

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

Abraham Coan, 29 Broad Street, Federal, c1808; Builder-Architect: Abraham Coan.

Abraham Coan, Guilford's first known builder-architect, bought this land from the Chittendens in 1808 and built his house on the foundation of the original Chittenden home. He introduced the Federal style to Guilford using many of the ideas of the English architect, Peter Banner, who was in New Haven building Yale's president's house and other new buildings on the campus. Architectural historian Elizabeth Mills Brown points out, in the Guilford Survey, that the "flushboarding, blind arcades, oval and quarter-round windows, such as we see here, are all Banner innovations, as is the revolutionary idea of turning a building's gable end to the street." Coan is identified as the designer and builder of the North Guilford Congregational Church and, in town, 1 State Street, 37 Park Street, and 23 Boston Street. He was a warden of Christ Church and was probably responsible for the design of that church too. His joiner's shop stood near the house, and no doubt Coan provided much of the ornamental trim for other local Federal buildings. When Simeon Chittenden bought the property in 1857, it was integrated into the Cranbrook estate and named "Mapleside." At that time the entrance was relocated from the front to the west side. Simeon gave this property to his sister, Anna Hart Chittenden, who lived here until her death in 1896 aged 84. Guilford is indeed fortunate that, through the years, both this and No.1 have remained in caring hands.