

# The Biltmore House

Biltmore House is a Chateausque-styled mansion near Asheville, N.C., built by George Washington Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895. It is the largest privately-owned home in the United States, at 175,000 square feet and featuring 250 rooms.

Still owned by one of Vanderbilt's descendants, it stands today as one of the most prominent remaining examples of the Gilded Age and of amazing gardens. In 2007, it was ranked eighth on the *List of America's Favorite Architecture* by the American Institute of Architects.

J.C. Macaulay, minister and author, told of visiting the estate, which covers 8,000 acres split in half by the French Broad River. He was accompanying a group of college students who were preparing for Christian service on the mission field. They were impressed as they viewed the fabulous treasures on display and the luxuriant surroundings.



As they returned to their summer conference grounds, however, they began singing with joy in their hearts:

*When you look at others with their lands and gold  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your blessings – money cannot buy  
Your reward in Heaven nor your home on high.*

Macaulay thought to himself, he later said, how much richer are these young people who are investing their lives in the Lord's service than the owners of the most treasure-laden castles of this world.

The same description can be applied to those who work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. Their labors for God's frail and infirm children result in treasures laid up in heaven.

– Beecher Hunter