



Murphysburg was incorporated on September 4, 1871 (150 years ago!) before merging with Joplin in 1873.

What better way to celebrate a **Sesquicentennial** than to investigate this historic neighborhood?

Your objective is to uncover certain classical elements that can be found on certain houses. The architectural scene of your search will be from First to Seventh Street on Sergeant Avenue. All elements of style can be seen from the sidewalk. Be sure to investigate the entire house closely, for the element may be in an obscure location.

Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1332, Joplin, MO 64802  
(417) 208-9376 | www.Murphysburg.org  
Murphysburg@gmail.com

HMP is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation governed by a volunteer board. The organization is dedicated to the preservation of historic homes in Joplin's only designated residential historic district. Their mission is to implement charitable and educational activities that promote and stimulate historic preservation throughout the city.

## Glossary of Architectural Terms

**Architecture** - The art or practice of designing and constructing buildings

**Art Glass** - Colored/stained or clear glass pieces fitted together to depict a picture, scene, or design

*Glossary continued*

**Baluster** - vertical supporting element, like a small column

**Balustrade** - series of balusters supporting a rail

**Column** - a supporting pillar consisting of a base, a cylindrical shaft, and a capital on top of the shaft; may be plain or ornamental

**Dentils** - small rectangular blocks that, when placed together in a row abutting a molding, suggest a row of teeth

**Fish Scale Shingles** - used extensively as a finishing element; generally wood and found on the gable or upper section of the building

**Frieze** - a horizontal panel or band of richly sculpted ornamentation

**Gable** - wall that encloses the end of a gable roof; triangular end below a roof overhang

**Hitching Post** - a stone or metal post firmly planted in the ground used to tie up horses

**Keystone** - wedge-shaped block at the top center of an arch or window

**Oculus** - bull's-eye or round window, surrounded by decorative molding often found in gables or pediments

**Parapet** - low wall located at the top of any sudden drop, such as at the top of the façade

**Pediment** - decorative triangular piece situated over a portico, door, or window; top can be **Pointed, Curved** or **Broken**

**Spindlework** - Three dimensional decorative wood trim applied to porches, windows, gables, and more; also known as *gingerbread*

**Turret** - small tower that pierces a roofline

## CSI: Murphysburg Classical Style Investigation

*Start Here*

**1. Start from the southeast corner of First and Sergeant, walk south to the middle of the block, look left and up.**

This may sound a little fishy. There are many of us but we do not swim in the ocean, lake, or river.

**Which element am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Stroll south and cross Second Street. There are two houses on the block, so you will need to hunt for the next element.**

We are quite a pair perched up high even though we are not broken. Peer closely for the leaves may hide our curves.

**Which element am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Proceed south, watch for traffic and cross Third Street, stay on the east side.**

I have freedom of expression by using many decorative wood elements. I am fancy and have many paint colors.

**Which element am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. From the northeast corner of Fourth and Sergeant, look for the white house and then look up.**

Perched way up high stand three similar elements in a row, but one of us is broken.

**Which element am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Cross Fourth & Fifth Streets and keep to the path heading south on the east side of Sergeant. Stop at the house located on the southeast corner of Fifth & Sergeant.**

My burden is heavy, but I have eleven friends to help me carry the load.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

*This is not a clue,  
it is just a  
pretty picture.*



**6. Stay the course south on the east side. You should find yourself at the fourth house down from Sixth and Sergeant.**

We are a series of elements that enclose an outdoor space where visitors can catch the breeze.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Time to cross Sergeant to the west side and move north one block to the middle brick house.**

My smile is wooden with many teeth. Fortunately, I do not worry about cavities.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Continue north on the west side of the street, cross Fifth Street and look for a round turret on a castle-like structure.**

Even though my name may make you think that I am cold, I give warmth with my presentation.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Continue north to the next house. I may be hard to see because I am also undergoing a massive restoration project.**

I cannot be petted because I am out of reach, but look to the sky and you should find me interesting.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Continue north, cross Fourth Street and peer closely at the first house.**

I have many pieces soldered together to make a beautiful light filtering picture.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Continue north on the west side. Beware of the Lion! Follow a white iron fence. At this house the element is a horse of a different color.**

I keep my ride close to home and stop it from straying off.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_



*ANSWERS  
can be found at  
murphysburg.org/walking tours*

**12. Continue on to the next house to find your last element.**

Peering from my two eyes, I can see you on your hunt for classical architectural details.

Which element am I? \_\_\_\_\_

