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Main Hall

The Main Hall, or Game Hall as the Plants sometimes called it, was a space for relaxing and entertaining guests.



Deer Heads – The two taxidermy mounts in this room are part of a set of three, which also includes the one on the Entry Hall. They are believed to have been installed when the house was first constructed, and appear in the 1920s images of the interiors. While Mr. Plant did enjoy hunting, we don't know for sure if these were his trophies or where they were taken. All three mounts were fully cleaned and conserved in March 2016.

The Plants also had bear skins and a tiger skin on the floor in this room, giving it a “hunting lodge” appearance and feel. The prints that adorned the walls as well as the hand-painted roundels in the doors featured hunting scenes, embellishing the theme.

Edward F. Caldwell Light Fixtures – The three lanterns hanging over the pool table are made with wrought iron and slag glass. Their hand-crafted look fits into the arts and crafts style of the homes' décor.

MORE ON OTHER SIDE



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Main Hall

Pool Table – The Plants always had a pool table at the center of this room. The original was ornately carved to match other furniture in the space. The one that fills this space today was actually purchased by Mr. Plant for the Bald Peak Colony Club, which he built nearby around 1920. Delivery instructions are handwritten on the underside of the table. This “Electric Cushion” pool table was manufactured by Boston-based Oliver Briggs & Son, probably in the 1910s.



Top: Detail of original pool table owned by the Plants.
Bottom: Delivery instructions written on the underside of the pool table currently on exhibit.

Aeolian Organ – Made by the Aeolian Organ Company, this pipe organ was installed at the time of construction. The console is up the little set of stairs and the working pipes were in a hidden room

behind the decorative pipes on the opposite side of the Main Hall. There was also an echo chamber on the second floor. Legend has it that when the organ was played, and the windows were open, the sound could be heard by boaters down on Lake Winnepesaukee. Organs were very popular instruments in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and this particular example would have been a flashy showpiece displaying the wealth of the owner. Mr. Plant indicated in a 1917 magazine article that Mrs. Plant was the musician in the family.

Wood Paneling – The oak paneling in this room may have been crafted by the Irving and Casson firm, which manufactured much of the furniture in this house. The style and quality are appropriate for Irving and Casson’s interior design work.