

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St. Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



1. No.	2. County LOR	4. Present Name(s) General Shurtleff Statue		<input type="checkbox"/> Coded	
3. Location of Negatives O.H.I.O. Resource Ctr.		5. Historic or Other Name(s) General Shurtleff Statue			
Roll #	Exp. #				Facing
Rear 3	10				
Front 3	11				
6. Specific Address or Location Front Lawn of 159 South Professor Street		17. Date(s) or Period 1911	17b. Alteration Date(s)	30. Foundation Material Granite	
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900-085-113-014		18. Style or Design Neo-Classical Revival	High Style <input type="checkbox"/>	31. Wall Construction Not Applicable	
7. City or Village Oberlin		18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)	Elements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	32. Roof: Type Not Applicable Pitch Not Applicable Material Not Applicable	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		19. Architect or Engineer Sculptor: Emily Ewing Peck		33. No. Bays Front Not Applicable Side Not Applicable	
		19a. Design Sources Unknown		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Not Applicable	
		20. Contractor or Builder Not Applicable		35. Plan Shape Not Applicable	
9. U.T.M. Reference		21. Building Type or Plan Not Applicable		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Unaltered	
Zone		22. Original Use, if apparent Monument/Marker		37. Window Type(s) Not Applicable	
Easting		23. Present Use Monument/Marker		38. Bldg. Dims. Not Applicable	
Northing		24. Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		39. Endangered? No Explain:	
10. <input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	25. Owner's Name & Address, if known		40. Chimney Placement Not Applicable	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object			41a. Distance from road approx. 30' from	
11. On National Register ? No	12. N.R. Potential ? Yes	26. Property Acreage n/a		41b. Frontage on road 0'	
13. Part of Estb Hist Dist? No	14. Dist. Potential ? Yes	27. Other Surveys in Which Included No			
15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)		28. No. of Stories Not Applicable			
16. Thematic Association(s) Civil War, Political/Social Movement - Abolition, Private		29. Basement? Not Applicable			
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features This life-size, bronze statue depicts Giles Waldo Shurtleff standing and pointing to the northwest. The statue rests on a granite base, which is surrounded by concrete slabs. There is an inscription in the bronze platform, below the image of Shurtleff, which reads, "Freedom cannot be given - it must be achieved." A bronze plaque on the front of the base bears the following inscription (which neglects the fact that Charles and John Mercer Langston organized the first African-American regiment from Ohio). "Giles Waldo Shurtleff 1831 - 1904; Believing in the ability of the Negro to aid in the fight for his freedom he organized the first regiment of colored troops raised in Ohio. Inspired by his leadership they offered their lives for the freedom of their race." (cont.)					
43. History and Significance Giles Waldo Shurtleff is Oberlin's most prominent Civil War hero. This statue of him was sculpted by Emily Ewing Peck. Shurtleff posed for the statue in 1898, but the bronze version wasn't unveiled until 1911 (Blodgett). It has stood on the lawn of Shurtleff Cottage ever since, and has occasionally been decorated by the hats, scarves, and mittens of Oberlin College students. It also serves as a stop on history professor Carol Lasser's tours of Oberlin's abolitionist history. Shurtleff was born in Canada in 1831, and attended prep school, college, and seminary all at Oberlin, (cont.)				46. Prepared by H. Petersen, M. Franck, D. Musson, and O.H.I.O. Interns	
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52) The statue stands on the expansive front lawn of Shurtleff Cottage, the former home of Giles Shurtleff.				47. Organization O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.	
45. Sources of Information Blodgett, Geoffrey. <i>Oberlin Architecture, College and Town: A Guide to its Social History</i> . Oberlin College, 1985. O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin City Directories. Lorain County Courthouse, Auditor Property Records, 2001. Internet. http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml . Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files. O.H.I.O. Resource Center Files. Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pat Holsworth, Oberlin Pioneer Database. Oberlin College Yearbooks, O.H.I.O. Resource Center. O.H.I.O. Docent Manual, 2002.				48. Date Recorded 12/16/2002	
				49. Revised by	
				50a. Date Revised	
				50b. Reviewed by	

51. Condition of Property

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good/Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed/Burned
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Crib or Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Silo
<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke House	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring House	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice House
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed Landscape Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage

53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s) _____

OAI Completed? _____

Archaeological Feature:	Observed	Expected on Basis of Archival Research
Well	_____	_____
Privy	_____	_____
Cistern	_____	_____
Foundation	_____	_____
Structural Rubble	_____	_____
Formal Trash Dump	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____

42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

A bronze plaque mounted to the back of the base reads, "Captain Co. C - Oberlin Students - 7th Regt. Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1861; Prisoner of war - August 1861 - August 1862; On staff of General Wilcox 9th Army Corps - October 1862 - March 1863; Engaged in the Battle of Fredericksburg - December 1862; Lieut. Colonel and Colonel 5th U.S. Colored Troops - July 1863 - June 1865; Before Petersburg this regiment lay two months in the trenches under daily fire. Nearly half its men were lost and he was severely wounded in the charge on New Market - September 1864; Brevetted Brigadier General - March 1865."

43. History and Significance (Continued from page 1.)

graduating from the College in 1859 and from the Theological Seminary in 1862. When the Civil War broke out, he served as the Captain of Company C of the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) in 1861 and was captured by the Confederates and held prisoner for a year. From 1863 through 1865, he served as Brigadier General of the 5th U.S. Colored Troops, the first African-American regiment from Ohio (recruited by Charles and John Mercer Langston), and persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to make wages of African-American soldiers equal to those of white soldiers in the Union Army. In 1864, while recuperating from a battle wound, he married Mary Elizabeth Burton, and they went on to have four daughters, two of whom died in childhood. The other two daughters, Laura Elizabeth and Mary Grant, both graduated from Oberlin College and lived to be 89 and 97, respectively. After the Civil War, Giles Shurtleff was elected mayor of Oberlin in 1868 (Phillips). He also served as a professor of Latin Language and Literature at Oberlin College, and later as Secretary and Treasurer of the College, before working as an investment banker in the late 1890s. In the last years of his life, he served with his wife on the executive committee of the Temperance Alliance, and as the president of the Village Improvement Society, forerunner of today's Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization (Docent Manual).