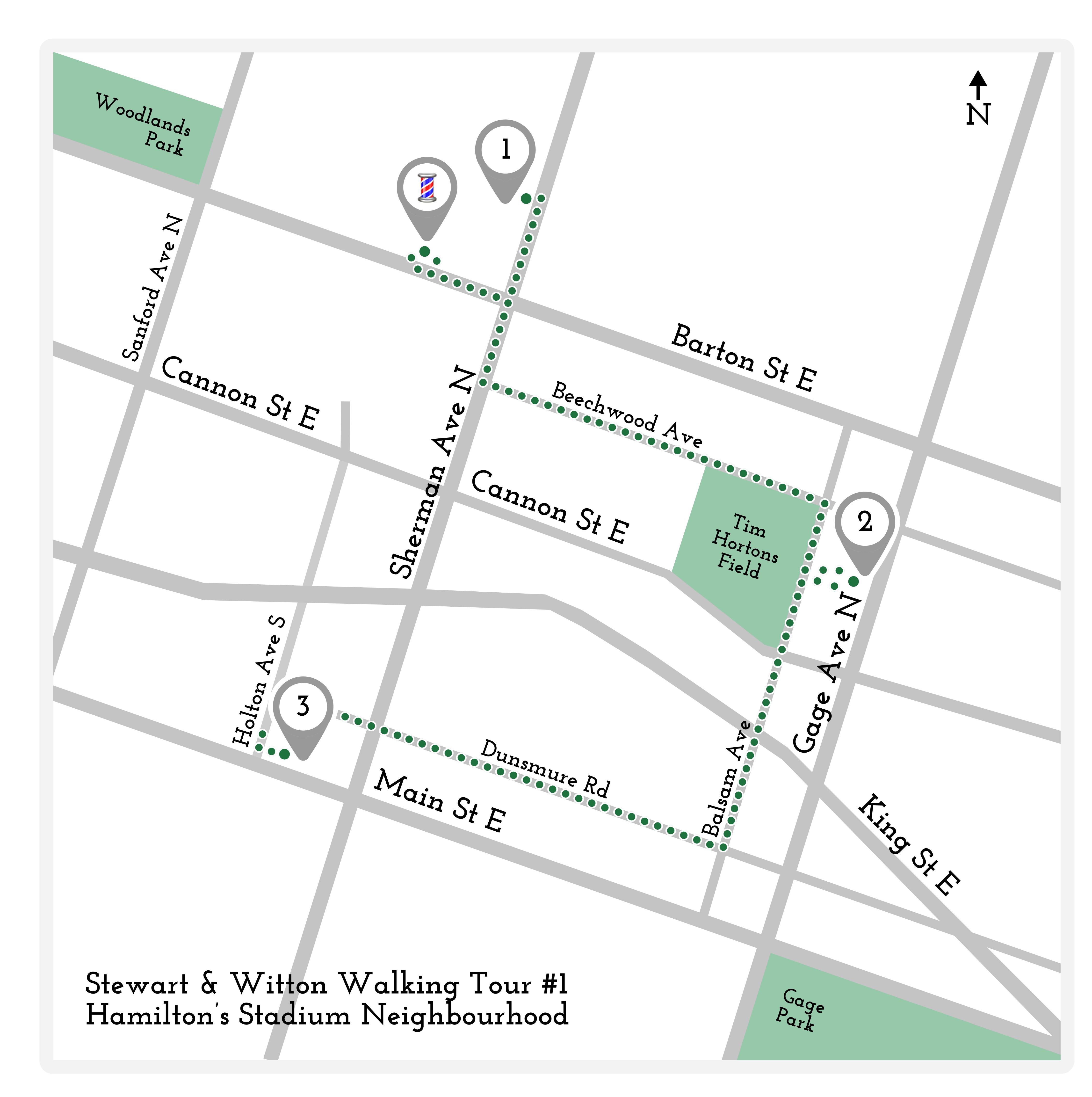


Stewart & Witton Walking Tour I: Major Works / Stadium Neighbourhood



#SaveStGiles FriendsOfStGiles.ca #StewartWitton150 StewartAndWitton.ca #HamOnt

The genius of Hamilton architects Stewart & Witton lives on in the buildings they designed. Walter Wilson Stewart (d. 1917) and William Palmer Witton (d. 1947) were both born in 1871, making 2021 their sesquicentennial. In 1904, they embarked on a highly successful partnership: Stewart & Witton, the Hamilton architectural firm behind some of the city's most beloved landmarks. Tragically, Stewart died in April, 1917 at Vimy Ridge. Stewart & Witton's legacy is all around us — yet often, the firm's work is popularly attributed to Witton alone. Thus, celebrating #StewartWitton150 is also a project of recovery.



Map, walking tour layout, and #Stewart Witton150 logo designed by Naomi Bower (Twitter: @ergosomething)



Photos: Playhouse Cinema; Sotheby's International Realty Canada; The Hamilton

Playhouse Cinema, 177 Sherman Ave. N. (1914): This Beaux-Arts gem was built for vaudeville and motion pictures, with a second-storey apartment for the projectionist and retail at grade. Reopened in March, 2019, the Playhouse Cinema features polychromatic brick, refreshed woodwork, and a tiled front lobby uncovered during the award-winning restoration. Operated by Princess Cinemas, a family-owned, independent art house cinema group, with Epic Books: The Sequel in the retail storefront.

https://www.playhousecinema.ca/& https://epicbooks.ca/the-sequel

Hendry's building, 657-61 Barton St. E. (1914): Famous for its iconic neon sign, this mixed-use building has a cameo in *The Shape of Water*. The Hamilton Public Library's Barton Branch was an early tenant; today it's home to Hendry's Barbershop and Barton Village BIA. The elegance of Edwardian Classicism is seen in its corner quoins, window surrounds, and dentellation near the third-storey apartments. A plaque thanks supporters of the vintage Hendry's sign, restored via a crowdfunding campaign.

https://hendrys.ca/ & https://www.bartonvillage.ca/





King George School, 77 Gage Ave. N. (1912): A fine example of Edwardian Classicism, this former elementary school & WW2 military hospital played the Red Centre in *The Handmaid's Tale*. Architect Stewart attended the 1911 coronation of the school's namesake, King George V (grandfather of Elizabeth II). Now owned by the City of Hamilton, it's in line to become an Indigenous housing & friendship centre. Highlight: arched front entrance portico with contrasting stone & brick bands. Visit on foot to see it up close. Hamilton Spectator story: https://t.co/iLT9BWm4R9

St. Giles Church, 85 Holton Ave. S. (1912–13): Gothic Revival masterpiece commissioned for a thriving Presbyterian congregation in the growing Gibson-St. Clair neighbourhood. Notable features include the fine Flemish bond brickwork, and finely detailed entrance and window surrounds. The 1922 War Memorial Cairn commemorates nine congregants lost in the Great War, including Lt.-Col. Stewart, who died at Vimy Ridge. Although owners New Vision United Church withdrew their new demolition permit application in April, 2021, the fate of St. Giles remains uncertain.

https://friendsofstgiles.ca/



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