

Building the Castle – Materials for a Mountaintop Fortress



View of south or lake side of house and greenhouse from main drive

Thomas Plant wrote that Lucknow was “built to stand for centuries” and indeed, the construction materials were state-of-the-art and rugged. The mansion was built right into the mountain ledge with steel beam supports, terra cotta block walls, and poured concrete (all almost unheard of in residential construction at the time).

An image of the mansion from the Plants’ Lucknow real estate brochure, probably 1924. Museum Collection.



Investigate!

How do you think the Castle’s building materials (and the workers who built it) were delivered to this remote mountaintop location in 1914? Examine the pieces of evidence below and see if you can unlock the mystery of how Lucknow’s construction crew, as well as materials like steel, wood, terra cotta tiles, and concrete arrived at their final destination.