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American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 22, No. 3 (Jul. - Sep., 1920), 298-301.

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Sun Jan 29 14:44:47 2006

Did the so-called Cliff Dwellers of Central Arizona also build "Hogans"?

Spreading west from the desert of the little Colorado river upward toward the pine clad slopes of the San Francisco mountains the evidence of an ancient population is everywhere apparent. Ruins of large pueblos and forts crown some of the cinder cones. Small isolated castles top the crags in the canyons. Cliff houses cower under overhanging ledges while the remains of small stone houses and pueblo-like groups of houses lie scattered over the gray plains among the cedars and the pines.[1]

Potsherds gathered from these sites have the same characteristics, black geometrical designs on a white slip, black geometrical designs on a red slip, corrugated ware and red bowls with polished black interiors. This complex of pottery has associated with it in the canyons, burials containing skulls showing a flattening of the back of the head. This is a characteristic of the cliff-dweller culture as described by Kidder.[2] The pottery except for the red bowls with the black interior is similar to that found by Kidder in the Marsh Pass region. A few potsherds similar to those described by Kidder as belonging to another type which he has called the slab-house culture have been gathered on some of the sites.

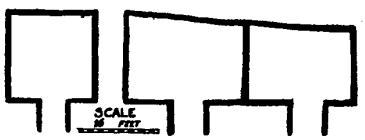

Fig. 14.—Plans of single and double vestibuled houses. The single houses scattered through the pine forests at the foot of the San Francisco mountains, over the sage brush plains and lava flows, and on the crests of the cedar clothed craters are common. The twin houses are rare and have been found in but two of the larger groups or villages. In both types of houses the characteristic feature is the vestibule or entrance on the south or southeast side. The houses figured here lie one quarter of a mile north of the Flagstaff City reservoir.

Among the ruins of pueblos and small houses at the base of the San Francisco mountains, in groups in the pine forest or in the cedar and piñon groves, usually overlooking a flat or a natural park, regular rows of boulders, strike the eye of the careful observer. Similar boulder sites have been described by Mindeleff in the neighboring Verde valley.[3] The rows of small boulders enclose squares ranging from fifteen to twenty-feet on a side. A characteristic of these squares, which has not been

[1] M. R. F. and H. S. Colton, "Little known Small House Ruins in the Coconino Forest," *Memoirs, American Anthropological Association*, vol. v, no. 4, 1918.

[2] Kidder and Guernsey, "Archeological Exploration in Northeastern Arizona," *Bulletin* 65, *Bureau, American Ethnology*, 1919.

[3] C. Mindeleff, "Aboriginal Remains in the Verde Valley, Arizona," *Thirteenth Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology*, 1891–1892, 1896, p. 237.

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noted before, is that the row of stones forming the south or southeast side is broken by a gap about six feet wide and from this gap two lines of stones project perpendicular to the side of the square. (See figure 14.) When we consider that these squares are the plans of dwellings of some sort, the parallel walls beside the door suggest the vestibule of a house. Although these ruins are fairly common the writer worked two summers in the region before he recognized them as a distinct type.[1]

In north central Arizona two Indian tribes build earth lodges—the Navajo and the Havasupai. In common with the Navajo hogan our ruin shares the door on the southeast side. The size of the room more nearly approaches that of the hogan than that of the small stone houses that also dot the region. Except for the line of small boulders which mark the sites no trace of the building material exists. The ruins of a Navajo hogan is a circle of soil on the ground surrounding a depression. Our ruin is a square or rectangle of stones surrounding a depression. To this extent the two are similar.

The Havasupai, who by tradition give as their ancient home the San Francisco Mountain region, build hogan-shaped shelters of willow branches in Cataract canyon. On the plateau above, these shelters take the form of earth-lodges. Some of these are round and some square but none were seen where the ground plan would indicate a vestibule.

It might be well to note that the vestibule is regularly a feature of some round earth-lodges such as those of the Pawnee. From the evidence presented above we can infer that our dwelling like the Navajo hogan, was

[1] The largest groups are located as follows:

Two groups north of Flagstaff reservoir on the Schultz Pass road. Township 22 N-R7E Section 33, Twelve houses seven of which show the vestibule.

Babbitt pasture, two houses, Township 21 N-R7E Section 4.

Top of Turkey Tank Mt., one distinct house, five others indistinct. Township 21N-R9E, Section 11.

Dead man's flat, two houses distinct, three others indistinct. Township 24N-R8E, Section 29.

Dead man's flat, three houses, two distinct other indistinct. Township 24N-R8E, Section 28.

Dead man's flat, one house distinct, two others indistinct. Township 24N-R8E, Section 28.

Two miles south of Fortress Mt., two houses distinct. Township 21N-R9E, Section 22.

House in spatter cone SE of Red peak. Township 22N-R9E, Section 33.

Dan Francis estate, two houses. Township 21N-R7E, Section 9.

Elden spring, one house distinct, many indistinct. Township 21N-R7E, Section 11.

South of Dry Lake Mt. one house distinct, others indistinct. Township 22N-R7E, Section 34.

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