Department of Anthropology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Summary

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Anthropology cares for Native American items that may be considered cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). This information is shared in compliance with the Summary Provision (43 CFR 10.9) of NAGPRA.

General Description, Geographical Location (Provenience), Estimated Number, and Other Relevant Information (43 CFR 10.9(a)(1))

The Native American items cared for by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Anthropology are known collectively as the University of Wisconsin Anthropology Collection (UWAC). The current scope of the UWAC, and therefore a majority of the Native American items present, represent two identified collection groups:

- Approximately 300 Native American items believed to have been created in the early- to mid-1900s and representing regions, states, and/or areas of states from around the country ("Native American Collections"). It is believed that most of the items were created for the purpose of sale or trade.
- Hundreds of thousands of archaeological artifacts recovered from regions, states, and/or areas of states from across the country, but primarily from southcentral and southwestern Wisconsin and pottery sherds from the southwestern United States ("United States Archaeology Collections").

Native American Collections

The items in the Native American Collections are identified generally by region such as: the Great Plains, Great Lakes area, Rio Grande, American Midwest, and American Southwest, and from the specifically referenced states of Alaska, northwest California, and New Mexico. Named tribes or cultures mentioned in available documentation include: Aleut, Apache, Chippewa, Ho-Chunk, Hopi, Hualapai, Hupa, Inuit, Jicarilla, Karuk, Navajo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Sioux, Ute, Winnebago, and Yurok, although additional cultural affiliations may also be identified through consultation.

Named department faculty and graduate students include: William Laughlin, Haviland Scudder Mekeel, Frederick Milan, and Frances Ross. Private donors include: William Gerritsen, Vernon Hall, Thomas Hamilton, Angus Lookaround, and Harley and Henrietta Sievenpiper.

Almost all of these items include very little or no associated documentation and very limited geographic location information. All are believed to have been acquired by the donors through the modern commercial market or as gifts from local community members as the donors were completing field projects in, or visiting, the area.

United States Archaeology Collections

The major scope of the UWAC focuses on the long history of southcentral and southwestern Wisconsin, comprising over 90% of the archaeological artifacts in our care (numbering in the

hundreds of thousands) and mostly representing landscape survey and field school excavation projects. However, as our educational curriculum spans the globe, a small number of isolated artifacts removed from many of the lower 48 states and Alaska are present, as well as the Southwest Pottery Types Collection – a collection of approximately 3,000 pottery sherds from often vague or generic (i.e., surface) locations from the southwest United States. More information is available about these collections upon request.

Acquisition History (Provenance) (43 CFR 10.9(a)(1)(iii))
All Native American items in the UWAC were bequeathed to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Anthropology by various donors, including University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty and staff, professional archaeologists, and private donors. Additional information about each item is available upon request.

The items in the Native American Collection are believed to have been bequeathed between the 1940s and the 1970s. The items in the United States Archaeology Collections were removed from their place of origin from the early 1900s to the present and were bequeathed to the UWAC from the late 1940s to the present.

Potentially Hazardous Substances (43 CFR 10.9(a)(1)(v))
The UWAC is unaware of any past treatment using potentially hazardous substances on the Native American items in our care. Documented treatments and institutional knowledge, dating back to the mid-1980s, do not suggest potentially hazardous substances have been used since at least that time.

Invitation to Consult (43 CFR 10.9(b)(2)(iii))
We welcome the opportunity to engage in meaningful consultation regarding these Native American items in a manner of each tribe's choosing (virtual, phone, email, or in-person). The purpose of the consultation would be to help determine if any of the items may be sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, or unassociated funerary objects and should be repatriated. We would also like to receive guidance on care, handling, and use.

Information Sharing and Communication
A more comprehensive itemized list, images, and additional information about identified collectors, donors, and the collection history, are available upon request. Current information is also discoverable online through the UW NAGPRA website: https://nagpra.wisc.edu/. Please contact Elizabeth Leith (contact information below) to:

- request specific information or password access to the restricted portion of the website (https://nagpra.wisc.edu/resources-for-lineal-descendants-indian-tribes-and-native-hawaiian-organizations/) and/or
- schedule a consultation

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