

Tribe of South Dakota; Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska; and Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these human remains should contact superintendent Ruthann Knudson, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, 301 River Road, Harrison, NE 69346-2734, telephone (308) 668-2211, facsimile (308) 668-2318, e-mail ruthann\_knudson@nps.gov, no later than July 18, 2001. Repatriation of the human remains to the Pawnee Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, and Crow Tribe of Montana may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: May 7, 2001.

**John Robbins,**

*Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships.*

[FR Doc. 01-15304 Filed 6-15-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects in the Possession of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Fritch, TX**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior  
**ACTION:** Notice

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.9, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects in the possession of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Fritch, TX.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the National Park Service unit that has control or possession of these Native American human remains. The Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

A detailed assessment and inventory of the human remains and associated funerary objects has been made by

professional staff of the National Park Service in consultation with representatives of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma; Comanche Indian Tribe, Oklahoma; Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma; and Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma. The Cohuhtecan Nation, a non-Federally recognized Native American group, also was consulted.

In 1961, human remains representing one individual were recovered during a legally-authorized survey of State site 41P2, then under the management of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Items found elsewhere at the site indicate that these human remains probably were buried during the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 900-1700).

In 1964, human remains representing a minimum of 22 individuals were recovered during legally-authorized excavation by F.E. Green of Texas Tech University at the Footprint site, then under the management of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. No known individuals were identified. The 83 associated funerary objects are 2 shell pendants, 68 shell beads, 3 tool fragments, 3 beveled knives, 1 triangular knife, 1 Borger cordmarked pot, 4 bone awls, and 1 fragment of burned animal bone. The associated funerary objects indicate that these human remains probably were buried during the Antelope Creek Focus of the Plains Village-Panhandle Aspect (A.D. 1100-1400).

On March 15, 1965, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, then called Sanford National Recreation Area, came under the joint administration of the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. Control of the collections recovered prior to that date has been assumed by the National Park Service.

In 1967, human remains representing one individual were recovered during legally-authorized excavation near the Footprint site. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present. These human remains are believed to date to the same time as the Footprint site.

In June 1969, human remains representing a minimum of four individuals were recovered during legally-authorized excavations by the Texas Archeological Society at the Blue Creek site. No known individuals were identified. The 264 associated funerary objects are 253 potsherds, 3 chipped stone flakes, 1 unworked mammal bone

fragment, 3 Washita type stone arrow points, 1 bison tibia digging stick, and 3 unidentified lithic specimens. The associated funerary objects indicate that these human remains probably were buried during the Plains Village-Panhandle Aspect (A.D. 1100-1400).

Archeological information indicates a continuous occupation of the Texas panhandle area from A.D. 1 through the Plains Village-Panhandle Aspect. Wichita oral tradition links these earlier populations with the Escanxaques, or Iscani people, a constituent band of the present-day Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma. Kiowa oral tradition indicates Kiowa occupation of the Lake Meredith area during prehistoric times.

Based on the above-mentioned information, the superintendent of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area has determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(1), the human remains listed above represent the physical remains of 28 individuals of Native American ancestry. The superintendent of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area also has determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(2), the 336 objects listed above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of a death rite or ceremony. Lastly, the superintendent of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area has determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (e), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the Native American human remains and associated funerary objects and the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma and the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma; Comanche Indian Tribe, Oklahoma; Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma; Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma; and Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma. This notice has also been sent to officials of the Cohuhtecan Nation, a non-Federally recognized Native American group. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these human remains and associated funerary objects should contact John C. Benjamin, Superintendent, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1460, 419 East Broadway, Fritch, TX 79036, telephone (806) 857-3151, before July 18, 2001. Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects to the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie),

Oklahoma and the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: April 5, 2001.

**John Robbins,**

*Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Inventory Completion for Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects in the Possession of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR 10.9, of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects in the possession of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 43 CFR 10.2 (c). The determinations within this notice are the sole responsibility of the National Park unit that has control or possession of these Native American human remains. The Assistant Director, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by National Park Service professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas; Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Oklahoma; Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma; Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma; Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana; Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Louisiana; Kialegee Tribal Town, Oklahoma; Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi; Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma; Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama; Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Seminole Tribe of Florida, Dania, Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood & Tampa Reservations;

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Oklahoma; Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma. The Shawnee Tribe, also known also as the "Loyal Shawnee" or "Cherokee Shawnee," a nonfederally recognized Native American group at the time that they were consulted, have since been recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians under provisions of P.L. 106-568.

The 75 human remains and 41 associated funerary objects described below were recovered from three different sites.

In 1963 and 1964, human remains representing 10 individuals were recovered from the Boyd site during an authorized National Park Service project to mitigate construction impacts from the Natchez Trace Parkway. No known individuals were identified. The 24 associated funerary objects are pieces of a single Baytown Plain ceramic jar.

The Boyd site is located in Madison County, MS, and consists of a village area and six mounds. On the basis of artifacts recovered during the excavations, the village area was occupied during the Woodland period (A.D. 300-700), while the mounds were built during the Mississippian period (A.D. 1000-1650). The human remains and associated funerary objects were associated with the Mississippian period use of the site. One burial was recovered with fragments of a Baytown Plain ceramic jar, a ceramic type often associated with the Late Woodland and Early Mississippian period (A.D. 700-1200). In 1949, human remains representing 36 individuals were recovered from the Gordon Mounds site during a legally authorized National Park Service excavation prior to the construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway. No known individuals were identified. The 17 associated funerary objects are 12 ceramic fragments representing 5 different vessels, 3 projectile points, and 1 stone celt.

The Gordon Mounds site is located in Jefferson County, MS, and consists of two mounds and a village area. On the basis of artifacts recovered during the excavations the site was occupied during the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods (A.D. 600-1750). Ceramic types include Mazique Incised and Addis Plain, ceramic types often associated with the late prehistoric occupants of the Natchez, MS, area and with the Natchez Indians.

In 1948 and 1972, human remains representing 29 individuals were recovered from the Emerald Mound site

during legally authorized excavation projects. No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

The Emerald Mound site is located in the vicinity of Natchez, MS, and consists of two mounds and a plaza area. On the basis of artifacts recovered during excavation, the site was occupied during the late precontact phase of the Mississippian period (A.D. 1200-1650, or later). Ceramic types that have been historically associated with the Natchez Indians were found throughout the site. The cremated remains of infants were found in the mound. Infant sacrifice is a cultural trait that has been affiliated with the Natchez.

In 1542, Hernando de Soto's expedition heard of, and later encountered hostile Indians along the lower Mississippi River believed to have been the Natchez and their allies. In 1682, the de La Salle expedition specifically identified the Natchez as living along the banks of the lower Mississippi River. Following an unsuccessful rebellion against the French in 1729, the Natchez were dispersed. About 400 individuals surrendered to the French and were sent to the West Indies as slaves. The remaining Natchez withdrew among the Chickasaw and ultimately separated into two main bands, one settling among the Upper Creeks and the other uniting with the Cherokee.

After their removal to Indian Territory, Natchez descendants settled along both sides of the border between the Creek and Cherokee Nations. Consultation with tribal representatives indicates that those Natchez in the Cherokee Nation were regarded as "Nahchee Creeks." The Natchez language was still spoken by some in the Creek Nation until the early 20th century and by some among the Cherokee until the 1940s. Despite the later survival of the Natchez language among the Cherokee, the Natchez survived longest as a recognizable sociocultural entity among the Creeks, where the Natchez remnant ultimately was taken in by the still-extant Ahbika ceremonial ground in the present-day Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Given territorial proximity and complexities of modern Cherokee tribal alignments in Oklahoma, both the Cherokee Nation and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians are likely to include tribal members of Natchez descent.

Based on the above mentioned information, the superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway has determined that, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.2 (d)(1), the human remains listed above represent