

# Kenyon College

## Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange

---

Four Valleys Archive

Anthropology

---

1986

## PSB-Survey Report

Edward Schortman  
schortma@kenyon.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras>



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schortman, Edward, "PSB-Survey Report" (1986). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 74190.  
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/74190>

This Survey Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Four Valleys Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).

## **Survey in the Middle Ulua Basin**

### **Introduction**

Study of sociopolitical structure and process in the prehistoric and early historic middle Ulua drainage required the conduct of an extensive regional survey. Knowledge of changing settlement patterns in the area was essential if interrelated demographic and sociopolitical processes, especially political centralization, were to be reconstructed and understood. Conduct of the survey was, however, hampered by several factors. Efforts to overcome these obstacles resulted in various compromises and accommodations which, in turn, affect the results achieved. One of the principal conditions with which we had to deal was the general lack of archaeological information available for the middle Ulua drainage. Gualjoquito (Site 1), a large center ca. 6km north of the municipal capital of Santa Barbara, was one of the few recorded prehistoric loci in the area (Sheptak 1983a). This center's relatively large size, suggestive of its resident's political importance, made it an appropriate node around which to survey. We, therefore, set ourselves to examining the realm centered on Gualjoquito and the changes this political unit underwent through time. As of 1983, we were not sure of the time period(s) during which the "Gualjoquito polity" flourished nor where its boundaries might have fallen in different temporal intervals. Site 1, initially at least, served as a good starting point for our studies.

Moving out from Gualjoquito we encountered logistical problems that had significant impacts on the course of survey. First, there was the inevitable question of defining boundaries for the research zone (e.g., papers in Fish and Kowalewski 1990). The middle Ulua drainage is not conveniently delimited by topographic features such as mountains or rivers. Instead, the region is characterized by discontinuous, variably sized segments of level terrain, distributed along the Rio Ulua, its major tributaries, and in a few upland valleys, separated from each other

by precipitous hillslopes. Each of these habitable areas could be treated as a distinct investigative unit though it is highly unlikely that the occupants of any one vega or valley ever existed in isolation from the residents of comparable neighboring zones. The very small sizes of these level pockets, never covering more than 8.5km<sup>2</sup>, makes such isolation highly improbable. We quickly came to the conclusion that any borders we drew would be arbitrary divisions of complex communication networks that stretched well beyond the limits of what we could reasonably cover in the time available. Survey, therefore, began with an intensive examination of the Gualjoquito vega and the surrounding foothills and proceeded north, south, and west along the Rios Ulua and Jicatuyo as far as we could reach by the end of the last field season (1986). Investigations extended, therefore, 16km north, 15km south, and 19km west of Gualjoquito. No survey work was conducted east of the Ulua because of the paucity of vegas and highland valleys in this direction (see below).

The next problem concerns the rugged nature of terrain. Survey within this area of steep escarpments was physically difficult. We reasoned that most of this dramatically sloping landscape was inimical to ancient and historic settlement. Consequently, research efforts were concentrated within the largest areas of level terrain on both banks of the Rio Ulua and its major tributary, the Rio Jicatuyo, on the supposition that these pockets held the most productive agricultural land and were the most attractive to past occupation. The valleys cut by the above watercourses also provided major routes linking the research zone with other portions of Southeastern Mesoamerica. It was hoped, therefore, that by concentrating survey along these channels we might gain some insights into how demographic and sociopolitical patterns were affected by changes in the nature and intensity of communication passing through the area. We

hoped that following this strategy would yield maximum information on settlement distributions for the amount of time and money available to the investigation.

Survey along the Ulua was further encouraged by the planned expansion of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road within that river valley. Widening or, in many areas, changing the course of this route posed a potential danger to ancient settlements, especially those situated on the vegas through which the road passes. Anticipated population growth and economic intensification following road improvements also constituted significant threats to prehistoric and early historic remains in areas near the highway. We were, therefore, very concerned that sites in greatest danger from construction efforts, those within the Ulua valley, be recorded before they were lost.

Survey coverage, within these constraints, varied in intensity depending on a range of factors including: ease of access to areas to be examined; the amount and extent of modern construction covering a vega or valley; restrictions on studying specific areas, including dense overgrowth and permission of landowners to enter their properties; and, proximity to Gualjoquito. Overall, the vegas closest to Gualjoquito were subject to the most intense scrutiny, sometimes extending over several field seasons and involving the removal of dense vegetation, to understand in some detail the history of occupation and organization of population in areas surrounding the regional center. North of Gualjoquito, eight vegas within 16km of the center were examined though there was less time to strip away obscuring overgrowth and more modern construction (the towns of Gualala, Chinda, and Ilama) with which to contend. Promising vegas and valleys south of Gualjoquito are frequently sites of extensive recent occupation, including the departmental capital of Santa Barbara, and most survey in this area concentrated on the extensive Tenco vega roughly 11.6km upstream from Gualjoquito. Westward along the

Jicatuyo investigations were conducted exclusively on the Yamala vega ca. 19km distant from Gualjoquito. This choice was based on: the vega's large size, containing the most extensive area of flat land within 24km west of Gualjoquito; the general inaccessibility of the six smaller vegas intervening between the Ulua and Yamala; and the mention of Yamala as a center of indigenous population in 16th century Spanish documents. Upland valleys included within this survey, situated southwest of the Ulua/Jicatuyo confluence, were selected because of their appearance in ethnohistoric accounts of native populations at the time of the Spanish conquest. Further study of other areas remote from the principal rivers was curtailed by lack of time and personnel.

These compromises yielded a biased sample of investigated terrain. We are fairly certain that the vast majority of surviving prehistoric and early historic sites were recorded in each investigated area. It is equally obvious that large segments of the middle Rio Ulua drainage went completely unstudied. Some small vegas (especially along the Rio Jicatuyo), many upland valleys, and extensive areas of steep escarpments were ignored during the 1983-1986 field seasons. Though it still seems likely that most of these areas did not support extensive prehistoric and early historic occupation, especially the hillslopes, we cannot rule out the presence of significant loci within these zones. Further, a convincing case cannot be made that the areas investigated somehow comprise a "natural" unit at all points in time within which social, economic, political, and ideological transactions were concentrated and beyond which such ties were less significant for understanding local developments. What we have gathered is detailed information on settlement patterns from a number of areas that are differentially situated with respect to a wide range of variables that could reasonably have affected past settlement; i.e., agricultural potential, access to raw materials for craft production, and situation on potential communication routes leading outside the middle Rio Ulua drainage. Comparison of settlement

forms and histories among these investigated zones provides a basis for advancing hypotheses that attempt to reconstruct demographic and sociopolitical structures and processes and account for changes in them over time. These hypotheses do not provide definitive answers but are reasoned steps in the process of learning about a previously unknown, topographically complex, portion of Southeastern Mesoamerica.

The following sections describe and define, in order: the methods employed on the Santa Barbara Archaeological Project (SBAP) survey program; the basic chronological sequence into which located sites were placed and something of the basis for those temporal assignments; terms used in site descriptions; environmental and topographic characteristics of the investigated areas; and, descriptions of the recorded sites.

### **Survey Methods**

An effort was made to examine each investigated vega and upland valley in its entirety, coverage extending into the bordering foothills. Survey teams were led by an archaeologist assisted by one to four trained volunteers (Schortman and Urban led surveys of the Gualjoquito vega, seven vegas north of that center, and the Inguaya vega to the south; Benyo directed investigation of the Tencoia vega and conducted initial reconnaissance in one upland valley west of the Ulua and three vegas north of Gualjoquito; Weeks was responsible for study of the Yamala vega, three upland valleys, and the Gualala vega north of Gualjoquito). Extant fields, where available, served as initial units of investigation. Surveyors walked parallel transects through these units, situated close enough so that their fields of vision overlapped. Spacing between team members, however, varied depending on ground cover and slope inclination. In general, the clearer and more level the terrain, the better the ground visibility, the further apart investigators were spaced.

Densely overgrown areas, comprising small minorities of the investigated zones, were usually not walked. The principal exception was the Gualjoquito vega. Here, four to six local laborers, trained to recognize archaeological sites of varying sizes and types, cut paths through the vegetation. These narrow swaths (ca. 1m across) were expanded to expose any evidence of past occupation. The number of paths cut, their spacing, and orientations were determined in the field depending, in part, on the density of vegetation and the size and shape of the overgrown area. Every effort was made to thoroughly investigate these vega segments by cutting numerous swaths. Nevertheless, this was not a systematic survey. Paths were not spaced at regular intervals and oriented consistently to specific compass directions. While the benefits of the latter approach are appreciated (Kowalewski and Fish 1990) there was neither sufficient time to train our local colleagues in such methods nor enough staff to oversee the work. The method described above, though opportunistic, was seen as the best compromise between the need to study unexamined and difficult-to-reach areas and the practical realities of the research. It is very possible that some sites were missed as a result of our approach, it is unlikely that they were either numerous or sizable.

Once a site was located, all survey team members congregated at the locus to aid in its recording. Sites were defined as any locus that produced evidence of past human occupation in the form of one or more of the following criteria: structures; features; terraces; rock concentrations; artifacts found on the surface (definitions of these terms are provided in the Glossary). Occupations separated by 75m or more of seemingly "empty" terrain and/or a natural feature such as a stream channel were defined as distinct sites and given a unique number in the ongoing project sequence and in the developing site registry of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia (IHAIH; sites are also referred to in this report as loci and settlements).

In order to avoid duplicating site designations, surveyors working in one of the three zones in which reconnaissance was being conducted simultaneously drew their site numbers from a different portion of the total sequence (settlements immediately surrounding and north of Gualjoquito were designated as Sites 1-299; those from Tencoa, the upland valleys, and the Yamala vega along the Rio Jicatuyo, Sites 300-516; Honduran site registry designations were assigned after the completion of survey and form a single, continuous sequence). Exceptions are Sites 347-350 located north of Gualjoquito. All materials recovered from a locus, whether in excavation or surface collections, were keyed into this numerical system.

Sites were located on the 1:50000 topographic maps then available for the area. Notes taken on each locus covered the following points: location vis a vis other sites, major topographic features, and modern constructions; the extent and nature of disturbance suffered by the settlement; modern land-use practices including, where obtainable, informant reports of soil fertility; the presence, proximity, and nature of resources presumed to be of importance to the site's inhabitants (e.g., perennial and seasonal streams, building stones, raw materials of use in craft activities, and potential communication channels); the nature of the site, including information on the number, sizes, and arrangements of structures, the extent and density of artifact scatters, where relevant, and the sorts of rocks used in construction. Loci with one or two extant constructions were mapped using a hand-held compass with distances paced. Larger settlements and/or sites with distinct artifact clusters were recorded using a compass mounted on a tripod and a tape to record distance measurements. Transit maps were made of the largest centers and this instrument was employed, wherever possible, to tie together maps of distinct, smaller settlements. All maps were plotted at a scale of 1:1000 with structures drawn using the conventions of rectified mapping, modified where necessary to convey the adaptation of

buildings to local terrain (Carr and Hazard 1961). Surface collections, where possible, were linked to specific portions of investigated sites. Central Santa Barbara settlements, however, usually yield little cultural material without excavation and most collections were so small that they were grouped at the site level.

### **Chronology**

The major temporal units defined by the SBAP are:

Late Preclassic: 400 BC-AD 200

Early Classic: AD 200-600

Late Classic: AD 600-800

Terminal Classic: 800-1000\*

Early Postclassic: AD 1000-1200

Late Postclassic: AD 1200-1500

Historic: AD 1500-1900

{\*The Terminal Classic was not clearly identified at the time the survey was carried out. As of this writing we are in the process of trying to distinguish this period among materials that were generally glossed as 'Late Classic' in the original temporal assessments. }

Each of these units is defined by stylistic changes noted in various artifact classes as well as architecture. The dates provided for each span were arrived at through direct dating of middle Ulua deposits by C-14 and archaeomagnetic procedures and correlating stylistic shifts recognized in the middle Ulua drainage with those known from neighboring portions of Southeastern Mesoamerica. The latter work relies on published sources supplemented, where possible, by direct comparisons of artifact collections. In some cases it is possible to subdivide a period based on subtle changes, e.g., in the percentages of specific artifact taxa defined using

stylistic criteria and modifications in building forms and practices. For the most part, such distinctions can only be made in cases where sites have been extensively excavated. The vast majority of settlements recorded during survey have never been dug and can only be placed very approximately within one of the above broad categories.

A total of 47 sites (including Sites 113/117 as one settlement) are dated based on excavations conducted from 1983-1986, \*\*% of all located settlements (this excludes sites where limited shovel tests alone were conducted). Another \*\* loci {115 for the Gualjoquito zone 10 for Tencoa} can be assigned tentative chronological placements based on surface data, i.e., temporally diagnostic artifacts (primarily ceramics) found in artifact collections and/or building arrangements, \*\*% of all recorded loci. The chronological use of building organization is based on changes from tightly nucleated, patio-focused groups composed of moderately tall platforms in the Late Classic to dispersed arrangements of low, extensive platforms lacking a patio orientation in the Early Postclassic. Some shifts in building procedures also seem to be temporally sensitive, especially the use of unmodified stones set on end to form building foundations and platform facings during the Early Postclassic. Late Postclassic constructions are also not usually organized around patios and tend to lack substantial stone facings; most platforms dating to this interval are made of earth alone. Historic sites generally consist of only a few scattered buildings, defined by stone foundations that barely protrude above current ground surface, many of which contain an elevated area of earth and stone set against one wall, possibly marking a hearth. Changes in site planning and construction practices noted above were consistently attested to at excavated sites and we feel fairly secure in extrapolating these patterns to unexcavated loci. It is acknowledged, however, that temporal placements based on surface data tend to emphasize the last major period(s) of construction and habitation at a settlement and

generally fail to identify the full occupational history. Earlier buildings and deposits may well lie buried within or beneath later edifices and residence might persist after the period of initial construction. Excavated data from the middle Ulua confirm both possibilities. All we can claim, and that tentatively, is that dates based on surface materials indicate the final, principal period of a site's use, not its full occupation span.

### **Glossary**

In order to reduce confusion and facilitate description, terms commonly used in site descriptions are defined below.

Angular Rocks: Unmodified stones with relatively little evidence of natural weathering (synonym: chunks).

Artifact Scatter: A variably dense concentration of objects related to human occupation of an area, usually unassociated with surviving architecture.

Bajareque: Wattle and daub construction.

Cobbles: River-rounded, unmodified stones.

Construction: Any artificial modification of the landscape or significant remnants of such modification; includes structures (platforms and 0-elevation edifices), features, terraces, faced contours, saddles, projections, and rock concentrations.

Faced Contour: A low stone wall set into a natural rise, presumably to reinforce the ascent. No evidence of side or back walls.

Feature: A stone line flush with modern ground level that is not obviously part of an extant, larger structure (abbreviated Feat.).

Foundations: Stone walls set flush with or rising slightly above current ground surface that likely served as supports for perishable upper constructions.

Lot: A collection unit made within a particular suboperation, numbered sequentially as defined in the course of fieldwork (see, Operation, below).

Masonry Block: Construction stone that has been artificially modified to create its current shape (synonym: cut stone block).

Monumental Construction: Platforms rising at least 1.5m high.

Operation/Suboperation/Lot: Major investigative units are designated operations, usually coterminous with an entire site (Gualjoquito, Site 1, is an exception). Operations, abbreviated Op., are indicated by numbers. These large-scale research units are divided into suboperations (subop.) that comprise particular foci of investigation. Each suboperation is designated by a letter following the Op. number. Surface collections at any site were always included in the "A" subop. for that settlement (again, Gualjoquito is an exception). For example, Subop. 31A would refer to surface collections made at Site 31. Lots are collection units whose horizontal and vertical positions are specified within an op. and subop.. These entities are designated by numbers in a running sequence unique to each subop.

Patio: A space enclosed by constructions on at least two sides (synonym: plaza).

Platform: A raised substructure that may or may not have supported construction on its summit.

Projection: A construction extending out from a larger structure.

Quebrada: Seasonal stream channel.

Rock Concentration: A dense to moderately dense concentration of stones that suggests the former presence of a now-destroyed structure (abbreviated RC).

Saddle: Elevated construction linking two platforms.

Structure: Any evidence, elevated above ground surface or not, for the existence of a prehistoric or early historic building that is sufficiently well preserved to allow reconstruction of its overall form (abbreviated Str.).

Superstructure Construction: Any building elements (e.g., benches, foundations, floors, and so forth) raised on top of a platform. Most constructions erected on these substructures were made of perishable materials, most likely bajareque.

Terrace (as identified as a stand-alone construction on survey): Similar to a faced contour except side walls extend back from the artificially modified ascent. No evidence of a back wall.

0-Elevation Structure: A building constructed directly on ground surface and defined by stone foundations (sometimes referred to as a, surface-level construction or structure).

### **Specific Environmental Settings**

This section describes the topographic configuration of the investigated valleys and vegas, focusing on the differential distribution among these units of resources presumed to have been important to the indigenous inhabitants of the middle Rio Ulua drainage. The extent and distribution of arable land, availability of year-round water sources, the nature of raw materials useful in construction and craft activities, and favored access to communication channels linking the middle Ulua with other areas are summarized for each investigated vega and valley. Our goals here are to place the sites found during survey in their physical settings and introduce environmental variables that may help account for intraregional spatial and temporal differences in demographic and settlement patterns.

#### **Gualjoquito Vega** (130-220m above sea level)

The Gualjoquito vega, named for the major prehistoric center which it supports, covers roughly 5.6km<sup>2</sup> on both sides of the Rio Ulua in an area where the river forms a rough "S"

shape. The Ulua runs southeast-northwest through this zone coursing west-to-east on both the northern and southern vega margins. This topographically complex area is bounded by the steep escarpments of the Cerros Pena Blanca, Grande, and Tiligua on the east and the Lomas de Jicaro and Cerro Las Tunitas on the west. The Rio Ulua was cutting back its east bank during the 1983-1986 field seasons, depositing materials on the west shore. Consequently, floodplain formation was restricted to western portions of the vega where two to three terraces, 2-7m high, were recorded paralleling the river's course. Broad, shallow, linear depressions running roughly southeast-northwest are found throughout the floodplain, apparently representing relict Ulua channels. Floodplain sections are discontinuously distributed within the Gualjoquito vega. The largest floodplain segment lies in the southern portion of the vega below Sites 20-22 (covering approximately .3km<sup>2</sup>). This zone pinches out on the north near the Ulua/Quebrada Lempa junction and when it reappears 0.5km further north covers a much smaller area (ca. 0.1km<sup>2</sup>). Floodplain soils are a combination of silts and fine sands.

Rising anywhere from 3-5m above the floodplain on the west and 7-10m above the river on the east is the next major terrace formed by the Ulua (referred to here as the "low terrace"). The summit of this topographic unit is relatively flat, rising gradually away from the river, and is situated at 130-140m above sea level. Like the floodplain, the lower terrace is not distributed continuously over the Gualjoquito vega. West of the Ulua this unit disappears for 350m north of Site 20 and finally pinches out in the valley of the Quebrada Guijo on the north. An extension of Cerro Pena Blanca separates the northern and southern portions of the low terrace east of the river. Low terrace soils are fine-textured and deep (1m or more thick) with humus horizons that are 0.1-0.3m thick.

A high terrace, falling between 145-220m above sea level, ascends 5-20m above the aforementioned unit both east and west of the Rio Ulua (the rise is higher and steeper on the east). Most of the level terrain within the vega is taken up by this topographic entity, covering approximately 3.1km<sup>2</sup> on the east and 1km<sup>2</sup> on the west. The high terrace is found primarily in the southwest and southeast portions of the vega, pinching out against the surrounding hills on the north. Land atop this unit ascends gradually from the river towards the bordering hills. High terrace soils on the west are fine-textured and appear to be quite deep. The same situation does not hold to the east. Here, excavations conducted at 12 sites forming a rough east-west transect across the center of the high terrace revealed a change from relatively deep (at least 0.75m thick) fine-textured soils near the Ulua to thin (0.2-0.3m thick), stone-rich soil levels overlying possible colluvial deposits containing more rocks than earth near the base of the eastern hills. Extensive, shallow depressions on the eastern high terrace summit may act as "soil sinks" capturing earth and water run-off from adjacent, slightly elevated areas.

Colluvial fans were noted at several points extending from the adjacent hills onto the lower and upper terraces. The best documented of these units issues 40m out from Cerro Grande onto the low terrace segment supporting the prehistoric site of Gualjoquito (Site 1). Soils on the fans contain dense concentrations of rocks and may not be as suitable for agriculture as other terrace portions.

The generally rugged and steep hillslopes delimiting the vega are broken in a few spots by narrow ledges of flat land. Soils on the hilly flanks are generally shallow and rock outcrops were frequently noted throughout this zone on both sides of the river. Shelves may support slightly deeper soils, catching some run-off from further upslope. These ledges are at least not as prone to erosion as the steeper escarpments. Nevertheless, rock exposures were recorded on

some shelves suggesting that soils in even these areas are relatively shallow (excavation of Site 148 in the eastern hills revealed soil depths of 0.12-0.4m overlying bedrock atop one ledge).

The above-mentioned river terrace system is dissected by both perennial and seasonal watercourses. Two major Ulua affluents, the Rios Hondo (with its tributary the Rio Piedras Amarillas) and Las Huertas, nearly converge within 350m south of Gualjoquito east of the Ulua. The Quebrada Guijo is the only perennial stream west of that watercourse. The Quebrada Lempa, which cuts a deep, narrow, "V"-shaped valley across the approximate center of the western Gualjoquito vega, is the largest seasonal stream in this area. Numerous smaller quebradas issue from the western and eastern hills running variable distances either directly into the Ulua or into one of its tributaries. All of these watercourses have steep gradients, covering relatively short distances from their mountain headwaters to the Ulua. Perhaps as a result of these factors, terrace formation bordering the tributaries is attenuated and found only along the larger streams (Rios Hondo, Las Huertas and Quebradas Guijo and Lempa), especially in their lower reaches near the Ulua. The Rio Las Huertas does have a continuous stretch of terrace rising 4-5m above the channel, extending as much as 200m from the river's southern bank and 1.1km east from its junction with the Ulua. The Las Huertas' north bank is marked by only a few discontinuous terraces separated by steep descents to the river. Excavations carried out on the Las Huertas's southern terrace revealed soil depths of only 0.3-0.36m before dense concentrations of small, angular stones were encountered. The Quebrada Guijo supports a narrow floodplain extending back roughly 0.5km from its junction with the Ulua. Though no excavations were conducted here, observations made during survey suggest that soils of the Guijo floodplain are relatively coarse-textured with numerous rocks protruding onto the surface.

Modern habitation on the Gualjoquito vega is largely restricted to four small towns: La Isla on the southwest margin of the western high terrace; Loma Larga straddling both banks of the Quebrada Guijo within the low foothills of the Lomas de Jicaro; and Gualjoquito and Santa Rosita overlooking the southeast high terrace from the escarpments of Cerro Pena Blanca. Most of the vega was hand-cultivated, using the dibble stick, in maize and beans during 1983-1986. West of the Ulua, land-use intensity declined with distance from the river; i.e., farming was concentrated on the floodplain and low terrace while the high terrace was devoted principally to animal pasture or covered in thorn scrub. Informants indicate that the principal restriction on crop growth west of the Ulua is rainfall and it may be that plants raised on lower elevations benefit from proximity to the water table and a reliable source of moisture. The east vega does not reflect such a clear gradient. High and low terraces south of and including the ancient center of Gualjoquito were planted continuously during 1983-1986 as were the bordering hills. The eastern low terrace north of Gualjoquito, however, was used as pasture throughout all four SBAP field seasons. This land-use choice has little to do with agricultural potential and seems to be the result of the owner's preference for cattle as a saleable commodity. Cultivation of vega flanks was more prevalent east than west of the Ulua, possibly a consequence of higher population densities in the former vega segment and the loss of prized lower terrace fields to animal pasture in this same area.

Informant assessments of local soil fertility conform to the general pattern outlined above. Residents specify, however, that the upper terrace, like the floodplain and lower terrace, can sustain two maize crops annually for numerous years without fallowing. The relatively shallow soils revealed in excavations atop the southeast high terrace do not seem congruent with the above remarks. Closer examination of the latter area, however, indicated that most

cultivation in this zone centered on the aforementioned depressions where runoff from surrounding areas may have created greater soil depths and humidity than those found in more elevated terrace portions. The bottoms and lower flanks of the numerous, deep quebradas that traverse the southeastern high terrace were also intensively planted, possibly to take advantage of high moisture levels within these seasonal channels. Both depressions and quebrada channels appear to be especially productive agricultural zones capable of supporting the double-cropping reported for the southeast high terrace.

Dense overgrowth is restricted to roughly 1km<sup>2</sup> on the high terrace west of the Rio Ulua and 0.4km<sup>2</sup> in a similar topographic position east of the river.

Stones for construction could have been easily acquired from the Ulua and its principal tributaries (river-rounded cobbles) as well as from numerous outcrops dotting the bordering hills (angular stones). Exposures of andesite and vesicular basalt were recorded within the eastern and western escarpments. Andesite boulders were also commonly observed in the Ulua channel. Palms, cultivated for fibers currently employed in hat and basket production, were found growing over the far eastern and southwestern portions of the southeast high terrace. Residents of hamlets scattered throughout these areas specialized, on at least a part-time basis, in fashioning, for sale, hats and baskets employing this fiber. The Gualjoquito vega is also a point of convergence for numerous, potential communication channels. The Rio Ulua provides ready passage north and south to areas supporting prehistoric and early historic population concentrations, passes through the eastern hills connect the southeast high terrace with Lake Yojoa, while fissures cut by the Quebradas Lempa and Guijo provide passage westward toward archaeologically unknown high valleys supporting such modern population centers as the municipal capital of San Jose de Colinas. A major Ulua tributary, the Rio Jicatuyo, issues into

the western vega and carves out a pass that runs 37km westward toward the La Venta and Florida valleys and, ultimately, to Copan. No other middle Ulua vega possesses such a diversity of extra-regional communication corridors. The Gualjoquito vega supports the densest concentration of prehistoric and historic settlement identified anywhere in the study zone. Sites 1, 3-6, 8-28, 30-74, 98-128, and 148-153 are all found here (856 total constructions).

### **Inguaya Vega** (140-220m above sea level)

The Inguaya vega is a zone of relatively level terrain covering roughly 5.4km<sup>2</sup> and separated from the Gualjoquito vega by the Rio Ulua along with a westward extension of Cerro Grande. The Inguaya vega is delimited on the north by the east-west trending channel of the Ulua, on the east by the Montanas de Santa Barbara, and on the west by the hills of the Galeras range. The last escarpments separate the vega from the north-south course of the Rio Ulua. Land on the Inguaya vega rises from north to south beginning with a low floodplain zone (covering approximately 0.2km<sup>2</sup>) above which three terraces ascend in increments of 10-20m (the low, high eastern and high southern terraces). The lower of these units is broken in spots by a few diminutive eminences. The 250m-wide high eastern terrace borders the vega on the east while the high southern terrace delimits the vega on the this side and rises 10m and 20m above the high eastern and low terraces respectively. The southern high terrace gives way on the south to a precipitous ascent of 30-40m. Gualjoco, a modern population center, currently sprawls over most of the flat land surmounting this rise; the latter area was not investigated by the SBAP. Hillslopes bordering the vega are generally steep, their lower escarpments interrupted in a few places by narrow shelves of relatively flat terrain.

The Inguaya vega is watered by a single perennial stream, the Quebrada Derrumbe, along with numerous seasonal watercourses which issue from the western and eastern hills to join the

Ulua or Derrumbe. The Quebrada Derrumbe, with its headwaters in the Montanas de Santa Barbara on the southeast, describes a sinuous course through the zone, crossing the southern high terrace, low terrace, and floodplain.

A distinct sub-area within the vega consists of a narrow (ca. 300m across) valley cut by the Derrumbe along the northwest margin of the high southern terrace. The stream descends from the upper to lower terrace here and courses south to north between the steep escarpments of the Galeras range on the west and the precipitous ascent to the high southern terrace on the east. The pocket terminates on the north where the Derrumbe shifts course to the northeast and the land opens up to the relatively flat summit of the low terrace. This valley covers roughly 0.3km<sup>2</sup> and contains a numerous prehistoric settlements (Sites 89-91, 94, 143-146; 77 constructions in all).

Farming intensity decreases with distance from the Rio Ulua. Most dibble-stick cultivation of maize and, in the far northwest portion of the low terrace, mechanized plowing for tobacco is concentrated on the floodplain and low terrace. Moving south, and in areas removed from the Quebrada Derrumbe, increasing amounts of land are devoted to cattle pasture. Land covered by dense thorn scrub is found in all areas but was most commonly observed on the nearby hillslopes (roughly 1km<sup>2</sup> could not be examined on the vega terraces due to overgrowth). Occasional plots cleared for maize cultivation were evident even on these steep ascents. The above observations conform with the general soil fertility patterns described earlier. The high eastern and southern terraces, given their use as animal pasture in 1983-1986, may have fertility levels intermediate between hillslopes and lower-lying zones.

Outcrops of a wide variety of igneous stones, including andesite and vesicular basalt, were noted throughout the eastern and western mountains, while the Ulua and Derrumbe

channels are ready sources of the river-worn cobbles often used in construction. Chert deposits and limestone outcrops were also recorded among the bordering slopes, especially in the Galeras range. The valley cut by the Rio Ulua provides passage to areas north and south of the vega while the Rio Jicatuyo, which joins the Ulua at the vega's northwest corner, is a potential communication corridor running westward.

Modern occupation on the Inguaya vega is largely restricted to two towns, Gualjoco on the southern high terrace and Hacienda Inguaya in the northwest corner of the low terrace. Ancient habitation in this zone is relatively sparse, Sites 75-85, 88-91, 94, 129, 142-146, and 167-168 were identified here (132 constructions overall).

#### **Galeras Range** (140-360m above sea level)

The Galera Range encompasses the western flanks of these hills where they overlook the Rio Ulua. Reconnaissance carried out here in 1984 extended from the far northern margin of the hills, near Hacienda Inguaya, south to the modern hamlet of El Remolino. South of this point the steepness of the terrain for 2km to the confluence of the Rios Cececapa and Ulua made further investigations difficult and the possibility of finding settlements unlikely.

The western slopes of the Galeras Range are characterized by rugged, steep descents, dropping roughly 220m within a horizontal distance of 900m east to west into the Ulua. These precipitous escarpments are broken in a few areas by narrow, discontinuous, generally north-south trending shelves of flat to gently rolling terrain. Such ledges were almost invariably cleared for maize farming using the dibble stick technique while the surrounding slopes were left covered with dense scrub growth. Dramatically inclined areas are largely devoid of soil cover while the scattered shelves appear to support cultivation on locally developed soils and soils

eroding from the surrounding hills that they catch. We do not have production figures for these ledges.

Floodplain formation is limited to a small zone, maximally 100m across east-west, situated on the north margin of the studied area at the Rio Ulua/Rio Jicatuyo confluence. Small, discontinuous areas of floodplain were noted west of the Ulua between El Remolino and La Junta but not on the river's east bank. No clear terrace formations were recorded.

Rock outcrops, including limestone and igneous materials, such as basalt and andesite, frequently protrude from hill flanks and ledges. Cobbles and angular stones employed in ancient construction are easily obtained from the Rio Ulua and numerous outcrops throughout the Galeras ascents. Valleys cut by the Rios Ulua and Jicatuyo provide transportation routes to areas lying to the west, north, and south.

In addition to the Rio Ulua, the western Galeras range is watered by a series of seasonal streams which descend rapidly from their sources in the hills. One perennial watercourse, an unnamed stream which runs north-south through the northern part of the Galeras range, was identified during survey though it does not appear on maps of the region. This stream and the Ulua are the only perennial sources of water within the zone.

Sites 130-133, 135-141, and 147 were found here, containing a total of 66 constructions.

**Reyes Vega** (115-150m above sea level)

The Reyes Vega, named for its reported owner in 1986, is located north of, and across the Rio Ulua from, the Gualjoquito vega. It is delimited on the south, east, and north by the sinuous course of that river. To the west, steep escarpments of Cerro del Calvario, a high eminence within the Cerro Las Tunitas system, border the settlement zone. Covering roughly 0.6km<sup>2</sup>, the Reyes Vega consists of an east-west trending high terrace with steep descents of 15-20m on the

north, east, and south to a lower Ulua terrace. The latter unit is narrow and discontinuous on the north (100m or less across) widening somewhat in the other directions (ca. 200m across). The drop from the flat lower terrace summit to the river is generally a steep, direct 10-15m. In the far eastern and southwestern corners of the zone, small segments of Ulua floodplain are preserved intermediate between the lower terrace and river levels. The upper terrace summit slopes up gradually from east to west towards the Cerro del Calvario and from south to north. The latter incline is most noticeable near the hills. The gradual east-west ascent is broken approximately 250m west of the eastern upper terrace margin by a low (1-2m high), natural step-up. Subsequent to this ascent the gradual rise of the land to the west continues as before. No perennial streams water this zone though sizable seasonal channels run north and south into the Ulua from the upper terrace.

As has been noted in other portions of the research zone, intensity of agricultural production is correlated with distance from the Ulua. When visited in 1986, the lower terrace was largely devoted to dibble stick cultivation of maize. Sugarcane was also grown in limited portions of this low-lying zone. The upper terrace summit, on the other hand, was almost exclusively used for animal pasture, local farmers indicating that this area was largely unsuitable for agriculture. Hillslopes were also not intensively cultivated. Small floodplain segments found in the area were overgrown with low thorn scrub in 1986 and were not exploited agriculturally nor for animal forage. Informant reports and field observations suggest that upper terrace soils are intermediate in fertility between lower terrace tracts and the steep escarpments. Building stones are easily obtainable from the Rio Ulua (cobbles) and western hills (angular stones from numerous exposures here). The large quantities of vesicular basalt and andesite recorded in the Crescent vega to the north are not, however, replicated on the Reyes vega. The valley cut by the

Ulua would have provided a communication corridor linking occupants of the Reyes vega with people living to the north and south. No other routes leading out of the zone were noted.

All portions of the Reyes vega save for the floodplain were surveyed, none being so densely overgrown as to preclude investigation.

The only modern settlement in the zone is a single dwelling in the northeast corner of the vega reached via a dirt path which cuts through the center of the upper terrace and links up with the trail to the Crescent vega.

A total of 11 sites containing 62 constructions were recorded during the complete foot survey of the Reyes vega (Sites 162-166, 174-179). In general, settlements are located on the upper terrace summit or low eminences extending out from it above the lower Ulua terrace. None were found in the latter area nor on the floodplain.

#### **Gualala Vega** (120-150m above seal level)

The Gualala vega (containing Sites 205, 206, and 347; 30 constructions overall) covers roughly 1km<sup>2</sup> on the east bank of the Rio Ulua and is bounded on all sides save the east by the sinuous course of that river. The eastern flank is delimited by steep escarpments of Cerro Tiligua. Much of this zone consists of a high terrace of the Rio Ulua while a lower river terrace curves around following the watercourse on the north, west, and south. Small, discontinuous segments of floodplain are found on the western and southern vega margins. In addition to the Rio Ulua, the Quebrada Tiligua provides a perennial source of water to the zone. The latter watercourse issues from the eastern slopes and cuts across the southeastern corner of the vega before entering the Ulua. Several seasonal watercourses were also noted in the area especially in its northern reaches. The Gualala vega is separated from the Encanto and Gualjoquito vegas by

the precipitous ascents of Cerro Tiligua which run down on the north and south directly to the Ulua.

Much of the zone, especially the upper terrace, is currently taken up by the modern town of Gualala, a settlement continuously occupied since at least the Late Postclassic. Those areas not covered by modern construction are used primarily for animal pasture and maize cultivation. Soil fertility on the Gualala vega conforms to general middle Ulua patterns described above though the productivity of the upper terrace remains in doubt.

Construction stones are easily acquired from nearby river channels (cobbles) and hillside outcrops (angular rocks). No raw materials suitable for indigenous crafts (e.g., vesicular basalt and andesite) were noted on the vega. Survey efforts in the Gualala area were of limited duration and we may well have missed relevant outcrops in the course of our investigations. The Ulua valley provides passage north and south within, and to areas outside, central Santa Barbara. No other potential communication routes were noted issuing onto the vega.

Dense overgrowth did not present a problem for survey on the Gualala vega.

#### **Crescent Vega** (120-140m above sea level)

The Crescent vega, covering roughly 0.17km<sup>2</sup>, lies west and across the Rio Ulua from the Gualala vega and ca. 750m northwest of the Reyes vega. This is the most narrowly circumscribed vega studied by the SBAP, being delimited on the east by a precipitous 15-20m descent to the Ulua and on all other sides by the high, steep escarpments of Cerro Las Tunitas. The Ulua was cutting into its western bank when the area was visited in 1986 with the result that there is no floodplain on this side of the river. Rather, the ascent to the narrow, undulating summit of the high terrace is direct and dramatic. The only exception to this pattern is in the far northern portion of the vega where a very limited terrace segment, roughly 50m east-west by

150m north-south, located ca. 8m above river level (measured at the end of the 1986 dry season) intervenes between the Ulua and the high, western terrace. The summit of the high terrace is no more than 100-150m wide. The Cerro Las Tunitas foothills present a landscape of steep inclines broken in only a few areas by small ledges of level to more gently sloping terrain. The amount of flat land within the Crescent vega is further reduced by six deep seasonal channels which cut across it running west to east to the Rio Ulua. No perennial streams, outside of the Ulua, were recorded in this zone. The Crescent vega would not, therefore, appear to be a hospitable area for farming and current land practices confirm this supposition. By far the vast majority of this zone was devoted to animal pasture in 1986 with only the far northern, low terrace and a very restricted portion of the southernmost tip of the high terrace turned to maize cultivation. We could not locate informants capable of confirming our suppositions concerning local soil fertility. Nevertheless, the frequent stone exposures noted on the high terrace summit as well as throughout the bordering hills, though not on the lower terrace, further imply that soils in this zone are generally shallow and rocky.

Though apparently poor in agricultural potential the Crescent vega is rich in other resources. Cobbles and angular rocks used in prehistoric and early historic construction in the area are easily acquired from close-by watercourses and hillside outcrops, respectively. Exposures of vesicular basalt and andesite abound throughout the western slopes and on the upper terrace summit. Large andesite boulders were also deposited against the western Ulua bank, yet another, easily accessible source of this important raw material. While andesite and basalt outcrop throughout the middle Ulua drainage, their distribution is not uniform and we have rarely found such a plentiful supply of these materials as we observed on the Crescent vega.

Easy access to such resources may, therefore, have served to attract settlement to this, from an agricultural viewpoint, marginal locale.

Trails linking Loma Larga and the Reyes vega to the south with the Chiquia vega on the north pass along the eastern margin of the upper terrace while a similarly informal route leads westward into the cerros to the modern towns of San Miguel Lajas and San Jose de Colinas, ca. 2.5km and 6km distant across rugged terrain, respectively. The latter settlement is the municipal center responsible for administering the western vegas from the town of La Isla north. The valley of the Rio Ulua would have provided a communication route linking the Crescent vega with other portions of central Santa Barbara and Southeast Mesoamerica to the north and south in antiquity.

The only modern occupation in the area consists of a single house and animal corral situated near the center of the vega against the western foothills.

Twenty-seven constructions were identified in seven sites on the Cresecent vega (Sites 155-161). Most of these settlements are found atop the upper terrace though two (Sites 159 and 161) are situated in the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills.

Dense vegetation did not pose an obstacle to survey on the Crescent vega.

### **Chiquia Vega** (120-140m above sea level)

The Chiquia vega, contains 6 sites (Sites 169-173, 351; 50 extant constructions) and covers approximately 1.5km<sup>2</sup> west of the Rio Ulua. The vega lies north and across this river from the Gualala vega. Defined on the north, east, and south by the Ulua's meandering course, the western limits of this relatively flat zone are the steep ascents of Cerro de Chiquia, part of the Cerro Las Tunitas system. Like the Reyes vega ca. 1.2km to the south, the bulk of the Chiquia vega is made up of the relatively level summit of a high terrace rising 20-25m above

the Rio Ulua. On the east and south the drop from this terrace to the river is direct and steep. Only on the north is there an intermediary level, a floodplain segment ca. 10m below the summit of the upper terrace and 15m above the Ulua. At least one relict Ulua channel, running roughly east-west at the base of the upper terrace, was found cut into the soft, sandy floodplain soils.

The upper terrace summit descends very gradually to the south and east towards the Ulua, rising in equally small increments towards the northern margin overlooking the floodplain. The land ascends more markedly on the west near the junction with the dramatic escarpments of the Cerro de Chinquia foothills. Within the latter zone the only habitable, level terrain is found on small ledges set amidst steep slopes.

Unlike the other western vegas, there are very few seasonal watercourses which cut the surface of either the upper terrace or flood zone. In fact, thorough ground survey of this area in 1985 and 1986 located only one quebrada, that issuing from the western hills at the vega's far northern tip. This channel enters the Ulua after only a short run. The sole perennial water source is the Ulua itself.

During 1985 and 1986 most of the floodplain and upper terrace were planted in maize as were segments of the western rocky hillslopes. Bananas were cultivated over a few small tracts on the upper terrace in 1986 and a large artificial pond was dug in the north portion of that topographic unit for commercial fish raising. The floodplain and upper terrace soils seemed deep, certainly there were no rock exposures protruding onto their surfaces. Informant reports indicated that both floodplain and high terrace could support two maize crops per year. In addition to good agricultural land, natural exposures of vesicular basalt are frequently found in the western hills. Andesite, commonly recorded on the Crescent vega immediately to the south, was not observed on the Chinquia vega. Stones used in prehistoric construction, including

cobbles and angular rocks, are easily obtained from the Rio Ulua and exposures on the western slopes.

A trail leaves the upper terrace heading west into the hills to the town of San Miguel Lajas (2.75km) and, ultimately, to the municipal center of San Jose de Colinas (6.4km). The valley cut by the Ulua would have connected Chinquia vega residents with people living north and south of the vega in antiquity.

Modern habitation on the vega was restricted to a single house in the far southern portion of the zone and a few scattered temporary shelters on the northern margin in 1986. Sometime between 1986 and 1988 a housing development, or colonia, was erected in the southeastern corner of the upper terrace. We were unable to assess the effects of this construction on ancient settlements recorded here during survey. It seems likely that at least one of these loci, Site 172, was destroyed by modern building efforts.

No areas on the Chinquia vega were so densely overgrown as to frustrate survey efforts.

### **El Encanto Vega** (120-140m above sea level)

The El Encanto vega contains two sites (Sites 180 and 348; 42 constructions overall) and encompasses roughly .5km<sup>2</sup> on the east bank of the Rio Ulua. Bordered on the east by the escarpments of the Montanas de Santa Barbara, the western limit is defined by the Ulua. This small zone of relatively level terrain is separated on the north and south from the neighboring Zapote and Gualala vegas by extensions of the eastern cerros which here run directly to the river. The vega itself is divided into three topographic zones. The majority of the land is taken up by a high Ulua terrace, maximally 350m wide east-west and with a summit which slopes up gradually from west to east towards the bordering steep slopes. A descent of 3-5m on the west leads to a lower river terrace roughly 125m wide at its broadest point. This unit, in turn, is succeeded on

the west by a low floodplain zone 8-10m below the summit of the preceding terrace. This last, low-lying segment is no more than 100m wide and sits approximately 5m above the level of the Ulua at the beginning of the rainy season (measured in June, 1986). All of these landforms pinch out between the river and mountains on the north and south. The lower terrace and floodplain are found primarily in the central portion of the vega where the Ulua is currently cutting back against its west bank.

The Rio Ulua is the only perennial source of water within the zone. Several seasonal tributaries of that watercourse issue from the eastern sierra and cut across the terraces.

The vast majority of the Encanto vega was devoted to the commercial cultivation of junco palm in 1983-1986, the leaves of which are employed in the commercial production of bags and hats. Small segments of the zone were used as animal pasture. As a result of these activities, we could not directly determine the fertility of local soils for traditional agriculture. Presumably, the general soil fertility patterns outlined earlier for other valley segments pertain here as well. No rock exposures or other evidence of shallow soils were noted within the vega.

Construction stones are easily accessible in nearby river channels (cobbles) and rock exposures in the bordering hills (angular stones). Exposures of materials suitable for indigenous crafts (e.g., vesicular basalt and andesite) were not identified in or near the El Encanto vega. Survey of this zone was limited, however, and relevant outcrops may have been missed during our cursory investigations. The only communication route linking El Encanto with other portions of central Santa Barbara and Southeast Mesoamerica is the valley cut by the Rio Ulua itself.

Modern disturbance to the zone has been considerable. While residence is limited to several small houses on the eastern vega margin, the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road runs

north-south across the area's eastern edge. Intensive cultivation of junco throughout the vega has likely resulted in the destruction or disturbance of ancient structures so that all that remains is a subset of prehistoric settlement. Roughly 0.25km<sup>2</sup> of the El Encanto vega could not be surveyed because of the extensive destruction wrought by mechanized plowing for palm cultivation.

**El Zapote Vega** (110-140m above sea level)

The El Zapote vega, covering approximately .5km<sup>2</sup> on the east bank of the Rio Ulua ca. 300m south of the modern town of Ilima, contains three sites with six extant structures overall (Sites 202-204). The vega supporting Ilima pinches out immediately north of Zapote and the two landforms are separated by the channel of a deep, seasonal affluent of the Rio Ulua. Both vegas are, therefore, part of the same topographic unit. The portion surrounding Ilima was not investigated because it is now almost completely covered by the modern town. What we were able to examine, therefore, was only a portion of the entire Ilima/Zapote vega system.

The Zapote vega contains two topographic units. The uppermost is an extensive, flat terrace of the Rio Ulua bounded on the east and south by steep escarpments of the Montanas de Santa Barbara and on the west by precipitous descents of 15-20m to the Rio Ulua. The area thus delimited forms a rough triangular shape with its west and north sides defined by the course of the Ulua and its baseline by the southeastern slopes. On the northern terrace margin the drop to the Ulua is direct with no other topographic units intervening between terrace summit and river level. Along the western flank a floodplain segment was located approximately 10m below the upper terrace and roughly 5m above river level at the beginning of the 1986 rainy season (June). The floodplain expands rapidly, north to south, achieving a width of roughly 175m east-west by the southern margin of the vega, before pinching out against the eastern hills along with the high terrace. The surfaces of both units are relatively level, the upper terrace summit sloping up very

gradually from west to east. Several broad, shallow depressions dot the upper terrace surface, their origins unclear.

The closest perennial watercourse is the Rio Ulua. Several deep but seasonal channels dissect the Zapote vega, running generally southeast-northwest to join the major river.

The Zapote vega was largely used for two economic purposes in 1986. The northern half of the upper terrace served as animal pasture and was covered in low, dense grass. The remainder of the high terrace was dominated by closely-spaced junco palms cultivated for their leaves which are used in the production of such products as bags and hats. The latter vegetation not only made survey difficult by obscuring ground surface but activities related to tree cultivation, especially digging irrigation ditches, almost certainly resulted in site destruction (see Site 204). The floodplain was largely covered with scrub growth in 1986 though even here portions were cleared for palms. As a result of such modern activities it is difficult to determine how productive this zone might have been for prehistoric agriculture. While no excavations were conducted here, rock exposures were noted in the northern portion of the upper terrace suggesting that soil depths on this unit were not uniformly deep. We would surmise that the Ulua floodplain here, as elsewhere in the middle Ulua drainage, was susceptible to multiple cropping each year while productivity of the upper terrace was lower and variable, depending on local soil depths. The Zapote vega, therefore, did contain arable land, though fertility levels may have been uneven throughout the zone.

Stones suitable for construction are available in nearby river channels (rounded cobbles) and outcrops within the neighboring hills (angular rocks). No exposures of materials potentially useful in indigenous crafts (e.g., vesicular basalt and andesite) were identified on the vega. Relatively little time was spent surveying the Zapote vega, however, and such outcrops may have

been missed in our examination. The only communication route linking the Zapote vega with other areas within and beyond central Santa Barbara is that cut by the Rio Ulua itself.

Modern habitation on the vega is limited to a few scattered residences while the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road runs along the zone's eastern margin. Approximately 0.25km<sup>2</sup> of the El Zapote vega was so densely planted in palms that it could not be surveyed.

**Cececapa Vega** (100-140m above sea level)

The complex topography of the Cececapa vega covers approximately .5km<sup>2</sup> on the east bank of the Rio Ulua and contains 15 sites with 83 total extant constructions (Sites 187-201). The zone possesses one of the few perennial Rio Ulua tributaries, the Rio Cececapa, found north of Gualjoquito. The latter stream cuts a narrow, steep-sided gorge through the eastern Cerro Las Lomas (south of the stream) and Cerro del Parajito (north of it) before entering the Ulua. The Cececapa roughly bisects the vega north-south. In the far southern segment of the zone the Quebrada Hondo is a sizeable, albeit seasonal, watercourse which carves a narrow valley between Cerro Las Lomas and Cerro Malin on the north and south, respectively. Besides these two large channels the area is cut by numerous short, deep quebradas which originate in the eastern foothills and run westward to join the Rio Ulua.

The Cececapa vega is a narrow (ca. 100-250m wide) southwest-northeast trending area of relatively level terrain bordered on the northwest by steep descents to the Rio Ulua and on the southeast by the equally precipitous foothills of the Cerros del Pajarito, Las Lomas, and Malin, from north to south. North of the Rio Cececapa the land is characterized by a high terrace descending at first gradually from east to west towards the Ulua, and then more rapidly as the river is approached. Ultimately, this unit ends in a ca. 20m, steep, direct descent to the Ulua. The only exception to this pattern is the section overlooking the junction of the Rios Cececapa and

Ulúa. Here the terrace drops to a limited lower terrace segment which, in turn, descends another ca. 5m to a floodplain standing roughly 3m above the Ulúa at the beginning of the 1986 rainy season (June). The last topographic unit is characterized by sandy soil and contains broad, shallow, linear depressions which apparently mark relict river channels. Both the upper and lower terrace surfaces pinch out against the Rio Cececapa on the south while the floodplain and low terrace do not extend more than 200m to the northeast. South of the Cececapa, a ca. 55m wide ledge appears within the lower, precipitous slopes of Cerro Las Lomitas, following the curves of those hills to the southwest. Below this shelf a terrace and floodplain overlook the junction of the Rios Ulúa and Cececapa. The descent from ledge to terrace summit is 5-7m while a comparable vertical distance separates the terrace and floodplain. River level is roughly 4m below the floodplain's summit (measured at the start of the rainy season in June, 1986). Terrace and floodplain are widest in the immediate environs of the Cececapa/Ulúa junction (ca. 100m across northwest-southeast) rapidly pinching out against the shelf approximately 200m south of the Rio Cececapa. These low-lying units reappear approximately 600m southeast of the Rio Cececapa/Ulúa junction though here the upper member is only 55-75m wide, defined on the southeast by steep ascents to the narrow bluff summit and on the northwest by a 3-5m descent to the floodplain. The latter is just about as narrow (60-100m wide) and drops 10-12m on the northwest to the Ulúa. After running for ca. 525m northeast-southwest, the terrace and floodplain once more disappear to be replaced by steeply sloping terrain. Small floodplain and terrace segments reappear approximately 450m to the southwest on the north bank of the Rio Hondo where it joins the Ulúa. The upper ledge also disappears into the valley of the Hondo to reemerge immediately south of that quebrada where it persists as a restricted shelf, no more than 75m wide, of flat land clinging to the lower slopes of Cerro Malin. This topographic feature

continues south almost to the Ilama vega. Descent from ledge to river is steep and direct hereafter (a drop of roughly 35m) while the shelf is bordered on the southeast by high, dramatic ascents. In general, therefore, most of the Cececapa vega consists of a high northwestern extension of the eastern cerros below which are found only limited terrace and floodplain segments. The last two topographic features are largely, though not exclusively, restricted to areas where a major Ulua affluent joins that river.

Informants note that floodplain and terrace soils are fertile while those of the hillslopes have relatively low productive potential. The productivity of the ledge summit is unknown though the frequency with which rocks outcrop onto this surface suggests that soils here are relatively shallow. Excavations indicate, however, that soil depth is variable atop the ledge. On some of the higher, more exposed portions, rock-filled earth strata, as little as 0.3-0.6m thick, overlie bedrock. In the lower-lying segments probes 0.7m deep encountered only fine-textured earth with no included stones. This implies that agricultural potential varies significantly across the shelf. While some portions of terraces, floodplains, and hillslopes were under maize cultivation in 1986, the vast majority of all land was devoted to animal pasture or obscured by thorn scrub (all portions of the Cececapa vega were surveyed, however). A very limited stand of sugar cane was recorded immediately south of the Rio Cececapa in a low-lying portion of the ledge zone. Agaves, grown for their fibrous leaves used in the manufacture of rope, were being cultivated on the hillslopes overlooking the vega. This is the only portion of central Santa Barbara where this plant was recorded. The town of Ilama, 1.5km to the south, as of 1986 supported a number of small-scale twine producers using the products of this cultigen.

Outcrops of a soft white rock, possibly limestone, are plentiful throughout the vega, being found on the ledge surface and, more commonly, within the eastern hills. Exposures of vesicular

basalt and andesite were identified south of the Rio Cececapa within the eastern ascents as well as on the shelf summit.

The Rio Ulua valley would have connected Cececapa vega residents with areas to the north and south within and beyond the middle Ulua drainage. The fissures in which the Rio Cececapa and Quebrada Hondo run provide passage to archaeologically unexplored upland valleys to the east. Modern trails follow these routes while a precursor of the current San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road was built atop the aforementioned ledge against the eastern hills of the Cececapa vega.

Modern occupation on the vega is restricted to a few scattered houses invariably situated on the upper shelf south of the Rio Cececapa. Most occupants of the area live further back into the mountains away from the vega itself, a pattern repeated throughout the middle Ulua basin. While recent activities have led to the destruction of prehistoric sites in this area such disruptions have not been extensive.

Like most of the middle Ulua vegas, therefore, the Cececapa zone provides limited expanses of arable land augmented by potentially useful exposures of economically significant raw materials.

**San Rafael Vega** (100-140m above sea level)

The San Rafael vega, east of the Rio Ulua, covers approximately .5km<sup>2</sup> and contains six sites with a total of 16 extant constructions (Sites 181-186). Watered by a perennial tributary of the Rio Ulua, the Quebrada San Andres, this area contains four distinct topographic zones none of which is very extensive. Running roughly 0.7km north of the San Andres is the relatively flat summit of an Ulua terrace standing ca. 20m above the present river. The descent from terrace to river is direct and steep. No floodplain was evident here though ca. 800m south of the San

Andres there is a narrow terrace which rises approximately 5-10m above the Ulua (measured at the beginning of the rainy season in June, 1986). This heavily overgrown eminence slopes down markedly from east to west towards the river and its proximity to water level suggests that it is periodically flooded during the rainy season. The upper terrace summit north of the San Andres slopes up very gradually from west to east giving way after 100-150m to the steep ascents of Cerro Piedra Grande which defines the vega on the east and north. Within the Cerro Piedra Grande foothills several isolated, narrow shelves of flat land are set amidst otherwise steeply sloping terrain. The Cerro Piedra Grande escarpments descend directly to the floodplain south of the Quebrada San Andres, there being no upper terrace in this area. The remaining topographic zone consists of the restricted valley cut by the Quebrada San Andres in its east-to-west course across the vega to join the Ulua. The land rises on both sides directly from the cleft created by the watercourse. Though the lower slopes of this valley are gradual they are soon succeeded by far more dramatic ascents. This river supports no terraces. The San Rafael vega, in short, provides only restricted areas of flat land suitable for year-round human habitation.

While portions of the upper terrace and hillslopes were being cultivated in maize, watermelon, and tomatoes in 1986, much of the area was covered in either thorn scrub or low grass for animal pasture. The upper terrace summit and hillside ledges, as well as all slopes, were covered with rock exposures, suggesting that soil depths here are not considerable. Presumably, the agricultural productivity of San Rafael terrace and escarpments are equivalent to thin hillslope soils. Only the small floodplain segment might have sustained intensive planting. A shallow limestone deposit was being mined on the vega in 1986. While capable of supporting some agriculture, therefore, the San Rafael vega offers little that would encourage settlement on its rocky soils. The Chinda vega, immediately west and across the Rio Ulua from San Rafael, is

blessed with a much larger floodplain and more extensive terrace areas than its eastern counterpart. It seems likely that Chinda, rather than San Rafael, was the focus of ancient settlement just as it has been a center of population since at least the Spanish Conquest. Unfortunately, this persistence of occupation has destroyed most traces of prehistoric loci here and the Chinda vega was not examined in 1983-1986.

The Quebrada San Andres has carved out a valley along which communication might have been maintained between San Rafael residents and the occupants of archaeologically unexplored highland zones to the east. Footpaths currently following the Quebrada San Andres link the vega with small settlements in this direction. The Rio Ulua runs north-south along the west flank of the San Rafael vega, turning to course southwest-northeast immediately north of that zone. Communication along the river could have tied San Rafael's inhabitants with occupants of other areas to the south and northeast.

The only modern settlement on the vega is the town of San Rafael built into the hills on the north side of the Quebrada San Andres within steeply sloping terrain.

The floodplain was so densely overgrown that it could not be surveyed. Given our experience with comparable topographic units in other portions of the middle Ulua drainage, it is unlikely that any sites would have been preserved in this low-lying area. Otherwise, the San Rafael vega was sufficiently clear of dense vegetation to permit survey in all portions of it in 1986.

#### **Tencoa Pocket** (160-230m above sea level)

The Tencoa pocket, encompassing roughly 8.5km<sup>2</sup>, comprises the largest zone of relatively flat terrain within the survey area. Its 43 sites (Sites 300-340, 349, and 350; 214 constructions) are found in an area contained by the steep slopes of the Cerro Guatemala and

Cerro la Mina on the east and the escarpments of the Cerro de Calanora on the west. The Rio Ulua describes a sinuous course through the pocket, ca. 7.5km of the valley lying east of that watercourse while the remaining 1km on the west is divided into three discontinuous segments by the river's course. Three perennial streams run east to west to join the Ulua; the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote on the north, the Quebrada Muigual 2km to the south in the pocket's approximate center, and the Quebrada Las Vueltas empties into the Rio Ulua on the pocket's southern edge. The Rios Aguagua and Machaloa cut narrow passes within the western hills, trending southwest-northeast to join the Ulua at the point where it exits the pocket on the north. These perennial watercourses border the northernmost segment of flat land west of the Ulua while an unnamed seasonal stream cuts through the approximate middle of the central of these western valley sections.

Most of the relatively extensive eastern valley is taken up by a high, relatively flat terrace of the Ulua which slopes up gradually eastward from the river to the bordering hills. A comparable terrace is found west of the Ulua but, as noted above, it is divided into three discontinuous segments by the convergence of the river with the western escarpments. Areas of floodplain bordering the Ulua appear in five individual segments on both sides of the river, covering a total of ca. 0.5km<sup>2</sup>. As of 1984-1985 the Ulua appeared to be cutting westward over most of its extent within the pocket, though it was aggrading eastward along its northernmost 2km.

Most valley soils are deep and well-drained and should have been capable of supporting intensive cultivation, most likely two crops per year if there was sufficient rainfall. No outcroppings of rocks, such as andesite and vesicular basalt, used in indigenous tool manufacture were recorded here. The Ulua and its tributaries are ready sources of cobbles commonly used in

prehistoric constructions whereas angular stones also employed in this way are easily found in the surrounding hills.

When investigated, much of the Tenco pocket had been largely plowed, and in some cases bulldozed, to “improve” the terrain for cattle pasture as well as for growing corn, plantains, oranges, and other fruit trees such as papayas and limes. Evidence of subsistence farming was limited, the pocket largely being in the hands of moderately large landowners who devoted their efforts to commercial farming and/or stock breeding. The main road heading south from the town of Santa Barbara to the community of Taulabe and the San Pedro Sula/Tegucigalpa highway runs along the eastern border of the valley. A road heading west across the Ulua to the the town of San Vicente del Centenario and the El Nispero dam intersects the Santa Barbara-Taulabe route and crosses the northern portion of the pocket. The Santa Barbara/Taulabe road was in the process of being widened and paved during the research period. As of 1984-1985 there were no modern settlements in the valley though a few scattered houses were noted. In general, road construction/expansion and, especially, land modification had serious deleterious effects on site preservation; eight of the recorded settlements showed signs of having been heavily damaged in recent years.

**Site Catalogue**

**Table 1**

**The Distribution of Sites by Location within the Middle Ulua Drainage**

Location	Sites
Gualjoquito Vega, North Cluster	98-107
Gualjoquito Vega, Huertas/Hondo Cluster	11-19, 24-28, 30-42, 44-74, 149-153
Gualjoquito Vega, East of the Rio Ulua	1, 108, 127, 128

Gualjoquito Vega, La Isla Cluster	20-23
Gualjoquito, Loma Larga Cluster	113/117, 118, 148
Gualjoquito, West of the Rio Ulua	3-6, 8-10, 109-112, 119-126
Inguaya Vega, El Derrumbe Cluster	88-91, 94, 143-146
Inguaya Vega	75-85, 129, 142, 167, 168
Galeras Range	130-133, 135-141, 147
Reyes Vega	162-166, 174-179
Gualala Vega	205, 206, 347
Crescent Vega	155-161
Chinquia Vega	169-173, 351
El Encanto Vega	180, 348
El Zapote Vega	202-204
Cececapa Vega	187-201
San Rafael Vega	181-186
Tencoa Vega	300-340, 349, 350

**Notes:**

Sites 2, 7, 26, 43, 86, 87, 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 134, and 154 do not exist either because remains designated with one of these numbers were later combined with another close-by settlement or because that number was not assigned to a site in the field.

‘Cluster’ refers to a collection of settlements whose physical concentration stands out from the general distribution of sites within a valley or vega. These clusters were identified impressionistically in the field and may be the physical remains of supra-household social groups.

**Site 1, Gualjoquito**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/100 E3/68/000, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 1 occupies approximately 8 ha of level terrain atop a narrowly circumscribed section of lower terrace on the vega which bears its name, immediately east of the Rio Ulua. The center is bounded on the north and south by an unnamed quebrada and the Quebrada Las Huertas respectively, on the west by a steep, direct descent to the Rio Ulua, and on the east by the foothills of Cerro Grande. Site 70 lies ca. 75m east and 20m above Site 1 within those slopes while Site 20 is 600m west and directly across the Ulua from the center. A colluvial fan issues from the escarpments on Gualjoquito's eastern boundary and may obscure several structures in the area between Strs. 4, 5, 8, 10-12, 36 and the foothills. Water is available year-round from the Quebrada Las Huertas and Rio Ulua while construction stones can be easily obtained from these channels (cobbles) and outcrops in the bordering hills (angular stones).

Condition: Structures 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, and 20-23 had portions of their summits and flanks seriously disturbed by illicit digging as of 1986. Clearing ground for a soccer field north of Str. 14 and Feats. 5 and 6, including digging holes for the goal posts, may have caused minor damage to low constructions in this portion of the site. A modern house and associated outbuildings raised immediately north of Str. 22 most likely disturbed prehistoric deposits in this area while Strs. 18, 20-22, and 27 were cut by a shallow trench that was designed to carry a water pipe to the aforementioned domicile. Construction of a cattle corral in the southern portion of Gualjoquito definitely damaged the south side of Str. 23 and may have obliterated several small platforms in this area, judging from the density of scattered building stones and artifacts found adjoining the corral on the west. Building the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road resulted in the truncation of Strs. 6, 23, and 24 along with the destruction of prehistoric deposits underlying the route and its right-of-way. Structures 32 and 39 were both in the process of eroding into the Rio Ulua when

investigated in 1983-1986. How many other deposits may have been lost to erosion into the river is uncertain.

Site Description: Site 1 contains 48 structures and 15 features arranged into five major, orthogonally organized patio-focused groups (Groups I-V) with the remaining constructions scattered in more irregularly arranged associations around these monumental foci. The most massive platforms at the center, Strs. 11, 12, 14, and 22, define a large plaza (Group V) in the northern portion of Site 1, access to which was unimpeded on all sides save the east. Structure 48, a diminutive platform, lies within this plaza slightly south of the centerlines of the two tallest edifices, Strs. 12 and 22. Features 5 and 6 extend 42m northeast of Str. 14's northwest corner and define the southern limit of a sizeable flat area devoid of construction, one of the few such zones within this highly built-up portion of the vega. A 10.5m-wide gap separates these two stone lines and may mark an entryway. Structures 1-5 and 13, in the southeast site corner, are nearly as large as their Group V counterparts and define a patio (Group I) to which entrance was restricted to a 6m gap between Strs. 3 and 4 in the northeast corner. Raised near the base of the eastern hills, Group I's builders compensated for the marked east-to-west drop in the underlying terrace by constructing a stone-faced platform rising to 1.75m on its highest (west) face. These efforts created an even patio surface atop which the platforms comprising Group I were raised. Paired outsets on Str. 7 and the continuous west face of Strs. 1 and 13 may define a ballcourt immediately west of Group I. Groups II, III, and IV are patio-centered units delimited by moderately large platforms filling in the terrace summit between Groups I and V. Though several edifices within the above units are linked by construction (Strs. 26 and 38) access to the spaces they enclose was generally unobstructed. Together, these five architectural foci comprise the monumental core, measured by construction volume, of Gualjoquito. Features and platforms

were built primarily of river cobbles though a few masonry blocks were noted on the surface as well. Superstructures were most likely fashioned of perishable materials as no standing summit walls were visible when the center was mapped.

Excavations: Structures 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19-22, 24, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 36, 40, 41, 42, 48, the Group I platform, Features 1 and 6, and a series of test pits distributed throughout the center were excavated from 1983-1985.

Dates: Analyses of excavated materials indicate that Gualjoquito was occupied from the Late Preclassic through Late Postclassic. The Late Classic witnessed a florescence of construction and intensity of occupation unmatched in any other period. Use of the site was substantial, however, in all other intervals save the Late Postclassic by which time it is not certain that Gualjoquito was occupied on a year-round basis.

**Site 2:** Deleted

### **Site 3**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/200 E3/66/700, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 3 sites on a 2.5-3.0m high terrace above the south bank of the Rio Lempa, roughly 10m below the summit of the high terrace supporting Sites 4 and 124. These last two sites are roughly 250m east and 225m southeast of the locus, respectively. The level terrain on which Site 3 rests measures approximately 125m east-west by 75m north-south and is defined on the south by the steep ascent to the upper terrace and by the drop to the Lempa on the remaining sides. The channel of the Lempa is no more than 50m to the north, the Ulua lies ca. 1km to the east.

Site Description: Site 3 consists of two structures, one with no surviving elevation while the second stands to a preserved 0.4m high. Both buildings are oriented roughly north-south, though they do not share a common azimuth (oriented 261 and 282 degrees), and face each other across a

distance of 4m. The 0-elevation edifice measures 3m by 4m while the larger, eastern building has basal dimensions of 6m by 6m. Basal platform walls and building foundations were made of vesicular basalt river cobbles, probably obtained from the nearby channel of the Lempa where similar stones were found in 1985. A north-south running cobble line flush with the summit of the 0.4m high platform was noted.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

#### **Site 4**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/200 E3/66/950, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 4 is situated roughly 200m west of the eastern edge of the high terrace which supports the modern town of La Isla as well as Sites 23 (1 km to the southeast), 124 (200m to the southwest), and 5 (625m to the southeast). The land here slopes down gradually towards a small seasonal stream located 30m east of the locus. The Quebrada Lempa is approximately 150m to the north, the Rio Ulua 800m to the east.

Condition: Structures at Site 4 appeared disturbed as though the area had been thoroughly plowed at some point in the recent past. Fields in the immediate vicinity of the locus had been prepared for planting using ox-drawn wooden plows and it seems likely that Site 4 suffered from this activity. The total absence of elevation among surviving structures also points to the earlier disruption of ancient architecture.

Site Description: Site 4 contains 11 extant structures none of which had any elevation. The buildings were tightly nucleated, Strs. 4-8, 10-11 defining a patio open to the east towards the quebrada. The remaining edifices are located close to the patio. Access to the enclosed central space was somewhat restricted by the close spacing among buildings. There was no evidence that

the site had been laid out following a common azimuth though, as noted, dislocations of structure lines brought about by recent agricultural activities may have produced the observed, nearly random pattern of structure orientations. The stone lines defining ancient structure perimeters are composed of cobbles (largely basalt) and, more rarely, angular chunks.

Excavation: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the group tentatively suggests a Late Classic date for construction and occupation.

### **Site 5**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/675 E3/67/350, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 5 sits ca. 25m west of the eastern margin of the high terrace in the same topographic position as Site 23 approximately 380m to the southeast and overlooking Site 21, ca. 225m east and 5m below the settlement. The summit of the high terrace is relatively level, sloping down only very gradually to the east. The 5m descent to the low terrace is, however, steep. The Rio Ulua lies roughly 550m to the east, the Quebrada Lempa 840m to the northwest.

Site Description: Site 5 contained a single, 0-elevation building measuring 2.5m by 3.5m basally, and oriented 355 degrees. The perimeter of this edifice was defined by river cobbles, primarily of vesicular basalt.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 6**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/875 E3/65/600, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 6 occupies the southern edge of the second ascending terrace north of the Quebrada Lempa in the upper reaches of that stream. Situated ca. 8m above, and 50m north of,

the Lempa, this locus is found on relatively level terrain which slopes gradually down from north to south towards the approximately 4m drop to the next, lower Lempa terrace. The quebrada, curves around the settlement on the east and south while to the north the terrace is delimited by the steep ascents of the Lomas de Jicaro. Site 8 lies 250m to the west on the same terrace system while Site 10 is roughly 4m below, and 175m southwest from, Site 6 on the first Lempa terrace. The Rio Ulua is ca. 1km to the south, the town of La Isla 700m to the southeast, and the La Isla/San Jose de Colinas road runs a scant 4m north of the closest structure at the site. Rock outcrops are plentiful throughout the surrounding hills and the Lempa channel itself is replete with water-rounded cobbles.

Condition: The construction and use of the La Isla-San Jose de Colinas road just 4m north of the site may have led to the destruction of some portions of the settlement. In addition, the apparent absence of wall lines on the east and south sides of Str. 4 may imply past practices of stone robbing resulting in some damage to architecture.

Site Description: Site 6 contains five, 0-elevation structures and two features, the latter being stone lines set flush with the current ground surface and running 2m and 3m long. Structures 1-4 and Feats. 1-2 enclose a patio open to the north. The presence of the La Isla-San Jose de Colinas road within this "open" zone, however, reprises the possibility that the group was once more extensive, the construction of the road resulting in the destruction of some buildings in this area. Structure 5 is located away from the patio-focused cluster, being situated ca. 61m to the west on the same terrace summit. Access to the patio was apparently unobstructed in any fashion. Building foundations were constructed of cobbles and angular stones, the latter including vesicular basalt.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focused form part of the locus suggests a Late Classic date for construction and occupation while the small sizes of the buildings point more towards an Early Postclassic temporal placement. A very tentative Early Postclassic date is, therefore, assigned to Site 6.

### **Site 7**

Deleted. This single structure locus was combined with Site 6 given its proximity to the latter.

### **Site 8**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/850 E3/65/400, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 8, in the upper Lempa drainage, lies on the southern edge of the second ascending Lempa terrace ca. 4m above and directly overlooking the next lower terrace. The terrace summit slopes down very gradually from north to south towards the steep descent to the first terrace. Site 8 is ca. 50m north of the Lempa and 950m straight-line distance north of the Rio Ulua, through the rugged Lomas de Jicaro separate the site and river at this point. Site 6 is roughly 250m east of Site 8 on the same terrace system while Site 10, on the next lower terrace, is approximately 4m below and 100m southeast of the locus.

Site Description: Site 8 contains one platform measuring 3.5m x 5.5m basally, oriented 185 degrees, and standing 0.75m high on the southern (downsloping) flank and 0.2m on the north. Structure facings were made of river cobbles and angular chunks, the latter mostly consisting of vesicular basalt.

Excavation: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 9**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/690 E3/65/475, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 9 occupies a very restricted shelf of flat land within the steep ascents of the Lomas de Jicaro, ca. 8m above and 150m south of the upper Quebrada Lempa. The land drops away rapidly west, north, and east of the site towards the seasonal watercourse while rising dramatically southward. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 750m south of and over these hills from Site 9. Sites 6 and 8 are found roughly 275m northeast and 250m northwest of the settlement respectively while Site 10 is ca. 200m to the north. This is the only locus in the Upper Lempa drainage which is located south of the quebrada. Rock exposures were commonly found throughout the surrounding hills.

Site Description: Site 9 contains a single, 0-elevation building measuring 2.5m by 6.0m basally and oriented 39 degrees. The structure's perimeter walls consist of angular stones, including basalt, currently lying flush with the ground surface. In the interior of the structure, set against its north wall, is a low mound of earth, stone, bajareque fragments, and a ceramic roof tile. This mound is 0.4m high and measures 2m<sup>2</sup> basally.

Excavations: None

Dates: The recovery of a roof tile fragment from the structure suggests that it was built and used during the Historic period. Local people could not, however, recall the existence of a house in this area.

### **Site 10**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/850 E3/65/575, 156m above sea level.

Location: Site 10, in the Upper Lempa drainage, occupies the first, lowest terrace, ca. 4m above, and 10-15m north of, the watercourse. The land slopes down gradually from north to south towards the Lempa. The descent to the quebrada is a steep 4m while an equivalent ascent marks the rise to the second terrace on the north. The Rio Ulua lies 950m directly south across rugged,

hilly terrain while Sites 6 and 8 are situated 175m northeast and 100m northwest of Site 10 on the second terrace.

Site Description: Site 10 consists of a single, 0-elevation building measuring 3.5m by 4m basally and oriented 61 degrees. Structure foundations were fashioned of angular stones, primarily basalts and conglomerates, now set flush with the terrace surface.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 11**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/150 E3/69/350, 198m above sea level.

Location: Site 11 is situated in the foothills of Cerro Pena Blanca which defines the eastern limits of the Las Huertas/Hondo pocket. Located ca. 100m west-northwest of Site 55, Site 11 is slightly downslope from that locus on the western edge of the relatively flat ledge which supports Site 55. Site 54, also on the western margin of the same ledge, is 150m to the north-northwest and Site 153 is 100m to the north. Sites 11 and 153 are separated by a deep, seasonal stream channel which issues from the eastern hills and runs west through Site 51 (ca. 175m to the northeast) to eventually join the Rio Juncuntal, a perennial tributary of the Rio Hondo. The Juncuntal is approximately 150m to the north and 10-15m below Site 11. The land supporting the locus slopes down gradually from east to west before descending rapidly in one relatively steep descent to the river. Rock outcrops were frequent on the slopes below Site 11 and across the summit of the ledge supporting it.

Site Description: Site 11 contains five constructions ranging in height from 0.2-1.0m (downslope sides, upslope heights are 0-0.5m). Most of these platforms fall between 0.4-1.0m in altitude (0-0.15m on their upslope flanks). The buildings are arrayed along the edge and upper slopes of the

westward descent towards the Juncuntal. This location enhances the heights of the buildings' downslope sides. While constructions comprising Site 11 are tightly clustered there was no clear patio focus nor was there a consistent alignment shared by these edifices (orientations ranged from 323 degrees 30 minutes to 360 degrees). The three largest platforms are arranged in a rough north-south line along the ridge edge while the remaining two edifices are located slightly downslope from these platforms. Platform facings consist of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping on the site and over the lower slopes. At least two of the structures incorporate natural rock exposures into their basal walls.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the Site 11 structures tentatively point to their construction and use in the Late Classic.

## **Site 12**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/125 E3/69/275, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 12 is situated at the base of the steep rise to Site 11, ca. 75m to the east, just above and 14m east of the Rio Juncuntal. This locus, like Sites 51 and 149 (125m and 325m distant respectively) to the north-northwest, sits at the point where the relatively flat high terrace gives way to the steep slopes of the Cerro Pena Blanca. The land supporting Site 12, as is the case throughout the upland area, is fairly level, sloping down gradually to the west. Site 50, is approximately 100m to the east-southeast across the Juncuntal from Site 12. Rock outcrops were noted on the slopes immediately above the settlement and, less commonly, on the relatively flat plain supporting the site.

Site Description: Site 12 contains four structures standing 0.3-0.6m high (downslope sides, upslope measurements range from 0.1-0.2m in altitude). Only one of the buildings was raised on

flat terrain above the Juncuntal, the remaining three are set into the lower slopes of the ascent leading to Site 11 (Str. 2) or into a western extension of that rise which juts out on the north (Strs. 3-4). There are no clear patio groups in this aggregation, the positioning of platforms apparently being determined by a desire to take advantage of low rises above the plain. Structures were also not apparently aligned to the same azimuth, each exhibiting considerable variation in orientation. Platform walls consist of angular rocks similar to those seen outcropping in the immediate vicinity of the site. It is likely that Site 12 represents a continuation of the settlement of the upper slopes of the ridge, represented here by Site 11.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed nature of the settlement may point to an Early Postclassic date for construction and occupation. The buildings, however, are large for constructions dating to this period.

### **Site 13**

Map Coordinates: N16/567/900 E3/69/675, 218m above sea level.

Location: Site 13 is situated on a very small shelf of flat land within the steeply sloping terrain of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills, ca. 300m southeast of Site 55 and roughly 100m southeast of Site 56. The precipitous ascent to the main massive of the hills begins immediately east of the site. Running ca. 75m to the south is the Rio Juncuntal, a perennial tributary of the Rio Hondo (the former is also referred to as the Agua Podria here). The drop to the stream is a steep ca. 10-15m. Rock outcrops are common throughout the surrounding slopes.

Site Description: Site 13 consists of one rectangular structure built on ground surface measuring 6m x 8.5m and oriented 181 degrees. Appended to the north wall is an enclosure defined by a line of stones extending 2m north from the northwest corner of the main structure. This enclosure

runs east for 7m east before cornering and joining the building's core at a point 1.5m west of its northeast corner. A doorway was still evident ca. 2m west of the northwest corner of the principal edifice. A raised area, measuring 2m x 2m, is located in the southwest interior corner of the structure where it stands 0.45m high and is composed of angular stones, earth, and ceramic roof tiles. The main body of the construction is defined by wall foundations, standing 0.15-0.3m high, composed of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping throughout the area, set in a mud matrix.

Excavations: None

Dates: The artifacts found in association with this single structure, as well as its form, state of preservation, and architecture point to its construction and use during the historic period, probably within the last 50-75 years. Local informants could not recall a house existing on this spot in the past.

#### **Site 14**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/750 E3/69/600, 222m above sea level.

Location: Site 14 is situated well up within the foothills of Cerro Pena Blanca near the point where these lower slopes give way to precipitous ascents. The locus occupies a restricted area of gently sloping terrain, that land descending gradually from southeast to northwest, on the northwest face of a steep knoll within the foothills of the cerro. The headwaters of the Agua Podria, or Rio Juncuntal, form in this area and the hill supporting Site 14 is bounded on the north, west, and south by two small perennial affluents of that stream. These channels form a "Y" with Site 14 contained within the arms of that figure directly overlooking the northern channel ca. 50m distant and 10-12m below the locus. Site 13 is 175m to the northeast, Site 49 is roughly 500m to

the northwest, and the town of Pena Amarilla lies 250-300m to the south. Rock outcrops dot the hills supporting Site 14 and the neighboring foothills.

Site Description: Site 14 contains three structures, measuring 0.3-0.6m high on their downslope sides (0-elevation on their upslope flanks), that define a small patio. While Strs. 2 and 3 have very similar alignments (65-66 degrees), Str. 1 does not share this azimuth (oriented 89 degrees). Structure positioning was primarily determined by local changes in elevation, buildings being set into the sloping terrain, aligned to follow the local slope of the land. Access to the patio is unrestricted. Platform walls were built of angular stones similar to those found in exposures throughout the immediate area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The organization of the structures around a central patio suggests that the locus was used and built in the Late Classic. A small surface collection made at the site supports this temporal placement.

### **Site 15**

Map Coordinates: N/16/56/675 E3/69/600, 225m above sea level.

Location: Site 15 occupies the narrow (north-south) summit of a ridge jutting westward from the main mass of the Cerro Pena Blanca. The land drops away rapidly to the north and south, rises slightly to the west along the summit, and runs level to the east towards the cerro. Site 14 is ca. 100m to the northeast, a perennial tributary of the Agua Podria/Rio Juncuntal dividing the two loci. This stream lies ca. 75m north and 20-30m down from Site 15. The town of La Finca is 150-200m east-southeast of Site 15. As with Sites 13-14, this settlement is located well within the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills, near the point where these slopes give way to near-vertical

ascents. Rock outcrops are common on the ridge supporting the site and across the slopes in its immediate vicinity.

Condition: The position of the settlement on a narrow ledge of flat land bounded by steeply sloping terrain holds open the possibility that portions of it have succumbed to erosion, a view supported by the recovery of a sizable artifact collection washing out onto the slopes below the site.

Site Description: Site 15 contains one structure, ca. 0.25m high, measuring 4m x 4m basally, and oriented 145 degrees 30 minutes. The structure is built on the flat ridge summit near the point where the land starts to rise westward. Platform walls consist of angular stones similar to those found in natural exposures in the immediate area.

Excavations: None

Dates: Despite the weathered condition of the surface collection, the temporally diagnostic pieces it contained suggest that the structure was built and used in the Late Classic.

## **Site 16**

Map Coordinates: N/16/56/500 E3/69/325, 198m above sea level.

Location: Site 16 occupies a small shelf of relatively level terrain within the steeply sloping landscape of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. Like Sites 14-15, this locus occupies a narrow ridge emanating from the cerro to the east. Here, however, the slopes down from the summit are less precipitous. The ground drops away most steeply on the west to a seasonal stream bed and more gradually to the north. On the south and east the land rises gently, culminating in the latter direction in steep ascents. The closest perennial stream is a small tributary of the Rio Hondo ca. 150m to the north. The quebrada mentioned above issues from the eastern hills, bordering Site 16 on the south before turning and running at the base of the ridge west of the settlement. Site 15 is

roughly 325m to the northeast while Site 42 is ca. 500m to the northwest. Rock outcrops, while not common in the area of the locus, are frequently seen in the slopes of the cerro within 250m to the east.

Condition: The only recorded disturbance pertains to the southeast corner of Str. 2 which appeared to be dislocated due to erosion downslope.

Site Description: Site 16 contains six structures standing 0.1-0.5m high and defining a patio open to the south. Buildings were located so as to take advantage of small changes in elevation (0.1-0.4m) with at least three built into a gentle rise to the east. Little effort was apparently invested in aligning these edifices to a common azimuth. Access to the patio defined by Strs. 1-6 is unimpeded. Platform walls were made of angular stones similar to those found outcropping on the steep slopes to the east.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-oriented focus of the group points to its occupation and construction during the Late Classic.

### **Site 17**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/100 E3/69/050, 245m above sea level.

Location: Site 17 is situated on a ledge of relatively level terrain, ca. 100m southwest of and 20m above the Rio Piedras Amarillas, within the steeply sloping landscape of the Cerro Pena Blanca in the far southeastern corner of the Las Huertas/Hondo pocket. Site 17 is in the southern line of hills that define the boundary of the Las Huertas/Hondo zone, very near the point where this ridge line joins the principal ascents of the Cerro Pena Blanca. Sites 16 and 42 are across the Rio Piedras Amarillas, 500m and 650m to the northeast and northwest respectively. The land slopes up steeply south of the shelf and drops down dramatically on the north and east to the bordering

river. Rock outcrops occur frequently throughout the slopes of the ridge system supporting Site 17.

Site Description: Site 17 contains two, 0-elevation structures defining the western and southern sides of a patio open on the downsloping eastern and northern flanks. These buildings measure 3m x 4m and 6m x 8.5m and did not share a common azimuth. The wall foundations of both buildings are constructed of large, angular chunks similar in appearance to rocks found outcropping in the neighboring hills. The north foundation wall of Str. 1, in fact, incorporates one of these exposures into its north face. Several of the rocks found in the north wall of Str. 1 were apparently faced though the majority of stones are unmodified. In several places foundations stood up to 0.25m high, composed to two extant courses of stone set in cement.

Excavations: None

Dates: Ceramic roof tiles similar to those used in constructions in Central Santa Barbara today were found in the field surrounding Site 17, though not actually on the two structures. This evidence, taken together with the architecture of Strs. 1-2, points to the construction and use of Site 17 in the late Historic period.

## **Site 18**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/150 E3/68/950, 252m above sea level.

Location: Site 18 occupies the summit of the ridge on whose lower slopes Site 17 rests (the latter is ca. 100m to the southeast and roughly 7m downslope). This ridge system is the high, steep extension of the Cerro Pena Blanca which delimits the Las Huertas/Hondo zone on the south. The land slopes steeply 25-30m down from Site 18 to the northeast to the Rio Piedras Amarillas, ca. 100m distant. Another perennial tributary of the Rio Hondo cuts a valley to the southwest of Site 18, approximately 225m away and 40m below the locus. While the narrow summit is

relatively level, the ground falls away dramatically on all sides save the northwest where it rises roughly 5m before descending. Rock outcrops dot the hills and ridge tops in and around Site 18.

Site Description: Site 18 contains a single structure that is 0.2m high, measures 3.5m square, and is oriented 57 degrees. Platform walls were built of angular stones presumably derived from the many outcrops of similar stone found throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 19**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/260 E3/69/675, 222m above sea level.

Location: Site 19 sits on a restricted ledge of flat land within the steeply sloping foothill zone of the Cerro Pena Blanca on the far eastern margin of the Las Huertas/Hondo pocket. The topographic position of this settlement is essentially identical to that occupied by Site 57, ca. 125m to the southwest and 4m downslope from Site 19, and Site 59, approximately 250m to the northwest and 6m below the locus. The nearest perennial stream is the Rio Juncuntal ca. 400m to the south; the Rio Las Huertas lies roughly 625m to the north. Rock outcrops are found throughout the sloping landscape which surrounds the settlement.

Site Description: Site 19 contains two platforms 0.4m and 0.5m high (downslope flanks; upslope sides are 0.1-0.25m in altitude). These buildings define a patio on the north and east flanks, the south and downsloping, west sides are left open. While both buildings were built so as to take advantage of small changes in local elevation, they also seem to have been aligned to a common azimuth, orientations ranging from 185 degrees 30 minutes to 188 degrees. Basal measurements are 4m x 8m and 5m x 6m and the two edifices are separated by 9.5m. Platform walls were constructed of angular stones, probably obtained from numerous exposures found throughout the

area. It seems likely that Site 19 is part of a dispersed occupation of the eastern foothills which includes other nearby loci such as Sites 57, 59, and 152. Such settlement dispersal probably owes a lot to the small areas of flat land suitable for habitation in this zone.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and patio-focused organization of the structures tentatively points to their construction and use during the Late Classic.

### **Site 20**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/900 E3/67/460, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 20 occupies the north terminus of the La Isla cluster, 91m north of Site 21 and 600m west and across the Rio Ulua from Gualjoquito. The land is flat, dropping off on the north and east rapidly to the Ulua floodplain. The Rio Ulua, located roughly 475m to the east, would have provided a ready source of both water and building stones (cobble). Andesite cobbles and boulders, used prehistorically in the manufacture of chipped stone tools (see Site 21), are also readily available in the Ulua's channel. Relict channels preserved in the Ulua floodplain suggest that this river may have run closer to Site 20 when it was originally occupied, though how much closer we cannot be certain.

Condition: Little evidence for looting was noted. The principal cause of disturbance comes from current farming practices which include plowing (mechanized and ox-drawn) and stripping stones from structures to facilitate planting. Virtually all of the recorded buildings have been disturbed in this fashion. At least three structures and one feature on the north and east terrace edge were also in the process of eroding off the bluff in 1983-1985. It is very likely, therefore, that, like Gualjoquito, Site 20 was somewhat larger in the past.

Site Description: Site 20 consists of 29 constructions arranged into two distinct groups. The northern cluster contains 18 platforms and two features, one a 5m-long cobble wall line flush with the ground surface issuing from the north side of Str. 18, the second a similar construction located on the north terrace edge. Most of the structures in this group are quite low, ranging between 0 and 0.6m high. Nevertheless, stone removal as an adjunct to cultivation may have resulted in the lowering of building heights. Though nucleated, no overall patterns of platform organization were noted in the north group. Structures 18 and 19 are oriented parallel to each other roughly 9m apart and seemed to form a coherent construction complex, possibly a ballcourt.

The southern group, 96m south of the aforementioned aggregate, contains nine constructions dispersed over 5225m<sup>2</sup>. Structures 21-25 are 0.25m or less in height, though stone robbing may have played a part in the reduction of structure heights here as well. Structure 20, however, is the largest platform in the La Isla cluster and west of the Ulua in general. Standing 3.75m high, Str. 20 measures 17x24m basally and is fronted on the east by two large terraces (each ca. 1.0m high) stepping down the upper 2.0m of the eastern terrace face. Structure 20 faces directly east to Str. 22 in Gualjoquito, roughly 600m distant. The orientations of these large platforms are also nearly identical: Str. 20, oriented 351 degrees 30 minutes and Str. 22 with an azimuth of 349 degrees. The local uniqueness of Str. 20, its apparent eastward orientation suggested by the aforementioned terraces, and the way in which it seems to be paired with Gualjoquito's Str. 22 all suggest that this massive platform was intimately linked in some way to activities occurring in the regional center across the river. Structure 19 is located roughly midway between the northern and southern groups and its east side has apparently eroded off the eastern bluff edge. No other evidence for prehistoric occupation was noted between the northern and southern groups. Artifacts were rarely found in this intervening area and construction debris was

equally uncommon. All evidence suggests, therefore, that the distinction between the northern and southern aggregates has some prehistoric significance and is not simply the product of the differential destruction of buildings in recent years.

All of the observed platforms were apparently faced with retaining walls built primarily of unmodified river cobbles. No evidence for the use of cut stone masonry was detected.

Excavations: Strs. 18, 19, 20, and the uppermost of Str. 20's eastern terraces were excavated in 1985.

Dates: Excavated and surface collected material indicate that Site 20 was in use from the Late Preclassic through Early Postclassic. Primary occupation falls in the Late Classic though subsequent use is substantial as well. Late Preclassic and Early Classic materials are sparse and derive from the fill of Str. 20. No material for radiometric dating was recovered.

## **Site 21**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/700 E3/67/600, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 21 is situated roughly half way between Sites 20 and 22 along the east edge of the low terrace, 91m south of the former locus and 88m north of the latter. The topographic situation of Site 21 is essentially identical to that described above for Site 20. The Ulua is located ca. 375m to the east. A short, steep run-off passes roughly southwest-northeast through the site; most cultural material was located east of this channel between it and the bluff edge.

Site Description: One cobble line (Feature 1), running roughly east-west and flush with ground surface, is the only evidence of prehistoric construction recognized at the site. Feature 1 is located near the east terrace margin and possibly represents a portion of a structure now lost to erosion over the terrace edge. Artifacts were thinly scattered over the site though one dense concentration of lithic material was noted on the eastern terrace margin. Over 900 pieces of

chipped stone debris, including both debitage and partially completed tools, were recovered from 90m<sup>2</sup> on the surface alone. Most of the material was andesite though obsidian was also found. No evidence was identified on the surface (nor in later excavations) for any construction associated with this debris.

Excavations: Two trenches, Ops. 21A and B, were dug cross-cutting the aforementioned lithic concentration in 1985.

Dates: Very few diagnostic artifacts were recovered in surface or excavated collections which would permit dating Site 21's occupation. No material suitable for radiometric assays was forthcoming in excavations. The available data point to occupation here in the Late Classic and Early Postclassic though which constitutes the primary period of use remains unknown.

## **Site 22**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/550 E3/67/600, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 22, 88m south of Site 21, is situated at the southern terminus of the north-south line of settlements stretched out along the eastern terrace edge. Located roughly 300m west of the Ulua, the topographic and resource situation of this locus is essentially identical to that noted for Sites 20-21. The principal distinguishing feature of Site 22's location is that the ground is more rolling here. The terrace summit is lower in the center than on either the western or eastern margins and there are numerous low (0.5m and under) rises and dips within this area.

Condition: Structure 12 and 13 on the western site edge had been leveled prior to our initial visit in 1983. These constructions were identified in 1983 by localized concentrations of building stones. Inspection of the eastern terrace margin revealed cobble concentrations near the summit which might have been the remnants of largely eroded structures. As with Site 20, therefore, it is possible that Site 22 was formerly somewhat larger.

Site Description: The 35 constructions comprising Site 22 are generally concentrated into two groups with scattered platforms and features dispersed around them. The group defined by Strs. 1-3, 5-10 occupies a low (ca. 0.5m high) natural rise 77m west of the east terrace margin. Large portions of this rise are formalized by stone-faced terraces, apparently in an effort to retard erosion and preserve flat living spaces around the platforms. These platforms are some of the largest edifices at Site 22, 0.55-1.05m high, and are arranged around all sides of a central patio. They are also locally unusual in their complexity (several have projections from the main platform) and in their tendency towards orthogonality in organization around the patio. Immediately off the southeast corner of the group is a depression 20x28x1.75m deep whose prehistoric significance remains uncertain. While it could be of modern origin there is no evidence to support such an interpretation. It is possible, therefore, that this was a borrow pit from which earth used in constructing the Site 22 structures derived. Clustered around the northern and eastern margins of the group are six constructions (Strs. 4, 14, 15, 17 and Features 1-2) which are much smaller and lower than the platforms delimiting the patio.

Located 32m east of the aforementioned group is the patio-focused aggregate defined by Strs. 18-30. Structures here are generally smaller and less complex than their western counterparts and there is no clear evidence that any effort was made to establish a common orientation for all of the platforms in the group. Structures 18, 22, 24, 29, and 30 are raised on flat ground while Strs. 23 and 25 through 28 are built into a low rise bordering the eastern terrace margin. The remaining structures at the site did not fall within any recognizable, patio-focused group. In general, edifices located outside patio groups are much smaller, lower, and less complex than are their counterparts within these aggregates.

Platforms were apparently faced with walls built largely of unmodified river cobbles. There is some evidence that not all structures at Site 22 were platforms. A short, steep wash immediately north of the east group revealed a thin pebble floor bounded on the east by two large, flat-laid stones all at roughly 0.25m below current ground level. This construction, which was not visible on the surface, may be the remnants of a surface-level building contemporary with the construction and use of the more prominent platforms in the site (the depth of the sub-surface feature is generally equivalent to the depths of basal construction units uncovered during excavation of the Site 22 platforms). How common these non-platform constructions were at Site 22 remains unknown.

Excavations: Structures 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 16, 18, and 29 were excavated in 1985.

Date: Occupation at Site 22 stretched from the Early Classic through the Early Postclassic, though the primary period of construction and use of this locus pertains to the Late Classic. This assessment is based on the analysis of excavated artifact collections from 1985. No material for radiometric dating was obtained.

### **Site 23**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/350 E3/67/450, 137-140m above sea level.

Location: Site 23 is situated atop the summit of the high terrace, ca. 150m west and 5.0m above Site 22. The modern town of La Isla is 1.1km to the west on the same terrace surface. Structures 22 through 24 and 29 through 33 are built into the east slope of the terrace. The terrace summit is flat and drainage appears poor. Away from the margins there are shallow depressions which contained some water at the beginning of the 1983 rainy season (early June) and much of this area was muddy in that year. The terrace edges seem somewhat higher and better drained. On the south the high terrace drops directly to the Uluva which runs east-west at this point while on the

east the 5.0m descent to the low terrace is gradual. The land runs evenly to the north and west and it is on this surface that most modern habitation is located. Building stones (cobbles), andesite, and a perennial source of water are found in the Rio Ulua, located 450m east of Site 23 and 40m south of it. In the latter case, the Ulua can only be reached via a steep descent.

Perennial water sources are rare on the summit of the upper terrace and the two modern towns west of the Ulua are found either near an easy descent to the Ulua (La Isla) or close-by one of its few permanent western tributaries (the Quebrada Guijo, Loma Larga).

Condition: Evidence for looting was minimal, though Str. 18 had been excavated on its north and west sides. Four possible structures (Strs. 27 through 30), defined now principally by concentrations of displaced building stones, were located in the northeast portion of the site. Two are in a cattle road and corral while the others are in a planted field. Structures on the southern edge of the site may have been lost to erosion into the Ulua. A surface collection (lot 23A/2) of artifacts, unrelated to any visible structures, was found eroding out of the southern terrace margin above the river. It is possible, therefore, that Site 23 was somewhat larger in the past, though unlikely that many of its constructions have been lost to erosion.

Site Description: Site 23 contains 45 constructions, 19 of which are platforms or surface-level structures and the remainder stone lines flush with current ground surface. Structures here are very widely dispersed, covering an area of roughly .1km<sup>2</sup>, with no clear groups definable among them. Only Strs. 14 and 29 have any significant elevation, 0.4m and 0.2m on the east respectively. Most of Site 23's constructions were apparently built directly on ground surface and have suffered relatively little burial subsequent to abandonment. This interpretation is supported by the results of excavation here in 1985.

The overall form of the site is a "V" open on the west and with the single most extensive building (Str. 14) at the point of convergence. The southern line consists primarily of surface-level structures while the northern has 12 stone lines arranged in a straight line extending for ca. 195m northwest of Str. 14. Additional structures are scattered to the east and southeast down the eastern slope of the terrace, several being located at the western margin of the lower terrace where it begins the ascent to the upper terrace.

Construction was apparently of unmodified river cobbles, with angular stones sometimes intermixed. At times the cobbles appear to have been set on end and not laid flat.

Excavations: Structures 4, 5, 8, 14, 19, and 29 were excavated in 1985 (74.4m<sup>2</sup> cleared).

Date: Surface collections were sparse and relatively few artifacts were recovered here in excavations. The site yielded no material suitable for radiometric dating. In general, based on the recorded diagnostic artifacts, occupation at Site 23 began in the Late Classic and continued through the Early and Late Postclassic periods and on into the Historic era. The principal period of construction and use at the site appears to fall in this most recent epoch.

### **Site 24**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/275 E3/68/250, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 24 is situated ca.250m south-southwest of Site 25 and 200m southwest of Site 26, set into the gradually sloping terrain leading down to the north bank of the Rio Hondo in the southwest portion of the zone. The land rises rapidly to the north towards the upper terrace supporting Site 25 and somewhat more gradually northwest to the lower eminence supporting Site 26. The drop to the Rio Hondo is steep but short.

Condition: A modern path cuts through the site across Str. 6 and Feature 1, probably resulting in the dislocation of some architectural remains.

Site Description: The eight structures and three features which comprise this locus are built into the slope overlooking the north bank of the Rio Hondo at a point where the terrain levels off slightly in its descent from the neighboring upland to the stream. Structure heights generally fall between 0.1-0.65m on their downslope sides, most were between 0.1-0.25m in altitude. The features consist of stone lines embedded in the earth ranging from 3-5m long. Two construction aggregates are evident, one consisting of Strs. 1-4 and Features 1 and 2 on the east and the other containing Strs. 5-8 and Feature 3 on the west. No plan governing the organization of these constructions was apparent and none had a clear patio focus. The location of structures was apparently dictated in large part by the local topography, the builders striving to take advantage of small elevation changes in the positioning of their buildings. Unmodified river cobbles were apparently favored for the construction of platform facings.

Excavations: None

Dates: Structure forms and sizes as well as organization point to an Early Postclassic date for the primary use of and construction at the locus. Surface collections were generally too small and undiagnostic to be of much help in dating occupation. One green obsidian blade fragment, from Str. 6, tentatively supports an Early Postclassic date as such material has consistently been associated with deposits of this time period in excavations.

## **Site 25**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/475 E3/68/375, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 25 is situated on the western edge of the upper terrace, bordered on the north and south by steep drop offs to the Rios Huerta and Hondo respectively. A short but steep run-off channel cuts through the site separating the northern structure cluster from the remainder of the locus. The effect of this topographic situation is to create a narrow, east-west running projection

of high land whose relatively flat summit is occupied by Site 25. Site 26 is 200m to the west down a 20m descent while Site 27 occupies the northern edge of the same ridge top as Site 25, 100m distant. The Rio Ulua is 400m to the west.

Condition: Looting was evident on Strs. 3 and 13, both of which were heavily damaged. A dense concentration of loose river cobbles was found lying on the south side of the patio defined by Strs. 1-4 in 1983 and may be the remains of a now-destroyed platform(s). Local reports of bulldozing in this area to clear stones from the surface further confirms the earlier existence of constructions that have now been lost. The south side of the Str. 1-4 group was also damaged in the course of laying a pipeline, as were Strs. 12 and 19 further to the west (the last two sustaining damage on their south flanks). The raising of a utility pole in the midst of the Str. 20-23 cluster may also have caused damage.

Site Description: The 23 structures of Site 25 are organized into four distinct groups varying in the extent of their patio focus. Structure heights range from 0-1.5m with most being between 0.2-0.6m in altitude. All of the constructions defining Site 25 are situated near the edges of elevated terrain overlooking steep drop-offs to the south and west. To the north and east of the platforms on the ridge top the ground slopes gradually down forming a ca. 3m deep depression above which the site rests. This low-lying area was under cultivation in 1983-1985, most of the site being covered in grass and scrub growth.

Structures 1-4 form a clear, patio-focused group on the east site margin situated above the precipitous descent to the Rio Hondo valley. As noted above, the south side of this group may have been closed by a recently destroyed construction. Looting and other disturbances make reconstruction of structure organization difficult. Nevertheless, it appears that these sizable constructions were irregularly organized around a central patio access to which was restricted in

part by saddles linking Strs. 1 and 3 on the north. Roughly 55m further west along the same ridge edge is a cluster of six very small and low platforms which, though forming a distinct aggregate, lack a clear patio focus. Structures 5 and 9 were located so as to take advantage of small changes in elevation in this area (0.2m or less). While lacking a patio focus Strs. 6-10 seem to be oriented almost due north-south. The largest cluster, defined by Strs. 11-19, is situated in the far southwestern corner of the locus ca. 20m distant from the Str. 6-10 aggregate. Unlike many central Santa Barbara groups, even those with sizable platforms, the structures which define this patio tend to share a consistent orientation (almost due north-south, Strs. 11, 13-15). This is all the more surprising given the uneven nature of the terrain, falling off as it does to the south and west, and the building of platforms to take advantage of this discrepancy in altitude. Structures 11, 12, 13, and 15 are noticeably steeper on their downslope flanks, a feature which makes them and the patio they surround seem all the more impressive when approached from these sides. Surrounding the patio group are smaller structures (Strs. 16, 18, 19) while a 0-elevation building was incorporated into the northeast corner of the main group (Str. 17). No clear evidence for construction restricting access to the patio was recognized. The far northwest group at the site, defined by Strs. 20-23, is situated 79m north of the southwest cluster, separated from the latter by a short, steep run-off channel. These four edifices occupy the highest point in the settlement and are small, low (none being more than 0.45m high) constructions dispersed without a clear patio focus. Structure 20 is a 0.35m high terrace facing east into the depression noted earlier.

The primary construction material recorded on the surface of all groups was the unmodified river cobble, though some angular rocks similar to material seen outcropping in the immediate vicinity were also recorded. Presumably these stones were used as platform facings or, in the case of 0-elevation buildings, as foundations for perishable upper walls. Structures 14

and 15 in the southwest cluster also incorporate natural outcrops into their northern walls. Cut stone blocks were noted in small amounts on the surface of the southwest group.

Excavations: Structures 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 15, 16, and 22 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: Occupation at Site 25 spans the Late Classic through Early Postclassic with constructions raised in both periods. The principal use of the Strs. 1-4, 5-10, and 20-23 clusters appears to fall in the Early Postclassic, though some Late Classic occupation in the first and last aggregates is attested. The large southwest cluster was inhabited principally in the Late Classic with some continued use into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 26**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/450 E3/68/175, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 26 is situated at the far western margin of the Huerta/Hondo zone on a ca. 10m high rise above the eastern Ulua terrace supporting Gualjoquito. The latter center is approximately 300m to the north while the closest upland site in the cluster, Site 25, overlooks the locus from the summit of a 20m-high rise roughly 200m to the east. The Ulua is 200m distant, the Rios Hondo and Huerta 150m and 200m to the south and north respectively. A small quebrada bounds the site on the north. A colluvial fan is found in the far northwest corner of the site against the eastern rise where the small run-off channel which originates in Site 25 issues from the hill. Site 26 occupies the westernmost extension of the upper terrace. The land slopes gradually down from east to west and south to north creating two relatively flat areas separated by a zone of more markedly descending terrain (the latter occupied by Strs. 8 and 16).

Condition: Structures 3, 6, and 8 had been looted (holes were found in their summits), Str. 1's southwest corner had been cut by a natural erosion channel, while a dense concentration of river cobbles in the far northern part of the site may indicate the presence of at least one destroyed

edifice. The foundations of a recent house found in the vicinity of Feature 5 and the residence still in use on the western site margin also strongly suggest that Site 26 was disturbed by modern activities, including stone robbing. By far the greatest agent of site destruction, however, is certainly the construction of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road which was cut down 10m through the western part of the locus. At least Strs. 1, 2, 7, and 17 were truncated by this route though it is likely that much more of the site was lost when the road was built. The last point is suggested by site form, Strs. 2-4, 6-7, 17-18 seem to define parts of a patio much of which was formerly located in the area removed by the road. Further, cobble constructions exposed near the summit of the road cut probably represent the remnants of once larger buildings removed by road construction (Feature 6 and 7). Site 26, therefore, is one of the most heavily disturbed settlements in Central Santa Barbara and was undoubtedly much larger in antiquity.

Site Description: Site 26 possesses 18 extant structures and seven features, the latter either lines of cobbles set flush with ground surface (Features 1-5) or discrete cobble deposits noted in the road cut, probably the fragmentary remains of destroyed edifices (Features 6-7). As noted above, these figures represent a minimum number of constructions for the locus. Structure heights range from 0-1.2m with most between 0.2-0.8m high. Reconstructing site organization is, for the reasons outlined earlier, quite difficult. Strs. 8-15 and Feats. 2-3, in the southern portion of the locus, may comprise an irregular group with constructions located, by-and-large, to take advantage of small changes in elevation. While a patio is possibly defined by Strs. 9-10 and 12-15, this is not clear. Further to the north, Strs. 1-7, 17-18, and Feats. 1, 6-7 may have bounded a sizable patio most of which was obliterated by the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road. The surviving evidence on structure organization suggests this interpretation as does the construction linking Strs. 6 and 7; saddles such as this were frequently used to interdict patio access in Central

Santa Barbara settlements. Structure 16 and Feature 4 were apparently part of neither group. There is no evidence that any attempt was made by the original builders to conform to a consistent pattern of structure orientation in raising these groups. Structure locations seem to be determined principally by the desire to take advantage of small changes in elevation to enhance platform heights on their downslope sides.

The primary building material found on the surface of Site 26 was the unmodified river cobble which was presumably employed in facing platform walls and as foundations for perishable upper constructions (Str. 18).

Excavations: Structures 5, 8, 9, 10, and 16 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: Site 26 was occupied from the Early Classic through Early Postclassic. The principal period of site use and construction fell in the Late Classic; continued occupation in the Early Postclassic apparently involved the raising of no new edifices on the site. No clear construction dating to the Early Classic was identified in excavations.

### **Site 27**

Map Coordinates: N/16/57/600 E3/68/400, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 27 occupies the northwestern edge of the upper terrace, ca. 100m north of Site 25, 150m west of Site 62, overlooking the floodplain of the Rio Huerta. This stream is roughly 125m to the north, the Ulua ca. 425m west, and the site of Gualjoquito is visible approximately 400m to the northeast and 20m below Site 27. Like Site 25, structures in this locus are found on high ground, predominately on the north and west terrace margins and to the south, avoiding a slightly lower area in the middle of the settlement.

Condition: Informant reports in 1988 strongly suggest that Site 27 was destroyed to build a housing development. These reports have not been confirmed.

Site Description: The 12 structures and three features which comprise Site 27 are scattered over low eminences across the locus without any apparent plan. More than half of the structures have no elevation while the highest construction rises no more than 1.0m. No clear patio groups were noted and most of the constructions are sighted so as to take advantage of small elevation changes. Structure 11 seems to have been a sizable terrace built to formalize and retard erosion along the natural terrace on the northwest corner of the site. The grouping of Feats. 1-3 and Strs. 10 and 12 in this area may suggest that this terrace was meant to enhance the formality and size of this small structure group. The size of the constructions involved, however, seem out of proportion to the extent of the terrace. Structure 1 may be the center of another small group (Strs. 1-2, 5-7) but the aggregate lacks a patio focus.

Unmodified river cobbles and angular stones (the latter available from nearby outcrops in the upland) were the predominant building stone evident on the surface. They were apparently used in facing walls for platforms and as foundations supporting now-vanished upper constructions in ground-level edifices (Strs. 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12). The features consist of stone lines flush with the ground surface.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, and 7 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: Site 27 was built and used exclusively in the Early Postclassic, based on diagnostic ceramics recovered in excavation, architectural forms, and site planning.

## **Site 28**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/700 E3/68/425, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 28 is situated at the base of the upper terrace supporting Site 27, immediately below and 75m north of that locus. Sitting on a 1.5m-high rise above the Rio Huerta terrace, the

ground slopes gradually down for 50m north to the stream channel. The slight eminence supporting Site 28 seems to be composed of outwash from the adjacent uplands.

Condition: A series of large tanks for the commercial cultivation of fish were built over the locus effectively destroying it in 1985.

Site Description: Site 28 consists of three structures no more than 0.25m high and two features forming a tightly clustered group. The three platforms define a patio open on the east and occupy the summit of the aforementioned rise. The two features, stone lines set flush with ground surface, are located further downslope to the north following the edge of the rise. Access to the patio was unimpeded. There was no evidence that the buildings ever shared a common azimuth. River cobbles and angular rocks were the predominant building materials seen on the surface. Presumably these materials were used to face platform walls or as foundations for upper walls on 0-elevation edifices.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused form of the group suggests that its principal period of use and construction dates to the Late Classic. Diagnostic ceramics from the small surface collection made at the site support this interpretation.

### **Site 29** (Deleted)

Site 29 consisted of a surface artifact collection found at the base of the upper terrace on the Rio Huerta floodplain immediately below Site 31. This association with Site 31 was not initially recognized. It now seems most probable that Site 29 represents material eroding out of the upper locus and not a distinct settlement.

### **Site 30**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/600 E3/68/950, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 30 is situated on the north edge of the upper terrace overlooking the Rio Huerta, ca. 250m to the north, and its floodplain. Site 30 is reached from the floodplain by a steep ascent up the 20m high terrace face. Sites 31 and 27 are located 400 and 550m to the west respectively along the same north terrace edge. The ground in the immediate vicinity of the locus is flat with numerous basalt outcrops.

Site Description: Site 30 consists of a single quadrilateral structure defined by stone lines composed of unmodified river cobbles and angular rocks currently flush with ground surface. The building measures 6.9m by 5m and is oriented 78 degrees 30 minutes. Presumably these stones acted as a foundation for perishable upper walls. Few stones were noted within the perimeter these lines define.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 31**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/525 E3/68/550, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 31 rests on the north margin of the upper terrace roughly 20m above and ca. 225m to the south of the Rio Huerta. Site 30 is approximately 400m to the east while Site 27 is 150m to the northwest, both situated on the same terrace edge. The ground slopes gradually down to the east and west from the site and more markedly to the north towards the steep descent to the Huerta floodplain. Immediately to the east and west of the locus are deep clefts cut by seasonal run-off channels leading down towards the Huerta. Roughly 200m to the south is a deep, long quebrada trending east-west and separating Site 31 from Sites 32-34 in this direction.

Condition: A hole measuring 0.6m deep and 0.9m wide was dug into the west flank of Str. 6.

Site Description: Site 31 consists of 15 structures and one feature, the latter a stone line embedded in current ground surface. Structure heights range from 0-1.6m with most falling in the 0-0.5m range. The majority of the constructions (Strs. 1-10, Feat. 1) comprise a tightly nucleated, patio-focused cluster atop a slight eminence on the terrace edge with the ground sloping down gradually in all directions from them save to the north where the descent is steeper. Structure placement was apparently dictated by the desire to take advantage of these small changes in elevation, thus enhancing the platforms' downslope flanks. There is no evidence that the edifices comprising this group ever conformed to a common orientation. The Site 31 patio group is made unusual for Central Santa Barbara by the placement of three constructions, Strs. 1, 8, and Feat. 1, within the enclosed area. Access to the patio was, apparently, unimpeded. Structures 3 and 10 are terraces built off Strs. 2 and 9 respectively and may have been designed to slightly enlarge the area of flat living space within this steeply sloping portion of the group. The remaining constructions at the site (Strs. 11-15) and generally lower than the patio-centered structures and are dispersed in a rough northwest-southeast line away from that group.

Platform walls and structure foundations were apparently fashioned primarily of unmodified river cobbles though some angular rocks available from nearby outcrops were also used.

Excavations: Structures 1, 5, 6, and 7 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: The principal use and construction of Site 31 falls within the Late Classic with some possible habitation continuing into the Early Postclassic. There is no evidence of construction dating to the latter period.

### **Site 32**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/475 E3/68/575, 180m above sea level.

Location: This locus is situated roughly 150m south of Site 31 and 250m south-southeast of Site 25. Site 32 overlooks the deep, east-west trending quebrada which borders Site 25 on the south and runs 200m south of Site 31. The effect of this stream bed is to separate the portion of the upper terrace supporting Sites 25-27 and 30-32 from the bulk of this zone to the south. The land supporting Site 32 is relatively flat, sloping down gradually and then more drastically to the south into the dry stream bed and less precipitously to the west and east. The Rio Huerta is ca. 300m to the north while the Ulua flows 600m to the west.

Site Description: Two structures, defined by stone lines set flush with current ground surface, were recorded at Site 32 clustered together on the edge of the drop-off to the quebrada. The clearest of these buildings measures 2m square. Stones used in building these apparent foundations were unmodified cobbles and angular rocks.

Excavations: None

Dates: Surface collections were insufficient to date this site. Similarly, site form is not terribly useful in this case of two constructions. It may be that Site 32 is part of the very dispersed Early Postclassic occupation of the Huerta/Hondo sub-region characterized by low to 0-elevation structures distributed without apparent patio foci over the landscape (see Site 27).

### **Site 33**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/375 E3/68/650, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 33 is 100m south-southeast and across the aforementioned quebrada from Site 32, 41m west of Site 34, and 425m south of the Rio Huerta. The Rio Hondo is roughly 325m south of the locus. Site 33, like Site 34 to the east, clings to the north edge of the terrace overlooking the east-west trending dry stream channel which cuts south of Site 32. The ground is generally even here, sloping down gently from north to south away from the quebrada. A short, deep cleft

cut by a seasonal run-off is located immediately south of the locus separating it from Sites 37 and 38 to the south and southwest respectively.

Site Description: Site 33 consists of 11 structures ranging in height from 0.1-0.9m; most stand between 0.1-0.5m tall. The constructions are arranged into two distinct groups each occupying slight eminences on the bluff edge above the east-west trending quebrada. The largest cluster, containing the most sizable buildings, consists of Strs. 1-8 which are arranged irregularly around a patio at the far western terrace edge. The ground slopes down dramatically to the north, west, and south of the cluster into the east-west quebrada (on the north and west) and a shorter gully (on the south). The terrain to the east rises initially before gradually descending. Platforms in this aggregate were situated to take advantage of these changes in elevation to increase the heights of their downslope flanks (especially evident for the largest edifices, Strs. 1 and 8). The patio surface itself is relatively flat, open on the south, and with access to its interior unimpeded by construction.

The second group, defined by Strs. 9-11, is located 61m to the northeast on the north terrace margin. These three constructions surround a patio on all sides save the south. Once again, there were no apparent obstacles to entering the patio. In both cases, structure arrangements do not conform to canons of orthogonality but were conditioned by small changes in elevation.

Unmodified river cobbles, supplemented by angular rocks derived from nearby outcrops, were apparently used to face platform walls.

Excavations: Structures 1, 6, 9, and 11 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: The primary period of occupation and construction of the Str. 9-11 group was the Early Postclassic. Some Late Classic occupation is attested here as well though Strs. 9-11 were

probably built in the later period. The situation is less clear in the Str. 1-8 cluster. Excavations indicate that this group was occupied in the Early Postclassic though when the platforms were raised remains uncertain. The size and organization of Strs. 1-8 suggests a Late Classic date for construction of the group.

### **Site 34**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/400 E3/68/825, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 34 is 41m east of Site 33, occupying the same raised terrace edge on the south margin of the east-west trending quebrada. The Rio Huerta is 400m to the north, the Rio Hondo roughly 500m to the southwest. Terrain here slopes down gradually from north to south, away from the dry channel, and from east to west. The descent to the quebrada on the north is steep.

Condition: Structures 6-9 were apparently stripped of their stones to facilitate planting.

Site Description: Site 34 consists of 14 structures and three features, the latter isolated stone lines flush with the current ground surface. Most of the constructions here lack elevation, the highest rising no more than 0.2m. Three very irregular clusters were noted all occupying slight rises above the surrounding terrain. The groups composed of Strs. 3-5 and 7-9 each define a central patio around which the edifices are very irregularly arranged. Access to these central spaces was unimpeded. The Str. 11-14 aggregate lacks a patio focus. The remaining constructions were dispersed over the landscape. All of the structures were situated to take advantage of small changes in elevation. Nevertheless, there is some evidence that buildings in the two patio-focused groups did conform to common alignments by-and-large, being cardinally oriented in each case.

Structures 1-5, 1-, and Feats. 1-3 were faced and/or built primarily with unmodified river cobbles supplemented by some angular rocks that were probably procured from nearby outcrops. Structures 11-14, on the other hand, were defined by surface lines built almost exclusively of

angular stones. Outcrops of this material are frequent in the vicinity of these constructions.

Structures 6-9 were associated primarily with surface scatters of very small, angular stones unlike those found elsewhere at the locus. It must be borne in mind, however, that the last constructions had been extensively cleared of stones; what was left behind for us to observe was not a representative sample of their original construction material.

Excavations: Structures 5 and 14 were excavated in 1984.

Dates: Excavations yielded negligible quantities of undiagnostic artifacts. The sizes and forms of the structures at Site 34, their dispersal over the terrain, the nature of the uncovered architecture, along with the general paucity of artifacts, suggest that this locus was occupied and built primarily in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 35**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/200 E3/68/625, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 35 is part of a cluster of settlements (Sites 35-38) located on the south margin of the upper terrace overlooking the valley of the Rio Hondo. Site 35 is roughly 225m south of Site 33 supported by the same high shelf of land which underlies the latter locus. Site 24 is 350m to the north-northwest closer to the Rio Hondo, approximately 20m below the terrace summit. The Rio Hondo itself is 200m to the southwest down a steep 40m-high descent. Site 36 is located 63m to the southwest, separated from Site 35 by a ca. 4m high eminence protruding from the terrace. Sites 37 and 38 are 68m and 169m to the northwest, across a short, deep cleft cut by a seasonal channel. Site 35, therefore, occupies a narrow area of flat land within a topographically complex zone, the ground sloping down markedly to the north and south into stream channels and rising to the west.

Condition: Most of the structures were disturbed either by planting or construction. A fence cuts across the site and a modern house occupies its northeast margin. Surface evidence of a now-destroyed construction (scattered building stones) was noted in the vicinity of this house, ca. 75m northeast of the site, but was not mapped.

Site Description: Site 35 consists of 17 structures standing from 0-1.0m high, most falling in the 0-0.5m range. The largest buildings at the locus occupy the highest point of land where they define a patio enclosed on all sides (Strs. 1-3, 6-7). While these structures are situated along the edges of the drop-off to the north and south they are still generally oriented between approximately 2 degrees 30 minutes to 5 degrees west of north. Patio access was restricted by construction linking Strs. 3-6 on the east side only. Another possible, though far more irregular, aggregate is composed of Strs. 13-17 situated downslope and to the southeast of the main patio cluster. These four structures are a series of small terraces built into the steep upper slopes of the descent to the Rio Hondo. While clustering together, Strs. 13-17 share no common orientation. The remaining, usually small, constructions are dispersed away from the Strs. 1-3, 6-7 cluster. Structures 11 and 12 to the southwest are the most complex of these edifices consisting of a low terrace (Str. 12) built into the western rise apparently to create a level surface for Str. 11. This amount of labor was rarely invested elsewhere in preparing land for building.

Platform and terrace facings, as well as the foundations which define 0-elevation buildings, were primarily built of unmodified river cobbles with some use made of angular stones. The latter were probably derived from nearby outcrops.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and especially the nucleated organization of structures at the site point to a Late Classic date for principal occupation and construction. Surface collections, though small, confirmed this interpretation.

### **Site 36**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/150 E3/68/550, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 36 is part of the same cluster of four loci which includes Sites 35 and 37-38. Site 35 is 63m to the northeast, the two settlements being separated from each other by a roughly 4m-high eminence projecting from the terrace. Site 36 is built into steeply sloping terrain descending to the south towards the Rio Hondo ca. 175m distant and 40m down from the locus and to the north into a deep quebrada. Sites 37 and 38 are 115m and 148m respectively north across this short, but deep, seasonal run-off that issues from the upland plain.

Site Description: Site 36 consists of six structures of which only Str. 1 has any elevation, ca. 1.1m on its downslope flank. The constructions do not define a clear patio nor do they seem to share a consistent orientation. Structure placement appears to have been dictated by the local topography. Platform facings and structure foundations were built primarily of unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: No surface material useful in dating the locus was recovered. The low sizes and distribution of the structures, without an obvious patio focus, may point to an Early Postclassic date for principal construction and use. This interpretation must remain more tentative than other chronological placements based on site form given the unusual topographic situation of Site 36. Building on these steep slopes may have forced deviation from accepted canons of settlement organization.

### **Site 37**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/250 E3/68/625, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 37 is situated within the cluster of four loci which includes Sites 35-38. This settlement is 68m northwest of Site 35 and 115m north of Site 36, isolated from both by the short, steep quebrada that cuts through the cluster. The Rio Hondo is 275m to the south and roughly 40m down from the terrace summit on which Site 37 rests. The settlement is bounded on the north by another east-west trending seasonal stream bed across which Site 33 is located ca. 150m distant. Site 37, therefore, occupies a narrow finger of relatively flat upland terrain with the ground sloping down rapidly to the north and south and more gradually to the east.

Condition: Structures here were disrupted by tree roots that intruded into all constructions; a large ant nest on Str. 7 may have also dislocated some architectural features.

Site Description: The 11 structures which comprise this settlement stand 0-1.4m high, most rising between 0-0.6m. These constructions are tightly nucleated, the largest edifices enclose a patio open on the northwest (Strs. 1-3, 7-11) while the remainder are clustered off that patio group's southwest corner (Strs. 4-6). The patio cluster occupies the highest land in this portion of the terrace and, to a certain extent, structure locations were determined by small changes in elevation (Strs. 2, 5-9 in particular were built so as to enhance the heights of their downsloping sides). Some effort seems to have been devoted to aligning Strs. 9-11 to a common orientation (roughly 9 degrees east of north) though, on the whole, the patio group is not arranged orthogonally. Access to the patio was not restricted.

Platform facings and structure foundations for 0-elevation buildings consist of angular rocks, approximately 0.1-0.3m in diameter, similar in appearance to those found in natural exposures throughout the upland plain. Some river cobbles were also used.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and forms of the structures as well as their nucleated, patio organization point to primary occupation and construction here in the Late Classic. Surface collections were insufficiently large and diagnostic to test this notion.

### **Site 38**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/275 E3/68/525, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 38 is part of the cluster of loci containing Sites 35-38. This locus is situated on the western edge of the same finger of upland terrain which supports Site 37, 73m to the east. The land supporting the settlement is relatively flat but slopes down rapidly to the south towards the Rio Hondo ca. 200m away, to the north into the quebrada separating the locus from Site 33, roughly 175m to the northeast, and west towards the Ulua. The descent towards the Rio Hondo is approximately 40m while Site 24 is located near the base of the terrace, ca. 20m down and 200m to the west.

Site Description: Site 38 contains eight structures ranging in height from 0-0.8m. The majority (Strs. 3-8) are built into a series of low (ca. 0.2m high) rises in the eastern portion of the locus where they enclose a patio open on the southeast. These constructions are not oriented to a common azimuth and their positions, by-and-large, seem determined by small changes in elevation. While Strs. 3 and 4 are linked by a saddle, entrance to the patio seems to have been largely unrestricted. Structures 1 and 2 are dispersed to the northwest of the main cluster.

Platform faces and, in the case of the 0-elevation Str. 8, building foundations were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles and angular rocks of the sort commonly found in outcrops throughout the zone.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and forms of the structures, including the use of saddles, and the patio focus of at least part of the site, point to principal occupation and construction here in the Late Classic. No surface materials useful in dating the locus were recovered.

### **Site 39**

Map Coordinates: N/16/57/075 E3/68/650, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 39 is situated on the summit of a ridge rising roughly 5m above the upper terrace, the land here descending steeply to the south towards the Rio Hondo ca. 175m distant and 45m below the locus. Site 35 is approximately 100m to the north and Site 40 sits 75m to the east-southeast. The ridge itself runs east-west and is roughly 150m x 70m at its base. The summit is very narrow providing little level space for construction.

Site Description: Given the dense ground cover that obscured the settlement when visited, it is very difficult to reconstruct both its form and total size. Seven possible structures were recognized here, all but two of which had no apparent elevations (Strs. 2 and 4 stood no more than 0.2 and 0.5m high). Strs. 1-5 may have formed a cluster on the southwest portion of the ridge but it was not clear whether they surrounded a patio. The remaining two constructions were also found on the south edge of the ridge further to the east. Basal dimensions of these edifices range from 5.6m by 8.0m to 1.5m by 2.0m, with most concentrated towards the smaller end of this range. No particular orientation was shared by all Site 39 structures. Placement of buildings was determined by the builders' desire to take advantage of small changes in natural elevation. Construction of platform facings and structure foundations was primarily of unmodified river cobbles and angular stones, the latter probably derived from nearby outcrops of similar material.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown.

## **Site 40**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/025 E3/68/750, 178m above sea level.

Location: Site 40 is situated 75m east-southeast of Site 39 near the base of the ridge supporting the former settlement. The locus is built into a gradual rise to the east towards the summit of the upper terrace overlooking a narrow linear depression running northwest-southeast. A seasonal tributary of the Rio Hondo trends northeast-southwest through the southern portion of the settlement isolating Strs. 9 and 10 from the remainder of the group. The Rio Hondo is ca. 200m to the southwest and 35m below the locus. Site 40, therefore, occupies the eastern, gradual slopes of a slight depression in the upper terrace roughly 2.0m below the summit of that zone.

Site Description: Site 40 consists of 10 structures and one feature, the latter a stone line set flush with ground surface and running for an observed 29m southeast-northwest. Structures range in height from 0-0.7m with half lacking elevation entirely. While there appear to be two clusters of structures occupying relatively flat shelves in the sloping terrain or built into the eastern rise, no patio focus is apparent for either of them. Similarly, there seems to have been little, if any, effort invested in laying out these buildings on a common orientation. Structure locations seem primarily determined by local changes in elevation. In general, structures at Site 40 are dispersed along a rough southwest to northeast running line without any clear pattern to their placement. Basal construction and building foundations are fashioned of unmodified river cobbles and angular stones.

Excavation: None

Dates: The dispersed organization of the locus and the small structure sizes point to Site 40's construction and use during the Early Postclassic. Surface collections were insufficient in size to test this chronological placement.

## **Site 41**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/700 E3/68/750, 175m above sea level.

Location: Site 41 is situated on the south slope of a ca. 25m-high ridge overlooking the Rio Piedras Amarillas which is roughly 100m to the southwest and 15m below the locus. This stream is a perennial tributary of the Rio Hondo. The southeast-northwest running ridge occupied by Site 41 separates the two rivers. Their confluence is approximately 350m northwest of the locus. Site 40 is 300m almost due north of the settlement while Site 42 is 150m to the northeast on the other side of the ridge overlooking the Rio Hondo. Construction at Site 41 occupies a small area of flat to gently sloping terrain within the otherwise steep ridge escarpment. The summit of the rise is very narrow at this point and supported no recorded occupation.

Condition: A small concentration of possible building stones (cobbles) was recorded on the east side of the site, possibly the remnants of a destroyed structure.

Site Description: Site 41 consists of three structures and one small, 3m in diameter, concentration of cobbles. The edifices are built into gently sloping terrain in the midst of otherwise steep descents. The structures range in height from 0.2-0.5m, consistently higher on their downsloping flanks (uphill sides are 0-0.1m high). The structures and one rock concentration cluster around four sides of a small patio, access to the central 56m<sup>2</sup> being restricted by the close placement of the buildings. Structure 3 is a terrace built on the southern, downslope side of the group, apparently to expand the area of usable space and retard erosion in this direction. No common orientation was noted for the structures in the group and building placement seems determined by local changes in elevation. Platform and terrace faces were built primarily of rounded river cobbles with some use of angular stones, the latter probably obtained from nearby outcrops.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the group points to its construction and use in the Late Classic. No surface material was recovered which would serve to test this temporal placement.

### **Site 42**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/725 E3/68/875, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 42 is situated roughly 150m northeast of Site 41 on the summit of the ridge into which the latter settlement is built. This ridge separates the Rios Hondo and Piedras Amarillas, two perennial streams which join 400m to the northwest. The Rio Hondo is ca. 225m to the north, the Rio Piedras Amarillas 200m to the southwest. Unlike most of the ridge summit, the land supporting Site 42 is relatively flat sloping down gradually from the northern and southern portions of the locus to an east-west trending quebrada that cuts through the site eventually entering the Rio Piedras Amarillas. Structures 9-12 occupy a low rise defining the northeast side of this flat terrain, on the southwest the ground drops approximately 7.0m to a narrow terrace above the Rio Piedras Amarillas. Frequent outcrops of what appears to be basalt suggest that this resistant material underlies the eminence.

Site Description: Site 42 consists of 13 structures ranging from 0-0.45m high. All constructions here are situated atop locally elevated spots, avoiding lower-lying zones on the ridge summit. Structures 1-8 form a nucleated group in the southeastern portion of the settlement overlooking the drop towards the Rio Piedras Amarillas. Structures 1-2 and 4-8, the largest platforms in this cluster, define a patio while the 0-elevation buildings, Strs. 3 and 5 are located slightly back from, and southeast of, the central space. Though not strictly orthogonal, some effort seems to have been invested in organizing the structures so that they conform to roughly the same orientation, ranging from 331 degrees 30 minutes to 350 degrees 30 minutes. Most are aligned between 340

and 345 degrees. Access to the patio was not restricted. Structures 9 and 10, and 11 and 12 form pairs located to the northeast of the Str. 1-8 cluster. The first dyad is built into the top of the slope leading down to the Rio Hondo to the northeast, the latter into the summit of the same ridge, this time facing southwest toward the Rio Piedras Amarillas. No common orientation was shared among these buildings, even within the same pair. Structure 13 is isolated 94m to the northwest of the Str. 1-8 aggregate.

Platform walls and building foundations (Strs. 3 and 5) were built primarily of angular stones which could have easily been obtained from the numerous outcrops dotting the ridge. River-worn cobbles were apparently used in much smaller numbers. Structure 5 incorporates a portion of a natural outcrop into its southeast wall.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown. Surface collected material was not sufficiently diagnostic to help place the settlement temporally nor is site form, under these conditions, of great chronological use.

#### **Site 44**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/100 E3/68/150, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 44 occupies a narrow pass through the hills bordering the Huerta/Hondo zone on the south. This pass trends northeast-southwest and connects the Huerta/Hondo area with the larger Inguaya valley to the south. The narrow, but relatively flat zone supporting Site 44 is delimited on the northwest and southeast by the steep slopes of the bordering hills, the former rise supporting Site 43 roughly 175m to the northwest. The ground within the pass slopes down gradually from southwest to northeast and a quebrada flows against the northwestern hill base ca. 11m from the locus. This channel issues into the Rio Hondo approximately 175m to the northeast of Site 44.

Site Description: Site 44 consists of one structure and three features, the latter a series of unconnected stone lines embedded in current ground surface and running from 3-8m long. The one structure has no elevation, consisting of a clearly defined quadrilateral defined by stone lines with the interior space completely taken up with tightly packed rocks. The constructions at the site form a tightly nucleated cluster but lack a clear patio focus. Structure 1 and Feats. 2-3 are oriented in roughly the same manner, falling between 47-52 degrees, Feat. 1 is offset from this pattern. The foundations that comprise Str. 1 and Feat. 1-3 were built out of angular basalt, a rock which frequently outcrops in the surrounding hills.

Excavation: None

Dates: Unknown. No artifacts were noted on the surface and the site form is not temporally diagnostic.

### **Site 45**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/950 E3/68/375, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 45 is situated on a narrow terrace overlooking the junction of the Rios Hondo and Piedras Amarillas. The main channel of the Hondo is ca. 75m to the north-northeast while Site 36 is 250m across the river and within sight of the locus. Site 44 lies 250m to the northwest, separated from Site 45 by a projection of the southern hills. The land here slopes down gradually from southeast to northwest and somewhat more rapidly from southwest to northeast. The southwestern margin of the terrace is defined by the steep ascent to the southern hills while on the northeast there is a precipitous 5m drop to the Rio Hondo.

Condition: The site is defined by two scatters of apparent building stones and a dispersed surface collection of artifacts. This suggests that any structures which once stood at the locus have long-since been destroyed.

Site Description: Site 45 contains two concentrations of apparent building stones (river-worn cobbles and angular rocks) located on the edge of the 5m descent to the Rio Hondo. Artifacts were found scattered over much of the terrace supporting the site and were not localized. No clear evidence of structure forms nor organization remained at the locus.

Excavations: None

Dates: The diagnostic ceramics recovered in the general surface collection were from glazed vessels which appear to date to the 19th or early 20th centuries. One quartz flake was also recovered here. It seems likely, therefore, that Site 45 dates to the late historic period. Local informants did not remember any buildings on this site, however.

#### **Site 46**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/900 E3/68/675, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 46 is situated on flat terrain roughly 3m above the Rio Hondo within the crux formed by the junction of that stream with the Rio Piedras Amarillas. The land here slopes down very gradually from southeast to northwest. To the southeast the land rises rapidly to the ridge which supports Sites 41, 42, and 47 (150m 200m, and 250m distant, respectively) while Site 39 is 175 to the north across the Rio Hondo.

Condition: No structures were found on Site 46 and it appears likely that most of the locus has been destroyed by the raising of a small cluster of modern houses on the southeastern ridge slopes overlooking the settlement. The residents of these houses reported finding artifacts, including pottery and a metate, during excavations for domestic features around their residences.

Site Description: Site 46 consists of a surface scatter of artifacts found primarily at the base of the southeastern ridge, on the highest point between that rise and the surrounding rivers. It seems likely that this material had washed out of a settlement further upslope. Survey of this area failed

to locate firmer evidence of occupation in part, as noted above, because this area is largely built over by modern construction.

Excavations: None

Dates: The surface collection contained insufficiently diagnostic material to allow temporal placement.

### **Site 47**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/650 E3/68/825, 175m above sea level.

Location: Site 47 rests on a narrow shelf of flat land within the sloping terrain rising up to the ridge summit supporting Site 42. The locus overlooks the narrow terrace of the Rio Piedras Amarillas and sits roughly 1m above the level of that plain. The river is approximately 100m to the south while Site 42 is another 6m above and 150m to the north-northeast. Sites 47 and 41 occupy nearly identical topographic positions on the same south-facing slope roughly 100m apart.

Site Description: Site 47 consists of three structures and one feature, the latter a 3m-long stone line set flush with current ground surface. Structure heights range from 0-0.4m. The constructions are tightly nucleated on the narrow shelf they occupy, surrounding a very small patio area on all sides. Structure locations were apparently dictated by small changes in elevation and there is no evidence that any effort was made to lay out the site according to a consistent orientation. Access to the patio was not restricted. Platform facings and/or building foundations were fashioned primarily of angular stones supplemented by some river-worn cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused plan of the site suggests a Late Classic date for its construction and primary period of use. No artifacts were found on the surface of the locus with which to test this interpretation.

## **Site 48**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/975 E3/68/975, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 48 is situated ca. 225m northeast of Site 42, separated from the latter by two small but fast-running tributaries of the Rio Hondo issuing from the steep escarpment of the Cerro Pena Blanca immediately to the east. These perennial streams are approximately 50-75m to the southwest. The land here rises generally from west to east towards the mass of the cerro and Site 48 occupies a shelf of land roughly 8m above the aforementioned tributaries. Basalt outcrops are common in the area. The tributaries of the Hondo cut a progressively deeper channel the further back in towards the mountain they go.

Site Description: Site 48 consists of two structures situated on the southwest edge of a relatively flat ridge summit overlooking two tributaries of the Rio Hondo. Both structures are roughly 0.3m high. They measure 2.5m by 6m and 2m by 3.5m, are 8m apart, and oriented 12 degrees 30 minutes and 43 degrees. Platform facings were built of angular stones and, to a lesser extent, unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown. No artifacts were noted on the surface and the site plan is not temporally diagnostic.

## **Site 49**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/975 E3/69/125, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 49 is situated on a generally flat eminence overlooking the Hondo tributaries noted in the description of Site 48. These streams are 75m south of and 15m down from the locus. The ground surrounding Site 49 slopes down from southeast to northwest, this settlement occupying an area near where the ascent to the Cerro Pena Blanca changes from gradual to steep. Site 48, in

a similar topographic situation, is ca. 150m due west and on the same rise overlooking the Rio Hondo. Site 50 is 133m to the northeast across a 5-6m deep depression. Basalt outcrops are common across the site and in the immediately surrounding slopes.

Condition: Structures 1, 2, 8, and 11 were cut by a shallow footpath while Str. 8 had been damaged by a 0.4m-wide and 0.2m-deep ditch that was cut across its summit. Tree roots may have disturbed the architecture of several other constructions.

Site Description: Site 49 contains 11 structures ranging in height from 0-0.9m with most between 0-0.3m in altitude. Constructions are tightly nucleated, Strs. 2-10 defining a patio occupied in part by Str. 11. Structure 1 is located immediately off the northwest side of this patio-focused cluster. There is no clear pattern of orthogonality noted in the orientation of the group. Rather, buildings seem to be located so as to take advantage of small changes in elevation, especially the drop-off to the south towards the Rio Hondo. Access to the patio was not obviously impeded. Spaces between buildings, especially on the northwest, were narrow, however, and entrance to the central area could have been easily controlled here. Structures 5 and 6 are terraces on the southwest flank of the patio and may have been built to retard erosion on this steeply sloping terrain above the Rio Hondo and so to preserve the patio surface.

Platform facings and building foundations (Str. 3) were built of angular stones supplemented by river cobbles. The former could have been easily obtained from the numerous outcrops that dot the site and hillslopes in the immediate vicinity. Structure 1's southwest basal wall, in fact, incorporates a large basalt outcrop.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused site plan of Site 49 suggests that it was built and occupied primarily in the Late Classic. Artifacts recovered from the surface of the settlement were not sufficiently diagnostic to test this notion.

### **Site 50**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/100 E3/69/200, 183m above sea level.

Location: Site 50 is 133m northeast of Site 49 across a broad, 6m-deep depression. The locus is situated on a low rise above this dip on generally flat land which drops down gradually southeast to northwest. The Rio Hondo tributaries which border Sites 48 and 49 are roughly 250m to the southwest while another perennial affluent of that watercourse, the Rio Jucuntal, passes ca. 10m northeast of the site. The drop from Site 50 to that stream is approximately 5m. Site 51 is 100m north and across the aforementioned stream from Site 50 while Site 55 is 150m to the east-northeast.

Site Description: Site 50 consists of eight structures between 0.2-0.7m high. Constructions at this locus are arranged into two groups, Strs. 1-3 forming a loose aggregate somewhat downslope from the patio-focused cluster comprised of Strs. 4-8. The Str. 1-3 aggregate lacks a clear patio focus. Both groups consist of equally large buildings and in neither case does there seem to have been a common orientation along which platforms were laid out. Access to the Str. 4-8 patio was unimpeded though the narrow distances separating surrounding structures would have made it relatively easy to control entrance to this enclosed space.

As with many sites in this upland area, platform walls were principally built of angular stones easily obtained from the many nearby outcrops. Structures 5-7 incorporated natural outcrops into their basal walls and building location may have been determined, in part, by a

desire to take advantage of these in situ stones for construction. River cobbles were also used in constructions to a lesser extent.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focus of much of the group, together with the relatively large sizes of the buildings, suggest principal occupation and use at Site 50 during the Late Classic. No temporally diagnostic material was recovered from the surface of Site 50.

### **Site 51**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/225 E3/69/200, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 51 is ca. 100m north and across the Rio Juncuntal, a perennial tributary of the Rio Hondo, from Site 50. Sites 52 and 149 are located 365m and 115m to the northwest and north respectively. While, in general, the land here slopes gradually up from west to east towards Cerro Pena Blanca, Site 51 occupies two topographically distinct locations. Structures 1-5 in the southeast corner of the site rest atop a 5m-high extension of the eastern hill overlooking the Rio Juncuntal. The land slopes down rapidly from this eminence to the south and west. Structures 6-10, in turn, occupy much lower terrain 105m to the northwest. Here the land ascends more gradually eastward. A seasonal stream channel courses past the northern and western base of the low rise supporting Strs. 6-10 before joining the Rio Juncuntal.

Condition: The only signs of significant disturbance took the form of the removal and piling up of building stones atop Strs. 6-10, apparently to clear the area for planting.

Site Description: The 10 structures comprising Site 51 range in height from 0-0.6m; six have no preserved elevation. Structures 1-5 are dispersed along the summit and upper southern slopes of the high extension of the eastern hills, roughly 5-6m above the more gently sloping terrain in this area. Most of the edifices are oriented in a rough southwest-northeast direction though among the

four aligned in this fashion specific azimuths vary from 10 to 26 degrees east of north. The positioning of Strs. 1-5 was apparently conditioned by the desire of their builders to locate them at the edge of descents to the surrounding terrain and not by any adherence to principles of orthogonality. The remaining buildings, Strs. 6-10, form a more nucleated, patio-focused cluster atop a local high point elevated 1.0m above the surrounding terrain to the south and west. Defining a patio on all sides, the placement of these structures was apparently determined by small changes in elevation; each is situated on sloping terrain, thus enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks. Access to the enclosed space was not restricted.

Platform facings and building foundations were made of small to medium-sized angular stones easily obtained from outcrops in the higher portions of the locus. Structure 3 incorporates a natural outcrop into its perimeter wall. The well-delineated wall lines of Str. 2 consist of angular rocks set on end, a detail not attested in other buildings at the site.

Excavations: Structures 1, 7, and 8 were dug in 1985.

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused site plan of Strs. 6-10 points to the construction and use of these buildings in the Late Classic. Excavations of Strs. 7 and 8 support this notion but also reveal continued Early Postclassic use of the cluster. The dispersed organization of Strs. 1-5 and their generally low size point to principal occupation here in the Early Postclassic. The probe into Str. 1 did not produce sufficiently diagnostic material to test this placement. We commonly observed in the excavation of Early Postclassic buildings that few artifacts were associated with them. The Str. 1 investigations conform to this apparent temporal pattern. Structure 2 had a collection of roof tiles on its surface possibly pointing to its relatively recent occupation.

Informants in the area could not, however, recall the existence of a house here. Occupation at Site

51, therefore, spans the Late Classic through Early Postclassic with some habitation dating to the Historic period. Occupancy in both the Late Classic and Early Postclassic is well represented.

### **Site 52**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/400 E3/68/950, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 52 is 365m northwest of Site 51, separated from the latter by the quebrada which runs past Strs. 6-10 at the latter settlement. The land slopes down gradually from east to west, Site 34 being 150m further west and slightly downslope from Site 52. Site 52 occupies a low rise above the surrounding terrain and numerous rock outcrops, especially of vesicular basalt, protrude from this slight eminence. The ground supporting the structures is fairly flat. The deep, seasonal stream course which borders Sites 33-34 is located ca. 100m to the north while the Rio Huerta is approximately 450m in that direction.

Condition: A barbed wire fence cuts through the approximate center of the settlement and digging holes for its posts may have caused some local dislocations of prehistoric features.

Site Descriptions: Site 52 contains 10 structures that are from 0-0.7m high, most ranging between 0-0.45m in altitude. Constructions are clustered into a tightly nucleated group which contains two adjoining patios, the one on the east open in that direction while the western enclosed space is surrounded on all sides. There was a general effort made to align structures with respect to each other at Site 52. Orientations range from cardinal to slightly west of north. Access to the eastern patio was essentially unimpeded but its western counterpart was less accessible because of the close spacing of bordering constructions.

Platform facings and building foundations were made of angular stones similar in appearance to the outcrops found in the immediate vicinity of the locus.

Excavation: Structures 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were excavated in 1984 and 1985.

Dates: The primary period of occupation and construction at Site 52 dates to the Late Classic. This is clearly attested in excavation. Some Early Classic use of the locus is indicated and a reduced occupation apparently continued into the Early Postclassic. No constructions were raised during these two periods.

### **Site 53**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/375 E3/69/250, 200-215m above sea level.

Location: Site 53 is situated in the rapidly ascending terrain which characterizes the lower slopes of the Cerro Pena Blanca ca. 100m east of Site 151 and 300m east of Site 52. The land is characterized by relatively steep ascents broken by shelves of flat to more gently sloping terrain which give way, in turn, to further sharp rises. Site 151 occupies the lower slopes of the first of these rises, Site 53 is further upslope separated from the former by a narrow shelf. The Rio Huerta is 525m to the north while the Rios Hondo and Jucuntal are 600m and 225m to the south, respectively. The deep quebrada bordering Sites 150, 33 and 34 lies 300m to the north. Rock outcrops dot the slopes in this area.

Condition: Structure 5's basal lines look to have been somewhat disturbed by root activity. A small casseria, or hamlet, is located immediately north of the locus. If any portion of the settlement extended in this direction it may have been lost to modern building activity.

Site Description: Site 53 contains six structures scattered over the slopes, and on shelves of flat land within, the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. Constructions here stood 0-0.7m high, most falling between 0-0.3m in altitude. Structures 1-4 were built into the southwest flank of the rise and form an irregularly oriented patio-focused cluster. Access to the enclosed space was not restricted. The lack of a consistent orientation among the buildings in this aggregate is probably due largely to the irregular nature of the terrain. Structures 5 and 6 are isolated platforms, the former situated

on a narrow shelf of flat land northwest of the Str. 1-4 group, the latter on the summit of the rise where the land levels off before ascending to the cerro on the east.

Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones, presumably derived from the many outcrops in the vicinity.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused organization of the Str. 1-4 group suggests that it was used and built during the Late Classic. Dates for the raising of Strs. 5-6 are hard to determine.

Their dispersed distribution may imply an Early Postclassic occupation.

### **Site 54**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/275 E3/69/275, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 54 occupies a narrow, north-south running shelf of flat land atop the first steep rise towards the eastern mountains. Site 151, built into the lower slopes of that initial ascent, is 150m to the northwest, Site 53, constructed on the next rise towards Cerro Pena Blanca, is 100m to the north. Site 51 is ca. 100m to the southwest and 15m below Site 54. A seasonal stream channel, roughly 1.5m deep, runs north and west of the locus, coursing down the slope towards the Rio Jucuntal ca. 125m to the south. The Rio Hondo is 650m to the north. Rock outcrops are common on the slopes beneath Site 54 and on the shelf supporting the settlement.

Site Description: Site 54 consists of six structures ranging in height from 0-0.5m. Structures 1-5 form a tightly nucleated cluster at the north edge of the settlement with Strs. 3-5 defining a small patio open on the south. Structures 1-2 are located off the north edge of that patio. A further 88m to the south stands Str. 6, apparently isolated from other constructions. Buildings at Site 54 were generally organized along the shelf edge. Nonetheless, some effort seems to have been devoted to organizing Strs. 1-5 along a common azimuth, Strs. 1-4 are oriented between 0 degrees 30

minutes to 2 degrees 30 minutes with only Str. 5 diverging significantly from this pattern at 11 degrees 30 minutes. Structure 6 also seems to fall in this range, oriented 4 degrees east of north. Access to the Str. 1-5 patio was unimpeded.

Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of angular stones, most likely obtained from the many nearby outcrops of similar material found throughout the area.

Excavations: Structure 6 was excavated in 1985.

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused plan of Strs. 1-5 points to their use and construction during the Late Classic. The excavations at Str. 6 produced very few artifacts and none of these were temporally diagnostic. Whether this means that this building was a seasonal habitation or simply was occupied for a very brief period at the end of Site 54's tenure is unknown.

### **Site 55**

Map Coordinates: N/16/57/050 E3/69/400, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 55 sits atop a high steep rise above the Rio Jucuntal which is located ca. 20m south of the settlement and 15-20m below it. While the terrain supporting Site 55 is relatively flat, the land descends rapidly to the west and north. Site 50 is roughly 200m northwest and 17m down from Site 55. Like Sites 53, 54, and 151, Site 55 was built into the first high foothills of Cerro Pena Blanca, occupying a small area of relatively flat land within these escarpments. Rock outcrops are common throughout the area surrounding the settlement and are particularly prevalent on the ledge occupied by Site 55.

Condition: A fence runs southeast-northwest through the approximate center of the locus and digging post holes for this construction may have precipitated some disturbances.

Site Description: The seven structures and one feature (a stone line set flush with ground surface) comprising Site 55 range in height from 0-0.6m. These constructions form a tightly nucleated

group situated along the edge of the western descent to the Rio Jucuntal. Together, Strs. 1-7 and Feat. 1 enclose a patio running roughly east-west and open on the west. Access to the patio was largely free of impediments. There is no evidence that the structures comprising this group ever shared a common orientation.

Platform facings and building foundations were made of angular stones similar in appearance to those found outcropping throughout the area. Structure 1 was not only defined by perimeter lines of this material but its entire interior space was tightly packed with rocks.

Excavations: None

Dates: Building sizes as well as their tightly nucleated, patio-focused arrangement point to the occupation and construction of Site 55 in the Late Classic. Surface collections did not yield temporally diagnostic items.

### **Site 56**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/950 E3/69/600, 218m above sea level.

Location: Site 56 occupies a very small (roughly 10m<sup>2</sup>) area of flat land within the steeply sloping terrain of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. The locus is approximately 225m southeast of Site 55 and further up the ascent by roughly 18m. The Rio Jucuntal is ca. 75m to the south. The land slopes up sharply in this area, broken in a few spots by less steeply ascending terrain or flat shelves. Rock outcrops were commonly seen throughout the foothill zone.

Condition: The construction of a modern house, located in a topographically analogous position upslope and 40m to the east of Site 56, may have obliterated earlier deposits in this area.

Site Description: Site 56 consists of a single structure, ca. 0.2m high platform, measuring 3m by 4m, oriented 55 degrees east of north. Platform facings were made of angular stones, similar to those found outcropping nearby.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 57**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/225 E3/69/525, 218m above sea level.

Location: Site 57 occupies a narrow ledge of relatively flat terrain within the generally steep ascent of the Cerro Grande foothills. This topographic position is very similar to that which characterizes Site 56 roughly 225m to the southeast. Site 54 rests on a comparable shelf 300m to the west and 18m further downslope from the locus while Site 149 is 425m to the west-northwest at the base of these foothills. The nearest perennial streams are the Rio Juncuntal 250m to the south and the Rio Las Huertas lying 700m to the north. A seasonal stream channel issues from the hills ca. 30m south of the site running west-southwest towards the Juncuntal. Rock outcrops are commonly found throughout the hillslopes surrounding Site 57 and on the ledge where the locus was built.

Site Description: Site 57 contains two structures that are 0.15-0.25m high and organized so as to enclose a patio on the south and west sides (the east flank is defined by the steep ascent of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills). The platforms measure 4m by 4.5m and 3.5m by 4.5m and are oriented cardinally. Access to the patio was virtually unrestricted. Platform facings were built of angular rocks similar to those found outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focus of the group suggests a Late Classic date for site use and construction.

This is a very tentative assessment given the small size of the locus. The one pottery sherd found in the course of surface collecting Site 57 was not temporally diagnostic.

### **Site 58**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/125 E3/69/500, 208m above sea level.

Location: Site 58 is ca. 125m south-southwest of, and 10m downslope from, Site 57. The quebrada which runs 30m south of the latter settlement passes 13m north of Site 58. Site 56 is approximately 175m to the southeast and another 10m up into the foothills while the Rio Juncuntal lies 125m to the south. Like Sites 56 and 57, this locus was built on relatively flat land set within the otherwise steep slopes of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. In this case, the terrain supporting Site 58 slopes up gradually from west to east before ascending more dramatically towards the cerro. Rock outcrops are strewn throughout the immediate area of Site 58.

Site Description: Site 58 consists of one structure, a terrace, that is 0.3m high on its downslope (western) side and with no apparent elevation on the east. The structure measures 3m by 4m and is oriented 346 degrees. Terrace facings were constructed of angular stones similar to those found in close-by outcrops.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 59**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/425 E3/69/475, 216m above sea level.

Location: Site 59 occupies a very restricted zone of flat terrain in the foothills of Cerro Pena Blanca. The locus is nestled between two small westward projections of the cerro, the ground rising precipitously on the north, south, and east, and dropping down roughly 6m towards Site 53 situated ca. 200m to the west. Sites 57 and 58 are within the same sloping zone approximately 175 and 260m to the southeast and south respectively. The Rio Juncuntal is roughly 425m to the south, the Rio Las Huertas ca. 525m to the north. Rock outcrops are found throughout the slopes surrounding the locus.

Site Description: The three structures comprising Site 59, 0.2-0.35m high, and define the south, west, and east sides of a patio. Located roughly 10m back from the edge of the western descent, platform orientations range from 91 to 98 degrees. Access to the patio is unimpeded. Platform facings were built of angular stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the surrounding hills.

Excavation: None

Dates: The patio-focused form of the site suggests a Late Classic date for the occupation.

### **Site 60**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/400 E3/69/350, 213m above sea level.

Location: Site 60 is situated approximately mid-way between Sites 53 and 59 (100m west and 125m east, respectively) within the foothills of Cerro Pena Blanca. Site 53 is roughly 3m downslope. As with Site 59, this locus rests on a small shelf of flat land within sloping terrain. The Rio Juncuntal is ca. 275m to the south, the Rio Las Huertas is ca. 525m to the north. Rock outcrops dot the hillsides around the locus.

Site Description: Site 60 consists of four structures 0.45-1.0m high on their downslope flanks (0-0.5m high on their upslope sides). These buildings define a central patio on all flanks though access to the enclosed space is not seriously restricted anywhere. The shelf on which the structures sit slopes down gradually from south to north and east to west and Strs. 1-4 are built into these descents, thereby enhancing their downslope flanks. While taking advantage of these small changes in elevation, there was apparently some effort made to orient the buildings with respect to each other. Structures 3 and 4 are aligned 14 degrees 30 minutes, while Strs. 1 and 2 have azimuths of 4 degrees and 4 degrees 30 minutes. Platform facings were built of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the platforms as well as their patio orientation points to occupation and construction here within the Late Classic.

### **Site 61**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/660 E3/68/350, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 61 is located 100m north-northwest of Site 27 in a similar terrace edge location to that occupied by the latter settlement. Site 61 occupies a narrow, steeply sloping northern extension of the main terrace mass sitting roughly 20m above the Rio Las Huertas floodplain. This stream is ca. 100m to the north while Sites 28 and 62 are 100m to the east and west respectively, both occupying the floodplain. The terrace summit supporting Site 61 is relatively flat but restricted in size, covering only approximately 25m southwest-northeast by 55m southeast-northwest. The drop to the floodplain is precipitous. Terrace slopes and summit here are dotted with outcrops including basalt.

Condition: Informant reports in 1988 indicated that this site may have been destroyed in the process of building a housing development in the northwest upland corner of the Las Huertas/Hondo zone. These reports were not confirmed through an on-site inspection.

Site Description: Site 61 consists of four structures only one of which, Str. 2, had any elevation, 0.15m on its downslope (northeastern) flank. Constructions were clustered along the northeast terrace edge facing the Rio Las Huertas. There was no sign of any patio-orientation nor were the buildings aligned to a common azimuth. Platforms facings and building foundations were made of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed pattern of structure organization and small building sizes point to their construction and use in the Early Postclassic. Most likely Site 61 is part of the same dispersed, Early Postclassic settlement which includes Site 27.

### **Site 62**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/650 E3/68/250, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 62 is situated on the Rio Las Huertas floodplain ca. 175m south of and across the Las Huertas from Gualjoquito and 20m down from, and 100m west of, Site 61 on the summit of the adjacent upper terrace. The Rio Las Huertas is 75m to the north, the Rio Ulua 325m to the west. Site 28 is 175m to the east, the two loci being separated by the northern projection of the upper terrace which supports Site 61. Site 62 sits at the western base of this ascent at the point where the Las Huertas floodplain widens out after being narrowly constricted by the terrace to the east. The land slopes gradually down from south to north towards the Las Huertas and east to west to the Ulua.

Site Description: Site 62 contains two platforms under 0.5m high measuring 5m square and 6.5m by 9.3m basally. These structures are 9.25m apart and there was no apparent effort devoted to aligning them to the same azimuth. Platform facings were fashioned of river-worn cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 63**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/625 E3/69/450, 215m above sea level.

Location: The topographic position of Site 63 is nearly identical to that occupied by Sites 59 and 60, 225m and 275m to the south and southwest respectively. Occupation at this settlement was localized on a restricted shelf of relatively flat land within the otherwise steeply sloping terrain of

the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills on the east margin of the Las Huertas/Hondo cluster. The land drops off sharply to the south, west, and north of the locus while rising in a similar gradient to the east. The ledge itself slopes more gradually down from east to west. The Rio Las Huertas is ca. 325m to the north. Rock outcrops, including basalt, were found throughout the surrounding slopes but were not apparent in the immediate area of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 63 consists of three structures standing from 0-0.45m high. Together they define a small patio open on the north and west. These buildings are concentrated towards the center of the shelf. There is no evidence that Strs. 1-3 were aligned along a common azimuth. Platform facings and building foundations consist of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping throughout the immediate area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focus of the group tentatively indicates that its principal period of construction and use falls in the Late Classic.

### **Site 64**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/925 E3/69/625, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 64 is situated in the far northeast corner of the Las Huertas/Hondo zone on a ca. 4m-high rise above, and 25m south of, the Rio Las Huertas. The Cerro Pena Blanca foothills slope precipitously down to the Las Huertas here, restricting the course of that river within narrow limits. There is no floodplain here, just steep slopes broken in spots by a few areas of flat land. Site 64 occupies one of these narrow ledges above the stream. Site 63 is 350m to the southwest. The land slopes up dramatically to the south and east to Cerro Pena Blanca, descending somewhat more gradually to the north towards the Las Huertas. Rock outcrops are frequent throughout the area of the site, including the narrow shelf supporting construction and the surrounding slopes.

Condition: There was no sign of looting nor other significant disturbances at Site 64. The land was devoted to maize cultivation using the dibble stick in 1983. Surface visibility was excellent.

Site Description: Site 64 consists of one structure, 4m square, 0.2m and 0.5m high (on its up-and-downsloping sides respectively), and oriented 130 degrees east of north. The platform is situated on the northeast edge of a 4m-tall rise overlooking the Rio Las Huertas and was apparently built so as to enhance the height of its downsloping flank. Basal walls were fashioned of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping throughout the area and natural rock exposures were incorporated into perimeter construction.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

## **Site 65**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/850 E3/69/500, 198-202m above sea level.

Location: Site 65 spans two distinct topographic locations. Half of the constructions occupy the summit of a southeast-northwest trending, 6m-high ridge which slopes down steeply on the northeast to the Rio Las Huertas. The remaining structures are located on relatively level terrain at the base of the ridge. The ground rises to the south and east to the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills and the slopes supporting Site 63 ca. 200m to the south. Site 64 is 125m to the northeast. The Rio Las Huertas is 110m to the north. Rock outcrops were frequent on the summit and slopes of the ridge and in the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills.

Condition: Structure 2 seems to have been the only construction which suffered damage; a shallow ditch, ca. 0.6m wide by 0.2m deep, was cut across this platform from southeast to northwest. A concrete water tank is located at the northwestern edge of the ridge but its construction does not seem to have disturbed any structures.

Site Description: Site 65 contains six structures standing 0-0.55m high with most between 0.1-0.55m in altitude. The locus is evenly divided into two groups each organized around a patio open on one side. Structures 1-3 occupy the southeast edge of the ridge enclosing a central space on all sides save the southeast which faces downslope. Structure orientations range from 46 degrees 30 minutes to 57 degrees 30 minutes showing some slight tendency towards mutual alignment. Access to the patio was unimpeded. Nevertheless the "open" southeast side was delimited by a steep 4m drop and this may have restricted entrance to the enclosed area. Structures 4-6 are situated immediately below the first cluster and define a patio with no construction on the northwest side. The step rise of the bordering hill closed off the latter flank. While Strs. 4 and 6 share similar orientations, 334 degrees 30 minutes and 339 degrees 30 minutes, Str. 5 assumes a quite different azimuth (essentially due east-west) apparently due to the desire of its builders to construct it on a low west-to-east rise in this area. Entrance to the patio was not seriously restricted. The Str. 1-3 and 4-6 groups appear to face each other, though separated by a vertical distance of roughly 4m. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused organization of the site points to its construction and use in the Late Classic.

## **Site 66**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/900 E3/69/300, 183m above sea level.

Location: Site 66 is situated at the far eastern extent of the Rio Huerta floodplain near the point where that zone pinches out between the river and the foothills of the Cerro Pena Blanca. The land rises abruptly to the south and east while the locus itself is situated on more gently sloping

terrain, descending gradually to the north towards the Las Huertas, ca. 60m distant, and to the west. Site 65 is 200m to the southeast, separated from Site 66 by the first ascents of the Cerro Pena Blanca. Site 67, another floodplain locus, is 150m to the west-northwest. Rock outcrops were commonly noted on the slopes south and east of the locus.

Site Description: Site 66 contains six structures standing 0-0.2m high and dispersed without a clear patio focus over the Rio Las Huertas floodplain. Overall, the site forms a very rough "V" open on the west. Platform facings and building foundations consist of a mixture of river-worn cobbles and angular stones, the latter being very similar in appearance to the rock exposures found on the adjacent slopes.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed site pattern along with the small sizes of the component structures suggests an Early Postclassic date for construction and occupation here.

### **Site 67**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/940 E3/69/200, 168m above sea level.

Location: Site 67 is 150m west-northwest of Site 66 on the floodplain of the Rio Las Huertas, and ca. 25m south of that river. The land slopes down gradually here from south to north, culminating just beyond the settlement in a 4m drop to the Las Huertas channel. Numerous boulders were found throughout the environs of Site 67, though whether these represent exposures of local bedrock or, more likely, material deposited by the Las Huertas, remains uncertain. Many sizable cobbles and angular stone were noted in the current Las Huertas bed and it appears that this river is capable of moving considerable quantities of large stones when in flood.

Condition: The area was devoted to animal pasture in 1983-1985, being covered in low grass.

Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: Site 67 contains four structures 0.2-0.3m high arranged in a roughly linear pattern trending southeast-northwest towards the Las Huertas. It is possible that Strs. 2-4 define a small patio open on the west with Str. 1 as an outlier. Nevertheless, this patio focus is not clear. No effort was devoted to aligning constructions to the same azimuth and at least one building, Str. 4, was raised so as to take advantage of a small change in elevation to enhance the height of its downsloping sides. Platform facings consist of angular stones similar to those seen outcropping in the hills to the south-southeast and littering the surface of the site.

Excavations: Four tests into an "open" area devoid of architecture were excavated at Site 67 in 1985.

Dates: The principal period of occupation and construction at Site 67 was the Early Postclassic though some evidence of occupation dating to the Early and Late Classic periods was recovered. These estimates are based on temporally diagnostic materials derived from excavations and are commensurate with the site planning data.

### **Site 68**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/775 E3/69/150, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 68 sits at the base of the rise to the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. The land drops gradually south to north toward the Rio Las Huertas and rises steeply on the south. Site 67 is approximately 225m to the northwest, Site 69 150m to the northwest, and the Rio Las Huertas is 200m to the north. Rock outcrops were commonly observed throughout the high slopes bordering the site on the south.

Condition: No signs of looting nor other disturbances were recorded. Site 68 and the surrounding terrain were devoted to cattle pasture in 1983-1985, and were covered in low grass. Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: This settlement contain four structures standing 0.3-0.7m high defining a central patio closed on the southeast by the steep escarpment of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills. Access to the patio was unimpeded by surface-visible architecture. There was no evidence that structures here were oriented with respect to each other. Structures 1 and 4 were built into the southern hill, having no elevation on their upslope sides, and rising 0.3 and 0.7m on the northwest respectively. Platform facings consist of angular stones similar to those found outcropping on the adjacent slopes.

Excavations: Structure 1 was excavated along with two other probes at Site 68 in 1985.

Dates: Site 68 was occupied in the Late Classic through the Early Postclassic. The primary period of occupation and construction seems to date to the former period, an estimate which finds confirmation in the patio-focused form of the settlement. Early Postclassic occupation was nonetheless significant.

## **Site 69**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/900 E3/69/125, 168m above sea level.

Location: Sites 69 and 67 occupy very similar topographic situations, on the edge of the drop off from the floodplain to the channel of the Rio Las Huertas. Site 69 is located at the point where the Las Huertas turns south and the channel of this river is 25m north of the settlement and 12m the west of it. The drop to the stream is 4m on the north and roughly 7m on the west. Site 67 is ca. 100m to the east-northeast while Site 68 is 150m to the southeast. The land here slopes very gradually down from south to north towards the river. Large boulders, possibly deposited by

floods of the Las Huertas whose bed is filled with sizable cobbles and angular stones at this point, litter the floodplain surface to the east of the site.

Site Description: Site 69 contains five constructions ranging in height from 0-0.4m, most falling between 0-0.2m in altitude. No clear patio-focus was recognized and there is no evidence that these buildings had ever been aligned to the same azimuth. Rather, Strs. 2-5 seem to be dispersed roughly parallel to the curving east bank of the Las Huertas while the largest platform, Str. 1, is set somewhat further back from that river course. Platform facings and building foundations were built of angular stones similar to those found commonly in the Las Huertas channel and outcropping in the nearby foothills.

Excavations: Structures 1-3 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: Site 69 was built and used primarily in the Early Postclassic, a temporal placement which agrees well with the observed, dispersed site plan. Some occupation in the Late Postclassic is attested to here as well.

## **Site 70**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/900 E3/68/200, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 70 is located on the narrow ridge top overlooking, and roughly 20m above, the site of Gualjoquito ca. 75m to the west. This settlement occupies the northwest corner of the Las Huertas/Hondo cluster, ca. 100m north of the Las Huertas and 300m east of the Rio Ulua. While the ridge summit is fairly flat, the land slopes steeply down to the south and west, rising precipitously on the east. These ascents constitute the initial western foothills of the massive Cerro Grande. Rock outcrops are common throughout the surrounding slopes.

Condition: The structures comprising Site 70 were not well-defined and seem to have been disturbed, possibly through planting activities, over the years.

Site Description: Site 70 contains four structures none of which have any elevation. These buildings are dispersed along the ridge summit forming one irregular group of three buildings with a single outlier. Structure sizes were quite small, ranging from 2m by 2m to 3m by 3m basally. No clear patio focus was discernible nor was there any suggestion that the edifices had been aligned according to a common azimuth. Building foundations were made of river-worn cobbles and angular stones, the latter easily available from natural exposures throughout the surrounding hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed site pattern along with the small sizes of the structures point to construction and occupation here in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 71**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/900 E3/68/325, 152m above sea level.

Location: Site 71 is situated on the eastern slopes of the spur supporting Site 70 on its summit. The latter settlement is ca. 8m above and 100m west of Site 71. The Rio Las Huertas is 100m to the south, Site 28 another 75m in that direction across the Las Huertas, while Gualjoquito lies 200m to the west separated from Site 71 by an extension of the Cerro Grande foothills. A seasonal stream channel issues from the hills ca. 50m northeast of the site, ultimately joining the Las Huertas to the south. The surrounding land ascends steeply to the west and north dropping a relatively short distance south and east to a restricted area of the Rio Las Huertas floodplain. The constructions defining Site 71 are situated in slightly less precipitous terrain than that which characterizes the rest of the immediate area. Rock exposures are common throughout the slopes surrounding the locus.

Condition: Part of the locus may have been lost to the construction of the dirt road, ca. 1.5m upslope and 15m northwest of the site, leading to the town of Santa Rosita.

Site Description: Site 71 contains three structures and two features (stone lines set flat with current ground surface) none of which had any surviving elevation. These constructions are dispersed over the lower slopes of the Cerro Grande foothills above the Rio Las Huertas floodplain without a clear patio focus. The edifices do form two rough groups, one composed of Str. 1 and Feats. 1-2 slightly upslope from the other consisting of Strs. 2-3. Buildings were apparently aligned along small changes in elevation, generally overlooking the Las Huertas to the south, and did not share a common azimuth. Building foundations were fashioned primarily of river cobbles, angular stones being a minority component of observed construction. Structures 1 and 2 had perimeter lines of stone, Str. 3's interior was densely packed with rocks.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed site pattern and small structure sizes suggest primary occupation and construction here in the Early Postclassic. Site 71 may represent a continuation of the presumably contemporary settlement observed at Site 70 upslope.

## **Site 72**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/025 E3/68/450, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 72 is situated on the far west edge of a long (east-west), narrow shelf of relatively flat land which currently supports the town of Santa Rosita. That town extends for 1km to the east. The Rio Las Huertas is 200m south and 40m down from the settlement while Sites 70 and 71 are 300m and 200m to the southwest respectively. A seasonal stream channel originating in the foothills runs approximately 150m to the southwest of Site 72, eventually joining the Las Huertas below. The land slopes down precipitously to the south and west from Site 72, dips,

rises, drops, and then ascends rapidly on the north, and runs fairly evenly to the east. Site 72 is slightly further up into the Cerro Grande foothills than Sites 70 and 71. Rock outcrops were frequent on the slopes below the site.

Condition: Structure 3's south face was in the process of tumbling downslope in 1983 while Str. 1's construction was apparently disrupted by tree roots. The remaining buildings appeared to be relatively undisturbed. Construction of the road to Santa Rosita, which passes within 22m of the locus to the southeast, may have obliterated portions of the site. Habitations pertaining to the town of Santa Rosita start immediately east of Site 72 and their building and use may have destroyed part of the settlement as well.

Site Description: Site 72 contains six structures and one feature (a stone line set flush with ground surface); the buildings are 0.2-1.3m high. The buildings are situated along the western and southern edges of the shelf, positioned so that their downslope flanks are consistently higher than their upslope sides. Structures 1, 4-6 define a clear patio open to the east while Strs. 2 and 3 appear to be low terraces built, at least in part, to slow erosion in the areas of Strs. 1 and 4, respectively. Despite this obvious preference for locating buildings along natural changes in elevation, the principal buildings at the site (Strs. 1, 4-6) were apparently aligned to the same general azimuth, their current orientations ranging from 353 degrees to 360 degrees. Even Str. 3 and Feat. 1 fall within this range. Access to the central patio was unimpeded. Platform facings and the Feature 1 stone line were built of a combination of unmodified river cobbles and angular rocks, both easily obtainable from nearby fluvial and outcrop sources.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio focus of the site, along with the relatively large sizes of the platforms, point to primary occupation and construction here during the Late Classic.

### **Site 73**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/050 E3/69/525, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 73 is situated on sloping terrain within the lower foothills of the Cerro Grande near the point where the Rio Las Huertas leaves its narrow eastern defile and enters the Las Huertas/Hondo pocket. Located on the eastern fringe of the modern town of Santa Rosita, east of the narrow shelf supporting that town and Site 72, Site 73 is ca. 25m north of the Las Huertas and approximately 6m above that stream. A quebrada, roughly 8m wide by 3m deep, cuts through the center of the site eventually joining the Rio Las Huertas below Site 73. The land supporting Site 73 varies in its degree of slope, generally descending from north to south towards the river. The Las Huertas does not have a floodplain on its north bank here, the hills descending directly to the stream. Site 65 is 175m south and across the Las Huertas from Site 73 while Site 66 is 210m to the southwest on the other side of the stream. Rock outcrops were noted on the upper slopes of the foothills and in the immediate vicinity of the western structures.

Condition: No signs of looting nor other disturbance were recorded at Site 73. Because of the proximity of this locus to Santa Rosita on the west, we cannot rule out the possibility that part of the site has been lost due to modern construction.

Site Description: Site 73 contains eight structures only two of which had elevation (0.25m and 1.1m high). The locus is divided into two groups, Strs. 1-3 spread out in a rough north-south line on the west edge of the site and Strs. 4-8 forming a very irregular cluster to the east. The first aggregate occupies fairly steeply sloping terrain while the latter is situated on a slightly more gradual descent towards the Las Huertas. Structures 4-8 may define a patio to which access was virtually unrestricted. The remaining western buildings do not seem to have had such a focus. Edifices in both groups were apparently oriented along small changes in elevation, there being no

attempt to align structures to the same azimuth. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones and river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed site plan together with the structure sizes suggest an Early Postclassic date for construction and occupation here.

### **Site 74**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/125 E3/69/525, 220m above sea level.

Location: Site 74 is situated ca. 100m north and 20m upslope from Site 74 on a small shelf of relatively flat land within the steep slopes of the Cerro Grande foothills. The Rio Las Huertas is 150m south and ca. 40m below the locus, Site 64 is 175m to the southwest and across the Las Huertas from Site 74. The town of Santa Rosita is ca. 50m to the west. Rock outcrops are common within this sloping zone.

Condition: Given the settlement's proximity to Santa Rosita, we cannot discount at least partial destruction of the site by modern construction.

Site Description: Site 74 consists of two 0-elevation buildings located on the summit of a small shelf of flat land within the Cerro Grande foothills and on sloping terrain immediately east of that ledge. These buildings are spaced 35m apart and measure 6m by 8m and 3.8m by 4.1m. There is no consistency in their orientations which range from 103 degrees to 163 degrees 30 minutes.

Building foundations were made of river cobbles and angular stones.

Excavations: None

Dates: If Site 74 is an upslope continuation of Site 73, then we would conjecture that its principal period of use and construction dates to the Early Postclassic. This temporal placement is commensurate with structure sizes and dispersal.

## **Site 75**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/325 E3/67/960, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 75 overlooks the low lying areas to the west from atop the upper eastern Inguaya terrace. The land here is fairly level and, while rock exposures were not noted, the soil contained a number of sizable stones lying on the surface. Site 76 lies approximately 150m to the north-northeast in a similar topographic position while Site 82 is ca. 250m to the east-southeast within the foothills of the eastern montanas. The Rio Ulua courses roughly 750m to the north while an unnamed seasonal affluent of the Quebrada Derrumbe is found 125m to the south. A short, deep seasonal runoff channel is located ca. 14m north of the site.

Condition: The perimeter lines of Strs. 1 and 2 were sufficiently unclear to suggest that they had been dislocated at some point in the past though the source of this disturbance remains unknown. A dirt road runs ca. 25m west of the settlement and some segments of the site may have been lost or obscured during its building and use. Construction of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road in 1984-1985 seems to have obliterated this locus.

Site Description: Site 75 contains four, 0-elevation, constructions one of which is a stone line 3m long and located immediately south of Str. 1 (Feature 1). Edifices here are dispersed in a rough southwest-northeast running line and show no evidence of having been aligned to a common azimuth. The buildings were set 13 to 43m back from the edge of the steep descent to the Inguaya Plain. Structure perimeter walls were built of a mixture of cobbles and angular stones, both easily obtained from nearby watercourses and hillside exposures.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed, linear organization of structures at Site 75 as well as their small sizes suggest that they were built and occupied during the Early Postclassic.

## **Site 76**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/450 E3/68/000, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 76 occupies the western margin of Inguaya's upper eastern terrace overlooking the low terrace ca. 10m below the locus. The land runs evenly back to the east to the Montanas de Santa Barbara foothills. Site 75 is located ca. 150m to the south-southwest while Site 77 lies 130m to the north-northwest. The Rio Ulua runs ca. 650m to the north while an unnamed seasonal tributary of the Quebrada Derrumbe is found approximately 250m south of the settlement. Smaller quebradas which feed into the Derrumbe or Ulua are located within 30m of the site on the north and west. No rock outcrops were recorded on the terrace though the surface of this rise is littered with stones suggesting that the soil is relatively shallow, underlain at no great depth by bedrock.

Condition: There was no sign of looting nor other significant disturbances at the locus when it was investigated in 1983. The construction of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road in 1984-1985 seems to have resulted in the total destruction of Site 76. Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: Site 76 contains three constructions, two terraces, each ca. 0.2m high, set into the upper portion of the descent to the Inguaya Plain, and one 0-elevation building. Edifices here were nucleated with the two terraces paired in an ascending set immediately below (west) of Str. 1, which occupies the terrace summit. The terraces are both 6m long and, though they seemed built as a sequence of two steps leading up to Str. 1, they did not share a common azimuth (the lower is oriented 358 degrees, the upper example has a preserved alignment of 47 degrees). These two units are separated by as little as 1m at their closest point. Structure 1 measures 4m x 6m basally, is divided into two rooms of approximately equivalent dimensions by an east-west running medial stone wall, and is oriented 14 degrees. As little as 1.5m intervenes between Str. 1

and the uppermost terrace. Terrace faces and Str. 1's perimeter walls were constructed of a mixture of river cobbles and angular stones, the latter including vesicular basalt. Sources for both materials are readily found in nearby quebrada and river channels (for the cobbles) and outcrops within the Montanas de Santa Barbara (for the angular stones).

Excavations: None

Dates: The form of Str. 1, especially its division into two rooms, is not commonly attested among prehistoric buildings in the Central Santa Barbara region though roughly similar edifices have been dated to the Historic period in the area (e.g., Site 13). As a result, we would tentatively date Str. 1's primary period of construction and use to the latter era. We also assume, based on their supposed relationship to the structure, that the terraces date to this period.

### **Site 77**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/525 E3/67/900, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 77 occupies terrain nearly identical to Sites 75 and 76, i.e., overlooking the lower Inguaya terrace from the summit of the eastern high terrace. The land here is fairly flat, dropping off dramatically westward towards the low terrace and rising precipitously on the eastern high terrace margin. Site 76 is ca. 130m to the south-southeast while Site 79 lies 150m to the opposite direction. The Rio Ulua is approximately 560m to the north while an unnamed seasonal stream runs ca. 300m to the south. Other, smaller quebradas are found within 50m to the south, east, and west of the settlement. Rock outcrops were not recorded on the high terrace summit though, once more, the rocks littering the surface imply that soils here are shallow and are underlain at only a limited depth by bedrock.

Condition: No signs of looting were recorded here though it was difficult to recognize structure perimeters. This suggests that Site 77 may have suffered from some disruption in the not-too-

distant past, though the source of that disturbance was not determined. Building of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road in 1984-1985 across this area apparently destroyed Site 77.

Site Description: Site 77 contains eight, 0-elevation constructions of which two are features, stone lines set flush with current ground surface and running 3m and 5m long. Structures 1-4 and Feature 1 form a tightly nucleated cluster 11m back from (east of) the western terrace margin. Structure 5 is situated 5m northeast of this aggregate while Str. 6 and Feat. 2 lie 7-11m to the southeast. Structures 2-4 may define a patio open to the south. Access to this enclosed space would have been difficult from any side save the south given the close spacing of the edifices. There is no evidence that the constructions at Site 77 were laid out in accordance with a common alignment. Perimeter walls and feature lines were constructed of a mixture of river cobbles and angular stones presumably obtained from close-by stream channels and natural exposures in the eastern hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown.

### **Site 78**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/650 E3/67/200, 165m above sea level.

Location: Site 78 occupies the flat summit of an eminence immediately west of the Inguaya high terrace that supports Sites 75-77. This rise stands roughly 5m above the low terrace. Site 79 is found atop a similar rise ca. 75m to the east while Site 77 lies 175m to the southeast. The Rio Ulua runs approximately 425m to the north, an unnamed quebrada is found roughly 450m to the south, and the Quebrada Derrumbe courses 250m to the west. Rocks did not litter the surface of this rise as they did the terrace to the east and it would appear that the soil is finer textured than is

the case on the rest of the terrace. No rock outcrops were observed on the summit and sides of the eminence supporting Site 78.

Condition: Structure lines were not always clear and they had apparently suffered from dislocation in the past. The source(s) of these disruptions remain unknown. Construction of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road in 1984-1985 within the immediate area of this settlement may well have further disturbed the locus though it is uncertain whether the site was totally obliterated.

Site Description: Site 78 consists of two, 0-elevation, constructions, one a building measuring 3m<sup>2</sup> and the other a stone line 5m long, currently flush with ground surface, and located 1m south of the structure. The former edifice is oriented 359 degrees 30 minutes while the feature is aligned at 45 degrees. The constructions at Site 78 form a rough north-south line situated within 10m of the northern edge of the eminence. The feature and perimeter walls of the structure were built of a mixture of river cobbles and angular that were stones easily obtained from outcrops in the eastern hills and nearby stream channels.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 79**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/650 E3/67/900, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 79 is situated on the northern summit margin of a ca. 5m-high eminence above the Inguaya low terrace located immediately west of the high terrace supporting Sites 75-77. The north-south trending rise which supports Site 79 runs parallel to the ascent on which Site 78 is located and sits between the latter eminence and the upper eastern terrace. Site 78 is ca. 75m to the west, Site 77 is found roughly 150m to the south-southeast. The Rio Ulua courses ca. 425m to

the north, an unnamed seasonal affluent of the Quebrada Derrumbe runs 660m to the south, and the Quebrada Derrumbe lies 330m to the west. Short, seasonal run-offs were located within 30-40m of the site on the north, east, and west. No rock outcrops were recorded on the rise supporting Site 79 nor were loose stones common to the surface. The soil here seems relative fine-textured and is possibly deeper than on the upper terrace to the east.

Condition: Several structures appeared to have been disrupted by some, as yet unknown, past cultural or natural processes. Building of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road through this area in 1985-1985 may well have damaged Site 79 though the extent of the dislocation is not known.

Site Description: Site 79 contains six, 0-elevation constructions including one feature, a stone line 2m long set flush with current ground surface. Structures 1-4 form a nucleated cluster in the southern portion of the locus with Strs. 1, 2, and 4 defining a patio. Access to this enclosed space is largely unobstructed by visible constructions. Structure 5 and Feature 1 are isolated 86m to the north. There is no convincing evidence that the buildings at Site 79 were ever aligned to a common azimuth. Perimeter walls and the single feature were constructed of a mix of river cobbles and angular stones presumably obtained from nearby stream channels and exposures in the eastern hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleation and patio-focused organization of Strs. 1-4 may hint at a Late Classic date for construction and occupation here. Whether Str. 5 and Feat. 1 also date to this interval is not known.

## **Site 80**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/200 E3/67/160, 150m above sea level.

Location: Site 80 rests atop the relatively flat summit of a 5-8m-high rise above the low terrace ca. 800m west-southwest of Site 75 and 1.5km northeast of Site 143. Site 81 occupies the summit of the same ridge approximately 175m to the southwest. The Quebrada Derrumbe courses roughly 260m to the north while the Rio Ulua is found ca. 940m in the same direction. Small seasonal run-offs are found within 60m on all sides of the locus. Loose stones littered the summit of the rise though no outcrops were recorded in the immediate area of Site 80. Quite possibly this stone debris reflects the shallowness of the local soils with bedrock not far below current ground level. Natural stone exposures were noted on the south face of the hill while cobbles could be obtained from the Derrumbe channel.

Condition: The stone lines delimiting structures at Site 80 were disturbed and we cannot rule out the possibility that portions of the site have been disrupted in the past by undetermined cultural and/or natural processes.

Site Description: Site 80 contains four, 0-elevation structures situated ca. 75m back from (west of) the ridge edge. The buildings are tightly nucleated with Strs. 2-4 defining a patio open to the west. Access to the enclosed space was limited to this western face, the close spacing of the surrounding buildings effectively restricted access on the other sides. Structure 1 is isolated 2m north of the group. With the exception of this last edifice, the buildings were apparently aligned to very similar azimuths, ranging from 1-3 degrees east of north. The largest building on the site is Structure 2. This edifice measures 3m x 6.5m and seems to have been divided into 2 rooms by a north-south running interior wall. The western room has dimensions of 2.5m x 4m, the eastern 2.5m x 3m. A small porch, slightly more than 1m wide, was built off the south side of the western room. The remaining buildings are relatively small and lack apparent internal divisions. All perimeter walls were constructed primarily of angular stones with a few river-worn cobbles

interspersed among them. Unlike the other buildings, the space within Str. 1's perimeter walls was tightly packed with stones.

Excavations: None

Dates: The form, especially the still apparent internal divisions, of Str. 2 is not commonly duplicated in other prehistoric structures found in Central Santa Barbara. Similar forms have been attested, however, in Historic period sites (e.g., Site 13). As a result, we tentatively date this site to the Historic period while acknowledging the absence of the other usual diagnostics of this period, e.g., roof tiles.

### **Site 81**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/025 E3/67/110, 150m above sea level.

Location: Site 81 is built on the southern margin of the same hill which supports Site 80 ca. 175m to the north-northeast. While most of the buildings occupy the flat summit of this rise several were raised just below it, extending onto the upper slopes of the eminence. Site 85 lies approximately 750m to the northwest across the Quebrada Derrumbe which is ca. 700m in that direction. The Rio Ulua is found roughly 1.1km to the north. A small seasonal run-off is situated ca. 10m south of the locus. Rock outcrops abound on this side of the hill while cobbles are obtainable from the channels of the Derrumbe and Ulua.

Condition: There was no evidence for looting nor other significant disturbance at Site 81. The ridge top supporting Site 81 was being burned in preparation for maize planting when visited in 1983 though some areas were still obscured by moderately high thorn scrub. Overall, surface visibility was good to very good.

Site Description: Site 81 consists of a nucleated group of five constructions only one of which, Str. 5, has any preserved elevation (0.7m on the south, 0m on the north). All of buildings are built

into terrain which slopes down gradually from north to south along the summit and upper slopes of the supporting rise. Structures 1 and 3-5 define a patio which is only effectively closed on the east. There is no clear evidence that much effort was invested in sighting these edifices along a common azimuth and the group is more irregular than orthogonal in appearance. Platform walls and building foundations were fashioned using angular stones and river cobbles. In addition, the structures frequently incorporate natural rock exposures in their basal or perimeter walls.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused orientation of the group tentatively suggests a Late Classic date for construction and occupation here.

## **Site 82**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/260 E3/68/200, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 82 occupies a restricted shelf of flat land within the lower ascents of the steep Montanas de Santa Barbara foothills. The land slopes down dramatically on the west to the upper eastern Inguaya terrace supporting Sites 75-77 and equally precipitously up on the east. Site 75 lies ca. 250m to the west-northwest while Site 83 is located approximately 100m to the southwest and 45m downslope. An unnamed seasonal tributary of the Quebrada Derrumbe runs ca. 150m to the southwest while a smaller quebrada issues from the eastern hills roughly 20m south of the settlement heading west. Rock outcrops are commonly attested throughout the surrounding hills though few stones appear on the surface of the ledge. This very tentatively suggests that soils here are relatively deep. A chert exposure was recorded ca. 250m southwest of Site 82 on a ridge extending westward from the main body of the eastern sierra.

Site Description: Site 82 possesses six, 0-elevation, constructions, three of which are features, stone lines 3m, 3.5m, and 4m long which do not protrude above ground surface. Structures 1-3

and Feat. 2 surround a patio open to the east with Feats. 1 and 3 located slightly to the south and north, respectively. Access to the enclosed space is unobstructed by construction. No consistency in structure or feature orientations is noted. Perimeter walls and feature lines were built of river cobbles and angular stones that were easily obtained from nearby stream channels and hillside outcrops. All wall lines are two stones thick.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused organization of the site weakly implies that it was built and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 83**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/200 E3/68/130, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 83 sits at the base of the Montanas de Santa Barbara foothills on relatively flat land within a depression carved out by an unnamed seasonal tributary of the Quebrada Derrumbe. This quebrada, running 50m southwest of the site, has cut down into the upper Inguaya terrace supporting Sites 75-77 creating a small basin. Consequently, Site 83 is on fairly flat terrain with land sloping up from it on all sides. Site 82 is located approximately 100m to the northeast while Site 75 is found 200m to the northwest. The Quebrada Derrumbe runs roughly 700m to the northwest. Rock exposures are common throughout the eastern hills while a chert exposure was recorded ca. 150m to the southwest on a ridge extending westward from the main massive of the mountains.

Site Description: Site 83 consists of a single platform standing 0.15m high, measuring 2.3m<sup>2</sup> basally, and oriented 188 degrees. Structure walls were built of river cobbles presumably derived from the nearby stream course.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 84**

Map Coordinates: N16/55/900 E3/67/925, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 84 occupies a very similar topographic position to that described for Site 83 ca. 350m to the northeast, i.e., near the same unnamed tributary of the Quebrada Derumbe within a shallow basin cut by that watercourse into the upper Inguaya terrace supporting Sites 75-77. Unlike Site 83, this settlement is built into the lower slopes of the eastern ascent delimiting the valley. The land here, therefore, slopes up rapidly to the east to the terrace's summit. The quebrada runs roughly 80m to the west while the Quebrada Derrumbe courses 800m to the northwest. Rock outcrops are common in the hills to the east and a chert exposure was recorded ca. 220m northeast of the site in a ridge extending westward from the main body of the mountains.

Site Description: Site 84 consists of a single, 0-elevation structure measuring 2.75 x 3.6m basally and oriented 278 degrees. River cobbles, presumably obtained from the nearby watercourse, were used to build the perimeter walls of this building.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 85**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/250 E3/66/400, 150m above sea level.

Location: Site 85 is found on the summit and flanks of a low rise above the low Inguaya terrace ca. 750m west-northwest of Site 80 and 1.3km north of Site 143 in the Derrumbe Cluster. The ridge summit is relatively level while the descents to the north, west, and south are gradual. On the east the descent to the Quebrada Derrumbe, approximately 50m distant, is somewhat steeper.

The Rio Ulua lies roughly 650m to the north. The floodplain of that river, which was almost completely cultivated in maize in 1983, runs to the base of the hill supporting Site 85. A small, seasonal stream course is located ca. 100m north of the site. No rock outcrops were recorded on this rise nor was stone derived from local bedrock much in evidence.

Condition: Site 85 had been heavily disturbed by mechanized plowing before it was recorded in 1983. Any structures that existed here had been leveled leaving only rock piles produced as a result of field clearing, to attest to their former presence.

Site Description: The extent of the destruction visited on Site 85 made it impossible to infer its former size and organization. In addition to the piles of redeposited building stones found throughout the area, mostly river-worn cobbles, the only other evidence of ancient occupation was a scatter of artifacts including pottery fragments, ground and chipped stone tools. This last artifact category included material manufactured from chert, obsidian, and quartz. No clear artifact concentrations were noted. While there had clearly been a site here, therefore, we are at a loss to describe it in any greater detail.

Excavations: None

Dates: The surface collection made at Site 85 was not analyzed and so the period(s) of occupation represented here remain unknown.

### **Site 86**

Deleted

### **Site 87**

Deleted

### **Site 88**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/400 E3/66/800, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 88 occupies the summit of a ca. 20m-high ascent from the lower terrain, overlooking an area of flat land to the north. The land drops off rapidly to the west, north, and east, rising more gradually to the south towards the town of Gualjoco ca. 300m distant. The Quebrada El Derrumbe runs approximately 160m west of the locus while the Rio Ulua lies roughly 2.8km to the north. Sites 89 and 91 within the cluster are situated ca. 150m northwest and 150m east-southeast of Site 88 respectively. Natural exposures of angular stone were noted on the bluff faces surrounding the locus, on the summit of the rise, as well as in the Galeras Range to the west.

Condition: Constructions at the site appear to have been damaged by stone removal preparatory to planting.

Site Description: Site 88 contains six constructions including two features, stone lines flush with current ground surface and running 2.5m and 4m long. Structure heights range from 0-0.8m, most falling between 0.6-0.8m in altitude. Most constructions are sighted along the north and east margins of the bluff overlooking the Inguaya Plain. Nevertheless, these edifices define a patio on all sides though access to the enclosed space was relatively unrestricted. No significant effort seems to have been devoted to ensuring that all constructions shared a single azimuth. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed primarily of angular stones similar to those found outcropping on the bluff and in the hills to the west. A few river-worn cobbles were also employed.

Excavations: None

Dates: The organization of the site around a central patio points to a Late Classic temporal placement for the locus.

### **Site 89**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/450 E3/66/640, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 89 sits within the narrow north-south trending valley cut by the Quebrada El Derrumbe. The locus is built into the eastern side of the fissure, set amidst the ascent to the upper terrace. Site 88 is approximately 150m to the southeast, and 20m above, Site 89 while Site 91 lies ca. 120m to the south within the same valley system. The Quebrada El Derrumbe runs roughly 75m to the south. Rock outcrops were noted on the western bluff face leading to the Gualjoco Plateau as well as in the Galeras Range to the west.

Site Description: Site 89 consists of four constructions, one platform 1.1m high on the east (upslope) flank and 2m in altitude on the west (downslope) side. The remaining edifices are stone lines, 6m, 9m, and 10m long generally flush with and set parallel to the current slopes of the ascent to the Gualjoco Plateau. The four constructions at Site 89 are tightly nucleated and, given the steepness of the terrain, it is possible that Feats. 1-3 represent the remnants of terraces designed to retard erosion below and above Str. 1. There is no indication that these buildings were laid out according to a common azimuth. Platform facings and feature lines were constructed largely of angular stones easily obtained from exposures on the bluff face and in the Galeras Range.

Excavations: None

Dates: The height of Str. 1 very tentatively suggests that it was built and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 90**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/430 E3/66/545, 160-170m above sea level.

Location: Site 90 stretches from the level summit of the first step-up south towards the Upper Southern Terrace down into the valley of the Quebrada El Derrumbe. The buildings within the

valley occupy a 1.5m-high rise within the relatively featureless terrain of this lowland area. The majority of the constructions at the site are set into the eastern ascent to the terrace which defines this side of the valley. Site 89 is ca. 110m to the east-southeast, Site 94 ca. 100m to the north. The Quebrada El Derrumbe passes 60m west of the site, the Rio Ulua lies 2.5km to the north. Rock outcrops dot the ascents on the east and west sides of the valley.

Site Description: Site 90 consists of 23 constructions, seven of which are features, stone lines set flush with the eastern slopes and measuring 2m-5m in length. All but one of the structures here had no surviving elevation; Str. 16 stands ca. 0.2m above the bluff summit. The site can be divided into three sub-groups. Structures 1-4 are arranged in a rough north-south line on the summit of a low rise within the plain adjoining the Quebrada El Derrumbe. Further upslope to the east Strs. 5-14 and Feats. 1-7 constitute a nucleated group of relatively small buildings. Structures 5-9, 12-14, and Feat. 1 define a patio on all sides while Strs. 10-11 are somewhat more isolated to the north. Features 3-7, located 17m to the southeast, may be the remnants of edifices disrupted by downslope erosion. Feature 2 is intermediate between these two clusters. Finally, Strs. 15 and 16 occupy the summit of the bluff overlooking the Derrumbe valley. These last two edifices may have been paired as suggested by their similar alignments; they are oriented 19 degrees and 22 degrees respectively. Outside of this case, there is little evidence that buildings at Site 90 were aligned to a common azimuth, even within specific groups. Access to the only arguable patio at the site, that defined by Strs. 5-9, 12-14, and Feat. 1, was easiest from the northeast, the remaining potential entrances being limited to some degree by close spacing among constructions. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of river-worn cobbles and angular stones, both easily obtained from the channel of the Derrumbe and natural exposures in the surrounding hills, respectively.

Excavations: None

Dates: The apparent patio-focused form of the structures occupying the eastern slopes implies that this aggregate was built and used in the Late Classic. The more dispersed organization of Strs. 1-4 and 15-16 may point to a temporal placement for these groupings in the Early Postclassic. All of these interpretations remain very tentative.

### **Site 91**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/370 E3/66/685, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 91 occupies a low rise within the valley cut by the Quebrada El Derrumbe and it is a scant 3m east of that stream. The eminence supporting this locus rises 1-2m above the flat valley bottom while the steep eastern escarpments of the pocket ascend to the high terrace a short distance to the east. The summit of the rise supporting Site 91 is relatively level. Site 90 lies ca. 150m to the north within the valley while Site 89 is roughly 110m to the northeast. Rock outcrops were found protruding from the bluff face immediately east of the locus and throughout the flanks of the Galeras Range east and across the Derrumbe from Site 91.

Site Description: Site 91 contains 18 constructions including two features, lines of stone set flush with the summit of the rise and running 12m and 17m long. All but two of the buildings lacked any preserved elevation, Strs. 13 and 14 standing 0.6m and 0.5m high, respectively. No clear patio-focused groups were evident and the structures seem to have been distributed in a roughly linear pattern running southeast to northwest from the southern margin of the rise almost to the Quebrada El Derrumbe. Despite the lack of any clear building aggregates within the settlement there does seem to be a division among structures characterized by different alignments.

Structures 3, 7-9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 are all oriented between 302-337 degrees with most aligned within 10 degrees of each other (327-337 degrees). A second group contains Strs. 1-2, 4-6, 10,

12, and 15 which are oriented much closer to cardinal directions. Edifices within these two classes are scattered over the site, buildings with different orientations frequently being closely juxtaposed. Only in the small cluster composed of Strs. 7-9 do all the buildings share a similar orientation. The significance of this pattern remains unknown. Platform walls and building foundations were constructed of river cobbles and angular stones, both easily obtained from the channel of the Derrumbe and nearby outcrops, respectively.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed, linear pattern of structures at the site suggests that they were built and used in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 92**

Deleted

### **Site 93**

Deleted. This site was immediately south of Site 91 and, because of this proximity, the two loci have been combined.

### **Site 94**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/500 E3/66/525, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 94 occupies a small ledge of level terrain within the otherwise steep ascent to the upper terrace. On the west the ground drops off steeply for roughly 10m to the valley of the Quebrada El Derrumbe and on the north to the low terrace. The land rises on the south and east towards the high terrace. The Derrumbe runs ca. 110m to the west, the Rio Ulua approximately 2.4km to the north. Sites 90 and 89 are approximately 100m south and 110m southeast of the settlement respectively. Natural rock exposures are found in the bluff faces below the locus as well as in the Galeras Range west and across the Derrumbe from Site 94.

Site Description: Site 94 contains two, 0-elevation buildings and one feature, a stone line set flush with current ground surface and running 4m long. Structure 1 is oriented cardinally and measures 3m x 3.5m basally while Str. 2 is situated 10m to the northwest, oriented 43 degrees, measuring 2.5m x 3m basally. The single feature is 1.1m southwest of Str. 2 and is oriented 318 degrees. No clear patio is defined by these edifices and, in general, they are dispersed, running from the western bluff margin to the southeast. River cobbles and angular stones, easily obtained from the nearby Derrumbe channel and outcrops, were used in the building of structure perimeter walls and the feature.

Excavations: None

Dates: The small sizes and dispersed organization of constructions at Site 94 suggest that the locus was built and occupied during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 95**

Deleted.

### **Site 96**

Deleted.

### **Site 97**

Deleted.

### **Site 98**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/200 E3/67/100, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 98 is situated in the southern portion of the North Vega Cluster stretching from the western terrace edge 115m east to the Cerro Grande foothills. This locus is 39m northwest of Site 99 and 58m southeast of Site 100. Seasonal quebradas issuing from the eastern hills separate Site 98 from its two immediate neighbors. Site 98 is situated in that portion of the North Vega terrace

where the eastern foothills of Cerro Grande and the Ulua are converging so, while the land occupied by the site is generally flat to slightly rolling, sharp changes in topography are found over very short distances to the east and west.

Site Description: Site 98 consists of 27 structures and 2 features dominated by a nucleated group of 14 structures and 1 feature on the north. The remaining constructions are dispersed without any clear pattern to the southeast across the terrace and one isolated construction, Str. 27, is built into the low slopes defining the eastern edge of the terrace. Structure elevations range from 0-1.2m high with most falling between 0-0.5m in altitude.

The largest structures at the site (Strs. 1-6) surround the northern patio. Following a pattern of platform organization commonly attested elsewhere in the study area, these substructures are arranged to take advantage of small changes in the local topography. The western line of buildings, Strs. 4-5, are built on the edge of a ca. 0.30m drop west towards the Ulua while their eastern counterparts, Strs. 1-2, are set into a comparably low rise to the east. The patio surface is flat. As a result of these efforts to take advantage of micro-contours in raising Site 98's buildings, Strs. 1-6 are not arranged orthogonally around their plaza but form a roughly circular pattern. Access to the central patio is restricted by low constructions ("saddles") linking Strs. 2, 3, and 4, while stone was used to face the natural descent into the patio between Strs. 1 and 2. Remaining points of entrance to the central space were narrowly defined by the gaps between neighboring structures, these spaces being no more than 4m wide, and the evidence suggests that patio access was closely controlled. Set immediately off the non-patio sides of Strs. 3-6 are a series of constructions whose forms are clearly indicated by cobble stone lines currently flush with ground surface. Eight of these edifices, Strs. 7-12, 22-23, appear to be the foundations for quadrilateral buildings while one, Feature 1, is a single line of cobbles roughly 5m long

embedded in the earth. Structures 1, 4, and 5 are also distinguished by low, 0.5m or less high, stone-faced projected extending from their non-patio facing flanks.

Moving southeast from the northern patio group structures are generally lower than those in the northern aggregate and lack any apparent coherent organization. Construction density gradually decreases in this direction until by the time the southern quebrada is reached only 1 feature, a 9m-long cobble line set flush with the earth, remains of the site.

Based on surface observations, substructure platforms are faced primarily with unmodified river cobbles. The same stones also comprise summit lines visible on several structures, the apparent foundations for perishable superstructures. Stone lines defining the perimeters of structures without elevation may have served as foundations set directly on ground surface and supporting perishable upper walls. The surface of Site 98 yielded few artifacts.

Excavations: Strs. 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 15 were excavated in 1985 along with 2, 1x1m probes within the northern patio.

Date: Analyses of excavated materials indicate that occupation of Site 98 spanned the Early Classic through Early Postclassic with principal construction and use of the site falling in the Late Classic. No material for radiometric dating was recovered.

### **Site 99**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/950 E3/67/300, 135m above sea level.

Location: Situated 39m southeast of, and across, a quebrada from, Site 98, this locus occupies the far southern point of the North Vega terrace where the Rio Ulua and the eastern hills converge. Structures comprising the site are situated ca. 22m back from the Ulua's bank and are roughly an equivalent distance west of the Cerro Grande foothills. The land is still relatively flat, sloping up gradually from west to east and north to south towards the escarpments. All recorded

constructions in Site 99 are situated on the flat terrace summit. A ca. 1m deep dry stream course is situated 15m southeast of the aggregate.

Site Description: Site 99 consists of 12 structures mostly aggregated towards the southeastern edge of the settlement with one isolated edifice, Str. 12, situated to the northwest. Structures 1-11 form an irregularly oriented cluster with buildings situated along the edges of low, ca. 0.2m high, contours dropping down towards the west. Structures 1-3, 7, 9-11 enclose a patio while the remaining constructions are dispersed to the west and northwest. Structure heights range from 0-0.85m with most falling between 0-0.4m. The structures forming the patio-focused group are among the largest at the site. Access to the central patio was not clearly restricted.

Rounded river cobbles and unmodified angular stones, the latter probably derived from outcrops in the surrounding hills, are the primary building stones noted on the surface. Presumably platforms were faced with stone walls comprised of these materials or, in the case of 0-elevation structures, such unmodified rocks were used as foundations for perishable upper constructions.

Excavations: None

Date: Construction and principal occupation at Site 99 probably falls in the Late Classic based on the settlement's overall plan. This does not preclude, of course, use of the locus in earlier and later periods.

## **Site 100**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/360 E3/66/925, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 100 is situated 59m northwest of, and across a 2.5m-deep quebrada from, Site 98 and 88m west-southwest of Site 102. Structures are found as close as 8m to the terrace edge and the foothills of Cerro Grande begin ca. 100m to the east of this site. The land occupied by Site

100 is generally flat, sloping up very gradually from west to east towards the hills. A narrow but deep east-west running dry stream bed cuts through the site separating Strs. 1-4 from the remainder of the locus.

Condition: Artifacts eroding out of the upper portion of the terrace edge northwest of the central cluster (collection lot 100A/3) imply that some portions of the site have been lost to river action. The surface collection found on the north bank of the dry stream bed which cuts through the locus also points to some disturbance of prehistoric remains by this channel. It seems doubtful, however, that significant portions of the site were lost in this fashion.

Site Description: The 17 surface-visible structures which comprise Site 100 are organized following canons recognized elsewhere on the North Vega and throughout Central Santa Barbara. The largest structures at the site, Strs. 8-11, comprise a nucleated, non-orthogonal patio group around which are clustered six additional, generally lower and smaller, constructions. The remaining edifices are dispersed linearly to the southeast and, to a lesser extent, the northwest. Structure heights range from 0-1.0m with most falling between 0-0.4m. Entrance to the patio defined by Strs. 8-11 is not impaired by construction, thus making this central area more accessible than the northern patio in Site 98. There is some use of small changes in elevation, 0.2m or less, in the sighting of Strs. 5, 8-11. Specifically, these platforms were situated along the gradual descent to the Ulua, thus enhancing their heights on the downsloping, western side. This desire to take advantage of natural changes in elevation may have contributed to the irregular appearance of the patio group defined by Strs. 8-11.

Unmodified river cobbles predominate on the surface of constructions though some unmodified angular stones, presumably obtained from nearby outcrops in the eastern hills, were

also noted. Once again, these rocks were apparently used in substructure facings and, in 0-elevation structures, as foundations for perishable building walls.

Excavations: Structures 8, 10, 11, 14, and 16 were excavated in 1985 along with a 1x1m pit designed to probe a lithic concentration identified during surface collection.

Dates: The principal period of construction and occupation falls in the Late Classic. The area of Site 100 was used in the Early Classic and some construction dating to this period was identified in deep tests. Early Postclassic and, to a lesser extent, Late Postclassic occupation and minor construction were also attested to here.

### **Site 101**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/500 E3/67/300, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 101 is located on a small shelf of relatively flat land within the first, low slopes of the Cerro Grande foothills, ca. 125m east of Site 102 and 210m northeast from Site 100. The Rio Ulua is roughly 250m to the west. Site 101 is situated just south of a bend in a major, 15-20m wide by 2m deep, quebrada which turns from running west out of the hills to north along the base of the Cerro Grande slopes at this point. The ground surrounding this restricted shelf rises markedly to the east towards the main massif of Cerro Grande and drops down ca. 4-5m to the west to the North Vega terrace. Site 101 is the only member of the North Vega Cluster to be located totally within the Cerro Grande foothills and off the Ulua terrace.

Site Description: The single structure found at this locus consists of an "L"-shaped line of river cobbles, embedded in the surface of the shelf, measuring 1.8m east-west by between 3.0-4.7m north south (oriented 196 degrees). No other cultural materials were found in the vicinity of this construction.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown.

## **Site 102**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/550 E3/67/50, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 102 is situated 88m east-northeast of Site 100 and about the same distance east of Site 103. Unlike most of the other North Vega sites (Sites 99-100, 103-106) which tend to be positioned close to the Rio Ulua, Site 102 is located well back from that river, 134m distant at the closest point. The lower slopes of Cerro Grande are roughly 225m to the east while the large quebrada which parallels the base of those slopes is approximately 150m distant in that direction. The land here is essentially flat, rising very gradually west-east and north to south.

Condition: The north face of Str. 9 was truncated by the construction of a narrow vehicle road while a concentration of cobbles, possibly representing a destroyed edifice (RC 1), was found close-by this platform.

Site Description: The 11 structures, one feature (a line of cobbles flush with the earth, 8m long), and one rock concentration comprising the site are dispersed in a roughly linear pattern running north-south. No clear, nucleated clusters are apparent, though there are three very loosely organized aggregates comprised, from south to north, of: Strs. 1-4, 10, and Feature 1; Strs. 5-6; and Strs. 7-8 and RC 1. Structures 9 and 11 are isolated to the northwest. No coherent, patio-focused groups, such as those which dominate Sites 98-100, 103-104, 106, are noted here, however. Some use of small changes in natural elevation were noted; Strs. 3-4 were built into a ca. 0.2m-high southward rise while Strs. 5-6 take advantage of a comparably low ascent to the east to enhance their western altitudes. Building heights fell between 0-0.6m, most structures not attaining more than 0.25m in altitude.

Unmodified river cobbles were the primary building stone attested on the surface, used either to face substructure platforms or as foundations, in 0-elevation buildings, for perishable upper walls.

Excavations: Structures 1, 5, and 7 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: The site's form is reminiscent of Early Postclassic patterns of structure organization. Excavations indicate that occupation at this locus spanned the Early Classic through Early Postclassic with primary construction and use dating to the Late Classic. There was substantial Early Postclassic use of this site, however.

### **Site 103**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/625 E3/66/875, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 103 is located 88m west-northwest of Site 102 and 100m south of Site 104 on the relatively flat summit of the North Vega terrace. The steep descent to the Rio Ulua is 32m west at the closest point while the eastern hills begin approximately 300m from the locus.

Condition: The recovery of artifacts eroding from the upper Ulua bank (lot 103A/1), 35-46m west of Str. 9, indicates that some portions of Site 103 have eroded into the Ulua. It is doubtful, however, that much of the site was lost in this fashion.

Site Description: The 11 structures comprising Site 103 range in height from 0-0.6m with most falling between 0-0.3m in altitude. The largest edifices are concentrated in an irregular patio group (Strs. 3-7) occupying the summit of a 0.3m-high rise on the otherwise featureless terrace surface. Structures 3-7 are built so as to take advantage of this rise thus enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks. Access to the patio is fairly open. Immediately surrounding these platforms are Str. 8-9, two small, 0-elevation constructions. The remaining edifices which make

up Site 103 are dispersed without a clear pattern to the southeast (Strs. 1-2) and northwest (Strs. 10-11).

Based on observations of surface debris, platform walls and structure foundations were primarily fashioned of unmodified river cobbles such as might easily be found in the nearby Ulua.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, 6, and 7 were excavated in 1985 along with a 1x1m test pit placed in the vicinity of lot 103A/1 on the Ulua's bank.

Dates: The principal period of site use falls in the Early Postclassic though a substantial Late Classic component is also attested. Construction at the locus seems to fall in both periods.

### **Site 104**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/825 E3/66/825, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 104 is 100m north of Site 103, 79m west of Site 105, and 97m southwest of Site 106 on the flat summit of the North Vega terrace. The Rio Ulua is 32m west at the closest point while the eastern hills lie ca. 300m distant. The large north-south running quebrada which passes close by Sites 101, 102, and through Site 105 is 130m to the east.

Site Description: The eight structures comprising Site 104 range in height from 0-0.5m, only one being over 0.35m in altitude. Structures 1-3 form a very irregular patio group. Structure 1 is the largest construction at the locus while Strs. 2-3 are built atop a 0.4m-tall rise, thus augmenting their low altitudes to the point where they are roughly equivalent to Str. 1 in height. Access to this patio is not restricted and, unlike the other nucleated groups discussed so far, one side (the east) is completely unencumbered by construction. Structures 4 and 5 are two, small, 0-elevation edifices located in the immediate vicinity of the patio cluster while the remaining buildings are scattered in a roughly linear pattern to the northwest.

Platform walls and building foundations were apparently fashioned of relatively small unmodified river cobbles. A line of cobbles runs the length of Str. 1's summit.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, 7, and 8 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: The principal period of occupation at Site 104 falls in the Early Postclassic. Construction was also conducted during this period, though some building may have been carried out in the preceding Late Classic as well. Late Classic occupation in the area is attested and there is evidence for at least restricted use of the locus during the Early Classic as well.

### **Site 105**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/900 E3/67/150, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 105 is 79m east of Site 104 and 91m east-southeast of Site 106 near the point where the North Vega terrace joins the eastern hills. The Rio Ulua is 212m to the west while the major north-south trending quebrada cuts through the site separating the majority of the preserved constructions (Strs. 1-11), from the remnants of destroyed platforms to the east at the base of the Cerro Grande foothills. The land is generally flat to rolling, rising up more markedly at the base of the eastern slopes. The topographic situation of Site 105 resembles most closely that described for Site 102. Both are considerably removed from the Rio Ulua, a pattern which distinguishes them from the majority of North Cluster settlements.

Condition: Site 105 is the most heavily disturbed of all North Vega sites. Structure 4 had been looted while Str. 5 lost at least its northeast corner to the encroachments of the quebrada. East of this stream bed against the hills, construction of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road resulted in leveling an untold number of platforms of which the remnants of one could still be discerned (designated here as Str. 12). It is likely that Site 105 was once larger than its current 14 constructions.

Site Description: As noted above, the form of Site 105 is difficult to reconstruct because of disturbances the locus has been subject to subsequent to abandonment. The site currently possesses 13 structures and one feature (F.1), the latter an 8m-long line of stones set flush with ground surface. Structures range from 0-0.9m high, most falling between 0-0.4m. Two potential patio groups are still extant at Site 105, the southern one composed of the two largest platforms (Strs. 6 and 7) which are oriented roughly parallel to each other, while the northern example consists of much lower, more irregularly organized buildings (Strs. 1-4). In neither case was access to the central patio significantly restricted. Surrounding the Strs. 6-7 group are a series of what appear to be low, ancillary constructions (Strs. 8-10 and 11) while no similar buildings were recorded in the immediate vicinity of the northern patio cluster. Feature 1 sits roughly equidistant between the northern and southern aggregates while Str. 13 (not mapped) is isolated to the west-southwest of the Strs. 6-7 group. The organization of structures east of the quebrada is impossible to reconstruct and we cannot even be certain how many once existed here. While Site 105's overall plan is not unusual the positioning of structures so close to the north-south running quebrada and bordering hills is. We remain uncertain as to whether the dry stream bed postdates occupation of the locus or if it was contemporary with that occupation. Almost certainly this channel has been expanding laterally since the abandonment of Site 105.

Substructure walls and building foundations were apparently fashioned using unmodified stones, both river cobbles and angular rocks available from the Ulua and outcrops in the bordering hills respectively.

Excavations: None

Dates: Large collections of material, principally ceramics, were made from the area of the constructions destroyed in the course of road-building activities. Datable ceramics, deriving most

probably from both terminal debris and fill contexts, point consistently to occupation and construction in this area during the Late Classic. General site form, insofar as this can be reconstructed for Site 105, also points to its principal use during the Late Classic. No other time periods were attested.

### **Site 106**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/100 E3/66/850, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 106 is located at the northern terminus of the North Vega Cluster, roughly 1 km north-northwest of Site 99, 91m west-northwest of Site 107, and 97m north-northeast of Site 104. Site 106 rests atop the high terrace at the point where the Ulua shifts its southeast-northwest course to run southwest-northeast. The terrace surface is generally flat, rising very gradually from the north, east, and west towards the point where the Site 106 main patio group is situated. The Ulua is 30m to the north and 145m to the west of the site. The north-south trending quebrada which cuts through Site 105 is 110m to the east, the Cerro Grande foothills are roughly 250m in the same direction.

Condition: Structures 1 and 14 have been looted, though, in both cases, the illicit probes were very limited in extent, holes no more than 0.5-0.75m deep and 1.25m in diameter. The northeast flank of the former platform was damaged in this fashion while the northwest side of the latter suffered from looting. Evidence for possible plowing of the site north and west of the main patio group was noted though this activity did not seem to have damaged any constructions. In general, structure preservation at Site 106 was excellent.

Site Description: Site 106 is composed of 23 structures which range in height from 0-2.0m, most falling between 0.6-1.0m in altitude. This locus is one of the largest settlements, in terms of structure numbers and heights, recorded in the research zone. The majority of the extant

platforms (Strs. 1-19) comprise a tightly nucleated aggregate set atop a 0.35m- (on the east) to 0.65m-high (north and west) rise. The land is slightly higher on the south, the small ascent atop which most of the group is built being a northern projection of that rise. While some effort was expended in maintaining a common orientation among the northernmost structures in the group (Strs. 1, 3, 4, 14) the remainder are irregularly grouped, their orientations being determined by the form of the rise atop which they are set. Structures 1, 3-7, 12, 14, and 19 are built over the edge of this ascent thereby enhancing the heights of their non-patio, downslope flanks. This aggregate contains at least two patios ranged in a rough north-south line. The northern covers the largest area and is defined by the tallest platforms in the site (Strs. 1, 3-8, 11, 12, 14). Its southern counterpart, defined by Strs. 9, 11, 15-18, is more modest in size and rests atop the elevated southern terrain from which the projection which serves as the base for the northern patio emanates. A third, possible patio is defined by Strs. 7-10. Structures 2 and 13 are small edifices within the northern patio, the former connected by substantial raised construction to the largest platform at the site, Str. 1. Structure 19 appears to have been an extensive, albeit low (ca. 0.4m high), terrace which formalizes the west face of the main patio group. The staircase which extends roughly 2m from the north side of Str. 1 is another unusual construction for Central Santa Barbara platforms, outside Gualjoquito, where formal access features are rarely attested on the surface. This stair, taken together with the shared orientation of Strs. 1, 3, 4, and 14, suggests that the northern side of the patio group faced outwards into a public space, the remaining sides of the aggregate being more informally organized.

Access to the northern patio was effectively restricted, especially on the north where formal constructions link Strs. 1, 3, 4, and 14 thus creating a unified front. On its remaining sides, passage into the northern patio was limited by the narrow spaces separating buildings and,

in some cases, the construction linking edifices. Entrance to the southern patios was somewhat easier though even here gaps between buildings were narrow and sometimes closed by saddles. The main patio group of Site 106, therefore, resembles the north patio cluster of Site 98 in the apparent effort taken by its residents to control traffic into patio areas.

Outside of this patio cluster the remaining constructions on the site are widely dispersed to the south (Str. 20) and north (Strs. 21-23) conforming to no clear pattern.

Unmodified, moderately large (0.4-0.7m in diameter generally) river cobbles were the most commonly found building material, noted both on the surface and in looter's exposures. Presumably, platform walls and/or building foundations were constructed using this material. Excavations: Structures 1-3, 5-13, 17, 19, 21, 22 were excavated during the 1985 and 1986 seasons together with a 2x2m test probe dug into the northern patio.

Dates: Occupation at Site 106 spanned the Late Preclassic through the Early Postclassic. The Late Preclassic settlement here appears to have been very limited in extent while during the Early Classic the intensity of occupation increased markedly and some construction is attested. The Late Classic period marks the major period of construction and use of the locus though Early Postclassic occupation and construction is attested.

### **Site 107**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/175 E3/67/200, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 107 is 140m east-northeast of Site 106 and 183m north-northeast of Site 105. Located near the point where the north-south running quebrada joins the Ulua, Site 107 is 11m west of the dry stream bed and 48m south of the steep descent to the Ulua. The Cerro Grande slopes commence roughly 75m to the east. Site 107 rests on the relatively flat summit of the high

terrace just west of the point where that terrace pinches out between the Ulua and the Cerro Grande hills.

Site Description: Site 107 consists of one structure measuring 3.5m on a side, standing 0.3m high, and oriented 65 degrees. Substructure facings were apparently fashioned from small, roughly 0.2-0.4m in diameter, unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Date: If Site 107 was part of the diffuse settlement including Strs. 21-23 at Site 106 then, on the basis of excavated data from Strs. 21 and 22 and settlement form, principal occupation and use of the locus dates to the Early Postclassic. Both Strs. 21 and 22 were intensively used during this period and the widely dispersed pattern of structure placement is also a hallmark of the Early Postclassic era.

### **Site 108**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/850 E3/67/675, 150m above sea level

Location: Site 108 is situated on a small ledge of flat land within the Cerro Grande foothills on the east edge of the Gualjoquito vega. The prehistoric center of Gualjoquito (Site 1) lies 700m to the south while Site 99 is 500m to the northwest, separated from Site 108 by a spur of the eastern mountains. A deep, seasonal stream course runs within 50m of the locus to the south while the Rio Ulua is 300m to the west. The land slopes steeply away from Site 108 on all sides save the northeast where it rises dramatically into the hills.

Site Description: Site 108 contains a single, 0-elevation construction measuring 4.3m x 4.5m and oriented 331 degrees. The building's perimeter walls were fashioned of unmodified cobbles and angular stones.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 109**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/925 E3/66/900, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 109 sits ca. 100m west of the Rio Ulua on the low terrace 7-10m above the river (there is no Ulua floodplain here). The ground slopes down gradually from west to east. Site 110 in the Loma Larga Cluster is 450m to the northwest while Sites 112 and 122 are 350m to the southwest and 225m to the southeast respectively. A seasonal stream channel is situated roughly 150m northwest of the settlement and another runs approximately 100m to the south of it.

Site Description: Site 109 contains four, 0-elevation structures and one feature, the latter being a stone line, 2.5m long, that is flush with current ground surface. Constructions within the site are set out in a rough southeast-northwest trending line and the settlement lacks an apparent patio focus or common orientation. One possible exception to the latter statement pertains to Strs. 2 and 3 which appear paired and to be laid out along a similar azimuth (oriented 208 degrees and 210 degrees 30 minutes). Structure foundations and the single feature were constructed primarily of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The linear, non-patio-focus organization of the site implies that the principal period of construction and occupation was during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 110**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/250 E3/66/600, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 110 is situated near the western margin of the high terrace above the Ulua, approximately 75m south of the Quebrada Guijo and 200m west of the Ulua. The land is generally flat, rising gradually from east to west towards the Lomas de Jicaro. Site 110 occupies

a 0.75m-high rise within this generally featureless terrain. This modest eminence is surrounded on the east, south, and west by deep quebradas which issue from the western hills and join the Quebrada Guijo ca. 75m north of Site 110. Other ancient settlements located in the immediate vicinity are Sites 111 and 118 within the Loma Larga Cluster, 150m west and 300m southwest respectively, while Site 109 outside the aggregate is roughly 450m to the southeast. Site 113 in the Loma Larga cluster is ca. 525m to the northwest across the Guijo while Site 100 in the North Vega cluster is roughly 350m to the east-northeast across the Ulua.

Condition: Site 110 has suffered considerably from the systematic removal of stone from structure surfaces preparatory to planting. The almost total lack of building elevations at the locus is probably due to this agricultural practice.

Site Description: Site 110 contains 14 constructions including three features, stone lines set flush with current ground surface which do not appear to be part of extant structures. Surviving structure heights range from 0-0.35m only three of the buildings (Strs. 1, 3, and 10) having any preserved height. Though site destruction has been extensive it is still possible to recognize a distinctly nucleated pattern to the group with Strs. 1-3, 5-10, and Feat. 1 defining a very small patio on all sides. Structure 4 and 11 along with Feats. 2-3 are outliers within the site. There is no clear evidence that constructions were built to conform to a common azimuth, though the aforementioned modern disturbances to the locus may have obscured such a pattern. Access to the patio is restricted by the close spacing of buildings and may only have been possibly from the east. Structures are concentrated on the east side of the small rise they occupy overlooking a dry stream channel. At least some of the edifices were built using the gentle slope of the land in this direction to enhance their heights (Strs. 3 and 10 are surviving examples). Platform walls and

building foundations were constructed primarily of river cobbles easily obtained from the nearby Quebrada Guijo and Rio Ulua.

Excavations: None

Date: The nucleated, patio-focused configuration of the group suggests that its principal period of construction and use falls in the Late Classic. Diagnostic ceramics recovered in surface collections confirm this temporal placement.

### **Site 111**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/310 E3/66/450, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 111 rests within a low eastern extension of the Lomas de Jicaro, ca. 5m above the high terrace supporting Site 110 which is about 150m to the east. The land, which slopes up markedly to the north and west, is broken by frequent rock outcrops. The Quebrada Guijo is roughly 75m to the north, a seasonal affluent of that stream runs 50m south of the locus, while the Ulua is found ca. 325m to the east. Site 113 within the Loma Larga Cluster is approximately 250m to the northwest while Site 100 in the North Vega Cluster is 500m to the east across the Rio Ulua.

Site Description: Site 111 contains four structures only one of which has any preserved elevation (Str. 1, 0.15m high). Buildings are set into the northward-rising terrain and did not define a clear patio. Rather, they are distributed in a rough southwest-northeast running line. Structure orientations were variable. River cobbles and angular stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the locus (andesite primarily) were used to construct platform facings and building foundations. The wall foundations of Str. 4 still rise ca. 0.2m above ground surface and are fashioned of unmodified stone set in an earth matrix.

Excavations: None

Dates: The still-standing foundation walls of Str. 4 suggest that it was used well into the Historic period. Otherwise, the general dispersed structure organization implies that the principal period of construction and use over the remainder of the site falls within the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 112**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/750 E3/66/550, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 112 is on the western margin of the high terrace extending from the base of the Lomas de Jicaro foothills up to 215m to the east. The western portion of the locus occupies a 1.5m-high rocky knoll (an extension of the western hills) while Str. 1 further east is found on the more level terrain of the high terrace summit. In general, the ground slopes down west to east, at first fairly rapidly off the knoll and then more gradually. The Rio Ulua is 600m to the east, the Quebrada Lempa runs 500m to the south, and the Quebrada Fuijo lies roughly 600m to the north. A seasonal stream channel is located ca. 150m north of the site. Site 109 is 350m to the northeast, Site 121, ca. 300m to the east-southeast, and, outside the aggregate, Site 118 is 400m to the northwest. Rock outcrops are common in the neighboring hills and throughout the knoll supporting Strs. 2-4.

Condition: The absence of clear basal lines on all Site 112 structures suggests that they had been disturbed at some point in the past, probably as a result of planting on and around them. Structure 3 may have been truncated by the construction and use of the La Isla-Loma Larga road which runs immediately southwest and west of this building and/or by the raising of a stone wall which borders the northeastern side of that route. It is also possible that the construction of the aforementioned road resulted in the destruction of constructions formerly associated with the locus.

Site Description: Site 112 contains four, 0-elevation structures which form a rough, southwest-northeast trending line extending from the summit of a 1.5m-high rocky knoll in the southwest (Strs. 2-4) out onto the relatively level upper terrace to the northeast. No clear patio focus was discerned and, while Strs. 3 and 4 seem to have been paired, the remaining two constructions are widely dispersed, isolated buildings. The edifices do not seem to have been built to conform to a common azimuth. While structure perimeters were outlined by stone lines, the nature of these materials (cobble or chunks) was not recorded.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed distribution of relatively small buildings found at Site 112 suggests that this locus was built and used during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 113/117**

Note: Sites 113 to 117 north of the Quebrada Guijo were originally recorded in 1984 as five separate loci based on our understanding at that time of the distribution of constructions and the distances between them. Further work in 1985 located additional buildings which filled the gaps between previously distinct settlements. We now perceive Site 113 to 117 as one large, continuous locus rather than as a series of contiguous but separate settlements. Unfortunately, by the time we arrived at this conclusion excavations in all five former sites had been completed, recovered materials and features keyed into the earlier locus designations. In order to avoid any unnecessary confusion we have retained the old site numbers for descriptive purposes while grouping the five settlements together as one habitation area in our settlement analyses, designated as Sites 113/117.

Map Coordinates: Site 113: N16/59/550 E3/66/300, 135m above sea level.

Site 114: N16/59/875 E3/66/525, 135m above sea level.

Site 115: N16/59/750 E3/66/475, 135m above sea level.

Site 116: N16/59/675 E3/66/425, 135m above sea level.

Site 117: N16/59/640 E3/66/400, 135m above sea level.

Location: Sites 113/117 are situated on the western margin of the high terrace above the Ulua at the approximate point where that relatively level surface gives way to the steep ascents of the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills. The terrace summit slopes up gradually from east to west towards the mountains. The high terrace follows the base of the foothills, running southwest-northeast. Sites 114 to 117 occupy the northern portion of the terrace system and face eastward towards the Rio Ulua, ca. 150 and 400m distant (measured from Sites 114 and 117, respectively). Site 113 occupies the western extension of the terrace and looks south to the Quebrada Guijo, which lies roughly 125m distant in that direction. A dry stream channel runs roughly 100m north of the northernmost locus in this aggregate, Site 114. Distances separating these settlements range between 12-36m, averaging 23.25m. Site 148 is situated ca. 300m north of Site 114 while the closest locus to the south in the Loma Larga Cluster is Site 111, approximately 250m southeast of Site 113. Sites 103 and 104 of the North Vega Cluster are situated roughly 400m east and across the Ulua from Sites 113/117.

Condition: The structures composing Sites 113/117 had been considerably disturbed by the systematic removal of stones preparatory to planting.

Site Description: Sites 113/117 contain a total of 35 constructions including one feature, a line of stones 4m long set flush with ground surface. Structure heights ranged from 0-2.0m, though 17 had no surviving elevations. It seems likely that the aforementioned practice of stone robbing had much to do with producing this truncated distribution of structure altitudes. The distribution of structures by site within the settlement is as follows, moving southwest to northwest: Site 113

(three structures); Site 117 (12 structures); Site 116 (five structures); Site 115 (six structures); Site 114 (eight structures and one feature). Construction within the settlement is distributed linearly following the base of the Las Tunitas foothills and only rarely extending out onto the high terrace. Closer examination, however, does reveal the existence of distinct patio groups within this linear pattern. Structures 5-12 in Site 117 enclose a central space open to the northeast, Strs. 1-3 and 4-6 in Site 115 similarly define patios open to the southeast and north, respectively, and Strs. 1-4 form a patio-focused cluster on the northern margins of the aggregate in Site 114, this time unencumbered by construction on the east facing the Ulua. Access to all of these patios is not seriously restricted. It should be noted that the largest structures in Sites 113/117 tend to be found in the patio groups, smaller buildings located outside these nucleated clusters. The general pattern of structure organization, therefore, seems to consist of four patio-focused nodes around and between which are dispersed individual, isolated constructions. There is no clear evidence at Sites 113/117 that any set of structures, within or beyond patio groups, was ever aligned to a common azimuth. Rather, structure locations and orientations seem to be primarily determined by natural changes in elevation, builders sighting their edifices to follow these contours and thus enhance the heights of their structure's downslope flanks. Platform facings and building foundations were built primarily of river-worn cobbles with some angular stones, probably obtained from numerous outcrops in the bordering hills, included as a minority component.

Excavations: Structure 1 in Site 113, Strs. 3, 4, 7, and 8 in Site 114, Strs. 1, 2, and 3 in Site 115, Strs. 3 and 5 in Site 116, and Strs. 6 and 11 in Site 117 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: Principal occupation at Site 113 appears to date to the Late Classic though evidence of Early Classic and Early Postclassic use of the area is attested. Use of Sites 114 and 115 spans the Early Classic through Early Postclassic with the primary era of construction and occupation in

both cases falling during the Late Classic. Occupation at Site 116 dates to both the Late Classic and Early Postclassic with, perhaps, the earlier period being the primary interval of use and construction. This distinction remains unclear, however. Site 117 was built and used principally during the Early Postclassic though some occupation apparently persisted into the Late Postclassic. In general, therefore, habitation at Sites 113/117 began at least by the Early Classic, peaked during the Late Classic, and persisted in some strength into the Early Postclassic, eventually disappearing during the Late Postclassic.

### **Site 118**

Map Coordinates: N16/59/090 E3/66/360, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 118 lies on the eastern edge of a narrow shelf of flat land within the first ascents of the Loma de Jicaro, overlooking the Ulua ca. 500m to the east. The slopes surrounding and leading up to this ledge are steep and both the shelf and neighboring ascents are studded with rock exposures, including quartz and andesite. Similar ledges were investigated further upslope into the foothills but these did not appear to support human habitation. The upper ascents of the Lomas de Jicaro are frequently dissected by seasonal run-offs feeding ultimately into the Guijo and there is relatively little flat land suitable for habitation in this area. The Quebrada Guijo is ca. 275m to the north while the sizeable quebrada which borders Site 111 on the south runs roughly 125m to the north of Site 118. Other nearby settlements in the Loma Larga Cluster include Sites 110 and 111 approximately 300m and 225m respectively to northeast. The modern town of Loma Larga begins roughly 75m to the north and west. Site 118 rests ca. 15m above the high terrace which supports Site 110.

Site Description: Site 118 consists of four constructions built into the northeast corner of a restricted shelf of flat land. Structure heights range from 0.35-0.6m on their downslope sides,

from 0-0.1m on their upsloping flanks. As these altitude figures indicate, platforms were built so as to enhance their down-sloping faces along natural contours, a concern which determined their locations and probably worked against the adoption of a common orientation. Structures 1-4 define a patio open to the east and west. Access to this central space on the flat shelf summit is not impeded. Some effort seems to have been devoted to maintaining a flat patio surface. A low, ca. 0.1m-high, terrace extends west from Str. 4 and defines the north patio face. Presumably, this construction served to retard erosion within the steeply sloping terrain surround Site 118.

Platform walls were built using angular stones (primarily) and river cobbles, the former easily available from numerous outcrops found throughout the hills and the latter probably derived from several close-by watercourses.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the site suggests that it was constructed and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 119**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/400 E3/66/900, 132m above sea level.

Location: Site 119 occupies a restricted terrace, roughly 50m north-south by 30m east-west, on the north bank of the Quebrada Lempa at a point 10-13m below the summit of the high terrace. The north terrace flank is delimited by a steep ascent while on the south there is a 2.5m drop to the channel of the Lempa. Site 3, which occupies a nearly identical topographic situation, is ca. 300m to the southwest across the Lempa while Site 120 is perched ca. 10m above it, 100m to the north. The Rio Ulua lies 550m to the east, the Lempa itself being only 8m east of the site.

Site Description: Site 119 contains seven constructions, including one feature, a line of stones 6.5m long that is flush with current ground surface. Only Structure 4 has any preserved elevation,

standing ca. 0.3m high. Structures 3-6 define a patio open on the southeast while Strs. 1-2 and Feat. 1 are located in close proximity to the patio group. Access to the central enclosed space is not seriously impeded. No single azimuth was apparently shared by all or most of the buildings at Site 119. Platform facings and structure foundations were built of river cobbles, easily obtained from the bed of the Lempa or Ulua.

Excavations: None.

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the group suggests that it was built and used primarily in the Late Classic.

### **Site 120**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/525 E3/66/875, 142m above sea level.

Location: Site 120 rests on a narrow (1,360m<sup>2</sup>) southern extension of the high terrace overlooking the northern bank of the Quebrada Lempa (ca. 12.5m below) and Site 119 (roughly 10m below and 100m to the south of Site 120). The high terrace summit is relatively level. The ground drops off precipitously on all sides into the Lempa valley save the northeast where it rises an additional 3m. The Rio Ulua is 500m to the east while the Lempa runs roughly 150m to the south. In addition to Site 119, the closest loci within the Lower Lempa Cluster are Sites 122 and 126, approximately 200m to the northeast and 225m to the east-northeast respectively.

Site Description: Site 120 contains three structures ranging from 0-0.5m high enclosing a patio on the east and west sides. The northern and southern flanks of the group are defined by the 3m-tall rise noted above and the descent to the Lempa, respectively. Access to the patio is unimpeded. Structure orientations range from 350 to 3 degrees and the group gives the general impression of having been orthogonally arranged. Platform facings and structure foundations were built using river-worn cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The relatively large size of Str. 1 and the patio-focus of the group implies that this locus was built and used primarily in the Late Classic period.

### **Site 121**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/750 E3/66/900, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 121 is built into the gradual rise from the low to high terraces above the Ulua north of the Quebrada Lempa. The land slopes gently down eastward toward the Ulua, ca. 300m distant. The high terrace summit is relatively level for roughly 350m westward to the base of the Lomas de Jicaró. The Quebrada Lempa is approximately 325m to the south while Sites 109 and 122 are 150m to the northeast and 100m to the southeast respectively.

Site Description: Site 121 contains two structures, only one of which has any preserved elevation (0.5m on the east, downslope flank, 0m on the west). The buildings are oriented along similar azimuths, 0 degrees 30 minutes and 2 degrees, and face each other over a distance of only 1m. Given the small sizes of these buildings, each is 2m by 2m, and their close juxtaposition it is possible that they represent fragments of a single building cleft by some, presently unrecognized, recent activity in the area. Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of river-worn cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 122**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/775 E3/67/010, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 122 is located on a ca. 0.4m-high rise within the relatively level terrain of the low terrace above the Ulua, north of the Lempa. The ground slopes down very gradually from west to

east towards the river. The Ulua is situated ca. 150m east and down a 7m precipitous drop from Site 122 while the Quebrada Lempa is roughly 225m to the south. A seasonal stream channel lies 30m south of the locus, trending east-west to join the Ulua. Site 121 is approximately 100m to the northwest, Site 126, 200m to the southeast, and Site 99 in the North Vega Cluster 325m to the northeast across the Rio Ulua.

Site Description: Site 122 contains five structures ranging in height from 0.35-0.85m, most rising 0.35-0.4m. The buildings are tightly nucleated atop a ca. 0.4m-high rise and define a patio on all sides. The original builders apparently eschewed the use of a common orientation for their constructions, edifices being raised along the edges of the eminence as opposed to orthogonally. Access to the patio was somewhat restricted by the close spacing of buildings and the ca. 0.2m-tall saddle which links Strs. 1 and 2. The southeast corner alone offers unimpeded passage to the central space. Platform facings were built of unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focused form of the site points to construction and occupation here during the Late Classic.

### **Site 123**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/280 E3/66/475, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 123 occupies a very small ledge of flat land within the lower slopes of the Lomas de Jicaro foothills surrounded on the south, east, and west by precipitous descents and on the north by a steep rise. A deep, seasonal stream channel lies ca. 50m to the north running east-west while the Quebrada Lempa is ca. 100m to the south and the Rio Ulua 1.1km to the east. Sites 3 and 119 are approximately 250m to the southeast and 425m to the northeast respectively.

Outcrops, primarily of a rounded, gray to brown, vesicular stone, were found throughout the slopes surrounding Site 123.

Site Description: Site 123 consists of a single, 0-elevation structure, 3.5m<sup>2</sup> basally, and oriented 78 degrees. The structure is defined by perimeter lines of rounded, vesicular stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the surrounding hills. The size of the building and its isolated location suggest its function as a temporary shelter used by people who exploited this hilly terrain and resided elsewhere throughout the year.

Excavation: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 124**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/025 E3/66/850, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 124 sits atop a 0.45m-high rise within the relatively level terrain of the high terrace above the Rio Ulua south of the Quebrada Lempa. The eastern edge of the terrace is ca. 350m distant while the Ulua and Lempa lie approximately 900m east and 300m north of Site 124, respectively. A seasonal stream channel lies 54m southwest of the locus. Sites 4, 5, and 23 occupy roughly the same topographic position as this settlement, ca. 200m to the northeast, 550m to the southeast, and 880m to the southeast respectively.

Condition: Site 124 had been destroyed by the time we visited it in 1984, primarily as the result of systematic stone removal to facilitate planting and ox-drawn plowing associated with maize cultivation.

Site Description: Site 124 consists of a 75m x 30m (maximum dimensions), oval-shaped concentration of cobbles. No structure lines were preserved within this mass. In general, the concentration trended southeast-northwest covering a 0.45m-high rise within the otherwise fairly

level terrain of the terrace summit. Designation of this cobble aggregation as a site is based on the localization of these stones within an area where they do not appear naturally. Our failure to find artifacts associated with the supposed building debris raises doubts as to the validity of this site designation.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 125**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/360 E3/67/160, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 125 is situated ca. 20m back from (west of) the eastern edge of the high terrace above the Rio Ulua, south of the Quebrada Lempa, on terrain which slopes down gradually eastward to the river. Immediately below Site 125 the Ulua's floodplain is roughly 350m wide and was planted in maize when visited in 1984. This low-lying zone pinches out immediately north of Site 125 at the point where the Lempa and Ulua join. The river is approximately 400m to the east of Site 125 while the Lempa lies 150m to the north. Site 4 is ca. 225m to the southwest atop the same terrace while Site 126 is found 200m to the northwest across the Lempa.

Condition: The smaller of the two structures comprising Site 125 lacked northeast and southeast perimeter walls and this may suggest some stone robbing in the recent past.

Site Description: Site 125 includes two, 0-elevation buildings arranged in a rough north-south line ca. 1m apart, measuring 2.5m<sup>2</sup> and 4m<sup>2</sup> basally, and oriented 39 degrees (the smaller building) and 338 degrees (its larger, northern neighbor). The surviving perimeters of these edifices are clearly marked by lines of unmodified river cobbles set flush with ground surface.

Excavation: None

Dates: Unknown

## **Site 126**

Map Coordinates: N16/58/600 E3/67/110, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 126 extends at least 62m west of the eastern margin of the low terrace above the Rio Ulua, north of the Quebrada Lempa. The Quebrada Lempa lies approximately 50m to the south and the land slopes down gradually from west to east towards the Ulua and north to south into the Lempa. A short but steep seasonal run-off channel borders the locus on the north. Site 122, which occupies a very similar topographic position, is found ca. 200m to the northwest while Sites 119 and 120 are situated to the southeast, roughly 275m and 325m distant, respectively.

Condition: All structures at Site 126 had apparently been destroyed through systematic stone removal carried out in preparation for planting.

Site Description: Site 126 consists of a light sherd scatter covering an area of approximately 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> within which there are two artifact concentrations. These aggregations form a circle 6m in diameter and an oval 12m x 16m in size, are separated from each other by 24m, and are arranged in a rough southeast-northwest trending line 33m to 46m west of the steep descent to the Rio Ulua. The only possible remains of former constructions noted were piles of river-worn cobbles apparently formed as local farmers cleared this field in the process of cultivation.

Excavations: None

Dates: The surface collection, though eroded, suggests occupation in the Late Classic.

## **Site 127**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/325 E3/68/200, 140m above sea level

Location: Site 127 occupies the north edge of the low terrace within the north Gualjoquito vega near the point where the Cerro Tiligua escarpments and Rio Ulua converge. Site 128 lies 175m to the west-southwest atop the same terrace and Site 175 on the Reyes vega is 500m to the west-

northwest and across the Ulua. The land supporting Site 127 ascends gradually from southeast to northwest towards a low hill rising above the terrace. A seasonal stream course runs 75m north of the settlement, the Ulua is 150m to the northwest, and the flanks of Cerro Tiligua are found 225m to the southeast. Rock outcrops are common on the nearby slopes while the Ulua's channel is an abundant source of rounded cobbles.

Site Description: Site 127 consists of four, 0-elevation buildings scattered in a rough north-south running line. These diminutive edifices exhibit little architectural elaboration (Strs. 1 and 2 are joined by stone construction) and only Strs. 1 and 2 are mutually aligned. There is no patio focus to the group. Building foundations were made of angular stones and cobbles easily acquired from the neighboring hills and Rio Ulua respectively.

Excavations: None

Dates: The linear arrangement of small buildings evident at Site 127 suggests that this locus was occupied during the Early Postclassic. Site 127 may be part of the dispersed Early Postclassic settlement of the north Gualjoquito vega which includes parts of Sites 98, 100, 102, 103, 104, 106, and 107.

### **Site 128**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/250 E3/68/00, 140m above sea level

Location: Site 128 on the north Gualjoquito vega sits atop the low terrace ca. 50m back (south) of a steep descent to the Rio Ulua. A seasonal channel courses 17m north of the site while Sites 127 and 107 are 175m east-northeast and 750m west-southwest of Site 128 respectively. The terrain here is fairly level and well-drained. Rock outcrops are common on the precipitous escarpments of the eastern hills beginning 250m southeast of the locus while rounded cobbles are plentiful in the channel of the Rio Ulua to the north.

Site Description: Site 128 contains six constructions, ranging from 0-0.65m high, arranged around a patio open on the south and northeast. The largest buildings at the locus (Strs. 1 and 2, 0.65m and 0.5m high, respectively) are linked by a low saddle. Passage into the space enclosed by Strs. 1-6 was otherwise unimpeded. Buildings at Site 128 do not exhibit a common orientation. Platform facings and building foundations were made of river-rounded cobbles easily obtained from the Ulua and the northern quebrada.

Excavations: None

Dates: The organization of buildings at Site 128 into a nucleated, patio-focused group, along with the sizes of the component edifices, suggests that this settlement was raised and occupied during the Late Classic.

## **Site 129**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/650 E3/66/810, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 129 is found on relatively level terrain, descending gradually to the east towards the Quebrada El Derrumbe ca. 100m distant. Site 142 lies ca. 250m to the northwest while Site 168 is approximately 110m to the southwest. Outcrops of stone are common throughout the area surrounding the locus and soil here seems particularly shallow.

Condition: An overgrown looter's pit was discovered in the northeastern side of Str. 1. Several clusters of possible building stones, ca. 2m in diameter, were found adjacent to Strs. 3 and 4 and may point to the previous existence of buildings which have been disrupted by unknown process(es). The remaining structures at the site seemed undamaged.

Site Description: Site 129 contains five constructions that are 0-1.2m high with two having no surviving elevation. Structures 1, 2, and 5 define a patio open to the east towards the Derrumbe. Access to this enclosed space was unobstructed. Structures 3 and 4 form a pair of buildings

separated from each other by 2m and from the patio group by 89m. Several edifices were built into the natural slope of the land (Strs. 1-3), thereby enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks. Perhaps this concern with locating buildings along natural contours helps to account for the apparent lack of orthogonality exhibited within and between groups at the locus. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones and cobbles easily obtained from the many nearby outcrops and the channel of the Derrumbe.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and patio-focused organization of Strs. 1, 2, and 5 imply that they were built and occupied during the Late Classic. Structures 3 and 4 may also date to this period though this is far less clear.

### **Site 130**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/350 E3/64/900, 220m above sea level.

Location: Site 130 is built into the base of a steep slope defining the northern margin of a narrow ledge of flat land. The land slopes up rapidly to the north and drops gradually to the south and west. The ledge itself is delimited by a steep drop towards the Ulua on the west and dramatic ascents into the Galeras range on the remaining sides. No quebradas cross this ledge though a dry stream channel is located ca. 200m west of the site on a lower shelf. The Rio Ulua runs approximately 430m west of the settlement. The shelf and surrounding slope are studded with rock exposures, primarily of igneous material. Sites 131 and 135 within the El Remolino Cluster are ca. 225m southwest and 260m northwest of the locus.

Site Description: Site 130 consists of a single structure composed of a series of three nested, stone-faced terraces stepping up and back from southwest to northeast into the hill face bounding the aforementioned ledge on the north. These terraces rise a total of ca. 2m though they exhibit

no elevation on their upslope flanks. The structure measures 7m x 9m overall and is oriented 298 degrees 30 minutes. The third, summit terrace measures no more than 3m x 5m basally. The lower two risers were built of irregular stone chunks easily obtained from the many outcrops found throughout the environs of the site. The summit terrace, however, was raised in three courses the lower two of which consist of roughly faced blocks culminating on the southwest corner with a well-shaped stone cube 0.75m on a side. This constitutes one of the very few examples of faced masonry found anywhere in the Central Santa Barbara survey.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 131**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/275 E3/64/775, 215m above sea level.

Location: Site 131 is located on a narrow shelf of relatively level terrain. The land drops gradually to the west where it culminates in a precipitous fall towards the Rio Ulua ca. 300m to the west. The other sides of the shelf are delimited by the rugged ascents of the Galeras hills. While no seasonal stream channel cross this ledge a quebrada is situated on a lower shelf ca. 200m to the west. Site 130 lies ca. 225m northeast of the locus, Site 133, 200m to the southeast. Outcrops of igneous stones dot the ledge and are common throughout the surrounding slopes.

Condition: Erosion has apparently dislocated some constructions on the west edge of the shelf though this natural agency has been less of a factor further east away from this precipitous drop.

Site Description: Site 131 consists of five constructions, one of which is a 0.3m high (west, downslope, side; 0m high upslope) platform built into the steep ascent bordering the shelf on the east. The remaining constructions are low, ca. 0.25m-high, terraces arranged along the western margin of the ledge. These four stone walls are built parallel to the natural slope of the land and

appear to be discontinuous segments of a once larger system now truncated by erosion. The preserved segments form two ascending pairs, Terraces 1 and 2 on the north constituting one such group, Terraces 3 and 4 to the south the other. Platform and terrace facings were built of angular chunks of igneous stone similar to material seen outcropping throughout the ledge and slopes surrounding the site.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 132**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/050 E3/64/775, 220m above sea level.

Location: Site 132 occupies the northernmost point on a narrow shelf of flat terrain. The land rises sharply immediately to the east and drops off equally dramatically to the west and north.

The terrain on the south rises slightly to a natural eminence within the ledge summit before dropping down and levelling off for the remainder of the shelf. No seasonal water courses were noted in the immediate environs of the settlement while the Rio Ulua lies ca. 325m to the west.

Site 131 is approximately 220m to the north, Site 133 is 150m further west. Outcrops of igneous stone abound in the surrounding hills and large boulders of this material were found scattered over the shelf; they are probably pieces that detached from larger exposures in the hills.

Site Description: Site 132 contains three structures ranging in height from 1-2m and occupying the crest of a low natural rise within the otherwise level shelf summit. The three buildings surround a patio open on the south on the summit of the eminence. While Strs. 1 and 2 were built to take advantage of the rise, thus enhancing the heights of their downsloping flanks, the group does conform generally to a common azimuth; Strs. 1 and 3 are oriented 353 and 354 degrees. Structure 2, however, is sighted at 332 degrees. Access to the patio was apparently unimpeded.

Basal walls were built of angular, igneous stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The large sizes of these buildings along with their nucleated, patio-focused organization point to their construction and use in the Late Classic.

### **Site 133**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/110 E3/64/700, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 133 is built into the southern and northern hillslopes defining the limits of a very narrow, southeast-northwest trending pocket valley within the western flanks of the Galeras Range. The land here slopes gradually down from both these directions toward a shallow quebrada channel. The land also rises on the southeast while the valley terminates in a steep descent towards the Rio Ulua on the northwest. The Rio Ulua is ca. 225m to the west, Sites 132 and 131 are found roughly 150m southeast and 200m northeast of the settlement, respectively. Outcrops of igneous stone are found throughout the surrounding hills and within the small valley supporting the site.

Condition: The removal of some stones from extant structures appears to have resulted in minor dislocations of architecture though this damage was apparently not extensive. The path linking Gualjoco and El Remolino passes through the center of the group comprised of Strs. 13-16 and continued use of this trail may have resulted in some minor disturbance to prehistoric deposits.

Site Description: Site 133 contains 20 constructions, including four features, one a stone line 2m long set flush with ground surface and the remainder a series of three ascending terraces apparently associated with Str. 13. Structure heights range from 0-2m, with most falling between 0.3-0.5m in altitude. The buildings at this settlement form four distinct groups, three of which are

organized around patios (Strs. 1-4; 5-6, 9; 13-16) while the fourth is a southeast-northwest-trending linear arrangement of platforms (Strs. 10-12). The Strs. 1-4 group, built into the southern flank of the valley, defines a patio on all sides. The component structures of this aggregate are situated so as to take advantage of local changes in elevation, thereby enhancing their downsloping flanks. The result is a general absence of orthogonality. In the immediately adjoining Strs. 5-6, 9 grouping the patio is open to the northeast, the direction of the quebrada, and Strs. 5 and 9 were apparently laid out nearly perpendicular to each other (330 degrees and 55 degrees respectively). Structure 6 is oriented differently at 32 degrees. Structures 13-16 are built into the opposite valley flank, 97m northwest of, and across the quebrada from, the last-mentioned cluster, and enclose a central space on all sides. These edifices are built into downsloping terrain; Strs. 13-16 have no appreciable elevation on their northeast (upsloping) sides while rising 0.5-1m on their southwestern flanks. Buildings in this group tend towards orthogonality in their orientations, Strs. 14-16 are aligned 305-312 degrees while Str. 13 deviates from this pattern at 294 degrees. Access to these patios was generally unobstructed though, of the three groups, the Strs. 13-16 cluster was the most tightly nucleated with the closest spacing among component buildings.

Features 2-4 constitute a series of three ascending, ca. 0.25m high, terraces fronting Str. 13 on the southwest. The significance of these constructions is unclear though they seem too elaborate to have served as simple devices designed to retard erosion in the area of the Strs. 13-16 group. Possibly they were an integral part of Str. 13, enhancing its height on the southwest in much the same manner as did the terraces on the single structure in Site 130.

Platform facings and/or building foundations were fashioned of angular chunks of igneous rocks presumably obtained from some of the many outcrops of similar stone found throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of many of the buildings here as well as their patio-focused organization suggests that Site 133 was built and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 134**

Deleted. Structures 10-16 and Feats. 1-4 of Site 133 were originally separated from Site 133 during recording and designated Site 134. These two loci have since been combined within Site 133, given their close proximity.

### **Site 135**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/540 E3/64/800, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 135 occupies the summit of a narrow shelf of relatively level terrain. The land slopes up dramatically to the east and drops precipitously westward towards the Ulua ca. 150m distant. A seasonal runoff passes east to west through Site 135 eventually emptying into the Rio Ulua. The ledge summit runs more-or-less flat from south to north. Site 130 is approximately 275m to the southeast, Site 131 is an equivalent distance to the south. Exposures of igneous rock are common in the surrounding hills and even protrude onto the shelf supporting the site.

Site Description: Site 135 contains one, 0-elevation building and four stone-faced terraces standing ca. 0.25m high on their downslope sides. The single structure is nestled against the eastern hills in the northeast corner of the site and seems to lack a back (northeastern) wall. Terraces 1, 3, and 4 were apparently laid out parallel to the natural topography while Terrace 2 is set perpendicular to the local slope. The last-named construction may originally have run

between Terraces 1 and 3 parallel to the current channel of a short seasonal run-off which cuts across the shelf from east to west. Terrace 2 may, therefore, have acted to preserve soil within this area of the ledge, keeping the little earth found here from eroding into the run-off with each heavy rain. The walls outlining Str. 1 were fashioned of angular igneous stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the area. The terrace facings were constructed of a mix of large boulders and smaller, angular rocks. The discontinuous nature of these terraces imply that they are the remnants of a once more extensive system much disturbed by erosion. Site 135 very closely resembles the pattern of construction seen at Site 131, a combination of a single, small building with a series of terraces.

Excavations: None

Dates: A small surface collection derived from the banks of the seasonal run-off which cuts through the terrace system yielded diagnostic items pointing to construction and use of this locus in the Late Classic.

### **Site 136**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/660 E3/64/700, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 136 is situated on the lower, eastern flanks of a long, albeit narrow, north-south trending valley within the western flanks of the Galeras Range. This cleft in the hills is cut by what appears to be a perennial stream (unnamed) which, after coursing southeast-northwest out of the hills turns to run south to north before joining the Ulua. The pocket containing Site 136 is delimited by high, steep hills on the east and west. The valley floor slopes more gradually down from these directions towards the stream which divides the valley approximately in half. The terrain also drops somewhat from the north and south towards the center of the pocket where the area bordering the stream is swampy, at least during the rainy season. Site 136 overlooks this

inundated area. Overall, there is a gradual drop in elevation within the valley from south to north. The Rio Ulua runs ca. 275m to the west while the unnamed watercourse lies a scant 25m distant from the site in the same direction. Sites 137 and 138 are positioned within the same valley system ca. 200m northeast and 100m east-southeast of Site 136. Rock outcrops are rare within the pocket, common in the surrounding hills. In general, the soil here seems deeper than in other sections of the western Galeras Range.

Condition: All six constructions on the site were truncated by erosion downslope towards the west.

Site Description: Site 136 consists of the remnants of six terraces that are ca. 0.25m high and oriented parallel to the natural slope of the eastern side of the valley. The extant terraces cover a maximum distance of 90m southeast-northwest and mount the lower, eastern slopes of the pocket in increments of three to four risers. Facings were built of angular igneous stones presumably obtained from some of the numerous outcrops of this material found throughout the neighboring hills. All of the recorded constructions seem to have either been obscured or cut by downslope erosion and the original dimensions of this field system could not be reconstructed from surface data. No residential structures were found associated with these presumably agricultural features and it is possible that they define a field system associated with the close-by, sizable residential locus of Site 137.

Excavations: None

Dates: We had persistent problems dating the construction and use of terrace systems in the Galeras range. No temporally diagnostic items were found on the surface at Site 136. While the apparent disruption of the terraces suggests that their primary use period predates the recent epoch we cannot specify when within this potentially vast period of prehistory their construction might

fall. The proximity of these terraces to the sizable prehistoric settlement represented by Site 137 leads us to argue, aware of the tentativeness of our claim, that this locus was exploited by the residents of Site 137 and so is contemporary with it. This would place Site 136 in the Late Classic.

### **Site 137**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/725 E3/64/575, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 137 is situated at the far northern margin of the narrow north-south trending valley which contains Sites 136 and 138, ca. 200m southwest and 125m southeast of the locus, respectively. The unnamed perennial stream which runs below Site 136 on the west enters the Ulua just beneath and north of Site 137. The settlement itself occupies a narrow, roughly 55m-wide east-west, promontory of gently rolling terrain defined on the east and north by a steep but low descent to the unnamed stream and on the west by the precipitous 20-25m drop to the Rio Ulua. East of the stream the rugged ascents of the Galeras Range define the eastern limits of the valley. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 75m to the west, the unnamed stream 23m to the east and 34m to the north. Rock exposures were not found on the valley floor but igneous stone outcroppings were frequently seen in the hills to the east.

Condition: Modern agricultural activities have resulted in the removal of some stones from several extant structures. Damage from this source seems to have been limited.

Site Description: Site 137 contains sixteen constructions, including two features that are stone lines set flush with current ground surface and running parallel to each other for 4m. The close juxtaposition of these lines and their parallel orientations suggest that they might represent the east and west walls of a single, damaged structure. Building heights range from 0-1.5m with most falling between 0.1-0.5m in altitude. Structures 2-10 define a relatively large patio on the north

margin of the locus while the remaining buildings are dispersed in pairs (Strs. 11/12, 13/14, and 1/Feats. 1 and 2) to the south. There is no evidence, even within the northern patio cluster, that these buildings had been oriented to a common azimuth. Structures 2, 11, and 13 were built into low rises within the relatively level terrain, thereby enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks, while the remaining edifices were raised above more-or-less flat land. Access to the north patio is unobstructed, though Strs. 4 and 5 are linked by a ca. 0.1m-high saddle. The small projection off the west side of Str. 8 may have the remains of a staircase facing west towards the Ulua.

Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned primarily of river cobbles, obtainable from the Ulua and the unnamed stream. A minority component in these constructions were chunks of igneous rocks easily obtained from outcrops in the eastern hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of structures here as well as the patio-focused, nucleated pattern of organization point to construction and occupation at Site 137 in the Late Classic. A sizable surface collection derived from the locus, including temporally diagnostic material, supports this interpretation.

### **Site 138**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/625 E3/64/600, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 138 is located within the same valley as Sites 137 (ca. 125m to the northwest) and 136 (approximately 100m and across the unnamed stream to the east-northeast). This locus occupies the summit and eastern flanks of a domed-shaped extension of the hills which define the western limits of the north-south trending pocket. The summit of this eminence is relatively flat while the descents to the north, east, and south are gradual. On the west the land ascends into the western slopes. The terrain surrounding the hill within the valley is relatively flat. The Rio Ulua

runs approximately 200m to the west, the unnamed water course is 25m to the east. Igneous rock outcrops abound on this hill as they do throughout the Galeras Range.

Condition: The dense thorn scrub which covered the hill made it difficult to evaluate what damage this locus had suffered over the years. The scattering of possible building stones (river cobbles) over the summit and eastern flanks of the hill suggests that the site has been considerably disturbed, if not totally destroyed. Causes of this destruction remain unknown.

Site Description: Site 138 consists of a scattering of river-worn cobbles over the summit and eastern sides of the hill described above. While the evidence is ambiguous, this area was designated a settlement because of the location of these cobbles, material frequently used in prehistoric and historic construction in Central Santa Barbara, in an area where they did not occur naturally. The eminence supporting Site 138, and the Galeras Range in general, are characterized by exposures of igneous rocks and, in some cases, limestone. Rounded cobbles are restricted to the channels of the Ulua, the unnamed stream, as well as within a few quebradas. We, therefore, presume that the presence of river cobbles in an area where they were unlikely to have been deposited by natural means suggests that they were brought here as part of construction efforts. Unfortunately, the dense overgrowth which covered the hill did not permit further testing of this notion by determining if there were artifacts associated with these stones or recognizing in situ remnants of past constructions. The designation of this area as a site must, therefore, remain tentative.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 139**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/775 E3/64/800, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 139 occupies a small pocket of relatively flat land defined on all sides by the steep, rugged ascents of the Galeras Range. Sites 136 and 137 are located 175m south and 225m southeast of Site 139 respectively. The former two settlements are also situated ca. 10-20m below the pocket containing Site 139. Water is available from the Rio Ulua, ca. 300m to the west, and the unnamed stream coursing past Sites 136-138, approximately 200m to the south. In both cases, however, while horizontal distances to water are not long access to this resource is over rugged, steep terrain that would have made the transportation of fluids difficult. Igneous rock outcrops dot the hills bordering the locus.

Condition: Construction stones have been removed to facilitate planting.

Site Description: Site 139 consists of one structure built into the hills defining the southwestern corner of the pocket. This building stands 0.1m high on its downslope (eastern) side and disappears into rising terrain on the west. Basal measurements are 3m by 3.4m while the construction is oriented 284 degrees 30 minutes. Platform facings were constructed of angular chunks of igneous stone similar to those found outcropping in the surrounding hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 140**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/900 E3/64/775, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 140 occupies a narrow shelf of flat land. The east and south sides of this ledge are defined by the rugged, hilly terrain of the Galeras Range while on the west the land drops off dramatically to the Ulua, ca. 180m distant. The flat summit of the ledge runs northward for roughly 225m before ending in steep hills. Site 139 is found roughly 150m to the southwest within a pocket approximately 10m higher up into the hills than Site 140. Sites 136 and 137 are

250m south and 275m southwest of this settlement. In all cases, steep hills separate Sites 139 and 136/137 from each other and from Site 140. Igneous rock exposures are found throughout the surrounding hills and on the surface of the ledge.

Site Description: Site 140 consists of a single structure, 0.35m high, built atop a ca. 0.2m-high rise within otherwise flat terrain. The descent to the Ulua is roughly 60m to the west of this building. The structure measures 5m<sup>2</sup> basally and is oriented 267 degrees. Platform facings were built of angular igneous chunks presumably obtained from some of the many outcrops of similar material found throughout the ledge and bordering hills.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown.

### **Site 141**

Map Coordinates: N16/55/110 E3/64/800, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 141 occupies the north margin of the relatively flat, narrow ledge on which Site 140 also sits, ca. 200m to the south. The land slopes up steeply on the eastern and northern margins of the shelf while dropping off dramatically 1km to the west towards the Rio Ulua, ca. 150m distant. As with Site 140, access to water is more difficult than this short horizontal distance would imply as the Ulua can only be reached over a steep descent which is virtually impassable from this point today. Outcrops of igneous stone are found throughout the bordering hills and even protrude onto the shelf surface.

Condition: Stone removal to facilitate cultivation had seriously dislocated portions of the site; the northwest wall of the single construction defining Site 141 was missing, probably as a result of this activity.

Site Description: Site 141 contains a single building measuring 3m<sup>2</sup> basally, standing 0.1m high, and oriented 291 degrees. Platform facings were built of angular igneous chunks.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 142**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/820 E3/66/660, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 142 occupies the north edge of the relatively level high terrace summit overlooking the Derrumbe valley to the north. The land drops away steeply to the west and north while running back fairly flat to the south and east. The Quebrada El Derrumbe, a perennial water source, lies approximately 80m to the northeast. A seasonal watercourse runs ca. 50m west of and below the site, eventually joining the Derrumbe to the northeast of Site 142. Sites 129 and 168 are found 250m to the southeast and 325m to the south of the settlement respectively.

Exposures of igneous rock are common throughout the terrace summit as well as over the slopes below Site 142.

Site Description: Site 142 contains three constructions only one of which had any preserved elevation (Str. 1, 0.1m high). The buildings are arranged on the northern margin of the Gualjoco high terrace and stretch out linearly 17m east-west along the bluff edge. Structures 1-3 do not enclose a patio nor do they share a common alignment. Platform walls and building foundations were constructed of angular, igneous stones presumably obtained from the many outcrops of similar material found throughout the area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The linear organization of the structures coupled with their low elevations implies that this locus was built and used during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 143**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/890 E3/66/350, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 143 sits at the northern end of the Derrumbe valley, atop a small shelf of flat land within the first steep ascents of the Galeras Range. It is ca. 60m west of the Quebrada El Derrumbe. While the ledge itself is relatively level, the land drops off steeply to the north, east, and south, rising dramatically into the Galeras hills on the west. Site 144 lies approximately 110m to the southwest on the same side of the Derrumbe and Site 145 is found ca. 210m to the southeast across the stream. Rock exposures are common throughout the Galeras Range.

Condition: Erosion seems to have taken its toll of the locus, and several structure lines are obscured as a result of this process.

Site Description: Site 143 consists of four structures that are 0-1.0m high (most are 0-0.4m in altitude) which form a tightly nucleated group situated on the eastern edge of the aforementioned ledge. A small cluster of stones, 2m in diameter, located off the back (west) side of Str. 3 may be the remnants of a fifth construction though this remains uncertain. Structures 1 and 3 face each other across a narrow space of 4-5.5m while the smallest buildings Strs. 2 and 4, are situated 5m and 4m north and south of Str. 1 respectively. There is no clearly defined patio here nor are there strong indications that these buildings had been organized orthogonally. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of a mixture of cobbles and angular stones.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the buildings and their nucleation imply a Late Classic date for construction and occupation at this locus.

### **Site 144**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/810 E3/66/320, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 144 occupies a small ledge of flat land within the steep ascents of the Galeras Range near the northern limits of the Derrumbe valley. The terrain slopes down towards the valley flats on all sides save the west where it rises precipitously into the hills. A perennial source of water, the Quebrada El Derrumbe, flows ca. 75m to the east while a seasonal watercourse is located immediately east of the settlement. Site 143, occupying a nearly identical topographic position, is approximately 110m to the northeast of Site 144 on the same side of the watercourse while Site 145 is found 150m to the southeast and across the stream. Rock outcrops are plentiful throughout the surrounding hillsides.

Condition: There was some evidence that the northern and eastern portions of Str. 4 had been displaced by a looter's trench. The ledge supporting Site 144 was covered in a mix of low grass and thorn scrub, apparently being used as animal pasture in 1984. Surface visibility was very good in those areas supporting low grass, only fair to good in portions dominated by thorn scrub.

Site Description: Site 144's five structures (0-0.2m high) are situated on the eastern edge of the aforementioned ledge. The largest buildings Strs. 1, 2, and 5, define a patio on all sides save the east which faces a descent to the valley. Structures 3 and 4 are located 7m north of this group. Access to the patio was unobstructed. Structure 1, 2, and 5 were aligned along similar azimuths, their present orientations clustering between 14-18 degrees. Structures 3 and 4 did not share the same orientation though the disturbed nature of Str. 4 makes it difficult to reconstruct this building's original alignment. Platform facings and building foundations were made of river-worn cobbles easily obtained from the channel of the Derrumbe.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focused plan of much of the site suggests that construction and occupation here fall within the Late Classic.

## **Site 145**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/710 E3/66/425, 155m above sea level.

Location: Site 145 rests atop a low rise projecting westward from the steep ascents to the high southern terrace which define the eastern limits of the Derrumbe valley. The land drops away gradually to the north, west, and south of the locus while on the east it rises gently towards the terrace escarpments. Water is available year-round from the Quebrada El Derrumbe, 60-70m to the west, while outcrops, including limestone exposures, were noted to the east protruding from the rise to the high terrace. Sites 144 and 146 lie approximately 150m northwest and 175m southwest respectively across the Derrumbe from Site 145.

Condition: There were signs that at least some stones had been removed from constructions apparently as part of agricultural activities in the area. It is possible that several small constructions were completely destroyed in this manner.

Site Description: Site 145 contains two surviving structures, 0.4m and 0.6m high, dispersed in a rough southeast-northwest line 27m apart along the western edge of the rise. Basal measurements are 2.5m x 4m and 3m x 5m while the buildings were oriented 27 and 86 degrees. Platform walls were constructed of river-worn cobbles and angular stones that were easily obtained from the Derrumbe channel and eastern escarpments.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersal of structures here suggests an Early Postclassic date for construction and occupation at Site 145. The possibility that several structures might have been destroyed by agricultural activities, thus changing the configuration of the locus, means that this temporal placement is more tentative than most.

## **Site 146**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/575 E3/66/340, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 146 is situated 27m west of the Quebrada El Derrumbe on land rising gradually westward towards the steep escarpments of the Galeras Range which define this side of the Derrumbe valley. A seasonal watercourse runs 3m west of the site eventually feeding into the Derrumbe on the north. Site 144 lies approximately 250m to the north on the same side of the stream as Site 146 while Site 145 is found ca. 175m to the northeast and across the Derrumbe. Rock outcrops abound on the slopes of the Galeras Range immediately west of the settlement.

Condition: Several structures lacked obvious perimeter walls when they were recorded in 1984 (Strs. 6 and 11) and this may indicate some localized loss of architecture due to as-yet-undetermined processes.

Site Description: Site 146 contains 12 constructions that are 0-0.4m high with half of the buildings possessing no altitude whatsoever. The site can be divided into two distinct aggregates. That composed of Strs. 1-4 is located the furthest upslope and forms a rough north-south line paralleling a dry stream channel which courses northward towards the Derrumbe. Structures 6-10 and 12 comprise a cluster, Strs. 6-9 and 12 defining a patio that is open downslope to the east; Str. 10 is somewhat isolated to the south but is still close-by the patio. Access to the enclosed space is relatively unobstructed. Structures 11 and 5 are isolated 16m south and 32m north of this cluster, respectively. At least some of the buildings in both groups were located so as to take advantage of natural changes in elevation, thereby enhancing the heights of their downsloping flanks (Strs. 1, 8, 9, and 12). This concern with placing buildings along natural contours may have been one of the reasons why structures at Site 146 were not arranged orthogonally within or between groups. Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of cobbles that were easily obtained from the channel of the Derrumbe.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focused organization of the group composed of Strs. 6-10 and 12 points to its construction and use during the Late Classic. The linear, dispersed pattern of organization evidenced by Strs. 1-4 may imply that these buildings were raised during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 147**

Map Coordinates: N16/56/725 E3/375, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 147 is spread out over three very restricted shelves of flat land descending 10-15m from east to west towards the Rio Ulua. Cutting across the ledges are two short but steep erosion gulleys which empty into the Ulua ca. 150m distant from the site. The effect of these washes is to divide the system of ledges here into three distinct units each isolated from the other by a seasonal run-off. Soil depth on the shelves seems to increase with proximity to the Ulua, the higher ledges exhibiting progressively more loose rocks on their surfaces. One of the few areas of Ulua floodplain, a very restricted zone of roughly .15km<sup>2</sup>, found throughout the Galeras zone lies at the base of this shelf system. Site 141 in the La Junta Cluster lies ca. 1.7km straight-line distance to the southwest while the confluence of the Rios Ulua and Jicatuyo is approximately 1.2km in the same direction. Rock exposures are common throughout the western flanks of the Galeras Range in the immediate environs of the locus.

Condition: Two clusters of possible building stones were found in the northern part of the settlement and may be the result of past disruptive processes, though this point was not clear. Erosion, on the other hand, within this steeply sloping zone seems to have dislocated some structure lines.

Site Description: Site 147 contains five, 0-elevation constructions and two stone clusters.

Structures 1, 2, and Feat. 2 occupy the highest shelf in the locus bordered on the north and south

by seasonal run-offs and on the east and west by steep hillslopes and two lower shelves leading down to the Rio Ulua respectively. Feature 1 lies 57m to the southwest on the lowest shelf overlooking the Ulua while Str. 3 and two rock clusters are 83m to the north on the second ledge above the river. There are no clear patio groups apparent within the site nor does there seem to have been much effort invested in adhering to a common alignment in raising constructions here. Structure 2 seems to have had a 2m-wide projection built off its north side. The stone clusters each measure 3m in diameter. Features 1 and 2 may be the remnants of largely destroyed terraces designed to retard erosion in this area of dramatic ascents. Site 147, therefore, currently appears as a dispersed settlement of small constructions without any clear pattern to the distribution of its buildings. Feature lines and building perimeter walls were built primarily of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed appearance of the locus combined with the relatively small sizes of the buildings points to their construction and use during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 148**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/180 E3/66/475, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 148 is situated on a small ledge of flat land within the first ascents of the Cerro Las Tunitas foothills, perched ca. 10m above the high terrace supporting Sites 113/117 ca. 300m to the south (Site 114). The land drops away steeply southwest and southeast of the locus down into a seasonal stream channel that bounds the site on these two sides. On the northeast the descent to the upper terrace is somewhat more gradual while on the northwest the ground rises into the cerro. The Rio Ulua is approximately 150m to the east while Site 106 on the northern margin of the North Vega Cluster is roughly 350m east and across the Ulua from Site 148. Rock

outcrops, frequently of vesicular basalt, were commonly found throughout the surrounding hills and also appear on the ledge surface.

Condition: Systematic stone removal in preparation for planting at Site 148 had seriously disturbed the surviving structures. The downsloping corners of several of the buildings had also suffered from erosion. The remains of a long-abandoned but apparently historic period house were found in the Site 148 patio, raising the possibility that the locus was damaged by the building and/or use of this domicile.

Site Description: Site 148 contains five structures ranging in height from 0.15-1.0m on their downslope sides (0-0.5m on their upslope flanks) with most falling between 0.6-1.0m in altitude (downslope, three of the five are 0-0.15m high on the upslope side). Constructions are arranged along the northeast, southeast, and southwest sides of the small ledge and enclose a small patio on all sides save the northwest. The natural ascent of the foothills closes off the patio's northwest flank. Unlike other sites in the cluster, some effort was devoted to orienting structures to a common azimuth, extant orientation falling between 315-325 degrees. Access to the central patio is restricted by the close spacing among buildings and the steepness of the northwestern ascent and southern descents. Entrance to the patio was apparently limited to the northeast corner of the group. The low, ca. 0.15m-high, terrace connecting Strs. 1 and 2 was probably raised to help retard erosion in this steeply sloping zone. Similarly, Str. 5 may have been built as a terrace to both preserve the patio surface and formalize entrance into the space enclosed by Strs. 1-4.

Platform walls were built of angular stones, including vesicular basalt, essentially identical to material seen outcropping in the immediate environs of the locus.

Excavations: Structure 1 was excavated in 1985.

Dates: The locus was apparently built and used in the Late Classic though occupation persisted into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 149**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/350 E3/69/100, 187m above sea level.

Location: Site 149, on the east margin of the upper terrace, is 147m east and slightly uphill from Site 52 and 115m north and across a quebrada from Site 51. Site 150 is 110m to the north. The structures here are scattered over terrain which descends gradually to the west, each cluster of buildings occupying a slight (1-1.5m high) rise above the rest of the landscape. Rock outcrops, many of vesicular basalt, are found throughout the area, especially protruding from these low eminences. The Rio Huerta is 575m to the north, the deep, broad quebrada which borders Sites 33-34 lies 225m in that same direction while the Rio Jucuntal is approximately 125m to the south.

Condition: Structures 6 and 7 were truncated on their west and east sides respectively by a dirt road while Str. 5 was seriously disturbed by the persistent use of that route. It is likely that this road had never been formally cut or bulldozed but simply grew up from constant traffic. As a result, structure lines are still evident, if disrupted.

Site Description: Site 149 consists of 14 structures and three features, the latter being stone lines set flush with current ground surface. Structures are 0-0.55m high, most falling between 0-0.3m in altitude. Buildings are grouped into three clusters with Str. 14 isolated to the west. Each group occupies a ca. 1.5m-high rise above the gradually sloping terrain. The Str. 1-4/Feat. 1-3, Str.5-9, and Str. 10-13 clusters are each organized around a patio though the first and last entities do not exhibit strong tendencies towards the mutual alignment of buildings. Structures 7-9 are very similarly oriented, exhibiting azimuths of 288-291 degrees. Access to each of these enclosed

spaces was unimpeded. Basal platform walls and building foundations were fashioned of large to medium-sized angular stones of the sort frequently found in outcrops throughout the site.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, 4, and 8 as well as Feature 3 were dug here in 1985.

Dates: Occupation here spans the Late Classic through Early Postclassic with primary occupation and construction dating to the former period. Excavated collections and site planning both support this temporal placement.

### **Site 150**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/525 E3/69/100, 189m above sea level.

Location: Site 150 is on the upper terrace and 110m north of Site 149, roughly 280m northeast of Site 52, and 100m east-southeast of Site 30. The last settlement is separated from Site 150 by the deep quebrada which borders Sites 33-34. This seasonal channel is roughly 60m north of Site 150, the Rio Las Huertas being another 200m in that direction. While still clearly marked, the quebrada is shallower (5-6m deep) here than it is further west by Sites 33-34. The channel and lower slopes of the seasonal stream course were planted in maize in 1983-1985. As with Sites 52 149 in the immediate vicinity, Site 150 rests atop a low rise above terrain that slopes very gradually down from west to east. This rise is particularly high and steepest on the south and west. Numerous rock outcrops, especially of basalt, are found on the surface of this eminence.

Site Description: Site 150 contains 19 structures ranging in height from 0-0.7m, with most between and 0-0.5m in altitude. These constructions are arranged into two clear groups, the largest of which (Strs. 1-15) is a tightly nucleated cluster formed along the southwestern edge of the rise. Structure 3-11 define a patio running roughly east-west with the remaining buildings spread out linearly to the southeast and northwest parallel to the southwest line of the rise. The markedly linear arrangement of the enclosed space is notable for the region. There seems to have

been relatively little effort devoted to aligning all structures in this group to the same orientation. Rather, the buildings were placed along slight changes in local elevation, thus enhancing the altitudes of their downslope sides. This is most noticeable among the platforms situated on the margin of the rise which look most impressive from the base of this ascent. The second group consists of Strs. 16-19, an irregularly oriented cluster defining a patio open on the north. Access to both enclosed spaces was not seriously restricted.

Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of angular stones, presumably derived from the many outcrops found on the rise supporting the site. Structure 17 was unusual in that not only was its perimeter defined by stones but the entirety of this 0-elevation building's interior was packed solidly with the same material. In the other cases, buildings without elevations consisted of stone-lines that delimited their earthen interiors. Structures 19 and 13 were both low terraces apparently built as foundations for other constructions (Str. 19) and/or to retard erosion in and around patios or other buildings.

Excavations: Structures 4, 5, 6, 8, and 14 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: Occupation at Site 150 spanned the Early Classic through Early Postclassic with primary occupation and construction dating to the Late Classic. The assignment of principal site use to the Late Classic is based on analyses of diagnostic excavated materials and receives support from the site's patio-focused plan. Construction dating securely to the Early Classic and Early Postclassic was not identified in excavations.

### **Site 151**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/350 E3/69/200, 195-200m above sea level.

Location: Site 151 is situated ca. 85m east of Site 149 and 115m southeast of Site 150 in steeply ascending terrain rising towards Cerro Pena Blanca to the east. Unlike the more gently sloping

landscape of the upper terrace occupied by Sites 52, 149, and 150 to the west, the ground makes a rapid ascent here to the first lower slopes of the eastern sierra which define the limits of the Huerta/Hondo zone in this direction. Rock exposures dot these slopes as they do further downhill near Sites 52, 149, and 150. A steep, but shallow quebrada runs east-west through the approximate center of the site separating Strs. 1-4 from Str. 5. The Rio Las Huertas is 625m to the north, the deep quebrada bordering Sites 33-34 is 250m in that same direction.

Site Description: Site 151 contains five structures that are 0-0.2m high. These buildings are situated on small shelves of relatively flat land within the generally steep ascents or, in the case of Str. 3, are built into that rise. No clear aggregations were noted and certainly there was no patio focus. Structure placement was principally conditioned by local changes in topography, primarily by the location of suitably flat areas within the steep landscape. Platform facings and building foundations were made of angular stones of the sort found outcropping throughout the adjoining slopes. Site 151 may be a continuation of settlement from Sites 149 and 150 further downslope to the west, the dispersed character of buildings at Site 151 being dictated by the nature of the topography.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown. Surface collections were insufficiently diagnostic to place the site temporally while site plan in such steep terrain is not particularly helpful in determining periods of site use.

### **Site 152**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/200 E3/69/675, 222m above sea level.

Location: Site 152 occupies the same narrow shelf of flat land within the steeply sloping foothills of the Cerro Pena Blanca as Site 19 ca. 75m to the north. As at the latter settlement, the land supporting Site 152 is fairly level, sloping gradually down from east to west, bounded on the east

by the precipitous ascent of the cerro while on the west the terrain drops off markedly. Sites 57 and 59, which occupy similar topographic situations 4m and 6m further downslope within the foothills, are approximately 150m and 300m to the west and northwest respectively. A small seasonal stream channel cuts east-west across the northern part of the site separating Strs. 1-2 from the remainder of the locus. The closest perennial stream is the Rio Juncuntal, ca. 325m to the south. Natural rock exposures are found throughout the slopes surrounding Site 152 and on the shelf supporting the locus as well.

Conditions: A quebrada passing through the northern part of the site, between Strs. 1-2 and 3, may have been responsible for the loss of some deposits or even architecture though there was no direct support for this contention.

Site Description: Site 152 contains seven structures that are 0.25-0.65m high. They form two patio-focused groups one on the north (Strs. 1-3) and the other on the south (Strs. 5-7) margins of the locus. Structure 4 was located between these clusters. The buildings in the northern group may have been oriented to roughly the same azimuth, observed orientations here ranging from 275 to 286 degrees. Structure 4, roughly 45m to the south, may also have shared in this organization (oriented approximately 270 degrees). The southern aggregate is more irregularly organized with structure azimuths ranging from 252 to 275 degrees. (Note, however, that even here two edifices fall within the range defined for the northern cluster being aligned 272-275 degrees). Structures 1-3 were built on generally flat land while the remaining buildings were set onto small changes in elevation, the land dropping 0.25-0.35m from east to west. This had the effect of enhancing the downslope heights of Strs. 1-4. Access to each of the patios was generally unimpeded. Basal walls were built of angular rocks, presumably derived from the outcrops of

similar stone found throughout the area. The basal southern wall of Str. 4 incorporates one of these natural exposures into its line.

Site 152 is probably part of a dispersed pattern of settlement within the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills which includes other loci such as Sites 19, 56-60, and 63. Site 152 is one of the largest of these habitations owing to its occupation of one of the more sizable ledges suitable for permanent occupation in the foothill zone.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and patio-focused organization of most of the structures here suggest that they were built and occupied in the Late Classic.

### **Site 153**

Map Coordinates: N16/57/225 E3/69/375, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 153 is intermediate between Sites 54 and 11 which are 75m to the northwest and 100m to the south-southeast of Site 153, respectively. The settlement is on the same shelf of flat land in the lower slopes of the Cerro Pena Blanca foothills that supports Sites 11 and 54. The land supporting the locus slopes down gently from east to west, rising rapidly on the east into the cerro. The western descent to the upper terrace is dramatic and leads to Site 149 approximately 300m to the northwest and 13m below Site 153. The closest perennial stream is the Rio Juncuntal, ca. 150m to the south, while the Rio Las Huertas lies roughly 700m to the north. A deep, seasonal stream channel issues from the eastern hills and runs immediately south of the locus separating Sites 11 and 153 from each other. This is the same quebrada that runs through Site 51. Rock outcrops are commonly attested in the slopes below Site 153 and across the hills to the east.

Site Description: Site 153 contains three structures 0.1-0.4m high organized around a central patio on the western edge of the shelf. These buildings were apparently laid out along similar azimuth, orientations ranging from 0 degrees 30 minutes to 2 degrees 30 minutes. Structure 1 was built into the gently downsloping (east to west) surface of the shelf while the remaining edifices are on level terrain. Access to the patio defined by Strs. 1-3 was unimpeded. Platform basal walls were built with angular stones similar to those found outcropping throughout the area.

Excavations: Structures 2 and 3 were excavated in 1985.

Dates: The excavations yielded relatively small samples of temporally diagnostic items. Nevertheless, an analysis of this material points to the Late Classic as the principal period of construction and use at Site 153. The patio-focused form of the locus tends to confirm this chronological estimate. There is some slight evidence that occupation at Site 153 continued into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 155**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/450 E3/66/675, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 155 is situated in the southernmost portion of the Crescent Vega where the narrow upper terrace and Rio Ulua converge. The land slopes down gradually from southwest to northeast towards the river and the locus is bounded on the southwest by a steep 7-8m ascent into the western cerros. The terrace culminates on the northeast with a 15-20m precipitous descent to the Rio Ulua approximately 75m distant. A seasonal stream channel lies 10m southeast of Site 155 while another, deeper quebrada is found roughly 45m in the opposite direction. Site 156 is ca. 80m to the southeast across the former channel while the next closest settlement is Site 160, approximately 300m to the northwest. Rock outcrops are common in the hills to the west.

Condition: The lack of northeastern and southeastern perimeter walls on Str. 2 hints at the operation of destructive processes in the past. The most likely source of this disturbance would be erosion leading to either loss of portions of the site and/or the obscuring of structure lines as the result of slopewash from the neighboring hills.

Site Description: Site 155 contains 11 structures that are 0-1m high (downslope sides, most are 0-0.5m in altitude on this flank) nucleated around a central patio which they enclose on all sides. Buildings were placed to take advantage of local changes in elevation, thus enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks. The result is a general lack of orthogonality and a "D" shape to the group with the two largest edifices, Strs. 8 and 9, built against the southwestern ascent. The patio surface is relatively flat and access to it was apparently channeled through the southwest corner where the distances between buildings was greatest. Both cobbles and angular stones, the latter primarily volcanic in origin, were used to build platform facings and structure foundations though angular rocks predominate. Cobbles are easily obtained from the Ulua channel while the angular stones presumably derive from nearby exposures of similar material.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and nucleated, patio-focused organization of Site 155 points to its having been built and used during the Late Classic. Analysis of the small surface collection derived from the site suggests that some occupation persisted here into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 156**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/400 E3/66/720, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 156 is ca. 80m southeast and across a small quebrada from Site 155, occupying essentially the same topographic position as its near neighbor. The land here rises from northeast to southwest culminating in the steep ascents of the western mountains immediately southwest of

the settlement. In the opposite direction the terrace supporting Site 156 drops 15-20m directly to the level of the Rio Ulua approximately 60m distant. A small quebrada lies 6m southeast of the settlement. Site 160 is roughly 350m in the same direction. Rock outcrops are common in the neighboring hills.

Site Description: Site 156 consists of three low (0-0.2m high) structures laid out in a southeast-northwest line spaced 8-11m apart. The largest building (Str. 2) occupies the center of this line. Orientations for these three structures are quite similar, 315-320 degrees, and there was little apparent concern for setting buildings along natural contours. Platform facings and building foundations were made of angular, volcanic stones and river cobbles, the former predominating. Both materials are easily obtained from the Ulua channel and natural exposures in the western hills, respectively.

Excavations: None

Dates: The linear arrangement of buildings along with the low altitudes of these structures suggests that they were raised and used in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 157**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/025 E3/66/630, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 157 occupies the northernmost point on the upper terrace within the Crescent Vega where the western hills and Rio Ulua converge. The terrain here slopes up from southeast to northwest culminating in the steep ascents of the western mountains on the northwest and a precipitous, ca. 10m descent to the lower Ulua terrace on the southeast. The land also drops gradually from northeast to southwest from the northern hills back towards the main body of the vega. A seasonal watercourse bounds the settlement on the northeast while an erosion gully bisects the site. Both of these channels feed into the Ulua ca. 60m distant. Yet another quebrada,

this time quite deep, lies roughly 75m south of the locus. Site 158 is ca. 160m south and across this channel from Site 157 while Site 159 is ca. 160m southwest and further up into the western hills. Outcrops of basalt, a grey conglomerate, and andesite are common in the surrounding hills and on the surface of the terrace itself.

Condition: The aforementioned gulley which cuts through the site has certainly dislocated portions of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 157 contains four, 0-elevation buildings dispersed over a relatively small portion of the upper Ulua terrace. While it is possible that these constructions enclose a space open to the northwest and southeast they are definitely not nucleated and the group's patio focus is questionable. The perimeter walls of Strs. 1-4 consist of angular chunks of conglomerate and andesite, presumably derived from the many natural exposures of these stones in the immediate area. These outcrops are, incorporated into the perimeter walls of several buildings.

Excavations: Five shovel tests were conducted around Str. 1 while three were dug in the environs of Str. 3. Each test was 0.21m deep and produced negligible quantities of artifacts.

Dates: The small sizes of the buildings here and their dispersed organization suggest that they were built and occupied in the Early Postclassic. Late Classic as well as Early Postclassic diagnostic ceramics were recovered from the locus, however, and occupation may have been longer lived than site planning data indicate.

### **Site 158**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/860 E3/66/580, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 158 is situated in the Crescent Vega on the relatively flat summit of the upper Ulua terrace ca. 25m west of the steep descent to the river. Site 157 is found approximately 160m to the north, Site 159 roughly 120m to the northwest. A seasonal stream runs ca. 100m to the

north while the Rio Ulua lies 60m to the east. Outcrops of vesicular basalt are found throughout the terrace summit and in the western hills while large chunks of andesite are scattered throughout the environs of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 158 contains a single, 0.5m-high platform measuring 3m x 6m basally and oriented 5 degrees east of north. Platform facings were constructed of angular vesicular basalt chunks easily obtained from the many nearby exposures of this material.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 159**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/900 E3/66/525, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 159 occupies a restricted ledge of gently sloping land within the lower, steep foothills of the Cerro Las Tunitas system, ca. 15m above the level of the upper Ulua terrace in the Crescent Vega. Land on the shelf drops off gradually eastward while on the west it rises precipitously into the hills. On the remaining sides the drop is equally steep towards the terrace level. A deep, seasonal watercourse lies ca. 50m to the north while the Rio Ulua is reached via a difficult climb ca. 150m to the east. Sites 158 and 160 are found 120m and 190m to the southeast, respectively. Andesite and vesicular basalt outcrop frequently in the surrounding hills and on the surface of the shelf.

Site Description: Site 159 consists of three structures that are 0.3-1.5m high (downslope sides, upslope flanks are 0-0.75m in altitude) nucleated around a patio which they enclose on all sides save the east. While built into the eastward slope of the ledge to enhance their downsloping flanks, the buildings still share similar alignments (270 degrees to 277 degrees 30 minutes).

Access to the patio was generally unobstructed. Platform facings were built of vesicular basalt

and andesite angular chunks similar to those stones found outcropping throughout the shelf and hills.

Excavations: Two shovel tests, 0.21m deep, were dug on the south side of Str. 1 yielding no artifacts whatsoever.

Dates: The sizes of the buildings and their nucleated, patio-centered organization point to their construction and use in the Late Classic.

### **Site 160**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/720 E3/66/600, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 160 within the Crescent Vega perches on the eastern margin of the upper Ulua terrace just above the precipitous 15-20m descent to the river. Small, seasonal affluents of the Rio Ulua are found 21m northwest and 25m southeast of the locus while the river itself lies ca. 45m to the east. Site 158, also on the upper terrace, is roughly 150m to the north while Site 159 is further up into the western hills, ca. 190m to the northwest. Rock exposures, common in the bordering hills and at the western margin of the terrace where it joins those ascents, were not recorded in and around Site 160.

Condition: There was no evidence of looting nor other significant disturbance at Site 160. The location of the settlement, on the edge of a steep drop-off, strongly suggests that portions of the site have been lost to erosion off this precipice. Site 160 and its environs were covered with low, dense grass in 1986 and used as animal pasture. Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: Site 160 contains four, 0-elevation constructions including one feature, a line of stones 2m long. These edifices are tightly nucleated around a patio that they enclose on all sides save the west. Access to the central space was unobstructed. There is no evidence that any effort was made to align structures to a common azimuth. Perimeter walls were built using a

combination of angular stones and river cobbles, both easily obtained from outcrops to the west and the Ulua channel to the east, respectively. An east-west running line of stones within Str. 2's perimeter may have divided this construction into two rooms.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the site suggests a Late Classic date for construction though the structures seem small for buildings raised in this period.

### **Site 161**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/625 E3/66/400, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 161 occupies a very small (1,050m<sup>2</sup>) shelf of flat land within the lower foothills of the Cerro Las Tunitas system bordering the Crescent Vega on the west. While the ledge summit is flat the landscape on all sides is characterized by steep ascents (west) and descents (all other flanks). A small, seasonal watercourse lies ca. 25m to the north (eventually feeding the quebrada which runs south of Site 160) while the Rio Ulua is approximately 240m to the east. Sites 160 and 159 are roughly 225m and 325m to the northeast respectively. Numerous exposures of andesite and vesicular basalt, among other unidentified stones, are found throughout the surrounding hills and large fragments detached from these outcrops litter the summit of the ledge.

Site Description: Site 161 contains a single, 0.25m-high structure measuring 5m x 6m basally and is oriented 79 degrees 30 minutes. Platform facings were constructed of angular stones, including vesicular basalt as well as andesite, easily obtained from the many nearby exposures of this material.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 162**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/725 E3/67/875, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 162 occupies the southeastern margin of the high terrace in the Reyes Vega, situated at a point where it overlooks a ca. 18m-steep drop to the lower terrace. The summit surface is relatively level sloping up gradually to the west and north away from the descent. The Rio Ulua is approximately 275m southeast of the locus while a seasonal watercourse is found ca. 125m to the north running towards the river. Sites 163 and 174 lie roughly 110m to the north and 100m west-southwest respectively while Site 128 in the North Vega zone can be seen ca. 440m to the south-southeast across the Ulua.

Condition: A small concentration of dislocated building stones, 2m in diameter, on the east margin of the settlement may attest to the past destruction of buildings in this area. Structure 5's north and west perimeter walls may have been lost to erosion downslope toward the Rio Ulua.

Site Description: Site 162 contains 13 constructions, not including the aforementioned rock concentration, ranging in height from 0-0.75m, most rising 0-0.35m tall. Most of these buildings (Strs. 1-7) cluster around a patio which they enclose on all sides while the remainder (Strs. 8-11) are dispersed to the north and west. Access to the patio was somewhat restricted by the close spacing of constructions and would have been easiest from the north or west. A series of two low (0.2-0.3m-high) terraces are built into the upper slopes of the eastern descent and apparently served to consolidate the land supporting the patio on this flank where it was most threatened by erosion. Though relatively small, the buildings which comprise the patio group are the largest at the site. They are also characterized by a greater degree of complexity, seen in the projections associated with Strs. 2, 4, and 7 as well as the faced contour linking Strs. 1 and 2, than that found among their non-patio counterparts. Little effort was invested in aligning constructions at the locus to a common azimuth, either within or outside the patio cluster. In part this lack of

orthogonality may be attributed to the builders' desires to place their constructions along minor changes in the local topography thereby resulting in slightly higher downslope flanks. The effect of this concern with micro-topography is that one steps down into the patio from the west and down again as one leaves it to the east.

Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of rounded river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and patio-focused organization of Strs. 1-7 and Terraces 1-2 lead us to infer that they were built and used during the Late Classic. In contrast, the dispersed organization of Strs. 8-11 as well as their low heights may indicate that they were raised and occupied during the succeeding Early Postclassic.

### **Site 163**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/800 E3/67/900, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 163 is found on the relatively level summit of the Reyes high terrace, ca. 110m north of Site 162 and an equivalent distance west of Site 165. The settlement overlooks a 10-15m-deep quebrada passing immediately northwest of the locus. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 400m to the east while the east margin of the upper terrace is 100m in that direction. The ground slopes gradually down to the east towards the Ulua and west towards the seasonal stream course.

Site Description: Site 163 consists of five constructions only one of which, a terrace 0.3m high on its northwest face, had any preserved elevation. Structures 1 and 2 are located close to each other in the southern part of the site while Str. 3, Terr. 1, and Feat. 1 form an east-west running line 33m to the north. Site 163 constructions do not comprise a coherent patio group and, in general, they appear to be dispersed over the landscape without a central focus. No evidence

points to the alignment of buildings here to a common azimuth. Terrace 1 is built into the upper slopes of the descent to the western stream channel while Feat. 1 consists of two, concentric rings of cobbles, 2.2m and 1.31m in diameter, set flush with the ground surface. The former construction may have been designed to consolidate the northwestern margin of the site, the significance of the latter feature remains uncertain. Perimeter walls and terrace facings were made of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The dispersed pattern of structure organization, along with the low heights of the buildings, leads us to place the construction and occupation of the locus within the Early Postclassic. It seems likely that Site 163 represents a northern continuation of the dispersed settlement beginning further south with Strs. 8-11 at Site 162.

### **Site 164**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/900 E3/67/910, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 164 is found on the north margin of the Reyes high terrace, built into the upper slopes of the steep descent north and east to the lower Ulua terrace. The latter is ca. 20m below the settlement and in the process of pinching out to the west at this point. Site 163 sits ca. 75m to the south, Site 165 is 90m to the southeast. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 130m to the north while the deep quebrada bordering Site 163 is found roughly 70m to the south.

Condition: The only clear evidence of disturbance suffered by Site 164 is an erosion channel which runs close by and west of Feat. 1, possibly damaging portions of that construction.

Site Description: Site 164 contains three, 0-elevation constructions, one structure and two stone lines set flush with current ground surface. Structure 1 and Feat. 1 are paired in the southern portion of the locus, being separated by only 5m. Feature 2 lies 24m to the northeast. While

Features 1 and 2 may have been terraces originally built to slow erosion in this area of dramatic inclines they had no preserved height when recorded in 1986. Structure 1 and Feat. 1 are oriented along similar lines (331 and 335 degrees respectively), Feat. 2 is aligned roughly 99 degrees. Both features and perimeter walls were built of unmodified river cobbles, the interior of Str. 1 being tightly packed with this material. Site 164 may well be part of the dispersed settlement which includes Sites 162, 165, and Strs. 8-11 in Site 162.

Excavations: None

Dates: If Site 164 is part of the dispersed Site 162-165 settlement system then it is likely contemporary with the inferred Early Postclassic dates ascribed to Site 162 (Strs. 8-11) and 163. This is, of course, a very tentative temporal placement.

### **Site 165**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/850 E3/68/000, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 165 occupies the eastern margin of the Reyes high terrace overlooking the lower Ulua terrace ca. 18m below it to the east and north. The ground slopes up gradually to the west from this steep descent towards the Rio Ulua. Approximately 250m to the east is the Rio Ulua while Sites 164 and 163 lie 90m and 110m to the northwest and east-southeast respectively.

Site Description: Site 165 contains a single, 0.15m-high structure measuring 4m<sup>2</sup> basally and oriented 124 degrees 30 minutes. The basal platform walls were made using river-worn cobbles. It seems likely that Site 165 was part of the same dispersed settlement which includes Sites 163-164 and Strs. 8-11 at Site 162.

Excavations: None

Dates: If Site 165 is part of the same settlement including Sites 163-165 and Strs. 8-11 at Site 162 then the dispersed organization of these buildings along with their low heights points to an Early Postclassic date for their construction and use.

### **Site 166**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/700 E3/67/750, 145m above sea level.

Location: Site 166 is built into the slopes and onto the summit of the 1-2m-tall, north-south-running natural step up which breaks the gradual east to west upward slope of the Reyes high terrace ca. 250m east of that eminence's eastern margin. The ascent is not particularly steep while the summit is fairly level, the land rising only gradually from east to west. Site 162 is found approximately 150m to the east while the Rio Ulua lies ca. 300m south and 340m north of the locus. In contrast to most Reyes Vega settlements which are found along the margins of the upper terrace, Site 166 dominates the approximate center of this land form. Only Site 174, ca. 75m to the east-southeast, occupies a similar topographic position on the high terrace summit.

Condition: The steep-sided basal walls of Str. 1 appeared to have suffered some dislocation as numerous building stones were found loose over the edifice's surface. Outside of this platform, however, all of the other constructions looked to be in a good state of repair when the site was recorded in 1986.

Site Description: Site 166 contains 18 structures that are 0-2.5m high (most are 0-0.6m in altitude) dominated by a single, steep-sided platform with a narrow summit standing to a preserved height of 2.5m (Str. 1). Structures 1 and 3-9 define a patio on the flat summit of the rise open to the east (facing the descent towards Site 162). Structure 10, a diminutive, 0-elevation building, is situated within this enclosed space, located slightly west of Str. 1's centerline. While the majority of the buildings defining the patio are aligned to very similar azimuths (six are

oriented between 92 degrees 30 minutes to 99 degrees) Str. 10 diverges almost 45 degrees from this pattern (oriented 132 degrees). Access to the patio is generally unobstructed though it would have been easiest from the east. Of the remaining buildings, Str. 2 is isolated northwest of Str. 1 while Strs. 11-18 cluster along the east edge of the locus, being built into the natural rise in this area. No coherent patio groups nor consistent patterns of structure orientation were observed along this ascent as buildings were located to take advantage of changes in the local topography. The heights of the downsloping flanks of Strs. 11-13 are enhanced in this fashion.

Platform facings and building foundations were fabricated using a mixture of river cobbles and angular stones easily obtained from the Uluva channel and outcrops in the western mountains (ca. 350m distant), respectively. The summit of Str. 3 did preserve a north-south running line of stones which bisects the summit and may have served as a foundation for impermanent superstructure construction.

Excavations: A total of five shovel tests were excavated off the south flanks of Strs. 7 and 8, 0.2-0.3m deep, yielding negligible quantities of artifacts.

Dates: The sizes, forms, and patio-focused organization of the structures point to their construction and use during the Late Classic. This also fits with the date obtained from excavations at the formally analogous Site 20 in the La Isla Cluster. Analysis of temporally diagnostic ceramics from the small artifact collections derived from Site 166 suggests that occupation persisted into the Early Postclassic. Such persistence is also matched at Site 20.

### **Site 167**

Map Coordinates: N16/54/240 E3/67/325, 220m above sea level.

Location: Site 167 occupies a small area of flat land within the first, ascents of the Montanas de Santa Barbara on the far eastern margin of the Inguaya high terrace. The Quebrada El Derrumbe

is ca. 750m to the west while a large seasonal tributary of that stream runs 125m south and 175m west of the locus. A smaller quebrada is found within 20m of the settlement to the north. Site 142 in the Cementario Cluster is approximately 810m to the southwest while Site 88 in the El Derrumbe aggregate is found ca. 575m to the west-northwest. Rock outcrops, especially basalt, are common throughout the surrounding hills and were noted protruding onto the surface of the ledge supporting the settlement.

Condition: A ca. 0.5m-wide trench cuts across and disrupts the east side of Str. 2. A short but deep seasonal run-off, which feeds into the quebrada to the north, runs between Strs. 1 and 2 and may have disturbed this portion of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 167 contains two structures set in an east-west line facing the quebrada which runs immediately north of the locus. The buildings are 0.1m high, measure 6m<sup>2</sup> (Str. 1 on the west) and 4.5m x 5.5m (Str. 2), and are oriented 358 degrees 30 minutes and due north, respectively. The distance separating Strs. 1 and 2 is 14m. Basal walls were fabricated using rounded river cobbles which, at least over portions of the east wall of Str. 1 and the west wall of Str. 2, were set on end. Set against the south wall of Str. 2 on the interior is a low mound of loose earth and stone.

Excavations: None

Dates: The earth and stone feature found in Str. 2 is similar to constructions identified within Historic period buildings recorded elsewhere in Central Santa Barbara (e.g., Site 9 in the Upper Lempa Cluster). As a result, though lacking other supporting data, we would tentatively place the construction and use of this locus within the Historic period.

### **Site 168**

Map Coordinates: N16/53/570 E3/66/710, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 168 occupies relatively flat terrain on the western edge of the high terrace, the land rising gradually to the south towards Gualjoco. Immediately south of the locus is a ca. 2m-high rise containing extensive rock exposures. A seasonal stream channel courses northwest-southeast roughly 100m north of the locus while a second, somewhat smaller, quebrada lies approximately 35m east of Site 168. The eastern watercourse joins the northern and they, in turn, empty into the Quebrada El Derrumbe ca. 250m to the east-northeast. Sites 142 and 129 lie approximately 325m to the north and 110m to the northeast respectively. Rock outcrops, in addition to those noted south of the settlement, are found across the terrace summit.

Site Description: Site 168 contains five constructions, three of which are features located on the low rise immediately south of the settlement and two are 0-elevation buildings. The latter edifices are dispersed in a rough southwest-northeast line and do not share a common orientation. Features 1-3 consist of linear arrangements of angular stones, similar to the material found outcropping throughout the area, running between prominent outcrops. While these lines rise ca. 0.2m above current ground surface they are not terraces backed by deposits of earth. Rather, the stones seem set on the current surface of the rise and it is not certain that they continue below the ground level. Angular stones, presumably obtained from local exposures, were used to build the perimeter and feature walls.

Excavations: None

Dates: The low elevations of Strs. 1 and 2 as well as their linear organization weakly suggest that they were built and used in the Early Postclassic. The small size of the locus makes this temporal placement tentative. Features 1-3 may be relatively recent constructions, possibly serving as field boundary markers.

## **Site 169**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/745 E3/67/110, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 169 is situated within the Chinquia Vega well in from the eastern margin of the upper terrace on slightly rolling terrain. While generally flat, the land slopes up slightly to the north and west and there are several low eminences (1m high or less) above the terrace summit. Structures 1-8 are built atop one of these low rises. There are no quebradas in the immediate vicinity of the locus and the Rio Ulua lies approximately 325m to the east. Site 351 is 93m to the north (measured to the closest building [Str. 19]) while Sites 172 and 171 are ca. 150m and 250m to the southeast and south respectively.

Site Description: Site 169 contains 13 buildings that are 0-1.1m high, of which seven are 0.5m or higher on at least one of their flanks. Structures 1-8 are raised atop a low (ca. 0.5m high) natural rise and delimit a small patio on all sides. Not only are these the largest structures at the site but they are also the most complex with all, save Str. 5, having projections and/or stone-faced constructions connecting neighboring buildings. These "connectors" appear to represent an effort to formalize natural ascents by building low stone walls into them. There is no appearance of orthogonality and platforms were apparently sighted to take advantage of small changes in elevation along the edge of the low rise. Access to the patio is limited by both the close spacing of buildings and constructions joining platforms. Entrance seems largely restricted to the southeast patio corner. Structures 9-12 are much lower than Strs. 1-8 and form a small group 29m west of the aforementioned cluster. Here the buildings enclose a very small patio (42m<sup>2</sup>) on all sides. Proximity among constructions would have effectively limited entrance to the enclosed space. There is no evidence suggesting that these edifices once shared a common azimuth and the cluster, while nucleated, has a generally irregular appearance. Structure 13 is isolated 66m south of the Str. 1-8 aggregate.

Platform, contour facings, and building foundations were constructed using river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused arrangement of Strs. 1-12 suggest that these buildings were constructed and occupied during the Late Classic.

### **Site 170**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/390 E3/67/175, 118m above sea level.

Location: Site 170 is built into the upper slopes of the steep descent from the southern margin of the upper terrace of the Chinquia Vega. The ground here is in the process of shifting from the level summit to the precipitous inclines of the terrace escarpment. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 100m to the south and 15m below the site, no quebradas were recorded in the environs of the locus. Site 171 lies approximately 125m to the north, Site 173 is ca. 200m to the northwest.

Condition: There was no evidence of looting nor other significant disturbance at Site 170.

Erosion, given the position of the settlement above steeply sloping terrain, may have dislocated portions of Site 170. The terrace summit and slopes surrounding the locus were covered in low, dense grass in 1986 and used as animal pasture. Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: Site 170 consists of a single structure, defined by cobble perimeter walls, measuring 9m x 13m and oriented 299 degrees. The flanking walls are flush with current ground surface while the up- and down-slope termini of the structure are defined by 0.15m-high step-ups. Six meters above the downslope step-up there was another 0.15m-high stone-faced riser running the full width of the building. The form of this single edifice was virtually unique within the Central Santa Barbara corpus of sites and it did not seem to have served a residential function. These terraces may have demarcated a restricted area for cultivation or some access feature leading down to the Ulua.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 171**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/575 E3/67/110, 123m above sea level.

Location: Site 171 is found atop the flat summit of a natural eminence rising above the southern margin of the Chinquia Vega's upper terrace. This low bluff appears to be an extension of the western hills and the land here runs evenly back to the west for roughly 80m to the first steep ascents of these mountains. Site 171 perches on the northern margin of the bluff overlooking a gradual drop-off to the terrace summit. The Rio Ulua is approximately 250m to the south while Sites 170 and 169 are ca. 125m south and an equivalent distant west of the settlement respectively.

Condition: The recent (1980's) construction and use of a domicile within 50m of Site 171 has almost certainly resulted in the loss of some portions of the locus.

Site Description: Site 171 contains two extant structures (0m and 1m high [downslope], 0.1m high [upslope]) arranged around the north (the larger building) and east sides of a patio. There is no evidence that these buildings were aligned to a common azimuth, the 0-elevation building on the east is oriented 324 degrees 30 minutes while the larger, northern edifice is aligned 271 degrees 30 minutes. The latter structure measures 5.5m x 2 while the former is 3m x 3.5m. Six meters separates the two edifices. Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The study of temporally diagnostic ceramics derived from the surface of Site 171 points to occupation here during the Early and Late Postclassic.

## **Site 172**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/675 E3/67/175, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 172 is situated on the relatively level summit of the Chinquia Vega's upper terrace, the land sloping up from here very gradually to the north and west. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 250m to the east while Sites 169 and 171 are approximately 150m and 170m to the northwest and southwest respectively.

Condition: Systematic removal of stones from structure surfaces has resulted in the dislocation of architectural features. While not confirmed by on-the-ground inspection, the construction of a housing development in this portion of the vega between 1986-1988 most likely destroyed Site 172.

Site Description: Site 172 consists of three structures that are 0-0.3m high and which surround a patio on all sides except the east. There was no clear evidence that the structures here had been arranged orthogonally though the dislocations suffered by the site may have altered alignments considerably. Access to the enclosed space, while easiest from the east, was generally unimpeded. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused form of the site implies that it was raised and used during the Late Classic. This estimation finds support in the analysis of temporally diagnostic ceramics recovered from the surface of the locus.

## **Site 173**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/500 E3/67/015, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 173 occupies a very restricted shelf of flat land (3,750m<sup>2</sup>) within the steeply sloping terrain of the Cerro de Chinquia foothills on the western margin of the Chinquia Vega.

The land west of the ledge slopes up dramatically into the hills while the descent on all other sides to the upper terrace ca. 15m below is equally precipitous. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 400m to the east while Sites 170 and 171 are roughly 200m and 125m to the southeast and east, respectively. Rock outcrops, including vesicular basalt, are common both on the shelf surface and the adjoining slopes.

Site Description: Site 173 consists of a single, 0-elevation building which measures 3m<sup>2</sup> and is oriented 348 degrees. Perimeter walls were built of angular stones presumably obtained from the outcrops abounding on the shelf and throughout the hillslopes. The building lacked a western perimeter wall when recorded in 1986 though whether this was part of its original design or the result of some post-occupational process such as colluvial burial we cannot be certain.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 174**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/700 E3/67/800, 143m above sea level.

Location: Site 174 is situated on the relatively flat summit of the Reyes high terrace, well back from the edges of this landform. The terrain rises gradually from east to west and descends with equal imperceptibility to the south towards a short, deep seasonal affluent of the Rio Ulua. The latter river lies ca. 300m to the south while the aforementioned quebrada is approximately 225m distant. Site 174 is situated between Sites 162 and 166, the former ca. 100m east-northeast, the latter roughly 75m west-northwest.

Condition: Structure 3 lacked both western and southern perimeter lines when it was recorded in 1986, possibly indicating the past operation of destructive processes in this area.

Site Description: Site 174 contains seven construction that are 0-0.2m high, including two roughly parallel stone blocks, 6-7m apart and 2m wide, currently flush with ground surface and located at the eastern edge of the settlement. Structures 1-3 form a patio group open to the west while the remaining buildings are widely dispersed between this cluster and the previously noted stone lines. Access to the Str. 1-3 patio is generally unobstructed and the buildings defining it are not tightly nucleated around the enclosed space. Construction orientations generally fall within the range from 263 degrees 30 minutes to 269 degrees with Str. 2 (255 degrees) and Feat. 2 (283 degrees) falling outside that array. Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The patio-focused organization of Strs. 1-3 tentatively indicates that they were built and occupied during the Late Classic while the more dispersed arrangement of the remaining constructions points to the Early Postclassic as their primary period of use. The similar alignments shared by most buildings at the locus would seem to belie this interpretation, however. As a result, based on the overall dispersed form of Site 174 and the small sizes of the buildings we would place the principal period of occupation in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 175**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/550 E3/67/710, 126m above sea level.

Location: Site 175 occupies the summit of a low southern extension of the Reyes high terrace rising ca. 1m above the flat surface of the lower Ulua terrace. The land slopes down gradually in all directions save to the south where it rises to join the steep, approximately 19m-high ascent to the high terrace summit. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 190m to the south while a short but deep seasonal stream channel issues from the upper terrace face ca. 50m to the west. Site 166 sits atop the high

terrace ca. 160m to the north while Site 162 is found roughly 250m to the northeast on the margin of that same topographic feature.

Condition: Structures here had suffered from the systematic removal of some of their stones preparatory to planting.

Site Description: Site 175 contains five platforms that are 0.2-0.5m high (downslope flanks; upslope sides rise 0-0.15m high) and are tightly nucleated around a patio open to the southwest. While most of the edifices were located to take advantage of small changes in elevation, thereby enhancing the heights of their downslope flanks, the group still exhibits a considerable degree of orthogonality. Structures 2, 3, and 5 are aligned between 241-242 degrees while Strs. 1 and 5 diverge from this pattern somewhat, oriented 260 and 251 degrees respectively. Access to the patio was easiest from the southwest and, to a lesser extent, the northeast. In addition to these buildings, a 1.5m-diameter circular pile of possible building stones was recorded off the southwest corner of Str. 5. This could represent the remains of a destroyed building, possibly closing off the southwest flank of the enclosed space. Platform facings were built of river cobbles. A stone line flush with Str. 5's summit bisects that raised space and may have served as a foundation for a perishable superstructure wall.

Excavations: None

Dates: The tightly nucleated, patio-focused organization of the site suggests that it was built and used primarily during the Late Classic.

### **Site 176**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/500 E3/67/620, 126m above sea level.

Location: Site 176 occupies a nearly identical topographic position to Site 175 ca. 110m to the northeast, i.e., the summit of a low southern extension of the Reyes high terrace roughly 1m

above the lower Ulua terrace and 19m beneath the high terrace summit. The land slopes gradually down in all directions except on the north where it ascends the upper terrace. The Rio Ulua courses ca. 160m to the south while a deep, seasonal stream channel cuts through the high terrace escarpment ca. 60m to the east. Another quebrada issues from the hills approximately 180m west of the settlement and turns to run northwest-southeast immediate south of the site. A restricted segment of Ulua floodplain is found roughly 100m to the southwest. Site 166 rests atop the high terrace approximately 240m to the northeast of Site 176.

Site Description: Site 176 contains four platforms that are 0.25-0.75m high (downslope sides, 0-0.15m in altitude on the upslope flanks) and are tightly nucleated around a very small patio which they enclose on all sides. Access to the central space is restricted by the close spacing of the constructions that border it though it could still be entered from all sides. While sighted along natural changes in elevation, Strs. 1 and 4 share similar alignments (248 and 253 degrees respectively) as do Strs. 2 and 3 (270 degrees 30 minutes and 264 degrees in turn). Platform facings were built of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the buildings as well as their nucleated, patio-focused organization implies that they were built and use during the Late Classic.

### **Site 177**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/850 E3/67/650, 150m above sea level.

Location: Site 177 is situated on the northern margin of the Reyes high terrace overlooking a steep, ca. 30m descent to the Rio Ulua ca. 175m to the north. The terrace summit slopes up from south to north ending in this rapid drop to the river. Site 166 is found approximately 175m to the

southeast while Sites 178 and 179 lie 160m and 125m to the northwest and northeast respectively on restricted ledges within the northern descent.

Condition: A dirt road passes immediately north of the locus and the fence line which defines the southern limit of that route cuts across the northern edge of construction. Posthole digging for this fence may have resulted in some damage to the site as may persistent use of the road.

Site Description: Site 177 contains a single, 0.35m-high platform measuring 6m<sup>2</sup> basally and oriented 93 degrees. The basal walls of the structure were built of river cobbles and river rounded stones were also densely packed over the structure's entire surface.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 178**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/975 E3/67/550, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 178 occupies a small shelf of gently sloping terrain within the otherwise steep escarpment of the north upper terrace face within the Reyes Vega. The terrain drops gradually from south to north before descending rapidly in a ca. 10m descent to the Rio Ulua ca. 125m distant. On the south the land inclines dramatically to the upper terrace summit roughly 20m above while the ledge is defined on the east and west by deep seasonal tributaries of the Ulua. Site 177 is ca. 160m to the southeast while Site 179 occupies a very similar topographic position approximately 170m to the east.

Condition: Site 178 has apparently been little disturbed since its abandonment. Observed dislocation is limited to the east side and northeast corner of Str. 1 where a footpath crosses the building resulting in heightened erosion in this area. The apparent lack of perimeter walls on the east and south sides of Str. 3 may also be the result of erosion within this sloping landscape.

Site Description: Site 178 contains three, 0-elevation buildings laid out in a rough north-south line down the approximate center of the supporting ledge. No patio focus is evident here though structure alignments are fairly close (101-113 degrees). Distances between structures are 6m (Strs. 1 and 2) to 10m (Strs. 2 and 3). The perimeter walls defining these buildings are built of unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The low heights of the structures as well as their dispersed, linear arrangement suggests that Site 178 was built and occupied in the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 179**

Map Coordinates: N16/60/975 E3/67/700, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 179 occupies a narrow shelf of flat land within the steep ascents of the Reyes high terrace. The land drops off on all sides save to the south where it rises roughly ca. 20m to the terrace summit. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 100m to the north and 10m below the site while a seasonal affluent of that river issues from the Reyes escarpment 80m to the west. This quebrada separates Site 179 from Site 178, ca. 170m to the west, while Site 177 is located approximately 125m to the southwest on the high terrace summit.

Site Description: Site 179 consists of a single, 0.3m-high (downslope side, 0.1m high on the upslope flank) platform measuring 4m<sup>2</sup> basally and oriented 265 degrees 30 minutes. This structure is built into the southern margin of the supporting ledge at the point where the precipitous rise to the high terrace summit begins. Platform facings were built of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 180**

Map Coordinates: N16/63/680 E3/67/100, 125 above sea level.

Location: Site 180 within the Encanto Vega stretches from the western margin of the upper Ulua terrace back east for 105m (maximally). The terrain here slopes down gradually from east to west ending in a relatively steep descent of 3-5m to the lower Ulua terrace. Lying approximately 220m to the west is the Rio Ulua while Site 348 is found 77m to the north-northeast.

Condition: As with Site 348, cultivation of junco palms at Site 180 resulted in the loss of large portions of the site. At least 12 rock concentrations, surface clusters of apparent building material mixed, in this case, with artifacts, attested to the degree of site disturbance. Further, erosion down the descent to the lower terrace seems to have played a significant role in site destruction as most of the aforementioned debris scatters are located along the bluff edge and cut by small run-offs. Structure distributions and numbers at Site 180, therefore, are difficult to reconstruct given how extensively the settlement has been disrupted.

Site Description: Site 180 contains 37 constructions including 18 buildings that are 0-0.75m high (the vast majority are half that altitude or less), 12 rock concentrations, and seven features, lines of stone flush with current ground surface. The last two categories of remains almost certainly represent remnants of earlier buildings. As was noted, the extent to which the settlement has been modified by modern agricultural activity makes it difficult to determine how many edifices once existed here and in what manner they were arranged. Presently, at least two different patterns of structure organization can be inferred within Site 180. The first involves Strs. 1, 2, 6-13, RC. 3-12, and Feats. 1-7 which are strung out in a rough north-south line along the western terrace edge facing the Ulua. Covering roughly 256m straight-line distance north-south, and extending east from the edge no more than 37m, these buildings and building remnants form no patio groups nor, as far as we can tell now, did they ever share a consistent alignment. The second pattern contains

Strs. 3-5, 14-18, and RC. 1-2 located 39-111m back from the terrace rim, arranged around a patio open on the north facing Site 348. Though alignments vary within this cluster, there does seem to be a consistent tendency for buildings to be oriented along similar azimuths (2 degrees 30 minutes to 15 degrees, six structures; the remaining two are very closely aligned at 354 degrees and 354 degrees 30 minutes). The patio defined by these buildings is very large, covering roughly 49m by 67m, and while access would have been easiest from the unobstructed north side there are few places where entrance to the enclosed space was restricted. The apparent orientation of this group towards Site 348 and the similarity in the alignments of buildings in both clusters may indicate that they formed parts of a single settlement in the past.

Platform facings and building perimeter walls were constructed of river cobbles easily obtained from the nearby Ulua.

Excavations: None

Dates: Surface collections, exclusively from disturbed structure remnants along the western terrace edge, indicate that occupation here spanned the Early Classic (or, possibly, even the Late Preclassic) through the Early Postclassic. Most of the temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered in surface investigations fell within the Early Postclassic. The dispersed, linear arrangement of structures along the terrace margin also suggests an Early Postclassic date for their construction and use, as does the form of most of these buildings (extensive but low). No temporally diagnostic artifacts were found associated with Strs. 3-5, 14-18, RC. 1-2. Very tentatively we would hypothesize that this aggregate comprised part of the settlement which included Site 348 to the northeast and was, therefore, contemporary with the latter center, i.e. Late Classic in date. The organization of these buildings around a patio is also in keeping with a Late Classic date for their construction.

## **Site 181**

Map Coordinates: N16/71/900 E3/71/450, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 181 within the San Rafael Vega occupies the western edge of a long (southwest-northeast trending), narrow shelf of flat land within the foothills of the Cerro Piedra Grande ca. 20m above the summit of the upper Ulua terrace. While the ledge itself is fairly level the land drops precipitously to the west down to the upper terrace and rises equally dramatically on the east into the hills. The Quebrada San Andres lies approximately 275m to the south while the Rio Ulua is roughly 140m to the west. Site 182, situated on the same ledge as Site 181, is ca. 100m to the southwest.

Site Description: Site 181 contains a single, 0-elevation building, measuring 5m by 8m, and oriented 215 degrees. The perimeter walls of this building were constructed of large, angular stones presumably derived from some of the many outcrops in the immediate area. The eastern wall appears to have been built by placing these stones on end, a pattern noted in excavated buildings dating from the Early Postclassic through Historic periods (see Sites 23, 106, and 116).

Excavations: None

Dates: A surface collection made from the environs of this structure, including clay roof tiles, suggests that it was built and used during the Historic period. Judging by the scant remains left from the building it would seem that a considerable period has elapsed since abandonment. Pottery dating to the Late Postclassic was also found in this surface collection indicating either that the structure itself dates to this period or, more likely, that deposits pertaining to this era formerly existed in the immediate vicinity of Site 181.

## **Site 182**

Map Coordinates: N16/71/850 E3/71/400, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 182 in the San Rafael Vega occupies the western edge of a long, southwest-northeast trending, narrow ledge of flat land within the steep escarpments of the Cerro Piedra Grande foothills. The western descent to the upper Ulua terrace is a steep ca. 20m while to the east the shelf is bordered by the precipitous ascents of the cerro. Site 181, located approximately 100m to the northeast, rests on a continuation of the same shelf, while Site 183 lies roughly 75m west and 20m below Site 182. The Quebrada San Andres is found ca. 200m to the south while the Rio Ulua is ca. 150m to the west.

Site Description: Site 182 consists of one, 0-elevation building measuring 5m by 6m, and oriented 56 degrees. The perimeter walls were constructed of angular stones with their naturally flatter faces directed outwards. These walls were apparently the foundations for perishable upper constructions and were preserved in some areas to a height of two stone courses.

Excavations: None

Dates: The degree to which the foundation walls were preserved as well as the surface collection from the site, which includes clay roof tiles, points to a Historic period date for construction and occupation here. The time elapsed since abandonment, given the extent of structure decay, is apparently considerable.

### **Site 183**

Map Coordinates: N/16/71/850 E3/71/300, 110m above sea level.

Location: Site 183 in the an Rafael Vega is situated on the western margin of the upper Ulua terrace overlooking a ca. 20m, steep descent to that river. The terrace summit is fairly flat dropping off gradually to the south towards the valley of the Quebrada San Andres and rising eastward and northward to the steep escarpments of the Cerro Piedra Grande whose slopes define the limits of the terrace in these directions. The closest settlements are Sites 181 and 182 which

are situated 170m northeast and 75m east of Site 183 and perched roughly 20m above it within the Cerro Piedra Grande foothills. The Quebrada San Andres lies approximately 200m to the south, the Rio Ulua is within 50m to the west.

Condition: Erosion has definitely disturbed segments of this settlement; an undetermined portion of Str. 3's west side has tumbled over the precipice into the Ulua and it is likely that other deposits have been lost in this fashion as well.

Site Description: Site 183 contains three extant buildings that are 0.15-0.4m high, and dispersed in a southeast-northwest trending line along the western margin of the Ulua terrace. Given the proximity of the site to the descent towards the river and the certain loss of at least part of one platform (Str. 3) it is impossible at present to reconstruct the original site plan. While Strs. 1 and 3 share a similar alignment (357 degrees 30 minutes and 354 degrees 30 minutes, respectively) Str. 2 is set at a different angle (55 degrees). Platform facings were made of rounded river cobbles easily obtained from the nearby channels of the Ulua and San Andres. A stone line set flush with the summit of Str. 1 and running parallel to its long axis may have served as a foundation for a perishable superstructure wall.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 184**

Map Coordinates: N16/71/410 E3/71/160, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 184 in the San Rafael Vega lies within the Quebrada San Andres valley, built into the lower, gradually ascending slopes bordering the watercourse on the south. The land slopes up gently north to south from the stream which is ca. 100m distant, the degree of ascent changing drastically as steep escarpments are encountered roughly 35m south of the locus. The Rio Ulua is

approximately 625m to the northwest while the closest other settlement in the area is Site 182, ca. 630m to the northwest.

Site Description: Site 184 contains four structures that are 0.3-0.5m high (downslope flanks; 0-0.15m high upslope), and are irregularly arranged around a patio open to the north and south. Access to the enclosed space was unobstructed and there is no evidence that these buildings had been originally sighted along common azimuths. This deviance from orthogonality may be accounted for by the builders' desire to take advantage of the sloping terrain to enhance platform heights on the downslope sides. Platform facings were constructed of angular stones easily obtained from exposures of similar material in the immediate area.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the buildings as well as their arrangement around a patio suggests that they were built and occupied during the Late Classic. Analysis of associated surface finds, especially pottery, indicates that occupation persisted here into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 185**

Map Coordinates: N16/70/825 E3/70/740, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 185 in the san Rafael Vega occupies a ca. 0.5m-high rise on the western margin of a long, narrow ledge of flat land (ca. 500m long northeast-southwest by 55m wide) within the steep escarpments of the Cerro Las Tintas. This shelf overlooks the Rio Ulua ca. 190m to the west and a small segment of that river's floodplain. The descent to the floodplain is a precipitous 18m, the drop from floodplain to the Ulua is 5-10m. The dramatic ascents of the cerro delimit the shelf's east side. The Quebrada San Andres lies approximately 1km to the northeast separated from Site 185 by steeply sloping hillsides. The closest ancient settlement is Site 186, situated ca. 90m to the northeast on the same shelf.

Condition: The summit and south side of Str. 4 have been looted.

Site Description: Site 185 contains five platforms that are 0.2-1.0m high (downslope sides, 0.15-0.5m high on the upslope flanks), and are tightly nucleated around a patio which they enclose on all but the north side. Access to the enclosed space was restricted on all sides save the north by the close spacing of constructions. The lack of orthogonality in the arrangement of buildings within this group probably results from the builders' desire to locate buildings along the west terrace edge (Strs. 2-4 especially) thus enhancing the heights of their western flanks. Platform facings were built using angular stones easily obtained from the many outcrops of similar material found throughout the terrace summit, eastern hills, and terrace escarpment.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the edifices here as well as their tightly nucleated, patio arrangement imply that they were built and occupied during the Late Classic. Associated surface finds dating to the Early and Late Postclassic indicate that occupation at Site 185 was not limited to this period.

### **Site 186**

Map Coordinates: N16/70/900 E3/70/790, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 186 in the San Rafael Vega is perched on the western edge of the same shelf of level terrain that supports Site 185 ca. 90m to the southwest. The drop from the locus to the floodplain is a direct 18m while another 5-10m separated the floodplain summit from river level at the beginning of the 1986 rainy season (early June). The flat ledge summit is succeeded on the east and north by the steep slopes of the Cerro Las Tintas while to the southwest the shelf continues to wind around the hill face for ca. 450m. The Rio Ulua is found approximately 155m to the west.

Site Description: Site 186 contains two structures that are 0.25 and 0.4m high and separated by 4m. The westernmost, tallest building measures 5m<sup>2</sup> basally and is oriented 7 degrees east of north. The lower edifice to the southeast covers 4m<sup>2</sup> and is aligned 304 degrees 30 minutes. Platform facings were constructed of angular stones very similar to those found outcropping on the terrace summit and escarpment as well as throughout the eastern and northern cerro.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 187**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/560 E3/70/690, 120m above sea level.

Location: Site 187 in the Cececapa Vega occupies the western edge of the ledge at the widest point on this feature south of the Rio Cececapa. The ledge is delimited on the west and south by steep descents, in the first case to the lower Ulua terraces while in the second a ca. 25m cleft cut by a seasonal stream defines the center's southern limit. The ground drops and then rises to the north and east, respectively, in the direction of the Rio Cececapa and Cerro Las Lomitas. The southern patio group, Strs. 1-6, is built atop the highest land in the area while a ca. 3.5m-deep quebrada runs immediately to the north separating this aggregate from Strs. 7-8. Further south both the bluff and lower terraces pinch out against the eastern hillslopes reappearing as narrower features ca. 1.1km distant. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 75m to the west while the Rio Cececapa is roughly 150m to the north. Site 192 is found 105m north of the site core (Strs. 1-6), Site 193 is 220m distant to the north-northeast.

Condition: Construction and use of a modern house and outbuildings, roughly 60m north of the site core (Strs. 1-6), may have resulted in the loss of some buildings and prehistoric deposits in this area though no direct evidence was found to support this statement. Sugar cane was planted

east of Strs. 7-8 and the sizes as well as density of the plants precluded thorough survey here. It is possible, given the frequent use of mechanized equipment to level areas for cane cultivation, that some deposits and even structures were lost to this agricultural activity.

Site Description: Site 187 contains eight platforms all but one of which are 1-3.5m high (Str. 6 stands to a preserved height of 0.3m). Structures 1-5 define a large plaza in the southern portion of the center, enclosing an area of 1,050m<sup>2</sup> on all sides. Built atop a 1.5m-high natural eminence, the southern and eastern edifices (Strs. 1-3) share a very similar alignment (6 degrees to 10 degrees 30 minutes) while Strs. 4 and 5 are oriented somewhat differently at 23 degrees and 23 degrees 30 minutes, respectively. Structure 6, the smallest platform at the site has a significantly different orientation (347 degrees) and is somewhat isolated off the southeast corner of the main plaza. Access to the enclosed space would have been easiest from the north; on the south and east the steep slope of the quebrada wall and the sheer sizes of Strs. 1-3 as well as their linking constructions would have precluded entrance. The precipitous western drop to the Ulua terraces would have acted to restrict access from this flank as well. While some effort was apparently made in the case of Strs. 3-5 to set platforms along natural changes in elevation to enhance their downslope flanks, this does not seem to have been the case with the larger southern edifices which are raised above level terrain.

The remaining two buildings at the site, Strs. 7-8, are found 47m north of the southern patio group built into the western bluff edge overlooking the Ulua. While not part of a patio cluster, they are sighted to form a north-south line of large constructions with Str. 5 the southernmost member. The orientations of these two northern buildings approximate the alignment of their southern counterpart (14 degrees [Str. 7] and 17 degrees [Str. 8]). Here the desire to place buildings atop natural descents is even more pronounced and both platforms are a

good meter higher on their western faces. In general, the massive constructions at Site 187 were apparently laid out and built according to a single, coherent plan, one designed to enhance the impressiveness of these buildings. Not only is this evident in the builders' desire to take advantage of natural changes in elevation, but simply concentrating so many tall structures on a restricted segment of level terrain enhances a visitor's impression of the massiveness of the site as a whole.

Platform facings were built almost exclusively of unmodified river cobbles though some angular stones and even a few cut limestone blocks were recorded. Structures 1 and 7 supported stone lines, presently flush with the summit surfaces, which may have acted as foundations for perishable upper walls. At least one outset stone staircase was identified on the surface extending from Str. 3 into the southern plaza.

Excavations: Structures 3 and 4 were excavated here in 1986.

Dates: The relatively small excavated collection from Site 187 indicated that the structures were built and used during the Late Classic. This temporal placement accords well with our initial estimation of the site's age based on the sizes and organization of the platforms.

### **Site 188**

Map Coordinates: N16/69/275 E3/71/060, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 188 within the Cececapa Vega occupies the high terrace above the Rio Ulua in an area of gently sloping terrain descending gradually from east to west towards the river. The land drops off steeply towards the Ulua immediately west of the settlement. This last descent ultimately terminates in a 15-20m direct fall to the river level when the site was visited in June, 1986. The Ulua lies ca. 140m to the west, the Rio Cececapa roughly 450m to the south. Sites

189 and 191 are found approximately 100m and 300m to the northeast and southwest respectively.

Site Description: Site 188 consists of a single, 0.3m-high platform measuring 3.5m by 4.5m basally, and oriented 24 degrees. Platform facings were built of angular stones similar to those found outcropping in the hills ca. 300m to the east.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 189**

Map Coordinates: N16/69/325 E3/71/180, 140m above sea level.

Location: Site 189 in the Cececapa Vega occupies the same topographic position as Site 188, ca. 100m to the southwest; i.e. on gently sloping terrain atop the high terrace above the Rio Ulua just east of the point where the downward slope of the land increases heading west to the 15-20m direct drop to the river. Several of the platforms here are built into the western descent. Site 191 is found approximately 400m to the southwest while the Rios Cececapa and Ulua lie 150m and 480m to the south and northwest, respectively.

Condition: The only evidence of disruption at the locus was noted at Str. 2 where stones had been removed from the platform's west flank.

Site Description: Site 189 contains five platforms that are 0.1-0.3m high (downslope flanks) and are built into the natural descent of the landscape westward towards the Rio Ulua. Four of the structures form a rough north-south line (Strs. 1-2, 4-5) with the fifth (Str. 3) situated immediately east and behind Strs. 1-2 at the southern end of the line. Structures 1-3 may, therefore, have formed a small, patio-centered group open on the north and south with Strs. 4-5 being northern outliers of this arrangement. There is no evidence which suggests that the builders of Site 189

adhered to principles of orthogonality in the arrangement of their platforms, most of which were sighted along the shift from gently sloping terrain (east) and more steeply descending land (west) thereby enhancing the heights of downslope (western) structure sides. Access to the patio enclosed by Strs. 1-3 was impeded only on the west where the close spacing of Strs. 1 and 2 would have severely restricted entry. Platform facings were raised primarily using angular stones easily obtained from outcrops in the eastern hills. A few river-rounded cobbles from the Ulua and/or the Cececapa were also employed.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown.

### **Site 190**

Map Coordinates: N16/69/000 E3/70/660, 115m above sea level.

Location: Site 190 in the Cececapa Vega occupies the summit of the lower Ulua terrace overlooking, approximately 275m to the southwest, the junction of the Rios Cececapa and Ulua. Immediately north of the locus is the restricted segment of Ulua and Cececapa floodplain found immediately downriver from this confluence. The terrace summit slopes up gradually from southeast to northwest towards the steep ascent to the high terrace supporting Sites 188-189, 191 while on the north there is a precipitous descent into a seasonal affluent of the Cececapa issuing from the north face of the bluff. To the east and south the land drops 10-15m directly to the floodplain. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 160m to the west, the Cececapa roughly 210m to the south, while Site 191 overlooks the settlement from the summit of the bluff approximately 150m to the northeast.

Site Description: Site 190 contains 16 constructions that are 0-0.8m high on their downslope flanks, with most clustered between 0.15-0.3m in altitude. The structures are divided between

two nucleated, patio-focused clusters, Strs. 1-7 enclose a central space on all sides while 30m to the southwest and slightly downslope Strs. 8-16 define a patio open to the north. The majority of the platforms here are built into the northwest-southeast downward slope of the land, thereby increasing the heights of their downslope flanks. This sighting along natural contours is most evident in the case of Strs. 10-16 which are perched along the southeastern terrace edge overlooking the floodplain and deep cleft cut by the eastern quebrada. None of the groups were laid out to conform to principles of orthogonality, this divergence in part accounted for by the aforementioned desire to build along minor changes in elevation. Access to the north patio was unimpeded by construction or the close spacing of buildings. The southwest enclosed space was most easily entered from the north while on the remaining sides traffic was limited by the proximity of buildings and/or saddles joining platforms (Strs. 14 and 15).

Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of both river cobbles and angular stones. The former are easily obtained from the Rios Cececapa and Ulua while natural rock exposures were recorded in the face of the bluff ca. 55m to the north and northwest.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and nucleated, patio-focused layout of the settlement suggests that it was built and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 191**

Map Coordinates: N16/69/075 E3/70/860, 130m above sea level.

Location: This settlement in the Cececapa Vega occupies the western margin of the high terrace directly above Site 190 which is ca. 150m southwest. The land here slopes down gradually from east to west towards the Rio Ulua descending rapidly immediately west of the locus to the Ulua terrace supporting Site 190. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 300m distant, the Rio Cececapa ca.

250m to the south. In addition to Site 190, the closest settlement is Site 188 roughly 400m to the northeast. Limestone outcrops dot the bluff's summit in the immediate environs of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 191 consists of five structures that are 0-1.0m high (most are 0-0.3m in altitude) and are nucleated around a patio defined by Strs. 1-3 on the north and south. Entrance to the enclosed space was generally unimpeded. Perched immediately above steep descents to the west, structure placement seems to have been conditioned to a large extent by the natural topography. The result is that principles of orthogonality are not expressed in the site layout. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones, primarily limestone, the latter found outcropping on the bluff summit near the site.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and nucleated, patio-focused layout of the constructions implies that they were raised and used in the Late Classic.

### **Site 192**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/700 E3/70/700, 115m above sea level.

Location: Site 192 occupies relatively level terrain on the summit of the same shelf supporting Site 187. The latter is 105m to the south (measured to the site core [Strs. 1-6]); Site 193 is 64m to the northeast. Structures within this settlement extend from the western margin of the bluff overlooking the two lower Ulua terraces at their widest point back for 76m toward the eastern hills. The land rises very gradually west to east towards the Cerro Las Lomitas and north to south away from the Rio Cececapa approximately 90m distant. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 125m to the west while a short, deep quebrada borders the site on the southeast running northeast off the bluff to join the Cececapa.

Condition: Construction and use of an earth road along the west site margin destroyed the southwest flank of one platform (Str. 2) and at least one other building in this area (RC 1). Sugar cane was planted immediately west of Str. 6 and this area could not be intensively investigated given the heights and density of the plants, though it was walked. Cane cultivation frequently involves mechanized leveling of the area to be planted and this activity may have destroyed some structures in this portion of the site where surface collections indicated prehistoric settlement.

Site Description: Site 192 contains 10 construction and one sizable rock concentration (RC 1) that covers 7x22m, in the northwestern portion of the locus. These scattered building stones may represent the remnants of one or more ancient structures. Buildings range from 0-1.75m high with most standing 0.2-0.6m in altitude. Structures 3-9 form a tightly nucleated grouping; three of these buildings (Strs. 3, 5, and 6) define a patio on all sides save the west. These are the largest platforms in this particular aggregate, the remaining, smaller edifices are clustered south and west of the patio. As noted above, surface collections made west of Str. 6 in a field now devoted to sugar cane cultivation indicate that prehistoric occupation continued in this direction as well. There is little evidence of orthogonality in the arrangement of buildings within this group, a fact partly accounted for by the efforts of the builders to situate their platforms along small changes in local elevation. Structures 3 and 6-8 in particular are built into the south and north sides of a small depression overlooking a shallow, seasonal wash. This placement enhanced the heights of their downsloping sides. Access to the enclosed space was generally unrestricted by construction.

Structures 1 and 2, 30m west of this group, were probably part of a larger aggregate recently disrupted by road construction. These are both sizable platforms which share similar alignments (296 and 300 degrees). It may be that this cluster of large platforms exhibited a greater degree of orthogonality than did their smaller, eastern counterparts. It is of interest to note

that the orientations of Structures 1 and 2 approximate those of the larger northern platforms of Site 187. The comparable location of these constructions, perched on the bluff edge looking westward towards the Ulua, coupled with their similar alignments may indicate that all four (or more) of these buildings were raised at or about the same time following a single, overall plan.

Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of unmodified river cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, and 9 were dug here in 1986.

Dates: Excavated material from terminal debris contexts associated with the above buildings indicates that they were built and used during the Late Classic, a date consistent with temporal inferences made on the basis of structure sizes and organization.

### **Site 193**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/750 E3/70/850, 117m above sea level.

Location: Site 193 occupies the same ledge of flat land as Sites 187 and 192 which are 220m and 64m to the south-southwest and southwest of Site 193, respectively. The bluff turns east at this point, pinching out immediately northeast of the settlement. Site 193 overlooks the narrow valley of the Rio Cececapa ca. 75m to the north. Approximately 240m to the west is the junction of the Rios Cececapa and Ulua while a short but deep quebrada runs immediately west and north of the locus separating it from Site 192 to the southwest. The land rises gradually here from west to east towards the bordering hills that are roughly 20m distant in this direction. The northern descent into the seasonal stream channel and the Cececapa valley is steep. Rock exposures are commonly found in the immediate environs of the locus.

Site Description: Site 193 contains three platforms that are 0.2-0.6m high and which are clustered around a central patio which they define on the north and east sides. Structure location was apparently determined by the builders' desires to situate constructions along small changes in

elevation, thus enhancing the heights of the edifices' downslope flanks (Strs. 2 and 3 especially). There is no clear evidence that much effort was invested in aligning these buildings to a common azimuth. Access to the central, enclosed space was generally unimpeded. Platform facings were built of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and nucleated, patio-centered layout of the platforms at Site 193 suggest that they were raised and occupied during the Late Classic.

### **Site 194**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/300 E3/70/225, 110m above sea level.

Location: Site 194 in the Cececapa Vega perches on the western margin of the upper Ulua terrace overlooking the Ulua floodplain ca. 5m below. The land slopes up gradually to the east for ca. 45m to the steep escarpments of the eastern hills. While this narrow terrace continues to the southwest it pinches out between the Rio Ulua and the hills immediately northeast of the locus. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 90m to the west while deep seasonal affluents of the river issue from the eastern hills and pass within 35m northeast and 55m southwest of the settlement. The Rio Cececapa is found ca. 620m to the northeast. Part of a line of sites stretched out along the upper Ulua terrace, the closest prehistoric locus is Site 195 roughly 200m to the southwest.

Site Description: Site 194 contains a single, 0.4m-high (downslope, west; 0.2m high on the eastern, upsloping flank) platform measuring 4m by 4.5m and oriented 74 degrees. Platform facings were constructed primarily from river cobbles easily obtained from the nearby Rio Ulua. Angular stones, presumably derived from the many outcrops in the eastern hills, were also used.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

## **Site 195**

Map Coordinates: N16/210 E3/70/075, 110m above sea level.

Location: Site 195 in the Cececapa Vega perches on the western margin of the upper terrace overlooking the Ulua floodplain and is bounded on the northwest by the ca. 5m descent to that lower surface. On the northeast and southeast a deep, seasonal tributary of the Ulua snakes around the settlement while to the southwest the terrace summit is relatively level, stretching to Sites 196 and 197, 72m and 162m distant, respectively. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 105m to the northwest, the Rio Cececapa roughly 810m to the northeast.

Site Description: Site 195 contains three platforms that are 0.1-0.4m high and tightly nucleated around a patio which they enclose on all sides save the northwest (the flank overlooking the drop to the Ulua floodplain). Located so as to take advantage of natural changes in elevation (Strs. 1 and 2 facing over the quebrada especially), little effort was apparently devoted to building structures to conform to common alignments. Access to the space enclosed by Strs. 1-3 was generally unimpeded by construction of any sort. Building materials were not recorded.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of the buildings as well as their tightly nucleated, patio-centered arrangement point to their construction and use during the Late Classic.

## **Site 196**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/210 E3/69/940, 110m above sea level.

Location: Site 196 sits on the western margin of the upper Ulua terrace which supports Sites 195 and 197; the last two sites are 72m northeast and 42m southwest of the locus, respectively. The steep, ca. 5m descent to the floodplain delimits the settlement on the northwest while a ca. 7m-deep channel of a seasonal Ulua tributary borders the locus to the southwest, separating it from

Site 197. The land is fairly flat for 40-50m to the southeast before the escarpments of the eastern hills are encountered. Lying approximately 75m to the northwest, the Rio Ulua is the closest source of perennially running water while the other year-round stream, the Rio Cececapa, is found ca. 850m to the northeast. The quebrada which cuts around Site 195 on the north- and southeast issues from the eastern slopes roughly 55m east-northeast of Site 196.

Condition: The absence of perimeter walls on the north and east sides of Str. 2 may point to the action of some destructive agency here, possibly erosion down the steep descent to the floodplain.

Site Description: Site 196 contains three structures that are 0-0.2m high (downslope flanks) and which are laid out in a southwest-northeast line along the terrace edge. There was no evidence of a patio focus here nor were the buildings aligned to a common azimuth. The position of individual constructions was apparently determined to a large part by the orientation of the terrace margin into which they were built. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed primarily of river cobbles obtainable from the Ulua with angular stones being used to a much lesser extent. The latter probably derived from outcrops in the eastern hills

Excavations: None

Dates: The linear arrangements and small sizes of these structures indicate that they were built and used during the Early Postclassic. We cannot, however, rule out the possibility that, given their small sizes, all three buildings served some special, non-residential purpose, such as storage, during an unspecified period in the past.

### **Site 197**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/175 E3/69/860, 110m above sea level.

Location: The topographic position occupied by Site 197 in the Cececapa Vega is nearly identical to that described for Sites 196 and 195, 42m and 162m to the northeast on the same high terrace.

As was the case with these other loci, Site 197 is located on the northwest margin of the upper Ulua terrace, built into and overlooking a ca. 5m descent to the floodplain of that river. Bounded on the northeast and southwest by seasonal affluents of the Ulua that are 7-10m deep, the terrace summit extends without much change in elevation roughly 45m back to the southeast before the first steep ascents of the eastern hills are encountered. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 90m to the northwest, the Rio Cececapa ca. 960m to the northeast.

Condition: Portions of the perimeter walls defining Strs. 11 and 12 were not evident. Erosion in the form of small run-off channels may have adversely effected these particularly exposed constructions built into steep descents to the floodplain and northeastern quebrada, respectively.

Site Description: Site 197 contains 12 constructions ranging in height from 0-2m (most fall between 1-1.3m in altitude on their higher, downslope flanks). The buildings are tightly nucleated around a patio which they enclose on all sides and to which access was limited by the close spacing of constructions. There is a tendency towards orthogonality here with most of the edifices aligned to between 133-154 degrees. Structure 4 is slightly offset from this pattern at 126 degrees 30 minutes (because they were particularly disturbed, the orientations of Strs. 11 and 12 were not calculated). Buildings were raised along small, natural changes in elevation (most pronounced with those platforms built into the terrace margin [Strs. 1, 5, and 10] and quebrada flanks [Str. 9] but also the case with Strs. 2, 3, and 6 which were constructed over subtler topographic shifts). Nevertheless, a desire to ensure that structures were mutually aligned seems to have won over the more general tendency towards irregular groupings of buildings that are usually associated with sighting along natural contours in the middle Ulua drainage. Platform facings and building foundations were fashioned of river cobbles presumably obtained from the nearby channel of the Ulua.

Excavations: None

Dates: The large sizes of the buildings as well as their nucleated organization around a central patio indicates that they were built and used during the Late Classic.

### **Site 198**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/115 E3/69/800, 110m above sea level.

Location: Site 198 in the Cececapa Vega occupies the far southwestern portion of the upper Ulua terrace supporting sites 194-197 immediately northeast of the point where this feature pinches out against the eastern hills. Bounded on the northeast by a ca. 10m-deep seasonal Ulua tributary (the same quebrada which delimits Site 197 on the southwest) a second, shallower channel that is dry save in the rainy season was found immediately to the southwest. Site 198 is set roughly 8m back (southeast) from the 5m drop to the floodplain. The terrace summit is not as flat here as it is further to the northeast, and the land slopes up gradually from northwest to southeast towards the eastern escarpments. Site 197 is found roughly 100m to the northeast while the Rios Cececapa and Ulua lie approximately 125m and 1.05km to the northwest and northeast respectively.

Site Description: Site 198 consists of a single, 0.15m-tall platform, measuring 3m by 5m basally, and oriented 159 degrees. Platform facings were made from river cobbles easily obtained from the Ulua. Site 198 is most likely an outlier of nearby Site 197, isolation resulting from the dissected nature of the terrain and the limited room for expansion available in the immediate area of the latter site.

Excavations: None

Dates: We tentatively place Site 198 in the Late Classic because of its proximity to Site 197.

### **Site 199**

Map Coordinates: N16/68/000 E3/69/700, 130m above sea level.

Location: Site 199 in the Cececapa Vega occupies the narrow (ca. 50m wide at this point) shelf summit situated within the eastern hills. This shelf supports Sites 187-189 and 191-193 to the northeast. The land is fairly level, dropping off precipitously to the north directly down to the Rio Ulua and rising in an equally dramatic fashion on the south. The site itself is situated 20m south of the northern descent. Site 198 lies approximately 150m to the northeast while Site 200 is found roughly 400m in the opposite direction. Site 199 was the only locus recovered from the bluff summit southwest of Site 187 ca. 1.1km distant. The Rio Ulua is reached via a steep descent approximately 100m to the north-northwest while the Quebrada Hondo is also a rugged 475m trek to the southwest. A deep, seasonal tributary of the Ulua runs ca. 20m east-southeast of the settlement. Rock outcrops, especially limestone, appear both on the bluff summit and throughout the eastern escarpments.

Site Description: Site 199 contains three, 0-elevation structures aligned to roughly the same azimuth (48-54 degrees) forming two unequal, parallel lines separated by 10m; Strs. 2-3 on the northwest, Str. 1 on the southeast. No clear patio focus was attested at the settlement though the buildings are nucleated. Perimeter walls were constructed of angular stones, much of it limestone easily obtained from nearby exposures. The interiors enclosed by these foundations were depressed somewhat below current ground surface and Strs. 1 and 3 each had mounds of earth and stone that are ca. 0.4m high and set against the interiors of their southwestern walls. These latter features have been noted on "Historic" period structures recorded throughout the survey area and presumably represent some feature of domestic architecture, possibly a hearth. Upper structure walls were probably made of perishable material.

Roughly 20m to the east-southeast of Site 199 a series of wall remnants were noted built across a small run-off channel entering the quebrada from the north. These features, made out of

angular stones (including limestone), were preserved to 1m high and may represent part of a water control system associated with the nearby settlement.

Excavations: None

Dates: Based on structure forms, especially the raised "hearth" features, we date the construction and use of these buildings in the Historic period.

### **Site 200**

Map Coordinates: N16/67/775 E3/69/375, 115m above sea level.

Location: Site 200 in the Cececapa Vega is found on a small, triangular-shaped remnant of upper Ulua terrace at the junction of the Rio Ulua and the Quebrada Hondo ca. 80m northeast of, and overlooking, that confluence. The land rises gradually from southwest to northeast towards the steep escarpments leading up to the high bluff that supports Site 199 and towards the eastern hills. Structures 1-5 are built into the base of this precipitous ascent. On the southwest and west the terrace ends in a ca. 15m drop to a small section of floodplain, itself only 2-3m above the level of the Rio Ulua at the onset of the rainy season (early June, 1986). The terrace supporting Site 200 appears to be the southwestern continuation of the system on which Sites 194-198 were built, albeit separated from the last of these loci by approximately 550m. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 50m to the northwest, the seasonal Quebrada Hondo is 11m to the south, while a dry (when investigated) affluent of the Hondo cuts 3-10m east of the settlement. Site 199 is found approximately 400m to the northeast while Site 201 is ca. 225m distant to the southwest. Rock outcrops, especially limestone, are common throughout the eastern escarpments but were not found protruding onto the terrace itself. Large boulders, including limestone, were strewn over the Ulua floodplain below the settlement.

Condition: There was no sign of looting nor other significant disturbance at Site 200. Erosion into the eastern quebrada or the deep Hondo channel could have disrupted the southern portion of the site while slopewash might well have obscured some of the structures located at the base of the eastern ascents. When investigated in 1986, Site 200 was covered with low, dense grasses and used as animal pasture. Surface visibility was very good.

Site Description: Site 200 contains seven structures ranging in height from 0-2.5m (downslope flanks) with most falling between 0.5-1.5m in altitude. Structures 1-5 form a tightly nucleated aggregate in the northern part of the locus defining a patio on all sides. These relatively large platforms were built into the sloping terrain found at the base of the eastern escarpments, sighted along natural elevation changes to enhance their downslope heights. Little effort was apparently expended in raising these buildings on a common azimuth. Access to the enclosed space was generally free of obstruction. Structures 6 and 7 are isolated 34m southwest of this cluster and are set up in a southwest-northeast line paralleling the course of the adjacent quebrada. Structure 6 is also built along a natural contour giving it a higher southeastern flank. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of angular stones (including limestone) and river cobbles with the former being slightly more common. Both materials are easily available from nearby outcrops and the Rio Ulua. A cut limestone block was noted embedded in the summit of Str. 2, one of the few such faced stones recorded by the survey.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and nucleated, patio-focused organization of most of the buildings suggests that this settlement was built and occupied during the Late Classic.

## **Site 201**

Map Coordinates: N16/67/595 E3/69/240, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 201 in the Cececapa Vega rests atop the narrow, high ledge which supports Site 199 further to the northeast. While the bluff summit is level it ends on the northwest and northeast with steep descents to the Rio Ulua and valley of the Quebrada Hondo respectively. On the southeast the level terrain on which Site 201 sits is delimited by the dramatic ascents of Cerro Malin. The bluff is not continuous over its full extent and the segments on which Sites 199 and 201 were raised are separated by approximately 150m where they pinch out into the valley of the Hondo. The Rio Ulua lies ca. 50m to the northwest, the Quebrada Hondo roughly 150m to the northeast. The closest settlement recovered by the survey is Site 200, approximately 225m to the northeast, while Site 199 is found roughly 625m in the same direction.

Site Description: Site 201 consists of a single, 0-elevation building, measuring 5m by 7m exterior dimensions, and oriented 50 degrees. The building is delimited by perimeter walls made of angular stones, presumably obtained from outcrops in the nearby hills, and the interior was depressed ca. 0.15m below current ground surface.

Excavations: None

Dates: The form of the structure plus its location on the high bluff near the old San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road in a similar topographic position to that occupied by other Historic sites (e.g., nearby Site 199) very tentatively suggest that Site 201 was built and used in the Historic period.

## **Site 202**

Map Coordinates: N16/65/310 E3/67/750, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 202 occupies gently rolling terrain within the El Zapote Vega on the summit of the upper Ulua terrace ca. 100m south of the Ulua and the steep descent to that river. The land slopes down gradually here from southeast to northwest towards the Ulua. A seasonal Ulua tributary is found roughly 15m south of the locus while the deep quebrada separating the Ilama and Zapote

vegas is approximately 250m to the east-northeast. Sites 203 and 204, also within the Zapote Vega, are found 150m and 475m to the southwest respectively.

Condition: Holes noted in the summits of Strs. 1 and 3 appear to have resulted from the uprooting of trees. The southwest projections of Strs. 4 and 5 also seemed to have been disrupted though the causes(s) of these dislocations remains uncertain. While junco palms were not planted on the settlement when it was investigated, the few scattered palms noted in the area indicate that the cultivation of this tree may have been the cause of the observed disturbances.

Site Description: Site 202 contains five platforms that are 0.5-2.0m high and are tightly nucleated around a patio which they enclose on all sides save the southeast. While most of the buildings were sighted so as to take advantage of small changes in the natural elevation (Strs. 1-4) the overall pattern of the aggregate is orthogonal, oriented southeast-northwest (311 degrees 30 minutes to 324 degrees 30 minutes). All edifices save Str. 1 are linked by some form of construction, either a saddle (Strs. 4 and 5) or faced contours (Strs. 3 and 4, 2 and 3). The close spacing of platforms within the group plus these linking constructions may have served to limit access to the central space to the southeast and northeast patio corners. All three buildings in the southwest structure line have either low (0.15m high) projections or terraces (0.45m high) on their non-patio flanks. The significance of these units is uncertain; based on excavated examples at other middle Ulua sites, they may have served as work areas associated with the edifices to which they are attached. Platform facings were constructed of river cobbles easily obtained from the Rio Ulua.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and nucleated, patio-centered organization of the platforms at Site 202 point to the raising and occupation of these constructions during the Late Classic.

### **Site 203**

Map Coordinates: N16/65/175 E3/67/630, 136m above sea level.

Location: Site 203 in the El Zapote Vega is situated on relatively level terrain, sloping down gradually from southeast to northwest to the Ulua, ca. 255m southeast of that river. A seasonal affluent of the Ulua lies roughly 135m to the north-northeast of the settlement. Site 202 is approximately 150m to the northeast and Site 204 is 360m in the opposite direction. A broad, shallow depression within the upper Ulua summit is located immediately northwest of Site 203 and rock debris was noted on the east side of this feature, presumably eroding from deposits just below the surface.

Site Description: Site 203 contains a single, 0.1m-high, platform measuring 3.5m by 4m, and oriented 47 degrees. Structure facings were made using river-rounded cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 204**

Map Coordinates: N16/64/920 E3/67/425, 135m above sea level.

Location: Site 204 in the El Zapote Vega is found on the gently sloping terrain of the upper Ulua terrace summit. The land here rises gradually from northwest to southeast towards the bordering hills. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 280m to the west while the steep descent to the floodplain is 80-90m distant in that direction. A quebrada courses ca. 50m south of the locus while Sites 202 and 203 are approximately 475m and 360m to the northeast respectively.

Condition: Site 204 was thoroughly destroyed in the course of cultivating juncó palms. The disruption has been sufficiently great that no structures remained to be observed on the surface.

Site Description: Site 204 consists of a single, small surface collection made from a fence line cutting through the vega amidst dense stands of palm trees. Further search of the area revealed a scattering of river cobbles, possibly the remnants of destroyed structures, but no extant buildings. The surface collection consists of one andesite biface fragment and piece of a metate.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 205**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/325 E3/67/210, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 205 in the Gualala vega occupies relatively level terrain atop the high Ulua terrace overlooking a portion of Ulua floodplain immediately to the south. The Rio Ulua lies approximately 50m to the south, the Quebrada Tiligua 300m to the southeast, and Site 206 is 225m in that same direction.

Condition: Whatever buildings once existed at Site 205 had largely been destroyed by the time it was investigated in 1986. While the cause(s) of this destruction is uncertain it seems likely, given the settlement's proximity to modern housing 100m to the north, that the locus was disturbed by activities related to the occupation of contemporary Gualala.

Site Description: Site 205 contains one construction, one a line of stones flush with ground surface running 3m northeast-southwest (Feat. 1), and a concentration of possible building debris 2m x 2.5m in size (RC 1). Both of these elements probably represent remnants of destroyed buildings. The distance separating Feat. 1 and RC. 1 is 3m with the former located due north of the latter.

Excavations: None

Dates: A surface collection, including a metate support, was made at the site. Temporally diagnostic ceramics from this small sample point to occupation here during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 206**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/255 E3/67/410, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 206 is found in the Gualala Vega, on the fairly level summit of the upper Ulua terrace overlooking the Rio Ulua approximately 110m to the southwest. The Quebrada de Tiligua runs ca. 25m to the south while Site 205 is roughly 225m to the northwest.

Condition: Structure 1 had been fairly heavily disturbed, though the cause of this destruction was not certain.

Site Description: Site 206 contains six structures (heights were not recorded) arranged in a roughly crescent shape the most extensive construction (Str. 3) situated in the approximate center of the line. Though nucleated, there was no clear patio focus to the site.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes and forms of the buildings as well as their nucleation suggest that they were raised during the Late Classic. This inference is supported by analysis of surface collected ceramics from the locus that also date to this interval.

### **Site 300**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/250 E3/65/450, 165m above sea level

Location: Site 300 is located at the northern edge of the Tencoa pocket, set against the steep slopes of the ascent leading up ca. 40m to the relatively flat ledge that supports the modern town of La Ceibita. Sites 301 and 302 are 100m to the southwest and south, respectively. Site 302 is separated from Site 300 by the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote that lies approximately 50m south of the settlement. The land slopes down relatively rapidly from north to south across the site, the

steepest descent encompassing the northern 100m of Site 300 nearest to the hills. The closest perennial stream is the Rio Ulua ca. 375m to the west.

Condition: The southern two-thirds of Site 300 was covered in low grass and devoted to cattle pasture when recorded in 1984 and 1985 whereas the remainder of the settlement was obscured by high brush. The latter area was largely cleared to facilitate mapping in 1984. Fields stretching west from Site 300 to the Rio Ulua were used as cattle pasture in 1984-1985 whereas those immediately to the east were planted with plantains; across the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote to the south the terrain was heavily overgrown with thorn scrub. There was relatively little evidence of destruction at Site 300.

Site Description: Site 300 covers approximately 77,500m<sup>2</sup> and consists of three sizable platforms (Strs. 1, 7, and 13) atop which are scattered an additional 16 buildings. Structures 1, 7, and 13 are 3-5m tall (Structure 13 on the north is the lowest) and are arranged in a north-south line covering 300m, ca. 80m separating the northernmost from the central edifice (Strs. 13 and 1, respectively) while the southernmost member of the triad (Str. 7) lies 50m south of Str. 1. Structure 7 covers approximately 1,000m<sup>2</sup>, has five sides with an apparent staircase slightly outset from the platform's northeast face. Two low projections extend 9m north and 17m south of the main bulk of Str. 7. The slightly larger Str. 1, encompassing ca. 1,600m<sup>2</sup>, also has five sides with what seems to have been a staircase, this time leading to the summit on the building's southeast flank. A small construction projects 5m south from the platform. Structure 13, on the northern end of the line, is a quadrilateral construction covering 1,800m<sup>2</sup> and oriented northwest-southeast; it has no obvious stairs. The platform's southwest side has a ca. 5m-wide terrace that runs the full length of Str. 13's flank on this side.

The summits of Strs. 1, 7, and 13 are covered by small quadrilateral platforms that in each case are clustered around a patio. Structures 8-11 occupy the summit of Str. 7, the plaza they define being open to the north and east towards the staircase. A similar pattern was noted atop Str. 1 where Structures 2-6 enclose a patio that is unobstructed on the south and east towards the platform's steps. Structures 14-17 and 19-20 cover the entirety of Str. 13's summit, access to the central plaza being open on the south and east. Structure 18 is a terrace built into Str. 13's northwest flank immediately northwest and below the summit.

The dramatic differences in size and form between Strs. 1, 7, and 13, on the one hand, and the small constructions raised atop them, on the other, suggest that they pertain to different time periods. This interpretation was borne out by the results of excavations carried out here during 1985.

Structure 12 is a ca. 1m-wide stone wall that runs 120m southwest-northeast, 4m and 2m east of Str. 7 and 1, respectively. There is no good reason to assume that Str. 12 is contemporary with Strs. 1 and 7; most likely it is of a much later date, possibly pertaining to the historic period.

Excavations: Structures 1, 3, and 6 were excavated here in 1985.

Dates: Structures 1, 7, and 13 seem to have been raised during the Late Preclassic, based primarily on their forms and relations to later constructions. Extrapolating from probes dug in and around Strs. 3 and 6, it appears that the smaller edifices found atop these large constructions were erected during the Late Classic. There are signs of settlement here dating to the end of the Early Classic whereas a reduced occupation of the settlement seemingly persisted into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 301**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/250 E3/65/350, 165m above sea level.

Location: Site 301 is 100m west of Site 300 and an equal distance northwest, and across the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote, from Site 302. The terrain here is relatively even, rising gradually from east to west. The Rio Ulua is approximately 350m to the west whereas the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote is ca. 50m to the south.

Condition: The field containing Site 301 was devoted to animal pasture when the settlement was recorded in 1984. There was little evidence of serious disturbance at the site though further west the scattered remains of what might have been a prehistoric settlement destroyed by plowing were tentatively identified (this location was not given a site number as the evidence for human occupation here was too inconclusive).

Site Description: Site 301 encompasses ca. 1,100m<sup>2</sup> and consists of six diminutive constructions extending for 55m in a north-south line. These features are a mix of very small surface-level buildings (1x3m, 1x1m, and 1x9m) two low terraces (ca. 0.2m high) and one line of rocks set flush with modern ground surface. There is no patio focus here and construction, as far as it could be ascertained, was of river-rounded cobbles.

Excavation: Structures 1 and 5 were excavated.

Dates: Site form very tentatively indicates that Site 301 was built and used during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 302**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/150 E3/65/450, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 302 is 100m south of Site 300 and the same distance southeast from Site 301. Site 303 lies 100m to the east while the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote is 50m to the north. The surface-visible structures comprising the settlement occupy the summit of a low, natural rise within what is otherwise fairly level terrain.

Condition: When recorded in 1984-1985, Site 302 was covered in high grass and dense thorn scrub. There was very little evidence that the settlement had been seriously disturbed by natural forces or human actions.

Site Description: Site 302 covers roughly 14,400m<sup>2</sup> and consists of nine structures, 0.2-2m high, eight of which are loosely organized around a patio that they enclose on all sides. The general orientation of the group as a whole is slightly west of north. Access to the central space is relatively easy as in no case were visible buildings closer than 3m to each other. Primary entrances to the patio may, however, have been through its southeast and southwest corners where the distances between edifices are 45m and 23m, in turn.

The most complex edifice at the site, Str. 2, is located within, but on the northern edge of, this space. Structure 2 is roughly 1m tall, has a low construction projecting 3m to the west from the building's west flank, and its summit supports a bi-level and an L-shaped construction in its northwest and southeast corners, respectively.

Excavations: Structure 3 and 6 were excavated during 1985.

Dates: Recovered materials, along with the site's general form, suggest that Site 302's principal occupation pertains to the Early Postclassic. The settlement was seemingly occupied during the Late Preclassic through Terminal Classic as well.

### **Site 303**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/150 E3/65/550, 175m above seal level

Location: Site 303 is 100m east of Site 302 and 250m northeast of Site 304. The Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote is roughly 100m to the north. Site 303 is located at the base of the steep ascents that mark the Tencoa pocket's east margin. The land slopes up gradually from west to east to this point before rising more rapidly to the east.

Condition: Site 303 was covered in low thorn scrub when it was recorded during 1984; it appears to have been in fallow, not devoted to agriculture or pasturage. There were no clear signs of disturbance to the visible prehistoric constructions though scatters of cobbles were noted throughout the settlement. While these rocks did not form clear patterns, they might have been the remains of former constructions.

Site Description: Site 303 consists of three constructions widely distributed over roughly 14,000m<sup>2</sup>. Structure 3, on the far north end of the settlement, is a platform measuring 3x5m and standing ca. 0.1m high. Structures 1 and 2 comprise a ca. 0.2m-high, north-facing terrace (Str. 1) and a 4m-long wall line (ca. 0.5m wide; Str. 2) located within 11m of each other on the site's southern edge. Structures 1 and 2 are 184m south of Str. 3.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 304**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/975 E3/65/300, 175m above sea level

Location: Site 304 is 250m southwest of Site 303, 275m south of Site 302, and 325m south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. A seasonal stream course lies within 100m to the north of Site 304. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: The site was planted in corn during 1984 resulting in good surface visibility. Repeated planting on this spot had significantly disturbed prehistoric remains; the two surviving structures were not clearly defined and cobbles along with some cultural material were found scattered on and around these putative edifices. It is unclear how many buildings the settlement might have originally contained and how large it once was.

Site Description: The extant portion of Site 304 consists of two low, amorphous platforms that are under 1m tall. They run in a rough northeast/southwest line and are 2m apart. These rises each measure 6x10m. Altogether, the surviving portion of Site 304 encompasses 400m<sup>2</sup>. Whatever structures once existed here were apparently originally faced with cobbles though no clear wall lines remained.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 305**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/900 E3/65/425, 178m above sea level

Location: Site 305 is ca. 100m southeast of Site 304, 300m southwest of Site 303, and 325m south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. The land here slopes up gradually from north-to-south and east-to-west, the settlement's disturbed remains being found atop this low rise. The surrounding land is relatively flat.

Condition: The field in which Site 305 is located was used as cattle pasture in 1984, the low grass providing good surface visibility. Very little remained of this settlement; it was largely destroyed by farming practices.

Site Description: By the time it was recorded, Site 305 consisted of a large pile of cobbles and a single handle from a prehistoric ceramic vessel. Most likely these stones had been collected from different portions of the field in the course of clearing that tract for modern use.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 306**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/800 E3/65/525, 176m above sea level

Location: Site 306 is 100m southeast of Site 305, 350m south of Site 303, and 400m south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. Remains of the site are found atop three low natural rises that protrude above what is otherwise relatively flat terrain.

Condition: The land on which Site 306 was found had been cultivated, probably in corn, in the recent past but was devoted to cattle pasture during 1984. Only one building, Str. 1, was still well enough preserved that its basic orientation and dimensions could be discerned. The rest of the settlement consisted of concentrations of cobbles collected atop two natural rises. How many buildings these stones might have represented as well as how they were organized and what forms they took could not be reconstructed from these remains.

Site Description: Site 306 consists of one surviving platform (Str. 1) oriented northeast-southwest, standing about 0.1m high, and measuring 5x5m. Two collections of cobbles are located 90m east and 88m southeast of Str. 1. These oval-shaped stone concentrations encompass 12x21m and 14x19m (measured across their centers). All told, Site 306 covers a reconstructed 13,200m<sup>2</sup>. Structure 1 and the cobble concentrations all sit on low rises above the surrounding relatively level terrain. No cultural materials were recovered from the surface of Site 306.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 307**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/150 E3/65/600, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 307 is 100m east of Site 308, 100m north of Site 310, and approximately half way between the Quebradas Aguacate/Zapote and Muigal which are 1km north and south of Site 307. The settlement occupies fairly level terrain, though Str. 1, on Site 307's southern margin is built into a low rise extending for ca. 40m south of the settlement.

Condition: Ground visibility was good in the field containing Site 307 as it was covered in low grass and used as animal pasture during 1984. A drainage ditch cuts southeast-northwest through this field ca. 35m west of the site and seems to have been dug to facilitate commercial cultivation of plantains and palms. Though these trees were not being grown in and around Site 307 when it was recorded, land improvements related to their earlier cultivation may well have damaged the settlement. Structures 1-3 appear to be well-preserved but the presence of several cobble piles in the vicinities of these edifices hints at the former existence of what might have been fairly small buildings that have been destroyed over the years.

Site Description: Site 307 covers an estimated 2,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of three structures set in a southwest-to-northeast trending line. The southernmost construction, Str. 1, is a low terrace built into the base of the aforementioned rise. Structures 2 and 3 are platforms, the former measuring 5x5m and standing 0.75m tall while the latter encompasses 0.3x0.3m and rises 0.5m. All three buildings were faced with river-rounded cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 2 and 3 were dug in 1985.

Dates: Materials recovered from these excavations indicate that Site 307 was occupied from the Late Preclassic through the Late Classic with the principal occupation pertaining to the Late Classic.

### **Site 308**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/150 E3/65/500, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 308 is 100m west of Site 307, 150m southeast of Site 309, 1km north of the Quebrada Muigual, and 1km south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. The land on which the settlement is located is relatively flat.

Condition: Formerly planted in palms and plantains, Site 308 was devoted to cattle pasture in 1984. This low grass afforded good surface visibility. There were few signs here of significant disturbance though we cannot rule out the possibility that the settlement had been damaged by commercial cultivation in the recent past; a drainage ditch trending southeast-northwest lies ca. 70m west of the site.

Site Description: Site 308 is a tightly nucleated settlement composed of four platforms clustered around a patio that they enclose on all sides. Structures 1 and 2 on the patio's north margin are 1m tall while their counterparts on the south, Str. 3 and 4, are lower in height and smaller in their basal dimensions. Platform facings were apparently fashioned of river cobbles. Structures 1-3 are oriented almost due north whereas Str. 4 on the plaza's southeast corner runs northeast-southwest. All told, the visible portions of Site 308 encompass ca. 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Excavations: Structures 1 and 4 were dug here in 1985.

Dates: Recovered materials, site form, and architectural patterning date the primary occupation here to the Late Classic with initial settlement during the Early Classic.

### **Site 309**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/200 E3/65/400, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 309 is 150m northwest of Site 308, 100m northeast of Site 311, 1km south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote, and the same distance north of the Quebrada Muigual. The land on which Site 309 is located is relatively flat, rising gradually from southwest to northeast. When investigated in 1984-1985, the terrain was moderately water-logged and overgrown with tall grass. Ground visibility, therefore, was fair at best. As with Sites 307 and 308, Site 309 was being used for animal pasture in 1984-1985 though it had recently been planted with palms and

plantains. A drainage ditch describes a sinuous course through the site, separating Str. 7 west of its course from the remainder of the settlement to the east.

Condition: The eight buildings comprising Site 309 were well-preserved in 1984-1985. The identification of cobbles scattered throughout the two fields in which the settlement was located, however, implies that additional structures may have been lost to agricultural activities here.

Site Description: Site 309's eight buildings are scattered over an area encompassing 14,000m<sup>2</sup>. Structures 1-6 comprise a loosely organized concentration of edifices on the settlement's north edge. They extend out over 40m east-west, Strs. 3-6 loosely organized around a patio. Structure 7, situated 65m southwest of this aggregate, is a low terrace with elevation only on its west and south sides. Structure 8, ca. 100m south of Strs. 1-6, a wall line running 6m southwest-northeast, is 0.3m wide and flush with modern ground surface. The tallest buildings at the site, Strs. 2 and 6, are 0.5m tall while all the rest, save for Str. 7, have no surviving heights. Structure 7 is estimated at 0.2m tall on its south and west. All visible constructions were fashioned using river cobbles.

Excavations: Structure 4 was dug here in 1985.

Dates: Site 309's patio-focused arrangement, at least of Strs. 309-3-6, points to its use during the Late Classic.

### **Site 310**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/050 E3/65/600, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 310 is 100m south of Site 307, 150m northeast of Site 312, and 900m north of the Quebrada Muigual; the Quebrada Agucate/Zapote lies ca. 1.1km to the north. The land occupied by the settlement is fairly even, sloping down gradually towards the west. Site 310 sits atop a slight prominence overlooking lower land to the west.

Condition: The two adjoining fields containing Site 310 were covered in low grass and devoted to animal pasture during 1984-1985. There were, however, signs that these tracts had been devoted to intense cultivation in relatively recent years. This activity involved the digging of an irrigation ditch, that trends southeast-northwest and lies 35m west of Site 310.

Site Description: The eight buildings that make up Site 310 are divided unevenly between a dense cluster of constructions surrounding a patio (Strs. 2-8) and an isolated low platform (Str. 1) lying 22m to the east. Structures 3 and 5 are located within the plaza that is delimited on all sides by Strs. 2, 4, 6-8. Structures 1, 2, 4-8 are quadrilateral constructions ranging from 0 to ca. 0.75m tall; Str. 3 is a 3m-long by 0.25m-wide wall-line set flush with modern ground surface in the northeast corner of the patio. All visible construction was fashioned of river cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 2 and 7 were dug here in 1985.

Dates: Site 310's nucleated, patio-focused form and materials recovered from excavation point to occupation here during the Early and Late Classic. The latter is the primary period of the site's use.

### **Site 311**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/100 E3/65/375, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 311 is 100m southwest of Site 309, 125m west of Site 310, and 800m north of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: The field containing Site 311 was deeply plowed, though not yet planted, when it was recorded in 1984. Ground visibility was, as a result, excellent though any evidence of constructions that might have originally graced this locale had long since disappeared. A small surface collection of cultural materials was all that remained of the settlement.

Site Description: A widely dispersed scatter of artifacts without any sign of associated architecture.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 312**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/050 E3/65/450, 183m above sea level.

Location: Site 312 is 150m southwest of Site 310, 125m southwest of Site 311, and 700m north of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote. The land occupied by Site 312 is relatively flat, sloping very gradually down from south-to-north.

Condition: The two neighboring fields in which Site 312 was found were covered in low grass and devoted to cattle pasture during 1984-1985. The structures making up the settlement were somewhat damaged, possibly by plowing carried out to prepare the field for planting in the recent past. Nevertheless, the buildings were sufficiently well preserved to infer their forms, dimensions, and arrangements.

Site Description: Site 312 consists of two distinct groupings of edifices. Structures 7-10 comprise a tightly nucleated cluster organized around a patio that is open on the southwest; Str. 6, a small platform, is 9m east of this cluster. Lying 85m to the north is a far more dispersed collection of five smaller buildings (Strs. 1-5) laid out in a rough crescent open to the south towards Strs. 6-10. Structures 1-5 are 0.2m or less in height while Strs. 6-10 range from 0.2-1m tall; the highest edifice, Str. 9, is the central building in the southern patio group. All visible construction seems to have been fashioned using river cobbles. In all, Site 312 covers 14,000m<sup>2</sup>, the southern patio aggregate being packed within 1,200m<sup>2</sup> while Strs. 1-5 are spread out over roughly 2,100m<sup>2</sup>.

Excavations: Structures 1, 7, and 9 were dug here in 1985.

Dates: The tightly nucleated form of the south patio group and materials recovered from there during excavation point to its occupation during the Late Classic and Early Postclassic. The more linear and dispersed arrangement of Strs. 1-5 imply tentatively that they were built and used during the Early Postclassic. Excavation of Str. 1, however, raises questions as to the cultural origins of these putative buildings.

### **Site 313**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/150 E3/64/725, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 313 is 150m northwest of Site 314, 800m southwest of Site 311, and 550m northeast of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: The field containing Site 313 had been heavily plowed in the recent past; about one-third was in fallow while the rest was being prepared for planting in June, 1984 when the site was recorded. Ground visibility was very good. There was no surviving architecture though the cobbles scattered throughout this tract may well have been the remains of prehistoric constructions.

Site Description: In addition to the aforementioned cobbles, Site 313 was identified as a former locus of human occupation by a scatter of artifacts found dispersed across the field.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 314**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/050 E3/64/850, 187m above sea level.

Location: Site 314 is 150m southeast of Site 313, 250m northeast of Site 317, and 650m north of the Quebrada Muigual. Site 314 occupies the summit of a low rise that projects above terrain that is otherwise relatively even.

Condition: Deep plowing in the field containing Site 314 had destroyed any architecture that might have been located here. Ground visibility was good to very good.

Site Description: Site 314 consists of an artifact scatter concentrated atop the aforementioned rise. Other cultural materials were found widely scattered throughout the immediate area along with some cobbles that may have derived from former constructions.

Excavations: None

Dates: Prehistoric and Historic.

### **Site 315**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/750 E3/64/800, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 315 lies 300m south of Site 314, 250m northeast of Site 316, and 350m north of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here slopes up gradually from north-to-south, leveling out 34m north of the single building that comprises Site 315.

Condition: Site 315's one visible edifice, Str. 1, is well-preserved and covered in thorn scrub and low grass that was used as animal pasture in 1984-1985. A drainage ditch runs southeast-northwest, 8m south of the building but does not seem to have damaged Str. 1. Immediately east of Str. 1 plowing did churn up artifacts though no materials were found directly associated with the edifice.

Site Description: Structure 1 is a rectangular, surface-level edifice that measures 19x38m and is oriented 288 degrees. Its perimeter is defined by a low wall 4m wide and apparently built of stone and earth. Most likely this wall served as a foundation for perishable upper construction. Structure 1's interior measures 10x30m and was entered through a 3m-wide door set in the center of its northwest wall. Local informants identified this edifice as an old church, an inference that seems commensurate with surface remains.

Excavation: Structure 1 was dug in 1985 by John Weeks.

Dates: Colonial

### **Site 316**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/675 E3/64/550, 188m above sea level.

Location: Site 316 is 250m southwest of Site 315, 625m east of Site 350, and 200m northeast of the Quebrada Muigual. The cultural material that distinguishes this settlement was found eroding out of gullies located on the west side of a natural rise within this otherwise relatively level terrain. Most likely, the recovered objects pertain to an occupation originally perched atop this rise.

Condition: The field in which Site 316 is located had been heavily plowed in 1984, apparently destroying any signs of the former settlement that might have been visible on the surface. No cobbles, however, were recorded in this area.

Site Description: Site 316 consists of ceramics, mostly roof tiles, found eroding from the west side of a natural rise. They most likely pertain to a relatively recent house that seems to have been erected atop this natural eminence. No other sign of the putative construction was recorded.

Excavations: None

Dates: Historic

### **Site 317**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/900 E3/64/300, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 317 is 250m southwest of Site 314, 175m northwest of Site 315, and 875m north of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: Plowing may well have disrupted prehistoric deposits though no cobble scatters and very few artifacts were found.

Site Description: A single pottery sherd marks the presence of Site 317.

Excavations: None

Date: Unknown

### **Site 318**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/850 E3/65/450, 187m above sea level.

Location: Site 318 is 203m south of Site 312, 325m northwest of Site 320, and 550m north of the Quebrada Muigual. The settlement occupies a low rise in the midst of generally rolling terrain.

Condition: The land around Site 318 had been plowed and planted in corn when the site was visited in June, 1984; ground visibility was good. This plowing does not seem to have damaged the single building recorded at Site 318.

Site Description: The one structure found at Site 318 measures 3.5x4m, stands ca. 1m tall, and runs northeast/southwest. The platform's facings were apparently fashioned of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 319**

Map Coordinates: N16/45/475 E3/64/425, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 319 is 950m northeast of Site 350, 500m northwest of Site 313, and 100m east of the Rio Ulua on the east bank of the Quebrada Muigual very near where the latter watercourse joins the Ulua. The site is bounded on the west by the steep drop into the Quebrada Muigual. Otherwise, the land occupied by the settlement is relatively flat.

Condition: The field containing Site 319 was planted in fruit trees when the area was recorded in 1984. There was little direct evidence that Strs. 1-4 had been damaged in recent years though some of their stones may have been robbed to fashion the wall that bordered the grove on the

north. Structure 5, in the settlement's northwest corner, had been truncated by the construction of a dirt road.

Site Description: Site 319 consists of five buildings found within an area of ca. 8,800m<sup>2</sup>.

Structures 2, 3, and 4 define an ample plaza covering 2,600m<sup>2</sup> that is open on the south.

Structure 1 lies 27m east of (behind) Str. 2 and may have defined a second plaza with its western neighbor. Structures 1-4 are all of substantial size, encompassing 140-190m<sup>2</sup> and rising to 2m in height. Structure 5, located 15m northwest of Str. 3 and off any clear plaza, is smaller than its southern counterparts (estimated at ca. 70m<sup>2</sup> and ca. 1m tall). All buildings at the settlement share an orientation of roughly 5 degrees. Platform facings seem to have been fashioned of river cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 1-4 were dug in 1985.

Dates: The primary period of occupation attested to here is the Late Classic, though settlement extended back into the Early Classic.

### **Site 320**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/575 E3/65/275, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 320 lies near the base of the eastern hills, ca. 325m southeast of Site 318, 300m northeast of Site 321, and 58m north of the Quebrada Muigual. The latter stream turns south immediately south of Site 320. The terrain occupied by the settlement is gently rolling, dropping gradually down from east to west.

Condition: The majority of Site 320's visible structures were found in unplowed portions of fields that straddle the main Santa Barbara/Taulabe road. Ground cover was generally low grass, making for good surface visibility. Most of the extant buildings appeared to be fairly well-preserved, though Strs. 2 and 11, two of the largest edifices at the settlement, had relatively small

and overgrown pits in their summit that likely resulted from looting at some point in the recent past. Structure 9 was bisected by a drainage canal that runs southeast-northwest across the approximate center of the platform. The south edge of Str. 12 seems to have been truncated by this same ditch. Construction of the Sta. Barbara/Taulabe road likely destroyed at least some constructions and disturbed prehistoric deposits though direct evidence of such effects was not recorded.

Site Description: Site 320 encompasses ca. 54,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 30 buildings most of which are organized within two clear aggregates (Groups A and B). Group A, on the settlement's east edge, is made up of Strs. 1-15 arranged around two adjoining patios that are set in a northeast-southwest line, are aligned roughly southeast-northwest, and are easily accessible from all sides. The largest buildings (Strs. 1-3, 7-9, 11, and 12; 2-5m tall) define these plazas which encompass 2,450m<sup>2</sup> (on the northeast) and 5,850m<sup>2</sup> (on the southwest). Structure 11's unusually imposing height (ca. 5m) is enhanced by its construction atop a low rise on the southwest plaza's southwest corner whereas the most extensive of the edifices, Str.7 (360m<sup>2</sup>), divides the patios. The remaining buildings are found fronting (southwest of) Str. 3 within the northeast plaza (Strs. 4-6) and lying west of the southwest plaza (Strs. 13-15). These last buildings tend to be considerably smaller than the platforms that delimit Site 320's main plazas.

Structures 18-30, located 60m northwest of Group A, comprise a densely packed aggregate of generally smaller constructions (0-1m tall) arranged in a southeast-northwest trending cluster that covers 1,800m<sup>2</sup> (Group B). There are at least three focal patios around which these diminutive edifices are organized; access to each of them is generally unimpeded. Occupation may have continued further to the northeast, covering the 26m that separated these buildings from the Sta. Barbara/Taulabe road. Unfortunately, this area was too heavily

overgrown to be surveyed in 1984-1985. The distribution of Group B structures on the southwest was apparently limited by the edge of a natural drop off. The lower lying terrain below Group B had been recently plowed when investigated in 1984. The very few and widely scattered artifacts recovered from the latter area imply that occupation here was sparse at best. Structures 16 and 17 are isolated platforms lying 57m northeast and 72m northwest of Group B.

Excavations: Structures 2, 7, 11, 15, 21, 23, and 28 were excavated here in 1985; the first four in Group A, the last three in Group B.

Dates: Site form and recovered materials point to occupation here during the Early and Late Classic with some settlement indicated during the Late Preclassic and Early Postclassic. The major period of use dates to the Late Classic.

### **Site 321**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/250 E3/65/600, 187m above sea level.

Location: Site 321 is 300m southwest of Site 320, 625m northeast of Site 330, and 50m south of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: When visited in 1984, Site 321 was covered in low grass and devoted to animal pasture; ground visibility was very good. There were no clear signs of disturbance recorded here. It seems likely that plowing in the recent past resulted in the dislocation of some remains.

Site Description: Site 321 is a diffuse artifact scatter with no signs of extant architecture.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 322**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/650 E3/65/475, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 322 is 100m south of Site 330, 450m northeast of Site 349, and 425m south of the Quebrada Muigual. The terrain here is relatively flat.

Condition: The land was devoted to the cultivation of corn and beans when Site 322 was visited during 1984. Ground visibility was very good. Most likely some prehistoric deposits and features were disturbed during cultivation though there was no clear evidence of serious disturbances caused by these or other factors.

Site Description: Site 322 is a moderately dense concentration of cultural material the vast majority of which is lithic tools and debris. Most of the stone is obsidian in the form of flakes, blades, and two polyhedral cores (see Site 323).

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 323**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/200 E3/65/325, 175m above sea level.

Location: Site 323 is 175m northeast of Site 328, 200m east of Site 331, and 250m east of the Rio Ulua. The land here is flat.

Condition: The field containing Site 323 was devoted to corn cultivation during 1984; ground visibility was very good to excellent. Two piles of cobbles, likely removed from structures that formerly existed in the area, were noted; the density of artifacts found on the surface increased notably as a pile of river-rounded stones situated in the field's center was approached. It seems likely, therefore, that agricultural activities here destroyed whatever buildings might once have graced Site 323.

Site Description: Site 323 consists of several cairns of composed of cobbles that were probably displaced from former prehistoric constructions and a moderately dense concentration of artifacts

centered on one of these stone piles. The surface collection was dominated by obsidian fragments, especially blades and flakes, though one projectile point was found. Site 323 may represent another lithic workshop roughly comparable to what was found at Site 322, 425m to the north.

Excavations: Seven test pits were dug within this artifact concentration in 1985.

Dates: Possibly Early Postclassic though the evidence is unclear.

### **Site 324**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/850 E3/65/800, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 324 is 450m northeast of Site 327, 575m southeast of Site 328, and 550m east of the Rio Ulua near the base of the eastern hills. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: The four fields over which Site 324 is spread were devoted to corn cultivation in 1984; ground visibility was very good to excellent. Agricultural activities may have damaged prehistoric deposits here but there was little sign that these disturbances were severe.

Site Description: Site 324 consists of a very light and widely diffuse collection of artifacts unassociated with any evidence of construction. The paucity of even displaced cobbles in the area suggest that there was never much in the way of substantial architecture here or that such constructions were obliterated quite some time ago.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 325**

Map Coordinates: N16/41/875 E3/65/450, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 325 is on the southern margin of the Tenco pocket at the base of the steep bordering hills. The land slopes down to the north though the site itself is on relatively flat terrain. Site 326 is 525m to the north and the Quebrada Las Vueltas is 17m to the west/southwest.

Condition: Site 325 was covered in high, dense grass when visited in June, 1984; it was apparently in fallow; the field immediately to the east was planted in corn at this time. The clearest signs of disturbance were found on Strs. 11 and 13; both had been looted on their west, non-plaza-facing sides. Otherwise, it is likely that agricultural activities have, over the years, displaced architectural remains and disrupted prehistoric deposits.

Site Description: Site 325 consists of 14 structures that are 1-2m tall. Structures 5-12 define a patio which they enclose on all sides whereas Strs. 1-3 lie off that patio's east side, and Strs. 4, 13, and 14 are arrayed north of that group.

Excavations: Structures 6, 10, and 11 were dug here in 1985.

Dates: Site form and recovered materials indicate that Site 325 was built and occupied primarily during the Late Classic.

### **Site 326**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/400, E3/65/500, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 326 is 525m north of Site 325, 275m south of Site 327, and 300m east of the Rio Ulua. The settlement is located at the base of a ca. 20m-high rise, on the northeast flank of that ascent. In general, however, the terrain here is relatively flat.

Condition: The land containing Site 326 had just been plowed prior to planting in June, 1984. Such agricultural practices may well have damaged prehistoric deposits and features though there was little evidence that these disruptions were severe.

Site Description: Site 326 is a very light scatter of artifacts unassociated with extant constructions; there were no cobbles noted in association with this surface collection.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 327**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/750 E3/65/325, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 327 is 275m north of Site 326, 300m southeast of Site 328, and 80m east of the Rio Ulua. The land here is relatively flat. A seasonal watercourse runs 150m south of the site before issuing into the Rio Ulua.

Condition: There was little evidence that the features identified here had been seriously disrupted by modern activities.

Site Description: Site 327 covers ca. 3,600m<sup>2</sup> and consists of ten diminutive structures set in a rough line running approximately north-south. Structures 1-3 and 10 may comprise a patio-focused structure group at the north edge of the settlement, though such an arrangement is far from clear. Only Strs. 5 and 10 among the recorded edifices have any elevation; they are between 0.5-1m tall. The remaining constructions are level with modern ground surface. Structure 2, on the northern end of the distribution, seemed on the surface to be round and to have a diameter of 3m. Structures 4 and 6, in turn, appeared as 'T'-shaped wall lines of stone, their 'stems' extending back 3m to the northwest and 1.5m to the southeast, respectively. The stones used in all these constructions were primarily river cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 6, 8, and 10 were dug in 1985.

Dates: Site form and recovered material point to a primary occupation here during the Early Postclassic. Some occupation extending back into the Late Classic is also indicated.

### **Site 328**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/050 E3/65/225, 176m above sea level.

Location: Site 328 is 300m northwest of Site 327, 175m southwest of Site 323, and 100m east of the Rio Ulua. The settlement is located atop a low rise set in what is otherwise fairly level terrain.

Condition: The two adjoining fields that contain Site 328 were lying fallow when surveyed in 1984; they were covered in moderately high grass making for fair to good ground visibility. The nine piles of cobbles recorded here suggest that structures in the area were damaged in the course of clearing what were likely parts of early architecture from the fields. Structure 1 on the settlement's north edge was apparently cut along its northeast side by the construction of a small access road. Nevertheless, the extent of the damage was not so great as to eradicate all signs of former construction.

Site Description: Site 328 consists of seven constructions covering an area of approximately 12,000m<sup>2</sup>. Most of these features are stone wall lines set flush with the modern ground surface (Strs. 3, 4, 6, and 7). Structures 1 and 5 are the only surviving edifices with any elevation, standing 1.5m and 0.3m tall, respectively; Str. 2, in turn, is a quadrilateral construction that did not protrude above ground level. There was no clear organizing principle at work in the arrangement of buildings here; certainly no patio focus was identified. The stones used in construction were primarily river cobbles.

Excavations: Structures 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were excavated here in 1985 along with a test trench dug in the midst of an artifact scatter seen on the surface.

Dates: Site form and recovered materials point to occupation here during the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 329**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/075 E3/64/150, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 329 is 700m southeast of Site 350, 825m northwest of Site 349, and 50m east of the Rio Ulua. The land here is relatively flat, the settlement overlooking a steep drop down to the Ulua immediately to the west.

Condition: Survey was cut short here at the request of the land owner. No clear signs of serious disturbance were discerned in the limited time available for study.

Site Description: Site 329 is an artifact scatter lacking any signs of ancient construction.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 330**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/800 E3/65/225, 185m above sea level.

Location: Site 330 is 100m north of Site 322, 500m northeast of Site 349, and 325m south of the Quebrada Muigual. The settlement occupies land that slopes down from north-to-south, the two visible constructions being situated 5m back from (north of) a relatively steep descent of ca. 2m.

Condition: Site 330 on the south was covered in low, dense grass when recorded in February, 1985. Immediately to the north (in the next field) land use shifted to the cultivation of corn and beans; ground visibility was very good in both locales. The only signs of damage here were the piles of cobbles scattered throughout the field containing Site 330. Most likely these were parts of early architecture that were removed to facilitate modern use of this tract.

Site Description: Site 330 covers ca. 1,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of two surviving constructions; a 0.2m-high platform that measures 4x6m and is oriented northeast-southwest and a stone line set flush with modern ground surface that extends 2m along the same alignment. The wall is 1.5m northeast of the platform, in line with the latter's northwest basal facing. Stones used in construction here were primarily river cobbles. Scattered artifacts likely associated with the

aforementioned constructions extend to the north in the absence of obvious architecture. Much of the surface collection consists of chipped obsidian tools and debris as well as a polyhedral core of this material.

Excavations: Five test pits were dug here in 1985.

Dates: General site form points to primary occupation here during the Early Postclassic though the evidence for such a temporal placement is far from clear.

### **Site 331**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/200 E3/65/150, 178m above sea level.

Location: Site 331 is 200m west of Site 323, 325m southeast of Site 332, and 75m east of the Rio Ulua. The land here is relatively flat.

Condition: The field containing Site 331 had recently been devoted to corn cultivation when the settlement was visited in February, 1985; ground visibility was very good. Though agricultural activities have undoubtedly taken their toll on prehistoric remains here, there were no obvious signs that Site 331 had suffered serious damages due to recent actions.

Site Description: Site 331 is an artifact scatter composed almost exclusively of stone tools and debris.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 332**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/350 E3/64/950, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 332 is 325m northwest of Site 331, 250m southeast of Site 349, and 100m northeast of the Rio Ulua. The settlement occupies relatively level terrain near the edge of a drop down to the Rio Ulua.

Condition: Site 332 was found near a dirt road cut shallowly into the valley soils near several corn fields. No doubt road construction coupled with activities attendant on planting have disturbed deposits here to some extent though evidence of serious damage was lacking.

Site Description: Site 332 is a very light scatter of ceramics concentrated near the aforementioned dirt road. There were no signs of ancient construction.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 333**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/600 E3/64/150, 160m above sea level.

Location: Site 333 is 250m east of Site 334, 525m southeast of Site 335, and 400m southwest of the Rio Ulua.

Condition: Relatively undisturbed.

Site Description: The site consists of a cobble wall ca. 0.7m high and exposed for 2m running roughly north-south along a natural contour parallel to, and ca. 50m east of, the Rio Aguagua. Most likely this is part of a relatively recent irrigation canal as it seems to be related to, and closely resembles, other such features in the immediate area.

Excavations: None

Dates: Historic (recent)

### **Site 334**

Map Coordinates: N16/465/700 E3/63/950, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 334 is 375m southeast of Site 335, 200m west of the Rio Aguagua, and 550m southwest of the Rio Ulua. The settlement occupies a relatively restricted area of flat land sandwiched between the Rio Aguagua on the east and the steep ascents of the hills that border the

Tenoco pocket on the west. Overall, the terrain here rises gradually from east to west, from the Aguagua to the western slopes.

Condition: The two adjacent fields that contain Site 334 had been recently planted in corn when the settlement was visited in February, 1985; ground visibility was very good. Numerous piles of cobbles scattered around these fields strongly suggest that ancient architecture here has been regularly, if not intensively, plundered of its stone to facilitate planting. The most seriously damaged building is Str. 1 which was cut by a modern irrigation canal that runs north-south through its approximate center.

Site Description: Site 334 covers ca. 5,000m<sup>2</sup> and contains 10 structures organized in a rough north-south line around what appear to have been two plazas; Strs. 1, 2, and 10 define one such unit on, and open to, the south whereas Strs. 4-8 surround on all sides another patio on the north edge of the settlement. Structure 3, one of the tallest platforms here (ca. 0.8m high) occupies an intermediary position between these two patios. Structure heights range from 0.1-0.8m with Str. 1, on the north side of the southern plaza, equaling Str. 3 in height. The stones used in ancient constructions are primarily cobbles. Three wall lines were noted at Site 334. They all seemed to be of relatively modern vintage.

Excavations: Structures 3, 4, and 5 were excavated here in 1985.

Dates: Site form and the recovered artifacts indicate that Site 334 was built and used primarily during the Late Classic. Occupation may have begun here as early as the Late Preclassic, continued through the Early Classic, and possibly persisted into the Early Postclassic.

### **Site 335**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/950 E3/63/750, 200m above sea level.

Location: Site 335 is 375m northwest of Site 334, on the north bank of the Rio Macholua, and 500m southwest of the Rio Ulua. The settlement occupies a relatively narrow zone of land that slopes up gradually south-to-north from the Macholua toward the steep ascents that characterize this area of rugged terrain on the Tenco pocket's northern margin.

Condition: The field containing Site 335 was being cultivated in corn and tomatoes when the settlement was recorded in February, 1985; ground visibility was very good. The buildings here were largely stripped of their surface stones which were, in turn, collected in piles or incorporated into the foundations of modern constructions in the area.

Site Description: Site 335 encompasses ca. 10,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 10 constructions organized around an extensive (roughly 3900m<sup>2</sup>) plaza that they border on all sides. Though accessible on all flanks, the plaza was most easily reached by passing through its northeast and southeast corners (each approximately 22m wide). The tallest platform, Str. 1 (ca. 2.5m high) is on the patio's east flank whereas the remaining buildings are 1.2m high or lower. A wall line set flush with modern ground surface is on the plaza's southeast margin (Feature 1). Feature 1 runs 3.5m northeast-southwest. Cobbles were the primary stones used in constructions here.

Excavations: None

Dates: Site form and artifacts recovered from the surface point to the Late Classic as the period of principal occupation.

### **Site 336**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/850 E3/64/750, 190m above sea level.

Location: Site 336 is on relatively flat land surrounded by a bend in the Rio Ulua on all sides save the west where the relatively steep slopes of the western hills begin their ascent. The Ulua is ca. 250m to the east, the hills are 200m to the west/northwest, and Site 327 is 575m east and across

the Rio Ulua from Site 336. Overall, the land slopes up from east to west across three discernible terraces above the Rio Ulua; the settlement is on the second and third of these terraces.

Condition: When visited in March, 1985, Site 336 was covered in medium-high dense grass and used as cattle pasture; ground visibility was good to fair. The extant buildings were moderately well preserved, having suffered from some dislocations though the causes of these disturbances were not immediately apparent.

Site Description: Site 336 covers ca.18,000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 16 structures most of which (10 in all) are clustered around a patio located on the second terrace above the Rio Ulua. Said patio is delimited by Strs. 4-13 whereas Strs. 1-3 are arranged in a north-south line 4m west of the central aggregate. Structure 14 lies 21m southeast of the patio group while Strs. 15 and 16 are on the second, higher terrace 51m and 95m to the north/northeast of the patio cluster, respectively. Building heights range from 0-1m. Stones used in construction were, for the most part, river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Site form points to principal construction and occupation during the Late Classic.

### **Site 337**

Map Coordinates: N16/46/050 E3/66/175, 230m above sea level.

Location: Site 337 is 1.25km northeast of Site 306, 500m south of the Quebrada Aguacate/Zapote.

The settlement occupies an area of relatively flat land set near the base of the eastern hills.

Condition: There were no obvious signs of disturbance though there is evidence that the low rise on which Site 337 was found supported a house of recent vintage that has since largely deteriorated.

Site Description: Site 337 is an artifact scatter situated on the summit and slopes of a ca. 0.6m tall, rounded eminence ca. 3m in diameter. Some stones were found scattered across the surface of this rise as well. Recovered materials included remains of ceramic roof tiles as well as materials of prehistoric date.

Excavations: None

Dates: In addition to the historic or recent occupation, it is clear that Site 337 was occupied at some undetermined point(s) during prehistory.

### **Site 338**

Map Coordinates: N16/41/900 E3/63/600, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 338 is on relatively flat terrain perched on the edge of a steep descent to the Rio Ulua which is ca. 75m to the west. Site 339 is 65m to the north and separated from the latter by a precipitous drop of ca. 20m; Site 338 extends up to the edge of this descent.

Condition: Site 338 was covered in low dense grass and used as animal pasture when it was visited in March, 1985; ground visibility was very good. The surface-visible structures were all well-preserved at this time and there was no sign that the site had been significantly disturbed.

Site Description: Site 338 encompasses 3,200m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 18 structures organized around two contiguous plazas set in an east-west line. The buildings are generally low, ranging from those without obvious elevation up to 1.2m high. The largest, most complex constructions define the eastern patio, that enclosed space covering 195m<sup>2</sup>. The adjoining western patio is less clearly marked than its eastern counterpart and encompasses 418m<sup>2</sup>. Visible wall-lines were well-preserved and composed of river cobbles. Site 338's buildings are generally oriented slightly east of north.

Excavations: None

Dates: Site form suggests that Site 338 was built and occupied primarily during the Late Classic.

### **Site 339**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/000 E3/63/625, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 339 is 65m north of Site 338, 248m south/southwest of Site 340, and roughly 75m east of the Rio Ulua. Site 339 overlooks the steep descent from this high terrace to the Ulua and is separated from Site 338 by a precipitous, ca. 20m high, drop-off that forms the northern border of the latter settlement. Otherwise, the land here is relatively flat.

Condition: Site 339's buildings showed evidence of disruption; their basal lines, in particular, were unclear. Piles of stone, possibly removed from these and other edifices which have been obliterated, were found scattered in this and a neighboring field to the east. Such cairns point to the regular removal of rocks to facilitate planting. Both fields had been devoted to corn cultivation recently, though the western tract that contained the surviving architecture was lying fallow when the settlement was visited in March, 1985. There were no signs of plowing, however.

Site Description: Site 339 covers 2,300m<sup>2</sup> and consists of 12 structures that are tightly clustered together but which lack a clear patio focus. Structure heights range from those flush with modern ground surface to the two tallest edifices, Str. 7 and 10, which are ca. 1m high. Building alignments generally range from due north to slightly west of north.

Excavations: None

Dates: Site form tentatively points to construction and occupation here during the Late Classic.

### **Site 340**

Map Coordinates: N16/42/70 E3/63/750, 180m above sea level.

Location: Site 340 occupies the same topographic position as Sites 339 and 338, 248m and 345m to the south/southwest, respectively; i.e., on a high, flat terrace near the edge of the steep descent to the Rio Ulua, ca. 150m to the west. The site extends to the steep hills that bound the terrace on the east; the terrace gets progressively narrower in this area as the Rio Ulua and the eastern escarpments converge north of Site 340.

Condition: The field containing Site 340 was under cultivation (primarily corn) when it was visited in March, 1985. Nevertheless, the structures appeared to be well-preserved and there were no signs of serious disturbance to prehistoric buildings or deposits by this point.

Site Description: Site 340 covers ca. 36,000 m<sup>2</sup> and contains four constructions divided equally between two diminutive groups. Structures 1 and 2 on the southwest edge of the settlement are set at near right angles to each other and define the east and south sides of a possible plaza open on the remaining flanks. At 1m tall each, these are the largest edifices at Site 340. Structures 3 and 4 are 173m to the northeast of Strs. 1 and 2, and form a line running northeast-southwest; both are less than 1m high. These two buildings are separated by 2m and do not seem to be part of any obvious plaza. In general, the buildings that comprise Site 340 are oriented consistently northeast-southwest.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes of Site 340's buildings and the plaza arrangement of at least Strs. 1 and 2 tentatively suggest that this settlement was built and occupied primarily during the Late Classic.

### **Site 347**

Map Coordinates: N16/61/700 E3/67/700, 120m above sea level

Location: Site 347 is about 3km north of Site 1 (Gualjoquito) on the high alluvial terrace formed on the east bank of the Rio Ulua. The Ulua is about 50m to the west and the town of Gualala is immediately west of the settlement.

Site Description: Site 347 consists of 22 structures scattered over an area measuring 150m north-south by 275m east-west. One extensive patio can be tentatively discerned within this aggregate. This entity covers 20m east-west by 40m north-south and is bordered by some of the largest platforms at their locus (Strs.4-7, 11). Structures 1-3, 9-10, 12, 17, 19-21 are scattered off all sides of this putative plaza group. Structures 13-16 form a very different arrangement. Lying ca. 75m to the east, they comprise a line of buildings running for roughly 75m north-south. The largest of these buildings, Str. 15, occupies the center of this line and is connected by a long saddle to Str. 16 on the south.

Excavations: A total of 14 structures were excavated here.

Dates: Analyses of the excavated materials point to a long occupation of Site 347, stretching from the Late Preclassic through the Late Postclassic and into the Colonial period. Evidence for the last of these intervals was concentrated east of Str. 15.

### **Site 348**

Map Coordinates: N16/63/925 E3/67/160, 125m above sea level.

Location: Site 348 in the Encanto Vega occupies the relatively level summit of the upper Ulua terrace stretching back 118m east from the western margin of that unit. The land slopes up gradually here from west to east. A small quebrada lies ca. 100m to the north-northwest of the site core (Strs. 1-4) while the Rio Ulua is approximately 170m to the west. The closest prehistoric settlement is Site 180, 77m to the south-southwest within the same vega.

Condition: The terrain surrounding the four largest platforms (Strs. 1-4) was heavily planted in junco palms and much of this area had apparently been subjected to mechanized plowing. North of the site the upper terrace summit was considerably dug up or obscured by large earth and rock piles, no doubt resulting from the construction of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road immediately to the east within the vega. While the four principal structures of Site 348 were relatively untouched, therefore, it is very likely that some smaller edifices have been destroyed by agricultural and road building activities. This is especially the case west of the main group, between it and the descent to the lower terrace, where potential building materials (river cobbles) were found scattered, and at least two rock concentrations were recorded, on the surface.

Site Description: Site 348 consists of nine constructions including six structures 0-4m high (half are over 1m in altitude), two rock concentrations, and one feature, a line of stones flush with ground surface running 9m southwest-northeast. Structures 1-4 comprise an orthogonally arranged cluster defining a plaza (covering 36x59m) that they enclose on all sides. Platform orientations range from 11 degrees 15 minutes to 30 degrees with 3 aligned between 20-30 degrees. Access to the central space was unimpeded. An apparent outset staircase issues from the northwest side of Str. 1 into the central patio indicating that this large construction was oriented towards the enclosed space. Structures 5 and 6 are damaged, very low structures lying 47m northwest of the main group. As noted earlier, they may represent surviving remnants of a much more extensive settlement in this area overlooking the lower Ulua terrace west of the El Encanto principal plaza. Platform facings and building foundations in all cases were made primarily of river cobbles easily obtained from the Ulua channel.

Excavations: None

Dates: The sizes, forms, and patio-focused organization of Strs. 1-4 indicate that they were built and used during the Late Classic. Structures 5-6, RC 1-2, and Feat. 1 may also have been raised at this time though their small dimensions leave open the possibility that they were erected in the subsequent Early Postclassic period. Surface collections made along the upper terrace margins immediately to the south in Site 180 support this view, indicating the presence of dispersed Early Postclassic settlement spread out along the terrace edge.

### **Site 349**

Map Coordinates: N16/43/500 E3/64/800, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 349 is 250m northwest of Site 332, 450m southwest of Site 322, 175m north of the Rio Ulua, and 725m south of the Quebrada Muigual. The land here atop the high eastern Rio Ulua terrace within the Tenco valley is relatively flat.

Condition: Site 349 had been heavily disturbed by agricultural activity (especially corn cultivation) and the construction of a small access road that cuts through the settlement. Any architecture that might have existed here has been destroyed.

Site Description: Site 349 covers ca. 900m<sup>2</sup> and consists of a dispersed jumble of stones associated with a light scattering of prehispanic artifacts. Insofar as these stones derived from now-destroyed buildings, it appears that the latter were fashioned largely of river cobbles.

Excavations: None

Dates: Unknown

### **Site 350**

Map Coordinates: N16/44/750 E3/63/900, 170m above sea level.

Location: Site 350 in the Tencoia valley 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. This portion of the high terrace east of the Rio Ulua is fairly flat.

Condition: Site 350 was found in a field that was, in March, 1985, heavily overgrown and apparently lying fallow. There were no signs of serious disturbance to prehistoric structures or deposits.

Site Description: Site 350 consists of one sizable surface-visible construction that measures 10x14m and stands ca. 2m tall. This structure has a clear terrace on the north and is oriented almost due north-south.

Excavations: Two structures were dug here in 1985; one was the surface-visible construction noted above and another was an edifice that came to light during a test-pitting program.

Dates: Occupation here pertains to the Early Classic through the Colonial periods with major bursts of activity during the Late Classic and Colonial intervals. There is also evidence of at least slight occupation dating to the Late Postclassic at Site 350.

### **Site 351**

Map Coordinates: N16/62/940 E3/67/075, 122m above sea level.

Location: Site 351 occupies the northern margin of the Chinquia Vega's upper terrace overlooking the floodplain zone ca. 10m below. The northern descent to the floodplain is steep and direct while the land drops off much more gradually to the south. A seasonal watercourse is located ca. 140m to the west, running along the base of the western hills before joining the Rio Ulua. The latter river is located approximately 150m northeast of the site. The closest settlement on the vega is Site 169, 93m to the south-southeast while the most distant is Site 170 on the southern upper terrace margin, ca. 550m in the same direction.

Condition: Structure 1 showed evidence of having been looted on its west side. Other modern activities have taken their toll on the locus. Systematic removal of stones from structures, apparently carried out to facilitate planting, resulted in the dislocation of architectural features especially on the lower platforms. A modern temporary shelter had been erected atop Str. 1 by 1986 while a large, artificial pond, 25m x 52m, was dug in the approximate center of the site. Given the presence of structures in the immediate vicinity of the pond and the sizable quantities of artifacts as well as likely building stones found along its banks, it is very probable that the construction of this feature caused the destruction of at least several ancient buildings. An unpaved, narrow road runs from the pond westward through Site 351 and it is possible that the building and use of this route have disturbed ancient deposits. In the years postdating our research in the middle Ulua drainage we noted that a housing development had grown to cover most of the Chinquia vega. It is very likely that the construction of this settlement has destroyed most of the prehistoric remains that were recorded in 1985 and 1986.

Site Description: Site 351 is one of the largest prehistoric settlements, outside Gualjoquito, within the middle Ulua drainage. The center contains 30 constructions, including six monumental platforms 2-3m high, as well as smaller buildings within the range from 0-1m in altitude and two surface concentrations of building material which appear to represent the location of destroyed edifices. The site can be divided into three surviving groups. Structures 1-6 and 20 comprise one of these aggregates, located on the north limit of the upper terrace in the northwest corner of the center. Here, the two largest buildings at Site 351 (Str. 1 at 3m and Str. 2 at 3m on the north and 2.5m on the south) together with Str. 20 define a patio on the north and south sides. Structure 2 was built right on the north terrace edge so that its north flank appears as a continuation of the ascent from the floodplain. Structures 1 and 20 rise above level terrain. These three sizable

edifices were similarly aligned, oriented 347-354 degrees, and the group has an orthogonal appearance. Access to the enclosed space was unimpeded on the east and south and it seems that Strs. 1-2, 20 define a space intended for public activities witnessed by sizable audiences. The remaining buildings in the aggregate are clustered northwest of the plaza between it and the terrace margin. These may define a patio open to the north towards the drop to the floodplain but they lack the orthogonal arrangement of the larger structures. Access to this patio was somewhat more restricted. Nevertheless, the platforms are not so closely spaced as to seriously limit passage into the patio.

Structures 11-16 and 18 form another group, 136m east of the aggregate described above, situated along the northeast perimeter of the upper terrace. Once more, several of the structures here are monumental in scale (Strs. 12-15 are 2m high) and they, along with the slightly smaller Strs. 11 and 16, enclose a patio on all sides. All but one of the buildings in this aggregate are aligned to very similar azimuths (346-354 degrees; Str. 14 is oriented 328 degrees), alignments they share with the buildings which define the monumental plaza to the west. While access to the northeastern patio is somewhat limited by the placement of structures on all sides this spacing was not so close as to preclude entrance from any direction. The only building within the group that was not part of the patio cluster, Str. 18, was situated just off the northwest corner of this group.

Structures 7-9, 19, and Rock Concentration 1 form the final surviving group to be considered here. Located 112m southeast of the Str. 1-6 and 20 group, this cluster is built into a slight rise above the upper terrace summit. Unlike its northern counterparts, only relatively low platforms are found in this aggregate. The patio defined by Strs. 7-8 and Rock Concentration 1 is very small (ca. 60m<sup>2</sup>) and is open on the east. Both of the preserved buildings in the patio cluster share the same azimuth (352 degrees) matching the general orientations of the larger northern

structures. Whether the group as a whole was aligned orthogonally we cannot at present tell given the destroyed state of the northern edifice represented by RC. 1. Access to this patio was easiest on the east, the other sides being hemmed in by closely spaced constructions. Structures 9 and 19 are paired immediately south of the patio cluster.

The remaining structures at the site are scattered over the flat terrace summit, generally within the triangular-shaped space defined by the aforementioned clusters. These buildings tend to be the lowest structures recorded at the site. We cannot completely discount the previous existence of other patio-focused groups as the construction of the aforementioned pond may well have destroyed all traces of them. Platform facings and building foundations were constructed of river cobbles.

It is of interest to note the degree of orthogonality represented both within and between the three main patio clusters comprising Site 351. While some effort was made in several cases (Strs. 2, 8, 14, 15, 20) to take advantage of small changes in elevation to enhance the heights of downslope flanks, this does not seem to have interfered with the regular arrangement of buildings around patios save in one case (Str. 14). That this adherence to alignments of between 346-354 degrees seems to have applied to both monumental and humbler constructions is also surprising for Central Santa Barbara where conformance with common orientations within groups is rare and usually only attempted in the case of large platforms. At the very least, the similar sightings of patio groups at Site 351 suggests their contemporaneity and the operation of a central administration capable of laying out and enforcing a coherent plan for construction at this center.

Excavations: None

Dates: The nucleated, patio-focused forms of the groups composed of Strs. 1-2, 20; 3-6; 11-16, 18; 7-8, RC 1 imply that they were built and used during the Late Classic. This date is also

suggested by the large sizes of several of the buildings involved, comparable in magnitude to other excavated Late Classic examples. The dispersed distribution of the remaining structures, assuming that this is not purely a product of modern disturbance, as well as their low heights might place their construction and use in the Early Postclassic. Sizable surface collections from Site 351 strongly support this interpretation. Analyses of this material, especially ceramics, indicates that the primary occupation of the center dates to the Late Classic with some use in the Early Classic and the Early Postclassic.