

Hope to Award Contract Soon More Housing

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Work on 44 additional units at Gonzales Gardens, preliminary announcement of which was made some time ago, should get under way shortly, W. S. Hendley, chairman of the Columbia authority, announced yesterday. The allocation of funds now is based on the premise that the new construction will be defense housing for the use of soldiers and defense workers.

This provision will be in effect for the duration of the war. At the end of the war, however, the new units will revert to a low-housing status and will be used by the public in general.

This is now a new project, Mr. Hendley pointed out. It is an extension to Gonzales Gardens, to be built on land which is part of the Gonzales Gardens tract and is already in possession of the authority.

The new buildings will not infringe upon the present playground, Mr. Hendley pointed out, in commenting upon the fine work the city government has done to build up that feature.

The matter has been up for some time and was originally announced as low rent units, but the war caused a change in plans and the funds are now made available for defense housing.

Plans for the original additions called for brick and steel units but they have been recently altered by J. B. Urquhart, the housing authority architect, to use as little steel as possible.

Present plans call for ground floors of concrete, in order to do without steel reinforcements. In addition, copper guttering, drains, and other furnishings will not be installed for the present.

Mr. Hendley said that the authority hopes to make a call for contract bids March 27, and that work will probably begin in the latter part of April. The new units are expected to be completed by the end of August.