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Owners' Chamber

The Owners' Chamber originally featured a walkout balcony facing the lake, which is believed to have been destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. As part of Lucknow's restoration, carpenters designed and built a replica balcony using historic photos as a guide. The reproduction balcony was installed in 2019.



Above: Lucknow's North Tower balcony as seen on front of house. Photograph taken late 1910s or early 1920s.

Why twin beds?

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, twin beds became the trend, while double beds were perceived by some as “old-



fashioned.” The public's enthusiasm for good hygiene during this era may have influenced the desire to sleep in one's own bed. Some doctors claimed that it was safer to sleep alone as physical harm might come from sleeping so closely to your partner. Another argument implied better, sounder repose when sleeping alone. Others, however, thought the twin bed symbolized the weakening of the institution of marriage. Despite the controversy, twin beds were embraced by younger couples as the fashionable alternative.



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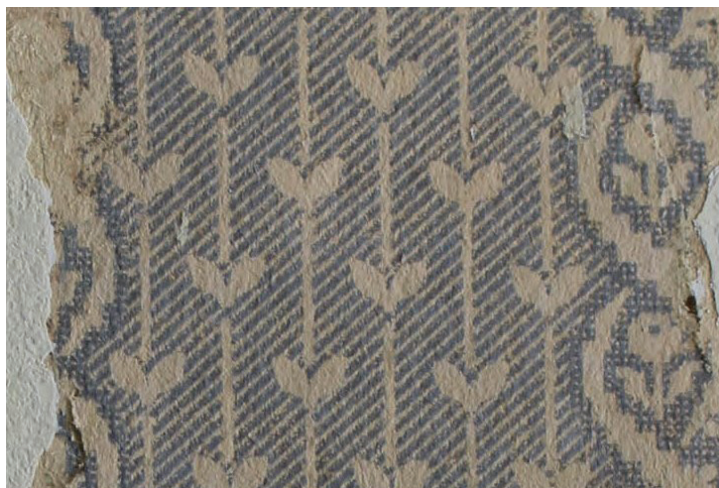
Owners' Chamber Restoration

Superficial updates made after the Plants' occupation drastically altered the appearance of this room. Although there are no known historic photos of Lucknow's bedrooms, Castle staff and preservation specialists used physical evidence and educated guesswork to restore this space to reflect how it may have appeared in the 1910s and 1920s.

In addition to making repairs to water-damaged plaster, preservation contractors recently painted and wallpapered this room. The gray paint on the wood trim matches the original color, traces of which were found beneath a more recent layer of paint.

Wallpaper

The wallpaper currently adorning this space, decorated with pinstripes and vines, is a reproduction of what is believed to be the original wall covering in this room, scraps of which were found behind the interphone (see image below).



Other historic wallpaper samples – in a more dramatic blue and white pattern (seen at left) – were found throughout the room. This lovely paper is believed to be part of a later decorative scheme, but still installed sometime during the Plants' residence (1914-1941).