

FORT DOUGLAS

Fort Douglas Military Reservation, Salt Lake City

Fort Douglas was established in 1862 in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains overlooking Salt Lake City. Ostensibly, the installation was an effort to protect telegraph lines and transportation routes from hostile Indians, but it also gave the government a new advantage in its continuing struggle to compel Utah's predominantly Mormon population to cooperate with federal officials and federal laws, especially regarding polygamy. The post newspaper, *The Union Vedetee*, first non-Mormon journal in Utah, reported soldiers' discoveries of gold, silver, and lead, helped to promote mining efforts in the state, and encouraged non-Mormons to settle in Utah. A number of buildings from various eras remain, and a former barracks built in 1875 now houses a museum.