

## INTRODUCTION

**MAPPING THE LAND: WESTERN RESERVE SCAPES AND SHAPES** is the seventh in the series of Western Reserve Studies Symposia. 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.

This year's program was suggested by issues raised at previous symposia related to the land that constituted the Western Reserve. What were the attributes that encouraged settlers to leave their "home places" and relocate in "the west?" Was it viewed as a sanctuary for the establishment of community? Was it seen as a commodity that held the promise of economic opportunity and profit?

Funding for the 1992 Symposium and Exhibit, "Early Western Reserve Impressions" has been provided in part by a grant from the "Road to Statehood and Beyond" program of the Ohio Historical Society. We proposed to document and interpret land division and usage in northeastern Ohio's Western Reserve from the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. This was accomplished by drawing upon primary source materials in the collections of the Western Reserve Historical Society in the form of maps, land company records, surveyors' field notebooks, and landscape paintings, drawings and prints.

The following persons assisted in planning this Symposium. For their efforts in its implementation, special mention and appreciation is extended to Western Reserve Historical Society Museum Director, Steve Miller, Associate Curator of Education, Holly Holcombe, the Museum Docents, Public Relations officer, Ann Grube, Library Director, Kermit Pike and Secretary to the Library Director, Janet Mallula.

David R. Anderson, Hiram College  
John Grabowski, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Holly Holcombe, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Liz Horrigan, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Adrienne L. Jones, Oberlin College  
Steve Miller, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Kermit J. Pike, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Theodore A. Sande, Western Reserve Historical Society  
Rita S. Saslaw, University of Akron  
Judith Sheridan, Geauga County Historical Society  
Robert A. Wheeler, Cleveland State University