

## Remembering: Waverly House

By Sister Margaret James Laughlin

Waverly House, located at 1907 Waverly Avenue in Duluth, was built in 1893, one of three houses in a row built by the Gibsons in the Hunter's Park section of town. A later addition to the house provided a lovely family room above the two-car garage, with large windows on three sides shaded by now-mature cedar trees on the west side of the house. Waverly House was purchased by the Duluth Benedictines in 1985 from Temple Israel (which had just experienced a change of rabbi) for the purpose of providing living accommodations for a small group of Sisters. On July 1, 1985, eight Sisters moved into the house on Waverly Avenue: Sister Beverly Horn (on leave from the University of Washington), Sister Helen Claire Arts, Sister Margaret Clarke, Sister Margaret James Laughlin, Sister Mary Richard Boo, Sister Monica Laughlin, Sister Maurice Purdy, and Sister Verda Clare Eichner. They also immediately became commuters to their places of employment, St. Mary's Medical Center and The College of St. Scholastica.

The property purchased from Temple Israel (4 lots) is bounded on the east by Waverly Avenue, the south by Arrowhead Road, the west by Columbus Avenue and Tischer Creek, and the north by neighbors whose home was also built by and for the Gibson family. The yard had been well cared for, with a large section devoted to a garden, cement steps at strategic places, berry bushes, and a fenced-in dog house and run. Considerable sums had been spent on trees and shrubs as well as the lawn.

For the ensuing nearly 30 years the Sisters lived happily at Waverly House. It should be noted here that part of "happily" was the contribution made by several much-loved dogs. Over time, Sisters Beverly Horn, +Helen Claire, and +Maurice left the group, and Sister Beverly Raway joined it. Sisters Margaret, Verda Clare, Monica, and Mary Richard are deceased, while Sister Margaret James has returned to the Monastery for health reasons. However, Sister Beverly Horn and Sister Judith Oland joined Sister Beverly Raway at Waverly this fall—and so the Benedictine small-group living continues.



*The three Gibson houses ca. 1896*

*Right: 2002 view of the Sisters' house on Waverly soon after the installation of shutters*



*Photos from Monastery Archives and from personal collections of Waverly Sisters and friends*





*Christmastime: Sister Margaret James, +Sister Monica, +Sister Verda Clare, and the object of our affection*



*+Sister Monica, Miley, and +Sister Verda Clare*



*Front: Sisters Beverly Raway, +Verda Clare, Margaret James  
Back: Sisters +Monica and +Margaret Clarke*



*Sister Sisters Margaret James and +Monica Laughlin*



*Refinishing the woodwork. Above: Kathy Noble and +Sister Verda Clare. Below: Sister Margaret James*



*Sister Beverly Raway, Miley, and +Sister Margaret Clarke*



*Sister Beverly Raway, grower of all things*



*Piano lessons at Waverly*