



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6790; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041559; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka, AK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Sheldon Jackson Museum intends to repatriate a certain cultural item that meets the definition of an unassociated funerary objects 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 Jacqueline Fernandez-Hamberg, Sheldon Jackson Museum, 104 College Drive, Sitka, AK 99835, email Jacqueline.Fernandez-Hamberg@alaska.gov.

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 Sheldon Jackson Museum, 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 items have been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a small wooden head carved of a knot at the end of a branch with human teeth set in the mouth. The carved human face similar to small faces from Point Hope; human teeth set in mouth. Groove around edge of face perhaps for some feather or hair attachments. End of handle broken off. The back of the carving has the following handwritten inscription: Walla-pi Near Point Barrow Alaska 1892. The piece is culturally affiliated with the Native Village of

Barrow based off the inscription and its reference to Point Barrow and Walla-pi.

Determinations

The Sheldon Jackson Museum has determined that:

- The one unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a connection between the cultural item described in this notice and the Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government.

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 Sheldon Jackson Museum 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 Sheldon Jackson Museum 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: December 8, 2025

Melanie O'Brien,
Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

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