<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. No.</th>
<th>2. County</th>
<th>LOR</th>
<th>4. Present Name(s)</th>
<th>5. Historic or Other Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shurtleff Cottage</td>
<td>Shurtleff House, Skeels House, Shurtleff Cottage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specific Address or Location

159 South Professor Street

### Site Plan with North Arrow

**N**

- **FOREST ST**
- **VINE ST**
- **PROFESSOR ST**
- **WAGNER ST**

### Architect or Engineer

Weary & Kramer (Akron)

### Age

1892

### Foundation Material

Sandstone, with wood water table

### Wall Construction

Balloon Frame/Western Frame/Platform

### Roof

Type: Gable w/ Side Central Gable Pitch: Steep Material: Asphalt Shingle

### No. Bays

Front: irregular Side: irregular

### Exterior Wall Material(s)

Wood, Clapboard or Weatherboard, and Wood, Shingle

### Plan Shape

Irregular

### Changes (Explain in #42)

Altered into a dormatory; Rehabilitation

### Distance from road

approx. 85'

### Frontage on roadway

140 ft.

### Chimney Placement

Lateral Wall Flush

### Roof

True to the Shingle Style, Shurtleff Cottage is dominated by its sweeping roof. The roof sweeps down to cover the northwest corner of the house with a large porch supported by wooden Tuscan columns. Farther up the roof there is a third-floor gabled dormer with an octagonal bay window. A long E-W gable has its end pointed toward Professor St., and a shorter, N-S cross-gable points toward Morgan St. On the west gable end is a recessed pair of windows with a column between them and shingle siding curving back into the recession, which is accented by a sawtoothed eyelid of shingles. The south gable end also has a pair of windows, and the third floors of both gable ends project slightly.

### History and Significance

Shurtleff Cottage was the last Oberlin residence of Giles Waldo Shurtleff. He was born in Canada in 1831, attended prep school, college, and seminary all at Oberlin, 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 (cont.)

### Elevation

Shurtleff Cottage

### Thematic Association(s)

Civil War, Political/Social Movement - Abolition, Private

### Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features

The house sits on a hill above Professor Street. There is a statue of Giles Shurtleff on the lawn close to Professor St., and the Johnston Walk along Plum Creek is on the north side of the house.

### Resources of Information

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

42. With shingled cornices 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.

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.