RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Safety of Dams Project

Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam (MIAD)

SITE HISTORY

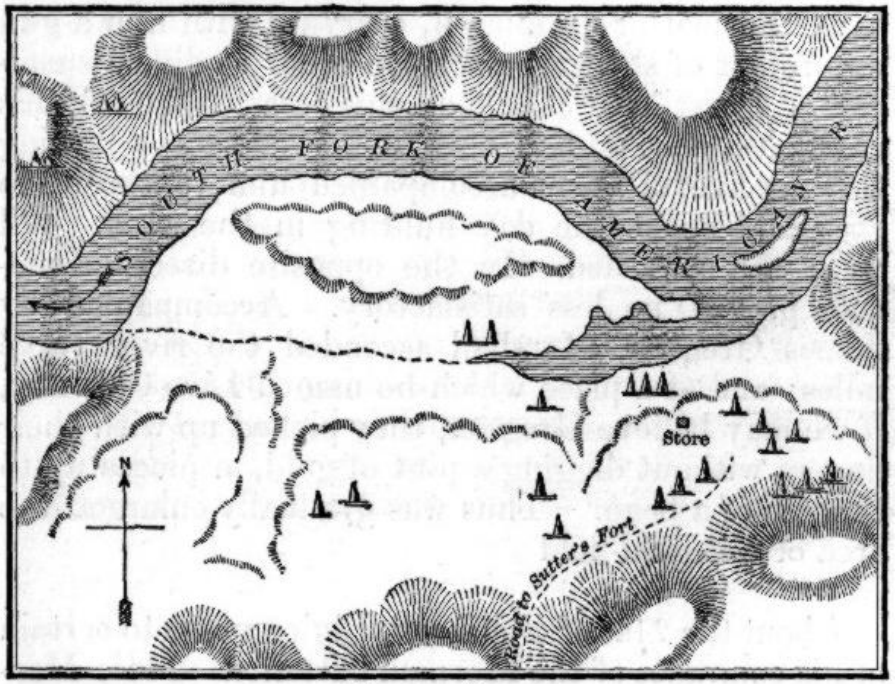
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Historical Mormon Island

- *Mormon Island* was once a mining community, which had an abundance of Mormon immigrants seeking fortune along the American River. At its peak, the community was home to 2,500 residents, 4 hotels, 1 school, and 7 saloons.

- The "island" was formed by the American River to the west, north, and east and a man-made canal to the south.

- The town of Morman Island developed upon the higher ground to the south of the canal.



MORMON ISLAND.

RECLAMATION

Historical Mormon Island

In the search for new gold deposits, after the miners began to separate and spread out from Coloma, one of the first notable places occupied was Mormon Island. The community dwindled after the California gold rush and was eventually razed as the Folsom Dam project was set to flood the town in 1956.

The only visible remnant of this community is a relocated cemetery on the dry side of Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam.

RECLAMATION

Historical Mormon Island

RECLAMATION

Folsom Gold Dredging District

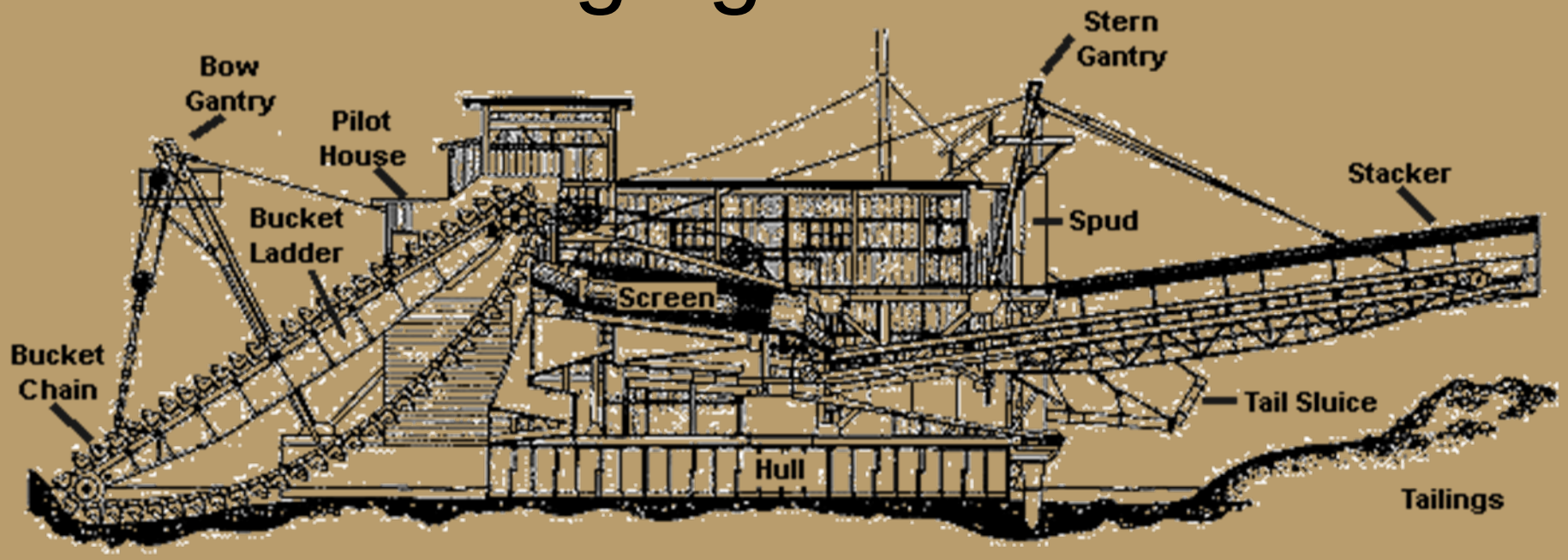
- The District extended from Folsom southwest along the American River to Fair Oaks, Natoma, and Nimbus and bounded on the east by Mather.

- The dredged area is approximately 10 miles long and up to 7 miles wide. The Folsom District is also known as the American River District.

- The region around Folsom and Mormon Bar was extensively placer-mined during the gold rush, with minor lode mining. The area was originally settled in 1849 and was first known as Negro Bar. The present town was laid out in 1855 by T. D. Judah for the Sacramento Valley Railroad and named for Captain J. L. Folsom, quartermaster of Stevenson's Regiment.

RECLAMATION

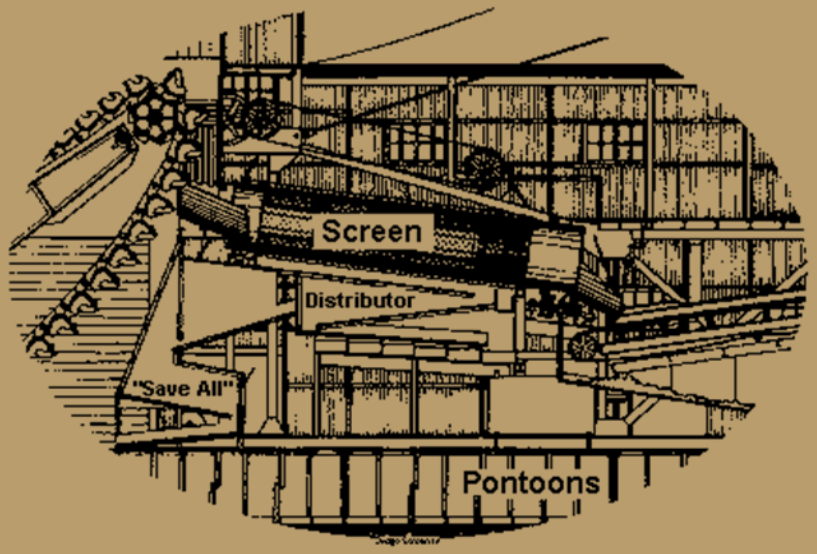
Dredging at MIAD



Numerous Chinese worked the region from the 1860s through the 1890s. A primitive grab-dredger was active at Natoma in 1894. Bucket-line dredging began at Folsom in 1898 and soon became a major industry. Most of the dredging companies were merged into Natomas Consolidated of California.

RECLAMATION

Dredging at MIAD



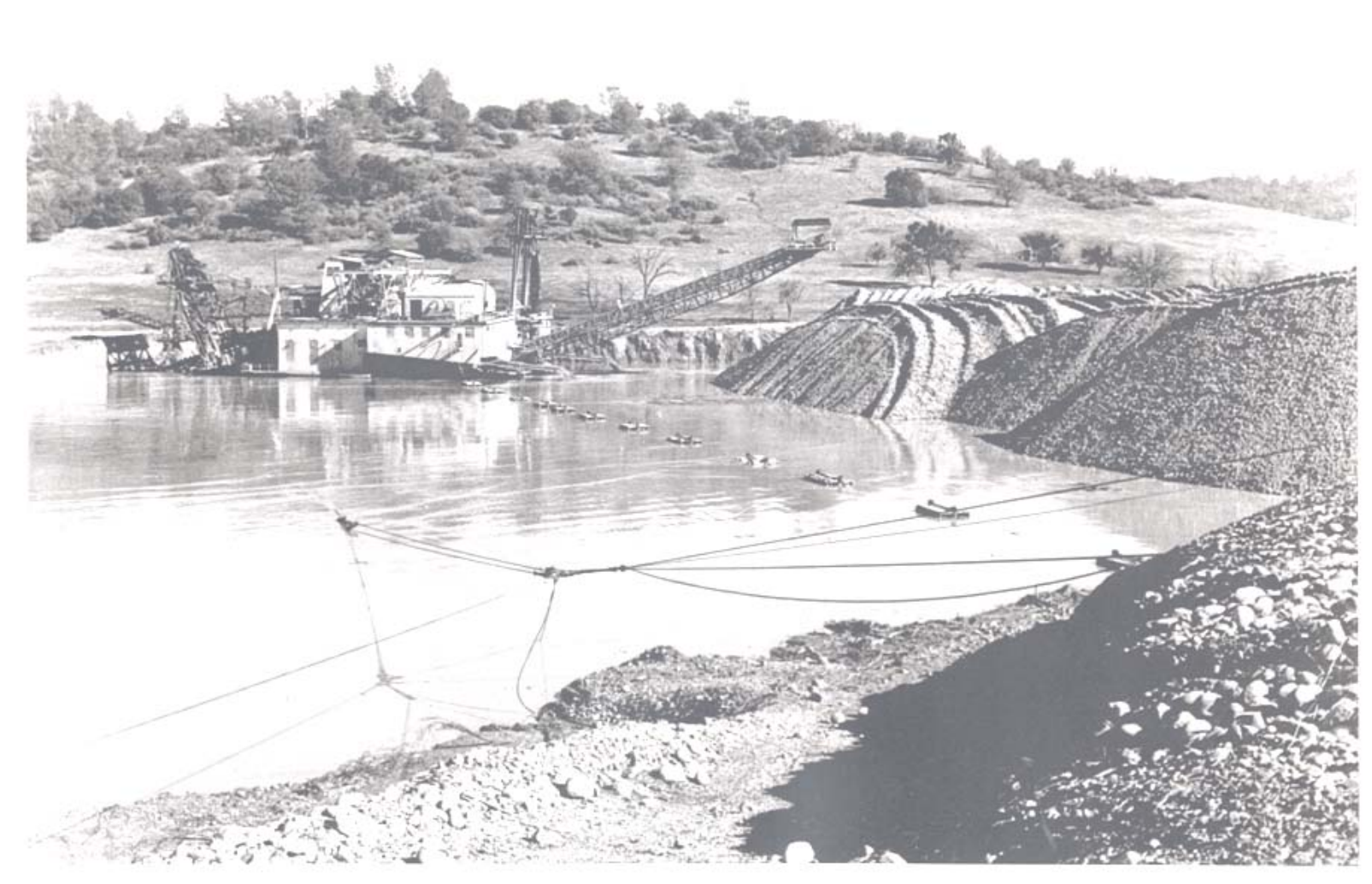
TYPICAL DREDGE

Dredging operations were curtailed during World War II but were resumed on a major scale shortly afterward. However, increasing costs, the depletion of dredging ground, and changing land values caused the dredging operations to be gradually curtailed. By 1960, there was only a single active dredge, and this was shut down in February 1962.

Large portions of the dredged-over areas are now occupied by defense industries, such as the Aerojet-General Corporation and Douglas Aircraft Company plants and by housing tracts. Folsom, one of the largest dredging fields in California, had a total output estimated at $125 million. Approximately one billion cubic yards of gravel were dredged by the Natomas Company.

RECLAMATION

Dredging at MIAD



RECLAMATION

Dam History

- Folsom Project built by US Corps of Engineers from 1948 to 1956
  - Operation and maintenance transferred to Reclamation in May 1956
- Zoned Earthfill Embankment Dam
  - Crest elevation - 480.0 feet
  - 110.0 - feet high
  - 4,820.0 - feet long
- MIAD Constructed Over Dredged Tailings
  - Central core and filters extend down to bedrock
  - Upstream & downstream toe founded on approximately 60 feet of tailings

RECLAMATION

RECLAMATION

Dam Statistics

General

- Dam type .....Earthfill
- Watercourse..... Blue Ravine
- Reservoir .....Folsom Lake
- Construction Date 1956

Dimensions

- Crest Elevation:……. 480.0 ft
- Structural Height:..... 110.0 ft
- Crest Length: .....4,820.0 ft

Hydrology

- Drainage Area: .....1,875 sq mi

RECLAMATION

END OF PRESENTATION

PLEASE VISIT OTHER STATIONS FOR FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

RECLAMATION