



-Star Staff

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**ALEXANDRIA SLATES DEDICATION**

**Colonial-Style Public Housing Set**

By JERRY KLINE  
Star Staff Writer

Alexandria's colonial architecture doesn't stop at the \$60,000-plus town houses in the affluent Old Town section. Ninety families who couldn't afford even the real estate tax on one of the rare old buildings will be moving into

their own colonial-style residences next month. The 90-unit, \$1.6 million Andrew W. Adkins Homes, to be dedicated next Tuesday and ready for occupancy in early July, is believed to be the first colonial-style public housing project in the nation. Alexandria

officials feel it may start a nationwide trend toward diversity in public housing. In planning the rental project four years ago, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority set out to avoid the usual image of drab, barracks-like row houses. The architects

Saunders & Pearson, divided the units among 10 lengthy buildings on a landscaped block and a half across from the Parker Grey School.

**Pitched Roofs**  
By erecting pitched roofs of varied heights, the architects gave the structures the appearance of lines of adjoining town houses.

Unlike the city's seven other public housing projects, Adkins Homes have all wiring underground and, for the first time in Alexandria, five-bedroom units were included in the plans.

The Adkins project, which was named for the late pastor of the Alfred Street Baptist Church, also has aluminum sash windows, and each unit has a private entrance, tear clothes-drying area, gas range, and electric refrigerator.

Harland K. Heumann, the authority's executive director, feels that the project may change the attitude of some residents toward public housing. The question of whether the city should build more public housing was a bitter point in the recent city council election.

"This will convince Alexandrians that public housing can be made to appear far more desirable," Heumann said. "It will help in the outlook for future public housing."

Former assistant director of the authority, Heumann took over the top post after the death of John Y. Kerr last April. The Adkins project was conceived in 1963 under Kerr's direction.

**Waiting List**

The tenants will be selected from a waiting list of more than 300 families, with the first choice of apartments going to about 30 families who have been displaced by various municipal improvement programs. Ten families will be white and the others Negro, Heumann said.

The monthly rent will range from \$18 for one bedroom to \$30 for five bedrooms, excluding utilities. The maximum annual income for admission ranges from \$3,700 for a single tenant to \$8,500 for a family of nine or more members.

The project, built by Glassman Construction Company Inc. of Washington, was financed by a long-term low interest federal loan. With Adkins, the city's public housing units will total 1,000.

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Dr. John P. ...

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