

Introduction

Land Use and Prosperity in the Western Reserve: A Call to Action is the subject of the 18th annual Western Reserve Studies Symposium. Begun in 1985 and designed to provide a forum for students and scholars of northeastern Ohio's history and culture, the objective of the symposia is to advance the exploration of the distinctive aspects of Ohio's Western Reserve over two centuries.

Two years ago at the 17th annual Western Reserve Studies Symposium "Regional Foods and Markets: Reconnecting Farmers and Consumers in the Western Reserve" many critical questions were raised. At the closing session, one attendee directed the question to me which was "What are you going to do about it?"

For me, the clarion call came with the recognition that "The prosperity of our home, the Western Reserve, is threatened!"

Clearly there were issues that needed to be addressed. This was the inspiration for the Symposium of 2004 **Land Use and Prosperity in the Western Reserve: A Call to Action**. This year we have invited those who were interested in and actively seeking to address the issues around land use to join in determining "what we are going to do about it."

The College of Arts and Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, our host, The Cleveland Foundation and Cleveland State University have our deepest appreciation for their interest and support in bringing about this Symposium.

Gladys Haddad
Professor of American Studies
Director, Western Reserve Studies Symposium

A complete list of these publications appears at the end of this book.

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