

Manufacturing Suburbs: Building Work and Home on the Metropolitan Fringe (Critical Perspectives on the Past)

Robert Lewis



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Urban historians have long portrayed suburbanization as the result of a bourgeois exodus from the city, coupled with the introduction of streetcars that enabled the middle class to leave the city for the more sylvan surrounding regions. Demonstrating that this is only a partial version of urban history, "Manufacturing Suburbs" reclaims the history of working-class suburbs by examining the development of industrial suburbs in the United States and Canada between 1850 and 1950. The contributors demonstrate that these suburbs developed in large part because of the location of manufacturing beyond city limits and the subsequent building of housing for the workers who labored within those factories. Through case studies of industrial suburbs in several metropolitan areas (Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto, and Montreal), "Manufacturing Suburbs" sheds light on a key phenomenon of metropolitan development before the Second World War. Robert Lewis is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Toronto. He is the author of "Manufacturing Montreal: The Making of an Industrial Landscape, 1850 to 1930" and co-editor of "Urban History Review".

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