Steven Ross  
Artist Statement

This series of photographs was intended to primarily show the dichotomy of the old and new Hannibal square. But, during my journey through Hannibal square I discovered its history that is being covered up. The space left behind is even worse because it is showing the hold outs on the building projects, making the fight ever needed to preserve this space and history. However, in the photographs, I try to show new developments and the old developments and the expanse of space. The main goal is to show how different Hannibal Square is becoming and possibly could become if development's ideals aren't changed to help preserve the history of what is left of the old Hannibal Square. Also, I want to bring people's attention to the interesting, unruly and untampered nature of the older developments, with open spaces added into the structures. Whereas the new developments are clean cut, which are also much bigger and modern structures, they are eyesores in my opinion, and are found to have large open areas on one side or more of the structures. I wish for people to look at my photographs and understand that the light featured gives the space and buildings a different view point.

When looking at these spaces at night, it changes the entire atmosphere, visually and emotionally. During the photo making process I took them with the expressed goal of taking my time, thus making sure the light corresponded to emptiness. I did this with the sole purpose of highlighting the content; buildings, natural surroundings, and especially the space itself in all of its glamour. Because the photos show bits of unruly greenery in one area and precise and peculiar landscaping on the other side, my hope is that these photos can help bring more attention to what is happening in Hannibal Square today, and potentially change the thinking about the gentrification and dramatic changes to this historic area tomorrow.