Checklist: What to Investigate Around a House

You should be most concerned about things that cannot be changed or at least not easily changed. Consider the following questions.

- Are there proposed changes in the neighborhood such as a new school, apartment building or shopping complex?

- Do you look out at ugly powerlines from the home? Even if you don’t mind them, when you go to sell the home it will become a problem with buyers.

- Is there a bus or transit train stop outside the house that will attract loiterers? My brothers neighbor has a bus stop in front of his home and people waiting there regularly break boards out of his picket fence!

- Do you see into junky neighbor yards when you’re inside the home?

- What's next door or down the street that could cause unwanted foot traffic. 7 Eleven? Commercial building? School? Park? My grandmothers home was down the street from a high school and the kids would come smoke in her backyard because it was not allowed on campus!

- If you’re in the backyard, does it feel like you're in a "fishbowl" with 2 story neighboring houses looking down at you?

- Are there double yellow lines or speed bumps in the street? That usually means a busy road or occasional speeding traffic.

- How close are neighboring homes? Are you comfortable with the distance from others?

- Is the driveway too steep to navigate easily every day? A driveway sloping toward the home can cause a surprising amount of rainwater to flow into your garage or yard

- Is the garage attached to the home and is that important to you?

- How much noise can you hear inside from highways, neighbors, airplanes, or trains?

- Are you at the end of a street that will cause car headlights to shine into your living room every night?

- Would you want to and be able to walk or bike to stores, restaurants, parks, etc?

- Will you have to fight for street parking?

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