

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 Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House

other names/site number Butenschoen House

2. Location

street & number 1212 Helen Street not for publication
city or town Midland vicinity
state Michigan code MI 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] 5/4/04
Signature of certifying official Date

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 Alden 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 Asphalt

other Wood

Plaster

Concrete

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

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House
Name of Property

Midland County, MI
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 116 722560 4833670
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 Mrs. Louis P. Butenschoen

street & number 1212 Helen Street 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

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<u>Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House</u>	<u>Midland County, MI</u>	<u>Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI 1939-1941</u>
Name of Property	County and State	Name of Multiple Property Listing

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House Midland County, Michigan

Narrative Description

The Butenschoen House is a single story brick house set well back on a spacious corner lot adjacent to the Midland Country Club and close to a number of other Dow-designed homes. An intersecting hip roof with deep eaves shelters the south-facing house. At the front, the broad blank expanse of the garage wall is balanced on the other side of the wide front door by large living room windows. These are shaded by a trellis extension of the roof. The public living and dining spaces are at the front and center of the house, with service and private spaces encircling them at sides and back. The stepped appearance of the back of the house is quite different from the long straight line of the front, as it reflects a "fan" of rooms -- garage, kitchen, screened porch, bedrooms and bath -- from east to west. The modestly sized house is beautifully detailed inside, with such features characteristic of architect Alden B. Dow's work as edge-grain fir, mirrored walls, built-in furniture, open shelves, and linoleum-topped surfaces. Dow designed built-in cupboards and desks for two of the bedrooms in 1950-1951. Still occupied by the original owner, the Butenschoen house is basically unaltered and particularly well preserved.

The unexceptional exterior of the Butenschoen house belies the exceptional interior. The one car garage faces west to the side street. A walkway leads from the driveway to the front entrance, hugging close to the building and protected by the wide overhanging eave. A large, low concrete planter anchors the end of the walk. Also facing west is the back kitchen door, behind and set back from the garage. Behind it and set back yet again is the screened porch, looking out on a small private back yard.

The front entrance leads into the living room, a pleasant open space. A wall of windows stretching from the door across the front opens the room to the outside. Characteristic of Dow's interiors is the low, linoleum-topped window seat with open shelf underneath, which extends the length of the windows. A soffit along two walls is edged in vertical grain fir. This trim is extended as a fascia onto the adjacent walls of the living and dining rooms, visually uniting the spaces. Across from the living room windows is a freestanding fireplace block with brick sides and back and with a plaster chimneybreast. A brick hearth, flush with the floor, extends in front of the fireplace opening. Open linoleum-topped shelves with a cupboard below are built between the fireplace and the east wall, separating without cutting off the living room from the hallway behind.

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<u>Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House</u>	<u>Midland County, MI</u>	<u>Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI 1939-1941</u>
Name of Property	County and State	Name of Multiple Property Listing

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House **Midland County, Michigan**

Narrative Description (Continued)

The dining area beyond the living room contains details unexpected in such a seemingly ordinary house. A curved wall snakes from the hall to the north (back) wall. The edge-grain fir trim along the top of the wall, so straight and flat in the living room, is here molded in a gently sinuous curve. Floor-length draperies hanging from this height open to reveal a plate glass door five feet in width opening onto a screened porch. The door swings open 180° and fastens against the exterior wall, effectively creating an open-air dining room. A companion door in the adjacent master bedroom opens in the same manner. The porch is thus successfully integrated into the living space of the house.

The airy, efficient kitchen is located off the dining room, and behind the garage. Windows face west to the side street and north to the backyard. An exterior door leads to a sidewalk and so to the driveway. Metal kitchen cabinets are original. A built-in seating area designed by Dow was added in 1951. A cupboard behind the bench stores a card table and chairs. Basement access is from the kitchen.

At the end of the hall are one bathroom, one bedroom at the front, and two bedrooms at the back. The closet of the front bedroom opens to reveal a lavatory, included in the original plan to accommodate an elderly relative of the owner. The back bedrooms have built-in desks and cupboards that were added in 1951. Dow designed these alterations. Both added and original cabinetry in the bedrooms is typical of Dow's work. Edge-grain fir trim, linoleum-topped surfaces, angular drawer pulls, and a mirrored wall in the master bedroom are all signature Dow features.

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<u>Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House</u>	<u>Midland County, MI</u>	<u>Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI 1939-1941</u>
Name of Property	County and State	Name of Multiple Property Listing

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House Midland County, Michigan

Statement of Significance

Louis Butenschoen, a technological chemical engineer at Dow Chemical, and his wife approached Dow about designing a house for them because they liked contemporary things (conversation with Mrs. Butenschoen, 10/16/95). The original concept for the house was quite compact, more in keeping with the design of the Reinke and MacMartin houses of the same year: square, with a stucco finish on exterior walls, and with the living room and garage at the front and the bedrooms behind. The house as built is more free flowing and comfortable.

The drawings for the Louis Butenschoen house were prepared in the spring and summer of 1941. In April, a color rendering of the floor plan was shown to the client. A contract with the Alden Dow Building Company was signed on July 18, 1941, and work began immediately. The \$12,200.00 home was to be completed by December 20, 1941. Construction actually continued to the following July, and the final cost amounted to \$12,728.13.

The Butenschoen house is an excellent example of Alden B. Dow's ability to create a well-designed and efficiently functioning house at a modest cost. The use of natural brick inside and out, the broad expanses of glass and mirror, the abundance of built-in cupboards and shelves, and the careful arrangement of public and private spaces are characteristics also found in his larger houses of the same period. The low slope of the roof and the broad horizontal lines of the house lend an air of stability and warmth, and the interior spaces are divided by function.

The location of the house on the property and the landscaping designed by Dow provide additional privacy in a close residential neighborhood. Plantings near the house – primarily evergreen shrubs – are well manicured and reminiscent of Bonsai stylization. They have grown tall enough to obscure some features of the house, but it is precisely this growth of varying heights that tie the house to the unremarkable topography, making the structure a part of the designed natural surroundings.

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<u>Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House</u>	<u>Midland County, MI</u>	<u>Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, MI 1939-1941</u>
Name of Property	County and State	Name of Multiple Property Listing

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography

1. Dow, Alden B. Papers. Alden B. Dow Archives, Midland, Michigan.
2. Dow Diamond, vol. II, no. 4, July 1948, p. 33.
3. Robinson, Sidney K. The Architecture of Alden B. Dow. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1983.
4. 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 Butenschoen House

1. April 1941, presentation drawing: floor plan and elevation (not built), 1 sheet.
2. 11 June 1941, working drawings: plans, elevations, and details, 4 sheets.
3. 22 November 1950, working drawings: alterations, 3 sheets.

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

1. Specifications.
2. Bids and cost estimates, 24 items, June – July 1941.
3. General contract, 18 July 1941, between Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Butenschoen and Alden Dow Building Company.
4. Contracts, 7 items, July – September 1941.

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Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House
Midland County, Michigan

Bibliography (Continued)

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

5. Certificates of payment, 8 items, July 1941 – February 1943.
6. Change orders, 3 items, September 1941 – July 1942.
7. Time sheets, 20 items, August 1941 – May 1942.
8. Work sheets (labor and materials), 11 items, February 1951 – January 1955.
9. Correspondence, 14 items, July 1941 – January 194[2], primarily between Alden Dow Building Company and subcontractors.

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Name of Property	County and State	Name of Multiple Property Listing

Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House
Midland County, Michigan

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The western half of Lot 21, Block B, Broadmoor Addition, Midland City limits, Midland County, Michigan.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel originally purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Butenschoen.

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Butenschoen, Mr. and Mrs. Louis P., House
Midland County, Michigan

Additional Documentation – Photographs

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

1. South (front) facade (Elmer Astleford, photographer, ca. 1942).
2. South (front) façade.
3. West facade: back door and garage.
4. From northwest: screened porch and garage.
5. Living room.
6. Dining room, with bedroom hall at right.
7. Detail, dining room, glass door to porch.
8. Master bedroom.