

**The John and Myra Whitney Murray Home**  
825 East Maple Street  
Mapleton, Utah



This house was built by John Murray several years after he and Semyra Whitney were married. In the autobiography of Ruby Warren Jensen we find a note about the house "in the summer of 1908 Jessie (Warren) hauled all the material for the John Murray home and helped some on the building". The house is facing south and is constructed of brick, the color of which is sandy beige laid with red mortar. Red bricks were laid in a decorative pattern over the windows and doors. A beautiful arch of red brick was laid over the arched entry to the front porch. Around the porch is a railing of white banister. Two doors enter the house from the front porch. This was a typical feature of the early homes. The doors are very ornate. Each one contains a window with a waterfall scene etched on it. There are two rooms on the front of the house. The east room was the parlor and the west was the dining area. This door proved to be very useful as we will learn later.

Directly behind the parlor to the northeast is the master bedroom and to the northwest conveniently located was the kitchen and pantry. A sturdy wooden staircase leading from the dining room gives access to the upstairs which contains three bedrooms. This provided plenty of room for the growing boys. All of the rooms in the house have retained their high ceilings. The parlor was a beautiful room and when visited gives one a distinct feeling of the time period when the house was built. Around the walls of this room and about 18 inches down from the ceiling was a beautiful gold border of metal or wood with a patterned carving on it. This appears to be an original feature of the house. Also, some furniture of the early days of the home is displayed in this room. A picture of Myra and her brothers and sisters in a gold frame graced the parlor wall. The border around the walls of the dining room was dark wood and much plainer in design.

There was a nice screen porch on the back of the house at one time, and storage is provided by a basement underneath. At some time a bathroom was incorporated into the house. This appears to have been quite an elegant dwelling and has been well cared for and preserved by the family. There was a large barn on the farm located to the west of the home. The barnyard was enclosed with a good fence. Some of the out-buildings were still standing in 1992. This includes a granary, the old chicken coop and the outhouse. The Murray's planted a large apple orchard and nice trees were planted around the house and now provide it with summer shade. An old Cedar tree stands by the sidewalk leading to the front porch. It greets you as you pass with its distinct fragrance. Among the shrubs that grace the yard are several large lilac bushes. Myra's mother, Tryphena Whitney, loved lilacs and had bushes in front of her house, which was only a short distance away. Perhaps we could speculate that Myra's bushes were started from her mother's yard.

Industry appears to have been a way of life for the Murrays. After John's death there was much hard work for Myra and her sons in order to keep the farm going. Myra boarded school teachers for a period of time. The folding door was closed, giving the teachers a nice private room in the parlor with their own front door. One of the boarding teachers was Olive Carlton who later married Charles Whiting and stayed permanently in Mapleton. The Murray sons that were raised here were George, Ellis, Fred and Max. Later, George and Golda's son, Bryan, spent his boyhood days here. Bryan presently has a home on the farm. After Myra's death the home went to George; then upon George's death, Golda became the owner. Golda still lives in the house and it continues to receive good care. This old house remains much as it originally was, and gives us a very pleasant reminder of Mapleton's past.

Interview, Myra Murray  
Murray History Records of Utah County Abstracts

Written and Researched by Juanita Jones