

1990

PVN OP 081 Excavation Report

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Operation 81

Operation 81 is situated with 1km north of La Sierra atop the crest of a high terrace overlooking the Rio Chamelecon. The latter runs along the site's eastern boundary. The drop to the Chamelecon is steep and direct, there being some evidence that parts of Operation 81 have fallen down into the watercourse (Str. 30, for example, has been cut by that channel). The settlement consists of 30 constructions most of which are arranged around six patios that are generally laid out in a north-south line. Patios III and IV in the northern part of the site are surrounded by the largest platforms recorded within Op. 81, suggesting that they may have been centers of political power exercised by the most prominent members of this community. Fully seven constructions (Strs. 3, 7, 10, 18, 20, 22, and 26) were excavated during the 1990 field season, the work being directed by S. Connell and T. Neff. These buildings span the full range of structure sizes recorded here and were drawn from four the five patios identified at the settlement. A total of 242m² were dug in the course of this work.

Structure 3

Structure 3 closes off the southeast side of Patio III. It is 13m southeast of Str. 6 and 14m east and across the plaza from Str. 18. The Rio Chamelecon's steep west bank is immediately east of Str. 3's northeast corner. The building does not seem to have been damaged by movement of that watercourse. The terrain surrounding Str. 3 is more-or-less level. Excavations at Str. 3 were limited to a 1m-wide by 12.9m-long trench (Subop. 81D) that cut completely across the building from its northwest, patio-facing side to the southeast. Fully 12.9m² were cleared in the course of this work which was directed by T. Neff during the 1990 field season. Digging reached maximum depths of 1.1m and 0.73m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One major construction episode was revealed in the course of these investigations.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.3, 4	-	
2	Str. 3-1 st	U.1-14	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1, 2, 4	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activities attested to in the immediate environs of Str. 3 was the deposition of S.3 and 4. The latter is a coarse-textured, light greenish-gray, clayey silt that contains considerable quantities of sand and gravel. Stratum 4 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m (its base was not encountered) on the southeast and northwest sides of Str. 3-1st. On the northwest (plaza-facing) flank, S.4 is 0.3m lower than the top of this soil 10.4m (and on the other side of the building) to the southeast. A greenish-gray sandy silt with a fair amount of included clay (S.3) accumulated up to 0.39m above S.4 on the northwest; there were no signs of S.3 pertaining to TS.1 in our limited exposure southeast of Str. 3-1st. After deposition of these earth levels the land on the northwest would have been

about 0.3m higher than it was immediate southeast of Str. 3-1st. The recovery of some artifacts from S.4 tentatively points to a human presence in the area when these strata were being deposited.

Time Span 2

Structure 3-1st was raised during this interval. On the northwest flank, this platform was faced by four stone-faced terraces (U.1-4). The basal riser, U.1, ascends 0.35m above S.3 and runs back southeast for 1.12m where it is succeeded by U.2. The latter stands 0.22m above U.1's tread and extends 0.68m to the southeast. Unit 3 rises 0.25 above U.2's tread and is 1.54m wide northwest-southeast. Unit 4, in turn, ascends 0.2m towards the summit and runs 0.39m to the southeast where it encounters the 0.22m-high step-up to the summit (U.5). Unit 5 delimits the summit on the northwest though it did not apparently protrude above that surface (U.14). Unit 14 looks to have been a stone pavement that extends 1.45m southeast from U.5's northwest face; this floor stops 0.4m shy (northwest) of U.10. The latter is a 0.45m-high by 0.84m-wide wall that was uncovered running northeast-southwest across Subop. 81D. This substantial construction may have divided the superstructure into two spaces lying northwest and southeast of U.10. That construction is also substantial enough to have served as a bench, though how far it ran northeast-southwest we cannot say.

On its southeast flank Str. 3-1st is faced by the remnants of three terraces (U.6-8) and a sizable core platform retaining wall (U.9) which demarcates the summit's southeast margin. Unit 6, the basal southeast riser, is 0.22m tall by 0.12m wide southeast-northwest. Unit 7 ascends 0.11m above U.6 and runs 0.27m northwest to where it is succeeded by U.8. The latter was poorly preserved when excavated. Based on its surviving remnants, we infer that U.8 originally stood 0.53m above U.7 and was 0.81m wide. Unit 8 intersects U.9 at a point 0.3m above the latter's presumed base. Unit 9 projects roughly 0.8m above the putative tread of U.8 and marks the summit's southeast edge. The relatively great width of U.9, measuring 1.26m across, suggests that it constitutes the southeast retaining wall for Str. 3-1st's core platform. If there was a comparable construction unit on the northwest we did not identify it. Unit 9 rises an estimated 0.18m above the earthen floored space lying southeast of U.10 and lies 1.55m southeast of the latter construction. The fill exposed beneath this southeast space consists primarily of a yellow-brown, fine-textured, very slightly sandy silt (U.11) largely devoid of rocks.

Located 0.51m and 1m southeast of Str. 3-1st's southeast basal riser (U.6) are two low (0.08-0.1m-tall) stone walls (U.12 and 13). Unit 12, the closer of the two to U.6, is 0.17m wide northwest-southeast while U.13, lying 0.32m to the southeast, measures 0.29m across. Units 12 and 13 run parallel to each other and are separated by an earthen surface. The architectural significance of these walls is far from clear; they may be foundations from one or more surface-level buildings that were erected off Str. 3-1st's southeast flank.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 3-1st was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 1.24m high on the northwest and 1.48m tall on the southeast, measured 10.4m across, and was aligned roughly 25 degrees. Four and three stone-faced terraces ascend the building's northwest and southeast flanks, respectively. Most likely access to the summit was from the plaza-facing northwest side where the risers are generally low (0.2-0.35m tall) and give way to what appears to have been a 1.45m-wide

(northwest-southeast) stone paved threshold leading into the superstructure. Based on the limited excavations conducted across the summit, it looks as though the building was open to the northwest and consisted of a space measuring 4.18m across most of which was covered with earth. This area was divided into northwest and southeast segments by a substantial (0.45m high by 0.84m wide) stone wall that ran northeast-southwest. This construction may have served as a bench and a foundation that divided the summit into two rooms, a northwest enclosure covering 1.85m across and a southeastern compartment measuring 1.55m across. The relatively sizable girth of the summit's southeast wall (1.26m wide) tentatively implies that it may have retained the core platform's fill on the southeast, as a foundation for a perishable upper wall, and as a bench or shelf in the southeast room. What look to have been low (0.08-0.1m tall) stone foundations for one or more earthen-floored rooms that were raised on ancient ground surface were located 0.51m and 1m southeast of Str. 3-1st. Outside of judging their general orientation to be roughly parallel with the exposed portions of the larger platform, little can be said about the construction(s) in which these walls figured.

All walls raised now were made primarily of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Unit 1, the basal northwest riser was fashioned using a mix of cut blocks and unmodified, river-rounded stones. The flatter aspects of all of the rocks that were used to face terraces and walls were generally oriented outwards.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 3-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.4 may have resumed off the building's southeast flank. Both of the enigmatic low walls (U.12 and 13) lying southeast of the platform and most of the latter's basal riser on this flank (U.6) were largely obscured by this earth. That S.4 slopes up and toward U.6 also implies that the latter was in place when at least the uppermost 0.07m of this portion of S.4 was laid down. Blanketing S.3 on the northwest and S.4 on the southeast by as much as 0.76m is a moderately coarse-textured brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2, in turn, is covered by 0.1-0.18m of a dark brown, moderately fine-textured earth (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a variably dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from final-phase construction (F.1). Feature 1 is particularly dense where it overlays Str. 3-1st's summit, thinning out as it stretches away from the edifice's northwest and southeast sides.

Structure 7

Structure 7 seals the north side of Patio IV and is the northern-most building identified at Site 81. It is about 25m west of the Rio Chamelecon's west bank and 13.5m north and across Patio IV from Str. 10. The land here rises ca. 0.2m over 20.5m south-to-north. Structure 7 was investigated primarily by digging a 1m-wide by 20.5m-long trench (Subop. 81G) north-south across the platform's approximate center. The initial excavation was expanded to a limited extent on the summit to reveal a room within the superstructure, a total of 41.5m² being cleared in the course of this work. Digging was carried down to maximum depths of 0.84m and 2.09m below modern ground surface within and beyond final-phase architecture, respectively. One major construction period was revealed in the course of this work which was overseen by S. Connell.

Time Spans

Time Construction

<u>Span</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.5-9	-	
2	-	-	-	F.1	
3	-	-	S.4	F.2	
4	Str. 7-1 st Str. 7-Sub1	U.1-12, 14 U.13	-	-	
5	-	-	S.1-3	F.3	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 7's vicinity is the deposition of at least 0.12m of a coarse-textured brown soil (S.9; the layer's base was not encountered). Stratum 9, like overlying S.5-8, was only revealed in a 0.75x1.12m-north-south deep probe dug off Str. 7-1st's north flank. Within this restricted exposure, S.9's upper surface remained fairly flat. A total of 0.31m of a brown-gray sandy silt containing numerous small pebbles (S.8) overlies S.9. As with its predecessor, S.8's upper surface was level over the limited area it was exposed north-south. Stratum 7, a dark tan sandy silt, blankets S.8 by 0.1m and is covered, in turn, by 0.11m of a very dark orange soil (S.6). The latter's color seems to be the result of intense burning. Time Span 1 concludes with the deposition of 0.02-0.17m of a dark tan sandy silt (S.5) that closely resembles S. 7. Stratum 5 pinches out against S.6 at the north end of the deep probe, its upper surface rising 0.18m over 1.3m north-to-south. Cultural material, especially ceramic vessel fragments, found in S.5-8 strongly point to a human presence in the area while these soils were being laid down. Ash and bajareque fragments were also recorded in S.5 and 7, possibly related to the burning attested to by S.6.

Time Span 2

The sequence of soil deposition that constitutes TS.1 was capped by a layer of burnt earth and carbon flecks (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for 1.23m off Str. 7-1st's north side over which distance it rose 0.15m from north-to-south. Feature 1 is 0.06m thick.

Time Span 3

Covering F.1 by 0.5m is a yellow-brown silty sand that contains numerous pebbles and cultural materials (S.4). Like underlying S.5 and F.1, S.4 ascends from north-to-south, rising 0.65m across 3.83m in that direction. A 0.3m-thick deposit of artifacts, primarily ceramic fragments (F.2), is embedded in S.4 and directly underlies Str. 7-1st's northern basal facing (U.1). It is unclear if S.4 was fill introduced to raise ground surface north of Str. 7-1st's eventual building site or if it was deposited more casually with no thought of preparing the ground for the later building. In any event, the large quantities of artifacts contained within S.4 and F.2 strongly point to a significant human presence in the area during TS.3.

Time Span 4

Structure 7-1st is a platform that is ascended by three stone-faced terraces on its north and south sides. The northern examples (U.1-3) were poorly preserved when excavated. Based on their surviving remnants, we infer that they measured (from base to summit), 0.6m high by 0.54m wide (U.1), 0.34m tall by 0.86m wide (U.2), and 0.41m high by 0.69m across (U.3). On the south, the better-preserved risers are (again, proceeding from the base to the summit) 0.25m high by 1.47m wide (U.9), 0.53m high by 0.66m wide (U.10), and 0.18m tall by 2.05m wide (U.11). In each case the terraces end in a 0.82m-tall (U.6 on the north) and ca. 0.9m-high (U.4 on the south) wall that bounds the exposed summit room. We did not reach the bases of U.4 and 6 and it may be that they are the north and south facings for a core platform against which the aforementioned terraces were built. Unit 6 has a 0.13m-wide step-out located 0.43m below the preserved top of its south side. Unit 4 on the north might have possessed a comparable step-out to the north but its poor preservation means that we cannot be sure on this point. The aforementioned summit room measures 1.5x3.81m and is mostly surfaced with earth. The southern-most 1.23m of the compartment is paved with a 0.15m-thick (1 stone's depth) stone floor (U.8). The walls (U.4-7) bordering the enclosure rise 0.5m above the compartment's floor and measure 0.6-1.2m across on the north, west and south; the full width of the eastern wall (U.5) was not determined. The relatively great width of the western foundation (U.7) may hint that it also served as a bench. A 0.35m-wide wall (U.14) projects 1m south from the summit room's southwest corner. Unit 14 may define the west side of an enclosure raised atop the third ascending terrace on the platform's south side. As no evidence of a cross-wall closing off the south side of the putative enclosure was recorded in the trench dug 1.7-2.7m east of U.14 it may be that, if there was a room here, it was open to the south. The summit floor is underlain by an earthen fill (U.12) only the top-most 0.2m of which was exposed.

Lying 3.23m south of Str. 7-1st is a 0.2m-high wall (U.13) that measures 0.6m across north-south. Unit 13 generally runs east-west, paralleling Str. 7-1st's southern basal facing (U.9). The architectural significance of this construction is unclear. It may be the facing of a very wide (3.83m across) terrace that replaced U.9 as Str. 7st's basal southern riser. There is no clear evidence to support this interpretation. Consequently, it seems more likely that U.13 is a foundation that bordered the south side of a surface-level building (Str. 7-Sub1).

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 7-1st was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 1.96-2.17m tall, measured 11.65m across north-south, and was aligned roughly 272 degrees. The platform was faced on the north and south by three stone-faced terraces that are 0.18-0.6m tall by 0.54-2.05m wide. The lower, wider ascents grace the building's southern flank, tentatively implying that this may have been the side from which the summit was reached. The superstructure included at least one room which is delimited by substantial stone foundations (0.5m high by 0.6-1.2m wide) that enclose a space that encompassed 5.7m². While most of this building's floor was made of earth the southern-most 1.23m of the enclosed space was surfaced with stones. No built-in furniture was recorded within the summit room though the western foundation was sufficiently broad (1.2m wide) to have served as a bench as well as a support for a perishable upper wall. Another compartment, open to the south, may have adjoined the aforementioned enclosure on the south. Only the western footing of this putative

room was identified. Located 3.23m south of Str. 7-1st is what looks to have been the southern foundation for an earthen-floored surface-level room (Str. 7-Sub1). Very little can be said about this construction save that it was oriented ca. 277 degrees.

All TS.4 constructions were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. The southern basal wall (U.9) was composed of faced masonry blocks as was the facing for the third ascending southern terrace (U.11). In the last case the blocks seem to have originally been set vertically, having tilted out and slightly to the south by the time they were uncovered. Cut blocks were also used to cap the northern basal facing, U.1. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

After Str. 7-1st and Str. 7-Sub1 were abandoned, 0.23-0.81m of a light brown sandy silt (S.3) that contains a dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from final-phase architecture (F.3) was laid down atop S.4 and over U.1-3 on Str. 7-1st's north side. No comparable deposit was recorded atop or south of the building. Here at least 0.21m of a very similar soil (S.2) accumulated between Strs. 7-1st and 7-Sub1, covering the bottom of Str. 7-1st's southern basal riser (U.9). A lens of S.2 that is as much as 0.17m thick settled atop S.3 on the north. This manifestation of S.2 pinches out against S.3 at a point 1.5m north of U.1 and then continues northward to the point where it leaves our excavation limits. What primarily distinguishes S.2 from S.3 is the near total absence of fallen stones within the former. All of these layers are capped by as much as 0.48m of a dark gray-brown sandy silt (S.1). A light scattering of F.3 rocks was found embedded in S.1 off the platform's northern and southern flanks. Atop Str. 7-1st, S.1 contains numerous small pebbles that, as the original investigator noted, might well have originally been included in the bajareque walls that most likely formerly crowned the summit.

Structure 10

Structure 10 seals off the south side of Patio IV in the northern part of Site 81. It is 13.5m south and across the plaza from Str.7, 4m west of Str. 5, and 3m southeast of Str.11. Surface indicators tentatively suggested that Strs. 11 and 10 were joined by a low construction, or 'saddle,' that might have run between Str. 11's southeast corner and a projection extending west from Str. 10's core platform. The extensive, low terrace that was mapped running south from Str. 10 was not confirmed in the course of excavations. Structure 10 was initially investigated by the excavation of a 1m-wide by 18.8m-long trench (Subop. 81F) that was dug completely across the building southward from its north, patio-facing side. Subsequently, much of the edifice's summit was cleared along with the platform's northeast and southwest basal corners (these excavations are included within Subop. 81F, J, and M). Fully 86m² was cleared in the course of conducting this work, which was overseen by S. Connell during the 1990 field season. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 2m and 1.1m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. Three construction stages were tentatively identified in the course of these investigations.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	-	F.1	
2	-	-	S.5	-	
3	Str. 10-1 st	U.1-4, 12-16, 19, 33, 34, 36, 42	-	-	
4	Str. 10-1 st	U.3, 5-11, 13, 23-26, 28-29, 35	-	-	
5	Str. 10-1 st	U.17, 21, 43	-	-	
6	Str. 10-1 st	U.27, 30, 32, 37-39, 40-41	-	-	
7	-	U.18	S.3	-	
8	Str. 10-Sub1	U.20	S.4	-	
9	-	-	S.1-2, 5-6	F.2	
10	Str. 10-Sub2	U.22, 31	-	-	
11	-	-	S.1	F.3	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 10's vicinity involved the burning of a patch of earth (F.1) measuring at least 0.35m north-south. Feature 1 was recovered at the base of a deep probe sunk into construction fill immediately north of U.3, Str. 10-1st's northern basal facing. We did not dig below F.1 to determine its thickness or to determine if there was any evidence of occupation preceding this time span.

Time Span 2

An undetermined amount of a tan, slightly silty sand containing large numbers of pebbles (S.5) was laid down now. Stratum 5's base was not encountered. As S.5 seemingly resumed deposition during TS.9 it is hard to say how much of this soil was laid down now. Based on its relation to TS.3 architecture, we tentatively infer that at least 0.2m of S.5 was introduced prior to the start of work on Str. 10-1st.

Time Span 3

Str. 10-1st's core platform was defined by stone facings on all sides (U.3, 13, 14, and 15). Units 3 and 13, the two most completely cleared of these walls, stood 1.7m and 0.98m tall, respectively, at this time. Unit 4 was designated as a separate construction though it may constitute U.3's south face. If so, then U.3 and 13 are 1.8m and 1.2m wide, in turn. Fronting the building's north side are two stone-faced risers. The basal example (U.1) is 0.45m tall by 0.91m wide. Unit 2 ascends 0.48m above U.1's tread and extends 2.46m south to U.3. A brown earth fill (U.33) backs U.2 on the south and is capped by a 0.06m-thick burnt earth floor (U.34). Unit 34 runs from the top of U.2 back south to where it abuts U.3. Unit 33 completely covers F.1. Unit 3 rises 0.39m U.33. On the south a 0.1m-high stone-faced riser (U.19) fronts the platform. Unit 19's earth tread extends 0.53m north to intersect U.16. The latter stands 0.18m above that tread and fronts a 1.31m-wide terrace that intersects U.13. The latter facing ascends 0.71m above U.16's earthen-floored tread. The fill backing U.16 and 19 is an orange-tan, fine-textured silt (U.40).

The inferred north-south width of Str. 10-1st's summit at this time encompasses 3.07m. The platform's superstructure was underlain by a fill composed of a greenish-brown, fine-textured silt mixed with some ash (U.36). Unit 36 contains numerous carbon flecks and bajareque fragments. This soil is capped by a 0.06m-thick burnt earth floor (U.12) that may have originally run the full north-south width of the summit. We cannot reconstruct the east-west dimensions of Str. 10-1st's superstructure during TS.3 as much of the area to the west was covered by architecture erected during subsequent intervals.

By the end of TS.3, Str. 10-1st was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 1.32m and 0.99m tall on the north and south, measured 10.9m north-south by 17.1m east-west, and was oriented ca. 98 degrees. The north and south are each fronted by two stone-faced terraces. On the north the ascents are 0.45m and 0.48m tall by 0.91m and 2.46m wide, the uppermost riser being capped with a 0.06m-thick burnt earth floor. The northern facing of the core platform (U.3) projects 0.39m above that prepared floor. The southern terraces rise 0.1m and 0.18m, covering 0.53m and 1.31m north-south. The southern core platform facing (U.13) ascends 0.71m above the uppermost terrace. Both the north and south core facings are relatively wide, measuring 1.8m and 1.2m across. The summit measured 3.07m north-south and was apparently capped by a 0.06m-thick burnt earth floor. This exposed space may have comprised one room. We cannot rule out the possibility that other enclosures lay to the west in areas obscured by later architecture. All of the stone constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of cobbles set in a mud matrix. The flatter aspects of these rocks are directed outwards, the gaps between them being filled with chinking pebbles.

Time Span 4

During this interval the northern (U.3) and southern (U.13) core platform facings were raised 0.7m (U.3) and 0.78m (U.13). In the case of U.3 the addition was set 0.45m and 0.51m back from the facing's north and south sides. In the case of U.13, the addition continued the line of that wall's south face while it was set back 0.25m south of U.13's north face. The top-most 0.25m of U.13 in TS.4 is only 0.31m wide, creating an offset set 0.59m back (north) from U.13's south face. Roughly contemporary with these modifications was the erection of what might have been a riser (U.35) ascending roughly

0.5m above U.2 and extending 2.21m south where it encountered the newly constituted north face of U.3's addition. The latter projected an estimated 0.67m above the reconstructed top of U.35. Though U.35 was poorly preserved, it seems to rest directly atop and to cover the U.34 burnt earth floor that formerly defined U.2's tread.

Structure 10-1st's superstructure now consisted of at least four rooms. Earthen-floored Room 1 measures 1x2.95m and is bordered by U.3 on the north and foundations (U.5-7) that stand 0.45-0.65m high and are 0.35-1.2m wide. The relatively great girth of U.5, the western footing, may suggest that it doubled as a support for a perishable upper wall and as a shelf. Immediately south of Room 1 is another enclosure (Room 2) that encompasses 1.4x2.9m and is at least partially surfaced with a stone floor (U.11). Unit 11 projects 0.2-0.3m south of the northern footing (U.6) and may have never extended much further into Room 2. The foundations bordering this compartment (U.6, 8-10) are 0.5m tall by 0.3-0.55m wide (the western footing, U.8, was not exposed to its full east-west width). The 0.48m separating Room 2 from the core platform's southern basal facing (U.13) may have served as another cubicle. If so, this narrow space was 3.05m long east-west. The floors for Rooms 1 and 2 were coterminous with the U.12 burnt-earth surface that formed the superstructure's surface during TS.3; U.11 rests directly on U.12.

Lying west of Rooms 1 and 2 the situation is less clear. Here there seems to have been an extensive enclosure (measuring 2.35m north-south by 4m east-west) that was bordered by U.8 on the east, the top of U.13 on the south and U.26 on the west. The enclosure's north side is delimited by a 0.47m-high stone-faced and -surfaced bench (U.24). Unit 24 is 1.3m wide north-south by 3.5m long east-west and may have been fronted on the south by a 0.15m-high by 0.38m-wide step (included in U.24's total width). Most of Room 3 is surfaced with a stone pavement (U.23). An area covering 0.57m north-south by 1m east-west fronting U.24's southwest corner on the south was apparently left as open earth. This space was bordered on the south and east by a stone facing (U.25) that rose an estimated 0.23m above the U.23 floor (U.25 extends at least 0.11m below U.23—the former's base was not found). Unit 25's architectural significance remains unclear. It appears that passage between Room 2 and 3 was unimpeded but apparently involved stepping up 0.5m from east to west.

Room 4 lies immediately north of the U.24 bench, bordered by U.5 on the east, the top of U.3 on the north, and U.28 on the west. This earthen-floored space encompasses 1.07m north-south by 3.4m east-west. Room 4 contained no built-in furniture though the aforementioned bench may well have faced into Rooms 3 and 4.

Room 5 is located immediately west of Rooms 3 and 4, separated from the latter enclosures by U.28 north of U.24 and U.26 south of that bench. The latter footing is 0.3m wide and extends 1.1m south from a point 0.25m west of U.24's southwest corner. Units 3 and 13 delimit Room 5 on the north and south while the west side may have been left open. A stone floor (U.29) covers the 1.35m east-west by 3.5m north-south of this enclosure's extent.

In general, Str. 10-1st during TS.4 retained its basal dimensions and orientation from TS.3. The platform was now 2.02 and 1.77m tall on the north and south. A third terrace seems to have been added to the platform's north face. This poorly preserved construction rose an estimated 0.5m above

the south face of U.2, covering the latter's burnt earth tread, and extending 2.21m south to encounter U.3's north face. The latter facing projected 0.67m above the newly added terrace. The superstructure contained at least five, perhaps as many as six, compartments some of which were set at different levels. Rooms 1 and 2 are arranged in a north-south line in the eastern exposed portion of the summit. The former covers 2.95m², has an earthen floor, and no free-standing built-in furniture. Its relatively broad western foundation (1.2m across) and, possibly, its eastern footing (at least 0.75m wide) might have served as wall supports and shelves. Room 2. Immediately to the south, encompasses 4m² and was partially surfaced with stone. A potential third compartment lies south of Room 2, between it and the southern core facing (U.13). This putative enclosure covers 1.5m² though is only 0.48m wide north-south. Rooms 3 and 4 parallel Rooms 1 and 2 to the west. Passage between them may have involved stepping up 0.5m from Room 2 westward to Room 3. The latter measures 9.4m², is largely surfaced with stone, and is bordered on the north by a 0.47m-high bench. That construction encompasses 1.3m north-south by 3.5m east-west and was apparently fronted on the south by a 0.15m-high by 0.38m-wide stone step that runs the full length of the bench. Backing the bench on the north is Room 4. That earthen-floored compartment encompasses 3.3m². Room 5 is a stone-paved enclosure, open on the west, and covering 4.7m². There was no free-standing built-in furniture noted within Room 5. There may well have been additional enclosures located in the unexcavated area lying west of Room 5.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were still generally directed outwards. The north face of the U.24 bench is an exception to this pattern as it is faced largely with cut blocks.

Time Span 5

During this interval Str. 10-1st's summit and north flank apparently remained unchanged. On the south, a 0.52m-high riser (U.17) was erected atop U.16 at a point 0.58m north of the latter's south face. Unit 17 ascends 0.47m above U.16 and then extends 0.73m south to intersect the core platform's south facing (U.13). As a result of U.17's construction, Str. 10-1st was now ascended by three low terraces on the south (U.19, 0.1m tall by 0.53m wide; U.16, 0.18m tall by 0.58m across; and U.1, 0.52m high by 0.73m wide). The fill (U.43) backing U.17 is an orange-tan, fine-textured silt.

A low wall (U.21) measuring 0.4-0.6m across was raised against Str. 10-1st's northeast corner during TS.5. Unit 21's southern terminus is 1m south of that corner, the wall then continuing for at least 0.75m north of the core platform's northern basal facing (U.3). Unit 21's north edge was not uncovered. The architectural significance of U.21 is unclear; it may have served as the footing for a surface-level building erected off Str. 10-1st's northeast corner.

Structure 10-1st was largely unchanged by the conclusion of TS.5. The primary modifications seemingly involved the erection of a third terrace on the building's south flank and the possible construction of a surface-level edifice off Str. 10-1st's northeast corner. The southern terraces now ascended towards the summit in increments of 0.1m, 0.18m, and 0.52m and measured 0.53m, 0.58m, and 0.73m across. The core platform's southern basal wall projected 0.94m above the uppermost terrace. All constructions raised now were fashioned of river-rounded stones set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

We have grouped changes made to Str. 10-1st's summit within TS.6. This is a matter of convenience and there is no strong evidence that the events described herein postdate those recounted in TS.5.

It was during TS.6 that Rooms 1 and 2 and the possible compartment lying south of Room 2 in the eastern superstructure were largely filled by the addition of two earth levels (U.37 and 38). The first of these to be introduced is a white-gray silt mixed with ash (U.37). Unit 37 is 0.31-0.42m thick and is, in turn, overlain by 0.26-0.4m of a fine-textured, white-gray silt mixed with ash (U.38). Within Room 3 immediately west of Room 2, the area south of the U.24 bench was filled with at least 0.26m of a tan-gray silt mixed with some sand and ash (U.40). Between 0.13-0.2m of a fine-textured gray silt mixed with some ash (U.41) was laid atop U.40 in this area, the two fill units eventually covering the lower 0.3m of U.24's south side. A 0.33m-high by 0.3m-wide stone wall (U.39) was raised atop U.41, running 1.5m south from U.24's upper southern face to intersect U.13, Room 3's south wall. The erection of U.39 would have sealed Room's 3's western approach to Room 5, possibly replacing U.26 which had formerly marked the boundary between these two enclosures.

North of U.24 the space previously designated as Room 4 was divided into two compartments by the construction of U.32. The latter wall stands 0.48m tall, is 0.5m wide, and abuts U.24 on the south and U.3 on the north. The enclosure lying east of U.32 (retaining the designation of Room 4) covers 1.07x2m while its western counterpart (now called Room 6) measures 1.07x0.9m.

Room 5, located directly west of Rooms 3 and 6, retains its earlier dimensions but is now bounded on the west by two walls (U.27 and 30). Unit 27 is 0.2m wide and projects 1.9m north from its abutment with U.13 on the south. Unit 30, in turn, is 0.25m wide and extends 2.1m south from its junction with U.3. Both walls were apparently raised atop the western edge of the U.29 floor that covers Room 5. A gap of 0.5m separates U.27 and 30, likely marking a passage to the unexcavated western portion of Str. 10-1st's summit.

As TS.6 drew to a close Str. 10-1st's basal form, dimensions, and general orientation remained the same from TS.5. Major changes were, however, made to the exposed portions of the building's superstructure. These apparently began with the filling of Rooms 1-3 with earth. It seems likely that U.8 and 9 were completely submerged by this newly added fill. Unit 5, which delimited Room 1's west flank and separated this enclosure from Room 4 may still have projected 0.05m above the fill though this might not have been enough to distinguish Rooms 1 and 4 from each other. It seems plausible, therefore, that Rooms 1-4 now comprised one extensive enclosure that covered 6.7m east-west by 3.5m north-south (23.5m²) and into the northwest corner of which was constructed a bin encompassing 1m² (Room 6; included within the previous figure for the room's dimensions). The bench, which previously divided Rooms 3 and 4, still stood approximately 0.15m above the newly raised earthen floor in the western portion of the modified summit (what had been Room 3). All floors in the newly reconstituted eastern summit were of earth. Room 5 on the west was still paved with stones, and was distinguished from its eastern neighbor by pre-existing (U.28) and newly raised (U.39) stone foundations. The western flank of this compartment, which was formerly left open, was now delimited by two stone footings the

0.5m-wide gap between them apparently functioning as a door leading further west into the unexcavated portion of the edifice's summit. Room 5 now covered 3.5m².

All stone constructions raised now were fashioned of cobbles set in a brown mud mortar. Small pebbles were used to fill in the gaps among the larger rocks on U.27 and 32.

Time Span 7

During this interval U.16, 17, 19 and all but the upper 0.71m of U.13 off Str. 10-1st's south side were covered by the deposition of a fine-textured, orange-tan silt that contains large quantities of ash and cultural material (S.3). Stratum 3's upper surface slopes down 0.58m over 2.43m south from its intersection with U.13. It ends in our excavations on the south at U.18, a wall standing 0.12m high and measuring 0.39m across. This construction's north flank projects 0.06m above S.3; S.3 was not identified south of U.18 though we did not dig much below the wall's base on this side. The architectural significance of U.18 is unclear; most likely it is a foundation from a surface-level building that was raised following the first stages of Str. 10-1st's collapse. At least this putative construction was erected after the neighboring platform was no longer fronted on the south by the U.16, 17, and 19 terraces.

All-in-all, the 1m-wide swath of U.18 exposed in our investigations lies 2.43m south of Str. 10-1st's southern core platform facing (U.13), stood 0.12m high, measured 0.39m wide, and was aligned roughly 276 degrees. This wall may define one side of a building raised on ancient ground surface. That 0.06m of U.18's north side was buried by the artifact-rich S.3 suggests that the former construction was erected near the end of TS.7 during which S.3 was being laid down. At least 0.3m of S.3 had accumulated before U.18 was put in place (the base of S.3 was not clearly identified). Unit 18 was made of cobbles set in a tan mud.

It is not clear if Str. 10-1st was still occupied during TS.7. At the very least, its southern terraces were no longer exposed and in use by the period's end.

Time Span 8

Early in this span at least 0.18m of a brown sandy silt with numerous carbon flecks and *bajareque* chunks (S.4) was laid down south of Str. 10-1st's U.13 (S.4's base was not uncovered). Stratum 4 emerges from the base of excavation 4.34m south of U.13 and rises 0.37m across 2.1m south-to-north. Erected atop S.4 is U.20, a 0.33m-high wall that was traced for 3.05m at an angle of ca. 350 degrees. This wall's width was not determined nor were its northern and southern termini identified. Unit 20 appears to have been the eastern foundation for another surface-level building (Str. 10-Sub1) which is 2.2m south and 0.1m (measured base-to-base) above U.18. Units 20 and 18 could possibly have been contemporaries, the former simply raised atop a slightly higher eminence than its northern neighbor. The large amount of cultural material underlying U.20 may imply that Str. 10-Sub1 was erected atop a midden the source of which was originally Str. 10-1st. In any case, U.18 and 20 were seemingly in use at some point(s) late in the history of Str. 10-1st's occupation or soon after that platform's abandonment. Unit 20 was fashioned of cobbles set in a brown mud mortar.

Time Span 9

This interval corresponds to the further deterioration and collapse of Str. 10-1st. On the north, S.5 resumed deposition, roughly 0.3m of this slightly silty tan sand being laid down now. Stratum 5, in turn, was blanketed by 0.1-0.12m of a dark gray clay that contained a few pebbles (S.6). On the south, S.3 is covered by 0.22-0.3m of a fine-textured, whitish-brown, slightly sandy silt (S.2). Stratum 2 slopes down 1m over 3.8m north-to-south from U.13 (Str. 10-1st's core platform's southern facing). All but the uppermost 0.36m of U.13 was covered by the combination of S.2 and 3. Stratum 1, a fine-grained, relatively fine-textured silt, caps this sequence on the north and south, covering virtually all of the exposed architecture. Embedded in S.1 and 2 on the south is a dense concentration of rocks (F.2) that originated 0.45m south of U.13 and extends for 3.2m further south. Feature 2 is 0.42-0.77m thick and many of its rocks were found lying relatively flat. Though it is possible that F.2 represents debris fallen from final-phase architecture it seems more likely, given their generally horizontal dispositions, that these rocks were purposefully laid late in Str. 10-1st's occupation. Why this would have been the case is unclear.

Time Span 10

Well after Str. 10-1st was abandoned it appears that several constructions were erected. Unit 22 is a 0.3m-high by 0.34m-wide wall that was raised near the center of the platform's summit. It sits 0.05m above the top of U.8, separated from it by the lower portion of S.1. Unit 22 was traced for 2.75m along an orientation of, very roughly, 281 degrees. Unit 31 may have cornered with U.22's west end (that possible junction was not exposed) and extends for an uncovered distance of 1.75m south from its northern terminus. Unit 31 is 0.15m tall by 0.3m wide and ends without clearly articulating with any construction on the south.

In general, U.22 and 31 appear to be the north and west footings for a construction (Str. 10-Sub2) raised atop Str. 10-1st's ruined summit sometime in the Historic period (glass and metal artifacts were found in shallow deposits atop the ancient edifice). The building measures at least 1.75x2.75m and was aligned approximately 281 degrees. These walls were fashioned from river cobbles casually piled together and set in a brown mud mortar.

Time Span 11

Stratum 1 resumed deposition after Str. 10-Sub2 was abandoned, eventually covering U.22 and 31. A moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.3) that likely fell from architecture dating to TS.3-10 was recorded extending at least 1.4m north of Str. 10-1st and between Str. 10-Sub2 and F.2 on the south.

Structure 18

Structure 18 defines the southwest side of Patio III. Is ca. 14m west and across the plaza from Str. 3 and lies between Strs. 9 (4m to the northwest) and 19 (10m to the southeast). Surface indications suggest that low constructions linked Str. 18 to Strs. 9 and 19 though no sign of such architecture was

recovered in excavations conducted northwest of Str. 18. The land above which Str. 18 was raised is relatively flat. Structure 18 was investigated by digging a 1m-wide by 15.9m-long trench (Subop. 81E) across the building from northeast-to-southwest. Two additional trenches (Subop. 81H and K), measuring 1m wide by 5m and 7m long, were dug parallel to, and southeast of, Subop. 81E on the northeast, plaza-facing side of Str. 18. A distance of 4.5m separates Subop. 81H from Subop. 81E whereas 4m lies between Subop. 81H and K. A 1m-wide by 6.48m-long trench (Subop. 81I) was also dug into Str. 18's north side. A total of 32m² was cleared in the course of this work, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 1.2m and 1.65m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. Signs of at least two building phases were recognized in the course of this work which was overseen by S. Connell during the 1990 field season.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.3, 5	-	
2	Str. 18-2 nd	U.1, 2a,	-	-	
3	Str. 18-2 nd	U.2b, 3	-	-	
4	Str. 18-1 st	U.4-22, 25-26	-	-	
5	Str. 18-1 st	U.23-24	-	-	
6	-	-	S.1, 2, 4, 5	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activities attested to in the environs of Str. 18 involved the deposition of S.3 and 5. Stratum 3 is a hard-compacted, tan, sandy silt that contains a few carbon flecks and orange staining, the latter possibly from deteriorated bajareque. This layer was found northeast (beneath the plaza) and southwest of the building where it was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.3m (its base was not uncovered). Inferring from these discontinuous exposures, it appears that S.3 rose 0.8m over 12.3m from northeast to southwest before dropping 0.4m across 1.7m further to the southwest. Stratum 3 then leveled out and ran flat for the remaining 1m it was exposed in Subop. 81E.

Stratum 5, a fine-textured, whitish-gray soil, was only exposed off Str. 18-1st's north flank. The lower exposed portion of S.5, comprising at least 0.4m (its base was not uncovered), underlies final-phase architecture (U.20) on this side. As S.5's deposition resumed after Str. 18-1st was abandoned, we cannot be sure how much of this soil was introduced prior to construction here. We are also not clear how S.5 relates to architecture pertaining to Str. 18-2nd. For the moment, we tentatively suggest that the deposition of S.5 began during TS.1 though this proposition remains to be tested.

Time Span 2

The primary remnant of Str. 18-2nd which dates to TS.2 is a 0.65m-high by 0.94m-wide stone wall (U.1) that is located 0.34m northeast of Str. 18-1st's U.12. Unit 1 was revealed for 1.9m running northwest-southeast and extends 0.26m into S.3 on the northeast (the wall's base was not revealed on the southwest). This wall seems to retain a fill (U.2a) composed of earth identical to S.3. While we cannot rule out the possibility that U.2a is simply a southwest continuation of S.3, the fact that U.2a's top is 0.22m higher than is the recorded upper surface of S.3 northeast of U.1 suggests that U.2a was introduced to back U.1. Unit 2a lies 0.19m below U.1's top, suggesting that the latter may have defined the northeast margin of an earthen-floored enclosure as well as the northeast side of a low platform.

What little we exposed of Str. 18-2nd tentatively suggests that it was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.39m tall (above S.3), supported at least one earthen-floored compartment, and was oriented ca. 335 degrees. The building's putative northeast facing (the only one exposed in the course of our work) was fashioned of cobbles arranged so that their flatter aspects were directed outwards. All of the rocks were set in a tan mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval the uncovered portions of U.1's northeast flank were blanketed by a fine-textured, soft-compacted, tan soil (U.2b) that contains many small pebbles and pottery fragments. Located 0.53m northeast of U.1 and built on U.2b is a 0.23m-thick stone floor (U.3) that was traced for 1m to the northeast at which point it disappeared beneath final-phase architecture (U.7) pertaining to Str. 18-1st. Unit 3's top is a scant 0.03m above that of U.1. It may be, by this point in the structure's history, that the tops of U.1 and 3 constituted stone pavements measuring 0.94m and at least 1m across, separated by 0.53m of earth. Having not found U.3's northeast terminus we cannot be sure how it relates to what was likely the ancient ground surface at this time (the top of S.3). It is possible that U.3 was raised as part of a northeastern extension of Str. 18-2nd. If so, the latter now constituted a platform standing roughly 0.45m tall and measuring at least 2.87m northeast-southwest.

We very tentatively surmise that by the end of TS.3, Str. 18-2nd was a 0.45m-high, by at least 2.87m wide (northeast-southwest) earth-filled platform that retained the orientation of its predecessor (i.e., approximately 335 degrees). The latter was buried beneath the building's northeast extension. The top of U.1 (the inferred northeast basal facing of Str. 18-2nd during TS.2) may still have been exposed now, its 0.94m northeast-southwest width serving as a stone pavement atop the platform's summit. A new cobble floor (traced for 1m northeast from its southwest terminus) was raised at this time on the newly expanded summit, that surface lying 0.53m northeast of U.1. This floor was composed of cobbles set in a tan mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Structure 18-2nd was, as far as we can tell, completely subsumed within Str. 18-1st. The latter platform is ascended on the northeast by two terraces (U.5 and 6). Unit 5, the basal step-up, rises

0.44m above S.3 whereas U.6 ascends 0.2m above U.5's 1.04m-wide tread. Unit 6 runs back 0.84m to the southwest where it may have been succeeded by a staircase composed of five indistinct risers. The presence of the staircase remains uncertain due to this putative construction's poor state of preservation. What was clear during excavation was that there were two large, parallel cobble walls (U.25 and 26) that run northeast-southwest, are set 2m apart, and are located 0.84m southwest of U.6. These walls abut the northeast facing (U.12) of Str. 18-1st's core platform and they rise to their maximum height of 1.27m at that juncture. At their northeast terminus they are 0.3m high. The area between U.25 and 26 was filled primarily with a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil that contained a very dense concentration of small (0.07m or less along their longest dimension) pebbles and pottery sherds (U.19). Unit 19 is 0.55-0.64m thick and overlies a fine-textured, soft-compacted, tan soil (U.4) that covers Str. 18-2nd's U.1 by 0.13m. Very little of whatever construction U.19, 25, and 26 supported survived to be uncovered by our investigations. After digging was completed, examination of the excavation section revealed what may be hints of steps built into this construction. Unit 7, the putative basal riser on the northeast, ascends 0.3 above U.6's tread, measures 0.6m across northeast-southwest, and is succeeded by U.8. The latter is 0.13m high by 0.62m wide and gives way to U.9. This possible step is 0.15m tall by 0.22m wide and is succeeded by U.10 which rises 0.23m above U.9 and extends an estimated 0.44m to the southwest. Unit 11 then looms 0.31m above U.10 and runs 1.57m southwest to U.12. As noted above, the latter defines the northeast flank of Str. 18-1st's core platform. Unit 12 is 1.53m high, its base resting on the top of U.2a while its top projects approximately 0.24m above U.11's putative tread. If this reconstruction is correct, then Str. 18-1st was fronted on the northeast by two stone-faced terraces the uppermost of which gave way to a 2m-wide staircase composed of six stone-faced risers (including the top of U.12). This staircase projects 3.45m northeast of the platform's northeast core facing.

On the southwest Str. 18-1st is ascended by two terraces (U.13 and 14) which then give way to a 0.34m-high step-up to the summit (U.15). Unit 15 also marks the summit's southwest margin. Unit 13, the basal southwest riser, ascends 1.07m in two segments. The basal 0.51m is set 0.37m into S.3 and projects 0.25m southwest from the wall's upper segment. The latter rises 0.56m above its lower counterpart. All-in-all, U.13 projects 0.7m above what was likely ancient ground surface (the down-sloping top of S.3) and then extends 0.77m to the northeast where it is succeeded by U.14. That facing ascends 0.32m above U.13's tread and measures 0.55m across. As noted previously, U.14 gives way to U.15 and the summit on the northeast.

The summit measures 5.02m across northeast-southwest (from U.15's interior, northeast, face to the exterior of U.12). The space is divided into northeast and southwest compartments by a 0.4m-tall by 0.35m-wide wall (U.18). The space northeast of U.18 covers 2.6m and seems to have been open where it faces over the putative northeast stairs. The compartment southwest of U.18 encompasses 2.07m. In the latter enclosure a stone surface (U.16) projects 1.05m northeast of U.15 and is 0.12m thick. Another stone construction (U.17) extends 0.75m southwest from U.12's southwest face into the northeast room. Unit 17 stands 0.2m high and its top is equal to that of U.12. It may be that U.17 served as a threshold for a formal entrance into the northeast room or as a low shelf or bench. Given its location *vis a vis* the supposed steps, the first interpretation may be more likely.

The northern flank of Str. 18-1st was poorly preserved when investigated. Based on the evidence derived from Subop. 81I, it appears that the building was ascended by two terraces on this flank. The basal riser (U.20) is 0.54m high and 1m wide. It is succeeded on the south by U.21 which stands 0.43m above the U.20 tread and extends 0.59m to the south. Here U.21 gives way to a 0.53m-high ascent (U.22) to the summit.

All-in-all, Str. 18-1st was a stone-faced platform oriented roughly 342 degrees (very roughly 273 degrees on the north) and standing 2m high on the northeast, 1.36m tall on the southwest, and 1.5m high on the north. The differences in the building's height are likely due to its having been raised over uneven ground that generally rose northeast-to-southwest. The northeast flank is ascended by two terraces that gave way to what might have been a 2m-wide staircase composed of 6 risers that seemingly projected 3.45m northeast of the platform's core northeast facing. Two terraces in each case ascended the platform's north and southwest sides giving way in each case to stone-faced step-ups to the summit. The latter was apparently composed of at least two rooms set in a northeast-southwest line and separated by a 0.4m-high by 0.35m-wide stone foundation. The northeast compartment measures 2.6m across and may have been entered from the aforementioned staircase across a 0.75m-wide (northeast-southwest) stone-surfaced threshold. The southwest enclosure covers 2.07m. A stone floor projects 1.05m northeast from the room's southwest wall; how far this pavement ran northwest-southeast is unknown. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily out of river-worn cobbles the flatter faces of which are directed outwards. A few faced stones were incorporated with the cobbles in U.5, the basal northeast terrace. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

The sole changes noted now occurred on Str. 18-1st's summit. The northeast room was filled during TS.5 by a moderately dense concentration of small to medium-size stones set in a brown earth matrix (U.24). The southwestern compartment, in turn, was blanketed with an even denser packing of small to large rocks set in a very similar earth (U.23). The flat-laid dispositions of these stones suggest that they were purposefully deposited near the end of the building's occupation, either as part of an effort to raise the summit to support construction that was not completed or preserved, or to seal the platform and terminate its use. The introduction of U.23 and 24 in any case would have covered U.18, creating one extensive, if possibly uneven, space where before there had been two adjoining compartments.

Time Span 6

Following Str. 18-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.5 (see TS.1) resumed off the edifice's north side. As much as 0.4m of this whitish-gray soil may have been laid down now, its upper surface sloping down 1m over 2.5m south-to-north. Stratum 5 was overlain, in turn, by 0.28-0.37m of a moderately coarse-textured, medium gray soil (S.4). Stratum 4 drops 0.66m across 1.68m south-to-north before leveling out for the remaining 1.05m it was exposed in Subop. 81I. Stratum 4 is succeeded on the south by S.2. The latter is a light gray, moderately coarse-textured earth that accumulated to as much as 0.64m over S.5 and U.20-22. Stratum 2 was also identified northeast and southwest of Str. 18-1st where it covers S.3 by 0.49-0.74m. Stratum 2, wherever it was exposed, is blanketed by 0.06-0.83m of a

moderately fine-textured, moderately soft compacted dark brown to black humus horizon (S.1). Embedded in S.1, 2, 4, and 5 is a variably dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 is especially dense north of Str. 18-1st, somewhat less in evidence southwest of the platform, and very sparse off the edifice's northeast, plaza-facing side.

Structure 20

Structure 20 closes off the northeast flank of Patio II. It is ca. 7m east of Str. 17 and 11.5m north from Str. 21. This sizable platform was investigated primarily through the excavation of a 1m-wide trench that was dug 17.52m northeast from the building's patio-facing flank across Str. 20's approximate center. Portions of the platform's two summit rooms were cleared in the course of these investigations though time did not permit exposing more than very limited segments of the edifice's basal dimensions. All-in-all, ca. 42m² were cleared in the course of this work, digging being pursued to maximum depths of 1.42m and 0.65m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. One major building phase was identified in the course of this work which was directed by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	Str. 20-1 st	U.1-16	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1-3	F.1, 2	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 20 is the deposition of at least 0.26m of a sandy orange-brown gravel with some silt inclusions (S.4; this level's base was not identified). Stratum 4 was only uncovered off Str. 20-1st's northeast flank where it was found to ascend 0.14m over 2.64m northeast-to-southwest.

Time Span 2

Structure 20-1st achieved its final form during this span. The building is ascended on the southwest, patio-facing side by six terraces (U.1-6). The four lowest risers (U.1-4) are 0.12-0.27m high by 0.37-0.53m wide. Units 5 and 6, the uppermost ascents, were poorly preserved. Based on their fragmentary remains, we infer that U.5 rose 0.43m above U.4 and was 0.63m wide whereas the highest terrace, U.6, loomed 0.3m over U.5's tread and ran back 0.93m to the northeast where it ended in U.7. The latter initially rose at least 0.9m (its base was not exposed) and likely served as the core platform's southwest facing. The U.1-6 terraces were apparently appended onto this facing, U.7 projected an estimated 0.31m above U.6 and giving way to the summit.

On the northeast, Str. 20-1st is fronted by three risers. The basal ascent (U.8) is 1.33m tall, of which 0.25m was set within the underlying S.4. Unit 8's tread measures 1.03m across and gives way on the southwest to the 0.52m-high face of U.9. The latter fronts a terrace that encompasses 0.76m northeast-southwest and ends at U.10. The latter is the 0.43m-high step-up to the summit. It is not clear if U.10, like U.7, ran down and behind its fronting terraces.

The exposed portion of the earthen-floored summit measures 7.46m northeast-southwest and supports two rooms set in a northeast-southwest line. The northeastern compartment measures 3.1x6.8m while its southwestern counterpart covers 2m northeast-southwest by an estimated 7m (the enclosure's southeast margin was not uncovered). A 0.43m-tall by 1.15m-wide wall (U.11) separates these two compartments. Unit 11's relatively great girth suggests that it might have doubled as a bench and room divider. A portion of U.11 on the southwest side was cut back 0.42m into the wall to create what looks to have been a step. This modification may have facilitated passage between the northeast and southwest room across the top of U.11.

The fill (U.15) underlying the platform's summit was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.46m and consists of a light brown silty sand with very few included rocks. Only the upper-most portion of U.15 was revealed in these excavations. The fill underlying and retained by U.5 and 6 on the southwest consists of a moderately dense concentration of small to large cobbles that are set in a gray-brown sandy silt (U.16).

By the time TS.2 came to a close Str. 20-1st was a 1.8m (on the southwest) to 2.15m-tall (on the northeast), stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that measured 12.95m northeast-southwest, and was aligned roughly 302 degrees. The building's superstructure was probably accessed by passing up and over the six terraces that graced its southwest, patio-facing flank. These ascents are 0.12-0.43m high by 0.37-0.93m wide. The two much taller (0.52m and 1.08m) terraces on the northeast would have been far more difficult to ascend. The latter risers are 0.76m and 1.03m wide. The superstructure consists of two earthen-floored rooms arranged in a northeast-southwest line and separated by a 0.43m-high, 1.15m-wide, 6.8-7m-long wall that may have also served as a bench. The northeast room encompassed 21m² while its partially cleared southwestern counterpart covered ca. 14m². Outside of the putative bench mentioned above no other built-in furniture was recorded atop Str. 20-1st.

Structure 20-1st's TS.2 architecture was fashioned primarily of unmodified river stones the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The exception to this pattern is the basal southwestern riser (U.1) which is made from a single course of faced blocks. Pieces of masonry along with some schist slabs were also used to cap the next ascending southwestern terrace, U.2. In U's case river cobbles served as a foundation for these blocks and slabs. In general, small chinking stones were packed around the larger rocks to fill in the gaps between them. Clear coursing of the more sizable stones was noted on the taller facings, especially U.8 and 9. All the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Soon after Str. 20-1st's abandonment a layer of fine-textured, light gray, sandy silt (F.1) was laid down adjoining U.8 (the edifice's northeast basal facing). Feature 1 rests on S.4, covers the 0.92m of

U.8, and pinches out against S.4 1.65m northeast of the latter construction. This soil contains a moderately dense concentration of small to large river cobbles that likely fell from Str. 20-1st's TS.2 architecture. The distinctive color and fine texture of F.1 very tentatively suggests that it might consist of the deteriorated remains of a plaster that may have originally covered U.8. Overlying F.1 on the northeast along with U.1-5 on the southwest is 0.04-0.67m of a light brown sandy silt (S.2). On the southwest, a lens of dark brown soil (S.3) blankets S.2 by as much as 0.47m. Stratum 3 pinches out against S.2 over U.2, expanding considerably in thickness southwestward to the point where it exits excavation on the southwest. Stratum 1, a gray-brown topsoil, accumulated to as much as 0.19, over S.2 and 3 and atop U.15 on the platform's summit. Embedded in S.1, 2, and, to a much lesser extent, S.3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.2) fallen from final-phase architecture. Feature 2 was traced for 1.5m southwest and 2.5m northeast of Str. 20-1st.

Structure 22

Structure 22 seals the west side of Patio II. It is 6m south of Str. 7 and 15m west and across the plaza from Str. 20. The land surrounding Str. 22 is relatively flat. Digging here was limited to a 1m-wide by 11.9m-long trench (Subop. 81C) that bisected the building from east-to-west. Fully 11.9m² was cleared in this area. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 2.03m and 1.5m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively, revealing one clear construction phase. The research was overseen by T. Neff during the 1990 field season.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.5, 6	-	
2	Str. 22-1 st	U.1-4, 8	-	-	
3	Str. 22-1 st	U.2, 3, 5	-	F.1	
4	Str. 22-1 st	U.6-7	-	F.2	
5	-	-	S.1-5	F.3	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.14m of an artifact-rich soil was laid down (S.6). Stratum 6's base was not encountered. This soil level was identified only beneath U.3's east side where it underlay this western facing of Str. 22-1st's core platform.

A tan sandy silt (S.5) likely accumulated off what would be Str. 22-1st's west side during TS.1. The base of S.5 was not identified and it is difficult to say how much of this earth was deposited prior to

the platform's construction. This is because deposition of S.5 resumed during TS.5 after that building was abandoned. Based on the disposition of rocks that likely fell from final phase architecture early in TS.5, those stones probably resting on or near the ground surface exposed during TS.2-4, we estimate that at least 0.2m of S.5 was introduced now.

The recovery of artifacts, especially from S.6, strongly points to a human presence in Str. 22's vicinity before that edifice was erected.

Time Span 2

The earliest version of Str. 22-1st we identified in the course of excavating Subop. 81C consists of a platform bounded on the east and west by stone facings (U.2 and 3) that stood 0.82m and 0.66m high, respectively. Unit 3, the western basal wall, is 2.83m wide. On its interior (east side), U.3 ascends 0.18m before stepping back to the west 0.1m. Above that step-out U.3 rises directly in a single vertical ascent. Unit 2, may have measured 1.2m across (its western margin was not clearly identified). Structure 22-1st's core platform was fronted on the east by a 0.41m-high stone-faced terrace (U.1) that projected 1.8m east from U.2. We cannot tell from the data in hand whether U.1 ran the full length of the platform's east side or fronted only a limited portion of that flank. The earthen floored summit delimited by U.2 and 3 at this time measured 7.16m east-west and was underlain by a fill (U.4) composed of a very fine gray ashy silt that contains considerable quantities of cultural material. Unit 8, the fill which backs U.1 on the east, is a fine-textured brown silt that also contains large amounts of cultural materials, especially pottery fragments, along with some pebbles. It appears that those involved in raising Str. 22-1st were re-purposing earlier middens as construction fill.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 22-1st was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.82m tall on the west and 1.05m high on the east, measured 9.1m across east-west, and was aligned approximately due north-south. The western ascent was steep and direct whereas on the east a 0.41m-tall by 1.8m-wide stone-faced, earthen floored terrace fronts the building for at least part of its north-south length. Even with that riser in place, however, the ascent from U.1's tread to the summit was still a daunting 0.64m. The summit itself measured an estimated 5.07m across east-west (measured from the inferred interiors of the east and west core platform facings). No built-in furniture or room foundations were identified in our restricted exposures though the unusually broad widths of the platform facings, an estimated 1.2m and 2.83m across, may suggest that these walls served to retain fill, support perishable upper superstructure walls, and as benches or shelves. The three facings raised during this interval were fashioned of river cobbles carefully set in horizontal courses and with their flatter faces directed outwards. All of the rocks were packed round with a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Structure 22-1st's basic form was not apparently modified during this interval. The primary change to the platform now was the raising of the building's east and west basal facings (U.2 and 3) by 0.57m and 0.64m, in turn. These additions are set back on their exteriors from the original facings of U.2 and 3 by 0.2m and 0.21m, respectively. It was also at this time that 0.3m of a moderately coarse-textured, orange-brown silty sand containing numerous small cobbles (U.5) was laid down as platform

fill atop U.4. Capping U.5 is a 0.1m-thick layer of burnt earth (F.1) that was traced for 0.38m east from U.3's interior (east) face. Feature 1 was not found continuously across the summit area exposed in Subop. 81C and for that reason we cannot be sure if it was a partially destroyed floor or a particularly large fragment of burnt earth that was fortuitously included in the U.5 fill. That F.1's upper surface corresponds with the top of U.5 and was found lying flat tentatively supports the former interpretation. If this is the case, the newly raised portions of U.2 and 3 would have stood an estimated 0.35m above Str. 22-1st's summit during TS.3.

Structure 22-1st retained its form, east-west basal dimension, and orientation from TS.2. The main change we could identify is that the platform now stood 1.62m tall on the east and 1.46m high on the west. The lower portions of the platform's east and west basal facings retained their earlier width, the newly added upper additions being 0.2-0.21m narrower than their predecessors. The summit maintained its earlier width though it now may have been surfaced, at least in part, by a burnt earth floor. The walls bounding the superstructure on the east and west stood 0.35m above that putative floor. The mode of construction seen during TS.3 was essentially the same as that attested to during TS.2.

Time Span 4

The only changes we can assign to this span involved the raising of the summit floor by 0.35m. This modification was achieved in two, probably closely spaced, stages. The first involved the deposition of 0.12m of a gray silty ash (U.6) directly atop U.5 and F.1. Unit 6, in turn, was buried by 0.23m of a light gray-brown, slightly sandy silt (U.7). These additions would have brought the summit floor equal to the top of the platform's east and west basal facings (U.2 and 3). There was no sign of a formalized floor capping either U.6 or 7.

Set atop U.3, its putative eastern face equal to the interior of that western core facing, is F.2. Feature 2 consists of a relatively dense concentration of stones resting on top of U.3 and measuring 0.4m thick and 1.61m long east-west. This aggregate of rocks did not appear to have been part of a formal construction during our initial investigations. Upon re-examining the field drawings it appears that the stones comprising F.2 may be too flat-laid and concentrated atop Str. 22-1st to qualify as debris fallen from TS.4 architecture. If, indeed, F.2 constitutes the remains of purposeful construction it might be the remnants of a bench that overlooked the earthen summit floor from the west.

The primary modification that was made to Str. 22-1st at this point was the raising of the summit floor by 0.35m, bringing it even with the tops of the eastern and western basal platform walls. A 0.4m-tall by 1.16m long (east-west) bench may have been erected during TS.3 atop U.3, the western core facing and overlooking the earthen summit floor. That construction was made using river cobbles set in a brown earth mortar. The putative bench was, however, so poorly preserved that we cannot determine how its component rocks were laid or oriented.

Time Span 4

As noted in the discussion of TS.1, deposition of S.5 off Str. 22-1st's west side resumed after that building was abandoned. As much as 0.3m of this tan sandy silt was laid down now, S.5 sloping up 0.3m

over the 1.98m it was exposed running west-to-east. That S.5 laps up against U.3 strongly suggests that upper S.5 accumulated after the western basal facing was in place. Stratum 2, an orange-brown, moderately coarse-textured, slightly sandy silt covers S.5 by 0.38-0.6m, its upper surface also rising toward Str. 22-1st. On the east, at least 0.2m of a fine-textured, gray-brown silt (S.4) covers the surviving east face of U.1. Stratum 4's base was not identified. Blanketing S.4, U.1, and U.8 is 0.6-0.7m of a dark yellow-brown silt (S.3) that rises 0.7m across 2.8m east-to-west, eventually covering all but the uppermost 0.11m of U.2. Stratum 3 also blankets Str. 22-1st's summit by as much as 0.32m. Covering S.2 and 3 by 0.05-0.18m is a dark brown topsoil (S.1). Embedded in S.1-3 and upper S.5 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.3) that likely tumbled from final-phase construction. Feature 3 was only sparsely represented atop the platform and was traced for 0.9m east and at least 2m west of the edifice; F.3's western limits were not encountered.

Structure 26

Structure 26 appeared on the surface to be a low, rectangular structure that closed off the north side of the southernmost patio. Structure 28, another diminutive construction, is 9m and across the patio to the south while Structures 29 and 27 are 6m to the west and 12m to the south/southeast, respectively. The land surrounding Str. 26 is relatively flat. Excavations within Subop. 81A and L revealed that, instead of being one edifice, Str. 26 encompasses the remains of multiple small constructions. At least five such buildings raised over an estimated three time spans were tentatively identified. In all, about 28m² were cleared in the course of these investigations, digging reaching maximum depths of 1.26m and 1.2m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction. These excavations were overseen by T. Neff during the 1990 field season.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.5	-	
2	Str. 26-Sub1 Str. 26-Sub2	U.1 U.2-7	-	-	
3	-	-	S.4	-	
4	Str. 26-Sub3 Str. 26-Sub4	U.8-9 U.10-11	-	-	
5	-	-	S.3	-	
6	Str. 26-Sub5	U.12-17	-	-	
7	-	-	S.1-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 26's vicinity involved the deposition of 0.2m of a medium coarse-textured, brownish orange, silty sand that contains numerous pebbles (S.5). Stratum 5 was only clearly identified immediately northeast of Str. 26-Sub2 where it underlies TS.2 architecture.

Time Span 2

The most completely cleared of the buildings raised at this time is Str. 26-Sub2. This edifice is a platform bounded by stone facings (U.2-5) that are 0.3-0.5m high and ascend directly to the summit. Units 2-5 are 0.31-0.4m wide and project 0.15m above the summit. The latter apparently consisted of two compartments set in a northwest-southeast line. The southeastern enclosure is paved with stone (U.6) and bounded on the northwest by a 0.24m-high by 0.15m-wide stone footing (U.7) that projects 1.2m northeast from its intersection with U.4, the southwestern basal facing and boundary for the summit. A 0.4m-wide gap between U.7 and U.2 on the northeast may have served as a door linking these two spaces. The northwest cubicle may have been floored with earth. The southeast room covers 1x1.6m, its northwestern neighbor encompassing 0.8x1.6m. No built-in furniture was identified in either enclosure.

By the end of TS.2 Str. 26-Sub2 was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.3-0.5m high, measured 2.1x2.9m, and was oriented ca. 295 degrees. Its summit was divided into two spaces set in a northwest-southeast line. These cubicles measure 1.6m² (southeast room) and 1.3m² (northwest room) and were likely connected by a 0.4m-wide passage in the southeast compartment's north corner. The southeast enclosure was paved with stones while its northwest counterpart was seemingly floored with earth. No built-in furniture was identified in either room.

A 0.25m-high by 0.33m-wide wall (U.1) lies 3.8m northeast of Str. 26-Sub2 and seems to be the sole construction pertaining to Str. 26-Sub1 that was uncovered in our excavations. Unit 1 was exposed for only 1m of its full northwest-southeast length, its alignment being roughly 295 degrees. Most likely U.1 is part of a foundation for an earthen-floored construction that was raised directly on ground surface.

All architecture raised during TS.2 was fashioned of river-rounded stones, the gaps between which were packed with small chinking pebbles. The rocks were generally oriented with their flatter faces directed outwards and were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval TS.2 architecture was blanketed by a fine-textured, gray silt that contains sizable quantities of cultural material (S.4). Approximately 0.3m of S.4 was laid down now, this soil being identified only in the areas where it covered U.1-7. Digging was not carried down deep enough in areas further to the northeast to test for the presence of this layer.

Time Span 4

Built atop or slightly sunk into S.4 are two constructions. Structure 26-Sub3 was identified from two stone footings (U.8 and 9) that apparently define the northwest and northeast sides of a surface-level building. Unit 8, the most thoroughly cleared of these foundations, is 0.5m wide by 0.4m tall and was traced for 2.5m over which distance it was oriented ca. 20 degrees. This construction rests atop Str. 26-Sub2's summit, continuing for an estimated 1.3m northeast of that platform to where we infer that it intersects U.9. The latter forms the northeast margin of the building, extending an estimated 1.1m to the southeast from its junction (not revealed) with U.8.

Overall, Str. 26-Sub3 may have been a building erected directly on ground surface, its northwestern and northeastern foundations delimiting an earthen floored interior that covered at least 1.1x2.65m (its southwest and southeast footings, if they exist, were not revealed). This building is aligned approximately 20 degrees and may have been entered through doors in its northeast wall and west corner (both U.8 and 9 seem to have ended formally on the southeast and southwest).

Raised at about the same time, and 3.27m northeast of Str. 26-Sub3, is Str. 26-Sub4. The latter may have been another surface-level edifice defined on the southwest and northwest by low (0.2m-high) stone foundations (U.10 and 11). The putative southwestern footing (U.10) measures 0.54m across while the full width of its northwest analogue (U.11) was not revealed. From the very limited exposure of this possible building (uncovered over an area encompassing 1m²) we surmise that it was aligned roughly 295 degrees and contained at least one earthen-floored room.

Constructions raised during TS.4 were fashioned of cobbles packed round with small chinking pebbles. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Time Span 4 architecture, in its turn, was blanketed by the deposition of a medium-coarse-textured, orange-tan, sandy silt that contains numerous small pebbles (S.3). About 0.4m of S.3 was laid down now and provided the basis for constructions raised in the succeeding time period.

Time Span 6

During this interval Str. 26-Sub5 was erected overlapping and to the northeast of Str. 26-Sub4. Based on the portions of the former building that were uncovered in our excavations, Str. 26-Sub5 seems to have been a building that was erected directly on ground surface, its one earthen-floored room bounded by substantial stone foundations (U.12-14) that are 0.42-0.83m tall by 0.5-1.12m wide. The lowest of these footings, U.12 on the southwest, rests directly on U.11; it may be that the builders took advantage of the earlier construction and used it as a foundation for Str. 26-Sub5's southwest foundation. The building's interior was likely accessed through a 0.5m-wide door in its north corner. A 0.2m-thick stone pavement (U.15) extends 2.2m southeast from what we infer was Str. 26-Sub5's east corner. Unit 15 was traced for only 0.4m to the southwest where it would have fronted the edifice's southeast flank. We do not know if U.15 ran the full length of Str. 26-Sub5's southeast side or if it

stopped short of the building's south corner. Unit 16 is another floor, this time 0.14m thick and fronting Str. 26-Sub5's northeast face. This construction is at least 0.45m wide northeast-southwest and extends 1.25m southeast from the southeast side of the aforementioned doorway stopping an estimated 0.5m shy (northwest) of Str. 26-Sub5's east corner. Unit 17 is, in turn, a 0.15m-thick stone floor lying 0.65m southeast of U.16, measuring 2m northwest-southeast, and extending at least 0.25m to the northeast (U.17's northeast margin was not uncovered).

Overall, Str. 26-Sub5 is a surface-level building that covers an estimated 2.8x3m and is oriented ca. 25 degrees. The edifice's earthen-floored interior encompasses 1.9x1.6m (3m²) and was entered through a 0.5m-wide door in the room's north corner. Stone floors likely fronted Str. 26-Sub5 on at least its southeast and northeast flanks. Another pavement, located 0.35m northeast of this building may have been associated with a distinct construction that was not identified on ground surface. This stone surface is aligned approximately 112 degrees. All constructions pertaining to this span were made using cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. The gaps among the larger stones were filled with pebbles.

Time Span 7

After Str. 26-Sub5 was abandoned S.3 resumed deposition. Perhaps as little as 0.1m of this orange-brown sandy silt was laid down now. Covering S.3 by 0.28-0.33m was a dark gray, medium-fine-textured silt that contained some sand (S.2). Stratum 2 directly overlay S.4 by 0.55m southwest of U.9 where S.3 was not identified. Capping this sequence is the deposition of 0.06-0.18m of a dark gray brown silt (S.1). Embedded in S.1-2 is a moderate to light concentration of rocks that likely fell from TS.6 architecture.

General Comments

In general, it appears that the construction efforts that constituted Str. 26 generally progressed northeast through time. The earliest architecture (Strs. 26-Sub1 and -Sub2) is located in the southwestern-most segment of our excavations, eventually shrouded by the deposition of S.4. The latter soil level, in turn, served as the foundation for Strs. 26-Sub3 and -Sub4 the last of which is located 1.45m northeast of Str. 26-Sub1. The former constructions were eventually covered by S.4. Structure 26-Sub5, the last building recorded in this sequence, rests directly on the remains, and continuing northeast, of Str. 26-Sub4. It is unclear if S.3 and 4 were purposefully introduced to cover earlier architecture or if these deposits resulted from the gradual accumulation of soil mixed with cultural material on a southwest-to-northeast ascending slope that we did not identify. The sizable amount of artifacts found within S.4 may very tentatively point to its origin as part of a trash deposit. Whether that debris was jettisoned here with the purpose of elevating the terrain atop which Strs. 26-Sub3 and -Sub4 were raised is unclear.