



CARL SANDBURG

*A Driving Tour of
Historic Sites in
Galesburg, IL*



BIRTHPLACE▲ **1**
Carl Sandburg was born on January 6, 1878, in this modest bungalow, the second of six children. His father worked as a helper in the nearby CB & Q Railroad blacksmith shop:

“Here we are at the place I was born. Since our family moved from here to the South Street house when I was only one year old, I don’t recall much about the place.”

AYS: p. 16

The birthplace, visitors’ center, and park are operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and are opened seasonally to the public.



SECOND HOME▲ **2**
A rented home where the family lived from 1879 to 1882. Sandburg recalled, “My sister Mary was four years old and I was one when our family moved to this house on South Street. At the time it was only a one-story house, not much

bigger than the cottage where she and I were born, on Third Street. My kid brother Martin was born here in 1880.”

AYS pp. 16-17, 19-21



THIRD HOME▲ **3**
The Sandburg family lived here for 17 years. Sandburg vividly wrote about these years in *Always the Young Strangers*: “We moved to this house on Berrien in 1882, when I was four. The place was originally all wood siding, with no enclosed porch. The long attic room was where Mart and I slept. Our

younger brothers and sisters, Emil, Esther, Fred, and Martha were all born here. Emil and Fred both died of diphtheria in 1892.

While our family was here, I grew up and enlisted for the Spanish-American War, returned home and enrolled at Lombard College.”

AYS pp. 21, 31-57



FOURTH HOME▲ **4**
“In 1899, the family moved directly across the street, to the home formerly occupied by Professor John Grubb, who later was my Latin instructor at Lombard [College]. I also worked as a call man for the fire department while attending school. My father passed away in this house in 1910.”

EWC pp. 8-10



Brooks St. Fire Station **5**
“My occupation as a fire department call man during my college years was for the Prairie Street Station. During my summers I sold stereopticon viewers and slides, to help pay for school. After a summer out east, I returned to Galesburg in 1905 and was on call for the Brooks Street Station, where I worked for

eight months, grooming horses and maintaining wagons and stalls. And there was plenty of time for reading and writing between alarms.” EWC: p.141



Lombard College Campus **6**
Established in 1851 as Illinois Liberal Institute, the college closed in 1932. It was here that Sandburg was a student from 1899 to 1904 and began his writing career under Professor Philip Green Wright.

AYS: p. 423

EWC: pp. 1-6, 59-70, 66-77



Philip Green Wright Home **7**
Wright was a Lombard College professor from 1892 to 1912 and had great influence on the development of Sandburg’s writing skills. Here in the basement of this home the Asgard Press printed Sandburg’s first three books.

AYS: p. 140; EWC: pp. 26-32



C.B. & Q. Railroad Station **8**
This railroad station was a transportation hub at the turn of the 20th century and the scene of many civic activities. Sandburg departed from and returned to this site while an enlisted soldier in the Spanish-American War. The structure burned in 1911. AYS: pp. 404-405



Union Hotel **9**
As a young boy, Sandburg worked as a porter and shined shoes for many hotel guests. Here he learned the value of a day’s work and later vividly recalled the people and personalities who frequented the hotel.

AYS: pp. 234-235, 367-369; EWC: pp.75-76



Knox County Courthouse **10**
Sandburg frequented this majestic 1886 county landmark while walking to his milk route or the Union Hotel. A statue of the famed Civil War nurse Mary A. Bickerdyke was dedicated on the courthouse lawn in 1906. It was a constant reminder to him

of the city’s heritage in support of the “Boys in Blue.”

AYS: pp. 100, 299



Knox College Old Main **11**
Site of the fifth Lincoln-Douglas debate, held October 7, 1858. The young Sandburg studied the commemorative plaque affixed to the north wall of the structure. He walked this site frequently in his cross-town journeys to work and pondered the values of the Sixteenth President.

AYS: pp. 241-242

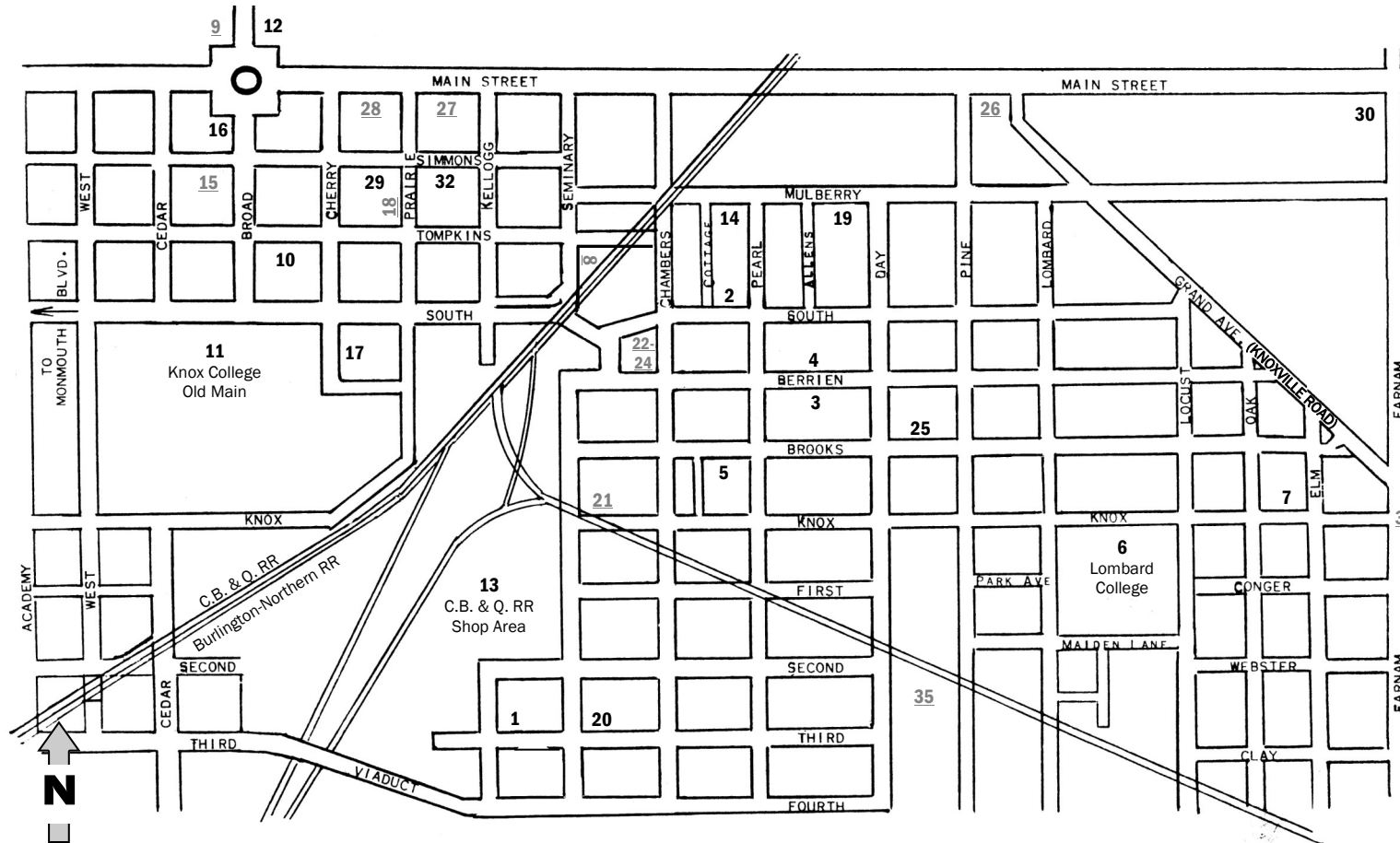


Auditorium House **12**
The location of early 20th Century vaudeville plays and shows by nationally know entertainers and performers of the time. Sandburg worked there as a stage hand.

AYS: pp. 272-273

Text references noted below and the sites listed in this driving tour include references to Sandburg autobiographies Always the Young Strangers (AYS), published in 1953, and Ever the Winds of Chance (EWC), published posthumously in 1983.

The Sandburg Circuit in Galesburg



Site Key: ▲ Private Residence Existing Structure Non-Existing Structure

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Birthplace, 331 E. Third St. <i>AYS p. 16</i></p> <p>2 Second Home ▲ 641 E. South St. <i>AYS pp. 16-17, 19-21</i></p> <p>3 Third Home ▲, 806-810 E. Berrien St. (later re-numbered from 622-624 E. Berrien St. <i>AYS pp.21, 31-57</i></p> <p>4 Fourth Home ▲, 809 E. Berrien St. (later re-numbered from 625 E. Berrien St.) <i>EWC pp.8-10</i></p> <p>5 Brooks St. Fire Station, 550 E. Brooks St. <i>EWC p. 141</i></p> <p>6 Lombard College Campus, E. Knox St. <i>AYS p. 423; EWC pp.1-6, 59-70, 66-77</i></p> <p>7 Philip Green Wright Home ▲, 1443 E. Knox St. <i>AYS p. 140; EWC pp. 26-32</i></p> <p>8 C.B. & Q. Railroad Station, 225 S. Seminary St. <i>AYS pp.404-405</i></p> <p>9 Union Hotel, 29 Public Square <i>AYS pp. 234-235, 367-369; EWC pp. 75-76</i></p> | <p>10 Knox Co. Courthouse, 200 South Cherry Street <i>AYS pp. 100, 299</i></p> <p>11 Knox College Old Main, 2 East South Street <i>AYS pp. 241-242</i></p> <p>12 Auditorium House, 85 North Broad Street <i>AYS pp. 272-273</i></p> <p>13 C.B. & Q. Tracks & Shop Area <i>EWC pp. 8-9</i></p> <p>14 Cottage Avenue <i>AYS p. 99</i></p> <p>15 Grammar School, Grades 7 & 8, SW corner East Simmons and South Broad Streets</p> <p>16 Central Congregational Church, Public Square</p> <p>17 Old Knox County Jail, 337 South Cherry Street <i>AYS pp. 311-313</i></p> <p>18 Prairie Street Fire Station, vicinity 100 South Prairie Street, middle of block, west side <i>EWC p. 3</i></p> <p>19 Fourth Ward School, Grade 1, SE corner, Mulberry and Allens Streets <i>AYS p. 109</i></p> |
|---|---|

20 Seventh Ward School, Grades 2-6, 435 East Third Street (now Galesburg Rescue Mission) *AYS pp. 38-39, 110-130*

21 The Mission, vicinity of South Seminary Street across from the Q Machine Shop, Peoria Branch *AYS pp. 70-75*

22 Swan H. Olson Grocery Store, 497 East Berrien Street *AYS p. 154*

23 Franz Belson Butcher Shop, vicinity, next to Olson Grocery Store *AYS pp. 156-157a*

28 Holmes Opera House Store, 138-154 East Main Street *AYS pp. 134, 270-272*

29 Galesburg Republican Register, 130-132 East Simmons Street *AYS pp. 164, 211-216, 218-219, 303, 316*

30 Clara Sandburg Home ▲, 1586 East Main Street *AYS p. 429*

31 C.W. Williams Racetrack (aka Galesburg Driving Park), SE Corner Grand & Farnham Streets; 121 acres *AYS pp. 372-373*

32 Brown Cornplanter Works, south side East Simmons Street between Prairie and Kellogg Streets *AYS pp. 359-361*

33 August and Clara Sandburg Burial Site
Linwood Cemetery, east half grave, Block 26, Lot 18. Large boulder with inscription, "Pioneers of the Prairies." August Sandburg interred 1910; Clara Sandburg interred 1926 *AYS pp. 426, 429, 432*

34 Krans Family Farm ▲
Frequented by the Sandburg family, John and Lena Krans and children were Swedish relatives, Lena a cousin of Clara Sandburg. As a youth, Carl played with their son, Charlie, later immortalizing the barn they played in by a poem.

Directions: north on North Henderson Street, to overpass, intersection of US 34 and Rte. 150. North on Rte. 150 2.8 miles to intersection of County Road Highway 31, N2100. Turn left (west) on CR 37, .9 mile to first intersection of E200 (Soperville Road). Turn right (north) on E200, 0.1 mile to first farm house on left (west side) designated as 2120 Knox Road. *AYS pp. 17-18*

35 Galesburg Pottery, SE corner Vine and Pine Streets *AYS pp. 251-252*

Carl Sandburg

For an invitation to join the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, address inquiries to CSHSA, P.O. Box 585, Galesburg, IL 61402-0585; e-mail carl@sandburg.org; or visit www.sandburg.org.

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Carl Sandburg State Historic Site
331 East Third Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401



Carl Sandburg State Historic Site is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Division of Historic Sites, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701