

1990

PVN Op 306 Excavation Report

Edward M. Schortman
Kenyon College

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



Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

Schortman, Edward M., "PVN Op 306 Excavation Report" (1990). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 7094.
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/7094>

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.

Site 306

Site 306 contains 120 structures and 223 artifact scatters covering an area of roughly 35ha. The site's center consists of two contiguous plazas running almost due east-west and measuring ca. 50x60m (the western example) and 80x80m (its eastern neighbor). These plazas are delimited by some of the settlement's largest buildings. A dense concentration of 26 surface-visible constructions extends 100m east of the site center while more dispersed remains spread 300m to the north, 275m west, and 210m south of the central plazas. Distinct patio groups are difficult to discern outside the site core, though Strs. 306-1/4 on the settlement's western margin and Strs. 306-104, 306-105, 306-107, and 306-114 on the east are arranged around more-or-less clear plazas. Plowing around Site 306's margins is partly responsible for the large number of artifact concentrations recorded here. Excavations within eight of these scatters suggests that many, if not all, of them are shallow middens that were originally associated with perishable buildings raised directly on ground surface. Mechanized cultivation, therefore, has both revealed and disturbed these ancient remains.

The narrow valley occupied by Site 306 is bounded by steep slopes on the north and south and cut by the Rio Chamelecon which is running roughly west-to-east at this point after leaving the Naco valley. The site is bordered by the Chamelecon on the south, an unnamed quebrada on the east, and occupies a relatively broad terrace of the former river which slopes up gradually from south-to-north. When first investigated in 1988, Site 306 was divided between cattle pasture and cultivated fields on the eastern margin of the town of Brisas del Valle. Since that time modern settlement has been encroaching on the center and we suspect that much of the site is now buried by recent construction. Unfortunately, we have not had the chance to revisit Site 306 since we excavated here in 1990 and cannot confirm the extent of the damages the settlement has suffered.

Sites 304 and 307 lie 1.3km and 1.4km to the east of Site 306, respectively, while the closest sources of perennial running water are the Rio Chamelecon, ca. 200m to the south, and the Quebrada San Lorenzo about 850m to the west. The Naco valley opens up roughly 2km to the southwest.

Fully 34 surface-visible structures were dug here during 1988 and 1990. In addition, nine of the artifact scatters were probed in 1990 and test pits ranging from 1x1m to 0.5mx0.5m were sunk in transects across areas that seemingly lacked architecture to determine the nature of activities pursued away from physically salient remains. A total of 638m² was dug at Site 306 during these two field seasons under the direction of Sonya Kane, Ted Neff, Victoria Clark, and Samuel Connell. They, in turn, were aided by David Schafer, Patricia Whooley, Hope Henderson, Alfonso Orellana, and Laura Aldrete. Their excellent records provide the bases of this report. A book-length treatment of Late Postclassic developments in the Naco valley discusses some aspects of this work in detail (Schortman and Urban 2011) while an article also describes some results of the work (Schortman and Urban 2014).

Structure 306-1

Structure 306-1 lies near the settlement's western margin where it closes off the west side of a patio defined by Str. 306-1/4. Structure 306-2, the smallest of the set, is 5m to the northeast while Str. 306-4 lies 6m to the southeast. The relative isolation of this cluster and its rectilinear form distinguished it from other structure groupings at Site 306, suggesting that it might have

been raised in a period prior to the Late Postclassic dates we were getting from most other excavated structures. Digging here was restricted to a 1m-wide trench (Subop. 306L) dug against the platform's east, patio-facing, side. Fully 7m² was dug as part of Subop. 306L, excavations reaching maximum depths of 0.82m and 1.22m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. A single clear construction phase was recorded in the course of this work which continued over 10 days during May, 1988 and was directed by S. Kane.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2, 3	-	
2	Str. 306-1-1st	U.1-5	-	-	LCL III/II, EPC, LPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The laying down of S.3, a hard-compacted, light reddish-brown soil, is the first activity attested to in the area of Str. 306-1. Stratum 3 is, minimally, 0.26m thick and runs nearly level over the 2.43m it was traced from east-to-west. The base of this layer was not revealed in our excavations. Blanketing S.3 by 0.16-0.28m is S.2, a very hard-compacted, dark brown soil with many small white inclusions. Stratum 2, unlike its antecedent, rises gradually from east-to-west, ascending 0.15m across the 2.43m it was exposed in Subop. 306L.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-1-1st's east side is bounded by a terrace (U.1) whose stone-faced riser stands 0.17m tall and is backed for 1.78m on the west by an earthen floor. Unit 2 is a stone facing that rises 0.49m above this terrace on the west. The U.2 terrace is 0.68m wide and terminates in U.3, a 0.24m-high (on the east), 0.36m-wide stone wall that is the eastern boundary of the platform's core and summit. Unit 3 extends down at least 1.18m (traced on its west side), continuing beyond our excavation limits, and is fashioned of unmodified stones set in clear courses, the larger rocks packed round with chinking stones. The fill retained by U.3 consists of two, super-imposed earth levels. The lowest of the pair, U.5, is a very soft-compacted, fine-textured tan soil that is minimally 0.59m thick and slopes up 0.07m across 0.87m east-to-west. Unit 4 buries U.5 under 0.23m of moderately hard-compacted, fine-textured, light brown soil. Unit 4 ascends 0.06m over 0.87m east-to-west. The superstructure has an earthen floor, though the summit was only cleared for 0.87m west of U.3 in the 1m-wide trench.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 306-1-1st was an earth-filled platform standing 0.9m

high, covering at least 3.76m across east-west, and was aligned approximately 344 degrees. The eastern face was graced with two stone-faced terraces that ended in a step-up to the summit. The latter was surfaced with earth, the top of an earthen fill retained on the east by a deep continuation of the eastern summit wall (U.3). In fact, U.3 continues at least 0.28m below the base of U.1, the eastern terrace facing. This greater depth may suggest a desire on the builder's part to sink the base of their fill-retaining wall deep into the existing soil levels to ensure the core platform's stability.

Structure 306-1-1st was built near the end of the Late Classic (LCL III/II) and was most likely used throughout the Terminal Classic (LCL III). There is evidence that it was still being visited during the subsequent Early and Late Postclassic, though no constructions dating to these periods were recorded.

Time Span 3

After Str. 306-1-1st was abandoned, S.1 was deposited, eventually covering final phase construction by as much as 0.4m. Stratum 1 is a dark gray-brown, moderately hard-compacted, root-rich humus layer. Embedded in S.1 is a scattering of rocks fallen from TS.2 architecture (F.1). Feature 1 is densest east of U.1, where it extends for 1.29m in that direction, and lighter over the platform itself. Some of the larger F.1 rocks east of U.1 have settled up to 0.13m into the underlying S.2.

Structure 306-4

Structure 306-4 closes off the south side of the patio delimited by Strs. 306-1, 306-2, and 306-3 on the west, north, and east, respectively. Structure 306-1 is 6m to the northwest while Str. 306-3 lies 4m to the northeast. Digging here, in Subop. 306S, exposed 5.9m² in a trench set against the center of the platform's north, patio-facing side. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.55m and 0.83m beneath modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. A single major building phase was revealed in the course of this work. The investigations, supervised by S. Kane, were pursued by 2 men during five days in May, 1988.

Time Span

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 306-4-1st	U.1-10	-	-	LCLIII, EPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Natural deposition of S.2 is the earliest activity attested to in Str. 306-4's immediate vicinity. This soil level, revealed only in the northern-most 1m of the trench, rises 0.09m over

this distance, from north-to-south. Stratum 2 is, minimally, 0.14m thick, its base lying beyond our excavation limits. Subsequently, about 0.06m of S.1, a moderately hard-compacted, dark gray-brown soil, blanketed S.2.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-4-1st is fronted by three ascending terraces on its north flank (U.1, 3, and 5). Unit 1, the basal northern riser, consists of a 0.18m-high stone facing backed on the south by a 0.57m-wide earthen tread. Unit 3 rises an estimated 0.4m above this surface. A 0.2m-high by 0.4m-wide stone step (U.2) is set against U.3 and facilitated passage between the U.1 and 3 terraces. Unit 2 was not continuous across the 1m east-west width of Subop. 306S, but proceeded west beyond excavation limits. Unit 3's northern stone facing is 0.85m wide and retains a fill composed almost entirely of earth (U.4)

The 2.06m wide (north-south) U.3 terrace is bounded on the south by U.5. This stone facing rises 0.19m above U.3's earthen surface but continues down for an unknown distance below that level. It appears that U.1-4 were appended onto the building's north face after U.5 was erected. A large cobble set against U.5's north face formed what looks like a 0.07m-high step (U.10) from U.3 to 5. Unit 10 does not run across Subop. 306S's full width but apparently continues east beyond our excavation limits.

Unit 5's tread is composed entirely of stone, 0.51m wide, and ends at the massive northern summit wall (U.6). Unit 6 projects 0.29m above U.5, is 0.66m wide, and continues down behind, and at least 0.11m below, U.5. The latter construction was apparently built against U.6 after that wall was raised. The fill backing U.6 to the south consists of two earthen levels. The lowest revealed unit is a moderately soft-compacted, gravelly, medium brown soil that is minimally 0.34m thick (U.8). Unit 7 blankets U.8 by 0.2m and is a moderately hard-compacted, relatively fine-textured, medium-brown soil with a few white inclusions. Unit 9 bounds this earthen fill on the south. This construction is a stone wall at least 0.6m high, though its base and width were not revealed in our investigations. The architectural significance of U.9 is unclear. Located 0.61m south of U.6, it seems unlikely to define the southern border of a summit room delimited by U.6 on the north. Unit 9's great depth does suggest that it served as a fill-retaining unit but how, if at all, it figured in superstructure architecture is unclear.

By TS 2's conclusion, Str. 306-4-1st stood 1.06m high, measured at least 4.97m north-south, and was aligned roughly 268 degrees. Three terraces ascended the north flank, a low narrow basal riser giving way to a much broader construction succeeded, in turn, by another low, narrow ascent. Steps, possibly quite short east-west, were placed to aid in passing across these terraces. The platform's fill consists almost exclusively of earth retained, in at least one instance, by a sizable stone core facing. The summit is bounded on the north by a substantial stone wall giving way to an earthen surface on the south. Structure 306-4-1st seems to have expanded out to the north through time, the terraces being added after the core platform, the north face of which is U.6, was established. The amount of time that elapsed between additions is unknown and may have been quite short.

Structure 306-4-1st was raised during the Terminal Classic (LCL III) and likely remained in use into the Early Postclassic. All construction seems to date to the former period though we can not preclude the possibility that some additions were made during the Early Postclassic.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 306-4-1st's abandonment deposition of S.1 resumed, eventually covering all but the highest stones in construction. A moderately dense to very dense concentration of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1) was recorded overlying the building, thinning out quickly to the north beyond the platform's perimeter.

Structure 306-7

Structure 306-7 was mapped as a 13m-long (east-west) terrace that fronts Strs. 306-11, 306-8, and 306-24 on the north side of the eastern site core plaza. Structure 306-8 is 17m to the north while Strs. 306-124 and 306-125 are 60m across the plaza to the south. Excavations here, conducted within Subop. 306BN, exposed 2.9m² of the putative structure's south side and summit, digging being carried to a maximum depth of 0.48m below modern ground surface. These investigations, conducted on March 27, 1990 by T. Neff, revealed that Str. 306-7 was a natural rise that ascends gradually from south-to-north and was not artificially enhanced.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.1-3	-	LPC?

Time Span 1

Stratum 4, a very hard-compacted, light brown soil with numerous included small white flecks, was exposed for a maximum thickness of 0.1m at the base of excavation (the full thickness of this layer was not revealed). Stratum 4 ascends 0.1m over 0.3m from south-to-north before leveling out. The absence of cultural materials in this layer very tentatively suggests that there was no human occupation in the area while it was being laid down.

Time Span 2

This interval witnessed the successive deposition of S.1-3. Stratum 2, a hard-compacted, moderately coarse-textured brown soil blankets S.4 by 0.12-0.17m. Like its antecedent, S.2 slopes up from south-to-north, rising 0.46m over 2.97m before leveling off at the summit of the rise. A lens of dark black soil with white inclusions (S.3), is sandwiched between S.2 and 4 about half way up the slope. Stratum 3 is 0.18m thick at its northern exposed end where it enters the excavation limits and pinches out 0.47m south of this point. Covering S.2 by 0.1-0.14m is S.1, a hard-compacted, moderately coarse-textured, root-rich, dark gray soil that also slopes up south-to-north at rates comparable to those noted for S.2. Strata 1-3 yielded a few artifacts, indicating that they were laid down during and following the occupation of the eastern site core plaza. How they are related to the constructions surrounding that space is unclear.

Structure 306-8

Structure 306-8 defines the north side of the eastern site-core plaza. It is flanked by Strs. 306-11, 2.5m to the east, and Str. 306-24, 5m to the west. Structure 306-7, a low natural rise mapped as a terrace, fronts this trio 17m to the south. The ground on which Str. 306-8 is located rises gradually from south-to-north. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 306BR cleared 8m² all within a 1m-wide (east-west) trench that ran north-south across the building. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.33m and 0.58m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. One construction phase was identified in the course of this work pursued from March 22-23, 1990 under the direction of H. Henderson and T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 306-8-1st	U.1-6	-	-	LPC
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval, at least 0.12m and 0.16m of S.2 was laid down north and south of TS.2 construction, respectively. Stratum 2, whose base lies beyond excavation, is a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured brown soil that includes a few artifacts. Based on the stratigraphic position of final-phase (TS. 2) construction, S.2 at this point likely rose 0.2m over 6m south-to-north. The artifacts found within S.2 point to human occupation in the area prior to Str. 306-8-1st's construction.

Time Span 2

Built over this natural south-to-north ascent, Str. 306-8-1st is bounded on the north and south by 0.12m- (U.2, north) and 0.38m-high (U.1, south) stone facings that are 0.88m and 0.78m wide, respectively. Unit 1 is succeeded to the north by a 0.12m-high, 0.5m-wide stone wall (U.4) that marks the summit's southern limit. The northern analogue to this wall, U.3, is 0.12m high and 0.54m wide. Neither U.3 nor U.4 projects appreciably above the stone-paved summit surface (U.5). Units 3/5 measure 3.71m across north-south. No foundations for perishable upper walls were noted on the summit, raising the possibility that this pavement was left open in antiquity. The platform's fill was only exposed on the north between U.2 and 3 where it is a hard-packed, coarse-textured, tan-to-gray soil with numerous small white inclusions (U.6).

Overall, Str. 306-8-1st is a stone-faced platform fronted on the north and south by one terrace, each of which leads to a stone-paved, probably open, summit. The latter measures 3.71m across north-south. The building is 0.24m high (on the north) and 0.5m high (on the

south), measures 5.97m north-south, and is aligned 80 degrees. It was built and used exclusively during the Late Postclassic.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 306-8-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.2 resumed on the edifice's north flank. As much as 0.12m of this soil was laid down here, though it does not appear that S.2 was augmented on the south. Stratum 1, a root-rich, brown soil, blankets S.2 on both sides and all but the upper-most rocks of TS. 2 architecture by as much as 0.13m. Very few rocks were found to have fallen from TS. 2 architecture (F.1). Such a dearth of tumbled debris supports the notion that Str. 306-8-1st's superstructure was not made of stone.

Structure 306-10

Structure 306-10 was mapped as a low, south-facing terrace lying immediately north of the eastern plaza in the site core. Structure 306-8, on the north margin of that plaza, is 4m to the south while Str. 306-9 is 3m to the west. Digging here in Subop. 306AH uncovered 2m² on the putative edifice's south face. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.59m below modern ground surface from March 21-22, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff. No clear signs of construction were encountered.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S. 2, 3	-	
2	-	-	S.1	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

The natural deposition of S.3, a fine-textured, orange soil with numerous small white inclusions, is the first activity attested to in Subop. 306AH. Stratum 3 was revealed to a maximum thickness of 0.19m (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and slopes up 0.14m over 2m south-to-north. No cultural materials were recovered from S.3, suggesting a comparable absence of human activity in the immediate area during this soil's deposition.

Stratum 2, a light brown to orange soil with occasional gravel inclusions, covers S.3 by 0.14-0.17m and ascends 0.13m across 2m south-to-north. Once again, the absence of cultural materials in this layer implies that there was no human occupation in the immediate area while S.2 was being laid down.

Time Span 2

This period witnessed the natural deposition of S.1, a moderately coarse-textured brown soil with a few white inclusions, to depths of 0.15-0.23m over S.2. The few artifacts retrieved

from this layer point to human habitation in the nearby area while S.1 was being deposited. This interpretation is supported by the presence of a layer of small rocks embedded in the upper 0.12m of S.1 (F.1) and extending 0.83m south from the north trench margin. Feature 1 may derive from architecture located further upslope; possibly, we stopped digging before reaching the fabled Str. 306-10.

Structure 306-11

Structure 306-11 occupies the northeast corner of the eastern plaza in the site core. Standing roughly 1.2m high, it is 3m east of Str. 306-8 and approximately the same distance northwest of Str.306-120. Excavations pursued here within Subop. 306B uncovered 4.9m² within a single 1x4.9m trench set against the building's north face. Digging was carried down to maximum depths of 0.65m below modern ground surface outside construction and 0.37m into architectural fill. A single construction phase was identified during the course of these investigations which involved two men working for four days in May, 1988. S. Kane supervised all excavations at Str. 306-11.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 306-11-1st	U.1-2	-	-	LPC
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

This interval witnessed the deposition of at least 0.59m of S.2, a reddish-tan, very hard-compacted, coarse-textured soil with numerous small iron concretions. The base of S.2 was not encountered in Subop. 306B and it is unclear how deeply U.1 was sunk into this earth level. The distribution of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1) suggests that at least 0.59m of S.2 was in place prior to the raising of Str. 306-11-1st in TS. 2. Relatively few artifacts were found at these depths, suggesting slight, if any, occupation at this locale prior to construction.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-11-1st's north basal wall (U.1) stands 0.57m high, is 0.55m wide, and was exposed for a distance of 1m over which it was oriented approximately 270 degrees. The revealed portion of U.1 is built of unmodified river cobbles laid horizontally and densely packed behind (south of) a facing of vertically set cobbles. Based on the distribution of fallen rocks (F.1), it appears that U.1 was sunk at least 0.06m into S.2. Unit 1 is backed on the south by a fill made up of cobbles mixed with a gray-brown, hard-compacted soil (U.2). As Str. 306-11-1st's surface-visible remains stand 1.2m tall, it is likely that U.1 is an earthen-floored basal terrace that

was succeeded by at least one other comparable unit leading up to the summit. Excavations were not carried far enough on the south to test for the presence of this putative construction. Structure 306-11-1st was likely built and used only during the Late Postclassic.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, deposition of S.2 continued, eventually covering all but the uppermost 0.19m of U.1. Stratum 2 at this point slopes down gradually to the north, dropping 0.43m over 2.5m in that direction. Blanketing S.2 and Str. 306-11-1st is S.1, a 0.13-0.22m thick layer of gray-brown, hard-compacted, root-rich soil (S.1). Stratum 1 is virtually indistinguishable from U.2, Str. 306-11-1st's fill. Embedded within S.1 and extending 0.32m into S.2 near the building is F.1. Feature 1 is a dispersed fall of stones displaced from final-phase architecture that covers U.1 and 2 and continues for 1.6m north of the former. Feature 1 is densest on and over the building, its stones declining in frequency further to the north.

Structure 306-15

Structure 306-15 is ca. 10m northwest of Str. 306-182 and is an equivalent distance off the northwest corner of the western site-core plaza. The building sits atop a low, gradual south-to-north ascent, the ground rising 0.5m across 4.5m in this direction. Excavations conducted in Subop. 306T uncovered 5.25m² of deposits within a trench designed to expose a 1m-wide swath of the edifice's south flank. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.56m below modern ground surface outside (south of) construction; no probes were sunk into architectural fill. A single construction phase was revealed in the course of this work. Investigations were pursued here by two men under S. Kane's direction over the course of three days in May, 1988.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2, 3	-	
2	Str. 306-15-1st	U.1	-	-	LPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to at this locale is the deposition of S.3, a moderately hard-compacted, light red-brown soil with few inclusions. Stratum 3 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.2m (its base was not identified) and rises 0.18m over 2.22m south-to-north. Blanketing S.3 by as much as 0.25m is a hard-compacted, dark red-brown gravelly soil (S.2). Stratum 2 rises 0.34m over 2.2m south-to-north. No artifacts were found in either earth level.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-15-1st's south flank is defined by a 0.21m-high by 0.97m-wide stone wall (U.1) oriented 84 degrees. Unit 1 is set 0.1m into S.2 on the south and may have been the foundation for a surface-level building or a basal facing from a very low platform.

Time Span 3

Stratum 1, a very hard-compacted, brown, root-rich soil with few inclusions, covers S. 2 and U.1 by 0.04-0.18m. Embedded in S.1 is a moderate concentration of stones tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 was densest within 0.5m north and south of U.1.

Structure 306-17

Structure 306-17 is a small structure on the south flank of the western plaza in the site core. It is ca. 12m southwest of Str. 306-19 and 4m west of Str. 306-18. Digging here in Subop. 306F and Q uncovered approximately 28m², revealing most of the building's north, plaza-facing half. This was the best-preserved flank, looters having heavily damaged the south side and disrupted nearly all of the summit. Excavations were carried down to a maximum depth of 0.49m below modern ground surface outside architecture; no probes were sunk into construction fill. The investigation of Str. 306-17 was pursued for seven days in May, 1988 under the supervision of S. Kane.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 306-17-1st	U.1, 3-10	-	F.1	LPC
3	Str. 306-17-1st	U.2, 11-		F.2	LPC
4	-	-	S.1	F.3	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.11m of S.1 was deposited. This hard-compacted, coarse-textured, gray-brown soil continues beyond excavation limits and underlies U.1. Not enough of S.1 was revealed to determine if it contained cultural material.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-17-1st reached nearly its final form during this span. It is a round building whose basal facing is fashioned of unmodified cobbles that rise ca. 0.3m high (U.1). Unit 1 may have been capped originally with schist slabs, three of which are set in line with the staircase (see below). The basal wall was also covered by a 0.1m thick layer of white plaster that was recorded

sloping down and away from (north of) the facing (F.1). Feature 1 may be the remnants of a plaster coating that originally sloped up and over U.1 at about a 45 degree angle, abutting the next ascending terrace (U.3). Between 0.02-0.09m of S.1 intervenes between U.1 and F.1; possibly U.1 was a foundation for an earthen sloping construction that resembled a *talud*, and which was sealed with plaster.

The next terrace mounting towards the summit is U.3. This construction is a 0.06m-high cobble construction that parallels U.1's arc and is 0.3m south of the latter. Poor preservation makes interpretation of Str. 306-17-1st's upper construction tentative. It appears that U.3 is the facing for a 0.98m-wide terrace that terminates on the south with a 0.66m high stone-faced ascent to the summit (U.9). Once again, U.9 parallels the curve of U.1 and 3, creating three concentric rings. The summit to which these terraces lead was seriously damaged by looters. The few surviving fragments suggest that it was originally paved, at least in part, with schist slabs and most likely supported a stone monument which was found lying face-down on the summit. No built-in features, such as benches or shelves, were noted and it may well be that Str. 306-17-1st's top was left open.

A staircase mounts the edifice's northeast face, oriented towards Str. 306-19. Three steps ascend towards the summit from above U.3 and leading to U.9 (U.4, 6, and 8). The risers are 0.14-0.2m high, 0.3m across, and narrow from 2.58m at the base to 1.52m long at the top. The lower two treads are surfaced with stone slabs (U.5 and 7) while cobbles are used in the uppermost example.

By the end of this interval Str. 306-17-1st was a round building roughly 1.03m high, 7.5m in diameter, and was ascended by three stone-faced steps taking up much of the platform's northeast quadrant. The stairs are set flush with the building's basal facade. A 0.1m-thick plaster coating apparently covered at least the basal wall (U.1) and the open summit supported a stone monument raised above what had probably been a stone pavement.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-17-1st was modified during this span by the addition of an apron of schist slabs (U.11) set at a roughly 30 degree angle over U.1 and F.1, and abutting U.3. Unit 11 extends ca. 0.4m beyond the line of U.1. Set 0.07m north of U.11 on the approximate center of the staircase is a large square rock measuring 0.27m across east-west by 0.47m north-south (U.2). Unit 2 is about 0.2m high and probably served as a step up onto the staircase. A 0.1m-thick layer of white plaster (F.2) slopes down over U.11 and abuts the bottom-most 0.11m of U.2.

Structure 306-17-1st had not changed significantly by the end of TS. 3, the principal modifications being the construction of a basal sloping stone apron (U.11) and a 0.2m-high step measuring 0.27m across projecting 0.47m north from U.11. This riser provided passage over the basal sloping zone onto the northeast staircase while the addition of U.11 increased Str. 306-17-1st's diameter to 8m.

Time Span 4

Following the platform's abandonment, S.1 continued to be deposited, eventually covering most of the extant architecture. A few stones tumbled from final phase construction are scattered over the building and around its periphery (F.3). The paucity of these displaced rocks

reinforces the notion cited earlier that Str. 306-17-1st did not support substantial superstructure architecture made using stones at any point in its history.

Structure 306-19

Structure 306-19 is within the western plaza of the site core, slightly east of that area’s center. It is ca. 12m northeast of Str. 306-17 and 7m west of Str. 306-21. About two-thirds of Str. 306-19 was exposed in Subop. 306M and P, uncovering roughly 15m2 of prehistoric deposits. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.8m and 0.36m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. Work conducted over 12 days in May, 1988 by 4 men supervised by S. Kane revealed three construction phases.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	Str. 306-19-1st	U.1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 26, 27	-	-	LPC
3	Str. 306-19-1st	U.5, 7, 12, 14-18, 22, 25	-	-	LPC
4	Str. 306-19-1st	U.19, 20, 23, 24	-	F.2	LPC
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Stratum 3, a hard-compacted, red-brown clay, was deposited prior to the raising of the architecture associated with Str. 306-19-1st. This soil level is at least 0.55m thick, its base lying beyond our excavation limits, and rises gradually 0.11m over 1.24m east-to-west and 0.2m over 1.9m south-to-north. The absence of artifacts in S.3 may suggest that there was no significant human occupation dating to TS.1 in the area, though very few artifacts were found in the Subop. 306M and P excavations in general.

Time Span 2

The earliest version of Str. 306-19-1st for which we have information has a square core from which eight stone-faced spokes project symmetrically on all sides. Four of these spokes were completely cleared: on the east, U.1 and 6 and U.2 and 26; on the south U.3 and 27 and U.4 and 8. These projections consistently end in a facing of cut blocks that may have originally been

set vertically, their flat sides oriented out. When found, however, they were generally canted back at an angle of 55 degrees. The blocks are capped with 1 to 4 rocks, sometimes faced, sometimes not, lying horizontally (U.1-4). Units 1-4 stand 0.6-0.76m high, 0.47-0.64m wide, are 0.85-0.95m apart, and extend out from the core platform 1.1-1.2m. The flanks of these constructions that extend back to the core are faced with stones (U.6, 8, 26, and 27). Both the faces and sides of the spokes were covered with a white plaster. The western and northern spokes were only partially uncovered: on the west, the south side of the south spoke (U.9) and north side of the north spoke (U.10) were exposed; on the north, the west side of the west spoke (U.11) and east side of the east spoke (U.13) were cleared. Though only incompletely excavated, these projections conform in size and form to their better-known eastern and southern analogues.

The core's early version was largely obscured by later architecture. It appears that the spokes originally emanated from a small platform 0.62m high and covering approximately 1.65m on a side. The summit was demarcated on all sides by a ca. 0.1m-high cobble wall (U.21). The earthen-floored space bounded by U.21 was seemingly featureless.

Structure 306-19-1st, by the conclusion of TS. 2, consisted of a square core measuring 1.65x1.65m on a side, standing 0.62m high, and aligned roughly 347 degrees. Two stone-faced, white-plastered arms projected 1.1-1.2m from each side, the perimeter formed by these eight constructions roughly defining a circle with a diameter of 3.5m.

Time Span 3

During this interval the gaps between adjoining spokes on the east, north, south, and west sides were at least partially filled in and faced with stone walls on the exteriors (U.5, 7, and 12 on the east, south, and north, respectively; the western arms were not cleared sufficiently to reveal this construction). The result was to create four wide projecting arms covering 1.97m, 1.92m, 1.54m, and 1.8m across on the south, east, north, and west, respectively. These intervening constructions stand about 0.4m high, making them slightly lower than the original spokes that bound them on either side. The eight projecting arms, therefore, were still discernible though the gaps separating adjacent pairs were no longer as dramatic as they had been in TS.4. Both the original spokes and their intervening constructions were surfaced with a white plaster (U.25). At least five distinct plaster levels were noted covering U.5, pointing to multiple episodes of surface rejuvenation here.

A smooth, stone-faced arc, measuring 0.5m across (U.22), links the arms that intersect near the core's southeast corner (U.2/26 on the east and U.3/27 on the south). This pattern contrasts with other instances on Str. 306-19-1st where the projecting arms intersect at something approaching right angles. The significance of this variation from the norm is unclear; the arc may have been a step up onto Str. 306-19-1st's summit.

The core was still square but now measures 1.88m north-south by 1.65m east-west. Its height also seems to have been slightly augmented, the core now rising 0.8m. Defining the summit limits are U.14-17, stone walls that stand ca. 0.3m high and measure 0.24-0.31m wide. Located in the approximate center of this diminutive space are three large rocks that bound the east and south sides of a space at least 0.46m deep (U.18). Unit 18 may be what remains of a socket encompassing 0.2m east-west by 0.51m north-south that originally supported a stone monument, analogous to the carved stone found fallen atop Str. 306-17-1st immediately to the southwest. No such monument was found on or near Str. 306-19-1st, however.

As TS. 3 drew to a close, Str. 306-19-1st's core stood 0.8m high, covered 1.65x1.88m, and retained its earlier alignment of 347 degrees. A stone wall still bounded its summit but now there seems to have been a monument set within a specially prepared socket that was lined with stones at least on the east and south. The eight relatively narrow arms that projected from the Str. 306-19-1st core in TS.2 were transformed into four wide, plaster-covered spokes by linking the pairs of arms on the north, east, south, and west sides. The original spokes were still visible, protruding ca. 0.2m above the construction that joined them, but the overall effect was to convert what had been two arms on each of the platform's flanks into one. Even after these modifications, however, Str. 306-19-1st still had a diameter of 3.5m. A formal entryway might have been marked by the arc of U.22 in the southeast corner.

Time Span 4

During TS 4 Str. 306-19-1st was converted into a circular structure. This was accomplished by depositing a brown to tan, fine-textured soil (U.23) around the edifice's perimeter, partially burying the projecting spokes by as much as 0.27m. Blanketing U.23 are multiple levels of white plaster (U.24). Unit 23 slopes up towards Str. 306-19-1st as does the plaster levels which it supports. In some places the initial two plaster layers in U.24, those closest to the spokes, were up to 0.08m thick though subsequent levels were much thinner. Dirt levels, as much as 0.1m thick, intervene between the earliest three plaster cappings but are not clearly seen separating the later ones. Initially, the highest parts of the spokes may still have protruded about 0.5m above this sloping apron. As time went on and more plaster levels were added during subsequent re-surfacings (36 separate layers were counted in one well-preserved location), the portion of the spokes that could still be seen was reduced to 0.34m on the east while on the south the spokes may have eventually been completely covered by U.24. The effect was to create a plaster-surfaced earthen sloping zone that culminated in an ever shorter vertical element around Str. 306-19-1st's perimeter. Units 23 and 24 may have added as much as 2.7m to the building's south side and 1.7m to its east. *If* the addition was made symmetrically on the west and north, this would have increased Str. 306-19-1st's basal dimensions to 9.9m north-south by 6.9m east-west. There is no clear evidence that the summit was modified at this time, though the southeastern entrance was likely blanketed by U.23 and 24.

On the eastern margin of U.24 is a deposit of burnt earth measuring 0.38m east-west and 0.16m thick (F.2). Feature 2 is enveloped by the U.24 plaster, 0.07m of this material blanketing the top of the burned earth lens. The significance of this deposit is unclear.

Late in this sequence a construction (U.19) was added 0.82m southeast of U.22. Unit 19, a large cobble running parallel to U.22, is 0.34m beyond U.2, the end of the U.2/26 arm, and measures 0.57m long by 0.2m wide. Located 0.78m southeast of U.19 is a line of unmodified stones roughly 1.5m long by 0.24m across (U.20). Unit 20 is oriented ca. 40 degrees, running parallel to U.19 and fronting U.22. These two casual constructions rest on the U.24 plaster and were probably some of the latest constructions at this locale. Their significance is not obvious, though they may have been part of a set of steps providing passage over the sloping apron formed by U.23 and 24.

Structure 306-19-1st ended TS.4 as a circular structure covering an estimated 9.9x6.9m. A much re-surfaced plaster-coated sloping zone defined its perimeter ending in an ever-lower vertical element formed by the surviving spokes. The summit of the rectangular core still covered 1.65x1.88m, was delimited by low stone walls, and rose approximately 0.15m above the

still apparent projecting arms. The monument that we believe once graced this space may still have risen above Str.306-19-1st. Interestingly, one of the last additions made to Str. 306-19-1st's nearest neighbor, Str. 306-17-1st, was a basal sloping apron, this time fashioned of schist slabs. It may be that these renovations were designed to enhance similarities between the two adjacent edifices that both seemingly had monuments raised on their summits. A casually built entryway defined by two parallel lines of unmodified stones extending 1.56m beyond the line of the surviving spokes was laid atop the plaster sloping zone. This addition may have facilitated passage up and over the newly added apron.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 306-19-1st's abandonment, the building was covered by at least 0.21m of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark brown soil (S.2) on its east side. This layer, in turn, was blanketed by 0.02-0.12m of a very similar earth distinguished by its much higher root content (S.1). Scattered throughout S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 is located primarily over construction; not many stones were found beyond the boundaries of architecture. The relative paucity of fallen construction debris implies that Str. 306-19-1st's summit did not support a superstructure made with considerable quantities of stone.

Structure 306-20

Structure 306-20 is located within the site-core's western plaza, 20m north of Str. 306-19 and 11m south of Str. 306-185, a terrace that defines the plaza's northern limit. Digging here in Subop. 306AW, BJ, and BO cleared 32.5m², revealing about one quarter of the edifice's perimeter. These excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.65m and 0.59m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. One construction phase was revealed in the course of this work pursued from March 16-29, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.3	-	LCL III?
3	Str. 306-20-1st	U.1-6	-	F.2	LPC
4	-	-	S.1-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval a fine-grained, orange clay silt with numerous rock inclusions (S.4)

was deposited. This layer was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.24m and rose 0.64m over 8.83m from south to north (S.4's base was not encountered). The absence of cultural materials from S.4 suggests that there was no human presence in the immediate area when this soil was introduced.

Time Span 2

A lens of S.3, a moderately fine-textured, dark brown soil with some white inclusions, overlies S.4 by 0.02-0.12m south of Str. 306-20-1st. This portion of S.3 runs out from beneath TS.3 architecture for 1.76m before pinching out. Like S.4, S.3 slopes up from south-to-north, ascending 0.35m over its exposed distance. Interestingly, S.3 north of Str. 306-20-1st was apparently laid down after TS.3.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-20-1st is a platform whose hearting of densely packed rocks set in a moderately fine-textured orange-brown soil (U.6) is retained on all sides by stone facings that are 0.6m (on the north) to 0.4m high (on the south; U.1-4). In the axial trench cut across Str. 306-20-1st north-south (Subop. 306AW), the southern facing (U.1) is succeeded by a surface composed of earth and stones that is 1.4m wide. This floor may have been covered with a white plaster, two discontinuous fragments of which were found resting on it 0.12m apart (F.2). The F.2 elements are each 0.08m thick. Rising 0.51m above the U.1 terrace is a stone facing (U.5) that defines the southern summit margin. The latter has an earthen floor that measures 1.76m across north-south. No built-in furniture was recorded in the 1m-wide swath exposed in the axial trench, but, of course, the existence of such construction cannot be excluded.

Structure 306-20-1st, by TS. 2's conclusion, stood 0.91m (on the south) to 0.6m high (on the north), measured 4.14x15.2m, and was oriented roughly 260 degrees. It was bounded on the north by a single, steep ascent to the summit while a broad stone-faced terrace fronts the southern flank (not enough of the eastern and western sides was revealed to determine their relation to the summit). At least part of this terrace was likely surfaced with plaster. The summit covered 1.76m across north-south and was at least partially surfaced with earth. No other aspects of superstructure construction were uncovered.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, Str. 306-20-1st was gradually covered by the natural deposition of S.1-3. Stratum 3, described under TS.2, covered S.4 by 0.11-0.23m north of Str. 306-20-1st; it was not laid down south of the building at this time. Stratum 2, a fine-textured, medium-brown soil, covers S. 3 on the north and south by 0.07-0.3m. Capping this sequence is S.1., a fine-textured, root-rich, dark brown soil that covers S.2 and final-phase constructions by 0.05-0.2m. A very light scatter of rocks tumbled from TS. 3 architecture (F.1) was uncovered during excavations. The paucity of these stones implies that Str. 306-20-1st's superstructure was not made using substantial quantities of rocks.

Structure 306-21

Structure 306-21 is a 1.25m-high platform that separates the adjoining eastern and western plazas in the site core. At approximately 22m north-south by 8m east-west, Str. 306-21 is one of the largest building recorded at Site 306. It is approximately 7m east of Str. 306-19 and 22m south/southwest of Str. 306-22. A trench (Subop. 306 I and J) was dug across the edifice from east-to-west, uncovering 11.9m² and reaching maximum depths of 0.65m and 1m below modern ground surface outside and into architectural fill, respectively. At least two major periods of construction were identified in the course of this work. Digging was pursued in Supop. 306 I and J over eight days in May, 1988 under the direction of S. Kane.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	
2	Str. 306-21-2nd	U.8-11	-	-	LPC?
3	Str. 306-21-1st	U.1-7	-	F.1, 2, 4	LPC?
4	Str. 306-21-1st	-	-	F.3, 5	LPC
5	-	-	S.1	F.6	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.2m of a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, pebble-rich soil mottled reddish-brown to tan (S.2) was laid down. Stratum 2 maintains roughly the same level over 11.9m east-to-west. The base of this stratum was not encountered in our excavations. On the west, about 0.04m of S.1, a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, gray-brown soil blankets S.2 and underlies Str. 306-21-1st's western basal facing (U.3). Stratum 1 has fewer pebbles than its predecessor. It may be that S.1's deposition was temporarily cut short by construction on this spot, resuming after abandonment to bury all but the upper-most stones of Str. 306-21-1st (see TS. 5).

Time Span 2

A 0.9x1m probe sunk 1m into Str. 306-21's summit revealed evidence of penultimate phase construction in the form of three super-imposed white plaster levels (U.8-10) resting atop a fill (U.11) composed of earth indistinguishable from S.2. Fully 0.23m of U.11 was exposed though it most likely continued deeper beyond our excavation limits. In fact, if F.4 (described under TS. 3) is part of this building effort, then the edifice was at least 0.5m tall. The thin (0.01m thick) plaster levels (U. 8-10) slope up gradually over U.11 from west to east, rising 0.14m over 0.9m in this direction. Units 8-10 seem to represent three episodes of resurfacing an early earthen platform (Str. 306-21-2nd) that was eventually covered by later architecture (Str. 306-21-1st). Little can be said about this edifice save that it was minimally 0.23m high and at

least some of its surfaces were covered with white plaster.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-21-1st is a 0.88m-high structure that measures 8.15m across east-west and is aligned roughly 178 degrees. The platform's core consists of an earthen fill (U.7) identical to S.2, mixed with a few stones, and encased on the east and west by two stone-faced terraces. The eastern examples are, proceeding from the base towards the summit, 0.08m high (U.1) and an estimated 0.32m high (U.2), each backed by an earthen surface. Unit 1 measures 0.6m across. Fronting the basal terrace, U.1, are faint traces of an earthen sloping zone (that closely resembles U.7 in appearance) that was originally surfaced with a 0.02m-thick level of white plaster (F.1). At least one *Pachychilus* sp. shell was found embedded in the plaster. Feature 1, when excavated, consisted of three discontinuous segments of plaster measuring 0.3m, 0.34m, and 0.6m long, rising 0.58m over 1.16m from east-to-west, and ascending at an angle of about 35 degrees. No rocks underlying F.1 were noted, the F.1 plaster having been laid directly on earth.

The western basal facing (U.3) is a 0.28m-high stone-faced terrace that is backed for 1.2m on the east by a stone floor (U.4). Unit 4, in turn, is succeeded by a 0.36m-high terrace facing (U.5) made of unmodified stones set vertically. Unit 5 is backed by an earthen surface 0.6m wide on the east (included in U.5).

A 0.04m-thick plaster lens was noted sandwiched between the top and basal course of U.3 on its west side (F.4). Feature 4's significance is unclear as it does not continue beyond U.3's western facing. It may be a remnant of Str. 306-21-2nd, possibly a continuation of one of that structure's summit floors (U.8, 9, or 10), exposed 2.5m east and 0.31m above F.4.

The nature of Str. 306-21-1st's summit is unclear, in part because its surviving construction, U.6, is poorly preserved. Unit 6 is a stone wall estimated to be 1m wide that defines the superstructure's western boundary, standing 0.32m above the U.5 terrace. No clear counterpart to U.6 was noted on the east, raising the possibility that the 3.4m from the uppermost eastern terrace (U.2) to U.6 was left open and unobstructed. The superstructure's floor may have been fashioned of earth, though a small fragment of white plaster (F.2), 0.18m long east-west by 0.16m thick was located atop this putative floor 0.3m west of U.2. How F.2 figured into Str. 306-21-1st construction is unclear, though its presence could imply that at least parts of the summit surface were covered with plaster.

By the conclusion of this span, Str. 306-21-1st was a 0.88m-high earth-and-stone-filled platform, measuring 8.15m across east-west, and oriented 178 degrees. It was mounted by two stone-faced terraces on its east and west sides. The eastern flank, facing Str. 306-25, had a basal sloping zone made of earth and surfaced with a thin layer of white plaster. The western flank was graced with no comparable construction though its basal terrace (U.3) was backed by the only stone floor noted on the building (U.4). The summit apparently supported at least one large, earthen-floored room measuring ca. 3.4m across east-west, possibly open on the east, and bounded on the west by an unusually thick wall (U.6). This 1m-wide construction may have doubled as a support for perishable upper construction and a bench or shelf. The unusual form of this edifice, especially the plaster-surfaced sloping zone on its east flank, hints at its use as a ballcourt. It may be that Str. 306-25, ca. 12m to the east, defined the putative alley's east side. Unfortunately, the latter construction was not excavated so we could not determine its form or whether it extended far enough south to match Str. 306-21-1st's full length.

Time Span 4

Though not completely clear, it looks as though Str. 306-21-1st's summit was filled in with a deposit of earth and stone (F.3) that is as much as 0.45m thick. The soil in F.3 is the same as that found in S.1 (described in TS.1). A fragment of white plaster, 0.02m thick by 0.15m long, (F.5) was found resting atop F.3, 0.33m above summit floor dating to TS. 3. No other modifications were noted to Str. 306-21-1st at this time.

Structure 306-21-1st, by the conclusion of TS.4, would have stood approximately 1.33m high and been capped by a white plaster surface. The building retained its earlier orientation and width. No summit walls or built-in furniture were recorded for this version of the platform's superstructure.

Time Span 5

Following abandonment, deposition of S.1 resumed, eventually reaching a maximum thickness of 0.48m. A few rocks tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.6) are scattered throughout S.1 where it overlays construction, but very few of these stones were recorded off the building's east and west flanks. This paucity of fallen rocks suggests that stone was not a principal component in whatever capped Str. 306-21-1st.

Structure 306-22

Structure 306-22 is a low construction built into a gradual south-to-north and west-to-east rise on the northwest corner of the site core's eastern plaza. Structure 306-7, on the north edge of the plaza, is ca. 3m to the east while Str. 306-20, on the north margin of the western site-core plaza, is 15m to the west/southwest. A low terrace, Str. 306-185, runs 28m west from its junction with Str. 306-22's northwest corner to join Str. 306-184. Digging here exposed 3m² on Str. 306-22's east flank, all of the work being conducted in Subop. 306G. Excavations were pursued to a maximum depth of 0.7m below modern ground surface outside construction; platform fill was not investigated. All work in Subop. 306G was conducted during four days in May, 1988 under S. Kane's direction.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 306-22-1st	U.1	-	-	EPC, LPC?
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.6m of S.1 were deposited. This earth level continues

beyond our excavation limits and the portion in question did not contain cultural material.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-22-1st is represented here by a 0.2m-high basal facing (U.1) on its eastern side. Unit 1 is made out of unmodified river cobbles set on end and is oriented 138 degrees. This construction was most likely the basal wall of a platform that was no more than 0.2m high on its east flank.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 306-22-1st was blanketed by continued deposition of S.1. Stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1) were found for at least 1m east of the building.

Structure 306-54

Structure 306-54 appeared on the surface to be a terrace built into a slope rising 0.88m over 7m from southwest-to-northeast. The edifice is located ca. 36m southwest of Str. 306-1 in the site's far western portion. The closest building is Str. 306-56, 22m to the southwest. Excavations conducted in Subop. 306O uncovered 7.4m² in the course of revealing a 1m-wide segment of Str. 306-54-1st's southwest flank. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.84m below modern ground surface southwest and downslope from the building and 0.37m below modern ground surface northeast of the structure at the top of the rise. A single construction phase was revealed during the course of this investigation which involved 2 men working for seven days in May, 1988 under S. Kane's direction.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1-3	-	
2	Str. 306-54-1st	U.1	-	-	III/EPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

On the southwest, a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, culturally sterile, reddish-brown soil with small rock inclusions (S.3) underlies construction. Stratum 3 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.59m and slopes up 0.4m over 3.96m from southwest-to-northeast. Northeast of construction, where the ground is leveling out at the top of the rise, S.2 runs under TS. 2 architecture. Stratum 2 is a very hard-compacted, light brown soil in which small white rocks are found. Exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.13m, S.2 runs flat over the 1.1m it was observed extending southwest-to-northeast away from Str. 306-54-1st. Artifacts recovered from

S.2 suggest that there was human occupation in the area when it was being laid down. The bases of both S.2 and 3 lie beyond our excavation limits.

Covering S.2 and 3 is approximately 0.14m of S.1 on the northeast and an estimated 0.25 of this layer on the southwest. Stratum 1 is a very hard-compacted, gray-brown soil with numerous small white rock inclusions.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-54-1st's exposed portion is a 0.12m-high, 0.7m-wide wall made of unmodified stones that is oriented roughly northwest-southeast (U.1). Unit 1 was traced on the surface for an additional 4m to the southeast and 6m to the northwest. Most likely, this construction served as a terrace designed to slow erosion down the southwest-trending slope.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 306-54-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.1 resumed, eventually covering all but the tops of the U.1 rocks. Embedded in S.1, and sloping down and away from the building for 1.3m is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 does not seem to continue northeast of U.1 onto the summit of the rise.

Structure 306-72

Structure 306-72 is located in an irregularly organized cluster of buildings on Site 306's southern margin. The closest edifices are Strs. 306-73, 4m to the south, and 306-71, 7m to the east. Structure 306-78, which Str. 306-72 resembles in form and construction, lies 47m to the north. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 306AG uncovered 7m² in the course of cutting across the building north-south. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.72m and 0.63m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively, revealing a single building phase. These investigations were conducted from February 19-March 5, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3, 4	-	
2	Str. 306-72-1st	U.1-3	-	-	EPC?, LPC?
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Stratum 4, a coarse-textured, reddish-brown sandy soil with numerous small white inclusions, was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.22m (its base lies beyond excavation

limits). Stratum 4 drops 0.2m over 7m north-to-south and is blanketed by up to 0.25m of S.3, a moderately fine-textured, gray-brown soil with a few small white inclusions. Stratum 3 ascends 0.26m across 5m south-to-north before dropping 0.23m over 1.34m and pinching out against S.4 on the north.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-72-1st is a poorly preserved stone-faced platform that measures 1.64m across north-south, stands 0.37m high, and is faced by stone walls on the north (U.1) and south (U.2). These facings retain a fill composed of rocks set in a reddish-brown soil matrix (U.3). The summit seems to have had an earthen floor and lacks any evidence of superstructure construction. A dense concentration of jumbled stones extending 0.91m south of U.2 may be part of a lower terrace appended onto the platform (included in F.1). Unfortunately, the entire building was in such poor shape that it was very difficult to distinguish tumbled construction debris from preserved architecture. Consequently, we took a conservative approach and excluded these southern rocks from final-phase construction.

In general, Str. 306-72-1st closely resembles Str. 306-78-1st and it may be that this sort of casually constructed, stone-faced platform is distinctive of southern Site 306.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 306-72-1st was covered, first, by the natural deposition of S.2, a moderately coarse-textured, reddish-brown soil that includes some small white inclusions. As much as 0.31m of S.2 accumulated before being overlain by 0.05-0.2m of S.1, a gray-brown soil that blankets all but the highest stones of U.1 and 2. A moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from TS. 2 architecture (F.1) was found extending 1.2m north and 2.22m south of construction. As noted in the TS. 2 discussion, some of these rocks may be very poorly preserved remnants of architecture that were not distinguished from tumble because of the building's advanced state of decay.

Structure 306-78

Structure 306-78 is about 20m south of Str. 306-127 in a moderately dense concentration of buildings lying south/southeast of the site core's principal plazas. It is not part of any clearly defined patio grouping. Instead, Str. 306-78 is near the center of a linear distribution of buildings that trend north-south. Digging here, within Subop. 306AI, uncovered 5m², excavation continuing to maximum depths of 0.76m and 0.64m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. The poorly preserved remnants of one construction phase were revealed in the course of this investigation. Excavations were pursued here from February 23-March 7, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time</u> <u>Span</u>	<u>Construction</u> <u>Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------	-------------

1	-	-	S.2-4	-	
2	Str. 306-78-1st	U.1-3	-	-	EPC?, LPC?
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	
<u>Time Span 1</u>					

Strata 3, 4, and the lowest exposed 0.16m of S.2 were laid down during this interval. Stratum 4, the lowest uncovered layer, is a hard-compacted, light yellowish brown soil with numerous small white inclusions. This layer is 0.17m to 0.3m thick and slopes up 0.12m over the 0.8m it was revealed running west-to-east at the trench's west end. Blanketing S.4 is a 0.09-0.17m thick deposit of moderately hard-compacted yellow gray-brown soil with small white inclusions (S.3). Stratum 3 slopes up west-to-east following the contours of its predecessor. Finally, at least 0.16m of S.2, a coarse-textured, somewhat hard-compacted (less so than S.3), yellow-brown soil, was laid down in TS. 1. Stratum 2 was only revealed on the east side of the trench, its base, and relationship with S.3 and 4, were not revealed.

Time Span 2

The portion of Str. 306-78-1st uncovered in Subop.306AI consists of a 0.54-0.61m-high stone-faced platform defined by poorly preserved stone basal walls on the west (U.1) and east (U.2). The fill retained by these constructions consists of large cobbles set in a brown soil matrix (U.3). The summit seems to have had an earth floor. Extending 1.1m east of U.2 is a 0.55m-high construction bounded by a stone facing on the east (U.4). The fill backing U.4 is identical to that seen in U.3. Given the height of U.4, only 0.06m lower than U.2, and the poor state of Str. 306-78-1st's preservation, it is possible that U.4 is actually the eastern basal wall while U.2 is an earlier iteration of the building's eastern facing.

Overall, Str. 306-78-1st is a stone-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.54-0.61m high and measured 2.76m across east-west. The surviving construction was not sufficiently clear to reconstruct the building's orientation. It may have been extended 1.1m to the east at some point in its construction history. No evidence of a superstructure was found atop the building's earthen-floored summit.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, deposition of S.2 resumed, eventually covering all but the upper-most portions of the platform. Stratum 1, a sandy, loosely compacted, gray-brown, soil 0.08-0.28m thick covers S.2. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from final phase architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-79

Structure 306-79 sits in relative isolation about 50m west/southwest of the site core. The closest surviving buildings are Str. 306-13, 20m to the north and Str. 306-83, 40m to the east. Fully 36m² was cleared here in Subop. 306BP, BT, and BY, revealing all of the edifice's west and east ends along with about one-third of its northern and southern flanks. Digging was

pursued to maximum depths of 0.2m and 1m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively, revealing one construction stage. Investigations at Str. 306-79 were directed by T. Neff and H. Henderson from March 27-April 19, 1990.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.2, 3	-	
3	Str. 306-79-1st	U.1-6	-	-	EPC, LPC
4	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Stratum 4, a 0.19m-thick (minimally) deposit of moderately coarse-textured, light brown to orange soil devoid of artifacts, was revealed in a probe dug into and below Str. 306-79-1st's summit. Digging was not carried deep enough off the building's flanks to encounter this layer.

Time Span 2

Blanketing S.4 by 0.3m is a moderately fine-textured, dark gray sandy silt with small white inclusions (S.3). Stratum 3 was traced for 1.02m north of Str. 306-79-1st and appears for 0.8m south of the building before diving into the base of excavation. Stratum 3 drops 0.42m over 5.2m north-to-south. Artifacts recovered from this level, though relatively few in number, point to a human presence in the area during S.3's deposition.

Covering S.3 is a moderately coarse-textured, yellow-brown sandy silt with small white flecks (S.2). Roughly 0.09m (on the north) and 0.17m (on the south) of this soil was laid down now. The cultural material retrieved from S.2 suggests continued occupation of this locale throughout TS. 2.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-79-1st is a 0.27-0.34m-high platform defined by stone-faced retaining walls on all sides (U.1-4). These facings contain a fill composed of stones set in a moderately coarse-textured, dark brown silty sand (U.6). The platform's summit is surfaced with a pavement composed of small stones (U.5). This space may well have been left open as there is no evidence of foundations or built-in furniture raised atop U.5. Excavations of the summit, however, were restricted to a 1m-wide swath cut across this space. Given that barely 0.07m of soil (S.1, see below) blanketed U.5, however, it is unlikely that major components of a possible superstructure lay hidden from view.

Overall, Str. 306-79-1st measures 4.8x14.75m, stands 0.27-0.34m high, and is aligned

roughly 265 degrees. The summit is paved with small stones and covers 70.8m² of seemingly unobstructed space.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, natural deposition of S.2 resumed, eventually covering all but the highest surviving portions of TS. 3 architecture. Stratum 1, a root-rich, gray, sandy silt, eventually covers S.2 and Str. 306-79-1st by 0.05-0.09m. A very few stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1) were recorded on and around Str. 306-79-1st. The paucity of rocks within F.1 strongly suggests that, whatever form the superstructure might have taken, it did not involve the extensive use of rocks in its construction.

Structure 306-83

Structure 306-83 is off the south side of the western site core plaza, 10m south of Str. 306-17 and 40m east of Str. 306-79. Mapped as a terrace set into a gradual southeast-to-northwest rise, this building was investigated by means of two trenches that ran perpendicular to each other and intersected near their midpoint to form a cross (Subop.306BE). Fully 17m² was excavated in Subop. 306BE distributed across 20 discontinuous 0.5x0.5m pits and a series of 7 1x1m probes sunk in a continuous sequence off the “structure’s” south side. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.5m below modern ground surface. No sign of architecture was recorded in these tests, Str. 306-83 apparently being an extensive trash deposit that accumulated over the top and sides of a natural rise. Investigations here spanned March 30-April 18, 1990 and were directed by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	LCL III, EPC
2	-	-	-	F.1, 2	LPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 2, a light brown to yellow-brown sandy silt with many small white inclusions, underlies most the midden (F.1 and 2) dating to TS. 2. This earth layer was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.19m (nowhere was its base encountered) and slopes up 0.62m over 12.06m south-to-north and, minimally, 0.18m over 6.55m west-to-east before dropping 0.1m across 9.95m east of the summit (S.2 was not uncovered at the west end of Subop. 306BE near the base of the slope). Stratum 2 grades into S.1, a coarse-textured, reddish-brown soil on the summit of the Str. 306-83 rise at the north end of excavations. Stratum 1 was revealed in two probes spaced 1.5m apart, 1.5m north of the northern-most exposure of S.2, and was excavated to a maximum thickness of 0.11m. Stratum 1's base lies beyond our excavation limits. This layer ascends 0.09m over the 2.5m it was traced from south to north.

Time Span 2

Feature 1 is a midden that overlies S.1 and 2, is 0.09-0.5m thick, and extends for at least 16.1m north-south by 22.57m east-west. The numerous artifacts and organic remains, especially shells of *Pachychilus sp.*, that comprise F.1 are set in a dark gray sandy silt matrix that gets progressively thicker and richer in small pebbles moving up slope from south to north. It is not clear if the same increase in depth pertains to the gentler west-to-east rise though the trash deposit does become shallower heading east from its center, dropping from 0.5m to 0.08m thick over 15m in that direction. A lens of reddish-brown sandy silt 0.11-0.17m thick (F.2) was found embedded in the upper portion of F.1 in the east-west transect near the midden's center. The full east-west length of F.2 is not known though it extends at least 0.24m in this direction. Feature 2 may be a localized deposit of distinctively colored trash, possibly including fragments of burnt earth.

The source of F.1 and 2 is likely to have been activities pursued in the western site core immediately to the north.

Structure 306-86

Structure 306-86 is about 98m south of Str. 306-17, which is on the south edge of the western site core plaza. Structure 306-86 is situated within an irregularly arranged group of four extant structures and an equal number of rock concentrations. One of these rock aggregates, Str. 306-84, is 6m to the northwest while Str. 306-87 is 20m to the southeast. Excavations here, conducted in Subop. 306N, uncovered 9.5m² in the course of cutting a 1m-wide trench running east-west across the building. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.64m and 0.81m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively, revealing a single construction phase. The investigation of Str.306-86 was conducted by 2 men, supervised by S. Kane, for seven days in May, 1988.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2, 3	-	
2	Str.306-86-1st	U.1-3	-	F.1	LPC
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.2	

Time Span 1

The first activity at this locus which was revealed in our excavations was the deposition of S.3. This very hard-compacted, coarse-textured, gravel-rich, culturally sterile, red-brown soil was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.34m, its base lying beyond our excavation limits. Stratum 3 runs more-or-less level over the 2.24m east-west distance it was exposed in the eastern end of Subop. 306N and was covered by roughly 0.41m of S.2. Stratum 2 is, a relatively soft-compacted, fine-textured brown soil with numerous small white inclusions.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-86-1st was very poorly preserved. From what remains of the building, it appears to have been faced on the east and west with stone walls 0.3m (U.1, on the east) and 0.43m high (U.2, on the west). These constructions retained a fill (U.3) composed of a mix of stones and earth, the latter indistinguishable from S.2. The summit was apparently surfaced with earth and, in the area exposed, lacked any built-in features.

Located 3.22m east of, and 0.54m downslope from, Str. 306-86-1st was a complete *incensario* with modeled spikes on its exterior. The vessel was found lying face down. A stone sphere, 0.1m in diameter, was recovered 0.1m northwest of, and at the same level as, this container. Both artifacts are included in F.1. Though the components of F.1 seem to have suffered little disruption since their deposition, it is unclear how, if at all, they are related to activities pursued on and around Str. 306-86-1st.

Structure 306-86-1st was a 0.3-0.43m-high stone-faced platform that measured 3.72m across east-west and was bounded on the east and west by one basal facing. These walls were not well enough preserved to measure their orientations. The summit has an earthen-floor and there was no sign of built-in furniture. A complete *incensario* and small stone sphere were found 3.22m east of the building and are most likely contemporary with Str. 306-86-1st's period of use. Whether these items were actually employed by those living in the edifice is unclear.

Time Span 3

After Str. 306-86-1st was abandoned, deposition of S.2 resumed, covering all but the uppermost construction stones. This layer, in turn, was blanketed by S.1, a very hard-compacted, gray-brown soil with many included small white flecks. Over Str. 306-86-1st's summit S.1 is considerably softer and richer in ash than it is to the east. This distinction may point to intense burning atop the building at some point in the recent past. Stratum 1 is 0.02-0.26m thick, reaching its greatest depths atop the platform. A moderately dense concentration of stone tumbled from final-phase architecture was found for about 0.5m east of U.1 embedded in the upper portion of S.2.

Structure 306-105

Structure 306-105, the tallest surviving building at the site, is in the approximate center of a dense agglomeration of buildings lying immediately east of the site core. Structure 306-110 is 1.5m to the north, Structure 306-106 is less than a meter to the southwest, while Str. 306-104 lies 2m to the east. It may be that Str. 306-105, at one point in its history, closed off the north side of a plaza defined by Strs. 306-104 and 306-107 on the east and west, respectively; the south side of this plaza was apparently left open. Later, the area around the edifice was filled in with constructions the dense packing of which obscured any earlier efforts at creating a patio-focused structure arrangement.

Digging here began in 1988 when 6m² were cleared with Subop. 306E. More extensive excavations were pursued during 1990 within Subop. 306V. The latter involved clearing back and deepening a looter's trench that cut across Str. 306-105 north-south. Fully 20m² was cleared in the course of the 1990 work revealing at least four construction phases (26m² were uncovered

on and around Str. 106-105 in all). Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 1.04m and 2.96m outside and within architecture, respectively. All work in Subop. 306V was conducted from February 5-April 2, 1990 under the direction of V. Clark whereas S. Kane oversaw the 1988 field work.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4-5	-	LCL II/I
2	Str. 306-105-3rd	U.1-5	-	F.2	LCL III
3	Str. 306-105-2nd	U.6, 7, 9	-	-	LCL III
4	Str. 306-105-1st	U.8-12	-	-	LCL III/EPC
5	Str. 306-105-1st	U.13, 14	-	-	LCL III/EPC
6	-	-	S.1-3	F.1	

Time Span 1

Prior to construction a hard-compacted, orange-brown clay with numerous small white inclusions (S.5) was laid down. Stratum 5 is culturally sterile, at least 0.48m thick (its base lies beyond excavation limits), and rises 0.1m over 0.8m from north-to-south where it was revealed beneath Str. 306-105's approximate center. This layer was also encountered north of final-phase construction where it ran more-or-less flat for 1.2m. By this point S.5 had dropped 0.12m across 7.8m south-to-north. On the south, S.5 drops 1m over 8.54m from its highest registered point beneath the platform's approximate center. Stratum 5, therefore, defines a low eminence, the ground rising from both the south and north towards its summit beneath Str. 306-105.

Blanketing S.5 is S.4, a 0.08-0.19m thick deposit of loosely compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown soil with many white inclusions. Stratum 4 drops 0.15m over 9.02m from where it is exposed under the building to the northern end of excavations; the layer was not encountered south of construction. Artifacts recovered from S.4 indicate occupation on this spot prior to the erection of Str. 306-105-3rd. Stratum 4 may have been introduced to level out the terrain prior to construction of Str. 306-105-3rd or could as easily have been naturally introduced before that event.

Time Span 2

It is difficult to reconstruct Str. 306-105-3rd's form and dimensions from the limited exposures revealed in the few deep probes sunk into the platform. A 0.54m-high wall (U.1) encountered in the deepest sounding may be the southern face of a terrace that ascended Str. 306-105-3rd's south flank. Unit 1 is made of unmodified cobbles set in three clear courses, runs at an

orientation of 134 degrees, and rests on S.4. A stone floor located at the southern base of U.1 may extend for at least 0.4m further south, continuing beyond excavation limits in this direction. Unfortunately, this area was disturbed by the digging of the looter's trench and it is unclear whether this pavement exists and, if so, how it is related to U.1 (both elements are currently included in U.1).

Unit 2, a 0.05m thick, hard-packed, earthen floor, was traced for 2.67m north from the northern revealed margin of U.1. This floor is a light orange in color and is covered by a 0.01-0.02m thick layer of ash (F.2). The floor's color and association with ash suggest that it was subject to an episode of intense heating. Whether this occurred soon after U.2 was laid down, to harden the floor, or near the end of its use, to terminate it, is unclear. The ash found blanketing U.2 tentatively points to the latter conclusion. Unit 2 seems to have been the floor capping Str. 306-105-3rd's summit.

Rising a preserved 0.17-0.25m above U.2 is a thin (half a centimeter thick) layer of burned earth, orange in color, (U.3) set against a fill composed of fine-textured, light orange silty sand that also seems to have been fired, but to a lesser degree (U.4). The F.2 ash covers U.3 by 0.02m or less. Unit 3 is aligned roughly 134 degrees.

A pit, 0.4m in diameter (U.5), penetrates the U.2 floor. Unit 5 is 0.32m deep, has relatively straight, very smooth sides and shows signs of intense burning. The pit's west side intersects the U.3 wall, interrupting the line of U.3 for 0.14m. It appears, therefore, that U.1-5 are all roughly contemporary.

By TS. 2's conclusion, Str. 306-105-3rd stood at least 0.54m high, was oriented 134 degrees, and had an earthen-floored summit covering, minimally, 2.67m north-south. This surface apparently supported a superstructure that included at least one earthen wall. No signs of any stone foundations for this wall were noted. Set into the summit floor is a pit 0.4m in diameter and 0.32m deep. The pit, summit wall, and floor seem to have been fired, though whether in preparation for use or celebration of their termination is unknown. The ash blanketing both the floor and wall suggests the second interpretation though the pit may have been a locus of burning during much of Str. 306-105-3rd's occupation.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-105-2nd was initiated with the burying of U.3 by 0.17-0.25m of U.9, a hard-compacted, moderately coarse-textured, light brown soil. Built atop this fill is U.6, a 0.54m-high wall made of unmodified cobbles set in four courses and traced for 2.1m on an alignment of 141 degrees. The southern end of this wall may have been truncated when the looter's trench was dug.

The southern flank of Str. 306-105-2nd is defined by U.7, a wall that is 0.7m wide, fashioned of unmodified cobbles set in at least 4 courses, and oriented 145 degrees. Unit 7 stood minimally 1m high though its base was not revealed.

Too little of Str. 306-105-2nd was uncovered to infer much about its form and dimensions. It was apparently a stone-faced, earth-filled platform approximately 1m high and aligned between 144 and 145 degrees. The summit supported at least one tall stone wall that likely separated, minimally, two earthen-floored rooms, one on the northeast and the other to the southwest. Unlike its predecessor, there is no evidence that the summit surface was burned.

Time Span 4

The next phase saw the continued deposition of U.9, blanketing Str. 306-105-2nd's summit by roughly 1.14m. Unit 9, in this iteration, contains numerous flat-lying stones, some of which are quite large. The north side of Str. 306-105-1st's summit is delimited by U.10, a wall which is about 0.75m wide and made of unmodified cobbles. The base of this construction was not revealed nor is it clear whether U.10 is fronted by terraces on this side or if it rises in one steep ascent to the summit. *If* U.10 rose above S.4, as did earlier versions of Str. 306-105, then this wall was preserved to an estimated height of 1.5m. Given that at least 0.4m of U.9 fill rises above U.10's preserved top, it is likely that the northern wall once stood even higher.

On the south, there are at least two terraces (U.11 and 12) leading to a step-up to the summit (U.8). The lowest southern terrace revealed in Subop. 306V is U.12, a stone-faced construction estimated to be 0.56m tall by 1.2m wide. Unit 12 sits well up on Str. 306-105-1st's south flank and it is likely that another, lower, terrace lies uncovered further south. Unfortunately, time did not permit further investigation of this area. Unit 12, in turn, is succeeded by U.11 whose stone-faced riser ascends 0.5m and its tread is 1.4m across. Unit 8, a 0.2m-high by 0.44m-wide stone wall, defines the southern border of the summit. As was the case with U.10, U.8 probably once stood 0.64m higher to contain the U.9 fill to the north. Units 8 and 10 bound a space 7.2m across with no apparent internal dividers. No formal floor was identified on the summit.

Structure 306-105-1st, by the end of TS. 4, stood an estimated 1.9m high (possibly taller on the south), measured 11.2m across, and was oriented approximately 67 degrees. At least two terraces mounted the building's south flank while, on the north it may have been delimited by a single vertical ascent. We cannot rule out the possibility that additional terraces lie buried on both the north and south flanks. This would make Str. 306-105-1st somewhat wider than indicated above. The summit seems to have had an earthen floor and was extensive, encompassing 7.2m north-south.

Time Span 5

Two constructions were added to Str. 306-105-1st's south face during this interval (U.13 and 14). Unit 13 is a low wall built of river cobbles set on end located 1.14m south of, and about 0.6m below, U.12. This construction may be a late facing for the southern basal terrace, extending Str. 306-105-1st 1.14m in this direction. Said southern terrace may lie undetected, buried somewhere behind (north of) U.13. Unit 14 is a 0.24m-high wall whose southern face is 0.75m south of U.8. This construction, also built of cobbles set on end, seems to have been designed to broaden U.8, the southern step-up, while simultaneously narrowing the width of the U.11 terrace. No changes in the edifice's orientation were noted for this interval.

Str. 306-105-1st still stood about 1.9m high and was aligned 67 degrees, though it may have measured as much as 12.34m across-north-south with the addition of U.13. Unit 12's construction broadened the southern summit wall to 1.19m while narrowing the U.11 terrace to 0.65m.

Time Span 6

Following abandonment, Str. 306-105-1st's south and north flanks were covered by as much as 0.42m of S.2, a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, dark brown soil. This layer,

in turn, was blanketed by 014-0.23m of S.1, a moderately soft-compacted, moderately fine textured, dark brown, root-rich soil. Both S.1 and 2 are not found over the building's summit where U.9 continues up to modern ground level. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 is particularly dense in areas adjacent to construction, thinning out somewhat to the north and south.

Structure 306-106

Structure 306-106 is less than a meter southwest of Str. 306-105 in the midst of the dense aggregate of buildings spreading east from the site core. Digging here, conducted in Subp. 306W and 306AO, uncovered ca. 50m2 and reached maximum depths of 0.56m and 1.2m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. Two major construction stages were revealed in the course of this work which was conducted from February 5-March 15, 1990 under the direction of V. Clark.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	Str. 306-106-2nd	U.1-2	-	-	LCL III/II, I
3		-	-	F.2, 3	LCL III/II
4	Str. 306-106-1st	U.3-20	-	F.4	LCL III, EPC
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to at this locale is the natural deposition of S.3, a hard-compacted, yellow-orange clay with white inclusions. Stratum 3 was pursued for 0.05m in depth before excavation ceased, its base remaining undiscovered. No cultural material was recovered from this layer, a result repeated in other portions of Site 306 where a similar clay was encountered.

Time Span 2

Two segments of Str. 306-106-2nd were uncovered (U.1 and 2). Unit 1 is a wall 0.46m high and consisting of 4-5 courses of unmodified river cobbles the spaces between which are filled with chinking stones. Located immediately beneath U.7, U.1 extends down to S.3. Unit 2 interdigitates with U.1 on the east, is covered by U.10, stands 0.6m high, and is fashioned of unmodified cobbles. Like its eastern neighbor, U.2 sits just on S.3. It is unclear what Str.306-106-2nd looked like. It could be that U.1 and 2 are east and north foundations, respectively, for a

relatively small, earthen-floored, surface-level building that was later used as a foundation for the more substantial Str. 306-106-1st. If so, the compartment defined by U.1 and 2 covers roughly 1.24x1.3m and is oriented approximately 336 degrees.

Time Span 3

A trash deposit (F.2 and 3) was laid down within the space defined by U.1 and 2 as well as beneath most TS. 4 construction. At its deepest exposed extent under U.7 in the center of the building, F.2 and 3 are 0.5m thick. In this location, F.3 is a soft, fine-textured, tan ashy soil with numerous included artifacts. It rests directly on S.3 and is 0.4m thick. Overlying F.3 is a very similar soil distinguished by its dark brown color and lesser amounts of ash (F.2). Feature 2 is the foundation for much of Str. 306-106-1st and was found extending north of construction for 1.06m (digging was not carried deep enough on the south to test for F.2 here). The thickness of the F.2/3 deposit and its apparent use as fill terminating the use of Str. 306-106-2nd suggests that this trash was purposefully introduced to level off the area where Str. 306-106-1st would be raised.

Time Span 4

Structure 306-106-1st is a low platform bounded by stone basal facings on all sides (U.3-6). These walls are preserved 0.38-0.65m high, are 0.5-0.8m wide, and retain an earthen fill (U.19). At 0.6-1.14m northwest of the interior junction between the southeast and northeast basal walls (U.3 and 6, respectively) a change in construction suggests that an earlier door had been filled in. This 0.54m-wide passage would have provided a side entrance into the northeast room (see below) and may well suggest that Str. 306-106-1st began its use-life as a surface-level building. Later, the door was sealed as the edifice was filled in and converted into a platform. Insufficient evidence for this presumed earlier version of the building was found to warrant the creation of a separate time span.

A 0.1m-high terrace (U.15) runs across the entire southeast face of the building. This construction is 0.6-0.7m wide (narrowing from southwest to northeast) and abuts the platform's east corner while wrapping around its southern corner. In the latter case, U.15 extends for 1.76m northwest of the south corner.

The summit consists of three rooms set in a northeast-southeast line over the building's southeastern half backed by a larger enclosure on the northwest. The southeastern compartments measure 1.3x2m, 1.3x1.9m, and 1.2x1.9m from northeast to southwest. The central enclosure of the triad has a 0.35m-high by 0.53m-wide (northwest-southeast) stone-faced and -surfaced shelf (U.10) built against its northwest wall. U.10, therefore, is 1.3m long northeast-southwest and its base sits directly atop U.2. The walls separating these three rooms are low stone foundations 0.34-0.4m wide (U.7 and 8). Unit 7, which divides the northeastern and central compartments, was set directly atop U.1. The southwestern room of the three is surfaced with a stone floor (U.14) while its two compatriots have earthen surfaces.

The larger, earthen-floored northwest room encompasses 2.1x3.52m, most of which is taken up by a ca. 0.25m-high stone-faced, earthen-surfaced L-shaped bench (U.11 and 12). Unit 11 is the shorter, southeastern projection of the "L," set against the room's southwest wall and measuring 0.5m long southeast-northwest. Unit 12, in turn, is the L's longer stem, extending 2.22m southwest-northeast from its junction with U.11. Unit 12 terminates in a low wall (U.13)

on the northeast. Unit 13 defines the southwest side of a small enclosure, sealed off by U. 5, 6, and a 0.52m-wide northwest extension of U.9. This cubicle covers 0.48x1.44m and may have only been accessible from the bench.

There are several additions to Str. 306-106-1st. Unit 16 is a 0.1m-high (minimally) by 0.44m-wide wall that runs for at least 1.36m southeast from the east corner of the U.15 terrace (its southeastern end was not located). The architectural significance of U.16 is unclear—it may be the southwest foundation of an earthen-floored surface-level room that extends into unexcavated areas to the northeast.

On the northwest, U.18 is a stone floor extending 0.2m northwest of the building and running 1.3m southwest from the platform's north corner along the face of U.5, the northwest basal wall. Bounding U.18 on the southwest is a 0.34m-high stone wall (U.20) that projects 1.1m northwest from U.5. Another low wall, U.17, extends minimally 0.41m northeast from U.6, the northeast basal facing (U.17's northeast end was not exposed). Unit 17 is 1.3m across, running from the building's north corner to the southeast along the face of U.6, the northeast basal platform facing. Unit 17 may have defined the northwest side of a surface-level room built against Str. 306-106-1st's U.6.

Approximately 0.45m southeast of the U.15 terrace is a roughly rectangular space bounded by vertically emplaced river cobbles and a schist slab (F.4). The earthen-floored area bounded by these rocks measures 0.64m northwest-southeast by 0.78m northeast-southwest and contains a dense concentration of large sherds, most of which seem to have come from a sizable vessel. Feature 4 may have been a support or storage space for this container.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 306-106-1st was a platform probably standing about 0.6m high, covering 5.6x5.7m, and aligned 337 degrees. Its superstructure contained five rooms of varying sizes. Three were arrayed in a line across its southeast side, each one covering 2.6m², 2.5m², and 2.3m² from northeast to southwest. The central of these enclosures had a 0.35m-high by 0.53m-wide stone-faced and -surfaced shelf built against its northwest wall while the southwestern compartment was surfaced with stones; the remaining floors in all of the rooms were earthen. On the northwest there were two rooms of markedly different sizes. The larger compartment encompasses a commodious 7.4m² and contains an extensive, 0.25m-high stone-faced, L-shaped bench. Immediately to its northeast of the bench is a diminutive cubicle covering 0.7m². This compartment could only be reached from the larger neighboring room, probably from the bench. A narrow stone floor was later added to the structure's northwest flank while what seem to be surface-level rooms and one stone-lined storage container appeared off the platform's flanks.

Near the end of Str. 306-106-1st's occupation sequence, possibly after the building was abandoned, a burial (F.5) was placed in the south corner of the northeast summit room. This interment rested at a level equivalent to the enclosure's earthen floor and was covered by earth relatively rich in artifacts. It may be that a burial was intruded into the decaying remnants of the platform, additional trash-rich earth being heaped in to cover the body.

Time Span 5

Following abandonment, Str. 306-106-1st was blanketed by S.1 and 2. Stratum 2 is a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown soil with small white flecks that is as much as 0.36m thick. Artifact density here was considerably lower than that noted in F.2 and 3. Stratum 1, a loosely compacted, moderately coarse-textured, root-rich, dark brown soil,

blankets S.2 by as much as 0.14m. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-110

Structure 306-110 is part of the dense concentration of buildings directly east of the Site 306 site core of which Str. 306-105 seems to be the center. The latter building is 1.5m south of Str. 306-110 while Str. 306-111 lies 3m to the north connected to Str. 306-110 by what looked on the surface to be a low “saddle,” or raised construction. Fully 85m² was cleared here in Subop. 306Y and AN from February 5-April 3, 1990 under the direction of S. Connell. Digging in these Suboperations. was pursued to maximum depths of 0.73 and 0.67m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. Three building phases were recognized in the course of this work.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Str. 306-110-Sub1	U.12	-	-	LCL II, I, LPrecl
2	-	-	S.2, 3	F.2	LCL III
3	Str. 306-110-2nd	U.1, 2	-	-	LCL III
4	Str. 306-110-1st	U.3-11, 21	-	-	LCL III
5	Str. 306-110-1st	U.13-20	-	-	LCL III/EPC, LPC?
6	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

A 0.14m-high stone wall (U.12) was found extending 1.45m north of Str. 306-110-1st’s north basal terrace (U.11) and lying about 0.05m beneath the TS. 4 architecture revealed in its immediate vicinity. Unit 12 is 0.6-0.85m wide, expanding to the north, and is aligned roughly 350 degrees. The architectural significance of this entity within Str. 306-110-Sub1 is unclear; the wall’s low height, if not the product of later stone removal, hints at its use within a surface-level building as a foundation for perishable upper construction.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-110-Sub1 was covered by the natural deposition of a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, light brown soil (S.3). Stratum 3 was only revealed north of exposed architecture where it was at least 0.36m thick and rose 0.07m over 2.1m north-to-

south (its base lay beyond our excavation limits). Stratum 2, identical to S.3 save for its darker brown hue, was also laid down about this time. This layer is most clearly represented south of Str. 306-110-1st where at least 0.48m of S.2 was deposited now (S.2's base south of construction was not revealed). Stratum 2 ascends 0.78m over 4.96m south-to-north. As architecture integral to Str. 306-110-1st intrudes up to 0.14m into S.2 and 3, it appears that both were deposited at about the same time. In fact, they may well be the same stratum distinguished by slight color variations across its exposed north-south extent. If so, then TS. 3-5 architecture was apparently raised atop a low rise, the ground ascending to a peak somewhere beneath Str. 306-110 from both the north and south.

A midden (F.2), composed of a dense concentration of artifacts set in a moderately hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, yellow-brown soil, was uncovered beneath Str. 306-110-1st's approximate center. Feature 2 is minimally 0.15m thick (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and contains a high concentration of *bajareque* fragments. The relative equivalence of F.2's depth *vis a vis* S.2 and 3, suggests that it may have been deposited about the same time as these soil levels. Feature 2, coupled with the recovery of artifacts, including *bajareque*, from at least S.2, points to human occupation of this spot after Str. 306-110-Sub1's abandonment and prior to the erection of Strs. 306-110-2nd and 306-110-1st.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-110-2nd is represented solely by U.1 and 2. These stone walls cover F.2, survive to 0.33m (U.2) and 0.11m (U.1) high, and run at near right angles to each other (323 degrees for U.2 and 235 degrees for U.1). Though their intersection was not revealed, it appears that U.1 and 2 were oriented in such a way as to form a corner beneath Str. 306-110-1st's south platform wall (U.3). If so, then U.1 and 2 were the southeast and southwest walls, respectively, of a construction later covered by architecture raised during TS. 4 and 5. Whether Str. 306-110-2nd was a surface-level building or a low platform is unclear. The dimensions of the edifice are, minimally, 2m on a side.

Time Span 4

Structure 306-110-1st's core during this period consists of an earth-filled (U.7) platform roughly 0.5m high and bounded by stone-facings on all sides (U.3-6). All corners are direct save the southeast which is inset 0.2m. The earthen-floored summit encompasses 1.7x3.3m. A 0.3m-high stone-faced bench (U.21) takes up the entirety of the summit's west wall. This construction is 1.7m long north-south by 0.95m wide.

Two stone-faced terraces, U.8 and 11, front the platform on the north. Unit 11, the northern-most example, is 0.1m high above S.2 and 0.44m wide. The next ascending riser, U.8, is 0.17m high and 0.56m wide, ending in a 0.33m high ascent to the summit (U.5, the core platform's north basal facing, delimits the summit on this side). Units 8 and 11 run the full length of the building's north side, U.11 wrapping around the core platform's northeast and northwest corners and intersecting its east and western basal walls (U.4 and 6) 0.5m and 0.4m south of those corners, respectively.

A similar situation pertains on the south where two stone-faced terraces are also found (U.9 and 10). Unit 9 fronts the entirety of the core platform's south side, running back to junction with its southeast and southwest corners. Unit 10 intersects U.9's southwest corner but

stops 0.45m west of its southeast corner, thus creating an inset corner measuring 0.45m east-west by 0.48m north-south. Unit 10 is 0.22m high by 0.45m wide while U.9 rises 0.06m and measures 0.77m across. The southern terrace system ends in a 0.16m-high ascent to the summit marked by U.3, the core platform's southern basal wall.

By TS. 4's conclusion, Str. 306-110-1st stood about 0.5m high, measured 4.25m east-west by 5.2m north-south, and was aligned roughly 77 degrees. What remained of Str. 306-110-2nd was buried beneath the hard-compacted, moderately coarse textured, dark brown earth of Str. 306-110-1st's fill (U.7). Two low terraces mounted the building on the north and south, ascending to an earthen-floored summit room covering 5.7m². A 0.3m-high stone-faced bench filled the superstructure's western wall, measuring 1.7m long by 0.95m across.

Time Span 5

During this interval Str. 306-110-1st retained its basic form and orientation from TS. 4. The principal changes consisted of additions made to the edifice's south and west flanks. Unit 20, which abuts the southern basal terrace, U.10, is an irregularly shaped construction covering 2.1x3.9m (measured across the center) and made-up of tightly packed unmodified stone slabs set vertically in 12 lines that, on average, stand 0.15m tall. Another construction composed of rocks set on end (U.13) was appended to the core platform's west side. Unit 13 is 0.2m high and built against U.6, the platform's west basal wall. Unit 13 intersects U.11, the northern basal terrace, and extends 3.2m south en route to joining with the west end of U.10, the southern terrace. Vertically set stones define U.13's western perimeter and are backed to the east by an earth fill (included here in U.13). Overall, this construction covers 3.2m north-south by 0.9m east-west. The southern 0.9m of U.13 incorporates U.14, a block of stones set on end measuring 1m east-west. Unit 14 consists of 4-5 lines of stones tightly packed together. Running 1.1m west of U.13 is U.15, a 0.12m-high, 2.05m-long (north-south) construction composed, yet again, of tightly packed rows of stones set vertically. Unit 15 intersects U.13's southwest corner and extends north from there, junctioning with U.13, 1.15m south of its northwest corner. An L-shaped area of open earth exists within the body of U.15. This rock-free zone measures 0.3mx1.25m along its north-south running stem and 0.5x0.65m on its east-west leg which ends at U.13 on the east.

Lying ca. 0.2m west of U.15 is a 0.2m-wide wall (U.17) fashioned of stones set on end. Unit 17 is 1.6m long north-south and runs more-or-less parallel with U.15. Unit 16, in turn, extends 2.7m west of U.17's south end, intersecting the latter at nearly a right angle. Unit 16 widens from 0.2-0.4m as it trends east-to-west but, unlike U.17, is a casual construction composed of rocks laid flat.

Approximately 2.55m south of U.17 is a 0.15m-high, 0.15m-wide wall made of horizontally-laid, unmodified rocks (U.18). Unit 18 roughly parallels U.16 and was traced for 4.1m east-to-west before excavation ceased (the wall likely continues further west beyond our excavation limits). A dense concentration of artifacts, mostly pottery sherds, littered the earthen floor delimited by U.16 and 18 on the north and south, respectively. On the east, U.18 intersects U.19 near the latter's mid-section. Unit 19 is a 1.1m-long (north-south) wall that is 0.35m wide. Composed of unmodified, flat-laid rocks and standing about 0.2m high, U.19 is roughly parallel to, and 0.65m west of, U.20. Units 16-19 are likely foundations for an earthen-floored, surface-level room built off Str. 306-110-1st's southwest corner. This spacious enclosure covers 2.55m north-south by ca. 5.2m east-west. The 0.75m separating U.19 from U.10 in the compartment's northeast corner may have been one passageway into this room.

Overall, Str. 306-110-1st now had three blocks composed of tightly packed rows of vertically-set stones built against its south (U.20) and west sides (U.14 and 15). These constructions encompass a total area of 10.2m². A 3.2m long (north-south) by 0.9m wide terrace faced with vertically set stones was also added to the building's west flank (U.13). These additions expanded Str. 306-110-1st's maximum basal dimensions to 5.25x7.25m. Just beyond these additions a large (ca. 13.3m²) earthen-floored, surface-level room bounded by stone foundations was erected (U.16-19). People using this enclosure would have had immediate access to two of the newly built stone blocks (U.14 and 15 bound the room on the north) and could have easily reached the most extensive of these constructions, U.20, 0.65m to the east, through a door in the compartment's northeast corner.

Time Span 6

Following abandonment, S.2 was deposited against and over the platform's north flank. This soil blankets S.3 by 0.17-0.22m. Overlying S.2 by as much as 0.16m on all sides of the edifice is S.1, a loosely compacted, moderately fine-textured, root-rich, dark brown soil. Stratum 1 also covers all but the upper-most stones from extant architecture. Embedded in S.1 and S.2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-121

Structure 306-121 is 3m east of Str. 306-123 (on the site core's east margin) and 40m west of Str. 306-105. Digging here within Subop. 306X, AF, AQ, and BD cleared ca. 50m² from February 5-March 29, 1990 under the direction of S. Connell. Excavations that were pursued to maximum depths of 1.22m and 1.43m outside and within architecture, respectively, revealed two major construction phases.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	?
2	-	-	S.2	-	LCL I, II
3	-	-	-	F.3	LCL III/II
4	Str. 306-121-1st	U.1-8, 12	S.2?	-	LCL III
5	Str. 306-121-1st	U.9-11	-	-	LCL III
6	Str. 306-121-Sub1	U.13-16	-	F.2, 4	III/EPC, LPC?
7	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Natural deposition of S.3, a moderately coarse-textured, light brown soil devoid of cultural material, is the earliest activity identified in this locale. Stratum 3 is at least 0.31m thick (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and runs more-or-less flat over the 8.72m east-west it was uncovered in two discontinuous segments. Stratum 3 was seemingly truncated 1.4m west of its eastern-most exposed end, 1.24m east of U.13. Whether this was due to natural or cultural forces is uncertain.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2, a moderately fine-textured, light brown soil with a few included artifacts, blankets S.3 by 0.16-0.26m on the east where the stratigraphic relation between the two layers is clearest. Further west (immediately east of Str. 306-121-1st's eastern core platform facing) S.2 is at least 0.34m thick. Here excavations were not carried deep enough to encounter S.3. Stratum 2 ascends 0.24m over 13.1m east-to-west. The presence of at least a few artifacts in S.2 signals human occupation nearby during its deposition.

Time Span 3

Sealing S.2 east of TS. 4-6 construction and S.3 under that architecture is a layer of densely packed artifacts set in a moderately fine-textured brown soil (F.3). Feature 3 is 0.22-0.34m thick, extends for at least 10m west-to-east, and is not associated with any uncovered architecture. The dimensions of this midden imply that it was the outcome of fairly intense occupation in the area. Feature 3 might also represent fill deposited to prepare the terrain for Str. 306-121-1st's construction.

A segment of S.2 overlies F.3 by 0.06-0.17m directly beneath Str. 306-121-1st's core platform. It does not appear that this manifestation of S.2 marks a direct continuation of the layer's natural deposition if only because it blankets F.3 which, to the east, covers the portion of S.2 laid down during TS.2. It may be that the segment of S.2 revealed beneath Str. 306-121-1st was purposefully introduced to seal F.3 and further level the area where the latter construction would be raised during TS.4.

Time Span 4

Structure 306-121-1st's core platform is an earth-filled (U.12) construction standing 0.6-0.66m above F.3 and bounded by stone retaining walls (U.1-4). The area delimited by U.1-4 is 3.2x4.7m. The core platform's earthen-floored summit appears to have been featureless.

Fronting the platform on the north is a 2.06m-wide, 0.12m-high, stone-faced terrace (U.6 defines its north face). Unit 6 runs 5.6m east-west and extends back on the west (U.5) and east (U.8) to intersect the core platform's northwest and northeast corners. That the northern terrace is slightly longer than the core platform means that the former's east and west flanks extend slightly beyond the platform's corners. The northern terrace supports at least one room on its west edge. Bounded by a low, 0.2m-wide stone foundation on the east (U.7), Unit 6 on the north, U.5 on the west, and U.3, the platform's north basal facing, on the south, this enclosure covers 1.45m on a side. Later construction (U.9) obscures any other architecture that might have

graced this terrace. If the area east of U.7 were left open this would have resulted in a compartment encompassing 1.45x2.95m. It is at least equally likely, however, that Str. 306-121-1st, like Str. 306-106-1st, was fronted by three rooms set in a line and backed by a larger enclosure, in this case the summit room. Any signs of those elusive second and third rooms to the east of U.7, however, lie beneath U.9.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 306-121-1st's core platform stood 0.6-0.66m high, measured 3.2x4.7m (15m²), and was oriented roughly 255 degrees. Its featureless earthen summit room encompassed 1.85x3m. Extending 2.06m north of the platform is a 0.12m-high, stone-faced terrace that covers 5.6m east-west. At least two rooms were located atop the terrace; the western-most example is the most clearly defined and encompasses 2.1m². If only one compartment lay to the east it would have covered 4.3m², though there is a good possibility that there were two rooms extending in a line east from the western enclosure. The total area covered by Str. 306-121-1st at this point was 26.6m².

Time Span 5

During this interval the northern terrace was expanded 0.57m further in this direction by the addition of a new northern facing (U.10). The original height and orientation of the terrace were preserved. Later still, a block of stones, 0.5m on a side (U.11), was added to U.10's east end. Unit 11 continued the line of U.10's north face, extending that line past the terrace's earlier east face (U.8).

At some point in this sequence U.9, a set of two stone-faced steps, was appended to U.3, the northern basal facing of the core platform. Unit 9 projects 2.1m north onto the terrace from a point slightly east of U.3's approximate center and is 1.55m across east-west. The northern-most step rises 0.28m and is 0.86m wide while the next ascending riser is 0.24m high and its tread runs back 1.24m to U.3. The latter wall sticks up 0.07m above U.9. As noted earlier, U.9 would have been built over any TS.4 construction that originally was raised atop the northern terrace. Whether three rooms originally occupied the northern terrace during TS.4, the effect of U.9's construction was to create a tripartite division of that area. The central stairs encompassed 3.3m² and were flanked by the original western room (encompassing 2.1m²) and a space to the east measuring 1.4m by 1.05m (1.5m²).

Structure 306-121-1st retained much of its original form, dimensions, and orientation from TS. 4. The major changes instituted now were: a slight (0.57m wide) northward expansion of the northern terrace; a 0.5m long and wide addition to that terrace's east end; and the raising of two stone-faced steps atop the northern terrace that led to the core platform's featureless earthen-floored summit. The latter construction resulted in the creation of a tripartite division of space atop the northern terrace, three distinct spaces set in an east-west line. These spaces measure, from west to east, 2.1m², 3.3m² (the central steps), and 1.5m².

Time Span 6

Following Str. 306-121-1st's abandonment as much as 0.55m of loosely compacted, moderately fine-textured, brown soil with numerous included artifacts (F.2) accumulated against the core platform. Feature 2 extends at least 3.5m west of the platform and 1.6m to the east where it runs up against U.13. The stratigraphic position of F.2 indicates that this midden was laid down after Str. 306-121-1st was no longer in occupied but while Str. 306-121-Sub1 was in

use.

The architectural features glossed as Str. 306-121-Sub1 comprise the western flank of a surface-level building lying immediately east of Str. 306-121-1st. Its foundations are casually fashioned of unmodified stones and are about 0.25m high by 0.55-0.8m wide (U.13-16). Portions of at least two earthen-floored enclosures were exposed. On the south, the space delimited by U.13 and 14 encompasses 1.65m east-west by at least 1m north-south--the room continued south of our excavations for an undetermined distance. Unit 4, the core platform's western basal facing, forms the compartment's west side. Immediately to the north, U.13, 15, and 16 form the southern, western, and northern boundaries, respectively, of an earthen-floored room measuring 2.6m north-south by 0.7m, minimally, east west. Unit 16 is only 0.7m long east-west but we cannot say whether its eastern terminus marks the end of the room or the west side of a door that breaches the northern foundation.

Overall, the exposed portions of Str. 306-121-Sub1 reveal that it was a surface-level building composed of at least two earthen-floored rooms one on the south (1.65m²+) and the other to the north (1.8m²+). The uncovered portions of the building measure 2.5m east-west by 4.9m north-south and are oriented very roughly 344 degrees. During Str. 306-121-Sub1's occupation a considerable quantity of cultural material (F.2) accumulated within and outside the enclosures. The southern room, in fact, seems to have been completely filled in with F.2, possibly suggesting that it had become a trash receptacle by the end of its use-life. Feature 2 is, however, also found outside, and extending away from, TS. 6 construction (it runs at 0.04-0.26m thick for at least 2.74m beyond (east of) U.13, resting at or near that construction's base). It may be, therefore, that F.2 was deposited over a protracted span, the trash outside the walls resulting from activities conducted within Str. 306-121-Sub 1's rooms. The debris deposited in those compartments might then have derived from other locations and was dumped here as the building, or portions of it, gradually fell out of use.

Possibly occurring at this time was the interment of an individual (F.4) into what had been the room that occupied the core platform's summit. Feature 4 was about 0.1m above the tops of U.1-4, suggesting that it was introduced after Str. 306-121-1st had been abandoned for some time. No grave goods or other temporally diagnostic artifacts were found associated with these remains.

Time Span 7

After Str. 306-121-Sub1's abandonment all still-visible construction and exposed portions of F.2 were covered by 0.07-0.39m of S.1, a loosely compacted, moderately fine-textured, root-rich brown soil. Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense scatter of stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-123

Structure 306-123 is a long, low construction that delimits the east side of the eastern plaza in the site core. On the surface, the building is about 20m long north-south by 8m wide east west and is ca. 9m south of Str. 306-120 which defines the plaza's northeast corner. Structure 306-123 is linked by surface-visible construction to Str. 306-128 on the south. A trench, Subop 306C, was dug into the building's west, patio-facing over the course of four days in May, 1988 under the direction of S. Kane. Work resumed here in 1990 when Subop. 306BH

was excavated into the building's east flank from March 22-23, this time supervised by H. Henderson and T. Neff. Fully 8.2m² was excavated here in 1988 and 1990 combined, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 0.74m and 0.88m below modern ground surface outside and within final-phase architecture, respectively.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.1-3	-	LCL III/EPC
3	Str. 306-123-1st	U.1-5	-	-	LPC
4	-	-	S.1	-	

Time Span 1

Deposition of S.4, a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, orange-brown soil devoid of cultural material, began the known sequence of activities at this locale. Stratum 4 was encountered in a deep probe east of Str. 306-123-1st where it was at least 0.17m thick and ran more-or-less level over the 0.84 east-west distance it was exposed (S.4's base lies beyond excavation limits). The absence of cultural materials in S.4 points to a comparable lack of human habitation in the immediate area while this soil as being laid down.

Time Span 2

This interval witnessed the deposition of 0.18-0.22m of S.3 over S.4. Stratum 3 is a moderately hard-compacted, moderately coarse-textured, tan soil with some included artifacts. This layer was only exposed in the deep test dug east of Str. 306-123-1st. East of construction, 0.14-0.25m of S.2, a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown-gray soil blankets S.3. On the west, at least 0.44m of this soil was laid down now, though its base on this side was not encountered. Stratum 2 slopes up gradually and irregularly from west to east, rising 0.1m over 3.4m in this direction on the west. On the east it ascends 0.17m over 0.9m from east to west. About 0.22m of S.1, a very similar soil distinguished by its slightly finer texture and looser packing, covers S.2 on the west. Like its antecedent, this portion of S.1 may also have sloped up west-to-east. A small concentration of artifacts, primarily pottery sherds, is embedded in S1, 0.03m above its interface with S.2 on the west and 0.19-0.24m below, and 0.31m west of, U.1. This deposit, along with the other artifacts dispersed throughout S.3, 2, and lower portions of S.1, suggest that the area that would eventually become the eastern site core was occupied prior to the construction of the surface-visible edifices. The changes in elevation noted in S.1-3 also imply that Str. 306-123-1st was raised atop a low rise that ascended gradually from both the east and west to a point somewhere beneath the platform.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-123-1st's west basal facing (U.1) consists of a single course of unmodified stones rising 0.1m high and oriented 352 degrees. On the east a comparably low construction, U.3 (0.08m high), fronts the building. Unit 1 terminates on the north where it seems to run back east towards the main body of the building. It may be that U.1 is the edge of an outset construction, possibly a step. Unit 1 was likely backed by an earthen fill (U.2) indistinguishable from S.1 which underlies and covers the construction. Unit 2 is at least 0.08m thick. On the east, U.3 is backed by a stone surface (included in U.3) that is 0.97m wide east-west. Rising 0.58m above this floor is a wall composed of earth and topped with a single course of unmodified river cobbles (U.4). Unit 4, in turn, is backed by a stone surface (U.5) that extends for at least 2.02m east-west. Unit 5 may not have covered the entirety of Str. 306-123-1st's summit. It stops 0.2m south of the north trench wall in Subop. 306BH, though U.4, the summit wall, extends across the full 1m width of the excavation north-south. Digging was not carried far enough towards the summit on the west to reveal how U.1 might relate to summit construction.

Overall, Str. 306-123-1st is a platform standing 0.64m high (on the east, at least) and oriented 352 degrees. Low stone walls front the building on the east and west, though whereas the eastern example is backed by a 0.97m-wide stone surface its western counterpart is floored with earth. An earthen wall capped with a row of stones ascends to the summit on the east. The latter is surfaced, in part, with flat-laid stones. Too little of the summit was uncovered to say much about superstructure construction. The absence of clear superstructure walls on the east, however, may tentatively imply that much of this raised surface was left open.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment of Str. 306-123-1st, S.1 continued to accumulate eventually covering construction by 0.07-0.34m. Very few stones fallen from final-phase architecture were recorded (F.1), a finding in keeping with the paucity of rocks noted anywhere on this platform. Such limited quantities of fallen debris imply that Str. 306-123-1st's superstructure was not fashioned using large numbers of rocks.

Structure 306-124

Structure 306-124 is on the south side of the eastern site core plaza, 1m east of Str. 306-125 and 10m southwest of Str.306-128. Excavations conducted here in Subop. 306BM exposed ca. 6m² in the course of clearing part of the building's north, patio-facing side. Digging was carried to a maximum depth of 0.37m below modern ground surface outside construction; architectural fill was not probed. One building phase was revealed in the course of these investigations which spanned March 27-29, 1990 and were overseen by T. Neff and H. Henderson.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	

2	Str. 306-124-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LPC
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Stratum 3, a very hard-compacted, reddish-orange soil, underlies TS. 2 construction by at least 0.03m. Excavation ceased when this layer, which elsewhere at Site 306 had consistently been culturally sterile, was reached. Its base, therefore, was not identified.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-124-1st's north side is fronted by a 1.7m-wide stone pavement (U.1). Rising 0.13m above this surface on the south is an earthen wall capped with a line of unmodified stones (U.2). Unit 2 runs back 0.2m where it is succeeded by a 0.23m-high stone wall (U.3) backed on the south by a rock pavement that continues for at least 1.59m in this direction (included in U.3; the south end of this construction was not exposed). The U.3 surface was very jumbled when excavated, possibly due to modern agricultural activities, such as plowing, that were being pursued in the immediate area. Our limited investigations did not uncover any signs of a superstructure atop Str. 306-124-1st. Possibly, the floors recorded here were left open, an interpretation tentatively supported by the paucity of stones fallen from TS. 2 architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-124-1st is a 0.36m-high platform oriented 270 degrees. The edifice is fronted on the northern, patio-facing side by a stone pavement that measures 1.7m across north-south. Rising above this floor on the south is a 0.13m-high earth wall capped with a line of stones. This construction runs back (south) 0.2m before giving way to a 0.23m-high stone facing that defines the summit's north edge. The summit is surfaced, at least in part, with stones and may have been left open.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 306-124-1st was covered up to the top of U.2 by S.2, a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, tan soil with numerous small white inclusions. Stratum 2 is 0.13-0.24m thick and is blanketed, in turn, by S.1, a loosely compacted, fine-textured, root-rich, light gray soil. Stratum 1 covers all but the highest rocks in U.3 and is 0.05-0.22m thick. Very few, widely scattered rocks tumbled from final-phase architecture were found embedded in S.1 (F.1). As noted in the discussion of TS. 2, the dearth of fallen rocks implies that, if Str. 306-124-1st supported a superstructure, it was not made using considerable quantities of stone. Its summit, in fact, may well have been open.

Structure 306-125

Structure 306-125 is on the south side of the eastern plaza of the site core. This building is 1m west of Str. 306-124 and 9m southeast of Str. 306-26. Digging here within Subop. 306AK uncovered approximately 37m², excavations being carried down to maximum depths of 0.42m and 0.5m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. One construction phase was reconstructed as the result of this work. Research at Str. 306-125

spanned February 26-March 15, 1990 and was directed by T.Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Str. 306-125-1st	U.1-4	-	F.2, 3	LPC
2	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Structure 306-125-1st is a surface-level building that covers 17m east-west by roughly 2.6m north-south and is oriented 275 degrees. The structure's core consists of a stone floor (U.4) that encompasses 2.6x6.5m and contains two open squares of earth, 3.2m apart, set symmetrically east and west of the building's center-line (F.2 and 3). Feature 3, on the west, covers 0.8x0.9m while its eastern analogue, F.2, encompasses 0.86x0.9m. Feature 2 was excavated and found to be 0.08m deep; there was no formal floor to this entity. The central pavement is flanked on the east and west by stone-faced arms that are nearly exactly the same lengths; 5.2m on the east and 4.9m on the west (all included in U.1). Unit 1 is 0.19m high, averages 0.2m wide, and is fashioned of unmodified river cobbles some of which are laid flat while others are set vertically. On the west U.1 stops 0.35m shy of U.4's northwest corner but is flush with that pavement's north line. The eastern segment of U.1 intersects U.4 at 0.35m south of the floor's northeast corner. Unit 1 may have been a boundary marker. It could also have supported perishable upper construction. In any case, U.1 does not appear to have been a fill-retaining wall.

Excavations on the east revealed a 0.48m-high stone-faced wall (U.2) that is 2.3m east of U.4 and 0.42m south of U.1. Unit 2 forms a stone-faced block measuring 2.85m across east-west and aligned 275 degrees. This construction retains a fill composed of stones set in a brown earth matrix (U.3). The earthen-floored summit capping U.3 continues south for at least 3.22m (its south end was not uncovered). Excavations were not carried far enough south on Str. 306-125-1st's west end to see if the builders' concern for symmetry led them to create a comparable raised block here as well. There is no clear evidence that any part of Str. 306-125-1st was ever surrounded by walls or roofed.

Time Span 2

After abandonment, Str. 306-125-1st was covered by S.1, a moderately coarse-textured, root-rich, brown soil. Embedded in this layer are a very few, widely scattered rocks tumbled from final-phase architecture (F.1). The rarity of fallen stones suggests that Str. 306-125-1st was largely left open or, at least, that walls raised above its floor (U.4) and foundation (U.1) did not include many rocks.

Structure 306-127

Structure 306-127, ca. 77m southeast of the site core, is located in the midst of a dense concentration of buildings that are not arranged around obvious plazas. Structure 306-126 is about 3m to the north and Str. 306-151 is an equivalent distance to the west. This 1m-tall platform was investigated by digging Subop. 306D, a 4.6m-long trench set against Str. 306-127's south flank. A 1m² extension was added to this excavation to follow the basal wall, U.1, out to the east. Fully 5.6m² was exposed here, digging extending to a maximum of 0.39m and 0.58m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. Investigations at Str. 306-127 were conducted during four days in May, 1988 under S. Kane's direction.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 306-127-1st	U.1-5	-	-	LCL III?
3	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

At least 0.07m of S.2, a coarse-textured, hard-compacted, reddish-tan soil with small pebbles and iron concretions, was laid down now. Stratum 2 continues beyond our excavation limits. Not enough of this level was exposed to determine if it contained cultural material.

Time Span 2

Unit 1, Str. 306-127-1st's basal southern construction, is a 0.18m-high stone wall that is aligned 70 degrees. At 0.26m north of this facing a second riser (U.2) stands an estimated 0.32m tall. This ascent is backed by an earth fill (U.5) indistinguishable from S.2 (described under TS. 1). The width of the terrace fronted by U.2 on the south is roughly 2.12m. A 0.3m-high stone construction (U.3) rests on the terrace 1.58m south of U.2's south face. Unit 3 was only recorded in the east section line and seems to be the west corner of a construction that runs 0.54m back (north) to the stone-faced summit step-up (U.4) and for an indeterminate distance to the east. Unit 4 is 0.3m high by 0.98m wide and apparently marked the south edge of the summit.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 306-127-1st stood 0.8m high, was oriented 70 degrees, and was fronted on the south by two terraces; a low riser 0.26m wide and a much broader and higher second ascending terrace measuring 2.12m across. The summit was bordered by a 0.3m-high by 0.98m-wide wall; the substantial width of this construction unit, greater than would be needed to support perishable upper construction, hints at its use as both foundation and bench. A 0.3m-high construction projects 0.54m south from this summit wall and runs off to the east. All units are fashioned of unmodified stones.

Time Span 3

After abandonment, Str. 306-127-1st was blanketed by continued deposition of S.2. This soil covers U.1 and the base of U.2 before being capped by S.1, a 0.05-0.12m thick layer of

medium-textured, hard-compacted, gray-brown root-rich soil. Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 are a few scattered rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1). These stones are dispersed across the platform's top and off its southern flank.

Structure 306-128

Structure 306-128 is a long, range structure that defines the east side of the eastern site-core plaza. Structure 306-123 is connected to Str. 306-128 by surface-visible construction on the latter's north side while Str. 306-124 is 10m to the southwest. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 306AJ consisted of a trench that extended across the approximate center of the building east-to-west and additional probes sunk to the north of the axial cut. Fully 18m² were uncovered in the course of this work, digging being carried down to maximum depths of 1.27m and 1.1m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively. A single construction phase was encountered in the course of this work though the building was apparently raised atop an older midden. Excavation of Subop. 306AJ continued from February 2-March 15, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.6	-	
2	-	-	S.3-5	-	LCL II
3	-	-	F.2	-	LCL III
4	-	-	S.2	-	LCL III/EPC
5	Str. 306-128-1st	U.1-5	-	-	LPC
6	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

This interval witnessed the deposition of S.6, a hard-compacted, fine-textured, orange/yellow clay with numerous small white inclusions that is at least 0.49m thick (its base lies beyond our excavation limits). Stratum 6 was only exposed in a 1m² probe dug off Str. 306-128-1st's west side where it ran more-or-less level east-west but ascended 0.4m over 1m north-to-south. Fully 0.36m of that ascent occurs over 0.36m north-south. The steepness of this rise is such that it looks as though S.6 was cut at this point, though whether that excavation was the result of natural or cultural activities is impossible to say. No cultural material was found in S.6 though large fragments of what seem to be bedrock did protrude as much as 0.11m into the layer.

Time Span 2

During this span three distinct soil levels were introduced. The lowest of the triad, S.5, is a moderately hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark brown soil with some small white inclusions and a few associated artifacts. It was revealed in only a limited portion of the excavations west of Str. 306-128-1st where it covered S.6 by 0.06-0.09m. Stratum 5 runs relatively flat over its exposed 0.4m east-west extent. Stratum 4, a loosely compacted, fine-textured, tan soil, directly overlies S.6 by 0.09-0.42m in the 1m² probe noted above. This soil level has the appearance and consistency of ash and contains a fairly dense concentration of large sherds within 0.11m of its interface with S.6. Stratum 4 replaces S.5 in this locale and seems to have been deposited during a period of increased cultural activity in the immediate vicinity. That S.4 fills the 0.36m deep cut made into S.6 (see above) tentatively suggests that its sherds and ash are trash deposited within a constructed or naturally occurring declivity. Stratum 3 was encountered in all portions of the excavations. This loosely compacted, fine-textured, tan soil is very similar to S.4 but lacks the ash and sherd concentrations of the latter. Stratum 3 is 0.16-0.29m thick, overlies S.4 and 5, and slopes up 0.26m over 1.4m west-to-east. The few artifacts retrieved from S.3 suggests that cultural activities pursued in the immediate area continued but may have declined in intensity from those conducted during S.4's deposition.

Time Span 3

Feature 2 is an extensive deposit, 0.17m to at least 0.46m thick, extending under all TS. 5 architecture, and containing a high concentration of cultural materials set in a moderately fine-textured, dark gray-brown soil. The density of artifacts strongly suggests that this is a midden that accumulated prior to the construction of Str. 306-128-1st. Feature 2 rises gradually from both the east and west towards a point under Str. 306-128-1st's approximate center. The rate of ascent from the west is 0.58m over 3.6m while on the east F.2 rises 0.3m across 3.93m. There is a marked discrepancy between F.2's height east and west of the building's center; it is 0.41m higher on the west than on the east. Excavations were not pursued to link these two parts of the trench because of the need to preserve surviving architecture here (U.2). As it stands, somehow F.2 rose 0.41m over 0.5m from east to west. The significance of this relatively steep change in elevation is unknown. Such uncertainties aside, F.2 seems to be an extensive trash deposit stretching for, minimally, 8.9m east-west and rising at least 0.46m above underlying strata (its eastern and western limits as well as its maximum thickness were not defined).

Time Span 4

Feature 2 was subsequently covered on the east by the natural deposition of approximately 0.21m of a fine-textured, yellow-brown soil with many small white inclusions and a few associated artifacts (S.2). Stratum 2 was not laid down prior to construction on the west but does underlie TS.5 architecture (U.4 and 5) on the east.

Time Span 5

Structure 306-128-1st was bounded on the west and east by casually made stone facings (U.1 and 5). Unit 1, the western basal wall, rises 0.46m directly above F.2, is 0.9m wide, and is backed by an earthen-floored space 0.5m wide east-west. Its eastern counterpart, U.5, is set into

S.2, stands 0.23m high, and measures 0.38m across. Running roughly north-south down the approximate center of the platform is a 0.14-0.24m-high, 0.5m-wide stone wall (U.2). Unit 2 corners on the north with another wall, U.3, that runs east from its junction with U.2 for about 0.6m. Unit 3 is 0.26m high and its base rests 0.32m below that of U.2. The significance of this discrepancy in depths is unclear, though the bases of U.1 and U.3 are at equivalent levels. Unit 2 sits on F.2 where it drops precipitously to the east; possibly the greater depth of U.3 immediately to the east was meant to compensate for that drop-off. Directly north of U.3 is a stone floor (U.4) that extends for at least 2.75m in that direction. There are some hints that U.4 may continue east of U.3 as a level of stones at the appropriate depth was identified in the north wall of the axial trench. This surface does not continue southward, however, the 1.02m separating U.3 and 5 being surfaced with earth.

Unit 4 not only covers the exposed portion of the northern summit but extends westward to Str. 306-128-1st's margin. No sign of U.1 was recorded in the probe following U.4 to the west though only 2m separates these two exposures. Unit 1 is not a well-preserved construction even under the best of circumstances and it may simply have been missed to the north of the axial trench in the excavations following U.4. Still, the U.4 floor was not recorded east of U.1 in the axial trench implying that there was considerable variation in Str. 306-128-1st's architecture on its west flank.

By the end of TS.5, Str. 306-128-1st stood 0.46m and 0.23m high on the west and east, respectively, measured 3.97m across east-west, and was oriented approximately 350 degrees. What little of the fill we could see was identical to S.2. The platform's western flank was built over the west-to-east rise of F.2. Structure 306-128-1st's summit consisted of at least two rooms. A stone-floored enclosure on the north covers, minimally, 2.75m north-south by 3.02m east-west (from the western edge of the building to U.5, the east basal wall). To the south there is an earthen-floored space encompassing 1.67m east-west (from U.2 to U.3). Another earthen-floored compartment, covering 0.5m east-west, may have been sandwiched between U.1 and 2 on the building's west side. As noted earlier, if this enclosure did exist, it was not found 2m north of its exposure in the axial trench.

Time Span 6

Following abandonment, S.2 continued to be laid down. This soil now appears on both the east and west sides of the building as well as overlying final-phase architecture. Stratum 2, in this span, is as much as 0.29m thick. Blanketing S.2 is 0.06-0.15m of S.1, a loosely compacted, moderately fine-textured, root-rich, dark brown soil. A few scattered rocks fallen from final-phase architecture are embedded in S.1 and 2 (F.1), being most densely concentrated over Str. 306-128-1st. The paucity of fallen stones points tentatively to their relative insignificance in summit architecture.

Structure 306-130

Structure 306-130 is located immediately northeast of the east site core plaza. Structure 306-120, which seals that plaza on the northeast, is 5m to the southwest while Str. 306-131 is a low terrace that extends 15m east of Str.306-130's southeast corner. The ground on which Str. 306-130 sits rises from west to east, currently ascending 0.96m over 6.76m. Excavations here, within Subop. 306AA, cleared 6.76m² in the process of revealing a 1m-wide (north-south) swath

of the building's west flank. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.84m below modern ground surface within and outside construction. A single building phase was revealed in the course of this work. Digging within Subop. 306AA was conducted from February 6-21, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2-4	-	
2	Str. 306-130-1st	U.1	-	-	EPC, LPC?
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Stratum 3, the earliest soil layer revealed in Subop. 306AA, is a moderately coarse-textured, sandy, medium-yellow-brown soil with many small white inclusions that ascends 0.88m over 5.9m west-to-east. This soil level is at least 0.4m thick, its base lying beyond our excavation limits. In general, S. 3 seems to be part of a natural rise atop which Str. 306-130-1st perches. Stratum 2, a moderately hard-packed, moderately fine-textured soil with some small white inclusions, covers S.3 by 0.08-0.21m. It also rises from west-to-east, following the contours of S.3. Both S.2 and 3 run under, and appear east and west of, TS. 2 architecture (U.1). Stratum 4, a fine-grained, soft-compacted, light gray soil with a few white inclusions, is found sandwiched between S.2 and 3 east of U.1. This localized deposit fills in the area above a particularly steep rise in S.3 where it ascends 0.28m across 0.8m west-to-east (S.4 here declines from 0.36m thick on the west to 0.05m thick on the east). It may be that S.4 was introduced to level out this declivity. That deposition of S.2 intervenes between the introduction of S.4 and construction of U.1 implies that the putative filling-in episode occurred before Str. 306-130-1st was erected.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-130-1st is represented solely by U.1, a stone wall with an estimated height of 0.48m. Unit 1 sits at the crest of the western rise, is 1.7m wide, and oriented roughly 335 degrees. The architectural significance of this construction is unclear. It may be a terrace wall designed to slow erosion down the west slope. Alternatively, it could be a substantial foundation for a surface-level building. Unit 1's considerable width may be due to the need to ensure its stability in an area where threats of downslope erosion are considerable. The surface east of U.1, atop the rise, is the earthen top of S.2.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 306-130-1st and S.2 were covered by as much as 0.22m of

S.1, a fairly soft-compacted, fine-textured, root-rich, dark brown soil. Embedded in this layer were a very few, scattered rocks that seem to have fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1).

Structure 306-136

Structure 306-136 is 50m north of Str. 306-11 and the site core, 3m east of, and across a shallow depression from, Str. 306-137. Structure 306-136 appears on the surface as a 0.6m-high terrace built into a west-to-east natural rise; no back (east) wall line was noted on modern ground level. Fully 1.5m² was dug within Subop. 306H to expose part of the building's west side. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.4m below modern ground surface outside architecture and was not pursued into construction fill. Work in Suboperation 306H was conducted for three days in May, 1988 under the watchful eye of S. Kane.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 306-136-1st	U.1-3	-	-	LCLIII/EPC
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

During this interval a moderately coarse-textured, hard-compacted, reddish-brown soil (S.2) was laid down. Stratum 2 is at least 0.17m thick, though its base was not found in our excavations. It appears that S.2 ascends from west to east, rising ca. 0.12m over 0.5m in this direction. No cultural material was retrieved from S.2 though a few small white inclusions were noted within it.

Time Span 2

Structure 306-136-1st's west basal wall (U.1) is made of unmodified stones, stands 0.15m high, and is oriented 349 degrees. Unit 1 turned a corner in the trench, heading an observed 0.4m off to the east from the construction's southern end. Set immediately west of U.1 is a 0.1m-high stone construction (U.2) that parallels U.1's western face. The tops of U.1 and 2 are at equivalent elevations; perhaps the latter was introduced to shore up the basal facing where it was most vulnerable to erosion downslope. Unit 3 is a sizable rock set against U.2's west face; this stone may have been a step up onto the western terrace.

Most likely we revealed Str. 306-136-1st's basal western terrace, there being other risers that were not uncovered but that lead to the summit.

Time Span 3

Following abandonment, Str. 306-136-1st was covered by the natural deposition of S.1, a 0.23m- (maximally) thick, coarse-textured, hard-compacted, root-rich, dark brown soil. A moderately dense concentration of fallen stones (F.1) was recorded above and west of construction.

Structure 306-152

Structure 306-152 is 10m west of Str. 306-105, 12m northwest of Str. 306-106, and 23m east of Str. 306-121. It is, in short, near the center of the densely built-up area lying immediately east of the Site 306 site core. Digging here in Subop. 306Z, and BC cleared approximately 44m² from February 6-March 15, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff and H. Henderson. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.93m and 1.04m within and outside construction, respectively, revealing at least two major construction phases.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	-	-	-	F.2-3	LCL II/I
3	-	-	S.2	F.4	LCL II?
4	Str. 306-152-2nd Str. 306-152-Sub1	U.1 U.2	-	-	LCL III/II
5	-	-	S.2	-	LCL III
6	Str. 306-152-1st	U.3-13, 20,	-	-	LCL III
7	Str. 306-152-1st	Sealing U.4	-	-	LCL III
8	Str. 306-152-1st Str. 306-152-Sub2 Str. 306-152-Sub3 Str. 306-152-Sub4	U.14-17 U.19 U.21 U.18	-	F.5	LCL III/EPC,
9	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

At least 0.35m of S.3, a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, orange-tan soil, was deposited during this span. While its base lies beyond our excavation limits, S.3's top undulates considerably over the 5.56m it was exposed in two discontinuous segments north of, and below,

Str. 306-152-1st. In the 2.14m north of TS. 6 construction there are three troughs 0.11-0.2m deep noted in S.3. It is not clear what forces created these declivities though occupants of the area would take advantage of them in the succeeding period.

Time Span 2

Set in two of the three dips within S.3 noted above are two burnt-earth features (F.2 and 3), one in each declivity. About three-quarters of F.2 was exposed, revealing a roughly oval-shaped depression that measures 0.34m east-west by 0.51m north-south. Feature 2's boundary is defined by a 0.08-0.11m-thick layer of coarse-textured soil fired to a hard, bright orange. The feature's interior covers 0.14x0.35m, dips 0.07m from the edges to the center, and contains a gray soil that is fired hard and cracked. This gray soil spreads 0.15m west of F.2 through a 0.21m-wide gap in its west wall. Ten pottery fragments were found in direct association with F.2, though how, if at all, they might have figured in its use is unclear. Feature 3 is 0.54m south of F.2. Only the northern-most 0.14m of the feature was exposed, however, so we cannot be sure how it compares in form and size to its northern neighbor. In general, F.2 and 3 seem to have been a specially prepared hearths set on the natural ground surface.

Time Span 3

Following the use of F.2 and 3 they were covered by the natural deposition of 0.12-0.34m of S.2, a moderately hard-compacted, coarse-textured, brown soil that includes some artifacts. A 0.06-0.09m thick lens of coarse-textured, bright orange, hard-fired soil (F.4) was found running 0.5m south from under Str. 306-152-1st construction (U.20) near the building's center. Feature 4 is embedded in S.2 and seems to be the burnt remnants of human activity; possibly it was part of a wall that had collapsed or was the result of intense heating in this zone. Though F.2 and 3 were abandoned, therefore, human occupation of this locale persisted throughout TS.3.

Time Span 4

What looks to have been parts of the north and east perimeters of Str. 306-152-2nd were revealed in Subop. 306Z and BC (all included in U.1). Unit 1 is a 0.12m-high by 0.33m-thick wall that, based on its longest exposed segment (the north face), is oriented 263 degrees. It is unclear whether this early version of the building was a low platform or surface-level edifice; U.1's low height suggests the latter view. At minimum, therefore, Str. 306-152-2nd covered 1.9m north-south by 2.9m east-west and enclosed an earthen-floored space encompassing at least 1.5x2.6m.

Located 2.2m north of U.1 is a wall about 0.1m high by 0.2m wide that was traced for 0.8m northeast-southwest. This fragment of Str. 306-152-Sub1 may be part of the building's southern foundation. Given the relatively insubstantial nature of the construction, U.2, like its southern neighbor, was probably part of an earthen-floored, surface-level building, most likely a footing for a perishable upper wall. Unit 2 is aligned roughly 68 degrees.

During TS. 4, therefore, the area that would eventually see the rise of Str. 306-152-1st supported, minimally, two diminutive surface-level structures.

Time Span 5

After Str. 306-152-2nd and 306-152-Sub1 were abandoned the deposition of S.2 resumed. Approximately 0.06m of this soil was laid down now. We cannot rule out the possibility that this portion of S.2 was purposefully introduced to level out the area and bury earlier construction in preparation for erecting Str. 306-152-1st. This is at least as likely as a hiatus in the building sequence during which soil was allowed to accumulate. At this point, however, we cannot decide between these alternatives.

Time Span 6

Structure 306-152-1st, at this time, was a surface-level building bounded on all sides by stone foundations that stood, on average, 0.4m high, and measured 0.7-0.8m across (U.3-6). A 0.7m-wide doorway in the northern footing (U.3), 1.1m east of its northwest corner, provided access to the large, earthen-floored northern room. This enclosure encompasses 1.78m north-south by 3.5m east-west and contains a 0.37m-high, stone-faced bench (U.10-12) set against the approximate center of its south wall (U.7). The U.10/12 bench is 2.44m long east-west by 0.9m wide north-south. A small compartment, covering 0.34x0.51m, occupies the west end of the bench. It is separated from the remainder of the bench to the east by U.13, a 0.2m-high by 0.1m-thick wall composed of a single row of stones running north from U.7 to the bench's north face (U.11).

Structure 306-152-1st's south half is divided into three earthen-floored rooms by stone foundations that are 0.15m high by 0.34 and 0.52m wide (U.8 and 9, respectively). The enclosures are set in an east-west line and measure, from east-to-west, 0.76x1.4m, 1.24x1.48m, and 0.67x1.68m. The north wall (U.7) of the central enclosure is completely filled by a 0.43m-high by 0.4m-wide stone-faced and -surfaced shelf that is 1.24m long east-west (U.20). A 0.46m-wide doorway breaches the eastern foundation (U.4), 1.5m north of Str. 306-152-1st's southeast corner, leading directly into the eastern room.

By the end of TS. 6, Str. 306-152-1st was a surface-level building measuring 4.8x4.9m and oriented 351 degrees. The earthen-floored interior of this construction was divided among four rooms. The largest enclosure fills the structure's northern half, covering 3.2m². A 0.37m-high stone-faced bench fills most of this compartment's south wall, measuring 2.44m long by 0.9m wide. A cubicle encompassing 0.2m² is located on the bench at its west end. The southern half of Str. 306-152-1st is divided among three rooms set in an east-west line. These compartments encompass 1.1m², 1.8m², and 1.1m², moving from east to west. The central room has a 0.43m-high stone-faced and -surfaced shelf (U.20) built against its south wall. This construction is 0.4m wide by 1.24m long and is built over, but stops at, U.9, the footing separating the eastern and central rooms. This stratigraphic position implies that U.20 was built late in this time span; possibly the three rooms originally all lacked built-in furniture. A 0.7m-wide passage in the north foundation provides access into the north room while a 0.46m-wide gap in the east footing facilitated passage into the southeast enclosure. No obvious points of entry into the central and southwest rooms were noted, though the low foundations delimiting these enclosures would not have been serious impediments to reaching their interiors.

Time Span 7

During this interval the doorway in U.4, the eastern foundation, was sealed. This effort at

least marked a change in the way people entered and moved through Str. 306-152-1st. That the northern door remained open may imply that the building was now oriented primarily, if not exclusively, in this direction. It is also possible that closing the eastern portal was part of an effort to convert the U.20 shelf in the central room into an L-shaped bench. This would require filling in the southeast room with earth and converting U.9, the wall separating the eastern and central compartments, into the facing for the putative bench's 0.94m-long by 1.1m-wide (east-west) south-projecting arm. We are not able to tell if this is what occurred based on the available data.

Time Span 8

At this time a 0.23m-high terrace (U.14) was appended to Str. 306-152-1st's western foundation (U.6). Unit 14 is 0.53m wide, faced and surfaced with stone, and runs from 1.3m north of U.6's northern edge to a point 1.05m north of the building's southwest corner. North of U.6, U.14 is 1.1m wide. Somewhat later a low stone terrace was added west (U.15) and south (U.16) of U.14. On the west, U.15 extends 0.4m west from U.14, intersecting the latter 1.1m north of its southern edge. Unit 15 continues for at least 2.2m to the south where it exited our excavations. Unit 16 intersects Str. 306-152-1st's southern footing (U.5) 0.2m east of the edifice's southwest corner. From here it projects 0.17m to the south and runs 0.75m to the west where it intersects U.15.

A concentration of flat-laid stones (F.5) extends 0.62m north of Str. 306-152-1st's northern foundation (U.3). Feature 5 is 0.29m thick and covers much of U.3. If it is a construction, F.5 is a very casually fashioned addition to the north footing that may have widened this construction by 0.62m. Evidence for F.5's existence is sufficiently ambiguous, however, that we cannot be certain of its existence.

In addition to these renovations of Str. 306-152-1st there are signs that other, fairly modest constructions were raised in the immediate area at about this time. Unit 19, 0.63m south of U.5, is an 0.18m-high, 0.33m-wide wall that was traced for only 1m northeast-southwest at an orientation of 69 degrees. It does not seem to have been part of Str. 306-152-1st and likely is the northern footing for a surface-level edifice the bulk of which lies south of our excavations (Str. 306-152-Sub2). Unit 21, a low stone wall lying 0.3m southwest of U.15 and running for at least 2.25m at an orientation of 340 degrees, looks like a foundation from another comparable building (Str. 306-152-Sub3). Yet another of these constructions (Str. 306-152-Sub4) is probably signaled by U.18, a 0.34m-high stone footing 0.76m west of U.14. A stone pavement, U.17, runs between U.14 and 18 over at least part of the latter's 1.4m exposed length. Unit 18 is aligned roughly 333 degrees.

Outside of the addition of a long, low stone-faced terrace to Str. 306-152-1st's west side, a possible comparable extension on the north flank, and two low terraces off its southwest corner, the building remained relatively unchanged from TS.7. Springing up around the edifice at this time, however, were at least three surface-level constructions, suggesting that Str. 306-152-1st's environs were becoming increasingly crowded as TS.8 drew to a close.

Time Span 9

Following abandonment, all exposed constructions were covered by continued, natural deposition of S.2. This admirably persistent layer was eventually blanketed by 0.16m of S.1, a

moderately hard-compacted, moderately coarse-texture, root-rich, dark brown to black soil level. Embedded in S.1 and the upper portions of S.2 is a dense concentration of rocks tumbled from final phase architecture (F.1). Feature 1 thins out gradually away from the building, though it continues for at least 1.72m south and 1.59m north of TS. 7 architecture.

Structure 306-159

Structure 306-159 is on the eastern margin of the dense concentration of buildings lying immediately east of the site core plazas. Structure 306-105 lies 40m to the west/southwest while Str. 306-132, a terrace that marks the cluster's northern boundary, is 20m distant. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 306AP cleared ca. 19m² of the building's approximate center. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.57m and 0.63m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. These investigations, conducted from March 5-April 2, 1990 under the direction of H. Henderson and T. Neff revealed one major construction phase.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.5	-	
2	-	-	S.2-4	-	LCL III/II
3	Str. 306-159-1st	U.1-10	-	F.2	LCLIII, EPC, LPC
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Natural deposition of S.5, a hard-compacted, coarse-textured, gray soil with many white inclusions, marks the first activity attested to in the Subop. 306AP excavations. Stratum 5 is at least 0.12m thick (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and drops 0.12m over 1.2m west to east before apparently leveling out; it was found at this same elevation 9.5m to the east. As S.5 was only encountered in two distinct exposures east and west of TS. 3 architecture, we cannot tell whether it actually runs more-or-less flat between these spots. The lack of cultural material retrieved from S.5 suggests that there was no human presence in the immediate area when this soil was laid down.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2, a hard compacted, very coarse-textured, light gray soil with many small pebbles and white inclusions, covers S.5 by 0.17-0.24m. On the west, S.2 has the same downward west-to-east slope as its predecessor. East of Str. 306-159-1st, however, S.2 was

found running out from under TS. 4 construction (U.8) for 1.21m before dipping down and pinching out against S.5. For 0.29m east of this point S.5 remains exposed with no overlying soil. Whether this truncation of S.2 results from a cut into the layer or something blocking S.2's deposition in this area is unknown.

Stratum 2 was not encountered beneath Str. 306-159-1st's summit. Here S.4, a moderately fine-textured, light brown soil with numerous small pebbles, accumulated to a thickness of at least 0.07m (its base lies beyond excavation limits). Stratum 4 maintains roughly the same level across its 2.06m east-west exposure. Overlying S.4 is a hard-compacted, very coarse-textured, yellow-tan soil with many small rock inclusions. (S.3). Stratum 3 reaches a maximum thickness of 0.2m though its upper surface undulates considerably, dipping at one point down to the top of S.4. It is within this deepest declivity that a burial (F.2) was found. The locally distinct character of S.3, especially its unusual color, and its association with the burial may suggest some linkage between the two. *If* S.3 was introduced as a bedding for F.2, then both entities properly belong in TS.3. For the moment a strong case cannot be made for such a connection and S.3 is tentatively treated as a naturally deposited soil into which a pit intended to hold F.2 was dug.

Strata 2-4 all contain cultural materials, pointing to human occupation in their immediate environs while they were being laid down.

Time Span 3

Structure 306-159-1st is a low, stone-faced platform bounded on its west by a 0.4m-high by 1.5m-wide wall (U.1). A 0.14m-high stone step-out (U.2) projects 0.16m east of U.1 and covers 0.8m of the latter's east face. Unit 2 is restricted to that portion of U.1 that delimits the west side of the southwestern summit room. The north and east flanks of that earthen-floored enclosure are bounded, respectively, by U. 3 and 4, stone footings 0.32-0.42m high and averaging 0.6m wide. The space they define covers 1.44m east-west by at least 0.8m north-south (its southern foundation was not uncovered). Immediately north of this room is a stone floor (U.10) that runs 1.6m east from U.1 and is bounded on the south by U.3, the northern footing of the southwest room; the northern limit of U.10 lies beyond our excavations. The exposed portion of U.10 centers on a schist slab that is surrounded by densely packed small cobbles. The paved floor ends on the east at a likely 0.32m-wide doorway between the southwest room's northeast corner and U.9, the 0.3-0.85m-wide by 0.49m-high stone foundation bordering the east room on the north. The eastern enclosure has an earth floor and measures 2.02m east-west by, minimally, 2.7m north-south (the southern edge of the room was not located). Unit 4 separates the southwest and east rooms while U.6 defines the room's east flank. The latter is 0.16m high above the summit surface by 0.54m across. Though it is hard to identify floors in these two enclosures, it appears that the surface of the eastern room was 0.2m higher than that of its southwest counterpart.

The platform's east face is ascended by two stone-faced terraces (U.7 and 8). Unit 8, the basal riser, is 0.13m high by 1.08m wide while the next ascending terrace, U.7, rises 0.2m and runs 1.02m back to U.6.

Structure 306-159-1st's fill consists of rocks set in a hard-compacted, very coarse-textured, light gray soil that includes many small pebbles (U.5). Intruded ca. 0.2m into this fill beneath the approximate center of the eastern room's floor is a burial (F.2). Feature 2 occupies a pit that measures 0.89m east-west dug into S.3 (see TS.2). The interment's stratigraphic position

suggests that it is associated with use of Str. 306-159-1st though it may have been introduced prior to that building's construction.

Overall, Str. 306-159-1st is a 0.4m-high (on the west) to 0.33m-high (on the east) stone-faced, earth-and-stone-filled platform that measures 8.3m east-west and is aligned roughly 15 degrees. Two broad stone-faced terraces mount the building's east side while the western face is defined by a single, direct ascent to the summit. At least two earthen-floored rooms comprise the building's superstructure. They are set in a rough west-east line, each delimited by stone foundations that are 0.3-0.85m wide and 0.16-0.49m high. The southwest compartment covers at least 1.2m² while its eastern neighbor encompasses, minimally, 5.5m² (neither was fully exposed). A stone floor measuring 1.6m east-west lies north of the southwest enclosure. This pavement seemingly marks a formal entryway into the eastern room through a 0.32m-wide passage in the latter's northwest corner. No built-in furniture was recorded in our limited exposures, though the western basal wall's (U.1) considerable width, at 1.5m across, may suggest that it doubled as a support for perishable upper construction and a bench in the southwest room.

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, Str. 306-159-1st was covered by the natural deposition of S.1, a loosely compacted, fine-textured, root-rich gray soil that ranges from 0.16-0.32m thick. A moderately dense concentration of rocks fallen from final-phase architecture (F.1) was found overlying the platform and extending for roughly 0.9m west and 1.1m east of TS.3 architecture.

Structure 306-164

Located ca. 280m north of the principal site-core plazas on the site's northern margin, Str. 306-164 is part of an irregularly arranged group of three extant buildings (Strs. 306-163, 164, and 166) and 1 rock concentration (Str. 306-165). Structure 306-166 is about 6m to the southeast while Str.306-163 is roughly 10m to the west. Structure 306-164 appeared on the surface as a slight rise about 10m long and 6m wide. Excavations here in Subop. 306R cleared 7m² within a trench cut into the edifice's west flank. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.89m beneath the summit of the rise. No construction was identified; the surface-visible mound seems to have been the result of ancient trash disposal. Investigations were pursued by 2 men, supervised by S. Kane, over the course of five days in May, 1988.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.1-3	F.1, 2	LPC, LCLIII, II

Time Span 1

The earliest activity revealed in excavations here is the laying down of S.4, a hard-compacted, gravel-rich, reddish-brown soil that was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.29m at Subop. 306R's eastern margin. Revealed in two discontinuous segments, S.4 apparently rises 0.5m over 3.34m east-to-west before leveling off for 1.3m and then descending 0.35m across 0.68m further west. At this point S.4 disappears into the base of excavation. The western-most drop is fairly precipitous, perhaps suggesting that the stratum was cut by natural forces or human action at this point.

Time Span 2

The depression formed by S.4's western descent was initially filled with S.2, a relatively soft-compacted, dark gray-brown sandy soil, rich in artifacts. Stratum 2 forms a lens 0.73m thick at Subop. 306R's western margin and pinches out 3.8m to the east. This layer's base overlies S.4 while its top is fairly level. Embedded within S.2 is S.3, a lens of soft-compacted, fine-textured, brown soil that contains numerous artifacts. Stratum 3 pinches out against S.4's western drop-off on the east and extends 1.58m into S.2 on the west. Stratum 3's maximum thickness is 0.23m at its center. Capping this sequence is S.1, a very hard-compacted, dark brown, root-rich soil in which artifacts are still found in considerable frequencies. Stratum 1 is 0.17-0.32m thick and it over-rides S.4 directly in the easternmost 1.1m of Subop. 306R. Artifacts are found throughout S.1, being somewhat lighter in the easternmost 3.16m of the trench, increasing in frequency from that point to the excavation's western margin. A few widely scattered rocks (F.1) were recorded within S.1 near the center of Str. 306-164, though their source(s) is unclear.

The midden (F.2) is found throughout S.1 through 3 and is at least 0.85m thick in an area covering 3.84m east-west, probably continuing beyond the western and basal excavation limits. The remaining 3.16m in the eastern portion of Subop. 306R contains somewhat fewer artifacts concentrated at shallower depths, the objects only being found in S.1. The latter may well represent overflow from F.2, spilling downhill from the main trash concentration. What was glossed as Str. 306-164, therefore, is likely one of the numerous, distinct trash deposits associated with ephemeral constructions of this period located north of the site core (see Subop. 306AB, AC, AX, BI, and BF below).

Structure 306-174

Structure 306-174 is a roughly circular rock concentration, ca. 2m in diameter, located within the western principal plaza of the site core. Structure 306-17 is ca. 12m to the south while Str. 306-19 is an equivalent distance to the east. Excavations conducted for one day by 2 men supervised by S. Kane in Subop. 306U cleared 3.5m² and reached a maximum depth of 0.35m below modern ground surface. Suboperation 306U was set against Str. 306-174's west side.

No clear architecture was recovered here. Cobbles of various sizes were found covering 2.9m east-west and extending no more than 0.35m below modern ground surface. As these rocks were unlikely to have fallen from extant architecture or to have arrived at this location by natural means, they are almost certainly parts of a casual circular construction set into the plaza surface.

Structure 182

Structure 182 looked, on the surface, to be a terrace built into a gradual east-to-west rise on the northwest corner of the western site core plaza. In general, the terrain here ascends from south-to-north and east-to-west, creating a natural rise that bounds the western plaza on its northwest and north flanks. The rate of ascent in the area of Str. 306-182 is 0.86m over 6.7m from east to west. A trench, Subop. 306K, was set against Str. 306-182's east side, extending from the plaza onto the summit of the rise. Fully 7.1m² was cleared here, digging reaching a maximum depth of 0.68m below modern ground surface. No extant construction was recorded, though a trash lens (F.1), apparently associated with activities conducted in the adjacent plaza, was recorded. Excavations here were conducted over five days in May, 1988 under the direction of S. Kane.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2		
2	-	-	-	F.1	LPC
3	-	-	S.1	-	

Time Span 1

Stratum 2, a relatively soft-compacted, coarse-textured, reddish-brown soil in which numerous small white rocks are found, was laid down in this interval. Stratum 2 is at least 0.27m thick, its base not having been found, and rises 0.71m over 6.7m east-to-west. A dense concentration of angular rocks was noted protruding up to 0.22m from the base of excavation in the eastern 1.1m of Subop. 306K. These stones do not appear to be part of a construction but are likely extrusions of the local bedrock. Overlying S.2 is a hard-compacted, moderately fine-textured, gray-brown soil (S.1) with few included rocks but a dense matting of roots near ground surface. About 0.16m of S.1 was laid down prior to TS.2, though its deposition would continue in the subsequent TS. 3.

Time Span 2

Though no architecture was identified in Subop. 306K, a 0.04-0.1m-thick deposit of densely packed artifacts (F.1) was recorded embedded in S.1, 0.16m above its interface with S.2. Feature 1 sits near the top of the natural rise that delimits the western plaza's northwest corner and rises 0.17m over its 2.52m east-west extent. The contents of F.1 include fragments of pottery vessels, incensarios, and obsidian, suggesting that it is part of a shallow but fairly extensive midden possibly resulting from activities performed within the nearby plaza.

Time Span 3

After F.1 was laid down, accumulation of S.1 resumed eventually burying the trash deposit by 0.08-0.17m. Also deposited early in this span is a light scattering of rocks (F.2), many of which lie flat atop F.1 and are embedded in S.1. The source of these rocks is unclear and we cannot rule out the possibility that they are foundations from an ephemeral construction whose presence and form were not apparent during excavation.

The Eastern Site-Core Plaza

A series of eight test pits was dug in three transects crossing the eastern plaza of the site core, running east-west (Subop. 306AS, 306AT, 306AU, 306AV, 306AY, 306AZ, 306BA, and 306BB). Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.65m below modern ground surface in search of any evidence of a prepared plaza floor or activities that might have been pursued in this area away from surface-visible architecture. Approximately 5.75m² was cleared in the course of this work which was overseen by A. Orellana and T. Neff from March 12-22, 1990.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	-	-	S.3	-	?
3	-	-	S.1, 2	-	

Time Span 1

The natural deposition of a dark yellow-brown clay (S.4) occurred at this time. Stratum 4 was uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.15m (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and is fairly level across its exposed extent. No cultural materials were recovered from this soil, suggesting that there was no human habitation in the immediate environs of the plaza while S.4 was being laid down.

Time Span 2

Stratum 3, a fine-textured, dark brown sandy silt, overlies S.4 by 0.19-0.34m and contains the densest concentration of cultural material uncovered in the plaza. How these remains relate to the structures that define the plaza is uncertain. Given the general paucity of artifacts associated with buildings in the site core, and the presence of a culture-bearing level underneath these constructions, it is likely that S.3 is part of the latter and has relatively little to do with the former. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were identified coming from these levels.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a yellow-brown, sandy silt mixed with coarse-textured sand, covers S.3 by 0.19-0.28m. It, in turn, is covered by 0.1-0.17m of a root-rich, dark gray-brown, slightly sandy silt. Both S.2 and 1 were likely deposited after the plaza was abandoned and no longer being kept clean.

Trash Deposits

A total of eight artifact scatters unassociated with clear surface-visible architecture were excavated during the 1990 field season under the direction of T. Neff, aided by V. Clark, S. Connell, H. Henderson, and L. Aldrete. These tests are listed below in alphabetical order by suboperation.

Suboperations AB and AD

Suboperation 306AB is a 1x2m trench oriented 347 degrees dug into the approximate center of an artifact scatter located northeast of the site core and 95m southeast of the scatter investigated in Subop. 306AC. Suboperation AD is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306AB midden to collect a sample of material from that context. Digging in Subop. 306AB here was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.8m below modern ground surface exposing a single, rich midden deposit. Excavations uncovered 2m² of prehistoric deposits from February 8-9, 1990 under T. Neff’s supervision.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	-	-	S.1	-	LPC?
3	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

Natural deposition of S. 2, a light brown soil roughly 0.2m thick (its base lies beyond excavation limits), is the earliest activity attested to in Subop. 306AB. This layer did not yield cultural material, suggesting that there was no human occupation in the immediate area during TS. 1.

Time Span 2

Stratum 1 is identical to S.2 save that it contains a moderate amount of artifacts. This ca. 0.2m-thick deposit directly underlies F.1 and blankets S.2. The cultural material found here suggests a human presence nearby while S.1 was being laid down, though we cannot rule out the possibility that some of these artifacts migrated down from F.1.

Time Span 3

Feature 1 is a 0.4m-thick dense concentration of artifacts and *Pachyichils sp.* shells set in a dark brown soil that rests on S.1. No pit outline was noted.

Suboperations 306AC and AE

Suboperation 306AC is a 1x2.1m trench dug east-west across one of the artifact scatters noted north of the Site 306 site core. It is 10m east of Str. 306-47, a seemingly destroyed building marked by a surface-visible artifact scatter, and 12m west/northwest of Str. 306-140, a low, extant platform. Suboperation AE is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306AC midden to collect a sample of material from that context. Excavation in Subop. 306AC was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.82m below modern ground surface over the course of February 7-9, 1990. These excavations uncovered 2.1m² of prehistoric deposits and were supervised by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	-	-	S.1, 2	-	LPC?
3	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 3, a yellowish brown, silty sand with numerous gravel inclusions, was deposited to a thickness of at least 0.38m at this time (its base was not encountered). This soil layer slopes up 0.28m over 1.88m from west-to-east, 0.25m of that ascent occurring across 0.28m in the western-most exposed portion of S.3. Such a steep rise suggests that S.3 was cut in antiquity, though whether by human or natural means is uncertain. The absence of cultural material in S.3 does imply that there was no human presence in the immediate area during TS. 1.

Time Span 2

Strata 2 and 1 are lenses that together overlie S.3 and succeed each other from west-to-east. Stratum 2, on the western trench margin, is a very coarse-textured sandy silt with many small pieces of gravel included in its matrix. This layer overlies the western descent of S.3 by at least 0.28m (its base on the west was not revealed) and pinches out against S.3, 0.43m east of the west trench edge.

Stratum 1, a fairly hard-compacted yellow-brown soil, begins on the west where S.2 ends and continues minimally 1.58m to the east and for an undetermined distance beyond excavation limits. This layer blankets S.3 by as much as 0.16m.

Both strata are sufficiently shallow that any artifacts recovered from them may have worked their way down from the dense midden (F.1) that blankets S.1 and 2. The deposition of these layers did fill in the cut noted within S.3.

Time Span 3

Feature 1 is a dense concentration of cultural materials, including *Pachychilus sp.* shells, set in a moderately coarse-textured, dark gray soil. The midden blankets S.1 and 2 by 0.25-0.5m and does not seem to have been dumped within a pit (unless the ancient cutting into S.3 was part of such a construction).

Suboperations 306AL and BQ

Suboperation 306AL is a 1x2m trench dug 65m west/northwest of Str. 306-78 and 105m east of Str. 306-83 across the center of a surface-visible artifact scatter. Suboperation BQ is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306AL midden to collect a sample of material from that context. The Subop. 306AL trench ran roughly east-west and excavation was pursued here to a maximum depth of 0.64m below modern ground surface from February 28-March 1, 1990 under the direction of T. Neff. Fully 2m² was exposed in the course of this work.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	
3	-	-	S.1	-	LPC?
4	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 3, a coarse, sandy-textured yellow-brown soil with a slight reddish tint, was deposited now. This layer was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.1m (its base lies beyond excavation limits) and it runs relatively even for the 2m it was revealed running east-west. No cultural materials were retrieved from this level, suggesting that there was a comparable absence of human activity in the immediate area during this soil's natural deposition.

Time Span 2

Stratum 2, a coarse-textured yellow to gray-brown sandy silt, overlies S.3 by as much as 0.18m. This layer was cut in antiquity, creating a declivity measuring 2.4m across and 0.16-0.2m deep. The cut exposed S.3 at the base of the resulting pit. Whether this excavation was the

result of natural or cultural forces is uncertain.

Time Span 3

Stratum 1, a fine-textured, dark gray soil, covers S.2 by as much as 0.42m. Like its predecessor, S.1 is also cut, creating a pit measuring 2.94m across and 0.59m deep at its maximum depth near its center. This was a purposeful excavation designed to hold a trash deposit (F.1). The few artifacts recovered from S.1 may indicate a human presence in the area while it was being laid down or the downward migration of cultural materials from F.1.

Time Span 4

Feature 1 consists of a dense concentration of cultural material, including many shells of *Pachychilus sp.*, set in a fine-textured, dark gray soil very similar to the immediately underlying S.1. As noted above, this detritus occupies a pit cut into S.1 and encompassing 2.94m across by 0.59m deep at its center. The base of the pit is uneven but the sides slope up gradually and smoothly on either side.

Suboperations 306AR and BL

Suboperation 306AR was dug on the summit and sides of a low earthen rise that ascends 0.8m on the east and 0.42m on the west. This rise takes the form of an arc open to the southwest where it spans 30m between the ends of the curve. Suboperation 306 AR is on the eastern edge of the site, about 35m southeast of Str. 306-104. Digging here from March 7-15, 1990 uncovered approximately 24.6m² in three trenches, one running east-west while two more were 3m apart and ran north-south. The latter two excavations intersected the east-west trench. Excavations continued down to maximum depths of 0.54m and 0.62m below modern ground surface within and outside the putative boundaries of construction. Suboperation BL is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306AR midden to collect a sample of material from that context.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.4-7	-	
2	-	-	S.3	-	LCL III?, EPC?
3	-	-	S.2	F.1-3	LPC
4	-	-	S.1	-	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Subop. 306AR is the natural deposition of S.4-7. No cultural material was found in any of these levels. The lowest layer, S.5, is a hard-compacted, fine-grained, orange-brown clay with some coarse-textured small white inclusions. It was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.11m (the base lies beyond our excavation limits) and slopes up 0.24m across 5.76m south-to-north and 0.24m over 8.06m east-to-west. Stratum 4, a fine-textured, gray-brown-to-black soil, overlies S.5 by 0.02-0.18m. This earth level also ascends east-to-west and south-to-north at about the same rate as its antecedent. In the east-west trench dug as part of Subop. 306AR, S.4 seems to pinch out under the west side of F.1 where it is replaced at roughly the same depth with S.5. Stratum 4 was found, however, in all exposed portions of the two north-south running excavations that were carried deep enough to expose it. Stratum 6, a fine-textured, medium brown soil, pinches out against S.4 on the south end of the western north-south running trench. It extends for at least 2.34m south of its intersection with S.4 over which distance it rises 0.18m to the south. Stratum 6 covers S.4 by as much as 0.16m at its southernmost exposed edge. It looks like S.6 was a natural deposit that was laid in against the south face of the gradual ascent represented by S.4. Stratum 7, in turn, is a small lens of fine-textured, medium-brown soil with numerous small white inclusions sandwiched between S.2 and 4 on the north extreme of the western north-south-running trench. This layer is maximally 0.26m thick and was traced for only 0.2m north-to-south; its full length was never determined.

This sequence resulted in the creation of a natural rise, ascending gradually from south-to-north and east-to-west. It was atop the edge of this low eminence that the activities associated with TS. 2 and 3 occurred.

Time Span 2

A low earthen rise with ill-defined boundaries was raised on the surface created by the deposition of S.4-7. This eminence, designated S.3, consists of a fine-textured, light gray to brown soil with a few included artifacts. Stratum 3 covers roughly 7m north-south by 5.7m east-west and rises maximally 0.4m high at its approximate center. It is unclear what S.3 represents. The presence of at least some artifacts in this matrix points to human occupation of the locale while S.3 was being laid down. It may be that S.3 was purposefully introduced to create a low mound on which ephemeral buildings were raised (see F.2, below). Alternatively, it may have been deposited by a continuation of the same forces that introduced S.4-7, only now people were inadvertently adding cultural debris to the mix. The numbers and density of artifacts found within S.3 is insufficient to characterize it as a trash dump. That would come later with the introduction of F.1.

Time Span 3

Covering S.3 by as much as 0.28m is F.1, a dense concentration of cultural materials set in a fine-textured, gray-brown soil matrix. The debris found here includes sherds, grinding stones, bajareque fragments, stone tools, and organics such as *Pachychilus sp.* and freshwater clam shells, bone, and charcoal flecks. Feature 1 covers an estimated 5.1x6.2m and slopes down from its center to the north, west, and east following the curve of S.3; the midden's south side was not revealed.

Located on the west edge of F.1 is a concentration of burnt daub, or *bajareque*, fragments (F.2). Feature 2 encompasses at least 1m north-south by 1.1m east-west (its northern and

southern limits lie beyond our excavations). This material may well represent the remains of a surface-level building associated with the F.1 trash.

An isolated dense concentrations of sherds (F.3) was found at about the same level as F.1 but separated from it by 1.7m to the south. The F.3 sherds are in a matrix identical to F.1 and form a lens 1.34m long north-south by 0.12m thick, maximally. Feature 3 rests atop S.6 and is covered by S.2.

Whatever S.3 may represent, by TS. 3 at least part of it had become a locale where people lived and deposited trash. Whether these activities were common over the entirety of the raised arc across which Subop. 306AR was dug is unclear.

Time Span 4

Soon after the area's abandonment, S.2 was laid down. This soil is identical to F.1 save that it lacks the dense concentration of cultural material that distinguishes the latter. Stratum 2 extends beyond F.1 on all sides where it directly overlies S.3, F.2, F.3, and, in some cases, earth layers deposited during TS. 1. It would appear that S.2 is outwash from F.1, gradually eroding as that midden was exposed to the elements. Stratum 1, a fine-textured, dark brown, root-rich soil, blankets S.2 and F.1 by as much as 0.1m. Its natural deposition is the last activity attested to in Subop. 306AR.

Suboperations 306AX and BK

Suboperation 306AX is a 1x2m test trench, oriented 91 degrees, dug over the approximate center of a surface artifact scatter initially mapped as Strs. 306-41 and 306-42 about 27m northwest of Str. 306-183 which is on the north margin of the western site-core plaza. Suboperation BK is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306AX midden to collect a sample of material from that context. Structures 306-41 and 42 were originally seen as remnants of buildings destroyed by plowing in this area north of the site core. It may well be, as excavations in Subop. 306AX suggest, that these and other comparable artifact scatters at Site 306 are trash deposits, possibly associated with edifices that no longer are visible on ground surface. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.53m below modern ground surface. Fully 2m² was uncovered here over two and one-half days in 1990, the investigations being directed by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

A fine-textured, reddish-brown silt intermixed with sand (S.1) was deposited to a thickness of at least 0.18m during this interval (its base lies beyond excavation limits). Stratum 1

runs level over its 2m-long east-west exposure. The absence of cultural material within this layer suggests that there was no human occupation in the immediate area when S.1 was laid down.

Time Span 2

Feature 1 is a 0.29-0.38m thick deposit of moderately densely packed cultural material (including shells of *Pachychilus sp.*) set in a gray sandy silt that grows darker in color with increasing proximity to ground surface. This trash deposit blankets S.1 completely and is not sealed by later strata. No sign of a pit was recorded here.

Suboperations 306BF and BS

Suboperation 306BF is a 1x2m trench oriented 83 degrees and set near the middle of the area mapped as Strs. 306-32 and 306-34, 43m north of Subop. 306AX. Suboperation BS is a 0.5x0.5m probe sunk into the Subop. 306BF midden to collect a sample of material from that context. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.52m below modern ground surface. Work in Subop. 306BF was, like that in Subop. 306AX, aimed to evaluate the nature of the numerous artifact scatters found north of the site core. As was the case with Subop, 306AX, it appears that Strs. 306-32 and 306-34 were parts of middens probably associated with constructions that have left little trace. Work here revealed 2m² of prehistoric deposits over two days in 1990 and was supervised by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a coarse-textured, yellow-gray, sandy silt that is devoid of cultural material. This layer was uncovered to a maximum thickness of 0.14m (its base is beyond excavation limits) and slopes up 0.13m over 2m west-to-east. The lack of cultural remains in S.1 implies that there was no human occupation in the immediate environs while this soil was being laid down.

Time Span 2

Feature 1 consists of a moderately dense concentration of artifacts and some organic remains, especially shells of *Pachychilus sp.*, set in a gray, slightly sandy silt. This midden blankets S.1 by 0.37-0.4m and slopes up 0.14m across 2m west-to-east. There is no evidence that F.1 was deposited in a pit.

Suboperation 306BI

Suboperation 306BI is a 1x2m trench oriented 63 degrees and located 86m north of Subop. 306BF. This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m below modern ground surface to test for the existence of a midden in this area. Digging here, which uncovered 2m² of prehistoric deposits over the course of 1 day in 1990, was directed by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to here is the natural deposition of a coarse-textured, reddish-brown sandy silt with large pieces of included gravel (S.1). Stratum 1 runs more-or-less level over the 2m it was exposed running northeast-southwest and was excavated to a maximum thickness of 0.08m (its base lies beyond excavation limits). Stratum 1 did not yield cultural materials, suggesting a general absence of human occupation in the immediate environs during TS. 1.

Time Span 2

Feature 1 contains a fairly dense concentration of cultural materials, especially *Pachychilus sp.* shells, set in a light gray-brown sandy silt. This midden directly overlies S.1 by 0.19-0.28m and shows no sign of having been contained within a pit.

Suboperations 306BV and 306 BZ

Suboperation 306BV is a 1x2m trench oriented 57 degrees and dug into the heart of an artifact scatter located 10m south of Str. 306-79. The terrain here slopes up gradually from southwest to northeast. Excavations in Subop. 306BV were designed to assess the depth, nature, and time periods represented by this trash deposit. Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.3m below modern ground surface, revealing a fairly shallow debris level. Fully 2m² was cleared in the course of one and one-half days (April 2-3) in 1990, work here having been directed by T. Neff.

Suboperation 306BZ is a series of 4, 0.5x0.5m test pits extending 90m southwest from Subop. 306BV. These probes were dug to reconstruct the extent of the midden revealed in Subop. 306BV and test for other trash deposits in the area that were not visible on ground surface. A maximum depth of 0.55m was reached in one of these tests, though no clear evidence of the Subop. 306BV midden was encountered. A total of 1m² was cleared in Subop. 306BZ over 1 (April 2) day in 1990, the work being supervised by T. Neff.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	-	-	-	F.1	LPC

Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a coarse-textured, dark yellowish brown, silty sand with numerous included pebbles, was laid down at this time. Exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.09m (its base lies beyond excavation limits), S.1 slopes up 0.24m over 2m southwest-to-northeast. The lack of artifacts in S.1 suggests that there was no human occupation in the immediate area when this soil was deposited.

Time Span 2

Feature 1, which completely covers S.1, is a 0.11-0.18m-thick deposit of cultural material (including *Pachychilus sp.* shells) set in a sandy silt that grades from gray to tan, and fine- to moderately coarse-textured with increasing depth. Like its predecessor, F.1 slopes up from southwest-to-northeast, rising 0.23m over 2m in this direction. No subsequent deposit seals F.1 and the midden is not contained within a pit.

Excavations conducted in Subop. 306BZ did not reveal traces of F.1. As in Subop. 306BV, a sterile soil similar to S.1 underlies later deposits, though here it is a reddish-brown, coarse-textured silty sand into which large fragments of what seem to be bedrock occasionally intrude (exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m). The overlying soils in the first and last pits, once again, grade from gray to yellow-brown, from fine-textured to moderately coarse-textured sandy silt with depth (0.32-0.38m thick). In the two intervening probes the yellow-brown segment is replaced by a light to dark gray sandy silt.

Test Pits in Suboperations CA and CB

Fully 36 test pits (28 included in Subop. 306CA and 8 in Subop. 306CB) were dug following the east bank of the quebrada that we inferred defined the east edge of Site 306. These probes generally paralleled this seasonal stream channel south towards its junction with the Rio Chamelecon. The investigated zone was largely devoid of clear signs of human occupation. The objective was to determine if occupation spread east of this natural feature and, if so, when this area was settled. Digging was pursued to variable depths, depending in large part on when sterile soil or bedrock was encountered. Overall, 38% of the pits were stopped 0.5m below modern ground surface while an additional 30% reached 0.4m deep. The remainder ceased between 0.1-0.35m below modern ground level and one reached a depth of 0.6m. All of these excavations were overseen by T. Neff from April 3-4, 1990.

In general, 73% of the excavated tests yielded some signs of human activity, mostly in the form of light scatters of ceramic fragments. Three dense concentrations of pottery pieces

were found; one included shell from *Pachychilus* sp., the latter being a frequent component of Late Postclassic middens at Site 306 and in the Naco valley. It would appear, therefore, that settlement density declined east of the quebrada but certainly did not cease.

Chronological Summary

Prior to human settlement at Site 306 a reddish-brown to yellowish-brown clay with numerous rock inclusions was laid down. This culturally sterile layer was encountered beneath construction and other signs of human activity in all excavations that were pursued to sufficient depths. The earliest period of occupation attested to at Site 306 is the Late Preclassic. A few sherds diagnostic of this span were found mixed with material dating to later periods in the environs of Str. 306-110 east of the site core plazas. The paucity of these remains suggests that this portion of the river terrace was home to no more than a few people during the Late Preclassic. No construction or distinctive activity loci are assigned to this span at Site 306. Signs of Early Classic (Late Classic I) settlement are more widespread, sherds characteristic of this time period having been recovered from the excavations of Strs. 306-105, 106, 110, 121, and 152, all clustered in the eastern part of the settlement. As with Late Preclassic diagnostics, Early Classic markers are invariably mixed with remains dating to later periods, though they are more common than their earlier counterparts. Early Classic materials are associated in several cases (Strs. 306-106 and 110) with what seem to have been modest surface-level buildings. In neither case, however, is the relationship clear and the architecture may well have been raised during the subsequent Late Classic (LCL II). The same case can be made for the two burned earth features (F.2 and 3) uncovered in the investigation of Str. 306-152.

The Late Classic (LCL II) marks a slight increase in the intensity of occupation at Site 306. Materials dating to this span are more frequent than those of any earlier period but are still found where those of their precursors were unearched, i.e., below architecture clustered immediately east of the site core plazas. This zone seems to have been the prime locus of settlement at Site 306 for a protracted span, populations probably growing throughout the years but not expanding appreciably beyond this limited zone. The one exception is the identification of a few Late Classic diagnostics on the north edge of the center in the excavations into what was originally defined as Str. 306-164. No recovered architecture can be clearly dated to the Late Classic and buildings at this time were probably modest in size.

The situation begins to change during the Terminal Classic. Occupation is still concentrated in the eastern structure aggregate but is now found to the north (the Str. 306-164 area) and west (Strs. 306-1, 4, and 54). Not only was more area covered by Terminal Classic remains than at any time up to this point but a great variety of stone-faced constructions appear now. The settlement's apparent focal point was Str. 306-105-3rd and 2nd. This stone-faced platform rose to about 1m high and it defined the north edge of a patio bounded by other sizable buildings on the west and east (Strs. 306-107 and 306-104, respectively). Clustered around Str. 306-105's early versions are a variety of substantial, albeit low, platforms and surface-level buildings with long histories of renovation (e.g., Strs. 306-106, 110, 152, and 159). We can surmise that the remaining 10 extant surface-visible edifices found in this densely settled eastern zone were also raised now.

On the west, a Terminal Classic patio-focused group composed of Strs. 306-1/4 was also erected at this time. These buildings have substantial stone facings and the two excavated examples, Strs. 306-1 and 306-4, stand 0.5m and 0.74m high, respectively. A terrace, Str. 306-

54-1st, was also erected 36m southwest of this western patio group now. There is, however, no sign of Terminal Classic construction within the ca. 260m separating them the western buildings from the eastern aggregate. Whether this area was actually open or all earlier construction was razed during the building of the Late Postclassic site core in this zone is unclear. The recovery of at least a few Terminal Classic remains from this intervening terrain (below Strs. 306-20, 83, and 128) at least hints at the area's use as a locale for trash disposal at this time.

Overall, therefore, the Terminal Classic marks a dramatic increase in the extent and intensity of settlement at Site 306. The appearance of stone constructions of various sizes at this time implies an increasing control over labor devoted to building edifices that likely dwarfed any of their predecessors at the site.

The Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic transition witnesses a continuation of these trends. Structure 306-105-1st, the last version of the edifice attested to in our excavations, was raised to a height of 1.9m and towered over all other buildings known from the center at this time. Additions were also being made to most of the edifices raised during the Terminal Classic, these renovations likely continuing into the Early Postclassic. There is even some evidence that the area between Strs. 306-1/4 on the west and the eastern architectural aggregate was beginning to be filled in; Strs. 306-22 and 79 were built now. Site 306, therefore, at least continued as a population center into the Early Postclassic. More likely, it grew somewhat in size and political importance, as evidenced by the dimensions of its largest known monumental construction, Str. 306-105-1st. Some segment(s) of the population was able to exert enough control over labor to commission major additions to this platform.

It is unclear how long into the Early Postclassic Site 306's denizens were able to sustain demographic growth and their political preeminence. The Late Postclassic, in any event, marks a major transformation of Site 306. The eastern aggregate was largely abandoned now, though its disintegrating buildings may have been used for burials. The same is also true of the smaller, western patio group, though no late interments were found here. The area separating these two foci of the Terminal Classic and Early Postclassic settlement, however, was now largely filled with two extensive, adjoining plazas bounded by the largest, most elaborately decorated buildings at the center. The western plaza covers 33x36m while its eastern neighbor encompasses almost exactly twice that area, 67x70m. All-in-all, Late Postclassic architecture in this complex spreads out over 67x130m. Fully 114 artifact concentrations were recorded in newly plowed fields extending for 290m north and northeast of the core. Excavations in six of these surface-visible entities (including the investigation of Str.306-164) suggests that they are relatively shallow but artifact-rich middens that were likely associated with surface-visible buildings made of perishable materials (most likely wattle-and-daub). If each concentration was linked with one building, this suggests a major increase in population over that seen in earlier periods. Even if the ratio of middens to houses was not so clear-cut, the extent of the artifact deposits in the north and northeast parts of the center points to considerable settlement at Late Postclassic Site 306.

The situation to the south is less clear. Excavations in Subop. 306AL, AR, and BV/BZ did reveal substantial Late Postclassic trash deposits as far as 65m south, 100m east/southeast, and 75m southwest of the site core, respectively. Efforts to determine the dates of surface-visible constructions in this area did not, however, yield conclusive results. We would surmise, therefore, that Late Postclassic occupation of areas south, southeast, and southwest of the epicenter was substantial but not as extensive or as dense as it was to the north.

Though doubts remain about the exact dimensions of Late Postclassic Site 306, its

importance as a major political and population center is clear. Outside of Naco itself, it is the largest Late Postclassic settlement found in the Naco valley and its immediate environs and is among the largest such centers in known from western Honduras.

There were no signs of occupation dating to the Colonial period at Site 306.

References

Schortma, E. and P. Urban

2011 *Networks of Power: Political relations in the Late Postclassic Naco Valley, Honduras*. Boulder: University of Colorado Press.

2014 Materializing Power through Practice in the Late Postclassic Naco Valley, Northwestern Honduras. *Latin American Antiquity* 25:344-368.