

ed n monastery

heated in the brisk Piedmont winter, to be properly air
ed in the brutal, humid summers of North Carolina, suf-
om lack of bathroom facilities, old plumbing and unsafe by
and health regulations were the combined factors which led
vation of the monastery at Belmont Abbey.

year old structure was in bad physical condition so the
community's Building Committee, led by Fr. Bertrand
Obl., S.B., looked into the possibilities of what could be

rray Architects and Planners of Charlotte were called in and
ed their recommendations last spring. The Dan Turner
ction Co., also a Charlotte-based firm, began the renovation
26, 1976.

terior walls were torn out," explained Fr. Peter Stragand,
rior, "except the brick walls that were weight-bearing. The
except for the beams, were also removed. The building was
down as far as you could go.

loor plan was redesigned and the room sizes were changed
now is a greater capacity for occupation." He estimated the
used to hold 20 men plus an infirmary, but now could hold as
s 30, plus infirmary.

changes include the size of the chapel, which was cut almost
ecause now only Mass is celebrated there with the sick. All
votions are in the Abbey church. The infirmary area was
l; concrete and metal stairs were installed at both ends of
astery from the third floor down to the basement for fire
regulations; a library was built on the second floor
sly, there was no library in the monastery); television
nd reading rooms were separated; work rooms and a storage
n the third floor have been converted into bathrooms;

ms have been added on the first two floors; a new ceiling and
e floor were added to the basement.

onks, who began moving into the monastery in mid-January,
e new thermal polarized windows, a new heating system and
ditioning.

ally, February 2 was the completion date of the big work. All
nains is getting some hardware items.

the renovations were taking place, many of the priests and
s lived on the third floor of the administration building while
ived in Kent Hall at Sacred Heart College, about 1 1/2 mile
Within the next week all monks who have taken solemn vows
ve into the finished building. About a dozen who are in the
on program will remain on the third floor of the Ad-
ation Building.

ictures on these pages were taken by McMurray Architects,
bert Hagan, O.S.B., and Anthony DeCristofaro.



WHILE WORK WAS in progress, all ceilings and the entire interior was torn out except for weight supporting walls.



TWO DIFFERENT WINDOWS - At left is the new pane and the right is one of the older windows that was later removed.



ALL THE HAZARDOUS wooden stairs were replaced by concrete and metal, fire-proof stairs like these.



AFTER RENOVATION, here is the entrance at the front of the building.