

OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

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

[illegible]

51. Condition of Property

☐ Excellent☒ Good/Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruin☐ Destroyed/Burned

Date _____

54. Farmstead Plan



52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

Barn Type(s)

☐ Corn Crib or Shed☐ Summer Kitchen☐ Silo☐ Smoke House☐ Spring House☐ Ice House☐ Designed Landscape Features☐ Privy☐ 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)

with shingled corbels on each side. The north side of the house has a recessed balcony on the second floor, which has a shingled round arch and turned-wood balusters on its balustrade. The house has several other features typical of the Shingle Style. A one-story hallway from the back of the house leads to a 1½ story gable-roofed back house with a shed dormer on one side and a gabled dormer on the other.

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

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). In 1892, he had this Shingle Style house built on S. Professor, and the Shurtleff family lived here until Giles' death in 1904. After Shurtleff's death, the Skeels family lived at 159 S. Professor through 1910. Marion D. Skeels was a real estate dealer and notary public, and he and his wife, Alice, lived here with their four children, Everett (a student), Mary (a dressmaker), Curtis, and Merritt (City Directories). By 1916, the house was used as a College dormitory, and it remained so until 1990 (Directories). Matrons of the dormitory included Mrs. E. B. Hitchcock (1916), Miss Elizabeth Hull (1927-1936), Miss Lucy Westlake (1937), Mrs. Porter Dailey (1939), Mrs. Gladys Ward (1956), and Mrs. Frannie Timmons (1961) (Directories). Shurtleff Cottage stands on the original site of the town cemetery, which had moved to the west end of Morgan Street after the Civil War. Over the years, many residents have claimed that Shurtleff Cottage is haunted. Currently, Marsha Marsh is restoring the house to open it as a bed and breakfast. A statue of Giles Shurtleff still stands on the lawn of the house.