

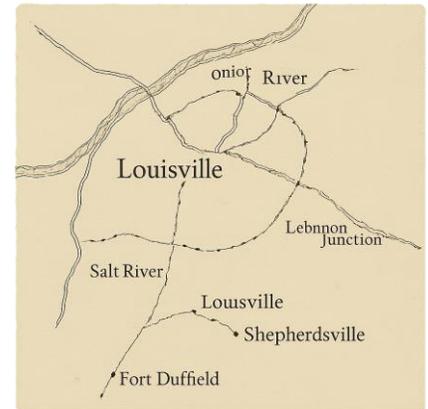
Louisville Defenses Map — 1864

Fort Duffield • West Point, Kentucky

Why Louisville Planners Created Layered Defenses

Louisville was vital to the Union war effort — a river and rail hub on the edge of Confederate territory. Its defenses had to protect:

- The Ohio River corridor
- The Louisville & Nashville Railroad
- Steamboat landings and wagon routes
- Supply depots feeding armies in Tennessee and Mississippi



Union engineers layered defenses north and south of the city, using natural barriers like Beargrass Creek and the Fairgrounds. Fort Duffield anchored the southern edge.

Fort Duffield: An Early-Warning Post

Built in late 1861, Fort Duffield sat atop Muldraugh Hill at West Point, Kentucky. Its purpose:

- Guard the Salt River mouth and Ohio River junction
- Monitor the L&N Turnpike and rail lines
- Provide early warning for any Confederate movement toward Louisville

Though never attacked directly, the fort's presence helped secure the Union's supply lifeline.

West Point and Supply Lines

West Point was the junction where:

- The Louisville & Nashville Turnpike met the L&N Railroad
- Steamboats delivered supplies from Louisville
- Wagons carried goods south to training camps and field hospitals

Fort Duffield's overlook gave Union forces control over this entire network.

Map Interpretation

- Fort Duffield is marked near West Point
- The Salt River flows into the Ohio River at that junction
- Defensive lines radiate outward from Louisville
- The map shows how terrain and logistics shaped the Union's strategy

Conclusion

This 1864 map shows how Fort Duffield fit into a layered system of defenses protecting Louisville and the Western Theater. Its quiet role — watching, warning, and securing — helped preserve Union control of Kentucky and the supply routes that sustained the war effort.