

Kenyon College

Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

Four Valleys Archive

Anthropology

2000

PVC-El Coyote-Str 58, 59, 61-261-Excavation Report

Edward Schortman
schortma@kenyon.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras>



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Schortman, Edward, "PVC-El Coyote-Str 58, 59, 61-261-Excavation Report" (2000). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 71272.
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/71272>

This Excavation Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Four Valleys Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

El Coyote, Structures 58, 59, 61, 261 (Op. 4 and 5)

Structures 58, 59, 61, 63, and 64 enclose a patio measuring ca. 20x20m on the surface. This aggregate is located on a natural terrace that covers ca. 1600m². The terrace lies slightly below, and is delimited on the north and west, by the gentle slopes ascending to the upper terrace upon which the bulk of El Coyote was raised. Bordering the terrace on the south and east are the steep descents to an unnamed quebrada which descends precipitously from the uplands to the west. The land on which this patio group was erected ascends gradually from east-to-west and south-to-north away from that seasonal watercourse. In addition to the aforementioned buildings, Str. 65 was noted 4.5m south of Str. 58, and does not face onto the patio. This last building was poorly preserved and is one of several edifices that are in variable stages of eroding into the nearby quebrada.

Structure 58

Structure 58 closes off the east side of the patio, facing Str. 61, which is 12.3m to the west, and lies 2.1m southeast of Str. 59. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 4A and E uncovered ca. 103m² in the course of completely clearing the core platform and many of its later additions. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.56m and 0.7m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. Three major building phases were revealed in the course of this work that was overseen by R. Woodbridge from February 1-June 3, 2000.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 58-1 st	U.1-10	-	-	
3	Str. 58-1 st	U.11-28	-	-	
4	Str. 58-1 st	U.29-37, 41	-	F.1	
5	Str. 58-1 st	U.38-40	-	F.2-4	
6	-	-	S.2-3	F.5	-

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in and around Str. 58 is the deposition of a yellow-brown, hard-compacted, fine-textured clay that contains numerous small (1 cm or less in diameter) white inclusions (S.1). Stratum 1 is at least 0.2m thick; its base lies beyond excavation limits. The artifacts recovered from this layer imply a human presence in the immediate environs while S.1 was being laid down. Stratum 1 ascends 1.08m over 15.1m from south to north and approximately 0.5m over 8.46m from east to west.

Time Span 2

During this interval Str. 58-1st was a surface-level building defined by substantial stone foundations (U.1-4) on all sides. These footings are 0.5-1.2m wide and stand 0.93-1.17m tall above the stone floor (U.5) that covers the building's interior. The latter space consists of three cubicles divided by stone footings (U.7-8) that are 0.18-0.32m wide by 0.18-0.26m tall. The largest enclosure (Room 1) fills the entire eastern half of the interior and covers 1.4x2.1m.

Bordering Room 1 on the west are two compartments set in a north-south line: the northern example (Room 2) encompasses 1.2m on a side while its southern counterpart (Room 3) covers 0.9x1.2m. A niche (U.9) measuring 0.34m wide east-west by 0.37m deep north-south is built into Room 2's north wall 0.85m above the U.5 floor and 0.25m east from the enclosure's northwest corner. Unit 9 was apparently not roofed. A second niche (U.10) is built into Room 1's northeast corner, 1.65m east of U.9. Unit 10 is 1.17m wide east-west, 0.4m deep, and is 0.4m above the surface of the room's pavement (U.5). This niche extends 0.56m east of Room 1's northeast corner into U.3, the eastern foundation, leaving a space 0.61m wide facing out into the enclosure. The eastern extension is capped with two stone slabs at least one of which is limestone. The western portion of U.10 is not roofed. The only other built-in feature is a 0.12m-high stone-faced shelf (U.6) that runs the length of Room 1's north wall. Unit 6 is 0.2-0.53m wide, narrowing from west-to-east.

A doorway measuring 1.14m wide north-south, and sitting 0.23m above the U.5 floor, breaches the eastern perimeter wall (U.3) at a point 0.46m north of Room 1's southeast corner. There were no obvious doors linking Rooms 1-3 though the low walls that separated them provided easily surmountable obstacles to passing among these enclosures.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 58-1st was a surface-level building that measured 3.7x4.77m, was delimited by stone walls measuring 0.5-1.2m wide by 0.93-1.17m tall, and was aligned roughly 6 degrees. The construction's interior was surfaced with stone and divided among three compartments. The largest of these, Room 1 on the east, measured 2.9m² and was bordered on the west by two cubicles set in a north-south line. The northernmost of these enclosures (Room 2) covered 1.4m² while its southern neighbor (Room 3) encompassed 1.1m². An unroofed niche measuring 0.34m wide by 0.37m deep was built into Room 2's north wall, 0.85m above floor level. Another niche, this one covering 1.17m east-west by 0.4m deep, was set into Room 1's northeast corner, 0.4m above floor level. Fully 0.61m of this construction faces into the latter enclosure and was unroofed. The remainder extended into the hearing of the eastern foundation and was capped by two stone slabs. A 0.12m-high by 0.2-0.53m-wide stone shelf is set against Room 1's north wall and runs 1.5m east-west. The building was entered through a 1.14m-wide doorway that breaches the eastern footing and leads directly to Room 1. How movement among the three rooms was negotiated is unclear though the low heights (0.18-0.26m; 0.18-0.32m wide) of the dividing walls would not have posed serious obstacles to passing from one enclosure to another.

All TS.2 walls and floors were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles placed in a mud mortar. Some care was taken to ensure that the naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 3

In the course of TS.3, Str. 58-1st's east door was sealed, the niches filled in, and the building's interior was filled with a dense packing of stones set in a yellow-brown, hard compacted, fine-textured clay (U.27), the soil being very similar to the material comprising S.1. As a result of these efforts, what had been a surface-level building was converted into a platform that now stood 0.8m and 1.5m high on the north and south and 0.89m and 1.26m on the west and east, respectively. These height discrepancies result from the natural upward slope of the terrain on which Str. 58-1st was built, the land rising from east-to-west and south-to-

north. The platform's earthen summit encompassed 2.1x2.82m and consisted of a single room bounded by the tops of U.1-4 which now served as fill-retaining walls.

This newly remodeled platform served as the core onto which terraces and steps were appended on all sides. On the north, a 0.3m-high terrace (U.12) extended 1.1m north of U.1, the core platform's north basal wall. This stone-surfaced construction supported three compartments set in an east-west line in front (north) of the platform. The easternmost of these enclosures (Room 4) covers 1.05x1.5m, is completely open on the north, and is bordered by U.1 on the south and a low, 0.3m-wide footing (U.26) on the east. Room 5, immediately to the west, encompasses 0.8x1.1m and was accessed through a 0.55m-wide door in its northwest corner. Unit 24, which separates Room 4 and 5, is 0.5m high and unusually wide (0.7m across). It is possible that this short (0.6m long where it borders Room 5 on the east) stone construction doubled as a room divider and shelf that could have supported goods accessed from Room 4, 5, or both. The largest of the three northern compartments (Room 6) is bordered on the east and south by low stone foundations that are 0.2-0.3m wide (U.22 and 23). Room 6 is open to the north and west and covers 1.6m on a side.

On the east, Str. 58-1st is now fronted by a 0.6m-high by 0.46m-wide stone-faced terrace (U.11). Unit 11, in turn, is succeeded on the west by a wall (U.25) that stands 0.6m high and seals off the east side of U.3 (the core platform's east basal facing). It seems likely that U.25 originally rose to 0.72m high, fully covering U.3's east face. The addition of U.25 may have served to seal the door which provided access to Str. 58-1st's interior during TS.2.

The south face was now mounted by a 0.47m-high stone-faced terrace (U.13) that projected 1.6m south of U.2, the core platform's southern facing. A stone-floored (U.15) cubicle covering 0.85x2.6m (Room 7) is built into this southern terrace. Room 7 is bordered by U.12 on the east, U.2 on the north, and U.14, a 0.36m-tall by 0.35m-wide wall, on the south. Unit 15 is 0.12m below U.13's tread and is bordered on the west by a 0.15m-high, 0.9m-long, by 0.9m-wide stone shelf (U.16).

Str. 58-1st was now apparently entered from the west by ascending three stone-faced steps (U.17-19). The basal riser (U.17) is 0.16m high, 0.54m wide east-west, and runs 4.05m south from its intersection on the north with U.12, the northern basal terrace. Unit 17 is succeeded by U.18 which rises 0.26m above its predecessor and extends east for 0.33m where it terminates in U.19. The latter is a 0.09m-tall step-up to a 2.31m-wide stone-floored (U.20) landing. Unit 20 measures 2.7m north-south and is bounded on the east by U.4, the core platform's west basal wall. The latter looms 0.35m above U.20. Unit 21, a 0.1m-high block of stones, borders U.20 on the south and separates it from a putative enclosure to the south (Room 8). Unit 21 projects 1.01m west of U.4, is 0.85m wide north-south, and intersects U.4 at a point 0.15m north of the core platform's southwest corner. Room 8 measures 1.4x1.6m and is open on the south and west. A 0.5m-wide gap between U.21 and 28 (see below) may have provided passage from the U.20 landing to this putative enclosure.

Units 17-19 stop 2m shy (north) of U.13's western end. The area between these two constructions is filled with U.28, a low, north-south-running facing that has an indentation measuring 0.6m north-south by 0.2m deep near its center. It is possible that U.13 and U.17-19 on the south and north, respectively, define a surface-level room that covers 0.55x1.7m, is open on the west, and contains a shallow niche on the east.

By TS.3's conclusion, Str. 58-1st was a platform that stood 0.8-1.5m tall, measured 6.52x8.49m, and was oriented approximately 2 degrees. The original surface-level edifice's former eastern door was sealed and filled with a mixture of earth and stone, creating a platform that covered 3.7x4.77m and supported an earthen-floored summit that encompassed 5.9m². This space was not subdivided nor did it support any surviving built-in furniture. The especially wide northern basal facing (U.1; 1.2m across) and its eastern counterpart (U.3, with the addition of U.25; 1.27m across) may have doubled as fill-retaining walls and benches. This platform served as the core onto which terraces were built on all sides. The east flank was fronted by a 0.6m-high by 0.46m-wide stone-faced riser that terminated in the platform's newly enlarged eastern basal wall (U.3 onto which U.25 was added to the east). This addition served to close the earlier eastern doorway into Str. 58-1st. On the north a 0.3m high by 1.1m-wide stone-paved terrace supported three rooms set in an east-west line in front of the core platform. These compartments measure, from east-to-west, 1.6m² (Room 4), 0.9m² (Room 5), and 2.6m² (Room 6). The eastern (Room 4) and western (Room 6) cubicles are open to the north while the central enclosure (Room 5) was entered through a 0.55m-wide door in its northwest corner. A 0.5m-high, 0.7m-wide, 0.6m-long stone shelf located between the Rooms 4 and 5 may have been accessed from both compartments. The building's southern side was faced by a 0.47m-high by 1.6m-wide terrace built into which was constructed a stone-floored compartment (Room7) covering 2.2m². Room 7 is set against the core platform's south basal facing, its floor set 0.12m below the level of the top of the southern terrace. A 0.15m-high, 0.9m-long, by 0.9m-wide stone-faced shelf borders this enclosure on the west.

Structure 58-1st was entered by passing over three steps that lead up towards the summit from the west. The staircase runs 4.05m south from its intersection with the north terrace facing and consists of risers that are 0.09-0.26m tall by 0.33-0.54m wide. The stairs give way to a stone-surfaced landing that encompasses 6.2m² and fronts the core platform on the west. The landing is bordered by Room 6 on the north and another possible cubicle (Room 8) on the south. The latter measures 2.2m² and is open to the south and west where it overlooks another compartment built on ground surface into the platform's western basal wall. The latter covers 0.9m² and has a niche measuring 0.6x0.2m built into its east wall. This space is unencumbered by walls on its west side.

Architectures raised during this interval consists of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks are directed outwards.

Time Span 4

Structure 58-1st retained its basic form and dimensions during TS.4. The primary modifications came in the form of additions made to the edifice's north and south flanks.

On the south, a 1.7m-wide stone pavement projects at least 1m south from Str. 58-1st's southwest corner (U.31; the surface's south end was not revealed). Lying 1.35m east of U.31, also built against the southern terrace facing (U.13), is a small enclosure defined by low, broad stone walls (U.33 and 34). Unit 33, which closes this space off on the west, is a block composed of rocks set vertically; it measures 0.65-1m north-south (narrowing from east-to-west) by 1.5m east-west. The southern and eastern margins of the enclosure are delimited by a stone construction (U.34) that stands 0.29m tall. Unit 34 traces an irregular outline, extending roughly 1m along an azimuth of 205 degrees from the its abutment with Str. 58's southeast corner. It then turn and runs approximately 3m to the west to a point 0.15m east of U.33. Unit 34 is

widest on the east, where it is ca. 1.4m across; the 3m-long western projection is 0.4m across. Within the 0.8x2.4m defined by U.33, 34, and the southern terrace facing (U.13) there is a patch of heavily burned earth (F.1) that covers 0.7x0.9m (measured across the center). This charred earth is 0.07m thick and slopes up 0.04m over 0.6m south-to-north, following the natural contours of the land here. It may be that the construction set against Str. 58-1st's southeast corner was part of a facility related to cooking or firing ceramic vessels.

Unit 35, in turn, is a 0.48m-tall by 0.5m-wide wall that extends at least 3.3m southwest at an angle of roughly 205 degrees from U.34's southeast corner (U.35's southwest terminus was not identified). This construction is fronted on the southeast for 2.75m by a 0.37m-high construction (U.36). Unit 36 is 0.2-0.3m wide (narrowing from northeast-to-southwest) and intersects U.35 at a point 1.4m southwest of its intersection with U.34. Unit 35 may be part of a terrace system designed to slow erosion down the southeastward trending slope leading to the nearby quebrada. Though U.36's function is unclear, it may have been added to reinforce U.35 on its vulnerable, downsloping side. Unit 37 extends 1m southeast of U.36. It stands 0.24m tall and is minimally 0.5m wide (U.37's southwest flank was not clear). Unit 37 might be part of the same terrace system that includes U.35 and 36.

A low stone platform (U.32) is 0.2m south of U.33 and an equal distance east of U.31. This building measures 2.4m at an azimuth of ca. 278 degrees and was traced for 0.6m to the south (like U.31, U.32's southern edge was not uncovered). It is likely that the U.32 platform and U.31 surface were parts of a complex of low constructions that grew up south of Str. 58-1st late in that building's occupation. The U.35-37 terrace system would have helped to maintain the integrity of the land on which these edifices were raised.

On the north a block composed of vertically set stones (U.29) was erected against the platform's northern terrace (U.12) in front (north) of Room 4 (the easternmost compartment in the line of three rooms raised atop the U.12 terrace during TS.3). Unit 29 is an estimated 0.4m tall and the main bulk of the construction projects 0.83m north of U.12 and is 1.45-1.7m wide east-west (narrowing from south-to-north). A 0.15m-wide projection (included in U.29) extends 1m west from the northwest corner of this block, running more-or-less parallel to the line of U.12. The space enclosed by U.29, its westward projection, and U.12 measures 0.6x1m and is open on the west.

Lying 0.8m north of U.29 is what seems to have been a free-standing wall (U.30) that is 0.32m high by 0.26m wide. Unit 30 was followed for 2.5m over which it maintained an orientation of approximately 272 degrees. How U.30 figured into any particular construction is unclear; it may, like its southern contemporaries, be part of a group of small buildings raised around Str. 58-1st late in that platform's occupation.

A low wall composed of unfaced rocks set vertically (U.41) was uncovered 0.8m east of Str. 58-1st's southeast corner. This wall runs for 1m north-south, is 0.2-0.3m wide (narrowing from south-to-north), and is slightly curved, its concave surface facing east away from the platform.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 58-1st retained the form and dimensions it had achieved during TS.3. It had, however, become the focus for a series of constructions some of which were appended to Str. 58-1st's northern and southern facings. Most of these additions were concentrated along the building's south flank where a stone pavement measuring 1.7m across (east-west) extended at least 1m south from Str. 58-1st's southwest corner. Fully 1.35m east of

that surface is a cubicle covering 1.9m² and bounded by the platform's southern basal terrace and low stone walls. A 0.1m-wide gap in the compartment's southwest corner provided for the passage of air into this space, possibly to feed oxygen to the fire that periodically burned within it. Evidence for the latter conflagrations appears in the form of a 0.07m-thick patch of burned earth that covers 0.7x0.9m.

Erosion down the slope towards the bordering quebrada to the east and south of Str. 58-1st was slowed by the construction of a stone terrace system that was anchored to the platform's southeast corner and extended at least 3.3m at an angle of ca. 205 degrees from that point. This 0.48m-high (preserved) construction was apparently shored up over its southernmost-exposed 2.75m by a slightly lower wall (0.37m tall) that was built against the terrace's southeast side. The area south of Str. 58-1st that was protected by this set of terraces seems to have supported an unknown number of low stone constructions one of which was a stone platform located 0.2m south of the burned compartment and measuring 2.4m east-west (oriented ca. 278 degrees) and at least 0.6m north-south.

Built about now against Str. 58-1st's north terrace was an earthen floored cubicle bordered by stone walls on the east and north that stand 0.4m tall. The compartment encompasses 0.6m². This space is open on the west and shows no signs of burning. A 0.32m-high by 0.26m-wide, possibly free-standing wall was recorded 0.8m north of this diminutive enclosure. This construction was traced for 2.5m over which it maintained an orientation of roughly 272 degrees. Most likely, there were several humble constructions scattered over the terrain north of Str. 58-1st, this wall being part of one of them. The line of vertically set stones lying 0.8m east of Str. 58-1st's southeast corner (U.41) hints at the existence of more modest constructions on this side of the building during TS.4. Unit 41 runs 1m long north-south, is 0.2-0.3m wide, and is slightly curved, bowing out near its center on the west.

Most of the constructions raised during TS.4 were fashioned using unmodified river cobbles set horizontally in a mud mortar. The exceptions are U.33, 29, and 41 on Str. 58-1st's south, north, and east sides. These consisted primarily of rocks set vertically, creating lines of stones set on end. At least three faced blocks, set vertically on end, were incorporated in U.29.

Time Span 5

During this period it appears that Str. 58-1st was largely abandoned. There are hints that the building's use was terminated, in part, through purposeful actions. The strongest evidence for such initiatives is the dense packing of cobbles (primarily), 0.3-0.7m thick, set horizontally in a brown soil matrix over much of the edifice (F.2-4). Features 2-4 are most clearly recognized on the south side of the edifice where they cover the southern terrace and Room 7 (F.2), the burnt compartment set against the southern terrace's south face (F.3), and atop the area bordered by the U.35-37 terraces on the southeast (F.4). What distinguishes these concentrations of rock from tumbled debris (F.5) is the density and horizontal disposition of their component stones. Comparable deposits of rock and earth may have blanketed the edifice's other flanks but they were not as obvious there. It appears, therefore, that at least Str. 58-1st's south side was purposefully buried by the deposition of numerous, carefully placed rocks.

Sometime after those stones were laid in place a modest edifice was built atop Str. 58-1st's now-decayed summit. The surviving portions of this construction are: the building's apparent western and northern foundations (U.40 and 39) and an L-shaped wall (U.38) contained within the space delimited by U.39 and 40. The last two footings are 0.08-0.19m high,

0.3m wide, and join to make the northwest corner of a room measuring 2.9x3.15m. These walls are oriented ca. 86 degrees (U.39) and 188 degrees (U.40), rest atop and overlap U.1 and 4, and do not link up with foundations on the east and south. U.38 is 1.79m south from the northern foundation (U.39) and was traced for 1.35m along its long east-west dimension. On the east, U.38 projects north for 0.7m. Both segments of U.38 are 0.2m wide. These three constructions seem to be the poorly preserved remnants of an extensive, but relatively insubstantial, construction that was raised atop the eminence provided by the abandoned remnants of Str. 58-1st.

By TS.5's conclusion, Str. 58-1st was covered with both debris resulting from its gradual collapse and, on the south at least, by carefully placed stones set in an earth matrix to a thickness of 0.3-0.7m. Raised atop this ruined hulk was a relatively insubstantial construction composed of a room measuring roughly 9.1m². This space was bounded on the north and west by stone foundations measuring 0.08-0.19m tall by 0.3m wide; no sign of any such footings were noted on the south and east. The only built-in furniture recorded in this enclosure is a 0.2m-wide, L-shaped wall that runs 1.35m east-west and has a stone projection that extends 0.7m north from its east end. The stones used as both fill and to fashion walls during TS.5 consist almost exclusively of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud matrix. A cut block was recorded in the F.3 material that filled the southern burned compartment.

Time Span 6

By now Str. 58-1st was completely abandoned. During this interval a brown moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil (S.2) accumulated to depths of 0.12-0.28m over S.1. Stratum 2, in turn, was covered by a very similar soil that was distinguished by its darker brown color and greater density of small roots (S.3). Stratum 3 is as much as 0.2m thick. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from Str. 58-1st architecture (F.5). Feature 5 was, as is to be expected, densest closest to the platform and peters out with increasing distance from the building. This debris was traced for 2.82m north of Str. 58-1st.

Structure 59

Structure 59 seals off the north side of the patio, lying 2.1m northwest of Str. 58 and 7m northeast of Str. 61. The land on which this edifice was built slopes up 1m over 8.2m southwest-to-northeast and roughly 0.2m across 7.3m southeast-to-northwest. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 2A (part of a test-pitting program conducted in June-July, 1999), 4D, and 4C cleared ca. 112m², revealing all of the building's final form. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.76m and 1m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Four construction phases were revealed in the course of this work which was overseen in Subop 4C and D by E. Ebbits and S. King during the 2000 field season.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 59-Sub1	U.1	-	-	
3	Str. 59-1 st Str. 59-Sub2	U.3-11 U.2	-	F.1-2	

	Str. 59-Sub3	U.12			
4	Str. 59-1 st	U.13-14, 21-23, 26-28, 41, 43	-	F.3-4	
5	Str. 59-1 st	U.15-21, 24-25, 29-36, 42			
6	Str. 59-1 st Str. 59-Sub4 Str. 59-Sub5 Str. 59-Sub6	U.40 U.37 U.38 U.39	-	-	
7	-	-	S.1-3	F.5	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 59-1st's environs is the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay with numerous small (1cm or less in diameter) white stone inclusions (S1). As accumulation of S.1 resumed during TS.6, it is hard to say how much of this soil settled into place now. Based on observed relations between S.1 and later architecture, we tentatively infer that at least 0.5m of this earth was in place prior to the initiation of construction (S.1's base was not encountered).

Time Span 2

During this interval the area covered by what would become Str. 59-1st was occupied by at least one relatively small building that was likely raised directly on ancient ground surface (Str. 59-Sub1). The surviving fragment of this construction (U.1) that we encountered is located 2.55m northeast of Str. 59-1st. This wall stands at least 0.15m high and was traced for 0.55m at an orientation of ca. 99 degrees, 30 minutes. Unit 1's width and full east-west length were not revealed; we are also not certain that its base was identified. Unit 1 was fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were consistently directed southward.

Time Span 3

During this period Str. 59-1st took the form of a sizable surface-level edifice. It was defined by large stone foundations (U.3-6) that are 0.9-1.5m wide by 0.92-1.19m tall (measured above the interior floors). These substantial walls bound two rooms set in a northwest-southeast line and which are separated by a stone wall (U.7) that is 0.53m wide by 1.18m tall. Unit 7 spans the full northeast-southwest width of the building's interior and overlaps 0.2m onto the northeast footing (U.6). The northwestern compartment (Room 1) encompasses 1.72x2.46 and is floored with stone (U.8). Built into U.6 (the northeast foundation) are two stone-lined and -surfaced niches that are 0.46m apart and open southwest into Room 1. The northwestern example (U.10) is 0.52m wide by 0.5m deep by an estimated 0.52m high. Its southeastern neighbor (U.11) measures 0.36m across by 0.6m deep by an inferred 0.59m high. Unit 10 is 0.67m above the U.8 floor while U.11 is 0.6m above that pavement. The southeast compartment (Room 2) covers 0.9x1.85m and is paved with stones (U.9). Unit 9 is set 0.09m above the U.8 surface of Room 1. No built-in furniture was recorded in Room 2

Two roughly circular gaps were noted in U.8 (F.1 and 2). Feature 1 occupies Room 1's east interior corner and measures 0.82x0.95m. Located 0.6m to the west, F.2 covers

0.55x0.75m. Features 1 and 2 appear to represent the results of stone removal, perhaps conducted immediately before this building was filled in during TS.4. Digging pursued to as much as 0.58m below pavement level into underlying S.1 failed to reveal any materials that might have been deposited as a result of these ancient excavation. The investigation of F.1 did uncover what may be the outlines of a 0.22m-deep pit that immediately underlies the U.8 floor and measures 0.82m across, either continuing under U.7 or ending abruptly under that wall on the southeast. Said pit (included in F.1) may have been lined with small to medium-size river cobbles and filled with a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay indistinguishable from S.1. No signs of a comparable pit were noted in F.2 and we remain uncertain what the gaps in U.8's pavement signify.

Hints of another, more modest surface-level building (Str. 59-Sub2) were encountered 1.15m northeast of U.6. The remnant of this putative earthen-floored building uncovered in the course of excavations is a (minimally) 0.1m tall stone foundation (U.2) that was traced for 1.7m at an orientation of ca. 20 degrees. Though it is obscured by later construction, we apparently exposed U.2's full northeast-southwest length; there are hints that it turned a corner on the northeast extending for at least 0.35m to the northwest from this point. Structure 59-Sub3, in turn, is represented by a 0.25m-high by 0.7m-wide wall (U.12) revealed 2.7m southeast of Str. 59-Sub2 and 2.15m northeast of Str. 59-1st's east corner. Unit 12, aligned approximately 104 degrees over the 1.25m it was exposed, is likely the ample foundation for another surface-level building.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 59-1st consisted of a sizable surface-level edifice that covered 4.3x5.74m and was aligned ca. 11 degrees, 30 minutes. The edifice contained two stone-floored compartments arranged in a northwest-southeast line and bounded by sizable foundations that are 0.53-1.5m wide by 0.92-1.19m tall. The northwest enclosure (Room 1) measures 4.2m² and has two stone-lined and -surfaced niches built into its broad northeast foundation. The latter are 0.46m apart, rest 0.6-0.67m above Room 1's floor, and measure 0.36-0.52m wide by 0.5-0.6m deep by an estimated 0.52-0.59m high. Room 2 on the southeast covers 1.7m² and has no built-in features. We could detect no doors that would have provided access into this structure or facilitated passage between Rooms 1 and 2. At some point, possibly just before the building was filled in during TS.4, two holes were dug into Room 1's floor resulting in the removal of stones from that surface. The larger member of the pair of roughly circular gaps in the surface occupies the compartment's east corner and measures 0.82x0.95m while its counterpart 0.6m to the west covers 0.55x0.75m. Digging up to 0.58m below Room 1's floor within both circles revealed the continuation of S.1 but did not encounter any materials that might have been deposited during these ancient excavations. Hints of a 0.22m-deep pit were encountered just below floor level in the larger of the two stone-gaps but there were no clear signs of what purpose(s) this declivity might have served.

What looks to have been the southeast foundation of a second surface-level building (Str. 59-Sub2) was unearthed 1.15m northeast of Str. 59-1st. This earthen-floored construction measures 1.7m along an orientation of approximately 20 degrees and is bounded on the southeast by a foundation that stood at least 0.1m tall. Signs of a comparable edifice, Str. 59-Sub3, were located 2.7m southeast of Str. 59-Sub2. Oriented ca. 104 degrees, only 1.25m of the building's presumed southwest flank was exposed.

All known constructions raised during TS.3 were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were consistently directed outwards.

Time Span 4

It was at this time that Str. 59-1st was filled in with a mixture of earth and stone (U.13). It may be that the original division of the edifice's interior into two rooms was replicated in the newly elevated superstructure though it seems likely that the niches which formerly graced Room 1 were no longer usable. Structure 59-Sub2 which lay to the northeast during TS.3 was now completely covered by TS.4 architecture.

Appended to the platform's northeast face was an extensive set of additions that grew in several increments. The first version seems to have consisted of a 0.79m-tall, 5.8m-long construction (composed of U.21, 23, and 26) that projected 1.86m northeast from, and ran parallel to, the core platform's northeast facing (U.6). Units 21 and 23 are the southeast and northwest facings of this addition while U.26 delimits its northeast side and rests directly on U.2. These units are backed by a fill composed of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay (see S.1) that contains a few rocks (U.28). Unit 23 joins the platform at a point 0.7m southeast of its north corner. Though dislocations to U.26's southeast end were caused by later construction, it appears that U.21 extended an estimated 2.1m to the southwest from its corner with U.26 before turning a corner and running 0.65m to the northwest to join the platform's east corner.

This addition supported Rooms 3 and 5, arranged in a northwest-southeast line, and bordered by the core platform on the southwest. Room 3, the northwestern member of the dyad, covers 1.38x3.2m and contains a 0.3m-tall stone construction (U.27) in its approximate center. Unit 27 is 0.46m wide northeast-southwest by 1.1m long and may have served as a free-standing shelf. Built against the enclosure's northwest wall (U.23) is a 0.3m-high by 0.4m-wide stone-faced shelf (U.43). Unit 43 runs for the full northeast-southwest width of Room 3 (1.38m). Room 3's earthen floor looks to have been 0.3m below that of Room 1's reconstructed surface atop the core platform's summit, immediately to the southwest. It was an equal distance below the top of U.26 which delimits the compartment on the northeast. Room 5 is separated from Room 3 by a 0.45m-wide foundation (U.22). Unfortunately, this enclosure was disrupted by later building efforts and so we can say little about Room 5's form and built-in architecture. The compartment covered an estimated 1.45x1.5m and may have been surfaced with earth.

At some point in the course of TS.4, U.26 was expanded 0.23m to the northeast by the addition of U.41. This addition rests on 0.06m of a yellow-brown clay, separating it from U.2, and rises to the same height as U.26. The result of adding U.41 would have been to create a narrow outset that fronted, but did not run the full northwest-southeast length of, Room 3.

Access to the summit might have been achieved by ascending a step set against the platform's southeast flank (U.3). The step is set 1.1m southeast of the core platform's east corner (junction of U.3 and 6). The basal riser (U.14) is 0.3m high, projects 0.64m southeast of U.3, and runs for at least 1.9m southwest-northeast parallel to U.3 (the step's southwest end was not identified; it may have been dismantled during construction of a later staircase here, U.15-17). Unit 3 rises 0.64m above U.14, making for a formidable ascent to Room 2 and the summit. This suggests that: U.14 was not part of a staircase but some sort of low outset; or, a riser intervening between U.14 and 3 was dismantled during the building of a later staircase

here (U.15-17). We are inclined to accept tentatively the latter interpretation as otherwise there is no obvious way of reaching Str. 59-1st's summit during TS.4.

By the conclusion of TS.4 what had been a surface-level structure in TS.3 was now a sizable, earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.79m (on the northeast) to 1.19m tall (on the down-sloping southwest flank), measured 5.73x6.25m (excluding the Op. 41 outset and putative U.14 step), and retained its earlier orientation of ca. 11 degrees, 30 minutes. The summit consisted of four rooms; Rooms 1 and 2 continued to be arranged in a northwest-southeast line bounded now by what were the tops of the core platform's basal facings (U.3-6). The niches that had been built into Room 1's northeast wall during TS.3 were now filled in and there are no clear signs of built-in furniture in either compartment. The very wide northern facing (U.6, 1.5m across) along with the slightly narrower southern retaining wall (U.5, 1.1m wide) might have served as benches as well as fill retaining walls and supports for the superstructure's perishable upper walls. A 0.7m-high facing projects 1.86m northeast from U.6 and fronts Rooms 1 and 2. This addition, which completely buries U.6, is 5.8m long northwest-southeast and is offset 0.65-0.7m southeast from the latter facing. This extension of Str. 59-1st to the northeast supports two enclosures (Rooms 3 and 5) that generally parallel Rooms 1 and 2 in their arrangement. The larger of the earthen-floored compartments (Room 3) is on the northwest, encompasses 4.4m², and contains a 0.3m-tall stone shelf in its approximate center. The latter construction is 1.1m long northwest-southeast by 0.46m-wide. A 0.3m-high by 0.4m-wide by 1.38m-long stone-faced shelf was set against Room 3's northwest foundation. Immediately to the southeast, Room 5 covers 2.2m² and seems to have been devoid of built-in furniture. This compartment was, however, seriously damaged by later building efforts and so we cannot rule out the possibility that it might have originally been outfitted with architectural features that have left no trace. The summit may have been reached by ascending a 0.3m-high step that projects 0.64m southeast from U.3 (the core platform's southeast facing). This putative riser runs for at least 1.9m northeast-southwest from a point 1.1m southwest of the core platform's east corner (that corner being formed by the junction of U.3 and 6). As the core platform's summit still loomed 0.64m above the putative step it is likely that another riser invented between the basal ascent and the superstructure. That possible step could have been destroyed during later construction efforts here. An outset measuring 0.23m across was appended to the platform's newly constituted northeast facing (U.26) late in TS.4. This addition would have fronted most, but not all, of Room 3.

Constructions raised during this interval were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 5

During TS.5 Str. 59-1st's platform was expanded to the northeast and, to a more limited extent, on the northwest. The core of this expansion is bordered by stone facings (U.18-21) that stand up to 0.77m tall on the northeast and 0.35m high on the northwest. These walls retain a fill composed of a dense packing of small to large cobbles set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown soil (U.29). The addition is 1.14m wide northeast-southwest (measured across its approximate center on the northeast) and 3.1m across on the northwest (measured from the northwest side of U.23). The expansion intersects the earlier platform at its east corner and 0.8m southwest of its north corner. The addition's north face (U.20) steps out (northeast) 0.15m at a point 3.1m southeast of its north corner while its southeast facing (a

continuation of U.21) may step back (northwest) 0.15m at a point 1m southwest of its putative east corner (the terrace's east side was heavily disrupted by TS.6 construction).

A 0.2m-high step-up (U.31) extends 0.75-0.9m northeast of the addition's northeast face (U.20) and runs parallel to U.20 for at least 8m. Unit 31 joins U.20 at a point 0.4m southeast of the latter's north corner; its intersection with U.20 near that construction's east corner was obscured by TS.6 architecture. Set near the estimated center of U.31, and against U.20's northeast face, is a 0.24m-tall step (U.30). Unit 30 is 0.54m wide by 1.4m long and is set back 0.32m southwest of U.31's northeast face. Together, U.31,30, and 20 provided a set of three steps leading northeast-southwest to Room 3. The latter's floor may have been raised about 0.3m now by the addition of a moderately dense concentration of medium to small cobbles set in a fine-textured, yellow-brown clay (U.42). Deposition of U.42 would have buried all but the top of U.43 and U.27. It seems likely that, while U.27 no longer served as a shelf, its top may have remained visible and possibly acted as an entry marker in the compartment's center, directing traffic towards Rooms 1 and 2 to the southwest. Room 3's floor was now at the same level as the earthen surfaces of Rooms 1 and 2. Given its poor state of preservation, it is unclear whether Room 5's floor was raised at this time.

Lying immediately northwest of Room 3 is a compartment (Room 4) built atop the newly created addition. Room 4 covers 1.65x1.8m and was bordered on the northwest, northeast, and southwest by stone foundations that are 0.2-0.4m tall by 0.4-0.9m wide (U.24, 25, and 33). The floor of this compartment is 0.4m lower than its counterpart in Room 3. A 0.45m-wide door in the room's west corner provided access to Room 4's stone floor (U.34). A ca. 0.2m-high riser (U.32) runs parallel to U.19 (the addition's northwest facing) and is 0.3m west Room 4's door. Unit 32 presumably facilitated passage into the enclosure's interior. Though no built-in furniture was encountered in Room 4, the compartment's especially broad northeast footing (U.25, 0.9m wide) could have served as both wall support and bench.

At some point during this time span a staircase was raised against Str. 59-1st's southeast flank, covering and replacing the putative U.14 step erected during TS.4. Just prior to initiating this renovation, a 0.18-0.32m-thick layer of densely packed ceramic fragments set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay was laid down (F.3, this layer grows thicker over the 1m it was exposed from northwest-to-southeast [its southeast limit was not found]). Feature 3 blankets S.1 here and both underlies the basal southeastern step (U.17) by 0.1m and buries the bottom-most 0.08m of that construction. We infer that F.3 was introduced to level out the gentle northwest-to-southeast drop in the terrain here (0.1m over 1m), creating a relatively level surface into which U.17 was firmly set.

The main body of the staircase itself consists of a 0.38m-high (above the top of F.3) stone outset bordered on the southwest (U.16) and southeast (U.15) by vertical facings (the northeast side was not preserved). These walls contain a fill (U.36) composed of a few small to medium-size cobbles set in an earth matrix. This construction projects 1.1m southeast of U.3 (the core platform's southeast basal wall) and runs at least 2.1m northeast from Str. 59-1st's south corner (the junction of U.3 and 5). Fronting U.15 is a 0.2m-high step (U.17). Unit 17 is 0.44m wide by 1.1m-long northeast-southwest and joins U.15 at a point 0.8m northeast of its south corner (that corner formed by the junction of U.15 and 16). Unit 15 projects 0.18m above U.17 whereas U.3 rises 0.31m above the earthen-floored surface backing U.15 to the northwest. Together, therefore, U.15-17 comprise a staircase ascending in three increments of 0.18-0.31m to Room 2 on the platform's summit.

A free-standing block of stones (U.35) lies 0.85m northeast of U.31 slightly southeast of that basal riser's center. Built of solidly packed stones, U.35 is 0.26m tall, aligned ca. 20 degrees, and measures 1.21m on a side. There are hints of an earlier construction (F.4) underlying U.35's southwest side. Feature 4 consists of a stack of two rocks (0.14m tall) that project 0.29m southwest from beneath U.35's southwest flank. These rocks were probably part of a foundation for a surface-level building that was likely partly dismantled by, then buried under, construction here during TS.5.

By the end of TS.5, Str. 59-1st was a stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.77-1.19m tall and was aligned roughly 11 degrees 30 minutes. Additions made to the building's northeast and northwest sides gave it a 'T-shape', wider northwest-southeast on the northeast than on the southwest. The more compact southwest portion was little changed from TS.4, supporting earthen-floored Rooms 1 and 2 set in a northwest-southeast line. Expansion of Str. 59-1st's northeast segment created an elevated space that covered 3.24x9m and supported three rooms arranged in a northwest-southeast line. Room 3, the central enclosure, retained its earlier dimensions though now its earthen floor was raised 0.3m to a point roughly equal to the surfaces of Rooms 1 and 2. The stone shelves that formerly graced this enclosure were covered by the newly introduced fill, leaving only their upper surfaces still visible. We are not sure how, if at all, Room 5 to the southeast might have been modified now. Immediately northwest of Room 3, the newly added Room 4 was paved with stones, encompassed 3m², and was entered through a 0.45m-wide door in its west corner. That passage was fronted by a low threshold situated 0.3m northwest of Room 4's door. While no built-in furniture was identified in Room 4, the compartment's 0.9m-wide northeast foundation could have served as both wall support and bench.

Structure 59-1st's summit could now be reached from the northeast and southeast. In the first case, a 0.2m-high riser projects 0.75-0.9m northeast of the platform's northeast face and runs parallel to that flank for at least 8m. This construction intersects Str. 59-1st at a point 0.4m southeast of its north corner; its junction on the southeast was obscured by later construction. A 0.24m-high stone step was built against the platform's northeast flank atop the northeast terrace, providing a relatively easy passage to Room 3. On the southeast a staircase extends 1.1m southeast from Str. 59-1st and runs at least 2.1m northeast from the building's south corner (its northeast edge was not preserved). The core of this construction stands 0.38m high and is fronted on the southeast by a 0.2m-high by 0.44m-wide stone step. Together with the southeast facing of Str. 59-1st's core platform, these steps provided access directly into Room 2.

Located 0.85m northeast of Str. 59-1st is a free-standing square composed of tightly packed rocks. This unit is 0.26m tall, measures 1.21m on a side, and is aligned ca. 20 degrees.

All constructions raised during TS.5 were fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks are generally oriented outwards.

Time Span 6

This interval was marked by the raising of what appear to have been at least three modest surface-level buildings off Str. 59-1st's southeast side. It is unclear whether the main building was still in use at this time. One low (0.08m-tall) wall (U.40) was erected 0.1-0.3m northeast of Str. 59-1st's northeast basal terrace (U.31), between U.31 and the U.35 stone block.

This 0.2m-wide construction was traced for 3.2m at angle of ca. 107 degrees but did not join up with Str. 59-1st on either end. It may well be that U.40 was a free-standing wall that was not intended as an addition to Str. 59-1st. What purpose(s) it served is uncertain. Notwithstanding U.40's appearance now, given the disruption of Str. 59-1st's architecture caused by building projects initiated during TS.6 it seems likely that Str. 59-1st's platform largely fell out of use during this span.

The southernmost of the late constructions (Str. 59-Sub4) adjoins the east corner of the U.17 step and is represented by a 0.15m-high, 0.3-0.5m-wide 'L-shaped' wall (U.37). Unit 37 was probably a foundation that delimited parts of surface-level building's south and west flanks. This footing was followed for 1.35m along an azimuth of ca. 93 degrees. On its west end U.37 turns a corner and runs for 0.3m to the north where it seems to end.

Lying 2m to the north of Str. 59-Sub4, Str. 59-Sub5 consists of a 0.37m-high wall (U.38) that is 0.8m wide over its 1.5m length. Oriented roughly 105 degrees, this portion of U.38 overlies U.21's south corner. A 0.25-0.4m-wide wall (included with U.38) extends 0.4m northeast of this block before veering off for at least 1m at an angle of approximately 75 degrees (its northeast terminus was not encountered). The significance of this set of constructions is not clear. Unit 38's ample southern portion may have served as a bench or shelf attached to a surface-level construction though what form that building took remains unclear.

Structure 59-Sub6 is 2m north of Str. 59-Sub5. Here it overlies the east side of Str. 59-1st's northeast terrace (U.31). The surviving portion of this edifice that was revealed in excavations is a 0.4m-tall wall that is 0.4m wide (U.39) and minimally 2m long (its north end lies outside excavation limits). Unit 39 abuts U.20 (the northern terrace facing) and runs 0.4m to the northeast before turning to extend due north for at least 1.5m. A 0.3m-wide addition was made to U.39's west side at a point 1.05m north of the aforementioned change in direction. Like its southern counterparts, Str. 59-Sub6 was apparently a surface-level building defined by low stone foundations of which U.39 is the sole surviving remnant that we exposed.

By the end of TS.6, it is likely that Str. 59-1st was abandoned. This substantial construction was apparently succeeded by, minimally, three surface-level buildings that were erected along and overlapping the earlier edifice's southeast flank. The newly erected buildings were defined by stone foundations that are 0.15-0.4m high by 0.25-0.8m wide, all built of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Structures 59-Sub4-6 were oriented 0-105 degrees. None were sufficiently cleared to permit reconstructions of their forms and dimensions; one (Str. 59-Sub5) may have contained a stone-faced bench or shelf. A 0.08m-tall wall built off Str. 59-1st's northeast side was probably raised at this time though it seems to have been free-standing and not directly related to the platform.

Time Span 7

This interval was marked by events that transpired after Str. 59-1st and its immediate environs were abandoned. Accumulation of S.1 re-commenced, this soil eventually covering the lower portions of Str. 59-1st's final-phase architecture. Blanketing S.1 by 0.15-0.27m is a moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) that contains numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions. This layer was, in turn, covered by 0.14-0.22m of a very similar soil (S.3) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue and greater density of roots. Stratum 3 also has far fewer white inclusions than does S.2. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a

moderate to light concentration of rocks that fell from architecture that constitutes Str. 59-1st and, to a lesser extent, Strs. 59-Sub4-6.

Structure 61

Structure 61 turned out on excavation to be a cluster of constructions that together close off the northwest side of the patio. The land on which this collection of constructions was built rises 0.7m over 7.18m southwest-to-northeast and 1.6m across 8m southeast-to northwest. The latter slope marks the descent from El Coyote's upper terrace to the lower terrace supporting Strs. 58, 69, 61, 63, and 64. The Str. 61 aggregate is 7m southwest of Str. 59 and 12.3m west and across the patio from Str. 58. Excavations directed by Jennifer Wendt within Subop. 5D, K, I, M, and N from February 14-April 10, 2000 uncovered ca. 60m², revealing all of Str. 61's core platform and most of its adjoining southeastern rooms. Portions of other, surface-level constructions were encountered on all sides of the central buildings, suggesting that what we designated as Str. 61 was an agglomeration of modest edifices scattered across the patio's west side. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.12m and 0.9m within and outside construction, respectively, uncovering three major building phases.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 61-1 st	U.1-17, 26, 27, 42, 43, 45	-	-	
3	Str. 61-1 st	U.18-25	-	-	
4	Str. 61-1 st	U.28-41, 44	S.3	F.1	
5	-	-	S.4, 5	F.2	

Time Span 1

This interval is characterized by the deposition of a yellow-brown, very fine-textured, hard-compacted soil (S.1). Stratum 1 was revealed in a deep probe off Str. 61-1st's southeast flank where it was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.12m over an area of 0.4m southeast-northwest. Subsequent disruption in this area attendant on construction during TS.4 makes it difficult to discern what, if any, soils might have succeeded S.1 in the sequence antedating building efforts associated with Str. 61-1st. Northwest of Str. 61-1st's core platform, a very similar soil (S.2) distinguished by its slightly coarser texture and inclusion of numerous small (1cm or less in diameter) white flecks was revealed. Stratum 2 is minimally 0.35m thick (the bases of S.1 and 2 were not found) and was uncovered over a distance of 0.9m northwest-southeast over which the stratum maintained a level upper surface.

Time Span 2

The most completely cleared portion of the Str. 61-1st warren was, during TS.2, a surface-level building bounded by substantial stone walls (U.1-4) that stood up to 0.9m tall and were 0.4-0.8m wide. The space enclosed by these foundations (Room 1) covers 1.7x3.28m and is surfaced with stone (U.17). A 0.6m-high by 0.28m-wide outset (U.5) is built against the interior face of the building's northeast footing. Unit 5 runs 0.74m southeast from Room 1's

north interior corner. No other built-in furniture was recorded within this version of the enclosure. Room 1's floor was probably set roughly 0.3m below ancient ground surface on its upslope northeast and northwest sides.

Bordering Room 1 on the southeast is a featureless surface level compartment that measures 1.5x1.8m (Room 2). Room 2 is surfaced with a mixture of earth and stone and bordered by U.1 on the northwest, a 0.4m-high stone-faced terrace (U.8) on the southeast and, on the northeast and southwest, by stone foundations (U.6 and 7) that are 0.25-0.46m tall by 0.3-0.45m wide. A door measuring 0.6m across breaches the approximate center of the northeast perimeter wall (U.6) while a gap of 0.95m intervenes between U.7 (the southwestern foundation) and U.8, the southeastern terrace. The latter may have risen 0.16m above Room 2's floor and served to slow erosion down the northwest-to-southeast slope. A 0.2m-high outset (U.45) was built against U.8's southeast side immediately southeast of Room 2. Unit 45 is 0.5m wide by at least 0.6m-long northeast-southwest; its southwest side was overlain by TS.4 construction (U.44). This construction may have served as a step facilitating passage upslope towards Room 2.

Downslope and 0.7m southeast of U.8 is a 0.2m-high by 0.3m-wide wall (U.10) that runs northeast-southwest, parallel to U.8, for at least 2.5m (its southwest end was ill-defined and its northeast terminus was obscured by later architecture). Appended to U.10's southeast side is a comparably tall construction (U.11) that is 0.4m wide and 0.75m long northeast-southwest. Unit 11 intersects U.10 roughly 0.35m northeast of the latter's inferred southwest edge and may have served, in part, to delimit the southwest side of an earthen-floored room bordered by U.10 on the northwest and U.12 (see below) on the southeast. If so, this space (tentatively designated Room 4) would have measured 0.75m northwest-southeast by minimally 2m northeast-southwest (its northeast flank was obscured by construction activities dating to TS.4). The 0.35m-wide gap between U.11 and 12 in Room 4's south corner might have provided access, or at least ventilation, to the enclosure.

Rising above Room 4 on the southeast is a 0.28m-high facing (U.12) that fronts a low platform on the northwest; U.13 delimits this construction on the southwest while the remainder of the building's flanks were not exposed. The little we revealed of the building's summit consists of two stone walls (U.14 and 15) running northwest-southeast that are 0.24m high by 0.5m (U.15, on the southwest) to at least 1.1m wide (U.14, running parallel to U.15 on the northeast side of the summit). Units 14 and 15 were traced for 1m to the southeast from U.12 without revealing their full lengths. The space framed by U.14 and 15 measures 0.9m northeast-southwest. The architectural significance of U.14 and 15 are unclear; the former, on the northeast side of the summit, may have been a bench given its ample width.

In addition to this complex of platforms and rooms, we uncovered fragments of other buildings lying southeast, northwest, and southwest of Room 1. One meter northeast of Room 2 and 0.4m southeast of Room 1 is a 0.4m-high wall (U.9) that is 0.3m wide and was exposed for 0.7m running northeast-southwest (roughly parallel to Room 1's southeast side). Unit 9 may be part of a surface-level building that was obscured or obliterated by later construction in this area. Located 1.04m southwest of Str. 61-1st's Room 1 is a structure defined on the northeast by a substantial stone wall (U.42) that stands an estimated 0.7m high and was traced for 1.2m west from its northeast corner at an alignment of ca. 286 degrees. The latter junction is defined by the intersection of U.42 with U.43, a wall that apparently delimits the building's east side (only 0.5m of U.43's length was uncovered). Excavation ceased before we determined if U.42

and 43 were parts of facings for a platform or foundations defining the limits of a surface-level building. Unit 16, a wall that stood to a preserved height of 0.1m, was recorded 0.4m northwest of Room 1's west corner. Followed for 0.5m northeast from its apparent southwest end and measuring 0.3m across, U.16 is likely part of a footing for a surface-level edifice that roughly parallels Room 1's northwest side and remains largely unexplored. Also northwest of Room 1, this time 0.98m distant from that compartment, are two stone lines that define the southeast (U.26) and northeast (U.27) sides of yet another building. Units 26 and 27 are 0.36m high and were followed for 0.95m northwest and 0.65m southwest from their corner junction. This edifice was oriented very approximately 309 degrees. It is unclear, from the small area exposed here, if U.26 and 27 were platform facings or parts of footings for a surface-level edifice.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 61-1st consisted of three rooms set on ground surface in a northwest-southeast line and surrounded on all sides by a scattering of low platforms and surface-level buildings. The exposed compartments were raised on a northwest-to-southeast downward slope with at least one terrace (U.8) incorporated into the complex to slow erosion down this decline. Room 1 on the northwest is defined by substantial stone foundations that are 0.4-0.8m wide by up to 0.9m tall, covers 3.2x4.36m (24.6m²), and is oriented roughly 20 degrees. The space these footings contain is surfaced with stones and measures 1.7x3.28m (5.6m²). The only built-in furniture recorded within Room 1 is a 0.6m-high by 0.28m-wide outset that extends 0.74m southeast from the compartment's north interior corner. The significance of this construction is unclear; it may have been a shelf. No doors leading into Room 1 were recorded though a portal may have existed in the poorly preserved southwest or southeast footings. More likely, an entryway might have been sealed by additions made to Room 1's northwest side that ran for the full length of this foundation's interior and exterior faces (see the discussion of TS.3).

Room 2, which borders Room 1 on the southeast, covers 2.7m², was surfaced with a mixture of earth and stone, and was entered through doors measuring 0.95m and 0.6m wide in its northeast and southwest footings. The compartment is bordered by Room 1's southeast wall on the northwest, foundations that are 0.25-0.46m tall by 0.3-0.45m wide on the northeast and southwest, and a 0.4m-high stone terrace (U.8, noted above) on the southeast. Lying 0.7m southeast and downslope from Room 2 is earthen-floored Room 4. The latter encompasses at least 1.5m² and is bounded on the northwest by a 0.2m-high by 0.3m-wide stone wall, on the southwest by an extension of that wall measuring 0.4m across, and on the southeast by a 0.28m-high stone-faced platform (Room 4's northeast side was hidden beneath later construction). No built-in furniture was encountered in Rooms 2 and 4. The aforementioned platform measures at least 2.67x3.2m, was aligned approximately 21 degrees 30 minutes, and seems to have supported at least one room measuring 0.9m across northeast-southwest. This enclosure is bounded on the northeast and southwest by stone walls that are 0.24m tall, at least 1m long, and 0.5m (on the southwest) and, minimally, 1.1m across (on the northeast). The latter construction is sufficiently broad to have been a bench.

Portions of what seem to have been foundations for surface-level buildings were found immediately southeast and northwest of Room 1 whereas walls pertaining to a more substantial structure were revealed 1.04m southwest of that compartment. As noted earlier, what we called Str. 61 was, by TS.2, a complex of low platforms and surface-level rooms of varying sizes and levels of formality.

Constructions raised during TS.2 were generally made of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. These stones were generally oriented so that their flatter aspects were directed outwards. While the rocks were generally set horizontally, U.10 and 11 (the northwest and southwest foundations of Room 4) were made from stones that were set vertically.

Time Span 3

During this interval Room 1 was filled with a mix of earth and stones (U.18), converting what had been a surface-level room into a 0.56-0.9m-tall platform (the height varying depending on the slope of the ground). At this time a 0.15-0.25m thick facing was added to the exterior of Room 1's northwest foundation (U.3) while a comparable addition that was 0.15m thick was made to its interior. As noted in the discussion of TS.2, these renovations may have sealed any door(s) that provided access to Room 1's earlier incarnation. The platform's summit covers 5.6m² and was floored with earth; there are no clear signs of built-in furniture within the superstructure.

The newly added facing that seals U.3's exterior was extended 1.45m northeast of Room 1's earlier north corner to border the northwest flank of a room set on ground surface against the platform's northeast flank (Room 3). This extension, glossed as U.19, corners with a comparable stone foundation (U.20) to define Room 3's north corner. Unit 20 extends 1.6m southeast from its junction with U.19 where it stops, possibly defining the northwest side of a door into Room 3. The remaining 1.85m of the compartment's northeast flank is open and more-or-less level with ancient ground surface whereas its southeast side is not delimited by a foundation but an estimated 0.8m-high stone-faced drop-off (U.22). A slightly elevated stone threshold (0.16m high on the northeast by 0.36m wide; U.23) bordered Room 3 on the northeast, southeast of U.20. Units 19 and 20 are 0.69m high above Room 3's stone floor (U.21) by 0.24m wide. Room 3, in turn, contains no built-in furniture and covers 1.25x 3.27m.

At some point after Room 3 was completed, U.23, the stone threshold, was fronted by an irregularly shaped block of tightly packed stones (U.24) which runs for 1.25m along U.23's northeast face from a point immediately southeast of U.20's southeastern terminus. Unit 24 projects 0.5-0.8m northeast of U.23, being wider on the northwest than it is on the southeast. Lying 0.15-0.45m northeast of U.24 is a 0.18m-high by 0.2m-wide stone foundation (U.25) that runs more-or-less parallel to Room 3's northeast face. Unit 25 was traced for 2.15m and is breached near its center by a possible doorway that is 0.6m wide. This putative passageway is centered on U.24 and might have channeled traffic over that stone block into Room 3. It is also possible that U.25 is the southwest footing for a surface-level building that extends to the northeast.

By TS.3's conclusion, Str. 61-1st's Room 1 was converted into a platform that encompassed 24.6m², stood 0.56-0.9m tall, and was oriented ca. 20 degrees. Its earthen-floored, featureless summit covered 5.6m². The expansion of U.3, what was now the northwest basal facing, to 1m wide may have sealed what was an early door into the original surface-level building of TS.2 and allowed this facing to serve as a bench as well as a support for a perishable upper wall. Appended onto the platform's northeast flank is a stone-floored compartment (Room 3) that covers 4.1m², contains no built-in furniture, and is bordered on the northwest and for part of the northeast by stone foundations that were 0.69m tall by 0.24m wide. Access to Room 3 was apparently achieved by stepping up and over a 0.16m-high stone foundation that spanned the 1.85m-wide opening in the enclosure's northeast side. Room 3's

southeast flank was defined by a 0.8m-high stone-faced descent. After Room 3 was built, its northeast threshold was fronted by a block of tightly packed stones that measures 1.25m by 0.5-0.8m. A 0.6m-wide door in a stone foundation located 0.15-0.45m northeast of this block may have funneled traffic over that stone construction and into Room 3. This foundation may also have served to shield the activities conducted in that space from view. We cannot rule out the possibility that this footing is part of a surface-level room that extends beyond excavations to the northeast.

Constructions raised during TS.3 were largely made of unmodified river cobbles set horizontally in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter faces of these rocks were usually directed outwards. The stone comprising the U.24 stone block are, in contrast, set vertically.

Time Span 4

The area lying southeast and downslope from Room 1 was now filled with a mixture of yellow-brown, fine-textured earth and stones (U.28) to a thickness of approximately 0.3m. Unit 28's addition buried Rooms 2 and 4 and provided the foundation for a series of small, surface level enclosures. One of these is bordered by an L-shaped wall (U.29) ca. 0.15m tall by 0.3m wide that was built against the southeast side of Room 3's east corner. The earthen-floored space bounded by U.29 on the northeast and southeast covers 0.75x1.15m and is completely open on the southwest. Located 0.35m southeast of this enclosure is a complex of two adjoining cubicles that are bounded by stone foundations (U.30-35) that are 0.26-0.35m tall by 0.15-0.25m wide. The compartments they enclose are set in a northwest-southeast line and oriented ca. 16 degrees 30 minutes. The northwest example measures 0.35x1.35m and is surfaced with stone (U.36) whereas its southeastern analogue encompasses 0.4x0.65m and also has a stone floor (U.37). The former enclosure is open on the southwest while its southeast neighbor is surrounded by footings on all sides save for a 0.15m-wide gap in its north corner. The narrowness of this aperture suggests it provided for the passage of air, not people, into the cubicle's interior. Remnants of four stone foundations that are 0.2-0.4m high (U.38-41) were unearthed immediately (0.2m) southeast of the aforementioned room complex. Units 38 and 39 seem to be parts of the northwest and southeast foundations for a surface-level building that measured at least 0.5x1m while U.40 and 41, 0.3m to the southeast, are what might have been the northwest and southeast footings for another comparable edifice (covering minimally 0.5x1m). It is possible that these two constructions were linked. The only remaining example of TS. 4 construction that came to light in or investigations is a low, 0.3m-wide stone wall (U.44) that was traced for 1.5m running at an angle of 63 degrees. Found 3m south of the U.30-37 room complex, U.44 was most likely part of a foundation for yet another surface-level building raised late in Str. 61-1st's occupation.

At some point during TS.4 roughly 0.3m of a yellow-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted, relatively sherd-rich soil (S.3) was laid down west of U.3, the platform's northwest basal facing. Stratum 3 buried all but the top 0.3m of U.3 and left only the uppermost 0.12m of U.26 and 27 showing. Subsequently, S.3 was blanketed by 0.2-0.25m of a brown soil that contained a very dense concentration of flat-laid pottery sherds (F.1). Feature 1 covered U.26 and 27, accumulating against U.3 until only the latter's topmost 0.14m could still be seen. Feature 1's ceramics apparently originated from activities occurring further upslope, this debris being jettisoned down the incline leading to Str. 61-1st. No comparably dense artifact deposits were recorded over areas southeast of the platform; it may be that Str. 61-1st northwest platform was largely abandoned now while the modest surface-level rooms scattered to the southeast

were in use, sheltering in the lee of the platform from the onslaught of ceramic detritus originating further uphill.

Time Span 4 possibly encompassed a prolonged period during which Str. 61-1st's northwest platform and its adjoining northeast room were gradually abandoned. The building's northwest side might then have become a place where large quantities of trash, especially fragments of pottery vessels, were jettisoned. Southeast of the platform the land was leveled off somewhat through the deposition of 0.3m or so of earth-and-stone fill. This newly elevated surface served as the basis for raising at least three surface-level rooms delimited by stone foundations that are 0.15-0.35m high by 0.15-0.3m wide. The compartments are set in a northwest-southeast line. The northwestern-most enclosure's earthen floor covers 0.9m² and is open on the southwest. Lying 0.35m to the southeast is the central member of this trio. It encompasses 0.5m², is floored with stones, and is also open to the southwest. The stone-floored cubicle that anchors this triad on the southeast covers 0.4m² and is completed surrounded by foundations save for a 0.15m-wide gap in its north corner. The three rooms, together are aligned ca. 106 degree 30 minutes. Hints of additional surface-level buildings of comparable sizes lie southeast of this set of three cubicles but these were not sufficiently uncovered to reveal their forms or dimensions.

Time Span 4 constructions were largely raised using unmodified river cobbles set horizontally in a mud mortar. The primary exception is U.29 which was made by placing these rocks vertically.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 61-1st's abandonment as much as 0.27m of a brown soil containing numerous small (1cm or less in diameter) white stone inclusions (S.4) was deposited over much of the complex's southeastern portions. Stratum 4 was not clearly recognized northwest of U.3 nor was it obvious in areas overlying Room 2. Covering all previous soils, constructions, and features is 0.07-0.18m of a dark brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, root-rich topsoil (S.5). Embedded in S.4 and 5 is a light concentration of rocks fallen from Str. 61-1st's architecture (F.2).

Structure 261

Structure 261 is about 10m northwest of the patio, 5.7m north of Str. 61 and 7.2m northwest of Str. 59. The land on which Str. 261 was built rises 2.27m over 11.96m southeast-to-northwest. Like Str. 61 to the south, Str. 261 was erected atop the southeast-to-northwest rise of the terrain from the lower terrace supporting Strs. 58, 59, 61, 63, and 64 to the larger upper terrace atop which the bulk of El Coyote was raised. Digging here in Subop. 5E, G, and O from February 10-April 6, 2000 under the direction of Roger Schwartz and Jennifer Wendt uncovered ca. 53m², uncovering the entirety of Str. 261-1st's final version. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.72m and 0.8m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively. This work revealed one major construction phase.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	

2	Str. 261-1 st	U.1-10, 14	-	-	
3	Str. 261-1 st	U.11-13	-	F.1, Bu.1	
4	-	-	-	F.2	
5	-	-	S.1-3	F.3	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity recorded in Str. 261's vicinity was the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay that contains numerous small (1cm or less in diameter) flecks of white stone (S.1). As S.1 continued to be deposited after Str. 261-1st was abandoned, it is hard to say how much of this soil was laid down now. We estimate that at least 0.1m of this material was introduced prior to TS.2 to allow for the setting of U.14, the southeastern-most terrace leading up to Str. 261-1st, into S.1 to stabilize that riser. Stratum 1's base was not encountered nor was digging pursued deep enough on the platform's other sides to reveal this yellow-brown clay.

Time Span 2

Str. 261-1st is a platform bordered on all sides by substantial retaining walls (U.1-4) that are preserved to 0.3-0.89m high by 0.6-1.33m wide. The variations in wall heights reflect the southeast-to-northwest upward slope of the land from over which Str. 261-1st was built as well as differences in the extents to which these units were preserved. The summit's single room has an earthen floor and is 'L-shaped'. Its 'leg' runs 3.55m northeast from the southwest border of the enclosure and is 0.8m wide. The floor then projects 0.7m to the northwest over the northeastern-most 1.25m of the enclosure. Bordering this open space on the northwest and northeast are two benches that were built into the interior flanks of the northwest (U.4) and northeast (U.2) basal facings (see U.5). A 0.15m-high stone-faced bench (U.9) projects 1.55m northeast from the summit's west interior corner and is 0.75m wide northwest-southeast. Unit 9 is bordered on the northeast by a 0.45m-tall, 0.7m-wide wall (U.8) that extends 0.75m southeast from U.4. Northeast of U.8 and built into U.2 and 4 is a 0.26m-high, stone-faced and -surfaced, 'L-shaped' bench (U.5). Unit 5's southwest-northeast-trending 'leg' is 1.95m long by 0.79m wide. Projecting 0.6m southeast from the northeast terminus of this segment is a portion of U.5 that measures 0.7m across. Unit 5 ends on the southeast in a 0.24m-high wall (U.6) that is 0.3m wide and runs 0.95m long northeast-southwest. Unit 6 overlaps U.2 by 0.25m and terminates on the southwest at a point equal to the southwest side of U.5. Lying immediately southeast of U.6 is a stone-floored cubicle, or niche (U.7), that covers 0.5m wide by 0.7m deep, is open on the southwest into the summit room, and rests approximately 0.2m above the summit floor.

Fronting Str. 261-1st on the southeast are two terraces. The basal riser (U.14) is an estimated 0.3m high by 0.95m wide and is succeeded on the northwest by U.10. The latter rises 0.6m above U.14 and extends 2.04m northwest to Str. 261-1st's southeast basal wall (U.1). As the latter wall looms 0.89m above the U.10 terrace it is unlikely that these ascents constitute a means of accessing directly Str. 261-1st's summit. Units 10 and 14 were likely built to slow erosion down the slope atop which Str. 261-1st was erected.

By the end of TS.2, Str. 261-1st was a stone-faced platform that measured 4.28x6.15m, stood 0.3-0.89m tall, and was aligned roughly 33 degrees. The building's one earthen floored summit room covered 3.7m² and was bordered on the northwest and northeast by benches and

one stone-floored niche built into the interior flanks of the basal facings. One of these benches extends 1.55m northeast from the summit's west corner, is 0.75m wide and stands 0.15m high. A 0.26m-high, 'L-shaped' bench occupies the summit's north corner and encompasses a total of 2m². The two benches are separated by a 0.45m-high by 0.7m-wide wall that projects 0.75m southeast from the northwest basal wall's interior face. The 'L-shaped' bench, in turn, is bordered on the southeast by a 0.24m-high by 0.3m-wide wall which divides it from a 0.5m-wide by 0.7m-deep, stone-floored cubicle or niche which faces southwest into the summit room. This niche is set 0.2m above floor level. Two stone-faced terraces ascend from southeast-to-northwest up the natural slope that Str. 261-1st overlooks from the northwest. The basal riser is 0.3m high by 0.95m wide while its successor rises 0.6m tall by 2.04m wide. How the summit was accessed is unclear as no steps were revealed in the course of our investigations.

All TS.2 constructions were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The original builders strove to orient the naturally flatter aspects of these rocks so that they faced outwards.

A marked change in construction was noted on U.4's northwest face, 1.8m southwest of Str. 261-1st's north corner. The significance of this break is unclear. It may mark a brief cessation in the building process though comparable stopping points were not recorded elsewhere on Str. 261-1st or other buildings that define the patio on the lower terrace. Most often, such construction breaks mark the presence of a door that was filled in during a later building phase. It is tempting to interpret this construction change along similar lines if only because it would imply that Str. 261-1st began its use-life as a surface-level building, just like its near neighbors (Strs. 58, 59, and 61.). There were no signs, however, of a comparable change in construction that would have marked the other side of the putative door. All we can offer, therefore, is the possibility that what we have described for Str. 261-1st during TS.2 was not the building's original form but the result of converting an earlier surface-level structure into a platform.

Time Span 3

Structure 261-1st retained its basic form and dimensions during this interval. The major changes consisted of building relatively modest stone walls off the platform's north, east, and south corners. Unit 11, a 0.7m-wide by 0.45m-high wall, projects at least 0.7m northeast from Str. 261-1st's east corner. Unit 12, 2.95m northwest and upslope from U.11, is a comparable construction that extends minimally 1.3m northwest from Str. 261-1st's north corner. This wall is at least 0.4m wide southwest-northeast (its northeast flank was not revealed). A very similar construction (U.13) runs at least 0.5m southwest from the platform's south corner and is 0.12m high by 0.65m wide. These walls may be parts of stone foundations that delimited surface-level edifices raised against and around the central platform. Alternatively, they could have served as terraces that, together with U.10 and 14, slowed erosion down the northwest-to-southeast slope.

A ca. 0.1m-thick layer of burnt earth (F.1) was found near the base of Str. 261-1st's northeast basal facing (U.2). Feature 1's horizontal extent was not determined. Remains of a fragmentary flexed burial with head oriented to the northwest (Bu. 1) was encountered 0.37m beneath F.1. No artifacts were found with this interment.

By the end of TS.3, Str. 261-1st was largely unchanged from TS.2 though it now had walls projecting unknown distances from its north, east, and south corners. These constructions stood 0.12-0.45m high and were 0.65-0.7m wide. The architectural significance of these

construction units remains uncertain; they might have been foundations from surface-level buildings or terraces that functioned to preserve the integrity of the slope over which the main platform was built. Intense and protracted burning occurred adjacent to the platform's northeast flank and at least one person was buried on this side of the edifice.

All TS.4 construction consists of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks tend to be directed outwards.

Time Span 4

During this interval a dense deposit of flat-laid ceramics set in a brown soil matrix (F.2) collected to a depth of 0.5m against Str. 261-1st's northwest facing (U.4). Feature 2 was traced for 3.7m to the northwest without finding its origin or edge. By the end of TS.4, F.2 would have obscured U.4 almost completely. This observation suggests that Str. 261-1st was abandoned by the time F.2 started to accumulate.

Time Span 5

Feature 2 was blanketed now by as much as 0.25m of a fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, root-rich, black-brown soil (S.3). On the southeast, downslope from Str. 261-1st's platform, accumulation of S.1 resumed, eventually burying U.14 and all but the uppermost 0.38m of U.10 and 0.61m of U.1. Stratum 1 where it overlies U.14 was covered, in turn, by a lens of fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown earth (S.2). Stratum 2 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.22m at the southeastern edge of our excavations, pinching out 0.57m southeast of U.10's southeast face. There are no clear signs of S.2 further upslope to the northwest. Stratum 3 blankets S.1 and 2 on the southeast by 0.24-0.39m. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately light concentration of stones (F.3) fallen from Str. 261-1st.