

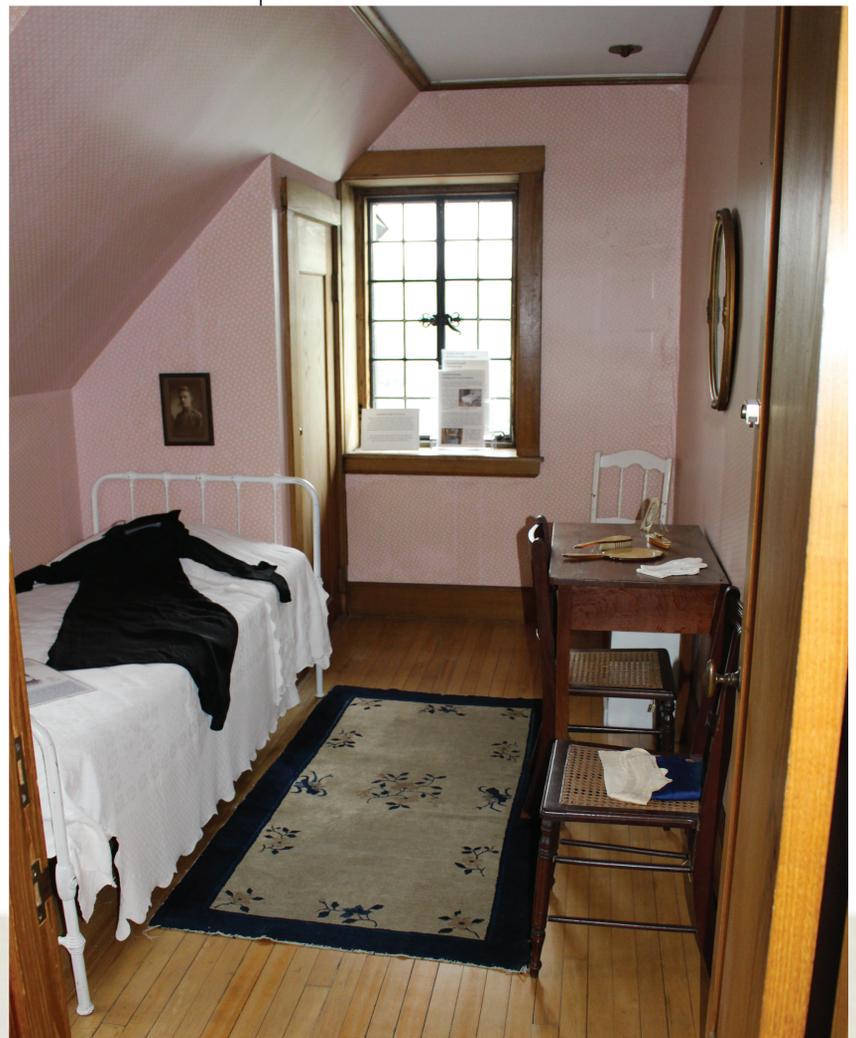
# Saving the Servants' Quarters

**Unfortunately, there are no known historic images or furnishing plans documenting the original servants' bedrooms at Lucknow.** The earliest photographs go back to 2005, just before the property was transferred to Castle Preservation Society. By that time, the original furniture and wallpaper had long since disappeared. These rooms were in poor condition when restoration work began in 2018, having suffered from extensive water damage over the years.

When working on an interior project like restoring a bedroom, the restoration team researches the historic use of the room, studies current furnishings, and investigates for any remaining evidence of original wallpaper, paint, and fixtures. When possible, original wallpapers are reproduced (if a large enough sample is found). Very small traces of original wallpaper were found in the smaller maid's bedroom; they were not large enough for reproduction, but the restoration team located and installed an almost identical modern wallpaper pattern.

Analysis revealed that the original woodwork in the maids' quarters (baseboard, molding, doors, and window sills) had been coated with amber shellac when the house was first constructed. Using the same product as in 1914, the process was replicated to restore the sun bleached and water damaged woodwork in these spaces.

*The small maid's bedroom, as it appeared in 2017. Visit the Castle to see our progress on restoring this room.*



*Agnes and Chester Moulton with their children, c. 1915. The couple worked on the estate for Thomas and Olive Plant and lived in the lower gatehouse after they were married.*

## Did You Know?....

The Castle team is building an archive of oral histories, images, census data, and other historical records that document the identities and work lives of Thomas and Olive Plant's domestic staff – their stories may shed some light on what it was like to live at Lucknow and how their living quarters may have been appointed.

**Do you have any stories to share with us about past Lucknow employees? Please contact us at [curator@castleinthecLOUDS.org](mailto:curator@castleinthecLOUDS.org).**



*Restoration painter Mike Sawyer applies amber shellac to the wood trim in the small maid's bedroom, 2017.*