

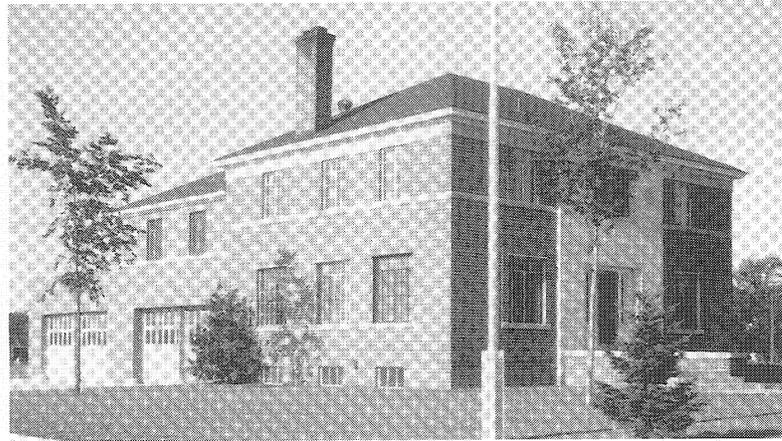
SEVENTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
(Sta. 70)

218 W. 14th Street, Traverse City, 49684

When the wartime State Constabulary was reorganized as the permanent Michigan State Police in 1919, Capt. Charles E. Wakeman (a U.S. Cavalry veteran) established headquarters for the Fourth Troop at Traverse City. Captain Wakeman assigned mounted detachments at Pellston, Gaylord, Grayling, Cadillac, Frankfort, and Honor.

Merged with the new Department of Public Safety in 1921, the State Police consolidated all Troop Four detachments at Gaylord. Captain Wakeman retired after closing the Traverse City Post, and Lt. Jack Fagan of the Gaylord Detachment became captain. Gaylord served as the headquarters and only post for the entire northern lower peninsula until 1924, when a sub-station opened at Manistee. Captain Fagan transferred to the State Fair Grounds Detachment at Detroit in 1925, and the Gaylord Post closed. A new Cheboygan Detachment replaced the Gaylord Post, but Lt. Earl Hathaway's popular young Manistee Post became the headquarters post for northern Michigan.

Commissioner Oscar G. Olander's search for a suitable headquarters site for the new Seventh District in 1931 took him to Manistee, Alpena, and Traverse City. Despite the concerted efforts of Manistee citizens to promote their town, Commissioner Olander chose to return the department's northern command post to its historic home at Traverse City. Lieutenant Hathaway maintained district headquarters at Manistee until a new building (the first standardized district headquarters post) was completed at Traverse City in 1932. Promoted that year, Captain Hathaway served as Seventh District commander until a new mandatory retirement age forced him to retire in 1958.



TRAVERSE CITY POST

(Post 71)

218 W. 14th Street, Traverse City, 49684

Mounted detachments of the original Michigan State Constabulary patrolled Traverse City during World War I, and the Fourth Troop of the reorganized Michigan State Police maintained headquarters there for two years after the war. Mounted troopers enforced dog and conservation laws, searched for illegal booze stills, and served as forest fire rangers while a lone motorcycle trooper enforced traffic laws. Departmental reorganization and budget constraints closed the Traverse City Post between 1921-1929.

Tpr. Stanley Piechowiack opened a temporary summer post at Traverse City in 1929 in a rented room. His popularity soon brought public demands for a permanent post. Joined by an additional trooper, Trooper Piechowiack reopened the post in 1930, moving into a bigger building at 921 E. Front Street. Sgt. Carl Robertson was assigned as the first Traverse City Post commander in 1931.

When the new standardized barracks for the combined Traverse City Post/Seventh District Headquarters was dedicated in 1932, over 150 dignitaries attended the ceremonies. Leland writer Karl Detzer (whose stories of State Police cases were later dramatized in the Hollywood movie "Car 99") was a featured speaker.



CHEBOYGAN POST
(Post 72)

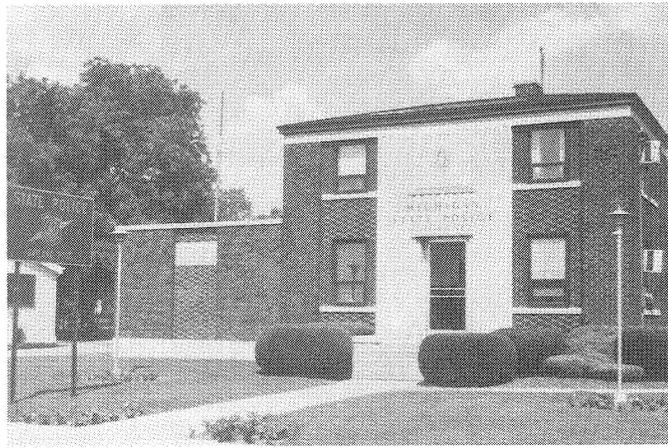
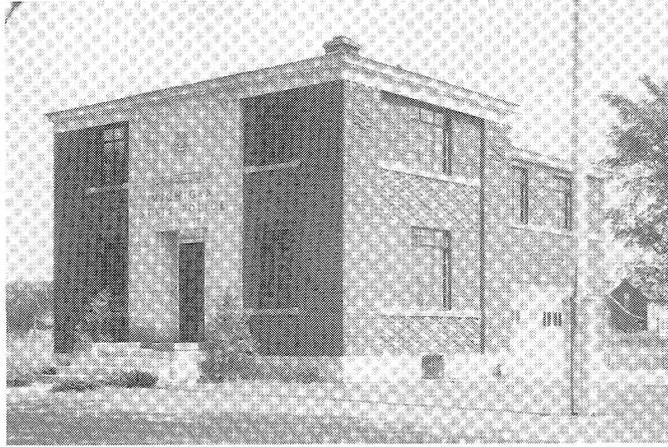
1206 S. Main Street, Cheboygan, 49721

In 1925, the State Police closed the Gaylord Post and opened a new post at Cheboygan. Cpl. George Aldrich and Tpr. Joseph Lane rented a hotel room until a house could be leased on the south side of town, where they were soon joined by two additional troopers.

Cornelius F. VanBlankensteyn (assigned as a trooper at Cheboygan during 1928-29) recalled how snow seeped into the house between the boards and covered the floor of the upstairs barracks during the winter. To keep warm at night, he put a layer of newspapers between the metal frame of his cot and the thin department-issued mattress. Cheboygan troopers took their meals and fed prisoners at the Carnation Restaurant, signing a ledger for each meal. A monthly bill was then submitted to East Lansing Headquarters. The same family still runs the restaurant and shows the old ledgers to visitors.

The original post area of 14 counties included Beaver Island, Charlevoix, Petoskey, Gaylord, Alpena, and Houghton Lake. Quiet during the winter, the Cheboygan Post area bustled with tourists during the remainder of the year. Troopers directed traffic onto the Mackinac Straits' ferries as deer hunters and other tourists rushed to the Upper Peninsula, and a Cheboygan trooper was sometimes assigned to Mackinac Island.

The present brick WPA building was completed in 1936 during a major departmental building program.



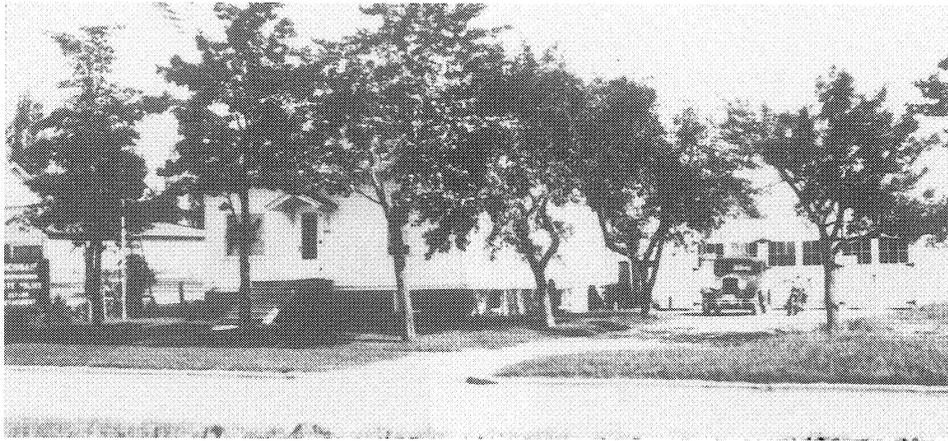
GAYLORD POST
(Post 73)

563 S. Otsego, Gaylord, 49735

The Michigan State Police first stationed a mounted detachment of the Fourth Troop at Gaylord in 1919 under Lt. Jack Fagan. The original post building, located near the railroad tracks on the north side of town, still stands today. Gaylord became the primary post for northern Michigan when the Traverse City Post closed in 1921. The Gaylord Post also closed in 1925, and a new post at Cheboygan assumed responsibility for the area.

A new brick WPA post was dedicated at Gaylord in 1937 as part of a major departmental expansion. Sgt. Erdman Stahl was the first post commander. during the 1950's and 60's Sgt. Oscar Anderson served as post commander. Known as "Sarge" or "Trapper", Sergeant Anderson was featured in many newspaper and magazine articles about hunting and fishing in the Gaylord area. His older brother, Walter T. Anderson, served as sergeant and assistant post commander under Captain Fagan at the original Gaylord Post from 1920-1921. At age 93, Walter is the last surviving member of the original Michigan State Constabulary.

The Gaylord Post now operates the Seventh District regional dispatch system and supervises the Lewiston detachment of two resident troopers.



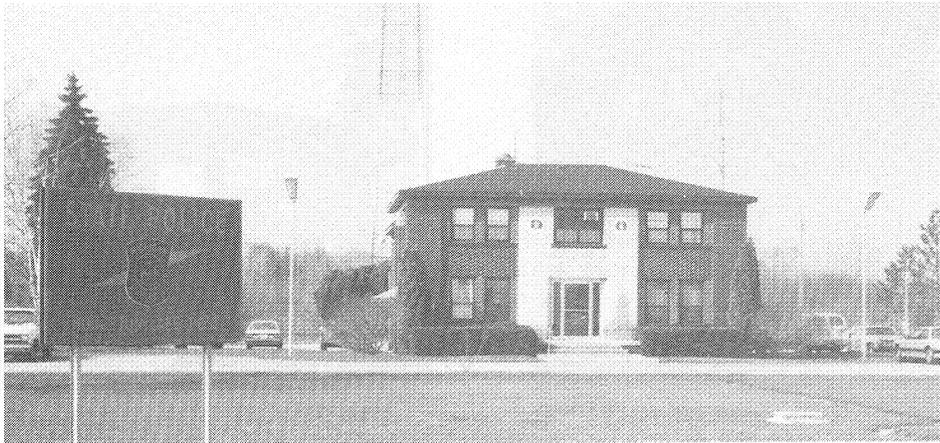
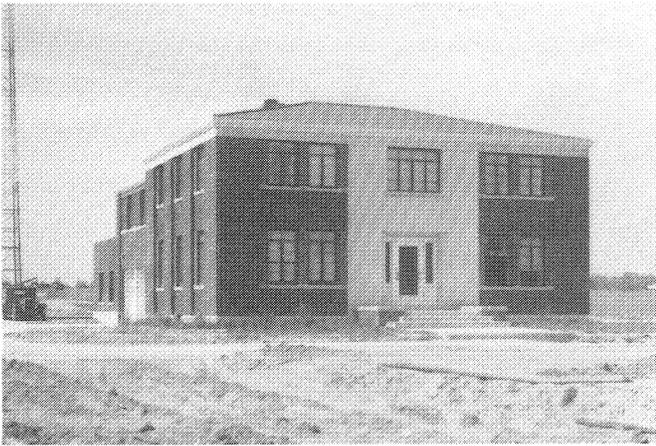
ALPENA POST
(Post 74)

2160 S. State Avenue, Alpena, 49707

Mounted troopers from the Gaylord Detachment patrolled Alpena during 1919-1921; however, the first permanent State Police post at Alpena was not established until August of 1931.

Transferred from the old Wayne Post, Tpr. Ken White picked up a new motorcycle at East Lansing Headquarters and was told to report to the new Alpena Post. Unable to find any sign of a State Police presence when he arrived in town (the Alpena police chief had heard rumors of a new post, but hadn't seen any troopers yet), Trooper White returned to East Lansing by train -- only to discover that the other personnel had been delayed. Two days later, Cpl. Clarence B. Miller, Tpr. C. LaLonde, and Tpr. Harry Nelson joined Trooper White in a leased house at 1203 State Avenue. Their motor fleet consisted of two motorcycles, a Ford Model A patrol car, and a Reo staff car.

Depression-era budget cuts forced the post to close in 1933, but revenues from a new state liquor tax following the repeal of prohibition allowed the department to reopen the Alpena Post in a rented house on Mirre Street in 1934. The present brick WPA building on State Avenue was completed in 1935. Tpr. Larry Forreider was shot to death during a traffic stop on US-23 just north of Alpena in 1974.

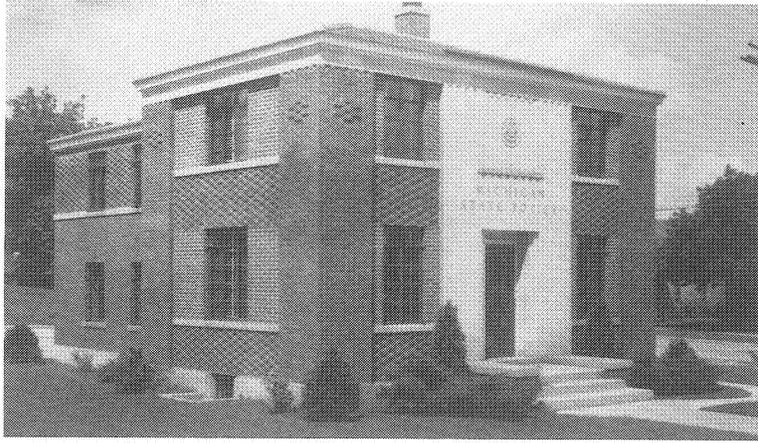


HOUGHTON LAKE POST
(Post 75)

9011 W. Lake City Road, Houghton Lake, 48629

In July of 1927, Sgt. Colburn Munger opened the first summer post at the busy resort area of Houghton Lake. Records are sketchy, but Prudenville is listed as the site of the first detachment. These quarters were apparently not suitable, and Sergeant Munger moved into an old white frame house near the Curtis Grocery in Houghton Lake Village. Records suggest that the post may also have been located in Roscommon for a short time. Two or three additional troopers joined Sergeant Munger at Houghton Lake during the summers of 1928 and 1929. During the fall of 1928, a large detachment of troopers was assigned at Houghton Lake to check hunters for illegal game.

The State Police established its first permanent home at Houghton Lake in 1937. Cpl. Verne Dagen and Troopers Ralph "Pappy" Glassford, Harold Potter, and Maurice Buxton occupied the brick WPA barracks at the busy intersection of US-27 and M-55. They were soon joined by three radio dispatchers; to augment the East Lansing Headquarters radio system, the department had chosen Houghton Lake as the site for a new radio station, WRDH. On September 23, 1937, the Roscommon Herald News reported that, "The new station in the Houghton Lake district is to be one of the largest in the state and when completed, will be fully equipped to both send and receive radio messages. The broadcasting station, with its 325 foot tower, will have the same power as the Lansing station...thus, giving to northern Michigan more adequate police protection."



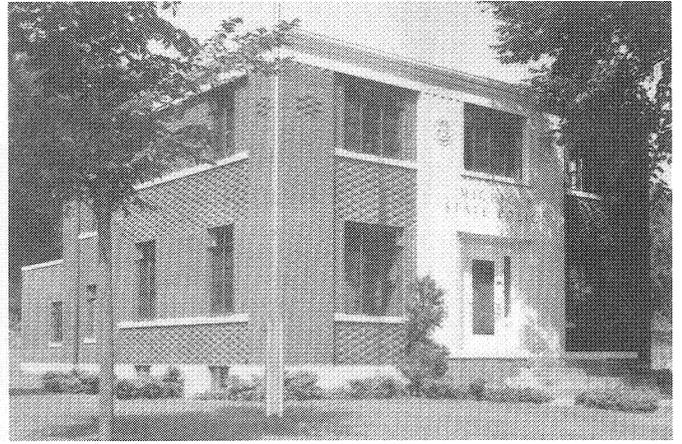
CADILLAC POST
(Post 76)

1104 S. Mitchell Street, Cadillac, 49601

A mounted detachment of the Michigan State Police Fourth Troop was assigned at Cadillac during 1919-1921. They handled general criminal complaints, enforced prohibition laws, and patrolled the Wexford County Fair each summer. So impressed by the State Police was Cadillac native Oscar G. Olander that he enlisted as a trooper/records clerk at East Lansing Headquarters in 1919.

Proposals for a permanent Cadillac Post were approved in 1936 as part of the department's major expansion. Construction of a new WPA sub-post began on July 29, 1937 and Cpl. Edd Freeman (among the most famous troopers in the department's history) opened the new Cadillac Post on February 23, 1938. Lacking any furniture except a radio receiver, Corporal Freeman used an orange crate for a desk and an overturned mop bucket for a chair. He lived at the Royal Hotel and used his own car for patrols until May of 1938 when he was joined by Troopers Kenneth Aldrich, John Swee, and Orley Perry. They brought two patrol cars and a motorcycle.

Present and former members of the popular Cadillac Post celebrated the 50th anniversary of the post's conception in 1986.

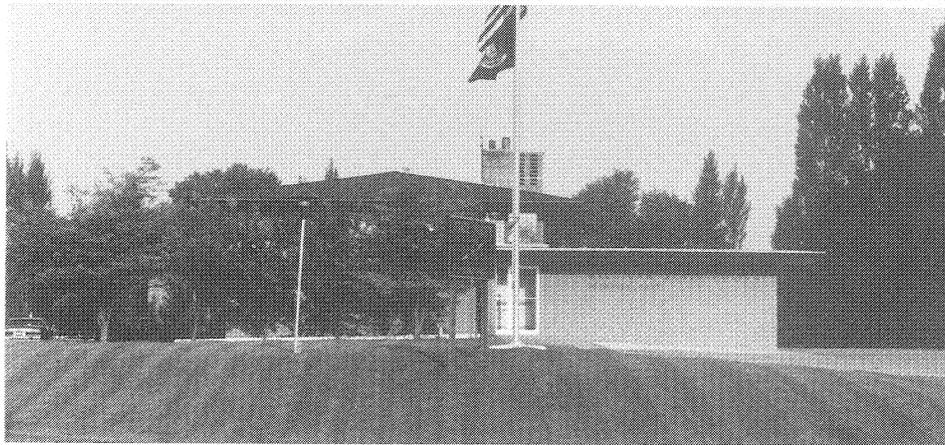
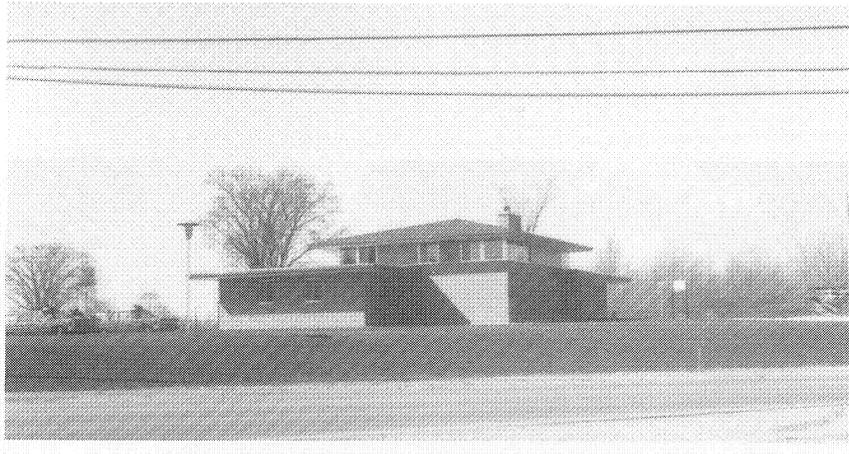


MANISTEE POST
(Post 77)

212 Arthur Street, Manistee, 49660

Manistee County Sheriff Morris Wall requested State Police help during labor unrest at Filer City's Filer Fiber Company in 1924. Capt. Jack Fagan (the Gaylord post commander) and a detail of four young troopers (Sam Mapes, Arlo Bailor, Carl Robertson, and Herman Kays - all recent recruit school graduates) arrived and found lodging at the home of Mrs. Minnie Billington King. They had two motorcycles --one with a sidecar. Strike duties proved boring, so the energetic troopers chased rumrunners and traffic violators. A borrowed car was used to transport prisoners. Resenting this sudden surge in law enforcement, a group known as the Unity Club voted to oust the State Police detachment from Manistee; however, a majority of citizens supported the troopers and the State Police remained. Cpl. Earl Hathaway became the first Manistee post commander later that year.

Manistee served as the headquarters post for northern Michigan when the Gaylord Detachment closed, and the original post area covered 10 counties. Headquarters for the new Seventh District transferred to Traverse City in 1932, but Manistee soon claimed an enduring role in the department's history. Captain Hathaway's successful manhunt for the thugs who robbed the bank and murdered cashier Ellsworth Billman in the Manistee County village of Kaleva in 1933 finally squelched the political opposition which had plagued the State Police since its inception, and led to implementation of the department's pioneer stateline blockade system. The Manistee Post moved for a time into a leased house on Kosciusko Street before the present brick WPA barracks was completed in 1936.



PETOSKEY POST
(Post 78)

1200 M-119, Petoskey, 49770

Having been patrolled by a succession of State Police detachments from Traverse City, Gaylord, and Cheboygan, Petoskey first requested its own State Police post in 1935. A permanent State Police presence was not established, however, until August 1, 1956.

The original building, located on US-131 across from the present Holiday Inn, was an old, two-story house donated to the department after a local fund raising drive. Sgt. John E. Davis and five troopers were soon joined by Cpl. John Lewinski. Retirees from that era recall how snow drifts entering the post through uninsulated cracks made Petoskey the only post in the state to be issued an electric blanket for the officer assigned to "sleep in the hole" during cold winter nights.

The post relocated to the present modern facility at the intersection of US-31 and M-119 in 1966.



KALKASKA TEAM
(Team 79)

2089 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska, 49646

Hundreds of state troopers were mobilized to keep order during the bitter Shell Oil strike at Kalkaska in 1973. The continued oil boom in Kalkaska County generated the traffic and crime problems often associated with rapid growth, so the department established one of its new team concepts at Kalkaska in March, 1978.

Located first in the Kalkaska County Governmental Complex at 605 N. Birch Street, the Kalkaska Team was dispatched by the Traverse City Post. Sgt. Robert Dyke supervised Troopers Dick Rothermel, Donald Reed, Jack Messer, Lyle Blanksvard, Doug Murphy, and Gerald Moeggenberg. In June of 1987, the team formed a partnership to share facilities at the present site with the Department of Natural Resources. Both agencies have since cooperated closely in state law enforcement and public protection.

The Kalkaska Team was designated as Station 79 in 1990 and now participates in the Kalkaska County Central Dispatch System.