

Archaeological Research Center Activities November 16, 2023–March 15, 2024

In-House Contracts Research

Projects for South Dakota Department of Transportation, Private Contractors, and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

- 28 surveys completed
- 15 reports completed, including 1 evaluation report (39LA0007)
- 37 record search letters submitted
- 1 mitigative research design submitted and approved (39HT0150)
- 5 new archaeological sites and 34 new structures recorded
- 13 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

Project for US Army Corps of Engineers

- Swan Creek NRHP research project – report in progress, due May 2024 (fieldwork was completed September 2022)

GIS

GIS staff entered or updated 274 survey boundary features and 172 site boundary features in the ARMS geodatabase. 148 external and 53 internal record search requests were fulfilled. Existing features and records in the ARMS geodatabase continue to be checked for accuracy and are undergoing edits where necessary. The data dictionary used with the Archaeological Research Center's high-accuracy GNSS data usage and collection solution has been updated for the 2024 field season. Those updates have been applied to the feature classes in use by the units.

Burial/NAGPRA Reports (n=8)

- Walworth/Brown County – Call from Aberdeen PD about inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains.
- Todd County – Request from Lela White, Niobrara National Scenic River, for records regarding and mid-90s repatriation.
- Oglala Lakota County – Bone ID for OST Tribal Police – nonhuman
- Hughes County – Records request for 39HU0010 from Pemina Yellow Bird/Three Affiliated Tribes.
- Brookings County – Consultation with NRCS regarding a possible unmarked historic grave in their project area.
- Hanson County – Records request from private landowner about mound site on ranch he manages.
- SD General – Bill Chada, USACE Archaeologist, called with question of how to record reburials which occur outside of known archaeological sites.
- Pennington County – A TCS for Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) found a bone during tree removal on the S. Rochford Road project. RST tribe archaeologist identified it as deer and non-archaeological.
- No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time.
- One NAGPRA publication was drafted and has been submitted to National NAGPRA for publication in the Federal Register. Assuming no counter claims,

deaccessions 163 and 164 will be repatriated to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe 30-90 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Burials – Miscellaneous

- Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue. Tyrel Iron Eyes and John Eagle are still open to the idea; however, their office is very busy so scheduling a time for this has been difficult.
- Consultation plans for the UND discoveries and ancestral remains from 39CA102 are ongoing. Pemina Yellow Bird and MHA have received all our available records regarding the transfer to UND and the repatriation in 1998. The ARC remains in close contact with Pemina regarding this and expects to receive a letter in the coming months with an invitation to consult regarding this matter.
- NPS has accepted our nominations for two sites (39MH0005 and 39BK0102) to be listed on the NRHP. Four of the seven sites originally surveyed have been accepted. Chris from SHPO continues to work on edits and resubmissions as time allows.

Outreach

- The quarterly South Dakota Archaeological Society newsletter was produced and distributed to 173+ members on February 29.
- The Camp Collier landowner was initially contacted via a mailed letter to coordinate their interest in an archaeological investigation at the site.

Repository and Records Archives

- 141 new archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 15 updated archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 164 new archaeological reports entered into the report database
- 19 closed archive numbers fixing duplicates in database
- 3 artifact and 7 new photo collections were accessioned. One photo collection of North Dakota artifacts was transferred after a high-resolution digital copy was generated.
- Curation assistant Lynn Griffin completed the digital catalog record for a collection from Fort Galpin that was recovered during a joint U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-SDSHS outreach project in 2000. She will begin cataloging additional outreach collections from Fort Pierre II as part of the current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers curation contract.

Mining Reviews and State Land Permits

- 24 Sand/gravel licenses (6 Intent to Mine, 18 Intent to Continue Operations), and 1 EXNI application (Solitario Resources) reviewed
- 0 State Land permits issued

Other

Staff updates: Joe Jones, ARC's Contracts Manager, has resigned to move closer to his family. We will be hiring for Joe's position and the vacant Senior Archaeologist position (reposted from November).