

# **AROUND THE RESERVE**

## **Introduction**

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The extreme manifestations of any period capture more attention than is properly due. In the case of the Gilded Age, that may be especially true. New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco—yes, even Cleveland—as important as they are, do not fully reflect the Gilded Age, or even urban social and political history during the period. One of the most astonishing aspects of urban growth in the late nineteenth century is the vast increase in mid-sized and smaller cities, the extension of urban services and urban amenities to citizens outside major metropolises, and the mid-sized and smaller cities' crucial role in the urban network that developed in this country. For this reason, consideration of the Gilded Age social experience 'Around the Reserve,' in Youngstown, Akron, Lorain, and Elyria, is of particular importance.