

**Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc.
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Number 28

Deacon John Grave House



The Deacon John Grave House about 1930

John Grave Sr. built this house in 1685 for his son John Grave II, who received the house and 25 acres of land in East Guilford at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Foote. The original house consisted of two rooms—a lower chamber and an upper chamber.

About 1707 John Grave II expanded the house to the west by adding the present kitchen and a west chamber. He began to operate a tavern in the house, and John, his wife, twelve children, and at least one servant lived in the house during this period. From time to time the family shared the house with boarders. The house was expanded again during the time of the Revolutionary War, when a shed was added to the rear of the house. A final addition was made in the nineteenth century, resulting in the house as it is today.

The house passed from John II to John III and then to John III's son Elias, who passed it on to his son, Hubbard.

Hubbard Grave lived in the house longer than any other of his male ancestors. On his death the house was inherited by Mary Grave Redfield, who passed it on to her daughters, Mary and Augusta Redfield. Family occupancy of this historic

house ended in 1978, but the family retained possession until the Deacon John Grave Foundation purchased it in 1983.

Members of the Grave family were farmers, tavern owners, housewrights, weavers, cobblers and businessmen. Elias served as a justice of the peace and held court in the house.

For five generations the family kept account books, recording their day-to-day dealings with the community and the world beyond East Guilford. The account books provide a vivid picture detailing seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century life in New England.

Directions: From center of Madison drive west toward Guilford. Continue past the traffic light at the intersection of Route 79 and Route One. Take the next right onto Academy Street. The Deacon John Grave House is the first house on the right on Academy Street. The house is a museum and is open for tours by appointment.