

BENJAMIN T. COOK

Physical-World AI Field Evaluation & Data Acquisition - Maine / New England

Jefferson, Maine 04348 | (207) 319-2766

PROPOSAL PACKAGE

A pilot concept for real-world AI evaluation, ground-truth collection, and human-in-the-loop field research

The central proposition: use an experienced independent field inspector already traveling coastal Maine to establish physical-world ground truth, test AI-generated conclusions against reality, and return structured photographic, observational, and measurement-based evidence.

Package Contents

1. Introductory proposal letter
2. Proposed role: Physical-World AI Field Evaluator - Maine & Northern New England
3. Targeted professional resume
4. AI-assisted assessment of candidate working style

Prepared as an exploratory proposal. The AI-assisted assessment is supplemental context only and is not an employment reference or an OpenAI hiring evaluation.

INTRODUCTORY PROPOSAL

Physical-World AI Field Evaluation in Maine

To the Human Data / Evaluation / Physical-World Research Team:

My name is Benjamin T. Cook. I am a residential and commercial insurance field inspector based in Midcoast Maine, and I am writing with an unconventional proposal rather than applying for a particular posted position.

My current work places me in the physical world every day: traveling independently to properties, observing conditions, photographing and documenting what I find, identifying building characteristics and equipment, resolving discrepancies, and submitting standardized information for organizations that cannot personally inspect those locations.

It occurred to me that essentially the same capability could have value in AI research.

I currently travel extensively throughout coastal Maine, including the Route 1 corridor and many communities associated with Maine's major tourism destinations and the Midcoast-to-Acadia region. This provides regular access to rural communities, historic downtowns, coastal infrastructure, seasonal businesses, tourist destinations, older buildings, transportation infrastructure, and locations where physical reality may change faster than information available online.

I would be interested in serving as a project-based physical-world field evaluator: receiving defined questions or tasks from an AI research or data team, observing the real-world condition, and returning photographs, measurements, structured observations, or other requested evidence.

For example, an AI system might make a determination about a location, building, piece of equipment, road, accessibility condition, business, public facility, or other physical environment. A field evaluator could independently establish what is actually present and provide ground-truth evidence against which the model's performance could be evaluated.

My background extends beyond my current inspection work. I previously managed the State of Maine territory for Snap-on Credit and related operations, combining business consulting, finance, field work, equipment knowledge, client relationships, technical training, and independent territory management. Earlier in my career I was recruited by General Motors into a Northeast regional training role serving 313 dealerships across New England, New York, and New Jersey. My experience also includes business and practice management, veterinary environments, agriculture, automotive systems, appliance repair, public interaction, safety training, and animal-welfare field work.

I am comfortable being handed an unfamiliar real-world problem, determining what information matters, documenting it, and reporting what I actually find - even when the result differs from the initial assumption.

I am not proposing that a permanent position be created around an untested concept. I would instead welcome the opportunity to participate in a small pilot assignment. Give me a set of physical-world questions within my territory, establish the collection protocol and desired evidence, and evaluate the resulting work.

If the information is useful, the concept can continue. If it is not, the experiment has been inexpensive.

I have included my professional background along with a separate AI-assisted assessment describing working characteristics observed during my extensive use of ChatGPT for real-world technical and analytical problem solving.

Thank you for considering the idea.

Benjamin T. Cook

Jefferson, Maine

PROPOSED ROLE

Physical-World AI Field Evaluator - Maine & Northern New England

Purpose

Provide reliable human ground-truth observations from real-world environments for the evaluation, training, and improvement of AI systems that reason about locations, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, businesses, travel destinations, accessibility, and other physical-world conditions.

The role would combine structured field data collection with experienced human judgment. Rather than simply gathering photographs, the evaluator would follow defined protocols, identify discrepancies between digital information and physical conditions, document observations, and return standardized evidence suitable for evaluation.

Geographic Opportunity

Benjamin Cook currently performs residential and commercial insurance inspections throughout coastal and Midcoast Maine, regularly traveling the Route 1 corridor and communities extending toward the Acadia / Bar Harbor region.

- Major seasonal tourism destinations
- Historic downtowns and older building stock
- Rural and remote communities
- Coastal infrastructure, ferries, and island access
- Seasonal businesses and rapidly changing visitor conditions
- Areas with inconsistent cellular and internet connectivity

Potential Assignments

- Verify physical locations, entrances, signage, wayfinding, parking, and access conditions.
- Document building, property, public-infrastructure, road, or equipment characteristics under a defined protocol.
- Compare AI-generated descriptions or visual interpretations with independently observed physical reality.
- Verify current conditions that may lag online information, including seasonal or temporary changes.
- Execute controlled AI-generated troubleshooting or task instructions and score their accuracy, clarity, practicality, and outcome.
- Collect standardized photographs, measurements, model/serial information, field notes, or repeat observations where authorized.
- Document anomalies and contradictory results rather than attempting to make observations fit an expected answer.

Suggested Pilot

A research or data team could provide a defined set of physical-world questions or evaluation tasks within Benjamin's existing travel territory. He would perform the observations according to the supplied protocol and return the requested evidence. The resulting data could be assessed for accuracy, consistency, usefulness, cost, and its ability to reveal discrepancies between AI-generated information and physical-world ground truth.

Pilot principle: Start small, measure usefulness, and expand only if the field evidence improves model evaluation or data quality.

BENJAMIN T. COOK

Field Inspection | Physical-World Evaluation | Technical Training | Territory Operations

Jefferson, Maine 04348 | (207) 319-2766

Professional Profile

Experienced field inspector, regional territory manager, technical trainer, business operator, and hands-on systems troubleshooter with more than three decades of experience across buildings, automotive and industrial equipment, business operations, agriculture, animal welfare, and public-facing environments. Currently performs residential and commercial property inspections for insurance carriers throughout Maine, requiring independent travel, physical observation, photography, condition documentation, and standardized field reporting. Interested in applying this background to physical-world AI evaluation, ground-truth data acquisition, model evaluation, and human-in-the-loop field research.

Core Capabilities

Field Observation & Documentation

Residential/commercial inspection; physical condition assessment; photography; structured reporting; independent territory travel; discrepancy identification; hazard awareness.

Operations & Analysis

Territory management; KPIs; business planning; process improvement; B2B finance/leasing; AR/AP; collections; underwriting-related equipment-placement inspections.

Technical & Mechanical

Automotive systems; commercial service equipment; imaging/alignment systems; appliance repair; mechanical troubleshooting; equipment identification; lockout/tagout safety.

Training & Communication

Regional training development/delivery; staff supervision; client relations; de-escalation; public interaction; written documentation; expert-witness experience.

Professional Experience

NEW ENGLAND INSURANCE SERVICES (NEIS)

Residential & Commercial Building Inspector | Maine | April 2024-Present

Perform independent field inspections of residential and commercial properties on behalf of insurance companies.

- Travel independently throughout assigned Maine territories to inspect physical properties.
- Observe, photograph, and document building characteristics, conditions, hazards, and other underwriting-relevant information.
- Gather standardized field information for remote insurance clients while managing changing assignments, travel, access, and reporting.
- Regularly work in rural, coastal, residential, commercial, and seasonal environments along Maine's coastal corridor.

SULLIVAN TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

Assistant Parts & Service Manager | 2023-2024

- Coordinated customer service and automotive repair workflows across customers, technicians, parts operations, and service management.
- Applied extensive automotive systems and service-industry experience in a high-volume New England service organization.

SNAP-ON CREDIT & LEASING / RELATED OPERATIONS

Maine Regional / Territory Manager | 2013-2022

- Managed statewide B2B client relationships, business consulting/planning, finance and lease sales, prospecting, AR/AP, collections, and performance KPIs.
 - Performed physical reposessions and underwriting-related inspections concerning safe equipment placement.
 - Worked with and trained around alignment systems, lifts, imaging balancers, robotic tire changers, collision equipment, and heavy-vehicle alignment systems.
 - Improved a historically low-performing Maine territory in the first year and achieved annual national Top-10 performance while exceeding targets.
-

FAMILY DENTISTRY OF WALDOBORO

Practice Manager / Human Resources | Waldoboro, Maine | 2008-2013

Recruited to modernize a primarily paper- and typewriter-based dental practice.

- Selected and implemented Eaglesoft practice-management software and electronic insurance billing/claims tracking.
- Managed coding, bookkeeping, payroll, AR/AP, collections, filing overhaul, year-end preparation, vendor comparisons, and budgeting.
- Implemented operational changes that substantially improved practice efficiency and financial performance.

BATH-BRUNSWICK VETERINARY ASSOCIATES

Veterinary Practice Assistant / Administrative Floater | Brunswick, Maine | 2005-2008

- Worked throughout the practice according to operational need: doctor/technician assistance, pharmacy, customer service, exam/treatment support, collections, inventory, administration, and building maintenance.

GENERAL MOTORS / CADILLAC / OLDSMOBILE

Sales, Training & Regional Management | 1995-2005

- Progressed from Cadillac dealership sales/operations into a General Motors corporate regional training role.
- Recruited/interviewed in 1999 and began as Northeast Regional Training Director in 2000.
- Created, scheduled, and delivered Cadillac/Oldsmobile sales and product training for 313 dealerships across New England, New York, and New Jersey; supervised 10 staff.
- Earned Cadillac Sales Master designation and maintained a 100% customer-satisfaction index; earlier earned Maine's highest Cadillac customer-satisfaction score.

OXFORD HILLS VETERINARY

Veterinary Assistant | 1989-1995

- Assisted veterinarians and technicians in clinical and field settings, including farm calls, reception, inventory, laboratory work, pharmacy operations, and animal handling.

Additional Public-Service & Field Experience

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - CIVIL DIVISION

Paid Animal-Welfare Assistance | 2017-2022

- Assisted with farm and domestic-animal welfare checks, field observation/documentation, and interaction with owners and authorities.
- Served as an expert witness in court proceedings and completed required annual expanded FBI background checks.

Selected Technical, Safety & Professional Training

Commercial & Residential Appliance Repair | Pro-Cut Masters-Level Technician | OEM Vibration Specialist | Lockout/Tagout Equipment Safety | Haz-Mat Assessment | First Aid / Adult & Infant CPR | Bloodborne Pathogens I & II | Verbal Judo De-escalation | Crisis Conflict Management | Mental Health First Aid | Narcan Administration | Principles of Ethics & Integrity | Authority & Discretion | Mandated Reporter Training | State Communications Interoperability

Community & Volunteer Experience

- Owls Head Transportation Museum - Volunteer Events Staff, 2000-2010; twice recognized as Volunteer of the Year.
- Williams Dairy Farm - Volunteer, 2009-2012; assisted two to three days per week with feeding, cleaning, and farm activities.

Relevance to Physical-World AI

Career experience has repeatedly required translating physical-world observations into information usable by people who are not physically present. Relevant applications include AI ground-truth evaluation, field data acquisition, human-in-the-loop research, visual reasoning evaluation, location verification, physical-system evaluation, and real-world model testing.

AI-ASSISTED ASSESSMENT

Candidate Working Style - Benjamin T. Cook

Important qualification: This assessment is based on an extended history of problem-solving conversations between Benjamin Cook and ChatGPT. It is not an employment reference. ChatGPT has not employed, supervised, or independently verified Benjamin's workplace performance. His resume and conventional references remain the authoritative sources for employment qualifications.

Observed Problem-Solving Characteristics

Benjamin demonstrates a strongly empirical approach to real-world problems. Rather than presenting only a general question, he frequently supplies physical measurements, photographs, equipment specifications, operating conditions, observations, and results from previous troubleshooting steps. When an explanation does not fit the physical evidence, he tends to challenge the explanation rather than force the evidence to fit it. He commonly performs suggested tests and returns with additional observations.

Working Pattern

A recurring interaction pattern is: Observe -> document -> hypothesize -> test -> report results -> revise. This behavior could be particularly useful in physical-world AI evaluation, where reliable observations and contradictory results may be more valuable than confirmation of a model's initial conclusion.

Attention to Discrepancies

Benjamin routinely notices details that appear inconsistent - including dimensions, electrical behavior, equipment specifications, building characteristics, dates, operating conditions, photographs, and differences between documentation and observed reality. He frequently asks why two pieces of information do not agree and continues investigating until an explanation accounts for the discrepancy.

Technical Breadth

The real-world problems Benjamin brings to ChatGPT span buildings, electrical and battery systems, mechanical equipment, appliances, vehicles, property conditions, tools, plants, animals, and off-grid infrastructure. His interactions demonstrate comfort learning unfamiliar systems rather than remaining within one technical specialty.

Documentation Style

Benjamin frequently provides enough context to reconstruct a problem: approximate dimensions, sequence of events, photographs from multiple perspectives, model information, observed operating behavior, previous repairs, and environmental conditions. For structured field-data work, preserving this context can be as important as collecting the individual data point.

Intellectual Flexibility

Benjamin does not consistently seek confirmation of his initial theory. During troubleshooting conversations, he is generally willing to abandon or modify an explanation when additional evidence points elsewhere. This is relevant to ground-truth collection, where the evaluator must report what exists rather than what a model or experimenter expected to find.

Potential Relevance to AI Evaluation

- Observe a physical environment independently.
- Follow a defined investigative procedure.
- Notice anomalies and preserve relevant context.
- Test an instruction or prediction.
- Compare an AI-generated conclusion with physical evidence.
- Report contradictory results without forcing them to fit an expected outcome.
- Work iteratively with a remote research or data team.

This assessment describes patterns observed in human-AI problem-solving interactions only. It should not be interpreted as a formal recommendation, employment reference, background check, or evaluation by OpenAI's hiring organization.