

Frick Museum Drops Expansion Plan

BY ROBERTA B. GRATZ

position.

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The Frick Museum today announced it had abandoned plans to build a new wing on the site of the elegant Widener House, which had been demolished despite op-

Frick chief administrator Everett Fahy told a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing the museum now planned a permanent architecture garden on three

adjacent lots.

Fahy said final plans for the garden would be submitted to the commission in December. He did not explain why the proposed wing had been abandoned.

Frick acquired Widener House mansion in 1971. It razed the E. 70th St. building last summer, saying the site would eventually be used for museum expansion.

Many art historians and area residents criticized city authorities for permitting the demolition.

Landmark Block

Frick's plans came up at a commission hearing on proposed designation of the entire 70th St. block from Fifth to Madison Aves. as a landmark. The commission reserved decision. The museum itself already has been designated a landmark.

Kent Barwick, executive director of the Municipal Art Society, urged approval of the block as a landmark

calling the assortment of French and Italian 19th-century houses "one of the more distinctive blocks in the city."

Barwick was sharply critical of the museum. He said abandonment of the projected wing "is a different story than what people were led to believe when efforts were being made to save

Emergency Proclaimed In Philippine Flood Areas

MANILA (AP)—President Marcos proclaimed a state of public calamity today in seven flood-stricken provinces after a storm left 83 persons dead and 47 missing in two of the provinces a week ago.

The proclamation made the hoarding of prime commodities illegal and prohibited the sale of food, building materials and other essential items above officially fixed prices, the government said.

Widener House."

Commission executive director Frank Gilbert said after the hearing that the

panel had no advance knowledge that Frick had changed its plans for the Widener site.

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