

by Lynn Smith
Staff Writer

Amrut Nakhre, a Political Science graduate student from India, says he "is getting nowhere" in his desperate search for a place to live.

Nakhre was evicted from his home at 127 West Rosemary Street Sunday afternoon. The house was in bad condition "but it was a place to live, and now I have nothing," he said Monday.

He can not afford to pay much for a new apartment. The Political Science department doesn't offer any assistantships during the summer and the immigration office will not issue a job permit for regular employment.

Nakhre doesn't have a car either.

His house at 127 West Rosemary was condemned because of failure to meet Chapel Hill Fire District regulations, but Nakhre doesn't feel that it's the condition of the house that's causing the problem.

"The house isn't any worse than lots of others in this area," the student says. "It's not really the house, but other things" that caused the condemnation.

Nakhre charged that the owners had deliberately let the house run down because they wanted to use the property for other purposes. "The owner has the money to fix the place if they wanted to," he insisted.

Howard Johnson's, Inc. owns 127 West Rosemary, as well as the rest of the block between Church Street and Columbia Street. They have just started a feasibility study on uses for the land.

E.A. Glenz, Chapel Hill building inspector, says he discovered the condition of the house in a survey of town housing conditions last fall. He reported it as "definitely below standard" and said it should have been condemned long ago.

Glenz stressed that the owner has the choice of rebuilding to meet fire standards or tearing the house down.

The Rosemary Street residence would require redesign requiring the work of an architect and an engineer to bring it within Chapel Hill regulations.

Kutz Realty Company, representing Howard Johnson's, said that repairing the house was "unthought of. The house is a wreck—it needs to be torn down."

Both Kutz Realty and Glenz have tried to help Amrut find a place to stay, but all efforts to relocate him have failed. Every possibility is either too expensive or too far away.

Bulldozers moved into 127 West Rosemary Monday morning and Amrut Nakhre moved out onto the street. Even the local churches said they did not have room for him. He has put his belongings with a few friends and is continuing his search.

Nakhre questions the city's policy of condemning houses when there is such a shortage, as well as the reasons for condemnation in his particular case. He feels that if the town government continues to ignore the general situation, there will be "many other students in my predicament this fall."

Eviction

Bulldozers moved into 127 West Rosemary Monday morning and Amrut Nakhre moved out onto the street.

HoJo looking to expansion

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A Howard Johnson's franchising agent has hired a Washington company of land economists to do a feasibility study on the potential of a block of land they own on Rosemary Street.

The possibilities being considered include a Howard Johnson's motel and restaurant, a high-rise apartment complex and a shopping center with office space available above the shops.

Pearsall Realty Company of Rocky Mount, representing Howard Johnson's, has been buying land on the block of Rosemary Street between Church Street and Columbia Street for the last two years. The last purchase, the house on the corner of Rosemary and Church, was called "the missing piece to the puzzle" by a Pearsall agent.

Now that the "puzzle" is complete, Howard Johnson's will use the land for some type of housing complex. A decision will be made on the proposed possibilities as soon as the survey of deficiencies in the present Chapel Hill market is completed. The company is not interested in building any structure that would provide student housing.

The two remaining houses on the

Rosemary Street property are presently occupied by students.

The residence which was purchased by Pearsall almost two years ago, 127 West Rosemary, has recently been condemned because of failure to meet fire regulations. Chandrashekhar Joshi and Amrut Nakhre, two Indian graduate students, were evicted Sunday.

Nakhre charged "it's not really the bad condition of the house but other things" that caused the condemnation. He believes the owner wants to use the land for other purposes and has purposely let the house run down.

Pearsall's only comment was "we decided to tear it down."

The residence on the corner of Rosemary and Church is occupied by four summer school students. They expect to stay until the end of August when their lease expires.

Kutz Realty Company, representing Pearsall-Howard Johnson's in Chapel Hill, said they had been instructed to continue renting the corner house, although the lease could be terminated with a 45-day notice.

A self-service Howard Johnson's was tried on Franklin Street last year, but failed soon after it opened. The chain still owns Eat At Joe's in the same location.

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