



## WORKING WITH INTERESTED PARTIES

The protection of historic properties is guided by the American Council on Historic Preservation. This guidance helps the State Historic Preservation Office, as well as agencies like the Corps, identify and preserve important cultural resources.

**Consultation** under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 began in 2009 with the start of the Feasibility Study. Interested parties, including Native Americans, the State Historic Preservation Offices, local historic and preservation societies and universities are given the opportunity to participate in the cultural resources activities from the planning stages of the project to the end of construction.

Agreements for the protection of cultural resources were developed among the Corps, the Diversion Authority, State Historical Society offices in North Dakota and Minnesota and Native American Tribes. Memoranda of Agreement were developed for each planned mitigation action.

## INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations of the cultural resources present with the project area performed by the Corps and Diversion Authority. The rights to be on private property are secured before entry.

- ▶ Investigations for Traditional Cultural Properties of significance to Native Americans were conducted in 2011 by Native Americans who walked the project area looking for sacred sites.
- ▶ Field investigations for the remains of buildings and other structures began with **Phase I** surveys in 2009. Archaeologists surveyed more than 33,000 acres of project land, looking for artifacts and structural elements visible on the surface. **Phase II** evaluations were conducted in 2013 in locations where it was assumed below-ground cultural sites existed. The investigations indicated two large archaeological sites might be adversely affected by the project. **Phase III** mitigation would involve excavation of both of these archaeological sites if they cannot be avoided.
- ▶ The sites are possible campsites used by Native American people over many centuries to process bison for hides and meat. If the sites are located within the project footprint, they will be excavated this year.
- ▶ The Corps and the Diversion Authority studied 54 cemetery sites within the project area and developed a mitigation plan for impacted upstream cemeteries. Phase I investigations were completed for a majority of the impacted sites. The resulting reports serve as historic documentation of each site.

## AVOIDING, MINIMIZING AND MITIGATING IMPACTS

- ▶ Surveys resulted in relocation of more than 5,500 acres of the diversion channel in order to avoid potential archaeological sites and survey reports are on file with the State Historic Preservation Office and include a history of agricultural drainage practiced by communities in the Red River Valley of the North in 2014, and an evaluation of visual impacts to historic properties in 2011.
- ▶ Five historic houses in the Oak Grove Residential Historic District had to be removed to make way for levees constructed downtown. Three houses were documented using Historic American Building Survey methods and a historic marker was placed in the neighborhood.

## GETTING INVOLVED

The Corps and Diversion Authority are planning public involvement for the Phase III efforts in 2019. Days for volunteers to assist with excavations, if project conditions permit, will be scheduled. On-site tribal and state historic consultation will continue throughout the excavation. Cultural resource updates can be found at [fmdiversion.com](http://fmdiversion.com).

# CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS 2009-2019

