



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**[N6709; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041452; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]**

**Notice of Intended Repatriation: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Michigan intends to repatriate a certain cultural item that meets the definition of a Sacred Object, and that has a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the cultural item in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**ADDRESSES:** Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural item in this notice to Dr. Ben Secunda, University of Michigan, Office of Research, Suite G269, Lane Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1274, email [bsecunda@umich.edu](mailto:bsecunda@umich.edu).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the University of Michigan, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

**Abstract of information available**

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one sacred object is one lot of organic powder. The sacred object was removed from the Allegany Reservation, in Cattaraugus County, New York in 1925. It was then found in collections at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission collections in 1949, and a portion of the organic powder was subsequently sent to the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology's

(UMMAA) Ethnobotany Range in 1950. No known time period is associated with the Sacred Object.

### **Determinations**

The University of Michigan has determined that:

- The one sacred object described in this notice is, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, a specific ceremonial object needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and has ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural item described in this notice and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

### **Requests for Repatriation**

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural item in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural item in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the University of Michigan must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural item are considered a single request and not competing requests. The University of Michigan is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

**AUTHORITY:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and

the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: November 25, 2025

**Melanie O'Brien,**  
*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

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