10 / *The Invisible Maya: Population History and Archaeology at Santa Rita Corozal*

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The archaeological site of Santa Rita Corozal is located in northern Belize on a bluff overlooking Chetumal Bay, halfway between the Hondo and New rivers. The archaeological ruins both lie under and encircle Corozal Town, Belize's third-largest modern community. Santa Rita Corozal has been continuously occupied from the Early Preclassic Period (ca. 1200 B.C.) through the present day (D. Chase 1981, 1985, 1986; D. Chase and A. Chase 1986a, 1986b, 1988:10–11). This history of occupation alone makes it an excellent site from which to view changing population dynamics. Santa Rita Corozal is also an interesting demographic case because most of its constructions are virtually invisible on the surface. Rather than the tall, raised constructions common in the Maya lowlands, many of the buildings at Santa Rita Corozal were only slightly raised or not elevated at all above the surrounding terrain. Today such buildings are indicated only by the line-of-stone foundations that occasionally protrude above the ground surface. The site thus offers a cautionary note for those who would attempt population reconstructions without intensive and area-wide excavation in "vacant terrain." Beyond these factors, the Santa Rita Corozal population reconstructions are somewhat unusual because they use only data with clear contextual evidence for occupation and because the demographic reconstructions can be roughly cross-checked with ethnohistoric data.

Santa Rita Corozal is best known for its late-facet Late Postclassic (A.D. 1300–1530) occupation, primarily brought to light by the early work of Gann (1900, 1918) but also through the efforts of later researchers (Green 1973; Pring 1973; Sidrys 1976, 1983) and the Corozal Postclassic Project (D. Chase 1981, 1982; D. and A. Chase 1986a, 1988). During this Late Postclassic era, it is believed, the site served as the capital of the Maya territory of Chetumal (J. E. S. Thompson 1972:6; D. Chase 1982:12–15, 571–73; D. and A. Chase 1986b:19, 1988:65–68). Late Postclassic occupation at Santa Rita Corozal is extensive, and material remains from this era are abundant and varied. Thus, this site provides a rare opportunity to view archaeologically a very late (indeed, a protohistoric) Maya community. While the Late Postclassic occupation was clearly a prominent one, earlier time periods, especially the late Preclassic and Early Classic, also manifest significant activity. Even though there is nearly continuous habitation of the Santa Rita area from 1200 B.C. to the present, population densities, kinds of constructions, artifactual remains, and cultural affiliations clearly change over time (see A. Chase and D. Chase 1987c; D. Chase and A. Chase 1986a, 1988).

Reconstruction of Population History at Santa Rita Corozal

The Corozal Postclassic Project was developed to answer specific questions concerning Late Postclassic Maya society; thus, excavation at Santa Rita Corozal was intentionally geared toward the discovery of late-facet Late Postclassic remains (A.D. 1300–1531). For this period, there is at first a close correspondence between Santa Rita Corozal and the site of Mayapan, to the north in Yucatan, particularly in terms of nonmonumental architecture and pottery. Santa Rita Corozal, however, was still occupied and prospering following the fall of Mayapan ca. A.D. and was not abandoned until the arrival of the Spaniard Davila in A.D. 1531.

During the four field seasons of excavation by the Corozal Postclassic Project (D. Chase 1982, 1985, 1986; D. Chase and A. Chase 1986a, 1988), investigations were aimed at testing examples of six defined structure types (D. Chase 1986:Figure 10.2) in an effort to understand the site's social composition. Investigations were undertaken in approximately 20% of the mapped and extant constructions (a total of 43 structures) and were specifically designed to exploit locales that were most likely to produce heavy Late Postclassic occupation. Most of this research involved areal stripping and deeper penetration of selected structures or areas, rather than simple test probes. Whenever possible, at least 50%, and often 100%, of the selected structures was exposed. Test excavations, generally 1.5 × 1.5 m, were expanded to areal exposures in all but two cases. Each

structure was also axially trenched to ascertain its construction sequence and to identify related special deposits. Some structures were excavated solely by 1.5-m-wide trench. This research design and excavation methodology led to the discovery of deposits and construction activity from all known periods. Excavations frequently were stopped intentionally prior to the extensive exposure of early levels, but smaller excavations to bedrock were almost always conducted. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of the special deposits and constructions recovered in Corozal Postclassic Project investigations were Late Postclassic. Yet, the deeper cuts and areal tests that encountered earlier remains make it possible to estimate earlier population (Table 10.1).

Assessing the total extent and population of Santa Rita Corozal from surface remains is problematic. Most of the excavations that produced evidence of significant Late Postclassic occupation found associated structures composed merely of line-of-stone foundations; many of these buildings were impossible to see before excavation, as there was no surface mounding or protruding base wall (for similar constructions in Tayasal see A. Chase 1983:565–66, 768, 786, 816, 828). A similar situation has been noted for a variety of other lowland Maya sites (see, for example, E. W. Andrews IV 1965; Kurjack 1974; Bronson 1968; A. Chase, this volume; Pyburn, this volume). Because of the large number of these "hidden" or "invisible" structures, population counts based solely on visible mounds at Santa Rita Corozal would considerably underestimate the actual number of structures and individuals at the site. Thus, tables in this chapter include at least minimal allowances for invisible structures; although these allowances may seem large to some researchers, the Santa Rita Corozal data clearly indicate that minimally 25% and more likely 50% of Maya structures are invisible to the archaeologist. Significantly, the term *invisible building* within this discussion implies constructions with actual building foundations revealed after excavation. Another potential class of invisible building includes those with no stone foundation; these may have added greatly to structure and population totals, but there is no simple way to account for them. No adjustment has been made for buildings with no foundations, as all clearing excavations in nonbulldozed areas provided at least some evidence of floors or foundations.

The high proportion of invisible structures estimated for Santa Rita Corozal may be partially attributable to the large amount of areal stripping that was undertaken. It became possible after seven years of work at the site to predict fairly accurately where invisible constructions would be found. It also became apparent that certain parts of Santa Rita Corozal were literally covered with hidden constructions that areal excavation would have revealed but that mapping alone could not record, even when area were cleared of growth. Not only did excavations in apparently vacant areas produce evidence of construction and occupation, but areas with

only one mapped structure generally were transformed into groups of at least four buildings following detailed excavation. In many cases areal stripping also revealed a hidden construction with little in the way of associated artifactual material. In these cases dating was possible because of the larger sample of artifacts present in the area-wide clearing or the deposits encountered in deeper cuts; sherd densities recovered in probes would not have adequately mirrored the presence of such constructions. Four seasons of excavation, however, made it abundantly evident that at least as many structures are hidden at Santa Rita Corozal as could be recorded from surface mapping. These constructions are not only Postclassic in date. Sometimes they reveal a series of temporally stratified constructions even though nothing was visible on the ground surface. Interestingly, the nineteenth-century population at Santa Rita Corozal, although widespread, is even more invisible than that of the Late Postclassic Maya, as architecture datable to this era lacks the base walls used during the Postclassic Period. In many cases historic occupation can only be inferred based on the large amount of reconstructable refuse found in areal clearing. Unless one can show that Santa Rita Corozal is a unique site, a conclusion not supported by the data, then a similarly high percentage of hidden constructions must exist at most other sites in the southern Maya lowlands.

The data from Santa Rita Corozal suggest other problems for techniques commonly used by archaeologists to make population reconstructions. Not only are many of the constructions invisible prior to excavation, but surface sherds were found to be either absent or misleading in suggesting the date of materials below the ground. In addition, excavations frequently revealed that fill sherds were significantly earlier than the actual date of a construction based on sealed special deposits such as burials or caches, a situation potentially leading to incorrect dating; only large-scale areal stripping and/or the recovery of associated special deposits allowed secure dates to be established for various constructions. Because of these problems, dating in the tables in this chapter was based on archaeological remains that were well defined contextually, such as the contents of primary deposits like refuse dumps, burials, or caches; dating was not predicated solely on the presence or absence of sherds from particular temporal eras. If sherds alone had been used, percentages of occupation for each period would have increased substantially, as nearly all excavations produced isolated sherds from more than one period.

Other problems inherent in the creation of population histories for any site are the establishment of the base unit (most often a house or household) from which to extrapolate population size and the determination of the contemporaneity of occupation within a single phase. The basic unit for many population studies is the household, but what defines a household archaeologically and how many people could be expected to live in each one? At Santa Rita Corozal nearly all excavated constructions contained artifacts suggestive of domestic residence. Only 6.6% of the in-

vestigated constructions suggested either ritual or administrative use, exclusive of residential use. No evidence was found for separate kitchens or outbuildings; perhaps such buildings did not have stone foundations at Santa Rita Corozal. Many archaeologists use a 5.6 person/household figure in the Maya area (cf. Ashmore 1981b:65), even though there are ethnohistoric references indicating figures as high as 10, 25, or 100 people/protohistoric household (Hellmuth 1977:438). Given the problems of the assignation of specific function(s) to buildings, the difficulty of defining what is a house, and the varying estimates of people per household, the Santa Rita Corozal population estimates were made using a high percentage of buildings (all but the 6.6% known to be nonresidential) but a low number of individuals per household (5.6), even though these figures are not without their own problems (for discussion of figures for people per household see Ashmore 1981b:65 and Kurjack 1974:94; for estimates of residential buildings see Haviland 1965:19 [Tikal], and A. L. Smith 1962:265 and Pollock 1962:15 [Mayapan]). Although there is variation in building size, this was not used as a factor in calculating population for two reasons: first, it is clear that most Postclassic multiroom constructions at Santa Rita served more than simply a "residential" function, and second, it is believed that the exercise of population reconstruction already has enough problematic variables without the addition of yet another, seemingly insoluble one.

Although contemporaneity is extremely important for any population reconstruction, it, too, is a difficult problem to tackle. Dating at Maya sites is generally limited to the delineation of phases of time that vary from 100 to 600 years in length. If little or no ceramic change is definable within a phase, it becomes virtually impossible to state which buildings were occupied at any one point in time. Arguments based on the presence of rebuilding at a single locus are likewise problematic, as there are no absolute associations between amount of construction/modification and length of time that such efforts may have taken. Secure dating of either carbon or phase seriation also did little to provide clues toward the use-life of single constructions and subsequent rebuilding efforts, at least at Santa Rita Corozal. Until archaeological techniques for dating become more precise, any estimate of the number of years buildings were generally used is likely to be a gross estimate at best. To allow comparisons of population histories among sites in the Maya area, however, a tentative approximation of structure use-life must be made (see Culbert et al., this volume); even if such an estimate is incorrect, its definition permits intersite comparison of the various computations. For Late Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal, it is my belief that most constructions were occupied contemporaneously, at least 60–70% at any one point in time. There is substantial rebuilding activity on the majority of constructions, and all evidence indicates that the site reached its zenith just prior to 1531. For the 230-year time period assigned for the late facet of the Late Postclassic Period at

Santa Rita Corozal, this would indicate a use-life of roughly 150 years for each building. This use-life has been arbitrarily extended to lesser-known, earlier time periods.

Perhaps the greatest problem in attempting to define the full extent of the Maya occupation of Santa Rita Corozal is that associated with the extensive site destruction. Because of modern housing efforts in Corozal Town and also to natural erosion of the land directly near the bay, significant portions of the settlement of Santa Rita Corozal are difficult to evaluate. Therefore, to some extent estimates of settlement must be extrapolated from areas in which destruction is less evident.

Although determining the population peaks and ebbs at Santa Rita Corozal is not a difficult task given the archaeological data base, establishment of population numbers for temporal eras at the site is difficult, not only for all the usual reasons, but also because of the specific problems caused by site destruction and the difficulty in the surface assessment of invisible occupation. Nevertheless, several lines of evidence can be used to reconstruct diachronically the prehistoric population history of the site. In Santa Rita's case, perhaps the best way to proceed is to compare the results of archaeological evidence gained from mapping and excavation with that garnered from historic information concerning the site's population.

The Population of Protohistoric Santa Rita Corozal

Santa Rita Corozal is located within the ethnohistoric Maya province of Chetumal. As noted earlier, the site was most likely the capital of that territory. Chetumal was selected as the location for the Spanish settlement of Villa Real and was occupied for 18 months before being abandoned in 1532. In spite of this occupation, the only estimates for the number of houses at Chetumal comes from an account by a Spaniard, G. Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdez, who never actually visited the Maya center. He described the area as containing 2000 houses surrounded by rich fields (1851–55:32–36). If one assumes that Oviedo's estimate is correct and that he is identifying houses and not solely buildings, then a figure of 5.6 persons/house would indicate a contact-era population of more than 11,200. If one lessens this estimate by 6.66% to account for the potential inclusion of nonresidential buildings, the population estimate (10,461) for early historic Chetumal would still be greater than the modern population of Corozal Town, listed as 6899 in 1983 (Government Information Services 1983).

Merely counting the absolute number of constructions at Santa Rita Corozal to double-check Oviedo's numbers is problematic, given the site destruction and the abundance of invisible structures. However, estimates of

density of construction in certain sectors of the site are possible. Mapping has suggested that the most dense Late Postclassic occupation was in a 2.526-km² area in the center of Santa Rita Corozal; this was surrounded by an area of slightly lower density occupation (estimated at 50% of the core) incorporating at least an additional 2.5 km² as well as pockets of settlement in other areas such as along the bay.

In order to estimate the Late Postclassic population size at Santa Rita Corozal, a series of calculations was made based on structure counts from two segments of the site—the South Intermediate and the Northeast sectors. Each sector was found to mirror the other in derived population and structure counts. Within each sector, an approximately 200-m² area had been intensively excavated and tested and a broader area (500 m²) had been mapped as well as possible. Calculations in the two sectors can be based on both spatial areas (see Map 10.1 for the South Intermediate sector).

Buildings were counted in each of two spatial units (see Table 10.2), and a calculation was then made of structures/km². Based on archaeological work in both the Northeast and South Intermediate sectors of the site, estimates were made of the percentage of invisible structures likely to be missing in each of these areas—minimally gauged at 50% and 100% of the current counts, respectively. With these figures corrected, calculations of structures/km² were made as an extension of the 200-m² figure and the lower 500-m² figure. An adjusted proportion of non-Postclassic structures, determined based on excavations in each area, was eliminated from the sample. This number was further decreased by 6.66% to account for purely administrative or ritual constructions. It was estimated that 66.22% of Postclassic buildings were coeval in their use. A figure of 5.6 persons/household was used, in spite of certain ethnohistoric evidence that there may have been larger numbers in single households, in an effort to under-, rather than over-, estimate population. Based on these calculations, the total projected population for the 5-km² area of Late Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal would have ranged from 8722 to 4958. It should be noted, however, that these figures are minima, as the site area was most likely larger; even so, they are remarkably close to the population numbers of contemporary Corozal Town, but slightly lower than that derived from Oviedo's description of Chetumal (Chactemal). Of the two calculations, I favor the higher figure, established for the more intensively excavated areas. However, a median population figure of 6840 for late-facet Late Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal is used as the basis for making the calculations in Table 10.1.

These late Postclassic population calculations for Santa Ritz Corozal also bear some comparison to its northern sister site of Mayapan in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Mayapan was a Late Postclassic Maya capital city and the primate Late Postclassic center in the northern lowlands. It was the seat of unity or joint government for the lowland Maya provinces until its

destruction around A.D. 1450 (Pollock 1962:1, 4). Mapping at Mayapan indicated the existence of 4015 structures within a 4.2-km² area inside the wall (A. L. Smith 1962:173). Of these, at least 2100 were presumed to be residences (A. L. Smith 1962:265). These figures were used to project a population of 11,000 to 12,000 (Pollock 1962:15).

There are, however, several reasons to believe that Late Postclassic Mayapan may have had a larger number of inhabitants. First, the estimate of only 2100 residences out of the total of 4000 structures may be too low; it is a much lower proportion than that suggested for Late Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal or for the earlier Classic Period at other well-investigated sites (Haviland 1965:19). Second, and perhaps more significant, it is quite possible that Mayapan also contained invisible constructions. Work at other sites in the Yucatan Peninsula has indicated the predominance of such constructions (E. W. Andrews IV 1965:37; Kurjack 1974:29, 94) as did our own at Santa Rita Corozal. A. L. Smith (1962:265) noted that "about one-third of the estimated 2100 dwellings at Mayapan are not associated with other structures." If the Santa Rita experience that single-surface structures were almost invariably associated with invisible structures could be extrapolated to Mayapan, then minimally 700 other residences probably existed based on Smith's own figures, thus yielding a low population figure of 15,680. However, the greater density of mapped structures at Mayapan suggests that the percentage of invisible constructions at this site might not be as high. If one increases the percentage of domestic structures at Mayapan solely by decreasing the estimate for mapped nonresidential structures from roughly 50% to 6.66%, as found at Santa Rita, and then assumes the same figure of 5.6 individuals/dwelling, then the population within the walled area of Mayapan would have been at least 20,988.

That a larger population existed at Mayapan than at Santa Rita Corozal is to be expected, given Mayapan's position as the capital of a confederation of provinces and not just of one territory. The relative density of mapped construction at Mayapan, prior to any estimates for invisible construction, is roughly double that of the mapped 500-m² estimated structure density at Santa Rita Corozal of 400 and is 34% higher than that of the mapped density estimate for the 200-m² area projected at 712.5. This apparently indicates that the vacant-terrain estimates employed at Santa Rita provide densities well within the realm of those extant during the Postclassic Period at other major centers and that, if anything, the Santa Rita Corozal estimates may be too low.

Population Trends Over Time

The relative population history (see Table 10.1) covers all time periods at Santa Rita Corozal and was determined following the procedures outlined

by Culbert and Kosakowsky (1985), which compensate for differing lengths of time in each archaeological phase. As mentioned previously, dating at Santa Rita Corozal is based on assessments of primary deposits. For comparative purposes, Table 10.1, based on excavation data, is complemented by Table 10.3, which was compiled exclusively from burial data. A comparison of information from structures and burials should reveal the reliability of either sample. In contrast to the population history garnered from structural data, the burial data appear to overemphasize the Preclassic population and underestimate the Protoclassic and Terminal Classic occupation. Part of the difference is surely due to divergent burial practice(s) following the Preclassic and Classic periods. Indeed, the transition from Classic to Postclassic is still not adequately defined even in well-excavated northern Belize (A. Chase and D. Chase 1985). The overestimation of the Late Preclassic population based on burials is easily understood, especially if one realizes that the same settlement locales were used during the Preclassic and Postclassic periods (A. Chase 1979, 1985b, this volume).

The Santa Rita Corozal data and computations suggest a relatively stable population from Late Preclassic to Early Postclassic times, followed by a dramatic increase of population during the Late Postclassic. These estimates, however, cannot be taken completely at face value; sampling is a consideration for the number of Early and Middle Preclassic constructions, which probably could have been increased, at least slightly, had the excavations continued in the Southwest Sector of the site. Also neglected by the tables is the evidence for monumental construction activity, particularly during the Early Classic Period. It is perhaps significant that the population had expanded to its Classic Period limits prior to the construction of massive architecture in the Structure 7 locus, although excavation suggests it is quite likely that lower-lying constructions are buried there. The data also have ramifications for our conceptions of how many people are necessary to maintain "complex society" and massive architecture, for they suggest that a relatively small Early Classic population was capable of a great deal of visible construction. Interestingly, the Santa Rita Corozal structural data do not show the dip in Early Classic population that has been suggested for some southern lowland sites (Willey et al. 1975:41; Willey 1977:395–96; see also Sidrys 1983:397–99).

That the Late Postclassic is the most heavily populated period of occupation at Santa Rita Corozal is readily apparent from the data. This situation contrasts greatly with the evidence from most southern lowland sites, which indicates depopulation during the Postclassic. Although part of this large population may be simply attributable to the location of Santa Rita Corozal near the bay and rivers, it is also possible that research strategies focusing on large mounded Classic sites are partly responsible for this discrepancy.

Conclusions

Work at Santa Rita Corozal provides several important lessons for those studying settlement patterns and population reconstructions. Most of the excavations undertaken at this site were in areas that would be called vacant terrain, where there was no mounding or artifact scatter on the surface to indicate construction below. Nevertheless, the excavations frequently produced evidence of multiple-room, elite residences with remnants of base walls and spectacular cache and burial deposits dating to the Late Postclassic Period (D. Chase 1982; D. and A. Chase 1986b, 1988:54–61). Significantly, many of these structures rested on earlier, often non–Postclassic constructions and deposits that would never have been encountered had the excavations been geared toward the traditionally conceived Maya raised constructions. These earlier buildings were also not temporary or lower-class houses but were well-cut and finished stone construction; when penetrated, they have produced substantial numbers of special deposits.

Not only is architecture frequently invisible on the surface at Santa Rita Corozal, but surface indications of pottery only rarely suggest the date of occupation below. In addition, certain constructions would have been incorrectly dated had there been a reliance on temporal determination based on sherds in construction fill; these often were found to predate significantly building activities when sealed primary deposits were encountered. Finally, some Postclassic buildings—little more than buried lines of stone—were not associated with large amounts of debris and would have been missed had an excavation strategy other than large-scale areal stripping been used. Thus, Santa Rita Corozal serves as a reminder that surface indications alone are of extremely limited use in reconstructing past cultural activity for any multiphase site and that investigations concentrating on areal clearing and the recovery of primary remains of buildings, refuse, burials, or caches are obviously the most reliable way to provide direct evidence of prehistoric occupation.

It is extremely important to note that Santa Rita Corozal is situated on a bluff and not in a river valley or other low area; thus, silting is not a factor in obscuring prehistoric remains. The extent of hidden structures encountered has important implications for other Maya sites in nonriverine locations and suggests that the visible occupation at these sites may also represent only about 50% of the actual prehistoric occupation.

Despite the problems of destruction and invisibility, the prehistoric population reconstructions for Santa Rita Corozal proved to be roughly equivalent to the population of modern Corozal Town and slightly less than secondary ethnohistoric guesses of population levels. Without such a cross-check and substantial area-wide excavation, however, the problem

of invisible structures might well have precluded any reliable population estimates (see Kurjack 1974:94). Even given the problems inherent in demographic reconstruction, the data from Santa Rita Corozal suggest a different trajectory than that found at many other Maya sites, in that there appears to have been a relatively stable and low number of inhabitants at the site until the onset of the Late Postclassic Period—at which point, by all accounts, Santa Rita Corozal's population increased substantially.

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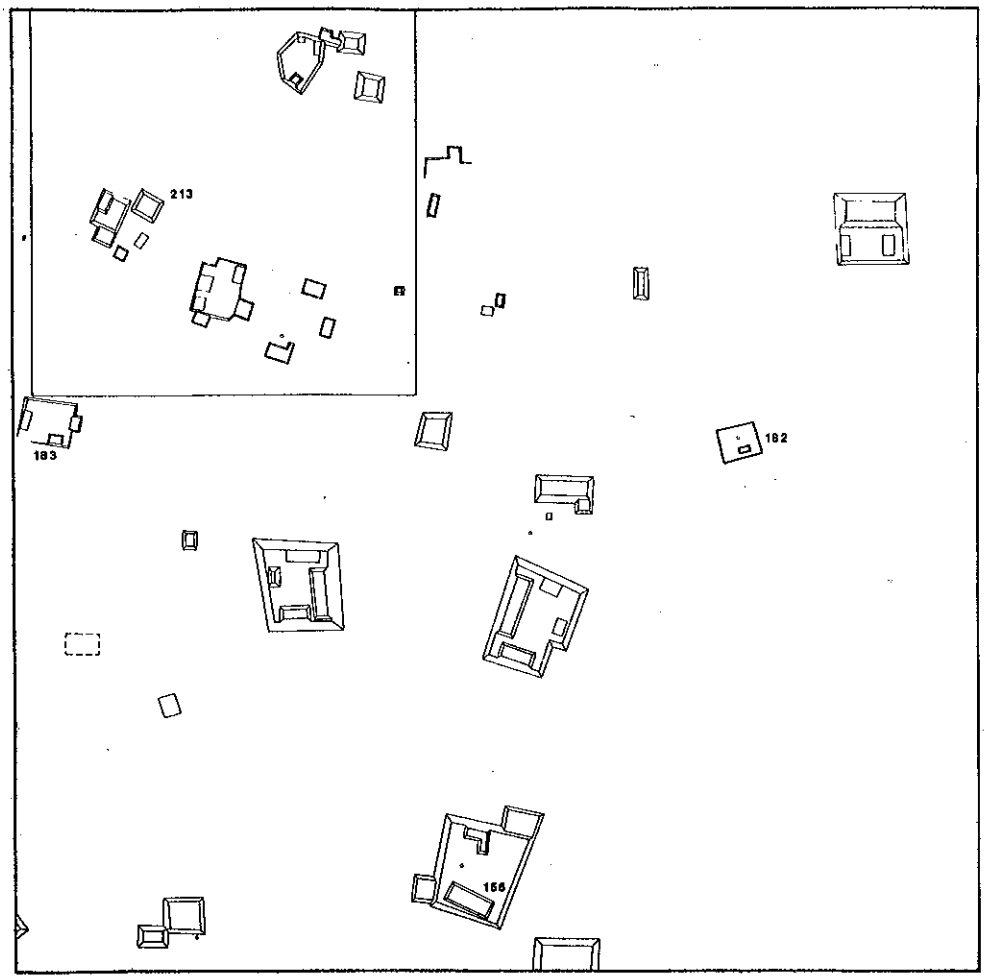

Map 10.1 Structures in the South Intermediate Sector of Santa Rita Corozal used for population estimates. Inset is 200m²; larger area is 500m².

Table 10.1 Santa Rita Corozal Occupation: Securely Datable Investigations and Estimated Population Counts

Period	Cases (N = 43)	Adjustment	Adjusted Cases	Relative Population-% (Adj. cases = 22.83)	Estimated Population
Early Preclassic 1200–900 B.C.	1	15/30	0.50	2.19	150
Middle Preclassic 900–300 B.C.	2	15/60	0.50	2.19	150
Late Preclassic 300 B.C.–A.D. 200	12	15/50	3.60	15.77	1,079
Protoclassic A.D. 200–300	4	15/10	6.00	26.28	1,798
Early Classic A.D. 300–550	8	15/25	4.80	21.02	1,438
Late Classic A.D. 550–900	19	15/35	8.14	35.65	2,438
Terminal Classic/ Early Postclassic A.D. 900–1200	14	15/30	7.00	30.66	2,097
Early-facet Late Postclassic A.D. 1200–1300	4	15/10	6.00	26.28	1,798
Late-facet Late Postclassic A.D. 1300–1530	35	15/23	22.83	100.00	6,840

Note: All 43 structure loci produced some evidence of late-facet Late Postclassic artifact or sherd material; in eight cases, however, it was determined that this material was not clearly representative of any direct occupation, thus resulting in 35 securely assessed Postclassic occupation loci.

Table 10.2 Structure and Population Counts for Late Postclassic Santa Rita Corozal

	200 m² Area	500 m² Area
Buildings in Surveyed Area	19	50
Structures/km²	475	200
Proportion Missing	50%	100%
Estimated Total Structures/km²	712.5	400
Non-Postclassic Occupation/Sector	1/15	1/15
Estimated Non-Postclassic Structure/km²	47.5	26.7
Postclassic Structures km²	665.0	373.3
Buildings in 2.526-km² Center	1,680	943
Proportion of Buildings Purely Administrative/Ritual	1/19	2/50
Number of Buildings Purely Administrative/Ritual	88	38
Central Postclassic Residences	1,592	905
Coeval (65.22%)[a] Postclassic Residences	1,038.3	590.2
Population at 5.6 Persons/Building	5,814.5	3,305.3
Population in Additional 2.5-m² Area at 50% of Central Area Population	2,907.3	1,652.7
Total Postclassic Population in 5-km Area	8,721.8	4,958.0

[a]The 65.22% figure is based on a life span of 150 years for each building and a span of 230 years for the late-facet Late Postclassic period at Santa Rita Corozal.

Table 10.3 Santa Rita Corozal Occupation (Based on Securely Dated Burials)

Period	Burials	Individuals	Adjustment (based on life span of 50 years)	Adjusted Cases	Relative Population (Adjusted cases = 13.91)
Early Preclassic 1200–900 B.C.	4	4	5/30	0.67	4.82
Middle Preclassic 900–300 B.C	5	5	5/60	0.42	3.02
Late Preclassic 300 B.C.–A.D. 200	32	34	5/50	3.40	24.44
Protoclassic A.D. 200–300	4	4	5/10	2.00	14.38
Early Classic A.D. 300–550	13	14	5/25	2.80	20.13
Late Classic A.D. 550–900	28	29	5/35	4.14	29.76
Terminal Classic/ Early Postclassic A.D. 900–1200	6	6	5/30	1.00	7.19
Early-facet Late Postclassic A.D. 1200–1300	4	5	5/10	2.50	17.97
Late-facet Late Postclassic A.D. 1300–1530	38	64	5/23	13.91	100.00