

What an Appraiser Looks For

Exterior:

1. Type and condition of roof.
2. Condition of trim, soffit and fascia (paint).
3. Type of exterior siding and condition.
4. Types of windows (are there storms?).
5. Are there porches? Condition.
6. Is there a garage? Type and condition.
7. Landscaping, walks and driveways.
8. Condition of surrounding properties and general price range.
9. What public utilities serve the property.
10. Make-up of the neighborhood (type of properties).
11. Measurements of exterior, type of house, number of stories.

Interior:

1. Notes on number of rooms, types of floors, walls, ceilings, condition.
2. Square footage.
3. Wall outlets (electrical) available in each room.
4. Baths: number, water pressure, type of floor, walls around shower/tub.
5. Handrails on stairways.
6. Condition of kitchen, type of cabinets, appliances.
7. Number of bedrooms, closets, condition.
8. Is there an attic? Floored, insulated, any evidence of leakage, condition?
9. Types of insulation in house.

Basement:

1. Types of walls and floor.
2. Condition of floor joists (dry rot, wood infestation, etc.).
3. Type of electrical wiring (fuses or circuits), amperage, 220 available.
4. Type of water heater, size and condition.
5. Type of water lines.
6. Type of heating system and condition.
7. Type of air conditioning, if any.
8. Check for any evidence of water leakage into basement, dampness.
9. Is there a floor drain or sump pump?
10. Is there an outside entrance?
11. Is there a well? If so, where is it, what type, how is it pumped?
12. Is there a septic system? If so, how large is the tank, what type, last cleaning, where is it located (near well)?
13. Check for asbestos.

Miscellaneous (NOTE: the *type* of mortgage financing will determine what an appraiser looks at:

1. Appraiser will need a copy of deed/legal description.
2. Water purity (potability) test and/or septic dye test may be required.
3. Appraiser will refer to past 6 months comparable sales.
4. Flood certification status.