

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

**Elisha Chapman Bishop, 122 Broad Street, French Second Empire, 1874;
Architect: Henry Austin.**

This house is one of the few instances in Guilford where an architect's plans are known to have been used (see page v). The plans, now preserved by the Congregational Church, show that the original design is still almost intact. Missing are those touches that completed its grandness: an elegant fence, matching ones on the roof of the ample porch, and iron cresting around the top of the tower. All in all this was the most sumptuous house Guilford had yet seen. Elisha Chapman Bishop, a Guilford native, had gone west as a young man and then to Titusville, Pennsylvania, in time for the oil boom, where he made his fortune. His house was inherited by his daughter Marilla, who was married to Frederick C. Spencer, president of the Spencer Foundry (see 18 Fair Street), and today it is sometimes called the F. C. Spencer house. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spencer were active in town affairs and gave generously of their time, talents, and money. Mrs. Spencer left her mark on Guilford history as the first woman in town to ride a bicycle and to drive a car. When she died in 1962, aged ninety-seven, the Congregational Church bought the property for use as a parsonage; it now houses church offices as well.