

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 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 Diehl, Oscar C., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 919 East Park N/A not for publication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>	_____ 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
		<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

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.
Anthony D. Herbert 8-1-89
Signature of certifying official 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.
Anthony D. Herbert _____
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)

Prairie School

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick

roof wood/shingle
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

7. Description

The Oscar Diehl house, with its long hipped roofs and brick walls, is reminiscent of the Prairie style. Built on a small corner lot, this L shaped structure is tucked into the rear corner of the site. One leg of the building has two levels and is the main living area. The other leg, long and narrow, is the garage and it extends out from the central core of the house. Except for the garage, the house sits back from the sidewalk and street. The shallow hipped roofs hug the ground, and they extend well beyond the walls.

Alden Dow prepared the rendering and drawings for a modest home for Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Diehl in late spring, 1935. Bay City Stone Company began construction on July 8, 1935, immediately after signing the \$13,020.00 contract. The house was to be "substantially completed" by January 1, 1936, the contract read. Dow prepared eight sheets of drawings and 23 pages of specifications for the house. These identified, among other things, the materials to be used in the home-- Kingswood Style brick for the exterior and selected interior walls, glass brick above the stairway, plaster or Accoustex blocks on other walls, battens on the ceilings, steel casement sash windows, and No. 29 English thatch shingles for the roof.

The Diehls had purchased a small corner lot, and Dow did a masterful job of designing an attractive home to fit the small site. Except for the garage which opens onto a short driveway at the far end of the house, the structure sits back from the sidewalk and street. The east end of the house, a long and narrow two car garage where the cars fit in one behind another, extends out from the central core of the house. In the late 1970s, the rear half of the garage was converted into a spare bedroom. The pitched roof over the garage extends out well beyond the door. The end of the roof hangs suspended in space, a fitting culmination for the home.

The long, low brick wall of the garage is unbroken as it reaches to the front door. A similar unbroken horizontal plane is the roof line that covers and shelters the walkway. This leads right to the front door, not visible from the sidewalk directly in front of the house as it is sheltered by a broad brick planter that rises above the roofline. From the intersection of this planter and the chimney that sits immediately behind and that soars above it, a shorter wing of the house projects outward at a right angle toward the street. The wings are held together by the chimney and planter. This wing is a truncated version of the garage, with the same roof plane and brick walls. This area, however, well back from the entry and the sidewalk, has a wall of windows. These open into the living room. The diamond pattern leaded windows, a form rarely used by Dow,

were chosen by the clients. While this area with its large windows and subtle landscaping is fully visible from the street, its location--set back from the sidewalk so that it becomes more visible only as one walks farther from it on the sidewalk and well back from the entry walkway--affords considerable privacy. At the same time, the openness of the windows draw the visitor along the walkway and to the front door of the house.

The two wings of the L shape join, as noted above, and at this junction an upper story is apparent. This area, containing two bedrooms, sits on top of the other and major roofline anchored by the massive planter and chimney. With its brick walls, course of windows shielded by the planter and chimney, and the low hipped roof, this section of the house is a nice compliment to the lower level. The long horizontal elements of the Diehl house give it a smooth and streamline appearance.

The interior of the house is defined by the massive fireplace and the location of the various zones around it. The short wing sits in front of the hearth and opens into the spacious living room. The plaster walls (originally vertical Accoutex panels), the battened panels of the ceiling and the broad cornice trimmed with cypress provide a complex interplay of geometric patterns and materials. To the rear and located in the main core of the house are the kitchen, dining area and a sitting room. These are placed off of the main hallway and open onto a small backyard patio. The kitchen was remodeled in the 1970s and a new semi-circular window added. Stairs with an outside wall of glass block lead to the two bedrooms on the second floor. A maid's room is in the basement.

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
1935-36

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 Oscar Diehl house is an outstanding example of Alden Dow's interpretation of the Prairie style. It is a home which contains strong prairie style elements while also containing innovative and functional elements developed by Dow. The long horizontal lines of the lower level dominate the structure and they with the sloping hipped roofs suggest a strong prairie school influence. The geometric elements, the rectangular shape of each of the three sections of the house, reveal Dow's interest in the more compositional International style. Alden Dow masterfully integrated these styles into a coherent and unified vision of residential architecture.

The placement of the Diehl house on the small and awkward corner lot also demonstrates Dow's effective use of the available building site. He located the house well back in the corner, and used an L shaped design, landscaping, and the layout of the interior spaces to provide more privacy than might be expected.

With the Diehl house, Alden Dow again shows his mastery of a variety of materials, and his ability to use different textures, shapes, forms and colors harmoniously. The mixture offers a pleasing visual appearance, and aids in heightening the sense of space. This is especially effective in the living room, the most public room and therefore the show-place of the house. Here, Dow used smooth walls on the exterior and brick on the exterior. The hearth carried over the brick from the outside walls. The ceiling projects upward, taking the shape of the hipped roof and revealing its form. The ceiling is plaster with wooden battens.

The Oscar Diehl house has comfortable proportions both in floor plan and elevation. It was built to a human scale. Alden Dow used the unit system to lay out the house, assuring a balance among the spacial elements.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Houses in Midland, Michigan," Architectural Forum, September, 1936, p. 200.

Oscar Diehl Drawings, Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive, Midland.

Oscar Diehl File, Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive, Midland.

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

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 721920 48336 140
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 41 & 42 Park Realty Cos Parkside.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This includes 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: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Diehl, Oscar C., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--19
NAME: 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: 89001436

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 per National Register
Bulletin 16 requirement*

RECOM./CRITERIA Returns
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus
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
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Patrick Andrews Phone _____
Date 9/28/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 14 1989

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historic name Diehl, Oscar C., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 919 East Park 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>	_____ 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
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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Res. Archi. of Alden Dow in Midland, MI
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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Kathryn B. Burkert 8-1-89
Signature of certifying official 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.
Kathryn B. Burkert _____
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:
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 See continuation sheet. 12/4/89
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Alan Byrne _____
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)

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7. Description

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8. Statement of Significance

AUG 14 1989

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
1935-36

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.

See continuation sheet

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Oscar Diehl File, Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive, Midland.

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): None

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- 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

1 4 0

A

1	6	7	21	9	20	48	3	3	6	9	20
Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 41 & 42 Park Realty Cos Parkside.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This includes 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

B. Statement of Significance

The Oscar Diehl house is an outstanding example of Alden Dow's interpretation of the Prairie style. It is a home which contains strong prairie style elements while also containing innovative and functional elements developed by Dow. The long horizontal lines of the lower level dominate the structure and they with the sloping hipped roofs suggest a strong prairie school influence. The geometric elements, the rectangular shape of each of the three sections of the house, reveal Dow's interest in the more compositional International style. Alden Dow masterfully integrated these styles into a coherent and unified vision of residential architecture.

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The Oscar Diehl house has comfortable proportions both in floor plan and elevation. It was built to a human scale. Alden Dow used the unit system to lay out the house, assuring a balance among the spacial elements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Diehl, Oscar C., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--19
NAME: 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: 89001436

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
___ UTMs ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



k g harding
3319 rivercrest court
midland mi 48640

8/88

Oscar Diehl residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
exterior, front, camera facing W
KH-D1

AUG 14 1988



Oscar Diehl residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
living room, camera facing SW
KH-D2

AUG 14 1989



k g harding
3319 rivercrest court
midland mi 48640

8/88

O.C. Diehl residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute, Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
exterior of front, facing W
KH-D1

AUG 14 1989

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500275