

Executive Summary

LENN CORBIN:
Are Neotraditional Planning
Techniques Based on Historical
Precedents?: A typological
analysis of three Eastern
Ontario communities

The following report analyzed whether the neotraditional typologies outlined in the Architectural Graphic Standards (1994), are based on historical precedents. That is, do neotraditional developments use the same road widths, open spaces and block types that turn of the century developments used when designing their new communities? To answer this question, three historic Eastern Ontario communities Brockville, Gananoque and Perth were selected in order to compare the neotraditional typologies outlined in the Architectural Graphic Standards to the historic precedents used in the three case study communities. Since it would be impossible to examine all of the typologies outlined in the Architectural Graphic Standards, six typological classifications were selected. The six typologies selected for this report were the Square Block; Elongated Block; Detached Square Open Space; Civic Plaza Open Space; Main Street and the Alley.

The ultimate objective of this report was to discover if the reasons for using historic planning precedents today, differ from those of the past? The bulk of the quantitative and qualitative information gathered for this report uncovered the historic reasons for using the planning precedents and the neotraditional reasons for using the historic planning precedents today. Once the historical and present-day contexts had been determined and compared, one could uncover whether the six typologies selected had maintained their historical context. This analysis discovered that only two out of the six typologies selected had maintained their historical context through to the present-day. The Detached Square and Civic Plaza Open Spaces were the only two typologies that seem to be have been used for the same reasons as past developments. The four other

typologies selected from the Architectural Graphic Standards tended not be used in the same way or for the same reasons as they were used in the past. The reasons for the modifications varied from precedent to precedent. What was constant however, was that all of the typologies selected for this study were found to be based on historical precedents.