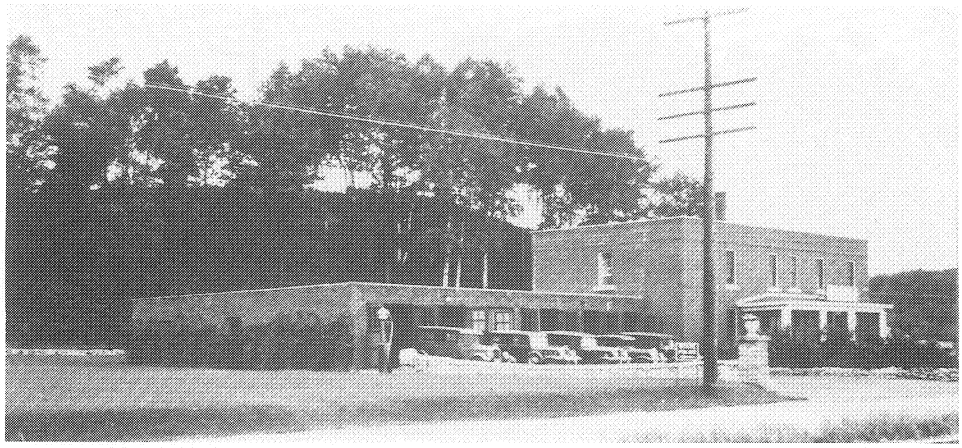
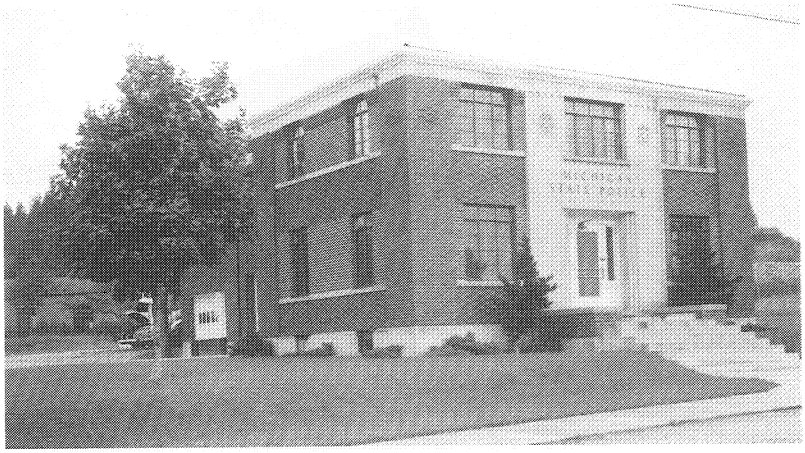


EIGHTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
(Sta. 80)
180 US-41 East, Negaunee, 49866

Michigan's Upper Peninsula has been designated as a distinct State Police district commanded by a captain since the origins of the Michigan State Constabulary in 1917. Negaunee was the first headquarters post outside East Lansing.

Ordered to protect war production at mines in the Gogebic Iron Range, Capt. Robert E. Marsh and Lt. Del Vandervoort established permanent headquarters for the mounted First Troop in a rented building at Negaunee in August of 1917. The First Troop patrolled the entire Upper Peninsula. The postwar Michigan State Police maintained the First Troop at Negaunee, with mounted detachments assigned for varying periods at Trout Lake, Hermansville, Rock, Iron Mountain, Manistique, Crystal Falls, Bessemer, Rockland, and Sault Ste. Marie. Captain Marsh succeeded Col. Roy C. Vandercook as commanding officer at East Lansing in 1920, and Capt. Archie Downing became the Upper Peninsula commander.

Prison riots in the early 1920's prompted the State Police to move the Upper Peninsula headquarters post from Negaunee to a new brick building at the Marquette Prison in 1927. Capt. Ora E. Demaray of Paw Paw traded commands with Captain Downing in 1928, and Captain Demaray was appointed by Commissioner Oscar G. Olander as the first commander of the new Eighth District in 1931. District headquarters remained at Marquette until May of 1973 when it returned to the Negaunee area. The present modern Eighth District Headquarters/Negaunee Post facility was completed in the summer of 1974.

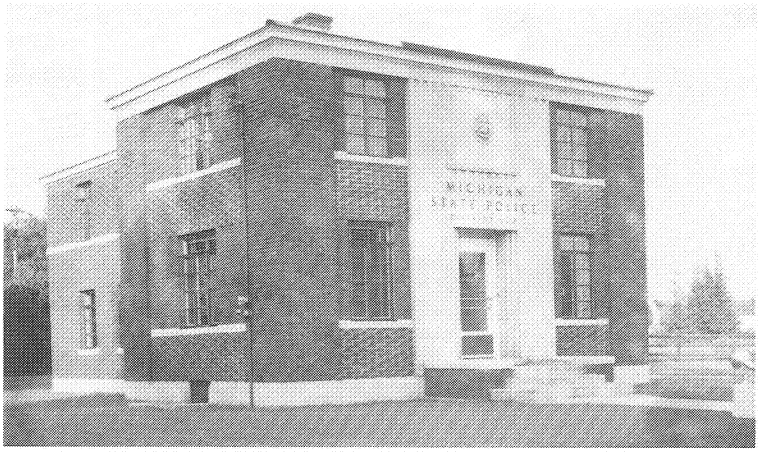


ST. IGNACE POST
(Post 83)
706 N. State Street, St. Ignace, 49781

Using St. Ignace as a base, troopers staged annual summer gambling raids at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel from 1919-1921. In 1921, three mounted troopers from Negaunee rode for three days to visit the Mackinac County Fair.

Tpr. Ralph M. Sheehan opened the first summer detachment (a sub-post of Newberry) at St. Ignace in 1932. He was followed in later years by Troopers Forest H. White, Jack Miller, and others -- all of whom made their "home" at the Gust Nelson residence. They used office space at the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, then moved the detachment into the St. Ignace City Hall. During the Nicolet Tercentennial in 1934, 25 troopers were assigned at St. Ignace.

In 1936, the county donated land at the present site for a permanent State Police post. The brick WPA barracks was completed in 1937 and Senior Sgt. Fred Keune was transferred from Newberry to serve as the first St. Ignace post commander. The St. Ignace Post area includes Mackinac Island and the Mackinac Bridge and plans are now underway for the Mackinac Bridge Authority to build a new post at the north end of the bridge.



MANISTIQUE POST
(Post 84)
US-2, Manistique, 49854

Cpl. Fred Bedard and Tpr. Ora Demaray rode from Negaunee to Manistique in 1920 to investigate reports of labor unrest. The very appearance of this mounted detachment broke up an assembly of strikers, but the troopers stayed several weeks to keep the peace.

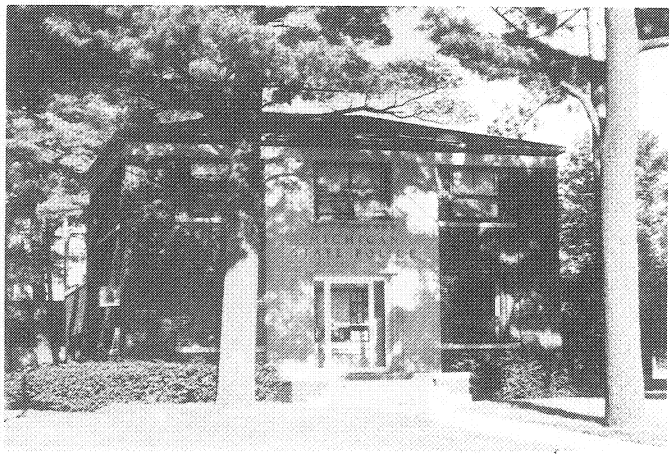
A State Police detachment returned to Manistique in the early 1920's to investigate two murders in Schoolcraft County. Corporal Demaray and Trooper Moore found quarters on the west side of Manistique in a building which was later converted into a hotel. Their horses (a black and a bay) were kept at a livery stable down the street. Each morning before starting on patrol, Trooper Moore curried and combed the horses while townspeople watched. The troopers captured one of the fugitive killers at his hiding place in Manistique; the other was eventually apprehended out West.

Tpr. Nels G. Friberg of the Newberry Post opened a summer detachment at Manistique in 1936. The following year, construction of the present brick WPA barracks began on land donated by the city. Cpl. Nicholas H. Modders and Trooper Friberg opened the new Manistique Post in 1937. They were later joined by two additional troopers and the official post dedication took place on July 4, 1938.

GLADSTONE POST
(Post 85)
922 Lake Shore Drive Gladstone, 49837

During the summer of 1922, a national railroad strike brought State Police detachments to maintain order at Escanaba and Gladstone. Although periodically visited by patrols from Negaunee, Gladstone did not have a permanent State Police post until the latter phase of the department's major building program in conjunction with the depression-era WPA.

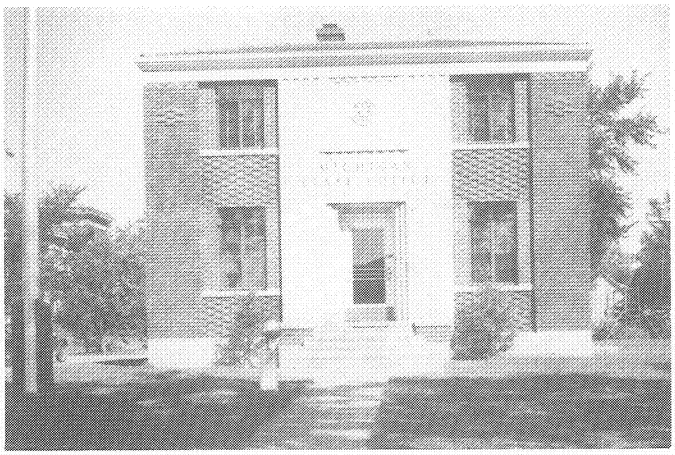
In September of 1939, the city of Gladstone conveyed a parcel of the picturesque Van Cleve Park to the department for a new State Police post. The brick WPA barracks cost $19,000 to build and it was finally completed in July of 1941. Cpl. Willard W. Wixom was assigned as the first Gladstone post commander over Troopers Howard J. McCracken, George Strong, Lyle H. Jackson, and Robert J. Leonard. In December of 1941, four additional troopers were assigned; Louis P. Fantini, Francis E. Semoneau, Edward M. Malette, and Edward Olsen.



IRON MOUNTAIN POST
(Post 86)
North US-2, Iron Mountain, 49801

Detachments of the original Michigan State Constabulary patrolled the Iron Mountain area during World War I to prevent labor unrest from disrupting mine production. After May 1, 1918, troopers focused on intercepting rumrunners from nearby "wet" Wisconsin. After the war, the reorganized Michigan State Police continued to assign detachments at Iron Mountain and Hermansville to enforce prohibition and to quell labor unrest fomented by the radical IWW union.

Lt. Fred Bedard opened a summer post at Iron Mountain in 1926; the following summer, Commissioner Oscar G. Olander designated Iron Mountain as a permanent post under Lt. Charles Engle. Budget shortfalls caused by the depression forced the Iron Mountain Post to close in the summer of 1933, but new state revenues allowed Sgt. Anthony "Pinky" Haydon and five troopers to reopen the post in 1934. Construction of a new brick WPA barracks on US-2 began in 1935. Sgt. Donald C. Hoadley was the new Iron Mountain post commander when the building was dedicated in 1936.

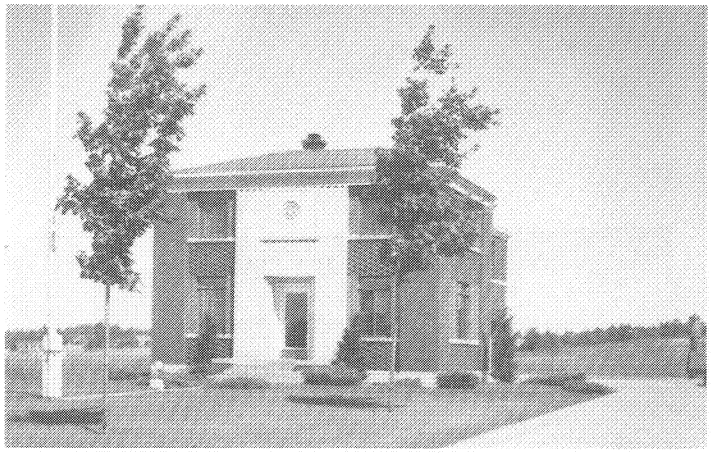


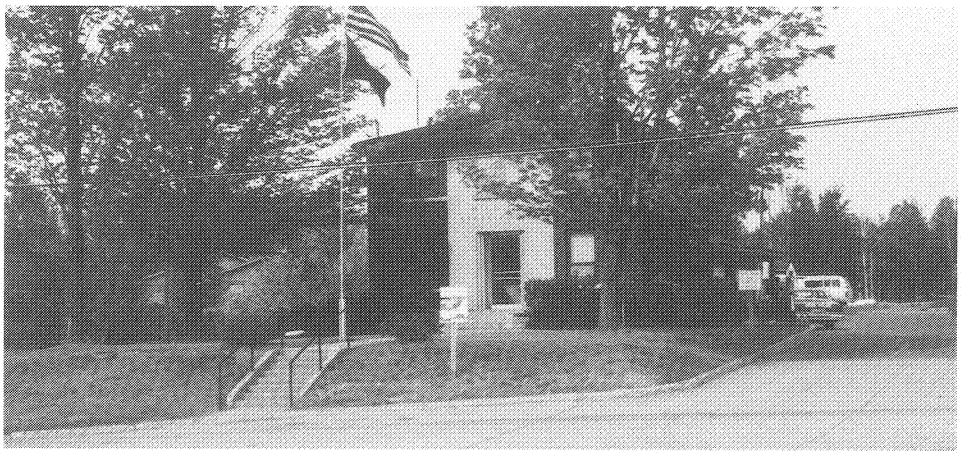
WAKEFIELD POST
(Post 87)
100 Sunday Lake Street, Wakefield, 49968

In late July of 1917, Governor Albert E. Sleeper ordered the First Troop of the new Michigan State Constabulary to the Upper Peninsula to prevent the radical IWW union from disrupting war production at the mines near Ironwood. Their express train stopped first at Bessemer and the mounted troopers helped Gogebic County Sheriff William Kellett disperse mobs of angry miners before proceeding to Ironwood.

Michigan enacted wartime state liquor prohibition on May 1, 1918, but Wisconsin remained "wet." Swarms of rumrunners and bootleggers crossed into Michigan near Ironwood from the nearby town of Hurley, Wisconsin -- infamous in those days as a "wide-open" town of bars and brothels. Even today, old troopers remember stories of a pitched battle at the Montreal River between mounted Michigan troopers (including Caesar Scavarda and Charlie Engle) and a gang of bootleggers. The postwar Michigan State Police continued to assign mounted detachments from Negaunee to Ironwood and Bessemer to enforce prohibition laws and to quell renewed IWW agitation.

Construction of a permanent State Police post at Wakefield began during the department's major expansion of 1935-36. The brick WPA barracks was completed in 1937 with Sgt. Raymond Katke as the first post commander. Located at the western end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Wakefield's post area is the largest in the state (2,523 square miles). A detachment has been assigned from Wakefield to Bruce Crossing in Ontonagon County since 1971.





L'ANSE POST
(Post 88)
P. O. Box 87, L'Anse, 49946

Located on US-41 in the heart of Michigan's Upper Peninsula mining region, the L'Anse Post was first established in 1935. As construction of the brick WPA sub-station progressed, Sgt. Merl Peck and Troopers Victor Beck, Leonard Bartelli, and George Malnar rented rooms in local residences. The post officially opened late in the fall of 1935.

Prior to the permanent State Police presence at L'Anse, it was common for local motorists to drive with license plates that had been expired for several years. The new troopers provided some unfamiliar enforcement and an employee of the local Secretary of State office commented at the time that she "had never sold so many license plates since she worked for the state."

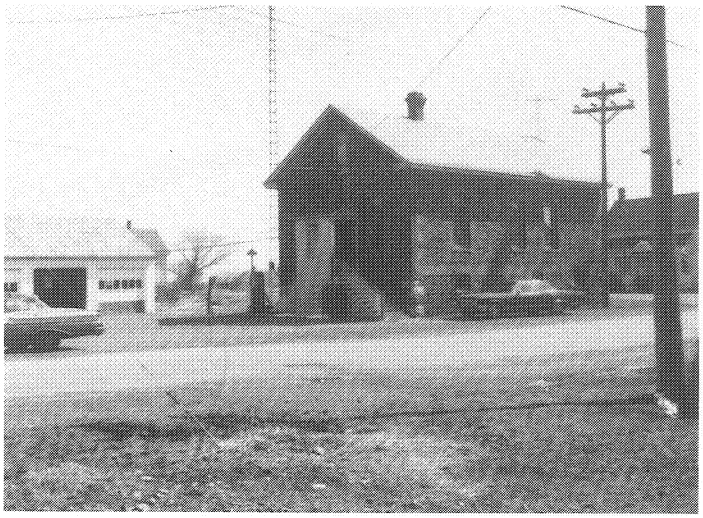
The L'Anse Post patrols areas in both Baraga and Houghton counties and the post area encompasses the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

STEPHENSON POST
(Post 89)
US-41, Stephenson, 49887

After World War I ended, the Michigan State Police assigned detachments at Hermansville between 1919-1921 to enforce prohibition laws and to quell labor agitation by the radical IWW union in the surrounding lumber camps.

A permanent State Police post was not established in the area until 1956 when Sgt. Carl M. Anderson opened a post at Stephenson. The original building on US-41 near the southern part of town was constructed by the "Stephenson Corporation" -- a group of concerned citizens who wanted a State Police post in their community.

In 1985, property for a new post was found on the north side of Stephenson. This seven-acre parcel included a large existing building with a heated 60' x 100' garage. Due to the building's size, the State Police proposed a merger with the local Department of Natural Resources office. The decision was ultimately made to purchase and jointly occupy the facility on River Road and US-41. The use of a woood-burning stove to heat the building undoubtedly makes it among the most fuel-efficient posts in the state.

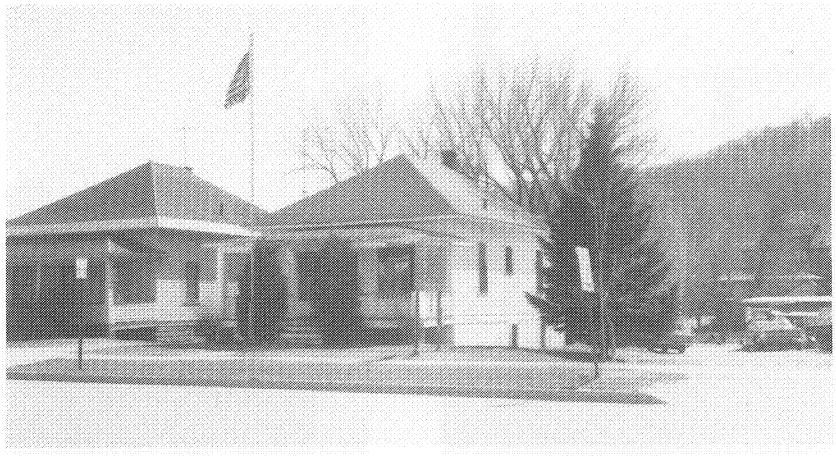


CALUMET POST
(Post 90)
Rockland Street, Calumet, 49913

The historical roots of the Michigan State Police may be traced to Calumet and the copper country. Major Roy C. Vandercook's National Guard service during the bloody 1913-14 copper strike at the Calumet and Hecla mines gave him the idea to create a semi-military, mounted constabulary similar to the Canadian Mounties or the Pennsylvania State Police to handle future civil disorders.

Beginning in 1917, mounted detachments from the First Troop of the Michigan State Constabulary (and later State Police) occasionally patrolled the copper country. The first long-term State Police presence was not established until the late 1920's when, for several consecutive years, the department operated small summer posts at Calumet. A permanent post opened in the D. Hass Building at Houghton in 1931. Cpl. Nicholas H. Modders commanded Troopers Thor Person, Edgar Welsh, and Carroll DeVries. Budget shortfalls forced the Houghton Post to close in 1932.

In July of 1956, Sgt. Wilmer J. Moilanen and five troopers opened a new post at Calumet. Michigan's northern most post is located in a stone building, constructed in 1890 as an office for a mining captain and owned by the now defunct Calumet & Hecla Mining Company.

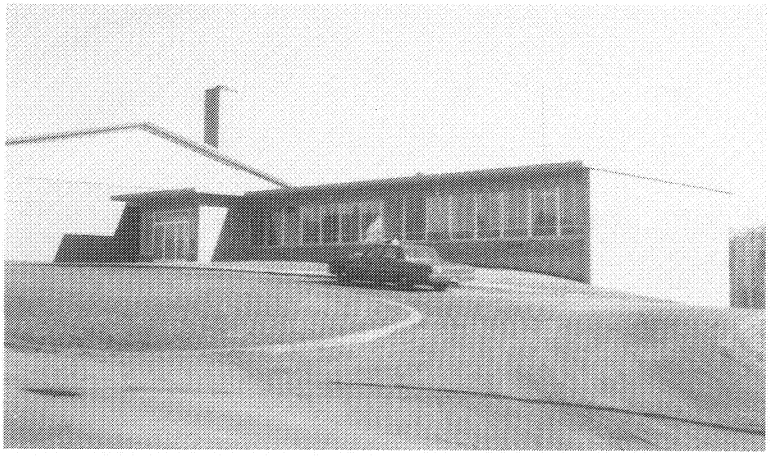


MUNISING POST
(Post 91)
Rte. 1, Box 445, Munising, 49862

The Marquette Post assigned one trooper at Munising during the summer of 1932 and official records indicate that Marquette established a continuous sub-post at Munising beginning in 1936. Tpr. Wilbur Petermann was the officer assigned that year.

The 1956 Michigan State Police Annual Report mentions the opening of a "new" sub-post at Munising. Beginning in July of 1956, Tpr. Daniel E. Kostrzewa served as "Senior Officer in Charge" of two other troopers in a small white house on the outskirts of Munising.

Munising was designated as a regular post on November 19, 1957, under the command of Sgt. Thornton Stratton. The present facility was built just off M-28 in 1970. The Munising Post handles a heavy annual influx of tourists along the beautiful Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

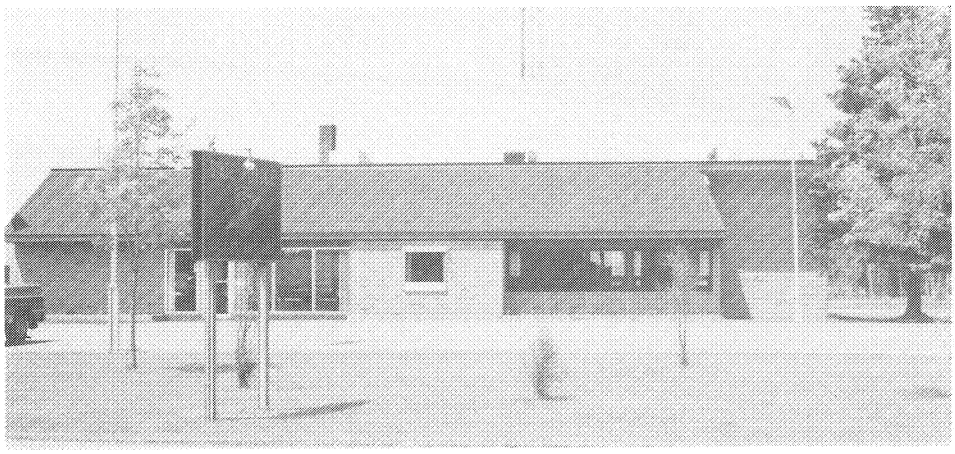


IRON RIVER POST
(Post 92)
897 Lalley Road, Iron River, 49935

The mounted First Troop of the Michigan State Constabulary under Capt. Robert E. Marsh patrolled the mining region in Iron County from 1917-1919 to protect war production and, after May of 1918, to enforce Michigan's new prohibition law along the border with "wet" Wisconsin. A detachment was assigned temporarily at Crystal Falls.

When the Constabulary was reorganized as the Michigan State Police after the war, Captain Marsh and the First Troop remained in the Upper Peninsula. After arresting two rumrunners near Crystal Falls in the summer of 1919, Captain Marsh was shot in the neck by one of the prisoners. Captain Marsh's partner, Lt. Del Vandervoort, shot the assailant and carried Captain Marsh over his shoulders to a doctor -- thus earning the first Michigan State Police distinguished service citation. (Captain Marsh recovered from his wound and became commanding officer of the Michigan State Police in 1920.)

In July of 1965, Col. Fred Davids assigned Sgt. Louis P. Fantini and two troopers to open a post at Iron River. Their original quarters were the day-room of the Iron County Armory. Staff expansion forced the post to move into a general office building in downtown Iron River in 1969, and the present modern facility was acquired in 1984.



SAULT STE. MARIE POST
(Post 93)
3900 I-75 BR, Sault Ste. Marie, 49783

During World War I, detachments of the Michigan State Constabulary's First Troop guarded the Soo Locks to prevent any possibility that German sabotage could interrupt the flow of iron ore and copper through the Great Lakes. In May of 1919, Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Mark Tymon and Chippewa County Sheriff Wallace Lundy requested help from the Michigan State Police in maintaining order during a tannery strike at the Northwestern Leather Company. Capt. Robert E. Marsh and 12 mounted troopers arrived, but the Michigan Federation of Labor protested State Police intervention and some local citizens criticized their officials for turning local affairs over to the state. The troopers remained neutral in the dispute and kept the peace, and the controversy soon subsided.

Tpr. LeRoy Hunt of the Newberry Post opened a temporary summer detachment at the Soo in 1936; that same year Commissioner Oscar G. Olander requested funding for a permanent State Police post. Thirty years later, Lt. Col. Melvin G. Kaufman announced the activation of a Sault Ste. Marie Post effective August 21, 1966. Sgt. William H. Lanphear and Cpl. Edward M. Malette opened the post and 10 troopers joined them following formal dedication of the building in October. Several years later, growing pains caused the post to move into its present location in the former Cloverland Electric Building on the I-75 Business Route.