

1431

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 14 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Stein, Earl, House
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 209 Revere N/A not for publication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.
[Signature] 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.

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 metal/copper

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

7. Description

With the broad horizontal lines of its elevation, the walls covered with a veneer of unadorned common brick, the low fitting copper roof, the massive chimney, the long narrow loggia leading to the main entryway, and the dynamic interplay of rooflines and walkways, the Earl Stein house contains strong elements of Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style. The straightforward elongated L floor plan, the use of brick and copper, allowed to weather naturally, and the careful use of the property site heighten this effect and provide a strong statement of Alden Dow's architecture.

A 1936 article in Architectural Forum summed up the major characteristics: "In plan the elements are well disposed, and the exterior shows a clear articulation of the major space units. The plan is worth careful study for its skillful combining of indoor and outdoor living spaces, and for its knowing handling of wall and window areas to produce an effect of spaciousness. A house designed in this manner has twice the apparent space of the tightly enclosed residence of a more conventional type."

Laid out on an extended L floor plan, the respective wings of the Stein house are 103 feet and 74 feet long, reaching deep into the property lot. The low elevation is strengthened by its long horizontal plan and the tightly fitting roof with its extended eaves. The brick in the exterior walls came from Lansing's Brick and Supplies Corporation and its tight bonding emphasizes the horizontal plan of the house. The brick extends from the walls into the steps leading to two garden patios and to the low walls which define these outdoor spaces. The house seems to reach out into the landscape. The same brick is used in the pillars (1'x3'6") supporting the loggia and set a uniform and rhythmic six feet apart. The loggia extends the full length of the east wing, leading the visitor from the street into a protected extension of the main house and up to the main entry. The loggia serves as a transitional space between the exterior landscaped area and the interior of the house. Alden Dow uses the loggia to break down the conventional distinction between interior and exterior spaces.

Alden Dow was committed to carrying the organic qualities of the house into the surroundings and the building site. Several other prominent features aid this transition. A patio framed with two intersecting roof planes and two intersecting garden walls extends from the house at the junction of the living and dining room. Easy access to this space and windows opening onto it make this patio an integral part and an extension of the house.

A more prominent and innovative feature is the spacious area designed by Alden Dow for outside of the basement gameroom. This area, cut out well below the surface of the yard, is partitioned with a brick parapet and abundant shrubbery which afford considerable privacy. A glass, steel casement door (from Henry Hope & Co.) opens onto this patio area paved with the same brick as the walls. Although a basement area, the gameroom has the feeling of being on the ground floor with a private patio. Brick steps lead up to the yard and adjacent park.

The shallow pitched copper hip roof, with its broad overhang, emphasizes the horizontal nature of the house. The roof reflects the spacial relationships of the interior, and it firmly yet inobtrusively anchors the Stein house in its setting. The floor plan, with its extended L shape, is carried over into the roofline with a pronounced second level at the west end of the house. The upper level opens onto a bedroom area and the lower level opens onto the dining room. The steel casement windows provide openings in this copper wall. By using copper here, Dow carries the material of the roof into the side of the house, and it compliments the brick walls of the lower level.

On the interior of the house, the extended leg of the L shaped structure contains two bedrooms (part of a 1970s addition when the garage was converted to a bedroom and an additional one added onto its rear in accordance with plans done by Alden Dow). This wing also contains the kitchen, remodeled and extended in the 1970s to include a former patio and again done to Dow's plans, and the dining room. The wood work in these rooms and throughout the house is cypress, a material extensively used by Alden Dow and finished with a clear oil.

The entrance to the house is into the shorter leg of the L. The wide fir door with the low overhanging roof and ceiling on the interior heightens the sense of space at the entry. From this confined area, the interior of the house seems to soar upward. An entryway leads into a den, earlier a walled off space that was opened in the 1960s according to Alden Dow's plans. A small bedroom sits at the end of this wing of the house.

The most dramatic room in the house is the living room, sitting at the far corner of the house and serving as a transitional space between the two wings. Windows at the outside ends of the room in each of the wings bath the area with light. The most prominent feature is the brick fireplace with its copper hood and its rake pattern. The pattern is illuminated through a bird's mouth window in the

roof. The massiveness of the fireplace does not overwhelm the room whose ceiling soars upward reflecting the slope of the roof. The brick fireplace continues through the roof and is a major feature of the exterior of the house as well. Throughout the house, the exterior lines of the roof identify the spacial composition of the interior.

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.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

The Earl Stein house has architectural significance on a national level because it was the first house designed through the Taliesin Fellowship program established by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1933. The interaction of Wright with the young architect Alden Dow can readily be seen in the successive drawings for the house. The Stein house is an important interpretation of Wright's prairie style.

The drawings for the Stein house document the evolution of the house, and they reveal the influence of Wright on the young architect. On July 21, 1933, Earl Stein and Alden Dow signed the contract for the design of a residence. Construction began on October 30, 1933, and the house was to be "substantially completed," as the contract read, by May 1, 1934. The construction was to cost \$27,327. The house was completed by July 31, 1933.

Preliminary drawings had been prepared before Alden Dow and his wife Vada went to Taliesin for the fellowship program. These drawings reveal a tighter house with narrow overhangs. Dow brought his early sketches to Taliesin with him, and reworked them under the guidance of Wright. On June 30, 1933, Alden Dow wrote to Earl Stein and explained that "I have been talking with Mr. Wright about your house and he is very much interested in it. He suggests that I do the job alone and handle it here with the help of the Taliesin Fellowship." Dow gained suggestions from the other Fellows, having access to the best draftsmen and to Wright himself. This was, Dow wrote to his client, "the first job to go through the Fellowship, and for this very reason alone offers many advantages."

Earl Stein remained cautious, not certain what would happen with the plans for his house. Alden Dow tried to reassure him, writing "I realize your feelings about dealing with an organization so new, but I wish to make it clear that I will assume the responsibility of any inconveniences which might arise. Building is a very personal matter with me and the first house in Midland will be particularly so." Dow's integrity, his position in the community, and the successful design for the Midland Country Club reassured his client.

Progress on the plans continued through the summer. On August 8, 1933, Dow advised Earl Stein that "Your house is actually beginning to take shape." By the middle of September he wrote that "the drawings [are] now about completed." "The whole building has worked out beautifully and I am sure that when built it will be one of the best examples of modern domestic architecture." It was during

this period of apprenticeship to Wright that Alden Dow elaborated his principles on architecture and put them into practice. Many of the elements of the Stein house are found in his later work, reworked to meet the needs of the client and reapplied so the house fits the building site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Earl Stein Drawings, Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive, Midland.

Earl Stein File, Dow-Howell-Gilmore Associates archive, Midland.

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

"Houses in Midland, Michigan. Alden B. Dow, Architect." Architectural Forum,
Sept., 1936, pp. 194-195.

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 About 1 acre

UTM References

A

6

72	1	78	0
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48	3	28	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beg. on ln of Revere St. 270.6 ft SW from EW 1/4 ln of Sec. 17, N 56 deg 35 min W 344.93 ft, W 30.2 ft, S 18 deg 55 min E 248.1 ft, S 45 deg. 42 min E 137.6 ft, N 46 deg. 8 min E to beg.

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 NAME: Stein, Earl, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--1938 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: 89001437

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: Y SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: Y

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.R. Bulletin 16.

The Statewide level has been checked in Section 8 of the form, but the statement of significance claims national. Please clarify

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
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 Patricia Andrews Phone _____

Date 9/28/89

1437

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 14 1989

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1. Name of Property

historic name Stein, Earl, House
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 209 Revere 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	1	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. Arch. of Alden Dow in Midland, MI
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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Signature of certifying official: *Barbara B. Yekert* Date: *8-1-89*
Director, Bureau of History
State or Federal agency and bureau

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Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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 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: *fort* Date of Action: *12/4/89*

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)

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walls brick

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

7. Description

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The entrance to the house is into the shorter leg of the L. The wide fir door with the low overhanging roof and ceiling on the interior heightens the sense of space at the entry. From this confined area, the interior of the house seems to soar upward. An entryway leads into a den, earlier a walled off space that was opened in the 1960s according to Alden Dow's plans. A small bedroom sits at the end of this wing of the house.

The most dramatic room in the house is the living room, sitting at the far corner of the house and serving as a transitional space between the two wings. Windows at the outside ends of the room in each of the wings bath the area with light. The most prominent feature is the brick fireplace with its copper hood and its rake pattern. The pattern is illuminated through a bird's mouth window in the

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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

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

"Houses in Midland, Michigan. Alden B. Dow, Architect." Architectural Forum,
Sept., 1936, pp. 194-195.

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 About 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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7	2	1	7	8	0
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4	8	3	2	8	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beg. on ln of Revere St. 270.6 ft SW from EW 1/4 ln of Sec. 17, N 56 deg 35 min W 344.93 ft, W 30.2 ft, S 18 deg 55 min E 248.1 ft, S 45 deg. 42 min E 137.6 ft, N 46 deg. 8 min E to beg.

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 Earl Stein house has architectural significance on a national level because it was the first house designed through the Taliesin Fellowship program established by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1933. The interaction of Wright with the young architect Alden Dow can readily be seen in the successive drawings for the house. The Stein house is an important interpretation of Wright's prairie style.

The drawings for the Stein house document the evolution of the house, and they reveal the influence of Wright on the young architect. On July 21, 1933, Earl Stein and Alden Dow signed the contract for the design of a residence. Construction began on October 30, 1933, and the house was to be "substantially completed," as the contract read, by May 1, 1934. The construction was to cost \$27,327. The house was completed by July 31, 1933.

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this period of apprenticeship to Wright that Alden Dow elaborated his principles on architecture and put them into practice. Many of the elements of the Stein house are found in his later work, reworked to meet the needs of the client and reapplied so the house fits the building site.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Stein, Earl, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland 1933--1938 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: 89001437

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/4/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*architecturally significant within the context
of the multiple property submission*

*on resubmission the nomination has been
transferred to archival paper*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 12/4/89

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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Earl Stein residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
exterior, rear, camera facing NE
KH-A1

AUG 14 1989



Earl Stein residence
Midland, Michigan

Ken Harding

August-1988

Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center

exterior loggia, camera facing north

KH-A2

AUG 14 1989



Earl Stein residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
dining room, camera facing WSW
KH-A3

AUG 14 1989



Earl Stein residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
living room, camera facing NW
KH-A4

AUG 14 1989



Earl Stein residence
Midland, Michigan
Ken Harding
August-1988
Northwood Institute-Alden B. Dow
Creativity Center
living room, camera facing East
KH-A5

AUG 14 1989



Ken Harding 3-88
Neg: Northwoods
Institute
Facing SW

Earl Stein Residence
Midland, Michigan
Alden B. Dow, Architect

AUG 14 1989



Ken Harding 3-88
Neg. Northwoods
Institute
Facing NW

Earl Stein Residence
Midland, Michigan
Alden B. Dow, Architect

AUG 14 1989



Ken Harding 3-88
Neg. Northwoods
Institute
Facing NE

Earl Stein Residence
Midland, Michigan
Alden B. Dow, Architect

AUG 14 1989

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OCT 13 1988

BUREAU OF HISTORY

R. W. BARKER
209 REVERE STREET
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

October 9, 1988

Historic Preservation Section
Bureau of History
Michigan Department of State
Lansing, MI 48918
Attention: Kathryn B. Eckert

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD MEETING:
OCTOBER 13, 1988:
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES OF THE EARL STEIN HOUSE, 209 REVERE STREET,
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

As owners of the Earl Stein house, designed by Alden B. Dow, we strongly support the nomination by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board of this property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The national conference on the work of Alden B. Dow held at Northwood Institute October 6 through 8 confirmed again the importance of Mr. Dow as an architect of national distinction and the lasting effect he has had on the life of Michigan. This house, while important enough to merit listing on the basis alone of being Mr. Dow's first house as a architect and the first house ever designed at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Fellowship, could also qualify solely as an extraordinary work of art and architecture of national importance, as we can attest from living in it for 15 years.

Sincerely,



R. W. Barker



Nancy L. Barker

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500275