

APPROVAL GIVEN TO N.Y.U. LIBRARY

City Planning Commission, in a 5-2 Vote, Favors Controversial Plan

RATIFICATION IS AWAITED

Opponents of Project Vow to Press Their Case Before Board of Estimate

By **CHARLES G. BENNETT**

The City Planning Commission, voting 5 to 2, approved yesterday New York University's plan to build a library on its Washington Square campus.

The commission's action, which still requires ratification by the Board of Estimate, overrode objections to the project by Greenwich Village political leaders, community groups, local planners and many residents.

To make construction of the library possible, the planning commission approved a revision of the Washington Square Southeast Urban Renewal Plan to provide for narrowing the roadway of West Broadway between West Third Street and Washington Square South, increasing the size of the block on the east side of West Broadway.

Controls Eliminated

The changes also included the elimination of height and setback controls on the east side of West Broadway from West Third Street to Washington Square South and on Washington Square South.

Refuting specific charges of the opponents, the majority declared in an opinion that the university's plan "represents the most suitable design that could be developed for a university library at this location," and that allegations made against the university's good faith "are not warranted."

Last night, a statement made on behalf of James M. Hester, president of New York University, by his office called the planning commission's action "of great importance to New York University, to the Washington Square area and to the city and state of New York."

But the opponents of the library project were not mollified.

Disappointment Voiced

Mrs. Ruth Wittenberg, co-chairman of the Save Our Square Committee; Mrs. Jane Jacobs, author and planner, and Mrs. Verna Small, for the Association of Village Homeowners, jointly expressed disappointment with the planning commission's report and promised to fight on against the library before the Board of Estimate.

In a dissenting opinion, Harmon H. Goldstone declared that in 20 years N.Y.U. had increased its land holdings in the Washington Square Area "at least tenfold" and suggested that the university build the library on property already owned by the university.

Mrs. Randolph C. Guggenheimer, who also dissented, said N.Y.U.'s future planning and operations "may be endangered by growing hostility."

For its part, the commission majority declared that the library building would not have an "adverse impact" on Washington Square Park. It also asserted that "the proposed location is logical and designed to meet the needs of the university effectively."