

## Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission

---

### Dole Mansion

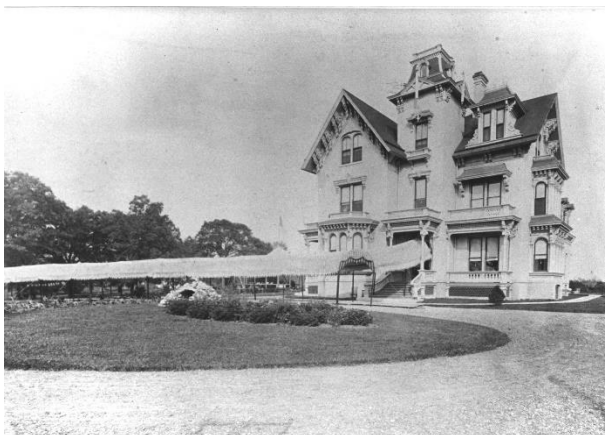
401 Country Club Road  
Built 1865

The Dole Mansion is an excellent example of the Italianate style of architecture.

The Italianate style dominated American houses constructed between 1850 and 1890. Italianate buildings have freer, more asymmetrical massing and "romantic" features such as towers, cupolas, and bay windows. The most prominent feature of the Italianate style is the occurrence of large eave brackets under typically wide, overhanging eaves. They have an infinite variety of sizes and shapes. They are usually arranged in pairs and are commonly placed on a deep trim band. The windows commonly have one or two panes and frequently are arched with decorated crowns. Paired and triple windows can be seen. Porches and small entry porches are almost always present. The front doors are often double and arched. Bay windows and porches add to the shape of the house.



Beginning in the early 1860s, Charles S. Dole purchased over 1,000 acres of land overlooking the lake. It was his dream to construct an elaborate estate that would reflect his position as a successful businessman. He was an early member of the Chicago Board of Trade, being associated with Armour, Dole and Company in Chicago.



To carry out his plan, he built a three-story mansion with adjoining gardens and stables. European craftsmen were imported to lay parquet floors, fashion archways and carve interior woodwork from black walnut trees grown on the property. As a final touch, he brought in Italian artisans to build several marble fireplaces. According to Mr. Dole's obituary, construction costs exceeded \$100,000, an enormous amount of money in those days.

The estate was known as Lakeland Farm. Mr. Dole lived there with his wife Julia, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Harriet Coffin, his two daughters, Mary Florence, Harriet (Hattie), and son Sydney. Dole maintained the estate for over 30 years, entertaining lavishly. As an example, for his daughter's wedding in 1883 he built a spur line from the Chicago and Northwestern railway tracks almost to his doorstep. A canopied and carpeted walkway extended 750 feet from the front door to the train enabling the guests to walk to the mansion for the ceremony and return to the train without concern for the weather. Notable wedding guests included Julian Rumsey (mayor of Chicago and Dole's first cousin) and Levi Leiter (first partner with Marshall Field).

The Dole's lived in the mansion until the late 1890s when the property was sold.