

1435

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 14 1989

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lewis, F. W., House
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 2913 Manor N/A not for publication
city, town Midland N/A vicinity
state Michigan code MI county Midland code 111 zip code 48640

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Res. Archi. of Alden Dow in Midland, MI
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 8-1-89
Director, Bureau of History
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls other:masonite

wood:weatherboard

roof asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

7. Description

The F.W. Lewis house, built in 1934, is a fine example of Alden Dow's work with a small, modest priced dwelling. A one-story, square residential structure, the Lewis house is capped with a broad hip roof held firmly in place by the unit block chimney crowning the house. The chimney also serves to mark the interior spaces, identifying the public areas of the house. The symmetry of the floor plan is carried over into the horizontal plan of the facade with a uniform band of 4'x4' casement windows. These open cleanly to the outdoors and they serve well as fields for vertical ornamentation.

This modest home designed for F.W. Lewis, an accountant at the Dow Chemical Company, represents Alden Dow's first efforts at low-cost housing. The initial sketches date from 1933, and the house was constructed a year later at the cost of \$2,500.00. During the 1930s, Dow prepared plans for a large number of low priced homes.

The exterior of the house is presently finished in clapboard siding, added probably in the 1960s over the original masonite sheets attached by battens. The battens and the window casing had provided an attractive scheme of repeating elements on the broad horizontal elevation. Each of the seven top hung casement windows pivoted from the top. During the summer months each could be propped open and held with a stick. The same ventilating scheme was used by Dow in his first drawing room. It was cheap and effective.

The floor plan of the Lewis house was laid out on a 4' unit line pattern, a planning concept used extensively by Dow. The architect used the grid or unit plan to lay out elevations and floor plans of his designs. This ensured a symmetry and harmony of space throughout the structure. A symmetry for the floor plan is also ensured by the diagonal lines which run from corner to corner on the floor and are marked on the ceiling. These lines intersect at the chimney/hearth. The major interior spaces--the two bedrooms at the rear of the house, the living room and kitchen/dining areas at the front--are aligned on the diagonals and the unit plan.

Alden Dow's design for the Lewis house split the dwelling into two zones, public and private. The zones are separated by the unit block chimney, the built-in linen and broom closet along the side of the chimney, and the built-in couch extending at a right angle from the closet. The forward part of the house with the broad band of windows is a family or public area. It sits a step down from the rear or private area of the house, and the space is only broken by the couch. This partitions the small kitchen (6'x9') from the living and dining areas. The entrance to the house is located on the

west side, half way back, and the door opens onto the side of the fireplace with the living room immediately to the right. The concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the three steps and the door. The walkway is laid out in 2'x4' concrete blocks.

The rear half, or private zone, of the house contains two bedrooms. Alden Dow initially offered his client two versions--one with two bedrooms and one with three bedrooms, and the client adopted the two-bedroom plan. The larger of the two bedrooms, the options chosen, is 12'6"x13' and the smaller is 9'6"x11'6". Both of the bedrooms open onto a narrow corridor defined by the back of the hearth. The private area is thereby connected visually and architecturally with the public area of the house.

The broad sloping lines of the roof, culminating in the unit block chimney, remain a visually up-lifting element on the interior ceiling of the house. The ceiling follows the angle and lines of the roof and is covered with Celotex sheets divided and held in place by battens. The one step down from the bedrooms into the family area of the house give the front area additional height. The battens extending up from the top of the walls, joining where the diagonal corner lines meet, represent the connection of the roof planes. The diagonals of the ceiling battens offer a visually pleasing effect which contrasts nicely with the rhythmic pattern of the unit block fireplace. This effect is heightened by two strongly horizontal planes on the fireplace--the mantel and the more prominent cornice 4' above the mantel and extending from the entryway through the fireplace and into the kitchen area. This element connects the forward sections of the house. On the exterior, a single car garage, built probably in the 1960s, is attached to the north side of the building. It sits back from the front of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1933-34

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Alden B. Dow

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

8. Statement of Significance

The F.W. Lewis house, the second residential structure designed by Alden Dow for a client in Midland, has architectural significance as Dow's first experiment with low-cost housing, a life-long interest of the architect, and it was one of his first designs to use Unit Block construction (here, in the chimney), a material and technique developed by Dow. In addition, the 900 square feet Lewis house was the first of Dow's buildings to be laid out on the grid plan, a series of 4' squares which eased the expense of design and construction while providing integrity and harmony. Alden Dow presented in the square shaped Lewis house a strongly sculptural treatment of the modestly sized home. The architect paid considerable attention to the interaction of the horizontal and vertical planes of the facade. The contrasts of the vertical and horizontal planes, especially noticeable from the outside, are heightened in the interior through the angled battens on the ceiling, the square unit blocks, the strongly horizontal mantelpieces and cornice. Dow also effectively used the built-in couch, closet, and kitchen area in an architecturally pleasing and effective fashion. The built-ins define and strengthen the sense of space in the public zone of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive. F. W. Lewis Drawings and F. W. Lewis File. Midland, MI.

Robinson, Sidney. The Architecture of Alden B. Dow. Detroit, 1983.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): None

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Dow Creativity Center, Midland, MI

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 72 3 41 0 4 8 340 4 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beg. at E 1/8 cor on S 1n of Sec. 9, N 495.25 ft, E 364.91 ft to POB. S 44 deg 46 min E 60 ft, N 45 deg 14 min E 98.96 ft, N 44 deg 46 min W 120 ft, S 45 deg 04 min W 98.69 ft, S 44 deg 46 min E 60 ft to beg.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the entire lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert G. Waite, Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date March, 1989

street & number 12318 Fox Lake Court telephone 703/352-0595

city or town Fairfax state VA zip code 22033

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Lewis, F. W., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--19
38 MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Midland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/08/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001435

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/4/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 14 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

historic name Lewis, F. W., House
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 2913 Manor N/A not for publication
city, town Midland N/A vicinity
state Michigan code MI county Midland code 111 zip code 48640

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Res. Archi. of Alden Dow in Midland, MI
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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Richard B. Robert Signature of certifying official 8-1-89 Date
Director, Bureau of History
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Alma Beyer Signature of the Keeper 12/4/89 Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls other:masonite

wood:weatherboard

roof asphalt

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

7. Description

The F.W. Lewis house, built in 1934, is a fine example of Alden Dow's work with a small, modest priced dwelling. A one-story, square residential structure, the Lewis house is capped with a broad hip roof held firmly in place by the unit block chimney crowning the house. The chimney also serves to mark the interior spaces, identifying the public areas of the house. The symmetry of the floor plan is carried over into the horizontal plan of the facade with a uniform band of 4'x4' casement windows. These open cleanly to the outdoors and they serve well as fields for vertical ornamentation.

This modest home designed for F.W. Lewis, an accountant at the Dow Chemical Company, represents Alden Dow's first efforts at low-cost housing. The initial sketches date from 1933, and the house was constructed a year later at the cost of \$2,500.00. During the 1930s, Dow prepared plans for a large number of low priced homes.

The exterior of the house is presently finished in clapboard siding, added probably in the 1960s over the original masonite sheets attached by battens. The battens and the window casing had provided an attractive scheme of repeating elements on the broad horizontal elevation. Each of the seven top hung casement windows pivoted from the top. During the summer months each could be propped open and held with a stick. The same ventilating scheme was used by Dow in his first drawing room. It was cheap and effective.

The floor plan of the Lewis house was laid out on a 4' unit line pattern, a planning concept used extensively by Dow. The architect used the grid or unit plan to lay out elevations and floor plans of his designs. This ensured a symmetry and harmony of space throughout the structure. A symmetry for the floor plan is also ensured by the diagonal lines which run from corner to corner on the floor and are marked on the ceiling. These lines intersect at the chimney/hearth. The major interior spaces--the two bedrooms at the rear of the house, the living room and kitchen/dining areas at the front--are aligned on the diagonals and the unit plan.

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west side, half way back, and the door opens onto the side of the fireplace with the living room immediately to the right. The concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the three steps and the door. The walkway is laid out in 2'x4' concrete blocks.

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The broad sloping lines of the roof, culminating in the unit block chimney, remain a visually up-lifting element on the interior ceiling of the house. The ceiling follows the angle and lines of the roof and is covered with Celotex sheets divided and held in place by battens. The one step down from the bedrooms into the family area of the house give the front area additional height. The battens extending up from the top of the walls, joining where the diagonal corner lines meet, represent the connection of the roof planes. The diagonals of the ceiling battens offer a visually pleasing effect which contrasts nicely with the rhythmic pattern of the unit block fireplace. This effect is heightened by two strongly horizontal planes on the fireplace--the mantel and the more prominent cornice 4' above the mantel and extending from the entryway through the fireplace and into the kitchen area. This element connects the forward sections of the house. On the exterior, a single car garage, built probably in the 1960s, is attached to the north side of the building. It sits back from the front of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1933-34

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Alden B. Dow

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive. F. W. Lewis Drawings and F. W. Lewis File. Midland, MI.

Robinson, Sidney. The Architecture of Alden B. Dow. Detroit, 1983.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): None
- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Dow Creativity Center, Midland, MI

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 72 3 41 0 4 8 340 4 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beg. at E 1/8 cor on S 1n of Sec. 9, N 495.25 ft, E 364.91 ft to POB. S 44 deg 46 min E 60 ft, N 45 deg 14 min E 98.96 ft, N 44 deg 46 min W 120 ft, S 45 deg 04 min W 98.69 ft, S 44 deg 46 min E 60 ft to beg.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the entire lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert G. Waite, Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date March, 1989

street & number 12318 Fox Lake Court telephone 703/352-0595

city or town Fairfax state VA zip code 22033

8. Statement of Significance

The F.W. Lewis house, the second residential structure designed by Alden Dow for a client in Midland, has architectural significance as Dow's first experiment with low-cost housing, a life-long interest of the architect, and it was one of his first designs to use Unit Block construction (here, in the chimney), a material and technique developed by Dow. In addition, the 900 square feet Lewis house was the first of Dow's buildings to be laid out on the grid plan, a series of 4' squares which eased the expense of design and construction while providing integrity and harmony. Alden Dow presented in the square shaped Lewis house a strongly sculptural treatment of the modestly sized home. The architect paid considerable attention to the interaction of the horizontal and vertical planes of the facade. The contrasts of the vertical and horizontal planes, especially noticeable from the outside, are heightened in the interior through the angled battens on the ceiling, the square unit blocks, the strongly horizontal mantelpieces and cornice. Dow also effectively used the built-in couch, closet, and kitchen area in an architecturally pleasing and effective fashion. The built-ins define and strengthen the sense of space in the public zone of the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lewis, F. W., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--19
38 MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Midland

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/29/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/14/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/28/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001435

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This nomination was not prepared on archival paper as required by N.P. Bulletin 16 (Supplement)

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Patrick Adams
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 9/28/89

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Patrick Andrus Phone _____
Date 9/28/89



F.W. Lewis residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
exterior, front, camera facing W
KH-G1

AUG 14 1989



F.W. Lewis residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
living room, camera facing NW
KH-G2

AUG 14 1989

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500275