

STATE
OF THE
PARKS®

December 2009

CARL SANDBURG HOME
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

A Resource Assessment



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

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Center for State of the Parks®

More than a century ago, Congress established Yellowstone as the world's first national park. That single act was the beginning of a remarkable and ongoing effort to protect this nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage.

Today, Americans are learning that national park designation alone cannot provide full resource protection. Many parks are compromised by development of adjacent lands, air and water pollution, invasive plants and animals, and rapid increases in motorized recreation. Park officials often lack adequate information on the status of and trends in conditions of critical resources.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks program in 2000 to assess the condition of natural and cultural resources in the parks, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks—its stewardship capacity. The goal is to provide information that will help policymakers, the public, and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks, celebrate successes as models for other parks, and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.

For more information about the methodology and research used in preparing this report and to learn more about the Center for State of the Parks, visit www.npca.org/stateoftheparks or contact: NPCA, Center for State of the Parks, P.O. Box 737, Fort Collins, CO 80522; phone: 970.493.2545; email: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. NPCA, its members, and partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come.

- * More than 325,000 members
- * Twenty-four regional and field offices
- * More than 120,000 activists

A special note of appreciation goes to those whose generous grants and donations made this report possible: MSST Foundation, Ben and Ruth Hammett, Alec Rhodes, Lee and Marty Talbot, and anonymous donors.

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Cover Photo: Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.



INTRODUCTION



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Carl Sandburg was often called a poet of the people. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Abraham Lincoln, and a second for his poetry. In 1940, Sandburg won a Grammy Award for his narration of Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" with the New York Philharmonic. Sandburg was a wanderer for most of his life. As a poet, a biographer, a social activist, a newspaperman, a novelist, a minstrel, a salesman, and even a one-time

hobo, he traveled the United States, reading poetry, giving lectures, and exploring what it meant to be an American. In 1945, Carl and his wife Paula, in search of a warmer climate and a residence that would be better suited for Carl's writing and Paula's goat business, purchased a 240-acre estate called Connemara by a previous owner, in southwest North Carolina near Flat Rock.

Prior to the Sandburgs' purchase of the

Carl and Paula Sandburg lived in this home in Flat Rock, North Carolina, from 1945 until Carl's death in 1967.

CARL SANDBURGH HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AT A GLANCE

- The park's 264 acres contain two small mountains, numerous pastures, hayfields, and gardens, five small ponds, 14 distinct ecological communities—including a globally rare plant community associated with the park's granite rock outcroppings—and 50 historic structures. Primary among these structures are the Main House, which was the residence of the Sandburgs and is one of the most visited and visible structures at the site, and the barn complex, which houses the descendants of Mrs. Sandburg's award-winning goats.
- Visitors to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site can experience the natural beauty with which the Sandburgs fell in love and learn about the history of the American icon. They can walk the same mountain paths that the Sandburgs did, take a guided tour through their house, and visit the barn complex to see dairy goats raised by park staff and volunteers.
- Authorized in 1968, a little more than a year after Carl Sandburg's death, the site retains exceptional integrity. The park was created to protect the legacy of Carl Sandburg, his works, his life, and his contributions to this country. Paula Sandburg, Carl's wife, donated most of her family's personal belongings to the National Park Service so that the public could experience life at Connemara as they had during their 22 years on the estate. Today the family's possessions comprise the park's extensive collection of more than 325,000 museum and archival items.

The Sandburg family's personal possessions, donated to the National Park Service, fill the home and give visitors a sense of what life was like at Connemara.



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land, the estate and surrounding countryside, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, had a long history of human habitation and use. These foothills contained rich habitat for wildlife such as elk, buffalo, deer, bear, turkey, and wolves, which were hunted by American Indians and prized by the European traders and trappers who traveled through the region during the 18th century. These trappers and traders referred to the area as "Flat Rock" because of the abundance of rock outcroppings. In the 1700s, tens of thousands of animal hides and skins were transported back to England via this trade route; by the early 19th century, a small but thriving agrarian community had sprung up around Flat Rock. In 1838, future Secretary of the Confederate Treasury Christopher Memminger purchased land and constructed a vacation home where he and his family spent summers until 1888. The land lay fallow until 1900, when Ellison Smyth, a wealthy leader in the textile industry, purchased the estate and named it Connemara because of its resemblance to that region of his emerald, ancestral Ireland. Under his management, vegetable and flower gardens were cultivated, and small populations of oxen, cows, sheep, pheasants, turkeys, ducks, and guinea fowl were raised. He lived on the estate only seasonally until he retired in 1925. After that, he lived there permanently until his death in 1942. Connemara then lay idle for three years, until the Sandburgs discovered the estate's beauty and tranquility.

During the Sandburgs' time living at Connemara, Carl published more than one-third of his works, hiked trails, and read his poetry at local schools. He loved to meet new people, listen to their stories, and in turn share his own life experiences, music, and poetry. Carl and Paula Sandburg lived at Connemara for 22 years until Carl's death.

Soon after Carl Sandburg died on July 22, 1967, at his home, Congressman Roy Taylor of North Carolina and Secretary of the Interior

Stewart Udall, with the support of Paula Sandburg, started a process that would lead to authorization of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System on October 17, 1968. The Sandburg family sold the property and donated the contents of their home to the National Park Service, and the site formally opened to the public in 1974.

Each year, nearly 85,000 people visit the site to learn about the world-renowned poet and his family and to enjoy the peace and serenity offered by the park's 264 acres of forests, ponds, and pastures. Activities include guided tours of the Sandburgs' home, which displays 52,000 objects and artifacts that belonged to the Sandburgs, including books, games, magazines, and furniture. These objects give visitors a tangible means of understanding the Sandburgs' daily lives. At the barn complex, visitors can interact with the historic goat herd—descendants of Mrs. Sandburg's award-winning animals—and learn about the farm's operations through interpretive signs and by observing volunteers and park staff working with the goats. Those wanting to spend more time outdoors can walk along the trails that traverse the park and climb to the top of Glassy Mountain, enjoying the outdoors much as the Sandburgs did. The park's well-preserved cultural landscape not only includes the historic structures, the historic goat herd, and the scenic trails, but also other natural resources cultivated and cared for by the Sandburgs, including hemlock trees that line the main drive and soften the landscape.

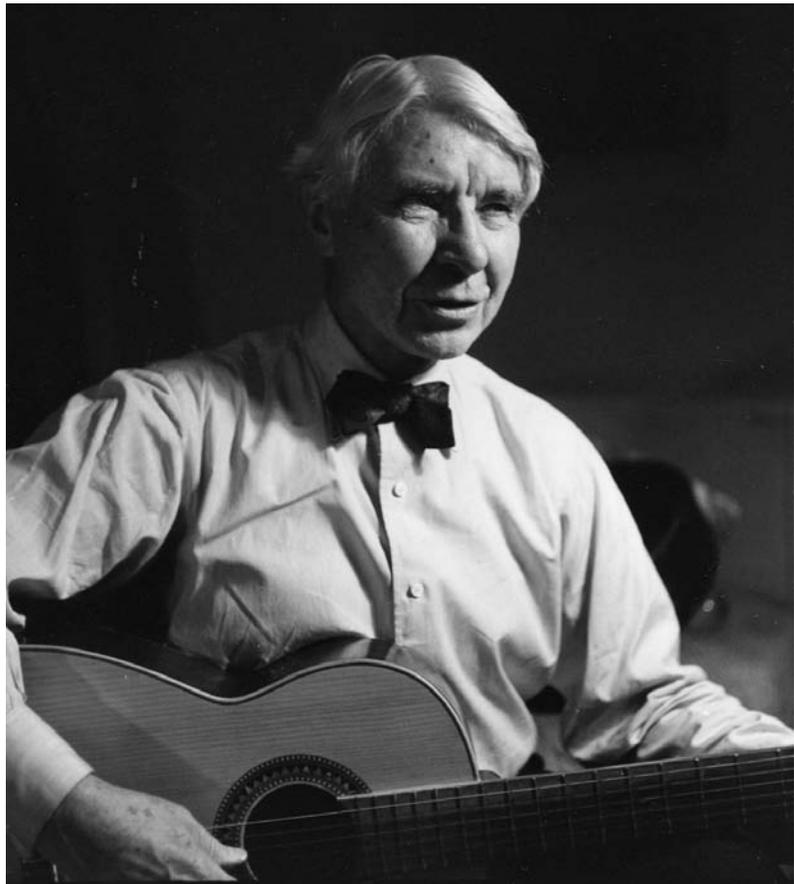


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Carl Sandburg's many talents and interests included music. His guitar, as well as a piano played by his daughter, are displayed within the home. This photo of Sandburg was taken in the 1950s.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site

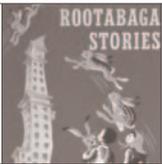
Park location	Southwest North Carolina in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains
Park size (acres)	264
Park establishment	1968
Annual recreational visits (2009)	84,589

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site enjoys an excellent partnership with the local community. About 130 volunteers regularly serve the park, and of those, 90 percent give two to four hours of their time each week. In sum, volunteers contribute more than 10,000 hours of service to the park each year. Volunteers provide house tours to visitors, care for the goats, offer interpretive programming in the barn complex, assist with the park library and museum collection, and monitor trails. The park coordinates a youth volunteer program called FRESH (Flat Rock Exceptional Sandburg Helpers) whose participants help to care for the goats and are encouraged by park staff to show the goats in livestock competitions just as Paula Sandburg did.
- The Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara, a volunteer group that supports the park, raises \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually for the park. The group helped fund and plan the Writer-in-Residence program, which will begin in March 2010. The first participant will stay at the Farm Manager's House for three weeks, help celebrate National Poetry Month in April, participate in self-designed outreach and community projects, and donate a piece of original work to the park. In addition, the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara has supported the park's growing curriculum-based education program by dedicating to the park funds it has received through grants from the Arts Council of Henderson County, the Community Foundation of Henderson County, the National Park Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- The Flat Rock Playhouse performs Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories* and other pieces of his work each summer in the park's amphitheater. Eastern National, the park's cooperating association, funds these free public performances.
- The park's general management plan (GMP), a comprehensive 20-year vision for the site, was completed in 2003 after a four-year collaborative community process. The plan's preferred alternative supports additional acreage for the park.
- Legislation passed in May 2008 (based on the GMP) authorizes the Park Service to add up to 115 more acres to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site to achieve greater conservation of scenic views and the land needed for a visitor center with additional parking. Currently, visitors must park at the nearby Flat Rock Playhouse when the regular visitor center parking lot is full.
- In 2008 and 2009, the park installed compact storage shelves in its Museum Preservation Center, which has increased the building's available storage capacity by 80 percent. This state-of-the-art facility features heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, which provide long-term preservation of the museum objects stored there. These objects will be displayed in exhibits once the park acquires additional land and constructs a new visitor center.

Local youths volunteer at the park and are encouraged to show the park's goats in livestock competitions. Here, a FRESH volunteer poses with a first-place ribbon.





THE CARL SANDBURGH HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ASSESSMENT



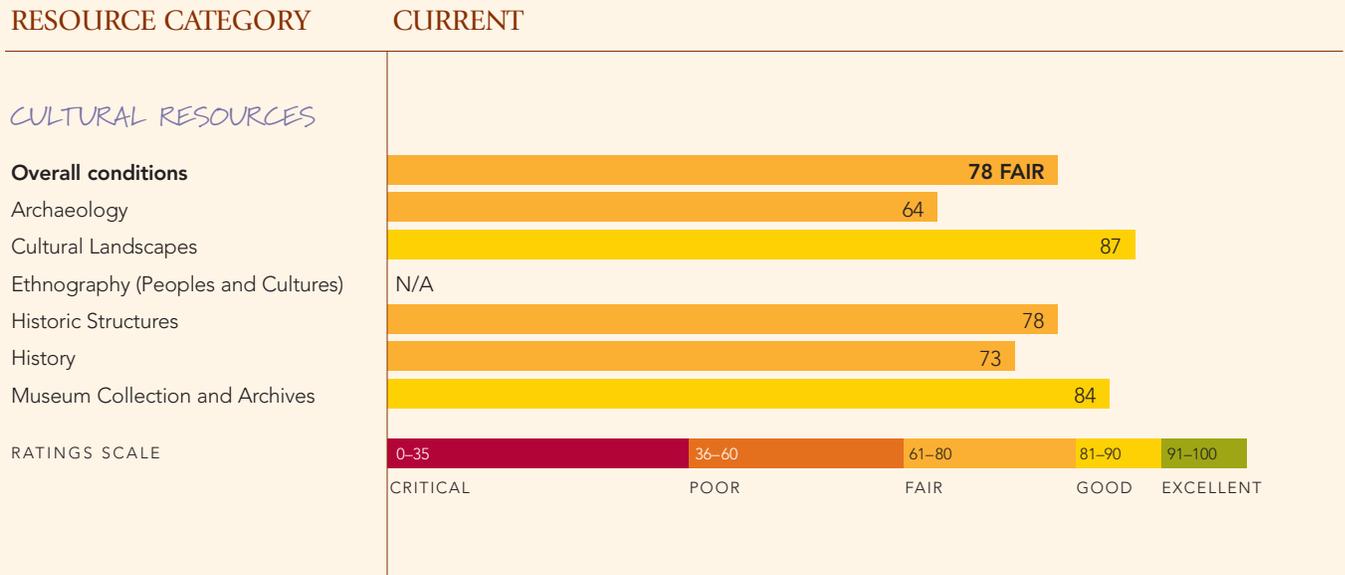
Recognizing Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site's significance to our shared national heritage and literary tradition, NPCA's Center for State of the Parks conducted an assessment to determine the condition of the cultural and natural resources protected within the park. Researchers gathered information and used established, peer-reviewed methodologies to assess and systematically rate conditions of the cultural resources and

discuss the conditions of natural resources at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. These methodologies can be found online at www.npca.org/stateoftheparks.

Current overall conditions of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site's known cultural resources rated a "fair" score of 78 out of 100. The scores for cultural resources are based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own *Cultural Resource*

The Sandburgs' home at Connemara included this barn complex where Mrs. Sandburg raised her prize-winning goats. Today, visitors can tour the complex and interact with staff and volunteers who care for the descendants of her animals.

Note: When interpreting the scores for resource conditions, recognize that critical information upon which the ratings are based is not always available. This limits data interpretation to some extent. For Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, 88 percent of the cultural resources information was available. The condition of natural resources was not rated because only 36 percent of the information required by the methodology was available.



The findings in this report do not necessarily reflect past or current park management. Many factors that affect resource conditions are a result of both human and natural influences over long periods of time, in many cases before a park was established. The intent of the Center for State of the Parks is not to evaluate Park Service staff performance, but to document the present status of park resources and determine which actions can be taken to protect them into the future.

Management Guideline and other related policies. Ethnographic resources were not rated because the park does not have an ethnography program, no traditionally associated peoples have been documented, and ethnography falls outside the park’s interpretive framework.

The park’s cultural landscape is in “good” condition according to this assessment, receiving the highest score of any of the five cultural resources categories evaluated. The park relies on a detailed cultural landscape report to guide management, and there is extensive coordination and cooperation between natural resources staff and maintenance staff to manage the landscape.

Continued monitoring of the park’s cultural landscape is important because various pressures (e.g., lack of funding and lack of a historic preservation specialist to maintain wooden structures within the landscape) could result in deterioration of the landscape’s integrity.

The condition of the park’s collection of more than 325,000 museum and archival items also received a “good” score in this assessment. Up-to-date plans guide management of the collections, which are cared for by a curator, a museum technician, and several volunteers. In addition, the park has an excellent collections storage facility.

Historic structures, history, and archaeology all received “fair” scores in this assessment. For historic structures, planning documents provide stewardship guidance, and staff work together to ensure structures are protected from potential threats such as falling trees or branches. Hiring a historic preservation specialist would bring much-needed expertise to the park. In addition, employees are needed to provide critical preventive maintenance for the site’s 50 historic structures, which include buildings, rock walls, and stone dams.

The park has a variety of internal research and planning documents to assist with historical context and interpretation, but completion of a historic resource study, which would comprehensively identify all cultural resources in the park, is an important goal the park would like to achieve.

A lack of research and a lack of resources to enable the park to provide proactive preservation strategies largely influenced the score in the archaeology category. Overall, funding and staffing shortages at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site prevent park staff from accomplishing all the cultural resources planning work they would like to do, and while the park does a good job protecting resources, overcoming these shortages is a challenge.

The park’s natural resources include many different types of habitats that contribute to the diversity of both plant and animal species. Prior surveys of the park have documented more than 500 vascular plant species and 14 distinct ecological plant assemblages. One of these, the granitic dome outcrop assemblage, is considered globally rare and is a focus of many park management efforts.

This assessment did not rate the overall condition of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site’s natural resources because only 36 percent of the information required by the Center for State of the Parks assessment methodology was available. Based on the available information, challenges to the park’s

natural resources include invasive species’ impacts on rare habitats and native species as well as adjacent land development that could affect water quality and scenic views.

This report describes park resources and summarizes resource conditions.

THE LEGACY OF CARL SANDBURG

Best known for his poetry, Carl Sandburg was also a famous biographer and social critic. Often referred to as a poet of the people, Sandburg had humble beginnings as the son of Swedish immigrants. Born in Galesburg, Illinois, on January 6, 1878, he attended school until the eighth grade, when the economic downturn of the 1890s forced him to go to work to help his family. He held a variety of jobs in Galesburg, such as a milk wagon driver, a barbershop porter, and a scene-shifter at a local theater. When finally his desire for adventure became too strong, in June 1897, Sandburg left home to travel around the United States. He hopped a train to Kansas where he spent time as a farm laborer. He also worked as a coal heaver in Omaha and a hotel servant in Denver. He did anything that allowed him to spend time observing people and learning about this America with which he had become so fascinated. He continued to strive to understand this country that attracted so many types of very different people, all of whom wanted to call themselves “Americans.” He later wrote, “I was meeting fellow travelers and fellow Americans. What they were doing to my heart and mind, my personality, I couldn’t say then nor later and be certain.”

In April 1898, Sandburg enlisted in Company C of the Sixth Infantry Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers to fight in the Spanish-American War. After participating in the invasion of Guanica, Puerto Rico, on July 25, 1898, and spending eight months in the military, he headed back to the United States, where once again he found himself too curious to stay anywhere for long. He spent two weeks at West

(Continues on page 10.)

Carl Sandburg, pictured here circa 1918, traveled widely and experienced much during his lifetime.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

KEY FINDINGS

Raising goats was Paula Sandburg's passion. Here she receives an award from Colonel Frank J. Vida at the 1957 Western Carolina Dairy Goat Association Show. Further research into her goat farm operation would enhance interpretation of the park's barn complex area.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



- Although significant planning documents exist to guide management of historic structures, cultural landscapes, and museum and archival collections, and various resource assessments exist as well, one key study has not occurred. The park lacks funds to complete a historic resource study for Carl Sandburg Home, which would identify and evaluate the park's cultural resources within historic contexts and provide data for resource management and interpretation. Park staff recognize that this study is needed, but they have not requested funds to complete one due to other competing priorities. A historic resource study would be very useful for planning, interpretation, and discovering new ways to continue to ensure the park and the Sandburg story remain relevant to the public.
- Historic structure reports for several structures (e.g., Main House, Swedish House, and Chicken House) have recently been completed, providing exceedingly valuable information to park managers. Developing historic structure reports for the barn complex would provide better guidance for the preservation and interpretation of the barn structures, and in turn would allow visitors to better understand and enjoy the farm's operations. In addition, the Buck House—which was most likely an overseer's house at one time and may be the oldest structure at the park—would also benefit from a historic structure report as well as any necessary archaeological work.
- An archaeological overview and assessment of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site indicates that undeveloped parts of the park should be surveyed for significant sites (including prehistoric ones) that may exist. A systematic survey of such resources would allow park staff to better understand and manage sensitive archaeological resources. Currently, the park promotes the protection of unknown sites by allowing them to remain in situ.
- The park lacks adequate staffing to best preserve its 50 historic structures and archival collections that include photographs, newspaper clippings, sound recordings, letters, and more. The addition of a historic preservation specialist with expertise in historic woodworking would provide the specialized experience required to adequately care for historic structures, while the addition of an archivist would allow the park to re-catalog archival materials in order to



The museum and archival collections at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site include more than 325,000 items, such as these books written by Sandburg.

better record and preserve these objects and make them more accessible to researchers.

- While park staff have recorded oral histories of former park employees, Carl Sandburg Home does not have a comprehensive administrative history. This document could provide a central depository of institutional memory for the park that could assist in future planning and decision making. In addition, further research into other aspects of the Sandburgs' lives, such as Mrs. Sandburg and her dairy goat farm's operation, would enhance interpretation of the barn complex area.
- At Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, staff focus on the landscape as a whole, striving to connect the Main House, the barn complex, the naturalized landscape, and the surrounding woods into a "small village" in order to present the landscape to visitors the holistic way Sandburg himself saw it. According to the park's cultural landscape report, the best way to preserve the appearance and functioning of the cultural landscape during the Sandburgs' period of residence is to restore the park to a less-manicured state. Park staff have begun to manage the landscape in this way, but doing so requires increased interpretation, which the park has the ability to provide only on a limited basis.
- The park needs funds to update its wildlands fire management plan in concert with park neighbors.

Point before returning to Galesburg and enrolling in Lombard College. Though he was an attentive student—becoming the editor-in-chief of the college’s newspaper, an editor of the *Lombard Review*, and an editor of the school’s yearbook *The Cannibal*—after four years he did not have enough credits in any one subject area to get a degree. His pursuits attracted the attention of Professor Phillip Green Wright, founder of the Poor Writers’ Club—of which Sandburg was an active member—who became a powerful mentor to the young author. Despite the positive influences at Lombard, Sandburg left the college in 1903 without a degree.

He wrote and published his first book of poetry, *In Reckless Ecstasy*, in 1904 on Wright’s basement press. Wright printed two more volumes for Sandburg, *Incidentals* in 1907 and *The Complaint of a Rose* the next year, and continued to encourage Carl’s development as a writer. Sandburg wandered his way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he joined the Social Democratic Party as an organizer. There, he met Lillian “Paula” Steichen in 1907, whom he won over with his poetry and married a year later. Their marriage was founded on two shared beliefs. The first was to enjoy the simple things in life and to eschew luxury. The second was a deep support they had for one another, a support that was reflected throughout their lives.

As yet unknown in most literary circles, Sandburg’s fame began to grow when several of his poems were published in the nationally known and widely circulated *Poetry* magazine in 1914. For these poems, including the quintessential poem “Chicago,” Carl won the Helen Haire Levinson Prize. His next book, *Chicago Poems*, published in 1916, catapulted him onto the international literary scene.

The Sandburgs moved to Elmhurst, Illinois—a suburb of Chicago—in 1919. There, he worked as a labor reporter for the *Chicago Daily News* (reporting on subjects such as unsafe working conditions and the lack of child labor laws). His analysis of the 1919 Chicago race riots solidified

his status as a thoughtful and serious social critic. During this period, he also published several books, including the wildly popular children’s book *Rootabaga Stories*, American fairy tales originally written for his daughters, in 1922. Because of the success of these whimsical tales, Sandburg’s publisher suggested he write a biography of Abraham Lincoln for children. Sandburg agreed, but after three years of research, he produced not a children’s book, but a two-volume, very thorough biography of the American president for adults. This work, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*, also gave Sandburg financial success, allowing him and his growing family to relocate to the Michigan dunes in 1930. Carl won his first Pulitzer Prize for his second biographical work of Abraham Lincoln, the four-volume *The War Years*, in 1940.

By 1945, the Sandburg family had grown to include not only three daughters, but an entire herd of his wife’s prize-winning dairy goats. The family needed a space better suited to both Carl’s writing and Paula Sandburg’s farming. Paula found such a place in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The family’s new home, Connemara, was a pre-Civil War era estate with plenty of land for both children and goats. Connemara contained more than 200 acres of grasslands, ponds, and wooded lakes, natural features allowed to grow freely by the Sandburgs, who appreciated long hours lounging on and walking through the grounds. Paula Sandburg’s priority was her goat herd, and pruning, mowing, weeding, and the removal of dead trees and branches came in a distant second, attended to only as time allowed. The Main House on the estate is a Greek Revival-style building that Mrs. Sandburg significantly remodeled to suit the family’s lifestyle. Of the site, Sandburg remarked, “What a hell of a baronial estate for an old Socialist.”

While living at Flat Rock, Sandburg continued to write. He received his second Pulitzer Prize for his book of poetry titled *Complete Poems* in 1951. Other works written while living



Performers from the Flat Rock Playhouse present Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories* and other pieces in the park's amphitheater during the summers. Eastern National funds these free public performances.

on the estate included his novel *Remembrance Rock*, several books of poetry and prose, and two autobiographies, *Always the Young Strangers* and *Prairie-Town Boy*.

During his time at Connemara, Carl also won a Grammy Award in 1959 for Best Performance – Documentary or Spoken Word (other than comedy) for his recording of Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" with the New York Philharmonic. He also collaborated on a photographic exhibit with Paula's brother Edward Steichen called "The Family of Man" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 1955. In 1959, he became the first private citizen to be invited to speak in a joint session of Congress since 1874; he was asked to honor the 150th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Carl Sandburg the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, for his contributions to American literary heritage.

Though Carl Sandburg was a champion of

the working class and an internationally acclaimed author, his poetry and prose are slowly waning from the public eye. Park staff are aware that Sandburg's relevance is paramount to the message of the park, and they work hard to keep Sandburg and his literature visible. A comprehensive, curriculum-based education program has been developed for middle school students that includes a wide variety of resource materials available on the park's website. Plans are under way to develop a similar program for elementary school students. Key funding for the park's education program comes from the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara. In addition, the Flat Rock Playhouse performs selections of Sandburg's works during the summers, and the park enjoys significant support from the surrounding communities. Local volunteers help to interpret Sandburg's life through house tours and farm demonstrations, keeping his story relevant and dynamic for today's visitors.



Pastures, hayfields, ponds, mountains, and forest are part of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. Park lands also feature 50 historic structures, including the Sandburgs' home.

CULTURAL RESOURCES— PROTECTING THE LEGACY OF CARL SANDBURG

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site encompasses 264 acres of land that include pastures, ponds, two small mountains, and five miles of hiking trails, as well as the highly visible and frequently visited Main House (the Sandburg residence), the barn complex—which houses the descendants of Mrs. Sandburg's award-winning Chikaming goat herd—and more than three dozen other historic structures for a total of 50 structures. The park's general management plan addresses the needs of the

park's resources, and a new long-range interpretive plan, currently in draft form, will allow the park to expand upon its interpretive messages and help to maintain the cultural and literary relevance of Carl Sandburg and his works.

HISTORY—FURTHER RESEARCH WOULD ADD TO EXISTING FOUNDATION OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

Park staff use a variety of internal research and planning documents (e.g., archaeological overview and assessment, cultural landscape report, and historic structure reports), as well as outside research (e.g., *Carl Sandburg: A Biography* by Penelope Niven), to guide historical interpre-

tation and resource preservation at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. A research library housed at the park's headquarters contains many books on the life of Carl Sandburg. Paula Steichen, granddaughter of Carl and Paula Sandburg, wrote a guidebook for the National Park Service called *Carl Sandburg Home, Handbook 117*, which was published in 1982. This handbook provides a succinct insider's look into Carl and Paula Sandburg's lives and what life was like at Connemara.

While these and other documents contain valuable historical information, the park would benefit from an administrative history to document park management over time, as well as a historic resource study that would comprehensively identify all significant and potentially significant cultural resources within the park. This latter study would be a useful tool that could assist staff in further planning efforts, resource interpretation, and finding additional ways to make the park and Carl Sandburg's life relevant to the public.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE—
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND A HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST WOULD BOLSTER RESOURCE PROTECTION WORK

At Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, the 50 historic structures included in the park's single cultural landscape bring to life the estate as the Sandburgs knew it. The most prominent and visited structure is the Main House, which sits atop a tall, grassy hill visible from the visitor parking lot and is currently in "good" condition according to the park's 2002 list of classified structures. The Greek Revival-style structure, built from locally quarried stone during 1838 and 1839, was designed by Charles F. Reichardt, a Prussian-born architect who helped found the American Institute of Architecture. When Carl and Paula Sandburg bought the home in 1945, they renovated the kitchen—which at the time was in a separate building—into a garage, constructed an indoor



The Sandburgs renovated much of their Greek Revival-style home. Their work included building an indoor kitchen (the original kitchen was in a separate building). Today the room looks much as it would have appeared during the Sandburgs' residence.

kitchen, built a bathroom on the second floor, remodeled the first floor, and added numerous bookshelves throughout the interior of the house to contain the thousands of books in the Sandburgs' collection. Carl used one of the rooms on the top floor in the house as his office in which he did the bulk of his writing. The main floor contained an office he used for correspondence and business, and his wife had her office for the goat business in an adjacent room. They used the first floor for storage, and in the winter, they kept kid goats there to keep them warm and acclimate them to humans.

Today, the first floor of the Main House serves as a Park Service visitor center, a gift shop, and a movie-viewing room, and guided tours of the house begin there. This tour, the only way to visit the home and view the thousands of objects on display there, takes visitors through most of the house: the living room, dining room, and bedrooms. Guests are accompanied at all times by a ranger or volunteer who offers interpretation of museum objects, furnishings, and daily activities, as well as the fascinating history of the Sandburgs.

There are 49 additional historic structures at the park, in various conditions as stated in the park's list of classified structures; 31 are in "good" condition, 16 are in "fair" condition, and only two are in "poor" condition. Seven structures are actively used for storage, living quarters for park staff and the Writer-in-Residence, or interpretation. Besides the Main House, other heavily visited historic structures include those in the barn complex: Goat Barn, Horse Barn, Milk House, Equipment Shed, Cow Shed, Buck Kid Quarters, Isolation Quarters, Corn Crib, Buck Pen, and Barn Garage. The park maintains the buildings as a working dairy farm and actively interprets it for the public. The small herd of goats housed there is directly descended from Mrs. Sandburg's own herd, and visitors can interact with them and learn about their history and care from park staff and volunteers. The barn complex is a key component of

the park's cultural landscape, but it does not have a historic structure report to guide maintenance, preservation, and interpretation. Developing historic structure reports for the barn complex and the Buck House, a wood-framed building that was probably once an overseer's house and is likely the oldest structure in the park, are top priorities for park staff, who are actively pursuing funding for these projects. These documents will allow park managers to better prioritize and address the needs of these historic structures. Park staff have also identified the need for a historic resource study and Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record documentation—National Park Service programs designed to record historic structures through measured drawings, archival photographs, and written reports—as necessary in order to best preserve and protect these important resources.

Though the estate was heavily manicured in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Sandburgs preferred to allow the vegetation of Connemara and the surrounding lands to grow unhindered. Because writing was Carl's first priority and Mrs. Sandburg remained dedicated to her dairy goats, the couple maintained their estate and its landscaping only as time allowed. As a result, the grass grew tall in the front yard and pastures, driveways remained cluttered with branches and fallen leaves, and vines grew on the sides of the Main House and over most fences. Instead of spending their time taming the landscape, the Sandburgs enjoyed walking the trails throughout the property, including the Memminger Trail that meanders its way up Glassy Mountain, a 2,783-foot hill offering stunning views of the surrounding area.

Resource managers at the park today struggle to balance this preferred "less-manicured state" of the park that the Sandburgs implemented with public perceptions of what a national park should look like and how it should be maintained. Park staff believe that the best way to interpret the cultural landscape the Sandburgs

left behind is by restoring the grounds with historic accuracy, and they are currently pursuing a less-manicured approach to landscape maintenance. Further interpretation of this process and its goals would allow the public to better understand why the park is pursuing this management strategy. However, the park's interpretive team has one permanent position that has been vacant since September 2007. Additional funds are needed to support the park's educational and interpretive operations.

Another challenge facing cultural resource managers is the struggle to maintain historic structures. Shortly after moving to his new estate in Flat Rock, Carl Sandburg remarked that "we didn't buy a farm... we bought a small village." Carl Sandburg Home's cultural resource managers work diligently to preserve this small village and its beautiful surroundings. However, the park lacks specialized staff (e.g., historic preservation specialist or cultural landscape architect), maintenance staff, and adequate funds to make timely repairs and conduct preventative maintenance. Despite the fact that almost three-fourths of the park's \$923,700 budget is dedicated to historic preservation, there remains a total of more than \$1.4 million in deferred maintenance costs. In addition, while the park has access to historic architects from the Park Service's Southeast Regional Office, there is a need for a historic preservation specialist on staff at the park who is conversant in restoring and working with wood, especially from a historical perspective, as most of the historic structures preserved and interpreted at the park are made of wood. Having such a specialist available would allow the park to better preserve its cultural resources and provide park visitors with a better understanding of the Sandburgs and their history.

While the cultural landscape at the Carl Sandburg Home, which includes the historic structures, gardens, and goat herd, is currently in "good" condition, park staff must remain vigilant to maintain its integrity. Keeping the



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landscape in this condition requires constant diligence to remove invasive non-native plants, respond to severe weather and increased air and water pollution from growing regional development, and cope with a lack of funding to adequately and continuously protect resources. The park's staff works to provide professional care for the landscape and its structures, but any of the aforementioned threats could quickly change the status and integrity of the site.

The Sandburgs enjoyed walking the paths throughout their property, and today's visitors continue to enjoy them. In fact, many visitors come to the park regularly to hike on the trails.

The barn complex houses descendants of Mrs. Sandburg's goats and contains the equipment needed to maintain a working farm.



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MUSEUM COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES—NEW FACILITY PROTECTS MUSEUM COLLECTION; ARCHIVES NEED TO BE CORRECTLY CATALOGUED

Though most park visitors take time to enjoy the Main House, the barn complex, and the miles of peaceful nature trails that traverse the estate, the Carl Sandburg Home also includes another significant resource that visitors might not be aware of: the museum and archival collection. The collection at the park is one of the largest in the National Park Service's Southeast Region, with 325,289 items; 133,731 are archival. A majority of these objects are from the Sandburgs' personal collection, donated to the National Park Service by Paula after Carl's death. The collection includes furniture, dishes, and kitchen items, as well as awards, magazines, musical instruments, games, clothing, and other personal objects. The archival holdings include letters, telegrams, magazine and newspaper clippings, maps, photographs, motion pictures, videotapes, and sound recordings. Also highly visible is the book collection that contains more

than 12,000 volumes, many on display in the Main House. Care for these delicate objects is on a continuous five-year cycle during which a museum technician cleans and preserves the books and performs general housekeeping in the areas in which they are stored.

On the tour of the Main House, visitors can walk among approximately 52,000 period objects, each placed in accordance to how the Sandburgs lived in and used the home. A thorough historic furnishings report provides extensive detail and research on the home and its contents and their locations. Visitors can also explore the equipment needed to maintain a working farm in the barn complex area, which helps to illustrate how Mrs. Sandburg lived, worked, and cared for her goats. Some items, not on public display, are stored in the Buck House and woodshed; park staff have not yet inventoried all of these objects, though they are largely architectural in nature, such as window frames and wood pieces used in historic preservation projects.

One of the risks to the museum and archival

collection applies to the pieces stored in the Main House, woodshed, and Buck House. These structures, though in “good” condition themselves, do not contain heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems to adequately protect the objects. In addition, items stored in the Buck House and woodshed are often exposed to the elements, such as dust and humidity. In the Main House, park staff have developed a comprehensive approach to monitor and manually regulate heat and humidity levels in the house on a daily basis via ventilation and attic fans, dehumidifiers, and other methods and adjust for fluctuations as needed.

The majority of the Carl Sandburg Home’s collection can be found in the site’s state-of-the-art Museum Preservation Center, a 4,000-square-foot building that is fully protected from ultraviolet light and regulated for heat and humidity. Originally built in 1994, the center’s storage cabinets were renovated in 2008 and 2009, and the center now contains high-tech compact shelving to maximize available storage

space. Here, a museum curator, a museum technician, and several trained volunteers clean, record, and organize the collections and individual objects. The objects stored in this facility are well protected.

One of the greatest goals for the park’s museum and archival collection is to correct inaccurate cataloging. The Carl Sandburg Home’s archival collection includes more than 130,000 items, but these items are not cataloged or described according to established archival principles. Instead, they were recorded as museum objects in accordance with museum principles. While this type of cataloging meets National Park Service museum standards, it does not adequately protect and record objects as documents. Archival documents are fundamentally different from museum objects in that each archival item is often directly related to many other items and is an integral part of the whole collection. This interrelatedness guides how archives should be organized and housed, and often an archive, regardless of the number

KAT BYERLY



The park has a state-of-the-art Museum Preservation Center that features compact shelving to maximize available storage space.

of objects or documents in it, is cataloged as a single item. When cataloging museum objects, on the other hand, each object is an independent entry in the catalog. Because of these differences in cataloging styles, the incorrect way in which Carl Sandburg Home's archives have been organized impedes the creation of finding aids and makes it difficult to make this collection available to both internal and external researchers. A trained archivist on staff dedicated to this task would be a valuable addition and could ensure the educational and research potential of the collection is achieved.

ARCHAEOLOGY—PARK LIKELY HARBORS MANY UNKNOWN RESOURCES

Carl Sandburg Home is a single archaeological site with 53 subsites, each associated with a historic structure, such as a building foundation. Over the past 40 years, there have been several limited archaeological surveys conducted within the park. Largely, these surveys focused on sites surrounding structures. In 1975, archaeologists excavated four historic structures that are still standing today, including the Buck House. The team excavated a large amount of historic artifacts from the Buck House, and they were the first to propose that the site was the earliest structure built on the estate. Unfortunately, the documentation from these excavations is entirely inadequate: the original field notes do not exist, the original survey report lacks details, and the archaeologists refer to the recovered artifacts only in very ambiguous and general terms.

The park strives to protect archaeological resources—both those that are known and those that have yet to be discovered. Additional archaeological surveys have been completed in the years following the 1975 excavations. Prior to beginning work on park development projects, archaeologists conducted two excavations in 1976 to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements. In 1979, the park embarked on projects

to stabilize the Garage and install a water tank in the park. Prior to beginning these projects, archaeologists conducted two surveys: the first exposed the Garage foundations in order to best prepare them for preservation, and the second was a pedestrian survey to locate any potential sites that may be disturbed by construction. No artifacts were recovered. Seventeen shovel tests were done in 1997 along a newly identified section of the Memminger Trail, but they did not uncover any artifacts. Other work in the late 1990s included a shovel test by the Southeast Archeological Center prior to the installation of a wastewater line; no artifacts were uncovered. In 2007, archaeological tests were done prior to construction of a new visitor comfort station; again, no artifacts were discovered.

An archaeological overview and assessment was completed in the park in 1998. This document assesses previous archaeological research and provides recommendations for future directions. However, it does not address all known resources and it alludes to the existence of other possible sites. For example, despite the lack of physical evidence the archaeological overview and assessment describes how American Indians could have used the area throughout several time periods for hunting and trading, and indicates that the lack of evidence of American Indian habitation stems more from a lack of pertinent survey work than from any real lack of sites. The overview and assessment includes suggestions for undertaking systematic shovel testing in the park and conducting additional surveys in order to fully identify and protect resources and potential sites.

Largely, archaeological sites within Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site and information gained through surveys are not interpreted for the visiting public. However, park staff do emphasize that because their compliance program is strong and many sites remain in situ, many archaeological resources remain protected.



NATURAL RESOURCES—PARK PROVIDES REFUGE FOR RARE ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND EXTENSIVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

This assessment did not assign scores for the condition of natural resources at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site because of an overall lack of data due to the site’s primary focus as a cultural resource, though natural resource conditions were examined to the extent possible.

NATURAL LANDSCAPES—PARK STAFF STRIVE TO PROTECT RESOURCES

In addition to its well-known historic grounds, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site includes 210 acres of woodland and at least 539 species of vascular plants and 14 ecological communities. For a park of its small size, Carl Sandburg Home encompasses immense ecological diversity in a rapidly developing area of North Carolina.

The park’s staff has made efforts to protect resources both within the park and within an adjacent residential area. In 2005, the park created a fuel break—a line of bare ground meant to stop the spread of fire—along the

Woodlands surround the Carl Sandburg Home. The park itself includes 210 acres of woodland, at least 539 species of vascular plants, and 14 ecological communities.



The park is home to globally rare granite dome outcroppings, which are small areas of exposed granite that feature short-lived plants and lichens that are resistant to dry conditions.

south boundary of the park. Before creating the fire break, the park held several public meetings to discuss this idea as well as the park's fire management plan. In order to publicize the meetings and encourage local community members' participation, park staff created special mailings and hand-delivered letters to the homes of residences bordering the park. Meetings were well attended, and this example illustrates not only the effort park staff put into maintaining an effective compliance and maintenance program, but also the strong relationship the park shares with its surrounding communities.

In addition to the gardens present in the residential areas in the northern end of the park, the Sandburgs planted swaths of hemlock trees between the Front Lake and the Main House, along the drive. Because they are integral parts of the cultural landscape, the park's staff attempts to maintain healthy trees through constant monitoring and treatment. However, hemlock wooly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale, non-native pests first detected in the park in 2001, pose serious threats to the hemlock population. Beginning in 2002, the park began treating and carefully monitoring the condition of the hemlock trees within the park in order to better protect them against these and other potential pathogens. Today, all hemlock trees greater than 4 inches tall are mapped using a global positioning system (GPS), treated if necessary, and recorded to facilitate monitoring and protection efforts.

SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY—RARE PLANTS AND ANIMALS POPULATE THE PARK'S VARIOUS HABITATS

The park contains various habitats that contribute to the overall number of both plant and animal species found in the park. For example, researchers have found that the variety of habitats—pasture, pond, streams, gardens, etc.—located in the northern region of the park have created the perfect environment for a

diverse assemblage of bird species. The park's 2004 breeding bird survey identified 53 species of birds during the breeding season. In addition, there are eight species of bats found in the park—an especially high number for a park smaller than 300 acres—including small-footed bat (*Myotis liebii*), one of the rarest species on the East Coast.

While there is remarkable animal diversity at the Carl Sandburg Home—including at least 28 species of reptiles and amphibians, 17 species of terrestrial mammals, and 14 species of fish, in addition to the birds and bats—the park is better known for its impressive plant diversity. In addition to more than 500 vascular plant species, plant surveys have identified 14 distinct ecological plant assemblages, one of which—the granite dome outcroppings—is considered globally rare and is a focus of many management efforts. The vegetation associated with these granite dome outcrops—small areas of granite largely free of trees and other large plants—is typified by short-lived plants and lichens that are resistant to dry conditions. In many ways, the plants found on granite dome outcrops are more typical of desert plants than plants of the region.

The granite domes were much beloved by Carl Sandburg, who used them as place to write, think, and reflect. Today, many visitor trails run near these rock habitats and there are several heavily visited historic structures in the vicinity. There is evidence of significant soil erosion and detrimental social trails—unofficial trails created by visitors—around the most visited dome outcroppings. The park is considering posting interpretive signs advising visitors to stay on designated trails and avoid trampling sensitive vegetation.

These rare habitats also suffer from invasive species, including Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Asiatic dayflower (*Commelina communis*), among others. These plants were intentionally planted as ornamental parts of the landscape, but they have now spread to threaten

the outcrop vegetation. Considerable time is devoted to controlling these species. How to deal with non-native species, some of which are invasive, is one of the fundamental challenges facing the park in its mission to maintain natural resources while preserving the cultural landscape. The Sandburgs, as well as previous owners (e.g. the Smyths and Memmingers), kept gardens around the Main House that included flowers and other plants that were not native to North Carolina. The park maintains these gardens much as they were during the Sandburgs' residence in order to best interpret the Sandburg story for the public, and park staff are vigilant in preventing particularly aggressive species from invading and degrading the park's important and rare ecological habitats. The delicate nature of many of these assemblages requires park personnel to use mechanical, chemical, and manual methods to control invasive species.

AQUATIC AND AIR RESOURCES— ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Aquatic resources at the Carl Sandburg Home are of particular concern to park staff. Such resources include springs, streams, and ponds, as well as the ecological communities that are based around them. Though current data provided by the National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program indicate that these resources are in good condition, there is rising concern about increased pollution. For example, the stream feeding the Front Lake, the largest lake in the park and located east of the Main House next to the main parking area, originates within the park's boundaries but flows outside the park and through a residential neighborhood before returning to the park. There is some concern that by flowing through residential areas the stream will collect common pollutants like lawn fertilizers or pet waste and transport those pollutants into the park. A 2008 report prepared by the Park

Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program states that fecal coliform monitoring in Front Lake should continue because past data show levels higher than what would naturally be present.

There is also concern about acid rain, which is linked to air pollution but has an effect on park lands and waters. Because the park's water resources originate primarily from the granitic underground aquifer underlying most of the region, the water has a low capacity to neutralize acid precipitation that forms when airborne pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides react with water, oxygen, and other chemicals in the atmosphere. In bodies of water with low buffering capacities, acidic precipitation has the potential to drastically affect water quality by reducing the pH. This change in pH could make park waters unsuitable for some of the flora and fauna that currently inhabit them. Significant acid deposition has been detected at monitoring stations between 35 and 55 miles away from the park and could indicate a regional pattern.

Finally, ozone is of concern at the Carl Sandburg Home. Ozone is not measured directly at the park (the closest monitoring station is about 20 miles northwest in Asheville), but data at the regional level showed ozone levels that exceeded Environmental Protection Agency standards in the late 1990s. At this time, there is no evidence that elevated ozone is negatively affecting the park's natural resources; however, the risk is considered moderate and the Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program has elected to monitor ozone as one of its regional vital signs.

Pollution from residential development and acid rain could be affecting park waters, so continued water quality monitoring at the park and nearby sites is important.





Dedicated volunteers provide interpretive tours, help care for the goats, assist with museum collection care, and contribute many other services.

STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE—LOCAL VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE INVALUABLE SUPPORT

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site has a relatively small staff of 12 year-round employees, supplemented with additional summer hires, and the park benefits greatly from an engaged local community. Many people from Flat Rock and other nearby towns not only enjoy the history, recreation, and tranquility that the park has to offer but also spend large amounts of time giving back to the legacy it protects. There are more than 130 regular volun-

teers, 90 percent of whom give at least two to four hours of their time each week. These volunteers provide interpretive tours of the Main House, help care for the goats, and assist with the museum collection, park library, and trails, among other activities.

Many community organizations participate in activities at the park. Youth groups, such as the Boy Scouts, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Flat Rock Exceptional Sandburg Helpers (FRESH), are actively engaged in park activities. The Flat Rock Playhouse performs Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories* each summer in the park's amphitheater for visitors and members of the local communities. Eastern National, which

operates the park's bookstore, funds the performances.

Carl Sandburg Home's friends group, Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara, is very active in the park and raises \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually for park programs. Most recently, Friends of Carl Sandburg helped plan and fund the new Writer-in-Residence program, which will begin in March 2010. This program will allow writers to produce creative works while living at the park for three weeks and to participate in a self-designed public service project and other community outreach projects.

One of the greatest concerns for the Sandburg Home is the potential loss of relevance of the author and his works going out of print. Park staff fear that soon students will not read his poetry in school, that children will not know the *Rootabaga Stories*, and that the Sandburgs' social activism and eclectic histories will be lost to time and the modern world. The Writer-in-Residence program, as well as the extensive efforts by the park to reach out to local communities and share with them the lives of the Sandburgs, is an attempt to continue the spirit and joie de vivre of Carl Sandburg.

In May 2008, a successful proposal by Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), and Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC) persuaded Congress to pass legislation to increase the size of Carl Sandburg Home by 115 acres. Once purchased from willing sellers or protected via a conservation easement, this newly acquired land will preserve scenic views, beautiful landscapes, and high ecological diversity that were enjoyed by the Sandburgs. Five of these acres will provide the land on which the park will someday build a new, much-needed visitor center and visitor parking lot. At this time, the park does not have a separate visitor center. Instead, visitor services are provided on the first floor of the Main House. The current visitor center parking lot fills up on weekends, during the summer and fall, and during special events, so sometimes visitors must park at the Flat Rock

Playhouse. This additional parking is available only when it is not being used by playhouse patrons. The additional acreage, when acquired, will also increase the existing trail network, which is popular with the local community. Many visitors come to the park regularly to hike on the trails. This use has been increasing in recent years, and park staff recognize it as an important component in maintaining a strong relationship with the community and perpetuating Carl Sandburg's legacy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- **Learn about Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site by visiting the park's website: www.nps.gov/carl.** Posted online are the park's general management plan, historic structures reports, a virtual museum exhibit, and a list of special events and interpretive programs. Also available on the park's website is a wide array of resource materials for teachers, youth leaders, and other educators.
- **Participate in "Experience Your National Park."** Contact the park at 828.693.4178 to request more information on this one-day, in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at park stewardship.
- **Support or become a member of a group helping to protect the parks,** such as the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara (www.friendsofcarlsandburg.org) or the National Parks Conservation Association (www.npca.org/support_npca).
- **Volunteer.** Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, contact the park at 828.693.4178 or visit online: www.nps.gov/carl/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.
- **Become an NPCA activist and learn about legislative initiatives affecting parks.** When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a monthly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting www.npca.org/takeaction.



APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

To determine the condition of known cultural and natural resources at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site and other national parks, the National Parks Conservation Association developed a resource assessment and ratings process. The assessment methodology can be found online at NPCA's Center for State of the Parks website: www.npca.org/state-oftheparks.

Researchers gather available information from a variety of research, monitoring, and background sources in a number of critical categories. For natural resources, more than 120 discrete elements associated with environmental quality, biotic health, and ecosystem integrity are assessed. Environmental quality and biotic health measures address air, water, soils, and climatic change conditions, as well as their influences and human-related influences on plants and animals. Ecosystems measures address the extent, species composition, and interrelationships of organisms with each other and the physical environment. For Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, only 36 percent of the information required by the methodology was available, so natural resource conditions were not rated.

The scores for cultural resources are determined based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* and other Park Service resource management policies.

Stewardship capacity refers to the Park



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Interacting with the goats makes for a memorable experience for young park visitors.

Service's ability to protect park resources and generally includes discussion of topics such as funding and staffing levels, park planning documents, resource education, and external support.

For this report, researchers collected data and prepared a paper that summarized the results. The draft underwent peer review and was also reviewed by staff at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

NPCA's Center for State of the Parks represents the first time that such assessments have been undertaken for units of the National Park System. Comments on the program's methods are welcome.

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For more information about the
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Lassen Volcanic National Park (CA)
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park (OR)
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (various)
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (MT)
Longfellow National Historic Site (MA)
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Nez Perce National Historical Park (WA, ID, MT, OR)
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Stones River National Battlefield (TN)
Vicksburg National Military Park (MS)
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Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument
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