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

John Collins-Stephen Spencer, 77 Fair Street, Colonial, c1727; Chimney, 1670.

John Collins came to town in 1669, and in 1670 the town gave him permission "to buy John Stevens, his house and land and so is a planter here." A later Colonial house with lean-to, thriftily built around the old 17' x 26' chimney, was sold to Stephen Spencer, a blacksmith. The house changed hands several times before Deacon Peter Stevens from Saybrook bought it in 1804. In 1814 he sold it to the town for use as an almshouse. About twenty-five to thirty paupers were cared for here by a family hired for that purpose. When East Guilford separated from Guilford and became Madison, public properties were divided and the almshouse fell to Madison. There was some disagreement as to which town the paupers belonged. The house returned to Guilford ownership six years later when another Stevens, William H., bought it for his residence.