

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

Captain Samuel Lee, 1 North Street, Colonial, c1750 or c1763.

Although the address is North Street, this house is an integral part of State Street, set, as it is, so prominently on the corner facing down the whole length of the street. The large Greek Revival doorway with wide pilasters and deep frieze is an important addition which makes the house stand out even more, especially as viewed from the Post Road. The paneled double door was handcrafted during its excellent restoration in 1970-71. Inside, much original work remains. Samuel Lee and Agnes Dickinson were married in 1763 and had three daughters, the last one born in 1776. Samuel's brother, Levi, a well-known fifer, also lived with them, and probably their mother. During the Revolution Samuel served in the Coast Guard and was promoted to captain just before the war ended. Many stories have been handed down about Agnes Lee's bravery during her husband's frequent absences. They tell about how she fired the cannon in their yard to warn the colonists that the British had landed at Leete's Island; how she protected their house many times from their Tory neighbors searching for contraband captured by Captain Lee; how she saved the house and the ammunition stored in the attic when sparks from a fire in the barn nearby threatened to ignite both; and many other acts of bravery. The Guilford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named for her. In 1794 Levi and his mother sold the house to William Starr, Sr., and the Lees built a new one at 292 State Street.