

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0228110

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 1 1975
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Acadian House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Union Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Guilford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

#3- Robert N. Giaimo

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

New Haven

CODE

009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Briggs Buchanan

STREET & NUMBER

Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Guilford

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Connecticut

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Guilford

Connecticut

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The seventeenth century, salt-box style Acadian house is situated on the south side of Union Street opposite the junction of Market Place and Union. It faces west across a small parking lot toward the eighteenth century "Sabbathday" house, and is not aligned with any street used today. It is a two and a half story, clapboard house, painted dark red. A central, stone chimney testifies to its early date as does a wide front doorway surrounded on sides and top by wide vertical planks. The windows in the assymetrical three bay facade have been enlarged but the sash and frames are of an old style and protrude from the siding. Originally, the house was built with a two-room interior plan, but, later, a lean-to was added creating the salt-box roofline and, as the kitchen was to be in the new addition, another chimney was added forming a T-shape. Wood shingles cover the roof and a simple box cornice was built at the eaves line. The Acadian house is a very plain, almost stark home, very typical in character and detail of late seventeenth century homes in the New Haven Colony.

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1670

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Joseph Clay

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1670 by Joseph Clay, who moved to Guilford from Saybrook, the Acadian house is a fine example of early New Haven Colony architecture. Its stone chimney is typical of the seventeenth century structures around Guilford, but its T-shape is an unusual feature. Located so near to Guilford's Green it is important, architecturally, to the integrity of the town's historic buildings.

Of great interest, also, is the local legend regarding the house. In 1726, the Acadian house passed to Samuel Chittenden, who was a grandson of the original owner, Joseph Clay. The Chittenden family, however, owned land in East River and after Samuel married in 1726 he moved to a more modern house, leaving the Clay homestead vacant. In autumn of 1755 an Acadian family from Grand Pre was put to shore, and, as legend has it, Samuel Chittenden allowed them to live in the old Clay house. In 1756 it was reported to the Legislature of Connecticut that the town of Guilford was harboring eleven (Acadian) refugees, but there has, as yet, been no document found to substantiate the local story. In spite of the questionability of the legend, it adds intrigue to the Clay homestead and serves as a reminder of New England's role, both militant and humanitarian, during the exile of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.

