

Camp Gaston, sometimes called **Fort Gaston** is a former U.S. Army camp, that was located 3 miles west of the old original course of the [Colorado River](#) south of modern [Palo Verde, California](#), in [Imperial County, California](#), near Milpitas Wash Road. It was 80 miles (130 km) up river from Fort Yuma, and was active between 1859 and 1867.

Camp Gaston on the Colorado River is not to be confused with the [Fort Gaston](#), located in the [Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation](#) on the [Trinity River](#) in [Northern California](#) from 1859 to 1892. The northern Fort Gaston was for a short time officially designated as Camp Gaston from 1866 to early 1867 before being re-designated as Fort Gaston.

Fort Gaston

Near Hoopa Valley, California in United States

Area 54 acres (21.85 ha)

Site history

Built 1859

Fate Abandoned 1892

Garrison information

Past commanders Captain Edmund Underwood

Occupants Company D, 3rd Regiment California Volunteer Infantry

Company K,H,F,I 2nd Regiment California Volunteer Infantry

Company B, C 1st Battalion California Volunteer Mountaineers

Company A, 1st Battalion of Native Cavalry, California Volunteers

Fort Gaston was founded on December 4, 1859, in the redwood forests of the Hoopa Valley, in Northern California, on the west bank of the Trinity River, 14 miles (23 km) from where the Trinity flows into the Klamath River. It was located in what is now the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. Fort Gaston as part of the Humboldt Military District was intended to control the Hupa Indians and to protect them from hostile white settlers. The post was named for 2nd Lieutenant William Gaston, of the First Dragoons, who had been killed May 17, 1858, during the Spokane–Coeur d'Alene–Paloos War.

Renamed Camp Gaston in January 1866 it was again redesignated Fort Gaston in April 1867. It was finally abandoned in June 1892, and was turned over the Department of the Interior and became part of the Hupa reservation.