## **INSPECTION REPORT**

905 Armstrong Ave. W. St. Paul, MN 55102

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



## PREPARED BY:

BLOCK BY BLOCK Home Inspections, Inc.

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September 12, 2014

Property Address: 905 Armstrong Ave. W.

St. Paul, MN 55102

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 905 Armstrong Ave. W. in St. Paul, MN on September 9, 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.

## **Exterior**

#### **Description of Exterior**

Location and topography: suburban with a relatively flat site

Weather conditions: cloudy – 70 degrees

Time of inspection: September 9, 2014 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Ground conditions: damp

Type of building: two-story single family home

Type of garage: three single stall detached garages/out buildings

Age of building: approximately 130 years

Direction of house: descriptions based on facing the front entry door;

front entry door faces south

#### **Yard Observations**

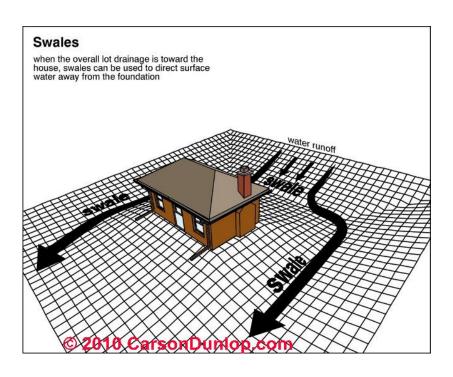
	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect			
Grading & drainage: front		$\boxtimes$		low areas near the foundarecommended see Yard					
right side		$\boxtimes$		next page  flat grading grading/drainage improvements recommended see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page  flat grading grading/drainage improvements recommended					
rear		$\boxtimes$							
left side				see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page low areas near the foundation grading/drainage improvemen recommended see Yard Notes below and illustration(s) on the next page					
Hard surfaces:						farmalation in all			
sidewalk				settled does not slope a areas pooling/ponding ar recommended see Yard next page	reas grading/draina	age improvements			
steps				damaged and decayed from COMMENT: no graspable and right side entry					
patio	$\boxtimes$			and ngine oldo only					

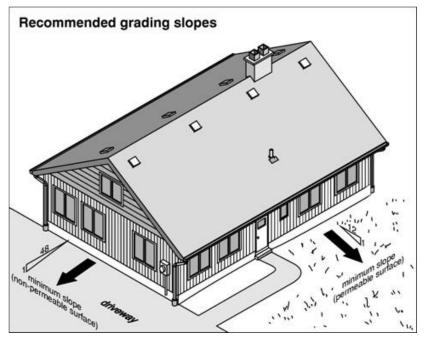
#### **Limitations to Yard Observations**

None

**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**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Foundation		$\boxtimes$		not visible for evaluation - masonary product	- foundation is cove	red with concrete
Walls: structure siding / trim				damage around the front landscaping vegetation is removing bushes/trees wel	contacting siding	trimming or
flashing & caulking				recommended deteriorated caulking arou areas keep caulking deta maintenance no cap flashing at the top points keep caulking deta maintenance	ails in good repair as o of windows pote	s part of regular ntial moisture entry
Windows: basement main				some decay, chipped/pee glazing putty most windows are wrapp them low maintenance but and there is decay behind	ed with aluminum c the cladding is loos	ladding to make e in some areas
screens		$\boxtimes$		screens are generally in pand some missing	<u> </u>	
Entry doors			$\boxtimes$	front entry storm door is dopened sliding door from kitchen		
Deck				operable no graspable handrail insta missing guardrail/handrai steps the spacing between the o present a trip hazard for hig of 1/8" is recommended decking boards are slight rather than 24 inches on ce	lled at the deck stait assembly at one sidecking boards is wigh heeled shoes cally overspanned 2	rs de of the deck ide and can deck board spacing

#### **Limitations to Building Observations**

- Exterior foundation observations are limited to above grade visible area only.
- The deck footings are below ground and proper frostline footings can not be confirmed.
- The deck structure (underside) was not fully visible for evaluation because the deck is close to earth grade and has lattice skirting material installed around the perimeter.

# **Exterior cont.**

### **Roof and Chimney Observations**

Roof shingles: Number of layers: Approximate age: Roof flashing: Method used to view roof:				asphalt composition (standard 3-tab type)  1  unknown  metal  walked on roof (at the rear of the house and over the deck) / the roof i  not visible in many areas because of trees on the roof					
_	_	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect		
Roof	i: slope & style		$\boxtimes$		complex roof design whe				
	covering				damaged sheathing and likely framing above the front porch shingles are in poor condition and needs replacement curling/clawing shingles, granule loss, and broken shingle tabs shingles appear to be Certainteed brand or another organic based shingle which has been recognized as a material probler shingle replacement by a licensed roofing contractor is recommended trees hanging on roof trimming branches well away from the roof is recommended substantial tree removal and trimming is				
1	flashing			required  no visible step flashings installed at roof to wall connection areas have been covered/sealed with caulking if there is flashing there is a higher potential for moisture intrusion keep caulking in excellent condition					
	f penetrations:		$\square$				r and ranair as		
	chimney				some brick and mortar de needed	eterioration monito	r and repair as		
	furnace/water heater vent pipe								
	plumbing vent pipes	$\boxtimes$							
:	rhangs: soffit & fascia gutter & downspout				damaged soffit and fascia gutters are damaged and COMMENT: although gut mandatory, a properly instagood for the health of the hard from the house foundation recommended in areas what this will minimize soil press potential for seepage into a splash against the foundation	I ineffective tters and downspouts alled and well mainta nouse promoting pro gutter and downs nere they are not curi sure against foundati the basement and re	ained system is per drainage away cout installation is rently installed ton walls, the duce drip line		

#### **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 for safety reasons (steep pitch / high elevation). Binoculars are utilized to improve visibility but evaluations of roofing components are limited.
- Roofing components were not even visible from the ground in many areas because of trees growing over/on the roof.

# **Structure**

#### **Description of Structure**

Foundation: stone and mortar with full basement

Floor systems: wood frame joists (2" x 8") with wood plank sub floors

Support walls: wood framed with stucco siding

Attic: wood framed system
Method used to view attic: from attic access panel

#### **Structural Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional $C = Comment$ $D = Defect$
Stairs		$\boxtimes$		some decay at the wood stair structure monitor closely and repair as needed
Foundation: walls concrete slab moisture				some cracking walls appear structurally sound however there is cracked/loose/missing masonry skim coating in most areas  dampness and efflorescence in several areas (damp at the time of the inspection) exterior grading/drainage improvements recommended  mold/mildew in several areas (on the underside of the main level floor (joists and subfloor)) proper mold clean-up is recommended mold clean-up should be performed by a
Floors & walls: joists & sub floor				the main floor structure is slightly out of level monitor future structural reinforcement may be required see posts & beams notes below overspanned floor joists in the rear part of the house monitor
walls posts & beams				structural reinforcement may be required  the support posts beneath the main floor beam in the basement are wood logs rather than designed wood posts or steel posts the main floor structure is slightly out of level monitor future
moisture				structural reinforcement or post replacement may be required although no signs of moisture intrusion were visible on the main level at the time of the inspection, all walls are drywall finished and this is not an intrusive evaluation see Structure Notes below
Roof / attic: rafters & sheathing				there is a large hole in the roof at the front of the house water damaged sheathing and likely framing above the front porch COMMENT: some blackened roof rafters/sheathing around the chimney I can not tell if the materials have been painted or if
chimney				there has been some fire damage monitor chimney is black in color (reason not known) and was wrapped with fiberglass insulation at some point in time some
moisture			$\boxtimes$	spalled/loose brick and mortar there is a large hole in the roof at the front of the house water damaged sheathing and likely framing above the front porch

## Structure cont.

#### **Limitations to Structural Observations**

- Main and upper level walls are finished so the condition of the framing members in those finished areas is unknown.
- The front porch structure (underside) is not visible/accessible for evaluation.
- Evaluation of foundation walls is limited because tarps and sheets are covering the walls in some areas.
- The roof rafters and sheathing are not visible in most areas because of insulation installed against the sheathing between the rafters.

**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**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Foundation exterior				none		
Basement interior				no foundation insulation mouse droppings and dea viewed in the closet in the qualified pest control profe mouse activity is current as	dining room) furthe ssional is required to	er evaluation by a determine if
Wall				not visible all walls are	finished	
Attic				there are nuts in the attic minimal insulation and ve house attic spaces that a ventilation are prone to ice house into the attic (higher ventilation (roof vents and bypass points (the attic acclights, electrical wires and can minimize the potential potential mold/mildew grow professional energy audit of	entilation but typical of are lacking adequate dam activity and heat energy bills) addit soffit vents) and seat cess panel, areas whill plumbing pipes enter for ice dams, conder with, and lower energy	of the era of the insulation and at loss from the cional insulation, ling off attic nere bath fans, car the attic space) insation and by bills a
type: fiberglass (batts	and	lloos	e fill)		•	•

depth: varies vapor barrier: no

ventilation: yes, but minimal (gable end vents only)

#### **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.

## **Electrical**

#### **Description of Electrical**

Utility service: overhead 115/230 volts
Main panel size: 1 panel – 100 amp service

age: unknown

Main disconnect: fuses with aluminum entrance wires

shut-off location: in basement

Distribution wiring: fuses with copper non-metallic sheathed cable (Romex) and older cloth wrapped

wiring

#### **Electrical Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Utility service				tree branches on/near over trimmed well away from the branch trimming around licensed contractor, electric other well qualified individu	e lines as part of regu power lines should b c utility company rep	ular maintenance be done by a
Main panel: size/amperage condition				the main disconnect fuses is no power in the house there is corrosion on the connection to the main lugs missing Romex connected dampness in the panel fu	main service entrands no visible anti-oxors (clamps/grommetull evaluation by a lic	ce wires at the idizing paste used ts) rust and
grounding wiring Outlets & fixtures:				recommended panel rep could not verify	lacement is advised	
exterior				unprotected/unsupported (Romex) wiring in the right missing globe on the ligh	side entry	
basement Smoke/fire alarms:				unsupported and unprofe		ide entry
condition				some old and non function detectors on each level and		
location				not properly located det	ectors are required of	
power source		$\boxtimes$		the home and in each bedr battery powered monito Paul requires at least one I	r/test regularly (some	
Carbon monoxide detecto	rs:	_				
location				none viewed carbon mo within 10 feet of all bedroot the home (but not in the im appliances) for safety	ms and recommende	ed on each level of

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

• Condition of electrical wires that are concealed within walls, floors/ceilings and underground is unknown.

# **Plumbing**

## **Description of Plumbing**

Main visible water pipe: copper
Main water shut-off location: in basement
Interior water pipes: copper
Main visible waste pipe: iron
Interior drain pipes: plastic

Water heater type & size: 1 natural gas storage tank – 40 gallons

age: 19 years

make/model: State PRV 40 NORSO

serial number: M95522713

#### **Plumbing Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect	
Public water supply: main pipe/equipment			$\boxtimes$	the main water valve has fixtures have been winteriz	ed the systems ar		
interior pipes Public waste disposal:		$\boxtimes$		utilizing water flow were no not operated/evaluated	-	as winterized	
soil stack		$\boxtimes$		appeared functional but n	ot operated/evaluate	ed plumbing	
drain & vent pipes			$\boxtimes$	system was winterized unsanitary toilet in the basement COMMENT: laundry area drain stand pipe is not a properly			
Exterior spigots		$\boxtimes$		vented plumbing fixture this may result in slow draining an potential for sewer gas entry into the home missing handle at faucet on the right side of the house			
Natural gas supply:							
Type of interior gas piping	: bla	ack st	teel p	ipe			
meter				the supply valve is turned turned on (and natural gas	system evaluated) k	by a licensed	
interior piping				contractor or gas utility con open ended (not capped) (basement) and kitchen rai lines must be properly cap installed gas lines/pipes have bee and furnace	gas lines where the nge were previously ped/sealed until app	clothes dryer installed gas liances are	

# Plumbing cont.

	F C D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Storage tank Operating controls				

#### **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 flow were not fully evaluated.

## **Mechanicals**

#### **Description of Mechanicals**

Central heating type: 1 natural gas forced air furnace

age: unknown (no name/data tag visible) (likely 27 years like the A/C)

approx. size: unknown (no name/data tag visible)

make/model: Bryant / model unknown (no name/data tag visible)

serial number: unknown (no name/data tag visible)
Central cooling type: 1 electric central air conditioner

age: 27 years
approx. size: 2 ton system
make/model: Bryant 567GJ024
serial number: 2587A12064

#### **Heating Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Furnace: jacket heat exchanger			$\square$	damaged and old furna not visible without systen below		
exhaust fan air blower operating controls				damaged and old furna damaged and old furna damaged and old furna COMMENT: the thermos bathroom which is not a g	ace replacement is nace replacement is notated in the replaced in the report of the replacement in the replacement is not replacement in the r	eeded eeded nain level ating to an interior
Vent pipe			$\boxtimes$	wall in the dining room or poor section connections needed and new vent pipe	and gaps furnace	
Air filter Ductwork			$\boxtimes$	damaged and old furna some disconnected ductrevaluated by a licensed H the system when the furna	ace replacement is n work runs ductwor VAC tech to determi	k should be ne the adequacy of

#### **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.

# Mechanicals cont.

## **Cooling Observations**

	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect
Interior components: evaporator coil				not visible without system	disassembly see	Limitations section
condensate tray				not visible without system below	disassembly see	Limitations section
drain line Exterior condenser:	$\boxtimes$			BOIOW		
location compressor exterior coil				system was not operated keep aluminum fins clear part of regular maintenanc longevity	n and vegetation trimi	
fan refrigerant pipes				system was not operated	•	
Exterior power disconnect		M	Ц	exposed/unprotected electric disconnect box into the co	•	e exterior

## <u>Limitations to Cooling Observations</u>

 Interior evaporator coil and condensate tray are not visible for evaluation without plenum ductwork disassembly.

# **Interior**

## **Description of Interior**

Number of bedrooms: 2 Number of bathrooms: 2

Primary window type: double hung type with some insulated and some non-insulated glass

Kitchen				
	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional $C = Comment$ $D = Defect$
Wall & ceiling				some mold on the cabinets and paneling peeling paint on the ceiling in the pantry COMMENT: some damaged/missing wall paneling
Floor Window & door Outlets & fixtures Heat				floors not level  missing electrical outlet/switch cover plates not operated/evaluated heating system was not operable
Plumbing fixture				improper drain pipe assembly below the kitchen sink (tail pipe is too long)
Water flow Cabinets & countertops		$\boxtimes$		not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized cracked glass and some missing cabinet doors
<u>Living / Dining</u>				
Wall & ceiling Floor				cracks in plaster walls/ceilings and chipped/peeling paint a large heaved area in the wood floor I could not see a reason for the heaved floor by viewing the underside of the floor in the basement further evaluation by a licensed contractor is
Window & door				recommended cracked glass in window pane in the dining room
Outlets & fixtures				windows painted shut missing electrical outlet/switch cover plates COMMENT: unprotected non-metallic cable (Romex) wiring on
Heat				the floor in the closet in the dining room not operated/evaluated heating system was not operable
<u>Bedrooms</u>				
Wall & ceiling Floor Window & door				cracks in plaster walls/ceilings and chipped/peeling paint floors not level F.Y.I the windows (all bedrooms) do not meet modern requirements for proper egress (no more than 44" off the floor with at least 5.7 sq ft of open space with the height of the opening
Outlets & fixtures Heat				not less than 20") missing electrical outlet/switch cover plates not operated/evaluated heating system was not operable

# Interior cont.

Bathrooms							
<u> Datinoonio</u>	<u>F</u>	С	D	F = Functional	C = Comment	D = Defect	
Wall & ceiling				ceiling plaster is cracked and sagging/falling in both bathrooms (water damage) unsanitary conditions (mold/mildew) in both bathrooms the tile floor flexes in the upper level bathroom proper installation methods unlikely it is likely that there is some water damaged subfloor			
Floor		$\boxtimes$					
Window & door Outlets & fixtures Heat Plumbing fixtures				the window will not latch closed/lock in the main level bathroom missing electrical outlet/switch cover plates  unapproved flex drain pipe assembly installed beneath upper level bathroom sink flex drain pipes are prone to clogging and leakage replacement with rigid drain piping recommended not operated/evaluated plumbing system was winterized			
Flumbing fixtures	Ш						
Water flow Cabinets & countertops					plumbing system was winterized		
Hallways / Entries							
Wall & ceiling			$\boxtimes$	ceiling plaster is cracked and sagging/falling hallway floors not level window in upper stairwell is not tempered sa replacement with tempered safety glass is recommendation.	in the upper level		
Floor Window & door		$\boxtimes$					
Outlets & fixtures Stairs				missing electrical outlet/switch cover plates handrail/guardrail configurations are missing or are below modern safety practices recommended safety improvements: 1) handrail ends do not return to wall(s)			
				the upper level and basem high rises), have improper (no landing at the 90 degree	tread depth and have		

## **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.