

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Lutheran Indian Mission

and/or common Immanuel Mohican Lutheran Church

**2. Location**

NE of Abraham on WI G

street & number County Hwy G \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Gresham  vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Wisconsin code 55 county Shawano code 115

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Immanuel Lutheran Church Congregation, Rev. V. J. Zubebier, Pastor

street & number 115 North Bartlette

city, town Shawano \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shawano County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Shawano state Wisconsin 54166

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lutheran Indian Mission was built as a rectangular tan brick structure with a gable roof. At the rear (south) end of the building a small tan brick wing, also with a gable roof, was added as a sacristy. Originally, there was a tan brick entrance tower, topped by a louvered spire. Since its construction, the church has been altered by the removal of the spire and the addition of a very small tan brick entryway adjoined to the tower. A single outside brick chimney runs up the middle of the west side of the sanctuary, and four pointed arch windows are set into each side of the sanctuary. All other windows on the church are round arched, are arranged **symmetrically** about the tower and sacristy. The three uppermost windows in the tower of the church are louvered windows. Appearance indicates that most of the original leaded glass has been replaced.

Located alongside the church, the old Mission School is likewise constructed of tan brick. It is square in shape, two stories plus an attic in height, and has a stone foundation with a basement. The school is covered by a hip roof with a deck, and a roof dormer is placed on each side of the building. An outside end brick chimney, which protrudes well above the edge of the roof, is at each of the east and west sides of the school. The entrance and all first floor windows are round arched, while on the second floor only the entrance to a balcony that has been removed is round arched. All other second floor windows are rectangular, as are the windows in the dormers. The interior of the building is vacant.

The parsonage is set back about 100 feet from the church, and is similar to the school. It is a two story plus attic square frame building with a hipped roof, an open entrance porch covered by a pent roof with a cornice and supported by four round columns, and a small roof dormer containing two square windows over the entrance. Like the school, the parsonage has a stone foundation. All windows on both floors are rectangular and symmetrically arranged. As the parsonage is now a private residence, the interior has been remodeled. Neither the parsonage nor a small shed garage about 40 feet behind it are included in the nomination.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1901, 1902, 1908<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Unknown.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lutheran Indian Mission operated as the religious and educational center for the Stockbridge tribe of Indians from the time of its construction, during the first years of the twentieth century, to the 1950's. In these capacities the mission served as a link between the Stockbridge community and the larger White society of Wisconsin, and in this way played a major role in assimilating the Stockbridge to their new surroundings.

Religion. Literally some of the first North American Indians to accept the Christian faith, the Stockbridge were not truly a tribe, but an amalgam of various parts of the Mohegan Nation.<sup>2</sup> Nor are the Stockbridge native to Wisconsin. When the group was forced to migrate to this state between 1822 and 1829, it established a settlement on the western shore of Lake Winnebago. Within 30 years, however, pressure by land hungry settlers led the United States government to relocate the Stockbridge to a reservation in northern Shawano County.<sup>3</sup>

After removing to the reservation, the Stockbridge were left in a difficult situation: the land was much poorer than their farms in southern Wisconsin, the growing season much shorter, and the Indians far removed from educational facilities. The government school, in which Stockbridge children could obtain any formal education, was in Keshena, over ten miles from the nearest Stockbridge homes.<sup>4</sup> Although the tribe was served by a Presbyterian pastor who provided some educational as well as religious services, his death in 1884 cut off even this source of improvement. The Presbyterian Church did not replace him, and the Stockbridge went for eight years without a pastor. In 1892, Stockbridge leaders persuaded the Lutheran Reverend Uplegger to extend his circuit to the reservation. Uplegger's subsequent visits and increasing concern for the Stockbridge led him, in turn, to persuade the Lutheran synod to establish a church for the Stockbridge and appoint a resident pastor. The church was built in 1901, two years after the Reverend Theodore Nickel began his duties. One year later, the synod agreed to add a mission school to the reservation.<sup>5</sup>

(continued)

<sup>1</sup>Thelma Putnam, Christian Religion Among the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, private printing, n.d., p. 12-14.

<sup>2</sup>For accounts of the Stockbridge, see Albert G. Ellis, "Advent of the New York Indians into Wisconsin," Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. 2, p. 415-449; Joseph Schafer, The Winnebago-Horicon Basin, (1937), p. 58-76.

<sup>3</sup>Schafer, p. 65, 73-74.

<sup>4</sup>Putnam, p. 6, 13.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 6-14. See also, The Stockbridge Indians, Our Indian Mission and an Appeal, reprint of 1918 Lutheran Church pamphlet, n.d.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Thelma Putnam, Christian Religion Among the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, n.p., n.d.  
 Joseph Schafer, The Winnebago-Horicon Basin, Madison, 1937.  
The Stockbridge Indians, Our Indian Mission and an Appeal, n.p., 1918.  
Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. 2, Madison, 1903.

# 10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 0.5 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Gresham, Wis. Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>361000</u>	<u>4970625</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Located in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 26, Town 28 North, Range 14 East, in Shawano County, Wisconsin, along county road G on the northeast shore of Mission Lake, Red Springs Township. *see continuation sheet*

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry L. Shoptaugh - Historian, Historic Preservation Division  
 organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March 17, 1980  
 street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-3390  
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Perry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 4/28/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>forster/W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>10/22/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Kristin O'Connell</u>	date <u>8/8/80</u>
Chief of Registration	<u>10/21/80</u>

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Lutheran Indian Mission, Gresham, Wis., vicinity

Continuation sheet

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Education. The mission school operated for some fifty years, half of that time as a boarding school. Offering instruction to both Indian and white children, the school boarded up to 120 students a year, gave an elementary education to hundreds of Stockbridge, and, with the church, served as a social center for the tribe. Lack of funds and the Depression forced the synod to close the boarding dormitories in 1933, but the school continued to operate until 1958.<sup>6</sup> At the present time, the church is still being attended by descendants of the first Stockbridge Indians in the state. At the present time, with increasing numbers of the Stockbridge tribe growing farther from their heritage, the Mission remains as an important symbol of their Wisconsin experiences.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Putnam, p. 13-21.

<sup>7</sup>For an account of the current state of the Stockbridge tribe and the reservation, see Marion Johnson Mochon, "Stockbridge-Munsee Cultural Adaptations: 'Assimilated Indians'", American Philosophical Society Proceedings, 112, no. 3, p. 182-219.

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Continuation sheet

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Verbal Boundary Description (revised, 10/2/80)

The nominated parcel is 145 feet by 150 feet with the base along County Highway G and the point of origin beginning 350 feet west of the intersection of County Highway G with County Highway VV. The said property is located along the south side of County Highway G in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 26, Town 28 North, Range 14 East, in the Town of Red Springs, Shawano County, Wisconsin.

Submitted by Matucheski  
(10/2/80)