

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

**James Monroe, 53 Fair Street, Gothic Revival, 1860.**

This house with its board-and-batten siding and Gothic gable on the front is an example of a style very rare in Guilford. The Gothic features are diluted, however, by the use of clipped gables at each end, a Colonial feature, and an Italianate entry porch. James Monroe was a member of the firm of Jasper Monroe & Sons on Boston Street, but since he also put up several other buildings around town, including No. 63 next door, it appears that storekeeping was not his major occupation. In April 1860 he was one of the signers of a call for a special town meeting which committed the town to support the Union in the Civil War. He married twice and had four children. George Cruttenden, whose brother Richard built No. 65, was another occupant; he married twice and had fifteen children.