

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS  
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M477

**Letters Sent by  
the Surveyor General of  
the Territory Northwest of  
the River Ohio  
1797-1854**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON: 1972

**RICHARD NIXON**

*President of the United States*

**ARTHUR F. SAMPSON**

*Acting Administrator of General Services*

**JAMES B. RHOADS**

*Archivist of the United States*

The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

Records of the Bureau of Land Management

Record Group 49

in the National Archives Building

LETTERS SENT BY THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF THE  
TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF THE RIVER OHIO  
1797-1854

On the 10 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced copies of letters sent by the Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio between 1797 and 1854. They were sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Secretary of the Interior, Members of Congress, other Government officials, State and local government officials, other surveyors general, deputy surveyors, and private persons interested in land matters.

The Office of Surveyor General of the United States was created by an act of May 13, 1796 (1 Stat. 464). The person appointed to this Office served also as Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio until 1803. When the Office of the Surveyor General for the Territory South of the Tennessee River was established in 1803, the use of the term Surveyor General of the United States was applied to each person holding a corresponding position in the various surveying districts of the United States.

Among the responsibilities of the Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio were surveying boundaries and subdivisions of the territory; surveying lands acquired under the provisions of the Treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795; contracting with deputy surveyors to conduct the surveying; issuing instructions to deputy surveyors; and general administrative duties of the Office of Surveyor General.

The Office of the Surveyor General, originally located in Marietta, Ohio, was moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in May 1805, and remained there until it was moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, in December 1814. The office was returned to Cincinnati in July 1829. In June 1845 it was moved to Detroit, Mich., where it remained until its abolition in 1856.

The Surveyors General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio, 1797-1854, were Rufus Putnam, Jared Mansfield, Josiah Meigs, Edward Tiffin, William Lytle, Micajah T. Williams, Robert T. Lytle, E. S. Haines, William Johnston, Lucius Lyon, Charles Noble, and Leander Chapman. Oliver Wolcott and Albert Gallatin served as Secretaries of the Treasury between 1797 and 1812. Commissioners of the General Land Office between 1812 and 1854 were Edward Tiffin, Josiah Meigs, John McLean, George Graham, Elijah Hayward, Ethan Allen Brown, James Whitcomb, Elisha M. Huntington, Thomas H. Blake, James Shields, Richard M. Young, Justin Butterfield, John Wilson, and Thomas A. Hendricks.

Although the letters sent copied in these volumes are chiefly concerned with the administration of surveying matters, they also contain a great deal of personal and historical data. Included are letters about Indian troubles in frontier areas and financial problems of the surveyors, as well as documentation on floods, snow, and other natural phenomena; geography; transportation matters; and sickness and other problems typical of frontier areas of the Western United States.

The letters are arranged in chronological order in 10 volumes--one unlettered volume and 9 volumes lettered A through I. Some of the volumes contain indexes arranged in alphabetical order by initial letter of surname of the person to whom the letter was addressed. A page number is given for each letter entered in the index. The letters sent, 1854-56, have not been found.

The documents reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49. In the same record group are other records relating to the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio. Letters received by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of the General Land Office from the Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio, 1797-1849, have been reproduced as microfilm publication M478. Letters received by the Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio, 1797-1856, have been reproduced as microfilm publication M479. Additional correspondence files that include materials on the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio can be found in the administrative records of the former General Land Office, now the Bureau of Land Management.

These introductory remarks were written by Richard Maxwell.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1		May 13, 1797-Sept. 27, 1814
2	A	Dec. 26, 1814-June 23, 1817
3	B	July 1, 1817-Jan. 23, 1823
4	C	Jan. 25, 1823-Mar. 28, 1831
5	D	Apr. 30, 1831-Jan. 7, 1835
6	E	Jan. 8, 1835-May 1, 1837
7	F	May 3, 1837-Mar. 5, 1840
8	G	Mar. 9, 1840-Dec. 31, 1845
9	H	Jan. 6, 1846-July 12, 1849
10	I	July 17, 1849-June 6, 1854