The Red River Campaign of the Civil War was a Union effort to control Louisiana waterways. Troops entered the state from Arkansas, Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. Many hard-fought skirmishes went back-and-forth between Union and Confederate troops. After the Battle of Mansfield, Forts Randolph and Buhlow were built on the Red River at Alexandria by Confederates in order to repel future Union attacks through Northwest Louisiana.

The site also includes the remains of Bailey’s Dam, which allowed the Union Fleet to escape below the rapids on the Red River at Alexandria during their retreat after the battle of Mansfield.

Visitors to the site will enjoy a visitor center with exhibits on the Civil War Red River Campaign, an elevated boardwalk around the fort areas, with an overlook near Bailey’s Dam site, and an open field for Civil War re-enactments. Forts Randolph & Buhlow were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.
Forts Randolph & Buhlow SHS
135 Riverfront Street
Pineville, LA 71360
318-484-2390 or 877-677-7437 toll free

Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site, located on the banks of the Red River in Pineville, is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., All Historic Sites are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Take I-49 into Alexandria and take Exit 85A onto 10th Street; visitors exiting from I-49 northbound will turn right onto Jackson Street (Hwy. 165), while visitors exiting from I-49 southbound will turn left onto Jackson Street (Hwy. 165). Cross the river, then take the first right onto Main Street, then right onto Riverside Drive, which will take you to the site.

Admission is $4 per person; children (3 and under) and seniors (62 and over) are admitted free.

State of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Office of State Parks
P.O. Box 44426, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4426

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