CARL SANDBURG
A Driving Tour of Historic Sites in Galesburg, IL

BIRTHPLACE
Carl Sandburg was born on January 6, 1878, in this modest burgawag, the second of six children. His father worked as a helper in the nearby CB & Q Railroad freight yard 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."

EWS p. 10
The birthplace, visitors' center, and park are operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and are opened seasonally to the public.

SECOND HOME
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 1886."

AYS pp. 16-17, 19-22

THIRD HOME
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 Broadview in 1882, when I was four. The place was originally a frame building with no enclosed porch. The long east room was where my brother and I slept. Our younger brothers and sisters, Emel, Esther, Fred, and Martha were all born here. Emel and Fred both died of diptheria 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. 23-31, 57

FOURTH HOME
"In 1899, the family moved directly across the street, to the home formerly occupied by Professor John Grobe, 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.""

EWS pp. 8-10

Brooks St. Fire Station
"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, grooms homes and maintaining wagons and stables. And there was plenty of time for reading and writing between alarms.""

EWS p. 141

Lombard College Campus
Established in 1851 as Illinois Literary Institute, the college closed in 1912. It was here that Sandburg was a student from 1899 to 1904 and began his writing career under Professor Philip Green Wright. 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 Argus Press printed Sandburg's first three books.

EWS pp. 1-6, 59-70, 66-77

Philip Green Wright Home
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 Argus Press printed Sandburg's first three books.

EWS p. 423

C.B. & Q. Railroad Station
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
As a young boy, Sandburg worked as a porter and supplied 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, 367-368; EWS pp. 75-76

Knox College Old Main
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

Knox County Courthouse
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. Bickenyke 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

AURAND HOUSE
This residence was built by the town's founder, John A. Aurburn, and served as a residence, law office, and later as a hotel.

AYS: pp. 168-169

Auditorium House
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. 373-374

Test 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 (EWS), published posthumously in 1983.
The Sandburg Circuit in Galesburg