



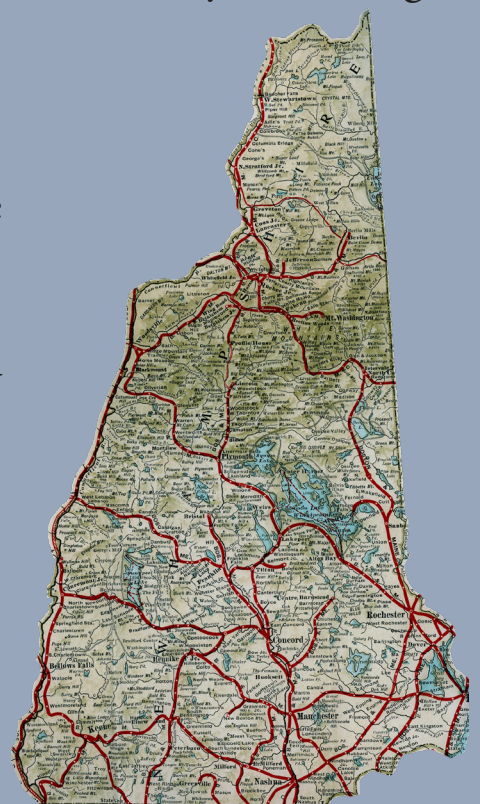
# Guests at Lucknow

This mansion only had three guest rooms, so it is unlikely that Mr. and Mrs. Plant entertained large groups of people here at Lucknow. They likely hosted close friends and family at the house. Mrs. Plant's nephews, who attended Dartmouth (about two hours from here) were frequent guests and probably stayed in these rooms. Photographer George Perry (who captured images of the estate for an article in *Country Life* magazine in 1917, and then again in the 1920s for real estate brochures) noted in one of his photograph albums that he stayed in the large green guest room while working for Mr. Plant.

The two guest rooms on the second floor each had a bathroom with a toilet and tub (and a needle shower for the larger room). It is believed that the smaller guest bathroom was actually first used as a trunk room (a place to store suitcases and travel trunks), but was converted into a bathroom sometime in the early 1920s to accommodate overnight visitors staying in the octagonal guest room. The third guest room – located on the first floor – has its own needle shower in the chamber and a half bath off of the connecting corridor.

## How did visitors get to Lucknow?

Guests traveling to Lucknow in the 1920s could have traveled by car, though it may have been difficult because thoroughfares in the Lakes Region were still unimproved dirt roads. Once guests arrived at the estate driveway, they could drive right up the macadam paved drive to the mansion. Of course, they would need to check in at the Brook Lodge gatehouse with the Plants' staff before proceeding up the one lane road. Traveling by rail was a more common way to get to this part of New Hampshire – there were stations in Wolfeboro, Laconia, and Meredith on the B&M rail line. Guests arriving by train at Weirs Beach in Laconia could hop on a ferry for a ride across the lake, disembarking at Center Harbor or Melvin Village. Perhaps the Plants would send their chauffeur to pick them up at the wharf, or a livery could be hired for a ride up to Lucknow.



B&M Railroad map of NH, 1909



# The Perfect Guest Room

From The Book of Building and Interior Decorating, 1923

“See to it that your guest has the proper light to dress her hair by, so that she may not go downstairs to dinner with that discouraged feeling of not knowing how she looks.”

“Have a good light to read by in bed, so that having done their best to please you, your guests may have a few quiet minutes with one of the well-chosen books they find by the bed.”

“Have the most necessary articles ready for use and then it saves your habitual guests such a lot of trouble if they know that they will find powder in one box, nicely cut absorbent cotton in another, a hand glass, a box with collar buttons, and of course the small articles like a shoe horn, nail file, buttonhook, and scissors...”

## Luggage

This article in the July 1920 issue of House and Garden magazine illustrates “Smart Luggage for Summer Travel.” The “commodious” hat box at the lower left has room for transporting six hats.

Large steamer or stateroom trunks, made for rail and steamship travel, were enveloped in water-resistant coverings in preparation for long voyages in wet conditions. As travel by automobile became the norm in the 1920s, trunks gave way to smaller, lighter suitcases (this was also an attempt to market to female travelers). Smaller suitcases were often made merely of cardboard and lined with canvas.

