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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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FOR RELEASE:  
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Two brownstone houses between the Museum of Modern Art and St. Thomas Church on West 53 Street will be demolished beginning Thursday, January 24, to make way for a new Museum wing. The five-story houses, built in the 1880's, were gifts from John D. Rockefeller to his daughter, Alta - No. 5 West 53 Street in 1901 upon her marriage to Col. E. Parmalee Prentice, and No. 7 in 1913. Mrs. Prentice, who inhabited both houses as a single dwelling, deeded them to the Museum in March, 1960, retaining lifetime possession. She died in June, 1962, at the age of 91.

Construction of the new wing on the former Prentice property will extend the Museum of Modern Art fifty feet to the east. A garden wing on West 54 Street will be erected simultaneously. Both additions are expected to be completed in the Spring of 1964 at the time of the New York World's Fair. Another wing, to extend 100 feet to the west of the Museum, will be constructed during a second building phase. Philip Johnson Associates are the architects.

The building program was authorized by Museum Trustees last summer when the Museum's 30th Anniversary Drive for \$25,000,000 for building, endowment and program reached \$18,000,000, the three-quarter mark. Governor Rockefeller officiated at formal ground-breaking ceremonies on November 25. Seven million dollars is allocated for construction.

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Additional information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.