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### PVC-El Coyote-Strs 151, 158, 159-Op 28 and 29-Excavation Report

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## Operations 28 and 29

Most investigations within Op. 28 and 29 were directed by C. Wells (Op. 28; 2000-2001 field seasons) and W. McFarlane (Op. 29; 2000, 2002 field seasons) and are reported in their respective dissertations (McFarlane 2005; Wells 2003). The research summarized here occurred from March 25-April 28, 2004 under the supervision of R. Laughner. It was during this latter interval that Strs. 151, 158, and 159 were investigated. The last two edifices were built atop the raised walkway that issues from the northeast corner of the monumental plaza at El Coyote and continues for over a kilometer to the north. Structure 151 lies ca. 16m east of that causeway. Together, these edifices define a patio that encompasses 13x19.5m. The land here slopes up from east to west, the walkway apparently having been constructed by facing and enhancing this rise. Digging here in 2004 within Subop. 28AA-AH (Str. 158), 29CB-CH (Str. 151), and 29CI-CK (Str. 159) cleared 153m<sup>2</sup>.

### Structure 151

Structure 151 closes off the northeast flank of the patio defined on its remaining sides by Strs. 158 and 159. Structure 158 is 20m to the southwest while Str. 159 lies 16m to the west. The ground on which Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> was raised ascends 0.64m over 6.8m from east to west whereas it seems to be fairly flat across the 12m it was uncovered running north-south. Digging here within Subop. 29CB-CH exposed 64m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.3m and 0.34m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One building phase was identified in the course of this work that was overseen by R. Laughner.

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 151-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-11	-	-	
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

### Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.19m of a hard-compacted, yellow-brown soil (S.2) that contains large numbers of small rocks was laid down (S.2's base was not encountered in our excavations). Stratum 2 appears to derive from bedrock and constitutes the surface on which Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> was erected.

### Time Span 2

Structure 151-1<sup>st</sup> was seemingly raised in one building effort during TS.2. Its perimeter is defined by stone walls (U.1-4) that are 0.23-0.4m tall by 0.4-0.96m wide. About one-third of the east wall (U.1) and one half of the west (U.3) and south walls (U.4) were not uncovered. We, therefore, infer that U.1-4 formerly encircled the entire edifice but we cannot establish this claim with certainty. Unit 1, on the downslope, east side, was backed by a fill composed of earth and stones (U.12). Packing U.12 behind (west) of U.1 would have helped to create a relatively even surface within what was otherwise an upward rise from east-to-west and to slow erosion down this descent. On the remaining flanks there

is no evidence that U.2-4 retained construction fill. Consequently, it appears that Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> was not a platform. Units 2-4 served as foundations for perishable upper walls that rose directly above ancient ground surface. The exception is on the east where U.1 and its backing U.12 fill created a 0.28m-tall elevated, more-or-less level surface above which other constructions in the edifice's interior were erected. A 0.2m-high block of stones (U.5) measuring 1m across east-west projects 1m north from Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup>'s northern foundation (U.2). Unit 5 intersects U.2 at a point 1.5m east of the building's northwest corner. A stone pavement (U.6) was recorded extending 0.3m west from the edifice's western perimeter wall (U.3). Unit 3 measures 1.2m north-south and joins Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> at a point 0.6m south of the edifice's northwest corner.

Within the area defined by U.1-4, we encountered stone footings (U.7-10) that are 0.2-0.4m tall by 0.5m wide. These constructions define an earthen-floored enclosure that measures 3.59x7.8m and was apparently open on the east. The base of the northern footing (U.7) climbs 0.28m over the 3.59m it was revealed running from east-to-west. This east-to-west ascent suggests that, while U.1 and 12 might have served to even out the land where Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> was built, they did not completely do away with that slope. A 0.15m-high by 0.15m-wide wall (U.11) projects 0.7m south from a point 0.5m west of the northern footing's (U.7) east end. Unit 11's architectural significance is uncertain.

By the end of TS.2, Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> is defined by stone walls (U.1-4) that are 0.23-0.4m by 0.4-0.96m wide. These constructions delimit an area covering 6.8x11.95m, the edifice oriented ca. 342 degrees. The north, west, and south walls (U.2, 3, and 4) were seemingly foundations for perishable upper constructions that rose directly above ancient ground level. Unit 1, on the east, was a 0.28m-high facing that was backed on the west by a fill of soil and rocks. This construction served to both level out the terrain and slow erosion down the west-to-east descent. The earthen-floored interior of Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup> encompasses 5.5x10.35m (57m<sup>2</sup>) and contains another earthen-floored room. The latter is bounded by foundations that are 0.2-0.4m high by 0.5m wide and was apparently almost completely open on the east. A 0.15m-tall by 0.15m-wide wall projects 0.7m south from the north footing at a point 0.5m west of the latter's east end. There is no sign that this construction continued further south or that, even where it is found, it posed much of an obstacle to passage into the central enclosure. The latter's interior covers 28m<sup>2</sup> and, in its exposed portions, lacks such built-in furniture as benches and shelves. The overall form of the building, therefore, is of a room open to the east that is encased within a larger building. The spaces between the enveloping and interior walls created corridors on all sides save the east that are 0.5-1.15m wide. A 0.2m-high construction measuring 1x1m abuts Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup>'s north outer wall 1.5m east of the edifice's northwest corner. This stone-faced and -surfaced entity might have been a step that marked a point of entry into the building. A rock pavement measuring 0.3m east-west by 1.2m north-south adjoins Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup>'s west flank. It intersects the building at a point 0.6m south of the edifice's northwest corner. The architectural and behavioral significance of this small paved area is unclear.

All constructions raised now were made primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the rocks that face these walls were generally directed outwards.

### Time Span 3

Following Str. 151-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.32m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown soil (S.1) was laid down. Stratum 1 blankets S.2 and all but the

top-most parts of TS.2 architecture. A very light concentration of rocks (F.1) is embedded in S.1. Most likely, F.1 is comprised of stones that fell from final-phase construction.

### Structure 158

Structure 158 stands on the southwest corner of the patio defined by Str. 159, 13m to the north, and Str. 151, 20m to the northeast. Like Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup>, Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup> was raised above the paved surface (U.8) of the northern causeway. Digging here within Subop. 28AA-AH uncovered 69m<sup>2</sup> excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.36m and 0.98m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. The latter depth was reached in a probe dug immediately west of the causeway. All of these investigations were directed by R. Laughner.

### Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2-4	-	
2	Causeway	U.8, 17, 20	-	-	
3	Str. 158-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-7, 9-16, 18-19, 21	-	F.2-3	
4	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the excavations conducted on and around Str. 158 was the deposition of at least 0.15m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, light brown soil (S.4; its base was not encountered). Stratum 4 maintains an even upper surface over the 1m it was exposed running east-west at the base of the probe dug off the causeway's west margin. Blanketing S.4 by 0.4-0.44m is a very similar earth (S.3) that is distinguished by its darker brown hue. Stratum 3 rises 0.04m east-to-west over the 1m it was revealed directly west of the causeway. About 0.2m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) that contains numerous small to medium-size rocks was laid down atop S.3 and underlies the causeway's west perimeter wall (U.17). It is the dense concentration of stones that sets S.2 apart from S.3, the latter containing very few rocks. As S.2's deposition resumed after construction in this area ceased, it is difficult to determine how much of it was laid down during TS.1. We estimate that 0.2m of this earth accumulated during now based on the observation that this much of S.2 underlies U.17. The flat-laid dispositions of many of the rocks found embedded in S.2 tentatively suggest that they are part of a fill unit that might have been introduced to raise and level-out the terrain bordering the causeway to the west.

### Time Span 2

It was during this interval that the northern causeway was constructed. The walkway is bordered on the west by a 0.2m-tall stone wall (U.17) that is backed for 8.46m to the east by a pavement (U.8) composed of (mostly) small stones among which are found a few medium-sized cobbles. The pavement may have dropped 0.1m down to the north at a point 0.75m north of Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>. This change in elevation was suggested by the discovery of a stone line (U.20) that is embedded in U.8; north of U.20 the pavement is lower than it is south of that line. As U.20 was only revealed for a length of 1m running east-west we cannot be certain of this reconstruction.

Overall, what we can tell of this segment of the causeway is that it was at least 8.46m wide east-west and oriented roughly 349 degrees. The walkway's surface is paved with small and a few medium-size rocks and may have stepped up 0.1m from north-to-south at a point 0.75m north of Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>.

### Time Span 3

Structure 158-1<sup>st</sup> is a surface-level building that was raised atop the causeway. There are some signs that the causeway's pavement (U.8) may have been covered at least in spots by 0.18m of a moderately fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (F.3) that is identical to S.2 save for the paucity of stones included in F.3. A 0.04m-thick lens of burnt earth fragments (F.2) was found capping F.3 over an area spanning 0.64m east-west in the building's southwest quadrant. A similar deposit was noted overlying F.3 in Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest quadrant (included in F.2). Feature 2 in its different iterations might be the remains of walls that originally surmounted the foundations that define the limits of Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup> (U.1-5). These footings are 0.3m tall by 0.25-0.5m wide and do not define a continuous perimeter for the building. On the north there are two perimeter foundations (U.2 and 3) separated by a 0.2m-tall by 0.7m-wide stone block (U.21). Unit 21 measures 1.7m north south and is defined on the west and east by walls that are 0.2m tall by 0.2m wide (U.13 and 12). Unit 21's north and south edges were not clear. This stone block projects an estimated 0.7m north of U.2 (the foundation lying west of it) and 0.25m north of U.3 (U.2's eastern counterpart). On the southwest, a gap of 1.7m separates the eastern foundation (U.4) from its southern counterpart (U.5). Whether this discontinuity was part of the original building plan or resulted from differential preservation is unclear. A 0.15m-high stone-faced construction (U.6) projects 0.5m north of U.2 and runs for 2.85m east from the edifice's northwest corner. Unit 6 stop 0.9m shy (west) of U.21 and U.2's east end.

A 0.8m-wide door flanked by stone walls that are 0.15-0.2m-tall by 0.2m wide (U.12 and 14) provided access to the edifice's interior from the north. That passage is located 2m west of Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s estimated northeast corner (this corner was poorly preserved). Units 12 and 14 are 2.3m and 1.8m long north-south, the former projecting 0.45m north of the building's north footing (U3). Another possible door is located in the edifice's southwest quadrant where U.1, the western footing, steps down to the level of the interior floor. This change in elevation is at least 1.05m wide north-south (its south edge was not found). This possible entryway is fronted on the west by U.7. Unit 7 is a 0.15m-tall stone-faced construction that projects 0.5m west of U.1 and which was followed for 1.1m to the south before excavation ceased. It is possible that U.7 served as threshold to the putative western door.

Structure 158-1<sup>st</sup> contains one room covering an estimated 3.4x8.3m. Within this space are four stone blocks (U.9, 10, 11, and 15). Unit 9 is a ca. 0.2m-tall construction that measures 0.55x0.7m, and

which is located in the building's northwest quadrant. A low stone line (U.19) extends 1.05m due south of U.9's southeast side where it terminates in U.18. The latter defines a shallow stone-lined arc the concave surface of which looks southwest. Unit 18 covers the 1.8m separating U.19 from the east face of U.1 (arc's angle is approximately 70 degrees). There are no signs that this construction was ever part of a whole, or even a half, circle nor were there indications of U.18's architectural or behavioral significance. Unit 10, 0.3m northeast of U.9, is another low stone block, this one covering 0.45x0.6m. Unit 16, a 0.2m-tall wall comparable to U.19, runs 1.1m east from a point near the center of U.10's east side. On its east, U.16 intersects the south end of the wall (U.13) that defines the U.21 stone block on the west. Together, U.10, 16, 13, and 3 might have defined a 0.2m-high stone-faced, earth-surfaced shelf that covers 0.5m north-south by 1.65m east-west. The U.15 stone block is 3.1m east of U.10 and is bordered by U.14 and 3 on the west and north, respectively. Its south and east faces are 0.18m tall. Unit 15 narrows from 1.5m across on the west to 0.8m wide on the east and measures 1.35m east-west. The narrowing is the result of the way in which the block's south face slants northeast from its southwest to southeast corners. The final stone block identified within Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup> is U.11. Unit 11 is 1.65m southeast of U.9 and 3m southwest of U.15. It is in line with Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s southern foundation (U.5) though no sign of the latter was located here. Unit 11 is comparable in height to the other blocks. It covers 1.4m northwest-southeast, narrowing from 1m across on the southeast to 0.4m wide on the northwest.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup> was a surface-level building that was raised atop the northern Causeway. About 0.2m of earth may have been laid down prior to Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s erection. The building covers 5x9m and is variably oriented ca. 354 degrees (western foundation), 81 degrees (northern footings), 333 degrees (eastern foundation), and 72 degrees (south footing). The foundations that define the edifice's perimeter are 0.3m tall by 0.25-0.5m wide and may not have comprised a continuous perimeter for the building's one earthen-floored room. The south flank, in particular, might have been broken up into wall segments, as much as 1.7m separating the two exposed segments. A 0.8m-wide door on the edifice's north side and a, minimally, 1.05m-wide passage on the west likely provided access to Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s interior. A 0.15m-high by 0.5m-wide stone threshold fronts the western door. This room encompasses 28m<sup>2</sup> and contains 5 low (generally 0.2m high) blocks composed of tightly packed rocks. Four of these blocks are concentrated in the enclosure's northern half where they form a line running roughly east-west. Beginning on the west, they measure 0.55x0.7m, 0.45x0.6m, 0.7x1.7m, and 0.8-1.5m wide by 1.35m long. The third of these constructions (U.21) is built into Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s northern foundations while the remainder are set against, or as much as 0.9m south of, those footings. The fifth stone block is in the room's southwest quadrant and covers 0.4-1m wide by 1.4m long. How these constructions functioned in the activities conducted within Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup> is hard to tell. A 0.2m-high, by 0.5m-wide, and 1.65m-long stone-faced, earthen-surfaced shelf incorporates one of these blocks (U.10) and borders the northern door on the west. A stone-lined arch built into the floor was set against the enclosure's west wall immediately north of the western doorway. This construction comprises one-quarter of a circle, its concave side looking southwest, covers 1.8m in a straight-line distance, and has an arc of ca. 70 degrees.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. The one notable exception is U.6, the east end of which was largely formed by a cut block.

#### Time Span 4

After Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment S.2 resumed deposition, about 0.1m of this soil being laid down now. Covering S.2 by 0.14-0.17m is a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, dark brown soil (S.1). Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that probably fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 was mostly noted west of Str. 158-1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Structure 159

Structure 159 closes off the northwest corner of the patio formed by Strs. 151 and 158. It is about 16m west of Str. 151 and 13m north of, and on the north causeway with, Str. 158. The walkway's surface creates an even landscape atop which Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup> was raised. Digging here within Subop. 29Cl-CK uncovered about 20m<sup>2</sup>, excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.21m below modern ground surface. Investigations did not probe beneath the causeway's floor (U.8). One building phase was identified in the course of this work which was directed by R. Laughner.

#### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	Causeway	U.8	-	-	
2	Str. 159-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-7	-	F.2	
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

#### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in research conducted on and around Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup> was the paving of the causeway on which this building was raised. That surface (U.8) consists of tightly packed small stones set in a mud mortar. The full east-west extent of U.8 was not determined here (but see Str. 158, TS.2).

#### Time Span 2

Structure 159-1<sup>st</sup> was raised directly on the causeway's stone-paved surface (U.8). The building encompasses 2.8x4.4m and is aligned roughly 82 degrees. The core foundations that define the structure (U.1-4) are 0.1-0.28m tall by 0.2-1m wide. The especially broad western footing (U.1; 1m across) dwarfs its counterparts in this dimension (U.2-4 measure 0.2-0.25m across). It may be that U.1 was ample enough to have doubled as a wall foundation and shelf (it is 1.1m long north-south). A 1.9m-wide gap in Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup>'s southwest corner provided access to the building's interior. That space encompasses 1.93x2.02m. A stone (F.2) covering 0.3x0.4m is set in the floor within this entryway. Feature 2 stands out by its size from the small rocks that comprise U.8. As such, it might have been put in place to formally mark the entrance to Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup>'s interior.

Bordering U.2, the northern foundation, on its exterior is a stone-faced extension (U.6) that comes up to U.2's top. Unit 6 joins U.2 at a point 0.2m east of the building's northwest corner and runs for the rest of the edifice's east-west length (4.2m), widening from 0.4m on the west to 0.65m on the east. A similar addition (U.5) was appended to the east side of U.3, the eastern foundation. Unit 5 is the same height as U.3, is 0.65m wide and extends for the full north-south width of Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup>. Projecting 0.6-0.8m east of U.5 is a 0.1m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced addition (U.7) to the former. Unit 7 is 2.25m long north-south, stopping 0.75m shy (north) of the building's southeast corner.

As TS.2 drew to a close, Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup> was a surface-level building that was raised directly on the northern causeway's stone pavement. The edifice measures 2.8x4.4m, is aligned approximately 82 degrees, and is delimited by foundations that are 0.1-0.28m high by 0.2-1m wide. The room these footings delimit covers 3.9m<sup>2</sup> and was entered through a 1.9m-wide door in its southwest corner. A relatively large rock (0.3x0.4m) was set in the pavement's surface within that passage, possibly reinforcing the importance of this entrance. Additions made to the north and east foundations broadened them both to 0.8m across. Taken together with the western foundation's 1m width, these extensions would have created ample spaces to support perishable upper walls and to serve as shelves that bordered the central enclosure on all sides save the south. A 0.1m-tall stone-faced and –surfaced construction was also added to Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup>'s east side, possibly creating a slightly elevated and paved work space that could have been sheltered by the building's eaves.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. It is not clear that the rocks used in these constructions were chosen for their flatter aspects or that they were consistently oriented with those vertical faces looking outwards.

### Time Span 3

After Str. 159-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned the building was covered by as much as 0.15m of a moderately fine-textured, brown (7.5YR 3/1) soil (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a very light scattering of stones (F.1) that likely fell from TS.2 architecture.

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