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Sustaining Identity, Recapturing Heritage: Exploring Issues of Public History, Tourism, and Race in a Southern Town

By Ann E. Denkler

Lexington Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 138 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.9in. x 0.6in. Sustaining Identity, Recapturing Heritage examines the complex web of public history, race, cultural identity, and tourism in Luray, Virginia, a rural Southern town. The texts associated with this town's public history—tourist brochures, promotional narratives, historic homes, memorials, and monuments—are devoted to the founding eighteenth-century families and Confederate soldiers in Luray's past, but they also marginalize the history and heritage of African Americans and American Indians, and nearly obliterate the history of women in this region. Thus, the public history does not reflect the actual history of this town. A close look at one town helps to debunk the ideas and ideologies of the existence of a monolithic South, since the term could mean Mississippi, North Carolina, or somewhere-in-between. Luray and the Shenandoah Valley, with their distinctive geographical, economical, architectural, and cultural history can boast of its own discrete southern identity. The book reveals how African-American texts and history reveal contributions to the town of Luray and the Shenandoah Valley region. The book studies the Ol Slave Auction Block, a controversial public history site that subverts the white, hegemonic heritage of the town. Sustaining Identity, Recapturing Heritage...

Reviews

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