



Main Street, Gaylord, looking northeast

current need: clothing, shoes, groceries, drugs, hats (for women) and hardware. Livery stables furnished transportation . . . horse, driver and carriage would take one almost anywhere.

The first organization was that of the Congregational Church in 1874. After a number of mission ministers had come and gone, Rev. A. VanAuken, who came in 1876, selected the present site of the church and dedicated the building, part of which is still in use, in 1879.

The County newspaper office was moved to Gaylord in 1878. Henry McKinley came to the business in 1877 and continued until 1906.

Gaylord was incorporated as a village in 1881. The first Council meeting was held March 18, 1881 with Chester C. Mitchell as presiding officer. It remained a village until January 1922 when, by a vote of 114 for and 93 against, it became a city, 4th class. John P. Hamilton, Village President at the time of change of government status, became the first Mayor of the city, April 1922.

In 1881 the first water system was installed with wooden mains. Some of these original mains were used until 1966 when the last one was removed from along Main Street. That same year, 1881, the Otsego County Agricultural Society was organized. The first County Fair was held on the Court House Square same autumn. That year the Gaylord Band was organized and continued to be an important factor in the life of the



Main Street, Gaylord, looking northwest showing Mansard House Hotel which burned in 1902. Present location of Glen Electric and Furniture.