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## PVN OP 013 Excavation Report

Edward M. Schortman  
*Kenyon College*

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## Operation 13

Operation 13 occupies relatively flat terrain within an are bracketed by Op. 16 on the north, Op. 19 on the south, and Op. 14 on the east within the densely settled North Cluster at La Sierra. A total of five surface-visible buildings were identified in this space which encompasses ca. 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. As with most parts of the North Cluster, it is hard to identify clear patio-focused structure groups within Op. 13. Nonetheless, it is possible that Str. 65 and 55 define the east and west sides of a plaza that measures 18m across; it is not obvious what, if any, buildings might have been purposefully erected to close off the putative patio's north and south sides. Digging within Str. 55, 56, and 65 resulted in the clearing of ca. 130m<sup>2</sup> over the course of the 1988 (Str. 65) and 1995 (Str. 55 and 56) field seasons. These investigations were supervised by J. Miller in 1988 and P. Agelasto (Str. 55) and J. Wendt (Str. 56) in 1995.

## Structure 55

Structure 55 is 3.5m southeast of Str. 56 and 12m south of Str. 44 in the dense cluster of constructions lying north of La Sierra's site core. Roughly 53m<sup>2</sup> of this building and its immediate environs was exposed in the course of excavating Subop. 13F, G, H, K, L, M, P, and Q. The entirety of Str. 55's perimeter was exposed in the course of this work along with much of the summit. The primary portions of the edifice that were not excavated consist of two blocks of soil covering 8m<sup>2</sup> and 3m<sup>2</sup> on the platform's broad southeast terrace. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 0.92m and 0.87m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively, revealing two major construction episodes. These investigations were directed by Peter Agelasto from January 31-March 23, 1995.

## Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1, 2	-	LCLI, II
2	Str. 55-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.1-3	-	-	LCLII?
3	Str. 55-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.4-7	-	-	LCLII, III
4	Str. 55-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.8-22, 26, 27	-	-	LCL III,II
5	Str. 55-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.23-25	-	F.1, 2	LCL III
6	-	-	S.3, 4	F.3	

## Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the environs of Str. 55 was the apparently natural deposition of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, tan clay with numerous small white inclusions (S.1). Stratum 1 was identified solely in a probe dug northeast of the building where it was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.35m (S.1's base lies beyond excavation limits). Capping S.1 by 0.16-0.18m is a hard-compacted, red-brown sandy soil that contains large numbers of small pottery fragments (S.2). These ceramics are primarily concentrated within 0.06m of the S.1/2 interface, possibly indicating that this was a pedestrian surface before further deposition of S.2 blanketed it. The upper surfaces of S.1 and 2 run flat northeast-southwest over the 0.9m that they were exposed 1.2m northeast of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>.

### Time Span 2

The earliest known construction associated with Str. 55 (Str. 55-2<sup>nd</sup>) consists of three interconnected walls (U.1-3) that were buried by later architecture. Units 1-3 were only partially exposed beneath the southwest (U.6), southeast (U.7), and northeast (U.4) core retaining walls of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> (see TS.3). As such we were not able to ascertain the full widths of U.1-3 nor can we reconstruct their original heights with any certainty as the upper portions of at least U.1 and 2 seem to have been removed during TS.3. The most completely cleared and tallest of these walls, U.3, is 0.68m wide and stands to an inferred height of 0.57m. What we can discern is that U.1, 2, and 3 defined the northeast, southeast, and southwest sides, respectively, of a rectangular structure that measured on its interior 3.4m northeast-southwest by at least 2m northwest-southeast (the wall bordering the edifice on the northwest, if it ever existed, was not found and may have been fully covered by U.5, the northwest retaining wall of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform). Because we lack information on how, if at all, the building was closed off on the northwest we cannot say if Str. 55-2<sup>nd</sup> was a platform or a surface-level construction open partially or completely on the northwest. If the edifice was raised directly on ancient ground surface then its interior floor was made of earth.

What we can discern of Str. 55-2<sup>nd</sup> is a building delimited on three sides by stone facings or foundations that may have stood as much as 0.57m high and measured 0.68m across. The edifice is aligned roughly 64 degrees, the space delimited by its perimeter walls encompassing at least 6.8m<sup>2</sup>. Whether this area comprises the earthen-floored room of a surface-level building or the earthen summit of a low platform is uncertain. All stones used in uncovered TS.2 constructions are river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

As indicated above, the first known version of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> was raised directly atop the walls of its predecessor (Str. 55-2<sup>nd</sup>). Units 4-7 are sizable stone facings that stand 0.63-0.88m tall and are 0.42-0.73m wide. They delimit a rectangular platform that covers 3.25x4.78m. The edifice's south exterior corner is inset 0.45x0.6m, the remaining walls intersecting at close to

right angles. Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit encompasses 1.9x3.64m and lacks clear evidence of superstructure architecture such as benches and shelves. The fill retained by U.4-7 consists of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, tan soil (U.17) overlain by a dense concentration of medium and (primarily) small stones set in a brown soil matrix (U.18). Unit 17 is 0.6m thick and contains a scattering of burnt earth fragments whereas U.18 blankets U.17 beneath a mantle that is 0.4m thick.

By the conclusion of TS.3, Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-and-earth-filled platform that stood an estimated 1m tall, measured 3.25x4.78m, and was aligned ca. 60 degrees. The featureless summit covered 7m<sup>2</sup> and was surfaced with a mixture of earth and stone. No clear signs of access features leading to the summit were found. All TS.3 construction consists of river cobbles the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 4

This interval saw Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> expanded considerably on all sides through the addition of stone-faced terraces that surround the core platform raised in TS.3. The first step in this process seems to have involved the widening of U.4, the northeast facing of the TS.3 platform. This was accomplished by the erection of a 0.66m-wide by 1m-high wall (U.16) that completely covered U.4's northeast face and wrapped around the TS.3 platform's north corner, extending 0.35m southwest along that construction's northwest basal wall (U.5). These additions converted the northeast core platform facing into a wall that was now 1.08m wide, sufficiently broad to have retained platform fill, supported a perishable wall bounding the superstructure on the northeast, and to have served as a 2.05m-long bench.

Units 8-15 are the stone-faced risers that delimit the terraces that now encircled Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform. These constructions are 0.28-0.38m tall and define a sinuous course. Unit 8, on the platform's northwest flank, runs for 5.3m southwest from its intersection with U.16. Unit 9, on the southwest, extends 3.3m southeast from its junction with U.8 at which point it steps back 0.5m to the northeast. Unit 10 continues the line of the southwest terrace for 2.6m southeast of this point where it then corners with U.11. The latter defines the limits of the southeast terrace, running for 6.7m to the northeast and to its junction with U.12. There is a break in U.11's construction 1m northeast of the U.11/10 junction. Here the low terrace wall (0.3m tall) is replaced for a width of 0.5m by what appears to be a pavement made up of small and medium-size cobbles (U.21). Unit 21 projects at least 0.4m southeast of U.11's southeast face at which point the stone surface disappears beyond our excavation limits. The architectural significance of U.21 is unclear; it may be part of a construction that linked Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> to other buildings lying to the south and east. Digging was not pursued far enough to test this proposition.

Returning to the tortured path of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s terraces, U.12 corners with U.11 to form the platform's east corner. The former facing extends for 2.3m to the northwest before stepping out 0.5m to the northeast and continuing to the northwest as U.13. The latter is 1.5m long, terminates in a 0.25m step-out to the northeast, and gives way here to U.14. Unit 14 extends 2.35m to the northwest where it corners with U.15. The latter runs 1.35m back to the southwest where it ends in the northeast face of U.16. The resulting terrace system thus surrounds the core platform at varying widths, ranging from 0.3-2.4m across. The broadest terrace surface by far is on the southeast, the narrowest being on the northwest.

By-and large, these terraces rise above what seems to have been the unmodified natural ground surface. The exception is on the northeast where U.12-15 are fronted by a stone floor (U.20) that narrows from 1.5m across where it intersects the platform's east corner (the junction of U.11 and 12) to 0.3m wide at the north corner (intersection of U.14 and 15). Unit 20 envelops the platform's north corner, extending for 1.4m along the northwest face of U.15 where the pavement varies in width from 0.4-0.6m.

Most of the terraces were surfaced with a mixture of earth and stone. The one exception is the broad southeastern example (U.11) where a stone floor (U.26) was recorded extending at least 1.26m southeast from its abutment with U.7. Beyond this point it was unclear if the floor continued all the way to U.11's southeast facing or stopped short of that riser. Unit 26 was underlain by a fill composed of small stones set in an earth matrix (U.27).

A 0.2m-high wall (U.22) projects at least 0.8m southeast onto the broad southeast terrace from the core platform's southeast facing (U.7). Unit 22 may have defined an entry feature leading up to the summit though excavation on the southeast terrace was not carried far enough to determine how long U.22 was and if it was paired with another comparable construction to the northeast.

A quadrilateral stone block (U.19) was added to the summit at some point during TS.4. Unit 19 is located in the southwestern half of the summit room, 1.05m northeast of U.6, the southwest core platform facing. It covers 0.7x0.8m (measured across its center) and is 0.2m thick. Most likely this stone pavement was set flush with the summit's surface though what functions it served are unknown.

By the end of TS.4, Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-and-earth-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.6-1m high, covered 6.3m by 7.72m, and was aligned roughly 60 degrees. The core platform retained its basic form and dimensions from TS.3, still supporting a single room that encompassed 7m<sup>2</sup>. Two primary changes were made to this space. First, its northeast basal wall was expanded to 1.08m across, raising the possibility that this wall now served, in part, as a stone-faced and -surfaced bench that was 2.05m long. Second, a stone pavement covering 0.6m<sup>2</sup> was set in the room's southwest half.

The most dramatic changes visited on Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> during TS.4 consisted of the construction of a 0.28-0.38m-high stone-faced terrace that surrounded the core platform on all sides. This construction defined a sinuous course on the northeast and southwest and was decidedly wider on the southeast (2.4m across) than on any other flank (the rest measured 0.3-1.3m across). The possibility that the summit room was reached by passing over the southeast terrace is suggested by signs that, unlike the other treads, this terrace's surface was at least partially paved and there may have been walls set up to funnel access to the superstructure up the approximate center of the southeast terrace. In general, construction of these terraces added 2.6m<sup>2</sup>, 3m<sup>2</sup>, 15m<sup>2</sup>, and 3.4m<sup>2</sup> of elevated open spaces to Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest, southwest, southeast, and northeast flanks, respectively.

The stones used in TS.4 constructions are primarily river cobbles the flatter aspects of which are directed outwards or, in the case of floors, upward. A few cut blocks were included in U.9 and U.16 though they are much fewer in number than the river-worn stones that surround them. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 5

During this span what look to be several surface-level rooms were erected off Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> and a dense concentration of rock fill was deposited against the platform's northeast and southeast sides. One such deposit (F.1) is laid over U.14 (part of the northeast terrace facing) and the U.20 stone floor that fronts that riser. Feature 1 is maximally 0.7m thick, extends an estimated 1.53m northeast of U.14 and overlaps that terrace for 0.68m to the southwest. Its counterpart on the southeast (F.2) is 0.54m thick and extends for 1.71m southeast of U.11. Neither of these putative constructions had clear exterior facings. They were both tentatively identified as parts of purposeful building efforts by the density of small to large cobbles they contained and the fact that these rocks were found lying horizontally. Features 1 and 2 may have been parts of efforts to expand the core summit construction to the northeast and southeast though in neither case is it clear that they ran all the way back to the core platform.

The possible surface-level rooms noted above are suggested by the recovery of scattered stone foundations off Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast and northwest sides. The clearest of these footings is U.23, a 0.32m-high by 0.4m-wide wall that lies 1.2-1.4m northeast of the platform's northeast flank and overlaps the northeast edge of the U.20 floor by 0.1-0.2m. Unit 23 was traced for 1.9m at an orientation of 140 degrees before excavation ceased; its southeast edge was not found. Unit 24 is a comparably low, 0.45m-wide stone wall that was followed for a scant 0.4m northeast from Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s north corner before excavation ceased. Unit 25, in turn, appears to be the east corner of a small building lying 0.6m northwest of the platform. The two walls uncovered here are 0.28m tall by at least 0.48m wide, the building being aligned roughly 55 degrees along its most fully exposed southeast side (uncovered for 1.2m on this flank).

As TS.5 drew to a close Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> retained its basic form, dimensions, and orientation from TS.4. It may be that at least part of the southeast and northeast terraces were blanketed by 0.54m and 0.7m, respectively, of densely packed, flat-laid stones. It is unclear in both cases whether these stone fills ran all the way back to the core platform. If that was the case, then Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup> now measured approximately 8x9m. These putative fill units may have been parts of a construction effort that was never completed or were introduced to partially seal and terminate the use of Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>. At least three surface-level rooms bounded by stone foundations were also likely built off Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast and northwest flanks at this time. The dimensions of these constructions are unknown.

River cobbles were the primary materials used in the constructions described above. Three cut blocks were found in positions that suggest that they had fallen from U.23. All of these rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 6

Following Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.5m of a moderately coarse-textured, dark brown soil (S.3) was laid down. Stratum 3 was covered, in turn, by 0.1-0.12m of a very similar soil that is distinguished by its dense concentration of small roots (S.4). Stratum 4 is the humus formed on S.3. A moderately dense concentration of stones likely fallen from final-phase architecture (F.3) was embedded in S.3 and 4. Feature 3 was traced for as much 2.58m away from Str. 55-1<sup>st</sup>.

### Structure 56

Structure 56 lies 3.5m northeast of Str. 55 and 13m southwest of Str. 44 (Op. 16) in the heavily built-up area located north of La Sierra's site core. The ground on which Str. 56 was raised runs relatively flat. Digging here uncovered ca. 45m<sup>2</sup> within Subop. 13E, I, J, and N. All of the core platform was revealed in the course of this work as well as substantial portions of constructions erected off Str. 56's northeast and southwest flanks. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.44m and 1m below modern ground surface within and outside architecture, respectively. One major building episode was identified in the course of these investigations which were directed by Jennifer Wendt.

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.2-5	-	LCLI, II
2	Str. 56-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.1-7, 10-11	-	-	LCLII, III

3	Str. 56-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.8-9	-	-	LCLII, III
4	Str. 56-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.12-17	-	-	LCLII, III
5	Str. 56-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.18-19	-	-	LCLIII, II
6	Str. 56-1 <sup>st</sup>	-	-	F.1-4	LCLIII
7	-	-	S.1-2	F.5	

### Time Span 1

The earliest known activity recorded in the vicinity of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> was the apparently natural deposition of a fine-textured, hard-compacted, light tan clay (S.5). Stratum 5 was only revealed in a 1m<sup>2</sup> probe dug off Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast side where it was found to be minimally 0.23m thick (S.5's base lies beyond excavation limits). Blanketing S.5 is a 0.3-0.32m-thick layer of fine-textured, moderately hard-compacted, tan clay (S.3). Strata 3 and 5 are distinguished by slight differences in their color and compaction; most likely they together comprise the same earth layer that grows lighter in hue and is more tightly compacted with greater depth. The tops of S.3 and 5 run nearly flat for the 1m they were exposed. A lens of coarse-textured, soft compacted, brown sand (S.4) is embedded 0.05m above the S.3/5 interface. S.4 is 0.35m long northeast-southwest and has a maximum thickness of 0.06m.

A moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil (S.2) was laid down atop S.3 prior to the construction of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>. As deposition of S.2 continued after that building's abandonment, it is hard to say exactly how much of this soil was introduced during TS.1. Using the disposition of debris tumbled from Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s final phase (F.5) as a guide, we estimate that approximately 0.1m of S.2 blanketed S.3 before construction on the known portions of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> began.

### Time Span 2

The first version of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> that we can reconstruct consists of a platform delimited by sizable stone retaining walls (U.1-4) on all sides. This building encompasses 3.15x4.06m. Units 1-4 are 0.65-1m wide and stand 0.9m tall. Units 1 and 2, the southeast and southwest facings, respectively, are sufficiently wide (1m across) that they might have served as benches as well as fill retaining walls and supports for the superstructure's perishable upper walls.

The summit delimited by U.1-4 is surfaced with stones (U.7) and measures 1.65x2.3m across its center. This space contains two compartments set in a northeast-southwest line, divided by a 0.3m-high by 0.24m-wide wall (U.5) that projects 0.3m southeast from the room's northwest wall (defined here by U.3). The northeast enclosure covers 0.97x1.65m while its southwestern counterpart encompasses 1.09x1.65m. The northeast cubicle contains an L-shaped

construction (U.6) that is 0.3m tall and extends 0.85m from the northeast facing (U.4) at an angle of 23 degrees. The leg of the “L” then projects 0.25m back towards U.4, stopping 0.45m short of that facing’s corner with U.1, the southeast retaining wall. The distance between U. 5 and 6 is 0.75m. The architectural significance of U.6 is unclear. It may have been part of a support for a post that was wedged between it and U.4 in the summit’s east corner, that space covering roughly 0.4m on a side. No sign of a post hole was recorded in this area.

A 0.27m-high stone-faced and –surfaced terrace (U.10) extends 0.99m northeast of the core platform. Unit 10 runs the full width of that platform’s northeast flank, stepping out (northeast) 0.2m at a point 1.9m southeast of the terrace’s northwest edge. Extending 0.55m northwest of that outset and built into U.10’s northeast edge is a semi-circle defined by stones (U.11) bordering an area of earth. Unit 11 is 0.45m wide northeast-southwest. There was no sign of burning in the environs of U.11 and it may be that, like U.6, this semi-circle defined the limits of a post that was originally set vertically here.

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.9m tall, measured 3.15x5.05m, and was aligned ca. 50 degrees. Structure 56-1<sup>st</sup>’s core platform covers 13m<sup>2</sup> and supports a stone-floored summit that encompasses 4m<sup>2</sup>. This space contains two rooms set in a northeast-southwest line. The northeast example measures 1.6m<sup>2</sup>, part of which is taken up by an L-shaped stone construction that covers 0.4m<sup>2</sup> and is built against the northeast basal facing. This entity may have been used to support a wooden post with an estimated diameter of 0.4m that was set in the summit’s east corner. The southwest room covers 1.8m<sup>2</sup> and contains no built-in furniture. Units 1 and 2, which define the summit on the southeast and southwest, are wide enough (1m across) to have been used as benches as well as supports for the superstructure’s perishable upper walls and as means for retaining the platform’s fill. A 0.27m-high stone faced terrace projects 0.99m northeast of the core platform and extends for the full length of its northeast flank. A semicircle of stones measuring 0.45x0.55m and set 1.95m northwest of the terrace’s inferred east corner may have served as yet another support, possibly for a post which sustained an extension of the roof that shaded the northeast terrace.

All of the aforementioned units were made primarily from river-worn stones the flatter aspects of which were directed outwards. A few cut stones were mixed with these cobbles, this masonry mostly being found at the corners of platform facings. Shaped blocks were used very sparingly in TS.2 constructions. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 3

During this interval, Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>’s core platform was enlarged by the addition of U.8 and 9 on the building’s northwest flank. Unit 8 is an extension of U.2, the edifice’s southwest basal facing, running 0.85m northwest from the corner of U.2 and 3. Unit 9 now replaces U.3 as the platform’s northwest basal wall, joining with U.2 to form Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>’s west corner. Unit 9 runs

the full length of the platform's northwest side. It may be that the northeast terrace (U.10) was extended ca. 0.7m to the northwest to intersect the newly augmented platform ca. 0.15m shy (southeast) of its north corner. Later construction in this area overlies and disrupts the evidence for such an addition, making it difficult to ascertain the nature (and reality) of any changes made to this portion of the building during TS.3.

Structure 56-1<sup>st</sup> retained its basic form and orientation from TS.2 during TS.3, though it now measured 4x5.05m. The expansion of the core platform's northwest basal facing created a substantial wall that now measured 1.5m across. As with U.1 and 2, this augmented northwest facing could have served as a bench, fill retaining unit, and support for the superstructure's perishable upper wall. Most TS.3 construction was made from river-worn stones, set in a mud mortar, and with their flatter aspects directed outwards. A faced stone block was used to form the new west corner, where U.8 and 9 joined.

#### Time Span 4

During TS.4 a room was added off Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast flank while stone-faced terraces were appended to the building's southwest and northwest sides. The southwest terrace (U.12) is 0.22m high by 1.33m wide, was paved with stones, and intersects the core platform's south corner (junction of U.1 and 2). Unit 12 runs for 4.1m southeast-northwest and corners with U.17 on the northwest. The latter appears to be a poorly preserved terrace that stands an estimated 0.35m tall, fronts the full length of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> on the northwest, and extends for an estimated 5.2m northeast from its junction with U.12 at an orientation of roughly 41 degrees. Because U.17 diverges in its alignment from that of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform, the terrace varies in width from 0.6-1m, widening as it proceeds to the northeast. Unit 16 closes off the terrace's northeast flank, running back from U.17 to the core platform's north corner (the junction of U.4 and 9).

The earthen-floored compartment that was appended to Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s northeast side measures 2.3m by 1.78-2.2m, widening from northwest to southeast. This space is bounded by stone foundations (U.13-15) that are 0.3-0.8m wide and 0.03-0.48m tall. Unit 15, the southeast footing, is located on the U.10 terrace and the lowest of these constructions, a fact likely attributable to its poor state of preservation. Units 13 and 14 are 0.42-0.48m high. Unit 14, the northeast foundation, has a niche measuring 0.2-0.55m deep by 0.5m wide on its interior (southwest) side. This indentation is located 0.3m southeast from the room's north interior corner and may have functioned as yet another post support; it is roughly in line with U.6 and 11, the other putative post supports identified on Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>. The room was entered through a 1.5m-wide gap in the enclosure's east corner. The U.10 terrace runs the full 2.3m width of the enclosure (southeast-northwest). This 0.27m-tall, 0.99m-wide stone-faced and –surfaced step-up may now have served as a bench set against the core platform's northeast facing.

Structure 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform's form and alignment remained unchanged from TS.3, though now that core construction was fronted on the southwest and northwest by stone-faced and possibly –surfaced terraces that stood 0.22-0.35m high and measured 1.33m across on the southwest and 0.6-1m wide on the northwest. The terrace that had formerly graced Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> on the northeast was now largely covered by a room encompassing ca. 4.6m<sup>2</sup> and bounded by stone foundations that were 0.3-0.8m wide by as much as 0.48m tall. A 1.5m-wide entrance set in the enclosure's east corner provided access to the compartment's interior while the earlier U.10 terrace may now have served as a 0.99m-wide by 2.2m-long stone-faced and –surfaced bench that ran for the entire width of the room's southwest side. A niche measuring 0.2-0.55m deep by 0.55m wide in the interior of the northeast footing may have served as a post support, possibly for an extension of the eaves of the roof covering Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure.

Overall, excluding the northeast room, Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> now covered 4.6x5.4m (measured across its center) and was, with the exception of the northwest terrace, oriented approximately 50 degrees; the northwest terrace is aligned roughly 41 degrees. All units raised at this time were made almost exclusively of river cobbles set in a mud mortar and with their flatter faces directed outwards. A cut stone block was used as the foundation for the corner of U.12 and 17.

#### Time Span 5

Units 18 and 19 are stone foundations that are roughly 0.35m tall by 0.35m (U.18) and 0.65m wide (U.19); Unit 19's full width was not determined. Unit 18 abuts U.13 at a point 1.7m southwest from that footing's northeast end and was traced for 0.35m northwest from that abutment before excavation stopped. Unit 19, in turn, intersects U.17, 0.25m southwest of the latter's junction with U.16 and runs at least 0.6m northwest from U.17. Neither of these constructions was extensively cleared and their architectural significance remains uncertain. Most likely they are the remnants of earthen-floored, surface-level rooms built against Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>. Units 18 and 19 are both fashioned of river-worn stones the flatter aspects of which face outwards. All of these rocks are set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 6

One of the striking aspects of excavating Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> was the dense concentrations of relatively flat-laid stones set in a brown soil matrix that blanketed the extensively cleared northeast (F.2) and southwest (F.3) sides of the building along with its summit (F.1); we cannot be certain that this overburden continued along the more cursorily inspected southeast and northwest sides of the building. Feature 2 completely blankets and fills in to a depth of 0.72m the northeast room raised in TS.4 while F.3 covers the U.12 terrace on the southwest with as much as 0.4m of densely packed stones. The summit is covered by about 0.4m of similar material (F.1). The stones making up F.1 and 3 tend to be smaller than the relatively large cobbles comprising F.2 on the northeast. The density of the rocks found in F.1-3 and their

generally horizontal dispositions suggest that they are unlikely to have derived from tumbled architectural debris. More likely, they may represent material purposefully introduced to cover Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> either in preparation for a series of renovations that were never completed or to terminate formally the use of the edifice.

Feature 4, located 0.57m southwest of Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> (U.12) is a concentration of flat-laid river stones set in a brown earth matrix. This entity does not appear to be part of F.3 which covers the structure's southwest terrace. Consequently, F.4 may be the poorly preserved remnant of a stone wall that originally stood an estimated 0.3m high and continued at least 0.85m to the southwest, at which point it exited our excavations. Feature 4 was not recognized as a possible construction unit during excavations and it is possible that it is no more than a particularly dense concentration of fallen stones that stand out in this regard from the surrounding tumbled debris (F.5). Nonetheless, the density of rocks found in F.4, their general horizontal disposition, coupled with their relatively large sizes tentatively suggest that they are part of a construction raised adjacent to Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> either late in TS.5 or during TS.6.

This last-recognized period in Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s occupation may have witnessed the purposeful burial of the building along with the erection of a modest construction 0.57m southwest of the platform's southwest terrace. The rocks that make up F.1-4 are predominately river cobbles.

#### Time Span 7

After Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, deposition of Stratum 2 resumed. As much as 0.38m of this moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, brown soil was laid down now. Blanketing S. 2 by 0.14-0.19m is a moderately coarse-textured, moderately hard-compacted, dark brown, root-rich soil (S.1). Stratum 1 is the humus horizon formed on the underlying S.2. Embedded in these two soil levels is a moderately dense concentration of stones (F.5) that almost certainly fell from Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s final-phase architecture. Feature 5 was traced for 1.3m from the building's northeast flank, this being the side that was most thoroughly cleared for the greatest distance from the building.

#### Structure 65

Structure 65 is located ca. 37m southwest of Structure 42. The ground underlying the building runs relatively flat southeast-to-northwest, rising 0.12m across 15.5m in that direction. Approximately 32m<sup>2</sup> were cleared within Suboperation 13A on and around this edifice, much of that work devoted to exposing fully Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest basal facing. Other investigations of the building were restricted to a 1m-wide trench cut northwest-southeast completely across the edifice's approximate center-line. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 2m and 1.4m below modern ground surface within and beyond architecture, respectively. A total of three major construction episodes were identified in the course of this work which was overseen by J. Miller.

## Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1-3	-	MPrecl, LPrecl LCLI, II
2	-	-	-	F.1-3, 13	LCLII
3	Str. 65-3 <sup>rd</sup>	U.1-3	-	-	LCLII
4	Str. 65-2 <sup>nd</sup>	U.4-5	-	-	LCLII
5	Str. 65-2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	F.4	LCLII
6	Str. 65-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.6-14	-	F.5-6	LCLII, III
7	Str. 65-1 <sup>st</sup>	U.15-18	-	F.7-11	LCLII, III
8	-	-	S.3-4	F.12	

## Time Span 1

The first activity identified in the vicinity of Str. 65 was the seemingly natural deposition of a dark brown, sandy soil devoid of rocks and cultural material (S.1). Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.28m (its base lies beyond our excavation limits) and it ascended 0.12m over 15.5m southeast-to-northwest. A lens of light tan sand (S.2), identical to S.1 in all ways save in its color, overlies S.1 for 0.7m. Stratum 2 was found underlying F.1 (see TS.2) and covered S.1 by as much as 0.08m.

Approximately 0.29m of a hard-compacted, brown, clayey soil (S.3) was laid down atop S.1 prior to the activities assigned to TS.2. Because deposition of S.3 persisted after Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment and there is no clear living surface associated with the events that occurred in TS.2-7, it is hard to say how much of this earth was laid down during TS.1. The figure of 0.29m is an estimate based on the stratigraphic relation of S.3 to F.1 and 3, the latter two dating to TS.2. It was hard to be sure that cultural materials found in the basal portions of S.3 were contemporary with TS.1 and had not percolated down from later occupations. Still, the recovery of some artifacts here tentatively implies a human presence in the area when S.3 was first being introduced.

## Time Span 2

A pit (F.1) was now dug into S.3 down to its interface with S.1. Feature 1, found 0.68m northwest of Str. 64-1<sup>st</sup>'s U.10, is 0.22-0.46m deep. The south quarter of F.1 that was uncovered measured 1.4m across; extrapolating to its full size from this limited exposure would yield a pit with a diameter of 2.8m. Feature 1 is filled with a dense deposit of pottery sherds and carbon flecks set in a brown, clayey matrix. A possible posthole (F.2), measuring 0.1m across, extends 0.27m below the base of F.1 into S.1. Feature 2 is filled with the brown clay found in F.1 but without the latter's artifact content. The posthole's base was not definitively identified in the course of our work nor were other such features found. A 0.08m-thick deposit of bajareque (F.13) was found at the base of F.1. Feature 13 extended for 0.63m northwest-southeast, rested atop S.1, and was apparently cut through and truncated at some point during F.1's use.

At the same depth as F.1, 2, and 13, but lying 11m to the southeast is a lens composed of fine-textured, soft-compacted, gray ash (F.3). Feature 3 was encountered running southeast from under Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s southeast basal facing (U.6). It is, maximally, 0.14m thick and drops down 0.24m over the course of 1.4m northwest-to southeast. Because the bulk of Str. 65 separates F.1, 2, and 13 on the northwest from F.3 on the southeast it is not possible to determine if they result from the same set of related activities. Their equivalent stratigraphic positions do suggest, however, that whatever behaviors they were associated with were contemporary.

## Time Span 3

The earliest version of Str. 65 recognized in the course of our excavations was revealed in a deep probe measuring 1x1.6m that was sunk into the approximate center of the platform's summit. The portion of Str. 65-3<sup>rd</sup> that was identified in the course of this work consists of a stone wall (U.2) that stood 0.8m tall and retained a fill (U.1) composed of a soft-compacted brown soil that contained small pebbles and many pottery sherds. Unit 2 ascends vertically for 0.57m before stepping back 0.12m over its remaining 0.23m. Resting atop the U.1 fill is a carefully constructed block of stone (U.3) that stands 0.46m high, measures 0.65m northeast-southwest, and projects 0.22m southeast from under later TS.6 architecture (U.13). Unit 3's northwest edge was not found. It may well be that U.3 served as a pillar that defined two doorways, one on either side of the block, into Str. 65-3<sup>rd</sup>'s earthen-floored superstructure. That superstructure was back on the southeast by the 0.32m of U.2 that projects above the upper surface of U.1.

Overall, Str. 65-3<sup>rd</sup> was a stone-faced, earth-filled platform that stood 0.8m tall and supported at least one earthen-floored room that encompassed 1.34m northwest-southeast. This compartment was apparently entered from the northwest through (at least) a pair of doors separated by a stone block standing 0.46m tall and measuring 0.65m wide. The very limited

portion of Str. 65-3<sup>rd</sup> revealed in the course of excavations was aligned approximately 45 degrees.

All stones used in TS.3 constructions were river cobbles that were set in a mud mortar. The rocks comprising the summit pillar (U.3) had their flat faces directed outwards while those in the southeast retaining wall (U.2) had rounded faces projecting into the U.1 fill. The latter patterning implies that we exposed the back of U.2, its southeast-facing front lying beneath later construction.

#### Time Span 4

During this interval the height of Str. 65 was raised by the addition of U.4 and 5. Unit 5 is a stone wall that rests on 0.04m of dirt above U.2 and continues the southeast-slanting line of its predecessor. In all, U.5 rises 0.36m, sloping back (southeast) 0.24m in the course of that ascent. The fill retained by this addition (U.4) is a fine-textured, hard-compacted, greasy, green clay. Unit 4 rests directly on U.1 and is 0.43-0.62m thick, increasing in depth from northwest to southeast. The addition of U.4 buried all but the uppermost 0.03m of the U.3 pillar.

What little we can infer concerning the form and dimensions of Str. 65-2<sup>nd</sup> indicates that it was an earth-filled platform that stood 1.2m tall and was aligned approximately 45 degrees. The earthen floored superstructure may still have been entered through a pair of doors on the northwest, been backed on the southeast by the exposed upper 0.12m of U.5, the southeast retaining wall, and measured at least 1.36m across northwest-southeast. The stones used to fashion U.5 were river cobbles the rounded faces of which were directed to the northwest. As with U.2, the exposed portion of U.5 was likely the back of a core platform wall that retained fill and defined the limits of the building's summit. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

#### Time Span 5

During this interval Str. 65-2<sup>nd</sup> was either allowed to fall into desuetude or was intentionally burned prior to initiating a new round of construction. The evidence bearing on these interpretations consists of two lenses of burnt earth that issue from the tops of U.3 and 5 (both lenses are glossed as F.4). The detritus spreading out from U.3 overlaps that construction, measuring 0.46m northwest-southeast overall and extending 0.34m southeast from the top of the putative stone pillar. This iteration of F.4 is maximally 0.12m thick as is the segment that projects 0.18m from the top of U.5. Both expressions of F.4 rest directly on the U.4 fill.

Based on these observations it is very likely that, whatever other functions they served, U.3 and 5 supported perishable upper walls fashioned of bajareque that were at least partly burnt before the initiation of construction during TS.6. Whether this conflagration was intentional or accidental is unclear.

## Time Span 6

The 1.3m separating the two iterations of F.4 was filled by two overlapping lenses of brown sand (F.5 and 6). Feature 5, on the northwest, is distinguished by having a higher concentration of pebbles than is found in F.6 to the southeast. The former extends for 1.02m southeast from the northwest edge of the deep summit excavation, is maximally 0.25m thick, and directly overrides F.4, U.3, and U.4. It is succeeded on the southeast by F.6 which runs 1.05m at a maximum thickness of 0.13m before ending in U.5's northwest face. The upper surfaces of F.5 and 6 are more-or-less even and apparently comprise the floor of Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s summit.

That elevated space was reached from the northwest by ascending three low, stone-faced terraces (U.10-12). The basal riser, U.10, is 0.4m high though it probably rose 0.3m above the contemporary ground surface. It fronts a tread that is 0.68m wide above which rises U.11. The latter is 0.32m high by 1.22m wide and gives way to the U.12 terrace. The latter stands 0.2m above U.11 and runs back 2.48m to the 0.32m-high step-up to the summit (U.13). Unit 13 is 0.84m wide and stands only an inferred 0.14m above Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s earthen summit.

The platform is mounted on the southeast by three higher, narrower terraces (U.6-8). Unit 6, the basal riser, stands 0.48m high and is 0.3m wide and is succeeded by U.7. The latter rises 0.27m above U.6 and is 0.22m wide. Unit 8 ascends 0.52m above U.7, measures 0.68m across, and gives way to U.9 which defines Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure's southeast edge. Unit 9 encompasses 1.09m northwest-southeast and stands 0.38m above U.8 and an estimated 0.54m above the summit floor.

The superstructure spans 2.75m northwest-southeast and has an earthen floor. The considerable width of its southeastern perimeter wall (U.9, at 1.09m across) coupled with its height of 0.54m above the summit hints that it may have doubled as a bench and support for a perishable upper wall. If so, then this bench would have looked out northwest over the low terraces that likely provided access to the superstructure.

The northwest basal riser, U.10, was cleared completely along its full northeast-southwest length. Its western corner with whatever facing defined Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup> on the southwest was unclear. This was not the case at the north corner where the platform's northeast basal wall (U.14) was identified and traced for 2m to the southeast.

By the conclusion of TS.6, Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup> was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that stood 0.94m and 1.16m high on the northwest and southeast, respectively, covered 9x10.4m, and was aligned roughly 43 degrees. The building's earthen-floored summit was probably reached from the northwest by passing up and over three terraces that are 0.2-0.32m high. The uppermost of these units is 2.48m wide and gives way to a 0.32m-tall stone step-up to the superstructure. The somewhat higher (0.28-0.52m) and narrower (0.22-0.68m) three terraces that bound the platform's southeast flank culminate in a 0.38m-high wall that bounds the superstructure on this

side. The latter foundation is sufficiently broad (1.09m across) to have served both as a foundation for a perishable upper wall and a bench looking out across the superstructure's 2.75m width and over the low northwestern terraces.

The primary material used in constructing Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s facings consists of river cobbles the flatter faces of which are directed outwards. These river-worn stones are mixed in some cases with a few cut blocks (notably in U.7 and 10). The one exception to this pattern was U.11, the second ascending terrace on the northwest, which was composed almost exclusively of faced masonry in the 1.6m-long portion of it exposed near the building's center-line. All of the rocks were set in a mud mortar.

### Time Span 7

Structure 65-1<sup>st</sup> retained its orientation and basal dimensions during this interval. The degree to which the building's terraces and summit were modified now is difficult to discern because of the poor state of late-stage construction. The clearest modifications consist of additions made to 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest flank. In this area a stone-faced step-out (U.15) was appended to the platform's basal riser (U.10) at a point 5m northeast of Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s west corner. Unit 15 is 0.3m high, 2.4m long northeast-southwest, and projects 0.7m northwest from its abutment with U.10.

A surface-level, earthen-floored room may have been erected off Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s west corner. This poorly preserved construction was bounded by low (0.1m high) stone walls (U.16-18) that average 0.35m wide. Units 16-18 delimit the putative room on all sides save the northeast which is bounded by Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>. The compartment contained by U.16-18 and Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup> covers 0.75x1.3m and may have been entered through a 0.5m-wide gap between the northwestern footing (U.18) and the platform's west corner.

On the summit, a 0.09-0.18m-thick layer of hard-compacted soil containing numerous fragments of bajareque (F.7) was laid down over the TS.6 summit floor. Feature 7 extends the full distance between U.9 and 13 and may represent the burnt and tumbled remains of the upper walls that defined the limits of Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s superstructure during TS.6. Set atop this level are the remnants of what might have been two poorly preserved constructions. The clearest of these, F.8, seems to be a wall composed of flat-laid cobbles that stands 0.52m high, measures 0.82m wide northwest-southeast, and rests directly atop U.13, the construction that delimited the TS.6 summit on the northwest. Feature 8 overlaps U.13, 0.37m of the later construction resting on the earlier wall, the rest extending into what had been the space occupied by the superstructure room. Feature 11 may be F.8's counterpart on the southeast. Here another concentration of horizontally set cobbles was found abutting U.9, the former southeast summit wall and bench. Feature 11 is not set atop U.9 but completely covers its northwest face and extends 1.19m northwest into the former summit room. The tops of F.8 and 11 are roughly equivalent in height

and they leave between them an earthen-floored space encompassing 1.06m northwest-southeast. This, presumably, was the width of the summit room during TS.7.

Features 9 and 10 comprise even more tentatively identified late constructions. The former is a dense concentration of small to medium-size cobbles that extends for 1.4m southeast of the platform's southeast basal wall (U.6). Like the other putative constructions discussed above, F.9 has no clear facing; it simply seems to peter out on the southeast. Nonetheless, the flat-laid aspects of most of the rocks comprising F.9 taken together with the way they are tightly packed together suggest that they are part of a late casual construction that covered at least U.6 and 7. This would have made F.9 roughly 0.75m thick.

Feature 10 is another concentration of flat-laid stones, this time set directly against the northwest face of U.13. If F.10 is an actual construction, then it stood 0.43m tall, completely covered U.13, and reduced the width of the third ascending northwest terrace to 1.98m across. Feature 8 stood 0.36m above the inferred top of F.10 and the two may have been part of the same integrated construction.

If all of the features identified above were parts of TS.7 construction, then the last known version of Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup> was an earth-filled, stone-faced platform that was 1.62m tall, encompassed 11.8m northwest-southeast by 9m northeast-southwest, and retained its previous orientation of 43 degrees. The northwest is now mounted by four terraces. The lowest two are unchanged from TS.6 while the third ascending riser is reduced in width to 1.98m. The newly added fourth terrace rises 0.43m above the third terrace's still-ample tread and gives way to a surface that is 1m wide. On the southeast two terraces ascended towards the summit, the basal riser standing 0.75m high and measuring 1.92m wide while its successor retains its height and width of 0.52m and 0.68m, respectively. The southeast summit wall is even wider than it had been in TS.6, covering 2.28m northwest-southeast, and stands 0.52m above the earthen-floored summit room. The latter now measures 1.06m across and is bounded on the northwest by a newly added summit wall that stands 0.52m above the superstructure's floor, 0.36m above the fourth ascending northwest terrace, and covers 0.82m across. The considerable width of the southeast summit wall (2.28m wide) suggests even more strongly than was the case during TS.6 that it doubled as a wall support and bench.

A 0.3m-high stone-faced projection abuts Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s northwest basal terrace 5m northeast of the platform's west corner. This construction is 0.7m wide and 2.4m long. An earthen-floored, surface-level room was apparently erected off the platform's corner late in Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s occupation. This compartment covers 1m<sup>2</sup> and is bounded by stone foundations that stand 0.1m high and measure 0.35m across. The enclosure may have been entered through a 0.5m-wide gap in the construction's north corner.

All architecture raised during TS.7 was fashioned of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. There was apparently relatively little effort devoted to choosing stones with flat faces or of directing those flatter aspects outwards. In general, TS.7 constructions appear to have been relatively casual affairs compared to the architecture that pre-dated them on Str. 65.

### Time Span 8

Deposition of S.3 resumed after Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s abandonment, as much as 0.43m of this soil being laid down now. Stratum 3 was, in turn, blanketed by 0.1-0.21m of hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark brown, root-rich, clay (S.4). Stratum 4 is the humus level formed on S.3. A moderately dense concentration of stones fallen from final-phase architecture (F.12) was noted atop the platform and extended for 0.42m and 1.76m away from the building to the northwest and southeast, respectively.

### Chronological Summary

A few temporally diagnostic sherds indicative of a Middle and Late Preclassic occupation of the Op. 13 area are found mixed with later material in the environs of Str. 65. Evidence of occupation during Late Classic I is more widespread, pottery fragments characteristic of this span being found in excavations conducted around Strs. 55, 56, and 65. Once again, these chronological markers were mixed with materials dating to later intervals and in no case did we find any features or construction units clearly associated with these early periods.

The raising of the earliest versions of each of the investigated edifices (Strs. 55-2<sup>nd</sup>, 56-1<sup>st</sup> [TS2], and 65-3<sup>rd</sup>) is tentatively assigned to the Late Classic II interval as is the formation of the midden located northwest of the last of these buildings. Renovations on Str. 65 seemingly continued during the Late Classic II span, culminating during that platform's TS.5 (the possible formal termination of Str. 65-2<sup>nd</sup>). The final versions of all three excavated buildings were apparently raised near the end of Late Classic II and continued in use into the early part of the Late Classic III interval. Structure 65-1<sup>st</sup> may have been abandoned by this point though there are signs that Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup> and 56-1<sup>st</sup> continued to be modified well into Late Classic III. If the latter two constructions were formally terminated by burying at least parts of their final-phase architecture under large deposits of stones, this set of events likely occurred during Late Classic III.

There are no clear signs of construction or occupation dating to the Early Postclassic or later at Strs. 55, 56, and 65.

### Architectural Summary

The best understood versions of Structures 55, 56, and 65 are all stone-faced platforms that stood 0.8-1.62m tall and were faced primarily with unmodified river cobbles set in a mud

mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were generally directed outwards to create vertical walls and chinking stones were frequently used to fill gaps among the larger rocks and to level out the bases of these walls. A few cut blocks were found intermixed with the cobbles in the components making up Strs. 56-1<sup>st</sup> and 65-1<sup>st</sup>. In the latter case one entire terrace facing may have been fashioned using shaped masonry whereas cut stones were generally found on Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup> at wall corners, especially where the core platform's basal walls intersected.

In each case, stone-faced terraces were built up and against at least two sides of an edifice's core platform. These risers were 0.2-0.38m high by 0.3-2.48m wide and generally ran the full length of the core platform's side against which they were set. Including these terraces, Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup>, 56-1<sup>st</sup>, and 65-1<sup>st</sup> encompassed 49m<sup>2</sup>, 25m<sup>2</sup>, and 106m<sup>2</sup>, respectively, during their final periods of use. Orientations for these edifices range from 43-60 degrees.

The summits of Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup> and 56-1<sup>st</sup> (the two most extensively cleared examples in Op. 13) each supported rooms that were paved at least in part with stones. Structure 55-1<sup>st</sup>'s compartment measured 7m<sup>2</sup> while the two cubicles atop Str. 56-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform encompassed 1.6m<sup>2</sup> and 1.8m<sup>2</sup>. Though no free-standing benches were recorded, the unusually great breadth of at least one of the core platform facings that delineated the summits (minimally 1m wide) suggests that these walls could have served as fill-retaining units, supports for perishable superstructure walls, and as benches. The same case can be made for the southeast facing of Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s core platform which was broad enough (2.28m across in its last known iteration) to have fulfilled comparable functions. Here, however, the summit room was surfaced with earth. The paired doors separated by a stone pillar that gave access to the superstructures of Strs. 65-2<sup>nd</sup> and 65-3<sup>rd</sup> were not replicated in other Op. 13 architecture.

Earthen-floored rooms raised directly on ancient ground surface were set against Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup>, 56-1<sup>st</sup>, and 65-1<sup>st</sup> late in the occupation histories of the aforementioned platforms. These compartments are bounded by stone foundations and the spaces they enclosed vary from 1m<sup>2</sup>-4.6m<sup>2</sup>.

There was a consistent, if variably expressed, pattern of building termination evidenced at all three excavated buildings. The final versions of Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup> and 56-1<sup>st</sup> were at least partly covered by dense piles of flat-laid stones. These rocks might have served as fill for platform renovations that were never completed. Alternatively, the dense piles of cobbles set against and over portions of Strs. 55-1<sup>st</sup> and 56-1<sup>st</sup> could well have been intended to terminate the use of these buildings and to hide their most salient architectural components from view. Another possible example of purposeful termination of a structure is represented by the lens of burned clay (*bajareque*) found extending from the tops of Str. 65-2<sup>nd</sup> constructions. This material at least suggests that Str. 65-2<sup>nd</sup> was burned prior to being covered by architecture associated with its successor, Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>. It is not clear whether that burning was intentional or accidental. The numerous *bajareque* fragments that served as foundations for Str. 65-1<sup>st</sup>'s final set of summit

renovations may point to yet another episode of superstructure destruction antedating the initiation of new construction.