

374  
APR 05 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name RURAL ROUTE 66: PARKS

other names/site number Old Route 66 / Forest Road 146 / AR-03-07-02-1002

2. Location

street & number Forest Road 146 / /not for publication  
city, town Parks /xx/vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property
		Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	Total
		1

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic US Route 66 in Arizona

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Luan D. Blawie*  
Signature of certifying official

*3-16-89*  
Date

USDA - Forest Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Shereen Werner*  
Signature of certifying official

*February 22, 1989*  
Date

*Arizona State Historic Preservation Office*  
State Historic Preservation Office

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for  
the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for  
the National Register.

removed from the National  
Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Bruce J. Noble, Jr.*

*5/19/89*

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

<b>6. Function or Use</b>	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)</u>	<u>local highway</u>
[Interstate Highway]	
<b>7. Description</b>	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials enter categories from instructions)
N/A	<u>foundation</u>
	<u>walls</u>
	<u>roof</u>
	<u>other</u> <u>earth fill, asphalt and concrete surfacing, concrete culverts</u>

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

This 6.5 mile (10.5 km) section of Rural Route 66 is used today as a local access road. The road is paved with asphalt, except for a 3.3 mile segment that is covered with Portland cement. Standard concrete box culverts span several washes. The pavement has been in place since this was officially Route 66. Aside from some patch repairs, the roadway has changed little in appearance since the historic period.

This section of road was built in 1931 as part of Forest Aid Project 89-E. The 24' wide oil surfaced (later asphalt surfaced) roadway replaced a circa 1920 alignment located to the south. The magazine Arizona Highways proclaimed that construction of this section would " . . . eliminate 18 miles of narrow, crooked, poorly surfaced road which is particularly dangerous in dry weather due to ravelling and innumerable potholes". The new road featured a straight alignment, improved road surface, and standard concrete box culverts. The 1931 realignment through the community of Parks (then called Maine) moved Route 66 a few feet south of the existing businesses which had grown up along both sides of the earlier alignment. The focus of the community then shifted to the south. The principal business today is the Parks in the Pines general store and Post Office, in place since 1933.

The road passed through the scenic high country of the Coconino Plateau: beginning at the open watered meadows of Pitman Valley, ascending Oak Hill to Garland Prairie Vista, and ending at the small community of Parks. Several tourist-related facilities along the roadside remain standing today, although some are no longer in use.

This section of Route 66 was upgraded in 1939 and 1941. Work in 1939 included excavating deeper through and bank cuts to lessen grades, new pavement (including several miles of Portland cement paving, still extant), some new culverts, and guard rails. Nearly all of the work was contained within the existing 1931 right-of-way, except for one mile east of Parks, which was realigned slightly to the south in 1941 (thereby creating "Abandoned Route 66: Parks (1931)--see separate nomination form). One mile of this realignment is still in active use and is included within the nominated property.

This property was abandoned to Coconino County with completion of Interstate 40 in 1964. Coconino County maintains it under an easement agreement with the Kaibab National Forest and private property owners. It is actively used as a local access road.

#### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)      Period of Significance      Significant Dates

Transportation

1931-1941

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Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Affiliation

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This section of Rural Route 66 is significant for its association with Historic US Route 66 in Arizona and the theme of transportation in America between ca. 1920 and 1944.

Route 66 through Parks offered travelers many scenic attractions and amenities. The community of Parks, midway between Flagstaff and Williams had a small store, gas station, restaurant, school, post office, spring water, and campground. Just north and west of Parks, the Fireside Inn offered tourists cabins, a gas station, and barbecue lunch counter. Continuing west, campers could stay at Spitz Springs Forest Camp or at the scenic Garland Prairie Vista with its spectacular view of the San Francisco Peaks. Winter recreationists found a short ski run and shelter on Oak Hill. In Pitman Valley, at the west end of this nominated property, the two story log cabin McHat Inn (later known as the Wagon Wheel Lodge) provided guest cabins and a filling station. The Elmo Dance Hall was across the road. Large stone monuments along the roadside gave directions to Grand Canyon National Park, the turnoff to which was just east of Williams.

Many of the associated properties on this stretch can still be found along the roadway, although most no longer fulfill their original function. The Parks in the Pines general store and nearby campground are still open, but all of the other tourist facilities along the way have closed and stand empty. Camping is no longer permitted at Garland Prairie Vista, and the Oak Hill Ski Run is now a snow play area for sledgers. Although abandoned, the historic properties still convey a strong sense of association with historic Route 66. There are few modern encroachments.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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The Parks section is an excellent example of Rural Route 66. The cross-section template and pavement from the historic period remain intact. A drive down this part of old Route 66 imparts a strong feeling of historic association to the traveler. It retains integrity of design, workmanship, location, feeling, association, and setting.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"As Built" plans dated 1/29/32 and 11/25/40 Federal Aid Project 89-E; and 5/15/43 Federal Aid Project 89-D: Ash Fork-Flagstaff Highway. On file at ADOT Engineering Records Division, Phoenix.

Kaibab National Forest Recreation Plan 1940. On file in Kaibab NF historical records.

Kaibab National Forest right-of-way file 2730: Roads and Trails.

Arizona Highways July 1931.

Jack D. Rittenhouse A Guide Book to Highway 66, Jack D. Rittenhouse, Los Angeles CA, 1946.

Personal communication, Ronald F.Tissaw.

|\_| See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:  
 State hist. preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Specify repository:

Kaibab National Forest

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 104 acres

### UTM References

A	1 2	4 0 4 8 7 5	3 9 0 2 6 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
C			
Zone	Easting	Northing	

B	1 2	4 1 5 3 9 0	3 9 0 1 9 4 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
D			
Zone	Easting	Northing	

### Verbal Boundary Description

This property is a 6.5 mile (10.5 km) long section of Rural Route 66 (Forest Road 146) in the vicinity of Parks, AZ maintained by Coconino County. The east end is defined by obliterated Route 66 and the west end is defined by the end of the original alignment (see UTM references). The sides are defined by the original right-of-way, 66 feet to each side of the centerline (marked in this section by steel I beams). See attached map.

|\_| See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property type "Rural Route 66" defined in the multiple property form. All improvements associated with this property are contained within the original right-of-way.

|\_| See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teri A. Cleeland, Archeologist

date August 4, 1988

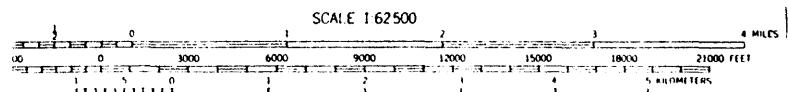
organization Kaibab National Forest

telephone (602) 635-2681

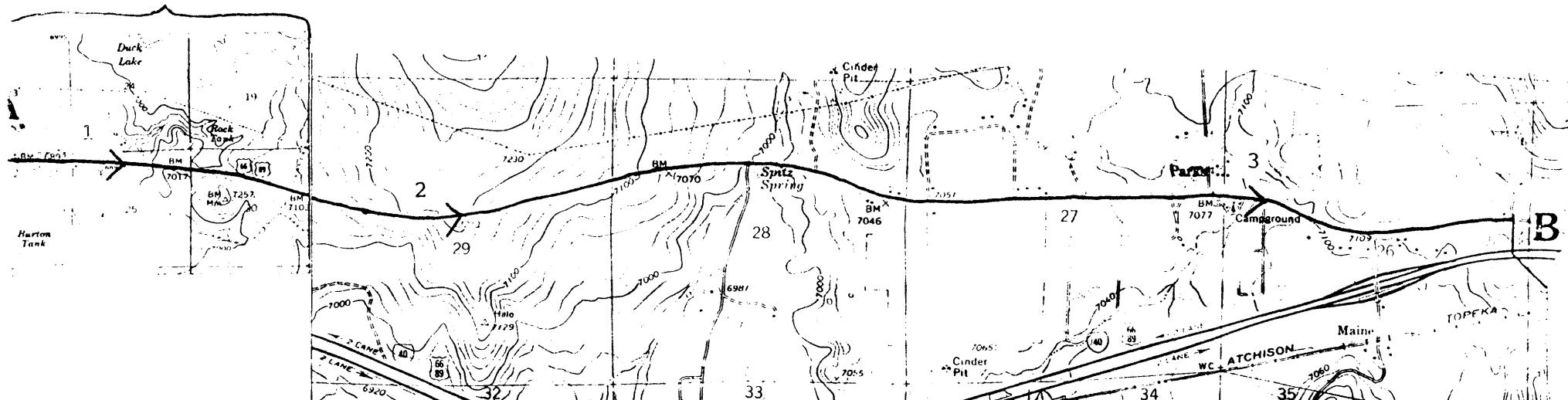
street & number 800 S. Sixth St.

state AZ zip code 86046

city or town Williams



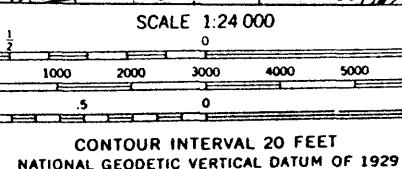
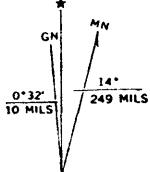
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20 FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



HISTORIC ROUTE 66 IN ARIZONA

"RURAL ROUTE 66: PARKS"

Zone 12  
B: 415390E A: 404875E  
3901940N 3902600N



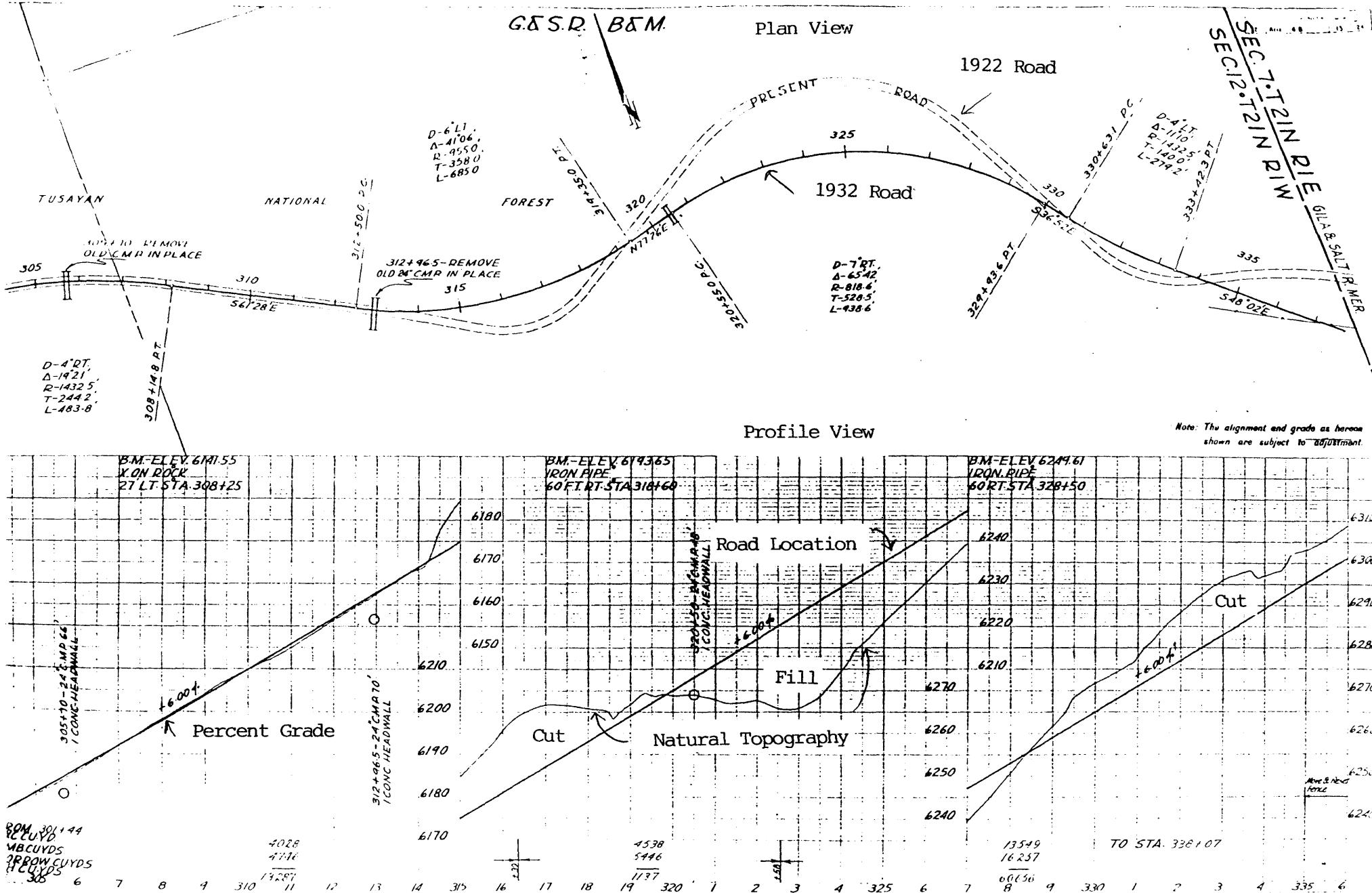


Figure 5. Project 4-B, Route 66 Realignment Engineering Plan, vicinity of Ash Fork Hill (1932). Distance shown is approximately 1/2 mile. (Arizona Department of Transportation Plan).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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PHOTOGRAPHS      Page 1

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THIS NOMINATION:

- 1). Rural Route 66: Parks
- 2). Vicinity of Parks, Arizona
- 3). Teri A. Cleeland
- 4). June, 1988
- 5). Kaibab National Forest, Williams, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES:

- 6). Facing east, toward Oak Hill
- 7). #1
- 6). Facing east, from Garland Prairie Vista toward the San Francisco Peaks.
- 7). #2
- 6). Facing E, Rural Route 66: Parks right; Abandoned Route 66: Parks (1931) left.
- 7). #3