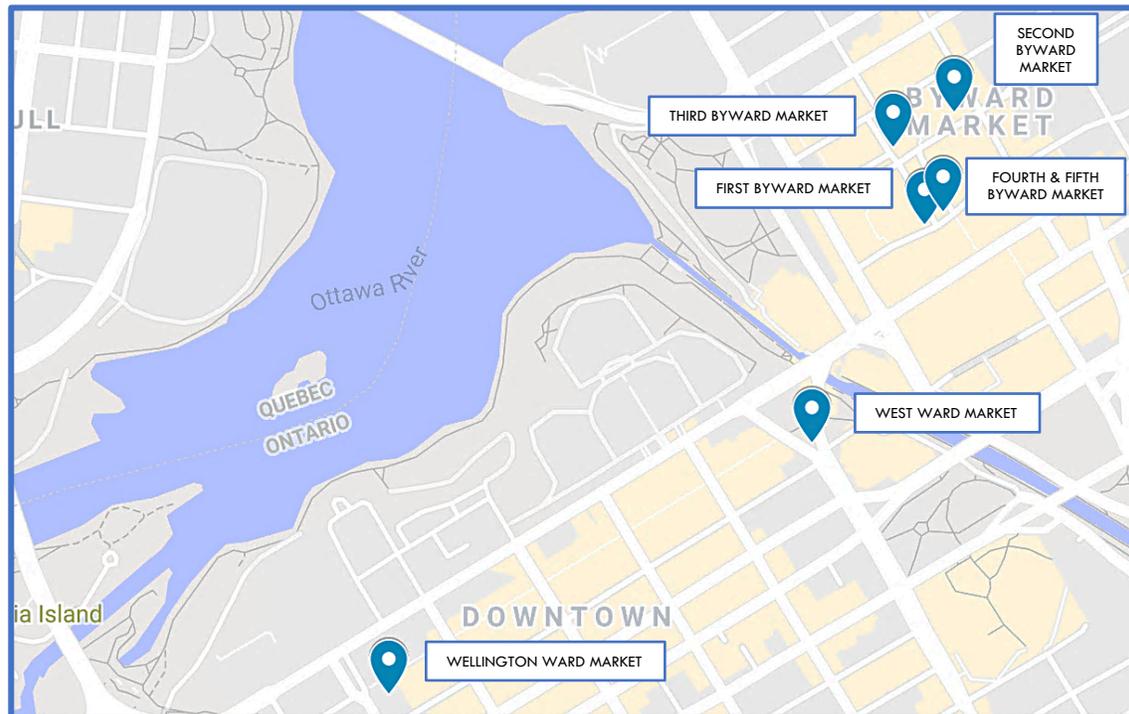


## City History Hunt: The Markets



### West Ward Market

Bytown was divided into Uppertown on the western side of the Rideau Canal and Lowertown on the eastern side. Uppertown was home to the affluent citizens of Bytown, including Nicholas Sparks who owned some of the land in Uppertown.

The first market in Uppertown was built in 1848 and was located on Elgin street between Queen and Albert streets. This was named the West Ward Market. The West Ward Market was less successful than its Lowertown competition, built at the same time, so the building was donated by Nicholas Sparks to become the first city hall in 1849 and was later demolished in 1874. The National Arts Centre now stands where the market was located.

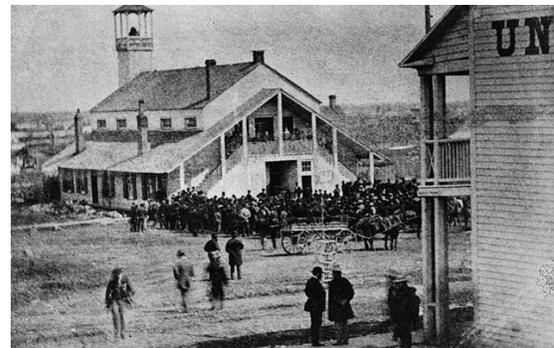


Figure 1: West Ward Market converted into City Hall (Library and Archives Canada / C-002185)





Figure 2: The newly completed Wellington Ward Market building (*Daily Citizen*, 6 Dec. 1875)

### Wellington Ward Market

In the mid-1870s, James Mather was commissioned to design a new market building located along Lyon street, then called Sally street, and had entrances on Lyon, Sparks and Queen street. The new building was referred to as the Wellington Ward Market. In the *Daily Citizen* newspaper of December 6, 1875 it was estimated that the building would cost approximately \$25,000. The City of Ottawa later closed the

market as it once again could not compete with the market of Lowertown. The Martin Orme Piano Factory used the building from 1902 to 1924. It was later demolished in 1926.

### First ByWard Market

Lowertown was home mainly to French and Irish labourers of Bytown. In his original plans for Bytown, John By parceled out an area of land on George Street for what is now one of Canada's oldest public markets. The ByWard Market was first built in 1826 and originally had a courthouse behind it. The building was taken down in 1842, but the market area continued to operate.



Figure 3: Agricultural Warehouse building in the ByWard Market ca. 1864. (Charles Berkeley Powell Fonds, Library and Archives Canada / C-002184)

### Second ByWard Market

In 1847, Bytown's city council realized the need for a building to officially house the market. The next year, a new market building had been built and was operating. The exact location of this market is unknown, but it took up four lots between York and Clarence streets. Additional lots were added nearby to accommodate the problem of overcrowding. Several fires in the 1860s and 1870s impeded the growth of the market area, destroying the main building along with some of the additions.

### Third ByWard Market

In 1864, construction on a new market building began to replace the one lost in the fire. This one was, again, located between York and Clarence streets and was designed architect Sydney B. Fripp. During this time, the market scene began to change in Ottawa. The fur trade had ended, and the lumber industry was booming. Many more businesses began opening up in the market area, including bakeries, a soap and candle factory, and the Lapointe Fish Market which still operates today.



Figure 4: Second Empire ByWard Market designed by James Mather (William James Topley/Library and Archives Canada/PA-008669)



### Fourth & Fifth Lowertown Markets

Overcrowding continued to be an issue with the third market, and an expansion was proposed, resulting in the opening of a new market building in 1876, designed by James Mather. Mather also designed the Wellington Ward Market in Uppertown around the same time. This market building was called the Second Empire ByWard Market building.

The building contributed to the continuing growth of the ByWard Market but was destroyed by a fire in 1926. It was replaced with the building that still stands today at the heart of the ByWard Market.



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