

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

**Daniel Hand, 47 Fair Street, Italianate, 1878; Builder: George W. Seward.**

There was a lively interest in seventy-seven-year-old Daniel Hand's new house and the Shore Line Sentinel reported on its progress regularly. Completed in 1879, the elegantly trimmed portico, two-story bay, triangular lintels over the second-story windows, projecting eaves with modillions underneath, and a handsome monitor with finial on top, all combine to make it "an ornament to the street as well as a recommendation of the workmanship of Mr. George Seward and Sons" (see page v). Hand's story is a fascinating one. Briefly, he became head of his uncle's wholesale grocery business in Augusta, Georgia, forming a partnership with a Southerner, George W. Williams. Conducting business in the North when the Civil War began, Hand returned to help save the firm, was imprisoned three times on charges of being a spy and released each time when it was determined that "he was a gentleman and no spy" but ordered to remain in the South. As soon as the war ended he left for Connecticut, entrusting his share of the business to his partner and vowing never to return. Twenty-five years later his partner came to Connecticut and announced to the astonished Hand that his accumulated profits amounted to \$1.5 million dollars. Hand gave \$1 million to the American Missionary Society for the education of southern blacks and at his death in 1891, aged ninety, left the rest to charity.