



JAY COOKE

*Born August 21, 1821, in Sandusky, Ohio
Died February 16, 1905, in Philadelphia, Pa.*

Cooke is best known for his significant personal effort in raising funds to support the Union during the Civil War. Using bond sales techniques new at the time, he was able to sell bonds with face values of as little as \$50 to individual investors, raising about \$1 billion during the course of the war. The significance of this effort is summarized in a comment attributed to General Ulysses S. Grant, who said that the Union owed as much to Jay Cooke as to all of its generals.

Cooke came to the island at least twice each year, spending many hours with friends and family fishing the nearby waters of Lake Erie. Cooke regularly invited members of the clergy – of various denominations – to the island, and encouraged theological discussion that was surprisingly ecumenical for the time. Salmon Chase, Rutherford B. Hayes, and William Howard Taft were also among the many visitors to Cooke's summer home.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

about Cooke Castle, visit
ohioseagrant.osu.edu/visit/castle.

To learn more about the restoration project, contact
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OHIO SEA GRANT AND STONE LABORATORY

Cooke Castle

SUMMER RESIDENCE OF JAY COOKE,
LINCOLN'S CIVIL WAR FINANCIER





Cooke Castle on Gibraltar Island was constructed in 1864 and 1865 by civil war financier Jay Cooke. Located within Put-in-Bay harbor on South Bass Island, the island served as a summer residence for Cooke and his family until it was acquired by Ohio State University in 1925. Today, Gibraltar Island is the home of Stone Laboratory, a full-service lake laboratory and summer campus for scientists and students from across the Great Lakes region.



The Gothic style tower is topped with crenellations, and distinctive hood moldings outline the castle windows.



Cooke's family visited the island at least twice a year.



Members of the family were musically talented and often performed for guests.



The first floor library exemplifies the beautifully crafted Victorian architectural details found throughout the castle.

Ohio State University trustee Julius Stone purchased the island for the university in June 1925, with the goal of establishing a lake laboratory named in honor of Julius' father Franz Theodore Stone. Today, Ohio Sea Grant manages all operations at Stone Laboratory, including summer classes for more than 200 college students, and a Lake Erie Science Field Trip and conference program for grades 4 through adults from across the Great Lakes region.

Cooke Castle was constructed using local limestone, and original carpentry work in the library and plaster features on the ceiling still remain today. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 1966.



This view from the southwest was taken in 1901, but the house looks much the same today.

Renovation and rehabilitation of the castle building began in 1998 with roof replacements and window repairs, including the import of authentic period glass from France. Mortar restoration was completed in 2000, and construction of porches that followed the original exterior design completed the return of Cooke Castle to some of its former glory.

Ohio Sea Grant, the Friends of Stone Lab and Ohio State University are now working to raise funds for interior renovations, and plan to turn the castle into a place to host groups and policy makers working on issues related to science, education, the environment, the economy and other Lake Erie issues. Updates will include restoration of some of the interior historic features, conference facilities, and private guest rooms.

Support from businesses and individuals is encouraged. If you would like to support Ohio Sea Grant's renovation efforts, tax-deductible donations to the Cooke Castle Fund can be made at stonelab.osu.edu/fosl/give.