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PSB OP 150 Excavation Report

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Site 150

Site 150 is situated on the eastern margin of the upper Las Huertas/Hondo terrace, ca. 110m north of Site 149 and 280m northeast of Site 52. The nearest perennial stream is the Rio Las Huertas, approximately 200m to the north. Like Sites 51, 52, and 149, Site 150 occupies a low rise above the surrounding terrace surface. Rock outcrops, especially basalt, dot this rise. The settlement consists of 19 buildings arranged into two patio-focused groups: Strs. 150-3/11 forming one patio with Strs. 150-1/2, 12/15 located nearby and Strs. 150 16/19 defining a second patio. Structures 150-4, 5, 6, 9, and 14 were excavated under the direction of P. Urban and E. Schortman from May 15-22, 1985, roughly 40 person-days being invested in exposing approximately 111m².

Structure 150-4

Structure 150-4 occupies the southeast corner of the patio, ca. 1m east of Str. 150-5 and 14.5m south of and across the patio from Str. 150-11. This building was investigated by means of Subop. 150E, a 1x4.4m trench dug into Str. 150-4's south flank. Excavation was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.42m below ground modern surface south of construction and revealed a single construction phase.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
150E/01	12 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) Preconstruction Soil Deposition	?
150E/02	55 sherds	Terminal Debris (secondary), Fill, Preconstruction Soil Deposition	?

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 150-4-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC?
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a tan soil containing at least as many small rocks as earth, underlies all exposed architecture. The earth level rises 0.49m over a distance of 3.7m south to north and probably constitutes the exposed slope over which Str. 150-4-1st was erected. Two large stones

(fine-grained, light colored rocks, possibly andesite, one of which measures 0.42x0.49x0.5m) were found outcropping from S.1, hinting at the close proximity of bedrock. One of these extrusions was incorporated into Str. 150-4-1st fill (U.2). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.23m though its base was not revealed. No cultural materials were clearly associated with S.1.

Time Span 2

Structure 150-4-1st is represented in Subop. 150E by U.1-3. Unit 1 is an apparent basal terrace standing a preserved 0.31m high and set 0.1m into the south-to-north ascent of S.1. Unit 1 is composed of fine-grained, light colored angular stones (probably andesite) set in a brown mud mortar. Rocks here are fairly large, 0.15x0.27m to 0.25x0.45m, and there seems to have been a slight effort made to orient the naturally flatter faces of these stones outward (to the south). Unit 1 survives as a single course. Backing the southern basal facing for 2.06m is a fill (U.2) composed of dark brown, coarse-textured soil incorporating a few stones and at least one outcrop emanating from S.1. Unit 2 runs back to and under (by 0.06m) what appears to have been the southern step-up to the summit (U.3), a 0.32m-high facing composed of rocks similar to, but smaller than, those found in U.1. Stone sizes here range from 0.07x0.11m to 0.25x0.29m with most having dimensions of around 0.16x0.22m. Some effort was made to position the naturally flatter faces of U.3's component rocks so that they faced outwards, but there was no evidence of horizontal coursing. Chinking stones are absent in both U.1 and 3. Structure 150-4-1st's south flank was, by the conclusion of TS 2, faced by a 2.06m-wide, 0.31m-high terrace that gave way to a 0.32m-high ascent to the summit. The platform was aligned approximately 286 degrees.

Time Span 3

Deposition of S.2, a dark brown, hard-compacted, coarse textured soil, over S.1 and parts of U.1-3 marks the last activity identified in Subop. 150E. Stratum 2 is 0.14-0.2m thick where it overlies S.1. Feature 1, a light scattering of displaced building stone, extends 0.5m south of U.1; F.2 is a slightly denser concentration of tumble found within 0.36m south of U.3. The general paucity of displaced architectural debris revealed in Subop. 150E, coupled with the absence of latter day stone robbing, implies that U.1 and 3 were probably not much taller in antiquity than they were when excavated.

Structure 150-5

Structure 150-5 is 1m west of Str. 150-4 and 2m east of Str. 150-6 on the southern patio flank. Excavations here (Subops. 150D, H, and L) uncovered roughly 42.2m² in an effort to reconstruct the final phase dimensions and form of Str. 150-5-1st. The principal excavation is a 1x7.86m trench (Subops. 150D and H) dug north-south across the edifice and reaching maximum depths of 0.53m and 0.3m below modern ground surface south and north of construction respectively. Additional probes located the core platform's northeast and southwest corners. Two construction phases were identified in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
150D/01	123 sherds 5 obsidian pieces 4 pieces of shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary) combines Material from the Two Construction Phases	?
150D/02	283 sherds 4 censer fragments 2 figurine fragments 4 pieces of obsidian 7 pieces of shell 1 piece of <u>bajareque</u>	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC
150D/03	27 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC
150D/04	61 sherds 1 mano fragment 1 metate fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150D/05	25 sherds	Fill	?
150D/06	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150H/1	72 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150H/2	1 complete metate	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150H/3	144 sherds 1 metate fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC
150L/1	125 sherds 1 censer fragment 1 mano fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC
150L/2	58 sherds 3 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC, EC
150L/3	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
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1	-	-	S.1,2	-	-
2	Str. 150-5-2 nd	U.1-4	-	-	LC
3	Str. 150-5-1 st	U.5-8	-	-	LC
4	-	-	S.2	F.1-3	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 underlies exposed construction and consists of a profusion of small, angular stones set in a tan soil matrix (almost more rock than earth). This level was identified west and south of construction. In the former direction, S.1 runs more-or-less level; south-to-north, S.1's top ascends 0.22m over 5.44m, rising most rapidly over the 1.96m south of the platform (ascending 0.16m in that distance). Stratum 1, in both cases, was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.1m, the level's base laying beyond excavation limits. Several large rocks (e.g., 0.55x0.85x0.46m thick [minimally]) were noted protruding from S.1, suggesting that the earth layer shallowly overlies bedrock. A small portion of S.2, a dark brown, coarse-textured, hard-compacted, relatively rock-free soil, underlies construction by 0.04m on the north and south.

Time Span 2

The exposed elements of Str. 150-5-2nd consist of the platform's south, west, and north basal facings (U. 1, 4, and 3 respectively) and an apparent summit paving (U.2). (Only 0.3m of the building's east basal wall was exposed and is not discussed here). Units 1, 3, and 4 are fashioned using, primarily, light gray, angular stones (probably andesite) whose flatter faces are oriented outward; several examples have such smooth surfaces that they may have been artificially modified. All rocks are set in a brown mud mortar; chinking stones are rarely encountered. Unit 1 rises 0.49m and consists of three clear horizontal courses. Neither U.3 nor U.4 exhibits clear coursing, the former standing 0.26m tall while the base of the latter was buried by later construction and was not revealed in excavation. The height discrepancy between the north and south basal walls may be partially accounted for by differential preservation (U.1 is largely buried, and hence bolstered, by later construction [U.5 and 6] while U.3 was exposed from TS2 onwards). Ground surface does rise from south to north, however, and the differences in U.1 and 3 heights likely represent attempts to compensate for that ascent. Stone sizes are fairly consistent among the three units, ranging from 0.08x0.17m to 0.19x0.6m with most falling near 0.14x0.26m. Unit 2 is a disturbed summit surface composed of angular stones set in a mud matrix, rock sizes varying from 0.03x0.07m to 0.2x0.25m. A stone line is visible in this pavement 0.37m south of, and running parallel to, U.3, possibly marking the location of a north basal facing predating the latter unit. A large (0.26x0.42m) metate fragment is incorporated into this line. This inclusion may have been fortuitous and/or the implement might have continued in use on Str. 150-5-2nd's summit. The flatter surfaces of the stones of this line, absent the metate, face north. Str. 150-5-2nd measures 3.56m north-south by a reconstructed 4.4m east-west, stands 0.26 to 0.49m high, and is oriented 273 degrees. The paved summit encompasses 3.38m north-south.

Time Span 3

Terraces were added to the original platform during this interval, extending the building 1.73m (U.5, 6, and 8) on the south and 0.8m on the west (U.7, no additions to the north were recorded). Units 5 and 6 seem to have been built in sequence, from north to south. Unit 6 is 0.36m high, its base resting 0.02-0.11m above that of U.1. Relatively large stones provide the unit's south facing (0.07x0.27m to 0.22x0.34m) backed over the 0.75m separating U. 1 and 6 by a mix of smaller stones set in a brown earth matrix. Unit 1 stands 0.11m over the preserved top of U.6, suggesting that the former northern facing now served as a low step up to the summit from the U.6 terrace. Unit 5 was later added, burying U.6 beneath a brown earth fill (U.8). This latest southern terrace is 0.3m high, its base even with that of U.6. Both U.5 and 6 are set in S.2, 0.06-0.16m above S.1. Unit 5 is backed for 0.68m on the north by a dense rock fill, succeeded by brown earth over the remaining 0.3m separating U.5 and 6. The rocks used to face U.5 on the south are relatively large, 0.07x0.35m to 0.23x0.52m. The terrace formed by U.5 is 1.73m wide (incorporating the preceding U.6 extension).

Unit 7 lies 0.8m west of U.4, rests on S.1, and rises 0.31m. Unit 4 ascends at least 0.21m above the earth-and-stone terrace surface backing U.7, indicating that the former western basal facing now served as a step-up to Str. 150-5-1st's summit. Unit 1 was also extended roughly 0.8m westward during TS3, linking up with U.7 to form Str. 150-5-1st's southwest corner. A change in U.1's construction marks this renovation. In the midst of all these changes, the summit delimited by U.1, 3, and 4 was not significantly modified and remained surfaced with U.2. All terrace facings dating to this span are built, principally, of angular, light gray stones (probably andesite) set in a brown mud matrix, with little evidence of coursing or the use of chinking stones.

In general, Str. 150-5-1st maintained the previous version's height and orientation but was now nearly square, measuring 5.29m north-south by 5.2m east-west. Though not definitively proven, it is likely that Units 5-7 covered the full lengths of their respective sides.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, Str. 150-5-1st was largely buried by the natural deposition of S.2. Features 1-3 are embedded in this earth level and contain stones fallen from northern, western, and southern basal architecture. Feature 1 is a light scattering of rock extending 1.04m south of U.5 and F. 2 is a comparable collection of dislodged debris found for at least 1.48m north of U.3. Feature 3 is a considerably denser concentration of rocks recorded up to 1.3m west of U.7. The rock fall represented by F.1-3 indicates that U. 3 and 5 were probably never much higher than they were when excavated; U.7 may have stood somewhat taller in the past, however.

Structure 150-6

Structure 150-6 is 2m west of Str. 150-5 and 7m south of and across the patio from Str. 150-9. The platform was investigated by two mutually aligned but unconnected trenches: Subop. 150B measures 1x3.92m and runs from the patio side south, up on to the summit; Subop. 150C is 0.8m south of the former trench, covering 1m east-west and 3.8m north-south. Altogether, 7.72m² was cleared here resulting in the exposure of the building's northern and southern

facades and a small portion of the summit. Excavation was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.28m below modern ground surface north and 0.36m below that surface south of construction, probes extending no more than 0.6m into and below architecture. A single construction phase was revealed in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
150B/1	16 pieces of <u>bajareque</u> 1 metate fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150B/2	1 mano fragment 1 metate fragment	Backdirt and Surface	?
150C/1	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150C/2	178 sherds 5 pieces of obsidian	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	EPC, LC
150C/3	118 human bones	Burial	?
150C/4	116 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	LC, EPC

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1,2	-	-
2	Str. 150-6-1st	U.1-8	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1-3	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a level composed of numerous small, angular stones set in a tan soil matrix, was exposed on the south underlying construction. This stratum ascends 0.16m over 2.54m south to north and contains several large stones that may be fragments of bedrock. Such possible outcrops imply that S.1 shallowly overlies the rocky parent material in this area. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.24m but its base was not encountered in excavation. Fully 0.06-0.07m of S.2, a dark brown, coarse-textured, hard-compacted soil containing relatively few rocks, underlies construction on the north and south. The base of S.2 was not reached in Subop.

150B so we cannot specify how much of this layer was deposited prior to the raising of Str. 150-6-1st. There is no clear evidence of occupation predating the erection of the latter platform.

Time Span 2

Structure 150-6-1st is ascended on the south by two terraces (U.1 and 2) and on the north by three risers (U.3, 6, and 7), all fashioned using, primarily, angular, light colored, fine-grained rocks (probably andesite) set in a brown earth mortar. The most substantial construction uncovered on the building is U.2, rising a reconstructed 0.5m above S.1 and measuring 1.06m across north-south. Unit 2 likely served as the platform's principal southern retaining wall, built to resist erosion on the building's downslope flank. The south face of U.2 is set 0.08m into S.1 and appears to rest atop an outcrop, possibly contributing to the wall's stability. Stone sizes range from 0.09x0.14m to 0.12x0.37m and the rocks seem to have their flatter faces oriented outward. A fill composed of angular stones set in a brown soil matrix backs U.2 on the north and serves as the summit's foundation (U.5). A low terrace extends 0.84m south of U.2 (U.1 and 4). Unit 1 is the 0.23m-high, 0.23m-wide stone facing behind which a fill of angular stones and brown soil was packed (U.4); the latter extends north to U.2. Both U.1 and 4 rest on S.1. Unit 2 likely rose 0.27m above U.4, making an ascent to the summit over U.1 and 2 relatively easy. The stones comprising U.1 are smaller than those of U.2, measuring 0.03x0.1m to 0.08x0.25m.

Units 3, 6, and 7 rise 0.14m, 0.14m, and 0.05m respectively to Str. 150-6-1st's summit on the north. The first is no more than one stone high and wide (0.35m across), while the second is backed on the south by what may have been a stone pavement (U.8), creating a terrace 1.8m wide. Unit 7 runs down behind U.8 for an undetermined distance (pursued for only 0.2m in excavation), suggesting that this wall served as the original northern basal facing onto which U.3, 6, and 8 were appended. This impression finds some support in U.7's width, 0.73m, making it comparable in size to the putative southern basal retaining wall (U.2). Stone sizes for all three facings are comparable, varying from 0.07x0.1m to 0.16x0.28m. Some effort seems to have been made to orient the flatter faces of rocks outward.

It may be, therefore, that Str. 150-6-1st began as a platform measuring 2.9m north-south, ascending 0.5m on the south and an estimated 0.33m on the north (the discrepancy of 0.17m is a likely consequence of the natural south-to-north rise over which the platform was built). The summit probably had an earthen floor. Subsequently, terraces were added on the north and south, enlarging the north-south dimension to 5.55m while not significantly altering the edifice's height. We cannot estimate the time separating these renovations though it seems likely that it was not great. Overall orientation of the building is roughly 83 degrees.

Time Span 3

Following its abandonment, Str. 150-6-1st was largely buried by continued deposition of S.2. Features 1,2, and 3 are embedded in this earth level and represent architectural debris dislodged from Units 1 and 2 (F.1), U.3, 6, and 8 (F.2), and U.7 (F.3). Features 1-3 extend 0.53m to 0.87m from their respective units and are not particularly dense, suggesting the Str. 150-6-1st's walls were not much taller originally than their revealed heights.

Structure 150-9

Structure 150-9 is 7m north of and across the patio from Str. 150-6 and sandwiched between Str. 150-8 and 150-10 which are 2.5m west and 3.5m east of Str. 150-9 respectively. A total of 17.3m² was uncovered in the course of excavating of this building, 10.3m² in an effort to reveal the east side of the edifice (Subop. 150J) and 7m² on the west (Subop. 150F). Excavation was carried down to maximum depths of 0.52m and 0.67m below current ground surface on the east and west. Two construction stages were tentatively identified in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
150F/1	66 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	LC
150F/2	79 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	?
150F/3	45 sherds 1 censer fragment 6 lithics 1 metate fragment 2 bones 3 roof tile fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	LC
150F/4	46 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 lithic 1 bone	Terminal Debris (secondary) and Fill	?
150F/5	1 ground stone fragment	Backdirt and Surface	?
150J/1	220 sherds 1 censer fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150J/2	24 sherds 2 metate fragments 12 lithics	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150J/3	127 sherds 2 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	LC, EPC
150J/4	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150J/5	30 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	EPC, LC

150J/6	161 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> pieces 1 <u>candelero</u> fragment 2 metate pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
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Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Str. 150-9-2nd	U.1,2a,b,3,4	-	-	LC
2	Str. 150-9-1st	U.2c,5-7	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.1,2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Structure 150-9-2nd appears to have been a surface-level building defined by stone foundations on the east and west (U.1 and 2a respectively), its interior divided by an east-west running wall (U.3). Unit 1 is maximally 0.38m tall (more likely 0.18m high at this point) while U.2a rises 0.6m; both most likely supported upper walls built of perishable materials. Stone sizes vary considerably (0.06x0.12m to 0.37x0.5m), though most are relatively massive, i.e., larger than 0.16x0.16m; naturally flatter faces were consistently oriented outwards in both cases. No clear coursing was noted. Unit 3 runs ca. 7.45m east-west, rocks of this wall overlapping U.1 and being abutted by U.2a. This wall stands 0.3-0.35m tall and is fashioned of stones ranging in size from 0.04x0.12m to 0.15x0.29m and set in three rough horizontal courses with their flatter faces consistently oriented out to the north (the south side was not revealed). At 1.36m west of U.1, U.3 steps 0.2m southward before resuming its westward course. Over its westernmost 2.2m, U.3 rests atop U.1 and a stone level that extends west of and at approximately the same level as that foundation (U.4). The significance of U.4 and the “step-back” are not clear. Unit 3’s preservation declines significantly over the easternmost 1m exposed in Subop. 150J.

Unit 2b is an apparent northern continuation of U.2a, separated from the latter by ca. 0.47m. A construction change within this intervening space led to the identification of a gap that was filled in during a later construction episode (U.2c). Unit 2b was not well preserved, but seems to have stood 0.56m high and to have been built in a similar fashion to U.2a. The major difference is the size of rocks making up the two constructions, U.2b’s stones are smaller (0.06x0.12m to 0.24x0.38m with most concentrated towards the smaller end of that continuum). The 0.47m separating U.2a and 2b may well have been a door into Str. 150-9-2nd.

Structure 150-9-2nd measures a reconstructed 7.45m east-west by 4.85m north-south, contained at least two large rooms (the northern enclosure has estimated dimensions of 3.55x7.45m), and was entered through a 0.47m-wide doorway on the west (other access points were not located but could well have lain beyond excavation limits). The building is aligned 353 to 0 degrees and probably had perishable walls raised atop its stone foundations. All stone walls were built with angular, fine-grained light gray (probably andesite) and white rocks set in a

brown earth matrix.

Time Span 2

During this interval, it seems likely that Str. 150-9-2nd's interior was filled in with angular stones and brown earth (U.7), the western door (U.2c) being sealed to facilitate fill retention. Unit 1 may have been raised to its maximum preserved height of 0.38m at this time. All of these steps were integral to the transformation of Str. 150-9 from a surface-level building to a platform. Most, if not all, of U.3 might have been buried during this effort. Units 5 and 6 were probably constructed soon after this conversion, enlarging the newly-created platform roughly 1.4m to the west. Unit 5 is a terrace facing preserved 0.26m high and backed on the east by a fill of densely packed angular rocks set in a brown soil matrix (U.6). Units 5 and 6 together make a terrace 1.32m wide east-west and probably 0.54m high (based on the depth of U.6 fill). Unit 2 continues to protrude 0.2m above U.6, likely now marking the summit's western limits. Unit 5 construction is similar to that described for earlier walls, its stones measuring 0.09x0.12m to 0.18x0.21m.

Structure 150-9-1st is, therefore, an earth-and-stone filled platform rising 0.74m on the west and 0.38m on the east and measuring 8.77m east-west by 4.85m north-south. Two risers delimit the building's west flank while the summit was gained on the east by stepping over a single, relatively low basal facing. The summit may have supported at least two earthen-floored enclosures, (if U.3's top continued to function as a room divider). Structure 150-9-1st's builders seem to have maintained the earlier construction's orientation as they made their renovations.

Time Span 3

After abandonment, Str. 150-9-1st was almost completely buried by the deposition of S.2, a dark brown, coarse-textured, hard-compacted soil. Feature 1, a moderately dense concentration of dislodged architectural debris, is embedded in S.1 and extends at least 1.02m west of U.5. The considerable amount of tumbled stones making up F.1 implies that U.5 once stood considerably higher than its extant 0.26m, a view supported by the depth of U.6 fill backing the wall to the east. Very little wall fall was noted east of U.1, indicating that its preserved 0.38m is probably close to the original height. A lense of light colored, gravel-rich soil overlies S.1 in the westernmost 1.4m of Subop. 150J (S.2). This level was uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.14m, expanding in depth from east to west, and probably represents backdirt from post-digging operations conducted nearby. Stratum 2, in fact, looks like the gravel-rich level that underlies construction throughout Site 150, redeposited in reverse-stratigraphic order as the result of recent digging.

Structure 150-14

Structure 150-14 lies ca. 20m northwest of the building cluster of which Strs. 150-4-6, and 9 are components. It closes off the south side of a patio loosely delimited by Strs. 150-12, 13m to the east, and 150-15, 8.5m to the northeast. A low terrace, Str. 15-13, was apparently appended to Str. 150-14's southwest corner but was not investigated. Suboperations 150G and K comprise a 1x10m trench that bisects the building, running east-west. An additional 18m² was excavated within a northward continuation of Subop. 150G to locate the building's northeast

corner and north flank. Suboperation 150I is a 1x5m trench dug against the approximate center of Str. 15-14's south flank, designed to uncover the southern basal facing. All told, therefore, 33m² were excavated at Str. 150-14. Digging was carried down to a maximum depth below modern ground surface of 0.5m west, and 0.29m east, of construction; a probe 0.54m deep was sunk into and below architectural fill on the west side. A single construction phase was revealed in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
150G/1	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150G/2	8 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150G/3	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	EPC
150G/4	8 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150I/1	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150I/2	10 sherds 6 <u>bajareque</u> pieces 18 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150K/1	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?
150K/2	1 mano	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1,2	-	-
2	Str. 150-14-1st	U.1-10	-	-	LC?, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1,2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a level composed of numerous small, angular stones set in a tan earth matrix, was identified underlying construction on the east, west, and north of Str. 150-14-1st. This layer was most clearly seen on the west where it was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.23m.

Stratum 1's base was not encountered in excavation, but the presence of sizable (e.g., 0.71x0.85m) rocks outcropping from the level suggests that bedrock lies but a short distance beyond trench limits. Stratum 1 rises from south to north and west to east, ascending 0.7m over a horizontal distance of 10m east-west. No cultural material was noted in association with S.1. Stratum 2, a dark brown, hard-compacted, coarse-textured soil, generally overlies final-phase architecture. On the south, however, 0.24m of this material appears to have been laid down prior to the raising of U.10, suggesting that conditions favorable to the deposition of S.2 were operative when Str. 150-14-1st was erected. No artifacts were identified as coming from this initial period of S.2's accumulation.

Time Span 2

Structure 150-14-1st is a low but extensive platform that was apparently built in one construction phase. It is ascended on the north, west, and south by stone-faced risers (U.9, 1, and 10 respectively) ranging in height from 0.11-0.3m. Unit 1 is set 0.11m into S.1 while U.9 and 10 rest within S.2. Unit 9 was not well preserved, making it difficult to reconstruct its form and orientation. Nevertheless, it was possible to recognize a 1.1m-wide step-out projecting 0.55-0.6m north from the wall, ca. 1.2m west of the building's northeast corner. The relatively narrow (east-west) summit is delimited by U.3 and 5, stone walls rising 0.48m and 0.3m above their flanking terraces. A fill of dark brown earth mixed with stones (U.2) backs U.1 to the east, creating, with U.1, a western terrace 3.08m wide. Unit 2 overlies S.1 by 0.03-0.17m, indicating that Str. 150-14-1st's builders took advantage of the natural rise on the west to raise the western terrace with relatively little effort. Because summit ascents were not uncovered on the north and south, widths of those basal terraces retained by U.9 and 10 cannot be ascertained. These units were apparently relatively wide, however, extending back at least 0.7m on the north and 1.65m on the south.

The eastern face is fronted by two low, stone-faced terraces. Unit 8 is the basal unit, rising 0.14m above S.1 and it is backed by a paved stone surface (U.7; not visible in the section). Together, U.7 and 8 comprise a terrace 0.94m wide, succeeded by U.6 on the west. Unit 8 does not seem to have run the full length of Str. 150-14-1st's eastern face, stopping ca. 1.35m south of the northeast corner. Though not clear, it appears that U.8 on the north steps back in two stages westward to U.6; initially extending roughly 0.4m to the west prior to continuing 0.8m north from which point it runs the remaining 0.7m to its juncture with U.6 on the west. The latter ascends a scant 0.07m above U.7 and delimits the eastern face of a terrace that is 0.93m wide. Unit 6 runs 1.35m north of U.8's terminus, linking up with U.9 to form Str. 150-14-1st's northeast corner. The summit measures approximately 2.38m across east-west and may have been paved, at least in part, with stones (U.4).

Structure 150-14-1st, therefore, is a platform standing 0.78m (on the west) to 0.51m high (on the east), measuring roughly 7.20m east-west by 7.7m north-south, and aligned approximately 1 degree. A single relatively wide terrace flanks the building on each side save on the east where two low ascents overlook the patio. All walls and pavements consist of fine-grained, angular, light gray (probably andesite) and white-to-yellow stones set in a brown mud mortar. Wall rocks generally have their flatter faces oriented outwards and chinking stones are rare. Stone sizes range from 0.05x0.07m to 0.31x0.35m, with most clustered toward the middle to upper end of that range.

Time Span 3

Continued deposition of S.2 buried most of Str. 150-14-1st after the latter's abandonment. Features 1 and 2, composed of moderate concentrations of stones dislodged from platform architecture, are incorporated in this level. The former extends at least 1.4m west of U.1 and the latter continues for 2.7m south of U.10. Relatively little tumbled debris was found elsewhere on and around Str. 150-14-1st, suggesting that most uncovered architecture did not reach heights much greater than those seen in the extant units. Units 1 and 10 may, however, have once been slightly taller.

Chronological Summary

There is scant evidence (one sherd of Izalco Usulután from Str. 150-5-1st excavations) of Early Classic occupation at Site 150. The principal occupation here dates to the Late Classic. Based on both architectural and artifactual data, it appears that all the investigated buildings were raised and in use during this interval. Structure 150-14-1st yielded very few artifacts and the handful of these that were analyzed are diagnostic of the succeeding Early Postclassic. Nevertheless, the platform's architecture is more in line with a Late Classic date, suggesting that Str. 150-14-1st was erected during that span, probably near its end. The relative density of artifacts recovered from Site 150's largest patio group (including Strs. 150-4/6 and 9) coupled with the apparent frequency of renovations attested to in the architecture seen there suggest that this cluster was in use over a relatively long portion of the Late Classic. The scarcity of cultural material recovered in Str. 150-14-1st excavations and the lack of evidence for additions to this building hint at a relatively late and short-term occupation in the northwest patio group (Strs. 150-12/15). This pattern, tentatively identified on the basis of limited excavation, parallels evidence for late fissioning of residential groups seen at Site 22 east of the Rio Ulua. In the latter case, there were also signs that a new patio cluster had been completed just prior to the settlement's abandonment. Signs of Early Postclassic occupation are widespread among the excavated Site 150 edifices. No architecture can be securely dated to this period, however. Rather, people seemed to have continued using buildings raised during the earlier interval, making few modifications in the process. We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that some of the renovations identified in excavations may have occurred in the Early Postclassic. No evidence of Late Postclassic occupation was noted and the three fragments of ceramic roof tiles found around Str. 150-9-1st are the only indication of light use of the site during the historic period.

The stratigraphic relation of architecture to underlying earth levels suggests that Site 150 was settled very soon after the deposition of S.1. The high rock content of the latter, coupled with the numerous rock outcrops found protruding from it, indicate that S.1 shallowly overlies the bedrock from which it probably derives. The low eminence supporting Site 150, therefore, most likely sustained relatively poor soils up to, and even into, the Late Classic. Such agriculturally marginal terrain, therefore, was almost certainly not attractive to earlier settlement when more extensive tracks of arable terrace soils were available closer to the Rio Ulua. Even in the Late Classic and Early Postclassic, farming was probably concentrated in the lower-lying swales lying immediately south and west of Site 150, areas where soil eroding from the eastern hills and the lower rises that dot the eastern upper terrace margin collected.

Architectural Summary

Just about every investigated building at Site 150 is a platform rising 0.26-0.78m high. Structure 150-9-2nd is a likely exception, having begun its use-life as a surface-level construction delimited by stone foundations (0.18-0.6m high) for upper walls fashioned of perishable materials. Even this building, however, was converted into a platform (Str. 150-9-1st) during a later time span. All walls were built using, primarily, angular, fine-textured, light gray (primarily), white, and yellow stones. The first rock type is probably andesite. Outcrops of these stones were noted throughout Site 150 and its environs. Builders tended to orient the naturally flatter aspects of rocks comprising facings and foundations outward and there is some evidence that a few stones may have been artificially modified to achieve a smooth face (Str. 150-5-2nd). A brown mud mortar was invariably used in wall construction. Rocks were rarely set in horizontal courses and chinking stones were uncommon. Rock sizes ranged along a continuum from 0.03x0.1m to 0.37x0.5m, with most examples falling towards the middle and upper end of the range. Exposed fill units were composed of a mix of stone and brown earth, the latter indistinguishable from S.2. Rocks in fill were of the same types as those found in facings and foundations. Platform and terrace surfaces were generally made of earth though there are several cases where stone pavements covered at least portions of these areas. Basal structure dimensions fell between 3.56x4.4m and 7.2x7.7m, though Str. 150-6-1st apparently measured no more than 2.9m north-south at one point in its use (the east-west dimension was not determined here). Building alignments tended to cluster near cardinal orientations (263-273 degrees); Str. 150-4-1st diverged somewhat from this trend, being aligned 286 degrees.