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
Convent/College joint facilities, ca. 1940s
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Inside CSB’s halls: St. Teresa and St. Gertrude Halls
Photos from St. Ben’s Monastery Archives
Inside CSB’s halls: St. Teresa Hall
Photos from St. Ben’s Monastery Archives
Southwest view of the campus, ca. 1915
Photo from St. Ben’s Monastery Archives
The convent-college joint facilities engendered a joint relationship that mutually shaped them.

- The daily schedule of the two was alike.
- The Sisters lives were intimately bound up with the academy and college students.
- The chief ministry of most of the Sisters living at the Motherhouse was devoted to student services.
- During the first fifty years of the college, 175 faculty members were Sisters—many of whom served on the faculty for 30-40 years.

The convent/college facilities, and the management thereof, were shared as one until the college expanded southwestward and physically separated from the convent.

Convent/College joint facilities
SBM.19b01  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/503
From a fundraising pamphlet in the CSB Archives
“Before Mary Hall or any more buildings could be constructed on the monastery-college campus, a new power house was needed. Since the college was destined to move southwestward, the new plant was constructed south of the existing power house so as to be able to service both the monastery campus and the southward-moving college campus.”

New power plant, St. Florian Hall 1954-1955
SBM.17d01 http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/489
With a new power plant in place, the former power house, Loretto, was renovated and rented to the college for the Education Department and, as enrollment grew, student housing.

Education Department moved to Loretto Hall (1963)
SBM.17d02  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/DM/ref/collection/SM/id/490
Expansion begins with Mary Commons
Mary Commons – early photos
Aurora Hall in 1956; CSB is separately incorporated from the Monastery in 1961

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/485  SBM.17b04 Aerial view of the completed Mary Hall in 1957

From the 1969-70 Combined Catalog, p. 8: In 1913, the institution expanded its program to include a junior college course. The corporation was then changed to Saint Benedict's College and Academy. Two years later it introduced a full collegiate curriculum. By 1917 it had granted its first academic degree. Eventually the high school and college programs of study were placed under separate administrations and teaching faculties. Along with the division came another new name. In 1927, the College, as an independent unit, adopted its present, official name, The College of Saint Benedict. In 1961, the College was separately incorporated for the first time; its affairs placed under the direction of a seven-member Board of Directors, composed of the Mother Prioress, Sub-prioress, Treasurer, and Procurator of Saint Benedict's Convent and the president, Academic Dean and Dean of the Students of the College.
Aurora Hall, exterior & interior
New St. Benedict's High School (1961)
SBM.17d04  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/492
At first, when the college was established in 1913, the academy enjoyed many benefits in its close association with the college. Classrooms, faculty and enrichment programs were shared. However, as the college enrollment grew, the academy students moved into monastery quarters that were no longer needed when the Sisters raised the age-limitation for the entrance into the community's preparatory phase for community membership. With the physical separation, the academy experienced fewer opportunities for sharing with college. The separation of academy and college was completed with the building of a new high school, an academic building and residence hall, in 1961.
High School (later Henrita Academic Building – HAB) and its dorm
New (2nd) Gym built in 1961
Regina & Corona Halls are built
“Loretto Ritz”
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/490 and
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/492/show/490
Corona Hall was finally open for students in November, 1969 (though that didn’t mark the end of Loretto’s days as a dorm)

Loretto was razed in the early 1980s to make room for the expansion of the Sacred Heart Chapel.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/210/show/205
Teresa Hall venues for the arts
SBM04i__Art_room_St_Benedicts_Academy_St_Joseph_MN
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/53
In the early 1960's, some very visionary women recognized the need not only for more space on the CSB campus for fine arts students, but a greater community need of a performance venue that could attract major productions from around the country.

These women turned that vision in reality when the Benedicta Arts Center opened in 1964.

View of the exterior of the Benedicta Arts Center from the southeast

SBM.20a03  http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/507

Just as the Sisters had surveyed the eastern and central U.S. in 1913 for a model for the building of Sacred Heart Chapel, so members of the building committee scouted the states for a model arts center. Not finding any building to match their vision, the Sisters proceeded to pioneer the construction with the help of the creative Hammel and Greene architects. After studying monastic architecture, Curtis Greene determined that the structure needed to be beautiful and formative in its materials and design but it was not to be ornamental. Every detail was planned on that principle. When completed, the BAC became a place of pilgrimage for many architects and builders in the nation who came to learn from this very successful venture.

An interesting feature of the BAC is that there are no windows in the exterior walls of the main part of the building. However, the art, music and classroom wings do have floor-to-ceiling windows or patio doors. Most of the interior lighting is achieved with skylights, glass entrances and glassed inner courts which are placed strategically as entries into the various departments throughout the building. The skylights placed above the art studios (see the extreme left of the photo) admitted light from the north. They were an interesting feature of the exterior architecture and of the interior lighting. However, they were not effective at this latitude or in this climate. Later, the leaky roof necessitated the removal of these skylights.

Though not visible on this photo, an expansive basement affords space for an ample
theater arena, the college museum and storage rooms
Saint Benedict's Today, Fall 1997 Issue: It all starts with a vision

In the early 1960's, some very visionary women recognized the need not only for more space on the CSB campus for fine arts students, but a greater community need of a performance venue that could attract major productions from around the country. These women turned that vision in reality with the opening of the BAC in 1964. Sister Firmin Escher-former music instructor, department chair, dean of fine arts, and academic dean at CSB-envisioned the need for an arts center that would do much more than meet the needs of the music department she had nurtured for 30 years. It would challenge the CSB community with its ambition and include consummate facilities for all the studio arts.
Inside both auditoriums of the BAC, empty
Inside both auditoriums of the BAC, full for commencement (undated)
1968: Stanley Idzerda becomes CSB’s first lay, male president
1968: CSB’s enrollment is a little over 500, SJU’s is about 1500; CSB has about 65 faculty, SJU has over 130
(statistics from the catalogs)
Idzerdas’ view of the BAC
CSB aerial photo ca. 1970 looking NE
From the 1971-72 Catalog
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/1909