

From Sarah Brown McCulloch's *Guilford: A Walking Guide* (2012):

Cooke-Dudley, 101 Fair Street, Colonial.

Thomas Cooke, one of the original settlers and signer of the Covenant, was granted this lot in the first years of the settlement and soon after built a house. The exact date of the house and even the owner are uncertain and have been the subject of much discussion. It is known that a house stood on this lot in the 1650s, in 1703, and again in 1753. But are they all the same house? Historian Mary Hoadley Griswold believed that the present house was a replacement built by Miles Dudley at the time of his marriage in 1707. (Cooke had died in 1692 and Dudley had bought the property from Cooke's heirs in 1702.) Architect J. Frederick Kelly believed that the oldest part (the central block) was "something around a quarter century before 1707." The double lean-to across the rear and the south wing are additions made over the course of time and the Greek Revival doorway dates probably from c1830-1835. Thomas Cooke held many important positions in the town and was a member of the General Court in Hartford. In 1646 he brought the first suit for slander in Guilford against "the pugnacious Benjamin Wright" who had called him a "whibbling man, a fawner and a tale bearer." An apology was accepted and that ended the matter.