



A City Transformed: Redevelopment, Race and Suburbanization in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1940-1980

By David Schuyler

Pennsylvania State University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A City Transformed: Redevelopment, Race and Suburbanization in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1940-1980, David Schuyler, As was true of many American cities, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, adopted urban renewal programs in the postwar years to revitalize a downtown that was experiencing economic decline. As the commercial and residential infrastructure of the city decayed, people and jobs migrated to the suburbs. Urban renewal was supposed to make the downtown viable again as a site for both businesses and residences. But as David Schuyler shows in A City Transformed, redevelopment in Lancaster resulted in more failures than successes. Beginning in the 1950s, the Lancaster Redevelopment Authority implemented a comprehensive revitalization program that changed the physical shape of the city. In attempting to solidify the retail functions of the traditional central business district, redevelopment dramatically altered key blocks of the downtown, replacing handsome turn-of-the-century Beaux Arts structures with modernist concrete boxes and a sterile public square. The strategy for eliminating density and blighted buildings resulted in the demolition of whole blocks of dwellings and, perhaps more important, destabilized Lancaster's African American community. A City Transformed is a compelling examination of a northern city struggling with its history...



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