



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# **Papillion Creek and Tributaries Lakes, Nebraska**

---

General Reevaluation Report

---

## **Appendix M Cultural Resources**



**June 2021**

**Omaha District  
Northwestern Division**

**THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

## Cultural Resources

**Introduction-** Many cultural resource sites are located along the Papillion Creek basin. Cultural resources can be defined as physical evidence or place of past human activity: site, object, landscape, structure; or a site, structure, landscape, object or natural feature of significance to a group of people traditionally associated with it.

**Authorities-** Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (ARPA); the Antiquities Act of 1906; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as amended (NAGPRA); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; and ER 1130-2-1; the USACE is authorized to preserve eligible cultural resources that may be affected by the operation and management of its projects.

**Consultation-** Consultation with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribes, and other interested parties was initiated in November 2018. The Tribes included in this effort are the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Omaha Tribe, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, the Winnebago Tribe and the Iowa Tribe of Nebraska and Kansas.

The Omaha Tribe indicated that they wanted to participate in consultation, and expressed concern over a major village site known to exist within the study area. The Corps met with Tribal Council representatives at the location of this site on December 7, 2018. At the meeting it was discussed how any of the potential alternatives would not cause an impact to this particular area, and the Tribe did not express any significant concerns regarding other locations.

Interest was also expressed by the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.

An Agency Scoping Meeting was held at Wehrspann Lake on December 10, 2018, which included the participation of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A further letter was sent to the Tribes on December 21, 2018.

Meetings with the Omaha Tribe were also held on July 15, 2019 and January 7, 2020, to discuss project updates. During the latter meeting it was agreed that the Tribe would be invited to participate in the Programmatic Agreement outlining any subsequent field work which may take place prior to initiation of any structural or non-structural flood reduction measures.

**Research-** A file search with History Nebraska was completed by a USACE archaeologist on June 4, 2019. The file search identified numerous surveys located within the Papillion Creek watershed. There are 26 sites within the one-mile radius of the considered alternatives, but only one site has been recorded within the Areas of Potential Effect (APE).

Based upon the results of the file search, and the fact that a majority of potential construction areas have been previously impacted, there is a low likelihood of adverse effects on historic properties. As the process of plan formulation took time and the study area is so large, survey

contract(s) were not suggested until after the plan formulation phase is final. A Programmatic Agreement in consultation with the Nebraska SHPO (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and Interested Parties is being finalized to address potential impacts to unrecorded historic properties that may be discovered prior to, or during, the construction of levee or channel alterations, and reservoirs on undeveloped land. This includes both structural and non-structural alternatives.

The draft PA was sent to the SHPO, the ACHP, the Papio NRD, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Omaha Tribe, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, the Winnebago Tribe and the Iowa Tribe of Nebraska and Kansas on January 26, 2021 to address any questions. The PA has been signed by USACE, Nebraska SHPO, and the Papio NRD (see Environmental Appendix H). Coordination with the tribes will continue throughout the project.

**Recorded Sites and Surveys Within the Study Areas of Potential Effect**

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Survey</b>	<b>Recorded Sites</b>	<b>Site Numbers</b>
Levee Raise	Big and Little Papio between L St. and Harrison St.	A small amount surveyed just below L St. on the Big Papio	0	N/A
Levee Extension	Little Papio below I-80	0	0	N/A
Levee/Floodwall	Center St. to Cass St.	One survey on Little Papio from Howard St. to Dodge St.	0	N/A
Channel Widening	Big Papio Pacific St. to Blondo St.	Incidental adjacent surveys	0	N/A
Floodwall	Millard Ave to 144 <sup>th</sup> St.	Incidental adjacent surveys	3 Not within APE	25SY501, 25SY54, 25SY78
Dam Site #10	Thomas Creek north of Bennington Rd.	One very small survey at Pawnee Rd.	0	N/A
Dam Site #19	South Papio approximately 192 <sup>nd</sup> St to “210 <sup>th</sup> along Giles Rd.	Complete survey	1	25SY417