

Academy of the Immaculate Conception
Franklin County
24.1971.1

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Marker Text

Sisters of Saint Francis Opened in 1852; enlarged in 1876 and 1901. The Academy Classroom Building and the Auditorium were completed in 1968.

Report

This marker is under review because new research has raised questions about the dates listed. The opening date is questionable, one enlargement date cannot be confirmed, and the date listed for the completion of the Classroom Building is incorrect.

It is not clear that the academy was opened in 1852. According to a June 27, 1901 article in the *Brookville Democrat*, the Academy celebrated its “golden jubilee,” or 50th anniversary, in 1901. However, according to the *Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (2002)*, a sesquicentennial booklet prepared by the Academy, they celebrated a sesquicentennial in 2002. The Sisters of Saint Francis, according to the booklet, “took definite charge of the parochial school” in November 1851. The booklet authors continued, “Thus by the fall of 1852, the Academy had taken its place in the world as a recognized institution of secondary education.” The booklet supports the date on the marker, while the 1901 celebration implies that 1851 is the correct date. An October 5, 1967 article from the *Batesville Herald-Tribune*, also gives 1852 as the opening date. Further research is needed.

Nothing could be found in the Brookville newspapers regarding the 1876 expansion. In fact, IHB researchers found no mention of Oldenburg in the Brookville newspapers of that year. Oldenburg was German-speaking and it appears from initial research that they received little to no attention in English-language newspapers.

A June 27, 1901 article from the *Brookville Democrat*, contains information on the 1901 renovation. The article states that the grand academy building “has been under construction nearly two years and is just finished.”

Finally, while the auditorium was completed in 1968, it appears that the classroom building was finished at least as early as 1967. *The Batesville Herald-Tribune* reported on October 5, 1967, “A new classroom building is in use this autumn....Later this year the Academy also will be using its new auditorium.” The same paper reported on January 25, 1968 that the first school program would be presented in the new auditorium was on January 28, supporting the marker date for the auditorium’s completion.

Were this marker to be rewritten today, IHB would include information on German immigration into this region as represented by the academy.