

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

**Mehitabel and Anna Fowler, 33 & 37 Fair Street, Colonial, c1740; Italian Villa, c1864.**

This house has an eventful and uncertain history. It is certain that there was a Colonial house here in c1740 and that Mehitabel and Anna lived in it but, according to a recent title search by Joel Helander, that house had been built by their father in c1682. In 1727 in a deed unusual for the times, the father transferred the property to his two daughters, “single-women . . . for their advancement and Settlement in the World,” reserving “free liberty” for his and his wife’s lifetime. In 1824, many owners later, the house and lot were bought by Eunice and Russell Frisbie and remained in their family for about one hundred years, and there is evidence that the Frisbies may have rebuilt or replaced the Fowler house. The Villa-style part was added in 1864, either moved here and attached or newly built. That section became the home of the Frisbies’ granddaughter Cornelia and her husband, Dr. Benjamin West, who later inherited the property. Their son, Dr. Redfield West, who practiced medicine here, remodeled the house adding porches and trim to each section and a big gable on the front giving it the appearance of a Gothic cottage. All of this was tied together by a splendid fence with gates at each porch. As you can see, it has now been de-Victorianized and, except for the Villa section and the flat-roofed addition on the south side, is back to its Colonial self.