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PSB OP 026 Excavation Report

Edward Schortman

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Site 26

Site 26 possesses 18 extant structures and seven features situated atop the westernmost extension of the Las Huertas/Hondo upper terrace. Extensive destruction of ancient buildings precipitated by a wide range of recent activities frustrates reconstruction of site form. Structures 26-2/4, 6/7, and 17/18 appear to have been part of a sizable patio group, the center of which was removed by road construction. Another patio-cluster may have been defined by Strs. 26-9/10 and 12/15. Most edifices, whether incorporated within patio clusters or not, were raised so as to take advantage of small changes in elevation to enhance platform heights on their downslope sides. Site 25 is approximately 20m above and 200m east of Site 26 and Gualjoquito (Site 1) lies 300m north and 10m below the settlement. Site 26 overlooks the junction of the Rios Hondo and Las Huertas with the Rio Ulua, these streams lying 150m south, 200m north, and 200m to the west respectively. Structures 26-5, 8, 9, 10, and 16 were excavated during the period June 25-July 5, 1984, 64 person-days devoted to clearing 45.3m². All work was directed by Julie Miller with help contributed by Colleen Sidors, Alec Harris, Earl Sissell, and Brenda Ratinni; Patricia Urban and Edward Schortman provided general supervision. Much of what follows is based on Miller's thorough report on the investigations.

Structure 26-5

Structure 26-5 is located off the eastern flank of the putative patio defined by Strs. 26-2/4, 6/7, 17/18, ca. 4m east of Str. 26-4 and 15m north of Str. 26-16. The building was raised over a gradual north-to-south rise, and, from the surface, ascends above the slope on all but the southern flank. Fully 7.3m² were excavated here within Subop. 26D, clearing a portion of the edifice's south side. Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.45m below modern ground surface outside (south of) construction and 0.74m into and below architectural fill. One construction phase was recognized in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
26D/1	32 sherds 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26D/2	4 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26D/3	49 sherds 107 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26D/4	26 sherds 12 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26D/5	4 sherds 20 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/?

26D/6	60 sherds 1 chipped stone fragment 1 ground stone fragment 221 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26D/7	9 sherds 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26D/8	25 sherds 1 chipped stone fragment 43 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EC
26D/9	4 sherds 13 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/?
26D/10	12 sherds 4 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/?
26D/11	14 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 28 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/?
26D/12	70 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 253 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/13	28 sherds 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26D/14	31 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 14 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/15	147 sherds 1 figurine fragment 1 chipped stone piece 1 ground stone piece 8 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 16 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/16	85 sherds 11 censer pieces 2 chipped stone pieces 42 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 12 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Primary)	2/LC

26D/17	30 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 3 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26D/18	16 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 8 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/19	25 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 10 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/20	60 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 8 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 96 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26D/21	42 sherds 5 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26D/22	265 sherds 2 censer fragments 4 chipped stone pieces 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 22 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/LC
26D/23	63 sherds 1 chipped stone piece (Secondary) 10 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris	1/LC
26D/24	71 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	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. 26-5-1st	U.1-4	-	-	LC,

3 - - S.2,3 F.1 -

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown clay containing numerous artifacts, was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.3m underlying Str. 26-5-1st construction (U.3; S.1's base was not encountered). Only a very limited portion of S.1 was revealed in a 0.3m-wide (north-south) probe. Recovery of cultural material (lot 26D/23) from this earth layer tentatively points to human occupation in the environs of Str. 26-5-1st prior to that building's erection.

Time Span 2

Excavations in Subop. 26D revealed fragments of what seem to have been two buildings facing each other across a formal surface (U.1). Unit 1 is a pavement of flat-laid cobbles set atop S.1 in a red-clay matrix. The floor is 1.68m wide north-south and provides support for both U.2 and 4. The former is Str. 26-5-1st's southern basal facing, rising ca. 0.3m above U.1 and composed of cobbles set in three horizontal courses and bound together with a mud mortar. Unit 3, a medium-brown clay containing large quantities of artifacts (lot 26D/22), backs U.2 on the north and apparently served as platform fill. There is no sign of a formal pavement surmounting this unit. Unit 4, a ca. 0.3m-high wall composed of three horizontal cobble courses, is 1.68m south of U.2 and appears to be the foundation or basal facing for a previously unrecognized building. Stone sizes in both walls range from 0.08x0.14m to 0.11x0.28m and all of the rocks are set in a brown mud mortar. Units 2 and 4 run parallel to each other at orientations of 273 degrees, 30 minutes.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment of Str. 26-5-1st and its southern neighbor, S.2 and 3 were laid down. The former is a medium-brown clay containing a few small rocks while the latter is a dark brown, silty, organic-rich soil. Stratum 2 buries U.1 by 0.15-0.23m, along with the bases of U.2 and 4. Stratum 3, in turn, overlies S.2 and U.3 by 0.27-0.33m and obscures the remaining portions of U.2 and 4. Feature 1, composed of a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from, most likely, both buildings, is embedded within S.2 and 3 in the 1.68m between U.2 and 4. A few F.1 rocks were noted lying on U.3, extending 0.77m north of U.2.

Structure 26-8

Structure 26-8 lies off the northwest flank of the Strs. 26-9/10 and 12/15 patio group, ca. 2.5m northwest of Str. 26-9 and 6m northeast of Str. 26-11. The ground on which Str. 26-8 was erected slopes up gradually from north to south. A total of 18.2m² was dug in Subops. 26B and 26C. The former exposed portions of the building's southwest flank while the latter was set against the northeast side. Excavations reached maximum depths of 0.74m into and below construction on the southwest and 0.79m below modern ground surface outside architecture on the northeast. One clear building phase was tentatively identified in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
26B/1	9 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26B/2	31 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26B/3	51 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/LC, EPC
26B/4	31 sherds	Fill	2/LC
26B/5	21 sherds	Fill and Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/LC
26B/6	43 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26B/7	10 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26B/8	4 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26B/9	67 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26B/10	17 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26B/11	4 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26B/12	52 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Fill	2/LC
26B/13	83 sherds 1 shell/bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary) and Fill	1,2/LC
26B/14	33 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/15	102 sherds 4 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC

	2 shell/bone fragments		
26B/16	106 sherds 6 chipped stone pieces 39 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/17	17 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/18	118 sherds 1 censer fragment 3 chipped stone pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/-
26B/19	72 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 1 shell/bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/20	54 sherds 1 shell/bone fragment and Fill	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26B/21	424 sherds 13 chipped stone pieces 50 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/22	19 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/23	5 sherds 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/-
26B/24	60 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 3 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/25	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Fill	2/LC
26B/26	61 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/27	78 sherds 1 chipped stone piece and Fill 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC

26B/28	9 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/29	45 sherds 1 censer fragment 3 chipped stone pieces 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26B/30	106 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/31	90 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 9 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC
26B/32	69 sherds 1 chipped stone piece (Secondary) 26 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 4 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/33	5 sherds 1 bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris	1/LC
26B/34	104 sherds 1 censer fragment 9 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/EC, LC
26B/35	70 sherds 7 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris	1/LC
26B/36	84 sherds 10 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/37	10 sherds 17 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/38	91 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 4 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC
26B/39	22 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC

26B/40	12 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/41	64 sherds 5 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/-
26B/42	9 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/43	24 sherds 1 censer fragment 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26B/44	80 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC
26C/1	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/2	8 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/3	53 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26C/4	104 sherds 3 chipped stone pieces 9 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 3 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26C/5	16 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26C/6	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ -
26C/7	9 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/8	42 sherds 1 figurine fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC
26C/9	17 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/10	17 sherds 3 chipped stone pieces 3 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/11	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-

26C/12	69 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 3 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26C/13	241 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 15 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 23 shell/bone fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC, EC
26C/14	81 sherds 2 censer fragments 1 chipped stone piece 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26C/15	11 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26C/16	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/17	10 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 ground stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/?
26C/18	14 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/19	16 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26C/20	3 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/21	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ -
26C/22	11 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26C/23	10 sherds 3 censer fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ ?
26C/24	15 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC

26C/25	5 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ ?
26C/26	-	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/27	4 sherds 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/28	3 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/29	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/30	31 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/31	23 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/32	3 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/33	20 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/34	2 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ ?
26C/35	32 sherds 1 ground stone fragment 6 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/36	20 sherds 6 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26C/37	11 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26C/38	39 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	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.1,2	-	EC, LC
2	Str. 26-8-1st	U.1-6	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2,3	F.1,2	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown sandy soil lacking stone inclusions, was exposed at the base of Subop. 26C well below construction. This earth layer was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.03m and ran fairly level over a horizontal extent of 0.78m east-west. The base of S.1 was not encountered nor was enough of this level investigated to determine if it contained cultural material.

Stratum 2, a light brown, sandy soil incorporating a few pebbles, buries S.1 in Subop. 26C by 0.34-0.38m and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.49m in Subop. 26B where S.2's base was not reached. Roughly 0.28m of S.2 in Subop, 26C and (minimally) 0.45m in Subop. 26B underlie Str. 26-8-1st architecture, suggesting that erection of this platform interrupted S.2's deposition. Sizable quantities of artifacts and related cultural materials were retrieved from this lower segment of S.2, strongly indicating a prolonged and substantial human occupation in Str. 26-8-1st's environs prior to raising that edifice.

Time Span 2

Revealed portions of Str. 26-8-1st architecture were not well preserved. Nevertheless, remnants of the building's northeast, southeast, and southwest basal facings were identified along with paved summit and extramural surfaces. The southwest flank was ascended via two, low (0.14-0.2m high), cobble-faced risers (U.3) set into and backed by a dark brown earth fill (U.6). The treads are 0.3-0.32m wide and are succeeded on the northeast by a 0.07m-high, cobble-faced ascent (part of U.3) to what seems to have been the summit. Units 3 and 6 are set atop a 0.45m (over 1.5m) southwest-to-northeast rise in S.2. Stratum 2 may have been modified to accommodate U.3 and 6, apparently having been cut back below the second riser and the summit ascent. The latter extends 0.13m into S.2. A single basal facing was revealed on the northeast and southeast (U.1), consisting of a cobble wall 0.2-0.3m high, surmounted and backed by a stone-paved summit (U.2). At some point in the occupation sequence, a fill composed of cobbles set in a dark brown earth matrix (U.4) was deposited off Str. 26-8-1st's southwest flank, burying S.2 and the U.3 basal terrace by up to 0.27m. A wedge of S.2 earth was apparently placed against the U.3 basal riser prior to U.4's introduction (all included in U.4). Surmounting U.4 is a cobble pavement that extends at least 3.1m (U.5). Unit 3 would have now been reduced to a single terrace rising 0.24m above U.5 and measuring 0.3m wide.

Overall, Str. 26-8-1st rose, initially, 0.3m high on the northeast and southeast and 0.45m on the southwest, was oriented 22 degrees, measured roughly 5.5m northeast-southwest, and at least part of the summit was paved. The 0.15m discrepancy in the platform's heights probably results from the north-to-south natural rise over which the building was raised. Subsequently, an extramural cobble floor was added on the southwest, reducing the building's height on that side to 0.31m.

Time Span 3

The remainder of S.2 was laid down now on the platform's east side, followed there by S.3, a dark brown, organic-rich soil. Stratum 3 covers S.2 in Subop. 26C by 0.26-0.42m while on the southwest this earth level blankets U.3 and 5 by 0.14-0.27m. Features 1 and 2 consist of moderately dense concentrations of stones tumbled from final-phase architecture. The former is embedded in upper S.2 and S.3 and extends 1.75m from U.1. Feature 2 is incorporated in S.3 and extends 1.84m southwest of U.3.

Structure 26-9

Structure 26-9 closes off the northeast corner of the putative patio defined by Strs. 26-9/10, 12/15, ca. 2.5m southeast of Str. 26-8 and 5m northwest of Str. 26-10. The edifice is built into a northwest-to-southeast ascent and seems, on the surface, to lack elevation on its northeast flank. Approximately 6m² was cleared in Subop. 26F on Str. 26-9's northwest side, revealing a single construction phase. Excavations reached a maximum depth of 0.63m below modern ground surface outside (northwest of) architecture.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
26F/1	2 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/ ?
26F/2	37 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC?
26F/3	86 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC
26F/4	126 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC, EPC
26F/5	23 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment(Secondary)	Preconstruction Occupation Debris	1/LC
26F/6	46 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-

	2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment		
26F/7	26 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary) EC	2/LC,
26F/8	41 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26F/9	184 sherds 1 censer fragment 10 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC, EPC
26F/10	36 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 1 shell/bone fragment	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26F/11	6 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26F/12	19 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26F/13	34 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC
26F/14	57 sherds 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/LC, EPC
26F/15	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26F/16	58 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26F/17	55 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 4 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26F/18	124 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 6 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26F/19	64 sherds 5 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC, EPC
26F/20	52 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC

	1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment		
26F/21	26 sherds 12 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26F/22	16 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces	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. 26-9-1st	U.1,2	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a light brown sandy soil containing a very few small pebbles and some artifacts. The level slopes up 0.55m over 3.92m northwest-to-southeast. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.4m, though its base lay beyond excavation limits. Recovery of cultural materials from S.1 suggests the presence of human settlement in the general vicinity of Str. 26-9-1st prior to that building's erection.

Time Span 2

Unit 1 is Str. 26-9-1st's northwest basal facing. It consists of a single row of unmodified cobbles, ca. 0.2m high, and aligned roughly 68 degrees (only a 0.9m southwest-northeast segment of U.1 was unearthed). A concentration of flat-laid cobbles covering an area ca. 1m² immediately northwest of U.1 may be the remnants of a paved surface (U.2). The putative floor does not seem to continue east beyond excavation limits nor does it extend more than 1m northwest of U.1; U.2's full extent is, however, unknown.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a dark brown, organic-rich clay, blankets S.1 by 0.13-0.31m and covers most of Str. 26-9-1st construction. Feature 1, consisting of a moderate concentration of stones fallen from the platform's final phase architecture, is embedded in S.2 and extends for at least 3.2m northwest and downslope from U.1.

Structure 26-10

Structure 26-10 is on the east side of the patio that may have been defined by Strs. 26-9/10 and 12/15, ca. 5m southeast of Str. 26-9 and 5.5m south of Str. 26-8. The ground rises from southwest to northeast here, Str. 26-10 apparently lacking elevation on its upslope (northeast) side. A total of 6.8m² was cleared in Subop. 26G along the building's southwest flank, excavations being carried down a maximum of 0.44m below modern ground surface outside construction. A single building phase was revealed as a result of these efforts.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
26G/1	6 sherds 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC
26G/2	14 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC?
26G/3	26 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	1,2/-
26G/4	27 sherds 3 censer fragments 8 chipped stone pieces 2 ground stone pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/EPC, LC
26G/5	8 sherds	Preconstruction Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1/LC
26G/6	9 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/-
26G/7	-	Preconstruction	1/-
26G/8	9 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26G/9	21 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26G/10	40 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC
26G/11	36 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LC

1 chipped stone piece

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
2	Str. 26-10-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LC, EPC
3	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a light brown, coarse-textured soil containing some pebbles, slopes up 0.54m over 4.5m west-to-east and underlies construction. This earth level was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.25m, though its base was not encountered. Approximately 0.12m of S.2, a dark brown, fine-textured, organic-rich clay, overlies S.1 and runs beneath Str. 26-10-1st architecture (U.1 and 2). It seems likely, therefore, that raising the latter building occurred after S.1's deposition and interrupted the laying down of S.2. Retrieval of artifacts from S.1 indicates human use of the area that would eventually support Str. 26-10-1st, prior to that edifice's erection.

Time Span 2

Units 1 and 2 are cobble facings for two risers over which the southwest flank of Str. 26-10-1st was ascended. They rise 0.22m and 0.1m high (bottom to top), the basal element (U.1) being backed on the northeast by fill composed of cobbles set in a brown earth matrix (U.3). The U.1/3 terrace is ca. 0.94m wide and has an earthen surface. Unit 1, the most thoroughly exposed element (revealed over a northwest-southeast length of 2.1m) is oriented approximately 345 degrees.

Time Span 3

Continued deposition of S.2 resulted in the burying of most of U.1-3 along with S.1. Stratum 2 blanketed the latter by as much as 0.3m. The moderate concentration of tumbled stones incorporated in S.2 (F.1) extends for 3.74m southwest and downslope from U.1.

Structure 26-16

Structure 26-16 is ca. 10m northeast of Str. 26-8 and 15m south of Str. 26-5 near the approximate center of the extant portion of Site 26. The building was erected over a north-to-south gradual upward incline, Str. 26-16's south flank apparently having been set into, but not raised above, this sloping terrain. The 7.4m² excavated in Subop. 26E into the building's south

side reached a maximum depth of 0.7m below modern ground surface but failed to reveal surviving architecture.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/ Date</u>
26E/1	14 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 31 bone/shell fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC
26E/2	25 sherds 3 bone/shell fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/3	139 sherds 2 censer fragments 2 chipped stone pieces 5 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 4 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/4	63 sherds 1 censer fragment 2 chipped stone pieces 7 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC, EPC
26E/5	154 sherds 7 chipped stone pieces 4 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 2 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/6	empty	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/7	26 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 2 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC
26E/8	113 sherds 2 censer fragments 2 chipped stone pieces 2 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 3 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/9	108 sherds 1 ceramic stamp fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC

	1 chipped stone piece 17 <u>bajareque</u> fragments		
26E/10	99 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 7 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/11	4 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/12	-	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/13	230 sherds 1 ceramic whistle piece 6 chipped stone pieces 1 ground stone piece 13 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 10 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/14	151 sherds	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/15	-	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/16	71 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 1 shell/bone fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC, EPC
26E/17	146 sherds 4 chipped stone pieces 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment 7 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC
26E/18	94 sherds 1 chipped stone piece 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/19	26 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 5 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 5 shell/bone fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC, LC
26E/20	58 sherds	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC

	1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment		
26E/21	196 sherds 3 chipped stone pieces 15 <u>bajareque</u> fragments 1 shell/bone fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/22	47 sherds 1 censer fragment 7 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/23	21 sherds 1 chipped stone piece	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/24	71 sherds	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/25	111 sherds	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/26	-	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/-
26E/27	29 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragmtns	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/28	10 sherds	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/29	36 sherds 1 censer fragment 3 <u>bajareque</u> fragments	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/30	14 sherds 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC
26E/31	138 sherds 1 censer fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/LC
26E/32	8 sherds 2 chipped stone pieces 1 <u>bajareque</u> fragment	Occupation Debris (Primary)	1/EPC?

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	S.1-3	-	LC, EPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, the lowest of the three exposed earth levels, is a red clay uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.26m (its base was not encountered). Stratum 2, a red-brown clay, buries S.1 by 0.22-0.23m and is, in turn, mantled by S.1, a dark brown, silty, organic-rich soil that is 0.2m thick. All three layers run evenly over the 1m of their east-west extents uncovered in Subop. 26E and artifacts were recovered from throughout the excavated sequence. Most cultural materials are concentrated in S.2, however, frequencies declining both downwards and upwards from that layer. Human occupation in the immediate area likely coincided with the deposition of S.1-3, being particularly intense during the interval when S.2 was laid down. As noted above, no architecture was uncovered in Subop. 26E. Based on this evidence, it appears that we mistook an ancient trash mound for a platform during the initial survey of the settlement.

Chronological Summary

Occupation at Site 26 spans the Early Classic through Early Postclassic with construction and residential activities peaking in the Late Classic. A few ceramics diagnostic of the first period are found scattered in association with Late Classic materials in relatively deep deposits flanking Str. 26-8-1st and near Str. 26-5-1st. The relative paucity of these items suggests an equally sparse and/or sporadic occupation of the settlement. Apparently, remnants of that habitation were disturbed by later residents, resulting in the dispersal of Early Classic objects across the site. No Early Classic architecture was identified.

Occupation during the Late Classic was prolonged, substantial, and stable. Considerable quantities of Late Classic diagnostics derive from "Preconstruction" contexts, indicating widespread use of the settlement prior to raising the final-phase constructions seen on the surface. All four excavated buildings were likely built at this time and most of the trash mound originally identified as Str. 26-16 was laid down now. Late Classic diagnostics are concentrated in S.2 and 3 of that midden, indicating that garbage accumulated to depths of at least 0.49m during this interval (the base was not revealed but artifact densities were declining in the lower levels explored in Subop. 26E).

Occupation during the Early Postclassic is attested to in all excavated portions of the settlement. There is no clear sign, however, that any portions of the excavated buildings were raised at this time. Continued use of extant structures seems to have been the pattern for Early Postclassic settlement at Site 26. There is no sign of subsequent or earlier use of the site.

Architectural Summary

The four excavated Late Classic buildings (Strs. 26-5-1st, 26-8-1st, 26-9-1st, and 26-10-1st) are all relatively low platforms faced with stone walls fashioned using unmodified river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar. The single building for which we have plausible height figures, Str. 26-8-1st, rises 0.3 and 0.45m on the southwest and east respectively. The remaining edifices have basal facings that ascend 0.1-0.3m. Terraces were noted on two buildings, Strs. 26-8-1st and 26-10-1st, where they measure 0.3-0.94m across and support earthen floors. Structure 26-8-1st is 5.5m across, northeast-southwest; no other building was sufficiently cleared to permit reconstruction of basal dimensions. Formal cobble pavements were identified covering part of

Str. 26-8-1st's summit and extending beyond the limits of Strs. 26-5-1st, 26-8-1st, and 26-9-1st. In the first case, a stone floor links two neighboring edifices and it is possible that all three of these extramural pavements served as walkways joining distinct structures. Building orientations varied considerably, from 273 degrees, 30 minutes to 345 degrees, with no sign of a central tendency.

Bajareque fragments are widely distributed throughout terminal debris, preconstruction, and midden contexts (Subop. 26E), indicating the extensive use of wattle and daub in raising the upper walls of buildings.