**Route 66 in McLean County: Location Descriptions (for GIS)**

**Chenoa**

**Chenoa Tourist Park [CLT25]**

Early automobile travelers were drawn to Chenoa by the availability of free camping spots in the town’s Tourist Park. A gas station and lunchroom were added to the park in 1921, and the site eventually became Pearson’s Modern Cabins until it went out of business in 1953. The site is now Red Bird Park.

**Texaco Station [CLT19]**

The building that now houses Goodins Used Cars was once a Texaco station and popular hangout for highway patrol officers because of its location on Route 66.

**Matthew T. Scott Home [CLT3]**  
Matthew T. Scott made his fortune on the Grand Prairie of Central Illinois in the 19th century by developing thousands of acres of farmland. He founded the town of Chenoa in 1855 as an agricultural and commercial center for his business activities. Although Scott bought and sold over 45,000 acres of Illinois farm land, the development of his personal holdings of 5,000 acres in McLean and Livingston Counties was his main interest. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, Scott's home was restored in 1983 by his great niece, Elizabeth Stevenson Ives, to its original condition.

**Chenoa Pharmacy [CLT2]**

Chenoa Pharmacy was founded by Tido “Carl” Schuirmann and Henry Hops in 1889. Originally known as Schuirmann’s Drug Store, the building retains its original floors, wooden cabinetry, and tin ceiling. In over 125 years, the pharmacy has only operated under only four different owners.

**Chenoa Historical Society [CLT21]**

Founded in 1990, the Chenoa Historical Society shares a building with the fire station.

**Selz Royal Blue Shoes Mural [CLT1]**

Selz shoes were manufactured by German immigrant, Rolf Selz beginning around the turn of the century until 1940. This mural was recreated when it was discovered after a neighboring building was torn down.

**Streid’s Standard Service Station [CLT22]**

The building which most recently housed Chenoa Welding and Fabrication, Inc., was once a Standard service station, bus station, and restaurant owned by Immanuel (Manny) Streid. The restaurant was leased and operated as Winter’s Café, and later, the Dutch Apple Pie Restaurant.

**Lexington**

**Route 66 Memory Lane [A3]**

A one-mile stretch of original Route 66 that was dedicated in 1926 has been restored back to the 1940’s era with vintage billboards and Burma Shave signs. It can be walked year-round and is open to vehicular traffic during festivals.

**Kelly’s on Route 66 [CLT5]**

Located in a building that was originally home to Skelly’s Service Station, which eventually became Toby’s Mesa Café and, later, the Filling Station Restaurant. Kelly’s is reminiscent of the diners Route 66 travelers would have visited. The restaurant also has a number of Route 66 artifacts on display for visitors to see.

**Anderson’s Corner [CLT6]**

This building is a typical 1930s icebox-style service station with a two-door garage. Repurposed as a repair shop.

**Lexington Motel [CLT4]**

Built in 1950, the Lexington Motel once sat just off the main alignment and provided a convenient place for travelers to rest. The hotel originally sat next to Gleeson’s Mobil gas station, which was torn down after the construction of I-55 routed traffic around Lexington. The building has since been converted into apartments.

**Oasis Drive-In [CLT8]**

The Oasis Drive-In opened in 1960 and was popular with travelers for its sandwiches, ice cream, milkshakes, and homemade lemonade. With no indoor seating and only six outdoor tables on the patio, a carport was added in 1963 to serve more customers at once. The original owners sold in 1971 and subsequent owners only kept it open for a short while longer. The building is now unused and dilapidated, but you can still see what is left of the carport and ice cream cone sign.

**Patton Log Cabin [CLT24]**

John Patton, one of the area's first settlers, built the cabin in June of 1829. Unusual to the westward settlement of America, the cabin was built with the help of the area's Native Americans. In 1969 the cabin was dismantled, moved and rebuilt in the Lexington Park District. Tours are available by appointment, June through September.

**Towanda**

**Fern’s Café and Texaco Station [CLT10]**

Mac McCurdie and his wife, Fern, opened Fern’s Café and Texaco in 1951, after Route 66 was expanded from two lanes to four in Towanda. Mac’s brother Jack took over operations of the business in 1955, when Mac and Fern were tragically killed in a car accident. Fern’s eventually closed in 1969, and the gas station followed in 1977 after I-55 was constructed.

**Fast Stop (Delco Trucker’s Lodge) [CLT16]**

Delco Trucker’s Lodge opened on the site of this Fast Stop in 1952 and was open 24/7 year-round, without closing for holidays. Nicknamed “Eddie’s Truck Stop” after longtime owner Eddie Baize, it closed in 1976 when I-55 opened because it was outdated and no longer viable.

**Duncan Manor [CLT18]**

This grand Victorian-era home was built by cattle breeder William Duncan after he purchased 300 acres in 1863. There has been a good deal of rumor and mystery surrounding this house. Duncan’s wife passed away shortly after they arrived in McLean County, followed by his son a few years later after drowning in a slough on the property. Duncan himself died in 1876. For seemingly unknown reasons, the unfinished basement has barred windows and there is a small room beneath a second-floor bedroom which can only be entered through a trap door from the room above.

**Normal**

**Sprague’s Super Service [BN1]**

William Sprague’s Super Service Station was built in 1931. In addition to housing Sprague’s contracting business, it included a restaurant on the ground floor and apartments for the owner and station attendant on the second level. Now known as Ryburn Place at Sprague’s Super Service, it is currently owned by the Town of Normal and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is in the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame.

**Ann’s Café [BN49]**

The building at the southwest corner of Pine and Beech was once a small café that catered to visitors at the nearby tourist camp.

**208 N Pine Service Station [BN2]**

The building at 208 N Pine was originally a service station and repair shop that catered to travelers of the original 1926 alignment through Normal. In the early 1940s, the building became the Royal Crown Bottling Company. It has since changed hands many times, housing a variety of small businesses. It currently sits unoccupied.

**Steak & Shake (Monical’s) [BN3]**

The Shell Inn Restaurant and gas station, owned by Gus Belt, struggled during its first few years of operation. In 1934, Belt turned the Shell Inn into the White House Steak and Shake. Due to a public distrust of meat products at the time, the new restaurant adopted the slogan, “In Sight it Must be Right,” because the beef was ground in front of customers to ensure freshness and quality. Steak ‘n Shake became very successful and began franchising in 1945. The original location at the corner of Main Street and Virginia Avenue was sold to Monical’s Pizza in the 1990s.

**Diamond Tourist Camp [BN25]**

The Diamond Camp, on Pine near Beech Street, was a popular site for visitors to the nearby Illinois Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Children School, a state-run orphanage. It later became Manning’s Tourist Village, operating until 1960.

**Normal Theatre [BN33]**

Now restored to its original condition, the Art Deco style theater in uptown Normal first opened in November, 1937. It was the first theater in Bloomington-Normal built specifically for sound films. Today, it operates as a film center and plays a variety of classic films and regularly hosts special events.

**Bloomington**

**Quinn Texaco [BN17]**

Twin brothers Elmo C. and Eldon Quinn opened their Texaco station in 1941, which served motorists for over 70 years at Main and Chestnut streets in Bloomington. Elmo A. Quinn began working for his father in 1978 and continued operating the station until retiring in 2013.

**Holy Trinity Catholic Church [BN5]**

The Holy Trinity Parish has existed in Bloomington since the mid-nineteenth century. In 1932, a fire destroyed the original church at Main and Chestnut streets. Within two years a new structure was built, and in April 1934, parishioners dedicated the new art deco style church that still stands today.

**Standard Oil [BN6]**

The building that currently houses Blackwater 13 tattoo shop was once a Standard Oil service station.

**McLean County Courthouse [BN7]**

After a fire destroyed the original courthouse, the current building was constructed in 1900. The old courthouse has been home to the McLean County Museum of History since the 1990s.

**Gene’s Ice Cream Shop [BN13]**

**Illinois House[BN14]**

Built in 1902, the Illinois House was opened by Frank Ewing as a 180-room luxury hotel that offered a full-service restaurant, barbershop, tailor, pharmacy, and millinery. The sixth floor and copper roof were added to the original five-story structure in 1925. The building was converted into commercial and residential spaces in the 1970s, and in 1987 the top three floors were converted to dormitory-style living quarters for Japanese employees of the newly formed Diamond-Star Motors. Today the building houses a restaurant on the ground floor, as well as office and residential spaces.

**Phoenix Mid-City Hotel [BN15]**

This former hotel, built in 1902, has since been repurposed into loft-style apartments.

**Lucca Grill [BN16]**

Two sons of immigrants from Lucca, Italy opened this popular restaurant and bar in 1936. To this day, it has the original tin ceiling and mahogany bar that adorned the building when it first opened nearly 80 years ago.

**State Farm Insurance Building [BN19]**

The first eight floors of the State Farm Insurance building were completed in 1929, and housed George J. Mecherle’s automobile insurance company, established in 1922. Several series of additions were made throughout the 1930s-40s. In 1974, State Farm headquarters relocated to a new building on Veterans Parkway.

**Smith Building [BN20]**

Opened in 1901, the Smith Building was originally home to Stephen Smith & Sons dry goods store, with offices and a millinery on the second floor. Upon its opening, seven masonic lodges were tenants of the building. Later, Rolands Department Store was a prominent tennant of the building.

**Bloomington Consistory [BN22]**

Built in 1921, the Consistory originally served as the temple for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Bloomington. It was converted to the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts in 2000 and restored under the organization’s funding.

**Benjamin and Schermerhorn Building [BN23]**

Initially built as a dry goods store in 1857, at various times this building also housed the Pantagraph newspaper, a loan broker and investment counselor, a book store, and Osco Drug Store. It is presently a CVS pharmacy.

**Ensenberger Building [BN24]**

This building was completed in 1926, less than a year after the death of its architect, Arthur L. Pillsbury. Gustave A. Ensenberger, a local carpenter, established his furniture store here in 1926 and operated until 1995. It underwent renovations in 2005 for the new Ensenberger condominiums.

**Prairie Travler Motel [BN27]**

This motel opened shortly after the Belt Line was completed in 1941. The remaining part of the original structure has since been converted into an apartment building.

**L & L Motel [BN28]**

**Bob Johnson’s Restaurant [BN29]**

Bloomington native, Robert D. Johnson, opened his restaurant at the southwest corner of Routes 66 and 150 in 1957. He named it Bob Johnson’s Brandtville Restaurant, and it was the only place in town that was open 24 hours a day. Popular with travelers and locals alike, people came back for Johnson’s famous broasted chicken. The original building was later replaced by a new structure with a giant chicken on the roof and was a local favorite for many years.

**Streid’s Motel and Restaurant [BN31]**

Paul Streid’s motel, restaurant, and service station were built after the Belt Line’s completion in 1941, located on the northwest corner of Routes 66 and 150. With 32 motel rooms and a round-the-clock service station, Streid’s was a popular stopping place for travelers until it burned down in 1980.

**Quality Café [BN32]**

**Cotton’s Village Inn [BN34]**

Owned by Cotton McNabey, Cotton’s Village Inn was located in the basement of the building on the Northeast corner of Main and Monroe.

**Tilden Hall Hotel [BN35]**

Constructed in 1900, this hotel went through a series of owners for the first 30 years of its life before eventually being purchased by lumbermen and building contractors William Tilden and Charles Hall in 1932. The business partners spent considerable resources to expand and modernize the building, which offered 150 rooms, 40 with a private bath. Tilden Hall and other hotels in the downtown area of Bloomington began to suffer by mid-century, when the Belt Line routed travelers away from the business district. The historic building was razed in 1961 and has been replaced with a parking lot.

**Casey’s Market Basket/Garden Shop [BN36]**

After taking over a fruit stand in 1949, Eldon “Casey” Casebeer opened the area’s first 24/7 grocery store, known as Casey’s Market Basket. Casey began operating a seasonal garden shop behind the store, and eventually sold the grocery store in 1968 to run the garden shop year-round. Ray Lartz, Casey’s son-in-law still operates Casey’s Garden Shop and Florist today.

**Ventura’s Grill [BN37]**

George Ventura opened Ventura’s Grill at 1415 S Main around 1950. For the first several years after the opening of the business, the Ventura family also lived in the building. Before being razed recently, the building also housed a café, a bakery, and a thrift shop over the years.

**Phil-Kron Drive-In Theatre [BN39]**

Bloomington’s only drive-in movie theatre opened in 1947 at the northwest corner of US 51 (Main Street) and the 66 Belt Line. Built by Ken Phillips and Pete Karonis, the theatre was originally called the Phil-Kron, later the Bloomington Drive-In. A restaurant, the Phil-Kron Grill, was constructed behind the screen. In December 1958 the restaurant became Sinorak Smorgasbord. The drive-in burned down in 1984.

**Sinorak Smorgasbord [BN26]**

In 1958, a smorgasbord restaurant took over at the site of the Phil-Kron Grill. The restaurant was called Sinorak, the backward spelling of the owner’s name, Mr. Karonis. Sinorak Smorgasbord operated until 1980.

**Rusk Haven Motel [BN40]**

Located across the Belt Line from Highland Park golf course was the 14-unit Rusk Haven Motel, operated by Stanley J. Lucas. The motel was advertised as being “on the hill next to heaven.”

**Beich’s Candy [BN48]**

Paul F. Beich opened his confectionary company on the south side of Bloomington in the late 19th century, and soon had hundreds of employees. Beich’s descendants operated the company until it was sold to Nestle in 1984. The original factory building was destroyed by a fire in 2005, shortly before it was scheduled to be demolished.

**Belt Line [BN42]**

Not long after the construction of Route 66, people in Normal began to complain about traffic congestion and noise. Built in stages between 1935 and 1941, the Belt Line relieved these issues by directing traffic around town, rather than through it. The road was renamed Veterans Parkway in 1979, in honor of veterans of all wars.

**Shirley**

**Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup [SFM3]**

Isaac Funk established his home here in 1824, where the family produced maple syrup for personal use, as it was the only readily available form of sweetener. Funk’s grandson, Arthur Funk opened the first commercial maple syrup farm in 1891. Unlike many businesses that went under after the construction of I-55, Funks Grove still saw a consistent flow of customers after they put up a sign on the new interstate. Still operated by the Funk family today, Funks Grove has benefitted from a renewed interest in Route 66 tourism.

**Hutchison’s General Store [SFM7]**

Hutchison’s served as a vital center of the Shirley community for many years. Not only did locals pick up their mail here, but they would also buy most of their groceries, hardware, and drug store items here as well. When a new post office was built across the street in 1963, the store began to struggle because much of their business was derived from people who initially came in to pick up their mail.

**Shirley Christian Church [SFM1]**

**Funk Prairie Home [SFM2]**

Built as a wedding gift from LaFayette Funk to his new bride, Elizabeth, in 1864, this historic home is now a museum with free admission that depicts the home as it did when it was new.

**Funks Grove**

**Walker General Store [SFM4]**

The Walker Store was a grocery store and gas station until the late 1970s, when it became an antique store. The storefront is not being used at this time.

**Shirley Depot [SFM5]**

The depot located across from the Walker Store was moved from Shirley. The Funks Grove Depot is now at the Maple Sirup Camp.

**Funks Grove Church [SFM10]**

Originally built in 1865, this church was restored in 1952.

**Sugar Grove Nature Center [SFM6]**

The Sugar Grove Foundation, established in 1995, developed this nature preserve located on 264 acres of land purchased by Isaac Funk in 1824. A farm and old cattle barn on the land was restored into a nature facility that opened in 2004.

**McLean**

**Dixie Truckers Home [SFM8]**

The Dixie Trucker’s Home opened at Route 66 and US 136 on January 1, 1928. It was open continuously until a fire in 1965, but a new building was constructed in 1967 that could accommodate many more guests. The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame was located here for a short time, before it moved to Pontiac in 2004. The business became the Dixie Travel Plaza and received a major renovation in 2009.

**McLean Railroad Depot [SFM9]**