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PVC-Op 8-Strs 48, 49, 52-Excavation Report

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Structures 48, 49, and 52

Structures 48, 49, and 52 close off the east and south sides of a patio that is defined on its remaining sides by Strs. 32, 35, 44-46 in the southwestern portion of the site of El Coyote. The space they delimit covers 30x65m (1,950m²) and is located about 8m south of Str. 54 and on the edge of the steep descent from the upper terrace that supports most of El Coyote to the lower terrace on which the Southeast Group is found (Str. 54 and the Southeast Group are described in the excavation reports included in the Four Valleys archive). Excavations at Structures 48, 49, and 52 were conducted within Op. 8 during the 2000 field season. Fully 221m² were cleared in the course of this work.

Structure 48

Structure 48, situated 3.2m north of Str. 49, closes off the northeast corner of the patio delimited by Strs. 32, 35, 44-46, 48, 49, and 52. This edifice occupies terrain that slopes up 2.17 over 15.65m from east-to west; it overlooks the steep drop to the lower terrace on the east. B. Robbins supervised the clearing of ca. 93m² within Subop. 8D, H, J, and K, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 1.09m and 0.9m below modern ground surface into construction fill and outside architecture, respectively. This work revealed all of Str. 48-1st along with a complicated occupation history during which several modest buildings eventually coalesced into an extensive but low platform over the course of, at least, three building phases.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.4, 5	F.3	
2	-	-	S.3	-	
3	Str 48-Sub1	U.6	-	-	
4	Str. 48-3 rd	U.1-5	-	-	
5	Str. 48-2 nd	U.7-21, 36	-	-	
6	Str. 48-1 st	U.22-30, 33-35, 37, 38	-	-	
7	Str. 48-Sub2	U.31, 32	-	F.2	
8	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 48 is the deposition of at least 0.2m of a soft-compacted, very fine-textured, yellow-brown soil (S.5; the stratum's base was not

encountered). Stratum 5's upper surface runs more-or-less flat for the 0.96m it was exposed running east-west beneath Str. 48-1st. A nearly identical soil (S.4), distinguished by the presence of charcoal flecks embedded within it, was uncovered 5.06m further to the east. Stratum 4 was revealed running for 0.56m east out from beneath U.8, the stone-faced terrace that borders Strs. 48-1st and 48-2nd on their downslope, east flanks. This soil rises 0.19m over 0.56m from east-to-west before disappearing beneath TS.2 architecture (U.8). Assuming that S.4 and 5 are parts of the same earth layer, the horizon of which they are parts rises 1.07m over 5.06m east-west. Resting directly atop S.4 is a lens composed of very soft-compacted, very fine-textured, gray ash that contains small fragments of burnt wood (F.3). Feature 3 was traced for 0.35m east from beneath U.8. Pinching out against S.4 on the east, F.3 achieves its maximum exposed thickness of 0.1m where it disappears beneath U.8. This ash deposit, coupled with the charcoal pieces recorded in the underlying S.4, strongly point to a human presence in the immediate vicinity of Str. 48 before work on that building began.

Time Span 2

Stratum 4 and F.3 were blanketed by 0.35m of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, yellow-brown clay that contains numerous white inclusions that are 0.01m or less in diameter (S.3). Stratum 3, east of Str. 48-1st, ascends 1.2m across 5m from east-to-west. West of that building, S.3 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m (its base was not encountered here). Taking these two discontinuous exposures together, it appears that S.3 rose 1.98m over 14.95m east-to-west. As can be seen in the above figures, most of that ascent took place east of construction, defining the relatively steep rise from the lower to the upper terrace.

Time Span 3

The sole remnant of Str. 48-Sub1 that was uncovered in excavations was a 0.22m-tall wall (U.6) that was aligned ca. 118 degrees. Unit 6 was traced for 1.2m to the southeast from where it emerged from beneath U.5, a sizable terrace that lies south/southeast of Str. 48-3rd. The architectural significance of U.6 is unclear. Most likely it is a foundation from a surface-level building that was subsequently covered by architecture (U.5) pertaining to TS.4. The exposed portion of U.6 was fashioned from river cobbles that flatter aspects of which were directed out to the north. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During this interval, Str. 48-3rd was a 0.2m high platform defined by stone facings (U.1-4) on all sides. The building is aligned ca. 7 degrees and covers 1.5x3.05m. This modest edifice is fronted on the east by a 0.35m-high terrace (U.5) that was traced over a distance of 6.55m northeast-southwest (aligned 14 degrees). The terrace's northern end is buried by TS.5 architecture (U.10) while on the south the construction was covered by a foundation that was part of Str. 49-Sub7 (U.30). Apparently raised to stabilize the terrace margin where it overlooks the eastern descent, this terrace is 1.05m east of Str. 48-3rd. All TS.4 construction consists of unmodified river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar

Time Span 5

Structure 48-2nd consists of a 0.51-0.78m-high, stone-faced platform with surface-level rooms built into and set against its eastern and southern flanks. The substructure is defined by facings (U.16, 18-20) that rise directly to the earthen-floored summit, is oriented 280 degrees, and covers 3.5x3.8m (measured across the center). The platform's northwest corner is indented 0.95x0.5m. A step (U.21) composed of three cut stone blocks abuts the platform near the center of its north face (U.18). Unit 21 measures 0.85m across and projects 0.4m north from U.18. Structure 48-2nd's summit apparently supported a superstructure composed of one enclosure (Room 1) covering 2.45x2.75m. No built-in furniture was identified here.

A stone-floored (U.17), surface-level compartment (Room 2) was built against the platform's south side. The foundations bordering the enclosure on the north, east, and south (U.10-12) are 0.45-0.75m wide and stand 0.52-0.72m high. Room 2's southern footing (U.10) is sufficiently large (0.75m wide by 2.6m long east-west) to have served as both a wall foundation and bench. The western footing (U.13) is lower (0.36m tall) and wider (1m across) than the other walls. Unit 13 possibly served as the threshold for a 1m-wide door leading from Room 2 to Str. 48-3rd which lies an estimated 0.25m west of Room 2 and 0.4m south of Str. 48-2nd's core platform. This putative threshold is fronted on the east, within the enclosure, by a 0.1m-high by 0.17m-wide step-up that is integrated with U.13 (included in U.13). Units 10-13 all run down below, and are abutted by, the U.17 stone floor. A 0.2m gap in the compartment's southeast corner more likely promoted ventilation than egress. Covering 1.93m east-west, the room's north-south dimension varies from 1.16m to 0.96m, narrowing from east to west.

The earthen-floored eastern compartment (Room 3) borders Room 2 on the north and encompasses 1.05x1.45m (measured across the center). Bordered by footings that are 0.38m high by 0.5-0.85m wide (U.14, 15, 36), Room 3 is set into the platform's eastern flank. The enclosure's 0.65m-wide southern wall (U.14) and 0.85m-wide northern footing (U.36) are 1.65m and 1.75m long, possibly doubling as wall foundations and benches. A wall rising 0.16m above the 0.5m wide western foundation (U.15) may have separated the eastern compartment from the platform's summit (all included in U.15). Access to Room 3 was obtained by stepping up and over a 0.15m-high stone line that formalizes the enclosure's otherwise completely open eastern flank (1.45m wide north-south). This line is a part Str. 48-2nd's eastern platform facing (U.16), lowered here to facilitate entering Room 3's interior.

A 0.63m-high terrace (U.8) situated 0.65-0.95m east of Str. 48-2nd was likely introduced to protect this flank from erosion down the steep eastern descent (the terrace's orientation of 4 degrees 30 minutes diverges from the platform's alignment and, thus, accounts for the variations in its distance east of Str. 48-2nd). The formal appearance of the terrace's western facade (ca. 0.2m tall; the flatter aspects of its component rocks are consistently oriented in this direction) implies that U.8 doubled as the eastern perimeter of an earthen-floored room built against Str. 48-2nd's eastern flank (Room 4). A 0.25m-high wall (U.9) located 1.5m south of Room 2's southeast corner might have sealed the compartment's southern flank. If so, Room 4 encompasses 4.7m north-south by 0.65-0.95m across east-west. The northern margin of the putative enclosure was not encountered; possibly it was open on this side.

The 6.55m of U.5, the terrace erected during TS.4, that was not built over by later construction was likely still visible during TS.5. Running parallel to, and lying 1.8m east of, U.5 is a 0.27m-high wall (U.7). Traced for 2.3m north-south, this unit apparently stops 0.8m south of Room 2's southeast corner and does not line up with U.8. Unit 7 may have been introduced to

shore up the eastern terrace margin, further reducing erosion in an area threatened by that process.

Structure 48-2nd appears by the end of TS.5 as a 0.51-0.78m-tall stone-faced platform that covers 3.5x3.8m and was aligned roughly 280 degrees. This core platform has an inset northwest corner measuring 0.5x0.95m and supported one earthen-floored compartment (Room 1) encompassing 6.7m². This enclosure contained no surviving built-in furniture. A step, composed of three faced blocks and measuring 0.85m east west, projects 0.4m north from near the center of the platform's north basal facing. The superstructure was likely accessed by ascending up and over this low riser. An earthen-floored compartment (Room 3) was built into the eastern portion of the platform. Room 3 covers 1.5m² and is bordered by substantial foundations (0.38m tall by 0.5-0.85m wide) on all sides save the east which is delimited by a 0.15m-tall stone step up. The 0.65m-wide southern and 0.85m-wide northern footings might have doubled as wall foundations and benches; these walls are 1.65 and 1.75m long, respectively. Like Room 3, its immediate southern neighbor Room 2 was raised directly on ancient ground surface. It is defined on all sides save the west by stone footings that are 0.45-0.75m-wide by 0.52-0.72m tall. The southern foundation, at 0.75m wide by 2.6m long east-west could have functioned as a wall support and bench. Room 2's stone-paved interior encompasses 2.1m² was entered by passing over a 0.36m-tall stone threshold set within a 1m-wide door in the compartment's west side. A 0.2m-wide gap in Room 2's southeast corner probably helped to ventilate the enclosure and its contents. Structure 48-2nd's core platform lies immediately north of Room 2 while Str. 48-3rd might well have still been visible 0.25m west of that compartment's ample doorway. A 4.7m-long by 0.65-0.95m wide earthen-floored compartment (Room 4) might have been sandwiched between Str. 48-2nd on the west and a 0.63m-tall terrace on the east. If this interpretation is correct, Room 4 would have covered ca. 3.8m² and might have been open on the north. Whether it formed part of Room 4, this eastern terrace would have helped to consolidate the terrain overlooking the steep descent atop which Str. 48-2nd was raised. The surviving portions of U.5 (the long terrace raised during TS.4) together with the 0.27m-high terrace (U.7) lying 1.8m east of U.5 would have served similar purposes.

Constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river-worn cobbles set in a brown soil matrix. The flatter aspects of these rocks are generally directed outwards. The one known exception to this pattern is the U.21 step built against the core platform's north face. As noted, this riser was made from three shaped blocks that together formed U.21's tread.

Time Span 6

Time Span 6 witnesses a marked expansion of the Str. 48-2nd platform (now designated Str. 48-1st) to the west and, to a lesser extent, the south, probably burying Room 2 in the process; Room 3 remained open throughout this interval. The western addition is defined by vertical facings (U.22, 23, 24, 26, and 27) that are 0.17-0.34m high and which define the perimeter of a platform that encompasses, maximally, 4.6x4.75m. This annex abuts Str. 48-2nd's platform at a point 0.4m south of the indent on the latter's northwest corner and Room 2 at a point 0.5m east of that compartment's southwest corner. The addition's western basal facing has an irregular outline, running 1.5m south from the northwest corner (this segment designated U.23) before stepping back 1.6m to the east (that leg is labeled U.24). A little more than one-quarter of the western facing is taken up with an L-shaped construction (U.28). Unit 28's limits are defined by stone slabs set on end, its interior is filled with more vertically arrayed rocks packed round with earth. Located 0.5m north of the western addition's southwest corner,

U.28 measures 0.8x1.4m (the north-south running main body of the figure) and has a 0.65m wide (north-south) extension projecting 0.5m west from U.28's northwest corner. Construction of the western addition largely covered Str. 48-3rd. The only portion of the latter edifice that might have still been visible was the southernmost 0.8m of the early construction. That segment projected out from under, and south of, the addition's southern basal wall (U.26). The result was to create a 0.2m-tall by 1.5m wide (east-west) outset that extended 0.8m south from Str. 48-1st's west addition beginning at a point 0.8m west of that addition's southeast corner.

The addition supports one compartment, Room 5, the stone paved floor (U.33) of which covers 1.8m east-west by 3.1m north-south. Unit 33 is elevated ca.0.15m above the addition's western summit and is bordered on the east (U.29) and west (U.25) by stone foundations that are about 0.3m high by 0.4-0.55m wide. The south flank is defined by the addition's southern basal facing (U.26) which measures 1.15m across. Room 5's north side was apparently left open, the compartment having been easily accessed from this side by stepping up and over the northern basal facing (U.22) which is 0.34m tall. No built-in furniture was recorded within Room 5.

Structure 48-2nd's core platform remained visible during TS.6 though its superstructure was altered. The U.21 steps now led into a diminutive cubicle (Room 6) set in the summit's northeast corner. Room 6 is bordered by foundations on the west (U.28) and south (U.30), the compartment remaining open on the north, east, and for 1m on its south side where it overlooks Room 3. Units 28 and 30 are 0.21-0.24m tall by 0.4m wide, the space they delimit measuring 0.85x1.25m. Immediate west of Room 6 is a space (Room 7) encompassing ca. 2.1m² and bounded by U.28 on the east and U.37 on the south. The latter is a low footing that is 0.25m wide. Room 7 was apparently unencumbered by construction on the north and west. A 0.93m-wide gap between U.28 and 37 provides passage from Room 7 into Room 8. The last compartment is defined on its remaining sides by foundations (U.12, 15, 20, and 29) that are 0.3-0.35m tall by 0.3-0.6m wide. Room 8 covers ca. 3.2m² in all. Room 2 off the platform's southeast corner was now likely filled (that fill being designated as U.38), its western door (marked by U.13) sealed by the deposition of 0.4m of a yellow-brown, hard-compacted, fine-textured soil in which is embedded a moderately dense concentration of small rocks (U.34). Unit 34 extends 1.2m west from U.13 to U.29, the footing that defines Room 5 on the east. Overlying U.34 is a 0.28m-thick layer of small to medium-size rocks set in a brown soil (U.35). The upshot of adding U.34 and 35 was to cover the northwest quadrant of Str. 48-3rd, bringing this portion of Str. 48-1st up to a point roughly equivalent to the rest of the Str. 48-2nd platform. It is likely that the upper portions of Room 2's foundations continued to define what was now a compartment covering 2.1m² and opening westward into Room 9. That last compartment is built atop the U.34 and 35 fill, covers 1x1.35m and, in addition to the passage leading east to Room 2, has a 0.5m-wide gap in its southwest corner. The latter leads out to the top of U.26, the western addition's southern basal wall, and from there to Room 5 atop that annex.

By TS.6's conclusion, Str. 48-1st retained its earlier orientation but now measured 6.1x9.1m (maximally) and stood 0.51-0.78m tall (its eastern segment composed of Str. 48-2nd's core platform) and 0.17-0.34m high (the western annex). The western addition encompasses 4.6x4.75m and supports one stone floored compartment (Room 5) that covers 5.6m². Room 5 was bounded by stone foundations on all sides save the north which was completely open where it overlooked the annex's 0.34m-tall northern basal facing. An L-shaped box delimited by and containing vertically set rocks was built against the western addition's western facing. This construction covers 1.5m², its main body running north-south with a short 'leg' projecting 0.5m

west and away from Str. 48-1st from the unit's northwest corner. The architectural significance of this 'box' is unknown.

The western addition was anchored onto Str. 48-2nd's core platform on the east. This platform now supported five earthen-floored enclosures in addition to Room 3 which had been built into the platform's east side during TS.5 and remained open throughout TS.6. The summit compartments are bounded by stone foundations that are 0.21-0.35m tall by 0.3-0.7m wide. In general, the compartments raised atop Str. 48-2nd are arranged in a 'U' around and overlooking Room 3. Moving counterclockwise around Room 3 and starting on its north flank, Room 6 covers 1.1m² and is open on the north, east, and for 1m on the south where it overlooks Room 3. Room 7 is immediately west of Room 6 and encompasses 2.1m². Rooms 6 and, likely, 7 could be reached by passing up and over the cut block steps (U.21) that still (from TS.5) front Str. 48-2nd's core platform's north face. A 0.93m-wide gap in Room 7's southeast corner leads to Room 8 which borders and overlooks Room 3 from the west. Room 8 measures 3.2m² and is immediately north of Room 9. The latter covers 1.35m² and was raised atop fill deposited over what had been the northeast quadrant of Str. 48-3rd. Lying immediately east of Room 9 and south of Room 3 is Room 2. This enclosure had been raised directly on ancient ground surface during TS.5. Its western door was now sealed and the interior was filled to the top of its bordering foundations, bringing the newly elevated surface roughly equal to the summit of Str. 48-2nd's core platform. Room 2, built on this fill, still measured 2.1m² and could be accessed from Room 9 through a 1m-wide door in Room 2's west wall. It is likely that at least some portions of the terraces (U.5, 7, and 8) raised during TS.4 and 5 south and east of Str. 48-1st were still in use now.

Constructions raised during TS.6 were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar. When incorporated in basal walls and foundations, these rocks are placed so that their naturally flatter aspects look outwards. As noted, U.28 was made of slabs that were set vertically to describe this entity's perimeter as well as within the space so defined.

Time Span 7

Remnants of one or more surface-level rooms (designated Str 48-Sub2) were found overlying U.7, a terrace raised during TS.5 on the edge of the steep eastward descent to the lower terrace. Oriented, very roughly, 30 degrees, and delimited by stone foundations (U.31 and 32) standing 0.15 m high and measuring 0.21-0.3m across, these modest constructions are 0.8m apart and were traced for 0.8-0.9m. It is unclear if U.31 and 32 marks the edges of two closely spaced edifices or if they delimit the northwest and southeast sides of one earthen-floored room. At the very least the identification of Str. 48-Sub2 suggests that the area around Str. 48-1st saw the accumulation of relatively modest constructions late in the latter's use life. By the time the former was built there seems to have been less effort invested in preserving the terrace system that had sustained the integrity of the upper terrace's east edge than had been the case in TS.4-6. Units 31 and 32 each consist of a single course of cobbles set in a mud mortar.

A very dense concentration of small to medium-size cobbles (F.2) accumulated against the east, downslope flank of the U.8 terrace during this interval. Feature 2 extends for 2.3m east of U.8 and its rocks are embedded in a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-packed brown soil distinguished by the presence of some small (0.01m or less in diameter) white flecks. The behavioral significance of F.2 is unclear. The high density of rocks here and the horizontal disposition of some of them may point to F.2 as a product of purposeful human activity. Nonetheless, the west-to-east descent here is fairly steep and we cannot rule out the possibility

that F.2 results from the downward pull of gravity on standing architecture. If F.2 is some form of late construction, it might have been introduced as part of an effort to expand the U.8 terrace to the east, possibly a project that was left unfinished.

Time Span 8

Following Str. 48-1st's abandonment, 0.2-0.32m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) containing some small (0.01m in diameter or less) white flecks was laid down atop S.3 and the lower parts of final-phase architecture. Stratum 2, in turn, was blanketed by 0.12-0.27m of a very similar soil (S.1) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense (west of construction) to dense (on the east) concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from Str. 48-1st. Feature 1 was followed for 3m to the east before excavation ceased while on the west this tumbled debris was found for 1m away from TS.6 construction.

Structure 49

Lying 2m northeast of the Str. 52 complex and 3.2m south of Str. 48, Str. 49 occupies the eastern margin of the plaza delimited by these buildings and Strs. 32, 35, and 44-46. The ground here rises from south to north and drops from west to east, culminating in a precipitous descent to the lower terrace that begins immediately east of Str. 49. Excavation of ca. 78m² within Subop. 8B, C, F, G, I, and L and under the direction of A. Novotny and Erin Altman uncovered all of Str. 49's core architecture. Digging, carried down to maximum depths of 1.39m and 1.75m below modern ground surface into construction fill and outside architecture, respectively, revealed at least three principal building phases succeeded by reoccupation on Str. 49's ruins.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.3, 4	-	
2	Str. 49-2 nd	U.1	-	-	
3	Str. 49-1 st	U.3-5, 10, 16, 17, 22, 34	-	-	
4	Str. 49-1 st	U.2, 13-15, 20, 25, 29, 35	-	-	
5	Str. 49-1 st	U.11, 23	-	-	
	Str. 49-Sub1	U.18, 27, 28			
	Str. 49-Sub2	U.7, 8, 12, 31, 32	-	-	
	Str. 49-Sub3	U.9, 12, 36			
	Str. 49-Sub7	U.30			
	Str. 49-Sub8	U.21			
	Str. 49-Sub9	U.33			

6	Str. 49-Sub4	U.24	S.2	-
7	Str. 49-Sub5 Str. 49-Sub6	U.19 U.6, 26	S.2	F.2
8	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1,3

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.33m of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark brown soil (S.4) was laid down (the base of this deposit was not encountered). Stratum 4 is distinguished by the absence of the small, soft white flecks that are found throughout most of the earth levels revealed in southern El Coyote. Stratum 4 ascends 0.08m from south-to-north over the 0.96m it was exposed immediately south of U.4, Str. 49-1st's south basal facing. This distinctive earth level was not found elsewhere in Str. 49's environs. In these other areas where digging was carried below exposed architecture a very different soil was uncovered (S.3). Exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.3m (its base was not identified), S.3 is a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay containing numerous white inclusions that are 0.01m or less in diameter. This layer rises 1.04m across 14.76m from south to north, most of that ascent occurring in the southernmost 7.7m that S.3 was exposed in our excavations. As far as we can tell, S.4 replaced S.3 in the area lying directly south of Str. 49-1st; relations between these deposits are not clear. Nonetheless, it would appear that the several versions of Str. 49 and its surrounding outbuildings were erected over a south-to-north rise.

Time Span 2

The earliest recognized construction, Str. 49-2nd, is represented by a single wall (U.1) that protrudes 0.8m north from under Str. 49-1st's northern basal wall (U.22). Faced on the east and west by vertically set and flat-laid cobbles, respectively, this unit is 0.8m wide, aligned due north-south, and stands a preserved 0.22m high. Obscured on the south by later architecture, the wall's northern terminus is irregular, as though it was truncated during later building efforts. The nature of this Phase 1 building is unclear; given that the wall is faced on both the east and west tentatively suggests that it was part of a foundation that defined the perimeter of a surface-level building. Unit 1's rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

This interval is marked by the construction of a platform bordered by facings standing 0.73m high on the east (U.5), 0.65m on the north (U.22), 0.58m on the west (U.10), and 1.05m on the south (U.4); these discrepancies reflect the general upward south-to-north and east-to-west slope of the terrain under Str. 49-1st. The building's inset southwest corner (U.17) measures 1m north-south by 0.35m east-west. The fill (U.16) retained by U.4, 5, 10, and 22 consists of a dense packing of small to large cobbles that are set in a brown, white-flecked soil that resembles S.2. Raised atop U.16 are two earthen-floored rooms set in an east-west line. The western compartment (Room 1) encompasses 2.12x2.4m while its eastern neighbor, Room 2, covers 1.12x2.4m. The wall separating Rooms 1 and 2 (U.3) is 0.38m tall by 0.9m wide. Unit 3 projects 0.33m below the reconstructed level of the superstructure's floor. The remaining sides of the summit enclosures are delimited by the tops of Str. 49-1st's basal walls (U.4, 5, and

10) and a 0.12m-high by 0.58m-wide foundation (U.34) on the north. The relatively great width of U.3 suggests that it might have doubled as support for a perishable upper wall and a bench that ran the full 2.4m north-south width of the summit.

By the end of TS.3, Str. 49-1st was a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.58-1.05m high, covered 4.64x5.8m, and was oriented between 357 degrees, 30 minutes and due north-south. The earthen-floored summit supported two rooms bounded by the upper portions of the platform's basal facings and a 0.12m-high by 0.58m-wide foundation on the north. The compartments are arranged in an east-west line, separated by a 0.38m-tall by 0.9m-wide wall that might have functioned as a bench and support for a perishable upper wall. The western compartment (Room 1) covers 5.1m² while its eastern neighbor, Room 2, encompasses 2.7m². No other built-in furniture was noted in either enclosure. Platform facings are generally made of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter faces of which are oriented outwards. A brown mud mortar was used as a binding agent.

Time Span 4

This interval witnessed an extensive sequence of renovations that left the core platform intact while expanding it primarily to the north and, to a lesser extent, the west. In the latter direct, a 0.4m-tall facing (U.15) was appended to Str. 49-1st's western basal wall (U.10). Unit 15 expanded the core building 0.65m to the west, this construction running 2.5m north-south. One consequence of adding U.15 was to deepen the building's inset southwest corner (now measuring 1m deep east-west by 1m north-south) and to create a shallower inset on the building's northwest corner (encompassing 0.65m east-west by 0.85m north-south). It is possible that the earlier west basal wall (U.10) still projected 0.18m above U.15. If that is the case then U.15 and 10, together, might have constituted a set of steps leading into Room 1.

The only addition made to the summit was the raising of a 0.32m-tall by 0.5m-wide foundation (U.25) atop the west margin of U.3 (the putative bench that divided Rooms 1 and 2 during TS.3). Unit 3 appears to have still risen 0.38m above the superstructure's floors but it now measured 0.4m across on the east; U.3 did not project west of U.25's west flank. The effects of adding U.25 was to create a 0.4m-wide shelf running along Room 2's west flank and the erection of what might have been a more significant obstacle to passage between Rooms 1 and 2. That obstacle may have accentuated the difference between a public-oriented Room 1 on the west and a more secluded Room 2 on the east.

The platform's southeast corner remained unchanged while a 0.65m-tall by 0.5m-wide wall (U.2) now projects 1.13m east from the platform's northeast corner. This addition served to anchor the east side (U.13) of an extensive system of porticoes that was appended to Str. 49-1st's north side. One portion of this construction, designated Portico 1, is bounded by U.13, 14, and 29, measures 3.8m east-west, stands 0.18m high, and projects 1.88m north from Str. 49-1st's north basal facing (U.22). Portico 1's west facing (U.29) is anchored onto the surviving north face of U.1 (see TS.2). The fill (U.35) retained by U.13, 14, and 29 consists of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay that resembles S.3 but is distinguished by the numerous ceramic fragments it contains. Projecting 0.65m north of U.14 (Portico 1's north facing) is another stone-faced construction (U.20). Designated Portico 2, U.20 is 0.18m tall, joins U.14 at a point 1.65m west of the latter's northeast corner with U.13, runs for 2.15m westward at which point the construction runs south to intersect U.14's northwest corner with U.29. The addition of U.20, therefore, extended Str. 49-1st a total of 2.53m north from the core platform's north

flank though neither of these TS.4 additions ran for the platform's full east-west width; they stop 2.55m shy of that building's northwest corner.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 49-1st consisted of a core platform the form, size, and orientation of which was largely unmodified from its configuration during TS.3. Room 1, the superstructure's western enclosure, was now reached by passing over two stone risers that ascended 0.4m and 0.18m from west to east. The addition of the basal riser (U.15) not only formalized access to the superstructure's western compartment but deepened Str. 49-1st's southwest corner (now measuring 1x1m) and inset the building's northwest corner (covering 0.65x0.85m). Passage between Rooms 1 and 2 may have been restricted by the raising of a 0.32m-tall foundation (U.25) atop the west edge of the construction (U.3) that had previously separated these compartments. Unit 25's addition made the wall separating the east and west enclosures 0.7m high while creating a 0.4m-wide shelf that ran along the entirety of Room 2's west side (the top of U.3 that was still visible east of U.25). Why the builders thought it necessary to create such a relatively tall medial wall is uncertain. There is no clear evidence that Str. 49-1st's summit was raised at this time, thereby submerging U.3 under additional construction fill. It may be that, with the construction of the western steps, Room 1 became a relatively ample public space easily accessed from that side. If so, then Room 2's privacy might have been reinforced by the erection of U.25, a move that would have blocked the passage of people, sound, and sight into that eastern space.

Two low (0.18m tall) earth-surfaced, stone-faced porticos were appended to the platform's north face. The more extensive of these entities (Portico 1) extends 1.88m north of that platform and runs for 3.8m, stopping 2.55m short of Str. 49-1st's northwest corner. A second comparable construction (Portico 2) projects 0.65m north from its predecessor, intersecting Portico 1 at a point 1.65m west of its northeast corner and extending for 2.15m to the west. These additions resulted in the expansion of Str. 49-1st which now measured 5.8m east-west by 7.17m north-south. The low northern additions may have constituted work spaces appended to the core building.

Both facings and foundations are made primarily of flat-laid river cobbles set in a brown mud mortar. The naturally flatters aspects of these rocks are generally directed outwards.

Time Span 5

During TS.5, there were some small modifications made to the northern porticos and several rooms were erected around Str. 49-1st directly on ancient ground surface. It is difficult to determine the sequence in which the latter edifices were raised. All we feel confident in saying is that they appeared after the set of events described for TS.4

Unit 23, a 0.5m-high by 0.65m-wide wall, now projects 0.6m north from the core platform's northern basal wall (U.22) This addition rests Portico 1 and may have functioned to divide this elevated area into two rooms set in an east-west line. The area lying east of U.23 covers 1.3x1.88m while the area west of that wall encompasses 1.4x1.88m. A 1.28m-wide gap between U.23 and U.14 on the north would have provided easy passage between these putative enclosures. It appears that these supposed rooms were open on all sides except on the south where they are bordered by U.22, the core platform's north basal facing. Porticos 1 and 2 were expanded 1.4m to the west at some point during this interval through the addition of U.11. The latter facing is about 0.35m tall and projects 1.3m west from U.20's northwest corner before turning south for 2.53m to join the core platform at a point 0.9m east of its northwest corner.

Though it is difficult to parse out the different construction elements that constitute U.11 and their relations, it looks as though the western addition supported a diminutive cubicle (Room 3) bounded by low (0.1-0.15m high by 0.3-0.5m wide) foundations on the north and west (all included in U.11). Room 3 covers 0.95x2.1m and is surfaced with earth. Room 3 may have been open to the east where it could be entered from Portico 1.

Immediately west of Room 3 is Str. 49-Sub3. This construction consists of two earthen floored rooms arranged in an east-west line. The eastern compartment is bordered on the east by U.11, on the south by the core platform's northern basal wall (U.22), and on the north by U.12, a foundation standing 0.1m tall and measuring 0.35m across. The interior space thus defined covers 1.3x1.4m and is open on the west where it leads into a second compartment. The latter is bordered on the north by two interconnected footings (U.35 and 32) while on the west a 1m-long segment of a similar foundation (U.9) was uncovered. These walls are 0.15m tall by 0.2-0.6m wide. We did not locate this room's south margin. As it stands, the space defined by U.32, 35, and 9 encompasses 0.6m east-west by at least 1m north-south.

A larger enclosure (Str 49-Sub2) adjoins Str. 49-Sub3 on the north, the two spaces separated by U.32. Structure 49-Sub2 is bounded on the east by U.8, a 0.25m-high by 0.9m wide by at least 1.25m long (north-south) wall. Unit 8's north edge was not identified definitively. The unusually great width of U.8 tentatively suggests that this construction might have served as a shelf or bench. It may or may not have supported a perishable upper wall. Unit 7, a 0.2m-tall wall projects 1.9m west from U.8. The former construction intersects U.8 at a point 0.45m north of U.8's junction with U.20 on the south. Unit 7 is 0.5m wide over its easternmost 0.85m, narrowing to 0.2m across for the remaining 1.05m it continues westward. It is unclear what function(s) U.7 might have fulfilled; its broader east segment might have served as a shelf while the narrower western section served to divide Str. 49-Sub2's interior into northern and southern segments. Unit 32 borders Str. 49-Sub2 on the south while a 0.15m-tall by 0.2m-wide foundation (U.31) marks the building's western exposed limits. Unit 31 was traced for 2.9m north from its intersection with Str. 49-Sub3's northwest corner. Structure 49-Sub2's earthen-floored interior covers 3.55m east-west by 2.9m north-south and was seemingly open on the north. If U.7 did divide this space into northern and southern segments, the northern example covers 1.8x 3.55m while its southern counterpart encompasses 0.9x3.55m. A niche measuring 0.5m deep by 1.33m across east-west is found in the putative southern compartment's south wall.

Another edifice (Str. 49-Sub1) was erected on ground level (the top of S.3) 2.5m south of Str. 49-1st. This building is bordered by footings that are 0.2-0.3m tall by 0.65-0.85m across (U.27 on the north and U.18 on the south). The western footing (U.28) was not fully exposed east-west while the eastern foundation was not uncovered. The earthen-floored space delimited by U.18, 27, and 28 covers 1.6m north-south by at least 1.2m east-west. The bases of the building's exposed foundations rise 0.26m south to north over the 3.4m the edifice was exposed in this direction. As was the case for Str. 49-1st, it appears that its smaller southern neighbor was erected over a south-to-north ascent.

Structures 49-Sub 7 through -Sub9 are each represented by one foundation. Structure 49-Sub9, for example, is recognized based on the identification of a 0.22m-high by 0.47m-wide wall (U.33) that was raised off Str. 49-1st's west side. Excavation ceased after U.33 was followed for 0.85m west from its intersection with the southwest corner of U.15 (the platform's basal western step). The remainder of this putative building was not uncovered. Structure 49-7, in

turn, is represented in our excavations by U.30. That footing is 0.15m tall by 0.29m wide and was cleared for 1.6m east from its western terminus before excavations ceased. Unit 30 is 1.4m east of Str. 49-1st's northeast corner and overlies the south exposed end of Str. 48-3rd's U.5, the terrace that fronts the latter edifice on its east, down-sloping side. Finally, Str. 49-Sub8 is represented by a very short (0.55m long) low wall (U.21) that is 0.25m wide. Unit 21 is 0.6m west of Str. 49-Sub2's southwest corner. Though U.21 was probably part of a more extensive edifice that was built on ancient ground surface, no other parts of the building were encountered in our limited excavations here.

When TS.5 drew to a close Str. 49-1st was surrounded by at least six buildings raised directly on ground surface off the platform's northwest, west, east, and south flanks. The core building was not much changed during this interval. A 0.5m-tall by 0.65m-wide wall now projected 0.6m north from the platform's north basal facing. This construction rests on top Portico 1, possibly serving to divide that low eminence into eastern and western segments. The eastern space so defined covers 2.4m², its western counterpart encompassing 2.6m². A 1.28m-wide gap would have provided easy passage between these areas. It appears that the spaces atop Portico 1 were open on all sides save the south where they are bordered by Str. 49-1st's north basal facing (U.22). Porticos 1 and 2 were expanded 1.4m westward during TS.5. This western expansion supports a compartment (Room 3) that encompasses 2m² and was open on the east.

Two of the better-known surface-level buildings (Strs. 49-Sub2 and -Sub3) were erected immediately west and northwest of this expansion of Porticos 1 and 2. Structure 49-Sub3 borders that addition on the west, covers 2.05x2.45m, and is oriented approximately 268 degrees. This building contains two earthen-floored rooms set in an east-west line and bordered by low stone footings. The eastern compartment covers 1.8m² and is open on the west where it leads to an enclosure that measures 0.6m east-west by at least 1m north-south. Directly to the north, Str. 49-Sub2 encompasses 4.7m-east-west by 2.9m north-south and is aligned ca. 358 degrees. The earthen-floored compartment contained by the foundations that border it on the west and south measures 10.3m² and may have been divided into northern and southern segments by an east-west running wall. The northern portion covers 6.4m², its southern analogue encompassing 3.2m². The latter space has a niche measuring 0.5m deep by 1.33m east-west in its south wall. While no built-in furniture was recorded in Str. 49-Sub3, a 0.25m-tall, 0.9m wide, by at least 1.25m-long shelf or bench (U.8) may have closed off the latter building's east side. Another potential shelf projects 0.85m west into Str. 49-Sub3's interior from U.8. The latter construction is 0.2m high by 0.5m wide. Structure 49-Sub2 seems to have been open on the north.

The remainder of the surface-level buildings erected at this time are represented by more fragmentary remains, usually a single stone foundation that was likely part of a larger edifice. An exception is Str. 49-Sub1 which is 2.5m south of Str. 49-1st. This edifice is delimited by low (0.2-0.3m-tall) but broad (0.65-0.85m wide) foundations that delimit an earth-floored interior that encompasses at least 1.9m² (its eastern limits were not uncovered). Overall, Str. 49-Sub1 encompasses 3.32m north-south by at least 1.5m east-west and was oriented ca. 2 degrees. Orientations for the remaining surface-level buildings are: 92 degrees (Str. 49-Sub7), 259 degrees (Str 49-Sub9), 300 degrees (Str. 49-Sub8). All constructions raised now were made primarily of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. The naturally flatter aspects of these rocks are generally directed outwards.

Time Span 6

During this span at least 0.08m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) that contains some small (0.01m or less in diameter) white flecks was deposited above the downward southern slope of S.3. Set within S.2 is a 0.2m-high by 0.66m-wide wall (U.24) that is 1.01m south from Str. 49-Sub1. Only a 1m-long (east-west) segment of U.24 was uncovered. Based on this limited exposure we tentatively surmise that U.24 was part of a terrace that was built late in the occupation of Str. 49-1st to slow erosion down the southern descent. That U.24 is set on lower S.2 suggests that it pertains to a period after S.3 was no longer accumulating and when S.2 was starting to bury that earlier soil. Unit 24 was not sufficiently well preserved to determine its alignment. Like its predecessors, U.24 was built with cobbles that were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

It appears that by the time construction dating to TS.7 was initiated Str. 49-1st had been abandoned for a relatively short period of time. These inferences are based on the observation that the two known TS.7 constructions (Strs. 49-Sub5 and -Sub6) were found lying atop, overlapping, and sliding off the south and east edges of the earlier edifice. Relatively little soil or other debris intervened between these late buildings and the underlying platform, suggesting that the events assigned to TS.7 were initiated shortly after Str. 49-1st was allowed to fall into desuetude. Consequently, it appears that the builders working within TS.7 were taking advantage of the elevated area provided by Str. 49-1st's decaying ruins to raise Strs. 49-Sub5 and -Sub6,

Structure 49-Sub5 is a surface-level building that was found sliding down to the south over the edge of U.4, Str. 49-1st's south basal wall. The structure consists of one room the stone-paved surface of which covers 0.5x1.55m and was bounded by stone foundations that are 0.43m tall by 0.3m wide (all included in U.19). Overall, Str. 49-Sub5 measures 1.32x2.25m and is oriented ca. 356 degrees. Structure 49-Sub6 was found in an analogous position, this time seemingly slipping down to the east over the core platform's east basal facing (U.5). The north (U.26) and west (U.6) of this building's perimeter walls were uncovered. U.6 is 0.37m tall by 0.4m wide while U.26 stands 0.29m high and measures 0.3m across. As with Str. 49-Sub5, U.6 and 26 delimit a stone floor, the whole building encompassing (minimally) 1.75m by 2.3m and oriented 354 degrees. Both edifices were fashioned primarily of river cobbles set in a mud mortar.

Sometime during this interval the area bordering Str. 49-Sub1 on the north was blanketed by a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted brown soil that contains many fragments of ceramic vessels (F.2). Feature 2 was at least 0.25m thick (its base was not identified definitively) and extended for, minimally, 0.5m north of U.27, Str. 49-Sub1's northern footing. Digging was not pursued deeply enough for 1.1m north of this point to determine the deposit's full extent. What is clear that F.2 was no longer in evidence by a point 1.6m north of U.27. On the south, F.2 is 0.08-0.1m thick and rides over U.27 and 28, sealing what had been Str. 49-Sub1's interior. Feature 2's behavioral significance is hard to determine. The flat-laid disposition of many of the sherds tentatively implies that they were introduced purposefully, rather than having slid down from further upslope. That and the high density of these cultural materials leads us to infer that F.2 was part of a fill unit introduced to bury Str. 49-Sub1 and to raise the level of ground surface in this area.

It is difficult to say how many of the small buildings that were erected around Str. 49-1st were still in use at this time. At present we surmise that TS.7 was a period during which the core

platform, no longer in use, became a convenient, relatively well-drained location on the slopes of which several surface-level buildings were raised. The filling in of Str. 49-Sub1, if it occurred now, may have been part of an effort to raise and level out the land here, possible to increase the amount of flat terrain available for activities conducted around Strs. 49-Sub5 and -Sub6.

Time Span 8

After Str. 49-1st was well and truly abandoned, the deposition of S.2 resumed. As much as 0.5m of this moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown soil mottled with a few small white flecks accumulated off the sides of earlier architecture and across the summit. Covering S.2 is 0.1-0.18m of a very similar soil that was distinguished by its darker brown hue. Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 is a very dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that most likely fell from architecture that was still visible during TS.6. The density of rocks is so great for 3.3m south and 1.7m north of the core platform that it seems possible they were purposefully placed to bury the earlier architecture (F.3). The horizontal disposition of many F.3 rocks weakly supports this interpretation. As the F.3 stones bury Str. 49-Sub5 on the south, it seems likely that, their intentional placement, if such was the case, postdates TS.7. Feature 3 may, therefore, have resulted from an effort to seal the deteriorating ruin of Str. 49-1st either to formally terminate its use or in preparation for renewing the building as part of a construction project that was never finished.

Structure 52

Situated ca. 5m east of Str. 31 and 2m southwest of Str. 49, Str.52 anchors the eastern end of a line of buildings set along the rim of the steep descent from the upper to lower terrace. These buildings, which include Strs. 29-31, form the southern boundary of the patio delimited by Strs. 32, 35, 44-46,48, and 49 on the remaining sides. Not so much a single edifice as it appeared during mapping, Str. 52 consists of juxtaposed constructions whose complex relationships were created over the course of at least two construction periods on this spot. Approximately 50m² were uncovered here within Subop. 8A and E under the direction of G. Silliman, digging being pursued to a maximum depth of 1.08m below modern ground surface outside architecture.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	Str. 52-1 st Str. 52-Sub1	U.1, 2, 15 U.3-5	-	-	
3	Str. 52-1 st Str. 52-Sub2	U.6, 7, 8, 11, 12 U.9, 10, 16	-	- F.2	
4	Str. 52-Sub3 Str. 52-Sub4 Str. 52-Sub5	U.13 U.14 U.17	-	-	

5	Str. 52-1 st	-	-	F.1
6	-	-	S.1, 2	F.3

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 52 is the deposition of at least 0.52m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, yellow-brown clay (S.3; the base of this layer was not encountered in our excavations). Stratum 3 ascends steeply on the south, ascending 0.98m over 4m south-to north. From this point for 6.6m northward S.3 was covered by construction. When it reemerges north of this architecture S.3's upper surface is 0.46m higher than it was when last exposed on the south and is more-or-less level. These observations suggest that Str. 52-1st and its surrounding buildings were set on and north of a precipitous ascent from the lower terrace that supports the Southeast Group to the south.

Time Span 2

The earliest building stage recognized here saw the construction of a substantial earthen-floored surface-level edifice(s) (Str. 52-Sub1) set on the terrace margin and a platform lying 6.5m to the north, back from that edge (Str. 52-1st). Structure 52-1st is bounded by stone facings (U.1 and 2) that are 0.25m tall and give way to a summit that is paved with rocks (U.15). Overall, the structure measures 2.9m north-south by at least 1.25m east-west (the east side was not found) and is oriented ca. 352 degrees. The dimensions of this platform are such that it might have served as a free-standing bench set among surface-level buildings of which one was Str. 52-Sub1.

Structure 52-Sub1 consists of three constructions (U.3-5) that, though contemporary, may not have been part of one building. Unit 4 is a stone-faced terrace that was erected at the crest of the southern rise. It was sunk 0.46m into the underlying S.3 and projected an estimated 0.18m above the top of that earth level. Unit 4 was traced for 2.7m over which it was aligned roughly 82 degrees. Most likely this terrace continued to the east and west beyond our excavations where it served to slow erosion down the steep southern escarpment. Projecting 3.1m north of U.4 is a ca. 0.2m-tall by 0.9m-wide stone wall (U.3) that disappears on the north under later architecture (U.16, TS.3). Unit 3 is oriented approximately 351 degrees and may be a foundation that was incorporated within a surface-level building that overlooked the southern slope. The wall's unusual girth and the lack of other footings that might have defined other portions of this putative building raises the possibility that it was a stand-alone construction, possibly a bench analogous to Str. 52-1st to the northeast. The remaining construction included within Str. 52-Sub1 is a 0.18m-tall by 0.55m-wide wall (U.5) that projects 0.7m south from beneath U.6 (TS.3). Aligned ca. 172 degrees and located 1.4m northeast of U.3, U.5 may have been a footing that was part of a surface-level building lying between Str. 52-1st and U.3. Unit 5 terminates formally on the south whereas its northern limits are covered by TS.3 architecture.

In general, Str. 52 during TS.2 consists of a several architectural elements that were not necessarily incorporated within a single construction. A substantial stone-faced terrace (U.4) defines the southern edge of this aggregate, acting to retard erosion down the steep southern slope. Arrayed north of that terrace are what might have been a 0.25m-tall, stone-faced and -surfaced platform (Str. 52-1st) that covers 2.9m north-south by at least 1.25m east-west, and is

aligned ca. 352 degrees. Located 3.9m southwest of Str. 52-1st is a 0.2m-tall by 0.9m-wide wall (U.3) that extends at least 3.1m north of U.4 along an azimuth of 351 degrees (U.3's north end was not revealed in our investigations). It is possible that U.3 was a free-standing bench or work area as it does not seem to have defined the limits of, or been enclosed within, a surface-level building. It is equally probable that Str. 52-1st is not a platform but another bench comparable in form and function to U.3. This interpretation is based on the similar heights, lengths, and modes of construction of both entities. Located about half way between U.3 and Str. 52-1st is a 0.18m-tall by 0.45m-wide stone foundation (U.5) that may have been part of a surface-level building. Oriented ca. 172 degrees, only 0.7m of this putative footing was revealed leaving open the question of its original function. Constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks are generally directed outwards.

Time Span 3

During the succeeding phase, Str. 52-st was expanded by the addition of a 0.25m-high addition that abuts the platform's western flank. This construction is surfaced with stones (U.11) and intersects Str. 52-1st's west wall (U.1) at a point 1.5m south of the construction's northwest corner. The addition's relationship to Str. 52-1st on the south is unclear. Unit 6, the annex's southern facing, peters out on the east at a point ca. 0.8m south of the southernmost identified portion of Str. 52-1st. It may be that the junction of U.6 and 1 was too poorly preserved for us to recognize in the field. While we tentatively accept this interpretation we cannot rule out the possibility that U.6 originally ran south of and past Str. 52-1st's southwest corner, its relation to the latter construction remaining unknown to us at this point. The addition's northern facing (U.7) runs 1.8m at 252 degrees west from its abutment with Str. 52-1st before canting markedly to the southwest (229 degrees). The latter segment is fashioned from an unusual mix of stones: a cut block, limestone slab, and a roughly circular rock that forms the addition's northwest corner. Unit 7 intersects U.8, the annex's western facing, at a point 0.55m east of the latter's northwest corner while the southern facing (U.6) joins U.8 a scant 0.4m north of the latter's southeast corner. These relations among the facings serve to make U.8 stand out from the other basal walls, a situation that is accentuated by U.8's substantial size, measuring 0.9m wide by 2.2m long. Taking these observations together, it may be that U.8 doubled as a fill retaining wall and a bench. Close examination of wall junctures suggests that U.6-8 were built at about the same time; whereas U.6 abuts U.8, stones from U.7 are interdigitated with those of U.8.

At or about the time of Str. 52-1st's augmentation, a surface-level building (Str. 52-Sub2) was being raised 0.4m to the south. Portions of the stone foundations (U.9, 10, and 16) that bounded this earthen-floored enclosure on the east, west, and north were uncovered overlapping and resting atop U.3. The western foundation (U.10) was set on a dense deposit of ceramic fragments (F.2). It is possible that F.2 was introduced as part of a fill unit designed to cover Str. 52-Sub1 and thus to raise slightly the ground on which Str. 52-Sub2 was built. The latter's foundations are 0.25-0.5m wide, stand to a maximum preserved height of 0.38m, and enclose an earthen-floored interior space covering 1.4m east-west by 1.5m north-south. The south flank seems to have been left completely open while a 0.7m-wide gap in Str. 52-Sub2's northeast corner might have provided another means of accessing the room's interior. Unit 16, Str. 52-Sub2's northern foundation, narrows from 0.43m to 0.2m across at a point 2.05m west of the wall's east end. This decrease in U.16's girth is accomplished by stepping back the wall's south face over its westernmost 0.55m. The architectural significance of this change is unclear.

As the narrowing occurs west of Str. 52-Sub2's northwest corner it may be that this western projection of U.16 was intended to partition extra-mural spaces lying west of the building.

A low, 0.5m-wide wall (U.12) spanned the 0.4m separating U.16, Str. 52-Sub2's northern footing, from U.8, the western facing of the Str. 52-1st western addition. Unit 12 intersects U.16 at a point 1.3m west of the latter's northeast corner and U.8 at that facing's southwest corner.

By the conclusion of TS.3, much of the open area that had intervened between Str. 52-1st and the enigmatic constructions located to its west and south (glossed as Str. 52-Sub1) was filled in by architecture. The former platform was expanded 4.1m to the west by the addition of a 0.25m-high, stone-faced and –surfaced construction that narrows from an estimated 2.6m across on the east to 2.3m wide at its western terminus. This annex may have been anchored on the west by a 0.9m-wide by 2.2m-long stone-faced bench that runs parallel to Str. 52-1st. Located 0.4m south of the addition's west end is what appears to be the remains of a surface-level building (Str. 52-Sub2) that was raised over Str. 52-Sub1's U.3. It is delimited on all sides save the south by stone foundations that are 0.25-0.5m wide by as much as 0.38m tall. These footings enclose an earthen-floored room that was open on the south and covered 2.1m². A 0.7m-wide gap in the building's northeast corner provided another means of accessing this compartment. Overall, Str. 52-Sub2 covers 2.1x2.1m and was aligned roughly 360 degrees (east and west foundations) and 248 degrees (the northern footing). A 0.5m-wide wall connects Str. 52-Sub2 to the southwest corner of Str. 52-1st's west addition on the north. It is likely that the U.4 terrace still served to protect the Str. 52 aggregate's south flank from downslope erosion.

Foundations, floors, and facings are generally built of unmodified river cobbles the naturally flatter faces of which are oriented outwards (in the case of walls). As noted, the western portion of the western addition's northern basal wall is an exception to this pattern, having been fashioned using a diverse array of rocks including three shaped stones, one of which is circular. Most likely these rocks were recycled from architecture located elsewhere at El Coyote. All of the stones are set in a brown mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Wall fragments (U.13, 14, and 17), most likely parts of ground-level edifices, were uncovered 0.4m (U.13) west of Str. 52-Sub2 and 0.65m west (U.17) and 0.7m north (U.14) of Str. 52-1st. These appear to have been parts of surface-level buildings that were raised late in the occupation of the Str. 52 complex. Unit 13 (Str. 52-Sub3) is 0.24m wide and was exposed for 0.9m over which it was aligned ca. due north south. Unit 17 (Str. 52-Sub5), 0.35m to the northeast, is 0.7m long, aligned roughly due north-south, and is at least 0.74m wide (its west end was not uncovered). Unit 14 (Str. 52-Sub4) measures 0.7m along an orientation of 268 degrees and is, minimally, 0.35m wide (its north side was not encountered). Each of these walls is fairly low (0.2-0.35m high). The simplest interpretation of them is that these units were parts of different surface-level buildings. We cannot preclude the possibility that at least some of them were free-standing constructions that were not components of, or contained within, distinct edifices. The relatively great width (minimally 0.74m) of U.17, for example, very tentatively implies that it might have served as a bench comparable to Str. 52-Sub1's U.3. It is likely that Str. 52-1st and 52-Sub2 were still in use during this interval. Constructions raised during TS.4 were fashioned primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar.

In general, Str. 52-1st was apparently an enduring fixture in this complex, added to but not submerged by later architecture. South of this modest edifice, at least two surface-level

building (Strs. 52-Sub1 and –Sub2) were raised in succession along the terrace margin. Isolated remnants of additional constructions (Strs 52-Sub3, -Sub4, and –Sub5) lying north and west of Str. 52-1st imply that the buildings investigated during 2000 were, by the final construction phase, part of a warren of rooms that extended to Str. 49-1st on the northeast and Str. 31-1st on the west.

Time Span 5

Following the abandonment of the Str. 52 aggregate, 0.14-0.2m of a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) was laid down. Stratum 2 contains many white flecks that are 0.01m or less in diameter. Blanketing S.2 by 0.15-0.2m is a very similar soil (S.1) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue and relative paucity of white flecks. Embedded in S.1 and 2 and extending for 1.3m south of the U.4 terrace is a dense concentration of densely packed, flat-laid rocks (F.1). Given that the stones comprising F.1 are so numerous and that they are generally found resting horizontally, we tentatively argue that they did not fall from final-phase architecture. More likely they were purposefully placed to cover and obscure U.4 and possibly the south face of Str. 52-Sub2. The reasons for such a construction are unclear. Feature 1 may have been introduced as fill for a construction that was never completed or to terminate this side of the Str. 52 complex. Extending at least 4.2m south and downslope from F.1 is F.3, a collection of rocks of various sizes that do seem to have fallen from earlier constructions. The F.3 rocks are relatively densely packed on the south but more infrequent on the upslope, north side of Str. 52-1st.