

Staff Report

71 Manitoba / 9/3/26

71 Manitoba Avenue is a single-family home owned by Nathan Malmgren Jr. There is also a contract for deed on the property associated with Thomas Delisle Revocable Trust. This house was built in 1890. While reviewing the property history in Ramsey County Beacon, this property was found to have generated several assessments in 2026 alone.

Timeline

8/8/26: Report received from SPFD. Fire department was called to the report of a house fire. Firefighters arrived and found a front porch on fire. Individuals on scene reported watching TV when a neighbor came pounding on the back door and informed them of the fire. The resident grabbed a hose and extinguished the fire. The investigation revealed multiple cigarette butts in the area of origin and a area of origin on the porch's southeastern corner.

8/10/26: Monday. Upon returning to work, we believed this to be an owner occupied property. This fire referral was forwarded over to code enforcement for follow up.

8/27/26: Sean Westenhofer with code enforcement contacted me regarding this property. Sean explained that while he and his team were out at this site, they were met by multiple different people (not the owner) leading them to believe this this was a non-compliant certificate of occupancy property. Code enforcement asked fire safety to take lead on this property.

8/28/26: Initial inspection made at property. On 8/28, I responded to this property to make an initial inspection. While going to check the fire damage on the front deck/porch area, I found the decking to be spongy and only supported by a 2"x2" piece of wood. Due to the fire damage and likely previously existing erosion to the front deck/porch, based upon my training and experience, this ingress/egress route was immediately condemned. Civilians would not be able to use this as an egress route, and firefighters (under the weight of their gear) would immediately fall through the decking, injuring themselves. I then went around the driveway side of the house where I found another breezeway leading to a side door. Looking into this doorway, the decking for this walkway was not visible whatsoever and appeared to have either rotted away or has been removed. There is currently a 2-3 foot drop should you attempt to step onto this walkway. Again like the front door, this side door was immediately condemned; thus leaving no safe egress/ingress into or out of the home. I completed my exterior inspection of the property and found the following:

Unsafe window

Several sections of siding missing

Weeds in yard more than ten feet high

Weeds near home shall cause damage to foundation

Front yard retaining wall removed, shall divert water

In plain view from the exterior of the home, heavy contents can be seen inside

Unsafe electrical

No certificate of occupancy. A check of utilities billing showed that some utilities are under a female name, not one of the listed owners of the property.

Reviewing permits on the property I found the following:

1/3/13: Permit issued for steam or hot water, residential replace. Not completed.

1/3/13: Permit issued for gas, residential replace. Not completed.

12/1/22: Permit issued for tear off and reroof dwelling. Not completed.

There are currently no permits open for the above mentioned deficiencies. It is my professional opinion as both a fire safety supervisor and building official limited, that this property needs to remain vacant, a full fire safety inspection be completed, and a full code compliance inspection be completed as well due to the critical pending