

THE MANHATTAN STREET CORNERS

Richard Howe, Photographer

CONCEPT

Overview

A set of about 11,000 digital panoramic color photographs documenting each of the 11,000 or so street corners on the island of Manhattan

Photographs taken March—November, 2006

To be fully searchable by both location and content

To be bundled with database/search engine and user interface providing map-, menu-, and keyword-driven access as well as screen-image scaling and navigation facilities

Distribution media to be portable hard drives or pre-loaded iMacs

To be made available separately

[Website with full search capabilities]

[Large format monograph]

[DVDs]

Quality prints (available now, on request)

Images

5513 x 1837 pixel JPGs (55.125" x 18.375" on 100 ppi screen), scalable for viewing at smaller sizes

Website images no bigger than 1200 x 400 pixels

Source file availability restricted

Search capabilities

Search capabilities to be modelled loosely on Google Maps, but less restrictive. Future releases may provide click-through to Google Maps and/or Google Earth

Searches eventually to be hierarchical, i.e., new search limited to prior search results (drill down in stages)

Search results to be bookmarkable

Italicized features listed in brackets [] below are not planned for 1st release but for 2nd release or later; question mark "?" indicates a possible but not planned feature.

Map-based search

(may be used in conjunction with keyword- and menu-based search)

Individual corner, intersection

[Street]

[User-defined area]

[User-defined path]

Menu-based search

(may be used in conjunction with map locator and keyword-based search)

Pull-down menus with pre-defined searches, e.g., Broadway, Midtown, subway

Dialogue boxes with radio buttons and check boxes to modify pre-defined searches

Choice of "sticky" or "not sticky" dialogue box settings

Keyword-based search

(may be used in conjunction with map locator and menu-based search)

Keyword-based searches may be guided a la Google's "Advanced Search" or, at the user's option, may use the full SQL syntax

As above (map locator), plus

Compass point

NE, SE, SW, NW

Named neighborhood

Pre-defined area

User-defined area

[Street address?]

[GIS locator?]

Content

By category, e.g., restaurant, grocery store, bank, subway, bicycle riders, people in wheelchairs, kids, dogs, elderly, etc.

By name, e.g., Herald Square, UN, Lincoln Center, Cotton Club, etc.

Distribution media

Robust portable hard drives (<100GB)

Pre-loaded on iMac or comparable system to provide turn-key package

To be made available separately

[Website (possibly restricted to subscribers) with comparable search capabilities, but with smaller images]

[Large format (14" x 9") monograph with 100-200 images, to be published and edited by Vincent Virga of The Picture Book Press, with essay by Richard Howe and introduction by historian Michael Wallace]

[DVDs (both images and software) for individual neighborhoods, avenues, areas]

Quality prints in sizes up 36" x 12" for most of the photographs; some will print substantially larger, up to 72" x 24"; some are viable only at or below 24" x 8".

PROJECT STATUS

Work completed

Photography

Completed November 2006 except for a small number of reshoots and omissions

Editing

Selection of images finished (but subject to revision)

Cataloging and keywording

6,000 of 11,000 images catalogued (*i.e.*, locations encoded in file names)

Location keywords (streets, compass points) entered for same 6,000 images

Image processing

Website quality: 6,000 images processed adequately for current website Flash galleries (and basis for second level)

For monitor-viewing up to full size (5513 x 1837 pixels): further processing of same 6,000 images, with relatively minor adjustments

For high-quality printing: 101 "sampler" images plus all of Tenth Avenue and part of Ninth Avenue

Work remaining

Photography

A small number of reshoots and omissions (currently less than 1% of the total)

Editing

Final review

Cataloging and keywording

Catalogue remaining 5,500 images

Enter location keywords for same 5,500 images

Enter content keywords for all images

Proof catalogue and keywords for completeness, correctness, and consistency

Image processing

Website quality: process remaining 5,500 images

For monitor-viewing up to full size (5513 x 1837 pixels): further process same 5,500 images, but with relatively minor adjustments, and not required for all of them

For high-quality printing: in general, processing for printing will be done on-demand only

Proof all images and correct processing errors

User interface: map, search, and navigation capabilities

Database transfer: transfer full size JPGs and their keywords to open SQL database

Integrate map-, menu-, and keyword-based search, as well as image navigation capabilities with open SQL database software

Link images and map locations

User documentation

Produce overview and introduction, installation guide, and user manual

Website

Upgrade website to provide search and navigation capabilities on-line

Produce 1200 x 400 pixel images for website

Test, upload, test

Publishing

Publish large format monograph as described above

Create DVDs, one for each neighborhood, avenue, area.