This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 2026-08-24 and available online at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-17171, and on https://govinfo.gov

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7433; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0043536; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items 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 items in this notice to Cindy-Carter Davis, Chief Archaeologist, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, 100 South State Street, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205, email *ccarterdavis@mdah.ms.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 Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 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 lot of cultural items has been requested from 22WI500 (Nanih Waiya). The one lot of unassociated funerary objects consist of lithics. The collection was recovered from the site by a private individual. An additional collection has no provenience information available.

A total of one lot of cultural items has been requested for repatriation from 22NE632

(Nanih Waiya Cave). The one lot of unassociated funerary objects consist of lithics. This collection has no provenience information.

Through Tribal consultation, the two lots of unassociated funerary objects were identified as culturally affiliated with The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians.

To our knowledge, no known hazardous substances were used to treat any of the unassociated funerary objects.

Determinations

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has determined that:

- The two lots of 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 items described in this notice and the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items 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 items 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 Mississippi Department of Archives and History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History 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: August 17, 2026

Mariah Soriano,
Acting Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026-17171 Filed: 8/21/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/24/2026]