



History of Sunnydale Adventist Academy

A number of schools, beginning in 1902, had served the youth in the states of Iowa and Missouri. Some of these schools were: Iowa Industrial Academy, later known as Stuart Academy; Clinton Theological Seminary; Iowa Sanitarium, later to become Oak Park Academy.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy, located on 868 acres of land five miles west of the town of Centralia, Missouri was founded in 1945 on land purchased from A. B. Chance. The site was an operating cattle and dairy farm and came with a milking herd and the machinery to accomplish the farm work.

Plans to establish a boarding academy were laid at a business meeting held in Kansas City, Missouri in 1945. The desire for rural location where agriculture might furnish training and employment for student along with an invitation from the Centralia Chamber of Commerce, promoted an investigation of the Centralia area.

A. B. Chance, founder of the A. B. Chance Company of Centralia, Missouri, offered to sell his well-equipped farm for half its value. But lack of funds cause the conference to not accept the offer. However, when Chance proposed to sell the farm with machinery, cattle, and dairy, which was considered among the best in the State, for \$70,000, the committee tentatively closed the deal on October 18, 1945.

By the fall of 1946, two three story dorms were erected and 117 students enrolled. It wasn't until 1950 that an administration building was completed from dismantled government barrack buildings. Students did most of the work on the building. A gymnasium was added in 1953. A two-room elementary school was constructed in 1972, and a new food service building was completed in 1973. A church building was completed in 1975.

In 1980, as a result of the merger of the Iowa Conference and the Missouri Conference, forming the Iowa-Missouri Conference, Oak Park Academy, the Iowa Conference Academy was closed, the school's operation was merged with Sunnydale Academy, later to be renamed Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Sunnydale Adventist Academy is owned and operated by the Iowa- Missouri Conference Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.