

1985

PSB OP 309 Excavation Report

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Site 309

Site 309 is 150m northwest of Site 308, 100m northeast of Site 311, and 1km south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. This settlement consists of eight diminutive, surface-visible buildings. Structures 309-3/6 loosely define a plaza open on the north towards a modern dirt access road while Str. 309-1 and 309-2 lie immediately east of Str. 309-3 off the patio's northeast corner. Structure 309-7, a low terrace, lies 65m south of the patio group whereas Str. 309-8, a stone wall set flush with modern ground surface, is 100m south of that group. Structure 309-4 was investigated during April 23-25, 1985 through the excavation of a 1m-wide by 4m-long trench dug into the edifice's south side (4m² uncovered at Site 309 in all). All excavations were overseen by Daniel Brennan and Julie Miller.

Structure 309-4

Structure 309-4, lying 4m south of Str. 309-3 and 8.5m east/northeast of Str. 309-5, closes off the southeast corner of the Site 309 patio. The building was investigated by the digging of a 1m, north-south, by 4m, east-west, trench (Subop. 309B) set against Str. 309-4's south side (4m² cleared in all). Digging here was carried down to maximum depths of 0.54m and 0.59m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. One building phase was recognized during the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
309B/1	unprocessed (small lot)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
309B/2	unprocessed	Mixed, Terminal and Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,2/
309B/3	14 sherds	Fill	2/

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 309-4-1st	U.1, 2	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Time Span 1 witnessed the deposition of at least 0.22m of a brown soil (S.1). Stratum 1's base lies beyond our excavation limits. A concentration of small rocks is embedded in S.1 where it underlies U.2, Str. 309-4-1st's fill. It is unclear whether these stones were introduced by natural means or if they were inserted during TS.2 to support construction on Str. 309-4-1st's south flank.

Time Span 2

Structure 309-4-1st's south flank consists of a 0.11m-high stone facing (U.1) that gives way to an earth-and-stone surface that extends at least 2.43m back to the north. It appears at present that the latter surface was the building's summit. The fill contained by U.1 is a mix of brown soil and small stones (U.2).

By TS.2's conclusion, Str. 309-4-1st was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.11m high, was at least 2.43m wide, and was aligned roughly 72 degrees. The southern basal facing seemingly rose directly to the summit. There was no sign of built-in architecture atop the edifice, though we only cleared a 1m-wide swath across the southern portion of the summit; additional constructions may well lie beyond the limits of Subop. 309B. Unit 1 was fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The summit was not paved; its surface consists of the exposed portions of the U.2 fill.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, resumed deposition of S.1 covered all visible signs of TS.2 architecture; as much as 0.32m of S.1 was deposited now. A few small stones, probably fallen from final-phase construction, were found extending 0.47m south of U.1 (F.1).

Architectural Summary

See TS.2, Str. 309-4-1st, above.

Chronological Summary

No artifacts unearthed in association with Str. 309-4-1st were analyzed. The nature of the architecture tentatively points to construction and use of this building during the Late Classic. This inference is weakly supported by the arrangement of most Site 309 buildings around a central court.