



Structural Inspection

February 26, 2019

For: Van Brechindo
27073 Cusimano Rd
Lacombe, La. 70445

Construction:

One-story raised, wood frame, vinyl and brick siding, wood and vinyl flooring with a composition shingle roof on pier and beam foundation. (The piers are not on a continuous grade beam). The home is approximately 50 years old.

Scope:

This inspection is limited to a visual inspection of the shell of the home, including the interior and exterior foundation of the home. No inspection of the mechanical or electrical systems was performed. This report is as outlined by the National Academy of Building Inspection Engineers and is not an explanation of cause, effect, or engineering.

History:

Dammon Engineering was contacted to conduct a structural inspection of the referenced home due to elevation differences noted in the flooring.

Findings:

An overall visual inspection of the exterior and interior of the home was conducted and several items were noted.

Under the house it was noted to have a pier and beam foundation, it was also noted that the earth under the house is wet and the surrounding areas are draining under the home from the rear and sides. There is also a tree that has grown next to the front porch and pushed the roof back of the porch.

In the home it was noted to have a couple of places where the flooring/decking is rotten in the kitchen and laundry room. Most of the doors and windows are out of alignment from the home settling over time.

This inspection is limited to the apparent visual conditions of the structural components of this building. It does not cover, nor attempts to cover, any components, items, and/or conditions which, by their nature or location, are concealed or are difficult or hazardous to inspect, or which require the moving of furniture, flooring materials, rugs, fixtures, appliances, or any component-part nailed, bolted, or screwed down or shut. No opinions are expressed regarding conditions which could be discovered only by the disassembly of any component parts, special testing, or removal of any concealing objects.

Inspections are made under normal weather conditions, and are not opinions of the conditions of the property and/or structure which may exist under unusual weather conditions, such as, but not limited to floods, heavy rains or snows, high winds, temperature extremes, or any act of God. Specific hazardous wastes, toxic substances, toxic mold, air and water quality, communicable diseases, asbestos, soil, environmental, radon, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, building code and termite conditions are not included in this report unless otherwise stipulated.

This report is not a warranty or guarantee of the property inspected, but it is our opinion of its condition at the time inspected. Our liability shall be limited to reimbursement of the total cost of inspection.

Conclusion:

It is important to note that all foundations settle. Usually, everything settles together and the fastest rate of settlement occurs in the first year after construction. By the fifth or sixth year the settlement has exponentially slowed to where there is little danger that something will happen unless caused by weather, expansion & contraction, tree roots, improper drainage, etc.

Recommendation:

Although it's good to level the home, the fill under the home needs to stay dry in order that the ground not expand and contract giving movement to the sub flooring above and shifting the flooring and walls.

The items noted have not compromised the structural integrity of the home. It is my opinion that the structural integrity of this home is currently sound, but the pier and beam foundation will expand and contract with the ground movement and any standing water around it.

Items to be addressed are as follows:

- 1) Bring in fill under the units so water will shed away from underneath.
- 2) Install gutters and down spouts to subsurface drainage and out to the ditch.
- 3) Remove all trees and roots around and underneath the house.
- 4) Level the home.
- 5) As an additional option, you can install screw pilings under all the piers.
- 6) Replace all rotten wood and keep the home dry.

Sincerely,

Brian Mistich, P.E.

Pictures attached:

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