



**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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Lucknow in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, as a National Historic Landmark.