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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Saint Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: M-38

City or town: Laird Township State: MI County: Houghton

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<u>Brian D Conway</u>	<u>6/17/13</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Jon Edson K. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*9.4.13*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/Religious Facility

Funerary/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/

Monument/Marker

Funerary/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_Wood/Weatherboard\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

St. Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery includes a clapboarded church of Gothic-inspired design and a cemetery that adjoins it on either side. They stand on an approximately nine and one-quarter-acre rectangular site at Nisula, the site of a Finnish settlement in Houghton County's Laird Township established in 1894. The present church was built in 1904, with some exterior changes in 1913, 1925, and 1932.



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## Narrative Description

St. Henry's Lutheran Church and Cemetery is located on high ground along the south side of the highway in the settlement of Nisula. The unincorporated hamlet of Nisula is a scattering of buildings and open spaces along a stretch of state highway M-35, an east-west two-lane paved road that passes through hilly country in Laird Township. Laird is a rural township that, comprised of nearly five and one-half Congressional townships, is largely encompassed by the Ottawa National Forest, with its settled lands primarily along and off the state highway. It has a population of 555 as of the 2010 federal census. The church and cemetery occupy an approximately nine and one-quarter-acre tract that contains the church, facing north on the road, and a cemetery that includes a larger portion on the highest ground east of the church and a much smaller area west of it. An unpaved drive runs south from the highway along the church's west side, then curves around to the east well back of the church to the east edge of the cemetery, then back north out to the road again. To the east of the cemetery drive a small area of unused open field extends to the north-south running Kiviranta Road. Level ground near the property's southwest corner serves as a small parking area. Although not elevated much above the nearby surrounding country, the site, especially in front and to the church's immediate west, has a feeling of elevation above its surroundings, with the ground sloping gently to the south and west.

The church stands atop a story high embankment back perhaps fifty or sixty feet from the south edge of the pavement. The site is open, with mown grassland but no trees or shrubs adjacent. A concrete staircase, with metal pipe handrail, rises from the drive on the church's west side east to the base of a short flight of steps up to the church's front door. Just to the east of being directly in front of the entrance is a square wooden signboard, with low gabled cap and anchored between round metal posts, that once presumably listed the church's name and important information such as the pastor's name and times of services. The sign now contains no messages, but the gabled peak retains a white cross against a dark background.

St. Henry's Church is a white-painted clapboarded structure with a steeply pitched gable roof and a square-plan belfry-topped tower projecting from the center third of the gabled front. The back presents a hip-roof round-ended chancel and a side-gable sacristy projecting westward from the chancel's west side. The building stands on a poured concrete basement that raises the church's main floor a full story above grade in back and nearly as high on the west side. The concrete walls show clearly the pattern of the horizontal boarding used for the pouring formwork. The basement contains one rear door and widely spaced windows on the west and south sides – the windows mostly of glass block, but there is one double-hung window at the south end of the east side. Near the west side's north end a sunken panel in the concrete displays the incised inscription "1895-1932," the latter year likely being the time when the concrete foundation was built.

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The wooden church has a rectangular nave fronted by a tower that projects half its depth from the center of the front. The main entrance is through double smooth wooden doors below a low gabled slightly projecting entry in the tower's front. The vestibule inside the doors has been expanded with a shed-roof extension that fills the angle between the tower and the building front at the church's northeast corner. The square-plan tower rises to the projecting eaves for a low hip roof that outlines a narrower four-sided belfry rising above. The belfry is topped by a cross-topped pyramid roof, with projecting, flaring eaves. At the back end is the chancel, whose form is both narrower and lower than the nave. The hip-roof chancel has straight sides near the nave and a rounded back end that projects out beyond the basement's concrete rear wall. The gabled rectangular sacristy, its walls lower than those of church or chancel, projects to the west from the chancel above the concrete basement, and has its own street-facing entry beneath a small porch whose shed roof forms an extension of the sacristy roof. A wooden staircase, with pipe railing, leads directly to the door from a position just off the west-side drive. The church's wooden exterior is faced in clapboarding above broad baseboards with molded caps and has plain cornerboards. The roofs display projecting box cornices and the gable roof raking cornices without returns.

St. Henry's reflects the common Lutheran heritage of Gothic architecture in its steeply pitched roof, central belfry-crowned front tower, the triangle-head "Gothic" windows in the broad sides of the auditorium, front and sides of the tower, and back of the chancel – nineteen in all, including a broad one above the front doors – and the (now boarded up) paired openings on three sides of the belfry.

The front double doors lead into the expanded but still small vestibule and then through old paneled wooden double doors into the back end of the auditorium. A narrow level-floored gallery, reached by a dogleg staircase against the building's north wall west of the entrance, extends across the back and into the tower. Each end of the staircase features an urn-capped square-plan newel with paneled upper portion. The gallery front is supported on turned posts, one at either end and two more flanking the center aisle. The breastwork is faced in smooth plywood or fiberboard paneling. The carpeted floor contains no fixed seating, but rather four backless wooden benches. From the west side of the tower space a wooden ladder leads toward the belfry.

The auditorium has a smooth-finished plaster ceiling that arches from side wall to side wall. The entire floor is carpeted over wood boarding. A center aisle leads from the entrance to the area before the chancel and separates rows of straight pews that run nearly to the wall on either side, leaving a narrow gap between the pew ends and the vertical-board window-sill high dado on each side. The walls above the dado on all sides, including the chancel area, are faced in fiberboard paneling that presents a vertical stained wood appearance. The pews are of light-hued stained wood and have rounded-corner ends that each features an incised cross. Two white frosted glass globe lights are suspended from the ceiling above the center aisle. The auditorium's front

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corners contain an organ on the east and a piano (labeled "Anderson, Chicago") on the west: The triangle-head windows, except those in the chancel, are of double-hung form and contain frosted glass lights.

An archway with broadly rounded corners opens into the chancel. The chancel floor is raised two steps above the auditorium, and the altar, with its rounded communion rail in front, stands atop an additional step. The railing has a ball finial-capped turned post at each end. Its front is faced in stained wood-finish molded plywood or fiberboard paneling below an older molded wood cap. The altar is a white-painted wooden structure of Gothic design, with a paneled front displaying a sunken Gothic arch on each side and a central quatrefoil form with centered cross and flanking symbols for Alpha and Omega. Above and behind is the altarpiece, comprised of narrow side and broad central Gothic arch forms set below gabled caps displaying crockets and finials. The broad central panel contained a painting of Jesus with arms outstretched, but this was removed to Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie when St. Henry's closed. A triangle-head window in the rounded rear wall on either side of the altar contains a panel of stained and frosted glass with an edge of red and blue colored glass pieces framing lozenge-shaped frosted glass lights that, in turn, frame a larger lozenge panel featuring a cross in yellow glass superimposed on a circle.

To the altar's west (right) against the chancel's back wall a door leads into the sacristy. From the sacristy's north side another door provides access to the pulpit. The pulpit is a four-sided, semi-octagonal structure standing at the west edge of the chancel steps in the auditorium's southwest corner. The pulpit has a paneled wood front, with projecting cornice-like cap, and its inner surface is finished in narrow vertical tongue-and-groove boards. A modern slant-topped small podium, with light, rests atop the pulpit.

A staircase from the narthex's east side leads down to the basement. A social hall, with wood floor, T-111-finished side walls, and fiberboard panel ceiling displaying several circular fluorescent lights occupies the western two-thirds of the basement beneath the auditorium. Round steel columns in a north-south row to the east of the room's center support a square beam apparently aligned with the center of the auditorium floor above. The room's north end contains wood shelving, and several large work tables are pushed together in the center. East off the south end of the social hall's east wall are separate sets of bathrooms, projecting into a small basement-level gabled extension on the church's east side. Low glass block windows below the low clapboarded gable provide outdoor light.

From the social hall's south end two steps up lead into a linoleum-floored kitchen space beneath the chancel. There is a large pass-through opening, with counter top on the kitchen side, on either side of the door from the hall. A rear (south) door exits to the small parking area to the south and southwest.

The cemetery occupies approximately the eastern half or more of the church property but also includes a smaller rectangular area west of the church. The ground on the east

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side is relatively level near the street but slopes gently downward to the south, away from the road. On the church's west side the ground slopes downward both toward the rear and toward the west. The grounds are mostly open lawn, with only a few large old trees well east of the church and scattered plantings of smaller shrubs around some monuments. The cemetery's burials appear to be arranged in north-south rows, with the monuments facing primarily east. The monuments are primarily of granite, but include some early twentieth-century white and blue marble ones as well, particularly on the church building's west side. One white marble monument displays an oval photograph of the deceased. One grave is marked by a large boulder. Several family plots are outlined by ground-level or only slightly raised concrete curbs.

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Ethnic Heritage: Finnish

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1894-1963  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1894  
1895  
1904

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

St. Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery reflects the long Finnish-American heritage in the Nisula area in Houghton County's Laird Township and, more broadly, in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Finnish settlement in the township began in 1894, and the church and cemetery property at Nisula was set aside during that year and the present church built in 1904. St. Henry's Church and Cemetery form the pre-eminent local landmark of the area's long and continuing Finnish heritage. Nisula was the first Finnish Lutheran congregation established in the area and its building is the oldest Finnish Lutheran church building in the area.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)



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### **Finnish Settlement in the Western Upper Peninsula**

By one estimate there were only about 1000 Finns in the United States at the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861. The Quincy Mining Company, like all the copper mining companies of the western Upper Peninsula's Keweenaw region, was short of labor because of the war. It sent a recruiter to the copper mines of northern Norway to obtain workers in 1864, and among those recruited were a few Finns. Their favorable reception led by word of mouth to the beginning of a migration of Finns to Michigan's Copper Country that made the counties of Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw and, ultimately, the western Upper Peninsula one of the nation's largest settlements of people of Finnish heritage.

Armas Holmio summarizes the reasons for the growing exodus of Finns to America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as "overpopulation and the inability of Finland's agriculture to guarantee sufficient earnings for ever-increasing numbers of inhabitants," along with advertising done by steamship lines and mining and land companies promoting economic opportunity in the United States, and, finally, "patriotic emigration" that resulted from a program of Russification in Russian-controlled Finland. Beginning in the mid-1890s with the ascension of czar Nicholas II to the throne, the program of Russification ignored the previous autonomy of the Finnish authorities, closed Finnish-language newspapers and made Russian the official language, and disbanded the Finnish army and imposed compulsory and onerous military service in the Russian army on Finns (Holmio, 54-71). The new program of Russification marked the beginning of years of unrest in Finland.

From 1899, when the level of emigration picked up in the wake of new oppressive measures by the Russian government, the number of emigrants rose from about 12,000 annually to a peak of about 20,000 in 1913 before subsiding with the beginning of World War I (Holmio, 67). Niitemaa, in a study published by the Institute of Migration in Turku, Finland, reports a total of approximately 308,000 emigrants left Finland for the United States between 1865 and 1914 (Kaunonen, 6, citing Niitemaa, 65-80). The Finnish immigrants to Michigan's Upper Peninsula came for work and typically at first found it in the region's mines and lumber camps and mills. But many if not most saw these types of work as interim employment to raise funds to establish farms.

### **Laird Township**

White settlement in Houghton County's Laird Township began in the mid-1880s, and Laird Township was established in 1887 by the county Board of Supervisors in response to a petition of residents of the area (all non-Finnish) headed by Henry Laird. A Laird rural post office was established that year at what later became Alston, two miles east of the future Nisula. Laird became Alston in 1902, named after then postmaster (and lumberman and real estate agent) Joseph V. Alston.

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The Finnish settlement in Laird Township began in 1894 with the arrival of three families and two single men from Baraga, who occupied lands homesteaded from the government in this previously wilderness area in a part of the township centered in the future hamlets of Nisula and Alston. These settlers, the first of hundreds of Finns who ultimately settled in the Nisula-Alston area in the next few decades, were August and Gustaava Nisula, Solomon and Johanna Jouppi, Enoch and Briita Matero, Martin Matero, and Fred Hiltunen. Nisula set up a saw and shingle mill and his daughter and her husband opened a general store (Holmio, 102; St. Henry's Church 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary history (hereafter referred to as St. Henry)).

Finns had first come to Baraga, located about fifteen miles east-northeast of Nisula, in 1883 when the completion of the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad to that point resulted in the development of sawmills. Construction of the Mineral Range Railroad, a branch of the DSS&A, linking Keweenaw Bay on the DSS&A with the copper mines at Mass City to the west reached Alston in 1901 and Nisula in 1903. and brought in new settlers. In 1903 a Nisula post office was established, with August Nisula as postmaster (Holmio, 102).

The 1905-06 state gazetteer is the first to list Nisula, but provides no information beyond it having a post office. The next, 1907-08, and subsequent gazetteers through the last, 1931-32 edition, list a population of 200 and identify a few leading citizens. Until the mid-1910s August Nisula's name appears prominently as postmaster and agricultural implements dealer and, in the 1911-12 edition, proprietor of the Laird Flour and Saw Mill. Mrs. Abram Maula and then Abram Maula served as postmaster from the early 1910s through 1931, and Maula also ran a general store during at least that entire time. The gazetteer listings include blacksmiths Peter Maronen before the mid-1910s and Fred Hiltunen by 1921 and lumber dealer Charles Heikkenen by 1921.

### **St. Henry's**

In September 1894 the Finnish settlers founded a Lutheran congregation and sent a request to Pastor Juho Kustaa Nikander at Hancock to conduct religious services. Rev. Nikander, who had arrived from Finland in 1885, was the pioneer Finnish Lutheran pastor in the Copper County and was instrumental in founding Lutheran churches for the region's Finns and in the 1890 establishment of the Suomi Synod, an organization for Finnish American Evangelical Lutherans separate from the previous organizations that included Swedes and Norwegians as well (Holmio, 186-87, 189-90). He was elected the synod's first president and was serving in that capacity when the request from Nisula was made.

The congregation decided to build a church at once, and Henry Murtomaki sold them the present church and cemetery property for a nominal sum. It was voted to construct a log church, sixteen by twenty feet in ground dimensions, with an eight-by-eight-foot square vestibule and steeple attached. Pastor Nikander, with a seminarian assistant, dedicated the building May 6, 1895. The congregation soon formally attached itself to the Suomi Synod (St. Henry).

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In the settlement's early years additional Finnish settlers arrived "from Baraga, Atlantic Mine, Pequaming, Ishpeming, South Range, and other Upper Peninsula communities," where most had been previously working in mining or lumbering. Construction of the Mineral Range Railroad connecting the copper mining site of Mass City to the west with Keweenaw Bay at the beginning of the twentieth century caused Nisula to grow rapidly. The church history states, "Timber was felled, fields were cleared, logs were hauled to sawmills and to loading points along the railroad to be transported to mines, and cords and cords of wood were shipped to towns to be used as fuel" (St. Henry).

Information about construction of the present church is sketchy. The most recent (1969) church history, which based its account on older histories, states only the following:

As the population increased and a corresponding increase in church membership made it difficult to accommodate the worshippers comfortably in the original little church, already in 1904 a project was undertaken to make the church larger. In that initial remodeling the structure attained its present size, excluding the chancel. The latter was added in 1913 and it was then too that the high cantors' pew was removed. The final change in the outward appearance of the church came in 1925, when the vestibule and the steeple above it were remodeled.

It is difficult to understand how a log church building of sixteen by twenty feet ground dimensions could have been transformed into the present building. It seems much more likely the original building was simply dismantled and the present building constructed in its place. A photo of the church from the west taken prior to the 1925 changes shows an open octagonal belfry topped by an octagonal spire in place of today's square-plan one.

The history reports that "a kitchen and spacious church parlors [were] acquired (in the 1930's) largely through the efforts of the young people of the congregation." This presumably refers to the concrete-walled basement being built beneath the church, replacing an older, perhaps stone, foundation that previously contained no basement. Its construction likely took place in 1932, the date cast into the concrete basement wall.

Recollections by Hilma M. Heikkinen of "Nisula - 1920-1925" published in the 1969 history include a description of the church interior as it was then:

The walls were then of light weight metal with the lower part painted light blue and the rest white. The windows, too, including the glass, were painted white, but to give the window panes some transparency as well as to improve their appearance, diagonal stripes broke up the painted surface of the glass. Left of the center aisle some four or five pews from the rear of the church was a round, high, wood-burning stove. Long high-backed pews (those near the stove were shorter) had been made locally of planed lumber and were painted light brown.

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Two other changes from the present shown by a photo perhaps dating from the 1940s or 50s include the pulpit – the same structure and in the same location – raised apparently several feet above its present height and the communion rail before the altar being an open structure with what looks to be turned balusters.

Heikkinen noted that in the 1920-25 period “Families did not sit together in church but instead separated upon entering with the women going to the pews on the left and the men occupying those on the right. Between the last few pews on the right side there were cuspidors (called spittoons in those days), and men who chewed tobacco usually situated themselves within range of a cuspidor.” She reported that all church activities were then still conducted in Finnish (the 1969 history states that “A once Finnish-speaking congregation has become a predominantly English-speaking one”).

The church was an independent congregation within the Suomi Synod in its first years, but from 1908 to 1925 functioned as part of the church at Mass City, located about fifteen miles west, with services held twice a month. In 1925 the churches at Nisula, Pelkie (about twelve miles north-northeast), and Elo (ten miles north-northeast of Pelkie) formed a single parish, pooling their resources to call a resident pastor, the first for the churches. The Rev. David Samanen took charge of this Kyro or Pelkie parish, living at Pelkie, the most centrally located, but ministering to the three congregations. This arrangement was still in effect when the 1969 history was prepared. During the Nisula church’s first thirty years, it saw its membership rise to a peak of 485. Members of the church in the Alston area were permitted to establish a “preaching district there as auxiliary to Nisula” and in 1932 began to worship separately in a former schoolhouse remodeled into a church. This arrangement, with services held twice a month each in Nisula and Alston, remained in effect until 1952, when the members returned to the Nisula church.

The church history notes (without specifying dates) improvements to the building between the 1930s and late 1960s, including new pews, colored-glass windows, a new altar and altar painting, and a “deep well and electric pump.” It also reports “new carpeting for the center aisle and chancel and paneling for all interior walls in the church and church parlors” – “completed within the past two years” [*i.e.* 1967-69 period].

These renovations took place despite a gradual decline in church membership. The 1969 church history notes a decline in membership from the peak of 485 in 1925 to 162 as of 1955 and cited as the primary causes the decline of agriculture and lumbering in the area and better job opportunities in the cities that drew off the younger generation. In 1969 the church’s membership was down to 131 and by the end of 1983 it was 112. In 1989 members of the three churches voted to merge into a single Mission United Lutheran Church with church building at Pelkie. St. Henry’s held its last service and closed in June 1992.

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Laird Township assumed ownership and today preserves the church as a historic landmark for the community. The cemetery remains in use.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Holmio, Armas K. E. *History of the Finns in Michigan*. Translated by Ellen M. Ryyanen. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 2001 (originally published 1967).

Kaukonen, Gary. *Finns in Michigan*. Discovering the Peoples of Michigan series. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2009.

Mission United Lutheran Church. "The History of Mission United Lutheran Church." <http://www.missionunitedlutheranchurch.org/about-us/>.

Niitemas, Viljo. "The Finns in the Great Migratory Movement from Europe to America 1865-1914," in *Finland Salutes U.S.A.: Old Friends – Strong Ties*. Turko, Finland: Institute of Migration, 1976 (cited in Kaukonen).

Polk, R. L., & Co. *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. Detroit, MI. 1891/92-1931/32 editions.

Rockford Map Publishers. *Farm Plat Book, Houghton County, Michigan*. Rockford, IL, 1958.

Romig, Walter. *Michigan Place Names*. Grosse Pointe, MI, 1973.

*St. Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nisula, Michigan, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. July 4-6, 1969*. Unn pages.

Sturgeon Valley Historical Society, Inc. *Pioneering in Pelkie*. Pelkie, MI, 1985.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_



Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** About 9 1/4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16

Easting: 363740

Northing: 5180340

Name of Property			County and State
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:	

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Located in Sec. 3, T50N, R36W, Laird Township, Houghton County, MI.

Parcel 1: E 798' of N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of said Sec. 3. 9.18 acres M/L.

Parcel 2: A parcel of land in the N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 3, commencing at the NE corner of Sec. 3; thence S 175' to POB; th W'ly 70'; th S 32'; th E 70'; th N 32' to POB. .05 acres.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Constitutes entire church and cemetery property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Robert O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator  
organization: MI SHPO  
street & number: 702 W. Kalamazoo  
city or town: Lansing state: MI zip code: 48909-8240  
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telephone: 517/335-2719  
date: April 2013

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Name of Property

County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Saint Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Laird Township (Nisula)

County: Houghton

State: MI

Photographer: Robert O. Christensen

Date Photographed: July 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 01 of 12: Church, north and west facades  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0001.tif
- 02 of 12: Church, east and north facades  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0002.tif
- 03 of 12: Church, west and south facades  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0003.tif
- 04 of 12: Church, south and east facades  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0004.tif
- 05 of 12: Church, auditorium looking south-southeast  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0005.tif

Name of Property

County and State

- 06 of 12: Church, altar looking southeast  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0006.tif
- 07 of 12: Church, auditorium looking north-northeast  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0007.tif
- 08 of 12: Church, hall in basement looking north-northeast  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0008.tif
- 09 of 12: Looking west across cemetery to church  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0009.tif
- 10 of 12: Looking west-northwest across cemetery to church  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0010.tif
- 11 of 12: Looking northwest across west part of cemetery toward highway  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0011.tif
- 12 of 12: August Nisula/Saara Visula monument looking northwest  
MI\_Houghton\_StHenryELChurch&Cemetery\_0012.tif

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





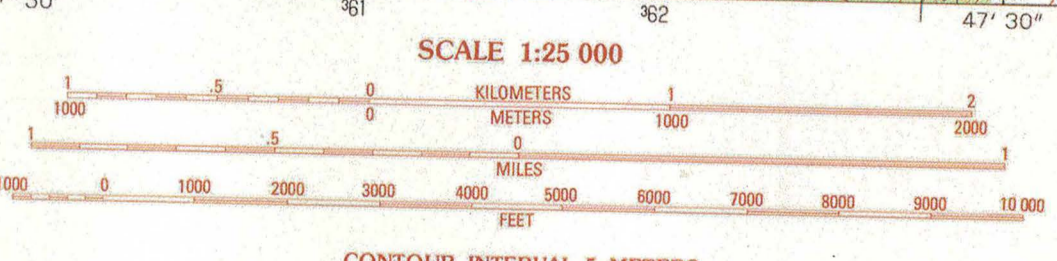
RETURN TO:  
USGS AND HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES

St. Henry's EL  
Church & Cemetery  
Houghton Co., MI  
16 363740  
5180340

FEB 18 1983

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED BY DIGITAL-PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS FROM AERIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1974 MAP EDITED 1977  
FIELD CHECKED 1977 MAP EDITED 1982  
PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 16  
10000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS MICHIGAN NORTH ZONE  
UTM GRID DECLINATION 1900 WEST  
1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 1°00' WEST  
VERTICAL DATUM: 1929 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
HORIZONTAL DATUM: 1929 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983  
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
(6 meters north and 9 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State reservations shown on this map

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Informa-  
tion shown as of date of  
field check.



SCALE 1:25 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS  
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Winona North
4	5	6	2 Donken
7	8	9	3 Pine Lake
			4 Winona South
			5 Pelkie
			6 Rousseau
			7 Vista Falls
			8 Prickett Lake

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES  
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS  
IN METERS

ROAD LEGEND  
Improved Road  
Unimproved Road  
Trail  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

NISULA, MICHIGAN  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1982  
46088-G7-TM-025

RETURN TO:  
USGS AND HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES









9885





























TURUNEN

MATERO  
PIONEERS

FATHER

JAMES GUNDEL





WALSANEN

YAGGERO

VALE STENIUS

RAJALA





HEIKKILÄ





NISULA

AUGUST  
1849 — 1938  
PIONEER

SAARA  
1859 — 1947  
LIFE'S WORK WELL DONE

GRACE A. NISULA  
BORN [illegible]  
DIED [illegible]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Saint Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Houghton

DATE RECEIVED: 7/19/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/19/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/03/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/04/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000665

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9.4.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

SCOTT WOOSLEY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



June 10, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull, Interim Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a national register nomination form for the St. Henry's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery in Houghton County, Michigan. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to the submission of the nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, by phone at 517/335-2719 or email at [christensenr@michigan.gov](mailto:christensenr@michigan.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office

Michigan Library and Historical Center • 702 West Kalamazoo Street • P.O. Box 30740 Lansing, Michigan 48909-8240  
[michigan.gov/shpo](http://michigan.gov/shpo) • 517.373.1630 • FAX 517.335.0348 • TTY 800.382.4568