

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

Abel Kimberly, 41-47 Water Street, Grecian Villa, c1840.

For many years the provenance of this house was a mystery. But a recent title search by Joel Helander has disclosed that it was built by Abel Kimberly, who owned a large livery stable in Guilford center. In 1848 he deeded two and a half acres "with the buildings situated thereon . . . called the New Cottage Place" to the four minor children of his son, George A. Kimberly. As Elizabeth Mills Brown writes in the Guilford Survey, this is an early and perfect example of the Grecian Villa style and was probably built by Henry Austin or built from one of his published designs. She continues, "The restrained elegance of the Ionic portico, the perfect purity of the cubic form, the assurance with which the small building sits on its slightly elevated podium facing the street give it a miniature majesty that ranks it among Connecticut's notable architectural work." The basic form remains intact although details have been altered: a Greek parapet that edged the roof and little side porches with fringed canopies are gone, trellis supports have been added. According to Helander there is strong evidence that Fitz-Greene Halleck might also have lived here.