

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., July 2, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for a report from this Department on S. 3050, a bill to authorize the establishment of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

We recommend that the bill be enacted, with the minor perfecting amendment indicated below.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation or purchase with donated or appropriated funds, all or any part of the property at Flat Rock, North Carolina, where Carl Sandburg lived and worked during the last 20 years of his life, together with such adjacent or related property as the Secretary may deem necessary for establishment of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. The national historic site would be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).

The 241-acre Sandburg farm, "Connemara," where Carl Sandburg lived approximately the last 20 years of his life, and where he died at the age of 89, on July 22, 1967, would be acquired and developed as a national historic site under S. 3050. A statement setting forth the historical and cultural significance of the Carl Sandburg farm is enclosed.

The proposed national historic site will also include the 6-acre site of the Flat Rock Playhouse, which is run by the Vagabond School of Drama, Inc., a non-profit theatrical organization. The Flat Rock Playhouse has been recognized by the North Carolina General Assembly as the State Theater of North Carolina. See Joint Resolution No. 59, Session Laws of North Carolina, 1961. We do not expect to acquire this site. We anticipate entering into a cooperative agreement with the theatrical organization in order to utilize its facilities and talent in the interpretation of the Carl Sandburg property.

We believe that about 32 acres of land adjacent to "Connemara" should be acquired to develop access roads, overlooks, and visitor service facilities in order to provide for visitor needs without encroaching upon the simple pastoral atmosphere of the farm. About 108,000 visitors are expected in the first year after establishment of the national historic site.

Land acquisition costs for the proposed national historic site are estimated to be \$415,000. Development costs for the national historic site are expected to be about \$1,020,000, all of which are programmed over the first 5 years after its establishment. Annual operating and maintenance costs are expected to be about \$120,000 after the fifth year. A staff of 10 permanent and 4.5 man-years of seasonal employees is planned.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments met on April 16-18, 1968, and heartily approved the Carl Sandburg farm as a national historic site.

Carl Sandburg lived from 1912 to 1945 in Chicago, and he had other "homes" as well. The chief reason that the Sandburgs moved to North Carolina was the opportunity to engage in farming activity. We believe, therefore, that "Carl Sandburg Farm National Historic Site" would more appropriately emphasize the nature of this site, which we propose to maintain as a working farm.

We recommend, therefore, that in the title of the bill and on page 2, line 1, the word "Home" be changed to "Farm".

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.

CARL SANDBURG FARM, NORTH CAROLINA

Carl Sandburg was born January 6, 1878, in Galesburg, Illinois, a town of 15,000 residents. He died on July 22, 1967, at "Connemara," his western North Carolina farm and home since 1945.

His death at 89 closed a literary career of more than half a century and removed from the American scene one who sought to capture in his own life and works