

## Stone Circles and Walls

In our search for Native American Indian sites we often encounter rock circles and walls of various sizes, shapes, and settings.

Some circles seem obviously to be the site of someone's small home, often accompanied by grinding mortars and/or slicks. A stick-and-reed structure would have covered the stone circle. No doubt, some family lived there for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years. They ate, slept, made love, had babies, reared children and tended to the sick and dying right within the confines of these smallish circles.

Larger stone circles may have been the site of sweat lodges, meeting rooms used for ceremonial purposes, and dances.

The origins or purposes of the rock walls we find are completely mysterious.



Rock wall leading to campsite on Walpert Ridge

Some rock walls are distinctly and directly associated with Native American villages and campsites, and to our mind, were without a doubt put there by Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans.

Other rock walls have been ascribed to Basque shepherds or Spanish ranchers and missionaries, perhaps using Indian laborers.

The investigation and understanding of these walls and circles has just begun.

## Ceremonial Sites

What do we know about ceremonial sites in the East Bay hills? Nothing.

We can only guess, then surmise from what we see, have read, and feel.

It's likely that the more time one spends at a site the better one will understand it. Some sites have a distinctly ceremonial aura about them. You'd like to have some sort of ceremony there now!



SW Walpert site overlooking Silicon Valley

Certain ridgetop sites, stone circle sites, and open meadows seem like obvious locations. Very little is known about what ceremonies may have occurred and when, or why.

One should pass through slowly, and respectfully.



Mortars at SW Walpert