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PVC-El Coyote SE Group- Op18, Op19- Excavation Report

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El Coyote's Southeast Group

El Coyote's Southeast Group consists of 15 surviving constructions situated on a narrow shelf of land ca. 10m below the high terrace on which the bulk of the settlement is located and approximately the same distance above and overlooking the low southern terrace where the copper workshop is located. A dirt road runs southwest-northeast across the western third of the complex, damaging at least four structures. While this destruction makes recognizing patterning among the surviving buildings difficult, it looks as though the Southeast Group was focused on one principal plaza bordered by Strs. 94, 95, 100, 101, 104, and 106. This patio encompasses 40x80m. A total of 10 constructions were excavated here within Op. 18, 19 and 50 resulting in the exposure of ca. 800m². Five of these constructions (Strs. 94, 95, 100, 101, and 106) delimit the primary plaza while the rest are scattered within that space and at varying distances from it. The work was directed by Mara Bernstein, Patrick Dresch, David Duron, Joni Harbeck, Meghan Kerley, Monica Krancevik, Liesel Kuhr, Alison Minor, Kasia Randzio, Aaron Schlechter, Anya Slaven, Adam Taplin, Georlin Thorne, and Charles Webber during February and March, 2002.

Structure 94-Sub1

Structure 94-Sub1 is situated 4.3m west of Str. 94-1st and was not visible on modern ground surface. Digging here in Subop. 18D, T, and U uncovered ca. 33m², excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.6m below modern ground surface outside construction. Two building phases were identified in the course of these investigations which were directed by Adam Taplin.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 94-Sub1-2 nd	U.7, 8	-	-	
3	Str. 94-Sub1-1 st	U.1-6	-	-	
4	-	-	S.2-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity for which we have evidence in the environs of Str. 94-Sub1 is the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, tan clay (S.1) that ascends 0.62m over 5.77m from east to west. Stratum 1 is at least 0.22m thick (its base was not encountered) and its top apparently served as the base for both phases of Str. 94-Sub1 construction.

Time Span 2

Remnants of Str. 94-Sub1-2nd's architecture consist of parallel two stone lines (U.7 and 8) that were found in the base of excavation 0.1m south of U.1 (U.7) and 0.15m south of U.4 (U.8). The former was traced for 0.95m east from where it emerges beneath U.2 (Str. 94-Sub1-1st's western footing). Unit 8 is 1.8m east and 0.2m north of U.7 and runs for at least 0.7m east from beneath U.1 on the west. These lines likely represent the surviving portions of foundations from a surface-level construction that

was later replaced by Str. 94-Sub1-1st. Units 7 and 8 are fashioned of river cobbles and are aligned roughly 96 degrees.

Time Span 3

Structure 94-Sub-1st directly overlies its predecessor and is a surface-level building defined by stone foundations that are 0.2-0.3m wide and 0.15m tall (U.1-3). A comparable wall (U.4) was appended to the edifice's northern footing. Unit 4 projects 0.3m north of U.1's east end and then extends 0.8m to the east. The architectural significance of U.4 is uncertain. While it may have been added to increase U.1's east-west length, it is unclear why U.4 is offset north of U.1.

The building is completely open on the east where it faces Str. 94 and the earthen-floored room it contains covers 2.5x3.7m. No built-in furniture, such as benches or shelves, was recorded within this space.

Located 1.66m west of Str. 94-Sub1-1st is a 0.44m-high terrace (U.5) built into the base of the western ascent that delimits the Southeast Group's west flank. Unit 5 is 4.55m long north-south, terminating in formal corners that head back to the west on both ends. This riser gives way to a 0.98m-wide tread above which U.6 ascends 0.28m. Unit 6 is the next riser in this terrace system. Its tread was exposed for 2.24m to the west before excavation ceased. Only a 0.75m-long (north-south) segment of U.6 was exposed.

As TS.3 drew to a close Str. 94-Sub1-1st was a surface-level edifice bordered on the north, west, and south by stone foundations that cover an area of 2.9x4.5m (including U.4) and were set on the natural east-to-west rise of the land here (ascending 0.23m over 2.9m under the building). Little effort was apparently invested in leveling out the terrain over which Str. 94-Sub1-1st was erected. The building was aligned approximately 5 degrees and contained an earthen-floored room. The latter was completely open on the east and covered 9.3m². Said enclosure contained no built-in furniture. Two terraces were built into the ascent lying 1.66m west of Str. 94-Sub1-1st. The basal riser is 0.44m high, 4.55m long-north-south, by 0.98m wide, and is oriented roughly 355 degrees. It is succeeded on the west by a 0.28m-tall riser that gives way to a tread that is at least 2.24m wide east-west.

All constructions raised now were made primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Unit 3, the southern footing, diverges from this pattern as it is fashioned primarily of angular rocks. In general, the naturally flatter aspects of these stones were generally oriented outwards.

Time Span 4

After Str. 94-Sub1-1st was abandoned it was largely covered by the apparently natural deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) containing numerous small pebbles (0.01m or less in diameter). Stratum 2 was 0.2-0.3m thick where it overlies Str. 94-Sub1-1st and was, in turn, blanketed by as much as 0.3m of a fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown to black soil (S.3). Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks that appear to have fallen from TS.3 architecture associated with Str. 94-Sub1-1st and the western terraces.

Structure 94

Structure 94 is located on the west flank of the Southeast Group's main plaza, about 5m east of the ascent to the upper terrace that supports the bulk of El Coyote. Structure 95 is 7.9m to the

northeast whereas Str. 94-Sub1 is 4.3m to the west. The same access road that cut off an undetermined portion of Str. 95-1st's east face also destroyed Str. 94-1st's southeast corner along with features lying immediately east of this building. The land on which Str. 94 was built rises from east to west, ascending ca. 0.8m over 11m. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 18A, B, C, D, K, L, M, P, Q, R, S, W, V, Z, AA, and AC uncovered ca. 125m², revealing the platform's summit in its entirety along with most of the building's surviving east and south flanks. The western facing was exposed over roughly one-third of its length while the poorly preserved north flank was revealed in only a 1m-wide trench cut across Str. 95's full north-south length near its center. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.3m and 1.14m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. At least three major building episodes were identified in the course of this work which was directed by Meghan Kerley, Monica Krancevic, Aaron Schlechter, and Adam Taplin from February 5-March 15, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 94-Sub2, Str. 94-Sub3	U.14, 57 U.56	-	-	
3	-	U.58	-	-	
4	Str. 94-2 nd	U.1-13, 15-17 19-22, 33, 59, 60	-	-	
5	Str. 94-1 st	U.18, 23-32, 34-35	-	-	
6	Str.94-1 st	U.36-51	-	F.1	
7	Str.94-1 st	U.52-55	-	-	
8	-	-	S.2, 3	F.2	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity for which there is evidence in Str. 94's environs is the deposition of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, light brown soil (S.1). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.2m (its base was not encountered) and was identified underlying construction off the platform's east and south flanks.

Time Span 2

Structure 94-Sub2 is represented in our excavations solely by U.14. This stone wall is aligned ca. 358 degrees over the 1.35m it was traced and stands directly atop S.1 above which it rises to a preserved height of 0.44m. Unit 14 is 0.42m wide and is backed by a fill (U.57) composed of very fine-textured, very hard-compacted light brown soil. Most likely U.14 is a facing for a low platform though we cannot rule out the possibility that it served as the basal riser in a set of steps leading to a platform later buried by Str. 94-2nd and 94-1st. Unit 14 was fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outward to the east.

The only element of Str. 94-Sub3 revealed in our investigations is a 0.36m-tall by 0.32m-wide stone wall (U.56). Unit 56 also rests on S.1 and is 0.25-1.1m east of Str. 94-Sub2. Unit 56 is aligned very differently from its western neighbor, running at an angle of approximately 323 degrees for the 1.6m it was exposed. This wall may have been a foundation which defined the southwest flank of a surface-level building though we cannot exclude the possibility that it fronted a low platform on this side. The rocks used in fabricating U.56 are unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Their flatter sides are directed southwest towards Str. 94-Sub2.

Time Span 3

The area between Str. 94-Sub2 and –Sub3 was filled in with a moderately dense concentration of medium to small, flat-laid stones set in a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil (U.58). Unit 58 is maximally 0.49m thick, was laid directly on S.1, and likely continues at least 0.55m east of U.56, burying that wall's east flank.

Time Span 4

Structure 94-2nd is a platform bounded on all sides by stone facings (U.6-9, 59) that stand 0.64-1.5m tall (the north [U.9], west [U.7], and south [U.8] basal walls are 0.64m high while their eastern counterpart [U.6] is an estimated 1.4m tall; not enough of U.59 on the north was revealed to determine its height). The southern facing (U.8) is 1.52m wide while its western counterpart (U.7) measures 0.98m across (we did not determine the widths of U.6 and 9). The northern facing (U.9) is about 0.9m north of the where the basal wall (U.59) was inferred to run based on the position of the platform's well-preserved northeast corner. We are not sure where along its east-west extent U.9 steps out to the north. On the south U.8 is backed by a fill (U.33) composed of medium to small rocks set in a brown soil matrix. Unit 8 steps back (north) 0.6m at a point 3.85m east from the platform's putative southwest corner. We infer that the southern basal facing then continued to run east to Str. 94-2nd's southeast corner though we were unable to establish the reality of this interpretation due to the loss of said corner to road construction.

The platform was fronted on the west by a stone floor (U.60) that projects 2.28m west of the platform's western basal facing (U.7). Unit 60 abuts the base of U.7 and is 0.2m thick. On the east Str. 94-2nd is fronted by a staircase (U.10-13) that consists of two risers and projects 1.4m east from U.6. The basal ascent (U.10) is 0.52m tall and runs 0.5m to the west where it ends in U.11, a 0.2m-high by 0.88m-wide step. Unit 6 rises an estimated 0.3m above U.11's tread. These stairs are bordered on the north and south by balustrades (U.12 and 13) that are 0.3-0.4m wide and extend west from U.10's east face to where they abut U.6. Unit 6 is succeeded 0.65m to the west by a 0.2m-high by 0.34m-wide stone step-up (U.16) which runs for 4.1m north-south along the east face of U.15. Unit 16 joins U.15 at a point 2.4m south of the latter's northeast corner and an estimated 4.9m north of its southern terminus (the latter was destroyed by road construction). Unit 15, which likely marks the summit's eastern limit, runs the length of the summit's east side and projects 0.2m above U.16, running back 1.24m to the west where it ends in U.17. The latter projects 0.08m above U.15's tread and may be a step-up leading into the superstructure from the east. Unit 17 runs at least 5.6m north-south along Str. 94-2nd's east face and likely extended for the full length of the summit's east side (much of U.17's southern extent was heavily damaged when the access road that borders the platform on the east was built). Though obstructed by later construction (TS.5), it appears that at least the threshold into the superstructure was surfaced with a stone floor (U.19).

The platform's core was apparently divided among a series of pens bordered by well-made stone walls. The most completely cleared of these entities (defined by U.1-4) is located beneath the northern summit and measures 1.3m east-west by 2.5m north-south by at least 0.72m deep. The uppermost 0.1-0.17m of U.2 and 3, the western and southern walls, are set back 0.16-0.18m from the inner vertical faces of these constructions. The remaining walls seem to be plumb. The cubicles were filled with a dense packing of medium to small rocks set in a fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark brown to black soil (U.21). The existence of another construction pen lying south of the aforementioned example is implied by the recovery of a fragment of that construction's west wall (U.5). Unit 5 is 2.2m south of U.3, the northern pen's south wall. The topmost 0.2-0.27m of U.1-4 apparently served as foundations for one of the superstructure's rooms during TS.4. That compartment covers 1.3x2.5m and looks to have been surfaced with a 0.06-0.07m-thick floor composed of crushed white rocks (U.22). A 0.24m-high stone-faced shelf (U.20) seems to run the full 1.3m width of the room, projecting 1.3m south from its north wall (U.4).

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 94-2nd was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth filled platform that stood 0.64-1.4m tall, measured 8.4m east-west (not including the outset stairs) by 14.5m north-south (including the outset on U.9 and 8), and was oriented ca. 10 degrees. The building's core fill was contained with stone-lined pens examples of which were found in probes sunk into the summit. The platform is bounded by sheer facings leading directly to the summit on all sides except the east. Here a staircase projects 1.4m east from the buildings east basal wall. This access feature is 2.8m wide north-south, is bordered by stone balustrades on the north and south, and consists of two stone-faced risers that are 0.2-0.52m tall by 0.5-0.88m wide. The steps terminate in Str. 94-2nd's eastern basal facing which projects 0.3m above the uppermost tread. This facing is succeeded on the west by a 0.99m-wide terrace that seems to have run the full length of the platform's east side and ends in a 0.4m-high step-up (U.15). Fronting that ascent for 4.1m north-south is a 0.2m-tall by 0.34m-wide outset. This construction directly overlooks the eastern staircase and may well have facilitated passage up to the superstructure. Fully 1.24m intervenes between U.15 and a 0.08m-high step-up to the superstructure. At least part of the surface backing this ascent to the west was paved with stones. Very little of the summit architecture dating to TS.4 was revealed. One room on the northern part of the summit was largely cleared. This enclosure covers 3.3m², is bounded by walls formed from the tops of a construction pen that held the platform's stone-and-earth fill, and was floored with a surface formed from crushed white rocks. A 0.24m-high stone-faced shelf ran the full 1.3m east-west width of the compartment, projecting 1.3m south from the room's north wall. A 0.2m-thick stone floor projects 2.28m west from Str. 94-2nd's western basal wall. We cannot say how far this surface extends north and south of where it is exposed near the middle of the platform's west side.

All the facings, building pens, steps, and balustrades raised during TS.4 consisted of unmodified river cobbles, with a few angular rocks mixed with them, all set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards. The southern basal wall, U.8, is fronted by a row of tuff and limestone slabs set on end. These facing stones were not well preserved over all of the 3.8m of U.8 that was exposed running east-west, but it appears that they originally fronted the entire wall. The surviving prepared floors dating to this interval consisted on unshaped cobbles (the eastern summit) and crushed white rocks (in the northern summit room).

Time Span 5

During this interval the summit was raised 0.3m through the introduction of a fill (U.23) composed of a few small to medium-size cobbles along with a great many diminutive pebbles (0.02m or less on their longest dimensions). These rocks are set in a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown soil. Raised atop this surface are three earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line. The largest enclosure (Room 1) covers 1.3m east-west by 3.5m north-south of open space. This compartment is dominated by a C-shaped, stone-faced bench (U.26-28) which stands 0.35m tall, runs along the entirety of the enclosure's west wall, and looks east towards the stairs. The central element of the bench (U.27) is 3.5m long by 1.3m wide, its west edge being defined by the east side of U.7, the platform's western basal facing. Unit 27 contains a niche in its east face. This indentation is 0.5m deep east-west by 1m wide north-south and is 1.4m south of U.27's junction with its northern arm, U.26. The latter continues past U.27 on the north by 0.3m and projects 1.5m east of U.27. Unit 26 is 0.46m wide and rests atop the U.20 shelf dating to TS.4. Unit 28, the southern arm, is 0.56m wide north-south and extends 2.4m east from its inferred point of intersection with U.27 (this junction was not well preserved). Lying north and south of Room 1 are two diminutive cubicles (Rooms 3 and 2). Room 2, immediately south of U.28, has an open floor covering 0.72m north-south by 2.2m east-west. This enclosure is bordered on the south by a 0.3m-tall stone-faced bench (U.29) which projects 0.9m north of the south summit wall (U.30) and runs for the full 2.2m length of Room 2's south side. Unit 30 projects 0.2m above the U.29 bench. A fill composed of densely packed, primarily large, rocks set in a moderately fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted, dark brown soil (U.32) backs U.30 to the south, filling the 2.08m between it and U.8's north face. Room 3, adjoining U.26 on the north, encompasses 0.45m north-south by 1.3m east west and has no built-in furniture. Bordering Room 3 on the north is the superstructure's northern foundation (U.25). Unit 25 is 0.52m tall by 0.75m wide and its south face sits atop U.4, the wall that delimited the north side of the northernmost construction pen revealed in Str. 94-2nd. Room 1 and 3's east sides are defined by a wall (U.24) which stands 0.4m tall, measures 0.3-0.7m across, and runs for 4.5m south from its junction with the superstructure's northern foundation (U.25). Unit 24 has two niches in its west face. On the far north where U.24 intersects U.26, there is an indentation that covers 0.4m north-south by 0.3m east-west. At 1.55m south of this niche is another step-back in U.24's west face, this one measuring 0.6m north-south by 0.4m east-west. This niche may have served as a 0.6m-wide door leading into the superstructure from the east. Unit 24 continues for 0.7m south of the aforementioned indentation before ending at the north face of U.28.

Structure 94-1st's basal north, west, and south facings were raised an additional 0.38-0.42m now. The fill retained by U.9's uppermost addition on the north consists of a dense packing of large and a few small flat-laid rocks set in a matrix composed of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown soil (U.31). The building's eastern flank, however, underwent more extensive modifications during this episode. Unit 6, the platform's eastern basal facing, was raised 0.41m, the area between it and U.15 to the west now being completely filled with a dense concentration of medium to small rocks set in a moderately coarse-textured, moderately soft-compacted, dark brown soil (U.34). Consequently, the U.16 outset that fronted U.15 during TS.4 was now hidden from view as was all but the very top of U.15. The result was the creation of a 2.25m-wide surface stretching from U.6 westward to U.17 which still seems to have projected 0.08m above the surface backing U.15. Unit 18, 0.58m west of U.17's east face, was apparently introduced now. This 0.3m-tall by 0.4m-wide wall was seemingly built as part of the general effort to elevate the summit. Unit 18 is backed on the west by a mix of small (primarily) and a few medium-size stones set in a moderately coarse-textured, moderately soft-compacted, dark brown soil (U.35; this is likely a continuation of U.23 which underlies the summit

rooms). The full north-south length of U.18 was not determined, in part due to the wall's poor state of preservation. We infer that U.18 ran the full length of Str. 94-1st's summit's east side, however, if only because it would have played an important role in retaining fill used to raise the building on this side. As noted above, Room 1 may have been reached by passing up and over U.18 and through a 0.6m-wide door in U.24 (the eastern superstructure wall).

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 94-1st was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.95-1.7m tall, covered 8.4x14.5m, and was still oriented roughly 10 degrees. The earthen-floored summit supported a superstructure that measured 6.8m north-south by 2.6m east-west. This construction was bordered by substantial foundations that were 0.2-0.52m tall by 0.3-2.08m wide. The eastern footing has a crenellated appearance due to the presence of two niches built into its west (interior) face. These indentations measure 0.3m east-west by 0.4m north-south and 0.4m east-west by 0.6m north-south. The superstructure was dominated by a sizable central enclosure (Room 1) the open floor space of which covered 4.6m². Room 1 has a large, 0.35m high, stone-faced, C-shaped bench that borders the compartment on all sides save the east. The central, north-south running segment of the bench is 3.5m long by 1.3m wide whereas its northern and southern arms measure 0.46-0.56m across and extend 1.5-2.4m to the east. A niche measuring 0.5m deep by 1m long north south is built into the east face of the bench's central (western) element. Rooms 2 and 3 are immediately south and north of Room 1, separated from the latter by the east-west-running arms of the bench. The northern example (Room 3) encompasses 0.6m² and has no built-in furniture whereas Room 2 on the south has an open floor that covers 1.6m² and is bordered on the south by a 0.3m high by 0.9m wide (north-south) bench that runs for the full 2.2m east-west length of enclosure. The platform's northern, western, and southern basal facings were raised about 0.3m to accommodate the fill use to raise the summit this height. On the east the outset staircase was seemingly untouched though it now terminated on the west in a 0.71m-tall ascent as Str. 94-1st's eastern basal wall (U.6) was raised 0.41m. this modification resulted in the creation of a 2.25m-wide surface that ran from U.6 west to the 0.08m-tall step-up (U.17). A facing added 0.58m west of U.17 resulted in a 0.3m-high step-up to the newly elevated summit. The superstructure was probably entered by stepping up and over this low ascent from the east and through a 0.6m-wide doorway in Room 1's southeast corner.

All of the walls raised now were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles though a few angular rocks were intermixed with them. The naturally flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards and all were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

The summit was not significantly modified now; U.24, the superstructure's eastern foundation, may, however, have been extended south to overlay part of U.28, the southern arm of the C-shaped bench. Otherwise, most renovations during this span were visited on Str. 94-1st's south, east, and, perhaps to a more limited extent, north flanks. On the east Unit 11, the line of the basal step, was continued out to the north (U.45) and south (U.46). Unit 45 was the better preserved of these entities, standing 0.65m tall and extending 4.5m north from the stairs. Fronting U.45 and U.11 (the basal step) over their full extents and for at least 1.5m to the east are extensive patches of burned earth (F.1). Feature 1 consists of a very fine-textured, hard-compacted soil the red-brown color of which likely resulted from prolonged exposure to high heat. Measuring 0.02-0.05m thick, F.1 lips up to and covers the bases of U.11 and 45 while overriding U.14. This stratigraphic relation suggests that the earth

fronting Str. 94-1st on the east was burnt after U.45 was built, though whether this conflagration was intentional or not is unknown.

At its northern terminus U.45 creates an inset corner at its juncture with U.59, part of the platform's north basal wall. This indentation measures 0.6m east-west by 0.4m north-south. The 1.4m intervening between U.45 and U.6 to the west seems to have been devoid of terraces. Extending for at least 3.2m south of the stairs, U.46's orientation diverges somewhat from the other portions of Str. 94-1st (5 degrees as opposed to 10 degrees for the building as a whole). Whether this divergence was part of the original builders' plans or is due to post-abandonment deterioration of the wall is uncertain. The southern end of U.46 was destroyed by road construction and there is no sign of F.1 south of the steps. Succeeding U.46 to the west are two stone-faced risers (U.47 and 48) that run parallel to U.46. Unit 47 is 0.4m west of U.46 giving way, in its turn, to a 0.3m-wide tread that terminates in U.48. Unit 6 is 0.8m west of U.48. Unfortunately, U.47 and 48's poor preservation makes it difficult to infer their heights; both were traced for (maximally) 2.6m south before they were truncated by modern road building. As a result of these additions the eastern steps no longer projected east of Str. 94-1st's platform but were flush with the new eastern basal facings (U.45 and 46).

On the south a total of four east-west-running lines of stones set on end (U.36-39) were built against the platform's south facing (U.8). Three of these lines (U.37-39) form a clear block measuring 1.7m north-south by 3m east-west, standing 0.32-0.44m tall (getting progressively higher to the north), and bordered on the east and west by walls (U.40 and 41). Units 40 and 41 are composed of horizontally laid rocks and are 0.15m high by 0.2-0.4m wide and run 0.9-1.1m north-south (they stop 0.6-0.7m shy [south] of U.8). Unit 36 is offset from this block 1m to the east and lies 0.5-0.7m south of U.37 (the southernmost line in the aforementioned block). Unit 36 measures at least 3.4m east-west (its east margin was not clearly identified), is 0.26m tall, and is bordered on the west by yet another wall made of flat-laid rocks (U.44). Unit 44 is 0.4m tall, 0.15m wide, and is 0.55m long north-south. Two stone floors (U.42 and 43) were found in association with this complex. Unit 43 lies south and west of U.37 and wraps around U.36's west and south faces. This pavement underlies U.40 and extends for at least 1m south of U.36. Unit 42, another pavement, is 1.7m east of U.43, runs up along the east side of U.37-39, and extends south of U.36 for 2m before turning a corner and heading for an unknown distance to the east. The 1.7m separating U. 42 and 43 is surfaced with earth.

Three poorly preserved enigmatic walls (U. 49-51) were revealed in a limited exposure (0.8x1m) off Str. 94-1st's north facing (U.9). Unit 49 is 0.15m tall and projects 0.75m north from its juncture with U.9. It turns a corner on its north end; U.50 is a 0.1m-high wall which runs east for at least 0.35m at a right angle to U.49. Most likely U.49 and 50, which are 0.2-0.5m wide, were foundations for a surface-level building that was appended to Str. 94-1st's north flank late in the platform's history. Unit 51, a 0.1m-tall by 0.25m thick wall, abuts U.49 at a point 0.55m north from the latter's junction with U.9 and extends for, minimally, 0.5m to the west. Most likely this construction is yet another footing that borders another surface-level edifice.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 94-1st's core platform remained largely unchanged in its height, orientation, basal dimension, and organization. The eastern basal facing was pushed out 1.4m to the east bringing it in line with what had been an outset staircase. Those steps probably still provided access to the summit, however, though they were now flush with a 0.65m-high basal wall that continued the line of the basal riser to the north and south for what we infer was the full length of the

building. A burnt earth floor fronts Str. 94-1st's east side from the steps to the building's inset (0.4x0.6m) northeast corner. North of the stairs no terraces intervened between the new eastern facing and the original eastern basal wall (U.6). South of the staircase three terraces, 0.3-0.8m wide, lead up to U.6 and the summit. The southern constructions are also aligned slightly off (5 degrees) Str. 94-1st's general orientation (10 degrees). No burnt earth was recorded fronting this southern portion of the basal facing. Appended to the platform's south face is a block of densely packed stones largely set on end and bordered on the west and east by low (0.15-0.4m high) walls composed of flat-laid rocks. Overall, this block measures 3-3.4m east-west by 2.2-2.4m north-south and stands 0.26-0.44m high. Two stone floors wrap around this complex on the west and east, separated by 1.7m of open earth immediately south of the southernmost line of erect slabs. The existence of what might have been a small warren of surface-level rooms appended to Str. 94-1st's north face is hinted at by the limited exposure of the three modest stone foundations (0.1-0.15m high by 0.2-0.5m wide) found here. Little can be said about the forms and dimensions of these constructions.

Time Span 6 architecture is generally made of unfinished cobbles and a few angular rocks set in a mud mortar. The primary exceptions are U.46-48 (the east basal facing and two subsequent terrace risers located south of the stairs) which were made almost exclusively of faced blocks. As noted above, most of the surviving walls consist of rocks laid flat. The exceptions are those cobbles and a few limestone slabs set on end (U.36-39) that together form a block appended to Str. 94-1st's south side. These rocks are tilted consistently out to the south. We are not sure whether these stones were originally set vertically and have gradually slipped from that position over time or if their current orientations were part of the original construction plan.

Time Span 7

This interval apparently began with the blanketing of Str. 94-1st's summit with approximately 0.5m of rocks mixed with very little soil (U.52). This loosely consolidated fill buried all earlier summit architecture creating a relatively featureless surface. Three isolated walls (U.53-55) were erected on different portions of the building at about this time. These constructions likely were supports for perishable upper walls that served to delimit relatively insubstantial constructions. Unit 53 is a 0.22m-high, 0.33m-wide wall that runs for 0.85m at an orientation of 8 degrees. It overlaps Str. 94-1st's south basal facing (U.8), its south end resting atop the southernmost line of vertically placed stones (U.39) set against U.8. Located 4.5m to the north atop the U.52 summit fill is another low wall (U.54). Unit 54 is 0.2m wide and was traced for 0.7m at an orientation of ca. 19 degrees; there were hints that this wall originally ran at least 1.55m north-south. Finally, resting atop the eastern terrace is a low wall (U.55) that is 0.25m wide and projects 1.05m east at an angle of approximately 100 degrees from its intersection with U.6 (the platform's east basal facing up until TS.6). Unit 45's east face is 0.2m to the east and Str. 94-1st's inset northeast corner lies 0.75m to the north.

We surmise that the blanketing of Str. 94-1st's summit with rock fill terminated the formal use of the edifice. Units 53-55 may well, then, signify a late reoccupation of what was possibly seen as a handy eminence by the people who raised at least three modest constructions atop the ruin. All three of these walls were fashioned from unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 8

Ultimately, Str. 94-1st was partially covered by the natural deposition of as much as 0.4m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil (S.2). Overlying S.2 and all but the uppermost portions of construction is a very similar stratum (S.3) that is distinguished from its predecessor by its darker brown color. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from final-phase architecture (F.2). Feature 2 was traced for 2.4m east, 2.8m west, at least 2.04m south, and 2.5m north of the original platform.

Structure 95

Structure 95 is on the northwest edge of the Southeast Group's principal plaza at the base of the steep natural terrace rise which is 7.4m to the north. Structure 94 is 7.9m to the southwest. The creation of a dirt access road truncated Str. 95's east side, destroying somewhere between half to one-third of the building. The terrain on which Str. 95-1st was built was relatively level. Excavations here in Subop. 18E, F, H, I, J, and X uncovered ca. 70m², digging being pursued to maximum depths of 1.12m and 0.76m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. One major building phase was identified in the course of this work which was directed by A. Miner and C. Webber from February 4 through March 18, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	Str. 95-Sub1	U.24	-	-	
2	-	-	S.1	-	
3	Str. 95-1 st	U.1-12, 14, 16, 18-20, 23, 25, 26, 28	-	F.3	
4	Str. 95-1st	U.4, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 27	-	-	
5	Str. 95-1 st	-	-	F.1-2	
6	-	-	S.2-3	F.4	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 95 is the construction of a floor fashioned of medium to large river cobbles (U.24). Unit 24 was revealed in a 1m-wide trench at the northern limits of our excavations 1.2m north of Str. 95-1st's north basal facing (U.3). The floor was traced for 2.78m north-south; the pavement's margins were not uncovered.

Time Span 2

The U.24 pavement was subsequently blanketed by 0.18-0.32m of a fine-textured, very hard-compacted, brown clay (S.1) that includes numerous small (0.02m or less in diameter) tan stones and diminutive pottery sherds (0.02m or less on their longest dimensions). Stratum 1 runs more-or-less level over the 2.8m north-south that it was revealed north of Str. 95-1st. The relation of S.1 to the platform's

TS.3 architecture on its remaining sides is less clear though it is likely that this earth layer underlies all Str. 95-1st construction dating to TS.3.

Time Span 3

The general form and organization of Str. 95-1st took shape during this interval. Though its basal facings (U.1-3) were poorly preserved in most locales it appears that these walls rose to heights of 1.86m on the north (U.1), 0.92m on the south (U.3), and 0.95m on the west (U.2; the destroyed east face was not investigated). The fill backing U.2 (U.20) consists of a moderately dense concentration of stones set in brown soil while U.25 and 28, which back U.3 and 1 on the south and north, consist of a dense concentration of rocks embedded in a comparable soil matrix. Unit 1's unusual height may be misleading. This face of Str. 95-1st was heavily disturbed and a 2m-long section of the platform between U.1 and the summit was left unexcavated as work here did not seem like it would repay the effort. It is possible, therefore, that the north flank was ascended by two risers the uppermost example of which was not identified. On the west and south, the basal risers (U.2 and 3) each give way to terraces that are 1.76m and 1.82m wide, respectively. The western example is surfaced with a 0.02m-thick plaster floor (U.11) while its southern counterpart was apparently paved with small limestone slabs (U.26). Scattered plaster fragments found in this area hint at the use of this material to cover the aforementioned slabs. The southern terrace terminates on the north in a 0.66m-tall riser (U.6) while on the west U.5 ascends 0.57m above the U.11 floor. Unit 6 and, possibly U.1, lead directly to the summit whereas U.5 on the west comprises a 0.78m-thick wall that stands 0.32m above the summit floor and likely delimited the superstructure's west side. Unit 5 ran for an estimated 8.15m north-south, stepping in (east) 0.4m at a point 4.6m north of its reconstructed south end (the superstructure's southwest corner). North of this inset U.5 was not well preserved and we could not clearly identify its east (interior) side. In fact, 0.4m north of the inset it looked as though U.5's west face was removed for a distance of 0.65m before resuming its northward course. The only sign of U.5 in this lacuna is the east edge of the U.11 floor where it lipped up onto that wall's base.

The preserved portions of the superstructure consist of two rooms set in a north-south line and separated by a 0.79m-thick by at least 0.54m-tall wall (U.4) running at least 5.6m east-west (it is unclear how much of U.4 was lost to road building on the east). Based on changes in construction, it looks as though passage between these two compartments was through a 0.44m-wide door in U.4. This passage was marked, on the south at least, by a 0.07m-high threshold and was located 1.05m west of U.4's east preserved edge. The southern compartment covers 4.24m north-south by at least 5.6m east-west and is surfaced with a hard plaster floor (U.10) that is 0.04m thick. Unit 10 is set atop a fill (U.12) composed of densely packed small (primarily) and a few large stones set in a moderately coarse-textured, loosely compacted, brown soil. Its northern neighbor encompasses 5.8m north-south by (minimally) 5.6m east-west. It too has a formal pavement, this one comprised of medium-size cobbles (U.14). Unit 14 is undergirded by a fill (U.18) made up of densely packed small to large rocks set in a soil matrix identical to that noted for U.12. No built-in furniture, such as benches or shelves, were recorded in the investigated portions of the superstructure though we cannot rule out the possibility that they may have been found in the building's destroyed eastern portions.

Fronting Str. 95-1st's surviving north, west, and south sides are a series of floors. The northern example is a stone pavement (U.16) bordered by a line of large to medium-size cobbles (U.7) on the north. U.7 is 3.68m north of the platform's northern basal facing (U.1). Unit 16 was traced for 1.4m

south of U.7's south edge, apparently stopping 1.76m north of U.1. We are not certain if this gap was part of the original builder's plans or resulted from disruption visited on this area during TS.5 (see below). We tend to favor the latter interpretation for reasons given in our discussion of TS.5. On the west a 0.02m-thick plaster floor (U.9) lips up to and abuts the base of the west basal facing (U.2). Unit 9 was followed for 0.6m to the west of that wall and was found at least in patches along most of U.2's exposed north-south extent. There are slight traces of U.9 for at least an additional 1.3m to the west. It may have continued westward to intersect a 0.1m-high stone line (U.8). Unit 8 is 2.76m west of, and runs parallel to, Str. 95-1st's western basal facing (U.2). A 0.06m-thick level of small pebbles (F.3) rests at the base of U.8 and was traced for 1m west of that construction before excavation ceased. It may be that F.3 is a floor, or foundation for a floor, that continued for an undetermined distance west of U.8.

On the south, a stone floor (U.23) extends for 1.16m south of U.3, the south basal facing. Unit 23 is composed of medium to small cobbles though there are hints that these stones were originally covered with plaster; some of that material lips onto the base of U.3 from U.23. Unit 19, a block of stones delimited by rocks set on end along its north, west, and south sides (the east flank was not identified) is embedded in U.23. The former construction measures 0.6-0.8m north-south (widening from west to east) by at least 0.7m east-west and is filled with a dense concentration of small rocks set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay (included in U.19). Unit 19 is 0.5m south of U.3.

As TS.3 drew to a close Str. 95-1st was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 1.52-1.86m tall, covered 13.06m north-south by at least 8m east-west, and was oriented ca. 10 degrees. The northern basal facing may have risen 1.86m directly to the summit though we cannot rule out the possibility there was at least one terrace intervening between it and the superstructure. On the west and south the building was faced by two tall, broad terraces that are 0.95m and 0.92m high and 1.76m and 1.82m wide. The western tread was surfaced with plaster while its southern analogue was paved with limestone slabs that might have been covered with plaster. These terraces are succeeded, in turn, by risers that are 0.66m (on the south) and 0.57m tall (on the west). The southern ascent leads directly to the summit while the western riser forms a foundation that measures 0.78m across, stands 0.32m above the summit floor, and defines the west side of the superstructure. The latter consists of two extensive rooms set in a north-south line that are separated by a 0.79m-thick by 0.54m-tall wall. The southern enclosure covers at least 24m² and is surfaced with plaster. The northern compartment encompasses (minimally) 33m² and is paved with stones. A 0.44m-wide door set 1.05m west of the medial wall's preserved eastern edge provided passage between these two rooms. Fronting Str. 95-1st on the north, west, and south are formalized surfaces that extend for varying distances from the building. The northern example was fashioned of stones and projects 3.68m north of the platform. On the west a plaster floor apparently set on earth extends possibly as much as 2.32m west of Str. 95-1st where it ended in a 0.1m-high stone line. A stone surface may have extended at least 0.6m west of that line. The southern floor consisted of stones that possibly undergirded a plaster surface and was found for 1.16m south of the platform. A block of stones delimited by vertically set slabs and containing a stone-and-earth fill was embedded in the southern floor 0.5m south of Str. 95-1st. This block measures 0.6-0.8m north-south (widening from west to east) and at least 0.7m east-west (its eastern margin was not found).

All constructions raised during TS.3 were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles, set in a mud mortar, and with their naturally flatter faces directed outwards. Unit 2 was apparently capped with a course of limestone slabs though only a few remained to be uncovered *in situ*. A cut block was

incorporated in U.8 and a few pieces of masonry were recorded in debris (F.4) that may have fallen from TS.3 architecture. Plaster was found adhering to the surfaces of U.2, 4, and 5 implying that at least these walls were originally covered with this material. The plaster in floors and on walls found on Str. 95-1st is generally fine-textured and, where well-preserved, retains a hard outer surface. Small white stones (0.03m or less on their longest dimensions) are often found embedded in the plaster. An exception to this pattern in U.10, the floor covering the southern summit room. This surface is coarse textured and looks more like it was made by pulverizing white rocks than with a refined, slaked plaster. The floor segments found overlying U.26 (the southern terrace tread) also seemed to consist of crushed white rocks.

Time Span 4

During this interval Str. 95-1st's basic dimensions and form remained unchanged. Most of the documented changes consisted of relatively minor modifications made to the platform's summit. Unit 4, the east-west-running medial wall, was raised 0.28m. This renovation resulted in a wall that was now 0.82m tall, the addition to the top being set back (north) 0.08m from U.4's south face (the north face, though poorly preserved, seems to have lacked such a step-back). The door that formerly permitted movement between the north and south summit enclosures was filled now with a mix of stone and earth (U.13). How passage between these enclosures was negotiated during TS.4 is unclear.

Both the north and south summit rooms were now filled with 0.12m (on the north) and 0.18m (on the south) of small stones set in a moderately coarse-textured, loosely compacted, brown soil (U.21 and 27, respectively). Unit 21 on the north was capped with a floor composed of crushed white rocks (U.15) that is as much as 0.06m thick. Unit 15 was traced for 0.88m north-south in the northern excavated portion of the north enclosure but we infer that it once covered the entire compartment. No comparable formal flooring was found in the southern room atop the U.27 fill. Given the fragmentary nature of U.15, the similarity in the fill found in both enclosures, and the proximity of U.27 to modern ground surface (within 0.15m), it seems likely that the latter fill once supported some sort of formal stone or plaster surface.

North of Str. 95-1st the U.7 wall that defined the north edge of the U.16 pavement was raised to 0.4m high and was backed to the south by a fill (U.22) composed of small to medium-size stones densely packed and set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay. This surface may well have been covered with a 0.04m-thick fine-textured plaster floor (U.17). Unit 17 was preserved for 0.47m north from where it abuts the platform's north basal facing (U.1). At this point U.7 ends abruptly, as though it was purposefully cut and is not found further to the north (see TS.5).

By TS.4's conclusion Str. 95-1st was fronted on the north by a 0.4m-high by 3.68m-wide stone-and-earth-filled terrace that was at least partially surfaced with limestone plaster. The west and south flanks were apparently unchanged. The superstructure still consisted of two rooms arranged in a north-south line and separated by a medial wall that now stood 0.82m high. The door through that construction that had permitted passage between these enclosures during TS.3 was sealed and their floors were raised 0.12m (in the north compartment) and 0.18m (in the south room) through the introduction of a stone-and-earth fill. The northern enclosure was at least partially surfaced with a crushed limestone floor though whether its southern neighbor was treated in a comparable fashion remains unknown. The northern terrace facing was made using unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

It was now that we believe parts of Str. 95-1st were dismantled. Off the north face (U.1) the U.16 floor and U.17 plaster surface were seemingly cut and the resulting hole filled in with a dense concentration of medium to small (mostly small) flat-laid cobbles set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay (part of F.2). We estimate that 1.76m of U.16 extending north from U.1 was destroyed now. Some of the material removed in the course of this putative excavation may well have been piled up against U.7's north face. It was here, in the northernmost 1.54m of our excavations, that we encountered a (minimally) 0.42m-thick deposit of S.1 (its base lies beyond our excavation limits). Stratum 1 was found elsewhere underlying TS.3 architecture. Stratum 2, deposited during TS.6, was not found north of U.7, and the last soil known to be laid down here, S.3, directly overlies upper S.1 (see TS.6). Stratum 1's appearance in this unexpected stratigraphic position may mean that it was re-deposited as backfill from the pit dug adjoining U.1 during TS.5. In that case, the rocks found scattered through this portion of S.1 might be part of the detritus generated while excavating the aforementioned pit.

Rocks comprising F.2 reached a maximum depth of 1.1m and were piled against U.1 obscuring much of that construction. Feature 2 was traced for 1.5m north of U.1, gradually declining in height away from the edifice. A comparable concentration of cobbles (F.1), this time including some fairly large examples, was found set against the platform's south face. Feature 1 was piled up to 0.48m thick atop the southern U.23 floor and up against Str. 95-1st's southern basal facing (U.3). Feature 1 covers U.19 and ends abruptly at U.23's south edge. No comparable stone piles were recorded on the platform's west side though the missing 0.65m of northern U.5 noted under TS.3 may suggest stone robbing here during TS.5. The behavioral significance of F.1 and 2 are unclear. Their component stones are so densely packed and flat-laid that they look to have been purposefully placed. There is no surviving facing for either feature, however, which may signify that: they are parts of constructions that were never finished; or, were deposits intended to bury portions of Str. 95-1st, perhaps formally terminating the building's use. The digging north of Str. 95-1st and removal of stones from its west side may point to activities conducted on and around the edifice after it was no longer occupied.

Time Span 6

Later in the abandonment process Str. 95-1st was partially buried by the deposition of as much as 0.27m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay (S.2). Stratum 2, in turn, was blanketed by 0.1-0.2m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown to black clay (S.3). Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.4) that probably fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 4 was traced for 4m south, 4.6m north, and 3.7m west of the platform, stone density decreasing with increasing distance from the building.

Structure 96

Structure 96 overlooks the Southeast Group from its perch about one-quarter of the way up the natural terrace slope that supports the bulk of the site of El Coyote to the north. This natural ascent delimits the Southeast Group's northwest side. The terrain atop which Str. 96 was raised rises 2.4m over 12.3m from southeast to northwest. Structure 96 is 9m north of Str. 95 and 27.5m northwest of Str. 94. Digging here within Subop. 18G, N, O, Y, and AB uncovered ca. 53m², revealing the entirety of Str. 96-1st. Excavations reached a maximum depth of 1.34m below modern ground surface outside

construction revealing one major construction episode. Investigation of Str. 96 was conducted under the direction of Patrick Dresch.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	
3	-	-	S.3	-	
4	Str. 96-1 st	U.1-7	-	-	
5	-	-	S.4	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 96 is the formation of a soft, light tan limestone bedrock (S.1) that ascends 3.22m over 10.7m from southeast to northwest. Excavations penetrated S.1 to a maximum depth of 0.27m. Stratum 1's slope is relatively steep, this rock layer apparently underlying the terraces on which the Southeast Group rests and which supports the rest of the site of El Coyote to the north.

Stratum 1 does not define a continuous ascent above (northwest) of Str. 96-1st. Rather, the rock layer rises in a series of ascents that are 0.1-0.27m high and which are succeeded by more gradual slopes that are 0.26-0.46m wide. These surfaces are also incised by what appear to be run-off channels leading downslope. The existence of the latter features implies that S.1 lay exposed for a protracted period before being covered by soils in TS.2 and 3. We originally thought that the step-like ascent of S.1 might indicate that this face of the terrace was cut into risers to facilitate movement upslope from the Southeast Group. If so this putative staircase was heavily eroded before it was covered by trash emanating from occupations at the top of the terrace (see TS.3). At any rate, as noted below under TS.4, Str. 96-1st was built after S.1 was covered by later cultural materials.

Time Span 2

Stratum 1 was, in turn, overlain by 0.2-0.32m of a brown, fine-textured clay (S.2). Stratum 2 was identified only in a deep probe dug off Str. 96-1st's southeast edge; it was not found overlying the putative bedrock in other parts of the excavations. Recovery of a few scattered artifacts from S.2 hints at a light human occupation in the area when this clay was being laid down. We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that some of this cultural material percolated downwards from the dense artifact concentration found in overlying S.3.

Time Span 3

During this interval a moderately coarse-textured brown silty clay (S.3) was laid down over S.2 and, northwest of Str. 96, directly atop S.1. Stratum 3 is as much as 0.7m thick southeast and down slope from Str. 96-1st. It is considerably thinner above the building where it ranges from 0.03-0.36m in depth, becoming shallower moving up towards the terrace's summit to the northwest. Overall, S. 3 rises 2.04m across 12.3m from southeast to northwest. The dense concentration of artifacts found within S.3 suggests that this layer is largely made up of debris that originated among the occupants of the upper terrace that looms above the Southeast Group. The relatively great thickness of this trash deposit might

suggest that the detritus accumulated for a protracted period before Str. 96-1st was built atop it. The homogenous nature of S.3 frustrated efforts to identify discrete period of outwash within it and it is possible that most of the debris was jettisoned in the course of one major cleaning effort.

Time Span 4

Structure 96-1st is a quadrilateral structure oriented approximately 211 degrees and defined on all sides by stone walls (U.1-4) that are 0.3-0.6m thick by 0.2-0.46m tall. The most substantial of these constructions, U.1, is on the downsloping, southeast flank. Its relatively greater thickness (0.6m) and height (0.46m) are likely due to the need to shore up the side of the building that was most vulnerable to erosion. Structure 96-1st was apparently a surface-level building raised directly atop S.3. The earthen floor of the building's room was seemingly flattened out as the upward slope of underlying S.3 is attenuated here. That enclosure covers 2.2x5.1m and is bounded on the northwest by a 0.45m-tall, stone-faced, earthen-surfaced bench (U.5). Unit 5 stretches the 5.1m width (northeast-southwest) of the enclosure and is 1.46m wide northwest-southeast. A 0.3m-high stone step (U.6) was appended to Str. 96-1st's southeast side. Unit 6 abuts U.1 at a point 0.25m northeast of the latter's southwest end (where it intersects U.4 to form the building's south corner). The step then runs 2m to the northeast, diverging progressively from U.1's orientation. That discrepancy means that U.6 widened to the northeast, measuring from 0.1-0.5m across. Unit 1 projected an estimated 0.08m above the reconstructed top of U.6. A 0.3m-tall, very casually constructed wall (U.7) was traced for 6m northwest from Str. 96-1st, running at an orientation of ca. 340 degrees (its northwest end was not found). Unit 7 did not intersect Str. 96-1st though its southeast edge is 0.3m northwest of U.2 (the northeast foundation) at a point approximately 1.7m southeast of the edifice's north corner. Unit 7 may have served as a terrace slowing erosion down the slope atop which Str. 96-1st was raised. As such, U.7 may have originally joined that building, the two constructions together retarding the flow of soil down this steep ascent.

In sum, Str. 96-1st is a surface-level building covering 4.66m northwest-southeast by 5.8m southwest-northeast and aligned roughly 211 degrees. The one earthen-floored room contained by Str. 96-1st's foundations encompasses 11.2m² and is bordered on the northwest by a 0.45m tall, stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench. The latter runs the full northeast-southwest width of the room (5.1m) and is 1.46m wide northwest-southeast. A stone step appended to the building's southeast flank, 0.25m northeast of its south corner, likely provided formal access from Str. 96-1st's downslope flank to the interior. That step is 0.3m tall, 2m long northeast-southwest, and widens from southwest to northeast from 0.1-0.5m across. A 0.3m-tall wall was traced for 6m at an orientation of 340 degrees off Str. 96-1st's northeast side. This construction was likely part of a terrace system that, together with Str. 96-1st, slowed erosion down the steep natural ascent that borders the Southeast Group's northwest side.

All constructions raised now were primarily made of unmodified river cobbles (U.1, 3, and 5) and angular rocks (U.2, 4, 6, and 7). The naturally flatter aspects of all these rocks were directed outwards. In the case of U.5, which fronts the bench, the flat aspects of the stones were oriented to the southeast, facing the room, while the more irregular faces looked to the northwest, presumably into the bench's fill. All of these stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 96-1st's abandonment all but the uppermost stones of the building were covered by the deposition of as much as 0.28m of a dark brown silty clay (S.4). Embedded in S.4 is a light concentration of rocks (F.1) tumbled from final-phase architecture. The elements of F.1 found upslope from Str. 96-1st likely derived from edifices constructed on the summit of the terrace overlooking the building.

Structure 97

Structure 97 is on the far southeast edge of the Southeast Group, overlooking the steep drop down the south slope to the lower terrace. Structure 351 is 0.5m to the northeast whereas Str. 101B lies 4.9m to the north. Excavations here, overseen by Nicholas Hearsh, cleared ca. 34m² within Subop. 19D, P, U, AA, AE, AF, AN, AO, and AP revealing the entirety of the edifice's east side and portions of its more poorly preserved western segments. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.63m and 0.45m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Research was pursued here from February 5-March 19, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 97-1 st	U.1-14, 19-21	-	-	
3	Str. 97-Sub1, Str. 97-Sub2	U.15-18	-	-	
4	Str. 97-1 st	U.22-23	-	-	
5	-	-	S.2-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 97's environs is the formation of approximately 0.2m of a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, rock-rich tan clay (S.1). Stratum 1, which contains more small stones than earth, seemingly formed atop bedrock. That substratum directly underlies S.1 and comes very close to modern ground surface along the southern and eastern margins of the terrace that supports the Southeast Group (see also Strs. 98, 305, and 351). Stratum 1 was culturally sterile and rises 0.38m over 8.26m west-to-east and 0.44m across 4.6m from north to south.

Time Span 2

Structure 97-1st achieved its basic overall form during this interval. It was at this point a platform delimited by stone facings (U.1-4) that are 0.18-0.46m tall. The southern basal wall (U.3) was poorly preserved when excavated, significant portions of the facing likely having eroded down the steep southern terrace slope. Unit 3 may, therefore, have once stood taller. Units 2-4 are inferred to have run straight for their full lengths. Unit 1, the northern facing, extends 3.2m west from its junction with U.2 at the platform's northeast corner before stepping 0.3m to the north and then continuing for roughly 4.7m to the building's northwest corner.

Structure 97-1st's facings rise directly to the summit on all sides save the west where U.4, which is 0.18m-tall, gives way to a 1m-wide terrace that, in turn, is succeeded by a 0.2m-tall stone-faced

ascent (U.9). Unit 9 is backed by a stone floor (U.11) that runs 1.56m to the east. Though the evidence is far from clear, U.11 seems to be succeeded on the east by a stone step-up (U.10) that is estimated to have been 0.38m high. Backing U.10 on the east is Room 3. This compartment is surfaced with stone (U.8) and measures 2.14m east-west by ca. 4m north-south. Unit 5 borders Room 3 on the east. Units 5 and 6 are stone walls standing 0.14-0.23m tall (U.5 is the taller construction) that define the west and east sides, respectively, of a summit enclosure (Room 1) that measures 1.3m east-west by 3.46m north-south. Room 1 extends across the full north-south width of Str. 97-1st and is surfaced with a stone floor (U.14). Unit 14 is 0.23m below the U.8 floor to the west. The only built-in construction recorded in Room 1 is a stack of five limestone and tuff rocks that measure 0.24x0.33m by 0.42m tall (U.13). Unit 13 is located 0.95m south of U.1 and 0.15m west of U.6 and is topped by a faced tuff block. The architectural significance of this column is unclear; it may have served to create a 1.1m-wide doorway leading from Room 1's northern, patio-facing side into its southern recesses. Lying immediately east of Room 1 is a compartment (Room 2) that covers 1.67mx2.67m and is floored with stone (U.7). Unit 7 is 0.2m above Room 1's pavement (U.14). Built atop U.7 on the north is a 0.1m-tall stone-faced and – surfaced bench (U.12) that encompasses 1m wide north-south and spans the full 1.67m width of Room 2.

The limited segment of architectural fill revealed in the course of our work consists of a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured brown clay (U.21) that contains numerous small white flecks (1cm or less on their longest dimension) and pebbles (2cm or less along their longest dimension). Unit 21 contains a moderate concentration of small to medium-size rocks and was exposed backing U.4 (the platform's western basal facing).

Built against Str. 97-1st's east basal wall (U.2) is a 0.15m-high stone wall (U.19) that is backed on the south for 1.56m by a stone floor (U.20; the south, down-sloping edge of U.20 was not clear). Unit 19 abuts U.2 at a point 0.7m south of the platform's northeast corner and runs for at least 0.5m to the northeast towards Str. 351-1st. That U.19 and 20 were built about the same time that Str. 97-1st was raised is suggested by the observation that U.2 rides over the U.20 pavement but is abutted by U.19. There is a high density of rock fall between U.19 and U.5 on Str. 351-1st, making it difficult to discern if these two edifices were ever joined by construction.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 97-1st was a stone-and-earth-filled platform standing 0.46-0.76m tall, covering 8.22m east-west by 3.74-4.04m north-south, and oriented ca. 250 degrees. Two stone-faced terraces lead up to the summit from the west. The basal ascent is 0.18m-tall by 1m-wide, succeeded by a 0.2m-high riser that gives way to a 1.56m-wide stone-surfaced tread. On the other flanks the platform is bounded by walls that rise directly to the summit. Structure 97-1st's superstructure consists of three stone-floored rooms set in an east-west line. Each of these compartments span the summit's full north-south width. The western enclosure (Room 3) covers 8.6m² and overlooks the western terraces from atop a 0.38m-high stone-faced ascent. Room 3 was apparently open on all sides. The central cubicle (Room 1) measures 4.5m² and is delimited by low stone walls on the east and west (0.14-0.23m tall). Room 1's south side may have been sealed by a 0.14m-tall wall (the southern basal facing) though the enclosure was apparently open on the north. The construction of a 0.42m-tall stone block that measures 0.24x0.33m may have served to define a 1.1m-wide door between Room 1's northern and southern segments. If so, the northern entry way covers 0.95x1.3m while its southern counterpart measures 1.3x2.1m. Room 1's floor is 0.23m below that of Room 3's and 0.2m lower than that of Room 2 to the east. There is no evidence that any wall blocked passage between

Room 1 and its neighbors to the east and west. Room 2 encompasses 4.5m², exclusive of the 0.1m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced bench which borders the compartment on the north. This bench is 1.67m long east-west by 1m wide north-south. Aside from the north, Room 2 seems to have been open on the east and south. Raised at the same time as the platform is a 0.15m-high, 1.56m wide (minimally) stone-faced and –surfaced construction that intersects Str. 97-1st at a point 0.7m south of its northeast corner. This raised ‘saddle’ extends at least 0.5m northeast towards Str. 351-1st; it most likely runs further in this direction and could have originally joined with Str. 351-1st.

The constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards and, in the case of floors, upwards. The walls delimiting Room 1 on the east and west were, however, made primarily of faced blocks as was the 1m-wide exposed portion of the western basal terrace riser. The stone column uncovered in Room 1 was capped with a piece of shaped tuff masonry while cut blocks were recorded in the eastern, southern, and northern basal walls as well as in Room 2’s floor.

Time Span 3

During this interval several surface-level edifices were raised north of Str. 97-1st. The most substantial construction built now is a 0.2m-tall (U.15) by 0.4-0.6m-wide wall (U.15) erected 0.3-0.4m north of the platform’s northern basal facing (U.1). Unit 15 runs at an angle of ca. 252 degrees, roughly parallel to U.1, for 3.2m, its north side forming a straight line while its south face steps in (north) 0.2m at a point 2.5m west of the wall’s east edge. This inset occurs at the same location where U.1 jogs north. Unit 15 definitively ends on the east and west without running back to join Str. 97-1st. Its placement athwart what was apparently the main entrance to Str. 97-1st during TS.2 implies that this passage was now cut off. Str. 97-1st may now have been accessed up its western terraces.

Lying 0.3m north of U.15 is a 0.14m-high by 0.25m-wide wall (U.16) that runs for 1.05m at an angle of ca 336 degrees. Unit 16 is intersected by U.17, a 0.15m-high by 0.3m-wide wall, 0.35m north of U.16’s south edge. Unit 17 projects 0.6m west of U.16. These two walls seem to be interdigitated, suggesting that they were built about the same time. Units 15-17 appear to be foundations that supported perishable upper walls and defined two earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line that together comprised Str. 97-Sub1. The southern compartment (Room 4) covers 0.6x0.7m while its northern neighbor (Room 5) encompasses 0.3x0.6m. If there were no other constructions related to these footings, the two compartments were open on the west while Room 5 also had no wall closing off its north side. Unit 15’s unusual girth may imply that it served as both wall support and bench.

Located 1.4m west of U.15 is an ‘L’-shaped wall (U.18) that is 0.15m-tall by 0.2m wide. Unit 18 is roughly 0.25m north of the projected line of Str. 97-1st’s northern basal facing (U.1). The northwest arm of the ‘L’ measures 0.6m long and is aligned approximately 24 degrees while the northeast element projects 0.5m to the southeast from its junction with the northwest footing. It is not clear that we found the end points of either wall segment. Most likely, U.18 defines the northeast and northwest sides of an earthen-floored, surface-level construction (Str. 97-Sub2) that was oriented roughly 24 degrees.

Structure 97-1st, by the conclusion of TS.3, retained its basic form and organization from TS.2. The northern entrance into Room 1 may, however, have been closed off by the construction of a wall fronting, and 0.3-0.4m north of, that compartment. At least two small, surface-level edifices (Strs. 97-Sub1 and 97-Sub2) were erected north of the platform. These constructions were delimited by stone

footings that are 0.14-0.2m high by 0.2-0.3m wide. The one exception is U.15 which closes off the northern entrance to Room 1 and forms the southern limit of Str. 97-Sub1. This wall measures 0.4-0.6m across and runs for 3.2m at an angle of ca. 252 degrees. Its relatively great width implies that U.15 may have served as a wall support and a bench looking into the southern compartment (Room 4) of Str. 97-Sub1. The latter edifice covers 0.6x1.35m, is aligned approximately 336 degrees, and contains two earthen-floored cubicles that are open to the west. The southern compartment, Room 4, encompasses 0.4m² while Room 5 on the north measures 0.2m² and is apparently unencumbered by construction on its north side. While U.15 on the south side of Room 4 may have functioned as a bench, no other built-in furniture was recorded with Str. 97-Sub1. Structure 97-Sub2 is 1.4m west of U.15 and an estimated 0.25m north of Str. 97-1st. The low foundations that define the northwest and northeast sides of this putative construction delimit an earthen-floored room that measures at least 0.5m on a side. Structure 97-Sub2 is oriented ca. 24 degrees.

The walls raised during TS.3 were made primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. Faced blocks were recorded in U.15, 16, and 18. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During this period Room 1 (the central enclosure in Str. 97-1st's superstructure) was filled with a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured clay (U.22) which contains numerous white flecks (1cm or less along their longest dimension) and pebbles (2cm or less on their longest dimension). Unit 22 is 0.2m thick and supports a block of stone (U.23) that covers 1.1x1.4m. Unit 23 is 1.59m south of U.1, overlaps and rides above Room 1's west wall (U.5), is 0.2m thick, and is aligned approximately 341 degrees. We surmise that Str. 97-1st was probably mostly abandoned by the time U.23 was built, suggesting that the latter's erection marked a late use of a mostly moribund edifice. Unit 23 was built using a mix of cobbles and cut blocks, all set in a mud mortar. The flatter faces of the rocks that define the construction's perimeter were generally directed outwards.

Time Span 5

After the final forsaking of Str. 97-1st, 0.07-0.2m of a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured brown clay (S.2) was deposited atop the two western terraces. This soil was not clearly identified elsewhere on and around Str. 97-1st. As much as 0.14m of a moderately soft-compacted, moderately coarse-textured, dark brown-to-black soil (S.3) blanketed S.2, S.3 reaching a maximum thickness of 0.3m in other excavated portions of the building. Strata 2 and 3 cover all but the uppermost portions of Str. 97-1st. Embedded with S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture.

Structure 98

Structure 98 is located on the southeastern edge of the high terrace that supports the Southeast Group. The land slopes up gradually towards the building from the north and west before dropping steeply and precipitously to the lower terrace immediately to the southeast. Structure 101 is 8m to the west while Str. 305 is a scant 2.9m distant in that direction. Digging here, overseen by Anya Slavin, within Subop. 19A, G, O, AL, and AM cleared ca. 53m² and revealed at least two building episodes. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.28m and 0.4m below modern ground surface

outside and within construction, respectively. Research at Str. 98 was pursued from February 5 through 27, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 98-1 st	U.1	-	-	
3	Str. 98-1 st	U.2-6	-	-	
4	-	-	S.2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 98’s environs was the deposition of a hard-compacted tan soil (S.1) that contains a very dense concentration of small rocks which, in general, measure 2cm or less across their longest dimension. In many places there are more rocks than soil in S.1. This layer, which formed atop local outcroppings of bedrock, was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.12m and closely resembles the basal earth level (S.1) revealed near Str. 305. Stratum 1 rises 0.82m over 6.2m west-to-east and 0.55m over 7.5m north-to-south. Stratum 1 was culturally sterile.

Time Span 2

During this interval a stone construction (U.1) measuring 2.1m northwest-southeast by 1.6m to 2.65m northeast-southwest was raised. Unit 1 stands 0.3-0.48m tall and expands from southeast to northwest, forming a roughly rhombus shape. Unit 1’s summit is paved primarily with moderately large cobbles set in a mud mortar. Overall, U.1 is aligned roughly 32 degrees along its southeast and northwest sides while the southwest flank is oriented ca. 288 degrees, the northeast margin running at an alignment of approximately 312 degrees.

Time Span 3

At this time an addition (U.2) was made to U.1’s northwest side. Unit 2 extended the earlier construction approximately 1.9m in this direction (U.2’s northwest face is not well preserved). Unit 2’s southwest and northeast flanks continued U.1’s lines in these directions, thereby creating a stone-surface covering 2.65m to 3.2m northeast-southwest (widening from southeast to northwest). As noted, U.2’s northeast face was not clearly preserved; it may have stood as much as 0.7m tall but this inference could not be definitively confirmed. Burying U.1’s northwest face was a fill (U.6) composed of small to large cobbles set in a dark brown soil matrix. Altogether, the U.1/2 construction now measures 4m southeast-northwest by 1.6m to 3.2m northeast-southwest, oriented very approximately 32 degrees.

Adjoining U.1/2 on the southwest is a stone-surfaced construction (U.4) composed of a mix of cobbles and a few angular stones set in a mud matrix. Unit 4 measures 2.9m northwest-southeast by 0.7m to 2.1m northeast-southwest (narrowing from southeast to northwest). An area covering 0.8x0.95m in U.4’s east corner (where it borders U.1) was largely composed of earth and very few rocks. Whether this change in materials was intentional or a product of differential erosion is unclear. Unit 4 is aligned ca. 45 degrees along its southeast and northwest sides while the construction’s southwest and

northeast flanks run at angles of approximately 285 degrees and 318 degrees, respectively. As was the case with U.1/2, the general form of U.4 is a rhombus.

Unit 4, in turn, is bounded on the south by a stone-floored construction (U.3) that takes the form of a square measuring 2.6m on a side and which is oriented roughly 45 degrees. The stones used to surface U.3 are primarily moderately large cobbles set in a mud mortar. The surfaces of U.1/2, 3, and 4 are all set at about the same levels. Unit 3's southwest edge, located near the top of the north-to-south slope, is only 0.06m high.

A 0.25m drop separates the top of U.1/2 from the stone-surfaced construction lying immediately to its northeast (U.5). Unit 5 runs 4m along U.1/2's northeast face and is 0.9-1.45m wide southwest-northeast (the northeast flank bows out somewhat in this direction, though whether as a result of the builders' original actions or because of the cumulative effects of gravity on the unit's downslope side is not certain). Unit 5 is 0.32m tall on its northeast side while the floor is fashioned primarily of medium-size cobbles and a few angular stones set in a mud matrix.

In total, by the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 98-1st consisted of four adjoining stone-floored constructions that stretched for 3.5m northwest-southeast by 7.5m northeast-southwest (measured across its approximate center) and was variably aligned 32-45 degrees. The three of these stone-paved summits in the southwest cover 3.5x6.5m and are set at the same level; the northeastern-most summit is 0.25m lower than its southwestern neighbors and encompasses 1x4m. Str. 98-1st's southwest flank, atop the northeast-to-southwest rise, stands only 0.06m tall while the flanks of the constructions lying to the northeast are progressively taller. All of the constructions are fashioned of unmodified stones, primarily river cobbles, set in a mud mortar.

It is hard at this point to reconstruct the sequence in which these constructions were raised. Each entity has relatively distinct borders marked by changes in the disposition of the stones comprising their surfaces. It is unlikely, therefore, that they were all built as part of one effort though the time separating their construction may not have been long. Given that U.5 on the northeast borders U.1 and its northwest addition (U.2) it is likely that U.5 post-dates the U.2 expansion. The same case can tentatively be made for U.4 which borders U.1 and 2 on the southwest. As U.3 adjoins U.4 it may be that the former was added after the latter, thereby resulting in a speculative construction sequence of U.1 followed by U.2, succeeded by U.4 and 5, with U.3 added last. As noted, it is hard to establish this order with any certainty. We would at least suggest that Str. 98-1st reached its final form through several, minimally two, as many as four, building efforts.

Time Span 4

After Str. 98-1st's abandonment as much as 0.13m of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark brown-to-black soil (S.2) was deposited over S.1 and most of the preserved architecture. Found scattered throughout S.2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for 4.7m northwest of U.2.

Structure 101

Structure 101 is a complex of terraces and surface-level buildings situated on the main plaza's south side. Though connected, the two primary components of this edifice are sufficiently distinct that they are treated here as two constructions; Str. 101A, being a set of terraces built into a north-to-south

rise on the patio's southern edge, and Str. 101B which is an extensive surface-level building lying as close as 0.7m atop this rise to the south. These elements of Str. 101 will be described separately and, while some effort is made to relate their respective time spans, such linkages are difficult to establish definitively.

Structure 101A

Structure 101A was mapped as a terrace that ran 11.5m west from its eastern terminus to a point where it was truncated by cutting the aforementioned dirt road. Fully 40m² was exposed within Subop. 19F, J, V, X, AB, AG, AJ, and AK in the course of revealing the construction's surviving east-west length. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.06m and 0.73m below modern ground surface within and outside the limits of final-phase architecture, respectively. Four major construction episodes were identified in the course of this work that was directed by Liesel Kuhr from 5 February-14 March, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 101A-1 st	U.1, 4	-	-	
3	Str. 101A-1 st	U.2, 3	-	-	
4	Str. 101A-1 st	U.2, 3, 5, 6	-	-	
5	Str. 101A-1 st	U.7-13	-	-	
6	-	-	S.2	F.1	

Time Span 1

This interval witnessed the deposition of a very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silty clay (S.1) that ascended 0.47m across 4.83m north-to-south in the area north of Str. 101A-1st. Stratum 1 is at least 0.22m thick (its base was not found) and forms the top of the north-to-south rise over which Str. 101A-1st was erected (a further 5.6m to the south, immediately south of Str. 101B-1st, S.1 had risen an additional 0.63m).

Time Span 2

During this interval a 0.8m-high by 0.56m-wide wall (U.1) was erected. Unit 1 was traced for 11.5m west from its eastern terminus at which point the construction was cut during the creation of the dirt road which runs through the Southeast Group. On the east, U.1 corners with a wall (U.4) that runs 6.05m to the south. Unit 4 is 0.49m high on the north where it corners with U.1 (though it may well have risen originally to the full 0.8m height of the latter, decreasing in height as it travels south and uphill). By the time its southern end is reached U.4 is 0.11m tall. By this point U.4 defines the eastern limits of the area occupied by Str. 101B and will be discussed further under that heading.

By the conclusion of TS.2 Str. 101A-1st appears to have consisted of a substantial stone wall (U.1) that stood 0.8m tall, was 0.56m wide, and followed an alignment of ca. 278 degrees for at least 11.5m. This construction may well have retarded erosion down the south-to-north descent that borders the Southeast Group's main patio on the south. The wall seems larger and more substantial than was

strictly necessary to accomplish such a purpose. It may be the case, therefore, that the construction was also intended to formally mark the plaza's south edge. The wall (U.4) running 6.05m south from U.1's east edge (at an orientation of roughly 185 degrees) might have been raised to define the limits of activities associated with Str. 101B-1st atop the southern rise and to channel traffic into the plaza through what would have been the latter's southeast corner. Unit 4 has a preserved height on the north of 0.49m, dropping to 0.11m tall at its southern terminus atop the low ascent.

Both of these walls were fashioned using unmodified river cobbles mixed in the case of U.1 with pieces of limestone. The naturally flatter aspects of these stones were directed outwards. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval two stone steps (U.2, 3) were appended to U.1's north face at the latter's east edge, extending 0.9m westward from U.1's junction with U.4. Unit 2, the basal riser, stands 0.4m tall and runs back south 0.37m where it is succeeded by U.3. The latter stands 0.3m above U.2's stone tread and gives way to a flat surface that extends 0.83m south to U.1. It is unclear if U.1 continued to project above U.3's stone-and-earth surface at this time. If it did, U.1 probably stood no more than 0.07m above U.3's tread. The stones used in fabricating U.2 and 3 are unshaped cobbles and some limestone, the naturally flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During this span U.2 and 3 were extended 4m to the west making for a staircase that is 4.9m long east-west. Raised at about this time are U.5 and 6 located 4.2m west of U.2 and 3. Unit 5 is a step standing 0.15m high and measuring 0.45m deep. Unit 6, the next ascending riser, looms 0.3m above U.5's tread and runs 0.6m back south to U.1. The latter may have risen 0.25m above U.6's tread and provided a final step-up to the flat terrain backing U.1 to the south. Unit 5 basically continues the line of U.2 westward though it diverges slightly from the latter's orientation (284 degrees versus 278 degrees, respectively). Unit 6 is also roughly lined up with U.3 on the east. It appears, therefore, that by TS.4's conclusion Unit 1 was fronted by two sets of stone steps each composed of pairs of risers 0.15-0.4m tall by 0.37-0.83m wide. On the west the uppermost 0.25m of U.1 may have constituted a third step leading to the summit. These two staircases were separated by what looks to have been an earthen-floored space measuring 4.2m east-west by 1.05-1.2m deep north-south. Units 2-3, 5-6 were made from unfaced cobbles and some limestone set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 5

It was during this period that the 4.2m long east-west space between the U.2-3 and U.5-6 steps was completely filled in. This area is filled with a 0.15m-high stone-faced and –surfaced terrace (U.7 and 8) that is 0.7-0.85m wide north-south. Said construction seems to have been raised in two segments. Unit 7, on the east, extends 2.2m west from its intersection with U.2 and 3 on the east, projecting 0.25m north from the front of the basal eastern step (U.2). Unit 8 continues the front (north) line of the low terrace for 2m but at a slightly different angle than that formed by U.7; the latter is oriented ca. 278 degrees while the former is aligned roughly 282 degrees. This discrepancy suggests that the terrace was

raised in two building episodes, though they may well have been closely spaced in time. Unit 8 abuts the U.5 and 6 steps on the west and extends 0.5m north of that staircase's basal northern riser (U.5). After their completion, U.7 and 8 formed a 'U' shape open on the south where they faced U.1. This open area was filled with a brown soil containing small rocks and some artifacts (U.13) atop which was raised a block of stone (U.9) set directly against U.1's north face. Unit 9 is 2m long east-west by 0.55m wide north-south and stands 0.55m tall. Unit 9 is, in turn, bordered by a niche on its east and west sides (U.10 and 11). The eastern niche (U.10) is bordered by U.9, 1, and the U.2/3 steps on the west, south, and east, is open on the north, and measures 0.8m east-west by 0.55m deep. Its western counterpart (U.11) is delimited by U.9, 1, and the U.5/6 steps on the east, south, and west, is also open on the north, and encompasses 1.3m east-west by 0.55m deep. Both are surfaced with a mix of earth and a few stones.

What may be the remains of a surface-level building (U.12) were found 1.7m north of Str. 101A-1st. Unit 12 consists of portions of two stone foundations that are 0.2m high. The building's western footing was traced for 1.8m at an angle of 20 degrees while the northern foundation was followed for only 0.65m east from its corner with its western analogue. It is not clear that we uncovered the entirety of the west wall let alone the northern foundation.

By TS.5's conclusion, Str. 101A-1st consisted of a 0.8m-tall stone wall (U.1) that ran at least 11.5m at an angle of ca. 278 degrees. It was fronted on the north by two sets of stone steps that projected 1.05-1.2m to the north of U.1 and consisted of stone risers that were 0.15-0.4m tall by 0.37-0.83m wide. These steps form two discrete units separated by 4.2m that was filled with a 0.15m-tall stone-faced and -surfaced terrace that is 0.7-0.85m wide north-south. This terrace was possibly built in two segments. Rising above the terrace and set directly on an earth fill and against U.1 is a stone block measuring 2m east-west, 0.55m north-south, by 0.55m tall. Flanking the aforementioned block are two niches, one each on the east and west and both open on the north. The eastern example covers 0.4m² while its western counterpart encompasses 0.7m². What seems to have been a surface-level building was found 1.7m north of the eastern steps. This construction covers at least 1.8m on a side, is oriented 20 degrees, and is bounded by stone foundations standing 0.2m tall. All TS.5 constructions were fashioned of angular pieces of basalt along with rounded cobbles and some limestone. A few shaped blocks were recorded in the low central terrace (U.7 and 8). All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

After Str. 101A-1st's abandonment as much as 0.61m of a very dark brown to black (2.5Y 2.5/1) clayey silt (S.2) was laid down. Stratum 2 ended up covering most of Str. 101A-1st's final-phase architecture. Embedded in S.2 was a moderately dense concentration of generally small rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from earlier construction. Feature 1 was traced for 1.7m north of the structure.

Structure 101B

Structure 101B is a surface-level construction that sits atop relatively level terrain backing Str. 101A-1st's wall-and-step system to the south. As little as 0.7m separates the two constructions at their closest points. Approximately 40m² was cleared within Subop. 19E, H, K, L, Q, T, Y, Z, AC, AH, and AI in the course of clearing Str. 101B-1st, digging being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.64m below modern ground surface outside construction. At least two major periods of renovation were identified in the course of the investigations which were directed by Kassia Randzio from 5 February-14 March, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 101B-1 st	U.4, 14, 17-20, 23-24	-	-	
3	Str. 101B-1 st	U.15-16, 21-22	-	-	
4	-	-	S.2	F.2	

Note: The sequence of unit, feature, and strata designations is continued from Str. 101A.

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 101B-1st's environs was the deposition of a very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silty clay (S.1; the same soil, also designated S.1, that was identified in the lowest stratigraphic levels in Subop. 19F). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.3m in Subop. 19E immediately south of Str. 101B-1st (the soil layer's base was not encountered). By this point S.1 was running pretty flat and forms the foundation for TS.2 construction.

Time Span 2

It was during this interval that Str. 101B-1st was raised. This surface-level edifice is open to the south and bounded on its remaining sides by stone walls (U.17, 18, and 20) that are 0.25-0.47m tall by 0.35-1.4m wide. Unit 18 on the west is sufficiently broad, 1.05m across, and long (2.25m north-south) that it may have both supported a perishable upper wall and served as a bench. Unit 17 on the north varies in width from 1-1.4m and contains two adjoining niches (U.23 and 24) set on ground level near its center. The eastern example, U.23, measures 0.4m east-west by 0.6m north-south and is completely open to the north. Unit 24 is 0.2m to the west, covers 0.35m north-south by 0.55m east-west, and has a 0.2m gap in its southwest corner. Otherwise, U.24 is sealed on all sides. As was the case with U.18, U.17 is sufficiently wide to have doubled as a wall support and bench or shelf. Str. 101B-1st's earthen-floored interior is divided into two compartments set in an east-west line by a 0.1m-high by 0.26m-wide stone foundation (U.19). The western enclosure (Room 1) measures 0.85x2.5m while its eastern counterpart (Room 2) covers 1.3x2.7m.

Unit 4, which corners with U.1 in Str. 101A-1st on the north, extends 6.05m south from this junction and is 2m east of Str. 101B-1st during this period. It corners on the south with U.14, a 0.23m-tall by 0.42m-wide wall that extends 1.05m west from its intersection with U.4. Units 4 and 14 together delimit an area covering an estimated 2x5.1m stretching between U.1 and 14 on the north and south and U.20 and 4 on the west and east, respectively. As the northern 3.15m of this space is covered by TS.2 architecture which was not removed, we cannot tell if this portion of the area was subdivided into rooms by constructions that were obscured by later building elements.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 101B-1st was a surface-level, earthen-floored building that covered 2.8m north-south by 5.15m east-west, was 0.45-1m south of Str. 101A-1st's U.1, and was aligned very roughly 10 degrees (the northern foundation, U.17, does not follow a straight course east-west but bows out northward roughly 0.55m near its middle). The building's interior consists of two

rooms set in an east west line; Room 1 on the west covers 2.1m² while Room 2 on the east encompasses 3.5m². Though no built-in furniture was recorded the unusually broad western (1.05m across) and northern (1-1.4m wide) foundations could well have served as both wall supports and benches or shelves. Structure 101B-1st's northern footing contains two niches set next to each other and at ground level. The eastern example is open on the north and measures 0.2m² while its western neighbor covers 0.2m² and was closed on all sides save for a 0.2m-wide gap in its southwest corner. Lying immediately east of Str. 101B-1st is an extensive area bordered on the east by U.4 and on the south by a 0.23m-high by 0.42m-wide wall, U.14. This area measures an estimated 10.2m² and was likely accessed through the 1.4m separating Str. 101-B-1st on the north from U.14 on the south. All constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned of unmodified stones, their flatter aspects directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval a significant portion of Str. 101B-1st's interior was covered with a stone surface (U.21). Unit 21 partially covers U.19 and 20, is set against the south side of U.17, and extends 1.35-1.75m south from the latter wall. Unit 21's south edge does not define a straight line but zig-zags; it runs straight for 1m west from U.20's southwest corner before cutting 0.9m to the northwest at an angle of ca. 338 degrees before turning southwest (at approximately 250 degrees) for 1.3m and then heading northwest to join U.17 at a point 0.35m east of the latter's northwest interior corner with U.18. Another raised, roughly paved, surface (U.22) was built against U.20's east side. This space is generally triangular in shape and covers an area measuring 2.35m north-south by 0.35m (on its north edge) to 1.1m (at its south base) east-west. Unit 22 is bounded by U.17 and 20 on the east, extending northward to intersect with U.17's northeast corner. At about this time another stone floor (U.16) was added to the east and north of Str. 101B-1st. Unit 16 fronts this building on the north where it extends south from U.1, at a level equal to the top of that wall, for 0.45-1m to U.17. On the east, U.16 covers the area between Str. 101B-st on the west to U.4 on the east, extending 3.15m south from U.1's south face. It is not clear how far U.16 extends west of Str. 101B-1st; though the floor peters out in this direction, digging stopped before we reached U.16's definitive western edge. Finally, U.14, which corners with U.4, on the east, was extended an additional 1m (U.15), at a height of 0.23m, to the west during TS.3. This created an earthen-floored area covering 1.95x2.05m south of the U.16 floor which was bounded by U.4 on the east and U.14 and 15 on the south.

The basic dimensions and orientation of Str. 101B-1st were retained from TS.2 into TS.3. The building's interior was significantly modified during the latter period, however. The two earthen-floored rooms were now partially covered by a stone floor that over-rode the stone foundation (U.19) that had previously divided these enclosures. Another stone floor was appended to Str. 101B-1st's east side and a third, extensive stone surface now wrapped around the edifice's east and north flanks. Very roughly, these pavements altogether covered ca. 13m². Passage across said floors seems to have been fairly continuous though U.17, Str. 101B-1st's north wall, still projected 0.27m above the U.21 surface, dividing it from the U.16 pavement on the north. In general, what had previously been several distinct spaces within and adjoining Str. 101-B-1st were now largely converted into one extensive set of adjoining paved surfaces. An earthen-floored area measuring 4m² bordered this floor system east and south of Str. 101-B-1st. Most of these constructions were fashioned of unmodified rocks set in a mud mortar. A few faced blocks were recorded, however, in U.21, especially along that floor's south face.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 101B-1st's abandonment as much as 0.35m of a black (2.5Y 2.5/1) clayey silt (S.2) was laid down and largely covered final-phase architecture. Embedded in S.2 is a light concentration of stones that likely tumbled from TS.2 and 3 constructions (F.2). Feature 2 was traced for 1.54m away from Str. 101B-1st.

Structure 104

Structure 104 is on the northeast edge of the Southeast Group's main plaza, 8.5m northeast of Str. 105-1st and 16.3m north of Str. 106-1st. The terrain atop which Str. 104-1st was built rises 0.11m across 12.6m from north to south and 0.46m over 9.7m from east to west. The descent is more precipitous immediately east of the building where the natural terrace supporting the Southeast Group drops steeply to the lower terrace of the Rio Cacaupala. Digging here in Subop. 50C, D, E, G, H, I, J, L, M, P, Q, R, S, T, U, W, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, and AG from February 5-March 21, 2002 uncovered approximately 85m². Excavations were pursued to a maximum depth of 1m below modern ground surface outside final-phase architecture (we did not plumb the building's fill) revealing two distinct construction episodes. These investigations were directed by Leigh Anne Ellison with assistance from Kristen Goodenough and Bradley Kreit.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 104-Sub1	U.1-3, 21	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
4	Str. 104-1 st	U.4-12, 14-15	-	F.1	
5	Str. 104-1 st	U.13, 16-20	-	F.2	
6	Str. 104-1 st	-	S.2	-	
7	Str. 104-1 st	-	-	F.3	
8	-	-	S.2-3	F.4	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 104 is the seemingly natural deposition of a dark brown clayey soil (S.1). Stratum 1 ascends 0.22m over an exposed 1.46m east to west and seems to run level across the 4.93m north-south that the layer was revealed south of Str. 104-1st. This soil was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.64m though not all of this depth accumulated during TS.1 (see TS.3).

Time Span 2

During this span Str. 104-Sub1 was erected. Most of what we know about constructions dating to TS.2 comes from investigations south of Str. 104-1st where fragments of architecture generally grouped under the rubric Str. 104-Sub1 were found resting on S.1 and protruding out from beneath construction pertaining to TS.4 (U.16). The most substantial of these examples is U.1, a stone wall standing an estimated 0.32m high, running 4.5m south from beneath U.16, measuring 0.8m wide, and

oriented ca. 359 degrees. Unit 1 is poorly preserved on its south edge though it seems to turn a corner here and continue for at least 1m to the east (Included in U.1). Along the tentatively identified south segment of U.1 the wall is 0.7m wide. The wall's north terminus was not clear though it we tentatively infer that it ended immediately south of Str. 104-1st's U.16. If so, then U.1 might have been a substantial foundation that defined the west and south margins of a sizable earthen-floored room covering 3.8m north-south. Alternatively, U.1 may comprise the west and south facings of a low, stone-faced platform.

Lying 0.6m west of U.1 are the fragmentary remains of a low wall (U.2, under 0.2m tall) that is 0.36m wide east-west and was tentatively traced for 3m south from Str. 104-1st's U.16 when digging stopped. Unit 2 runs parallel to U.1 and may be yet another foundation, this time defining the east side of a second surface-level construction. Located 0.4m west of U.2 is a stone floor (U.3) that is 1.1m wide east west and at least 1m long north-south (U.3's northern and southern edges were not revealed). The putative building delimited by U.2 on the east was possibly partially paved with stones (U.3) the remainder of its floor being covered with earth.

Situated 2.03m north of Str. 104-1st's northern basal facing (U.6) is another stone floor (U.21). Only the southernmost 0.4m of U.21 were uncovered in our excavations and very little more concerning this construction is known.

In all, what is glossed here as Str. 104-Sub1 probably consists of three distinct, surface-level buildings arrayed south and north (and possibly beneath) what would emerge in TS.4 as Str. 104-1st. The largest of these entities (as far as we can currently tell) is represented by U.1 and consists of an earthen-floored edifice whose single known room measures at least 3.8m north-south. That space is bounded by substantial stone footings on the west and south that are 0.32m tall by 0.7-0.8m wide. The building is oriented ca. 359 degrees. No built-in furniture was identified in our limited investigations of this construction though the western and southern foundations are sufficiently wide to have doubled as supports for perishable upper walls and as shelves or benches. Located 0.6m west of U.1 is what may be the remains of another surface-level building, this one delimited by a stone foundation that is no taller than 0.2m, is 0.36m wide, and runs for at least 3m at an orientation of approximately 359 degrees. The edifice's interior was surfaced mostly with earth though part of the space was seemingly paved in stone (covering at least 1.1m²). A small fragment of another stone floor was found at roughly the same depth as U.1, 2.03m north of Str. 104-1st. This pavement was not associated with any known foundations.

Constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles that were laid flat and set in a mud mortar. A few angular stones make up a minority of the rocks comprising U.1, 2, and 21. Though, as noted, most of the stones were laid flat, much (2.1m long) of U.1's east face was fashioned of rocks set on end and slanting back to the north.

Time Span 3

During this period, TS.2 architecture was blanketed by the continued deposition of S.1 and the introduction of S.2. Stratum 1 both underlies and covers, by as much as 0.09m, Str. 104-Sub1 architecture south of Str. 104-1st. This stratigraphic relation suggests that erection of the former building interrupted S.1's deposition. Stratum 1 was not identified north of Str. 104-1st. Here roughly 0.33m of a brown silty sand (S.2) covers U.21 and underlies Str. 104-1st's northern facing (U.6). Stratum 2 ascends 0.16m across 2.44m from north to south, running below and abutting the basal 0.11m of U.6. The top of

S.1 and 2 are nearly equal, the former being 0.08m lower than the latter though separated by the 7.8m taken up by Str. 104-1st's basal platform.

It is unclear if S.1 and 2 were laid down by natural means or were purposefully introduced as fill. If the former were the case, then it is likely that this portion of the Southeast Group was temporarily abandoned following the end of Str. 104-Sub 1's use-life and prior to the erection of Str. 104-1st. If the latter interpretation is correct, then there may have been no such hiatus.

Time Span 4

It was during this interval that Str. 104-1st was raised. The building is a stone-faced platform that stands 0.5m, 0.43m, 0.8m, and 0.23m tall on the north, south, east, and west sides, respectively (U.4-7). The height discrepancy between the east (U.5) and west (U.7) basal facings is largely accounted for by the east-to-west rise of the land atop which Str. 104-1st was built. The building encompasses 7.6m north-south by 9.7m east-west and supports a stone-paved (U.15) summit that measures 3.93m north-south by an estimated 7.7m east-west (the summit's west edge was not clearly identified). On the north and south the summit is bounded by 0.16-0.28m-wide stone walls (U.10 and 9). The southern example (U.9) rises 0.4m above the surface fronted by U.4, 1.88m to the south while its northern counterpart (U.10) stands 0.19m above the surface backing U.6, 1.5m to the north. On the east the summit runs directly back (west) from the platform's eastern basal facing (U.5). Unit 10's top is level with the U.15 floor, making the former a step-up to the summit. Unit 9 rises 0.21m above that pavement and may have served as a foundation for a perishable upper wall that defined the superstructure's south side. Unit 9 runs 3.7m east from its junction with U.12 (see below) before stepping 0.35m north. This footing tapers out 0.6m further to the east and we do not know if it continued east to intersect U.5. A 0.11m-tall stone-faced and -surfaced construction (U.11) is located on the summit's east margin 2.8m west of U.5. Unit 11 is 1.4m long north-south by 0.95m wide east-west and may have served as shelf. Recovery of a 0.05m-thick lens of *bajareque* (F.1) 0.27m east of U.11 at a depth equal to that construction's base hints that this stone block may also have supported a perishable upper wall on its east side. Unit 11 is 0.63m north of U.9 and 1.9m south of U.10. What appears to have been a 0.25m-tall stone-faced and -surfaced bench (U.12) is located 2.6m west of, and faces, U.11. Unit 12 is 3.1m long north-south by an estimated 1.6m wide east-west (the west edge was not securely identified). There is a 1m-wide (north-south) by 0.95m-deep (east-west) niche set in U.12's east face. This indentation is 0.4m north of its intersection with U.9 on the south. Unit 12 is 0.83m south of U.10 on the north.

A 0.3m-tall by 0.25m-wide wall (U.8) was traced for 0.7m north from its intersection with Str. 104-1st's south basal facing (U.4). Unit 8 may have marked the boundary between two rooms set in an east-west line atop the 1.88m-wide surface that intervenes between U.4 and 9. If so, no other portions of these putative enclosures were uncovered.

A 0.3m-high terrace (U.14) was followed for 7.5m off the platform's southeast corner. Unit 14 is aligned roughly 5 degrees and comes within 0.3m of Str. 104-1st at its closest point (the aforementioned southeast corner). Most likely U.14 was built to slow erosion down the eastern terrace slope which Str. 104-1st overlooked.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 104-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.23-0.8m tall, covered 7.6x9.7m, and was aligned approximately 87 degrees. On the north and south the basal facings

give way to terraces that are 1.5m and 1.88m wide, respectively. The southern terrace may have been divided into two rooms set in an east-west line, divided by a stone foundation that is 0.3m tall by 0.25m wide. On the east the basal facing rises directly to the stone-paved summit; construction on the west, which was not as intensively investigated, is unclear. The summit covers an estimated 30.2m², is surfaced with stone, and is bordered on the south by a stone foundation, on the east by a stone-faced, and –surfaced shelf, and on the west by a bench. The north side was seemingly left open, overlooking a 0.19m-tall step-up from the northern terrace. The shelf on the east is 0.11m tall by 1.4m long north-south by 0.95m wide. The western bench stands 0.25m high, is 3.1m long north-south by 1.6m wide. A niche measuring 1m north-south by 0.95m east-west was built into the bench's east face, 0.4m north of its intersection with the superstructure's southern foundation. A 0.3m-tall terrace was erected as close as 0.3m east of Str. 104-1st, apparently to retard erosion down this steeply sloping natural slope. Said terrace was traced for 7.5m over which distance it was oriented ca. 5 degrees.

All constructions raised now were primarily made of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. Angular rocks made up a minority of the stones found in most of these walls and floors while a few shaped blocks were recorded in U.5, 6, 7, and 12. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

During this span Str. 104-1st's basic form and organization remained largely unchanged. Most of the modifications made now were concentrated on the building's south side. A 0.22m-high facing (U.16) was set against the platform's south basal facing (U.4); U.4 still projected 0.21m above its new southern addition. Unit 16 intersects U.4 at a point 2.3m east of the platform's southwest corner and runs for 4.3m to the east. It ranges from 0.2-0.4m wide, broadening from west to east, and its eastern terminus was not clearly identified. It may be that U.16 was introduced to bolster U.4 along its approximate center, the latter wall bulging out slightly behind (north) of U.16. Alternatively, the addition may have been introduced as a step facilitating access to Str. 104-1st's summit from the south.

Located 0.6m west of U.16 is a stone block (U.17) that measures 0.8m wide east-west, projects 0.55m south from its abutment with U.4, and stands ca. 0.2m tall. The one modification made to the building's summit was the construction of a 0.18m-tall wall (U.13) that partially closes off the east side of the niche in U.12. Unit 13 is 0.15m wide and 0.55m long north-south; gaps of 0.15m and 0.3m remain between U.13 and the south and north edges of the niche, respectively.

Located 2.04m south of U.16 is a 0.14m-tall by 0.37m-wide wall (U.19) that runs for at least 2.7m east-west (it tapers out on the east without a clear resolution whereas we ceased excavation before encountering the wall's west end). Unit 19 runs over U.1's west wall (see TS.2) just as U.16 rests on and above that earlier construction. A 0.1m high by 0.2m wide wall (U.20) abuts U.19 at its west exposed terminus and was traced for 0.7m south where our investigations ended. Most likely U.19 and 20 are the northern and western foundations for an earthen-floored, surface-level room that was erected south of Str. 104-1st. The full dimensions of this edifice were not revealed.

A (minimally) 0.1m-tall terrace (U.18) was identified 0.1m southwest of Str. 104-1st's southwest corner. Only 0.7m of U.18 was uncovered, running at an azimuth of approximately 170 degrees. Unit 18 may have been built to slow erosion down the gradual west to east descent west and south of Str. 104-1st.

The recovery a 0.06m-thick (maximally) *bajareque* lens (F.2) lying 0.08m east of the U.14 terrace may suggest that this wall not only served to slow erosion but supported a perishable upper wall. Feature 2 is 0.33m long east-west, pinching out on the east away from U.14.

By the conclusion of TS.5 Str. 104-1st retained its basic dimensions and form from TS.4. It was now graced with a 0.22m-tall by 0.2-0.4m-wide stone step-out (U.16) that fronted the platform along 4.3m of its south face. This construction is located near the center of the platform's south face. The basal southern wall (U.4) projected 0.21m above the new addition; it may be that U.16 and upper U.4 together comprised steps facilitating access to the Str. 104-1st's summit. A 0.2m-tall by 0.8m-wide (east-west) stone block projects 0.55m south from U.4. Located 0.16m west of U.16's west terminus, the architectural significance of this block is uncertain. Atop the platform summit the only construction assigned to this interval was the erection of a 0.18m-high stone wall that partially closed off the east side of the niche built into the western bench's (U.12) east face. The niche's interior could still be reached through gaps of 0.3m and 0.15m in its northeast and southeast corners.

Lying 2.04m south of Str. 104-1st are the remains of what seems to have been an earthen-floored, surface-level building defined on the north and west by low (0.1-0.14m high) stone foundations that are 0.2-0.37m wide. The building is oriented roughly 92 degrees. The edifice's east and south limits were not identified. As it stands, the room defined by the aforementioned footings covers at least 0.7x2.5m. A 0.1m-tall terrace oriented 170 degrees was exposed for 0.7m immediately (0.1m) southwest of the platform's southwest corner. We tentatively infer that this construction was designed to slow erosion down the gradual west-to-east slope on which Str. 104-1st was built.

Unmodified river cobbles were the primary stones used in raising TS.5 constructions. In contrast, U.13, on the summit, was fashioned of angular rocks while a very few shaped stones were recorded in U.16. The cobbles used to create the U.17 stone block were not laid horizontally but were densely packed and set on end. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

It was at this time that a brown silty sand (S.2) was laid down over the U.14 terrace and the basal 0.22m of U.5 (Str. 104-1st's eastern basal wall). Stratum 2 overrides S.1 here, ascending 0.52m across 1.6m from east-to-west. That debris fallen from final-phase construction (F.4, TS.8) and a possible late addition (F.3, TS.7) rest atop S.2 in this area strongly suggests that S.2's deposition predates both of these events. Whether S.2 was purposefully introduced or was the result of natural processes occurring during a hiatus in Str. 104-1st's use-life is uncertain.

Time Span 7

The only activity attested to now is the possible construction of what looks to have been a terrace facing (F.3) on Str. 104-1st's east side. Feature 3 was not recognized as a construction during excavation but was tentatively identified during later analyses. It is distinguished by a concentration of generally flat-laid cobbles set on the upward slope of S.2 (see TS.6) 0.4m east of where U.14 had been located and 0.74m east of U.5. Feature 3, if it is a terrace facing, stands 0.48m tall and fronts a tread that is 0.74m wide east-west. Other than this putative addition, no other activities are attributed to TS.7.

Time Span 8

After Str. 104-1st was abandoned, as much as 0.46m of a brown sandy silt (S.3) was deposited, covering all but the uppermost construction stones. Embedded in S.3 is a dense to moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.4) that likely fell from architecture that was in use during TS.5. Feature 4 was especially concentrated for up to 1.48m south of U.4 and 16.

Structure 105

Structure 105 is situated 4.7m northwest of Str. 106 and 8.4m southwest of Str. 104 overlooking a west-to-east slope down to the crest of the steep eastern escarpment of the terrace that supports the Southeast Group. The ground here rises 0.8m over 5m from east to west. Structure 105 may have served to divide the principal Southeast Group Plaza into two segments, the southern portion bordered by Str. 101A to the south and Str. 106 to the east. Digging here within Subop. 50F and O cleared roughly 70m² revealing two major building episodes associated with raising and modifying Str. 105-1st. Excavation was pursued to maximum depths of 0.42m and 0.84m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. These investigations were directed by David Aguilar from February 5-April 15, 2002.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	Str. 105-Sub4	U.23	-	-	
2	-	-	S.1	-	
3	Str. 105-1 st Str. 105-Sub1	U.1-12, 14-18, 22	-	-	
4	Str. 105-Sub2, Str. 105-Sub3, Str. 105-Sub5	U.13, 19-21	-	-	
5	-	-	S.2, 3	F.1	

Time Span 1

Structure 105-Sub 4 was revealed in a deep probe dug 3m east of Str. 105-1st. This construction is represented by a 0.38m-tall wall (U.23) which was traced for 1.46m at an orientation of approximately 278 degrees. Unit 23's east end was identified though its western edge was covered by later construction and never revealed. The architectural significance of U.23 is unclear; it may be the facing for a low platform or a substantial foundation for a perishable upper wall that delimited one side of a surface-level building. The stones used to fashion U.23 are unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which are directed out to the south. These rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 2

Structure 105-Sub 4 was covered by a brown soil (S.1) that accumulated to a depth of 0.4m. Stratum 1 was exposed only in the vicinity of U.23.

Time Span 3

It was during this interval that Str. 105-1st assumed its final form. The building consists of a 0.59m-tall platform that is fronted on the south by two rooms erected directly on ancient ground surface. The platform itself is bounded on the south, east, and north by stone facings (U.9, 10, and 12) that rise directly to the summit (the western basal wall was not found). Overall, the platform covers 3.2m north-south by at least 6m east-west and is aligned ca. 277 degrees. Very little of the superstructure was exposed so we cannot at this point tell if the summit was divided into multiple compartments and supported any built-in furniture.

Fronting the platform on the south are two rooms set in a north-south line and with offset entrances. These enclosures are delimited by stone foundations (U.4-6, 8, and the southern 0.65m of U.1) that are 0.24-0.41m high by 0.2-0.5m wide. Room 2's north side is delimited by the platform's southern basal wall (U.9). The southernmost compartment (Room 1) encompasses 0.65m north-south by 4.8m east-west, is paved with small pebbles set in clay (U.18), and is entered through a 1m-wide doorway located 0.75m west of the compartment's southeast interior corner. A stone block (U.17) measuring 0.6m across east-west projects 0.3m south from the footing that borders Room 1 on the south (U.8). Unit 17 is 1.2m west of the west side of Room 1's southern door. Room 2 is reached by passing through a 0.5m-wide door located 1.95m west of that enclosure's southeast interior corner. This earthen-floored compartment measures 3.6m north-south by 6.6m east-west and contains a 0.34m-high stone-faced bench that measures 2.2m east-west (U.7). Unit 7 is built into Room 2's northeast corner and may have spanned 2.5m north-south, extending back to U.9, the northern platform's south basal facing, though this aspect of the putative bench was not fully revealed.

Bordering Str. 105-1st's east, down-sloping flank are three terraces. Unit 14, the lowest (furthest east) of this set is 0.4m high and fronts a stone-floored (U.16) tread that extends 2m westward to the next ascending riser (U.2). Unit 14 was traced for 2.5m to the north where it may have turned a corner with a comparable construction (U.15) that runs eastward for at least 0.8m (the east end of U.15 was not uncovered). Units 15 and 14 were likely parts of the same terrace system that followed the contours of the eastern slope below Str. 105-1st. On the south a 0.35m-tall wall (U.22) extends 0.8m east of U.14, directly overlying U.23 from Str. 105-Sub4. Unit 14 abuts U.22, the latter continuing a further 0.6m west of its intersection with the former. Unit 22 may be part of the U.14/15 terrace system though this relationship is far from clear. Unit 2, in turn, is a 0.33m-high terrace facing that runs back (west) for 0.76m to U.1, the third ascending terrace in the sequence. Unit 1 is 0.42m high and extends 8.9m at an orientation of roughly 14 degrees to where, on the north, it corners with U.11. The latter stands ca. 0.4m tall and was traced for 1.5m east of its juncture with U.1. Unit 11's west end was not revealed though no sign of this terrace facing was encountered 1.45m further to the west, strongly suggesting that U.11 was not much longer east-west than it was revealed in our excavations. The southern-most 0.65m of U.1 defines the east side of Room 1, cornering with U.8 to form that enclosure's southeast corner.

Fronting U.1 on the east is a stone block (U.3) measuring 0.17m high, 0.5m north south, and projecting 0.33m east from U.1's east face. Unit 3 is 3.2m north of U.1's southeast corner with U.8 and is supported by the fill backing the U.2 terrace. The latter's east edge is 0.46m further in that direction. Unit 3 may have been a step that provided access into Room 2 from the east.

What looks to have been the south basal wall (U.16) of another construction (Str. 105-Sub1) was found 0.22m north of Str. 105-1st's north basal wall (U.12). Unit 16 is 0.59m tall and runs 3m at an

orientation of approximately 280 degrees. Though U.16 seems to terminate at its exposed east and west ends we did not unearth enough of the building to determine its form and overall dimensions.

By the conclusion of TS.2 Str. 105-1st was a 0.59m-tall, stone faced platform that covered 3.2m north-south by at least 6m east-west and was aligned ca. 277 degrees. Not enough of the summit was cleared to reveal the form of its superstructure. The building was fronted on the south by two enclosures set in a north-south line and erected directly on ancient ground surface (Rooms 1 and 2). Room 1, the southern-most compartment, covers 3.1m², has a stone-and-clay floor, and was entered through a 1m-wide door set in its south wall, 0.75m west of the compartment's southeast interior corner. A 0.5m-wide door provides passage from Room 1 to Room 2 on the north, said entrance offset from the southern door, 1.95m west of Room 2's southeast interior corner. Room 2 covers 23.8m² and contains in its northeast corner what appears to be a 0.34m-tall by 2.2m-long (east-west) stone-faced bench. This construction may have measured 2.5m north-south. Structure 105-1st is bordered on its east, down-sloping side by three stone-faced terraces that rise up the west-to-east drop-off from east to west. The basal riser is 0.4m high, its stone-surfaced tread extending 2m to the west where it is succeeded by a 0.33m-high terrace facing. The latter gives way to a 0.76m-wide tread that was likely surfaced with earth. The uppermost western terrace is 0.42m tall by 0.42-1m wide, and extends for 8.9m along the full length of Str. 105-1st's east flank. A possible stone step, standing 0.17m tall and measuring 0.33x0.5m is set against this terrace's east face at a point 3.2m north of the highest terrace's south end. This potential riser may have provided access to Room 2. Another stone block covers 0.6m east-west, projects 0.3m south of Room 1's south foundation, and is 1.2m west of the enclosure's southern portal. This may be another step, this time ascending a stone foundation, though why it would have been needed given the existence of an ample doorway to the east is unclear.

Another building, Str. 105-Sub1, is 0.22m north of Str. 105-1st. The sole remnant of this edifice that we uncovered consists of what looks to have been a southern basal facing that is 0.59m tall and 3m long east-west (oriented ca. 280 degrees). No more of Str. 105-Sub1 was revealed in our work.

Walls and floors raised during TS.2 were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outward or upward, in the case of the U.16 floor. Shaped masonry blocks made up a minority of U.4, 8, and 10, often being used to anchor corners. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Structure 105-1st retained its same form and organization during this interval. The sole changes that occurred now consisted of raising surface-level buildings off the earlier construction's northeast, southeast, and west sides along with the addition of an extensive stone-surfaced platform on the east. Structure 105-Sub3 is represented by an 'L'-shaped wall (U.19) that is as close as 0.1m west of Str. 105-1st's west flank, just off Room 1's northwest corner. Unit 19's east segment runs, minimally, 0.55m at an angle of, very approximately, 8 degrees while its south element extends for at least 0.5m to the west at a right angle to its eastern counterpart. Most likely U.19 defines the southeast corner of a surface-level building of undetermined size and form.

Structure 105-Sub2, in turn, is represented by a 0.15m-high by 0.25m-wide wall (U.13) lying 0.1m off Str. 105-1st's northeast corner. Unit 13 may have been the footing that delimited the west side of a putative surface-level construction. This foundation was followed for 2.4m north from its estimated

southern end at an angle of ca. 358 degrees. Unit 13's northern terminus was not identified and no other walls relating to Str. 105-Sub2 were found.

The aforementioned stone-paved platform (U.20) is 0.23m tall and intersects U.1 at a point 0.5m north of Str. 105-1st's southeast corner. From this juncture, U.20 runs for 1.65m at an angle of ca. 157 degrees before turning east for 2.8m at an orientation of roughly 86 degrees. On the north, U.20 is 1.8m wide where it adjoins U.1. Its north margin extends 1.4m at an alignment of 97 degrees from its point of contact with U.1. Unit 20 then steps south for 0.75m before turning to head east for 2.4m at an orientation of approximately 91 degrees. Unit 20's east end measures 2.2m across north-south. No construction was noted atop this construction's summit.

Extending 1.65m southwest of U.20's southwest flank is a 0.2m-tall by 0.3m-wide wall (U.21). Unit 21 intersects Str. 105-1st's southeast corner, is oriented ca. 254 degrees, and may be the foundation for yet another surface-level building erected along Str. 105-1st's perimeter.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 105-1st was increasingly hemmed in on the east and west by seemingly modest surface-level buildings that were defined by stone foundations. The edifices in question were oriented between 344-8 degrees. In addition to these constructions, a 0.23m-high stone-faced and -surfaced platform was built against Str. 105-1st's east side, beginning on the south at a point 0.5m north of the earlier edifice's southeast corner. This construction's irregular perimeter defines a space measuring maximally 2.3x3.85m. No sign of room dividers or built-in furniture was observed atop the platform.

Constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles though one cut tuff block was recorded in U.13 (Str. 105-Sub2). The naturally flatter aspects of the unmodified rocks faced outwards and all of the stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 105-1st's abandonment, as much as 0.36m of a brown soil (S.2) was deposited over the first and second ascending eastern terraces (U.2, 14, and 16). Stratum 2 slopes up 0.48m across 2.9m from east to west, beginning immediately west of U.14's east edge and ending at the putative U.3 step. Stratum 2 and most of the rest of the edifice was then blanketed by as much as 0.4m of a dark brown soil (S.3). Embedded in S.3 is a light to moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) displaced from final phase architecture. Very few F.1 rocks were found incorporated in S.2, tentatively implying that the latter soil was introduced before Str. 105-1st started decaying in earnest.

Structure 106

Structure 106 is a sizable platform on the east side of the Southeast Group's Principal Plaza. The edifice is perched atop the crest of the steep terrace slope that drops off steeply to the east, much of its eastern architecture having seemingly eroded down that precipice. The ground underlying Str. 106-1st rises 1m over 19m north-to-south. Structure 98 is 4.3m to the south while Str. 105's core construction is 3m to the northwest. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 50A, B, K, N, V, and X were directed by Georlin Thorne and Joni Harbeck from February 5- March 25, 2002 and cleared approximately 82m². The entirety of the building's west, patio-facing side was exposed in the course of this work along with limited portions of its south, east, and north flanks and a small portion of the summit. Investigations also revealed constructions extending downslope to the north from the platform that were not

recognized during initial mapping. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.84m and 0.6m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. Two major re-modellings of Str. 106-1st were noted in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 106-1 st	U.1-13	-	-	
3	Str. 106-1 st	U.20, 22	-	-	
4	Str. 106-1 st	U.14-18	-	F.1-2	
5	Str. 106-1 st	U.19, 21	-	-	
6	Str. 106-1 st	-	-	F.3	
7	-	-	S.2-5	F.4	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 106 is the deposition of a poorly sorted, dark gray-brown (10YR 4/2) sand (S.1) that contains numerous small pebbles and some medium-size rocks. Stratum 1 was at least 0.13m thick (its base was not found) and contains some cultural material. This earth layer was only clearly identified off Str. 106-1st's west side.

Time Span 2

During this interval Str. 106-1st was a stone-faced platform that was fronted by two low steps (U.1 and 2) set in the approximate center of the building's patio-facing, west side. The basal riser, U.1, is 0.14m tall, 0.14m wide, projects 0.32m west from Str. 106-1st's west basal wall (U.3), and runs for 2.6m north-south. Unit 1, in turn, is succeeded by U.2. The latter riser rests on U.1, is 0.16m high, parallels its predecessor for its full north-south length, and measures 0.18m across. These steps terminate at U.3, the western basal facing, which projects 0.14m above U.2 and gives way to a 1.74m-wide landing that is paved, in part, with limestone slabs (U.4). The summit is reached by ascending a 0.41m-tall facing (U.5) that we infer runs the full north-south length of the superstructure (only a 1m-wide [north-south] segment of this wall was revealed). Unit 5 is 0.9m wide and is succeeded on the east by a 0.02m-thick lime-plastered floor (U.6). In the 1m-wide trench dug across Str. 106-1st's summit from west to east, U.6 terminates after running for 2.6m to the east at a 0.22m-tall stone construction that runs for 1.3m east-west and is at least 0.4m wide north-south (U.7; U.7's south side was not revealed). Unit 7's architectural significance is unclear; it may be a shelf or part of a wall dividing rooms lying to its north and south. No sign of the U.6 floor was found over the 1.72m separating U.7 from the eastern summit wall (U.8). This area was heavily disturbed, however, and limestone fragments found lying at approximately the same level as U.6 to the west may hint an extension of that floor across the summit's full east-west width. Unit 8 is roughly 0.68m thick though its eastern face was not definitively identified. Further clearing of the steeply down-sloping east face was curtailed due to the poor state of preservation on this side of the edifice.

Unit 3, the west basal wall, is 9.85m long north-south. It corners on the south with U.9, a 0.25m-high wall, that was traced for 2.8m to the east. Unit 3 gives way to a 0.35m-wide terrace above

which U.10 rises 0.33m. This second ascending terrace was followed for 2.8m eastward before excavation ceased. We do not know if there were further terraces leading to the platform's summit from the south. Given that the ground on which Str. 106-1st is built rises consistently from north to south it may well be that U.10 gave way directly to the summit.

Unit 3 corners with U.11 on the north. This wall is ca. 1.1m tall at its highest exposed point and was traced for 4.2m east from its junction with U.3 at the platform's northwest corner. Unit 11 runs for 2.1m east from that corner before stepping back (south) for 0.3m and then continuing to extend in a straight line to the east. Unit 12, a 0.27m-tall facing, was appended to U.11, extending 0.36m north of the north basal facing at a point 3.2m east of the building's northwest corner. The addition of U.12 created a 1.1m-long by 0.3m-deep niche set into the base of Str. 106-1st's north side. There is no sign of the U.6 plaster floor on the platform's north summit. A stone surface (U.13) was found extending for at least 1.6m south from U.11's top at a level roughly equal to that at which U.6 was found to the south. It may well be, therefore, that Str. 106-1st's summit was floored with a mix of plaster and stone, the former material being largely restricted to the superstructure's center where it overlooked the western stairs.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 106-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood an estimated 0.58-1.1m tall (the discrepancy at least partly accounted for by the natural rise in ancient ground surface from north to south), measured 9.85m north-south by at least 8.1m east-west, and was aligned ca. 10 degrees. Two stone steps project 0.32m from near the center of the west basal facing and rise in short (0.14m and 0.16m) narrow (0.14m and 0.18m) increments to the west basal facing. The latter projects 0.14m above the highest step and gives way to a 1.74m-wide tread that is paved in part with limestone slabs. The final ascent to the summit on the west is a 0.41m-tall facing that gives way, in turn, to a summit that measures 5.65m east-west by an estimated 9.3m north-south. This area is floored on its central, patio-facing west side with a white plaster. The latter surface extends 2.6m east of the western summit step-up where it may have terminated in a 0.22m-tall by at least 0.4m-wide wall that is 1.3m long east-west. This construction may have been a shelf or a foundation for a wall that divided a northern from a putative southern compartment. The aforementioned plaster floor possibly continued east of this construction though, if it did, the floor was poorly preserved in the latter area. On the north a 1.1m tall wall gave way to the summit which was here surfaced with stone. The basal northern wall has a 0.3m-deep by 1.1m long (east-west) niche built into its north face.

Most TS.2 constructions were made using unmodified cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. Faced blocks of tuff (primarily) and limestone were incorporated in many of these constructions. The western basal step (U.1) consisted solely of masonry blocks as was the segment of U.3 (the western basal wall) fronted by those stairs; the remainder of U.3 north and south of the outset was made almost exclusively of cobbles. Masonry was a minority component in the U.7 summit wall while the U.5 step-up to the summit was capped with shaped tuff blocks. In general, an effort was apparently made to highlight the formal western entrance to Str. 106-1st's summit by concentrating both shaped masonry and plaster flooring along this axis. All the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval the outset staircase was greatly expanded through the construction of U.20. The latter is a 0.16m-high step fashioned of faced blocks that is set 0.9m west of U.1, burying the latter

beneath fill underlying the step's stone-surfaced tread. Unit 20 runs parallel to U.1 and for the former's full 2.6m north-south length. Fronting U.20 on its west, patio-facing side is a stone floor (U.22) that extends at least 2.03m in that direction. Unit 22's west end and north-south dimensions were not established though traces of it were revealed 5m to the north fronting U.21 on the west (see TS.5).

Structure 106-1st remained largely unchanged during TS.3 except now the western stairs projected 1.22m west from U.3, the platform's western basal facing. Fronted by a stone pavement that extends at least 2.03m west into the patio, the western stairs still consisted of two risers though the basal one was now 0.16m high by 1.04m wide, succeeded on the east by U.2 which still projected 0.16m above U.20's tread and led up to U.3. As noted, the new basal step was fashioned solely of faced tuff (mostly) and limestone masonry set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Structure 106-1st's western perimeter was now expanded 1.22m into the patio, bringing it in line with U.20's west edge. Unit 15 is 0.15m tall and continues U.20's western face 4.3m to the south, terminating 0.7m south of the platform's southwest corner. Over this southernmost 0.7m, U.15 is 1.3m wide east-west, its east face running north to join Str. 106-1st's southwest corner. Unit 14 is U.15's counterpart north of the western steps. This 0.15m-tall construction extends 4.3m north of U.20 and wraps around the platform's northwest corner, extending 0.2m east of that corner. Unit 14 is 0.7m wide north of U.11, Str. 106-1st's north basal facing.

It may have been during this phase that Str. 106-1st's summit was raised 0.4-0.6m through the introduction of two fill units. The first is a 0.04-0.14m-thick deposit of well-sorted, dark gray-brown (10YR 4/2) clayey sand (F.1) which was laid directly atop the U.6 floor and its possible continuation east of the U.7 shelf or wall. Feature 1, in turn, was blanketed by a fine-textured, dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2) soil containing a dense concentration of flat-laid small to medium-size rocks (U.18). Unit 18 was likely capped with a stone floor (U.17). Unit 17 is fairly well-preserved on the summit's north margin but was heavily disrupted near the building's center. Here its former presence is hinted at by a few flat-laid limestone slabs (F.2) that rest atop U.18 and may mark the former presence of the TS.4 summit pavement. It is not clear what retained the U.18 fill on the east and west; most likely U.5 and 8 were raised in height to contain this material. The situation is clearer on the north where U.16 rises 0.65m above the U.13 floor which backs the platform's northern basal wall (U.11) to the south. Unit 17 runs back south from U.16 at a point equal to the latter's top. Structure 106-1st's south side was not sufficiently cleared to determine how the newly introduced fill was retained on this flank.

Structure 106-1st maintained its orientation and basic basal form from TS.2. What had been an outset western staircase, however, was now enclosed on the north and south by 0.15m-tall stone facings that continued the steps' western line for 4.3m to the north and south. The result was the creation of a 0.15m-high by 1.22m wide (east-west) terrace that fronted the platform's western basal wall (U.3). Access to the summit was apparently still achieved by ascending the central staircase. That summit was now raised 0.4-0.6m, the newly introduced fill apparently being capped by a stone floor. These modifications were accompanied by the erection of a 0.65m-tall wall on the northern summit edge, set back (south) 1.67m from the northern basal facing, U.11. Consequently, the superstructure may now have been fronted on the north by a 1.67m-wide paved surface (still U.13) that was 0.65m lower than the newly elevated summit. No sign of any built-in furniture or room dividers was noted atop the TS.4 summit, though the proximity of this surface to modern ground level (protruding above it

in most areas) renders the survival of such features improbable. Structure 106-1st was, by the end of TS.4, a 1-1.7m-tall platform that measured 9.85m north-south by 9.32m (minimally) east-west, and retained its earlier alignment of ca. 10 degrees.

While unmodified river cobbles were used extensively in TS.4 constructions cut blocks also figured prominently in them. This is especially the case for U.14 and 15. The last two constructions not only continue U.20's line to the north and south but are also fashioned, like that step, primarily of faced tuff and limestone blocks (both limestone and tuff appearing in about equal frequencies). Whatever changes were made to Str. 106-1st in TS.4, an effort was made to highlight the formal appearance of the platform's western, patio-facing side through the extensive use of masonry in its western terrace face. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar and the naturally flatter aspects of unmodified stones were directed outwards.

Time Span 5

Structure 106-1st was modified slightly during TS.5. A 0.25m-high addition (U.19) was appended to the east side of U.14 where this western terrace wraps around the platform's northwest corner. Unit 19 is 0.7m wide north-south and continues the north-facing line of U.14 for a distance of 1.05m to the east of where the latter ended in TS.4. Unit 19 abuts Str. 106-1st's north basal facing, U.11, to the south.

The other addition is a 0.2m-wide wall (U.21) that continues the west face of U.14, 2.65m to the north. This 0.2m-tall construction joins U.14 at its northwest corner and does not junction with any surviving architecture on the north. Most likely, U.21 was added as part of an effort to define a series of surface-level room lying immediately north of Str. 106-1st (see Str. 105).

Unit 19 is fashioned of unmodified river cobbles while U.21 consists almost entirely of two long pieces of columnar basalt laid end-to-end. The rocks in both cases are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

Though the evidence is not clear, it appears that U.16, the northern summit ascent, was entirely covered now by the purposeful deposition of a fill composed of a dark brown clayey silt containing small to very large flat-laid rocks (F.3). The dispositions of these stones tentatively suggest that this putative fill was faced by a 0.48m-tall wall located 1m north of U.16, though the evidence for such a construction is far from clear. If said facing existed, its presence would have narrowed the area of U.13 floor still visible on the north terrace margin to 0.67m across.

Time Span 7

Soon after Str. 106-1st was abandoned several distinct soils were laid down. A very dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2) well-sorted fine sand (S.2) blanketed the eastern 0.7m of U.4 and the base of U.5 (the western step-up to the summit) by as much as 0.11m. Stratum 2 pinches out against the U.4 floor fronting U.5 at a point 0.7m west of the latter ascent. Stratum 3, a dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2), well-sorted clayey silt, covers the U.20 western step by 0.1m. This soil extends for 0.57m west of U.20 where it pinches out against the stone of the U.22 floor. Stratum 3 also buries all but the uppermost 0.35m of U.11, the platform's northern basal facing. A dark gray-brown (10YR 4/2) well-sorted sandy silt (S.4), in turn, overlies these layers and final-phase architecture by as much as 0.14m on the west though it was not clearly identified on the north and south. In the latter areas a very dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2)

clayey silt (S.5) envelopes earlier deposits and architecture by up to 0.34m. Stratum 5 is found overlying S.4 on the west by 0.13-0.18m. Embedded in S.3-5 is a light (on the west) to moderately dense concentration of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.4).

Structure 106-Sub1

Structure 106-Sub1 consists of at least one earthen-floored, surface-level building and associated constructions lying 0.5-8.5m north of Str. 106-1st. None of this architecture was clearly visible on the surface. Excavations here within Subop. 50B, N, V, and X cleared approximately 39m², digging reaching a maximum depth of 0.62m below modern ground surface. One major building episode was identified in the course of this work which was conducted from February 5-March 25, 2002 by Georlin Thorne and Joni Harbeck.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	Str. 106-Sub1-1 st	U.3, 4	-	-	
2	Str. 106-Sub1-1 st	U.1, 2, 5	-	-	
3	Str. 106-Sub1-1 st	U.6-11	-	F.1-3	
4	Str. 106-Sub1-1 st	U.12, 13	-	-	
5	-	-	S.1-4	F.4	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to here was the erections of two stone walls (U.3 and 4) that are 0.4-0.5m high by 0.3-0.8m wide. Unit 3, the wider of the two constructions, is 2.1m long and aligned ca. 12 degrees. It is joined on the north by U.4 which extends at least 2.4m to the west, running at a right angle to U.4. These two constructions are apparently the north (U.3) and east (U.4) sides of an earthen-floored, surface-level building which was seemingly open on the south and, possibly, the west (it is unclear if U.3 continued to run under Str. 105-1st's U.20 or stops just beneath that stone platform). The space delimited by U.3 and 4 covers 1.8m by 2.4m. Unit 3's relatively unusual width, especially compared with U.4's girth, suggests that the former might have doubled as a support for a perishable upper wall and a shelf or bench. Units 3 and 4 were fashioned using unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 2

During this interval the edifice defined by U.3 and 4 remained in use. The east side of Unit 4's base was, however, covered by the construction of a stone floor (U.1) that extends back (south) at least 2.4m from what looks to have been a low (0.27m-high) stone riser (U.2; U.1's south end is buried beneath TS.3 architecture [U.10]). Unit 2 was traced for a scant 0.6m east over which distance it runs at a right angle from its intersection with U.4's northeast corner. Fronting U.2 on the north is another

stone pavement (U.5) which is estimated to extend at least 1.43m north of U.2 (U.5's north edge was not revealed and its southernmost 0.96m is covered by TS.3 architecture (U.6). The relationship between U.2 and 5 was, therefore, not directly determined. The rocks used in making U.1, 2, and 5 are primarily unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval the area lying downslope (north) of U.3 and 4 was apparently transformed into a formal entryway. Unfortunately, preservation here was poor and many of the relevant constructions could not be definitively defined.

The putative entrance was flanked on the east and west by walls (U.6 and 9) that are 0.24m tall and run for 1.7m (U.9 on the west) and at least 0.95m on the east (U.6) at an angle of ca. 282 degrees. The distance between U.6 and 9 measures 1.65m and is spanned by what we very tentatively infer are the remnants of two low stone steps (F.1, 2). The basal riser (F.1) is 0.3m wide while the uppermost ascent (F.2) leads directly to a stone floor (U.8) that extends 0.94m south to U.2. All but the top rocks of the latter riser were now covered. Unit 8's east margin was not found though the remnants of a low stone wall (F.3) may have served this function on the west. Feature 3 was tentatively identified running south for 1.5m from U.9's west edge to the point where it runs beneath Str. 105-1st's U.20. Unit 6 is still fronted by the U.5 pavement for at least 1.43m on the north (as noted under TS.2, U.5's north margin was not located). The F.1 and 2 steps are bounded on the east by a low stone wall (U.7) which was traced for 1.25m north from its right-angle intersection with U.6; it is unclear if a comparable construction bordered the putative risers on the west.

At about the same time the area east and south of U.3 and 4 was seemingly raised approximately 0.28m (U.10). Unit 10 looks to have been a platform that was built against the southern 0.8m of U.3's east side, projecting 0.55m east from that earlier foundation. At this point, U.10 runs south for 1.2m before turning east again for at least 1m before leaving our excavations. Unit 10's southern margin was traced for 3.25m over which it was oriented ca. 283 degrees; the southeast or southwest corners of the putative U.10 platform were not clearly revealed. The exposed portions of the U.10 platform are 0.95-2.2m wide. The space defined by U.3 and 4 seems to have been filled with earth, those walls still projecting as much as 0.22m above the additions. Lying 0.3-0.9m south of U.10 is a 0.34m-tall wall (U.11) that runs for minimally 3.4m at an angle of roughly 273 degrees (its east and west ends were not uncovered). Unit 11 diverges increasingly from U.10's south edge from east to west. The architectural significance of U.11 is unclear; it may be a free-standing wall or the facing for a terrace extending back (south) towards Str. 106-1st. If the latter is the case, that terrace was not surfaced with stone.

As TS.3 drew to a close Str. 106-Sub1 consisted of an earthen-floored construction bordered on the north and east by stone foundations (U.4 and 3). The space thus enclosed covers 4.3m² and is open on the south and, possibly, the west. Fronting this construction on the north is a 0.24m-high stone terrace that is aligned approximately 282 degrees. Near what we infer to have been the center of this terrace is a possible staircase flanked by low stone walls on the east and (more uncertainly) the west. The basal rise is 0.3m wide while the uppermost step gives rise directly to a stone floor running back 0.94m south to U.4. The terrace on the east rises above and partially buries the earlier U.5 stone pavement (TS.2). Partially enveloping the U.3/4 structure is a 0.28m-tall stone platform (U.10) that covers the southern-most 0.8m of U.3 and is built against the TS.1 edifice's south flank. Unit 10's

cleared south side is aligned ca. 283 degrees. While this construction is surfaced with rock the U.3/4 room was floored with earth. That interior space was seemingly elevated to bring it level with the top of the U.10 platform though the U.3 and 4 foundations still projected about 0.22m above the additions. A wall standing 0.34m high is 0.3-0.9m south of U.10. It was traced for 3.4m over which it is oriented roughly 373 degrees. The architectural significance of this construction is uncertain.

All TS.3 architecture was fashioned primarily from unmodified cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. A few shaped blocks were recorded in U.10 and one was found in U.9. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Structure 106-Sub1-1st was modified only slightly during this interval. A 0.25m-tall by 0.4m-wide wall (U.12), was erected now to close partially the south side of the building's central room (defined on the east and north by the upper portions of U.3 and 4). Unit 12 runs 1.5m east from its intersection with the southeast corner of Str. 105-1st's U.20, ending 1m shy of U.3 on the east. This 1m-wide gap seems to have served as a doorway into an earthen-floored enclosure that covers 1.8x2.4m. Unit 13, in turn, is an L-shaped wall that was partially uncovered 0.6m south of U.11. The portion of this construction revealed in our investigations consists of a northern wall that was traced for 0.6m at an orientation of ca. 107 degrees. Another segment of U.13 heads south for at least 0.7m from the northern wall's east end, running at a more-or-less right angle from its northern counterpart. Most likely, U.13 is part of the foundations for a modest, surface-level building that was erected 0.6m north of Str. 106-1st.

It should be noted that, based on the relative depths of the relevant units, Str. 106-1st's U.21 was likely raised at this time. The introduction of U.21 formally set the area lying north of Str. 106-1st apart from the main plaza to the west. It also likely converted the area containing U.11 and 13 into an earthen-floored enclosure measuring roughly 2.7m north-south (from Str. 106-Sub1's U.10 to Str. 106-1st's north face) by at least 5m east-west (if a wall delimited this space on the east it was not found). A 0.6m-wide gap between Str. 106-1st's U.21's north end and Str. 106-Sub1's U.12 might well have provided passage into this area.

By the conclusion of TS.4, therefore, Str. 106-Sub1-1st consisted of two earthen-floored rooms set in a north south line. The northern room continued to be defined by U.3 and 4 on the east and north, was delimited by Str. 105-1st's U.20 on the west, and was now closed off by U.12 on the south. The space thus delimited covers 4.3m² and was entered through a 1m-wide doorway in its southeast corner. No built-in furniture was found in this enclosure though, as noted earlier (TS.1), U.3, the eastern footing, is sufficiently wide and long to have doubled as a bench and wall support. Immediately to the south is another earthen-floored compartment that encompasses at least 14m² and is bounded on the south by Str. 106-1st and on the west by a free-standing foundation that separates the room from the main plaza (Str. 106-1st's U.21). A 0.6m-wide gap in the enclosure's northwest corner likely provided passage from that plaza to the sizable southern compartment. Unit 11, a 0.34m-tall wall, which was raised in TS.3, runs across the approximate center of the southern room dividing it into northern and southern segments. The former covers approximately 3m² while its southern neighbor covers ca. 11m². It is not clear that U.11 supported an upper wall that divided the southern room into two distinct enclosures. The stone platform that borders the northern room on the east and the putative staircase

that fronts it on the north (described under TS.3) were seemingly still in use at this time. Units 12 and 13, which were raised during TS.4, were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

After Str. 106-Sub1-1st was abandoned, a brown clayey silt (S.1) accumulated to as much as 0.43m thick atop the U.5 floor in the northern portion of the edifice. Stratum 1 ascends 1m over 6.94m from north to south, leveling out after that for an additional 2m to the point where it intersects Str. 106-1st's north face. A 0.1m-thick lens composed of a brown clayey silt containing numerous small rocks (S.4) extends 1.64m south from U.3's south face and directly overlies U.10. Stratum 4 appears to have been laid down at about the same time as S.1 but is highly localized within our excavations. Strata 1 and 4 are, in turn, blanketed by 0.1-0.14m of a brown clayey sand (S.2) that was identified only on the north where it pinches out above the U.6 terrace. Covering all three layers by 0.08-0.36m is S.3, a dark brown clayey silt. Embedded in S.1-3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.4) that seemingly fell from final-phase architecture.

Structure 305

Structure 305 appeared on current ground surface to be a series of stone lines running parallel to land that gradually slopes up from northeast to southwest and northwest to southeast off the southeast corner of the Southeast Group's principal plaza. Structure 101A is 0.4m to the west while Str. 98 is 2m to the southeast. Excavations here within Subops. 19B, M, N, S, and W cleared roughly 35m², digging being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.3m below modern ground level within and beyond construction. Two building episodes were recognized in the course of these investigations which were directed by Mara Bernstein during the 2002 field season.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 305-1 st	U.1, 2	-	-	
3	Str. 305-1 st	U.3-7	S.3	F.1	
4	-	-	S.2	F.2	

Time Span 1

During this period a tan soil (S.1) that contains a dense concentration of small rocks (3cm or less along their largest dimensions) was deposited. Stratum 1 ascends 0.98m over 7.4m northwest to southeast and at a more gentle slope from northeast to southwest. No artifacts were found within S.1 which was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m. This soil seems to be the uppermost portion of a culturally sterile deposit that directly overlies bedrock.

Time Span 2

The earliest constructions found here are located at the top and base of the aforementioned northwest-southeast rise. At the summit there is a 0.12m-high by 0.8m-wide stone wall (U.1) that was traced for a maximum distance of 1.2m at an angle of roughly 212 degrees. Unit 1's southwest terminus

was not revealed and its northeast end seems to have been truncated by the construction of U.3 and 6 during TS.3. In fact, U.1 seems to have been re-purposed during this later interval as an 'anchor' onto which the U.3 and 6 terraces were affixed. Lying 5.7m to the northwest at the base of the slope is another low wall (U.2) that was traced for 1.65m at an angle of ca. 34 degrees. Unit 2 was exposed in its entirety, measures 0.2m across and was no more than 0.2m high. This unit's architectural significance is unclear though it may have been a terrace designed to slow the intrusion of slope wash into the Southeast Group's Principal Plaza.

In general, this interval witnessed the raising of what was likely a modest surface-level building atop a natural rise overlooking the Southeast Group's Principal Plaza together with the initiation of efforts to slow the down-slope migration of soil from that slope into the patio. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river-worn cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

As many as three terraces (U.3-5) were apparently raised now running northeast-southwest across the southeast-northwest trending slope on the southeast corner of the Southeast Group's Principal Plaza. The basal terrace (U.4) is 0.2m high, its stone-faced riser giving way to a 1.55m- to 1.84m-wide earthen surface that extends back (southeast) to U.5. Unit 5's cultural origins are unclear. This 0.3m-high (estimated) facing consists of angular stones that look to be firmly embedded in the underlying bedrock. As such, the stones may not have been introduced as parts of a purposeful construction but were simply taken advantage of in creating a relatively level surface southeast of them. Units 4 and 5 are 4.05m and 1.5m long and run at slightly divergent angles (ca. 75 degrees and 64 degrees, respectively). This discrepancy accounts for the variation noted in U.4's width. Unit 3, located at the crest of the rise, is 2.1-2.7m southeast of U.5 and stands 0.31m above the inferred level of the U.5 terrace. This uppermost terrace was aligned roughly 39 degrees, running 3.15m northeast from its intersection with U.1 on the southwest. It is unclear if the construction of which U.1 was a component was still in use now. As U.1's northeast end was apparently cut by the construction of U.3 it seems more likely that said earlier building was probably no longer in use now.

Extending for 5.9m northwest (ca. 325 degrees) from U.1 is another low ascent (U.6) that fronts the relatively low and gradual northeast-to-southwest ascent leading up to Str. 101B-1st's U.4. Neither U.4 nor U.5 join with U.6 though it is possible that the connecting stones have long since fallen from their original places due to erosion down the shallow gully formed at the interaction of the two natural rises. A rough stone surface (U.7) fills the 1.3-3.2m between U.6 on the east and Str. 101B-1st's U.4 on the west. This space covers 2.5m north-south, narrowing from south to north from a point about half way up U.5 to the latter's northern terminus. Unit 7's southern edge is not clearly defined and this floor may have continued further in this direction, possibly for an additional 4.8m to a point equal to the U.4/14 corner on Str. 101B-1st.

Traces of a pit (F.1) dug into S.1 were found 3.8m northwest of U.4. Feature 1 drops an observed 0.1m over 0.04m northwest-to-southeast and is filled with a hard-compacted, fine-textured, brown soil mottled with small pockets of gray ash (S.3). Feature 1's base and remaining sides were not revealed in our excavations.

Overall, Str. 305-1st was, by the end of TS.3, a series of four stone-faced, earth-surfaced terraces that were raised along the northwest face of a low rise situated on the southeast corner of the

Southeast Group's Principal Plaza. Three of these risers ascended the slope's northwest-to-southeast rise, standing 0.2-0.31m tall and measuring 1.55-2.7m across. Terrace lengths span 1.5-4.05m, these constructions oriented at angles ranging from 39-75 degrees. A single low riser runs for 5.9m at an approximate alignment of 325 degrees from U.1 (T.S.2) to a point roughly equal to the northeast corner of Str. 101B-1st's U.4. This terrace seemingly slowed erosion down the gentler southwest-to-northeast decline and bordered a stone surface that extends 1.3m (on the north) to 3.2m (on the south) west to Str. 101B-1st's U.4. This floor extends for 2.5m north-south and does not have a clear southern margin. A pit partially filled with ash lies 3.8m northwest of the basal northwestern terrace but its full depth and dimensions are unknown. Though it is not certain, it is likely that constructions raised during TS.2 were no longer in use now.

The terraces erected during TS.3 were largely fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. As noted above, the intermediate riser in the northwest-southeast ascending terrace system may simply have consisted of angular rocks embedded in natural bedrock that were selectively left in place to form a terrace. Though the stones used to form the U.7 surface are generally unmodified, one cut block was found among them.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 305-1st's abandonment the terraces were covered by 0.07-0.2m of a hard-compacted, dark brown clay (S.2). Embedded in S.2 is a very light scattering of rocks (F.2) that likely fell from final-phase architecture.

Structure 351

Structure 351 runs along the crest of the high terrace on which the Southeast Group was built. The land drops off steeply southeast of the building while to the northwest the terrain is relatively level. Located along the same terrace edge, Str. 98 is 2.7m to the northeast whereas Str. 97 is 0.5m to the southwest. Excavations directed here by Brandon Liverance within Subop. 19C, I, and R uncovered ca. 34m² and revealed two building episodes. Digging was pursued from February 5-March 1, 2002 to a maximum depth of 0.46m below modern ground surface outside construction.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 351-Sub1	U.1	-	-	
3	Str. 351-1 st	U.2-3	-	-	
4	Str. 351-1 st	U.4-5	-	-	
5	-	-	S.2	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval as much as 0.14m of a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, yellow-tan clay (S.1) was laid down atop apparent bedrock. Stratum 1 contains a dense concentration of small to medium-size rocks which seem to have derived from the underlying rock. Stratum 1 slopes up 0.06m

over 3.72m from northwest to southeast, dropping 0.2m across 0.7m southeast of Str. 351-1st. No artifacts were clearly associated with S.1.

Time Span 2

Unit 1, a 0.23m-high by 0.24m-wide wall, seems to be the only portion of Str. 351-Sub1 that survived to be identified. This construction runs 1.95m at an orientation of ca. 98 degrees and does not terminate in clear corners at either end. Unit 1 is embedded in, and does not run below, U.4 and 2, extending 1m eastward into the latter. Though it is difficult to infer the relations among these elements, it appears that U.1 was part of a surface-level construction that was superseded by Str. 351-1st. Whatever other walls and features might have been associated with Str. 351-Sub1, they were likely dismantled prior to the initiation of building efforts dating to TS.3. Why U.1 was left in place to be incorporated in later architecture is unclear, though the wall's continued existence does not appear to have interfered with Str. 351-1st's use. The rocks used to fashion U.1 were rounded cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed southward. All of the stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval Str. 351-1st consisted of a stone-faced and –filled wall that stood 0.32-0.4m high (slightly taller on the southeast flank where the ground starts to drop off down the steep terrace slope), was 1-1.3m wide, and extended for 3.4m at an orientation of roughly 222 degrees. This construction appears to have been raised in two increments. The northeast segment (U.2) measures 1.3m across by 2.1m long northeast-southwest and is succeeded on the southwest by a construction (U.3) that is 1m wide by 1.3m long. Units 2 and 3 exhibit a continuous line on the northwest while on the southeast U.3 is set back 0.3m from the southeast face of U.2. The distinction between U.2 and 3 is suggested by a change of construction noted 2.1m southwest of U.2's northeast face; specifically, a line of stones the flat faces of which are directed out to the southwest was noted at this point, seemingly marking the original southwest margin of U.2. Unit 3's southwest edge is also delimited by a similar line. It may be that U.3 was appended onto U.2 though we tentatively infer that the time which elapsed between these episodes was short. The rocks used to fashion U.2 and 3 were cobbles the naturally flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. All of these stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Unit 5 was added on to the southwest end of the U.2 and 3 wall at this time. Unit 5 continues the line of the earlier construction for an additional 1.5m, is 1m wide, and terminates on the southwest is a poorly preserved line. Overall, the addition of U.5 created a thick, low stone wall that was 4.9m long.

Unit 4 is an 'L'-shaped wall that is 0.2m high by 0.33-0.55m wide and which lies 0.8m northwest of the construction made up of U.2, 3, and 5. Unit 4's longer, northwestern arm runs for 1.85m at an angle of approximately 222 degrees while its northeastern segment projects 0.6m to the southeast, running at a right angle from its northwest component. The addition of U.4 created, together with U.2 and 3 on the southeast, a space measuring 0.8m by 1m that is completely open on the southwest. A 0.2m-wide gap breaches this cubicle's east corner. This compartment's floor is formed by the hard-compacted top of S.1.

All of the rocks used to fashion TS.4 architecture were cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter sides of these stones were directed outwards.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 351-1st's abandonment, as much as 0.28m of a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, dark brown to black clay (S.2) was deposited, covering all but the uppermost portions of final-phase architecture. Embedded in this soil is a light concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from Str. 351-1st after that edifice was no longer being maintained. The density of stones comprising F.1 increased to the southwest and the area between Str. 351-1st and Str. 97-1st was filled with a dense concentration of seemingly jumbled rocks. As noted in the discussion of the latter building, these stones were probably mixed with and overlying a stone surface that might have originally linked Str. 351-1st to its neighbor on the southwest.