

# Pollution Damaging Cloisters

By ROBERTA R. PRATZ

Air pollution may force the Cloisters to consider major exterior alterations, Thomas Hoving has told the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Although the museum would prefer not to, the condition of the 160-year-old Spanish chapel on its north-west corner may mean "putting up a contemporary structure with glass" for protection.

Hoving appeared yesterday at a public hearing of the commission called to consider the Cloisters and 16 other projects for landmark designation. The Cloisters is an independent branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is already so designated.

The medieval structure, assembled in 1938 in the middle of Fort Tryon Park overlooking the Hudson river, houses the Met's renowned medieval collection of art.

His purpose in appearing, Hoving told the 11-member panel, was "to heartily recommend designation" and to "place on public record facts the commission should be aware of."

The badly deteriorating portion of the Cloisters is the apse of the Church of St. Martin de Penedisaema from Spain's province of Segovia that was installed in 1961 on "long-term loan" from the Spanish government.

It is apparently particularly vulnerable to pollution and heavy winter winds from the Hudson because of its sandstone exterior.

The 17-item agenda included five religious institutions and several public monuments, including the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Prospect Park, the Queensboro Bridge and the Botanical Garden's Conservatory.

## One Kiosk—Out

One of the city's two remaining turn-of-the-century subway kiosks—in Battery Park—was also on the list. A representative of the MTA indicated there were plans to restore it. The other remaining kiosk at 72d St and Broadway, he said, will eventually be demolished.

Also included were four military properties—two at Fort Totten in Bayside, one at Fort Tompkins in Staten Island and the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx, reportedly the largest of its kind in the world.

Commission chairman Harmon Goldstone also announced official designation of the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House at 47 E. 65 St, first considered in 1970. The 1908 Georgian townhouse was designed by Charles A. Platt on commission by the late President's mother.

Since 1942 it has served as a social and interfaith center for Hunter College.