

sept 2004

# SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

A Resource Assessment



NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

STATE  
♦ OF THE ♦  
PARKS®

# THE SAINT-GAUDENS ASSESSMENT

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Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site



The home, studio, and gardens of Augustus Saint-Gaudens are preserved at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire.

**S**aint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NHS) consists of 148 acres and includes the home, studios, and gardens of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), one of America's foremost sculptors. Located in Cornish, New Hampshire, Saint-Gaudens NHS also educates visitors about the "Cornish Colony" and its contributions to American art and culture, the "Gilded Age" and its effects on American art and culture, and the influence of Classical art on 19th century art and architecture.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was part of an era termed the "Gilded Age," a period from 1865-1900, when industry boomed and fortunes were made. Great public monuments

and buildings were constructed and homes were decorated in lavish fashion. Saint-Gaudens was commissioned by the social elite, and he is credited with helping shape the American perception of sculpture as an art form. He created more than 200 works of art during a career that spanned three decades, with commissions that ranged from large public statues to bas-reliefs for prominent private clients. He also designed the U.S. ten and twenty-dollar gold coins in 1907.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens' arrival in Cornish, New Hampshire, in 1885 marked the beginning of the Cornish Art Colony (1885-1930). More than 70 artists, archi-

texts, playwrights, and other art patrons lived in Cornish and neighboring Plainfield, New Hampshire, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition to Saint-Gaudens, other resident artists included Thomas Dewing, George de Forest Brush, Maxfield Parrish, and Kenyon Cox. Several of Saint-Gaudens' relatives were also artists in Cornish: his brother, Louis St. Gaudens, and Louis' wife, Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens, were fellow sculptors; daughter-in-law, Carlota Dolley Saint-Gaudens, was a painter and miniaturist.

The artists of the Cornish Colony were stimulated by each other's creativity and intelligence, and they relished the seclusion of rural New Hampshire. They promoted the arts through various events and supported local libraries and summer art schools.

Following the death of Augustus Saint-Gaudens in 1907, the sculptor's widow, Augusta, sought to preserve the house, studios, and gardens as a memorial to the artist's life and works. From 1907 until her death in 1926, Augusta maintained virtually everything at the site as it was prior to her husband's death, with the exception of the addition of a caretaker's cottage and adjacent garage. Augusta welcomed visitors and encouraged them to frequent the studios and view where "the Saint" had worked.

Upon her death, the site was turned over to the Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, who operated the site as a museum, offering expanded visitor programs and acquiring additional acreage to protect the land and views surrounding the artist's historic property. The Trustees donated the site to the National Park Service in 1964, the year that Congress passed the legislation establishing the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. At that time, 83 acres of in-

fee land were conveyed to the National Park Service. The enabling legislation also recognized the Trustees as a partner of the National Park Service. The Trustees have continued to support the park in many ways, including sponsoring art exhibitions and concerts and providing funds for the conservation and acquisition of art works.

In 1984, the National Park Service acquired an additional 55 acres that included Blow-Me-Down Pond, Blow-Me-Down Mill, and the Stone Arch Bridge. The acquisition enabled the park to safeguard resources closely associated with Augustus Saint-Gaudens, such as the historic viewshed, as well as the pond and surrounding wetlands. In 1999, the Park Service acquired an adjacent 6.5-acre parcel, once owned by Saint-Gaudens, in order to provide for the on-site housing needed to bolster park security.

The State of the Parks program was launched in 2000 to assess the condition of natural and cultural resources in the National Park System. This report conveys the findings of a cultural resources and stewardship capacity assessment of Saint-Gaudens NHS. The park also sustains an active natural resources management program that works in conjunction with the site's cultural resources management programs. Natural resources conditions at the park were not assessed.

The current overall condition of **cultural resources** at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site rates a "fair" score of 71 out of 100. The site has more than 8,000 works of art and more than \$100,000 in outstanding art conservation needs. The park's ability to care for its resources, also known as its **stewardship capacity**, rates a "fair" score of 66 out of 100. The park has almost \$1.5 million in deferred maintenance and rehabilitation needs.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

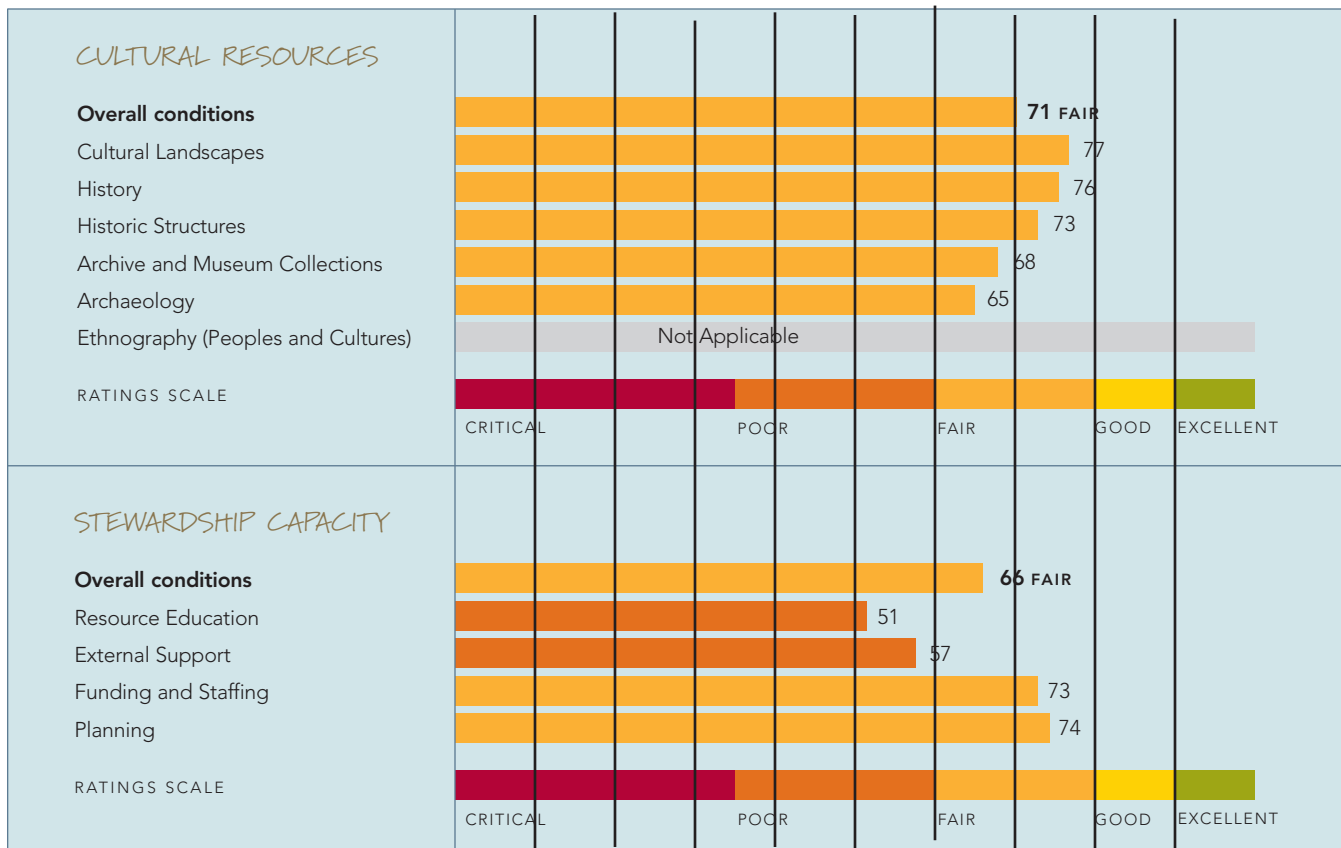
ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM  
COLLECTIONS—STORAGE GOOD;  
ARCHIVIST NEEDED

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is home to significant museum and archival collections that include more than 10,000 objects. Eight thousand works of art in plaster, bronze, and other materials and more than 100 portrait reliefs are part of the park's museum collection. Also included in the collections are more than 200 models for the U.S. gold coinage of 1907, plaster busts, medals, and cameos. Family

furnishings and decorative arts from America, Europe, and Asia and original artwork from several members of the Saint-Gaudens family are also found at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. Sheet music, historic and contemporary photographs, glass plate negatives, manuscripts and papers, and records documenting management of the site, dating from the 1960s to the present, are found in the park's archive.

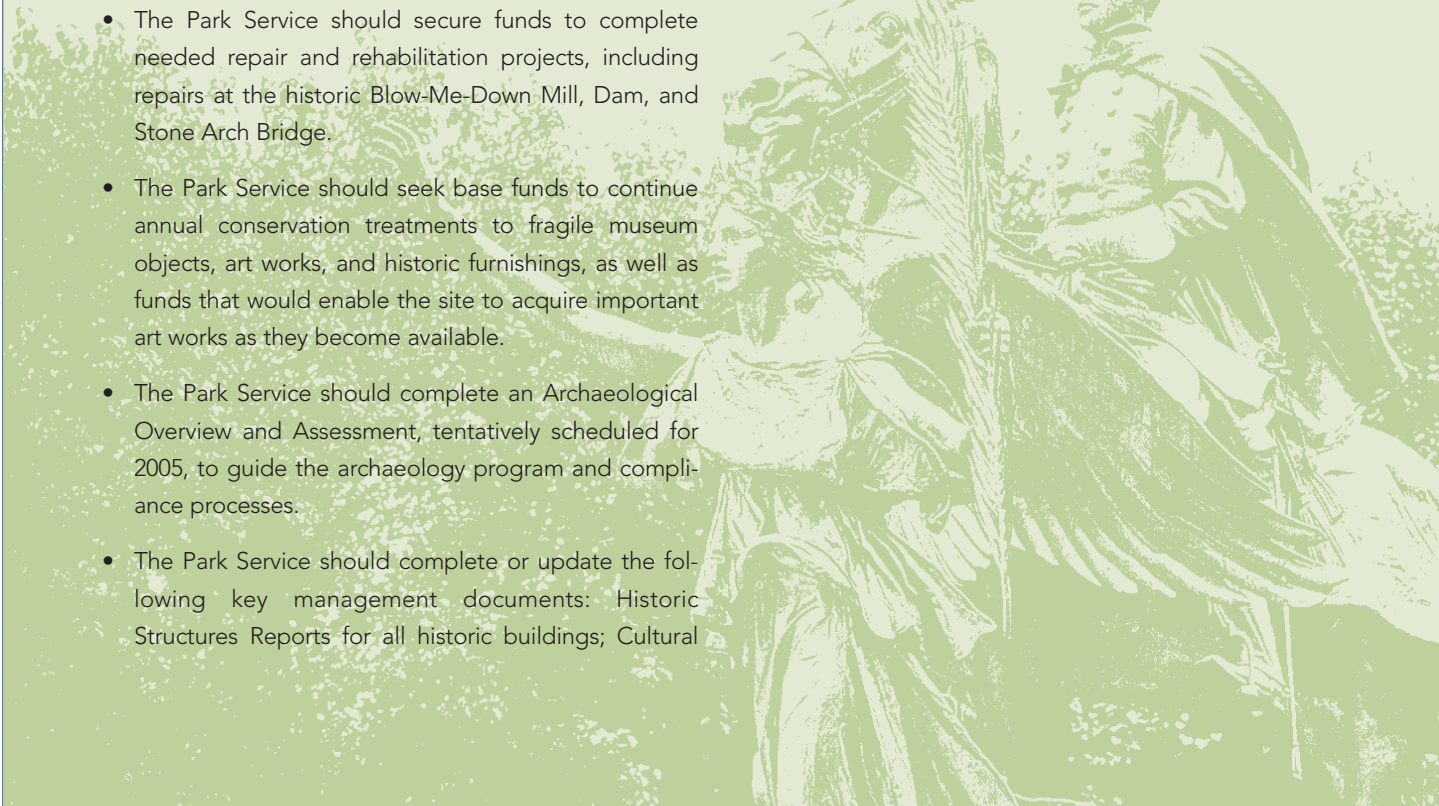
To care for these collections, the park has a full-time curator and a museum specialist who have both received archival training. Objects conservators from the NPS, Northeast Museum Services Center, Collections Conservation Branch (CCB) have



The State of the Parks assessment methodology and other State of the Park reports can be found at <http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/> or contact the State of the Parks program at 970.493.2545.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Congress and the administration should enhance the site's stewardship capacity by increasing base funding in order to properly care for museum collections, maintain historic structures and the cultural landscape, and provide visitor education programs. These funds would allow the park to restore mission critical seasonal positions that have been lost and address some of the park's 65 unfunded projects that total \$5.9 million.
- The Park Service should provide and/or update fire protection and state-of-the-art security systems for all historic structures and museum collections, several of which currently have no protection. In addition, the Park Service should inventory the entire acreage for historic structures and evaluate any additions for the National Register of Historic Places and the List of Classified Structures.
- The Park Service should implement land protection recommendations detailed in the park's General Management Plan and Land Protection Plan, and update the Land Protection Plan to reflect land protection measures already implemented.
- The Park Service should secure funds to complete needed repair and rehabilitation projects, including repairs at the historic Blow-Me-Down Mill, Dam, and Stone Arch Bridge.
- The Park Service should seek base funds to continue annual conservation treatments to fragile museum objects, art works, and historic furnishings, as well as funds that would enable the site to acquire important art works as they become available.
- The Park Service should complete an Archaeological Overview and Assessment, tentatively scheduled for 2005, to guide the archaeology program and compliance processes.
- The Park Service should complete or update the following key management documents: Historic Structures Reports for all historic buildings; Cultural Landscape Report (tentatively funded for 2005 - 2006); Preservation Maintenance Plan; Accessibility Study; and Historic Resource Studies.
- The Park Service should continue to conduct historic research, including a documentation of the extensive archives pertaining to Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the Cornish Colony, housed in Dartmouth College's archive, Rauner Library, Special Collections, as well as records located at other institutions and in public collections.
- Park staff should work with outside partners, including the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, to secure new funding and to enhance the Friends group.
- The Park Service should continue to implement the objectives detailed in the preferred alternative of the 1996 General Management Plan: protect the critical viewshed; preserve historic structures and museum collections; enhance interpretive themes and programming; expand art exhibitions; and advance scholarly research.



Saint-Gaudens poses in his Paris studio with *Amor Caritas* variant.



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assisted the park by providing treatment for more than 150 objects and sculptures in the last ten years. Conservation treatments included application of protective coatings on outdoor bronze sculpture and cosmetic and structural repairs on plaster sculpture and reliefs exhibited at the park or in traveling exhibits. The CCB provides the park with Objects Surveys to determine collection treatment needs and assists the park with many aspects of collections care, including technical analysis, mounting and framing, storage issues, and collaboration with conservation and museum professionals outside of the Park Service to plan and monitor collections care for traveling exhibits.

An annual base funding increase is needed for the park to support continued conservation treatments of the art collections and acquisition of additional pieces. To date, the Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial have funded this conservation work, but this commitment of funds is scheduled to end in 2006.

The park is meeting 90 percent of standards established in the *NPS Checklist for the Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections*, a relatively high score. The staff does an excellent job of filing management records.

Separate from the museum collection is a group of 44,000 records documenting the park's institutional history. These are maintained according to Park Service standards, but a study of archival needs done by the Northeast Museum Services Center in 2002 recommended that these documents be treated as archives and housed accordingly. These documents will not be accessioned into the park's collection, but will be organized and re-housed in acid-free folders, with more detailed finding aids. The addition of a part time archivist/librarian to the staff would allow this work to be accomplished. The archivist/librarian would also manage the park's extensive library and provide assistance to researchers using the park's resources. The magnitude of the collection and the number of items in need of ongoing attention will make it difficult in the future for the park to maintain stewardship standards at the existing funding and staffing levels.

In recent years, the park has made significant improvements to the museum storage facilities. An addition to the collections storage building was completed and modular shelves were added to facilitate organization of the collections. A small amount of funding is still needed to complete the

storage requirements of remaining collections and to insulate the roof of the main storage room. Overall, storage conditions at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site are good.

This park, to a greater degree than any other, functions as a full service art museum with on-site and traveling exhibitions. Objects from the collections are loaned to museums around the world. There is an active research and education component as well. To maintain the level of excellence required by Park Service standards, the park has a need for a small increase to base funding to provide continued conservation care of the museum collection.

The park also has a need to continue acquiring works of art, such as newly discovered sculptures by Saint-Gaudens, but there is no ready funding for that purpose. The park has been approached four times within the past year regarding the possible acquisition of important art works for its museum collection, yet the park was unable to purchase these items due to a lack of funds. These issues, along with a need to continue to provide high quality exhibits and publications relating to the traveling and on-site exhibitions are essential in reaching the park's mission goals of visitor understanding and enjoyment.

To further the park's position in the family of museums it may be beneficial to seek accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This multi-year project gives a full assessment of the museum function and, if chosen, places the museum in a select group of the finest cultural institutions in the country.

## BLOW-ME-DOWN STONE ARCH BRIDGE—REPAIRS NEEDED

The 1889 Stone Arch Bridge, with 30-foot long fieldstone wing walls, is listed in poor condition on the park's List of Classified Structures. Several areas need to be addressed, including the top 100 feet of the retaining wall and parapet. Most of the shifting and resultant instability of the wall is due to poor surface grading, soil conditions, long-term growth of an adjacent tree, and attendant frost movement. Components of the structure continue to fall away and over time the entire structure may be in danger of loss. This is just one example of how park structures suffer as staff struggle to find money for almost \$1.5 million of similar preservation needs.



## HISTORIC STRUCTURES—\$1,445,000 IN DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION NEEDS

SCORE: FAIR, 73 OUT OF 100

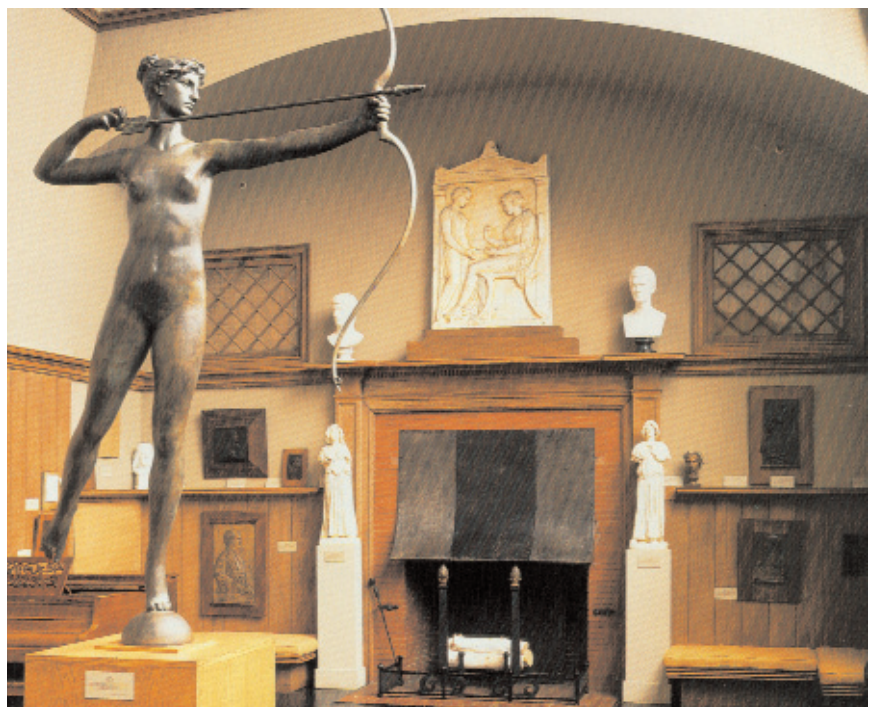
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site encompasses 148 acres and contains the home, studios, and other structures associated with Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The park's List of Classified Structures (LCS) presently includes 47 structures, though approximately 126 acres of the park have not yet been inventoried to identify possible additions. The LCS is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures that have archeological, historical, architectural and/or engineering significance in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, any legal interest. The term structure refers to roads/pathways, landscape features, buildings, and structures/sites (fences, dams, atriums, bridges, root cellars, swimming pools, etc.). Once the remainder of the park has been inventoried, National Register documentation can then be completed for any structures that may be eli-

gible to be considered for the park's LCS.

All of the 47 structures included on the park's List of Classified Structures have up-to-date condition assessments. Four of the structures are listed in poor condition, one of which is the Blow-Me-Down Stone Arch Bridge, located adjacent to the Blow-Me-Down Mill. More than 55 percent of the listed structures are in good condition; however, more than half of the park's listed structures are presently being severely or moderately impacted by weather, erosion, park operations, and visitation. There are features (grape arbors, fences, etc.) on these structures that are labor intensive to maintain due to their design. These resources require significant maintenance actions within the next two to five years, or they will suffer irrevocable damage. An increase in base funding is needed to restore at least one seasonal maintenance position to work on historic structures, as projections indicate that no seasonal maintenance employees will be hired in 2005.

Most of the historic structures at Saint-Gaudens are still used today as exhibit

The Little Studio, where Saint-Gaudens once worked, now houses bronze and plaster casts of some of his most famous sculptures. Many of the park's historic structures are used today as exhibit space, office space, and for storage.





areas, office/administrative spaces, or for park storage. For example, the first floor of Aspet (Saint-Gaudens' home) serves as a museum for original furnishings, the second floor houses park offices, and both the third floor and basement contain furnishings, trunks, and other museum storage. The basement also serves as a combination workspace and maintenance storage area. Other historic structures are also used for multiple purposes. The Little Studio, the New Gallery, the Picture Gallery, the Atrium, and the Carriage Barn are all used for exhibition of historic collections. The Caretaker's Cottage houses administrative offices.

The use of these buildings brings utility to their existence; however, in some cases this places an additional burden on these historic structures. In Aspet, the weight of office equipment and files located on the second floor poses a threat to the structural integrity of the building. An alternative office space is needed to ensure the long-term protection of the building. Both Aspet and the Little Studio are National Historic Landmarks, the highest official honor bestowed upon historic structures in the United States.

Excellent planning and additional funding are needed to achieve Park Service stewardship standards. Currently, most of the park's budget for historic structures is used to clean and maintain existing structures. The erosion of purchasing power within the budget has affected the park's ability to execute preventive treatments. Deferred maintenance needs and rehabilitation costs total nearly \$1.5 million and, though the park has submitted some of the necessary requests for funding, it must compete with other parks for these funds.

In addition to deferred maintenance needs, inappropriate use, lack of fire pro-

tection and climatic controls, security inadequacies, and visitor use pose threats to the park's historic structures. The park currently has only one employee dedicated to and specifically trained in the preservation of historic structures.

## HISTORY—RESEARCH PROJECTS ABOUND

SCORE: FAIR, 76 OUT OF 100

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site benefits from experienced researchers on-site and at regional levels. The site's curator and chief of interpretation have conducted research and produced publications on several aspects of the life and work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and the Park Service northeastern regional historian is available for consultation. The park's former superintendent, who served at the park from 1966-2003, continues to conduct historical research and has written numerous works related to Saint-Gaudens. He is currently working on the park's administrative history.

The wealth of historical research conducted has led to activities, such as an exhibition of Saint-Gaudens work that is currently traveling to 12 museums throughout the United States over the course of three years. An accompanying catalog was also produced specifically for this exhibition. In spite of the extensive research that has been conducted at the site, the park's Historic Resource Studies are more than 20 years old and should be reviewed and updated.

The park recently established a new visitor center in a former maintenance building that today includes a library, auditorium, and a bookstore. The library houses an extensive collection of books, articles, and archival materials relating to Saint-

Gaudens, American art, regional history, sculpture, the "Gilded Age," and other subjects pertinent to the park's mission. The duties for updating the library and the archive's computer catalogue are currently shared among the staff, but budget shortfalls and the loss of seasonal positions have resulted in less time available to attend to these tasks. The library is well organized, but additional management attention is needed. As mentioned in the archival and museum collections section above, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site needs a permanent, part-time archivist/librarian to manage park records, the park archive, the park library, and image and research requests.

Budget constraints limit research and resource protection activities. If funds were made available, the park would promote historic research to enhance documentation of its museum collections and their significance to the cultural history of the United States. A number of additional topics would also be researched, including more comprehensive information about the Cornish Colony and detailed technical information about the gardens, landscaping, and historic architecture of the site.

Dartmouth College in nearby Hanover, New Hampshire, includes extensive Saint-Gaudens family archives such as family papers, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial archives through the mid-1960's, and a large number of papers and collections from the Cornish Colony members. Updated, electronic finding aids are needed to help researchers access this information and the collection. The information gleaned from the college's collection would enhance the historical information available to the educational mission of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

A number of other institutions through-

out the country also contain Saint-Gaudens' papers, including the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia, Houghton Library at Harvard, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, Syracuse University Library, and the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art. Finding aids for these and other repositories are needed in order to facilitate additional research.

### ARCHAEOLOGY—FUNDING FOR BASELINE STUDY NEEDED

SCORE: FAIR, 65 OUT OF 100

The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site core historic area includes several known and suspected archaeological sites, including the Studio of the Caryatids and a golf course called Blow-Me-Down Links. Augustus Saint-Gaudens began building the Studio of the Caryatids in 1904 to replace his Large Studio that had burned down earlier that year, destroying sculptures, furniture, photographs, papers, letters, sketches, oil portraits, and a treasured drawing of his mother. In 1944, the Studio of the Caryatids was also destroyed by fire. The remaining outbuildings were made into a sculpture courtyard, atrium, and exhibition galleries that are still used today. Archaeological excavations at the Studio of Caryatids located partial remains of the Large Studio, a burned bronze relief of Saint-Gaudens' wife, a foot from his "Diana" sculpture, as well as several smaller pieces. The underground foundation of the studio is mostly intact.

To expand his recreational opportunities, Saint-Gaudens converted his field into a five-green, nine-tee golf course that he called Blow-Me-Down Links. Some documentation of the course is available in the park's archive, including plans for the lay-



Saint-Gaudens built the Studio of the Caryatids in 1904 to replace a studio that had burned down. Forty years later, this studio also succumbed to fire.

out and landscaping, as well the location of water lines and hydrants. The watering system for the course may be one of the first irrigation systems for a golf course in the United States.

Other significant historic and prehistoric sites may exist in the historic core and in other areas of the site. Less than five percent of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site has been surveyed for archaeological sites, and the park lacks a baseline Archaeological Overview and Assessment. This study would help park management plan the site's archaeology program for the next ten years. Staff have requested funding to complete this study, which is tentatively scheduled for 2005. If funding for a comprehensive Archaeological Overview and Assessment is not available, the park should seek other means to assess and survey the most highly visited areas: the core historic area (22 acres) and Blow-Me-Down Mill. These high traffic areas of the park are especially vulnerable to inadvertent damage.

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPES—NOT ABLE TO MEET ROUTINE MAINTENANCE NEEDS

SCORE: FAIR, 77 OUT OF 100

Permanent staff are very adept at managing the park's cultural landscape; however, due to an erosion of the park's base budget and subsequent inability to fill key seasonal positions, the park may be unable to meet its cultural landscape management needs in the immediate future.

The park manages 22 acres of the 148-acre park as the historic landscape most significant to Augustus Saint-Gaudens. There are excellent records and documentation of this historic landscape. The gardens and structures that comprise the landscape have survived nearly intact since the early 1900's, and they exist as one of the finest period developed landscapes in America today. Four historic contexts are represented by the landscape: American Art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; artist colonies of



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Much of the park consists of natural areas with hiking trails, brooks and ravines, and wetlands.

the same period; American residential landscape design from 1880 to 1950, including the Italian Renaissance revival; and the historic preservation movement.

The remaining 126 acres of the park consist of natural areas with hiking trails, brooks and ravines, and Blow-Me-Down Pond and its surrounding wetlands. There may be a historic, cultural, or ethnographic landscape worthy of managing as such within this part of the park, but no systematic identification process has been conducted due to a lack of funding.

Saint-Gaudens has a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) that includes detailed information about the landscape, but this document is incomplete. Typically a CLR consists of three volumes documenting the site history of the landscape, analysis and evaluation, and treatment recommendations. Volume I, Site History, is the only part

completed for Saint-Gaudens NHS. Published in 1993, this report documents the evolution of the landscape from the beginning of Saint-Gaudens' ownership in 1885 through the existing conditions in 1993. Volume I requires updating to reflect lands that have been acquired since its publication, as well as other issues that have arisen such as the 2003 on-site development of the visitor center and resulting changes in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Volumes II and III, addressing landscape analysis and treatment, were never developed beyond draft format and need to be completed in order to be of management value. These volumes would specify viable solutions to landscape issues, such as circulation, that would meet management objectives intended to preserve the character and integrity of the cultural landscape.

Saint-Gaudens NHS has a Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan that was completed in 1993. Although the plan offers valuable guidance with regard to appropriate landscape preservation maintenance techniques, the plan was specifically meant to document the maintenance procedures of a former grounds foreman prior to his departure. The Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan should be revised and updated to correspond more closely with the CLR and current management objectives.

Budget shortfalls have resulted in cuts in seasonal staff, directly impacting the ability to maintain and manage the cultural landscape. At least three seasonal employees are needed each summer to trim .66 miles of historic hedge, mow extensive lawns, maintain formal gardens, and complete other maintenance tasks. A base increase is needed to fund these positions, as projections indicate that there will be no funding available to hire any seasonal maintenance employees in 2005. In addition, project dol-

lars are needed to update and complete the landscape planning reports discussed above to enhance their value as guiding documents for managing and preserving this important landscape for future generations.

### ETHNOGRAPHY (PEOPLES AND CULTURES)—NOT APPLICABLE

Ethnographic groups are defined by the Park Service as peoples associated with parks through their cultural systems or ways of life, or with the technology, landscapes, structures, or other material features or natural resources of a site. It is unlikely that Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site has any affiliated groups and thus the State of the Parks program did not assess, score, or rate this resource category. If funding permits, it would be a good idea for the park to secure an ethnographic or ethno historic evaluation of the site. This type of study could be targeted as a thesis or dissertation project for a student.

## STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

### FUNDING AND STAFFING—UNFUNDED PROJECTS TOTAL \$5.9 MILLION

SCORE: FAIR, 73 OUT OF 100

The most significant factor affecting a park's ability to protect its resources is the funding it receives from Congress and other sources. In 2004, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site had an operating budget of \$945,000. This budget supports 13 permanent employees, who serve more than 30,000 visitors each year. NPCA finds that the park needs a budget increase of almost \$350,000 to support the restoration of staff and resources needed to meet resource protection and preservation goals and provide

## PLANNING—MISSING PLANS

SCORE: POOR, 74 OUT OF 100

Adequate planning is essential to resource stewardship in order to identify needed actions, secure the necessary resources, and efficiently allocate staff time and efforts. Fortunately, the master planning document that guides overall park efforts, the 1996 General Management Plan, is more recent than in most parks. The park has plans for inventorying and monitoring natural resources, land protection, interpretation, and management of non-native, invasive plants. The park needs to secure funds for an Archaeological Overview and Assessment, Historic Structures Reports, completion of the three-volume Cultural Landscape Report, and a Preservation Maintenance Plan. The park should also consider whether or not a visitor use plan is needed in order minimize visitor impacts on park resources.

the full compliment of visitor services programming.

In addition, there are 65 unfunded specific projects totaling \$5.9 million, more than six times the park's annual operating budget. The list includes rehabilitation of the historic Stone Arch Bridge, stabilization work at the Blow-Me-Down Mill and Dam, replacement of the park's main orientation film that is almost 20 years old, and rehabilitation needs for several historic and non-historic structures. Particularly troubling is the absence of fire protection systems in four historic structures and state-of-the-art security systems to protect museum exhibits.

An additional \$2 million are needed to support acquisition or easement protection of key parcels of adjacent lands as identified in the General Management Plan and Land Protection Plan. Protection of these parcels is needed in order to preserve the park's historic viewshed and protect adjacent wetland habitats, including vernal pools.

## RESOURCE EDUCATION— INTERPRETIVE STAFF NEEDED

SCORE: POOR, 51 OUT OF 100

Resource stewardship is most effective when there is good communication with the public. Failure to communicate the value of park resources is as much a threat to those resources as a failure to preserve them. In 2003, the park staff made more than 64,000 contacts with the public through interpretive programs led by park rangers and other staff, volunteers, junior ranger programs, the Sculptor-in-Residence program, concerts, community programs, and school programs.

In addition to on-site visitor contacts, in cooperation with the Trust for Museum Exhibitions, the park has loaned 70 museum objects as part of a traveling exhibit, *Augustus Saint-Gaudens: American Sculptor of the Gilded Age*. This exhibit is traveling to 12 museums across the country from 2003 to 2005, at very little cost to the park's operating budget. Traveling exhibits educate those who would otherwise not have the

opportunity to visit Saint-Gaudens NHS about the significance of the sculptor and the park's museum collections.

A new visitor center was built in 2003, and most park exhibits are up-to-date, though the visitor orientation film is approaching 20 years old and needs updating. The biggest challenge for resource education is a lack of staff and funding. Park interpretive employees include the chief of visitor services and a six-month, subject to furlough lead ranger. The park presently has only one seasonal interpretive ranger, while in previous years at least three seasonal interpretive rangers were hired. This year a volunteer docent program was established to replace the rangers that formerly provided the core interpretive programs. Increased use of volunteers is good and is encouraged, but it should not be looked at as a long-term solution to replace mission critical seasonal ranger positions.

Potentially, 2004 will be the last year of funding for the park's Sculptor-in-Residence program—the longest running Artist-in-Residence program in the Park Service.

THE PARK'S SCULPTOR-IN-RESIDENCE  
PROGRAM IS A VISITOR FAVORITE.  
FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE  
THE PROGRAM.





The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial have sponsored Sunday concerts at the Little Studio and rotating exhibits in the Picture Gallery. They have been long-term allies of the park, providing needed support.

Previously it was a base funded position, though for the past several years it has either been funded by small grants, donations, or staffed by a Student Conservation Association intern. The Sculptor-in-Residence program allows an on-site artist to demonstrate and explain the sculpting process and techniques to visitors and to serve as an instructor for sculpting workshops offered by the park. The artist program is popular with park visitors and helps them to better appreciate and understand the work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. It is one of the most valuable aspects of the park's interpretive program. The possible lack of a Sculptor-in-Residence program in the future, coupled with fewer seasonal park rangers to provide interpretive programs (house and art tours), seriously compromise the park's ability to meet its mission of resource stewardship and to provide educational opportunities.

Additional funding is needed in order for the park to achieve its objectives in serving as a full-service educational institution. In order to attain this status, the park

must develop updated exhibitions, films, electronic media, and curriculum outreach programs and sponsor guest lectures. A demand also exists for the park to develop new exhibitions that relate to the Cornish Colony and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. This can only be accomplished through direct access to historians, curators, researchers, and other educators.

#### EXTERNAL SUPPORT—PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE WELCOME SUPPORT

SCORE: POOR, 57 OUT OF 100

Volunteers, partnerships, and support groups provide important resource stewardship assistance at many parks. At Saint-Gaudens, the Student Conservation Association (SCA), scouting organizations, and citizens have rehabilitated trails, controlled non-native plants, constructed a wetlands observation boardwalk, and indexed the park's photo collection. In 2002, sixty-one volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of service to the park, and in the past five years

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Support or become a Friend of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial** ([www.sgnhs.org/friends](http://www.sgnhs.org/friends)) by contacting them at 212.750.3690 or [sgmemorial@aol.com](mailto:sgmemorial@aol.com). You can also join NPCA ([www.npca.org/support\\_npca](http://www.npca.org/support_npca)) and other regional organizations.
- **Volunteer in the Parks.** Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, please visit [www.nps.gov/volunteer/](http://www.nps.gov/volunteer/) or contact the park at 603.675.2175.
- **Become an NPCA activist.** When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a biweekly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting [www.npca.org/takeaction](http://www.npca.org/takeaction).



volunteers have given more than 18,000 hours of service to the park.

The vast majority of the volunteer hours in the past have resulted from SCA interns working with the site's natural resources management program. The park was able to fill these positions as a result of successful applications for Park Service project funds. These funds helped to provide the SCA interns with a stipend for food and lodging. The park has not been as successful in recruiting "no-cost" volunteers. The site is currently expanding its Park Service Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program to include museum docents, flower arrangers, and other positions. The work and support that these volunteers provide will become increasingly important as the park operates with fewer seasonal employees.

The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial have been critical, long-term allies in helping the park. Without their support, the score for External Support would have been lower. Since the late 1940's, the Trustees have sponsored Sunday afternoon concerts at the Little Studio and rotating exhibits in the Picture Gallery. In addition, they have sponsored and fundraised for larger projects, including the recent bronze casting of the Shaw Memorial that was unveiled at the park in 1997. The Trustees are currently in the fifth year of a seven-year annual financial commitment to the park for important conservation treatments to the museum collections. The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial founded a Friends group in 1999 to expand their role in supporting the park.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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