



## The same public private partnership should build and maintain a national address file

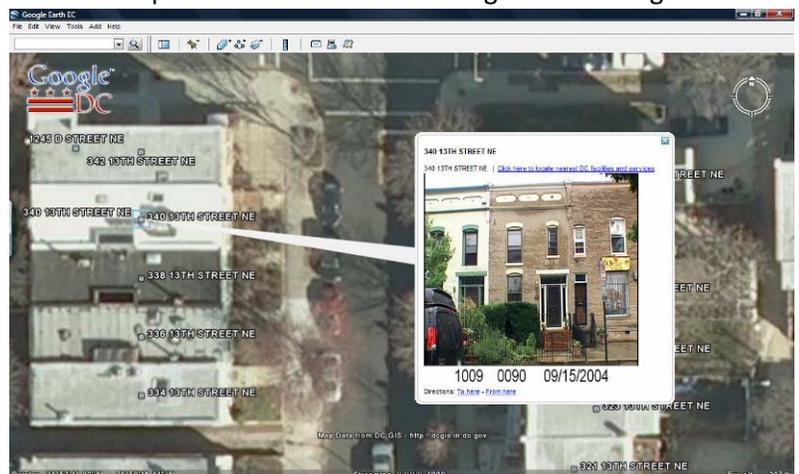
Addresses are not the same as parcels. Particularly in urban areas there is an often a complex many-to-many relationship between the two. National parcels are not a substitute for national addresses which are the preferred data set for 911 and geocoding non-spatial data.

Supporting production of a shareable national address database will allow the U.S. to take another step in the evolution of geospatial technologies that may be comparable to the DIME and TIGER street centerline files.

### Analysis



- Currently, most internet location based systems use address ranges that are associated with a road segment such as a one block segment of a road in an urban area (see graphic on left). This allows a “reasonable person” to find the general area of the exact address they are seeking and ultimately to locate the building. While this approach works reasonably well, tremendous improvements in the technology can be realized through improved addressing.
- Government agencies must maintain precise locations for addresses to ensure timely delivery of emergency services and for a host of other applications such as taxation. Precise address points look more like the graphic on the right where the red “+” symbols represent individual structures along the street highlighted in the red oval at left.
- The following are examples of industries that are dependent on addressing information: 911 dispatch, utilities, real estate, emergency management, telecommunications, healthcare, insurance, local delivery, service providers, and marketing.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is creating an accurate master file of addresses for structures in the Nation to support the 2010 census. It will not share the map coordinates and simple address data with other government agencies or the public due to Title 13 privacy restrictions. The United States Postal Service has similar data and the ability to maintain the data.
- Because street addresses have evolved over many decades, under the control of thousands of local jurisdictions, in many different record and database formats, and to serve many purposes, different address formats pose a number of complex geo-processing and modeling issues. As a consequence, government agencies struggle with these issues as they seek to integrate large, mission-critical files into master address repositories.



**District of Columbia Master Address Repository**

### Solution/Steps to be taken

- 1) Ask Congress to remove addresses and address point locations from Title 13 restrictions and to instruct the U.S. Census Bureau to make them publicly available.
- 2) Make the maintenance of addresses data the responsibility of the same public-private partnership that will build the parcel database.
- 3) Give the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Postal Service sufficient funds to be full participants in the partnership.

This paper is the personal opinion of Barney Krucoff (not the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, the National States Geographic Information Council, or the District of Columbia with all of which Mr. Krucoff has associations)