

February 20, 2012

HOME INSPECTION REPORT

XXXX Avenue

Livingston, NJ

The following are the findings of a **Home Inspection** of the subject property done on February 15, 2012. This report is for the use of XXX. This inspection and report are provided subject to and limited by the provisions of the Agreement for Inspection Services sent or given to you in advance of the inspection. An executed copy of this agreement is on file.

Conditions on date of inspection: Vacant home. Weather was cloudy with recent rain, and approximately 35 Deg. F.

Present at the inspection: NJ Licensed Home Inspector; XXX buyer; a real estate sales representative; and, for part of the time, a representative from a licensed pest control company for the wood destroying insect inspection.



XXXX Ave, Livingston NJ

Description of Property Wood frame, one family split-level style home. The grade level interior space has an entry hall and half bathroom. The first floor has a living room, dining area and kitchen. The second floor has three bedrooms and one full bathroom. There is an unfinished basement. There is an interior one-car garage space.

EXTERIOR ASPECTS OF THE PROPERTY

Exterior Soil Grading and Drainage

Soil Grade & Clearance to Wood Elements of the Home:

Back: Adequate Left: Adequate Right: Adequate

Front: **Inadequate due to presence of soil filled planter at front in contact with the side of the home.**



Soil filled planter at the front

Drainage Conditions:

- **Adverse, due to lack of maintenance to the roof drain system.**
- *Any home may be susceptible to basement flooding under extreme weather conditions, or may be located in a flood zone. A home inspection does not make this determination.*

Inadequate soil clearance to wood frame structure or adverse soil grading can result in chronic wet conditions and/or water entry, which can cause damage to the wood frame structure and masonry foundation of the home.

Recommendations:

- **Have the soil filled planter at the front removed or modified to eliminate soil contact with wood trim and structure.**
- **See Roof Drainage System section.**

Landscaping, Retaining Walls and/or Fences

- **Overgrown vegetation is close to or in contact with the sides of the house.**

The above conditions are conducive to wood destroying insect entry, can cause damage to the home and can allow squirrel, other rodent or other pest animal entry into the home.

Recommendation:

- **Have trees, shrubs and plants trimmed back or removed so they are no longer in contact with the home.**

Driveway & Paths

Driveway Type: Asphalt.

Driveway Condition: **Significant wear.**

Path Type: None present.

Sidewalk Type: None present.

Recommendations:

- **Have the driveway re-paved.**

Deck None present.

Patio

Type: Concrete

Location: Rear

Condition: **Significant wear and cracking.**

Recommendations:

- **Have the patio repaired / replaced as necessary.**

Description & Condition of Entrances

Front Door: Wood and glass, in functional condition.

Front Entry Area: Masonry, at grade level, in functional condition.

Back Door: Clad wood, in functional condition.

Back Entry Area: The rear patio. **See Patio section.**

Recommendations:

- **See Patio section.**

Exterior Facades

Type: Vinyl siding at all exposures.

Trim, Type: Vinyl, metal, wood.

Conditions:

- Siding itself is generally functional.
- Most areas of trim are generally functional.
- **Lower areas of wood window sills and trim are deteriorated.**

Recommendations:

- **See Windows section – have worn and deteriorated wood window sills and trim replaced along with window replacements.**

Windows Mostly older wood frame, double hung and fixed panel single glazed units.

Front bay windows are newer casement type double glazed units.

A representative number of windows were tested. All windows were visually examined.

Conditions:

- **Most of the older windows need some maintenance and repair. Some windows are stiff and/or difficult to operate. Some windows have loose and/or missing paint and glazing putty.**
- The (newer) replacement windows were found to be in functional condition on the

date of inspection.

- **Paint at older windows may contain lead, and since the paint condition is poor, a lead paint hazard may be present.**

Note: It is our policy to recommend the use of window guards such as window guard tabs if present, or installation of window guards on all windows above the first floor level, regardless of whether regulations require them.

Recommendations:

- **Use of window guards on all windows above the first floor level.**
- **See the section of this report on Lead for more recommendations regarding the condition of the paint at windows.**
- **Replacement of all older windows with modern double glazed units, including basement windows.**

Roof Drainage System Roof drainage is by metal gutters and leaders (downspouts) attached to the roof and siding.

Conditions:

- **Many downspouts discharge into what appears to be older terra cotta clay underground drain pipe. This type of old pipe is often found to be clogged and / or broken underground, and can allow water to accumulate in soil around the home.**



Old underground pipe

Inadequate or defective roof drainage systems, if present, can lead to damage from water entry into the walls and other structural components, and water entry into the lowest level or basement.

Recommendations:

- **Direct any above ground downspout discharge points as far away and downhill from the base of the home as is practical.**
- **Have the roof drainage system cleaned and maintained on a regular basis by a qualified gutter maintenance company. This includes periodic flushing and checking of any buried drain pipes into which downspouts may discharge.**

CHIMNEYS & VENTS- EXTERIOR VISIBLE CONDITION

Masonry Chimney(s) This home has one masonry chimney.

The exterior of the masonry chimney was inspected by the following methods:

- Visual observation from the ground with the aid of field glasses.
- Partially from within the basement, attic and/or other interior spaces.

Condition:

- **Chimney flashings appear to be older and do not appear to have been replaced since the original roof was installed. Leakage is more likely to occur around older chimney flashings.**
- **Cracks, loose and/or missing sections of mortar were seen on the upper section of the chimney(s). Lack of maintenance to the exterior and the presence of visible exterior damage strongly suggests the presence of interior hidden defects which may affect safety and function.**
- **This chimney is now very old, and therefore the likelihood of interior defects that can affect performance and safety is increased.**

Note: A home inspection cannot properly evaluate the condition of the interior components of the chimneys or vents, and we do not include this in our service. An interior inspection of chimneys and vents is a specialist service provided by chimney inspectors and contractors.

Recommendations:

- **The National Fire Protection Association and the National Chimney Sweep Guild recommend that, due to advanced age or other conditions such as visible exterior damage or modification to the heating system, a Level-2 Inspection of the chimney and internal components be done to rule out hidden potential safety defects, and we recommend this as well.**
- **Have a qualified chimney contractor service or repair the chimney as required to assure long term function and safety.**

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Foundation Walls & Structural Supports

This splitlevel style home is built partly over a basement with a raised poured concrete masonry foundation (the right side), and partly over concrete slabs (the left side and garage).

Foundation Wall Condition: Functional where visible.

Concrete Slab Condition: Minor cracks, but no direct evidence of structurally significant defects such as major cracks, settlement or irregularity.

Intermediate Structural Supports: Concrete filled steel tubular columns.

Condition: Functional condition where visible.

Floor Framing: Dimensional lumber floor joists, resting on the foundation walls and on a built up wood beam.

Condition:

- Flooring throughout the home was adequately level and stiff, and appeared to be functional on the date of inspection.
- *Signs of Termite infestation are present on a small piece of wood at the edge of the slab area. Although there is no visible damage of significance, it is possible that hidden damage to the wood framing exists but is not visible for inspection.*

Wall Framing: Dimensional lumber, with wood or wood product sheathing on the exterior and plaster or drywall on the interior.

Condition:

- Walls throughout the home appeared to be functionally adequate where visible.
- *Termite damage could extend into hidden sections of wall framing.*

Roof Framing: Dimensional lumber for a pitched roof.

Roof Decking: Wood board.

Condition:

- Visible portions of roof framing and decking appeared to be functionally adequate on the date of inspection.

Limitation of our Ability to Inspect: Significant parts of the structural framing, masonry foundation walls and concrete slab were covered with finish materials or access to directly inspect was blocked by furnishings, and this limits our ability to fully evaluate these components. Hidden defects may be present behind finish materials or below ground.

Recommendations:

- **Ensure that water around the home is well controlled, with no accumulation near the base of the home. This can help reduce the possibility of foundation settlement in the future. See the sections of this report on Exterior Drainage and also Roof Drainage systems for more information.**
- **See the separate wood destroying insect report for more information relating to the wood framing of this home. Evidence of visible infestation and/or damage caused by wood destroying insect infestation, if indicated in this separate report, increases the probability of additional hidden damage to the structure, and we therefore strongly recommend further evaluation to determine the full extent of damage or infestation.**
- **Have a qualified contractor familiar with wood destroying insect damage repair further evaluate the home for Termite and other wood destroying insect related damage, and make repairs or replacements as necessary to ensure long term structural stability.**

Wood Destroying Insects We do not inspect for wood destroying insect infestation, however as a convenience and as a matter of expedience, an inspection to determine if

wood destroying insect infestation is or has been present has been ordered by us for this property. The official results of this wood destroying insect inspection will be sent to you under separate cover by the provider of this service, and when possible we will include a copy of this separate report along with our home inspection report.

Recommendations:

- **Carefully read the separate wood destroying insect report and be guided by the recommendations therein. This separate report may be a clear certification, or may indicate the need for a chemical treatment to eliminate infestation, or further exploration to determine the extent of infestation and damage.**

ROOFS

The roofs, flashings and penetrations were inspected by the following methods:

- Visual observation from the ground with the aid of field glasses.
- Partially from within attic crawlspaces.
- Finish materials on ceilings and walls on the upper living level were tested where possible with a moisture meter.
- The underside of the roof was tested where possible with a moisture meter.

Inspection Limitations: Significant sections of the upper level are finished, with very limited access to attic spaces above.

Roof Type and Description: The roofs are pitched and covered with asphalt shingles.

Condition:

- **Roof shingles appeared to have significant wear.**
- **Stained areas suggesting prior leaks or moisture condensation were seen on the underside of the roof in the attic crawlspaces. Although stains are tested with a professional moisture meter where they are safely accessible, a dry reading does not necessarily guarantee that the roof is not leaking, since the wood can dry out within a week after a rain, and some leaks do not occur during all rain conditions.**
- **Visible roof flashings at roof penetrations or valleys or other flashed details do not appear to have been replaced since the original roof was installed. Leakage is more likely to occur at old flashings.**
- **Multiple layers of shingles appear to be present on this roof. Shingles installed in multiple layers can have reduced service life.**

Roof Ventilation:

- Small gable end vents.
- Power vent fan.

Roof ventilation does not appear to be adequate. Vents are small, and no lower roof edge (soffit ventilation) is present.

Inadequate roof ventilation can lead to damage to the roof structure, reduced shingle life or mold conditions in the attic.

Recommendations:

- **Because of the adverse roof conditions noted above, I recommend that a qualified roofer further evaluate the roof to determine the full extent of wear and / or leakage, and make repairs or replacements as necessary to ensure long term leak free condition.**
- **Be aware that this roof will likely require complete replacement in the near future, with complete removal of all existing shingles and flashings. Have new, high quality shingles and flashings installed, along with modern, adequate roof ventilation such as ridge and soffit vents.**

Note: Our roof evaluation consists of an inspection of the exterior surface covering, including an inspection of visible flashing details. A steeply pitched roof is usually inspected from the ground by use of binoculars. If safely accessible, a moderately pitched roof will be mounted and walked for close inspection. The underside of the roof decking is also closely inspected where accessible, and we use a professional moisture meter to evaluate stained areas that may be evidence of leakage. The interior finished surfaces of the home, especially ceilings and walls at the top or attic floor, are also inspected for evidence of leakage, and a moisture meter is used to evaluate suspect areas.

If we see evidence of roof leakage, we will say so in our report, and recommend that further evaluation and repair or roof replacement be done. Often we see stains on the underside of the roof deck or at ceilings that strongly suggest that the roof has leaked. Depending on the season of the year and recent weather, as well as recent painting or repair done by the owner, we may not be able to say if the roof is currently leaking. What we can say with certainty, is that all roofs eventually leak, and for older homes, parts of the roof system such as flashings in valleys or at the chimneys and plumbing vents may never have been replaced even if the roof surface has been re-covered. Consequently, our inspection report should not be taken as a guarantee that the roof will not leak, but simply as a report on the condition of the roof as we found it on the date of inspection.

ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, AND HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS

Electrical System

Voltage: 240/120 volts

Ampere Capacity: 100 amperes

Capacity may be **inadequate** for present or future usage of this home.

Service Entrance Location & Condition: Overhead feed. **The service cable conduit has detached from the side of the home and this is a potential hazard.**



Service entry conduit detached from the home

Electrical Grounding: Metallic water main.

Circuit Breaker and/or Fuse panels:

- Circuit breaker main panel located in the garage.

Circuit Breaker/Fuse inspection methods:

- Removal of panel cover with inspection of wiring on the interior.

Conditions: Visual inspection of the components and wiring within circuit breaker panel(s) found the following condition(s):

- **Total service capacity and panel size may not be adequate.**

Branch circuit wiring:

- Plastic sheathed cable (Type NM, known as Romex).
- Metallic sheathed cable (Type M, known as BX).
- **Older fabric sheathed cable.**
- Branch circuit conductor material appears to be copper for 15 and 20 ampere solid conductor circuits.

Note: We inspected for the presence of unacceptable solid conductor aluminum branch circuits, and none were found to be visible. Heavier current dedicated circuits may use conductor material that may be copper or aluminum, either being acceptable.

Conditions:

- **Fabric sheathed cable has a lighter weight ground wire that may not be adequate for grounding heavy duty or sensitive equipment.**

Receptacles are partly grounded three pin units and partly older two pin units.

A representative number of 120 volt three pin receptacles were tested, with no functional defects found.

GFCI electrical receptacles are NOT present in all wet areas of the kitchen and all bathrooms with electrical receptacles. *GFCI electrical receptacles provide*

protection against electric shocks in wet areas.

Recommendations:

- **Have a licensed electrician upgrade capacity to 200 amperes replacing the service panel as required.**
- **Re-secure the entrance cable conduit to the house.**
- **Have a licensed electrician install functional GFCI electrical receptacles in all wet areas of the home including kitchens and bathrooms that lack them.**
- **Have a licensed electrician further evaluate fabric sheathed cable for adequate grounding and any other conditions, and upgrade grounding or replace cable as necessary.**

Plumbing System

Water Supply: Appears to be from a municipal source.

Water Main Material: Copper tubing.

Water Main and Main water shutoff valve Location: Basement

Water Main Condition: Functional where visible.

Main Shutoff Valve Condition: Physically acceptable at exterior.

Note: Water valves, especially older units that have not been “exercised”, are frequently found to be “frozen” and may fail or be damaged when operated. For this reason the home inspector will not operationally test a water shut-off or isolation valve in the course of a home inspection.

Visible Interior Water pipe material: Copper tubing.

Visible Water pipe Conditions:

- **Some shutoff valves exhibit significant visible corrosion and signs of leakage.**

Waste Disposal system type: Waste disposal appears to be a public system (sewer system), however this could not be confirmed.

Drain and vent pipe material: Old iron pipe and also copper pipe.

Drain pipe Conditions:

- Drainage was functional on the date of inspection, as determined by a limited operation of multiple plumbing fixtures.
- *This home has been vacant for some period of time, and clogs in drain pipe are common problems found in vacant homes and these defects may not become evident during a short term test conducted during a home inspection.*
- *Most sections of drain pipe are now aging and clogging or leakage is becoming more likely.*
- *Comment on Old Buried and Cast Iron Drain Pipes: Sections of the drain pipe are now very old, and may have significant internal corrosion or hidden internal defects, and may have limited additional service life. This home inspection cannot properly evaluate buried or very old sections of drain or waste pipe.*

Recommendations:

- **Have a plumber repair or replace water supply shutoff valves that exhibit**

visible corrosion or have signs of leakage.

- **To determine the true condition of the waste and drain pipes we recommend that a plumber inspect them internally using a specialized video camera.**
- **Have a plumber further evaluate and repair or replace all drain piping during renovations of this home.**

Domestic Hot Water Heater

Water Heater Type: Standard Tank.

Water Heater size, gallons: 40

Heating Method/Fuel: Natural Gas.

Age: **20 years** Typical Service Life: 8-10 years

Condition:

- **Far past the end of designed service life – leakage or other failure is now more likely to occur.**

Recommendations:

- **Replacement of the hot water heater with new equipment. This work should be done by a licensed plumber. Consider a direct vent unit that does not use the brick chimney.**

Natural Gas Piping Visible rigid and flexible natural gas piping appeared to be in functional condition on the date of inspection.

Heating System

System Type: Circulated hot water feeding radiators.

Number of Zones: 1

Fuel: Natural Gas.

Location: Basement utility.

Estimated age: **45 years or more.** Typical service life: 25 years, although maintenance is often required before this time.

Heating System Venting: Metal flue pipe to masonry chimney. **See Chimney section.**

Operational Test of Heating System: The heating system activated when heat was called for by the thermostat, and radiators began to heat up.

Conditions:

- **The heating components are far past the end of designed service life, and remaining service life is undeterminable by us. In addition, for old equipment, the possibility of hidden internal functional and safety related defects is significantly increased.**
- **Radiators and steam or circulated water pipes are older, and the need for increased maintenance and repair to these older components should be anticipated.**



Very old heating system boiler and associated components

Recommendations:

- **Replacement of this old heating system with new equipment. This work should be done by a qualified and licensed heating contractor.**
- **Monitor radiators and radiator connections for leakage, and have any leaks repaired promptly.**
- **A service contract to cover future maintenance and repairs to the heating system.**
- **See the Chimney section of this report for more information.**

Note: The heating system inspection consists of visual evaluation of the exterior casing, connection pipes and fittings, normal and automatic controls, as well as venting components. A limited inspection of the internal components of the heating system are also part of this inspection, however full inspection of interior components and heat exchangers is not possible without extensive disassembly, which is not done in a home inspection. Operation of the system is done using normal controls unless hot weather or the health and safety of the occupants makes this impossible or inadvisable. In seasonably warm weather we may not be able to operate the heating system for a long enough period of time to discover defects that may only become apparent when the system has been operating near full capacity for an extended period of time. For heating systems that appear to be 50% or more through their design life, we recommend further evaluation by a qualified specialist to assure that hidden defects or safety related issues are not present. All heating systems need regular maintenance to remain in satisfactory operating condition, and we recommend that you adhere to a regular maintenance schedule. If a heating system shows evidence of deferred maintenance or service, then we recommend that you schedule such service before you close on the property as this may disclose conditions that may be hazardous or conducive to premature failure.

Heating Equipment Clearance & Combustion Air

Heating System Location: Basement utility.
Ventilation and Combustion Air: Adequate
Clearance to Combustibles: Adequate

Central Air Conditioning

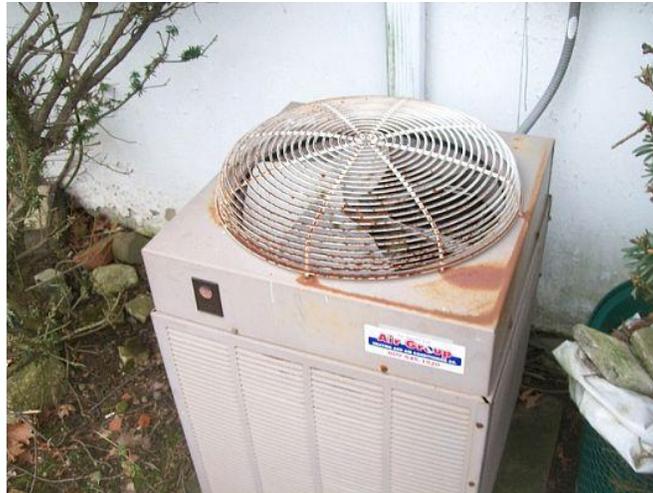
AC Equipment Age (Estimated): **18 years**

Typical Service Lifetime: 12 to 15 years, however failure before this time is not uncommon.

Condensing Unit Location: Exterior, rear.

Condensing Unit Exterior Visible Condition:

- **Aging, with visible corrosion.**



Aging AC equipment

Air Handler Type: Separate/Independent.

Air Handler Location: Attic crawlspace.

Physical Condition of Air Handler (Exterior Only): *The location of the attic air handler is difficult to safely access, restricting our inspection. **Visible portions of the air handler indicate that it is aged to a similar degree to the rest of the AC system.***

Operational Test of Air Conditioning System: *The AC system could not be tested due to the cool weather on the date of the inspection.*

AC equipment is now past the end of design life, and continued reliable service cannot be expected.

Recommendation:

- **Have the AC systems serviced and maintained by a qualified HVAC tech prior to closing on this property, and annually thereafter.**
- **Plan for replacement of the AC equipment during renovations to this home.**

INTERIOR ASPECTS OF THE HOME

General Interior Condition

Wall and Ceiling Material: Drywall and/or plaster.

Floor Surfaces: Wood, Tile

Interior Conditions: Although no major gaps or damage are present in finish materials, **all interior finish materials are very worn, with stained and worn out paint, worn floor tile and worn wood flooring.**

Old floor tile in the entry hall appears to be a type that may contain asbestos.



Old floor tile likely contains asbestos

Recommendations:

- **Complete interior resurfacing, refinishing, repainting and general renovation of this home as desired.**
- **See Asbestos section.**

Interior Doors Serviceable, but worn and in need of minor adjustment.

Recommendations:

- **Repair and refinishing of doors as necessary during interior renovations.**

Interior Stairs Functional.

Kitchen

Kitchen Sink: **Aging. Dripping faucet.**

Stovetop and Oven: Gas Condition: **Not functional.**

Garbage Disposal: None present.

GFCI electrical receptacles: **NOT present.**

GFCI electrical receptacles protect against shocks in wet areas.

Dishwasher: **Not functional.**

Water pressure at the sink was adequate. Drainage at the sink was adequate.

Kitchen cabinets and countertops are in very worn condition.



The kitchen is old and worn

Recommendations:

- **Have the kitchen completely renovated.**
- **See Electrical section.**

Laundry Room Hookups for a washer are located in the grade level half bathroom. **No dryer hookups are present.**

Recommendations:

- **Have appropriate dryer venting and other hookups installed.**

Note: We do not inspect or operationally test laundry appliances during a home inspection due to the multiplicity of different cycles built in to these units and the large amount of time it takes to complete these cycles. We recommend that any laundry equipment that is to remain in the home be demonstrated to be in satisfactory operational condition before you close on this property. Laundry equipment installed in close proximity to finish materials can cause extensive damage to finish materials in living areas of the home should water leakage occur due to hose or equipment failure, and you should therefore turn off the water to the laundry equipment when it is not in use. If an electric dryer is present, proper installation is very important to assure electrical safety, including installation of a grounding cable for the dryer case. The integrity of the exterior ground cable should be checked periodically. If a gas dryer is present, the flex gas connector should be replaced if more than 5 years old. Washer water supply hoses should also be replaced every 5 years. Dryer exhaust vent ducts should be metal rather than plastic to reduce the possibility of fire.

Bathrooms

Grade Level: Half, with sink and toilet.

Second Floor: Full, with sink, toilet and shower over tub.

Bathrooms fixtures, faucets, surfaces and plumbing are all aging.

GFCI electrical receptacles: **NOT present.**

GFCI electrical receptacles protect against shocks in wet areas.

Water pressure and local drainage were adequate in all bathrooms.

Recommendations:

- **Complete renovation of bathrooms.**
- **See Plumbing section.**
- **See Electrical section.**

Fireplace None present.

BASEMENT, CRAWLSPACE or LOWEST LEVEL SPACE

Basement and/or Crawlspace The basement is unfinished space.

Sump Pump: Not found to be present.

Note: The functionality of perimeter drains in basements cannot be determined in the course of a home inspection due to the presence of buried components of this system that can not be seen or evaluated.

Moisture Evaluation: Accessible surfaces were closely inspected for stains or other evidence of prior moisture entry. Selected materials in the lowest level space were tested with a professional moisture meter on the date of inspection.

The following adverse conditions related to moisture, water entry, or flooding in the basement or lowest interior space were observed to be present on the date of inspection:

Condition:

- **Visible signs of prior water entry were found to be present on some areas of foundation walls.**
- **Lack of maintenance to the roof drain system could contribute to water entry into the basement.**

Recommendations:

- **See the Roof Drainage and Exterior Drainage sections of this report for more information – proper maintenance of gutters and downspouts and adequate exterior drainage conditions can reduce the possibility of water entry into the home.**
- **Further evaluation by waterproofing specialists to determine what additional measures are needed to assure that the lowest level space in this home remains dry, followed by installation of these waterproofing systems.**

Please be aware that the lower level interior space is near or partially below grade level, and foundation walls and the floor slab floor cannot be perfectly water proofed, and therefore the possibility of water entry with consequent damage to stored materials or current and future finish materials exists, especially during extreme weather conditions. If recent dewatering (waterproofing) work has been done, this may hide evidence of prior water entry conditions, which may recur in the future. This home inspection cannot assure you that waterproofing work done by others will be completely effective. We

cannot predict future conditions related to water entry, and make no representation that water entry will not occur in the future.

THE ATTIC

Attic Space Unfinished, unfloored attic crawlspaces are present overhead and on the side, partly accessible by wall and ceiling hatches. The attic spaces were partly entered and inspected where safe access was possible.

Condition:

- **Roof ventilation may not be adequate.**

Recommendations:

- **See Roof section.**

Insulation

Visible areas of insulation: Attic floor.

Insulation Condition: **Old thin compressed material, which is not adequate.**

Note: Most homes of this age and type were not insulated well enough to meet current standards for energy efficiency. Consequently, you may find that exterior walls feel cold, and the cost for heating this home may be higher than for a similar size home built to modern construction standards.

Recommendations:

- **For older homes, even if the insulation is properly installed, it may not meet current energy standards, and you should consider further specialist evaluation to determine if additional insulation should be installed to reduce your heating and cooling costs.**
- **Replacement of old, thin compressed insulation with new insulation.**

GARAGE SPACE

Garage One car interior space.

Vehicle Doors: One overhead door.

Power Openers: None Present.

Vehicle door(s) were operated.

Doors and door hardware were found to be in functional condition.

FUEL OIL STORAGE, FIRE SAFETY ASBESTOS & other ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Fuel Oil Storage

The heating system for this home uses natural gas.

- **This home inspection does not include evaluation of buried oil tanks or**

soil testing to determine if leakage has occurred. The history of this property is not known by us, and therefore we cannot assure you that a hidden buried oil tank does not exist on this property. If a higher level of confidence regarding the presence or absence of buried tanks is desired, then a tank search utilizing specialized equipment would be required.

Recommendations:

- **Specialist search for abandoned buried tanks and specialist evaluation of buried and/or above ground oil storage tanks, either in use or abandoned. As leaking oil tanks can result in significant expenses, we advise careful review with legal counsel of any documents or statements relating to oil tank(s).**

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors & Fire Safety Devices We do not test smoke detectors, fire safety devices and carbon monoxide detectors as part of the home inspection. Installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and a fire extinguisher in kitchens are recommended for this residence. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when fossil fuels are burned. Properly operating gas, or fuel oil burning heating systems normally produce very low levels of this toxic gas, and it is normally vented to the outside of the home. The best protection against carbon monoxide poisoning in a home is regular maintenance of the heating systems and chimney and flue connections, as well as properly maintained carbon monoxide detectors/alarms in the home. Carbon monoxide detectors are required by most municipalities, and should be installed as required and should be checked for proper operation when you take occupancy of the home and yearly thereafter. Batteries should be replaced yearly as well.

Lead Paint Homes built prior to 1978 may have surfaces covered with paint containing lead oxide pigment, and under certain circumstances this lead-based paint can become a health hazard. **We are not certified lead inspectors, we are not insured for adverse conditions related to lead contamination of water, paint, or other materials in the home, and this inspection absolutely does not include testing for lead or evaluation of related hazards.**

Recommendation: Further evaluation and testing done by specialists for your protection.

Asbestos This inspection cannot guarantee that asbestos materials, which have been commonly used for insulation and some finish material, are present or absent from this home. Older homes usually have some asbestos bearing materials used in the construction, while more recently constructed homes are likely to have little or no asbestos used in the construction and interior materials. *To determine with certainty if asbestos is present, sampling and lab testing is required, which is not included in this inspection.* **We are not certified asbestos inspectors, we are not insured for adverse conditions related to asbestos, and this inspection absolutely does not include testing for asbestos or evaluation of related hazards.**

➤ **Old floor tile suspect of containing asbestos is present.**

Note: Statements in this report mentioning the presence of specific materials suspect of containing asbestos, if provided, are not to be considered to be a complete or

comprehensive evaluation statement regarding the presence or absence of asbestos in this home, and require further specialist evaluation and testing for confirmation.

Recommendations: Further evaluation and testing done by specialists, followed by remediation as may be found to be needed.

Mold & Fungal Conditions Mold and other fungal organisms are a natural part of our environment and cannot be completely eliminated. Certain types of construction and wet conditions in a home can, however, allow excessive growth of mold, and damage to the structure and a health risk may occur. Humid or wet conditions in the home and finish and stored materials in basements, below grade areas and attics may be especially prone to accelerated mold growth when water penetration occurs. **We are not certified mold inspectors or mold experts, we are not insured for adverse conditions related to mold or fungal organisms, and this inspection absolutely does not include testing for mold or other fungal organisms.**

Note: Statements in this report mentioning the presence of specific areas or materials suspect of being affected by mold, if provided, are not to be considered to be a complete or comprehensive evaluation statement regarding the presence or absence of mold in this home, and require further specialist evaluation and testing for confirmation.

Recommendation: Further evaluation and testing done by specialists, followed by remediation as may be found to be needed.

Inspection for Rodents & Other Pests Not Included This home inspection does not include an inspection for rodents and other pests such as mice, rats, squirrels, bats, roaches, bedbugs, or other insect pests.

Note: Statements in this report mentioning evidence of pest animal presence, if provided, are not to be considered to be a complete or comprehensive evaluation statement, and require further specialist evaluation and testing for confirmation.

Ordered Tests A radon screening test is being done. The results of this radon test are pending laboratory analysis and will be sent directly to you by the testing lab. If this home has a radon mitigation system installed, the radon test is done with the system in operation. The radon test is done by a licensed radon technician, but not a radon mitigation specialist, and the radon mitigation system, if present, is not evaluated or tested as part of our home inspection or the radon test.

No other tests requiring lab analysis are being done.

About this Report The goal of this home inspection report is to provide you with objective information on the condition of the home as we found it on the date of inspection. The scope of this inspection is described and limited by the Home Inspection Agreement previously transmitted or given to you. This Home Inspection is not an *environmental* inspection or *appraisal* of the property. **If you have any questions as to which items or systems are included, or excluded, or of the general nature or limitations, regulations and applicable industry standards pertaining to a Home Inspection, you should consult the Home Inspection Agreement without delay.**

This home may have had reconstruction and renovation work done after it was originally

MHI Services, Inc. - Licensed Home Inspectors

35 Glenside Road, South Orange, NJ 07079

Tel: 973-701-1097

constructed. The renovations may, or may not have, been performed in accordance with local municipal requirements. We do not review relevant building plans or permits or approvals as part of a home inspection, and therefore this home inspection should not be taken as an endorsement or certification of renovation or re-construction work that may have been done on this home. In addition, as is standard practice for home inspections, this home inspection does not specifically address municipal building codes. Be aware that for older homes what was acceptable when the home was built, may no longer be acceptable practice for a newly built home, and current municipal building codes may not apply.

Recommendations we make for repairs, maintenance, service, or further specialist evaluation, must be completed prior to your closing on the property. Only qualified and/or licensed contractors should be hired to do repair work. If you fail to follow our recommendations, or fail to have them completed prior to closing on the property, we cannot be held responsible for the consequences of your lack of action.

All separate reports from other inspections for wood destroying insects, testing laboratories, septic system and/or well experts, mold experts, etc. should be carefully read and considered as well.

May I also remind you that this report presents the condition of the home as we found it on the date of the inspection. From the date of our inspection, to the date you close on this property, systems may fail, and other damage to the home can occur, all of which is out of our control, and for which we cannot take any responsibility. For this reason it is important that you take the opportunity to re-inspect this home the day before you close, and assure yourself that the home is in a condition acceptable to you. In addition, should the home be left vacant after you close but before you move in, please be aware that the home would be more vulnerable to damage from failed systems or severe weather or vermin entry, and you are therefore advised to check the home frequently when it is vacant.

General Disclaimer The observations and findings presented in this report are based upon what was visible on the date of inspection. Many unseen problems can exist in a home without visible evidence present. It is recommended that a qualified technician in the various fields be used to do invasive testing whenever a problem is suspected. While every reasonable attempt has been made to disclose deficiencies in the home that is being considered for purchase, due diligence must be assumed by the buyer, as they alone will bear the financial burden to correct unforeseen or hidden problems that may occur after purchase. Costs of repairs or replacement cannot be accurately determined by this inspection and are not included in our report. To determine the true costs of repairs, you should obtain actual price quotations from qualified contractors prepared to do the work.

Please also Note: This is a Home Inspection with defined terms, conditions and limitations as set forth in the "Inspection Agreement", previously provided to you. The inspection is limited to accessible visible components of the home as found on the date of inspection, with no warranties or guarantees implied. The home inspection is done by a fully qualified home inspector licensed to practice in the State of NJ. As consultants for the buyer(s), we affirm that we have no proprietary interest in this property, nor do we have any other agreement with or business relationship with the principals involved in the sale of this property.

MHI Services, Inc.
South Orange & Summit New Jersey