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PVN OP 016 Excavation Report

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Operation 16

Structure 16

Structure 16 is 2.1m west of Str. 16-Sub1 and 4.35m east of Str. 53 in the densely settled North Cluster of La Sierra. The approximately 54m² cleared within Subop. 16D, F, I, J, and M revealed the entirety of this low platform. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.8m and 2.36m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively. These excavations exposed one major construction phase for Str. 16 along with a complex sequence of activities pre-dating the erection of that edifice. Work on Str. 16 was directed by Brett Guizetti from January 31-March 28, 1995.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	MPrecl?, LCLI?
2	-	-	S.2	-	LCLI?
3	-	-	S.3, 4	-	LCLII, III
4	-	-	-	F.1	LCLII, III
5	-	-	-	F.2	LCLII, III
6	-	-	S.4-8	-	LCLII, III
7	-	-	S.4, 9, 10	-	LCLII, III
8	-	-	S.11	-	LCL II, III
9	Str. 16-2nd	U.1	-	F.3	LCLII, III
10	Str. 16-1st	U.2-12	-	-	LCLII, III
	Str. 16-Sub1	U.1-6, 9	-	F.1	
11	Str. 16-1 st	U.13	-	F.4-7	LCLIII, II, EPC
	Str. 16-Sub1	U.7, 8	-	F.2	
12	-	-	S.11-13	F.8	

Note: The units and features associated with Strs. 16 and 16-Sub1 are listed in numerical sequences unique to each building.

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified in the vicinity of Str. 16-1st was the deposition of a tan, soft-compacted, coarse sandy clay (S.1). Stratum was only encountered at the base of excavation in a deep 1x1m probe dug immediately east of Str. 16-1st. Here the layer was found to be at least 0.04m thick (its base was not encountered) and ran 0.73m west-to-east before disappearing into the base of excavation. Stratum 1 seems to have been truncated at this point though there is no sign that this was the result of human intervention.

Time Span 2

A red-brown, loosely consolidated, coarse-textured sand (S.2) covers S.1 by 0.1-0.16m. Stratum 2 extends 0.9m from west-to-east before dropping, like its predecessor, into and beyond the base of excavation. Stratum 2 descends 0.18m over 0.14m west-to-east at its eastern terminus. Strata 1 and 2, therefore, conform to the same pattern of descent in the same place suggesting that whatever forces shaped the slope of the former continued to act on its successor. Again, there is no sign that these processes were instigated by people.

Time Span 3

This interval witnessed the deposition of a fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, brown clays that assume a darker hue with increasing depth. The lower of these levels (S.3) overlies S.2 and is 0.52m to at least 0.68m thick (S.3 continued beyond excavation limits in the area where S.1 and 2 drop down on the east). Stratum 3 descends 0.18m over the depression located east of the S.2 drop. Between 0.25-0.4m of S.4, distinguished by its light tan color, blankets S.3. Both of these layers contain sizable quantities of pottery sherds, some of which are quite large. A lens of coarse-textured, soft-compacted, reddish-tan soil measuring 0.04m thick (at its center) and 0.32m long north-south was identified in S.4. Stratum 3 was encountered only in the deep probe dug off Str. 16-1st's east flank whereas S.4 appeared near the base of our excavation dug near the building's center.

Time Span 4

It was during this period that a pit (F.1) was cut down into S.4 in the area beneath what would become Str. 16-1st. This declivity has steep east and north edges, dropping 0.3m over 0.07m east-west and 0.34m over 0.04m north-to-south. Feature 1's overall dimensions were not revealed in our excavations. A collection of sizable pottery fragments were found lying on the base of F.1.

Time Span 5

Feature 2 consists of material deposited within F.1 that eventually filled in this declivity. The first activity attested to here was the introduction of 0.19-0.3m of moderately coarse-textured, soft-compacted, yellow-tan soil that contains large amounts of ash, charcoal flecks, and

bajareque fragments. This layer drops 0.13m over 0.5m from west-to-east and 0.2m across 0.5m north-to-south. Blanketing the first layer is a 0.03m-thick lens of fine-textured light gray ash that overlies the slope described above. Between 0.02-0.18m of yellow-tan soil indistinguishable from the first material deposited in F.1 covers this ash level, creating a more-or-less level surface for what appears to have been a purposeful construction set within the limits of the F.1 declivity.

The portion of this enigmatic construction (included in F.2) that we uncovered consists of a line of river cobbles that runs at least 0.67m north-south atop which are pieces of burnt earth measuring 0.2m thick. A 0.18m-wide gap in this line was found 0.15m south of the wall's apparent northern terminus. This area is filled with a 0.1m-thick deposit of moderately coarse-textured, soft-compacted, yellow-tan soil that contains large quantities of ash, *bajareque* fragments, and small charcoal pieces. The aforementioned soil extends 0.24m east of the stone line and overlies a 0.06m-thick lens of fine-textured, dark gray ash containing numerous charcoal flecks. This stratum, which ascends 0.1m as it extends out from beneath, and terminates 0.27m east of, the rock-and-burnt-earth construction, forms a rough half circle measuring 0.65m across north-south. A 0.02m-thick lens of fine-textured, light gray ash abuts the stones on the west, sloping down at a rate of 0.1m over 0.2m from north-to-south. A scant 0.02m of light tan ash immediately underlies this lens.

In general, it appears that at the start of TS.5 Feature 1 was partially filled in with trash resulting from activities associated with burning. There is no evidence that any fires were kindled within F.1, the debris likely coming from some place close-by. Subsequently, a spot 0.07-0.11m below the original top of F.1 was seemingly leveled out and a stone foundation measuring at least 0.67m long north-south was put in place on this new surface. A gap measuring 0.18m across was noted in the wall and appears to have been part of the original construction and not the result of erosion and wall-fall. The footing described here might have supported a construction made partly of clay the lower portions of which were burnt at sufficiently high temperatures over significantly long periods to create the deposits of fire-reddened soil found overlying the exposed cobble line. Perhaps the dark gray ash that forms a semi-circle extending, maximally, 0.27m east of the stone construction resulted from these conflagrations. The ash pinches out against what appears to be the stone line's north end while we did not definitively encounter the southern terminus of the footing and ash. This complex of soils and apparent constructions was apparently a facility used to generate high heat, possibly a small kiln.

Time Span 6

Feature 2 was covered by 0.28-0.46m of a moderately hard-compacted, fine-textured, light yellow-tan ashy soil that contains numerous charcoal flecks (S.5). A 0.02-0.04m-thick lens of fine-textured, dark gray ash (S.8) was found within the uppermost 0.06-0.17m of S.5. Stratum 8 trends down 0.17m across 0.84m from west-to-east. Strata 5 and 8 were found only in the area overlying F.2 under the approximate center of Str. 16-1st. In the deep probe excavated east of

that platform S.4 continued to accumulate, eventually reaching a total thickness of 0.51-0.63m. Embedded within this portion of S.4 are several thin lenses, all located within the uppermost 0.25m of that portion of S.4 which was laid down during TS.6. The lower of these deposits (S.6) is a hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark gray ash that is maximally 0.06m thick and drops 0.16m over 0.48m west-to-east. Lying 0.08-0.11m above S.6 is S.7, a lens composed of moderately coarse-textured, soft-compacted, reddish-tan soil. Stratum 7 is, at the most, 0.08m thick and runs relatively flat over the 1m it was exposed running east-west. The prevalence of ash in many of the strata deposited during TS.6, especially in the area of F.2, suggest that the behaviors pursued in the Str. 16-1st area now still involved the lighting of numerous fires.

Time Span 7

East of Str. 16-1st the deposition of S.4 continued, this layer eventually reaching maximum thicknesses of 0.76-0.94m. A 0.05m-thick lens of hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark gray ash was found at the top of S.4 running evenly for 0.73m north-south (included in S.4 here). Stratum 9, a moderately fine-textured, hard-compacted, tan soil with numerous bajareque fragments and charcoal flecks, caps S.5 in the area above F.2. This layer is 0.07-0.1m thick and drops 0.06m over 1m from west-to-east. Stratum 9 is, in turn, blanketed by 0.06-0.08m of a nearly identical soil (S.10) that is distinguished from its predecessor by the much lower concentration of charcoal and burnt earth fragments found within it. Based on the contents of these deposits, it seems that burning continued apace in the environs of what would become Str. 16-1st.

Time Span 8

Approximately 0.2m of a moderately soft-compacted, fine-textured, tan soil (S.11) was laid down east of Str. 16-1st during TS.8. Unfortunately, we did not dig deeply enough off the building's other flanks to find S.11 if it existed in these areas.

Time Span 9

Two possible construction elements of Str. 16-2nd were exposed in different parts of our excavations. Unit 1, a 0.14m-high stone facing oriented roughly 18 degrees, may have defined the eastern flank of this low platform. Though never fully exposed, U.1 is maximally 0.3m across and may have led to Str. 16-2nd's stone-paved summit (F.3). Feature 3 seems to represent the remnants of a 0.05m-thick floor composed of small cobbles laid flat atop a moderately soft-compacted, fine-textured, tan soil indistinguishable from S.11. This earth may be part of Str. 16-2nd's hearth.

In general, Str. 16-2nd seems to have been a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood ca. 0.2m tall, was aligned roughly 18 degrees, and was surfaced with cobbles over at least part of its summit. Unit 1, the building's eastern basal facing, was constructed of cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 10

Structure 16-1st is a stone-faced platform the basal footprint of which forms a “T-shape,” the long cross-piece of which lies on the west and runs roughly north-south while the stem projects to the east. The western portion of the building is delimited by basal walls (U.3, 4, and 12) that stand 0.2-0.36m tall and define an area covering 5.45m north-south by 2.5m (on the south) and 3.2m (on the north) east-west. These facings are 0.4-0.8m thick though the westernmost basal wall (U.12) narrows to 0.25m across over its southernmost 1.55m (stepping in on the wall’s interior, or eastern, side). The reason for this pronounced narrowing is unclear. Units 3 and 4, the western platform’s northern and southern basal facings respectively, step in 0.5m and 0.7m to join with U.6 and 5. The latter are the northern and southern facings of the eastern part of Str. 16-1st and are 0.22-0.28m tall. The platform’s eastern flank is ascended by at least two terraces (U.2) that rise in increments of 0.2m and 0.34m to the summit from east-to-west. The lower of these risers is 0.3m wide and rests directly on U.1, Str. 16-2nd’s east basal wall. We cannot rule out the possibility that U.1 remained exposed during TS.10 and, though its alignment does not match exactly the orientation of Str. 16-1st, U.1 may still have functioned as the basal member of three terraces rising toward the platform’s summit. If U.1 continued in use now, Str. 16-1st’s southeast corner would have been inset 0.3 east-west by 0.55m north-south and the eastern flank of the TS.10 building would have stood 0.74m tall. Overall, Str. 16-1st’s eastern segment measures 2.5x4.4m. The fill (U.11) contained by these facings consists of a dense concentration of small and medium-size cobbles set in a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown earth matrix.

Structure 16-1st’s summit supported a superstructure composed of four earthen-floored rooms of varying sizes demarcated by stone footings (U.7-9) that are 0.15m tall by 0.35-0.4m wide. Two enclosures are set in a north-south line atop the platform’s western portion. The northern example (Room 4) covers 1.6x1.7m whereas its southern neighbor (Room 1) encompasses 1.9x1.95m. A 1.25m-wide doorway connects these compartments. Structure 16-1st’s eastern segment also supports two rooms set in a north-south line. The northern cubicle (Room 3) measures 0.6x1.55m, Room 2 on the south covering 1.5x2.2m. A 0.65m-wide doorway links Rooms 2 and 1 while a passage measuring 0.75m across provides access between Rooms 2 and 3. There is no sign of built-in furniture, such as a bench, in any of these compartments. The terraces that ascend Str. 16-1st’s east side tentatively suggest that the platform was entered from this flank, Room 2 serving as a compartment from which the remaining parts of the superstructure were reached.

Roughly contemporary with Str. 16-1st is Str. 16-Sub1, an edifice that was not readily visible on the surface. This platform is 2.1m east of the former building and is bounded on the west, north, and east by stone facings (U.2, 1, and 4) that are 0.21-0.49m tall by 0.4-0.45m wide (the building’s southwest corner was uncovered but not enough of the southern facing was revealed to determine the nature of construction here). The platform covers 3.3x4.2m and may have been ascended by a 0.08m-high stone step (U.3) that projects 0.5m east from Str. 16-Sub1’s

east flank (U.4). Unit 3 is 1.5m long north-south and we infer that it intersects U.4 an estimated 0.35m north of the construction's southeast corner (the north and south sides of U.3 were not well preserved, making it difficult to ascertain this construction's relationship with the platform).

Structure 16-Sub1's earthen-floored summit was divided at this stage into three compartments organized in a north-south line. These enclosures are bounded by stone footings (U.5 and 6) that are 0.1-0.15m high by 0.4m wide. The central compartment, Room 1, encompasses 0.8x2.35m and contains in its approximate center a cracked faced block (F.1) measuring 0.45x0.54m. Feature 1 may have marked the point of entry into Str. 16-Sub1 as comparable stones have been found in the entryways of other buildings within and outside La Sierra. Flanking Room 1 on the north and south are Rooms 2 and 3 which cover 0.9x2.35m (measured across the center) and 1.05x2.05m, respectively. Room 3 was largely covered by a later addition (U.7, 8), its dimensions during TS.10 being estimated from fragments of the earlier construction still visible after the TS.11 renovations. No built-in features, such as benches, were recorded in Str. 16-Sub1's superstructure. A 1.05m-wide passage provided access between Rooms 1 and 2 while a 0.7m-wide door facilitated movement between Rooms 1 and 3. These entryways are both located at the eastern edges of the aforementioned compartments.

By the conclusion of TS.10, Str. 16-1st and 16-Sub1 were two low, stone-faced platforms located 2.1m apart. Str. 16-1st encompassed approximately 26m², stood 0.2-0.36m on all sides, save the east where three terraces may have ascended 0.74m to the summit, and was aligned roughly 11 degrees. The lower of the three eastern risers is the re-purposed eastern basal facing of Str. 16-2nd (U.1). The platform's earthen-floored superstructure consisted of four rooms set in two, parallel, north-south-running lines and delimited by stone foundations standing 0.15m high by 0.35-0.4m wide. On the west, Rooms 1 and 4 encompassed 3.7m² and 2.7m² whereas their eastern counterparts, Rooms 2 and 3 covered 3.3m² and 0.9m². Room 2, the southeastern compartment, was fronted by the three eastern terraces and likely provided access to the rest of the summit structure. A 0.75m-wide door led north from this enclosure to Room 3 while a passage spanning 0.65m led westward to Room 1. The latter was, in turn, connected to Room 4 in the superstructure's northwest quadrant by a 1.25m-wide door. No benches or other built-in furniture were identified atop Str. 16-1st.

Structure 16-Sub1, 2.1m east of Str. 16-1st, is a platform that stood 0.21-0.49m tall, covered 13.9m², and was oriented ca. 15 degrees. A 0.08m-high stone step located on Str. 16-Sub1's east side may have provided formal access to the summit. This riser extended 0.5m east from the platform and ran 1.5m north-south, intersecting Str. 16-Sub1 at a point 0.35m north of its southeast corner. The building's earthen-floored summit was divided into three diminutive cubicles set in a north-south line and separated by stone footings that were 0.1-0.15m high by 0.4m wide. The central compartment encompassed 1.9m² and was largely filled with a fragmented faced block that measures 0.45x0.54m that was set in the room's earthen floor. The northern and southern rooms measured 2.1m² and 2.2m². No other built-in features were noted atop Str. 16-Sub1. The summit compartments were linked by doorways that are 1.05m (between

the northern and central cubicles) and 0.7m wide (between the central and southern enclosures), these passages being located on the east edge of the superstructure.

The stones used in the construction of facings and foundations on both buildings consisted primarily of unmodified cobbles the flatter aspects of which tended to be directed outwards. Masonry blocks were recorded at the northwest and southwest corners of Str. 16-1st as well as at the northeast corner of U.3, where the platform's western basal wall turns south to join U.6, the north facing of Str. 16st's eastern segment. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 11

During this interval Str. 16-1st remained largely unchanged. The only construction dating to TS.11 here is the addition of U.13, a low, 0.4m-wide stone wall that extends at least 0.5m west of U.12, the platform's western basal facing (U.13's west end was not uncovered). Unit 13 intersects Str. 16-1st at a point 0.9m north of the latter's southwest corner and may be part of a foundation for a surface-level room built against the platform's west side. No other remnants of this putative construction were found.

Several deposits of vessels that had broken *in situ* were recorded on and around Str. 16-1st along with one concentration of burnt earth (F.5). Feature 5, located 0.1-0.2m west of Str. 16-1st's west flank (U.12) and 1.25m south of the platform's northwest corner, consists of two patches of burnt earth located at the base of U.12. The northern of these areas of hard, fire-reddened soil covers 0.14x0.41m. Lying 0.45m to the south is another similarly modified patch, this one measuring 0.34x0.34m. A possible post hole with a diameter of 0.09m is situated within and on the north edge of this piece of burnt earth. Feature 4 is 0.05m west/northwest of Str. 16-1st's northwest corner, 0.95m north of F.5, and resting at an elevation equivalent to U.12's base. This entity consists of the remains of what appears to have been one large ceramic vessel, its rim oriented upwards. The container in question is a jar tghat had an orifice measuring ca. 0.35m in diameter, its debris scattered over an area that encompasses 0.64x0.76m.

Feature 6 encompasses the remains of two apparent jars set immediately inside Room 3 and spanning the passage leading to Room 2. The vessels are 0.06m apart, were broken in place, and cover 0.58x0.59m (western example) and 0.46x0.65m (its eastern compatriot). As was the case with F.4, the F.6 containers had their rims facing upwards though in this case a large rock was found in the middle of each F.6 sherd concentration.

Feature 7 consists of the remains of a prong-and-lid ceramic incensario located among fallen stone debris off Str. 16-1st southeast corner (the junction of U. 2 and 5). This sherd concentration measures 0.4x0.51m. Given its position among tumbled architecture it is likely that the F.7 either fell from its original position atop Str. 16-1st's summit or was deposited after the edifice had started falling into ruin.

Structure 16-1st, by the end of TS.11, retained its original form, orientation, and dimensions though a surface-level room may have been appended to the building's west flank during this interval. The jars located off the platform's west side and in Room 3 point to the importance of storing food or liquid here while the incense burner recovered off its southeast corner may hint at the performance of religious rites on or near the building during or at the conclusion of TS.11. This object may also have simply been stored, and not used, here.

Structure 16-Sub1's basal dimensions and alignment were not significantly modified now. On the summit, however, the southern compartment (Room 3) was largely covered by a stone pavement (U.7) that was laid atop U.6 (the footing separating Rooms 1 and 3) and continued to a point opposite the east edge of U.5 (the foundation between Rooms 1 and 2). Unit 7 covers the entire inner faces of Room 3's south and west sides while extending for 2.45m north along U.4's interior (west side; U.4 is the platform's east basal wall). The north face of U.7 largely consists of an arc that spans 1.8m across its widest point and is 0.75m deep. One consequence of constructing U.7 in this way is that F.1, the cracked faced block found in Room 1, continued to be exposed during TS.11. Built into the south edge of U.7, 0.1-0.2m north of Room 3's south margin and projecting 0.1m above the surrounding pavement, is a box (U.8) delimited by stones set on end; the northern and southern rocks are schist slabs while the eastern and western examples are faced blocks. Unit 8 measures 0.46m on a side (0.29x0.35m across its interior) and contained a 0.03m-thick deposit of burned earth at its exposed base. The bottom of this fire-reddened lens was not definitively encountered. It extends 0.16m south from the box's north side where it abuts the schist slab that demarcates this flank of U.8. The remains of most of a broken ceramic jar comprise F.2, the vessel measuring 0.2m across. This container was apparently wedged into U.8's northwest corner and packed round with dirt; it is not clear that the jar was complete when it was interred. The vessel's top rose to about the same height as the top of U.8.

A complete but fragmented ceramic bowl was found lying face down 0.25m north of Str. 16-Sub1's north flank (U.1). This container covers an area of ca. 0.2m in diameter and apparently broke in situ at a point 0.9m east of Str. 16-Sub1's northwest corner.

Though Str. 16-Sub1's basic form and orientation remained the same, the summit was greatly modified during TS.11. The northernmost superstructure compartment (Room 2) was unmodified. The central enclosure (Room 1) now encompassed 0.8x1.7m (1.4m²) while the southern cubicle (Room 3) was blanketed by a stone pavement. The latter stood ca. 0.1m above the Room 1 floor and was bounded on the north by a curved edge that formed an arch open to that direction. The cracked-and-faced stone block that occupies much of Room 1's floor was still exposed in the area bounded by this concavity. A square feature (U.8) delimited by schist slabs and masonry stones set on end is found on the pavement's south edge. It extends 0.1m above the pavement and encompasses 0.46x0.46m (exterior; 0.29x0.35m on the interior). A small patch of burned earth was found at the base of this box, possibly hinting at its use in activities involving fire. Most of a broken jar, measuring 0.2m across, was seemingly wedged

into the box's northwest corner and packed round with dirt; the vessel's top was roughly equal to the top of U.8. A broken ceramic bowl was found lying upside-down 0.25m north of Str. 16-Sub1.

The stones used in TS.11 construction were largely river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The primary exception is the square construction (U.8) found atop Str. 16-Sub1. Unit 8 was bounded by a schist slab on the north and south and a piece of masonry on the east and west.

Time Span 12

After Strs. 16-1st and 16-Sub1 were abandoned a moderately soft-compacted, fine-textured, tan soil (S.11) started to accumulate to a maximum depth of 0.46m around and between the two edifices. This layer, in turn, was blanketed by 0.26-0.42m of a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured brown soil (S.12) that obscured most of Str. 16-1st's and Str. 16-Sub1's final-phase architecture. Stratum 13, in its turn, overlay S.12 by 0.06-0.18m and was distinguished from the latter by its dark brown color and concentration of roots. Embedded in S.11-13 is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from Str. 16-1st's final-phase architecture (F.8). Feature 8 was traced for 1.55m east of that building; very little architectural debris was recorded from on and around Str. 16-Sub1.

Structure 42

Structure 42 is 37m northeast of Structure 65 (in Op. 13) on the northwestern edge of the dense concentration of buildings that lies north of the La Sierra' site core. The building was investigated by means of a 1m wide trench (Subop. 16A) that was extended for 15.7m north-south across Str. 42's approximate center (15.7m² cleared). Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.78m and 1.44m below ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Three major construction episodes were recognized in the course of this work. Investigation of Str. 42 was pursued from February 17-March 29, 1988 under the overall direction of Julie Miller.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	?
2	-	-	S.2	-	?
3	-	-	S.3	-	LCLII/I?
4	-	-	S.4	F.1, 2	LCLII/I
5	Str.42-3 rd	U.1, 6-8, 15, 16	-	-	LCLII
6	Str. 42-2 nd	U.2, 9, 10,	-	-	LCLII/III

7	Str.42-1 st	12, 14 U.3-5, 11	-	-	LCLIII/II
8	Str.42-1 st	U.13, 14	-	F.3	LCLIII/II
9	-	-	S.5, 6	F.4	

Time Span 1

The first activity recorded in Str. 42's vicinity was the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, tan soil (S.1). Stratum 1 was traced for 1.82m off the edifice's south edge over which distance it rose 0.07m south to north. This stratum was revealed to a maximum depth of 0.37m, its base lying beyond the limits of Subop.16A. Digging was not carried deeply enough beneath and north of Str. 42 to encounter S.1 if it continued across these areas.

Time Span 2

Overlying S.1 is 0.43-0.5m of fine-textured, hard-compacted, dark reddish-brown soil (S.2) that is increasingly mottled with soft white inclusions near its interface with S.1. Stratum 2 was not clearly revealed beneath Str. 42 though it was encountered north of the building where it was uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.38m (its base lying beyond excavation limits here). Based on these discontinuous exposures, S.2 rose 0.39m over 12.6m south to north before dropping gradually 0.11m across an additional 1.97m in that direction.

Time Span 3

Blanketing S.2 by 0.34m beneath TS.5-7 construction is a fine-textured, hard-compacted, dark brown soil (S.3). Stratum 3 rises 0.4m from south to north over the 7.36m it was exposed in two discontinuous segments.

Time Span 4

Approximately 0.15m of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, reddish brown soil (S.4) was laid down over the portion of S.3 revealed beneath Str. 42-1st's summit. Stratum 4 contains a lens of fine-textured, hard-compacted, orange-brown earth (F.1) that appears to be the deteriorated remains of *bajareque*. Feature 1 is maximally 0.08m thick and extends for 1m southeast-northwest, resting directly atop S.3. A layer of wattle-and-daub fragments (F.2) caps S.4 for a distance of 2.07m, disappearing beyond excavation limits on the north and petering out on the south. Together, F.1 and 2 point to the former existence of perishable constructions that were raised below what would become the core of Str. 42 during TS.5-7. It is unclear whether these buildings originally stood here or nearby, F.1 and 2 possibly containing debris deposited from building sites located elsewhere.

Time Span 5

The south basal facing of the Str. 42-3rd platform consists of a 1m-wide wall (U.1) that rises an estimated 0.9m above S.3 (S.4 was not found in this area). Unit 1 is backed on the north by two superimposed earthen fill layers. The basal element (U.16) is composed of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, reddish brown soil that is identical to S.4 which directly underlies the fill. Unit 16 is 0.28m thick and is blanketed by 0.18-0.32m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, red-brown soil (U.15). The earthen-floored summit measures 3.43m south-north and is divided into two enclosures by an east-west-running wall (U.8) that stands 0.29m tall and measures 0.45m across. The 1m-wide segment of the south enclosure that we revealed covers 1.15m across while its northern counterpart is 1.83m wide. A possible door was identified on the east side of U.8 though it was not fully exposed. The summit's north flank is defined by a 1.21m-wide wall (U.7) that stands an estimated 0.33m above the earthen summit floor and 0.7m above the northern terrace. Units 7's great width hints that it may have served as both a support for the superstructure's perishable upper walls and a bench. The platform's northern basal facing (U.6) ascends 0.5m above S.2 and gives way to a 1.8m-wide terrace that runs back south to U.7. Though this terrace, like most of Str. 42, was not well-preserved it looks as though it was paved with stones (included in U.6).

By TS.5's conclusion, Str. 43-3rd was a 0.9-1.2m-tall, stone-faced, earth-filled platform that encompassed 7.44m north-south, and was oriented approximately 96 degrees. The building's earthen-floored summit is divided into two compartments by an east-west-running wall. The southern room is 1.15m wide while the northern enclosure measures 1.83m across. The very wide (1.21m in girth) northern summit wall may have doubled as a bench and support for the superstructure's perishable northern wall. A doorway in the medial wall seemingly provided passage between the two rooms. It is not clear how the summit was accessed; the limited portion of the southern flank that we uncovered rises 0.9m directly to the summit while on the north a 0.5m-high basal riser gives way to a 1.8m-wide stone-surfaced terrace that culminates, in turn, in a 0.7m ascent to the summit. All elements of Str. 42-3rd were poorly preserved. What we could determine of their construction is that they were fashioned primarily from unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. A few faced blocks were incorporated into the southern (outer) facing of U.1. All of these stones were all set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

During this interval Str.42 was expanded 1.44m to the south through the construction of U.2. This wall, which replaced U.1 as the building's southern basal facing, stands 1.14m tall and steps out 0.38m to the south near its base. Unit 2 slopes back 0.24m over its 0.61m ascent above the basal step-out and is backed on the north by a fill made up of a mix of earth and stones (U.10 and 12). Unit 10 is very fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay that blankets underlying S.3 by 0.26-0.32m and covers the basal 0.32m of U.1. Covering U.10 is a dense concentration of small to medium-size river cobbles set in a fine-textured brown clay matrix (U.12). Unit 12 covers the top of U.1 by 0.2m and seems to represent the top of a newly elevated summit floor.

Further north on the summit itself a 0.28-0.32m-thick deposit of moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted, brown soil containing many small pebbles (U.14) was laid over the top of Str. 42-3rd's summit floor (i.e., the top of U.15). This addition buried Str. 42-3rd's medial wall (U.8). That construction was, therefore, replaced with U.9, a 0.6m-wide wall that rose 0.4m above the new summit surface. Unit 9 was set directly on top of U.8 and it appears that the superstructure still consisted of at least two earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line. The northern enclosure measures 1.7m across while the southern compartment was now seemingly open to the south and encompasses 3.25m north-south. The latter space terminates at the south face of U.2. Unit 7, still projecting an estimated 0.05m above the summit floor, may have continued to serve as a bench during TS.6. No changes dating to this span were noted on Str. 42-2nd's north terrace.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 42-2nd was a stone-faced platform that stood 1.14-1.2m tall, measured 8.88m north-south, and was aligned 91-96 degrees. The building's north flank was still ascended by a 0.5m-high by 1.8m-wide stone-surfaced terrace which gave way to a 0.7m-tall wall that defined the summit's north edge. On the south, Str. 42-2nd was still defined by a steep basal wall that rose directly to the summit though this newly constructed unit is 1.44m south of Str. 42-3rd's southern facing (U.1). The summit was raised 0.28-0.32m, the superstructure retaining its earlier form consisting of at least two earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line. The northern compartment measures 1.7m north-south and may still have been bounded by a stone-faced and -surfaced bench on the north. The latter construction was only 0.05m tall at this point. The southern room seems to have been completely open on the south and measured 3.25m across. All TS.6 construction consists of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. In the case of U.2, the flatter faces of the rocks that make up the wall's south edge are oriented outwards.

Time Span 7

During this interval, the platform was extended 1.9m further south while the northern terrace was apparently left untouched. The southern addition was faced by three narrow, stone-faced steps or terraces (U.3-5). Unit 3, the basal riser, is 0.21m tall by 0.17m wide. It gives way to U.4, a 0.24m-tall construction that runs back 0.22m to the south where it terminates in U.5. The latter rises 0.34m, giving way to a poorly preserved terrace that extends 1.76m south to its intersection with U.2, Str. 43-2nd's southern basal facing. The fill backing U.3-5 consists of a dense packing of small to large, flat-laid cobbles set in a brown clay matrix (U.11). Unit 11 rests directly atop S.3. There is no strong evidence that Str. 43-1st's summit was seriously modified during this interval.

At the end of TS.7, Str. 42-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 1.2-1.4m tall, measured 10.78m north-south, and was oriented 91-96 degrees. The building may now have been entered from the south where three low, narrow terraces or steps (0.21-0.34m tall by 0.17-0.22m wide) give way to a terrace that covers 1.76m north-south. Unit 2, Str. 42-2nd's southern basal wall, still rises 0.49m above this terrace and defines the summit's south edge. The

superstructure contains at least two earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line and measuring 3.25m and 1.7m across (the southern and northern compartments, respectively). On the north the 0.5m-high by 1.8m-wide terrace that had bound this flank since TS.5 was still exposed and in use. The majority of the additions made to Str. 42 during TS.7 were made of unmodified river cobbles set in a brown clay matrix. The flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards in U.3-5. Faced blocks were used extensively in the construction of U.3 (the basal southern riser) and at least one of these rocks was incorporated in the next step-up, U.4.

Time Span 8

Additions made to Str. 42-1st were very poorly preserved. Unit 13, a densely packed concentration of small to medium-size cobbles set in a brown clay matrix, covers the northern terrace (U.6) by 0.7m. This apparent fill unit completely buries U.7, the northern summit wall, and extends the full 1.8m width of the northern terrace. There is no sign, however, of a wall that might have retained this fill at the northern edge of the terrace. Perhaps this construction has simply collapsed or it was never completed. Extending for roughly 1.2m north of U.6 is as dense packing of medium to small cobbles, 0.38m thick, set in a brown soil (F.3). Feature 3's stones are fairly flat-laid, suggesting that were part of a purposeful construction. There is, however, no clear wall that might have retained this fill on the north. It may be that F.3 is a late addition to Str. 42-1st that was either very casually fashioned or never completed.

Approximately 0.38m of earthen fill (an upward continuation of U.14 from TS.6) may have been added to Str. 42-1st's summit at this time, leaving only ca. 0.1m of U.9, the medial summit wall, still protruding. While it is possible that the superstructure's northern and southern rooms remained in use their northern and southern margins are no longer clear.

Structure 42-1st retained its orientation from TS.7 though it now stood approximately 1.58-1.78m tall and may have measured 11.98m north-south (if F.3 is included). The northern terrace was covered by a dense concentration of cobbles that obscured to its top what had been the northern summit wall. Feature 3 may have served as a replacement for the basal terrace riser (U.6) that it covers. If that is the case, then the platform's north face was ascended by a 0.38m-high by 1.2m wide terrace that gave way on the south to an ill-defined summit riser ca. 0.7m tall. The addition of 0.38m of earth fill atop Str. 42-1st's summit may not have totally obscured the two rooms found here in TS.5-7. We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that the superstructure now consisted of one extensive earthen-floored enclosure measuring very roughly 8.4m across. The limits of this space remain unclear. Unmodified cobbles are the primarily building materials used in TS.8 constructions though none of the facings were well enough preserved to determine if the flatter faces of these rocks were directed outwards. The stones were all set in a mud mortar,

Time Span 9

After Str. 42-1st's abandonment the building was largely covered by the deposition of a moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted, brown soil (S.5). Stratum 5 accumulated to a maximum observed thickness of 0.59m and was blanketed, in turn by 0.1-0.17m of moderately coarse-textured, soft-compacted, root-rich, dark brown to gray soil (S.6). Embedded in S.5 and 6 is a moderately dense concentration of stones that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.4). Feature 4 was traced for as much as 1.28m from Str. 42-1st.

Structure 44

Structure 44 is 12m north of Str. 55 and 13m northeast of Str. 56 in a dense concentration of surface-visible buildings located north of La Sierra's site core. The approximately 113m² cleared within Subop. 16B, G, H, L, and R exposed most of the edifice, including all of its summit. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.92m and 0.96m below modern ground surface within and outside final-phase architecture, respectively, revealing the existence of at least three major periods of renovation within one overarching construction stage. This work was directed by John Dietler from January 1-March 24, 1995.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	F.1-3	MPrec, LCLI,II
2	-	-	S.2	F.4	LCLII
3	Str. 44-1 st	U.1-11, 36	-	-	LCLII/III
4	Str. 44-1 st	U.12-14, 28, 30-32, 37, 38	-	-	LCLII/III
5	Str. 44-1 st	U.15-27, 33, 34	S.3	-	LCLII/III
6	Str. 44-1 st	U.35	-	-	LCLIII/II
7	Str. 44-1 st	U.29	-	F.5, 6	LCLIII
8	-	-	S4, 5	F.7	-
9	-	-	-	F.8	modern (late 20 th century)

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 44 was the deposition of at least 0.24m of a dark brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted clay containing numerous small, soft white fragments (S.1). The base of S.1 was not encountered in our excavations. Stratum 1 was located in several discontinuous segments throughout the Str. 44 investigations,

rising 0.92m over 9m from south to north before dropping 0.39m across 6.06m further to the north. Structure 44-1st, therefore, seems to have been built atop a low rise that peaks near the center of the building's final version.

Embedded within the upper 0.06m of S.1 are three features. Feature 1 is a patch of earth burnt to an orange color that extends 0.43m north-south and was located underlying U.3 beginning 1.43m south of that wall's north edge. Feature 2 is 0.75m south of F.1 and consists of a 0.02m-thick arc of what seems to be white plaster that runs for 0.43m north-south. It too underlies U.3. Feature 2 bulges up in the middle, rising 0.04m over 0.22m from the north before dropping off on the south. Feature 3 is another thin (0.01m thick) white plaster lens, this time located off the southwest flank of Str. 44-1st. This deposit rests on top of S.1, is 0.3m west of U.17, buried by U.20, and extends for 0.24m east-west. Though the behavioral significance of F.1-3 is unclear, their presence points to human occupation in the area during TS.1.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2 was laid down during this interval. Identical in most ways to underlying S.1, S.2 was distinguished from its predecessor by the paucity of white flecks it contains, those elements being replaced by the minute charcoal flecks scattered throughout it. Stratum 2 was exposed only off Str. 44-1st's southwest flank where it blanketed S.1 by 0.1-0.17m, covered F.3, and sloped up 0.14m over 1.5m west-to-east. This soil level runs under both U.17 and 20, the basal west facing and terrace that delimit a major addition made to Str. 44-1st's south side during TS.5. Resting atop S.2 is a lens of fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, bright orange soil (F.4). Feature 4 achieves a maximum thickness of 0.09m, pinching out beneath the western edge of U.20 and running minimally 0.6m to the west at which point it extends beyond our excavation limits. The distinctive orange shade of F.4 suggests that it consists of burnt soil, though the cause of that conflagration remains unknown. Overall, TS.2 likely represents a continuation of natural and cultural activities from TS.1.

Time Span 3

During this interval the earliest known version of Str. 44-1st was raised. The west, north, and east sides of this edifice are delimited by stone walls that are 0.6-0.75m wide by 0.4-0.47m tall (U.1-3). The junction of U.1 and 2 to form the building's northeast corner was disrupted by recent excavations to lay in a water pipe (F.8) while the northwest corner is inset 0.75m by 0.65m. The south side of Str. 44-1st was at this time apparently left open, creating a space measuring 4.5m across east-west from which the building's interior could be accessed. Thus, during TS.3, Str. 44-1st was a surface-level edifice that apparently looked south towards Str. 55 and 56.

Structure 44-1st's interior was divided into five rooms, two set in an east-west line on the south with three positioned immediately behind them to the north. A 0.5m-tall stone wall runs east-west across the full width of the building's interior and separates these two sets of

enclosures (U.4). Unit 4 is 0.4m wide for its western-most 1.3m, widening to 0.7m across for a distance of 1.5m near the wall's center. The remainder of U.4 to the east is 0.6m across.

The largest of these enclosures is the southwest compartment (Room 1) which covers 1.75x2.9m. A niche measuring 0.25m deep north-south by 0.8m wide east-west is located in Room 1's northwest corner. No bench or other free-standing units were identified in Room 1. As noted above, U.4 is widest near its center where it projects 0.25m into Room 1. It may be that this 1.5m-long portion of U.4 which occupies Room 5's northeast corner served as a bench. Excavations were not carried deep enough in this enclosure to determine the nature of the enclosure's floor.

Room 2 borders Room 1 on the east, the two being separated by a wall that was 0.5m wide by 0.5m high by this point (U.7). The space thus enclosed was surfaced by a pavement composed of tightly packed white schist slabs and cobbles (U.10) that encompasses 1.15x1.5m. A 0.22m-high stone construction (U.11) projects 0.36m south into Room 2 from U.4 which it seemingly abuts. Unit 11 runs for the full 1.15m of the enclosure's north side. A 0.17m-wide gap separates U.7 and 11 in Room 2's northwest corner. This passage is too narrow to have served as a door though it may have allowed for the passage of air through the two enclosures. As with Room 1, Room 2 was seemingly open on the south and could have easily been entered from that side.

Rooms 3, 4, and 5 run in an east-west line behind (north of) Rooms 1 and 2, separated from them by U.4. The northeast enclosure, Room 4, covers 1.15x1.2m and is floored with a mix of schist slabs and cobbles (U.8). The north edge of this compartment was heavily damaged by digging the trench that contained the modern water pipe (F.8). Nevertheless, there are what seem to be the remains of a 0.4m-wide stone shelf (U.36) set against Room 4's north wall. We infer that U.36 extended for the full 1.2m width of the cubicle. Room 5, in Str. 44-1st's northwest corner, measures 1.2x1.65m and was surfaced with schist slabs and cobbles (U.9). No built-in furniture of any sort was noted here. Room 3 is in the middle of the northern line and encompasses 1.25x1.65m. Excavations here did not proceed to a sufficient depth to test for the presence of a formal floor. The walls separating Rooms 3, 4, and 5 from each other are 0.2-0.3m wide and stand an estimated 0.5m tall (U.5 and 6). The western-most of these constructions (U.6) was heavily damaged by activities attendant on laying the aforementioned pipe (F.8), its height apparently having been greatly reduced by these excavations. Unit 6's dimensions are, therefore, reconstructed based on figures available for its better-preserved counterpart on the east (U.5).

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 44-1st was a surface-level edifice measuring 5x6m, open completely on the south, and oriented roughly 24 degrees. The substantial stone foundations bounding this building on the east, north, and west are 0.65-0.7m wide by 0.4-0.47m tall and contain five rooms. These enclosures are arranged in lines running east-west; the southern pair being separated from the three on the north by a 0.4-0.7m-wide by 0.5m-high, stone foundation

that extends the full width of Str. 44-1st's interior. The stone footings that delimit these enclosures on either side of that medial wall are 0.2-0.5m wide by 0.5m tall. The largest compartment (Room 1) is in the southwest corner of Str. 44-1st and covers 5.1m². There is a niche that encompasses 0.2m² in Room 1's northwest corner while a widening of the medial wall to 0.7m for a length of 1.5m immediately east of that niche may have formed a 0.5m-high stone-faced bench set against Room 1's north wall. Stone-faced and -surfaced shelves were noted against the north walls of Rooms 2 (1.7m²) and 4 (1.4m²), the southeast and northeast compartments. The best-preserved of these constructions (in Room 2, the southeast room) stood 0.22m tall by 0.36m wide and ran for the full 1.15m width of the compartment's interior. Its counterpart in the northeast cubicle was an estimated 0.4m wide by 1.2m long. The remaining enclosures covered 2m² (Room 5 on the northwest) and 2.1m² (Room 3 in the center of the northern line) and had no built-in furniture. Rooms 2, 3, and 5 were surfaced with a mix of cobbles and schist slabs while the floors dating to TS.3 in Rooms 1 and 3 were not uncovered. A 0.17m-wide gap in Room 2's northwest corner may have permitted the flow of air between it and Room 1 on the west. Rooms 1 and 2 were easily accessed from the south though no doorways linking them to Rooms 3-5 on the north were encountered nor were passages leading from the latter compartments to areas beyond the building noted.

All formal floors dating to TS.3 were made of tightly packed schist slabs and cobbles. The foundations associated with Str. 44-1st at this time were fashioned primarily of cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. Faced masonry blocks were mixed with river worn stones in the raising of U.7, the foundation separating Rooms 1 and 2. Fewer such stones appeared in U.2, 4, 5, and 6. All rocks, whether in walls or floors, were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During this interval Str. 44-1st was converted from a surface-level structure to a stone-faced, earth-filled platform. The first step in this process was the laying down of 0.04-0.14m of a tan, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil (U.37) that underlies what was to become Str. 44-1st's south basal facing (U.12). Unit 38 rests atop U.10 (Room 2's floor) and fills that cubicle to an estimated depth of 0.5m (the original height of U.7). Unit 7 was raised 0.42m during TS.4 and was extended 0.53m north to intersect U.4, the structure's medial wall. Unit 7, therefore, continued to divide the newly elevated Rooms 1 and 2 from each other.

Unit 12 rises 0.6m above U.38, is 0.7m wide, and seals off Str. 44-1st's south flank. This new construction abuts U.1 (the east basal facing) and runs behind (south of) U.7. The relationship between U.12 and 3 (the west basal wall) is unclear; the former may run over the south end of the latter.

There is no evidence that Rooms 4 and 5 were modified during TS.4 and they may well have been left open, resting at ancient ground level. Room 3, the central of the three northern

compartments, was apparently filled with soil (U.38) though we did not dig through this fill. The earthen-floored cubicle now stood ca. 0.3m above the still-exposed stone floors of Rooms 4 and 5. The poor state of preservation of U.5 and 6, the walls separating Rooms 3-5 from each other, makes it hard to determine if they were raised during this interval as was U.7 on the south. At present, all we can say is that there is no sign of such renovations.

Structure 44-1st was now entered from the north. This point of access is marked by the construction of U.14, a 0.3m-high stone-faced step (U.14) that runs 1.9m east-west and projects 0.7m north from U.2, the north perimeter wall. Unit 14 is 2.2m west of the platform's estimated northeast corner (the latter portion of the building was heavily damaged during the laying of a modern pipe [F.8]), and is located directly in front of Room 3.

Unit 4, the east-west running medial wall, now stood ca. 0.3m above the elevated earthen floor of Room 3 and remains 0.7m wide. This construction was, in turn, backed by a ca.0.15m-high by 0.2m wide stone step (U.30) that led to the stone pavement (U.31) that now graced Room 1. Unit 31 is made of pink-colored schist slabs. A fragment of a cobble floor (U.32) was found lying ca. 0.35m under U.31. It is unclear if U.32 was an earlier version of U.31 or part of a foundation for that surface. Unfortunately, both U.31 and 32 were moderately disrupted prior to excavation and we were not able to discern their relationships clearly.

A wall measuring 0.5m high by 0.4m wide (U.13) was added on the west margin of Room 1 during this interval. Unit 13 stands 0.3m above, and is set on the east side of, U.3 (the western basal facing) and abuts U.12 on the south and U.4 on the north. It may be that this construction was added to increase the height of U.3, containing fill that buried the earlier version of Room 1. In any event, Room 1 was now bordered on the west by two stone-faced ascents; the first being 0.32m high by 0.7m wide (U.3) and the second ascending riser standing 0.3m tall and measuring 0.4m across. No comparable terracing was noted elsewhere on Str. 44-1st during TS.4.

A stone "box" (U.28) was raised against Str. 44-1st's south flank, 0.3m west of the platform's southeast corner. Unit 28 consists of three walls made of schist slabs and cobbles (U.12 forms the construction's north side) and stands ca. 0.3m high, is 0.8m wide, and projects 0.6m south from U.12. The construction's walls are 0.2-0.3m thick and define a rectangular central space that encompasses 0.25x0.4m. This core was filled with earth when investigated.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 44-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.9m tall on the south (its maximum height), covered 5.7x6m, and retained its earlier orientation of 24 degrees. The edifice was now entered from the north over a series of four stone faced steps. The first (lowest) of these is a 0.3m-high riser that is 1.9m wide east-west and projects 0.7m north from the north basal facing. This step is succeeded by the upper 0.15m of the north basal facing which then leads directly to Room 3 which now apparently served as an earthen-floored passage leading to the summit. Rooms 4 and 5 continue to flank Room 3 on the east and west,

respectively, rest on ground level, and are unchanged from TS.3. Room 3, in turn, leads to the original medial wall the top of which in its central portion served as a 0.3m-high by 0.7m-wide step. This ascent is succeeded by a 0.15m-high by 0.2m-wide stone riser that issues into Room 1. The bulk of the latter enclosure is surfaced with pink schist slabs and covers 3.8m². The niche in the compartment's northwest corner now encompasses 0.3m². Any evidence of built-in furniture is lacking from this version of Room 1. Room 2 lying immediately east of Room 1 retained its earlier dimensions but was filled with soil, its earthen floor being at about the same level as that of its western neighbor. A ca. 0.3m-high rectangular construction was appended to Str. 44-1st's south flank late in the interval. Lying 0.3m west of the platform's southeast corner, this unit measures 0.8x0.6m and contained a central cavity that covers 0.1m².

Str. 44-1st was, therefore, built on several levels. The southern two rooms set in an east-west line are at the summit and are reached by passing over a series of four stone steps and one broad earthen landing measuring 1.25m wide by 1.65m long north-south. This central passage is, in turn, bordered to the east and west by stone-paved enclosures that are set at ground level. All facings and walls raised during TS.4 are fashioned primarily of cobbles placed so that their flatter faces look outwards. As was the case during TS.3, the addition made to U.7 now continued to employ numerous faced blocks mixed in with a few cobbles. Elsewhere a few pieces of masonry are reported in U.12, the south basal facing, but are absent in the other walls. Some schist slabs were used to construct the southern "box" built off the platform's south flank while this material was used extensively in creating Room 1's floor. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Time Span 5 witnessed the addition of an extensive platform set against Str. 44-1st's south flank. This construction is an estimated 1.22m tall on the south and ca. 0.5m high on the east and west, this discrepancy due in part to the natural rise in the land from south-to-north. The addition is bounded by stone facings (U.15-19) that abut U.12, 0.5m east of Str. 44-1st's core platform's southwest corner and 1.5m west of that building's southeast corner. A rectangular space covering 0.25m north-south by 0.5m east west is enclosed by U.12, 15, and 16 on the north, east, and south, respectively. This area is sealed on the west by a low stone wall, U.34. The significance of this construction set between elements of TS.4 and 5 architecture is unclear.

Units 15-19 retain a fill (U.33) composed primarily of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil that contains variable quantities and densities of small to medium-size cobbles. The addition is fronted on the west and south by stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces (U.20 and 21, respectively) that are 0.58m high by 0.66m wide (south) and 0.14m tall by 0.92m across (west).

The earthen-floored summit of Str. 44-1st's TS.5-extension supports a series of stone foundations (U.22-25) that are 0.2-0.45m wide by 0.1-0.25m high. Units 22, 24, and 25 together

define a featureless space (Room 6) measuring 2.2m² and entered through a 0.5m-wide door in its west wall. The northern portion of this cubicle is larger than its southern section (1.3x1.3m as opposed to 0.6x0.9m). Unit 23 projects 1.2m west of the summit room's west wall, 0.25m north of the doorway. This latter foundation may have functioned to divide the remainder of the summit into two relatively extensive compartments set in a north-south line. The southern example (Room 7) encompasses 2x3.7m. Its northern counterpart (Room 8) consists of two offset portions; the southwest element covers 0.8x1.3m while its northeast analogue measures 1x2.8m. Most of the latter section is covered by pavement (U.27) composed of schist slabs and cobbles that encompasses 0.85x1.4m (as measured across its center). Unit 27 has a curved, western edge while its southern and western margins are set against U.25 and 19, respectively. Set in this floor at a point 0.2m east of its west edge and against the U.25 footing on the south is a post-hole (U.26) with a diameter of 0.6m.

Apparently associated with the use of the southern addition is a brown, soft-compacted, sandy soil that contains numerous artifacts, especially pottery sherds (S.3). Stratum 3 was revealed in a deep probe dug off Str. 44-1st's south flank, 2.43m beyond U.21, the southern-most terrace. We did not link S.3 directly with any of the exposed construction. This layer's stratigraphic position, equivalent with U.21's base, leads us to suspect that the cultural debris S.3 contains was jettisoned from Str. 44-1st during TS.5.

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 44-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.5m (on the north) to 1.22m high (on the south), encompassed 6x11.2m (measured across the building's approximate center), and was oriented roughly 24 degrees. The northern half of the edifice remains unchanged from TS.4. The primary modification consisted of adding a 0.5-1.22m-high, earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform south of the earlier construction. This annex is composed of a core platform that covers 4.65x6.15m and is fronted on the west and south by stone-faced, earth-floored terraces that are 0.14m high by 0.92m across (west) and 0.58 tall by 0.66m wide (south). The addition's earthen-floored summit encompasses 17.1m² and is divided among three compartments divided by stone footings that are 0.1-0.25m high by 0.2-0.45m across. The smallest of these enclosures (Room 6) occupies the summit's southeast corner and measures 2.2m². The largest compartment (Room 7) lies immediately to the west and encompasses 7.4m² while Room 8 to the north covers 3.8m² and is bordered by U.12 on the north. A 2m-wide door provides passage between Room's 7 and 8 whereas Room 6 is entered from Room 7 through a 0.5m-wide door in its west wall. The only built-in features found in Rooms 6-8 is a stone pavement that covers approximately 1m² in the eastern portion of Room 8. A posthole (U.26) measuring 0.6m in diameter pierced this floor. An inset delimited by Str. 44-1st's basal facings and a low stone wall was noted at the addition's western junction with U.12. This formally defined space measures 0.25x0.5m and is in line with the stone "box" (U.28) located 0.45m east of the addition's junction with the TS.4 platform. Unit 28 also abuts U.12 and encompasses a space covering 0.25x0.4m. These may have been supports for posts that

supported the roof covering the TS.4 superstructure, its eaves extending south to shelter at least the northern part of the addition. If so, the U.26 may have supported yet another pole in this line.

All of the facings and footings raised in TS.5 were fashioned primarily of cobbles though a cut block was found at the base of the southern addition's southeast and southwest corners. In general, the river-worn stones employed in TS.5 constructions had their flatter aspects directed outwards. This care was not as clearly evident in the summit foundations (U.22-25) the construction of which seemed more casual than was evident elsewhere on Str. 44-1st. The one stone floor dated to this interval (U.27) was made using a mix of schist slabs and cobbles. All of these stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

The only construction dated to this interval is U.35, a ca. 0.3m-high by 0.8m-wide stone facing that projects 0.66m south from U.18 and continues the line of the south addition's southern terrace (U.21) for at least 2.2m to the east (we are not sure that we uncovered U.35's east end). The architectural significance of U.35 is unclear. We did not clear enough of the area east of the southern addition to determine if U.35 fronted an eastward expansion of that TS.5 annex or was part of yet another construction in that area. Unit 35 was made of river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

During this interval Str. 44-1st's south and north faces were blanketed by a dense deposit of flat-laid, small to medium-sized cobbles set in a brown earth (F.5 on the south and F.6 on the north). Feature 5 is maximally 0.81m deep and extends for 1.24m south of U.21 (the southernmost Str. 44-1st terrace) whereas F.6 is about 0.5m deep and covers the TS.4 platform. It does not appear that the summit of the southern addition which was raised during TS.5 was covered and it may have remained exposed now.

It is unclear whether F.5 and 6 were introduced as fill for a late renovation project that was never completed or as part of an effort to terminate formally the use of Str. 44-1st. We did not clear enough of Str. 44-1st's east and west sides to determine if comparable stone levels were found on these flanks.

Also possibly raised during TS.7 was a 0.3m-high by 0.5m-wide stone wall that is oriented ca. 291 degrees (U.29). Unit 29 lies 0.2m north of U.12 and overlaps and extends across the full width of U.3 (the TS.4 platform's west basal facing). The wall continues 0.55m west of that construction beyond the limits of the platform. This wall seems to have been raised after Str. 44-1st was abandoned and after soil deposition had been proceeding for some time west of the platform. It may be that U.29 was part of a foundation for a surface-level building erected long after Str. 44-1st ceased being used. Unit 29 was fashioned of river cobbles and one roughly

faced block. The stones were not consistently placed with their flatter aspects directed outwards and the construction in general appears to have been quite casual.

Time Span 8

After prehistoric activity ceased in Str. 44-1st's environs a brown, moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil (S.4) accumulated to a maximum recorded depth of 0.56m above S.3. This layer was, in turn, covered by 0.09-0.16m of a very similar soil (S.5) that is distinguished from its predecessor by its darker brown color and much denser concentration of roots. Embedded within S.4 and 5 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.7) that likely were dislodged from final-phase architecture and from F.5 and 6 that cover much of Str. 44-1st.

Time Span 9

Excavation for the laying of a water pipe preceded our investigations of Str. 44-1st by, at most, a few years. Evidence of this activity (all glossed as F.8) included the tell-tale pipe itself (0.12m in diameter) found at the bottom of a trench 0.72m below modern ground surface. The trench measures 1.07m across at the top, narrowing to 0.28m wide where the pipe was encountered, and it cuts a swathe from Str. 44-1st's northeast corner, continuing across the northern part of the building, and exiting near the southwest corner of Room 5. The soil filling the trench is a mix of S.4 and 5 together with small to large cobbles that were likely dislodged from various components of Str. 44-1st and F.6.

Structure 46

Structure 46 is located 4m east of Str. 42 and 20m northeast of Str. 45 in the densely settled segment of La Sierra lying north of the center's site core. Approximately 68m² was excavated in the course of clearing roughly two-thirds of the building. These investigations were conducted within Subop. 16C, N, and Q from January 30-March 22, 1995 under the direction of Garrett Silliman. Digging reached a maximum depth of 0.8m below modern ground surface outside construction. Structure 46 was very poorly preserved and we concluded that it would not be fruitful to pursue investigations of the building's history by digging into construction fill. Consequently, we only identified one major construction episode in the course of this work.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	LCLI, II/III
2	Str. 46-1 st	U.1-6, 9-20, 22	-	-	LCLII/III

3	Str. 46-1 st	U.7, 8, 21, 23-25	-	-	LCLIII/II
4	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	LCLIII/II
5	-	-	S.3	F.2	

Time Span 1

At least 0.38m of a moderately fine-textured, light brown soil (S.1) was laid down prior to the erection of Str. 46-1st. Stratum 1's base was not encountered in our excavations. As this material resumed deposition following Str. 46-1st's abandonment, it is difficult to infer how much of S.1 was introduced during TS.1.

Time Span 2

Structure 46-1st is a platform delimited by stone facings (U.2, 6, 11, 12, and 14) that stand 0.2-0.35m high. The edifice's west basal wall (U.12) runs 3.7m south from Str. 46-1st's northwest corner before stepping out 0.5m to the west and continuing the remaining 5.35m to the southwest corner. The south basal facings (U.6 and 14) extend 3.6m east from the platform's southwestern corner before stepping in 0.7m to the north (this eastern segment is designated U.14). The remainder of the facing (U.6) changes direction slightly en route to the southeast corner though whether this was part of the builders' plan or the result of erosion is unclear.

The remnants of what may have been a 0.45m-high terrace (U.22) was located 0.2m west of and above U.11, the platform's eastern basal facing. Unit 22 was traced for only 0.88m and we are not sure if this riser continues for the building's full north-south length. Structure 46-1st's north basal wall (U.2) rises 0.54m and is fronted by a 0.24m-high stone step (U.1) that projects 0.41m north from U.2 and runs for 2.6m east-west. Unit 1 is located slightly west of Str. 46-1st's center, situated 1.85m east of the platform's northwest corner and an estimated 2.9m west of the northeast corner (as the latter corner was not cleared its position is inferred). Unit 2 projects 0.3m above U.1 and leads directly to what seems to have been an extensive open space on the building's northern summit.

The superstructure consists of at least six earthen-floored rooms delimited by stone foundations (U.15-20) that are 0.3-0.7m wide and 0.26-0.35m tall. The largest of the uncovered enclosures (Room 1) measures 2.3x5m and faces north over the U.1 step. This construction is open on the north and west and contains no known built-in features such as benches. Rooms 2 and 3 border this extensive northern compartment on the west. They are set in a north-south line and cover, from north-to-south, 1.4x2.4m (Room 2) and 1.1x1.3m (Room 3). Both compartments are open on the west where they overlook the western basal facing (U.12) while Room 2 is also unobstructed by construction on the north. Passage between Rooms 1 and 2 is through a 1.1m-wide doorway in Room 1's northwest corner.

Room 4, which backs Room 1 on the south, was not completely cleared. Based on the portions of it that were uncovered, this compartment encompasses 1.8x5.1m and contains two stone-faced benches set at right angles to each other (U.4 and 5). Unit 4, which fills the entire north end of Room 4, stands 0.56m tall, measures 1.6m across, and runs for an estimated 1.75m east-west (we did not clear the entirety of U.4's east-west extent). Unit 5 is 0.18m south of U.4, stands 0.5m tall, and is 2.14m long north-south. As only U.5's west face was exposed we do not know its full width.

Room 6 immediately adjoins Room 4 on the west and is directly south of Room 3. This space measures 1x2.2m and was entered from Room 1 on the north through a 0.9m-wide by 2m-long corridor bounded by Room 4 on the east and Rooms 2 and 3 on the west. A 0.35m-high stone step (U.9) marks the threshold over which those passing through the corridor entered Room 6.

Room 5, lying immediately south of Room 6, occupies the summit's southwest corner and encompasses 1.3x2.7m. This compartment is open on the west where it is bounded by U.12, the platform's west basal wall, and looks east through a 0.5m-wide doorway into Room 4's southwest corner.

By TS.2's conclusion Str. 46-1st was a stone-faced platform that measured 7.7x8.3m (across its center and not including the U.1 step), stood maximally 0.65m tall (higher on the north and east than on the south and west), and was aligned ca. 10 degrees. The earthen-floored superstructure was apparently accessed from the north by traversing a 0.24m-high stone step that projects 0.41m north of the platform slightly west of Str. 46-1st's center-line. Room 1, measuring 11.5m², overlooks this step and may have served as a reception area. Located immediately to the west are two smaller cubicles (Rooms 2 and 3) set in a north-south line and encompassing 3.4m² and 1.4m². Two additional compartments (Rooms 5 and 6) lie south of Rooms 2 and 3 and cover 2.2m² and 3.5m². None of these five enclosures contains built-in features such as benches. Room 4 to the east of Rooms 2, 3, 5, and 6 and south of Room 1 covers an estimated 9.2m² and contains two stone-faced benches that are 0.5-0.56m high and run perpendicular to each other. One occupies the northern portion of the compartment and covers 1.6x1.75m while its compatriot 0.18m to the south is 0.5m high by 2.14m long north-south. Additional rooms may have been located in the unexcavated eastern portion of the summit though the space here (measuring 1.9m across east of Room 4) is limited.

All of the facings and footings raised during TS.2 are fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Isolated faced blocks were found intermixed with these river-rounded stones in U.1 (the north step), 6 (the southern basal facing), 15, and 16 (the last two are foundations for the superstructure's perishable upper walls).

Time Span 3

During this interval Str. 46-1st's core platform remained relatively untouched, new construction being added around its perimeter. What may have been a small earthen-floored room covering 0.8x1.25m was appended to the platform's south flank. This cubicle is bounded by stone foundations (U.7, 23, and 24) that are 0.2-0.3m wide and 0.18m high. A stone line (U.21) extends east-west across the compartment's interior and lies 0.3m north of the room's southern margin. Though flush with the floor level when found, U.21 may be the remnants of a shelf that would have covered 0.8x0.85m.

Unit 25 is a stone pavement which is 1.2m wide and extends north from Str. 46-1st for at least 1.2m (its northern terminus was not uncovered). This construction immediately borders the U.1 step on the west and intersects U.2 (the north basal facing) 0.6m east of the platform's northwest corner. The architectural significance of U.25 is difficult to discern; it may be part of a construction that links Str. 46-1st to constructions lying to the north.

Unit 8 is a 0.14m-high by 0.65-1.05m wide stone wall that is located 1.95-3m south of Str. 46-1st. This construction narrows from southeast to northwest over the 1m of its length that was exposed and runs at an orientation of very approximately 322 degrees. Most likely U.8 is a foundation defining one side of a surface-level building raised south of Str. 46-1st.

Structure 46-1st's core platform was unmodified during TS.3. The primary changes involved the addition of: a small (1m²) earthen-floored room set against the platform's south basal wall (U.6); a 1.2m-wide stone pavement running at 1.2m north of Str. 46-1st's north face; and, the erection of an earthen-floored surface-level building 1.95-3m south of the core building. The diminutive southern room likely contains a low shelf covering 0.7m². All of these constructions were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Isolated cut blocks were included in the exposed portions of U.7, 23, and 24, the footings delimiting the southern room; one faced stone was found in each of these three constructions.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 46-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.3 resumed, this soil eventually covering the lower portions of all basal architecture. Blanketing S.3 by ca. 0.48m is a moderately coarse-textured, brown soil (S.2). Embedded in the upper 0.3m of S.2, at a point 0.7m north of and the U.1 step, is a dense concentration of cultural debris (7,300 artifacts/m³) designated here as F.1. This concentration of material may be part of the trash jettisoned over what had been Str. 46-1st's primary entrance when the building was no longer in use.

Time Span 5

Stratum 2 was covered by 0.06-0.19m of dark brown root-rich soil (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks that almost certainly fell from Str. 46-1st's final-phase architecture (F.2). Feature 2 was traced for as much as 1.8m from the platform and

was found mixed with and underlying F.1. This distribution of tumbled rocks tentatively implies that Str. 46-1st was already well along in the process of decay when F.1 was introduced.

Structures 52 and 53 (see Andrew Kindon's Honors Thesis)