

SINCLAIR LEWIS BOYHOOD HOME

812 Sinclair Lewis Avenue, Sauk Centre

Sinclair Lewis, one of the country's best-known and most widely read novelists of the early 20th century, lived here from 1885 until 1902. His novel *Main Street*, published in 1920, was based in part on boyhood impressions of Sauk Centre, a.k.a. "Gopher Prairie." *Main Street*, which satirized and exposed the smug provincialism of small town America, was followed by *Babbitt* and *Elmer Gantry*. In 1926 Lewis was offered the Pulitzer Prize for *Arrowsmith*, but refused the honor. In 1930 he was the first American to be given the Nobel Prize for literature. His boyhood home is open to the public.