

1985

Gualjoquito, Excavation Report, Proyecto Santa Barbara

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Gualjoquito

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

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

Condition: Structures 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, and 20-23 had portions of their summits and flanks seriously disturbed by illicit digging as of 1986. Clearing ground for a soccer field north of Str. 14 and Feats. 5 and 6, including digging holes for the goal posts, may have caused minor damage to low constructions in this portion of the site. A modern house and associated outbuildings raised immediately north of Str. 22 most likely disturbed prehistoric deposits in this area while Strs. 18, 20-22, and 27 were cut by a shallow trench that was designed to carry a water pipe to the aforementioned domicile. Construction of a cattle corral in the southern portion of Gualjoquito definitely damaged the south side of Str. 23 and may have obliterated several small platforms here, judging from the density of scattered stones and artifacts found adjoining the corral on the west. Building the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road resulted in the truncation of Strs. 6, 23, and 24 along with the destruction of prehistoric deposits underlying the route and its right-of-way. Structures 32 and 39 were both in the process of eroding into the Rio Ulua when investigated in 1983-1986. How many other deposits may have been lost to erosion into the river is uncertain.

The 1983-1985 field seasons followed on, and benefitted from, work conducted at Gualjoquito by George Hasemann and Russel Sheptak during 1982. These investigations consisted of trenches dug across Strs. 6, 19, 23, 24, and 25 along with shovel tests that were dug across the site. Both projects were conducted under the aegis of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia and were designed in part to salvage data from the center before its inevitable loss to road-widening that was ongoing throughout our work in the middle Ulua drainage (1983-1986). Consequently, some of our research decisions were conditioned by these salvage concerns, especially the need to investigate segments of the site within the road's right-of-way (Op.10, described under 'test pits') and those buildings that would be seriously damaged by planned construction (especially Strs. 16, 23, 24, 38, and 48). Attention also centered on those edifices, such as Strs. 1, 5, 12 and 22, that had been heavily looted for fear that they were especially susceptible to destruction through erosion. We also had the feeling that Gualjoquito's proximity to a major, and newly paved, thoroughfare might increase the frequency and severity of disruptions to the center. This suspicion drove our concern to test as many portions of the settlement as time and money allowed.

Site Description: Gualjoquito contains 48 structures and 15 features arranged in five major, orthogonally organized patio-focused groups (Groups I-V) with the remaining constructions scattered around these monumental foci. The most massive platforms at the center, Strs. 11, 12, 14, and 22, define a large plaza (Plaza V) in the northern portion of the settlement, access to

which was unimpeded on all sides save the east. Structure 48, a diminutive platform, lies within this plaza slightly south of the centerlines of the two tallest edifices, Strs. 12 and 22. Features 5 and 6 extend 42m northeast of Str. 14's northwest corner and define the southern limit of a sizeable flat area devoid of construction, one of the few such zones within this highly built-up portion of the river terrace. A 10.5m-wide gap separates these two stone lines and may have marked an entryway. Structures 1-5 and 13, in the southeast site corner, are nearly as large as their Group V counterparts and define a patio (Plaza I) to which entrance was restricted to a 6m-wide gap between Strs. 3 and 4 in the plaza's northeast corner. Raised near the base of the eastern hills, Group I's builders compensated for the east-to-west drop in the underlying terrace by constructing a stone-faced platform rising to 1.75m on its highest (west) face. These efforts created an even patio surface atop which the platforms bordering Plaza I were raised. Paired outsets on Str. 7 and Strs. 1 and 13 may have defined a ballcourt immediately west of Plaza I. Plazas II, III, and IV are patio-centered units delimited by moderately large platforms filling in the terrace summit between Plazas I and V. Though several edifices within the above groups are linked by construction (Strs. 26 and 38) access to the spaces they enclose was generally unobstructed. Together, these five architectural foci comprise Gualjoquito's monumental core as this is measured by construction volume. Features and platforms were built primarily of river cobbles though a few masonry blocks were noted on the surface as well. Superstructures were most likely fashioned of perishable materials as no standing summit walls were visible when the center was mapped.

Excavations: Structures 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19-24, 30-32, 34-36, 38, 40-42, 48, the Plaza I platform, Features 1, 5, and 6, and a series of test pits distributed throughout the center were excavated from 1983-1985 under the direction of Wendy Ashmore. A total of 703m² was cleared in the course of this work.

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

Note: The excavations reported herein were directed primarily by Wendy Ashmore from 1983-1985. I (Ed Schortman), along with many other staff and local people, helped in these efforts but the general direction of the work was provided by Wendy. In writing up these results after Wendy's passing I have tried to be true to her interpretations of the material while taking into account changes in those views that would likely have resulted from the additional work that has been conducted in Southeast Mesoamerica from 1986 through the date of this writing (February 5, 2021). As in all of the excavation reports posted to the Four Valleys site, however, attention focuses on descriptions of the excavations more than on inferences as to their behavioral significance. A short selection of references to Wendy's publications dealing with Gualjoquito is provided at the end of this report. Any and all errors in this account must be ascribed to me as Wendy never had the chance to review the summary and question the inferences drawn from the research.

Plaza I

Plaza I stands out from its counterparts at Gualjoquito for the amount of effort devoted to its construction and its several building stages. From the surface it was evident that Plaza I was a large substructure around which Strs. 1-5 and 13 were raised. What was not certain was

how that large central platform was built and to what periods its different iterations dated. The plaza was first investigated via a 4x4m pit (Subop. 3A) that was dug in 1983 near the center of this space roughly in line with the midpoints of Strs. 2 and 5. This excavation was enlarged during the 1984 field season by digging a trench (Subop. 3C) that linked the initial test with Str. 1 on the plaza's west margin. Suboperation 3C measured 8m east-west and connected the sequence of construction identified in Subop. 3A with the sequent iterations of Str. 1. In addition to these investigations that centered on understanding the forms taken by the Plaza I substructure and its history, excavations conducted off Str. 2's north face (Subop. 3F) and Str. 5's south flank (Subop. 3E) also encountered constructions related to the platform's history. As these architectural elements are described in the sections devoted to the aforementioned buildings, they will be referenced, but not discussed in detail, here. A total of ca. 56m² was cleared in the course of digging Subop. 3A and 3C, excavations reaching a maximum depth of 3.37m below modern ground surface. Three major construction stages (labeled Plaza Construction Stages, or Plaza CS) were revealed 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, 7	-	
2	-	-	S.2, 4-6	-	ECL
3	Plaza CS3rd	U.6	-	F.5,6	ECL
4	-	-	-	F.3-4, 7	ECL
5	Plaza CS2nd	U.5	-	F.8	ECL
6	-	-	-	F.2	ECL/LCL
7	Plaza CS1st	U.1-4, 7-9	-	-	LCL*
8	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

*Radiocarbon assessment from this context is: CE 680 +/- 80/70 (lot 3C/009; DIC-3045).

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in Plaza I's history is the deposition of at least 0.35m of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, brown soil that contains numerous small rocks (S.3 in Subop. 3A and S.7 in Subop. 3C; its base in both instances was not revealed). Strata 3 and 7 are part of the extensive, culturally sterile, colluvial deposit that underlies much of Gualjoquito and which supports all known phases of the site's occupation. Based on its two discontinuous exposures in Subop. 3A and 3C, this deposit slopes down 0.27m across 12.52m from east-to-west.

Time Span 2

In the portion of the colluvium exposed in Subop. 3A (S.3), that soil was blanketed by 0.4-0.45m of a fine-textured, dark brown earth that contains charcoal flecks, sizable numbers of artifacts (especially large pottery fragments), and a few stones (S.2). Similar soils were recorded 7.28m to the west in a deep probe dug as part of Subop. 3C adjacent to (immediately east of) Str. 1. In this case the colluvium (S.6) was first covered by 0.12-0.15m of a brown sandy soil containing some charcoal flecks and *jute* (*Pachytilus, sp.*) shells (S.6). Stratum 6 was then blanketed by 0.06-0.1m of a very similar earth that is distinguished from its antecedent by its greater clay content (S.5). Burying S.5 by 0.2m is a very sandy brown soil with no obvious charcoal or shell inclusion (S.4). Strata 4-6 did yield artifacts. The tops of S.2 and 5 are at the same level, suggesting that the slight east-to-west descent defined by S.3 and 7 was 'corrected' with the addition of S.2, 4-6. It may be, therefore, that these soils were introduced as fill preparatory to the creation of the first well-attested plaza floor (U.6) during TS.3. The variations in the textures, compositions, and colors of the strata may then point to their having been derived from different sources, some possibly from extant trash deposits. Those artifacts recovered from S.2, 4-6 were, in this view, redeposited from elsewhere at the settlement.

Time Span 3

It was in the course of these years that the first plaza recorded in the Plaza I construction sequence was created (U.6). Unit 6 is composed of medium to large cobbles, one stone thick (0.12-0.22m), covered at least 10.34m east-west, and maintained a relatively level upper surface (varying no more than 0.08m) throughout this exposed extent. The pavement ends on the east near Plaza I's center (within Subop. 3A). The recovery of scattered, similar cobbles at the same level as U.6 within Subop. 3A, and extending (minimally) 1.65m further to the east hints that the floor continued for an undetermined distance in this direction but was disrupted in antiquity. The western edge is more distinct though the observed margin appears to have resulted from a cut that was made into the floor that occurred near the end of TS.3. Coterminous with U.6's west margin is a flat-bottomed pit (F.6) the top of which is equal to U.6's base and which was traced for 0.5m to the west where it disappears beneath Str. 1-2nd's eastern basal facing. Feature 5's east wall is nearly vertical, slanting back (east) 0.04m from vertical (bottom-to-top) over the pit's full 0.3m depth. This declivity penetrated S.4 and 5, stopping at the top of S.6. The pit is filled with a brown clay that is mottled with orange and has a few stone inclusions (included in F.5).

Covering F.5 by 0.2m is a reddish-orange sandy clay that contains a few *jute* shells (*Pachytilus, sp.*) and charcoal flecks (F.6). Feature 6 extends east of F.5, overlapping the U.6 stones for 0.38m at a maximum thickness of 0.05m.

It may well be, therefore, that U.6 continued westward under Str. 1-2nd, its continuous distribution interrupted by the digging of the F.5 pit. No materials that are diagnostic of the pit's function were found within its borders. The behavioral significance of F.6 is uncertain. It originated from somewhere to the west, possibly from a construction that predates building of Str. 1-2nd. We lacked the time to test this proposition. It is likely that the digging of F.5 and the accumulation of Feature 6 marked the end of U.6's use and TS.3.

Time Span 4

What happened next probably followed hard on the heels of the creation and filling of the F.5 declivity. First, a 0.03-0.08m-thick deposit of brown, mottled orange, sandy clay (F.3)

was laid directly on U.6 for 7.2m of its exposed extent. Feature 3 pinched out atop U.6 at a point 3.28m east of the F.5 pit's eastern edge and is replaced on the east by a 0.02-0.08m-thick layer of fine-textured, hard, orange-red soil (F.7). Feature 7 was traced for 0.97m east of F.3 at which point excavations in Subop. 3A ceased. It may be that F.3 and 7 were parts of the same deposit, some segments of which were subject to burning (F.7).

A brown clay, that becomes sandier the further east it was traced, overlies F.3 by 0.1-0.15m (F.4). Feature 4 is mottled with orange and contains some pebbles along with numerous small pieces of charcoal, the latter being scattered widely throughout its extent. Feature 4 covers not only U.6 but the F.5 pit.

It may be that F.3, 4, and 7 were introduced to raise Plaza I's surface by about 0.2m, that sequence of fill deposition being interrupted periodically by activities involving burning segments of this dirt. As these soil layers directly underlie the plaster floor that was fashioned here during TS.5 (U.5), it seems likely that F.3, 4, and 7 were put in place as a support for that major construction.

Time Span 5

It was during this interval that a 0.23m-0.28m-thick plaster floor (U.5) was laid down over an area covering at least 10.9m east-west. The east edge lay beyond Subop. 3A in that direction while evidence for U.5 was found adjoining what may have been an Early Classic version of Str. 2 on Plaza I's south margin (designated U.10 in that case). Digging to the north around Str. 5 was not deep enough to test for the presence of this floor. It seems safe to say that U.5 once encompassed all of the area that would be the Late Classic version of Plaza I and most likely extended somewhat further under the later platforms that defined the plaza's limits as seen on ground surface.

The plaster was made of crushed stones that comprised three layers (0.05-0.06m thick) each underlain by a level of river-rounded pebbles. The basal layer of crushed rock is orange to pink in color (5YR 7/2, 8/2; 7.5YR 8/2, 8/4), the next higher installment having a greenish hue (5Y 7/1, 5GY 7/1), while the capping surface is pinkish white (7.5YR 6/4, 5YR 6/4, 7.5YR 7/4, 8/4, 5YR7/4, 8/4). The middle layer does not continue across the entire east-west exposure of U.5 but lenses out 5.3m west of U.2, the eastern retaining wall raised during TS.7. The stones comprising the uppermost component are generally more thoroughly crushed than those in the lower two levels. Each of these layers may represent different periods in the history of U.5's renovations.

Unit 5 ends on the west in what appears to have been a cut made into the surface, 1.18m east of F.5's east margin. The truncation of U.5 was a sloping cut that left the floor's base 0.68m west of the surface's surviving top. Why U.5 was modified in this way is unclear. In addition, possibly also near the end of TS.5, parts of U.5's upper surface were transformed through burning. These charred patches (F.8) are scattered across the exposed segments of the plaster floor, some of the larger examples encompassing as much as 2m across, the smaller ones being 0.12m in diameter.

Time Span 6

During this interval, at least Str. 1-2nd's eastern face was covered with 0.17-0.29m of a fine-textured brown clay that contains a few charcoal flecks and pebbles (F.2). Feature 2 covered the surviving exposed surface of U.5 by 0.12-0.25m, pinching out against the floor 7.42m east of the cut's west edge. A few larger stones were embedded in F.2 and seemed to have

fallen from Str. 1-2nd into the area between U.5's truncated west edge and the platform's east basal facing (U.1). It appears that Str. 1-2nd's use was formally terminated by the introduction of the F.2 earth which was then extended over part of U.5. A thinner earth layer was noted covering what was likely a southern extension of U.5 in front (north) of Str. 2 (F.4 overlying U.10 here). A somewhat more tenuous argument can be made for the blanketing of at least parts of Str. 5-4th's west side with dirt (F.2, Plaza I Northwest Corner excavations). In general, Early Classic buildings on Plaza I's south, west, and possibly north sides were seemingly terminated by burying them with dirt near the end of this phase, some of that earth extending out over parts, though not all, of the formal plaster surface. That the soil levels covering these edifices peter out near the plaza's center may imply that covering the U.5 floor was not a goal of these efforts but was incidental to the obscuring of the bordering edifices. The cutting of U.5 east of Str. 1-2nd may repeat the earlier truncation of the U.6 floor in the same area. The purposes of such actions remain unknown.

Time Span 7

It was during TS.7 that a considerable amount of labor was invested in raising Plaza I's surface to its final, full height. The construction apparently began with the building of sizable pens framed by stone walls that were battered back, bottom-to-top, 10-20 degrees from the vertical. The east, south, west, and north walls of one such pen were uncovered (U.2-4, 7). Units 2-4 and 7 were set directly on U.5 near Plaza I's center where there was no dirt overlying that plaster surface. Nearer to Early Classic architecture these retaining walls rested on the dirt emanating from Str. 1-2nd (F.2) and Str. 2 (F.4) on the west and south. Within the fully exposed pen the south wall (U.3) was apparently the earliest to be erected and is oriented ca. 89 degrees. Unit 3 was followed by its western (U.4) and northern counterparts (U.7). Unit 2, the pen's eastern margin, abutted both U.3 and 7 on the south and north and was apparently added late to seal a space measuring 10.46m east-west by 2.4m north-south. Into this enclosure 43.8m³ of dry-laid cobble fill (U.1) was deposited raising the platform's plaza surface 1.75-2.1m in the process. Extending for at least 3.7m west of U.4, U.3 continues to retain a dense cobble fill (designated U.8) that supported Str. 1-1st. The bases of U. 3 and 8 ride over the ascending east-to-west slope of F.2. The top, however, remains flat across this distance; any retaining wall for this pen on the west lies undetected under Str. 1-1st. More of the same dry-laid cobble fill (U.9) was recorded south of the U.3 retaining wall. Unit 9 also rests on F.2 (0.2m thick here) over the southward continuation of Str. 1-2nd. Here, however, U.9 abuts, and does not run under, construction relating to Str. 1-1st. It may be that the latter's eastern facing (U.3) in this area south of Plaza I's U.3 might have been built atop a north-south-running fill retaining wall that, with Plaza I's U.3 on the north, stabilized the U.9 stone fill. If so, this putative western pen wall was vertical and not battered back at its top to the west.

Another pen certainly lay south of the one delimited by U.2-4 and 7, U.18 in the Str. 2 sequence defining at least part of its south wall. The cobble fill fronting and supporting Str 5-3rd (U.43 in that sequence) was also likely part of this massive construction project. No formal plaza surface survives atop U.1; most likely it was covered with an earthen floor. There are also indications that the uppermost 0.2-0.3m of U.1 were added at some point after most of the platform's hearting was in place.

Most of the stones that make up the pen walls and fill are large cobbles. There was no clear coursing in U.2-4 and 7 though the rocks were set in very little brown mud mortar. There was almost no dirt among the U.1 and 8 fill stones. Some faced blocks were interspersed among the cobbles in the pen walls and fill.

Time Span 8

After Plaza I's abandonment, a 0.1-0.2m-thick, dark brown humus horizon (S.1) formed atop U.1, 8, and 9. Embedded in S.1 is a light scattering of small cobbles that likely were dislodged from what had been the plaza fill's upper surface.

Structure 1

Structure 1, together with Str. 13 to the south, closes off the west side of Plaza I. Structure 5 is 7m to the east whereas Str. 3 is 24m east and across the plaza from Str. 1. Structure 1 was heavily damaged by looting, a large hole having been excavated in the southern portion of the summit during 1980 or 1981. The resulting pit encompassed 6.8x8m. The building was investigated during the 1983-1985 field seasons through digging within Subop. 3B (off the platform's west side), Subop. 3C and 3D (exposing parts of Str. 1's summit and eastern basal facing along the north side of the looter's excavation and linking those constructions with developments in the plaza), and Subop. 3L (a continuation of Subop. 3D that carried the line of this trench over the platform's summit and down its west flank to join with Subop. 3B). In all, roughly 40m² were cleared in the course of this work, digging reaching maximum depths of 3.2m and 0.8m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction (the latter on the west). Three major construction phases were identified 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.2, 3	-	
2	Str. 1-2 nd	U.1, 2	-	-	ECL
3	-	-	-	F.2	ECL/LCL
4	Str. 1-1stA	U.3-10, 21	-	F.3	LCL
5	Str. 1-1stB	U.3, 8, 21, 11-20, 22	-	F.4	LCL
6	Str. 1-1stC	-	-	F.6	LCL/TCL
7	-	-	S.1	F.1	
8	-	-	-	F.5	1980/81

Note: The reader is referred to the section titled 'Plaza I' for a discussion of the sequence of events chronicled for the that construction and their relation to Str.1. We concentrate in this account of Str. 1's history on aspects of that building and make only passing reference to occurrences within Plaza I itself.

Time Span 1

Excavations west of Str. 1 in Subop. 3B revealed a light brown clay that contains large numbers of small stones (S.3) underlying construction (the U.20 floor in this case). Stratum 3 is at least 0.3m thick here (its base was not encountered) and appears to be part of the widespread colluvial deposit that runs beneath most of Gualjoquito. Comparing the depths of this exposure with comparable materials uncovered in the Plaza I excavations indicates that this culturally sterile basal soil descends 0.93m over the 35m separating the colluvium's exposure beneath the center of Plaza I (Subop 3A) and its appearance west of Str. 1 (Subop. 3B).

Overlying S.3 and underlying U.20 within Subop. 3B is a fine-textured, light brown soil (S.2). Stratum 2 is 0.44m thick and contains few artifacts. It is difficult to relate S. 2 to the stratigraphic sequence described for Plaza I. At present, all we can say is that S.3 predates all construction and probably occupation here as it does throughout the center. Stratum 2 was laid down before architecture dating to TS.5 was raised but how it relates to activities conducted during earlier intervals is unclear.

Time Span 2

The only portion of Str. 1-2nd that was uncovered is that platform's east face. Here what appear to have been two steps (U.1A-1B) ascend in increments of 0.08m (U.1A) and 0.2m (U.1B) from east to west towards the summit. Unit 1A, the basal riser, is 0.34m wide east-west whereas its successor to the west (U.1B) measures 0.29m across. Unit 1C is a 0.22m-tall step-up to the summit, that surface having been paved with stones (U.2) for at least 1.13m to the west (excavations did not proceed past this point in Subop. 3C). Remnants of Str. 1-2nd were found over a distance of 5m north-south though its limits on all sides save the east were not established.

Overall, Str 1-2nd was a stone-faced platform that stood at least 0.5m tall on the east, encompassed (minimally) 5m north-south, and was oriented roughly 358 degrees. The building was ascended by two stone-faced and -surfaced steps on the east, these risers measuring 0.08m and 0.2m tall by 0.34m and 0.29m across. The 0.22m-tall step up to the summit gave way to a stone-paved surface that extended at least 1.13m to the west. As noted in the discussion of Plaza I, Str. 1-2nd is contemporary with the U.5 surface of that plaza (Plaza CS2nd).

The constructions raised now were made primarily of cobbles, their flatter aspects directed outwards. Some faced blocks were incorporated in the U.2 summit pavement. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Fully 0.17-0.29m of a fine-textured brown clay in which a few charcoal flecks and pebbles are embedded (F.2) covers U.1 and 2. Feature 2 extends for 9.4m east of U.1A, blanketing the plaza floor of Plaza CS2nd (U.5 in that sequence) by 0.12-0.25m. This earth pinches out against that floor 7.42m east of the western cut into the U.5 plaster floor. The few large stones embedded in F.2 immediately above and east of Str. 1-2nd likely fell from that building. Consequently, it appears that Str. 1-2nd's use was formally terminated by the introduction of the F.2 earth which was then extended over part of Plaza I's U.5.

Time Span 4

Structure 1-1st was renovated at least twice, possibly three times. Part of the problem with reconstructing the building's history is the significant damage that looting has wrought on the edifice. Clearing back the north face of the large looter's hole in the platform's summit did reveal evidence for at least two sequent construction phases (Str. 1-1stA and 1-1stB) that helped to guide our efforts to reconstruct the edifice's history.

Structure 1-1stA was fronted on the east, in the area north of the Plaza I's U.3 plaza retaining wall, by a 0.8m-high vertical facing (U.21). Unit 21 sits on Plaza I's raised surface. South of the Plaza I's U.3 fill retaining wall, Str. 1-1stA's east basal facing (U.3) rises 1.37m directly above F.2. Unit 3 is abutted by Plaza I's U.9 cobble fill. As noted in describing U.9 in the Plaza I section, its stones seemingly abutted, rather than running under, Str. 1-1stA's eastern basal facing. It may be that Str. 1-1stA's U.3 was raised directly on top of a retaining wall that stabilized plaza fill to the east. If that was the case, then the upper segment of U.3 that served as Str. 1-1stA's eastern basal facing would be the upper 0.45m of that wall, the lower 0.92m serving as part of the putative fill retaining wall. This measurement matches the height of Plaza I's U.3 where it runs beneath U.21 and brings the bases of Str. 1-1stA's U.3 and U.21 to the same level.

The earthen-floored summit was traced for 6.4m to the west where that floor (U.5) encounters a 0.3m-high stone-faced step-up (U.6) that is at least 0.35m wide (its western margin was not exposed). At least part of U.5 was burnt orange, that component measuring 1.14m east west by 0.01m thick. An area of particularly intense heating (F.3) covered 0.2m east-west and was located 1.43m east of U.3. A large stone (U.4) sits directly east of the hard earth surface, measures 0.5m across east-west, and might have served as threshold into a room backing it for 3.18m to the west (ending in that direction at U.6). The fill (U.7) backing U.3 to the west and underlying U.5 consists of a soft-compacted, brown earth with a texture that falls somewhere between silt and clay and contains no visible inclusions aside from a few rocks.

Based on clearing along the edifice's western flank it appears that Str. 1-1stA's western basal facing consisted of two segments. The basal component, U.10, rose at least 0.65m high (its base was not securely identified). The next ascent, U.9, is set back (east) 0.8m from U.10's west face and rises 1.8m. Unit 8, a 0.45m-high step-up to the summit from the west, is set 0.77m east from U.9's west face. Unit 8 reaches the same height as the top of U.6 on the east, the 4.2m between them possibly forming one broad construction. As the 3m lying directly west of the U.6 step-up was not cleared to the level of this putative construction, this interpretation cannot be established definitively.

As TS.3 drew to a close, Str. 1-1stA was an earth- and- (to a lesser extent) -stone-filled platform that stood 0.45-0.8m tall on the east, at least 2.9m tall on the west (off the Plaza I platform's west edge), encompassed 12m east-west, and was aligned approximately 358 degrees. The eastern facing reaches the summit in one ascent from Plaza I's surface (during Plaza CS1st). The lower height of the eastern facing near the building's center (0.45m) may indicate that this was a point of access to the summit. The western facings consist of three risers, the basal example standing, minimally, 0.65m tall and measuring 0.8m wide. Its successor to the east then ascends 1.8m giving way to a 0.77m-wide terrace surface that ends on the east in a 0.45m-high step-up to the summit. The superstructure encompassed 10.6m east-west. For 6.4m west of the eastern basal wall the summit is surfaced with earth, a segment measuring 1.14m across east-west having been burnt. That modification resulted in a hard-surfaced level that was discolored orange to a thickness of 0.01m. A stone measuring 0.5m across sits immediately east of this burnt area and may have marked a threshold into a room situated immediately to the west and covering 3.18m east-west. A 0.3m-tall stone riser marks the west end of the putative room. Its architectural significance is unclear. It might have served as a step up into another

compartment further to the west or as a bench. If the upper surface of this step-up continued across to meet the upper level of the third ascending western terrace (these level match up) then that room or bench might have measured 4.2m east-west.

The facings raised now were primarily made of cobbles carefully chosen for their flat faces which were oriented outwards. Some masonry blocks were noted in these walls, especially in U.10, the basal western terrace. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

As this interval began, Str. 1-1st-A's summit was covered by 0.8-0.9m of a brown clayey silt that contains flecks of burnt earth, pebbles, *jute* (*Pachyichilus*, *sp.*) shells along with a few scattered rocks (U.14). Units 3 and 21 continued to serve as Str. 1-1stB's eastern basal wall. Unit 3 was now succeeded 1.15m to the west by a 0.55m-high step-up (U.11) that gave way to the summit. Whether a comparable ascent backed U.21 to the west is not known. Structure 1-1stB's eastern summit closely mirrors the arrangement of its predecessor. It is surfaced with earth (U.12) for 5m west from U.11, that floor ending on the west at a 0.34m-high stone riser (U.13). Unit 13 was built directly above U.6. Unit 12 is burnt over a significant portion of its surviving extent. In this case the charred segment extends 1.9m east from U.13 and is 0.01m thick. An area of intense burning (F.4), though less clear than earlier F.3, was recorded above the latter in the U.12 floor. It appears that U.13 marks the east side of an elevated area that measures 3m east-west, ending in the latter direction at U.15. As was the case with U.6 and 8, U.13 and 15 may mark two sides of an elevated room or bench, this one measuring 3m east-west.

Given the continuity in the form of the eastern summit, the transformations visited on Str. 1-1stB's western flank are striking. Units 9 and 10 were completely covered by a fill composed of densely packed medium to very large rocks set in a brown clayey silt (U.17). This fill was held in place by U.9 and 10 on the east and a fill retaining wall (U.22), 2.55m to the west of U.9 and 10. Like its counterparts used to stabilize Plaza I's stone fill during Plaza CS1st, Unit 22's east face is battered back from bottom-to top. The wall rises vertically for 0.4m before sloping back (west) for 0.33m over the remainder of its surviving 0.73m. Unit 22 is bordered on the west by another fill deposit (U.19) that is identical to U.17 save that the former has slightly fewer rocks. Bordering U.19 on the west is U.18, Str. 1-1stB's west basal wall. Unit 18 stood an estimated 0.6m high and measured 1.12m across. This wall sits 0.02m above a floor (U.20) that consists of numerous, closely packed pebbles. Unit 20 is 0.04m thick, might have been originally covered with white plaster, fragments of which were tentatively identified atop its east margin, and was traced for 1.57m to the west before excavation ceased; it may ultimately have reached Str. 7 which is, based on surface evidence, 5m west of Str. 1.

The relations among U.17-19, 9 and 22 are uncertain. No clear architecture was identified capping the U.17 and 19 fill and yet U.18 is considerably shorter than U.22 which, in turn, is about 1.2m shorter than U.9. Based on the disposition of the U.17 and 19 fill stones, it may be that Str. 1-1stB's western façade sloped up from the eastern edge of U.18 across the top of U.22, and ended at the top of U.9. This would have created a slope with an angle of ca. 40 degrees covering a 6.77m of continuous distance. The result would have been that the platform's west face consisted of a 0.6m-high vertical face bordered by a stone floor on the west and giving way to an extensive sloping zone covering 6.77m that sloped upward to the east at an angle of 40 degrees. Above that inclination U.9's tread remained 0.77m wide and continued to give way to U.8, a 0.45m-tall riser (U.8, still in use from Str. 1-1stA). Unit 8's tread was now 1.18m wide and was succeeded on the east by a 0.9m-tall ascent (U.15). As noted, Unit 15 probably bounded the west side of a summit construction that was defined by U.13 on the east.

Structure 1-1st-B was, by the end of TS.4, an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 1m tall on the east and 4.5m high on the west, measured 17.8m east-west, and was oriented roughly 358 degrees. The building may now have been ascended on the east by two stone faced ascents, the eastern basal wall still standing 0.45m high and giving way after 1.15m to a 0.55m-tall riser on the west. The earthen-floored summit extends for 5m west of that step where it ends in a 0.34m-tall stone riser. As was the case with Str. 1-1stA, parts of Str. 1-1stB's earthen summit floor were burnt to a thickness of 0.01m. This charred segment extended for 1.9m east of the western summit step-up. The latter construction appears to have bounded the east side of an elevated portion of the summit that measures 3m east-west. This entity might have been a bench or part of a bi-level summit. On the west, Str. 1-1st-B has a very different appearance than that which characterized its immediate predecessor. Here a vertical terrace face rose 0.6m above a pebble floor and gave way after 1.12m to what appears to have been a surface that sloped back to the east at an angle of 40 degrees for 6.77m. This putative surface was underlain by a fill composed of densely packed cobbles held in place, at least in part, by pens that resemble those recorded for Plaza I CS1st. That sloping zone ended on the east in the 0.77m wide flat upper surface of what had been Str. 1-1stA's U.9. This tread was succeeded by a 0.45m-tall by 1.18m-wide terrace that, in turn, ended in a 0.9m- high riser that led directly to the elevated western portion of the summit (the portion that was bordered by the 0.34m-high step-up on the east). Overall, the summit encompassed 8m east-west.

All facings raised during this span were fashioned primarily of cobbles the flat faces of which were directed outwards. Though faced blocks are occasionally mixed with the river-worn rocks, the exposed portion of Str. 1-1stB's western basal riser (U.18) was faced on the west only with masonry blocks. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

The sole evidence for the existence of Str. 1-1stC is roughly 1m of brown clayey silt that contains a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.6). Feature 6 covers Str. 1-1stB's summit and resembles the fills used in that platform's two earlier iterations (U.5 and 14). No other constructions associated with F.6 were found suggesting that they were lost due to erosion or looting. Alternatively, F.6 may have been introduced as part of a building project that was never finished or it, as was the case for late additions to Strs. 5-1st and 2-1st, was put in place to seal and terminate the platform's use.

Time Span 7

During this span 0.2-0.4m of a dark gray-brown humus (S.1) formed atop Str. 1-1st. Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. The F. 1 stones were especially densely packed on the platform's steep west side.

Time Span 8

In addition to the gaping hole in Str. 1's summit, evidence for recent looting here took the form of large piles of rocks (F.5) that overlay the platform's eastern flank. Feature 5 was as much as 1m thick and extended over an area of at least 2.35m east-west on Str. 1's east side.

Structure 2

Structure 2 borders the south side of Plaza I in Gualjoquito's southeast corner. Structures 13, 5, and 3 are 3m to the west, 24m to the north and across the plaza, and 3m to the east of Str. 2. Like these and the other buildings comprising this complex (Strs. 1 and 4), Str. 2 is built on the edge of a sizable platform (Plaza CS1st). In Str. 2's case, its northern edge is set atop that substructure while its south flank rises above ancient ground surface. Digging here within Subop. 3F during the 1985 field season cleared a 1m-wide trench that extended 15.32 south from the plaza and across the platform's summit near Str. 2's center line. Plans to extend the trench all the way down Str. 2's south flank were scrapped when the very poor state of building preservation on this steeply sloping side was recognized. Not only did it seem unlikely that useful information concerning the edifice's form could be gleaned here but digging here was deemed too dangerous to pursue due to the instability of the platform's fill. Excavations were pursued 2m to the east of Subop. 3F's northern 2m within the plaza to reveal something of the nature of the latter's construction here. An additional 2m was dug east of the trench on the summit to test for the existence of architecture pertaining to Str. 2-1st's superstructure. In all, approximately 19m² were cleared in the course of this work, digging reaching maximum depths of 2.17m and 2.64m below modern ground surface within the plaza and Str. 5, respectively. Four major construction phases pertaining to Str. 5 and two for Plaza I were identified.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	Plaza CS2nd	U.10	-	-	ECL
2	-	-	-	F.4	ECL
3	Plaza CS1st	U.1, 18, 25	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 2-4 th	U.2-5	-	F.3	LCL
5	Str. 2-3 rd	U.6-9	-	-	LCL
6	Str. 2-2 nd	U.11-17	-	-	LCL
7	Str. 2-1 st	U.19-24	-	-	LCL
8	-	-	-	F.2	TCL
9	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

It was during this span that the plaster floor, (U.10) that defines Plaza I CS2nd was constructed. The floor of which U.10 is a component is described in detail under the Plaza I investigations where it is designated U.5.

Time Span 2

About 0.06m of earth (F.4) accumulated above U.10 in the course of this span. The behavioral significance of F.4 is uncertain. Given the better documented association of similar soil deposits with decaying Early Classic construction uncovered within Str. 1 (Str. 1-2nd) and Str. 5 (Str. 5-4th), it may be that F.4 represents similar debris that collected following the abandonment of a comparably early structure that lies somewhere to the south beneath the sequence of constructions that comprises Str. 2. This interpretation was not verified in part because time and the instability of Str. 2's fill precluded digging deeper into the edifice. At the very least, F.4's deposition atop the U.10 floor might point to an interval when that surface was no longer being maintained.

Time Span 3

Covering U.10 and F.4 is a 2.1m-deep deposit of medium to large cobbles (U.25) contained within equally tall pens bounded by walls made of the same material. One such wall (U.18) bound the U.25 cobbles on the south. Unit 18's base rests atop F.4 and the wall slopes 0.3m back to the south over its full 2.1m height. This manner of fashioning pens to contain cobble fill was noted in other instances where the plaza was dug to sufficient depths to reveal these construction units.

A 0.5m-thick deposit of cobbles set in a medium-brown silt (U.1) was traced for 4.8m south from U.18's north face. Unit 1 served as the foundation for constructions raised on Str. 5's north side during all four recorded construction phases. It may be that U.1 is deeper than indicated in our excavations and constitutes a southern continuation of the cobble fill represented by U.25 to the north.

Time Span 4

Structure 2-4th was faced on the north by two stone-faced terraces (U.2 and 3) that stood 0.22m and 0.33m tall (in ascending order). Their treads were surfaced with rocks and were 0.3m (U.2, the basal riser) and 0.65m wide (U.3). Unit 3 gave way on the south to a 0.11m-high stone step-up (U.4) to the earthen-floored summit. What may have been the remains of a 0.41m-high by an estimated 1.65m-wide stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench (U.5) were found on the summit 2.03m south of U.4's north face. The 0.5m north-south by 0.63m thick segment of fill that was revealed within U.5 consisted of a medium-brown silt that served as a matrix for a moderately dense concentration of rocks (included within U.5). A patch of burned earth (F.3) was recorded extending 0.25m north from the base of U.2. This modification of the soil may point to the performance here of activities that required regular applications of high heat.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 2-4th was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.66m high on the north, measured at least 4.63m north-south (its south side was not located), and was aligned ca. 276 degrees. Two steps or terraces ascend Str. 2-4's north face, these risers standing 0.22m and 0.33m tall, their stone-floored treads measuring 0.3m and 0.65m across north-south. A 0.11m-tall stone step-up marks the north edge of the earthen-floored summit. The one element of superstructure architecture revealed in Subop. 3F is a 0.41m-high stone-faced, earth-surfaced, earth-and stone-filled bench that likely encompassed at least 1.65m north-south (its south edge was not evident in our excavations). The bench was located 2.03m south of the summit's north edge. Evidence of repeated burning in an area extending 0.25m north from the platform's basal riser may point to the performance of activities here that involved the periodic stoking of flames.

Constructions raised now were made primarily of cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Structure 2-4th two northern steps and summit up to U.5's north face were covered now by a brown silt that contains a moderately dense concentration of small to large, flat-laid rocks most of which were cobbles (U.9). This version of the building, Str. 2-3rd, like its predecessor, was ascended on the north by two stone-faced and surfaced risers (U.6 and 7). Unit 6, the basal riser, directly overlies U.2 and is 0.3m high by 0.46m wide. Unit 7 rises 0.35m above U.6 and runs 0.47m to the south where it ends at the 0.32m-high step-up to the summit (U.8). The estimated level of the summit extends for at least 4.24m to the south, incorporating the top of the U.5 bench into this putative floor.

The exposed portion of Str. 2-3rd was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.97m tall, measured at least 5.17m north-south (again, the southern edge of the summit and the building as-a-whole were not found), and was oriented very approximately 276 degrees. The two stone-faced and -surfaced steps that mount Str. 2-3rd's north face were 0.3m and 0.35m high by 0.46m and 0.47m wide, a step-up to the earthen-floored summit ascending 0.32m above the second riser. The summit covers at least 4.24m to the south, enveloping Str. 2-4th's bench (U.5) within its construction. There were no clear signs of superstructure architecture here. No sign of burning, comparable to that attested to fronting Str. 2-4th's basal northern step, were noted on or near Str. 2-3rd.

All constructions raised now were fashioned mostly of cobbles, their flatter faces being directed outwards. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

Structure 2-3rd was, in turn, buried by as much as 0.7m of a brown silt in which are embedded variable numbers of small to large flat-laid rocks, mostly cobbles (U.17). The stones were recorded primarily in the area overlying U.6-8, dropping off considerably in density south of what had been U.5. Structure 2-2nd, for which U.17 served as the fill, greatly expanded Str. 2's footprint to the north while raising its height. Despite these changes in its overall dimensions, Str. 2-2nd replicated many of its predecessor's formal characteristics. Thus, its north face was mounted by two stone-faced terraces or steps (U.11 and 12). The basal riser, U.11, was 0.52m high and encompassed 1.95m north-south. Unit 12 rose 0.53m above U.11 and extended 2.45m south where it ended at U.13. The latter marks a step-up to the summit, the superstructure's northern foundation being raised atop this riser. In all, U.13 stands 0.7m above U.12's tread, 0.29m above the summit's hard-packed earth floor (U.14), and measured 0.4m wide. Unit 14 abuts U.13, rests on a 0.12-0.17m-thick layer of brown silt that contains very few rocks and which runs over the top of the U.17 fill rocks (this earth layer is included in U.14). Unit 14's surface rises gradually, sloping up 0.14m over the 2.6m it ran from U.13 to U.15 on the south. The latter is a stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench that rises 0.4m above U.14 and projects 0.05m below that floor. The fill for this construction is identical to U.17 though very few rocks were found within it. Unit 15 measures 1.55m north-south and terminates on the south at what was probably the summit's south wall (U.16). The latter was poorly preserved. We estimate that it encompassed 1.2m north-south, rose 0.12m above U.15 and stood at least 0.75m tall on the south. Most likely, U.16 was the uppermost terrace in a series of risers that comprised Str. 2-

2nd's southern façade. As noted earlier, not much survived of this side of the platform by the time the edifice was investigated in 1985.

A pair of *Spondylus* shells recovered from what seems to have been material eroding from Str. 2-2nd's fill off the edifice's south flank may have originally been cached within that building. There were no other signs of such a ritual deposit.

As TS.6 drew to a close, Str.2-2nd was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 1.34m tall on the north, measured at least 9.33m north-south, and was aligned approximately 276 degrees. The building was fronted on the north by two terraces that rose in increments of 0.52m and 0.53m from north-to south towards the summit. The basal riser measured 1.95m across while the next ascending riser was 2.45m wide. A 0.41m-high step-up to the summit rises above the second terrace and supports a 0.4m-wide by 0.29m-tall foundation for the superstructure's northern, perishable wall. The summit is underlain by a 0.12-0.17m-thick layer of earth capped by a 0.02m-thick hard-packed earth floor. A stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench projected 1.55m north from the superstructure's south wall and stood 0.4m tall. That south wall was roughly 1.2m thick north-south, rose 0.12m above the bench and stood at least 0.75m tall on the south.

All constructions raised now were made primarily of cobbles that were carefully selected for their flat faces that were oriented outwards. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

The final version of Str. 2, Str. 2-1st, was very poorly preserved, and this despite the lack of any evidence for looting. What we can infer is that the northward expansion and increase in elevation of Str. 2 continued now. The enduring pattern of two steps or terraces fronting the building's north side was now replaced with four risers (U.19-22) leading up to a summit step-up (U.23). Unit 19, set on the U.1 fill 0.65m north of U.11, is 0.65m tall by 1.1m wide north-south. Unit 19's tread may have sloped up 0.07m over its full width. Unit 20 rises 0.5m above U.19 and runs back 1.7m to the south where it ends at U.21. The latter is 0.57m high by 0.63m wide and is succeeded by U.22 on the south. Unit 22, in turn, stands 0.53m tall and extends southward for 1.2m where it encounters U.23. That final ascent to the summit is 0.35m high. No remains of superstructure architecture were identified in the 3.6m that we excavated south of this riser and the location of the summit was sufficiently vague that it was inferred to be equivalent to U.23's top. There were no hints of Str. 2-1st's architecture in the upper reaches of its steeply sloping south flank. The fill retained by and underlying U.19-23 is composed of densely packed small to large cobbles that are set in a brown silt (U.24).

By the conclusion of TS.7, Str. 2-1st was a stone- (mostly) and earth-filled platform that stood 2.67m tall on the north, measured at least 8.23m north-south (its south flank was not identified), and was oriented about 276 degrees. Four terraces ascended the platform's north face. These constructions rose in increments of 0.72m, 0.5m, 0.57m, and 0.53m from north to south, ending in a 0.35m-tall step-up to the summit. The terrace treads may have been surfaced with earth and were, in ascending order, 1.1m, 1.7m, 0.63m, and 1.2m wide. No constructions associated with the superstructure survived to be identified, the summit measuring at least 3.6m north-south (its southern limit was not clearly identified).

All constructions that were raised now were fashioned primarily of cobbles the flatter faces of which were oriented outwards. The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 8

Capping Str. 2-1st is a 0.57m-thick deposit of medium to large cobbles and limestone rubble that are set in very little earth (F.2). Feature 2 is coterminous with Str. 1-1st's summit. The density and relatively large sizes of these rocks would seem to rule out the possibility that they derived from a collapsed superstructure. The generally flat-laid dispositions of the F.2 stones also argues against such an interpretation. It may be, therefore, that F.2 was introduced purposefully at the end of Str. 2-1st's use-life. They may have been part of a fill unit that was introduced during a final, and never completed, effort to raise the building's height. Alternatively, F.2 might signal a formal termination of the building's use.

Time Span 9

During this interval a 0.25m to 0.3m-thick, dark brown humus horizon (S.1) formed atop the decaying remains of Str. 2-1st. A very dense (on the north) to moderately dense (on the south) concentration of rocks (F.1) was embedded in S.1. While the F.1 rocks noted off the edifice's south flank had almost certainly fallen from final-phase architectures, the stones covering U.19-23 are sufficiently numerous and flat-laid to suggest that they were purposefully placed in these locations. It might be that F.1 on Str. 2-1st's north side represents a concerted effort to seal the building and thus preclude any further use of it. If so, these stones would be a continuation of the putative termination activities that were associated with F.2 during TS.8.

Structure 5

Structure 5 closes off the north side of the Group I Plaza. It, like other components of this complex, was built on the edge of a substantial platform, the building's north margin raised atop that substructure while on the north the edifice ascends above ancient ground surface. Structure 2 is 24m to the south while Strs. 1 and 4 are 7m and 5m to the southwest and east, respectively. Structure 5 was seriously disrupted by looting prior to the initiation of excavations in Group I during the 1983-1985 field seasons. This illicit digging resulted in the excavation of a pit measuring 3.27m deep and encompassing 5m northwest-southeast by 12m northeast-southwest. As a result, the summits of Str. 5's different versions were heavily damaged. Investigations of Str. 5 were conducted during 1985 at which time two trenches (Subop. 3E and 3G) were dug across the platform's center. Suboperation 3G on the north was linked with Subop. 3E on the south to make one trench that encompassed 1.65m by 37.84m northwest-southeast, the dividing line between them lying within the deep looter's pit. Excavations here reached maximum depths of 1.25m and 4.4m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. In addition, efforts were made to locate the southeast (Subop. 3K) and northwest basal corners (Subop. 3J) of the platform's final version (Str. 5-1st); Subop. 3M was excavated in search of the platform's west basal facing. In all, roughly 72m² were cleared in the course of these excavations, four main building phases being recognized.

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	Str. 5-4 th	U.1-9	-	F.7-13	ECL
4	Str. 5-3 rd Str. 5-Sub1 Plaza CS1st	U.10-19, 42, U.41 U.43	-	-	LCL
5	Str. 5-2 nd	U.10-14, 42, 19-26, 39	-	-	LCL*
6	Str. 5-1 st	U.10-14, 42 27-38, 40	-	F.4-6, 14, 15	LCL
7	-	-	-	F.2	LCL/TCL
8	-	-	S.1, 2	F.3	-
9	-	-	-	F.1	1980s

- Radiocarbon assessments from TS.5 contexts were: CE 530 +/-70 (lot 3G/033; DIC3274); CE 600 +/-150/60 (lot 3G/016; DIC 3272); CE670 +/- 50/60 (lot 3G/032; DIC3273).

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the excavations conducted on and around Str. 5 is the deposition of at least 0.1m of a light brown clay that contains numerous small stones (S.3). Stratum 4, only revealed in the far northern 1.62m of Subop. 3G, north of Str. 5, is part of the extensive colluvial deposit that was revealed to have underlain occupation throughout Gualjoquito. Stratum 3's top was relatively flat over the 1.62m it was exposed running north-south.

Time Span 2

Capping S.3 by approximately 0.6m is a dark to medium brown silt (S.2) that contains far fewer rocks S.2. As the accumulation of S.2 resumed during TS.8 after Str. 5-1st's abandonment, the inferred thickness of the layer now is based on an estimate of how much of this soil would need to have been laid down to support construction during the subsequent time spans. Based on these inferences, it appears that S.2 ascended roughly 0.4m over 4.9m from north-to-south.

Time Span 3

Structure 5-4th was a platform that was ascended on the north, plaza-facing side by two terraces or steps (U.1 and 6). The most completely exposed of these risers, U.1, is 0.25m tall and 0.97m wide north-south. The full height of U.6, the basal step or terrace, was not revealed in excavations. It is thought to have been roughly 0.9m wide by 0.55m tall, thus linking this riser and Str. 5-4th as a whole to the plaster plaza surface of Plaza CS 2nd (U.5 in that sequence). Plaza

U.5 was revealed in Subop. 3A and 3C immediately to the south and is presumed to have continued north to intersect Str. 5-4th's south flank. Unit 1 gives way on the north to U.2, a 0.55m high step-up to the summit. The southernmost 2m of that elevated surface was likely surfaced with earth. Further to the north a 0.06-0.1m-thick white plaster floor (U.3) covers the exposed portion of the summit for a distance of 4.34m north-south. Unit 3 has a clear, straight south edge, a well-defined southeast corner, and ends on the east at what was apparently the platform's eastern basal facing (U.8). Unit 8 is 0.74m thick and approximately 1.35m tall. Unit 3 terminates on the north at U.4, a 0.8m-high (on the south) by 0.94m-thick summit wall the sheer north face of which may have been coterminous with Str. 5-4th's north margin. Patches of white plaster (F.8) found adhering to U.4 may indicate that its south face was originally covered with this material. Unit 4's south face steps back (north) 0.38m at a point 0.48m above its base. This indentation may have served as a shelf for the room that is conterminous with U.3. Located within U.3, at its southeast corner, is a 0.1m-deep depression with gently sloping walls (U.9). It has a diameter of 0.23m within its stone-lined perimeter. Like its surroundings, U.9's base and sides were coated with plaster. Probably too shallow to have been a post support, U.9 may have served as a stabilizer for a jar or other round-bottomed ceramic container.

The fill retained by and underlying Str. 5-4th's architecture (U.5) consists of a fine-textured brown soil that contains a few rocks. Also included in U.5 are what appear to be plaster fragments. The latter were concentrated in a 0.2m-thick lens (F.12) that was evident extending 1.3m south from the north wall of excavations dug beneath U.3. Feature 12's architectural significance is unclear. It is unlikely to have derived from Str. 5-4th and may have been part of a still earlier edifice that was demolished prior to the former's construction.

Three sequential layers of debris (F.9-11) extend north, and slope down and away, from U.4. The lowest of these deposits, F.11, consists of a gritty brown clay that contained numerous small pieces of burnt earth. Feature 11 descended 0.5m over 0.65m from south-to-north, its uppermost reaches abutting U.4 at a point 0.2m above its exposed base. It was thought in the field that F.11 might contain debris from Str. 5-4th's north basal wall (U.4), the latter continuing below the limits of excavation. Feature 11 was at least 0.55m thick, its base lying beyond excavation limits. A red-brown earth containing many sizable burnt earth fragments (F.10) covers F.11 by 0.1-0.38m, intersecting U.4 at a point 0.5m below its preserved top. Feature 10 slopes down 0.6m over 2.2m from south-to-north away from U.4. The burnt earth that constitutes F.10 may well have derived from the platform's superstructure, likely from a perishable *bajareque* wall that once stood atop U.4. Feature 10 blankets by 0.1-0.37m what may have been a 0.02m-thick earth floor (U.7) which is distinguished by its dark gray color. Parts of U.7 were discolored orange, apparently from burning, one of these segments measuring 0.65m north-south. Unit 7 descends 0.08m from south-to-north over the 1.94m it was traced from its junction with F.11 on the south. Located 0.6m north of U.4, U.7 may have been a living surface contemporary with Str. 5-4th's use, the activities conducted on it involving the repeated use of fire. Capping the U.7, F.10 and 11 sequence is a maximally 0.07m-thick deposit of fine-textured gray ash (F.9). Feature 9 encounters U.4 at a point 0.46m below that wall's top and drops off at a rate of 0.3m over the 0.55m it ran north from U.4. A polychrome cylinder (F.13) was found crushed beneath this sequence of debris just north of U.4.

A burnt earth surface (F.7) was recorded off Str. 5's southeast corner. Largely covered by later architecture (U.39 and 41), we could do little more than establish the existence of the surface and observe that it had been subjected to high heat. In that way, F.7 resembles U.7, the earth floor north of U.4.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 5-4th was an earth-and-(to a lesser extent) -stone-filled platform that stood an estimated 1.35m high on the south, measured 9.15m across north-south,

and was aligned ca. 179 degrees. The building was defined by what appear to have been single, steep ascents on the east and north (the west flank was not revealed) while two terraces or steps ascend the south face in increments of 0.55m and 0.25m from south-to-north towards the summit. The basal riser probably articulated with the plaster surface that covered Plaza I during Plaza CS2nd. These risers are 0.9m (basal step/terrace) and 0.97m wide, the second ascending riser giving way on the north to a 0.55m-tall step up to the summit. The southern 2m of this upper surface was apparently floored with earth while the remaining 4.34m (north-south) of the summit to the north was covered with a 0.06-0.1m-thick layer of white plaster. The clear, straight lines that demarcate this plaster floor suggest that it constitutes the finished interior of a room that was bounded by perishable walls on all sides save, perhaps, the south. Backing the enclosure on the south is a 0.8m-tall by 0.94m-wide stone wall that probably served, in part, as a foundation for one of those perishable walls. This substantial construction was also seemingly coated in white plaster. A 0.38m-deep indentation in this wall located 0.48m above the room's floor may have served as a shelf. The only other construction noted within the summit compartment is a 0.1m-deep plaster-lined pit that is located in the room's southeast corner. Bordered by a ring of small rocks along its upper perimeter and with an inner diameter of 0.23m, this concave depression's gently curving walls may well have served as a support for a round-bottom pottery vessel.

There are signs that Str. 5-4th ended with a conflagration. Ash and heavily burnt fragments of clay that had probably been parts of the superstructure's upper walls were found sloping down and away from the edifice's north side. A burnt earth floor that was possibly set on ancient ground surface underlies this architectural debris. A similar charred earth floor was noted off what was probably the platform's southeast corner. It may be that these surfaces were transformed during the conflagration that consumed Str. 5-4th. Alternatively, they may have been loci for activities that involved the repeated burning of fires in the platform's vicinity while it was in use. In any event, Str. 5-4th's end seems to have been precipitous; there are no signs that efforts to rebuild the edifice immediately followed its burning.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar. The treads of the northern steps or terraces were surfaced with earth.

Time Span 4

During the construction of Str. 5-3rd, its predecessor was covered by 0.8m of a fill (U.17) composed of a light brown silt that contains numerous pebbles (mostly where it blankets Str. 5-4th's summit) and small to large cobbles (north of U.4 and south of the deep looter's pit). Unit 17 completely covered Str. 5-4th's U.4. Further north, Str. 5-3rd's hearting consists of a very dense packing of predominately large cobbles set in light brown silt matrix (U.18). In most places the stones comprising U.18 are so closely packed that there is little room for the dirt. About 2m of the densely packed cobbles that make up the Plaza I fill (U.43) were also added south of the platform now. All iterations of Str. 5 would henceforth rise above that elevated plaza level on the south.

Structure 5-3rd is ascended on the north by five terraces (U.10-13, 42) that give way on the south to a step-up to the summit. Unit 10, the basal northern riser, is 0.13m tall by 0.5m wide and gives way on the south to U.42. That terrace ascends 0.31m and runs back 1.2m to the south where it is succeeded by U.11. The latter is 0.39m high by 3.02m wide north-south. Unit 12 rises 0.33m above U.11's tread and extends 0.48m to the south where it is succeeded by U.13. That riser is 0.26m high by 1.18m wide. Unit 14 ascends 0.61m above U.13's tread, the riser's

face sloping back 0.2m to the south over that distance. The 5.57m long expanse of the summit stretching south from U.14 was apparently surfaced with earth and terminates on the south at U.15. The latter is a stone wall that stands 0.8m above the summit and is 0.97m-wide. Unit 15 is set on the underlying U.18 fill and likely divided two rooms, one lying north and the other south of this substantial construction. Unlike U.4 which it resembles in size and construction, U.15 contains no indentations and was not located on the platform's margin. The inferred level of the summit was followed for 1.65m to the south at which point it was lost in the large looter's pit. When clear signs of the summit are picked up 1.8m south of that hole they seem to have been more formalized than was the case to the north. For a distance of 2.46m north south a 0.06-0.1m-thick stone pavement (U.16) constitutes the summit floor. There is no evidence of a comparable floor for the remaining 5.6m, of the summit in this direction. Structure 5-3rd's south margin is marked by a 0.34m-high stone facing (U.19).

The one component of Str. 5-Sub1 that was uncovered consists of a stone wall (U.41) that was approximately 0.4m wide by 0.25m high (one stone tall and across) that was exposed for about 1.5m over which distance it was aligned northeast-southwest. Unit 41 was found during excavations within Subop. 3K off Str. 5's southeast corner where it directly overlay the burnt earth floor (F.7) described under TS.3. This wall was not connected to Str. 5-3rd and most likely served as a foundation for a perishable upper construction that bounded the northwest side of a building raised directly on Plaza I CS3rd's newly elevated surface. Str. 5-Sub1 is placed in TS.4 because it clearly postdates TS.3, represented here by F.7, and predates TS.5, as indicated by its location below the level of construction (U.39) that is arguably part of Str. 5-2nd.

Structure 5-3rd was, by the conclusion of TS.4, a stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 0.34m above the newly elevated surface of Plaza I on the south and 2.03m tall on the north, measured 27.44m north-south, and was aligned ca. 179 degrees. The drastic differences in the platform's heights on the north and south was due to the addition of the roughly 2m of stone fill that covered the earlier Plaza I plaster floor and now constituted the newly elevated plaza surface. A single vertical facing led to the summit from the south whereas five terraces ascended north-to-south from the north in stages of 0.13m, 0.31m, 0.39m, 0.33m, and 0.26m, ending on the south in a 0.61m-tall step-up to the summit. The terrace treads measure, in ascending order, 0.5m, 1.2m, 3.02m, 0.48m, and 1.18m across. All terrace facings are vertical while the final ascent to the summit slopes back 0.2m to the south over its 0.61m height. The summit measures 20.64m north-south and was largely surfaced with earth. A wall (U.15) standing 0.8m tall and measuring 0.97m wide is one of the few surviving elements of the superstructure. Running east-west, this construction may have divided the summit into at least two rooms, one encompassing 5.57m north-south located north of U.15 while other may have covered 14.1m, extending to Str. 5-3rd's southern margin. The large looter's pit that penetrated to and for 0.1m below Str. 5-3rd's summit may well have destroyed other elements of the superstructure, including additional room dividers. A segment of stone paving measuring 0.06-0.1m thick by 2.46m north-south was recorded 5.6m north of the platform's south edge. This formal floor was not clearly associated with any other components of summit architecture.

Structure 5-Sub1 was represented by 0.25m-high by 0.4m-wide stone wall that was apparently part of a stone foundation. This 1.5m-long segment of this footing that was exposed may have been part of the wall that marked the northwest flank of a structure that was built on the surface of Plaza I, said building being oriented northeast-southwest.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of cobbles that were carefully chosen for their flat faces. These aspects of the rocks were directed outwards. Such care in construction was especially evident in the fabrication of the U.15 summit wall. Here, large cobbles delimit the wall's north and south sides, containing between them a core composed of

small to medium-size river-worn stones set in a brown silty matrix. The rocks that border U.15 on the north and south have their vertical faces directed outwards. Some faced blocks comprised a minority component of TS.4 constructions. All of the rocks were set in a mud matrix. Terrace and summit surfaces, except for the U.16 stone pavement, were covered with earth.

Time Span 5

The builders of Str. 5-2nd took advantage of Str. 5-3rd's five northern terraces and summit step-up (U.10-14 and 42), leaving them exposed and in use during this interval. That being said, it is unclear how the 1.3m between the top of the U.14 summit riser and Str. 5-2nd's summit floor (U.24) was bridged. No surviving construction was found here, only the 1.3m-thick deposit of light brown silt that comprises the platform's fill (U.26) north of the deep looter's pit. Unit 26 contains a few small to medium-size, flat-laid rocks and completely covers its predecessor's summit as well as the U.15 summit wall.

The situation on the south had changed considerably. Unit 19 now defined the south edge of a 0.34m-tall terrace that extended back (north) for 3.16m where it gave way to a series of four steps or terraces (U.20-23) that led north to the summit. The basal riser, U.20, ascended 0.2m above U.19's tread and was 0.4m wide. Unit 21 rose 0.16m above U.20 and ran back 1.07m to the north over which distance its tread gradually rose 0.1m from south-to-north. Unit 21 ended at U.22 on the south, the latter standing 0.24m tall and measuring 0.5m across. Unit 23 is the 0.34m-tall step-up to the summit. Unlike U.20-22, U.23 extends well below its predecessor's tread, projecting 0.53m below U.22's upper surface. This brings U.23's base to a point that is about 0.17m above Str. 5-3rd's summit. Unit 23's relatively greater height may suggest that in addition to marking the summit's south side, it also served as a stable support onto which U.20-22 were anchored. That U.23, when excavated, was tilting out 0.17m to the south may have been part of the original design or the result of the gradual downward and southward pull of the terraces it was supporting. The fill (U.25) backing U.20-23 and covering Str. 5-3rd south of the looter's pit is a light brown silt that contains variable numbers of rocks. South of U.23 up to U.20, there are relatively few small to medium-size, flat-laid cobbles and large numbers of pebbles. North of U.23 to the looter's pit the frequency of the pebbles declines while there are more medium-size cobbles, generally lying flat, and most densely concentrated in an area measuring 0.6m thick by 3.4m north-south. This aggregate rests mostly on the U.25 earth, 0.3m above Str. 5-3rd's summit.

During excavations conducted to locate Str. 5-1st's southeast corner what may have been its antecedent's southeast corner was located. Represented by U.39, this low (ca. 0.25m-high) facing may mark the eastward continuation of U.20, the basal southern terrace. Only a very limited portion of the putative corner was exposed resting above Str. 5-Sub1's U.41.

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 5-2nd was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 3.33m and 1.38m tall on the north and south, respectively, encompassed 27.44m north-south by at least 6.5m east-west (the western edge was not revealed, and was aligned roughly 268 degrees. The northern façade was still ascended by the six risers that had graced this flank of Str. 5-3rd. It remains unclear how the 1.3m separating the uppermost preserved riser (U.14) and the new, higher summit was bridged. The intervening architecture may have been lost over the years. Turning to the south, the facing (U.19) that had marked the south edge of Str. 5-3rd's summit now fronted a 3.16m-wide (north-south) terrace that was succeeded on the south by four risers leading to the summit. These ascents are 0.2m, 0.16m, 0.24m, and 0.34m high, from bottom to top, the three terraces measuring 0.4m, 1.07m, and 0.5m across. The final step-up to

the summit was sunk considerably deeper into the underlying fill than were the three terraces that front it on the south. The decision to invest the labor in such a construction effort may have been motivated by the desire to create a stable element against which the southern terraces could be raised. The summit measures at least 8.65m across north-south; its northern edge was not clear. No architecture associated with the superstructure was identified though the looter's pit, which measures 3.4m across north-south at this depth, may well have obliterated any relevant constructions.

Constructions erected now were fashioned mostly of cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. Masonry blocks were occasionally incorporated within these facings. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar. Terrace treads and the summit surface were seemingly covered with earth.

Time Span 6

Those raising Str. 5-1st apparently retained the northern terraces (U.10-13, 42) and the U.14 riser that had been in place since TS.4. As was the case for Str. 5-2nd, the upper constructions that would have been needed to connect U.14, the highest element of surviving basal architecture on the north, with the summit seem to be lacking. The problem is exacerbated by the raising now of the platform's summit by 0.88m through the introduction of fill composed of light brown, fine-textured silt that contains a moderately dense concentration of small to medium-size, flat-laid cobbles (U.34). Unit 34 covers Str. 5-2nd's summit and served as the foundation for the final version of the platform's superstructure. That elevated space was likely reached by ascending five steps on the south (U.27-31) that gave way on the north to a 0.32m-tall ascent to the summit (U.32). The two basal steps (U.27 and 28) are 0.18m and 0.19m tall, rising above the U.19 terrace tread. They are 0.3m and 0.36m wide, in ascending order. The basal (U.27) and second ascending risers (U.28) are set 0.43m and 0.53m south of their counterparts in Str. 5-2nd (U.20 and 21). Consequently, the U.19 terrace was slightly narrower now, encompassing 2.73m north-south. Units 27 and 28 also constitute an outset that projects 0.66m south of the core platform (now defined by U.29 on the south) and measuring 3.1m east-west. Unit 29 is set directly over U.21, rises 0.35m above U.28's tread, and extends 0.92m north to U.30. Unit 29 was traced for 8m west of its exposure in the axial trench (Subop. 3E) to where it joined with U.40 to form the platform's southwest basal corner. Unit 40, Str. 5-1st's west basal wall, was followed for 1.35m to the north when excavation ceased. On the southeast, the poorly preserved remains of what we believe was the building's southeast corner were found in Subop. 3K. This eastward continuation of U.29 gave Str. 5-1st an east-west width of 15.5m. Continuing up the platform's south face, U.30 is 0.35m tall, its tread measuring 2.48m across and ending on the north at U.31. That last terrace is 0.3m high and runs 1.65m north to the summit step-up, U.32.

The summit encompasses at least 6.96m north-south; its north edge is, as noted, unclear and the looter's pit obliterated most of this area. The remnant of a 0.12m-high by 0.24m-wide wall (U.33) was noted 6.66m north of the U.32 step-up. Unit 33, on the north edge of the surviving portion of the summit, may have been a foundation that supported a perishable upper wall. How it figured in the superstructure's architecture is, however, unknown.

More substantial portions of a summit room were found in the summit's northwest quadrant. What remained of this enclosure were its north and west walls (U.35 and 36). These measured 0.55m across and were observed to intersect to form the compartment's northwest corner. Units 35 and 36 probably served as footings for perishable upper walls. Built into the northwest corner was a low stone-faced and -surfaced bench (U.37). Unit 37 extends 1.2m east

from U.36, the room's western wall and 0.58m south from U.35, the northern wall. The bench may have looked south towards Plaza I. A circle of stones (U.38) was located 0.5m south of U.37's southeast corner. Unit 38's overall exterior measurements are 0.5m north-south by 0.62m east-west; its interior encompasses 0.3m north-south by 0.34m east-west. It may be that, like its predecessor U.9 in Str. 5-4th's summit room, U.38 was used to stabilize a round-bottom ceramic vessel. The room's floor showed signs of intense burning to a depth of 0.02m (F.4) over most of its exposed extent. A deposit composed of large fragments from several jars and bowls (F.15) was found within the room atop F.4. It appears that the F.15 containers were parts of a domestic assemblage that was destroyed *in situ* when the edifice burned.

Additional evidence of burning was recorded atop the U.19 terrace tread immediately in front (south) of the outset steps (U.27 and 28). Here large fragments of burnt earth were noted (F.6) continuing for about a meter south of U.27. Most likely F.6 comprises remnants of what had been an earth surface that was discolored and hardened due to burning. Another large fragment of burned earth (F.14) was located immediately south and adjoining U.19 (the southern terrace's basal facing). Taken together, F.4, 6, and 14 suggest that the end of Str. 5-1st's use coincided with a significant conflagration that engulfed at least large parts of the building's summit and south flank. A dense concentration of artifacts (F.5) found among architectural debris associated with the southeast corner may indicate that a midden was forming on this spot soon after Str. 5-1st's abandonment. The materials recovered here included large sherds from bowls and jars along with fragments of incense burners, some obsidian tools, and a broken biface made from andesite. This seemingly casual use of Plaza I likely post-dated the inferred burning of Str. 5-1st.

As TS.6 drew to a close, Str. 5-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 4.21m and 2.03m tall on the north and south, measured 15.5m east-west by 27.44m north-south, and was aligned ca. 269 degrees. Above the six basal risers on the north that had apparently been in use since Str. 5-3rd it is unclear how the building's exterior facing was constructed on this flank. The situation on the south is clearer. Here the 0.34m-high southern terrace (U.19) remained in use though its north-south width was reduced to 2.73m through constructions added to the platform that encroached on this space. These primarily consisted of an outset stair measuring 3.1m east-west that projected 0.66m from Str. 5-1st's approximate center onto the U.19 terrace. The outset consists of two steps that are 0.18m and 0.19m tall by 0.3m and 0.36m wide. These risers give way to an additional three steps or terraces that ascend towards the summit in intervals of 0.35m, 0.35m, and 0.3m. The treads backing these risers are 0.92m, 2.48m, 1.65m wide. The uppermost step ends on the north at a 0.32m-tall step-up to the summit. The latter surface measures at least 6.96m north-south and was largely destroyed by recent looting. The remnants of what may have been two rooms were observed in the cleared portion of the summit's north side. One of those fragments consists of the poorly preserved segment of a stone wall that stood, when uncovered, 0.12m tall by 0.24m wide. Situated on the north-preserved summit margin, it is likely that the rest of whatever construction this wall was a part of has long eroded down Str. 5-1st's north flank. The other chamber was situated in the superstructure's northwest quadrant. Here two stone foundations for perishable upper walls measuring 0.55m wide joined to form the compartment's northwest corner. The earthen-floored room contained by these footing measured at least 2.5m east-west by 2.1m north-south and contained a low stone-faced and -surfaced bench that was built into the preserved northwest corner (the room's east and south walls were not identified, the southern example having been destroyed during looting). The bench covers 1.2m east-west by 0.58m north-south and may have looked south towards Plaza I. A circle delimited by small stones lies 0.5m south of the bench's southeast corner and has exterior dimensions of 0.5x0.62m. The earthen-floored interior enclosed by

these rocks covers 0.3x0.34m, the whole construction possibly serving as a support for a round-bottomed pottery container (cf., U.9 in Str. 5-4th).

There is evidence that at least parts of the final earthen surfaces visible on Str. 5-1st were subjected to high heat at the end of the building's use-life. Such burning was especially evident in the aforementioned summit room where the floor was hardened and discolored by fire. Similar charring of earthen surfaces was noted on the U.19 terrace directly in front (south) of the outset stair and bordering that terrace's south face. Such extensive signs of burning, coupled with the recovery of large numbers of *bajareque* fragments from terminal debris contexts here, strongly suggests that the last version of Str. 5 ended in a conflagration. This sequence of events matches that seen at the end of Str. 5-4th. Perhaps, in both cases, burning was a way of formally terminating an edifice's use. Unlike the case for Str. 5-4th, Str. 5-1st was not subsequently rebuilt. Instead, the considerable quantity of trash that collected off Str. 5-1st's southeast corner, mixed with tumbled architectural debris, tentatively implies that what had been an imposing edifice facing Plaza I was now a handy place for conducting domestic chores. That the debris from those tasks was never cleaned up points to the increasingly prosaic nature of the activities conducted on and around Str. 5-1st.

Constructions raised now were largely made from river cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. Some masonry blocks were mixed in with these river-worn stones. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

During this interval a 0.6m-thick deposit of small to large stones, primarily cobbles, set in a light brown soil matrix (F.2) was put in place atop Str. 5-1st's summit. Many of the rocks are flat-laid suggesting, along with their considerable numbers, that F.2 did not result from the collapse of a late superstructure. More likely, these rocks were purposefully introduced to seal Str. 5-1st's summit. Whether these actions were taken in preparation for renovating the platform for a fifth time or were intended to formally end the building's use is unclear. If F.2 was part of a late building project that initiative never reached completion.

Time Span 8

This interval pertains to the protracted period following Str. 5-1st's abandonment. During TS.8 the upper 0.2m of S.2 was apparently laid down, covering U.10, 42, and 11 on the platform's north flank. A 0.2-0.37m-thick, fine-textured, dark brown-to-gray humus horizon (S.1) later formed atop the platform and S.2. Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 is a dense concentration of rocks (F.3) that likely fell from final-phase architecture and the stone deposit (F.2) that capped the summit. The F.3 stones were especially frequent and densely packed off the building's north flank above U.11-14 and over U.28-32 on the south. It may be that some of these rocks were emplaced to cover TS.6 architecture thus, with F.2, hiding the earlier platform from view. If so, then most of F.3 would be contemporary with TS.7.

Time Span 9

It was during this very recent period (1980-1981) that Str. 5 was looted. The pit dug into the summit measured 3.27m deep and covered 5m northwest-southeast by 12m northeast-southwest. The spoil generated during this digging (F.1) consisted of a light brown silty soil that contained a few rocks. Most likely F.1 consists of architectural fill that was redeposited atop the

S.1 humus. Feature 1 was as much as 0.6m thick on Str. 5's summit and pinched out against S.1 5.6m downslope to the south of the looter's pit and 4.6m to the north of that illicit excavation.

Plaza I, Northwest Corner

Subop. 3O, encompassing 16m², was dug during the 1985 field season in the northwest corner of the platform supporting Plaza I. It was designed to expose any access features that may have existed in this area. Attention focused on uncovering constructions dating to the final, Late Classic version of the platform (Plaza CS1st) with further digging aimed at exploring how access to the Early Classic plaster floor of Plaza CS2nd might have been structured through this corner. Time did not permit the accomplishment of that last goal though the remains of what might have been an earthen mound associated with the abandonment of Str. 5-4th near the Early Classic's end were revealed. Digging reached maximum depths of 2.2m and 2.3m below modern ground surface beyond and with architecture, respectively. One major building phase and hints of an earlier episode of construction were revealed 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.4, 5	-	
2	-	-	S.3	-	
3	Str. 5-4 th ?	-	-	F.2	ECL?
4	Plaza I-Sub1	U.1-5	-	F.4	LCL
5	Plaza I-Sub1	U.6	-	-	LCL
6	-	-	S.2	F.3, 5	TCL?
7	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the Subop. 3O excavations was the deposition of at least 0.26m of a slightly sandy brown silt that contains some small stones (S.5). Those pebbles resemble inclusions that characterize the colluvial deposits that underlie occupation at Gualoquito. Though the colluvial layer was not reached here, it is likely that it was not much deeper than the 2.2m below modern ground surface we reached in the north part of the trench.

Stratum 5 was capped by a 0.04m-thick deposit of dark black soil that did not seem to owe its color from carbon staining (S.4). Stratum 4 was most pronounced in the east trench wall, fading out west of that section. The behavioral and depositional significance of S.5 is unclear.

Both S.4 and 5 retained level upper surfaces over the 1m they were exposed running north-south north of revealed constructions.

Time Span 2

Overlying S.4 is a 0.45m-thick deposit of brown silt (S.3) that is distinguished from its predecessor by the inclusion within it of numerous charcoal flecks. The flat upper surface of S.3 likely served as the ancient ground surface above which the architecture pertaining to TS.3 and 4 rose to the south.

Time Span 3

Digging within the largely stone fill (U.5) backing U.1 to the south revealed a deposit of brown earth largely devoid of rocks (F.2). Feature 2 was found in the area between U.1 and 2 (see TS.4). It sloped down to the west and north from a high point directly beneath U.2's exposed east edge. Feature 2's maximum exposed thickness on the east is 0.8m and it descended that full distance over 1.3m to the west where it pinched out against the base of excavation (the base of F.2 was not identified with any certainty). The drop to the north covered 3.06m over which distance it descended 1.3m in that direction. Unit 2's builders took advantage of F.2 in constructing this facing, the stones riding the top of the east-to-west downward slope.

Feature 2 does not seem to have resulted from the operation of natural processes. Throughout Gualjoquito mounds of earth such as these are associated with human activity either as purposeful construction (Str. 12-N Platform) or constitute debris deriving from such buildings (as seen in the earth covering and extending outward from Str. 1-2nd—F.2 in that sequence). Consequently, F.2 is taken to be a result of purposeful human actions in what would become the northwest corner of the Plaza I substructure. Whatever that activity was predates the building of U.1-5. As the latter constructions comprised terraces contemporary with the surface of Plaza Cs1st, whatever F.2 represents clearly predates that period. Given that the feature's most likely source lies to the east it is tempting to see it as debris resulting from Str. 5-4th, the only construction known to have been in place in that direction and close enough to have been the source of the F.4 earth. What we know of this building indicates that it was faced with stones. The absence of such facings here implies that F.2 was not part of Str. 5-4th's original architecture. Instead, it might constitute the decayed remnants of the platform's fill and the superstructure's *bajareque* walls. Alternatively this dirt might have been introduced to cover portions of Str. 5-4th after it was abandoned. This seems to have been the purpose of the similar earth deposit that covered at least parts of Str. 1-2nd.

Time Span 4

It was during this interval that three stone-faced (U.1-3) risers were built into Plaza I's northwest corner. The basal riser, U.1, is 1.1m tall and runs back 3.2m to the south where it ends at U.2. The latter rises 0.32m above U.1 and measures 2.42m north-south. The U.1 and 2 treads were possibly surfaced with stones (included in U.1 and 2). The final riser in the series, U.3, ascends 0.58m above U.2 and seems to have marked the north edge of Plaza I during its last iteration (Plaza CS1st). The fill backing and underlying U.1-3 varies. Directly backing (south) of U.1 the fill (U.5) consists of densely packed rocks that are set in a brown silt. Unit 5's basal rocks 'ride' the upward slope of F.2 for 2.75m southward, pinching out between that ascent and the inferred location of U.1's tread. Underlying and backing U.2 the fill (U.4) is a similar soil but with far fewer included rocks.

A 0.1m-thick layer composed of pebbles set in a brown silt matrix (F.4) was recorded running for at least 1.02m north from U.1's base. Feature 4 caps S.3 and might have been the ballast for a floor the fronted this terrace system on the north.

By the end of TS.4, Plaza I's northwest corner was ascended by three risers that reached a total preserved height of 1.96m and were oriented ca. 262 degrees. These ascents mount in increments of 1.1m, 0.32m, and 0.58m from north-to-south, the terrace treads measuring 3.2m and 2.42m wide north-south (in ascending order). The surfaces backing the U.1 and 2 terrace facings may have been paved with stones. The fill retained by these terraces is composed mostly of stone (backing the basal riser, U.1) and of earth with a few rocks (backing U.2, the second ascending terrace). A formal floor underlain by a 0.1m-thick layer of pebbles might have fronted this terrace system for at least 1.02m on the north.

The facings of U.1-3 were made primarily of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The rocks are all set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

There are hints that U.2 might have been raised 0.42m at this time (included in U.2). The fill (U.6) backing the proposed upward extension is composed of a brown silt that contains a moderately dense concentration of rocks (intermediate in density between those found in U.4 and 5). The newly elevated U.2 surface might have been paved with rocks. Unit 3, the step up to the summit, still projected 0.14m above U.2 at this time.

The terraces comprising Plaza I-Sub1 retained their earlier widths, modes of construction, and orientation. Now, however, they ascended in stages of, from north-to-south, 1.1m, 0.76m, and 0.14m to the plaza surface.

Time Span 6

Probably soon after the northwest plaza terraces were abandoned, U.2 and 3 were covered with large amounts of cultural debris (F.3). That these materials, mostly ceramics, were allowed to accumulate over the risers suggests that this portion of Plaza I was no longer being maintained by TS.6. Feature 3, therefore, resembles the midden (F.5) that was revealed off Str. 5-1st's southeast corner. Together, these debris piles hint at a late reuse of Plaza I as a place where domestic activities were being pursued but in so casual a manner that the resulting trash was not disposed of immediately.

Soon after F.3's deposition, U.1-3 were covered by as much as 1.1m of a slightly sandy brown silt (S.2) in which were embedded large numbers of small to large rocks (F.5). Where the F.5 rocks overlay U.2 and 3 they seem to be generally flat-laid whereas those covering the basal ascent (U.1) were tilting down from south-to-north. The tightly packed concentration of so many rocks here suggests that they were intentionally introduced to hide TS.4 architecture from view.

Time Span 7

Following the putative burial of Plaza I's northwest corner, 0.2-0.33m of a dark brown-gray humus horizon (S.1) gradually formed atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 are stones (F.1) that likely fell from F.5 and the neighboring Strs. 1-1st and 5-1st.

Plaza I Summary

Significant occupation in the area that would become Plaza I may have begun with the introduction of earth fill, that effort aimed at leveling out the east-to-west descent of the underlying colluvium. Variations in the texture, color, and inclusions that characterize the different strata identified beneath the plaza's substructure imply that they derived from distinct sources. Nonetheless, the presence of Early Classic diagnostics in these deposits indicates that work on Plaza I began during this span.

Probably soon after the earth fill was in place a stone pavement was laid down covering at least 10.34m east-west. The floor's full extent was not determined but likely encompassed most, if not all, of the area that would eventually become Plaza I. No architecture was clearly associated with this interval (Plaza CS3rd) though we did not excavate deeply enough in the surrounding edifices to determine if they covered buildings that might have been contemporary with this early plaza surface.

The cobble floor was cut on the west and, possibly, the east, probably at the end of Plaza CS3rd. Subsequently about 0.2m of earth fill was laid atop the cobble floor and, presumably, the excavation made in its west end. This dirt, which was apparently burnt in several locations, was then covered by a plaster floor made of crushed rocks. This substantial construction, ranging between 0.23-0.28m thick, likely covered the entire area of Plaza I (Plaza CS2nd). Early Classic constructions on the north (Str. 5-4th) and west (Str. 1-2nd) were erected now. It may be that a comparably early building was also raised on the south beneath what would become Str. 2-4th though we did not have the opportunity to test that proposition. We hypothesize that the basic ground plan for Plaza I was established at this point, with buildings arranged around all of its sides. The known examples were sizable relative to other Early Classic buildings recorded in other parts of Gualjoquito, consisting of platforms that stood 0.5-1.35m tall on their plaza-facing sides, were faced with stones, and were graced with such features as a plaster summit floor (Str. 5-4th) and the use of cut blocks (Str. 1-2nd).

Plaza CS2nd came to what seems to have been a dramatic end. The plaster floor was burnt in over parts of its extent and its west end was cut, directly above the area where the earlier cobble surface had been truncated. Structure 5-4th on the north was burnt while Str. 1-2nd on the west was blanketed by a 0.17-0.29m-thick brown clay that extended eastward over part of the plaza. Str. 5-4th may also have been partly covered with earth, at least on its west side, though the evidence for such mantling is ambiguous (see in the Northwest Corner excavations). Taken together, the evidence points to a formalized termination of Plaza I and its surrounding buildings at the end of the Early Classic.

The last major building effort in Plaza I (Plaza CS1st) involved raising that open surface 1.75-2.1m through the addition of large quantities of dry-laid cobble fill. These stones were contained and stabilized within sizable pens delimited by rock walls that generally slope back from base-to-top at angles ranging from 10-20 degrees. The one cleared pen measured 2.4x10.46m and contained 43.8m³ of stone fill. It may be that what we have called 'walls' that border these pens were never free-standing constructions. Instead, they might constitute formalized and reinforced faces of the surrounding rock fill. The vast majority of Plaza I's full height was likely achieved as the result of one building effort. There are some hints that the topmost 0.2-0.3m of the plaza was added after the bulk of the fill was in place and the plaza had been in use for some time. Still, the amount of effort and engineering skill manifest in the raising of Plaza I is unparalleled at Gualjoquito and speaks to the power of those who lived in the buildings perched around that open space on the substructure's edge.

The two-to-three versions of Structure 1-1st, three iterations of Str. 5, and four of Str. 2 speak to an increased pace of construction during the Late Classic. This and the growing size

and elaboration of the buildings that now bordered Plaza I on the west, north, and south point to increased control over ever larger labor pools by Plaza I's residents (Str. 3 on the east was not investigated; it likely reached its final dimensions and form now). The extensive use of stones in both fill and as structure facings that characterizes this interval also testifies to the amount of labor those who commissioned the plaza and its bordering platforms could command. Building fill in other parts of Gualjoquito tends to be earth, a somewhat easier material to acquire, carry, and put in place than rocks. The final versions of these edifices rose 1-2.67m above the plaza and 4.21m and 4.5m high on their non-plaza flanks. The forms of the superstructures raised atop these platforms were difficult to reconstruct, in large part because of the extensive looting to which Strs. 1 and 5 had been subjected. The presence of benches atop several iterations of these edifices coupled with the *in situ* deposit of domestic ceramics in Str. 5-1st's northwest summit room tentatively imply that Strs. 1, 2, and 5 served at least in part as residences for those of high rank. How Plaza I was accessed is unclear. The terraces which define the substructure's northwest corner would seem too steep and high to ascend. Possibly the narrow gap between Strs. 4 and 3 in the plaza's northeast corner was the sole means of entering this private space.

Though not part of Plaza I, modifications made to Str. 1-1stBs west side may have converted this flank into the east wall of a ballcourt with a pebble-floored alley that measured an estimated 5m east-west (bordered by Str. 7 on the west). Though efforts to find the north and south limits of the putative alley yielded, at best, ambiguous results it is estimated that this space covered 19m north-south (coterminous with outsets recorded during surface mapping on Str. 7 on the west and Strs. 1 and 13 on the east). If the ballcourt interpretation is correct, it applies only to the last phase of Str. 1's construction and occupation.

The end of Plaza CS1st replicates in some ways the termination of its predecessors. Structure 5-1st was extensively burnt and not rebuilt. The sequential constructions, Strs. 1-1stA and 1-1stB, were each apparently burnt as well. Comparable evidence for Str. 2 was not forthcoming. There is also the possibility that Str. 5-1st's uppermost northern terraces were ripped out at about this time while Plaza I's northwest corner was seemingly blanketed by a mix of earth and stones, so much of this material being present that the deposit looks like it was part of an effort intended to hide these constructions from view. At about this time sizable quantities of cultural materials, mostly ceramics, accumulated off Str. 5-1st's southeast corner, above the highest northwest substructure terrace, and east of Str. 3 (see Subop. 3I under test pits). Taken together, this debris may have resulted from activities, such as feasting, that accompanied the termination of Plaza I. On the other hand, this may be trash that accumulated as late settlers took advantage of the elevated platform as a place to pursue activities unrelated to Plaza I's original functions.

In short, the history of Plaza I was punctuated by periods of what appear now to have been major disruptions in its use. Each of the Plaza Construction Stages marked a significant investment in labor to create and each ended with cutting through at least parts of the prepared plaza floor (Plaza CS3rd and -2nd), burnings (Plaza CS1st), or both (Plaza CS2nd). In addition, there are some signs that Strs. 5-1st, 2-1st and, possibly, 1-1st were covered in part by stones and earth, thus sealing them one last time. Such treatment rehearses the covering of Str. 1-2nd and, possibly, 5-4th by earthen mounds at the end of Plaza CS2nd. Such treatment of Plaza I and its buildings during the final construction stage indicates that these edifices were of sufficient importance, or posed sufficient threats to whatever form of sociopolitical organization succeeded this period, that they warranted the investment of considerable efforts in definitively ending their uses.

Structure 6

Structure 6 is on the southern margin of Gualjoquito, 3.5m southwest of Str. 13. The building sealed off the south margin of the putative ballcourt formed by Strs. 1 and 13 on the east and Str. 7 on the west; Str. 8 bounds the inferred alley on the north. Structure 6 was initially investigated during 1982 by George Hasemann and Russel Sheptak who dug a trench (Subop. 1A in our designation system) across the building running north-south. Our research here took the form of a 1m-wide by 14.05m-long north-south excavation (Subop. 3H) that spanned the edifice's north-south width and was located 1m east of Subop. 1A. Digging here reached maximum depths of 1.4m and 2.03m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. Two major building episodes were recognized in the course of this work.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	-
2	-	-	S2	F.2	ECL
3	Str. 6-2 nd	U.1-7	-	-	LCL?
4	Str. 6-1 st	U.8-16	-	-	LCL
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

A tan, gritty soil that contained a densely packed concentration of mostly small rocks (S.3) accumulated to a thickness of at least 0.3m during this interval (its base was not found). Exposed in the northernmost portion of Subop. 3H, S.3 maintained a level upper surface over the 1m it was exposed running east-west and 1.22m it was revealed extending north-south. Devoid of cultural material, S.3 was likely part of the colluvial deposit that underlies much of Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Approximately 0.9m of a light brown silt, largely devoid of rocks, was laid down now. A 0.01-0.04m-thick lens of gray ash (F.2) was embedded in the uppermost portion of S.2, directly underlying Str. 6-2nd. Feature 2 pinched out 0.86m north from an excavation baulk left in place to support U.4. Also occurring at this level within 1.5m north of F.2 are a few small rocks that look to have been fire-altered along with fragments of *bajareque*. Most likely F.2 and these materials derived from a human occupation that was covered by Str. 6-2nd's construction. The recovery of artifacts from deeper portions of S.2 suggest that the area covered by the several iterations of Str. 6 was an enduring locus of human settlement at Gualjoquito.

Time Span 3

Structure 6-2nd is a platform fronted on the north by a 0.32m high terrace that measures 2.05m north-south. Unit 1's tread is surfaced with stones (U.2) and terminates on the south at U.3. The latter rises 0.2m above U.2, U.3's stone-paved tread (included in U.3) covering 0.62m north-south. A 0.16m-high stone step-up (U.4) gives way to the earthen-floored summit which spans 2.9m north-south. On the south, a 0.6m-tall stone facing (U.5) rises directly to that summit. No signs of superstructure construction were identified in the limited portion of the summit that was cleared in Subop. 3H. The fill retained by U.1 and underlying U.2-3 is a light brown earth in which only a few rocks are scattered (U.7). The situation is different further south where a far dense concentration of small to medium-size rocks is embedded in a similar soil (U.6) and supports the summit while backing U.5 to the north.

Overall, by the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 6-2nd was an earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.6m and 0.68m tall on the south and north, measured 5.57m north-south, and was aligned ca. 264 degrees. The summit encompassed 2.9m north-south and, based on the narrow swath of the that area revealed in Subop. 3H, did not support a substantial superstructure. In fact, the summit may have been left open.

All facings and pavements that constituted the known portions of Str. 6-2nd were fashioned mostly of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards (or upwards in the case of the U.2 and 3 surfaces). The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Structure 6-2nd was subsequently covered by 0.26-0.85m of a light brown soil which contained a moderately dense concentration of small to large cobbles (U.8; this fill closely resembles U.6 which comprises part of the hearting for Str. 6-2nd). Structure 6-1st was raised atop this fill. The building's north face was ascended by three (U.13-15) stone-faced terraces that rose in increments of 0.4m, 0.34m, and 0.46m southwards toward the summit (U.13, 14, and 15, respectively). Unit 13, the basal riser, encompassed 1.92m north-south while its successor, U. 14, was 0.62m wide. Unit 15, in turn, covered 2.2m and ended on the south at U.16, the north side of the summit bench. Three terraces, U.9, a still-visible portion of U.5, and U.10 front Str. 6-1st on the south. Here, the basal riser (U.9) is 0.38m high by 0.94m wide and terminates at U.5. The uppermost 0.22m of this, the former south basal wall of Str. 6-2nd, protruded above U.9's tread and was apparently repurposed as the facing for the second ascending southern terrace. Measuring 0.44m across, U.5's tread gives way on the north to U.10. The latter rises 0.2m above U.5 and ends on the north after 0.5m at U.11. That facing ascends 0.27m giving way to the summit. It seems likely that U.11 and 15 define the south and north sides of the summit. Located 1.03m north of U.11's south face, U.12 probably marks the south edge of the substantial stone-faced, earthen-surfaced bench that U.16 borders on the north. The bench was 0.4m tall on the north and 0.34m high on the south, the slight differences in height resulting from the fact that the summit is lower on the south. Overall, the U.12/16 bench measures 2.3m north-south and likely overlooked the sequence of relatively low risers that ascend towards the summit from the south.

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 6-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 1.2m and 1.07m high on the north and south, encompassed 9.95m north-south, and was oriented approximately 264 degrees. Three terraces standing 0.34-0.46m tall and covering 0.62-2.2m across ascend the platform's north face while three risers that are 0.2-0.38m high by 0.44-0.94m wide grace the building's south side. The treads in each case were seemingly surfaced with earth. The earthen-floored summit is reached in each case by ascending stone step-ups that are 0.27 and 0.4m tall on the south and north, this space covering 5.55m across. A stone-

faced and earth-surfaced bench is located 1.03m north of the summit's south margin. It is 0.34m and 0.4m tall on the south and north and measures 2.23 across. All facings pertaining to Str. 6-1st that were revealed in Subop. 3H were made primarily of river cobbles the flatter faces of which were oriented outwards. The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

After Str. 6-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.2 resumed, as much as 0.6m of this earth being laid down now against the platform's south flank. No more than 0.15m of this light brown silt seemingly accumulated against the base of U.13, the northern basal terrace. Subsequently, 0.2-0.23m of a dark brown humus horizon formed atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 and upper S.2 is a light (on the north) to moderately dense concentration of rocks (on the south; F.1) that likely tumbled from TS.4 architecture. Feature 1 was traced for 1.5m south of U.9, the southern basal riser, when excavation ceased. Though declining somewhat in density, the F.1 stones probably continued past Subop. 3H's southern limits.

Structure 8

Structure 8 lies 14m north of what we infer was a ballcourt the flanks of which were bounded by Structures 7 on the west and 1 and 13 on the east, respectively. Structure 5 in Group I us 5m to the southeast while Str. 10 lies 8m to the northwest. Structure 8 is not located on any of the plazas identified from surface remains at Gualjoquito and was thought to have been built in part to close off the ballcourt's north side as Structure 6 defined the alley's south margin. Excavations (Subop. 8A) here were centered on the building's south flank more-or-less in line with the alley's center line. Suboperation 8A measured 1m by 3.25m north-south, digging reaching maximum depths of 1.2m and 1.41m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One building episode was identified 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.4	-	
2	-	-	S.2, 3	-	S.3 LPrecl S.2, ECL
3	Str. 8-1 st	U.1, 2	-	-	LCL
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The earliest event recorded within Subop. 8A was the deposition of at least 0.1m of a gritty textured, brown soil that contains numerous small rocks (S.4; its base was not encountered). Stratum 4 ran more-or-less flat over the 3.25m it was exposed extending north-south. Lacking artifacts, S.4 seems to be part of the culturally sterile colluvial layer that underlies much of Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Stratum 4 is directly overlain by 0.2-0.26m of a light brown soil (S.3) that contains considerable quantities of artifacts, primarily ceramics. Stratum 3's upper surface is relatively level, dropping 0.08m over 1.2m from north-to-south; it descends 0.08m across 1m north from the southern excavation limit. The result is the formation of a shallow basin the flat base of which encompasses 1.05m north-south. There is no evidence to suggest that this declivity was created through human intervention.

Capping S.3 is 0.14-0.54m of a slightly darker brown earth (S.2) that contains large numbers of artifacts, mostly sherds, mixed with faunal remains, primarily *jute* shells (*Pachychilus sp.*). Stratum 2 rises continuously from south-to-north, ascending 0.4m over the 3.25m it was exposed on Subop. 8A. It appears that S.2 and 3 constitute a trash deposit, possibly a low (minimally 0.4m high) debris mound atop which Str. 8-1st was built. Alternatively, both soils may have been introduced as fill that was designed to raise ancient ground surface preparatory to building the aforementioned platform.

Time Span 3

Structure 8-1st's south flank was defined by a stone facing (U.1) that stood 0.33m high, rested on S.2 near what might have been the summit of the putative trash mound, and was aligned very approximately 90 degrees (Unit 1 was poorly preserved making its orientation difficult to determine). Unit 1 was apparently made of large river cobbles (as much as 0.44m long by 0.25m thick) the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The stones are set in a mud mortar. The fill retained by U.1 to the north consists of a light brown soil that contains few rocks (U.2). The surface backing U.1 to the north is composed of the upper portion of the U.2 earth.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 8-1st's abandonment, U.1 and 2 were covered by 0.16-0.4m of a hard-compacted, dark brown earth (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 was traced for 1.55m south from U.1, the density of rocks declining with increasing distance from that facing.

Structure 11

Structure 11 measures 15m on a side (unexcavated) and is joined to Str. 12, 5m to the north, by a sizable 'saddle,' or raised construction. Together with Str. 12 and Str. 12's North Platform, Str. 11 seals off the east side of Plaza V. Structure 21 is 51m to the west while Str. 22 is across Plaza V and 68m to the northwest. Structure 11 was investigated during the 1985 season by the digging of a 1m by 12.6m east-west trench (Subop. 7C) against the building's east (non-plaza-facing) side. Excavations reached a maximum depths of 0.8m and 1.4m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One building phase was identified in the course of this work though it should be noted that we did not dig sufficiently within Str. 11-1st's fill to establish whether there were construction episodes that pre-dated the final one.

During 1984, a trench (Subop. 7B) measuring 1m by 4.8m east-west was dug within the right-of-way of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road opposite Str. 11's southwest corner.

Work here was initiated to determine if there was any architecture associated with the building that might be destroyed when that route was widened. These investigations were directed by Alexander Pezatti under Wendy Ashmore's supervision and did reveal architecture. It is not clear, however, that the constructions revealed in Subop. 7B were integral parts of Str. 11-1st. Digging in this trench reached maximum depths of 0.7m and 0.94m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One building phase was identified 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. 11-1 st Str. 11-Sub1	U.1-4 U.5-7	-	F.2	ECL/LCL
2	-	-	S.1-2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

Structure 11-1st: The exposed eastern segment of Str. 11-1st consists of three stone-faced terraces (U.1-3) that ascend in increments of 1.07m (U.1), 1.15m (U.2), and 0.6m (U.3) from east-to-west towards the summit. Unit 1, the basal riser, measures 3.48m east-west whereas U.2 ran 2.02m to the west where it was succeeded by U.3. The latter may constitute the step-up to the summit. No superstructure architecture was identified in the 3.5m that was cleared within Subop. 7C west of U.3's east face. The recovery of burnt earth fragments scattered near where the treads for U.1 and 2 were located as well as backing U.3 to the west tentatively suggests that these surfaces were capped by a layer of earth (F.2). It is quite possible that surfacing terrace treads with earth was more widespread at Gualjoquito than the current evidence suggests, signs of that treatment surviving here thanks to their burning prior to being covered by earth during TS.2. The fill retained by, and underlying, U.1-3 consists of a light brown soil in which there are varying quantities of rocks (U.4). Small to large stones are especially prevalent within U.4 in the area backing U.1 to the west. Rocks are far less frequent in the portion of U.4 that underlies the summit.

Overall, by the conclusion of TS.1, Str. 11-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 2.82m high and was aligned approximately 4 degrees. The two eastern stone-faced terraces revealed during excavations are 1.07m and 1.15m tall by 3.48m (the basal riser) and 2.02m wide. The stone step-up to the earthen-floored summit stood 0.6m tall above the second ascending terrace's tread. The terrace surfaces and at least part of the summit were possibly covered with a layer of earth that was preserved in part because it was subjected to high heat. That burning may have been intentional or the outcome of a conflagration that immediately preceded Str. 11-1st's abandonment. No elements pertaining to a superstructure were encountered in our limited exposure of the summit. Terrace facings were made of cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards, all of the rocks being set in a mud mortar. Unit 2's outer face was topped with a course of cobbles that were underlain by stones composed of a soft, orange rock that appears to be sandstone.

Very few artifacts were recovered during the excavation of Str. 11, making it difficult to date the building's construction and use. Compounding the problem is the apparent destruction

of some of Str. 11-1st's terraces, material from the fill that backed them mingling with items from terminal debris contexts. The few temporally diagnostic sherds analyzed from this assemblage date primarily to the Early Classic suggesting very tentatively that the edifice was raised at this time along with Str. 12's North Platform and Str. 12-5th. Like the first of these constructions, Str. 11-1st remained exposed throughout the Late Classic and was probably used during this interval.

Structure 11-Sub1: The situation on the west is different. Here two stone-faced risers (U.5 and 6) ascend in increments of 0.22m and 0.26m from west-to-east. The basal riser (U.5) measures 1.2m across east-west while its successor, U.6, is at least 2.1m wide (its eastern limit was not encountered). The fill (U.7) retained by, and underlying, U.5 and 6 consists of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, light brown earth in which variable numbers of medium to large rocks are embedded. The stones, mostly river cobbles, are especially prevalent where they underlie U.5's tread and for the first 1.8m back (east) from the U.6 riser. Further to the east, stones are much less common. Based on surface remains, Str. 11-1st's southwest basal corner is about 4m east of U.5, approximately 0.7m beyond excavation limits. It is unlikely, therefore, that U.5-7 were integral components of the platform. Adding to that doubt is the observation that these units diverge from the orientation of the main platform by about 30 degrees (ca. 334 degrees). Though included here, Subop. 7B may have revealed the western face of a low platform that ran in front (west) of Str. 11-1st but was not integrated with it.

Time Span 2

Structure 11-1st's east side was initially covered by as much as 0.5m of a light brown soil (S.2) that closely resembles the earth comprising the U.4 fill. Subsequently a dark brown humus horizon (S.1) formed to a thickness of 0.25-0.32m atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that probably fell from TS.2 architecture. Feature 1 was especially concentrated within 1.6m of U.1, the basal eastern riser and overlying the area between U.1 and U.2.

As much as 0.63m of S.2 accumulated atop Str. 11-1st's summit now, the earth increasing in depth gradually from a point immediately behind (west) of U.3 to the western limits of excavation. This portion of S.2 contains very few stones and was not retained by any surviving walls. It may be that this represents the post-abandonment natural deposition of earth but it is hard to imagine how so much of S.2 collected atop such a tall platform by any but cultural means. Perhaps this segment of S.2 was purposefully introduced to seal Str. 11-1st's summit, a formal termination of the building that might have included burning portions of the edifice (cf. F.2).

The depositional sequence was roughly the same for Str. 11-Sub1. Here the portion of S.2 that covered final-phase architecture is as much as 0.32m thick. That layer was, in turn, blanketed by 0.12-0.3m of S.1. The one notable distinction is a layer of heavily disturbed humus measuring 0.05-0.17m thick that consists of soil disturbed during the course of earth moving resulting from road construction. Feature 1 is far less notable in the vicinity of Str. 11-Sub1, suggesting that this building had been little disturbed prior to 1984.

Structure 12

Structure 12 is the largest stand-alone edifice at Gualjoquito. It, together with Str. 11 and Str. 12's North Platform, defines the east side of Plaza V. Structure 11 is joined to Str. 12 and

projects south of the latter platform whereas Str. 22 on Plaza V's west side is 63m distant. Digging here during the 1985 field season began with clearing, within Subop. 7D, the deep looter's pit that had been dug into the platform's east side just south of the edifice's center. Suboperation 7D encompassed 1m by 15m east-west. In addition to clarifying several iterations of the platform, Subop. 7D was carried deeper than the original cut to clarify the earliest version of Str. 12 identified in our investigations. As a result of these illicit excavations, constructions associated with Str. 12-1st-3rd were inferred from their remains that were preserved in the looter pit's walls that were cleared back to clarify these units. Evidence of earlier versions of the building were better preserved as the looting did not reach depths low enough to expose them. Suboperation 7E was a 1m by 14.5m east-west trench that cleared a portion of Str. 12's west face to reveal something of the building's final form in an area that was less damaged by recent illicit digging than was the east face. Having identified an outset staircase on the west, plaza-facing side of Str. 12-1st, two additional excavations were conducted to determine that access feature's dimensions; Subop. 7L clearing ca. 10m² in search of the southwest corner and Subop. 7I exposed 13m² in determining the outset's northwest corner and relation to the platform's western basal facings. All-in-all, digging within these four suboperations uncovered 53m², excavations reaching maximum depths of 1.88m and 3.4m below modern ground surface outside and within architecture, respectively.

<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. 12-5 th	U.1-6	-	-	ECL
3	Str. 12-4 th	U.1, 7-10	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 12-3 rd	U.1, 7, 8, 10-14	-	-	LCL
5	Str. 12-2 nd	U.1, 2, 7, 8, 15-19	-	F.5	LCL
6	Str. 12-1 st	U.1, 2, 7, 8, 15, 16, 20-35	-	F.4	LCL, TCL
7	-	U.36	-	F.3	TCL?
8	-	-	S.1	F.2	
9	-	-	-	F.1	1980-1981

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified in the Str. 12 investigations consists of the deposition of at least 0.2m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown soil (S.2; its base was not uncovered). As S.2 was largely indistinguishable from U.36 (TS.7) it is hard to say how much of

the former was deposited prior to the erection of Str. 12-5th. The amount estimated here is based on the depth S.2 would need to have reached to support constructions dating to TS.2-7.

Time Span 2

Structure 12-5th was a platform that stood 0.9m high on its exposed east flank, measured at least 5m across east-west, and was aligned ca. 358 degrees. The building was fronted on the east by a step or terrace (U.1) that rose 0.45m high and extended back (west) for 0.97m where it was succeeded by U.2. The latter ascended 0.45m above U.1's tread and gave way to a summit that was paved (at least in the 1m-wide area we exposed) by stones (U.4). Unit 4 is one stone (0.08m) thick and capped a fill (U.6) composed of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown earth that contained a few rocks. The summit's west margin (U.5) was not fully exposed and we could not tell if this flank was graced with one or more steps or terraces. In all the U.4 summit pavement covers 2.28m east-west and did not support any standing architecture that was identified within our limited probe.

All architecture raised now was fashioned primarily of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards or, in U.4's case, upward. Some large, faced blocks were incorporated in U.2. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Much of Str. 12-5th's exposed portions would be incorporated in the subsequent versions of this platform that were revealed in Subop. 7D.

Time Span 3

The builders of Str. 12-4th took advantage of Str. 12-5th's presence, using it as a terrace fronting the building on the east. Unit 1 was not apparently modified now, nor would it be changed during the subsequent construction episodes. Unit 2 was, however, increased in elevation, now rising 0.77m above U.1's tread (the upward addition is designated U.7). A fill of fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown earth (U.6) was introduced backing U.7 to the west and covering the earlier U.4 surface by 0.42m. Unit 7's earthen tread runs 3.83m to the west where it is succeeded by U. 8. The latter rises 0.48m above U.7's floor and fronts on the east another earthen-floored terrace, this one measuring 1.83m across. The fill (U.9) retained by U.8 on the east is identical to U.3. Ascending 0.48m above U.8's tread is U.10. The latter may have marked the earthen-floored summit's eastern margin. Clearing 2.22m further to the west at the level of U.10's top did not reveal further risers nor did it uncover any superstructure architecture.

Structure 12-4th was, at the conclusion of TS.3, an earth- and, to a much lesser extent, stone-filled platform that stood 2.18m high on the east, measured at least 8.83m east-west (its west edge was not uncovered), and was aligned roughly 358 degrees. The building was fronted on the east by three, largely earthen-floored terraces that encompassed 0.97m, 3.83m, and 1.83m across and were 0.45m, 0.77m, and 0.48m high (in east-to-west, ascending order). A 0.48m-tall stone-faced step-up led to the earthen-floored summit which encompassed at least 2.22m east-west (its western limit lying beyond Subop. 7D to the west).

The facings raised now were fashioned mostly of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The exposed portion of U. 8, however, was made of large faced blocks (one example measures 0.4m east-west by 0.24m thick). Unit 8's construction matches that seen in U.2 where masonry also predominates. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Those raising Str. 12-3rd incorporated elements of its precursors into their version of the edifice. Units 1 and 2 from Str. 12-5th continued to be exposed and in use as were U.7, 8, and 10 from Str. 12-4th. The major additions made now (U.11-14), and which comprise the exposed portions of Str. 12-3rd, were set atop Str. 12-4th's presumed summit. Unit 11, a terrace facing placed 0.2m back (west) from U.10's east face, rises 0.29m above the latter's tread and covers an estimated 0.38m east-west. Ascending 0.26m above U.11's tread, U.12 encompasses 0.6m across east-west and terminates on the west at U.13. The latter stands 0.2m tall and may have been the step-up to Str. 12-3rd's summit. Digging 1m further east at a level equal to U.13's top did not reveal any further risers leading to a higher summit. We cannot definitively say, of course, that no such ascents existed beyond excavation limits to the west. The fill retained by U.11-13 consisted of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown soil in which a moderately large number of small to medium-size cobbles were embedded (U.14). Unit 14's stones were concentrated within 0.5m of the U.11-13 facings and treads.

Based on the evidence in hand, Str. 12-3rd was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 2.93m tall on the east, measured at least 8.83m east-west (its western margin was not encountered), and was oriented ca. 358 degrees. The edifice was ascended on the east by six terraces that ended in what may have been a 0.2m-tall step-up to the summit. These ascents were 0.45m, 0.77m, 0.48m, 0.48m, 0.29m, and 0.26m tall by 0.97m, 3.83m, 1.83m, 0.2m, 0.38m, and 0.6m wide (in ascending order). All of the treads were apparently surfaced with earth as was the summit which was exposed over a 1m wide (north-south) swath for 1m to the west.

The constructions raised now were, from what could be determined in this heavily looted area, made primarily of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The faced blocks comprising much of U.2 and 8 were still in place and exposed at this time.

Time Span 5

Once again, U.1, 2, 7, and 8 were incorporated in later construction, this time serving as terraces that fronted Str. 12-2nd on the east. The architecture constituting the exposed portions of the latter platform (U.15-19) was raised atop U.8 and completely buried U.10-14 under a fill (U.19) composed of a moderately dense concentration of flat-laid small to large stones that were set in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown soil. A 0.07m-thick ash lens (F.5) was embedded in U.19. Feature 5 abuts U.10 at a point 0.11m below that facing's top and pinches out 1.14m to the east over which distance it dropped 0.31m at which point it was 0.01m above U.8's tread. Feature 5's behavioral significance is unclear. As it is embedded in U.19 its deposition was likely contemporary with the erection of Str. 12-2nd. The integrity of the lens tentatively implies that it was not accidentally included with this fill. It might, instead, signal a temporary cessation in U.19's deposition at a moment when all but the upper 0.18m of U.10 had already been covered.

Unit 15 is a 0.66m-high terrace set 0.2m back (west) from U.8's east edge. This terrace's tread is 0.73m wide east-west and ends at U.16 on the west. The latter rises 0.54m above U.15 and extends westward for 1.3m. Unit 17, in turn, stands 0.7m above U.16's tread and measures 0.45m east-west. The last riser noted in this sequence, U.18, ascends 0.3m above U.17 and might have bounded Str. 12-2nd's summit on the west. Clearing for 1.3m to the west at the level of U.18's top did not reveal additional architecture though further construction associated with the platform may well lie beyond excavation limits in this direction.

As TS.5 drew to a close, Str. 12-2nd stood at least 3.91m tall, encompassed (minimally) 8.83m east-west (its western margin was not uncovered), and was aligned roughly 358 degrees. The building was ascended by six terraces on the east, each measuring 0.45, 0.77m, 0.48m, 0.66m, 0.54m, and 0.7m high by 0.97m, 3.83m, 0.2m, 0.73m, 1.3m, and 0.45m wide (in ascending order). These risers end in a 0.2m-tall stone step-up to what might have been the summit. The latter surface was cleared for 1.3m to the west without revealing any signs of a superstructure.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. The faced blocks comprising U.2 and 8 would still have been visible and in use now. The exposed surfaces of the terraces and summit were probably surfaced with earth.

Time Span 6

Elements pertaining to Str. 12-1st were exposed on the building's east and west sides. On the former flank the platform was raised yet again, this time leaving at least portions of U.1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 16 from earlier versions of the building exposed and in use. The new components that constituted Str. 12-1st here (U.20-23) were raised atop U.16-19, significantly increasing the edifice's height without expanding its lateral dimensions. Unit 20 is a terrace facing that rises directly above and in line with U.16's east face. Together, U.16 and 20 comprise a vertical ascent of 1.13m, the terrace's tread measuring 0.65m across east-west. Unit 21, in turn, rises 0.4m above U.20's tread and runs 1m to the west where it ends at U.22. The latter stands 1.1m above U.21 and likely gave way to the summit. The fill contained by and underlying U.20-22 is composed of a moderately dense concentration of rocks that are embedded in a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown soil (U.23). Unit 23's stones mostly cluster directly behind the terrace facings and under their treads.

Structure 12-1st is fronted on the west by three stone steps (U.24-26) that ascend in increments of 0.2m, 0.15m, and 0.3m from west-to east. The treads backing U.24-26 are paved with stones and measure 2m (U.24, the basal riser) and 2.4m (U.25, the next ascending step); the width of, U.26, the third riser was not determined. Unit 24 is outset 2m west of Str. 12-1st's western basal facing, at least as that construction was revealed north of the staircase (U.33). Units 31 and 32 define the limits of that projection on the north and south. The outset measures 4.1m north-south and faces across the plaza towards the outset staircase on Str. 22-1st. Digging above and east of U.26 revealed only the poorly preserved remains of three additional terraces (U.27-29) and a 0.14m-high stone step-up to the summit (U.30). A significant gap in the horizontal and vertical distances between U.26 and the lowest of the three putative upper terraces (U.27) strongly suggests that an intervening terrace was destroyed at some point in the past. As there were no signs of recent looting on Str. 12-1st's west flank, it appears that the damage long predated the modern era. That same damage may well have resulted in the poor preservation of Str. 12-1st's upper western architecture.

Investigations of U.28-30 suggested that they were set 0.05-0.3m above earlier terrace faces to which they were additions. This arrangement may have mirrored the relation between U.20 and 16 on the east. Restrictions of time and the instability of the matrix in which U.28 and 29 were set meant that we did not investigate this possibility further.

A 0.05m-thick lens composed of burnt earth (F.4) was noted sloping down and away for 0.34m from a point 0.15m west of the base of U.27, the lower of the three upper terraces. Feature 4 likely consists of architectural debris the deposition of which soon followed the termination of Str. 12-1st's use.

Structure 12-1st's west basal wall (U.33) was revealed as a steep, sheer ascent north of the outset steps (north of U.31). It runs north for 3m from its junction with U.31 at which point it steps back (east) for an estimated 2m before turning north again. This last segment, exposed for 1.5m north-south, consists of at least two terraces (U.34 and 35). The basal riser is 0.11m high by 0.5m wide east-west. Unit 35 ascends 0.53m above U.34's tread. Excavation ceased at this point and how the remainder of this portion of Str. 12-1st was faced remains unknown.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 12-1st was an earth-and-stone filled platform that stood 5.02m tall, measured 23m across east-west, and was oriented approximately 358 degrees. An outset staircase measuring 4.1m north-south projected 2m west of the building's center into the plaza. This access feature consisted of at least seven, likely more, risers. The best preserved three lowest steps stood 0.2m, 0.15m, and 0.3m tall and were backed by treads that were surfaced with stones. The first and second ascending steps covered 2m and 2.4m east-west (in ascending order). Remnants of at least three additional terraces or steps were recorded further upslope in line with the staircase. Not only were they heavily damaged but it appeared that one or more comparable constructions had been completely ripped out in the area immediately east of the third ascending step. A 0.05m-thick lens composed of burnt earth extending 0.34m east of the terrace that rose immediately above the damaged area suggests that Str. 12-1st's termination was accompanied by a conflagration in addition to the architectural damages chronicled here. A 0.14m-tall stone step-up bordered the summit on the west. Structure 12-1st's superstructure was not cleared though we estimate that the summit encompassed 4.8m east-west. There are hints that the uppermost two terraces and the summit step-up on the west were built directly atop earlier walls, the latter presumably pertaining to Str. 12-2nd.

The platform's basal architecture was exposed in several specific areas. On the east, within Subop. 7D, the edifice was ascended by six terraces that were 0.48m, 0.77m, 0.48m, 0.66m, 1.13m, and 0.4m tall by 0.97m, 3.83m, 0.2m, 0.73m, 0.65m, and 1m wide (in ascending order). These risers gave way on the west to a 1.1m-tall sheer ascent to the summit. Units 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 16 from earlier versions of the platform were still exposed and in use now. Perhaps most striking in this sequence is the continued exposure of U.1 and 2 from Str. 12-5th; these constructions remained integral parts of the building throughout its known history. The situation on the west is less clear. Here the basal wall not only changes direction but architectural form. It comprises a sheer ascent for 3m north of its junction with the outset stair at which point it turns a right angle to run 2m to the east. When the basal facing turns once again to the north it is composed of at least two terraces standing 0.11m and 0.53m high (from bottom to top), the basal riser encompassing 0.5m wide.

Constructions raised and in use now were generally made of cobbles the flatter faces of which are directed outwards. The stones comprising U.33, the steep western basal wall, are an exception to this pattern. Here there was a mix of angular rocks and river-worn stones most of which seemed to have been purposefully faced. Shaped masonry blocks were noted mixed with cobbles in the western steps and terraces. As in the previous construction phases, the cut blocks that made up U.2 and 8 on the east were still visible now. The rocks in all cases were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

During this interval Str. 12-1st was blanketed by as much as 2.04m of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light brown soil in which a few rocks are embedded (U.36). Also included in U.36 is a 0.07m-thick lens composed of burnt earth fragments (F.3). Feature 3 is 0.23m east of U.15, its top equivalent in elevation to that terrace's tread. The lens slopes down 0.2m west-to-

east over its 0.9m length. In general, U.36 is sufficiently thick and pervasive, coming to cover even the upper reaches of surviving architecture, as to suggest that its presence did not result from the building's deterioration or natural processes of soil deposition. More likely it was the result of purposeful actions designed to entomb Str. 12-1st. The scant evidence of tumbled debris derived from TS.6 architecture further implies that U.36 was introduced soon after Str. 12-1st was abandoned and before it had started to suffer from the prolonged effects of collapse.

Taking the evidence from TS.6 and 7 into account, it appears that the formal termination of Str. 12-1st consisted of several steps. It may have begun with digging into the edifice's centerline above the third step, possibly to retrieve objects placed there as parts of ritual deposits. Subsequently there was likely at least selective burning on parts of Str. 12-1st followed by the deposition of considerable quantities of earth and some stones over perhaps the entire edifice (U.36 was especially evident atop the staircase and on the exposed segments of the platform's east flank).

Time Span 8

A fine-textured, soft-compacted, dark brown humus horizon (S.1) ultimately formed to a thickness of 0.4-0.7m atop U.36 (measured off the east side). Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.2). The source of these stones is unclear if, as we infer, most of Str. 12-1st's architecture was sealed beneath U.36 now.

Time Span 9

The last activity for which there was evidence in Str. 12's vicinity was the looting of the building's east side and summit. In addition to the gaping holes evident in the edifice during 1983-1985, backdirt from that work (F.1) was recorded in Subop. 7D. Feature 1 appeared as a lens measuring 10m east-west, pinching out against S.1 at a point 5.7m east of U.1 on the east and 2m east of U.20 on the west, and having a maximum thickness of 0.92m. A few rocks were scattered throughout F.1; this disturbance may have been the source for some of the stones comprising F.2 as rocks dislodged during looting worked their way down into S.1.

Structure 12, North Platform

A 1.5m-tall platform extends 10m north from the approximate center of Str. 12's north side (designated Str. 12N). Two trenches were dug into Str. 12N during the 1985 field season. Suboperation 7J, covering 1m by 9.4m east-west, penetrated the projection's east side near the building's center. This trench reached near the middle of the platform before work here ceased. Suboperation 7F, measuring 1m by 9.3m east-west, was dug into Str. 12N's west face in line with Subop. 7J on the east. The two trenches were separated by 7m of unexcavated material. Unlike Str. 12, which is faced with stone from its first iteration to the last, the north platform is composed largely of earth. The limits of the north platform's earthen architecture were difficult to discern. Digging within Subop. 7F and J reached maximum depths of 0.9m and 1.8m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. Two major construction episodes were identified in the course of this investigation.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
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1`	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 12N-2 nd	U.1, 2	-	F.3	ECL
3	Str. 12N-1 st	U.3	-	F.2	ECL
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in Str. 12N's vicinity was the laying down of at least 0.29m of a light brown, fine-textured soil (S.2; this layer's base was not encountered). Stratum 2 is indistinguishable from U.3, that later architectural fill likely having derived from S.2. The existence of this stratum is inferred based on the disposition of F.2, which seems to have rested on the ground surface formed by S.2's top, and the relation of TS.2 architecture to this soil.

Time Span 2

Structure 12N-2nd was a stone-faced platform the east facing of which (U.1) stood an estimated 0.55m tall above the ancient ground surface formed by the exposed top of S.2. Unit 1 is oriented roughly north-south, 1.04m wide east-west, and was made primarily of cobbles the flatter aspects of which faced outward to the east. The rocks were set in a mud mortar. The little that was exposed of the platform's fill (U.2) suggests it was composed of earth.

No clear signs of the building's west face were identified in Subop. 7F. What did emerge here was a concentration of cobbles and angular rocks (F.3) that was located ca. 14m west of U.1. Feature 3 measured 1.08m across, stood 0.2m high, and was aligned very roughly 143 degrees. Unlike U.1, F.3 did not constitute a clear platform facing. It did contain some of the only rocks unearthed anywhere in Subop. 7F, tentatively suggesting that their presence here was the result of purposeful human action. It may well be that F.3 was somehow associated with activities carried out west of Str. 12N-2nd. That building was at least 2m wide east-west.

Time Span 3

During the succeeding period a lens (F.2) composed of brown silt that contained numerous shells (mostly *jutes*, [*Pachychilus*, *sp.*]) and charcoal flecks was laid down. Feature 2 covers the exposed portion of Str. 12N-2nd by 0.2-0.38m, the deposit pinching out 2.73m east of the early building. Feature 2 covers F.3 in Subop. 7F by 0.2-0.3m. This lens is maximally 0.63m thick immediately east of U.1, its upper surface dropping 0.3m over 2.4m from west-to-east before descending more precipitously 0.37m across 0.33m in the same direction to the point where it terminates on the east. Feature 2 contains numerous artifacts, primarily pottery sherds, but very few rocks. This artifact-rich deposit might consist of debris generated during the use of Str. 12N-2nd. That the debris overlaps the building's summit, however, suggests an alternative interpretation, one in which F.2 was introduced to seal the earlier edifice. It is possible that this material originated from activities conducted on and around Str. 12N-2nd, though this view cannot be substantiated based on the evidence in hand.

Subsequently, U.1, 2, F.2, and 3 were covered by as much as 0.8m of a light brown, fine-textured soil (U.3). Unit 3 contains numerous artifacts, mostly pottery sherds, and comprises the bulk of Str. 12N-1st's final height. There were no signs of stone retaining walls in the area

exposed within Subop. 7J and F and there were no surface indications of stone constructions visible on the platform's surface. The paucity of rocks (F.1) that might have fallen from TS.3 architecture supports the view that Str. 12N-1st was not faced with stones. There were also no hints of a prepared summit surface or constructions related to a superstructure. In sum, U.3 was apparently introduced to seal Str. 12N-2nd, thereby formally and definitively terminating its use. Rather than razing the TS.2 construction, the introduction of F.2 and U.3 may have commemorated that which they blanketed even as their introduction precluded the continued use of Str. 12N-2nd. That the ceramics recovered from F.2 and U.3 date to the Late Preclassic and Early Classic tentatively implies that TS.3 dates to the latter period.

As such, Str. 12N-1st stands out among Gualjoquito's investigated buildings. It was a substantial earthen construction standing about 1.5m tall and measuring 20m east-west by 14m north-south (the latter dimensions based on the edifice's unexcavated surface appearance). Given the extant data, Str. 12N-1st likely served more as a memorial of past activities than a locus for ongoing ones during the center's Late Classic political and architectural apogee.

Time Span 4

A dark brown, fine-textured humus (S.1) formed to a thickness of 0.2-0.35m atop U.3. Embedded in S.1 are a very few rocks (F.1) that likely derived more from late phase architecture on Str. 12 than from any constructions pertaining to Str. 12N-1st.

Structure 16

Structure 16 is located between Plazas III and IV, bordering the former on the east and the latter on the west. The two closest edifices, Structures 15 and 25, are 14m to the south and 16m to the northwest. The land above which the edifice rises ascends 0.4m over 13.7m from west-to-east. Excavations conducted here during 1983 within Subop. 5B-J continued earlier investigations initiated on the edifice by George Hasemann and Russel Sheptak in 1982. The latter researchers dug a 1m-wide trench that extended for 10m east-west across Str. 16's approximate center (designated Subop. 1B in our sequence). The 1983 excavations, directed by W. Ashmore with help from E. Schortman, cleared approximately 125m² in the process of which the building's final basal dimensions were largely exposed along with about one-third of the summit. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.5m and 2.4m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. Three major building phases were identified in the course of this work, all of which showed signs of considerable deterioration before they were covered by later architecture or terminal debris.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.3-5	-	LPrecl/ECL
2	Str. 16-3 rd	U.1-4	-	SD 4	ECL
3	Str. 16-2 nd	U.5-11	-	F.4-5	ECL*
4	Str. 16-1 st	U.12-24	-	F.3, 6-10	LCL/TCL

- Radiocarbon Assessment from this context: CE 360 +/- 50 (lot 5H/055; DIC 2813).

Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in excavations conducted on and around Str. 16 is the deposition of at least 0.13m of numerous small rocks that are a continuation of the 'colluvial' layer underlying occupation at Gualjoquito (S.5; its base was not uncovered). Stratum 5 descended 0.36m over 12.3m from east-to-west. Stratum 3 was devoid of cultural material.

Stratum 5 was, in turn, blanketed by 0.17-0.38m of a relatively fine-textured, brown, silty clay loam (S.4). Stratum 4 rises from 0.46m over 12.3m from east-to-west. Covering S.4 is 0.16-0.43m of a very similar earth (S.3) which is distinguished from the former stratum by its slightly coarser texture and less pronounced compaction. Stratum 3 gradually drops 0.7m over 7.6m from east-to-west at which point it disappears in the base of excavation. The earth layer reemerges 2.3m further to the west after which it ascends 0.08m across 0.2m before running more-or-less flat for the remaining 1.9m it was exposed in excavations. Strata 3-4 contain some cultural materials suggesting that there was a human presence in the area prior to the construction of the first recognized architecture in TS.2.

Time Span 2

It was during this span that Str. 16-3rd was raised. The limited portions of the building that were uncovered consist of a cobble-faced platform that stood 0.4m tall, measured 6.5m east-west, and was aligned ca. 358 degrees. The fill consists of a brown, moderately gritty, silty clay loam (U.4). Two low steps (U.1 and 2) ascend the building's west face, each rising 0.2m from west-to-east, the basal riser (U.1) measuring 0.36m wide. Unit 3, standing 0.2m high, defines the platform's east flank. The earthen-floored summit encompasses 5.6m east-west. The basal western step (U.1) showed signs of having been expanded at least 0.24m to the west on its southern exposed edge. Structure 16-3rd's poor state of preservation makes it difficult to interpret the significance of this westward extension which in any case is not clearly marked. It may mark the north edge of an outset stair. There were no clear signs of superstructure construction in the 1.5m-wide (north-south) segment that we uncovered in the deepest exposures of Subop. 5H that cut across the edifice east-west south of Str. 16-1st's center.

The very fragmentary remains of a human burial (SD4) were recovered beneath the approximate center of Str. 16-3rd. In all, these scattered pieces of bone cover 0.75m north-south by 0.45m; the original form and orientation of the interment could not be inferred from the preserved remains. There was no sign of a burial pit or associated artifacts. It may be that SD4 was less the remains of a purposeful interment and consisted, instead, of bone fragments that were incidentally included with construction fill (U.4) along with artifacts and food remains that included the shells of river snails (*jute*, or *Pachychillus sp.*).

All architecture raised during TS.2 was made primarily of cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Structure 16-3rd was covered by architecture associated with Str. 16-2nd. That building is ascended by four risers (U.5-8) on the west, these steps ascending in increments of 0.24m, 0.5m, 0.44m, and 0.42m from west to east. The basal riser is 0.5m wide while its successor, U.6, measures 0.7m across. This step gives way to a 2.08m-wide terrace that terminates on the east in a 0.42m-tall step-up to the earthen-floored summit. Unit 5-8 are underlain by a fill (U.9) composed of a dense packing of small-to-large cobbles that are set in a brown, moderately coarse-textured, silty clay loam. The remainder of the building's hearting to the east consists of a very similar soil that is largely devoid of rocks (U.10). Structure 16-2nd's east flank is defined by a poorly preserved cobble facing (U.11) that rises 0.9m directly to the summit. It appears that U.11 rests on what had been the summit of Str. 16-3rd. If this was the case, then that earlier edifice's eastern basal wall (U.3) was still exposed at this time. This would have created a 2.9m-wide terrace on Str. 16-2nd's east side and above which U.11 rose. What appear to have been the disturbed remains of a 0.15m-tall by 0.26m-wide cobble wall (F.4) were recorded running approximately north-south 1.56m east of Str. 16-2nd's west summit margin. If F.4 represents the surviving remnants of a stone foundation, it likely divided the summit into at least two rooms, the western example measuring 1.56m across while its eastern counterpart covers 1.32m east-west. The recovery of a dense concentration (F.5) of large pieces of burnt daub (*bajareque*) immediately east of U.11 points to the former existence of a superstructure the walls of which were made of this material. If so, F.4 might have supported one such *bajareque* upper wall. We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that F.4 was the west facing of a low bench that was 1.32m wide east-west.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Structure 16-2nd was a cobble-faced, stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood 1.6m high on the west and 1.3m tall on the east, measured 9.4m east-west, and was aligned ca. 358 degrees. It was ascended by two steps on the west, these risers giving way to a 2.08m-wide, earthen-floored terrace. This broad surface was succeeded on the east by a 0.42m-high step-up to the summit. The building's eastern flank seems to have been defined by the still-exposed U.3 which at 0.2m high now fronted a 2.9m-wide earthen-floored terrace above which rose a 0.9m-tall stone facing (U.11). Unit 11 defines the summit's east margin. The latter supported an earthen-floored superstructure that might have been divided into two rooms by a 0.15m-high by 0.26m-wide cobble footing that ran north-south. The western compartment covered 1.56m east-west, its eastern neighbor measuring 1.32m across. It may, however, have been the case that the putative foundation that divided these spaces was in fact the west facing of a 0.15m-high stone-faced bench. It is likely that the platform's superstructures was fashioned of *bajareque* walls set on stone foundations. The platform's north-south dimension was not determined. The recovery of what appears to have been a northward extension of U.8 in Subop. 5C indicates that the building was at least 8.4m long in this direction.

All of the walls, steps, and facings raised now were made primarily of river cobbles mixed with some angular rocks. The flatter aspects of these stones were generally oriented outwards. The rocks were all set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

The final version of Str. 16 (Str. 16-1st) identified in the course of excavations was, like its predecessors, poorly preserved. Though the evidence is equivocal, it appears that a series of five stone-faced, earthen-surfaced steps (F.3, 6-9) that measure roughly 1.5m long (north-south) are situated in the center of the edifice's west side. These stairs directly overlie Str. 16-2nd's U.5-7. The TS.4 risers are estimated to have been 0.5m (the basal ascent, F.6), 0.4m (F.7, the next ascending stair), and 0.3m tall (F.8, 3, and 9) by 0.3-1.14m wide east-west. The F.6 step may

have projected 0.3m west of the platform's western basal facing (U.12). Unit 12 flanks the steps on the north and south and is inferred to have risen 1.6m directly to the summit. Unit 13, the northern basal wall, also appears to have ascended to Str. 16-1st's summit while on the east U.14 looms 0.88m above a terrace (U.15) that projects 2.6-2.95m further to the east. Unit 15 is 0.3m tall and runs parallel to U.14 for at least 7.2m from its southernmost exposed edge (U.15's southern terminus, along with those of U.12 and 14, the western and eastern platform facings, were not identified despite efforts devoted to finding them). At this point, U.15 steps out 0.35m to the east before continuing to the north for an additional 4.7m. The terrace apparently ended at this point and may have connected with U.14 at a point roughly 3m south of Str. 16-1st's northeast corner. The fill contained by U.12-14 consists of a brown, moderately coarse-textured, lightly compacted silty clay loam (U.17). Very few stones were found embedded in this earth where it was most thoroughly exposed in Subop. 5H.

The summit is delimited on the west (U.16) and east (F.10) by stone-faced step-ups. These risers are 0.1m and 0.23m tall, respectively, the area between them spanning 2.6m east-west. A low north-south-running stone wall (U.21) is located 1.5m east of the western summit step-up. Though the evidence is unclear, U.21 may have been the west side of a low bench that faced west towards the reconstructed steps. The north edge of the chamber containing said bench is delimited by a low stone footing (U.22) which spans the summit's full width east-west. Excavations designed to uncover the southern portions of Str. 16-1st were unsuccessful in accomplishing this goal. Consequently, we cannot specify the full dimensions of the room containing the U.21 bench. We estimate that this enclosure encompassed 2.6m by minimally 7m (north-south). Relatively little clearing was pursued north of U.22. A 0.4m-wide, low stone construction (U.24) extends for at least 1m north of its intersection with U.22. If this, like U.21, was the west facing of a bench, said construction would have measured 2.1m east-west. How far this putative bench extended to the north beyond excavation limits is unclear. The northern room, defined by U.12, 13, 14, and 22 encompasses an estimated 2.6m east-west by 7.4m.

Fragments of formalized surfaces were uncovered off Str. 16-1st's east and north sides. Unit 19, consisting of a layer of small rocks overlain by crushed white stones, extends for 3.6m west of the platform's northeast corner and at least 1.6m north of that building (U.19's north and east margins were not revealed in our excavations). Unit 18, in turn, is a 0.07m-thick layer of rounded pebbles that extends for minimally 0.66m east of Str. 16-1st's eastern terrace (U.18's eastern, southern and northern limits were not identified). This floor is underlain by ca. 0.25m of earthen fill (U.23) that closely resembles the soil that makes up the main platform's hearting (U.17). There is no evidence that these floors continued to cover either Plazas III or VI.

A 0.2m-tall by 0.6m-high wall (U.20) extends 0.8m west from its junction with U.12 at a point 0.5m south of the platform's northwest corner. It may be that this relatively late addition was part of a surface-level building raised against Str. 16-1st's west flank. If so, no other walls relating to this putative construction were found in digging for 12m to the south along U.12.

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 16-1st was a stone-faced, largely earth-filled platform that stood 1.9m and 1.41m tall on the west and east, respectively, measured 10.06-10.41m across east-west, was roughly 18m long north-south, and was aligned ca. 350 degrees. The earthen-floored summit encompassed 2.6m east-west and was bounded on the west and east by low stone-faced steps up (0.1m and 0.23m tall). A staircase located in the approximate center of the edifice, and measuring approximately 1.5m north-south, ascended Str. 16-1st's west side in five increments of 0.3-0.5m, the basal step projecting approximately 0.3m west of the platform's western basal wall. The summit may have supported two large earthen-floored rooms set in a north-south line. The northern example encompasses roughly 19m² while its southern neighbor covers at least 18m². Both chambers may have contained low, stone-faced benches. The

southern example projects 0.9m west from the compartment's east wall while the one in the northern room is built against its eastern wall and is 2.1m wide east-west. A 0.3m-high stone-faced, earthen-surfaced terrace extends 2.6-2.95m east of the building, stopping 3m short of the platform's northeast corner (its relation to the edifice's southeast corner is unknown). Overall, this terrace was at least 11.9m long north-south. Stone surfaces, the northern one having been surfaced with crushed rock, were recorded off the construction's east and north flanks. Neither of these pavements apparently extended across the adjoining Plazas III and VI. What may have been an earthen-floored surface-level building was apparently erected against Str. 16-1st's west side at a point 0.5m south of the platform's northwest corner. Only one possible foundation of this enclosure was found. It measures 0.2m tall by 0.6m wide and extended 0.8m west of Str. 16-1st. Rather than being a stone footing, this construction may have served as a shelf used by people working under the eaves of Str. 16-1st superstructure.

Most of the facings, footings, and steps built now were fashioned primarily of horizontally set, unmodified river cobbles intermixed with angular rocks. The flatter aspects of these stones were generally oriented outwards. In the case of the western basal wall (U.12), river-worn stones were set vertically to finish the wall's outer facing. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Following its abandonment, Str. 16-1st was partially covered by as much as 0.66m of a moderately coarse-textured, lightly compacted, brown, silty clay loam (S.2). Stratum 2 was subsequently blanketed by 0.1-0.54m of a dark brown, root-rich humus (S.1). A moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture was embedded in S.1 and 2. A denser concentration of stones, designated F.2, was concentrated primarily on the edifice's summit. Unlike the F.1 rocks, which are generally canted down and away from the building, F.2's stones are disposed horizontally. These differences in the concentration and orientation of the rocks may imply that F.2 represents less the results of building collapse and more the outcome of purposeful efforts to seal Str. 16-1st's summit under 0.3m of rocks.

Structure 17

Structure 17 is located on the south side of Plaza III, running north for 11m into that open space from a point 3m east of Str. 18. The two buildings appeared on the surface to have been joined by a low construction, or 'saddle,' that is about 2m wide. As it appeared before excavation, Str. 17 diverged from the forms of other edifices at Gualjoquito in that it was unusually narrow. Overall, the building encompasses 20m long north-south by 5m across. Suboperation 5K, a trench measuring 1m north-south by 11.3m, was dug across Str. 17's approximate center to determine its original form. Digging here reached maximum depths of 0.87m and 1.3m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. Two building phases were identified in the course of this work which was pursued during the 1985 field season.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	
2	-	-	S.2	-	ECL?

3	Str. 17-1 st	U.1-5	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 17-1 st	U.6-10	-	-	LCL/TCL
5	-	-	S.1	F.1, 2	-

Time Span 1

It was during this interval that at least 0.24m of a light brown, hard-compacted soil that contains numerous small pebbles (S.3) was laid down (its base was not encountered). Stratum 3 was exposed in two discontinuous segments north and south of the platform, these portions suggesting that it originally rose 0.14m over 1.96m from west-to-east after which it apparently leveled out; its easternmost exposed 1.9m was seen to be running flat at an elevation equal to its highest exposed point on the west. No artifacts were clearly derived from S.3, the layer apparently representing a continuation of the colluvial deposit that underlies occupation throughout Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Stratum 3 was subsequently blanketed by 0.12-0.4m of a light brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil (S.2). Like its antecedent, S.2 also rises from west-to-east, in this case sloping up 0.36m across 3.33m in that direction. East of Str. 17-1st, S.2's top runs relatively flat for the 1.9m it was uncovered in this area. By this point, S.2 had dropped 0.45m from west-to-east. This discrepancy in elevations was likely caused by the construction and renovation of Str. 17-1st that occurred during TS.3 and 4. Artifacts recovered from S.2 point to a human occupation in the immediate area when this soil was being laid down.

Time Span 3

The first steps in the building of Str. 17-1st involved the construction of its core. This entity consists of two stone retaining walls (U.1 and 2) that rose 0.64m directly to the summit (these walls extend an estimated 0.15m into the underlying S.2). Units 1 and 2 retained a fill (U.3) composed of tightly packed small to large cobbles set in a fine-textured, light brown soil. The summit, which measures 1.5m across, was surfaced with rocks (the upper portion of U.3) and was otherwise featureless in our limited exposure of it. Two stone-faced and -surfaced steps (U.4 and 5) ascended the core's west side. The basal riser (U.4), stood 0.16m above ancient ground surface (the top of S.2), extended 0.17m into that layer, and was 0.5m wide east-west. This step was underlain by small-to-medium-size cobbles that are set in a light brown soil (included in U.4). Unit 5 rested on the back (east side) of U.4, rose 0.38m above it, and extended 0.32m east to intersect U.1 (the core's western basal facing). Unit 1 projected 0.14m above U.5's tread. Unit 5 was clearly integrated with the core platform, strongly indicating that the steps and platform were built as part of the same construction effort.

As TS.3 drew to a close, Str. 17-1st was a stone-faced, stone-filled platform that was oriented ca. 1 degree, stood 0.64m tall, and was fronted on the west by two stone steps. Overall, the building measured 2.32m east-west. The stairs rose eastwards toward the summit in increments of 0.16m and 0.38m, each being 0.5m and 0.32m wide, east-west. The platform extended 0.14m above the top of the uppermost stair. The summit measured 1.5m east-west, was surfaced with rock, and did not support any signs of a superstructure in the 1m-wide segment (north-south) of it that we exposed. Though we cannot rule out the presence of summit architecture outside the area revealed in Subop. 5K, there would hardly be any room for such

constructions as benches or shelves on such a restricted space. At present it appears that Str. 17 was built as a platform for the performance of activities that were not enclosed by superstructure walls but were easily visible to all within Plaza III. The substantial nature of the western steps formalized access to that elevated space further implying that whatever transpired atop it was of some importance. These performances apparently warranted the effort required to secure, carry, and place rocks as large as 0.26x0.38m by 0.15m thick that were used in fashioning U.4. Structure 17-1st would have been at this time roughly 8m west of Str. 15, the two buildings running parallel to each other for the former's full length (an estimated 20m). It may well be that Strs. 17-1st and 15 defined the west and east sides of an 8m-wide formal entrance to Plaza III through that space's southeast corner.

The basal facings and steps comprising Str. 17-1st now were made primarily of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. All of the stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During this span, Str. 17-1st's east side was largely obscured by the deposition of as much as 0.46m of a light brown, fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted soil (U.6). Unit 6 contains a few scattered small to medium-size cobbles and appears to have been purposefully introduced as fill. It is thickest where it covers all but the uppermost 0.21m of U.2 (the core's east facing), its top sloping down continuously at a rate of 0.91m over 3.01m from west-to-east. Capping the slope is a fill (U.10) composed of densely packed small to large cobbles set in a dark brown, fine-textured soil. Unit 10 supports three stone-faced terraces (U.7-9) that ascend from east-to-west towards the summit. Unit 7, the basal riser, is 0.15m tall and measures 0.47m across. It ends on the west at U.8. The latter is composed of two elements. A lower 0.1m-high segment projects 0.14m east from the main body of the terrace facing, the remainder of U.8 rising 0.24m higher. This terrace is 0.36m wide and gives way on the west to U.9. This terrace is 0.3m tall by 1.96m wide east-west. Unit 2, the core platform's eastern basal wall, projects 0.21m above U.9's earthen tread. The remainder of Str. 17-st, its summit and western steps in particular, seem to have been left undisturbed during TS.4.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 17-1st stood 0.64m and 1m tall on the west and east, respectively, measured 5.25m east-west, and was aligned approximately 1 degree. Its west flank was still fronted by two stone-faced steps that led to a seemingly featureless summit that encompassed 1.5m across east-west. The building no longer, however, presented a sheer face to the east. Instead, much of the core's eastern facing (U.2) was now covered by a largely earthen fill that supported three terraces that ascended in increments of 0.15m, 0.34m, and 0.3m towards the summit. The lower two risers, 0.47m and 0.5m wide, gave way to a 1.96m-wide surface that ended at U.2 on the west. The latter's uppermost 0.21m was still visible at this time and served as a step-up to the summit. The behavioral significance of these changes is uncertain. The narrow summit may have still served as a venue for public observances though now that space could have been reached from the east and west. The putative plaza entrance that Str. 17-1st might have delimited on the west would now have been narrowed to ca. 5m across-east-west.

Constructions raised now were mostly fashioned using cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. The rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Following its abandonment, Str. 17-1st was blanketed by 0.22-0.43m of a dark brown, fine-textured, relatively soft-compacted soil (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a moderately light concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely comprise materials fallen from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 was traced for 1.3m east and 2m west of Str. 17-1st. A particularly dense concentration

of rocks (F.2) was recorded in an area covering 1.5m east-west atop and for 1m west of U.4, the platform's western basal step. Though F.2 may well be part of F.1, the dense packing of the F.2 rocks and their generally flat-laid positions tentatively implies that they did not arrive in their final locations as a result of architectural collapse. This impression is further suggested by the inference that there was no substantial superstructure from which they could have fallen. Taken together, these observations tentatively indicate that F.2 comprises fill that was purposefully introduced to cover at least the substantial western steps that had long provided access to the platform's summit. The result of their addition would have been to create a gently, continuous slope to Str. 17-1st's west flank, hiding that which had been cultural creations beneath a natural-appearing exterior. There are no clear signs that these efforts were replicated on the east.

Structure 19

Structure 19 occupies the west side of Plaza III, 26m southwest of Str. 20 on the plaza's north flank, 12m northwest of Str. 18 on the plaza's south margin, and 53m and across the plaza from Str. 16 on the east. The steep drop to the Rio Ulua is 4m to the west. The building was investigated during 1985 by the digging of a trench (Subop. 5L) up the east, plaza-facing side of the platform across its approximate center. This excavation originally encompassed 1.5m by 9m east-west, eventually being expanded to the north and south to reveal the basal dimensions of the platform that fronted Str. 19-1st on the east (all included in Subop. 5L). In all, roughly 21m² were exposed in the course of this work, resulting in the identification of one major building phase.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	Str. 19-1 st	U.1-8	-	F.2	LCL
2	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Structure 19-1st was ascended on the east (its plaza-facing side) by four stone-faced terraces (U.4-7) that are 0.65m, 1m, 0.9m, and 0.9m wide, in ascending order. Unit 7, the uppermost terrace, ends on the west at U.8, a 0.25-0.3m tall step-up to the earthen-floored summit. The terrace treads were, when found, coated with layers of burnt earth (F.2). The basal eastern terrace (U.4) is 0.54m high while its successors through U.8 appear to have stood 0.25-0.3m tall. Fronting the building on the east is a low stone-faced outset that projects 2.2m east from the building's center and encompasses 4.8m north-south.

Overall, by the conclusion of TS.1, Str. 19-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood roughly 1.5m tall on the east and was aligned ca. 359 degrees. The building was fronted on the east by a low outset platform that extended 2.2m east from the main body of the edifice and covered 4.8m north-south. Structure 19-1st's core platform was ascended by four terraces the basal member rising 0.54m while its successors were 0.25-0.3m tall by 0.65-1m wide. These terraces ended on the west in a stone step-up to the earthen-floored summit which was also 0.25-0.3m tall. The terrace treads were surfaced with earth at least some parts of which had been burnt.

All constructions raised now were fashioned mostly of river cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. The rocks use to raise U.4, the basal eastern terrace, were particularly large. All of these stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 2

Following its abandonment, Str. 19-1st was initially covered by a light brown, fine-textured soil (S.2). A dark brown-to-gray humus horizon subsequently formed to a thickness of 0.12-0.3m atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture.

Structure 20

Structure 20 occupies, together with Str. 26, the north side of Plaza III. The latter building is 7m to the east, Str. 21 lies 30m to the north, and Str. 18 is 47m across Plaza III to the south. The building was investigated during the 1985 field season through the digging of a trench (Subop. 6E) that measured 1m wide and extended for 10.5m north-to-south over Str. 20's north face. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.9m and 1.65m below modern ground surface beyond and with construction, respectively. Two major building phases were exposed in the course of this work.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 20-2 nd	U.1-5	-	-	LCL
3	Str. 20-1 st	U.6-13	-	-	LCL
4	-	U.14	-	-	TCL?
5	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the vicinity of Str. 20 is the deposition of at least 0.55m of a light brown, moderately fine-textured soil (S.1; its base was not revealed). As deposition of S.1 resumed during TS.5, it is hard to determine how much of this earth was introduced now. The estimate offered here is based on the stratigraphic positions of architecture pertaining to TS.2 and 3, assuming that these constructions were set on and slightly into an ancient ground surface formed by the then-top of S.1.

Time Span 2

Remnants of Str. 20-2nd were found only within a deep probe dug into Str. 20-1st's summit. Based on this exposure, which uncovered 3.5m², it appears that Str. 20-2nd was built directly on ground surface. It consists of at least one room, surfaced with stones (U.1), that was bounded by cobble foundations (U.2-5). Units 2-5 stood 0.24m tall when revealed within Subop. 6E. Unit 2 closes off the room's east side, running at least 2.84m at an orientation of approximately 168 degrees. It intersects the southern foundation (U.3), the latter extending at

least 1m to the west (its western end was not clearly found). On the west, U.4 is 0.11m distant (west) from U.1, the two walls running parallel over their northernmost exposed portions (0.98m). Unit 4 then turns back (west) for 0.5m where it encounters and overlaps U.5 (the western room wall; U.4 may well continue past U.5 to the west beyond excavation limits. Unit 5 runs south of U.4 for 1.6m at which point it stops 0.54m north of U.3.

Overall, the portion of Str. 20-2nd that was revealed in Subop. 6E consists of a stone-floored compartment that was raised directly on ground surface and was delimited by stone footings standing 0.24m high. The area so enclosed encompassed 0.6x2.1m (1.3m²) and was oriented approximately 168 degrees. A possible door, measuring 0.54m across north-south, breached the room's southwest corner while a fissure measuring 0.11m east-west extends for at least 0.98m into the enclosure's northeast corner. This restricted passage may have facilitated the flow of air into the room. Most likely the enclosure described here was part of a complex of chambers the rest of which lay beyond the limited area that we uncovered.

The floor and foundations raised now were made of cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards (or upwards in the case of the U.1 pavement). The stones comprising U.2, the eastern footing, are smaller than those used in the other walls, their outward-facing aspects either having been artificially flattened or they were carefully chosen for their naturally sheer faces. It may be that these rocks were applied as a veneer to a thicker cobble wall that extended eastward beyond the limits of our investigations. The rocks in all of the observed architectural elements were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Structure 20-2nd was buried under an estimated 0.25m of a light brown soil that contains a few scattered small cobbles (U.6). This earth, which is indistinguishable from S.1, constitutes the hearting of the platform (Str. 20-1st) that was now raised over Str. 20-2nd. The building's north face was ascended by three stone-faced, earth-floored terraces (U.7-9). Unit 7, the basal riser, was an estimated 0.2m high by 2.2m wide north-south. The next ascending terrace (U.8) stood 0.2m above its predecessor and extended 0.88m to the south where it was succeeded by U.9. The latter stood 0.3m above U.8's tread and was 0.52m wide north-south. Unit 10 succeeded U.9 to the south and apparently served as the 0.23m-tall step-up to the summit. What is likely a 0.05m-thick subfloor composed of a level of small cobbles (U.13) extended 0.94m south from the back (south) side of U.10, terminating at U.11. The latter was a 0.27m-wide stone threshold that rested on U.13 and provided a 0.21m step-down into an earthen-floored room within the superstructure. That enclosure covered 3.5m north-south and was bordered on the south by a 0.35m-high stone foundation (U.12).

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 20-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.93m tall on the north, and was aligned ca. 87 degrees. The north flank was ascended by three stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces that mounted in increments of 0.2-0.3m towards the summit. These risers were 0.52-2.2m wide and gave way to a 0.23m-tall stone step-up to the summit. A formalized floor underlain by stones ran 0.94m south of this riser, terminating in a 0.27m-wide stone threshold leading to a 0.21m step-down into an earthen-floored summit room. The latter measured 3.5m north-south and was bordered on the south by what was likely a 0.35m-high stone foundation for a perishable upper wall. No other architectural features were recognized in the restricted portion of the summit that was exposed in Subop. 6E.

Terrace facings and the southern summit footing were fashioned primarily of cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

At the end of its use-life, Str. 20-1st's summit was covered by as much as 0.68m of a light brown earth that contains some scattered small (the majority) and medium-size cobbles (U.14). Unit 14 appears to have been fill but we could locate no any surviving walls that might have retained the hearting. This fill does not seem to have extended beyond U.10 (the northern summit step-up) to the north. It might be that U.14 was introduced as part of an effort to raise Str. 20-1st's height, a project that was never finished.

Time Span 5

After Str. 20-1st's abandonment, the U.7-9 terraces were blanketed by 0.2-0.33m of S.1, the deposition of which resumed now. A moderately dense concentration of stones (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture was embedded in upper S.1 primarily where it overlaid U.7-11.

Structure 21

Structure 21 is a platform that, prior to excavation, was inferred to have measured 7x12m and to be oriented roughly east-west. It is 7m north of Str. 27 and occupies the south side of Plaza V. Structure 22, which bounds that open space on the west, is 16m to the northwest while Str. 12 on the plaza's east side lies 53m to the northeast; Plaza V is largely open on the north. Digging here was conducted in 1985 within Subop. 7H, a 1m-wide trench that extended 13.4m north-south across the platform's full width. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.7m and 1.3m below modern ground surface within and beyond construction, respectively. Two major building efforts 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>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	ECL?
2	Str. 21-2 nd	U.1-9	-	F.2	LCL?
3	Str. 21-1 st	U.10-22	-	-	LCL/TCL
4	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The earliest event identified in the vicinity of Str. 21 was the deposition of at least 0.4m of a light brown, fine-textured soil (S.2; its base was not encountered). Artifacts retrieved from the lower exposed portions of S.2 points to a human presence in the area while this earth was being deposited.

Time Span 2

It was during this interval, Str. 21-2nd was built. The building was ascended on the north by two stone-faced terraces (U.1 and 2). The basal riser (U.1) is 0.4m high by 1.4m wide, ending at U.2 on the south. The latter terrace facing is 0.5m tall and measures 2.16m across. Unit 3, in turn, ascends 0.28m above U.2's tread and marks the summit's north edge. The southern

terraces (U.4-6) present a different profile. The bottommost riser is 0.16m high by 0.36m wide. It terminates at U.5 on the north. The latter terrace facing ascends 0.64m, giving way on the north to a 1.1m-wide tread. Unit 6 rises 0.42m above U.5 in two increments. The basal portion stands 0.22m above U.5's tread, running back 0.16m to where the remainder of U.6 continues 0.2m to the platform's summit. Unit 6 may have defined the south margin of a 2.16m-wide (north-south) stone-faced and -surfaced bench (U.7) which stands 0.2m above the summit's surface. The latter extends 1.4m to the north terminating at U.3. The fill contained by and underlying these terraces consists mostly of a light brown, fine-textured soil (U.9) that is indistinguishable from S.2. Very few rocks were included in U.9. A different component of the hearting (U.8) was recorded backing and running beneath U.6. Unit 8 consists of a red-brown, very fine-textured, hard compacted earth. This construction unit rises 0.46m over the 0.8m it runs from south-to-north beneath U.6. As with U.9, U.8 contains very few stones.

By the end of TS.2, Str. 21-2nd was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 1.28m and 1.22m high on the north and south, measured 8.74m across, and was aligned ca. 90 degrees. The edifice was ascended on the south by two earthen-surfaced terraces that mounted in increments of 0.16m and 0.64m, these risers covering 0.36m and 1.1m north-south. The step up to the summit, U.6, consists of two segments, the basal element standing 0.22m tall by 0.15m wide while the remainder of the facing ascends the remaining 0.2m to the summit. The two northern terraces are 0.4m and 0.5m high, their earthen treads covering 1.4m and 2.16m across. The 0.28m-high step up to the summit on this side gave way to a surface encompassing 3.56m across. Much of that space was taken up by a 0.2m-tall stone-faced and -surfaced bench which was 2.16m wide and built into the south summit wall (U.6). This bench overlooked what, based on their relatively low heights, was the primary means of accessing the superstructure over the northern terraces.

Located 1.6m south of the southern basal terrace (U4) was a dense concentration of burnt earth fragments (F.2). Feature 2 extended 0.3m east of the west trench wall and covered 0.44m north-south. Its depth, roughly equivalent with the base of U.4, suggest that whatever F.2 represents was contemporary with the use of Str. 21-2nd. Most like, this jumbled collection of burnt earth fragments was part of a surface-level construction. What form that construction took is unknown.

Terrace facings raised now were fashioned of relatively large river cobbles, considerable care being taken to orient the flatter aspects of these stones outward. The rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

This period began with the burying of Str. 21-2nd with two distinct earthen fill units (U.19 and U.22). Unit 22 consists of a very fine-textured, red-brown soil that is indistinguishable from U.8 which comprised part of Str. 21-2nd's hearting. During TS.3, U.22 covered most of that early building's summit. It reached a maximum thickness of 0.25m atop the U.7 bench and pinched out 1.2m to the north ending 0.2m south of U.3's north face. Capping U.22 by 0.26-0.63m is a light brown, fine-textured earth (U.19) which is very similar to U.9. Units 19 and 22 contained very few stones.

Structure 21-1st completely covers its predecessor's north-south width. The platform is now ascended on the north by three stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces (U.21, 10-11). The basal riser (U.21) is 0.3m tall by 0.87m wide. The next ascending terrace (U.10) rises 0.3m above U.21's tread and runs 0.69m back to the south where it is succeeded by U.11. The latter ascends 0.28m and measures 0.71m across. Unit 12, the step-up to the summit, reaches its full height of 0.64m in two increments. The basal element is 0.14m high by 0.34m wide and gives way on the south to a sheer ascent of 0.5m to the earthen-floored summit. The latter surface extends 2.46m to the south where it terminates in a 0.4m-high stone-faced, earthen-floored

bench (U.13). Unit 13 encompasses 3m across north-south. Structure 21-1st's south face is mounted by four stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces (U.14-17). The basal member of this series (U.14) was poorly preserved and its dimensions are reconstructed from what appeared to be its heavily disturbed remains. Unit 14 is estimated, therefore, to have originally stood 0.34m tall and to have been 1.2m wide. It is succeeded by U.15 on the north. This terrace rises 0.21m above U.14's tread and runs 0.8m to the north where it ends at U.16. The latter ascends 0.25m above U.15's tread and measures 0.65m across. Unit 17, the next ascending riser, stands 0.36m above U.16's tread and runs 1.16m to the north. Unit 18 marks the summit's south margin and rises 0.51m above U.17. Unit 20, the south edge of the summit bench, lies 0.8m north of U.18's south face and is 0.1m tall.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 21-1st was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that rose to heights of 1.52m and 1.67m on the north and south, encompassed 12.67m north-south, and was aligned approximately 90 degrees. The building is ascended by three and four stone-faced, earthen-floored terraces on the north and south, respectively. In the former direction the risers ascend in increments of 0.28-0.3m to the summit and are 0.69-0.8m wide. Their southern counterparts are 0.21-0.36m tall by 0.65-1.2m wide. The step-ups to the summit on both sides are relatively high. The southern example rises 0.51m directly to the platform's summit. Its northern analogue reaches its full height of 0.64m in two increments; the basal segment is 0.14m tall and projects 0.34m north from the facing's main body which ascends 0.5m above this step-out. The limited portion of the superstructure exposed in Subop. 7H consists of an earthen-floored room that measures 6.26m north-south. A little less than half of the space is taken up by a stone-faced, earth-surfaced bench that is set 2.46m back (south) from the summit's north edge, stands 0.4m and 0.1m tall on the north and south, and covers 3m north-south. The bench overlooks the northern terraces, possibly suggesting that they or an undiscovered staircase on this side constituted the main means of accessing the superstructure.

All constructions raised now were fashioned mostly of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. One possible shaped block was recorded among these river-worn stones. All of the rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 21-1st's abandonment, deposition of S.2 may have resumed on the platform's north flank. Here as much as 0.2m of this light brown, fine-textured soil was laid down now. A dark brown humus horizon subsequently formed to a thickness of 0.17-0.48m atop S.2 on the north and south. A light concentration of rocks (F.1) embedded in S.1 probably contains materials tumbled from final-phase architecture.

Structure 22

Structure 22 is a sizable platform that bounds Plaza V on the west. Structure 12 is 63m and across that open space to the east while Str. 21 is 16m to the southeast. Prior to the initiation of our research at Gualjoquito, Str. 22 had been extensively looted. Illicit excavations initiated on the building's north side continued into Str. 22's interior, hollowing out the edifice. Our investigations, therefore, concentrated on the platform's east (plaza-facing) side, the goal being to gain some sense of Str. 22's final form and the extent to which it matched that inferred for Str. 12 which it faced across Plaza V. Digging within Subop. 7G during 1985 was, therefore, restricted to exposing only final-phase architecture, excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 0.85m below modern ground surface east of construction. One building phase was identified in the course of this work. In all, 15m² was cleared within Subop. 7G, most of it within the 1m-wide by 9.05m long (east-west) trench that was dug near the edifice's center-line from its base to summit.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.2	-	
2	Str. 22-1 st	U.1-10	-	-	LCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

Time Span 1

It was during this interval that at least 0.2m of a fine-textured, soft-compacted, light brown soil (S.2) was laid down (S.2's base was not found). It was the upper surface of S.2 into which Str. 22-1st's eastern basal riser (U.1) was set about 0.16m and which served as the surface for Plaza V.

Time Span 2

Structure 22-1st's east, plaza-facing flank was fronted by an outset staircase situated near the building's center. This construction projected 2.05m east from the body of the platform and measured 3.67m north-south. Three steps comprise the outset. The basal riser (U.1) is 0.1m-tall, its stone-floored tread encompassing 1.03m east-west. It is succeeded on the west by the next ascending riser, U.2. Unit 2 stands 0.3m above U.1's tread and encompasses 0.56m east-west. Unit 3 ascends 0.2m above U.2's tread and runs 0.46m westward where it ends at U.4. The latter seems to have been Str. 22-1st's eastern basal facing, rising 0.4m above U.3's tread and covering 0.6m across. The succeeding risers leading to the summit were poorly preserved when uncovered within Subop. 7G. In order, from lower to upper, they are estimated to have been 0.35m high by 0.86m wide (U.5); 0.33m tall by 1.44m wide (U.6); 0.4m high by 0.44m wide (U.7); 0.5m high by 0.94m across (U.8); 0.4m tall by 0.46m wide (U.9); and, 0.3m tall (U.10). The last of these risers may have been the step-up to the summit. As noted, the superstructure was largely destroyed during the looting that preceded our investigations.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 22-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 3.28m tall, was oriented approximately north-south, and was fronted on the east by an outset staircase. The latter measured 3.67m long north-south and extended 2.06m east from the main body of the platform. The outset consisted of three risers that were 0.1-0.3m tall by 0.49-1.03m wide. Above and north and south of the steps Str. 22-1st is estimated to have been ascended by seven risers that stood an estimated 0.3-1m tall and measured 0.46-1.44m across; the basal terrace (U.4) is inferred to have been about 1m high. All architecture raised now was composed primarily of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Following its abandonment, Str. 22-1st was largely covered by the deposition of as much as 0.46m of a dark brown, moderately fine-textured earth (S.1). A moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that probably were originally parts of TS.2 constructions were found embedded in S.1 for up to 2.8m east of the platform.

Structure 23

Structure 23 defines the south flank of Plaza II, roughly 45m south of Str. 24 and 9m southwest of Str. 7. Structure 24 seals Plaza II's north side while Structure 7 bounds that open space on the east. Structure 23 was heavily damaged prior to our investigations. The platform was bifurcated by the north-south course of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road while its western terminus was the site of illicit digging. George Hasemann and Russel Sheptak directed excavations during 1982 into Str. 23's north side (Subop. 1C in our numbering sequence). Our contribution to exposing the building was a probe (Subop. 4B) that covered 1m east-west by 1.6m and was located 1m east of Subop. 1C. In both cases the goal was to reconstruct some aspects of Str. 23's occupation history before the edifice was obliterated by the expanding and paving of the modern roadway. Digging within Subop. 4B reached a maximum depth of 2.26m below modern ground surface within construction and 1.95m beneath ground level beyond architecture.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.4	-	-
2	-	-	S.3	-	ECL/LPrecl*
3	-	-	-	F.1	ECL
4	Str. 23-2 nd	-	-	F.2-4	ECL
5	-	-	S.2	-	LCL
5	Str. 23-1 st	U.1-6	-	-	LCL
6	-	-	S.1	F.5	

Radiocarbon Assay from this context: CE 30 +/-410/440 (lot 4B/014; DIC 2811).

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to on and around Str. 23 was the deposition of at least 0.46m of a hard-compacted, gritty silty clay loam that contained numerous small pebbles (S.4; its base was not revealed in Subop. 4B). Stratum 4 maintained a level upper surface over the 1.6m it was traced running north-south. This layer closely resembles the basal stratum (S.4) uncovered in excavations at Str. 24 (Subop. 4A) and both are probably part of the culturally sterile colluvial layer that underlies much of Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Stratum 4 was covered, in turn, by 0.35m of a brown, moderately hard-compacted, silty clay loam (S.3). Like its predecessor, S.3 ran level over its exposed north-south extent. It is unclear whether S.3 accumulated by natural processes or if it was introduced purposefully to raise the terrain in this portion of Gualjoquito. As there are no compelling reasons to propose the latter interpretation, we have chosen to favor the former.

Time Span 3

A brown silty clay loam that contains numerous small fragments of sherds and other cultural materials (F.1) covers S.3 by 0.22m. The relatively high density of human-generated debris in this layer tentatively suggests that F.1 represents trash that was repurposed as fill, its introduction likely motivated by a desire to raise the level of ground surface here. Feature 1, therefore, served the same purpose as the one we imputed to F.2 identified underlying Str. 24-3rd and within Subop. 4A. It may be that both of these artifact-rich deposits were parts of the same earth-moving effort.

Time Span 4

Structure 23-2nd began as a 0.18m-high platform the core of which was comprised of a brown silty clay loam (F.2). Embedded in F.2 is a faint lens, roughly 0.01m thick, comprised of charcoal flecks. Exposed only in the south face of Subop. 4B, 0.08m above F.1, this deposit may have been part of a discrete fill unit introduced during the course of raising Str. 23-2nd. Feature 2 rests directly on F.1 and its exposed north edge is inferred from the downward slope of a 0.02m-thick ash lens (F.3) that seems to have blanketed the platform's summit. Feature 3 was traced for 0.56m north from the south trench wall over which distance it gradually dropped 0.13m. Subsequently 0.1m of earth (identical to F.2) was added above F.3 and was capped with another ash deposit, this one 0.01-0.02m thick (F.4). Feature 4 also declines from south-to-north, in this case descending 0.09m in a continuous slope over 0.7m in that direction from the south trench wall. A few cobbles found scattered along the margins of F.3 and 4 hint at the former presence of low stone retaining walls that bordered Str. 23-2nd on the north. If such constructions had existed, they were not clearly preserved in the portion off the building that we investigated. The numerous artifact fragments (especially pottery sherds) and other cultural material (including pieces of *bajareque* and *Pachychilus* sp. [jute] shells) found in the immediate environs of F.3 and 4 implies that they represent sequent debris levels resulting from activities conducted on and around Str. 23-2nd, the earlier example being buried by a later renovation that raised the platform's summit by 0.12m. We did not uncover enough of Str. 24-2nd, nor were the parts we investigated sufficiently well preserved, to infer the building's basal dimensions or orientation.

Time Span 5

Structure 23-2nd was eventually covered by 0.6m of a brown silty clay loam (S.2) that contains some artifacts and a few scattered rocks. Stratum 2 might have accumulated by natural means though we suspect that it was purposefully introduced as part of the ongoing efforts to raise the terrain in this portion of Gualjoquito. Stratum 2 closely resembles in color and composition U.9 in Subop. 4A (Str. 24). Unit 9 was clearly used to seal an Early Classic construction (Str. 24-3rd) and, in the process, elevate the ground surface on which Str. 24-2nd was raised. While the cultural origins of S.2 are not as clear as they are for U.9, the former seems to have accomplished the same dual purpose as did the latter. Bearing these uncertainties in mind, it may well be that the transition from the Early to Late Classic in and around Plaza II was marked by efforts to seal constructions dating to the former period and raise those pertaining to the latter over them.

Time Span 6

Our limited investigation of Str. 23-1st revealed two stone-faced risers (U.1 and 2) that ascend in increments of 0.35m (U.1, the basal riser) and 0.07m (U.2) south towards the summit. Unit 1 is 0.4m wide while U.2 measured at least 0.3m across north-south (its southern terminus was not found). The fill (U.3) contained by and underlying U.1 and 2 is a dark brown silty clay loam. Embedded in U.3 is a moderately dense concentration of medium-size river cobbles.

An examination of Subop. 1C revealed a westward continuation of U.2 but no trace of U.1. It may be that the latter was part of a staircase, the lowermost riser (U.1) projecting 0.4m north of the northern basal terrace (U.2). From what we could tell from our cursory investigation of the architecture exposed in Subop. 1C, Unit 2 was 1m wide north-south and was succeeded on the south by U.4. This stone-faced riser is ca. 0.3m tall by 2m wide. Unit 5, in turn, rises about 0.1m above U.4's tread and extends 3.3m south where it terminates in U.6. The latter is a 0.62m-thick by roughly 0.35m-high wall that likely marks the summit's north edge.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 23-1st was approximately 1.17m tall on the north and was aligned ca. 256 degrees. The superstructure was probably accessed by passing up and over a stone staircase situated east of the building's center. The two exposed risers are 0.35m and 0.07m tall, the bottommost tread measuring 0.4m across and projecting that distance north of the building's northern basal wall (U.2). The putative staircase was flanked on the west by three stone faced terraces that were 0.1-0.3m tall by 1-3.3m wide. These risers end on the south in a 0.35m-high by 0.62m-wide stone step-up to the summit. All of the architecture raised now was fashioned primarily of river cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

Following its abandonment, Str. 23-1st was covered by as much as 0.3m of a dark brown silty clay loam (S.1). Stratum 1 contains a moderately dense concentration of cobbles (F.5) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 5 was traced for 0.9m north of TS.6 construction in Subop. 4B before excavation ceased.

Structure 24

Structure 24, in the southern portion of Gualjoquito, defines the north side of Plaza II and the south margin of Plaza VI. Structure 7 is 10m to the southeast while Str. 16 is 28m to the west/northwest. The western quarter of Str. 24 had been sheared off by the construction of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road before 1983. The anticipated expansion of that road in the 1980s, plans which have since come to fruition, were slated to further diminish what remained of the edifice. George Hasemann and Russel Sheptak directed an excavation in 1982 (Subop. 1D, in our numbering system) measuring 2.25x11m into the platform's north side near its centerline. These investigations were accompanied by the digging of a second trench (Subop. 1E) 3.3m to the north. The latter excavation measures 2m east-west by 6m and was designed to expose the south flank of nearby Str. 25. We were able to use constructions revealed in Hasemann and Sheptak's work in Subop. 1D as a guide to exposing architecture in Subop. 4A which was dug in 1983 parallel to, and 1m west of, the earlier trench. Suboperation 4A encompasses 1.5m east-west by 18m and reached maximum depths of 1.7m and 2.56m below modern ground surface outside and within construction, respectively. A total of 27m² was

cleared on and around Str. 24 during the 1983 field season in the course of which four major construction phases were defined.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.4	-	
2	Str. 24-Sub1	-	-	F.1	ECL
3	-	-	-	F.2	ECL
4	Str. 24-3 rd	U.1-4	-	F.3, 9-11	ECL
5	Str. 24-2 nd	U.5-10, 22	-	F.4	LCL
6	Str. 24-1 st	U.11-19	-	-	LCL
7	Str. 24-1 st	U.20-21	-	-	TCL
8	-	-	S.1, 2	F. 7, 8	

Note: Features 5 and 6 were ultimately removed from the sequence as even their tentative identification as human creations faded in credibility with further analysis. Stratum 3 was also not included in this sequence.

Time Span 1

During this interval a hard-compacted, gritty silty clay loam was laid down (S.4). Stratum 4 is further characterized by the dense concentration of small angular rocks that it contains (its base was not encountered). This layer seems to be part of the culturally sterile colluvium that underlies Gualjoquito. Where it was revealed in the southernmost portion of Subop. 4A, S.4 ascended 0.22m over 1.36m from south-to-north and 0.04m across 1.5m from west-to-east.

Time Span 2

The earliest potential architecture identified in or near Str. 24 is what appears to be the heavily eroded remains of platform (Str. 24-Sub1) composed of hard-packed burnt earth (F.1). Feature 1 rests directly on S.4 and projects maximally 0.51m north from Subop. 4A's south end, its northern margin defining a curved line the convex portion of which faces north. It is unclear if this curve was part of the construction's original form or if it simply resulted from the building's gradual deterioration. No stone facings were recorded in the limited portion of Str. 24-Sub1 that we exposed. As for the construction's original form little can be said at this point. Based on observations made of F.1 in the south wall of Subop. 4A it looks as though the putative edifice was at least 0.3m tall, a (minimally) 0.9m-long terrace giving way on the west to an

ascent of 0.1m over a horizontal distance of 0.1m. Following that riser, F.1's surface remained flat for the 0.5m it was uncovered to the west. Artifacts were embedded in F.1's matrix, including pottery fragments datable to the Early Classic.

Time Span 3

Within Subop. 4A, F.1 and the exposed portions of S.4 are covered by as much as 0.5m of an orange-brown silty clay loam that contains numerous carbon flecks and cultural material (F.2). Feature 2 appears to be composed of items that had been parts of an Early Classic midden, that trash having been repurposed as fill to cover Str. 24-Sub1 (the dating is based on the recovery from this deposit of ceramics that are diagnostic of the period). The layer was most clearly exposed for a distance of 1.25m north from the trench's south edge over which extent it retained a level upper surface. It may be that F.2 continued for at least 7m north of Str. 24-Sub1 suggesting that this deposit was part of an extensive, if localized, effort to raise and level out the terrain over which successive versions of Str. 24 would be built.

Time Span 4

The first version of Str. 24 identified in our excavations is Str. 24-3rd. It was apparently a surface-level building, aligned ca. 77 degrees, bordered by stone foundations (U.3 and 4) that are 0.08-0.12m tall by 0.15-0.28m wide. These footings delimit an earthen-floored interior that encompasses 2.62m north-south, the area they border being filled with fragments of *bajareque* (F.3). Most likely F.3 contains the remnants of the perishable clay-and-stick walls that once capped U.3 and 4. Based on the frequency of these burnt wall fragments it is likely that Str. 24-3rd ended its use life in a conflagration after which it was abandoned. A 0.05m-thick floor composed of tightly packed small, rounded stones (U.2) abuts U.3 and 4 and extends for at least 5.35m south and 9.7m north of Str. 24-3rd. In fact, U.2 is continuous throughout Subop. 4A except within the area delimited by U.3 and 4. Portions of the surface, especially where they adjoin U.3 and 4, retained fragments of a flooring composed of crushed white rock. It may be that this treatment was originally applied to the entirety of U.2. Underlying U.2 wherever it was pierced within this trench is as much as 0.5m of a brown, silty clay loam fill (U.1) that covers F.2.

Though Str. 24-3rd appears to be a relatively unprepossessing building, considerable amounts of labor were invested in raising the ground on which it was built and formalizing the surface that surrounds it. Taken together with the burning of Str. 24-3rd, it may be that the edifice was the focus of activities important enough to warrant the investment of so much effort in creating the appropriate surroundings for it and in terminating its use.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 24-3rd's abandonment, it and the surrounding stone floor were covered by 0.15-0.45m of a brown, moderately hard-compacted, silty clay loam (U.9). Unit 9 served as the foundation atop which Str. 24-2nd was raised. This edifice is a 0.97m-tall platform bordered by stone facings (U.6 and 7) on the south and north. The fill contained by these basal walls consists of a brown silty clay loam in which is embedded a moderately dense concentration of flat-laid cobbles (U.10). The summit measures 3.68m north-south, was apparently surfaced with earth, and was featureless in the 1.5m-wide (east-west) segment of it that was exposed in Subop. 4A. The building is fronted on the south by a 0.3m-high terrace (U.5) that projects 0.8m out from

the body of the core platform. Unit 6, the southern core facing, rises 0.67m above U.5's earthen tread. Unit 8, a 0.35m-tall terrace, extends 1.93m north from U.7, the core's northern basal wall. The latter projects 0.62m above the upper surface of U.8. Though the evidence was somewhat ambiguous, it appears likely that U.8's tread was surfaced with stones (F.4). At a later date, the northern terrace was extended 0.57m further in this direction with the addition of U.22. Unit 22 completely buries U.8's north face thereby creating a continuous and flat upper terrace surface that encompasses 2.5m north-south. The fill for both the northern and southern terraces, including the U.22 addition, is identical to U.10 and is included under that designation.

By the conclusion of TS.5, Str. 24-2nd was a 0.97m-high by 6.98m north-south, earth-and-stone-filled platform that was oriented approximately 267 degrees. The core platform's summit measures 3.68m north-south, was surfaced with earth, and contained no superstructure features within the limited exposure afforded within Subop. 4A. This central element was fronted by 0.3m to 0.35m-high stone-faced terraces on the south and north. The southern example projects 0.8m in this direction from the core while its northern analogue originally extended 1.93m away from the central platform. Later this stone-floored terrace was augmented by the addition of a 0.57m wide (north-south) extension to its north face. The building's east and west sides were not found.

All facings raised now were fashioned of medium to large cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. The rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

This interval was marked by the raising of Str. 24-1st. The first step in its construction was the deposition of as much as 0.83m of a brown silty clay loam (U.19) over the remains of Str. 24-2nd. As was the case with U.10, U.19 contained a moderately dense concentration of flat-laid rocks most of which were concentrated immediately behind terrace facings and under their treads. Structure 24-1st was fronted on the north by a 0.7m-high stone-faced terrace (U.18) that is backed on the south by a 2.8m-wide earthen tread. That surface terminates in a 1.1m rise to the summit (U.17). Unit 17 achieves its full height in two segments. The basal element rises 0.73m before stepping back (to the south) 0.17m. The facing then continues vertically for the remaining 0.37m to the platform's summit. Unit 17 was also revealed 1m to the east of Subop. 4A within Subop. 1D. Access to the superstructure may have been from the south where Str. 24-1st is ascended by four broad terraces (U.12-15). The basal riser, U.12, is 0.3m tall by 1.5m wide. It is succeeded on the north by U.13 which stands 0.32m tall and runs north for 1.28m where it gives way to U.14. That riser looms 0.38m above U.13's tread and is 0.77m wide north-south. The next ascending riser, U.15, stands 0.15m above U.14's tread and continues 1.3m to the north where it terminates in the 0.35m step-up (U.16) to the summit. That upper surface measures 2.64m north-south. The summit's north wall seems wider (0.93m across) than would be necessary to support the superstructure's perishable upper walls. It may well be, therefore, that this broad northern construction (designated U.11) served as both a wall support and bench. If that was the case, the U.11 bench would have faced south where it overlooked what was likely the main entrance up the southern terraces.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 24-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled, stone-faced platform that rose 1.8m on the north and 1.5m on the south, measured 11.15m north-south, and was oriented approximately 260 degrees. Its estimated east-west length is 25m. The building is fronted on the north by a 0.7m-tall by 2.8m-wide stone-faced terrace that terminated in the 1.1m-high ascent to the summit. On the south the superstructure could have been reached by ascending four earthen-floored terraces that are 0.15m-0.38m tall by 0.77-1.5m wide, ending in

a 0.35m step-up to the summit. The limited portion of the superstructure exposed in Subop. 4A consists of an earth-floored room which was likely backed on the north by a 0.2m-high stone-faced bench (U.11) that was incorporated into the western summit facing (U.17). This bench would have overlooked the broad southern terraces, the latter possibly serving as one way of accessing Str. 24-1st's superstructure.

All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river-rounded stones the flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. The builders of U.17, the relatively tall northern summit wall, favored the use of large, square rocks for this aspect of the edifice. The rocks in each construction unit are set within a mud mortar.

Time Span 7

It was during this period that Str. 24-1st's northern terrace (U.18) was expanded 2.24m to the north by the construction of U.20. Unit 20 is 0.4m tall and is backed by a fill composed of densely packed small to large cobbles that are set in a brown silty clay loam matrix (U.21), Unit 18 still projected 0.47m above U.20's tread; the latter's base is set 0.17m below that of U.18, likely reflecting a downward slope in the original ground surface here. No other constructions are assigned to this phase and we presume that Str. 24-1st was otherwise unchanged during its duration.

Unit 20's exterior facing is constructed of cobbles set vertically, the rocks bound together with a mud mortar. This orientation of the stones differs from earlier constructions recorded on Str. 24.

Time Span 8

Following its abandonment, Str. 24-1st was first covered by as much as 0.25m of a brown, moderately hard-compacted, silty clay loam (S.2). A 0.3m-thick humus horizon composed of a darker brown silty clay loam (S.1) formed atop S.2. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a variably dense concentration of rocks (F.7) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. Feature 7's stones are especially concentrated within 1m north of U.20. The platform's summit is covered by a dense concentration of rocks (F.8) many of which were found lying horizontally. The flat-lying aspects of the rocks coupled with their dense packing tentatively suggest that they were purposefully introduced. If that was the case, F.8 may be the remains of an effort to terminate formally the use of Str. 24-1st.

Structure 30

Structure 30 is part of a collection of four small buildings, protruding less than 1m above modern ground level, in the northwest corner of Gualjoquito. Structure 30 closes off the northwest corner of the patio formed by Strs. 29 and 28 on the northeast and southeast sides of this open space. The southwest flank of the plaza was, in 1983, delimited by a high, sheer descent to the Rio Ulua. It is possible that at least one edifice was lost at some point to erosion over this drop-off, though that possibility was not established. Structure 30 was investigated by digging in 1983 a 1m by 2.95m (north-south) trench (Subop. 9A) into what appeared to be the platform's north side. The probe was continued to a maximum depth of 1.01m below modern ground surface. No clear evidence for construction was identified in the course of this work, though scattered stones (F.1) found at locations where such architecture was expected suggest

that the building had undergone a significant amount of deterioration prior to our investigations.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	?
2	Str. 30-1 st	-	-	F.1-3	LCL
3	-	-	S.1	-	-

Time Span 1

The first episode chronicled in Subop. 9A was the laying down of at least 0.62m of a red-brown, fine-textured, hard-compacted clay (S.2; its base was not revealed). Stratum 2 ascends 0.62m over 2.02m from north-to-south, leveling out after that for the remaining 0.8m it was uncovered in the trench. Though few rocks were found in S.2, the layer does contain artifacts. The continuous north-to-south upward slant of S.2, coupled with its flattening out to the south very tentatively suggest the possibility that what we are calling S.2 are the remains of an earthen platform. As the ground in the area is generally ascending from north-to-south and distinctions between S.2 and overlying S.1 were hard to make, we are reluctant to push this interpretation any further.

Time Span 2

What appear to be the fragmentary remains of Str. 30-1st's north facing (F.1) consist of small to medium-size cobbles spread across an area extending 0.7m north of the excavation's south edge and covering Subop. 9A's east-west width. The F.1 rocks sit on what appears to have been a fill composed of a brown, fine-grained clay (F.3). Feature 3 rests atop S.2 in the area where that layer is running more-or-less even at the top of the north-to-south ascent (0.3m thick). A highly disturbed and poorly preserved collection of human bones (F.2) was found at the S.2/F.3 interface below F.1. Feature 2 covered 0.3m north-south and consisted of what were tentatively identified as an adult molar along with fragments of two ribs, a pelvis, a femur, and small pieces of unidentified bones. Feature 2 is likely the remains of a disarticulated secondary interment that was not clearly associated with grave goods or a burial pit. The individual's orientation could not be reliably determined from these partial remains. There is no evidence that the interment postdates the construction and use of Str. 30-1st; most likely the individual was buried during or soon after the edifice's construction.

Time Span 3

A 0.1m-thick brown, fine-textured humus horizon (S.1) now formed over what we take to be the remains of Str. 30-1st's after that building's abandonment.

Structure 31

Structure 31 is part of a group composed of at least two other buildings (Strs. 27 and 32) situated on the surviving west edge of Plaza IV. As the western portion of Str. 32, 5m to the southwest, had been lost over the steep eastern bank of the Rio Ulua, it is likely that there were originally more buildings on this side of Plaza IV. Structure 27 is 3.5m to the northeast while Str. 20, which stands between Plazas III to the south and IV to the north, is 8.5m to the south. Digging here within Subops. 6C and D during 1985 uncovered slightly less than half of Str. 31's perimeter while only a 1m-wide north-south by 1.4m-long swath of summit's east side was revealed. Excavations exposed ca. 20m² and reached maximum depths of 0.6m and 0.9m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. One construction phase was identified in the course of this work.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	ECL?
2	Str. 31-1 st	U.1-5	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The first event chronicled in the area of Str. 31-1st is the laying down of at least 0.36m of a fine-textured, light brown soil (S.2) that contains artifacts and a few small rocks (S.2's base was not encountered). Where S.2 was exposed north of the building it rises 0.15m across 2.87m north-to-south. On the south this stratum runs more-or-less flat for 1.34m before descending 0.09m north-to-south across 0.63m beginning that drop directly beneath the platform's southern basal wall (U.1). It appears, therefore, that Str. 31-1st was raised atop a low rise, the ground dropping off gradually and slightly to the north and south of the building.

Time Span 2

Structure 31-1st is a platform that is bounded by basal facings (U.1-4) on all sides. Units 1-4 are 0.35-0.45m tall and contain a fill (U.5) composed of a dense packing of small to medium-size stones set in a dark brown soil matrix. Overall, the building measured 11.5m north-south by 7m, stood 0.35-0.4m tall, and was aligned roughly 344 degrees. The facings were made primarily of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter faces of these rocks were generally directed outwards. Two faced blocks were located in the east basal wall (U.3) at a point 0.84m south of the edifice's northeast corner. Altogether, these blocks span 0.86m east-west and might have marked a point of formal entry to Str. 31-1st's earthen-floored summit. No signs of superstructure architecture were noted though our limited investigations of the summit were insufficient to ascertain the nature of any constructions that might have been erected atop the U.5 fill.

Time Span 3

Following its abandonment, Str. 31-1st was largely buried beneath 0.1-0.43m of a light-textured, dark brown soil (S.1; the humus horizon). Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense

concentration of rocks (F.1) that probably fell from final phase architecture. Feature 1's stones were particularly prevalent on the south where they were traced for 0.87m south of U.1. These materials were far less common on the north.

Structure 32

Structure 32 is 5m southwest of Str. 31 on what remains of Plaza IV's west edge. At least half of the building has been cut and removed by the Rio Ulua. Structure 20 is 6m to the east while Structure 38 is 42m and across Plaza IV to the east. A trench (Subop. 6B) measuring 1m wide was dug 3.6m (north-south) against Str. 32's east side. The excavation was carried 1.9m onto the building's earthen-floored summit. Digging was carried 0.44m down below modern ground level east of Str. 32-1st. One major construction phase was identified in the course of this work.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	?
2	Str. 32-1 st	U.1, 2	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the area of Str. 32-1st was the deposition of at least 0.15m of a fine-textured red-brown soil (S.2; its base was not encountered). Stratum 2's top apparently marks the location of the ground surface above which this building was raised. The numerous artifacts, especially pottery sherds, recovered from S.2 points to a significant human presence when this soil was accumulating.

Time Span 2

Structure 32-1st was bounded on the east by a 0.4m-tall cobble wall (U.1) that was aligned very roughly 4 degrees. The fill (U.2) retained by U.1 consists of a few rocks and a dense concentration of artifacts, primarily pottery sherds, mixed with animal bones, all of these items set in a red-brown soil matrix. The artifacts mostly date to the Early and Late Classic. Unit 2, therefore, appears to have been made up of trash that was repurposed to form the hearting of a much later platform.

Time Span 3

After its abandonment, Str. 32-1st was covered by as much as 0.3m of a fine-textured, dark brown soil (S.1; the humus horizon). A few rocks (F.1) that likely originated from final-phase architecture were found embedded in F.1.

Structure 34

Structure 34, located about 70m east of Str. 11, appeared on ground surface as the southwest corner of a building situated on the south edge of the colluvial fan that covers much of eastern Gualjoquito. The mapped extent of Str. 34 was 4x6m though we could not locate clear signs of the building's east and north walls during the initial reconnaissance. The ground here rises 0.5m over 10.44m from south-to-north. Digging during 1984 within Subop. 12C under the direction of Justine Staneko uncovered approximately 50m² in the course of exposing most of Str. 34-1st's south flank, excavations reaching maximum depths of 0.44m and 0.62m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One major building phase with hints of an earlier construction episode were identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.3	-	LPrecl/ECL
2	Str. 34-2 nd	U.1	-	-	ECL?
3	Str. 34-1 st	U.2-5	-	-	LCL?
4	Str. 34-1 st Str. 34-Sub1	U.6-8, 10 U.9	-	F.2	TCL
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified within Subop. 12C was the deposition of at least 0.12m of a light brown soil (S.3; its base was not encountered). Stratum 3 ascends 0.17m over the 4.62m from south-to-north in the portion of Subop. 12C where it was most clearly exposed.

Time Span 2

Structure 34-2nd is represented by what may be the remains of a cobble pavement (U.1) that was noted 0.1-0.24m below Str. 43-1st's U.5. Unit 1 stopped on the south even with U.5's south edge. The stones comprising the observed portion of the putative surface are fairly large, measuring 0.18-0.25m in diameter and all are set in a mud mortar. The architectural significance of U.1 is unknown though its existence points to a relatively prolonged period of occupation and construction in Str. 34-1st's vicinity.

Time Span 3

This interval apparently began with the introduction of a light brown, hard-compacted soil (U.10) that covered U.1 and served as the base for U.5. The building during this interval was seemingly bounded on the south by a 0.25m-tall stone facing (U.5) that was traced for 7m over which distance it was aligned approximately 82 degrees. Unit 5's western terminus was not determined. On the east it joins with U.2 to form the building's southeast corner. Unit 2 was

followed for 2.6m to the northeast over which distance it was aligned ca. 12 degrees. Unit 5 retains a fill of light brown earth that contains some rocks (U.4) and runs back near its presumed center for 0.77m where it terminates at U.3. Unit 3 is a 0.34m-high by 1.04m-wide (north-south) wall that roughly parallels U.5. The full east-west dimensions of this construction remain unknown. As such, we cannot be sure if U.3 fronted a second level of the platform, rising directly from U.5's earthen tread to the summit, or if it was a free-standing construction. We tend to favor the latter view, for reasons offered under TS.4. If so, then U.3 might have been a stone-faced bench that looked south over the U.5 terrace.

By the end of TS.3, Str.34-1st was an earth-and-stone-filled platform that stood 0.25m tall on the south, covered at least 7m east-west by 2.6m north-south (its west and north sides were not identified), and was aligned 82 and 12 degrees. A 0.34m-high by 1.04m-wide stone construction lies 0.77m north of U.5 and rests on the U.4 fill that is retained by the south basal facing. This substantial wall might have served as a bench raised atop Str. 34-1st though this interpretation, along with the putative bench's east-west dimensions, remains open to question. All constructions raised now were fashioned primarily of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 4

During TS.4, U.2-5 remained exposed and in use. The primary change took the form of expanding the platform 2.56m to the south and perhaps 2.85m to the east. Unit 6 apparently now defined the south edge of the expanded southern terrace. Standing 0.25m tall, U.6 retains a fill composed of numerous flat-laid rocks set in a brown soil matrix (U.8). Unit 8 completely covers U.5, the resulting southern terrace now measuring 3.33m across north-south at the building's approximate center. Unit 6 is oriented roughly 67 degrees over the 10.5m it was exposed running northeast from its southwest corner with U.7. At this point U.6 seemingly changed direction, extending for a further 5m at an angle of approximately 82 degrees. This shift in alignment likely narrowed the terrace's width by 1.2m as U.5 and 6 converged. The platform's southeast corner is formed by the junction of U.6 and 10. The latter was traced for 2m to the north at which point it appeared to stop without a clear resolution. The same situation pertains on the west where U.7 seemed to terminate after extending 2.5m to the north. It is possible that Str. 34-1st was built into a south-to-north rise, its east and west basal facings (U.10 and 7) extending northward for only the distances needed to preserve the integrity of the edifice's fill and summit.

Immediately north of U.3, and resting against its base, a moderately dense concentration of artifacts (primarily pottery sherds and *bajareque* fragments) were recovered (F.2). The location of these materials tentatively implies that the area for at least 4.6m north of U.3 was open during TS.3 and 4. Feature 2 seems to represent debris that accumulated at the end of TS.4, the fragments of burned daub suggesting that U.3 supported a perishable upper wall at this time in addition to possibly serving as a bench.

The only portion of Str. 34-Sub1 that was encountered is U.9 located 0.5-1.05m east of Str. 34-1st's southeast corner. This low cobble wall was exposed for 1.8m over which distance it was oriented ca. 320 degrees. It is unclear if U.9 served as a platform facing or as a foundation delimiting the west side of a building that was erected directly on ancient ground surface.

As TS.4 drew to a close, Str. 34-1st was a stone-and-earth-filled platform that was seemingly built into the southern flank of a south-to-north rise. It was expanded considerably to the south during these years, the edifice now measuring 15.5m east-west by at least 4.4m north-south. The building's northern flank was not encountered and it may well have been the

case that Str. 34-1st's builders took advantage of the terrain's south-to-north ascent, concentrating their efforts on stabilizing the downslope southern flank while not investing much effort in formalizing the building's upslope north side. The edifice is aligned 67 and 82 degrees and the 0.25m-tall terrace that wraps around Str. 34-1st' south side encompasses 2.13-3.33m across north-south, the extensions of the terrace bordering Str. 34-1st's east and west flanks covering 2.85m and at least 1.4m across (the western terrace's, U.7's, full width was not ascertained). Unit 3 may still have functioned as a bench facing south over the broad southern terrace. Materials associated with its final use, however, suggest that it also supported a *bajareque* upper wall. This may also have been the case during TS.3. Structure 34-Sub1 is 0.5-1.05m east of Str. 34-1st's southeast corner. The one low wall associated with the former was uncovered for 1.8m over which distance it was aligned ca. 320 degrees. It is unclear if this construction was the facing for a modest stone-faced platform or served as the western footing for a perishable upper wall that bordered a surface-level building on the east.

All constructions raised now were primarily made from cobbles that were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

After Str. 34-1st's and 34-Sub1's abandonments, 0.2m of a dark brown- to-black soil (S.2) was laid down atop S.3. Stratum 2 was, in turn, blanketed by 0.11-0.13m of a light brown soil (S.1) that was similar in appearance to S.3. This sequence, in which a darker brown earth is covered by a light brown soil, reverses the usual pattern at Gualjoquito. Such an incongruity might point to disturbances in the area that would account for this reversal. No other evidence for any disruptions here were noted, however. Embedded in S.1 and 2, south, east, and west of Str. 34-1st, was a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture. The paucity of dislodged stones recorded north of U.3 tends to support the notion that this side of the building was not reinforced with substantial stone constructions.

Structure 35

Structure 35 is on Gualjoquito's northwest margin, part of a group of four diminutive surface-visible platforms that together enclose a patio that covers 10m on a side. This plaza's western side is defined by a steep drop off to the Rio Ulua. It is possible, though unproven, that one or more buildings were originally located here but have been lost to erosion into the watercourse. Structure 35 was not recognized based on surviving architecture seen on modern ground surface. Rather, the area was investigated because the identification of a dense concentration of large ceramic fragments on the surface northwest of Str. 30 and adjoining the river cut suggested the presence of an ancient midden. Excavations here during 1983 and within Subop. 9B, a trench oriented 155 degrees and measuring 1m by 3m (north-south), did not encounter a trash deposit. Rather, in the course of digging for a maximum depth of 0.96m below modern ground level, remnants of what appear to have been two low platforms (Strs. 35-1st and 35-2nd) were recovered.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.2	-	ECL?

2	-	-	-	F.2	ECL?
3	Str. 35-2 nd	U.1	-	-	LCL
4	Str. 35-1 st	U.2-5	-	-	LCL
5	-	-	S.1	F.1	-

Time Span 1

The earliest event recorded with Subop. 9B was the deposition of at least 0.3 of a light brown, hard-compacted, silty clay (S.2). Stratum 2 ascended 0.2m over 3m from north-to-south and contained some cultural material.

Time Span 2

What may have been the remains of a posthole (F.2) were found sunk from S.2's upper surface, 0.3m into that earth layer. Feature 2 was recorded in Subop. 9B's south face, has a diameter of 0.26m at the top, narrowing to 0.12m across just above its rounded bottom. Feature 2 was filled with a light brown clay that was softer in texture than the surrounding S.2. The subtlety of F.2's expression aside, it is possible that this entity was part of the framework for a surface-level building that extends to the south beyond our excavation limits.

Time Span 3

The sole portion of Str. 35-2nd encountered in the course of our work is a 0.36m-high stone wall (U.1) that was traced for 1.69m in Subop. 9B's west wall, and was oriented approximately 155 degrees. Unit 1's northern terminus may mark the northeast corner of Str. 35-2nd, the rest of the building continuing south and west beyond excavation limits. Unit 1 rests on S.2 and was built of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards to the east. The stones are set in a mud mortar and comprise three rough horizontal courses. We suspect that the building was a low, stone-faced platform but cannot rule out the possibility that U.1 was a foundation from a surface-level structure, perishable walls rising above the footing.

Time Span 4

Unit 1 was covered by up to 0.36m of a light brown silty clay that contains a few cobbles (U.5). Unit 5, in turn was blanketed by roughly 0.4m of a similar material that is distinguished by its dark brown hue (U.4). Two stone-faced risers (U.2 and 3) ascend to the inferred level of the platform's summit from the north. The basal riser (U.2) rests on U.1 and is 0.3m tall by 0.27m wide. The next ascending riser (U.3) stands 0.27m tall and seemingly provided access to an earthen-floored summit. The latter was followed for 1.35m to the south. No architectural features or obvious floors were found in this exposed portion of the superstructure.

Overall, Str. 35-1st was, by the end of TS.4, a 0.57m-tall, primarily earth-filled platform, that was aligned roughly 86 degrees. The building was ascended on the north by two stone risers that ascend in increments of 0.3m and 0.27m to the north. The basal step's stone tread is 0.27 wide while the next step-up leads to the earthen-floored summit. The cobbles comprising

these risers are generally arranged so that their flatter faces are directed outwards. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 5

Following Str. 35-1st's abandonment, the building was covered by 0.1-0.33m of a dark brown silty clay (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a light scattering of stones (F.1) that probably derived originally from final-phase architecture.

Structure 36

Structure 36 occupies the north flank of Plaza VI, 11m south of Str. 11 and the same distance northwest of Str. 10. Investigation of this building took the form of digging a 1m-wide by 9.75m (north-south) trench (Subop. 8C) over the building's approximate center. These excavations were conducted during the 1985 field season and reached maximum depths of 0.55m and 0.48m below modern ground surface beyond and within construction, respectively. One major construction period was recognized in the course of this work.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	ECL
2	Str. 36-1 st	U.1-5	-	-	LCL/TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

It was at this time that at least 0.25m of a brown, fine-textured earth (S.1) was deposited (the layer's base was not encountered). As S.1 resumed deposition during TS.3 it is difficult to determine how much of this soil was introduced prior to Str. 36-1st's construction and how much post-dated that event. The present estimate is based on the disposition of architecture dating to TS.2 which tentatively suggests the approximate location of the ground surface into and above which those constructions were raised.

Time Span 2

Structure 36-1st is a platform that is fronted on the north by a 0.25m-high stone-faced terrace (U.1) the earthen tread of which runs 1.1m to the south. At this point U.1 is succeeded by a 0.17m-tall stone step-up to the summit (U.2). The latter is primarily surfaced with earth, measures 6m across north south and terminates at U.3. Unit 3 is a 0.21m-tall stone wall that is fronted on the south by a 0.2m-high, 0.7m-wide step (U.4). Unit 4 apparently did not run the full east-west length of Str. 36-1st but continues for an undetermined distance east of its intersection with U.3 as this junction was revealed in Subop. 8C's east trench wall. Most likely U.4 was an outset step that formalized access to the summit. Structure 36-1st's fill (U.5) consists of a brown, fine-textured soil that is indistinguishable from S.1.

The bases of U.3 and 4 are roughly equivalent as are those of U.1 and 4. It may be that the core platform, delimited by U.2 and 3 on the north and south, was originally set atop a low elevation. Units 1 and 4 would then have been set further down that putative slope, the former to slow erosion on the north and the latter to help those navigating the southern ascent. Such changes in elevation are not visible in S.1 which is homogenous throughout its exposed extent.

As TS.2 was drawing to a close, Str. 36-1st was a stone-faced, earth-filled and -surfaced platform that stood 0.4m tall, measured 6m north-south, and was oriented ca. 86 degrees. It is possible that the edifice was set atop a low rise, the building's construction simply consolidating and adding to that modest elevation. If this was the case then the 0.25m-high stone-faced terrace that projects 1.1m north of the edifice might have served to slow erosion down this flank. On the south, the 0.2m-high step that is outset 0.7m in this direction from the core platform facing might have formalized passage to the summit up the putative southern slope. The restricted area we uncovered of the summit, measuring 1m wide east-west, did not reveal any architecture associated with a superstructure.

All facings were fashioned mostly of river cobbles the flatter faces of which were directed outwards. A cut block was incorporated in U.3, the southern core facing, whereas at least the western edge of the U.4 step was made of this material. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

After Str. 36-1st's abandonment, the platform was largely blanketed by 0.1-0.4m of S.1 (see TS.1 for a description). Embedded in upper S.1 were very few rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from final-phase architecture. These rocks are so rare that it seems safe to say that Str. 36-1st never stood much taller than it did when revealed in excavations.

Structure 38

Structure 38 appeared on ground surface as a projection that extends 7m northwest of Str. 26 in the southeast corner of Plaza IV. Structure 31 is 34 m and across the plaza to the west while Str. 21 on the plaza's north edge is an equal distance to the northwest. Based on surface remains, Str. 38 was thought to measure 7m across northeast-southwest and to have stood no more than 1m high. The building was inadvertently investigated when digging Subop. 10G (it did not appear from the surface that the building extended as far north as this trench). The excavation started off oriented north-south and measuring 1x2.6m. It was subsequently expanded by digging an extension of the original probe that projected 1m west of the initial trench's southwest corner. The addition covered 1.2m north-south. As a result, Subop. 10G had a L-shape, encompassed 3.8m², and reached a depth of 1.8m below modern ground surface. In all, 6.8m³ was excavated here during the 1983 field season.

In an effort to expose more of the Late Preclassic materials unearthed in Subop. 10G, a 2x2m trench (Subop. 6A) was dug just west of the earlier excavation in 1984. This work, directed by Alexander Pezzati, reached a maximum depth of 2.28m below modern ground surface, roughly 7m³ was excavated within Subop. 6A.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
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1	-	-	S.6	-	
2	-	-	S.5	S.D.2, 3	LPrecl
3	-	U.3	S.3	-	LPrecl*
4	Str. 38-Sub1	U.1	-	F.1	LPrecl
5	-	-	S.3, 4	-	LPrecl
6	-	-	S.2	-	ECL*
7	Str. 38-1 st	U.2	-	-	ECL
8	-	-	S.2	-	ECL
9	-	-	S.1	-	LCL

Radiocarbon Assay from a TS.3 context: CE 90 +/-1100/110 (lot 6A/009; DIC 3139).
Radiocarbon Assay from a TS.6 context: CE 560 +/-80/70 (lot 6A/006; DIC 3046)

Time Span 1

The earliest event attested to in Subop. 10G was the deposition of at least 0.28m of a light- to orange-brown, fine-textured soil that contains many small stones (S.6; its base was not encountered). The rocks are easily abraded and broken. This layer ascends 0.09m over 1m from west-to-east while running flat for the 2.6m it was revealed extending north-south. Stratum 6 may represent a continuation of the colluvial deposits that underlie human occupation throughout Gualjoquito (see Op. 10 under 'Test Pits' for more on the stratigraphy revealed in this north-south cut across the center).

The same earth was encountered in Subop. 6A where it was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.48m. As was the case in Subop. 10G, this deposit was culturally sterile, its top running relatively level over its exposed extent.

Time Span 2

Stratum 6 was subsequently covered by 0.17-0.34m of a light- to orange-brown, fine-textured earth that is largely devoid of rocks (S.5). This soil was 0.45-0.5m thick, at the same elevation, in Subop. 6A. Stratum 5 within Subop. 10G rises 0.18m across 1m from west-to east and maintains a generally undulating upper surface over 2.6m north-south. Within Subop. 6A S.5's upper surface was relatively flat throughout its exposed extent. A concentration of six cobbles covering 0.3x0.3m was exposed in the south face of Subop. 6A, 0.11m above the base of S.5. As rocks are infrequent components of the deposit, this collection may suggest the presence of some form of construction nearby. They do not appear to have been parts of formal architecture, however, and their relation, if any, to such construction is unclear.

Artifacts found within S.5 point to a human presence in the area while this earth was accumulating. Two human interments, S.D.2 and 3, were revealed in Subop. 10G's southwest

corner; it was to fully expose the lower and larger of the two (S.D.3) that the trench was expanded. The uppermost burial (S.D.2) is situated 0.04m below the top of S.5 and consists of a child roughly four years of age, lying supine, legs splayed out at the knees, with their head oriented to the northeast, and covering 0.34m by 0.7m. Directly underlying S.D.2 are the remains of a middle-aged adult female (S.D.3) also lying supine, legs together, covering 0.3x1.7m, and aligned with the head to the northeast (56 degrees). The adult's feet were missing, that portion of the body being covered with a large fragment from an Izalco Usulután vessel. The only other grave goods were green tubular beads, one each being found in the area of the individuals' throats. A bone awl may also have been associated with the interments. No pit outlines could be clearly discerned though an especially dense concentration of *jute* (*Pachchilus*, *sp.*) shells located above the burials tentatively points to a disturbance in the soil that possibly resulted from digging the grave for these individuals.

It may be that S.D.2 and 3 were interred during the occupation of Str. 38-Sub1 as they lie 0.2m below the base of U.1 (see TS.4). As no pit lines for these burials could be discerned, however, that interpretation cannot be established.

Time Span 3

During this interval a pit (U.3) measuring 1.3m across north-south by at least 1m east-west (its east and west edges were not revealed) was dug 1.42m through S.5 and into the upper 0.96m of S.6. Unit 1's exposed north and south sides drop rapidly, descending 0.3m over 0.2m north-to-south on the north before falling 0.5m across 0.05m. At this point the pit's north wall intersects a large rock projecting up from S.6, U.3's rounded bottom encompassing 1m across north-south below said rock. Unit 3's south wall drops 0.28m across 0.28m before beginning its nearly vertical descent of 0.3m. At this point, the base of the pit is dug 0.4m southward, leaving 0.4m of S.6 projecting into the pit.

Whatever functions U.3 might have served originally, it was filled with trash during TS.3. This material, designated S.3, consists of a light brown, fine-textured soil. It is distinguished by the numerous artifacts and faunal remains, primarily in the form of shells from riverine snails (*jutes*, or, *Pachchilus*, *sp.*), that it contains. Unit 3 was likely filled during this interval, the trash overflowing that receptacle to a thickness of at least 0.29m and for roughly 2.4m east of the pit. To give some sense of the density of debris comprising the portion of S.3 that we estimate was introduced now, one pound, nine ounces of snail shells were recovered within 0.8m³ of excavated volume. In contrast, six ounces of these shells were recorded within the 0.9m³ of S.5 which was deposited in TS.2. As S.3 resumed accumulating during TS.5, it is hard to determine how much of this soil was laid down now. The figure provided here is the amount of S.3 that would need to have been in place to support construction (U.1) associated with Str. 38-Sub1.

Time Span 4

The only portion of Str. 38-Sub1 that was exposed in Subop. 10G was U.1. This construction was fashioned of sizable cobbles set in a mud mortar, stood 0.2m high, and was aligned roughly north-south. From the 0.9m of U.1 that was uncovered it is difficult to say what function it might have served; the stones could have been part of a platform facing or a foundation for a perishable wall pertaining to a structure raised directly on ancient ground surface.

Lying 0.47m east of U.1 are the remains of what seem to have been an extensive (covering at least 1.48m east-west) by, minimally, 0.96m north-south, pit (F.1, the feature's

south and east sides were not revealed). Feature 1 was maximally 0.2m deep in the area it was exposed within Subop. 10G, the walls sloping down very gradually from its north and west margins towards its relatively flat base. What purposes this declivity might have served are unclear. Feature 1 seems too shallow to have been a trash receptacle nor was it filled with obvious debris.

Time Span 5

Structure 38-Sub1 was subsequently covered by 0.4m of S.3 (see TS.3 for a description). The density of cultural material that characterized the layer during TS.3 remained largely unchanged throughout TS.5. For example, there were roughly 17 pounds of *jute* shells recorded within 1.5m³ of excavated volume within this soil. Stratum 3's upper surface ascends 0.25m over 2.4m from north-to south as revealed within Subop. 10G; excavations in Subop. 6A indicate that it levels off to the west. Early in TS.5, the F.1 pit was filled with a light brown clay that contained numerous small rocks (S.4). Stratum 4 does not extend beyond F.1 and its composition is distinctive within the stratigraphic sequence uncovered in Subop. 10G and 6A.

It appears, therefore, that material likely generated by domestic activities at the site came to cover Str. 38-Sub1. It may be that the debris was introduced purposefully to raise the ground surface here though we could not establish that interpretation based on the evidence in hand. The filling of F.1 with very different materials stands out within this sequence. Perhaps the clay and stones found here had something to do with that pit's original functions.

Time Span 6

Approximately 0.1m of a fine-textured, light- to orange-brown soil (S.2) was introduced now. Stratum 2 contains a few scattered rocks and is distinguishable from S.3 based on the somewhat lower densities of cultural material it contains. A concentration of small charcoal flecks was noted directly underlying the area that would support U.2 during TS.7.

As was the case with S.3, it is difficult to say how much of S.2 was laid down prior to the erection of Str. 38-1st in TS.7 as this soil continued to accumulate during TS.8. The figure provided here is the minimal amount of S.2 that would need to have been in place to support Str. 38-1st.

Time Span 7

The one segment of Str. 38-1st revealed in Subop. 10G is a 0.2m-high cobble wall (U.2) that was traced for 2m over which distance it was aligned roughly 99 degrees. Most likely this construction constituted the platform's northern basal facing, subsequent ascents towards the summit lying to the south beyond excavation limits. Unit 1 was made primarily of cobbles mixed with at least one piece of chalky limestone, all set in a mud mortar, and carefully selected for their flat faces which were directed outwards.

Time Span 8

Structure 38-1st was subsequently buried by the resumed deposition of S.2 which covered U.2 by 0.2-0.3m. The upper surface of S.2 runs relatively flat.

Time Span 9

The last activity attested to in this stratigraphic sequence was the formation of a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured humus horizon (S.1) atop S.2. Stratum 1 was 0.18-0.3m thick and contained a few scattered small stones.

Structure 40

What was designated as Str. 40 is located in the southwest corner of Gualjoquito, 3m to the northwest of Str. 41 and seemingly connected to the latter via Str. 42. Structure 40 appeared during mapping to be a modest platform that, together with Str. 41, defined the south side of Plaza VIII. The building was investigated during the 1985 field season by the digging of a trench (Subop. 13B) against Str. 40's south side. Suboperation 13B measured 1m by 5.8m (north-south), digging reaching a maximum depth of 0.6m below modern ground surface. As it turned out, excavations reached near the midpoint of Str. 40 without encountering even slight traces of construction. Rather, it appears that what appeared to be a platform was a pile of cultural debris mixed with a few small rocks. As there is no reason to think that this material was the result of recent earth moving, it appears to have resulted from activities, possibly those conducted in Plaza VIII immediately to the north.

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Date
1	-	-	S.2	-	-
2	-	-	S.1	-	TCL

Time Span 1

The first event noted in Subop. 13B was the formation of a coarse-textured tan soil (S.2) that contained numerous small rocks. Larger stones were observed deeply embedded in and protruding up from this layer, the bases of these boulders lying beyond excavation limits. No cultural remains were retrieved from S.2; most likely this deposit marks a continuation of the colluvial stratum that underlies much of Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Overlying S.2 by 0.5-0.58m is a dark brown, moderately fine-textured earth (S.1) that contains a few scattered angular rocks along with a significant quantity of artifacts, especially pottery sherds. Nothing approximating a construction unit was recorded leading to the conclusion that Str. 40 was less a purposeful construction than a pile of debris that was allowed to accumulate on Plaza VIII's southwest corner. The angular rocks are sufficiently small that they may have been used in some form of pot boiling. Given the dimensions of Str. 40, measuring 8m north-south by 16m east-west on ground surface, it appears that the trash dump either represents the outcome of activities conducted over an extended period in Plaza VIII or it resulted from a large gathering hosted in that location, the debris not having been cleared away before this part of the center was abandoned. It was not possible to distinguish a clear post-occupation layer within S.1.

Structure 41

Structure 41 is on the south edge of Plaza VIII in the southwest corner of Gualjoquito. Structure 40 is 3m to the northwest and seemed, based on surface remains, to have been connected to Str. 41 by a low terrace (Str. 42). Structure 15, which separates Plazas VIII and II on the west and east, is 25m to the northeast. Suboperation 13A was dug during the 1985 field season into Str. 41's south (non-plaza-facing side). The trench measured 1m by 4.25m (north-south) and exposed the building's south basal wall and 2.3m of the summit. Construction fill was not investigated in Subop. 13A though digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.93m below modern ground surface beyond architecture. One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.3	-	-
2	-	-	S.2	-	LPrecl/ECL
3	Str. 41-1 st	U.1, 2	-	-	TCL
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

This interval witnessed the deposition of at least 0.29m of a hard-compacted gritty clay loam that contained large numbers of small rocks (S.3; the layer's base was not encountered). Stratum 3 gradually dropped 0.08m over 0.7m from south-to-north before ascending 0.08m over the remaining 1.22m it was exposed in that direction within Subop. 13A. Most likely this soil is part of the colluvial deposit that underlies much of Gualjoquito. The artifacts recovered from the uppermost 0.1m of S.3 may indicate a human presence in the vicinity while this stratum was being laid down. As the colluvium is culturally sterile in other parts of the center, and the artifacts in Subop. 13A come from the uppermost level, it is likely that the latter materials derived from S.2 and had worked their way down into S.3.

Time Span 2

It was during this span that 0.15-0.21m of a fine-textured, light brown soil (S.2) was introduced. Stratum 2 was observed to descend 0.08m over 1.92m from south-to-north. It contains only a few small rocks along with a moderately dense concentration of cultural material, primarily ceramics mixed with fragments of *bajareque* and shells from river snails (*jutes* or *Pachychilus*, sp.). Though the density of these of these artifacts and faunal remains do not match those of middens encountered elsewhere at Gualjoquito, they do seem to have derived from practices of food preparation and consumption that predate Str. 41-1st's erection. It is unclear whether the objects resulted from activities performed close by or if they were redeposited as fill designed to raise ground surface in the settlement's southwest corner.

Time Span 3

The southern basal facing (U.1) of Str. 41-1st rests on S.2's upper surface, is composed of cobbles, stands 0.48m tall, and was aligned ca. 100 degrees. Unit 1 may have originally been 0.6m high, thus bringing its top to the same level as U.2. The latter is a stone pavement that stretches at least 2.3m north from U.1's south face. No other aspects of the superstructure were revealed in our limited excavations. All of the stones used in the observed architecture are set in a mud mortar, their flatter aspects directed out (U.1) or upwards (U.2).

Time Span 4

Following abandonment, Str. 41-1st was blanketed by 0.08-0.4m of a dark brown, fine-textured soil (S.1; the humus horizon). A light scattering of stones (F.1) that almost certainly fell from TS.3 architecture was embedded in S.1 and extended 0.5m south of that wall.

Structure 42

Structure 42 is a low, west-facing terrace which appeared on the surface to link Str. 41 to the east and Str. 40 to the north. Digging here in Subop. 13C during the 1985 field season was intended to test this interpretation and to date the construction. Suboperation 13C, which measured 1m by 3.8m (east west), exposed part of the building's west face. Excavations were pursued to a maximum depth of 0.45m below modern ground surface outside architecture; the edifice's fill was not investigated. One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

<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. 42-1 st	U.1	-	-	TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

It was during this interval that at least 0.2m of a light brown soil that contains numerous small rocks formed (S.2; its base was not found). Sizeable boulders projected as much as 0.35m up from the base of excavation, through S.2, and into the overlying S.1. The bases of these rocks lay beyond excavation limits. In general, S.2 rose 0.26m over the 3.8m it was exposed from west-to-east. No cultural material was retrieved from S.2. Most likely, this layer constitutes part of the colluvium that underlies much of Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

The construction of Str. 42-1st's west facing (U.1) consisted of setting cobbles atop S.2 and between some of the prominent boulders that protrude from that soil. The result is a basal wall that stands 0.25m tall in the sections composed of river-worn stones to 0.6m tall where U.1 incorporated one of the larger observed boulders. It seems likely that U.1 served as a retaining wall behind which (to the east) fill was introduced to level out a slope that rose from west-to-east. Structure 42-1st turns a corner south of our excavations, running east to join Str. 41-1st.

Though not cleared, we infer that this segment of the construction functioned much as did U.1, save that in this case the wall would have contained fill introduced to level out terrain that was ascending from south-to-north. There is no indication that Str. 42-1st had back (north and east) walls; it was probably built into a slope that rose west-to-east and south-to-north.

Time Span 3

Following its abandonment, Str. 42-1st and S.2 were largely covered by 0.19-0.35m of a dark brown soil (S.1; the humus horizon). A very light scatter of small rocks (F.1) was found within S.1. Most likely these stones originally derived from final-phase architecture.

Structure 48

Structure 48 is a low platform that is located within Plaza V about 10m west of Str. 12 and 45m east of Str. 22, the large edifices that bound this open space on the east and west. Excavations conducted here within Subop. 7A during 1983 were geared to salvaging data from the construction and its immediate area prior to Str. 48's destruction during the paving and widening of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road. As the building was within 2m of the extant roadway in 1983, it was clear it would not survive the planned expansion of said highway; and it did not. In all, 27m² were cleared in Subop. 7A in the course of exposing the entire edifice. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.75m and 0.67m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively. One construction effort was identified in the course of these investigations.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.2	-	?
2	Str. 48-1 st	U.1-6	-	-	LCL/TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest event chronicled in Str. 48-1st's vicinity was the deposition of at least 0.34m of a light brown, fine-textured, silty clay loam (S.2; its base was not encountered in our excavations.). Stratum 2 rises 0.2m over 5.1m from east to west and does contain some cultural material.

Time Span 3

Structure 48-1st is a platform delimited by stone facings (U.1-4) on all sides. These basal walls rise 0.15-0.21m to the earthen floored summit. The fill retained by U.1-4 is composed of a dense concentration of flat-laid small to large cobbles set in a brown soil (U.5). The summit measures 3m on a side and was featureless. A stone pavement (U.6) adjoins the building's

southwest corner, its top equivalent to the base of U.1 and 4 where they join to form that corner. Unit 6 extended at least 1.1m west by 1.3m south of said corner, its western and southern limits lying beyond the area exposed in our excavations. Digging for 0.5m below the pavement revealed a continuation of S.2 but no other constructions

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 48-1st was a stone-faced, stone-filled platform that stood 0.15-0.21m tall, measured 3m on a side, and was aligned roughly 257 degrees. The featureless summit encompassed 9m² and a stone pavement covering, minimally, 1.1x1.3m adjoins the edifice's southwest corner. The facings and extramural stone floor raised now were made primarily of cobbles, the flatter faces of those incorporated in the basal walls were directed outwards. A few faced blocks were found scattered among the river-worn stones that made up U.1-4. The rocks were all set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

Following its abandonment, Str. 48-1st was blanketed by as much as 0.23m of a dark brown-to-gray, fine-textured, silty clay loam that comprised the humus horizon (S.1). Embedded in S.1 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) the almost certainly tumbled from final-phase architecture. The numbers of these rocks suggest that Str. 48-1st originally was somewhat taller, possibly rising to 0.7m high.

Test Pits

Test pits were dug: east of a wall line (Feature 1) that is visible on ground surface and 6m east of Plaza I (Subop. 3I); adjacent to Str. 19's southeast corner where surface remains indicated the presence of a midden (Subop. 5A); within right-of-way of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road in areas devoid of surface-visible architecture (Op. 10); north of Gualjoquito's monumental core in a flat area that lacked apparent architecture (Op. 11); east of Str. 12 towards the hill that borders the center on this side (Subop. 12A and 12B); and, in areas of the center where cultural remains came to light in the course of earth moving associated with road construction (Subop. 4C and 9C). Each of these (sub)operations is described separately.

Suboperation 3I

Feature 1 is a stone wall that runs southwest-to-northeast from a point 6m east of Str. 3 (which borders the Group I plaza on the east) for 58m. This construction extends part of the way up the lower slope of the high ridge that borders Gualjoquito on the east. Two small stone lines visible at ground level (F.9 and 10) lie 6m east of Feature 1's south end. The antiquity of these constructions was in some doubt and the test dug adjoining Feature 1 during 1985 was intended to determine if they pertained to the center's prehistoric occupation. Digging within Subop. 3I under Wendy Ashmore's direction uncovered an area of 6m², the excavations extending across Feature 1's full width. A maximum depth of 0.85m below modern ground surface was reached in Subop. 3I. One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

Only a few artifacts, mostly pottery sherds, were found at or above Feature 1's base. It remains possible that this wall, which is 0.2m high by 1.25m wide east-west, was erected relatively late in the occupation of Group I (some time in the Terminal Classic). Its proximity to modern ground surface, as was the case for Features 4 and 5 and in northern Gualjoquito (see Op. 11), makes it difficult to rule out the possibility that Feature 1 was erected at any point from the Terminal Classic into the 20th century. Unlike Features 4 and 5, which some local people

recalled having served as fence foundations of recent vintage, no such memories were evoked by Feature 1. That said, we were not able to date with any certainty Feature 1's construction.

Excavations below west of Feature 1 revealed that the wall overlay a dense concentration of artifacts embedded in a hard-compacted, dark brown clay. So frequent were these cultural remains, including some animal (probably) deer bones, *jute* (*Pachychilus*, sp.) shells, and scattered charcoal flecks, that it appears Feature 1 sealed an earlier midden. This trash deposit is 0.35m-thick and slopes down gradually from east-to-west towards Str. 3 and Group I. This declination may point to the source of the debris lying further upslope to the east.

The midden tapers out roughly 0.4m below Feature 1 though the hard-compacted dark brown clay continues though now without any cultural inclusions. Digging of an additional 0.4m failed to retrieve any other artifacts though the frequency of small stones within the dark brown soil increased at the base of excavations (0.6m beneath Feature 1). The basal colluvial layer was, therefore, probably not far below the base of Subop. 3I.

In general, the investigated area of Feature 1, directly east of Str. 3, witnessed a sequence of events that can be divided into three relatively distinct time spans. During the first, a dark brown clay accumulated atop the basal colluvium to a thickness of at least 0.4m. If there was human activity in the immediate area while this soil was accumulating there is no evidence for it from these investigations. This period of soil formation was then interrupted by the deposition of a midden that is 0.35-0.4m thick and slopes downhill from east-to-west towards Str. 3. Why this change in how the area around Feature 1 was used should have happened now is unclear. That the trash deposit dates to the Terminal Classic might suggest that the environs of Plaza I were undergoing a change in function during these years. The recovery of late middens located off Str. 5-1st's southeast corner and on Plaza I's northwest corner imply that what was probably an august residence for paramount lords was becoming a handy place where late occupants of the center were living. Its large platforms, no longer maintained and possibly covered now by deposits of cobbles, Plaza I had ceased functioning as a center of elite power.

The erection of Feature 1 may have occurred soon after these events, possibly raised as part of a defensive wall closing off one of the few points of easy access into Plaza I (the 6m gap between Strs. 3 and 4 in the plaza's northeast corner). Though logical there is no compelling evidence to support this view. In large part this is because the wall cannot be certainly dated. Feature 1's location in an area prone to erosion down the east-to-west slope on which it was built contributes to this problem as it is highly likely that whatever artifacts were once deposited around it have tumbled down and away from the wall to the west.

Suboperation 4C

Road-grading operations conducted in 1984 in the area of Str. 24 west of the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road uncovered a large, straight-walled, coarse ware bowl the everted rim of which was painted red. The vessel was buried with its orifice facing down in the southwest corner of Plaza II. The bulldozers scraping this area sheared off the base of that container, leaving the rest of it in largely place. Ashmore and other project staff recorded the find (designated S.D.5). The fragmented pieces of the bowl retained for the most part their original relations to each other, defining the perimeter of a container that covered 0.4x0.5m and contained a matched pair of *Spondylus* valves. Another matched set of *Spondylus* shells, these more eroded than those in the bowl, were found 0.65m to the west at the same level as the container. A collection of 12 cut and perforated *Olivella* shells were scattered nearby. It is quite possible that at least the beads, and possibly the bivalve, were originally placed within the ceramic bowl. Much of S.D.5's context had been obliterated by the time it was recorded. Based

on the 231 analyzed artifacts that were associated with S.D.5, it is likely that this locally unique vessel and its contents date to the Early Classic. Though probably found *in situ*, it appears that these items were simply left in place rather than comprising parts of a purposefully placed cache.

Suboperation 5A

Suboperation 5A was a pit measuring 1x2m that was dug during the 1983 field season near Str. 19's southeast corner. Our attention was drawn to this area by the sizable quantity of artifacts, especially ceramics, that were noted on ground surface here. The possibility of uncovering a stratified trash deposit was particularly appealing at the start of our first field season in the middle Ulua drainage as it promised to yield evidence of long-term changes in artifact styles that could be used to define phases within the regional chronology. Excavations within Subop. 5A reached a maximum depth of 1m below modern ground surface.

In general, the earliest activity identified here was the deposition of at least 0.1m of a brown soil that contains many small rocks but no cultural material (its base was not encountered). This layer seems to be part of the extensive colluvial deposit that underlies all known occupation at Gualoquito. Roughly 0.3m of a brown, fine-textured earth lacking stones and artifacts overlies the colluvium and is largely devoid of artifacts. Capping this earth is a dark brown soil in which numerous artifacts along with *jute* (*Pachychilus*, *sp.*) shells and small fragments of animal bones are embedded. This trash deposit is 0.5-0.6m thick and, based on analyses of ceramics recovered from it, dates primarily to the Late Classic. One piece from a pottery vessel diagnostic of the Late Postclassic (a red-on-white-slipped Nolasco Bichrome) was found mixed in with these materials but stands out as the lone signifies of this temporal span here and at Gualjoquito. The midden was capped by a dark brown-black humus that about 0.1m thick.

Though the midden did provide a good sample of Late Classic cultural materials it did not yield the long stratigraphic sequence for which we were looking. Analyses of its contents did help to date the occupation of Plaza III and provided some insights into the activities pursued there. It may be that the trash deposit uncovered in Subop. 5A resulted less from activities conducted on Str. 19 but was the product of behaviors performed in Plaza III itself. The midden's location on the plaza's southwest corner tentatively implies that it was in a convenient place to jettison debris from actions taken within the plaza, possibly for subsequent removal further away at a later time. Such an interpretation may help account for the deposit's shallow depth.

Suboperation 9C

Suboperation 9C was a salvage excavation that was initiated during the waning days of the 1985 field season to recover cultural materials that were eroding from a ditch along the southwest side of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road. These investigations were conducted near what would have been the middle of Plaza V, immediately east of Subop. 10C. By the time the materials came to light, all of the overlying stratigraphy had been stripped out in the course of widening the San Pedro Sula-Santa Barbara road. What was left were the outlines of a pit (U.1) and, several meters to the northwest, a burial (S.D.8). Special Deposit 8 rests at a point near the top of U.1. Using the system employed throughout this report, S.D.8 and U.1 are treated as part of the same time span, both dating to the Late Preclassic.

Unit 1: Located about 1m below modern ground surface, this pit was 0.96m deep, measured roughly 2.1m in diameter, and was filled with a mix of cobbles and angular stones all tightly packed together. The pit's margins were burnt, the resulting earth fire-altered to an orange color. That modified soil was 0.02m thick. The majority of the angular stones were cracked, the white, chalky rocks appearing to be exfoliated. It was inferred in the field that exposure to high temperatures resulted in the cracking and exfoliating of these rocks. A 0.04m-thick layer of very small (less than 1cm in diameter) crumbly, angular, chalky stone fragments was noted running for 0.4m east-west in an open space among the stones. This material might be the remnants of burned calcite. Taken together, U.1 and the stones it contained were seemingly subjected to high heat during the pit's use-life. It may well be that the construction served as an oven devoted, in part, to heating rocks used in pot boiling. Alternatively, the stones might have been part of a construction that roofed the pit, their fire-altered states resulting from exposure to fires stoked within U.1. No artifacts were recovered from U.1; a carbon sample obtained from within U.1 yielded a radiometric date of CE 0 +/-50/60 (9C/001; DIC 3275).

Special Deposit 8: This is an extended burial of an adult (sex indeterminate) lying on their back, covering 1.32m, and oriented 331 degrees with the head to the northwest. The remains were so poorly preserved that it was impossible to tell for sure if the right hand and feet were present at the time of burial; traces of what might have been bones from the left hand were tentatively identified in good anatomical positions. An extra long bone, most likely human, was located next to the right knee, running parallel to the skeleton's general orientation. Three vessels, typologically dated to the Late Preclassic, were found with the interment. Two were effigies set upright next to each other northwest of the interment while a third, simpler bowl was inverted possibly over the skull.

Operation 10

Operation 10 consisted of test pits that were dug during the 1983 field season within the right-of-way for the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road, in the area that was slated for the expansion of that thoroughfare. This was part of a salvage effort designed to identify and gather information about cultural remains that would be damaged or destroyed by road construction. The operation consists of twenty test pits spaced about 30m apart all within 15m of the aforementioned road. Spacing between excavations was modified in some spots to avoid encountering surface-visible architecture. In general, each pit was oriented to the cardinal directions and measured 1x1m (Subop. 10A, B, D, E, and H) or 1x2m (Subop. 10C, F, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, and T). In the case of the 1x2m trenches, the long axis was aligned north-south. Suboperation 10G was expanded beyond these dimensions, investigations conducted here being described under Str. 38. Digging was pursued to depths of 0.75-1.85m below modern ground surface, efforts being made to encounter the basal colluvial layer which seems to have formed the natural deposit that supported all phases of human occupation at Gualjoquito. This goal was achieved in each excavation except Subop. 10A, B, D, E, and H (the smallest of the tests).

In general, the Subop. 10 tests encountered a very similar stratigraphy in each exposure along with a few artifacts and, with the exception of Subop. 10G, no clear architecture. In general, the culturally sterile colluvial level composed of a light brown, fine-textured clay in which numerous small rocks were embedded was recorded as dropping 5m across 300m from southeast to northwest within the area probed by Op.10. The descent is fairly gradual over for the southeasternmost 190m, dropping 1.9m over that distance. The remaining decline of 3.1m

occurs over the northwesternmost 110m. Covering that basal layer is a fine-textured, usually hard-compacted, light- to dark-brown clay that is sometimes tinged with orange. This earth closely resembles soils that underlie and eventually envelop constructions from different periods at the settlement. Distinctions within this thick deposit were made in several of the trenches based on perceived variations in texture, degree of compaction, the frequency of included, generally small, stones, and slight variations in the overall brown hue. These distinctions were subtle, the boundaries between them vague as one soil graded gradually into the other. Capping the sequence was the 0.17-0.5m-thick fine textured, dark brown to gray humus horizon which formed atop the underlying clay. Artifacts were variably common throughout this sequence above the basal colluvium.

Suggestions of human modifications to the terrain were noted in several locales outside Subop. 10G. One such possibility was found within Subop. 10Q which is directly opposite and 20m northeast of Subop. 10G on the northwest corner of Plaza VI. Here a declivity measuring more than 0.78m across north-south by minimally 0.7m east-west was found protruding at least 0.3m into the basal colluvium (this depression's southern and eastern edges were not uncovered). The declivity's walls slope gradually and continuously towards the base, dropping 0.17m across 0.26m north-to-south and 0.2m over 0.54m west-to-east. Such cuts in this underlying rocky soil were rarely recorded elsewhere at Gualjoquito (but see Subop. 10G, Str. 38) and it may be what was revealed here was a pit dug early in the settlement's occupation. No distinctive remains were found within the depression that might suggest what it was used for nor can we be sure that it was the result of human labor. No other *in situ* remains of human activity were found near the declivity.

A level composed of generally flat-laid, small to medium-size rocks was recorded 0.23m below modern ground surface within Subop. 10H at a point 30m southeast of Subop. 10G on the northeast corner of Plaza III. This layer is embedded in an orange-brown clay and is 0.4m thick. It is possible that the deposit was part of a fill unit introduced to raise ground surface in preparation for building constructions here during the Late Classic. Such concentrations of rocks within the brown clay that overlies the colluvium are rarely attested to within the Op. 10 tests and the proximity of Strs. 16 and 26 to Subop. 10H lend some weight to the view that the uncovered rocks were purposefully introduced as part of a construction effort.

Another 27m southwest of Subop. 10H, behind, northwest of, Str. 16 we encountered a 0.5m-thick, very dense concentration of rocks at a depth of 0.2m below modern ground level. These stones project 0.3m west of the excavation's east wall and were lying flat. Unlikely, therefore, to represent tumbled architectural debris, these stones may have been the back sides of a low (0.5m tall) wall the front faces of which lie immediately to the east beyond excavations.

Operation 11

Excavations within Op. 11 during the 1985 field season were designed to test for occupation in the area covering ca. 85m northeast-southwest by 110m northwest of Gualjoquito's monumental core. This portion of the settlement, lying northeast of the Santa Barbara-San Pedro Sula road is bordered by Strs. 28-30 and 37 on the southwest, Feature 5 on the southeast, the high escarpment that runs along the center's east flank, and a seasonal watercourse on the northwest. It was used as a football field during the 1983-1986 field seasons but seemed to have been otherwise undisturbed.

Feature 5 appeared on ground surface as a line composed of rocks that extended 34m northeast from Str. 14's northwest corner. A gap measuring 10m across northeast-southwest was located at the construction's midpoint. Local reports suggested that F.5 might have been

used as stone foundation for a fence that was part of a cattle corral in the 1950s. It was unclear, however, if an earlier construction was simply used for this purpose or if the wall's construction dated to the mid-20th century. Excavations conducted within Subop. 11A (1.5x1.5m) and 11E (1x1m) were designed to expose parts of F.5 on the west and east sides of the aforementioned gap to describe how the wall was built and to determine if it was possible to date its construction. The remaining tests (Subop. 11B-D) were dug in a line extending for 100m northwest of F.5 across the full northwest-southeast extent of the football field to describe the area's stratigraphy. Suboperation 11B, measuring 1.2m by 2m northwest-southeast, was roughly 30m northwest of F.5, Suboperation 11C (1x2m) was an additional ca. 30m northwest of Subop. 11B, while Subop. 11D (1x2m) was approximately 30m northwest of Subop. 11C. Excavations reached a maximum depth of 2m below modern ground surface. The only architecture identified in the course of this work were the remnants of F.5 revealed in Subop. 11A and 11E.

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	-	LPrecl?
2	-	-	S.5	-	LPrecl
3	-	-	S.4	-	LPrecl
4	-	-	S.3	-	ECL/LPrecl
5	-	-	S.2	-	ECL
6	-	-	-	F5	LCL/TCL
7	-	-	S.1	-	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity for which there is evidence in Op. 11 is the deposition of at least 0.35m of a dark, yellow-brown soil (S.6; its base was not encountered). Stratum 6's upper surface remained fairly level over its exposed extent while the layer itself yielded very few artifacts, most of which were pottery sherds.

Time Span 2

Stratum 6 was subsequently covered by 0.36-0.4m of a light yellow-brown, sandy soil (S.5). The artifacts recovered from S.6 were more numerous than those retrieved from S.6, their presence pointing to a human occupation in the area when this earth was being laid down. The density of cultural material noted in S.5 does not match what would be expected for a midden; this is the case for all of the strata recorded within Op. 11.

Time Span 3

Stratum 4, a dark yellow-brown, fine-textured clay, accumulated to a depth of 0.43-0.49m atop S.5. During heavy rains S.4 proved to be especially impermeable to the passage of water, generally thwarting downward percolation of water more effectively than the other soil layers. A few small rocks were found scattered throughout S.4. Once again, artifacts were recovered from this stratum though not in the concentrations or variety that would suggest it represents a purposefully created trash deposit.

Time Span 4

A light yellow-brown, relatively sandy soil (S.3) collected to a thickness of 0.2-0.24m atop S.4 effectively sealing the earlier soil level. Artifacts, especially pottery sherds along with fragments of *bajareque*, were retrieved from this stratum, once again implying that people were living nearby when S.3 was accumulating.

Time Span 5

A light red-brown, hard-compacted, relatively fine-textured earth (S.2) collected to a depth of 0.18-0.22m atop S.3 during this interval. Once again, artifacts were recovered from this soil suggesting that people were residing close by, if not exactly in the areas investigated, during S.2's deposition.

Time Span 6

It may have been at this time that F.5 was constructed. It was revealed in excavations to have been a cobble wall that stood 0.15-0.3m tall, the stones comprising its exterior facing having their flatter aspects oriented outwards. It is possible that F.5 was erected in antiquity to mark the northern limits of Gualjoquito. The gap in this construction would have granted access to those passing through it to the areas east (behind) Str.11, 14, and 12. Nonetheless, because of its relatively shallow depth, it is impossible to rule out the possibility that F.5 was built in the 20th century.

Time Span 7

The last activity chronicled in the Op. 11 excavations was the formation of a dark gray-brown humus horizon (S.1) to a thickness of 0.28-0.3m atop S.2. Only a few scattered stones were recorded in S.1, certainly not enough rocks to indicate the former existence of constructions in the area from which they might have fallen, except in the immediate vicinity of F.5.

Summary

In general, it appears that the area north of F.5 was innocent of any standing constructions throughout the known span of Gualjoquito's occupation. Somewhat surprisingly, Late Preclassic materials were recovered from relatively shallow levels (beginning ca. 0.4m below modern ground surface) whereas they are found in deeper deposits further south in the site. It may be that the ground level rose from south to north, though it is interesting to note that the colluvial layer that underlies occupation in southern Gualjoquito was never reached here. It appears that this deposit is either not present in northeastern Gualjoquito or has

dropped so low that it was not identified even at 2m below modern ground surface. In any event, different depositional regimes apparently characterized distinct portions of the settlement resulting in the introduction of varied soils in adjoining segments of the site. One of those soils, the clay deposit designated as S.4, is only known from Op. 11. It might have been a resource used in fabricating pottery vessels and other ceramic artifacts though we have no direct evidence for the workshops in which such manufacturing tasks might have been pursued.

Operation 12

Suboperations 12A and 12B were trenches that were set in an east-west line beginning 59m northeast east of Str. 11. The ground here drops 1.25m from east-to-west over these 10m. Suboperation 12A (measuring 1m by 2m east-west) was situated near the base of the steep hill that borders Gualjoquito on the east while Subop. 12B (covering 1.1m by 2.3m east-west) was 10m further to the west. This portion of the center is covered by what appeared to be on the surface an extensive colluvial fan formed from debris that we infer has been washing down from the eastern slopes for quite some time. Suboperation 12B reached a level equivalent to that of Late Classic Plaza V (west of Str. 12). No architecture was apparent on ground surface here though one building (Str. 34, investigated within Subop. 12C) was identified from surface remains on the southern limit of the putative fan. The digging of Subop. 12A and 12B was, therefore, intended to determine something of this area's depositional history and to relate it, where possible, to the occupational sequence reconstructed for the remainder of the settlement. Digging here during the 1984 field season was directed by Justine Staneko, excavations reaching maximum depths of 2.44m (in Subop. 12A) and 2.91m (in Subop. 12B) below modern ground surface. No architecture was recorded in the course of these investigations.

Suboperation 12A

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.9	-	-
2	-	-	S.8	-	?
3	-	-	S.7	-	-
4	-	-	S.6	-	?
5	-	-	S.2-5	-	?
6	-	-	S.1	-	?

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified in Subop. 12A was the formation of a layer of densely packed stones in which were embedded some larger rocks (S.9). Stratum 9 was only

encountered in the base of excavations, contained no cultural material, and may be part of the colluvial deposit that supports all later occupation at Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Stratum 9 was covered by 0.8m of a light brown soil mixed with stones of various sizes (S.8). These rocks were not densely concentrated. Artifacts, primarily pottery sherds, were recovered in small numbers throughout much of S.8 (176 sherds and eight lithics in 0.8m³ of excavated material). This suggests that S.8's deposition coincided with human occupation somewhere nearby.

Time Span 3

A lens of densely packed small stones set in a red-brown to tan clay (S.7) extends across the excavated area and was 0.08-0.22m thick. Stratum 7 rises 0.12m over 0.8m from east-to-west after which its gently undulating upper surface maintains a fairly constant level for the remaining 1.2m it was revealed extending westward in the trench. No cultural materials were encountered in S.7.

Time Span 4

Stratum 7 was subsequently capped by 0.22-0.64m of a brown soil that contains a few scattered stones (S.6). Stratum 6 grades from light to dark brown with increasing depth, its basal 0.08-0.3m being notably darker than its upper 0.14-0.34m. In general, S.6 drops 0.25m over 2m from east-to-west. Seventy-nine sherds were retrieved from 0.8m³ excavated from S.6. The recovery of cultural materials here points to a possible resumption of human activities nearby after the laying down of S.7.

Time Span 5

Stratum 6 was now blanketed by 0.68-0.78m of a very similar earth (S.2). What distinguishes S.2 and 6 is the greater number of small rock flecks in the in the former and the darker hue of that 0.08-0.26m of S.2 which directly overlies S.6. As with the latter earth, S.2 shades from a light to dark brown with increasing depth. Located in S.2 are three lenses composed of densely packed small rocks embedded in a red-brown to tan clay (S.3-5). Stratum 5, the lowest of the trio, was traced for 2m west from Subop. 12A's southeast corner over which distance it descended 0.09m and was 0.04-0.11m thick. Stratum 4 is 0.14m above S.5 and was only identified in the trench's east wall. This lens pinched out 0.06m north of the excavation's southeast corner, ran more-or-less level for the 0.94m it was exposed heading north-south, and was maximally 0.11m thick. Stratum 3, in turn, is 0.08-0.2m above S.4 in the east excavation wall, is 0.04-0.24m thick, and its upper surface runs relatively level for 0.4m north-to-south before dropping 0.2m over the remaining 0.6m it was exposed in that direction. Stratum 3 was not identified in Subop. 12A's south wall. Strata 3-5 were culturally sterile.

The two sherds found in S.2, immediately below S.3, likely arrived at this location from another locale, possibly Site 70 which overlooks Gualjoquito from atop the eastern ridge.

Time Span 6

A dark brown humus horizon (S.1) formed to a thickness of 0.25m atop S.2. A few very small rock fragments were scattered throughout this layer. As with S.2, the one pottery fragment recovered from S.1 almost certainly arrived here from nearby, possibly Site 70 which overlooks this excavation from the ridgetop immediately to the east.

Suboperation 12B

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.7	-	-
2	-	-	S.6	-	?
3	-	-	S.5	-	?
4	-	-	S.4	-	-
5	-	-	S.3, 8	-	-
6	-	-	S.2	-	?
7	-	-	S.1	-	?

Time Span 1

During this interval at least 0.4m of a reddish-brown, hard-compacted, fine-textured soil that contained a moderately dense concentration of medium to small white and yellow stones (S.7) was deposited (S.7's base was not encountered). The layer drops 0.2m over 2.3m from east to west. No artifacts were found in S.7. This layer may be part of the widespread colluvial deposit that runs beneath Gualjoquito.

Time Span 2

Fully 0.57-0.64m of a fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown earth (S.6) accumulated atop S.7 during this span. There were fewer stones, again mostly white and yellow, in S.6 than was the case in S.7. Stratum 6 maintains a level upper surface for 0.8m west from Subop. 12B's eastern edge before dropping 0.23m across 1.5m from east-to-west. The 14 sherds and one lithic artifact (from 1.5m³ of excavated material) point to a slight human occupation nearby when S.6 was being laid down.

Time Span 3

Stratum 5, a light brown-to-tan, moderately hard compacted, fine-textured soil that contains a few rocks, collected to a thickness of 0.7-0.75m atop S.6. Stratum 5's upper surface ran flat for 0.85m west from the eastern edge of excavations, subsequently descending 0.19m over the 1.45m it was exposed heading west in Subop. 12B. The 15 pottery sherds and two lithics

recovered from S.5 (1.8m³ of excavated material) point again to some human presence nearby as this soil was being introduced.

Time Span 4

The next interval witnessed the deposition of 0.32-0.45m of a brown-to-dark-brown, moderately soft-compacted soil (S.4) atop S.5. Stratum 4 contains fewer rocks than its predecessor, ran flat for 1.4m west from the east excavation limits, then dropped 0.11m across 0.9m from east-to-west. No artifacts were recovered from this soil.

Time Span 5

A total of 0.42-0.55m of a light brown, fine-textured, moderately soft-compacted soil (S.3) that contains a few small rocks came to cover S.4 during this interval. Stratum 3 runs more-or-less flat over the 2.3m it was exposed east-west, dropping 0.3m across this distance from east-to-west. A lens (S.8) consisting of a great many very small rocks set in a hard-compacted, fine-textured, brown soil was also introduced at this time. Stratum 8 pinches out 0.43m east of Subop. 12B's west margin and reaches its maximum thickness of 0.32m at a point 0.4m west of the east trench wall. This lens directly underlies S.2 for 0.8m west of Subop. 12B's east margin, suggesting that it was introduced relatively late in TS.3. No artifacts were retrieved from S.3 and 8.

Time Span 6

Strata 3 and 8 were blanketed now by 0.23-0.33m of a soft-compacted, fine-textured, dark brown earth that contains few stones (S.2). Stratum 2, like its predecessor S.3, runs relatively flat across its exposed extent of 2.3m east-west. Twenty-four fragments of ceramics were found in S.2 (0.8m³ of excavated material), again suggesting a human occupation in the near vicinity of Subop. 12B while this soil was accumulating.

Time Span 7

A dark brown-to-black, soft-compacted, fine textured humus horizon (S.1) formed atop S.2 during this time span. Stratum 1 contains very few rocks, modern ground surface declining in elevation 0.1m over 2.3m from east-to-west. The four sherds retrieved from S.1 likely derived from outwash emanating from a nearby locale, such as Site 70 atop the eminence that overlooks Gualjoquito immediately to the east.

Summary

In general, the earth stratigraphy revealed in Subop. 12A and 12B was marked by slight and subtle variations in soil colors, from light to dark and reddish brown. Soil compaction and the frequency of included stones increased gradually with depth below modern ground surface. Lenses composed mostly of tightly pack small, angular rocks periodically interrupt this sequence, especially evident in Subop. 12A. The greater prevalence of such lenses here may be due to Subop. 12A's closer proximity to the eastern hill from which we presume most of these rocks originated. It seems likely that the soil recorded in the two tests derived from those same escarpments, gradually accumulating as earth eroded down their slopes over a protracted span.

The gravel lenses, in turn, may mark periods of more intense erosion, possibly caused by intervals of increased rainfall. While it is certainly possible that ancient architecture in this area remains to be discovered, it may be that the unstable nature of this terrain was not attractive to prehistoric settlement.

The slight concentrations of artifacts recorded from Subop. 12A's S.6 and 8 might tentatively suggest that there were periods when human use of this area intensified. If so, these spans were interrupted by intervals of erosion (represented here by S.7) when there was no human presence at this locale. The situation revealed in Subop. 12B is somewhat different. Here, there is slighter evidence for human use of the area investigated, most of it roughly coterminous with the deposition of S.5 and 6. This span was, in turn, followed by an apparent abandonment of the area (contemporary with the laying down of S.3-4). If these interpretations are correct, the general impression of human use of eastern Gualjoquito is of slight and shifting occupations interrupted by periods of abandonment.

Radiocarbon Assays

All of the Radiocarbon dates provided here were run by Dicarb Radioisotope Co., Norman, Oklahoma. They are given as calendar years, Translated from radiocarbon years by Dicarb between 1983-1986.

General Summary

The terrain on which people would come to settle at Gualjoquito generally rose from north-to-south and west-to-east, making the southern portion of the site where it borders the Quebrada Las Huertas the highest, best drained segment of the river terrace. In general, however, the entire terrace across which Gualjoquito would eventually spread was generally free from the threat of floods or other natural processes that might disrupt occupation. The one exception was the site's eastern edge where it was bordered by a high escarpment down which materials, especially rocks, washed out. Based on the evidence revealed in Subop. 12A and 12B, these episodes of erosion could be fairly severe and might have mitigated against permanent occupation on the center's east margin. Such processes apparently posed no threats to settlement as close as 40m west of the eastern hill.

The first documented occupation of Gualjoquito dates to the Late Preclassic (400BCE-CE200). Artifacts, especially ceramics, that are diagnostic of this period are widespread throughout the settlement but often from disturbed or mixed contexts. This is especially true in southern Gualjoquito which, as noted, might have been especially attractive to early settlement. Throughout the investigations conducted at this site we had the impression that Gualjoquito's Early Classic inhabitants did much to obscure evidence of their predecessors. There were, however, several exceptions to this pattern. In particular, a large Late Preclassic midden underlying Str. 38 in the southeast corner of Plaza IV was not mined for fill used in raising subsequent constructions. Such reuse of Late Preclassic materials was a common pattern elsewhere at Gualjoquito. Roughly contemporary with that extensive trash deposit, remains of a relatively elaborate burial and what might have been an oven were left intact ca. 60m northwest of the trash deposit near the center of Plaza V (see Subop. 9C, under Test Pits). Given the disruption of Late Preclassic remains elsewhere at the center, the preservation of these specific materials stands out. It is especially notable that the oven and interment were found within several meters of each other beneath what was, based on the plaza's size and the dimensions of its bordering edifices, the focal point of public gatherings at Gualjoquito during the Early and

Late Classic. It may be that the extensive Late Preclassic trash deposit had accumulated on the south edge of an area used for public gatherings, those convocations involving food preparation and sharing. The association of the buried individual with particularly elaborate versions of vessels used in doling out food and drink very tentatively points to that person's involvement in these performances of commensality, possibly as a host. Whatever such relations might have been originally, it may be that these early events were preserved and memorialized by later occupants of the center even as other vestiges of Late Preclassic occupation were obliterated. This selective preservation of earlier remains would be replicated at Gualjoquito in the transition from the Early to Late Classic.

The former period witnessed a considerable intensification of occupation at Gualjoquito. At least more evidence for activities conducted at the site during CE200-600 has survived intact than was the case for the Late Preclassic. In addition to the widespread distribution of Early Classic diagnostic artifacts across the center, there is evidence, especially in southern Gualjoquito, for the movement of considerable amounts of dirt as the ground supporting Early Classic constructions was raised and leveled. Buildings dating to this span are recorded at Strs. 1, 5, Plaza I, 11, 12, 12N, 16, 23, 24, 34, 38, and possibly Strs. 2 and 35. Early Classic constructions at Str. 24 (Str. 24-Sub1) and Str. 23 (Str. 23-2nd) were made of earth (0.18-0.3m tall) while Str. 24-3rd and, possibly, those identified at Str. 34 and 35 were seemingly raised directly on ground surface. The remaining edifices that were built now were stone-faced platforms that stood 0.4-1.6m high (if Str. 11-st reached its full height now, that range could be expanded to 2.82m).

Though seemingly modest in scale, there are signs that not only was Gualjoquito's final form taking shape during these centuries but that those residing around Plaza I were capable of commanding the labor of a sizable work force. Not only were some of the largest platforms at the site (Strs. 1-2nd and 5-4th) found bordering Plaza I during the Early Classic, but the effort devoted to creating that patio's earliest recorded surfaces were considerable. The initial floor paved with large cobbles was eventually covered by the labor-intensive construction of a 0.23-0.28m-thick floor composed of a plaster made from crushed rocks. Though the full extents of both floors were not revealed, they were sufficiently cleared to suggest that they each encompassed the 530m² making up Plaza I during the Late Classic. Such constructions point to the capacity of Plaza I's residents to mobilize not only relatively large numbers of people for public works projects but to call on the specialized knowledge of those skilled in making crushed rock plaster to create this embellishment. Elsewhere at contemporary Gualjoquito the buildings tend to be smaller. Nonetheless, there are signs that command over specialized construction skills and sizable labor pools were not monopolized by those living around Plaza I. Structure 24-3rd was erected directly on ancient ground surface and yet was bordered by a stone floor that extended for at least 5.35m south and 9.7m north of that building. There are also hints that at least parts of this pavement were coated with crushed white stones. Structure 16-2nd, in turn, stood 1.3-1.9m tall and measured 9.4m east-west, making it similar in size to the edifices that were now to be found around Plaza I.

It is difficult to determine the functions of these structures and plazas. Cultural materials dating to the span were rarely found *in situ* and recorded architectural forms here are rarely diagnostic of the activities pursued on and around buildings. We have argued that Strs. 1-2nd and 5-4th were elite residences based in part on the stronger evidence that their Late Classic versions were used in this way. The arrangement of these edifices around a central plaza also evokes forms of contemporary and later households throughout southern Mesoamerica. The case for other residences at Early Classic Gualjoquito is harder to make. Structure 24-3rd, in its form and dimensions, does not seem to have been a domicile, a view supported by the unusually

extensive stone floor that surrounds this surface-level building. Structure 16-2nd's form, size, and possible possession of a summit bench hints at its residential function. The cluster of buildings that border Plaza V on the east (Strs. 11-1st, 12-5th, and 12N-2nd) almost certainly were not domiciles. What little we know of these edifices, which stood 0.55-0.9m tall (possibly as much as 2.82m high if Str. 11-1st is included), do not resemble residences in their forms or arrangement (no artifacts that were directly associated with their uses were recovered).

Bearing these caveats in mind, it appears that by the Early Classic the organization of activities at Gualjoquito that would persist into the Late Classic was taking shape. An elite residential compound was established around Plaza I in the southeastern corner of the site while Plaza V had begun to emerge as a center for public gatherings focused on sizable edifices (Strs. 12-5th, 12N-2nd, and possibly 11-1st). A substantial residence (Str. 16-2nd) facing into Plaza III might well have been in use now. Meanwhile several low earthen platforms were raised on the south and north flanks of Plaza II; their functions are unclear. A surface-level building surrounded by an extensive stone and, possibly, plaster-covered floor (Str. 24-3rd) borders Plaza II on the north and likely served a non-domestic purpose that warranted the investment of considerable effort in creating and maintaining that pavement. What that function was remains unknown. Such functional differentiation was rarely attested to at other sites in the contemporary middle Ulua drainage and none boasts constructions on a scale or degree of elaboration that matches those attested to at Gualjoquito.

The Early Classic ended with a dramatic flourish. Structures 5-4th, Plaza I, and Str. 24-3rd were burned, the Plaza I floor was cut through in the area fronting Str. 1-2nd, and the latter building was covered with a thick deposit of earth that obscured at least its east, plaza-facing side. There are hints that Str. 5-4th and an early but not uncovered version of Str. 2 were also blanketed at least in part with dirt. Though not obviously damaged, Str. 16-2nd apparently was abandoned and started to deteriorate before it was eventually covered by Late Classic construction. Str. 12N-2nd was blanketed with a thick deposit of earth at the Early Classic's end. In contrast, Str. 12-5th, Str. 38, and, possibly, Str. 11-1st were still being maintained and remained in use during the Early to Late Classic transition. Though not abandoned, Gualjoquito was apparently subject to selective burning, cutting, and covering, those treatments disproportionately impacting what we interpret as elite residences.

Construction resumed at Gualjoquito in the Late Classic (CE600-800), new building efforts largely covering their Early Classic predecessors. This pattern was most obvious at Plaza I, the two earlier versions of that surface now being buried under 1.75-2.1m of rock fill. Structure 1 on the west was rebuilt at least twice now while Strs. 2 and 5 underwent four and three major construction episodes, respectively. Each of these efforts completely enveloped their Early Classic predecessors. This relatively frenzied pace of construction was not limited to the edifices surrounding Plaza I. Structure 12, for example, was renovated four times over these years while, interestingly, Str. 12N and possibly 11-1st were left untouched. Even on Str. 12, elements of its Early Classic version (Str. 12-5th) remained visible on the edifice's east side through all following additions. The diminutive Str. 38, which was raised during the Early Classic atop the preserved Late Preclassic midden, was also unencumbered by later architecture throughout the Late Classic. Of the remaining monumental platforms whose construction histories were investigated, five (Strs. 6, 17, 20, 21, and 24) were rebuilt twice during the Late Classic while Str. 16 underwent what appears to have been a major expansion now during one construction phase. Interestingly, the use of crushed rock plaster as a surface treatment for architecture, which had been so pervasive during the Early Classic, disappears now. There may have been some meanings attached to this embellishment that rendered it unacceptable as a part of Late Classic constructions. In any event, Gualjoquito emerges now as the primary

political center in the middle Ulua, its builders clearly distinguishing between areas of elite residence around Plaza I and public celebrations focused on the ever-growing Str. 12 and Plaza V.

The end of the Late Classic in many ways rehearses developments described for the Early Classic's termination. There are signs that Str. 1-1stB was burnt as was Str. 5-1st. Beyond Plaza I, at least parts of Strs. 11-1st, 12-1st, and 19-1st were burnt. All of the aforementioned buildings together with Strs. 16-1st, 20-1st, and 24-1st were blanketed by deposits of stones or earth, most of that material concentrated on the platforms' summits. The west, plaza-facing sides of Strs. 11-1st and 12-1st may have also been vandalized by removing some of their upper terraces. Such formalized termination of Gualjoquito's most prominent buildings took considerable effort, especially in hauling the rocks and earth used to seal so many of them. Why such steps were taken is unclear. It may be that, like their Early Classic antecedents, these events were intended to presage a subsequent spurt of new constructions. If so, that eventuality did not come to pass. Occupation at Gualjoquito persisted into the Terminal Classic (CE 800-1000) but the buildings raised now were generally small and scattered around the imposing ruins which these residents studiously avoided. The exceptions to this pattern are Plaza I, where there are signs of continued use of that open space and areas immediately to the east, and Str. 12, which still attracted the remaining occupants' attention. There was relatively little use of extant monumental architecture, however. Whatever those large buildings had meant during the Late Classic, they had lost that significance by the ninth century. The scant remains of Postclassic occupation (CE1100-1550) suggest at most transient use of what had been the capital of a Late Classic middle Ulua realm.

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