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PSB OP 113-117 Excavation Report

Edward Schortman

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Sites 113/117

Sites 113 through 117 were originally classified as separate settlements based on the 1984 survey. Subsequent research identified prehistoric structures filling the gaps between these loci. Sites 113 through 117 are now seen as one extensive settlement. By the time this interpretation was established, however, excavations had been initiated in each site, recovered materials and features keyed into the earlier locus designations, used as operation numbers. In order to avoid confusion these operation numbers have been retained. We have in this case, therefore, broken with normal practice by assigning more than one operation number to a single site (Gualjoquito is the only other exception).

Sites 113/117 occupy the western border of the upper Ulua terrace in the west Gualjoquito vega where that landform joins the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills. The terrace summit ascends gradually east to west towards the mountains. The 35 constructions comprising the locus are distributed linearly following the base of the foothills, only a few buildings are found on the high terrace. Four patio-focused nodes are distinguishable within the ca. 340m northeast-southwest area covered by Sites 113/117: Strs. 114-1/4; Strs. 115-1/3 and 4/6; Strs. 117-5/12. These patio groups include the largest buildings found in the settlement, smaller edifices being scattered around these nucleated clusters. Of the 12 buildings excavated by the SBAP seven were parts of patio aggregates (Strs. 114-3 and 4, Strs. 115-1/3, Strs. 117-6 and 11) while the remainder were isolated constructions (Strs. 113-1, Strs. 114-7 and 8, Strs. 116-3 and 5). A crew of 16 men worked for five days (90 person-days of labor) in late April and early May, 1985 exposing roughly 80m² at Sites 113/117 under the direction of T. Johnson and E. Schortman.

Structure 113-1

Structure 113-1 is a small construction situated on the southwest margin of Sites 113/117. It lies near the base of the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills. This building was investigated by means of Subop. 113B, a 3.16m-long east-west by 1m-wide north-south trench dug against Str. 113-1's east flank. Suboperation 113B was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.48m below modern round surface and beyond construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	EC?
2	Str. 113-1-1st	U.1-2	-	-	LC, LPC
3	-	-	-	S.2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a light brown, moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted earth, underlies all

construction and natural soil levels revealed in Subop. 113B. Stratum 1 runs approximately level over its uncovered east-to-west extent. This earth level was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.18m before disappearing into the base of excavation. The lower 0.14m of S. 2, a brown, moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted soil, overlies S.1 and runs under Str. 113-1-1st's eastern basal facing (U.1). Strata 1 and 2 are nearly identical, suggesting very little change in the conditions influencing soil deposition throughout TS.1. The actual number of artifacts recovered from S.1 and lower S.2 cannot be reconstructed due to mixing of contexts in the field. Identification of some Early Classic ceramics from lot 113B/1 does imply, however, a light occupation dating to that span in the area of Str. 113-1-1st.

Time Span 2

The only portions of Str. 113-1-1st exposed in Subop. 113B are the building's eastern basal facing (U.1) and a portion of a summit pavement (U.2). Unit 1 is fashioned of cobbles, rises 0.1-0.24m, and is aligned 6°. Unit 2 is a surface of tightly packed cobbles and limestone chunks extending at least 0.96m to the west from U.1. No further investigations were pursued here though it appears, from surface evidence, that Str. 113-1-1st never rose more than 0.24m tall.

Time Span 3

After abandonment of Str. 113-1-1st, S.2 continued to be deposited eventually burying most of the low platform. Very little tumbled architectural debris was recovered during the excavation of Subop. 113B. Nevertheless, surface evidence, including a sizable rock pile on the building's summit, points to stone-robbing as at least one source of significant disruption at Str. 113-1-1st.

Suboperation 113C

Eleven low rises were noted during survey southwest of and downslope on a lower river terrace from Strs. 113-1/3. Suboperation 113C, a 1x2m trench, was dug to a maximum depth of 0.55m into one of these "mounds" to determine whether it had a natural or cultural origin. This excavation revealed a deposit of densely packed gravel and large boulders apparently created by natural fluvial processes. No artifacts or cultural features were recorded here. These eleven rises have, as a result, been deleted from the inventory of structures comprising Sites 113/117.

Structure 114-3

Structure 114-3 defines the north flank of a small patio cluster on the north Sites 113/117 margin. This building was investigated by means of Subop. 114C. That trench began as a 4.35m-long east-west by 1m-wide north-south probe dug into the platform's east side. Later, excavations were expanded to follow the eastern basal wall roughly 1m south to its southeast corner. Approximately 6m² were cleared here, digging being carried down to a maximum depth of 1.12m below modern ground surface over and into construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	EC
2	Str. 114-3-1st	U.1-3	F.1	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	-	S.3	-

Time Span 1

Time Span 1 is marked by the deposition of S. 1 and 2, fine-textured, tan soils distinguished only by slight variations in color (S.1 is a darker brown than S.2) and compaction (S. 2 is hard-compacted while S.1 is much softer). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.26m, its base lying outside excavation limits. The overlying S.2 has a thickness of ca. 0.46m and rises gradually from east to west, ascending 0.28m over a horizontal distance of 4.2m. An even gentler incline is discernible from south to north, rising 0.08m over 1.7m. Artifacts recovered from S.1 and 2 indicate human occupation on the eventual site of Str. 114-3-1st, predating the erection of that edifice.

Time Span 2

Portions of the eastern and southern basal facing of Str. 114-3-1st (U.1) were exposed in Subop. 114C along with a southern addition to the platform (U.2). Unit 1 is a reconstructed 0.3m- (on the south) to 0.52m-high (on the east) cobble wall set 0.06-0.18m into S.2. The stones comprising U.1 intrude most deeply into S.2 at the wall's southeast corner, possibly to enhance stability at this architecturally vulnerable point. Sometime after the construction of U.1 the building was expanded 1.2m southward by the addition of U.2, a 0.24m-high cobble facing that roughly continues U.1's east line. The earth fill (U.3) backing U.2 and burying at least the lower portions of U.1-south is indistinguishable from the soil found in S.2. There may have been a slight change in Str. 114-3-1st's alignment between the building of U.1 and 2. The former is oriented 12°, the latter 352°.

The architectural significance of F.1 remains in doubt. This collection of densely packed cobbles begins 0.47m east of U.1 and continues in that same direction for 1.47m. No clear wall lines are evident in this cobble aggregation. Nevertheless, F.1 does not seem to represent tumbled architectural debris for several reasons: it starts a significant distance away from extant construction (U.1); the stones comprising F.1 look to be flat-laid and some are found at depths equivalent to U.1's base within S.2. These considerations together imply that F.1 is a purposeful, if poorly preserved, construction appended to Str. 114-3-1st's east flank. If so, this addition would have risen a reconstructed 0.48m and expanded the platform ca. 1.94m eastward. While this interpretation seems plausible the poor state of F.1's preservation makes it difficult to be certain that we are dealing here with actual architecture. The relationship of F.1 to U.2 was not determined.

Time Span 3

Abandonment of Str. 114-3-1st was followed by the natural deposition of S.3 which blanketed most of the extant architecture. Stratum 3 is a brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil. The relative paucity of displaced building stones within S.3 (assuming that F.1 is not made up of architectural debris) suggests that Str. 114-3-1st was not seriously disturbed after TS.2 at least until recently. While U.1 and 2 preservation was fairly good, clear evidence of stone robbing in the platform's environs strongly suggests that portions of Str. 114-3-1st have been damaged by this process.

Structure 114-4

Structure 114-4, defining the south flank of the patio surrounded by Strs. 114-1 through 4, was investigated by means of Subop. 114B. This trench measures 2.34m north-south by 1m east-west and was dug against the building's south flank. Excavations here were carried down to a maximum depth of 1.01m outside construction revealing a single building phase and evidence of earlier occupation associated with architecture.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1	EC
2	-	-	F.1	-	EC
3	-	-	-	S.1	EC
4	Str. 114-4-Sub1	U.1-2	-	-	LC
5	-	-	-	S.2	LC
6	Str. 114-4-1st	U.3-4	-	-	LC
7	-	-	F.2	S.2	-

Time Span 1

The lowermost 0.07-0.12m of S.1 exposed in Subop. 114B underlies all other evidence of occupation in this area and so falls within TS.1 (S.1's base was not revealed in our excavations). Stratum 1 is a light brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil. Artifacts recovered from the deepest portion of the probe, lot 114B/5, included materials pertaining to TS. 1 and 2, making it impossible at this remove to specify which, if any, cultural material pertains to this earliest interval.

Time Span 2

The laying down of F.1, four flat-laid cobbles resting within the largely undifferentiated matrix of S.1, defines TS.2. The absence of other stones in S.1, coupled with the horizontal disposition of the F.1 cobbles, indicates that these rocks were part of a construction. What the nature of that building was, and what part F.1 played in it, remain unknown. Feature 1 is 0.29m below the walls associated with Str. 114-4-Sub1 (U.1-2).

Time Span 3

Following abandonment of whatever building F.1 had been a part of, deposition of S. 1 continued, eventually burying F.1 by 0.3-0.46m. Artifacts incorporated within S.1's upper segment suggest that occupation continued in the immediate vicinity of Str. 114-4 during this interval.

Time Span 4

Construction and use of Str. 114-4-Sub1 capped the interval during which S.1 was laid down. The aforementioned building seems to be a surface-level construction oriented 78°30' to 82° and delimited by cobble foundations on the north (U.1) and south (U.2). The former rises a preserved 0.32m while U.2 ascends no more than 0.06m, comprised of a single surviving stone. These footings are set 0.06-0.17m within S.1. Reasons for interpreting U.1 and 2 as part of the same surface-level edifice include: the uncovered portions of the rocks are rounded, as though they are the *backs* of cobbles oriented outward beyond the excavation limits; the S.1/2 interface is relatively level and sits at an appropriate level between U.1 and 2 to represent the building's earthen floor. Our interpretations remain tentative and additional excavation would certainly help to clarify the appearance and dimensions of Str. 114-4-Sub1. It still seems likely, however, that U.1 and 2 are part of the same construction, rather than the remnants of two closely spaced buildings. If this was a surface-level edifice, the room it contained measures 1.48m north-south.

Time Span 5

Following its abandonment, Str. 114-4-Sub1 was buried by the lower 0.08-0.15m of S.2, a dark brown, coarse-textured, hard-compacted soil. The "room" defined by U.1 and 2 as well as most of these foundations were obscured by this earth level.

Time Span 6

Structure 114-4-1st's south flank was built over the remnants of U.1, the earlier construction being used in some cases as a footing for the platform's south basal facing (U.3). The latter is a cobble wall, oriented 83°, and standing roughly 0.46m high. This facing rests as much as 0.15m above U.1 in some places while sitting directly on that foundation in others. Unit 4 is a ca. 0.2m-high construction designed to expand Str. 114-4-1st fully 0.94m to the south. This addition is faced with moderately large cobbles that contain a fill of small to medium-sized stones. Unit 4 was not well-preserved and seems to have been built relatively late in Str. 114-4-

1st's occupation.

Time Span 7

After Str. 114-4-1st's abandonment, the building was largely buried by the continued deposition of S.2. Inclusion of a light scattering of small cobbles within this earth layer (F.2), extending approximately 0.85m south of U.4, implies that Str. 114-4-1st had not been much disturbed since TS.6. Evidence of stone robbing here and elsewhere at Sites 113/117, however, indicates that the exposed segments of the platform, especially the summit, have most likely been damaged as a result of this practice.

Structure 114-7

Structure 114-7 is an isolated construction barely visible on ground surface. It is situated ca. 40m south of Str. 114-4. This building was investigated by means of Subop. 114E, a 4.63m-long north-south by 1m-wide east-west trench placed against Str. 114-7's north flank. Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.6m outside construction revealing a single building phase and earlier occupation associated with a rock-filled pit (F.1).

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	EC?
2	-	-	F.1	-	EC?
3	-	-	-	S.2,3	EC?
4	Str. 114-7-1st	U.1	-	-	LC?
5	-	-	-	S.3	-

Time Span 1

The first events chronicled in Subop. 114E involved the deposition of S.1 and the lower 0.14m of S.2. The former is a tan, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil that was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.15m, its base lying outside excavation limits. Stratum 2 blankets S.1 and consists of a reddish-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil with a few white inclusions. The artifacts recovered from these levels indicate human occupation in the area dating to TS.1.

Time Span 2

Feature 1 is a sub-hemispherical pit dug down from a now-indiscernible living surface

sitting roughly 0.14m above the base of S.2. The cavity contains a number of densely packed small cobbles, roughly 0.04-0.1m in diameter, mixed with a reddish-brown soil identical to S.2. Most of the stones are vesicular basalt. A 0.01-0.02m thick ash lens defines the pit's southern flank but is absent on the other exposed sides (the western side was not excavated). Feature 1 has a diameter of 0.9m and is at least 0.3m deep, extending down into S.1 (the base was not securely identified). Few artifacts were uncovered in F.1's immediate vicinity and the cavity's function(s) remains unknown.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment of the living surface associated with F.1, S.2 continued to be deposited and was buried by the lower 0.2m of S.3. The latter is a dark brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil with many small white inclusions. Artifacts found within these layers point to persistent occupation in Str. 114-7's environs in the years succeeding TS.2.

Time Span 4

Structure 114-7-1st appears to be a surface-level structure the northern foundation (U.1) of which stands 0.08-0.13m high, measures 0.16-0.22m across (a line of cobbles a single stone high and wide), and is aligned roughly 288°. The building's interior seems to have possessed an earthen floor. Unit 1 sits 0.29m above the top of F.1. Only a limited portion of U.1 was exposed and no other segments of Str. 114-7-1st were cleared.

Time Span 5

After the desertion of Str. 114-7-1st, S. 3 continued to be deposited, eventually burying much of the edifice (the tops of the U.1 stones still protruded above ground surface in 1985). No tumbled architectural debris derived from Str. 114-7-1st was encountered though, given the limited use of stone in construction, little detritus of this sort was anticipated. Overall, Str. 114-7-1st seems to have suffered relatively little damage since TS.4 though recent stone robbing may have resulted in the truncation of U.1 in the western portion of Subop. 114E.

Structure 114-8

Structure 114-8 is an isolated, low construction lying roughly 21m southeast of Str. 114-4. Excavations here, conducted as part of Subops. 114D, F, G, H, and I, uncovered approximately 20m² in the course of clearing much of the building (all but short segments of all four sides were uncovered). Digging was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.36m within and 0.4m below modern ground surface outside construction revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	LC

2	Str. 114-8-1st	U.1-4	-	-	LC, EPC?
3	-	-	-	S.2	-

Time Span 1

Only the uppermost 0.14m of S.1, a light brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil were revealed in our investigations of Str. 114-8. This soil level underlies all exposed construction and its deposition clearly belongs in TS.1. The lower 0.14-0.21m of S.2, a dark brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted earth, blankets S.1 and runs beneath units comprising Str. 114-8-1st. This soil, therefore, must have also been laid down prior to raising the aforementioned edifice. Recovery of artifacts in these levels indicates the presence of a human occupation in the area prior to Str. 114-8-1st's erection.

Time Span 2

Structure 114-8-1st is a surface-level building delimited by low stone foundations 0.08-0.2m (one stone) high by 0.3-0.5m wide (U.1-4). The building's southeast, southwest, and northeast corners were not encountered during excavation. The most likely cause of this "disappearance" is stone robbing over recent years, a practice much in evidence at Sites 113/117. We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that one or more of these junctions might have served as a doorway into the edifice's earthen-floored room. The latter does not seem to have been internally divided and measures 2.95m north-south by 3.8m east-west. Overall, Str. 114-8-1st covers 3.6m north-south by 4.6m east-west and is oriented approximately 356°.

Time Span 3

After Str. 114-8-1st's abandonment, much of the building was covered by the continued natural deposition of S.2. The tops of U.1-4 were still protruding above ground surface when the site was dug in 1985. Very little architectural debris was encountered during our excavations here. As noted above, however, there is good reason to believe that this building, as well as others at Sites 113/117, has suffered considerably from stone-robbing.

Structure 115-1

Structure 115-1, on the north side of the Str. 115-1 through 3 patio group, is built over a natural ascent rising 1.12m over a horizontal distance of 7.2m. The building is approximately 32m south of Str. 114-7. Structure 115-1 was investigated *via* Subops. 115B and D, consisting of an east-west trench cutting completely across the platform and a southward extension of that excavation which exposed the structure's southwest corner (16.7m² cleared in all). Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.8m below modern ground surface into and beneath construction revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	EC? LC
2	Str. 115-1-1st	U.1-7	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	F.1,2	S.2	-

Time Span 1

The natural deposition of S.1 and 2 comprise the first events identified in Subops. 115B and D. The former is a light brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil that ascends 1.12m over an east-west distance of 7.2m. Stratum 1 apparently drops westward of this apparent peak, descending 0.18m over 3.7m in that direction. This earth level was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.53m, its base lying beyond the base of excavation. The lower 0.06m of S.2, a dark brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil, underlies Str. 115-1-1st construction on the west (U.1) and so must have been deposited prior to the events included in TS.2. Recovery of some artifacts from these levels points to occupation in the area investigated by Subops. 115B and D prior to the raising of Str. 115-1-1st. Diagnostics of both the Early and Late Classic identified in analyzed excavation lots suggests that the pre-Str. 115-1-1st habitation dates to both these spans. The Early Classic attribution remains tentative, however.

Time Span 2

Structure 115-1-1st is a platform rising 0.36-0.38m, on the west, and 1m on the downsloping, eastern flank. The western side is faced by U.1, a 0.36-0.38m-high cobble wall that ascends to the summit in two increments. The basal segment is 0.16m high and steps back 0.19m to the upper portion that rises the remaining 0.2-0.22m. Structure 115-1-1st's eastern flank is mounted by four reconstructed cobble-faced risers (U.3-6) ranging from 0.1-0.26m high. The lowest three treads measure 0.52-0.9m across while the top-most element covers 1.64m east-west. All treads seem to have had earthen surfaces. The fill (U.7) backing and underlying these steps is composed of cobbles and earth, the latter identical to S.2, laid directly on the S.1's upward slope. Cobbles are especially concentrated in the lower portion of the U.3-6 system, being densely packed behind (west of) U.5. Units 3 through 6 had been heavily disrupted following the platform's abandonment, their placement and sizes reconstructed from the distribution of tumbled stones seen in section. The uppermost tread noted above is succeeded on the west by U.2, a 0.2-0.25m-high, 0.54-0.96m-wide cobble wall that appears to delimit the summit's east side. It seems likely, though not established, that U.1 delimits the summit on the west.

Overall, Str. 115-1-1st is an earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform built over a natural east-to-west ascent. The building measures a reconstructed 7.37m east-west by at least 5.4m north-south (the north-south basal dimensions were not determined) and is oriented 355° to

357°. The building's summit is roughly 2.1m wide east-west (between U.1 and 2).

Time Span 3

Following the desertion of Str. 115-1-1st, S.2 continued to be deposited west and east of the platform eventually burying most final phase construction. Considerable quantities of displaced architectural debris were found west (F.2), east (F.1), and on top of Str. 115-1-1st (F.3) attesting to the significant damage suffered by the edifice since TS.2. All three features are comprised of cobbles, included within S.2, and extending 1.16m west and 1.5m east of Str. 115-1-1st respectively. Feature 3 rocks were found overlying the wide tread fronting U.2 near the platform's summit.

Structure 115-2

Structure 115-2, ca. 11m west of Str. 115-1, closes off the west side of the Str. 115-1/3 patio. A trench measuring 5.85m east-west by 1m north-south bisected the building exposing segments of both basal and summit construction (Subop. 115C). Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.57m outside and 0.76m below modern ground surface into and below construction revealing two building phases.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1	EC?
2	Str. 115-2-2nd	U.1-2	-	-	LC?
3	Str. 115-2-1st	U.2-5	-	-	LC
4	-	-	F.1	S.2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a light brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil, underlies, and buries the bases of, all constructions associated with Str. 115-2. This earth level was uncovered to a maximum depth of 0.42m though its base was not encountered. Stratum 1 rises 0.15m over 1.05m east-west before leveling out. Artifacts found in S.1 point to occupation preceding the eventual raising of Strs. 115-2-1st and -2nd. Dating this period is difficult as the relevant excavation lots were not analyzed. Recovery of Early Classic diagnostics in the vicinity of Str. 115-2-1st tenuously implies that the earliest habitation identified in Subop. 115C, as elsewhere at Sites 113/117, pertains to this interval.

Time Span 2

Structure 115-2-2nd seems to have been an earthen-floored, surface-level building bounded on the east and west by stone foundations (U.2 and 1, respectively) standing a preserved 0.22-0.26m high and measuring 0.58-0.71m across. Both units are set 0.02-0.06m into S.1. The "room" delimited by U.1 and 2 covers 2.44m east-west. Structure 115-2-2nd is aligned 0°, based on the measurements taken on the better-preserved U.2. Inclusion of these elements within a single construction is based on their similar stratigraphic positions (U.2's base is 0.09m below that of U.1) and construction styles. No temporally diagnostic materials were found associated with Str. 115-2-2nd. Assigning its erection to the Late Classic is based solely on the relatively short span that seems to have elapsed between Str. 115-2-2nd's abandonment and Str. 115-1-1st's construction.

Time Span 3

Structure 115-2-1st is a 0.34m- (on the west) to 0.48m-high (on the east) platform built over and incorporating part of its immediate predecessor. The building is defined by a single, sheer cobble-and-chunk wall on the west (U.3). Unit 3 is 0.34m high by 0.48m across and is backed by a fill of earth containing very few stones (U.5). Unit 5 buries U.1 and its top apparently serves as the earthen summit floor. The soil in U.5 is indistinguishable from S.2. On the east, U.2 was preserved, now defining the east edge of a 0.22m-high terrace backed by a mixed stone-and-earth fill (still U.5 though the density of included rocks is much greater here than further west). Earth in the upper 0.05-0.2m of U.5 is identical to S.2, that in the lower 0.2m closely resembles S.1. The eastern terrace is 0.81m wide and is succeeded by a 0.22m-high cobble step-up to the summit (U.4). Unit 4 is 0.27-0.4m wide. Set 0.26m below and immediately west of U.3 was a single, complete polychrome jar (lot 115C/3). Though no pit lines were associated with this vessel, its proximity to U.3 and location near Str. 115-2-1st's supposed centerline suggest that the container represent a cache related to the platform's construction. No other items were associated with the deposit. Overall, Str. 115-2-1st measures 4.7m east-west, rises 0.34-0.48m high, has an earthen summit covering 3.2m, and is aligned 0° to 1°.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 115-2-1st's abandonment, the platform was almost completely buried by the deposition of S.2, a dark brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil. Feature 1, a moderately dense concentration of cobbles extending 0.97m east of U.2, is included in S.2 and most likely represents tumbled architectural debris. This detritus implies that Str. 115-2-1st, especially its east flank, suffered significant damage in the years since TS.3. In addition, parts of U.4 seemed to be missing, possibly due to the ubiquitous practice of stone robbing.

Structure 115-3

Structure 115-3 is 11m southwest and across the patio from Str. 115-1. The former, diminutive edifice closes off the south flank of the patio it shares with Strs. 115-1 and 2. Suboperation 115E, a 1.9m east-west by 1m north-south trench, was dug up to and over the building's west flank. This suboperation was expanded southward in a fruitless attempt to locate Str. 115-3-1st's southwest corner (roughly 3.2m² were cleared as part of Subop. 115E).

Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.39m below modern ground surface beyond construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	?
2	Str. 115-3-1st	U.1	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	-	S.2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 and the lower 0.08m of S.2 underlie construction associated with Str. 115-3-1st. The two levels are nearly identical, both being brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soils. The primary difference is that S.2 is slightly darker in color than the layer is buries. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.17m, its base lying beyond our excavation limits. Materials from TS. 1 and 2 were mixed during excavation making it impossible at this remove to determine whether Str. 115-3-1st's environs were occupied prior to the raising of that building.

Time Span 2

Structure 115-3-1st seems to be a surface-level building defined on the west by a stone foundation (U.1) 0.17-0.22m high, 0.3m wide, and oriented roughly 350°. Unit 1 was apparently heavily disturbed south of the 0.7m long (north-south) segment encountered in the original Subop. 115E excavation. Efforts to trace U.1 to its southwest corner were not successful. Investigation of Str. 115-3-1st did not proceed further than revealing the building's western footing and no more can presently be said concerning the edifice.

Time Span 3

After desertion of Str. 115-3-1st, the building was buried by the continued deposition of S.2. The paucity of architectural debris encountered in Subop. 115E most likely reflects the sparing use of stone in the original construction. The poor state of U.1's preservation, noted above, most likely owes a great deal to local stone robbing.

Structure 116-3

Structure 116-3 is a low, isolated building lying ca. 39m northeast of Str. 117-6 and 84m southwest of Str. 115-3. The edifice was investigated via Subop. 116B, a 4.84m north-south by

1m east-west trench dug against Str. 116-3's south side. Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.55 outside and 0.56m below modern ground surface into and through construction exposing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	?
2	Str. 116-3-1st	U.1	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	-	S.2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 and the lower 0.26m of S.2 underlie Str. 116-3-1st construction. As a result, the natural deposition of these earth levels must predate the building's erection in TS.2. Stratum 1 is a reddish-brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil. Stratum 2, overlying the aforementioned layer, is a brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil. Materials from TS. 1 and 2 were mixed during excavation making it impossible at present to determine if this area was occupied prior to the raising of Str. 116-3-1st.

Time Span 2

Structure 116-3-1st is an earthen-floored, surface-level building the southern foundation of which was exposed in Subop. 116B (U.1). Unit 1 is a 0.16-0.18m-high, 0.44-0.46m-wide stone footing that is aligned 121°.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 116-3-1st's abandonment, the edifice was obscured by the continued deposition of S.2. Very little tumbled architectural detritus was identified in Subop. 116B, suggesting that Str. 116-3-1st had been little disturbed since TS.2. Stone robbing does not seem to have seriously damaged the exposed portion of Str. 116-3-1st.

Structure 116-5

Structure 116-5 is a low, isolated building ca. 51m east/southeast of Str. 116-3. This edifice is one of the few Sites 113/117 constructions located well out onto the high terrace surface away from the base of the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills. Suboperation 116C, a 3.3m east-west by 1m north-south trench, was dug to investigate the building's east side. Excavation was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.33m below modern ground surface outside and through construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Str. 116-5-1st	U.1	F.1	-	LC, EPC
2	-	-	-	S.1	-

Time Span 1

Structure 116-5-1st is a surface-level building delimited on the east by a 0.3-0.32m-high wall (U.1) built of river-rounded slabs set vertically. Unit 1 is 0.31-0.35m wide and is oriented 14°. The building's interior floor seems to have been surfaced with a mixture of earth and small cobbles. The latter are found in an irregular level 0.05-0.12m thick beginning 0.23m west of U.1 (F.1). Aside from F.1, there is no indication of where Str. 116-5-1st's floor was located.

Time Span 2

After Str. 116-5-1st's desertion, the building was almost completely buried by the deposition of S.1, a brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil. Stratum 1's base was not identified in Subop. 116C. Structure 116-5-1st did not suffer significant damage following TS.2, as suggested by the good state of preservation in which U.1 was found and the paucity of displaced architectural debris uncovered during excavation.

Structure 117-6

Structure 117/6 is built into the southeast-northwest ascent from the high terrace to the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills and defines the northwest flank of the patio defined by Sts. 117-5/12. Suboperation 117B is a 4.4m southeast-northwest by 1m northeast-southwest trench dug into the platform's southeast side, extending up to the summit. Excavations were carried to a maximum depth of 0.58m below modern ground surface into and through construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	?
2	Str. 117-6-1st	U.1-3	-	-	EPC, LPC

Time Span 1

The earliest event identified in Subop. 117B is the deposition of S.1, a gray-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.16m (its base lies beyond excavation limits). Stratum 1 rises gradually from southeast to northwest, ascending 0.31m over a horizontal distance of 3.98m in that direction. The lower 0.16-0.24m of S.2 overlies the aforementioned soil level and underlies Str. 117-6-1st construction (U.1-3). Stratum 2 is nearly identical to S.1 save that the former is a darker brown color. No artifacts could be definitely assigned to these early levels.

Time Span 2

Structure 117-6-1st appears to be an earthen construction ascended by cobble-faced risers on the southeast (U.1 and 2). Units 1 and 2, the lowest and second ascending risers respectively, are each a single, large stone high and wide (0.13-0.34m tall and 0.35-0.6m wide), aligned roughly 14° (based on measurements taken along the better preserved U.2). The 0.54m separating U.1 and 2 is filled with earth indistinguishable from S.2. This tread apparently had an earthen surface as well. Overall, Str. 117-6-1st rose 0.47m on the southeast.

Time Span 3

Following the platform's abandonment, Str. 117-6-1st was largely buried by the continued deposition of S.2. The paucity of displaced building stones recovered in excavations reflects, in large part, the sparing use of rocks in the original construction. Unit 2 appeared to be fairly well preserved while some rocks were missing from U.1. Stone robbing, once again, may be to blame for the latter disruption.

Structure 117-11

Structure 117-11 is approximately 4.5m southwest of Str. 117-6 and defines the northwest corner of the patio enclosed by Strs. 117-5/12. The building was investigated by means of Subops. 117C and D, trenches measuring 4.1m and 1.1m long by 1m wide dug into the platform's south and east flanks. Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.42m below modern ground surface outside construction, revealing a single building phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	-	S.1,2	?
2	Str. 117-11-1st	U.1-2	-	-	EPC?

Time Span 1

The natural deposition of S.1, a brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted earth mottled with gray soil, is the first event recognized in Subops. 117C and D. Stratum 1 was uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.21m before it disappeared into the base of excavation. The lower 0.10-0.15m of S.2 blankets S.1 and underlies Str. 117-11-1st construction (U.1-2). Stratum 2 is identical to its predecessor in all ways except that it has a gray-brown hue. Artifacts recovered during excavation could not be definitively assigned to the above levels.

Time Span 2

Structure 117-11-1st appears to be a surface-level building defined by foundations of variable width on the south and east. Unit 1, the southern footing, is 0.15-0.2m high, 1.7m wide, and aligned 62°. The southern footing seems to have been built into a natural south to north rise, its top ascending 0.22m over the 1.7m width. Unit 2, the eastern foundation, is 0.17m high, 0.3m wide, and oriented 171°. Both U.1 and 2 are one stone high. The latter foundation is also one rock across while the much greater width of U.1 is created by the addition of several stones of various sizes behind (north of) the southern facing. The latter rocks create an irregular pavement, possibly a porch or veranda, on Str. 117-11-1st's south flank. The building's floor seems to have been earthen.

Time Span 3

After desertion of Str. 117-11-1st, the edifice was largely blanketed by the continued deposition of S.2. The general absence of tumbled architectural debris identified in S.2 results, in part, from the restricted use of stone in Str. 117-11-1st construction. Units 1 and 2 were well preserved and did not seem to have suffered from the depredations of stone robbing so common throughout Sites 113/117.

Chronological Summary

Human use of the Sites 113/117 area apparently began during the Early Classic. Remains dating to this span are most clearly identified in the northern portion of the settlement, especially in the vicinity of Strs. 114-3, 4, and 7. More tentatively, Early Classic residence is attested near Strs. 115-1 and 2 and again, much further south, close-by Str. 113-1. Most commonly, occupation dating to this span is represented by artifacts, primarily ceramics, included in strata that underlie later architecture. Some remnants of Early Classic construction were unearthed, however: a rock-filled pit near Str. 114-7 (F.1) and some purposefully-laid cobbles located in a deep probe off Str. 114-4 (F.1). Early Classic residence at Sites 113/117, therefore, was apparently extensive and substantial.

The succeeding Late Classic witnessed an apparent increase in construction activity, with Strs. 113-1-st, 114-Sub-1, 114-3-1st, 114-4-1st, 114-7-1st, 114-8-1st, 115-1-1st, 115-2-1st and, probably, 115-2-2nd, 115-3-1st, and, possibly, Str. 116-3-1st all raised at this time. This spurt of

building effort most likely reflect a local population surge that tails off during the Early Postclassic. Structures 116-5-1st and 117-11-1st were erected during the latter interval, but by-and-large this span is characterized by continued occupation of pre-existing edifices (Strs. 113-1-1st, 114-3-1st, 114-8-1st, 115-1-1st, 115-3-1st, and 116-3-1st). The immediate environs of Str. 117-6-1st may have supported Early Postclassic occupation as well though this building seems to have been erected during the Late Postclassic. No other clear evidence of residence at Sites 113/117 during the final precolumbian centuries was identified.

In general, use of Sites 113/117 seems to have shifted southward throughout the settlement's long history. Early Classic residence is most clearly marked in the north, Postclassic remains being concentrated further south. It is also of some interest that in those few cases where Early Classic construction has been identified it is buried by varying amounts of soil prior to the erection of Late Classic buildings in the vicinity. The import of this pattern remains unknown, though some hiatus between significant Early and Late Classic occupation may be suggested by these observations.

Architectural Summary

Little can be said at present about Early Classic architecture at Sites 113/117. The isolated fragments of what seems to have been a construction made of vesicular basalt cobbles, found below Str. 114-4-Sub1, are largely uninformative (F.1). Feature 1, the cobble-filled, ash-lined cavity exposed north of Str. 114-7-1st, is a better preserved entity. This pit has a diameter of 0.9m and is at least 0.3m deep. Features such as this one have been rarely identified in the middle Ulua drainage and their functions are unknown. Though Str. 114-7-1st's F.1 was likely associated with other constructions no trace of these buildings was recovered during our investigations.

Late Classic edifices at Sites 113/117 consist of both low platforms and surface-level buildings. The latter are earthen-floored constructions defined by foundations of, generally, vesicular basalt cobbles, standing 0.08-0.32m high and measuring 0.16-0.7m wide. Stones comprising these walls have diameters within the range of 0.12-0.37m. Variable effort was invested in placing the naturally flatter faces of rocks outward (towards the building's exterior); in many cases no such effort was in evidence. In most cases, footings consist of a single line of flat-laid cobbles the gaps between which are filled with a few chinking pebbles. All stones are set in a mud mortar. The rooms contained in these buildings cover 1.48-2.44m across while one cleared example encompasses 2.95x3.8m (Str. 114-8-1st). Structure 115-2-2nd measures 3.72m across while Str. 114-8-1st covers 3.6x4.6m. Building alignments range from 80° to 121°.

Late Classic platforms generally consist of earth-filled constructions faced by low stone walls. The latter rise 0.1-0.46m and are 0.27-0.96m wide, built largely of vesicular basalt cobbles the naturally flatter faces of which are oriented outward. Stone sizes range from 0.1-0.35m in diameter. In most cases, a single stone facing intervenes between ancient ground surface and the earthen-floored summit. Structures 115-1-1st and 115-2-1st possess terraces on one of their flanks ranging in width from 0.52-1.64m. The former edifice has the most extensive terrace system, mounting its 1m high downslope face. Terrace risers are identical to platform facings while treads are generally surfaced with earth, perhaps with a few included stones (Str. 115-2-1st). Platform cores consist primarily of earth though cobbles are found mixed with soil in a few cases. Summits almost certainly had earthen surfaces though there is some hint of a stone pavement atop Str. 113-1-1st. Structures 115-1-1st and 115-2-1st measure 7.37m and 4.7m

across overall and support summits 2.1 and 3.2m wide (the only two edifices sufficiently cleared to obtain this information). Platforms are oriented between 352° to 12°.

Early Postclassic construction at Sites 113/117 consists primarily of surface-level buildings defined by stone footings 0.15-0.32m high by 0.3-0.35m wide. Like their Late Classic antecedents, these foundations are built primarily of vesicular basalt cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which are occasionally oriented outwards. Foundations tend to consist of a single line of stones. An exception is Str. 116-5-1st where river-rounded basalt slabs are set on end and backed by small cobbles to make the eastern footing. Foundation stone generally measure between 0.27-0.37m in diameter. Room floors are commonly made of earth though Str. 116-5-1st's interior was apparently surfaced with a mix of cobbles and dirt. Structure 117-11-1st has a possible stone-surfaced veranda that is 1.7m wide and located off the building's south flank. Early Postclassic buildings at Sites 113/117 are aligned between 14° to 81°. A casual stone addition, 0.48m high by 1.92m across, was appended onto Str. 114-3-1st's east side (F.1) late in the building's occupation span. It is comparable to renovations made during the Early Postclassic to Late Classic buildings elsewhere in the middle Rio Ulua drainage and may date to this span as well.

Late Postclassic construction is limited to Str. 117-6-1st at Sites 113/117. This building is a low platform mounted on the southeast by two risers each faced with a single line of relatively large (0.3-0.37m in diameter), primarily vesicular basalt, cobbles. These risers are set on and retain earth fill, looking like minimal stone facings on what is otherwise an earthen platform. The risers are 0.13-0.34m high, 0.35-0.6m wide, and the single, cleared tread which backs the basal riser measures 0.54m across. Overall, Str. 117-6-1st is 0.47m high on the southeast and oriented 14°.