

a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after June 23, 2023. If competing requests for repatriation are received, Central Washington University must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. Central Washington University is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribe identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9, 10.10, and 10.14.

Dated: May 17, 2023.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2023-11013 Filed 5-23-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0035906;
PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intent To Repatriate Cultural Items: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Nashville, TN

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC-DOA) 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. The cultural items were removed from Madison, Obion, and Perry Counties, TN.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after June 23, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Phillip R. Hodge, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, 1216 Foster Avenue, Cole Building #3, Nashville, TN 37243, telephone (615) 626-2025, email *Phil.Hodge@tn.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 TDEC-DOA. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice. Additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records held by the TDEC-DOA.

Description

In 1963, 1981, and 1983, archeologists with the TDEC-DOA removed 68 cultural items from site 40MD1 in Madison County, TN. The 68 unassociated funerary object include 46 lots of fragmentary artifacts from burial fill consisting of copper, fiber matting, fibrous material, unidentified organic material, cane-impressed clay and daub, charcoal samples, burned wood, unidentified bones, lithic debitage, burned sandstone, siltstone, fire cracked rock, mica, faunal bones, and shells; 12 lots of fragmentary artifacts from features interpreted to be cremations consisting of lithic debitage, sandstone, quartz crystal flakes, mica, ceramic sherds, unidentifiable bones and charcoal; four lots consisting of lithic debitage, chipped stone tool fragments, sandstone, quartz crystal flakes, mica, ceramic sherds, unidentifiable bones, charcoal, and soil fragments with impressed cane matting; one lot consisting of burned sandstone; one lot consisting of pearl and shell beads from Mound 6; two lots of fragmentary artifacts from features interpreted to be cremations consisting of unidentifiable bone fragments and stone from Mound 12; one lot of fragmentary artifacts from burial fill consisting of lithic debitage, burned sandstone, and ceramic sherds; and one lot consisting of charcoal and burned organic material from a cremation feature in Mound 31.

In 1985, archeologists with Arrow Enterprises of Bowling Green, KY, working under contract to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, removed 43 cultural items from site 40OB6 in Obion County, TN. The 43 unassociated funerary objects include eight lots of artifacts from burial fill consisting of lithic debitage, fire cracked rock, sandstone, shell fragments, ceramic sherds, burned clay fragments, and unidentifiable calcined bone fragments; 34 lots of artifacts from general mound fill consisting of lithic debitage, fire cracked rock, fragmentary chipped stone tools, sandstone, pebbles, ceramic sherds, burned clay fragments, charcoal, shells, and faunal bones; and one lot consisting of unprocessed soil samples from mound contexts.

Between 1972 and 1976, archeologists with then Memphis State University removed eight cultural items from site 40PY207 in Perry County, TN. The eight unassociated funerary objects include one lot consisting of commingled dog skeletal remains belonging to three dogs and seven lots of burial fill consisting of lithic debitage, fragmentary faunal materials, shells, fire cracked rock, daub, and stone.

Cultural Affiliation

The cultural items in this notice are connected to one or more identifiable earlier groups, tribes, peoples, or cultures. There is a relationship of shared group identity between the identifiable earlier groups, tribes, peoples, or cultures and one or more Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations. The following types of information were used to reasonably trace the relationship: geographical and historical.

Determinations

Pursuant to NAGPRA and its implementing regulations, and after consultation with the appropriate Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, the TDEC-DOA has determined that:

- The 119 cultural items described above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from specific burial sites of Native American individuals.
- There is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the cultural items and the Cherokee Nation; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; The Chickasaw Nation; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the Responsible Official identified in **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 June 23, 2023. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the TDEC-DOA 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 TDEC–DOA is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.8, 10.10, and 10.14.

Dated: May 17, 2023.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2023–11011 Filed 5–23–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0035910;
PPWOCRADNO–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Appalachian State University has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is no cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and any Indian Tribe. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from Watauga County, NC, and from an unknown site or sites in one or more of the following counties: Ashe County, NC; Avery County, NC; Caldwell County, NC; Watauga County, NC; Wilkes County, NC; Carter County, TN; and Johnson County, TN.

DATES: Disposition of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after June 23, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Alice Wright, Associate Professor, Appalachian State University, Department of Anthropology, ASU Box 32016, 322 Anne Belk Hall, Boone, NC 28608, telephone (828) 262–6384, email wrightap2@appstate.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 Appalachian State

University. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice. Additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the inventory or related records held by Appalachian State University.

Description

In the early 1970s, human remains representing, at minimum, one individual were removed from the Ward site in Watauga County, NC, by Appalachian State University archeologists under the direction of Harvard Ayers. The Ward site is a village that dates between A.D. 1100 and 1300. The grave containing these human remains was found outside the village palisade. These human remains—a complete but poorly preserved skeleton—probably belong to a young adult male. No known individual was identified. The one associated funerary object is a greenstone celt found in the grave fill.

In 1968, human remains representing, at minimum, one individual were removed from Church Rockshelter No. 1 in Watauga County, NC. They were excavated by the landowner, who had found them near the surface of the ground and in a flexed position. The stratigraphic placement of these human remains and their relatively good condition suggest they date to the late precontact period (A.D. 1300–1500). These human remains were in the possession of the Appalachian State University biology department before being transferred to the Department of Anthropology, in 1990. The human remains—a nearly complete skeleton—belong to a female approximately 20 years old. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

In 2003, human remains representing, at minimum, one individual were removed from Church Rockshelter No. 1 in Watauga County, NC. They were excavated by Appalachian State University archeologists under the direction of Thomas Whyte from the 1968 excavation spoil pile. The human remains were scattered. Evidently, they had not been seen or recognized as human during the 1968 excavation. The human remains—a partial skeleton—belong to an infant. The infant may have been associated with the adult female removed from Church Rockshelter No. 1 in 1968. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

Sometime during the mid-20th century, human remains representing, at minimum, three individuals were

removed from an unknown site or sites in one or more of the following counties: Ashe County, NC; Avery County, NC; Caldwell County, NC; Watauga County, NC; Wilkes County, NC; Carter County, TN; and Johnson County, TN. They were acquired by a private collector, and probably were purchased from private collections deriving from these counties. In 1982, these human remains were donated to the Appalachian Cultural Museum of Appalachian State University. In 2006, when the Appalachian Cultural Museum closed, the human remains were transferred to the Appalachian State University Department of Anthropology. The human remains—partial skeletons—belong to three adults. No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

Aboriginal Land

The human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice were removed from known geographic locations. These locations are the aboriginal lands of one or more Indian Tribes. The following information was used to identify the aboriginal land: a treaty.

Determinations

Pursuant to NAGPRA and its implementing regulations, and after consultation with the appropriate Indian Tribes, Appalachian State University has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of six individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The one object described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- No relationship of shared group identity can be reasonably traced between the human remains and associated funerary objects and any Indian Tribe.
- The human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice were removed from the aboriginal land of the Cherokee Nation; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Requests for Disposition

Written requests for disposition of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the Responsible Official identified in **ADDRESSES**. Requests for disposition may be submitted by: