

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

**Seth Bishop, 64 Fair Street, Federal, 1796.**

Seth Bishop bought the land for his house from David Hull next door and lived at No. 76 while his "new mansion" was being built. A year later "dwelling house, shop and barn" were mortgaged to the Griffing brothers, Joel and Nathaniel, and by 1801 Bishop had sold the property to Captain Joel Griffing. The house represents a cautious transition from Colonial to Federal styles. It has the five bays and center chimney of a Colonial building, the original graduated clapboards, and on the south side a "coffin" or "garden" door but adds triple windows and a doorway with a low pediment and fanlight typical of the Federal period. A spacious upstairs room has a raised ceiling a foot higher than the other rooms. Referred to as "the secret room" by one of Griffing's daughters, it was used for meetings of St. Alban's Lodge, No. 38, Free and Accepted Masons until Griffing's death in 1826.