

Western Addition

WESTERN ADDITION

SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
525 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

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MORE RELOCATION HOUSING FOR WESTERN ADDITION AREA 2

The first step toward construction of an architecturally unique housing development of 108 more relocation apartments for moderate and low income families in the Western Addition A-2 Area was announced today by Mr. M. Justin Herman, Executive Director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

Herman said demolition of the vacant and abandoned Acme Breweries plant which halted operations in 1958 is tentatively scheduled to start Monday, January 29. The square block is bounded by Webster, Fulton, Buchanan and Grove Streets.

The apartments representing an investment of \$1.89 million are being sponsored by the non-profit Banneker Homes, a combination of two Western Addition Churches, the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the Friendship Institutional Baptist Church. Contractors are Williams and Burrows, Inc.

Certain portions of the former brewery are being retained as design elements in the new housing development. They include the concrete water tower, the first two floors of a former bottling plant building, several concrete building support columns, and even a few steel beer vats from the 19th century brewery.

MORE

Last month clearance began on another vacant block in Western Addition Area A-2 bounded by Turk, Pierce, Eddy and Steiner Streets. Here construction of 116 relocation apartments for moderate and low income families is under way.

Herman emphasized that on both sites clearance work for relocation apartments did not involve any displacement of families. The combined 224 new housing units resulting from these two developments will form a substantial inventory for relocation families. These families have priority privileges for renting all new housing built in the A-2 Area with federal financing aids.

Maximum rents for non-subsidized units will range from \$120 monthly for a one-bedroom apartment to \$185 for a four-bedroom unit. One third of all units being built in the two housing developments will be reserved for the Housing Authority for rental to low-income families eligible for federal rent subsidies.

The 108 apartments in the old brewery block will have one, two, three, or four bedrooms. They will be in seven buildings enclosing a landscaped central plaza and children's play area. All the buildings will have three floors of apartments with a ground floor garage for all residents.

The old brewery's water tower will be preserved as an architectural feature overlooking the central plaza. Several concrete building support columns will be shortened and used in the plaza area. Several steel beer vats having conical-shaped ends will be kept and placed on lawns in the plaza for their unusual sculptural effect.

Demolition of the former brewery will be carried out by the Pacific Excavator firm of Albany, California. It submitted the lowest of six bids, \$106,458. High bid was \$327,000.

The demolition company will have five months to complete its work and deliver the cleared site to the housing sponsor. It is estimated that construction work will begin next July and be finished in approximately one year.

The Acme Brewery first opened in 1896, and remained in continuous operation for 62 years. This period included the Prohibition Era when near-beer and baker's yeast were produced. With the end of prohibition, full brewing operations commenced again in 1934 with the erection of the two new brewery buildings and continued until 1958. At that time, the obsolete buildings were abandoned.

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