Master Plans for CSB

A brief (and by no means exhaustive) look back at some of the campus master plans that have been prepared for the College of St. Benedict over the decades, as it expanded beyond its original single building location.
The circled buildings here are those that were built.

(On the remaining images, the circled buildings are generally those that were proposed, but not built – at least not as shown.)

1967-1969 Campus Map
SEVEN VOLUNTEERS AND THE MASTER PLAN

"The volunteer is going through an evolution. She used to be an upper-middle-class woman of 40 and older who put her talents to work for charity after her children were grown. Now she’s a teenager, a mother, a working woman, retired professional person or from any walk of life. She cares about the welfare of her fellow man."

Mrs. Rex Roupe, national chairwoman of the Goodwill Industries Auxiliary volunteers

"We simply cannot drift. What are our goals? Dr. Morsenda has often asked since his inauguration in 1968. "You cannot ask people to support your college unless you know who you are and what you’re aiming at, and that calls for a long-range plan," said Jay Gerber, educational and development consultant to CSB, representing Gonner, Gerber, Tinker, Study of Chicago.

The Plan didn’t just happen. Since December, 1969, Sister Fimin Escher, academic dean, has been reading, preparing, and planning. Beginning in July, the Master Planning Committee (involving 12 people), representing five Task Teams (involving 50 people), has met weekly. The five areas are:

1. Administration, Organization, Faculty
2. Students and Student Life
3. Institutional Programs and Library
4. Finance, Facilities, Physical Plant
5. Development, Public Service

In turn, each of the Task Teams involves other faculty, students, parents, and alumni (around 200) to conduct interviews, gather data, and make recommendations. Expectations from this long-range planning are many: clarification of the direction CSB is going; an increase in efficiency of operation.

How much this Master Plan means to the College of Saint Benedict may be seen by meeting seven volunteers, representing students, parents, and alumni. It would be a mistake to call any one of them a “typical” volunteer, for each makes a unique contribution to planning.

PARENTS
Frank and Dolores Grundman

"My highest hope for the Master Plan is that even more students get involved with evaluating and planning," Nancy said. "And the Master Plan should include cooperation with SJU.

"The Master Planning Committee shows that Saint Ben’s does care about meeting present and future students’ needs, that it won’t stagnate," Nancy Goede ’72 emphasized.

1970 Winter St. Benedict’s, p. 3-5

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/749
Ultimately the new entrance road was routed to the south of the President’s House.
Dorm expansions that weren’t built...at least not yet.
Plans for "Field Street" – which hopefully will never bisect the campus
1988 Revised Master Plans Ideas - Convent-College, 3-8-1988, College of St. Benedict
Long Range Facilities Plan Colored
1988 Revised Master Plans Ideas - Convent-College, 3-8-1988, College of St. Benedict
Long Range Facilities Plan
A Master Plan is Born

To guide the growth, O'Connell charged a campus committee and our firm, Grooters Leopald Tideman Architects (GLTA) of St. Cloud, with not only responding to immediate student needs, but, even more importantly, with creating a comprehensive master plan for the college.

Our master plan also created a new landmark. The public mall area on the south side of the campus is designed to serve as the main public entrance to campus and as a new landmark for the most public areas on campus. “Once the new entrance is done,” promises O’Connell, “visitors to the campus will know that they have arrived at a quality institution.”

Extending a Welcome

The Rule of Saint Benedict instructs followers to be hospitable. In turn, the college’s master plan calls for the campus to welcome community members and strangers alike.
Looking Toward the Future

Many of the specific objectives set forth in the nearly decade-old master plan have been achieved, according to O’Connell. That doesn’t mean there will be no more buildings or renovations, she says.

“But what it does mean,” she continues, “is that we can focus our development efforts on growing our endowment so that we can keep CSB affordable while continually enhancing the student experience.”

Achieving the master plan has also brought a strong and positive reaction from alumnae, testifies O’Connell. “For seven years, I have been speaking to alumnae at the Reunion each June and when I get to the part in my talk when I describe CSB as being one of the best liberal arts, residential Catholic colleges in the country, I would see their eyes start to glaze over. They couldn’t believe we were first class because the place didn’t look first class.

“This past June, I saw belief in their eyes,” she recalls. “Today CSB looks like what it always was — a first-class college. Alumnae, other college presidents, friends — anyone who comes to campus now knows it.”

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http://cdm.csbsju.edu/CDM/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5062 cover
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/CDM/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5079 quotes p. 16