Walking Tour of Gaylord

1 Otsego County Historical Museum

Located at 320 W. Main, the Museum is the place to begin your tour. The Otsego County Historical Society opened the museum in 1992. The building was built in 1912 and has been a cigar factory, pool hall, printing company, and Star Office Supply.

2 Mt. Carmel Center

Formerly St. Mary’s Cathedral, the red brick landmark was built in 1900-1901. Church services were conducted until 1976. The building is being restored and used for the performing arts and is located on the southwest corner of Otsego and Mitchell Streets.

3 Buck House

Sanford Buck, a partner with Earl Bolton in the potato warehouse business, built this large Queen Anne residence at North Center and Mitchell Streets. This home has gone through a succession of owners but retains the Queen Anne style. Mr. Buck was one of the founders of the Gaylord State Bank and served on the Board of Directors.

4 Kramer House

See front of brochure.

5 Shannon Park

This downtown park is dedicated to Claude Shannon, a highly respected scientist whose work in 1936 at MIT received the Nobel Prize of the combined engineering societies of the USA. This work was fundamental to the design of digital computers and integrated circuits. Dr. Shannon went on to develop other important works which had and continues to have, far reaching impacts. Dr. Shannon grew up in Gaylord, and attended the University of Michigan and MIT. He majored in mathematics and electrical engineering.

6 Sugar Bowl

Located at 216 West Main Street, this landmark restaurant opened in 1919 as a candy store and sweet shop. The name “Sugar Bowl” came from these first beginnings. It was started by George Doumas who had been a personal chef of General George Pershing. The restaurant has gone through many renovations over the years. It continues to be known for its excellent food. It is owned by Robert Doumas, son of the founder.

Otsego County Historical Society

320 W. Main Street • Gaylord, Michigan

Sugar Bowl Restaurant

Since 1919

216 West Main Street

P.O. Box 539 • Gaylord, Michigan 49734

Phone: 989-732-5524

Fax: 989-732-3448

ROBERT H. DOUMAS
City/County Building

Historical photographs line the hallways of both floors of the building at 225 W. Main Street, giving the viewer a pictorial overview of local history. The building is open to the public during normal business hours. Gaylord is the County Seat and this building was constructed in 1968 to replace the courthouse which stood at this same location.

Gaylord Car

On display at the Chamber of Commerce Information Center at 125 S. Otsego Ave., the Gaylord Car can be viewed 24 hours every day. It is believed to be the only remaining Gaylord Car and was built in 1911. A fund raising campaign was held in 1981 to purchase the car so it could be featured at Gaylord's centennial celebration that same year. $24,000.00 was raised to purchase and maintain the car. The car leads the Alpenfest Grand parade each year.

Orsago Co. Library

History buffs will find the Library, located at 700 S. Otsego Avenue, a must see on your tour. Past editions of the local newspaper can be viewed on microfilm and there is a growing collection of genealogy materials.


Historical Markers

Located on the lawn of the City/County Building, one marker describes the early history of Otsego County and the other commemorates Augustine Gaylord, the person for whom the city was named.

Congregational Church

Walk one block south to the corner of Otsego Avenue and Second Street and read the Historical Marker to learn more about Gaylord’s oldest church building.

The Old Spud Warehouse

Located at 314 S. Otsego Ave., this building was built at the turn of the century and used as a co-operative potato warehouse for area farmers. It’s location near the railroad made it feasible to transport potatoes easily. The co-operative operated until around 1960. It now houses The Old Spud Warehouse and Edward Sign Studio.

Gaylord Car Factory

The Gaylord Motor Company (GMC) was started in 1910. The car was first assembled in Detroit and returned to Gaylord. It was called the Gaylord Model 30. About 50 cars were produced the first year. In 1911 the company produced a D-S 30 Touring Car and the R-20 Utility roadster. Cars ranged in price from $1,000 - $1,500. See Number 10 for more information. The white block building is located on S. Wisconsin.

Cannon on the lawn of the City/County Building

One of the twenty-six cannons used on Admiral Farragut’s historic flagship “Hartford” which was used in the Civil War (battles of New Orleans, Vicksburg, Port Huron, and Mobile Bay). It was placed on the courthouse lawn and dedicated on July 4, 1908. Another of these cannons is in Petoskey.

Johnson’s Propane

989-732-2451

Explore the 100 year old potato farmer’s co-op building now home to The Old Spud Warehouse 314 South Otsego, Gaylord

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