

## **Hamilton S. White**

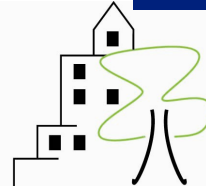
*Born in the house at the eastern end of the park, White helped establish the fire department in Syracuse. He died of a heart attack in 1899 after helping fight a fire. The memorial on the west side of the peak commemorates three stages of White's life. The statute on the right represents his mother. On the left is a statue representing White as a young man. Finally, on the top is a lifelike image of White as an older man.*



*In 1899, the City Council tried unsuccessfully to change the name to White Park. Today this green space in downtown is known as the Fayette—Firefighters Memorial Park.*



*Nature is everywhere in downtown Syracuse. Come visit this park, it is rich in history and beauty.*



**Downtown East**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



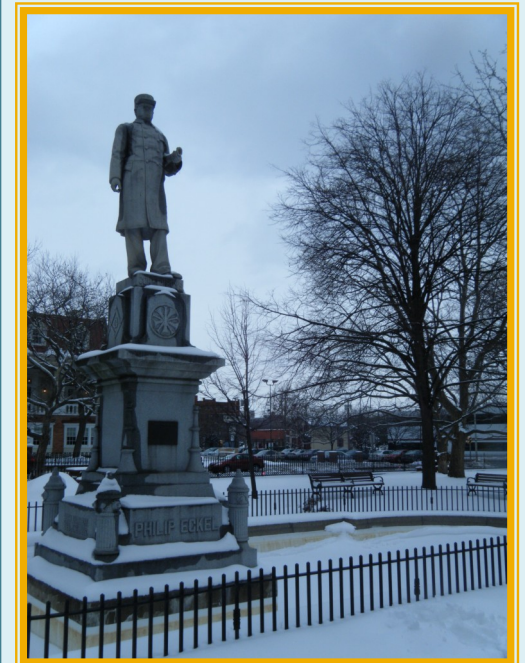
CENTERSTATE  
CORPORATION FOR  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

**Brochure by:**

**Kialey Day**

**Natural History and Interpretation  
major at SUNY ESF, Syracuse**

## **History of the Fayette-Firefighters Memorial Park**



*Philip Eckel now stands where there was once just a fountain*



*Frederick Douglass*

**This park has been a part of downtown since Syracuse became a village in 1825**

*The park was named after Marquis de LaFayette. LaFayette was a general in the American Revolutionary army.*

- 1841 -

~ The fence was put around this "Center Square" of green space so that cows and horses would not trample the grass or ruin the trees.

- 1843-

~ The abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, spoke in LaFayette Park under an oak tree in the south west corner.

- Late 1800's-

~ The park was surrounded by homes of the wealthy and by this time was known as 'Fayette Park.'

~ The Park was a popular place at all times of the day, but it was reported that there was not enough seating for all who wanted to enjoy the park and fountain in the evening hours.



*Fayette Park 1920's*

- Early 1900's-

~ Syracuse was known throughout the nation as "the city of beautiful parks" and Fayette Park was certainly one of the most attractive, popular and well-known of all city parks.

- 1975-

~ A Japanese business man visited Syracuse and planted two cherry trees in Fayette park to promote international friendliness between Japan and the United States.

- 1979-

~ Originally installed on the north side of Syracuse in 1900, the monument of fire Chief Eckel was moved several times before its final move to this park in 1979.

- 1998-

~ Over 80 volunteers worked to restore the beauty of this forgotten park by planting flowers and trimming trees. Volunteers say that this park is a beautiful site in downtown and they want people to know that it is here.

-2002-

~ Syracuse firefighters created a circle of bricks around the flagpole called the Circle of Supreme Sacrifice. Each brick is engraved with the name of a City of Syracuse firefighter who lost his life in the line of duty.



*On the east end of park is a monument to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty*