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PSB OP 022 Excavation Report

Edward Schortman

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Site 22

Site 22 is situated on relatively level terrain atop a low terrace of the Rio Ulua in the western Gualjoquito vega. The 35 extant constructions comprising Site 22 are divided between two patio-focused groups lying 32m apart. The largest, most complexly organized buildings at the settlement are found in Group I, the westernmost patio cluster, built atop a low rise 77m west of the east terrace margin (Strs. 1-10, 14, 15, 17, Feats. 1-2). Group II on the east contains Strs. 18-30 and is built on level terrain the eastern edge of which is presently eroding down the steep terrace slope. Remaining buildings are generally low and dispersed around these nucleated aggregates. Fully eight structures (Strs. 22-3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 in Group I and Strs. 22-18, 21, and 29 in Group II) were excavated by a crew of eight men over the course of ten days in April, 1985. A total of 40 person-days of labor was expended in digging 66.94m² at Site 22. The work was overseen by R. Paine and E. Schortman.

Structure 22-3

Structure 22-3 sits on the east side of the Group I patio. This platform was investigated through the excavation of Subop. 22B, a 1m-wide (north-south) trench that bisected the building, exposing construction on both flanks and in a narrow swath across the summit. Suboperation 22B was eventually joined with Subop. 22C, the axial trench running east-west across Str. 22-4, making for a combined length of 25.6m. Suboperation 22B was dug to maximum depths of 1.6m into and through construction fill and 0.69m below modern ground surface outside architecture, revealing a sequence of two construction phases and deposits predating the raising of the physically salient remains.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22B/1	54 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/2	92 sherds 5 freshwater shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/3	168 sherds 4 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 5 chert pieces 2 unidentified rock pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC
22B/4	36 sherds 8 freshwater shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/5	274 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC,

			EPC
22B/6	82 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 4 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/7	94 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC
22B/8	76 sherds 5 freshwater shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/9	90 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22B/10	108 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC, EC
22B/11	270 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 7 chert pieces	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	3/-
22B/1 2	18 sherds	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	3/EC, LC
22B/13	32 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Fill	3/LC, EC?
22B/14	65 sherds 19 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 1 obsidian blade 60 human bones	Occupation Debris/Burial Fill	1/LC
22B/15	90 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells 1 freshwater shell 2 bones (?)	Fill	3/LC, EC?
22B/16	313 sherds 1 lithic piece 37 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC, EC
22B/17	51 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC, EC
22B/18	1 <u>metate</u> frag.	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-

22B/19	? artifacts	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-
22B/20	? artifacts	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-
22B/21	76 sherds 38 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 12 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/EC, LC?
22B/22	43 sherds 3 lithic pieces	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/EC
22C/9	40 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22C/10	35 sherds	Terminal Debris (Primary)	3/-
22C/11	102 sherds ? <u>bajareque</u> frags. ? chert pieces	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	2,3/-
22C/12	93 sherds 5 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 2 obsidian pieces 3 chert pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LC
22C/13	? artifacts	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22C/19	98 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,3/LC, EPC
22C/20	29 sherds	Fill	2/-

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	U.1	S.1-3	Bu.2	EC, LC
2	Str. 22-3-2nd	U.2-10	-	-	LC
3	Str. 22-3-1st	U.11-20	-	-	LC, EPC
4	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Time Span 1 most likely encompasses a relatively lengthy interval during which occupation intensified in the area that Str. 22-3 would eventually occupy. Strata 1-3 were deposited at this time, their stratigraphic relationship being most clearly revealed in the western portion of Subop. 22B immediately west of U.7. All are fine-textured, soft compacted soils differing primarily in their colors (S.1 is reddish-brown, S.2 tan, and S.3 brown) and in the quantities of cultural material they contain (only a light scattering of occupation debris was recovered from S.1 and 2 while S.3 yielded considerable amounts of artifacts and jute shells, the latter a frequent component of prehistoric middle Rio Ulua middens). Stratum 1 was exposed over a limited portion of its full horizontal and vertical extents. The level's base was not discovered in our probe and only 0.13m of its total thickness was revealed. Stratum 2 was exposed in several, discontinuous portions of Subop. 22B where it was found to underlie all subsequent construction. This earth level appears to define a low ascent which rises approximately 0.14m east-to-west over a horizontal distance of ca. 9.8m. The relatively light scatter of artifacts found within S.1 and 2 hint at an equally slight occupation of the area when these earth levels were forming. Stratum 3, 0.29m thick and identified only in the area between U.4 and 7, may be an upward continuation of S.2 the color and contents of which have been modified by intensive human occupation of this spot. Supporting the above interpretation is the recovery of U.1 within S.3. Unit 1 is a 0.02-0.04m-thick burnt earth floor that continues south and east of the excavated areas but was preserved over an irregular area measuring 0.42m east-west by 0.09-0.21m within Subop. 22B. Most likely, U.1 represents one of a series of living surfaces laid down during the gradual deposition of S.3, its primary distinguishing characteristic being that it was fortuitously preserved by burning. No other clear signs of construction were associated with TS.1. The relative abundance of burnt wattle and daub (bajareque) fragments recovered from excavations into deposits dating to this span suggests that early buildings here were fashioned primarily of perishable materials. The high density of cultural items found within S.3, taken together with the presence of U.1, suggests that human settlement was relatively substantial immediately prior to the erection of Str. 22-3-2nd.

The individual found in Bu.2 was interred within S.2 at some point during TS.1. Burial 2 lies 0.24m below, and extends for 0.4m west of, U.2, the western basal terrace of Str. 22-3-2nd. Stratum 3 was not identified overlying Bu.2, though the interment is 0.13m beneath the base of that earth level where the latter is exposed 1.3m to the east. Skeletal remains comprising Bu.2 were not well preserved but it appears that the body was tightly flexed, oriented roughly 344 degrees, 30 minutes, head to the northwest facing southwest. The only item clearly associated with the grave is a complete obsidian blade situated between the knee and cranium (in lot 22B/14). The area covered by the body measures 0.7m by 0.4m. No pit lines distinguished by soil changes were noted during the excavation of Bu.2, suggesting that the body was intruded into S.2 sometime prior to the deposition of U.6 (Str. 22-3-1st fill overlying S.2 at this point). The close juxtaposition of Bu.2 and the dense cultural deposit represented by S.3 and U.1 suggests that the two might have been related. The individual in Bu.2 might have been a member of the group responsible for the materials found in S.3. Alternatively, Bu.2 could have been introduced just before construction of Str.22-3-2nd, perhaps being dedicatory to that building effort.

Time Span 2

Time Span 2 encompasses the interval during which Str. 22-3-2nd was raised, burying signs of earlier occupation associated with TS.1. This early platform stands 0.34m and 0.6m above ancient ground surface (the top of S.2) on the east and west respectively. The eastern face is scaled via two low (0.11 and 0.2m high) cobble-faced risers the earthen surfaces of which are 1.21m and 1.29m wide (U.10 and 9 respectively, east-to-west). The patio flank was ascended over two cobble-faced steps rising 0.2m and 0.07m (U.2 and 3), backed by narrow, earthen surfaces 0.14 and 0.26m wide. These steps give way to U.4, a 0.2m-high cobble-faced step-up to the summit. Unit 4 is succeeded by 1.16m, possibly surfaced with variably sized cobbles (U.5). Unit 5 is ca. 0.1m thick and rests atop a reddish-brown to tan, fine-textured, hard-compacted earthen fill with few included stones (U.6). Unit 6 is also found backing U.9 and 10 on the east. A single room was identified atop Str. 22-3-2nd's summit delimited by tall, well-constructed cobble walls on the east and west (U.8 and 7 respectively). Unit 8 stands a preserved 0.72m high, rising 0.5m above the U.10 terrace. The extant portion of U.7 stands 0.66m high and extends 0.54m above the U.5 surface. Unit 7 is breached by a doorway, minimally 0.57m wide, with a 0.12m-high stone threshold. The door's southern side lay outside the excavated limits of Subop. 22B. Units 7 and 8 apparently represent the front and back walls of a kind of construction rarely attested to elsewhere in the prehistoric middle Ulua valley, a room defined by stone walls. Most enclosures in the area are surrounded by perishable constructions, frequently set atop stone foundations. The full widths of U.7 and 8 were not ascertained nor was excavation carried sufficiently deep on the summit to reveal the room's floor. We cannot, therefore, specify the east-west width of the enclosure delimited by U.7 and 8 nor describe how it was surfaced.

Structure 22-3-2nd, therefore, is a 0.34-0.6m-high, stone-faced, earth-filled platform, measuring 8.12m across east-west, and oriented 351-356 degrees. Its summit is, maximally, 2.8m wide and supports at least one room bounded by relatively high stone walls. This enclosure faces west over the patio and could be easily accessed by mounting the two steps (U.2-3) and summit step-up (U.4) found on this flank. Rocks used to construct facings for this platform are unmodified river cobbles (mostly vesicular basalt and what seems to be granite) set in a brown mud mortar with their flatter faces oriented to the exterior. Stone sizes range from 0.09m to 0.38m diameter, with most occupying the middle to upper end of the continuum. Unit 8, in particular, exhibited clear horizontal coursing, the interstices among the larger rocks filled in with chinking stones.

Time Span 3

Construction of Str. 22-3-1st involved burying earlier Str. 22-3-2nd terraces and the continued use of U.7 and 8, albeit in considerably modified forms, within summit construction. Unit 11, an extensive surface of flat-laid cobbles, was built early in this interval on Str. 22-3-1st's patio flank. This floor is at least 0.06m thick and was followed for 5.45m west away from the platform before excavation ceased. Unit 11 may have once covered the entire Group I patio though our failure to locate it in the vicinity of Str. 22-5 suggests that it had a more restricted distribution. At the very least, considerable effort was invested in TS.3 to create a formal surface fronting Str. 22-3-1st.

Structure 22-3-1st is mounted on the west by three cobble-faced terraces (U.12-14) which rise towards the summit in intervals of 0.2m, 0.1m, and 0.24m. All three risers are set on and backed by the same reddish-brown-to-tan earth with few included stones (U.16) used as fill in

Str. 22-3-2nd. Unit 12, the western basal riser, sits 0.04-0.08m above U.11, overlapping the latter floor by 0.43m. This suggests that the western basal riser was built after U.11 and was set on an earthen foundation. Terrace widths vary widely; Units 12, 13, and 14 are 0.42m, 0.64m, and 2.62m across respectively. The first two have earthen surfaces. Unit 14 is backed by 1.04m of earth succeeded by a 1.58m-wide, 0.08-0.16m-thick cobble surface (U.15) resting atop U.16. Unit 15 stops 0.9m south of the north trench wall where it is replaced by an earthen surface. The original north-south dimensions of U.15 were not ascertained during excavations. Though somewhat disrupted when investigated, it appears that U.15 may have stepped up 0.18m roughly 0.62m west of U.7. Such an ascent would have facilitated access to the summit. Units 9 and 10 on the east were succeeded and buried by Units 19 and 20 respectively. These constructions, like their immediate predecessors, are cobble-faced risers preserved 0.1 and 0.26m high with earthen surfaces 1.57m and 0.8m wide. Units 7 and 8 were incorporated into final-phase summit architecture as step-ups to a newly elevated summit. The room formerly delimited by these walls was filled in with the same reddish-brown-to-tan earth seen elsewhere in Str. 22-3-1st (U.16) topped by a 0.1-0.12m-thick stone floor (U.17). Unit 7's doorway was sealed with U.16 and a line of cobbles, roughly 0.18m thick, laid level with the preserved top of the former entrance to create a continuous stone border for the western summit. Unit 18 rises 0.17m above U.17, possibly marking the western edge of a 1.03m-wide stone-surfaced bench of which U.8 is the eastern edge.

The result of all these modifications was to fashion a platform now standing 0.88m and 1m high on the east and west, measuring 10.8m across east-west, and oriented 351-358 degrees. The summit covers 2.72m east-west and whatever room(s) it supported was apparently defined by perishable walls. Entrance to the building may still have been up the west, patio flank where the terraces are relatively low and rise above one of the few formally prepared extramural surfaces found anywhere outside Gualjoquito within the middle Rio Ulua drainage. The ascent from U.20, the highest east terrace, to the summit (top of U.8) is a rather steep 0.44m. The Unit 18 "bench" also faces westward towards the patio. The stones used to fashion Str. 22-3-1st's facings are very similar in size, form, and types of raw material to those noted for Str. 22-3-2nd in TS.3.

Time Span 4

Abandonment and burial of Str. 22-3-1st is marked by tumbled architectural debris found primarily off the east platform flank (F.1) and the deposition of 0.12-0.38m of S.4 which obscures final-phase construction on both exposed sides. Feature 1 is a light scatter of cobbles, apparently dislodged from Str. 22-3-1st construction, extending for 0.92m east of U.20. Stratum 4 is a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil with a few included artifacts.

Structure 22-4

Structure 22-4 is a low platform barely discernible 4m off the back (east side) of Str. 22-3. The edifice was investigated by means of Subop. 22C, a 1m-wide (north-south) trench which bisected the construction, eventually joining up with Subop. 22B to make an excavation 25.6m long east-west. Suboperation 22C in the area of Str. 22-4 was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.4m outside construction and 0.48m into and below architectural fill, revealing a single

construction phase.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span</u>
22C/1	? artifacts	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22C/2	104 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 5 freshwater shell	Mixed Occupation Debris and Fill	1,2/LC
22C/3	140 sherds 5 obsidian pieces	Fill	2/-
22C/4	28 sherds 1 censer frag.	Terminal Debris (Secondary) 2/-	
22C/5	? artifacts	Fill	2/-
22C/6	92 sherds 1 obsidian piece 4 freshwater shell	Fill	2/LC, EPC
22C/7	104 sherds 10 censer frags. 1 whistle frag.	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
22C/8	190 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 1 figurine frag.	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC, EPC
22C/14	100 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
22C/15	45 sherds	Fill	2/-
22C/16	105 sherds	Fill	2/LC
22C/17	130 sherds 6 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 4 obsidian pieces	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC?
22C/18	45 sherds 1 <u>metate</u> frag. 10 freshwater shell	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC, EC

Time Spans

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

Time Span 1

All construction associated with Str. 22-4-1st rests above or is set 0.03-0.06m into S.2, a light brown to tan, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil. Stratum 2 was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.19m west of Str. 22-4-1st before it disappeared into the base of excavation. Recovery of cultural materials from this level points to occupation in the area of Str. 22-4-1st prior to the platform's construction, perhaps associated with perishable bajareque structures (see lot 22C/17). Stratum 2 rises westward where it underlies Strs. 22-3-2nd and 22-3-1st (S.2, Str. 22-3). This earth level, therefore, appears to comprise the ancient ground surface on which Strs. 22-3-2nd, 22-3-1st and 22-4-1st were erected. Str. 22-4-1st's west basal wall (U.1) is underlain by 0.05m of S.4, suggesting that at least this much of the level overlying S.2 was deposited during TS. 1. Stratum 4 is a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil.

Time Span 2

Structure 22-4-1st is a 0.3-0.32m-high platform originally delimited by 0.36-0.54m-wide cobble walls on the west and east (U.1 and 2). Units 1 and 2 contain a fill (U.3) of densely packed stones set in an earth matrix that closely resembles S.4 described under TS.1. During its initial use-period Str. 22-4-1st measured 2.68m east-west and was oriented 356-357 degrees. At some point during TS. 2, U.2 was buried by a cobble fill deposit (U.5) retained on the east by a 0.24m-high cobble wall (U.4). This addition increased Str. 22-4-1st's east-west dimension to 3.88m. Unit 4's orientation of 354 degrees may have diverged slightly from the U.1 and 2 alignments. The new eastern basal wall was not well preserved, however, and the skewed orientation may result more from post-abandonment collapse than the builders' intentions. Unit 1 continued to serve as the west basal wall throughout the occupation of Str. 22-4-1st. The summit is devoid of standing architecture, built-in furniture, and clear evidence of flooring. Stones comprising U.1, 2, and 4 are most commonly vesicular basalt river cobbles, the flatter aspects of which face outwards. Set in a brown mud mortar, these rocks range from 0.14m to 0.37m diameter.

It should be noted that whereas Strs. 22-4-1st and 22-3-1st were raised atop the same earth level, S.2, the former's basal construction is ca. 0.16m below that of the latter's (U.20). This discrepancy follows from the construction of Str. 22-4-1st at the base of the low rise upon the upper slope of which Str. 22-3-1st was built. The area between these two platforms

apparently served as a dumping ground with quantities of both artifacts and building debris recovered here (lots 22C/7-10, 12-13, 16, 18-19).

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 22-4-1st was buried by S. 4, the uppermost stones of U.1-3 still protruding above this level when excavated. There was only a light scatter of tumbled architectural debris ca. 0.6m west and 0.5m east of Str. 22-4-1st (F.1 and 2, respectively). The platform, apparently, suffered relatively little damage after TS. 2.

Structure 22-5

Structure 22-5 closes off the southeast corner of the Group I patio. The building is constructed over a slight (ca. 0.18m) east-to-west natural ascent. Structure 22-5 was investigated by means of Subop. 22D, a 1m-wide (north-south) by 12.76m-long (east-west) trench that bisected the platform. Suboperation 22D was dug to a maximum depth of 0.7m below modern ground surface, revealing three construction phases.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22D/1	36 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/-
22D/2	50 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22D/3	Empty	Occupation Debris ?	1/-
22D/4	54 sherds 1 complete <u>mano</u>	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/-
22D/5	26 sherds	Terminal Debris (Primary)	5/LC
22D/6	55 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/-
22D/7	95 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LC
22D/8	138 sherds 6 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/-
22D/9	48 sherds 5 lithic pieces 1 censer 1 <u>metate</u> frag.	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,5/LC, EC?

22D/10	148 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LC, EC, EPC
22D/11	158+ sherds 1 piece of obsidian	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	3/-
22D/12	101 sherds 1 obsidian piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> frag. 165 human bone frags. (Bu. 1)	Material Associated with Bu.1	4/EC, EPC
22D/13	No Lot		
22D/14	No Lot		
22D/15	Sherds ?	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/-
22D/16	36 sherds	Fill	5/LC
22D/17	42 sherds	Fill	5/-
22D/18	24 sherds 2 lithic pieces 2 <u>jute</u> shells 2 bone fishhooks frags. (combine to form 1 complete piece)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LC, EPC?
22D/19	290 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 2 lithic pieces 13 shells (<u>jutes</u>) 4 freshwater shells (?)	Fill	4,5/LC
22D/20	75 sherds 1 censer frag. 1 figurine frag.	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EC

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. 22-5-Sub1	U.1-2	-	-	LC, EC
3	-	-	S.1	Bu.1, F.1	LC
4	Str. 22-5-2nd	U.3-8	-	-	LC(?)
5	Str. 22-5-1st	U.9-16	S.2	-	LC, EPC
6	-	-	S.2	F.2-3 -	

Time Span 1

The lower 0.15m of S.1, underlying U.1 and 8 exposed on the west and east sides of Str. 22-5 respectively, were deposited prior to initiation of construction at this locale. Stratum 1, a light brown-to-tan, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil, is devoid of cultural material in the limited areas where it was exposed beneath Str. 22-5, implying, though not establishing, that the platform was raised on a previously unoccupied spot. Stratum 1's full thickness cannot be specified as its base was not encountered in our probes.

Time Span 2

Units 1 and 2 underlie later Str. 22-5 construction by 0.01-0.1m and are set largely in the upper 0.04-0.15m of S.1. Both U.1 and 2 are low cobble walls; the former rises a preserved 0.1m while U.2 is at least 0.13 high, excavation not having been carried deep enough in this area to be certain that U.2's base had been exposed. Most likely U.1 and 2 are the south and west foundations for an earthen-floored edifice raised directly on ground surface, oriented 341 to 345 degrees (Str. 22-5-Sub1). Structure 22-5-Sub 1 was insufficiently cleared to reconstruct its full dimensions or reveal much about the building's internal organization. The 0.35m gap between U.1 and the Op. 22D south trench wall hints at the presence of a doorway in the vicinity of Str. 22-5-Sub 1's southwest corner. Stones comprising U.1 and 2 are largely basalt cobbles, set in a mud mortar, and ranging in size from 0.04-0.06m thick by 0.17-0.22m wide. There is no indication that the builders of Str. 22-5-1st and -2nd took account of Str. 22-5-Sub 1 when raising the western terraces of the later edifices. The latter simply overlap Str. 22-5-Sub 1, which appears to have been buried under portions of S.1 and 2 by the time the western terraces were built.

Time Span 3

After the abandonment of Str. 22-5-Sub 1, 0.03m of S.1 and 0.09 m of S.2 were deposited over U.2 and 1 respectively. These figures are based on the stratigraphic positions of the western Str. 22-5 terraces (U.3 and 9) which were set into ancient ground surfaces 0.01-0.1m above the preserved tops of Str. 22-5-Sub 1 construction. That earth came to bury U.1 and 2 may suggest that Str. 22-5-Sub 1 had been allowed to fall to ruin prior to raising the Str. 22-5 platforms.

Alternatively, this soil could have been introduced purposefully to seal earlier architecture and to create a level surface on which to erect subsequent iterations of Str. 22-5. Stratum 2 is a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil. Distinctions between S.1 and 2 are minor, most likely reflecting differential weathering of the same soil deposit.

The position of Burial 1 within this sequence is equivocal. Found within S.1, 0.14m directly beneath Str. 22-5-2nd construction (U.8), the interment clearly predates TS 4. No pit line was identified, however, and so it is difficult to ascertain the level from which the body was intruded. Assuming that the absence of distinct soil surrounding Bu.1 indicates that the corpse was interred sometime during the formation of S.1, we presume that the burial dates to one of the early Time Spans associated with this soil level. Burial 1 lies at approximately the same depth as U.1 and 2, further suggesting that the event occurred after Str. 22-5-Sub 1 was abandoned and S.1 soil had accumulated to such a depth as to allow for a sufficiently deep grave (Bu.1 is 0.29m below the S.1/2 interface). We have, therefore, tentatively placed Bu. 1 in TS 3.

Burial 1 contains the fragmentary remains of a young child oriented 185 degrees with the head on the south, facing east. The legs are tightly flexed, feet tucked up behind the pelvis. The positions of the arms and hands could not be reconstructed from the poorly preserved remains of these bones. No grave goods were clearly associated with the interment.

Feature 1, like Bu.1, is difficult to place within the sequence of Time Spans reconstructed for Str. 22-5. It is a small, shallow (0.16m deep by approximately 0.44m diameter) pit outlined with cobbles and sunk within S.1 ca. 2.4m south of U.1. A cobble measuring 0.13x0.18m was found sitting at the base of this depression. Feature 1 is filled with dirt indistinguishable from that found in the remainder of S.1, suggesting that the pit was dug into this earth level and abandoned while S.1 was still forming. The stratigraphic position of F.1's base, 0.04m above the top of U.1, indicates that the depression was excavated after Str. 22-5-Sub 1 was abandoned. Feature 1's location at the southern end of U.2 may suggest that the latter foundation was disrupted when F.1 was dug (the base of F.1 is 0.07m below the top of U.2). Feature 1 rests 0.08m above Bu.1 within S.1, a stratigraphic relationship that at least does not preclude their inclusion in the same Time Span. The function(s) served by F.1 has thus far successfully escaped detection.

Time Span 4

Structure 22-5-2nd is a stone-faced, earth-filled platform mounted on the west by U.3, a 0.26m-high cobble basal facing; its eastern counterpart (U.8) stands 0.32m high. Construction of Str. 22-5-1st has disrupted units associated with the earlier building, especially on the west. It appears, however, that U.3 gives way to a ca. 3m-wide cobble floor, 0.14-0.18m thick (U.5), best preserved over the exposed 0.8m fronting U.6. This surface rests on 0.2-0.26m of fill composed primarily of earth identical in appearance to S.2 (U.4). Units 6 and 7 are cobble walls that rise 0.1-0.12m above U.5 and 8 on the west and east, respectively. Both constructions have relatively deep foundations, extending down a total of 0.38-0.44m into U.4 fill, and define the limits of a 1.7m-wide cobble-surfaced bench facing westward towards the patio.

Structure 22-5-2nd measures 5.65m east-west, rises 0.26-0.32m above natural earth surfaces on both exposed flanks, is oriented 357 to 10 degrees, and was apparently entered from the patio, ascending U.3 onto a cobble-paved summit. Set against the eastern limit of that summit is a 0.1-0.12m-high, 1.7m-wide cobble-faced and -surfaced bench. Unmodified vesicular basalt (primarily) cobbles set in a brown mud mortar comprise the extant facings. The

flatter faces of these rocks are generally oriented outwards. Stone sizes range from 0.12x0.12m to 0.52x0.52m.

Time Span 5

Structure 22-5-1st marks an effort to increase the earlier platform's height while expanding the building on the east and west. Unit 9 is now the western basal riser, a cobble construction ascending 0.2m above the earthen patio and giving way to a 1.03m-wide terrace surfaced with cobbles (U.11). Unit 11 is 0.1-0.12m thick. The second ascending terrace is U.3, its earlier height increased by 0.14m. Backing U. 3 on the east is a 0.96m-wide terrace floored with a 0.12m-thick cobble deposit (U.12). Rising 0.24m above U.12, the U.13 cobble wall marks the western summit edge. The summit is paved with a tightly packed cobble floor (U.15), 0.16m thick and composed of medium-sized stones overlying a level of small pebbles. Unit 15 ends on the east at U.7, the latter may have now stood 0.14m higher than it did in TS 4 to compensate for the increased summit height. Unit 8 continues to be visible on the east but a poorly preserved addition (U.16) now extends Str. 22-5-1st ca. 1.22m in this direction. Unit 16 is delimited by a 0.26m-high cobble facing backed by a moderately dense packing of cobble fill (all U.16). The U.16 terrace does not seem to have maintained a flat surface east to west, but slopes down 0.16m over its 1.22 width, following the natural descent of the terrain in this area. Alternatively, there may have been a step intervening between U.8 and 16's east face that has eroded beyond recognition. Unit 8 continues to protrude 0.18m above U.16. Unit 16's base is 0.16m below that of U.9, reflecting the gradual east-to-west rise over which Str. 22-5-1st was built. With the exception of U.16, all Str. 22-5-1st construction is laid on or contains earthen fill indistinguishable from S.2 and, beneath the eastern summit, S.1 (U.10 and 14). Unit 14 buries earlier summit construction (U.5 and 6) by 0.06-0.18m, though units pertaining to Str. 22-5-2nd were incorporated into later construction on both the east and west (U.3, 7, and 8).

Structure 22-5-1st measures 8.2m across east-west and is oriented 355 to 10 degrees. The platform rises 0.65m and 0.81m on the west and east respectively, is mounted by two terraces on both exposed flanks, and supports a 2.8m-wide cobble-surfaced summit. No clear evidence of built-in furniture, such as a bench, was discerned atop Str. 22-5-1st. The stones used in ultimate phase construction are unmodified, primarily vesicular basalt, river cobbles 0.09-0.16m thick by 0.17-0.35m long. All rocks are set in a brown mud mortar, their naturally flatter faces generally oriented outwards.

Time Span 6

After abandonment, Str. 22-5-1st fell to ruin and was buried by the deposition of 0.06-0.3m of S.2. Features 2 and 3 comprise light scatterings of tumbled building stones incorporated within S.2 and extending 0.8m west and east of final phase architecture. The paucity of dislocated cobbles confirms the general impression obtained during excavation that Str. 22-5-1st was moderately well preserved.

Structure 22-7

Structure 22-7 defines the southern limit of the Group I patio. Excavations here were limited to a 1m-wide (east-west) by 7.8m-long (north-south) trench dug to a maximum depth of

1.12m into architectural fill and 0.72m below modern ground surface outside (south of) construction (Subop. 22E). Suboperation 22E was located on the approximate center of Str. 22-7's south side and revealed only the building's southern basal facing, a possible terrace surface, and underlying fill (all pertaining to a single, clear construction phase).

Excavation Lots

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22E/1	123 sherds 5 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 3 lithic pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22E/2	120 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC, EPC
22E/3	128 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 2 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22E/4	? artifacts	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-
22E/5	? artifacts	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22E/6	284 sherds 1 censer frag.	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	2/LC, EPC
22E/7	102 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> frag. 1 obsidian piece	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	2/LC, EC
22E/8	311 sherds	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	2/-
22E/9	331 sherds 5 censer frags. 1 sherd disk 1 <u>metate</u> frag. 39 <u>jute</u> shells 4 freshwater shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC
22E/10	105 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> frags. 8 <u>jute</u> shells 4 freshwater shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC

22E/11	205 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22E/12	145 sherds	Fill	2/LC EC
22E/13	93 sherds 1 obsidian piece 1 <u>mano</u> frag. 12 <u>jute</u> shells	Fill	2/LC
22E/14	547 sherds 5 censer frags. 1 figurine frag. 9 <u>jute</u> shells	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	2/LC, EC
22E/15	294 sherds 1 obsidian piece 3 lithic pieces 39 <u>jute</u> shells 3 freshwater shells 1 bone frag.	Fill	2/-

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	-	LC, EC
2	Str. 22-7-1st	U.1-3	-	F.1	LC, EC, EPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.2	-

Time Span 1

The lower 0.16-0.24m of S.1 and 2 underlying Str. 22-7-1st construction predate the raising of that platform in TS.2. These earth levels are both fine-textured soils distinguished only by slight variations in color (S.1 is light brown, S.2 is dark brown) and degrees of compaction (S.1 is somewhat softer than S.2). They would seem, therefore, to have been deposited under nearly identical conditions over protracted periods of time. Distinctions made in the field are most likely based on changes brought on by differential weathering correlated with proximity to current ground surface. The bases of both levels were not revealed in Subop. 22E. Recovery of considerable quantities of cultural material from those portions of S.1 and 2 underlying Str. 22-7-1st point to a significant occupation on this spot during TS.1. The diversity

and quantity of recovered objects, including shells of various sorts, indicate that Str. 22-7-1st's southern flank was built over an earlier midden.

Time Span 2

Unit 1, the southern basal cobble facing of Str. 22-7-1st, is 0.6m wide, stands a preserved 0.45m high, and is oriented 89 degrees. Unit 1's south face extends 0.14m lower than its north side, perhaps to enhance the stability of the exposed north flank. Stones used to fashion the exposed portion of U.1 are primarily unmodified vesicular basalt cobbles (though some limestone is included) set in a brown mud mortar. Some chinking stones were noted and the facing may have originally consisted of at least two horizontal courses, the lowest row containing the largest stones. Some effort was invested in placing the naturally flatter aspects of the rocks outward. Stones range from 0.04x0.16m to 0.1x0.48m in size.

Unit 3 is the remnant of a 0.1-0.12m-thick cobble floor extending 2.87m northward from U.1's south face and continuing beyond excavation limits. The surface rests on earth fill, U.2. The latter is a light brown-to-tan, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil containing numerous small rocks and artifacts. It is probable, given the density of cultural material unearthed in U.3, that midden material from the immediate area was recycled to fashion at least the southern portion of Str. 22-7-1st's core.

It seems likely that U.1 and 3 were originally linked, the latter being a terrace surface extending back from the basal riser. This reconstruction requires that U.1 was at least 0.15m higher than when it was exposed in Subop. 22E (a reconstructed 0.6m high), an interpretation supported by the considerable quantities of tumbled architectural debris found adjoining U.1 on the south (F.2). At least some of these cobbles must have derived from the southern basal wall, their addition to the extant construction easily elevating U.1 to the requisite height. Approximately 1.88m north of U.1, U.3 steps down 0.1m and continues to run northward at this lower level. The significance of this change in elevation is not known. A level of cobbles and pebbles, 0.06-0.12m thick, was found resting within U.2, 0.16-0.23m below U.3 (F.1). Feature 1 might be an earlier floor set 0.22-0.29m above the base of U.1, though it lacks the integrity and continuous distribution of U.3. Alternatively, F.1 may mark an episode of fill deposition, the stones laid down to seal the earliest portion of U.2 and to serve as a base for the fill underlying U.3. The spotty distribution of stones within F.1, out of keeping with a formal floor, inclines us towards the latter interpretation.

Time Span 3

After abandonment, Str. 22-7-1st was buried by continued the deposition of S.1 and 2. Considerable quantities of cobbles displaced from their original positions in the platform were incorporated within these post-abandonment levels, being found overlying U.1 and 3 and extending 4.24m south of U.1, the southern basal facing (F.2). Feature 2 is densest where it obscures U.1 and 3 and for 1.9m south of U.1. The stratigraphic position of tumbled stones suggests that by the time Str. 22-7-1st was collapsing U.1 was buried by as much as 0.2m of S.1. Structure 22-7-1st must have suffered significant disruption during TS.3 to account for the quantity of tumbled debris found in F.2.

Structure 22-8

Structure 22-8 marks the west side of the Group I patio and was investigated via a 1m-wide (east-west) by 5m-long (north-south) trench (Subop. 22F) dug to a maximum depth of 0.6m below modern ground surface north of construction (architectural fill was not investigated). A single construction phase was revealed.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22F/1	18 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22F/2	245 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC, EPC, EC
22F/3	155 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EC
22F/4	128 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-
22F/5	25 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1,2	-	LC, EC?
2	Str. 22-8-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The lower 0.07-0.1m of S.2 and the limited exposed portion of underlying S.1 (uncovered to no more than 0.15m thick; S.1's base was not encountered) are found below Str. 22-8-1st construction, indicating their temporal priority vis a vis the events of TS.2. Strata 1 and 2 are nearly identical fine-textured soils differing only slightly in color (S.1 is light brown, S.2 is dark brown to gray) and compaction (S.1 is hard-compacted, S.2 is softer). These earth levels grade into each other and probably are part of the same soil horizon which formed over long periods under fairly stable conditions. Strata 1 and 2 apparently were deposited over a very gradual rise,

marked, in part, by the stratigraphic position of tumbled architectural debris issuing from Str. 22-8-1st (F.1). The land here descends 0.07-0.11m south-to-north away from Str. 22-8-1st before leveling out. Artifacts were found in relatively large numbers from lower S.2 and S.1, pointing to a substantial occupation in this area prior to the erection of Str. 22-8-1st.

Time Span 2

The original north basal facing of Str. 22-8-1st seems to have been U.1, a cobble wall oriented 95 degrees, 30 minutes. Unit 1 runs down to an undetermined depth behind (south) of U.2. The latter is a 0.37m-high cobble facing backed by a moderately dense cobble fill (U.3) which obscures the entirety of U.1. Units 2 and 3 were apparently built to expand Str. 22-8-1st 0.39m northward. This addition did not change the orientation of the platform's north face nor did it raise the building's height in this area. No clear floors were recorded running south of U.1 and 2 in the 1.14m exposed in this direction. Both U.1 and 2 are fashioned of vesicular basalt cobbles (primarily), set in a brown mud mortar, and measuring 0.05x0.15m to 0.16x0.24m. The flatter faces of the component rocks are generally, though not always, oriented outwards. A layer of chinking stones forms the basis of U.2, supporting the larger rocks of the wall. No other signs of coursing were evident in the uncovered portions of U.1 and 2.

Time Span 3

The upper portions of S.2 buried U.1-3 after Str. 22-8-1st's abandonment. Incorporated within this earth level are stones displaced from TS.2 construction (F.1). Feature 1 extends for 1.2m north of U.2 decreasing gradually in density with distance from the building. It would appear, based on the density and quantity of tumbled architectural debris, that Str. 22-8-1st sustained a moderate amount of damage following TS.3.

Structure 22-18

Structure 22-18, one of the largest platforms in Group II, closes off the southwest corner of that patio. The building was investigated via Subop. 22G, a 1m-wide (north-south), 8.28m-long (east-west) trench located on the approximate axis of Str. 22-18's east, patio-facing side. Suboperation 22G was carried from beyond construction on the east onto the summit and up to 1.4m into and below architectural fill. Excavations were also pursued to a maximum depth of 0.37m below modern ground surface outside (east of) construction. Two construction phases were revealed in work here.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22G/1	30 sherds	Mixed Fill and Terminal Debris	1,3/-
22G/2	12 sherds	Fill	3/-
22G/3	8 sherds	Fill	2/LC

22G/4	? bone frags.	Bu.3, Fill	2/-
22G/5	? artifacts	Mixed Fill and Occupation Debris	1,2/-
22G/6	? artifacts	Mixed Fill and Occupation Debris	1,2/-

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1,2	-	-
2	Str. 22-18-2 nd	U.1-7	-	Bu.3	LC
3	Str. 22-18-1 st	U.8-15	-	-	LC?
4	-	-	S.3	-	-

Time Span 1

Strata 1 and 2 underlie all Str. 22-18 construction and most likely predate activities that occurred during TS.2-3. The former is a dark brown, fine-textured, soft-compacted soil with some lime inclusions exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.25m. Stratum 2 ranges from light to reddish-brown, is fine to moderately coarse-textured and hard-compacted; it was uncovered for a maximum thickness of 0.14m. The bases of the above soil levels were not exposed in Subop. 22G. Few artifacts were recovered from these earth levels, suggesting that occupation was very light in the area of Str. 22-18 prior to the platform's erection.

Time Span 2

Structure 22-18-2nd is ascended on the east by one cobble-faced terrace 0.14m high, and 1.13m wide (U.2). The basal eastern riser is backed by a floor (U.4) composed of densely packed cobbles which run to, and apparently abut, the next ascending terrace (U.3). Unit 4 was found over only the northern portion of Subop. 22G, stopping 0.45-0.6m south of the north trench wall. This pavement is apparently succeeded by dirt to the south. Unit 3, the 0.28m-high summit step-up, is backed by a cobble surface (U.5) that runs back (west) to and under the Str. 22-18-1st summit wall (U.8). The full east-west extent of U.5 was not uncovered in our excavations. It is likely, though not established, that U.5 and the cobble floor (U.6) revealed in the summit probe 1.56m to the west are discontinuously exposed segments of the same floor. Units 5 and 6 are found at the same elevation and both run under final phase Str. 22-18 architecture (U.8 and 10). Unit 6 is 0.08-0.14m thick and rests on a reddish-brown, fine-textured, soft-compacted earth fill with few included artifacts (U.1). Long-bone fragments of an interment (Bu.3) extending east beyond excavation limits were found included in U.1. No grave

goods were associated with the small portion of the burial exposed by the summit probe.

Sitting on and rising 0.17m above U.6 is a 0.13-0.15m-high, 0.35m-wide cobble wall oriented 266 degrees (U.7). Unit 7 may have divided two rooms on Str. 22-18-2nd's summit, though its full east-west length was not determined as it ran beneath later architecture (U.10 and 11).

Structure 22-18-2nd appears to have been a relatively elaborate platform, ca. 0.32m high on the east, aligned 351-354 degrees, and supporting at least two rooms on its stone-paved summit. These enclosures were apparently delimited by low cobble foundations of which U.7 is the single uncovered example. The burial identified in U.1 fill may be the remains of one of the building's inhabitants, an interment dedicatory to construction, or simply fragments of an individual accidentally disinterred and introduced into the platform during construction. The last interpretation seems unlikely given that such fortuitous reburials are often the result of recycling midden debris as architectural fill. The paucity of cultural material unearthed in U.1 argues against the use of earlier trash in building Str. 22-18-2nd. Stones comprising Str. 22-18-2nd's facings and foundation are, primarily, vesicular basalt river cobbles 0.05-0.22m thick by 0.12-0.36m long. The flatter faces of these rocks are oriented outwards in U.2 and 3; otherwise, little attention was apparently devoted to this architectural nicety.

Time Span 3

During this interval, Str. 22-18 was expanded eastward and increased somewhat in height. Unit 14, a cobble wall 0.28m high and 0.34m wide, is now the eastern basal riser. Units 14 and 2 rest at about the same level but the former lies 0.91m further into the patio and is backed by a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted earth fill (U.15) that buries both U.2 and 4 (the U.14/15 terrace is 2.04m wide east-west). Units 3 and 5 remain in use but, as noted above, the U.5 floor now runs back 1.01m where it is succeeded by U.8. The latter is a cobble wall roughly 0.14m high sitting on 0.13m of dirt above U.5. Unit 8 marks the east margin of Str. 22-18-1st's summit and is backed for 1.34m by a cobble surface (U.9). Unit 10, a 0.14m-high cobble wall, marks the western limit to this surface and seems to define the eastern limit of a summit room. Judging from the stratigraphic position of a few tumbled stones west of U.10 within the room, it appears that the enclosure had a floor of dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured earth (U.13) that buried all previous summit architecture by 0.08-0.23m (U.6 and 7). Unit 11 rises ca. 0.18m above this putative surface on the west and may define the east edge of a cobble-faced bench. A stone surface succeeds U.11 and was exposed for 0.94m to the west before excavation ceased (U.12). Both U.10 and 11 rest on earlier summit architecture (U.7).

Structure 22-18-1st, by the end of TS.3, stood roughly 0.8m high on the east, was oriented 351-355 degrees, and supported at least one earthen-floored summit room measuring 1.52m wide. A stone-faced bench delimited this enclosure on the west and looked eastwards towards the patio. As was the case with Str. 22-18-2nd, facings for Str. 22-18-1st consist mostly of vesicular basalt river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar and measuring, in this case, 0.03-0.17m thick by 0.11x0.33m long. Little effort was expended in directing the flatter aspects of rocks to the exterior, though three clear courses were recorded on the uncovered segment of U.11.

Time Span 4

Stratum 3, a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil, buried Str. 22-18-1st during the centuries following the platform's abandonment. Very few tumbled stones were incorporated in the portions of S.3 exposed in Subop.22G, suggesting that Str. 22-18-1st was not significantly disrupted following TS.3.

Structure 22-21

Structure 22-21 occupies the northwest corner of the Group II patio. It was investigated by means of one trench (Subop. 22I) which was set against the building's west, non-patio facing, side and measured 1m north-south by 3.55m east-west. Carried down to maximum depths of 0.55m below modern ground surface west of construction and 0.38m into and below architectural fill, work in Subop. 22I revealed but a single construction phase.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22I/1	1 <u>mano</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 22-21-1st	U.1-2	-	-	LC?
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, an orange-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil, underlies and buries the bottom 0.01m of construction (U.1) exposed in Subop. 22I. This earth level was revealed to a thickness of 0.35-0.55m before it disappeared into the base of excavation. No cultural material clearly derived from S.1. The significance of such negative evidence is uncertain as Subop. 22I yielded only one artifact. If the spot on which Str. 22-21-1st was raised sustained human occupation prior to construction, that settlement must have been very small and short-lived.

Time Span 2

Structure 22-21-1st's western basal wall (U.1) and a ca. 0.2m-thick cobble surface (U.2) extending back from it to the east were revealed in Subop. 22I. The former stands a preserved

0.15m high, is 0.37m thick, and is aligned 358 degrees. Unit 2 extends down to the base of U.1 and is sunk slightly (0.04-0.05m) into S.1. The full east-west extent of U.2 was not uncovered in Subop. 22I. Visible stones comprising U.1 are vesicular basalt river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar and measuring 0.09-0.18m thick by 0.22-0.29m long. The naturally flatter faces of these rocks look outwards while one stone may have been modified to create a vertical exterior aspect.

Time Span 3

After the abandonment of Str. 22-21-1st, U.1 and 2, were buried by S.2, a dark gray-brown, fine-textured, soft-compacted soil. Feature 1, a light scattering of cobbles extending up to 2.77m west of U.1, rests atop the S.1/2 interface ca. 0.12m below current ground level. The paucity of tumbled architectural debris suggests that Str. 22-21-1st has been little disturbed since TS. 2.

Structure 22-29

Structure 22-29 lies immediately southeast of the Group II patio. This building was investigated via Subop. 22H, a 1m-wide (north-south) by 3.95m-long (east-west) trench set against the building's west face. Structure 22-29 is one of the few buildings tested at Site 22 that was not situated directly on a patio (Str. 22-4 is the other excavated, non-patio building).

Excavation Lots

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
22H/1	29 sherds 1 <u>mano</u> frag.	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
22H/2	16 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC, EPC
22H/3	8 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 22-29-1st	U.1	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 consists of reddish-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil which underlies U.1 and buries the base of that wall by 0.05m. Stratum 1's base was not encountered during excavation, the level extending down 0.25m before disappearing into the bottom of excavation.

Time Span 2

Unit 1, Str. 22-29-1st's western basal cobble wall, stands a preserved 0.28m high and is oriented 354 degrees. It is unclear whether U.1 is backed by a stone or earth surface. Rocks used to fashion the exposed portion of U.1 consist of vesicular basalt cobbles set in a brown mud mortar and measuring 0.09-0.14m thick by 0.29-0.45m long. The stones' flat faces were placed looking outwards.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a dark gray-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil, buries U.1 and contains considerable quantities of tumbled architectural debris from Str. 22-29-1st (F.1). Feature 1 appears to issue from construction east of U.1 and to extend 1.96m west of the west basal facing. The density of displaced stones found in F.1 implies that Str. 22-29-1st underwent significant disruption following abandonment.

Chronological Summary

The earliest period of occupation at Site 22 is the Early Classic. Evidence pertaining to this interval was found exclusively, but consistently, in deposits underlying construction within Group I. Each of the five excavated buildings in this aggregate yielded at least weak evidence of Early Classic settlement while in two cases (Strs. 22-3 and -5) materials dating to the period were found in some numbers. Probes into and beneath Strs. 22-3 and -5 also uncovered remnants of relatively simple Early Classic constructions (see below).

Most cultural materials recovered from Site 22, and all substantial construction at the locus, date to the Late Classic. Group I underwent considerable expansion over the course of these years, all five investigated buildings being raised during the period. Group II may have been occupied for the first time during the Late Classic, its three excavated platforms were seemingly built entirely during this interval. There is no evidence that the Group II area was used prior to the Late Classic. This interpretation, based on analyses of temporally diagnostic artifacts, is supported by the markedly different quantities of cultural material recovered in the Groups I and II excavations. The far greater artifact densities attested to within Group I suggest that this patio-group was occupied for a longer period than was its eastern neighbor. The prevalence of cultural debris recycled as fill in Group I platforms also implies protracted settlement in this aggregate, just as the rarity of similar items in Str. 22-18-2nd's hearth hints at the absence of pre-existing middens on which Group II's builders could draw for construction fill.

Evidence of Early Postclassic settlement was found in Groups I and II. This time period is best represented in the former aggregate, where all five excavated buildings yielded evidence of Early Postclassic use, more weakly attested to in Group II where only one of the three investigated edifices shows signs of use during the interval. The small artifact samples

recovered from Group II excavations, however, make all temporal assessments of this patio-group very tentative. Early Postclassic diagnostics, when found, are almost everywhere minor components of excavation lots, outnumbered by much more common Late Classic materials. Very little construction can be clearly dated to this late interval, implying that Late Classic platforms continued in use, with perhaps some minor modifications, into the succeeding period. Overall, then, Early Postclassic occupation of Site 22 was relatively small, short-term, and dispersed. The single exception to this pattern uncovered in our investigations is the area between Strs. 22-3-1st and 22-4-1st in Group I. Early Postclassic diagnostics were particularly numerous here, some being found mixed in Str. 22-4-1st construction fill. This low platform may, therefore, be one of the few buildings raised during the Early Postclassic at the locus. Late settlement at Site 22 appears at present to have been localized on Group I's east flank.

Occupation of Site 22, therefore, began during the Early Classic within Group I. The site's prominence and population grew during the subsequent Late Classic, the numbers and sizes of constructions in Group I expanding now along with the quantity of contemporary cultural materials. Group II appears to have been settled for the first time during the Late Classic, its component buildings being raised at this time. The Early Postclassic witnessed a decline in population, most residents retreating back to Group I and living atop platforms built in earlier periods. The east side of Group I may mark the final portion of Site 22 that sustained significant occupation during the last years of settlement. Site 22 seems to have been abandoned some time during the Early Postclassic and was not reoccupied in subsequent prehistoric and historic eras.

Architectural Summary

The earliest architecture unearthed at Site 22 pertains to buildings raised directly on ground surface, Str. 22-5-Sub1 and U.1 beneath Str. 22-3-2nd. The former consists of low (0.1 to [minimally] 0.13m high) foundations built primarily of vesicular basalt river cobbles measuring between 0.04x0.06m to 0.17x0.22m. These walls enclosed at least one earthen-floored room and most likely supported perishable upper constructions. Unit 1 is a fragment of earth flooring preserved by burning. It is unclear what the building which contained U.1, if it was so contained, looked like though it does not seem to have been a platform. Building efforts during the initial occupation of Site 22, therefore, were limited to raising relatively small edifices on ground level with easily accessible materials.

Late Classic construction identified at Site 22 generally consist of earth-filled platforms with stone facings, the latter composed primarily of basalt river cobbles with the naturally flatter faces oriented outward. Several rocks in these walls appear to have been modified to create flat, exterior surfaces. Stone sizes range from 0.09-0.52m long and 0.03-0.32m thick. The most extensively excavated platforms, Strs. 22-3-2nd, 22-3-1st, 22-5-1st, 22-18-2nd, and 22-18-1st, are ascended by one to three stone-faced terraces 0.1-0.32m high, frequently surfaced with cobble floors 0.1-0.18m thick. The tallest cobble terrace facing identified in Site 22 rises to a reconstructed 0.6m (U.1, Str. 22-7-1st). Several pavements do not run continuously across a terrace surface but seem to be restricted to a portion of these treads (Strs. 22-3 and 18). Paved terraces located on the patio-facing sides of platforms probably facilitated access to platform summits.

Exposed summits are defined by walls 0.14-0.24m high, are surfaced with cobbles (Strs. 22-3-2nd, 5-1st, 5-2nd, and 18-2nd) or earth (Str. 22-18-1st), and three supported benches (Strs. 22-3-1st, 22-5-2nd, and 22-18-1st). Benches measure 0.1-0.18m high, 1.03-1.7m across, and are

surfaced with cobbles. Str. 22-18-2nd's summit was apparently divided into at least two rooms by a 0.35m-wide cobble wall that almost certainly supported perishable upper construction. In fact, the superstructures on just about every investigated Late Classic platform were fashioned of impermanent materials. The single exception is found atop Str. 22-3-2nd where substantial cobble walls apparently delimited at least one summit enclosure. Overall, the Late Classic platforms for which we have sufficient information stand 0.26-1m high, are aligned 351-10 degrees, and measure 5.65-10.8m across. Measureable summit widths range between 2.72-2.8m.

Patio surfaces were generally exposed earth. An extensive stone pavement was found, however, fronting Str. 22-3-1st. This is one of the few examples of a formally prepared extramural surface identified anywhere in the Late Classic middle Ulua drainage outside Gualjoquito.

The three most intensively studied buildings at Site 22 all yielded evidence of sequential construction and renovation (Strs. 22-3, 5, and 18). Each of these edifices was expanded laterally and vertically burying portions of preceding constructions. Remnants of these earlier buildings were, however, incorporated within subsequent architecture though their original functions were occasionally modified in the process (e.g., the conversion of superstructure walls into summit step-ups on Str. 22-3-1st).

Structure 22-4-1st is the only building whose construction is tentatively assigned to the Early Postclassic. This small platform was simply built, consisting of cobble fill retained by 0.24-0.32m-high basal stone facings, the latter aligned 354-357 degrees. Rock sizes here range from 0.14-0.37m long and 0.15-0.25m thick. There was no evidence of terracing on Str. 22-4-1st nor was any trace of the superstructure preserved. Presumably, the latter was fashioned of perishable materials. As noted above, Early Postclassic occupation elsewhere at Site 22 seems to have involved the reuse of pre-existing Late Classic platforms.