

2004

EPV NOTES MAC Notes 2004 EP Str 5 bu Structure 5

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May 31 - June 4, 2004

Monday

Goals:

- 1) Tour sites
- 2) Hire 3 workers and list others
- 3) Call CJ: Roberto, Plan, WB
- 4) Bank and transfer
- 5) Clear surfaces of Pa2/3

Morning:

1) 35 men were waiting for me this morning! I created a list that will serve as reference for future hires. For now, 5 new men were hired: 2 as long-term hires and 3 as weekly laborers. We will try to be equitable.

Some of the men were recommended by people we know in EP - we will likely favor those people.

2) Successful morning showing the sites to our guests. No major revelations about the sites, however. It became clear that El Cafetal needs to be cleared and "mowed." Starting tomorrow workers will begin chopping at EC. We will assign some of Ruperta's people to this task.

3) Santiago - clearing Patios 2/3. Removing all the loose stones located on the Pa2/3 surfaces. All the toba stone will be separated. The removed stones will aid in the recognition of surface alignments as well as provide construction material for the corte wall.

4) Rain from 1pm - 2:30pm

5) Called from Hondutel: CJ/Bank/Julia

Tuesday

Goals:

- 1) Cabildo meeting
- 2) Speak to Lito's aunt re: fence
- 3) Mapping around EP
- 4) Email CJ conservator names
- 5) Commence clearing of EC

Cabildo meeting went well. We were able to discuss our plans as well as learn about the mayor's plans re: WB, tree-planting, and the Q. Rosario consolidation plans. Gave a copy of FAMSI report. It appears that he has the Turismo office ready for a meeting.

Mapping in morning involved new stations E along the Q. Rosario. We are planning to fill in the SE section of the PAREP topo map. This will involve some tricky mapping in and around EP. With LL being new at this, I am slightly concerned about our progress; however I am confident we can complete the task in time to begin excavations Monday.

The first station set today - S206 (from S203) - was likely measured badly. Subsequent stations will be affected exponentially (i.e., S207-S211). The first set-up was located at S203 which was placed on Str. 5 in the vicinity of many loose rocks. For future work on the S patios of S-001 we will need a better station location than S206.

S206 - Q. Rosario riverbed
S207 - 2nd bridge, N side
S208 - Manhole cover #1S
S209 - Manhole cover #2 S
S210 - Unused houselot
S211 - Unused houselot - S edge

Major rain in late afternoon - soaked completely by monsoon-like winds!

Spoke to Lito's aunt: Doña Menita. She gave complete approval for the removal of her N fence that "hides" Str.s 4 and 5 of S-001. We will also close off the public road running E-W through S-001. She asked that we convince the mayor to remove the tenant now living on municipal land (Juan "bulla").

Wednesday

Goals:

- 1) Map SE corner of topo map
- 2) Remove fence/wall at EP
- 3) Speak to Lito's boss about vacation time.

Thursday

Goals:

- 1) Irma at airport: Taca 11am
- 2) Shopping

Friday

- 1) S-001-Str.01-Rm4: loose rocks removed
- 2) Some clearing of Rm.4
- 3) Human bones recovered

June 7-12, 2004

Monday

PLG

- 1) Op 06/03: S-001-Str05-Rm4
- 2) 3x2m unit, staked w/ EDM
- 3) Multiple burials in fall: modern?

Excavations began at Rm.4 of Str.5 after clearing room of loose rocks had revealed intact interior walls AND human bones (see 06/04/2004 notes). It appears as if there are multiple individuals deposited in/near this room. The trouble is their deposition within a rather disturbed context. They are in post-abandonment architectural tumble. There are several options - the most likely being that the burials are in secondary context, disturbed by modern looting and/or pitting at the site. Doña Balbina (Misael's mother) claims that the rooms of Str. 5 were very deep, and that she had filled them herself with rocks. Her memory suggests that perhaps some uncontrolled excavations in these rooms has already occurred. The level of articulation of the burials will help determine if this context is in fact disturbed.

LTL

- 1) Assigned Op 07
- 2) Op 07/01/A-Y: S-001-Patio 1

SEM and IxM

- 1) Profile drawing
- 2) Have Irma chat w/ Santiago

SEM did not make it to the site until the afternoon so Irma spent the morning helping Larry. After lunch Irma and SEM were able to complete another 1.5m of the profile.

IxM will likely take advantage of this collaboration to ask SEM some questions about archaeology in Honduras.

EEB and MAC:

- 1) Nomenclature:

Floor/surface - Archaeologists

Building - Animal

Platform - Color

Features - Number

hearth, posthole, lens

Special deposit - Number

burial, offering, cache, etc...

- 2) Corte (i.e. Pa03)

Two construction phases at this patio - from cobble to cut-stone masonry. Earlier phase recognized throughout all excavations at EP.

COBBLE phase - Acbi?, Coner I

STUCCO phase - Coner II, T. Coner?

Owens floor - Pa03, stucco, 50cm bgs, later phase

Blom floor - Pa03, stucco, 70cm bgs, near Rasgos 02/03, below Owens

Aqua Marine floor -

Azul floor -

Cangrejo bldg - E edge of corte, Pa03, wall, later phase

Azul platform - E half of corte, Pa03, 2 surfaces, Azul fl., cobble masonry.

Celeste platform - W addition to Azul, Pa03, integral w/ Owens, later phase

Aqua Marine platform - E addition to Azul, Pa03, integral w/ Cangrejo, later phase

Verde platform - W half of corte, later phase, may have an earlier version.

3) Other names

Rojo platform - Pa01, N edge, schist slab masonry, steps

Sapper floor - Pa01, cobble, 1.2m bgs

Yde floor - Pa01, stucco, 60cm bgs

Lunardi floor - Pa04, cobble, 1m bgs

4) Operations

Op 5 - 2004 EP-Pa01 exc.

Op 6 - 2004 EP-Pa03 exc.

Op 7 - 2004 EP soil testing

Op 8 - EP river cut cleaning

5) Mapping

Tuesday

1) Talk to mayor about Teguc

2) Project #'s for Larry and Irma

3) Methodology discussion

PLG

LTL

2 individuals - one old in NE corner and other young in NW corner. Matrix is tumble so they seem to me to be in disturbed context OR "modern" (ie, post-abandonment).

SEM/IxM

Reached 12m mark today - the W façade of Celeste. Tomorrow they should reach the other side of Owens floor.

EEB/MAC

Spent morning mapping S-001 corte. Several observations were made:

A) *Floor/Feature* - a 30cm long stucco fl. dubbed Blom. It underlies Owens and covers an equally short reddish-brown soil (dubbed Feature 003) and 2 oddly placed cobbles (dubbed Feature 002). F002/3 remain enigmatic - especially since they were covered by a stucco floor.

B) *Sedimentary soil*

Consists primarily of a light reddish-brown clayey soil.

C) *Buried A Horizon*

Seems like a possible earthen surface dating to S-001's first phase of construction - underlies Azul/Celeste/Aquamarine and Owens.

D) *Azul/Aquamarine floor*

Met with employee of UNDP from La Entrada: Josué. Seems competent and knowledgeable. Made plea for the consideration of archaeological remains in the regional development plans.

Met with Chappelle - invited him to dinner tomorrow. I think we could use him somehow - I am not sure how, though...

Mapped westerly road in rain. Made the transect down to the Ocote.

Directed river dam work. Will need 3 check-dams (only 1 works fully) and a new drain canal for water that flows off the E side of S-001.

Wednesday

Goals:

- 1) Begin Op 05/01
- 2) Map Ocote's E terrace
- 3) Speak to Mayor

Early in the morning, it became clear that the Rosario would have to be further controlled. Placed all workers on digging channels to better direct water away from Corte and trench. We really need a back-hoe/tractor!

Began Op 05/01. Broke unit down in 4 1x1m units (E.U. A-D). Ca. 1st 30cm are recent.

In Op 06/03:

All bones in such area are POSSIBLY post-abandonment or the results of looting. Some indications of a Postclassic were first contemplated for this site/region.