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## PSB-OP 302-Excavation Report

Edward Schortman  
schortma@kenyon.edu

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## Site 302

Site 302 lies approximately 50m south of the Quebrada Aguacata/Zapote and 100m in the same direction from Site 300. Eight of the nine sizable platforms that comprise this site define an extensive plaza on all sides; Str. 302-2 is situated within this open space on its north margin. The two edifices dug at Site 302 are Structure 302-3, on the plaza's northeast corner, and Structure 302-6, 34.5m to the southeast on the patio's east flank. A total of 87.5m<sup>2</sup> was cleared in the course of this work conducted over the course of 13-23 May, 1985. These investigations were directed by T. Melchionne and J. Benyo.

### Structure 302-3

Structure 302-3 is on the northeast corner of the main plaza ca. 5m northeast of Str. 302-4 and 34.5m northwest of Str. 302-6. Digging here was restricted to Subop. 302K, a 1m wide by 17.5m long trench that ran north-south and cut completely across the platform. Fully 17.5m<sup>2</sup> was uncovered in the course of this work during which digging was pursued to maximum depths of 2.28m and 1.28m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. Remnants of two building phases were recorded in the course of this work.

### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
302K/1	26 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/2	30 sherds, 1 censer fragment, 4 pieces of bajareque	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/3	52 sherds, 1 stone, 8 pieces of obsidian	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/4	34 sherds	Fill	3/-
302K/5	268 sherds, 1 metate, 2 bajareque pieces	Mixed Fill/Terminal Debris	3/LPrecl, LCL, EPC
302K/6	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/7	60 sherds, 1 shell fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/8	15 sherds	Fill	3/-
302K/9	unprocessed	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/-
302K/10	unprocessed	Fill	3/-
302K/11	unprocessed	Fill	3/-
302K/12	15 sherds	Fill	3/-
302K/13	80 sherds	Fill	3/-

320K/14	2 sherds		
302K/15	unprocessed	Fill	3/-
302K/16	25 sherds	Fill	3/-
302K/17	5 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302K/18	18 sherds	Fill	3/-
302K/19	empty	-	1/-

### Time Spans

Time Construction

<u>Span</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	LPrecl/ECL?
2	Str. 302-3-2nd	U.1, 2	-	-	LCL/EPC?
3	Str. 302-3-1st	U.3/7	-	-	EPC?
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

### Time Span 1

At least 0.5m of S.1 was deposited now (no description of this soil was found). The

base of S.1 was not revealed in our excavations. The general paucity of cultural materials recovered from places where this soil underlies exposed architecture points to the lack of significant human activity in the immediate environs while this portion of S.1 was being deposited.

### Time Span 2

Remnants of Str. 302-3-2nd (U.1 and 2) were uncovered in the southern portion of Subop.302K underlying, and projecting 0.82m south from Str. 302-3-1st's south basal facing (U.3). Unit 1 is a 0.24m-high cobble wall that is backed on the north by a fill (U.2) composed of a few medium-sized cobbles set in an earth matrix. Unit 2 was traced northward for 2.3m. It seems reasonable to infer that U.1 was the southern basal facing of an earth-and-stone-filled platform though we do not know the form and dimensions of this early building.

Overall, Str. 302-3-2nd was a platform that stood at least 0.24m high, measured minimally 2.3m north-south, and was aligned roughly 62 degrees. Exposed construction consists of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud matrix.

### Time Span 3

Structure 302-3-1st was defined on the north and south by stone terrace facings that rose 0.78m (U.6 on the north) and 0.62m (U.3 on the south). The southern terrace is 2.2m wide while its northern counterpart measures 1.4m across. Unit 4 delimits the earthen-floored summit on the south, rising 0.24m above U.3's tread. Its northern counterpart, U.5, rose an estimated 0.82m. It is likely that

U.4 and 5 also served as supports for the superstructure’s perishable upper walls. Units 4 and 5 average 0.45m across. No additional summit architecture was revealed in the 1m-wide swath that was cut across the summit. Structure 302-3-1st’s fill (U.7) consists primarily of earth in which a few small to medium-sized cobbles are embedded.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 302-3-1st was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.8m and 1.6m high on the south and north, respectively, covered 10.5m north-south, and was oriented approximately 64 degrees. The summit measures 5.9m across east-west, its earthen floor unencumbered by any known architecture. Flanking the superstructure on the north and south are stone-faced terraces that are 0.78m high by 1.4m wide (the northern example) and 0.62m tall by 2.2m wide (its southern analogue). It is unclear why the north side of Str. 302-3-1<sup>st</sup> was twice as tall as its south flank.

Uncovered construction consists of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. All terrace surfaces and the summit floor are fashioned of earth.

#### Time Span 4

Following Str. 302-3-1st’s abandonment, deposition of S.1 resumed. Eventually, this soil covered all but the very tops of architecture raised during TS.3. Some cobbles (F.1), likely fallen from final-phase constructions, were found extending 1.7m south and 2.6m north of the building. Feature 1 was densest on the north, being much more dispersed on the south.

#### Structure 302-6

Structure 302-6 is on the east side of the Site 302 plaza and was revealed in the course of digging Subop. 302B/H and J. Fully 70m<sup>2</sup> was uncovered in the course of this work, revealing most of the platform’s summit and portions of all four of its basal facings. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 1.52m and 2.56m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. One clear building episode was identified in the course of this work.

#### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
302B/1	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/2	41 sherds 1 obsidian flake	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/3	8 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/4	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/5	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/6	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/7	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/8	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-

302B/9	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/10	20 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302B/11	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/1	6 sherds 6 pieces of worked stone	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/2	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/TCL, EPC
302C/3	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/4	20 sherds	Mixed Terminal Debris/ Fill	2,3/LCL, TCL, EPC
302C/5	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/6	7 sherds jute shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/7	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/8	28 sherds, 4 worked stones, 2 pieces of bajareque,	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/9	3 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/10	unprocessed	Mixed Terminal Debris/Fill	2,3/-
302C/11	unprocessed	Fill	2/-
302C/12	17 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/13	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/14	unprocessed	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/15	16 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/16	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/17	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302C/18	14 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/19	85 sherds, 5 obsidian pieces	Fill	2/-
302C/20	8 sherds	Fill	2/-

302C/21	112 sherds, 15 pieces of bajareque	Mixed Fill/Terminal Debris	2,3/-
302C/22	40 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/26	empty	Fill	2/-
302C/27	24 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/28	18 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/29	20 sherds	Fill	2/ECL, LCL
302C/30	unprocessed (burnt clay)	Fill	2/-
302C/31	25 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/32	5 sherds	Fill	2/-
302C/33	unprocessed	Fill	2/-
302D/1	20 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302D/2	19 sherds, 12 jute shells, 6 obsidian pieces, 7 bones	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302E/1	20 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/TCL, EPC
302F/1	8 sherds, 21 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/ LCL?
302G/1	12 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302H/1	6 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-
302J/1	12 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/-

#### Time Spans

Time	Construction				
<u>Span</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	ECL?
2	Str. 302-6-1st	U.1-15, 17	-	-	LCL/TCL
3	Str. 302-6-1st	U.16	-	-	TCL/EPC
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

#### Time Span 1

Underlying all exposed architecture is a brown sandy soil containing a moderate amount of small to medium-size cobbles (S.1). The deposition of S.1 is the first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 302-6-1st. As this material continued to be laid down following the platform's abandonment, it is difficult to determine how much of S.1's uncovered depth was introduced now. At least 0.45m of this earth was deposited during TS.1 based on the stratigraphic position of preserved architectural remains pertaining to TS.2. The base of S.1 lies beyond our excavation limits.

### Time Span 2

Structure 302-6-1st is bounded on the south, east, north, and west by cobble facings that stand 0.34-0.48m high (U.1, 13, 7, and 15, respectively). On the south, U.1 is succeeded by two risers (U.2, 3) leading up to the platform's earthen-floored summit. Unit 2 is 1.38m south of U.1 and rises an estimated 0.76m where it gives way to an earthen terrace surface that is 1.86m wide. Ascending 0.86m above this terrace is U.3, which delimits the summit's south margin. On the north, U.7-10 together ascend 0.72m to a 3.92m-wide earthen terrace. The treads backing U.7-9 are 0.12-0.3m wide and might constitute a set of steps to the wide northern terrace. Given that this broad surface terminates in U.11's 1.76m ascent to the summit, it appears that the superstructure was likely accessed from another side. Excavations were not pursued far enough on the east and west to determine how the summit might have been reached along these flanks.

Structure 302-6-1st's superstructure consists of three earthen-floored rooms set in a line running north-south. These enclosures are bordered by substantial cobble footings (U.4/6, 12, 13) that likely supported perishable upper walls and measure 0.2-0.49m across and are 0.25-0.55m high. The southern limit of the southern-most room is marked by U.3 that does not rise above floor level and may well have not supported an upper wall. The sizes of these compartments are, running from south to north, 2.42x4.4m, 2.1x4.8m, and 3.44x3.5m. There is no foundation bordering the southern enclosure on the east whereas the central room's east and west margins are inferred by extrapolating the lines of U.12 and 13 from where they were exposed elsewhere on the summit. Unit 6, which defines the northern limit of the north room is unusually tall (0.7m) and wide (3.03m) by the standards of foundations noted elsewhere on this edifice. It may well be that U.6 doubled as a support for a perishable upper wall on its northern edge and a bench facing into the northern summit enclosure.

The platform's fill (U.17) consists of a fine-textured brown clay that contains a light scattering of medium to large cobbles. No clear signs of earlier construction were revealed within the platform's hearting.

By TS.2's conclusion, Str. 302-6-1st was an earth-filled platform that stood 2.3-2.6m high, measured 9x21.8m, and was aligned approximately 270 degrees. Along the two most thoroughly investigated flanks, the south and north, Str.302-6-1st was ascended by stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces. The two southern examples are 1.38 and 1.86m wide whereas the northern terrace runs for 3.92m. The three low and narrow stone-faced ascents that lead up to the last feature may have been steps that provided access to this extensive, seemingly open space. The relatively great heights of the core facings exposed on Str. 302-6-1st's north and south flanks (0.76-1.76m), however, suggest that the stairs leading to the summit were not revealed in our excavations. That summit was divided among three earthen-floored enclosures set in a north-south line and measuring 10.7m<sup>2</sup>, 10.1m<sup>2</sup>, and 12m<sup>2</sup> from south to north. These compartments were bounded by substantial stone foundations that likely supported perishable upper walls. The rooms generally lacked built-in features. The one exception was

the northern enclosure that is bordered on the north by a 0.7m-high by 3.03m-wide wall that probably served as a bench and support for the superstructure's northern wall made of perishable material.

All walls and facings pertaining to TS.2 consisted of unmodified river stones set in a mud matrix. The naturally flatter faces of these cobbles were generally oriented outwards. Preservation of the terrace facings and basal walls was generally poor though the summit walls tended to retain their original forms. Terrace heights and widths, therefore, are estimates based on surviving architectural remnants.

### Time Span 3

Structure 302-6-1st retained its basic form and dimensions during TS.3. The broad terrace on the platform's north side was now blanketed by a brown, fine-textured clay (U.17) that rose to the top of U.11, the core platform's north facing. There is no good evidence for how U.17 was retained on the north. We presume that U.10, the uppermost riser in the set of three steps facing Str. 302-6-1<sup>st</sup> on the this side, was raised 1.1m to fulfill this function. No evidence for such an addition was found, however. A 0.4m-wide by ca. 0.35m-tall cobble wall (U.16) was built atop U.17 and runs 2.7m north from its intersection with U.11, the core platform's north facing. Unit 16 may have been raised as part of an effort to create two new rooms on the platform's newly expanded northern summit. The concentration of bajareque fragments found around and within U.16 points to its use as a support for a wall fashioned of this material (see lots 302C/8 and 21).

Very tentatively, we infer that Str. 302-6-1st's superstructure during TS.3 consisted of five rooms. The three dating to TS.2 remained relatively unchanged. Now, however, the building's broad northern terrace was covered with an earthen fill to bring it up to the same level as the rest of the summit. Once completed, this space was divided into two earthen-floored compartments through the construction of a north-south running cobble foundation that extended 2.7m north from U.11. We infer that the resulting rooms measured 3.92m north-south and may have been mutually accessible through a door between them that was a reconstructed 1.22m wide. Excavations did not reveal the width of these compartments. Otherwise, Str. 302-6-1st was not significantly modified.

Unit 16 was built like its predecessors in TS.2; i.e., from unmodified river-worn stones set in a mud mortar. Some effort was devoted to orienting the naturally flatter faces of these rocks outward.

### Time Span 4

Following abandonment, deposition of S.1 continued. Eventually this brown sandy soil covered all but the uppermost portions of the surviving architecture. A light to moderate scattering of medium to small cobbles (F.1) was recorded extending at least 2.6m beyond the limits of construction. Feature 1 likely contains stones that fell from final-phase construction.

### Chronological Summary

The earliest occupation attested to at the settlement dates to the Late Preclassic and Early Classic. Early Classic ceramics diagnostic of this interval were found mixed with later materials at both excavated edifices whereas a few eroded, possible Late Preclassic sherds were retrieved from a mixed context at Str. 302-3-1st. The small sample of analyzed materials from Site 302, however, indicates that building here may have been initiated near the end of the Late Classic though the primary occupation



seems to date to the Terminal Classic and, possibly, Early Postclassic. Most likely, Strs. 302-6-1st and 302-3-1st were raised during the Terminal Classic as were the other visible constructions.

### Architectural Summary

Structures 302-3-2nd and -1<sup>st</sup> as well as Str. 302-6-1st are sizable earth-filled platforms bounded by stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces. They rise to heights of 0.8-2.6m and measure 10.5m wide (Str. 302-3-1st) and 196m<sup>2</sup> (Str. 302-6-1st). Their earthen summits are extensive; Str. 302-3-1st's superstructure measures 5.9m across whereas the more thoroughly cleared summit of Str. 302-6-1st consisted initially of three large rooms set in a north-south line and covering 32.8m<sup>2</sup> in all. The northern-most of these enclosures contains a substantial (0.7m high by 3.03m across) stone-faced bench that doubled as the compartment's northern foundation. A set of two summit rooms was apparently added over what had been Str. 302-6-1st's northern terrace late in the building's occupation. These compartments measure 3.92m north-south and bring to five the number of rooms comprising Str. 302-6-1st's superstructure. Bajareque walls set on low stone foundations apparently made up the summit construction in both Strs. 302-3-1st and 302-6-1st. All stone architecture consists of unmodified river cobbles set in an earth matrix. Coursing was not much in evidence nor were chinking stones noted in the exposed walls and facings. There was also little effort devoted to orienting the naturally flatter faces of these river-worn stones outwards.