

Patriot Home Inspection, Inc.

We Inspect With Pride!

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CONFIDENTIAL INSPECTION REPORT

PREPARED FOR:

Jessica Fentress

INSPECTION ADDRESS

123 main st, Lockport, IL 60441

INSPECTION DATE

3/31/2010 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm



This report is the exclusive property of the Inspection Company and the client whose name appears herewith, and its use by any unauthorized persons is prohibited.

This report has been produced in accordance with our signed contract and is subject to the terms and conditions agreed upon therein.
All printed comments and the opinions expressed herein are those of the Inspection Company.
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Inspection Address: 123 main st, Lockport, IL 60441
Inspection Date: 3/31/2010 Time: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Weather: Partly Cloudy - Temperature at time of inspection: 50-60 Degrees

Inspected by: Justin Fentress

Client Information: Jessica Fentress
123 any st, Streamwood, IL 60107
Phone: (877) 494-7945
EMail: jrykowsk@yahoo.com

Structure Type: Wood Frame
Furnished: Yes
Structure Occupied: Yes
Number of Stories: Two

Structure Style: Modern

Structure Orientation: West

Estimated Year Built: 2001
Unofficial Sq.Ft.: 2800

People on Site At Time of Inspection: Buyer(s)

PLEASE NOTE:

This report is the exclusive property of [insert your company name] and the client whose name appears herewith, and its use by any unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited.

The observations and opinions expressed within this report are those of [insert your company name] and supercede any alleged verbal comments. We inspect all of the systems, components, and conditions described in accordance with the standards of [insert the name of the organization to which you belong], and those that we do not inspect are clearly disclaimed in the contract and/or in the aforementioned standards. However, some components that are inspected and found to be functional may not necessarily appear in the report, simply because we do not wish to waste our client's time by having them read an unnecessarily lengthy report about components that do not need to be serviced.

In accordance with the terms of the contract, the service recommendations that we make in this report should be completed well before the close of escrow by licensed specialists, who may well identify additional defects or recommend some upgrades that could affect your evaluation of the property.

Report File: 20100331 Jessica Fentress 16549 Dorchester PL Lockport IL 60441

SCOPE OF WORK

You have contracted with [insert company name] to perform a generalist inspection in accordance with the standards of practice established by [insert relevant information], a copy of which is available upon request. Generalist inspections are essentially visual, and distinct from those of specialists, inasmuch as they do not include the use of specialized instruments, the dismantling of equipment, or the sampling of air and inert materials. Consequently, a generalist inspection and the subsequent report will not be as comprehensive, nor as technically exhaustive, as that generated by specialists, and it is not intended to be. The purpose of a generalist inspection is to identify significant defects or adverse conditions that would warrant a specialist evaluation. Therefore, you should be aware of the limitations of this type of inspection, which are clearly indicated in the standards. However, the inspection is not intended to document the type of cosmetic deficiencies that would be apparent to the average person, and certainly not intended to identify insignificant deficiencies. Similarly, we do not inspect for vermin infestation, which is the responsibility of a licensed exterminator.

Most homes built after 1978, are generally assumed to be free of asbestos and many other common environmental contaminants. However, as a courtesy to our clients, we are including some well documented, and therefore public, information about several environmental contaminants that could be of concern to you and your family, all of which we do not have the expertise or the authority to evaluate, such as asbestos, radon, methane, formaldehyde, termites and other wood-destroying organisms, pests and rodents, molds, microbes, bacterial organisms, and electromagnetic radiation, to name some of the more commonplace ones. Nevertheless, we will attempt to alert you to any suspicious substances that would warrant evaluation by a specialist. However, health and safety, and environmental hygiene are deeply personal responsibilities, and you should make sure that you are familiar with any contaminant that could affect your home environment. You can learn more about contaminants that can affect you home from a booklet published by The environmental Protection Agency, which you can read online at www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/insidest.htm.

Mold is one such contaminant. It is a microorganism that has tiny seeds, or spores, that are spread on the air then land and feed on organic matter. It has been in existence throughout human history, and actually contributes to the life process. It takes many different forms, many of them benign, like mildew. Some characterized as allergens are relatively benign but can provoke allergic reactions among sensitive people, and others characterized as pathogens can have adverse health effects on large segments of the population, such as the very young, the elderly, and people with suppressed immune systems. However, there are less common molds that are called toxigens that represent a serious health threat. All molds flourish in the presence of moisture, and we make a concerted effort to look for any evidence of it wherever there could be a water source, including that from condensation. Interestingly, the molds that commonly appear on ceramic tiles in bathrooms do not usually constitute a health threat, but they should be removed. However, some visibly similar molds that form on cellulose materials, such as on drywall, plaster, and wood, are potentially toxigenic. If mold is to be found anywhere within a home, it will likely be in the area of tubs, showers, toilets, sinks, water heaters, evaporator coils, inside attics with unvented bathroom exhaust fans, and return-air compartments that draw outside air, all of which are areas that we inspect very conscientiously. Nevertheless, mold can appear as though spontaneously at any time, so you should be prepared to monitor your home, and particularly those areas that we identified. Naturally, it is equally important to maintain clean air-supply ducts and to change filters as soon as they become soiled, because contaminated ducts are a common breeding ground for dust mites, rust, and other contaminants. Regardless, although some mold-like substances may be visually identified, the specific identification of molds can only be determined by specialists and laboratory analysis, and is absolutely beyond the scope of our inspection. Nonetheless, as a prudent investment in environmental hygiene, we categorically recommend that you have your home tested for the presence of any such contaminants, and particularly if you or any member of your family suffers from allergies or asthma. Also, you can learn more about mold from an Environmental Protection Agency document entitled "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home," by visiting their web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldguide.html>, from which it can be downloaded.

Asbestos is a notorious contaminant that could be present in any home built before 1978. It is a naturally occurring mineral fiber that was first used by the Greek and Romans in the first century, and it has been widely used throughout the modern world in a variety of thermal insulators, including those in the form of paper wraps, bats, blocks, and blankets. However, it can also be found in a wide variety of other products too numerous to mention, including duct insulation and acoustical materials, plasters, siding, floor tiles, heat vents, and roofing products. Although perhaps recognized as being present in some documented forms, asbestos can only be specifically

identified by laboratory analysis. The most common asbestos fiber that exists in residential products is chrysotile, which belongs to the serpentine or white-asbestos group, and was used in the clutches and brake shoes of automobiles for many years. However, a single asbestos fiber is said to be able to cause cancer, and is therefore a potential health threat and a litigious issue. Significantly, asbestos fibers are only dangerous when they are released into the air and inhaled, and for this reason authorities such as the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the Consumer Product Safety Commission [CPSC] distinguish between asbestos that is in good condition, or non-friable, and that which is in poor condition, or friable, which means that its fibers could be easily crumbled and become airborne. However, we are not specialists and, regardless of the condition of any real or suspected asbestos-containing material [ACM], we would not endorse it and recommend having it evaluated by a specialist.

Radon is a gas that results from the natural decay of radioactive materials within the soil, and is purported to be the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The gas is able to enter homes through the voids around pipes in concrete floors or through the floorboards of poorly ventilated crawlspaces, and particularly when the ground is wet and the gas cannot easily escape through the soil and be dispersed into the atmosphere. However, it cannot be detected by the senses, and its existence can only be determined by sophisticated instruments and laboratory analysis, which is completely beyond the scope of our service. However, you can learn more about radon and other environmental contaminants and their affects on health, by contacting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), at www.epa.gov/radon/images/hmbuygud.pdf, and it would be prudent for you to enquire about any high radon readings that might be prevalent in the general area surrounding your home.

Lead poses an equally serious health threat. In the 1920's, it was commonly found in many plumbing systems. In fact, the word "plumbing" is derived from the Latin word "plumbum," which means lead. When in use as a component of a waste system, it is not an immediate health threat, but as a component of potable water pipes it is a definite health-hazard. Although rarely found in modern use, lead could be present in any home build as recently as the nineteen forties. For instance, lead was an active ingredient in many household paints, which can be released in the process of sanding, and even be ingested by small children and animals chewing on painted surfaces. Fortunately, the lead in painted surfaces can be detected by industrial hygienists using sophisticated instruments, but testing for it is not cheap. There are other environmental contaminants, some of which we have already mentioned, and others that may be relatively benign. However, we are not environmental hygienists, and as we stated earlier we disclaim any responsibility for testing or establishing the presence of any environmental contaminant, and recommend that you schedule whatever specialist inspections that may deem prudent within the contingency period.

Exterior

With the exception of townhomes, condominiums, and residences that are part of a planned urban development, or PUD, we evaluate the following exterior features: driveways, walkways, fences, gates, handrails, guardrails, yard walls, carports, patio covers, decks, building walls, fascia and trim, balconies, doors, windows, lights, and outlets. However, we do not evaluate any detached structures, such as storage sheds and stables, and we do not water test or evaluate subterranean drainage systems or any mechanical or remotely controlled components, such as driveway gates. Also, we do not evaluate landscape components, such as trees, shrubs, fountains, ponds, statuary, pottery, fire pits, patio fans, heat lamps, and decorative or low-voltage lighting. In addition, we do not comment on coatings or cosmetic deficiencies and the wear and tear associated with the passage of time, which would be apparent to the average person. However, cracks in hard surfaces can imply the presence of expansive soils that can result in continuous movement, but this could only be confirmed by a geological evaluation of the soil.

Grading & Drainage

General Comments

Informational Conditions

Water can be destructive and foster conditions that are deleterious to health. For this reason, the ideal property will have soils that slope away from the residence and the interior floors will be several inches higher than the exterior grade. Also, the residence will have roof gutters and downspouts that discharge into area drains with catch basins that carry water away to hard surfaces. However, we cannot guarantee the condition of any subterranean drainage system, but if a property does not meet this ideal, or if any portion of the interior floor is below the exterior grade, we cannot endorse it and recommend that you consult with a grading and drainage contractor, even though there may not be any evidence of moisture intrusion. The sellers or occupants will obviously have a more intimate knowledge of the site than we could possibly hope to have during our limited visit, however we have confirmed moisture intrusion in residences when it was raining that would not have been apparent otherwise. Also, in conjunction with the cellulose material found in most modern homes, moisture can facilitate the growth of biological organisms that can compromise building materials and produce mold-like substances that can have an adverse affect on health.

Moisture & Related Issues

Informational Conditions

Moisture intrusion is a perennial problem, with which you should be aware. It involves a host of interrelated factors, and can be unpredictable, intermittent, or constant. When moisture intrusion is not self evident, it can be inferred by musty odors, peeling paint or plaster, efflorescence, or salt crystal formations, rust on metal components, and wood rot. However, condensation and humidity can produce similar conditions if the temperature in an area is not maintained above the dew point. Regardless, if the interior floors of a residence are at the same elevation or lower than the exterior grade we could not rule out the potential for moisture intrusion and would not endorse any such areas. Nevertheless, if such conditions do exist, or if you or any member of your family suffers from allergies or asthma, you should schedule a specialist inspection.

Interior-Exterior Elevations

Informational Conditions

There are planter beds that will trap water against the walls of the residence, which can never be sensibly approved, because they allow the possibility of moisture intrusion into the residence. If they are to remain, they should be retrofitted to have several one-inch weep holes at their base, because ordinary open grout-joint weep holes commonly become occluded and fail, and it would be prudent to periodically monitor the adjacent interior walls.

Area Drains

Components and Conditions Needing Service

There is an accumulation of silt and debris in the catch basins that should be removed. This is indicative of poor maintenance, and if the silt and debris is left to accumulate and builds to the level of the drain lines, it could pass into them, harden during the summer months, impede drainage, and lead to blockages. Therefore, the drain lines should be flushed through to the street or to their termination point.

There is silt and debris in the catch basins that should be removed - *Continued*



House Wall Finish

House Wall Finish Type

Informational Conditions

The house walls are finished with vinyl siding.

House Wall Finish Observations

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The vinyl siding is cracked. This can allow moisture and insects in which can cause rot. I would have the siding fixed by a qualified siding contractor.



Exterior Components

General Comments

Informational Conditions

It is important to maintain a property, including painting or sealing walkways, decks, and other hard surfaces, and it is particularly important to keep the house walls sealed, which provide the only barrier against deterioration. Unsealed cracks around windows, doors, and thresholds can permit moisture intrusion, which is the principle cause of the deterioration of any surface. Unfortunately, the evidence of such intrusion may only be obvious when it is raining. We have discovered leaking windows while it was raining that may not have been apparent otherwise. Regardless, there are many styles of windows but only two basic types, single and dual-glazed. Dual-glazed windows are superior, because they provide a thermal as well as an acoustical barrier. However, the hermetic seals on these windows can fail at any time, and cause condensation to form between the panes. Unfortunately, this is not always apparent, which is why we disclaim an evaluation of hermetic seals. Nevertheless, in accordance with industry standards, we test a representative number of unobstructed windows, and ensure that at least one window in every bedroom is operable and facilitates an emergency exit.

Driveways

Informational Conditions

Asphalt driveways are not as durable as concrete ones, and typically develop cracks. They are expected to last approximately fifteen to twenty years, and typically need maintenance service.

Walkways

Informational Conditions

The walkways are in acceptable condition.

Fences & Gates

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The gate needs typical maintenance-type service, to open and close or latch easily

Fascia & Trim

Informational Conditions

Sections of the fascia board or wood trim are weathered, and should be serviced to prevent further deterioration.



Sliding Glass Doors

Informational Conditions

The sliding glass door is tempered and in acceptable condition.

Wood & Masonry Decks

Informational Conditions

The wood deck is in acceptable condition, and should be maintained and periodically sealed.



Windows

Components and Conditions Needing Service

Putty is missing from some of the original single-glazed windows, which should be replaced and painted.



Outlets

Informational Conditions

The outlets that were tested are functional and include ground-fault protection.

Lights

Informational Conditions

The lights outside the doors of the residence are functional. However, we do not inspect or evaluate decorative lights.

Structural

All structures are dependent on the soil beneath them for support, but soils are not uniform. Some that might appear to be firm and solid can liquefy and become unstable during seismic activity. Also, there are soils that can expand to twice their volume with the influx of water and move structures with relative ease, raising and lowering them and fracturing slabs and other hard surfaces. In fact, expansive soils have accounted for more structural damage than most natural disasters. Regardless, foundations are not uniform, and conform to the structural standard of the year in which they were built. In accordance with our standards of practice, we identify foundation types and look for any evidence of structural deficiencies. However, cracks or deteriorated surfaces in foundations are quite common. In fact, it would be rare to find a raised foundation wall that was not cracked or deteriorated in some way, or a slab foundation that did not include some cracks concealed beneath the carpeting and padding. Fortunately, most of these cracks are related to the curing process or to common settling, including some wide ones called cold-joint separations that typically contour the footings, but others can be more structurally significant and reveal the presence of expansive soils that can predicate more or less continual movement. We will certainly alert you to any suspicious cracks if they are clearly visible. However, we are not specialists, and in the absence of any major defects we may not recommend that you consult with a foundation contractor, a structural engineer, or a geologist, but this should not deter you from seeking the opinion of any such expert.

Various Hard Surfaces

Common Observations

Informational Conditions

There are common settling, or curing, cracks in the hard surfaces. This is somewhat predictable, and is typically not regarded as being structurally significant, but we are not specialists and you may wish to have this confirmed by one.

Structural Elements

Identification of Wall Structure

Informational Conditions

The walls are conventionally framed with wooden studs.

Identification of Floor Structure

Informational Conditions

The floor structure includes structural steel beams and conventional lumber sheathed with plywood.

Identification of Ceiling Structure

Informational Conditions

The ceiling structure consists of standard joists.

Identification of Roof Structure

Informational Conditions

The roof structure consists of a prefabricated truss system.

Basement

General Comments

Informational Conditions

This residence has a basement foundation. Such foundations permit access, and provide a convenient area for the distribution of water pipes, drain pipes, vent pipes, electrical conduits, and ducts. However, although basement foundations are far from uniform, most include concrete footings and walls that extend above the ground with anchor bolts that hold the house onto the foundation, but the size and spacing of the bolts vary. In the absence of major defects, most structural engineers agree that the one critical issue with basement foundations is that they should be bolted. Our inspection of these foundations conforms to industry standards, which is that of a generalist

and not a specialist, and we do not use any specialized instruments to establish that the structure is level. We typically enter all accessible areas, to confirm that foundations are bolted and to look for any evidence of structural deformation or damage, but we may not comment on minor deficiencies, such as on commonplace settling cracks in the stem walls and slight deviations from plumb and level in the intermediate floor framing, which would have little structural significance. Interestingly, there is no absolute standard for evaluating cracks, but those that are less than ¼" and which do not exhibit any vertical or horizontal displacement are generally not regarded as being structurally relevant. Nevertheless, all others should be evaluated by a specialist. However, in the absence of any major defects, we may not recommend that you consult with a foundation contractor, a structural engineer, or a geologist, but this should not deter you from seeking the opinion of any such expert.

Basement Foundation Type

Informational Conditions

The foundation is raised and bolted to the standards of the year in which it was constructed, which may well be adequate but which would not meet current structural standards.

Method of Evaluation

Informational Conditions

We evaluated the basement foundation by accessing and evaluating the components within.

Basement Observations

Informational Conditions

The basement is accessible and in acceptable condition.

Structural Framing

Informational Conditions

The columns and beams are in acceptable condition.

Electrical

Informational Conditions

The electrical components that are visible within the crawlspace appear to be in acceptable condition.

Roof/Attic

There are many different roof types, which we evaluate by walking on their surfaces. If we are unable or unwilling to do this for any reason, we will indicate the method that was used to evaluate them. Every roof will wear differently relative to its age, the number of its layers, the quality of its material, the method of its application, its exposure to direct sunlight or other prevalent weather conditions, and the regularity of its maintenance. Regardless of its design-life, every roof is only as good as the waterproof membrane beneath it, which is concealed and cannot be examined without removing the roof material, and this is equally true of almost all roofs. In fact, the material on the majority of pitched roofs is not designed to be waterproof only water-resistant. However, what remains true of all roofs is that, whereas their condition can be evaluated, it is virtually impossible for anyone to detect a leak except as it is occurring or by specific water tests, which are beyond the scope of our service. Even water stains on ceilings, or on the framing within attics, could be old and will not necessarily confirm an active leak without some corroborative evidence, and such evidence can be deliberately concealed. Consequently, only the installers can credibly guarantee that a roof will not leak, and they do. We evaluate every roof conscientiously, and even attempt to approximate its age, but we will not predict its remaining life expectancy, or guarantee that it will not leak. Naturally, the sellers or the occupants of a residence will generally have the most intimate knowledge of the roof and of its history. Therefore, we recommend that you ask the sellers about it, and that you either include comprehensive roof coverage in your home insurance policy, or that you obtain a roof certification from an established local roofing company.

Composition Shingle Roof

General Comments

Informational Conditions

There are a wide variety of composition shingle roofs, which are comprised of asphalt or fiberglass materials impregnated with mineral granules that are designed to deflect the deteriorating ultra-violet rays of the sun. The commonest of these roofs are warranted by manufacturers to last from twenty to twenty-five years, and are typically guaranteed against leaks by the installer for three to five years. The actual life of the roof will vary,

depending on a number of interrelated factors besides the quality of the material and the method of installation. However, the first indication of significant wear is apparent when the granules begin to separate and leave pockmarks or dark spots. This is referred to as primary decomposition, which means that the roof is in decline, and therefore susceptible to leakage. This typically begins with the hip and ridge shingles and to the field shingles on the south facing side. This does not mean that the roof needs to be replaced, but that it should be monitored more regularly and serviced when necessary. Regular maintenance will certainly extend the life of any roof, and will usually avert most leaks that only become evident after they have caused other damage.

Method of Evaluation

Informational Conditions

We evaluated the roof and its components by walking on its surface.



Roofing Material

Informational Conditions

The roof is in acceptable condition, but this is not a guarantee against leaks. For a guarantee, you would need to have a roofing company perform a water-test and issue a roof certification.

Flashings

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The roof flashings need to be sealed or serviced. They are comprised of metal that seals valleys and vents and other roof penetrations, and are the most common point of leaks. This is particularly true of the flashings on a layered roof, which are covered by the roofing material and which are even more susceptible to leaks.

Gutters & Drainage

Functional Components and Conditions

The gutters appear to be in acceptable condition. However, without water in them it is difficult to judge whether they are correctly pitched to direct water into the downspouts, but they should function as they were intended.

Plumbing

Plumbing systems have common components, but they are not uniform. In addition to fixtures, these components include gas pipes, water pipes, pressure regulators, pressure relief valves, shut-off valves, drain and vent pipes, and water-heating devices, some of which we do not test if they are not in daily use. The best and most dependable water pipes are copper, because they are not subject to the build-up of minerals that bond within galvanized pipes, and gradually restrict their inner diameter and reduce water volume. Water softeners can remove most of these minerals, but not once they are bonded within the pipes, for which there would be no remedy other than a re-pipe. The water pressure within pipes is commonly confused with water volume, but whereas high water volume is good high water pressure is not. In fact, whenever the street pressure exceeds eighty pounds per square inch a regulator is recommended, which typically comes factory preset between forty-five and sixty-five pounds per square inch. However, regardless of the pressure, leaks will occur in any system, and particularly in one with older galvanized pipes, or one in which the regulator fails and high pressure begins to stress the washers and diaphragms within the various components.

Waste and drainpipes pipes are equally varied, and range from modern ABS ones [acrylonitrile butadiene styrene] to older ones made of cast-iron, galvanized steel, clay, and even a cardboard-like material that is coated with tar. The condition of these pipes is usually directly related to their age. Older ones are subject to damage through decay and root movement, whereas the more modern ABS ones are virtually impervious to damage, although some rare batches have been alleged to be defective. However, inasmuch as significant portions of drainpipes are

concealed, we can only infer their condition by observing the draw at drains. Nonetheless, blockages will occur in the life of any system, but blockages in drainpipes, and particularly in main drainpipes, can be expensive to repair, and for this reason we recommend having them video-scanned. This could also confirm that the house is connected to the public sewer system, which is important because all private systems must be evaluated by specialists.

Potable Water Supply Pipes

Water Main Shut-off Location

Informational Conditions

The main water shut-off valve is located at the front of the residence.

Copper Water Pipes

Informational Conditions

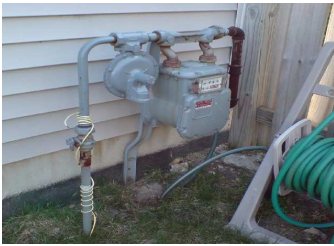
The potable water pipes are in acceptable condition.

General Gas Components

Gas Main Shut-Off Location

Informational Conditions

The gas main shut-off is located in the side yard. You should be aware that gas leaks are not uncommon, particularly underground ones, and that they can be difficult to detect without the use of sophisticated instruments, which is why natural gas is odorized in the manufacturing process. Therefore, we recommend that you request a recent gas bill from the sellers, so that you can establish a norm and thereby be alerted to any potential leak.



Gas Main Observations

Informational Conditions

There is no wrench at the gas shut-off valve to facilitate an emergency shut-off, and inasmuch as such tools are relatively inexpensive we recommend that you buy one and leave it in-place on the valve.

Gas Supply Pipes

Informational Conditions

The visible portions of the gas pipes appear to be in acceptable condition.

Gas Water Heaters

General Comments

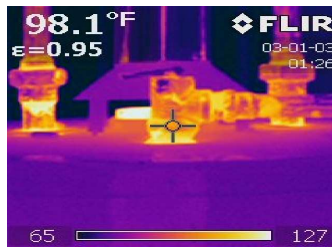
Informational Conditions

There are a wide variety of residential water heaters that range in capacity from fifteen to one hundred gallons. They can be expected to last at least as long as their warranty, or from five to eight years, but they will generally last longer. However, few of them last longer than fifteen or twenty years and many eventually leak. So it is always wise to have them installed over a drain pan plumbed to the exterior. Also, it is prudent to flush them annually to remove minerals that include the calcium chloride bi-product of many water softening systems. The water temperature should be set at a minimum of 110 degrees fahrenheit to kill microbes and a maximum of 140 degrees to prevent scalding. Also, water heaters can be dangerous if they are not seismically secured and equipped with either a pressure/temperature relief valve and discharge pipe plumbed to the exterior, or a Watts 210 gas shut-off valve.

Age Capacity & Location

Informational Conditions

Hot water is provided by a 9 year old, 40 gallon, water heater that is located in the basement.



Common Observations

Informational Conditions

The water heater is functional but beyond its warranty period.

The water heater is not installed over a drain pan and a leak could result in water damage.

Water Shut-Off Valve & Connectors

Informational Conditions

The shut-off valve and water connectors are functional.



Vent Pipe & Cap

Informational Conditions

The vent pipe is functional.

Relief Valve & Discharge Pipe

Functional Components and Conditions

The water heater is equipped with a mandated pressure-temperature relief valve.

Drain Valve

Informational Conditions

The drain valve is in place and presumed to be functional.

Waste & Drainage Systems

General Comments

Informational Conditions

We attempt to evaluate drain pipes by flushing every drain that has an active fixture while observing its draw and watching for blockages or slow drains, but this is not a conclusive test and only a video-scan of the main line would confirm its actual condition. However, you can be sure that blockages will occur, usually relative in severity to the age of the system, and will range from minor ones in the branch lines, or at the traps beneath sinks, tubs, and showers, to major blockages in the main line. The minor ones are easily cleared, either by chemical means or by removing and cleaning the traps. However, if tree roots grow into the main drain that connects the house to the public sewer, repairs could become expensive and might include replacing the entire main line. For these reasons, we recommend that you ask the sellers if they have ever experienced any drainage problems, or you may wish to have the main waste line video-scanned before the close of escrow. Failing this, you should obtain an insurance policy that covers blockages and damage to the main line. However, most policies only cover plumbing repairs within the house, or the cost of roofer service, most of which are relatively inexpensive.

Type of Material

Informational Conditions

The visible portions of the drainpipes are a modern acrylonitrile butadiene styrene type, or ABS.

Drain Waste & Vent Pipes

Informational Conditions

Based on industry recommended water tests, the drainpipes are functional at this time. However, only a video-scan of the main drainpipe could confirm its actual condition.

Electrical

There are a wide variety of electrical systems with an even greater variety of components, and any one particular system may not conform to current standards or provide the same degree of service and safety. What is most significant about electrical systems however is that the national electrical code [NEC] is not retroactive, and therefore many residential systems do not comply with the latest safety standards. Regardless, we are not electricians and in compliance with our standards of practice we only test a representative number of switches and outlets and do not perform load-calculations to determine if the supply meets the demand. However, in the interests of safety, we regard every electrical deficiency and recommended upgrade as a latent hazard that should be serviced as soon as possible, and that the entire system be evaluated and certified as safe by an electrician. Therefore, it is essential that any recommendations that we may make for service or upgrades should be completed before the close of escrow, because an electrician could reveal additional deficiencies or recommend some upgrades for which we would disclaim any further responsibility. However, we typically recommend upgrading outlets to have ground fault protection, which is a relatively inexpensive but essential safety feature. These outlets are often referred to as GFCI's, or ground fault circuit interrupters and, generally speaking, have been required in specific locations for more than thirty years, beginning with swimming pools and exterior outlets in 1971, and the list has been added to ever since: bathrooms in 1975, garages in 1978, spas and hot tubs in 1981, hydro tubs, massage equipment, boat houses, kitchens, and unfinished basements in 1987, crawlspaces in 1990, wet bars in 1993, and all kitchen countertop outlets with the exception of refrigerator and freezer outlets since 1996. Similarly, AFCI's or arc fault circuit interrupters, represent the very latest in circuit breaker technology, and have been required in all bedroom circuits since 2002. However, inasmuch as arc faults cause thousands of electrical fires and hundreds of deaths each year, we categorically recommend installing them at every circuit as a prudent safety feature.

Main Panel

General Comments

Informational Conditions

National safety standards require electrical panels to be weatherproof, readily accessible, and have a minimum of thirty-six inches of clear space in front of them for service. Also, they should have a main disconnect, and each circuit within the panel should be clearly labeled. Industry standards only require us to test a representative number of accessible switches, receptacles, and light fixtures. However, we attempt to test every one that is unobstructed, but if a residence is furnished we will obviously not be able to test each one.

Service Entrance

Informational Conditions

The main conductor lines are underground, or part of a lateral service entrance. This is characteristic of modern electrical services but, inasmuch as the service lines are underground and cannot be seen, they are not evaluated as part of our service.

The main conductor lines are underground or part of a lateral service entrance - *Continued*



Panel Size & Location

Functional Components and Conditions

The residence is served by a 100 amp, 240 volt panel, located in the basement of the residence.

Main Panel Observations

Informational Conditions

The panel and its components have no visible deficiencies.

Panel Cover Observations

Informational Conditions

The exterior panel cover is in acceptable condition.

Wiring Observations

Informational Conditions

The visible portions of the wiring has no visible deficiencies.

Circuit Breakers

Informational Conditions

Various circuits are not labeled, which is recommended.

Grounding

Informational Conditions

The panel is grounded to a water pipe. Current standards require the panel to be double-grounded, and you may wish to consider having this done as a safety upgrade. However, such an upgrade is not currently mandated.

Heat and Air Conditioning

The components of most heating and air-conditioning systems have a design-life ranging from ten to twenty years, but can fail prematurely with poor maintenance, which is why we apprise you of their age whenever possible. We test and evaluate them in accordance with the standards of practice, which means that we do not dismantle and inspect the concealed portions of evaporator and condensing coils, the heat exchanger, which is also known as the firebox, electronic air-cleaners, humidifiers, ducts and in-line duct-motors or dampers. We perform a conscientious evaluation of both systems, but we are not specialists. However, even the most modern heating systems can produce carbon monoxide, which in a sealed or poorly ventilated room can result in sickness, debilitating injury, and even death. Therefore, in accordance with the terms of our contract, it is essential that any recommendations that we make for service or a second opinion be scheduled before the close of escrow, because a specialist could reveal additional defects or recommend further upgrades that could affect your evaluation of the property, and our service does not include any form of warranty or guarantee.

HVAC Split Systems

Age & Location

Informational Conditions

Central heat and air-conditioning are provided by a single split-system, consisting of a 9 year-old furnace with an evaporator coil that is located in the basement , and a 9 year-old condensing coil that is located in the side yard.

Common Observations

Informational Conditions

We did not test the air-conditioning system because the ambient temperature is too low, and testing it could damage the coil.

Furnace

Components and Conditions Needing Service

Rust particulates are accumulating below the burners in the combustion chamber of the gas furnace. They are typically caused by condensation, but should be removed before more particulates gather and smother the burners.



Vent Pipe

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The vent pipe is not well seated, which not only could inhibit the bi-products of combustion from being vented beyond the residence but which could contaminate the residence, and should be serviced by an HVAC contractor. There are soot or carbon deposits around the vent pipe, which could indicate a maladjusted gas/oxygen ratio, poor venting, and even a cracked firebox, which should be evaluated by an HVAC contractor.

Circulating Fan

Informational Conditions

The circulating fan is clean and functional.

Gas Valve & Connector

Informational Conditions

The gas valve and connector are in acceptable condition.

Combustion-Air Vents

Components and Conditions Needing Service

There are no combustion-air vents within the furnace closet to support the combustion process, which are essential to ensure that the circulating air does not become contaminated by carbon monoxide, and this negative condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

Return-Air Compartment

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The filter is dirty and should be changed soon and every two or three months. If filters are not changed regularly, the evaporator coil and the ducts can become contaminated, and can be expensive to clean.

Evaporator Coil

Informational Conditions

The evaporator coil is functional.

Condensing Coil

Informational Conditions

The air-conditioning coil was not tested because the ambient temperature is too low, and to test it would risk damaging the coil.



Refrigerant Lines

Components and Conditions Needing Service

Insulation is missing from the refrigerant lines at the evaporator coil, which will allow condensation to form and drip, and should be installed.

Thermostats

Informational Conditions

The thermostat is functional.

Registers

Informational Conditions

The registers are reasonably clean and functional.

Metal Ducting

Functional Components and Conditions

The ducts have no visible deficiencies. They are a rigid metal type that are insulated with fiberglass.

Living Areas

Our inspection of living space includes the visually accessible areas of walls, floors, cabinets and closets, and includes the testing of a representative number of windows and doors, switches and outlets. However, we do not evaluate window treatments, or move furniture, lift carpets or rugs, empty closets or cabinets, and we do not comment on cosmetic deficiencies. We may not comment on the cracks that appear around windows and doors, or which follow the lines of framing members and the seams of drywall and plasterboard. These cracks are a consequence of movement, such as wood shrinkage, common settling, and seismic activity, and will often reappear if they are not correctly repaired. Such cracks can become the subject of disputes, and are therefore best evaluated by a specialist. Similarly, there are a number of environmental pollutants that we have already elaborated upon, the specific identification of which is beyond the scope of our service but which can become equally contentious. In addition, there are a host of lesser contaminants, such as that from moisture penetrating carpet-covered cracks in floor slabs, as well as odors from household pets and cigarette smoke that can permeate walls, carpets, heating and air conditioning ducts, and other porous surfaces, and which can be difficult to eradicate. However, inasmuch as the sense of smell adjusts rapidly, and the sensitivity to such odors is certainly not uniform, we recommend that you make this determination for yourself, and particularly if you or any member of your family suffers from allergies or asthma, and then schedule whatever remedial services may be deemed necessary before the close of escrow.

Indoor Environmental Issues

Environmental Observations

Informational Conditions

We do not test for mold or measure indoor air quality, which the Consumer Product safety Commission ranks fifth among potential contaminants. Regardless, a person's health is a truly personal responsibility, and inasmuch as we not inspect for mold or test for other environmental contaminants we recommend that you schedule an inspection by an environmental hygienist before the close of escrow. And this would be imperative if you or any member of your family suffers from allergies or asthma, and could require the sanitizing of air ducts and other concealed areas.

Note: Mold cannot exist without moisture. Therefore, any moisture whatsoever, whether it be from inadequate grading and drainage, a leaking roof, window, or door, or moisture from a faulty exhaust vent, a condensate pipe, an evaporator coil, or a component of a plumbing system should be serviced immediately, or the potential for mold infestation will remain.

Main Entry

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the entry, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Living Room

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the living room, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Dining Room

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the dining room, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Family Room

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the family room, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Office or Library

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the office/ library, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Finished Basement

General Comments

Informational Conditions

Moisture in basements is a perennial problem, involving a host of interrelated factors, and can be unpredictable, intermittent, or constant. When moisture intrusion or dampness is not self evident, it can be inferred by musty odors, peeling paint or plaster, efflorescence, or salt crystal formations, rust on metal components, and wood rot. However, condensation and humidity can produce similar conditions if the temperature in the basement is not maintained above the dew point. Regardless, we are not mold specialists, and if you or any member of your family are sensitive to allergens you should schedule a specialist inspection.

A Renovation

Informational Conditions

The basement appears to have been converted into habitable space or remodeled, and we recommend that you verify the permit and certificate of occupancy. This is important because our inspection does not tacitly approve, endorse, or guarantee the integrity of any work that was done without a permit, and latent defects could exist.

Kitchen

We test kitchen appliances for their functionality, and cannot evaluate them for their performance nor for the variety of their settings or cycles. However, if they are older than ten years, they may well exhibit decreased efficiency. Also, many older gas and electric ranges are not secured and can be easily tipped, particularly when any weight is applied to an open range door, and all such appliances should be confirmed to be secure. Regardless, we do not inspect the following items: free-standing appliances, refrigerators, trash-compactors, built-in toasters, coffee-makers, can-openers, blenders, instant hot-water dispensers, water-purifiers, barbecues, grills or rotisseries, timers, clocks, thermostats, the self-cleaning capability of ovens, and concealed or countertop lighting, which is convenient but often installed after the initial construction and not wired to national electrical standards.

Kitchen

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the kitchen, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Hallway

Our evaluation of hallways is identical to that of living space, except that we pay particular attention to safety issues, such as those involving handrails, guardrails, and smoke detectors.

Primary Hallway

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the hallway, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Stairs

Our evaluation of staircases is identical to that of living space, except that we pay particular attention to safety issues, such as those involving handrails, guardrails, and smoke detectors.

Main Stairs

Handrails & Guardrails

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The balusters in the stair rails are loose or damaged and should be serviced.

Attic

In accordance with our standards, we do not attempt to enter attics that have less than thirty-six inches of headroom, are restricted by ducts, or in which the insulation obscures the joists and thereby makes mobility hazardous, in which case we would inspect them as best we can from the access point. In regard to evaluating the type and amount of insulation on the attic floor, we use only generic terms and approximate measurements, and do not sample or test the material for specific identification. Also, we do not disturb or move any portion of it, and it may well obscure water pipes, electrical conduits, junction boxes, exhaust fans, and other components.

Primary Attic

Attic Access Location

Informational Conditions

The attic can be accessed through a hatch in the hallway ceiling.

Method of Evaluation

Informational Conditions

We evaluated the attic by direct access.

Framing

Informational Conditions

The roof framing consists of a factor- built truss system, comprised of components called chords, webs, and struts that are connected by wood or metal gussets nailed or glued in place. Each component of the truss is designed for a specific purpose, and cannot be removed or modified without compromising the integrity of the entire truss. The lowest component, which is called the chord and to which the ceiling is attached, can move by thermal expansion and contraction and cause creaking sounds, which are more pronounced in the mornings and evenings along with temperature changes. Such movement has no structural significance, but can result in small cracks or divots in the drywall or plaster.

Ventilation

Informational Conditions

Ventilation is provided by a combination of eave, dormer, turbine, or gable vents, and should be adequate.

Electrical

Informational Conditions

The electrical components that are fully visible appear to be in acceptable condition.

Plumbing Vents

Informational Conditions

The drainpipe vents that are fully visible are in acceptable condition.

Exhaust Ducts

Informational Conditions

The visible portions of the exhaust ducts are functional.

Blown-In Cellulose Insulation

Informational Conditions

The attic is adequately insulated, but not necessarily to a maximum standard. The amount of insulation can range from three to eighteen inches, depending upon the climate, the region, and the year in which the residence was constructed.

Bedrooms

In accordance with the standards of practice, our inspection of bedrooms includes the visually accessible areas of walls, floors, cabinets and closets, and includes the testing of a representative number of windows and doors, switches and outlets. We evaluate windows to ensure that they meet light and ventilation requirements and facilitate an emergency exit or egress, but we do not evaluate window treatments, nor move furniture, lift carpets or rugs, empty closets or cabinets, and we do not comment on common cosmetic deficiencies.

Main Bedroom

Location

Informational Conditions

The main bedroom is located upstairs SE corner.

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the bedroom, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Walls & Ceiling

Informational Conditions

The walls have typical cosmetic damage.

Smoke Detector

Components and Conditions Needing Service

The smoke detector is chirping, and should be serviced.

Bedroom 2

Location

Informational Conditions

The second bedroom is located upstairs south side.

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the bedroom, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Bedroom 3

Location

Informational Conditions

The third bedroom is located upstairs SW corner.

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the bedroom, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Bathrooms

In accordance with industry standards, we do not comment on common cosmetic deficiencies, and do not evaluate window treatments, steam showers, and saunas. More importantly, we do not leak-test shower pans, which is usually the responsibility of a termite inspector. However, because of the possibility of water damage, most termite inspectors will not leak-test second floor shower pans without the written consent of the owners or occupants.

Main Bathroom

Size and Location

Informational Conditions

The main bathroom is a full, and is located adjacent to the master bedroom.

No Recommended Service

Informational Conditions

We have evaluated the main bathroom, and found it to be in acceptable condition.

Downstairs Bathroom

Size and Location

Informational Conditions

The downstairs bathroom is a half, and is located adjacent to the living room.

Flooring

Informational Conditions

The floor has no significant defects.

Laundry

In accordance with industry standards, we do not test clothes dryers, nor washing machines and their water connections and drainpipes. However, there are two things that you should be aware of. The water supply to washing machines is usually left on, and their hoses can leak or burst under pressure and continue to flow. Therefore, we recommend replacing the rubber hose type with newer braided stainless steel ones that are much more dependable. You should also be aware that the newer washing machines discharge a greater volume of water than many of the older drainpipes can handle, which causes the water to back up and overflow, and the only remedy would be to replace the standpipe and trap with one that is a size larger.

Laundry Room

Sink

Informational Conditions

The laundry sink has typical cosmetic damage, and would not necessarily need to be serviced.

Valves & Connectors

Components and Conditions Needing Service

There is a leak on the hot water shut-off valve that should be repaired.

Garage

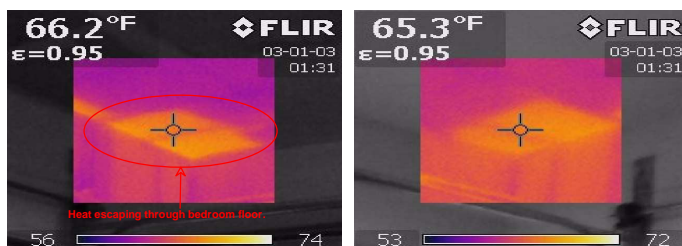
It is not uncommon for moisture to penetrate garages, because their slabs are on-grade. Evidence of this is typically apparent in the form of efflorescence, or salt crystal formations, that result when moisture penetrates the concrete slab or sidewalls. This is a common with garages that are below grade, and some sidewalls are even cored to relieve the pressure that can build up behind them, and which actually promotes drainage through the garage. Also, if there is living space above the garage, that space will be seismically vulnerable. Ideally, the columns and beams around the garage door will be made of structural steel, but in many residences these components are made of wood but could include some structural accessories, such as post-straps and hold-downs, and plywood shear paneling. However, we are not an authority in such matters, and you may wish to discuss this further with a structural engineer. In addition, and inasmuch as garage door openings are not standard, you may wish to measure the opening to ensure that there is sufficient clearance to accommodate your vehicles.

Double-Car Garage

Walls & Ceiling

Functional Components and Conditions

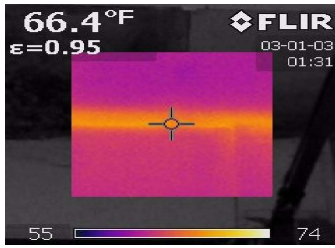
There is insulation missing in the garage ceiling which is the floor to bedroom three. This could lead to a moisture problem in the summer when warm outside air is cooled by the inside air and creates condensation. I recommend the insulation be fixed by a qualified insulation specialist.



Informational Conditions

There is a moisture stain on the ceiling, the cause of which should be explained or explored further. However, we are not unable to confirm that is being caused by an active leak.

There is a moisture stain on the ceiling the cause of which should be explained or explored - *Continued*





ICBO Certified Building Inspector # _____
ICBO Certified Mechanical Inspector # _____
ICBO Certified Combination Dwelling Inspector # _____
IAPMO Certified Mechanical Inspector # _____
California Real Estate Inspection Association "C.P.I." # _____
Structural Pest Inspector License # _____
AHERA Certified Building Inspector # _____

Inspector

REPORT CONCLUSION

123 main st, Lockport, IL 60441

Congratulations on the purchase of your new home. Inasmuch as we never know who will be occupying or visiting a property, whether it be children or the elderly, we ask you to consider following these general safety recommendations: install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; identify all escape and rescue ports; rehearse an emergency evacuation of the home; upgrade older electrical systems by at least adding ground-fault outlets; never service any electrical equipment without first disconnecting its power source; safety-film all non-tempered glass; ensure that every elevated window and the railings of stairs, landings, balconies, and decks are child-safe, meaning that barriers are in place or that the distance between the rails is not wider than three inches; regulate the temperature of water heaters to prevent scalding; make sure that goods that contain caustic or poisonous compounds, such as bleach, drain cleaners, and nail polish removers be stored where small children cannot reach them; ensure that all garage doors are well balanced and have a safety device, particularly if they are the heavy wooden type; remove any double-cylinder deadbolts from exterior doors; and consider installing child-safe locks and alarms on the exterior doors of all pool and spa properties.

We are proud of our service, and trust that you will be happy with the quality of our report. We have made every effort to provide you with an accurate assessment of the condition of the property and its components and to alert you to any significant defects or adverse conditions. However, we may not have tested every outlet, and opened every window and door, or identified every minor defect. Also because we are not specialists or because our inspection is essentially visual, latent defects could exist. Therefore, you should not regard our inspection as conferring a guarantee or warranty. It does not. It is simply a report on the general condition of a particular property at a given point in time. Furthermore, as a homeowner, you should expect problems to occur. Roofs will leak, drain lines will become blocked, and components and systems will fail without warning. For these reasons, you should take into consideration the age of the house and its components and keep a comprehensive insurance policy current. If you have been provided with a home protection policy, read it carefully. Such policies usually only cover insignificant costs, such as that of roofer service, and the representatives of some insurance companies can be expected to deny coverage on the grounds that a given condition was preexisting or not covered because of what they claim to be a code violation or a manufacture's defect. Therefore, you should read such policies very carefully, and depend upon our company for any consultation that you may need.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, and call us if you have any questions or observations whatsoever. We are always attempting to improve the quality of our service and our report, and we will continue to adhere to the highest standards of the real estate industry and to treat everyone with kindness, courtesy, and respect.

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Inspection Address: 123 main st, Lockport, IL 60441
Inspection Date/Time: 3/31/2010 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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