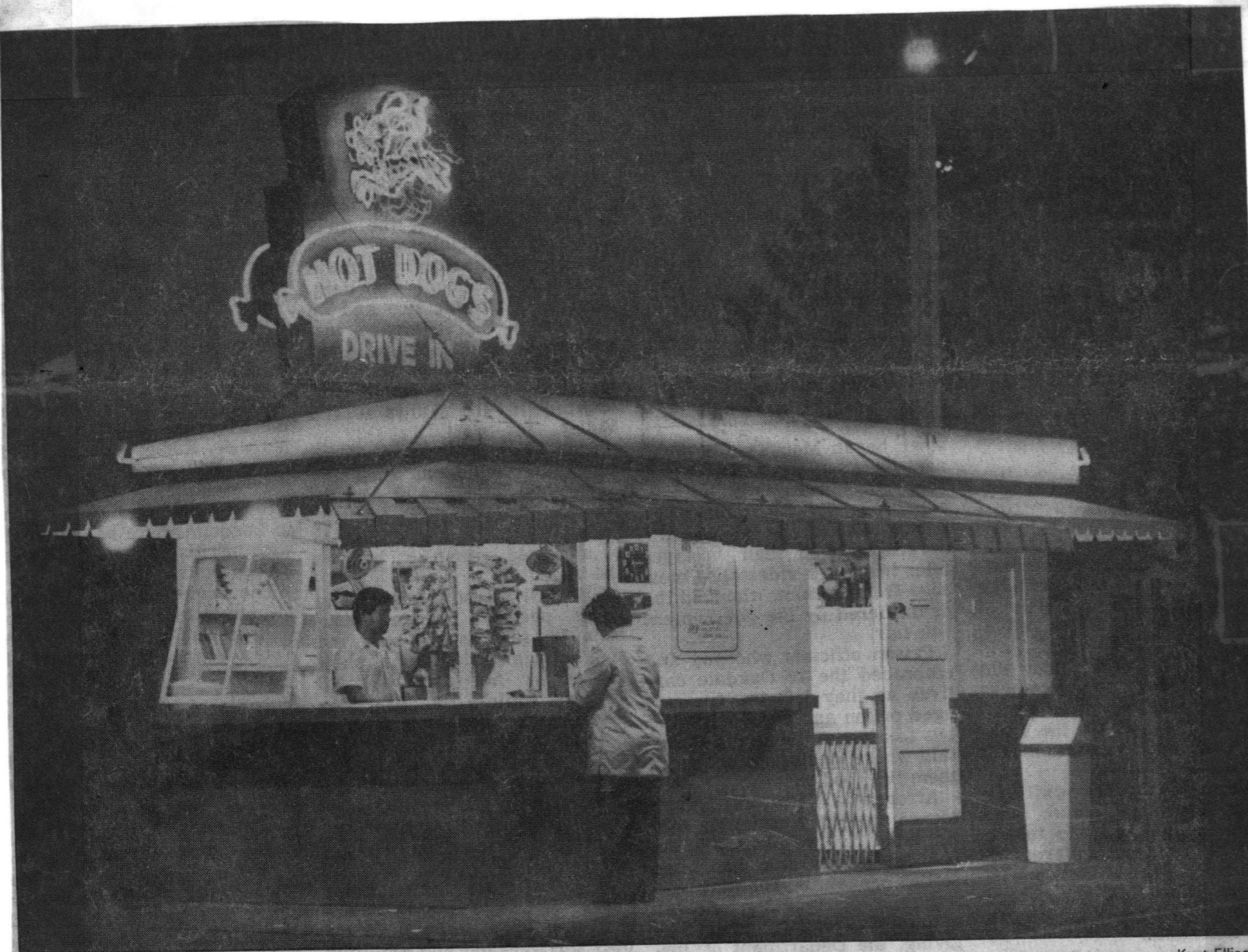


REFERENCE



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Kurt Ellison

The Taylors want to build a stand, similar to this one, across the street from Watsonville's Plaza.

A city landmark prepares to move

By DAN FITCH
STAFF WRITER

High school students, city employees, downtown shoppers, drivers and pedestrians go their different ways in downtown Watsonville during the week.

But there is a spot, at the corner of Maple and Union streets, which for many years has brought all sorts together in the afternoon.

It's Taylor's Hot Dog stand, with the doggie on the neon sign.

The hot dog stand has been a Watsonville landmark (of sorts) since the 1950s and may continue to be so in the future, but at a different spot.

If James and Pauline

Taylor, owners of the stand, can reach agreement with the city, they will move the business to a new location two blocks down the street on the corner of East Beach Street and Union.

Thus far, the owners and the city have been unable to agree on the design of a new building. The Taylors want it to be similar to the one currently in operation, except larger, and the city would like to see something different.

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the Design Review Commission rejected plans for the new site.

"The commission took exception to the kind of struc-

ture proposed," Assistant Planning Director Doug Spinelli said. "They wanted a more substantial type of metal building."

The Taylors could not be reached for comment but are represented by the Visalia engineering and architectural firm of Quad Consultants. Principal partner Harry Dow said the Taylors decided to move the business in an effort to ease parking problems with the Recreation Department, whose building is located next to the stand on Maple Street.

"They felt the move would help alleviate parking problems with the Recreation Department and contacted the city with the idea," Dow

said. "They would like to return to the style of the present building, but obviously would have to make modern improvements."

The owners face three options concerning the rejection of the new site plan. They can drop the proposal entirely, appeal the Design Review Commission's ruling, or submit new plans.

Dow said the Taylors would appeal the decision.

The current building occupies approximately 250 to 300 square feet and the Taylors' proposal calls for an expansion to 350 square feet at the new site. The site plan calls for a structure the same shape as the present one.

The new stand would be on the vacant lot next to Household Bank, and would provide walk-up customer service.

The new site would include 17 parking spaces exclusively for the use of hot dog stand customers and landscaped areas on the other three corners of the lot.

The building plan also calls for a white metal awning with a six-foot overhang and painted metal siding. The city wants something stronger than metal siding.

And, yes, the current sign, doggie included, would relocate with the business if the Taylors have their way. The sign would sit at the corner of East Beach and Union streets and would reach a height of 18 feet, the maximum allowed by the city.