

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 Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House

other names/site number Boonstra House

2. Location

street & number 1401 Helen Street

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not for publication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 Brian L. Murray

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

N/A

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

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 Wood: Weatherboard

roof Pitch and Gravel

other Brick

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 of 2

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House **Midland County, Michigan**

Narrative Description

The Boonstra House is an unassuming one-story house with wood siding, hip roof and broad overhanging eaves. Designed by Alden B. Dow in 1941, the house was built by the Alden Dow Building Company. Sited on a narrow lot, the modest house faces north to the street and the south side of the Midland Country Club's vast lawn. Although the home is situated in one of the affluent residential Midland neighborhoods, the neighborhood is nevertheless closely built. Following west to the attached garage, the roofline follows the topography, balancing the flatness of the land in the front yard with the height of the eastern and western trees. The entire feeling of the structure is that it is emerging from the land on which it is sited.

A straight driveway on the west side leads to a one-car garage in the rear of the house. The garage is attached to the home and the main entrance is adjacent to the garage, facing west. The "back" door is on the east side, on axis with the front door across the house. A broad bay window stretches across the "front" of the house.

Despite its compact size and appearance, the interior living space has an open, flowing quality. The main entrance, on the west side well back from the front, opens directly into the living room of the house. To the right, a parapet wall guards the stairs to the basement. The ceiling over the stairs is curved, to allow more head room as one descends to the basement.

To the left is the living room and, at the front east corner, the dining area. East and west side walls are without windows, protecting privacy on the narrow lot. Focus is drawn to the front, with its band of windows facing out to the street, and beyond it, to the country club golf course. The broad bay of windows is anchored by a characteristic Alden Dow linoleum-topped window bench with open shelf below.

Straight ahead from the entry is the brick fireplace, slightly recessed, with a plaster chimneybreast reaching to the ceiling. This wall serves as a sort of core to the house. Behind it is the compact

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 of 2

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House **Midland County, Michigan**

Narrative Description

kitchen, reached either from the door to the right of the fireplace or from the dining area. The doorway between kitchen and dining room has been shifted toward the east (exterior) wall, changing the configuration of the kitchen from a galley type to an L-plan. An exterior door in the east wall of the kitchen leads to the side yard.

The rear of the house, the private zone of the house, originally consisted of two bedrooms and a bath. True to Dow's oeuvre, the bedrooms are furnished with built-in drawers, closets with plywood sliding doors, and continuous trim around the room. A 1976 addition to the back of the house added a second bath and a third bedroom.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House **Midland County, Michigan**

Statement of Significance

Designed by Alden B. Dow and built by the Alden Dow Building Company in 1941, the Boonstra House is a good example of Dow's interest in well-designed low cost housing. While small in size, the structure is carefully placed on the lot and the rooms and interior spaces are laid out in accordance with their function.

This home is also anticipatory of what Dow would design over the next several years. The wood siding and broad open eaves are not typical of Dow's other work to date, but these elements are repeated in the designs of the government and company housing he would build in Lake Jackson, Texas during the next several years. The architecturally sensitive 1976 addition to the back of the house, which added a second bathroom and a third bedroom, is also in keeping with Dow's idea that a small house can grow with a growing family. The house is located in the neighborhood near the Midland Country Club, an area that was just beginning to be developed in the years before World War II. Many other Dow-designed homes are within a few blocks of the Boonstra House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography

1. Dow, Alden B. Papers. Alden B. Dow Archives, Midland, Michigan.
2. Robinson, Sidney K. The Architecture of Alden B. Dow. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, (1983).
3. 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 Boonstra House

1. 28 May 1941, revised 2 June 1941, drawings: floor plans, elevations, and details, 5 sheets.

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

1. Specifications, n.d.
2. Bids and cost estimates, 12 May – 5 June 1941, 9 items.
3. General contract, 4 June 1941, between Alden Dow Building Company and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Boonstra.
4. Contracts, 2 – 5 June 1941, 6 items.
5. Certificates of payment, 25 August – 12 November 1941, 3 items.
6. Cost records, [June – October 1941], 7 items.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 2

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography (Continued)

Textual Resources in the Alden B. Dow Archives for the Boonstra House (continued)

7. Change order, 12 November 1941, 1 item.
8. Time sheets, 13 June 1941 – 8 May 1942, 14 items.
9. Correspondence, 29 May 1941 – 23 March 1942, 15 items.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

**Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Midland County, Michigan**

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Easterly corner of Lot 3, Golfside Addition, Southerly on E LN of Lot 140 feet, Westerly on 5 LN 55.72 feet, North to Westerly corner of Lot, East 95 feet to beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel originally purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Boonstra.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs and Slides Page 1 of 1

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

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

Boonstra, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, House Midland County, Michigan

Additional Documentation – Photographs

Photographs (Cliff Amrhein, photographer; October 1995 unless otherwise noted)

1. North (front) facade (Elmer Astleford, photographer, ca. 1942).
2. North facade.
3. Northeast corner.
4. South (rear) facade.
5. Living room and dining room (Elmer Astleford, photographer, ca. 1942).
6. Living room and dining room.
7. Living room with basement stair at back (Elmer Astleford, photographer, ca. 1942).
8. Basement stair and front door.