

# New Edinburgh, Ottawa, 1832-1862

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Planners: Thomas McKay & T.C. Keefer

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## Background:

In 1829, Thomas McKay settled with his family in a house by the Rideau Falls, located at the confluence of the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. McKay began constructing mills along the Rideau River, and by 1832 had assembled some 800 acres of surrounding land. Later that year, he laid down New Edinburgh's first streets, and began constructing and renting houses to his mill workers. In 1838, McKay moved to the outskirts of New Edinburgh, into a house that is now Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor-General. After McKay's death in 1855, his son-in-law T.C. Keefer continued developing the village, which was incorporated in 1867, and annexed by the City of Ottawa in 1887.

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## Key Design Principles:

- grid street pattern with north-south rear lanes
  - variety of housing types and architectural styles
  - considerable recent infill
  - capacity for rear lane housing
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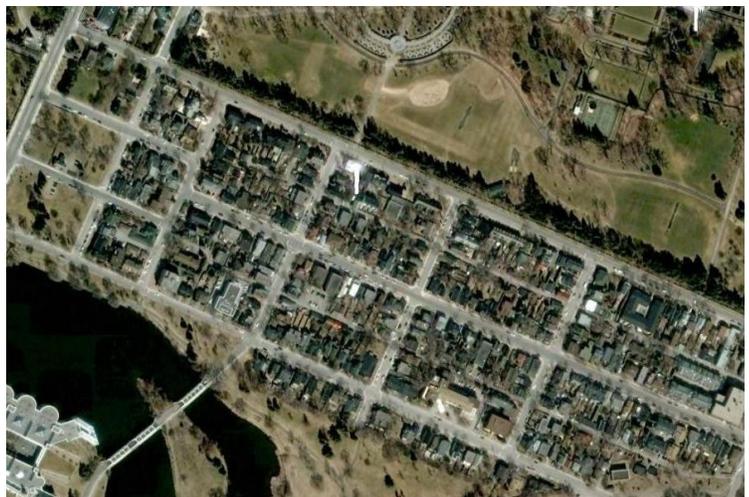
## New Edinburgh Profile:

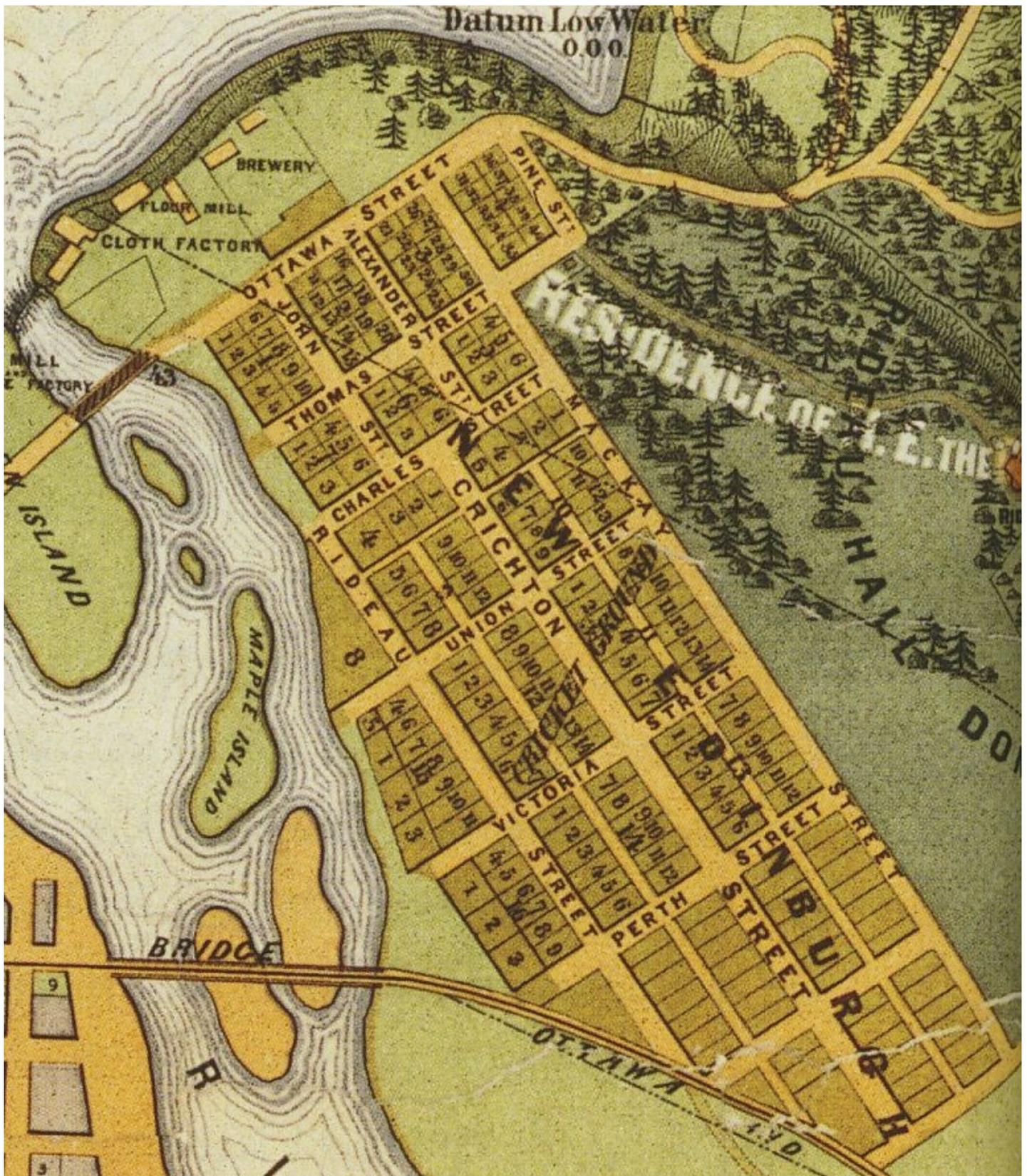
The neighbourhood's street grid is aligned to the area's major natural features, the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, with a series of rear lanes running north-south along each block. While all of the lots within each block were of equal size when laid out (typically sixteen 18 x 47 metre lots to the block, laid out in an 8 x 2 pattern), many of the lots have been severed in half lengthwise, with some also being severed widthwise to create lots fronting onto the rear lanes. Thus, were all of the lots in a block to be doubly severed in that way, a maximum theoretical net density of 46 dwelling units to the hectare could be achieved (up from the current 33 dwelling units to the hectare). A variety of housing types can be found within the neighbourhood, including those that were part of the original development (row housing, duplexes and single-detached houses), as well as more recent infill (such as rear lane housing and houses with inappropriate dormers and front-yard garages).

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## New Edinburgh Key Statistics

Population (2001)	1,008
Gross Density	18 du/ha
Net Density	33 du/ha
Theoretical Max. Net Density	46 du/ha
Lot Frontage (typical)	18 m (60')
Lot Depth (typical)	47 m (155')
ROW Width	6-20 m (20-66')
Block Frontage (typical)	146 m (480')
Block Depth (typical)	101 m (330')
Block Size (typical)	13,870 m <sup>2</sup>





**Additional Information:**

T.C. Keefer's 1864 Plan. (Source: Library & Archives Canada, NMC 17613)

City of Ottawa, Department of Urban Planning and Public Works. *New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District Study*. September 2000.