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PSB OP 350 Excavation Report

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Site 350

Site 350 is 625m west of Site 316, 1.5km northwest of Site 349, 100m east/northeast of the Rio Ulua, and 400m west of the Quebrada Muigual. It consists of one large isolated platform (Str. 350-1) set in the midst of undulating terrain. Excavations here probed Str. 350-1 along with three low rises located within 100m south and west of that building. A total of 57.1m² was cleared here in the course of this work revealing one well-preserved edifice dating to the colonial period (ironically, not Str. 350-1), a possible platform (Str. 350-1), and two deposits without clear cultural significance. These investigations were directed by Julie Benyo with help from Meghan Hayes.

Structure 350-1

Structure 350-1 was the sole building recorded during the mapping of Site 350. On the surface, it measures 10x20m, was roughly 1.5m high, and aligned approximately east-west. This edifice was investigated by the digging of a 1x7.8m trench (Subop. 350B) into Str. 350-1's west side, from the base across most of the summit. Excavations here reached maximum depths of 1.35m and 2.46m below modern ground surface within and outside what might have been construction, respectively. One possible building phase was recognized in the course of this work. To be frank, however, we did not identify any clear construction units and remain at a loss as to how to interpret the deposits encountered within Subop. 350B.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
350B/1	6 sherds	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	4/
350B/2	30 sherds, 1 piece of obsidian	Occupation Debris (Secondary)	4/LCL, ECL
350B/3	5 sherds, 3 stones	Fill	4/LCL, ECL, EPC
350B/4	2 sherds	Redeposited material?	5/LCL
350B/5	8 sherds, roof tiles	Redeposited material?	5/
350B/6	24 sherds	Redeposited material	5/LCL
350B/7	13 sherds, 1 censer fragment	Occupation Debris/ Redeposited material	4, 5/LCL
350B/8	26 sherds, 1 piece of obsidian	Fill	4/EPC, LPC, ECL
350B/9	11 sherds	Fill	4/
350B/10	30 sherds, 1 roof tile fragment	Occupation Debris/ Redeposited material	4, 5/
350B/11	62 sherds, 1 censer fragment, 1 obsidian chunk, 12 bajareque	Occupation Debris	4/

	fragments		
350B/12	unprocessed (sherds)	Fill/Redeposited Material	3, 5/EPC, LPC
350B/13	6 sherds	Fill/Redeposited Material	3, 5/LCL, LPC
350B/14	11 sherds	Fill/Redeposited Material	3, 5/LCL
350B/15	1 stamp fragment, sherds	Occupation Debris/Fill	1, 2/LCL, ECL

Time Spans

Time Construction

<u>Span</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	-	-	-	F.1	LCL/ECL?
2	-	-	S.1	-	LCL/ECL?
3	-	-	-	F.2	LCL
4	Str. 350-1-1 st ?	-	-	F.3-5	LCL,EPC,LPC?
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.6	

Time Span 1

The first activity identified within the sequence of events chronicled in Subop. 350B is the deposition of a dense concentration of small to large cobbles that comprise a level measuring as much as 0.56m thick (F.1). These rocks were generally found lying flat and set in a light brown sandy soil (S.1). Feature 1 was traced for 1.7m east-west in the deep probe sunk into the westernmost part of Subop. 350B. The few artifacts found associated with these rocks points to a human occupation in the area when F.1 was being laid down.

We are unclear what F.1 might have been. The density of the stones coupled with their being consistently set horizontally tentatively implies that they arrived here by human intervention. Perhaps, F.1 was introduced as a fill unit for a structure about which we know very little.

Time Span 2

Following F.1's introduction, 0.17m of S.1 was laid down over these rocks. This soil may have arrived here as the result of natural depositional processes.

Time Span 3

A dense concentration of (predominately) small to medium-size cobbles (F.2) was deposited during this span. Feature 2 resembles F.1 in the high density and horizontal attitudes of the stones that comprise it but is distinguished from its predecessor by the generally smaller sizes of the included cobbles. Feature 2 is maximally 0.71m thick and was followed for 1m east-west before it was apparently

truncated on the west. As with F.1, the F.2 rocks are set in S.1 and may have been part of a fill unit. The cultural materials found in F.2 point to a human presence in the area when it was deposited.

It is possible that F.2 is contemporary with F.3; unfortunately, we did not determine how these elements might have been related.

Time Span 4

The closest entity to a clear construction element is F.3. Feature 3 is a column of small to medium-size cobbles set in a light brown sandy soil and lying 1.2m east of the easternmost exposed side of F.2 (relations between F.1 and 3 were not revealed in our work). Feature 3 looks to be the remnants of a cobble wall in the process of falling down from east to west. This putative construction is at least 1.03m tall (its base was not encountered) by 0.79m wide, and is tilting out (westward) ca. 30 degrees from vertical. It may be that F.3 once served as the west facing of Str. 350-1-1st's core platform. If so, then F.3 would have been backed on the east by a fill composed almost exclusively of a light brown sandy soil (F.5) indistinguishable from S.1. Feature 5 contains a few small to medium-size cobbles, most of which are concentrated about half-way up F.3's east flank. Feature 4, a lens of dark, ashy sand, is suspended in F.5 fill at a point 2.4m east of F.3. This deposit slopes down from east to west and measures 0.65m long by 0.02-0.15m thick (expanding in thickness from east to west).

If the above interpretations are correct, then, by the end of TS.4, Str. 350-1-1st would have been an earth- (primarily)- and-stone-filled platform that stood, minimally, 1.03m tall, and was aligned, very roughly, 13 degrees. If F.2's upper portion formed part of the surface above which F.3 rose, then the building might have been as much as 1.2m tall. The platform's one putative facing (F.3) was made of unmodified river cobbles set in a mud mortar. It is not clear if the flatter aspects of these rocks were oriented outwards.

Time Span 5

During this interval, S.1 accumulated to a maximum thickness of 1m against (west) of F.3. It appears that at some point towards the end of this process a cut was made down into S.1, extending down through the western exposed portion of F.2. This cut descends 0.46m over 1.46m westward from a point above F.3 before accelerating in its drop off to 1.62m across 2.15m east-to-west. It is in this latter section that F.2 was truncated. Deposited within the resulting declivity is a dark brown, organic-rich sand (S.2) in which numerous small to medium-size cobbles (F.6) are embedded. The F.6 rocks are concentrated towards the base of the depression but, unlike the stones that make up F.1 and 2, these cobbles slant down generally from east-to-west following the eastern wall of the putative cut.

Based on the above evidence, we infer that the deposition of soil following Str. 350-1-1st's abandonment was interrupted by the cutting of a relatively significant (2.08m deep) depression immediately west of F.3 and through the western revealed segment of F.2. Most likely, this disruption resulted from the action of flowing water.

Structure 350-Sub1

Structure 350-Sub1 was found during the investigation of a low, seemingly natural rise ca. 66m west of Str. 350-1. Excavations here in Subop. 350C-I, 350K, and 350M cleared ca. 45.3m² in the course

of revealing the perimeter of a sizable surface-level building (Str. 350-Sub1). Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 1.6m below modern ground surface, uncovering one principal construction stage.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
350C/1	24 sherds, obsidian)	Redeposited Material	3/LPC, Col, ECI?
350C/2	67 sherds, brick fragment, roof tiles	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350C/3	46 sherds, obsidian, roof tiles, bricks	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350C/4	10 sherds, 2 nails	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
350C/5	7 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	2/
350C/6	unprocessed (sherds, roof tiles)	Occupation Debris	1/
350C/7	3 sherds	Occupation Debris	1/
350D/1	10 sherds	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350D/2	unprocessed (sherds, obsidian)	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350E/1	11 sherds	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350E/2	empty	Terminal Occupation	2/
350F/1	1 nail, sherds, roof tiles, bricks	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350G/1	44 sherds, 32 bajareque fragments, nails, bricks, roof tiles, bones	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/Col, LPC, EPC
350H/1	5 bajareque fragments, sherds, brick fragments	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350I/1	5 sherds	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/

350I/2	5 roof tiles, 5 bajareque fragments	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350I/3	4 sherds	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/4	empty	Terminal Occupation	2/
350I/5	66 bone fragments (animal), baked clay, roof tiles	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/6	10 roof tiles, 4 bajareque fragments, brick fragments	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/7	3 sherds, 3 bajareque fragments	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/8	8 roof tiles	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/9	77 human skeletal fragments	Burial (SD.1)	2/
350I/10	35 roof tiles, 6 bajareque fragments	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350I/11	5 sherds	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/12	262 human skeletal fragments, nails	Burial (SD.2)	2/
350I/13	6 roof tiles, 8 bajareque fragments	Occupation Debris	1/
350I/14	empty?	-	-
350K/1	20 sherds, 10 roof tiles, 4 bajareque fragments	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/
350M/1	8 sherds, 10 roof tiles, bricks	Terminal Debris/Redeposited Material	2, 3/

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	-	Col
2	Str. 350-Sub1-1 st	U.1-14	-	F.1, SD.1, 2	Col

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 350-Sub1 is the deposition of a brown sandy silt (S.1). Stratum 1 is, minimally, 1m thick where it underlies Str. 350-Sub1-1st's western flank (U.1; the layer's base was not encountered in our investigations). Recovery of artifacts from this soil suggests that its deposition coincided with a human presence in the area. That some of these materials included architectural elements, such as roof tiles, that were also associated with Str. 350-Sub1-1st implies that the latter building may have been the latest in a sequence of roughly comparable constructions erected here.

Time Span 2

Structure 350-Sub1-1st is a surface-level building the perimeters of which were defined by cobble pavements on the north and south and brick floors on the east and west. On the south, U.3 is a cobble pavement that runs for at least 10.4m along its clearly delimited interior (northern) face. It is not clear that we revealed U.3's east end; it may have continued past our excavation limits in this direction. Unit 3's full width was not exposed save at its western terminus where it seemingly merges with a complex set of constructions glossed here as U.2. Based on this exposure, we tentatively infer that U.3 was 1m wide. Unit 2 is a pavement covering at least 1.78m north-south (the southern limit was not encountered) by 1.2m east-west. As noted above, U.3 intersects this stone surface and apparently terminates here on the west. It may be that the northern portion of U.2 defines a corner with U.3, this segment projecting 0.6m north of, and running nearly perpendicular to, U.3's west end. If this was the case, there is no sign that the U.2 pavement continued further north beyond the point exposed in our excavations.

Unit 2's southwest corner is bracketed by two sizable quadrilaterally shaped stone blocks (U.4 and 5) each of which has a shallow pit in its summit. Unit 4 is northeast of U.5, the two blocks intersecting at their southwest and northeast corners, respectively. These distinctive stones find their precise counterparts in U.6 and 7, 5.42m to the north. In this case, U.7 sits slightly northwest and 0.2m north of U.6. The blocks measure 0.45x0.45x0.45m high (U.5), 0.38x0.55x0.54m high (U.4), 0.4x0.58x0.38m high (U.6), and 0.47x0.5x0.79m high (U.7). Their summit holes measuring 0.11m across by 0.07m deep and likely served as supports for wooden posts with fairly small diameters. These putative posts probably could not bear significant loads though they might have sustained a roof projecting over Str. 350-Sub1-1st's veranda. Units 4-7 are decorated to varying extents by geometric designs consisting of incised lines, ca. 0.01m deep with rounded contours. In the case of U.6, two parallel lines are cut into all faces save that on the north. Unit 7's top is bordered by an incised "U" open to the east while an inverted "U" pointing downwards decorates its north, south, and west flanks. Unit 4 has an incised groove cut into one of its long faces while U.5 has a single incised line along one of its faces and an inverted "U" on another. It seems likely that U.4-7 were originally set in pairs, members of each dyad being situated cater-cornered to each other, as they were found. This supposition is supported by the notch set in the northwest corner of U.6, most likely to facilitate its interdigitation with U.7 which was found lying NW of it.

Separating U.4 and 5 on the south from U.6 and 7 on the north is a double line of clay bricks (U.1). Unit 1 was traced for 5.42m, each brick measuring 0.17x0.2m to 0.2x0.25m. Unit 1 is maximally

0.43m thick and intersects U.4 on the south and U.6 on the north. Near U.1's center is a fragmentary line of bricks set back (east) of U.1's rear line. This portion of U.1 measures 1.07m north-south and is 2.06m north of the U.4 block. A burnt earth floor (F.1) was encountered in excavations immediately west of U.1 at the same level as this brick construction.

A cobble pavement (U.8) encompassing 0.8m east-west by at least 0.96m (north-south; its north side was not found) lies immediately east of the U.6 and 7 stone blocks. Proceeding east for 4.72m from this surface is a line of cobbles (U.9) directly comparable to those that delimit Str. 350-Sub1-1st's south side (U.3). Unit 9 is at least 0.7m wide (its north limit lies beyond our excavations) and may contain a niche in its south side. This indentation is 2.72m east from U.9's west end, and is 0.23m deep by 0.46m across. The niche may be the result of post-abandonment stone loss in this portion of U.9 though the stones backing the feature on the north seem purposefully placed so that their flat faces point towards the indentation's interior. Unit 9 is succeeded by a 2.08m-wide gap that likely served as a doorway into Str. 350-Sub1-1st's interior. Part of this putative passageway is filled with U.10, a line of 5 bricks that are set on end and cover a distance of 1.2m east-west. These bricks are 0.21-0.26m long by 0.7m thick. Lying 0.1m north of U.10 are the burnt remains of what seems to have been a 2.08m-long by 0.06m-thick piece of wood (U.11). Unit 11 may have served as a beam that spanned Str. 350-Sub1-1st's presumed northern door. East of said door, U.13 continues the line of U.9. Here it is a, minimally, 0.56m-wide by 4.6m-long stone pavement (U.13's east and north sides were not found).

Unit 14, a pavement of bricks, may close off the east side of Str. 350-Sub1-1st's interior. Unit 14 begins on the north 1.23m south of U.13, is 0.94m wide, and runs for 5.63m north-south, joining with U.3 on the south. As the east end of Str. 350-Sub1-1st's north and south perimeter pavements were not uncovered, it is possible that U.14 was part of some feature located on the edifice's interior. It was noted that U.14 sits about 0.3m above the level of U.1, suggesting that it was originally raised slightly above Str. 350-Sub1-1st's floor. Such a difference in elevation tentatively implies that U.14 did not define this edifice's eastern margin but was part of a construction built within, and standing above, Str. 350-Sub1-1st's floor.

Another brick-paved construction (U.12) was found in the southwest interior corner of Str. 350-Sub1-1st, formed by the intersection of U.2 and 3. Only an area measuring, maximally, 0.3x0.6m of U.12 was exposed lying 0.43m north of U.3. This uncovered segment forms a right-angle corner, suggesting that we encountered the southwest corner of a construction, probably a pavement that continued into uninvestigated portions of the building. Unit 12, unlike U.14, was set flush with the reconstructed level of Str. 350-Sub1-1st's floor.

Two concentrations of human bone (SD. 1, 2) were found lying ca. 0.6m below the base of U.1 at the approximate center of that construction. Special Deposit 1 is immediately outside (west) of U.1 sealed by the burned clay floor found in this area (F.1). The interment includes the remains of at least two individuals (two skulls were found) though the skeletal remains were fragmentary and most of the elements were either never included in the burial or had differentially deteriorated over time. Based on the location of the skulls and the surviving long bones, it appears that at least one of the bodies was laid out in an extended form, head pointing to the southwest, and the body oriented roughly 250 degrees. No grave goods were associated with these remains. Special Deposit 2 is 1m east of SD.1 and also contains the remains of at least two people. Once again, only fragments of these individuals were found including at least one cranium, a pelvis, the lower portion of the vertebral column, and several long

bones, not in anatomical order. Though no formal grave goods were recovered here, several nails were uncovered in association with the bones. In neither SD.1 nor 2 did we uncover the entire interment. What we feel safe in saying that each burial contained fragments of several individuals placed east-west along the approximate center-line of Str. 350-Sub1-1st's west side. Neither of these burials is marked by clear pit lines.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 350-Sub1-1st was a sizable surface-level building that measured, along its interior, 7x12m, and was aligned roughly 355 degrees. There may have been a 2.08m-wide door spanned by a wooden beam in the approximate center of its north wall though the formal entryway seems to have been on the west. This inference is based on the brick pavement (U.1) that defines this side of the edifice and the stone pavements and shaped blocks that flank this surface on the north and south. That the aforementioned blocks had sockets for possible wooden posts in their summits further suggests that they functioned to support a roof over Str. 350-Sub1-1st's western veranda or in some other way demarcated its primary entrance. The location of two communal burials set in an east-west line on either side of U.1's center highlights the importance of this side of the building to those who built and used the building. The east exposed flank of Str. 350-Sub1-1st is also defined by a brick pavement (U.14). Unit 14, however, does not intersect the edifice's northern perimeter and its top is ca. 0.3m above U.1, 3, and 13. It may be, therefore, that U.14 was part of an architectural feature located within Str. 350-Sub1-1st and did not mark its eastern margin. That we did not encounter, definitively, the eastern ends of the stone lines that delimit Str. 350-Sub1-1st's interior (U.3 and 13) renders this interpretation plausible. The building's dimensions cited above, therefore, should be treated as minimal figures.

Structure 350-Sub1-1st's interior was at least partly surfaced with bricks (U.12) and may have had a niche encompassing 0.23m deep by 0.46m wide set in its north interior face. Other portions of what may have been one large room seem to have been surfaced with earth, though not enough of the area was cleared to describe how this space was organized. The recovery of roof tile and bajareque fragments from Str. 350-Sub1-1st's environs suggests that walls made of the latter material supported a roof made of the latter. In all likelihood, Str. 350-Sub1-1st had been a church the last version of which was destroyed by fire (evidenced by the burnt earth floor (F.1) lying west of U.1 and the charred remains of what seems to have been a lintel (U.11) found in the putative northern doorway). All stone surfaces were made of river cobbles. The naturally flatter aspects of those river-worn stones that defined the outer lines in U.3, 9, and 13 in particular were directed towards the building's interior.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 350-Sub1-1st's abandonment, approximately 0.6m of a light-brown sandy soil containing very few inclusions (S.2) was deposited. The artifacts recovered from S.2 appear to have been redeposited from earlier spans by natural forces. We suspect that river flooding is largely responsible for both S.2's relatively great depth and for relocating the artifacts found in it.

Test Trenches

Two test excavations (Subop. 350J and 350L) were dug in the summits of two other rises that seemed, on the surface, to be analogous in form and size to the one covering Str. 350-Sub1-1st. Suboperation 350J is ca. 80m east of Str. 350-Sub1-1st and 100m south of Str. 350-1-1st; Subop. 350L is roughly 120m east of Str. 350-Sub1-1st and 140m south of Str. 350-1-1st. These pits measured 1x2m and

failed to recover any clear signs of architecture. They did, however, reveal a similar history of deposition: i.e., a light tan, sandy soil extending from ground surface to 0.95m below that level followed by a stratum of grayish brown clayey sand (0.95-1.07m below modern ground surface) and a stratum composed of light brown clayey sand (1.07-1.5m, in Subop. 350J, and 1.07-1.3m below modern ground surface in Subop. 350L). Further excavation in the latter probe revealed a dark tan clayey sand from 1.3-1.8m and a light brown clayey sand from 1.8-2.0m below current ground level. None of these soils contained any sizable inclusions, such as rocks, though Subop. 350J yielded some cultural material and animal bones below 1.25m beneath modern ground surface, cultural materials appeared in Subop. 350L from 0.95m below surface to the base of excavation. The culture-bearing strata may be contemporary with Str. 350-Sub1-1st's TS.1 and 2, the upper soil having buried these earlier deposits as was the case at that building during TS.3.

Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Time Span/Date</u>
350J/1	empty	-	-
350J/2	25 sherds, 33 animal bones, lithics	Occupation Debris	Col
350L/1	empty	-	-
350L/2	19 sherds, 5 roof tiles, animal bones	Occupation Debris	Col

Architectural Summary

Structures 350-1-1st and 350-Sub1-1st represent two very different approaches to raising buildings that correlate with an equal number of distinct phases (see below). The first building was apparently a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood at least 1.03m tall and was aligned approximately 13 degrees. It may be that the surviving, if poorly preserved, facing (F.3) was fronted on the west by a stone-filled terrace. Adding that construction to Str. 350-1-1st would have raised the edifice's height to 1.2m. There are hints, in the form of F.1, that Str. 350-1-1st underwent at least two periods of renovation over the course of its occupation. Structure 350-1-1st's summit was surfaced with earth, seemingly the upper portion of the construction's fill, and all stones used in the putative constructions that comprised the platform consisted of cobbles that were set in a mud mortar.

Structure 350-Sub1-1st was a surface-level building, oriented ca. 85 degrees, the perimeter of which is defined by clear lines of cobble pavements on the north and south and of brick on the west. The interior space defined by these constructions seems to have been one large room that measures minimally 7x12m. This enclosure was probably surfaced primarily with earth though at least some portions of it were paved with bricks. A possible niche, measuring 0.23m deep by 0.46m across, was built into the edifice's northern wall. Structure 350-Sub1-1st's eastern flank was not clearly identified. The brick pavement found here does not run the full north-south width of the building and sits ca. 0.3m above the inferred level of the edifice's floor. Though the situation is not clear, we tentatively suggest that this brick surface was part of a construction raised within Str. 350-Sub1-1st and was intended to

elevate whatever it supported above floor level. The building's interior could be reached by passing through a 2.08m-wide door, spanned by a wooden lintel, near the center of the north wall. The primary entrance seems, however, to have been on the west where it is possibly marked by a two lines of bricks that extend across Str. 350-Sub1-1st's complete north-south width and are flanked on the north and south by cobble pavements and two pairs of cut quadrilateral shaped blocks. The last sets of items are decorated with geometric designs (parallel lines and "U"-shaped figures) and have sockets sunk 0.07m into the center's of their summits. These sockets probably held the bases of wooden posts that may have supported a roof that projected over Str. 350-Sub1-1st's western veranda. Two multiple burials set in an east-west line across the centerline of Str. 350-Sub1-1st's west side, highlight the conceptual significance of this side of the edifice.

There are no clear stone foundations for Str. 350-Sub1-1st's upper walls. Most likely, there consisted of bajareque and were raised along the interior facings of the stone and, on the west, brick pavements that delimit the structure's interior. The building's roof was likely fashioned of fired clay roof tiles, fragments of which were found throughout excavations here. The recovery of roof tile pieces along with bajareque fragments from levels underlying Str. 350-Sub1-1st point to the existence of roughly comparable constructions in the immediate area that were dismantled, or had fallen into disrepair, prior to Str. 350-Sub1-1st's erection. The termination of Str. 350-Sub1-1st itself was seemingly brought on by fire.

Chronological Summary

The earliest occupation attested to at Site 350 dates to the Early Classic. Some artifacts diagnostic of this span were found mixed with material from later periods in and around Str. 350-1-1st. Less securely, some heavily eroded sherds of what might have been Early Classic ceramics were retrieved from Str. 350-Sub1-1st though they may well have been deposited there from other portions of the site. Work on Str. 350-1-1st seems to have begun towards the beginning of the Late Classic, its use, including at least one significant renovation, continuing throughout that span into the Early Postclassic. There are hints of Early Postclassic settlement in the environs of Str. 350-Sub1-1st as well. In the latter case, however, Early Postclassic diagnostics were found in redeposited contexts and may have ultimately derived from elsewhere at the settlement. Fragments of Late Postclassic ceramic containers were recovered at both investigated buildings, in almost every instance within disturbed contexts. Part of the chronological problem here is that we find it hard to distinguish late Prehispanic pottery from those vessels of indigenous manufacture that continued to be made and used after the Spanish Conquest. Hence, we are unsure to whether ceramics glossed as 'Late Postclassic' date to before or after the Spanish entrada. For the moment, we think it best to allow for the presence of a late prehistoric occupation at Site 350 while not seeing it as particularly large or associated with the raising of any uncovered constructions.

Structure 350-Sub1-1st, in turn, was raised during the Colonial period. The ceramics recovered from the building suggest this date (including distinctive 'olive jars' with thickly bolstered rims) as do the nails, bricks, and ceramic roof tiles found here, along with the edifice's distinctive form. The finding of similar items from deposits underlying Str. 350-Sub1-1st point to this building as but the most recent in a sequence of structures raised during the Colonial period in the immediate area. Further, the identification of Colonial diagnostics in Subop. 350J and L, 80 and 120m east of Str. 350-Sub1-1st strongly implies that the latter building was incorporated within a settlement of significant extent.

Following the abandonment of Site 350 the settlement seems to have been subject to flooding during which fine sands, primarily, were deposited over all of the investigated architecture. The nature of these inundations and their impacts on earlier architecture and deposits varied. Most of the post-abandonment floods for which we have evidence had the effect of burying and preserving Colonial and earlier remains. As suggested by the investigations at Str. 350-1, however, shallow channels may have also been cut by modest watercourses through these accumulating deposits in relatively recent times, contributing to the disruption of ancient architecture and deposits.