



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Saint-Gaudens
National Historic Site

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Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site News Release

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Restoration Work to Begin at Aspet, the Home of Augustus Saint-Gaudens

When Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site opens for the season on May 29, visitors will quickly notice that maintenance work is underway at Aspet, the historic home of sculptor, August Saint-Gaudens. Scaffolding will be erected on both the east and west ends of the building in late April and will remain in place for much of the summer. Masonry repairs will be made to the brick structure, which will include rebuilding of one of the four chimneys. In order to complete the needed repairs, lead paint will first be removed from areas of the structure involved in the project. Once the masonry work is completed, the building will be repainted. The primary aim of the project is prevent moisture intrusion into the second and third floors of the building in order to preserve this important historic structure, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Once the site opens for the season, the house will remain open for guided tours throughout the duration of the project.

Aspet was constructed in 1817, and was known locally as “Huggins Folly,” when first seen by Augustus Saint-Gaudens in 1885. It was in that year that Saint-Gaudens’ friend, Charles Beaman, invited the sculptor to Cornish, New Hampshire, to see if he might be interested in purchasing what would become known as Aspet, as a summer home. The sculptor chose to rent the property instead, later purchasing it in 1891. Aspet served as a summer residence for Saint-Gaudens until 1900, when the sculptor decided to make Cornish his year round home. Following the death of the sculptor in 1907, his wife, Augusta, continued to summer at Aspet until her death in 1926. From that point on, the site was open to the public and run by a private, nonprofit organization, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, which was created by Augusta and son, Homer in 1919. In 1964, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site was established by Congress, and the property was donated by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial to the National Park Service.

For further information, contact Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint Gaudens Road, Cornish, NH, 03745, telephone (603) 675-2175, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/saga.

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