



House depressions at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site near Stanton, ND

### Cultural resources inventories are:

- Conducted at no cost to the landowner
- Conducted with landowner permission
- Conducted prior to installation
- A part of conservation planning

### NRCS and its partners:

- Help people conserve, maintain and improve natural resources
- Help people become stewards of historic properties for future generations



Be aware that it is against North Dakota state law to conduct archeological activities without a permit or knowingly disturb human remains, burials, or associated artifacts. (Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code chapters 55-03-01 and 23-06-27.)



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Helping People Help the Land

### Questions about cultural resources inventories on your land?

Contact your local NRCS office to see if an inventory is needed, whether it has been completed, or for additional information.

### Who conducts professional cultural resource surveys for NRCS?

Surveys are conducted by the qualified professional listed below. Field office personnel and landowners are encouraged to participate in surveys when they occur.

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The artifacts on blue backgrounds were photographed with permission from the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

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Updated January 2015



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## Who Cares About Cultural Resources?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and most landowners care. Cultural resources are evidence



*Grooved axe—a ground stone artifact*

of past human activities. They are unique and non-renewable.

NRCS provides conservation assistance to private landowners, Tribes and others within North Dakota. As part of our responsibilities, we must consider

the effects of conservation assistance on resources important to us all.

NRCS is required by the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and various other laws, regulations, and ordinances to consider what effects our conservation programs may have on cultural resources. To ensure protection, NRCS may require a cultural resources inventory prior to practice installation as part of the conservation planning process.

### What is a cultural resources inventory?

A cultural resources inventory is a systematic review of records, such as

known historic and archeological archives, and a screening or survey to determine the past human use of an area. Surveys are walk-throughs conducted by a qualified cultural resources specialist and screenings are conducted by trained field office staff.

During the walk-through of the project area, NRCS employees look for historical and archeological sites, artifacts, and areas that may be traditionally important to various groups of people. Cultural resources may generally be defined as sites or artifacts 50 years old or older. They can be found throughout the landscape. These sites may be important to our collective past, if they meet certain historic, scientific, or architectural criteria. In other words, they may be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural resources eligible for the National Register are called historic properties.

### What if cultural resources are found on my land?

In most cases, NRCS will be able to design conservation practices that will avoid effects to historic properties or propose alternative acceptable practices.



*Historic School House in Adams County, ND*

NRCS may consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, cultural resources specialists, and/or others to best determine how to preserve historic properties.



*Projectile points and a scraper—flaked stone artifacts*

Identified cultural resources remain the property of the landowner, who is ultimately the best steward of the resource.



### Why conduct a cultural resources inventory?

In order to meet mandated responsibilities, NRCS must consider the effects of its conservation programs on our Nation's heritage.

**Prior to helping you install conservation practices, NRCS may need to conduct a cultural resources inventory.**

This inventory will ensure that our assistance will not damage important cultural resources you may have on your lands.