

Welcome to Historic

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

Thank You
for visiting
CARLINVILLE



The Carlinville Historic District (7)



This district encompasses 340 acres of the town. Built in 1825, the preserved downtown is an example of the distinctive architecture and historical community representing many prominent town leaders, important dignitaries and well-known individuals. The area is located between Oak, Mulberry, Morgan and East streets within the city limits.

Carlinville proudly boast one of the most beautiful town squares in the entire state. Many of the original 19th Century buildings have been preserved and restored and are now home to a myriad of specialty shops and restaurants.

The Loomis House (8) - St. George Hotel



Dominating the east side of the square stands the silent sentinel that watches over the entire scene. This is named for its builder, Judge Thaddeus Loomis, a place where the passage of time scarcely seems to have noticed the changes brought on by modern times.

Blackburn College (9)



Begun in 1837 by Gideon Blackburn, it is the only student-managed work program in the country! There is no other college or university in the United States quite like **Blackburn College**. Its unique campus culture is the byproduct of the purposeful melding of the nationally acclaimed student-managed Work Program and rigorous liberal arts academic curriculum. The result is a unique living

laboratory for learning where the boundaries between job and classroom are blurred, and mentoring from faculty and staff knows no clock. The student work program boasts more than 500 students who provide integral quality services primarily to **Blackburn College** but also to local businesses, regional nonprofit organizations, sports clubs, law enforcement departments, and virtually every school in the Macoupin County District and surrounding area. Blackburn provides students with a quality education applicable in every aspect of their lives, including the jobs that they work on and off campus.

The services they provide include administrative resources, athletic support, building maintenance, cleaning services, educational assistance, financial management, business and retail management, safety and security, counseling services, food and catering services, graphic design, marketing and communications resources, and research.

Macoupin County "Million Dollar" Courthouse (3)



Designed in 1867, the courthouse began as a \$50,000 project supported by bonds and taxes. Due to a series of political and social scandals, its construction was halted when the cost grew to \$1.3 million.

The Renaissance Revival masterpiece boasts an exterior constructed from gold-colored blocks of stone and a portico with 40-foot Corinthian columns. Inside you'll find elaborate woodwork, including finely carved walnut seating; a judge bench of Italian marble; and ornately decorated rooms with arched doorways. Abraham Lincoln occasionally practiced law in Macoupin County (although it was at the current courthouse's less glamorous predecessor—picture on last page). Court documents with his signature are on display in the courthouse.

Guided tours of the historic courthouse, Sears Homes and Step-On Bus Tours are available by contacting the Carlinville Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee at (217) 854-2141 or email at CarlinvilleTourism@gmail.com.

Old Macoupin County Jail (4)



In service from 1869 to 1988, is Gothic Revival stone structure has leftover Civil War cannonballs embedded within the walls to prevent jail breaks. There is a local tale of a man who shimmed through the very narrow slit windows to escape.

The Standard Addition/Sears and Roebuck Mail Order Houses (5)



The largest U.S. collection of 156 mail order homes. Built in 1918 for the mineworkers of the Standard Oil Company, the homes represent a lovely trip back in time, yet the homes were surprisingly modern in their construction and design.

Historical Marker (6)



This large stone commemorates the spot where Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech on August 31, 1858, when he ran against Stephen A. Douglas for U.S. Senate. Visitors can find the stone in front of the United Methodist Church at the corner of South Broad and East First South Streets.

**** Macoupin, our county's namesake, was a favorite food source for local Native Americans, which matches old accounts that this area was wetland, with natural lakes, and vast amounts of growing Macoupin, a root-based artichoke.**

HISTORIC CARLINVILLE

The history of Carlinville includes many current landmarks and architectural features that stand today as hallmarks of eras gone by, yet still provide insights for discovery and learning.

Before there was Route 66, Illinois Route 4 was the fully paved, "slabbed" two-lane Mother Road between Chicago and St. Louis. U.S. Route 66 utilized Route 4 from 1926 until 1930, which ran directly through Carlinville, providing a symbol of freedom, restlessness, and the quest for new opportunity, Historic Route 66.

Picturesque Town Square (1)



As we explore the many opportunities for discovery throughout Carlinville, our journey begins with the **Picturesque Town Square** with buildings dating back to the early 1800s. Carlinville's Historic Square is the crown jewel of the large historic district that has been on the National Register of Historic Places in Illinois since 1976. Dine and shop where Lincoln

once walked, with brick-paved streets and Victorian cast-iron storefronts. It is the only Town Square on Illinois Route 66 that allows you to drive completely around, and today provides access to two major state highways.

Macoupin County Historical Society (2)



The Historical Society purchased the **Anderson Mansion** in 1973 for use as the Society's museum. Annual festivals in May and September feature tours of the museum as well as arts, crafts, collectibles, entertainment and homecooked foods. Both festivals include displays by the Antique Agricultural Association with antique farming equipment and demonstrations of old farming methods that include threshing.

Group tours of the museum and grounds are available by reservation; contact the Macoupin County Historical Society, 920 W Breckenridge Street, Carlinville, IL (217) 854-2850

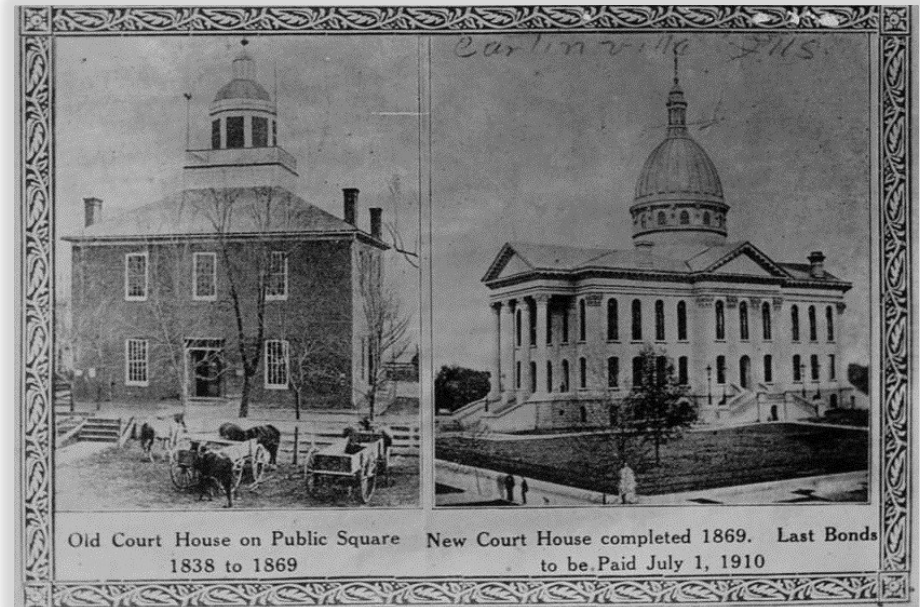
**Tours of Carlinville, Courthouse and Sears Homes Available:
Contact CarlinvilleTourism@gmail.com**

Gazebo

(picture on front cover)

As the only Carlinville in the world (the fictional Carlinville in "The Judge" movie notwithstanding), this small city of 5,685 is a happening place that offers much to interest visitors. The centerpiece of the town is its turn-of-the-century, brick-paved city square on the original alignment of Route 66 (1926—1930) with its quaint central park that features a large cedar gazebo. The gazebo is located in the very spot where a two-story brick courthouse once stood - and where Abraham Lincoln practiced law and wrote his longest legal brief on record.

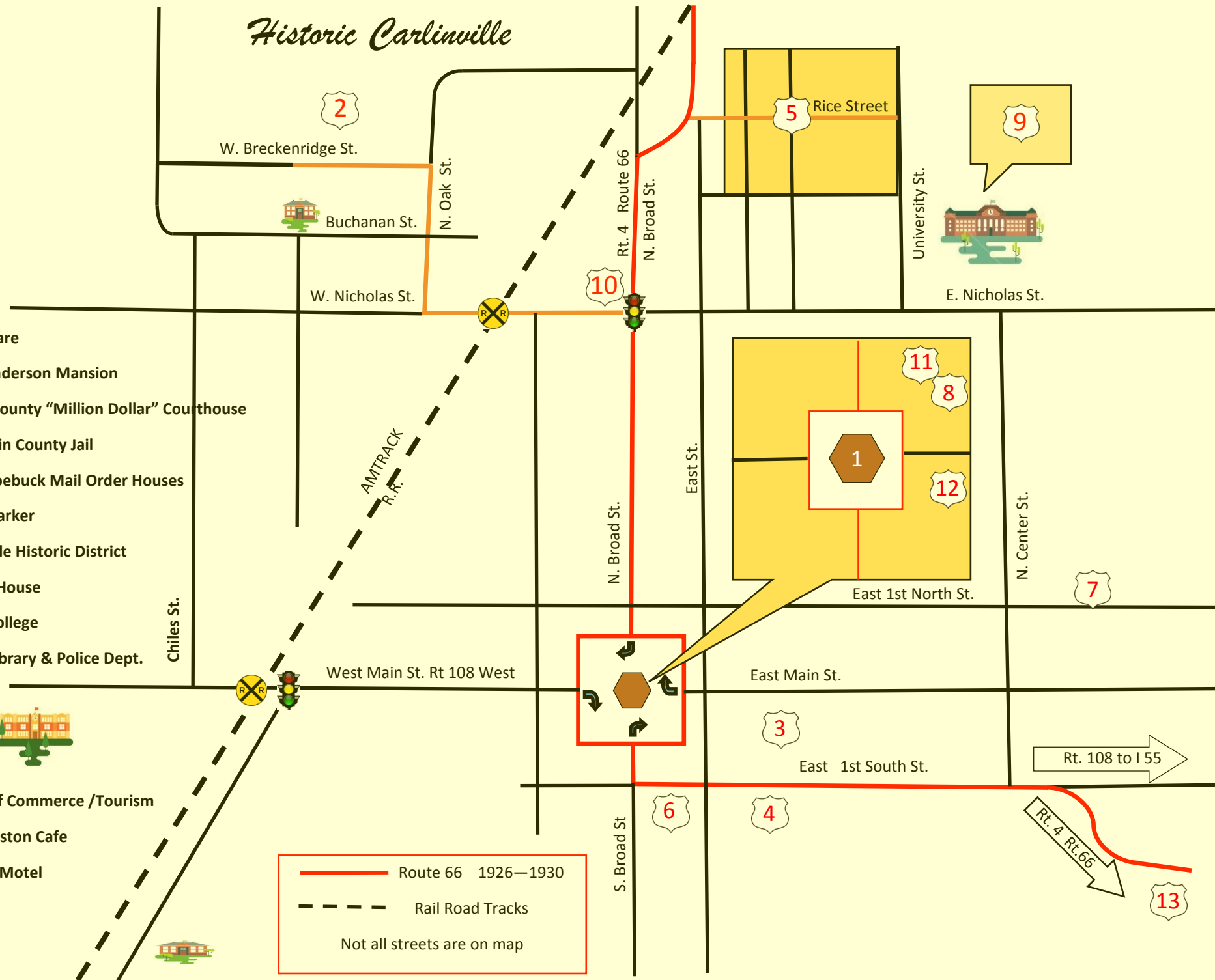
The Beautiful Gazebo was donated to Carlinville by the Dan Millard family in 1993



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Historic Carlinville

- 1—Historic Square
- 2—Historical Anderson Mansion
- 3—Macoupin County “Million Dollar” Courthouse
- 4—Old Macoupin County Jail
- 5—Sears and Roebuck Mail Order Houses
- 6—Historical Marker
- 7—The Carlinville Historic District
- 8—The Loomis House
- 9—Blackburn College
- 10—City Hall, Library & Police Dept.
- 11—Chamber of Commerce /Tourism
- 12—Original Ariston Cafe
- 13—Carlin-villa Motel



- Route 66 1926—1930
- - - Rail Road Tracks
- Not all streets are on map