

2006

EPV 030 Goodwin Final Field Notes 2006 - 02-38, 55

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Recommended Citation

Goodwin, Whitney, "EPV 030 Goodwin Final Field Notes 2006 - 02-38, 55" (2006). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 96926.
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FINAL NOTES

El Cafetal (S-002)
SubOp 02/38 and 02/55
Structure 02
South Plaza

The purpose of these sub operations is to reveal the architecture of Structure 02 and determine the possible function of the structure, occupation dates, and different phases of construction.

SubOp 02/38
Axial trench over Structure 02 running East/West
Excavation Units A-L
Lots 01-57

SubOp 02/55
Lateral cleaning to reveal summit architecture
Excavation Units A-AK
Lots 01-42

Structure 02 is located in the southern plaza which was probably a residential area. It is situated next to Structure 01, the largest structure on the site, and may have been closely associated to the activities occurring there. There are three other structures in this portion of the plaza with roughly similar sizes and possible the same functions.

WESTERN SIDE OF STRUCTURE 02

This side of the structure faces towards the plaza and is the front of the building. The plaza floor runs up to the first terrace on this side.

Plaza Floor

The plaza floor is a packed earthen floor around 40 cm BGS in front of the structure on the western side of the building. This floor slopes up towards the base of the first terrace on the structure. This soil was silty clay of the color 10 YR 4/3 Brown and changed from the silty clay of the color 10 YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown found above it. The floor was also recognizable because it was more compact and because there was a concentration of cultural material 20-40 cm BGS. This floor extends through EU D up to the base of HONEY BUNCHES OF OATS WALL where we cut through it. The floor is 10 cm thick before reaching sterile clay of the color and underneath of it there is sterile clay. The lowest absolute elevation we have for this floor is 1000.62 and the highest is 1000.92. Most of the activity going on around this building was occurring here.

Honey Bunches of Oats Wall/Terrace

We encountered the first terrace in EU D. This wall is called HBO for short. The height of this wall is 40 cm and it is 30 cm thick but with a floor running in towards the structure on the top or the highest course. It runs north/south through EU D and is only preserved up to two course high. It slants towards the west. It may have been two or three courses higher and was part of the last phase of construction.

Second Terrace - NOT PRESERVED

The second terrace is not preserved in the trench. We are sure that it exists because of its presence in another SubOp and the fact that it is visible above ground surface to the south of this trench. Where it is preserved there it is 20 cm high and only one course high. This was also part of the final phase of construction.

Rice Krispis Floor

This floor runs from the level that was probably the top of the second terrace in towards the structure. It is fairly well preserved here and runs for at least 1.5 meters. It appears to have been part of an earlier construction phase because it runs underneath the third terrace and seems to continue even farther. It also is at roughly the same level of the top of FROSTED FLAKES WALL. This supports that idea that FROSTED FLAKES was an earlier back wall and this was probably the earlier summit floor. We marked the artifacts from this area as fill because we cut through CHOCO KRISPIS WALL to see how far this floor extends. It extends underneath CAPTAIN CRUNCH WALL as well.

Choco Krispis Wall

This is the third and final terrace on the north side of the structure. It runs north/south and it is 30 cm high and the top of this becomes LUCKY CHARMS FLOOR. We cut down into fill in front of this wall and also cut through it to see if there was a better preserved line farther in. There was no earlier wall farther in but rather a summit wall that begins near the top edge of this wall called CAPTAIN CRUNCH WALL.

SUMMIT OF STRUCTURE 04

This is the summit as of the final phase of construction.

Captain Crunch Wall

2006-30-190

This wall was preserved one course high measuring 15 cm high here and 15 cm thick. This wall runs north south and is visible throughout most of SubOp 02/55 as well though the orientation is slightly different from the other walls. Because of this we ended up following the back of the wall for most of 02/55. We dug down in front of the wall in Op 02/55 EU AI and AJ to find that it was only one course high there as well. This was the front summit wall facing towards the plaza. This is an important wall because it helps to show the boundaries of the summit structure. This wall lays on top of LUCKY CHARMS floor and was part of the final phase of construction. It was preserved to a height close to ground level.

Lucky Charms Floor

This floor is the structure summit floor in the final phase of construction. It runs 2.5 meters east to west here and is best preserved in SubOp 02/38. It is also visible throughout SubOp 02/55 but poorly preserved. This was about 50 cm below ground surface. This was the living surface during the final occupation of this structure and the artifacts from this level will be very helpful in determining the use of this structure. The amount of artifacts found here was not as great as on the plaza. The summit walls during this phase of construction were built on top of this floor and are not well preserved because of this.

Cheerios

This was built with the flat faces facing up against SPECIAL K WALL. It is preserved up to five courses high measuring up to 60 cm in height. It runs north/south and is preserved fairly well throughout SubOp 02/55 but not in 02/38. This wall may have been built to divide up the space on the summit or to help preserve the back wall as it deteriorated. In SubOp 02/55 it may have been extended out from and served as a bench. We dug down into this wall in the EU where SPECIAL K and CHEERIOS meet and the fact that this wall does not continue below LUCKY CHARMS FLOOR level proves that it was not the original back wall which was a question, therefore it was part of the later construction phase.

Special K Wall

This runs north/south along the eastern edge of the plaza. It is preserved four courses high and three courses thick. It measures about 40 cm high. This wall is best visible in parts of SubOp 02/55. This wall is actually part of FROSTED FLAKES WALL the farthest course in towards the west

being the back of that wall. Though this may have been a later addition it is more likely that it was built at the same time as FROSTED FLAKES WALL and ZUCARITAS WALL because of the type of construction used. It is well preserved in some places resembling those two walls more than any of the later additions.

EASTERN SIDE OF STRUCTURE 04

This side of the structure faces away from the plaza and has walls in better condition, most likely from earlier phases of construction. The bajareque floor skirt was found on this side of the structure.

Frosted Flakes

This wall seems to be the other side of SPECIAL K WALL on the eastern side of the structure. It continues down to form a ledge at the top of ZUCARITAS WALL. This wall runs 25 cm high before reaching the base level of SPECIAL K which is aligned with the LUCKY CHARMS FLOOR level. The ledge is about 20 cm thick.

Zucaritas Wall

This was apparently an earlier back wall on this structure that was expanded on later. F It is well preserved and runs almost perfectly vertical unlike the walls in later construction phases.

2006-30-191

The top of this wall is 110 off of the HONEYCOMBS FLOOR and appears to line up with RICE KRISPIS FLOOR level. This supports the theory that that floor was an earlier summit floor.

Honeycombs Floor

This is a burnt earthen and bajareque floor found at the base of ZUCARITAS WALL on the eastern side of this structure. It is about ? thick and runs out ? cm from the wall. This floor runs up to the base of ZUCARITAS WALL and appears to run underneath it so it was either built earlier or at the same time as the wall. There was a concentration of artifacts here in good context. We also collected carbon samples from this floor. This was the first evidence of this type of skirt along the back of structures at this site.

CONCLUSIONS

This building had at least two different construction phases both most likely during the Late Classic. The first phase is better preserved here. The structure was built using purposefully shaped blocks that held together better even without any type of mortar. It seems the Rice Krispis floor ran all the way to the top of Zucaritas wall making the earlier summit much wider. From there the space on the summit surface was raised up and divided into a smaller space. The terraces on the front of the building were also added during this phase. The space on top of the summit floor was made smaller by Frosted Flakes, Special K, and Cheerios wall and possibly a bench in the southern portion of Op 02/55. The space between these walls does not seem to have been divided, at least not by any type of stone architecture. This building differs from others so far in the lack of division of space on the summit and the burnt bajareque floor skirt on the back of the building. Because of its location next to the largest structure on the site (Str01) and the type of artifacts found here it was probably used for upper class residential purposes or even some ceremonial use. Most of the activity around this building probably took place on the plaza floor as there was an abundance of

artifacts on top of the floor. We will need more data to be able to compare this structure to the other structures in the southern plaza in terms of occupation dates and possible functions. The last occupation of this building was during the Late Classic and the earliest is still unknown.