

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <u>New Hampshire</u>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <u>Theme XX, Arts and Sciences, Subtheme Sculpture & Painting</u>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <u>The Saint-Gaudens Memorial</u>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <u>83</u>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <u>Cornish, New Hampshire, off State Route 12A</u>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <u>Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Inc., Cornish, N. H., William Platt, President</u>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

After Augustus Saint-Gaudens' death in 1907, the house, studios and grounds where the greatest American sculptor had lived and worked during the last 22 years of his life were retained by the sculptor's widow and son. To insure the permanent maintenance of the property as a cultural landmark, Mrs. Saint-Gaudens and Homer Saint-Gaudens deeded the property to a board of trustees and on February 26, 1919, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial was incorporated and chartered by the State of New Hampshire. To provide for the operation and maintenance of the Memorial, the sum of \$100,000 was raised, in great part through the Directors of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and by gifts from local persons interested in the preservation of the property. Additional land was added to protect the setting, and the road which gave access to it, from undesirable encroachment. The Memorial now contains a total of 83 acres.

The income from the endowment, plus membership dues, annual gifts from "guarantors," and admission fees of 50¢ per person, have enabled the Trustees to maintain the property and an annual gift from the American Academy of Arts and Letters has helped provide for the summer exhibitions of contemporary art. However, income has not been sufficient to permit needed improvements and development.

The principal features of the Memorial today are Aspet, the Saint-Gaudens home; the Little Studio which was his personal workshop, office and library; the New Studio and Art Gallery which houses casts of some of the sculptor's greatest works and provides space for the summer exhibitions; the formal gardens which are the setting for other notable reproductions, and the marble Temple with altar containing the sculptor's ashes.

The first floor of the home, with the exception of the modernized kitchen and pantries, is furnished in the period of its occupancy by the sculptor. Visitors to Aspet coming through the front door into the entrance hall may see the dining room, living room and parlor as they appeared in Saint-Gaudens' lifetime.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Homer Saint-Gaudens, ed., The Reminiscences of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (New York, 1913); William H. Child, History of the Town of Cornish, New Hampshire, With Genealogical Record, 1763-1910 (Concord, 1910?).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.I.A.B.S., etc.)

"Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Cornish New Hampshire", Area investigation Report by William R. Failor and Charles E. Shedd, Jr., National Park Service (1962)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <u>Good</u>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <u>Historic house & art exhibits</u>	13. DATE OF VISIT <u>11/17/61</u>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <u>Charles E. Shedd, Jr.</u>	15. TITLE <u>Historic Sites Historian</u>	16. DATE <u>4/19/62</u>	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE New Hampshire	NAME(S) OF SITE The Saint Gaudens Memorial
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7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION

A spiral stairway with wide landing leads to the second floor. The second floor has been remodeled to provide living quarters for a curator during the period when the property is open to the public, May 30 to October 15. The attic contains storage rooms and servants' quarters.

Leaving the house by way of the piazza the visitor may walk through the formal gardens behind the house, and enter the Little Studio. Here are displayed bronze and plaster casts of some of Saint-Gaudens' most noted works, in addition to an outstanding collection of his low-relief portraits. Here also, in a corner, are preserved the sculptor's desk and reference library. In drawers beneath the bookshelves are bundles of letters and papers saved by Saint-Gaudens. These deserve to be carefully examined and indexed to make them a useful source for research.

Displayed on the grounds during the summer are a cast of the seated Lincoln, and original base of the Farragut statue in New York's Madison Square. Strikingly displayed in an open-front shelter are sections of a plaster cast of the Shaw Memorial, donated to the Saint-Gaudens Memorial by the Albright Art Gallery of Buffalo.

There were 1,888 paid admissions to the Memorial in 1960.



The "Little Studio," the studio of August Saint-Gaudens at Cornish, New Hampshire.

November 17, 1961

National Park Service Photograph



"Aspet," The Saint-Gaudens Home, Cornish, New Hampshire

November 17, 1961

National Park Service Photograph



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Nps Photo by Richard Freer

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The home, studios, and gardens of an important American sculptor. The most productive and rewarding years of Augustus Saint-Gaudens were spent here. Many of his bas-reliefs, portraits, busts and reproductions are on display at the site.

Saint Gaudens
National Historic Site
New Hampshire

