Members of the Community Services Standing Committee:

The Hamilton Historical Board having met on February 8, 2005 presents Report No. 05-002(HHB) and respectfully recommends:

(a) that the wording for the Fernwood Park Estates plaque, hereto attached and marked as Appendix “A”, be approved.

(b) that all future commemorative plaques erected by the City of Hamilton include the text “Hamilton Historical Board and the year it was erected” on the plaque for inventory and tracking purposes.

Financial / Staffing / Legal Implications:

(a) Funding for the Fernwood Park Estates plaque was received in 2004 from the development company for Fernwood Park Estates.

Background:

(a) The Joint Plaquing Sub-committee at its meeting of 3 February 2004 was asked to facilitate the manufacture, installation and dedication of a commemorative plaque for Fernwood Park Estates as part of the development company’s permit application. The plaque is to recognize the changing demographics of the Hampton Heights Survey and the unique arrangement that was made between the City of Hamilton and the land developer.

This agreement, setting aside funding for a community plaque to commemorate the educational buildings that were once the focus of this neighbourhood, may be a City of Hamilton Plaquing precedent.

The attached wording was approved by the Hamilton Historical Board at its meeting on February 8, 2005.

The Fernwood Park Estates plaque will be installed in the Fall of 2005.

(b) The Joint Plaquing Sub-committee and Culture Section staff are currently preparing an inventory of all plaques within the City of Hamilton in order to develop a searchable database for use on the “myhamilton.ca” portal, on the City of Hamilton website and in the development of brochures and walking tours.
The addition of the text “Hamilton Historical Board and the year it was erected” on all future City of Hamilton Commemorative plaques will assist with maintaining a proper inventory of all plaques owned by the City of Hamilton. A complete inventory will ensure regular maintenance is performed on City owned plaques.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Walter Peace, Chair
Hamilton Historical Board
Commemorative (Community) Plaque  
Prepared By Robert Williamson  
Approved by the HHB February 8, 2005

The objective of the wording on this plaque is to recognize the changing demographics of the Hampton Heights Survey and the unique arrangement that was made between the City of Hamilton and the land developer. This agreement, setting aside funding for a community plaque to commemorate the educational buildings that were once the focus of this neighbourhood, may be a City of Hamilton plaquing precedent.

FERNWOOD PARK ESTATES

This is the site of the former Hampton Heights and Fernwood Park Schools, once the focus of this neighborhood. They were closed in June 2003 due to changing demographics and declining enrollment. Demolition took place in January 2004 in order for the city to qualify for new educational grants from the Province of Ontario.

Hampton Heights School opened in September 1954 and was named after the Hampton family who sold their farmland to the developer, Fennell Investments. Fernwood Park School opened in February 1959 and was named after the adjacent city park. It was built as a primary school to relieve overcrowding in Hampton Heights School. Budget exigencies resulted in the schools sharing a principal from 1976 to 1985. Hampton Heights School was unique in that it housed special education classes for hearing impaired children. More information about these schools can be found in the Education Archives and Heritage Centre where artifacts, school records and the names of teachers and students that attended these schools are preserved.

The Hamilton City Council established Fernwood Park Estates on February 25, 2004. As part of the redevelopment agreement, the housing developer set aside funding for this community plaque.

Hamilton Historical Board 2005

194 words

References:  
Letter to the Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee 2004  
Hamilton Mountain News Feb. 20, 2004  
Hamilton-Wentworth Board of Education Archives.  
Daryl Sage, Board of Education, Buildings Department

Notes:  
The joint plaquing sub-committee needs to review the original letter placing this project in our hands. We need to set a policy on how to deal with this process and decide what type of plaques will be used. Since the redevelopment agreement requiring this plaque to be erected is unique and possibly a precedent, it should be so stated.

A. Submitted by: R.J. Williamson, Vice Chairman, HHB Plaquing Sub-Committee, Dec. 22, 2004