

## Guilford's Historic Homes

### **The Henry Whitfield House (1639)**

Wednesday, July 18th, 2007 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [2 Comments »](#)



The [house](#) in Guilford built in 1639 by [Henry Whitfield](#) is the oldest house in Connecticut and the oldest stone house in New England. It was originally one of four stone houses [built by the newly arrived English colonists](#) to be part of the settlement's defenses and to serve as homes for the town's leaders. Whitfield, the community's first minister, [returned](#) to England in 1651, following the execution of Charles I and the assumption of power by the [Parliamentarians](#). [The house](#) has been operated as a state-owned [museum](#) since 1899, undergoing an initial [restoration](#) in 1903, and [further work](#) in the 1930s.

## **The Frederick A. Weld House (1852)**

Sunday, August 9th, 2009 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [2 Comments](#) »



In 1852, Guilford builder William Weld constructed an Italianate house (possibly based on a design by Henry Austin) on Boston Street for his brother, the [whaling captain](#) Frederick Alonzo Weld, who was captain of the *Italy* out of [Greenport](#), Long Island. Capt. Weld died in 1893 and [a memorial epitaph](#), written by Henry Pyncheon [Robinson](#), was published in *Guilford Portraits* (1907).

## **The John B. Chittenden House (1814)**

Saturday, August 8th, 2009 Posted in Federal Style, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



Possibly built earlier, the house of [John Baldwin Chittenden](#), on Boston Street in Guilford, was updated with Federal-style additions, including a tripartite window (similar to that on the [Deming-Standish House](#) in Wethersfield) in 1814. In 1831-1832, Chittenden and [his family](#), along with others from Guilford, [moved to Illinois](#) and settled near what is now [Mendon](#) in Adams County. Chittenden was a deacon in the [Congregational Church](#) and in 1833, in his new home in Illinois, [the first Congregational Church](#) in the state was organized. In 1834, Chittenden laid out the village of Guilford, now [Mendon](#).

## The Pelatiah Leete III House (1765)

Friday, August 7th, 2009 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | 2 Comments »



Guilford was originally part of the New Haven colony and in 1661, the town granted the land now known as Leete's Island to [William Leete](#). He became governor of the colony and later became [governor of Connecticut](#). The family built a number of houses on the property, but [the oldest one](#) to survive today was built by [Pelatiah Leete III](#) in 1765. In 1781, during the Revolutionary War, [the British raided Leete's Island](#), burning a house and two barns, but were turned back by local citizens. Pelatiah Leete's brother, [Simeon Leete](#), who shared the house with him, was wounded in the skirmish and died in the house the following day. [Built as a saltbox](#), with an [integral lean-to](#), the house remained in the Leete family until 1929. Harry Glenn purchased the house in 1930 and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Glenn, first president of the [Guilford Keeping Society](#), operated [an antiques shop and tearoom](#) in the house in the 1930s. Later owners built the addition in 1980 and the house was recently restored.

## **The Benjamin Bradley House (1860)**

Wednesday, August 5th, 2009 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [2 Comments »](#)



The [Benjamin Bradley House](#), on Boston Street in Guilford, is an Italian-style villa built in 1860. Benjamin Bradley was the son of [Benjamin Bradley](#) and [Juliana Leete](#). The house's builder was William E. Weld, who also constructed the very similar [house of Julie Labadie](#) on Whitfield Street. It has been suggested that that house may have been designed by New Haven architect [Henry Austin](#) (see [A Treasury of Guilford Places](#) (2008), by Joel Eliot Helander, p. 270).

## **The Leete-Griswold House (1856)**

Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Octagon](#) | [3 Comments »](#)



The [Leete-Griswold House](#), on Fair Street (formerly Petticoat Lane) in Guilford, was built by [Edwin A. Leete](#) in 1856. [The house](#) is in the Octagon style, although it no longer has its original overhanging eaves with decorative brackets. Leete had grown up in the [Pelatiah Leete III House](#) on Leetes Island in Guilford. [He only lived in his octagon house](#) a short time before moving to a larger house nearby. [Read the rest of this entry »](#)



## **The Thomas Griswold House (1774)**

Friday, July 20th, 2007 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built around 1774 in [Guilford](#) by the blacksmith, Thomas Griswold III, for his sons, John and Ezra. It eventually became the property of their cousin George, and was passed down through his descendants until 1958, when it was purchased by the [Guilford Keeping Society](#). This [historical society](#) preserves [the house](#) as a museum and has undertaken two major restorations, in 1974 and 1995. [Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## **The George Hyland House (1690)**

Thursday, July 19th, 2007 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [1 Comment](#) »



Possibly built sometime between 1690-1710, although it might also date back to 1660, the [Hyland House](#) in Guilford is a saltbox house that was most likely constructed for the sheep farmer, George Hyland, who died in 1693. It was later owned by his grandson, Ebenezer Parmelee, who was a shipwright and a metal/woodworker. Parmelee built [New England's first steeple clock](#) for Guilford's Congregational Church in 1727.

[The house](#) was in danger of demolition in 1916, but was [saved](#) by the [Dorothy Whitfield Historic Society](#) , who opened it as a [museum](#) of colonial life in 1918.



## **The Jared Redfield House (1792)**

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2009 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments](#) »



The house which serves as a rectory for [Christ Church in Guilford](#) was originally built in 1792 for [Jared Redfield](#). It was later occupied by [Lorenzo T. Bennett](#), minister of Christ Church, whose widow later sold the house to [the church](#). The Federal-style house has an off-center doorway and one of the two chimneys is further back than the other.

## **Christ Episcopal Church, Guilford (1838)**

Sunday, September 13th, 2009 Posted in Churches, Gothic, Guilford | No Comments »



Samuel Johnson, the first Episcopal clergyman in Connecticut, organized Christ Church in Guilford in 1744. The Episcopalians first used a small church, built in 1748 and located within the bounds of Guilford Green. In 1834, the church was sold, with the proceeds financing the construction, in 1834-1838, of a new Gothic-Revival church with a grandly imposing tower. Local builder William Weld constructed a chancel in 1872 and another addition, for an organ, was built in 1890.

## **The Ebenezer Hopson House (1764)**

Wednesday, September 9th, 2009 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



On Boston Street in Guilford is a 1764 [gambrel-roofed house](#) built by [Ebenezer Hopson](#). In 1789, [Rev. Jesse Lee](#) preached the the first Methodist sermon in Guilford in the Hopson House. The home's Greek Revival doorway was added around 1841.

## **The James A. Norton House (1856)**

Monday, August 24th, 2009 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



James A. Norton, a prominent citizen in Guilford, who served on many [town committees](#), built his house in the Italianate style on Fair Street in 1856. A later owner, for over six decades, was John Pitts, who lived to be a hundred. There is a modern addition to the rear which matches the style of the original part of the house. [The house](#) is currently [for sale](#).

## **First Congregational Church of Guilford (1830)**

Sunday, August 16th, 2009 Posted in Churches, Greek Revival, Guilford | 2 Comments »



The [First Congregational Church in Guilford](#) dates back to 1639, when Rev. [Henry Whitfield](#) and his followers sailed from England to New Haven and settled the town of Guilford, then part of [New Haven Colony](#). They had drawn up [a covenant](#) on shipboard during their journey to America. The town's first meeting house, a small stone building with a thatched roof, was soon built on Guilford Green, replaced in 1713 by a new church, said to have been the first in Connecticut to have a steeple clock and bell. In the early nineteenth century there was a movement to clear the Green of buildings. [The current church](#) was then built in 1830, on a site overlooking the Green. The [Hurricane of 1938](#) toppled the original steeple, which was rebuilt the following year.

## **The Col. George Foote House (1810)**

Tuesday, August 11th, 2009 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Nut Plains is a section of Guilford, named for the abundant hazelnuts found there by early colonial settlers. Before the establishment of the Boston Post Road through Guilford, a seventeenth century thoroughfare crossed East River at [Foote's Bridge Road](#) in lower Nut Plains, where one of [the last unpaved sections](#) of the original New York to Boston carriage road survives today. In this neighborhood is [the house built in 1810-1811 by Col. George Foote](#). Although the house has an address of 829 Goose Lane, it's [front facade](#) faces Foote's Bridge Road. George Foote farmed on the property of his grandfather, General Andrew Ward, and replaced the old Ward farmhouse with his new Federal-style home. This earlier house once stood on the current site of the front yard of 829 Goose Lane and its history was linked to a number of notable individuals.

[Colonel Andrew Ward IV](#) purchased a farm in nut plains in 1740. [He fought](#) in the French and Indian War and was at the [Siege of Fort Louisbourg](#). [Col Ward's son, Andrew Ward V](#), was also at the battle, and later rose to the rank of general in the Revolutionary War. He inherited lands from his father and lived in [the old farmhouse](#). His eldest daughter, Roxana, had married [Eli Foote](#), who died leaving his widow penniless with ten children. Roxana and the children, one of whom was Col. George Foote, [came to live on their grandfather Andrew Ward's farm](#) and the farmhouse came to be called "Castle Ward" by the children. Gen. Ward also laid out the the private [Foote Cemetery](#) at Sandy Knoll. The cultured Ward-Foote family hosted many guests, including the young [poet, Fitz-Greene Halleck](#), and the Rev. [Lyman Beecher](#), who married Gen. Ward's granddaughter, [named Roxana](#) after her mother. [Lyman and Roxana Foote Beecher's](#) famous children included Rev. [Henry Ward Beecher](#) and [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#). After the death of [her mother](#), the five-year-old Harriet Beecher was brought to stay at [the Nut Plains farm](#) by her aunt, Harriet Foote—the [first of many happy visits there](#) over the years.



## **Daniel Hand House (1878)**

Monday, August 10th, 2009 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [2 Comments »](#)



The Italianate house of [Daniel Hand](#), at 47 Fair Street in Guilford, was built in 1878-1879 by the builders George W. Seward and Sons. [Daniel Hand](#), born in Madison, was a businessman and philanthropist, [who died in 1891](#) at the age of ninety. **Please Read on to learn more about what happened to Hand during the Civil War and his act of generosity 25 years later:**  
[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## **The Caleb Stone House (1749)**

Saturday, December 12th, 2009 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The Caleb Stone House was built in 1749, at the corner of Broad and River Streets, on the property which had been the homelot of [William Leete](#), one of the original settlers of [Guilford](#). Leete was a leader in [Guilford](#) and went on to become [governor](#) of the [New Haven Colony](#) and then of the Connecticut Colony, which had absorbed New Haven. While he was governor of the staunchly Puritan New Haven Colony in 1661, [Leete](#) sheltered [Whalley](#) and [Goffe](#), two of [the regicides](#), [the judges who had signed the death warrant of Charles I](#) and [were being hunted](#) by the Restoration government. A barn behind the Stone House stands [over the cellar](#) where [the regicides hid](#) for three days. [Caleb Stone Jr.](#) and his wife, [Rebecca Evarts](#), bought the property in 1715 and later built his saltbox home, which was lived in by [members of the Stone family](#) until 1955.

## **The Jedediah Lathrop House (1822)**

Thursday, November 19th, 2009 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [1 Comment »](#)



Now owned by the Town of Guilford, the Jedediah Lathrop House was built in 1822 on Park Street. [Maj. Jedediah Lathrop](#) had torn down a preexisting house on the same site to build his impressive Federal-style home. [Lathrop](#), who married [Mary Caldwell](#) in 1793, was a prominent citizen, [master of St. Alban's Masonic Lodge](#) and part of the reception committee for [General Lafayette](#), who visited Guilford in 1824. Lathrop also [cultivated grapes](#), like those displayed at the [1838 fair of the Horticultural Society of New Haven](#). The house was later owned by Bernard C. Steiner, author of the *[History of Guilford and Madison, Connecticut](#)* (1897). A barn on the property was attached to the house and a new wing added around 1960.

## **The Friend Collins House (1787)**

Wednesday, November 4th, 2009 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built in 1787, the home of [Friend Collins](#) and [his wife, Philena Norton](#), is on State Street in [Guilford](#). [The house](#) has a Greek Revival front portico, added in the 1840s. John Jackson bought the house in 1851 and operated a meat market in a side addition to the house. The addition was later replaced with a side porch.

## **The Second Dr. John Redfield House (1780)**

Monday, October 26th, 2009 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Dr. John Redfield of Guilford, who was living in [an earlier home](#) built in 1768, constructed a new mansion house on the Green in 1780. The property where the new house was built had previously belonged to David Naughty, a merchant. After Naughty's death in 1739, his wife [Ruth Naughty](#) was co-executor of his will, along with nephew [David Naughty II](#). Ruth Naughty successfully managed her husband's affairs, paying his debts in Boston. When she died in 1773, she named Dr. Redfield as executor of her will, but he was soon caught up in a lawsuit with David II. Dr. Redfield won the case and, as owner of the entire property, tore down the Naughty House in order to build his own. [The outraged Naughty](#) later stipulated in his will that he be buried across the Green from Redfield's house with his head sticking out above ground to stare at his enemy's home. These wishes were never carried out. Since 1945, the Redfield House has been owned by the Guilford Savings Bank and serves as the [bank's main office](#).

## The First Dr. John Redfield House (1768)

Monday, October 19th, 2009 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments](#) »



Dr. John Redfield, who had studied medicine with Dr. Benjamin Gale of Clinton, settled in Guilford and in 1768 built the first of two houses he would occupy in the town. His first house was on Park Street and, in later years, a Victorian porch was attached in the front. In 1937, the house was disassembled to make way for a new town hall parking lot. In 1942, the house (without the Victorian porch) was rebuilt on Broad Street for Judge George C. Conway. The house has a particularly steep roof which provides enough space for two attic windows in the gable. ***Historic Buildings of Connecticut* now has a page on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, you can become a fan!!**



## **The Joseph Parmelee House (1748)**

Thursday, October 15th, 2009 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments](#) »



The Joseph Parmelee House is on Water Street in [Guilford](#) and was built in 1748. [Joseph Parmelee](#) (1721-1804) was married three times, to Obedience Spencer, Abigail Cruttenden, and Mary Deming. At one time, the house had a lean-to, but this was later removed and other additions were then attached. The front door is surrounded by an impressive Greek Revival enframement, which was added later and has double pilasters on either side.

## **The Medad Holcomb, Jr. House (1848)**

Tuesday, October 6th, 2009 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Medad Holcomb, Jr. was a Guilford farmer who built a Greek Revival home on Fair Street around 1848. The house features expensive [flush board siding](#) on the front facade; the two pilasters on each side are later additions. Holcomb was the son of [Medad Holcomb](#) and his [fourth of five wives, Nancy Parnel Dudley](#). When he died in 1871, he left the house to Sydney Dowd, a local temperance leader. The second floor of the house was used as a hayloft before an addition was built later on. There is also [an historic barn](#) on the property.

## **Collins-Spencer House (1727)**

Friday, January 18th, 2013 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The [John Collins-Stephen Spencer House](#), at [77 Fair Street in Guilford](#), is a [Colonial saltbox house](#). In 1670, John Collins built an earlier house on the site. The current house was built c. 1727 around the the surviving chimney of the 1670 structure. [Stephen Spencer](#), a blacksmith, had acquired the property in 1726. Deacon Peter Stevens of Saybrook bought it in 1804. Ten years later he sold it to the town of Guilford, which used it as [an almshouse](#). In 1826, when East Guilford became the town of Madison, town property was divided and the almshouse, although located within Guilford, was owned by Madison. This situation lasted until 1832, when Madison sold the house to William H. Stevens.

## **Nathaniel Bishop House (1755)**

Friday, December 28th, 2012 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



In 1720, [Nathaniel Bishop](#), a [Guilford](#) farmer and sea captain, purchased land and around 1755 began building [a house](#), which was still uncompleted at the time of his death in 1769. [His grandsons](#) inherited the house and the materials to finish building it. In later years [the house](#) was used as offices. In 1975, it was moved from behind the Guilford Savings Bank to its current address at [147 Boston Street](#).

## **Elisha Chapman Bishop House (1874)**

Thursday, December 27th, 2012 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Second Empire](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 122 Broad Street in [Guilford](#) was built in 1874 for [Elisha Chapman Bishop](#) (1824-1903). A native of Guilford, [Bishop](#) had become wealthy in the 1860s oil boom in [Titusville, Pennsylvania](#). According to Vol. II of *A Modern History of New Haven and Eastern New Haven County* (1918), [Bishop](#)

was born April 10, 1824, in Guilford, remaining upon the home farm until he reached the age of twenty years. He then began learning the machinist's trade, which he afterward followed in Guilford on his own account. In 1861 he began operations in the oil fields at Titusville, Pennsylvania, where he remained for ten years, meeting with substantial success. He returned to Guilford in 1870 and then took up the occupation of general farming. In 1874 he built one of the finest homes in Guilford and equipped it in a most modern manner. In politics he was originally a republican but afterward became a prohibitionist. He was an ardent supporter of the abolition party from the time that he reached his majority in 1845. In 1882 he [represented his town](#) in the state legislature and he held various local offices. His religious faith was that of the Congregational church. On the 5th of July, 1846, he [married](#) Charlotte G. Fowler and they became the parents of twelve children, six of whom are living: Robert Allen; Edward Fowler; Mary Cornelia, the wife of N. G. White, of Hartford, Connecticut; Eva B., the wife of Edward M. Leete, of Guilford; Ida, the wife of William J. Canfield, of New Haven; and Marilla Canfield, the wife of F. C. Spencer, of Guilford.

Bishop's house in Guilford, built in the French Second Empire style on the [northeast corner](#) of Guilford Green, was [designed by](#) the noted architect [Henry Austin](#) of New Haven. The house was later inherited by Bishop's granddaughter, Marilla, who was married to [Frederick C. Spencer](#), president of the Spencer Foundry. After her death in 1962, the [First Congregational Church](#) purchased the house for use as a rectory.

## **Alfred G. Hull House (1849)**

Saturday, December 8th, 2012 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Second Empire](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Alfred G. Hull House, at 58-60 Boston Street in Guilford, was built in 1849 with an Italianate flat roof. A French Second Empire mansard roof was added to the house around 1860. [According to](#) an obituary in *The American Stationer*, Vol. XXXV, No. 6, February 8, 1894:

[Alfred G. Hull](#), secretary and treasurer of the American Copying Paper Company, Windsor Locks, Conn., [died](#) at the residence of Henry E. Pratt, his son-in-law, at Springfield, Mass., January 31, and was buried at Guilford, Conn., on Saturday last. Mr. Hull had passed through a siege of grip, when he was attacked by pneumonia, which ended his life. [Alfred G. Hull](#) was born in Clinton Conn., and was seventy-one years of age, and had spent his life in the lumber business, retiring from active business about ten years ago. Later he became secretary and treasurer of the company of which his son-in-law is president. He was treasurer of the town of Guilford for a number of years, was also justice of the peace for a long term, and for the last twenty-eight years had been a member of the Third Congregational Church of Guilford. He was widely known, and was as widely esteemed and respected.

[A lumber dealer and contractor](#), who built a number of [buildings](#) in Guilford, [Alfred G. Hull](#) was also vice-president of the [Guilford Savings Bank](#).



## **David Hull House (1766)**

Friday, December 7th, 2012 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | [No Comments »](#)



The saltbox house at 76 Fair Street in [Guilford](#) was built in 1766 by [David Hull](#) on land he bought that year from Nathaniel Johnson. In 1791, Hull sold the house to [Seth Bishop](#), who owned it until he built his own house next door in 1796. [The Hull House](#) has passed through many owners over the years and at one time had a nineteenth-century porch, since removed.

## **Russell Crampton House (1844)**

Thursday, December 6th, 2012 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Greek Revival house at [44 Boston Street](#) in [Guilford](#) was built in 1844 and has been much altered over the years. It was the home of Russell Crampton, a dealer in coal.

## **Guilford Trust Company (1912)**

Wednesday, December 5th, 2012 Posted in Banks, Guilford, Neoclassical | No Comments »



The [Guilford Trust Company building](#), at 1 Boston Street across from [Guilford Green](#), was built in 1912. The [Guilford Trust Company](#) and the Guilford Savings Bank shared the building until 1951, when the bank moved out. The trust company was acquired by a New Haven bank in 1957 and the building underwent alterations, including the removal of the front door. The structure is now [a commercial building](#).

## **Guilford Free Library (1933)**

Monday, April 8th, 2013 Posted in Colonial Revival, Guilford, Libraries | No Comments »



The [Guilford Free Library](#), at [67 Park Street in Guilford](#), was built in 1933 on land donated by Frederick Spencer (he had originally bought the land, which was near his home, in order to move a feed, grain and coal store from the property because the noise was bothering his wife!). Architect Archer Quick designed [the Colonial Revival building](#) to fit in with the historic architecture of the neighborhood. Many residents objected to a plan to replace it with a modern building in the 1970s. An addition was later built, designed by Gilbert Switzer and John Matthew of New Haven. [The entrance to the library](#) was moved to the addition and [the front stairs and door of the original building](#) were replaced with a large window and balcony.

## **Joel Tuttle II House (1852)**

Thursday, March 21st, 2013 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Joel Tuttle II was a state senator probate judge. In 1852, he moved a smaller house to the west side of [his property](#) in [Guilford](#) to make way for his new Italianate house at [88 Broad Street](#). [It was erected](#) in 1852 by builder Baldwin C. Dudley. Tuttle married Lucy Sage of Cromwell. They had one son. After her husband's death, Lucy Sage Tuttle lived in the house with her sister, [Clara I. Sage](#). Outliving her sister and nephew, Clara Sage inherited [the house](#). She donated an organ to the [First Congregational Church of Guilford](#) in 1908 in memory of her nephew, [Willie Sage Tuttle](#). She also helped to establish the [Guilford Free Library](#). After her death, the house was owned by Robert T. Spencer, who died in 1935. [Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## Heli Hoadley House (1805)

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Federal-style house at 37 Park Street in [Guilford](#) was constructed in 1805 by builder Abraham Coan for [Heli Hoadley](#) and his wife, [Mabel Ann Seward](#). Hoadley soon moved to New Haven. [As described](#) in *The Hoadley Genealogy* (1894) by Francis Bacon Trowbridge:

Heli Hoadley resided in New Haven, Conn., and carried on the business of making trucks, carts, wheelbarrows, etc. His shop was situated on State street on the homestead lot, where Osborne street has since been cut through. After his wife's death he gave up his flourishing business, and the property was sold and divided between the children. He died at his son John's in North Haven and was buried in the Grove Street cemetery in New Haven.

The house was then owned by the [Reverend Aaron Dutton](#), who was minister at the [First Congregational Church of Guilford](#) from 1806 to 1842. He resigned because of dissension in the church concerning his [abolitionist views](#), which his congregation deemed too radical. The house was also once home to [Charles Hubbard](#), a [writer](#), teacher and [artist](#). [Hubbard](#) referred to his third floor studio as Hobgoblin Hall.



## **Jared Buell House (1850)**

Friday, March 1st, 2013 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built around 1850, the Jared Buell House, at 113-115 Boston Street in [Guilford](#) is an Italianate house, designed by Henry Austin of New Haven. In 1907, [the house](#) was converted from a double [to a single-family residence](#) and a small cupola was added. [The house](#) was built for [Jared Buell](#), who married [Lydia Marie Weld](#) in 1819.

## **Chloe Munger House (1828)**

Monday, February 18th, 2013 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 35 Sate Street in [Guilford](#) was built in 1828 on land given by [Miles Munger](#) to his unmarried sister Chloe Munger. After her death in 1842, it was occupied by the Mungers' daughter Emmeline and her husband, [Franklin Phelps](#), who served as Guilford's postmaster (1856-1861 and 1865-1869). For a time, the house housed the Visiting Nurse Association. It has a wing added in 2002.

## **Leonard Chamberlain House (1803)**

Thursday, January 31st, 2013 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



[Abraham Coan](#) was the architect-builder of the house at 1 State Street in [Guilford](#), constructed in 1803 for [Leonard Chamberlain](#) and his wife, Mary Ann Collins, the daughter of Friend Collins, [whose house](#) is next door. Around 1817, Chamberlain sold the house to [Samuel Eliot](#), a prominent merchant.

## **Joseph Chittenden House (1766)**

Saturday, January 19th, 2013 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built the same year (1766) and similar in style to the [David Hull House](#) next door is the Joseph Chittenden House, at [78 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#). Born in 1727, [Joseph Chittenden](#) was a descendant of [William Chittenden](#), one of the original settlers of the town. He lived in the house until his death in 1793. The house was in his family until 1827.

## **Abraham Woodward House (1785)**

Wednesday, August 14th, 2013 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The house at [96 Fair Street](#) in Guilford was built in 1785 for Abraham Woodward, who [sold it in 1797](#). A century later [it was owned](#) by Edward M. Leete, who had a funeral business, and [his wife](#) Eva Bishop Leete, who was [a respected antiques dealer](#). The house was passed on to their son, [Earle B. Leete](#). In 1998-1999, the house was [renovated](#) to become the new home of the [Women and Family Life Center](#).

## **Albert B Wildman House (1852)**

Wednesday, July 17th, 2013 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [1 Comment](#) »



William E. Weld, a builder of many homes in [Guilford](#) in the nineteenth century, built the house at 88 Boston Street for Albert B. Wildman in 1852. [Albert Boardman Wildman](#) (1810-1878) was a merchant whose store was at [11 Boston Street](#) (also built by Weld). Wildman was [eulogized](#) by [Henry Pyncheon Robinson](#) in *Guilford Portraits* (1907):

ALBERT BOARDMAN WILDMAN.  
June 2, 1810—May 2, 1878.

He stood uprightly tall and manly fair,  
And wore on his smooth face the higher air  
Of honor and proved probity, unswerving.  
It seemed quite natural nor needed nerving  
From sermon or from motive practical;  
The gift, its own reward, more actual.  
He was a merchant, of an older time,  
When six pence passed by candlelight for dime.  
Tuttle he knew and loved and linked the name  
With his; merchants of good report and fame,  
Successful through their dealing days and lives.  
Not such as bold and meritless connives  
To seize and turn the common weal to woe,  
But sought by willing suffrage he did go  
And added Guilford to the common sense;  
Then through the war he served by son and pence.



His manner frank and fair and mild and genial,  
As fellow man, well would treat a menial.  
A father of the town, he walked our ways  
And then from life retreated, full of praise.

## **I. S. Spencer & Sons Foundry (1869)**

Monday, July 15th, 2013 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Industrial](#), [Italianate](#) | [1 Comment](#) »



In 1851 Israel Stowe Spencer [purchased an iron foundry](#) on Fair Street in Guilford. The company Spencer founded, [I. S. Spencer's Sons](#) (his sons, Christopher and George B. Spencer joined him in 1857), added [a brick foundry](#) to the property in 1869. It was enlarged in 1880. [The company](#) produced cast iron products, such as legs for school desks, lamp pedestals and bicycle parts. [Frederick C. Spencer, I. S. Spencer's](#) grandson, built [the tower](#) at the south end of the building in 1910. The company ceased operations in 1982. [The building](#) was converted into condominiums in 1987. Its former address was 20 Fair Street and is now 18 Fair Street.



## **Thomas Burgis II House (1735)**

Friday, July 5th, 2013 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



At [85 Boston Street](#) in [Guilford](#) is a colonial saltbox [house](#), believed to have been built around 1735 by [Thomas Burgis, Sr.](#) for his eldest son. [Thomas Sr.](#) was a shoemaker and tanner, originally from Yorkshire, who exported shoes from Guilford to the West Indies. In 1735, [Thomas Burgis, Jr.](#) married [Hannah Dodd](#). Their son, [Thomas III](#), graduated from Yale in 1758 and for a time was schoolmaster in North Guilford. He married [Olive Dudley](#) in 1769 and lived in [the house](#) for many years. It remained in the Burgis family until 1844. [The house](#) acquired its saltbox form around 1800, when a rear lean-to was added. [The house](#) also has a later Federal-style doorway. Restoration of the house began in 1956, when it was purchased by Helen Pigott. Additional work has been done by its present owners.

## **Abraham Coan House (1808)**

Tuesday, June 18th, 2013 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [2 Comments »](#)



Abraham Coan, a [Guilford](#) builder-architect, built his house at [29 Broad Street](#) on the foundation of the earlier Chittenden House. Its design was influenced by the work of builder-architect [Peter Banner](#), who was designing [the house of Yale's president](#) and [other buildings](#) on the Yale campus at the time. Banner later designed the [Park Street Church](#) in Boston. Coan had a joiner's shop near his home. The house was purchased by Simon Chittenden in 1857 and named "Mapleside." The entrance was then moved from the front to the west side of the house.

## **Boston Street School (1906)**

Friday, May 17th, 2013 Posted in [Folk Victorian](#), [Guilford](#), [Schools](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The former [Boston Street School](#), at 103 Boston Street in [Guilford](#) was constructed in 1905-1906. It was designed by architect Charles A Willard. The builder was [George W. Seward](#). The hip-roofed building's trim and stickwork were originally painted a different color which made them stand out more. There was also a different gable-roofed front porch which has since been removed. By the 1940s the school had closed, although it reopened briefly when local schools became crowded after World War II. It was later the office of architect [Victor Lundy](#) and in 1984-1985 was converted into three [condominiums](#).



## **Nathaniel Johnson House (1730)**

Saturday, April 20th, 2013 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The [Nathaniel Johnson House](#) is a large saltbox house with a later Greek Revival doorway. Built in 1730, it is located at [58 Fair Street](#) in Guilford. The leading Episcopalian in town, Johnson helped to establish [Christ Church](#) in Guilford. He was the brother of [Samuel Johnson](#), an Anglican clergyman and the [first president](#) of King's College (later Columbia) in New York.

## **Noah Hodgkin, Sr. House (1762)**

Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The center-chimney colonial saltbox house at [44 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#) was built in 1762 by [Noah Hodgkin, Sr.](#) In 1770, his son, [Noah Hodgkin, Jr.](#), built the house next door at 52 Fair Street. [Noah Hodgkin, Sr.](#) died in 1783, leaving his house to his widow and his son, the [Reverend Beriah Hotchkin](#) (who had altered his name from Hodgkin to Hotchkin). [Rev. Hotchkin](#) was pastor of the [Fourth Congregational Church in Guilford](#) from 1784 until 1789, when he moved to [Greenville, NY](#), where he served as a [Presbyterian minister](#). In 1825, [Rev. Hotchkin](#) moved to [Steuben County, NY](#), where he died in 1829. Descendents of his family family, later known by the name [Hotchkiss](#), continued to occupy the house in Guilford for generations.

## **William Redfield House (1751)**

Wednesday, February 19th, 2014 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | 2 Comments »



The [William Redfield House](#), at 96 Broad Street in [Guilford](#), has been much altered over the years. [William Redfield](#) sold it three years after it was built. For a time the house was the residence of [Rev. Daniel Brewer](#), who was dismissed as pastor of the [Fourth Congregational Church](#) in 1775 but chose to live in this house, then located next door to the church, until he left Guilford in 1779. [Nelson Hotchkiss](#), a New Haven builder and contractor, bought the house in 1872. He moved it back from the street and it was probably Hotchkiss who also converted it to a two-chimney, center-hall house and added a Second Empire front porch. In 1974, the house became a furniture showroom, but has recently been restored.

## **Thomas Burgis IV House (1814)**

Monday, February 3rd, 2014 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Federal-style house at [150 Boston Street](#) in Guilford was built circa 1814, although it may have been built earlier as a center-chimney house and then altered. It was the home of [Thomas Burgis IV](#) (1770-1861). He married [Sarah Deshon](#) (1772-1852) in 1793 and had seven children.

## **Nathaniel Eliot House (1755)**

Thursday, January 9th, 2014 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The [Nathaniel Eliot](#) House, built in 1755, is located at [103 Whitfield Street](#) in [Guilford](#). [Nathaniel Eliot](#) was a farmer. He married Beulah, daughter of Joseph Parmelee, in 1754. Their daughter, Mary, married [Israel Halleck](#), a tailor from Dutchess County, New York. Their son was [Fitz-Greene Halleck](#), the prominent nineteenth-century poet. As related in an obituary of the poet that appeared in *Putnam's Magazine* (Vol. I, No. 2, February, 1868):

His father, Israel Halleck, who followed the calling of a tailor, was an emigrant from Dutchess County, New York. He died at Guilford in 1830, at the age of eighty-four; and is remembered in the village as a man fond of books, a great reader, of extraordinary memory, full of wit and anecdote, and of most courteous manners. The poet's mother, Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Eliot, of Guilford, a lady of irreproachable worth, was a descendant of the [Rev. John Eliot](#), the venerable "Apostle of the Indians." She was married in her thirtieth year, and died in 1819, at the age of fifty-seven.

## **Hiram Middlebrook House (1849)**

Monday, November 25th, 2013 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Hiram [Middlebrook](#) House is an Italianate Villa-style home at [11 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#). Built c. 1849, it was originally a double home—the central windows on the first and second floors are false ones marking where the house was divided. Since the 1960s, the house has been divided into three apartments. Hiram Middlebrook (1808-1887) moved south after [the death of his wife](#), Clara E. Hand (1813-1884). He is buried in [Columbus, Georgia](#). [Read the rest of this entry »](#)



## **Stephen Spencer House (1754)**

Thursday, November 7th, 2013 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built in 1754, [the house](#) at [43 Park Street](#) in Guilford was originally home to Stephen Spencer, a blacksmith who had his forge on the south side of [the house](#). In the 1840s and 1850s an upstairs room was rented for use as a schoolroom. In the 1870s, the south wing of the house was added by owner Daniel Auger. Elias Bates bought the house in 1894 and it remained in the Bates-Burton family for over a century.

## **David Pamelee House (1807)**

Thursday, September 26th, 2013 Posted in Federal Style, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



Not to be confused with [the earlier David Parmelee House](#) next door ([68 Water Street](#); built in 1780), the [David Parmelee House](#) at [74 Water Street](#) in Guilford is a Federal house, built in 1807 by architect [Abraham Coan](#) for the younger [David Pamelee](#), who was a blacksmith. The house has a rear ell thought to have once been part of an outbuilding dating to c. 1640 which belonged to [Samuel Desborough](#), an [original settler of Guilford](#).

## **Benjamin Corbin House (1847)**

Thursday, December 11th, 2014 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Built circa 1847, the Greek Revival house at [19 Fair Street in Guilford](#) was the home of [Benjamin Corbin, Jr.](#) (1819-1884). As described in the *History and Genealogy of the Descendants of Clement Corbin of Muddy River (Brookline), Mass. and Woodstock, Conn. with Notices of Other Lines of Corbins* (1905), compiled by Rev. Harvey M. Lawson:

Benjamin Corbin, Jr., was a well-to-do manufacturing druggist at Guilford, Conn., from which place he was elected to the state legislature in 1858 as an American Republican. He filled numerous political offices in the town of Guilford and also in East Haven and Fair Haven, to which place he removed in 1871. He was a leading member of the Congregational Church at Guilford. He d. Sept 4, 1884, at New Haven, and was buried in the Alderbrook Cemetery, Guilford, Conn., with the other members of his family.

## **94 Boston Street, Guilford (1850)**

Thursday, November 20th, 2014 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 94 Boston Street in Guilford was built around 1850, after the earlier three-story house on [the site](#), built by [Samuel Hill](#), was torn down in 1849. Owner of a large estate, Samuel Hill was regularly elected each year to Connecticut assembly between 1732 and his death in 1752. His name is one of the [possible sources](#) for the euphemism “[What in the Sam Hill...](#)” The current house was built by [Deacon Alfred G. Hull](#), who was the conservator to Hill’s great-grandchildren Anna and Samuel Hill.

## **Harmon B. Johnson House (1842)**

Monday, November 10th, 2014 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Vernacular](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at [335 Old Whitfield Street in Guilford](#) has a sign that reads as follows:

**1842**

**Harmon B. Johnson**

*Union Army Private*

*Died For One Flag*

March 8, 1865

Kinston, NC

Harmon B. Johnson served in the [15th Connecticut Infantry Regiment](#) during the Civil War. His name is inscribed on the [Soldiers' Monument in Guilford](#) under the heading "Fredericksburg." The [15th Connecticut](#) fought at Fredericksburg but Johnson was killed at the [Battle of Wyse Fork](#), fought March 7-10, 1865 near Kinston, North Carolina. The house is now a condominium unit.

## **Benton-Beecher House (1740)**

Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The [Benton-Beecher House](#) in Guilford was originally located on Broad Street, where the the [First Congregational Church](#) now stands. It was built in 1740 and was the home of Lot Benton and his wife, Catherine Lyman. They had no children of their own but they adopted Mrs. Benton's nephew, [Lyman Beecher](#). He came to this house on his vacations as a student at Yale. [Lyman Beecher](#) eventually became a prominent Congregational minister. In [Guilford](#) he met Roxana foote, whom [he married](#) in 1799. [Their children](#) included [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#) and [Henry Ward Beecher](#) The [Benton House](#) was left by [Lot Benton](#) to Lyman Beecher, who sold the land to church in 1829 so that it could be removed to make way for the construction of the new meeting house. The house was moved by [35 yoke of oxen](#) to its present location at 485 Whitfield Street.



## **Daniel Hubbard House (1717)**

Tuesday, June 24th, 2014 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | [No Comments »](#)



Daniel Hubbard (1697-1751) of Guilford [married](#) Thankful Stone in 1728. After her death [he married](#) his second wife, [Diana Ward](#), in 1730. Their son, [Bela Hubbard](#), graduated from Yale and became an Episcopalian minister, serving at [Christ Church](#) in Guilford and later at [Trinity Church](#) in New Haven. Their daughter, [Diana Hubbard](#), married Andrew Ward. [Their daughter, Roxana Ward, married Eli Foote.](#) Their daughter, [Roxana Foote](#), married [Lyman Beecher](#) and was the mother of [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#) and [Henry Ward Beecher](#). [Daniel Hubbard's house](#), at 51-53 Broad Street in Guilford, was built in 1717. Unusually large for its time, the house has a large wing that was added in 1872.

[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## **Edward S. Fowler House (1847)**

Monday, May 5th, 2014 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#), [Second Empire](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 72 Broad Street in Guilford was built c. 1847 for [Edward Sherman Fowler](#), who was born in 1817 in the house at 66 Broad Street to Samuel and Sophie Fowler. He soon moved to [New London](#) where he worked as a railroad conductor. In 1855 the [Guilford Institute](#) acquired the house and sold it in 1868. A later owner was [Alfred N. Wilcox](#), who served in the Civil War as a sergeant in Co. G, 14th Regt., Connecticut Volunteers. Yet another owner operated a blacksmith shop on the property until 1968. Around 1870, a French Second Empire Mansard roof was added to the house, which had previously had a flat Italianate-style roof. The current front porch was added in 2003.

## **Charles Caldwell House (1740)**

Monday, April 7th, 2014 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



In volume 58 of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (1904), [it is written that](#) Charles Caldwell

Charles Caldwell and his brother John Caldwell came from Beith, in Scotland, to New England about the year 1718. It is said that they deserted from the army in the early part of the rebellion of 1715. They were aristocratic in their manners, and unaccustomed to the industrious habits of the early settlers of New England. John was married before he came to this country, but Charles was unmarried. Soon after their arrival, they bought a house, a shop or store, land, etc. They were traders. John remained in Hartford, but Charles removed to Guilford. . . [Charles] married, Nov. 3, 1724, Anna, daughter of Rev. Thomas Ruggles. She died May 19, 1760; and he died Feb. 12, 1765.

[Charles Caldwell's house in Guilford](#), built circa 1740, is at [159 Boston Street](#). The house's original central chimney was replaced by two smaller ones circa 1815 and the front porch was added around the same time.

## **Reuben Stone House (1769)**

Saturday, April 18th, 2015 Posted in Colonial, Greek Revival, Guilford, Houses | [No Comments »](#)



In 1769, [Reuben Stone](#) built the house at 22 Broad Street in Guilford, near the home of his brother, [Caleb Stone](#). [Reuben Stone](#) (1726-1804) was a supporter of the Revolutionary War who procured supplies for the soldiers. In 1842, the Greek Revival entryway was added and the house was altered from one-and-a-half stories with a steeper roof to two-stories. The house was later owned by [Leverett C. Stone](#) (1819-1892) and other Stone descendants.

## **Medad Stone Tavern (1803)**

Monday, March 30th, 2015 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



[Medad Stone](#) was born in Guilford in 1754 and later inherited his father's tavern on the northwest corner of the Green. Stone was also part-owner of a stage company that carried public mail. Road conditions at the time were bad and in 1803 Stone and his partners petitioned the General Assembly to reroute the Boston Post Road. Confident that the alterations would be made, Stone built [a large new tavern](#) of Dutch Colonial design along the proposed route. Located in the West Side of Guilford (modern address 197 Three Mile Course), the tavern had fourteen rooms and ten fireplaces. Although [Medad Stone](#) battled for ten years to get his turnpike proposal accepted, the change was never made and the new tavern never opened. Stone, who died in 1815, began farming activities there, which were continued by Joel Davis, who bought the property from Stone's daughter in 1843. His great-grandson [Leonard Davis Hubbard](#) (1909-2001) bequeathed [the Tavern](#) to the [Guilford Keeping Society](#) in 2001. It was [restored to its 1803 appearance](#) and was opened as a [museum](#) by the GKS, which also owns the [Thomas Griswold House](#). [Read the rest of this entry »](#)



## **Edwin A. Leete House (1870)**

Friday, March 6th, 2015 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Second Empire](#) | [No Comments »](#)



At 98 Fair Street in [Guilford](#) is a mansard-roofed house built c. 1869-1870 in the French Second Empire style. It was built by [Edwin Alonzo Leete](#) (1822-1870), a [cabinetmaker and undertaker](#). Behind the house is a building (1090 Boston Post Road) he used as his workshop and display room. [Leete](#) had [previously lived in an octagon house](#) on Fair Street. A veteran of the Civil War, [Leete](#) served six months in Co I, 14th CT Regiment and fought at the Battle of Antietam. After his death, [his son Edward and grandson Earle](#) continued the undertaking business and also developed an interest in antique furniture. As related in Vol. II of *A Modern History of New Haven and Eastern New Haven County* (1918):

Edward Morris Leete acquired his education in the schools of Guilford, Connecticut, and there learned the furniture business with his father and also mastered the undertaking business. He continued in the furniture trade in Guilford until 1912. His wife [Eva Bishop] from 1885 had been dealing in New England antique furniture and the business grew so extensive that in 1912 the E. B. Leete Company was incorporated and the modern furniture business of Mr. Leete was discontinued in order that he might concentrate his entire attention upon the antique furniture trade which had been developed.

[. . .] The parents and second son [Earl Bishop Leete] are all interested in the antique furniture business which is carried on under the name of Mrs. Leete as the E. B. Leete Company, for the trade was developed and built up by Mrs. Leete, whose fame as a dealer in colonial and antique furniture is very wide. She is the president of the company and has been dealing in this line of goods for thirty years. She is probably the best authority in New England on colonial furniture and is the largest dealer in and collector of New England antique furniture. She has four [old houses](#) in Guilford completely filled with this furniture on display and exhibition and she also has two large storehouses filled with it. Her collection of antique furniture is the largest in New England and many pieces in her possession are more than two

hundred and fifty years old. She loaned the antique furniture for and furnished completely the Connecticut House at the Jamestown Exposition at Jamestown, Virginia, and through the Society of Colonial Dames furnished the Connecticut houses at the St. Louis and Chicago fairs. Her patronage is very extensive and gratifying and she has among her patrons many of [America's best known families](#). She has made a very close and discriminating study of the subject and her comprehensive knowledge of furniture, its value, its methods of manufacture and the period at which it was made enables her at all times to speak with authority upon the subject. Moreover, she displays a most enterprising and progressive spirit in the conduct of the business, possessing marked executive ability. She is also one of the organizers and a charter member of the [Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society](#). More recently, the house has been home to [another antiques dealer's showroom](#).



## Third Congregational Church, Guilford (1844)

Sunday, February 15th, 2015 Posted in [Churches](#), [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#) | [No Comments](#) »



In 1843, 123 members of the [First Congregational Church of Guilford](#) who were strongly anti-slavery decided to form their own church, the Abolition Church, later renamed the Third Congregational Church of Guilford. These members had been refused permission by First Church to hold meetings of the local Anti-Slavery Society. They were also supporters of [Rev. Aaron Dutton](#), First Church's minister from 1806 to 1842, who had resigned due to dissensions within the congregation over his [abolitionist stance](#). As related in *The History of Guilford, Connecticut* (1877), by Ralph D. Smith:

The present house of worship was built in 1844, and dedicated to the service of God, January 1, 1845. It was remodeled in 1862, and supplied with a suitable organ in 1873.

A chapel at the rear was added in 1879. By 1919 church membership had dwindled. The congregation of Third Church rejoined First Church and sold [the building \(49 Park Street\)](#) to [Christ Church](#) for use as a parish house. [The building's](#) steeple was removed in the 1920s because it had begun to lean. For several years, the former church was used as a movie theater, a kindergarten and a dancing school. In 1933 the building was sold again and renamed the [Chapel Playhouse](#). It was converted [for use](#) by a summer stock theater group, the New York-Guilford players, and for the Guilford Town Players. The Christian Science Society bought the building in 1951 and restored it, changing their name in 1955 to the [First Church of Christ, Scientist](#).

## **Whitfield Shore (1985)**

Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 Posted in [Apartment Buildings](#), [Guilford](#), [Modern](#) | [1 Comment »](#)



The developer of the [Whitfield Shore](#) condominiums, built in 1985 on the site of an old restaurant named Berenice's, [446 Whitfield Street](#) in [Guilford](#), asked architect [Wilfred J.O. Armster](#) to create "something wild." Armster's [modern](#) design has such [a distinctive appearance](#) that it has been popularly known as the "Spaceship" ever since it was built. Proposing [the construction](#) of such [a futurist structure](#) in a town filled with so many colonial and nineteenth century houses led to a heated public hearing; but [the building was approved and was built](#) with Armster himself as general contractor.

[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## **Miles Dudley House (1707)**

Saturday, December 13th, 2014 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The exact date that [the house](#) at [101 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#) was built is uncertain. It was the site of a seventeenth-century home built by [Thomas Cooke](#), one of the original settlers of Guilford and [a signer](#) of the 1639 [Guilford Covenant](#) that established the town while the colonists were still at sea. The [current house](#) on the site was [possibly built](#) by [Miles Dudley](#) around 1707, after his 1705/1706 marriage to [Rachel Strong](#), but may contain sections built earlier. [Dudley](#) purchased the property in 1702. The Greek Revival doorway dates to the early 1830s. [Read the rest of this entry »](#)

## **John Davis House (1784)**

Friday, December 12th, 2014 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



At [15 State Street](#) in [Guilford](#) is the John Davis House, built in 1784. Since the above photo was taken in 2009, the house has been repainted.

## **Dr. Davis S. Brooks House (1790)**

Thursday, November 19th, 2015 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at [2864 Long Hill Road in North Guilford](#) was built in 1790. It was the home of [Dr. David S. Brooks](#). He [married](#) Annis Benton ([b. 1764](#)). Dr. Brooks [delivered](#) "An eulogy on the Death of George Washington," at Guilford on February 22, 1800. [The eulogy](#) was published in New York in 1823. [A facsimile of the only known copy of this work](#) was reprinted by the [Blackstone Memorial Library](#) in Branford in 1920. Dr. Brooks later [moved to New York](#), where he died in January, [1826](#). His son, [David B. Brooks](#), graduated from Yale and practiced medicine in Cromwell starting in 1819. He also later moved to New York where he died in 1830.

## **John Evarts House (1850)**

Friday, November 6th, 2015 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Vernacular](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Not much is known about the origins of the house at 71 Broad Street in Guilford. It dates to c. 1850 and the original owner was John Evarts. It may have been built as a barn and converted to a house later on. Among various other changes over the years, the front entrance was moved from the side to the front and a porch was added to the west side (later removed).



## **James Monroe House (1865)**

Saturday, October 3rd, 2015 Posted in [Gothic](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Having previously constructed [the Gothic Revival house at 53 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#) in 1860, James Monroe erected another residence at 63 Fair Street in 1865. The builder was [William E. Weld](#). Typical of the Gothic Revival style, [the house](#) has prominent gables, board and batten siding and windows with drip molds.



## **James Monroe House (1860)**

Friday, October 2nd, 2015 Posted in [Gothic](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The first of two Gothic Revival houses built by James Monroe on Fair Street in [Guilford](#) is the house at No. 53, built in 1860. [James Monroe](#) was part of the firm of [Jasper Monroe & Sons](#) on Boston Street. He also erected several building around town. A later resident was [George Cruttenden](#). [The house](#) has board and batten siding, typical of the Carpenter Gothic style, and also has Italianate-style entry porch.

## **William E. Weld House (1850)**

Friday, August 21st, 2015 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



[William E. Weld](#) was a carpenter and builder and ran a lumber business in [Guilford](#) for almost fifty years in the nineteenth century. He [built](#) many houses in town, including the [Albert B Wildman House](#) (1852), the [Frederick A. Weld House](#) (built for his brother in 1852) the [Benjamin Bradley House](#) (1860) and the [Julia Labadie House](#) (1872). Weld built [his own house](#) in 1850 at 45 Boston Street.

## **Richard Coan House (1841)**

Thursday, July 30th, 2015 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Richard Davis Coan built [the house](#) at [15 Fair Street](#) in Guilford around 1841. [He married](#) Flora Hitchcock Granniss. Richard Coan is [described in](#) *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial*, Vol. III (1913):

He spent the greater part of his life in the place of his birth, and being a builder by occupation erected many houses and public buildings there. Later he removed to New Haven, where he was actively engaged in the building business, a member of the lumber and manufacturing firm of Lewis & Beecher Company, who conducted large planing mills, and was one of the leading industries of the city. He was known by the title of major, commanding the Guilford troops on muster day. He was very prominent in the work of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and later in the Church of the Ascension, and being a musician of note was active in the choirs of both churches. After his removal to New Haven. Mr. Coan built a fine residence on Wooster street, which was at that time the finest residential section of the city.

The house in Guilford was later owned by Beverly Monroe, who ran [a store on Boston Street](#) established with his father and brother.

## **Seth Bishop House (1796)**

Tuesday, June 30th, 2015 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at [64 Fair Street in Guilford](#) was built in 1796 by Seth Bishop. He soon mortgaged the house to brothers Joel and Nathaniel Griffing and sold it in 1801 to [Captain Joel Griffing \(1762-1826\)](#). His brother, [Judge Nathaniel Griffing \(1767-1845\)](#), lived in a similar house nearby at [6 Fair Street](#) that Joel had previously owned. From 1802 to 1825, the south chamber on the second floor of the Bishop House (which has a ceiling a foot higher than the other rooms) and two adjacent rooms, were [used for meetings](#) of [St. Alban's Lodge No. 38](#), a Masonic Lodge that now meets in Branford. [A history of the Lodge indicates](#) that on several occasions, meeting were canceled so as not to disturb a sick member of the Griffing family.

## **Ambrose Benton House (1798)**

Saturday, May 21st, 2016 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 94 State Street in [Guilford](#) was once the single-story residence of [Ambrose Benton](#) (1769-1847). He married [Mary Evarts](#) in 1790. The original first floor dates to 1798 and the house's second story was added in 1909.

## **Andrew Fowler House (1790)**

Tuesday, April 5th, 2016 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



In 1790 Andrew Fowler transferred ownership of a partially finished house in Guilford to his son, Jonathan Fowler, for five years' service. [The house](#) was erected on an island next to the West River ([current address 55 York Street](#)). The property has a modern barn.



## **Fowler-Frisbie-West House (1682)**

Saturday, February 20th, 2016 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses, Italianate | No Comments »



The structure at [33 and 37 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#) has had a long and complicated history. By 1740 Mehitabel and Anna Fowler lived in a house at [33 Fair Street](#). A title search has revealed that [their house](#) had been built c. 1682 by the Fowler Sisters' father and transferred to them in 1727. The house was acquired in 1824 by [Russell Frisbie](#), who may have rebuilt or replaced the original house. In 1864, an Italian Villa-style structure (with the address of 37 Fair Street), either moved from elsewhere or newly erected, was attached to the older house. Here resided [Frisbie's](#) granddaughter Cornelia and her husband, Dr. Benjamin West. Their son, Dr. Redfield West altered the entire building to have a Gothic appearance, but it was later returned to its earlier appearance. Dr. Redfield West had earlier practiced medicine in New York, Boston and New Haven. [As related in](#) the *Proceedings of the Connecticut State Medical Society* (1921)

In order to be with his parents in their declining years, he removed to Guilford in 1892, opened his office in the house in which he was born and where he died, and soon succeeded in establishing a large and lucrative practice. Early in life he became intensely interested and very successful in chemical researches, and in 1899, and also 1900, was granted letters patent for improvements in photographic printing. In 1894 Dr. West was appointed by Governor Morris, State Chemist; reappointed by Governor Coffin in 1896; again by Governor Cooke in 1898, and by Governor Lounsbury in 1900. In 1897 he was appointed town health officer for Guilford, and also medical examiner in the same year, offices which he held for a period of years.

[Read the rest of this entry »](#)



## **St. John's Episcopal Church, Guilford (1814)**

Sunday, January 31st, 2016 Posted in Churches, Federal Style, Gothic, Guilford | No Comments »



[Meeting House Hill](#) in North Guilford is noted for the impressive view of its two early-nineteenth-century churches: the [North Guilford Congregational Church](#) and [St. John's Episcopal Church](#). The latter, located at 129 Ledge Hill Road, was built in 1812-1814 in the Federal style. The church was [originally founded](#) by members who had left the North Congregational Church in 1747, building their first small meeting house south of the hill in 1754. By 1812 they had developed a solid relationship with their neighboring church, which donated land for them to build a new church on Meeting House Hill. The top section of the original steeple was removed and replaced with a belfry in 1843. The interior was remodeled and the chancel, sacristy, and vestry were added in 1870. Around the same time, Gothic arches were added to the windows as well. The belfry was repaired after being struck by lightning in 1890. Originally standing on large stones, the church did not acquire a permanent foundation until the 1950s. A rear addition added in 1972.

# **North Guilford Congregational Church (1814)**

Sunday, November 22nd, 2015 Posted in [Churches](#), [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Guilford farmers began clearing land in the north part of town in 1705. [As related in A History of the Plantation of Menunkatuck and of the Original Town of Guilford, Connecticut, Comprising the Present Towns of Guilford and Madison \(1897\) by Bernard Christian Steiner:](#)

on December 6, 1716, the town voted to grant the petition of the "North Farmers in Guilford," that they may have "the liberty to hire a minister for 4 months for their ease in attending the worship of God, the Town being at no charge in contributing to the same."

In 1720 the town

granted 50 acres on Hooker's Hill "to be disposed for the ministry forever," and permitted the meetinghouse to be set" on the hill called the ledge, in the highway against Sam'l Bishop's lot."

The first meeting house on Mettinghouse Hill was built in 1723 and a separate religious society was granted by the General Assembly in 1725. The current [North Guilford Congregational Church](#) building was erected in 1812-1814. Workmen erecting the steeple during the War of 1812 observed British ships on Long Island Sound during the [Battle of Stonington](#). [Abraham Coan](#) of Guilford was the architect/builder of the Federal-style church, [which stands](#) in a dramatic location on [Meetinghouse Hill](#). The interior was remodeled and the Chancel was added in 1855, possibly to a design by [Henry Austin](#). A rear addition to the church was constructed in 1957.

## **Frederick A. Fowler House (1848)**

Saturday, November 21st, 2015 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Italianate house at 49 Church Street in Guilford was built c. 1848 by Frederick A. Fowler. He was married to [Laura Brooks](#), sister of [Captain Oliver N. Brooks](#), who also lived at the house for a time. [Captain Brooks](#) was the lighthouse keeper at [Faulkner's Island](#) from 1851 to 1882. He was described in *Forest and Stream* (Vol. LXXX, No. 8, January 18, 1913):

It was a piece of heroism performed on the night of Nov. 23, 1858, that caused Captain Brooks to be spoken of as the "Hero of 1858." That night the schooner Moses F. Webb went ashore in a heavy gale on Goose Island, not far from Faulkner's Island. Captain Brooks, disregarding the weather, put out to the stranded vessel in an open boat, and safely took off the five men of the crew. This feat was widely heralded. The Life Saving Benevolent Association of New York presented him a gold medal and the citizens of New Haven gave him a purse of gold.

Captain Brooks was known to every Connecticut ornithologist of thirty years ago as a careful observer of birds, and as possessing in his home at the lighthouse a collection of birds of unusual interest. His name has been quoted in many a list of Connecticut birds during the last forty or fifty years.

Captain Brooks was a delightful man, full of stories of his experiences and observations. He was twice a member of the Connecticut General Assembly.

## **Richard Cruttenden House (1849)**

Friday, November 20th, 2015 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Much altered over the years, [the house](#) at [65 Fair Street](#) in [Guilford](#) was built in 1849 by [Richard Cruttenden](#). He was descended from [Abraham Cruttenden](#), one of the original settlers of Guilford.

## **Benajah Stone House (1730)**

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at [2655 Long Hill Road in North Guilford](#) was built c. 1730. The original owner was [Joseph Chittenden, Jr. \(died 1794\)](#), a cooper by trade. It was later owned by [Benajah Stone III \(1708-1757\)](#), who was married to [Joseph's sister, Mary](#). Benajah sold the house on March 3, 1746 to Samuel Fyler.

## **Jonathan Bishop, Sr. House (1787)**

Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



Jonathan Bishop built [the house at 191 State Street in Guilford](#) in 1797. He farmed [the family land](#) with his brother, Jared, who lived at 205 State Street, the house built by their father. The farm was inherited by Jonathan Bishop, Jr., who was called "Captain" and shipped his produce to New York on a sloop he berthed at [Jones Bridge](#). [William E. Pinchbeck](#) bought the property in 1928 and erected the longest [iron-frame greenhouse](#) ever constructed for his rose-growing business, which continues today as [Roses for Autism](#).



## **Samuel and Thomas Scranton (1787)**

Tuesday, November 29th, 2016 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at [107 State Street in Guilford](#) was built in 1787 in the Federal style and has a later Greek Revival entryway. The house was built by [two brothers, Samuel and Thomas Scranton](#), who were both farmers. It would become home to the brothers, their wives and their combined total of nine surviving children. It was inherited by [Thomas Scranton, Jr.](#)



## **Hall-Starr House (1778)**

Thursday, October 27th, 2016 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



Once thought to have been much older, [the small house](#) at [223 State Street in Guilford](#) was probably built c. 1778 by [Benjamin Hall](#). In 1803 he sold it to William Starr, whose family lived in it until 1995. A kitchen ell was added to the house around 1940.

## **Jabez Benton House (1730)**

Saturday, September 24th, 2016 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The house at 101 State Street in [Guilford](#) was built in 1730 for [Jabez Benton](#) (1680-1756) and his wife [Hannah Stone](#) (1702-1773). They were married in 1726 and had seven children. In 1853 [George Walter Hinckley](#), who would become a teacher and a minister, was born in the house. In 1889 [he founded](#) a farm school for homeless children in [Fairfield, Maine](#) called Good Will Farm. By the time [Hinckley](#) died in 1950, [the school](#) had a campus of 3,000 acres with 45 buildings and served more than 3,000 underprivileged and troubled youth.

## **Jonathan Starr House (1732)**

Friday, August 12th, 2016 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



[Jonathan Starr](#), a tailor, erected [the house](#) at [133 State Street](#) in [Guilford](#) in 1732 on land deeded to him by his father, [Comfort Starr](#), also a tailor. He ended up deeding the property back to his father a year later and moved to East Guilford (now Madison). [The house](#)'s hipped roof may not be original. The triple window and Federal-style doorway were probably added in the late eighteenth century. There is [a preservation easement](#) on the exterior of the house [held by](#) the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. In recent decades the building has housed [a series of businesses](#). It is currently home to [Health Options, Center for Wellness](#).

## **Eli Parmelee House (1860)**

Friday, July 29th, 2016 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Italianate](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Italianate-style [house](#) at [72 Church Street](#) in Guilford was built c. 1860. It has Queen Anne-style porches added later in the nineteenth century. This was [the home](#) of [Deacon Eli Parmelee \(1808-1882\)](#) who served in the state legislature and was a deacon of the [First Congregational Church](#) from 1852 until his death in 1882.

## **Capt. Samuel Lee House (1750)**

Thursday, October 12th, 2017 Posted in [Colonial](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



At the corner of State and North Streets in [Guilford](#) is a house (1 North Street) built circa 1750. The Greek Revival front door-surround was added later. [The house](#) is named for [Samuel Lee](#) (1742-1819), who served in the Coast Guard during the Revolutionary War and was promoted to captain just before the war ended. The house may also have been erected later, around the time of Lee's marriage to [Agnes Dickinson](#) in 1763. There are many stories of Agnes Lee's bravery during the Revolution when her husband was frequently absent. [As recounted in \*Old Paths and Legends of the New England Border\* \(1907\)](#), by Katharine M. Abbott:

Agnes Lee, the wife of Captain Samuel Lee of the Harbor Guard, was a noted foe to Tories. Powder was stored in the attic: one dark night a Tory knocked at her door, when Captain Lee was on duty; "Who's there?" — "A friend." — "No, a friend would tell his name," answered Mrs. Lee, and fired. An hour later, an old doctor of North Guilford was summoned to attend a mysterious gun-shot wound. When the British landed at Leete's Island, Captain Lee fired the agreed signal; "Grandma Lee responded by blazing away on the cannon set at the head of Crooked Lane, for she had not a son, and Uncle Levi was a cripple."

[According to another account](#), armed Tories actually burst in and she held them off until her husband arrived to shoot them. [On another occasion](#), Lee barn caught fire and its sparks threatened the powder stored in the attic of the house. With no one else to save the house, Agnes Lee rushed upstairs and closed the the attic window to shut out the dangerous sparks. She later remarked that she hadn't expected to come back down the stairs alive. The [Guilford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution](#) is named for Agnes Dickinson Lee.

Samuel's mother and his brother, Levi, also lived with them in the house. In 1794, Levi and his mother sold the house to William Starr, Sr. At that time, Samuel and Agnes built a new house at [292 State Street](#).

## **George W. Seward House (1888)**

Thursday, September 21st, 2017 Posted in [Guilford](#), [Houses](#), [Queen Anne](#) | [No Comments »](#)



George W. Seward (d. 1928) was a [builder](#) in [Guilford](#) who was very active in town affair and served on the board of the [Guilford Institute](#). In 1888, he built for himself the house at [33 Church Street](#), next door to his shop, which was at 39 Church Street.



## **Dr. Joel Canfield House (1829)**

Thursday, August 10th, 2017 Posted in [Federal Style](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments](#) »



The house at [78 Church Street](#) in [Guilford](#) was built in 1829, just four years after the street was opened. It was erected by [Dr. Joel Canfield](#) (1801-1877). [According to his obituary](#) by Alvan Talcott, M. D., in the *Proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Society, Eighty-Sixth Annual Convention* (1877), [Dr. Canfield](#) was originally from Chester and studied medicine with Dr. John S. Peters, of Hebron and Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, of Wethersfield. He then studied at Yale in 1823-1824.

He received a license to practice as a physican [*sic*] and surgeon in March, 1824, and on the 1st day of June following he commenced practice in Guilford, Conn., locating himself, the first year, in the parish of North Guilford. One year afterwards, he removed to the village of Old Guilford, on the same day with the decease of Dr. Joel L. Griffing, of Guilford, a physician of much promise, who died of phthisis at the age of 36. Dr. Canfield succeeded to his business, and had at once a large and lucrative practice. Other practitioners, however, came in after a few years, and divided the business with him.

On January 10, 1827, he [married](#) Lucretia M. Bartlett. She died in 1876 and, according to the doctor's obituary, "he appeared never to have recovered from the shock." Dr. Canfield was given an honorary medical degree by Yale in 1847. He was also active in the anti-slavery and temperance movements. [As his obituary concludes](#):

On the morning of April 9, 1877, being in usual health, he took the cars for Saybrook, and from thence for Chester, hired some boys to row him across the Connecticut river, and was on his way to visit a brother and a niece in Hadlyme. After walking a few rods in a lonely road, and when out of sight of any human being, he was stricken down by failure of the action of the heart, and died almost immediately. Some five hours afterwards his body was found, his left hand still grasping a stone in the wall for support. His funeral was attended on the 11th, in the Third Church of Guilford, by a full assemblage of his relatives and friends, with



very appropriate remarks from his pastor, Rev. George W. Banks. His age was 76 years and 30 days.

## **Stephen Fowler House (1770)**

Thursday, July 20th, 2017 Posted in Colonial, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The house at [2545 Long Hill Road](#) in North Guilford was built in 1770 by [Stephen Fowler \(1744-1814\)](#) (it was [once thought](#) to have been built by his father, Daniel Fowler, in 1740). The house contained the first post office in North Guilford, and [Stephen's grandson, also named Stephen](#), served as postmaster until his death in 1869, followed by his daughter into the 1870s. Later, this Stephen's grandson, [Harold E. Fowler \(1884-1981\)](#), owned the house, which has remained in [the Fowler family](#).

## **William Starr III House (1826)**

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 Posted in Federal Style, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The house at [150 Church Street](#) in Guilford was built in 1826 by [William Sarr III](#) (1803-1846) to be the new home of he and his bride, [Amelia Chittenden](#) (1805-1842). They were married on January 31, 1827.

## **Henry Hull House (1840)**

Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 Posted in [Greek Revival](#), [Guilford](#), [Houses](#) | [No Comments »](#)



The Greek Revival house at [215 State Street in Guilford](#) was built c. 1840. It was the home of [Henry Hull](#) (1813-1885), originally of Killingworth, who [married](#) Lydia L Bishop of Guilford on [March 22, 1838](#).

## **Nathaniel Hall House (1770)**

Saturday, March 25th, 2017 Posted in Federal Style, Guilford, Houses | No Comments »



The Nathaniel Hall House (perhaps named for [this](#) Nathaniel Hall?), located at [48 State Street in Guilford](#), was built c. 1770 and has been much altered over the years. The second floor is thought to have been added around 1810, at which time the house probably acquired its current Federal-style detailing. An owner of the house in the 1980s removed the c. 1810 front porch and various later Victorian-era alterations.