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THE RENOVATION OF SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL, FORT WAYNE INDIANA, 1993: A CITY DIVIDED
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The research was an investigation of the controversy surrounding the proposed renovation of South Side High School in 1993. The controversy raised issues of race, taxes, equity, personality, and a school’s role in the community. The research intended to address these issues and determine the merits of the many conflicting positions. The research was conducted by reading newspaper accounts of the events, letters to the editor, editorials and by interviewing school board member, Steve Corona. Analysis of these issues showed the proposed renovation was necessary and the building costs and tax increases were reasonable. Also, research explains the role of the Fort Wayne Community Schools’ superintendent in the controversy. In addition, it explored a belief of some in the African-American community and among residents of the south side of the city that opposition to the project was based in racism. Most importantly, perhaps, research affirmed that schools do play an important role in communities and neighborhoods not only by educating children but also by serving as an anchor to help revitalize and stabilize surrounding areas.