



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7536; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0043837; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Minnesota 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 Dylan Goetsch, University of Minnesota, Office of Native American Affairs, Morrill Hall, 100 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, email goets036@umn.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 Minnesota, 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 40 lots of cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 40 lots of unassociated funerary objects are lithic material, ground stone, ceramics, charcoal, soil samples, shell, faunal material, and historic material. These items have been identified as cultural items under NAGPRA based on tribal consultations, previous NAGPRA summaries from other museums, and historical records of the excavations. The items were collected in Minnesota, Yellow Medicine County, by the Anthropology Department of the University of Minnesota in the

1940's. Additionally, some of the items were donated to the University in 1970 by a local collector. The University of Minnesota records indicate no known hazardous substances.

Determinations

The University of Minnesota has determined that:

- The 40 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 Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota.

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 University of Minnesota 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 University of Minnesota 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: September 17, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,
Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026-19486 Filed: 9/22/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/23/2026]