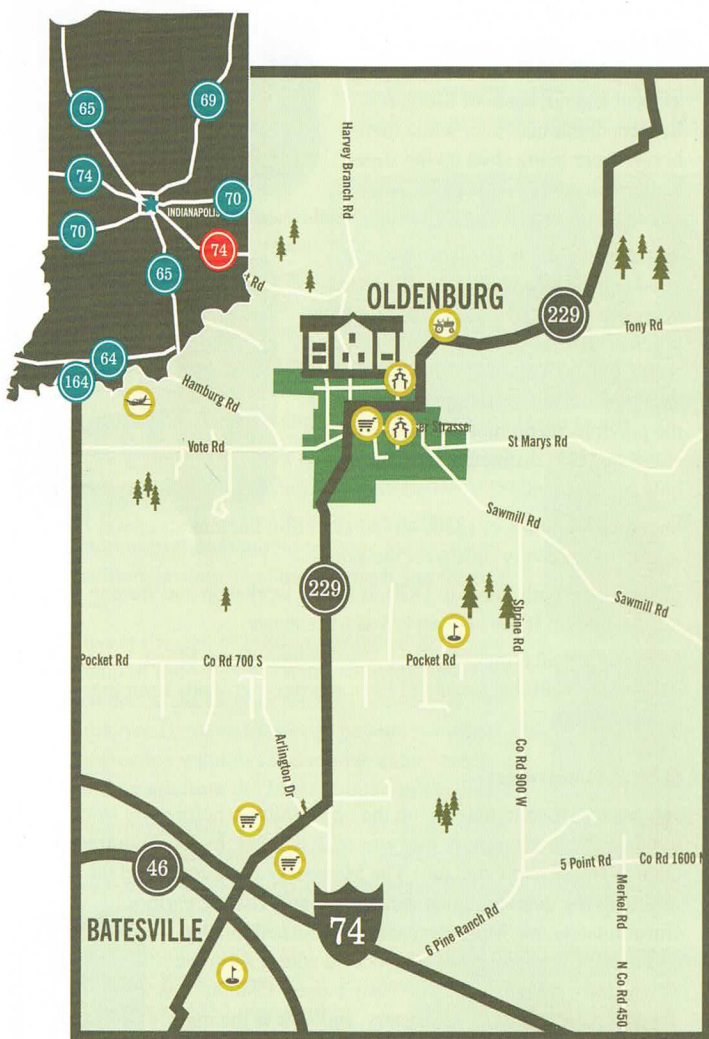


dome stands as a noble example of the communities pride in their German heritage.

46. Holy Family Church, c. 1862, is in the Gothic Revival style. Father Rudolph (founder of the "Village of Spires") is buried in a crypt below the church. The steeple you see was redesigned and heightened around 1890 (because the town wanted to have the tallest steeple around!). The fine original gothic alters have survived. The German stained-glass windows, depicting biblical scenes, were installed in 1919.



47. Holy Family School, c. 1932, was designed by Werking and Sons of Richmond, Indiana. This Jacobean Revival school occupies the site of the original 1868 school.



#### CREDITS

This brochure was originally produced by the Oldenburg Preservation Association in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Research and text: William Selm

Photos: Webber Photographic

# A Walk Through Historic Oldenburg Indiana

*"A Study in Architecture"*



*"Village of Spires"*

This brochure is provided by the Oldenburg Freudenfest Committee and funded in part by Franklin County Convention Recreation and Visitors Commission.

The Oldenburg Freudenfest Committee is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the beautification and preservation of Oldenburg.

The Oldenburg Freudenfest is a German festival held annually during the third weekend in July.

To find out more information about the Freudenfest, visit [www.freudenfest.com](http://www.freudenfest.com)





## Historic Oldenburg

The town was platted in 1837 by two German speculators who named the new town in honor of their home, the province of Oldenburg in Northern Germany. German Catholics coming from Cincinnati erected the first church, a log building, in 1837. Father Franz Joseph Rudolph was appointed Pastor of Oldenburg in 1844. He in turn, invited Mother Teresa Hackelmeier to establish the Holy Family Church, the Franciscan Monastery, and Immaculate Conception Convent and Academy.

The most distinctive architectural aspect of Oldenburg is its many spires. Another significant aspect is the fact that 80 of the roughly 115 homes in the historic district were constructed prior to 1900. The oldest structures are constructed of stone or wood or a combination thereof. Brick structures were not built until after 1858 with bricks from Gehring's brickyard. The use of cast and wrought iron as well as the unusual work of master tinsmith Casper Gaupel provide the community with great visual richness. Many of the buildings in the community follow the Old World tradition of combining shop and residence under one roof.

The town of Oldenburg was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March, 1983.



## About This Tour

This self-guided tour is designed to permit visitors to explore the architectural richness of historic Oldenburg. Tours of the main buildings of the Convent are available by appointment only. To make advance arrangements, call (812) 934-2475. Visitors should note that none of the residences are open to the public. Please respect the rights and property of the owners.

*\*The tour starts on Main Street (Hauptstrasse) at the playground of Holy Family School.*



## Begin Walking Tour

### (East on Hauptstrasse)

1. Peter Benz House, c. 1880, exhibits Italianate details. Benz was a butcher and livestock buyer.
2. Phillip Dickman House, c. 1865, is a shop/residence. The building served as a dentist office, tailor shop, tavern and gift shop.
3. Brick House, c. 1860, is a simple building with all of its features intact.
4. Kellerman House, c. 1860 and 1902, is the only house with a gambrel roof. The second story was added in 1902 by the Kellermans who ran a butcher shop. It also served as "The Golden Mama" tavern. Note the pressed metal window hoods.



### (West on Hauptstrasse)

5. Joseph Brink House, c. 1870, is a long, narrow, brick house with many extensions. Note the original brick sidewalks.
6. Kessing Post Office Building, c. 1860, originally the store and residence of Joseph Kessing, a blacksmith and tavern keeper. Attached is the Kessing House, c. 1860, which was originally entered from Main Street.

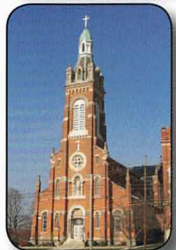
7. Convent Cemetery was created in 1900. All the markers are identical. Until April 1923, the stones were inscribed in German. The Convent Mortuary Chapel (7a), 1900 was designed by Oscar Bohlen, while the Fatima Shrine (7b) was donated by the Henry Wolfrum family.



8. Convent and Academy of the Immaculate Conception. Main building was built between 1899 and 1901, designed by Oscar Bohlen in the Victorian Romanesque Style. Note the excellent condition, prominent entrance porch and distinct tower.



9. Convent Chapel, c. 1889-90, designed by D.A. Bohlen of Indianapolis. With the exception of the front doors, the exterior remains unchanged. The distinctive Baroque tower can be seen for miles. The stained glass windows and marble center piece sculpture are from the Mayer Studio in Munich.



10. Bunnemeyer Shop, c. 1860, is an example of the shop/residence combination. Its commercial uses have been as a tailor shop, confectionary, bank and funeral home.

11. Scheper Store/ Farmers and Merchants Bank/Sisters of St. Francis Residence, c. 1855, was built by Frank Scheper and used as a general store, saloon, hotel and bank. The building features fine, pressed-metal ornamentation by Casper Gaupel.



### (North on Perlenstrasse)

12. The Convent Wall, along Pearl Street, is all that remains of the wall that once circled the whole Convent property. Note the view of the Scenic Convent Grounds at the Vine Street gate. In addition, read the story of the Corpus Christi captured on the green historic marker. Now head due north through the cemetery gate.
13. Holy Family Cemetery exhibits many reminders of the town's German heritage. The west section is the older with most stones in German and some iron grave markers. These are a German Catholic tradition and were manufactured locally. Note the Iron Calvary Cross. Looking north, notice the quaint brick Corpus Christi Chapel.



### (South on Perienstrasse)

14. Ortman Cottage, c. 1870. Note the saltbox roof and ornate porch.
15. Herman House, c. 1870, has an ornate, pressed-metal cornice. The frame addition was added c. 1900. Note the brick tile roof on the small summer kitchen behind the house.
16. Drees House, c. 1870, has retained most of its integrity.
17. Gilbert Munchel Memorial Park was originally platted in 1837 as Public square #3. The park was the site of the first Gehring Brickyard in 1858.
18. Hackman Store Barn, c. 1880, sheltered the store's huckster trucks and horses. The cupola houses the original bell from the first log church. "Old St. Mary's."

### (West on Hauptstrasse)

19. Hackman-Munchel Store, c. 1861-62, was built by Anton Hackman and remains the largest secular building in town. The facade is the masterpiece of tinsmith Caspel Gaupel. It was added around 1890 and reflects a strong Germanic character. The building has housed numerous town businesses, but has mainly served its history as the town's general store. The Hackman-Munchel house, c. 1897, is attached to the west of the store. The present porch was added around 1910.



20. Sellmeyer-Burdick-Heppner House, c. 1860, was built as a double residence and today is a classic example of the Old World tradition of shop and residence under one roof.

21. Sellmeyer-Burdick-Wagner Building, c. 1860 was built by Henry Sellmeyer as a shop/residence. J.F. Burdick added the decorative tin cornice with his name in German letters. Note the Mesker cast-iron store front. Today it is a tavern and restaurant.



22. Heppner House, c. 1850, has a timber frame with brick nogging. The present appearance dates to around 1900.

### (East on Hauptstrasse)

23. Stone House, c. 1850, is a stout residence of local limestone. The brick commercial addition on the east side dates from the 1890's.
24. Freihage Barn, c. 1900, was used by Joseph Freihage as a livery barn and later as a garage for his taxi service to Batesville.



25. Gaupel-Schmidt Tin Shop, c. 1870, was the workshop of the tinsmiths Gaupel-Schmidt until the 1920's. Its original ornate press-metal facade has been removed.

26. Dahmus Hoelker House, c. 1860 and 1900, originally was a one story cottage built by Ben Dahmus, a wooden shoemaker. William Hoelker added the classical porch, the second story and the pressed-metal oriel on the west side.



27. Peine Carriage House, c. 1890, served as a paint shop for the Peine family. Note the ornate Gaupel cornice.

#### (South on Perlenstrasse)

28. Fette-Peine House, c. 1850 and 1855, was built by Francis Fette who manufactured cow and sheep bells. Frank Peine, a church decorator who specialized in murals, purchased the house in 1882 and altered it to its present appearance. The house is constructed of brick walls and a timber frame. The contrasting paint scheme emphasizes the architectural features of the house.



29. Francis Hohman Saloon, c. 1850, is still a saloon and restaurant. Note the Gaupel skill in the cornice, window hoods and embossed "SALOON" sign added around 1890.

30. Town Hall, c. 1878, was built by local contractor George Holtel. It exhibits Italianate details, a bell tower and a decorative brick cornice. The Eagle Fire Company was formed on February 22, 1870.

31. Huegel House, c. 1845, is the largest stone house in town. It is distinctive for its size, the blind mitered arches above the openings and the decorated lintel. This inscribed lintel or Hausspruch bears the initials "J.H.E.H." of Joseph Huegel and his wife. Elizabeth Huegel was the proprietor of a tavern and inn which explains the moon and sun-open day and night. This was also the town's first post office. Note the "bowed out" stone wall along Water Street.



#### (West on Wasserstrasse)

32. Moorman House, c. 1840, has wattle and daub walls and a heavy timber frame.
33. Stuerwald Building, c. 1860, originally was Stuerwald's General Store and Tavern. Note the unusual roofline and the shallow front porch. Today it is a tavern and restaurant.
34. Conrad Huerman House, c. 1840, is a timber-frame house with brick walls. Note the saltbox roof and the two front doors.

#### (Continue East on Wasserstrasse)

35. Gaupel House, c. 1850, originally stood directly across Water Street. It was moved around 1864 when the monastery was built. The timber-framed brick house was the home of Casper Gaupel, the tinsmith.

36. Henry Kleinmeyer House, c. 1840 also served as Kleinmeyer's shoe shop. Kleinmeyer was kept up all night in July 1863, repairing the boots of Morgan's Confederate Raiders.



37. Waechter's Cradle Shop, c. 1845, was built by wheelwright Eberhard Waechter, where he made wheat cradles and spinning wheels. It is constructed of a heavy timber frame and wattle and daub walls. Some of the joists are from the original cabin (c. 1817) of William George.



#### (West on Wasserstrasse)

38. Water Street Stone Bridge, c. 1880, is a limestone structure with a perfect barrel vault.

39. Kuntz- Kellerman Store Building, c. 1840 and 1890, was a home, shop and tavern. The oldest portion is of stone along Water Street. According to local legend, some of Morgan's Raiders drank beer here while their horses were being shod up the street. Kellerman Addition, c. 1895, bears an ornate cornice with "Kellerman" embossed in the pediment.



40. Waechter-Schmidt-Hoelker House, c. 1864 and 1900, was built by Eberhard Waechter with a two-story Greek revival porch. The Schmidt's enlarged the house with a Queen Anne style addition on the east side and cut off the lower portion of the porch to accommodate the town sidewalk. This distinctive balcony is the only one in town.



41. Dickman Building, c. 1870, served as Phillip Dickman's casket factory. It has changed very little over the years.
42. Horst Blacksmith Shop, c. 1870, is now a workshop and storage place for the church. It has also served as a residence.
43. Monastery Wall corner stones, c. 1894, along Water Street, used to support the wall that separated the monastery grounds from the secular world.

#### (North on Perlenstrasse)

44. Monastery Historic Marker, on the open grounds before you stood the Franciscan Monastery that was built in 1894, by local contractor George Holtel and Company. The Monastery once contained the Friars' living quarters, great lecture hall and visiting parlors. Unfortunately, the Monastery was demolished in 1986.
45. Old Stone Church, c. 1846-48 (located across from the Town Hall), served as the first Holy Family Church, was the original Franciscan Monastery, and now is the main living quarters for the Friars. Notice the distinctive crown on top of the Old Stone Church. It is known as the onion dome or Zwiebelturm. The original was removed in the 1940's because of disrepair. The one you see today is a new one built based on specifications taken from the original. Funds to replace the onion dome were collected primarily from local donations, the Freudenfest and numerous volunteer driven fund raising events. The new onion

