

Cooke Castle

Businessman Jay Cooke purchased Gibraltar Island in 1864 and immediately began constructing a 15-room mansion, now known as Cooke Castle, which was completed in 1865. The mansion was the Cooke family summer residence for nearly 60 years. It was built by architect and contractor Samuel White of Sandusky and is made of blue Sandusky limestone.

Cooke, a Sandusky native and the son of Ohio Congressman Eleutheros Cooke, lived and worked in Philadelphia at the time and was best known as the financier of the Union during the Civil War.



From 1865 to 1924, family members and guests visited Cooke's Gibraltar house, including Ohio Senator Salmon P. Chase, General William Tecumseh Sherman and President Rutherford B. Hayes.



A stylized, cursive signature of Jay Cooke.