### General Shurtleff Statue

**4. Present Name(s)**  
General Shurtleff Statue

**5. Historic or Other Name(s)**  
General Shurtleff Statue

**11. On National Register?**  
No

**12. N.R. Potential?**  
Yes

**13. Part of Estb Hist Dist?**  
No

**14. Dist. Potential?**  
Yes

**15. Name of Established District (N.R. or Local)**

**16. Thematic Association(s)**  
Civil War, Political/Social Movement - Abolition, Private

**17. Date(s) or Period**  
1911

**17b. Alteration Date(s)**

**18. Style or Design**  
Neo-Classical Revival

**18a. Style of Addition or Element(s)**

**19. Architect or Engineer**

**Sculptor:** Emily Ewing Peck

**Design Sources**  
Unknown

**20. Contractor or Builder**  
Not Applicable

**21. Building Type or Plan**  
Not Applicable

**22. Original Use, if apparent**  
Monument/Marker

**23. Present Use**  
Monument/Marker

**24. Ownership**  
Public

**25. Owner’s Name & Address, if known**

**26. Property Acreage**  
n/a

**27. Other Surveys in Which Included**  
No

**28. No. of Stories**  
Not Applicable

**29. Basement?**  
Not Applicable

**30. Foundation Material**  
Granite

**31. Wall Construction**  
Not Applicable

**32. Roof:**

**Type**  
Not Applicable

**Pitch**  
Not Applicable

**Material**  
Not Applicable

**33. No. Bays**  
Front

**34. Exterior Wall Material(s)**  
Not Applicable

**35. Plan Shape**  
Not Applicable

**36. Changes (Explain in #42)**

**37. Window Type(s)**  
Not Applicable

**38. Bldg. Dims.**  
Not Applicable

**39. Endangered?**

**No**

**40. Chimney Placement**  
Not Applicable

**41. Distance from road**  
approx. 30' from

**41b. Frontage on road**  
0'

**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.)

**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.

**45. Sources of Information**


### 51. Condition of Property

- [ ] Excellent
- [x] Good/Fair
- [x] Deteriorated

**Date** ____________

### 52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

#### Barn Type(s)
- [ ] Corn Crib or Shed
- [ ] Smoke House
- [ ] Designed Landscape Features
- [ ] Summer Kitchen
- [ ] Spring House
- [ ] Privy
- [ ] Silo
- [ ] Ice House
- [ ] Garage
- [ ] Other

### 53. Affiliated OAI Site Number(s)

**OAI Completed?** ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archaeological Feature</th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Expected on Basis of Archival Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privy</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cistern</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>Structural Rubble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Trash Dump</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

### 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).