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PSB OP 025 Excavation Report

Edward Schortman

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Site 25

The 23 structures of Site 25 comprise four distinct aggregates separated by 20 to 79m and perched atop the western edge of the Las Huertas/Hondo high terrace. The ground descends steeply on the north and south into valleys cut by the Rios Las Huertas and Hondo respectively. Two of the structure clusters are centered around clearly defined patios (Strs. 25-1/4 and Strs. 25-11/19) while the remaining two aggregates lack such a focus. Site 26 is 200m to the west down a precipitous 20m slope, Site 27 lies roughly 100m to the north, and the Rio Ulua is ca. 400m to the west. Structures 25-1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 22 were excavated from June 12-30, 1984, resulting in the exposure of approximately 59.5m² in the course of 108 person-days of labor. Work was overseen by Patricia Urban, Edward Schortman, Alec Harris, and Julie Miller.

Structure 25-1

Structure 25-1 is on the northwest corner of the patio defined by Strs. 25-1/4, apparently connected to Str. 25-2, 3m to the northeast, by a low saddle. Suboperations 25B and E were dug to locate trash jettisoned off the northwest (non-patio) side of the building and Str. 25-1's southeast basal facing, respectively. Excavation of Subop. 25G was designed to test the reality of the saddle linking Strs. 25-1 and 2. A total of 9.9m² was dug revealing several ambiguous architectural elements. Excavations reached maximum depths of 0.55m below modern ground surface outside architecture and 0.3m into construction fill.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25B/1	50 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
25B/2	74 sherds 1 chert piece 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25B/3	34 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
25B/4	empty	-	-
25E/1	14 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25E/2	33 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25E/3	14 sherds 1 andesite piece	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC

25E/4	54 sherds 2 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25E/5	13 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25E/6	2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ ?
25E/7	27 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25E/8	33 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25E/9	53 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 2 <u>jute</u> shells 3 bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
25E/10	13 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25G/1	53 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25G/2	44 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25G/3	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25G/4	4 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25G/5	23 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1,3	-	-
2	Str. 25-1-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC, EPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown clay containing large numbers of small stones, underlies Str. 25-1-1st construction on the southeast. The level drops slightly, 0.04m over 1.56m southeast to northwest, and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.11m. Stratum 1's base was not identified in excavation. No cultural material was recovered from S.1, suggesting that human occupation was sparse to absent in the immediate environs of Str. 25-1 during this earth level's deposition. The relatively small portion of S.1 uncovered in Subops. 25E and 25G, however, leaves open the possibility that some evidence of human settlement might have been recovered from this stratum if the level had been more thoroughly examined.

Excavations in Subop. 25B revealed a medium-brown, sandy clay containing a few small rocks (S.3), located an undetermined distance northwest of Str. 25-1-1st. Stratum 3's top lies ca. 0.3m below modern ground surface, descends 0.04m over 1.08m southwest to northeast, and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.28m (its base was not found). The few artifacts recovered from the uppermost 0.03m of the layer probably percolated downwards from overlying S.2; the majority of S.3 is culturally sterile like S.1. It seems likely, therefore, that S.1 and 3 were deposited at about the same time prior to significant human occupation in the immediate area. That S.1 was not located in Subop. 25B at a level equivalent to its appearance in Subops. 25E and G ca. 9m to the southeast suggests that this red-brown clay was descending down into a depression lying immediately north of Str. 25-1/4. Unfortunately, S.3 was not directly linked to Str. 25-1-1st or S.1.

Time Span 2

Roughly 3.4m of Str. 25-1-1st's eastern basal facing (U.1) was uncovered along with a 1.9m southwest-northeast extent of a stone surface that apparently linked this building with its immediate eastern neighbor, Str. 25-2 (U. 2). Unit 1 is a poorly preserved cobble wall set at least 0.12m into S.1 (the wall's base was not definitively identified) and rising 0.21m above that earth level. Unit 2, sitting atop S.1 and abutting U.1, is a formal floor composed of a single cobble level (ca. 0.07m thick). Unit 1 is backed on the west by a fill consisting of horizontally laid cobbles resting in a brown earth matrix (U.3). Wall and floor rocks are set in a brown mud mortar. Units 1 and 2 are aligned approximately 355 degrees and 44 degrees respectively, the latter heading northeast towards Str. 25-2.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a dark brown, organic-rich clay, buries S.1, 3, and exposed Str. 25-1-1st construction by up to 0.34m. Feature 1 is a light concentration of tumbled building stone lying on top of U.2 and for up to 0.53m east of U.1. Relatively large quantities of artifacts and organic remains, the latter composed primarily of jute (Pachyichilus) shells, were recovered within the lower 0.1m of S.2 where it overlies S.3 (lots 25B/2 and 25B/3). Str. 25-1-1st's inhabitants may have been tossing trash off the building's northwest (non-patio) side down towards the aforementioned depression. Quite probably, therefore, these materials pertain to Str. 25-1-1st's

occupation.

Structure 25-2

Structure 25-2 is sandwiched between Strs. 25-1 and 25-3, 3m northeast of the former and 4m west of the latter. The building was investigated by means of a single 1x1m test pit placed north of the edifice (Subop. 25C). No architectural units were encountered in the course of carrying Subop. 25C to a maximum depth of 0.4m below modern ground surface. Artifacts found in the course of digging this probe likely pertain to final-phase occupation of Str. 25-2 but the precise relationship between cultural material and construction cannot be determined.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25C/1	43 sherds 5 obsidian pieces 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25C/2	40 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25C/3	13 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC

Time Spans

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

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, buried by 0.13-0.25m of S.2, is a medium brown, sandy clay containing a few small stones. This earth level ascends 0.03m over 1m southwest to northeast and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.25m, though the base was not encountered. Some cultural material was found in S.1, implying that the area was settled when this layer was deposited. The above finding is contrary to the pattern noted 9.6m to the southwest in Subop. 25B where a very similar soil level (S.3) yielded very little evidence of a human presence. The significance of this discrepancy continues to elude us.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2 is a dark brown, organic-rich clay containing a few small stones. The artifacts and organic material retrieved from all portions of this level probably derive from final-phase occupation of nearby Str. 25-2, possibly representing trash jettisoned by occupants of that edifice. Failure to link Subop. 25C to architecture renders this interpretation tentative.

Structure 25-3

Structure 25-3 is 4m east of Str. 25-2 on the northeast patio corner. Excavations here reached a maximum depth of 0.3m below modern ground surface outside construction and exposed 14.2m² along the building's north and west flanks (Subop. 25D). A single construction phase was revealed in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25D/1	3 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25D/2	7 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25D/3	1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary and Preconstruction)	1,2
25D/4	14 sherds 8 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25D/5	6 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25D/6	34 sherds 6 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25D/7	2 sherds 1 obsidian piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25D/8	18 sherds 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25D/9	8 sherds 5 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC

25D/10	10 sherds 4 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25D/11	11 sherds 1 obsidian piece 13 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25D/12	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2
25D/13	5 sherds 6 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/?
25D/14	16 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC

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. 25-3-1st	U.1	-	-	LC?, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	-	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown clay containing small stones, underlies Str. 25-3-1st and rises 0.21m over 2.14m north-to-south. Only a very small portion of S.1 was exposed in Subop. 25D, no more than 0.09m thick, and the earth level's base was not encountered. Roughly 0.06-0.15m of S.2, a dark brown, organic rich (in its upper portions) clay, is found overlying S.1 and below U.1, indicating that Str. 25-3-1st was raised a short time after deposition of this soil began. The shallowness of Str. 25-3-1st architecture, U.1 stones lying within 0.02m of modern ground surface, coupled with the absence of an impermeable barrier separating segments of S.2 laid down before and after construction, make it impossible to state with any certainty that there was no human occupation predating Str. 25-3-1st's erection. The vast majority of the scant cultural remains unearthed in Subop. 25D, even if they came from the 0.21m (maximum) dug below U.1's base, likely relate to occupation of that edifice.

Time Span 2

Unit 1 is a cobble foundation for a zero-elevation building. The footing stands one stone high (0.06-0.2m) and measuring one stone wide (0.18m). The general paucity of stone fallen from U.1 indicates that this wall's extant and original heights are probably close matches. Fully

2.7m of U.1's north side was exposed along with 2.5m of its west flank and its northwest corner. The foundation stops on the east and south without forming a corner. All rocks are set in a brown mud mortar. Structure 25-3-1st's interior was apparently surfaced with dirt; no clear sign of that floor was discerned. This edifice, therefore, was apparently a surface-level structure measuring at least 2.5x2.7m and oriented 88 degrees and 175 degrees on the north and west respectively.

Time Span 3

Continued deposition of S.2 followed Str. 25-3-1st's abandonment, resulting in the creation of a layer 0.06-0.16m thick.

Suboperation 25F

Suboperation 25F is a 1m northwest-southeast by 5.1m northeast-southwest trench dug into a low rise situated between Strs. 25-3 and 25-4 on the eastern patio flank. Excavations, carried down to a maximum depth of 0.37m below modern ground surface, were designed to evaluate the cultural significance of this eminence. No architectural units were encountered.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25F/1	51 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC
25F/2	113 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/3	54 sherds 1 obsidian piece	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/4	15 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC
25F/5	12 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/EPC, LC
25F/6	70 sherds 4 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/7	49 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/8	3 sherds 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC

25F/9	74 sherds 1 obsidian piece 9 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC
25F/10	65 sherds 2 jute sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/11	2 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC?
25F/12	49 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25F/13	70 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 5 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC
25F/14	36 sherds 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC
25F/15	23 sherds 1 obsidian piece 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EPC

Time Spans

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

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a red-brown clay that rises 0.5m over 4.6m southwest to northeast. There is considerable variation in the number of stones incorporated in the layer; a dense concentration of rocks is found in the initial 2.7-2.79m excavated southwest to northeast, giving way over the remaining 2.31-2.4m of Subop. 25F to a level containing far fewer stones. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.25m, though its base was not encountered. Stratum 2 is a dark brown, organic-rich clay that overlies S.1 by as much as 0.21m over 4.3m in the southwestern portion of the trench; S.1 rises to ground level in the remaining northeastern portion of the excavation. Both strata conform in composition and stratigraphic relations to earth levels identified elsewhere at Site 25 and on the Las Huertas/Hondo high terrace.

Cultural material is found throughout the exposed portions of both levels, indicating that human occupation was contemporary with the formation of S.1 and 2. This situation contrasts with other portions of the site where red-brown, rock-rich clays exposed at the bases of excavations are culturally sterile. In fact, more artifacts come from S.1 in Subop. 25F than from overlying S.2. There is also a tendency for cultural materials in both layers to cluster towards the

southwestern end of the trench, as though the objects had been originally tossed over the low northeast-to-southwest descent, most material collecting near the base where the ground surface leveled out. It was originally thought that the rise investigated by Subop. 25F was a midden. This interpretation still seems plausible, especially given the relatively large quantities of artifacts and some organic remains found here. Cultural remains incorporated within S.1 and 2 were, therefore, probably introduced over a protracted period of trash disposal on this spot. How S.1 and 2 relate to the occupational histories of the neighboring structures is not clear.

Structure 25-9

Structure 25-9 is on the eastern margin of the dispersed aggregate composed of Strs. 25-5/10. The investigated edifice is approximately 3m southeast of Str. 25-10 and 5m north of Str. 25-5. Excavations conducted here revealed the building's northeast (Subop. 25I) and southeast (Subop. 25H) corners, uncovering 8.5m² overall. These trenches reached a maximum depth of 0.3m below modern ground surface outside construction; architectural fill was not probed.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25H/1	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25H/2	156 sherds 9 censer fragments 2 obsidian pieces 2 andesite pieces 3 chert pieces 93 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
25H/3	6 sherds 9 censer fragments 1 chert piece 6 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/EPC
25H/4	3 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 1 mano fragment 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25H/5	33 sherds 2 obsidian pieces 1 mano fragment 28 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25H/6	1 sherd	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC

25H/7	22 sherds 3 censer fragments 1 obsidian piece 25 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25H/8	sherds <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ -
25H/9	28 sherds 40 <u>jute</u> shells	Fill	2/ -
25I/1	20 sherds 23 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25I/2	44 sherds 26 <u>jute</u> shells	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25I/3	2 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25I/4	empty	Preconstruction	1/ -
25I/5	1 sherd	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25I/6	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ -
25I/7	1 sherd	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25I/8	sherds <u>jute</u> shells	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-

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	-	LC?, EPC?
2	Str. 25-9-1st	U.1-7	-	-	EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown clay incorporating numerous small stones, underlies Str. 25-9-1st construction. This level was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.24m, though its base was not located. Recovery of a few artifacts from this level tentatively points to human occupation in the immediate vicinity of Str. 25-9-1st prior to erection of that edifice. We cannot rule out, however, the possibility that the objects in question are associated with TS.2 and were introduced into S.1 by natural or cultural processes.

Time Span 2

Structure 25-9-1st was apparently subject to several renovations that are, at this point, difficult to reconstruct. It appears that, at some point in the edifice's occupation sequence, Str. 25-9-1st was a stone-faced platform standing 0.18-0.37m high, measuring 4.45m north-south, and aligned approximately 346 degrees, 30 minutes (U.2, 3, 5, and 6). Units 2, 3, and 5 comprise the building's north, east, and southern basal facings, fashioned primarily of un-faced cobbles and, to a lesser extent, angular chunks, set in a brown mud mortar, and measuring 0.09-0.37m in diameter. A few stones that might have been purposefully faced were noted scattered among the unmodified rocks of U.3. These blocks appear to have been used sporadically. The walls vary from one to two stones high, depending on the sizes of the rocks involved, and there is no sign of coursing or chinking stones. All Str. 25-9-1st units, in this and subsequent versions of the platform, are set on S.1. A rough pavement of cobbles and angular chunks covers the exposed portions of the summit (U.6).

Subsequently, the platform was expanded 1.1m to the south and 0.4m to the north (U.3 seems to have continued unchanged). Units 1 and 4 are the northern and southern basal facing added at this time, replacing and burying U. 2 and 5 respectively. The additions replicate construction patterns described above. Unit 6 was apparently expanded to encompass the newly enlarged summit. Structure 25-9-1st, therefore, now measured 6.05m north-south, rose 0.18-0.37m high, and maintained the earlier orientation.

The final renovation identified in Subops. 25H and 25I involved the construction of an apparent projection extending east from the main body of the platform. The north and south flanks of this addition continue the lines of U.2 and 5 respectively but abut U.3, the eastern basal platform facing. Units 2 and 5, east projections, stand 0.1-0.18m high and are built of cobbles set in a brown mud mortar and measuring 0.1-0.18m in diameter. These walls consist of a single horizontal line of rocks and are backed by a stone fill (U.7) that was partially exposed but not probed. The eastern projection, therefore, is 4.5m wide north-south, measured where it intersects U.3 at a point 0.45m south of the platform's northeast corner and 1.1m north of the southeast corner. As only 1.05m and 0.5m of the U.2 and 5 east extensions were uncovered, we cannot reconstruct the addition's east-west basal dimension. The projection's alignment is highly variable, ranging from 71 degrees to 86 degrees, 30 minutes. This divergence probably results from the poor preservation of the walls in question and the consequent difficulty experienced in reconstructing the original orientation.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a brown, hard-compacted, organic-rich clay, overlies S.1 by 0.04-0.12m and buries most of Str. 25-9-1st. Feature 1, a light to moderately dense concentration of stone apparently fallen from final-phase platform architecture, extends up to 1m away from

construction.

Structure 25-11

Structure 25-11 closes off the east side of the patio defined by Strs. 25-11/17 on the far western margin of Site 25. Structure 25-17 is ca. 2m to the northeast while Str. 25-12 lies 5m to the south. The patio is depressed slightly below the surrounding terrace surface, Str. 25-11 being built over low west-to-east and south-to-north ascents. Suboperations 25N and 25O were dug against the edifice's east and west sides respectively, exposing a total of 5.4m² of prehistoric deposits. Excavations were carried to maximum depths of 0.51m (west) and 0.45m (east) below modern ground surface outside construction; architectural fill was not probed.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25N/1	30 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
25N/2	14 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25N/3	35 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
25N/4	sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25N/5	13 sherds 1 censer fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC, EPC?
25O/1	sherds obsidian	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25O/2	15 sherds 1 chert piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25O/3	34 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25O/4	27 sherds 3 glass fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC, HIST
25O/5	2 sherds 1 figurine fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25O/6	67 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC

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	-	LC?
2	Str. 25-11-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2,3	F.1,2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted soil containing a few pebbles, underlies revealed construction on both the east and west. This earth layer runs more-or-less level in the limited exposures provided by Subops. 25N and 25O, and was uncovered to maximum thicknesses of 0.16m (west) and 0.19m (east); its base was not encountered. Recovery of artifacts from S.1 (25N/3) may indicate human occupation in the vicinity when this soil was being laid down. It is possible, however, that the sherds in question percolated downwards into S.1 from later (TS.2) deposits.

Time Span 2

Units 1 and 2 form the east and west basal facings of Str. 25-11-1st. The former is built of un-faced cobbles and angular chunks set in a brown mud mortar and rising 0.24m above S.1. Unit 1 is set 0.04m into S.1 and is aligned 320 degrees. Rock sizes range from 0.13m to 0.29m in diameter. Unit 2 ascends 0.33m and is fashioned of un-faced stones set in a mud mortar. Rocks here average about 0.15x0.25m. Unit 2's orientation radically diverges from that of U.1, measuring 355 degrees. In neither case do stones form clear horizontal courses nor are chinking stones attested to in construction. A pavement composed of unmodified cobbles (primarily) and angular chunks extends 2.35-3.6m west of U.2 (U.3). Unit 2 appears to rest on U.3. Stones comprising the latter measure, on average, 0.2m in diameter and are set in a brown mud mortar. Unit 3 runs level for ca. 2m west of U.2 after which it drops 0.14m to its western margin. The pavement appears to be no more than one stone (roughly 0.1m) thick. Unit 3 is aligned 300 degrees.

Based on the very small portions of Str. 25-11-1st uncovered in Subops. 25N and 25O, it seems that the platform's east and west flanks did not run parallel to each other. Structure 25-11-1st is roughly 7.5m wide east-west. Unit 3 may well have run north, providing a paved surface linking adjacent Strs. 25-11-1st and 25-16-1st (see below). Why the western edge of this extramural floor diverges 55 degrees from the orientation of U.2 is unknown.

Time Span 3

Strata 2 and 3 bury exposed construction and S.1 by 0.05-0.41m. The former is a brown,

fine-textured clay 0.01-0.25m thick, while the latter is dark brown, fine-textured, organic-rich soil that buries S.2 by 0.04-0.23m. Features 1 and 2, consisting of stones fallen from Str. 25-11-1st construction, are embedded in S.1 and 2. The former is a moderately dense concentration of debris extending at least 0.98m east of U.1; F.2 contains fewer rocks and is found up to 2.4m west of U.2. Some F.2 rocks rest atop U.3 while a few components of F.1 extend up to 0.08m into S.1.

Structure 25-15

Structure 25-15 delimits the north flank of the patio surrounded by Strs. 25-11/17. Structure 25-17 is roughly 3m to the southeast and Str. 25-14 is an equivalent distance to the southwest. As with all other buildings nucleated around this central space, Str. 25-15 is built over a low ascent, the ground rising from south to north in this case. Roughly 2.5m² were excavated in Subop. 25M on the edifice's north, non-patio-facing, side. The trench was carried down to 0.2m below modern ground surface; no architectural elements were encountered.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25M/1	86 sherds 2 obsidian pieces	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25M/2	sherds chert <u>jute</u> shell(s)	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25M/3	12 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25M/4	48 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
25M/5	sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/-

Time Spans

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

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a red-brown, coarse-textured soil that contains numerous rocks of various sizes, including large boulders that protrude from it and extend up into S.2. This soil layer runs

relatively even over the 2m (north-south) revealed in excavations and was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.1m. Stratum 1's base was not identified in Subop. 25M. No cultural materials were recovered from S.1.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2, a dark brown, fine-textured, organic-rich soil containing fairly large quantities of rocks, overlies S.1 by ca. 0.1m. All cultural material recovered from this layer probably derived from nearby Str. 25-15-1st to the south. Unfortunately, we did not locate the latter's north face and cannot therefore link the stratigraphy and objects unearthed in Subop. 25M to that building's construction phases. Very likely, S.2 was deposited after Str. 25-15-1st was abandoned.

Structure 25-16

Structure 25-16 lies between Strs. 25-11 (11m to the south) and 25-15 (3m to the west), defining the northeast corner of the patio delimited by Strs. 25-11/17. The ground over which Str. 25-16 was raised slopes up from southwest to northeast. Suboperation 25L is a 1x1.96m trench set against the platform's southwest (patio-facing) flank. This excavation was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.5m below modern ground surface outside of construction; platform fill was not investigated. A single construction phase was revealed during the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25L/1	sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25L/2	57 sherds 1 <u>jute</u> shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/EPC, LC
25L/3	70 sherds 1 censer fragment 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1LC, EPC
25L/4	34 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25L/5	115 sherds 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Fill	2/LC, EPC
25L/6	76 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/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	-	LC?,
2	Str. 25-16-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a red-brown, hard-compacted clay that contains a moderate number of variably sized stones, including at least one large boulder. The layer ascends 0.22m over 1.65m southwest-to-northeast and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.35m. Stratum 1's base was not exposed in Subop. 25L. Artifacts recovered from this level suggest that there was human habitation in the area when S.1 was deposited. The absence of an impermeable barrier separating S.1 from overlying deposits, however, leaves open the real possibility that some of the artifacts retrieved from this layer were originally deposited in TS.2 and were subsequently introduced to S.1 by natural and cultural processes.

Time Span 2

Unit 1 seems to have been Str. 25-16-1st's southwest basal facing at some point in the construction sequence. The wall is preserved 0.23m above S.1 and is set approximately 0.1m into that earth level. Stones comprising U.1 consist of cobbles (primarily) and angular chunks, the naturally flatter aspects of which are oriented outwards. These rocks form two fairly clear horizontal courses and their measurements cluster around 0.3m in diameter. After U.1's erection, a low (0.14-0.21m high) stone-faced terrace (U.2 and 3) was appended onto Str. 25-16-1st's southwest face. Unit 2 defines the addition's southwest edge and is built primarily of cobbles and a few angular chunks, the naturally flatter surfaces of both facing outwards. Rocks making up U.2 generally have diameters of 0.31m and are set in a single horizontal line extending as much as 0.14m into S.1. Unit 2's base is 0.22m below (downslope) from that of U.1. Both U.1 and 2 are held together with a brown mud mortar and lack chinking stones. Backing U.2 on the northeast is a fill composed of stones set in a brown earth matrix (U.3). Unit 3 rocks generally ride on top of S.1's southwest-to-northeast ascent, though several of the stones extend as much as 0.08m into the underlying soil layer. There is no sign of a formal stone pavement atop the U.2/3 terrace.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 25-16-1st stood at least 0.45m high on the southwest, was faced by a 0.14-0.21-high by 0.96m-wide stone-faced terrace on that flank, and was oriented 331 degrees, 30 minutes. There was no sign of the stone pavement identified in Subop. 25O to the south (Str. 25-11-1st's U.3).

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a dark brown, fine-textured, loosely compacted, organic-rich soil, overlies S.1 by 0.1-0.15m and buries most of U.1-3. Feature 1, a light concentration of stone tumbled from Str. 25-16-1st construction, extends at least 0.21m southwest of U.2 and is embedded in S.2.

Structure 25-22

Structure 25-22 sits on the northern margin of the small group composed of Strs. 25-20/23. Structure 25-23 is ca. 4m to the southwest while Str. 25-21 sits 11m south of the investigated edifice. This dispersed structure group occupies the summit of a low rise on the western high terrace margin, overlooking the Strs. 25-11/19 cluster to the south-southwest and Site 26 to the west. Approximately 11m² were exposed in Subops. 25J and 25K, dug into the building's south and north sides, respectively. Erection of a utility pole near the structure caused more damage to the edifice than we initially thought, disturbing stratigraphy, and apparently destroying architecture, on Str. 25-22's north flank. Consequently, only one, poorly preserved architectural unit was recorded, and that in Subop. 25J on the south. Excavations were carried down to maximum depths of 0.2m below modern ground surface in Subop. 25K and 0.42m below surface outside construction in Subop. 25J; Str. 25-22-1st's interior was not tested.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
25J/1	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ -
25J/2	16 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/3	22 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/4	36 sherds 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC, EPC
25J/5	sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/6	sherds <u>jute</u> shell(s)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/7	sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/8	sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/9	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC

25J/10	16 sherds 1 obsidian piece 2 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/11	4 sherds 1 obsidian piece 24 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
25J/12	31 sherds 11 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 6 <u>jute</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25J/13	sherds <u>jute</u> shell(s)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
25K/1	55 sherds 4 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2 ?/-
25K/2	85 sherds 3 obsidian pieces 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 24 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/EPC, LC
25K/3	148 sherds 1 obsidian piece 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 17 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/EPC, LC
25K/4	29 sherds 1 chert 1 mano fragment 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/-
25K/5	sherds	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/-
25K/6	34 sherds 1 mano fragment	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/EPC, LC
25K/7	63 sherds 1 obsidian piece 4 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 3 <u>jute</u> shells	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/-
25K/8	38 sherds 6 obsidian pieces	Occupation Debris (Disturbed)	2?/-

2 bajareque fragments
4 jute shells

25K/9 sherds Occupation Debris (Disturbed) 2?/-
bone

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	-	LC?
2	Str. 25-22-1st	U.1	-	-	EPC
3	-	-	S.2	-	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a red-brown clay containing numerous rocks that underlies exposed construction. This level rises 0.1m over 0.72m south-to-north on the south and was found sloping up from north-to-south in Subop. 25K ca, 3.9m north of Subop. 25J. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.16m, though its base was not encountered in either trench. Stratum 1 contained a few artifacts, pointing to scant human occupation in the immediate environs while this soil level was forming. A thin (less than 0.1m thick) level of red-brown clay identical to S.1 was found overlying S.2 in Subop. 25K. This reappearance of S.1 probably results from the re-deposition of soils dredged up in recent excavations associated with raising the utility pole near Str. 25-22 (see above).

Time Span 2

Unit 1 is a poorly preserved stone wall standing a preserved 0.25m high and set 0.09m into S.1 on Str. 25-22-1st's south side. The wall measures 0.7m across and is aligned 278 degrees. Unit 1 was exposed for 3.25m northwest-southeast. Whether this construction served as a basal facing or foundation is unclear. As noted earlier, no architectural elements were revealed on the building's north flank.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a dark brown, fine-textured, organic-rich soil, overlies S.1 on the south by 0.24-0.3m. The situation on the north is less clear; S.2 here seems much thinner, certainly less than 0.2m thick.

Chronological Summary

Occupation at Site 25 spans the Late Classic through Early Postclassic with some signs of

use of and disturbance to the settlement occurring over the last several decades. The Late Classic presence is most strongly attested to within the Str. 25-11/18 group in the western portion of the site. Most buildings in this cluster were likely erected now, though the U.2/3 terrace may have been appended to Str. 25-16-1st's southwest side during the subsequent Early Postclassic (based on the recovery of sherds diagnostic of the Late Classic and Early Postclassic from U.3 fill). Late Classic settlement is also clearly recognized in the Str. 25-1/4 aggregate on the east, though the extent and nature of the occupation is unclear. Late Classic diagnostics may be associated with the raising of Str. 25-1-1st but are, otherwise, best represented in the apparent trash deposit exposed in Subop. 25F. The latter entity implies use of this portion of the site during the Late Classic. In the other two structure groups investigated (Str. 25-5/10 and 25-20/23), Late Classic occupation is only weakly indicated.

Signs of Early Postclassic settlement are generally most pronounced where evidence of Late Classic settlement is scanty. Early Postclassic habitation is strongly attested to in the dispersed aggregates composed of Strs. 25-5/10 and 25-20/23, in the Strs.25-1/4 group and, weakly, in the southwestern patio cluster (Strs. 25-11/18). All architecture in the first two entities probably dates to this interval as does Str. 25-3-1st. Otherwise, Early Postclassic residents apparently used pre-existing Late Classic buildings, sometimes modifying them slightly in the process (e.g., Str. 25-16-1st's U.2/3 terrace).

Based on the distributional data, it appears that settlement of Site 25 began in two areas ca. 75 m apart, within the Strs. 25-1/4 and 25-11/18 aggregates. Both remained foci of habitation during the Early Postclassic, though population now spread out to occupy spaces between these nodes (the Strs. 25-5/10 cluster) and to the north of them (Strs. 25-20/23). This putative expansion may have been initiated on a small scale during the Late Classic but only became fully established in the Early Postclassic. Site 25 was deserted by the Late Postclassic and has only recently witnessed a significant resurgence of human activity (represented by the glass sherds recovered in lot 25O/4, pipeline excavations, and the raising of a utility pole at the settlement).

Architectural Summary

Late Classic architecture revealed in Site 25 excavations generally consists of platform or terrace facings built of unmodified cobbles (primarily) and angular chunks set in a brown mud mortar. Measured stone sizes range from 0.13-0.3m in diameter and in only one case (Str. 25-16-1st, U.1) was there a clear sign that rocks were placed in horizontal courses. These walls rise 0.21-0.33m high and are aligned 324-355 degrees. This divergence in orientations is as notable within as among structure groups; i.e., Strs. 25-11-1st and 25-16-1st have alignments that diverge as much as 23 degrees, 30 minutes. Stone pavements fronted the patio-facing sides of two buildings in the excavated sample (Strs. 25-1-1st and 25-11-1st). In each case, the floors are one stone thick (0.07-0.1m) and made of unmodified cobbles (primarily) and angular chunks set in a brown mud mortar. Interestingly, the floors in question do not share the alignments of the neighboring platforms, the divergence ranging from 31 to 55 degrees. Only Str. 25-11-1st was sufficiently cleared to permit estimation of one of its basal dimensions; it measure 7.5m across east-west.

Early Postclassic constructions at Site 25 include both a low platform (Str. 25-9-1st, 0.18-0.37m high) and at least one surface-level construction (Str. 25-3-1st). The latter's foundation is 0.06-0.2m tall by 0.18m wide, while the platform was apparently ascended in a single step from ancient ground surface. Structure 25-9-1st has a 4.5m-wide (north-south), 0.1-0.18m-high

projection extending off its east side and the building's summit was covered with a stone floor. Walls and floors, in all cases, were fashioned of un-faced cobbles and angular chunks set in a brown mud mortar. Stones comprising walls are not placed in horizontal courses. Unit alignments encompass a spread extending from 341 degrees to 8 degrees, with most (five examples) falling between 341-358 degrees. The 0.96m-wide, 0.14-0.21-high U.2/3 terrace appended to Str. 25-16-1st replicates the construction style noted above. This addition's orientation, 331 degrees, 30 minutes, conforms to the alignment of the principal platform. Structure 25-9-1st is the only Early Postclassic building that was sufficiently cleared to allow determination of one of its basal dimensions; it measured 4.45m north-south during an early incarnation, being expanded to 6.05m in this direction following later renovations.