Heritage plaques and markers have been produced in Hamilton for more than one hundred years, contributing to civic memory and to a broad awareness of place and story in our communities.

The Plaques and Markers Program of Hamilton’s Tourism and Culture Division currently facilitates 3 plaque types: **Commemorative; Heritage Recognition; and Designated Property.**

Broadly speaking, Commemorative and Heritage Recognition plaques are ‘picture and story’ plaques, and Designated Property Plaques mark architectural or built heritage.

**Commemorative Plaques** mark sites telling larger stories (approx. 250 words) of historical/cultural events, and of persons and places associated with specific locations.

**Heritage Recognition** plaques mark sites commemorating more bounded or discrete stories of people or places of historic importance (approx. 150 words).

**Designated Property Plaques** are cast-metal ovals which mark only those properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Eligibility for a Designated Property plaque comes automatically with designation under the Act. For information about designated properties in Hamilton, visit: [www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/heritage-properties](http://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/heritage-properties)

**Guidelines and Process**

- Applications may be submitted at any time.

- Applications will be reviewed for approval at the next meeting of the Plaques and Markers Adjudication Committee, which meets twice annually.
Subject: Designated Property Plaques

- Adjudication applies to Commemorative and Heritage Recognition plaques only. Eligibility for Designated Property plaques comes only with Heritage Designation.

- Applicants are required to secure funding for proposed plaques. Staff may assist individuals and community groups who lack necessary funding, and provide guidance regarding potential sources of funds and fund raising opportunities in the community.

- Applications must include a proposed location for the plaque and the name and contact information of the property owner. The property owner will be contacted by staff and asked to provide consent prior to an application moving forward.

- Proposed topics must lend themselves to presentation in the `picture & story' format of an interpretive plaque.

- Applications which propose commemoration of unusual, forgotten, or poorly known subject matter are most welcome.

- Applications which broaden geographic or demographic under-representation in heritage marker distribution in the City of Hamilton may be given special priority.

- A plaque may be approved if the topic and location is associated with one or more of the following characteristics:

  **Historical Importance**
  - close association of storied events with a specific location
  - close association of a location with the story of a noteworthy person
  - effective illustration of a significant pattern in the cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial development of Hamilton in either pre-, or post- European contact eras

  **Architectural Importance**
  - association of a building or structure with an event or person of great significance
  - an outstanding example of an architectural style
  - an exceptionally early or unusual structure
  - the first or last of a kind
  - a visual landmark of significant cultural importance
  - a storied relationship between building and site
  - association with a major architect or company
  - part of a group of buildings which form an important streetscape

- Applicants will be notified of application status after the relevant meeting of the adjudication committee. Payment for approved plaques is required prior to staff moving forward.
Subject: Designated Property Plaques

CITY OF HAMILTON COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE APPLICATION FORM

1. Owner of proposed property designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (individual or company):

   Name: ____________________________________________

   Mailing Address including postal code: ____________________________

   Phone (day) __________________ E-Mail ____________________________

2. Designated Property Address including postal code: __________________________

3. City By-Law designating the property:

   Properties are designated by the City of Hamilton under the Ontario Heritage Act by the passing of a Municipal By-Law. If you are unsure of the By-Law, visit www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/heritage-properties or contact Heritage Planners at 905-546-2424 x1214 or x1202
Subject: Designated Property Plaques

4. Proposed placement of the plaque on the property (can include a drawing or photograph). Must be outside and visible to the public.

5. Does the property or vicinity have any other plaques or markers commemorating the same building or similar subject, including the plaques of other levels of government? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, please specify:

6. (Optional) On separate pages, provide a synopsis of any stories of historical significance to the cultural, social, political, military, economic or industrial development of Hamilton in either Historic or Pre-colonial periods. It is possible that such information might be helpful in the location of other future markers in the city.

I agree to have this information printed and distributed to City Staff and any other such persons required to facilitate the production of this plaque.

________________________________________  ____________________________
Signature                                           Date

Please submit by mail to: Heritage Presentation Co-ordinator, Tourism and Culture, City of Hamilton P.O. Box 2040 Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5. Or by email to: Christopher.Redford@hamilton.ca