

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 29 1980  
DATE ENTERED APR 10 1980

**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 Kewawenon Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Zeba Indian United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Peter Marksman Road, 3 1/2 miles NW of L'Anse, Sec. 19 of

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

T51N-R32W

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Zeba

VICINITY OF

11

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Michigan

26

Baraga

011

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

United Methodist Church of L'Anse c/o Parsonage

STREET & NUMBER

227 Front Street

CITY, TOWN

L'Anse

VICINITY OF 011

STATE

Michigan

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baraga County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Third Street

CITY, TOWN

L'Anse

STATE

Michigan

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Western U.P. Planning and Development Region Historic Preservation Plan, 1977

DATE

Michigan State Register of Historic Sites, 1979 FEDERAL STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Michigan History Division

CITY, TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan

# 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 Zeba Indian United Methodist Church is a rectangular, gable fronted church of basilican plan in a vernacular interpretation of the unadorned, Gothic Style. A square tower, set to one side of double colored glass windows in the facade, provides an entrance foyer and supports the belfry. Symmetrically arranged memorial windows light the building from both sides. A rear facade rosette window and front gable peak window complete the fenestration. A triangle of colored glass creates a pediment effect over double front doors.

As well as colored glass, the church's decoration consists of lancet shaped openings in the belfry, arranged three to a side, and a wrought iron pinnacle on the polygonal steeple. Finally, the original exterior siding of varied-shaped shingles arranged in linear patterns, adds a textural effect to the otherwise plain, monochromatic design.

While its picturesque elements are few, the Zeba Church is a good example of Victorian Gothic church architecture, as found in the rugged lumbering and mining areas of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Built in 1888, it translates the Victorian Style into an uncomplicated, functional format appropriate to a backwoods mission.

An earlier mission preceeded the Zeba Church at Keweenaw Bay, just north of the village of L'Anse: in 1832, an initial church of log and birch bark construction stood on the site. During the next decade, the mission expanded to include log Indian houses, a schoolhouse, and a blacksmith/carpenter shop. In 1848, a new church was built to serve a growing congregation of Chippewa Indians and white pioneers. Membership peaked in the mid 1800s, but after the railroad arrived in 1870 and L'Anse blossomed into a thriving lumber center, the small communities surrounding it, including Kewawenon, declined. During this period, L'Anse Methodist Church superceded Kewawenon in attendance and soon became the parish seat. Eventually the mission and the name Kewawenon were abandoned.

In 1888, a new church was constructed at Zeba, a few miles further inland from the Bay. It still stands, along with a parsonage to the west, which has been substantially altered. The church itself is in near-original condition on the exterior. Volunteer workers re-roofed the building in the 1960s and painted it in 1978. Alterations include the addition of a portable education unit on the east side and interior paneling and rewiring, all accomplished in the early 1970s.

In addition to the church and one half acre lot on Marksman Road, Zeba Methodist Church owns a 10 acre camp meeting site, three miles east of the Church. Until the 1800s, native Methodist camp meetings took place at nearby Pequaming Point in a shelter provided by the Hebards, who owned the surrounding timber land and a thriving lumber business on the point. At the turn of the century, the meetings dwindled to nothing. In 1924, a donation of 10 acres at Zeba sparked new interest and the Indians built a rustic shelter of pole construction called the "Tabernacle in the Woods". This structure collapsed in the 1960s but was reconstructed in 1971 according to original plans, as recalled by Charlie Marksman, grandson of a Chippewa medicine man and native pastor, who held services in 1839. As of 1979, this simple tabernacle sheltered traditional Native American services and provided an interesting contrast to the Victorian Church and contemporary Indian houses nearby.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1888, 1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kewawenon Mission Site, marked today by the Zeba Methodist Church built in 1888, was the birthplace of Indian Methodism in the Western Upper Peninsula. The original 1832 log mission house was one of the earliest in the area, predating Bishop Baraga's Catholic Mission at Assinins by a decade. Kewawenon Bay was also an early site of exploration. French missionaries and fur traders visited the area beginning in the late seventeenth century. Until the railroad, shipping and lumbering concerns discovered the Keweenaw Bay area around 1870, it was dominated by Indians and these transient explorers. The only permanent white settlement in the L'Anse-Baraga area prior to 1871 was at Kewawenon.

Methodism took unusually strong root at Kewawenon. John Sunday, a Chippewa pastor, and Reverend John Clark found an initially unfriendly audience of 250 Indians when they arrived in 1832, but by 1837 Reverend John Chandler assumed a post well established in terms of active membership and permanent structures. Under John Pitezel, who served from 1844 to 1847, the membership swelled to 58 Chippewa members and four white members, and a new church was added to the complex the following year.

By 1870, the mission had 118 members. However, within two decades the membership dropped drastically and Kewawenon became a subsidiary of the L'Anse parish. Although a third church was raised at nearby Zeba in 1888, enthusiasm for Native Methodism did not rekindle until the 1920s, after the boom development in L'Anse had followed its course. With periodic lapses of interest, (in the 1960s, for instance, when the camp site tabernacle collapsed) the Mission continued to weather changes in the fabric of its society and that of surrounding areas. A major revival occurred in 1924 with the donation of a new camp meeting site. Another revival occurred in the early 1970s, when Methodist Indians and local volunteers repaired the church and rebuilt the tabernacle. A surge of general rehabilitation in the Zeba community reinforced the Mission's campaign and by 1979 a strong membership of 50 once again attended traditional and contemporary services. Thus, the Kewawenon Mission was equally significant as an early site of exploration and as a persistent, church-directed Native American community.

The pattern of construction at Kewawenon and Zeba over a period of 150 years is significant, not only as evidence of a lasting mission (rare among semi-nomadic tribes) but also as a reflection of the acculturation process. Frequently, white European strategies to convert Indians focused on assimilation, as much as education or salvation of the spirit. Mission complexes symbolized an attempt to convert nomadic, independent people to agrarian house-dwellers. In this respect, church and school buildings became focal points in the attempt to establish permanent communities and promote European culture. Even Pitezel, one of the more liberal pastors who served at Kewawenon, praised the Mission because it successfully taught the Indians to live in houses and bake

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Baraga County Historical Pageant, Bernard Lambert, editor. Baraga County Historical Society, Incorporated, 1969, pp. 16-19, 46.
2. "The Beginnings of the Kewawenon Mission, North of L'Anse", Howard Shaffer, 4 pages, Detroit Conference, Commission on Archives and History, July 10-12, 1979.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   6	3   9   1   0   0   8	5   1   8   3   1   0   1   5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

\*Property located in Section 19, Township of 51 North, R 32 West. Tract number 46, part of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  beginning 556' E and S 51 $^{\circ}$  W 282' of W $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 19, th. S. 29 $^{\circ}$  E 169', th. S 51 $^{\circ}$  W 129', th. N 29 $^{\circ}$  W 169', th. 51 $^{\circ}$  E, 129' to POB.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linnie Thuma, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Western U.P. Planning and Development Region

DATE

July, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 365

TELEPHONE

(906) 482-7205

CITY OR TOWN

Houghton

STATE

Michigan

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Martha M. Bigelow*

TITLE

*Director, Michigan History Adv. D.O.S.*

DATE

*1/11/80*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Sally G. Olden*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*4/10/80*

ATTEST:

*Emma Jane Sipe*

DATE

*4-9-80*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Regional Coordinator*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

bread.<sup>1</sup> A basic conflict between cultures always underlay the establishment of missions; the Kewawenon-Zeba Mission was one of relatively few that survived periods of change and disinterest. Whereas frequently the tribes moved west and mission buildings fell into disrepair, at Zeba a typically Victorian church remains, surrounded by contemporary Indian housing and bordered by a forested camp site complete with log "Tabernacle in the Woods". Together, these represent the successful incorporation of Methodism into both traditional and contemporary Native American ways of life.

<sup>1</sup>John H. Pitezel, The Lights and Shades of Missionary Life, published 1883.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. History of Methodism in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Historical Society of Detroit, Annual Conference, 1955.
4. History of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1883, pages 176-177, 194-195.
5. The Lights and Shades of Missionary Life, John H. Pitezel, published 1883.

Property Keweenaw Mission

Ref # 80001847

State Mi - Beraga

Working Number 1-29-80 365

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 2

Maps 1

This church is significant in the areas of architecture, exploration, settlement and religion. Built in 1889 this frame building is a fine example of vernacular Victorian Gothic style church. The Mission site (of which this is the second church) was the birthplace of Indian Methodism in the western upper Peninsula. For nearly a century this building has served as the religious center of the Indian community located at Zeba. 1/2 acre.

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
Patrick Andrews  
4/2/80

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Which also embodies use of decoratively fashioned shingles for exterior sheathing and thus reflects influence of shingle style, in prominent use for rural architecture in late 19th C.

Accept.  
Sept 4-2-80

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 10 1980



St. John  
Lutheran  
Church  
FOUNDED 1857  
REMOVED 1920  
REBUILT 1921

St. John  
Lutheran  
Church  
FOUNDED 1857  
REMOVED 1920  
REBUILT 1921

Kewawenon Mission (Zeba Indian United Methodist Church)

Peter Marskman Road

Zeba, Baraga County, Michigan

Linnie Thuma - July, 1979

Negative at: Michigan History Division  
208 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 49918

Camera facing North

Photo # 1 of 2

JAN 29 1980

APR 10 1980



Kewawenon Mission (Zeba Indian United Methodist Church)

Peter Marksman Road

Zeba, Baraga County, Michigan

Linnie Thuma - July, 1979

Negative at: Michigan History Division  
208 North Capitol Drive  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Camera facing West

Photo #2 of 2

APR 10 1980

JAN 29 1980



Keweenaw Mission  
(Zeba United Methodist Church)  
Peter Marksman Road  
Zeba, Baraga County  
Michigan  
UTM Reference:  
16/391008/5183015

5183000

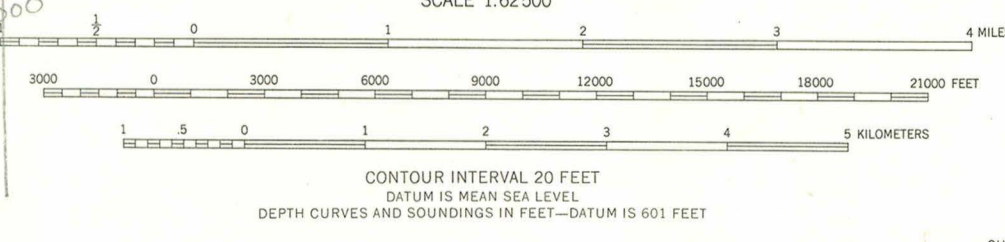
5183000

APR 10 1980



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, U.S. Lake Survey,  
and Michigan Geodetic Survey  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1951 and 1953. Field check 1954  
Hydrography from U.S. Lake Survey Charts 94 (1:120 000)  
and 943 (1:30 000)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system,  
west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue

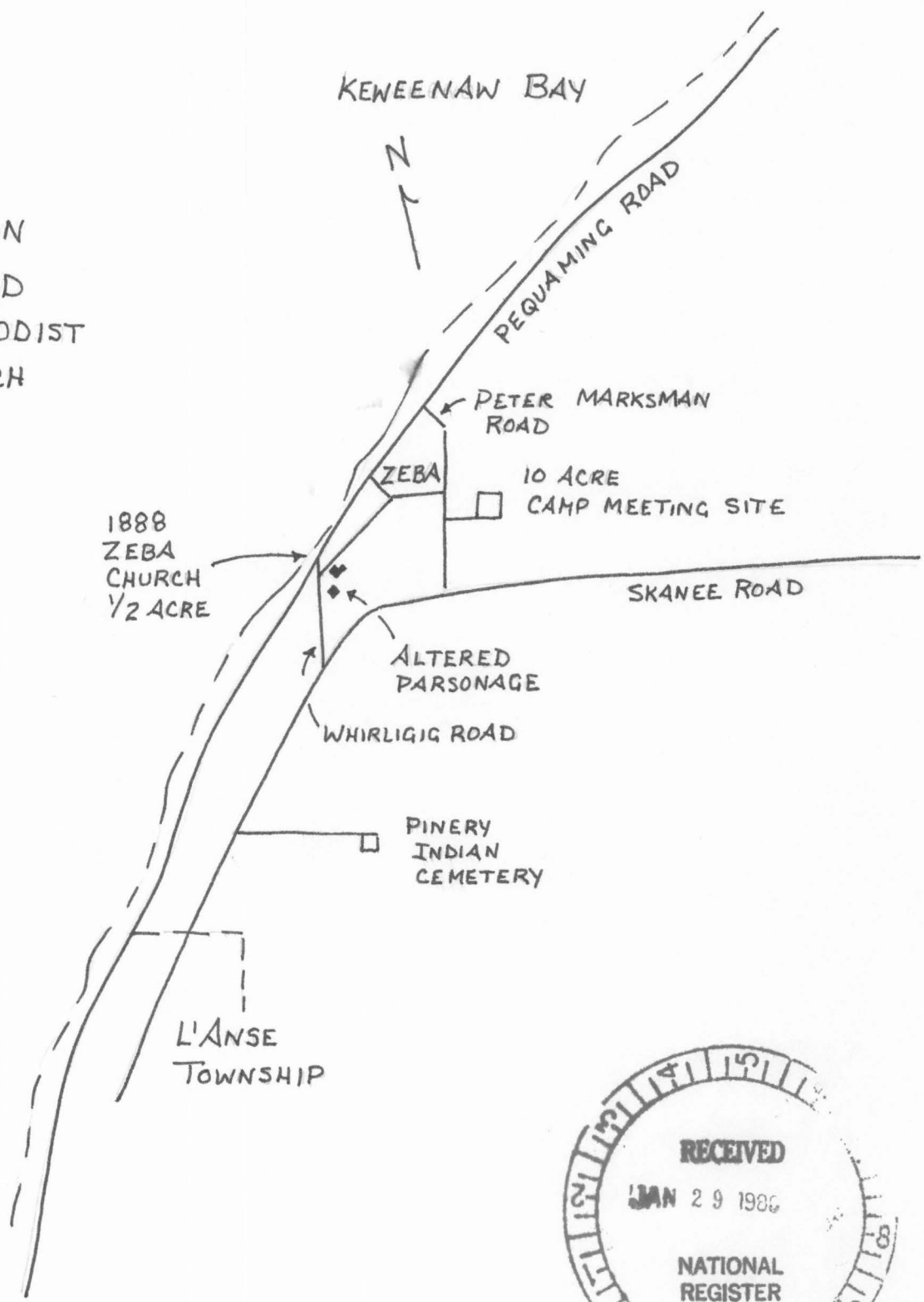
TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1954



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route      State Route

KEWEENAW BAY, MICH.  
N4645-W8815/15  
1954

ZEBA  
INDIAN  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

4/3/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Catherine Eckerd

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Mich. SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Kewawenon Mission - Baraga County

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

She will be out of the office until 4/7/1

4/7 Asked her whether the parsonage is included in the nomination -  
She will check.

4/8 - The parsonage is not included. also she agrees that the  
modern educational unit on the side of the church does not  
contribute.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Patrick Ardus

TITLE

OFFICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

APR 10 1980

Date Entered

Name

Location

Kewawenon Mission

Zeba  
Baraga County

Flint Brewing Company

Flint  
Genesee County

Also Notified

Honorable Carl Levin

Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.  
Honorable Robert W. Davis  
Honorable Dale E. Kildee

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. Martha Bigelow  
Director  
Michigan History Division  
Department of State  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.