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## PVN OP 386 Excavation Report

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**Note:** The results of excavations conducted in Groups I and II at Site 386 are reported in detail within the honors theses of Matthew Turek and Lyman Armstrong.

**Site 386, Group III**

**Structure 386-11**

Structure 386-11 borders the southern side of the Group III plaza. It is 2.5m southeast of Str. 386-22 and 6.5m south, across the patio, from Str. 386-23. Excavations here, conducted within Subop. 386Q, cleared 17m<sup>2</sup> and reached a maximum depth of 0.44m below modern ground surface outside construction. One major building phase was recognized in the course of this work which was directed by K. Avalos.

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	Str. 386-11-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-4	-	-	LCLIII
3	-	-	S.2, 3	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The first activity identified in Str. 386-11’s immediate vicinity was the deposition of at least 0.28m of a reddish soil containing numerous rock inclusions (S.1; S.1’s base was not encountered in our excavations). Stratum 1’s upper surface defines a gently undulating surface, descending 0.12m over 2.53m south-to-north before rising 0.21m across 2m in the same direction. Stratum 1 was not revealed where it underlay Str. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> but it apparently declines 0.25m over 4m from south-to-north beneath that edifice. For the 3.4m excavated north of Str. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup>, S.1 maintains a relatively even upper surface. The uncovered architecture dating to TS.2 is set into and rises above S.1, suggesting that this reddish soil constituted the ground surface exposed during the edifice’s construction and use. The absence of artifacts retrieved from this layer implies that there was no significant human occupation in the area while S.1 was being laid down.

Time Span 2

The northern and southern basal walls of Str. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> were revealed within Subop. 386Q (U.2 and 1). These facings stand 0.22-0.28m high and bound an earthen-floored summit that covers 3.6m north-south. Located atop the platform’s summit at a

point 0.66m south of the north face of the northern basal wall (U.2) is a stone wall (U.3) that stands an estimated 0.3m tall and runs for at least 1.25m to the south (U.3's southern terminus was not identified). Unit 4 runs for at least 0.6m east of its intersection with U.3's northern terminus. Unit 4's east end was not identified in our excavations.

Overall, Str. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> was, by the end of TS.2, a stone-faced platform that stood about 0.25m tall, measured 4.02m north-south by 3.75m east-west, and was oriented ca. 85 degrees. The summit encompasses 3.6m north-south with an estimated total area of roughly 13m<sup>2</sup>. The sole superstructure construction exposed in the 1m-wide trench dug across this space running north-south is a stone wall (U.3) that stood 0.3m high and covered at least 1.25m north-south. This construction lies in the northern half of the summit and may have been part of a foundation dividing the superstructure into at least two rooms set in an east-west line; the northern limit of the putative eastern compartment would then have been defined by U.4.

The walls and facings raised at this time were fashioned using river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The larger stones in each case were set in moderately clear horizontal courses, the spaces between them filled in with small chinking pebbles. In each case, the flatter aspects of the rocks employed in construction were directed outwards.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment as much as 0.22m of a brownish, root-rich soil (S.2) blanketed S.1 and covered all but the uppermost parts of TS.2 architecture. Stratum 2, in turn, was overlain by 0.02-0.04m of a moderately fine-grained, reddish brown soil that also contained many roots (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from final phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for as much as 3m away from the platform's exposed northern and southern flanks.

**Structure 386-22**

Structure 386-22 is on the west side of the Group III patio, 4m southwest of Str. 386-23 and 2.5m northwest of Str. 386-11. Digging here under the direction of J. Douglass within Subop. 386T cleared ca. 32m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.44m and 0.8m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. One major building phase marked by a single period of renovation was recognized 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>
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1	-	-	S. 1	-	-
2	Str. 386-22-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-13, 15-17	-	-	LCLIII/EPC
3	Str. 386-22-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.14, 18, 19	-	-	
4	-	-	S.2, 3	F.1	-

### Time Span 1

The first activity recognized in the excavation of Subop. 386T was the deposition of at least 0.26m of S.1, a moderately soft compacted, reddish brown soil with numerous small rock inclusions (S.1's base was not encountered). Stratum 1 rises 0.26m over 2.94m east to west at which point it disappears beneath Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>. By the time this soil level reappears from beneath the building 5.03m to the west it is 0.09m lower than in its last eastern exposure, subsequently ascending 0.23m over 2.77m east-to-west. These discontinuous exposures of S.1 suggest that Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> may well have been built atop a low rise within gently undulating terrain. The uncovered architecture dating to TS.2 and TS.3 is set into and rises above S.1, suggesting that this reddish soil constituted the ground surface exposed during the edifice's construction and use. The absence of cultural material from within the investigated portions of S.1 points to little to no human occupation in the immediate area when this soil was being laid down.

### Time Span 2

Structure 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> is a platform delimited by stone facings that stand 0.4-0.64m high (taller on the west; U.1-3). No more of the south facing than its southeast corner was uncovered so the above figures refer to the building's east, north, and west basal facings. A surface (U.15) composed of flat-laid cobbles extends 0.24m east from Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s east basal wall (U.1), rests on S.1, and may well have once extended the full length of the building's east side. Renovations to this flank during TS.3 apparently disrupted portions of this floor.

Structure 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure was only partially exposed in Subop. 386T. Based on the fragmentary evidence, it appears that the platform supported at least four rooms. Three of these compartments seem to have been set in a north-south line on the summit's east edge open towards the patio and otherwise bounded by stone foundations that are 0.18-0.25m tall by 0.2-0.3m wide (U.12, 13, 16, 17). The central enclosure (Room 1) covers 1x2m and is surfaced with a layer of tightly packed cobbles (U.4). The cubicles flanking this space on the north and south were not excavated but are estimated to have measured 0.6x1.2m and 0.85x1m, respectively. Passage from Room 1 into Room 4 on the west was through a doorway inferred to have measured approximately 1.4m across north-south. The uncovered portions of Room 4 consist of a series of formalized floors built at different levels. The first of these surfaces (U.5)

encountered moving across the summit from east to west is 0.11m higher than U.4, measure 1.03m east-west, and consists of a mix of stone and earth. Unit 5, in turn, is succeeded on the west by a 0.07m-high, stone-faced step up (U.6) to a pavement made of densely packed cobbles (U.9). Unit 9 covers 0.89m east-west and gives way to another low riser (U.7; 0.1m high). Backing U.7 for 1.2m to the west is yet another cobble pavement (U.8), this one terminating at the western platform facing (U.3). The U.9 floor is bounded on the south by a 0.12m-high stone riser (U.10) that gives way on the south to another stone floor (U.11). Only 5m<sup>2</sup> of the estimated 15.75m<sup>2</sup> that Room 4 covers was cleared and so we cannot be sure whether the western summit consisted of one large enclosure or several such compartments and how this space was organized. At present, we infer that what we are calling 'Room 4' was comprised of at least four distinct floors set at slightly different levels and lacking clear signs of built-in furniture.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str.386-22-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.4-0.64m high (slightly taller on the west), measured 4.5x5m (across its approximate center), and was aligned roughly 85 degrees. The superstructure consists of an estimated four rooms delimited by stone foundations that are 0.18-0.25m tall by 0.2-0.3m wide. Three of these compartments are arrayed in a north-south line along the summit's east side and encompass 0.7m<sup>2</sup>, 2m<sup>2</sup>, and 0.85m<sup>2</sup>, moving from north to south. The relatively large central enclosure is surfaced with stone and provides access through a 1.4m-wide door into what may have been one extensive western room that covered approximately 15.75m<sup>2</sup>. The latter enclosure contains a series of at least three stone floors that measure 1.03m, 0.89m, and 1.2m east-west (moving from east to west) and rise in increments of 0.07-0.11m in that direction. Yet another similar floor is set 0.12m above the central of these pavements and extends at least 1.2m south of it. No built-in furniture or wall foundations were recorded on the western summit.

All walls, facings, and floors raised now were made using river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards or, in the case of floors, upwards. A few schist slabs were also found scattered among the stones comprising Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit floors and the surface lying immediately east of the platform's eastern basal facing. Chinking stones were used to fill in the gaps among the larger rocks in walls though clear horizontal coursing of the bigger rocks was not in evidence.

### Time Span 3

During this interval, Str.386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit along with its western and most of its northern basal facings remained untouched. The majority of the known modifications were visited on the platform's eastern flank. Here a terrace standing 0.23m high (U.14) extended Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s east flank 0.75m in this direction. Unit 14 was backed by an earthen fill (U.19) that blanketed the U.15 floor by 0.12m and left roughly 0.16m of U.1 (the original eastern basal facing) still visible above this earthen terrace tread. Unit 14 runs 3.85m north-south, stepping in (west) for 0.3m on its south end before continuing

southward for 0.95m to the platform's southeast corner (all included in U.14). On the north, U.14 joins with U.18, a facing that extends 1.35m westward before turning south for 0.6m to join U.2 (the north basal facing). These additions gave the platform inset southeast and northeast corners.

As TS.3 drew to a close Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> retained the same height and alignment it had manifest in TS.2 while its superstructure was apparently unchanged. The primary modifications consisted in the adding of a 0.23m-high, stone-faced, earthen-backed terrace on the patio-facing side that expanded the building's basal dimension 0.75m to the east (the platform now covered 4.5x5.75m). The terrace's addition may have formalized access to Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure from the patio, people now ascending two low risers (0.23m and 0.16m tall) in moving from the patio to the summit. These additions also gave the platform two inset corners on the east; the southeast example measuring 0.3x0.95m and its northeast counterpart stepping back (south) 0.6m.

All constructions raised now were fashioned of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards. Fewer chinking stones were noted in TS.3 constructions than was the case in those dating to TS.2. This shift possibly indicates that less effort was devoted to formalizing wall faces than was the case during the preceding interval.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.51m of a moderately hard-compacted, brownish gray soil (S.2) was laid down, covering all but the highest preserved portions of the building. Blanketing S.2 by 0.02-0.05m is a fine-textured, brown soil containing dense concentrations of organic matter (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of stones likely fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for as much as 2.4m away from Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>.

**Structure 386-23**

Structure 386-23 closes off the north side of the Group III patio. Structure 386-22 is 4m to the southwest whereas Str. 386-11 is 6.5m to the south, and across the plaza, from Str. 386-23. Digging here within Subop. 386U completely cleared the platform in the course of excavating 20m<sup>2</sup>. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.27m and 0.44m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. One building period was identified in the course of this work which was directed by J. Douglass.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
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1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 386-23-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-8	-	-	LCLIII/EPC
3	-	-	S.2, 3	F.1	-

### Time Span 1

This interval witnessed the seemingly natural deposition of a moderately coarse-textured, loosely compacted, reddish soil with numerous rock inclusions (S.1). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.28m (its base was not encountered) and rose 0.36m east-to-west over the 7m it was exposed within Subop. 386U. The uncovered architecture dating to TS.2 is set into and rises above S.1, suggesting that this reddish soil constituted the ground surface exposed during the edifice's construction and use. The absence of cultural material within the uncovered portions of Subop. 386U suggests that there was little to no human occupation in the area while this soil was accumulating.

### Time Span 2

Structure 386-23-1<sup>st</sup> is a platform delimited by cobble walls that stood 0.33m tall when excavated (U.1-4). The fill retained by these facings consists of a fine-textured, reddish soil that included a moderately dense concentration of small to medium-size rocks (U.7). Str. 386-23-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure is divided into two spaces by a 0.25m-high by 0.2m-wide wall (U.5) that runs east-west completely across the building's summit. The earthen-floored northern compartment covers 0.9x2.2m and lacks any built-in architecture. Its southern counterpart measures 1.05x2.2m and is surfaced with a mixture of earth and stones (U.8). Unit 8 is 0.08m higher than the inferred floor level in the northern enclosure.

The westernmost 1.22m of U.5 is somewhat lower (0.14m tall) than its eastern segment (0.25m tall) and is surfaced with evenly laid flat rocks. The stones comprising U.5 further to the east are more rounded on their upper aspects. It may be, therefore, that the western 1.22m of U.5 served as a threshold for a doorway that connected the northern and southern summit spaces.

Unit 6, a 0.15m-high wall that measures 0.5m across, projects 0.5m south into the southern compartment from U.5's east end. The functional significance of this entity is unclear; it may have served as a shelf set in the southern cubicle's northeast corner.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 386-23-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.33m tall, measured 2.8m by 3.05m, and was aligned roughly 88 degrees. The superstructure consisted of two rooms set in a north-south line. The northern compartment has an earthen floor, is featureless, and encompasses ca. 2m<sup>2</sup>.

Its southern neighbor was surfaced with a mixture of stone and earth set 0.08m above the level of the northern summit floor, covers 2.3m<sup>2</sup>, and may have had a 0.15m-high stone shelf set in its northeast corner. The putative shelf measures 0.5m across and is 0.5m long north-south. A doorway measuring 1.22m across breached the western portion of the east-west-running medial summit wall and likely provided access between the two enclosures.

All walls and facings were made primarily from river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were consistently directed outwards and there was at least one instance of a cobble that looked to have been modified to create a vertical face. This stone formed the platform's southeast corner at the junction of U.2 and 3. Smaller chinking stones were occasionally used to fill in the gaps among the larger river-rounded rocks though clear horizontal coursing was not evident.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 386-23-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.3m of a moderately fine-textured, reddish soil (S.2) was deposited. Stratum 2 blankets S.1 and covers all but the uppermost portions of final-phase architecture. Overlying S.2 by 0.02-0.04m is a fine-textured, red-brown, root-rich soil (S.3). Embedded within S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from architecture raised during TS.2.

### **Architectural Summary**

All three of the investigated buildings in Group III are stone-faced platforms that rise 0.2-0.64m high and are aligned between 85 degrees (two examples) and 88 degrees. Structures 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-23-1<sup>st</sup>, on the south and north sides of the patio, respectively, are generally similar in appearance and size. The former encompasses 15m<sup>2</sup> and supports an earthen-floored summit that covers ca. 13m<sup>2</sup> and may have supported two rooms set in an east west line. Not enough of the superstructure was cleared to ascertain if there had been built-in furniture associated with these spaces. Structure 386-23-1<sup>st</sup> to the north, in turn, covers 8.5m<sup>2</sup> and supported two rooms arranged in a north-south row. The northern example has an earthen floor, no built-in furniture, and measures 2m<sup>2</sup>, its southern neighbor being paved with a mix of earth and stone over its 2.3m<sup>2</sup> extent. The latter's floor is 0.08m higher than that of the northern compartment. A 0.15m-high stone-faced shelf measuring 0.5m long by 0.5m wide was located in the southern room's northeast corner. A doorway measuring 1.22m wide provided for passage between these two summit enclosures. Both Strs. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-23-1<sup>st</sup>, therefore, are relatively diminutive platforms that each supported two small enclosures none of which were extensively outfitted with built-in furniture. Access to the summits of these edifices was not apparently channeled up any particular side, their low facings (0.2-0.33m tall) being easily scaled without the aid of steps or terraces.



Structure 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> on the patio's west flank was considerably larger than its near neighbors to the east (covering 22.5m<sup>2</sup> in its first iteration and 26m<sup>2</sup> in its last-known version). It was also somewhat taller (0.4-0.64m high) and outfitted in its final recorded phase with a 0.23m-high terrace on its east, patio-facing side. This addition would have provided two low stone-faced step-ups to the summit (0.23m and 0.16m high), thus formalizing access up this flank. Structure 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure is also a good deal more complex than that seen on Strs. 386-11-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-23-1<sup>st</sup>. Its four rooms vary considerably in size (from 0.7m<sup>2</sup>-15.75m<sup>2</sup>), are arranged in a complex fashion (three small enclosures set in a north-south line on the summit's east edge and backed by the large western room), and are generally surfaced with stone. That the central compartment in the east line of rooms likely provided entry to the western enclosure through a 1.4m-wide doorway further implies that Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit was divided among activity areas access to which was differentially open. The arrangement of stone floors at slightly different elevations in the western room sets this building apart from most known Naco valley edifices dating to Late Classic III.

The walls, facings, and floors in all three excavated structures were fashioned almost exclusively of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Their flatter aspects are consistently directed outwards or, in the case of floors, upwards. A few schist slabs were recorded in floors, especially those found on Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>, but are outnumbered by river-worn stones even here. Small chinking pebbles are generally used to fill in the gaps surrounding the larger rocks that make up walls, facings, and floors, sometimes being used to level out the bases of platform facings. Constructions dating to the final version of Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> have fewer of these small rocks in their outer facades, possibly pointing to a dwindling interest in the formalization of wall faces.

### **Chronological Summary**

The earliest occupation tentatively identified at Site 386-Group III dates to Late Classic II. A few diagnostics pertaining to this interval were recovered from the environs of all three investigated buildings, though always mixed with larger numbers of later materials. No structures or features of any sort at Site 386 Group III are assignable to Late Classic II. Structures 386-11-1<sup>st</sup>, 386-22-1<sup>st</sup>, and 386-23-1<sup>st</sup> were all apparently raised and in use during Late Classic III. The few diagnostic artifacts pertaining to the Early Postclassic recovered from the last two edifices point to continued late occupation at these buildings. It is not clear that any constructions were raised at this time though it is possible that the renovations assigned to TS.3 at Str. 386-22-1<sup>st</sup> pertain to the Early Postclassic.

In general the paucity of artifacts found in excavating the Site 386 Group III edifices coupled with the narrow temporal range of the few chronologically sensitive items found here imply that this portion of the settlement was occupied for a relatively short period of time. The relative rarity of modifications made to the three investigated buildings also reinforces the notion that they were not in use for a protracted span.

## Site 386, Group IV

### Structure 386-12

Structure 386-12 is the largest building recorded at Site 386. It occupies the north flank of the main patio in Group IV and lies 4.3m northeast of Str. 386-16 and 8.3m west of Str. 386-13. Digging here within Subops. 386E, F uncovered ca. 62m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.75m and 0.87m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively. One major construction phase was identified in the course of this work which was directed by J. Shearin.

#### 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	Str. 386-12-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-15, 21-24	-	F.1	-
4	Str. 386-12-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.16-20	-	-	-
5	-	-	S.3, 4	F.2	-

#### Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the immediate environs of Str. 386-12 was the deposition of at least 0.3m of a red, coarse-textured, loosely compacted, gravel-rich soil (S.1; its base was not encountered). The stones that comprise most of S.1's volume range from small pebbles (1cm or less in diameter) to large angular rocks. Stratum 1 rises 0.11m south-to-north over the 4.86m it is exposed south of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> and 0.35m from north-to-south over the 5.44m it was uncovered north of that edifice. It appears, therefore, that Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> was erected atop a low rise. The absence of artifacts within this soil layer suggests that there was no appreciable human presence in the area while S.1 was being deposited.

#### Time Span 2

Stratum 2, a brown, loosely compacted soil with many small (1cm in diameter or less) gravel inclusions covered S.1 on the south by 0.08-0.16m; this earth layer was not recognized north of the building. Stratum 2 retains a relatively flat upper surface across its exposed 4.86m. Artifacts retrieved from S.2 point to human occupation in the immediate area when this soil was accumulating.

#### Time Span 3

Structure 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> is a sizable platform ascended on the north during this interval by three stone-faced terraces (U.1-3). The basal riser, U.1, stands 0.15m above S.1 into which it intrudes 0.08m. This construction does not appear to span Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s full east-west width but stops ca. 4.4m east of the building's northwest basal corner. Lying 0.7m south of U.1, U.2 rises 0.32m above the former's earth-and-stone surface and gives way to a rock-paved tread that is 0.84m wide. Unit 3 stands 0.64m above the U.2 terrace and is 0.44m wide. Most likely U.3's tread was paved with stones though the construction's upper courses were in a state of disarray when exposed and the nature of its tread cannot be ascertained with certainty. Unit 3 ends at U.8 which runs down at least 0.14m behind (south of) U.3 and stands an estimated 0.52m above it. Unit 8 delimits the north side of the platform's superstructure.

On the south, Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> was faced by four stone-faced terraces (U.4-7). Unit 4, the bottom-most riser, stands 0.14m above S.2's upper surface, its base projecting 0.03m into that soil level. This element forms the platform's southeast corner at its intersection with the east basal facing (U.11) but stops 0.55m short of the building's southwest corner. Unit 4's earthen tread is 0.41m-wide and leads to U.5 which rises 0.36m above it. This terrace runs the full east-west width of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s south side, measures 0.36m across, and was surfaced with earth. Its successor, U.6, was poorly preserved when encountered in our investigations. This entity is estimated to have stood 0.64m tall and to have been 1.44m wide, though very little of its tread survives. Unit 6 was underlain by a dense concentration of small to medium-size rocks set in a brown, fine-textured soil (U.22). Unit 7, a 0.43m-high terrace face, succeeds U.6 on the north and gives way to a 1.55m-wide earthen surface that is underlain by a fine-textured, hard-compacted, red-brown soil (U.23). This same material was shaped into a 0.17m-high step-up to the summit (U.9). Unit 9 lacks clear signs of stone architecture, though it is aligned with a stone terrace facing (U.14) that was uncovered 2.25m to the west. How U.9 and 14 were related, if at all, was not clarified in the course of our work. It may be that the ascent to the summit was left as exposed earth towards the middle of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>, this area bounded by stone facings on the west and, possibly, the east. Within the 1m-wide swath cut across the summit north from U.9, the superstructure's floor was the flat upper surface of U.23.

Units 12, 13, and 15 are the partially exposed facings that bound Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> on the west. Together they rise ca. 1.75m. The basal riser, U.13, was exposed only over its southernmost 2.75m and is 0.9m wide; U.12 backs U.13 to the east and measures 0.5m across, giving way in turn on the east to U.15, the step-up to the summit. The only portion of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s east facing that was exposed is the southernmost 1.7m of U.11. This wall is ca. 0.4m high and the terrace it fronts is estimated to have been 0.85m wide. Unit 24, approximately 1.45m west of U.11, delimits the summit's east flank. How this entity was related to U.11 is unclear.

Only very limited portions of the summit were exposed. This space measures an estimated 3.4x6.65m and, as noted above, at least in the center it was surfaced with a hard-packed red-brown soil (the upper surface of the U.23 fill). A stone-faced bench (U.10) stands 0.29m above this floor, measures 1.87m north-south, and is built against

the superstructure's north wall (U.8). Unit 10's hearth consists of a dense concentration of small to medium-size stones resting atop the U.23 fill and set in a brown, moderately fine-textured soil (U.21). This bench apparently looked south over the U.9 step-up and into the Group IV main plaza. A fragmentary human burial (F.1) was recovered from within the fill of the U.10 bench. No grave goods were associated with this interment.

Overall, by the conclusion of TS.3, Str.386-12-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that measured 9.3m north-south by 9.5m east-west, stood 1.36m tall on the north and 1.76m high on the south, and was aligned roughly 352 degrees. The building was ascended by three stone-faced terraces on the north and west and four such units on the south. Access to the building may have been from the last direction as the superstructure was apparently open on this flank looking out towards the main patio. Most of the terraces were surfaced with earth or a mix of stone and earth; the stone-paved treads of U.2 and, maybe, U.3 are exceptions. Most of the terraces are relatively narrow, their widths measuring between 0.36-0.9m across. Units 6 and 7, the two highest terraces on Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s south flank, diverge from this pattern, being 1.44m and 1.55m wide. The uppermost of these entities gives way to a 0.17m-high earthen step-up to the summit. This ascent may have been faced with stones elsewhere along its length, these rocks being banished from the central portion of the riser.

The superstructure covers an estimated 22.6m<sup>2</sup> and may have had a floor composed of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, red-brown earth. A stone-faced bench stands 0.29m tall and projects 1.87m south from the summit's northern wall.

All stone walls and facings are made of unmodified angular rocks and river cobbles set in a mud matrix. Overall, river cobbles predominate among the stones used in construction. The flatter aspects of these stones are generally oriented outwards.

#### Time Span 4

During this interval some minor modifications were made to Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>, most of the work concentrated on the edifice's north flank. Here a 0.2m-high stone-faced terrace (U.17) was added, apparently running along the full east-west extent of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s north face (U.17's easternmost 0.45m was not uncovered). Unit 17, which now served as the basal riser on the platform's north side, measures 0.56m across north-south. Unit 1, its predecessor, still projected 0.15m above U.17's earthen tread.

Units 18 and 19 are two ca. 0.2m-high constructions that abut and project 1.1m and 1.5m north of U.17, respectively. Unit 19 is a stone wall that measures ca. 0.2m across whereas U.18 is a block bordered by stone facings that covers 1.1m across east-west. These two elements are set 1m apart slightly east of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s center-line and may have served to demarcate a formal entrance leading to the platform's summit. Unit 20, a ca. 0.2m-wide stone wall, extends the east line of U.18 for 2.7m southwards, overriding U.17, 1, 2, and 3 up to the summit. This construction may have

been designed to formalize further the passage up Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s north side. No comparable construction matches U. 20 to the west.

On Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s west flank U.16 stands an estimated 0.25m high and projects 0.15m west of U.12, beginning 0.5m north of the latter's junction with U.14. Though poorly preserved, U.16 was traced for 4.1m north, paralleling U.12; it may have originally extended the additional 1.15m needed to each U.17, the northern basal terrace. The architectural significance of U.16 is unclear. It appears to be a very narrow addition to the U.12 terrace that increased its width to 0.65m over all but the facing's southernmost 0.5m.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> measured 9.86x9.5m but retained its earlier height and general alignment. Access to the building may now have been directed up its north face though there are no clear signs that the superstructure was re-oriented to face in this direction. Most likely, passage up the southern terraces from the patio was still possible and complemented the northern entrance. That the builders went to the trouble of erecting what seem to be features to channel traffic across the northern risers suggests that increased importance was placed on at least making this side of the building seem more accessible.

All constructions raised during TS.4 were fashioned of river-rounded stones mixed with a few angular examples, all of them being set in a mud mortar. Though walls and facings raised now seem somewhat more casually built than their antecedents, some effort was still being made to direct the flatter aspects of these rocks outwards.

### Time Span 5

Following Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment as much as 0.8m of a brown, moderately fine-textured, softly compacted soil (S.3) was laid down. This layer is, in turn, blanketed by 0.07-0.16m of a root-rich, brown, moderately fine-textured, hard-compacted humus horizon (S.1). Stratum 1 is formed on S.2, differing from the latter primarily in the greater amount of organic material it contains and its increased compactness as a result of being repeatedly trod upon by people and large herbivores. Stratum 2, in particular, contains considerable quantities of stone debris that fell from final-phase architecture (F.2). The rocks comprising F.2 are especially dense where they overlie Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup>'s terraces, dwindling in frequency with greater distance from the building. The relative paucity of this tumble on the platform's summit implies that the superstructure was not made using large quantities of stone.

### **Structure 386-13**

Structure 386-13 closes off the northeast corner of the Group IV main plaza. It is located 8.3m east of Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> and 6.5m north of Str. 386-14. Digging here within Subop. 386G and H by C. Attarian uncovered ca. 29m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.68m and 0.6m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively. This work uncovered evidence of two major building phases.

## 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	Str. 386-13-2nd	U.1	-	-	LCLII/III
3	Str. 386-13-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.2-9	-	-	LCLIII/II/EPC
4	-	-	S.2-4	F.1	

### Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.25m of a brownish-red, silty/sandy loam with many small stone inclusions (0.05-0.1m<sup>3</sup>; S.1) was laid down (S.1's base was not encountered in our excavations). Stratum 1 rises 0.34m over 12m east-to-west and did not yield any artifacts. This absence of cultural material tentatively suggests that there was no significant human presence in the area while S.1 was accumulating.

### Time Span 2

The only portion of Str. 386-13-2<sup>nd</sup> we encountered is a 0.12m-high by 0.23m-wide wall made of schist slabs and other unmodified stones set in a mud mortar (U.1). Unit 1 rests on S.1 and was traced for 2m beneath Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> over which distance it retained an orientation of ca. 358 degrees. The full length of this construction is unknown as is its relation to other contemporary architectural features. Overall, based on U.1's small size, it seems more likely that it served as the foundation bordering a surface-level building than as a platform facing.

### Time Span 3

Structure 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> is a platform bounded by stone facings that stand 0.44-0.68m tall (higher on the down-sloping east side) and are 0.4-1.17m thick (U.2-5). Unit 5, the southern basal wall, rests directly atop U.1. The eastern and southern basal walls are the thickest (U.2 and 5, measuring 1.17m and 0.85m across, respectively). The girth of U.2 apparently results from its having been built in two phases that successively expanded the wall eastward (see below). Each of these iterations of U.2 is 0.45m thick, the two versions of the eastern facing being separated by 0.27m of dirt. The same rationale cannot be used to explain the locally unusual width of the southern facing, U.5, which shows no signs of sequent construction. It may be that the latter served as fill retaining unit, support for the superstructure's perishable southern wall, and a shelf or bench. The rocks comprising the top-most 0.15m of U.5 are placed with their flat faces looking north whereas the underlying stones are not so carefully and

formally arranged. Such an arrangement may imply that the upper 0.15m of U.5 was meant to be viewed as it projected above the platform's fill, being incorporated as a bench or shelf into the superstructure.

The fill contained by U.2-5 is a brown soil largely devoid of rocks (U.9). This earth supported two stone foundations (U.6 and 7) measuring 0.2m high by 0.34m thick. Units 6 and 7, together with platform's western (U.4) and southern facings (U.5) delimit an earthen-floored room covering 1.7m on a side. A 0.6m-wide door in the enclosure's southeast corner provided access to the room's interior. Construction of this compartment still left 0.4-0.45m of the summit exposed between U.6 and 7 and the platform's eastern and northern facings. This area may have been reserved as a place where people could work or rest while sheltering under the superstructure's eaves.

A 0.3m-high stone construction (U.8) abuts Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> on its northwest corner. Unit 8 is 0.3m wide and runs for 1.45m east along the platform's north facing from the northwest corner. This construction may have been a shelf or step leading to Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.44-0.68m high, measured 3.75m on a side, and was aligned roughly 1 degree. The summit supported one earthen-floored room delimited by low stone foundations and the tops of the platform's western and southern facings. This compartment encompassed 2.9m<sup>2</sup> and was likely entered through a 0.6m-wide door in its southeast corner. Possible work spaces measuring 0.4-0.45m across bordered this enclosure on its east and north sides. Though no free-standing built-in furniture was identified in the course of this work, it may be that the wide southern platform facing (spanning 0.85m) served as wall support, fill retaining unit, and bench or shelf. Its mode of construction suggests that it rose 0.15m above the enclosure's earthen floor. What may have been a 0.3m-high by 0.3m-wide by 1.45m-long stone-faced shelf or step was also built against the platform's north flank, extending east from its northwest corner.

All walls and facings were made primarily of river cobbles along with a few angular stones, all set in a mud mortar. The platform's facings consist of tightly packed rocks save for U.1, the eastern basal wall. This construction, as noted above, is made up of two lines of rocks facing east separated by 0.27m of a fill composed almost entirely of earth. This patterning likely reflects two periods of construction, the easternmost line succeeding its western predecessor. Considerable effort was devoted in this and every case to ensuring that the flatter aspects of the constituent rocks faced outwards.

#### Time Span 4

After Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, as much as 0.31m of a hard-packed, reddish-brown sandy loam (S.4) was laid down east of the building. On the west, S.4 is no more than 0.22m thick and is underlain by S.2 and 3. The former is a brown sandy

clay loam that blankets S.1 by 0.09-0.18m. Stratum 3, in turn, is a brown clayey loam that accumulated to as much as 0.17m atop S.2. A very light concentration of stones that likely tumbled from final-phase construction (F.1) was noted within S.3 and 4 extending for ca. 2.2m east and 2.6m west of the platform.

### **Structure 386-14**

Structure 386-14 closes off the east side of the Group IV main patio. It is 6.5m south of Str. 386-13 and 9.1m east, and across the plaza, from Str. 386-16. Digging in Subop. 386J and M under the direction of C. Attarian cleared ca. 72m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to a maximum depths of 0.66m and 0.78m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively. One major construction phase was identified 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, 2	-	-
2	-	-	S.3, 4	-	LCLII/III
3	Str. 386-14-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-12, 20, 22	-	-	LCLIII/II
4	Str. 386-14-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.13-19, 21	-	-	LCLIII/EPC
5	-	-	S.5	F.1	

#### Time Span 1

The deposition of at least 0.13m of S.1, a red-brown, silty sand with many small rock inclusions, is the first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> (its base was not uncovered). Stratum 1 was identified only west of the platform within the main patio where it is overlain by as much as 0.14m of a very similar soil that is distinguished by its brown hue (S.2). Stratum 1 was exposed for an east-west distance of only 1m over which it dropped 0.04m from west to east. Stratum 2, in turn, retained a relatively even upper surface across the 4.62m it was traced from west to east. Neither of these layers yielded cultural material, suggesting that there was no significant human presence in the area when they were being laid down.

#### Time Span 2



West of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>, S.2 is blanketed by as much as 0.15m of a brown clayey loam (S.3). In this area S.3 appears as a lens that extends 2.47m westward from beneath the platform, eventually petering out atop S.2. East of the building, S.3 is the basal earth layer encountered in excavations. In the 2.57m it was revealed in this portion of the excavations, S.3 ascends 0.18m east-to-west towards Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>. Stratum 4, a brown pebbly sandy loam, covers this segment of S.3 by as much as 0.33m. It, too, rises from east-to-west, ascending 0.32m over 2.57m in this direction. Nothing precisely comparable to S.4 was identified west of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>. The recovery of some cultural materials from S.3 and 4 suggests a human settlement in the area when these soils were accumulating.

### Time Span 3

Structure 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>, during this interval, is a platform bounded by stone facings that rose 0.3-0.5m high (U.1-4). Fill contained by these retaining walls consisted of a moderately dense concentration of stones set in a brown soil matrix (U.22). The building's summit supports at least five, almost certainly six, rooms set in two parallel lines running north-south. These enclosures are delimited by stone footings that measure 0.2-0.4m across and stand 0.2-0.4m tall (U.5-7, 9-12). Room 1, the west-central compartment, measures 1.7x2.24m, is completely open on the west facing the patio, and has a floor fashioned of stone (U.20). There are hints of an earlier wall underlying U.9, the construction that borders Room 1 on the south. It may be that what we can reconstruct here was preceded by another arrangement of spaces atop the platform.

Room 1 is bordered on the north by Room 2 which covers 1.4x2.25m while a third compartment (Room 6) most likely bordered Room 1 on the south. The latter area, covering an estimated 2x2.6m was heavily looted and not cleared. The rooms in the eastern line were likely reached by moving from Room 1 over a 0.2m-high stone-faced step-up (U.8) that led to a landing that encompassed 0.3x1m. The eastern line of compartments is set 0.2m above the floors of its western neighbors. Here, the central enclosure (Room 3) measures 1.86x2.26m and was entered from the west through a door measuring 1.35m wide north-south. The northeast compartment covers 0.93x2.25m (Room 4) while Room 5 on the south encompasses 1.48x1.85m. All summit spaces are floored with a mix of stones and earth save for Room 1 which, as noted, has a stone pavement. No built-in furniture was recorded in any of these compartments. While clearly marked doors are not often in evidence, it seems likely that the platform was oriented westward towards the patio at this time, passage through the superstructure being directed along its west-east axis.

By the end of TS.3, Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.3-0.5m high, measured 6.15x6.5m, and was aligned approximately 359 degrees. The superstructure consisted of most likely six rooms organized in groups of three arranged in two parallel lines running north-south. The eastern compartments are set about 0.2m higher than those on the west and all of the enclosures are delimited

by stone foundations ranging from 0.2-0.4m wide by 0.2-0.4m tall. Moving clockwise around the summit, and starting with the west-central compartment (Room 1), these spaces measure: 3.8m<sup>2</sup> (Room 1), 3.2m<sup>2</sup> (Room 2), 2.1m<sup>2</sup> (Room 4), 4.2m<sup>2</sup> (Room 3), 2.7m<sup>2</sup> (Room 5), and approximately 5.2m<sup>2</sup> (the heavily looted Room 6). All are surfaced with a mix of stones and earth except for Room 1 which is paved with rocks. This central enclosure in the west room line is also completely open where it overlooks the patio to the west and likely served now as the formal point of entry to the superstructure. Passing up and over a 0.2m-high stone step-up on Room 1's east side provided access to a landing covering 0.3m<sup>2</sup> from which a doorway measuring 1.35m across provided access to the east central enclosure (Room 3). Though it is not clear, we presume that the spaces flanking Rooms 1 and 3 to the north and south were reached from these central compartments.

All facings, foundations, the Room 1 floor, and U.8 step-up were fashioned primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The inner faces of U.3 and 4 where they border Room 2 were covered by a façade of small cobbles plastered over the larger core rocks that compose these basal facings. A consistent effort was made in all cases to direct the flatter faces of the rocks used in construction outwards.

#### Time Span 4

Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure retained its basic form and dimensions during this interval. The only noted change here was the creation of a niche (U.21) in the northwest corner of Room 2. Unit 21 is set into the compartment's north wall, encompasses 0.43m deep by 0.8m across, and has a stone floor. The niche was apparently built by removing the relevant portion of U.4; U.19, the newly added north basal wall, now served as U.21's north face.

The major changes made during TS.4 involved additions appended to the platform's west, north, and east sides. Structure 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s north flank was expanded 0.3m in this direction by the erection of U.19. On the east the basal core facing was extended 0.39m through the addition of U.16. The latter construction ran for 2.4m south from the platform's northeast corner. Units 16 and 19 largely obscured Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s east and north facings, their intersection creating an inset northeast platform corner that measures 0.3m north-south by 0.39m east-west. Unit 16 is succeeded on the south by an outset staircase (U.14, 15, 17, and 18) that covers 3.45m north-south and projects 2.2m east from the east face of U.16. Units 17 and 18 define the north and south flanks of the staircase. The basal riser (U.14) is 0.15m high and is succeeded by an earthen tread that runs 1.47m westward. Here it ends in a step that rises 0.23m (U.15) and gives way to an earthen tread measuring 1.18m across. Unit 1, the original east basal facing, still projected an estimated 0.25m above the U.15 tread, providing the final step-up to the summit. These steps terminate at Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast corner and could have provided direct access to Rooms 3 and 5.

Modifications to the building's west flank took the form of a 0.3m-high construction (U.13) that projects 1m west from the platform's northwest corner. Unit 13 measures 2.2m north-south where it runs along the west face of U.3, Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s west basal facing, and 1.8m north-south at its western edge. While U.13 continues the north line of U.19 westward its southern border slants out and down to the southeast, thus resulting in a figure that narrows from east to west. This construction rises to the top of U.3, though its base sits 0.03m above the base of that wall.

As TS.4 drew to a close, additions made to Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s north and east sides resulted in a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.3-0.5m tall, measured 6.54x6.8m, and which retained its earlier orientation of 359 degrees. The summit still contained six rooms set in two north-south-running parallel lines of three compartments each. A niche measuring 0.43x0.8m was newly constructed in Room 2's northwest corner. Otherwise there were few signs of modifications to the superstructure. An extensive outset staircase encompassing 3.45m north-south and projecting 2.2m east from the platform provided, or at least formalized, access to the summit from this, the building's non-patio-facing side. These two steps are low (0.15 and 0.23m high) but very broad (1.47m and 1.18m wide). Their relatively great widths suggest that they were not strictly used to gain access to Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit. Perhaps they also served as slightly elevated places for the performance of other activities. The 0.3m-high stone block that was appended to the platform's northwest corner is sufficiently large (1x1.8-2.2m) to have also functioned as another place for the enactment of behaviors adjacent to the core platform.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were generally oriented outwards. The recovery of schist slabs in the vicinity of the eastern steps tentatively implies that the risers here might have been capped with these flat rocks. Unfortunately, most of the aforementioned stones were found out of place.

### Time Span 5

Following Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.4m of a brown, loamy soil (S.5) was laid down, eventually obscuring all but the uppermost elements of final-phase architecture. A moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from that architecture (F.1) was found embedded in S.5 over the platform and for up to 2.4m away from its flanks.

### **Structure 386-16**

Structure 386-16 closes off the west side of the Group IV main patio. It is located 4.3m southwest of Str. 386-12 and 9.1m west and across the plaza from Str. 386-14. Digging here within Subop. 386K, O, and V, supervised by J. Shearin, cleared approximately 78m<sup>2</sup>, digging reaching maximum depths below ground surface of 0.59 and 0.63m within and outside construction, in turn. One principal building phase was

identified in the course of this work though there were considerable modifications visited on the core edifice during its final period of use.

### 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	-	LCLII/III
3	Str. 386-16-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-15, 28-30	-	-	LCLIII/II
4	Str. 386-16-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.16-27, 31, 32	-	F.1, S.D.1	LCLIII/EPC
5	-	-	S.3	F.2	

### Time Span 1

The deposition of S.1, a red, coarse-textured, loosely compacted soil, was the first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>. This layer was identified 1.5m west of the building where it was uncovered over a horizontal distance of 0.9m east-west by 1.3m north-south and to a maximum thickness of 0.13m (its base was not encountered). No artifacts or other cultural material were retrieved from S.1, suggesting that there was no significant human presence in the area when this soil was being laid down.

### Time Span 2

A reddish-brown, coarse-textured soil (S.2) blankets S.1 by 0.17-0.29m and ascends gradually 0.19m over 2m west-to-east towards Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> from the west. Stratum 2 was only clearly identified west of and beneath the western 2.33m of the platform. Its absence in other locales, especially on the east, tentatively implies that this soil drops significantly down from a high point underlying TS.3 architecture. On the east Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> is underlain by the lower exposed portions of a brown-to-light-ray, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil (S.3). The retrieval of some cultural materials from S.2 and lower S.3 points to a human presence nearby as these soils were accumulating.

### Time Span 3

Structure 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s earliest recorded version is a stone-faced platform bounded by facings that stand 0.15-0.49m tall (U.1-4; higher on the east and south in which directions ancient ground surface apparently sloped down from the north and

west). Though preservation was poor in the area of Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast corner, it appears that this portion of the platform's basal perimeter was inset 0.5m north-south by 1.7m east-west. The building's fill (U.28) consists of a brownish gray, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil.

Three rooms defined by stone foundations (U.6-12), measuring 0.15-0.4m wide by 0.35-0.55m tall, were uncovered on the building's summit. There is good reason to suppose that three additional compartments lay in unexcavated portions of the superstructure. If so, Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit was divided into six compartments set in two parallel north-south lines, comparable to the arrangement of rooms atop Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> to the east.

Room 1, the central compartment on building's east side, covers 1.65x2.1m and is open where it overlooks the patio to the east. The enclosure's floor consists of a few stones mixed with earth, its eastern border delimited by a line of schist slabs (U.5) set flush with that surface. Lying immediately north of this compartment is earthen-floored Room 3. Room 3 encompasses 1x1.7m (measured across its center) and was probably entered from Room 1; the foundation (U.6) separating Rooms 1 and 3 is very low. Room 3's eastern foundation (U.12) is unusually wide (0.5m across) and seems to have been built up by the sequential addition of two short, parallel lines (U.14 and 15) which extend this footing eastward. Unit 12 may have started out as a foundation for a perishable upper wall but its progressive widening might signal an expansion of its functions. Ultimately, U.12, 14, 15 could have doubled as a wall support and shelf.

Room 2 adjoins Room 1 on the west. The former's earth-and-stone floor sits an estimate 0.39m above that of Room 1. Two particularly flat stones, including one schist slab, were set adjacent to each other on top, and near the center, of U.7, the wall separating Rooms 1 and 2. The above rocks may mark a threshold in the passage between these enclosures. Room 2 encompasses 1.8x2.9m and is bisected by a north-south-running, stone-faced bench (U.13). Unit 13 is 0.26m high by 0.75m wide and runs for 1.81m north-south between its abutments with Room 2's northern and southern footings (U.10 and 9, in turn). Unit 13 has an extension that projects 0.75m west from its north edge and is set against U.10, the northern Room 2 wall. This element is 0.3m wide and gives U.13 an 'L-shape.' Room 2 might have been entered from the west through a space at least 1.1m wide in its western wall. Two other doorways, these measuring 0.8m and 1.05m wide, lead south from Room 2 into what was likely another enclosure to the south. Gaps of 0.2m and 0.25m in Room 1's southern wall seem too narrow to have served the same purpose though they might have provided for the flow of air between this compartment and its putative southern neighbor.

The arrangement of visible foundations in the largely unexcavated northwest corner of Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure point to another enclosure in this area, immediately north of Room 2. This space would have measured an estimated 1x2.5m while the inferred dimensions of the unexcavated southwest and southeast compartments would have been 1.3x3.15m and 1.65x2m, respectively.

A stone block (U.29) set slightly north of the centerline of Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s east basal facing may have been a step facilitating access to Room 1 on which it is more-or-less centered.

As TS. 3 drew to a close, Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that measured 5.75x6.57m, had a deeply inset northeast corner (0.5x1.7m), stood 0.15-0.49m tall, and was oriented approximately 359 degrees. The building's earth-and-stone-surfaced summit was divided into what we infer were six rooms set into two north-south lines composed of three enclosures each. These spaces encompass 1.7-5.2m<sup>2</sup> (1.7-5.2m<sup>2</sup> including only cleared examples), the larger compartments generally lying west of their smaller eastern counterparts. Apparently the superstructure was entered through Room 1, the central enclosure in the eastern line. This cubicle covers 3.5m<sup>2</sup>, was open to the east towards the patio and is bounded on that flank by a line of schist stone slabs set flush with its floor. Passage northward to Room 3 was likely across the low foundation (U.6) separating it from Room 1 while moving westward to Room 2 was probably achieved by stepping on and over U.7, possibly across a threshold marked by two flat stones set together near the top of that wall. Room 2's floor is 0.39m above that of Room 1 and this space contains a 0.26m-high by 0.75m-wide, L-shaped, stone-faced bench that runs roughly north-south through the compartment's approximate center. The 'stem' of this construction is 1.81m long while its 'leg' is 0.3m wide and projects 0.75m westward from the bench's northern terminus. Doorways measuring 0.8m and 1.05m across breach Room 2's southern perimeter, probably leading to another (unexcavated) enclosure to the south. Much smaller gaps in Room 1's southern wall may have facilitated airflow between this and another compartment lying to the south. A third unexcavated compartment occupies the summit's northwest corner.

All facings and foundations raised during this span are made primarily of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks are directed outwards. The north and west walls delimiting Room 2 and those bordering Room 3 are faced on their sides looking into these compartments primarily with very small cobbles set as facades against the foundations' cores. Larger cobbles consistently form the upper course overlying these diminutive rocks.

#### Time Span 4

Structure 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s platform was left largely untouched during this span, most efforts now being devoted to erecting surface-level rooms, delimited by stone footings, around the earlier building's perimeter. The principal modifications to the edifice raised during TS.3 consisted of additions made to the platform's west face and Room 1. The former construction (U.21) is a 0.14m-high stone facing that projects 0.31m west of U.3, the platform's western basal facing, and runs for 3.1m north-south parallel to the latter construction. Unit 21 is located slightly north of U.3's center and may have provided a step up onto Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit. The primary change made to Room 1 was the construction of a 0.2m-wide by 0.28m-high stone wall (U.27) that projects 0.64m south into that enclosure from the center of its north wall (U.6). Unit 27's construction

subdivides Room 1 into two spaces, one covering 1.7m<sup>2</sup> on the east and the other encompassing 1.4m<sup>2</sup> on the west. A 0.95m-wide doorway provided passage between these two spaces.

The major changes initiated at this time involved the erection of several surface-level, earthen-floored rooms on Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s north and east flanks. The clearest example of one such compartment on the north is delimited by U.17-19 and 31. These are all stone foundations that measure 0.3-0.6m across and average 0.2m tall. The northern and southern footings (U.17 and 19) are the widest of this set, measuring 0.6 and 0.5m across. The unusual girth of these footings may suggest that they doubled as wall supports and low shelves. The space delimited by U.17-19 and 31 (Room 4) covers 1.15x1.8m, its surrounding walls breached in the compartment's northeast corner by the 0.22m separating U.31 and 17. This gap is too narrow to have allowed passage into the room and may have been intended to promote ventilation of the cubicle's interior. The low foundations in any case would have provided scant obstacles to entering this enclosure.

Built against the west face of Room 4's western foundation (U.18) is a 0.15m-high, 0.3-0.45m-wide, and 1.27m-long (north-south) stone-faced shelf (U.20). The northernmost 0.45m of U.20 steps out 0.15m west of the construction's southern 'stem' giving this entity a vague 'L-shape.' A 0.1m-high by 0.2m-wide foundation (U.33) may have provided support for a perishable wall that blocked access to U.20 from the north. Unit 33 projects 1.31m west from its juncture with a 0.3m-long northward extension of U.18. Unit 33 does not, however, join with any cross-walls. It may be that U.20 was built against the east side of an enclosure (Room 6) that covers 1.31x2.55m and was completely open on the west.

A wall (U.16) measuring 0.3m across and standing ca. 0.1m high extends at least 2m north from Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s inset corner (we are not certain that U.16's north end was identified in our excavations). Unit 16 is 0.5m east of U.31 (Room 4's eastern perimeter wall) and may define the west side of an enclosure lying to the east. It is also possible that U.16 bounded the west side of Room 5.

Room 5 is only clearly delimited on the south within our excavations. Here a series of three low (0.2-0.3m high), narrow (0.15-0.3m across) foundations (U.23-25) extend 4.1m east from Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s east basal facing (U.1). These wall segments step back progressively to the north as they proceed eastward. Moving from west to east, U.23 runs 1.65m where it is succeeded by U.24 which overlaps U.23 by 0.35m and adjoins the latter on the north. Unit 24 then extends the line for 1.1m east of U.23's east end. Here U.24 steps 0.4m northward where it is succeeded by U.25. The latter runs 1.45m to the east where it corners with U.26. Unit 26 is 0.4m wide by 0.1m tall and projects 2m north from its junction with U.25. A bowl with a diameter of 0.13m was found sitting face-up 0.3m east of U.26, near the latter's southeast corner (S.D.1). This vessel rested on a level of small stones that might have helped stabilize it.

Together, U.23-26 seemingly bound a room that measures 3.8m east-west by at least 1.8m north-south. No foundation delimiting Room 5 on the north was found whereas its western limit seems to have been defined by U.1, Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s eastern basal facing. As noted earlier, U.16 might have also bounded Room 5 on the west. If so, then the compartment covered at least 3.8x4.1m.

Set in the western portion of Room 5 is a 'J-shaped' line of stones (U.22) standing 0.1m high and measuring 0.2-0.25m across (one stone tall and wide). Unit 22's 'stem' runs for 1.8m north-south parallel to, and 0.2m east of, U.1. Its curving element extends eastward, forming a crescent open to the south. This curved element measures 1.3m across its interior diameter and stops 0.4m east of the figure's 'stem.' The architectural and behavioral significance of U.22 is unclear. Thought at first to be the foundation for an oven or some sort of firing facility, there were no signs of burning within its confines. A patch of intensely burned earth (F.1) was located 0.55m east of U.22, about even with the northern terminus of U.26. Feature 1 encompasses 1m north-south by 0.5m east-west and strongly points to the intense and possibly prolonged use of fire near, but not within, U.22.

The only other construction identified in Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s environs is a 0.1m-high by 0.2m-wide wall (U.32) that intersects Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s southern basal facing (U.2) 0.9m east from the platform's southwest corner. Unit 32 was traced for 0.47m south before excavations ceased. Most likely, U.32 was part of a foundation that delimited the perimeter of another surface-level room built against the Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> platform.

By the end of TS. 4, Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform still retained the basic form, dimensions, and orientation it exhibited during TS.3. Access to the summit from the west may have been formalized now by the construction of a 0.14m-high, 0.31m-wide, 3.1m-long step-up set against Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s west basal wall. Room 1 was also subdivided at this time into two compartments, one covering 1.7m<sup>2</sup> on the east and another encompassing 1.4m<sup>2</sup> on the west. A 0.95m-wide door provided passage between these newly created cubicles. Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit now contained at least four rooms, possibly as many as seven.

Most construction efforts during TS.4 focused on raising earthen-floored rooms directly on ground surface and adjacent to the TS.3 platform. At least two such compartments are set in an east-west line immediately north of the building. The easternmost example (Room 4) covers 2.1m<sup>2</sup> while its western neighbor (Room 6) encompasses 3.3m<sup>2</sup>. The latter is open to the west and contains a 0.15m-high by 1.27m-long stone-faced shelf set against its eastern perimeter wall (the same footing it shares with Room 4). Room 4, in turn, has no obvious doorway, though a 0.22m-wide gap does pierce the compartment's northeast corner. No obvious built-in furniture was identified in Room 4 though its especially wide northern and southern foundations might have doubled as wall supports and shelves.



Room 5 is set against the platform's eastern basal facing and measures 6.8m<sup>2</sup> (minimally) to as much as 15.6m<sup>2</sup>. This ample enclosure was seemingly open on the north and contained a 'J-shaped' stone construction adjacent to an area of intensely burned earth (the latter lies 0.55m east of the aforementioned construction and covers 0.5m<sup>2</sup>). Given the variations in room sizes and constructed features, it is likely that these compartments served different functions. A very small fragment of what was likely another room was found set against Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s south flank but not enough of it was exposed to determine its form and size.

The walls and facings raised in TS.4 were built primarily of river cobbles mixed with a few angular stones, all set in a mud mortar. Some effort was made to direct the flatter aspects of these rocks outwards.

### Time Span 5

Following Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.28m of a light gray-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil (S.3) accumulated over S.2 and all but the upper-most stones of final-phase architecture. Embedded in upper S.3 is a light to moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.2) that had tumbled from constructions left exposed after TS.4.

### **Structure 386-24**

Structure 386-24 was mapped as a building of negligible elevation the northeast corner of which intersected the southwest corner of Str. 386-13. The clearing of approximately 61m<sup>2</sup> here, extending into the 6.5m separating Strs. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>, under the direction of C. Attarian revealed a warren of at least five adjoining rooms erected on ground surface. Excavations here reached a maximum depth of 0.65m below modern ground surface and revealed two construction episodes.

### 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	Str. 386-24-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.1, 2, 4-6	-	-	LCLII/III
3	Str. 386-24-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.3-5, 8, 17	-	-	LCLIII/II
4	Str. 386-24-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.3-5, 7-16	-	-	LCLIII/EPC
5	-	-	S.2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest construction identified in the area of Str. 386-24 was raised atop a hard-compacted, red-brown soil containing numerous small rocks (S.1). Stratum 1 was revealed to a maximum recorded thickness of 0.28m and was devoid of cultural material. The latter observation tentatively points to the absence of a significant human occupation in the area as S.1 was accumulating.

### Time Span 2

The first building episode recognized here involved the erection of a sizable surface-level room delimited by stone foundations (U.1, 2, 4, 5) that were 0.27-0.4m wide and possibly 0.2m high (as much of Str. 386-24-2<sup>nd</sup>'s construction was buried by later architectural features it is difficult to infer the original dimensions of U.1, 2, 4, and 5, especially their heights). The earthen-floored space bounded by these footings constitutes Room 1. This enclosure covers 2.75x4.2m (measured across its center) and lacks any surviving built-in features such as benches and shelves. Unit 6, a 0.28m-wide foundation standing 0.45m high, runs for 4.45m north-south parallel to U.5, Room 1's eastern footing. The 1.7m separating U.5 and 6 may comprise another earthen-floored enclosure (Room 2) though no constructions sealing off this space on the north and south were found.

By the conclusion of TS.2 Str. 386-24-2<sup>nd</sup> consisted of two earthen-floored enclosures set in an east-west line. They are bordered by stone foundations that are 0.27-0.4m wide by, possibly, 0.2-0.45m tall and oriented generally ca. 0 degrees; U.2, Room 1's western footing is aligned roughly 352 degrees. The western compartment, Room 1, encompasses 11.6m<sup>2</sup> while its eastern neighbor, Room 2, covers 7.6m<sup>2</sup>. Room 2 was apparently left open on the north and it is unclear if its southern boundary was sealed by construction. All footings were made primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar and with their flatter aspects directed outwards.

Based on observed stratigraphic relations among exposed architectural units, it appears that Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> was built after Str. 386-24-2<sup>nd</sup> was abandoned. It may be, therefore, that other portions of Room 2, and more surface-level compartments, lie beneath the former platform.

### Time Span 3

The first activity attested to during this phase was the introduction of as much as 0.27m of a brownish red earth fill containing sizable numbers of artifacts (U.17). Structure 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s north basal wall (U.4) was built atop this fill as were many of the architectural features that comprise Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup>. Most activity during this span was invested in raising the walls of Room 1 atop the foundations of their predecessors. Unit 3 sits atop U.1, U.4 and 5 were added to, while U.2, the compartment's western perimeter wall was apparently left unchanged. These modifications to Room 1

reproduced the earlier compartment's form and dimensions but its western side was now left open. Part of that western expanse was taken up by the erection of a 0.45m-high stone-faced, 'L-shaped' bench (U.8). Unit 8's stem runs 1.8m north-south and is 0.9m wide. Its 'leg' projects 0.55m east into the enclosure from U.8's northern terminus and is 0.7m wide north-south. The addition of U.8 created a doorway measuring 0.9m across in Room 1's northwest corner.

Room 2 was still bordered by U.6 on the east, that wall having been raised in height like its western counterparts. The erection of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> closed off Room 2's south end though the enclosure's north side may still have been completely open. A gap measuring 0.8m across north-south between Room 1's south wall (U.4) and Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s north facing (U.4) may have funneled at least some traffic into Room 2 along this 4.65m-long passageway.

The earliest identified version of Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup>, therefore, still contained two earthen-floored, surface-level rooms set in an east-west line and aligned roughly north-south. Room 1, on the west, covered 11.6m<sup>2</sup> though now there was a 0.45m-high stone-faced, 'L-shaped' bench that encompassed 2m<sup>2</sup> and defined the south flank of a 0.9m-wide doorway in the compartment's northwest corner. Room 2 to the east encompassed 1.6x4m (6.4m<sup>2</sup>) and was bordered on the south by the north basal facing of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>. This enclosure was likely entered from the north, there being no cross-wall that closed off this side of the compartment. Room 2's interior may also have been accessed through a 0.8m-wide door in its southwest corner. That door was reached by moving along a 4.65m-long passage formed by Room 2 on the north and Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> on the south. All of these additions were built on a brownish-red, artifact-rich fill introduced at the start of TS.3. Constructions raised at this time were fashioned mostly of cobbles set in a mud mortar and with their naturally flatter faces directed outwards.

#### Time Span 4

During this interval Room 1 remained largely unchanged. Room 2 on the east, however, was modified in several ways. The northward expansion of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s northern basal facing reduced the enclosure's dimensions to 1.6x3.65m. In addition, the compartment's previously open northern flank was now sealed by a stone foundation (U.16) that spanned the 1.6m between U.3 and 6. A 0.4m-wide stone block (U.7) projected 0.5m south into Room 2 from U.1 at a point 0.35m east of Room 1's eastern footing (U5). Together with a 0.61m-long addition that projects 0.36m west from U.6 (included in U.6), U.7 defines a cubicle covering 0.64x0.68m in the northeast corner of Room 2. The newly created space could have been accessed through a 0.55m-wide door in its southwest corner.

Three surface-level compartments were also added between Rooms 1 and 2 on the south and Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> on the north. Room 3 is an earthen-floored space delimited on the west, south, and east by unusually broad (0.5-0.6m across)

foundations (U.9, 11, and 12). The compartment lies immediately north of Room 1's northern foundation (U.3). Room 3 covers 1.85x2.05m and is bounded on the north by another footing (U.10) that projects 1.05m west from Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>'s western basal wall (U.4). A door in Room 3's northwest corner measures 0.75m across and provided access to the interior. Set against Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>'s south basal facing (U.5) is Room 5. This space covers 0.8x1.7m, is completely open on the south, and bounded on the east and west by stone foundations (U.12 and 15) that abut and project southward from Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>'s south facing. A low (ca. 0.15m high) stone-faced shelf is built into the compartment's west wall and measures 0.8x0.6m. Room 4 lies immediately south of Room 5, is located directly east of Room 3, and is just north of Room 2's northeast corner. This enclosure measures 0.85x1.05m and is completely open on the east.

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup> had grown to include five adjoining earthen-floored, surface-level rooms bounded by stone foundations that were 0.35-0.6m wide, 0.25-0.4m tall, and generally aligned north-south. Structures 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> hemmed in this complex on the north and south, their basal facings being used to delimit parts of all of the compartments save Room 1. The latter remained a free-standing construction. Though doorways were generally not hard to identify, they all seemed to be directed outward from the warren and not to provide passage among its constituent parts.

Moving clockwise around the uncovered compartments from Room 1 on the southwest, these five spaces measured 11.6m<sup>2</sup> (Room 1), 3.8m<sup>2</sup> (Room 3), 1.4m<sup>2</sup> (Room 5), 0.9m<sup>2</sup> (Room 4), and 5.8m<sup>2</sup> (Room 2). Room 2's interior now included a cubicle covering 0.4m<sup>2</sup> in its northeast corner, entered through a 0.55m-wide door in its southwest corner. Removing this compartment, including its bordering walls, left ca. 3.9m<sup>2</sup> of unencumbered space within Room 2. Built-in furniture was recorded in Room 1 (a 0.45m-high stone-faced, 'L-shaped bench covering 2m<sup>2</sup> in the compartment's southwest corner) and Room 5 (a ca. 0.15m-high stone-faced shelf that covers 0.5m<sup>2</sup> in the enclosure's western portion). The architectural features raised now were made from a combination of cobbles and angular stones set in a mud mortar. These entities generally demonstrated less care in the placement of their component rocks than was the case with constructions associated with earlier versions of Str. 386-24. Some effort was still invested, however, in directing the flatter faces of these stones outwards.

### Time Span 5

After Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, as much as 0.49m of reddish brown sandy loam (S.2) was deposited covering the TS.4 architecture almost completely. A moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) tumbled from their original places in Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup> was found embedded in S.1.

### **Architectural Summary**

The buildings investigated at Site 386, Group IV consist of two edifices marked by their distinct forms (Strs. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>) as well as two more that are nearly identical in their dimensions and organization of space (Strs. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>). The last two are each earth-filled, stone-faced platforms that cover 45m<sup>2</sup> and 38m<sup>2</sup> in their final versions, are 0.15-0.49m high, and are aligned roughly north-south. Their superstructures consist of six rooms set in two north-south-running lines composed of three enclosures each. These compartments are bounded by stone foundations that average 0.4m high by 0.4m wide, are generally surfaced with a mixture of earth and stone, and cover 1.7-5.2m<sup>2</sup>. Access to these superstructures in each case seems to have initially been through the central room that looks directly out into the main patio. From here, passage to the 'back' line of rooms involved stepping up 0.2-0.39m to a small landing from which the middle compartment in the next trio of rooms was accessed. In Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>, this central enclosure in the 'back' (non-patio) line contained an 'L-shaped' stone-faced bench that stood 0.26m high and measured 1.81m on its longest dimension. There was no comparable built-in furniture identified in Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> though a niche measuring 0.43x0.8m was recorded in the northwest corner of the superstructure's northwest room.

In addition to their similar forms, Strs. 386-14 and 386-16 experienced roughly comparable histories. In both cases, their apparently original patio-focused entryways were supplemented by the creation of steps ascending their non-patio-facing sides. On Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> this took the form of the addition of a 0.14m-high by 0.31m-wide stone step that ran for most of the length of the platform's western face. On Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> two stone steps (0.15 and 0.23m high) projected 2.2m east from the platform's southeast corner. The relatively great width of this construction, running 3.5m north-south, implies that it served as both a point of entry to Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure and an elevated work space adjoining the building. A comparable elevated work area may be represented by the 0.3m-high construction set against the platform's northwest corner at this time. This entity is 1m wide by 1.8-2.2m long.

Another point of similarity between the two edifices is the warren of surface-level rooms that grew up around them during their final occupation phases. At least four such compartments, defined by low stone foundations, were appended to Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>'s north, east, and, possibly, south sides (the southern example was not cleared). These earthen-floored compartments encompass 2m<sup>2</sup> to possibly as large as 15.6m<sup>2</sup> and contain at least one stone-faced shelf (0.15m high, 1.27m long) and a line of stones set in the form of a 'J' and located 0.55m west of an area of burnt soil. At least five rooms adjoin Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s north flank, completely filling the 6.5m that separates it from Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> on the north (this complex of surface-level constructions was glossed here as Str. 386-24). These adjoining earthen-floored enclosures measure 0.9m<sup>2</sup>-11.6m<sup>2</sup> and contain one stone-faced shelf (0.15m high, covering 0.5m<sup>2</sup>) and, in the largest compartment, a stone-faced bench that stands 0.45m high and encompasses 2m<sup>2</sup>.

The history of construction north of Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> is more complex than that revealed in the environs of Str. 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>. The first known versions of the surface-level rooms that comprise Str. 386-24 apparently predate Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup>'s erection and may have continued beneath Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> on the north (see Str. 386-13-2<sup>nd</sup>). This earliest iteration of Str. 386-24 (Str. 386-24-2<sup>nd</sup>) consisted of two sizable (encompassing 7.6m<sup>2</sup> and 11.6m<sup>2</sup>) earthen-floored enclosures set in an east-west line. The larger of these rooms remained the core for all later construction raised here after Str. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> was raised. It should be noted that all doorways recorded in the surface-level rooms bordering Strs. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> lead out from the complex and do not provide ready passage among the compartments.

In general, the histories of Strs. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> seem to be characterized by: the creation of access points that look away from the central patio; and the addition of rooms for the conduct of a variety of tasks adjacent to these edifices.

Structure 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> is an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that borders Str. 386-24-1<sup>st</sup> on the north, stands 0.44-0.68m high, is oriented roughly 1 degree, and covers 14m<sup>2</sup>. This relatively small edifice supports a superstructure that consists of one earthen-floored room measuring 2.9m<sup>2</sup>. The aforementioned enclosure is delimited by stone foundations and was bordered on the east and north by seemingly open spaces that are 0.4-0.45m wide. The latter may have comprised areas where people could work outdoors but still shelter under the superstructure's eaves. The relatively wide southern basal facing of Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup> (measuring 0.85m across) may have served as a 0.15m-high by 1.7m-long bench or shelf; otherwise, no built-in furniture was noted in the platform's superstructure. A stone construction measuring 0.3m high by 0.3m wide runs for 1.45m along Str. 386-13-1<sup>st</sup>'s north facing. This entity may have served as a step-up to the summit and/or as another work space, this time appended to the core platform.

Structure 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> stands out as the largest building in Group IV. Its earliest known version rises to 1.36 to 1.76m high, covers 88m<sup>2</sup> (eventually expanded to encompass 92m<sup>2</sup>), and is aligned approximately 352 degrees. It is ascended by three stone-faced terraces on the north and west and four such constructions on the south (the eastern flank was not sufficiently cleared to determine its form). Most of these ascents are relatively narrow, encompassing 0.36-0.9m across. The two uppermost southern terraces, however, are 1.44 and 1.55m wide and may have served as staging areas for activities associated with the building's superstructure. The latter covers an estimated 22.6m<sup>2</sup> and is delimited on the south by a 0.17m-high, earthen-faced ascent. The superstructure's hard-packed earthen floor supports a 0.29m-high, stone-faced bench that is 1.87m long and seems to look out southward over the main patio.

As with Strs. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-16-1<sup>st</sup>, Str. 386-12-1<sup>st</sup> was apparently first reached from its patio-facing side, this entry later being supplemented by passage up the opposite flank. In this case, the shift in orientation is marked by the construction of two 0.2m-high stone walls that project 1.1-1.5m north of the platform's northern basal

wall and frame a space measuring 1m across near the center of that facing. The eastern-most of these units may continue up to the summit, forming a balustrade; there is no sign of a comparable unit on the west.

All stone constructions recorded within Group IV were fashioned primarily using river-rounded cobbles supplemented by angular rocks, these stones being set in a mud mortar. Efforts were made throughout the known construction sequence to orient the flatter aspects of these rocks outward. The interior faces of several superstructure walls on Strs. 386-14-1<sup>st</sup> and 386-16-1<sup>st</sup> were covered with a facade of small cobbles set in a mud matrix. These facings blanketed the cores of the relevant foundations, creating an effect that was not reproduced frequently elsewhere in the Naco valley in any time period. Given how vulnerable these facades are to erosion, however, such treatments may have been more common than the few preserved instances suggest.

### **Chronological Summary**

The earliest period of occupation attested to at Site 386 Group IV is the Late Preclassic. Very few diagnostics of this interval were found mixed with much larger numbers of later material at Strs. 386-14 and 13. No pure deposits of artifacts dating to the Late Preclassic were found here nor was any construction dating to this phase recognized. This spatial distribution may hint at a locus of early settlement on Group IV's east side. It may also be the case, however, that these few Late Preclassic diagnostics eroded out of construction fill and were originally deposited elsewhere at the locus.

Material dating to Late Classic I was found in the environs of all of the excavated buildings. Once again, these temporal markers were greatly outnumbered by later materials in the collections where they appeared. All we can say at this point is that the greater prevalence of Late Classic I markers may imply that occupation at the locus was more extensive now than during the Late Preclassic, though how large the Late Classic I settlement was and what form it took are unknown.

Occupation pertaining the Late Classic II/III transition was identified in all investigated portions of Group IV and it is likely that construction began on every one of the studied edifices either late in Late Classic II or, more likely, early in Late Classic III. These buildings continued to be modified and used throughout Late Classic III, their occupation possibly continuing into the first years of the Early Postclassic. Diagnostics of the last phase are relatively rare, suggesting that use of Group IV did not long endure into the Early Postclassic. There is no sign of occupation during the Late Postclassic.

In general, after sporadic occupation from the Late Preclassic through most of Late Classic II, occupation greatly intensified in Group IV at the end of Late Classic II and throughout Late Classic III. Population numbers and activities dwindled during the Early Postclassic and the site was abandoned probably fairly early during that interval.