

SHADY PARK ART PROJECT UPDATE

PIONEER BUSTS

All four busts have been enlarged from the clay sculptures to measure approximately **30 inches** in height. They currently are at the foundry to go through the lost wax process. This process entails making a silicone mold to yield a wax sculpture. The wax sculpture will be covered with a refractory material that eventually gets baked in an oven, causing the wax to be lost. After this process, molten bronze will be poured into the hollow refractory mold, yielding the **bronze bust**, each weighing approximately **100-125 pounds**.



Enlargements from original clay sculpture

BRONZE PLAQUES

Mary Lee DePugh

1878 – 1949

**Founder, Ideal Woman's Club
Winter Park, Florida**

Mary Lee DePugh moved from Evanston, Illinois to Winter Park Florida in 1937 with her husband Baker to join Mary's former employer, Maud Kraft.

An active clubwoman in Evanston, Mary Lee quickly recognized the need for a local organization of ambitious community women of color. In 1937 Mary Lee went on to establish the Ideal Woman's Club in Hannibal Square and was the club's first president. The Club became the hub for civic and social activities for Hannibal Square, Eatonville and Woodbridge. The Ideal Woman's Club remains active today.

The Ideal Woman's Club held fundraisers with similarly minded organizations to support locals and assist the elderly. This was during the time when medical facilities were segregated, and professional healthcare was unavailable or unaffordable for many people of color.

Following Mary Lee's death the Ideal Woman's Club and other community organizations rallied to raise funds for the DePugh Nursing Home, which opened in 1956 and remains open today as The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Center.

-Contributed by Fairolyn H. Livingston,
Winter Park Historian, 2023

Gustavus Christopher "Gus" Henderson

1862-1917

**Founder, The Advocate
Hannibal Square Activist and Leader
Town of Winter Park**

Gustavus Christopher "Gus" Henderson was orphaned at age 10 and moved from Lake City, Florida to the growing community of Hannibal Square in 1886. An avid reader and staunch Republican with the dream of owning a newspaper, he immediately became involved in local issues. Gus was a civic activist and founding member of Lake Hall Lodge #33 F&M. He also published the first newspaper, in Winter Park, The Advocate.

When area residents were considering incorporation there was a movement among whites to exclude any Hannibal Square registered voters who did not own land. Gus maintained that every registered voter, regardless of whether they owned land or not, had a right to cast their ballot. On October 12, 1887, Gus led Hannibal Square residents across the railroad tracks to vote on the incorporation of the Town of Winter Park. His efforts were successful and two African Americans from Hannibal Square were elected Aldermen.

After Hannibal Square was removed from the town limits in 1893, Gus relocated to the Parramore community in Orlando, Florida where he established another newspaper.

Henderson died in 1917 and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando, Florida.

Frank R. Israel

circa 1848 - 1925

**Alderman, 1887-1893
Town of Winter Park**

Frank R. Israel was born circa 1848 in Georgia and moved from Monticello Florida to Hannibal Square in the early 1880s with his wife, Amerita. Mr. Israel purchased several properties including the location of his homestead and storefront on West New England Avenue.

Mr. Israel was an active member and supporter of Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Lake Hall Lodge # 33 F&M. He served as a signatory to incorporate the Town of Winter Park and in October 1887 and was elected Alderman.

The new town benefitted from Alderman Israel's business acumen where he served on the Finance and Rules Committees. He was instrumental in the Town's purchase of a school in Hannibal Square from the Baptist and Methodist churches. The council accepted his proposal for a restructured plan to pay for Town Council fees in the case against the removal of Hannibal Square from the Town limits.

His elected service ended after Hannibal Square was removed from the town limits and a new election was ordered in 1893. Israel continued to serve his community until his death in 1925. He is buried in Pineywood Cemetery in Winter Park Florida.

In 2006, the City of Winter Park named a street on the west side Israel-Simpson Court, in honor of Alderman Israel's contributions.

-Contributed by Fairolyn H. Livingston,
Winter Park Historian, 2023

Walter B. Simpson

circa 1859 - 1915

**Alderman, 1887 - 1893
Town of Winter Park**

Walter B. Simpson was born circa 1859 in Georgia and moved to Hannibal Square from Lake City Florida in 1881, where he met and married Henrietta Williams. The couple resided on West New England Avenue.

Mr. Simpson was active in the community and in 1887 served as a signatory to incorporate the Town of Winter Park. Many local white residents were opposed to Hannibal Square's inclusion in the town limits however, on October 12, 1887 voters from Hannibal Square and supportive white voters were successful in securing Hannibal Square's inclusion in the town limits.

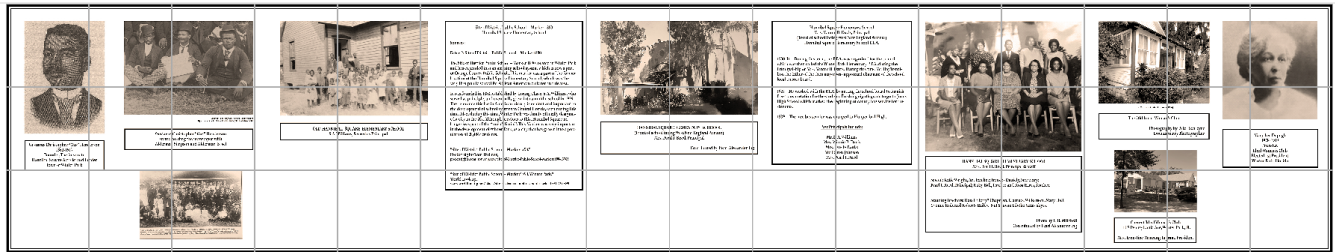
Mr. Simpson was elected Alderman in 1887 and re-elected during each subsequent election through 1892. After the 1887 election, local white residents began petitioning Florida Legislators to remove Hannibal Square from the town limits. In May of 1893 the petition was granted. No African American has since served in any elected capacity in Winter Park through 2023.

Walter died in Deland, Florida in 1921, where he is buried in the historic Beresford Cemetery. In 2006, the City of Winter Park named a street on the west side "Israel-Simpson Court," in honor of Alderman Simpson's contributions.

- Contributed by Fairolyn H. Livingston,
Winter Park Historian, 2023

Four bronze plaques have been casted with biographical narratives for each of the pioneers.

HISTORY WALL



A brief history wall, measuring 8 ft. in width and made up of 6 inch baked ceramic tiles, is being constructed to capture the community's history. The final edited proof is currently under fabrication.