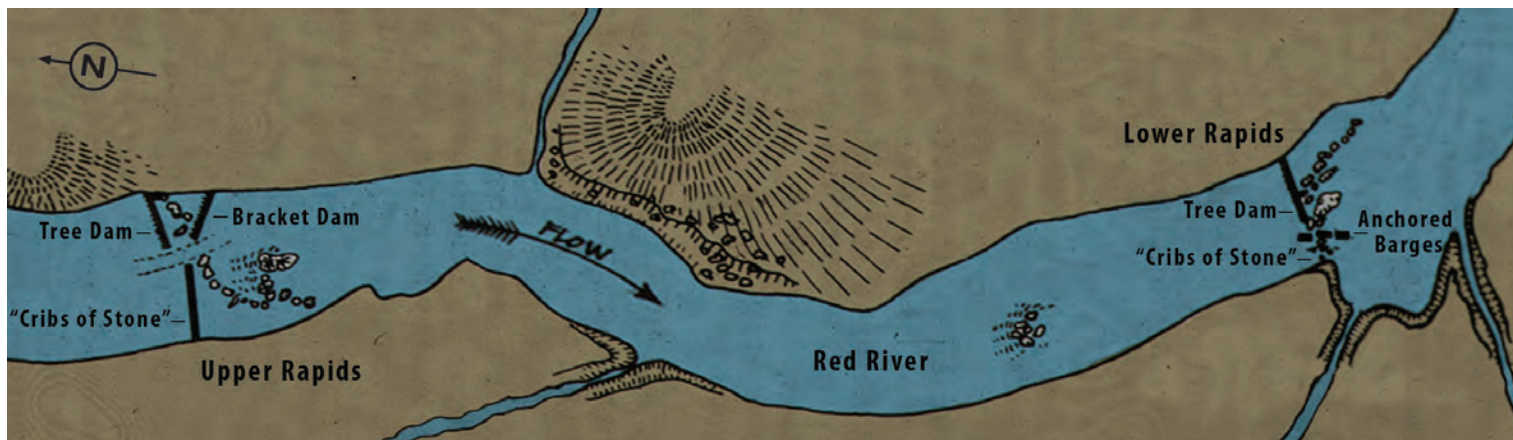
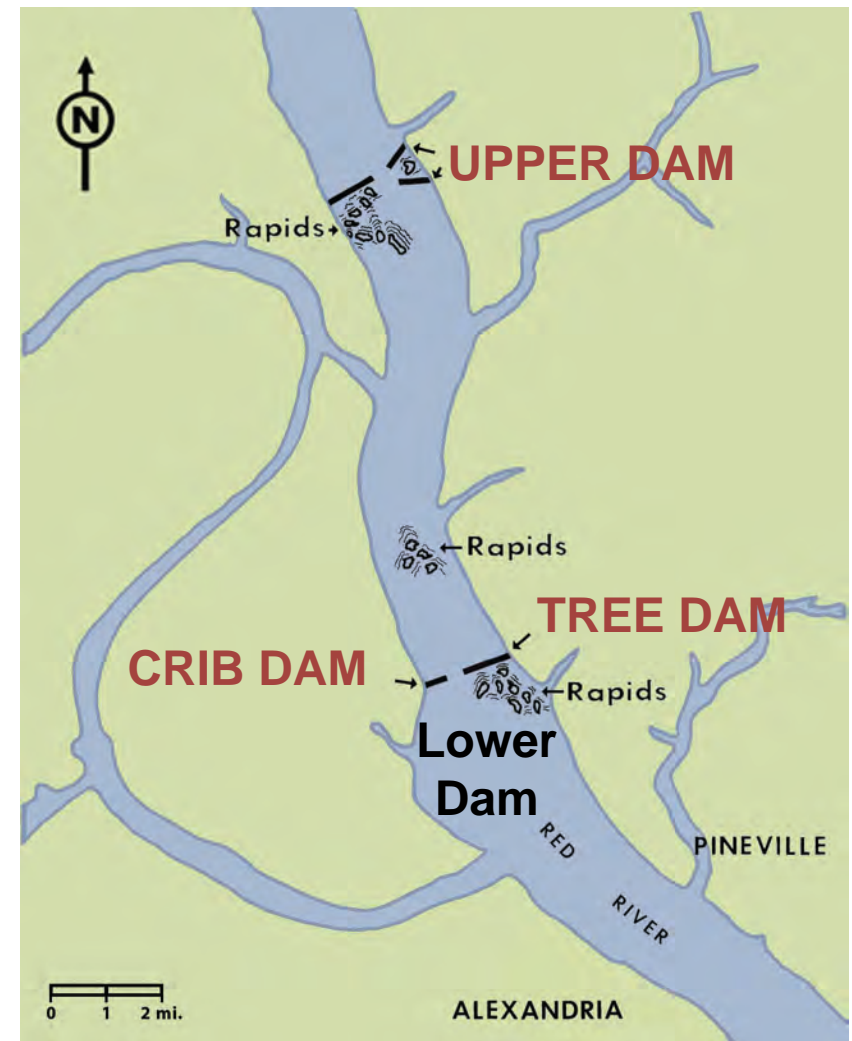


# Explore the Site

After the Union fleet left the area, what happened to Bailey's Dam? Archaeologists found that much of it was still in place 120 years later. They studied the lower (main) dam in 1984, as part of the Red River Waterway Project. That big federal project stabilized the banks of the Red River. It also built locks and dams to raise the water level for boat traffic. This led to Bailey's Dam being permanently underwater.

Before that construction began, important historical resources like Bailey's Dam were recorded. By law, federal agencies consider how their projects may affect historic properties. That process led to the study of Bailey's Dam.

While the river level was low, researchers drew maps, took pictures, and excavated some of the dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, sponsored the work. The photographs and Historic American Engineering Record drawings are now at the U.S. Library of Congress. You can explore some of them in the following pages!



*(Left) Detail from Map and Profile of the Red River Falls, Board of State Engineers, 1874. Courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.*



# Crib Dam

Archaeologists exposed the remains of the cribs at the lower (main) dam. The historical drawing showed the cribs as built of logs and filled with stones. Historical accounts said that the cribs were constructed of lumber from buildings and that machinery, stone and brick filled them. The archaeologists confirmed the written records that said the framework of the cribs was hewn timbers from buildings. However, archaeology showed that the cribs had been filled with clayey sand, topped with stones and brick rubble. Archaeologists found an iron sugar kettle fragment in the crib area mixed among stone and brick pieces. The broken kettle may have been in, or on, a crib.



*(Above) Closeup view of exposed crib timbers from crib section of Lower Bailey's Dam, facing northeast. Courtesy of the Library of Congress: HAER LA, 40-ALEX. V,2-16.*



*(Top) Closeup view of sandstone boulder concentration in crib section of Lower Bailey's Dam, facing north. Courtesy of the Library of Congress: HAER LA, 40-ALEX. V,2-17.*



*(Bottom) View of crib section of Lower Bailey's Dam, facing northwest. Courtesy of the Library of Congress: HAER LA, 40-ALEX. V,2-21.*



# Tree Dam

A 100-foot-long part of the tree dam at the lower (main) dam was clearly visible during times of low water in the 1980s. Archaeologists recorded parts of 146 logs that were above the water level, and others were just beneath the water. The logs were very well preserved. Brick and stone rubble was found piled on the upstream ends of the logs.

Archaeologists dug a trench about 5 feet wide and 23 feet long to learn more about the tree dam. They found that the tree limbs had been cut off, unlike those in the historical picture. By observing the knots on the tree trunks, archaeologists could tell that many of the trees were positioned with their tops downstream. That was opposite of the design in the historical illustration. The tops of the trunks had been shaped into a point. Archaeologists found sand and mud between the logs, and brick and stone on top of them.

*(Top Right) Archaeologist drawing a map of logs uncovered during the tree dam excavations. Courtesy of Coastal Environments, Inc.*

*(Lower Right) Closeup view of logs exposed in tree dam section of Lower Bailey's Dam, facing southwest. Courtesy of the Library of Congress: HAER LA, 40-ALEX. V,2-13.*



*(Left) Tree dam section of Lower Bailey's Dam. Third layer exposed with excavator perched on third log layer, facing northwest. Courtesy of the Library of Congress: HAER LA, 40-ALEX. V,2-19.*





# Upper Dam

In the late 1800s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed the rocks forming the upper rapids to improve navigation. Later, the channel of the river narrowed in that area. To find out if any traces of the upper dam remained, researchers studied the area using side-scan sonar. That device was pulled by a boat. As the boat traveled, the sonar bounced sound off the river bottom and recorded a picture of the return signal.

Historical documents showed that three small dams had been at the upper rapids. The sonar survey confirmed that a part of one of the crib dams is still intact. However, there was no evidence of the other two dams, suggesting that they are no longer in place.

*It takes special training to interpret a side-scan sonar image! This one shows the pile of rubble that remains where a crib dam was near the upper rapids. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, CERC-85-9.*

