

2004

EPC NOTES 06 Pamela Geller Field Notes 2004 EP Str 5 disturbed burials Structure 5

Pamela Geller

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



Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

Geller, Pamela, "EPC NOTES 06 Pamela Geller Field Notes 2004 EP Str 5 disturbed burials Structure 5" (2004). *Four Valleys Archive*. Paper 95915.
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/honduras/95915>

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.

6.3.1 EXCAVATION UNIT A

2004.6.1
JUNE 7, 2004

2M x 2M

PATIO 3'S STRUCTURE 5, ROOM 4; ROOM faces into Patio 1 (on its South edge - the south, east, and west walls of this unit are walls comprised of ^{cut} stone blocks, varying in size. The South wall is slumping)

Basic goal of this lot was to clean out the room filled in w/ wall tumble and soil. In the process of doing this human remains were first discovered in the NE corner (June 4, 2004)

After discovery of bones the bottom of the unit was covered for the weekend. ~~Initial~~ ^{Preliminary} inspection of the human remains showed them to be very fragmented and representative of varied skeletal elements. Unstaid process is large suggestive of male characteristics. Dental ~~wear~~ ^{wear} is apparent and appears extreme (dentin exposure), suggestive of dental disease or an elderly individual. Cleaning ~~the~~ bones will give a better idea. Identified as Individual #1. Preliminary analysis was not yet completed; will wait until next year. Thus far, individual 1 appears to be male? ~~robust~~ (robusticity) and 30-50 (dental wear and endocranial fusion)

On June 7, excavation resumed. Lot 1 was initiated to level out the unit's floor to the depth of where the bones were discovered. In the process of doing so more human remains were encountered in the NW corner of the unit. This was determined to be a different individual - Individual #2 - The individual in question was younger than Individ #1 as evidenced by permanent dentition w/ incomplete roots ^{Also, these teeth} ~~had~~ had not yet erupted. REMAINS INCLUDE RIB FRAGMENTS, VERTEBRAE, CRANIAL FRAGMENTS, HUMERAL HEAD, AND TEETH

Excavation down into Lot 1 still reveals a mixed context with modern debris. Because bone had been found in this unit, each bucket was screened. Artifacts are few and far between - some ceramics and a single piece of obsidian (flake)

6.3.1

EXC. UNIT A

2004.6.2
JUNE 7, 2004

Opening elevations were taken in four corners, and they were shot in with the EDM. The SW corner stake is serving as a datum w/ string attached at the ground surface.

OPENING ELEVATIONS
Nothing
Easting
Elevation

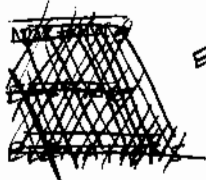
	NW	NE	SW	SE
Nothing	821.87	821.88	819.95	819.86
Easting	470.46	472.53	470.48	472.51
Elevation	1011.40	1011.51	1011.58	1011.67

CLOSING ELEVATIONS

(NW)	(NE)	(SW)	(SE)
1010.43	1010.53	1010.65	1010.71

IN LAYING OUT THE 2x2m — ADJACENT TO THIS IS EXCAVATION UNIT B A 1x2 TO THE NORTH.

OPENING ELEVATIONS FOR THIS UNIT ARE ALSO NOTED HERE



EXC. UNIT B
LOT 3

SW IS NW OPENING ELEVATION NOTED FOR EXC. UNIT A (SEE ABOVE)

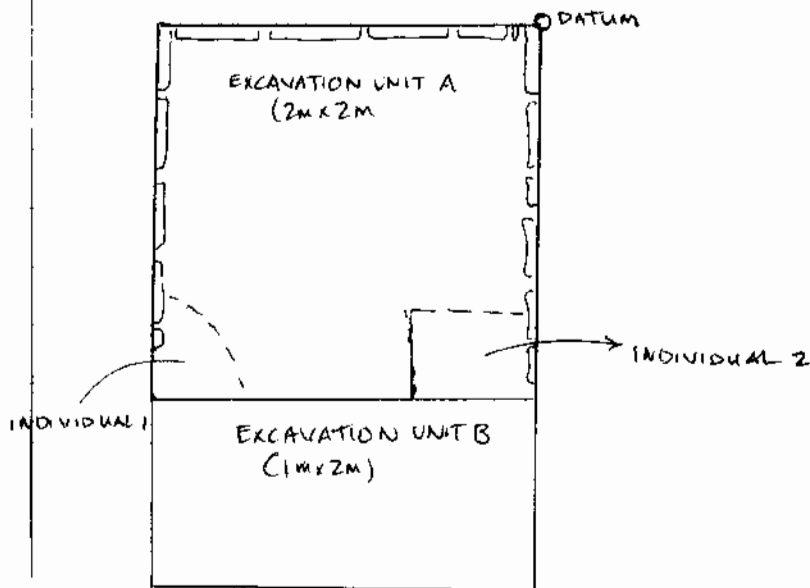
SE IS NE " "

	NE	NW
N	822.90	822.94
E	472.58	470.53
Z	1011.34	1011.39

cranial fragments of individual 2 were encountered first. VERTICALLY SPEAKING beneath this in no logical order were ribs, cranial fragments, vert, teeth, and an unfur humeral head

These were numbered 1-13 depending on the order of their exhumation.

THE MAP TO THE LEFT SHOWS THE BONES GENERAL AREA (SEE NEXT PAGE)



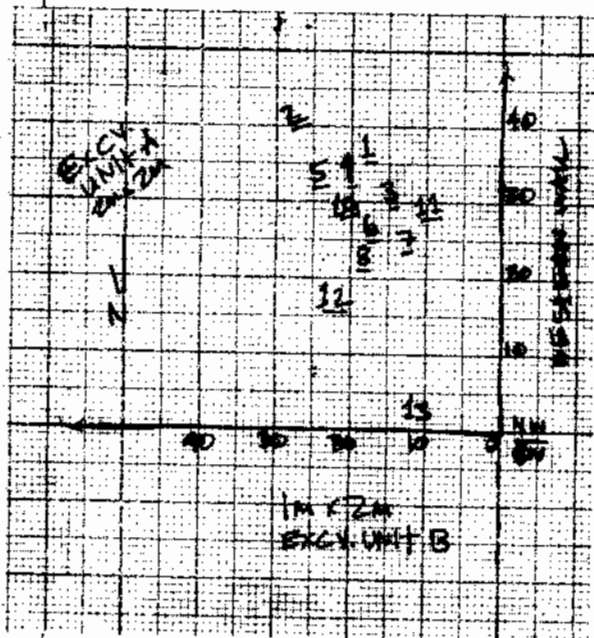
6.3.1 EXC. UNIT A

Zoo: 6.3

JUNE 10, 2004

OF SUCH DISTURBANCE IS THE CASE, BODY POSITION IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE.

AS AN ADDITIONAL NOTE, ANIMAL BONE - POSSIBLY CHICKEN OR RODENT WAS ALSO FOUND IN THIS NW CORNER



INDIVIDUAL #2

- 1) rib fragments and some vertebrae
- 2) THORACIC VERT (billowy body)
- 3) Cranial frags
- 4) R? parietal
- 5) MOLAR LM_1 $3/4$ roots complete
- 6) INCISOR L? I_1 slight wear roots complete; slight calculus on mesial humeral head
- 7) ~~NUMERICAL ERRORS~~
- 8) Ribs - no observed fractures
- 9) NUMBERED WRONG
- 10) AREA of teeth (w/perm & decidu)
- 11) CERVICAL VERT
- 12) C-1 & first rib, metaphysis
- 13) Lumbar? vert

possible body position - on back ~~on back~~ chin resting on chest explaining presence of teeth w/ ribs and vert, and why cranial were encountered first. Thrown into fill and shifting / settling over centuries may have further disturbed. However lower half of body not found in this lot

Preliminary analysis suggest individual was a sub-adult possibly between 5-7 years of age.

INDIVIDUAL 1

2004.6.4

June 4-?, 2004

On June 10, 2004, Individual 1's bones were cleaned & preliminarily analyzed. Not all bags were opened, however, as I ran out of time.

Thus far, elements of the entire skeleton are represented—albeit rather fragmentary. It seems that the skull may be able to be reconstructed.

Of note, were the extreme dental wear and one cranial fragment w/ lambdoidal and sagittal sutures that are fused endocranially.

Bones were found all over the entire unit.—in the NE corner of exc. unit A, the S~~W~~ corner, and the west wall only 7cm beneath the ground surface. From the sidewall were taken a femoral shaft, maxillary fragments, teeth, a clavicle, parietal fragments, and unidentified miscellaneous. This individual was definitely disturbed in recent history.

INDIVIDUAL 2

2004.6.5

June 10, 2004

- * CLEANING OF BONES AND (VERY) PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS. MATRIX WAS A CLAYEY SOIL THAT STUCK TO BONES
- * INDIVIDUAL #2 - THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS LARGELY FOUND IN THE NW CORNER OF EXCAVATION UNIT A. FUTURE EXCAVATION OF EXCAVATION UNIT B MAY YIELD ADDITIONAL HUMAN REMAINS.
- * INVENTORY: DENTITION INCLUDES A TOTAL OF 13 TEETH - 12 ARE PERMANENT AND THERE APPEARS TO BE ONE DECIDUOUS MOLAR, THE ROOT IS BROKEN OFF LEAVING ONLY THE CROWN AND THERE IS WEAR POLISH. PERMANENT TEETH DO NOT YET HAVE COMPLETE ROOTS, W/ THE EXCEPTION OF THE INCISORS

VERTEBRAE: ² CERVICAL AND 2 THORACIC, AS WELL AS FRAGMENTS C-1 (ATLAS) BODIES APPEAR BILLOWY STILL. ALSO POSSIBLE LUMBAR WHICH HAS DISINTEGRATED

RIBS: REPRESENTED BY FRAGMENTS, INCLUDING THE FIRST RIB
NO APPARENT FRACTURES

CRANIUM: ^{LEFT} TEMPORAL W/ PETRUS PYRAMID AND MASTOID PROCESS (THE LATER IS DAMAGED); PARIETAL; BASILAR (UNFUSED) - FITS/ARTICULATES W/ C-1

HUMERUS: UNFUSED HUMERAL HEAD (LEFT), NO SHAFT RECOVERED

* AS EVIDENCED BY DENTITION AND SKELETAL DEVELOPMENT, INDIVIDUAL 2 WAS A SUBADULT AGE 5-7 YEARS. (NEED TO DOUBLE CHECK THIS AGE RANGE)

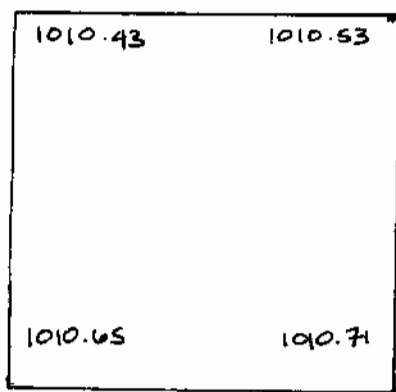
BODY POSITION ■ IS UNKNOWN THOUGH 2 POSSIBILITIES ARE PRESENTED

① IF THE UPPER WAS INTENTIONALLY PLACED INTO THIS FILL THAN IT IS POSSIBLE THAT S/HE WAS ON HIS/HER BACK W/ THE ^{CHIN} ~~HEAD~~ RESTING ON THE CHEST, THUS EXPLAINING WHY TEETH WOULD HAVE DRIFTED DOWN AND FOUND ADMIST THE RIBS. HOWEVER, WHERE IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S LOWER HALF? HOW DISTURBED IS THIS BURIAL?

② THE INDIVIDUAL IS HIGHLY DISTURBED. ~~REMOVED~~ AS A RESULT OF MODERN ACTIVITIES (I.E. LOOTING, FARMING, ETC)

AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY LOT 1 WAS TAKEN DOWN AT ITS LOWEST POINT IN THE NE CORNER OF THE 2M X 2M UNIT. AFTER BONES WERE DISCOVERED ~~XXXX~~ THE REST OF THE UNIT WAS LEVELED DOWN TO THIS LOWEST POINT. AFTER LEVELING WAS COMPLETE LOT 2 WAS BEGAN. IN HOPES OF FINDING THE ROOM'S PLASTER FLOOR AND FURTHER DEFINING THE WALLS OF THE ROOM.

OPENING ELEVATIONS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

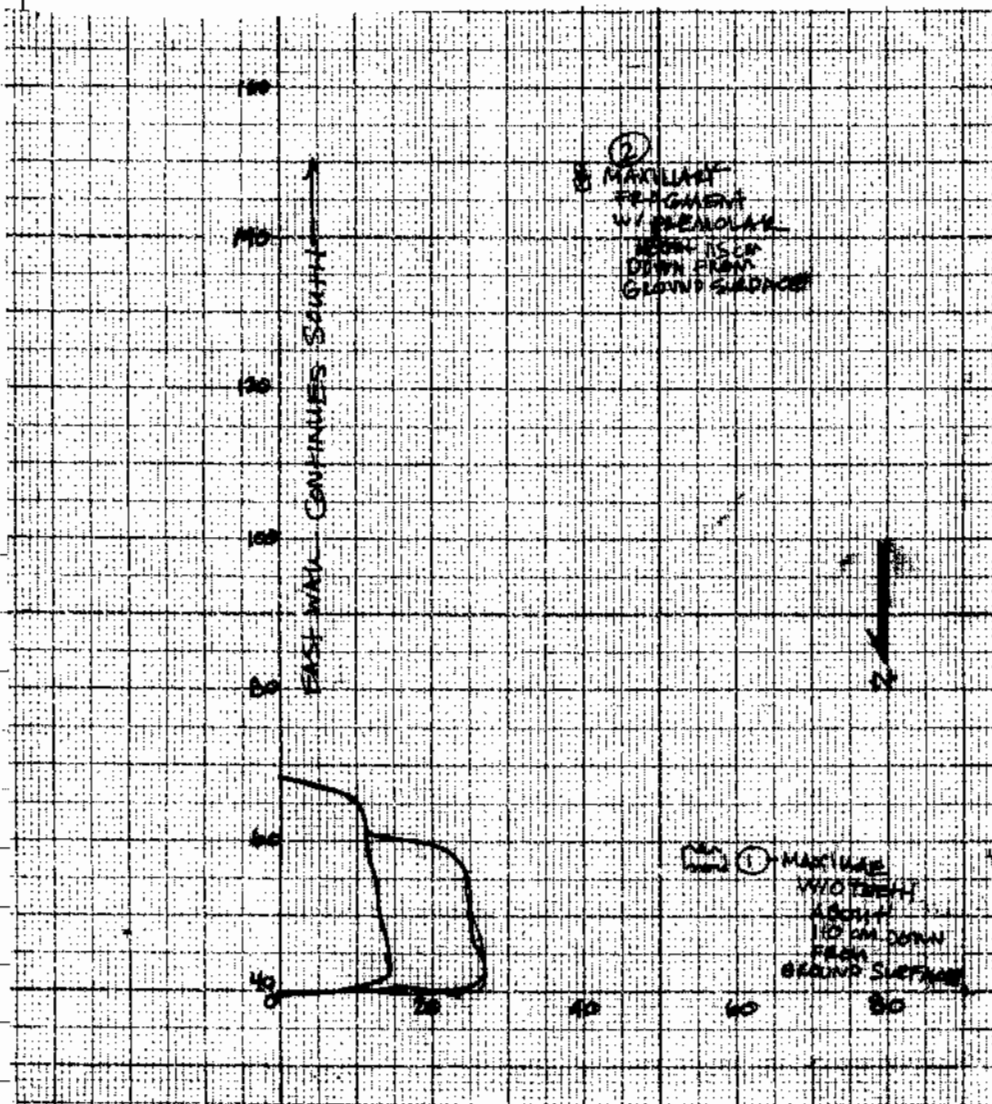


UNFORTUNATELY, SOON AFTER THIS LOT COMMENCED, IT BEGAN TO RAIN — HARD. THE PLASTIC TARPS POSITIONED ABOVE THE UNIT WERE UNABLE TO KEEP THE UNIT DRY. BANANA LEAVES WERE PLACED ON THE UNITS BOTTOM, A STRONGER CHAMPA WAS ERECTED, AND EXCAVATIONS CONTINUED IN EXCAVATION UNIT B.

EXCAVATION IN LOT 2 THUS FAR REVEALS LITTLE DIFFERENCE FROM LOT 1 — CLAYEY SOIL (ESP. WHEN WET) THAT IS LIGHT TO MEDIUM BROWN. SMALL TO MEDIUM COBBLES ARE INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT AS WELL AS LARGER CUT STONES THAT TUMBLED FROM THE ROOM'S WALLS.

HUMAN REMAINS CONTINUED TO BE FOUND IN THIS LOT FROM THE SAME NE & NW CORNERS IN LOT 1. THE BONE FOUND IN ASSOCIATION W/ LOT 2 WAS A MOLAR ASSOCIATED WITH INDIVIDUAL #2. A $\frac{1}{8}$ " SCREEN WAS USED. THIS MOLAR WAS WELL PRESERVED. ITS ROOTS WERE NOT YET COMPLETE, SUGGESTING IT BELONGED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS A SUBADULT AT THE TIME OF DEATH. LOT 2 ALSO CONTAINS THE REMAINS OF INDIVIDUAL 1, REPRESENTED BY A MAXILIARY CENTRAL INCISOR — POSSIBLY A RIGHT ONE. IN ADDITION TO HAVING SLIGHT TO MODERATE

CALCULUS, THIS TOOTH POSSIBLY HAS LINGUAL ^{SURFACE} ABRASION OF THE MAXILIARY ANTERIOR TEETH (LSAMAT) AS EVIDENCED BY WEAR POLISH ON THE LINGUAL SURFACE. THE INCISOR ALSO HAS EXTREME WEAR W/ DENTIN EXPOSURE. THERE IS A CHIP ON THE LATERAL SIDE THAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INTENTIONAL MODIFICATION, THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE. THE CHIP DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE TOOTH'S BUCCAL SIDE, BUT ONLY APPEARS ON ITS LINGUAL. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF LEH (AT LEAST ONE EPISODE) POSSIBLY 2. WHILE THIS TOOTH WAS RECOVERED FROM THE SCREEN, THE TWO OTHER ELEMENTS WERE FOUND IN SHU AND PROVENIENCED.



② THE PERIOLAR IS STILL LOCATED IN PART OF THE MAXILLAE IT HAS EXTREME PERIOLAR WEAR AND MODERATE CALCULUS ~~FRAGMENT~~ RIGHT FIRST THIS PM'S MAX FRAG FIT W/ THE MAXILLAE ① AS WELL AS MAXILLAE FOUND BY WORKERS ON JUNE 4

ALL BELONG TO INDIV.# WHO WAS WIDELY DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE 2K2 & QUITE POSSIBLY INTER EXC. UNIT B.

THIS UNIT REPRESENTS A 1m x 2m EXTENSION TO THE NORTH OF EXCAVATION UNIT A (A 2m x 2m)

GOAL OF UNIT IS TO EXPOSE THE WALLS OF ROOM 4 AND QUITE POSSIBLY THE DOORWAY LEADING ONTO PATIO 1. SECONDILY, HUMAN REMAINS WERE EXHUMED FROM THE NE & NW CORNERS OF EXCAVATION UNIT A; THUS EXC. UNIT B IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL HUMAN REMAINS WERE RECOVERED.

THIS ~~UNIT~~^{LOT}, AS WAS THE CASE FOR EXC. UNIT A'S LOT 1 DEMONSTRATED A SIGNIFLCANT AMOUNT OF MODERN CULTURAL DISTURBANCE. JUST PRIOR TO EXCAVATION OF UNITS A & B, CORN AND SQUASH WERE GROWING ON TOP OF STRUCTURE 5 AND THROUGHOUT ALL OF PATIO 3. EXCAVATING DOWN INTO LOT 3 REVEALED A MIXED CONTEXT W/ MODERN DEBRIS, INCLUDING TRASH AND ANIMAL BONE (EG. CHICKEN)

SOIL WAS LIGHT TO MEDIUM BROWN AND CLAYEY, THOUGH THE LATTER MAY BE THE RESULT OF THE HEAVY RAINS. BOTH EXC. UNITS A & B WERE TARPED TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM AS THIS RAINY SEASON SEEMS AS THOUGH IT IS GETTING OFF TO A VERY WET START.

ALL BUCKETS WERE SCREENED AS HUMAN REMAINS HAD BEEN FOUND IN EXC. UNIT A, INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT THIS LEVEL. ONLY A FEW FRAGMENTARY BONE AND CERAMICS WERE RECOVERED
 OPENING ELEVATION WERE TAKEN AT THE GROUND SURFACE. THEY WERE SHOT IN WITH THE EDM (MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2004)

	SW	SE	NW	NE
NORTHING	821.87	821.88	822.94	822.90
EASTING	470.46	472.53	470.53	472.58
ELEVATIONS	1011.40	1011.51	1011.39	1011.34

* THE SW & SE MEASUREMENTS ARE THE SAME AS EXC. UNIT A'S NW & NE
 THE DATUM TO MEASURE ELEVATIONS IS FROM GROUND SURFACE AT EXC. UNIT A'S SW CORNER

CRANIAL MATERIAL WAS FOUND IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE UNIT: 15CM FROM THE N EDGE OF THE UNIT? 17CM FROM THE EASTERN EDGE & 7CM BELOW GROUND SURFACE.