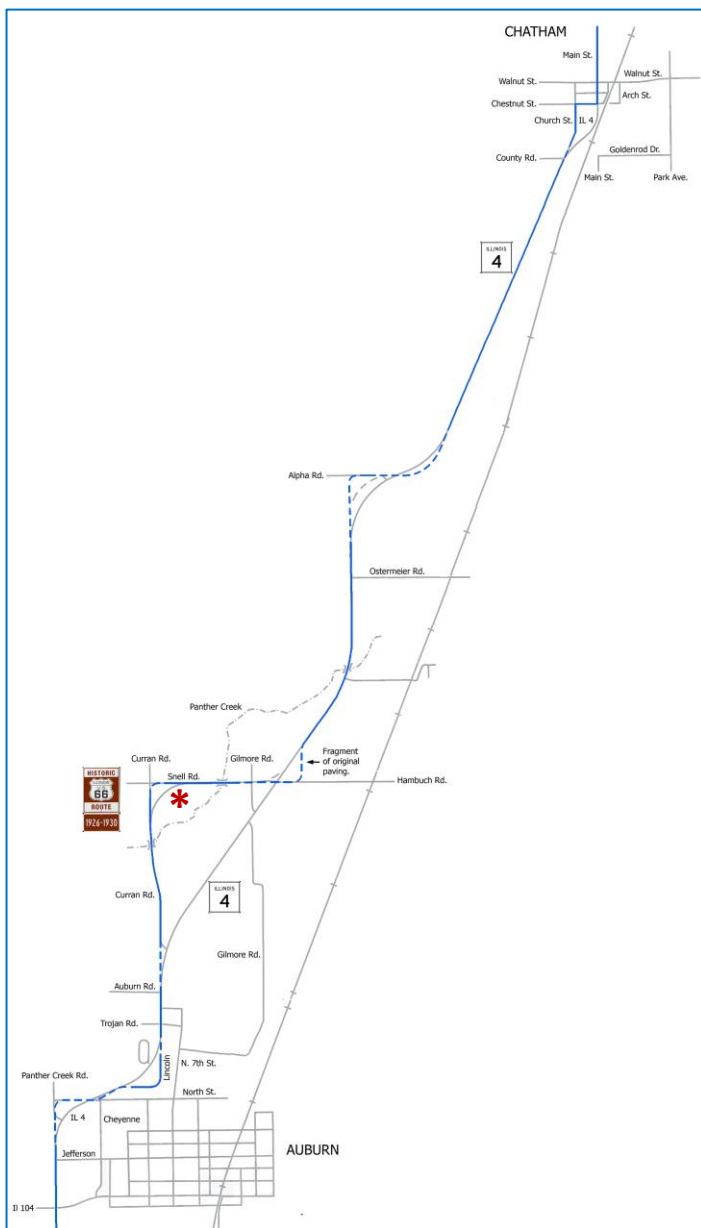


Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Chatham to Auburn

The original path of US 66 was only temporary, following IL 4 south of Springfield until the paving of the intended alignment to the east could be completed. For the years 1926-1930, the route meandered through farmland, making the roadbed full of curves. Much of the original roadbed has been lost, with a few exceptions, some of which will be noted here. IL 4 itself eliminated many of the curves after US 66 moved to its later alignment.

Along with various points of interest are two of the more iconic POIs along Route 66 in Illinois, the Auburn Brick Road and the Turkey Tracks, both of which lie on original alignments well before the straightening of Illinois 4. The segments these are found on do have US 66 turnoff signs along, but they can be easily missed. It is hoped that this brochure will assist in finding both, as well as other spots along this original alignment.



* POI: Auburn Brick Road

In Chatham:

- Turn left (west) on Chestnut St
- Turn left (south) on Church St.
- Merge onto IL 4

Heading south on IL 4, the road curves to the right, then back to the left, then back to the right. At this location, the original path of SBI 4, and, therefore, US 66 made a curve to the right onto Alpha Rd., then a sharp turn to the left before continuing on to the current roadbed of IL 4. In later years, the sharp turn was made into a curve prior to the entire section being abandoned for the current alignment. These remnants of the old road no longer exist outside of Alpha Rd. itself.

Nearing Auburn:

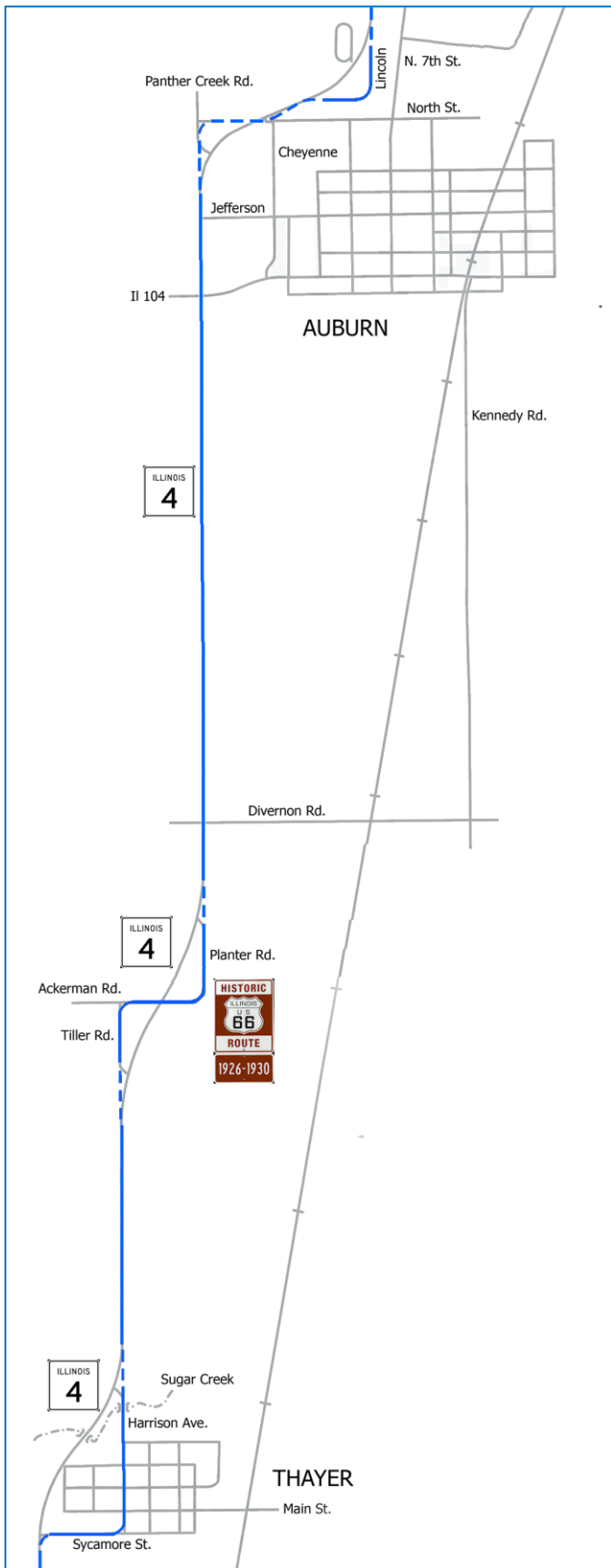
Just before Hambuch Rd on the east side of IL 4 is a section of the original narrow alignment. This old road, in use into the 1990s, then turned right on Hambuch, continuing to Snell Rd. **This is the location of the Auburn Brick Road, so turn right (west) from IL 4 onto Snell Rd.** Follow it until it merges back onto IL 4.

In Auburn:

- Across from the track, turn left (east) onto Lincoln St.
- Follow the curve and merge back onto IL 4 (Lincoln originally meandered onto Panther Creek Rd., but all that pavement is now gone)
- Stay on IL 4, heading south out of Auburn

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Auburn to Thayer



This section of highway has few deviations from the current alignment of IL 4. The two older alignments are interesting to those that enjoy what “used to be,” but offer little in the way of photo ops, etc.

Between Auburn and Thayer:

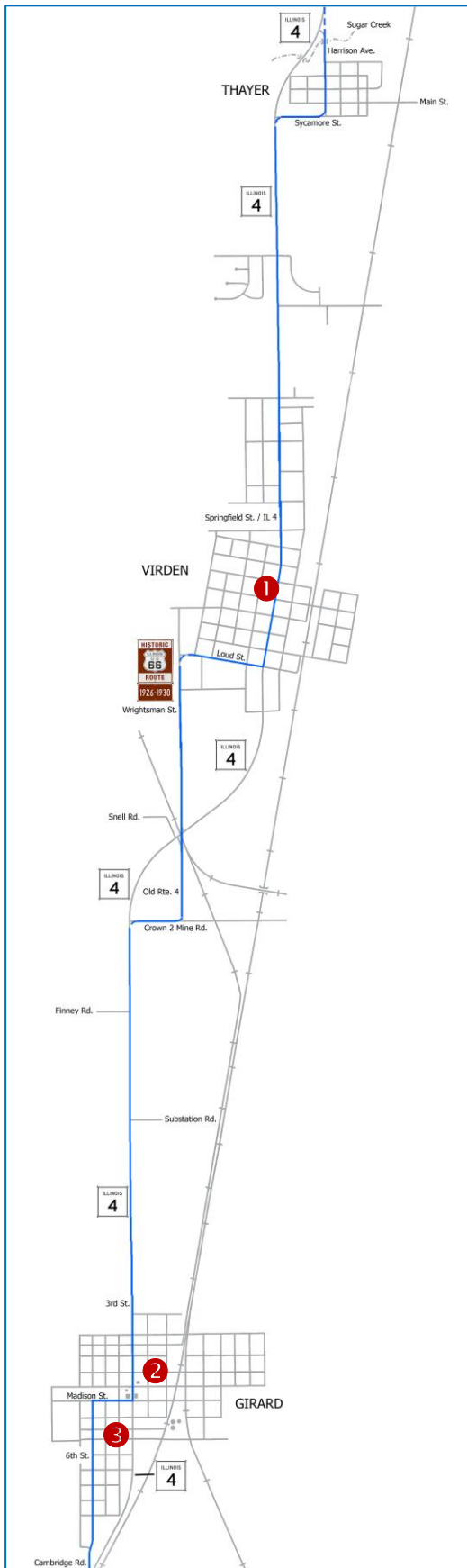
- Just south of Divernon Rd., turn left (east) to Planter Rd., which is actually southbound (the pavement originally went straight here, with the current curve added later)
- At Ackerman, take a right (west) and continue past IL 4 to Tiller Rd., then take a left (south)
- Merge back to IL 4

In Thayer:

- Take a left (east) at Harrison Ave., then continue south; if you look closely, you may see the original roadbed just to the east of IL 4, where the road once went straight onto Harrison Ave.
- Continue through Thayer until you reach Sycamore St.
- Turn right (west) on Sycamore St.
- Turn left (south) on IL 4 and continue south towards Girard

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Thayer to Girard



This section has no deviations from IL 4 until you are nearly through the town of Virден.

- 1 Is the **History Mural** at the corner of Springfield (66) and Jackson. Also, on the square are several items to view, including monuments to the Miner's Riot and the Battle of Virден.

In Virден:

- Near the southern boundary of Virден, turn right (west) on Loud St.
- Turn left (south) at Wrightman St. and continue south to IL 4

At this point, it's a little tricky. Wrightman St. used to continue straight here, but with the realignment of IL 4, that pavement no longer exists. Instead, you'll need to turn right (south) on IL 4 and cross the tracks, then make a left onto the road marked as Old Route 4, staying on it until you reach Crown 2 Mine Rd. – at that intersection, turn right (west) and continue to IL 4. Now, turn left (south) on IL 4 and continue towards Girard.

- 2 Docs Just Off 66 (Doc's Soda Fountain/**Deck's Drug Store**) – the Deck Brothers are members of our Hall of Fame.

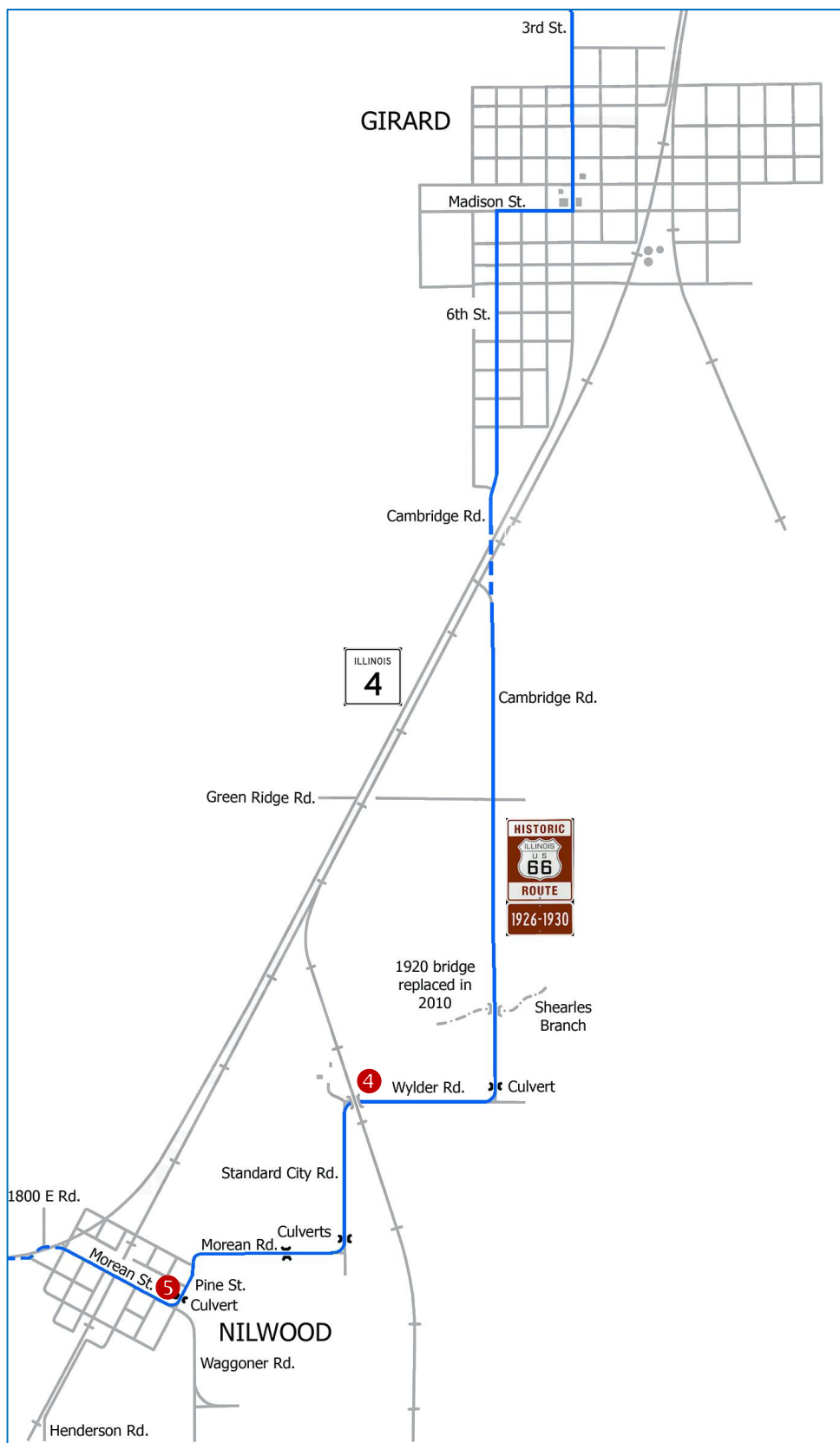
- 3 **Whirl-A-Whip** Restaurant.

In Girard:

- Continue on IL 4 until Madison St.
- Turn right (west) on Madison and continue to 6th St.
- Turn left (south) on 6th street and continue to IL 4

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Girard to Nilwood



At this point, the road originally went straight, but the realignment removed the pavement for that continuation, so it's time for another tricky maneuver. Turn right (south) on IL 4, then almost immediately turn left (east) to Cambridge Rd. Note that this is another location where you may be able to see another portion of the narrow old roadbed to the immediate north (this section was orphaned when the 4-lane alignment of IL 4 was instituted). Stay on Cambridge Rd. until it dead-ends at Wylder Rd.

④ Historic railroad trestle.

⑤ Site of former Nilwood Elementary School, razed in 2013.

- Turn right (west) on Wylder Rd.
- Just past the historic railroad trestle, curve left (south) onto Standard City Rd.
- At the next road, take the curve right (west) onto Morean Rd. and head towards Nilwood.

In Nilwood:

- Curve left (south) onto Pine St.
- Curve right (west) onto Morean St. (not to be confused with Morean Rd.)
- Continue through the town of Nilwood until you reach IL 4, then turn left (south and then west) to continue towards Carlinville

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Nilwood to Carlinville

* POI: Nilwood Turkey Tracks

Leaving Nilwood, pass Bray Rd.:

1. Turn left (south) on Donaldson Rd.
2. At the curve, go right (west) to continue on Donaldson Rd.
3. Before the road intersects with IL 4, turn left (south) to continue on Donaldson Rd.
4. Shortly you will come across the **Nilwood Turkey Tracks**
5. After some photos, etc., continue south
6. Bear right (west) on Allen Rd
7. Turn left (south) on IL 4, continuing south
8. Bear left at Harvest Rd and then continue south until eventually curving back west
9. Turn left (south) on IL 4
10. Continue south towards Carlinville

6 “Betsy Ross flag” on barn

Upcoming Carlinville holds the largest collection of Sears Catalog homes in the world.

7 Loomis House (St. George Hotel), 1870; Marvel Theatre; also, the original Ariston Café (before relocating to Litchfield).

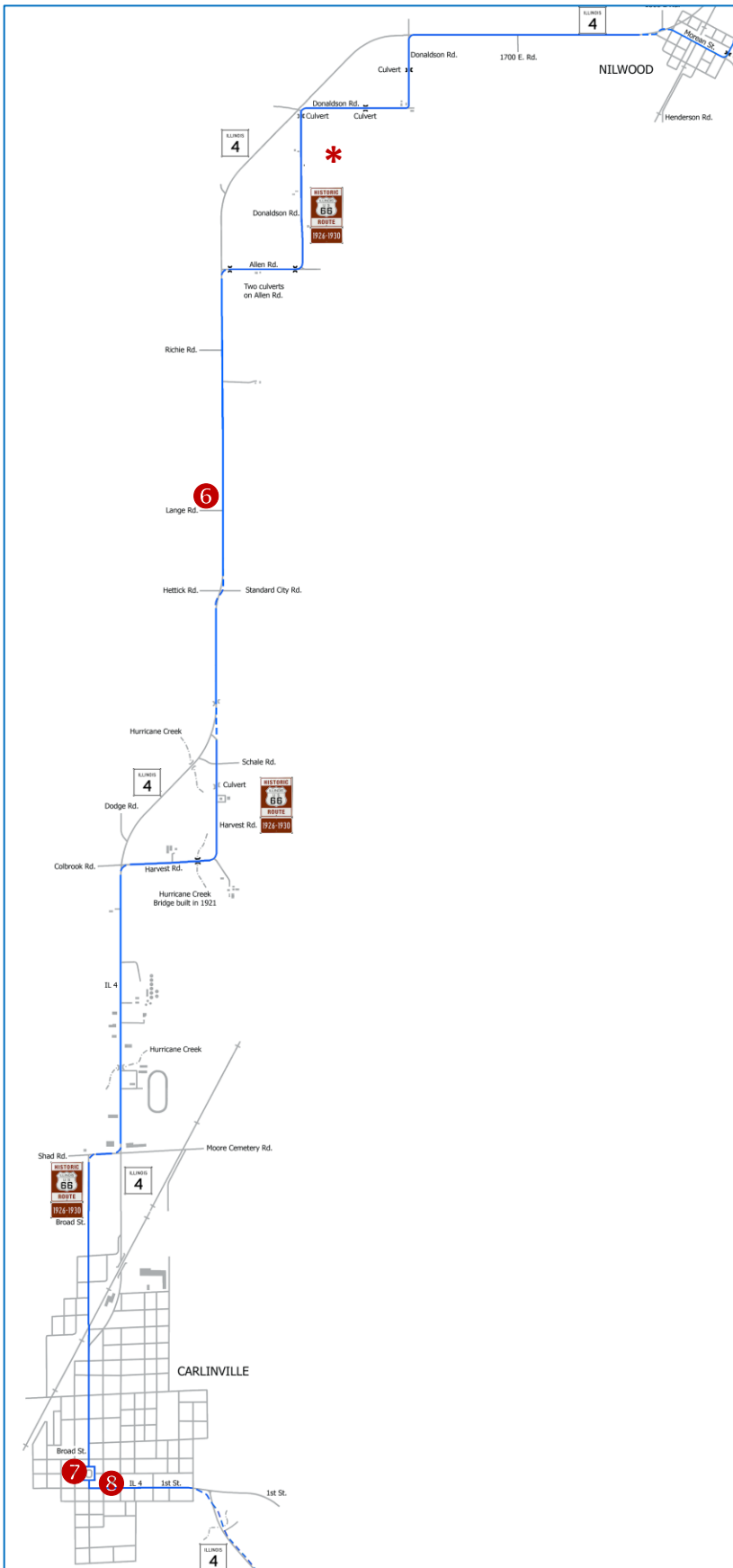
8 Macoupin County Courthouse; Macoupin County Jail (Cannonball Jail).

In Carlinville:

- Just before Carlinville, turn right (west) onto Shad Rd.
- Turn left (south) at Broad St.
- Continue south, crossing IL 4, then pass through the town square
- Turn left (east) at 1st St.
- Turn right (south) onto IL 4 and continue

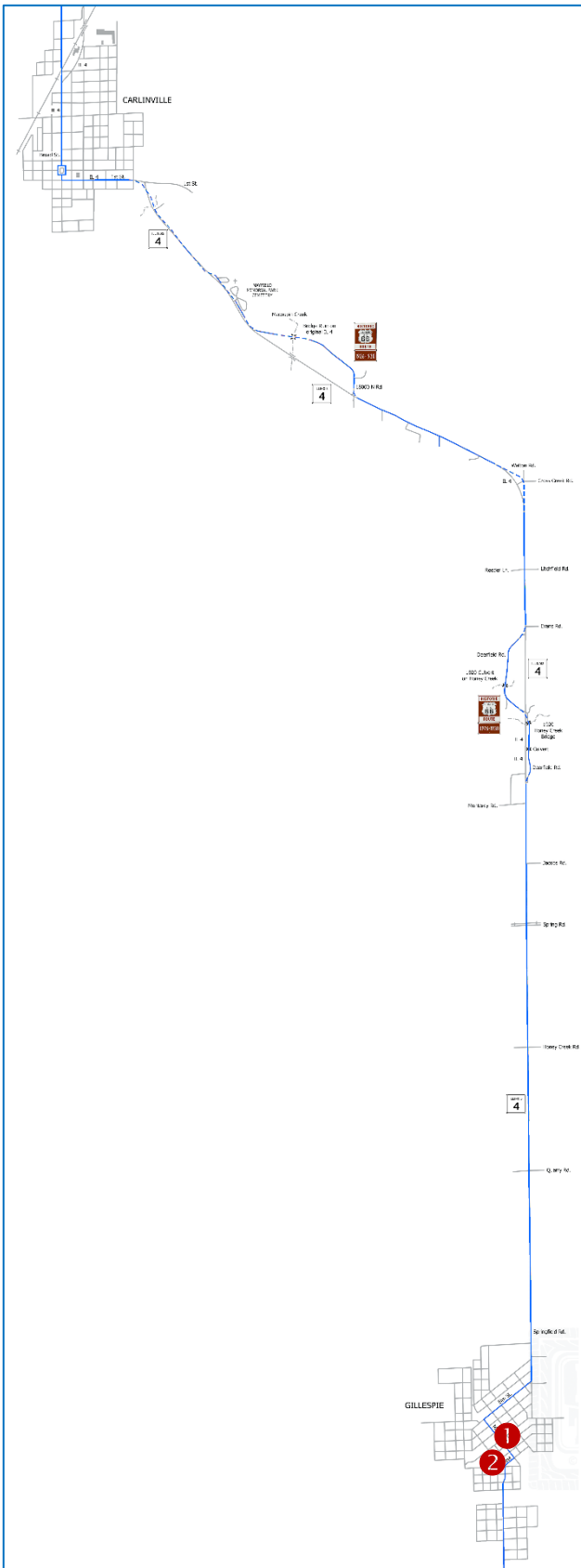
At this point, the original alignment was somewhat erratic; there are few remnants of the old road in this area. The newer roadbed is much straighter.

Continue towards Gillespie.



Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Carlinville to Gillespie



This is a long section of road, with some attractions and photo ops along the way.

Just past Mayfield Memorial Park on the northeast side of the road is a section of the old roadbed that heads towards a river. There is also a turnoff past the river leading to the other section of this alignment. Both of these lead to near the ruins of an old bridge US 66 used to cross here.

Continue on IL 4.

Just past Evans Rd. to the east is Deerfield Dr. which is an old alignment of the highway. Turn right (west) to take this small detour. When you encounter IL 4, cross to the other side, which is the continuation of Deerfield Dr. Stay on this alignment until it once again merges with IL 4.

Continue south on IL 4 to Gillespie.

1 American National Bank (now the Gillespie Caring Center); Illinois Coal Museum; Michelle's Pharmacy and mural (former site of Dippold's Drugstore and the Doughboy Monument); Canna Theater

2 Post Office Mural (200 W. Spruce St.)

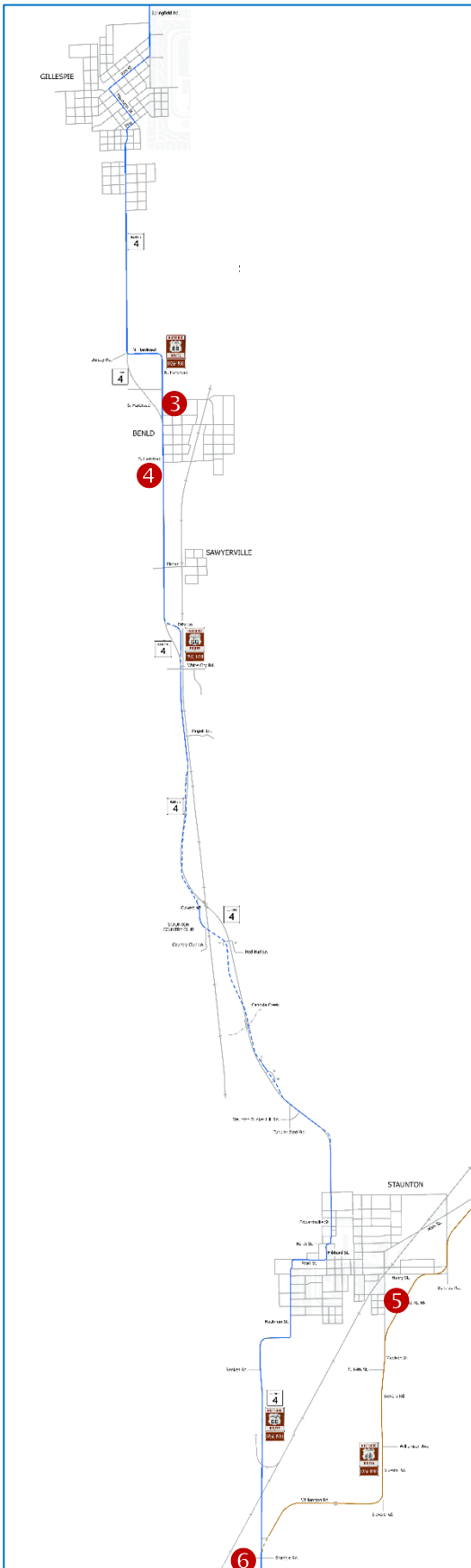
In Gillespie, continue to follow IL 4, which is still a bit crooked:

- Make a 45 degree turn right onto Elm St.
- Make a left (southeast) onto Macoupin St.
- Make a 45 degree turn right onto Pine St.

Continue south towards Benld.

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Chatham to Staunton (North to South)

Gillespie to Staunton



The final leg of T-66, this segment merges with the 1930-1940 alignment just south of Staunton.

- ③ Route 66 statues and kiosk.
- ④ Site of the historic Coliseum Ballroom, a member of the Association's Hall of Fame.

In Benld:

- Just before Benld, take a left (east) onto Hardroad
- Take the curve south on Hardroad
- Merge back onto IL 4

Continue south toward Staunton.

Just after passing Sawyerville to the east of the route, take a left (east) onto Fritz Ln., then merge back on to IL 4.

To the west, at the Staunton Country Club, is a section of the original roadbed, used as access to the club. This pavement does not go through, so it is up to you if you want to "visit" it, but you will have to make a U-turn and get back onto IL 4. There are a few sections like this in this area, from when IL 4/US 66 meandered quite a bit, but most of the old roadbed is now gone, with only small sections remaining.

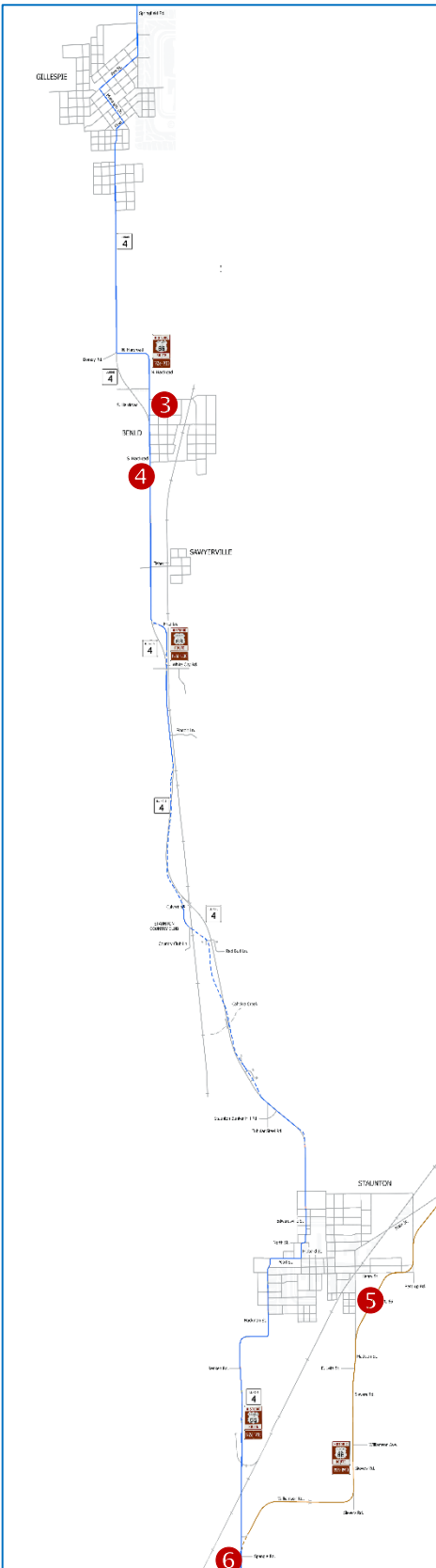
- ⑤ Henry's Ra66it Ranch, an Association Hall of Fame Member (actually on the 1930-1940 alignment).
- ⑥ DeCamp Junction Tavern, another member of our Hall of Fame.

In Staunton:

- You only need to follow the current IL 4 signs, as it did not change in Staunton as it did in many other areas.
- Continue south past Staunton to the junction of US 66 (1926-1930) and US 66 (1930-1940) or further past that to the later alignments of US 66

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Staunton to Gillespie



The original path of US 66 was only temporary, following IL 4 between Staunton and Springfield until the paving of the intended alignment to the east could be completed. For the years 1926-1930, the route meandered through farmland, making the roadbed full of curves. Much of the original roadbed has been lost, with a few exceptions, some of which will be noted here. IL 4 itself eliminated many of the curves after US 66 moved to its later alignment.

The first leg of northbound T-66, this segment diverges from the 1930-1940 alignment just south of Staunton.

⑥ DeCamp Junction Tavern, an Association Hall of Fame Member.

⑤ Henry's Ra66it Ranch, another member of our Hall of Fame (actually on the 1930-1940 alignment).

In Staunton:

- You only need to follow the current IL 4 signs, as it did not change in Staunton as it did in many other areas.

Continue north past Staunton towards Benld.

To the west, at the Staunton Country Club, is a section of the original roadbed, used as access to the club. This pavement does not go through, so it is up to you if you want to “visit” it, but you will have to make a U-turn and get back onto IL 4. There are a few sections like this in this area, from when IL 4/US 66 meandered quite a bit, but most of the old roadbed is now gone, with only small sections remaining.

Just before Sawyerville to the east of the route, take a right (west) onto Fritz Ln., then merge back on to IL 4.

④ Site of the historic Coliseum Ballroom, a member of the Association's Hall of Fame.

③ Route 66 statues and kiosk.

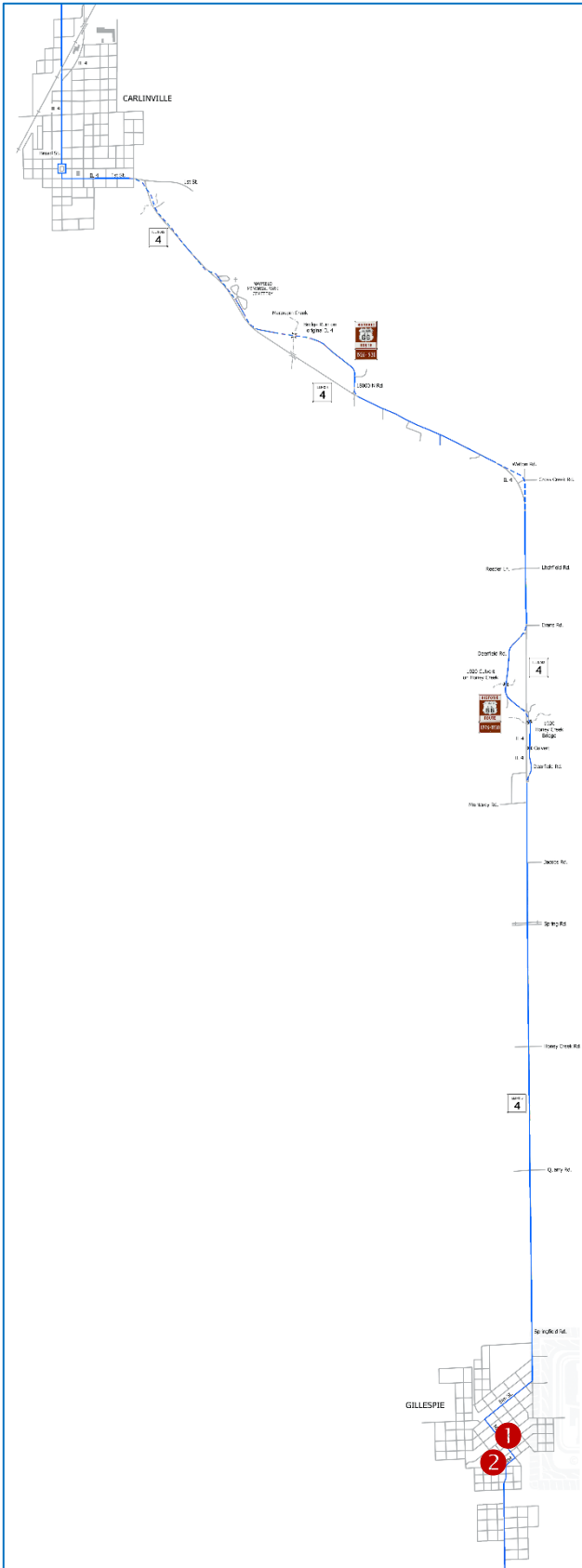
In Benld:

- Merge north onto Hardroad from IL 4
- Take the curve west on Hardroad
- Just after leaving Benld, take a right (north) onto IL 4

Continue north toward Gillespie.

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Gillespie to Carlinville



This is a long section of road, with some attractions and photo ops along the way.

Continue north on IL 4 into Gillespie.

② Post Office Mural (200 W. Spruce St.)

① American National Bank (now the Gillespie Caring Center); Illinois Coal Museum; Michelle's Pharmacy and mural (former site of Dippold's Drugstore and the Doughboy Monument); Canna Theater

In Gillespie, follow IL 4, which is still a bit crooked:

- Make a 45 degree turn right (northeast) onto Pine St.
- Make a left (northwest) onto Macoupin St.
- Make a right (northeast) onto Elm St.
- Make a 45 degree turn left (north) onto IL 4

Continue towards Carlinville.

Just past Monterey Rd. to the west is Deerfield Dr. which is an old alignment of the highway. Turn right (east) to take this small detour. When you encounter IL 4, cross to the other side, which is the continuation of Deerfield Dr. Stay on this alignment until it once again merges with IL 4.

Continue north on IL 4.

Just past Lake Williamson Christian Center on the west side of the road is a section of the old roadbed that heads towards the river. There is also a turnoff past the river leading to the other section of this alignment. Both of these lead to near the ruins of a bridge US 66 used to cross here.

Continue north towards Carlinville.

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Carlenville to Nilwood

* POI: Nilwood Turkey Tracks

Upcoming Carlenville holds the largest collection of Sears Catalog homes in the world.

8 Macoupin County Courthouse; Macoupin County Jail (Cannonball Jail).

7 Loomis House (St. George Hotel), 1870; Marvel Theatre; also, the original Ariston Café (before relocating to Litchfield).

In Carlenville:

- Bear left (west), staying on IL 4 (1st St.), and continue
- Staying on IL 4, turn right (north) at Broad St.
- Continue north, passing thru the town square
- Where IL 4 veers right just past Breckenridge St., go straight and stay on Broad St.
- Turn right (east) onto Shad Rd.
- Turn left (north) at IL 4

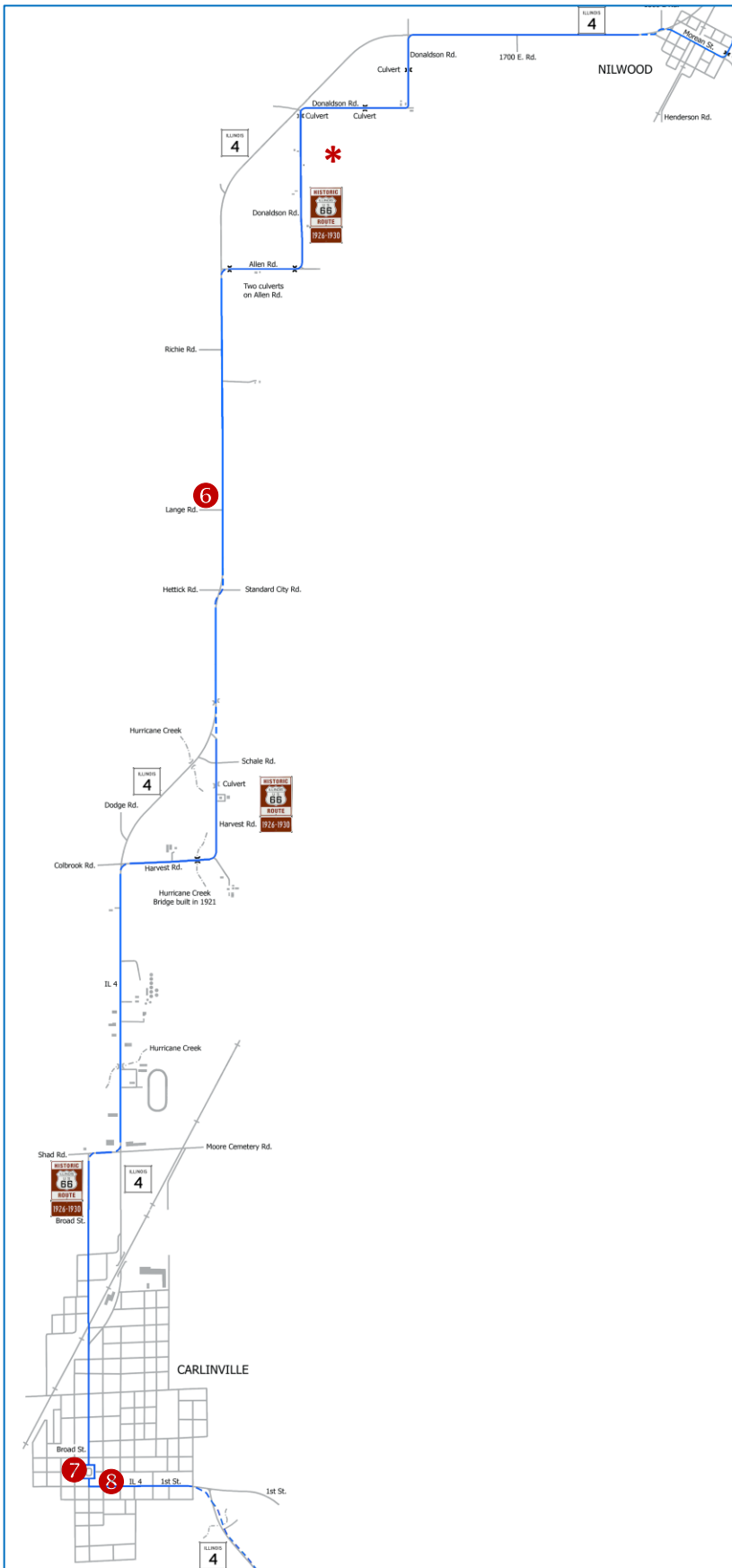
Continue north towards Nilwood. At this point, the original alignment was somewhat erratic; there are few remnants of the old road in this area. The newer roadbed is much straighter.

6 “Betsy Ross flag” on barn

At Harvest Rd., turn right (east), then stay on Harvest Rd. as it turns left (north). Merge back onto IL 4.

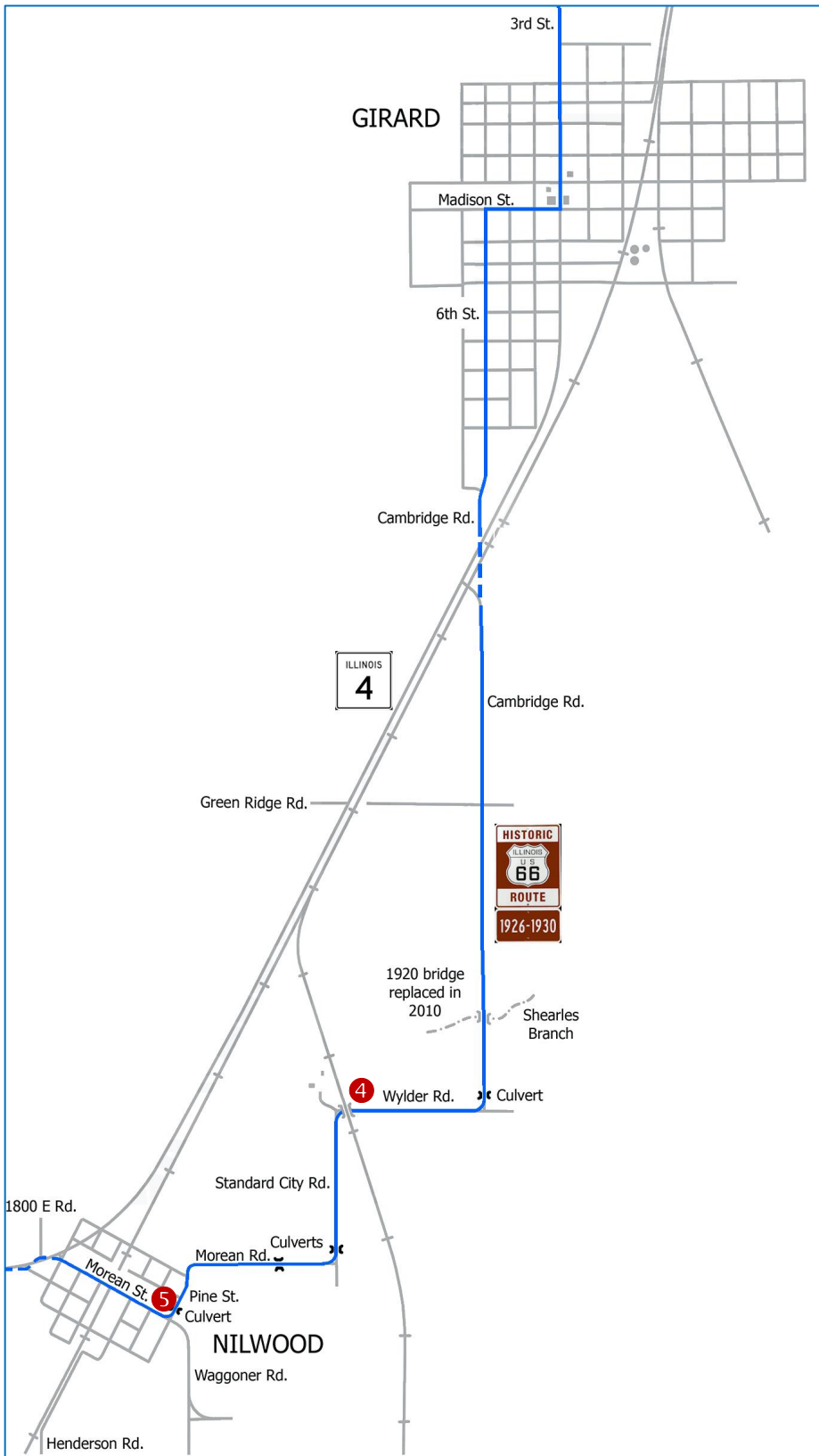
At Allen Rd., turn right (east), then take the curve left (north) onto Donaldson Rd.; shortly you will come across the **Nilwood Turkey Tracks**. After some photos, etc., continue north. At the next intersection, DO NOT return to IL 4, but turn right (east) and stay on Donaldson Rd., which will turn left (north) and continue until you turn right (east) on IL 4.

Continue east towards Nilwood.



Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Nilwood to Girard



5 Site of former Nilwood Elementary School, razed in 2013.

4 Historic railroad trestle.

In Nilwood:

- Turn right (southeast) at Morean St.
- Continue through Nilwood, turning left (northeast) at Pine St.
- Pine will take a slight jog to the left, then become Morean Rd. when it curves right (east),
- Take the curve left (north) at Standard City Rd.
- Take the curve right (east) at Wylder Rd., passing under the **historic railroad trestle**.
- Take the curve north at Cambridge Rd. and continue north.

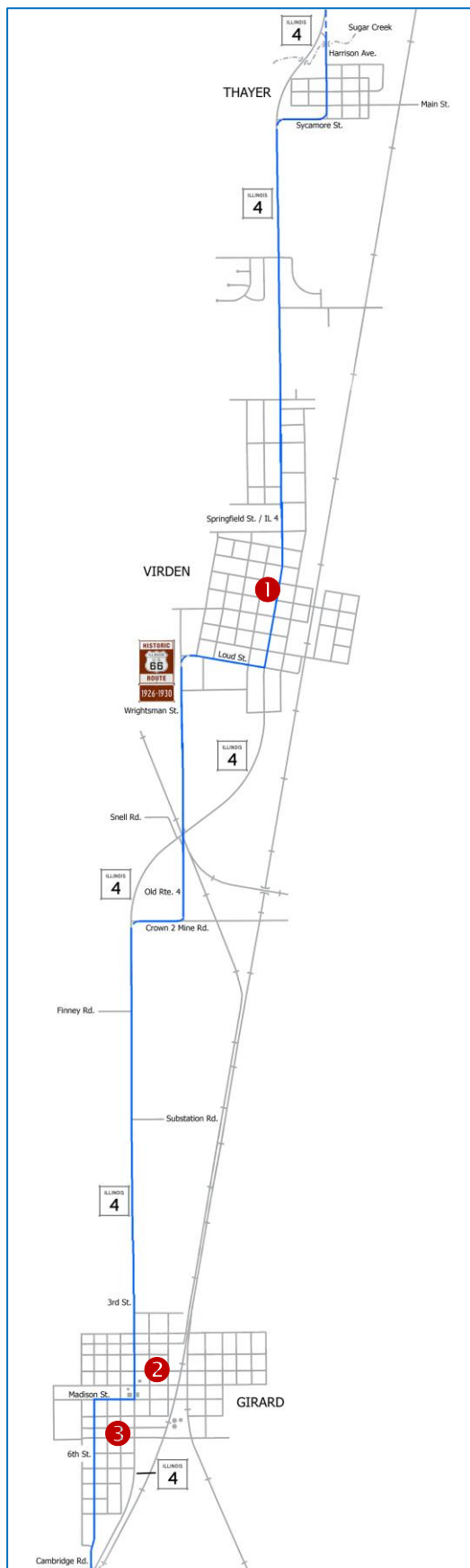
At this point, the road originally went straight, but the realignment removed the pavement for that continuation, so it's time for another tricky maneuver. Turn right (northeast) on IL 4*, then almost immediately turn left (north), back onto Cambridge Rd.

Continue into Girard.

* Note that this is another location where you may be able to see another portion of the narrow old roadbed to the immediate north (this section was orphaned when the 4-lane alignment of IL 4 was instituted).

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Girard to Thayer



② Docs Just Off 66 (Doc's Soda Fountain/**Deck's Drug Store**) – the Deck Brothers are members of our Hall of Fame.

③ **Whirl-A-Whip** Restaurant.

In Girard:

- Continuing on Cambridge Rd., which becomes 6th St.
- Turn right (east) on Madison St.
- Turn left (north) on 3rd St. (IL 4) and continue north

Continue north towards Virden.

Turn right (east) at Crown 2 Mine Rd., just before the sweeping curve on IL 4. Then turn left (north) on Old Route 4 and continue north. Old Route 4 will intersect IL 4; note that this originally went straight, but the creation of the new IL 4 alignment caused the removal of this section. Therefore, take a right (northeast) onto IL 4, then immediately turn left (north) onto Wrightman St. (just over the tracks) and head north into Virden.

① Is the **History Mural** at the corner of Springfield (66) and Jackson. Also, on the square are several items to view, including monuments to the Miner's Riot and the Battle of Virden.

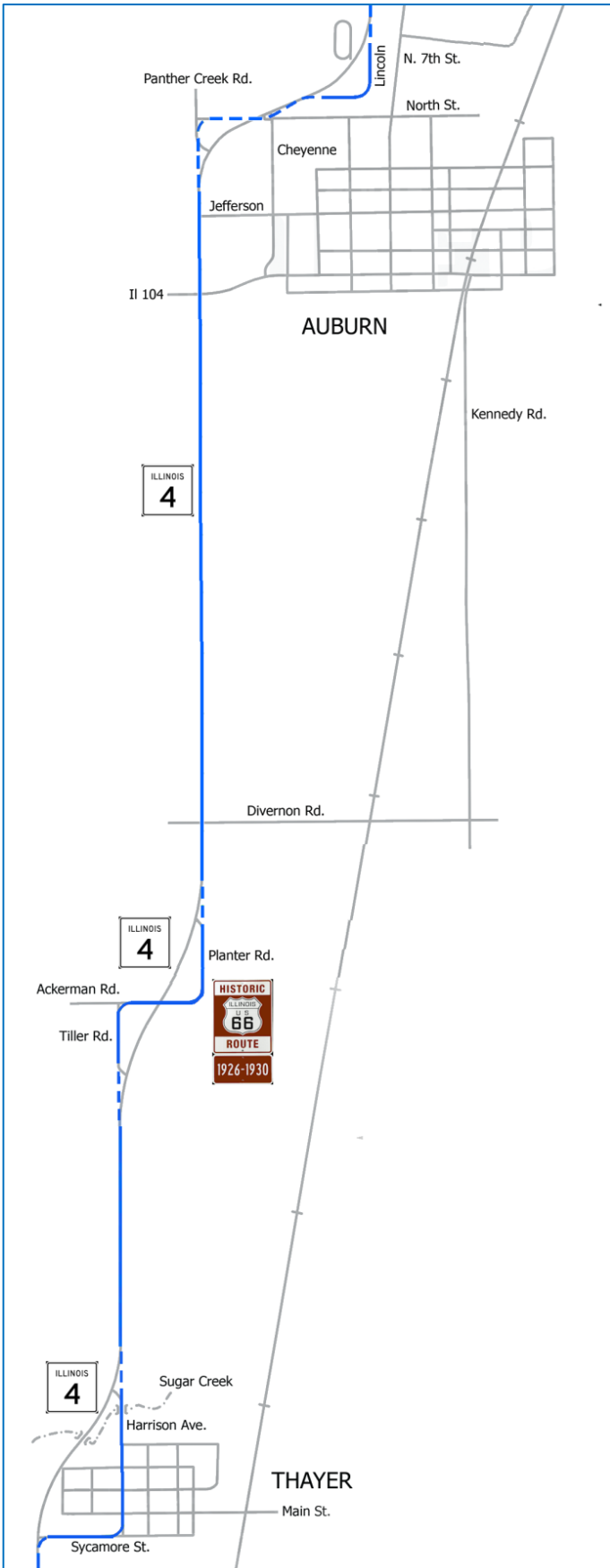
In Virden:

- Turn right (east) onto Loud St.
- Turn left (north) at IL 4

Continue north towards Thayer.

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Thayer to Auburn



This section of highway has few deviations from the current alignment of IL 4. The two older alignments are interesting to those that enjoy what “used to be,” but offer little in the way of photo ops, etc.

In Thayer:

- Take a right (east) onto Sycamore St.
- Turn left (north) at Harrison Ave.; just before IL 4, if you look closely, you may see the original roadbed to the north, just to the east of IL 4, where Harrison Ave. once went straight
- Rejoin IL 4 and continue north towards Auburn

Between Thayer and Auburn:

- At the start of the sweeping curve on IL 4, stay straight (going north) onto Tiller Rd.
- At the dead-end, go right (east) onto Ackerman Rd.
- Cross IL 4, then turn left (north) onto Planter Rd.
- Merge back to IL 4

Continue north to Auburn.

Temporary US 66 (SBI 4) 1926-1930 – Staunton to Chatham (South to North)

Auburn to Chatham

* POI: Auburn Brick Road

In Auburn:

Heading north on IL 4, the original roadbed continued on Panther Creek Rd., turning onto Lincoln St., HOWEVER, that pavement is all lost to time.

- Turn right (east) onto Lincoln St.
- Lincoln will curve left (north), intersecting with IL 4
- Merge onto IL 4
- At Curran Rd., turn left (west) off of IL 4; continue north
- You will soon encounter a change from concrete to brick; **this is the location of the Auburn Brick Road**; follow this as it curves onto Snell Rd., continuing east
- Just after the brick ends, turn left (northeast) onto IL 4; *at this point, the road originally continued across what is the newer alignment of IL 4 and then turned north – remnants of this original narrow roadbed are still visible*

Continuing north on IL 4, the road curves to the right, then back to the left. At this location, the original path of SBI 4, and, therefore, US 66, continued straight, then made a 90 degree turn onto Alpha Rd and continued across what became the current IL 4, curving north. In later years, the sharp turn was made into a curve prior to the entire section being abandoned for the current alignment. Remnants of this old path no longer exist outside of Alpha Rd. itself.

In Chatham:

- Turn left (north) onto Church St
- Turn right (east) onto Chestnut St.
- Turn left (north) onto IL 4

