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Artist Statement

Hannibal Square is such a small community with a lot of history and traditions stored deep within the town. After doing research and actually taking a long walk through the area, I have never experienced a place that was so torn between two different sides. Gentrification is taking over in this town and it is causing some serious issues for those who still call it their home after many years. Our world is constantly changing at such a fast pace because of all the new discoveries and technologies forming every day, so I understand why these developers and realtors are trying to evolve and change this community. However, I also understand how this community is angered because they are erasing their history and knocking down their homes.

This clash of trying to make the future and the past coexist is very evident as soon as you enter Hannibal Square. There are brand new condominiums on one side of the street that overpower many of the older homes that have fallen into disrepair on the other. This situation provokes a very uncomfortable and unusual response.

My personal experience within the community was complex, as it was likely unclear to the residents why I was there, and whether I was an intruder of some sort. I wondered if some felt as though I was there with intentions similar to those of the developers or realtors, as opposed to an observer, trying to make sense of and understand the neighborhood’s transformation. Knowing that the people of Hannibal Square have faced so many different transitions with people coming in and out of the town destroying what they created makes these conflicting responses understandable.

My series of photographs attempts to portray this sort of feeling that is apparent in the community of these two distinct sides. I decided to narrow my focus in on what the homeowners actually want to keep in or keep out of Hannibal Square by the use of fences. I captured several different frames that relate to a fence or barrier in a way that provokes the idea of whether or how people are attempting to keep things preserved or kept in, or if they are trying to keep things out altogether. My final sequence juxtaposes various depictions of fences or fenced in areas throughout the town in the hopes of answering the question of whether or not the future and the past can coexist in Hannibal Square.