

## Instructions for Alley Photography

Thanks for volunteering! Not too many instructions but they're important ones.

Shoot only alley buildings such as garages and permanent structures. No need to shoot garden sheds and temporary buildings. Shoot old and new buildings, no age discrimination.

Shoot your shots obliquely so that you're shooting towards a corner and we see two sides. We'd prefer to see openings such as windows and doors versus blank walls. If at all possible, get a piece of the main house in the photo so we can see the relationship to the house.

They don't have to be gorgeous shots. Utilitarian is what we're looking for. Try to shoot on cloudy days so we don't have strong shadows from the eaves and such. Lighting doesn't have to be perfect but try not to shoot into the sun.

Take photos in horizontal, landscape format. No turning the camera sideways.

Don't shoot more than two shots per property.



Digital cameras take a variety of photo resolutions. We're looking for photos around 2mb a piece. That'd translate to photos around 2600 x 2100 pixels on a "normal" quality setting. 2000 x 1500 would be around the lowest resolution acceptable. Saved in JPG format.

Take your map of the neighborhood with you when you're out photographing. Take the list of addresses with you also. Write down the photo number that you're shooting next to the address of the main house to which the outbuilding belongs. Thus, the "left side" of an alley goes with addresses on the "left" street, while the "right side" of an alley goes with the addresses on the "right" street. It's easy to get disoriented to which street garages belong so we suggest you take photos down one side of the alley and then switch to the other side of the alley.

Note that the "frame" your camera displays is not always the same as the photo "number" that the camera stores the picture under. Often the camera displays the number of the photos left on your camera while recording and you have to switch to "playback" to see the frame number for a photo. Your camera may append a date on the front of the frame number also. Or your camera may start renumbering photos on each day. Check to make sure the number you're writing on your map corresponds to the file name for the picture.

We've noticed many of the alley garages have their corresponding house number on them, which is really handy. Sometimes it can be pretty difficult to figure out which house goes with which garage. That's where the map comes in handy and where a photo partner can help out.

Also write down the date you're taking the photos on which alley. Your camera may number photos consecutively or store photos in files according to date. Those are the two most common ways. So write down the photo number next to the address on your address list so that we can match up the two. No need to rename your photos but we'd like to have none of your photos come through with the same file name. Please don't give us ten files labeled simply 001.jpg in ten different file folders. We'll enter your file names in our database and that'll pick them up. If this is a little confusing, we can discuss it further.

Don't "play" with the photos after you've taken them. No Photoshop'ing or tweaking necessary. Computer monitors can vary to an amazing degree and we trust the cameras more than photo software.

And that's about it! Thanks for volunteering and have fun out there meeting your neighbors!