

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

Joseph Clay, 37 Union Street, Colonial, 1670.

Familiarly known as the Acadian House, and on the National Register of Historic Places, this house is frequently mentioned by architectural historians as an outstanding example of seventeenth-century building techniques. Originally it had two rooms each, on the first and second floors, and the attic ran straight across. The chimney stack is an interesting T-shape, while a break in the steeply sloping roof indicates the later addition of the lean-to. The door is made of boards placed horizontally instead of vertically; the five windows with 8/12 sash are irregularly spaced. Joseph Clay and his bride, Mary Lord, came from Saybrook in 1670 and built this house the same year. Their daughter Sarah, who married John Chittenden, inherited it and it remained in the Chittenden family for 144 years. It was one of their descendants, Samuel, who is reputed to have given shelter to a group of about sixteen Acadians from Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, allowing them to live in his then-empty house. Captured by the British during the French and Indian War, the Acadians were put ashore in various towns along the Connecticut coast. They arrived in Guilford in the spring of 1756, where they became charges of the town and were "put out to service." Sixteen years later, with the town's financial help, a few eventually returned home.