## **INSPECTION REPORT**

565 Mendota St. St. Paul, MN 55106

PREPARED FOR: Ramsey County T.F.L. / Paul Scharf



### **PREPARED BY:**

BLOCK BY BLOCK Home Inspections, Inc. 1800 Heifort Court Stillwater, MN 55082 Tel (651) 439-6152 www.blockbyblockinc.com



September 5, 2014

Property Address: 565 Mendota St. St. Paul, MN 55106

Client: Ramsey County T.F.L. Paul Scharf

At your request, Block By Block Home Inspections Inc. conducted a home inspection of the residential property located at 565 Mendota St. in St. Paul, MN on September 3, 2014. Brian Block performed all the fieldwork related to this project.

The purpose of this project was to observe the physical condition of the building. The intent was to identify defects or conditions that adversely affected the structure and its components. This report contains the results of the inspection.

These definitions were used in the report:

- Functional The component was performing its intended function; Installation and condition are appropriate for age and use.
- Comment The component could not be adequately evaluated or had a deficiency insufficient to be deemed defective. Item conditions that are below current building standards, but were typical of the era of house being inspected, will often times be classified as "Comment" items, especially if no adverse effects are outwardly visible. You should consider repair/replacement of comment items or at least monitor the components for signs of future adverse effects. This category may also include items that could be upgraded to current standards as safety improvements, deferred maintenance or simply provide information about a component.
- Defect The component was not performing its intended function and requires repair or replacement or any other item that, in the opinion of the inspector, should have attention in the very near future and/or before closing.

The inspection was essentially visual. There was no destructive analysis or technical testing of any building component. The project excluded all environmental health hazards and insect and vermin infestation. There was not a warranty of this building or any of its components, expressed or implied, by this project. Please refer to our statement of limitations on the last page of this report.

Block By Block Home Inspections Inc. follows the home inspection protocol described in the American Society of Home Inspectors "The Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics". A copy of these documents is available from your inspector or online at www.ashi.org.

#### Description of Exterior

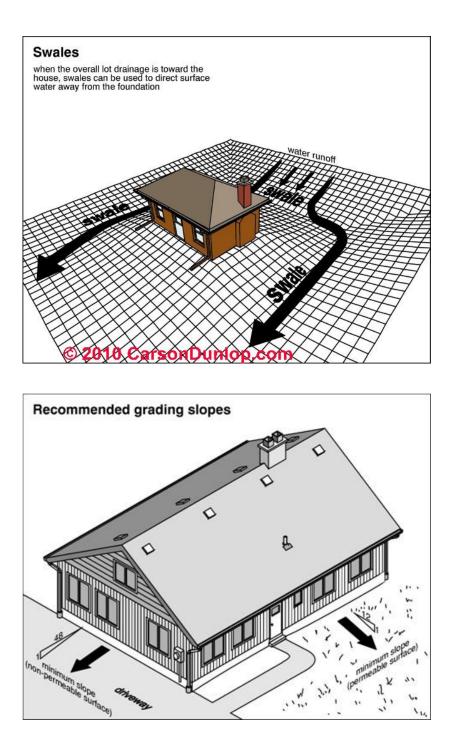
Location and topograp Weather conditions: Time of inspection: Ground conditions: Type of building: Type of garage: Age of building: Direction of house:	ohy:		suburban with a relatively flat site cloudy and raining – 63 degrees September 3, 2014 9:00 am to 12:00 pm wet two-story single family home none approximately 103 years descriptions based on facing the front entry door; front entry door faces east					
Yard Observations								
	F	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect		
Grading & drainage: front				low areas near the foundarecommended see Yard				
right side		$\square$		next page flat grading grading/drainage improvements recommended				
rear		$\boxtimes$		see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page flat grading grading/drainage improvements recommended see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page low areas near the foundation grading/drainage improvements recommended see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page				
left side								
Hard surfaces: sidewalk				cracked and slightly settle house the sidewalk does foundation in all areas se	not slope away from	the house		
steps			$\boxtimes$	on the next page damaged and decayed fr	ont entry steps pot	entially unsafe		

#### Limitations to Yard Observations

• Fences are not evaluated as part of this inspection.

**Yard Notes:** Earth grade should slope away from the foundation of the house at a rate of 1" per foot for the first 8 feet. The lot should then allow for drainage off the site to the street or other designated drainage area. Hard surfaces such as driveways, patios, sidewalks, steps and decks should also slope slightly away from house foundation (1/8" to 1/4" per foot). Improvements in these areas will help minimize soil/water pressure against foundation walls and the potential for seepage into basement. See illustrations on the next page.

# **Exterior cont.**



## **Exterior cont.**

#### Exterior Building Observations

	F	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect			
Foundation		$\boxtimes$		minor cracking/chipping/spalling in some areas patching/sealing the areas is recommended					
Walls: structure siding / trim				landscaping vegetation is contacting siding trimming or removing bushes/trees well away from the house is recommended peeling paint in several areas on the fiber cement siding some damaged areas some peeling paint and minor decay at the wood lap siding at the front of the house					
flashing & caulking Windows:	$\square$								
basement main				chipped (small hole) in or BB gun the windows are hole is only in the outer par panes of glass in winter the windows are primarily	double pane thermane ne window will like y wrapped with alum	al glass and the ly fog up between inum cladding and			
screens				the house and one at the rear of the house COMMENT: not all screens are installed the quantity					
Entry doors				condition of uninstalled scr damaged front entry door entry the right (north) side entr screwed shut and were no	jamb evidence of y door and rear entr	previous forced y doors are			
Deck / porch			$\boxtimes$	inspection damaged and decayed fre	ont entry steps pot	tentially unsafe			

#### Limitations to Building Observations

- Leaking insulated window glass seals (fogging and condensation between panes) may not be visible at time of inspection due to temperature conditions.
- Exterior foundation observations are limited to above grade visible area only.
- The deck / porch footings are below ground and proper frostline footings can not be confirmed.
- The deck / porch structure (underside) was not fully visible for evaluation because of lattice material installed around the perimeter.
- The right (north) side entry door and rear entry doors are screwed shut and were not operated/evaluated during the inspection.

# **Exterior cont.**

### Roof and Chimney Observations

Number of layers:1Approximate age:unRoof flashing:me			1 unkr meta	asphalt composition (standard 3-tab type) 1 unknown metal from ground and upper level windows for safety (steep pitch)			
Roof:	F	С	D	F = Functional C = Comment D = Defect			
slope & style covering flashing	$\boxtimes$						
Roof penetrations: chimney		$\boxtimes$		no sloped concrete/mortar cap visible at the top of the chimney installing a proper cap is advised to allow water to shed off of			
water heater vent		$\boxtimes$		the chimney for masonry longevity installation of an animal-proof rain cap is recommended at the top of the yeart pipe			
pipe plumbing vent pipes attic ventilation caps ventilation / exhaust fan caps	$\boxtimes$			of the vent pipe			
ventilation / exhaust ⊠ fan caps Overhangs: soffit & fascia ⊠ gutter & downspout □				no downspout connected to the gutter at the front left corner of the house COMMENTS: downspout extensions disconnected or missing installing extensions to shed water well away from the foundation is recommended the downspout at the right rear corner of the house sheds onto the flat roof at the rear of the house (rather than through the roof to the next section of sownspout) causing water to run down the side of the house not recommended continuing the downspout down to the ground is recommended gutters/downspouts are partially obstructed with tree debris keep gutters clean and downspouts/extensions well connected as part of regular maintenance correct gutter and downspout performance is very important to promote proper drainage away from foundation and to minimize the potential for basement seepage and pressure against foundation walls			

#### Limitations to Roof Observations

- It is virtually impossible to detect a roof leak except as it is occurring or by specific water tests, which are beyond the scope of this inspection.
- Roofing components viewed from ground and upper level windows for safety reasons (steep pitch / high elevation). Binoculars are utilized to improve visibility but evaluations of roofing components are limited.

#### Description of Structure

Foundation: Floor systems:	concrete block with full basement wood frame joists (2" x 8") with wood plank sub floors
Support walls:	wood framed with fiber cement and wood lap siding
Attic:	wood framed system
Method used to view attic:	walked in attic

#### Structural Observations

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional C = Comment D = Defect					
Stairs				some decay at the stair stringer closest to the foundation wall and below the stair landing stairs are not level structural repair is recommended					
Foundation: walls		$\boxtimes$		some cracking walls appear structurally sound cracked/loose/missing masonry skim coating in several areas					
concrete slab		$\boxtimes$		F.Y.I floor slab is comprised of concrete pavers rather than a					
moisture				poured slab seepage in several areas (damp/wet at the time of the inspection) exterior grading/drainage and gutter/downspout improvements recommended mold/mildew in several areas (on boiler system pipe insulation underside of the main level floor (joists and subfloor), other wo components such as shelving, etc proper mold clean-up is recommended mold clean-up should be performed by a qualified individual					
drain tile system / sump pump Floors & walls:				none installed					
joists & sub floor				mold/mildew in some areas (underside of joists and subfloor) proper mold clean-up is recommended mold clean-up should be performed by a qualified individual					
walls posts & beams		$\square$		slight sag in the wood beam/post system down the middle of the house monitor future structural repair/reinforcement may be required					
moisture				although no signs of moisture intrusion were visible on the main and upper levels at the time of the inspection, all walls are plaster/drywall finished and this is not an intrusive evaluation see Structure Notes below					
Roof / attic: rafters & sheathing chimney	$\square$	$\square$		spalled/loose mortar joints at the base of the chimney in the basement mechanicals area patching/sealing the areas is recommended					
moisture				water staining on roof rafters and sheathing primarily around the chimney the stained areas were dry at the time of the inspection monitor					

### Limitations to Structural Observations

• Main and upper level walls are plaster/drywall finished so the condition of the framing members in those finished areas is unknown.

## Structure cont.

**Structure Notes:** We look for signs of hidden water damage, or the potential for damage. HOWEVER, damage can exist without readily visible signs. This visual inspection is NOT a moisture intrusion or mold inspection. A specialist in moisture intrusion and technically exhaustive wall cavity testing should be consulted if you have concerns regarding this property. Also, check the house quarterly for stains, cracks or other signs of hidden water damage, especially below windows and roof-wall joints.

## Insulation

#### **Insulation Observations**

	F	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect		
Foundation exterior		$\boxtimes$		none				
Basement interior		$\boxtimes$		none				
Wall		$\boxtimes$		not visible all walls are	finished			
depth: 5 to 6 inches vapor barrier: no	/ery m			not visible all walls are finished minimal insulating value but typical of the era attic spaces that are lacking adequate insulation and ventilation are prone to ice dam activity and heat loss from the house into the attic (higher energy bills) additional insulation, ventilation (roof vents and soffit vents) and sealing off attic bypass points (the attic access panel, areas where bath fans, can lights, electrical wires and plumbing pipes enter the attic space) can minimize the potential for ice dams, condensation and potential mold/mildew growth, and lower energy bills this house is a good candidate for improvements in these areas a professional energy audit could help identify areas to improve mouse droppings, mouse bait/poison and chewed insulation in attic further evaluation by a qualified pest control professional is required to determine if mouse activity is current and potential points of entry ards - primarily not visible)				

#### Limitations to Insulation Observations

• Main and upper level walls are finished so the type, depth and condition or presence of insulation is unknown.

**General Insulation Notes:** Interior foundation (basement wall) insulation, common in modern homes, is not recommended. It is difficult to control moisture and water vapor in an interior insulated foundation. Exterior foundation insulation is advised. Interior finish on foundation walls may be successful if NOT insulated using common methods. Check interior insulated basements often for signs of dampness. Also, unfaced fiberglass insulation in rim joists cavities may lead to condensation and deterioration on the rim joist framing. Alternate type insulation is advised for interior foundation walls and rim joist cavities: foam-in-place insulation or foil faced rigid foam insulation board, cut-to-fit and caulked in place.

#### **Description of Electrical**

Utility service:	overhead 115/230 volts
Main panel size:	1 panel – 100 amp service
age:	unknown (likely updated within last 30 years)
Main disconnect:	circuit breaker with copper entrance wires
shut-off location:	in basement
Distribution wiring:	circuit breakers with copper non-metallic sheathed cable (Romex) wiring

#### **Electrical Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Utility service	$\boxtimes$					
Main panel: size/amperage condition grounding wiring	<ul> <li>some NOT-in-use known observed in the baseme although no active "hot" house, it is possible that knob &amp; tube wiring is oprofessionals</li> </ul>				(porcelain sleeves a hob & tube wiring was home may be in-use in	nd bases) s observed in the n non-visible areas
Outlets & fixtures: exterior basement				unprotected non-metallic down one of the wood pos that is run across a ceiling	ts for light switch r	non-metallic cable
attic Smoke/fire alarms:	within cor		within conduit piping			
condition			$\boxtimes$	some old and non functio detectors on each level an	•	•
location power source Carbon monoxide detector location		$\square$	$\square$	none installed in the base battery powered monito	ement	
				none installed carbon n within 10 feet of all bedroo the home (but not in the im appliances) for safety	ms and recommende	ed on each level of

**Electrical Notes:** Several light fixtures throughout the house did not operate when tested (possibly burned-out bulbs but not confirmed.

#### **Limitations to Electrical Observations**

- Condition of electrical wires that are concealed within walls, floors/ceilings and underground is unknown.
- Security systems, telephone wiring systems, television wiring systems and any other low voltage systems are not evaluated as part of this inspection.

### **Description of Plumbing**

Main visible water pipe: Main water shut-off location: Interior water pipes: Main visible waste pipe: Interior drain pipes: Water heater type & size: age: make/model: serial number:			copper in basement copper iron galvanized steel and PVC plastic 1 natural gas storage tank – 40 gallons 18 years Kenmore 153.334450 M96837035					
Plumbing Observations	;							
Dublic water eventur	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect		
Public water supply: main pipe/equipment			$\boxtimes$	water meter has been rer				
interior pipes				company for reinstallation of a water meter is needed the water service has been turned off and all plumbing fixtu have been winterized the systems and equipment utilizing water flow were not fully evaluated.				
Public waste disposal: soil stack		$\boxtimes$		the water service has bee have been winterized the	e systems and equip			
drain & vent pipes		$\boxtimes$		water flow were not fully evaluated. the water service has been turned off and all plumbing fixture have been winterized the systems and equipment utilizing water flow were not fully evaluated. appeared functional but no water was run through drain syste the laundry tub and/or base are not secured to the floor or a recommended improvement faucet not operated/evaluated plumbing system was				
floor drain Laundry tub		$\boxtimes$						
Exterior spigots				winterized not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized				
Natural gas supply:								
Type of interior gas piping:	ste	el pi	ping					

meter interior piping interior piping

the main gas valve at the meter is turned off and bolted closed by the gas utility company

gas line/pipe has been disconnected from the water heater

open ended (not capped) gas lines where the clothes dryer and kitchen range were previously installed -- gas lines must be properly capped/sealed until appliances are installed

# Plumbing cont.

Water Heater Observa	ations	;				
	F	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Storage tank			$\square$	damaged unit (gas valve is needed	system removed)	tank replacement
Vent pipe Operating controls		$\square$	$\square$	appeared functional but damaged unit (gas valve is needed		

#### Limitations to Plumbing Observations

- Condition of underground sewage pipe is unknown and beyond the visual scope of this inspection. Main waste line video scope recommended to confirm condition.
- Condition of underground water supply pipe is unknown and is beyond the visual scope of this inspection.
- Condition of plumbing pipes that are concealed within finished walls and floors/ceilings is unknown.
- The interiors of flues or chimneys that are not readily accessible from the interior are not inspected. Chimney caps will not be removed and vent connector sections will not be disassembled. You are advised to have all chimney flues cleaned and evaluated by a qualified licensed chimney contractor.
- The water service has been turned off and all plumbing fixtures have been winterized. The systems and equipment utilizing water were not fully evaluated.

#### **Description of Mechanicals**

Central heating type: age:	1 natural gas boiler system with iron radiators 11 years
approx. size:	140,000 BTU
make/model: serial number:	Weil-McLain CGA-5-SPDN CP4758161
Central cooling type:	no electric central air conditioning system

#### **Heating Observations**

Dellar	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect			
Boiler: jacket heat exchanger	$\square$	$\square$		not visible without system	ı disassembly see	Limitations section			
distribution				below natural gas supply is turned off and the boiler system was drained not operated during the inspection starting system and full evaluation by a licensed boiler technician is recommended some loose areas of pipe insulation this type of insulation may contain asbestos fibers and should be repaired/replaced a gualified individual					
operating controls				natural gas supply is turn drained not operated du and full evaluation by a lice recommended	ring the inspection	<ul> <li>starting system</li> </ul>			
Vent pipe Supplemental heating – e condition operation	lectric ⊠ ⊠	base	eboar	appeared functional but t d heater in the left rear bed		operated			

#### **Limitations to Heating Observations**

- Due to the design and limited visible area, the heating system heat exchanger and chimney is not visible in all areas. There is the potential of hidden concerns that are not visible and will not be documented in this report. It may be necessary for a qualified licensed heating contractor to remove burners and completely dismantle the heating system to make a failed heat exchanger evident. This VISUAL inspection has limitations because of heating system design. Block By Block Home Inspections Inc. will not be responsible for any or all non-visible cracks or cracks that develop in the heat exchanger. Certification of the heat exchanger is beyond the scope of this visual inspection.
- The interiors of flues or chimneys that are not readily accessible from the interior are not inspected. Chimney caps will not be removed and vent connector sections will not be disassembled. You are advised to have all chimney flues cleaned and evaluated by a qualified licensed chimney contractor.

## Interior

### Description of Interior

Number of bedrooms: Number of bathrooms Primary window type:			3 1 dout	ole hung type with insulated (thermal pane) glass
<u>Kitchen</u>		_	_	
	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional $C = Comment$ $D = Defect$
Wall & ceiling				water stains on ceiling (the bathroom is located above the kitchen) the stained areas were dry at the time of the inspection plumbing fixtures should be checked for proper operation without leaks once the water has been restored into the house water staining and efflorescence on the west kitchen wall and staining (and sag) on the door jamb header into the pantry room this area is located below the flat roof connection to the house the areas were dry at the time of the inspection monitor closely
Floor Window & door Outlets & fixtures				floors not level see Structure notes on page 7 broken glass in a cabinet door in the rear pantry room exposed electrical wiring where the dishwasher was previously installed loose hanging ceiling light fixture in the rear pantry room COMMENTS: loose electrical outlets along the counter backsplash ungrounded/open ground outlets on the north wall repairs by a licensed contractor or other qualified individual
Heat Plumbing fixture Water flow Cabinets & countertops	$\boxtimes \Box \Box \boxtimes$			recommended not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized
Living / Dining				
Wall & ceiling Floor Window & door	$\boxtimes \Box \Box$	$\square\boxtimes\boxtimes$		floors not level see Structure notes on page 7 chipped (small hole) in one window (left side dining room) from a BB gun the windows are double pane thermal glass and the hole is only in the outer pane window will likely fog up between
Outlets & fixtures Heat	$\boxtimes$			panes of glass in winter
<u>Bedrooms</u>				
Wall & ceiling Floor Window & door Outlets & fixtures				floors not level see Structure notes on page 7 missing electrical outlet cover plate(s) in the front right bedroom exposed electrical splices above the ceiling fan/light fixture in the front left bedroom missing electrical switch cover plate(s) in the front left bedroom
Heat		$\boxtimes$		COMMENT: loose electrical outlet(s) in the front right bedroom electric baseboard heater only in the left rear bedroom

# Interior cont.

#### **Bathroom**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	
Wall & ceiling Floor		$\boxtimes$		V f
Window & door Outlets & fixtures		$\boxtimes$		th r t re
Heat Plumbing fixtures Water flow Cabinets & countertops Ventilation fan				r r c Ca
				t or

D	F = Functional C	C = Comment	D = Defect				
	water damaged wall next to the bath tub and next to the toilet floors not level see Structure notes on page 7 some water damaged subfloor below the vinyl flooring around the toilet and sink cabinet missing door knob broken test button on the GFCI outlet receptacle outlet replacement is recommended						
	<ul> <li>not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winteriz</li> <li>not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winteriz</li> <li>damaged exterior exhaust cap on the rear wall of the ho cap replacement recommended</li> <li>there are two ventilation fans installed (one on the wall a</li> </ul>						
	on the ceiling) the one on th	· ·					

### Hallways / Entries

Wall & ceiling Floor Window & door	$\begin{bmatrix} \boxtimes & \square \\ \square & \boxtimes & \square \\ \blacksquare & \square & \square \\ \blacksquare & \square & \square \\ \end{bmatrix}$	buckled/heaved wood strip floor in the upper level hallway
Outlets & fixtures Stairs		no handrail installed at the stairs to the basement
		low, incomplete and generally improper guardrail around the attic stairwell

recommended

COMMENT: handrail/guardrail configurations are missing or are below modern safety practices -- recommended safety improvements:

on the wall does not move much air -- fan repair/replacement is

1) handrail ends do not return to wall(s)

#### **Limitations to Interior Observations**

Leaking insulated window glass seals (fogging and condensation between panes) may not be visible at time of • inspection due to temperature conditions.

### Statement of Limitations

The inspection was essentially visual, not technically exhaustive, and did not imply that every defect would be discovered. The project was based upon conditions that existed at the time of the inspection. The inspection excluded and did not intend to cover any and all components, items and conditions by nature of their location were concealed or otherwise difficult to inspect. There was no dismantling, destructive analysis, or technical testing of any component. Excluded were all cosmetic conditions such as carpeting, vinyl floors, wallpaper, and paint. The inspection covered only the listed items and was evaluated for function and safety, not code compliance. This was not intended to reflect the value of the premises and did not make any representation as to the advisability or inadvisability of purchase.

### THE INSPECTION DID NOT INCLUDE ANALYSIS OR TESTING OF ANY

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS.** No tests were conducted to determine the presence of air borne particles such as asbestos, noxious gases such as radon, formaldehyde, molds, mildews, toxic, carcinogenic or malodorous substances or other conditions of air quality that may have been present; nor conditions which may cause the above. No representations as to the existence or possible condition of lead paint, abandoned wells, private sewage systems, or underground fuel storage tanks were made. There were no representations as to any above or below ground pollutants, contaminates, or hazardous wastes. The quality of drinking water was excluded from this inspection.

THE INSPECTION DID <u>NOT</u> INCLUDE ANALYSIS OR TESTING FOR INSECTS AND **VERMIN.** No tests were conducted to determine the presence or absence of rodents and insect pests.

THE INSPECTION AND REPORT ARE <u>NOT</u> A GUARANTEE OR WARRANTY, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OF THIS BUILDING OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS. The inspection and report are furnished on an "opinion only" basis. We assume no responsibility for the cost of repairing or replacing any unreported defects or conditions.

This report is for the sole, confidential and exclusive use and possession of our client and no third party liability is assumed.

Brian Block Block By Block Home Inspections Inc.