

# Kenyon College

## Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

---

Four Valleys Archive

Anthropology

---

1995

## PVN OP 055 Excavation Report

Edward M. Schortman  
*Kenyon College*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras>

 Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schortman, Edward M., "PVN OP 055 Excavation Report" (1995). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 9880.  
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/9880>

This Excavation Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Four Valleys Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).

# Kenyon College

## Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

---

Four Valleys Archive

Anthropology

---

1995

## PVN OP 55 Excavation Report

Edward M. Schortman

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras>



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schortman, Edward M., "PVN OP 55 Excavation Report" (1995). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 9880.  
<http://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/9880>

This Excavation Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Four Valleys Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).

## Operation 55

Operation 55 covers ca. 1360m<sup>2</sup> in the north-central portion of La Sierra's densely settled North Cluster. Operation 18 borders this zone on the east while Op.31, 12, and 53 lie on Op.55's north, west, and south margins, respectively. No clear patterning was noted among these constructions and there is no obvious patio around which they are arranged. Twelve structures were visible on ground surface within this area of which six of these buildings were dug during the 1995 field season (Strs. 5, 6, 23, 78, 79, and 81). A total of 341m<sup>2</sup> was cleared in the course of this work which was directed by Brian Kneeland, Elizabeth Laine, Faye Bender, and Christine Fielding.

## Structure 5

Structure 5, 2.3m east of Str. 6 and 5.8m west of Str. 79, is embedded within the dense concentration of buildings that comprise La Sierra's North Cluster. Excavations conducted within Subop. 55A, G, H, N, P, and V cleared ca. 59m<sup>2</sup>, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 0.68m and 0.48m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. One major building period was identified in the course of this work which was overseen by Christine Fielding.

## Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 5-Sub1	U.1-4, 31	-	-	
3	Str. 5-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.5-8, 11-27, 29-30	-	-	
4	Str. 5-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.9	-	-	
5	Str. 5-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.10, 28	S.3	-	
6	Str. 5-1 <sup>st</sup>	-	-	F.1	
7	-	-	S.4-5	F.2	

## Time Span 1

The first activity identified in Str. 5's environs involved the deposition of two distinct soil levels both of which were exposed off the building's north flank. The northernmost of these strata (S.1) is a moderately coarse-textured, moderately soft-compacted, dark brown to gray soil with small gravel inclusions. Stratum 1 ascends 0.07m over the 1.16m it was exposed from north-to-south, reaching a maximum exposed thickness of 0.14m (its base was not identified in our excavations). A probe dug 0.7m south of S.1 uncovered a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, dark gray soil that looks to have been stained through burning (S.2). Stratum 2 was exposed to a thickness of 0.29m (its base lies beyond our excavation limits) immediately north of Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.11, covered by the latter building's northern patio surface (U.27). Strata 1 and 2 rest at equivalent levels though our investigations did not reveal how they are related.

## Time Span 2

Remnants of what seem to have been four distinct constructions seemingly pertain to this interval (they are all glossed as Str. 5-Sub1). One of these, a rough stone circle (U.1) measuring 0.78m

north-south by 0.75m east-west, is located 0.06m below the base of TS.3 construction (U.5, 0.4m to the north). Unit 1 is 0.09m thick and was associated with sizable fragments of what seems to have been the neck and shoulder of a large ceramic jar. The sherds cover an area of 0.4x0.65m, lying 0.1m northeast of the stone circle. No sign of burning was found within or adjoining U.1.

Located 0.7m northwest of U.1 is a 0.09m-tall stone wall (U.2) that was traced for 1.12m at an orientation of ca. 346 degrees. Unit 2's exposed top is at the same level as the base of TS.3 construction lying 0.45m to the east (U.6) while it was at least 0.27m wide (U.2's western face was not exposed). Given the wall's relatively low height, U.2 may have been the eastern foundation for a surface-level building.

Situated 1.75m northwest of U.2 is a 'U'-shaped stone construction (U.3), open on the south, and bordered by stone walls standing 0.05m high and aligned roughly due north-south. Unit 3's open interior measures 0.5m across east-west by the same distance deep north-south. This construction's top sits at the same level as the base of TS.3 architecture (U.8) under which U.3 runs on the east. In part because of this overlying construction and time limitations we were unable to reveal U.3's full extent. Unit 31, a fragment of construction that was found protruding 0.2m south from under TS.3 architecture (U.7), is 0.2m east of U.3. Unit 31 consists of a single visible pink schist slab that is 0.36m wide east-west by 0.05m thick. It is highly likely that this stone was part of whatever construction is represented by U.3.

The last element assigned to TS.2 is a 0.42m-tall stone wall (U.4) found running beneath the floor of Room 2 in the eastern part of Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>. Unit 4 is at least 0.62m wide north-south though it was unclear if it continued back (south) beneath U.25 (Room 2's south wall). This early construction was exposed for 1.07m at an orientation of roughly 76 degrees disappearing below TS.3 construction on the west (U.22) and east (U.24). Unit 4's base rests at about the same level as U.1-3, suggesting that they were all erected and in use at roughly the same time.

In general, Str. 5-Sub1 likely comprised four contemporary constructions of varied forms. Unit 4 is tall enough to be the basal wall for a ca. 0.42m-high platform while U.2 looks to have been the foundation for a surface-level building. The U.1 stone circle may have been part of a work area devoted to food preparation, given its association with the fragments of a large jar, while the functions of 'U'-shaped U.3 and U.31 are abundantly unclear. All of these entities were fashioned using unmodified stones the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

Structure 5-1<sup>st</sup> was, during this period, a platform that was 0.34m tall on the north and south, 0.29m tall on the west, and apparently rested directly on ground surface on the east, the terrain over which the edifice was raised ascending roughly 0.2m across 5.35m from west to east. The south and north facings, U.5, 11, and 23, are 0.34m, 0.55m, and 0.3m tall, respectively and 0.4-0.73m wide. Unit 5 on the south is backed by a second wall (U.16) which rises to the same height as its southern neighbor and is 0.18m wide. It may be that U.16 preceded and was covered by U.5. By the end of TS.3, however, the combined width of the southern basal wall was 0.58m. The unusual height and width (0.73m) of U.11 on the north may be explained if it served as a wall support and shelf in Room 1's northwest corner (see below). Structure 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s east perimeter wall, U.24, is 0.29m tall by 0.5-0.7m wide, narrowing from south to north. On the west the edifice is bordered by a stone wall composed of three distinct segments

all of which are 0.23-0.24m tall by 0.4-0.5m wide (U.6-8). Unit 6 runs 2m north from its abutment with the north side of U.5, the two constructions together forming Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest corner. At this point the western perimeter jogs out 1.1m to the west (U.7) before turning north once again. This last segment (U.8) extends 2.3m to the north where it terminates 0.9m west of U.12 where that construction joins U.11. This 0.9m-wide gap provided unhindered access to an earthen-floored cubicle (Room 3) covering 0.95x1.25m. This space is bordered by U.13 on the south and U.12 on the east; the former is 0.44m high by 0.55m wide and corners with U.15 on the south (see below). A cut stone block measuring 0.43x0.56m (U.14) abuts U.13 and junctions with U.7 on the south. Unit 14 is 0.12m below the top of U.7 and 0.25m lower than the summit of U.13. Unlike U.18 (see below), it is in one piece and may well not have served as an entry marker; there is no room to which it provided access. Unit 14's architectural significance is unclear; it may have simply been included in the fill backing U.7 to the north.

The building's western enclosure, Room 1, was seemingly accessed from the west by passing over the 0.24m-tall U.6 and proceeding for 0.8m eastward to U.15. This second wall is 0.6m wide, rises no more than 0.05m above the fill backing U.6, and borders Room 1 on the west. Room 1 measures 1.2x4.2m and is surfaced with two different materials. An area measuring 1x1.2m at the enclosure's southern end is paved primarily with schist slabs (U.17) while the remainder of the compartment to the north is surfaced with cobbles (U.30). A depression measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.14m deep (U.19) was identified in the northern reaches of Room 1, 0.22m south of U.11. A dark gray, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil stained from burning was found within U.19 suggesting that it may have served as a hearth. A cut block measuring 0.4m on a side (U.18) adjoins U.15's east side about 1.5m north of Room 1's southwest corner. Unit 18 was heavily fragmented, apparently in place, and might have marked a formal passage into the western enclosure over U.6 and 15. Units 12 and 11 together define the northwest corner of Room 1, standing 0.55m high and measuring 0.73m across. Unit 12 is 0.8m long north-south while U.11 continues at its full height for 0.55m east of its junction with U.12. As noted above, the unusual width of these constructions suggests that they served both as supports for the perishable walls that shielded Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure and as an 'L'-shaped shelf set in Room 1's northwest corner. East of the putative shelf U.11 steps down creating a 0.9m-wide doorway into Room 1 from the north. Room 1's east side is defined by two walls (U.20 and 21). Unit 21 is a 0.12m-tall by 0.2m-wide stone foundation that extends 1.3m south from its junction with U.11 on the east side of the northern door. It is succeeded on the south by a 0.19m-high, 0.6m-wide footing (U.20) that runs 1.7m south of its intersection with U.21. Unit 20's east side continues the north-south-running line defined by U.21 while on the west U.20 projects 0.4m into Room 1 from the west face of U.21. The 1m separating U.20 from the back (north) side of the southern basal facing (U.16) is left open and surfaced with the schist slabs of U.17 (see above). The wider U.20 may have served as both wall support and shelf.

The earthen-floored eastern enclosure, Room 2, covers 1.2x4m (measured across its center) and is bordered by foundations that average 0.3m tall by 0.45-0.55m wide (U.22-25). No built-in furniture was recorded in Room 2 and 0.3-0.5m separates Room 2 from its western neighbor (the gap narrowing from south to north). Room 2 was likely entered by passing across the U.17 floor in southern Room 1 and then stepping over the western foundation (U.22) which is about 0.3m tall. The low walls on the enclosure's north, west, and south would have offered few impediments to entering Room 2.

A 0.35m-high by 0.3m-wide stone wall (U.26) was recorded projecting at least 0.6m east of Room 2's (and Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s) northeast corner. Unit 26's east end lies beyond our excavations

By TS.3's conclusion, Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup> covered 5.6x6.6m (measured across its center) and was aligned 347-351 degrees. The building seems to have risen above ground surface 0.34m on the north and south, 0.29m on the west, while resting directly on ground surface to the east. These height discrepancies appear to result from the building having been erected over a natural rise in the terrain from west to east. The edifice was entered from the north and west; of the two, the western passage seems to have been the more elaborate. In the latter case, the summit was reached by passing over two low (0.24m and 0.05m high) stone-faced terraces that are 0.8m and 0.6m wide (in ascending order) and span 2.7m long north-south, bordered by a substantial wall (0.44m high by 0.55m wide) on the north. A cut block, seemingly fragmented in situ, is located near the approximate center of this passage within the western summit enclosure (Room 1). Room 1 covers 2.9m<sup>2</sup> and is surfaced with two materials; its southern 1.2m<sup>2</sup> is paved with schist slabs in several colors while the remaining areas to the north are covered with a cobble floor. An apparent hearth measuring 0.5m in diameter, 0.14m deep, and containing an ashy soil is located in the northern part of Room 1. The northwest corner of this compartment is defined by the junction of two relatively substantial facings that are 0.55m high by 0.73m wide. Together these walls may have supported perishable upper walls and served as a shelf the southern leg of which is 0.8m long north-south while its eastern segment is 0.55m long east-west. Another shelf, this one 0.4m wide by 0.19m high, was apparently built into Room 1's east wall. A door measuring 0.9m across also provided access to Room 1 from the north. Backing Room 1 on the east is an earthen-floored compartment (Room 2) that covers 4.8m<sup>2</sup>, contains no built-in furniture, and rests on ancient ground surface. Room 2 may have been entered from its western analogue by passing through a 1m-wide door in the latter's southeast corner. A third cubicle (Room 3) encompasses 1.2m<sup>2</sup> in Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest corner. This earthen-floored compartment is set on ground level and was entered through a 0.9m-wide door on the north. Remains of what may have been another surface-level room are hinted at by a stone foundation found projecting at least 0.6m east from Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast corner. We were not able to ascertain the dimensions and form of this putative compartment.

Most of the stones used in fashioning TS.3 constructions are unmodified cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which are directed outwards or, in the case of Room 1's northern floor, upward. The southern 1.2m<sup>2</sup> of that enclosure is surfaced with schist slabs while a cut block was set in Room 1's apparent western entryway. Another cut block seems to have been incorporated in construction on Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s west side and faced stones appear as minority elements in U.5 and 11. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 4

Structure 5-1<sup>st</sup> retained its basic form and dimensions during this interval, the major additions occurring on the edifice's north flank. A 0.11m-tall wall (U.9) was built to partially close off Room 3's and 1's northern entries. Unit 9 is 0.35m wide and runs for a reconstructed 2.55m continuing past the entrance to Room 3 for 1.95m in front (north) of U.11. The addition of U.9 reduced the entrances to Room 3 and 1 to 0.3m-wide gaps. As these are too narrow to allow easy access to the compartments, it is likely that Rooms 1 and 3 were reached by stepping over the low wall that is U.9. Unit 9 is fashioned of cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards and which were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 5

Modifications made to Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup> during this interval once again concentrated on its north flank. Within Room 3 a 0.11m-tall stone shelf (U.10) was built against the enclosure's east wall. Unit 10 is 0.45m wide east-west by 1.35m long and abuts U.13 on the south. It also overlaps U.9 on the north by 0.1m suggesting that the latter wall, though still visible, may no longer have served as a foundation.

A 0.12m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced terrace (U.27) projects 1m north of Str.5-1<sup>st</sup> (U.11). Unit 27 measures 3.2m east-west, intersecting U.9 at a point 0.5m east of its west end, near Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest corner. The eastern 1.7m of U.9 was incorporated into U.27's stone floor. Unit 29, a 0.38m-tall wall, borders U.27 on the east. This construction measures 0.3m across and extends 1.45m south from a point equal to U.27's north face. The 0.25m discrepancy in the north-south lengths of U.27 and 29 is due to a jog back (south) in Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s north face at this point; U.23, Room 2's northern footing, is set this distance back from the north side of U.11, the northern foundation of Room 1.

A stone floor (U.28) extends for roughly 2.7m east of U.29 (the floor's eastern margin was not clearly defined) and for at least 2.5m north of U.23 (Room 2's north foundation). Unit 28 runs for 0.9m east from U.29, continuing the northern line of the U.27 terrace, at which point it turns a right angle and heads north for at least 1.05m before leaving our excavations.

As TS.5 came to a close, Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s basic form and orientation remained largely unchanged. Room 3 on the northwest now contains a 0.11m-high by 0.45m-wide stone shelf that runs 1.35m along Room 3's eastern wall. The northern entrance to Room 1 during this interval issues directly onto a 0.15m-tall stone-paved terrace that runs 3.2m east from near Room 1's northwest corner and projects 1m north from that enclosure's northern facings. Said terrace is bordered on the east by a 0.38m-tall by 0.3m-wide stone wall; no comparable construction was noted on the west. A stone floor, apparently set on ground surface, runs east of the northern terrace and north of Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>. Taking the northern terrace into account, Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup> now covered 6.6x6.6m and the formal western entryway was supplemented by a northern entrance enhanced by a stone floor and terrace.

Seemingly laid down contemporary with Str.5-1<sup>st</sup>'s final period of use is a fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.3) that contains numerous fragments of pebbles and burnt earth (bajareque). Stratum 3 originates 0.45m north of the U.27 terrace and extends for at least 1.51m further in this direction. Over this distance the soil level expands to a thickness of at least 0.12m, its base dropping minimally 0.1m over 1.51m. It appears that S.3 is a lens of debris originating from Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>, possibly near the end of the building's use as the edifice's upper walls were deteriorating.

All constructions raised during TS.5 were made primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards or, in the case of floors, upwards. One cut block was recorded in the U.28 floor. All of these stones are set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 6

A dense concentration of flat-laid rocks set in a brown soil matrix (F.1) rests atop the northern U.27 terrace and covers U.11 (Room 1's northern perimeter wall). Feature 1 may extend for 1.6m north of U.27. It is unclear what, if anything, this collection of rocks signifies about changes made to Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup> at this time. Given the modest nature of the building's final-phase architecture, it seems unlikely that this density of rocks could have fallen from constructions still standing at the end of TS.5. More likely

F.1's stones were intentionally put in place though whether as part of a remodeling effort that was never completed or to terminate the structure's use is unclear.

Time Span 7

After Str. 5-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.5m of a fine-grained, hard-compacted, brown soil (S.4) was deposited. Blanketing S.4 by 0.03-0.08m is a fine-grained, hard-compacted, dark brown soil (S.5). Embedded in S.4 and 5 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from final-phase architecture (F.2).

Structure 6

Structure 6 is 2.3m west of Str. 5 and 15.5m northwest of Str. 23 within La Sierra's densely settled North Cluster. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 55AB, AC, AE, AF, AI, AM, AN, AO, and AP uncovered approximately 72m<sup>2</sup> in the course of revealing all of Str. 6. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.72m and 1m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. Based on the disposition of exposed architecture, it appears that Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> was erected over terrain that sloped up ca. 0.5m across 8m north-to-south. Two major building efforts were identified in the course of this work which was overseen by Christine Fielding during 1995.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 6-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.1	-	F.1, 2	
3	Str. 6-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.2-27	-	-	
4	Str. 6-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.28, 29	-	F.3	
5	-	-	S.2, 3	F.4	

Time Span 1

This interval was marked by the deposition of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark brown clay (S.1). Stratum 1 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.4m immediately north of Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> (its base was not encountered in our investigations). This was the only area in which S.1 was identified.

Time Span 2

Fragments of Str. 6-2<sup>nd</sup> were found covered by TS.3 architecture pertaining to Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>. The primary element of this earlier construction revealed in our excavations consists of a stone wall standing maximally 0.07m high (U.1) that on its exposed inner (eastern) side defines a concave curve (0.15m deep across a span of 1.8m). If U.1 continued this arc it would define a circle with an estimated diameter of 1.8m. Contained within this area and extending at least 0.18m below U.1 is a moderately coarse-textured, soft-compacted, ashy soil (F.1) that is at least 0.38m thick. Though F.1's base was not uncovered, it seems to represent debris from multiple firings or cooking episodes the last of which were associated with the putative U.1 circle. The absence of S.1 here at a level equivalent to where it was found 4m to the north tentatively suggests that it was removed during excavation of a pit designed to hold the F.1 debris. No evidence confirming this interpretation was found. Lying 0.64m south of U.1 a



fine-textured, hard-compacted, tan soil (F.2) was located at the same depth as U.1 and reached a maximum observed thickness of 0.22m (its base was not found). Feature 2 is distinguished by the numerous bajareque fragments and small, dark gray ash lenses it includes. This deposit may be more detritus resulting from heating episodes conducted in and around U.1. If F.2 was material jettisoned outside and south of the stone circle, this might very tentatively imply that U.1 was 0.64m thick at least on its south side.

Structure 6-2<sup>nd</sup> is interpreted as a stone circle with an interior diameter of about 1.5m, a possible thickness of 0.64m, and depth of 0.07m. Evidence of ash-rich soil contained within and adjoining the circle on the south suggests that Str. 6-2<sup>nd</sup> was used in activities that involved multiple episodes of burning. These tasks may have pre-dated the stone circle's construction, the latter seeming to rest atop at least 0.19m of this ashy detritus. The stones used to create the circle are, based on our limited exposures, river-rounded cobbles set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

Structure 6-1<sup>st</sup> assumed very near its final form and overall dimensions during this interval. In essence, the building consists of seven rooms grouped within a space the perimeter of which is delimited by sizable foundations (U.2-4) on the south, west, and north. Units 2-4 are 0.35-0.7m tall by 0.47-0.6m wide. Structure 6-1<sup>st</sup> was entered from the east over an earth surface delimited by stone facings (U.9) standing 0.14m high and encompassing an area of ca. 1.5m north-south by 1.9m east-west (U.9's south side was not clear in our excavations). Projecting 0.41m east from beneath U.9's east line is a surface composed of faced blocks (U.10). Unit 10 measures 0.6m north-south, is composed of two blocks, and lies near the center of U.9's east side, roughly in line with U.11. The latter is a fragmented piece of faced masonry that may have marked the building's formal entrance. Unit 11 encompasses 0.45x0.76m and slants up 0.1m over 0.76m from east to west. The fill underlying U.11 is a fine-textured, soft-compacted, brown clay that contains numerous pottery fragments (included in U.11).

The northwest corner of U.11 adjoins a block of stone (U.8) that probably originally stood 0.62m tall and covers 0.68m east-west by 0.95m north-south. Unit 8 is the pivot around which Rooms 1, 4, and 7 are organized. Room 1 is reached directly by passing over the U.11 block and measures 1.2m east-west by 2.3m north-south. It is open on the east, surfaced with cobbles (U.16), and contains no built-in furniture. A 0.4m-wide gap in Room 1's north wall leads north to earthen-floored Room 7. This compartment encompasses 0.9m east-west by 1.65m north-south and is bordered on the west and south by stone foundations (U.16 and 17) that are 0.18m high by 0.16m wide. Unit 8 defines Room 7's southeast corner while a 1.05m-wide gap between this block and U.4 on the north provided passage to Room 4 on the east. The latter is bounded by rock footings on the north (U.4), east, (U.5), and south (U.7) that are 0.25-0.38m high by 0.35-0.47m wide. The enclosure covers 1.07x1.4m and is paved with cobbles (U.15). The floors of Rooms 4 and 7 appear to be equivalent in depth though both are about 0.21m below that of U.16 in Room 1. Room 5 adjoins Room 4 on the east and is bordered by U.4, 5, and 6. The last of these constructions is 0.3m tall by 0.35m wide and projects 1.65m east from its junction with U.5. Room 5 measures 0.8x1.65m and is completely open on the east. Room 2 is immediately west of, and 0.3m lower than, the floor of Room 1. Room 2, covering 1.1x1.55m, is surfaced with cobbles (U.12) and contains a 0.3m-high stone-faced and -surfaced shelf (U.18) built into the enclosure's southwest corner. Unit 18 is 0.46m wide north-south and extends 0.95m east from Room 2's west wall (U.3). A door measuring 0.7m across facilitates movement northward from Room 2 into Room 3. The

latter enclosure is paved with cobbles (U.13), bounded on the south and east by stone footings (U.19 and 20) that are ca. 0.2m high by 0.2m wide, and encompasses 1.4x1.5. Unit 13 is about 0.2m higher than Room 2's stone floor (U.12) and showed evidence of burning in the form of considerable quantities of charred earth and bajareque found directly overlying its surface. Room 3 is open on the north where it gives way to Room 6. The latter covers 1.1x1.65m and is paved with cobbles (U.14) set at the same level as U.13 to the south. Room 6 is separated from Room 7 on the east by the U.16 foundation. Most of Room 6 was covered by later architecture (U.28), consequently we were not able to determine what, if any, built-in features the compartment might have contained.

Appended to Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s north side are two walls (U.21, 22) that together define on their interior (southern) faces a rough 'S' shape. Unit 21, the western member of the pair, extends 1.25m north from Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest corner (the point where U.3 and 4 join). This wall is 0.35m tall, 0.8m wide east-west, and projects 2.2m east to join U.22 in this direction. The wall is as much as 0.36m wide north-south. While U.21's north face runs relatively straight, its south margin defines a concave curve that is 0.5m deep and 1.7m across northeast-southwest. Unit 22's south flank continues this curve eastward, arching convexly to a point where it is a scant 0.4m north of U.4, Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s northern foundation (U.21 is maximally 1m north of U.4 at the highest point on its arc on the west). Unit 22 is 0.52m tall. Its base is 0.07m above that of U.21 while U.22 rises 0.24m above its western neighbor. Unit 22 varies in width from 0.5-1m, the thickest part being at its eastern end, and extends 3.5m east from its junction with U.21. On the north, U.22 continues the same line as U.21 for 1m before curving concavely to create a broad, shallow (0.2m deep) arc measuring 1.6m across (corresponding to U.22's convexly curving south side over this distance). There is no sign that the U.21/22 construction joins Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> on the east.

Intersecting U.21 at a point 0.8m east from the latter's northwest corner, U.23 projects 1.2m north from that wall and comprises a terrace standing 0.5m tall and measuring an estimated 4.6m east-west (U.23 may continue east beyond our excavations). This earthen-floored construction did not clearly intersect with Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> on the east though it may have run back to and under U.22 in this area. Unit 23 possibly served to stabilize the downward sloping terrain lying north of Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>.

A stone pavement (U.26) measuring 0.8m across, extends for 1.3m (on the north) to 1.7m (on the south) northwest from Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>. Unit 26 intersects U.3 (Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s western perimeter wall) 2.05m north of the building's southwest corner and runs at an angle significantly different from Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s general orientation (278 versus 337 degrees). This surface does not seem to be part of a free-standing edifice though how it relates to Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s use is unclear.

Remnants of two additional buildings were encountered in our investigations. Unit 24 is a 0.5m-tall wall lying 0.5m north of U.23. This construction was likely the southern basal facing of a platform, though only a 1m-long segment (east-west) of the wall was exposed. Unit 25, in turn, is a 0.16m-high by at least 0.5m-wide stone wall that runs for a total revealed distance of 2.5m south from where it intersects Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest corner. The construction extends 1.5m south before turning west for 0.4m and then resuming its southward course for at least 1m (U.25's south end and west side were not definitively identified). Unit 25's architectural significance is unclear. Its low height may suggest that it was the foundation for a surface-level building erected off Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s south side. Unit 25 is unusually broad for such a construction and, given that we did not clearly reveal the construction's west side, it may be part of a stone surface lying southwest of Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> was a surface-level building that covered 6.4x8m (including the northern terrace) and was aligned roughly 337 degrees. The building's core encompasses an area measuring 5.3m north-south by 6.4m east-west and contains seven rooms. This complex was accessed on the east by passing through a formal entrance defined by a low (0.14m high) earthen portico measuring an estimated 1.5x1.9m and defined by stone facings. Two cut blocks protrude 0.41m east from beneath the entryway's east line and are aligned with a fragmented-in-situ piece of masonry situated on the portico's west margin. These constructions likely reinforced the importance of the eastern passageway. Directly accessible from the portico is Room 1. This stone-floored compartment covers 2.8m<sup>2</sup> and may have served as an entrance chamber through which all but Room 5 could be reached. A 0.4m-wide gap in Room 1's north wall leads directly to Room 7. This earthen-floored enclosure is 0.21m below Room 1's floor and covers 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. Room 4, which is reached through a 1.05m-wide door linking it to Room 7 on the west, sits at the same level as Room 7. Room 4's stone floor encompassing 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. Bordering Room 1 on the west are three compartments set in a north-south line. Room 2, the southernmost of these enclosures, is reached from Room 1 by stepping down 0.3m while passing through a 1.1m-wide entrance. The former space is paved with stone, measures 1.7m<sup>2</sup>, and contains a 0.3m-high stone-faced and -surfaced shelf built into its southwest corner. This shelf is 0.46m wide north-south and runs 0.95m east from Room 2's west wall. A 0.7m-wide door facilitates passage northward from Room 2 into Room 3. This stone-paved compartment is 0.2m higher than Room 2's floor and encompasses 2.1m<sup>2</sup>. The signs of intense burning found here suggest that this space may have been converted from whatever domestic purposes it originally served to a locus of production late in TS.3. The smoke and heat generated by localized burning within Room 3 would likely have rendered the rest of the building unlivable. A 1.1m-wide passage leads north into Room 6. Located in the northwest corner of this room complex, Room 6 measures 1.8m<sup>2</sup> and sits at the same level as Room 3. Room 5, located immediately east of Room 4, is not accessible by passing through the other enclosures in the complex. Instead, this earthen-floored compartment which lies 0.4m north of the eastern portico is completely open on the east and was likely reached from outside Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>. Room 5 covers 1.3m<sup>2</sup> and like all but Room 2 in Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>, contains no built-in furniture. The stone foundations delimiting these compartments are 0.18-0.7m high by 0.16-0.6m wide.

A complex set of stone constructions is appended to Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s north side. Two walls here, 0.35-0.52m tall by 0.5-1m wide, project 1.25m north from the core construction's northwest corner and define an 'S'-shaped set of curves extending 5.7m east-west. Extending 1.2m north from this complex of intersecting arcs is a stone-faced, earth-surfaced terrace that stand 0.5m tall and runs for at least 4.6m east-west. The latter construction may have been raised to create level terrain while slowing erosion down the south-to-north slope over which Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> was raised. A stone floor, measuring 0.8m across and oriented approximately 278 degrees, projects 1.3-1.7m northwest from the building's west side, intersecting Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> 2.05m north of the edifice's southwest corner. Remnants of two additional constructions were found lying north and southwest of the building. In the former direction the remains of a 0.5m-tall basal facing from what was likely a low platform were recorded 0.5m north of the aforementioned northern terrace. This construction is oriented ca. 240 degrees. On the southwest what may be part of a stone floor extends for at least 2.5m south from where it intersects Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest corner.

The primary building material employed in fashioning TS.3 constructions consists of river-rounded cobbles set in a mud mortar. Cut blocks were used to fabricate constructions used to define

Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s eastern entryway (U.10 and 11) while these pieces of masonry also comprised minority elements of U.4, 6, 8, and 22. In general all of the rocks are laid horizontally and the naturally flatter aspects of the cobbles are directed outwards. The one principal exception is U.22. This curved northern wall was fashioned of a mix of cobbles, schist slabs, and cut blocks that seem to have been originally placed vertically.

Time Span 4

Room 6 in the northwest corner of the room complex was now filled with a 0.14m-thick deposit of small cobbles set in a brown soil matrix (U.29). Immediately preceding this in-filling episode, a 0.06m-thick layer of fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-tan soil (F.3) was laid down over Room 6's cobble floor (U.14). Set atop the U.29 fill is a cobble pavement (U.28) that measures 1.1x1.2m. Unit 28 does not conform to Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s general alignment, being oriented 355 degrees, and its west, north, and east corners overlap the tops of U.3, 4, and 16, the foundations bordering Room 6 on the west, north, and east, respectively. Taken together, U.28's alignment and stratigraphic position suggest that it was built very late in Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s history, possibly representing a re-use of the edifice after its abandonment.

Time Span 5

Following TS.4, Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup> was largely covered through the deposition of as much as 0.46m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2 was, in turn, blanketed by 0.06-0.14m of a very similar earth distinguished by its darker brown hue (S.3). Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a dense to moderately dense concentration of rocks that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.4). The rocks comprising F.4 are especially concentrated within Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s boundaries and for a distance of 2m south and west of the building and at least 0.9m to the east. Feature 4's stones are far sparser off Str. 6-1<sup>st</sup>'s north flank.

Structure 23

Structure 23 is 4.6m west of Str. 81 and 7m south of Str. 78 in the midst of a dense concentration of surface-visible constructions in La Sierra's North Cluster. Excavations conducted in Subop. 55D, E, Q, R, U, and Y revealed ca. 84m<sup>2</sup>, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 0.9m and 0.93m beyond and within construction, respectively. What had been mapped as one building based on surface remains was revealed in the course of excavation to be two edifices, a larger construction (Str. 23) and a smaller building immediately to the west (Str. 23A). As Str. 23 and Str. 23A were connected they are described together. Two construction episodes were identified in the course of these investigations that were directed by Brian Kneeland during 1995.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 23-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.3	-	F.1	
3	Str. 23-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.3-20, 22-24	-	F.2	
4	Str. 23-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.21	-	-	
5	-	-	S.3, 4	F.5	

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 23A-Sub1	U.1, 2	-	-	
3	Str. 23A-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.25-33	-	-	
4	Str. 23A-1 <sup>st</sup>	-	-	F.3, 4	
5	-	-	S.3, 4	F.5	

### Time Span 1

The first activities attested to in the vicinity of Str. 23 and Str. 23a were the deposition of two distinct soil layers that appear at roughly the same depths and are associated with TS.2 architecture. One of these, S.1, is a moderately coarse-texture, moderately hard-compacted, red-brown soil that was revealed in the 0.2-0.31m separating U.1 and 3. Only the uppermost 0.12m of S.1 was exposed in this area. Stratum 2, in turn is a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil that was found extending for at least 0.6m west of U.1 under Str.23A. Stratum 2's base was not revealed in the course of our work, only the uppermost 0.09m of this layer being exposed. The top of S.1 on the east is 0.11m above that of S.2 to the west. Unit 1's 2.08m-wide expanse separates these two exposures making it impossible to reconstruct how S.1 and 2 might have been related based on the data in hand.

### Time Span 2

At least two modest constructions were raised during this interval. Str.23A-Sub1 is a 0.2m-high stone-faced and -surfaced platform (U.1) that covers 2.08m on a side and is aligned 355-360 degrees. Unit 1's stone-paved summit is featureless and projects 0.88m east out from under Str. 23A's eastern facing (U.25). Unit 25 obscures what was likely a shift in construction, that portion of U.1 lying east of this later wall being offset 0.25m south of the area exposed west of U.25. A low wall (U.2) extends 0.55m south from beneath Str. 23A's southern basal wall (U.28) and may have intersected U.1's south side about 1.9m west of the platform's southeast corner. We did not remove the relevant portions of U.28 to determine if this had been the case. The comparable stratigraphic positions of U.1 and 2, both covered by TS.3 architecture, strongly imply that these two constructions are roughly contemporary.

Structure 23-2<sup>nd</sup> may also have been erected now. The clearest portion of this construction episode, U.3, is a 0.68m-tall facing that is 0.2-0.3m east of U.1. Unit 3 may have been the west basal wall of a platform that measured at this time 3.6m north-south by 6.44m east-west. The east-west dimension is tentatively inferred from hints of Str.23-2<sup>nd</sup>'s southern facing that are embedded in and enveloped by TS.3 architecture. This line was traced from U.3 east to where it intersected the eastern basal wall (U.7), Str. 23-2<sup>nd</sup>'s putative southern facing stepping in (north) 0.5m at a distance of 4.1m east of the platform's southwest corner. We tentatively infer that the northern and eastern limits of Str. 23-2<sup>nd</sup> were coterminous with U.5 (north) and U.6 and 7 (east). Nothing is known of this construction's superstructure.

By the TS.2's conclusion a small complex of buildings was taking shape in the area that would later be covered by Strs. 23 and 23A. On the west, Str.23A-Sub1 was a 0.2m-high stone-faced and surfaced platform that covered 4.3m<sup>2</sup>, was oriented 355-360 degrees, and did not support an obvious superstructure. The platform's north and south facings apparently did not run straight east-west but

stepped back (south) 0.25m approximately 1m west of the platform's east face. At least one room may have been raised on ground surface south of Str.23A-Sub1. This possibility is suggested by a low stone foundation that was found projecting an estimated 0.7m south from the platform, 1.9m west of Str.23A-Sub1's southeast corner. What little we exposed of Str.23-2<sup>nd</sup>, 0.2-0.3m east of Str.23A-Sub1, suggests that it was a 0.68m-high stone-faced platform that covered 3.6x6.44m and was aligned approximately 356 degrees. This platform's southern facing seems to have stepped back (north) 0.5m at a point 4.1m east of the platform's southwest corner.

All constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned on unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

During this interval Strs.23-1<sup>st</sup> and 23A-1<sup>st</sup> underwent considerable expansions. Structure 23-1<sup>st</sup> on the east was now seemingly focused on a core platform that stood 0.68m tall and was defined on all sides by basal facings (U.3, 16-18) that varied considerably in width. Units 17 and 18 on the north and south, respectively, are 0.3-0.55m across, the latter's southern face stepping out (south) 0.2m at a point 1.5m east of its intersection with U.3. Units 3 and 16 on the west and east are 1.25m and 0.88m wide and may have doubled as wall supports and benches. The platform covers, maximally, 2.63x3.88m while its earthen-floored summit measures 1.75x1.9m (Room 1). A 0.28m-tall shelf measuring 0.2m east-west was built into the west wall (U.3) in the enclosure's northwest corner (included in U.3). This putative construction extends 0.9m south from said corner.

Room 1 was reached by two sets of stone stairs, one on the platform's north side (U.9 and 10) and the other on its south (U.11 and 12). Unit 9, the basal northern riser, is 0.18m high by 0.4m wide and runs flush with Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s northern perimeter wall (U.5). It is succeeded on the south by U.10 which rises 0.2m above U.9's stone tread and extends back (south) 0.81m to the platform's northern wall (U.17). Unit 17, in turn, projects 0.28m above U.10's rock surface. The U.9/10 steps measure 1m east-west and are bounded on the west and east by U.3 and U.5 which stand 0.68 and 0.51m tall. The southern stairs are more difficult to describe as they were poorly preserved. They are fronted on the south by what may have been a relatively narrow, enclosure (Room 2) that is 0.78m wide north-south by 3.1m long east-west, its earthen floor sitting 0.7m below that of Room 1. Room 2 is bordered on the south by a 0.34m-tall by 0.3m-wide stone foundation (U.8) that runs the full east-west length of Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s south side. Unit 11, the basal southern riser, ascends 0.27m above Room 2's floor and runs back 0.8m to where it is succeeded by U.12. The latter stands an estimated 0.32m tall and extends 0.8-1m north to where its tread terminates in Room 1's south wall (U.18; recall that U.18 jogs 0.2m south about half way across U.12's east-west length). A possible third riser (F.2) is tentatively suggested by a stone line lying 0.15m south of U.12. As this entity was not clearly identified as construction pertaining to TS.3, or even as the result of purposeful human action, it is not discussed further here. Units 11 and 12 extend a reconstructed 3m east-west, bounded on the west and east by U.3 and U.13. These walls are 0.68m and 0.36m tall, respectively.

The core platform is bordered on the north and east by a series of compartments (Rooms 3-5) bounded by stone foundations that are 0.25-0.7m tall by 0.45-0.6m wide (U.5-8, 13-15). Room 3, set against the core platform's north wall (U.17), measures 0.7x2m, contains no built-in furniture, and was entered through a 0.45m-wide door in its southeast corner. Room 3's earthen floor is about 0.3m lower than that of Room 1 atop the core platform and so sits roughly 0.4m above ancient ground level. Room

4 borders Room 3 on the east. This space covers 1x1.25m and was surfaced primarily with schist slabs (U.19). Room 4's floor is about 0.3m lower than that found in Room 3 and was reached by ascending a ca. 0.1m-tall stone step-up (U.23) that spans Room 4's south flank. The enclosure is completely open on this side. The U.23 ascent runs 1m west from its intersection with Room 4's eastern perimeter wall (U.6) where it joins with U.22. The latter extends at least 0.8m south and serves as a 0.1m-tall riser that leads to a space covering 1x1.1m from which both Rooms 3 and 4 could be accessed. This 'foyer' was also paved with stones (included in U.19). Room 5 covers at least 1.8x2.45m and was open to the north where it faced directly across the aforementioned foyer towards Rooms 3 and 4. Surfaced with stone (U.20), Room 5 borders the U.11/12 steps and Room 2 on the east. Room 5 may have extended an additional 0.95m northward but the erection of U.21 here during TS.4 obscured this side of the compartment. The floors of Rooms 4 and 5 are at roughly the same level, suggesting that a 0.1m-tall stone step up equivalent to U.22 and 23 may once have bordered the latter compartment on the north and was covered by U.21. The Room 3/5 complex was apparently accessed from the east through a 0.7m-wide doorway that breached the substantial walls (U.6 and 7) which defined Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s east flank (these footings are 0.67-0.7m tall). This entrance is marked by a stone line (U.24) that spans the doorway's east side. There is no evidence that U.24 rose above ground surface; instead, it likely served as a threshold.

By TS.3's conclusion, Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup> measured 6.5m on a side and was aligned 356 degrees. The building centers on a 0.68m-tall core platform the summit of which was reached by staircases on the north and south. Rooms set at heights ranging from 0.1-0.4m above ground surface border that eminence on the north and east. The platform encompasses 2.63m (maximally) north-south by 3.88m east-west. Its earthen-floored summit enclosure (Room 1) measures 3.3m<sup>2</sup>. A 0.28m-high stone-faced and surfaced shelf measuring 0.2m across is built into the western summit wall and runs 0.9m south from the compartment's northwest corner. Room 1's ample east and west perimeter walls are sufficiently wide (1.25m and 0.88m across) to have served as both wall supports and benches. The stairs leading up to Room 1 from the north are 0.18-0.2m high by 0.4-0.81m wide and run 1m east-west. They are bounded on the east and west by stone walls standing 0.51 and 0.68m tall. The poorly preserved southern steps appear to ascend towards the summit from a long, narrow earthen-floored compartment (Room 2) which covers 2.4m<sup>2</sup> and contains no built-in furniture. The stairs which rise to the summit from this enclosure are an estimated 0.27m and 0.32m high, 0.8-1m wide, and extend an inferred 3m long east-west. They are contained within a space covering 2.41-2.61m north-south by 3m east-west that is bounded by walls standing 0.34-0.68m tall. The contiguous three enclosures bordering Str.23-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform on the north and east are delimited by stone foundations measuring 0.25-0.7m high by 0.45-0.6m wide. These spaces cover 1.4m<sup>2</sup> (Room 3), 1.25m<sup>2</sup> (Room 4), and 4.4m<sup>2</sup> (minimally) to 6m<sup>2</sup> (maximally; Room 5). The two eastern compartments (Rooms 4 and 5) are surfaced with stone and set in a north-south line. They were seemingly entered through a 0.7m-wide doorway that pierced Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s eastern perimeter wall. This entrance gave way to a space covering an estimated 1.5x1.9m (2.9m<sup>2</sup>) bordered on the north, west, and, possibly, south by 0.1m-tall stone-faced step-ups to a schist-paved foyer. The latter space measures 1.1m<sup>2</sup> and provided passage to Rooms 3 (to the northwest), 4 (to the north), and probably 5 (on the south). There is no sign that Room 1 atop the core platform was directly reached from these rooms or foyer.

Most of the constructions raised during TS.3 on Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup> were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The floors in Room 4 and the

foyer were, however, made primarily of schist slabs while a few cut blocks were found incorporated in U.5 and 12. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Structure 23A-1<sup>st</sup> immediately to the west also underwent significant growth now. As is the case for its eastern neighbor, Str.23A-1 is anchored by a platform, this once covering 2.3x3.15m and bordered by stone facings (U.25-28) that are 0.29-0.8m tall. Units 25-28 retain a fill (U.33) composed of densely packed stones set in a brown soil matrix. All but the easternmost facing (U.25) are 0.29-0.54m high. Why U.25, which was built directly atop U.1, was so much taller than the other basal walls is unclear; it may have served as a stone backdrop to the summit enclosure (Room 6). The latter space measures 1.35x2.3m and contains no built-in furniture. The platform covers, in all, 2.3x3.15m and is bordered on the west by an earthen-floored compartment raised directly on ground surface (Room 7). Room 7 measures 1.06x3m, is bounded by substantial stone footings that are 0.32-0.47m tall by 0.4-0.6m wide (U.29-31) and contains no built-in furniture. The platform's west basal facing (U.27) closes off the enclosure's east side. A door measuring 0.55m across east-west was built into Room 7's north foundation issuing directly into the compartment's northwest corner. A 0.2m-wide gap in Room 7's southeast corner may have permitted air to ventilate the enclosure's interior but was not wide enough to permit human passage.

Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup> was joined to Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup> by a 0.22m-tall wall (U.32). Unit 32 intersects the eastern facing (U.25) of Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform at a point 0.15m south of that construction's northeast corner. It then runs 1.18m east to join Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.3, 0.45m south of the building's northwest corner. Unit 32 is 0.85m wide north-south.

Structure 23A-1<sup>st</sup>, at the end of TS.3, consisted of two primary elements set in an east-west line. On the east, a stone-and-earth-filled platform measuring 2.3x3.15m and standing 0.29-0.54m high supports one summit enclosure (Room 6). This compartment encompasses 3.1m<sup>2</sup>, contains no built-in furniture, and may have been backed on the east by a stone wall rising ca. 0.3m above Room 6's putative floor level. Bordering the platform immediately to the west is an earthen-floored enclosure (Room 7) built on ground surface and bounded by stone foundations that are 0.32-0.47m tall by 0.4-0.6m wide. The space so defined measures 3.2m<sup>2</sup> and was entered through a 0.55m-wide door in its northwest corner. A gap measuring 0.2m across in Room 7's southeast corner might have facilitated the flow of air into this space's interior. Taking these elements together, Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup> measures 3.99m east-west by 3.15m (on the east) to 3.85m (on the west) north-south and is aligned 360 degrees (the eastern platform) to 352 degrees (the western room). As these measurements imply, Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s overall form is roughly 'T'-shaped, the eastern platform forming the stocky base of the 'T' while the western room extends slightly beyond the platform on the north and south, comprising the 'T's top bar.

A 0.22m-high by 0.85m-wide wall spans the 1.18m separating Strs. 23A-1<sup>st</sup> and 23-1<sup>st</sup>, joining both edifices just south of their respective northeast and northwest corners. It may be that this construction defines the north side of a room delimited on the east and west by Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.3 and Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.25, respectively, and open on the south. This putative enclosure may have extended 2.2m south to a point equal to Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast corner. In that case the compartment would have encompassed 2.6m<sup>2</sup>.

Structure 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s constructions were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles arranged so that their naturally flatter aspects faced outwards. A few pieces of masonry were included in U.25,



29, and 31 while at least one cut block was recorded in the U.33 fill of the eastern platform. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 4

During this span Strs. 23-1<sup>st</sup> and 23A-1<sup>st</sup> retained their basic forms, orientations, and basal dimensions. The major change made to the former edifice came in the form of a 0.58m-high stone wall (U.21) that sits on the U.19 floor and projects 1.9m east from the core platform's east face (U.16). Unit 21 is 1m wide north-south and may have functioned to divide Room 5 on the south from Rooms 3 and 4 to the north. A 0.4m-wide gap between U.21 and the eastern perimeter wall (U.7) may have provided restricted passage from the eastern doorway (passing over the U.24 threshold) to Room 5. The ample girth of U.21 suggests that, in addition to serving this purpose, it was also used as a bench looking south into Room 5. Structure 23-1<sup>st</sup>'s remaining enclosures remained open and unchanged now as were the stairs leading up to the core platform's Room 1.

On the west it appears that Rooms 6 and 7 were filled with dense concentrations of rocks and brown soil at some point(s) during TS.4. Feature 3 completely fills Room 7 while Feature 4 covers the platform summit (Room 6). Though Features 3 and 4 are not clearly products of intentional human action the flat-laid dispositions of their component rocks coupled with the density of these stones hints that they comprise purposefully placed fill.

By the conclusion of TS.4 Str. 23-1<sup>st</sup> remained largely unchanged from TS.3. The primary modification to the building consisted of raising a substantial block of stones, possibly a bench, against the core platform's east face. This 0.58m high by 1m wide by 1.9m long (east-west) construction definitively divided Room 5 on the south from Rooms 3 and 4 to the north, apparently narrowing the entrance to the first of these enclosures to a space measuring 0.4m across in Room 5's northeast corner. During this interval, Room 5 encompassed 4.4m<sup>2</sup> exclusive of the putative bench that marked its northern boundary. Structure 23A-1<sup>st</sup>'s two enclosures (Rooms 6 and 7) were filled with deposits of stones and earth. These additions may have converted the former surface-level compartment (Room 7) into a platform that stood 0.32-0.47m high while the eastern platform's floor was raised ca. 0.26m. It is unclear, however, if Str. 23A-1<sup>st</sup> continued to be occupied now or if these seeming fill units were introduced to terminate formally the building's use.

Unit 21 was fashioned of river cobbles the naturally flatter faces of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar. Similar stones were found in F.3 and 4 though at least one cut block was noted in F.3.

#### Time Span 5

Following the abandonment of Strs. 23-1<sup>st</sup> and 23A-1<sup>st</sup>, as much as 0.42m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil (S.3) was laid down over most of the standing architecture. Stratum 4 was blanketed, in turn, by 0.11-0.22m of a very similar soil (S.4) that was distinguished by its darker brown color. Embedded in S.3 and 4 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.5) that had fallen from final phase construction.

#### Structure 78

Structure 78 is the eastern member of a pair (with Str. 79) of buildings located between Str. 5 on the west and Str. 99 (in Op. 18) on the east. Structure 79 is 1.6m to the west while Str. 99 is 6.5m to the east and Str. 23 lies 7m to the south. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 55C, J, K, O, S, T, X, Z, and AA uncovered ca. 49m<sup>2</sup>, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 1.82m and 0.7m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. One principal construction phase was identified in the course of this work which was directed by Faye Bender.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	
3	-	-	S.4	F.1	
4	-	-	S.3, 4	-	
5	-	-	S.5	F.6	
6	-	-	S.6	F.2,3	
7	Str.78-Sub1	U.1	S.7	-	
8	-	-	S.6	-	
9	Str.78-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.2-7, 17, 21	-	-	
10	Str. 78-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.2, 8-12, 14-15, 20, 22, 23	-	-	
11	Str. 78-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.13, 16, 18-19	-	-	
12	Str.78-1 <sup>st</sup>	-	-	F.4	
13	-	-	S.8-9	F.5	

### Time Span 1

That earliest activity for which we have evidence in Str. 78's vicinity is the seemingly natural deposition of a coarse-textured, very softly compacted, tan sand (S.1). The top-most 0.27m of S.1 was revealed in a deep probe measuring 1x1m and dug south of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> (S.1's base was not uncovered). This soil level dropped 0.06m over 1m from south to north and 0.08m across 1m from east to west.

### Time Span 2

Stratum 1 was blanketed, in turn, by as much as 0.38m of a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil that contains some artifacts (primarily pottery sherds) along with charcoal flecks (S.2). Stratum 2 drops roughly 0.2m over 1m south-to-north.

### Time Span 3

Stratum 2 is largely, but not completely, covered by two distinct deposits. The more extensive of these (F.1) consists of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark gray-to-black ash that contains numerous fragments of pottery and bajareque. Feature 1 was 0.05-0.09m thick where it was seen to blanket S.2 in the south and west walls of the deep probe dug south of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>. It only extends 0.23m along the excavation's east wall where its stratigraphic analogue is a moderately coarse-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan sandy clay (S.4). Stratum 4 was only identified in the east trench facing where it is 0.16m thick, projects 0.68m south from the northern excavation limit, and pinches out 0.09m north of

F.1. The artifacts found in S.4 and F.1, especially the latter, point to a significant human presence in the area when these soils were laid down.

#### Time Span 4

A coarse-textured, soft-compacted, tan soil containing numerous pottery sherds (S.3) covers F.1 by 0.02-0.18m though it does not overlay S.4. Stratum 3 expands in thickness from south-to-north as it overrides F.1's drop off in this direction. The analogous stratigraphic positions of S.3 and 4, both immediately underlying S.5, implies that deposition of the latter may have continued into TS.4.

#### Time Span 5

Covering S.2, 3, 4 and F.1 by 0.06-0.11m is a coarse-textured, soft-compacted, tan sand (S.5). Stratum 5 was found throughout all portions of the 1x1m probe but seems to have been cut through in antiquity in the excavation's southeast corner. Here there is a declivity (F.6) with a 'V'-shaped profile that measures 0.2m across at the top, narrowing to a point by the time its maximum depth of 0.14m is reached. Feature 6 extends from the top of S.5 through underlying S.3 and terminates at the top of F.1. Though this entity's behavioral significance is unclear it may be the tip of a posthole for a structure raised during T.S.6.

#### Time Span 6

Blanketing S.5 by 0.2-0.3m is a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil (S.6) that contains numerous fragments of ceramic vessels. Stratum 6 closely resembles S. 3 laid down during TS.4 and its deposition apparently continued into TS.8. Whereas S.5 provides a clear break between S.3 and 6 there is no comparable marker separating portions of S.6 that accumulated during TS.6 and 8. We estimate the amount of S.6 that was introduced during this interval, therefore, based on the relative position of U.1, the raising of which defines TS.7, within it.

Embedded within S.6, 0.06m above the S.5/6 interface, is a lens (F.2) composed of fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark gray-to-black ash that contains a high density of pottery sherds and bajareque fragments. A 0.02m-thick layer of carbon-rich ash defines F.2's base. Feature 2 is maximally 0.07m thick where it emerges from the north wall of our excavations, pinching out 0.5m to the south. This deposit was only identified in the probe's west wall and did not continue across the trench's east-west width.

Feature 3, in turn, is a (maximally) 0.04m-thick lens of fine-textured, hard-compacted, white ash which includes some dark gray ash and bajareque. This entity was exposed solely in the probe's south wall 0.16m above the S.5/6 interface and runs for 0.4m east-west. Feature 3 drops 0.05m from west-to-east over this distance. Features 2 and 3 appear to be two discrete debris lenses laid down at different times while S.6 was accumulating during TS.6.

#### Time Span 7

The one component of Str. 78-Sub1 that was revealed during our investigations is a stone wall (U.1) that was preserved to a height of 0.26m, measures 0.8-1.2m across, and was traced for a maximum distance of 3.9m at an azimuth of approximately 309 degrees (its southeast and northwest termini were not clearly identified). Unit 1 steps up 0.2m from east-to-west about half way along its exposed length, indicating that the ground on which it was raised was ascending in this direction. The wall also narrows from southeast to northwest, its northeast facing diverging in orientation from its

southwestern counterpart. Whether this variation was part of the original design or an outcome of poor preservation on U.1's northeast flank is unclear. What the construction U.1 was a part of originally looked like is uncertain. The wall seems broader than was necessary to serve as a foundation for perishable upper constructions such as a bajareque wall. It could be, therefore, that U.1 was part of a terrace or free-standing wall or, despite its substantial appearance, a footing for a surface-level building. All of U.1's stones are river cobbles, set in a mud mortar, and with their naturally flatter aspects directed outwards. Based on the orientation of these stones, the formal face of U.1 probably looked southwestward.

At approximately the same depth as U.1's base but beginning roughly 2m south of that construction, is a deposit of fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil (S.7) that is distinguished by the high density of small bajareque fragments found in it. Stratum 7 is 0.08-0.09m thick and is nearly continuous throughout the 1x1m probe in which it was revealed. This soil layer seems, however, to have been pierced over an area measuring 0.2m across north-south; this interruption in S.7's extent was only noted in the west trench wall. No pit was associated with the aforementioned break in S.7's extent though it is possible that, like F.6, such a gap hints at the presence of a posthole dug through S.7, probably during TS.8.

#### Time Span 8

Structure 78-Sub1 was subsequently blanketed by an estimated 0.18m of S.6. Whether this soil (described under TS.6) accumulated by natural means or was introduced purposefully to terminate Str.78-Sub1 and lay the foundation for Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> is unclear.

#### Time Span 9

The first version of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> identified in the course of our work appears to be a surface-level, earthen-floored room bounded by stone foundations (U.2-4, 7). Units 2-4, which border the compartment (Room 1) on all sides save the west, are 0.14-0.2m high by 0.44-0.64m wide. The western footing, U.7, is narrower (0.19m across) but stands 0.34m tall.

The enclosure defined by U.2-4, 7 measures 1.54x1.68m and contains an 'L'-shaped stone wall (U.5, 6). Unit 5, the wall's long eastern arm, is 0.13m high, 0.31m wide, and it extends 1.3m long north-south. The shorter southern leg (U.6) is 0.1m high by 0.39m wide and projects 0.45m west of U.5. Units 5 and 6 likely comprise a shelf that runs north from Room 1's south wall (U.4).

Set against the building's north side are two low stone walls the purposes of which are unclear. One of these, U.21, is 'J'-shaped and intersects U.3's northeast corner, the curved lower part of the 'J' bowing out eastward and extending 0.6m north of U.3 before the straight portion of the figure projects 0.9m to the west. Unit 17 completely covers the north side of U.21, its east side continuing the general curve of U.21's east face before turning to run 1.9m westward. Most likely U.21 predates U.17 though by how long is unclear. Units 17 and 21 are roughly 0.1m high by 0.2-0.4m wide. Units 21 and 17, together with U.3 on the south, form a rough 'U' shape open on the west and measuring across its interior 0.75m north-south by 1.1-1.75m east-west (because of U.21's westward projection, the base [east portion] of the 'U' is not even). The soil contained within this figure is the upper 0.07m of S.6, a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan earth that contains numerous pottery fragments.

By the conclusion of TS.9, the core of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> was a surface-level construction that measured 2.36x2.4m (excluding U.17 and 21) and was aligned roughly 20 degrees. The earthen-floored room at the building's center was bounded by stone foundations standing 0.14-0.34m high and measuring 0.19-0.64m across. This compartment covers 2.6m<sup>2</sup> and contains a 0.13m-tall stone-faced, 'L'-shaped shelf projecting north from its south wall. The shelf's eastern arm is 1.3m long north-south while its southern leg extends 0.45m west of the arm's south end. Both segments of the shelf are 0.31-0.39m wide. An enigmatic, roughly 'J'-shaped construction was set against the building's north face. This complex of walls stands 0.1m tall, its components measuring 0.2-0.4m wide, and has an apsidal eastern end. Together with U.3, these walls define a 'U' open on the west and measuring 0.75m by 1.1-1.75m across its interior. The stones used in TS.9 construction were river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were all set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 10

During this interval Room 1 was filled in with fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil (U.20) essentially identical to S.6. Units 2-4, 7 now functioned as low stone retaining walls that are 0.14-0.2m tall. The U.5/6 shelf was lost to view within the U.20 fill and not seemingly replaced.

Adjoining Room 1 a new enclosure (Room 2) was raised atop the natural ascent backing U.7 to the west. Approximately 0.09m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown earth fill (U.22) was added west of U.7 to elevate slightly, and even out, the area that would comprise Room 2. This space is bounded by U.15 on the north and U.9 on the south. Both of these are substantial walls that stand 0.44-0.52m tall and are 0.64-0.8m wide. Unit 7, which now projected approximately 0.16m above Room 1's newly elevated floor, probably served as a step-up into Room 2 on the west. The latter enclosure covers 1.5x2.05m and was completely open on the west. There are also no obvious obstructions to passage into Room 1 on the east. A 0.2m-high stone-faced shelf (U.14) occupies much of Room 2's center. Unit 14 is 1.1m long east-west by 0.46m wide, its eastern end lying a scant 0.14m west of U.7. The addition of Room 2 resulted, therefore, in the creation of two adjoining compartments set in an east-west line. Their earthen floors are slightly offset, the western compartment sitting 0.16m above its eastern counterpart.

Room 3 is an enclosure the earthen floor of which rests directly on ancient ground surface. This compartment lies immediately south of Room 1 from which it is separated by U.4. The enclosure is open to the south and bounded on the east by a southern addition to U.2 and, on the west, by U.8. The former is 0.2m high by 0.46m wide whereas U.8 is 0.6m tall by 0.4m across. Room 3 contains no built-in furniture and covers 1.05m by (maximally) 1.55m. Immediately bordering this space on the west is Room 4. This diminutive compartment (1.2m<sup>2</sup>) is entered through a 1.2m-wide doorway on the south and is paved with stones (U.11). The sizable stone walls (U.8-10, 12) bordering Room 4 are 0.4-0.6m tall by 0.3-0.7m across. The widest of these footings, the north wall (U.9), is sufficiently ample to have served as both a support for a perishable upper wall and a bench. No other built-in furniture was recorded in Room 4. Room 4's floor is elevated above ancient ground level, standing 0.15m above that surface. The two western rooms in Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>, therefore, were slightly (0.15-0.16m) higher than their eastern neighbors.

The presence of another construction, this one lying 0.32m east of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>, was suggested by the recovery of a 0.5m-high stone wall (U.23) oriented ca. 63 degrees. Most likely U.23 is the northwest

face of a platform though, as we only exposed 1.1m of this facing, we did not ascertain the edifice's full dimensions or form.

By the conclusion of TS.10, Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> measured 4.3x4.4m and was aligned ca. 11-20 degrees (the western portion of the building diverges in orientation from constructions raised on the east). Structure 78-1<sup>st</sup> consists of four compartments, one each of which occupies its northeast (Room 1), northwest (Room 2), southeast (Room 3), and southwest (Room 4) quadrants. The featureless northeast example is floored with earth, is 0.14-0.2m above ground level, and covers 5.7m<sup>2</sup>. Passage to Room 2 on the west was by passing up and over a 0.16m-high stone-faced ascent that gave way to a compartment measuring 3.1m<sup>2</sup>. This space was open on the west and contained a stone-faced and surfaced shelf that stood 0.2m high, was 1.1m long east-west, and was 0.46m wide. Room 3, in turn, adjoins Room 1 on the south, is open on the south, and covers 1.6m<sup>2</sup>. Set directly on ground surface, this compartment contains no built-in furniture. Bordering Room 3 on the west and Room 2 on the south is Room 4. This stone-paved compartment was entered through a 1.2m-wide door on the south, its floor sitting 0.15m above ancient ground level. The foundations bordering Room 4 are substantial, measuring 0.4-0.6m tall by 0.3-0.7m wide. The especially ample northern footing may have doubled as a wall support and bench. Room 4 stands out from other enclosures at Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> in that it could only be accessed from outside the building. A ca. 0.5m-tall stone-faced platform oriented ca. 63 degrees seems to have been raised 0.32m east of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> about now. The size and form of this building remain unknown.

Constructions raised during TS.10 were fashioned primarily of river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. Unit 14, the shelf in Room 2, diverges from this pattern in that it was fashioned completely of faced blocks. One comparable piece of masonry was found embedded in U.8. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 11

Rooms 1, 3, and 4 remained unchanged during this interval. In Room 2, a 0.22-0.24m-tall wall (U.13) now ran the full north-south width of this compartment, overlapping the westernmost 0.3m of the U.14 shelf. Unit 13 is 0.4-0.75m wide, narrowing from south to north, and seems to have formed the western boundary of two earthen-floored cubicles set in a north-south line and separated by the U.14 shelf. The northern compartment covers 0.4x0.9m while its southern counterpart encompasses 0.7x0.9m. These spaces were apparently accessible from Room 1 on the east as there is no evidence that U.7 was raised to seal off this flank. A wall (U.19) standing 0.31m high and measuring 0.2m across now projects 0.85m west from its intersection with Room 4's northwest corner. Unit 19 extends Room 2's formal southern boundary, roughly paralleling and matching the extent of U.15 on the north. Consequently, Room 2 west of U.13 now measures 1.8m by, maximally, 1.5m and remains open on the west.

Other modifications made to Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> during TS.11 were focused on its north flank. Here U.16, a 0.2m-high apparent terrace facing, projects 0.5m north from a point 0.2m east of U.15's west end and runs 3.1m eastward where it terminates without clearly running back to join the main body of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>. Unit 16's east end is 0.15m south of U.17's western terminus, the two constructions overlapping by 0.15m. It is not clear that the U.17 and 21 complex was still visible at this time; most likely it was not. Set against U.16's north face, 0.4m east of that wall's west end, is a large cut block (U.18) measuring

0.76x0.8m. This piece of masonry was fragmented when found, the breaking probably having occurred in situ.

By the end of TS.11, Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> was largely unchanged save for modifications made to Room 2 and part of its north flank. In the former case, what had been one compartment was transformed into three enclosures through the addition of a north-south running wall that overlapped the west end of the compartment's former shelf. East of this wall were two cubicles set in a north-south line; the northern examples measures 0.4m<sup>2</sup> while its southern counterpart encompasses 0.6m<sup>2</sup>. Both of these spaces could apparently be accessed from Room 1 on the east though they might also have been reached from the 2.4m<sup>2</sup> space that now comprised Room 2 on the west. As during TS.10, Room 2 remained open on the west. Fronting Room 2 on the north are the remains of what might have been a 0.2m-high by 0.5m-wide stone-faced terrace that ran for 3.1m east from its junction with Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> northern foundation, 0.2m east of that wall's west end. This putative terrace does not, however, join with Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>'s core on the east. What seems to have been an entry feature made up of a large but broken cut block was set on ground surface against the possible terrace's north side, 0.4m east of the latter's west end. This stone may have formalized passage to Room 2. All constructions raised now, save U.18, were made of river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. As noted, U.18, the putative entry feature, consists of a cut stone block. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 12

There are hints that during this interval at least parts of Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup>'s core construction was buried by a 0.55m-deep deposit of small-to-large cobbles set in a brown soil matrix (F.4). Feature 4 was recorded especially overlying Room 1 where it extended for ca. 0.6m north of U.3, the compartment's northern footing. The behavioral significance of F.4 is unclear. Given the relatively modest nature of the architecture associated with Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> in general, and Room 1 in particular, it seems unlikely that the numerous stones comprising F.4 represent debris tumbled from final-phase architecture. More likely these rocks were purposefully introduced either as fill for a late building effort that was never completed or as part of an effort to terminate formally the edifice's use.

#### Time Span 13

After Str. 78-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, 0.22-0.49m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil (S.8) was deposited by seemingly natural means. This earth covers all but the highest portions of preserved architecture and was mantled, in turn, by 0.12-0.15m of a nearly identical soil that was distinguished by its darker brown color (S.9). Embedded in S.8 and 9 is a variably dense concentration of stones (F.5) that apparently fell from late-phase architecture.

#### Structure 79

Structure 79 is the westernmost member of a pair of buildings situated between Strs. 5 and 6 on the west and Str. 99 (in Op.18) on the east. The eastern member of the dyad, Str. 78, is 1.6m to the east whereas Str. 5 is 5.8m to the west and Str. 99 lies 12m to the east. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 55B, F, I, L, M, and W uncovered ca. 32m<sup>2</sup> and revealed all of Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup>. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.78m and 0.84m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Two distinct building episodes, all included in one major construction phase, were identified in the course of this work which was directed by Elizabeth Laine.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	
3	-	-	S.3	-	
4	-	-	S.4	-	
5	Str. 79-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-6	-	-	
6	Str. 79-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.7-16	-	-	
7	-	-	S.4-6	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup> was the seemingly natural deposition of a fine-grained, moderately soft-compacted, reddish brown sand (S.1). Stratum 1 was exposed to a thickness of 0.06m in a 1x1.15m probe dug northeast of the building (its base was not reached in our excavations).

### Time Span 2

Blanketing S.1 by 0.1-0.11m is a hard-compacted, tan clay with some included sand (S.2). Visible within S.2 are three vertical fissures that reach up from the S.1/2 interface, terminating at the base of the overlying S.3. These channels are 0.02m wide and are as close as 0.04m and as far as 0.54m from each other. Portions of S.1 fill the crevices. The significance of these openings is unclear as are their origins.

### Time Span 3

Stratum 3, a very fine-textured, tan, hard-compacted ashy soil, covers S.2 by 0.15m. As with its predecessors, S.3 runs flat over the 1.15m it was uncovered running northeast-southwest. The crevices described under TS.2 do not penetrate S.3.

### Time Span 4

A fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, tan soil (S.4) was laid down during this interval. As S.4 resumed deposition following Str.79-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment it is difficult to ascertain exactly how much of this soil was deposited prior to construction. Based on the distribution of stones fallen from final-phase construction (F.1), we estimate that roughly 0.11m of S.4 was introduced now. Stratum 4 ascends roughly 0.2m over 8.4m northeast-southwest.

### Time Span 5

Structure 79-1<sup>st</sup> was, during this interval, a surface-level building aligned roughly 310 degrees, covering 2.7x3.85m, and delimited on all sides by substantial stone foundations (U.2-5) that stand 0.64m tall and are 0.30-0.6m wide. It is unclear how the building's interior was entered. There are hints, in the form of breaks in construction, that the edifice may have been accessed through a door set in the northeast wall's (U.3) east corner. Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup>'s interior was divided into two spaces of unequal sizes by U.6. The latter is 0.54m tall and 0.4m wide. The larger, southeastern space (Room 1) covers 1.55x 1.9m (3m<sup>2</sup>) and is surfaced with a stone floor (U.1). Northwest of U.6, earthen-floored Room 2 encompasses



0.7x1.55m (1.1m<sup>2</sup>). No means of entering Room 2 from within or outside Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup> was noted. Neither enclosure contained built-in furniture. All constructions raised now were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles packed round with small chinking stones and set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards.

### Time Span 6

During TS.6 Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup>'s original surface-level building was sealed and filled with earth (U.7), converting this portion of the edifice into a platform that now stood 0.64m tall and supported one earthen-floored summit room that covers 1.55x3m. The U.6 wall may now have projected 0.16m above the newly elevated summit, defining the southeast edge of a bench that measured 1.55m northeast-southwest by 1.1m across northwest-southeast (all labeled U.6) and was set against the summit's northwest wall.

The summit was expanded to the northeast during TS.6. The addition intersects U.3, the northeast platform wall during TS.5, at a point 1.3m northwest of U.3's east corner. This construction extends 0.2m northwest of the platform's north corner, joining U.5 at a point 0.2m southwest of that corner. The summit extension measures 1.73x2.75m, is 0.63m tall, and bounded by stone facings (U.8-10) that contain a fill (U.16) composed of stones set in a brown soil matrix. Two stone steps (U.11-12) project 1.17m from the extension's northeast side. The basal riser (U.11) is 0.18m tall by 0.66m wide and is succeeded by U.12 which rises 0.25m above U.11 and runs back 0.5m southwest to U.9, the final step-up to the extension's summit. Unit 9, which is also the extension's northeast basal facing, stands 0.2m above U.12. The U.11-12 steps join the summit extension at its east corner and run for 1.55m northwest before turning to run back southwest to join U.9.

Unit 13 is a roughly square block of stones that is 0.43m tall, measures 0.6m northwest-southeast, and projects 0.55m northeast of U.9 at the extension's north corner. Unit 13 is 0.6m northwest of the staircase and seems to have abutted U.9. A low wall (U.14) measuring 0.4m across extends 1.9m southeast of the summit extension's southeast side. Unit 14 intersects the extension's southeastern facing (U.10) 1.1m northeast of the latter's junction with the core platform's north wall (U.3) and may have formed the northeast side of an earthen-floored enclosure (Room 3) set on ground surface adjoining the core platform. Room 3, if that is what this space was, is open on the southeast and covers 1.1x1.9m.

What may be a fragment of a surface-level building was found 1m north of the summit extension's north corner. Designated U.15, this entity is a free-standing, low stone block encompassing 0.35x0.55m. What part, if any, it might have played in this putative construction is uncertain.

As TS.6 drew to a close Str.79-1<sup>st</sup> consisted of a core platform bordered on the northeast by an extensive stone extension that rose nearly to the same height as that platform. The building was still aligned approximately 310 degrees though it now encompassed 4x4.4m (excluding the stairs) and stood 0.64m high. The newly elevated earthen-floored summit of the core platform on the southwest covered 4.7m<sup>2</sup> and contained a 0.16m-high stone-faced bench set against its northwest wall. This bench spanned the compartment's full northeast-southwest width (1.55m) and was 1.1m wide. Extending northeast of the platform is a stone-faced extension covering 4.8m<sup>2</sup>, standing 0.63m tall, and ascended on the northeast by two steps. The latter project 1.17m northeast of the extension and consist of stone-faced risers that are 0.18m and 0.25m tall by 0.66m and 0.5m wide. A 0.43m-high stone block that

covers 0.55x0.6m abuts the extension's north corner while a low stone footing measuring 0.4m across extends 1.9m southeast of the extension's southeast basal facing. The latter may have define the northeast side of an earthen-floored room raised on ground surface adjoining the summit extension (on the northwest) and core platform (on the southwest). This space is open on the southeast and encompasses 2m<sup>2</sup>. A remnant of what may have been a surface-level building was found 1m north of Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup>. This took the form of a low stone block that covers 0.35x0.55m and was oriented ca. 110 degrees.

All constructions raised during this period were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles packed round with chinking stones and set in a mud mortar. Two faced blocks were found mixed in with the northeast summit extension's fill (U.16) but none were recorded in final-phase walls or steps. The naturally flatter aspects of the cobbles were generally directed outwards.

Time Span 7

Following Str. 79-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment deposition of S.4 resumed. Roughly 0.1m of this tan soil was laid down now off the edifice's northeast side; there is no sign that more of S.4 accumulated during TS.7 on the southwest. Covering S.4 is a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown soil (S.5) that collected to as much as 0.4m atop its predecessor. Stratum 5, in turn, was blanketed by 0.1-0.17m of a very similar earth distinguished by its darker brown color (S.6). Embedded in upper S.4, S.5 and S.6 is a moderately dense concentration of stones (F.1) that almost certainly tumbled off final-phase architecture.

Structure 81

Structure 81 is 7m southwest of Str.18-Sub1 and 4.6m east of Str. 23. The ground on which this edifice was raised is fairly flat. Investigations conducted within Subop.55AD, AG, AH, AJ, AK, and AL and directed by Brian Kneeland uncovered ca. 45m<sup>2</sup> in the course of revealing the entirety of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.66m outside construction; the edifice's architectural fill was not investigated. One principal building phase marked by a major addition to its east side was identified in the course of this work.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 81-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-6	-	-	
3	Str. 81-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.7-18	-	-	
4	Str. 81-1 <sup>st</sup>	-	-	F.2	
5	-	-	S.2-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The first activity identified in Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>'s environs involved the seemingly natural deposition of a gray-brown, moderately soft-compacted soil that contains few rocks (S.1). As only the uppermost 0.1m of S.1 was uncovered it is unclear if any cultural material was associated exclusively with this depositional episode. Stratum 1 looks to have risen 0.2m over 6m from east to west while running relatively flat across the 10.6m it was exposed north-south.

## Time Span 2

The earliest iteration of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> for which we have clear evidence consisted of a platform bordered on all sides by stone facings (U.1-4) that stood 0.48-0.5m tall and were 0.5-0.7m wide. These basal walls supported a stone-floored (U.6) superstructure that consisted of one enclosure (Room 1) measuring 2.14m by 2.46m. Built against the compartment's eastern wall is a stone-faced bench that stood 0.17m high, was 0.76m wide, and spanned the full 2.46m length of Room 1's north-south dimension.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone faced platform that rose to 0.5m tall, covered 3.74m by 3.4m, and was aligned roughly 357 degrees. The superstructure was made up of one stone-floored room that encompassed 5.3m<sup>2</sup> and contained a 0.17m-high stone-faced bench built against its east wall. That bench was 0.76m wide by 2.46m long north-south. All constructions raised at this time were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. A few schist slabs were included in the U.5 summit bench while the floor fronting that construction on the west (U.6) consisted primarily of faced blocks and schist slabs intermixed with a few cobbles. All of these stones were set in a mud mortar.

## Time Span 3

During this interval a significant addition was made to Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>'s east side while the core platform was apparently unchanged. This annex consists of three rooms built at varying heights above ground surface. The largest enclosure, Room 2, is set on ground surface immediately east of U.4, the core platform's east basal facing. This earthen-floored compartment encompasses 1.3m by 3.9m and is open completely on the south. A stone-faced, 'L'-shaped bench (U.16) is 0.25m tall and is built against Room 2's north wall, extending 0.6m down the enclosure's east side. Unit 16's north arm is 1.3m wide north-south by 1.5m long east west while its much narrower eastern extension measures 0.3m across east-west. Fronting the bench on the east are two stone steps (U.13 and 14). The basal riser, U.13, is 0.27m tall by 0.3m wide and is succeeded on the west by the next ascending riser, U.14. The latter stands 0.3m above U.13 and runs back 0.33m to the west where it ends at U.15. Unit 15 is a wall that stands 0.07m above U.14, is 0.43m wide, and borders the U.16 bench on the east. The U.13/15 complex measures 1.85m north-south, its length coterminous with that of U.16.

Lying immediately south of these steps is Room 3. This space covers 0.85m by 1.05m and is bounded on all sides save the east by stone foundations that stand 0.29-0.53m high and are 0.5m wide (U.9-11). A 0.12m-high stone step-up (U.12) borders Room 3 on the east; the enclosure is otherwise open on this side. Room 3 may have been defined on the north by the U.13/15 steps. If so, then U.11, the lowest of the three bordering walls and the one that is built against the staircase, might have served as a shelf rather than a footing for a perishable upper wall. Unit 11 is 0.85m long east-west.

Room 4 is immediately north of the Room 2 bench (U.16) and occupies an elevated space delimited by stone facings (U.7 and 8) which are 0.42m tall by 0.3-0.48m wide. The dimensions of this earthen-floored compartment are 0.7m by 1.5m and it contains no built-in furniture.

A stone construction (U.17) standing 0.5m high, measuring 1.98m north-south, and at least 0.4m wide was located 1.45m north of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> (the wall's east side was not uncovered). The architectural significance of this substantial, seemingly free-standing wall was not clear. Unit 18, a ca. 0.1m-high

stone wall was revealed 0.35m west of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform near the latter's southwest corner. A scant 0.85m of U.18's full north-south length was exposed and its width was not determined. Both U.17 and 18 are likely parts of surface-level edifices erected near Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> late in the latter's occupation sequence.

As TS.3 drew to a close, Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> covered 5.1m north-south by 5.93m east-west, was oriented ca. 357 degrees, and consisted of a complex of rooms set at different heights. Room 1 atop the 0.5m-high core platform raised in TS.2 still covered 5.3m<sup>2</sup> and contained a stone-faced bench that spanned the full north-south length of compartment along its eastern side (see above for a description of these units). Set at 0.42m high off the core platform's northeast corner is earthen-floored Room 4 which encompasses 1.1m<sup>2</sup> and contains no built-in furniture. Immediately south of Room 4 and raised on ground level is Room 2. This earthen-floored compartment measures 5.1m<sup>2</sup>, is completely open on the south, and has a 0.25m-tall, stone-faced, 'L'-shaped bench built along its northern and part of its eastern sides. The substantial northern portion of the bench is 1.3m wide north-south by 1.5m long east-west whereas the smaller eastern extension projects 0.6m south of the northern segment and is 0.3m wide. Two steps border the bench on the east and lead up in increments of 0.27m and 0.3m to a 0.07m-tall by 0.43m-wide stone wall that delimits the bench on its east side. It appears that Room 2 could have been easily accessed from the south or over these stone stairs leading directly to the bench. Room 3 borders the steps on the south, covers 0.9m<sup>2</sup> and is open on the east over a 0.12m-high stone step-up. A 0.29m-high stone-faced shelf seems to have been built against the aforementioned steps on Room 3's north side. This construction is 0.5m wide north-south by 0.85m long. At least two surface level buildings located immediately north and west of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> were also apparently in use now.

All TS.3 constructions were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. Faced blocks comprise minority components of U.11 and 12 while faced masonry figured prominently in the U.13 and 14 steps, mixed in these cases with a few river cobbles. All of the stones were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 4

There is a moderately dense concentration of flat-laid cobbles set in a gray-brown, medium-coarse-textured soil extending 1.45m north of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup> (F.2). It is unclear if F.2 represents debris fallen from final-phase architecture (a continuation of F.1) or if it was part of a fill unit purposefully placed against at least part of Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>'s north flank. The limits and extent of this putative addition were not clear.

#### Time Span 5

Following Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, the building was largely buried by the deposition of roughly 0.4m of a gray-brown, moderately coarse-textured soil (S.2). Capping S.2 is ca. 0.1m of a very similar earth (S.3) that is distinguished by its greater concentration of modern roots. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of stones that have seemingly tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for at least 2m away from Str. 81-1<sup>st</sup>.