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PVC-El Coyote-Str 20, 21, 23, 24-Excavation Report

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El Coyote Structures 20-24 (Operations 5 and 6)

Structures 20-24 define a patio that measures, on the surface, 7x14m. These buildings overlook the Str. 58, 59, 61, 63, and 64 plaza group from atop the edge of the high terrace that supports most of the site of El Coyote. This aggregate was built on land that rises southwest to northeast away from edge of that terrace and southeast to northwest towards the low row of hills that borders El Coyote on the west. All four of these buildings were excavated in Op. 5 and 6 revealing their final forms and dimensions. Preservation of architectural features was generally good in each case. A total of ca. 296m² was cleared in the course of this work which was pursued during the 2000 field season.

Structure 20

Structure 20 defines the northeast corner of the patio delimited by Strs. 20-24. Lying 3.7m to the west is Str. 21 while Str. 24 is 6.6m to the south. The land over which Str. 20 is built rises 1.57m over 11.2m southeast-to-northwest and a roughly equivalent distance from southwest-to-northeast. Excavations conducted in Subop. 6C and K from February 1-April 13, 2000 uncovered ca. 75m² in the process of exposing all but 3.5m of the platform's northeast basal facing. Digging, under the direction of Frances Black, was pursued to maximum depths of 0.93m and 1.44m below modern ground surface into and beyond architecture, respectively. Three major construction episodes were revealed in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 20-Sub1	U.1-2	-	-	
3	Str. 20-1 st	U.3-13, 15-20, 26, 34-37	-	-	
4	Str. 20-1 st	U.14, 21-22	-	-	
5	Str. 20-1 st Str. 20-Sub2	U.23-25, 27, 31-33 U.28-30, 38	-	F.1	
6	-	-	S.2-3	F.2	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 20 is the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay (S.1) that is at least 0.46m thick (its base was not encountered). Stratum 1 rises 1.57m over 11.2m from southeast-to-northwest. The southeastern-most exposed 0.7m of this layer contains numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions that have pretty much vanished over the 3.6m of S.1 revealed northwest of the building. In this latter area, S.1 rises in two relatively steep ascents progressing from southeast to northwest. The first (southeastern) of these slopes up 0.17 across 0.69m; 1.4m to the northwest the next ascent rises 0.14m over 0.4m. The top of S.1 runs fairly flat preceding and following these ascents. It is unclear whether these changes in elevation result from natural forces or human intervention.

Time Span 2

During this interval a relatively modest construction that was oriented ca. 33 degrees (Str. 20-Sub1) was raised. This building is defined on the southeast and southwest by stone walls (U.1 and 2) that are 0.25m high by 0.55m wide (only U.1 was sufficiently cleared to reveal its full width). Unit 1 was traced for 1.95m southwest from where it emerged from beneath the southwest side of the TS.3 stairs (U.36). Unit 2 corners with U.1 and runs 2.25m to the northwest before cornering and continuing 0.25m northeast to and under Str. 20-1st's southwest basal wall (U.6). Units 1 and 2 may be facings for a 0.25m-tall platform or, more likely, they are foundations delimiting a surface-level edifice that was largely covered by TS.3 architecture. The walls raised at this time were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks are directed outwards.

Time Span 3

Structure 20-1st emerged as a sizable stone-faced, earth-and-stone filled (U.20) platform at this time. The building is defined on all sides by rock facings (U.3-6) that stand 1.3-1.9m tall. These steep ascents are bordered on the northwest and northeast by stone-faced terraces (the terrace fronting the core platform on the southeast is described below in association with Str. 20-1st's staircase). The northwest example (U.17) is 0.65m tall by 0.58m wide and runs 6.3m from its intersection with the platform's north corner to a point 1.1m beyond and southwest of Str. 20-1st's west corner. This 1.1m extension stands 0.15m above a stone floor (U.18) which it borders on the northwest. Unit 18 extends 1.65m southeast from U.17, running adjacent to the platform's southwest facing (U.6). The floor narrows from northwest-to-southeast, measuring 0.7-0.35m across. It appears that the U.17 extension and U.6 define the northwest and northeast sides of a surface-level room that was open on the southeast and southwest and which was at least partially surfaced with stones (U.18). The area encompassed by this putative enclosure (Room 3) is 1.1x1.65m. Unit 16 is a 1.23m-tall by 0.4m-wide terrace that fronts U.4 (Str. 20-1st's northeast facing). It extends 2.5m northwest from the building's east corner, terminating well before reaching Str. 20-1st's north corner. The architectural significance of U.16 is unclear. It rises to nearly the full height of U.4, suggesting that, once built, it largely obscured the southeastern third of that basal wall. It may be that U.16 was less a terrace than a construction designed to buttress this portion of the platform's northeast flank.

Structure 20-1st's summit was reached by ascending a staircase that projects 3.74m southeast from the center of the platform's southeast facing (U.5). The staircase is 1.5-1.8m wide (narrowing from southeast-to-northwest), has a hearting composed of a tan soil containing a few small to medium-size rocks (U.34), and consists of six risers (U.7-10, 37) including the 0.15m of U.5 that projects above the U.10 landing. The step's northeast flank was poorly preserved, its location inferred from the construction's few surviving remnants. It may be that this portion of the staircase was dismantled to obtain stones used in fabricating constructions that were raised during TS.5. The basal riser, U.8, is 0.22m tall by 0.26m wide and gives way on the northwest to a 0.19m-high step (U.37) which is backed on the northwest by a tread that measures 1.16m across. Unit 7 rises 0.5m above this surface and fronts a 0.78m-wide tread. It is northwest of U.7 that the staircase narrows to 1.5m across. Unit 9 stands 0.4m above the U.7 tread and is 0.92m wide, being succeeded on the northwest by U.10. The latter looms 0.29m above U.9 and extends 0.58m northwest to U.5 which defines the summit's southeast edge. As noted, U.5 projects 0.15m above the U.10 tread and provides a step-up to the superstructure. A single large stone (U.26) was appended to the staircase's south corner. Unit 26 is 0.3m wide and runs 0.6m northwest from the steps' south corner along the ascent's southwest facing

(U.36). The architectural significance of this sizable rock is unclear; it may have buttressed the staircase's south corner.

The staircase leads up to and is bordered on the northeast by a 0.8m-high terrace delimited by a northeast continuation of U.7 on the southeast, U.4 on the northeast, and U.5 on the northwest. This portion of U.4 abuts the core platform's east corner and was added onto that central construction. The terrace supports a stone-floored (U.13) compartment (Room 1) that measures 1.49x1.85m and is bounded by the steps' northeast facing (U.35) on the southwest, U.5 on the northwest, and a stone foundation (U.12) on the northeast. Units 5, 12 and 35 rise 0.92m (U.12 and 35) and 1.1m (U.5) above the U.13 floor. Room 1 was apparently open on the southeast where it was bordered by U.7 and its floor is 1m below that of the summit enclosure (Room 2). A niche (U.15), measuring 0.24m high by 0.54m wide by 0.4m deep, is located near the middle of Room 1's northwest wall (built into U.5), 0.56m above the floor. Unit 15 is roofed by a 0.18m-thick cobble that spans its full width. A 0.7m-wide by 0.45m-deep by 0.38m-high step (U.11) was built into and near the center of Room 1's southwest wall (U.35) and provided access from the steps to the U.13 floor. Unit 11 was seemingly the primary means of accessing Room 1. No signs of a comparable terrace and room were noted southwest of the staircase.

The summit of Str. 20-1st's core platform during this period supported Room 2, an earth-and-stone-floored compartment that covers 2x3.4m. A 0.47m-high by 0.94m-wide stone-faced bench (U.19) borders Room 1 on the northwest. Unit 19 runs for 1.95m northeast-southwest along the compartment's northwest flank. Room 1's southwest flank is defined by an especially broad wall (U.6). At 1.4m across, U.6 could have served as a support for perishable upper construction and as a bench.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 20-1st was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 1.3-1.9m tall, measured 5.2x6.78m (including the U.7 and 17 terraces), and was aligned ca. 125 degrees (the differences in the structure's height are due to its having been erected over land that rises from the southeast-to-northwest and southwest-to-northeast). The earth-and-stone-floored summit supports one compartment (Room 2) which covers 6.8m² and is bordered on the northwest by a 0.47m-tall by 0.94m-wide by 1.95m-long bench. The 1.4m-wide wall bordering Room 2 on the southwest may have doubled as a bench and support for the superstructure's perishable upper wall on this side. The summit was reached by ascending an outset staircase that projects 3.74m southeast from the center of the platform's southeast basal facing. This construction narrows from 1.8m to 1.5m across, moving from southeast to northwest, and consists of six steps that are 0.15-0.5m high by 0.26-1.16m wide. A stone block measuring 0.3m wide by 0.6m long is set against the stair's southern corner and may have served to bolster this portion of the construction. Extending 1.95m northeast from the staircase, in line with the latter's third riser, is a 0.8m-tall terrace that runs back to join the platform's east corner. Located atop this terrace is a stone-floored enclosure (Room 1) that measures 2.8m² and is defined on all sides save the southeast by walls that stand 0.92-1.2m high; Room 1 apparently was open on its southeast flank. A niche measuring 0.24m high, 0.54m wide, by 0.4m deep is built into Room 2's northwest wall (the platform's southeast basal facing) at a point 0.56m above the floor. This niche was roofed. A step encompassing 0.7m long, 0.45m deep, by 0.38m high was built into Room 1's southwest wall and provided passage from the staircase to the enclosure. A terrace 0.65m-tall by 0.58m-wide extends for 6.3m northeast-southwest along Str. 20-1st's northwest side. This terrace runs for the platform's full length on this flank

and projects 1.1m beyond (southwest) of Str. 20-1st's west corner. This extension defines the northwest edge of a compartment (Room 3) that built directly on ancient ground surface and was partially paved with cobbles. Room 3 is bordered by Str. 20-1st on the northeast, is open on the southeast and southwest, and covers an estimated 1.8m². A 1.23m-high by 0.4m-wide stone terrace fronts part of Str. 20-1st's northeast flank. This construction extends 2.5m northwest from the southeast terrace's east corner where it apparently stopped. Both the northwest and northeast terraces are sufficiently high that it is unlikely they served as means for accessing the summit. Whatever other purposes they might have served, it seems likely that these terraces functioned to buttress portions of Str. 20-1st.

Constructions raised during TS.3 were fashioned primarily of unmodified stones set in a mud mortar. Slabs of what appear to be limestone appeared as minority components of U.3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, and 36. The flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 4

This period was marked by some minor changes that were made to Rooms 1 and, more significantly, Room 2. In the former compartment a new floor (U.14) was laid down directly atop its predecessor (U.13). Unit 14 was fashioned, in general, of smaller cobbles than was U.13 and its addition raised Room 1's surface by 0.07m.

Room 2's earlier floor was blanketed by about 0.3m of earth (primarily) and stones (U.22) which covered all but the uppermost 0.17m of the U.19 bench. Unit 5, the core platform's southeast basal facing, was also raised about 0.25m now. Soon after the U.22 fill was added a 0.08m-tall stone-faced addition (U.21) was appended to U.19's southeast side. Unit 21 is 1.1m wide northeast-southwest and projects 0.86m southeast into Room 2. Joining U.19 at a point 0.1m northeast of the bench's south corner, this addition gave U.19 an 'L-shape'. The broad U.6 wall may have continued to serve as a bench on the compartment's southwest side during TS.4.

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 20-1st was largely unchanged from its previous iteration. The primary modifications made to the edifice now consisted of repaving Room 1 and raising Room 2's floor by approximately 0.3m. Soon after the last building effort was completed the U.19 bench, now 0.17m high, on the enclosure's northwest side was converted to an 'L-shape' by the addition of a 0.08m-high by 1.1m-wide unit that projected 0.86m southeast into the earthen-floored compartment from U.19's south corner. The broad U.6 wall that bordered Room 2 on the southwest may have continued to serve as a bench as well.

All constructions raised now were fashioned of unmodified stones set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed out or, in the case of the Room 1 floor, up.

Time Span 5

The activities that mark this interval consist primarily of modifications made to Room 2 and the erection of relatively modest constructions, primarily off Str. 20-1st's southeast side.

Turning first to Room 2, TS.5 witnessed the deposition of ca. 0.2m of primarily earthen fill (U.33) in which a few stones were included. Unit 33 covers the entire area of the summit enclosure. Though the top of the U.19/21 bench may still have been visible this construction no longer protruded above the newly elevated floor. A 0.36m-high stone-faced bench (U.24) was

raised atop this new earthen floor. Unit 24 is 0.9m wide and runs 2.4m southeast from Room 2's north interior corner. This new bench, therefore, is aligned perpendicular to, and lies above, the U.19 bench. A ca. 0.5m-tall stone-faced shelf (U.23) projects 0.8m southeast from U.3, Room 2's northwest boundary wall. Unit 23 is 0.85m long northeast-southwest and occupies the summit enclosure's west interior corner.

At about this time blocks of stones formed of rocks set vertically were raised in front (southeast) of the basal step (U.25) and off the core platform's south corner (U.27). Unit 25 extends 0.42m southeast from the basal riser in the southeast staircase (U.8) and runs 1.3m southwest from the staircase's east corner. Unit 27, in turn, projects, maximally, 1.8m southwest from the core platform and narrows from 2.1m across on the northeast to 1.65m wide at its southwest terminus. This construction extends 1.7m southeast beyond the platform's south corner.

A roughly 0.2m-high wall composed of two segments (U.31-32) was erected now northeast of the main staircase. Unit 31 runs 1.7m at an angle of 5 degrees from the basal step's (U.8) east corner where it intersects U.32. The latter is poorly preserved but seems to extend 0.7m to the northwest, intersecting the U.7 terrace 0.45m southwest of its east corner. The significance of this construction is unclear; it may have been part of an effort to expend the staircase to the northeast, creating a means of accessing Room 1 that directly overlooks the U.31-32 addition. If this was the case, the renovation was never completed as no additional risers span the ca. 0.6m between the inferred tops of U.31/32 and Room 1.

Relatively late in Str. 20-1st's construction history a ca. 0.2m high wall (Str. 20-Sub2), composed of four distinct segments (U.28-30, 38), was raised 0.45-1.4m northeast of the main building. Unit 38 was traced for 0.8m at an angle of ca. 280 degrees at which point it turns a right-angle corner with U.28. The latter was followed for 0.9m to the northeast though it likely spanned 1.35m in that direction, probably turning a corner to join up with U.29, 0.4m to the northwest. The latter construction was followed for 0.7m over which distance it was aligned ca. 15 degrees. Unit 29 corners with U.30 which extends 1m from that juncture at an angle of 288 degrees before cornering back to the northeast. Overall, U. 28-30 and 38 comprise a construction that runs for 3.2m at various orientations but generally trending southeast-to-northwest. It is unclear what this collection of seemingly interconnected low walls represent. They may be parts of closely spaced surface-level buildings or segments of a terrace system associated with an unexcavated building lying northeast of Str. 20-1st. In any case, that edifice or edifices were not detected during the initial mapping of El Coyote.

A 0.4-0.61m-thick deposit of densely packed sherds and charcoal flecks set in a brown soil matrix (F.1) accumulated over S.1 and against Str. 20-1st's northwest, upslope side during TS.5. Feature 1 thickens as it descends 0.36m over the 3.63m it was exposed running northwest-to-southeast. By the end of F.1's deposition all but the topmost 0.15m of U.17 (the northwest terrace) was covered. Given that F.1 is localized against the platform's northwest flank and drops down toward the building from upslope to the northwest, it is most likely that the activities generating this sizable quantity of debris were situated further up the ascent that borders El Coyote on this side. No structures were noted on ground surface to the northwest.

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 20-1st retained its basic form, dimensions, and orientation from previous periods. The principal change made to the platform consisted of filling Room 2 with a mix of earth (primarily) and stone that buried the earlier bench. That construction was

replaced by a 0.36m-tall stone-faced bench measuring 0.9m across and running 2.5m southeast from the enclosure's north interior corner. A 0.5m-high by 0.85m-long (northeast-southwest) stone-faced shelf was also added now. It projects 0.8m into the room from the compartment's west corner.

Blocks of stone consisting of rows of rocks set on end were appended now to Str. 20-1st's southeast basal step and south corner. The former covers 0.42x1.3m while the latter encompasses 1.8m by 1.65-2.1m across (narrowing from northeast-to-southwest away from the building). Modifications to the southeastern steps consist of a 0.2m-high wall that runs 1.7m at an alignment of 5 degrees from the basal riser's east corner before turning and extending 0.7m to the northwest where it intersects U.7 (the platform's southeast terrace) at a point 0.45m southwest of its east corner. The architectural significance of this poorly preserved construction is unclear though it may have been part of an effort to expand the staircase to the northeast. If so, that renovation was either never completed or collapsed almost entirely. A 0.2m-high footing or facing snakes for 3.2m at a distance of 0.45-1.4m northeast of Str. 20-1st at this time. This construction is oriented between 15-288 degrees and may constitute a series of closely spaced surface-level buildings or part of a terrace for a previously undetected edifice lying northeast of the platform. At about this time a 0.4-0.61m-thick deposit of ceramic fragments and charcoal flecks accumulated again Str. 20-1st's northwest flank, almost completely obscuring the platform's northwest terrace in the process. This deposit sloped down 0.36m over 3.63m northwest-to-southeast, the source of the sherds probably lying upslope beyond the limits of our excavations.

Constructions raised now were made of unmodified stones set in a mud mortar; some limestone slabs were observed in U.25, 27, 28, and 38. In most cases rocks employed in TS.5 architecture are laid horizontally though, as noted, stones are set vertically and in rows in U.25 and 27. In general, the flatter aspects of the rocks in all TS.5 constructions are directed outwards.

Time Span 6

Following Str. 20-1st's abandonment 0.18-0.64m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) was laid down over S.1, F.1, and most of the surviving architecture. Stratum 2 was, in turn, blanketed by 0.17-0.29m of a very similar earth (S.3) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue and greater concentration of small roots. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of stones (F.2) most of which likely originated from Str. 20-1st's final-phase architecture.

Structure 21

Structure 21 closes off the northwest side of the patio that is delimited by Strs. 23, 24, and 20 on the southwest, southeast, and northeast, respectively. Structure 20 is 3.7m to the east while Structure 24B is 6m across the patio to the southeast. The terrain atop which Str. 21-1st was raised ascends 1.23m over 11.1m southeast-to-northwest and about 1m over 9m southwest-to-northeast. Excavations in Subop. 6B, D, E, F, I, and J from January 31-March 20, 2000 cleared approximately 90m², revealing the vast majority of this complex suite of constructions. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.8m and 1.04m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively. Three major building episodes were revealed in the course of this work which was directed by Elizabeth Dysart.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 21-1 st	U.1-7	-	-	
3	Str. 21-1 st	U.8-22, 41	-	-	
4	Str. 21-1 st	U.23-26, 28-40	-	-	
5	-	-	S.1-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 21-1st's vicinity is the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay (S.1) with numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions. Stratum 1 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.3m where it underlay construction (the layer's base was not revealed).

Time Span 2

During this period Str. 21-1st consisted of two earthen-floored, surface-level buildings arrayed in a northwest-southeast line and separated by 1.95m. The larger, southeastern construction housed Room 1 and was bounded on the northwest and northeast by stone foundations (U.1 and 2) that were 0.5-0.6m tall by ca. 0.8m wide. The southeast flank is bordered by U.3 (0.5m tall by at least 0.2m across; its east face was not clearly identified) which runs approximately 2m southwest from its presumed junction with the northeast footing (their intersection is covered by later architecture). As there is no cross-wall sealing Room 1's southwest flank, it seems that this enclosure was open on the southwest and for 0.9m of its southeast side. Room 1's earthen floor measures 2.6x2.98m. The compartment contains no built-in furniture.

To the northwest lies Room 2, defined by footings (U.4-5, 7) on all sides save the southwest. These foundations are 0.44-0.53m tall by 0.4-0.6m wide and enclose a featureless, earthen-floored space measuring 1x1.3m. The northwestern foundation (U.7) is fronted by a stone surface (U.6) that projects 0.25-0.45m northwest of that foundation. Unit 6 steps back (southeast) 0.2m at a point 1m southwest of the compartment's northern exterior corner. As U.6 and 7 were remodeled during TS.3 it is difficult to reconstruct their original dimensions. At present it seems that the latter was as tall as Room 2's other footings and that U.6 rose little, if at all, above the surrounding ground surface.

By TS.2's conclusion, Str. 21-1st consisted of two unconnected, earthen floored rooms that were delimited by stone foundations that were 0.44-0.6m high by 0.4-0.8m wide. Both compartments were aligned ca. 25 degrees, were open on their southwest sides, and lacked built-in furniture such as benches or shelves. Overall the constructions covered a space measuring 3.68x7.3m, Rooms 1 and 2 being separated by 1.95m of open, apparently unmodified terrain. Room 1 on the southeast encompasses 3.68m on a side, its interior measuring 7.8m². Its northwest counterpart, Room 2, covers 1.8m on a side, its interior encompassing 1.3m². All TS.2 construction consists primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in

a mud mortar. At least some of these walls have fragments of ceramic vessels embedded in that mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were consistently directed outwards.

Time Span 3

It was at this time that Str. 21-1st underwent significant transformations that resulted in connecting Rooms 1 and 2 within one 'U-shaped' edifice. Room 1's southwest and southeast flanks were sealed, its interior filled with a mix of dirt and stones (U.41), even as its earlier foundations were raised to yield a platform that stood 0.9-1.1m tall. The newly created southwest facing (U.12) was not well preserved or extensively cleared. It may have measured 1.25m across northeast-southwest, making it the widest of the platform's basal walls. The earthen-floored summit compartment (still designated Room 1) retained its previous dimensions (7.8m²) and this portion of the building was still oriented roughly 25 degrees. No built-in furniture was recorded within the enclosure though the broad southwestern facing (U.12) may, if indeed it was this ample, have doubled as a bench and support for the superstructure's southwest perishable upper wall.

Room 2, though it remains a small surface-level construction aligned ca. 25 degrees, was re-organized significantly during TS.3. The compartment is now closed off on the southwest and northeast by newly erected stone footings (U.9 and 11) that are 0.15-0.25m tall by 0.35-0.55m wide while the southeast is bordered by a 0.7m-tall by 0.8m-wide by 1.5m-long stone-faced bench or shelf (U.8). A 0.4m-high by 0.3m-wide wall (U.22) was built atop U.8's northeast edge, possibly restricting access to the bench/shelf from this side. Room 2's interior was now paved with stones (U.10) and covers 0.95x1.8m. Units 6 and 7 seem to have been largely dismantled during this interval; they are replaced by the U.8 bench on this flank.

A platform standing approximately 0.8m tall was appended to the north corner of the newly elevated Room 1. Measuring 2x3.88m this addition is bounded by stone facings (U.17, 19, and 20) on the southeast, northeast, and northwest; what basal wall might have intervened in the 1.95m separating Room 1's U.1 on the southeast and Room 2's U.8 on the northwest was largely obliterated and obscured by TS.5 architecture (U. 34). The addition supported two enclosures set in a northwest-southeast line (Rooms 3 and 4). Room 3, the southeastern example, covers 1.75x2.05m. Most of this space is taken up by a 0.53m-tall, 0.8m-wide stone-faced and -surfaced bench (U.14) that is built against the compartment's southwest wall. Unit 14 is 2.05m long northwest-southeast and is fronted on the northeast by a stone floor (U.18). Lying immediately northwest of Room 3, Room 4 measures 0.92m across by 1.75m northeast-southwest and is floored with stones (U.21). The foundations that border and separate these enclosures (U.15-17) are 0.21—0.54m high by 0.2-0.3m wide. The addition supporting Rooms 3 and 4 linked Rooms 1 and 2, creating in the process a space measuring 1.95x2.75m bordered by Room 1 on the southeast, Room 2 on the northwest, and Rooms 3 and 4 on the northeast. This earthen-floored area was open on the southwest.

A 0.3-0.65m-high by 0.32-0.58m-wide stone-faced terrace (U.13) was built along Str. 21-1st's down-sloping southeast side. Unit 13 was traced for 7m where it parallels the building on this side though its northeastern and southwestern termini were not encountered. Most likely this terrace was built to slow erosion down the northwest-to-southeast descent over which Str. 21-1st was raised.

As TS.3 drew to a close Str. 21-1st had emerged as a U-shaped structure made up of a 'L-shaped' platform that stood 0.8-1.1m tall and, on the northwest, a surface-level room. The

entire complex was oriented roughly 25 degrees. Atop the platform were three enclosures. Room 1 occupied the taller (0.9-1.1m high) southeast summit and covers 7.8m². This earthen-floored compartment did not contain free-standing furniture though it is possible that its southwest basal facing was sufficiently wide (an estimated 1.25m across) to have served as retaining wall, support for the southwest superstructure wall, and bench. Room 3 was built atop a 0.8m-high addition that extends northwest from Room 1's north corner. This stone-floored enclosure measures 3.6m² and contains a 0.53m-high by 0.8m-wide stone-faced and –surfaced bench which runs the full 2.05m length of the enclosure's southwest wall. Room 4, immediately to the northwest of Room 3, encompasses 1.6m², has a stone floor, but no built-in features. Room 4's west corner intersects the east corner of Room 2. In fact, Room 4's northwest wall (U.20) overlaps onto Room 2's northeast foundation (U.5). Room 2 was still built on ground surface though this enclosure now faces out to the northwest and was surfaced with stones. A 0.7m-high, 0.8m-wide, and 1.5m-long stone-faced bench now closes off Room 2's southeast flank. An earthen-floored space covering 5.4m² is delimited by elements of Str. 21-1st on all sides save the southwest which is completely open. Overall, Str. 21-1st now covers 6.66x9.3m and was bordered by a 0.3-0.65m-high by 0.32-0.58m-wide terrace on its down-sloping southeast flank.

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

Time Span 4

Throughout the course of this interval significant quantities of a fill composed primarily of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay with many small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions (similar to S.1) mixed with a very few stones were deposited in the formerly open portion of the 'U' (U.37; 1m thick), off the east side of Room 3 (U.36; 0.8m thick), over at least the northeastern 1m of Room 1 (U.38; 0.44m thick), and northeast of Room 3 (U.39; at least 0.3m thick—its base was not found). All of the aforementioned fill units are distinguished by the inclusion of large numbers of pottery sherds, especially concentrated in their uppermost 0.2m. In all of these cases there is no sign of walls raised to retain the fill. It is as though this earth was laid down as bases for construction with little concern for the long-term stability of that hearing.

The architecture pertaining to this interval generally consists of stone walls and surfaces scattered across the building and 'floating' on the aforementioned fill units. Except for Room 1, which was at least partially covered with earth, stones, and sherds now (U.38), all of the other enclosures may have still been open and in use. There were no clear signs that they were filled in and their use as rooms terminated.

The most substantial construction raised now is a wall (U.34) that stands 0.41-0.52m tall is 0.3-0.36m wide and runs for 8.5m northwest-southeast across the approximate center of Str. 21-1st. It links up with U.22 on the northwest, runs along the south sides of Rooms 3 and 4 (where it rests on U.37) and the north edge of Room 1, eventually sloping down and over the southeastern U.13 terrace to end in a feature fashioned of unmodified stone slabs set on end (U.35). Unit 35 covers 0.8m southeast-northwest and is 0.3m wide (U.22 and 35 are included in U.34's northwest-southeast measurement). One reason for building U.34 seems to have been to divide Str. 21-1st into northeastern and southwestern portions, a demarcation that had not been as obvious in earlier versions of the edifice's organization.

Starting northeast of U.34, the area fronting Room 3 was raised by the addition of U.39 atop which was built an extensive stone surface (U.30) fashioned of unmodified rock slabs set on end. Unit 30 covers 2.32m on a side and abuts the top of what had been the platform's northeast facing in this area (U.19). Resting ca. 0.3m below the level of this floor, and lying immediately southeast of it, is Room 6. This enclosure is paved with stones (U.29), covers approximately 1.25m on a side, and is delimited by foundations (U.26, 28, and a southeastern continuation of U.16) that are 0.2-0.47m high by 0.3-0.45m wide. These footings border Room 6 on all sides except the northeast, which is completely open. A 0.6m-wide door in the compartment's south corner provides passage to Room 5. This cubicle, like its northeast neighbor, was raised atop U.36 fill. Lying immediately southeast of Room 3 and bordered by U.34 on the southwest, Room 5 is floored with stone (U.25), encompasses 1x1.75m, and is bounded by stone foundations (U.24, 17, and the aforementioned southeast extension of U.16) that are about 0.25m high by 0.15-0.35m wide. A 0.18m-high by 0.6m-wide stone-faced shelf (U.23) projects 1.1m southeast from Room 5's northwest foundation (U.17). Unit 23 originates in the enclosure's north interior corner and largely blocked the door connecting Rooms 5 and 6. It may be that this shelf was added late in TS.4, its introduction requiring a redirection of passage among these compartments. A door measuring 0.85m across leads southeast from Room 5 into diminutive Room 7. This earthen-floored cubicle, also supported by U.36 fill, measures 0.5-0.8m northwest-southeast by 2.2m (narrowing from southwest to northeast), and is delimited by stone foundations (U.22, 24, 26, and a segment of U.34 on the southwest).

Southwest of U.34, what had been Room 1 was at least partially covered by the U.38 fill which supported a stone floor (U.31) that measures 1.4m across and extends 1.2m southwest of U.34. An 'L-shaped' wall (U.32) measuring 0.3-0.4m across by 0.5m tall runs 1.8m southwest from U.34 before turning to project 0.7m to the southeast. Unit 32 shields the U.31 floor from view on the northwest and ends on the southeast at a point just about even with the pavement's southwest side. Another wall fragment (U.40) measuring 0.5m across by 0.3m high runs 0.8m northwest-southeast, originating 0.1m southeast of U.31. Altogether, U.34, 32, and 40 could be interpreted as foundations that delimit an enclosure (Room 8) that measures 1.5x3.4m and is partially paved with stones.

Lying 0.4m northeast of Room 2 is a stone construction (U.33) that is 0.7m wide and projects 1.6m southwest from U.34. Built atop U.37 fill, U.33 steps up 0.3m at a point 0.6m northeast of its southwest terminus. It may be that this construction served as a step providing passage from the complex's downslope southwest side towards the suite of rooms lying northeast of the U.34 wall.

By TS.4's conclusion it appears that Str.21-1st was no longer a platform. Instead all sides save the southeast where the U.13 terrace still served to slow erosion over this down-sloping flank were seemingly blanketed with a fill composed primarily of a yellow-brown clay that contained a dense concentration of ceramic fragments in its upper 0.2m. There are no signs of walls built to retain this fill. A 0.41-0.52m-tall by 0.3-0.36m-wide wall ran for 8.5m northwest-southeast across the approximate center of the construction dividing it into northeastern and southwestern components. Most TS.4 construction was concentrated northeast of this wall. Rooms 3 and 4, located in this northeast sector, were likely still in use though they were now incorporated within a suite of enclosures that extended northeast and southeast from them. Bordering Room 3 on the southeast are three compartments (Rooms 5-7) that are connected by doorways ranging from 0.6-0.85m wide (no obvious door provided passage into Room 3,

however). These enclosures are bounded by foundations that are 0.2-0.47m tall by 0.15-0.45m wide. Room 5 which immediately adjoins Room 3 covers 1.75m² and is paved with stones; Room 6 immediately to the northeast encompasses 1.6m² and is also floored with rocks; earthen-floored Room 7, bordering Room 5 on the southeast, measures 1.4m². The only built-in furniture found in these enclosures is a 0.18m-high, 0.6m-wide, by 1.1m-long stone faced-shelf which was raised in the northern half of Room 5. A stone construction fashioned of densely packed stone slabs set vertically covers 5.4m² northeast of Room 3 and northwest of Room 6. Though partially separated from Rooms 3 and 6 by stone footings there are no other signs that this construction was closed off on any of its other sides. Another block of rock slabs set on end defines the southeast end of the medial wall (U.34). This entity (U.35) measures 0.3x0.8m.

Southwest of the medial wall (U.34), Room 2 may have continued in use but Room 1 was at least partially covered by 0.44m of fill. Raised atop this material was Room 8, a space covering 5.1m² the central 1.7m² of which was paved with stones. Room 8 is bounded by U.34 (the medial wall) on the northeast and footings that are 0.3-0.5m tall by 0.3-0.5m wide. Room 8 borders Rooms 5 and 7 on the southwest and seems to have been open on the southwest and, possibly, southeast. Located 0.4m southeast of Room 2 is a 0.7m-wide, 0.3m-high stone-faced and -surfaced step that projects 1.6m southwest from, and leads up to, the U.34 medial wall. This riser may have provided passage directly into Rooms 3 and 4 by the end of TS.4.

Overall, Str. 21-1st retains its general dimensions and orientation from TS.3 but now encompasses more defined spaces (7 rooms and at least one open stone construction) than had been the case during the preceding interval. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of unmodified stones set in a mud mortar. Some of that mortar, especially that used as binding in the U.34 medial wall, contains dense quantities of small pottery sherds. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks are not consistently directed outwards and much of this architecture seems to have been more casually fashioned than was the case in TS. 2 and 3 (e.g., the coursing of the larger rocks in footings is less clear and the use of chinking stones to fill in the gaps among the larger rocks is less common).

Time Span 5

Following Str. 21-1st's abandonment as much as 0.4m of S.1 resumed accumulating. Blanketing S.1 by 0.14-0.28m is a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) that has many tiny (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions. Stratum 2 was, in its turn, covered by as much as 0.2m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown soil (S.3) with few white inclusions but many modern roots. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately light concentration of rocks (F.1) tumbled from final-phase construction.

Structure 23

Structure 23 closes off the southwest side of the patio. It is 7m southwest of Str. 21 and 5.6m west of Str. 24. The land on which Str. 23 was erected rises from southwest-to-northeast away from the high terrace edge. Excavations within Subop. 2C (part of the 1999 test pitting program overseen by N. Handel), 6A, G, and H uncovered ca. 68m² in the course of revealing all of the core platform and about two-thirds of a previously unrecorded edifice (Str. 23-Sub1) lying 0.6m to the northeast. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.86m and 1.21m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. Two major

construction episodes were revealed in the course of this work which was pursued under the direction of C. Monson from January 31-April 12, 2000.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 23-1 st	U.1-12, 15-16, 29-31	-	F.3	
3	Str. 23-1 st Str. 23-Sub1 Str. 23-Sub2	U.13-14, 17-22, 32-33 U.23-26 U.27-28	-	-	
4	Str. 23-1 st	-	-	F.1	
5	-	-	S.1-3	F.2	

Time Span 1

It was at this time that at least 0.4m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay containing numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions (S.1) was laid down (its base was not encountered). As S.1 continued to accumulate with no obvious breaks in later periods, we are unsure how much of this soil was laid down now. The 0.4m estimate is based on the presumption that at least the bottom-most portions of TS.2 architecture would have been set into S.1 for stability. Most likely, Str. 23-1st's basal walls (especially U.1 which overlooks the southwest terrace descent) would have been dug deeper into this earth layer to ensure that they could withstand downward pressures on this side of the platform.

Time Span 2

The earliest version of Str. 23-1st for which we have evidence is a stone-faced platform delimited by retaining walls (U.1-4) that stood 0.66m tall (not including the 0.4m that we infer these facings were sunk below ancient ground level). Units 1-4 contained a fill that consists, in the limited portions of it we exposed, of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay with numerous white inclusions that are 0.01m or less in diameter (U.12; similar to S.1). A low terrace projects 0.85m southeast from a point 0.15m southwest of the platform's east corner before turning to run at least 0.85m to the southwest, parallel with U.4 (Str. 23-1st's southeast basal wall). Defined by U.5 on the northeast and U.6 on the southeast this construction was likely built to slow erosion over this down-sloping side of the building. A 0.25m-wide low stone wall (U.7) was followed for 0.75m northeast of U.5 to a point where it disappeared beneath TS.3 construction (U.24). Unit 7 joins U.5 at a point 0.1m northwest of its corner with U.6 and may mark a northeastward extension of the U.5-6 terrace that was subsequently overbuilt in the next building phase.

The building's summit was divided among five enclosures that are generally arranged in a northwest-southeast line and delimited by stone foundations (U.9-11, 15, 30) that are 0.37-0.42m tall by 0.3-0.85m wide. Two compartments occupy the northwest end of this line. One member of this dyad, Room 1, covers 1.48x2.2m. The cubicle is mostly taken up by a stone-faced and -surfaced 'C-shaped' bench (U.8) which rises 0.34m above a stone floor (U.31). The

main arm of U.8 measures 1m wide by 2.2m long northeast-southwest and is built against Room 1's northwest wall (the interior of the platform's northwest basal facing [U.2]). Elements measuring 0.35m (the northeast example) and 0.5m across (its southwest counterpart) project 0.44m southeast from U.8's main segment's northeast and southwest termini abutting U.10, the foundation bordering Room 1 on the southeast. A 0.82m-wide gap in U.10 marks a doorway into Room 1. Burnt earth (F.3) was noted atop the U.31 floor in the area measuring 0.45x1.3m delimited by the arms of the 'C-shaped' U.8 bench. Feature 3's behavioral significance is unclear though it does suggest that this diminutive space was subject to intense burning at some point(s) during TS.2.

Lying immediately southwest of Room 1 is Room 2. The latter is featureless, encompasses 0.94x1.5m, and is paved with stones (U. 29). Earthen-floored Room 3 is southeast of Room 2 and covers 2x2.35m. A 0.45m-high stone-faced and –surfaced bench (U.12) projects 0.52m northwest from the compartment's southeast footing (U.11) and runs for 1.55m southwest from Room 3's east interior corner. Room 4 borders Room 3 on the southeast. This earthen-floored enclosure measures 1.35x2.1m and contains no built-in furniture. A 0.5m-wide gap in the compartment's east corner provided passage to Room 5 on the northeast. This long, earthen-floored enclosure borders Rooms 3 and 4 on the northeast and measures 0.95x3.3m. A 0.36m-high stone-faced shelf (U.16) extends 0.5m northeast from near the center of Room 5's southwest foundation (U.15) and measures 0.65m long northwest-southeast.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 23-1st was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood an inferred 0.66m tall, measured 4.6-5.1x7.45m, and was aligned ca. 311 degrees (the platform widens slightly from northwest to southeast). Erosion off its southeast side may have been slowed by the erection of a stone-faced terrace here. The platform supported a superstructure composed of five enclosures. The northwest third or so of the summit was occupied by two stone-floored compartments. Room 1, on the northeast, encompasses 3.1m² most of which is filled by a stone-faced and –surfaced 'C-shaped' bench that is 0.34m tall. The primary arm of this construction measures 1x2.2m and is built against Room 1's northwest wall. The two projections that complete the 'C' extend 0.44m southeast from the main segment's northeast and southwest ends and are 0.35m and 0.5m wide. Room 2 is immediately southwest of Room 1, measures 1.4m², is floored with stones, and contains no built-in features. The remaining compartments to the southeast are floored with earth. Rooms 3 and 4 are arranged in a northwest-southeast line extending southeast from Room 2. The northwestern member of the pair, Room 3, measures 4.7m² and has a 0.45m-high stone-faced and –surfaced bench built against its southeast footing. The latter construction is 0.52m wide by 1.55m long (northeast-southwest). Room 4 to the southeast encompasses 2.8m² and lacks built-in furniture. A 0.5m-wide door in Room 4's east corner provides access to Room 5. The latter borders Rooms 3 and 4 on the northeast, measures 3.1m², and contains a 0.36m-high stone shelf set near the center of its southwest foundation. This shelf is 0.5m wide by 0.65m long (northwest-southeast). It is not clear how the summit was reached or, aside from the aforementioned two doors, passage among the summit compartments was navigated. It may be that the low foundations that demarcated summit enclosures did not pose significant obstacles to movement among the rooms. This still leaves open the question, however, of why some enclosures were outfitted with formal doors and others were not.

All units raised during TS.2 were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards. Faced blocks were recorded, however, at the bases of the north, west, and east corners of the core platform and two were incorporated in U.9, the foundation separating Rooms 1 and 2.

Time Span 3

It was in the course of TS.3 that Structure 23-1st's core platform was raised 0.6-0.8m (higher on the southwest) through additions made to the earlier basal facings (U.1-4). On the southwest and northwest these newly added wall segments were set back 0.07m from the line of the outer facings of U.1 and 2 thereby creating a narrow ledge that runs for the full length of U.1 (the southwest basal wall) and 2.75m of U.2 (its northwest counterpart). No such ledges were noted on U.3 and 4 or for the remaining northeastern 1.85m of U.2. These renovations were seemingly accompanied by the deposition of ca. 0.55m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay (U.32) that covered all but the top-most 0.1m of the earlier basal walls.

The summit was blanketed at this time by a fill (U.13) composed of a moderately dense concentration of small to medium-size cobbles set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay. Unit 13's deposition likely covered Room 1 up to the top of the U.8 bench and all of Rooms 2 and 3. A 0.27m-high by 0.98m-wide wall (U.14) now bordered Rooms 1 and 2 on the southeast, separating them from the newly elevated Room 3 to the southeast. Unit 14 continues the line of U.30 which delimited Room 5's northwest side during TS.2 and may still have served that function now. Unlike U.30, which is at least 0.6m tall, U.14 is much shallower and rides atop the U.13 fill. This patterning suggests that U.14 was added relatively late in the building sequence after U.30 was already in place. It is unclear if Rooms 4 and 5 were also submerged beneath fill at this time; the low preserved height of U.3 (the northeast facing) at this time suggests tentatively that Room 5 retained its earlier form and dimensions now as did Room 4 to which the former remained connected by the aforementioned door (see TS.2).

Based on the preceding observations, it appears that the TS.3 summit still consisted of five rooms arranged in much the same fashion as they had been during TS.2. The dimensions of those enclosures had changed somewhat as was the existence of built-in furniture within them. Room 1, which was now floored with a mixture of rocks and dirt, covered 1.82x2.2m and likely did not still contain a bench. Its southwest neighbor, Room 2, was also somewhat larger than it had been in TS.2, measuring 0.94x1.8m and was now surfaced with earth and stone. Moving to the southeast, Room 3 encompasses 1.3x2m and had lost its bench when the latter was blanketed by U.13 fill. The broad foundation (U.14) that now, together with U.30, bordered Rooms 1 and 2 on the southeast and Room 3 on the northwest is sufficiently wide to have doubled as a wall support and bench facing into one or all of these enclosures. As noted previously, Rooms 4 and 5 may have been unchanged during TS.3 though, if this was the case, their earthen floors were now ca. 0.4m lower than were their analogues in Rooms 1-3.

A 0.45m-high terrace was erected off Str. 23-1st's north corner now. This construction rises to a point equivalent to Str. 23-1st's summit and intersects the platform 2.75m northeast of its west corner and 4.75m northwest of the platform's east corner. The construction's southwest and northwest flanks were marked by facings (U.17 and 18) that continued the narrow (0.07m-wide) ledge that now characterizes Str. 23-1st's southwest and northwest facings. The southeast side of the terrace (U.19) has no comparable set-back while the northeast side (U.20)

gives way to two steps (U.21 and 22) that rise to the terrace summit in increments of 0.13-0.18m (including U.20) and are 0.6m and 0.5m wide, in ascending order. These steps were only exposed for a maximum distance of 0.9m from their southeast termini but we infer they ran the full 3.6m of the terrace's northeast face. The staircase gives way to a stone-floored terrace summit (U.33). A 0.9m-wide drop in the height of U.2's top where it borders Room 1 seemingly marks a door leading from the terrace into the newly reconstituted northeast compartment. However Str. 23-1st's superstructure was entered during TS.2, it was apparently reached in TS.3 by ascending the northeast steps and then passing into Room 1.

At about this time Str. 23-Sub1 was raised 0.65m northeast of Str. 23-1st. Set atop U.32 fill, this platform was bounded by stone facings (U.23-26) that stood 0.36m high. The edifice measured 4m on a side and was aligned roughly 313 degrees. As the summit was not cleared, we cannot infer what form its superstructure might have taken. Evidence of another construction, Str. 23-Sub2, was uncovered 0.2-0.3m southeast of Str. 23-Sub1. Fragments of the building's northwest (U.27) and southwest walls (U.28) were revealed. These walls are 0.35m tall. Unit 27 was followed for 1.6m at an orientation of approximately 38 degrees while U.28 was traced for 1m. It is unclear whether U.27 and 28 were parts of foundations incorporated within a surface-level building or facings from a low platform.

As TS.3 drew to a close the core platform retained its basic dimensions and orientation established during TS.2. Renovations to the edifice consisted of depositing roughly 0.55m of earthen fill off the platform's flanks leaving about 0.1m of the original facings still visible. These basal walls were then raised an addition 0.6-0.8m making Str. 23-1st 0.7-0.9m tall. The summit was reached by ascending a staircase composed of three risers built into the northeast face of a 0.45m-high, stone-floored terrace that was appended to the platform's north corner. This addition measures 3.7x4.2m (maximally), the stairs rising in increments of 0.13-0.18m, their treads measuring 0.6m and 0.5m across. The superstructure was likely entered through a 0.9m-wide door set into Room 1's northwest wall. Along with the bordering facings, the summit was raised through the addition of a stone-and-earth fill that covered earlier constructions in Rooms 1-3; Rooms 4 and 5 seem to have remained unchanged during this interval though their floors were ca. 0.4m lower than their counterparts in Rooms 1-3. Shifting of room boundaries resulted in some changes in the dimensions of these earthen-floored enclosures. Their measurements are now: Room 1 (4m²); Room 2 (1.7m²); Room 3 (2.6m²). The unusually broad (0.9m wide) foundation that now separates Rooms 1 and 2 from Room 3 on the southeast is wide enough to have served as both wall support and bench for one or all of these three compartments during TS.3.

A 0.36m-tall stone-faced platform (Str. 23-Sub1) is 0.65m northeast of Str. 23-1st. This building measures 4m on a side and is oriented ca. 313 degrees. Structure 23-Sub1's summit was not explored. Lying 0.2-0.3m southeast of Str. 23-Sub1 are signs of another edifice (Str. 23-Sub2). Structure 23-Sub2 is bounded on the northwest and southwest by stone walls that are 0.35m high and the building is oriented approximately 38 degrees. It is unclear what this construction's full dimensions are and if it was a platform or built directly on ground surface.

All TS.3 architecture was fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were oriented outwards. Faced blocks were noted at the bases of the junctions of U.19 and 20 (the northeast terrace's east corner) and U.20 and 18 (the terrace's north corner).

Time Span 4

It is unclear how much, if any, of Str. 23-1st and its northeastern neighbors were still in use during this span. The major activity attested to now was the deposition of a dense concentration of (generally) flat-laid rocks (F.1) against Str. 23-1st's southwest side. Feature 1 extends 1.72m southwest of U.1 (the basal facing on that side), thickening as it approaches the building until it completely covers U.1. These stones could be fill for a construction that was left unfinished or they may have been part of an effort to terminate formally Str. 23-1st at least on this side. There were no clear signs of comparable building efforts elsewhere on or around Str. 23-1st.

Time Span 5

This period is characterized by events that followed Str. 23-1st's abandonment. As much as 0.17m of S.1 may have accumulated northeast of the building though there are no clear signs that this yellow-brown clay was deposited on other sides after TS.3. Covering S.1 is 0.17-0.22m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) that contains some small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions. Stratum 2 is also distinguished by a relatively high concentration of artifacts, especially pottery sherds. This layer, in turn, was blanketed by as much as 0.16m of a very similar earth (S.3) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately light concentration of rocks fallen from Strs. 23-1st, 23-Sub1, and 23-Sub2.

Structure 24

Structure 24 is poised atop the crest of the high terrace that supports the bulk of the site of El Coyote, overlooking the steep descent of that terrace to the south. As mapped, this building closes off the south side of the patio defined by Strs. 20-24, lying 5.6m east of Str. 23 and 6.6m south and across the patio from Str. 20. Digging here in Subop. 5C, F, H, J, and L uncovered ca. 63m², revealing in the process that what was mapped as a single edifice actually consisted of two closely-spaced buildings (designated Str. 24A on the southeast and Str. 24B on the northwest). The ground on which Strs. 24A and 24B was raised ascends 0.85m over 13.2m southeast-to-northwest and roughly 0.4m across 6.1m southwest-to-northeast. Excavations proceeded to maximum depths of 1.2m and 1.95m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. Three major construction episodes were identified for each building. The research reported here was directed by I. Gunn, assisted by V. Levitt, from February 1-March 10, 2000.

Structure 24A

Structure 24A, the southeastern member of the dyad, was investigated in Subop. 5C, J, and L. In the course of this work approximately 41m² was cleared, revealing all of the building's southwest and northwest flanks, most of its summit, along with limited portions of the northeast side and of the poorly preserved southeast edge. Digging here reached maximum depths of 1.95m and 1.2m below modern ground level within and outside construction, revealing three major periods of building and occupation.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
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1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 24A-1 st	U.1-5	-	-	
3	Str. 24A-1 st	U.6-11, 21	-	-	
4	Str. 24A-1 st	U.12-18			
5	Str. 24A-1 st	U.19-20	-	F.2	
6	-	-	S.2-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity we identified involved the deposition of at least 0.36m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay with numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions (S.1). Stratum 1's base was not encountered in our excavations.

Time Span 2

It was during this interval that the first version of Str. 24A-1st that we observed was raised. This building was a platform standing 0.88m high on the southeast and an estimated 1.07m tall on the northwest. The edifice was delimited by stone facings (U.2 and 4) on the southeast and northwest. The northwestern example is an estimated 1.08m wide while it is not clear how broad U.2 on the southeast was. We were not able to locate the building's southwest and northeast facings with any certainty. The fill retained by U.2 and 4 consists of a few rocks set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay with many small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions (U.5; cf., S.1). A stone floor (U.3) was supported by this hearting, spanning a summit that measured 2.42m southeast-northwest. No built-in furniture dating to TS.2 was recorded during our limited examination of Str. 24A-1st's TS.2 superstructure.

A 0.38m-high by 1.5m-wide stone-faced and –surfaced terrace (U.1) fronts the platform on the southeast. Unit 1 was poorly preserved and we are, therefore, not certain if this construction ran for the full length of the building's southeast face. As U.2 projected 0.4m above U.1 it seems unlikely that Str. 24A-1st's summit was reached from the southeast. Any access features that might have graced the platform may well lie concealed beneath later architecture on the southwest and northwest or off the largely unexplored northeast flank.

By the end of TS.2 Str. 24A-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.88-1.07m tall, measured 4.82m northwest-southeast, and was oriented approximately 18 degrees. Its stone paved summit covered 2.42m northwest-southeast and may have been open on the southeast where it overlooked a 0.38m-high by 1.5m-wide stone-faced and –surfaced terrace. How the superstructure was reached is unclear. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 3

It was in the course of TS.3 that Str. 24A-1st was raised about 0.9m by the addition of a fill composed of rocks set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay characterized by many small (0.01m or less in diameter, white specks (U.10; cf., U.5 and S.1). The rocks comprising U.10 are especially concentrated atop the southeastern 1.7m of the U.3 floor, immediately backing the addition made to U.2, the southeastern basal facing. The latter was raised roughly 0.9m to contain the newly added U.10 fill. Unit 4 was extended upwards 0.63m on the northwest. This addition, designated U.11, was set 0.12m back (northwest) from U.4's original

southeast face. On the southwest U.6 served as the platform's basal facing while a wall in line with U.13 (see TS.4) may have served this function on the northeast. The existence of the latter facing is, however, only inferred and was not identified in our excavations.

The superstructure now consisted of at least two earthen-floored compartments set in a northeast-southwest line. Room 1 on the northeast encompassed 2.42m southeast-northwest by an estimated 2.2m northeast-southwest (the compartment's northeast limit was not found). Room 2 was separated from its northeast neighbor by a 0.5m-wide foundation (U.21) and covers 0.6m by 3.3m, its long dimension running northwest-southeast (the southeast end of Room 3 was not clearly marked and its location is inferred). No built-in furniture, such as benches or shelves, were recorded in our limited exposures of both enclosures.

What may be parts of two terraces that possibly fronted Str. 24A-1st on the northwest were noted lying beneath Str. 24B-1st's southwest side (U.7-9). Unit 7 is the northwestern-most of the pair and stood an estimated 0.15m tall and measured 2.65m across northwest-southeast. Unit 7 ends on the southeast in a stone block (U.9) that measures 0.85m northwest-southeast and seems to have projected 0.35m above U.7. Unit 9 is succeeded on the southeast by U.8. The latter runs back 3.4m to the southeast before turning northeast to join Str. 24A-1st's southwest facing (U.6) at a point 0.7m southeast of the building's west corner. The 0.38m-tall U.1 terrace still projected 1.5m southeast from the platform on this side.

By the end of TS.3, Str. 24A-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 1.79-1.97m tall, measured 4.82m northwest-southeast by an estimated 5m northeast-southwest, and was aligned approximately 18 degrees. The summit seems to have supported two earthen-floored rooms set in a northeast-southwest line. The larger northeast compartment (Room 1) covers 5.3m² while Room 2 on the southwest encompasses 2m². Neither had any built-in furniture though the poor preservation of Room 1 especially leaves open the possibility that whatever constructions may have originally been found in this space were destroyed in the centuries following Str. 24A-1st's abandonment. The 0.38m-tall by 1.5m-wide southeastern terrace apparently raised during TS.2 likely continued in use now. Two stone-faced terraces may also have been appended to the platform's northwest face now. The basal riser stands an estimated 0.15m tall by 2.65m wide, its successor on the southeast rising 0.35m above its northwestern analogue. The second ascending northwest terrace runs 4.05m to the southeast where it intersects the platform 0.7m southeast of its west corner. All-in-all, the northwest terrace system was 6m wide. As they were buried by later construction, we do not know whether these risers ran for the full length of Str. 24A-1st's northwest side.

All TS.3 constructions were made primarily of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

Time Span 4

Structure 24A-1st retained its basic form and orientation during TS.4. The primary change involved the construction of Rooms 3 and 4 atop a ca. 0.4m-high, 2.32m-wide terrace appended to the platform's northwest side. This addition covered all but the southwest edge of U.8, which it largely replaced. The northwest terrace is bounded by stone facings on the northwest (U.12), northeast (U.13), and southwest (a northwestward extension of U.6). The fill contained by these risers consists of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay containing numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white stone flecks (U.16). A stone surface (U.15) backs (on the southeast) U.12 for 0.82m before giving way to an earthen surface which then

extends southeast to the platform's northwest basal wall (U.11). Rooms 3 and 4 are arrayed in a northeast-southwest line separated by a 0.5m-high wall (U.14) that projects 0.62m northwest onto the terrace from U.11. Both compartments were apparently unencumbered by construction on their northwest flanks and were bounded by low foundations that are 0.85m wide (U.18 on Room 4's southwest side) and at least 0.2m across (U.17 on the northeast side of Room 3; U.17's northeast flank was not identified). Room 3 on the northeast encompasses 1.5x2.32m while Room 4 on the southwest covers 1.4x2.32m. Passage between these compartments was quite easy as there is a gap of 1.7m between the medial wall (U.14) and the terrace's northwest edge (U.12).

As TS. 4 drew to as close the core of Str. 24A-1st remained a 1.79-1.97m-tall platform that measured 4.82x5m, and was aligned ca. 18 degrees. Its two earthen floored summit rooms continued in us but were now complemented by two additional compartments (Rooms 3 and 4) raised atop a newly constructed terrace built against the platform's northwest side. The latter addition ran for the full length of the building's northwest flank and covered its predecessor in the area, U.8. The northwest terrace was an estimated 0.4m high, 2.32m wide, and 5m long northeast-southwest. Rooms 3 and 4 are bounded by stone foundations on all sides save the northwest; they were open in the latter direction. Room 3 on the northeast covered 3.5m², Room 4 to the southwest measured 3.3m³, and passage between them was through a 1.7m-wide gap between the medial wall and the terrace's northwest flank. All constructions raised now were fashioned mostly of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Their naturally flatter aspects were oriented outwards.

Time Span 5

By this point in time Str. 24A-1st was largely abandoned. Fragments of constructions (U.19-20) were found atop the platform but were not integrated into pre-existing architecture. In fact, they seem to be parts of one or more buildings that were erected by people seeking to take advantage of the high ground afforded by the decaying remnants of Str. 24A-1st.

Unit 19 seems to be a low stone foundation that is 0.6m wide, lies immediately northwest of U.11 (the core platform's northwest facing), and was traced for 2m running northwest-southeast, Unit 20, in turn, appears to be the remnants of a stone floor located 1.5m southwest of U.19 and near what had been the southwest wall of Room 1 (U.21). This floor covers an inferred 0.82x0.95m and it is 0.3m thick. These constructions are once again composed primarily of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. Less attention was seemingly devoted to finding rocks with flat faces or arranging them so that those vertical aspects looked outwards.

A dense concentration of generally flat-laid medium-size cobbles (F.2) was set against U.2's southeast side at some point during TS.4. Feature 2 covers the entirety of this basal facing's exterior and was traced for 0.78m to the southeast. The density of these rocks and their horizontal orientation implies that they are not the result of post-abandonment architectural collapse. Instead, they seem to have been placed purposefully here, either as part of a construction project that was never completed or in an effort to seal off this side of the building. No comparable stone packing was noted on Str. 24A-1st's other exposed sides (southwest and northwest).

Time Span 6

During this interval a moderately fine-textured, moderately coarse-textured, brown soil containing a few small white specks (0.01m or less in diameter; S.2) was deposited atop S.1 and most of the exposed architecture. Stratum 2 accumulated to as much as 0.46m before being blanketed by a very similar soil (S.3) distinguished by its darker brown color, much fewer white inclusions, and greater density of modern roots. Stratum 4 is 0.16-0.28m thick. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that apparently fell from elements comprising Str. 24A-1st.

Structure 24B

Structure 24B immediately adjoins Str. 24A to the northwest, the former building's east corner touching U.12 (Str. 24A-1st's northwestern terrace face) 1.65m southwest of its north corner. Digging here in Subop. 5F, H, and J exposed 22m², revealing the entirety of the construction's final form. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.97m and 0.64m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture respectively revealing four major construction periods.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 24B-Sub1	U.12	-	-	
3	Str. 24B-3 rd	U.1, 16	-	-	
4	Str. 24B-2 nd	U.2	-	-	
5	Str. 24B-1 st	U. 3-11, 13-15	-	-	
6	-	-	S.2-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

As in Str. 24A, the earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 24B-1st is the deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown soil containing numerous white inclusions that are 0.01m or less in diameter. Stratum 1 was at least 0.22m thick (its base lay beyond our excavation limits).

Time Span 2

The first construction raised in the sequence identified here is a wall (U.12) that is at least 0.15m high and which runs out from under Str. 24B-1st's northeast wall at a point 1.8m northwest of the building's east corner. Unit 12 was traced for 0.7m at an angle of roughly 19 degrees. The architectural significance of U.12 is unclear; most likely it was part of a footing that delimited one side of a surface-level building (Str. 24B-Sub1). Unit 12 was fabricated using unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval U.1, a 0.17m-high wall oriented ca. 20 degrees, was erected. Unit 1 was exposed under later architecture beneath TS.5's Room 4 and was only traced for 1.4m. Underlying U.1 by minimally 0.11m is a dense concentration of rocks set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay with numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white flecks

(U.16). The base of U.16 was not found and it is unclear whether it represents a natural deposit or fill purposefully introduced to elevate and level-out the terrain over which Str. 24B-3rd was raised. At present, given the relative rarity of stones recorded in S.1 where it underlies later architecture, we infer that these rocks were part of an early construction effort, probably related to the erection of the building of which U.1 was a part.

Unit 1 is located 0.2m above U.12 and 1.5m to the southwest of the exposed portion of that wall. Consequently, it is not clear if these two diminutive pieces of architecture are contemporary. At present, the slight elevation differences tentatively suggest that U.1 and U.12 are not contemporary though we cannot rule out the possibility that, taken together with U.16, they are parts of the same construction episode. For the moment we have chosen to maintain a temporal distinction between them.

As was the case with U.12, U.1 was made of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter sides of these rocks faced to the northwest.

Time Span 4

The next activity for which we have evidence in and around Str. 24B-1st involved the construction of an arc (U.2) that directly overlies U.1 and is flush with the floor of what would become Room 4 during TS.5. Unit 2 is open to the northwest, has walls that are 0.3-0.4m thick, and an interior diameter of 1.7m. The visible part of U.2 may be the southeastern half of a circle that continues to the northwest under TS.5 summit architecture or the surviving segment we revealed may be complete. As with other Str. 24B-1st architectural elements, U.2 was fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Structure 24B-1st was, at this time, a platform defined by stone facings (U.3-6) that are 0.44-0.87m tall. The southwestern (U.3) and southeastern (U.6) basal walls run straight for their full lengths while their northwestern (U.5) and northeastern (U.4) counterparts diverge from such direct paths. Unit 4 steps back (southwest) 0.1m 1.8m southeast from the building's north corner. Unit 5, in turn, jogs back (southeast) 0.25m and 0.35m at 2.75m and 3.35m northeast from the platform's west corner. The fill retained by these basal walls (U.14) consisted of rocks embedded in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay that contained many small (0.01m or less in diameter) white flecks (cf., S.1).

Structure 24B-1st's superstructure consists of four rooms, three (Rooms 1-3) set in a northeast-southwest trending line on the building's northwest side and one (Room 4) situated behind these compartments on the southeast. The foundations bordering these compartments (tops of U.3, 4, 6, and the northeast-southwest-running medial wall (U.8) are 0.54-0.98m wide and stand 0.4-0.54m above the compartments' floors. The central enclosure on the northwest (Room 1) covers 1.55x1.6m, was paved with stones (U.15), that surface being underlain by a fill (a continuation of U.14) composed of flat-laid medium-size cobbles set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, brown clay with numerous small (0.01m or less in diameter) white inclusions. A stone construction (U.7) composed of three faced blocks measuring 0.6x0.7m by 0.15m high is set on U.15 and against the room's southeast foundation (U.8). Unit 7 likely served as a threshold marking the passageway from Room 1 to Room 4 on the southeast. Room 1 is open on the northwest where it faces over a 0.1m-high by 0.17m-wide step (U.11). Unit 11 is 0.4m long northeast-southwest and abuts the northwest facing (U.5) at a point 2m northeast of the

platform's west corner. Bordering Room 1 on the northeast and southwest are two earth-and-stone-surfaced enclosures, their floors resting ca. 0.2m lower than the central compartment's paved U.15. Room 2 on the northeast encompasses 0.72x1.14m while Room 3 on the southwest measures 0.75x2.07m. There are no clear obstacles to passage in and out of Rooms 2 and 3 on any side save the southeast where they are sealed off from Room 4 by the U.8 medial wall. Earthen-floored Room 4, in turn, encompasses 1.1x2.3m and is open on the southwest. The latter entryway is flanked by stone blocks (U.9 and 10) that abut U.6 and 8, respectively, project into the southwestern passage 0.15-0.2m, and are 0.3m tall. The resulting doorway was, therefore, 0.75m wide. A 0.3m-wide gap between the southwest end of U.8 and the southwestern basal facing (U.3) may have facilitated the movement of air, if not people, between Rooms 3 and 4.

Abutting U.4 (the northeast basal wall) at a point 1.5m southeast of Str. 24B-1st's north corner is a 0.54m-high wall (U.13) that was traced for 1.5m to the northeast before excavations ceased. Unit 13's architectural significance is eminently vague. Given its relatively substantial height we infer that it was the northwest basal facing for a terrace or platform built against Str. 24B-1st's northeast side late in that building's history.

By TS.5's conclusion Str. 24B-1st was a stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.44-0.87m tall, measured 3.76x3.86m, and was oriented ca. 288 degrees. The four rooms comprising the building's superstructure were reached by passing up and over a 0.1m-high by 0.17m-wide by 0.4m-long stone step into Room 1. This stone-floored compartment encompasses 2.5m², is open on the northwest, and contains a block of stone measuring 0.6x0.7m by 0.15m high resting on the pavement and against the southeast room wall. Fashioned from three pieces of faced masonry, this construction likely functioned as a threshold marking the passageway from Room 1 over the medial wall to Room 4 on the southeast. Room 1 is flanked by smaller compartments on the northeast and southwest (Rooms 2 and 3). The earth-and-stone floors of these enclosures are 0.2m lower than the surface of Room 1. Room 2 on the northeast measures 0.8m² whereas Room 3 southwest of Room 1 encompasses 1.6m². Rooms 2 and 3 are open on all sides save the southeast where the aforementioned medial wall separates them from earthen-floored Room 4. The latter backs Rooms 1-3 on the southeast, measures 2.5m², and was entered from Room 1 on the northwest and by passing through a 0.75m-wide doorway in the enclosure's southwest side. Outside of the aforementioned threshold, none of the rooms contains stand-alone built-in furniture. The unusually broad (0.98m wide) foundation bordering Room 4 on the northeast (U.4) is wide enough to have supported a perishable upper wall and to have acted as a shelf (it is 1.1m long). A 0.54m-tall wall that projects at least 1.5m northeast from its abutment with Str. 24B-1st's northeast side may have been part of a terrace or platform facing appended to the core building late in TS.5. Little else is known about this putative addition.

Given that Str. 24B-1st is built over Str. 24A-1st's northwestern terraces (U.7-9) it seems that this iteration of the former building was raised at a time contemporary with Str. 24A-1st's TS.4.

Most of the constructions dating to TS.5 were fashioned from unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards. As noted above, the likely threshold marking the passage from Room 1 to Room 4 was made entirely of three cut blocks.

Time Span 6

After Str. 24B-1st was abandoned most of its final-phase architecture was gradually submerged beneath a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil that contains a few small (0.01m or less in diameter) white flecks (S.2). Stratum 2 accumulated to as much as 0.25m on and around the platform and was blanketed, in turn, by 0.1-0.2m of a very similar soil (S.3) that is distinguished by its darker brown color, much lower density of white inclusions, and greater prevalence of modern roots. Embedded in S.2 and 3 is a moderately light concentration of rocks (F.1) that had fallen from TS.5 constructions.