

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Grant Awards – 2008



The Valentine Diner in Winslow, Arizona is an example of a Valentine Diner still in its historic location on Route 66. Grant funds will help restore the diner to operating condition.

Arizona

Project: Valentine Diner Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The Valentine Diner in Winslow, Arizona is an excellent example of the pre-fabricated diners produced by Valentine Manufacturing after World War II. These diners were perfect for a one-person operation, as they typically sat eight to ten customers and provided a limited menu. Modular in design, they were delivered fully equipped from the factory on a flat bed truck for about \$5,000. The Winslow diner was ordered by Mayor J. Lester Allen ca. 1946, and placed directly across the street from the impressive La Posada Hotel. In service until 2002, it has been purchased by new owners who will rehabilitate the diner and resume food service. The building was recently determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Lincoln County purchased the Mill to save it from demolition. The Mill was placed on Illinois' "Ten Most Endangered Places" list by Landmarks Illinois in 2008.

Illinois

Project: Mill Restaurant Rehabilitation
Recipient: Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Lincoln County
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The Mill Restaurant in Lincoln, Illinois originally opened in 1929 under the name of the Blue Mill, with the proprietor serving grilled sandwiches at any hour of the day or night. A Dutch themed building with blue trim, it featured a revolving windmill and waitresses dressed in blue and white aprons. In 1945, Albert and Blossom Huffman purchased the building, added a bar and dance hall, and painted the building red. The restaurant was famous for its fried schnitzel. Since the 1990s the building has stood vacant and deteriorating. When the city of Lincoln ordered the building be demolished in 2007, the Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Lincoln County purchased it in an effort to save it. Grant funds will assist with interior repairs to help rehabilitate the property for use as a visitor center. The Mill has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Café on the Route is a 19th century Main Street building that has served as a diner on Route 66 since the 1950s. Structural problems will be addressed through the preparation of Preservation Plan.

Kansas

Project: Café on the Route Preservation Plan
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$5,000 NPS, \$5,000 match

The Douthit Building was originally constructed in 1870 in Baxter Springs, Kansas as the Cherokee Bank Building. Its diner history on US 66 began in the 1950's when it became Murphey's Diner, famous for its homemade pies. The diner also served as a Greyhound Bus stop. The lower story of the building has remained in service as a restaurant, and is now known as "Café on the Route." The second story operates as a bed and breakfast. Grant funds will assist with the preparation of a preservation plan to guide the repair of structural problems and long-term preservation of the building. The building has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2008



The Galena viaduct is an important feature of the Kansas Route 66 cultural landscape and traveling experience. The bridge is in need of critical repairs to retain its historic character and keep it safe for transportation.

Kansas (cont.)

Project: Viaduct Emergency Stabilization
Recipient: Cherokee County
Amount: \$30,000 NPS, \$50,000 match

The Galena Viaduct is a graceful structure spanning 216 feet in length, curving gently as it carries two-lane US 66 across the tracks of the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad. The viaduct and its associated hard-paved road were built in 1922/1923 to serve the lead and zinc mining industry in the area. US 66 was likely routed through the short 13.2 mile section of Kansas in 1926 because of the pre-existence of this hard-paved road and viaduct. The bridge is currently in critical condition, and load capacity reductions or closure are anticipated unless rehabilitation work is undertaken. Grant funds will assist with the preparation of rehabilitation plans and emergency repairs. The viaduct was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



The Devil's Elbow Bridge across the Big Piney River attracts approximately 145,000 visitors a year. As part of the rehabilitation project, the county will locate signage to help direct visitors to the bridge.

Missouri

Project: Devil's Elbow Bridge Emergency Stabilization
Recipient: Pulaski County
Amount: \$8,000 NPS, \$22,000 match

The Devil's Elbow Bridge was built in 1923. Constructed with the use of hot rivets, the bridge is comprised of two Parker through-trusses and one Warren pony-truss. In 1926, the bridge became part of US 66 until World War II, when a new, four-lane alignment was built to accommodate the large military vehicles of nearby Fort Leonard Wood. Today, the bridge is one of few remaining Route 66 landmarks in the small community of Devil's Elbow, along with the historic Sheldon's Market, Elbow Inn and McCoy's Store and Camp. The bridge currently has significant structural deficiencies that threaten its continued use. Grant funds will assist with rehabilitation planning and emergency repairs.



The design of the Donut Drive-In neon sign includes a vertical column of red, neon donuts. Inoperable for more than ten years, the sign will be restored to operating condition. Photo ca. 1970.

Project: Donut Drive-In Sign Restoration
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$9,875 NPS, \$10,925 match

The Donut Drive-In was built in 1952 on US 66 in St. Louis, Missouri, and has been serving hot, fresh donuts ever since. Except for the roof sign addition in 1965, its appearance has remained unchanged. The term "drive-In" in the name was an effort to advertise off-street parking, which was a relatively new amenity in 1952. The business never had a drive-up window that we associate with the term today. The neon sign has not operated for more than ten years, and in 2007 it was removed for safety reasons. With assistance from the Missouri Route 66 Association, the owners have chosen to restore the sign rather than replace it. Grant funds will help return the neon and plastic backlit signs to operating condition. The Donut Drive-In has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2008



The Park Hills Motel strongly reflects the development and evolution of motel enterprises that occurred on US 66 throughout its history.

Oklahoma

Project: Park Hills Motel Roof Replacement
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$15,000 match

The Park Hills Motel was built in 1955 in Vinita, Oklahoma, and has remained in service since that time. The one-story, neo-classical style property consists of three detached motel wings, connected only by the roof. The units are arranged in a “U” configuration around a courtyard that includes an ice house. The motel retains its original configuration, design and materials with little or no alterations, including square ceiling beams and original tile in the bathrooms. Grant funds will assist with a much needed new roof for the property. The Park Hills Motel was recently determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Nat was a historical destination on Route 66, serving as a performance venue, restaurant and cafe.

Texas

Project: Nat Ballroom Fire Suppression System
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$20,000 match

Originally built in 1922 as an open-air swimming facility, the natatorium or “Nat” was enclosed and remodeled in 1926 to serve as a dance palace on US 66 in Amarillo. Numerous big acts performed at the Nat, including Duke Ellington, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Benny Goodman. In 1935, the Nat Café was added to the building with a door that fronted US 66. Closed as a dance hall and cafe in the 1970s, a new owner is now restoring the building to serve as a performance and entertainment venue for the community. The installation of a fire suppression system will protect the building and bring it up to current standards for use as an entertainment facility. The Nat is part of the National Register-listed Sixth Street Historic District.