Benedictine Women on the Prairie: (a St. Ben’s) **Building History, Part 1**
The North Star Riverboat brought the sisters to St. Cloud
(With Lamps Buning: Letter to Boniface Wimmer, p. 24; photo, p. 52e)
John Tenvoorde's “boarding house and entertainment hall”
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/0
The following year they were able to move to the renovated St. Mary's Church and Convent.
St. Cloud’s “Middle Town” in the 1860’s by Glanville Smith

Map from page facing p. 53 in *With Lamps Burning* shows Tenvoorde “Place of Refreshment,” Edelbrock establishments, and “Benedictine Convent and School, 1858-1863”
St. Mary's Church/School/Convent, St. Germain & Hanover (8th Ave.) St. Cloud
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/8  SBM.01f
First Benedictine convent complex (1863) in St. Joseph, MN
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/10  SBM.02a
In 1886, the log church and school were completely destroyed by fire. A new convent/academy had already been built in 1881-1882; with its completion, the name was changed from St. Joseph's Convent to St. Benedict's Convent. SBMA; With Lamps Burning, p. 59-62, 70-72, 120-122.
1881-1882: St. Cecilia Hall is built
St. Benedict's Convent and Academy, St. Joseph

St. Benedict's Convent and Academy, built in 1881-1882: Cecilia Hall
1883: St. Cecilia Hall gets an addition, St. Benedict Hall
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/142
1883: Benedict Hall is added to the north end of Cecilia Hall
Rear view of the three wings of St. Benedict's Convent in 1892
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/145  SBM.11a03d
Saint Benedict's Monastery (interior North Court, view from west)
http://puka.cs.waikato.ac.nz/cgi-bin/cic/library?a=d&d=p505.3
Photo in 2006 by the Archivist
Front view (east entrance) of the three wings of St. Benedict’s Convent in 1892 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/144, SBM.11a03c: “With the addition of Scholastica Hall in 1892, St. Benedict’s Convent had three large wings -- Cecilia Hall (left), Benedict Hall (center) and Scholastica Hall (right)” The third wing, Scholastica Hall, was built primarily for a large chapel, a community room and convent offices. The original plan (in 1911) was that Sacred Heart chapel would be built in front of this convent so that its entrance would have been on the east facing the city street (now College Avenue).”
St. Benedict's Convent/Academy (Cecilia, Benedict, and Scholastica Halls) in 1892
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/26, SBM.03a
“In 1892 the Convent was enlarged with the addition of St. Scholastica to the
northeast corner of St. Benedict, resulting in an elongated ‘T’ configuration. St.
Scholastica was designed to mimic the original St. Cecilia in scale and detailing; it is
nine bays long and has the same type of window openings, although the dormers are
smaller and have gable roofs with only one double hung window. Centered in the
façade is a balconied, one-story, flat roof porch. The gable end has a series of double
hung sash on each level, while the rear elevation is essentially the same as the façade
except for the porch.” --From National Register Report, "St. Benedict's Convent and
College Historic District" (1989).
Saint Benedict's Monastery (view from the east)
http://puka.cs.waikato.ac.nz/cgi-bin/cic/library?a=d&d=p505.1
Photo by the Archivist
St. Benedict's Convent/Academy campus in 1909
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/34
Like Benedictines in the Old World, the sisters tried to be self-supporting:

- They maintained a farm, gardens, orchard, vineyard, chickens, turkeys, and bees.
- The laundry (on right) was important not only for the sisters and students, but also for the monks of St. John’s Abbey for whom the sisters did washing and sewing.
- New developments were added to meet the needs of the growing population of St. Ben’s and to help supply the village of St. Joseph, including:
  - the first power plant and electric light plant (on left, 1906),
  - a 60,000 gallon water tower (1907), and
  - a large well (1909).
St. Gertrude Hall is added in 1898
Future sites of the Sacred Heart Chapel (west of the convent's Benedict wing) and St. Teresa Hall (north and west of the academy's Gertrude Hall)
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/150  SBM.11b01
Sacred Heart Chapel construction, 1913

The dome, the link between the chapel to the convent, and the south cloister walk connecting the chapel to Teresa Hall were constructed simultaneously. This photo is taken from the roof of Teresa Hall and gives a clear view of the circular cloister walk that surrounds the chapel (April 14, 1913 photo)

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/180
1914: St. Teresa Hall is added

3rd & 4th Floors: the Rotunda (aka “The Ro”) - dorm rooms around a skylight
2nd Floor: auditorium/study hall
1st Floor: museum and classrooms for art & sewing
Ground floor: gymnasium (games had to be played around the pillars)

1914: Teresa Hall is added
Photo from With Lamps Burning, p. 180b.
Convent/College joint facilities, ca. 1940s
Also shown: Pageant venue, future St. Joe Memorial ball park, Linneman’s/Loso’s stores, & the Creamery
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/503  SBM.19b01
Aerial view of campus, ca. 1940s, and credits
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/189  SBM.11b39