Hotels are Boarding Houses

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Zoning Board approves latest hotel proposal by Gavilan Inc.

By JOAN RAYMOND Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The name of Gavilan Development Inc. has become a familiar one in the world of Santa Cruz hotels.

Gavilan just received approval from the city Zoning Board for the Soquel company's third hotel within the city limits over a two-year period.

The latest project calls for a hotel, dinner club and shops to be built on an odd-shaped parcel at the intersection of Front Street and North Pacific Avenue. The architecture has Victorian overtones.

The 75-room, three-story hotel will replace a car repair shop and several small businesses.

Gavilan President Paul Accinelli said the company hopes to start construction in the spring. The project will be considered for approval by the Coastal Commission within the next few months.

Plans call for underground parking, a swimming pool on the second story and a fountain to mark the southern entrance to the Pacific Garden Mall.

The company hopes to lease space to a restaurant and nightclub, featuring music softer than rock, he said.

In July, Gavilan completed construction on a 34-unit motel called Carousel Motel on Riverside Avenue near The Boardwalk.

Also, Gavilan is the developer of the 80unit New Riverside Garden Inn at 210 Barson Street. That motel will replace the defunct New Riverside Szechuan Chinese restaurant.

The old restaurant building has been

torn down and motel foundation work has begun. Accinelli said construction workers would try to pour the foundation at the Garden Inn before the start of winter

Thursday's approval of the Pacific Avenue/Front Street project means approvals have been given for 351 motel or hotel units over the past two years in the city, ending a five-year dry spell in motel/hotel construction during the period 1978-1982, according to city Planning Department figures.

There are two other major projects in the works: a proposed Hilton Hotel at the site of the La Bahia Motel/Apartments on Beach Street and an expansion of the Dream Inn on West Cliff Drive.

Accinelli, and other motel owners, support those tourist-drawing projects.

Those who cannot afford to stay in a Hilton may want to stay at a Gavilan, says Accinelli.

Gavilan is also the developer of Capitola Plaza, a three-story commercial building on 41st Avenue.