

ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS
OF
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

VOLUME XXIX, PART III

HAVASUPAI ETHNOGRAPHY

BY LESLIE SPIER



BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES
OF
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK CITY
1928

Storehouses resembling the dome-shaped domiciles are sometimes built in the camps to hold the green foodstuffs.¹

COMPARATIVE NOTES

The typical dwelling of the Havasupai, the dome-shaped, brush-covered structure, seems to be the prevalent type in a considerable area of Arizona and the Great Basin. It is true that most of the Arizona types are referred to as dome-shaped or hemispherical, while those of the Basin are described as conical. But we are dealing essentially with



Fig. 36. Storehouses under the Cliffs of Cataract Canyon.

the same structure which seems to differ largely in the acuteness of its apex. As a matter of fact most of the dome shapes are sub-conical, and "conical" probably serves Lowie only for a descriptive epithet, for his few illustrations show sub-conical forms. The houses of the western Apache are perhaps the only truly hemispherical ones.

Taking these together we have this form among the Havasupai, Walapai, Yavapai, White Mountain Apache, Papago, Kaibab, Moapa, and the neighboring Tointesa², Washo, Paviotso, Uintah and Southern

¹A small stone ruin stands on a point of the cliff (at B, Fig. 50). Most of the walls have been roughly reconstructed as breastworks by the modern Indians. Sherds are plentiful: corrugated, black-on-white, black-on-red, and Havasupai pottery.

Ute, and it was found by Stansbury west of Great Salt Lake.¹ The Yuma use it for their summer residence. The Navaho hogan is the same structure, perhaps a little more substantially built, but bark roofed like the Southern Ute house and dirt covered like the Havasupai. This brush lodge is used by the Mescalero and Jicarilla, but both groups prefer the tipi. The Lipan do not build this form at all. The San Carlos Apache house is hemispherical, but the poles are arched rather than locked together. To the south the Seri construct a rough elongated hemisphere of a series of arches, brush covered. This is a tiny affair more like the Havasupai sweatlodge than the dwelling, but inasmuch as it is dome-shaped and the other tribes of northern Mexico make use of rectangular structures of another sort, it may questionably be included with our group above. The Luiseño house, conical and brush covered, should probably be included as well, but Sparkman's description leaves room for doubt. The Pima and Maricopa have a composite type: a thatched and dirt covered hemisphere of arched poles is raised over a rectangular foundation.²

The covered entrance-way of the Havasupai is also found in the Navaho hogan.

This form of lodge is typical then of an area principally west of the Pueblos and in the Basin. It has marked analogies in the north in the mat-covered, hemispherical lodges sometimes used by the Wishram, Wasco, Nez Percé, Klamath, and some of the interior Salish, and in the Plains tipi to the east. Some of the eastern Basin peoples, in fact (Northern and Wind River Shoshoni, and Ouray Ute) build tipis which are covered with brush or grass in place of skins.³ It has been conjectured that the tipi of the Plains and the wickiup to the west in the Basin are related forms. But it is not clear whether these Shoshonean structures are to be regarded as adaptations of the Plains tipi or whether the latter is a specialized form of an earlier type represented by these and the bark covered tipi of Canada. The relations with Californian types are not clear.⁴

One further comparative point should be observed here. The Havasupai erect the lodge on a four-pole foundation. This is also the case with the Southern Ute and it is true of the tipis of the same people and

¹Dorsey, (b), 196, 199, 203; Corbusier, 283; Goddard, (c), 2nd ed., 144; Gaillard, 293; Bartlett, I, 382; Powell, Fig. 43; Dellenbaugh, 177f; Lowie, (i), 218-220; Barrett, (b), 10; Mooney, (b), 1049f.
²Dorsey, (b), 200; Stephen, (b), 350; Franciscan Fathers, 56, 330, 332; Shufeldt, (e), 280; Goddard, (c), 2nd ed., 132; Curtis, I, 54; Hrdlička, (d), 482f; McGee, 221; Bandelier, (a), 55, 58, 80, 252; Lumholts, (b), 6; Sparkman, 212; Bartlett, II, 233f; Russell, (d), 154; Hrdlička, (e), 41, 42; Whittemore, 56.

³Lowie, (a), 183f; (i), 221.

⁴See especially Mason, J. A., (a), 125, 126; Kroeber, (g), 64, Plate 14; Dixon, (c), 210, 211; Spier, (e), 338.

the Wind River. Lowie has pointed out their resemblance in this regard to the Blackfoot and Crow, and, to complete the list from Wissler's notes, the Sarsi, Hidatsa, Salteaux, Comanche, and possibly the Kiowa Apache.¹ It is important to know the foundation pattern for the other tribes of this area. For if they all use four poles then Lowie's suggestion might be reversed; the four-pole tipi of the Blackfoot, Crow, and others being derived from the Basin peoples. The Navaho at least use a three-pole foundation for the hogan. This is analogous to the usual Plains tipi. We should know what the Jicarilla and Mescalero use to solve this puzzle.

The gable house is typical of the Mohave, but is used by the Havasupai and White Mountain Apache. It is characteristic of this form that the walls closing the gable ends slant as well as the sides and that the corners are rounded. The Southern Diegueño house is presumably a related type, although it lacks these features. We should probably look to other southern and central Californian tribes for similar forms.²

The Navaho log cabin of polygonal groundplan is copied by the Havasupai. It has been suggested that this structure is related to the log roofing of some prehistoric subterranean kivas.

The flat-roofed, rectangular shade is very widely used but it is not usually walled in. When three or four sides are closed it forms a definite type of house, which furthermore seems to have only a local distribution. This includes the Havasupai, Moapa and Tointesa^u Paiute, and Mohave. These Paiute houses are said to have sloping roofs, but I take this to be only a minor difference. The rectangular, gable-roofed house of the Cahuilla and of the modern Southern Diegueño may belong to the same type. The walled-in shade seems to be related to a type of structure used to the south by the Pima, Maricopa, Papago, and Yuma; that is, a similar rectangular house of which the walls are vertical poles wattled with brush and mud. This in turn bears resemblance to the houses of the Opata and Jumanos in northern Mexico.³

The matter of house types is further complicated by the reports of communal dwellings in southern California. We know little about these.

¹Wissler, (a), 110.

²Kroeber, (a), 277. Goddard, (c), 2nd ed., 145. The Moapa house referred to by Lowie [(h), 219, Fig. 7a] as of Mohave type is not characteristic of that tribe, although it is used by them (see *Handbook of American Indians*, I, 921).

³Bandelier, (a), 58, 80.



Fig. 32. A Gable-Roofed House of the Mohave Type.

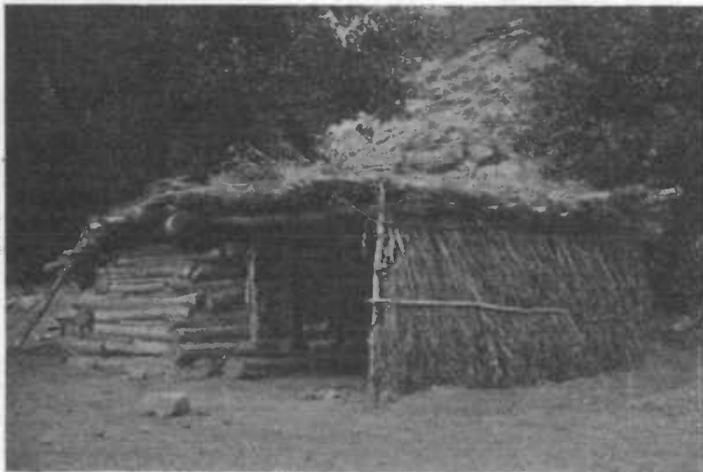


Fig. 33. A Log House of the Navaho Type with a Shade constructed in Front.