To: Chair and Members
   Emergency & Community Services Committee

From: Dr. Walter Peace, Chair
      Hamilton Historical Board
      __________________________
      Signature of Chair

Date: July 15, 2008

Re: “WHERE THEY WORSHIPPED” Copetown United Church Plaque (08-003(HHB))
    (Wards 12 and 14)

Recommendation:

That the wording for the “WHERE THEY WORSHIPPED” Copetown United Church congregation plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix A to Report No. 08-003(HHB), be approved.

Background:

The year 2008 marks the 200th anniversary of the congregation of the Copetown United Church. The Joint Plaquing Sub-committee of the Hamilton Historical Board and the Municipal Heritage Committee Hamilton LACAC was approached by the current congregation of the Copetown United Church. They wished to celebrate this significant anniversary of the Church with a City of Hamilton commemorative plaque.

The attached wording was approved by Copetown United Church on 7 July 2008, by the Joint Plaquing Sub-committee on 8 July 2008 and by the Hamilton Historical Board on 15 July 2008.

The planned date for dedication of the “WHERE THEY WORSHIPPED” Copetown United Church congregation plaque is Sunday, October 19, 2008 as part of the church service. The plaque will be installed on the lawn of Copetown United Church.

Financial Implications:

Funds for the manufacture and installation of the “WHERE THEY WORSHIPPED” Copetown United Church congregation plaque are identified within the approved operating budget of the Manager of Museums and Heritage Presentation.

Analysis/Rationale:

It is the mandate of the City of Hamilton Joint Plaquing Sub-committee to recognize Hamilton sites of architectural, prehistoric and/or historical importance with commemorative plaques. Plaques may be awarded for the following reasons.
Architectural Reasons which may include age, style and/or location. The building is noted for one or more of the following characteristics:
- an outstanding example of an architectural style
- an exceptionally early building
- an unusual building, type, structure, or composition
- the first or last of a kind
- an important visual landmark
- a special relationship between building and site
- the work of a major architect
- a group of buildings which form an important streetscape
- an exemplary restoration or adaptive re-use project

Historical/Prehistoric Importance
- close association with a noteworthy person (to recognize his/her lasting importance; selected because of his/her association with the place)
- close association with a noteworthy event
- effectively illustrates a significant, broad pattern of cultural, social, political military, economic or industrial history or pre-history

Staff Consultation:

Yes X No □

Ian Kerr-Wilson, Manager of Museums & Heritage Presentation and staff liaison to the City of Hamilton Historical Board
Rebecca Oliphant, Heritage Presentation Coordinator.
Where They Worshipped (1808 – 2008)

In 1794, William Cope and his family were the first settlers arriving in what is now the Copetown area. The first worship services were held in settlers’ homes. In 1808, these settlers joined a large circuit of parishes with William Case as minister. William Cope’s son Conradt, a layman who assisted Reverend Case, was known to the parishioners as the “father of our congregation” for his efforts to bring the settlers together.

A white frame church was built in 1828 where the Copetown Cemetery is located. It served the community until 1855 when construction by the Great Western Railway threatened the structural integrity of the building. In 1859, a new red brick building was erected some distance from the noisy, rumbling trains and a few yards southwest of the present church. That church served until 1908 when it was decided that the building was too small to accommodate the growing membership. The cornerstone for the current church was laid in 1908, and the congregation has worshiped in this building since that time.

In earlier years, Copetown was part of many different church circuits including six townships. It took several weeks for the ministers to complete a circuit. With the coming of Church Union in 1925, the Copetown Methodist Church became part of the United Church of Canada. In 1935, Copetown and Rockton became a joint charge under one minister.

Hamilton Historical Board 2008
City of Hamilton

Word count: 241

Source Material: Memorial Day to the Pioneers of Copetown United Church, 1933.

Additional source: Pioneers of Beverly for arrival of Cope family is

7 July 2008 Approved by Copetown United Church representative, Jo Anna Lawson
8 July 2008 Approved by Joint Plaquing Sub-committee
15 July 2008 Approved by Hamilton Historical Board