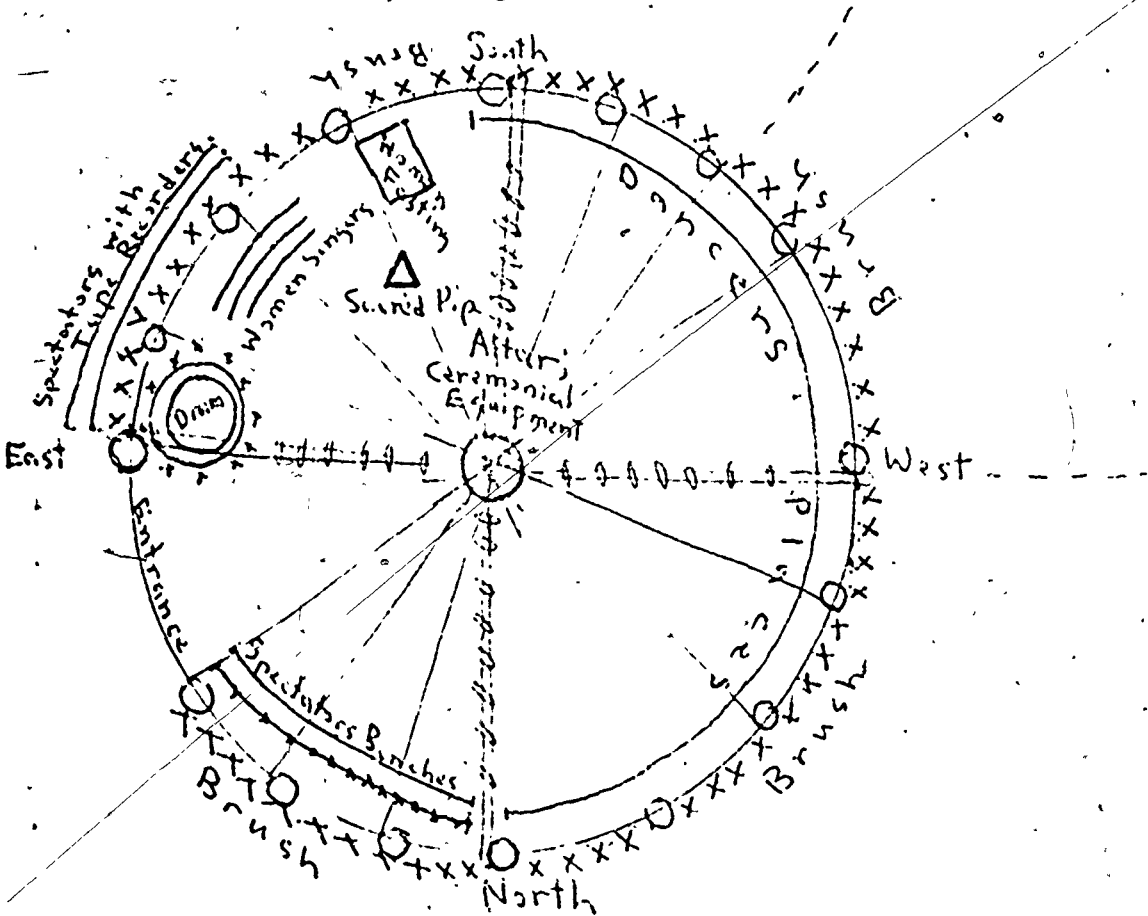


the Sun Dance would begin around midnight. The upright wall posts had been set in the ground a day or two before, and the poles which would form the rafters had been laid on the ground near the places where they would be needed. When we arrived on the reservation July 6 there were two shrubby cottonwood trees stuck in the ground about 50 or 75 feet apart on the west side of the area where the lodge would be. These were markers delineated a pathway extending from the west side of the lodge to the setting sun. This "pathway" or corridor was supposed to be kept clear of camps, but this stricture was not adhered to. Some people camped within the area, though at a considerable distance from the lodge.



Floor Plan of Sun Dance lodge

Since we were told that the lodge would not be erected until late in the afternoon, we left the camp to visit some nearby points of interest in the morning, and returned about 4:30 p.m. The center post had been brought into the dance ground while we were gone, by truck, and it was just about to be set up when we arrived to watch.

The center post was a large fairly straight cottonwood trunk, trimmed of branches and with a good sturdy fork at the upper end. There were bands of red