

The
SAINT-GAUDENS
NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE





*Sculptor-in-Residence
at the Ravine Studio*

SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire consists of the home, gardens and studios of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), one of America's greatest sculptors. This was his summer residence from 1885-1897 and his permanent home from 1900 until his death in 1907.

"Aspet," the sculptor's home, was once an old inn along the stage road between Windsor, Vermont and Meriden, New Hampshire. During the summer of 1885, Saint-Gaudens began remodeling the house. He painted the brick walls white and added the spacious, columned porch on the west side. The original Saint-Gaudens furnishings are retained and reflect the character of the man and the tastes of his friends of the Cornish colony of artists.

Saint-Gaudens delighted in gardening, and the high hedges of pine and hemlock are the fruits of his labor. To your left is the white-columned **LITTLE STUDIO** painted in the sculptor's favorite colors: green, white and Pompeian red. This was Saint-Gaudens' personal workshop. As you enter the pergola (a columned trellis) and pass through the large doorway, directly above you is a copy of portions of the frieze from the Parthenon in Athens. Saint-Gaudens' interest in the classical Greek and Roman periods is manifested in the buildings and grounds in which he worked and lived. Inside the **LITTLE STUDIO** are many of his works, including a number of the delicately shaped low relief portraits for which he was particularly noted.

You may now return to the formal gardens, passing by the reflecting pool with its statue of Pan playing his pipes (a copy of an antique, late Greek garden figure). Within the garden is the **ADAMS MEMORIAL** a copy of the figure in Washington, D.C. This piece is considered one of Saint-Gaudens' most famous works. Henry Adams commissioned the memorial shortly after the death of his wife, Marion Hooper Adams, who died suddenly in 1885. Though many have aspired to give it a name, it remains universal in its anonymity.



Now, pass through the hedgerow at the rear of the gardens and turn right along the birch-lined lane. Within a few paces and to your right is the OLD BOWLING GREEN where the sculptor's family and friends played lawn bowls. In front of you is the SHAW MEMORIAL upon which Saint-Gaudens labored for fourteen years before achieving the effect he desired. The original bronze relief now stands on the Boston Common opposite the State House where it was unveiled in 1897. The commission was given by the State of Massachusetts in memory of Col. Robert G. Shaw who fell at Fort Wagner (Charleston Harbor) in 1863 while commanding the Fifty-fourth. (black volunteer) Massachusetts Regiment in an heroic assault.

Return to the lane and bear left across the expanse of lawn to the GALLERY with its atrium (central open court) and reflecting pool. On display here are more of the sculptor's works, including a copy of his

famous PURITAN. This studio stands near the site of the large studio, originally the workshop of Saint-Gaudens and his students and assistants, that was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1944.

Just outside the GALLERY, in the ellipse, is the FARRAGUT BASE, the original stone pedestal for Saint-Gaudens' first major commission, the monument to Admiral David Farragut in New York's Madison Square. The base was designed by Saint-Gaudens in collaboration with his friend, famous architect, Stanford White. To the left of the FARRAGUT BASE is the PICTURE GALLERY where paintings and sculpture of other artists are exhibited during the visitor season. To continue, walk along a quiet path at the edge of the meadow, where you will come upon the RAVINE STUDIO. Here you will find an active sculptor's workshop, where Saint-Gaudens worked from time to time.

To reach the TEMPLE or final resting place of the sculptor and his family, you may return to the path along the edge of the meadow. The memorial is a replica in Vermont marble of the stage set designed by Saint-Gaudens' neighbors for a play presented in his honor in 1905, the masque of "The Gods And The Golden Bowl".

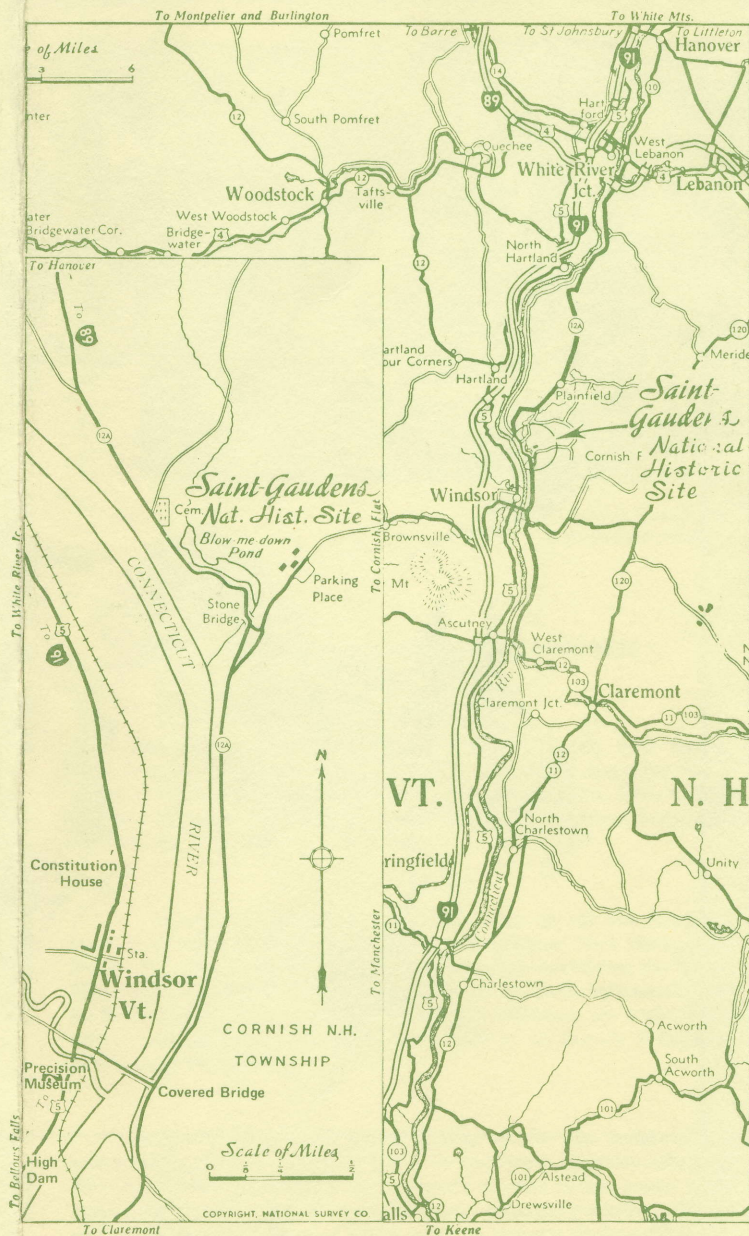
An alternate route to the TEMPLE is the RAVINE TRAIL which begins at the RAVINE STUDIO. The ¼ mile trail descends into the Ravine and follows the Blow-Me-Up Brook then emerges in the lower field near the Temple. From the TEMPLE you may follow the 2½ mile BLOW-ME-DOWN NATURAL AREA trail which loops down to the Blow-Me-Down Pond and returns to the lower field near the Temple.



Little Studio



Summer Sunday Concerts sponsored by the trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial



Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is located just off New Hampshire State Route 12A in Cornish, New Hampshire. It is 12 miles north of Claremont, NH, 18 miles south of Hanover, NH, and 2½ miles north of the Covered Bridge at Windsor, VT. The Site may be reached on U.S. Interstate 89, exit 20 (West Lebanon, NH, south on 12A), or from U.S. Interstate 91, exit 8 (Route 131 East, left onto Route 12A north). The Site is open daily from the last weekend in May through October 31. The buildings are open from 8:30-4:30 daily and the grounds from 8:00 a.m. until dark.

An admission fee of \$1 is charged for persons over 16 years of age. Educational groups are admitted free. Each summer the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a cooperating group, sponsors concerts and exhibitions by contemporary painters and sculptors. Information about the park can be obtained by writing to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, RR3, Box 73, Cornish, NH 03745.

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