

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House

other names/site number Penhaligen House

2. Location

street & number 1203 West Sugnet Road

city or town Midland

state Michigan

code MI

not for publication

vicinity

county Midland

code 111

zip code 48640

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official [Handwritten Signature]

Date 5/4/04

MI SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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):

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Residential Architecture of Aiden B. Dow in Midland Michigan 1939-1941

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling - House

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling - House

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete Block

walls Brick

roof Asbestos

other Wood

Stucco

Glass Block

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1941

Significant Dates

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dow, Alden B _____

Dow, Alden, Building Company _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Alden B. Dow Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 16 722580 4834620
Zone Easting Northing

3.
Zone Easting Northing

2.

4.

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Samantha Harrison Stand, Research Associate

organization Alden B. Dow Archives date 16 December 2003

street & number 315 Post Road telephone (989) 839-2744

city or town Midland state MI zip code 48640

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Charles Skinner

street & number 1203 West Sugnet Road telephone

city or town Midland state MI zip code 48640

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 of 4

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, MI
Name of Property County and State

Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI, 1939 - 1941
Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Narrative Description

The Charles Penhaligen House, designed by Alden B. Dow in 1941, is a single-story, hip-roofed, L-plan brick house with wood trim in superb condition. Recent interior alterations that converted the original maid's quarters and screened porch to a sitting room and that expanded the master bath and dressing room have been sensitively carried out in keeping with the original design. The interior of the three-bedroom house has such characteristic Dow features as built-in linoleum-topped shelves and cabinets, edge-grain fir trim, mirrored panels, curved walls, and broad expanses of windows.

Set well back from the road on a cul d'sac in one of Midland's more desirable residential areas, the Penhaligen house is the first on the left, sharing a drive with three other Alden Dow homes. The 1936 George Greene house sits to the Penhaligen residence's west and the 1935 Charles MacCallum house (National Register, 1989) sits to the north. An island in the center of the cul d'sac, planted with evergreens of various heights and widths, provides year-round separation and privacy from the MacCallum property to the north and original pine trees as well as a foliage-covered wooden fence on the Greene property also provide privacy from the west.

The house appears to emerge from the land as it is approached from a driveway that parallels the long wing of the house and ends at a two-car garage with wood door. The land at the end of the drive is higher than the garage and home so that the garage is built into the side of a gentle slope. The chimney adds a sharp height to the home at the junction of roofs of the garage and living space but in no way breaks the line of the house or the land. A stair pattern is built into the chimney bricks echoing the slope of the land and the emergence of the house from it. The lines of the chimney detail follow the lines of the site and the architecture. A wood trellis extends from the roofline over the walkway and brick planter that parallel the driveway. Because the west-facing garage doors are set well back under the eave and behind the north end wall, a north elevation of the house does not even show the entrance. Only a window and a service door at the kitchen relieve the brick of the north front; in contrast, the south side has extensive windows looking over the country club golf course. The brick wall stretching from garage to entrance is inset with eight scattered glass blocks that lend light to a dressing room and to the interior basement stairs. The recessed entrance faces north, sheltered by the overhanging eave. The living wing of the house stretches to the west, its north facade relieved only by one window and a service door at the kitchen. A long low brick flower box (28' 6" L) separates the raised terrace from the drive. The trellis-like extension of the roof along the north facade continues the slope of the roof, giving

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Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Narrative Description (continued)

nominal shelter to the concrete terrace extending the length of the house. The trellis continues on a horizontal plane out into the yard at the west end of the house, further uniting structure and site. The wood trellis is supported by 1½-inch pipe columns, which at the terrace are anchored in the flower box. With restoration of the trellis in 1991, the west extension was shortened by about one-third and the support poles were encased in wood matching that of the trellis.

The south, or back, exterior looks out over the golf course of the Midland Country Club. Windows wrap around the southwest corner, originally the site of a screened porch, now the glassed-in end of the sitting room making the juniper, maple, and pine trees in the back yard part of the home's overall fashion statement. A long bay of windows projects the length of the living room, uniting the outside with the inside – an important Dow characteristic. Another, smaller, sloping trellis that extended over the living room windows has been removed. The southeast end of the house, where bedrooms are located, has more conventionally sized windows. All windows have brick sills and stuccoed window heads.

The house is entered at the juncture of the two wings, functionally the center of the house. The broad slab door has a narrow horizontal peep window characteristic of Alden Dow entrances. The entryway floor is of brick, again blurring the distinction between exterior and interior. Private spaces extend down the hall to the left; a curved plaster wall opens the space to the public rooms to the right. The brick wall at right is the back of the fireplace.

The living and dining room form one flowing space, the most prominent feature of which is the broad range of windows looking south onto the golf course. A linoleum-topped window seat and shelf extending the length of the windows, a typical feature of Dow's houses, was removed in 1996. Across the room on the north wall, tucked into the space between the entrance and the kitchen, is a low-ceilinged fireplace alcove, a small sitting area replete with the myriad of textures and materials favored by Dow: plaster, brick, linoleum, mirror, textiles, and wood. On the right, the fireplace, flush with the brick floor, has a plaster chimneybreast cutting a vertical stripe in the brick wall. Built-in plywood cupboards with open, linoleum-topped shelves above line the west side of the alcove; where the cupboards round the corner to the dining area they become drawers with vertical grain fir fronts. A pass-through from the kitchen opens over this cupboard. Mirrored panels above the sofa and behind the

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Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Narrative Description (continued)

dining room portion of the shelves reflect the light from the windows opposite, opening up an otherwise small space. The original upholstered bench along the north wall was replaced in 1996 with a built-in sofa that curves from the north wall to the west.

The kitchen is entered from the dining room through a swinging door. A north-facing window over the sink looks out to the driveway. Next to it is the "back," or service, door. The door, originally wood, has been replaced with a glass door. The original sash window has been replaced with fixed pane. Metal kitchen cupboards were replaced with edge-grain fir cupboards when the kitchen was remodeled in 1991. Originally a maid's room and bath occupied the northwest corner of the house, and a screened porch, accessed from triple doors in the dining area, was located in the southwest corner. Recent alterations have very successfully created a single sitting area from these spaces, open to the kitchen at one end and the dining room at the other, without altering the exterior.

The hallway leading to the bedrooms, extending from the left of the entrance, is distinguished by two curved plaster walls, one at each of the two smaller bedrooms. A mirrored wall and a hall bath separate the two bedrooms along the south wall. Each bedroom has sliding wood closet doors with long wood pulls. The first bedroom also has built-in drawers. Both rooms have continuous wood fascia trim around the walls about twelve inches below ceiling height. Double pane windows have replaced the original single pane glass, and portions of cabinetry that were originally plywood have been re-faced in edge grain fir.

The large master bedroom has a single exterior wall, facing east. The west wall of the room is mirrored, with a deep linoleum-topped sill, and framed by built-in drawers at either side. Originally, a wooden pole reached from the sill to the ceiling at each end of the mirror. Four square wood trays (for holding jewelry and cosmetics) were mounted at regular intervals on each pole. Those trays and poles have been removed. Fascia trim matching that in the other bedrooms has been added around the room.

A door in the north wall leads to a bathroom and dressing room area, which backs onto the interior garage wall. Originally two separate areas, in 1996 it was opened up into one space.

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Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Narrative Description (continued)

A door was added leading into the garage. A shower added to the northwest corner of the room borrows space from the garage. A stairway to the left of the entrance leads to a partial basement. Dow planned for a single finished room (which he dubbed the playroom) with windows on the south side. There is also a laundry room and a furnace room in the basement.

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Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, MI
Name of Property County and State

Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI, 1939 - 1941
Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Statement of Significance

The Charles Penhaligen House is among the first houses both designed by Dow and constructed by the Alden Dow Building Company. While a modest house, it serves as a good example of a well thought out and carefully designed residence. Alden Dow worked closely with his clients in providing a design and scale appropriate to their needs. The broad horizontal lines of the house, capped with a low hip roof, and the low brick wall in front of it emphasize its solid contact with the site. This solid feeling is softened, however, by the extended trellis which reaches well beyond the roofline. As in his other designs, Dow carefully placed the public areas of the home separate from the private areas.

Charles Penhaligen (1901 – 1959), a Tri-City (Saginaw-Bay City-Midland) native, became involved with the Dow Chemical Company in 1936 when he took an accountant's position at Dowell Incorporated, a new Dow concern formed to provide a chemical treatment service for oil and gas wells to increase their production. By 1940, he was elected treasurer and director of the Dowell firm. The following year, 1941, he was not only appointed auditor of the Dow Chemical Company, but also hired Alden Dow to design and construct his new residence for himself, his wife and his two children – a son and a daughter. During his career he was instrumental in the organization of the Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union and also served as auditor of Dow Magnesium Corporation and of Dow Chemical of Canada.

During the spring of 1941, Alden Dow prepared a rendering of a proposed home for Mr. Penhaligen. In the margin of the sketch, Dow had penciled the estimated costs, apparently done while talking with his clients. An earlier drawing was for a two-story structure, larger and more costly than the Penhaligens desired. The estimated cost of the accepted plan amounted to \$15,659.10. As the plans developed some of the expected costs increased. The contract, signed with the Alden Dow Building Company on June 16, 1941, identified the final cost as \$19,365.75, about twice the average price for a typical 1940s Michigan residence, which then ranged from about \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00. Work was to begin immediately after the signing of the contract with "substantial" completion by December 15, 1941.

Mrs. Penhaligen sold the house to Mr. Richard Payne in 1990. Mr. Payne's refurbishments to the Penhaligen house are magnificent examples of how a home can change to fit modern lifestyles, yet still maintain the integrity of an architect's vision. He expanded the master bathroom and bedroom as well

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Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Statement of Significance (continued)

as transformed the screened-in sun porch into a glass-walled sitting room. The maid's quarters are gone, with the space reallocated for the sitting room. Mr. Payne also completely updated Dow's wall-to-wall carpet selection. Dow often used green carpeting in spaces that were, in particular, surrounded by glass in order that there not be a harsh contrast between inside and outside colors. He preferred there be an amorphous blending of color both inside and out and the shade green on the interior floor could lead the eye gently outside to the greenery surrounding the space. Mr. Payne's choice for carpeting was a soft beige which better accentuates the edge grained fir of Dow's interior wood shelving and trim. Mr. Payne sold the house to its current owners in the summer of 2000.

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Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI, 1939 - 1941
Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography

1. Dow Diamond, vol. XII, no. 6, November 1948, "Business and Science," (18).
2. "Kindred Spirits: Tours Show How Dow's Disciples Preserve Architect's Legacy." Midland Daily News (October 2, 1988).
3. Personnel Papers. 00263A. Post Street Archives, Midland, Michigan.
4. Robinson, Sidney K. The Architecture of Alden B. Dow. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1983.
5. Waite, Robert G. The Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, Michigan, 1933-1945: A Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (March 1987).

Graphic Resources in the Alden B. Dow Archives for the Penhaligen House

1. n.d. [1941], colored drawings: floor plans and elevations for three designs (not built), 3 sheets.
2. n.d. [1941], colored drawing: interior, 1 sheet.
3. May 1941, presentation drawing: floor plan, 1 sheet.
4. 9 May 1941, working drawings: plans, elevations, and details, 4 sheets.
5. 25 June – 24 November 1941, working drawings: details, 8 sheets.

Textual Resources in the Alden B. Dow Archives for the Penhaligen House

1. Specifications, n.d.
2. Bids and cost estimates, 30 items, May – June 1941.

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Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography (Continued)

Textual Resources in the Alden B. Dow Archives for the Penhaligen House (Continued)

3. General contract, 16 June 1941, between Alden Dow Building Company and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Penhaligen.
4. Contracts, 14 items, 6 June – 14 September 1941.
5. Change orders, 3 items, September 1941 – July 1942.
6. Time sheets, 23 items, May 1941 – May 1942.
7. Correspondence, 11 items, between Alden Dow Building Company and various subcontractors, June – August 1941.

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Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI, 1939 - 1941
Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning 357.7 feet East and 158 feet South of Int of EW $\frac{1}{4}$ LN and W $\frac{1}{8}$ LN of Section 9 South 238.1 feet, W 175 feet, N 100 feet, East 37 feet, Northeast 195 feet.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel originally purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Penhaligen.

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Section Photographs and Slides Page 1

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, MI
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Name of Multiple Property Listing

Penhaligen, Charles and Mary Kempf, House Midland County, Michigan

Additional Documentation – Photographs

**Photographs (Cliff Amrhein, photographer; exteriors: October 1995 and interiors: June 1997
unless otherwise noted)**

1. Garage and north facade with trellis (Ralph Appleman, photographer, ca. 1950).
2. South (rear) façade (Elmer Astleford, photographer, n.d).
3. General view, exterior, from northwest (Gary Rocha, photographer, 2003).
4. Exterior, from southwest.
5. Living room and dining room from foyer (Gary Rocha, photographer, 2003).
6. Living room and fireplace alcove with foyer in background (Gary Rocha, photographer, 2003).
7. Sitting room, looking toward dining room.
8. Bedroom hall, detail: mirrored wall at right (Gary Rocha, photographer, 2003).
9. Master bedroom, detail, case wall.