

= Illinois Route 103 =

Illinois Route 103 is a 9 @. @ 18 @- @ mile (14 @. @ 77 km) state route in west @- @ central Illinois , United States . The route , entirely in Schuyler County , runs from U.S. Route 24 near Ripley east to the intersection of U.S. Route 67 and Illinois Route 100 across the Illinois River from Beardstown . In addition to connecting Ripley and Beardstown , Route 103 also serves the community of Sugar Grove . The highway is part of both the National Highway System and the Lincoln Heritage Trail . Route 103 is maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation . The route was established in 1924 between Ripley and its current eastern terminus ; its western terminus was moved north to its current location in 1932 .

= = Route description = =

Route 103 begins at a junction with U.S. Route 24 in Woodstock Township in southern Schuyler County , northeast of Ripley . The route initially runs eastward along the LaMoine River , passing through a forested area . After the river turns southward , the highway continues east through farmland . Route 103 intersects County Route 9 before entering the unincorporated community of Sugar Grove , where it meets County Route 1 . After passing through Sugar Grove , the highway enters Bainbridge Township . The road makes a small southward dip through a tree @- @ lined area , passing a small group of buildings and crossing a creek , before returning to its eastward trajectory . The route passes to the north of the community of Cottonwood . Route 103 runs through open farmland at the eastern end of its route , crossing two creeks and passing several farm buildings . The highway terminates at a junction with U.S. Route 67 and Illinois Route 100 , across the Illinois River from Beardstown .

Route 103 is an undivided two @- @ lane road for its entire length . The entire route is part of the National Highway System , a network of roads deemed significant to the nation 's economy , defense , and mobility . Route 103 is also part of the Lincoln Heritage Trail , a series of highways connecting places with historic connections to Abraham Lincoln . According to the Illinois Department of Transportation , the annual average daily traffic on Route 103 in 2009 ranged from 1300 vehicles near the western terminus to 1400 near Sugar Grove ; 200 to 225 of those vehicles were trucks .

= = History = =

Route 103 was designated in 1924 between Ripley and Beardstown . A road between Ripley and the route 's current eastern terminus was first marked on state highway maps in 1924 ; this route began at Ripley and ran parallel to and south of the current route on its western half , before turning north and following the current alignment east at Layton . Route 103 was first numbered on the 1929 Illinois highway map . The western terminus of Route 103 was moved from Ripley to its current location in 1932 , and the western half of the highway moved northward to its present alignment . The community of Layton , which was near the present location of Sugar Grove , was marked along the route until 1951 .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Schuyler County .