

2007

EPV 030 Goodwin Final Notes SubOp 73 2007

Whitney Goodwin

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



Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

Goodwin, Whitney, "EPV 030 Goodwin Final Notes SubOp 73 2007" (2007). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 96948.

<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/96948>

This Field Notes is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Four Valleys Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact noltj@kenyon.edu.

Axial trench with lateral expansion.

Excavation units A-AZ.

Original Goals

Beginning on the eastern portion of the building, find the best preserved version of the building and investigate earlier versions of the structure. Follow the earliest version of the southern back wall to the west, in an attempt to find stairs that were assumed to be facing to the south because of the height of the previously revealed back wall in combination with the door jambs facing to the south of the building. If stairs had been revealed they would have proved that the building at one point was oriented to the south, meaning the area south of the structure may have been another plaza. In combination with the excavations investigating the phases of Str04, three test pits were opened in the area south of the structure to help determine if the area was used, perhaps by the inhabitants of Str04.

Excavation units A-M were the axial trench beginning on the north side of Str04, where the plaza is located. The preservation of the north façade was very poor. We encountered only one well preserved terrace in EU C, named North Wall 1. It was 3 courses high with a height of 30 cm. This is actually believed to be the second terrace, with the first, one course high step or terrace located in the northern portion of EU B. The third terrace was not preserved here but was most likely found in EU D, based on the platform floor that would have been associated with it, and the way in which the tumble fell in this area. It is unclear how the terraces on the north façade worked with the different phases of construction because of their very poor preservation, but it seems as if most of the expansion in later versions was to the south.

In the first phase of construction, Back Wall 1 was built. It is 150 cm in height, with a ledge at 40 cm from the top, stepping out about 20 cm. This wall runs from EU H to the west, reaching EU AN and continuing to the both the east and west outside of our excavation. Floor 3 was also built in this phase, extending north from the top of BW1. The modal rock size on this floor was 35x25x10. It runs from EU G to EU AP and continues to the east and west. It runs for 250 cm from north to south, with no clear edge on the north façade. Floor 5, a compact earthen floor, was formed in this phase. It is located at the base of BW1 and was apparently in use until the formation of the back platform. It is about 20 cm thick. There was a layer of carbon found on this floor at 160 cm BGS from EU N-EU R, 200 cm, suggesting some sort of ritual may have been performed before BW1 was filled in.

2007-30-75

In the second phase of construction, Door Jamb 1, Door Jamb E, Door Jamb W, and Door Jamb? were added on top of Floor 3. The door jambs are located about 20 cm from the top of BW1 and are generally 50x50x150 cm. They are spaced over 3 meters apart.

In a possible third phase, perhaps associated with the previous, the back platform was built. West Wall 3 forms the eastern face of the platform. West Wall 5 forms the western face, and the south wall was not preserved. This platform was extended either from the ledge on BW1 or Floor 3. Floor 6 is the best preserved level we found on top of the platform. In total, the platform would have run for nearly 11 meters and reached nearly 3 meters from BW1 to the south. It is in a central location and could have been used with DJE and DJW. The platform was preserved up to 65 cm. In between WW3 and WW5 a layer of rocks was placed on top of Floor 5, followed by a layer of soil up to about 30 cm below the ledge of BW1. It was probably during this phase as well that DJ1 and DJ? were extended into walls. WW4 is the extension of DJ1 to the west. WW4 is preserved up to ground surface underneath a tree, at a height of 70 cm, and extends 245 cm to the west from the edge of DJ1. It was probably after the addition of the back platform that these door jambs were transformed because they were no longer useful, unless there were stairs, later removed, off to the south. DJE and DJW however were within range of the platform and could have been used to access the platform.

In the fourth phase of construction, Floor 3 was extended to the south past BW1, this level is called Floor 2. Back Wall 2 was built and Floor 2 most likely extended to this point. Floor 2 was preserved in EU H, N, O, and again in EU AI and AJ. BW2 was preserved in EU J, Y, AZ, AY, AX, AU. It runs farther to the east and west. BW2 is preserved up to three courses at a height of 35 cm. This wall was built along the southern edge of the southern wall of the back platform, which is no longer preserved. It was most likely built up to the level of the platform walls and then the space between this wall and BW1 was filled in with soil and covered by Floor 2. North Wall 2 was likely part of this phase as it was at about the same elevation, in EU F.

In the fifth and final phase of construction, the door jambs were filled in, the platform was made higher and expanded to the south. Floor 1 was added on top of Floor 2. It was preserved in EU H and in EU AI and AJ, where it is called F7. South Wall 1 and South Wall 2 were added to divide up the space on top of the platform. They were added on top of a layer of 30 cm of soil. North Wall 3 was also probably part of the summit walls on the final version. West Wall 3 was part of what probably formed the first of two terraces on the south side. We cut through a very poorly preserved second terrace in EU J.

Contrary to prior beliefs, this building was probably always oriented towards the main plaza to the north. The back platform, unrevealed until this year, helps to explain the door jambs facing to the south. In combination with the test pits to the south of the structure, the evidence gathered this year is convincing of the idea that the building underwent major remodeling but the orientation did not change.