

# A Walking Tour of Civic Center

By **ROBERTA B. GRATZ**

Two centuries of American architectural history—from the 1766 St. Paul's Chapel at Broadway and Vesey Sts. to the 1975 new Family Court Building on Lafayette St.—will be reviewed and pre-viewed in a walking tour of the civic center this Saturday.

The civic center is rich in both architectural landmarks and contemporary trendsetters, but is unfamiliar to many city residents who have little reason to travel downtown except for jury duty.

As an official Bicentennial event, the Women's Auxiliary of the American Institute of Architects (N.Y. chapter) organized the fund-raising tour as a way to introduce people to the area and to "take a good look at lessons to be learned from seeing what is architecturally successful or unsuccessful," says Joan Helpert, chairwoman of the event. APR 29 1975

## 'Endangered Buildings'

"We are highlighting several endangered buildings like the 1862 Italianate Tweed Courthouse behind City Hall, the 1895 Firehouse on Lafayette St. and the 1909 Renaissance Revival old Police Headquarters on Centre St.," Mrs. Helpert says. Also included, she notes, are tours of the still-to-be opened Family Court and the Metropolitan Correction Center, part of the three-acre Police Plaza, the city's largest public plaza.

Mayor and Mrs. Beame are honorary chairmen of the event and more than two dozen of the city's leading architectural historians will act as tour guides. The tour begins at 1:30 in the auditorium of the new Police Headquarters and finishes at a cocktail reception in the 1913 Gothic Woolworth Building.

Other sites include City Hall, Hall of Records, Municipal Building and Foley Square courthouses.

Out of the tour will come a "Bicentennial Guide Book," describing the architectural treasures of the civic center, which will be published later this year. Tickets are \$10 or \$15 for two. Proceeds go to the AIA scholarship fund. Call 565-1866 for further information.