

# Fence Down; Many See New Housing Units

*The State*

9/13/40

The fence on Forest drive, northern boundary of Gonzales Gardens, was removed yesterday and it was not long before scores of persons had driven by to view the Gardens for the first time. There were many expressions of surprise and admiration for the fine appearance of the 26 buildings with a total of 236 dwelling units on an area of 23 acres.

Gonzales Gardens is south of Forest drive opposite Providence hospital. Its construction was begun ten months ago by V. P. Loftis, general contractor, with W. L. Gordon as resident superintendent.

Mr. Loftis is expected in Columbia this morning on one of his frequent visits to Columbia. Ten buildings comprising 100 dwelling units have been allocated by the housing authority to families of non-commissioned officers assigned to Fort Jackson. These units will be ready for occupancy Monday.

It was explained yesterday the housing authority had received several hundred applications from eligible tenants, residents of Columbia, and assignments for 136 dwelling units are being made that they may be occupied not later than October 1.

Plans are being developed for the lights on all units to be turned on Saturday evening.

Applications for dwelling units for both Gonzales Gardens and Allen-Benedict Court have been received at the office of the authority, 627 Bull street, but the staff will move next week to the administration building at Gonzales Gardens, 1505 Garden plaza.

Construction of Allen-Benedict Court, a housing project of 244 dwelling units for Negro tenants, was reported as proceeding rapidly under the direction of the contractors, Kahn Construction company and the Boyle Construction company. It will probably be ready for occupancy about November 1.