

# Kenyon College

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

---

Four Valleys Archive

Anthropology

---

2004

## PVN-Op 599-Excavation 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, "PVN-Op 599-Excavation Report" (2004). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 74427.  
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/74427>

This Excavation 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).

## Site 599

Site 599 sits atop a ca. 0.5m-high rise above the same river terrace that supports the center of Las Canoas (Site 202) which is approximately 100m to the east/northeast. The Rio Chamelecon is about 350m to the east. The settlement covers roughly 930m<sup>2</sup> and consists of eight surface-visible structures and three concentrations of rocks that likely are the remnants of buildings that have been destroyed in relatively recent times. The most likely culprit is mechanized plowing which, by 2004, had been pursued throughout the field in which the settlement was located. The west side of Str. 599-1 was apparently damaged by this activity as was str. 599-2's southwest corner. That more of the site had not been more thoroughly damaged may be due to an unwillingness on the part of the land owner to continue damaging their plow through repeated encounters with the rocks of which Site 599's buildings were made.

From what we could infer from the surviving remains, the settlement was organized around two adjoining patios laid out in a north-south line. The southern example was bordered by Strs. 599-1, 8, and 2 on the east, south, and west. Its northern counterpart was delimited by Strs. 599- 3 through -5 and Rock Concentrations 1 and 2 on all sides save the south. Passage between the patios was seemingly unimpeded by architecture, a 5m-wide gap between Strs. 599-1 and -2 providing access. The remaining buildings and rock concentration are clustered close to these patio-focused groups. Digging here from February 24-April 1, 2004 uncovered 103m<sup>2</sup> in the course of clearing about two-thirds of Str. 599-1 and roughly seven-eighths of Str. 599-2. The research was directed by L. Ellison and C. Webber.

### Structure 599-1

Structure 599-1 closes off the east side of the southern patio. It is about 5m east of Str. 599-2 and 2m northeast of Str. 599-8. The ground over which the edifice was built rises 0.2m across 6.15m from north-to-south. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 599B, D, H, and I cleared 35m<sup>2</sup>, digging being pursued to maximum depths of 0.9m and 0.52m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. One major building phase, along with signs of earlier construction efforts, were identified in the course of this work that was overseen by L. Ellison.

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.5-6	-	
2	-	-	S.4	-	
3	-	-	S.3	-	
4	-	-	S.2	-	
5	Str. 599-Sub1 Str. 599-Sub2	U.1 U.2	-	-	
6	Str. 599-1-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.3-19	-	-	
7	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Str. 599's vicinity is the deposition of at least 0.06m of a brown (10YR 4/3) culturally sterile clay (S.5). Stratum 5 was identified in a deep probe dug north of Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup> while on the south its counterpart is a dark brown (5YR 3/3) clay (S.6) that also lacks cultural materials. Stratum 6 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.11m; the bases of S.5 and 6 were not revealed. If S.5 and 6 are parts of the same deposit, the ground surface they constituted ascended 0.13m across 10m from north to south.

### Time Span 2

Evidence for this interval was limited to a 0.02m-thick layer of gray (5Y 6/1) soil (S.4) that blankets S.5 north of Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup>. If, as seems likely, S.4 is an ash lens then its presence may signal the beginning of human occupation at the spot where Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup> would eventually be raised. No signs of S.4 were recorded elsewhere in the platform's environs.

### Time Span 3

The next episode was marked by the laying down of 0.24-0.4m of a brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay (S.3) in which are embedded cultural materials. Stratum 3 covers S.4 and 6 north and south of Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup> while it blankets S.5 west of the building. The slight hints of a human presence in the immediate vicinity of Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup> offered by S.4 were considerably augmented by the artifacts found throughout S.3. The ground surface formed by the top of S.3 ascends 0.21 over 10m from north-to-south.

### Time Span 4

Approximately 0.25m of a very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1) silty clay (S.2) was laid down now. As S.2 continued to accumulate during TS.7 it is difficult to determine how much of this soil was laid down during TS.4. The estimate provided here is based on the disposition of stones (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture after Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned and no longer being maintained.

### Time Span 5

Unit 1, a, minimally, 0.15m-high by 0.38m-wide stone wall, was uncovered in the base of excavation under the construction fill (U.17 and 18) that underlies Room 2 in the southern part of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure. The base of U.1 was not definitively identified. This construction was traced for 1.4m at an orientation of approximately 6 degrees. The relation of U.1 to architecture erected during TS.6 is uncertain. Unit 1 may be part of a surface-level building that was razed prior to the building of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>. Alternatively, as it seemed in the field, this wall might have been a foundation that divided the earthen-floored interior of a version of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup> that was built on ancient ground surface, most likely the exposed portion of S.2 that had accumulated by the end of TS.4. For the purposes of this report we are designating U.1 as part of a distinct building that was not obvious on ground surface (Str. 599-Sub1) while leaving open the possibility that it was an element in an earlier version of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>.

A rough contemporary of Str. 599-Sub1 is Str. 599-Sub2 which is represented in our investigations by a 0.15m-tall by 0.2m-wide wall (U.2) that was unearthed 0.6m west of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>. The portion of U.2 revealed in excavations measures 1m along which it is orientated roughly 10 degrees.

In this case it is reasonable to infer that U.2 was a foundation for a perishable upper wall from a surface-level building.

River cobbles were the primary components of the observed segments of U.1 and 2. Set in a mud mortar, the flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards. Some faced blocks were incorporated within U.1.

### Time Span 6

Structure 599-1-1<sup>st</sup> is a platform that was bounded by vertical facings (U.3-7) that are 0.4-0.67m high by 0.55-1m wide (U.7, the eastern basal facing, was not completely uncovered). The edifice's western flank does not run straight north-south. Its northern segment (U.4) extends an estimated 2.4m south from its intersection with the north facing (U.3) before stepping back (east) an inferred 0.5m. From this point the southern portion of the wall (designated U.5) continues for ca. 2.9m to its intersection with the southern basal wall (U.6). The west side of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup> had been heavily damaged, especially by mechanized plowing, and so these numbers are estimates based on observations made of the surviving architecture. Excavation along the building's east side was severely limited. Consequently, we cannot be sure if it was constructed to match its western counterpart. The fill retained by U. 3-7 consists two distinct earth layer. The basal example, U.18, is a brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay that is 0.18-0.28m thick. Unit 17, a very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1) silty clay covers U.18 and underlies summit construction. U.17 and 18 closely resemble S.2 and 3, respectively. Most likely those soil layers were the sources for the platform's hearth.

The superstructure consists of at least two earthen-floored enclosures set in a north-south line. A relatively sizable southern compartment (Room 2) is separated from Room 1 on the north by a 0.32m-tall by 0.66m-wide wall (U.8) that spans the full east-west width of the summit. Unit 8 lines up with the indentation in Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s west facing described earlier. Room 2 covers 1.9x3.2m and is delimited, in addition to U.8, by the tops of U.5 and 6 on the west and south and by U.9 on the east. The latter may have been the interior face of the platform's east basal wall (U.7) though we did not establish this point through excavation. A 0.25m-high stone-faced bench (U.10) spans the full north-south width of the compartment (1.9m) Unit 10 projects 1.05m east from Room 3's western wall (formed by the interior face of U.5). The situation north of Room 2 is less clear. Here three short wall segments (U.11-13) seem to divide this portion of the summit into two spaces set in an east-west line. Unit 11 projects 0.9m north of U.8 at which point it joins U.12 which runs 1.4m to the west. Unit 13 extends 0.35m north from U.12's west end to abut the south side of U.3, the platform's north basal wall. A large (0.5x0.6m) faced stone (U.14) was set atop U.12 at a point 0.6m west of the U.11/12 junction. The position of U.14 suggests that all but the uppermost portions of U.11-13 were submerged beneath construction fill by the end of TS.6. It may well be, therefore, that at this time the summit north of U.8 was comprised of one compartment (Room 1) that covers 1.1x4.5m and in the center of which was a faced stone that formalized passage from north-to-south across the superstructure. This interpretation is supported by a 0.1m-high step (U.15) that projects 0.3m north of the platform's north basal facing (U.3) directly in front (north) of the putative entry marker (U.14). Unit 15 intersects U.3 at a point 1.6m east of the inferred northwest corner of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup> and was followed for 1.3m to the east when excavation ceased. The architectural significance of U.11-13 is unclear. They might be the remains of foundations that originally divided the northern summit into two compartments, the one on the west encompassing ca. 2.4m<sup>2</sup>, its

eastern counterpart measuring 1.9m<sup>2</sup>. In this scenario, the two cubicles would later have been filled with earth, Room 1 emerging as a replacement for its two predecessors.

A curved stone line (U.16) lies 0.9m north of U.3, off Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest corner. Unit 16's perimeter wall is 0.1m high by 0.2m wide and defines an arc that is open to the west and measures 0.5m across at its widest point. Unit 16 covers 0.4m<sup>2</sup>. There were no signs of how U.16 might have figured in the activities conducted around Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup>.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 599-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.4-0.67m tall, covered 5.33m by an estimated 5.5m, and was aligned ca. 101 degrees. The building's west face steps in (east) 0.5m at a point 2.4m south of its northwest corner; it is unknown if the eastern facing follows the same pattern. The earthen-floored summit was apparently reached by ascending a 0.1m-high by 0.3m-high stone step that fronts the center of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s north face. This ascent leads directly to Room 1, a 5m<sup>2</sup> compartment, that contains a sizable (0.5x0.6m) faced stone set in the center of its floor. This rock likely served as threshold marking passage southward to Room 2. The latter is separated from Room 1 by a 0.32m-high by 0.66m-wide wall that runs the full east-west width of the superstructure and lines up with the eastern step-back in the platform's west facing. Room 2 encompasses 6.1m<sup>2</sup> and contains a 0.25m-high stone-faced bench that is built against the enclosure's east wall. The bench is 1.9m long north-south by 1.05m wide. Lying 0.9m north of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest corner there is a 0.1m-tall by 0.2m-wide curved rock line that defines an arc measuring 0.5m across at its widest point. The arc is open to the west and contains within it an earth floor. The behavioral significance of this construction is unclear.

All constructions raised now consist mostly of cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. Mixed with these river-worn stone are numerous pieces of tuff, angular rocks, and faced blocks, the last of these being recorded in U.3, 8, 10, 15 and, as noted, U.14. Efforts had been made to ensure that the exteriors of these walls presented vertical faces.

### Time Span 7

Following the abandonment of Str. 599-1-1<sup>st</sup>, the deposition of S.2 resumed, this soil accumulating as much as an estimated 0.2m during TS.7. Blanketing S.2 and most TS.6 architecture is 0.08-0.26m of a very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1) humus horizon. Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 is a moderately dense to dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture.

### Structure 599-2

Structure 599-2, 5m west of Str. 599-1 and 2.5m north of Str. 599-8, seals off the west side of the southern plaza. The building seems to have been raised atop a rise that was 0.12m tall on the south and 0.2m high on the north. The ground also ascends gradually from west-to east, climbing about 0.1m over 9m in this direction. Digging here within Subop. 599C, E, F, and G uncovered 68m<sup>2</sup> with excavations being pursued to maximum depths of 0.63m and 0.7m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. One major building phase was identified in the course of this work that was overseen by C. Webber.

### Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.3	F.5	
3	Str. 599-2-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-16, 23, 25-26	-	F.2, 4	
4	Str. 599-2-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.17-22, 24 26-31	-	F.3	
5	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	

### Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> is the deposition of at least 0.03m of a dark reddish-brown (5YR 2.5/2), hard-compacted, culturally sterile clay (S.4). Stratum 4, the base of which was not encountered, was identified in a 1x1m deep probe located 1m north of Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>.

### Time Span 2

Blanketing S.4 by 0.12-0.22m is a dark reddish-gray (7.5 YR 3/2), hard-compacted, clay (S.3) that yielded a few artifacts. Stratum 3 apparently forms the ground above which Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> was erected. As noted, this earth layer rose up gradually from south-to-north and north-to-south to form the 0.12-0.2m-high eminence on which the platform was built. Concentrations of artifacts were noted immediately underlying Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform's north and west basal facings (U.2 and 3). Taken together with evidence for a patch of burned earth recorded just below that platform's southeast corner (F.5), these observations suggest that, by the end of TS.2, there was a relatively significant human occupation on the site where Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> would soon be raised.

### Time Span 3

The earliest version of Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> that we identified consists of a core platform bounded on the east by a stone-faced, earthen-floored terrace. The platform is delimited by substantial stone facings (U.1-4) that rise 0.5-0.6m directly to the summit, each of these walls measuring 0.7-0.85m wide. A 0.3m-high stone-faced outset (U.25) projects 0.9m south from the core's south basal wall (U.4). Unit 25 measures 2.2m east-west and intersects U.4 at points 1.1m east and 0.6m west of the core's southwest and southeast corners, respectively. A gray-brown (7.5 YR 5/1) soil containing numerous white flecks and a few small rocks (U.23) comprises U.25's hearting. Unit 5, a 0.27m-high wall, extends 0.35m south of U.4 and 0.75m west of U.25. A comparable construction, U.6, stands 0.28m tall and projects 0.4m south of U.4 and 0.4m east of U.25 (F.5, mentioned under TS.2, directly underlies U.6 and the adjoining portion of U.4). The architectural significance of U.5 and 6 are unclear. Webber suggests

that they were put in place to shore up the core platform's southwest and southeast corners against which they are set. As U.4 in general, and its east and west corners in particular, were poorly preserved when cleared it may well be that this construction was in need of buttressing at the end of TS.3.

The platform's earthen-floored summit covers 2.4x3.61m and was partitioned into two, possibly three, compartments (Rooms 1-3) by stone foundations (U.7 and 8) that are 0.15-0.25m tall by 0.5 and 0.3m wide. The broadest of these footings (U.7) runs the full east-west width of the superstructure separating Room 1 on the north from Rooms 2 and 3 to the south. The former encompasses 1.2x2.4m. A 0.15m-high by 0.2m-wide wall (U.10) projects 0.7m west from the compartment's east wall (the western facing of U.1). Unit 10 is 0.4m south of Room 3's northeast interior corner and may, together with the interior faces of U.1 and 2, have defined the limits of a cubicle that covered 0.3m<sup>2</sup> and was open to the west. No other constructions were recorded in Room 1. Rooms 2 and 3 are set in an east-west line south of U.7. Room 2 on the east covers 1.15x1.9m and contains an area of heavily burnt earth (F.2, 0.4m thick) bordered by U.1 on the east and U.9 on the north and west. The latter is a 0.15m-high by 0.2m-wide wall composed of rocks set on end. It extends 1.1m west of U.1 before turning to run south for 0.3m. The area of charred earth contained by U.1 and 9 covers 0.2m north-south by 0.95m east-west and is open on the south. Room 3 lies directly west of Room 2, separated from it by U.8, and encompasses 0.8x1.9m. This compartment contains no additional constructions. It may be that what we are calling Room 3 is actually the body of a bench fronted on the east by U.8. The relatively small size of the enclosure suggests such an interpretation, but only weakly. The dimensions of this putative bench would have been 1.9m north-south by 1.15m wide, the construction standing 0.15m tall.

Built off the core platform's east flank is what appears to have been a large earthen-floored terrace that supported Room 4. This terrace is delimited by stone facings (U.11-16) that are 0.2-0.45m tall by 0.3-0.5m wide and which are backed by a fill composed of a hard-compacted, fine-textured brown soil that contains numerous white flecks (U.26). Unit 13, the southern facing, extends 2.4m east from its junction with U.6, the alleged buttress for the core platform's southeast corner, and U.25. Unit 14 then forms the southern portion of the terrace's east face, extending 3.25m north from its corner with U.13. The facing seems to have stepped back 0.3m west at this point, U.11 continuing the east facing for an additional 3.1m to the north. At this point it is hard to determine how the terrace articulates with the core platform near the latter's northeast corner. Unit 15 projects 0.8m north from a point 0.2m west of that northeast corner and terminating at its junction with U.16. The latter runs 2m east from that intersection, U.15 and 16 constituting the possible north edge of the eastern terrace. The problem we encountered in the field was that U.15 does not link clearly to U.11 to the east. In place of such a connection we encountered U.12. This construction, 0.15m south of U.15, measures 0.75m east-west and stops 0.2m shy (west) of U.11's north end. Though U.12 might have functioned to link U.16 with U.11 and thus seal the north side of the terrace, the entities remain tantalizingly close but never touch. It may be that the stones bridging these narrow gaps were lost to erosion or later stone robbing, as Webber suggested in the field. While reasonable, this possibility was not definitively established. In any event, the earthen-floored summit of the terrace covers 6.1m north-south by 1.3-1.6m east west (the variation in width being due to the aforementioned step-back on the terrace's east face). No other constructions were recorded on the terrace's summit. A 0.03m-thick lens of gray-brown soil containing numerous carbon flecks (F.4) was found extending at least 0.39m east from the base of U.11, the

terrace's northern segment. Most likely F.4 is part of the debris generated by activities conducted on the east terrace during TS.3.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced platform that covered 4m by 5.1m, stood 0.5-0.6m tall, and was aligned ca. 19 degrees. A 0.3m-high earth-filled, stone-faced outset (U25) measuring 2.2m east-west extends 0.9m south of the platform's south flank (U.4). This projection may have served as a means of accessing the summit as the core platform's south facing extended a scant 0.25m above U.25's earthen surface. At about the same time stone walls standing 0.27-0.28m tall were set near the southwest and southeast corners of the core platform. These constructions extend 0.75m west and 0.4m east of the projection and 0.35-0.4m south of the platform's south basal wall (U.4). The eastern example was apparently raised atop a fired earth surface that continued beneath U.4. Though small, the latter two entities might have helped buttress the core platform's two southern corners. A terrace standing 0.2-0.45m tall fronts the entirety of the platform's east side, measuring 6.85m north-south by 1.9-2.2m east-west. The terrace's east facing steps back 0.3m to the west at a point 3.25m north of the terrace's southeast corner. Though, as noted, the form of the northeast terrace corner is far from clear, it may be that this junction was inset, stepping back west 0.7m before running an additional 0.5m to the north to the construction's northern terminus. The earthen-floored surface of the terrace supported a space, designated here as Room 4, that covers 7.9m<sup>2</sup>. The eastern face (U.1) of the core platform rises 0.3m above Room 4. The core's earthen-floored summit is divided into two, possibly three, compartments (Rooms 1-3) by stone foundations that are 0.15-0.25m tall by 0.3-0.5m wide. Room 1 encompasses the northern third of the superstructure. It covers 2.9m<sup>2</sup>, the only built-in construction being a 0.15m-tall by 0.2m-wide stone wall that projects 0.7m west of the compartment's east wall (the west facing of U.1). This construction intersects U.1 at a point 0.4m south of Room 1's northeast interior corner and may have marked the south side of a cubicle that was open to the west and encompassed 0.3m<sup>2</sup>. Room 2 lies directly south of Room 1, measures 2.2m<sup>2</sup>, and contains an area of heavily burnt earth circumscribed by U.1 on the east and a 0.15m-high, 0.2m-wide wall on the north and west. The area of fired soil contained by these constructions encompasses 0.2m<sup>2</sup> and is open on the south. What we have tentatively labeled Room 3 lies directly west of Room 2 and South of Room 1 and covers 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. As noted, this alleged compartment may actually be the body of a bench, the foundation dividing it from Room 2 having been the 0.15m-high facing for that construction. If this was the case, then, Room 2 would have covered 4.6m<sup>2</sup>, its west side taken up by a 0.15m-tall, 1.15m-wide, 1.9m-long stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench. The burned-earth construction would then have been 0.1m east of the bench in the northern 0.7m of the compartment.

The primary material used to make the architecture raised now was the ubiquitous river cobble. While some angular stones were noted in these walls and facings, purposefully shaped blocks were recorded in U.1-4, 13, 14, and 25. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar and the flatter aspects of those cobbles and angular rocks that form the exteriors of facings are directed outwards. Though most constructions raised now were made from stones that were laid flat, this was not the case for U.9. The rocks comprising this entity were set vertically.

#### Time Span 4

During this interval Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform remained largely unmodified. The major changes occurred along that edifice's east and west flanks. On the latter side, what seems to have been an earth-filled, stone-paved (U.30) ramp was erected. This construction is bounded by rock facings on the north (U.21), west (U.22), and, most likely the south (this side was not well preserved and appeared to have been damaged by plowing). Unit 21 projects 2.2m west of the core platform's northwest corner, rising in height from ground level to 0.5m from west-to-east. Unit 22 joins U.21 to form the ramp's northwest corner, running at least 3.4m to the south at which point the construction seems to have been damaged beyond recognition. We presume that U.22 once ran the full 4.9m that would have brought it even with the core platform's southwest corner. In its preserved segments, U.22 seems to be less a wall than a line of stones that was set into, and was even with, the top of ancient ground surface. Units 21, 22, and 30 together, therefore, ascended continuously roughly 0.5m over 2.2m from west-to-east, reaching the top of the platform's western basal wall (U.3). Unit 3 appears to have been falling out to the west before it was covered by this incline. The latter may, therefore, have served to bolster that facing as well as to provide access to the summit. We remain hesitant about this reconstruction if for no other reason that we have encountered very few sloping constructions in our investigations here or anywhere in Honduras. Nonetheless, it is hard to see what U.21, 22, and 30 comprise in any other terms. The disposition of the rocks making up the U.30 pavement did not resemble fallen debris in part because they did not diminish in density or numbers with distance from the platform. Testing within the ramp itself also did not reveal other structures, such as vertical risers, that would have suggested that the ramp was actually a sequence of ascending terraces. In short, whether it was what we expected or not, Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s builders apparently innovated in the creation of an extensive sloping feature that provided an ample means of accessing the platform's summit from the west.

The possible southern entry, made up of U.25 and 4, may not have still functioned at this time. The interdiction of this passage is suggested by the construction of a 0.17m-tall by 0.24m-wide stone wall (U.24) 0.26m south of the southern outset. Unit 24 runs for 4.5m parallel to the core platform's south face, beginning roughly even with the outset's (U.25's) southwest corner and ending at a point 0.35m shy (west) of the southeast corner of TS.3's eastern terrace. This low, narrow wall likely served as the footing for a perishable upper construction. Unit 24's architectural and behavioral significance is unclear. It might have served to screen from view, at least from the south, activities conducted atop Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> and its eastern terrace. Whether that was the case or not, its close proximity to U.25 would have made ascending that alleged step en route to the superstructure difficult. Unit 25 could still be accessed from the west but its broader south face was now too close to U.24 to make what had probably been the primary means of accessing U.25 usable.

Turning to Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s east side, the southern portion of the eastern terrace was raised 0.25m through the erection of U.20 atop the eastern terrace tread. This entity extends 1.7m from the core platform's east facing (U.1) to U.14, the eastern terrace's east basal wall in this area. Unit 29, a 0.2m-tall wall was also erected at this time atop U.6's east margin, extending 0.4m south of the core platform's southeast corner to the terrace's south face (U.13). Going along with these additions, a 0.2m-tall by 0.6m-wide wall (U.18) was raised on the western step-back in the eastern terrace. The need for U.18 is not clear. It overlaps U.20 by 0.5m, extending an additional 0.5m to the east where it terminates at U.14. This construction, taken together with U.20, would have made for a substantial wall with which to retain the fill of large angular stones comprised of limestone (U.31) that was piled into the

area delimited on its remaining sides by U.13, 14, and 29. Together this newly elevated portion of the terrace covered 2.4x2.6m and stood 0.25m above the TS.3 terrace tread. Also at about this time the eastern terrace was expanded 0.35-0.65m to the east through the construction of U.17 (the differences in these measurements being due to the western step-back in the TS.3 terrace's east face). Unit 17 is 0.21m tall and runs the full length of the terrace's east flank, fronting U.11 and 14. This addition is backed by a fill (U.27) composed of hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured brown soil that is capped by a 0.06m-thick deposit of moderately hard-compacted, moderately coarse-textured, gray-brown earth that contains numerous charcoal flecks (F.3). Feature 3 is identical to F.4, 0.12m deeper in the same location. Like its predecessor, F.3 may be debris following from activities conducted on Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s eastern terrace. The situation north of U.18 and 20 on the eastern terrace is unclear. A 0.17m-high by 0.15m-wide wall (U.19) was seemingly raised now in this area. It projects 1.35m north of U.20 along the west sides of U.18 and 11, 1.05m east of U.1, the core platform's east facing. It may be that this addition, together with U.1 on the west and U.20 on the south delimited a cubicle covering 1.05m by 1.35m and open on the north. It is possible that the terrace surface north of U.20 was filled with a soil (U.28; 10YR 4/2) that has a redder hue than that which characterizes most of the dirt used as fill on the building. Unit 28 also contains significant quantities of cultural material. If this was the case then the tops of U.11, 15, and 16 would need to have been raised to retain U.28. This may have happened but the evidence for such an upward expansion of the east and north terrace facings is not clear. What is apparent is that the distinctive U.28 fill was added north of U.20 late in Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s history, bringing the northern terrace up to a level equivalent to the top of the southern rock hearting (U.31) contained by U.1, 13, 14, 20, and 29.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform remained largely unchanged from its TS.3 version. An earthen-filled, stone-surfaced ramp now projected 2.2m west of the platform and likely ran its full north-south length (4.9m). This incline rises 0.5m from west-to-east, beginning flush with ancient ground surface on the west and reaching to the top of the core's west basal facing. The putative southern step (U.25) may have been largely blocked now by the erection of a 0.17m-high by 0.24m-wide stone footing that is 0.26m south of U.25's south face. This was probably a foundation for a free-standing perishable wall that runs for 4.5m east-west. So close is this addition to the southern outset that it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to reach the summit from this side. The eastern terrace was expanded 0.35-0.65m eastward by the construction of a 0.21m-tall stone-faced, earth-filled riser. The eastern terrace still rose at least 0.2m above this tread, the latter being capped by a deposit of charcoal-flecked gray-brown soil. This material might have resulted from activities conducted on the eastern terrace near the end of TS.4. The southern 2.9m<sup>2</sup> of the earlier eastern terrace was raised 0.25m now through the introduction of a solid rock fill contained by stone walls on all sides. A small earthen-floored compartment, covering 1.4m<sup>2</sup>, and open on the north was erected immediately north of this elevated area apparently on the surface of the original eastern terrace. That enclosure and the rest of the eastern terrace to the north was subsequently blanketed with a reddish-brown soil late in the structure's occupation, possibly raising this surface 0.25m to bring it to the level the terrace had earlier achieved on the south.

Constructions raised now were made almost exclusively of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. A few angular rocks were, however, noted within U.20. The use of faced stones seems to have ended by this period.

## Time Span 5

After Str. 599-2-1<sup>st</sup> was abandoned, 0.12-0.17m of a gray-brown (7.5YR 5/1) soil with numerous white flecks (S.2) accumulated atop S.3 and much of TS.3 and 4 architecture. Stratum 2 was covered, in turn, by 0.12-0.16m of a dark gray-brown (10YR 4/1), fine-textured topsoil (S.1) in which was found many fewer inclusions than was the case with its predecessor. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that almost certainly were displaced from final-phase construction.