

# Fort Douglas, the Most Beautiful Army Post in Country

FORT DOUGLAS, as it is and as it is to be, presents two distinct views. A comparison of the home of the troops first domiciled there under the command of Gen. Connor and that of today also offers a striking contrast. But when contemplated improvements are completed, the post will be one of the most attractive in the entire United States. Not alone is the aim of the war department to make it modern in every respect the most significant phase of this plan—it means even more to this city than it does to the army.

Nestled at the foot of the eastern hills, the post is the choicest vantage point for the tourist. From its lofty elevation a superb view of the valley of the Great Salt lake is obtained that cannot be surpassed. In the plan of the development of Salt Lake City the post occupies a foremost position. To give it a full complement of modern barracks, officers' homes and other structures and to embellish them with sweeping lawns, is to give the city a magnet that will draw the tourist to the spot, and once there the view that he obtains of the city will be compelling. From this point the visitor's gaze may sweep with absolute abandon over the valley from north to south and from his very feet over to the horizon where the sun drops in a blaze of glory over the Great Salt sea. Farm lands, busy cities, smoking factories, smelters and shops, rich mines, railroads leading in every direction—a panorama remarkable in its diversity—present to the eye of the stranger an impression not to be forgotten. Then, in the ideal of the builders of the city, Fort Douglas must hold an important place. It means something to the city and the state and that, too, in concrete form.

**SOLDIERS, GOOD SPENDERS.**  
To the merchant of the city the post means much. The presence of 1,000 hungry men—and soldiers were ever hungry—means that there is added trade to the shopkeeper. Uncle Sam is almost prodigal in the care of his soldier boys. He feeds them exceedingly well and in the winter he keeps them warm. The soldier, too, is a true nephew of the bewhiskered, plug-hatted striped-trousered Uncle. The soldier boy spends his money freely with the merchants and when he is away to war the shopkeeper knows there is somebody missing from the town.  
Now all this has a double meaning. Fort Douglas has in its day been the home of a company of soldiers, of a fraction of a regiment, of a battery of artillery, a squadron of cavalry—just a handful of men. Now there is a full regiment there. Col. Walter Scott has the gallant Fifteenth housed there in somewhat cramped quarters. There is not enough room for a whole regiment of men. The war department has under consideration the question of splitting the regiment into its battalions and keeping just enough men there to keep the place in repair. There is not room for more. The questions subtracts itself, divides itself and figures things out generally to mean that there must be a bigger fort or a smaller number of men there.

**UNCLE SAM'S PLANS.**  
The first proposition is the one that is most favored. The war department wants to make Fort Douglas one of the most attractive posts in the Union. This, of course, means that some money must be appropriated to cover the cost of construction planned on paper. The war department looks to Utah's representatives in Congress to see to the financial part of the program. The plans are laid and all that is needed is the money to carry them out. The



Photo by Harry Shipley.  
**GROUP OF OFFICERS AND LADIES, GUESTS OF COL. AND MRS. SCOTT.**  
The above cut shows a group of the officers and their wives and at Fort Douglas, together with a number of guests from the city and elsewhere, the party having been photographed on the veranda of Col. Scott's residence at the post, on the occasion of a reception given by Col. and Mrs. Scott in honor of the birthday of their niece, Miss Raymond Beatty.

officers of the national treasury have been opened liberally to Utah for this purpose, but there is still more to be done.  
Referring the reader to the plan reproduced herewith, it will be seen that the idea is to retain as many of the present buildings as is possible and to add to them several new ones. The buildings which will be retained are those to be found in officers' circle, 12 in number, and used as residences by the officers of the line. Four double barracks have already been constructed in most modern manner. This is the first step to be completed in the new plan. The Bachelor Officers' club and mess is also a new structure. In the same list are the guard house, post exchange and gymnasium, bakery, quartermasters' office, and hospital. Yet to be completed before the plan is realized are new band barracks, four additional double barracks, administration buildings, residences for captains and field officers, new band stand, ordnance store house, corral and stable for machine gun platoon and animals used by the regiment. Coal sheds, hay sheds and other minor buildings necessarily enter into the scheme.

**WORK FOR CIVILIAN LABOR.**  
The double barracks that have already been built were constructed at a cost of about \$35,000 each. There are four more needed. The band quarters will not be quite so expensive.

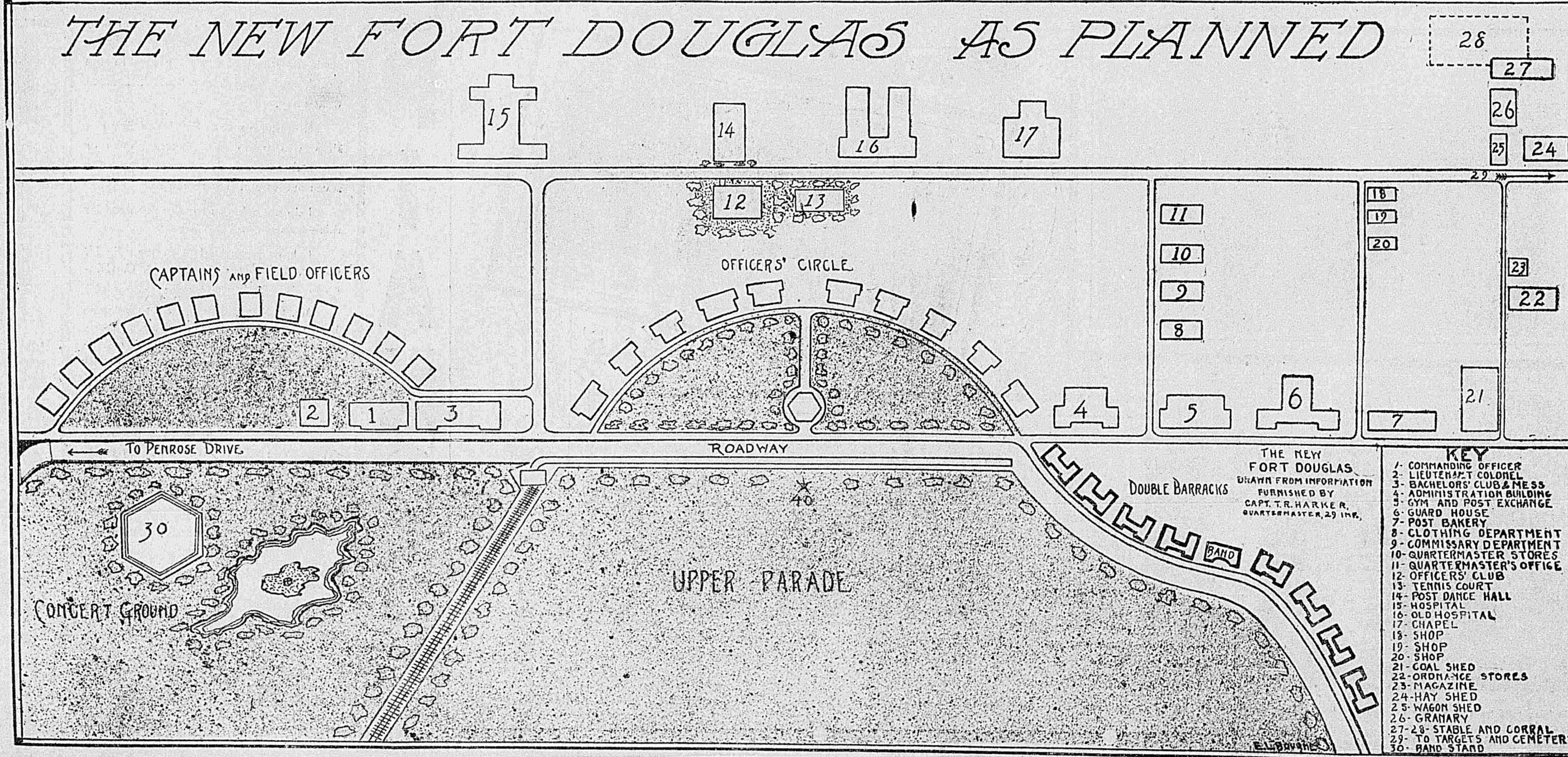
In all it is estimated that in the neighborhood of \$300,000 is needed to complete the scheme as now drawn. According to the market for materials needed this may be too low or too high an estimate, but is considered fair approximate.  
The labor to be done on this plan will not be performed by soldiers, but the civilian, the workman of Salt Lake, will be the man to profit by the consumption plan. The old stone barracks are all to be torn down and sold, and parades thus enlarged to be granted and the entire garrison made as beautiful as its location warrants. To do this means that a great number of Salt Lake's workmen will be kept busy for several months, for the plan is a big one and a few weeks or even a few months will not see its completion even after it is well begun.  
Of the money required, there is now available enough to erect two double barracks and band quarters. For these the bids will be opened within 60 days. It is proposed to use the old hospital as an administration building after the completion of the new hospital until such time as the new administration building may be authorized and completed. Added to the need for additional new buildings, there will be sewer extensions, water main extensions, electric light plant and sidewalks. This will all be put in by contract civilian labor.

The post has an ideal water supply in Red Butte canyon and this would provide the power for the generation of electric current.  
**IDEAL TRAGET RANGES.**  
Adjacent to the post is one of the best target ranges in the west. It is backed by hills and offers a long and gradual slope from the various firing points. It is an ideal range and adequate for practice at all ranges. In the Fifteenth are some remarkable marksmen and Fort Douglas is always assured that good marksmen may be developed on the range. Good athletic grounds are found beyond the upper parade and all sports may be carried on there without being hampered by unit surroundings.  
Near the post is a diversity of terrain seldom found in one locality, so that the professional training of the soldier is not restricted in any particular. Adequate drill grounds for a full regiment will be afforded on the enlarged parade and the country surrounding the post will provide for extended instruction in other than close order formations.  
In charge of the work of construction at the post is Capt. T. R. Harker, regimental quartermaster. Capt. A. S. Brooks, Twenty-ninth infantry, may be appointed construction quartermaster after the decision of a retiring board before which he has been ordered is rendered.

**A NATIONAL HERO.**  
In Major Andrew S. Rowan, Fort Douglas has a man distinguished by one of the most arduous and difficult enterprises committed to one single individual during the late war and also as being the hero of a story which has become known as a text book for colleges, a motto for the military camps, a theme for clergy men and a reference of general heroism for orators throughout the English speaking world. It is the famous "Message to Garcia," written by Elbert Hubbard and having for its chief note the enterprise of Maj. Rowan, at that time a lieutenant and employed in the military information bureau, in carrying to the leader of the Cuban insurgents at the beginning of the Spanish-American war an important message delivered by the department of war, in relation to the co-operation of the insurgent forces with the American army.  
The beginning sentences of Hubbard's story best illustrate the character of the man now stationed at the local post. They read as follows:  
"In all this Cuban business there is one man who stands out on the horizon of my memory like Mars at perihelion. When war broke out between Spain and the United States, it was very necessary to communicate quickly with the leader of the insurgents. Garcia was somewhere in the mountain fastnesses of Cuba—no one knew where. No mail nor telegraph could reach him.

The president must secure his co-operation, and quickly. What to do?  
Some one said to the president, "There's a fellow by the name of Rowan will find Garcia for you, if anybody can." Rowan was sent for, and given a letter to be delivered to Garcia. How "the fellow by the name of Rowan" took the letter, sealed it up in an oil-skin pouch, strapped it over his heart, in four days landed by night off the coast of Cuba from an open boat, disappeared into the jungle, and in three weeks came out on the other side of the island, having traversed a hostile country on foot, and delivered his message to Garcia, are things I do not desire to tell in detail. The point I wish to make is this: President McKinley gave Rowan a letter to be delivered to Garcia; Rowan took the letter and did not ask "Where is he at?" By the Eternal! there is a man whose form should be cast in deathless bronze and the statue placed in every college in the land."  
From this point Hubbard makes his article a clarion lesson upon concentration, persistence and courage that has made his essay a classic and his man a hero throughout many lands. It is to the hero and not to the essay that the interest of the present article rests. The further story of the enterprise as told in a very simple and direct way in the issue of August, 1908, of McClure's Magazine, and the details are summed up in an accompanying note by the McClure editors as follows:  
"From the moment he arrived at Key West, on May 11, he was exposed to all the dangers which a state of war brings the dispatch bearer who ventures into the enemy's territory. Sleeping on stone ballast in the bottom of an open boat, climbing on foot through the tickets, riding 50 miles or more a day over abandoned roads, or through unbroken forests, stopping only when preparation for continuing the trip required it, exposed to wind and sun and waves for two days in a boat so small that the occupants were forced to sit upright in it, forced on land and sea to keep continually on the alert for a watchful enemy—these are the experiences which Lieut. Rowan dismisses as mere incidents."  
After receiving Lieut. Rowan's report, Major Gen. Miles wrote to the secretary of war: "I also recommend that First Lieut. Andrew S. Rowan be made a lieutenant-colonel of one of the regiments of immunes. Lieut. Rowan made a journey across Cuba, was with the insurgent army under Lieut.-Gen. Garcia, and brought most important and valuable information to the government. This was a most perilous undertaking, and in my judgment, Lieut. Rowan performed an act of heroism and cool daring that has rarely been excelled in the annals of warfare."  
Fort Douglas, therefore, has the honor of having among its resident officers a man whose name figures with those of the most distinguished heroes of the war which has brought added prestige and glory to the nation.  
**LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE FIFTEENTH INFANTRY.**  
Col. Walter S. Scott, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Lieut. Col. Arthur Williams, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Maj. Willis T. May, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Maj. Andrew S. Rowan, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Maj. James M. Arrasmith, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Chaplain Joseph Clemens, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. Willis Uline, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. Harry A. Smith, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.  
Capt. John McA. Palmer, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.  
Capt. Verling K. Hart, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.  
Capt. Frank M. Savage, Center, Ala.  
Capt. Edgar T. Conley, College Park, Maryland.  
Capt. Charles H. Bridges, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.  
Capt. William A. Cavanaugh, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. Thomas R. Harker, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. Bryan Conrad, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. James M. Love, Jr., Savannah, Ga.  
Capt. Frank W. Rowell, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.  
Capt. Garrison McCaskey, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Capt. Leon L. Roach, Columbus, Kan.  
Capt. Richard P. Rifenberck, Jr., Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Robert H. Sillman, 215 Halsey street, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
First Lieut. Lochlin W. Caffey, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Wilbur A. McDaniel, Parkersburg, W. Va.  
First Lieut. Clark R. Elliott, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Charles E. Reese, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. John Ward, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. A. Owen Seaman, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Henry A. Ball, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.  
First Lieut. Gustave A. Weiser, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Ned M. Green, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Guy A. Buckner, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Sylvester C. Loring, general hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, California.  
First Lieut. Kneeland S. Snow, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. John C. Waterman, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Emory S. Adams, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Robert E. Boyers, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
Second Lieut. John S. Upham, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Louis Farrell, Nashville, Tenn.  
Second Lieut. Paul C. Potter, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Edwin Butcher, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Lowe A. McClure, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Hugh L. Walthall, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Charles L. Sampson, 510 Olive street, Kansas City, Mo.  
Second Lieut. George H. Huddleson, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Eugene Santschi, Jr., Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Fauntley M. Miller, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Blaine A. Dixon, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Olin O. Ellis, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Enoch B. Garey, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Second Lieut. Alva Lee, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Maj. William E. Purviance, medical corps, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
Maj. John M. Shepherd, medical reserve corps, Fort Douglas, Utah.  
First Lieut. Thomas B. McCown, medical reserve corps, Fort Douglas, Utah.

**SOCIAL LIFE AT THE FORT.**  
THE beautiful military post, station at the brow of the eastern hills has played an important part in the social life of the city. Almost from the time of its establishment a friendly social intercourse has been maintained by the post people and civilians; and this social alliance has been strengthened from time to time by closer ties. In the way of the many matrimonial unions between resident officers and Salt Lake's social belles, a number of congenial matches having been effected by Cupid's cunning warfare. Two recent ones of special interest are those of two prominent Salt Lake girls, Miss Addie Zane, daughter of Judge and Mrs. C. S. Zane, and Miss Katherine Geddes, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theron Geddes, the former having been wedded to Captain Cavanaugh during this month, and the latter to be married to Capt. Conrad in the near future.  
The post during the recent season has been the scene of a marked social activity, a number of brilliant affairs having been given outside the regular round of social functions. There are two or three social clubs which entertain weekly, the participants being chiefly confined to the Fort residents; but in the majority of social affairs, civilian guests are included, and there are now brilliant events given by entertainers of the city in which the Fort residents do not participate.



THE general plan now being considered for the enlargement of Fort Douglas into a post capable of accommodating a full regiment of infantry is shown in the accompanying drawing. The circle facing the parade ground is to be retained as residence for officers, there is to be another circle to the north for captains and field officers, to the south will stretch a long line of modern barracks for enlisted men and east of them will be found the shops, store houses, and other structures necessary for military uses. To the extreme rear will be found the hospital and other isolated structures. Near the lake will be built a new band stand and concert grounds will be made of the wild tract now found there. The view to be obtained by the

visitor as he enters the post by the car line will be one of a row of symmetrical and well kept homes, green lawns and wide stretches of country lying all about the post.  
Driving along the main highway through the post, the visitor finds himself at the mouth of Emigration Canyon, associated with which is the romantic story of the coming of the pioneers. Driving north from the post the visitor will find himself upon the boulevard which skirts the foot hills and gives a commanding view of the valley until the range of vision is the only factor which limits the panorama of beauty presented.