'68 Housing Shortage Seen in Area

Southern California will face a definite housing shortage by the end of this year if present conditions continue. This is the prediction of Joe Henry, president of Joe Henry Co. Inc., a real estate firm of Santa Monica.

"During the past months the number of new housing starts has decreased to a comparatively low figure," Henry said. "This figure is remaining constant. However, the number of potential and real buyers is steadily going up.

"The number of homes for sale is decreasing and the vacancy rate of apartment buildings also is diminishing.

"Unless the number of new housing starts is increased sharply in the near future a serious housing shortage could be created during 1968," Henry said.