

**STOCKBRIDGE  
MUNSEE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION**





1

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Tribal Historic Preservation Department is located in the Education Building on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation in Bowler, Wisconsin.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Department is primarily responsible for ensuring the identification, protection, and preservation of archaeological and historical sites both on and off the reservation, under the authority of Tribal and Federal regulations.





# History Beneath Your Feet

For those who live in New England, you may be unaware that beneath your feet lies thousands of years of history. The Mahīkanak, or Mohicans inhabited the Hudson River Valley for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. Beneath the vast urban sprawl lies the burial sites of thousands of our ancestors. Protecting these sites is the job of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Contrary to common belief most archeological remains are only 2 to 3 feet below the surface of the ground. It is also a misconception that pre-existing structures, parking lots, and fill soil do not contain archeological remnants. It is always necessary to proceed with caution during construction to avoid disturbing an archeological site.





# NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was enacted in 1990 to address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to certain Native American cultural items. NAGPRA is a step forward in the fight for sovereignty amongst indigenous peoples.

This law requires federal agencies and museums to inventory their holdings of Native American human remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. The act allows tribes to reclaim materials that were often taken un-rightfully.



## GALLERY 1.1 Repatriated Items



Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Sherry White repatriating a pewter funeral pipe from the Delaware Water Gap National Park





## SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act enacted in 1966 and amended several times since then, is the only one of a several number of Federal laws and executive orders dealing with “cultural resources.”

Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the federal effects of these projects on historic resources of Indian Tribes. This means that anytime a federal agency, or a federally funded project may affect the historic resources of an Indian tribe, the federal agency or contractor must contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer then determines whether the site is within the historic homelands of the tribe,

or in a particular place of interest. The Tribal Historic Preservation officer must then examine whether the proposed project will affect the historic resources of the tribe. If there is a known archeological site on the premises of the project the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer can shut down the project to protect the human remains or artifacts. Often projects that are non-invasive, or are working on pre-existing sites with already disturbed soil are allowed to continue, but must stop if they run into human or archeological remains. Sites that may disturb new plots of soil are often required to undergo an archeological survey, which include test pits, and ground radar to avoid disturbing human remains.

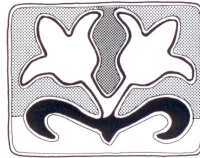


# PRESERVATION METHODS

The Stockbridge-Munsee Historic Preservation Office, has integrated technology into our data collection system to allow for easy recording and retrieval of archaeological sites and museum artifacts.

## Geographic Information System (GIS)

The GIS system allows the THPO to record the geographic coordinates of archaeological sites. This allows for easy retrieval of the archaeological history of a particular plot of land in the event of future construction in which there would be penetration of the soil. Mobile GPS units allow the THPO officer to pinpoint the exact location of artifacts while in the field.



## Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

In the event of a proposed construction in which there will be disturbing of the soil, the THPO officer is contacted by the construction firm and a scan of the area is performed using a ground penetrating radar unit (GPR). The GPR unit is able to detect the presence of human remains and other artifacts up to 3 meters below the surface of the ground without having to dig. If the scan concludes that there is a presence of remains or artifacts an archaeological team will dig test pits to verify the presence of human remains or artifacts.





## AREAS OF INTEREST

The tribes area of archeological interest include our current reservation which is located in the townships of Red Springs and Bartleme in Shawano County, Wisconsin. Other areas in Wisconsin that are of concern to the tribe are Outagamie County and Calumet County. We also have interests in the following states/counties:

**Connecticut:** Litchfield County

**Massachusetts:** Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Worcester County

**New York:** Albany, Bronx, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, NassauNew York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington & Westchester counties.

**Pennsylvania:** Bucks, Bradford, Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, North Hampton, Patterson, Pike, Philadelphia, Susquehanna, & Wayne counties

**Vermont:** Addison, Bennington, Rutland





3

## FURTHER INFORMATION



If you have any questions feel free to contact the Stockbridge-Munsee Historic Preservation office at (715) 793-3970.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer: Sherry White

email: [sherry.white@mohican-nsn.gov](mailto:sherry.white@mohican-nsn.gov)