



Name of Property: Lucknow (also known as Castle in the Clouds)
City, State: Moultonborough, NH
Period of Significance: 1913-1919
NHL Criteria: 4
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
5. Architecture, landscape architecture and urban design
Previous Recognition: National Register of Historic Places 2018 (NRIS 100002642).
National Historic Context: n/a

NHL Significance:

- Lucknow was developed as a country retreat from 1913 to 1914 by Thomas Gustave Plant (1859-1941), a retired shoe manufacturer.
- Plant deeply revered his land and looked to the Arts and Crafts and Back-to-Nature movements to ensure that his impact on the property was minimal, naturalistic, and utilized native materials and skilled craftsmanship.
- Lucknow is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 4 for its physical design and construction in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.



- Lucknow is an extraordinarily significant example of a rural Arts and Crafts estate intact landscape that includes an engineered road and bridle trail system that provides access to seven different mountain peaks.
- Lucknow is an exceptional example of the American Arts and Crafts movement in New England, which closely emulated English precedents.

Integrity:

- Lucknow possesses an extraordinarily high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
- The property retains the entirety of the naturalistic landscape that accompanied the estate.
- Plant's house and the two gate lodges retain particularly high levels of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.
- The interior of Plant's house is remarkable for the intact floor plan and extent of original furniture, fixtures, and finishes from his era that remain in the building.

Owner of Property:

- Lakes Region Conservation Trust (approx. 5,117 acres)
- Castle Preservation Society (main house, two primary historic outbuildings, approx. 135 acres)
- CG Roxane (approx. 67 acres on three noncontiguous parcels)

Acreage of Property: 5,319

Origins of Nomination: New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: A successful nomination will facilitate increased public recognition of the Arts and Crafts in New England and promote heritage tourism and preservation of the estate.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: There is no known or anticipated negative public response.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 27, 2024):

- Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
- U.S. Representative Chris Pappas, 1st District, New Hampshire
- U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
- Jennifer Goodman, Executive Director, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance

Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Consider inclusion of reference to the Indian city of Lucknow among other references to the name.
- Suggest characterizing residence as complementing the natural landscape.
- Regarding comparative analysis to Adirondack camps, reference as purposely grand designs with modern comforts that also drew on rustic traditions.
- Change language from "wide range of styles" to "modes of expression".
- Change language regarding architect supervision of construction.



- Confirm whether the architect Beall attended the Sorbonne, or if this is possibly an error.
- Discuss Plant's choice of architect as a possible reflection of his position as a society outsider, drawing on influences from his youth and inspiration from Boston and New England specifically.
- Request additional detail regarding description of larger landscape, including the materials comprising the drives and tree specimens.

- Request additional information regarding the identity and work of the Italian stone masons responsible for much of Lucknow's construction. Reference, as possible, where these masons stayed on site.
- Request additional information regarding estate staff.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Lucknow in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: