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to the Rockies. While about 2000 of the Saints left for the Rockies in 1847 they still started building a picket fence on three sides of the city, hemming it to the Missouri River. Apparently, there were some block houses built along the picket fence, which was about six feet tall. Later settlers, after the Mormons left, said there also was a moat outside the picket fence.

The picket fence was just one in a series of measures undertaken to keep the peace between the Saints and some bold and curious members of the Omaha and the Oto-Missouri Indian Tribes. The Indians had different ideas about property rights and about stray livestock than the Saints. The picket fence solved much of the problem. arising out of those different concepts of ownership.