

2009

EPV 041 Ryan Johnson Field Notes 2009

Ryan Johnson

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19 June 2001 (FRI)

2001-41-01

We met at the lab house today & reviewed supplies we did not bring. We then head out to the site for the tour. El Cafetal! There was no coffee today so I apologize for any oddities... Anyway, after the tour we chose which structures we wanted to work on. I now have structure 1 of site 38. We then went to the house for lunch. After, Chelsea, Melissa, Jenica, Dr. Bell, & I went to the sites to shoot in the first units with the EDM. It took (what I think) longer than expected. Dr. Bell seemed to be in a bit of a rush & the workers wanted to leave. When finished we packed up and headed home. End. But as an aside, I expect to have better notes tomorrow since I will have coffee.

20 June 2009 (SAT)

2009-41-002

Today we arrived at the site & I found my first unit to be oriented in an unexpected manner. The existing grid does not allow me to orient a trench that will pass through the center of the structure (SITE 38, #1). My trench will extend from the east side of the structure to the west. It will also be glancing off to the north. See sketch 1.

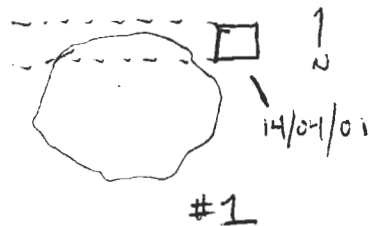


Photo 1: N. 14/04/01 Ex. Unit A

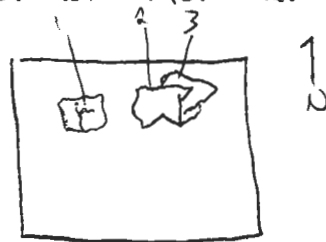
Photo 2: Overhead. 14/04/01 Ex. Unit A.

Photo 3: SW. 14/04/01 Ex. Unit A. Shows relation to structure.

I am to tentatively choose a unit corner to measure all elevations from. I choose point 16, as it is the highest.

I met two of the workers. Juan Angel Marmol, & Nehemias Debon.

First lot is excavated. Found 12 ceramics. 3 stones appear to be tumble. I will sketch them before removing however. Lot form will be representative of lot after their removal.



#2

Photo 4: Overhead. 14/04/01 Ex. Unit A. 3 ^{Tumble} ~~flat~~ rocks. They were only fill. This appears to be the ~~end~~ ^{end of} the lot. Photo 5: Overhead. 14/04/01. Ex. Unit A. END Lot.

20 June 2009 (SAT)

2009-41-003

We began lot 2 & it is looking like the stones are tumble.

We encountered yellow clay at 33cm

Photo 6: Overhead 14/04/02 EU A. Yellow Clay.

Obsidian blade fragment. We began to encounter more yellow clay & I made the decision to stop for now on that side of the unit (North), & to remove the rocks that I think are tumble.

Photo 7: Overhead 14/04/02 EU A. Yellow clay & prior to removal of rocks in lot 1.

It turned out to be a good choice, as we found artifacts under the removed rocks. And lots of clay.

Photo 8: Overhead 14/04/02 EU A. End lot 2.

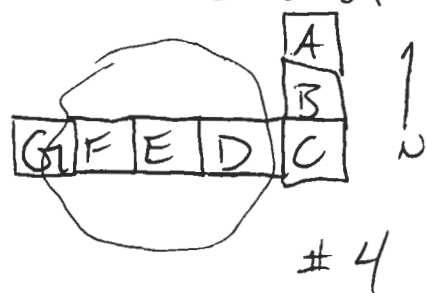
22-June-2009 (Mon)

2009-41-004

Since I finished my first unit (to 40cm) on Saturday, I will now open the next to the south. I am doing this in hopes of finding architecture. If needed, a trench will be extended to the west over the mound.



My units are now layed out. There are 7 of them & I will letter them.



After lunch I will begin excavation of lot 3 in E.U. B.

Photo 9: N. 14/04/03. EU: A-C. Prior to excavation of lot 3.

Photo 10: N. 14/04/03. EU: A-B. Photo board.

Photo 11: W. 14/04/03. EU: C-GH. Excavation units.

I began excavation of lot 3 and at only 5-10cm began finding ceramics. We were unable to finish the lot because of the high number of fragments. I also found a small obsidian flake. No architecture, but I am probably in the trash pile. I will continue tomorrow.

Photo 12: N. 14/04/03. EU: B. Progress on lot 3.

Photo 13: S. 14/04/03. EU: B. Lip of ceramics.

23-June-2009 (Tues)

2009-41-005

Today I do not feel well at all. I think I ran a fever last night, & today I just want to sleep. I am in the field however and will be as long as I can.


Dehemias & I finished digging to ~20cm of lot 3 in EU B. We recovered a couple more fragments of ceramics. After finishing the lot card & counting

~~artifacts~~ artifacts, Dehemias began to dig lot 4, EU: B.

We intend to dig in the eastern half first to expose the ~~tumble~~ tumble in the western half. Also, there is

a fairly large (10cm long) lip of ceramics wedged under a stone. I wish to retrieve/expose it without fracturing it. I also wish I felt better. We began finding more

ceramic shards & small pieces of bajareque. Something had to be done about my "ailment" so I had to use a growth

of bamboo for a bathroom. Luckily, I do feel a bit better. Now to sweat.  I've noticed now that

ceramic shards tend to be between rocks, almost sandwiched. Could the ceramics have been broken after the tumble?

or did they tumble at the same time? Ground water began infiltrating the unit at 33cm. From 10:00-10:40 we

took a break; I was able to nap. We continued excavation on the east side working to the west when given the

opportunity.

Photo 14: Overhead. 14/04/04 EU: B. Ceramics

This piece was 18 cm down, 31 cm from W. border, & 13 cm from S. border. We have just completed this

lot & recovered quite a bit of pottery. Only 10-15 cm west of the large ceramic lip we found, was a fragment

of a metate. It was amongst tumble. I will ask Ellen if I should continue down or move laterally. Answer is laterally.

Photo 15: Overhead. 14/04/04 EU: B. End lot 4.

Note: Photo of the end of lot 3 was taken overhead. 14/04/03 EU: B.

23-June-2009 (Tues)

2009-41-006

Oh the excitement! The landowner showed up around 2:30p.m. complaining quite ~~loudly~~ loudly that work was to cease tomorrow. He claimed that tarps put up looked like a squatters camp. After yelling, the man (Jorge España) walked away with Ellen following. The atmosphere became very tense & work ceased at site 38. When Ellen returned, we were informed that the tarps were to come down now, & work will be cut by one week - It was too late to begin another lot in FELIC so I finished up any writing or notes I may have had. When we got to the house I counted the ceramic shards I had (188). The lot (09) is now officially closed.

24-June-2009 (Wed)

2009-41-007

Well, I feel a bit better today. I still have a molten crucible for a stomach though. There was no rain last night and it looks like it will be another hot day. Maybe there will be an early rain. We are starting lot 05 in EU:C today. As I write, Nehemics is digging and found ceramics no more than 5cm down.

Photo 16. Overhead. 14/04/05. EU:C. Beginning of lot 5.

Photo 17. N. 14/04/05. EU: C, B, A. Shows relation to other units

The reference corner is very high for this unit so on the opposite side (NE) very little material was removed down to 20cm. On the east side, 15cm of soil was removed but that is 29cm BGS. I decided to remove the rocks on the west side so that we can achieve a level bottom. This place is so unforgiving! I had to hike to the bamboo bathroom again and stepped on a thorn a full 2" in length that went through the bottom of my boot. No blood yet. The stones in unit C lot 05 still appear to be tumble.

There is ceramic and soil between them all. We removed the rocks & soil down to approximately 30cm. I intended to have a lot of only 20cm but the high reference corner would have caused a removal of very little material. We have finished lot 05 EU:C.

Photo 18. Overhead. 14/04/05. EU:C. End lot 05, beginning of 06. ... and we heard machine gun fire about 30mins ago. Its 10:15am now.

Nehemics has been digging lot 06 EU:C and recovered a bit of ceramics. It is interesting to note however that at 50cm, there was a piece of ceramic on top of yellow clay. At 45cm in the south wall, nehemics found an intact ocarina with a chubby face. It was 64cm east of the SW corner.

Photo 19. N/A. 14/04/06. EU:C. Front of ocarina.

24-June-2009 (Wed)

2009-41-008

Photo 20. N/A. 14/04/06. EU: C. Back of clearing.
After lunch I decided that the separating wall of units B & C
will be included in the current lot (06).

Photo 21. Overhead. 14/04/06 EU: C. End lot 06.

We will now begin excavation in EU: D. It seems to be
a likely place to find ~~intact~~ intact portions of the structure.

Photo 22. Overhead. 14/04/07. EU: D. ~~Begin~~ Begin lot 07.

Noemias began excavating unit: D & almost immediately
started pulling ceramics & bajareque out. When ~~Dr.~~ Dr.
Bell got back she identified a wall in the west side of
unit: C. I can ~~now~~ now expect to find it in EU: D.
We did not finish lot 07 today but have recovered more
ceramics & bajareque than in any lot.

Photo 23. Overhead. 14/04/07 - EU: D. lot 07 at end of day.

25-June-2009 (Thurs)

2009-41-009

I am still not feeling A+. I had to wake up several times last night to use the bathroom, or to try to cool down. Back to the important stuff: Nehemias is finishing up lot 07 of EU: D. There is a high concentration of ceramics and bajareque in this unit thus far. We finished lot 07 and had 287 fragments of ceramics.

Photo 24. Overhead. 14/04/07. EU: D. Lot 07 end, begin lot 08.

On the border of EU's C & D on the yellow clay layer, there are large stones that seem to be the first platform or basal wall. The flat surface of these stones face the east (viewable from the west in EU: C).

The soil behind (to the west) these stones seems to be the same as the top layers & there was a ceramic fragment on the top of "the wall" and under another rock. These facts suggest that there is fill on top of a single course.

Photo 25. W. 14/04/08. EU: D. ~~##~~ Single course, with what I think is fill. Prior to removal of larger stones.

We continued excavation down to the level of what is believed to be the East wall. There are 3 large stones parallel to the wall that may be a step. We will leave them in place for the time being. We found charcoal/carbon at the level of the one course wall (ca. 40 cm). It was collected.

Photo 26. Overhead. 14/04/08. EU: D. End lot 8.

Photo 27. Overhead. 14/04/09. EU: E. Start lot 9.

To attempt to get a clearer view of construction, I have moved west to the next unit. Nehemias started to excavate this lot & I began to feel the sun at a strength never before known. I started getting a little dizzy & achey so I sat under a tree for a bit. We did not finish the first lot of EU: D (lot 9) but have already found more ceramics & bajareque.

Photo 28. Overhead. 14/04/09. EU: E. Lot 09 in progress.

I feel like junk!

26-June-2009 (FRI)

2009-41-010

I am not in the field today. When we got back to the house yesterday I developed a fever. Ellen took me to the doctor & he prescribed a fever reducer & a medication for amoebas. Ellen thinks that I should try cipro instead, which I have done. At this point I want nothing more than to feel better.

27-June-2009 (SAT)

2009-41-011

I again am not in the field. I feel much better
but cannot be allowed to go back out until 24 hours
have passed fever free.

28-June-2009 (Sun)

2009-41-012

We were supposed to be in the field today, but were delayed due to news of a military coup. It is well however. We ~~are~~ instead went to the lab house in the afternoon to enter our lot cards into the database.

I entered lots 1-7.

29-June-2009 (Mon)

2009-41-013

Ah! I get to be in the field. I am now 2 1/2 days behind. I will finish lot 09 in Unit E, then move to unit G in an attempt to find the western wall.

Vehemius is currently digging lot 09.

Photo 29. Overhead. 14/04/09. EU: E. End lot 9

Photo 30. Overhead. 14/04/10. EU: G. Start lot 10

Lot 09 has been finished. As stated, I have skipped EU: F, and opened EU: G. I initially would like to go to 25cm. It is now crunch time, and I feel like I do not have much information about this structure other than height, & after today, width E to W. If I can work fast and accurate, I hope to open new units.

Photo 31. Overhead. 14/04/10. EU: G. End lot 10.

Most of the stones in this lot appear to be tumble, & there were few ceramics. I asked Dr. Bell about how to proceed. We will work from the west side of the unit first, to attempt to reveal the west wall of structure I.

I will be taking the next lot down in the same unit (G). We have removed some material in this unit, & there are a lot of stones that appear to be flat. I cannot tell if there is a wall because the stones extend into the next unit: would be H. I may end this lot prematurely to open a unit H. We found carbon in what appears to be fill at 33 cm. We are ending this lot to open a new unit. I have hurried the process to get the new unit (H)

Open so NOTE: Photo sequence will be out of order!

I measured from my existing reference corner (NE of EU: G) to find the elevations of the NW & SW corners.

Photo 32. Overhead. 14/04/11. EU: G. End lot 11.

Photo 33. Overhead. 14/04/12. EU: H. Start of lot 12.

We dug as fast as we could, but we are now out

That was a note
to myself; Pictures
are now in order.

29-June-2009 (Mon)

2009-41-014

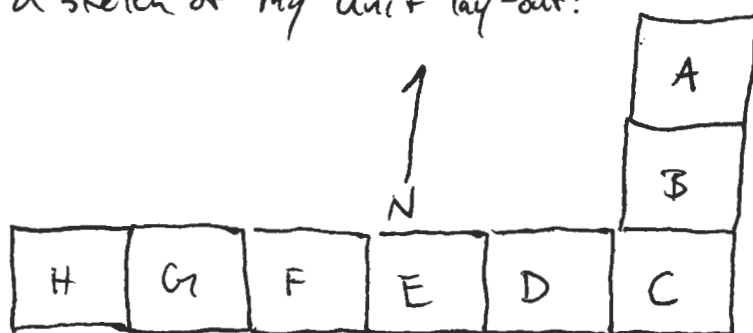
of time. I do not know if I will be able to excavate tomorrow or not, so I will hold off on officially closing this lot.

Corner measurements: NW: 16cm, NE: 17, SW: 20, SE: 23

Photo 34. Overhead. 14/04/12. EU: H. Progress on lot 12.

Artifacts: 4 biquaque, 14 ceramics.

I suppose it can be stated that I have some worries about what I will be able to say about my structure. Only one wall is exposed, & there is no strata variation besides unit A. Here is a sketch of my unit lay-out:



30-June-2009 (Tues)

2009-41-015

NW: 1403 N -190 E, 985.23 SW: 1402 N -190 E 985.21

Photo 35. Overhead. 14/04/12. EU:H. End lot 12.

Today should be exciting! We are scrambling madly in an effort to expose the west wall of the structure. Currently we have dug to yellow clay in unit H, and are now inching eastward to what I hope will be a wall. My nerves are worked up, because I do not want to ignore detail in this rush. But the holes must be filled today.

The points at the top of this page are points shot with the EDM. They are the two corners of EU:H that were laid by hand yesterday. We also spot in what Ellen predicts to be ^{the} wall of the structure.

We continued excavation into EU:G1. I am not convinced that the stones projecting at the moment are the blocks of the wall. I plan on removing them.

Photo 36. E. 14/04/13. EU:G1. West wall prior to further excavation. It projects 69 cm westward into the lot.

Photo 37. Overhead. 14/04/13. EU:G1. West wall prior to further excavation.

Oh the payoff! I began pulling tumble out; found two stones that are definitely part of the west wall.

Photo 38. Overhead - 14/04/13 - EU:G1. End lot 13, ^{is} west wall!

Photo 39. E. 14/04/13. EU:G1. "

The presence of *baigneque* is a strong enough indicator of fire, but I would like to add that small "pockets" of burnt material were found ^{chx} in the yellow just in front of (west) the west wall. We are now done with excavation. I will start the final notes asap! I lied. Ellen wanted me to remove one last stone to see if the stones behind it were part of the wall. I removed it, there was no stone, and I cleaned. Final pictures will reflect this.

30-June-2009 (TUES)

2009-41-016

Final Photos: #1 ~~shot~~ EU-F-H, ~~shot~~ shot north;
#2 D, E, F shot north; #3 shot ^{north} A, B, C, D;
#4 shot west EU's A+B; #5 shot west B-H;
#6 shot west F-H; #7 shot south A-D;
#8 shot south E+F; #9 shot south G+H
#10 shot east F-H; #11 shot east C-E;
#12 shot east A-C; #13 shot west - the east
basel wall; #14 shot west - the east terrace;
#15 shot east - west basel wall; #16 shot east -
west terrace wall; #17 overhead A-E;
#18 over head D-H; #19 overhead F-H;
#20 shot south structure 5 in background;
#21 shot ~~west~~ southwest structure 4 in
background; #22 shot just south of west
site 36 in the background.

30-June-2009 (THES)

2009-41-017

Unit Name	Length	Width	Height	Alignment	Courses	Top Measures	Bottom Measure	datum is
East Basal Unit	1.65	.15-.24	.04-.14	5° East	1	.32	.50	SW corner of EUD
East Terrace	.8	.15-.24	.13-.28	30° East	1	-.03	.26	
West Basal Unit	.515	.10-.16	.08	10° East	1	.34	.46	
West Terrace	.60	.08-.11	.08-.15	5° East	1	.07	.19	

Soil
Tube, No bend
Very fine
loyr 3/2 > Brown Soil
.21 to .49 cm BGS

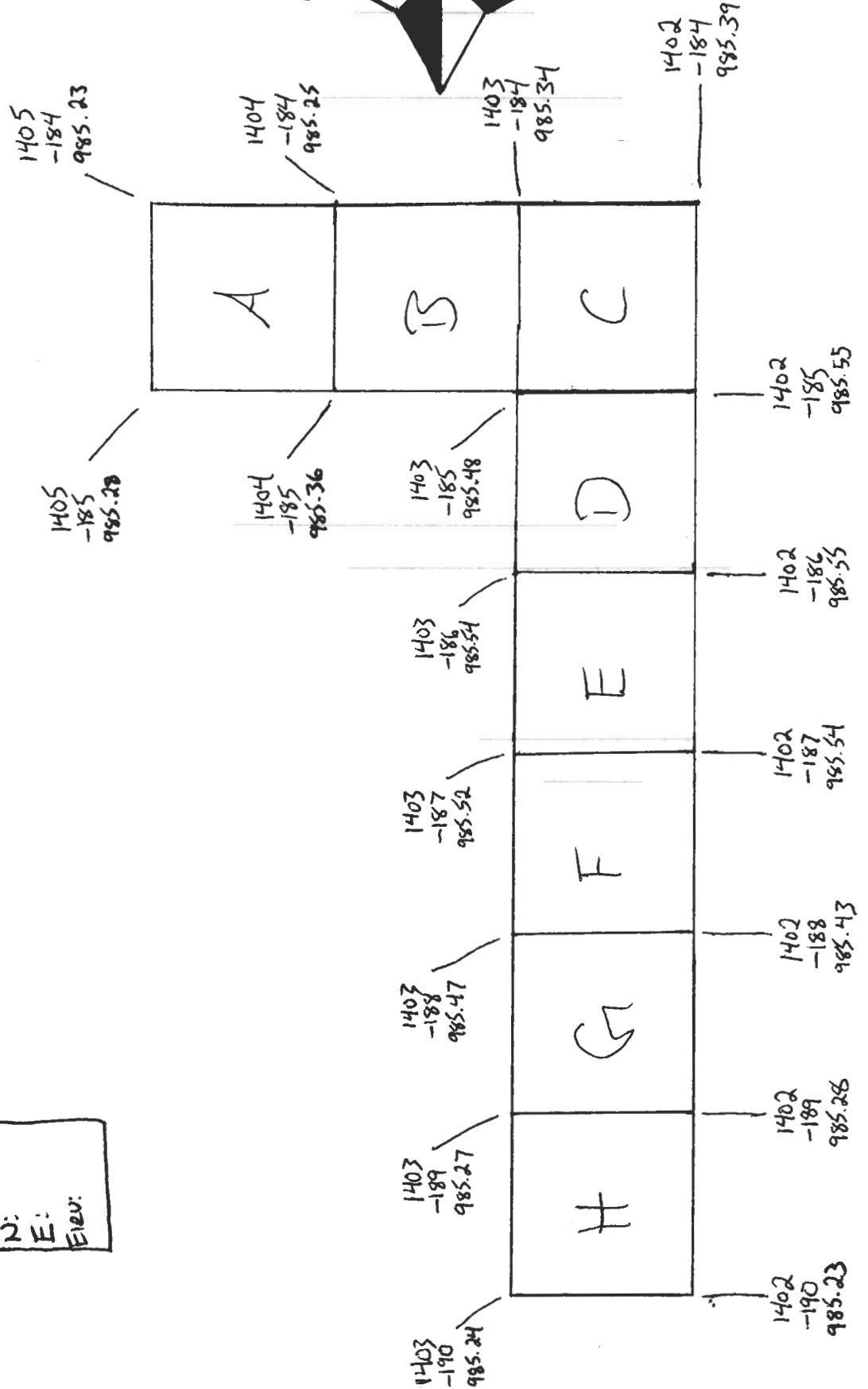
Tube, No bend
Very fine
2.5 y 6/8 > Yellow Clay
.49 to .54 cm BGS

width x depth x height
meters

Unit Name	Largest Rock	Smallest Rock	Modal Size	Rock Form	Material
East B. Unit	.32 x .24 x .11	.23 x .16 x .08	.30 x .17 x .09	angular	local sedimentary
East Terrace	.32 x .30 x .29	.06 x .06 x .13	.06 x .10 x .13	angular	local sedimentary
West B. Unit	.31 x .16 x .08	.17 x .16 x .08	.31 x .16 x .08	angular	local sedimentary
West Terrace	.22 x .10 x .09	.18 x .11 x .08	.15 x .09 x .11	angular	local sedimentary



Key
 2: E:
 Elev:



Final Report: Site 38, Structure 1
Op/Subop: 14/04.

Site 38 is in an active hydrologic area that is currently being used for cattle grazing. Water flows through at times, and there is a low area to the East where water seems to pool. There is a cut in the land to the west of S38 that is either a current seasonal drainage when rain is heavy, or was a river. The cut is aligned roughly North-South, and water runs to the North. Site 36 is just on the other side of this cut, approximately 75m away from S38. Within S38, three structures were excavated: Str1, Str4, and Str5.

I excavated Str5 to add to the data being collected by PAREP in an effort to explain how the inhabitants of rural sites lived during the Late Classic. This work will provide the opportunity to compare large and smaller "normal" sites. I also set out with the goals of: exposing architecture so that the occupation periods, styles, and modifications would be made apparent, and also to recover artifacts that may add to the dating of the structure, provide clues about the use of the structure, and illustrate the identity of the commoner.

I chose Str1 with actually little preference over any other. Structure 4 had been taken, and Str1 was larger than Str5 so I decided that I would like to take on the extra work. Ellen gave me the choice of working either from the back or front, informing me that most of the artifacts would be found in the rear. I chose to start from the rear therefore, simply from the sheer excitement provided by finding higher concentrations of artifacts first off. A trench of 1x1 meter units was initially planned to glance over what was expected to be the North wall of the structure, because the existing grid made passing over the center of the structure difficult. After excavating the first excavation unit however, it was decided to extend a trench three meters to the South, and then start a perpendicular trench to the West that would cross over the structure. Three 1x1 meter excavation units were placed along a North-South axis, and from the southernmost excavation unit of that trench five additional 1x1 meter excavation units on an East-West axis were required to cross the structure. I could then work laterally off of these trenches to follow construction units to their corners.

Unfortunately I was not able to succeed in all of my goals. I became sick and that set my excavation back by two and a half days. Therefore I was unable to expose, even with the fast and skilled work of Nehemias, much of the structural components of Str1. Four features were discovered: an Eastern Wall and Summit, and a Western Wall and Summit. Before the description of those features however, I would like to speak briefly of the stratigraphy. The site was covered over by a layer of organically rich soil (humus) producing grass that was, depending on the area, 10-20cm thick. Below this was a layer of dark brown (10yr 3/2) loamy clay extending to 40-50cm below ground surface. The last layer encountered was yellow (2.5y 6/8) clay that began at 40-50cm BGS and existed to an unknown depth. This yellow clay layer appears to have been the ancient living

surface of the site. Both the East and West Basal Walls of Str1 were found directly on top of this layer in excavation units C and G respectively. The East Basal Wall was excavated to reveal a length of 1.65m and was but one course high. However, a stone in EU A may be a part of the wall as well extending the length to 2.37m. The East Summit Wall was exposed to .80m and was also one course high. I think more courses may have existed in the past, but modern farming implements have most likely churned things around a bit. The West Basal Wall was exposed to .52m, and the West Summit Wall was exposed to .60m. Both were 1 course in height. The walls were made of local sedimentary stone that tends to have inclusions of quartz veins. This stone breaks and erodes into angular pieces well-suited for building. None of the stones used for construction appeared to have been intensively shaped.

Since I was unable to expose the corners of the Str1, I cannot speak of a timeline of construction for features. I can however say that there were most likely structures at S38 before the current Str1, due to the fact that pre-classic ceramic sherds were found amongst the tumble that Dr. Bell stated were used as fill. During the use phase of Str1, it was most likely a dwelling for a smaller or younger family. They were not the most important family at the site as there was a much larger dwelling at S36, and Str4 within S38 was larger as well. The front of the structure faced west (approximately 5° N of W) into a small plaza. Ellen was absolutely correct in her stating that most of the artifacts would be found in the rear of the structure, as the majority of ceramic fragments were indeed found in the back (EU's A-D). It is also likely that the structure burned down. The amount of bajareque found is evidence for this but a lot the bajareque itself was burned quite deeply. I also noticed small pockets of burned material in the clay in unit G just in front of (to the West) of the West Basal Wall. Also, from what Ellen has seen of the ceramics thus far, she believes that the site is indeed dating to the Late Classic.

Unit Attribute Data Tables:

Unit Name	Length	Width	Height	Alignment	Courses	Top Measure	Bottom Measure
East Basal Wall	1.65m, *2.37m	.15- .24m	.04- .14m	5° E of N	1	.32m	.50m
East Summit Wall	.80m	.15- .34m	.13- .28m	3° E of N	1	-.03m	.26m
West Basal Wall	.52m	.10- .16m	.08m	7° E of N	1	.34m	.46m
West Summit Wall	.60cm	.08- .10m	.08- .15m	5° E of N	1	.07m	.19m

Datum was the South West corner of excavation unit D. N: 1402, E: -186, Elev.: 985.55

*This measurement includes the stones present in EU A, that may be part of the wall.

Unit Name	Largest Rock	Smallest Rock	Modal Size	Rock Form	Material
East Basal Wall	.32x.24x.11m	.23x.18x.08m	.30x.17x.09m	Angular	Local sedimentary
East Summit Wall	.32x.30x.29m	.06x.10x.13m	.06x.10x.13m	Angular	Local sedimentary
West Basal Wall	.31x.16x.08m	.17x.16x.08m	.31x.16x.08m	Angular	Local □ edimentary
West Summit Wall	.22x.10x.09m	.18x.11x.08m	.15x.09x.11m	Angular	Local sedimentary

Measurements were taken: Width x Depth x Height.

Artifact Density (Field Count)

Lot	EU	Ceramics	Bajareque	Chert	Obsidian	Metate	Special
1	A	12	X	X	X	X	X
2	A	64	X	12	2	X	X
3	B	96	1	1	1	X	1-Carb.
4	B	188	54	8	X	1	X
5	C	93	35	2	X	X	X
6	C	89	32	X	X	X	1-Whist. 1-Fig.
7	D	287	89	2	X	X	X
8	D	103	91	14	1	X	1-Carb.
9	E	106	57	X	X	X	X
10	G	12	X	X	X	X	X
11	G	51	2	X	X	X	1-Carb
12	H	89	11	4	1	X	X
13	G	46	20	11	1	X	X