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## PSB OP 320 Excavation Report

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## Site 320

Site 320 lies near the base of the eastern hills, ca. 325m southeast of Site 318, 300m northeast of Site 321, and 58m north of the Quebrada Muigual. Its 30 buildings are organized primarily within two clear aggregates (Groups A and B). Group A, on the settlement's east edge, is made up of Strs. 1-15, which are arranged around two adjoining patios set in a northeast-southwest line. Group B, lying 60m northwest of Group A, consists of Strs. 18-30. These generally smaller constructions (0-1m tall) are arranged in a southeast-northwest trending cluster that covers 1,800m<sup>2</sup> and contains at least three focal patios. The distribution of Group B structures on the southwest was apparently limited by the edge of a natural drop off. Structures 16 and 17 are isolated platforms lying 57m northeast and 72m northwest of Group B.

Structures 320-2, 320-3, 320-7, 320-8, 320-10, 320-11, 320-15, 320-21, 320-23, and 320-28 were excavated from April 8-18, 1995 under the direction of Julie Benyo, Daniel Brennan, and Thomas Melchionne. Fully 79m<sup>2</sup> were cleared in the course of this work.

### Structure 320-2

Structure 320-2 defines, along with its neighbor 5m the west, Str. 320-3, the north side of Group A's northeast patio. Structure 320-7, on the plaza's south side, is 34m distant. Investigation of Str. 320-2 took the form of one continuous trench made up of Subop. 320B and 320E. This excavation measures 1x9.5m (9.5m<sup>2</sup> cleared in all), extending from west of the platform's axis on its southern, plaza-facing side to the summit. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.45m and 2.22m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. Three clear construction phases were identified in the course of this work.

### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320B/1	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LCL?
320B/2	71 sherds, 3 jute shells, 2 bajareque fragments	Mix, Terminal and Occupation Debris (Secondary)	1,5/ECL,LCL?
320E/1	unprocessed (sherds, modern glass)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LCL
320E/2	110 sherds, 15 jute shells, 6 obsidian pieces, 2 bajareque fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LCL?
320E/3	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	5/LCL?
320E/4	40 sherds, 1 jute shell, burnt earth	Fill	3,4/LCL.ECL?

320E/5	141 sherds	Mix, Fill and Terminal Debris	5/LCL, ECL
320E/6	unprocessed (sherds, jutes, burnt earth)	Fill	4/LCL?
320E/7	41 sherds, 2 pieces of obsidian, 9 burnt earth fragments	Fill	3/LCL, ECL
320E/8	58 sherds, 5 jute shells, 33 burnt earth fragments	Fill	2,3/ECL,LCL?
320E/9	63 sherds, 25 burnt earth fragments	Fill	2/ECL, LCL

### 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	-	ECL?
2	Str. 320-2-3rd	U.1-6, 21-23?	-	-	LCL
3	Str. 320-2-2ndA	U.1-3, 21-23, 7-12	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 320-2-2ndB	U.1-3, 21-23, 7, 13-16	-	-	LCL
5	Str. 320-2-1st	U.1-3, 21-23, 7, 13, 17-20	-	F.1	LCL
6	-	-	S.1	F.2	

### Time Span 1

Underlying the lowest exposed architecture associated with TS.2 (U.21) is 0.21m of a brown soil (S.1) that was deposited prior to Str. 320-2-3rd's construction. The base of S.1 was not encountered in our excavations. Artifacts recovered from the lowest uncovered portions of S.1 point to a human presence in the area during TS.1.

### Time Span 2

Structure 320-2-3rd is a stone-faced platform bordered on the south by a wall standing 1.21m high (U.1). This construction, fashioned of eight clear courses of cobbles packed around with a few chinking stones, was fronted by a set of three stone steps (U.21-23). The temporal placement of U.21-23 is equivocal as they could have been built at any time after U.1's construction. On the assumption

that there must have been some means by which Str. 320-2-3rd's summit was reached, and that U.21-23 provide such a means, we tentatively place the fashioning of these steps in TS.2. Unit 21 is 0.42m high and has a stone-and-earth tread that is 1.24m wide north-south. It is succeeded by U.22 which rises 0.29m above U.21 and runs back 0.34m to U.23. The latter stands 0.42m high and extends for 0.34m to intersect U.1; the latter projects a preserved 0.37m above U.23. Units 21-23 are, by local standards, made of unusually large cobbles that measure 0.1x0.2m to 0.29x0.48m.

Unit 1 fronts a stone-and-earth terrace that runs 1.15m back to U.2. The latter ascends 0.42m above U.1 and is 0.33m wide. Rising 0.3m above U.2's stone tread, U.3 marks the south flank of Str. 320-2-3rd's summit. Unit 3 is 0.36m wide and gives way to a 0.03m-thick clay floor (U.4) that was traced for 3.87m northwards. Unit 4 sits 0.18m below U.3's top and terminates on the north in a dense concentration of large cobbles that extends 0.7m south from the trench's north margin. A possible stone step-up or bench (U.6) rises 0.24m above the level of U.4 and is at least 0.42m wide (U.6's north edge was not revealed in our investigations). Structure 320-2-3rd's fill (U.5) mostly consists of a brown soil though, as noted previously, there is a very dense concentration of large cobbles localized in the northernmost 0.7m of U.5's exposed portion. The significance of this stone deposit is unclear, though we suspect that it marks the back (south) side of a northern-facing wall, most likely marking the northern limit of Str. 320-2-3rd's summit.

In sum, based on the exposed portions of Str. 320-2-3<sup>rd</sup>, this building was apparently a stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 2.22m high and was aligned roughly 129 degrees. Three substantial stone steps on the edifice's south flank give access to two stone-faced terraces that lead up to the clay-floored summit. This latter surface extends at least 3.87m northward from the summit's south margin though the floor may originally have run for 4.12m where it terminated in a 0.24m-high stone-faced riser. The significance of the latter construction is unclear though it might be the remnants of a low bench facing south over the aforementioned staircase. All walls and steps associated with TS.2 architecture are fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter faces of these rocks are generally directed outwards.

### Time Span 3

Construction associated with Str. 320-2-2ndA left the southern steps (U.21-23), the platform's southern basal facing (U.1), and the U.2 terrace intact. The major changes occurred above this last construction unit and resulted in the raising of the platform's height by an estimated 0.84m. In accomplishing this feat, U.3 was raised ca. 0.34m by the construction of U.7. Unit 7 is poorly preserved, its former existence inferred from the concentration of rocks overlying U.3 and the position of other elements of Str. 320-2-2ndA that would be suspended without support were U.7 not built. The putative addition of U.7 raised U.3 to 0.64m high. Running 2.57m north from U.7 are the remains of what looks to have been a terrace surface that may have been paved with cobbles over its southernmost 1.17m (all included in U.7). This tread is succeeded on the north by three low stone steps (U.8-10). The basal step (U.8) is 0.14m high by 0.17m wide, succeeded, in turn, by U.9 which is 0.15m high by 0.11m wide. The final step-up to the summit, U.10, is 0.21m high. Running 2.06m north from U.10's front (southern) face is what was likely Str. 320-2-2ndA's summit, a surface that was seemingly paved with stones (U.11). We lost U.11 on the north in the same dense concentration of cobbles in which U.4, Str. 32-2-3rd's summit floor, disappeared. No step-up comparable to U.6 was encountered in this mass of stones, however.

The fill piled atop Str. 320-2-3rd's summit (U.12) mostly consists of brown soil. As was the case with Str. 320-2-3rd, this earth is almost completely replaced with a dense packing of large cobbles which, in this case, extends 1m south from the trench's north margin (all included in U.12). The architectural significance of this cobble concentration is unknown though we suspect, as noted above, that it comprises fill packed in against the platform's north core wall. Mixed in with the soil comprising the southern portion of U.12 are fragments of burnt clay.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 320-2-2ndA stood 3.06m high and retained its earlier orientation of ca. 129 degrees. Access to the 2.06m-wide summit was now achieved via a complex combination of steps and terraces. As was the case for Str. 320-2-3rd, three stone steps (U.21-23) lead up to two terraces (U.1-2). What had been the step-up to the earlier platform's summit (U.3) was not modified by the addition of U.7 into a 0.64m-high stone-facing. The 2.57m-wide terrace bounded by U.3/7 on the south was, in turn, succeeded by three stone steps that gave access to Str. 320-2-2ndA's stone-surfaced summit. These modifications halved the north-south width of the platform's superstructure from 4.12m in Str. 320-2-3rd to 2.06m in Str. 320-2-2ndA. All stone steps and facings were made using unmodified river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar. The flatter faces of these rocks were directed outwards.

#### Time Span 4

This interval witnessed the modification of Str. 320-2's form above U.7. The building's height was not increased though the width of its summit was expanded to the south. Because these changes are relatively minor, they are designated here as parts of Str. 320-2-2ndB.

In the course of these renovations, the U.7 terrace was truncated by the construction of U.13, 1.17m north of the terrace's south facing. The space between U.7 and 13 looks to have been surfaced with stone (included in U.7). Unit 13 rises 0.3m above the putative pavement and runs back to the north for 0.91m where it is succeeded by U.14, a 0.19m-high facing. Unit 14's earthen terrace surface (U.15) extends 0.76m north to the point where it intersects what had been the summit of Str. 320-2-2ndA. Structure 320-2-2ndB's superstructure, thus, measured at least 2.82m across north-south.

The fill added in the course of making the changes outlined above (U.16) is composed primarily of a brown earth intermixed with a few small cobbles and fragments of burnt clay.

In general, Str. 320-2-2ndB, like its immediate predecessor, was 3.06m high and oriented approximately 129 degrees. It was ascended on the south by three stone steps (U.21-23) that gave way to three terraces (U.1, 2, and 3/7). Where once U.7, the third ascending terrace, had run 2.57m to the north it was now restricted in width to 1.17m by the construction of a two new stone-faced terraces (U.13 and 14). The addition of these new constructions buried Str. 320-2-2ndA's summit stairs (U.8-10), expanding the platform's summit from 2.06m across to 2.82m wide north-south. Units 13 and 14 are made of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter faces of these rocks are directed outwards in both cases.

#### Time Span 5

Near the end of Str. 320-2-2ndB's use-life a portion of U.11, the summit's stone pavement was disrupted. An area measuring roughly 0.9m across north-south was apparently removed, the stones being piled up on the hole's north margin (F.1). Feature 1 measures 0.9m north-south and is 0.24m thick. The purpose of this ancient excavation is unclear; it may have been initiated to remove a cache

set in the U.12 fill prior to beginning the final construction effort. No sign of such a ritual deposit was found, however.

Structure 320-2-1st's architecture is very close to current ground surface and has been seriously disturbed by a variety of processes. What we can infer of the building's form suggests that it remained unchanged from its base up through U.13. The latter terrace now served as the foundation for U.17, a stone-faced terrace that we estimate stood 0.67m north of U.13's south face and rose 0.33m above its earthen tread. Unit 17, measuring approximately 0.52m wide, was succeeded by U.18. The latter construction likely represented a 0.49m-high stone-faced step-up to the summit. Very little of the summit's surface remains. The superstructure's north margin was delimited by U.19, a ca. 0.62m-high stone wall that seemingly rests atop the dense cobble fill noted in discussions of Strs. 320-2-3rd and 320-2-2ndA. Overall, we estimate that Str. 320-2-1st's summit encompassed 2.77m north-south. The fill piled atop Str. 302-2-2ndB's summit during the course of this work consists mostly of a brown soil with a few small to medium-size cobbles mixed in (U.20).

By the end of TS.5, Str. 320-2-1st was approximately 3.88m tall and maintained its earlier alignment of ca. 129 degrees. The U.21-23 steps continued led up to four terraces (U.1, 2, 3/7, and 13) though now the U.14 riser was covered by U.17, the south face of which was 0.24m south of U.14. The U.17 terrace, in turn, gave way to a tall (0.49m high) step-up to the summit, the latter measuring 2.77m across. Units 17-19 were fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the stones were directed outwards.

#### Time Span 6

Following abandonment, Str. 320-2-1st was largely covered by a brown soil (a continuation of S.1). Off the building's south flank, S.1 contained a moderately dense concentration of small rounded stones. Embedded in the upper portions of S.1 were stones that had likely fallen from final-phase architecture (F.2). The F.2 rocks were particularly prevalent in the area between U.1 and 3/7, decreasing in density from this point up- and downslope. The flat-laid dispositions of the F.2 cobbles in the U.1 to 3/7 area may point to their purposeful placement here. These rocks might have been introduced as part of renovations to Str. 320-2-1st's south side that were never completed or in an effort to bury part of the platform's south facade.

#### Structure 320-7

Structure 320-7 appeared on the surface to be a long, relatively low platform that ran northeast-southwest and divided the main plaza in Site 320's Group A into northern and southern portions. Structure 320-2 in the northern segment lies 34m in this direction while Strs. 320-8 and 320-12 in the southern plaza are 25m to the southeast and 36m to the southwest, respectively. Structure 320-7 was investigated by means of three trenches, Subop. 320C, 320F, and 320K. The first is 1m wide by 11.84m long and cut across the approximate center of the building running north-south. Suboperation 320F is a 1x2m excavation set against Subop. 320C's west side to test the validity of a construction feature revealed in the latter trench. Suboperation 320J, in turn, was a 1x4m trench oriented northwest-southeast and dug into Str. 320-7's east flank. A 1x2m extension of Subop. 320J was excavated next to the center of the trench on its southwest side. All told, 19.84m<sup>2</sup> were cleared on and around Str. 320-7. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.86m and 0.92m below modern ground surface within and

beyond the limits of what is tentatively identified as architecture. One possible construction stage was identified in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320C/1	unprocessed (a few sherds, Possibly some lithics)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320C/2	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/3	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/4	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/5	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/6	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/7	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/8	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/9	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/10	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/11	empty	Fill	2/
320C/12	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/13	unprocessed (a few sherds, a metal staple)	Fill	2/LCL?
320C/14	empty	Fill/ Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/15	1 jute shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320C/16	1 sherd	Fill	2/LCL?
320C/17	empty	Fill	2/
320C/18	1 fossilize shell, jute shells	Fill	2/
320F/1	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
320J/1	49 sherds, 1 obsidian flake	Fill/ Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	-

2	Str. 320-7-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1	-	-	LCL?
3	-	-	S.3	F.1	

### Time Span 1

Strata 1 and 2 were laid down during this interval. The former, a sandy soil with few included stones, was revealed only in the southernmost 1.04m of Subop. 320C. Stratum 1 is at least 0.46m thick though its base was not revealed in our excavations. Stratum 2, in turn, was uncovered in the northernmost 4m of Subop. 320C where it consists of a dense concentration of small to large cobbles set in a brown soil. There are no signs that these rocks were purposefully placed here. Rather, they look to have been introduced by natural forces, possibly by running water. Over the 4m that S.2 was exposed it drops 0.13m over 1.1m from north-to-south before rising 0.36m across 2.7m in the same direction. The original investigators interpreted S.2 as evidence for a stream bed over which Str. 320-7 was erected and this remains a reasonable inference. Digging was not carried to a sufficient depth in Subop. 320J to reveal either S.1 or 2 though what may be the upper portion of S.2 appears in Subop. 320F at an elevation comparable to that noted in Subop. 320C.

No artifacts or other cultural materials were associated with S.1 and 2, implying that there was no significant human presence in the immediate area when these deposits were being laid down.

### Time Span 2

Structure 320-7 lacks most hallmarks of purposeful prehistoric constructions; i.e., facing walls and summit features. There are no indications that these architectural elements had been destroyed prior to excavation; in fact, Str. 320-7-1<sup>st</sup> does not appear to have been subject to recent depredations more severe than those suffered by its excavated neighbors which did yield clear construction units. The sole component tentatively associated with Str. 320-7-1<sup>st</sup>, U.1, is a dense concentration of small to very large cobbles which were found lying relatively flat and set in a brown soil. These rocks seem to rest in large part directly on S.2. There are, as noted, no fill retaining walls or any other formal architectural features. Overall, U.1 has a maximum thickness of 0.9m at its center as revealed in Subop. 320C and tails out gradually on the north and south. The one vague indication of patterning seen among the U.1 rocks exposed in Subop. 320C is a line of flat-laid, medium to large cobbles which ascends gradually 0.3m over 1.36m northward. For the remaining 1.7m of its revealed extent this cobble level remains relatively flat. Below and above the aforementioned rocks, U.1 consists primarily of very small to small stones. The significance of this patterning is far from clear though it does tentatively suggest that U.1 was the result of human action. The few artifacts retrieved from U.1 weakly point in the same direction.

Overall, U.1 is, maximally, 0.9m thick and measures 4.6m northeast-southwest as revealed in Subop. 320C; there were no features well enough preserved to permit inferring the edifice's original orientation. A dense concentration of stones that seem to mark a continuation of U.1 was encountered within Subop. 320J on Str. 320-7-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast flank. If this deposit is a continuation of the rocks noted in Subop. 320C, then U.1 was fairly extensive; it may encompass something approaching the 35m length of the building seen on the surface. That said, construction here is very casual, lacking formalized facings and summit features. Such vagueness in form coupled with the paucity of cultural material associated with the edifice imply that it was not the center of sustained human activity, or at least of



behaviors that generated much in the way of artifacts and other residues. Structure 320-7 may, in fact, have been raised simply to divide the Group A plaza into two adjoining sections.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 320-7-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, a brown soil (S.3) was deposited over S.1. 2, and all but the highest parts of U.1. As much as 0.73m of S.3 was laid down now. The S.1/3 interface exposed in the southern 1.04m of Subop. 320C was marked by a 0.12m-thick lens of small cobbles and gravel above which S.3 contains very few rocks. No comparable deposit was noted on the north where S.3 is largely free of stone inclusions where it overlies S.2. A very few small to medium-size cobbles were found embedded in S.3 and extending 0.8m southwest and 0.6m northeast of U.1 (F.1). Feature 1 may contain stones that had been dislodged from U.1.

Structure 320-11

Structure 320-11 is, on the surface, the largest platform at the site. It sits atop a natural rise on the southwest corner of Group A's southern plaza and is fronted 7m to the east by a stone terrace (Str. 320-10) that may have slowed erosion down this side of the ascent. Str. 320-12 lies 11m to the northeast while Str. 320-7 is 63m to the northeast. Investigations here were limited to a 1x12m trench (Subop. 320G) dug against and into the platform's east flank, somewhat north of the axis, proceeding from beyond basal construction across the summit (12m<sup>2</sup> was cleared here in all). Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 2.41m and 0.65m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Two major building phases were recognized in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320G/1	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL, EPC?
320G/2	195 sherds, 2 obsidian pieces, 6 bajareque fragments, 1 jute shell, 2 shells, 1 bone, 1 chert piece	Fill/Terminal Debris	3/LCL, EPC
320G/3	1 whistle	Fill	3/LCL?
320G/4	275 sherds, 3 censer pieces, 11 bajareque fragments, 4 obsidian pieces, 1 chert piece	Fill	2,3/LCL, ECL, LPrecl
320G/5	16 sherds, obsidian, bone fragments	Fill	2/LCL?
320G/6	12 sherds, obsidian	Fill	2/LCL?

320G/7	18 sherds, bajareque	Fill	2/LCL?
320G/8	38 sherds, 6 jute shells, 7 bajareque fragments	Fill	3/ECL
320G/9	14 sherds, 10 bajareque fragments	Fill	2/LCL?

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 320-11-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.1-9	-	-	LCL
3	Str. 320-11-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-5, 9-11	-	-	LCL, EPC
4	-	-	S.2	F.1	-

### Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 320-11 is the deposition of an unconsolidated gray soil containing numerous small stones (S.1). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.62m (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and it rises 0.6m over 4.7m from east to west. Stratum 1, thus, seems to define the rise atop which the various iterations of Str. 320-11 were built. The absence of cultural material within S.1 suggests that there was no significant human presence in the immediate area when this soil was being laid down.

### Time Span 2

Structure 320-11-2<sup>nd</sup>'s basal architecture was not well preserved when excavated. We infer that the platform was ascended on the east by four stone steps (U.1-4) that led up to the summit. These risers are 0.28m, 0.14m, 0.24m, and 0.32m tall, proceeding east to west, and measure 0.34m, 0.67m, 1.05m, and 0.27m across, respectively. Units 1-3, the three lowest steps, rest directly on S.1 whereas U.4 is separated from that soil layer by 0.19m of earthen fill (U.9). Unit 5, the 0.64m-wide stone step-up to the earthen-floored summit, rises 0.4m above U.4. This riser is underlain by 0.3m of U.9 and is backed on the west by a fill composed of brown soil in which a very few small rocks are included (U.7). Lying 2.51m west from U.5's eastern face is U.6. This wall was exposed to its full height of 0.95m on the west, its lower two courses (0.2m high) projecting 0.08m out from (west of) the wall's vertical face. Unit 6 extends an estimated 0.14m above the floor that is projected to have run back from U.5. The height and substantial nature of U.6 suggests that it served as a core wall that retained the brown earth fill (U.8) of the central platform. The top of this construction may have also marked the division between two summit rooms, one east and the other west of the putative divider. Excavations continued for 4.65m west of U.6 without encountering the summit's western limit.

By TS.2's conclusion, Str. 320-11-2<sup>nd</sup> was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 1.52m tall and was oriented approximately 352degrees. The building was ascended on the east by four stone risers that led up to a substantial stone step-up to the summit. Very little is known about the latter

construction save that it had an earthen floor and, possibly, was divided east-west by a 0.14m-high stone footing for a perishable upper wall. The superstructure was seemingly quite ample; it was at least 4.65m wide east-west. All walls and steps were made of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. In the better-preserved examples, especially U.5 and 6, the flatter faces of these rocks were consistently directed outwards.

### Time Span 3

During this interval, the U.1-4 steps apparently remained in use. Unit 5 now fronted an earthen-floored terrace that extended 1.8m to the west where it was succeeded by a 0.8m tall stone-faced riser (U.10). Unit 10 is 1.31m thick and is composed primarily of medium to large cobbles set in a brown earth matrix. The western 0.6m of U.10 rests directly on top of U.6, its west facing continuing the line of that earlier construction. The earthen fill lying west of U.10 (U.11) is identical to the earth hearting (U.8) that backs U.6. Given that the 1.66m of U.11 that was exposed west of U.10 tops that construction by 1m it is likely that there were one or more terraces that originally rose above U.10 and retained this fill. No signs of those constructions were noted; in fact, there were few stones of any sort recorded above U.10. It may be that any rocks that once graced Str. 320-11-1<sup>st</sup>'s upper east flank have long since been repurposed in modern constructions, most likely to the raising of a nearby cobble wall.

Structure 320-11-1<sup>st</sup> stood 3.18m high and retained its earlier alignment of ca. 352 degrees. The eastern staircase now terminated in an earthen floored terrace measuring 1.8m across that, in turn, led to a 0.8m-high stone-faced ascent to the summit. There was probably another step by means of which passage from the terrace to the superstructure was negotiated though no sign of this putative riser was noted. The earthen-floored summit remained fairly ample, measuring at least 4.6m across though very little of the superstructure has survived. Unit 10, the one stone construction clearly assigned to TS.3, was fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. Though U.10 was disrupted when studied, it appears that some effort was made to direct the flatter faces of these rocks outwards.

### Time Span 4

After Str. 320-11-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, most of the building's east face was covered by the deposition of a brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2 accumulated to a maximum thickness of 0.5m against and over the platform's basal eastern step (U.1), thinning out considerably further upslope. A moderate concentration of stones fallen from final phase construction (F.1) was traced for 1.9m east of U.1 before excavation ceased. The F.1 rocks are especially densely concentrated over the U.1-4 steps.

### Structure 320-15

Structure 320-15 occupies the southwest corner of Group A, roughly 20m northwest of Str. 320-11. The closest neighboring building, Str. 320-14, is 5m to the southeast; neither of these edifices is part of the Group A principal plaza. Investigation of Str. 320-15 took the form of digging a 1x7.9m trench northeast-southwest across the platform's approximate center (7.9m<sup>2</sup> cleared in all). Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.66m and 1.23m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. Two major construction phases were recognized in the course of this work.

### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
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320D/1	unprocessed (sherds, lithics, 1 metate fragment)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320D/2	30 sherds, 7 lithics, 8 bajareque pieces, 2 metate fragments	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320D/3	unprocessed (sherds, lithics, bajareque)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320D/4	45 sherds, 6 jute shells, 14 bajareque fragments, 1 censer fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL
320D/5	29 sherds, 1 jute shell, 1 chert piece	Fill/Terminal Debris	4/LCL?
320D/6	unprocessed (sherds, lithics, jute shells)	Fill/Terminal Debris	4/LCL?
320D/7	359 sherds, 21 bajareque pieces, 57 jute shells, 1 freshwater clam shell, 4 obsidian pieces, 1 chert piece, 1 figurine fragment	Fill/Midden	2,4/ECL, LCL
320D/8	15 sherds, 1 metate fragment, bajareque, jute, obsidian, chert	Midden	2/ECL
320D/9	392 sherds, 47 jute shells, 8 chert pieces, 2 obsidian pieces, 1 mano fragment, 1 censer piece, 2 bajareque fragments, 1 shell, 2 bones, 1 rock	Fill	4/ECL, LCL
320D/10	50 sherds, 1 jute shell,	Fill	4/LCL?

	3 metate fragments, 1 bone, 2 bajareque fragments		
320D/11	225 sherds, 17 jute shells, 3 bajareque fragments, 1 obsidian piece, 2 censer fragments	Midden/Occupation Debris	1,2/ECL, LCL
320D/12	88 sherds, 1 bajareque fragment	Occupation Debris	1/ECL?

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	ECL?
2	-	-	-	F.1	ECL
3	Str. 320-15-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.1-3	-	-	ECL, LCL
4	Str. 320-15-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.4-10	-	-	LCL
5	-	-	S.2	F.2	-

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified in Str. 320-15's vicinity was the deposition of S.1, a light brown soil containing a moderate concentration of small to medium-size cobbles. Stratum 1 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.72m (its base lying beyond excavation limits) and it was exposed for a distance of 3.5m running northeast from the southwest limits of excavation. Beginning 1m northeast of Subop. 320D's southwest margin, S.1 descends 0.49m over 2.5m before disappearing in the base of excavation. Cultural materials were retrieved from the upper 0.4m of S.1; below that point no artifacts were recovered. A 0.2m-thick layer of small to medium-size cobbles may mark this division in the presence/absence of cultural remains within S.1. It does appear, therefore, that there was a human presence in the area during the period when the uppermost portions of S.1 were being deposited.

A 0.04m-thick lens of burnt clay was located near the interface between S.1 and the U.9 fill dating to TS.4. The aforementioned clay deposit runs for 0.39m northeast-southwest and may pertain to activities conducted here during TS.2.

### Time Span 2

During this interval a deposit of brown soil relatively rich in cultural material was deposited northeast of, and overlapping, S.1 (F.1). Feature 1 is at least 1.08m thick (its base was not encountered) and maintains a relatively even upper surface. The latter is marked by at least three discontinuous ash lenses that are 0.02m thick and 0.1-0.33m long northeast-southwest. There are several concentrations

of small to medium-size cobbles embedded in F.1, though they do not appear to form parts of any coherent constructions; otherwise the stones in F.1 tend to be small and widely dispersed.

The relatively precipitous descent in S.1 on F.1's southwest margin suggests that F.1 may represent trash deposited within a purposefully prepared pit dug into the underlying soil. As noted above, the burnt clay lens set into S.1's top, 0.28m southwest of the pit's southwest margin, may relate to fires lit during TS.2 in the vicinity of the aforementioned declivity.

### Time Span 3

Three poorly preserved potential architectural features may pertain to a construction (Str. 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup>) that was erected over top of F.1. Unit 3, on the southwest, looks to have been a stone wall that rises 0.16m above the down-sloping southwest margin of the putative pit dug in TS.1. Unit 3's rocks project 0.19m into S.1, possibly adding to the wall's stability. Unit 1 might have functioned as U.3's northeastern counterpart, defining the limits of Str. 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup> on this side. Only the uppermost 0.08m of U.1 was exposed so we cannot tell what its original height might have been or how it related to F.1. About midway between these two stone constructions is U.2, a rock wall 0.16m (one stone) wide and 0.1m high. Unit 2 might have been the foundation for a perishable wall that divided the space delimited, in part, by U.1 and 3 into two compartments, one on the northeast and the second on the southwest.

We are not sure whether Str. 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup> was a low platform or surface-level building erected over the F.1 midden. In either case, it measured 3.51m northeast-southwest and its interior or summit may have been divided into two earthen-floored rooms encompassing 1.7m and 1.1m across on the northeast and southwest, respectively. It was not possible to ascertain Str. 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup>'s orientation though it seems to have paralleled that of its successor, Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>, i.e., 286 degrees. Units 1-3 were fashioned using unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards.

### Time Span 4

Structure 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup> was now covered by the construction of a substantial stone-faced platform, Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>. The latter was ascended on the northeast by a 0.24m-high by 2.66m-wide earthen-floored terrace (U.4). Unit 4 was not well preserved, its height being estimated from the surviving wall fragments and the stratigraphic location of (U.5). The latter stands 0.34m above U.4 and gives way to a surface paved with a mixture of earth and stones and measuring 1.65m across northeast-southwest (U.10). Structure 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest flank is marked by two risers. Unit 8, the basal member of the set, rests direct on S.1, is 0.31m high, and 0.42m wide. Unit 7 stands an estimated 0.13m above U.8's tread and runs back 0.91m to the northeast where it is succeeded by U.6. The latter projects 0.18m above U.7 and borders U.10 on the southwest. It may be that U.5, 6, and 10 together comprise a stone-faced and (partially)-surfaced bench. The fill contained by and underlying these constructions (U.9) is a brown soil containing numerous artifacts along with variable quantities of small to large rocks. There are relatively few stones in the fill found between U.4 and 5 on the northeast whereas both the sizes and numbers of the rocks increases considerably to the southwest of this point.

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.58-0.62m high (slightly taller on the southwest), measured 5.64m northeast-southwest, and was aligned

approximately 286 degrees. The 4.31m-wide summit was dominated by what was likely a 0.18-0.34m-tall stone-faced bench measuring 1.65m across northeast-southwest. The bench was surfaced with a mix of stones and earth. The building's northeast terrace is particularly ample, measuring 2.66m across whereas the southwestern terraces are much narrower (0.42-0.91m across) and might have functioned primarily as means of achieving the summit. Most of the facings associated with Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup> were made of unmodified cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The exception is U.8, the basal southwestern terrace, the facing of which was made from rocks that were at least roughly shaped. The somewhat greater care devoted to shaping these stones tentatively implies that U.8 marked the formal entrance to the building. All of the rocks making up U.4-8 were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 5

Following Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment most of the edifice was covered by the deposition of a dark brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2 accumulated to a maximum observed thickness of 0.5m against Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest side. Embedded within this soil was a moderately dense concentration of rocks that likely fell from TS.4 architecture (F.2). Feature 2 was traced for 0.5m southwest of U.8 and 1.12m northeast of U.4.

#### Structure 320-21

Structure 320-21, in Group B, closes off the northwest flank of the patio that Str. 320-23 borders on the southeast. The former edifice is ca. 8.3m across the plaza from Str. 320-23 and 5m northwest of Str. 320-22. A 1x6.9m trench (Subop. 320K) was dug running southeast-northwest across Str. 320-21's center while Subop. 320L was a 2x2m pit dug to locate the building's west corner. All told, 10.9m<sup>2</sup> was cleared here. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.54m and 0.6m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively, uncovering one construction phase in the process.

#### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320K/1	unprocessed (sherds, obsidian)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320K/2	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2
320K/3	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2
320K/4	unprocessed (sherds, obsidian)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320K/5	unprocessed (sherds, candelero)	Fill	2/LCL
320K/6	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL
320K/7	106 sherds, 1 green stone,	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?

	8 lithics		
320K/8	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2
320K/9	10 sherds, 6 obsidian	Fill	2/LCL
320K/10	30 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL
320L/1	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL
320L/2	5 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL
320L/3	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	-
2	Str. 320-21-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-4	-	-	LCL?
3	-	-	S.2, 3	-	

### Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in Str. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup>'s immediate vicinity is the deposition of a gray clay containing stones of various dimensions, ranging from small gravel to medium-size cobbles (S.1). Stratum 1 rises 0.14m over 1.8m from northwest to southeast after which it levels off for the remainder of the 5.1m it was uncovered in Subop. 320K. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.36m, its base lying beyond our excavation limits, and yielded no cultural materials. Apparently, there was no significant human presence in the area when this soil was laid down.

A total of 0.11m of a brown soil containing numerous pieces of gravel (S.2) was laid down atop S.1 prior to the initiation of construction during TS.2. It is unclear if deposition of this portion of S.2 coincided with human occupation of the area; any artifacts found in it could have easily pertained to TS.2 and worked their way down into lower S.2 over time.

### Time Span 2

Structure 320-21-1<sup>st</sup> is bounded on the northwest and southeast by U.2 and 1, respectively. Unit 2 is the more ephemeral of these facings, standing 0.1m tall and measuring 0.12m wide. Its southeastern counterpart, U.1, is far more substantial, rising to 0.25m tall and encompassing 0.84m across. There seems to be no obvious architectural reason for this distinction in the dimensions of U.1 and 2. If anything, U.2 is on the slightly downsloping side of the platform where erosion over the gradual drop-off marked by S.1's descent would have been greater than on the relatively flat southeast flank. It may be that U.1's relatively greater width was designed to accommodate its use as retaining wall, support for a perishable superstructure wall, and bench. The fill (U.3) contained by U.1 and 2 is identical to S.2, both containing large amounts of gravel. Given the thickness of U.3 (0.32m) it is likely that U.2 and 1 originally stood ca. 0.32m tall.



By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup> was an earth-and-gravel-filled platform that stood an estimated 0.32m tall, covered 3.94m northwest-southeast, and was oriented roughly 62 degrees. No terraces were revealed on the northwest and southeast flanks, suggesting that access to the summit from these sides at least was achieved by ascending directly over the low basal facings. The superstructure's floor seems to have been earthen and may have had a 0.84m-wide stone-faced bench set against its southeast side (U.1). Units 1 and 2 were fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in an earth mortar.

### Time Span 3

Deposition of S.2 resumed after Str. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, eventually accumulating to as much as 0.07m above the portion of the stratum laid down in TS.1. Throughout is exposed thickness, S. 2 contains a dense concentration of gravel along with a few, dispersed medium and small cobbles. A dark brown root-rich humus layer (S.3) covers S. 2 by 0.04-0.06m though it was not recorded overlying U.3 in the center of Str. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup>. Unlike its predecessors, S.3 is largely lacking in stones of any sort. No rocks that had clearly fallen from TS.2 architecture were recorded here.

### Structure 320-23

Structure 320-23 is near the center of Group B, ca. 34m northwest of Str. 320-28, roughly 12m back (northeast of) the descent bounding Group B on the southwest. The building occupies the southeast side of a plaza defined by Strs. 320-20, 320-21, and 320-22 on the southwest, northwest, and northeast, respectively. Structure 320-20 is 6m northwest of Str. 320-23 whereas Str. 320-22 lies 4m to the northeast. Investigations here were restricted to a 1x9m trench (Subop. 320I) that cut across Str. 320-23's approximate center from southeast to northwest (9m<sup>2</sup> was cleared here in all). Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.78m and 0.5m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, in turn. One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

### Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320I/1	51 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320I/2	unprocessed (few sherds, obsidian)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320I/3	30 sherds, 1 mano	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
320I/4	unprocessed (few sherds, Bajareque)	Fill ?	2/LCL?

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 320-23-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-3	-	-	LCL?

### Time Span 1

Deposition of S.1, a gray sandy clay containing a large quantity of small cobbles and gravel, is the first activity recognized in Str. 320-23-1<sup>st</sup>'s vicinity. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.42m, its base lying beyond our excavation limits, and ascends 0.24m over 1.3m on the northwest and 0.4m over 3.2m on the southeast. The revealed portion of S.1, therefore, seems to form a rise on the top of which Str. 320-23-1<sup>st</sup> was raised. The absence of cultural material within S.1 points to the lack of a significant human presence in the immediate area when this soil was being laid down.

### Time Span 2

Structure 320-23-1<sup>st</sup> is bounded on the northwest and southeast by U.1 and 2, respectively. These are stone walls that rest directly on S.1 and were preserved to 0.19m high. It is presently unclear if U.1 and 2 represent facings for a low platform or foundations delimiting the perimeter of a surface-level edifice. Favoring the platform interpretation is the 0.28m-thick deposit of a sandy brown clay and small to medium-size cobbles (U.3) contained within the area bordered by U.1 and 2. This mix of materials resembles the fill found in platforms elsewhere at Site 320. If U.3 comprises the core of a platform then U.1 and 2 likely rose to total heights of 0.4m in order to retain that fill. It was observed in the field that Str. 320-23 had been plundered for its stone in recent times and this activity may account for the truncated heights of the putative facings. The recovery of bajareque fragments from within U.3 may hint at the former existence of perishable walls that were erected atop U.1 and 2. We cannot rule out, however, the possibility that these fragments of burnt clay were inadvertently included in construction fill along with the few sherds also found in U.3.

Taking the above evidence and uncertainties together, we tentatively interpret Str. 320-23-1<sup>st</sup> as an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.4m high, measured 4.17m across northwest-southeast, and was aligned approximately 52 degrees. No terraces were recorded in our investigations, suggesting that access to the seemingly featureless, earthen-floored summit was achieved by stepping up and over the platform's basal facings. The two such facings that were revealed were fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were directed outwards.

### Time Span 3

Following abandonment, all but the upper portions of Str. 320-23-1<sup>st</sup> were covered by the deposition of a dark brown soil (S.1). Northwest of U.1, S.1 is largely free of small rocks whereas southeast of U.2 these diminutive stones are fairly common. Embedded within S.1 on both exposed sides of the building are a few, dispersed, medium-size cobbles that may have fallen from final phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was traced for 1.8m northwest of U.1 and 0.9m southeast of U.2.

### Structure 320-28

Structure 320-28 is located in the northwestern section of the site, within what was designated by the investigators as Group B. It overlooks a gentle natural drop-off to the east-southeast and is 5m northwest of Str. 320-29 and the same distance southwest of Str. 320-27. It may be that Strs. 320-27/30 defined a patio that was open to the northeast though this is not clear. Structure 320-28 was investigated by means of a 1m-wide by 9m-long trench (Subop. 320H) that was dug east-west

completely across the platform's mid-section. A 1x1m2 pit was set near the center of Subop. 320H's east side to facilitate recording of a burial (F.1) found under Str. 320-28-1st's summit. Fully 10m2 was cleared in the course of this work. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.56m and 0.64m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively, revealing evidence of two building phases.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
320H/1	25 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320H/2	36 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320H/3	25 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320H/4	264 sherds, 1 jute shell, 1 chert, 1 obsidian piece, 1 andesite fragment	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL
320H/5	sherds (unprocessed)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
320H/6	96 sherds, 7 obsidian pieces	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL?
320H/7	329 sherds, 4 obsidian pieces	Fill	4/LCL, EPC?
320H/8	sherds, obsidian (unprocessed)	Fill	4/LCL?
320H/9	1 reconstructable bowl, 1 sherd, 25 bone fragments	Burial (F.1)	4/LCL

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	-	-	S.2	-	-
3	Str. 320-28-Sub1	U.1	-	-	-
4	Str. 320-28-1st	U.2/7	-	F.1	-
5	-	-	-	S.2	F.2

Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 320-28-1st was the deposition of a unconsolidated gravel set in a gray sandy clay (S.1). Stratum 1 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.09m east of the building (east of U.2), its base lying beyond our excavation limits. The absence of cultural material within this admittedly limited exposure of S.1 tentatively implies that there was no significant human presence in the area when this stratum was being laid down.

#### Time Span 2

An undetermined amount of S.2, a brown soil largely devoid of rocks, was deposited after S.1's introduction but prior to the earliest attested construction revealed in Subop. 320H (U.1). Stratum 2's relation to S.1 was not resolved in the course of our work though we estimate that roughly 0.3m of the former blanketed the latter during TS.2. Though artifacts were found throughout S.2 it is not clear if any were originally incorporated in the lowest portions of this layer during its deposition or if these items worked their way down to the stratum's base from further up in the layer.

#### Time Span 3

The portion of Str. 320-28-Sub1 revealed in Subop. 320H is a 0.25m-high cobble wall (U.1) that runs at an azimuth of ca. 44 degrees. It was uncovered on Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest side where it was buried by fill (U.6) associated with the latter edifice. Unit 1 may be a facing for a low platform though its overall size suggests that it more likely functioned as a footing for a perishable wall that delimited one side of a surface-level building. The drastic differences in the orientations of U.1 and TS.4 architecture imply that the former was part of a building that was overlain by Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup> but was not fully incorporated within the latter. Hence, U.1 is designated as part of Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Time Span 4

Structure 320-28-1<sup>st</sup> is ascended on the southwest by a 0.15m-high stone-faced terrace (U.5) that gives way to an earthen tread that is 3.27m wide southwest-northeast. The fill (U.6) retained by U.5 is primarily composed of a brown soil identical to S.2 in which a few small stones are included. The uppermost portion of U.1 likely protruded onto U.5's tread though this wall did not play any discernible role in TS.4 architecture. Rising 0.36m above the U.5 terrace is U.4, the stone step-up to Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit. Though not well preserved on the southwest, we infer that U.4 was 0.76m wide; it was well-defined on the northeast. The summit measures 2.8m southwest-northeast and terminates on the northeast with U.3. The latter is a 0.39m-high step up to the summit which overlooks a 1.45m-wide terrace (U.2). Unit 2's northeast facing stands 0.47m high, rests directly on S.1, and bounds Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup> on this side. The fill lying southwest of U.4 consists of densely packed small to large cobbles set in a brown soil (U.7). Though the earth found in U.6 and 7 is indistinguishable, there are far more and much larger rocks in U.7 than in U.6. It is possible that the upper cobbles in U.7 formed a summit pavement though the upper portions of Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup> were too disturbed to tell if this had been the case.

Early in this construction sequence a burial, F.1, was set 0.03m below the northeastern face of U.4. This poorly preserved interment consisted of a child (probably younger than 10 years of age) in a tightly flexed position with the head oriented to the southwest, the face looking north. One polychrome-decorated bowl, resting on its base, was found directly west of the individual's head and is the only grave good associated with F.1.

In general, Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup> was a 0.51m (on the southwest) to 0.86m-high (on the northeast) stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that measured 7.52m southwest-northeast, and was aligned roughly 119 degrees. The 2.8m-wide summit is bounded on the southwest and northeast by terraces encompassing 3.27m and 1.45m across, respectively. The burial of a young child set 0.03m beneath the northeast face of the southwest summit step-up may have been dedicatory to Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>'s final phase of construction. Most facings are made of river-rounded stones set in a mud mortar; the rocks making up U.4's northeast face are more angular than those found elsewhere on the platform. There was a general tendency to orient the flatter aspects of all facing rocks outwards.

#### Time Span 5

Following Str. 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, deposition of S.2 resumed. Eventually this soil would accumulate to as much as 0.4m deep, covering all but the uppermost portions of TS.4 architecture. A moderately dense concentration of small to medium-size stones (F.2) that likely fell from final-phase constructions was traced for 1.01m to the northeast and 0.48m southwest of U.2 and 5, in turn. Feature 2 almost certainly continued beyond our excavation limits.

#### Architectural Summary

The excavated buildings at Site 320 encompass a wide range of variation in size and form. On one end of the continuum are the large platforms found in Group A (Strs. 320-2-3<sup>rd</sup>, 320-2-2<sup>nd</sup>, 320-2-1<sup>st</sup>, 320-11-2<sup>nd</sup>, and 320-11-1<sup>st</sup>). These are distinguished by: their relatively great heights (1.52-3.88m), formal entry features (combinations of steps and terraces leading to the summit), and evidence for rebuilding, four such renovations recorded for Str. 320-2 and two for Str. 320-11. Together, this evidence suggests that both of these buildings were foci of considerable labor investments stretching over relatively protracted periods of time. Further, efforts were made in each case to highlight the means by which the summit of each platform was reached. That steps were broken up by terraces of various widths in this progression to the superstructure very tentatively implies the possibility that passage upward consisted of a series of actions some of which required more ample spaces than those provided by narrow steps.

On the other end of the architectural continuum is the hint of a surface-level edifice (Str. 320-15-2<sup>nd</sup>) located in the southwest portion of Group A. Though the evidence is far from clear, it appears that this building was bounded by modest stone foundations that encloses two earthen-floored rooms measuring 1.7m and 1.1m across. These compartments are separated by another low, narrow stone line. Structure 320-28-Sub1 may be another example of this building type though it was not sufficiently cleared to test this notion.

Ranged between these extremes are the low stone-faced platforms found primarily in Group B (Strs. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup>, 320-23-1<sup>st</sup>, 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>) but also in Group A (Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>). These constructions generally stand 0.32-0.86m high and measure 3.9-7.52m across. The largest of these edifices are bordered by terraces on their exposed flanks (Strs. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>, 320-28-1<sup>st</sup>) while their more diminutive counterparts (Strs. 320-21-1<sup>st</sup> and 320-23-1<sup>st</sup>) lack such embellishments.

Built-in summit features, primarily stone-faced benches, were not commonly found in the excavated sample. One example of a bench, standing 0.24m high, may have graced the summit of Str. 320-2-3<sup>rd</sup>. Structure 320-15-1<sup>st</sup> apparently supported a bench that was 0.18-0.34m tall by 1.65m wide.

Structure 320-21-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast summit wall, at 0.84m across, may have been wide enough to have doubled as a bench and support for perishable upper construction. Summits were generally floored with earth, the upper portion of the platforms' generally earthen fills. Exceptions were: Str. 320-2-3rd where the summit was surfaced with a specially prepared clay and Strs. 320-2-2ndA and 320-15-1st the summits of which were paved with stones. Summit widths ranged from 2.06-4.65m with our sample including four examples that measure 2.04-2.82m across and six encompassing 3.94-4.65m. There is no clear correlation between a platform's height and the width of its summit.

The only obvious dedicatory deposit identified in our work at Site 320 was the burial of a young child with a small polychrome bowl beneath Str. 320-28-1st's summit. It may be that the interment served as part of an event dedicating this platform.

Structure 320-7-1st in Group A stands out from all of these buildings in that it lacks clear signs of purposeful construction such as basal retaining walls, steps, and terraces. Instead it seems to have been a pile of rocks that was maximally 0.9m thick and 4.6m wide northeast-southwest that was not intended to support any sort of human activity on its summit. Instead, it may have been introduced primarily to divide the Group A main plaza into two distinct patios.

Structure alignments were quite variable, ranging from 119-196 degrees. We did not note any consistent patterning within and across groups with regards to orientations.

In almost all cases, facings, steps, benches, and pavements were fashioned of unmodified cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. The one major exception to this pattern is comprised of Str. 320-15-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwestern basal terrace facing. This unit was made of rocks that had been modified to create flat faces that were then directed outwards. In all cases, stones used in construction were set in a mud mortar.

### Chronological Summary

The earliest periods of activity attested to at Site 320 date to, possibly, the Late Preclassic and, more certainly, the Early Classic. Late Preclassic diagnostics were retrieved solely from a mixed fill context at Str. 320-11. Early Classic materials at the settlement are more numerous than Late Preclassic examples but also generally derive from similar fill settings (see Strs. 320-2, 320-11, and 320-15). The one exception is the midden recorded in the environs of Str. 320-15 which seems to date to this interval. In general, Site 320 was apparently home to people beginning in the Late Preclassic with populations possibly increasing during the Early Classic (based solely on the greater prevalence of diagnostics from the latter interval in our collections). No architecture can be assigned to either span though one sizable pit was likely dug in Group A during the Early Classic. To date, Late Preclassic and Early Classic materials are found only in Group A, suggesting that it was the center of occupation during these early centuries.

All of the investigated architecture was raised at various points during the Late Classic. It seems likely that Strs. 320-2-3rd and 320-15-2nd were erected towards the beginning of that span while the remainder were built later in the interval. There is some evidence of an Early Postclassic presence at Strs. 320-11-1st and 320-28-1st though the relevant temporal markers are rare. Most likely this evidence points to continued occupation of several buildings as the Early Postclassic began but there is no sign that any edifice was raised now. The Late Classic, therefore, seems to have been the major

period of occupation at Site 320 followed by a rapid diminution of people and construction activity in the Early Postclassic.