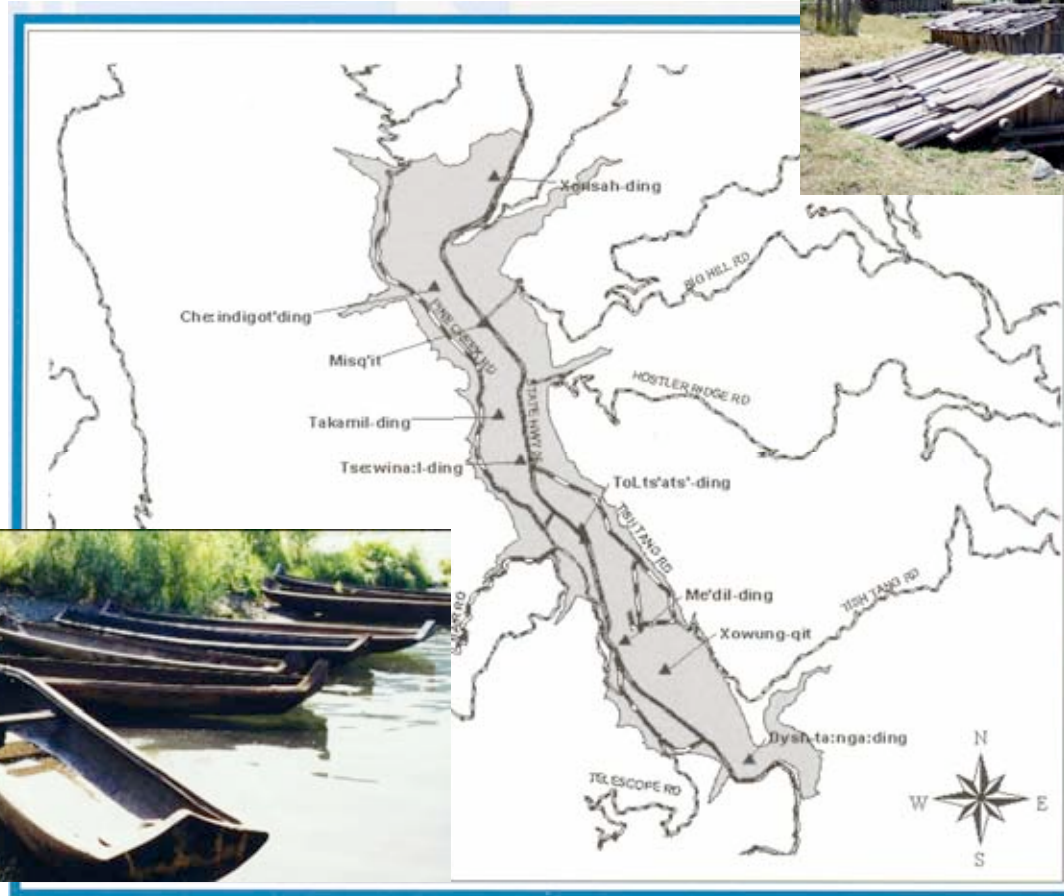


3.3 New Village Center

Historically, the Hupa people occupied several village sites along the Trinity River. There were as many as 12 villages within what is now the Reservation. Each village name described a unique landmark or event that occurred at that location (Steinberg et.al, 2000).

- Xonsah-ding
- Che: indigot'ding
- Misq'it
- Takamil-ding
- Tse:wina:l-ding
- ToLts'ats'-ding
- Me'dil-ding
- Xowung-git
- Dysh-ta:nga:ding

The village was the focal point of Hupa community activity.



Historically, the rivershore served as a parking lot for redwood canoes.



Village Sites (Source: The Hoopa People, The Hoopa Valley Tribe, undated)

At one time, hundreds of homes were located along the river terrace. The village at Metildin (Me'dil-ding) is said to have been the largest at the time with over 200 redwood canoes parked along the shore of the river (Steinberg et.al, 2000).

**For the Hupa people, the village
was the focal point of community activity.**



Existing Conditions: Today, much of the existing retail commercial activity on the Reservation is scattered along the 1/2-mile section of Highway 96 referred to as downtown Hoopa from the Trinity River Bridge to Hostler Field Road. Within this mix of commercial activity there are no designated places for formal public gatherings such as parks or plazas. There are no benches in town and no place to sit comfortably.

Informal gathering places adopted by some of the youth include the bridge railing and a number of "hang outs" - the former a good place to see and be seen; the latter, often reserved for illicit activities. No formal sitting areas exist within this area. At night, in the absence of street lighting, the downtown area can feel unsafe.

Discussion: Information collected from focus group interviews, the community meeting and walking "audit" around downtown Hoopa, focused on issues such as littering, loitering and vandalism, the need to enforce the curfew, and the need for a gathering place downtown that is pleasant and comfortable during the day and well-lit and well policed at night.



The bridge is a popular gathering place.



Sittin' on the bridge watching the world go by.



There are no benches in town and no place to sit comfortably.



The open area between the Tsewenaldin Inn and the shopping center is a potential site for a “Village Center.”



The shopping center sign and bus stop suggest a center of activity.

There was general agreement among all the participants in interviews, meetings, and design tables that the shopping center served as the modern day "village center" largely due to the availability of essential services such as the grocery store, pharmacy and post office where most everyone comes on a regular, if not daily, basis. The concept of enhancing the ability of the shopping center to serve as a village center and public gathering place was strongly endorsed by project participants.

The Lucky Bear casino, the Tsewenaldin Inn, and the Tribal Museum—all tribally owned and operated— also occupy this area. Other uses include KIDE Radio, the Tribal Police office and County Sheriff's substation.

Even here there are no formalized gathering places, no publicly available seating, no shelters or shade trees, no trash receptacles and no designated pedestrian facilities separate from driveway and parking areas.

Recommendations: The Conceptual Plan recommends that the existing Tsewenaldin Shopping center be enhanced to serve as a village center and public gathering place.

Consolidating and realigning the entry drive to the shopping center and Tsewenaldin Inn can better control vehicle traffic entering and leaving the area. Combined with the proposed realignment of the intersection of Tish Tang Road and Highway 96 (See discussion on Traffic Calming), conflicts among motor vehicles and pedestrians can be reduced.

The closing of the existing entry drive to the Tsewenaldin Inn could make the existing driveway area between the shopping center parking and Highway 96 available for use as as a plaza/public gathering area. This area could include a large water feature to provide the cultural connection with water (the Trinity River) as well as cooling the immediate area during hot summer days. A covered shelter adjacent to the water feature could reflect traditional architectural styles and material while providing further shelter and a sitting area. A covered display area between the plaza and shopping center parking could provide spaces for a farmer's market, arts and craft fairs, and the like. Lighting

and landscaping could make the area feel safe and inviting. A bus stop, bicycle rack, kiosk, trash receptacles and other street furniture could be included. A new entry to the Tsewenaldin Inn would be provided through the shopping center parking lot and parking reconfigured to provide necessary spaces.

Tsewenaldin Plaza

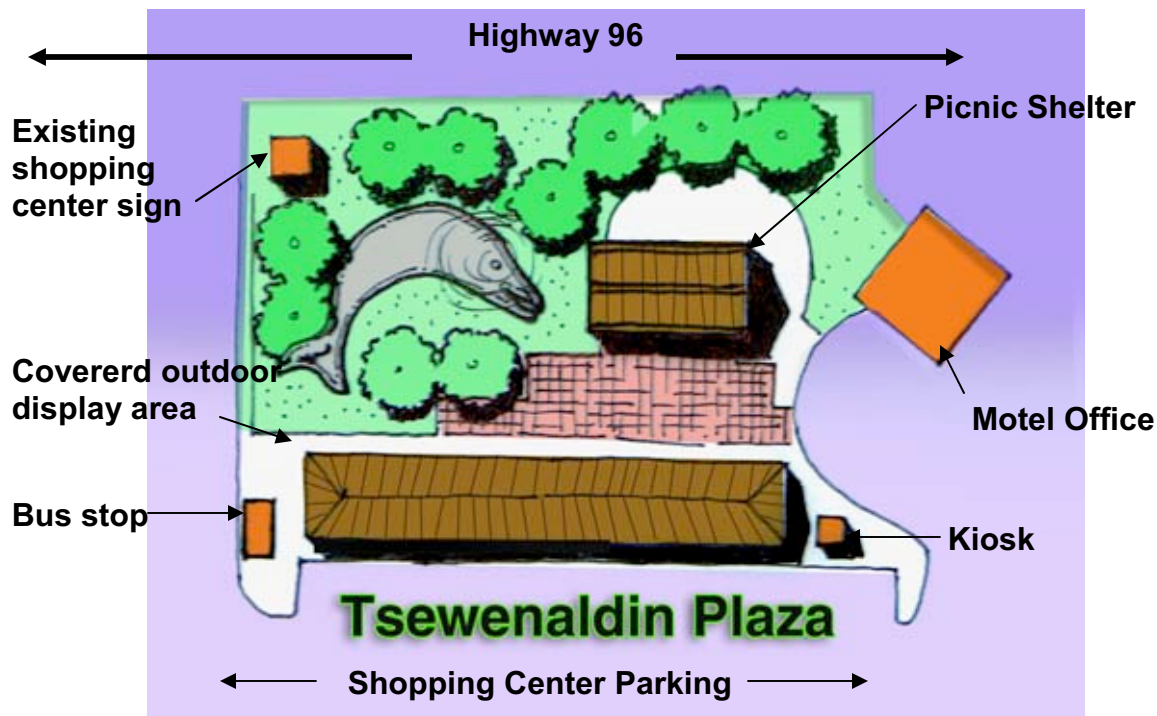
- Water Feature and Sculpture
- Covered Picnic Shelter
- Sitting Areas
- Covered Outdoor Display Area
- Bus Stop
- Bicycle Rack
- Kiosk
- Trash Receptacles



A picnic shelter could reflect the unifying theme for downtown Hoopa.



Section through the Plaza shows water feature & sculpture, benches and covered picnic shelter.



Motel and shopping center parking will be expanded.

Figure 6. New Village Center



A variety of seating would be available in the Village Center.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that Tsewenaldin (Tse:wina:l-ding) is an historic village site and its location along the north and east banks of the Trinity River maintain the historic connection between the village and the river.



A water feature will provide pleasure as well as a cooling effect.

