

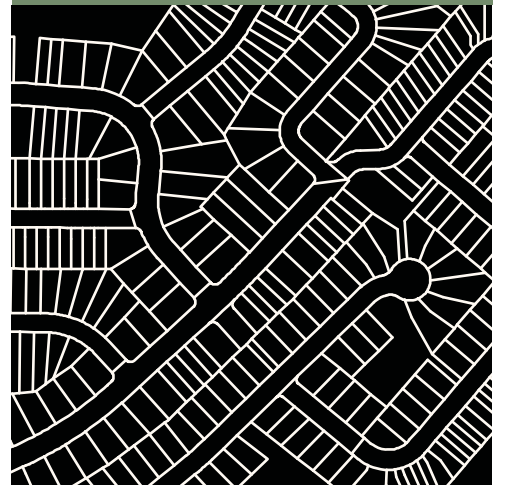
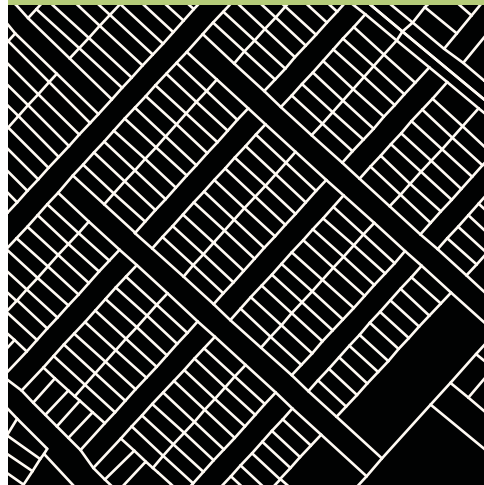
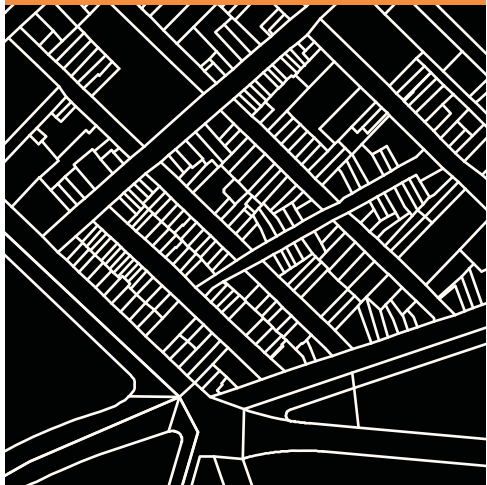
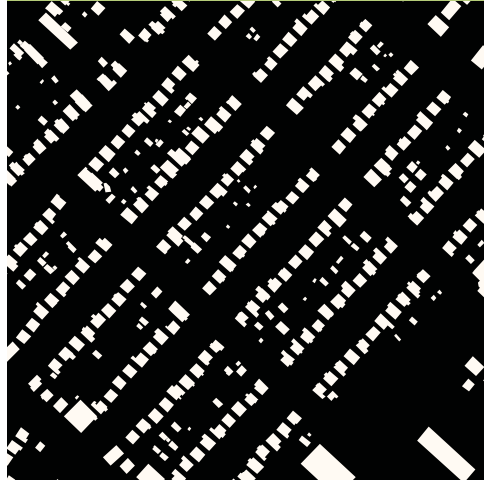
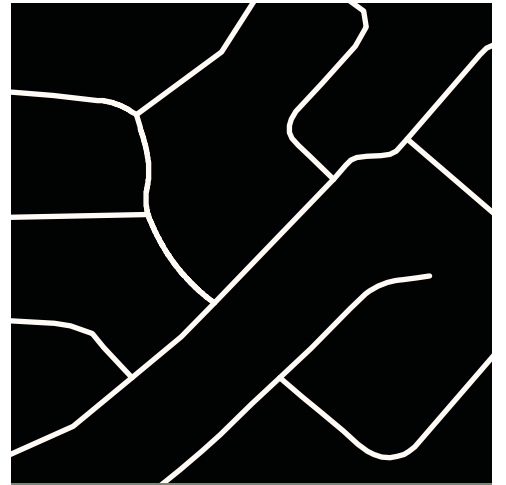
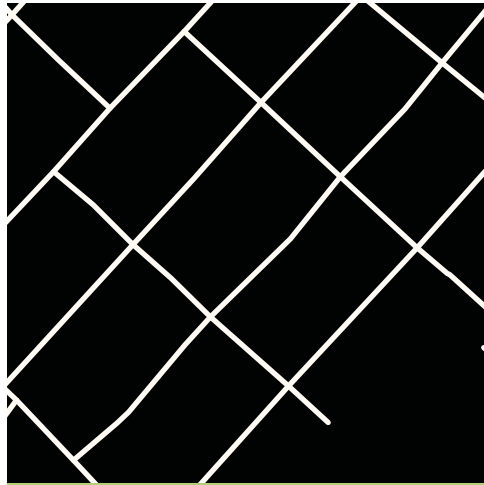
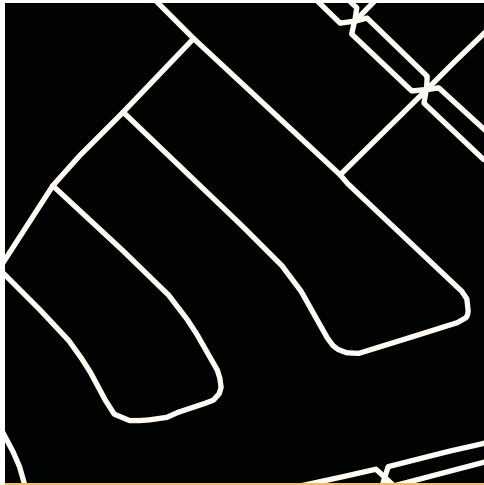
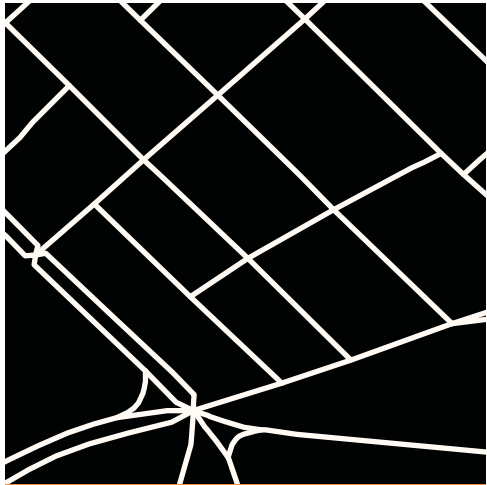
This report recounts a selection of findings that resulted from a recent field trip to a range of suburbs in the Halifax Regional Municipality (see map above for route and analyzed locations). In order to draw some basic conclusions concerning the similarities and differences among the different suburbs visited, four have been selected and three of their main morphological elements - street pattern, building form, and parcel size - have

been visually represented and analyzed at a constant scale of 1:6,000.

The suburbs analyzed - Maynard Fields, Westmount, the Wartime Houses, and Willow Grove - were selected in an attempt to provide a diverse representation in terms of age, location, and form. In a way, this is in and of itself a key finding of the report; that suburban form is diverse. Indeed, while each

suburb visited shares a commonality in at one point being a part of the leading edge of the city, their other characteristics are often far from common.

This report seeks to examine this idea through the presentation of concise morphological studies, and, a brief discussion of some research questions that arise and would benefit from further analysis.



## Maynard Fields

location: Halifax  
 year of origin: ca. 1850s  
 avg. lot size: 175 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. building size: 100 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. lot coverage: 57.0%

In comparison to the other suburbs visited, Maynard Fields is distinctive for its variety. The street pattern, the building forms, and the parcel sizes all indicate an agglomeration of varied individual development.

These characteristics contribute to the area's ability to adapt as it transitioned from edge to centre.

## Westmount

location: Halifax  
 year of origin: ca. 1948  
 avg. lot size: 470 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. building size: 80 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. lot coverage: 17.0%

When entering the Westmount subdivision, an immediate sense that you are somewhere different is evident. Indeed, the post-war exercise in Radburn ideals produced a built form that sits in juxtaposition to the rest of the Peninsula.

The emphasis on open space is immediately experienced via the

## Wartime Housing

location: Dartmouth  
 year of origin: ca. 1941-46  
 avg. lot size: 400 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. building size: 75 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. lot coverage: 18.8%

The Wartime Housing built in this area of Dartmouth was the product of mass production. While the plan views provided here reinforce this idea, the experience of the built form tells a story of continual change and modification.

Certainly, within the standard grid is a wealth of variety and instances of individual expression.

## Willow Grove

location: Dartmouth  
 year of origin: ca. 2010  
 avg. lot size: 350 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. building size: 125 m<sup>2</sup>  
 avg. lot coverage: 35.7%

Willow Grove is a suburban infill project still under construction. Its new nature is reflected in the missing building footprint data. However, the parcels and precedents indicate what is to come.

Willow Grove is indicative of current trends in suburban form: increasingly smaller lots and a 'mix' of housing typologies.

The trip generated questions that have the potential to be explored further in the context of research on the suburbs.

First, questions emerge in the context of the morphology examined briefly in this report. Simply, they are questions that demand a more rigorous approach, and a more detailed understanding of the social patterns and processes which underly changes in form.

Second, questions emerge from a more general look at the areas visited. I will mention the two that piqued my interest most. The first concerns Willow Grove and its claim to be Halifax's first 'green suburb'. There are certainly possibilities for the investigation of the notion of the 'green suburb', its consistencies, realities, and effects. The second concerns the Wartime Houses suburb. Ethington and McManus in their 2007 article

"Suburbs in Transition: New Approaches to Suburban History" suggest that a longitudinal approach to the study of suburbs is necessary. This neighbourhood would present an apt opportunity to engage the process of long-term change and adaptation in the suburban context.