Contents

Preface ix
Introduction: The Malleable Landscape 1

I  The Frontier West as the Orient (ca. 1810–1920)
1. The American Zahara: Into and Beyond the Great Western Plains 25
2. In Praise of Pyramids: Orientalizing the Western Interior 64
3. Chosen People, Chosen Land: Utah as the Holy Land 87
5. The Far East in the Far West: Chinese and Japanese California 155
6. Syria on the Pacific: California as the Near/Middle East 176
7. To Ancient East by Ocean United: The Pacific Northwest as Asia 202

II  The Modern West as the Orient (ca. 1920–2010)
8. Lands of Enchantment: The Modern West as the Near/Middle East 223
9. Another Place, Another Time: The Modern West as the Far East 257
10. Full Circle: Imagining the Orient as the American West 288

Notes 308
Bibliography 329
Index 344