

102 Broad Street, c1813 with many later changes.

Today about the only resemblance between this building and the tavern (or “stage house”) that was here in or around 1813 is the chimney; which still stands in the same place. By the 1840s or early 1850s, the tavern had been replaced by a store, owned by one David Baldwin, and a store it has remained ever since, selling, at various times, groceries, dry goods, musical instruments, and sewing machines among other things. In 1882 the store and the house next door (No. 96) were bought by Nelson Hotchkiss who bequeathed them to his nephew Nelson Hotchkiss Griswold, who in turn bequeathed them to his son Edward. Edward Griswold, at that time owner of The People’s Cash Store, soon moved his business to his newly acquired premises, and thus was founded a family enterprise that operated on that site for nearly a century (1893-1981), gradually growing from a general store to a twentieth-century department store selling household goods, sewing supplies, men’s, women’s, and children’s clothes and furniture. By the time it closed in 1981, “Griswold’s” had become a Guilford fixture, and “Griswold’s” is still the name by which the building is generally known. The present facade is the result of a major remodeling in 1967.

William Redfield, 96 Broad Street, Colonial, 1751 and later, reconstructed.



Redfield sold his Colonial house three years after it was built and until 1872 a series of owners, a dozen at least, made their own changes according to the styles of the times. One of the most interesting occupants was the reverend Daniel Brewer (see 38 Fair Street) who was dismissed as pastor of Fourth Church, yet chose to live next to his former church which was on the site now occupied by

No. 102. Nelson Hotchkiss, who bought the property in 1872, was a well-known New Haven builder and contractor who had worked with architect Henry Austin and had been a partner of Ira Atwater, builder of the First Congregational Church. He moved the house back from the street and it was probably at this time that the roof was raised, the design changed to a central-hall, two chimney plan, and the fashionable Second Empire porch and trim added. In 1974 the house was converted to commercial use as a furniture showroom. Over a period of three years a new owner has reconstructed much of this building, including the 1872 trim. The fate of its elegant front door and surround is unknown.

Joel Tuttle II, 88 Broad Street, Italian Villa, 1852.



Joel Tuttle II moved his smaller house to the west side of his property and so provided himself with a choice site on which to build what has been described as “a stately mansion.” With an elaborate porch and a monitor that still retains its finial on top, the house is a good example of a style that was rapidly replacing Greek and Gothic revivals. Tuttle was an important political figure in town——

Whig deputy from Guilford to the General Court, state senator, and judge of probate. His sister-in-law Clara Sage lived in the house for many years and was long remembered as a benefactor of the First Congregational Church, to which she donated an organ in 1908, and of the Guilford Free Library which she helped to establish.

Broad Street

Broad Street, which begins at the West River, is one of Guilford’s original streets. In the period before roads were no more than paths or cart tracks, the river was a main highway. The homelots there were choice properties and were given to the more important members of the small company of settlers, in this case William Chittenden and William Leete. Today Broad Street, rivaled in importance only by Fair Street, is lined with historically and architecturally significant houses. As you walk along it, be sure to notice the fences that line both sides, providing continuity and giving the street its special distinction. At the head of Broad Street, the West River with a wide expanse of salt marsh is a deeply satisfying sight anytime of the year. In 1982 the land between the road and the river was given to the Guilford Land Conservation Trust and is maintained by the Trust as a miniature public park.

The walk begins at Broad and River streets with No., I on your right, but note that if you approach Broad Street from the direction of the Green you will follow the house numbers as they descend.

Abel Chittenden, 1 Broad Street, Federal, 1804, porch restored.

This house stands on the homelot of William Chittenden, one of Guilford’s founders and brother-in-law of Henry Whitfield’s wife, Dorothy. Abel was the seventh generation to live here. Except for a twelve-year interval, Chittendens



owned this land for 329 years, from 1639 to 1968. The house, a fine example of the Federal style, is thought to have been built by Abraham Coan, Guilford's first known builder-architect; its Palladian window was an elegant novelty at the time. After Abel's death in 1816, his widow, in financial straits, sold the house to Danforth Nettleton, who built the handsome and unusual fence. Notice that

it seems to have no supporting posts; instead iron rods designed to look like pickets, set in periodically among the wooden ones, keep it upright. Soon after the sale, Abel's son Simeon moved to New York where in due course he made a fortune in the dry-goods trade and in 1851 bought back the ancestral homelot and later the property next door (No. 29). He named his house "Cranbrook" after the town in Kent his ancestors had come from, and over the years transformed both lots into an imposing summer estate with landscaped grounds, a fountain, and a deer park later given over to peacocks. Out back he built a granite water tower and windmill to supply water for the fountain, two fine barns (the small board-and-batten one in the 1850s the grander one next door in the 1880s — see No. 29), and a charming Gothic bowling alley barely visible from the road. He also put a Queen Anne porch across the front of the house (later removed: the present doorway may belong to the Colonial Revival period) and added a wing to the rear containing a ballroom. Guilford had never seen anything like it!

The water tower, known as Cranbrook Tower, is best seen from River Street where the stone gate still stands. A Romanesque doorway opens to an iron stair that winds up around a 4000-gallon, hand-riveted tank. The windmill was removed after the town established its own water system. During World War II and in 1955 the tower was again in use as an aircraft warning Station, manned day and night by volunteers. Now closed and unused, the high stone tower remains a Guilford landmark.

Caleb Stone and the Regicide Cellar, 6 Broad Street, Colonial, 1749, enlarged 2004.

The land on which this house stands was part of the homelot of William Leete, one of the original company of settlers, whose son John was the first child born in the new settlement. When so many of the prominent leaders left the colony to return to England after Cromwell came into power, Leete stayed on in Guilford. He guided the little settlement through difficult times, becoming governor of New Haven Colony and then of Connecticut. The barn behind the house facing River Street



bears a plaque which, according to legend, commemorates a brave deed in a time of danger. "Here in June 1661, William Leete, then Governor of New Haven Colony concealed for three days Whalley and Goffe, two of the judges who signed the death warrant of Charles I of England. They were sought by emissaries of Charles II who after the Restoration ordered the regicides beheaded." It is

thought that the cellar under the barn is the site of Governor Leete's house. In 1715, Caleb Stone and his wife, Rebecca Evarts, bought the land from the Leetes and built the present simple center-chimney Colonial house with integral lean-to; a secondary lean-to was added later. Members of the Stone family lived here until 1955. The house had undergone many alterations and modernizations by the time the present owners bought it and restored it to its original handsome self. The picket fence which begins here and continues up to Fair Street connects the houses in a most attractive way.

Reuben Stone, 22 Broad Street, Colonial, 1769.



The Greek Revival portico with fluted columns, wide frieze, and sidelights flanking the door was added in 1842 and the roof line was made less steep, in order to give the house a more "modern" appearance. However, look closely at the gable end and you will see, at the level, a slight overhang which testifies to its age. Reuben Stone, brother of Caleb who lived next door, was married twice and had ten children. The Guilford Survey notes that,

as a supporter of the Revolution, "he made two trips to New Haven and one to Hartford to arrange procurement of provisions for Guilford's Revolutionary soldiers. He was reimbursed for this travel on 12 April 1779." A descendant of the Stones has lived here for many years and has preserved the ancient (1820) cider mill on the property.



**Abraham Coan, 29 Broad Street,
Federal, c1808; Builder-Architect:
Abraham Coan.**

Abraham Coan, Guilford's first known builder-architect, bought this land from the Chittendens in 1808 and built his house on the foundation of the original Chittenden home. He introduced the Federal style to Guilford using many of the ideas of the English architect, Peter

Banner, who was in New Haven building Yale's president's house and other new buildings on the campus. Architectural historian Elizabeth Mills Brown points out, in the Guilford Survey, that the "flushboarding, blind arcades, oval and quarter-round windows, such as we see here, are all Banner innovations, as is the revolutionary idea of turning a building's gable end to the street." Coan is identified as the designer and builder of the North Guilford Congregational Church and, in town, 1 State Street, 37 Park Street, and 23 Boston Street. He was a warden of Christ Church and was probably responsible for the design of that church too. His joiner's shop stood near the house, and no doubt Coan provided much of the ornamental trim for other local Federal buildings. When Simeon Chittenden bought the property in 1857, it was integrated into the Cranbrook estate and named "Mapleside." At that time the entrance was relocated from the front to the west side. Simeon gave this property to his sister, Anna Hart Chittenden, who lived here until her death in 1896 aged 84. Guilford is indeed fortunate that, through the years, both this and No.1 have remained in caring hands.



Daniel Hubbard, 34 Broad Street, 1828.

This house was moved here from across the street in 1884. The shed dormers, scalloped shingles, gambrel roof, and porch with fanciful brackets and turned posts were probably added at that time. Only in the basic lines and the evenly spaced windows will you still be able to discern the old Federal house on which all the rest was

superimposed. Daniel Hubbard, the sixth of that name, was a woodworker and a carriage maker. The combination of a depression in 1837 and a disastrous fire that destroyed his shop forced him to go out of business and sell this house. But he

soon began a sawmill near the West River which prospered. A generous contributor to Christ Church, he gave both money and his work for a year making all of the window stools himself.



Dr. John Redfield, 47 Broad Street, Colonial, 1768.

Originally this house stood on Park Street where, sometime in the nineteenth century, it acquired a Greek Revival doorway and later a Victorian porch along the entire front. In 1937 it was taken down in pieces to make room for the town hall parking lot. The pieces were saved in bundles and in 1942 the house was rebuilt

here without the porch. An unusually steep roof allows space for two windows in the attic level of the gable. The rear section is a twentieth-century addition. Dr. John Redfield built another house twelve years after he built this one. For more about him, see 1 Park Street described in the walk around the Green.

Daniel Hubbard, 51-53 Broad Street, Colonial, 1717— west wing, 1872.



Built by the third Daniel, the original part of this house was unusually large for its day. Notice the 8/12 windows and the deep second-story overhang. The hood over the door is a later addition, as is the wing. A barn, a cobbler's shed, and a fine granite pigsty are still preserved on the property. Hubbard and his second wife, Diana Ward, had five children, one of whom, a son Bela, graduated from Yale

and was ordained in the Anglican church in England in 1764. He served Christ Church in Guilford and churches in both North Guilford and Killingworth until 1767 when he was transferred to Trinity Church in New Haven. Bernard C. Steiner, in his *History of Guilford and Madison, Connecticut*, writes that Rev. Bela Hubbard though a loyalist during the Revolution, as were many of his parishioners, was respected as “a man of great benevolence and sound judgment.” Yale awarded him an honorary degree in 1804.

**First Congregational Church Parsonage, 28 Conway Drive, Italian Villa, 1856;
Builder: William E. Weld.**

In back of No. 51-53 Broad Street, on a private drive, is the old Congregational Church parsonage which used to stand near the church, facing the Green. It was sold and moved to this site in 1964. Built by William Weld, it is one of Guilford's most elaborate examples of the Italian Villa style, with immensely wide, thin eaves and a monitor on the roof topped by a fanciful finial. The plant-form columns are a type popularized by the eminent New Haven architect, Henry Austin, taken by him from pictures of the architecture of India. Weld worked on the parsonage for about six months and charged \$2155.10.

65 Broad Street, Queen Anne, c1885-90.



The builder of this house is unknown, but with its sprightly little porch and spindlework detail it is an interesting example of a style popular in the late 1800s but rare in the borough. In addition to its typical Queen Anne features, notice the Italianate arched window on the west side and the two-story bay, the lower part rounded and the upper part square with pendants decorating the comers. The rear

half of the house, starting at the lattice screen, is recent and is an excellent example of how post-modern can harmonize with historic styles.

Samuel Fowler, 66 Broad Street, Greek Revival, c1840; Italianate, c1870.



Samuel Fowler, the fourth of that name, built his Greek Revival house, with the typically rectangular window in the gable, on land where earlier Fowler houses had stood. A later owner, making every effort to bring the house up to date, added the square-columned porch, the elaborately trimmed two-story bay, and probably the trim over the windows. The addition on the east side is later still, but makes use of

an Italianate doorhood. Fowler, who married Sophie Bishop in 1817 and had eight children, was for many years the manager of the Sachem's Head Hotel, the first

hotel in the area, which provided luxurious accommodations for its often-famous guests until it burned in 1865. *The Hartford Courant* reported that “the gentlemanly host, Mr. Fowler, and his kind lady, busily dispensing good things to all, with the many assistants, are ever at their post.”

John Evarts, 71 Broad Street, c1850.



Through the years this house has undergone various renovations which include the addition of a porch on the west side, removal of the entrance door from side to front, and reconstruction of the stone foundation. Because of its high ceilings and a trap door which conceals a hook, the owners think that originally the house may have been a barn. Nothing is known

about this particular John Evarts, but Evarts is an old name in Guilford.

Edward S. Fowler, 72 Broad Street, Italian Villa, c1847; French Second Empire, c1870.



Edward Sherman Fowler, son of Samuel and Sophie, built this house on the same street where he was born but soon after moved to New London where he worked as a railroad conductor. In 1855 the house was acquired by the new Guilford institute, Guilford’s first school to provide an education on a secondary level. The institute seems not to have used this house for the school and sold it in 1868. Perhaps

it was then that the Second Empire mansard roof, fish-scale slates, and elegant arched dormers were added to what was the nearly flat roof of the Italian Villa style. Later the house was owned by Alfred Wilcox, a cabinetmaker, who had been a prisoner in the South during the Civil War. Another owner operated a blacksmith shop in the rear of the property until 1968. The porch was added in 2003.

Jared Leete, 76 Broad Street, Colonial, c1774.



This house was moved from the lot next door (No. 88) to its present location in 1852. The bay windows, front steps, railings, and sidelights by the door are additions but the profile remains the same. “An injudicious drinker of cider and prolific composer of ribald verse,” Jared Leete is a town legend. One verse passed down through the generations goes as follows: “There was an old miser lived

over the hill, And all the poor people he strove for to kill, He hated his God and all that was good, And he wouldn’t let poor old Jared Leete sell his own wood.” Jared’s complaint probably had some foundation, for it is true that the town appointed a conservator to look after his affairs who, in 1787, had to sell the property to settle Leete’s debts amounting to 145 pounds, 1 shilling, and 41/2 pence.

Isaac Stowe (or Stow), 77 Broad Street, Colonial, 1743.



Built by Stowe for his bride, Hepzibah Collins, this house with its five bays, 12/12 sash, center chimney with smokehouse in the attic, and six-light transom over what may be the original door is an excellent example of Guilford’s Colonial period. Isaac was a blacksmith who made household hardware as well as horseshoes in his shop behind the house. He and Hepzibah had ten children, one of

whom, Isaac Jr., was killed by Indians in New York State during the Revolution. Their oldest daughter, Olive, married Christopher Spencer, also a blacksmith; it was their son, Isaac Stowe Spencer, who founded the Spencer Foundry at 18 Fair Street.

Fair Street

As Joel Helander (see page vi) has pointed out, Fair Street during the late 1600s was referred to in the Guilford Land Records as the “towne street” and by 1784 in the same records had become “the highway commonly called Petticoat Lane.” For

a time it was also known as Liberty Street but by 1816 the newly established borough of Guilford had renamed it Fair Street. Henry Pynchon Robinson in newspaper articles called “Country Sketches” written in 1879 described a street which “assumes almost the density of a city block and each house when the wind is right, hears all but the whispers of its next door neighbor. . . . Sunday is marked by a certain spic-span-ness of starched fronts and frills and the broad walks are black with bombazine and broadcloth. . . . Drovers of cattle sometimes crowd us on the walk. . . . We need all our eyes to command the way.” Today the fascination of the street lies in its display of two hundred years of popular American styles, from the colonial era up through the Civil War, in a streetscape that is still intact.

The walk up Fair Street begins at the corner of Fair and Broad streets and continues to the Post Road, a distance of about two-tenths of a mile. Start with No. 6 on your left.

Judge Nathaniel Griffing, 6 Fair Street, Federal, 1807.



This house and the one at 64 Fair Street, once owned by Nathaniel’s brother Joel, are almost copies but with some important changes. Although they are both in a transitional Federal style, retaining the center-chimney and five-bay facade of the colonial period, this one is much more sophisticated. A Palladian window in the center under a pediment which projects above the roof line replaces the plain

triple window of the earlier house, and a more elaborate doorway and reduced roof pitch complete the transformation. Judge Griffing, who graduated from Yale in 1786, was a justice of the New Haven Colony Court and active in town affairs until his death in 1845. His widow, Sarah Brown, who survived all but one of their seven children, lived here until her death in 1865, aged ninety-five. In 1855 her gift of \$10,000 made possible the founding of the Guilford Institute at 120 North Fair Street, “said school to be for the instruction of males and females in the higher branches of education.”

Hiram Middlebrook, 11 Fair Street, Italian Villa, c1849.

With its fanciful porch posts and trim, wide frieze, and wide overhanging eaves, this house is a good example of the Italianate style, just then becoming fashionable in Guilford. Notice the two false windows in the middle of the facade; they’re the



tip-off that this was built as a double house with the dividing wall running down the center. After the death of his wife, Clara Hand, Middlebrook sold the property, on which he had paid all of fifty-four dollars in taxes, and retired to Florida. Additions were made in the 1960s and it was later turned into three apartments. In 1983 a new owner, retaining its use as apartments, rescued it

from near ruin and the house has again become a credit to the street.

Richard Coan, 15 Fair Street, Italian Villa, c1841.



Built before its neighbor on the south, with typically wide eaves and entry portico instead of a full porch, this house is a considerably more restrained version of the Italian Villa style. The columns, indented along their length, rising from a high square base and ending with two square blocks trimmed with quatrefoils and small brackets instead of capitals, look as if they have been altered; they are

certainly unusual. Coan and his wife, Flora H. Granniss, who had seven children, moved eventually to New Haven. Beverly Monroe, a leading merchant in town (see 9 Boston Street), also lived here.

Christopher Spencer, 16 Fair Street, Italianate, 1893.



With its monitor on top of the roof which still has its finial, the pediment with a fanlight above the roof line, small windows cutting the frieze, decorative molding and trim, a two-story bay, and wide front entrance, this is an appropriately large house for a partner in the I. S. Spencer's Sons foundry next door. Spencer was also the president of the Guilford Enterprise Company which

manufactured articles made of ivory, wood, metal, composition, or rubber. Various

misfortunes caused that business to fail in the late 1880s. The foundry, however, was very successful and supported the Spencer family handsomely for several generations. The *Shore Line Sentinel*, reporting Christopher Spencer's death in 1902, noted that "during the hour of his funeral the places of business in the borough were closed."

Benjamin Corbin, 19 Fair Street, Greek Revival, c1847.



This is a typical Guilford version of the Greek Revival style—well proportioned and plain, ornamented only by the gable window and a doorway with deeply paneled pilasters. The bay on the south side is an addition. Corbin seems to have been buying and selling houses in Guilford while he lived in Fair Haven, but this is the one he built for himself. In 1858 he was a delegate of the American

Republican party from Guilford to the legislature which met alternately in Hartford and New Haven once a year.

I. S. Spencer's Sons, 20 Fair Street. Many dates, many periods.



Here, on a prime residential street of architecturally outstanding houses, stood a working foundry until only seven years ago and the remarkable thing about it is that no one thought it was unusual. In 1851 Isaac Stowe Spencer and his son Christopher bought a small foundry that was already working on this site, and through the years enlarged both business and building. By 1860 they employed five

men making, chiefly, agricultural implements. 1869 they added a brick foundry to the original building which was again enlarged in 1880. By then sixty men were employed making parts for bicycles, legs for school desks, lamp pedestals, Spencer scales, and other cast-iron products. In 1883 I. S. Spencer's Sons built a brass foundry which produced brass and iron castings in demand all over the country. By 1904 Frederick C. Spencer, Isaac's grandson, had become president, and new stock appeared in the 1905 catalogue—doorbells, name plates, door knobs, brass attachments—in addition to their previous items. It was F. C. Spencer who in 1910

built the beautifully proportioned tower on the south side which has become a Guilford landmark. Notice the different sizes and shapes of the windows which help to break up its bulk. The Spencers continued in business until 1945. The firm ceased operations in 1982 and the building has been turned into condominiums.

Mehitabel and Anna Fowler, 33 & 37 Fair Street, Colonial, c1740; Italian Villa, c1864.



This house has an eventful and uncertain history. It is certain that there was a Colonial house here in c1740 and that Mehitabel and Anna lived in it but, according to a recent title search by Joel Helander, that house had been built by their father in c1682. In 1727 in a deed unusual for the times, the father transferred the property to his two daughters, “single-women . . . for their

advancement and Settlement in the World,” reserving “free liberty” for his and his wife’s lifetime. In 1824, many owners later, the house and lot were bought by Eunice and Russell Frisbie and remained in their family for about one hundred

years, and there is evidence that the Frisbies may have rebuilt or replaced the Fowler house. The Villa-style part was added in 1864, either moved here and attached or newly built. That section became the home of the Frisbies’ granddaughter Cornelia and her husband, Dr. Benjamin West, who later inherited the property. Their son, Dr. Redfield West, who practiced medicine here, remodeled the house adding porches and trim to each section and a big gable on the front giving



it the appearance of a Gothic cottage. All of this was tied together by a splendid fence with gates at each porch. As you can see, it has now been de-Victorianized and, except for the Villa section and the flat-roofed addition on the south side, is back to its Colonial self.

Reverend Daniel Brewer, 38 Fair Street, Colonial, 1772.

Extensive alterations and the addition of a dormer on the rear have raised the lean-to roof and changed the profile of the house as seen from up the street. The front



however retains its Colonial character and has some features not often found in Guilford's eighteenth-century houses. Notice the watershed projection above the foundation, the projecting window frames, and the little cut-away circles decorating the prominent cornice. It was built by the Fourth Congregational Society for the Reverend Daniel Brewer, who was dismissed in 1775 when he embraced the

beliefs of the Sandemanians who, among other ideas, advocated the separation of church and state and a return to the fundamentalism of the early church. In 1779 Brewer moved to Newtown, Connecticut, where a Sandemanian Society was located.

Noah Hodgkin, Sr., 44 Fair Street, Colonial, 1762.

The profile of this house with its sharp, steep roof line is admirable, a perfectly pure example of the Colonial one-room-deep house with lean-to. The rear ell and a modest Greek Revival doorway are nineteenth-century additions. In 1783, Hodgkin died and left the property to his widow and his son, the Reverend Beriah Hotchkin.



(Hodgkin became Hotchkin and then Hotchkiss.) After the death of four other children, Mrs. Hodgkin had, in the biblical manner, dedicated this child at birth to the service of the Lord. He did become a minister and was pastor of the Fourth Church in Guilford from 1784 until 1789 when he left for western New York State. The house has been owned and lived in by four generations of the same family, since about 1880.

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.

Noah Hodgkin, Jr., 52 Fair Street, Colonial, 1770.



Noah Hodgkin bought the land in 1769 and a year later built, next door to his father, a five-bay, center-chimney Colonial home with a typical slanting roof. Notice the unusually wide window frames and the wide board covering the sill of the house. As was often the case in Guilford, the Greek Revival doorway with deep entablature and an eight-light transom was added later as a way of

updating an old house. This was also the birthplace and home of George W. Seward, of his father, George M., and his grandfather Martin, all expert carpenters and cabinetmakers.

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.

Nathaniel Johnson, 58 Fair Street, Colonial, 1730.



This house built in the characteristic Colonial style, with lean-to added, is large for a saltbox and has architectural refinements appropriate for a prominent man in town. The Greek Revival doorway with narrow sidelights was added later, an old Guilford custom. Nathaniel's brother, Samuel, was ordained in the Anglican church in 1722 and became the first president of King's College in New York, renamed Columbia after the Revolution. He is described as "the father of Episcopacy in New England." Nathaniel's conversion is recorded as "sometime before 1738." He was considered the leading Episcopalian in town, helping to found Christ Church, the first Episcopalian church in Guilford, which in the early days often met in this house, and serving as church Warden and lay reader. In 1745 he was the captain of a company of Guilford men who marched to Fort William Henry during the French and Indian Wars.



James Monroe, 63 Fair Street, Gothic Revival, 1865; Builder: William E. Weld.

With its multiple gables, centered and crossed, drip-mold window hoods, board-and-batten siding, and a sturdy entry porch that gives the illusion of stone, the original part of this house is somewhat like designs from the pattern books published by Andrew Jackson Downing in

the 1840s and 1850s. Alexander Jackson Davis was the first architect to design the Gothic rural cottage style in America, but it was his close friend Downing who promoted the style and made it popular. Notice also the board-and-batten carriage house in the rear with bargeboard trim and quatrefoil window in the gable. According to William Weld's ledger, the house cost \$3,396.09.

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.

Richard Cruttenden, 65 Fair Street, 1849.



Cruttenden bought the land from Dr. Joel Canfield (see 78 Church Street) and built both house and barn for about \$400. The style is difficult to determine because there have obviously been alterations and the siding may now hide original trim. A descendant of Abraham Cruttenden, signer of the Covenant, Richard married three times, had four sons, and died aged forty-seven leaving the house to his third wife, Sarah Bradley.

James Norton, 73 Fair Street, Italian Villa, 1856.



Built with vertical planking, this house is a restrained version of an often elaborate style. A 1911 photograph shows, in the angle between front and side wings, a porch with slightly pitched roof and scrollwork at the edge, a full-length shuttered window in front opening out onto a tiny balcony topped by a narrow canopy trimmed to match the porch, shutters on all of the windows, and the

planking covered with stucco as now. Norton served on several committees that in 1856 tried unsuccessfully to cope with the deterioration of the old town hall. In 1860 he was a member of a committee which saw to it that resolutions supporting the Civil War were carried out. He later moved to Bristol. John Pitts, who died aged one hundred, lived here for over sixty-five years. New owners have built an addition at the rear that is a sensitive blend of old and new.

David Hull, 76 Fair Street, Colonial, 1766.



David Hull lived in this five-bay, center-chimney Colonial house until 1791. Thereafter it was bought and sold many times, once by the town. In modern times, a nineteenth-century porch was removed and a plain Greek Revival surround was added to the door, very like the ones at Nos. 44 and 52.

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.

Joseph Chittenden, 78 Fair Street, Colonial, 1766.



Built the same year, this nice Colonial house and No. 76 are almost twins and both are good examples of the style. The doorway of a type seen on elegant Connecticut houses towards the end of the eighteenth century is a handsome addition. Joseph Chittenden, born in 1727, was the son of a cooper named Joseph and a descendant of William Chittenden, one of the original settlers. He was married

three times, had six children, and lived here until his death in 1793. The house remained in the family until 1827.

Edwin A. Leete, 84 Fair Street, Octagonal Villa, 1856.



The popularization of the octagon house during the 1850s and 1860s, and in some places as late as the 1870s, was the result of one man's evangelical fervor. Orson Squire Fowler, phrenologist, successful lecturer, author of many books including two popular sex manuals, and investor in the flush toilet invented by an Englishman named Crapper, believed wholeheartedly that the octagonal shape not only provided

more room for less money but was better for your health. In his book *A Home For All*, published in 1849, he described, from his own experience, how to build an octagonal house and how to live a healthier, happier life in it. Some of his ideas

were decidedly odd but many were ahead of his time. (He believed, for instance, that women should wear loose clothing and get plenty of exercise.) Except for advocating the use of “piazzas . . . all around it, at each story, allowing you to choose sun or shade, breeze or shelter,” Fowler had little to say about the outward appearance of the house, leaving the style to the builder. This one, with a portico typical of Henry Austin which suggests that he might have designed the house, has lost its wide eaves and decorative brackets. The monitor at the top, a miniature of the original proportions, is characteristic. Fitted with windows, it provides light and air to the central core and adjoining rooms. If Leete had followed Fowler’s instructions, the house would have had the recommended porches or balconies also. In any case it was very bold of him to build the only octagon house in town and fortunate for us that it is one of the few survivors of that style.

North West Center School, 85 Fair Street, Greek Revival, 1848.



Now a private home, this is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival style in the town center. The corner pilasters joined by a very wide frieze board under a full pediment are classical treatments. Note that the pilasters turn the corner and the frieze continues along the sides of the building, a nice attention to detail that later times forgot. The frieze on the south side is obviously an alteration. Built as a

one-room schoolhouse, there were no windows where the bay windows are now and there was a columned portico with three steps leading up to it. The belfry is the same. Originally the building sat far back on its lot behind a pond hole which was said to be bottomless. Historian Mary Hoadley Griswold said that people couldn't understand how a schoolhouse could be built there. Children attended this school until 1871 when several schools were consolidated into one larger district. In 1922

classes were again held in the old school when a class in agriculture was taught by Seldon Clark, the pupils first having built their own desks and chairs.



Daniel S. Redfield, 90 Fair Street, Federal, 1833.

The porch, the wing, and the window on the side are all additions, probably done

about 1900, to a three-bay Federal house which retains its elliptical fanlight in the gable. Redfield built the house; two other names often associated with it, Griffing and Russell, held the mortgage. Albert Leete, a deacon of the First Congregational Church and, according to writer Henry Pynchon Robinson, a “doctor of divinity by common consent,” moved to town from Leete’s Island about 1845 and lived here.

Medad Holcomb, Jr., 95 Fair Street, Greek Revival, c1848.



With its classical proportions and its flushboarded facade (a technique seldom found outside the big city), this unostentatious house was a sophisticated design in its day. The pilasters with sunken panels gently arched at the top are a graceful modern addition. The back of the house was finished with vertical planks instead of more expensive siding and the second floor was used as a hayloft

before an addition was built on the rear. Holcomb’s father, Medad (1781-1858), who lived in North Guilford married five times and fathered seventeen children. Medad Jr. was born in 1828, the fourth of six children of Medad and his fifth wife, Nancy Dudley. He died in 1871, willing this house to Sydney Dowd who was a leader in the local temperance movement.

Abraham Woodward, 96 Fair Street, Colonial, 1785.



The first-floor windows of this old story-and-a-half house have been changed and the center chimney rebuilt, but the 12/12 sash on the second floor and the small 6/6 windows in the garret remain. The Greek Revival doorway is a nineteenth century addition. From about 1890 the house was owned by Edward M. Leete and his wife Eva Bishop and after him Earle B. Leete and his wife Pearl Lewis, who lived here until her death in 1992.

Edwin A. Leete, 98 Fair Street, French Second Empire, 1870.



With triangular pediments over the dormer windows, arched windows and shutters on the south side, plain windowheads, and square-columned porch, this is a quietly elegant version of the Second Empire style. Leete was a cabinetmaker and undertaker for sixty years, interrupted only by a short enlistment during the Civil War, when he fought in the battle of Antietam.

The striking building behind the house was his workshop and display room for coffins and furniture. A parlor of the home was used for funerals. His son Edward and grandson Earle carried on the undertaking business until 1974.

Cooke-Dudley, 101 Fair Street, Colonial.



Thomas Cooke, one of the original settlers and signer of the Covenant, was granted this lot in the first years of the settlement and soon after built a house. The exact date of the house and even the owner are uncertain and have been the subject of much discussion. It is known that a house stood on this lot in the 1650s, in 1703, and again in 1753. But are they all the same house? Historian Mary Hoadley Griswold

believed that the present house was a replacement built by Miles Dudley at the time of his marriage in 1707. (Cooke had died in 1692 and Dudley had bought the property from Cooke's heirs in 1702.) Architect J. Frederick Kelly believed that the oldest part (the central block) was "something around a quarter century before 1707." The double lean-to across the rear and the south wing are additions made over the course of time and the Greek Revival doorway dates probably from c1830-1835. Thomas Cooke held many important positions in the town and was a member of the General Court in Hartford. In 1646 he brought the first suit for slander in Guilford against "the pugnacious Benjamin Wright" who had called him a "whibbling man, a fawner and a tale bearer." An apology was accepted and that ended the matter.