



### **Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium (Start Line)**

Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium is the site of the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement, NFL Hall of Fame Game, and Concert for Legends. It serves as the home field to Canton City Schools McKinley High School Bulldogs and has been a host site for countless championship events including the inaugural USFL Championship Game, 2021 NCAA DIII Stagg Bowl, and over two decades of OHSAA high school football championship games.

### **Goal Post Utility Structure (Mile 0.14)**

The bright yellow goalposts flanking an interstate highway in Canton, Ohio, are actually transmission towers. The already iconic 80-ft (24-m)-tall goalposts arose during the summer of 2016 in response to a challenge by Hall of Fame planners who wondered if American Electric Power Transmission, [POWER Engineers Inc.](#) and [Valmont Utility](#) engineers, who were collaborating on a 69-kV rebuild near the gridiron landmark, could build football-themed transmission structures where the conductors would span I-77. The engineers could have punted. Instead, they huddled to create a distinctively playful structure with utilitarian function and commercial possibilities.

### **Forever Lawn Sports Complex (Mile 0.35)**

Located at the center of the Hall of Fame Village, the Forever Lawn Sports Complex currently offers 8 fields. They host tournaments and leagues for football, lacrosse, soccer and more.

### **Avondale Neighborhood (Mile 2.35)**

Avondale is a charming, well-maintained neighborhood in Canton. Known for its beautiful architecture, it's a peaceful place that Neighbors love for its family-friendly atmosphere and dog-friendly spaces.

### **Hall of Fame Village (Mile 3.75)**

The Hall of Fame Village surrounds the Pro Football Hall of Fame museum. The 200-acre tourism development features Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, ForeverLawn Sports Complex, Fan Engagement Zone, and Play Action Plaza. It is also the highest point on the course!

### **Center for Performance / Ferris Wheel (Mile 3.85)**

Measuring in at 100,000 Square Feet, the Center for Performance at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Village, provides a space large enough to host a variety of sporting and non-sporting events. The Red Zone is a Ferris wheel-style ride at the Hall of Fame Village in Canton. It is 125 feet high and features 20 gondolas. The ride used to be part of the I-X Center in Cleveland.



### **Welcome Gate (Mile 3.95)**

The roundabout that welcomes you to the Hall of Fame Village and the Pro Football Hall of Fame features a large digital display board and features a flowing waterfall.

### **Pro Football Hall of Fame (Mile 4.21)**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame is America's Premier Sports Museum and the hall of fame for professional American football. Opened on September 7, 1963, the Hall of Fame enshrines exceptional figures in the sport of professional football, including players, coaches, officials, franchise owners, and front-office personnel, almost all of whom made their primary contributions to the game in the National Football League (NFL).

### **Woody's Root Beer Stand (Mile 4.71 / 7.27)**

Woody's is an old fashioned drive in restaurant in Canton, Ohio! Pull in, turn on your lights for service, and a server will greet you at your car to take your order. Woody's is known for their homemade and delicious root beer served in glass mugs, but the food is just as tasty! The root beer stand is open seasonally from April - September.

### **John Barker Spring House (Mile 5.18 / 6.82)**

The Barker Spring is certified by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In the 1920's a test well drilled by the Canton Water Department near Stadium Park. They did not end up using the well, but it has since been used by the citizens of Canton as a source for drinking water. It turned out to be an artesian well, bringing water to the surface by the pressure of the water itself. For years, park employees had a tin cup hanging near the free flowing water in order to get a drink. Over time a structure was built around the well. In 1968 the current building, now known as the "John Barker Springhouse", was constructed by friends of the late Rev John Barker of the local Calvary Presbyterian Church.

### **Kennedy's BBQ (Mile 5.94)**

A Canton landmark since 1922 when it opened as Spiker's, the minuscule eatery was bought and renamed in 1960 by Jack Kennedy, who ran it 49 years. After Mr. Kennedy died in 2009, it was taken over by Ernie Schott, proprietor of Taggart's Ice Cream Parlor, another Canton landmark. Mr. Schott extended the lunch hour to 6pm but otherwise made no changes in the time-honored formula.

### **Steel Workers Union (Mile 9.03)**

### **McKinley High School Downtown Campus Bulldog Activity Center (Mile 9.23)**



The Bulldog Activity Center will be a 110,000 square foot facility on the Downtown Campus. The center will have 60 yards of artificial turf, a six-lane 200 meter indoor track, three multi-use courts for basketball, tennis, and volleyball, as well as locker rooms and offices. The activity center is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024 and will be the home to leagues, camps, and training opportunities for Canton City Schools from youth sports through high school.

#### **The AFL / NFL Merger (1966) Sculpture (Mile 9.38)**

This abstract metal sculpture captures the essence of the battle between and eventual merger of the two leagues. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

#### **Reintegration of Pro Football (1946) Mural (Mile 9.51)**

This installation celebrates the "Forgotten Four"; Woody Strode and Kenny Washington signed by the Los Angeles Rams and Marion Motley and Bill Willis signed by the Cleveland Browns, breaking the color barrier in professional sports a full year before Jackie Robinson began playing professional baseball. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

#### **The NFL Draft (1936) Sculpture (Mile 9.62)**

The sculpture celebrates NFL Commissioner Bert Bell's idea, now known as the NFL draft. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

#### **Art District / Shattered Expressions / Polypus Sculptures (Mile 9.66)**

Three faces titled "Shattered Expressions" circa 2009 and "Polypus" (Latin for octopus). Polypus bursts out of the top and sides of an old three-story downtown Canton building. Tentacles -- made of foam and steel -- jut out of the roof and upstairs windows, while other windows are filled with glimpses of the giant beast's suckers and malevolent eyes.

#### **Pete Rozelle (1960) Mural (Mile 9.71)**

During Pete Rozelle's 20-year career, he secured the first league-wide television contract and navigated the merger of two leagues creating a spectacular showdown we know today as the Superbowl. By the end of his time as the commissioner of the NFL, Rozelle had led it to be America's most popular sport. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



#### **Run to You Racing Office (Mile 9.75)**

Run to You Racing is the producer of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Race Series, along with 12+ other events throughout Northeast Ohio. We hope you enjoy our events!

#### **Canton Centennial Plaza (Mile 9.81)**

The city of Canton and the Pro Football Hall of Fame celebrate the kick-off to the next century of football, with Centennial Plaza in the heart of downtown Canton. The downtown landmark features a cafe, event lawn for 5,000 guests, high definition video screen, and eleven NFL 100 Year Player Recognition Steles that recognize all NFL players who were on an active roster over the first 100 years of the National Football League.

#### **Canton Sign (Mile 9.84)**

The city's most popular spot for photo-ops!

#### **President William McKinley Statue (Mile 9.94)**

The Statue of William McKinley is a 8.5-foot (2.6 m) bronze statue of President of the United States William McKinley. The statue, sculpted by Haig Patigian, stood in the center of the town plaza in Arcata, California, from 1906 to 2019, when it was moved to Canton, Ohio.

#### **Monday Night Football (1970) Mural (Mile 10.01)**

This piece captures the success of NFL football on primetime television. The NFL debuted on ABC primetime with the Cleveland Browns vs. New York Jets on September 21, 1970. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

#### **First Ladies National Historic Site (Mile 10.05)**

First Ladies National Historic Site is a United States National Historic Site located in Canton, Ohio. During her residency in Washington, D.C. Mary Regula, wife of Ohio representative Ralph Regula, spoke regularly about the nation's first ladies. Recognizing the paucity of research materials available she created a board to raise funds and for a historian to assemble a comprehensive bibliography on American first ladies. From these inspirations came a National First Ladies' Library, established in 1996, and the First Ladies National Historic Site.

#### **Canton Classic Car Museum (Mile 10.19)**



The Canton Classic Car Museum was established in 1978. The museum currently exhibits more than 40 rare and unusual classic and special interest automobiles. The gorgeous vehicles are complemented by the thousands of pieces of historical memorabilia displayed throughout the museum.

#### **Current Grand Parade Route (Mile 10.28)**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Grand Parade, dating back to 1963, draws around 200,000 people annually, making it the 5th largest parade in the country and Canton's biggest free event. Join the fun with helium balloons, marching bands, colorful floats, dance troupes, and enthusiastic football fans. Don't miss the stars of the show, the 2024 Enshrinees and returning Hall of Famers, as they make their way down the 2.2-mile parade route!

#### **Ralph Hay's Hupmobile Mural (Mile 10.44)**

By 1920, professional football was experiencing growing pains, many of which stemmed from the fact that there were myriad state and regional leagues, each with its own guidelines and schedules. As salaries rose, players migrated from team to team and league to league in search of the largest payday. There were also varying policies and issues regarding college stars playing pro football while still attending college. Ralph Hay, an Ohio car dealer with a Hupmobile showroom at the corner of Second and Cleveland streets in Canton, became the owner of the highly successful Canton Bulldogs in 1918. Over the next few years, he and other pro football team owners began to realize that an organization to oversee many teams on a national level that could also standardize the rules was the next logical step for the sport.

The result of an August 20, 1920, meeting at the Ralph E. Hay Motor Company in Canton, Ohio, which was attended by representatives from the Akron Pros, the Canton Bulldogs, the Cleveland Indians (Tigers in 1920 but Indians before and after), and the Dayton Triangles resulted in the formation of the American Professional Football Conference.

Less than a month later, on September 17, a second meeting was held at the same location and drew reps from teams beyond Ohio's borders - the Hammond Pros and Muncie Flyers from Indiana and the Rock Island Independents, Decatur Staleys (the team George Halas served as a player-coach for prior to being renamed the Chicago Staleys after he became its player-coach-owner and then became the Chicago Bears), and Racine Cardinals from Illinois were among them. Some sources indicate that The Rochester Jeffersons rep and the Buffalo All-Americans rep could not attend but sent letters of intent to join the league. By the end of the meeting, the American Professional Football Conference became the American Professional Football Association, and 1912 Olympic Gold medal winner and star player for the Bulldogs, Jim Thorpe, became its president. Two years later, the American Professional Football



Association was renamed the National Football League. (text courtesy of Thomas A DeMauro / hemmings.com)

#### **"Birth" of the NFL (1920) Sculpture (Mile 10.48)**

The sculpture was constructed near the site where the agreement was signed to form the American Professional Football Association, later renamed the National Football League. Part of "The Eleven" greatest moments in the first century of pro football come to life as public art. The public artworks were commissioned by Arts in Stark in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame. ***THIS IS THE LOCATION WHERE THE NFL WAS FOUNDED.***

#### **Crossroads United Methodist Church (Mile 10.53)**

Crossroads United Methodist Church is a historic Methodist church in Canton, Ohio. Originally the First Methodist Episcopal Church, it was renamed Church of the Savior United Methodist in 1968. Then in 2014, after its congregation was merged with Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, it was renamed Crossroads United Methodist Church. It was built in 1881 in a High Victorian Gothic style. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

William McKinley, 25th President of the United States, was an active member of the church. He served as a Trustee and Sunday School superintendent. His funeral was held here September 19, 1901. Thomas Edison recorded video of McKinley's funeral including the body leaving the church.

#### **William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum (Mile 11.63)**

The William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum is the presidential library of 25th U.S. president William McKinley. The library, which is located at the foot of the McKinley National Memorial, is owned and operated by the Stark County Historical Society, and located in Canton, Ohio, where McKinley built his career as lawyer, prosecuting attorney, congressman, governor and president.

The museum contains the largest collection of McKinley artifacts in the world and chronicles the life and career of the 25th president, from his birth to his death at the hands of an assassin. Another exhibit also explores the construction of the Memorial and the unfortunate fate of the McKinleys' Canton home, destroyed by fire in 1937.

As for the Museum itself, it boasts a science center with some wildlife and fossils. The museum has a temporary exhibit space called the Keller gallery. The museum also has a planetarium show. Because of the science center, the museum has a membership plan that lets the member access other museums





meeting the same criteria throughout the United States. The museum also houses other artifacts on the surrounding city.

#### **McKinley National Memorial / Burial Site (Mile 11.63)**

The McKinley National Memorial in Canton, Ohio, United States, is the final resting place of William McKinley, who served as the 25th president of the United States from 1897 to his assassination in 1901. Canton was a significant place in McKinley's life; he lived there, practiced as an attorney, and conducted his political campaigns from the town. He and his family are interned in the Rotunda at the top of the stairs.

#### **Monument Park (Mile 11.95)**

Monument Park is adjacent to Stadium Park and next to the William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, the site of the McKinley National Memorial. It includes picnic tables, grills and a large duck pond used for ice skating during the winter.

#### **Stadium Park (Mile 12.28)**

Stadium Park is located near the Pro Football Hall of Fame spanning 12th to 25th Street NW along Stadium Park Drive. The park features pickleball courts, a softball complex, playground, 68 acres of nature and picnic areas, a duck pond, the Canton Garden Center, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fountain, and a 1.5 mile rubberized walking track with exercise stations.

#### **Canton Garden Center (Mile 12.61)**

The Canton Garden Center is located in Stadium Park. It consists of several beautiful gardens, including a Children's Garden, and is maintained by the members of the Canton Garden Club.

#### **Marion Motley Statue (Finish Line)**

The statue depicts Canton native Marion Motley, one of the first Black professional football players of the modern era, midstride over protest placards with statements like "cursed is the man who integrates."