



Carlinville, Illinois Community Profile Overnight Itinerary



Carlinville was incorporated in 1865 and has a current population of 5632. The City of Carlinville worked tirelessly to create a downtown square any community would be proud to use as a model for development.

As with other Illinois communities, coal mining played a significant part of the local economy. This led to Carlinville being the city with the most Sears and Roebuck mail order houses when Standard Oil built 159 of the house for their miners in 1918. 156 of the houses remain today. Prairie Farms, one of the largest dairy producers in the Midwest, has their corporate office in Carlinville.

Route 66 traveled through Carlinville from 1926-1931 at the height of Prohibition. The infamous Ortis Inn was built on a farm a few miles south of here, and a large barn was rumored to store bootleg liquor. Local tales include secret visits by Al Capone and rum-runners driving the liquor from here to Chicago.

ATTRACTIONS



[Carlinville Historic Square](#)

The Carlinville Square is the crown jewel of the large historic district that is on the National Register of Historic Places in Illinois, since 1976. Most of the historic buildings were built in the 1880s and have been painstakingly restored to their original appearance. The beautiful gazebo that adorns the center of

the park was graciously donated by the Milard family. Visit all the great shops downtown, including Market Days held on the first Saturday of each month, Illinois Route 66 Blue Carpet Corridor, and numerous holiday festivals throughout the year!

(217) 854-2141

[Carlinville Historic Square Official Website](#)



[**Macoupin County “Million Dollar” Courthouse**](#)

Designed by famed architect E. E. Meyers in 1867, the building began as a \$50,000 project supported by bonds and taxes. Through a series of political and social scandals, the courthouse construction was halted in 1870 with a total cost of \$1.3 million (1870 dollars) and at the time was the second largest courthouse (the one in New York City was the largest) in the U. S. The 3rd floor courtroom was never completed and the planned ornamental statues were never commissioned. It took the county 40 years to pay off the debt and inspired the nickname, “The Million Dollar Courthouse.” It is recognized as the most magnificent courthouse in Illinois. Celebrating its 150 year anniversary beginning in the Fall, 2017, be sure to check the website for upcoming celebration and festival events!

200 East Main Street

(217) 854-2141

[Macoupin County “Million Dollar” Courthouse Official Website](#)



[**Macoupin County Jail of 1869**](#)

The historic jail was in service from 1869 to 1988. This Gothic Revival stone structure has leftover Civil War cannonballs embedded within the walls to prevent jailbreaks. There is a local tale of a man who shimmed through the narrow slit windows to escape. He walked to the town square where he had a beer at a local tavern and then walked back to the jail where he walked through the front door and put himself back into his cell.

205 East First South Street

(217) 854-2141

[Macoupin County Jail of 1869 Official Website](#)



[**Macoupin County Historical Museum**](#)

Housed in the Victorian-style Anderson Mansion, the museum consists of two stories of antiques and collectibles from Macoupin County's past.

432 Breckenridge Street

(217) 854-8916 or (217) 854-8500

[Macoupin County Historical Museum Official Website](#)



[**Standard Addition/Sears and Roebuck Mail Order Houses**](#)

This largest U.S. collection of 156 Sears and Roebuck mail order houses, built in 1918 for the mine workers of the Standard Oil Company, can be toured using a guide available from most shops. The neighborhood is known as the Standard Addition and 152 of the 156 homes are still standing.

Charles and Rice Streets

(217) 854-2141

[Standard Addition/Sears and Roebuck Mail Order Houses Official Website](#)



[Cherry Tree Treasures & Gifts General Store](#)

This vintage retail store showcases a variety of special gifts, souvenirs & memorabilia for Carlinville & Route 66. Including postcards, tee shirts, caps, metal signs, lapel pins, magnets and much more. They also have cold Route 66 soda as well as other brands of beverages. Stop in say hello, sign the guest book and enjoy a cold drink.

236 East Side Square

(573) 826-1515

[Cherry Tree Treasures & Gifts Official Website](#)



[The Magnolia Restaurant and Banquet Center](#)

Magnolias started out as an idea for a restaurant that was unique and different from any other. It had to have old world charm and be a relaxing place for a meal. Originally a German Catholic church and school, the structure has been transformed into a warm intimate dining room and banquet hall.

531 South West Street

(217) 854-7167

[The Magnolia Restaurant and Banquet Center Official Website](#)



[The Refuge Coffee House, Inc.](#)

This eclectic coffee house is a great place to get recharged while on your Route 66 adventure. Offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Live entertainment that is often offered free of charge.

242 East Side Square

(217) 854-3686

[The Refuge Coffee House, Inc. Official Website](#)



[Reno's Pizzeria and Ristorante](#)

This family owned pizzeria showcases homemade Italian cuisine and the best pizza in town. Enjoy your meal under the Sistine Chapel ceiling and surrounded by Walldog murals or nestle yourself in nostalgia in the Route 66 Momma Road Room.

518 North Side Square

(217) 854-6655

[Ren's Pizzeria and Ristorante Official Website](#)



[Camden's Art & Wine](#)

Camden's is a new business on the square in Carlinville, with the upstairs being a fun boutique and the downstairs is an outstanding wine bar with 40+ beers. Camden's chef has a fantastic menu that ranges from amazing gourmet burgers to great salmon and steaks. The incredibly unique atmosphere, coupled with its diverse menu, really makes for a memorable stop. Camden Collections will feature local art as well as a wide variety of art and gifts from around the nation. Whether you are shopping for a little something special for yourself, or a unique gift to make someone else's day -Camden's has just what you are looking for.

366 South Side Square

(217) 854-3409

[Camden's Art & Wine Official Website](#)



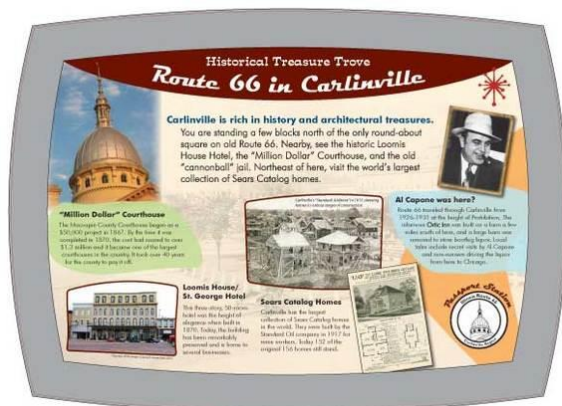
[Mother Road Antique Mall](#)

The Mother Road Antique Mall is located along Route 66 on the historic downtown Carlinville Square. Featuring antiques and collectibles of all shapes and sizes, in all price ranges. Owner Virginia Brown has been in the antique business for over 50 years. Come see Route 66's newest destination for the best selection of antiques and collectibles.

106 North Side Square

(217) 854-8029

[Mother Road Antique Mall Official Website](#)



[Carlinville, IL Route 66 Wayside Exhibits and Experience Hubs](#)

Historical Treasure Trove

Route 66 In Carlinville

Carlinville is rich in history and architectural treasures. You are standing a few blocks north of the only round-about square on old Route 66. Nearby, see the historic Loomis House Hotel, the "Million Dollar" Courthouse, and the old "Cannonball" jail. Northeast of here, visit the world's largest collection of Sears Catalog homes.

"Million Dollar" Courthouse

The Macoupin County Courthouse began as a \$50,000 project in 1867. By the time it was completed in 1870, the cost had soared to over \$1.3 million and it became one of the largest courthouses in the country. It took over 40 years for the county to pay it off.

Al Capone was here?

Route 66 traveled through Carlinville from 1926-1931 at the height of Prohibition. The infamous Ortis Inn was built on a farm a few miles south of here, and a large barn was rumored to store bootleg liquor. Local tales include secret visits by Al Capone and rum-runners driving the liquor from here to Chicago.

Loomis House/ St. George Hotel

This three-story, 50 room hotel was the height of elegance when built in 1870. Today, the building has been remarkably preserved and is home to several businesses.

Sears Catalog Homes

Carlinville has the largest collection of [Sears Catalog homes](#) in the world. They were built by the Standard Oil Company in 1917 for mine workers. Today 152 of the original 156 homes still stand.

MAJOR EVENTS:



[Macoupin County Historical Society Spring Festival](#)

Each Memorial Day, countless visitors are visiting the Anderson Mansion, located on the edge of Carlinville, to mark the beginning of spring. Hosted by the Macoupin County Historical Society, the festival is filled with arts and crafts, food vendors, entertainment and antique machinery

920 Breckenridge Street

217-627-2851

[Macoupin County Historical Society Spring Festival Official Website](#)



[4th Annual Blue Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

June 8, 2018

The Blue Carpet Corridor, from Chatham down to Collinsville (including Edwardsville), is a unique section of Route 66 characterized not only by its Mother Road charm, but also its rich mining history and colorful mobster lore. Route 66 is known for its quirky attractions, roadside hospitality, and

family fun. And on the second weekend in June, the blue carpet will be rolled out to welcome thousands of travelers.

(618) 307-5049

[Blue Carpet Corridor Official Website](#)



[**Macoupin County Historical Society Fall Festival**](#)

In mid-September the Macoupin County Historical Society again offers a festival at the Anderson Mansion. Like the Spring Festival, the Mansion grounds are filled with vendors and live music. Arts and Crafts, antique machinery and homemade food are only a few of the things the festival has to offer!

920 Breckenridge Street

217-627-2851

[Macoupin County Historical Society Fall Festival Official Website](#)



[**Carlinville's Shop Local First Restaurant Week - Chairs on Parade**](#)

August

200 +/- Chairs decorated by businesses/groups on display all over Carlinville. Vote for your favorite chair by picking-up/dropping off your People's Choice Ballot at any Shop Local First restaurant. Maps and ballots available at Shop Local First office, 126 West Main St. in Carlinville, and at our Shop Local First member businesses.

Historic Carlinville Square

[Carlinville Chairs on Parade Facebook Page](#)



Image by Tony Hutson

[Carlinville Christmas Market](#)

Early December

The Carlinville Christmas Market takes place on the first full weekend in December - Friday & Saturday. We hosted our first Christmas Market festival on the town square in December 1990. The Market has retained its earlier romance by presenting bright, white tents lined with the arts and crafts of talented artisans, food vendors, trolley tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, costumed carolers and street performers, children's activities, and other holiday attractions - all set amid the charm of Carlinville's historic town square and its own special shops.

Historic Carlinville Square

505 N Broad St

[Carlinville Christmas Market Official Website](#)

AMENITIES



City of Carlinville

550 North Broad

(217) 854-4076

info@cityofcarlinville.com

[Carlinville Illinois Official Website](#)



Carlinville Chamber of Commerce

112 North Side Square

info@carlinville.com

(217) 854-2141

[Carlinville Chamber of Commerce Official Website](#)

Accommodations



[The Carlin Villa](#)

The Carlin Villa is a traditional motel like those that were born and grew up on Route 66, with a few modern upgrades. All the rooms feature hi-speed internet access, cable television, direct dial phones, and air conditioning. The motel is located close to the Carlinville Historic Square for easy access to shopping and restaurants.

18891 Illinois Route 4

(217) 854-3201

[The Carlin Villa Official Website](#)



[Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center](#)

Located on the 1940 alignment of Route 66 and only a few miles east of the 1926 alignment in Carlinville, the Magnuson Grand Hotel features a nautical theme which culminates in a large paddle boat named the Carlin Belle on a large pond.

19067 W. Frontage Road, Raymond

(217) 324-2100

[Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center Official Website](#)

[CLICK HERE Carlinville Google Map](#)



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

700 East Adams

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 525-9308

info@illinoisroute66.org

www.illinoisroute66.org