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PSB OP 334 Excavation Report

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Site 334

Site 334 is 375m southeast of Site 335, 200m west of the Rio Aguagua, and 550m southwest of the Rio Ulua. The settlement consists of 10 structures and three stone lines flush with modern ground surface. Structures 334-3 to 5 were excavated here during 1985, ranging from the largest building at the settlement (Str. 334-3) through two modest platforms (Str. 334-4 and 334-5). A total of 37.5m² was uncovered in the course of this work which was directed by Julie Benyo, Daniel Brennan, and Thomas Melchionne.

Structure 334-3

Structure 334-3, the largest building recorded at the site, is located near the middle of the settlement ca. 9m northeast of Str. 334-1 and 3m southwest of Str. 334-4. This edifice was investigated through the digging of a 1x14m trench (Subop. 334B) that cut across the platform's approximate center running north-south. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.25m and 1.06m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. One clear building phase was identified in the course of this work along with ambiguous evidence of an earlier construction effort.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
334B/1	20 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334B/2	10 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334B/3	72 sherds, 5 bajareque pieces, 1 possible pigment stone	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334B/4	226 sherds, 1 clay bead, lithics	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334B/5	100 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/
334B/6	84 sherds, 3 bajareque pieces, 2 shells	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/
334B/7	127 sherds, 14 lithics	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL
334B/8	1 sherd	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
334B/9	unprocessed (sherds)	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
334B/10	72 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	2/LCL?
334B/11	63 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
334B/12	unprocessed (obsidian)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL?
334B/13	15 sherds, 14 lithics	Fill	4/LCL?
334B/14	206 sherds, 6 lithics	Fill/Terminal Debris	4/LCL?

334B/15	123 sherds, 21 chert pieces	Fill	4/LCL?
334B/16	80 sherds (lithics, bajareque)	Fill	4/LCL?
334B/17	357 sherds, 5 chert pieces, 4 obsidian pieces, 12 bajareque pieces, 2 animal bones, 1 jute shell, 2 censer fragments	Fill/Terminal Debris	4/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	-	-	S.2	-	LCL
3	Str. 334-3-2 nd	U.1	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 334-3-1 st	U.1-9	-	F.1, 2	LCL
5	-	-	S.2	F.3	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the immediate environs of Str. 334-3 is the deposition of at least 0.25m of a brown soil devoid of artifacts and almost completely lacking in inclusions of any sort (S.1). Stratum 1 appeared in two discontinuous exposures in Subop. 334B, separated by 11.05m. This earth level remained almost perfectly flat across this distance, and, in fact, its upper surface varied very little across the 14m, north-south, it was revealed in Subop. 334B. The absence of cultural material in S.1 points to a scant, if any, human presence in the immediate area while this soil was accumulating.

Time Span 2

An estimated 0.26 m of an artifact-bearing brown soil (S.2) blanketed S.1 during TS.2. There are no clear breaks within S.2, which resumed accumulation after Str. 334-3-1st was abandoned, so it is hard to say exactly how much of this soil was laid down now. Based on the vertical position of Str. 334-3-1st's basal facings (U.1 and 8) and the distribution of stones fallen from TS.4 architecture (F.3) we arrived at the figure of 0.26m for the portion of S.2 deposited during TS.2. The relative prevalence of artifacts found in the lower 0.26m of S.2 points to a fairly substantial occupation in the area when this soil was introduced. The source of S.2 is unclear; it could have arrived by natural means or been brought in as fill in preparation for raising Strs. 334-3-2nd and 334-3-1st. At present we lean slightly towards the former interpretation if only because there is no good reason to attribute a cultural origin to lower S.2.

Time Span 3

A 0.25m-high stone-faced terrace on the south side of Str. 334-3-1st (U.1), seems to have originally been part of a low stone-surfaced platform (Str. 334-3-2nd) that predates the larger edifice that partly overlies it. Unit 1 was traced back for 2.5m north from its southern face at which point it was

covered for 1.31m by constructions pertaining to Str. 334-3-1st (U.2 and 3). Structure 334-3-2nd's full dimensions are unclear though it covered at least 2.5m across north-south, stood minimally 0.25m high, and was oriented very approximately 100 degrees. Unit 1 was made from unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During TS.4, U.1 was apparently left standing and was incorporated into Str. 334-3-1st as a basal southern terrace. Still rising 0.25m above what we take to have been ancient ground surface, U.1's stone-surfaced tread now led back (north) 1.31m where it was succeeded by a 0.49m-high stone-faced terrace (U.2). Unit 2 is 0.87m wide and terminates in U.3, a 0.26m-high stone riser that fronts a 1.03m-wide terrace. Unit 4 stands an estimated 0.27m above the U.3 tread and provides access to the 3.56m-wide summit. The latter surface was heavily eroded and any architectural features that may once have graced the superstructure were not preserved in the 1m-wide segment of it that we uncovered.

Structure 334-3-1st's northern flank is also ascended by three terraces leading up to a stone-faced riser to the summit. Unit 8, the northern basal riser, is 0.2m high by 1m wide and gives way on the south to a stone terrace facing that stood an estimated 0.5m tall (U.7). Unit 7, in turn, extends 2.17m southwards to where U.6, a stone-faced riser, stands 0.32m tall. Unit 6, in its turn, is 0.85m wide and gives way to U.5 which bounds the summit on the north. Unit 5 was poorly preserved and is estimated to have originally stood about 0.5m tall. The terrace treads are generally surfaced with a mix of earth and stones. The basal northern and southern terraces (U.1 and 8) are seeming exceptions, being completely paved with stones.

The bulk of the fill (U.9) retained by and underlying these walls consists of a brown soil identical to S.2 and in which a few isolated stones are embedded. Features 1 and 2, located within U.9, are distinguished by dense concentrations of small to large cobbles. Feature 1, one such column of rocks, is set below U.6, extends down 0.73m, and is 0.9m wide. Its southern counterpart, F.2, underlies U.2 and 3 and is 0.52m thick by 1.02m long north-south. The summit itself was underlain by a 0.2m-thick layer of small to large cobbles (included in U.9). It thus appears that Str. 334-3-1st's builders introduced stones within U.9 in some places to bolster what they took to be particularly vulnerable aspects of the building and to at least provide an under-flooring for the summit.

By TS.4's conclusion, Str. 334-1st was a stone-and-earth-filled platform that rose 1.27m high on the south and 1.52m high on the north, measured 10.79m across north-south, and was aligned approximately 100 degrees. The summit was bounded by three terraces on the north and south beginning in each case with a low (0.2-0.25m high) cobble facing that gave way to stone-paved treads of nearly identical widths (1.31m on the south and 1m on the north). The summit was apparently featureless though the limited portion of it that we exposed and the degree to which this area had suffered from erosion preclude making any definitive statements about the superstructure's form and contents. All we can say with relative certainty is that the summit measured 3.56m across north-south. Stone was strategically concentrated in various parts of the U.9 fill to support final-phase architecture, much of this rock being placed beneath the third ascending terrace on the north (U.6), the second and third ascending southern terraces (U.2 and 3), and the summit. Otherwise, the fill consisted almost entirely of earth. The stones used in facings and surfaces as well as in fill consisted of river-worn stones. Those used in facings were set in a mud mortar and some effort was made to direct their flatter aspects outwards.

Time Span 5

Following abandonment of Str. 334-3-1st, deposition of S.2 resumed, this soil accumulating to depths of as much as 0.61m. Embedded in S.2 is a moderately dense concentration of stones that almost certainly fell from final phase architecture (F.3). Feature 3 is found overlying all TS.4 construction and extending for 1.2m north and 0.72m south of Str. 334-3-1st's basal terraces, respectively.

Structure 334-4

Structure 334-4 lies 3m northeast of Str. 334-3 and 6m southeast of Str. 334-5. It closes off the south side of a patio delimited by Strs. 334-5 and 334-6 on the west and Strs. 334-7 and 334-8 on the east; the plaza's north side is open. This building was investigated by extending a 1x11m trench (Subop. 334C) north-south across the platform's center. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.96m and 0.98m below modern ground surface within and outside construction, respectively. One building phase was recognized in the course of this work.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
334C/1	54 sherds, bajareque	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/ECL, LCL, EPC
334C/2	12 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/
334C/3	96 sherds, 2 shells, lithics, bajareque	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/ECL, LCL
334C/4	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL
334C/5	27 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL?
334C/6	136 sherds, 6 bajareque pieces, 2 shells, 2 censers	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/Term. LCL
334C/7	unprocessed (sherds)	Fill/Terminal Debris?	3/LCL
334C/8	115 sherds, 1 shell	Fill/Terminal Debris?	3/LCL?
334C/9	23 sherds, 3 bajareque pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL?
334C/10	43 sherds, 5 bajareque pieces, 2 obsidian pieces	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL?
334C/11	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	3/LCL?
334C/12	132 sherds, 7 bajareque pieces, 1 lithic	Fill	3/LCL?
334C/13	283 sherds, 8 bajareque pieces	Fill	3/LCL?
334C/14	10 sherds	Fill	3/LCL?

334C/15	210 sherds, 8 jute shells, four obsidian pieces, burned clay	Fill	3/ECL, LCL
334C/16	unprocessed (sherds)	Occupation Debris	2/LPrecl,ECL?
334C/17	196 sherds	Fill	3/LPrecl, ECL, 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	-	-	S.2	-	LPrecl, ECL?
3	Str. 334-4-1 st	U.1-10	-	-	LCL
	Str. 334-4-Sub1	U.11			
4	-	-	S.2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The first event attested to in Str. 334-4's vicinity was the deposition of at least 0.17m of a brown soil containing a very few, widely dispersed small stones and no artifacts (S.1; the base of this layer was not encountered). Stratum 1 was uncovered in two distinct segments separated by 5.8m. Nonetheless, it appears that this stratum ran flat over the entire 11m of Subop. 320C. The absence of cultural material from S.1 implies that there was no significant human presence in the area when this soil was laid down.

Time Span 2

Roughly 0.1m of an artifact-bearing brown soil that is largely free of other inclusions (S.2) blankets S.1 during TS.2. Deposition of S.2 resumes during TS.4 and there is no clear break within this layer that distinguishes how much of it was laid down in TS.2. Consequently, we have used the stratigraphic positions of later architecture to estimate the amount of S.2 that collected now. Artifacts retrieved from this deposit may point to human activity in the vicinity while S.2 was being introduced. The shallowness of early S.2 coupled with the absence of any obstacle that could have precluded the passage of later cultural materials down into it make us less than completely sanguine about accepting this interpretation.

Time Span 3

Structure 334-4-1st is ascended on the north by three stone steps (U.1-3). Unit 2, the basal riser, stands 0.13m tall by 0.43m wide whereas the next riser (U.3) is 0.27m tall by 0.7m across. Units 2 and 3 are built up against U.1, a substantial wall that stands 0.6m high, is 0.6m wide at its base, and projects an estimated 0.2m above the stone tread of U.3. Unit 1 apparently served as the northern facing of the platform's core, providing a firm anchor for the steps as well as the uppermost riser in the

staircase. Unit 1 is backed by a 1.5m-wide terrace paved with stones (the pavement is designated as U.4). Unit 4, in its turn, gives way to a 0.2m-high step-up to the summit (U.5). Unit 5, like U.1, is much taller than it would have appeared during Str. 334-4-1st's use. It projects an additional 0.23m down into the platform's earthen fill (U.10) and is 0.4m wide. The summit is 2.1m wide north-south and may have been paved with stones. Disruption of the summit, due in part to its proximity to modern ground surface, makes it difficult to ascertain if this had been the case.

The platform's southern flank is bounded by two stone-faced terraces fronted by a low stone step. The latter (U.9) is one stone high and wide (0.11m high by 0.27m wide). Unit 8, the basal southern terrace, projects 0.23m above U.9, is 1.05m wide and terminates at U.7. Unit 7 stands 0.24m above the U.8 terrace and is 1.04m wide north-south. Unit 6 served as the stone-faced step-up to the summit, ascending 0.28m above U.7. It is unclear if the U.7 and 8 terraces were originally paved.

Structure 334-4-1st's fill (U.10 generally consists of a brown soil, very similar to S.2, in which are embedded a few fragments of burnt clay. Concentrations of small to large cobbles were found underlying the summit to a depth of 0.4m, U.7 by 0.32m, U.3 by 0.35m, and U.2 by 0.25m. Such selective concentrations of fill stones suggest efforts to shore up certain portions of the building by giving them a firm base.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 334-4-1st was a stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.8-0.86m high, encompassed 7.32m north-south, and was aligned roughly 103 degrees. The summit measured 2.1m across and was reached on the north via three stone steps that led to a 1.5m-wide rock-paved terrace. On the south a low step provided access to a series of two terraces of nearly identical widths (1.04m and 1.05m across). The summit as well as the two southern terraces may have been paved though this inference is difficult to substantiate due to recent activities that have disturbed both portions of the building. Facings, pavements, and steps were made of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the rocks making up facings and steps were directed outwards. The cobbles used to make the northern steps (U.2 and 3) stood out for their consistently large sizes (averaging 0.26x0.5m) and the flatness of their exterior aspects. So well formed are the latter that they may have been intentionally modified.

Lying 1.77m south of Str. 334-4-1st is a construction aligned roughly 96 degrees (Str. 334-4-Sub1). The only portion of this entity exposed in Subop. 334C is U.11, a wall made of cobbles standing 0.22m high (one stone high) and, possibly, measuring 0.53m wide (two stones). It is unclear if we exposed U.11's full width or if a pavement continues south for an undetermined distance from U.11's north face. Unit 11 sits at the same level as the base of U.9, Str. 334-4-1st's basal southern step, and would thus seem to be contemporary with that construction. There is no evidence, however, that Str. 334-4-Sub1 was ever incorporated within Str. 334-4-1st. The former may have been a free-standing edifice, either a platform or surface-level building.

Time Span 4

Following the abandonment of Strs. 334-4-1st and 334-4-Sub1, as much as 0.71m of S.2 accumulated, burying all but the former edifice's summit. A dense concentration of small to medium-size cobbles that likely fell from final-phase architecture (F.1) was found overlying U.2-3 and 7-9, extending 0.64m and 0.76m south and north of the platform, respectively. The density of this debris suggests that some elements comprising Str. 334-4-1st once stood somewhat higher than they did when

exposed in our excavations; there is no evidence, however, that Str. 334-4-Sub1 was ever much taller. The depth of S.2 further implies that the environs of this platform have been subjected to processes that all but buried the edifice from sight. The extent of this burial is not often repeated at other investigated sites in the middle Ulua drainage.

Structure 334-5

Structure 334-5 is 6.5m northwest of Str. 334-4 on the southwest corner of a patio that is also defined by Strs. 334-4, -6, -7, and -8. Structure 334-6 is 3.5m to the northeast. Structure 334-5 was investigated by the digging of a 1x12.5m trench (Subop. 334D) running southwest-northeast across the platform's approximate center. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 1.17m and 1.25m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. Though much of the revealed architecture was poorly preserved, two building 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>
334D/1	empty	Terminal Debris	4/
334D/2	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/3	13 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/4	96 sherds, obsidian	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/5	84 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/6	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/7	28 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/8	70 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/9	6 lithics, sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/10	empty	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/11	57 sherds, 1 shell	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/12	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/13	88 sherds, 1 figurine fragment	Occupation Debris	2/LCL, EPC?
334D/14	15 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/
334D/15	15 sherds	Occupation Debris	2/
334D/16	empty	-	-
334D/17	42 sherds	Fill	4/
334D/18	unprocessed (sherds)	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	4/

334D/19	96 sherds, obsidian, 1 green stone	Fill	4/LCL,
334D/20	unprocessed (sherds)	Fill	4/
334D/21	53 sherds	Fill	3,4/
334D/22	25 sherds	Fill	4/
334D/23	unprocessed (sherds)	Fill	4/
334D/24	47 sherds	Fill	3/
334D/25	333 sherds, 2 obsidian pieces, 4 censer pieces, 1 metate fragment	Fill	4/LCL, EPC?
334D/26	9 sherds	Occupation Debris	3/
334D/27	15 sherds	Occupation Debris	2/
334D/28	unprocessed (no contents listed)	Fill	4/
334D/29	67 sherds	Fill	4/
334D/30	6 sherds	Fill	4/
334D/31	unprocessed (few sherds)	Fill	4/
334D/32	empty	-	-
334D/33	16 sherds	Fill	3,4/LCL, ECL?
334D/34	37 sherds	Fill /Occupation Debris	2,3/LCL
334D/35	unprocessed (sherds)	Fill	3/
334D/36	10 sherds	Fill	3,4/
334D/37	25 sherds	Fill/Occupation Debris	2,3/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	-	-	S.2	-	LCL?
3	Str. 334-5-2 nd	U.1-5	-	-	LCL

4	Str. 334-5-1 st	U.6-10	-	-	LCL, EPC
5	-	-	S.2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The first activity identified in the environs of Str. 334-5 was the deposition of at least 0.2m of a brown soil seemingly devoid of stones and artifacts (S.1; its base lies beyond our excavation limits). Stratum 1 was revealed in two discontinuous exposures, one at the northeastern and the other at the southwestern ends of Subop. 334D where it was found at essentially the same levels (0.04 higher on the southwest than it was 7.43m to the northeast. The absence of artifacts within S.1 tentatively points to a similar paucity of human activity in the immediate area when this soil was being laid down.

Time Span 2

Approximately 0.2m of brown earth (S.2) was deposited atop S.1 during TS.2. What distinguishes S.2 from its predecessor is the presence of cultural materials within it. There were no stratigraphic breaks that could be used to distinguish what portions of S.2 were laid down prior to the construction of Strs. 334-5-2nd and 334-5-1st, on the one hand, and which accumulated after the latter's abandonment. Hence, we can only estimate how much of lower S.2 pertains to TS.2 based on its relation to units associated with those construction phases and to underlying S.1. Recovery of artifacts from basal S.2 points to a human presence in the area when it was deposited.

Time Span 3

Structure 334-5-2nd is defined on the northeast and southwest by what were, on excavation, fairly clear basal facings (U.1 and 2, respectively). Unit 1 is 0.13m high and fronts a terrace that measures 1.2m across. Its southwestern counterpart, U.2, stood 0.2m tall and bounds a terrace that is 1.6m wide. The nature of constructions leading to the summit is unclear. Based on fragmentary evidence, it appears that U.1 is succeeded by a 0.48m-high ascent to the summit (U.3) whereas on the southwest the step up to the summit (U.4) is an estimated 0.24m high. Overall, Str. 334-5-2nd's summit measures 2.75m across northeast-southwest. Terrace and summit surfaces were apparently made of earth while the building's fill (U.5) is composed almost entirely of soil that is seemingly identical to S.2.

Structure 334-5-2nd, by the end of TS.3, was an earth-filled platform that rose 0.61m high on the northeast and 0.44m on the southwest, encompasses 5.55m northeast-southwest, and was aligned roughly 286 degrees. Its summit measures 2.75m across and is bounded on the northeast and southwest by terraces that are 1.2 and 1.6m wide, in turn. The height discrepancy noted above seems to be due to U.2 having been set about 0.17m higher than U.1. Though no longer discernible, it seems that the ground on which Str. 334-5-2nd was built ascended slightly from northeast to southwest. All facings were made of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. Some effort was apparently devoted to directing the flatter aspects of these rocks outwards.

Time Span 4

During this interval Str. 334-5-2nd was completely buried beneath a fill (U.10) composed of numerous small to large rocks set in a brown soil matrix. Unit 10 comprises the hearting for Str. 334-5-1st. This platform is bounded on the northeast by a 0.36m-high stone-faced terrace (U.6) that runs back to the southwest for 0.84m. Here it is succeeded by a 0.18m-high cobble terrace facing (U7) that fronts

a terrace that is 0.68m wide. Unit 8, the next ascending terrace, stands 0.1m above U.7. Unit 8 may mark the northeast flank of Str. 334-5-1st's summit though poor preservation of architectural features in this area leaves such an interpretation moot.

The only clear construction pertaining to Str. 334-5-1st on the southwest is the platform's basal facing (U.9). Unit 9 stands 0.2m high and fronts a terrace that is estimated to have been 1.98m wide. Above this point to the summit there were no clear construction units. The disposition and distribution of fill stones suggests that there may have been at least two additional terraces leading to the summit, each roughly 0.24-0.34m high by 0.96-1.1m wide.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 334-5-1st is inferred to have been a stone-and-earth-filled platform that rose ca. 0.75m high, measured 10.4m across northeast-southwest, and was oriented approximately 314 degrees. The building was ascended by an estimated two stone-faced terraces on the northeast and three comparable units on the southwest. Though the evidence is fragmentary, the basal southwestern terrace is unusually wide by local standards, encompassing 1.98m across. This surface may well have served as a venue for activities conducted on Str. 334-5-1st, but off of its summit. The latter is inferred to have measured 5.88m wide northeast-southwest. Terrace and summit surfaces were apparently covered with earth. All terrace facings were built using unmodified cobbles that were then set in a mud mortar. Though they were all in poor states of preservation when found, it appears that some effort was invested in directing the flatter aspects of these rocks outwards.

Time Span 5

As much as 0.67m of S.2 is inferred to have accumulated around Str. 334-5-1st after it was abandoned. This influx of soil covers all but the uppermost stones of U.7 and 8. A moderately dense concentration of small to large cobbles (F.1) covers portions of TS.4 architecture, extending for at least 0.44m northeast and 0.8m southwest of Str. 334-5-1st.

Architectural Summary

The five buildings unearthed at Site 334 (Strs. 334-3-1st, 334-3-2nd, 334-4-1st, 334-5-2nd, and 334-5-1st) were all platforms standing 0.25-1.52m high and measuring 5.55-10.79m wide. Orientations range from 100-134 degrees, with four examples falling between 100-106 degrees. These platforms were bounded by facing walls made largely of unmodified cobbles set in a mud mortar. Some effort was made in each case to orient the flatter faces of these stones outwards. In all four cases, the edifice's summit was bordered on the uncovered sides by one to three terraces most of which had earthen surfaces. Structure 334-4-1st's northern terrace was floored with rocks as were the basal northern and southern terraces on Str. 334-3-1st. Structure 334-4-1st's two southern terraces and summit may have been graced with similar pavements though that is unclear.

Structure 334-4-1st was the only investigated building with evidence of stone steps; three were recorded here leading up to the northern terrace while one provided access to its southern counterpart. Otherwise, superstructures were reached by ascending the relatively low flanking terraces that range in height from 0.1-0.36m.

Summit widths ranged from 2.1-5.88m and, at least in the limited portions that we exposed of them, were largely featureless. Most likely the stone step-ups that delimit these summits supported perishable upper superstructure walls that have long since eroded away.

Chronological Summary

The earliest signs of occupation at Site 334 are localized in our excavations in the vicinity of Str. 334-4. Here, in a layer underlying architecture pertaining to Str. 334-4-1st, artifacts diagnostic of the Early Classic and, possibly, the Late Preclassic were identified. No constructions dating to this span were recognized in the course of our work. All of the exposed building efforts pertain to the Late Classic, a period which seemingly marks a local apogee in population numbers and activities. There are a few hints that at least Str. 334-5-1st continued in use during the Early Postclassic though the settlement was apparently abandoned by the end of this span.