

## A \$300,000 Deadline for 2 Buildings

By ROBERTA B. GRATZ

A last-minute effort is under way to raise money to rescue from the wrecker's ball two Gothic revival buildings that Grace Church plans to demolish for new school facilities.

The church is scheduled to sign a demolition contract this Friday unless the fund-raising drive can produce the \$300,000 to \$400,000 needed to preserve the two Gothic facades and construct new facilities behind them.

At Broadway and 105th St., the church was built in 1843 and has been designated a landmark. The two buildings awaiting demolition were constructed later, fronting on Fourth Av., and are not considered landmarks although they form an architectural unit with the church.

The attempt to save the building facades comes during a period of growing public concern for preservation but also at a time when there is little money available for the effort. Joseph Roberto, a Greenwich Village resident and staff architect at NYU, has been leading the appeal for funds even though there are only a few days left.

So far, the only solid offer has been \$25,000 from the J. M. Kaplan Fund, which previously had committed another \$10,000 to pay for the initial preservation plans.

Another \$50,000 could be available from the State Parks and Recreation Dept. but only if the buildings were designated as national historic sites. The church, however, must first request the designation, which would likely come swiftly since the buildings undisputably qualify.

Church plans call for replacing the two structures with a two-story building housing a gymnasium and classrooms long needed by the Grace Church elementary school.