



## 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 within the project area are 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 potential burials and other sacred sites.
- ▶ Field investigations for the remains of buildings and other structures began with **Phase I** surveys in 2009. Archaeologists surveyed more than 26,000 acres of project land, looking for artifacts and structural elements visible on the surface. **Phase II** surveys were conducted in 2013 in locations where many artifacts were evident and it was assumed below-ground cultural sites existed. These surveys identified two large archaeological sites. **Phase III** mitigation involves excavation of both of these archaeological sites and will begin in late 2017.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Several reports have been prepared as part of mitigation. They 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 site tours and viewing opportunities for the Phase III efforts in 2017 and 2018. Days for volunteers to assist with excavations, if project conditions permit, will also 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).

# Project Alignment Phase 1 and Phase II Cultural Resources Surveys - August 2017

