



# Appendix A

120 STAT. 1846 PUBLIC LAW 109–338—OCT. 12, 2006

## TITLE III—NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – STUDIES

Subtitle A—Western Reserve Heritage Area Study

### *SEC. 301.SHORT TITLE.*

This subtitle may be cited as the “Western Reserve Heritage Areas Study Act”.

### *SEC. 302.NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING THE WESTERN RESERVE, OHIO.*

#### (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

- (1) The area that encompasses the modern-day counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland in Ohio with the rich history in what was once the Western Reserve, has made a unique contribution to the cultural, political, and industrial development of the United States.
- (2) The Western Reserve is distinctive as the land settled by the people of Connecticut after the Revolutionary War. The Western Reserve holds a unique mark as the original wilderness land of the West that many settlers migrated to in order to begin life outside of the original 13 colonies.
- (3) The Western Reserve played a significant role in providing land to the people of Connecticut whose property and land was destroyed during the Revolution. These settlers were descendants of the brave immigrants who came to the Americas in the 17th century.

- (4) The Western Reserve offered a new destination for those who moved west in search of land and prosperity. The agricultural and industrial base that began in the Western Reserve still lives strong in these prosperous and historical counties.
- (5) The heritage of the Western Reserve remains transfixed in the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland in Ohio. The people of these counties are proud of their heritage as shown through the unwavering attempts to preserve agricultural land and the industrial foundation that has been embedded in this region since the establishment of the Western Reserve. Throughout these counties, historical sites, and markers preserve the unique traditions and customs of its original heritage.
- (6) The counties that encompass the Western Reserve continue to maintain a strong connection to its historic past as seen through its preservation of its local heritage, including historic homes, buildings, and centers of public gatherings.
- (7) There is a need for assistance for the preservation and promotion of the significance of the Western Reserve as the natural, historic and cultural heritage of the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland in Ohio.

(8) The Department of the Interior is responsible for protecting the Nation's cultural and historical resources. There are significant examples of such resources within these counties and what was once the Western Reserve to merit the involvement of the Federal Government in the development of programs and projects, in cooperation with the State of Ohio and other local governmental entities, to adequately conserve, protect, and interpret this heritage for future generations, while providing opportunities for education and revitalization.

**(b) STUDY.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, Midwest Region, and in consultation with the State of Ohio, the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland, and other appropriate organizations, shall carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area in these counties in Ohio.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include analysis and documentation regarding whether the Study Area—

- (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
- (B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are a valuable part of the national story;
- (C) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

- (D) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;
- (E) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the Study Area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
- (F) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;
- (G) has a potential local coordinating entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity;
- (H) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public; and
- (I) has potential or actual impact on private property located within or abutting the Study Area.

**(c) BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.—**

The Study Area shall be comprised of the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland in Ohio.

# Appendix B

## Historical Organizations of the Western Reserve



African American Museum  
Amherst Historical Society  
Ashland County Historical Society  
Ashtabula County Historical Society  
Atwater Historical Society  
Aurora Historical Society  
Austintown Historical Society  
Avon Historical Society  
Bath Township Historical Society  
Bay Village Historical Society  
Beachwood Historical Society  
Bedford Historical Society  
Belden Historical Society  
Bellevue Historical Society & Heritage Museum  
Berea Historical Society  
Berlin Center Historical Society  
Berlin Heights Historical Society  
Black River Historical Society  
Bloomfield Township Historical Society  
Boardman Historical Society  
Bratenahl Historical Society  
Brecksville Historical Association Inc.  
Brimfield Memorial House Association  
Bristol Historical Society  
Broadview Heights Historical Society  
Broadview Historical Society  
Brookfield Historical Society  
Brookfield Township Historical Society  
Brooklyn Historical Society  
Brownhelm Historical Association  
Brunswick Area Historical Society

Butler Museum of American Art  
Campbell Historical Society  
Canfield Fairground Western Reserve Village  
Canfield Heritage Foundation  
Canfield Historical Society  
Canfield War Veterans Museum  
Case-Barlow Farm  
Chagrin Falls Historical Society  
Chatham Historical Society  
City of Brook Park  
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum  
Cleveland Heights Historical Society  
Clinton Historical Society  
Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society  
Columbia Historical Society Inc.  
Conneaut Historical Society  
Copley Township Historical Society  
Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society  
Croatian Heritage Museum & Library  
Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Damascus Area Historical Society of Ohio  
Donauschwaben German American Cultural Center  
Dunham Tavern Museum  
Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve  
Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve  
Edison Birthplace Association  
Ellsworth Historical Society  
Erie County Historical Society  
Euclid Historical Society  
Fairport Harbor Historical Society

Fairview Park Historical Society  
Firelands Historical Society  
Fowler Historical Society  
Friends of Hower House  
Friends of McKinley Memorial Library and Museum  
Friends of the Duncan McFarland Homestead  
Gallery of Akron's Black History & Culture  
Garfield Heights Historical Society  
Gates Mills Historical Society  
Geauga County Historical Society  
Girard Historical Society  
Grafton Village History Association  
Granger Library and Historical Society  
Great Lakes Historical Society  
Greene Historical Society  
Hale Farm and Village - WRHS  
Harpersfield Heritage Society  
Hartford Township Historical Society  
Hinckley Historical Society Inc.  
Hiram Historical Society  
Historic Lyme Village Association  
Historical Society of Olde Northfield  
Howland Historical Society  
Hubbard Historical Society  
Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum  
Hudson Library & Historical Society  
Huron Historical Society  
Independence Historical Society  
Indian Museum of Lake County  
Inland Seas Maritime Museum  
James A. Garfield Historical Society

James A. Garfield National Historic Site  
John Stark Edwards House  
Johnston Historical Society  
Kelleys Island Historical Association Inc.  
Kent Historical Society  
Kent State University Museum  
Kinsman Historical Society  
Kirtland Temple Historic Center  
Lake County Engineer's Office  
Lake County Historical Society  
Lake Erie Islands Historical Society  
Lakeside Association  
Lakewood Historical Society  
Le Roy Heritage Association  
Lenox Historical Society  
Liberty Historical Society  
Litchfield Historical Society  
Liverpool Township Historical Society  
Lodi Harrisville Historical Society Inc.  
Lorain County Historical Society  
Lordstown Historical Society  
Lyndhurst Historical Society  
Madison Historical Society  
Mahoning Valley Historical Society  
Mantua Historical Society  
Maple Heights Historical Society  
Marblehead Lighthouse State Park  
Maritime Museum of Sandusky  
Mayfield Township Historical Society  
Mecca Historical Society  
Medina County Historical Society  
Mesopotamia Historical & Memorial Association  
Middleburg Heights Historical Society  
Middlefield Historical Society  
Milan Canal Historical Society  
Milan Historical Museum  
Mill Creek Metroparks  
Mogadore Historical Society Inc.  
Moreland Hills Historical Society  
Munroe Falls Historical Society

National Inventors Hall of Fame  
National McKinley Birthplace Memorial  
New London Area Historical Society  
Niles Historical Society  
North Bloomfield Historical Society  
North Fairfield Firelands Historical Association  
North Ridgeville Historical Society Inc.  
North Royalton Historical Society  
Northampton Historical Society  
Norton Historical Society  
Oberlin Heritage Center  
Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O.  
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition  
Old Brick House Historical Society  
Olmsted Historical Society  
Orange Village  
Ottawa County History Museum  
Parma Area Historical Society  
Parma Heights Historical Society  
Peninsula Historical Society  
Perry Historical Society of Lake County  
Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial  
Peter Miller House Museum  
Pittsfield Township Historical Society  
Poland Township Historical Society  
Portage County Historical Society  
Portage Lakes Historical Society  
Randolph Historical Society  
Richfield Historical Society  
Rochester Historical Society  
Rocky River Historical Society  
Rootstown Historical Society  
Russell Township Historical Society  
Sandusky Library Follett House Museum  
Sebring Ohio Historical Society  
Seville Historical Society  
Shaker Historical Society & Museum  
Shalersville Historical Society  
Sharon Township Heritage Society  
Sheffield Village Historical Society & Cultural Center

Silver Lake Historical Society  
Slavic Village Historical Society  
Solon Historical Society  
South Euclid Historical Society  
Southern Lorain County Historical Society  
Southington Historical Society  
Springfield Township Historical Society  
Stow Historical Society  
Strongsville Historical Society  
Struthers Historical Society  
Summit County Historical Society  
Summit County Historical Society  
Sutliff Museum  
Tallmadge Historical Society  
The Harriet Taylor Upton Association  
The Historical Society of Parma Heights  
The Keepers House  
The Temple Museum of Religious Art  
Trumbull County Historical Society  
Trumbull County Tourism Bureau, Ohio Appalachian  
Country North East Rep.  
Twinsburg Historical Society  
Ukrainian Museum-Archives Inc.  
Upton Association Inc.  
Valley View-Cuyahoga Valley Historical Association  
Vermilion Area Historical & Cultural Guild  
Vienna Historical Society  
Viets Museum  
Wadsworth Area Historical Society  
Western Reserve Heritage Association  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Westfield Historical Society  
Westlake Historical Society  
Wickliffe Historical Society Inc.  
Willard Area Historical Society  
Willoughby Hills Historical Society  
Willoughby Historical Society  
Windsor Historical Society

# Appendix C

## Western Reserve Letters of Support

The following pages contain letters of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area.



December 4, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

The Western Reserve Area takes in a major portion of Northeast Ohio that our organization Adventures in Northeast Ohio represents. We are a regional tourism organization that promotes travel and tourism to Northeast Ohio. "Adventures" and our membership know how special the Western Reserve Area is and look forward to assisting in any way we can. We already work closely with area Visitors Bureaus, Historical Societies, Parks and other organizations throughout the region. Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

27587 Edgepark Boulevard • North Olmsted, Ohio 44070  
Phone 440.716.8093 • Fax 440.716.8083 • Toll Free 1.877.869.9911  
[www.adventuresinnortheastohio.com](http://www.adventuresinnortheastohio.com)

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Olah

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



# BATH TOWNSHIP

Summit County, Ohio

January 6, 2011

#### TRUSTEES

Elaina E. Goodrich  
Becky Corbett  
James N. Nelson

#### FISCAL OFFICER

Sharon A. Treike

#### TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

William E. Snow

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Quintana:

Bath Township is located in Summit County, Ohio, a part of the Western Reserve. As a Bath Township Trustee I strongly support designation of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve as the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. With 38 miles of county roadways in Bath Township designated the Heritage Corridors of Bath, an Ohio Scenic Byway, we are committed to promoting the benefits of a heritage area whether it is local or national.

Bath Township's first settlers arrived in 1810 as they migrated from the East to the Western Reserve, bringing with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of small hamlets such as Ghent Square and Hammond's Corners in Bath Township. The hamlet is where individuals gathered to pursue business and pleasure, which is still evident today. The township has worked with the Bath Township Historical Society to preserve our history and our community supports preservation and restoration not only for homes, barns and structures, but for infrastructure of the waterways, roadways and the natural scenic beauty of our area.

Bath Township is a unique community that offers historical exhibits, preserved open spaces, conservation greenways and a trail system connecting parks and neighborhoods that are all within a short distance to a complete range of urban services, shopping and restaurants. We see great value in this visionary plan which will provide assets to the community in the form of educational benefits, recreational activity, economic development and environmental stability.

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall improve the quality of life for the region.

On behalf of Bath Township I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

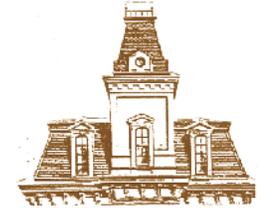
  
Elaina R. Goodrich, Trustee

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

3864 W. Bath Road  
P.O. Box 1188  
Bath, Ohio 44210-1188  
330-666-4007  
Fax 330-666-0325  
www.bathtownship.org

Bedford Historical Society  
P.O. Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146-0282  
440 232-0796 [bedfordohiohistory.org](http://bedfordohiohistory.org)

M & W 7:30pm - 10:00pm; Th 10:00am - 4:00pm;  
Second Sunday monthly 2:00pm - 5:00pm



Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

November 2, 2010

Dear Mr. Quintana:

The Bedford Historical Society in Bedford Ohio has been a voice for the history of this region since 1955. Through our efforts, several historic structures and the unique commercial business district have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The society has worked with other historic associations, local governments, the Cuyahoga County Metropolitan park district, and the National Park to protect and highlight areas of our collective history. Our Western Reserve region offers visitors a glimpse of life in the early western movement and how we have evolved to welcome other cultures and customs in the tradition that makes our country great. Please add our support to designate the region as the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Thank you for your efforts on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Caldwell  
Director / curator

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

Founded in 1968-Collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve.

Donations to the Bedford Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Bedford Ohio Town Hall 1874

**BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

6844 Strimbu Drive  
Brookfield, Ohio 44403  
330-448-1124  
December 20, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

RE: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton, Oberlin and Brookfield, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial land use and architectural legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non-profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lois M. Werner

Brookfield Township Historical Society, Trumbull County, Ohio



November 1, 2010

**Administrative Offices**  
4101 Fulton Parkway  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144  
216-635-3200  
FAX 216-635-3286  
TTY 216-351-0808

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

**Board of Park  
Commissioners**

Fred Rzepka  
President

Bruce S. Rinker  
Vice President

David W. Whitehead  
Vice President

**Executive  
Director-Secretary**

Brian M. Zimmerman

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

Cleveland Metroparks supports the designation of the Northeast Ohio Western Reserve as a National Heritage Area. We are pleased to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of this historic region. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we hope to stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

Cleveland Metroparks, as the oldest park district in the state of Ohio, looks forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we hope to celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Zimmerman  
Executive Director-Secretary

cc: Cory Robinsom, National Park Service





*Charleston Village Society Inc  
1127 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
E-mail [cvsilor@yahoo.com](mailto:cvsilor@yahoo.com)  
Tel: 440-246-6046*

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Mr. Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Quintana

**Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area**

The Charleston Village Society, Inc. <http://www.loraincounty.com/charlestonlorain/> is a non-profit organization of volunteers striving for the preservation of the area of Lorain, Ohio formally known as Charleston, 1834. It is the area of Lorain that encompasses the earliest portion of what is now Lorain, surveyed and recorded in 1834 for incorporation by the early settlers who came to the Western Reserve in the very early 1800's.

The Charleston Village Society - began their concerted efforts as a society in 1989 to draw attention to and preserve the history and ambiance of this earliest settlement. The grassroots efforts of the society established the preservation of Lorain's first public green space 1807-2007, now known as Veterans Park, when it was under threat of becoming condos in 2005. We are also extremely proud of our most recent award winning efforts- Settlers' Watch 2010 and the reclamation and rehab of the original pioneer cemetery Charleston Pioneer Cemetery 2007 both receiving Lorain County Beautiful Awards for Community Service. Our annual reports can be found by accessing our website.

The earliest recorded settlement was of Nathan Perry Jr. in 1807 who set up the first trading post. Perry's father was also a Western Reserve Pioneer who helped settle other areas along the south shore of Lake Erie. Nathan Perry settled here because of the excellent location from which to trade. Other settlers began arriving in 1810-12. The pioneers used the natural resources of the area to carve out a community, shipbuilding, fishing, agriculture and trade. These early settlers began a community which suffered many hardships but survived through the centuries and has

become the City of Lorain, whose trade in steel and shipbuilding was known throughout the world. The heritage and legacy of those intrepid pioneers and their contributions need to be recognized, just as the steel and shipbuilding has impacted the world so too the efforts of this area's pioneers.

We support the initiative to create and designate this unique location and its heritage in America as a National Heritage Area. This area was a vital link to the development of states further to the west. It was the perseverance of the settlers who endured many hardships to build new communities which still thrive today and the designation would commemorate their endeavors. Today with the decline of the industrial age, Lorain and cities alike are turning once again to the natural resources (please follow this link <http://www.locophotoblog.com/?p=555>) and other assets that will help redefine its course for the future.

On behalf of the Charleston Village Society Inc. we look forward to the designation of a National Heritage Area for this special place in America's past and future. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Yours sincerely

Loraine Ritchey- Co Chair Charleston Village Society Inc.  
Renee Dore - Portside Chairperson, Charleston Village Society Inc.

CC:  
Mayor Krasienko - City of Lorain  
Rory Robinson National Park Service



PROTECT · CONSERVE · CONNECT

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

November 29, 2010

Mr. Rory Robinson  
National Park Service  
2179 Evert Road  
Peninsula, OH 44264

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing on behalf of Geauga Park District to offer our strong support for the proposed designation of a 14-county area in the "Western Reserve" area of Ohio as a National Heritage Area. Each of the counties in the Western Reserve are rich in history and offer expansive cultural, educational and recreational opportunities to residents who call the Western Reserve their home.

Gauga Park District is looking forward to working with area residents, public officials, community organizations, government agencies (both local and National) and non-profit entities on the creation of this important regional project. A Western Reserve National Heritage designation for our area will promote economic development, preserve our natural, cultural and historic resources and celebrate the legacy left by our early settlers.

Regards,

Thomas G. Curtin  
Executive Director

9160 Robinson Road • Chardon, Ohio 44024-9148  
phone/440 • 286 • 9516 fax/440 • 286 • 1285 Geauga toll free /800 • 536 • 4006  
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org email/info@geaugaparkdistrict.org

Board of Park Commissioners / Robert McCullough  
John D. Leach  
Mark Rzeszutowski  
Executive Director/Thomas C. Curtin



## HUDSON PARKS

P.O. Box 544  
Hudson, Ohio 44236  
(330) 653-5201 • Fax (330) 342-0013

January 4, 2011

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Hutchinson, Hudson Parks Superintendent

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



Joseph J. Arpad, Ph.D.  
Susan S. Arpad, Ph. D.  
280 Woodland Avenue  
Wadsworth, OH 44281

December 2, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

We are retired professors of history and American Culture. One of the reasons we moved to this area for our retirement was because of its history and the concern of many of its residents to preserve its history and culture.

We support the designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are now working and plan to continue working to develop a regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural resources of some of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation, and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

We are particularly interested in the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the nineteenth century. We hope to be part of the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study and to work with local and regional citizens to promote the area.

We strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area designation and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact us directly if we can be of service.

Sincerely,

  
Susan S. Arpad, Ph.D.

  
Joseph J. Arpad, Ph.D.



**Kent Parks & Recreation Department**

497 Middlebury Road Kent, Ohio 44240 (330) 673-8897 FAX: 673-8898

December 30, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

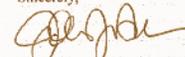
Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Idone, Director

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service ✓

November 1, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are very supportive of the National Park Service's regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we will stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The history of Lakewood, an inner ring suburb of Cleveland, reflects the general trends seen throughout the Western Reserve. Our earliest settlers farmed the land. As the industrial economy of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century took hold, Lakewood transitioned into a bedroom community for both average workers and the industrial elite. Our community population, economy and social activities boomed around the turn of the 20th century. The long-term effects of this boom can still be seen in the architecture, community organizations, social and recreational trends and school and religious institutions found in Lakewood today. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Mazie M. Adams  
Executive Director  
Lakewood Historical Society

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

October 27, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. The Mahoning Valley Historical Society is proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties now carved out of the historic Connecticut Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we can stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located in the southeastern corner of the Western Reserve, the Mahoning River Valley was one of two gateways for settlers to enter the region in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The communities of the Mahoning Valley share in the unique architecture, land use, social values, customs, traditions and industrial innovations of the rest of the Western Reserve. A wonderful example of this commonality is in the development of the Town Squares. The Town Square was where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland to Burton, Warren to Brookfield, Canfield to Youngstown, evidence of historic Western Reserve Town Squares is still very much part of the landscape today.

Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors will experience the unique industrial, geographical and architectural legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the many natural and recreational resources already existing in the region.

We look forward to working in partnership with our home corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, government entities and non-profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the cultivation of public-private partnerships, we will celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
H. William Lawson  
Executive Director

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



Mr. Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director  
National Park Service

Mr. Quintana,

My name is Matthew Hintz and I am writing in support of the Western Reserve Heritage study. I am basing my decision, not simply on the fact that I grew up in the Reserve, but as an academic as well. I believe that after reading what I have been able to condense in this short letter you will understand the treasure that is the Western Reserve.

I grew up in Elyria, Ohio, near Oberlin College, and attended undergraduate school at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. My major at Hiram was American History, specifically in antebellum abolition in the Reserve. In my four years as an undergrad I had done everything from study books, looked through archives, and interned at the Oberlin Heritage Society helping to give tours and conduct outside research. I wrote my senior thesis on the radical abolition found in the region, primarily in Oberlin with the "Oberlin-Wellington Rescue", and in Hudson with John Brown. I am currently receiving graduate training at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, and will be writing my thesis on the Western Reserve.

The Western Reserve is a unique location in the "Midwest". I put Midwest in quotes because the Reserve does not feel like the rest of the Midwest. The dominance of Congregationalists, Calvinists, and other New England religions can be seen across the area. In addition, the architecture of the buildings and the layout of the pre-twentieth century communities reflect that of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The most obvious example of this is the village green, a public park found at the center of a community. The far western edge of the Reserve is referred to as the "Irelands" because that land was reserved for citizens of Connecticut whose homes were burned by the British during the Revolution. The Western Reserve, in many ways, is "New" New England, a continuation of ideology and spirit of the Northeast.

As for noteworthy institutions, events or people, the list is long and profound. Oberlin College, founded in 1833, was the first college to enroll women in equal degree programs to men. In addition, the College was also the first to enroll African Americans in these same programs. Oberlin was one of the final stops on the Underground Railroad, and had a sizeable free black population. The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue was a massive slave rescue that was led by Charles Henry Langston, a black attorney who was the great grandfather of poet Langston Hughes. His brother, John Mercer Langston, became the first African American Senator from Virginia. In addition to Oberlin, John Brown of Hudson led the infamous raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, as well as participated in the Kansas-Nebraska Wars. The town of Oberlin, through its activity, earned the nickname "The Town that Started the Civil War", by the popular press of the day, and because of Oberlin and John Brown, the Western Reserve had earned a reputation in both the South and the North as a land of fanatics and radicals.

The Reserve is home to many inventors such as Charles Hall who invented a method for cheaply extracting aluminum. Garrett Morgan was an African American from Cleveland who invented the streetlight and gasmask. Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, direct current

electricity, the phonograph etc, was born in Milan and had his first lab there. Industrialist John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil. Contributors to the arts such as Robert Edwin Lee, who wrote the play, *Inherit the Wind*, lived in Elyria, as well as author Sherwood Anderson. U.S. President's James Garfield, William McKinley, Warren Harding, and Rutherford B. Hayes, are also from the Reserve. Famed Federal agent and Untouchable, Elliot Ness, served as Safety Service Director of Cleveland, and is buried in historic Lakeview Cemetery near James A. Garfield. The Reserve, Hiram to be exact, was one of the original headquarters for the Mormon Church before Joseph Smith was forced out of the community.

The Western Reserve is a physically beautiful and culturally significant location. The history of the Reserve is laced with stories of the Underground Railroad, radical abolition, famous inventors, and mass contributions to the arts. The city of Cleveland is home to the world renowned Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Cleveland Orchestra, both organizations/institutions considered among the finest in the world by American and European critics alike. Cleveland's Playhouse Square is the second largest performing arts center outside of New York, and the Cleveland Playhouse Theatre is the oldest and largest regional theater company in the Nation. I wish I could list more, especially contributors to the arts, but I'm afraid this letter would go on for too long.

Again, I could write about most of the counties and most of the communities in each county, but it would be impossible to do it in a small two page letter. I hope you see that, especially when compared to the other Heritage locations in Ohio such as the Erie Canal and the Aviation Heritage site, that the Western Reserve is worthy of such a designation. There is so much still to be studied, so much architecture to be preserved and to be documented for generations to come. The Western Reserve can teach us about abolition, about New England, and the arts and technology across the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is truly a remarkable part of the State of Ohio, and the Nation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. If there is any more that I can personally do, or say, to aid you in this process please let me know. Have a good day sir.

Sincerely,

Matthew David Hintz  
4929 University Station  
Clemson, SC 29632  
hintzmd@my.hiram.edu



# The Medina County Arts Council, Inc.

P.O. BOX 532  
MEDINA, OH 44258  
www.medinacountyartsCouncil.org

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December 6, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform.

Here in Medina County we have several Town Squares or Town Centers which the Medina County Arts Council and many other Medina County Arts Organizations continues to use to promote the Arts within Medina County. We have used our town square and town centers for Shakespeare on the Square, Art Shows, Craft Shows, Concerts, Theatre programs and Arts Week which includes children's and adult programs. These are just a few of the Arts programs. Our Communities also offer great Architecture with some of our buildings being over a century old. We have a thriving retail area and continue to use our Town Squares as an integral part of our daily life of here in Medina County. We still feel the Square is an important part of our community, as our fore fathers did. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique Arts, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region and Medina County while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

The Medina County Arts Council, established in 1983, is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote and build community excellence through the arts in Medina County.

Page 2

We also work with other organizations that use the Square as a part of their programs. Main Street Medina has done festivals that include entertainment and Art. They do a Chalk Art Festival and an International Festival. The Medina County Show Biz Co. along with the Medina County Historical Society and the MCAC do "Walk with the Spirits of the Past" which takes place all around the Square with actors portraying Historical Leaders of Medina County.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel D Hostetler  
President of the Board, M.C.A.C.

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



Medina County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Explore the Possibilities. . .

32 PUBLIC SQUARE • MEDINA, OHIO 44256  
(330) 722-6502 • FAX (330) 723-4713 • www.visitmedinacounty.com

December 28, 2010

Mr. Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Quintana:

The Medina County Convention and Visitors Bureau would like to offer our support for the designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with, and offer to assist the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the fourteen counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Medina, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Here in Medina, we continue to use our Square as a thriving Business Community, a social, cultural and a recreational center for the community. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and nonprofit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Hostetler  
Executive Director Medina County Visitors Bureau

Cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

Medina County Commissioners

County Administration Building  
144 North Broadway  
Medina, Ohio 44256



Patricia G. Geiseman  
Stephen D. Hambley  
Sharon A. Ray

(330) 722-9208  
(330) 225-7100  
(330) 336-6657

December 6, 2010

Fax: (330) 722-9206

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland to Medina, Burton, and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms, and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use, and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and nonprofit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. The Medina County Commissioners strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Board of Medina County Commissioners

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

Milan Public Library  
19 E. Church Street | P.O. Box 1550  
Milan, OH 44864  
419-499-4112 | Fax: 419-499-4697



Berlin Township Public Library  
4 E. Main Street | P.O. Box 139  
Berlin Heights, OH 44814  
419-568-2250 | Fax: 419-588-0025

learn | connect | explore

Mr. Ernest Quintana, Midwest Regional Office Director  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

November 9, 2010

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am writing to give my support as Local History Coordinator of the Milan-Berlin Township Public Library for the Western Reserve to become a National Heritage Area. I can tell you that even as a smaller library, much of our collection's primary resource materials serve as evidence of the richness of this heritage. Contributions by those settlers from the east coast are evident in the remaining architecture, but also in the social and economic history of this area. In addition, research requests from scholars and those interested in genealogy is steady because of the connection the Western Reserve has to the larger context of United States history.

Thank you for considering the Western Reserve to become a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Shari Bowers, Local History Coordinator  
Cc William Rutger, Director  
Vikki Morrow-Ritchie, Library Services Manager

www.milan-berlin.lib.oh.us

## OBERLIN

Oberlin College  
Allen Memorial Art Museum  
87 North Main Street  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074-1161  
440/775-8665  
Fax: 440/775-8799 & 6841  
www.oberlin.edu/allenart

November 9, 2010

Mr. Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana,

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we hope to stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Since its founding in 1917, the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) has been a major educational and cultural asset of Oberlin College and Northeast Ohio, becoming one of the five best college and university art museums in the United States. The AMAM is founded on the belief that the study and appreciation of high-quality original works of art is an indispensable part of an excellent liberal arts education and promotes the highest standards of visual literacy and encourages multi-disciplinary inquiry.

Open free of charge to all, the AMAM is a vital and unique resource for the students, faculty, and staff of Oberlin College as well as the public of Northeast Ohio and a national and international audience. Our school tours and public programs impact thousands of schoolchildren and residents each year.

The Western Reserve as a whole offers a depth of cultural resources across the visual and performing arts disciplines. From the many institutions represented in Cleveland – its orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Art, non-profits such as Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, and numerous independent galleries – to the Akron Art Museum and the Butler Institute of Art in Youngstown, as well as the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the AMAM, there is a rich history and long-lasting appreciation for the arts found across the region.

On behalf of our organization, I fully support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to coordinating with our regional partners on this important project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Wiles  
John G.W. Cowles Director, Allen Memorial Art Museum



**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 0455  
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455

**Office Address:** 73 1/2 South Professor Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074

**Telephone:** 440-774-1700  
**Website:** www.oberlinheritage.org

October 29, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. The Oberlin Heritage Center is a nationally recognized small museum and historic site in Oberlin, Ohio where the powerful stories of equal rights, scientific discovery, and community activism are shared with visitors from around the world. The Oberlin Heritage Center has been proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square, where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Oberlin was particularly noted for its support of abolition and equal education for African Americans and women. The conservation, interpretation and development of heritage resources and attractions within the Western Reserve can stimulate community development and improve the quality of life for the region as residents and visitors experience the unique educational, industrial, recreational, and architecture legacy of region.

We look forward to working in partnership with elected officials, chambers of commerce, local residents, government entities and nonprofit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, we strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Pat Murphy*  
Pat Murphy  
Executive Director

*Elizabeth Schultz*  
Elizabeth Schultz  
Museum Education and Tour Coordinator



cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM



## Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

### Board Resolution

#### Western Reserve Heritage Area Study

August 10, 2010

**WHEREAS:** Congress passed legislation authorizing the National Park Service to conduct a study of the historic counties of the Western Reserve to determine their national significance for conservation, interpretation and development and

**WHEREAS:** Congressman Tim Ryan sponsored the Western Reserve Heritage Area Study Act and requested the technical assistance and support of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition regarding the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Area Study and

**WHEREAS:** Cuyahoga and Summit Counties are two of the fourteen counties included within the proposed study area of the Western Reserve and

**WHEREAS:** The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition is recognized at the local, state and national level as a leader in the development of Heritage Areas and cultivating partnerships and collaborations for resource conservation and community and economic development and

**WHEREAS:** The National Park Service engaged the services of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition to assist with the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Area Study.

**THEREFORE,** The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition supports the Western Reserve Heritage Area Study and looks forward to work in partnership and collaboration with our private, local, state and federal partners on this important regional project.

*Daniel M. Rice*

President and Chief Executive Officer



47 West Exchange Street • Akron, Ohio 44308 • Phone: 330-374-5657 • Fax: 330-374-5688



**Portage County Regional Planning Commission**

December 8, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. The Portage County Regional Planning Commission are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through shared efforts Portage County would like to work together towards the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Portage County has several communities and villages that developed directly from the early Connecticut settlers and we are proud of our heritage and want to see it not only preserved but shared with others parts of our great country so that our legacy is never lost. Our desire is shared in our region to be recognized and to develop and strengthen our unifying regional theme.

Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Chairman

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

124 North Prospect Street • Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
Telephone (330) 297-3613 • Fax (330) 297-3617  
"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

*Sheffield Village Historical Society*

GARFIELD FARMS — 4921 DETROIT ROAD  
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE, OHIO 44054  
(440) 934-1514



November 4, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

On behalf of the Sheffield Village Historical Society of Lorain County, Ohio, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area (WRNHA). Our Society is proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources of the Ohio counties of the former Connecticut Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation, and wise development of the resources within the Western Reserve, we shall strive to stimulate community/economic development and to improve the quality of life throughout the WRNHA.

Located the shores of Lake Erie, Ohio's most valuable natural resource, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from New England migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square, where citizens gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business, and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton, Oberlin, and Milan, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape.

Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources. We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government, and other non-profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. On behalf of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. I have enclosed an example of our collaborative work to establish *The North Ridge Scenic Byway* in Lorain County.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Herdendorf, Ph.D.  
President

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



COME. EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE.

321 Mahoning Avenue NW • Warren, OH 44483  
P: 330-675-3081 • F: 330-675-3083 • ExploreTrumbullCounty.com

December 1, 2010

Mr. Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

As a member of the Western Reserve Heritage Area Steering Committee, the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau is proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties included in the historic Western Reserve. Through conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within this area, we will be able to stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life of our region.

Located on the north coast of Ohio, the Western Reserve celebrates the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As settlers from Connecticut migrated to the Western Reserve, they brought with them their values, customs and traditions including the development of the Town Square. This gathering place is where individuals met for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform.

From Cleveland to Mesopotamia to Warren, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

As a destination marketing organization, the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau looks forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non-profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we will celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve.

We look forward to working on this important regional project. On behalf of our organization, please accept this letter as written support for designation of the Western Reserve as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,  
  
Stephanie L. Sferia  
Executive Director

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

2010 Trumbull County Tourism Board  
Jerry Usselman, President • Tami Cardella, Vice President • Gwen Logan, Treasurer • Kathy Telego, Secretary  
JV Ferraro • Commissioner Paul Heltzel • Beverly Horton • John Palasias • Christopher Stephenson • Kim Zarick

## Village of Richfield

4410 W. STREETSBORO ROAD  
P.O. BOX 387  
RICHFIELD, OHIO 44286-0387  
330-655-9201  
FAX 330-659-4906

MICHAEL K. LYONS, Mayor  
JOHN CIOLEKVEICH, Council President

SANDY TURK, Finance Director  
MELANIE BAKER, Service Director

December 21, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. I am proud to be working with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. I believe the conservation, interpretation and development of these resources within the Western Reserve will stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

The Western Reserve, located on the north coast of Ohio, exemplifies the unique architecture, land use, social values and industrial innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Settlers from Connecticut who migrated to the Western Reserve brought with them their values, customs and traditions, including the development of the Town Square. The Town Square is where individuals gathered for pursuits of pleasure, business and social reform. From Cleveland, to Burton and Oberlin, evidence of the historic Western Reserve Town Square is still evident on the landscape today. Evidence of a "vanguard of thinking" is found throughout the region, as those living in the Western Reserve pursued new products, new social reform platforms and innovations. Through the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study, residents and visitors can experience the unique industrial, land use and architecture legacy of the Western Reserve region while enjoying the natural and recreational resources.

The Western Reserve National Heritage Area can be developed in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we can celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
  
Michael K. Lyons, Mayor  
Village of Richfield

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service



November 12, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

RE: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

Visit Lorain County has attended local focus group meetings to share stories and ideas that could greatly contribute to the development of the Western Reserve as a National Heritage Area. Much of Lorain County's history is tied to its proximity to Lake Erie, which stimulated industrial growth in ship building, steel production, and sandstone quarries. Runaway slaves were drawn to the prospect of freedom across Lake Erie into Canada. Some found refuge and acceptance in the small town of Oberlin and remained. This unique college town became known as "The Town that Started the Civil War" and has become an attraction for Underground Railroad heritage tourists. Oberlin College serves as the cultural center of Lorain County, as well, with one of the most prestigious college art museums in the country. Architectural enthusiasts can view a wide variety of architectural styles within the small Village of Wellington home to Archibald Willard, painter of the famed "Spirit of '76" painting.

Lorain County offers some of the best perch and walleye fishing in the Central Basin and along the sandbar stretching between Vermilion and Lorain. Steelhead fishing in the Vermilion and Black Rivers is highly attractive to even the most experienced anglers. Kayaking is one of the fastest growing recreational opportunities attracting tourists to the natural beauty of Lorain County's rivers and the lake shoreline. The Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail offers a signed route with multiple access points. The Back Roads & Beaches Bike and Multi-sport route incorporates cycling on low traveled county roads with kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and swimming. Newly identified and mapped shipwrecks off the shores of Lorain and other cities have garnered attention from scuba enthusiasts adding to the many recreational options available in

Visit Lorain County  
8025 Lavitt Road  
Amherst, OH 44001  
Ph. 440.984.5282  
800.334.1673  
F. 440.984.7363



[www.visitloraincounty.com](http://www.visitloraincounty.com) | [www.backroadsandbeachesohio.com](http://www.backroadsandbeachesohio.com)

Lorain County. Birding is also a popular attraction at many of the county metro parks, notably the Sandy Ridge Reservation.

On behalf of Visit Lorain County, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Regards,

Barb Bickel  
Executive Director

cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

# WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bingham-Hanna Mansion University Circle  
Chisholm Hall Custom 70mg University Circle  
Crawford Auto Station Museum University Circle  
Hale Farm & Village Bath, Ohio  
Hay-McKinney Mansion University Circle  
History Museum University Circle  
Library/Archives & Genealogy Center University Circle  
Loghurst Historic Home Canfield, Ohio  
Shandy Hall Historic Home Leona, Ohio

November 1, 2010

Ernest Quintana, Midwest Regional Office Director  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Mr. Quintana:

Since 1867, the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) has been a collecting institution, insuring that the documents and artifacts used to interpret daily life in Northeast Ohio are preserved and made accessible for the education and enjoyment of the region's residents as well as visitors. WRHS' job is to tell "authentic" stories of the historic Western Reserve and the impact of its people, places, and events on local, state, national, and global history.

Today, WRHS cares for 130,000 artifacts, 12 miles of documentary materials, 250,000 books, 4-5 million photographs, and 36 historic buildings as well as 247 acres of land. In addition, the Society has committed the interpretation of its historical collections and the expertise of its staff to providing insight for the public as they seek solutions to current and future challenges in Northeast Ohio. And, as an educational institution, WRHS is dedicated to interactively connecting the public to its cultural heritage through life-long learning opportunities that focus on the following areas of relevancy:

- **Family History**—Providing a sense of place and stability in a mobile and fast-moving society by allowing people to discover their "roots"
- **Community History**—Creating pride in the history and potential of a culturally and ethnically diverse Northeast Ohio
- **Entrepreneurial History**—Documenting and utilizing information that will become the launching pad for continued excellence in the areas of innovation, invention, research & development, and business practices for a thriving 21st-century economy in Northeast Ohio
- **History of Sustainability**—Imparting the historic background on the use of natural and human resources in our geographical area that will allow the public to construct a viable and healthy environment for its residents

The Western Reserve Historical Society, therefore, believes that it can be an important partner, with the National Park Service, in the development of this regional study, designed to examine the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of what is now Northeast Ohio.

On behalf of the Western Reserve Historical Society, I strongly support the creation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and look forward to working closely on this project with other NEO-based organizations and individuals.

Sincerely yours,

*Homer Davis*

Homer B. Davis, Ph.D., President/CEO

cc: Rory Robinson, NPS

*History... Take it Personally!*

University Circle Complex, 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, 216.721.5722, www.wrhs.org  
Hale Farm & Village, PO Box 296, 2686 Oak Hill Road, Bath, Ohio 44210, 330.666.3711, www.halefarm.org



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

OUR LAND. OUR LEGACY.

September 30, 2010

Ernest Quintana  
Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Dr.  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: National Designation of the Western Reserve Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Quintana:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for designation of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. We are proud to partner with the National Park Service on the development of the regional study examining the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the 14 counties of the historic Western Reserve. Through the conservation, interpretation and development of the authentic resources and attractions within the Western Reserve, we shall stimulate community and economic development and improve the quality of life for the region.

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We look forward to working in partnership with corporations, elected officials, chambers of commerce, units of government and non profit organizations on the development of the Western Reserve National Heritage Area. Through the development of public-private partnerships, we shall celebrate the legacy of the Western Reserve, promote stewardship, stimulate community and economic development, and improve the quality of life for the residents of the Western Reserve. On behalf of our organization, I strongly support the Western Reserve National Heritage Area and we look forward to working on this important regional project. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

*Richard D. Cochran*  
Richard D. Cochran  
cc: Rory Robinson, National Park Service

P.O. BOX 314 · NOVELTY, OH 44072

WILLIAM C. MULLIGAN, CHAIR · RICHARD S. GRIPA, VICE CHAIR · ELIZABETH A. JULIANO, VICE CHAIR · SCOTT MULLER, VICE CHAIR · DAVID HALSTEAD, TREASURER · DAVID L. BERZEL, SECRETARY · EDWARD F. HEYBES, ASSISTANT SECRETARY · NED BARTER · ERICK BRUBAKER · OWEN M. COLLIGAN · SALLY CUTLER · BRAD DANE · GENE A. RAUFEL · JAMES GARDINSCHER · MORRIS N. GUDERANSON · WILLIAM J. HILWIN · J. JEFFREY HOLLAND · RICHARD C. HYDE · DALE LAFORTE · KATHY KEARE LEAVENWORTH · JOHN D. LEECH · G. RUSSELL LINCOLN · KATHYRN L. MURPHY · S. STERLING McMILLAN, IV · FRANK SAHERLAND · MICHAEL D. SHANAGHNESSY · JAMES C. SHRA · JAMES C. WATTERSON · JESSIE DICKEY YERGAN · RICHARD D. COCHRAN, PRESIDENT & CEO  
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*Appendix D*  
Public Comment



