Process for Geocoding in QGIS
Using Google and OpenStreetMap Web Map Services

Geocoding is the process of getting the corresponding coordinates for a list of addresses.
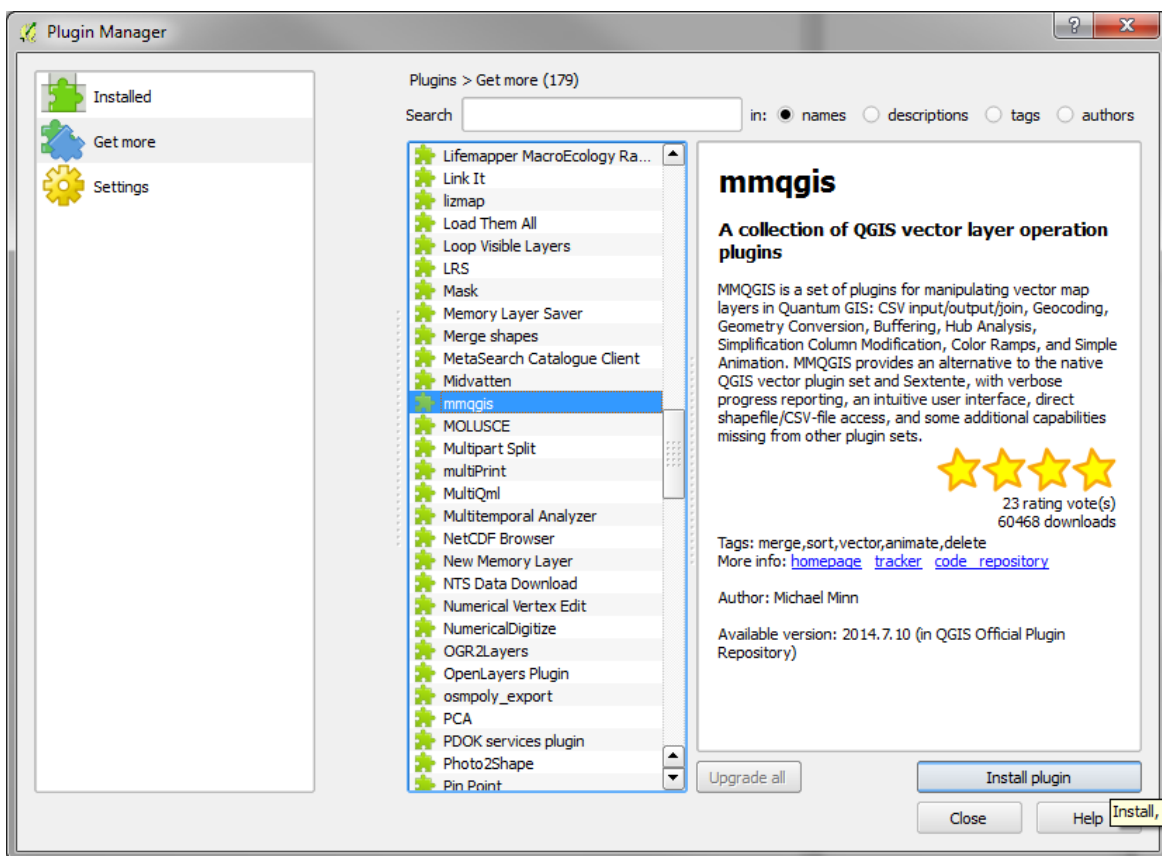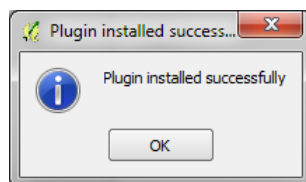
1   INSTALL MMQGIS PLUGIN

See the QGIS User Manual for more information on managing plugins.

Open the Plugin Manager – *Plugins -> Install and Manage Plugins.*

Select *Get More* in the left panel and look for "*mmqgis*" in the list of available plugins.

Click *Install plugin.* You will get a success message and a new MMQGIS item will be added to the menu.
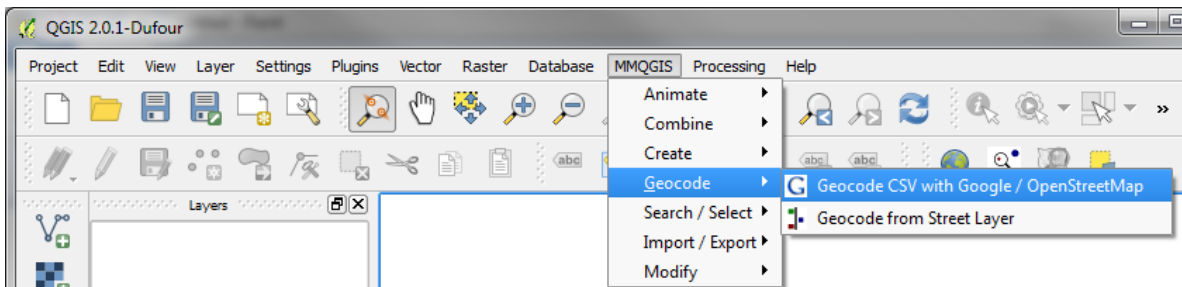
2 PROCEDURE

2.1 PRE-PROCESSING

Data must be in CSV (Comma-separated Values also known as Comma-delimited) format.

If your data is stored in an Excel spreadsheet, convert it to CSV – *File -> Save As -> CSV (Comma-delimited) under "Save as Type".*

2.2 GEOCODING USING GOOGLE MAPS

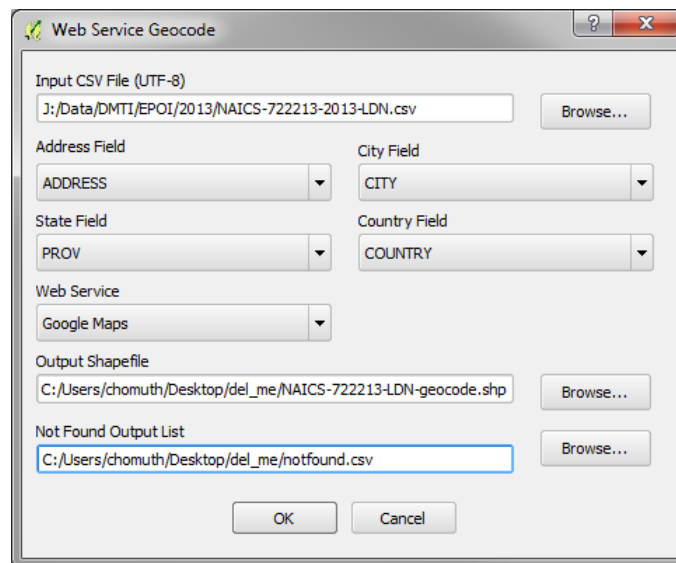*MMQGIS -> Geocode -> Geocode CSV with Google/OpenStreetMap*
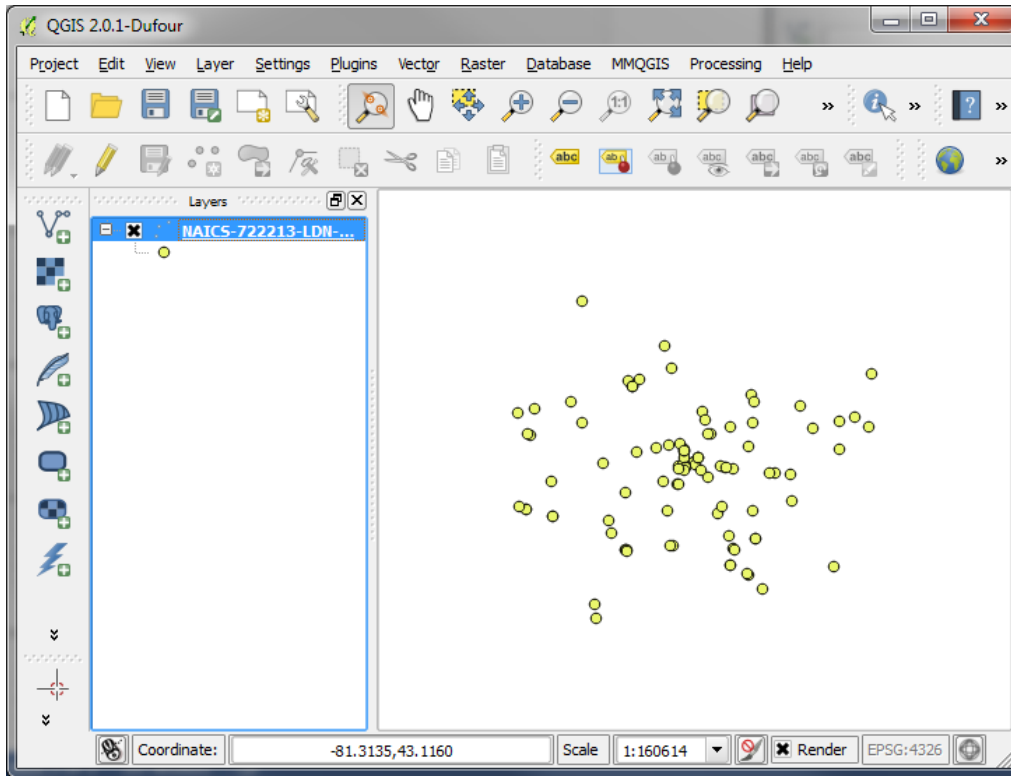

Navigate to your file using the *Browse* button.

Ensure the *Output Shapefile* and *Not Found Output List* locations have write privileges. The *Not Found Output List* will produce a CSV file of locations that were not able to be geocoded.
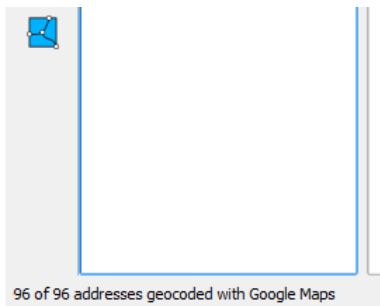
Select *Google Maps* under *Web Service.*

Click *OK*. Depending on the number of records, the processing may take a while.

Once the process is complete, the resulting shapefile will be added to your map display.
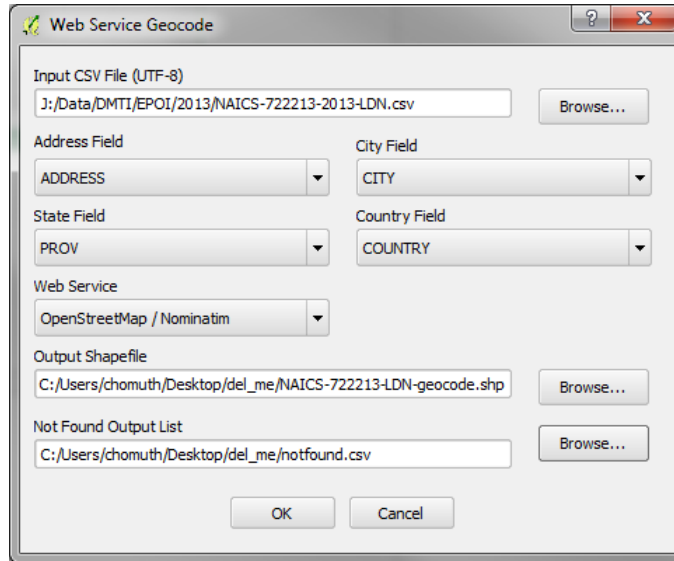
At the bottom left corner of the screen, there will be a status bar counting how many addresses have been geocoded during the process and the final count once completed.

96 of 96 addresses geocoded with Google Maps

2.3   GEOCODING USING OPENSTREETMAP

The process for using the OpenStreetMap web service is the same except *OpenStreetMap/Nominatim* is selected under *Web Service*.

At the bottom left corner of the screen, there will be a status bar counting how many addresses have been geocoded during the process and the final count once completed.
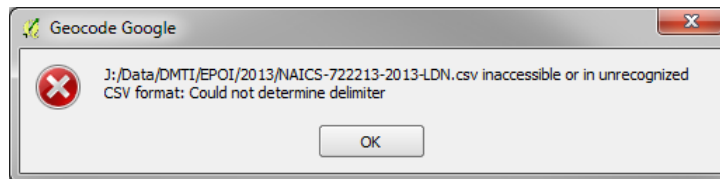

87 of 96 addresses geocoded with OpenStreetMap / Nominatim

In this case, it was unable to locate 9 addresses which are listed in the *notfound.csv* file.

3 TROUBLESHOOTING

If you receive the following error message when selecting your CSV file, open the file in Notepad and delete the blank line at the bottom if there is one. Also make sure your file does not already contain coordinates as geocoding would not be necessary.

4 SOURCES

How to Make a Web Map from a List of Addresses in a Spreadsheet – Mango Map Blog
http://blog.mangomap.com/post/74368997570/how-to-make-a-web-map-from-a-list-of-addresses-in-a#

QGIS User Manual
http://docs.qgis.org/2.2/en/docs/user_manual/