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Settlement pattern research at Caracol, Belize: The social organization in a Classic Period Maya site

Jaeger, Susan Elizabeth, Ph.D.

Southern Methodist University, 1991

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SETTLEMENT PATTERN RESEARCH AT CARACOL, BELIZE:
THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN A CLASSIC PERIOD MAYA SITE

A Dissertation Presented to the Graduate Faculty of
Dedman College

Southern Methodist University

in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the degree
of
Doctor of Philosophy
with a
Major in Anthropology
by

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(B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1982)
(M.A., Southern Methodist University, 1987)

December 14, 1991

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B.A., University of
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Settlement Pattern Research at Caracol, Belize: The Social
Organization in a Classic Period Maya Site

Adviser: Professor David A. Freidel

Doctor of Philosophy degree conferred December 14, 1991

Thesis completed October 21, 1991

The settlement pattern of the Classic Period Maya site of Caracol is characterized by a series of intra-site causeways which radiate from an epicentral concentration of monumental architecture. These roads pass through a dense settlement which is composed of distinct plazuela groups integrated with extensive systems of agricultural terraces. Survey conducted by the Caracol Project in 1985 and 1986 revealed the density of the settlement surrounding the epicenter, as well as a wide distribution of open or disturbed burial chambers. This work provided the motivation for the current study which was conducted as a sub-program of the Caracol Project from 1987 through 1990. The purpose of this research has been to begin understanding the social organization of a major Maya center which, based on the political statements recorded in the hieroglyphic monuments, influenced the histories of other Maya polities and of the Maya world during the Late Classic period.

A program of survey and excavation was conducted in a portion of the Caracol settlement adjacent to one of the longer intra-site causeways. This type of large scale con-

struction is considered to be an artifact of past social relationships. Thus, the Conchita Causeway was used as a culturally defined transect to focus attention on a portion of the settlement located to the south of the epicenter of the site and to define the study area. The survey documented the density of the settlement and began to record the extent and density of the terrace systems. The excavations provided data which indicate that most of the plazuela groups in this sector of Caracol functioned as residences for members of Caracol society who appeared to have some access to goods and services. The data also indicate that the population in this area grew rapidly between approximately A.D. 550 and A.D. 700, the result of migration into the area.

The juxtaposition of the architectural remains with the burial patterns and agricultural terraces have prompted a reconsideration of the concepts of "elite" and "non-elite" as they are used in Maya archaeology. A "middle class" is assumed to have existed in Maya society but, for various reasons, has been difficult to define archaeologically. The settlement data from Caracol are used to define a "middle class" in this city's social organization -- a group of people who were involved in agricultural production and craft specialization, and who maintained a complex ritual cycle on the level of the individual household group.

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Sometimes it seems that we are fated to certain things in life. We act upon a certain set of choices to follow a desired course and then something happens to invariably alter that course. I suppose, if it were not for a sign in the elevator in the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania, I would now be a horse doctor rather than an archaeologist. I entered the University of Pennsylvania with the purpose of eventually entering veterinary school. Penn just happened to have a wonderful facility in the University Museum as well as a good Department of Anthropology. I chose my undergraduate major as Anthropology partly because it enabled me to fulfill all requirements for veterinary school but also because I was interested in this field of study. One day, during a semester in which I had some free time, I noticed a sign in the elevator at the Museum asking for volunteers to help two graduate students process artifacts from their projects in Central America. This intrigued me because I had been to Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras with my family several years before to see some of the major Maya sites. Little did I know that, when I called Arlen and Diane Chase that day to volunteer my time, I would end up with a Ph.D. in Anthropology! I worked for the

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Chases at Penn for two years and spent the summer of 1981 with them in Belize doing lab work. I guess this was really the proverbial "nail on the coffin" because not only did I apply to veterinary school the following year but also to graduate school. The Chases told me about David Freidel and, in the Fall of 1982, I moved to Dallas to begin my graduate studies at SMU. I must say that I have no regrets about the path I have chosen and if I had to choose between archaeology and veterinary school again, I would not do it any differently!

In 1984, the Chases approached me about a new project they were beginning at the site of Caracol in 1985. David thought it was a great opportunity and encouraged me to do my thesis research there, if possible. The untimely deaths of my brother and my mother in the Fall of 1984 almost kept me from participating in the first season of the Caracol Project. However, my father, with his fore sight of the opportunity this project would afford, encouraged me to keep my plans intact. Thus, I committed myself to the Caracol Project and to the research at this site.

First, and foremost, I want to acknowledge all the support given to me by Arlen and Diane Chase. I think they feel responsible for having gotten me into this in the first place, and rightly so! For better or for worse, they have been the major influence in my practical training as well as in my conceptual approach to the Maya and to archaeology.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Settlement pattern research has a long and distinguished history in the Maya area (eg., Ashmore 1981c). The very definition of a settlement pattern offered by Willey in 1953 encompasses a wide range of research questions since the physical pattern of a settlement reflects the social, political, economic and religious organization of that community or society. Synchronic analyses of settlement patterns have been used to address such problems as the social, political, economic and religious organization of a single site or region (eg., Hammond 1972; Folan, et al. 1983; Ashmore 1986) and to make estimates of the population size of that site. In contrast, diachronic studies have been used to consider the process or processes by which the settlement grew and developed (eg., Fash 1986).

Even though the ancient Maya have been the focus of investigation since the publication of Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan (Stephens 1969), debate continues about the nature and development of this civilization. This is largely due to changes in theoretical and methodological approaches as well as to advances in analytical techniques. While scholars acknowledge that the

Maya developed a complex civilization, it is often difficult to identify some of that complexity in the archaeological record. For example, the term "complex society" implies that the social organization was composed of different kinds of occupational specialists, and that different social, political and economic relations existed among the various groups which made up that society. Maya epigraphers and art historians have identified several different political offices which likely determined the social and economic positions these people enjoyed within the community (eg., Schele and Freidel 1990:59). However, the problem for the archaeologists has been to "tease apart" the archaeological record to identify the different groups "on the ground." For example, Leventhal et al. (1987:179) note,

The social organization of Copan, as at other Maya centers, was a complex one. It probably included the entire continuum of classes from the ruling elite to the farmers. However, from our recent work at Copan, we appear to be able to divide the continuum into two broad categories -- the elite and non-elite. This may be a rather simplistic orientation, but it is a contrast which we feel we can identify archaeologically.

More recent research, including the work discussed here, has attempted to refine the archaeological definition of Maya social organization in an attempt to more fully understand the Classic Period Maya (eg., Carmean 1991).

The research presented in the following pages was undertaken at the Classic Period city of Caracol, located in the Maya Mountains of Belize. The city has been the focus of long term research since 1985 by the Caracol Project,

directed by Drs. Arlen and Diane Chase from the University of Central Florida. The archaeological and epigraphic data from this site indicate that it was the center of a dynamic and aggressive polity which profoundly influenced the development and histories of neighboring polities and of the Maya Civilization as a whole. The settlement pattern of Caracol is the focus of the discussion in this thesis in an effort to begin understanding the social organization which supported, and was supported by, the aggressive policies of the ruling elite of the Caracol polity. This research was undertaken from 1987 to 1990 as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram, which formed an integral part of the Caracol Project.

The thesis is organized into a total of six chapters. Chapter One is simply an introduction to the discussion which follows. Chapter Two examines the theoretical and methodological base of settlement pattern research in the Maya area as it pertains to the study at hand. It reviews the models, definitions and problems encountered in this kind of research, and outlines the premises used in the current study. Chapter Three offers a description of Caracol, its physical setting and the history of the research undertaken at this city. The terms which refer to different parts of the site such as "epicenter", "core" and "periphery" are defined following the conventions set by the Caracol Project (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). The

terms "Operation", "Sub-Operation" and "Lots", which are related to the excavations, are also defined in this chapter. Chapter Four describes the survey undertaken as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram. The field method is described and the settlement pattern is discussed as to what the physical remains visible on the surface may or may not reflect of the social organization of the city. Chapter Five describes the excavations undertaken in this same sector of Caracol's settlement. The functions of structures and of plazuela groups are discussed, as is the occupation history of each group. The identity of the people who occupied these groups is also assessed. Chapter Six ties together the information recovered from the survey and the data gathered in the excavations in order to begin addressing the social organization of Caracol as a whole. The implications of the interpretations made in Chapter Six are assessed in view of the role Caracol played during the Classic Period in the Maya world.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Our understanding of the Classic Period Maya has changed significantly with continued settlement pattern research throughout the Maya area and with recent advances in epigraphic analysis. Vogt (1983a:20), for example, has emphasized the theoretical need to conceptualize and understand the dynamic cultural processes as opposed to static structures. With the statement that the Classic Period Maya are "a study in coherence and instability", Willey (1986:189) drew attention to the processes of social integration and disintegration as reflected in both the material remains of the archaeological record and in the political statements found in the epigraphic record. This chapter will focus on the aspect of social integration and the theoretical and methodological issues associated with the study of the sociopolitical organization of the Classic Period Maya.

Current models of ancient Maya sociopolitical organization are based on settlement pattern studies coupled with excavation, epigraphic analysis, and with analogy to ethnographic and ethnohistoric sources. Some of the more recent models include an urban distinction (D. Z. Chase et

al. 1990:499-506, Haviland 1970:186-198), a segmentary state organization (Dunham 1990a, 1990b; Fox 1989:656-681), a galactic polities organization (eg., Demarest 1986:181-186), a regal-ritual model (Sanders and Webster 1988:521-546), a feudal system (Adams and Smith 1981:335-349), a center-to-periphery pulsation model (Vogt 1983b:105-113), and a patron-client organization (Sanders 1981:363-369). Although these models attempt to explain regional settlement patterns, they have direct bearing on the interpretation of intrasite organization in that each is based on a particular system or mode of internal social integration.

Models which focus specifically on intrasite organization include the concentric model, a barrio organization with a defined center, and a barrio organization without a defined center (cf., D. Z. Chase 1986: Fig. 10.5). In some cases, as will become evident, these models are not mutually exclusive. The origin of the concentric model is generally attributed to Landa (Tozzer 1941:62-64) who described the pattern of a Contact Period Yucatec Maya town as consisting of a central concentration of the most important temples and plazas, with the houses of the nobility being located closer to this center than the houses of lower class people. Landa has been accused of being ethnocentric and not entirely original in applying what was actually the pattern of a colonial Spanish town to the Contact Period Maya (D. Z. Chase 1986:362). Nevertheless, the concentric model has

frequently been used to describe the settlement pattern of numerous ancient Maya sites and different factors have been used to arrive at these interpretations. For example, Haviland (1963, see also Puleston 1983:24-25) described a concentric pattern for the Classic Period site of Tikal, consisting of a ceremonial nucleus, which was surrounded by a central zone, which in turn was surrounded by a broader area considered the periphery. The central and peripheral zones are distinguished by the relative density of the residential settlement on potentially cultivable land -- the former being defined as a zone where there is 0.16 ha to 0.20 ha per residential structure and the latter being characterized as a zone where there is 0.5 ha to 1.5 ha of cultivable land per residential structure. Price (1981:18) noted that the community organization of the Classic Period site of Becan is characterized by a decrease in the size and "expense" of the residential remains as the distance from the ceremonial center increases. However, unlike at Tikal, there is no change in the settlement density towards the outer zone. Kurjack (1974:93) defined three concentric zones for the Classic Period settlement of Dzibilchultun but based his definitions on the clustering of vaulted ruins,

... (1) the central group, a heavy concentration of vaulted architecture in about a quarter of a square kilo-meter near Cenote Xcalah; (2) the central aggregate, a clustering of vaulted ruins in an elongated area of over 3 km surrounding the central group; and (3) the peripheral sphere where small groups of vaulted ruins are widely spaced.

However, he (1974:93) also noted the possibility that the clusters of buildings may be the remains of barrios which were organized on some principle other than kinship. Similarly, Folan et al. (1983:50-53, 58-63) have described a concentric pattern for the Classic Period settlement of Coba. Their definition is based on the distribution of multi-roomed, vaulted buildings, built on elevated platforms versus the distribution of smaller buildings, constructed of perishable materials and having apsidal and round-based plans. They noted that the numerous *sacbeob*, which radiate from the core and crisscross the city, divide the settlement into political and social sections or wards. It must be stated here, that while a concentric organization may be indicated by one variable within a given data set, it is possible to interpret a different organization for the same data using a different variable. This will be examined further below.

In contrast to Landa, Roys (1943:63, 1957:7-8) described a barrio organization for the Colonial Period Maya based on ethnohistorical sources and ethnographic research (cf., D. Z. Chase and A. F. Chase 1988:68-69). The administrator of each barrio, the ah cuch cab, had a vote in the municipal government, thus indicating a central authority for each town. D. Z. Chase (1982:580-583; 1986:364-365; cf., D. Z. Chase and A. F. Chase 1988:68-76) noted that during the Late Postclassic Period, the site of Santa Rita

Corozal was organized in a noncentralized barrio pattern. She defined the barrios based on building plans, burials, and patterns of ritual caches recovered from throughout the site, which are believed to have been part of the celebration of the Uayeb, or New Year's, rites.

Similarly, J. Marcus (1986:202-206) discussed a multiple nuclei model with respect to the Classic Period sites of Seibal, Altar de Sacrificios, and Uaxactun. This definition is based on the architectural remains of what appear to be "separate but equal" groups of monumental architecture at each site which preclude the visual definition of a single center. Marcus (1986:204) noted that this classification does not include a consideration of the actual functions of these groups, nor does it take into account whether the groups were built and used sequentially or simultaneously. These constitute some serious limitations to the use of this model with regard to considering the sociopolitical organization of the Classic Period Maya.

The models thus outlined represent attempts to describe the settlement patterns visible "on the ground" and provide a means to begin understanding the dynamics of social integration and disintegration. However, in order to discuss these processes, the physical and social components of the settlement need to be identified. This is where many of the problems in settlement pattern research lie.

The Physical Components of Settlement Pattern Studies

The physical components of Maya settlements include single buildings and groups of buildings, which have been variously identified with regard to function, intrasite and intersite causeways, water reservoirs, field walls (Folan et al. 1983), defensive earthworks (Puleston and Callender 1967, Webster 1976) and remnants of intensive agricultural techniques such as terraces and raised fields (eg., Adams 1980; Healy et al. 1983; Turner 1974a, 1974b). The functions of some of these components are easier to interpret than others but the function of different buildings has proven to be a rather complex problem (eg., Harrison 1970, Leventhal and Baxter 1988). With regard to the latter, a distinction has been made between a residential unit and a household unit and how each of these may, or may not, be identified. Ashmore and Wilk (1988:6) have defined a household and a residence as follows:

A household is a social unit, specifically the group of people that shares a maximum definable number of activities, including one or more of the following: production, consumption, pooling of resources, reproduction, coresidence, and shared ownership. The unit may or may not be recognized by the people themselves. It may live in one locale or it may be spatially dispersed. Individuals can be members of more than one household, and it is possible for a household to have inactive members. The household is an analytical unit that can be defined empirically in archaeological samples only after protracted study.

A coresidential group is also a social unit, consisting of the group of people who regularly share living quarters. This group need not be equivalent to a household, in that people often live in the same building ... without sharing in the activities that

normally define a household ... A coresidential group can contain more than one household or it can be a component part of a larger household. Alternatively, it may not be part of a household at all, as is the case with a men's house, a women's menstrual hut, a seasonal hunting camp, or a priests' quarters. The coresidential group is, like the household, an analytical unit, but it can also be provisionally identified archaeologically on the basis of evidence that some kind of residential activities took place within the structure.

It must be emphasized here that, in terms of archaeological method, it is easier to define a residential unit than a household unit based on the material correlates of domestic activity. Regarding the archaeological definition of a residential unit, Ashmore (1981c:47) offered a threshold definition of a Maya residence as, "the presence of a single structure (ground plan unspecified) with circumambient space, and the provision therein of at least 20 m² of roofed space". While this definition of a minimum residential unit may apply to a single structure, the issue becomes more complex when a cluster of buildings functions as a residence. Many Maya sites are, in fact, characterized by distinct clusters of buildings and these are defined as different types of residential units, be they informal groups without a central ambient space, or patio groups which do have a clearly defined central area (in this work, a patio group is synonymous with a plazuela group). It is recognized that, within a particular group of buildings, some may have functioned as dwellings, some as mundane ancillary structures (such as kitchens, outhouses, store-

rooms, etc.), and others as shrines, which, as a unit, function as a residence. The difficulty arises in recognizing these different kinds of facilities on the ground. For example, what does a storeroom look like if the material which was stored within was perishable foodstuffs? What does a kitchen look like if a cooking hearth was not recovered within the excavation because either the hearth was located in another locus, or the hearth stones were removed when that structure was abandoned? In addition, based on ethnographic evidence, it is likely that most buildings within a residential group served more than one function (eg., Wauchope 1938).

As noted above, a dwelling may be identified by its size, meeting the minimum area of 20 m² defined by Ashmore (1981c:47). However, several studies indicate that there is considerable deviation from this figure. Fash (1983b:274), for example, noted that the residential units at the site of Copan tend to be smaller than those found at other sites and generally cover less than 20m² in area. Ringle and Andrews V (1988:184-186) noted that there may be a temporal correlation with house size in the Northern Lowlands -- Formative Period dwellings at Komchen are as small as 8.4 m² and those attributed to the Late Classic Period average 26.1 m². It is clear that size alone is not an adequate indicator of the function of a building and it is necessary to consider formal characteristics.

Tourtellot (1988b:37-38, Table 6) defined thirteen classes of structures at the site of Seibal, based on the surface remains, considering the size and shape of the basal platform, the number of floor levels, the shape of the upper level (the top most floor), and the location of the building within the group. His excavations served to refine the definitions and clarify probable functions based on the architectural details revealed in excavation and on the kinds of associated artifacts recovered. Thus at Seibal, dwellings take a variety of forms but they are generally rectangular in shape, have more than one room, may have a bench on one or three walls, are raised from the plaza surface, and usually have more than one level. The artifacts associated with dwellings include manos and metates; cooking and storage vessels; lithic tools, cores and scraps; and other artifacts which would indicate production of goods. Domestic ancillary structures, such as storerooms and kitchens, may be similar to dwellings in the kinds of associated artifacts but they are generally simpler in plan and do not have benches. The religious ancillary structures, such as shrines and oratories, are generally square in shape, rise higher from the plaza surface than most other buildings within the group, have only one room, and be located in a particular position within the group. They may be associated with burials and cache offerings. Artifacts associated with these kinds of buildings include incen-

sarios, obsidian blades (which Tourtellot presumed were used in ritual scarification or blood-letting) and perhaps stelae or fragments thereof.

An alternative method in determining the functions of buildings is to focus attention on the distribution of certain artifact types. For example, Scarborough and Robertson (1986:165) noted that at the site of Cerros, "... the occurrence and relative frequency of a [ceramic] type within a given context appears to be related to the nature of the context rather than to chronological factors." Based on the distribution of ceramic types with architectural and other artifactual data, Scarborough and Robertson traced the spatial and temporal distribution of elite and non-elite residences as well as civic facilities in the settlement history of the Preclassic occupation of Cerros. Using a similar method, Leventhal and Baxter (1988) noted that while architectural details are important in a functional study, they focused their attention primarily on the distribution of artifacts in order to gain a clearer insight into the range of activities which took place in a particular locus. In this way they hoped gain a better understanding of the social organization of Copan. Levanthal and Baxter assigned certain ceramic types to one of three broad functional categories -- elite-domestic, elite-ceremonial and nonelite-domestic -- and examined the distribution of each of the types within three different plaza groups which varied in

size (number of buildings as well as in area covered by the group) and complexity (number of associated plazas and architectural elaboration). They found considerable overlap in the distribution of the different functional categories associated with different building forms and sizes. Based on ethnographic evidence (eg., Wauchope 1938), their results are not surprising and they offer the following caveat,

... it is clear that the concept of a single-function building must be re-examined with skepticism. It is overly simplistic to approach the question of structure function from the perspective of a single function. Ethnographic studies and ethnohistorical sources indicate that Maya buildings are and were used for a variety of things at the same time. This is consistent with what we find to be true within our own and other cultures. The ceramic distribution from Copan clearly argues for such a multifunctional identification. (Leventhal and Baxter 1988:69)

It must be noted here that the distribution of artifact types is not always a clear indicator of the function of a structure. For example, it is frequently assumed that if metates, or fragments thereof, are present on the surface or recovered from a use-related context in excavation, then the building must have served a domestic function (eg., Kurjack 1974:50, Tourtellot 1988b:236). However, it is possible that not all metates were used for daily food preparation. Garber (1981:188), for example, noted that the Postclassic Period occupation of Cerros was largely restricted to elite activity in ceremonial contexts. He calculated that 64.3% of the metates associated with this activity were made from non-local raw material which suggests that there may be a

correlation between the source of the raw material and the functional context for which the metates were used. Similarly, based on the distribution of different metate forms and on the types of raw material from which they were made, it has been suggested that the Postclassic distribution of metate forms at the site of Santa Rita Corozal may be a function of the use of different forms for grinding different substances (eg., corn, pigment) for different activities (eg., daily sustenance, ritual consumption), which take place in different loci (Jaeger 1988:109-110). It is possible that more detailed analyses of the distribution of metate forms and raw materials from other sites, combined with the information noted above, would begin to provide an index for domestic metates (perhaps being large and heavy to withstand daily use, and usually made of local material) versus ritual metates (perhaps being smaller and lighter for occasional use and perhaps decorated with carving) and thus refine the use of this frequently found artifact type as a functional indicator. Similarly, ceramic figurines are often assumed to have been used in ritual activity. However, Tourtellot (1988b:239-240) has noted that at Seibal, figurine fragments are associated with buildings which, based on other data, appear to have served as kitchens and he proposes the following explanation:

The presence of figurines in quantity is, however, understandable if figurines are toys, women supervise children, women work in kitchens, and therefore figurines are found in kitchens. This syllogism is

supported by the absence of figurines from burials and caches and their relative rarity in the ceremonial center (Willey et al. 1975:44).

The distribution of associated cultural features, such as burials, must also be considered in assessing the function of a particular building. Landa (in Tozzer 1941) noted that the Contact Period Maya usually buried members of their families under the floors of their houses. Archaeologically, however, different kinds of burials are associated with different kinds of architectural complexes. Haviland (1963, 1985) described a series of simple burials associated with small residential groups at Tikal. Similarly at Seibal, Tourtellot (1983, 1990) defined eight different types of burials found in the residential settlement ranging from simple to a stone-lined pit with capstones, associated with dwellings, ceremonial structures, patios and terraces. In contrast, large, impressive, architectural complexes are generally associated with burials placed in tombs. Coggins (1976), for example, has identified the burials of different rulers located in the monumental constructions in the heart of the city (see also Wm. R. Coe 1967). A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase (1987) report on burials deposited in tombs located in the monumental architecture of Caracol. In the extreme, Miller (1974) has suggested that the entire site of Palenque is nothing more than a gigantic necropolis. The implication of all of this is that the more elaborate and costly interments in tombs are associated with temples, which functioned

solely as ritual buildings, while the simpler, less costly interments are associated with buildings which may serve more than one function such as dwellings.

The Social Components of Settlement Pattern Studies

Identifying the social component of the settlement pattern is as equally important as identifying the physical component. This entails defining the composition of the group of people who occupy and/or use a particular group of buildings, as well as identifying what position within the social fabric of the community that group of people occupied. This brings the consideration of the household into the realm of settlement pattern studies. The Classic Period Maya household was comprised of the members of a nuclear family or an extended family lineage group based on ethnographic analogy with modern Maya groups (eg., Fash 1983a, Haviland 1988, Leventhal 1983, Vogt 1983, Willey 1980:257). However, it is on the level of community composition that many questions of ancient Maya sociopolitical organization rest. A hierarchical organization is not disputed (eg., Demarest 1986:180-186; Morley, Brainerd and Sharer 1983:225-230); rather some of the questions posed by many Mayanists involve identifying different levels of sociopolitical organization. This inquiry leads to considering how the different components of the community interact and how alliances between families work to foster or hinder political stability in the society. From this framework, the

larger question regards how the complexity and scale of a community coincide with the political and economic power of a particular center within the larger context of the world of the Classic Period Maya.

Traditionally, a distinction has been made in studies of ancient Maya sociopolitical organization between elite and nonelite (also referred to as priest and peasant respectively, eg., Becker 1979, Thompson 1966). However, G. Marcus (1983:7) has noted that, ethnographically, the term "elite" is ambiguous with regard to precise referents. Recently, the very definition of the term has been questioned with regard to its use in Mesoamerican archaeology (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1992). It is assumed that the elite segment of a society consisted of those who ran or managed the political, social, economic and religious institutions and that because of this control, they had greater access to goods and services. Archaeologically, the distinction between elite and non-elite may be defined as the "haves" and "have-nots" respectively and the differential access to resources should be reflected in a limited distribution of the material remains (cf., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1992; however, see Wilk 1983, for contrasting ethnographic examples of social position, wealth and house size in a modern Kekchi Maya village as compared to a modern Mopan Maya village). The elite segment of society is assumed to be primarily a consuming body of the goods and

services produced by the non-elite and ideally, this segment of society should have substantially fewer members than the non-elite segment. The archaeological distinction between elite and non-elite status is based on the juxtaposition of architectural and burial data, as well as on the quality of material remains. Willey et al. (1978, see also Leventhal et al. 1987), for example, tentatively differentiated varying degrees of elite and nonelite at the site of Copan based on patterns of mound size, the number of mounds around a courtyard and the quality of construction. In the Northern Lowlands, Kurjack (1974) examined the distribution of vaulted versus non-vaulted architecture at the site of Dzibilchultun and Thomas (1981) examined the proximity of the settlement to arable land, water and access to the ceremonial center at the site of Becan to define elite and non-elite sectors of these centers. They both noted a decrease in social status with an increase in distance from the ceremonial center. Arnold and Ford (1980) computed labor invested in construction of residential units while Haviland (1963) examined the association between type of burial and type of architecture to posit two different kinds of social organization at Tikal (cf., Haviland 1982). D. Z. Chase (1986:357-362) has noted the difficulty of determining fine degrees of status during the Late Postclassic Period at the site of Santa Rita Corozal in northern Belize based on burial data and differences in architecture.

In many studies, the designation of elite and non-elite (or priest and peasant) are assumed to be two diachronic poles in a more complex social structure (eg., Adams 1970; Becker 1973; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1992; D. Z. Chase and A. F. Chase 1988; Leventhal et al. 1987:179; Morley, Brainerd and Sharer 1983; however, see Webster 1985 for an argument to the contrary). Recent efforts have been made to refine the archaeological definitions of elite and non-elite by attempting to identify a "middle class" in the archaeological data. Carmean (1991), for example, has examined household architectural variability at the site of Sayil to define a social hierarchy based on figures of labor investment. She defined six different ranks within the Sayil socioeconomic organization which fall between the ruling elite and the people at the lowest end of the social continuum. The research at Caracol conducted by this author (1987, 1990), and described in the following chapters, is another attempt to refine the archaeological concept of Classic Period Maya social organization. Part of the motivation for studies like these may lie in the recent advances in epigraphic analysis and the continued discovery of new hieroglyphic texts. Sequences of dynastic succession and family relationships have been outlined for numerous sites (eg., Jones and Satterthwaite 1984, for Tikal; Houston and Mathews 1985, for Dos Pilas; Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981 and Stone et al. 1985, for Caracol; Schele and Freidel

1990). In addition, recent analyses of texts from the sites of Palenque, Copan, Yaxchilan, Tikal other Classic Period Maya centers have identified the highest political offices of Ahau and Sahal, as well as those individuals who held these positions and some of the functions these officers served (eg., Schele 1991, Schele and Freidel 1990, Schele and Miller 1986). One challenge to the archaeologist has been to refine the definitions of "elite" and "non-elite" in order to better understand how the sociopolitical complexity reflected in the hieroglyphic texts is associated with the material remains of the archaeological record. The combination of epigraphic and archaeological data can provide insights to the processes of social integration and disintegration among the Classic Period Maya.

The research described in the following chapters examines the sociopolitical organization of Caracol, Belize. Informal survey conducted at the site during 1985 and 1986 revealed a system of intrasite causeways extending from an epicentral core of monumental architecture through a dense settlement characterized by plazuela groups and extensive agricultural terraces. Attention was focused on a portion of the settlement adjacent to one of the longer intrasite causeways based on the belief that this type of construction represents a public, hence political, definition of social integration. For example, Benavides (1981:42) noted that

the primary functions of the road system at the site of Coba were to integrate the society and to control production.

En todo Estado la necesidad primaria es aquella de supervivencia, de continuidad espacial y temporal. Una consecuencia de la satisfaccion de necesidad de continuar existiendo fue la expansion de los limites territoriales del Estado. Las red de caminos de Coba en un principio pudo funcionar como parte de las características integrantes del nucleo, pero la de tal red despues no solo fue un componente mas de la construccion sino, ademas, un importante elemento de expansion politica y del control economica y social de una region. (Benavides 1981:201)

From a slightly different theoretical base, Kurjack and Garza T. (1981:300-301) have noted that a causeway represents a physical statement of the social and political relationships which were recognized between the groups physically joined by such a feature; they are "expensive artifacts" which "... constituted permanent reminders of the cooperation involved in their construction and maintenance". Intrasite causeways are thus mute, but very definite, symbols of past relationships. In terms of archaeological method, an intrasite causeway represents a large scale effort which implies deliberate planning on the part of those responsible for its construction. Thus, this kind of feature may be considered to be a culturally defined transect passing through a portion of the settlement. Social units which have been identified as nodes within systems of Maya intra-site causeways include residential-administrative complexes (eg., Willey et al. 1978), and religious structures or shrines (eg., Freidel and Sabloff 1984). The

cultural context of a causeway within a settlement reflects the principles of community organization (eg., Freidel and Sabloff 1984).

CHAPTER III

CARACOL, BELIZE: BACKGROUND TO CURRENT RESEARCH AND DEFINITIONS

The ancient Maya city of Caracol is located on the western edge of the Maya Mountains of Belize, Central America (Fig. 3.1). The central concentration of monumental architecture lies approximately 500 m above sea level and the surrounding settlement is situated in the hill terrain to the north, east, south, and west. Healy et al. (1983: 399-400) report that the annual precipitation in this area is between 1500 mm and 2500 mm and that the vegetation is characterized as a mixed, seasonally dry, hardwood forest. Only two permanent sources of water are in the general vicinity of Caracol, these being the Macal River and the Retiro Sinkhole. The former is located 15 km by air, and more by land, to the north of the site's epicenter and the latter is located 8 km to the south. The ancient residents of Caracol relied on water catchment basins which they built throughout the city and some of these retain water today. Resources to which the people of Caracol had access include those from the Mountain Pine Ridge batholith located on the opposite side of the Macal River from the city. This formation is the source of copal used in rituals, hardstone for

groundstone tools, albite which may have been a potential source of "jade", and pyrite which was used for mirror backs, dental inlays and other goods (Graham 1987:754-758).

Caracol was discovered in 1937 by Rosa Mai, a logger searching the area for mahogany. His discovery was made known to A. H. Anderson, the first Archaeological Commissioner of British Honduras, who briefly visited the site with Mai in 1938. Anderson made notes on some of the extant architecture and carved stone monuments located in what would eventually be referred to as the A Plaza on the published map (see Fig. 4.2; Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981, Fig. 44; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987, Fig. 46). The site did not receive further attention until 1950 when Linton Satterthwaite, from the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, initiated the first of three field seasons devoted largely to finding, recording, and removing for museum display, the hieroglyphic monuments noted earlier by Anderson (Satterthwaite 1951, 1954). Satterthwaite and his crew recorded cache deposits associated with many of the monuments as well as the deposits found in two open tombs. They also produced a map of the central core of monumental architecture (Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981). Anderson returned to Caracol in 1954, 1956, and 1958 and concentrated his efforts largely on excavating the buildings of the acropolis located south of the A Plaza (see Fig. 4.2). He reported his discovery of tombs located within the con-

struction of Structure D18, as well as at the base of the substructure supporting Structures A4 through A8 (Anderson 1958, 1959). Caracol was not the focus of research again until 1980 when Paul Healy led a team from Trent University to the city as part of their investigation of terrace systems in the Cayo District of Belize (Healy et al. 1983, see also Thompson 1931:228-229 for the extent of prehistoric terracing in this region). They recorded several architectural groups, which they believed to have functioned as residences, as well as terraces located approximately 2 km east of Caracol's epicenter. Based on the analysis of soil samples taken from the terraces and on the palynological analysis of a core taken from the large, water-filled reservoir located in the epicenter, Healy et al. reported that the terraces were constructed primarily for agricultural purposes rather than for settlement, defensive or other purposes. Based on ceramic data recovered from test excavations within the residential groups, they believed the majority of the terraces were constructed during the Classic Period. Finally, in 1985, a long-term, interdisciplinary program of research was initiated by Arlen and Diane Chase from the University of Central Florida (1987). Based on the work of the previous research teams and based on several analyses of Caracol's epigraphic record (Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981; A. F. Chase 1985; Sosa and Reents 1989; Stone, Reents and Coffman 1985) it was clear to them that Caracol

was a major Maya center which appeared to have flourished during the "darkness" (Proskouriakoff 1950:111) of the Middle Classic Period and continued to be occupied during the "collapse" into the Postclassic Period.

...from its inception, the planned program of research at Caracol had three overall, long-term goals. First, the archaeological investigations were to define the chronology of the site by determining its ceramic, artifactual, and architectural sequence. Second, these archaeological data were to be related to the data gained from art history and epigraphy to understand the development of the site's epicenter, core, and surrounding area in order to determine just how much reality is contained in the political texts and portrayals seen on the monuments of Caracol. Third, the project would attempt over its long existence to determine how a Maya realm was organized, how it functioned, and how it changed over time (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:2).

The political history of Caracol is recorded on stelae and altars erected and dedicated at this site as well as on monuments erected at such sites as Hatzcap Ceel, located to the northeast of Caracol, and La Rejolla and Naranjo, both located to the northwest. The corpus of data pertaining to this record has increased since the inception of the Caracol Project in 1985 with the discovery of several important altars outlining victories in warfare (eg., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989; A. F. Chase et al., 1991). The dynastic sequence for Caracol begins as early as 9.3.0.0.0. (A.D. 495) with Ruler I (Houston 1987:88, Fig. 68). Through a series of successful war campaigns conducted by later rulers of Caracol, this city gained prestige and power which effected the histories of polities centered around the cities

of Tikal, Naranjo, and Calakmul (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987; A. F. Chase et al., 1991; Houston 1987; Schele and Freidel 1990). The earliest known successful campaign is recorded on Altar 21 which was found during the 1986 field season by Arlen Chase (1990). This monument records Lord Water's victory over Lord Double Bird, the ruler of the city of Tikal on 9.6.8. 4.2. (May 1, 562), thus providing a reason for Tikal's apparent hiatus in monumental construction. Another successful war campaign was undertaken by Lord Kan II, the second son of Lord Water, against the city of Naranjo, which was defeated on 9.9.18. 16.3. (December 7, 631) after a series of confrontations which began five years earlier. On 9.10.3.2.12. (March 4, 636) Lord Kan II attacked Naranjo again, naming 18-Rabbit, the Lord of Naranjo, as his captive. Lord Kan II recorded his deeds on Caracol Stela 3 and on the Hieroglyphic Staircase at Naranjo (Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981; Stone, Reents and Coffman 1985). Later successes against other centers are recorded at Caracol on Altar 23 which was found during the 1989 field season (A. F. Chase et al., 1991). This monument is associated with the reign of Caracol's Ruler XI (A. F. Chase 1989, personal communication); it depicts two bound captives and mentions three different centers, including the site of Ucanal. The iconography of some of the monuments dedicated after 9.19. 0.0.0. (eg., Stela 17, Altar 10, Altar 12, and Altar 13) indicate that Caracol was not only active in the

politics of the Southern Lowlands but was also involved in relationships of alliance, friendship, or submission with Maya centers in the Northern Lowlands (A. F. Chase 1985). The foreign individuals portrayed on these monuments were costumes reminiscent of those found in the iconography of the northern region. These monuments are associated with the Rulers XI and XII, the last rulers to be portrayed in the epigraphic record of Caracol (Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981, A. F. Chase 1985:106).

The research presented in the following chapters has been conducted as a sub-program of the Caracol Project, under the direction of Arlen and Diane Chase, and has focused attention on beginning to understand the social organization of this dynamic city. Formal and informal survey undertaken during the 1985 and 1986 field seasons revealed the density of the settlement in the area surrounding the central core of monumental architecture. It also revealed that there was a wide distribution of tombs which had been opened either through the efforts of ancient and modern day looters or through erosion and deterioration of the buildings. This, combined with the evidence for agricultural terraces, provided the impetus for this research as it was apparent that the organization of this city would not easily be defined by the current archaeological notions of elite and non-elite. The pattern of the causeways integrated with the residential settlement also

provided a means by which to define a viable sampling universe for this study (see the discussion of causeways in Chapter Two). The archaeological data which has been collected by the Caracol Project at large from the 1985 through 1988 field seasons is partially presented in the following chapters as it pertains to the discussion in order to provide supporting or contrasting evidence to the case at hand. This information has also been presented elsewhere in both published form and papers presented. For example, discussions of Caracol's role as an active protagonist in the Maya realm have been offered by A. F. Chase 1985, 1990; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987, 1989; A. F. Chase et. al., 1991; and by S. Houston 1987, 1990. Discussions of the results of excavation and mapping are offered by A. F. Chase 1987, 1988, 1992; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987, in press; D. Z. Chase et al. 1990; and by Jaeger 1987, 1990. Preliminary analyses of faunal remains (Morton 1987) and lithics (Pope 1991) have also been presented. The terminology and definitions used in this thesis follow those employed by the Caracol Project and are outlined below.

Terminology and Definitions

Several terms must be defined in reference to different sectors of Caracol (cf., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 51-54). The term epicenter refers to that part of the city containing most of the largest constructions. It is readily identified on the map (Fig. 4.1) by the convergence of seven

sacbeob into this area. It appears that the epicenter was an area also recognized by the city planners as the area is relatively flat and is marked either by the beginning of causeways or by walls and rolling terrain. The term core refers to the settlement located immediately adjacent to the epicenter in all directions. This area is marked by fairly dense occupation, extensive systems of terraces and by the causeways which run through the settlement to groups of substantial construction. It is within this area that the research presented here was concentrated. The term mantle is used to refer to the area beyond the limits of the core (which varies according to the length of the causeways in any particular direction). This area is not given any in-depth consideration in this study and its limits are not firmly established. The mantle may be defined by the identification of sites which were subordinate to the power of Caracol such as La Rejolla and Hatzcap Ceel. Alternatively, it may eventually be defined by a decrease in population density. The Caracol Project substitutes this term for "sustaining area" and it has tentatively been defined to cover 314 km² (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 53). The use of these terms do not imply the existence of a concentric model of organization at Caracol; rather, they are intended only as easy referents to different parts of the site. One other locational term must be defined as it is used to refer to a particular locale within the settlement

under consideration. The Conchita Causeway leads from the epicenter to the Conchita Precinct. The entrance to this precinct is characterized by an open plaza surrounded by Structures 4L26 through 4L48 (see Fig. 4.2). The causeway widens at the entrance to this precinct and disappears into the central courtyard. The road appears again on the east side of the plaza and continues up the hill into a smaller group of buildings defined by Structure 4L22 through 4L25. Again, it disappears into the plaza and picks up again on the east side of the group. The Causeway finally ends in Structures 4L1 through 4L8, located at the summit of the hill (Fig. 4.2). This group was severely looted in 1986. The Conchita Precinct is a term which refers to this entire collection of buildings and plazas. The size of the buildings as well as the tombs revealed by the looters indicate that this area served a different function, or functions, than the smaller plazuela groups located between this and the epicenter.

The terms used in Chapter Five are those used by the Caracol Project to identify the basic units of excavation referred to as Operations, Sub-Operations, and Lots. An Operation is the largest unit and is assigned to a group of buildings or to a concentration of excavations within one locale. For example, the excavations conducted within the group defined by Structures C11 through C14 were assigned to Operation C22. Sub-Operation refers to a specific excava-

tion associated with a particular building, feature or locus (such as a causeway, chultun, terrace, etc.) For example, the excavation associated with Structure C13 was designated Sub-Operation C22E. Lots are the actual excavation units which are a combination of natural, cultural, and arbitrary levels. Special Deposits include burials of all types, as well as cache offerings. If more than one Special Deposit was recovered from a particular Sub-Operation, they were assigned sequential numbers in the order in which they were found. Thus, Special Deposit C22E-1 was the first deposit found in the excavation associated with Structure C13. The numbering system includes an Operation Number, a Sub-Operation letter, and a lot number. For example, C22E/3 refers to lot 3 of Sub-Operation E in Operation C22; the letter C is a reference to Caracol. Artifacts other than sherd material were catalogued in a consecutive series within each lot (eg., C22E/3-1, C22E/3-2, etc.) Units are structural features such as floors and walls. Many of these were preserved and were actually found within the excavations. However, in the discussion of the construction history for each building, some units were reconstructed based on the available data because, logically, they must have existed. An example of this would be a staircase joining one floor surface with another but which was removed during subsequent construction phases or had collapsed due to the deterioration of the building through the centuries.

Units are distinguished from UNITS which are equivalent features but are associated with the larger platform upon which the structures rest. Both Units and UNITS are numbers sequentially for each structure or platform.

Abbreviations of several terms are utilized in the discussions which follow and in the illustrations. Operation is abbreviated as Op., Sub-Operation is abbreviated as Sub-Op., Special Deposit as S.D., Unit as U., and UNIT as U. An Object associated with a Special Deposit may be abbreviated as Obj. followed by the number of that particular item. Individuals included within a single burial may be abbreviated as Indv. with a number identifying that interment. The units of measurement are metric and the abbreviations of these follow the accepted standards.

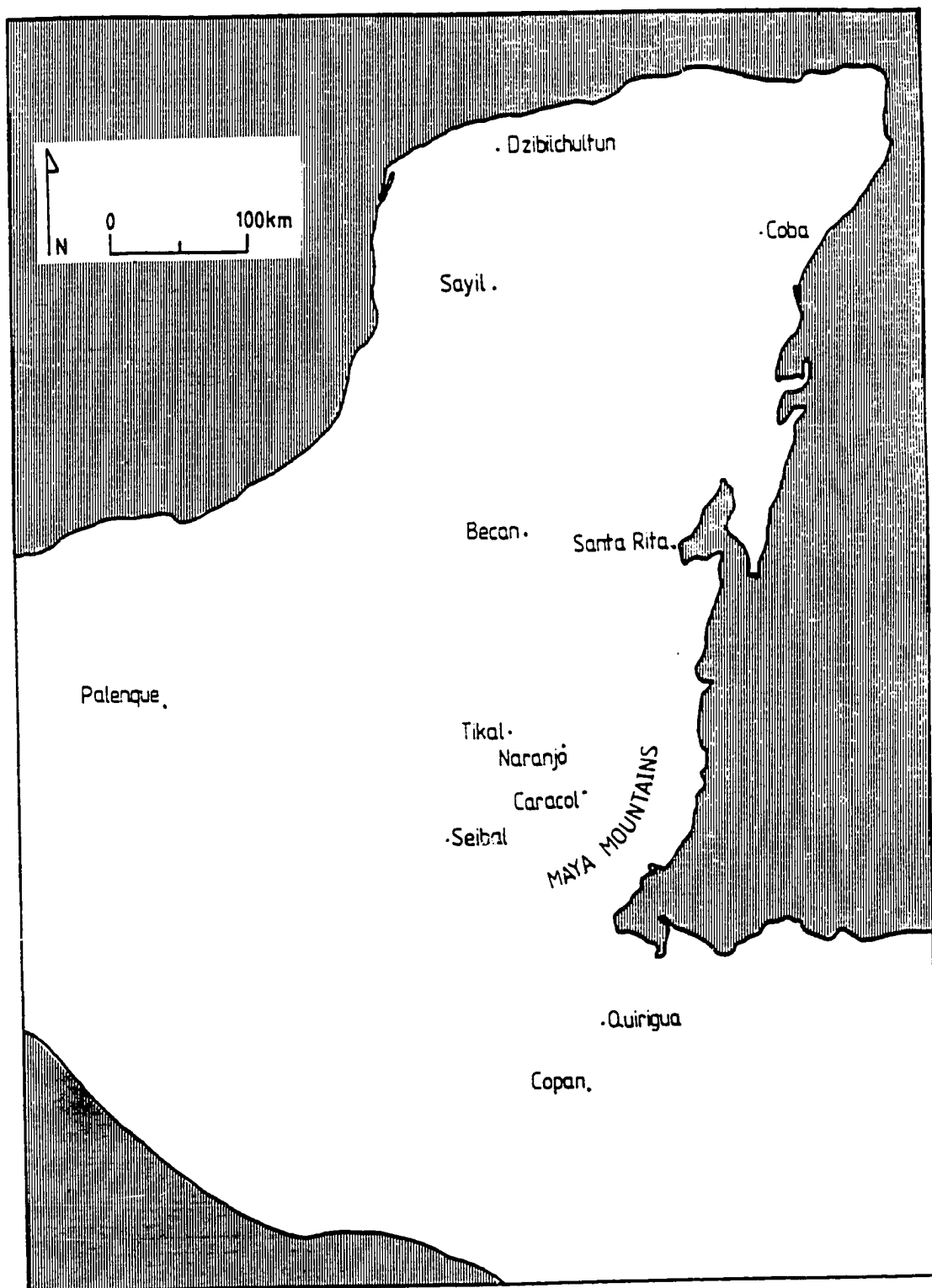


Figure 3.1. Map of the Maya area including some of the sites mentioned in the text.

CHAPTER IV

SURVEY

During the 1986 field season, informal survey was conducted south of what is now considered to be the epicenter of Caracol. A total of seven ancient Maya roads, or causeways, were discovered emanating from the epicenter like the spokes of a wheel (Fig. 4.1). Two of the roads stretching in a southerly direction, the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway and the Conchita Causeway, were followed until they ended in groups of monumental architecture. By the end of the 1986 season, the northern portion of the Conchita Causeway, six plazuela groups adjacent to it, and the group of monumental architecture at the end of the Causeway were mapped by Arlen Chase. In addition, the northern portion of the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway was also mapped. Chase noted a frequency of agricultural terraces in this area which was similar to that found by Healy et al. (1983) to the east of the epicenter. Based on this data, a research design was developed to begin investigating the sociopolitical organization of the city combining survey and excavation in the settlement to the south of the epicenter.

The research design employed to investigate the settlement pattern of Caracol differs somewhat from the commonly

used method of setting up a grid system which orients and guides the survey (eg., Puleston 1973, Folan et al. 1983, Tourtellot 1988b). At Caracol, the research has focused attention specifically on the settlement associated with an intrasite causeway. This feature was used to orient and guide the investigation of a particular portion of the settlement. The premise behind this is one explicated by Kurjack and Garza (1981:300-301) who characterize intrasite causeways as expensive artifacts which are "evidence of the strong interaction that once took place between the people who occupied the distinct architectural complexes". Thus, causeways are mute but very definite symbols of past relationships. In terms of archaeological method, an intrasite causeway represents a large scale effort which implies deliberate planning on the part of those responsible for its construction. Therefore, this kind of feature may be considered as a culturally defined transect passing through a portion of the settlement. It provides a focus for the research by defining some of the spatial dimensions of the sampling universe as well as by drawing attention to a particular area of the settlement. Based on this, research was initiated at Caracol to begin addressing the question of who lived in the site center, what their relationships were to each other and to those who occupied and/or used the different complexes of monumental architecture by focusing attention on the Conchita Causeway, one of the longer intra-

site sacbes. Survey and excavation (see Chapter 5) were undertaken from 1987 through 1990, in conjunction with survey and excavation conducted by the larger Caracol Project south of the site's epicenter (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989). The work described here was conducted as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram which is within the larger scope of the Caracol Project. The cooperative survey effort ultimately recorded the density of the settlement between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways as well as some of the settlement to either side of these two roads.

Survey Strategy

The objective of the Conchita settlement survey was to intensively cover the defined study area in order to discern the full range of variability in the settlement. This would ultimately lead to a better understanding of how the settlement developed in relation to the political fortunes of the city at large. The study area was defined to extend 200 m to either side of the Conchita Causeway and extend approximately 3 km southeast of the epicenter to the terminus of the sacbe in the Conchita Precinct. The distance of 400 m was chosen as the width of the study area because between the 1986 and 1987 field seasons, when the design was initially developed, 200 m represented the average midpoint between the mapped portions of the Conchita and the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways. When both causeways were completely mapped after the 1987 field season, it became quite apparent

that the distance between the roads gradually increased towards the south. The survey strategy was adjusted in the 1988 field season in order to fully cover the area between the roads but the extent of the study area covered by the Conchita Causeway subprogram remained the same.

A basic outline of the mapping strategy was to place survey stakes at 50 m intervals along the length of the Conchita Causeway from which to cut brechas to either side of the road. Reconnaissance was then conducted along, as well as between, these brechas. This is a modification of the survey strategy employed by Puleston at Tikal, who set up a grid system with the brechas and reported a 95% success rate in locating structures at this site (Puleston 1973: 75; see also Folan et al. 1983 for Coba and Tourtellot 1988b for Seibal). At Caracol, plazuela groups and isolated structures, as well as most of the water reservoirs, were mapped with a transit and stadia while the agricultural terraces were mapped with a brunton compass and thirty meter tape.

In 1987, the first priority in the survey schedule was to finish mapping the Conchita Causeway to the Conchita Precinct. The field season was slightly shorter than originally planned so the proposed survey strategy was altered slightly in order to cover as much area of the settlement as possible. This change consisted of placing the survey stakes along the Conchita Causeway at 100 m intervals rather than 50 m intervals. It was felt that any cultural features

missed while walking along and between the brechas would be picked up when the agricultural terraces were mapped. The first survey stake was placed approximately 350 m south of the epicenter, on the Causeway, west of Strs. C11 - C14. A total of 26 survey stakes were placed 100 m apart from this point to just within the Conchita Precinct. Throughout the field season, one to two 2-man teams were employed cutting the survey brechas and clearing the discovered groups of jungle growth. The orientation of the brechas was set perpendicular to the direction of the Causeway at each survey stake. The men kept a straight line of sight by placing three roughly cut poles in a line on which to back sight and the length of each brecha was verified using a thirty meter tape. The men employed in 1987 in the Conchita survey were from the village of Xaibe, just outside of Corozal Town in the Corozal District of Belize. All of them had worked with the Santa Rita Postclassic Project, directed by Diane Chase (1982, see also D. Z. Chase and A. F. Chase 1988), and were trained to recognize bumps and lines of stone which represented the remains of structures and other cultural features. While brechas and groups were being cleared, one man assisted in mapping the plazuela groups and agricultural terraces. As the season progressed, only one team at a time was assigned to clear brechas and groups while the other team was employed in excavation. In an approximate two month period 730 man hours were spent in the

survey and mapping effort. Forty-eight plazuela groups and one isolated building were discovered and mapped with a transit and stadia rod. Some of the agricultural terraces on the hillsides east of the Conchita Causeway were mapped and a terrace system on the west side of the sacbe, approximately halfway between the epicenter and the Conchita Precinct, was partially mapped. However, most of the effort in 1987 was concentrated on mapping the plazuela groups so most of the terraces were simply recorded with a transit point on the brechas and their immediate orientation at that point was taken with a brunton compass. The area of the settlement covered in 1987 extended from the first survey stake, approximately 350 m south of the epicenter, to the Retiro Road, located approximately 2 km south of the epicenter. The Retiro Road is an active logging road which passes through the site on its way to the Guatemalan border and intersects the causeways which run to the south of the epicenter.

In 1988, the survey strategy was adjusted slightly to ensure that the increased area between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways, south of the Retiro Road, would be as carefully and thoroughly covered as the area mapped in 1987. While this did not effect the area covered by the Conchita subprogram, it did have an impact on the labor employed and the amount of time invested in survey and mapping in this area of the Caracol settlement. Beginning

at the Conchita Precinct and moving north, new survey stakes were placed on the Conchita Causeway half way between the 1987 stakes, which meant that the distance between the brechas decreased from 100 m to 50 m which was more in line with the original proposed survey strategy. The brechas were marked on the Conchita Causeway with survey stakes as far north as the plazuela group defined by Strs. 2E18 - 2E25, which was mapped in 1987. On the Parajo-Ramonal Causeway, the brechas continued to be cut and marked with survey stakes up to the epicenter to facilitate the survey being undertaken by the Caracol Project at large. Most of the brechas spanned the distance between the two ancient sacbes; however, the first seven brechas cut in 1988, from the Conchita Precinct to approximately 350 m north of this area, did not extend from the Conchita to the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway because their orientation was such that they would pass south of, and therefore miss, the terminus of the latter sacbe. The first five brechas cut in 1988 extended 300 m southwest of the Conchita Causeway, the sixth brecha was 400 m long and the seventh brecha was 500 m long. The eighth brecha, located 400 m north of the Conchita Precinct, and all subsequent brechas cut in 1988 spanned the distance between the sacbes. Three man teams were employed cutting the brechas between the causeways -- two men cut the brecha while one used a compass to keep them travelling in a straight line. On the east side of the Conchita Causeway,

the brechas were 200 m long and were cut by two man teams following the method employed in 1987. Brechas were cut every 50 m on the east side of the Causeway from the Conchita Precinct to the Retiro Road, approximately 1 km to the northwest. The area covered in the Conchita settlement survey in 1988 slightly overlapped the area covered in 1987. It extended from Strs. 2E18 - 2E25, located 1.77 km southeast of the epicenter to the Conchita Precinct, located 2.91 km southeast of the epicenter. In approximately a two month period, at least 876 man hours were spent in the survey and mapping effort between the two Maya roads and to the east of the Conchita Causeway. This work was part of the total effort in recording the settlement south of the epicenter and resulted in the addition of 24 plazuela groups and two isolated buildings to the Conchita settlement study. As in 1987, terraces were located along the brechas with a transit point and the immediate orientation was recorded with a brunton compass. However, no terrace systems were fully mapped in 1988.

In 1990, three and a half weeks (approximately 384 man hours) were spent mapping the terrace systems between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways as well as some of the systems on the east side of the Conchita Causeway at the southeast end of the sacbe. Two men were employed to assist in this work, one would lead by following the edge of the terrace and clearing the way while the other would assist in

measuring the orientations and distances. This effort served to disclose the extent and complexity of the terracing as well as the integration of the terrace systems with the plazuela groups (eg., Fig. 4.8, quadrant 2E). The retaining walls for most of the terraces were no more than 0.5 m high although a few of the walls did rise almost as high as 1.25 m. The terraces frequently disappeared into lines of stone or disappeared altogether only to reappear some distance ahead. Sometimes a terrace would disappear completely and no sign of it could be picked up. However, the other side of it would be found while mapping what was thought to be a different terrace from an adjacent brecha. The men employed in mapping the terraces were trained to follow lines of stone and slight ridges in the terrain and to persevere in looking for a line after it disappeared.

An absolute elevation above sea level was not carried from any known point through out the settlement because the hilly terrain, the density of the jungle growth, the density of the settlement and time constraints all encouraged using a different strategy for establishing the contour lines of the settlement (A. F. Chase 1988).

Mapping Methods

Plazuela groups and isolated structures, as well as the majority of the water reservoirs, were mapped using a transit and stadia rod after they had been cleared of jungle growth by a two man team. One man was employed in the

mapping effort, assisting with the rod and measurements. A transit station was established within a plazuela group by either tying directly to a survey stake on the Causeway or tying into a known point along the survey brecha or from an adjacent group. The transit was set up in a central location within each group in order to shoot azimuth and distance measurements to the corners of each building which comprised that group. If a water reservoir was part of the group, points around the perimeter were measured with the transit. A permanent stake was put in the center of each group and its location established with the transit. The stake was labeled with the number of the brecha from which it was mapped as well as a second number simply referring to the sequential order in which it was recorded. This recording system was an informal method of keeping track of the mapped plazuela groups until they could be incorporated in the formal numbering system employed by the Caracol Project. The permanent stakes in the center of each group not only served to identify that group but also served as known points for future mapping of nearby cultural features such as the agricultural terraces.

The terraces were mapped using a brunton compass and thirty meter tape. Where a brecha crossed a terrace, a survey stake would be established on either the top edge or at the base of the retaining wall, using the transit to tie this point either into one of the survey stakes on the

Causeway or to a survey stake in a nearby plazuela group. From this point, the terrace would be followed in both directions until it either disappeared completely or until it joined another terrace or the platform wall of a plazuela group. The terraces were not cleared of jungle growth for mapping, instead the edges were cleared just enough to facilitate walking along them to record their orientation and length. One man would carry the end of the thirty meter tape and follow the edge of the terrace until it changed direction. The orientation was recorded with a brunton compass and the distance measured with the thirty meter tape. The second person would then position themselves at the point where the lead person had been standing and that person would then continue along the terrace until it changed direction again. In this way, even slight changes in direction could be recorded because the thirty meter tape acted as a visual aid in keeping a straight line of sight. In 1987 and 1988, some of the terraces were mapped but most of them were simply recorded as to location and immediate orientation where they were crossed by the survey brechas. Three and a half weeks were spent during the 1990 field season mapping terrace systems between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways and some of the systems on the east side of the Conchita Causeway at the southeast end of that sacbe.

After a day of mapping, the evening would be spent rendering the points on the map at a scale of 1:1,000. In this way, any areas of the residential settlement which were missed could be returned to the following day. Also any errors made in recording could be checked and corrected.

The overall survey strategy was quite successful in locating plazuela groups, water reservoirs and other cultural features such as chultuns. Only three plazuela groups were missed by walking along and between the survey brechas and these were discovered in the course of mapping the agricultural terraces between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways. Also, the areas which seemed to be relatively lightly occupied were covered by complex terrace systems. The ideal coverage of the study area defined for the Conchita Causeway was 100% but the actual coverage was probably closer to 90%, based on the distribution of the cultural features included on the map.

The Settlement

The Conchita Causeway subprogram was undertaken to gather data pertaining to the sociopolitical organization of Caracol. The research focused on the segment of the population not living within the epicenter in order to discern what relationships existed among the general populace. The survey conducted in 1986 revealed the widespread distribution of tombs located in plazuela groups which varied in size and complexity. Some of the tombs were found because

they had been broken into by modern day looters who frequently cut trenches into the buildings in order to gain access to the chambers. Other tombs were visible on the surface because the structure above them collapsed into the chamber, leaving a tell-tale depression at the summit of the mound. The distribution of these tombs indicated that Caracol's sociopolitical organization was quite complex and that it would be possible to gain an insight into that complexity. Excavations were conducted south of the Caracol epicenter between the Pajaro-Ramonal and Conchita Causeways by the Caracol Project at large and as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram (see Chapter 5) during four field seasons, from 1986 through 1989. The data recovered from the excavations indicate that this area of Caracol was occupied from as early as the Protoclassic Period (ca. 0 to A.D. 300) through the Terminal Classic Period (ca. A.D. 800 to A.D. 1000). The early settlement appears to have been relatively light and spread out over the area (A. F. Chase 1989, personal communication); however, the majority of the plazuela groups illustrated in Figures 4.2 through 4.13 were built and occupied between A.D. 550 and A.D. 700 (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989). This increased population coincides with Caracol's participation in interpolity warfare which is recorded on monuments which remain in situ at Caracol, as well as on the Hieroglyphic Staircase at Naranjo (Sosa and Reents 1980; Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981; Stone, Reents and

Coffman 1985; Closs 1985; Houston 1987, 1990; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989; A. F. Chase 1990). The excavations conducted south of the epicenter also provided evidence that most of the plazuela groups functioned as residences rather than as strictly ceremonial or administrative compounds (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989; Jaeger 1990, and Chapter Five in this thesis).

A variety of factors which can be garnered from surface characteristics have frequently been used to assess the status of the occupants of Maya centers. These factors include access to resources and the proximity to the ceremonial center (e.g., Thomas 1981: 18), construction volume and the labor invested (e.g., Arnold and Ford 1980), and group size and complexity (e.g., Willey et al. 1978: 35-36). In addition to these factors, it was originally posited in this research that if a causeway is considered a physical statement made by the elite about their social and political relationships with each other (Kurjack and Garza T. 1981: 300-301), then proximity to the causeway may be a function of status, i.e., the closer to the sacbe, the higher the status of the occupants (cf., Folan et al, 1983). These factors will be considered with regard to the survey data collected as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram and their usefulness in predicting status will be assessed.

The Caracol settlement is characterized by distinct plazuela groups with relatively few isolated, or single,

structures. Along the Conchita Causeway, there are 72 plazuela groups and three single structures. Since the settlement pattern is dominated by plazuela groups, the following discussion will focus on this level of analysis because, as Becker (1982:112) has pointed out, it may be more productive to focus attention at the group level, rather than on individual structures, in the attempt to organize a site into "cognitive units reflecting, in theory, those held by the Maya occupants and builders". Table 4.1 summarizes building sizes, area covered by construction, construction volumes, and distances relative to the Conchita Causeway and to the epicenter for each group.

The plazuela groups range in size from as few as two to as many as 17 buildings arranged around a single, central plaza; however, 78% of the groups have between three and six structures (Fig. 4.14). Group size (defined as the number of buildings per group) and complexity (which is reflected in the number of plazas which make up that group) have been used as indicators of relative status. The larger and more complex the group, the greater the status of the occupants (eg., Folan et al. 1983: 175, Thomas 1981: 18, Willey et al. 1978: 35). Figure 4.15 illustrates the relationship between group size and proximity to the epicenter in the Conchita settlement data and Figure 4.16 illustrates the relationship between group size and proximity to the Conchita Causeway.

TABLE 4.1

MEASUREMENTS OF PLAZUELA GROUPS BASED ON
SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. C11	5.3	7.9	1.2				
C12	5.4	4.4	0.1				
C13	9.9	11.0	1.7				
C14	5.7	3.6	0.2				
Platform	36	32	1.0	370	32	1152	1394
Str. C34	5.0	6.0	0.5				
C35	5.0	6.5	0.8				
C36	5.0	5.0	0.8				
C37	3.0	3.0	0.4				
C38	5.0	5.5	1.0				
C39	4.5	7.0	0.5				
C40	4.0	1.5	0.4				
C41	6.0	6.0	0.3				
C42	5.5	7.0	0.1				
No Platform				450	49	300	130
Str. C43	2.0	3.0	0.5				
C44	5.5	20.0	0.5				
C45	6.0	12.0	0.5				
C46	3.8	5.0	0.6				
C47	4.0	4.0	na				
C48	10.0	8.0	2.5				
C49	2.0	4.0	0.5				
C50	3.0	3.0	0.5				
C51	3.0	5.0	0.5				
C52	5.0	7.0	na				
C53	4.0	2.0	1.3				
C54	4.0	2.0	2.5				
C55	12.0	14.0	3.0				
C56	4.0	5.5	na				
C57	4.0	6.0	na				
C58	4.0	4.0	na				
C59	5.0	6.5	na				
Platform	30	49	1.0	470	116	1470	>5326

Note: Length = front to back measurement; Width = side to side measurement; Height = from platform surface; Epicenter = distance from epicenter along causeway; Causeway = distance from Conchita Causeway to midpoint of plaza; A = area covered by construction; V = total construction volume, including platform if present.

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. C91	2.2	3.8	<1.0				
C92	5.5	7.5	1.0				
C93	3.3	5.0	1.0				
C94	3.8	4.7	1.0				
No Platform				680	40	400	<84
Str. C95	6.5	11.2	1.5				
C96	3.7	5.4	<1.0				
C97	7.8	6.7	2.0				
C98	4.7	3.6	1.0				
C99	4.5	2.4	<1.0				
C100	4.0	7.7	<1.0				
Platform	34	24	avg1.0	750	105	816	<1108
Str. L5	7.0	8.0	1.5				
L6	5.0	6.5	0.6				
L7	8.5	11.0	2.0				
L8	5.0	6.0	1.0				
L9	6.0	12.5	1.3				
L10	5.0	5.0	0.6				
L11	4.0	7.0	0.7				
L12	7.0	4.5	1.0				
L13	7.0	5.0	1.0				
L14	8.5	8.0	1.0				
Platform	41	28	>1.0	460	115	1148	>1735
Str. L15	4.0	8.0	<0.5				
L16	2.0	6.0	<0.5				
Platform	25	16	1.0	470	92	500	<544
Str. L17	11.0	12.0	2.0				
L18	6.0	8.0	2.5				
L19	9.0	13.0	3.5				
L20	4.5	5.5	0.8				
L21	5.5	7.0	1.0				
L22	6.0	6.0	1.0				
Platform	28	24	>1.0	450	275	672	>1560

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. L24	5.9	7.0	<1.0				
L25	4.4	3.3	<1.0				
L26	8.2	7.4	1.5				
wing	8.2	3.1	<1.0				
L27	5.0	3.7	1.25				
L28	2.9	3.5	<1.0				
L29	4.5	7.0	1.0				
Platform	27	22	avg1.0	650	190	594	<831
Str. L30	3.6	6.0	1.3				
L31	3.3	7.2	<1.0				
L32	5.6	11.0	1.0				
Platform	24	21	avg1.0	650	110	504	<617
Str. L33	6.8	6.4	1.5				
L34	3.4	4.5	<1.0				
L35	5.4	6.1	1.25				
L36	3.4	4.6	<1.0				
L37	5.5	6.5	<1.0				
L38	4.7	5.3	1.0				
Platform	43	26	avg1.0	750	44	1118	<1317
Str. L39	5.8	9.7	1.25				
L40	2.2	3.6	<1.0				
L41	3.5	7.0	<1.0				
L42	3.6	9.9	<1.0				
L43	5.1	5.1	1.0				
L44	3.4	2.6	<1.0				
L45	3.7	3.8	<1.0				
Platform	30	47	avg0.75	650	275	1410	<1245
Str. L46	6.2	5.9	1.0				
L47	3.5	3.1	<1.0				
L48	5.9	5.5	1.0				
L49	4.0	4.4	1.0				
L50	5.7	5.3	1.5				
L51	5.5	5.5	<1.0				
L52	2.6	3.1	<1.0				
L53	3.6	3.9	<1.0				
L54	4.5	4.9	1.5				
No Platform				730	213	432	<225

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. L55	3.8	6.1	<1.0				
L56	4.7	3.5	<1.0				
L57	4.6	5.2	1.25				
L58	2.2	1.1	<1.0				
Platform	16	10 avg	1.0	750	102	160	<232
Str. L69	6.9	4.3	1.0				
L70	3.4	2.1	<1.0				
L71	4.5	5.7	1.25				
L72	4.7	5.4	1.25				
Platform	20	17	1.0	880	200	340	<441
Str. M1	8.0	8.0	1.5				
M2	7.0	9.0	1.0				
M3	6.0	4.5	<1.0				
M4	7.0	19.5	1.0				
M5	5.0	12.0	1.0				
Platform	27	30	1.5	1090	118	810	<1598
Str. M6	5.5	6.0	1.0				
M7	4.0	5.5	0.75				
M8	2.5	3.0	0.5				
M9	3.0	3.0	0.75				
M10	6.0	5.0	1.0				
Platform	22	27	<1.0	1390	20	594	<684
Str. M11	5.0	12.5	0.5				
M12	4.0	4.9	0.5				
M13	3.5	5.5	0.5				
M14	4.5	6.0	0.5				
Platform	18	20	<1.0	1090	52	360	<424
Str. M15	6.9	4.2	1.0				
M16	6.9	4.1	1.0				
M17	3.5	5.8	<1.0				
N40	5.3	3.7	1.0				
No Platform				910	100	294	<97
Str. M18	4.3	6.6	1.0				
M19	13.9	11.9	4.0				
N47	4.9	5.7	<1.0				
Platform	26	31 avg	1.0	960	138	806	<1524

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. M20	4.2	5.1	1.0				
M21	6.6	4.5	1.0				
M22	4.0	6.8	1.0				
M23	2.1	3.0	<1.0				
N48	2.7	3.8	<1.0				
Platform	25	16	<1.0	980	153	400	<495
Str. M24	4.6	4.4	<1.0				
M25	2.8	3.8	<1.0				
M26	3.2	3.8	<1.0				
No Platform				980	122	150	<43
Str. M28	3.2	3.5	<1.0				
M29	3.9	4.8	<1.0				
M30	3.3	3.3	<1.0				
M31	4.0	5.1	<1.0				
M32	3.4	3.4	<1.0				
M33	7.6	4.0	1.0				
Platform	22	22	avg1.0	890	115	484	<546
Str. M34	5.2	4.7	<1.0				
M35	5.0	4.5	<1.0				
M36	5.6	3.6	<1.0				
Platform	15	13	<1.0	950	122	270	<337
Str. M37	4.5	6.1	1.25				
M38	2.8	4.8	<1.0				
M39	3.8	5.7	1.5				
M40	10.5	8.4	1.25				
wing	5.0	3.5	<1.0				
Platform	14	25	avg1.0	950	55	350	<558
Str. M41	4.6	6.6	1.0				
M42	5.0	5.0	1.25				
M43	2.5	3.0	<1.0				
M87	4.0	2.7	<0.5				
No Platform				1060	194	182	<75
Str. M44	4.1	4.8	1.0				
M45	3.9	5.2	1.0				
M46	4.2	5.2	<1.0				
M47	3.3	2.7	1.0				
M48	4.6	4.5	1.25				
Platform	14	21	avg1.0	1090	49	294	<391

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. M49	6.3	6.0	1.0				
M50	4.2	7.3	1.0				
M51	3.3	3.9	1.0				
M52	3.3	3.5	1.0				
No Platform				1150	70	196	89
Str. M56	3.3	5.0	1.0				
M57	3.0	3.8	1.0				
M58	5.8	7.2	1.5				
M59	2.4	3.1	<1.0				
No Platform				1250	152	316	<98
Str. M60	4.3	7.7	1.0				
M61	5.6	6.5	1.0				
M62	3.3	3.7	<1.0				
M63	4.2	2.8	<1.0				
M64	6.5	6.6	1.25				
No Platform				1210	84	624	<147
Str. M65	5.4	3.2	<1.0				
M66	4.7	5.5	1.0				
M67	4.9	5.0	1.5				
M68	2.1	2.7	<1.0				
M69	3.7	6.5	1.5				
M70	2.1	2.5	<1.0				
Platform	21	16	<1.0	1220	135	336	<438
Str. M71	6.8	6.5	1.0				
M72	4.4	6.1	1.5				
M73	4.1	6.4	<1.0				
Platform	24	21 avg	1.0	1290	74	504	<614
Str. M74	2.3	4.5	1.0				
M75	3.7	3.6	0.5				
No Platform				1260	32	126	17
Str. M76	7.0	9.2	1.25				
M77	3.0	3.7	1.0				
M78	2.6	2.9	<1.0				
M79	4.8	3.7	1.0				
No Platform				1330	72	320	<117

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. M80	9.1	9.4	1.5				
M81	5.9	6.8	1.25				
M82	5.4	5.6	0.5				
M83	4.5	8.3	1.0				
M84	5.9	7.8	0.5				
M85	5.2	5.9	1.25				
M86	5.0	3.4	0.5				
Platform 26		32	avg0.5	1420	57	832	717
Str. M88	3.0	4.1	0.5				
M89	4.7	5.1	1.5				
M90	3.4	3.3	0.25				
M91	3.4	3.5	0.5				
No Platform				1050	58	180	51
Str. 2D17	2.6	6.2	<1.0				
2D18	4.3	9.0	1.0				
2D19	4.0	6.8	<1.0				
2D20	2.7	3.1	1.0				
2D21	6.6	5.4	1.5				
2D22	5.2	3.9	1.25				
2D23	7.0	6.9	1.25				
2D24	4.2	5.0	1.25				
2D25	4.2	6.0	1.25				
No Platform				1420	160	1225	<287
Str. 2D26	4.2	6.3	1.25				
2D27	4.7	5.1	1.25				
2D28	4.2	4.0	1.25				
Platform 20		18	avg<1.0	1400	70	360	<446
Str. 2D29	2.5	5.8	<1.0				
2D30	3.1	7.8	1.25				
2D31	2.1	1.9	<1.0				
2D32	3.5	3.4	1.25				
No Platform				1500	79	255	<64
Str. 2D33	8.1	5.2	1.25				
2D34	3.6	2.1	1.25				
2D35	6.6	7.1	1.5				
2D36	3.3	3.8	<1.0				
2D37	3.4	4.6	<1.0				
2D38	8.0	6.7	1.25				
2D39	5.3	8.8	1.25				
2D40	3.0	2.9	1.0				
Platform 25		18	avg1.0	1520	239	450	<747

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str. 2E1	6.5	6.7	1.25				
2E2	6.4	4.4	1.5				
2E3	2.7	5.9	1.25				
2E4	4.6	6.1	1.5				
2E5	3.3	2.7	<1.0				
2E6	2.1	4.3	<1.0				
Platform	22	17	avg0.75	1610	52	374	<45
Str. 2E7	5.1	7.1	1.25				
2E8	5.9	5.5	1.5				
2E9	3.4	3.5	<1.0				
2E10	4.1	5.1	1.5				
2E11	1.4	2.7	<1.0				
2E12	3.6	6.0	1.5				
Platform	18	17	avg0.5	1740	171	306	<326
Str. 2E13	3.8	10.3	1.25				
2E14	5.4	7.5	1.5				
2E15	4.2	8.1	1.25				
2E16	2.2	3.2	<1.0				
2E17	2.7	6.0	1.25				
Platform	20	19	avg0.75	1760	55	380	<464
Str. 2E18	1.8	2.8	1.0				
2E19	7.6	19.7	2.0				
2E20	7.7	7.6	2.0				
2E21	2.1	4.9	<1.0				
2E22	7.6	11.6	1.75				
2E23	3.7	3.5	<1.0				
2E24	3.3	2.8	<1.0				
2E25	3.0	3.0	1.0				
Platform	37	27	avg0.75	1770	52	999	<1367
Str. 2E26	7.9	11.8	1.75				
2E27	6.4	7.1	1.0				
2E28	8.1	10.2	2.0				
2E29	6.1	4.2	1.5				
2E30	4.4	5.5	1.5				
2E31	7.1	7.3	1.75				
2E32	8.5	14.8	1.75				
2E33	4.5	5.4	1.5				
2E34	4.8	4.9	1.0				
Platform	44	33	avg1.5	1950	138	1452	2997

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str.2E35	6.5	6.0	1.5				
2E36	2.9	4.5	0.5				
2E37	4.3	2.7	1.0				
No Platform				2050	93	196	77
Str.2E44	5.3	5.1	1.0				
2E45	2.9	4.5	0.5				
2E46	4.3	2.7	1.0				
No Platform				1850	157	396	45
Str. 2F1	5.0	8.6	1.0				
2F2	2.7	4.0	1.0				
2F3	5.8	7.3	2.0				
2F4	3.3	4.9	<1.0				
2F5	4.1	8.1	1.0				
2F6	2.1	3.4	<1.0				
Platform	25	25 avg	1.0	1330	179	625	<820
Str. 2F7	3.7	4.9	1.0	1410	151	----	18
Str. 2F8	6.0	4.6	1.25				
2F9	5.9	5.7	1.25				
2F10	2.6	2.4	<1.0				
2F11	2.3	3.3	<1.0				
Platform	18	18 avg	1.0	1480	225	324	<414
Str.2F20	3.3	5.0	1.25				
2F21	2.9	4.1	<1.0				
2F22	3.8	5.7	1.25				
No Platform				1550	139	140	<60
Str.2E52	1.2	6.0	1.5				
3D6	5.6	3.8	1.0				
2E53	3.8	2.6	0.25				
2E54	3.0	3.9	0.75				
Platform	21	22	<1.0	2050	153	462	<505
Str.2E55	3.9	2.7	1.0				
2E56	3.3	4.7	1.0				
2E57	3.8	4.5	0.5				
Platform	8	16	0.5	2060	100	128	99

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A (m ²)	V (m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str.3D1	4.0	5.6	1.0				
3D2	2.9	4.3	0.5				
3D3	3.0	2.6	0.5				
3D4	10.0	8.1	2.0				
3D5	3.7	7.2	0.5				
2E48	4.6	7.0	1.0				
2E49	4.4	6.2	1.0				
2E50	4.2	3.4	0.5				
2E51	2.9	4.6	0.5				
Platform	29	29	1.0	2050	193	841	1117
Str. 3D7	3.8	9.8	1.0				
3D8	5.1	4.9	0.25				
3D9	4.8	4.5	0.5				
No Platform				2100	112	247	54
Str.3D10	5.6	4.0	0.75				
3D11	3.0	3.4	0.25				
3D12	4.5	5.2	0.5				
3D13	6.6	4.8	0.75				
3D14	3.0	3.3	0.5				
Platform	20	20 avg	0.5	2130	153	400	260
Str.3D15	3.6	8.9	0.5				
3D16	3.9	3.8	1.0				
3D17	3.6	4.7	1.0				
3D18	3.8	3.9	0.5				
Platform	14	19	0.5	2180	177	266	188
Str.3D19	3.6	5.0	0.5				
substr.	16.9	18.4	>6.0				
Total				2180	177	----	>1875
Str.3D20	5.3	8.7	0.5				
3D21	2.0	1.9	<0.5				
3D22	6.0	5.0	1.5				
3D23	1.9	1.9	<0.5				
Platform	18	11	0.5	2230	118	198	<171

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str.3D24	3.6	3.6	0.25				
N-substr	11.0	18.2	2.25				
3D25	6.4	4.2	0.25				
3D26	5.7	9.2	1.0				
3D27	4.5	2.5	0.5				
E-Substr	19.0	28.6	6.0				
3D29	2.2	5.7	0.5				
3D30	2.3	5.5	0.5				
3D31	2.0	3.5	0.5				
S-Substr	11.7	22.4	2.0				
3D32	7.5	4.5	1.75				
3D33	3.8	3.4	0.5				
3D34	4.2	5.2	0.5				
W-Substr	12.0	14.1	3.0				
Platform	46	56	0.5	2290	134	2576	5791
Str.3D35	5.3	16.2	1.5				
3D36	5.3	6.1	1.5				
3E7	3.9	4.3	0.5				
3E8	2.8	3.2	0.5				
Platform	23	20 avg	0.5	2400	170	460	420
Str.3D37	6.5	5.6	1.5				
3D38	2.0	3.4	0.5				
3D39	8.4	6.8	2.0				
3E50	4.5	4.9	0.5				
3D40	4.8	10.9	1.25				
3D41	2.3	4.5	0.75				
Platform	27	29	0.5	2290	42	783	648
Str.3E9	4.1	7.0	1.25				
3E10	4.3	4.5	1.25				
3E11	4.3	4.4	1.25				
3E12	4.9	7.9	1.25				
No Platform				2400	39	420	132
Str.3E13	5.9	4.5	1.0	2520	31	----	27
Str.3E15	3.1	4.4	<0.5				
3E16	3.3	9.4	0.25				
3E17	4.5	3.9	0.25				
Platform	19	19 avg	0.5	2570	31	361	<199

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str.3E19	6.9	6.9	1.0				
3E20	5.0	5.3	0.75				
3E21	2.6	5.5	0.5				
3E22	6.0	5.2	0.5				
Platform	17	26 avg	0.5	2260	46	642	311
Str.3E23	5.5	5.4	1.0				
3E24	4.1	3.3	0.5				
3E25	6.4	6.3	1.5				
3E26	5.9	6.2	1.25				
3E27	5.9	4.5	1.25				
Platform	21	25 avg	0.5	2400	52	525	438
Str.3E28	6.5	6.8	1.25				
3E29	6.0	7.9	<0.5				
3E30	5.9	6.7	1.5				
3E31	5.2	5.5	1.0				
3E32	4.2	5.5	0.5				
3E33	4.9	7.0	<0.5				
Platform	31	41 avg	0.5	2550	149	1271	<817
Str.3E34	4.0	4.0	1.0				
3E35	5.5	5.7	1.0				
3E36	4.5	4.3	0.5				
Platform	19	20 avg	0.75	2790	88	380	342
Str.3E45	4.6	5.7	1.0				
3E46	2.8	2.6	<0.5				
3F12	4.4	4.0	0.5				
3F11	2.4	3.6	0.5				
No Platform				2350	206	266	<43
Str. 3F1	5.8	6.4	1.0				
3F2	4.0	5.4	0.5				
3F6	1.9	2.0	<0.5				
3F7	4.2	6.3	0.5				
3F8	5.3	6.3	1.0				
No Platform				2150	140	374	<113
Str.4L68	4.1	5.4	1.25				
4L69	3.7	5.9	0.5				
4L70	7.9	4.9	1.0				
4L71	3.3	3.7	0.5				
3E4	6.0	6.8	1.25				
3E5	3.5	6.0	<0.5				
Platform	27	18 avg	1.0	2720	149	486	<631

Table 4.1 - Continued

Group	Size(m)			Distance(m)		A(m ²)	V(m ³)
	L	W	H	Epicenter	Causeway		
Str.4L72	3.2	4.3	2.0				
4L73	4.8	4.7	2.0				
4L74	6.1	3.3	<0.5				
Platform	11	18	avg1.0	2750	108	198	<281
Str.4L75	3.5	6.8	1.0				
4L76	5.0	3.9	0.5				
4L77	1.9	4.7	1.0				
4L78	3.2	2.5	<0.5				
4L79	4.9	6.2	1.0				
4L80	1.7	2.4	<0.5				
Platform	22	19	avg0.75	2780	130	418	<392
Str. 4N1	3.6	3.2	<1.0				
4N2	7.3	3.5	<1.0				
4N3	5.4	5.9	<1.0				
4N4	5.3	4.5	<1.0				
4N5	5.3	4.9	<1.0				
4N6	3.9	6.5	<1.0				
Platform	16	25	avg1.0	2800	186	400	<518

If either of these distance relationships reflected relative status in the Conchita settlement data, there would be a negative linear relationship between distance and size. That is Figures 4.15 and 4.16 would show that groups with the greater number of buildings tended to be closer to the epicenter and/or to the Conchita Causeway. The group defined by Strs. C43 - C59 stands out as an anomaly in both figures which is to be expected as all the other groups are comprised of ten buildings or less. It is possible that Strs. C43 - C59 did not serve the same function within the Caracol settlement as the other groups, a proposition which

must be tested by excavation. If this outlier is removed from the sample size, Figures 4.15 and 4.16 illustrate a fairly continuous distribution of groups of all sizes in relation to their proximity to the epicenter and to the Conchita Causeway. Thus, at Caracol, relative status within the population is not readily reflected by the location of residential groups in relation to the epicenter or to the Causeway.

The distribution of groups represented in Figure 4.15 shows a sparsely settled area between 1500 m and 2000 m from the epicenter. It must be noted here that this apparent clustering is a function of the survey and is very likely not a real representation of the settlement distribution. This corresponds to an area of the settlement which was not reworked during the 1988 field season. As described above, the area between the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways which was surveyed during the 1987 field season was covered again during the 1988 field season and agricultural terraces were more completely mapped as part of the survey effort of the larger Caracol Project. The survey area on the east and north-east side of the Conchita Causeway was covered by a smaller work force and a pocket of the study area was not given as complete attention as it should have been. Due to time constraints, the terraces in this area were not mapped and thus the activity which would have served to double check the results of the brecha survey was not conducted.

At this stage, there is no reason to assume that the settlement density between 1500 m and 2000 m from the epicenter is any less than that found in other parts of the study area. In fact, this pocket stands out as an area in need of additional work.

The extent and complexity of the terrace systems at Caracol imply a centralized control over the construction of these features and thus, it is likely that land was not privately owned (Farriss 1984 discusses this for the Contact Period Maya). Healy et al. (1983) report that, based on soil analysis, the terraces were used for intensive agriculture rather than for settlement, defense, or for some other purpose. Since the terraces are integrated with the residential settlement, it is possible that the amount of area each group covers (i.e., the space allotted to living area as opposed to cultivation) could be a reflection of relative status. Obviously, the number of buildings which comprise the group will affect the amount of area covered by construction, however, the question really concerns whether this is the only factor or if there are other considerations involved. For the purpose here, area is not defined just as the open area between the buildings of a group but as the total space covered by construction. Area was measured from the top of the platform edges for those groups associated with well defined platforms and was measured as the area covered by structures for those groups which appear to have

been constructed directly on terrace surfaces. Given that the number of buildings which comprise a plazuela group may be a function of the number of inhabitants, the larger groups could simply be a result of a larger number of people occupying these compounds, thus requiring a greater number of buildings and larger amount of space. If this were the case, the groups with the greater number of buildings should consistently cover a larger area and Figure 4.17 should illustrate a positive linear relationship between group size and area covered by construction. Two plaza groups, Strs. C43 - C59 and Strs. 3D24 - 3D34, stand out as anomalies or outliers. Structures C43 - C59 were not tested by excavation, however, excavation was conducted at Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 (see Chapter 5, Operation C34). Based on the construction volume, as well as on the excavation data, this group can not be considered a residential group comparable to other groups within this settlement. If these two groups are removed from the sample, Figure 4.17 illustrates the expected linear relationship with normal random variation between group size and area, thus supporting the notion that area covered by construction is primarily determined by the number of buildings included in a group. However, it is tantalizing to note that a group of four buildings (eg., Strs. C11 - C14) covers an area comparable to that covered by a group of eight buildings (eg., Strs. 2E18 - 2E25). Excavation was conducted in both of these groups (Chapter

Five, Operation C22 and Operation C31 respectively) and the data indicate that both functioned as residences for members of Caracol society who had some access to labor and material resources. It must be noted that if the sample size were increased to include other areas of the Caracol residential settlement, the relationship between area covered by construction and group size may or may not be quite the same as that presented here.

An additional test of the proposition that the area covered by construction may be a factor of the amount of land a family could allot to living space as opposed to land reserved for cultivation is to compare area covered by construction to proximity to the epicenter and proximity to the Causeway. Folan et al. (1983: 119) note that at Coba, "... all evidence suggests that the elite of Coba lived in vaulted structures closer to the heart of the city and had larger walled compounds than non-elite residents". The walled compound, or solar, at Coba corresponds to the living area of a particular group of buildings and is thus comparable to the distinctive group organization of Caracol. Where the Coba solar is demarcated by field walls, the living area at Caracol is defined by the arrangement of buildings into a distinctive group with a single plaza. For the Caracol data, it would be expected that if the amount of space allotted for a living area was a function of relative status then there would be a readily apparent distribution

of different areas covered by construction throughout the settlement. For example, if Caracol exhibited a concentric settlement pattern like that described for Coba (Folan et al. 1983: 51), Tikal (Haviland in Puleston 1983: 24-25), Becan (Thomas 1981: 108) and Dzibilchultun (Kurjack 1974: 87-89), then there would be a negative correlation between area covered by construction and the group's proximity to the epicenter and to the causeway. In other words, groups covering larger areas would be closer to the epicenter and closer to the Conchita Causeway. Figures 4.18 and 4.19 illustrate the relationship between the area covered by construction and distance from the epicenter and from the Conchita Causeway respectively. Structures 3D24 - 3D34 is identified as an anomaly in both cases. If this group is removed from the sample, Figures 4.18 and 4.19 illustrate that there is no relationship between area covered by construction and proximity to the epicenter or to the Conchita Causeway.

If the Caracol settlement were organized in a barrio pattern as argued for the Postclassic center of Santa Rita Corozal by D. Chase (1982, 1986) and if area covered by construction were a function of status, then the expected distribution of area covered by construction would be more clustered. The clusters would be characterized either by groups of comparable area (implying pockets of differing status within the settlement) or groups with large area

surrounded by groups with smaller area (implying a replicated pattern of greater and lesser status relationships). Figure 4.20 illustrates the distribution of the area covered by construction. The intervals were derived by locating gaps within the range of area values. There is no readily identifiable clustering of groups based on area covered by construction, however, there is a slight suggestion that among a set of groups with comparable areas, there are one or two groups which cover substantially larger areas. With the current data set, the significance of this distribution in the residential population is simply a possibility which must be tested over a larger area of the Caracol settlement as well as considered with regard to excavation data. This idea will be considered again in Chapter 6.

Construction volume is another measurement which reflects the amount of labor invested in the development of a group and has been used as a reflection of relative status (eg., Arnold and Ford 1980; for a more sophisticated use of construction volume see Abrams 1989, Carmean 1990). This proposition is tested with the Conchita settlement data. Figure 4.21 illustrates that 19% of the plazuela groups have a construction volume greater than 1100 m³ and 81% of the groups have a construction volume of 830 m³ or less. If construction volume is a measure of labor invested and therefore of relative status in a concentric pattern of social organization, it would be expected that groups repre-

senting a greater amount of invested labor would have better access to the epicenter and to the Causeway than those representing a smaller amount of invested labor. In other words, there should be a negative linear relationship between volume and distance. Figures 4.22 and 4.23 illustrate the relationship between construction volume and distance from the epicenter and distance from the Conchita Causeway respectively. In this data set, there is no relationship between distance and construction volume.

If the Caracol settlement were arranged in a barrio pattern, then it would be expected that the distribution of construction volume would either be clustered throughout the settlement or the distribution would appear to be random. Figure 4.24 illustrates the distribution of construction volume throughout the settlement. The intervals were derived by locating gaps within the range of construction volume values. Similar to the distribution of area (Fig. 4.20), there is no readily apparent clustering of construction volumes and the hint of clusters noted above for the distribution of area is less evident in the distribution of construction volume.

It must be noted that, in general, construction volume may reflect a series of construction episodes (and thus the accretion of building material) over time rather than the amount of labor invested in a short period of time and therefore can not be considered a reliable indicator of

relative status. Although the data collected from excavations conducted throughout the area south of the epicenter indicate that most, if not all, of the plazulea groups were built and used during the Late Classic Period, 50% of those excavated groups underwent more than one construction episode and some of these episodes may have taken place in rapid succession. The excavations described in Chapter 5 also revealed that building size does not necessarily coincide with relative status, a point which will be returned to in Chapter 6.

An additional factor present in the Caracol survey data which is not generally available until excavation is conducted is the distribution of specially prepared burial chambers or tombs. It is generally assumed that tombs are associated with the elite members of society, if not strictly reserved for members of the ruling elite (Loten and Pendergast 1984), and that they will be most likely found in groups of monumental architecture. As noted above, there is a wide distribution of burial chambers throughout the residential settlement as well as in the groups of monumental architecture located at the termini of the causeways (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). As the survey progressed in the settlement south of the epicenter, the surveyors noted the location of the collapsed and looted tombs, their orientation and the number of chambers evident. A total of 11 disturbed tombs were noted during the survey in the study

area defined for the Conchita settlement, not including those found in the monumental architecture at the end of the Conchita Causeway. Ten of these chambers were found in eastern buildings and one was built into a plaza floor. Groups with disturbed tombs were located as close to the epicenter as 750 m and as far from the epicenter as 2.15 km. Disturbed tombs were found as close to the Conchita Causeway as 52 m and as far away as 194 m. The buildings within which the tombs were located ranged in height from as low as 0.5 m to as high as 2 m. It must be noted that looted and collapsed tombs are known from other areas of the Caracol settlement outside of the epicenter, some of them as far 3 km from the epicenter (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987, personal communication 1989). The distribution of disturbed tombs is a very clear indicator that building and group size and complexity, as well as location within the settlement, are not adequate factors by themselves to assess relative status at Caracol.

Group Typology

Based on excavations conducted in other areas of the Caracol settlement prior to the inception of the Conchita subprogram, and on data from looted areas, a group typology was developed for the site of Caracol using the concept of structure-focus patio clusters (Ashmore 1981c: 51). As Chase and Chase (1987: 54) note, it appears that "groups of lesser height, but consisting of the same general group

composition and layout, mirror the [general functional] patterns of their more elevated and massive counterparts." The types are briefly defined as follows (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 54-56):

Type 1 are East Structure-Focused Groups. This type parallels the Plaza Plan 2 defined for Tikal (Becker 1982).

Type 2 are North and East Structure-Focus Groups. Either the north or the east structure may be more elaborate but both are the foci for the plaza arrangement.

Type 3 are South and East Structure-Focus Groups. Similar to Type 2 in that two buildings form the foci for the plaza, the buildings focused on in this type are to the south and to the east.

Type 4 are Non-Structure Focused Groups. As the label implies, there is no apparent focus on any building or buildings within the group. Excavation, however, reveals that some of these groups include elaborate interments.

Type 5 are West Structure-Focused Groups.

Type 6 are North Structure-Focused Groups.

Type 7 are South Structure-Focused Groups

Type 8 are East and West Structure-Focus Groups: Non-alleyway. These groups have large east and west buildings of approximately equal size and focus.

Type 9 are East and West Structure-Focused Groups: Alleyway. The east and west buildings of these groups are

parallel to each other and define the playing area of a ballcourt.

Type 10 are Acropolis Groups fronted by range structures.

Type 11 are Multiple Structures on an Elevated East Platform Fronting a West Pyramid. This type is equivalent to "E"-groups defined by Ricketson (1928) at Uaxactun and are believed to have functioned as astronomical observatories.

Type 12 are North and South Structure-Focus Groups.

The groups included in the Conchita settlement include at least one example of almost every type outlined above, with the exception of Types 8, 9, 10 and 11. Type 4 groups are predominate (24%), followed by Type 2 groups (22%), Type 1 groups (16%), Type 6 groups (12%), Type 3 groups (10%), Type 5 groups and Type 7 groups (6% each) and Type 12 groups (4%). One group, Strs. 3D15 - 3D18, has the configuration of a Type 1 group, however it is adjacent to a single pyramid, Str. 3D19. It must be noted that this group and the pyramid were not included in the figures since it is unclear if a functional relationship existed between these constructions. It is possible that the use of Str. 3D19 and the occupation of Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 were indeed contemporaneous and this would have had a direct bearing on the function of Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 which would not necessarily be the same as that for other Type 1 groups. It must also be noted that

there is no type definition for single structures in this typology. Table 4.2 summarizes the types found within the Conchita settlement study.

Chase and Chase (1987:54-55) considered Types 1 through 4 to be general types because of their frequency and wide distribution throughout the Caracol settlement and Types 5 through 12 were considered specialized groups either because of their scarcity in the settlement or because they mirror building patterns found at other sites which are known to have served special functions such as ball courts. In terms of the spatial distribution of general versus special types, it would be expected that the special types would have a more limited distribution, perhaps reflecting limited access to the groups by the general populace or reflecting a function which would serve the immediate area (i.e., local administrative center or minor ceremonial center). The definition of general versus special types is somewhat borne out by the distribution of the groups along the Conchita Causeway.

Figure 4.25 illustrates the distribution of the different types in relation to distance from the epicenter. The special types, represented by Type 5 and Type 7, tend to be found between 700 and 1200 m from the epicenter. One of each of these types are located towards the end of the Conchita Causeway, between 2700 m and 2800 m from the epicenter. There are no Type 5 or Type 7 groups between 1200 m

and 2700 m from the epicenter. Type 12 groups, in contrast, are found in this area, 1200 m to 2700 m from the epicenter. The supposedly special Type 6 does not have the same limited distribution as the other special types represented in the Conchita settlement data. In fact, the distribution of this type is similar to that found for the general types, Type 1 through Type 4, which exhibit a fairly even distribution throughout the study area. Type 3 has a slightly limited distribution in that none are found further from the epicenter than about 1600 m. There is also a hint of two large clusters of groups similar to that found in Figure 4.15 but as noted above, this clustering is most likely due to the amount of survey accomplished in this pocket of the settlement and is not an accurate representation of an unoccupied area.

Figure 4.26 illustrates the relationship between group type and distance from the Conchita Causeway. Type 1 through Type 4 are found close to and further away from the Causeway while the more specialized types, Type 5 and Type 7 through Type 12 tend to be located further from the sacbe. 4.15). Type 6 groups, however, tend to be closer to the Causeway similar to the general types. Figure 4.27 illustrates the overall distribution of the types represented in the sample throughout the study area. The special types are randomly distributed through out this area, a distribution

TABLE 4.2

GROUP TYPES IN THE CONCHITA SETTLEMENT STUDY

GROUP	TYPE	GROUP	TYPE
Str.C11-C14	2	Str.2D33-2D40	1
Str.C34-C42	2	Str.2E1-2E6	3
Str.C43-C59	3	Str.2E7-2E12	4
Str.C91-C94	1	Str.2E13-2E17	1
Str.C95-C100	2	Str.2E18-2E25	4
Str.L5-L14	1	Str.2E26-2E34	4
Str.L15-L16	4	Str.2E35-2E37	6
Str.L17-L22	2	Str.2E44-2E46	6
Str.L24-L29	3	Str.2E52,3D6,	
Str.L30-L32	4	2E53,2E54	2
Str.L33-L38	2	Str.2E55-2E57	2
Str.L39-L45	6	Str.2F1-2F6	1
Str.L46-L54	7	Str.2F7	-
Str.L55-L58	5	Str.2F8-2F11	12
Str.L69-L72	4	Str.2F20-2F22	12
Str.M1-M5	7	Str.3D1-3D5,	
Str.M6-M10	2	2E48-2E51	1
Str.M11-M14	6	Str.3D7-3D9	6
Str.M15-M17,N40	4	Str.3D10-3D14	12
Str.M18-M19,N47	7	Str.3D15-3D18	-
Str.M20-M23,N48	3	Str.3D19	-
Str.M24-M26	4	Str.3D20-3D23	2
Str.M28-M33	5	Str.3D24-3D34	1
Str.M34-M36	4	Str.3D35,3D36,	
Str.M37-M40	3	3D7,3E8	2
Str.M41-43,M87	2	Str.3D37-3D41	1
Str.M44-M48	4	Str.3E9-3E12	4
Str.M49-M52	2	Str.3E13	-
Str.M56-M59	1	Str.3E15-3E17	4
Str.M60-M64	5	Str.3E19-3E22	2
Str.M65-M70	4	Str.3E23-3E27	1
Str.M71-M73	2	Str.3E28-3E33	2
Str.M74-M75	4	Str.3E34-3E35	2
Str.M76-M79	6	Str.3E45-3F11	6
Str.M80-M86	6	Str.3F1,3F2,3F6-3F8	4
Str.M88-M91	7	Str.4L68-4L71,3E4,E5	7
Str.2D17-2D25	3	Str.4L72-4L74	6
Str.2D26-2D28	4	Str.4L75-4L80	5
Str.2D29-2D32	1	Str.4N1-4N6	4

which may prove to be different if the sample size were increased to cover a larger portion of the Caracol settlement.

Figure 4.28 illustrates the relationship between group type and the area covered by construction. The general types, Type 1 through Type 4, have a wider range of area than the more specialized types represented by Type 5 through Type 12. It must be emphasized here that this distribution may be a factor of the sample size and it may change when a larger sample is considered. However, one implication is that the relationship between group type and area covered by construction may be a reflection of different functions, i.e., that as a set, Type 1 through Type 4 served residential functions which would have required somewhat different amounts of living space according to the number of people occupying the group. This is an implication to be considered with regard to the excavation data collected as part of the Conchita subprogram.

Figure 4.29 illustrates the relationship between type and construction volume. The range of volumes is similar for both the special and general types and there appears to be no relationship between these two factors. This is particularly true if the outliers represented by Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 and Strs. 2E26 - 2E34 are removed from the sample as anomalies. A larger sample size is needed to

determine if a relationship exists between group type and construction volume.

Terrace Systems

The map of Caracol illustrates the intimate relationship between the plazuela groups and the terrace systems. Healy et al. (1983) were the first to record the presence of these terraces at Caracol and based on soil analysis, they reported that the terraces were used for intensive agriculture rather than solely for settlement or defense. Earlier references to the ancient Maya use of this intensive agricultural technique include Thompson (1931) for southern Belize, Turner, II (1974a) for the Peten region of Guatemala and Turner, II (1974b) for the Rio Bec zone in southeastern Mexico.

The survey conducted by the Caracol Project south of the epicenter, including the work conducted as part of the Conchita subprogram, found that, in this area of the site, the terraces begin just south of the plateau on which the epicenter was constructed and extend beyond the termini of the Conchita and Pajaro-Ramonal Causeways. Survey in other parts of Caracol reveal that terrace systems in these areas are comparable to this distribution. The terraces are readily identified by retaining walls ranging from 0.5 m to approximately 1.25 m high. The systems ring the valleys and, in some areas, enclose plots for cultivation. Based on the excavations conducted throughout the area south of the

epicenter, Chase and Chase (1989: 15) have proposed a fairly rapid 325% increase in the population of Caracol in a period of approximately 150 years following Caracol's conquest of the city of Tikal in A.D. 562 (9.6.8.4.2) (for a discussion of this event see A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987 and Houston 1990). Since a large population needed to be sustained and a labor force was available, it is probable that most, if not all, the terrace systems were constructed during this time period. The extent and complexity of the terrace systems imply a well-organized, central authority. Healy et al. (1983: 402) note that "[the construction of these systems does] not appear to have been carried out haphazardly, or on an individual family level of organization."

Healy et al. (1983: 405) investigated the construction of the terraces and noted that the material used to build the terraces probably served to control water flow and soil erosion. Even without excavation, this would seem intuitively correct, given the nature of the terrain and the seasonal rainfall which is characteristic of this area of the Maya Lowlands. The idea that the terraces not only served to increase the amount of cultivable land but also served to control water flow and drainage becomes even more plausible when the distribution of water reservoirs within the settlement is considered.

Water Reservoirs

Water management must have been a major task for the people of Caracol as the nearest source of fresh water is the Guacamallo River, part of the Macal River, located some 13 miles northwest of Caracol. Four water reservoirs are located within the epicenter and one of them still holds water today. During the course of survey, it became quickly apparent that access to fresh water was a critical factor, not only for supporting the basic needs of the population but also for supplying the cultivated fields. In the Conchita settlement study, a total of nine water reservoirs were found within the limits set by the study area. Four of the reservoirs are located among the terraces and are not clearly associated with any one group (see for example Fig. 4.8, quadrant 2E). In contrast, five of the reservoirs are associated with particular plazuela groups either because they are dug into the plaza surface (e.g., Strs. C95 - C100) or because they are in immediate proximity to a group (e.g., Strs. 2E19- 2E25). Table 4.3 summarizes the location of the water reservoirs and their sizes.

Chultuns

Chultuns have also been attributed with functioning as possible water catchments at some sites (eg., E. H. Thompson 1897, Puleston 1971). However, excavation of these features by Clarissa Hunter of Ball State University during the 1989 field season revealed that at least some of them served as

burial locations (C. Hunter, in preparation; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press).

TABLE 4.3
WATER RESERVOIRS

Location	Size(m)			Distance(m)	
	l	w	d	causeway	epicenter
field	3.7	4.8	1.5	150 E	750
field	8.5	6.3	1.7	220 E	2150
field	7.0	5.*	1.5	204 E	2150
field	10.7	8.7	na	within 200 W	1850
Str.C95-C100	3.1	4.7	1.0	150 W	750
Str.L39-L45	8.7	7.4	na	150 E	275
Str.2E19-2E25	6.7	7.5	1.2	52 W	1770
Str.3D34-3D35	7.5	8.8	1.2	88 S	2790

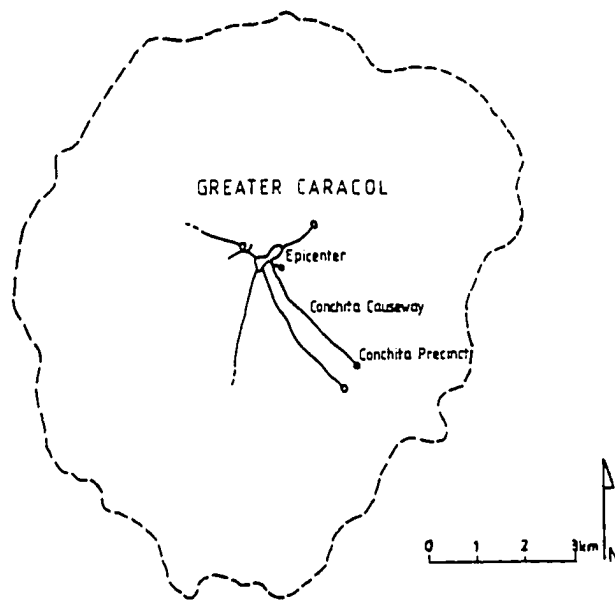
note:

location = where reservoir was found; l = length, w = width, d = depth when mapped; causeway = direction and distance from the causeway, epicenter = distance from the epicenter

The Conchita Causeway and Caracol

The settlement associated with the Conchita Causeway is representative of Caracol at large in terms of the types of groups present, their sizes and complexity, and their association with agricultural terraces. Also comparable is the presence of tombs, either collapsed or looted, in groups of all sizes. This is evident in the work reported by Healy et al. (1983) to the east of the Caracol epicenter and is particularly evident in the work reported by Chase and Chase (1987, 1989) in areas adjacent to that covered by the Con-

chita Causeway subprogram as well as to the northwest of the epicenter. However, what remains in question is the density and areal extent of the settlement to the west, north and east of the epicenter, a problem which is being addressed by the Caracol Project in continuing research.



7A	7B	7C	7D	7E	7F	7G	7H	7I	7J	7K	7L	7M	7N
6Z	5G	5H	5I	5J	5K	5L	5M	5N	5O	5P	5Q	5R	7O
6Y	5F	3U	3V	3W	3X	3Y	3Z	4A	4B	4C	4D	5S	7P
6X	5E	3T	2Q	2R	2S	2T	2U	2V	2W	2X	4E	5T	7Q
6W	5D	3S	2P	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	2Y	4F	5U	7R
6V	5C	3R	2O	T	G	H	I	J	2A	2Z	4G	5V	7S
6U	5B	3Q	2N	S	F	A	B	K	2B	3A	4H	5W	7T
6T	5A	3P	2M	R	E	D	C	L	2C	3B	4I	5X	7U
6S	4Z	3O	2L	Q	P	O	N	M	2D	3C	4J	5Y	7V
6R	4Y	3N	2K	2J	2I	2H	2G	2F	2E	3D	4K	5Z	7W
6Q	4X	3M	3L	3K	3J	3I	3H	3G	3F	3E	4L	6A	7X
6P	4W	4V	4U	4T	4S	4R	4Q	4P	4O	4N	4M	6B	7Y
6O	6N	6M	6L	6K	6J	6I	6H	6G	6F	6E	6D	6C	7Z
8N	8M	8L	8K	8J	8I	8H	8G	8F	8E	8D	8C	8B	8A

Figure 4.1. a) Greater Caracol illustrating the estimated sustaining area; b) Diagram illustrating the relationship of map quadrants. Quadrants A, B, and D include the architecture of the epicenter (from A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 8, 63).

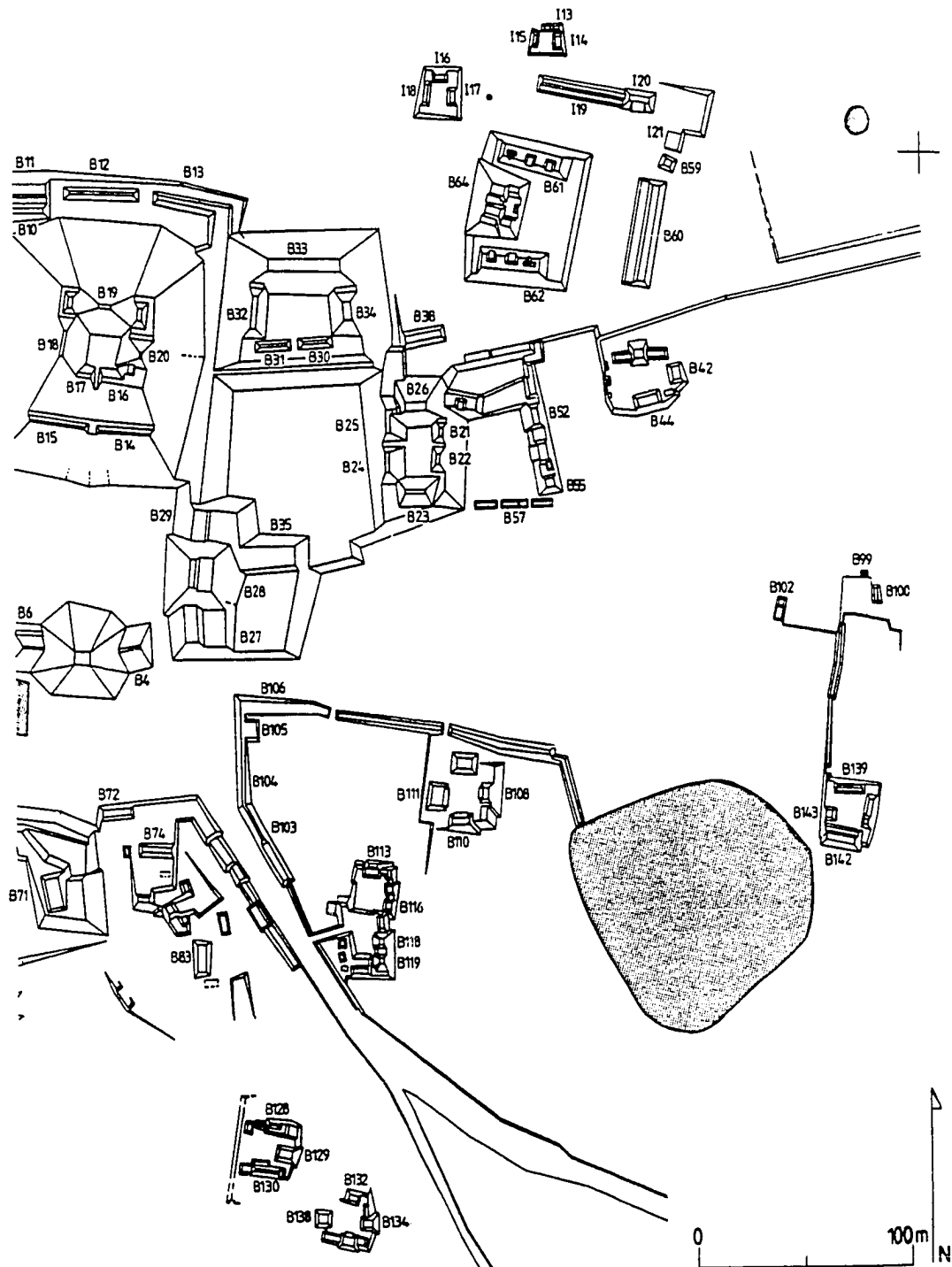


Figure 4.2. Quadrant B of the Caracol map. The stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs. (from A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 66).

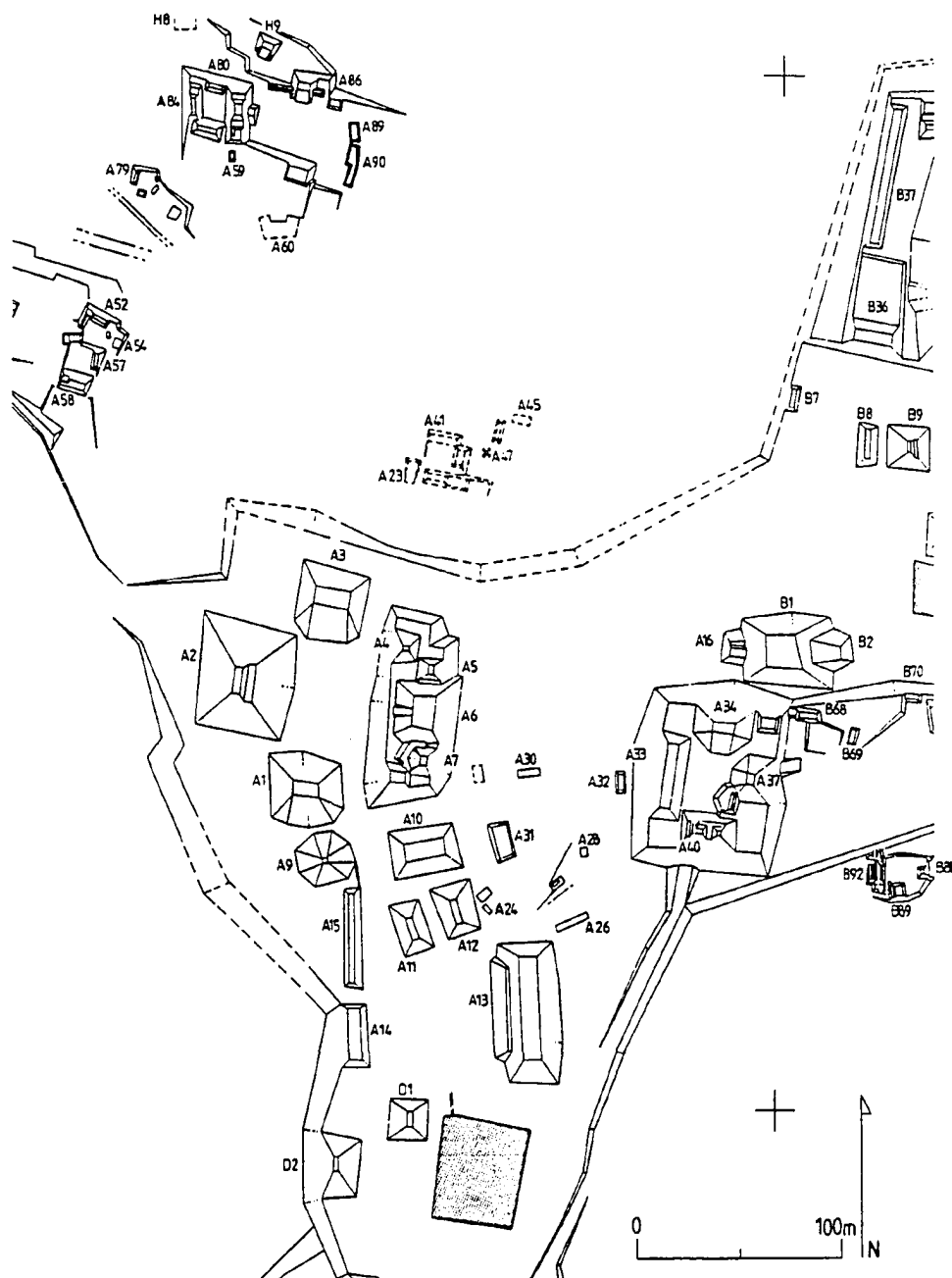


Figure 4.3. Quadrants A, B, and D of the Caracol map. The stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs. (from A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 65).

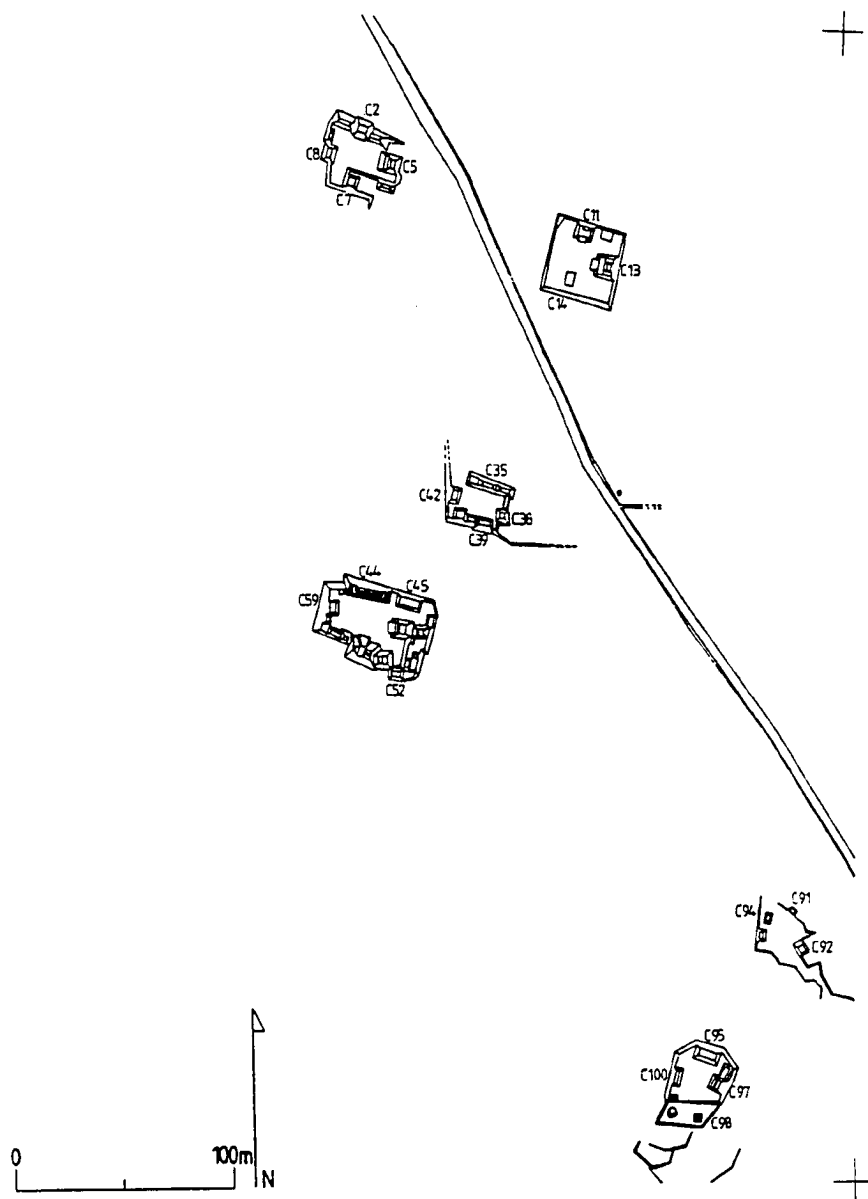


Figure 4.4. Quadrant C of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.



Figure 4.5. Quadrant L of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.



Figure 4.6. Quadrants M and N of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway sub-program. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.

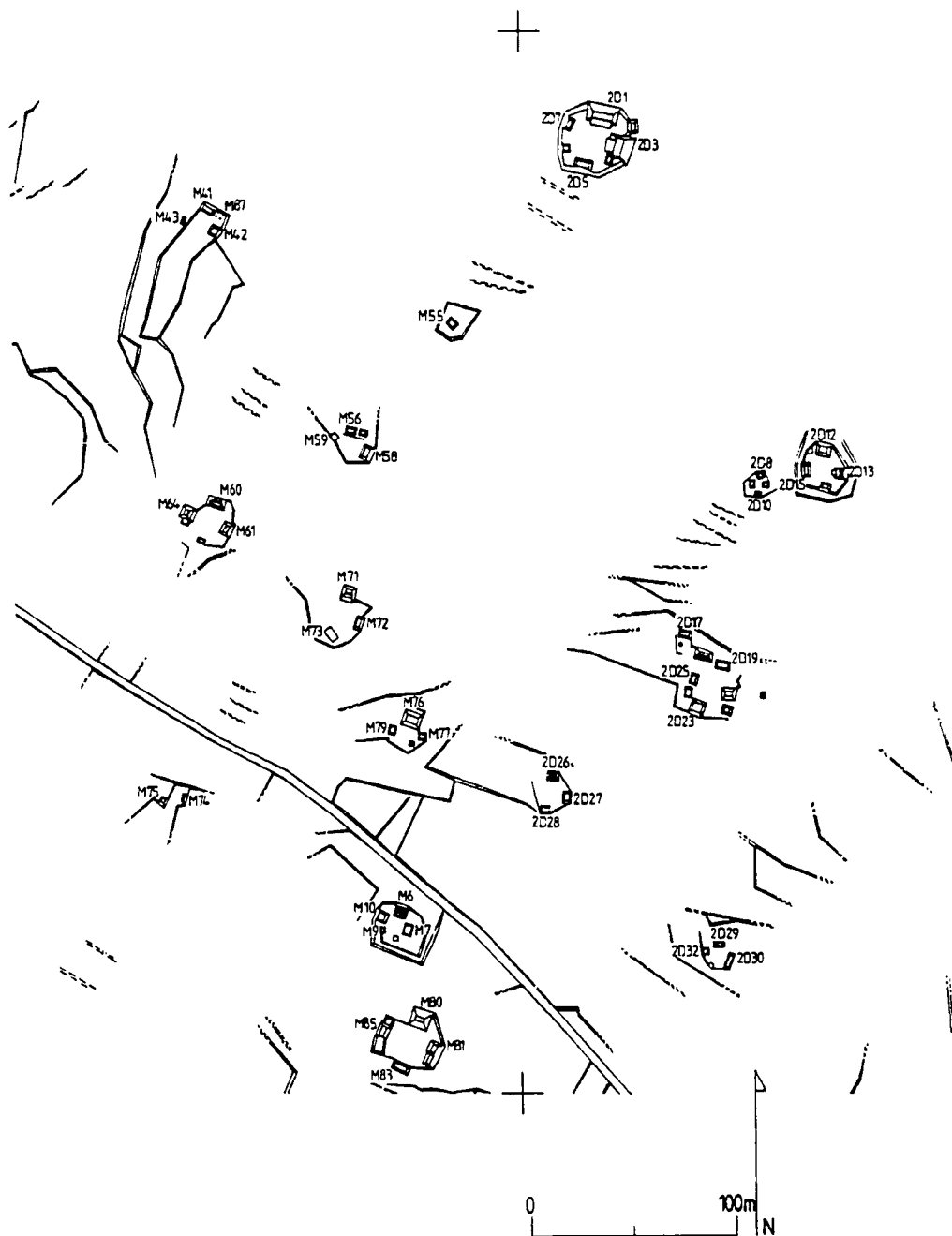


Figure 4.7. Quadrants M and 2D of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.



Figure 4.8. Quadrants 2E and 2F of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs. Unstippled circles denote natural sinkholes.

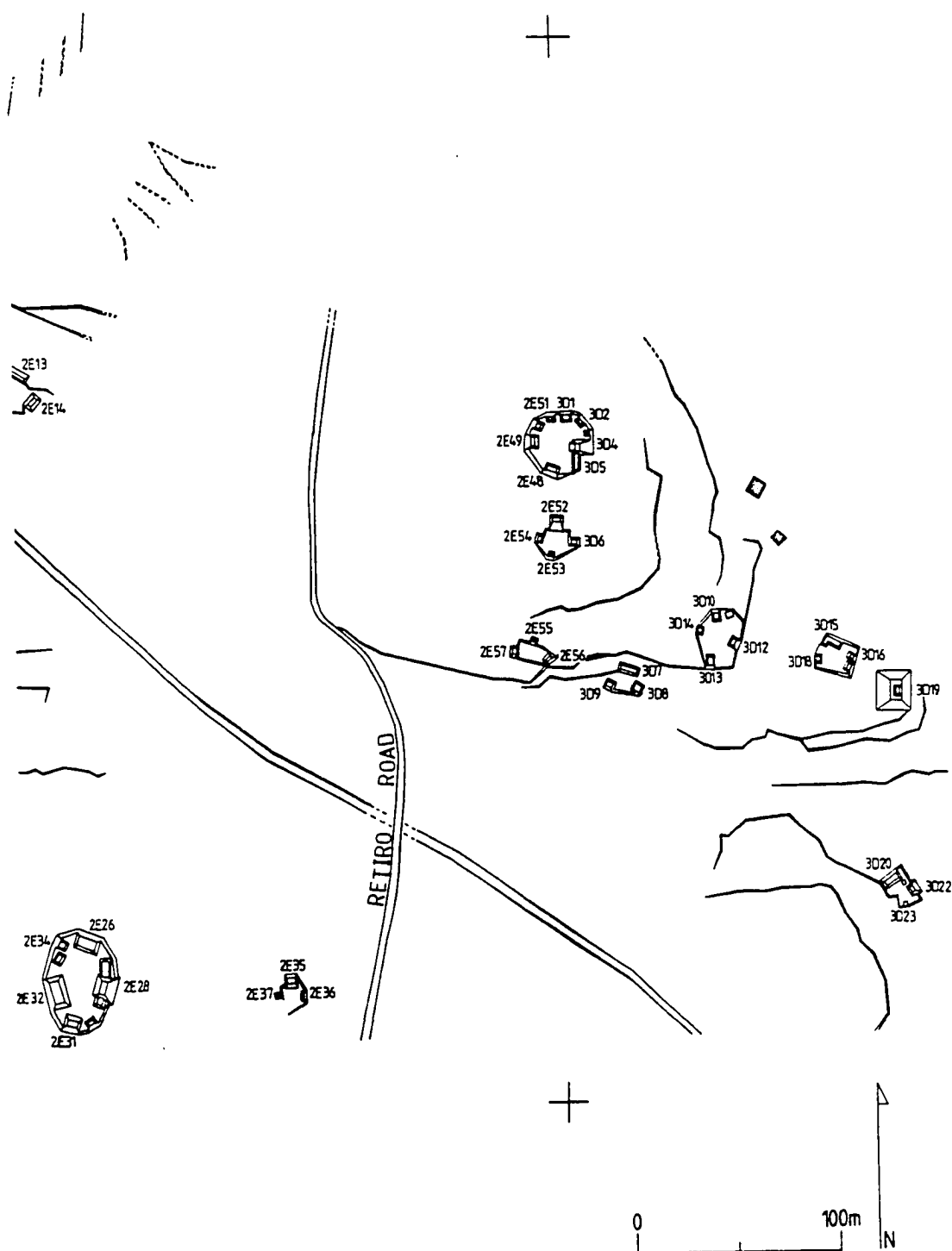


Figure 4.9. Quadrants 2E and 3D of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.

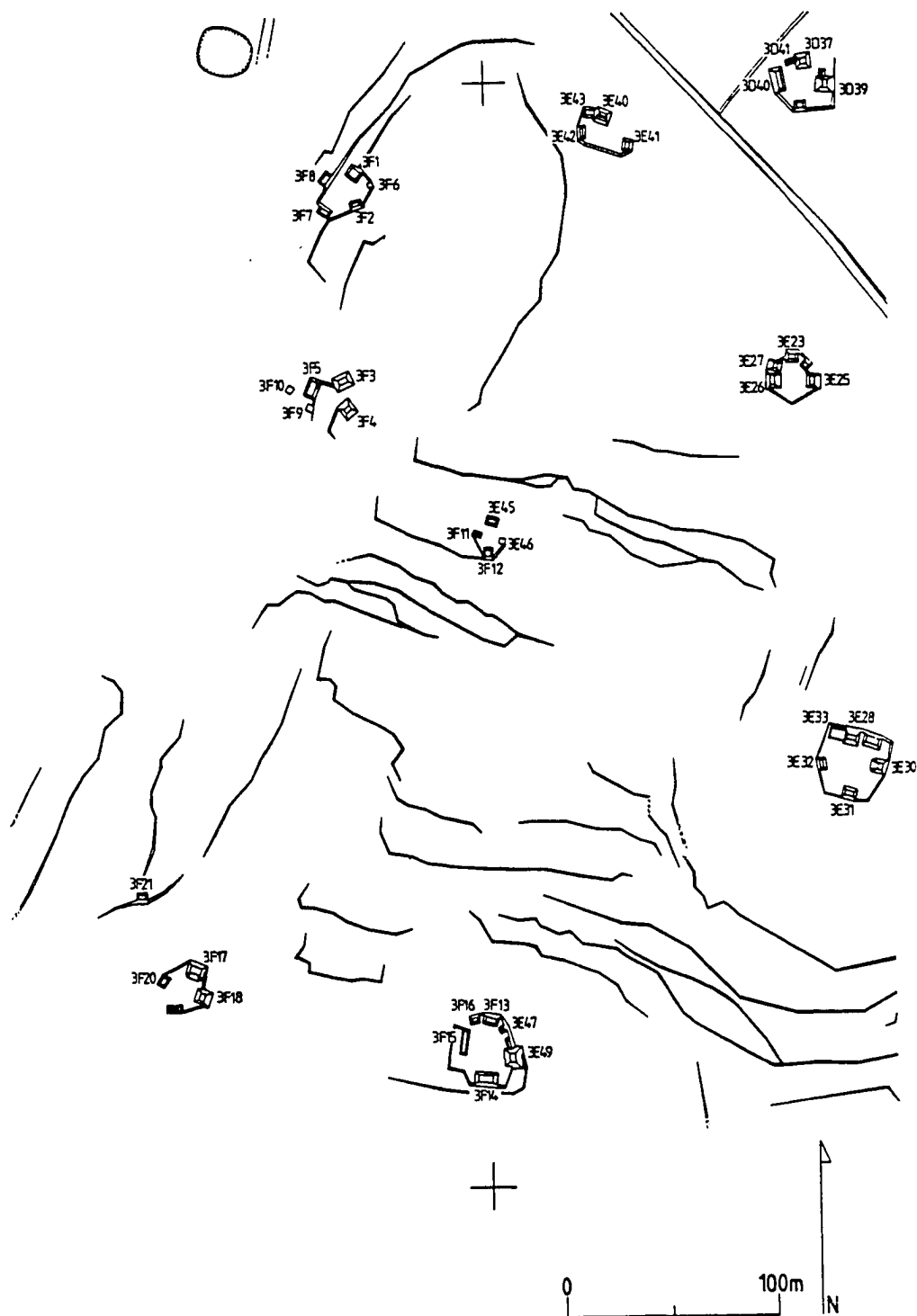


Figure 4.10. Quadrants 3E and 3F of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs. Unstippled circles denote natural sinkholes.

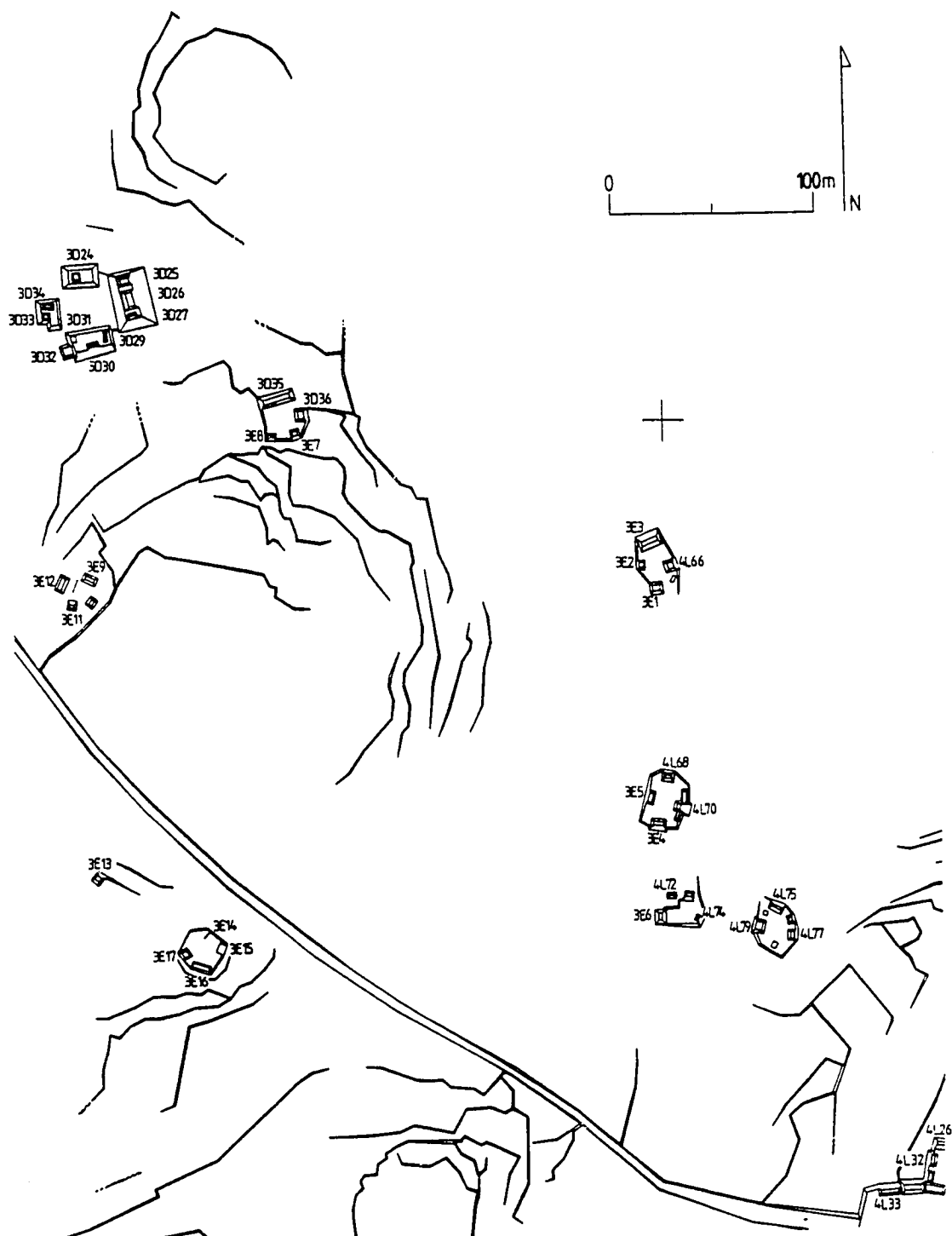


Figure 4.11. Quadrants 3E and 4L of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.

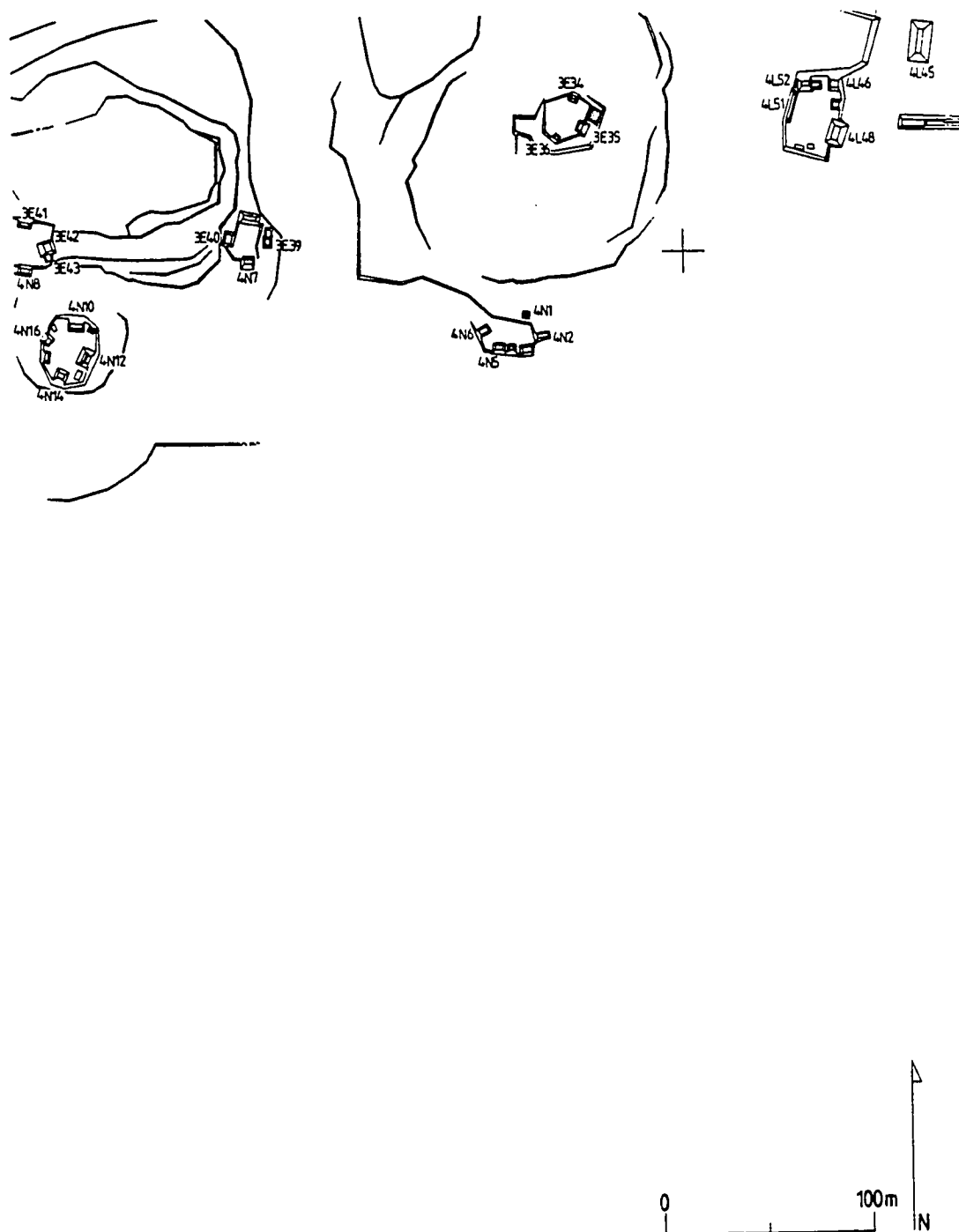


Figure 4.12. Quadrants 3E, 4L, and 4N of the Caracol map illustrating the settlement included in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs.

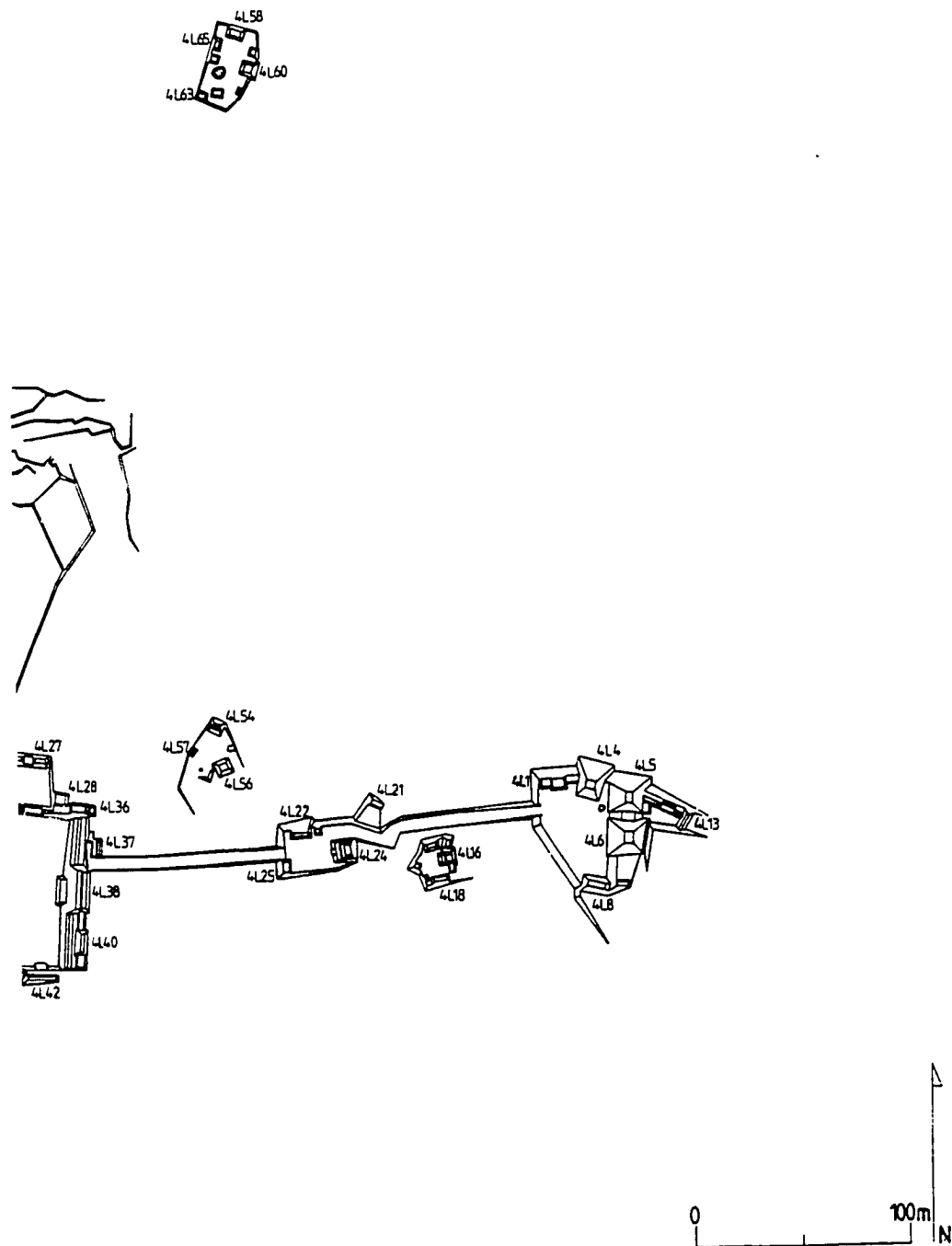


Figure 4.13. Quadrant 4L of the Caracol map illustrating the Conchita Precinct. Stippled areas denote ancient water reservoirs. (from A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:79).

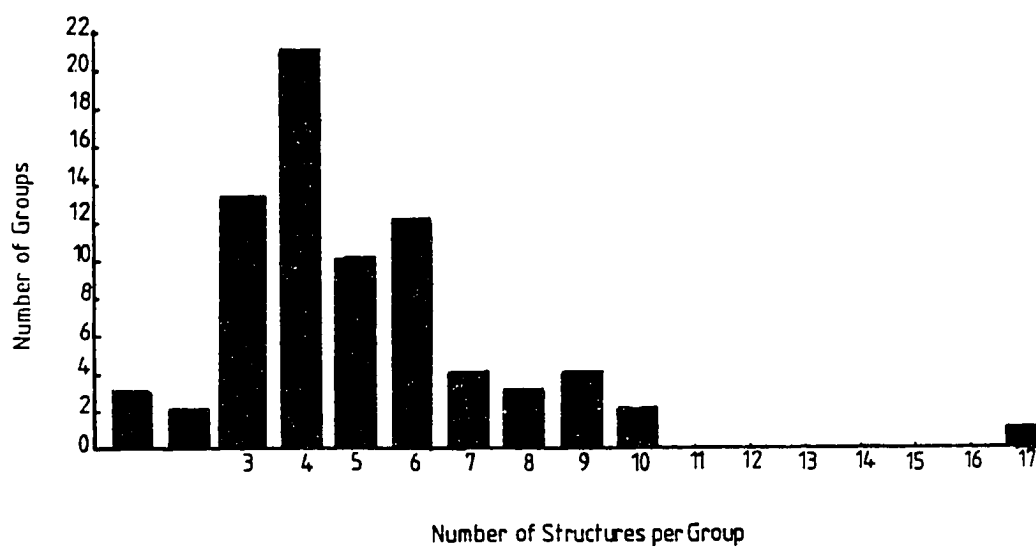


Figure 4.14. Number of groups versus group size.

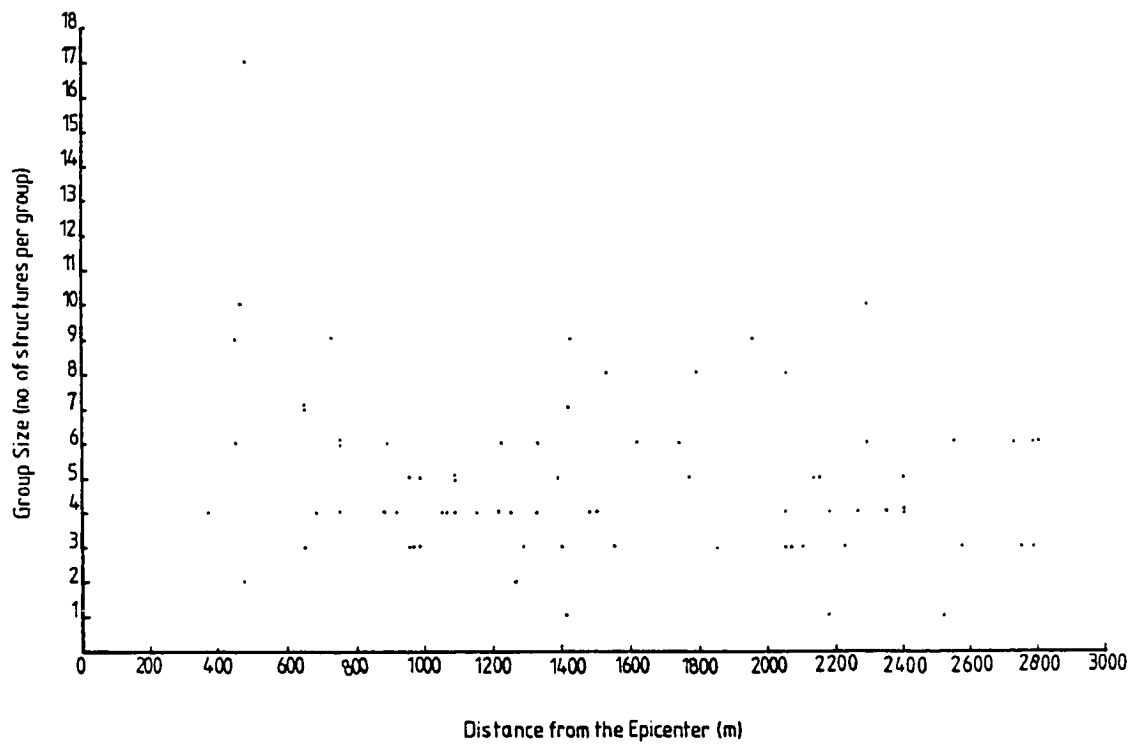


Figure 4.15. Group size versus distance from the epicenter.

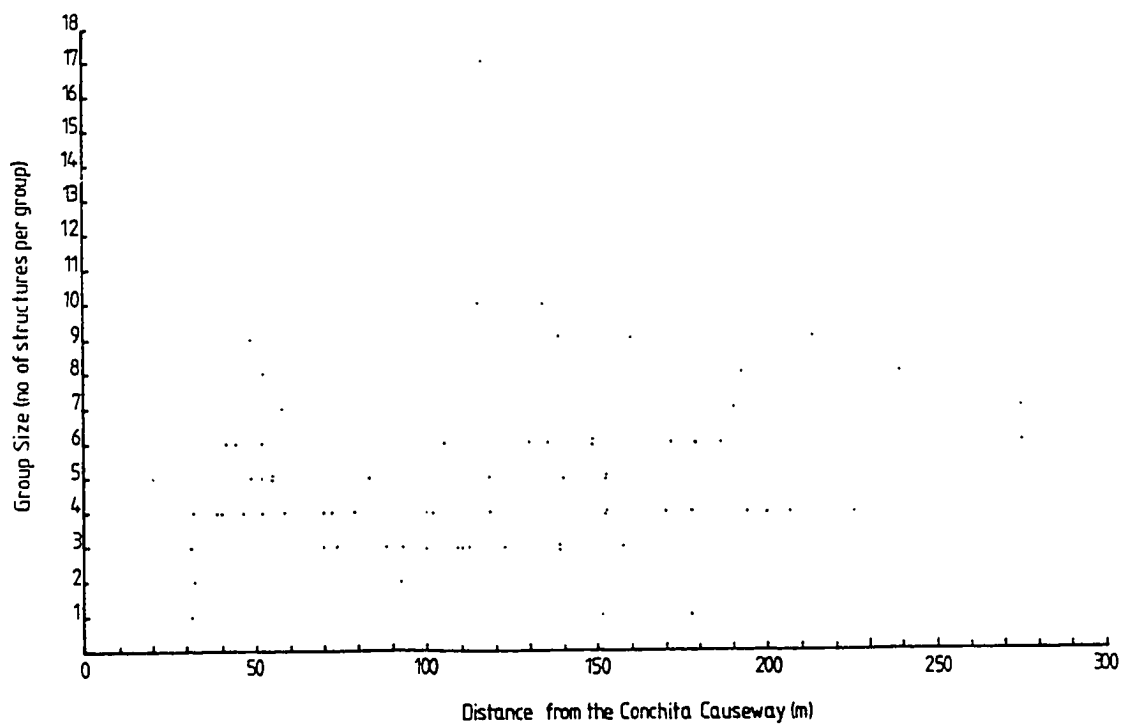


Figure 4.16. Group size versus distance from the Conchita Causeway.

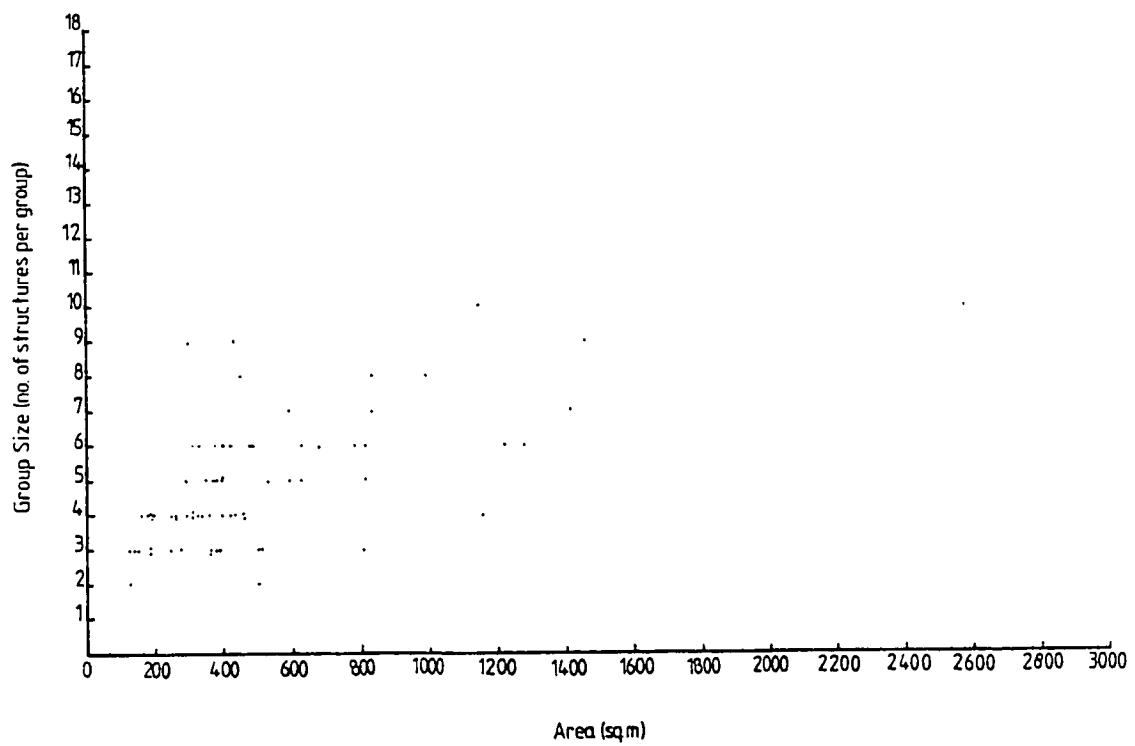


Figure 4.17. Group size versus area covered by construction.

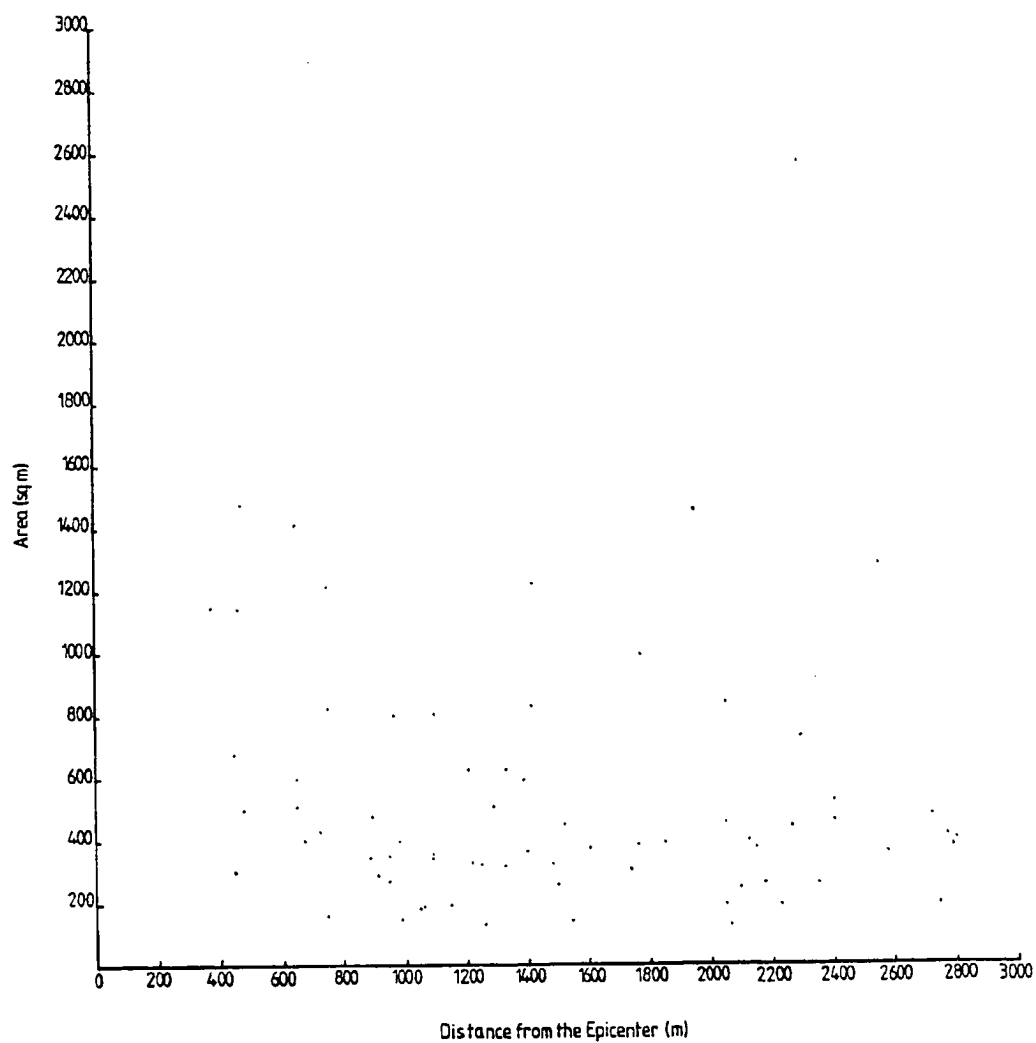


Figure 4.18. Area covered by construction versus distance from the epicenter.

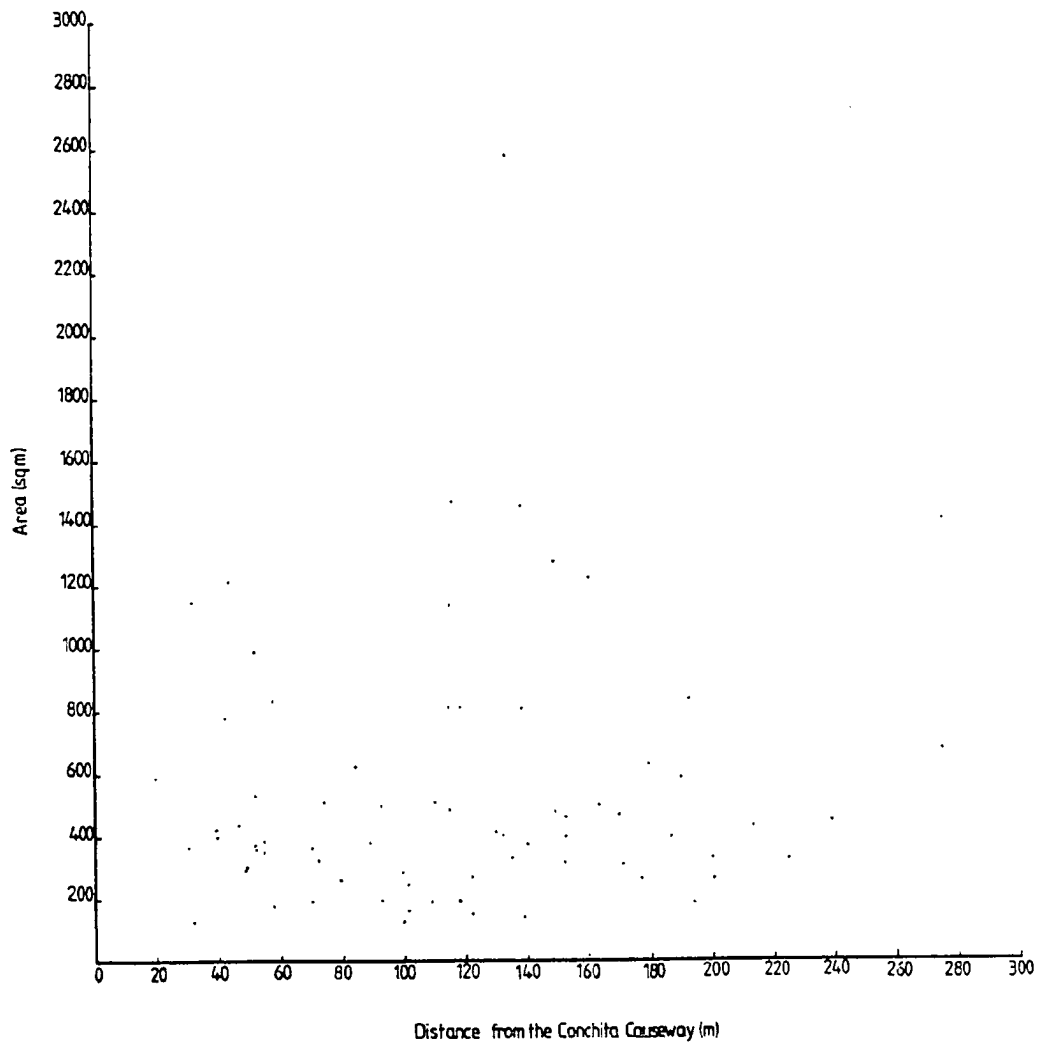


Figure 4.19. Area covered by construction versus distance from the Conchita Causeway.

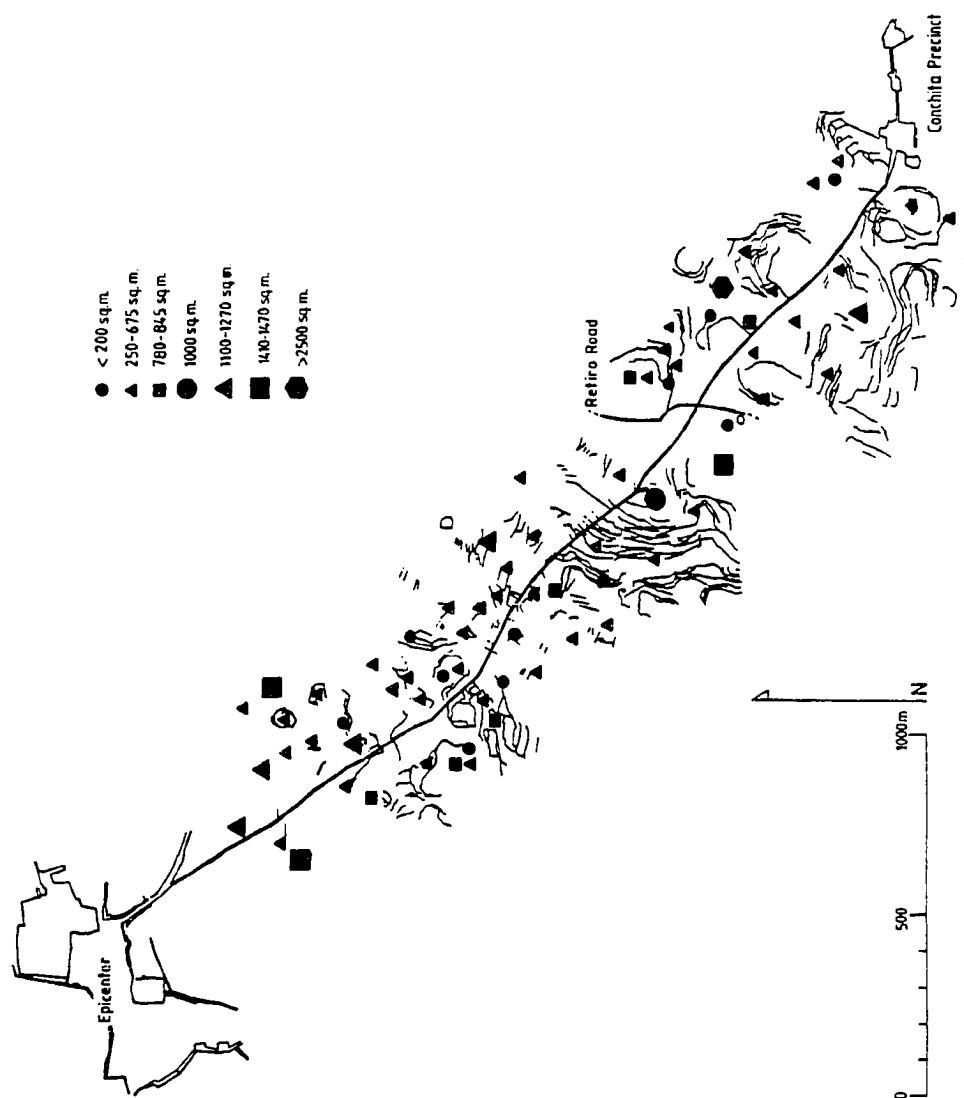


Figure 4.20. Distribution of area covered by construction.

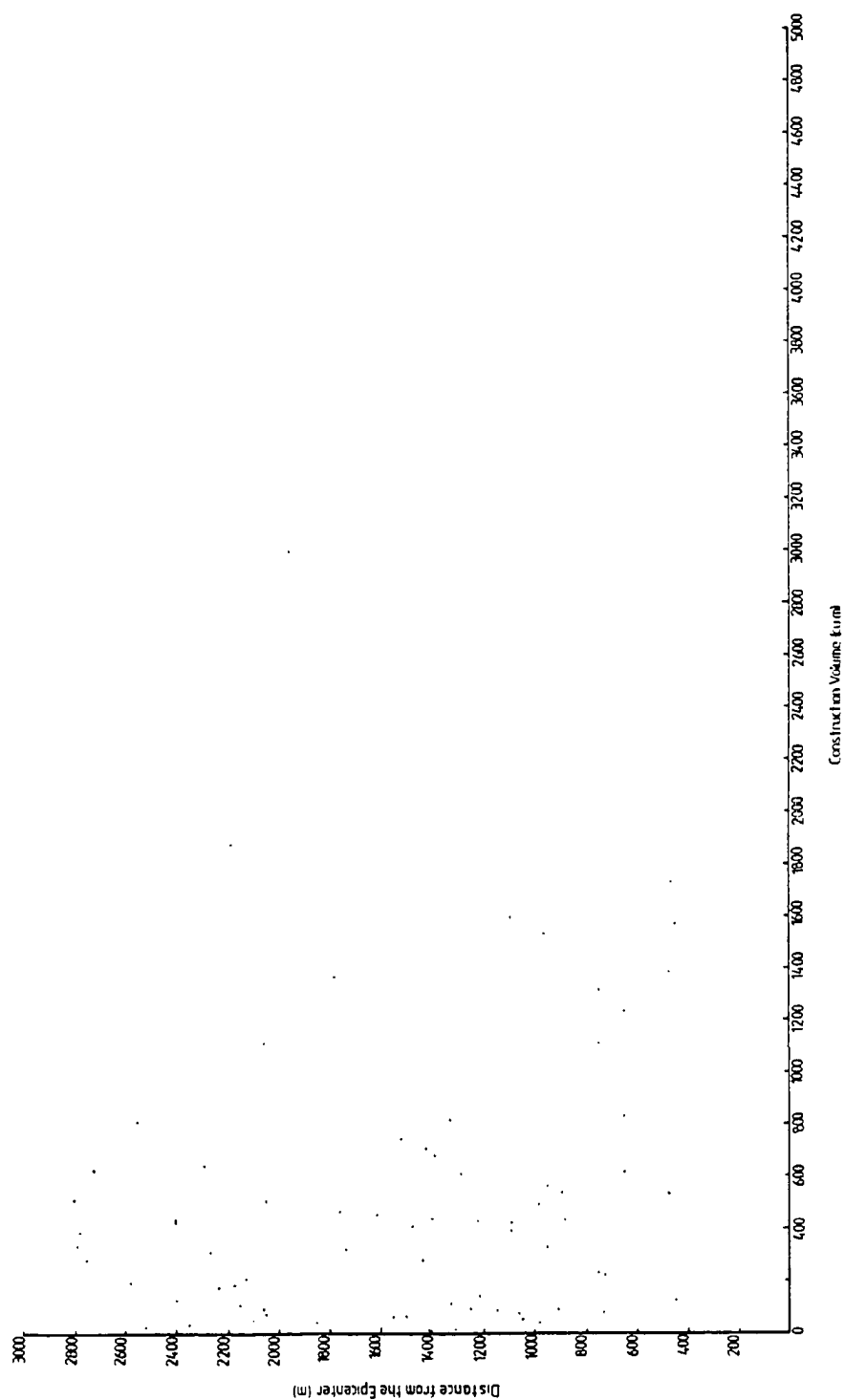


Figure 4.22. Distance from the epicenter versus construction volume.

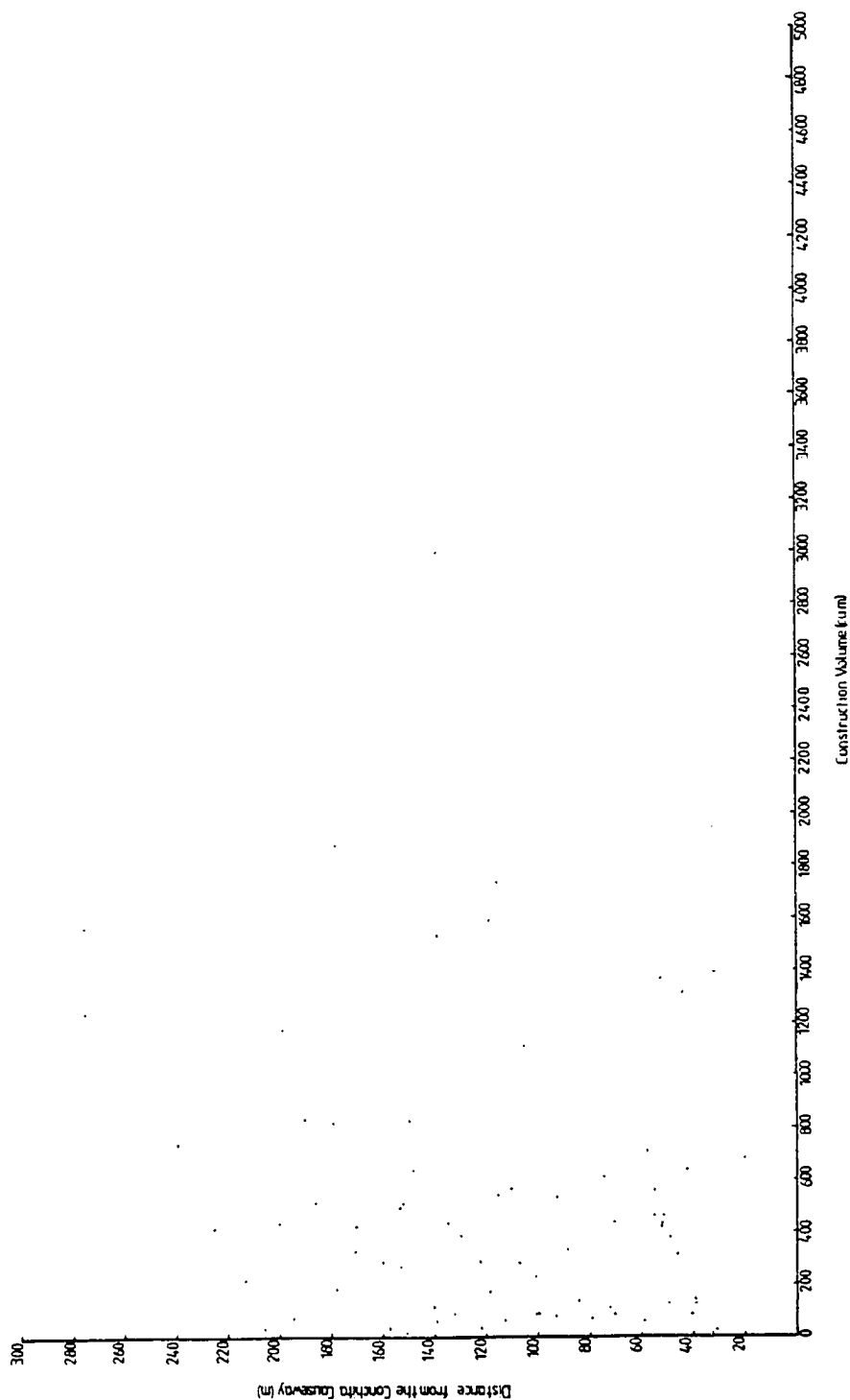


Figure 4.23. Distance from the Conchita Causeway versus construction volume.

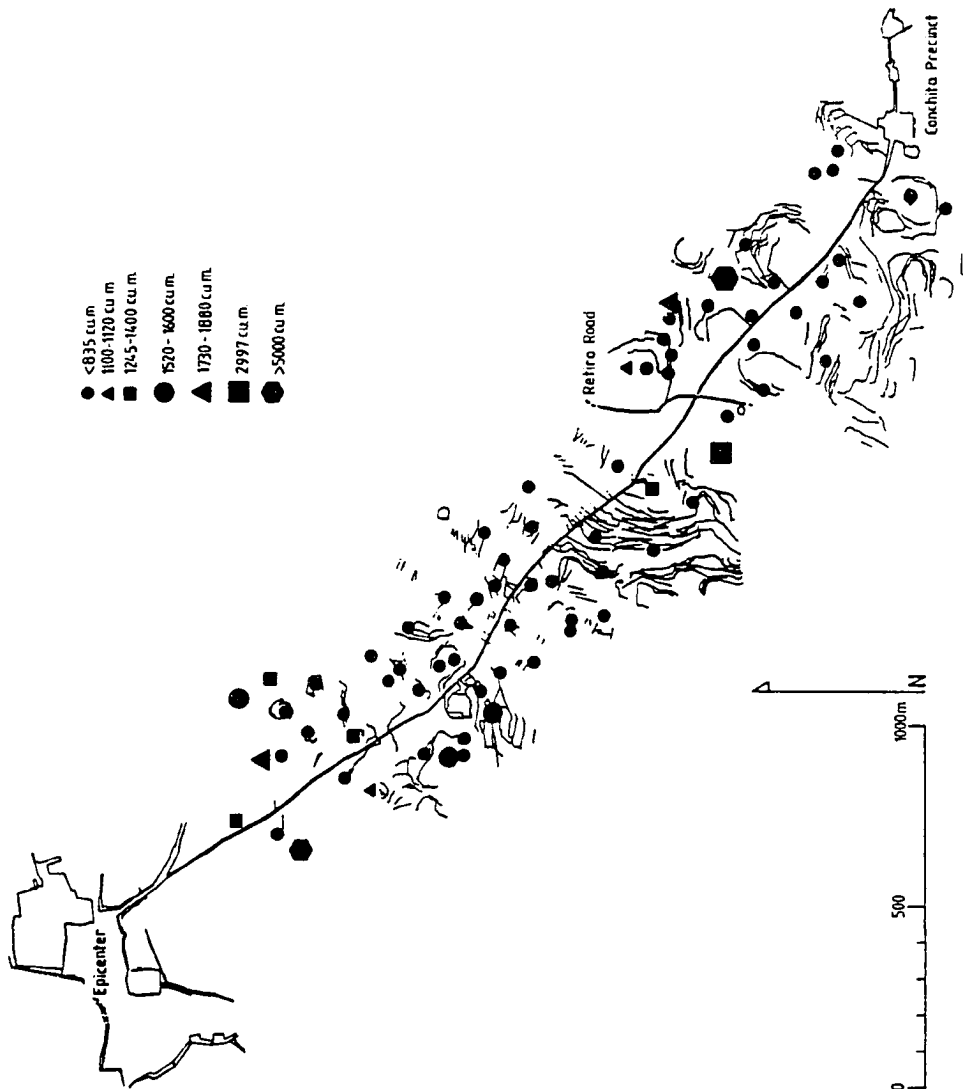


Figure 4.24. Distribution of construction volume.

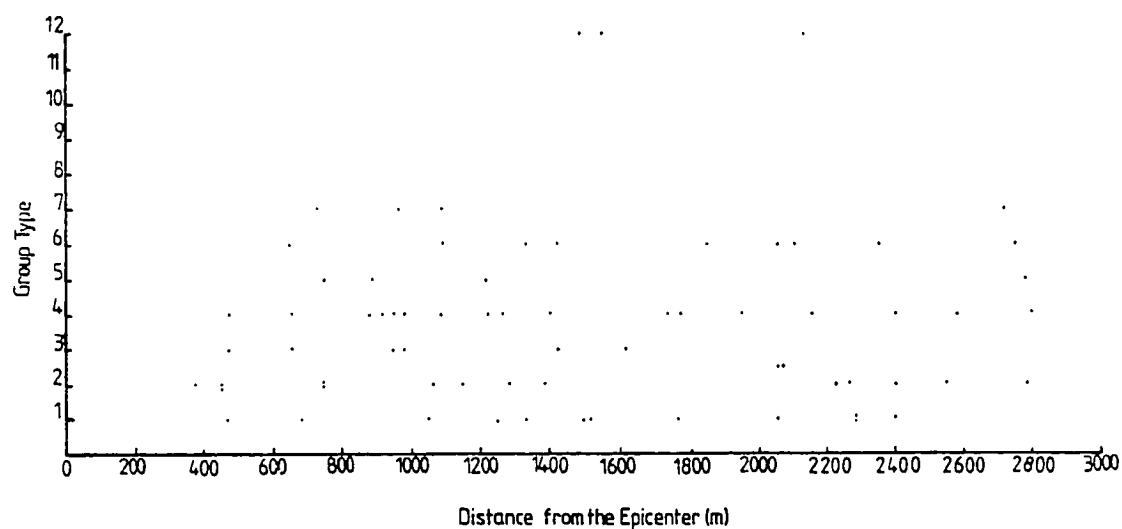


Figure 4.25. Group type versus distance from the epicenter (note: Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 and Str. 3D19 are not included).

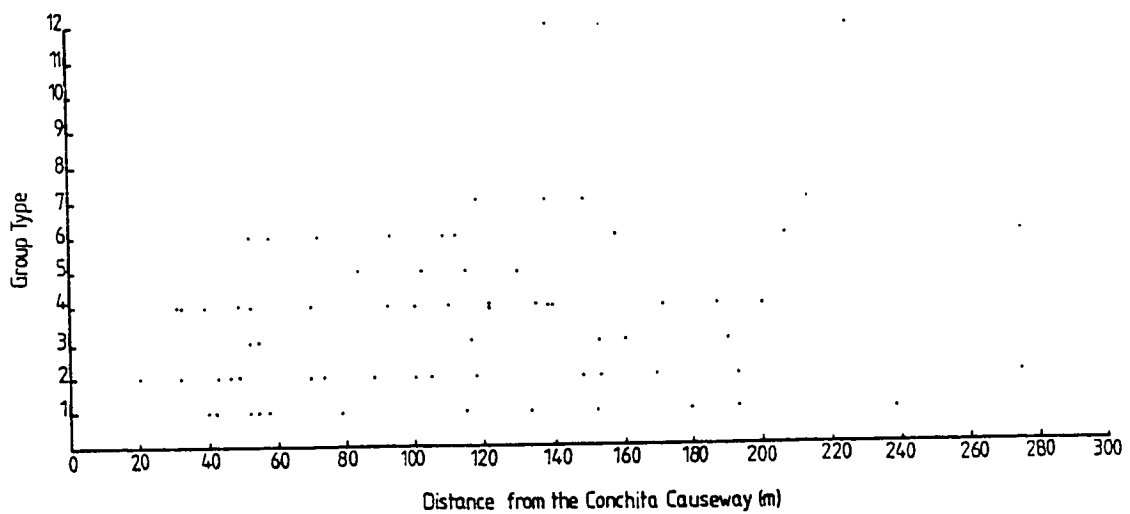


Figure 4.26. Group type versus distance from the Conchita Causeway (note: Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 and Str. 3D19 are not included).

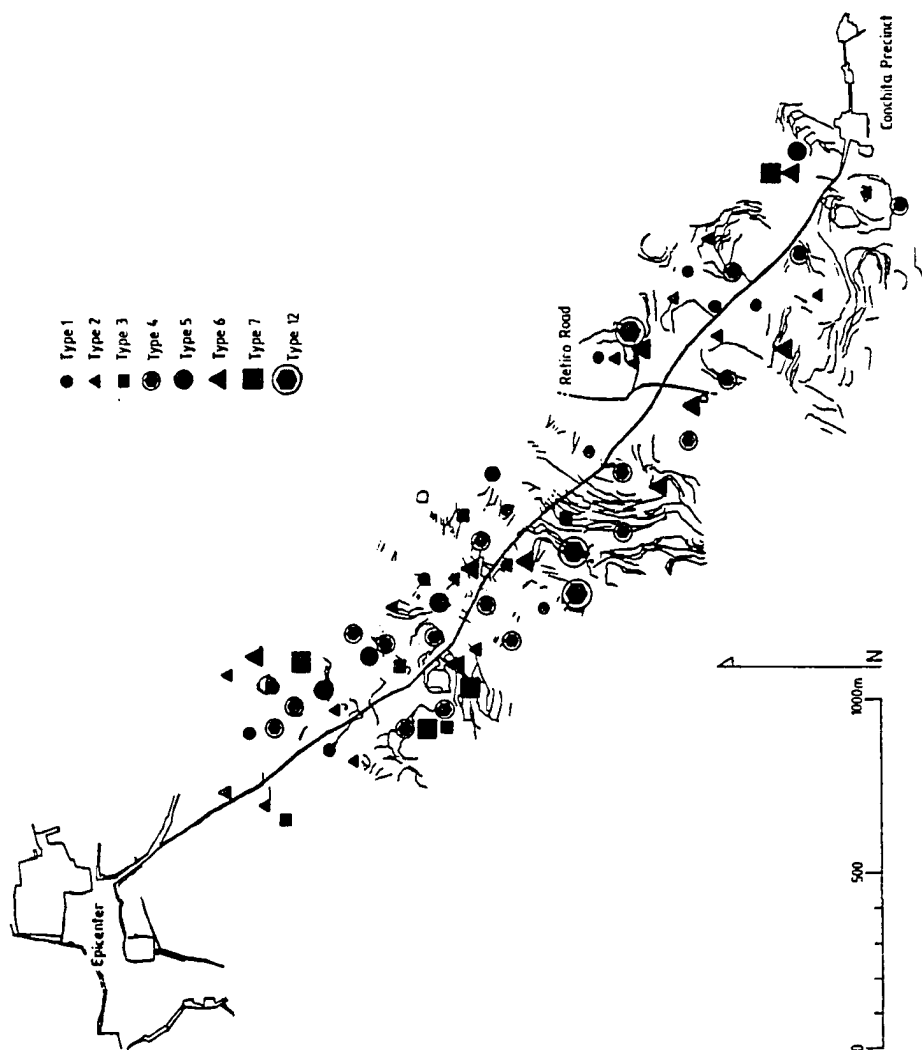


Figure 4.27. Distribution of group types (note: Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 and Str. 3D19 are not included).

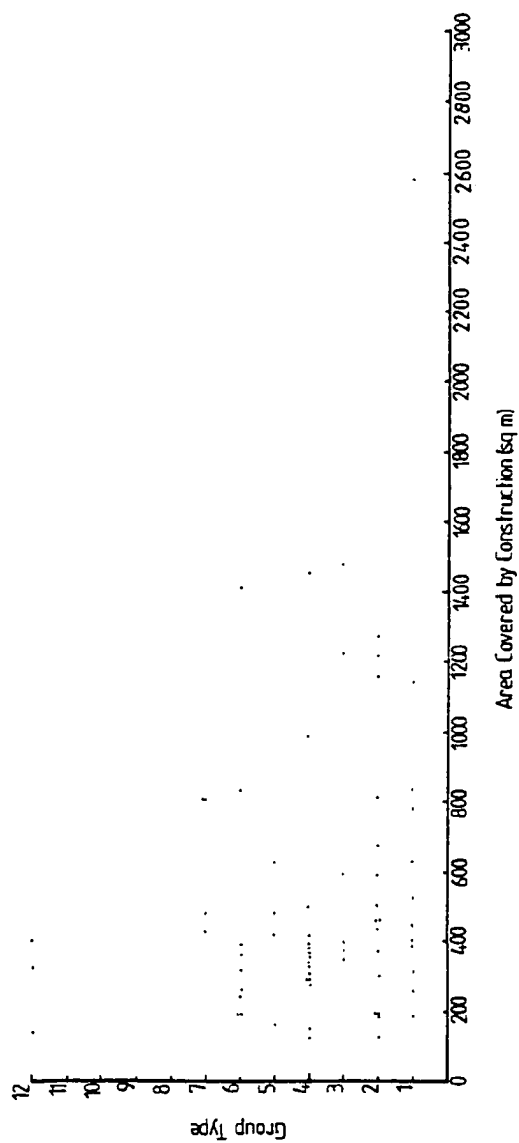


Figure 4.28. Group type versus area covered by construction (note: Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 and Str. 3D19 are not included).

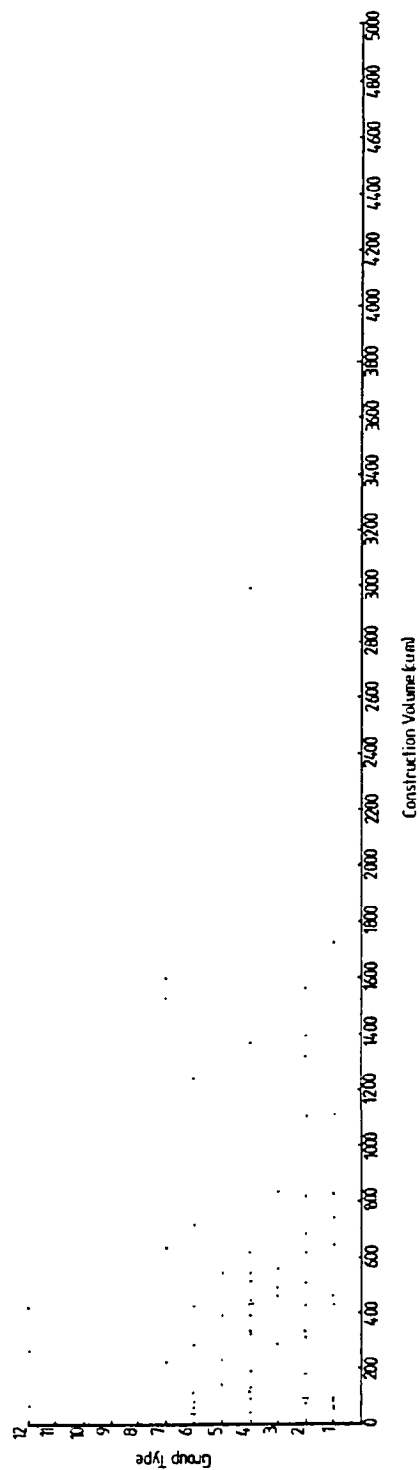


Figure 4.29. Group type versus construction volume (note: Strs. 3D15 - 3D18 and Str. 3D19 are not included).

CHAPTER V

EXCAVATIONS

This chapter focuses on the excavations conducted during the 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989 field seasons in the study area defined by the Conchita Causeway. This work was done in conjunction with the survey described in Chapter Four and was an integral part of the research which focused on collecting data regarding the functions of the plazuela groups, identifying the status of the people who occupied and/or used the groups and outlining the history of the occupation in this area of Caracol. Excavations were conducted by the Caracol Project in other sectors of the site and this work is referred to throughout the following pages.

The discussion is organized by plazuela group. Each group which was investigated was assigned an Operation number, following the recording sequence of the Caracol Project. The excavations conducted in each group are discussed in detail following the construction history of that locus. The function of the individual structures, the function of the group and the status of the occupants are assessed.

Structures C11 - C14: Operation C22

The group of buildings defined by Strs. C11 - C14 is comprised of four structures on an elevated platform located approximately 370 m southeast of the epicenter and adjacent to the east side of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.4). Two buildings are located on the north side of the platform -- Str. C11, which rises 1.25 m above the plaza floor, and Str. C12, which is defined by a line of stone. Structure C13 rises 1.75 m above the plaza floor on the east side of the platform and Str. C14, which is defined by partial lines of stone, is located on the south side of the platform. The group was chosen for extensive excavation in 1986 because 1) architectural preservation appeared to be good based on the surface detail visible, 2) none of the structures, particularly the eastern building, had been disturbed by looters, and 3) the group was located in an area close to other excavations and the work could thus be readily supervised. Excavation was conducted in the group primarily during the 1986 and 1987 seasons, with final excavation of a multiple burial in the eastern building conducted during the 1988 season. In terms of the Caracol Group Typology, Strs. C11 - C14 are an example of a North and East Structure focus group.

Structure C11

Structure C11 is the larger of two northern structures of the group, rising 1.25 m above the platform surface and

covering 42.7 m² in area. Excavation was begun in 1986 under the supervision of Theresa Batty, from the Department of Archaeology of Belize, and was completed in 1987, under the guidance of Cynthia Pope, from the University of Central Florida.

Excavation

An areal excavation, designated Sub-Op. C22A, was conducted over the southwest quadrant of the building, detailing wall alignments and clearing remnants of floors. The extent of this effort was 4.6 m² in area. A second areal strip, designated Sub-Op. C22B was uncovered on the east side of the structure, covering 1.5 m north-south by 4.3 m east-west. Sub-Operation C22B was initially intended to be an axial cross-trench to expose the stratigraphic relationship between Str. C11 and Str. C12 but was never extended. The primary axial trench for Str. C11 was included in Sub-Op. C22A and measured 1.5 m east-west by 12.0 m north-south, extending from 1.2 m south of the building to just off the north edge of the platform. The areal excavation revealed the final form of a two room, tandem plan building, designated Str. C11-1st, which was constructed from a single room structure, designated Str. C11-2nd (Fig. 5.1). The construction of this earlier structure was exposed in the trench, as well as evidence for at least two modifications to Str. C11-1st (Fig. 5.2).

Structure C11-2nd

Based on the features recovered in the trench, the earliest building in this locus, Str. C11-2nd, appears to have been constructed on a prepared platform surface. The platform itself was built on dark brown clay with a construction matrix consisting of medium brown material mixed with small rubble. The edges of the platform (U.1) were defined by large boulders. A large boulder construction wall (U.2), oriented east-west, was found 3.5 m to 3.7 m south of the platform edge. Two plaster floors (U.3 and U.4) were discovered in the southern portion of the trench and were put in place prior to the construction of Str. C11. The lower floor (U.4) extended from 1.9 m to 2.3 m north of the south excavation limit but it may have extended further to the north beneath the building. The upper floor (U.3) was found 2.3 m north of the south excavation limit and extended as far beneath Str. C11 as the lower northern construction wall (U.2) associated with the initial construction of the building. Neither floor was preserved in front of the building probably due to subsequent building activity in this locus.

The construction of Str. C11-2nd began with the placement of two construction walls (U.1 and U.2) on U.3. These consisted of rough boulders oriented east-west. A light brown matrix mixed with some small and medium rubble was placed between the walls. A medium brown matrix mixed with

marl and very little rubble was placed above this and to the north of U.1. Two burials were discovered north of U.1 within the medium brown matrix. The first interment made in this locus, designated S.D.C22A-2, was deposited 0.2 m to 1.6 m south of the back wall of the building (U.3) and just below the level of U.4. In fact, plaster fragments were mixed into the light brown and medium brown matrices above U.1 indicating that at least U.3 was cut in order to place this burial. Both burials appear to have been made during the construction of Str. C11-2nd as there was no evidence for a cut being made into an existing building in order to make these interments.

Special Deposit C22A-2. This was a simple burial of an adult female, placed in an extended position with her head to the northeast (Fig. 5.3). The bone was reasonably well preserved although tree roots had caused some displacement. The legs, pelvis and most of the ribs and lower vertebrae were found ventral side up, indicating that the individual was placed in a prone position. However, the upper cervical vertebrae and the mandible were found right side up and slightly off to one side of the general line of the body. The woman thus appears to have been placed either on her side (with some bones being displaced by burial and decay) or in a prone position (with displacement due to root action). Based on the stratigraphic relationship of this

burial to the construction activity in this locus, the interment was made during the Late Classic Period.

Object 1 (C22A/32-1) is a partial, unslipped dish with flaring walls and a flat base. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) fading to yellow (7.5YR7/4) towards the base. The vessel was located in what would have been the area of the right shoulder if the bone had not been disturbed.

A second burial, S.D.C22A-1, was made either at the same time or shortly after S.D.C22A-2 and was found 1.1 m to 1.8 m south of U.3, approximately 10 cm to 25 cm above S.D.C22A-2 and just above the level of U.3.

Special Deposit C22A-1. This was a burial of at least four individuals whose remains were very poorly preserved (Fig. 5.4). The deposit covered an area 0.8 m north-south by 0.9 m east-west. Based on the cranial material recovered, two subadults and two adults were interred in this locus. The teeth recovered from the northern portion of this deposit were from children, approximately seven and nine years of age and the teeth recovered from the southern portion of this deposit were from children, approximately three and six years of age. Adult teeth were recovered from throughout the deposit (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1986). These individuals were likely redeposited in the construction fill of Str. C11-2nd from another location as the bones were not found in anatomical position and even

though the preservation was poor, it was clear that not all the bones for this many individuals were represented in the inventory. No vessels were included with the burial so ceramic association can not be used to date the deposit. However, based on the stratigraphic relationship of this burial to the construction activity in the Str. C11 locus, the interment was made during the Late Classic Period.

Object 1 (C22A/28-4a-c) includes one jade bead and two unworked jade pieces, found scattered among the bone fragments. The bead is a medium green color, measuring 1.1 cm in diameter and weighing 1.5 gms. The fragments are dark green in color. The larger fragment is 1.6 cm long, 1.6 cm wide, 0.5 cm thick and weighs 1.3 gms. The smaller fragment is 1.0 cm long, 1.0 cm wide, 0.2 cm thick and weighs 0.2 gms.

Object 2 (C22A/28-8) is a fragment from an oval shaped pyrite pendant. It is 1.4 cm long, 0.8 cm wide and weighs 2.1 gms.

Object 3 (C22A/28-9) is a circular bead made of a material tentatively identified as galena. It is 0.7 cm in diameter, 0.7 cm thick and weighs 0.5 gms.

The construction of Str. C11-2nd continued after the interments were made and the medium brown matrix was deposited. A second construction wall (U.4) for Str. C11-2nd was placed 1.2 m to 1.6 m south of U.3, above the medium brown matrix. A dark brown construction fill, heavily mixed with

medium to large rubble was put in place to either side of U.4 to increase the height of the structure. It is unclear what Str. C11-2nd actually looked like because subsequent building activity in this locus removed some of the interior features of this structure. The back wall was only partially preserved because of a large tree growing on the summit of the building and there was no clear evidence for a front wall (U.7). No surface for the summit of Str. C11-2nd was found although it is believed that this consisted of plaster floor (U.6). A roughly dressed stone wall or step (U.5) was partially preserved 4 m north of the south excavation limit. Based on the stratigraphy, this line of stone was probably part of the front steps (U.5) of Str. C11-2nd. Thus, Str. C11-2nd is reconstructed as a single room building, rising approximately 1 m above the plaza floor. The room at the summit of the building may have measured as much as 3.5 m north-south, the east-west dimension is unknown as this was not exposed during the excavation. No evidence for a distinct plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-2nd (U.5) was recovered in the excavation, however, U.3 may have served this function.

Structure C11-1st

Structure C11-2nd was changed from a single room structure to a two room, tandem plan building, designated Str. C11-1st, the general form of which was preserved through subsequent modifications. Based on the features uncovered

in the areal excavation and based on their stratigraphic relationship, there were three versions of Str. C11-1st, labeled Str. C11-1st-a through Str. C11-1st-c. The latter is the initial construction of Str. C11-1st made in this locus. The forms of Str. C11-1st-c and Str. C11-1st-b are reconstructed here as what probably existed because the subsequent modifications partially obscured the different forms of this building.

It is believed that the construction of Str. C11-1st-c began with the removal of U.7 and part of U.6 in order to construct the northern room. It is unclear if new construction material was deposited to build this room and a new plaster floor constructed or if U.6 was simply cut and a new step put in place. No evidence for a plastered surface was found in this part of the excavation which may be due to erosion; however, a plastered floor surface (U.11) is reconstructed for this room. A step (U.12) is believed to have been built to join the upper room with the lower front room. No facing was found in the excavation which would have served this purpose, however, the basis for this reconstruction is the presence of a partially preserved floor (U.9) found 3.3 m to 3.6 m and 4.6 m to 4.8 m north of the south excavation limit of the trench, below the level of the construction fill in the northern part of the excavation and just above the level of U.5. Unit 7 and the upper portion of U.8 were removed and replaced by a dark brown matrix

mixed with small rubble. This material was placed north of U.5 and served as the bedding for U.9 in this part of the building. In addition, the lower portion of U.8, south of U.5, was removed and a light brown matrix, heavily mixed with marl was deposited to extend the north-south dimension of the front room. The front wall of Str. C11-1st-c (U.10) was found approximately 3 m north of the excavation limit and served as the upper step for the front staircase. The other steps which probably comprised this staircase (U.13) were not present in the excavation as they were removed during the following construction phase. Based on the positions of U.9 and U.10 in the excavation, the front room of Str. C11-1st-c rose approximately 60 cm above the plaza floor and may have measured up to 6 m north-south. The back room of Str. C11-1st-c rose approximately 1 m above the plaza floor and measured approximately 8 m north-south. The east-west dimension of this building was not exposed in the excavation. Evidence for a plastered plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-c (U.6) was not found in the excavation, however, this surface may have been removed during the later construction phases in this locus. No special deposits were associated with the construction of Str. C11-1st-c which would provide direct evidence for when this building was constructed and used. Based on the data recovered from the excavation as a whole, Str. C11-1st-c was constructed and used during the Late Classic Period.

Architectural features associated with Str. C11-1st-b were detailed in the trench and in the areal excavation. Structure C11-1st-c was modified to the form of Str. C11-1st-b by removing U.12 and replacing it with a two-course high bench, or altar, in the northern room and a two-course step from this room to the front room. The new step (U.16) was constructed first and was placed directly on U.9. A construction fill consisting of dark brown matrix packed with small stone was placed to the north of U.16 and served as the bedding for a new floor (U.15) for the northern room. Unit 15 was at a lower elevation than U.11 which was incorporated into the construction of the bench or altar (U.14). A dark brown matrix packed with small stone was placed north of U.15 to raise the level of U.14 to the same height as U.11. The front facing of Unit 14 was placed directly on U.15 and rose 26 cm above this surface. The bench/altar measured 3.4 m east-west and it is likely that this feature abutted U.3, however, due to tree growth on the summit of the building, this size of this dimension is not certain.

The front staircase of Str. C11-1st-c was also replaced, however, it is unclear whether this occurred as part of the same construction episode as the construction of U.14 or if it was part of a later modification made before the final version of Str. C11. In this discussion, the replacement of U.13 is treated as part of the same construction episode as U.14. Unit 13 was removed and a light to medium

greyishbrown matrix mixed with some medium and small rubble was deposited in front of U.10. The front wall of the building was extended south by 60 cm yielding the final dimensions of the front room as 2.2 m north-south by 6.7 m east-west. The plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-c (U.6) may have been removed at this time, since the greyish-brown matrix and the facing for the new front wall (U.17) were placed directly on U.3. Remnants of a small stone floor bedding for a plaster floor was found in the excavation south of U.17. This bedding was probably plastered and served as the plaza floor (U.7) associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-b. Like Str. C11-1st-c, no special deposits were recovered which would indicate when Str. C11-1st-b was constructed and used. However, a partial bowl was found on the surface of U.9 and was covered by the matrix associated with the final modifications made to this building. The bowl has incurving walls and is decorated with a series of punctations encircling the rim. Based on data recovered from other excavations conducted by the Caracol Project, the form of this vessel is assigned to the Late Classic Period (A. F. Chase 1990, personal communication).

The construction and use of the final version of Str. C11, designated Str. C11-1st-a, was undertaken during the Late Classic Period based on artifacts recovered from the humus level of the areal excavation. This modification

consisted of raising the elevation of the floor in the front room by approximately 10 cm. A dark brown matrix heavily mixed with small stone was placed between U.16 and U.17 effectively decreasing the height of U.16 by one course. The new floor surface (U.20) was probably plastered, given the plaster surface of the previous floor. Unit 17 was increased in height by one course not only to provide a facing for U.20 but also as part of the construction of a low plinth (U.18) encircling at least the west, south and east sides of Str. C11-1st-a. A single, outset front step (U.19 and U.21) was constructed abutting U.18. The construction fill for this two-course feature consisted of a dark to medium brown matrix, moderately mixed with small rubble, placed on top of the bedding for U.7. The sizes of the rooms did not change, however, the addition of the plinth to Str. C11-1st-a increased the outer dimension of the building to approximately 5.8 m north-south by 8.0 m east-west.

Platform Relationships to Structure C11

Three platform surfaces were found in the axial trench of Str. C11. Three additional floors are reconstructed for the use of this locus however, the modifications made to Str. C11 obscured evidence for them in the excavation. The earliest surface (U.4) is represented by a 0.3 m long plastered surface, located below the construction fill for U.21, just south of U.18. This floor was cut on the south side,

most likely when U.7 was put in place. No evidence for this floor was found in the deepest part of the excavation, 4.0 m to 5.4 m north of the south excavation limit, so it is unclear with what architectural feature this floor surface was actually associated. A second plastered platform surface was constructed directly on U.4. The southern edge of this floor was located directly beneath U.18 and the floor surface was continuous to the north as far as U.2. It is likely that this floor extended to the northern platform edge (U.1) but was cut when the first burial (S.D.C22A-1) was made in this locus. The southern edge of this floor was cut when the plaza floor associated with Str. C11-1st-b (U.7) was put in place. UNIT 7 was represented in the excavation by packed, small stone floor bedding found beneath the construction fill for U.19 and U.21, the front step associated with Str. C11-1st-a. The plaza surface associated with the final use of this locus (U.8) is believed to have been plastered, however, this surface would have been just beneath the humus layer of the excavation and due to erosion was no longer preserved.

Structure C11 Recovery Lots

The excavation of Str. C11 was intended to provide evidence for the function of the building as well as perhaps evidence for the status of those people who used the building. Assorted sherds were recovered from throughout the excavation but the Late Classic Period date of construction

is primarily based on the special deposits, the stratigraphy revealed in the excavation and on the material associated with the final use of this locus. Str. C11-1st, in all its versions, and possibly Str. C11-2nd, functioned as a residence. This is based on the wide variety of artifacts recovered from the humus level as well as on the building plan of the structure.

Lots C22A/1, C22A2, C22B/1 and C22B/2 are associated with the latest use and abandonment of the Str. C11 locus. The material recovered from the humus level (Lots C22A/1 and C22B/1) includes assorted sherds, chert fragments (some are retouched), worked and unworked slate fragments, broken obsidian blades, pieces of limestone and granite manos and metates, fragments of marine shell (including conch shell), modified sherds and a ceramic whistle fragment. A limestone ring, possibly a weight for a digging stick or a mace head, was found in the humus level over the front portion of the building. This object is 14.8 cm long, 16.4 cm wide, 5.7 cm thick and weighs 1.3 kg.

Lots C22A/2 and C22B/2 include the material recovered from the dark brown matrix removed to detail preserved architecture, as represented by U.9, U.14, U.15, U.16, U.18 and U.19, as well as to locate the plaza floor associated with the final use of this locus. This material may be attributed to the use of either Str. C11-1st-a or Str. C11-1st-b. The artifacts recovered from this matrix are similar

to those recovered from Lots C22A/1 and C22B/1. Fragments of obsidian blades, chert (some retouched), slate, marine shell, and granite manos and metates are part of this inventory. Two partial ceramic vessels were recovered from Lot C22A/2. One vessel, a bowl with incurving sides, was found among the rubble and matrix removed to detail the west wall of the building and it is possible that this bowl was associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-a. The upper portion of the bowl and approximately half of the rim were recovered in the excavation. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/8) which fades to a reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) and a brown firecloud (7.5YR4/2). The rim diameter of this bowl is reconstructed as 42 cm. The second vessel is also a bowl with incurving walls and was recovered from the matrix just above U.9. Thus, it is likely that this vessel was associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-b. As with the other bowl, only the upper portion of the vessel and part of the rim were found in the excavation and it is comparable in size to the bowl above. The exterior surface is decorated with a row of circular punctations around the rim. This surface is slipped red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a reddish-yellow firecloud (5YR3/1). In addition to the partial bowls, fragments from incensarios were found in front of the building and fragments of speliothems were recovered from the interior of the structure. It is probable that these speli-

others were obtained from caves and sink holes located within the region.

Lot C22A/3 is assigned to the material recovered from the dark to medium brown matrix used to construct U.19 and U.21. This includes thirteen chert fragments (one of which appears to have been retouched), as well as a granite mano fragment. None of this material provides a direct date for the final modification to Str. C11, however, the material recovered from Lots C22A/1, C22A/2, C22B/1 and C22B/2 indicate that Str. C11-1st-b was modified to produce Str. C11-1st-a during the Late Classic period.

Lot C22A/4 is assigned to the artifacts recovered from the medium brown construction fill beneath U.9. This Lot also includes the material recovered from the light brown construction fill mixed with marl which is associated with the construction of U.10 as well as with the light to medium greyish-brown construction fill for U.17. Three obsidian blade fragments, five chert fragments and three slate fragments are included in Lot C22A/4. None of this material provides a date for the construction of the front step for Str. C11-1st-b nor for the construction of the floor associated with the use of this building and with the use of Str. C11-1st-c.

Lot C22A/5 is assigned to the artifacts included in dark brown construction matrix associated with the construction of U.15 and U.16, the floor and step of the back room

of Str. C11-1st-b. Three slate fragments and three chert fragments are included in this Lot.

Lot C22A/6 is assigned to the material recovered from the dark brown matrix packed with small stone, associated with the construction of U.14, as well as with the dark brown matrix mixed with large rubble south of U.4. The artifacts included in Lot C22A/6 consist of one obsidian blade fragment, five chert fragments, two slate fragments and a small limestone sphere, probably used as a pounding stone. None of this material is in use-related context, nor does it provide a direct indication for when U.14 was constructed. A Late Classic period date for this construction is provided by the stratigraphic relationships uncovered in the excavation.

Lot C22A/7 is assigned to the material recovered from north of U.4 in the dark brown matrix mixed with large rubble. This material is distinct from the material included in Lot C22A/6 in that it is not from a mixed context. This material is associated with the construction of Str. C11-2nd and includes three obsidian blade fragments, one sherd modified into the shape of a disc, fifteen chert pieces (including four core fragments), three slate fragments, and a granite groundstone fragment.

Lot C22A/8 is assigned to the material recovered from the light brown matrix between U.1 and U.2. This material is associated with the initial construction of Str. C11-2nd

and includes four slate fragments, three chert fragments and one obsidian blade fragment.

Lot C22A/9 includes the material recovered from the medium brown construction matrix beneath Lot C22A/7 and U.4, above S.D.C22A-1. One obsidian blade fragment, twelve chert fragments, two slate fragments, two granite metate fragments, and a marine shell fragment were found in this Lot. This material was included in the fill associated with the construction of Str. C11-2nd.

Lot C22A/10 is assigned to the material recovered from the medium brown matrix associated with S.D.C22A-1. The artifacts included in this Lot are those which were probably not intentionally included with the burial but were incorporated into the matrix. The artifacts include three small obsidian blade fragments, a slate fragment, thirty one chert fragments (including thirteen core fragments and three pieces which appear to have been retouched) and a marine shell fragment.

Lot C22A/11 includes the material recovered from the medium brown matrix removed north of U.1, below the level of S.D.C22A-1 and above S.D.C22A-2. The artifacts include one obsidian blade fragment, one slate fragment, and one limestone metate fragment. This material is associated with the construction of Str. C11-2nd.

Lot C22A/12 is assigned to the material associated with the construction of the platform recovered from beneath U.3

in the medium brown matrix mixed with small stone. One slate fragment, two chert fragments and two obsidian blade fragments were recovered from this Lot.

Lot C22A/13 is assigned to the dark brown clay which was encountered beneath the matrix associated with Lot 12. No artifacts were recovered from this Lot.

Structure C11 Summary

The excavation of Str. C11 was intended to provide evidence for the function of the building as well as perhaps evidence for the status of those people who used the building. The date for the use and construction of this building in all of its phases is based primarily on the special deposits, the stratigraphy revealed in the excavation and on the material associated with the final use of this locus. Four construction episodes are defined for the Str. C11 locus, however, only the function of Str. C11-1st-a and probably Str. C11-1st-b can definitely be assessed.

The first building in this locus, Structure C11-2nd, was constructed upon a prepared platform surface. Two simple burials were deposited in the construction fill of this building but neither one yielded data which would securely date this construction. It is believed, however, that Str. C11-2nd was built during the Late Classic period based on other artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C22A as well as on data recovered from the other excavations conducted in the Strs. C11 - C14 group. Structure C11-2nd was a single

room building which probably rose approximately 1 m above the plaza floor. The function of this building is uncertain. Landa's discussion (in Tozzer 1941) of burials made beneath house floors involves buildings which were already occupied and not those which were under construction. In other cases at Caracol, where it appears that a burial was included as part of the initial construction of a building, that structure is believed to have served a ritual function (eg., Str. C13) based partially on the burial but also, in part, on associated artifacts. It is possible that Str. C11-2nd served a ritual function and it is equally possible that it served a more domestic function. No artifacts were recovered from the excavation which would provide additional evidence for the use of this building.

Some time during the Late Classic period, Str. C11-1st-c was constructed from Str. C11-2nd. This building was modified twice to yield the final form of Str. C11-1st-a. Structure C11-1st-c was a two room, tandem plan structure with a step from the front room into the back room. The building rose approximately 1 m above the plaza floor at its summit. It was modified to Str. C11-1st-b by the construction of a bench or altar in the back room and a new step between the rooms. It is possible that a new front staircase was also part of the construction of Str. C11-1st-b, however, this feature may have been added at a later time. The final modifications made to the building to produce Str.

C11-1st-a consisted of constructing a low plinth on at least the west, south and east sides of the building and the construction of a new front step. The plinth did not change the size of the rooms, however, it increased the dimension of the outer perimeter by a little more than 1 m. Very little fallen masonry was found in the excavation, indicating that if Str. C11-1st-a had a superstructure, it was constructed of perishable materials.

It is believed that Structure C11-1st served as a residence in all three of its versions and it is possible that Str. C11-2nd also served this function. This is based partially on the presence of the two burials but primarily on the building plan and on fairly wide variety of artifacts recovered from the excavations. In addition, Str. C11 covers a total area of 46.4 m² which greatly exceeds the minimum area of 20 m² deemed necessary by Ashmore (1981c:47) for a residence.

Evidence for the status of the occupants of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group is provided by the artifacts included in S.D.C22A-1. The jade artifacts associated with the burial of at least two children and possibly two adults indicate that the residents of this group had some access to luxury goods.

Structure C11 Units

- Unit 1: North construction wall for Str. C11-2nd placed on U.3.
- Unit 2: South construction wall for Str. C11-2nd placed on U.3.
- Unit 3: North (back) wall of Str. C11.
- Unit 4: Upper construction wall in dark brown matrix for Str. C11-2nd.
- Unit 5: Preserved front step for Str. C11-2nd, part of U.8.
- Unit 6: Reconstructed floor surface at the summit of Str. C11-2nd.
- Unit 7: Reconstructed south (front) wall for Str. C11-2nd.
- Unit 8: Reconstructed front staircase for Str. C11-2nd, including U.5.
- Unit 9: Plaster floor in the south (front) room of Str. C11-1st-c.
- Unit 10: Front wall for Str. C11-1st-c, may be top step of U.13.
- Unit 11: Reconstructed plaster floor in the north (back) room of Str. C11-1st-c.
- Unit 12: Reconstructed step from U.11 to U.9 in Str. C11-1st-c.
- Unit 13: Reconstructed front staircase for Str. C11-1st-c.
- Unit 14: Bench or altar constructed on U.15 in Str. C11-1st-b.

- Unit 15: Plaster floor beneath U.14, resolving into U.16 in Str. C11-1st-b.
- Unit 16: Step constructed on U.9 to join U.15 with this surface in Str. C11-1st-b.
- Unit 17: Front wall or step of Str. C11-1st-b.
- Unit 18: Plinth constructed for Str. C11-1st-a which may also have served as a front step in front of the building.
- Unit 19: Outset front step for Str. C11-1st-a.
- Unit 20: Reconstructed plaster floor in the front room of Str. C11-1st-a.
- Unit 21: Tread for U.19.

Structure C11 Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: North platform wall, north of U.3.
- UNIT 2: Construction wall in medium brown matrix, below U.3.
- UNIT 3: Upper plastered floor found in Sub-Op. C22A, beneath U.1 and U.2.
- UNIT 4: Lower plastered floor found in Sub-Op. C22A, beneath the construction matrix for U.19.
- UNIT 5: Reconstructed plastered surface of plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-2nd.
- UNIT 6: Reconstructed plastered surface of plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-c.

UNIT 7: Plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-b which was represented by packed, small-stone bedding in Sub-Op. C22A, beneath U.19 and U.20.

UNIT 8: Reconstructed plastered surface of plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C11-1st-a.

Structure C11 Recovery Lots

C22A/ 1: Humus level of Sub-Op. C22A.

C22A/ 2: Dark brown matrix beneath C22A/1 which was removed to detail U.9, U.14, U.15, U.16, U.18, U.19 and U.8.

C22A/ 3: Dark to medium brown matrix mixed with some small rubble used to construct U.19 and U.21.

C22A/ 4: Medium brown construction fill lightly mixed with small stone beneath U.9. This Lot also includes the light brown matrix mixed with marl associated with the construction of U.10 and it includes the light to medium greyish-brown matrix associated with the construction of U.17.

C22A/ 5: Dark brown construction fill packed with small stone used to construct U.15 and U.16.

C22A/ 6: Dark brown construction matrix packed with small stone used to construct U.14. This Lot also includes the dark brown matrix mixed with large and medium rubble, between U.14 and U.4.

C22A/ 7: Dark brown matrix mixed with large and medium rubble north of U.4.

- C22A/ 8: Light brown matrix mixed with marl and small rubble between U.1 and U.2.
- C22A/ 9: Medium brown matrix below C22A/7 and U.4, above S.D.C22A-1.
- C22A/10: Medium brown matrix associated with S.D.C22A-1.
- C22A/11: Medium brown matrix north of U.1, between S.D.C22A-1 and S.D.C22A-2.
- C22A/12: Medium Brown matrix fairly heavily mixed with small stone beneath U.3, associated with the construction of the platform.
- C22A/13: Dark brown clay beneath C22A/12.
- C22B/ 1: Humus level of Sub-Op. C22B.
- C22B/ 2: Dark brown matrix beneath C22B/1 removed to detail preserved architecture.

TABLE 5.1
STRUCTURE C11 TIME SPANS

TIMESPAN	EVENT	ASSOCIATED UNITS	ASSOCIATED LOTS	DATE
I	Abandonment		C22A/1, C22B/1	
II	Use of Str. C11-1st-a	<u>U.8</u>	C22A/1, 2 C22B/1, 2	LC
III	Construction Str.C11-1st-a	U.18-U.21	C22A/3	LC
IV	Use of Str. C11-1st-b	<u>U.7</u>	C22A/2 C22B/2	LC
V	Construction Str.C11-1st-b	U.14-U.17	C22A/4-C22A/6	LC

Table 5.1 - Continued

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
VI	Use of Str. C11-1st-c	<u>U.6</u>		LC
VII	Construction Str.C11-1st-c	U.9-U.13	C22A/4	LC
VIII	Use of Str. C11-2nd	<u>U.5</u>		LC
IXa	Construction Str.C11-2nd	U.1-U.8	C22A/6-11	LC
IXb	Deposit S.D.C22A-1		C22A/10	LC
IXc	Deposit S.D.C22A-2			LC
X	Use of platform surface			LC
XI	Construction of platform	<u>U.1-U.4</u>	C22A/12	LC

Structure C12

Structure C12 is the northeast building of the group defined by Strs. C11 - C14. It was a non-mounded feature, initially identified by three incomplete lines of stone on the west, south and east sides of the locus. This building was chosen for extensive excavation for two reasons -- 1) it was part of a group already chosen for such investigation and 2) it provided an opportunity to test the proposition put forth by Haviland (1985:120) that features of such configuration served as ancillary structures, particularly kitchen areas, at the site of Tikal. Excavation of Str. C12

was designated Sub-Op. C22C and took place in 1986 under the supervision of Theresa Batty from the Department of Archaeology of Belize.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C22C consisted of an areal excavation covering 8.8 m north-south by 3.5 m east-west, over the entire western half of the structure (Fig. 5.5). The excavation extended approximately 1 m north of the platform edge in order to recover possible midden deposits. Due to time limitations encountered during the 1986 season, deeper probes into the core of the building were undertaken in two locations along the medial axis of the structure rather than along the entire north-south length of said axis (Fig. 5.6). One short trench, measuring 2.05 m north-south by 1.3 m east-west, was placed immediately in front of the structure and the second trench, measuring 2.0 m north-south by 1.3 m east-west, was placed in the center of the building in order to discern the construction technique and sequence of the building as well as to recover possibly dateable primary deposits. These combined excavations revealed a one room structure built in a single construction effort.

Structure C12 was not built upon a plastered platform surface like Str. C11. The short trench in the center of the structure revealed a wall (U.2) of roughly dressed stone, running east-west, approximately 3.2 m south of the north platform edge (U.1). This wall was encountered just

below a change in the matrix from a dark greyish-brown to medium brown material mixed with small stone; the latter matrix is associated in Sub-Op. C22A with the construction of the platform. The construction material of Str. C12 was placed directly on the medium brown matrix associated with the platform construction. The building's construction fill consisted of a dark greyish-brown matrix, mixed with marl and some small stone. This material was covered by a dark brown matrix mixed with medium and small rubble. No construction walls were encountered for this building as it never reached a height greater than 0.25 m.

The final structure consisted of a single large room with walls (U.1 and U.2) constructed of roughly dressed limestone blocks. A low, broad step (U.3) extended across the front of the building on the south side. If a superstructure existed on this foundation, it was probably made of perishable materials, however, the existence of such a feature is conjectural since the excavations did not include testing for post holes in the corners nor were postholes encountered in either of the deeper excavations. No plaster floor was found during the course of excavation; this may be due either to erosion or to the possibility that the surface of the building (U.4) consisted of packed and smoothed dirt. No primary deposits were discovered with which to directly date the construction and use of Str. C12. Based on the data recovered from the other excavations conducted in this

group, Str. C12 was constructed and used during the Late Classic period. This building may have been constructed prior to Str. C11 because the plaster surface found at the bottom of the trench in Sub-Op. C22A was not found in Sub-Op. C22C. In fact, based on the absence of this plaster surface, Structure C12 may have been constructed at the same time as Str. C13 (see Sub-Op. C22E). Thus, the use of the Str. C12 locus was likely contemporaneous with the use of Str. C13 and may also be contemporaneous with at least the use of Str. C11-2nd and perhaps Str. C11-1st.

Platform Relationships to Structure C12

Excavation in front of Str. C12 (south of U.3) did not recover definite evidence for a formal plaster floor for the platform. This surface is reconstructed (U.3) based on the excavation in front of Str. C11 (Sub-Op. C22A). In Sub-Op. C22A, four platform floors were defined for the different construction episodes in that locus. As noted above, Str. C12 may have been contemporaneous with at least one of the buildings in the Str. C11 locus. Thus, the platform floor in front of Str. C12 was likely plastered. The deep probe made in front of U.3 encountered a dark greyish-brown matrix mixed with soft limestone pebbles, which may have served as a floor bedding.

Structure C12 Recovery Lots

Sub-Operation C22C was intended to provide information about the function of the Str. C12 locus as well as information regarding the date of its construction and use. The Late Classic period date of construction and use is based primarily on the stratigraphy revealed in the deep probes made along the axis of the building and on data recovered from other excavations conducted within this group.

Lots C22C/1 through C22C/4 are associated with the use and abandonment of Str. C12 and are assigned to the material recovered from the humus level above U.1, U.2, U.3 and U.4, as well as from in front of the building and from north of the platform edge defined by U.1. This material includes fragments of marine shell, slate, granite manos and metates, as well as fragments of retouched chert and obsidian blades. The amount of chert and obsidian debitage, as well as the number of spent chert cores recovered from the humus level is taken as evidence that Str. C12 was work area within the residential compound. The chert recovered from this level (not including the retouched fragments) weighs approximately 1.2 kg, the fragments of obsidian blades weigh a total of approximately 28.4 gms. The abundance of slate fragments recovered from the humus level (the total weight is approximately 1.1 kg) also supports the function of a work area.

Lot C22C/5 is the dark greyish-brown matrix associated with the construction of Str. C12 and includes three chert

tool fragments as well as abundant retouched fragments and debitage. Pieces of slate, marine shell, manos, and metates were also recovered.

Lot C22C/6 is the medium brown matrix mixed with marl and small stone associated with the construction of the platform. The artifacts recovered from this Lot include chert debitage, fragments of obsidian blades and marine shell.

Structure C12 Summary

Sub-Operation C22C revealed the single course foundation for a one room building in the northeast corner of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group. Structure C12 was constructed in a single effort, probably before Str. C11 and possibly at the same time as Str. C13.

It is believed that Str. C12 functioned as an ancillary building for the Str. C11 - Str. C14. While the size of the structure (20.25 m² without the step, 23.76 m² with the step) covers the minimum area suggested by Ashmore (1981c: 47) for ascribing a residential function to an ancient building, the kinds and amount of artifacts recovered indicate that the building was used for some other domestic function. Although it is negative evidence, the lack of burials associated with Str. C12 also indicates that this building probably served a non-residential (for the association of burials with dwellings see Wauchope 1934; Landa in Tozzer 1941; Satterthwaite 1954; Willey, Bullard and Glass 1965; A. L.

Smith 1962; and Haviland 1985). The function of Str. C12 as a kitchen area is questionable, primarily for the lack of a midden deposit and because expected material such as animal bone was not recovered. In addition, no hearths or ash concentrations were encountered, although this is not surprising given the scarcity of such documented features in a tropical jungle environment. On the other hand, since the excavation of Str. C12 only covered the western half of the building, it is possible that a hearth would have been located in unexcavated eastern portion of the structure and that the midden, rather than being deposited off the north side of the platform, was deposited off the east side.

The amount of groundstone fragments and lithic debris recovered from the excavation suggest a work area of some sort, if not strictly a kitchen.

Structure C12 Units

Unit 1: North wall of Str. C12.

Unit 2: South wall of Str. C12.

Unit 3: South wall of "step", south of U.2.

Unit 4: Reconstructed interior surface of Str. C12.

Structure C12 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: North wall of platform, north of U.1.

UNIT 2: Construction wall of the platform.

UNIT 3: Reconstructed plastered surface of the platform, south of U.3.

Structure C12 Recovery Lots

C22C/1: Humus removed above U.1 - U.4 (including surface collection).

C22C/2: Humus removed south of U.3.

C22C/3: Humus removed north of U.1 on the platform.

C22C/4: Humus removed north of U.1, off the platform surface.

C22C/5: Dark greyish-brown matrix, mixed with small stone, associated with the construction of Str. C12.

C22C/6: Medium brown matrix, mixed with marl and small stone, associated with the construction of the platform.

TABLE 5.2
STRUCTURE C12 TIMESPANS

TIMESPAN	EVENT	ASSOCIATED UNITS	ASSOCIATED LOTS	DATE
I	Abandonment		C22C/1-C22C/4	
II	Use of Str. C12		C22C/1-C22C/4	LC
III	Construction Str. C12	U.1 - U.4	C22C/5	LC
IV	Construction platform	U.1 - U.3	C22C/6	LC

Structure C13

Structure C13 is the eastern building of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group, rising 1.75 m above the platform surface.

This structure was chosen for intensive excavation primarily because it formed an integral part of a group already selected for such investigation. More importantly however, it provided an opportunity to test assumptions regarding the primarily ritual function of eastern structures (eg., Wauchope 1934; Becker 1982; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press) and would help ascertain the status of the people who occupied and/or used this group of buildings. Sub-Operation C22A had already produced evidence that the residents of this group of buildings had some access to luxury goods. The excavation of Str. C13 was assigned Sub-Op. C22E and was conducted under the supervision of Cynthia Pope from the University of Central Florida during the 1987 field season. However, in the final days of excavation, a very important and complex multiple burial was encountered which was reburied and re-excavated in 1988.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C22E consisted of two excavations -- an axial trench, oriented east-west through Str. C13, extending from approximately 1 m in front of the building to just off the edge of the platform to the west, and an areal excavation to expose architectural features on the south half of the building. The final dimensions of the trench measured 14.1 m east-west by 1.54 m north-south, with an unexcavated portion 2.8 m long to avoid a mature Ramon tree growing at the summit of the structure. The areal excavation covered a

total area measuring 5.4 m north-south by 10.8 m east-west and revealed the roughly dressed stone foundations for a two-room, tandem-plan building with an outset staircase on the west, or front, side (Fig. 5.7). However, the large roots of the mature tree growing on the summit of Str. C13 obscured some of the architectural details of the western portion of the structure. The stratigraphy revealed in the deep excavation indicated that at least one modification was made to Str. C13 during its use (Fig. 5.8). Very little rubble was found at the base of the mound prior to excavation thus indicating that if a superstructure were present during the use of the building it may have been constructed of perishable materials.

Structure C13-B

Based on the information recovered from the trench, the earliest building activity in this locus is the construction of the platform. A medium brown matrix, mixed with small rubble was found in the lowest portion of the trench, towards the western limit of the excavation. This is the same matrix found in the other deep excavations conducted in this group and even though Sub-Op. C22E did not reach this depth further to the east, it is believed that the medium brown fill extended beneath Str. C13. A rough plaster construction level (U.1), found 7.0 m to 9.3 m west of the east platform wall (U.1), probably served to cap the medium

brown platform fill beneath what would eventually be the summit of the building.

The construction of Str. C13 began with the deposit of a medium brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, directly on U.1. A construction wall (U.2) made of large boulders was placed 7.0 m west of U.1, on the construction level, and was oriented north-south. This matrix was deposited as a mound probably in order to promote the height of the building. A second construction wall (U.3) made of boulders was placed on the western edge of the medium brown matrix, 9.3 m west of U.1. and was also oriented north-south. A wall of roughly dressed stone blocks (U.4) was placed on top of U.3 and a second wall of roughly dressed stone blocks (U.5) was placed on U.2. In between U.4 and U.5, large boulders were placed on the medium brown construction fill and a dark brown matrix packed with small stone was deposited above these. This matrix served as the base of a floor level with U.4. It is likely that the surface of this floor (U.6) was plastered at one point in time. To the east of U.5, the dark brown construction fill was mixed with very large rubble or small boulders, again, to promote the height of the building. The areal excavation revealed a partially preserved wall of roughly dressed stone (U.8) at the summit of the building, 1.6 m east of, and approximately 40 cm above, U.5. This wall was oriented north-south and was likely the wall foundation for the back

room of the building. Thus, U.5 probably served as a step from U.6 to U.8. The construction fill east of U.5 served as the base for the tread (U.7) of this step. Towards the east excavation limit, a dark brown matrix, mixed more with small and medium rubble and only some of the larger stones was found. Most of the trench between this matrix and the matrix east of U.5 remained unexcavated due to a mature tree at the summit of the building. However, the stratigraphy revealed in the excavation indicates that the dark brown matrix, mixed only with large rubble, may have extended as far as 3.9 m east of U.5. The back wall of Str. C13-B (U.9) was constructed of roughly dressed stone blocks, 0.8 m west of U.1; only one course of this wall was preserved.

Thus, Str. C13-B consisted of a front room or terrace (defined by U.4, U.5 and U.6), measuring 2.2 m east-west by approximately 10 m north-south. Unit 5 was the step up to the back room and the tread (U.7) measured 1.5 m east-west. It is uncertain how far it extended across the front of the building as it was only partially preserved. It is likely that U.7 was plastered. The back, or east, room of Str. C13-B (defined by U.8) may have measured 2.5 m east-west based on the profile of the mound. Also based on this profile, the back of the building may have sloped from the summit to the back wall (U.9) found at the base of the building. It is unknown what the front steps of Str. C13-B (U.10) looked like as these were removed to deposit two

burials and a cache beneath the building. Based on the data recovered from Sub-Op. C22A, it is believed that the plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C13-B (U.2) had a plastered surface.

Structure C13-A

Structure C13-B was modified once when three special deposits were made west of U.4. Unit 10 was removed and two burials and a cache offering were deposited at about the same level as U.1 (Fig. 5.9). A medium brown matrix, packed with small stone was placed above the deposits and mounded slightly above the level of U.1. This matrix was then covered by a dark brown matrix, mixed with medium and large rubble. This formed the core of a new, outset staircase (U.11) for Str. C13-A. Unit 11 consisted of three steps which were exposed in the areal excavation but shifted down the slope of the mound. No evidence was found in Sub-Op. C22E for a plastered floor in front of Str. C13-A, however, based on the other excavations conducted in this group, it is believed that the plaza surface (U.3) was plastered when Str. C13-A was in use.

Special Deposit C22E-1. This deposit was a reasonably well preserved multiple burial of five individuals placed 0.9 m to 1.6 m west of, and just below the level of U.1, in a stone capped cist (Fig. 5.10). The cist was cut into the medium brown construction fill of the platform and was

partially lined with stone. Based upon the superposition of the bone, Individuals 1 and 3 were the first to be placed in the cist. The upper bone associated with these individuals was badly fragmented because the large capstones had been placed directly on top of the deposit. However, the bone immediately below the fragmented material was well preserved. Both individuals were flexed and it appears that Individual 1 was placed upright in a seated position while Individual 3 was placed upside down. The long bones for both bodies were intertwined thus indicating that Individual 3 was placed in Individual 1's lap. Individual 1's skull was very poorly preserved having been crushed by the weight of the capstone but the mandible was oriented with the chin pointing to the southwest. Two metatarsals assigned to Individual 1 were fused together. The artifacts associated with Individuals 1 and 3 are a black slipped cylinder (Object 3) with an incised design, originally placed in an upright position on the south side of the bodies and a miniature, unslipped olla (Object 6), placed with Individual 3 in the lap of Individual 1.

Individual 5 was buried next and was placed to the south of Individuals 1 and 3. This person was an adult male interred in an extended, supine position with his head to the south and his hands on his chest. It appears that Individual 5 had either (a) at one point in his life broken his right tibia, which subsequently healed, or (b) had some

deformity of his lower right leg as the tibia was abnormally thickened with a bow or curve along the length of the shaft. Artifacts associated with this person include a shell ornament, carved in the shape of a five-pointed star (Object 10), a polished bone tube (Object 11) and a red on white painted cylinder (Object 4) which was badly fragmented. All of these were placed along the outside of the left femur.

The next person interred in S.D.C22E-1 was Individual 2, an adult male, extended in a supine position with his head to the north. Individual 2 was placed directly above Individual 5 with his arms were placed along the sides of his body with the right hand below the hip. This individual is particularly notable for his filed and inlaid teeth -- the upper incisors and canines were inlaid with jade (all but one tooth had one piece of jade, one incisor was inlaid with two smaller chips of jade) and the corners of two of the upper incisors were filed. In addition, the inner, lower incisors were inlaid with pyrite. Individual 2 is also notable because at least three of the six vessels included in this deposit seem to have been put in place when his body was laid out. A red-slipped tripod dish (Object 5) was placed right side up over his ankles while a second red-slipped tripod dish (Object 2) was placed right side up beneath his head, and a third red-slipped tripod dish (Object 1) was inverted over the crown of his skull. A carved shell ornament (Object 8) and a carved limestone

spindle whorl (Object 9) were found in the area of the knees.

When Individual 2 was interred, Individual 4 was also buried. During the excavation of this deposit in 1987, Individual 4 was identified by tightly flexed leg bones placed adjacent to the right side of Individual 2's torso. Further excavation of the deposit in 1988 uncovered a partially preserved male pelvis on top of Object 4 and the left and right humeri and the left radius and ulna were found beneath the arms and vertebrae of Individual 2. These bones were tentatively assigned to Individual 6 with the reservation that they could be part of Individual 4. After the excavation was completed and based upon the location of the bones assigned to each body, it appears that Individual 4 and Individual 6 were the same person. Individual 4 was an adult male, who was tightly flexed and placed adjacent to and partly beneath Individual 2 in what appears to what may have been an "embrace." No skull was found for Individual 4. A carved shell ring with a pyrite inlay (Object 7) was found among the legs of Individual 4, adjacent to the right arm and ribs of Individual 2. Initially, the ring was assumed to have belonged to Individual 2 because of his inlaid and filed teeth. However, the ring was not found in the vicinity of this person's hands, nor for that matter with any digits. Thus it appears that the ring was not being worn at the time of burial and was placed alongside

the body like all the other objects associated with this deposit. A lump of hematite was found below Individual 4's pelvis. After Individuals 2 and 4 were buried, the deposit was capped by rough slabs of limestone.

Object 1 (C22E/38-1) is a tripod dish with shallow vertical grooves impressed around the circumference of the vessel above the basal angle. The feet are rounded and each has two vertical slits and one rattle pellet. The exterior surface is slipped red. The rim diameter measures 26.8 cm and the height of the dish measures 8.5 cm to 9.0 cm. This vessel was placed upside down over the crown of Individual 2's skull.

Object 2 (C22E/38-2) is an eroded red-slipped tripod dish which was placed right side up, immediately below Individual 2's skull. The dish has a sharp medial flange, with 15 small notches encircling the circumference. The feet are slightly rounded but are more spike shaped. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/6) fading to light brown (7.5YR6/4) on one side and to a dark grey fire cloud (10YR4/1) towards the base. This surface is quite eroded and horizontal wiping striations are visible. The interior surface has traces of red slip (2.5YR4/8). The diameter of the rim measures 27 cm and the height measures 7.7 cm.

Object 3 (C22E/38-3) is a Carmelita Incised cylinder with eight sets of concentric squares incised on the exterior surface. The exterior surface is slipped black (2.5YR2.5/0)

and is decorated with panels of concentric squares encircling the vessel. The incised design is approximately 1 mm deep and consists of three bands of panels. The top and bottom bands each consist of two panels of concentric squares separated by two undecorated panels. The middle band consists of four panels of concentric squares. The black slip extends 1.0 cm down the wall of the interior, which is otherwise an unslipped reddish-yellow (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR6/8) in color. This vessel was very fragmented but was initially placed in an upright position adjacent to the legs of Individuals 1 and 3. The rim diameter measures 10.1 cm and the height measures 25.7 cm.

Object 4 (C22E/38-11) is a poorly preserved red-on-white slipped cylinder. The design consists of a figure, possibly a monkey, in red (between 10R4/6 and 10R4/8) and light red (between 2.5YR5/8 and 2.5YR6/8) on a white (10YR8/2) background. The interior surface is characterized by a thin stripe of red slip, extending 2 mm below the lip, followed by a 2.8 cm band of white slip. Otherwise, the interior surface is unslipped pink (5YR7/4). This vessel was found on its side, adjacent to the outside of Individual 5's left femur. The rim diameter measures 10.5 cm and the height measures 23.5 cm.

Object 5 (C22E/38) is a very fragmented red-slipped tripod dish placed right-side up on Individual 2's ankles. It is similar in form and size to Object 2.

Object 6 (C22E/38-10) is an unslipped, miniature olla with four punctations on each side of the thickened shoulders of the vessel. The rim is round but the body of the vessel was molded into an oval shape, wider at the top than at the base, by thickening the shoulders on the exterior and keeping the interior walls vertical. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR4/8) which fades into a light brown (7.5YR6/4) and a very dark grey (7.5YR3/0) firecloud on the walls of the vessel. Object 6 was found among the long bones of Individuals 1 and 3. The rim diameter measures 2.5 cm and the height measures 4.3 cm.

Object 7 (C22E/38-4) is a carved shell ring with one pyrite inlay still in place. Other inlays were included on this piece but were missing and not found during excavation. The ring is carved in what appears to be a face. This object was found between the leg bones of Individual 4 and the upper left torso of Individual 2. The diameter of the ring varies from 2.55 cm to 2.95 cm and weighs 3.3 gms.

Object 8 (C22E/38-8) is a carved shell marker in the shape of a six-pointed star with a hole drilled through the center. The marker was found adjacent to, and inside, the left femur of Individual 2. It is 3.2 cm long, 3.2 wide, 0.3 cm long, and weighs 1.0 gm.

Object 9 (C22E/38-9) is a quartzite spindle whorl, with a series of incised triangles around the circumference of the piece. It was found adjacent to, and outside, the right

femur of Individual 2. The spindle whorl is 2.8 cm in diameter, 1.5 cm thick, and weighs 18.2 gms.

Object 10 (C22E/38-6) is a carved shell marker, in the shape of a five-pointed star, found south of Object 4, outside of Individual 5's femur. The marker is 1.8 cm wide, 1.6 cm long, 0.3 cm thick and weighs 0.7 gms.

Object 11 (C22E/38-7) is a polished bone tube, probably animal bone, found with Object 10, south of Object 4. It is 1.9 cm in diameter, 3.0 cm long and weighs 6.7 gms. The average wall thickness measures 0.3 cm.

Special Deposit C22E-1 was capped by large, rough limestone slabs, and a second burial, S.D.C22E-3, was deposited. This burial was found just above the capstones covering S.D. C22E-1 in the medium brown construction fill, packed with small stones. A cache offering was deposited to the east of S.D.C22E-1 and was designated S.D.C22E-2.

Special Deposit C22E-2. This deposit was a cache offering of an unslipped, deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face. The bowl was placed on its side, approximately 20 cm west of U.1 (Fig. 5.9) and covered with the same medium brown matrix which covered S.D.C22E-1. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped light red (2.5YR6/8). On the exterior surface, this fades to a reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/6) on one side of the vessel and there is a very dark grey (10YR3/1) firecloud over part of the

face. The face is characterized by two oval eyes, modeled from the surface of the vessel, and an appliqued mouth and nose. Two ceramic "balls" are appliqued below the nostrils and a round solid disc is appliqued to each cheek. A lump of hematite was found inside the bowl.

Special Deposit C22E-3. This is a partially recovered burial in the medium brown construction fill above the capstones covering S.D.C22E-1. During the excavation of the multiple burial, some of the construction fill in the west excavation limit was accidentally knocked into the excavation, revealing human cranial fragments and part of a miniature vessel. The vessel was an unslipped, buff colored dish, similar in form and size to miniature vessels recovered from cache deposits found elsewhere at Caracol (eg., S.D.C31B-1 from Sub-Op. C31B). No further artifacts or bone were evident in the excavation wall and due to time considerations, further excavation to investigate this deposit were not conducted.

Platform Relationships to Structure C13

The deep excavation revealed that Str. C13 was constructed at the same time as the platform. The construction fill for the platform in the Str. C13 locus was the same medium brown matrix, mixed with small stone, as found in the other deep excavations conducted within this group. In Sub-Op. C22E, this matrix was encountered only in the lowest

portion of the excavation, towards the western excavation limit. Based on the other deep excavations, this matrix probably extended east, beneath Str. C13, to the east platform wall. Unit 1 partially capped the construction fill for the platform beneath what would eventually be the summit of the building. No plastered surface was found in the excavation, in front (west) of Str. C13, to indicate a plaza floor, however this may be a factor of preservation. The dark brown matrix, mixed with small pebbles, which was found above the medium brown platform construction fill, probably served as the bedding for both of the reconstructed platform floors (U.2 and U.3).

Structure C13 Recovery Lots

Sub-Operation C22E was intended to provide data regarding the function of an eastern building as well as provide information regarding the history of the use of this locus. Assorted sherds were recovered from throughout the excavation, however the date of construction and use of Str. C13 is provided primarily by the ceramic vessels associated with S.D.C22E-1 and evidence for its function is provided, in part, by S.D.C22E-2.

Based on some of the artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C22E, such as an incensario fragment and broken obsidian blades, Str. C13 served a ritual function. This interpretation is supported by S.D.C22E-2, the cache offering of a modeled and appliqued bowl. However, other artifacts which

were recovered from the use-related Lots, such as ground-stone fragments, indicate a possible domestic function. This is supported by the building plan of Str. C13 which is similar to that for Str. C11 (Sub-Ops. C22A and C22B) and is believed to have been a residence. It is possible that Str. C13 served both functions for the residents of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group.

Structure C13 was constructed and used during the Late Classic period. This is based on the vessel forms included in S.D.C22E-1 and is supported by the building's stratigraphic relationship with the platform construction.

Lots C22E/1 and C22E/2 are associated with the use and abandonment of the structure. Lot C22E/1 is assigned to the humus level from which fragments of slate, chert, obsidian blades, manos and metates were recovered. A fragment from an incensario and a fragment of a speliiothem were also found in this Lot.

Lot C22E/2 is associated with the material recovered from the dark brown matrix, mixed with small rubble, removed just below the humus to detail preserved architecture. The artifact inventory from this Lot is similar to that for Lot C22E/1, however, no incensario or speliiothem fragments were recovered.

Lot C22E/3 is assigned to the dark brown construction fill beneath U.6, between U.4 and U.5. The matrix was packed with small stone just beneath U.6 and packed with

large rubble towards the bottom of the Lot. The artifacts associated with Lot C22E/3 include fragments of obsidian blades, chert and slate.

Lot C22E/4 is assigned to the dark brown matrix mixed with small to large rubble removed from the back (east) slope of Str. C13, between the summit of the building and U.9. Some of the material recovered from this Lot may be use-related, probably having fallen from the summit through time and tree growth. The artifacts assigned to Lot C22E/5 include fragments of slate and marine shell, as well as fragments of granite and limestone metates.

Lot C22E/5 is associated with the material recovered from the medium brown matrix, mixed with small stone, used for the construction of the platform. The artifacts include a granite mano fragment and a small fragment of marine shell.

Lot C22E/6 is assigned to the dark brown matrix, mixed with medium and large rubble, used for the construction of U.11. The artifacts recovered from this fill include fragments of slate and chert.

Lot C22E/7 is the medium brown construction fill between U.2 and U.3, beneath Lot C22E/3. The material associated with this Lot includes fragments of slate and groundstone.

Lot C22E/8 is associated with the material recovered from the dark brown matrix, mixed with medium rubble, used as construction fill between U.5 and U.8, beneath U.7. Very

few artifacts were found in this matrix, including a few fragments of chert.

Lot C22E/9 is the medium brown matrix, packed with small stone which was placed above S.D.C22E-1 and S.D.C22E-2. It is within this matrix that S.D.C22E-3 was deposited. Other than the material associated with the special deposits, no other artifacts were recovered from this Lot.

Structure C13 Summary

Structure C13 was constructed during the Late Classic period, at the same time as the platform which supports Str. C11 - Str. C14. The construction fill for the platform was deposited first and partially capped with U.1. Unit 1 was probably constructed in order to support the weight of the construction above it.

Structure C13 was a two room, tandem plan building which was modified once during its use. The modification consisted of a new, outset staircase and is associated with the deposit of two burials, S.D.C22E-1 and S.D.C22E-3, and a cache, S.D.C22E-2. Structure C13 may have functioned as a combination of a residence and a ritual locus for the occupants of the group throughout its use.

The residential interpretation for Str. C13 is based primarily on the building plan which is similar to that of Str. C11, a building believed to have served that function. The artifacts recovered from the use-related Lots include groundstone, which is generally assumed to be indicative of

a residence (eg., Leventhal 1983: 61). In addition, Str. C13 exceeds the minimum requirement for a residence as proposed by Ashmore (1981c:47) with approximately 99 m² of potentially roofed space.

The ceremonial function of Str. C13 is indicated by the building's position on the east side of the group (eg., Becker 1971). This is supported by the deposit of a cache offering (S.D.C22E-2) beneath the front steps of Str. C13-A. Based on excavations conducted throughout the residential settlement of Caracol as part of this study as well as by the Caracol Project (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, personal communication), an eastern building is frequently the locus of cache offerings, which are associated with ritual events. Thus, Str. C13 combines elements associated with both ceremonial and domestic buildings and may have served a dual function for the residents of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group.

Sub-Operation C22E also provided information regarding the status of the residents of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group. The multiple burial, S.D.C22E-1, included a relative wealth of goods and individual 2 had jade and pyrite inlays in his teeth. The Carmelita Incised cylinder (Object 3) included in this interment is very similar to a cylinder recovered from the looted Conchita Group at the southeast terminus of the Conchita Causeway (Jaeger 1987: 103). Whether this can be taken as an indication of some social affiliation among the people who used the two groups or if

the vessels can only be used to relatively date the groups is a question under consideration.

Structure C13 was constructed at the same time as the platform upon which it is located. A comparison of the stratigraphy revealed in Sub-Op. C22E with those revealed in Sub-Op. C22A and Sub-Op. C22C, Str. C13 was constructed before Str. C11 and at the same time as Str. C12. The locus continued to be used when Str. C11 was constructed and occupied.

Structure C13 Units

- Unit 1: Rough, plaster construction level above the platform construction fill.
- Unit 2: Boulder construction wall, beneath U.5, placed above U.1.
- Unit 3: Boulder construction wall west of U.2, beneath U.4.
- Unit 4: Front wall/step on U.4.
- Unit 5: Step to the upper room, east of U.4, on U.2.
- Unit 6: Reconstructed plaster floor between U.4 and U.5.
- Unit 7: Reconstructed plaster surface between U.5 and U.8.
- Unit 8: Wall at the summit of Str. C13, east of U.5.
- Unit 9: Back wall of Str. C13.
- Unit 10: Reconstructed front steps for Str. C13-B.
- Unit 11: Outset staircase for Str. C13-A.

Structure C13 Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: East wall of the platform.

UNIT 2: Reconstructed plaster floor, west of U.10. associated with the use of Str. C13-A.

UNIT 3: Reconstructed plaster floor, west of U.11, associated with the use of Str. C13-B.

Structure C13 Recovery Lots

C22E/ 1: Humus level of Sub-Op. C22E.

C22E/ 2: Dark brown matrix mixed with some small stone, beneath Lot C22E/1 to detail preserved architecture.

C22E/ 3: Dark brown matrix between U.4 and U.5, beneath U.6. This matrix is packed with small stone at the top and is mixed with large rubble at the bottom.

C22E/ 4: Dark brown matrix mixed with large to small rubble removed from between the summit of the building and U.9.

C22E/ 5: Medium brown matrix, mixed with small stone, used as the construction fill of the platform.

C22E/ 6: Dark brown matrix, mixed with medium and large rubble, used in the construction of U.11.

C22E/ 7: Medium brown matrix, mixed with small stone and large rubble, between U.2 and U.3, placed on U.1.

C22E/ 8: Dark brown matrix, mixed with medium and large rubble, between U.5 and U.8, beneath U.7.

C22E/ 9: Medium brown matrix, packed with small stone, placed above S.D.C22E-1, S.D.C22E-2 and within which S.D.C22E-3 was deposited.

TABLE 5.3
STRUCTURE C13 TIMESPANS

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
I	Abandonment		C22E/1	
II	Use of Str. C13-A	<u>U.3</u>	C22E/1, C22E/2	LC
IIIa	Construction Str.C13-A	U.11	C22E/6, C22E/9	LC
IIIb	Deposit S.D.C22E-1		C22E/9	LC
IIIc	Deposit S.D.C22E-2		C22E/9	LC
IIId	Deposit S.D.C22E-3		C22E/9	LC
IV	Use of Str. C13-B	<u>U.2</u>	C22E/1, C22E/2	LC
Va	Construction Str.C13-B	U.1-U.10	C22E/3, C22E/4 C22E/7, C22E/8	LC
Vb	Construction Platform	<u>U.1</u>	C22E/5	LC

Structure C14

Structure C14 is the southern building of the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group. This building, like Str. C11, was a nonmounded feature and was originally identified by partial stone alignments, visible on the surface of the platform. This building was chosen for excavation primarily because it formed an integral part of a group already under intensive investigation and it would also provide comparable data to

that recovered from Str. C12 (Sub-Op. C22C). Sub-Operation C22F was the excavation designated for this locus, which took place in 1987 under the supervision of Cynthia Pope from the University of Central Florida.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C22F initially consisted of two small tests to locate the diagonal northwest and southeast corners of the structure. These were incorporated into the final areal excavation which measured 6.6 m north-south by 2.9 m east-west, with a small 1.1 m north-south by 1.2 m east-west extension off the southeast corner of the building. No deep excavation was conducted in this construction (Fig. 5.11).

The construction history of Str. C14 was not investigated but it is assumed that this building was constructed during the Late Classic period and that the use of this locus was contemporaneous with the use of the other buildings in this group. The areal excavation revealed that the building consisted of a rough, limestone block foundation (U.1 and U.2) on the platform surface (U.1). Based on the evidence found in the other excavations conducted within this group, it is believed that the platform surface associated with the use of this building was plastered. No evidence was found for a plaster floor within Str. C14, which may be due either to erosion or to the possibility that the surface of this building (U.3) consisted of packed and smoothed dirt.

Since Str. C14 is very similar to Str. C12 in form and construction features, it is possible that the two buildings served similar functions as ancillary structures. However, a jade bead, a lip plug and a human tooth were found just beneath the humus level in the dark brown matrix. These suggest that Str. C14 may have served as a residence rather than as a preparation or work area. In addition, this structure covers an area of 20.7 m² and thus meets the minimum roofed space requirement designated by Ashmore (1981c: 47) for a building to have served a residential function.

Structure C14 Recovery Lots

Sub-Operation C22F was intended to provide data regarding the use of the Str. C14 locus. No deep excavation was conducted in this locus so only one recovery lot is defined for the areal excavation.

Lot C22F/1 is related to the use and abandonment of the Str. C14 locus. The material associated with this Lot was recovered from the humus and the dark brown matrix, mixed with small rubble, which were removed to detail the preserved architecture of Str. C14. The artifacts recovered from the excavation include assorted sherds, obsidian blade fragments, chert debitage, groundstone and unworked slate fragments, animal bone, marine shell debitage, a small jade bead, a limestone lip plug and a human tooth.

Structure C14 Units

Unit 1: North wall of Str. C14.

Unit 2: South wall of Str. C14.

Unit 3: Reconstructed floor surface between U.1 and U.2.

Structure C14 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plaster surface of platform floor associated with the use of the Str. C14 locus.

Structure C14 Recovery Lots

C22F/ 1: Humus and dark brown matrix, mixed with small rubble, removed to detail the preserved architecture of Str. C14.

TABLE 5.4

STRUCTURE C14 TIMESPANS

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
I	Abandonment		C22F/1	
II	Use of Str. C14	<u>U.1</u>	C22F/1	LC
III	Construction Str. C14	U.1-U.3		LC

Platform Test

Sub-Operation C22D was assigned to a test pit located in the center of the platform for the Str. C11 - Str. C14 group, where the axial trenches for Str. C11 (Sub-Op. C22A)

and Str. C13 (Sub-Op. C22E) would have intersected had they been extended across the platform. This excavation was intended to clarify the construction sequence for the platform and possibly recover dateable primary deposits. The excavation was conducted in 1986, under the supervision of Theresa Batty from the Belize Department of Archaeology.

The test pit measured 1.5 m² and was located 6.9 m to 8.4 m south of the axial trench for Str. C11 (Sub-Op. C22A). Areal excavation revealed the rubble floor bedding for what was probably the latest platform floor (Fig. 5.12). Based on the excavations conducted elsewhere throughout the group, it is believed that the surface of this floor was plastered (U.1). The floor bedding was removed and dark brown matrix became mixed with scattered small rubble and finally white marl (Fig. 5.12). As the excavation proceeded, the dark brown matrix changed to a medium brown matrix mixed with small stone and white marl. The stratigraphy revealed in Sub-Op. C22D is the same as that found in Sub-Ops. C22C and C22E and is similar to that found in Sub-Op. C22A. Thus, it is believed that the platform was constructed in a single effort.

The different floors encountered in Sub-Op. C22A were not found in Sub-Op. C22D. This may be due to erosion in Sub-Op. C22D and the two earliest floors found in Sub-Op. C22A may have been preserved because the construction above them

offered protection from deterioration due to occupation and weather.

No dateable deposits were recovered from this excavation. Based on the data recovered from the other excavations conducted in this group, the platform was built and used during the Late Classic Period.

Test Pit Recovery Lots

Lot C22D/1 is assigned to material recovered from the humus layer removed in Sub-Op. C22D. This material is associated with the use of U.1 and the abandonment of the platform. The inventory includes assorted sherds, obsidian blade fragments, chert debitage, unworked slate and ground-stone fragments.

Lot C22D/2 is assigned to the material recovered from the dark brown matrix beneath the humus level. This Lot also includes the small stone bedding for U.1, as well as the dark brown matrix, mixed with small rubble beneath the floor bedding. The inventory of artifacts associated with this Lot are similar to those recovered from Lot C22D/1. The excavator noted that most of the material was found towards the upper level of this matrix and was probably included in the floor bedding for U.1.

Lot C22D/3 is assigned to the medium brown matrix, mixed with small stone and marl. No artifacts were recovered from this Lot.

Test Pit Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plastered floor surface, associated with the final use of the platform.

Test Pit Recovery Lots

C22D/ 1: The humus level above U.1.

C22D/ 2: Dark brown matrix beneath the humus. The matrix is mixed with small stone near the upper limit and moderately mixed with small rubble towards the lower limit of this Lot.

C22D/ 3: Medium brown matrix mixed with small stone.

TABLE 5.5
PLATFORM TIMESPANS

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
I	Abandonment	C22D/1		
II	Use of platform	C22D/1	LC	
III	Construction platform <u>U.1</u>	C22D/2, C22D/3	LC	

Structures C11 - C14 Group Summary

Structures C11 - C14 were constructed and used during the Late Classic Period. The first evidence of building activity at this locus is the collection of construction material for the platform. Sub-Operation C22E revealed that Str. C13 was built at the same time as the platform. Based

on the stratigraphic relationship between the plaster floors in front of Str. C11 and its architectural features, this building was constructed some time after Str. C13 and the platform had been built and at least one platform floor put in place. Sub-Operation C22C provided evidence that Str. C12 was constructed before a plaster surface was put in place for the platform. Thus, this building was probably built and used at about the same time as Str. C13. It is unknown when Str. C14 was constructed and used, however, it is likely that the construction and use of this building are contemporaneous the occupation of the other buildings which comprise this group.

Based on the range of artifacts recovered from the excavations, the group served a residential function for a group of people who were able to include a small amount of jade objects with their burials. This indicates that the occupants of Strs. C11 - C14 had some access to luxury goods and were members of an elite sector of Caracol society.

Structures C95 - C100: Operation C29

The group defined by Strs. C95 - C100 is located approximately 750 m south of the epicenter and is 105 m west of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.4). The group is composed of six structures and a small aguada on a two level platform, located on top of a low hill. The buildings range from less than 1 m (Strs. C96, C99 and C100) to 2 m (Str.C97) in height. The group was found early in the 1987



Figure 5.1. Building plan for Structure C11.

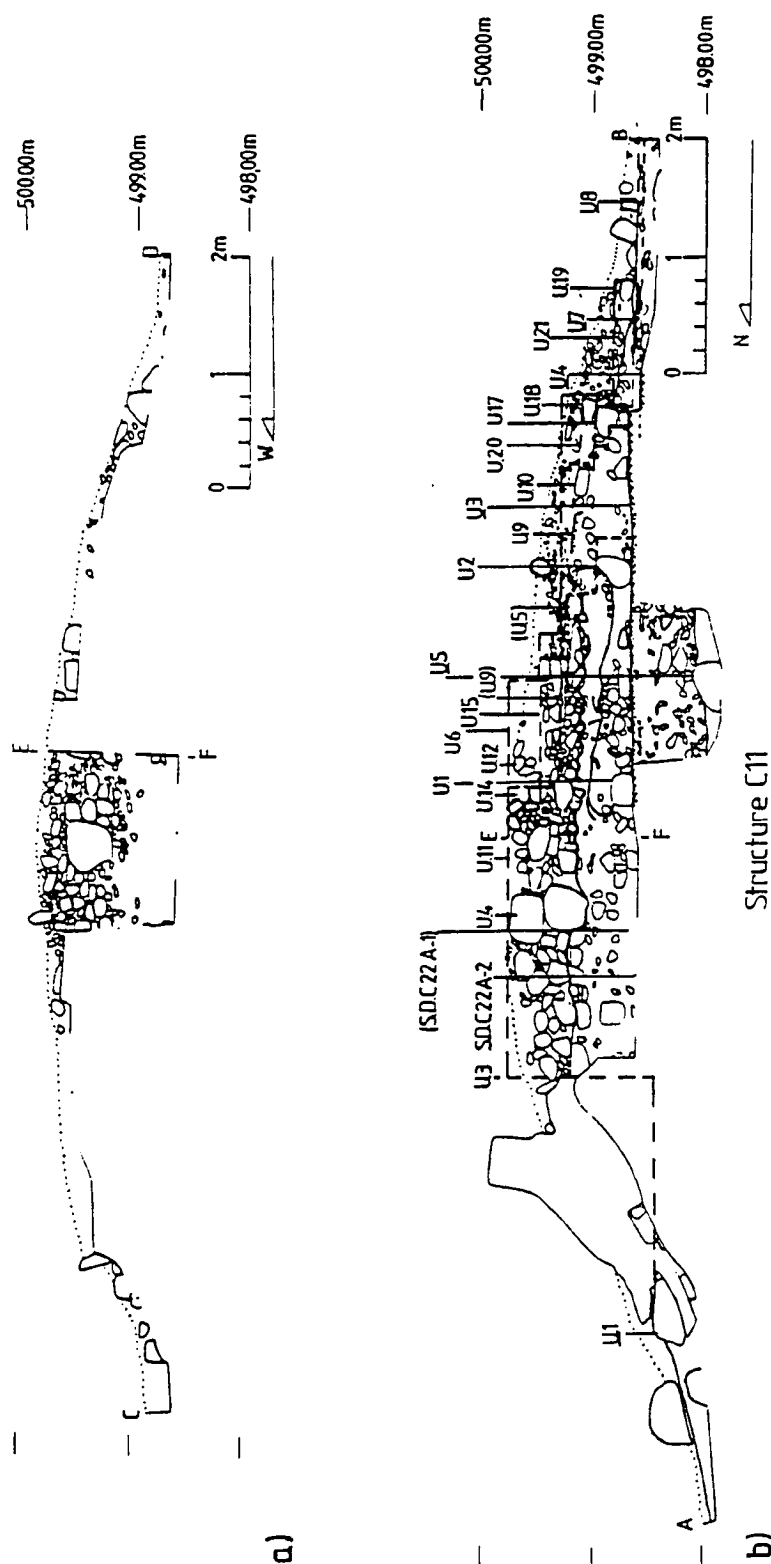


Figure 5.2. Structure C11 - a) east-west cross-section, C-D refers to C-D on the building plan and E-F refers to E-F on the section; b) north-south section, A-B refers to A-B on the building plan.

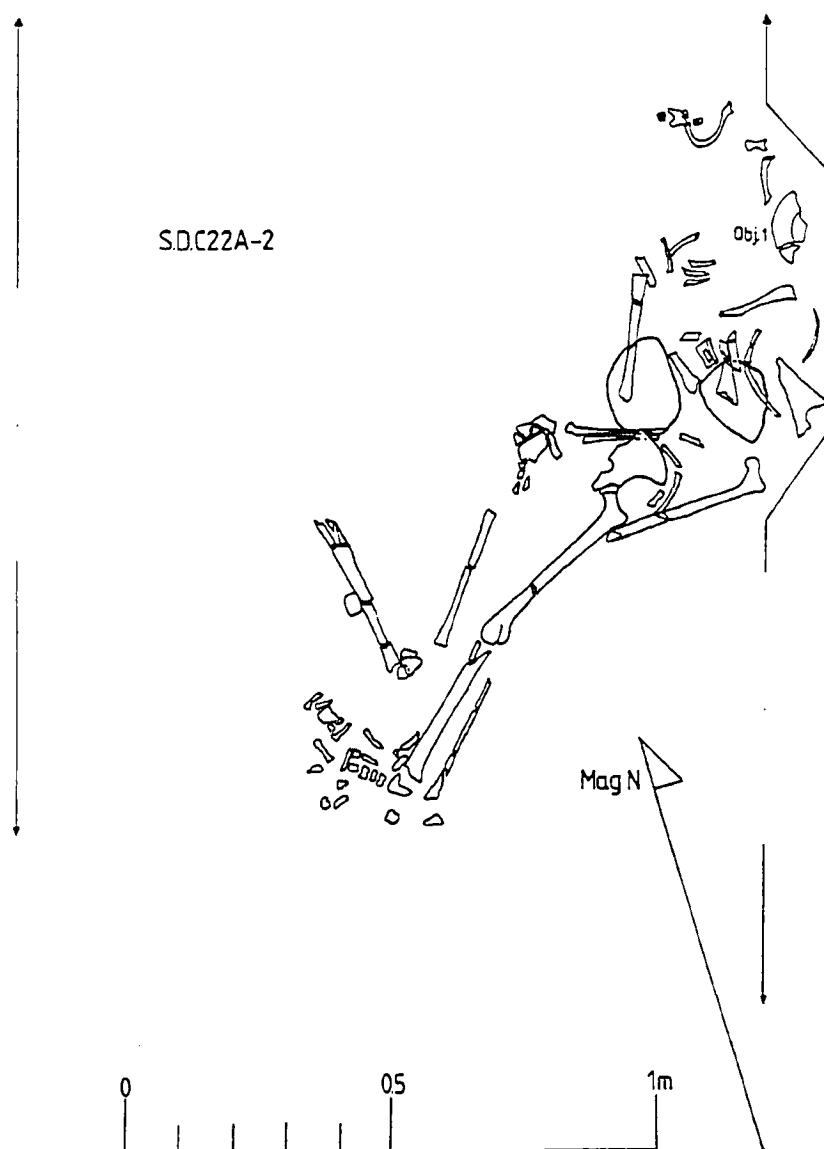


Figure 5.3. Structure C11 Special Deposit C22A-2.

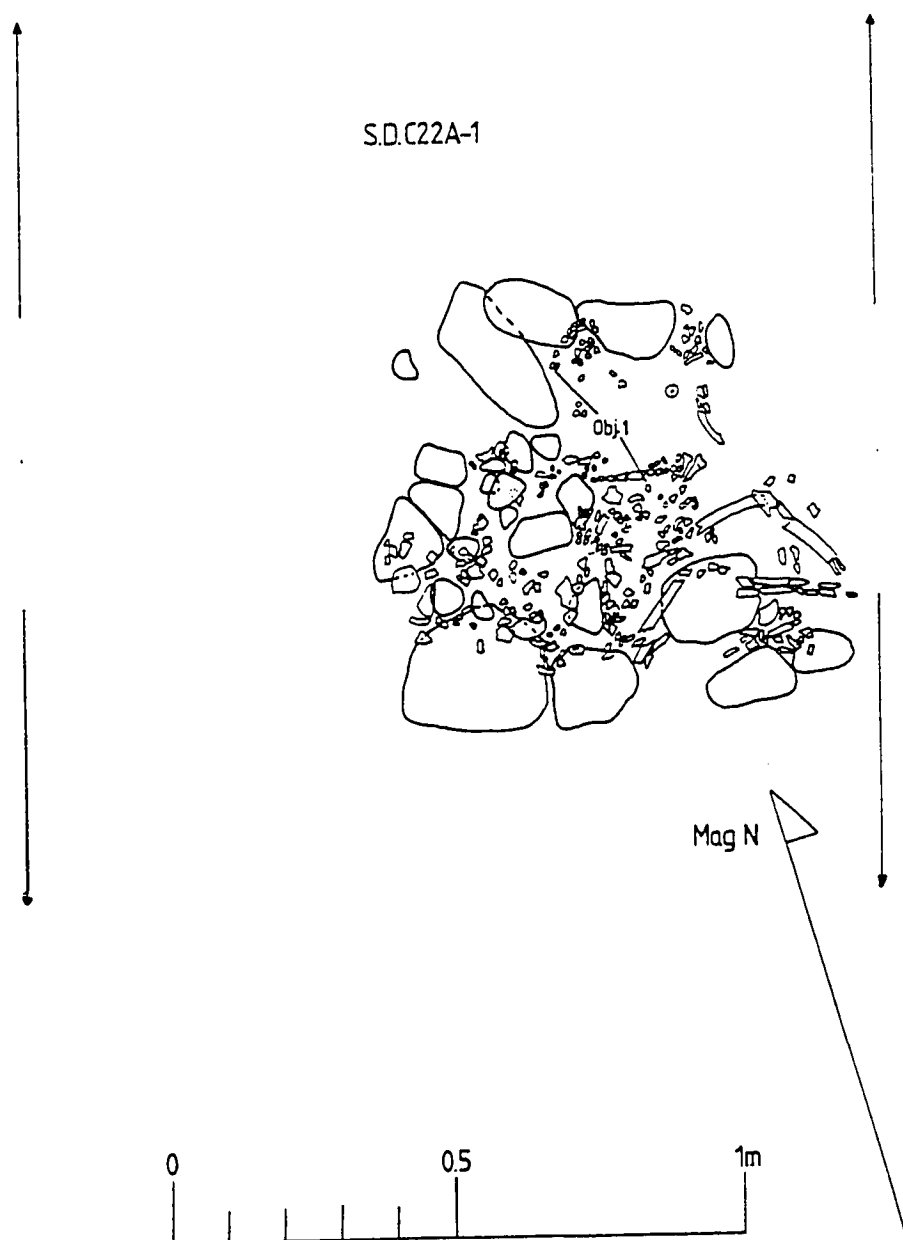


Figure 5.4. Structure C11 Special Deposit C22A-1.

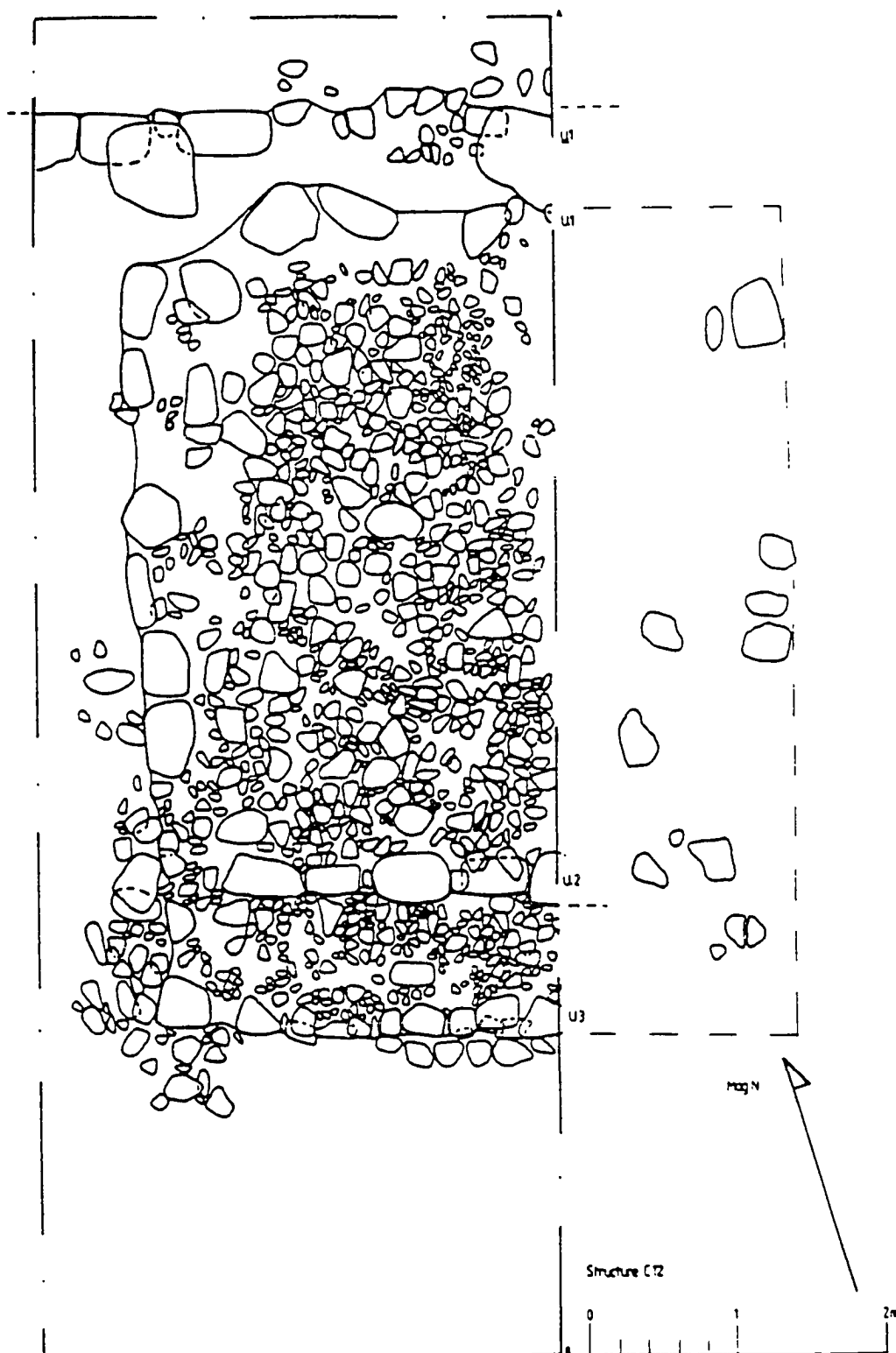


Figure 5.5. Building plan for Structure C12.

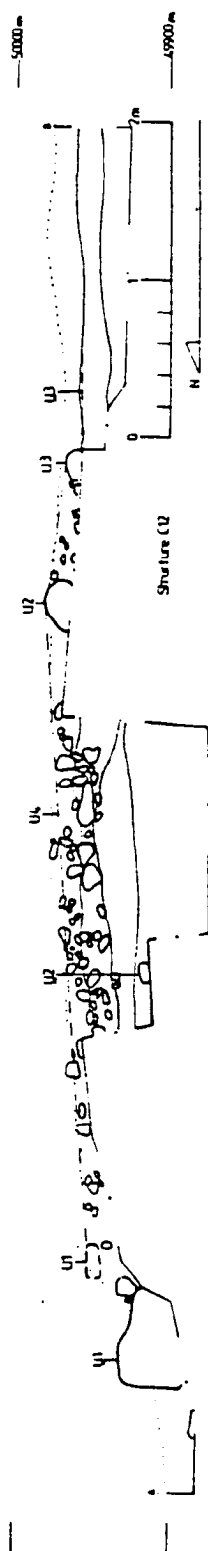


Figure 5.6. Structure C12 section, A-B refers to A-B on the building plan.

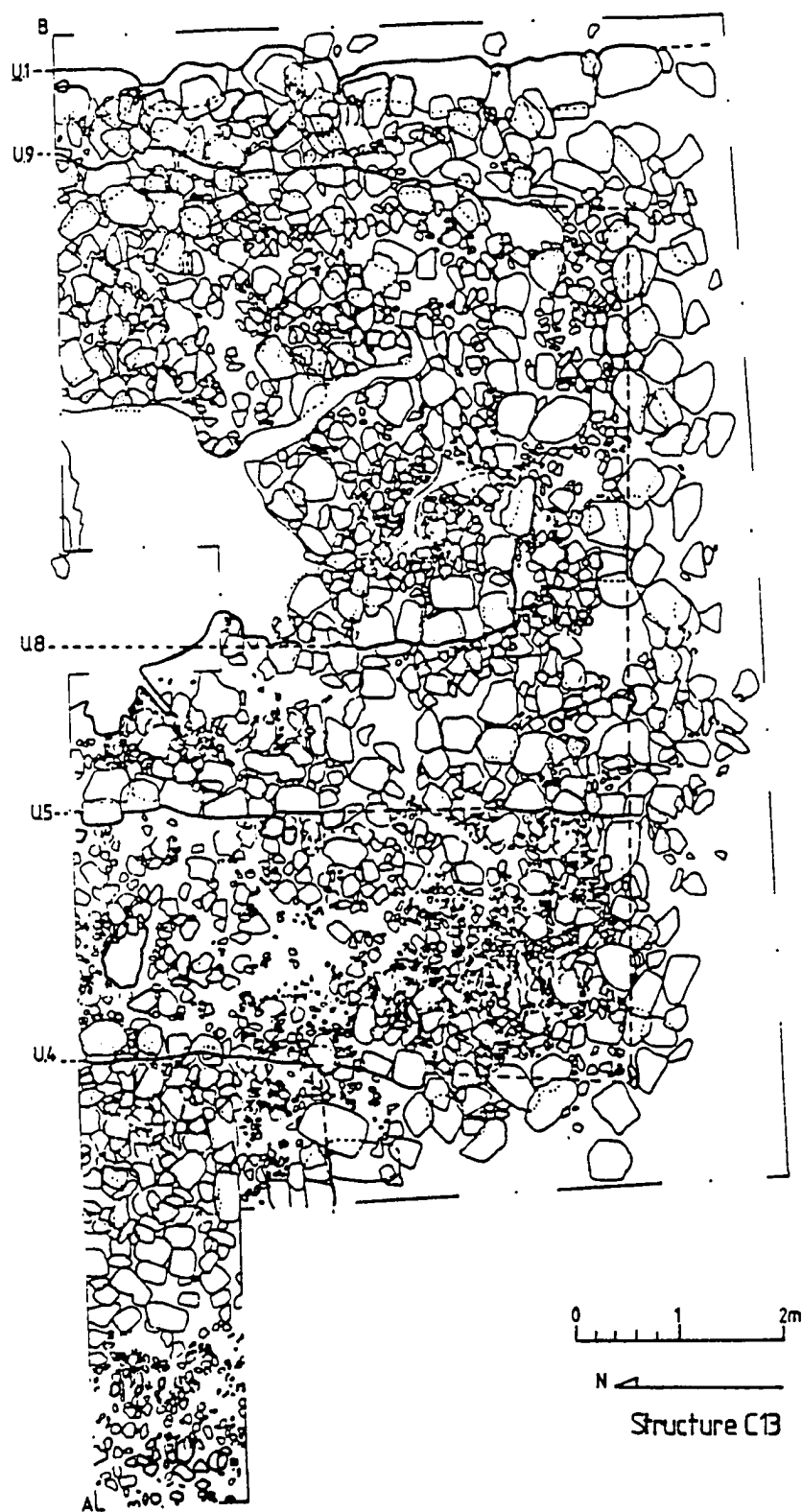


Figure 5.7. Building plan for Structure C13.

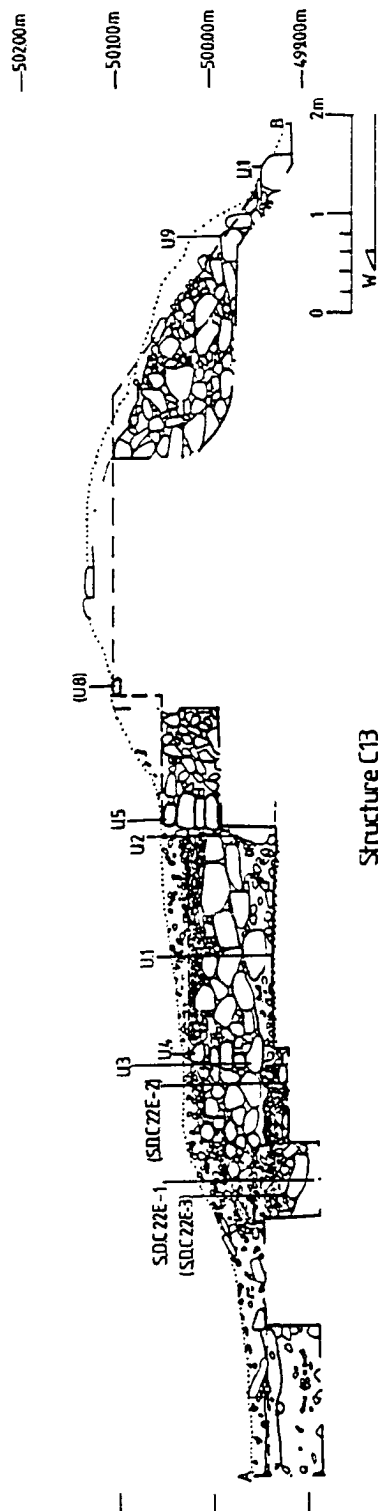


Figure 5.8. Structure C13 section, A-B refers to A-B on the building plan.

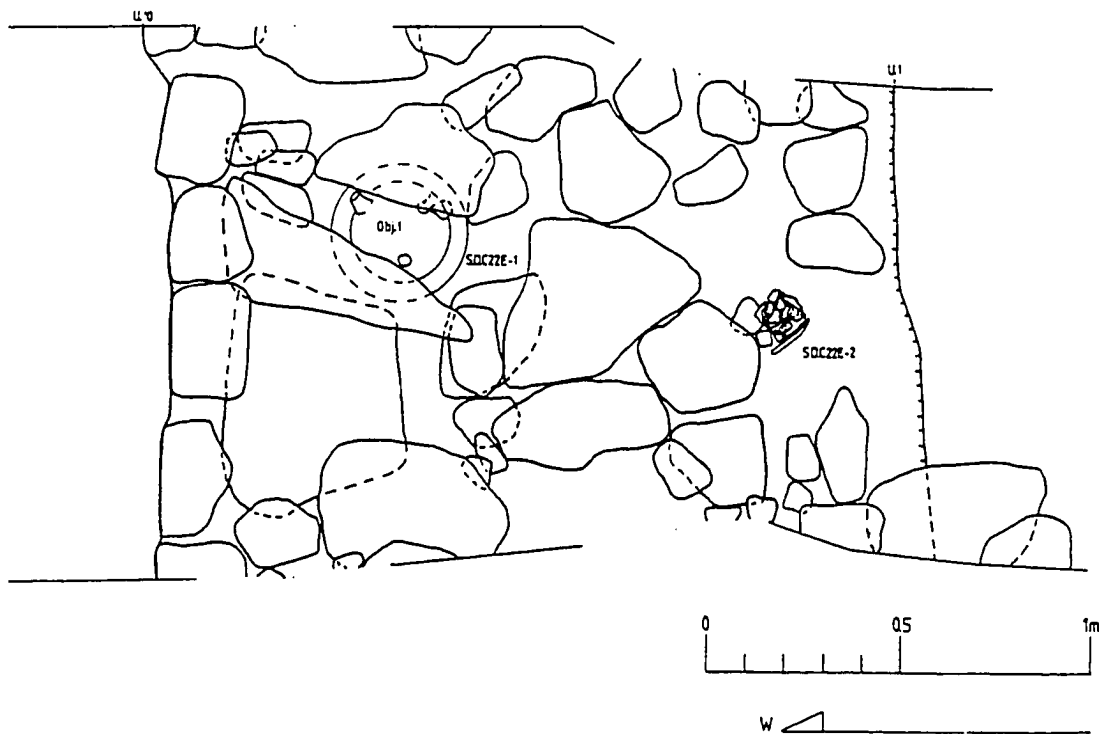


Figure 5.9. Structure C13 Special Deposit C22E-1 capstones and Special Deposit C22E-2.

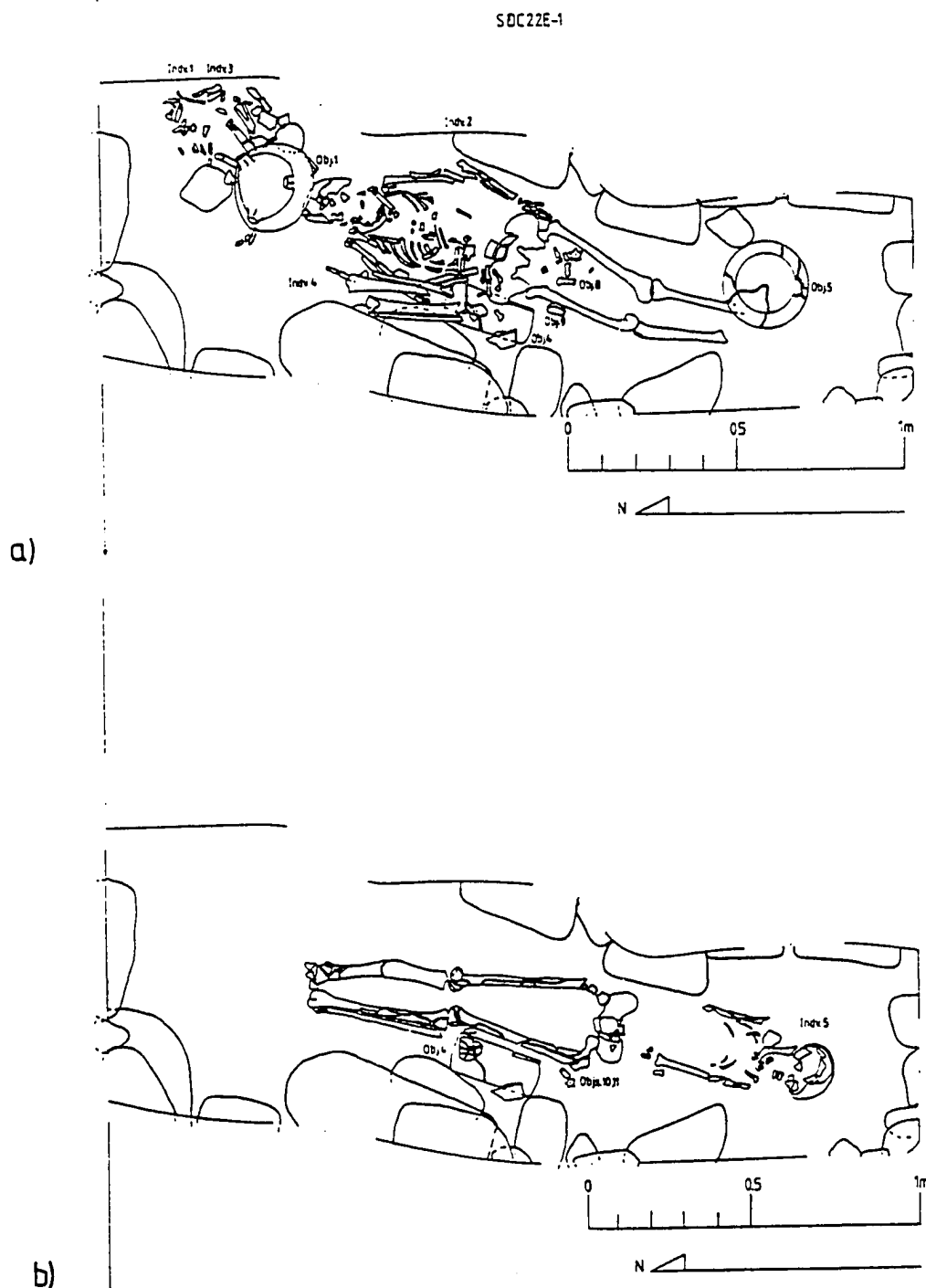


Figure 5.10. Structure C13 Special Deposit C22E-1 - a) upper layer, b) C22E-1 lower layer.

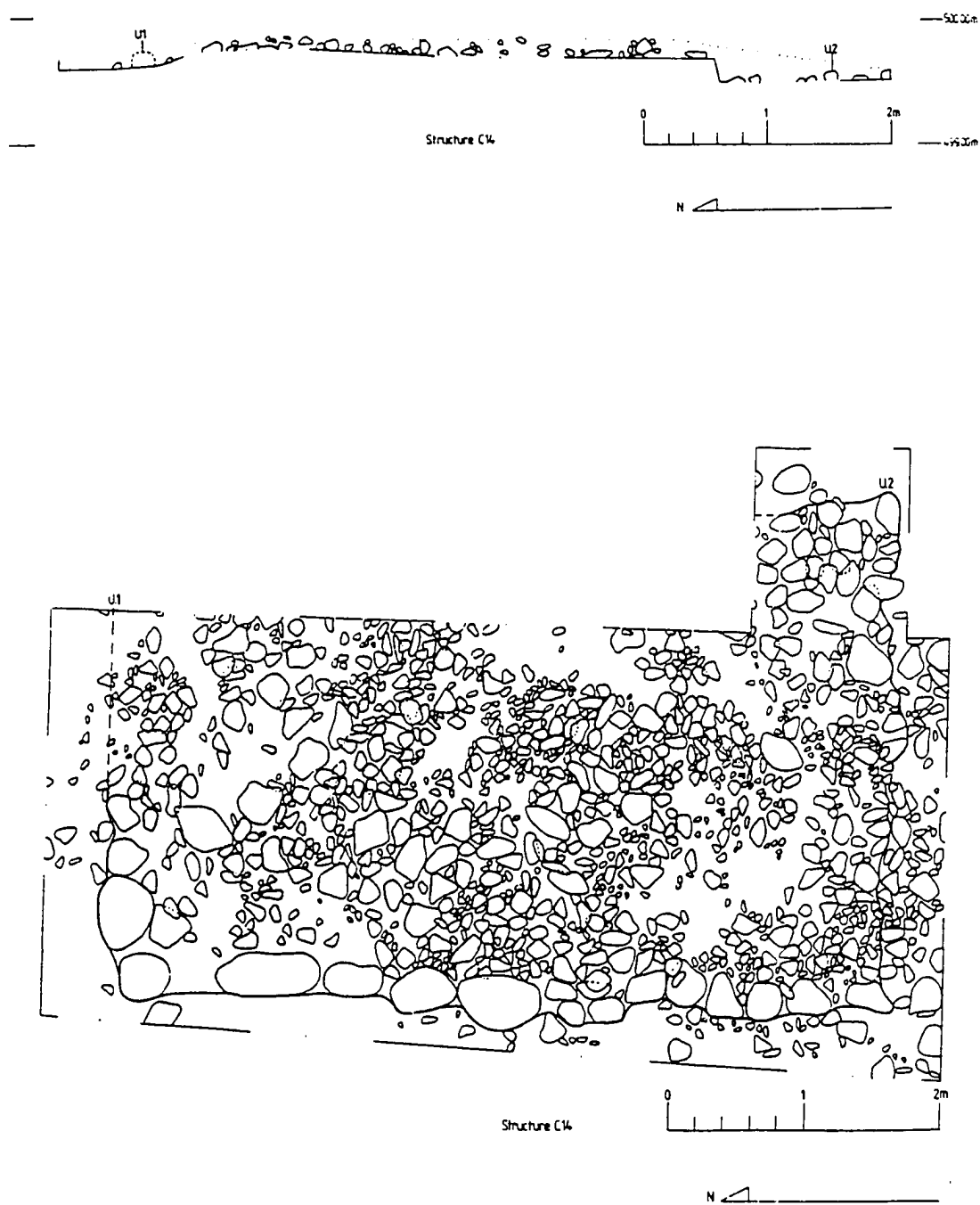
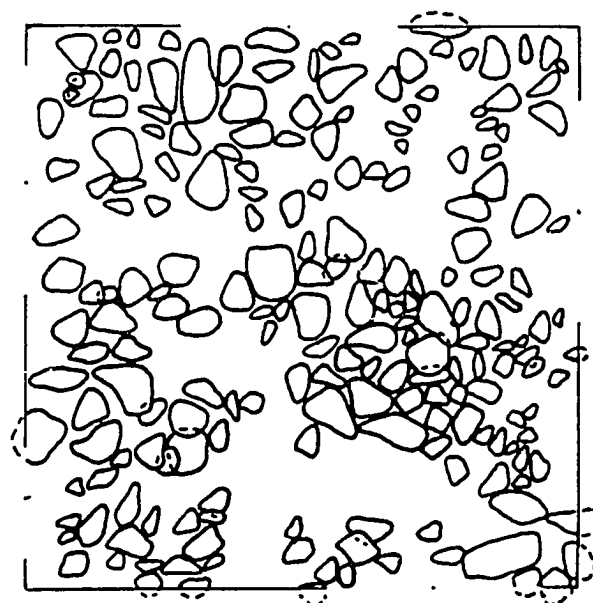
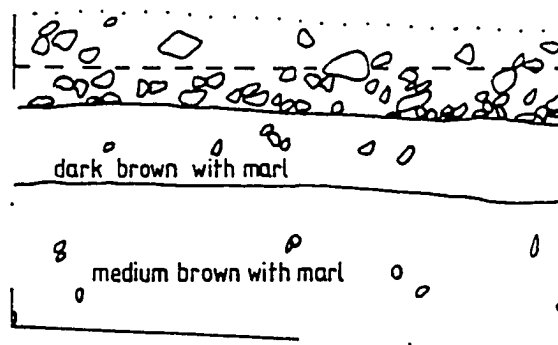


Figure 5.11. Structure C14 - a) section, b) building plan.




Sub-Operation C22D N 

Figure 5.12. Sub-Operation C22D - a) section, b) plan.

season during survey and the large eastern building, Str. C97, had been severely looted with two trenches penetrating the construction on the east and west sides of the building. None of the other buildings had been disturbed. A salvage excavation, designated Operation C29, was undertaken to record the construction information revealed in the walls of the trenches and to recover the cultural items left behind by the looters. The immediacy of the salvage work was considered necessary since the stability of the looters' trenches were questionable. Excavation was undertaken throughout the 1987 season with assistance from Linda Moore and Cynthia Pope from the University of Central Florida. Structures C95 - C100 form an example of a North and East Structure focus group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structure C97

Prior to its discovery during the 1987 field season, looters trenched Str. C97 with one excavation in front and one in back and exposed two burial chambers, both of them tombs. Surface collections were taken from the looters' backdirt piles and were kept distinct according to the interment with which they were associated. The material recovered from the surface of the backdirt from the west (front) trench included human bone fragments and the sherds to a reconstructible vessel. The material recovered from the surface of the east (back) trench was probably from the

construction fill and included sherds, chert debitage, two slate fragments and a mano fragment.

The construction history of Str. C97 is based solely on the looters' trenches cut into the front and back of the building. The middle portion of the section remained unexcavated by both the looters and the Caracol Project (Fig. 5.12). At least two building phases can be reconstructed from these excavations and from the material recovered from the tombs.

Structure C97-2nd

Structure C97-2nd is the earliest building revealed in the looters' trenches. The construction of this feature was undertaken sometime during the late Early Classic Period based on the contents of the west tomb (S.D.C29A-2), which was included in the core of the building. Construction of Str. C97-2nd began with the deposit of medium brown matrix, mixed with large and medium rubble, on bedrock. Within this matrix, the tomb for S.D.C29A-2 was built using large rough limestone blocks for the walls and incorporating bedrock for the floor. A dry-core fill of limestone boulders and medium rubble was then deposited in this locus and was partially sealed by the plaster floor (U.2) which was evident in the looters' east trench. Based on the location of this floor in relation to the profile of the mound, and in relation to the location of other architectural features associated with this building phase, U.2 was probably the surface of an

extension of the platform behind the building. It very likely resolved directly into the eastern wall of the platform (U.1) which is no longer visible in the section. To the west of the dry-core fill, medium greyish-brown matrix, moderately mixed with small and medium rubble, was deposited. This material was capped with the plaster floor (U.3) which is visible in the looters' east trench and it resolved into a low step (U.1) which is visible at the eastern limit of this excavation. Based on the stratigraphy, it is believed that U.1 must have led to an upper floor (U.2), probably the floor at the summit of the structure itself, and U.3 served as the plaza floor for Str. C97-2nd.

To summarize briefly, Str. C97-2nd was a low substructure, probably less than 1 m in height. A step (U.3) is reconstructed, which joined the back platform (defined by U.1 and U.2) to U.2 at the summit of the building. Unit 2 resolved into U.1 in the front of Str. C97-2nd; and U.3 served as the plaza floor for this building.

Special Deposit C29A-2. Special Deposit C29A-2 is a small tomb located in the construction fill of Str. C97-2nd (Fig. 5.13). The walls of the chamber were made of rough limestone blocks, placed directly on a rough, unmodified bedrock floor. No vault spring was included as part of the construction. The tomb measured 2.2 m north-south, 0.8 m east-west, 0.65 m high, and had a volume of 1.14 m³. The

chamber was fairly well cleaned out by the looters; however, they left behind some small pyrite fragments, obsidian blade fragments, three ceramic vessels (Objects 1, 2 and 3), a pair of shell earplugs (Object 4) and some human bone material. The vessels and the earplugs were found stacked on the floor of the tomb. Based on cranial fragments, the burial included at least one adult and one child (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1987). The vessel forms indicate that the interment was made some time during the later part of the Early Classic Period.

Object 1 (C29A/6-4) is a miniature, unslipped olla. The exterior surface is a buff color (between 7.5YR6/2 and 7.5YR6/4) which fades to grey (between 7.5YR3/0 and 7.5YR4/0) over half the surface. The rim diameter is 2.8 cm and the height is 4.8 cm.

Object 2 (C29A/6-2) is a small eroded bowl with remnants of black slip (5YR2.5/1) on the exterior surface. The eroded surface is a very pale brown (10YR7/3). Horizontal wiping striations are visible on the exterior surface. The diameter of the rim measures 11.0 cm and the height ranges from 10.7 cm to 11.1 cm.

Object 3 (C29A/6-3) is a red-slipped tripod plate. The exterior surface is slipped a dark reddish-brown (5YR3/2) above the medial angle and is an unslipped dark grey (between 5YR3/1 and 5YR4/1) below the medial angle. The interior surface is slipped dark red (10R3/6) which fades to

dark reddish-brown over half the interior. The plate had a ring base but was modified with the addition of bulbous feet. These are characterized by two narrow slits and a loose rattle pellet per foot. The rim diameter measures 39 cm and the height is 8.6 cm.

Object 4 (C29A/6-1a,b) is comprised of one pair of shell earplugs. C29A/6-1a is 2.80 cm to 2.95 cm in diameter, 1.7 cm long and weighs 14.95 gms. C29A/6-1b is 2.85 cm to 2.65 cm in diameter, 1.9 cm long and weighs 15.1 gms.

Structure C97-1st

Structure C97-2nd was modified during the Late Classic Period to the final form of Str. C97-1st. A medium greyish-brown matrix, packed with large and medium rubble, was placed on U.2, in the back of the building, and a darker brown matrix, mixed with medium sized rubble, was placed on U.3, in the front of the building. It appears that the motivation for remodeling Str. C97-2nd was the construction of a new tomb, S.D.C29A-1, over U.1 and U.3. Roughly dressed limestone blocks were used for the walls of the chamber which incorporated U.3 as the floor of the tomb and U.1 was incorporated into the eastern wall. No floors or other architectural features associated with the final form of Str. C97-1st were visible in the section of the looters' trench, however, a reconstruction of the building plan is offered.

Based on the elevation of the tomb for S.D.C29A-1, the east wall of Str. C97-1st (U.4) must have risen some 1.7 m high at the eastern edge of the platform. The construction fill for the east portion of Str. C97-1st covered U.2. The floor at the summit of Str. C97-1st (U.5) measured approximately 6 m from front to back (west to east). Unit 5 must have resolved into a staircase (U.6) which provided access to the plaza floor (U.4) associated with the use of Str. C97-1st. The tomb for S.D.C29A-1 would have been located below this staircase. If a superstructure existed on top of Str. C97-1st, it was constructed of perishable materials based on the scarcity of fallen dressed stone on the surface of the platform at this locus.

Special Deposit C29A-1. Special Deposit C29A-1 is a tomb located in the construction fill of Str. C97-1st (Fig. 5.14). The chamber was opened by looters when they excavated a trench in the front of the building. They removed the north end of the crypt but, other than removing the lower legs of the interred individual and any burial goods in that portion of the chamber, the tomb was left largely undisturbed. Judging by the amount of humus above the contents of the chamber, it appears that some of the capstones of the chamber had collapsed inward leaving an opening and giving the looters notice that there was a tomb within the construction of the building. Fortunately, either the looters decided that excavating the chamber was not worth their

efforts or they did not realize that they had indeed encountered a specially prepared burial chamber. The tomb was constructed directly on the front step of Str. C97-2nd (U.1) and the floor of the platform associated with this earlier building (U.3). The walls were built of roughly dressed limestone blocks, without a visible vault spring. The chamber measured approximately 1.85 m north-south, 0.7 m east-west and 0.9 m high and had a volume of 1.17 m³.

The intact contents of the tomb had been disturbed by the roots of trees growing on the summit of the building but were nevertheless in a good state of preservation. One adult male was interred, with his head to the south, in an extended, prone position (Fig. 5.15). Two shell ornaments (Object 3) were found beneath the skull and a complete mano (Object 4) was placed adjacent to the skull. A cylinder vessel (Object 1) was placed right side up, adjacent to the left knee. A second ceramic vessel (Object 2) was found in the looters' backdirt outside the tomb. This was a red-slipped dish and is attributed to this interment, based on the fragments recovered from just above the floor of the chamber in the section. Other material collected from the looters' backdirt which may be associated with this burial includes bird bone and small rodent bone. Based on the tomb contents, the interment was made during the Late Classic Period.

Object 1 (C29A/7-1) is a red and black on cream painted cylinder. The cylinder was placed adjacent to the left knee of the individual, in an upright position. The lip of the vessel is slipped with a black stripe (7.5YR2.5/0). On the exterior surface, this stripe is followed by a broad horizontal band of red (10R4/8), ca. 9 mm wide, a cream band (5YR7/8-7/4) ca. 3 mm wide and a thin red stripe, ca. 2 mm wide. Below the red stripe is a band of a repeating design of an "eagle" head in red and orangey-red on a cream background. Below the repeating design is an alternating series of eight bands in red and cream. This in turn is followed by an eroded feathered figure painted in red and black on a cream background in the mid-portion of the vessel wall. A 1 mm wide black stripe outlines the bottom edge of the cylinder. The interior surface of the vessel is unslipped red (10R5/8). The rim diameter measures 9 cm and the height measures 21 cm.

Object 2 (C29A/1-1) is a Belize Red dish found largely within the looters' backdirt in front of the structure. The exterior and interior surfaces are slipped red (2.5YR4/8). The exterior surface has a 1 mm wide incision encircling the plate, 1 cm below the rim, and a series of shallow finger-nail impressions encircle the medial angle. Part of the plate remained in the section of the trench on the floor of the crypt and was thus provenienced to this interment.

Object 3 (C29A/7-2a,b) is comprised of two shell ornaments which were found beneath the individual's skull. They may have been part of ear assemblages worn by this person at the time of interment. The markers are carved in a floral design with squared petals and measure 2.9 cm in diameter and 0.4 cm thick.

Object 4 (C29A/7-5) is a complete granite mano with shallow grooves, found adjacent to the left side of the individual's skull. The mano is 22.5 cm long, 6.4 cm wide and 4.6 cm thick.

Structure C97 Units

- Unit 1: Front step of Str. C97-2nd which led from U.2 to U.3.
- Unit 2: Reconstructed floor at the summit of Str. C97-2nd. This surface was probably plastered.
- Unit 3: Back step of Str. C97-2nd, between U.2 and U.2.
- Unit 4: Reconstructed east wall of Str. C97-1st.
- Unit 5: Reconstructed plaster floor at the summit of Str. C97-1st.
- Unit 6: Reconstructed front staricase associated with Str. C97-1st.

Structure C97 Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: Reconstructed east platform wall behind Str. C97-2nd.

- UNIT 2: Plaster floor of the platform extension behind Str. C97-2nd.
- UNIT 3: Plastered plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C97-2nd.
- UNIT 4: Plaza floor associated with the use of Str. C97-1st. This surface is believed to have been plastered.

Structure C97 Recovery Lots

- C29A/ 1: Material recovered from the looters' backdirt from the west trench.
- C29A/ 2: Material recovered from the looters' backdirt from the east trench.
- C29A/ 3: Material recovered from the west tomb, associated with S.D.C29A-1.
- C29A/ 4: Material from the east tomb, associated with S.D. C29A-2.

TABLE 5.6

STRUCTURE C97 TIMESPANS

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
I	Abandonment			
II	Use of Str. C97-1st	LC		
IIIa	Construction Str. C97-1st	U.7-U.10	C29A/1,2	LC
IIIb	Deposit S.D. C29A-1	C29A/3	LC	

Table 5.6 - Continued

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
IV	Use of Str. C97-2nd		late EC	
Va	Construction Str. C97-2nd	U.1-U.6	C29A/1,2	late EC
Vb	Deposit S.D. C29A-2	C29A/4	late EC	

Structure C97 Summary

Structure C97 was severely looted just prior to the beginning of the 1987 field season. Salvage excavation recovered enough data to reconstruct the construction history of this building and provide information regarding its use. The data recovered indicate that the structure served a ritual function for the group. The earliest known event at this locus is the construction of Str. C97-2nd during the later part of the Early Classic period. The looters' excavations in the back of the building penetrated the core of the early structure and opened a small tomb, S.D.C29A-2, which was an integral part of this construction. From the material the looters left behind, at least one adult and one child were interred with three ceramic vessels and a pair of earplugs.

During the Late Classic period, a second construction effort was undertaken at this locus to produce Str. C97-1st. The motivation for this building activity was the construc-

tion of a new tomb and the interment of a single male individual with two ceramic vessels, a complete mano and some sort of ear assemblages. The looters' trench cut through the northern end of the tomb but they left the chamber largely undisturbed.

From this, it is clear the group defined by Strs. C95-C100 was built and occupied as early as the late Early Classic period. It is unknown which of the other buildings were present at this time. Occupation of the group continued through the Late Classic period and it is possible that some of the buildings included in the group were constructed during this later period. It is also unknown when the aguada and the lower level of the platform were built. The occupants of Strs. C95 - C100 were members of the elite sector of Caracol society, however, the burial goods included with the interments do not indicate elaborate preparation of the burials beyond the construction of special chambers.

Structures 2E18 - 2E25: Operation C31

The group defined by Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 consists of seven structures built on a low platform on top of a hill, 40 m southwest of the Conchita Causeway and 1.77 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.8). This group is distinctive in that it is one of only a few groups known at Caracol which is physically connected to a causeway by a "via". It is also notable for being one of a small number of groups to have an aguada directly associated with the

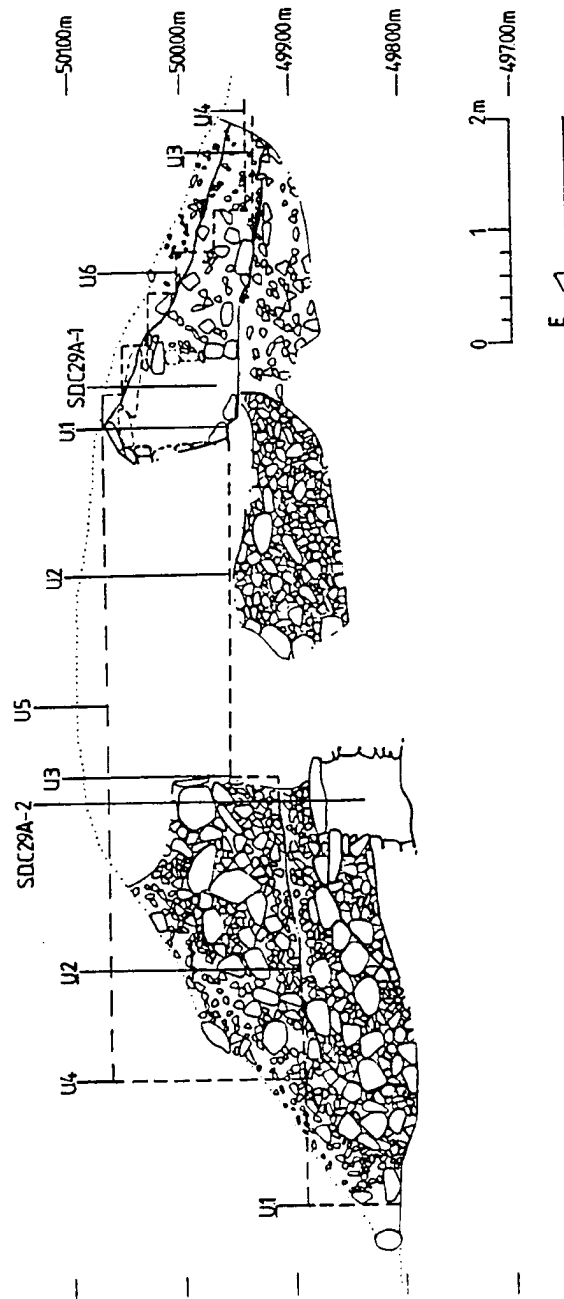


Figure 5.13. Structure C97 section.

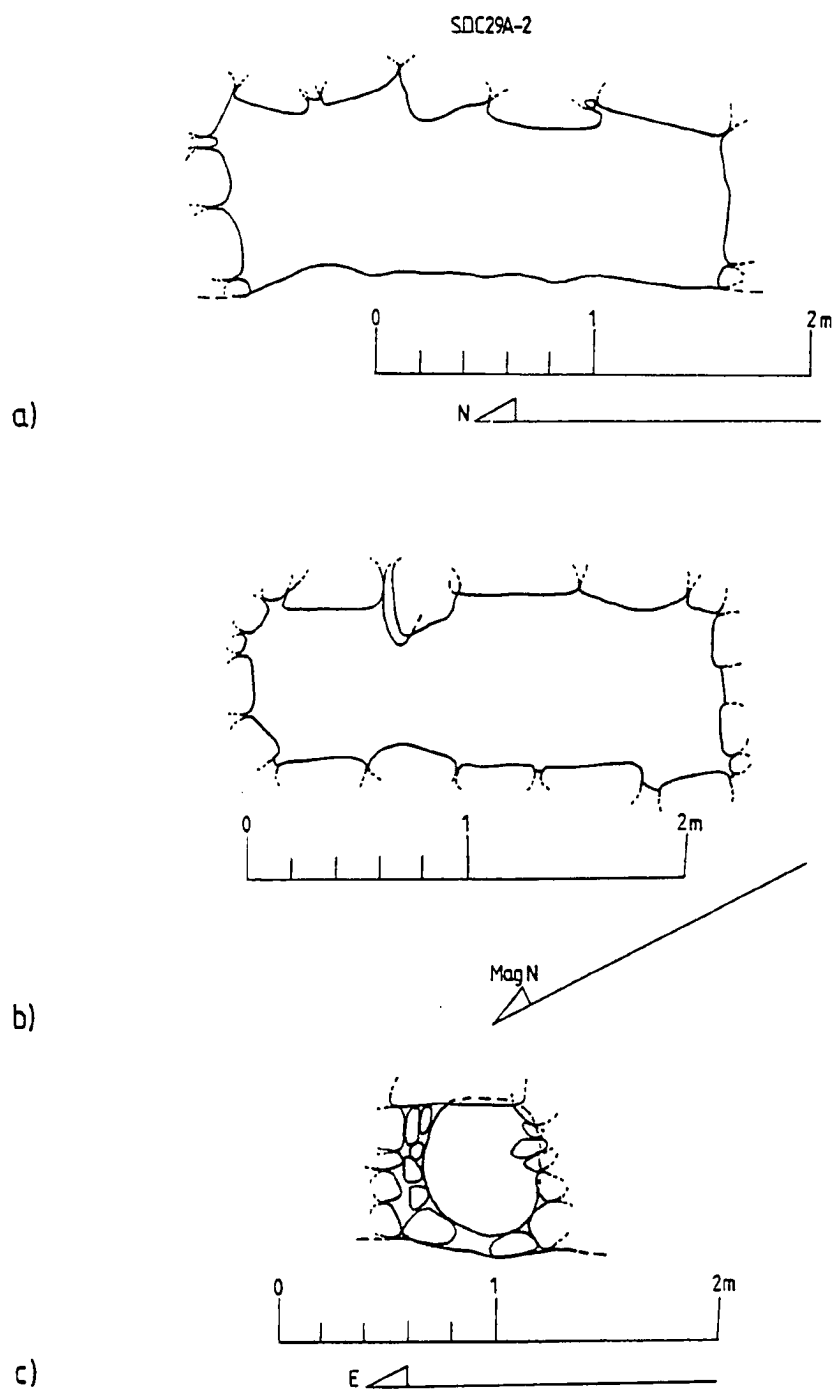


Figure 5.14. Structure C97 Special Deposit C29A-2 - a) north-south section, b) plan, c) elevation of the south wall.

SD.C29A-1

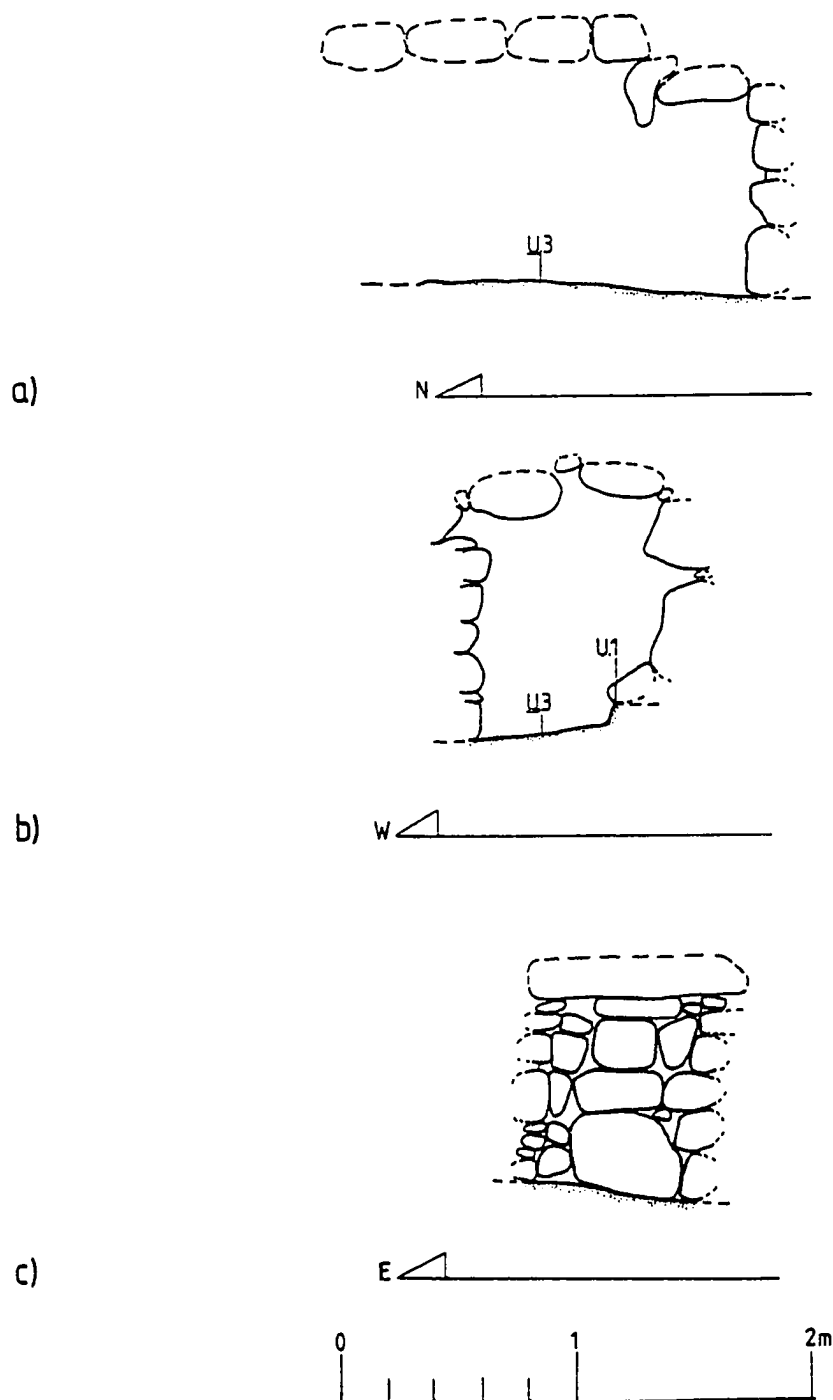
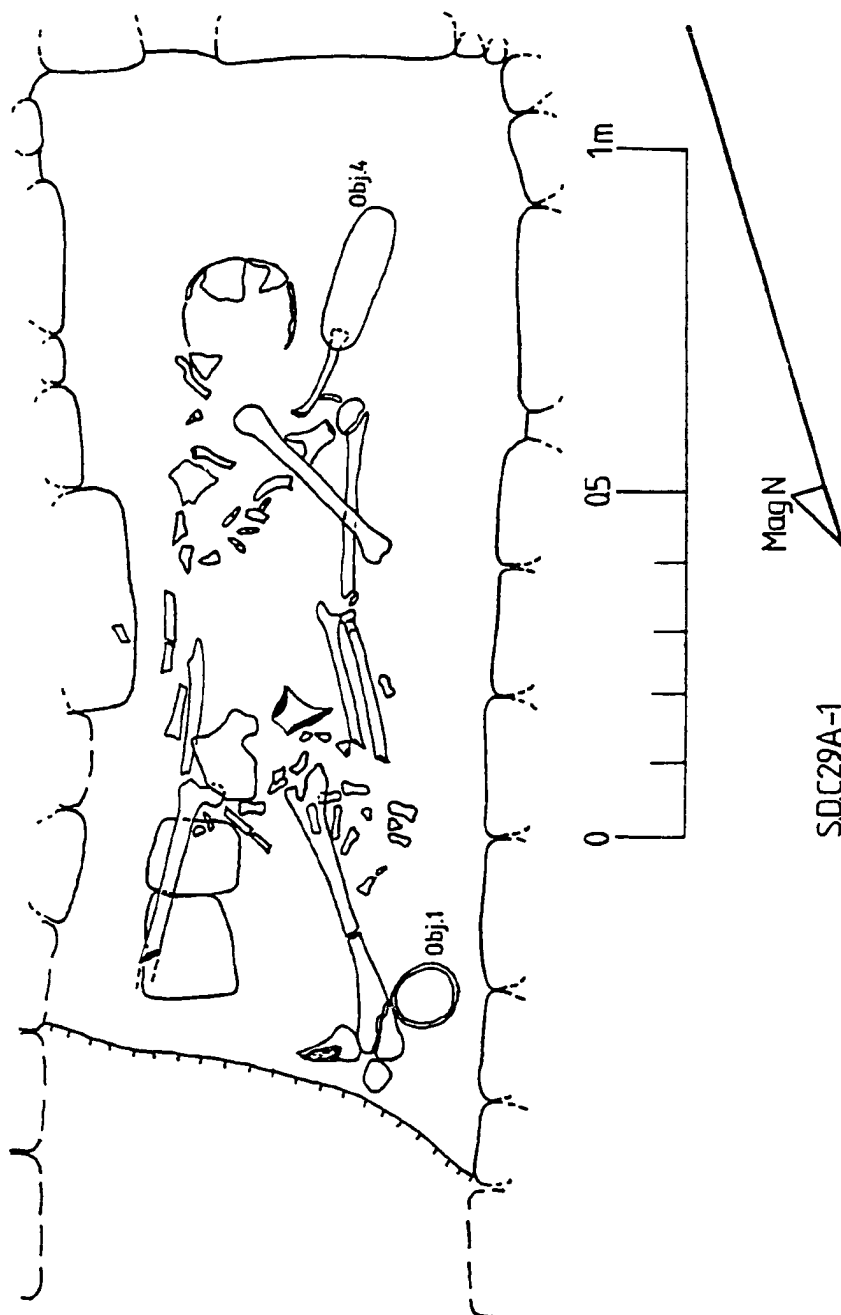


Figure 5.15. Structure C97 Special Deposit C29A-1 - a) north-south section, b) east-west cross-section, c) elevation of the south wall.



SDC29A-1

Figure 5.16. Structure C97 Special Deposit C29A-1.

platform. Five of the buildings, Strs. 2E19 through 2E24, were built in a plazuela arrangement around a central plaza and range from less than 1 m to 2 m in height. Structure 2E25 was built on a lower terrace off the southwest corner of the platform and Str. 2E18 was built on the via which connects the group to the Causeway. Both of these buildings are 1 m in height. The aguada was built into a terrace behind and below the larger of the eastern buildings, Str. 2E20. Structures 2E18 - 2E25 are an example of a Type 4 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

The group was discovered in 1987 during survey and mapping of the residential area. It was selected for investigation primarily for three reasons - (1) its location approximately halfway between the epicenter and the terminus of the Causeway, (2) the size and the number of buildings in the group were larger than those excavated to date, and (3) its physical connection by the via to the Conchita Causeway. Operation C31 was assigned to the excavations conducted within the group defined by Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 during the 1988 season under the direction of Gregg Cestaro from the University of Central Florida.

Structure 2E20

Structure 2E20 rises 2 m above the plaza floor and at its base covers an area of 58.5 m². This building had an opening near the base on the north side of the mound which

was believed to be a collapsed tomb entrance. This opening would provide relatively easy access to what appeared to be an undisturbed tomb, even though human teeth and large, reconstructible sherds were on the surface just within the opening.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C31A was assigned to the excavation of the open tomb (S.D.C31A-1) in Str. 2E20. Work was begun, believing that the tomb entrance had simply collapsed with the interior essentially undisturbed. As the loose, light brown matrix in the entrance was cleaned out, the material was screened because bone and ceramic material were found on the surface. When the entrance had been cleared of debris enough to enter the chamber, it was clear that the tomb had in fact been looted and that the looters' backdirt had been pushed back into the entrance. Only one-half of a broken dish was found in the corner of the tomb, sitting on top of a large termite nest. The rest of the dish was found among the sherds recovered from the backfill in the entrance.

The tomb entrance (Fig. 5.17) was a shaft type of construction, roughly defined by a few capstones and the construction fill of the building. There was a 0.9 m drop from the bottom of the shaft to the floor of the passageway leading into the main chamber. The passageway was 1.7 m long and widened gradually from a width of 0.63 m at the north end to 0.85 m at the south end. The height of the

passageway was 1.25 m. The walls of the chamber are constructed of dressed limestone blocks and a vault spring was constructed 80 cm above the floor. The floor consisted of bedrock, which the looters had cut into to a depth of 30 cm. The chamber measured 2.30 m north-south, 1.56 m east-west, 1.55 m high and had a volume of 3.39 m³.

Although the bone had been pushed around the chamber and some of it exposed to weathering, it was fairly well preserved. Based on the number of tibiae recovered, at least two adults were buried in the tomb (S.D.C31A-1). One of the individuals was between 25 and 35 years old at the time of death based on tooth wear (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). The dental work evident on some of the teeth recovered includes an upper incisor with a jade inlay and a filed upper and filed lower incisor. No sex identification was possible.

Two smashed but reconstructible vessels were recovered from the looters' backdirt in the entrance and based on the vessel forms, the interment was made during the Late Classic Period.

Object 1 (C31A/1-1) is a red-slipped, tripod dish. The exterior and interior surfaces are red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR4/6) above the medial angle. However, both surfaces are almost entirely covered by a black firecloud (between 5YR3/1 and 5YR4/1). Below the medial angle on the exterior surface, the dish is an unslipped, dark greyish-brown (be-

tween 7.5YR5/0 and 7.5YR5/2). Each foot is characterized by two oval-shaped slits. The rim diameter measures 29.1 cm and the height measures 11.5 cm.

Object 2 (C31A/1-3) is a Valentin Unslipped type dish with a scalloped rim. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR 5/6) fading to a dark greyish-red (between 2.5YR3/0 and 2.5YR3/2) towards the base. The interior surface is a reddish-brown (2.5YR5/4) fading to a dark grey (2.5YR3/0) towards the bottom. The rim diameter is 34 cm and the height ranges from 6.6 cm to 7.3 cm.

Platform Relationships to Structure 2E20

Sub-Operation C31B was assigned to a test pit located on axis to, and in front of, Str. 2E20. The purpose of this excavation was to compliment the excavation of Sub-Op. C31A and to recover dateable primary deposits in order to be able to determine when the building and the platform were used. Originally, Sub-Op. C31B was 1.75 m east-west by 2.00 m north-south. The excavation was eventually extended 0.75 m to the south in order to recover a special deposit.

A poorly preserved plastered plaza floor (U.1) was encountered below the humus, approximately 8 cm below the surface. A small cache vessel (S.D.C31B-1, Fig. 5.18)) was also found at this level. The cache rested on a level stratigraphically above U.1. Although no evidence was found of a later floor to cover this deposit, such a surface (U.2)

must have existed given the position of the vessel and given the caching patterns found throughout Caracol.

The edges of a series of rough, limestone slabs were visible around the broken edges of U.1 (Fig. 5.18). The excavation limit was extended 0.75 m to the south in order to investigate these slabs, which were believed to serve as capstones for a burial. While humus was being removed in the extension, a concentration of smashed pottery was exposed in the northeast corner of the excavation, resting on U.1. A second small extension was made in order to record and recover this material which included fragments from several different unreconstructible, polychrome vessels. This extension also exposed the plastered, lower-most front step for Str. 2E20 (U.1), in front of which the sherds had been deposited (Fig. 5.18). Based on the stratigraphic relationship between platform and structure features, U.1 was constructed at the same time as the staircase represented by this step.

When U.1 was removed, the capstones for a burial (S.D. C31B-2) were exposed and a second cache deposit (S.D.C31B-3) was discovered. The capstones for S.D.C31B-2 were laid side by side in front of, and on axis to, the building. They covered a multiple burial placed in a crypt dug into bedrock (U.3). Special Deposit C31B-3 was located immediately in front of U.1, in the northeast corner of the extension and

consisted of two ceramic vessels and assorted sherds (Fig. 5.19). These deposits are described in detail below.

The northern half of Sub-Op. C31B was excavated to bedrock in order to recover data regarding the construction history of the platform (Fig. 5.20). Beneath U.1, the matrix was greyish-brown and mixed with large rubble. There was no change in this matrix until bedrock was reached 35 cm to 65 cm below the surface. No floor bedding was found beneath U.1, instead, the floor was placed directly on the greyish-brown matrix. Based on the data recovered from S.D.C31B-2, this floor was constructed during the Late Classic Period. No other architectural features were found in this excavation.

Special Deposit C31B-1. This deposit was a cache of a single, miniature, unslipped dish, placed right side up (Fig. 5.18). Based on the relative elevations of the cache and U.1, the deposit was placed on the level of U.1 and must have been sealed by a later plaza floor (U.2). The dish has flaring walls and a flat base. The exterior and interior surfaces are buff (between 10YR6/3 and 10YR5/3). The rim diameter measures 6.8 cm and the height measures 1.7 cm.

Special Deposit C31B-2. Special Deposit C31B-2 (Figs. 5.18 and 5.21) is a burial of three individuals in U.3. The limestone slabs which capped this crypt did not provide a tight cover for the deposit as large gaps were present

around the corners of the stones; some of the larger gaps were covered with small rubble. The floor of the crypt was cut approximately 30 cm into bedrock and the walls sloped inward from top to bottom. After being cut, roughly dressed limestone blocks were placed on top of the bedrock around the perimeter of the pit to "straighten" the walls so the deposit could be capped by the large slabs. The final dimensions of the roughly oval-shaped excavation were 1.69 m north-south, 0.86 m east-west and 0.64 m deep. A total of three individuals were interred in the crypt. Individuals 2 and 3 were disarticulated at the time of interment in this locus and were placed towards the east wall of the crypt. Individual 1 was placed in an extended, supine position with the head to the south. The bone was not well preserved, however, analysis of cranial material and teeth indicates that Individual 1 was an adult of indeterminate sex, Individual 2 was an adult female and Individual 3 was a subadult male (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). A cylinder (Object 1) was placed on its side, adjacent to Individual 1's right shoulder and two small objects were placed beneath the body -- a small obsidian disc (Object 4) was placed beneath the skull and a small, drilled, complete marine shell (Object 5) was placed beneath the left hip. Two plates (Objects 2 and 3) were stacked one on top of the other in the northern end of the crypt. The forms of Objects 2 and 3 indicate a stylistic affinity with Peten

vessels and these, as well as the form of Object 1, indicate that this burial was deposited during the early part of the Late Classic Period (A. F. Chase, personal communication 1988).

Object 1 (C31B/7-5) is an eroded cylinder vessel which was placed adjacent to the right shoulder of Individual 1. The exterior surface is smudged black (2.5YR2.5/0) with no traces of slip. The interior surface is unslipped black like the exterior. The rim diameter varies from 10.9 cm to 12.3 cm and the height is 23.2 cm.

Object 2 (C31B/7-6) is a very eroded dish with flaring walls found at the north end of the crypt with Object 3. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a brown firecloud (7.5YR5/2) towards the base. The interior surface is the same red color as the exterior. The rim diameter is 28.2 cm and the height is 6.7 cm.

Object 3 (C31B/7-7) is a tripod plate with a slight medial flange found with Object 2 in the north end of the crypt. The eroded surface of the exterior is an unslipped red (2.5YR5/6). The interior surface of the plate has remnants of a red slip (2.5YR3/6) on a cream slip (7.5YR7/6) background. This vessel was modified prior to deposit. The original form of the plate had only a slight ring base. Later, three hollow feet were attached, each one having three tear-drop shaped slits. The feet were then filed to

the level of the original ring base height. The diameter of the rim is 30.6 cm and the height is 6.8 cm.

Object 4 (C31B/7-1) is a retouched obsidian disc placed beneath the skull of Individual 1. The diameter measures 2.0 cm to 2.1 cm and the thickness measures 0.15 cm. The disc weighs 0.2 gms.

Object 5 (C31B/7-8) is a complete marine shell with two drill holes found beneath Individual 1. The shell is 5.8 cm long, has a maximum width of 4.3 cm and weighs 28.2 gms.

Special Deposit C31B-3. This deposit is a cache of two vessels and broken sherds beneath U.1 (Fig. 5.19). Object 1 is an unslipped, deep-sided bowl which was placed right side up. Within the bowl were several large sherds from different vessels of cache form. None of these were reconstructible. Object 2 is a small, unslipped, flaring-walled dish, which was propped against Object 1 in the deposit. Based on the forms of these vessels, the cache was deposited during the Late Classic Period.

Structure 2E20 Recovery Lots

Lot C31A/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the looters' backdirt in the entrance of the tomb (S.D. C31A-1). It is from this lot that the majority of the artifacts included in the burial were recovered, including assorted sherds, two reconstructible vessels, chert fragments, human bone and teeth. Based on the vessel forms

recovered from this Lot, the interment was made in the later part of the Late Classic Period.

Lot C31A/2 is associated with the material recovered from the floor of the chamber and includes fragments of human bone.

Lot C31B/1 is associated with the material recovered from the humus layer in Sub-Op. C31B. The artifacts included in this Lot were found above U.1 and presumably would have been on U.2. These are related to the final use and abandonment of the structure. This material includes chert debitage, slate fragments and assorted sherds, as well as the cache vessel associated with S.D.C31B-1. This material indicates that Str. 2E20 functioned as a ritual locus. The building probably served this function throughout its occupation based on its location within the group (Becker 1971), on the artifacts recovered from the other Lots, and by the special deposits discovered in this locus. Lot C31B/2 is assigned to the artifacts recovered from the dark brown matrix above U.1 and includes the unreconstructible painted sherds found on this floor just in front of U.1. This Lot is associated with the use of Str. 2E20 before its final use and abandonment.

Lot C31B/3 is assigned to the material associated with the burial of S.D.C31B-2 in U.3, which was sealed by U.1. The ceramic forms included in the burial indicate that the

interment was made during the early part of the Late Classic Period.

Lot C31B/4 is assigned to the material recovered from the greyish-brown matrix above bedrock, which served as construction fill for the platform. This Lot includes the cache vessels from S.D.C31B-3 which were sealed by U.1.

Structure 2E20 Summary

Since the excavations conducted within (Sub-Op. C31A), and in front (Sub-Op. C31B), of Str. 2E20 did not actually penetrate the construction of the building (due to large trees with extensive root systems growing on the building), it is difficult to ascertain the complete history of the use of this locus. The Str. 2E20 locus was certainly used in the early part of the Late Classic Period when S.D.C31B-2 and S.D.C31-3 were deposited and sealed by U.1. No evidence for any construction or for a formal plaza floor before this time was found in Sub-Op. C31B.

The Str. 2E20 locus was occupied and used at least until the end of the Late Classic Period based on the ceramic vessels from the tomb (Sub-Op. C31A) included in the construction core of this building. Even though the tomb was built on bedrock, it is difficult to take this as evidence that Str. 2E20 was built in a single construction episode because it is not known what earlier building activity lies buried beneath the structure. The final use of Str. 2E20 included the deposit of S.D.C31A-1 which is be-

lieved to have been sealed by a final plaza floor (U.2). No clear evidence for this floor was found in Sub-Op. C31B due to erosion.

Structure 2E20 served a ritual function for the people who occupied and/or used this group of buildings. This is based partially on the building's location within the group (Becker 1971) as well as on the special deposits discovered in front of the building. The artifacts associated with the final use and abandonment of the building (Lot C31B/1) do not indicate that Str. 2E20 served a different or additional function.

Structure 2E20 Units

Unit 1: Plastered front step for Str. 2E20, exposed in Sub-Op. C31B.

Structure 2E20 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Poorly preserved plaster surface of the plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E20.

UNIT 2: Reconstructed plaza floor associated with the final use of Str. 2E20.

UNIT 3: Crypt cut into bedrock for S.D.C31B-2.

Structure 2E20 Recovery Lots

C31A/ 1: Artifacts recovered from the looters' backdirt located within the entrance to S.D.C31A-1.

C31A/ 2: Artifacts recovered from the floor of S.D.C31A-1.

- C31B/ 1: Humus removed from Sub-Op. C31B above U.1 and presumably above U.2. This Lot includes the material associated with S.D.C31B-1.
- C31B/ 2: Dark brown matrix removed above U.1, including the painted sherds found in front of U.1.
- C31B/ 3: Material associated with S.D.C31B-2 deposited in U.3.
- C31B /4: Greyish-brown construction fill for the platform beneath U.1. This Lot includes the artifacts associated with S.D.C3131B-3.

TABLE 5.7

STRUCTURE 2E20 TIMESPANS

TIMESPAN	EVENT	ASSOCIATED UNITS	ASSOCIATED LOTS	DATE
I	Abandonment		C31B/1-3	late LC
II	Final use of Str. 2E20	<u>U.2</u>	C31B/1	late LC
IIIa	Construction final plaza floor	<u>U.2</u>	C31B/1	late LC
IIIb	Deposit S.D.C31B-1		C31B/1	late LC
IVa	Construction Str. 2E20	U.1		late LC
IVb	Deposit S.D.C31A-1		C31A/1,2	late LC
V	Use of platform	<u>U.1</u>	C31B/2	LC
VIa	Construction of platform	<u>U.1</u>	C31B/4	early LC

Table 5.7 - Continued

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Vib	Deposit S.D.C31B-2	<u>U.3</u>	C31B/3	early LC

Vic	Deposit S.D.C31B-3			early LC

Structure 2E19

Structure 2E19 rises approximately 2 m above the plaza surface on the north side of the group. At its base, the building covers an area of 149.7 m². Structure 2E19 was chosen for investigation to provide comparative data to the other excavations undertaken within the group as well as to collect data regarding the possible use of a northern building.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C31C was assigned to a 2.0 m by 2.0 m test pit placed on axis to, and in front of, the north building of the Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 group (Fig. 5.22). The volume of excavation was approximately 1.6 m³. No architectural features or primary deposits were recovered. Judging from the preservation in Sub-Op. C31B, evidence for at least one plastered plaza floor should have been encountered. However, due to erosion and root action, no such evidence was found. The matrix below the humus layer was a greyish-brown, mixed with large rubble, and this is presumed to be

equivalent to the construction fill encountered in Sub-Op. C31B above bedrock. In Sub-Op. C31C, bedrock was reached 40 cm below the surface.

Structure 2E19 Recovery Lots

Lot C31C/1 is associated with the material recovered from the humus layer of Sub-Op. C31C and is attributed to the use and abandonment of Str. 2E19. This lot is remarkable for the scarcity of artifacts; it included only a few non-descript sherds and a few chert fragments.

Lot C31B/2 is the material recovered from the platform construction fill in the Str. 2E19 locus. In addition to some sherds, a few chert fragments and an obsidian blade fragment were recovered.

Structure 2E22

Structure 2E22 is the southern building of the Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 group. It rises 1.75 m above the plaza surface and at its base, the building covers an area of 88.2 m². Some dressed, limestone blocks were visible at the base of the building prior to excavation and a broad shallow depression was evident at the summit. This depression suggested that the structure may have been a vaulted building and that some of the architecture was preserved beneath the humus. The hint of preserved architecture prompted extensive excavation at this locus to determine the building plan and construction history of Str. 2E22.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C31D was assigned to the excavation of Str. 2E22 (Fig. 5.23). An axial trench, 11.5 m north-south by 1.5 m east-west, was placed over the building to recover potentially dateable deposits and to recover data regarding the construction history of this building. An areal excavation was laid out over the eastern half of the structure, measuring 4.5 m east-west by 9.0 m north-south, to detail the building plan. Excavation was begun in 1988 under the direction of Gregg Cestaro from the University of Central Florida but was not completed in this field season due to time constraints. Sub-Operation C31D was not returned to in subsequent field seasons because the limited excavation in 1988 revealed that the architecture was not as well preserved as had been hoped due to root action of the numerous trees growing on the summit of the building. Nevertheless, some information regarding the use of this locus is available.

The humus was removed in the axial trench to reveal a series of broad steps leading from the plaza floor to the summit of the building. The front wall (U.1) of Str. 2E22 was not preserved within the excavation limits of the trench, however, it was detailed in the areal excavation. Unit 1 rose 1 m above the plaza floor and served as the riser to a broad step (U.2). Two steps (U.3) with shallower treads than U.2 led from this surface to the front wall

(U.4) of the room at the summit of the building. The treads for U.2 and U.3 were plastered, however, due to erosion, only the packed small stone bedding was revealed in the excavation. The areal excavation only detailed the base of the structure and was never continued up the slope of the mound. Because of the limited excavation, it is unclear how far U.3 extended across the front of Str. 2E22. There was no tell-tale bulge in front of the building to suggest an outset staircase, however, this may have been obscured by structural collapse or it may have been obscured by the trees growing on the north slope of the structure. The front wall of the summit room (U.4) was detailed in the trench 4.1 m south of U.1. For the same reasons noted above, it is unclear how large this room was in its east-west dimension and the back wall of the room (U.5) was not found in situ. Based on the mound profile, the room must have measured approximately 2 m north-south. No architectural features were found within the room (i.e., benches, altars, walls) and it is assumed that the floor (U.6) was plastered. The mound slopes sharply from the summit to the base of the structure in the back and the only architectural feature detailed on the south side of Str. 2E22 was the basal wall (U.7).

In the front of Str. 2E22, the trench extended 2.3 m north of U.1 into the plaza. Excavation in this portion of the trench revealed a packed, small stone bedding for a

plastered plaza floor (U.1). This kind of bedding was not encountered in Sub-Op. C31B nor in Sub-Op. C31C. The excavation in Sub-Op. C31D did not continue below the level of U.1 thus, it is unclear if the bedding is the base for the same floor as that encountered in front of Str. 2E20 or if it represents a different, perhaps later, floor in the Str. 2E22 locus.

Structure 2E22 Recovery Lots

Lot C31D/1 is associated with the removal of the humus and dark brown matrix in the trench. The artifacts associated with this Lot are attributed to the use and abandonment of Str. 2E22. The handle to a ladle incensario was recovered from the above U.3 as were some large sherds from an olla. A limestone metate fragment and two limestone mano fragments were found at the summit of the building. Other artifacts recovered from Lot C31D/1 include fragments of marine shell, chert, and obsidian blades.

Lot C31D/2 is assigned to the artifacts recovered from the humus removed in the areal excavation. A similar inventory of artifacts were found in this Lot as were recovered from Lot C31D/1.

Structure 2E22 Summary

Excavation was conducted in this locus in order to detail what was hoped to be well-preserved vaulted architecture. However, the degree of preservation was less than

expected, particularly at the summit of the building. The artifacts recovered from this excavation suggest a general residential function for Str. 2E22 but there is no data to indicate the status of the residents. It can be assumed, based on the excavation associated with Str. 2E20, that the residents of Str. 2E22 and of Strs. 2E18 - 2E25, as a whole, were members of an elite sector of Caracol society. Based on the data associated with Str. 2E20, Str. 2E22 was likely occupied during the Late Classic Period. However, no data is available regarding the construction and occupation history of this locus.

Structure 2E22 Units

- Unit 1: Basal front (north) wall of Str. 2E22.
- Unit 2: Broad step at the base of Str. 2E22.
- Unit 3: Staircase leading from U.2 to the summit of Str. 2E22.
- Unit 4: Front wall of the room at the summit of Str. 2E22.
- Unit 5: Reconstructed back (south) wall of the room at the summit of Str. 2E22.
- Unit 6: Reconstructed floor at the summit of Str. 2E22, within the area defined by U.4 and U.5.
- Unit 7: Basal back (south) wall of Str. 2E22, equivalent to U.1.

Structure 2E22 Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: Plastered plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E22.

Structure 2E22 Recovery Lots

C31D/ 1: Humus and dark brown matrix removed in the axial trench.

C31D/ 2: Humus removed in the areal excavation.

Structures 2E18 - 2E25 Group Summary

The earliest evidence for the use of the hill upon which Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 are located is the burial of three individuals (S.D.C31B-2) and the deposit of a cache offering (S.D.C31B-3) in the Str. 2E20 locus. These deposits were sealed by a thick plaster floor, which was found only in Sub-Op. C31B. It is assumed that these deposits were associated with the construction of a building in this locus, which is buried beneath Str. 2E20, and that the plaster floor served as the surface of the plaza and is associated with the use of this early building. However, no excavation was undertaken to penetrate the construction of Str. 2E20 which would have recovered the relevant information. Based on the ceramic forms associated with S.D.C31B-2, the burial, the deposit of the cache offering and the construction of the platform floor exposed in Sub-Op. C31B all occurred during the early part of the Late Classic Period. Structures 2E18 - 2E25 were occupied at least until the later part of the Late Classic Period, and this is again based on the data recovered from Str. 2E20. The tomb included in the construction fill of this building had been disturbed, some time well before its discovery by the Caracol Project in

1987. The ceramic forms associated with S.D.C31A-1 indicate that the interment was made and Str. 2E20 was constructed during the later part of the Late Classic Period. A cache offering (S.D.C31B-1) is associated with the final construction episode in this locus. The occupation histories for Str. 2E19 (Sub-Op. C31C) and for Str. 2E22 (Sub-Op. C31D) are unclear but it is assumed that they were fully contemporaneous with the occupation of Str. 2E20.

The data recovered from Sub-Op. C31C is inconclusive regarding the function of Str. 2E19; however, the other excavations conducted within this group provide some evidence that Strs. 2E18 -2E25 functioned as a residential group for people who were members of an elite sector of Caracol society. Structure 2E22 served as a residence based on the kinds of artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C31D and based on the fact that it exceeds the minimal residential unit defined by Ashmore (1981c:47). The data recovered from Sub-Op. C31B indicate that Str. 2E20 served a ritual function. There is no evidence that it served an additional domestic function like, for example, Str. C13 (Sub-Op. C22E).

Structure 2E22 may have been a vaulted structure based on a shallow depression at the summit of the building and on the amount of rubble removed in the excavation. This is one of the few possibly vaulted structures in the sample of buildings included in the study focusing on the Conchita

Causeway. Vaulted architecture has been used as an indicator of elite status at other sites (eg., Arnold and Ford 1980 for Tikal; Kurjack 1974 for Dzibilchultun; Folan, et al. 1983 for Coba). An elite status for the occupants of the group is supported by the tomb in Str. 2E20; even though it was disturbed, at least one individual had dental modifications including jade inlays. Based on the ceramic vessels recovered from the burial in front of Str. 2E20 (S.D.C31B-2), the occupants of Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 may have had some sort of tie to the central Peten region (A. F. Chase, personal communication 1988), thus implying a special or an unusual status within Caracol society.

Structures M11 - M14: Operation C32

The group defined by Strs. M11 - M14 consists of four small buildings on a low platform located 1.09 km southeast of the epicenter and 52 m west of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.6). The buildings are arranged around a small plaza and all are 0.5 m high. The group is surrounded by terraced fields and other small plazuela groups in a low-lying area of the residential settlement.

Structures M11 - M14 were discovered during informal survey of the area and mapped in 1986 by A. F. Chase. The group was chosen for excavation for three reasons -- (1) Str. M11, the northern building, had an open chamber which would provide relatively easy access to information regard-

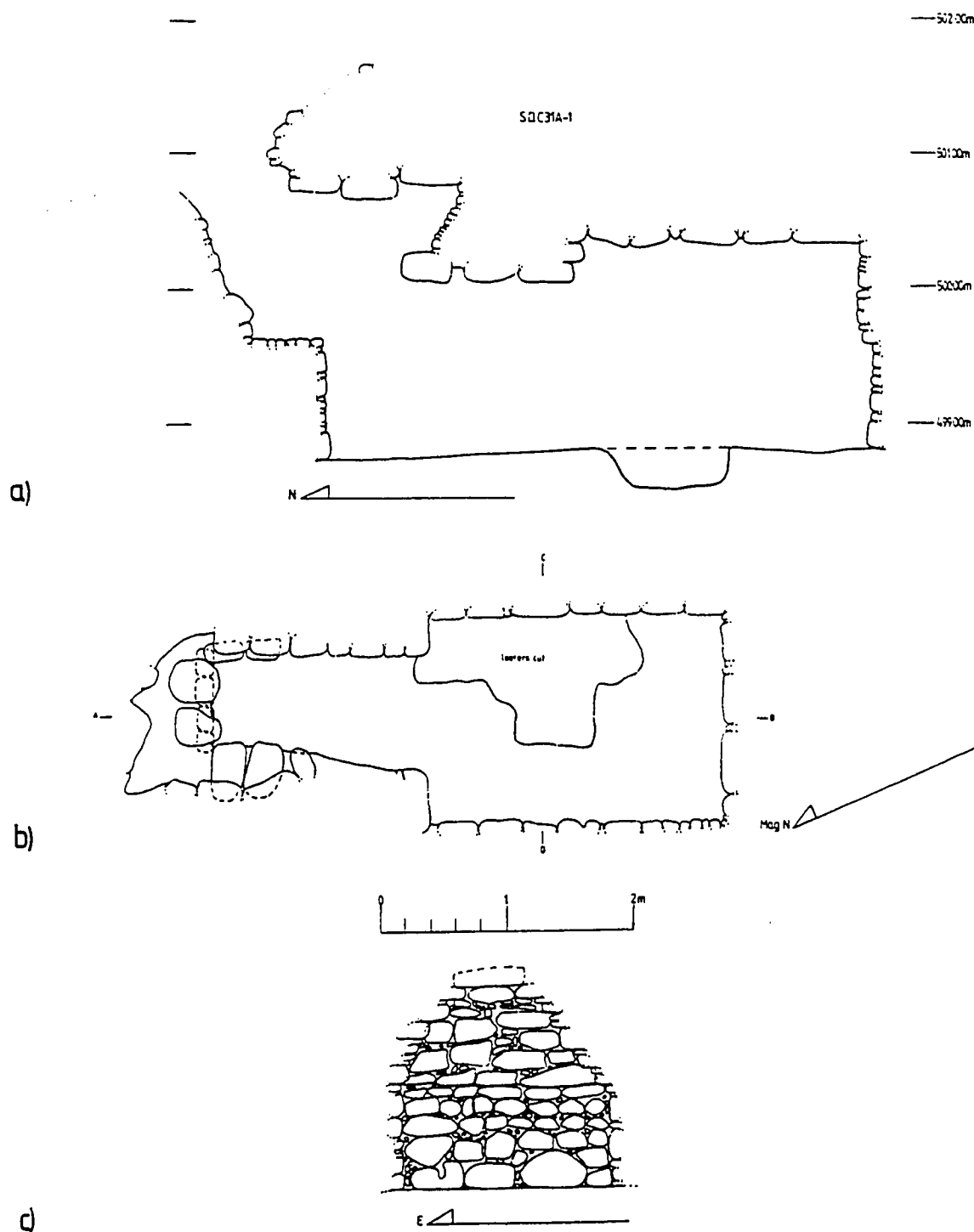


Figure 5.17. Structure 2E20 Special Deposit C31A-1 - a) north-south section; b) plan of the chamber and entrance, A-B refers to the section and C-D refers to the cross-section, c) elevation of the south wall.

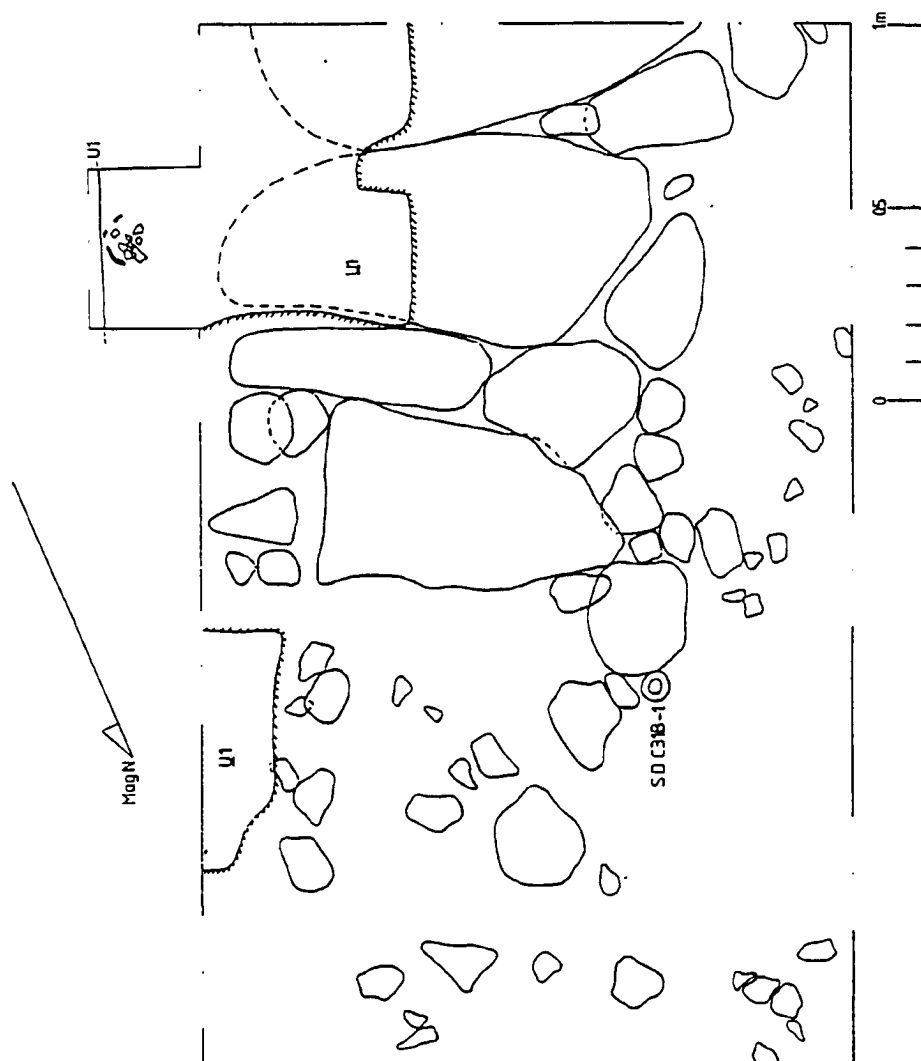


Figure 5.18 Sub-Operation C31B Special Deposit C31B-1, the capstones for Special Deposit C31B-2, and the sherd concentration in front of Unit 1.

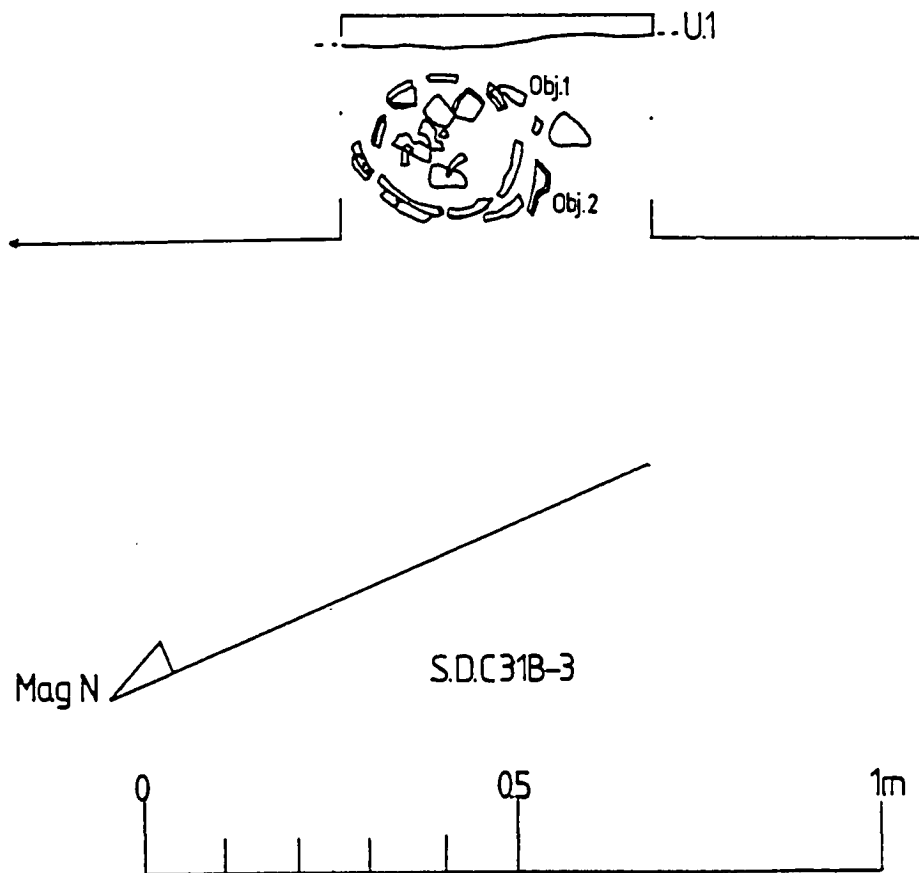


Figure 5.19. Sub-Operation C31B Special Deposit C31B-3.

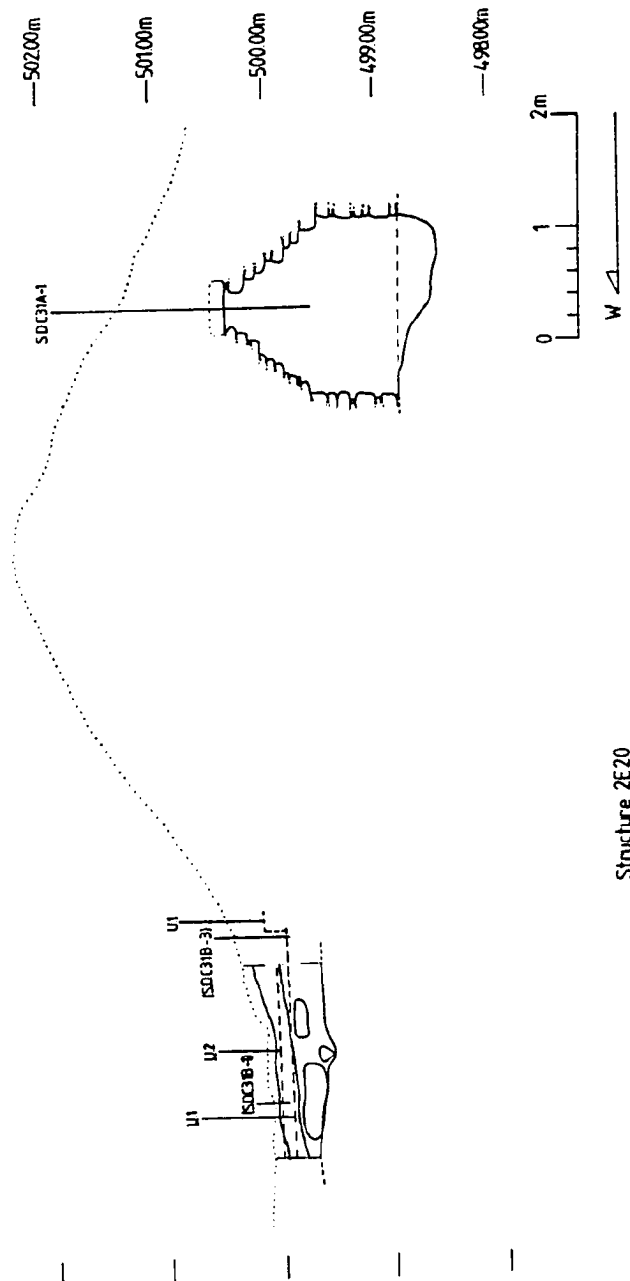


Figure 5.20. Structure 2E20 mound profile showing the east-west cross-section of Special Deposit C31A-1 and the section for Sub-Operation C31B.

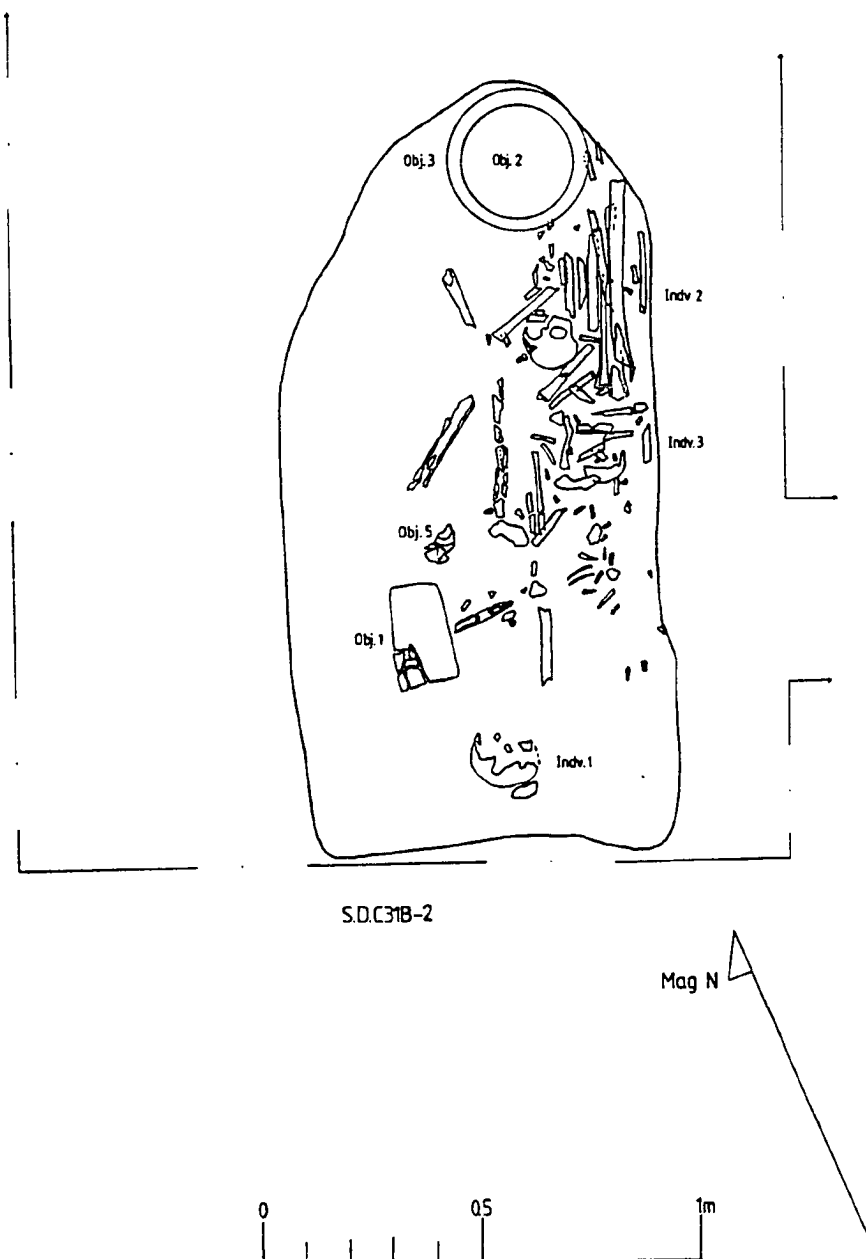
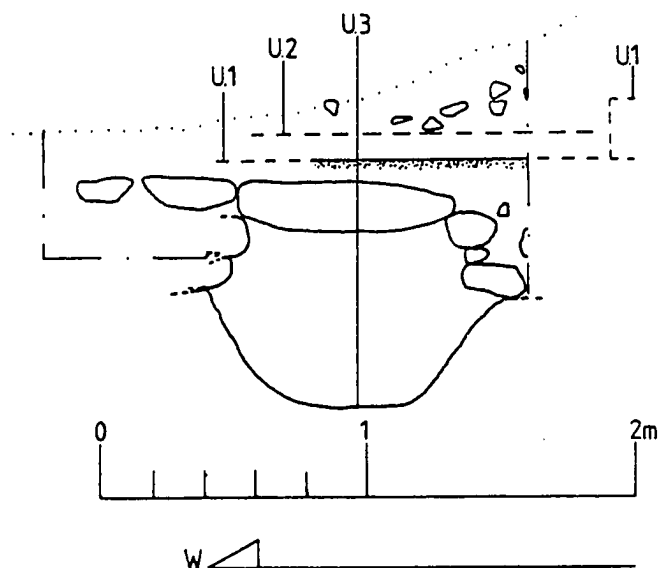
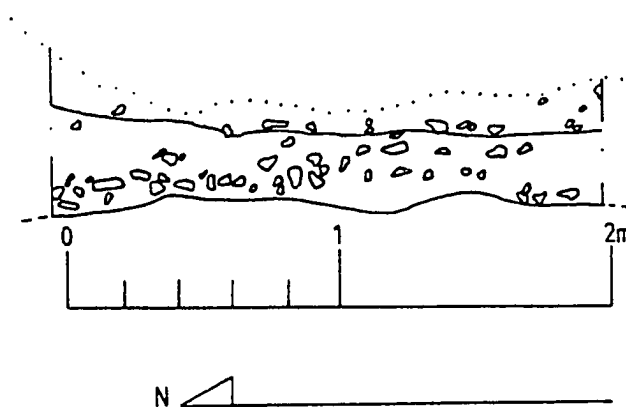


Figure 5.21. Sub-Operation C31B Special Deposit C31B-2.



a)

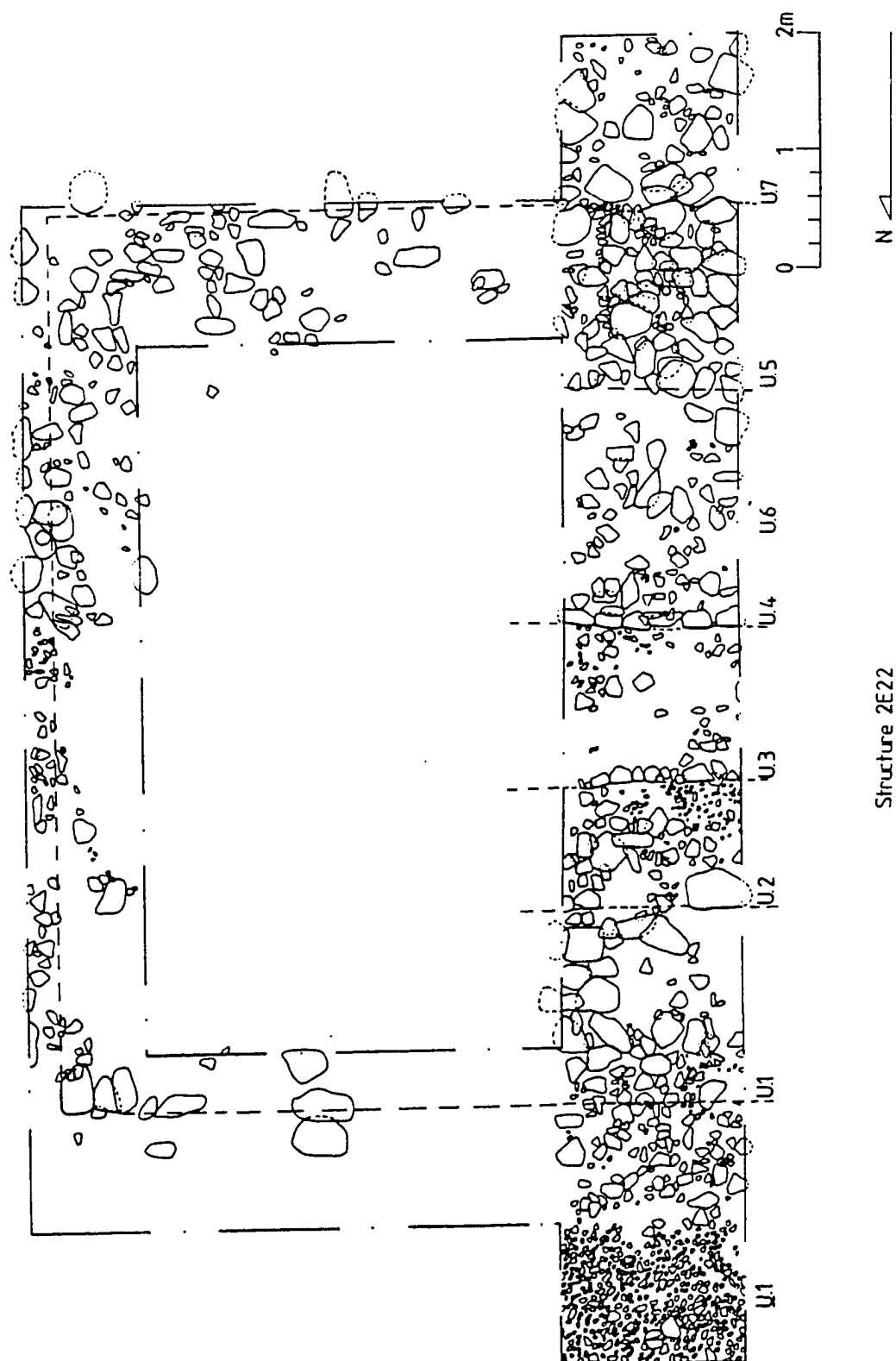
Sub-Operation C31B



b)

Sub-Operation C31C

Figure 5.22. a) Sub-Operation C31B Special Deposit C31B-2 cross-section, b) section for Sub-Operation C31C.



Structure 2E22
Figure 5.23. Building plan of Structure 2E22.

ing the function of this building, (2) Str. M12, the eastern building, had a collapsed tomb which would yield information regarding the status of the people who occupied and/or used the group and (3) the group was located in an area of intensive terracing which had been, up to that point, untested by excavation. Operation C32 was assigned to Strs. M11 - M14 which were investigated during the 1988 field season under the supervision of Susan Jaeger. The excavations focused on recovering data from the open and collapsed features and included one test pit in the plaza to compliment the structure excavations. The Mosquito group is an example of a Type 2 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structure M11

Structure M11 is the northern building of the Strs. M11 - M14 group. It rises 0.5 m above the plaza floor and at its base, the building covers an area of 62.5 m². This building was chosen for investigation because of an open chamber near the northwest corner of the building. Sub-Operation C32A was assigned to the investigation of this chamber.

Excavation

The collapsed capstones, construction fill, and humus were removed to reveal a very unexpected trash deposit in an oval-shaped chamber (Fig. 5.24). The deposit completely covered the floor of the chamber and was approximately 20 cm

deep. It consisted of large sherds from dishes, plates, ollas, and cylinders, several of which were reconstructible. The deposit was particularly notable, however, for the amount of chert and marine shell debitage recovered. The chamber was constructed of rough boulders and had a soft, limestone bedrock floor. The dimensions of the room were 1.24 m north-south, 1.56 m east-west and 1.33 m high. A vault spring was located 76 cm to 78 cm above the floor (Fig. 5.25).

Structure M11 Recovery Lots

Lot C32A/1 is associated with the humus removed from inside the chamber in Str. M11. The artifacts recovered from this matrix include some marine shell and animal bone, as well as sherds and chert fragments.

Lot C32A/2 is assigned to the material recovered from the dark brown matrix beneath the humus. The bulk of the artifacts recovered from the chamber are associated with this Lot and include fragments of obsidian blades and animal bone (both mammalian and avian); five reconstructible vessels; partially worked marine shell rings, markers and beads; and two ground slate "figurines", which may have actually functioned as drill bits (Pope 1991). The debitage of the following materials were recovered in the noted quantities:

shell debitage = >700 gm, n = 868

chert debitage = >400 gm, n = 494

unworked slate = 379.0 gm, n = 18

Object 1 (C32A/4-2a,b) includes two ground slate drill bits. C32A/4-2a is 4.5 cm long, 1.7 cm wide, 1.0 cm thick and weighs 10.5 gm. C32A/4-2b is 3.5 cm long, 1.7 cm wide, 1.0 cm thick and weighs 8.5 gm.

Object 2 (C32A/4-10) is a Belize Red tripod dish. The exterior surface is characterized by a simple incised design; a shallow incision, 1 mm wide, encircles the rim of the dish and a second shallow incision encircles the medial angle, between these two incisions are a series of shallow, slanted incised lines. The exterior and interior surfaces of the dish are slipped red (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8). On the exterior, this color fades into a lighter red (10R6/6) below the medial angle, towards the base of the vessel. The feet of the dish were broken off before the vessel was deposited in the midden and they were not recovered from within this context. Either the vessel was used without its feet or the supports were purposely removed prior its being included in this deposit. The rim diameter measures 28 cm and the height of the dish is 7.3 cm.

Object 3 (C32A/4-12) is a red-slipped cylinder. The exterior surface is predominately a light brown (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR5/4) and reddish-grey (between 5YR4/2 and 5YR3/2) slip which fades to a light red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) towards the base. The interior surface is

unslipped light red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) fading into a dusky red (between 2.5YR2.5/2 and 2.5YR3/2) towards the base. The diameter of the rim is 14 cm and the height of the cylinder is 25.0 cm.

Object 4 (C32A/4-13) is a very eroded tripod dish with remnants of red slip (between 2.5YR4/6 and 2.5YR5/8) on the exterior and interior surfaces. The exterior surface also has traces of black-slipped (5YR2.5/1) bands encircling the rim and medial angle. The feet are hollow and each are decorated with an upside-down, tear drop-shaped slit. The rim diameter measures 32.4 cm and the height measures 10.6 cm.

Object 5 (C32A/4-14) is an eroded, Belize Red, tripod dish, very similar in slip and surface detail to Object 2. The feet to this vessel were also removed before being deposited and were not found within this context. The rim diameter is 28 cm and the height is 31.0 cm.

Object 6 (C32A/4-15) is a Pantano Impressed olla. The exterior surface is slipped a yellowish-red (5YR4/6) and "s"-shaped impressions were stamped along the shoulder of the vessel. The slip extends to the interior of the rim and neck but below the neck, the interior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6). The rim diameter measures 13.2 cm and the height measures 31 cm.

More vessels were included in the deposit and may be at

least partially reconstructible. They have not yet been assembled in the laboratory.

Structure M11 Summary

Structure M11 is 5.0 m long and the open chamber was located towards the northwest corner of the building. It is quite possible that Str. M11 could have had at least two more chambers built into the construction of the building (similar to Str. K4, A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987).

The material deposited on the floor of the chamber was recovered in Sub-Op. C32A. The artifacts provide information regarding the occupation of the people who used Strs. M11 - M14 and provide a date for when the group was used. The extraordinary amount of shell debris recovered from the deposit was unprecedented from any other area of Caracol which had undergone excavation. The amount of chert debris was also extraordinary, given the context, and was exceeded only by the chert deposit above the capstones of the tomb within Str. A3 in the central precinct (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, 1987:15). The chert recovered from Sub-Op. C32A included drill bits and blanks in contrast to the debitage recovered from Str. A3. The interpretation for this quantity of material is that the people who occupied and/or used Strs. M11 - M14 were employed in shell manufacturing and the chert and ground slate objects (Object 1) were used as tools. The amount of chert and shell debitage recovered

from the other Sub-Operations conducted within the group support this interpretation.

Based on the forms of the reconstructed vessels (Objects 2-6), the deposit was made between 9.13.0.0.0. and 9.18.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, 1989:14), which coincides with the use of Str. M12, the eastern building, and the data recovered from the excavations associated with it.

Structure M12

Structure M12 is the eastern building of the Strs. M11 - M14 group. The building rises 0.5 m above the plaza floor and covers an area of 19.6 m². A deep depression at the summit of the building indicated that the capstones of an interior chamber had collapsed into this room. Sub-Operation C32B was assigned to the investigation of this feature. A test pit, designated Sub-Op. C32C was placed in front of, and on axis to, Str. M12 in order to recover potentially datable deposits related to the use of the building and the platform. Sub-Operation C32C is discussed further under Structure M12 Platform Relationships.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C32B was the excavation of the collapsed feature within Str. M12 (Fig. 5.26). Approximately 90 cm³ of humus, collapsed construction fill, and capstones were removed before encountering smashed pottery and human bone

concentrated towards the south end of the tomb. The matrix within which this was encountered was a packed, medium brown soil mixed with small and medium rubble. The smashed ceramics included large fragments from a variety of vessels, predominately incensario and cache type forms. The human bone consisted of large, scattered fragments of long bone and cranium. These items were not found on the floor of the chamber so they were recorded and removed. As the excavation of the tomb proceeded, differences in the nature of the matrix were observed. The material found in the northern part of the tomb continued to be the same packed, medium brown matrix, however, in the southern 75 cm of the tomb, the matrix changed to a more loosely packed and lighter brown material. The looser matrix was associated with a rounded shaft entrance which had a shallow step leading into the chamber of the tomb. The entrance was constructed of large limestone rubble and measured 0.80 m north-south by 0.84 m east-west. The chamber was constructed of roughly shaped limestone rubble and measured 1.66 m north-south and 0.74 m to 0.95 m east-west. The height of the tomb is reconstructed as being no more than 1.30 m with a vault spring located approximately 1.1 m above the floor (Fig. 5.27). The floor was made of plaster but was only patches of it were found adhering to the walls in the north end of the chamber. In fact, most of the bone actually lay below the level of the floor remnant.

The fact that the floor of the chamber had been cut through in antiquity before the recovered material was deposited indicates that the tomb was used more than once by the Maya. The different matrices found in the chamber and in the entrance may be due to differential silting in a partially open tomb before it was finally closed. Based on the number of long bones and concentrated areas of teeth, a total of four to five individuals were interred with a variety of ceramic vessels and small objects. It is clear that Individual 3 was interred before Individual 1; however, the order of burial for Individuals 2 through 5 is not possible to determine (Fig. 5.28). Individual 1 was placed on top of Individual 3, in an extended, supine position in the center of the tomb with the head to the north and legs at odd angles to the torso. The bone was badly fragmented and poorly preserved. The displacement of the legs and the extremely fragmented condition of the bone is probably due to the collapse of the structure. Individual 1 was identified as an adult, based on the teeth recovered; no sex identification was possible (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1988). Approximately 10 cm below Individual 1, Individual 3 was found in an extended, supine position. The bones associated with this person were as badly fragmented as those of Individual 1 but the degree of preservation was better and there was no displacement of the bone due to construction collapse. Based on the teeth recovered, Indi-

vidual 3 was an adult; sex identification was not possible (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1988). Individual 2 was the best preserved body in the tomb. This person was tucked into the southeast corner of the entrance, in a flexed position and face down. No artifacts were associated with Individual 2. Individual 2's mandible was completely smooth, lacking root cavities, and this is taken as an indication that the person was quite elderly at the time of death. Based on the mastoid process, Individual 2 was a male (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1988). Individual 4 was found just within the entrance, in the southwest corner of the chamber, tucked into a very eroded, deep-sided Belize Red dish (Object 1). Based on teeth, this person was a subadult; no sex identification was possible (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1988). Individual 5 was identified primarily by a concentrated area of teeth and cranial fragments along the west wall of the chamber with badly fragmented and partially preserved long bones just to the south of the concentration. No sex or age identification was possible for this individual.

Only the Belize Red dish (Object 1) can be firmly associated with any of the individuals, and that was with Individual 4. All the other vessels and small objects were broken and scattered around the chamber, as was an abundance of shell debitage.

Object 1 (C32B/5-24) is a very eroded, Belize Red dish with deep sides. Object 1 was found in the southwest corner of the chamber with Individual 4. The exterior and interior surfaces are very eroded and have remnants of red slip (2.5YR4/8). The interior surface also has traces of a slightly darker red (2.5YR4/6) design which was probably confined to the walls of the vessel. The design included at least one circle with a large dot inside of it and wavy lines. The eroded surface is a buff color (between 7.5YR8/4 and 7.5YR7/4). The diameter of the rim varies from 26.5 cm to 27.6 cm and the height ranges from 9.3 cm to 10.0 cm.

Object 2 (C32B/5-1) is a granite river cobble found just above the floor level of the chamber. This may have entered the tomb when the structure collapsed. The cobble weighs 167.0 gms.

Object 3 (32B/5-7) is a partial, carved shell ring found 20 cm above the floor of the tomb, mixed with the cache type and incensario sherds located in the south end of the chamber. Approximately half of the ring was recovered, the outer surface of which was decorated with a series of deep notches. The diameter of the ring is approximately 3.4 cm and it weighs 1.2 gms.

Object 4 (C32B/5-10) is a ground slate "toggle" or drill bit found beneath the tibia of Individual 1. Object 4 differed from those found in Sub-Op. C32A in that it was not at all identifiable as a "figurine"; the middle was thicker

than the ends, which were rounded and tapered. Like Object 4 from Sub-Op. C32A, this object has been identified as a grinding drill bit (Pope 1991). It is 3.4 cm long, has a maximum width of 1.6 cm and weighs 9.0 gms.

Object 5 (C32B/5-19) is a ceramic bird's head found at the level of the floor in the pelvic region of Individual 3. The head was modeled as a single piece, the eyes and the sides of the beak were incised. Object 5 is 2.4 cm high and the diameter of the base is 2.6 cm.

Object 6 (C32B/5-20) is a drilled bird bone found just north of the step into the entrance among the ankle bones of Individual 3. Object 6 is a long bone shaft, smoothed at both ends, with two holes drilled on one side. The bone is 5.3 cm long, 0.7 cm in diameter, and weighs 1.4 gms.

Object 7 (C32B/5-21) is a carved bone fragment from an unidentifiable species. One end of the bone was tapered and rounded, with a "u"-shaped incision made to resemble a human fingernail; the opposite end was broken. Object 7 was found near the level of the floor in the north end of the chamber. It is 2.7 cm long, 0.4 cm thick, has a maximum width of 1.5 cm, and weighs 1.0 gm.

Object 8 (C32B/5-22) is a round shell "marker" found in the same locus as Object 7. The marker has a diameter of 1.5 cm, is 0.3 cm thick and weighs 1.0 gm.

Object 9 (C32B/5-26) is one half of a human molar, with a drill hole in the root. The tooth was found towards the

north end of the chamber, at the level of Individual 1, approximately 10 cm above the floor level.

The majority of the vessels from the tomb were not readily reconstructible but included the following forms: two cylinders, an olla, a flaring-walled dish, a direct rim dish, a vessel form associated with cache deposits found elsewhere at Caracol which was represented primarily by everted rim sherds, and a deep-sided bowl.

Among the small objects included in the tomb contents were three carnivore molars and two obsidian blade fragments. Debitage of marine shell, slate, and chert were recovered in the following amounts: chert = 237.5 gms, slate = 77.6 gms, shell = 283.0 gms.

Platform Relationships to Structure M12

A 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit was placed directly in front of, and on axis to, Str. M12 to compliment the excavations of Sub-Ops. C32A and C32B by recovering potentially datable deposits related to the use of the building and the platform (Fig. 5.27). This excavation was designated Sub-Op. C32C and was conducted simultaneously with the excavation of the collapsed tomb within Str. M12 (Sub-Op. C32B).

Bedrock was encountered approximately 50 cm below the surface. Between the humus and bedrock was a dark brown matrix, mixed with some small rubble, which served as the construction fill for the platform. No evidence for a plaster floor or floor bedding was encountered; thus, either

this once plastered surface had eroded or the plaza floor (U.1) was constructed of packed dirt. Three special deposits were found within the dark brown matrix. No differences were noted in this matrix, in color or in texture, which would indicate whether any of these deposits were intrusive to the platform or if they were all sealed by U.1. A cache offering (S.D.C32C-1) of a large, barrel-shaped ceramic bowl, with a modeled and applied face, was deposited on axis to Str. M12 and was placed directly on bedrock. To the north of S.D.C32C-1, a crypt (U.2) had been cut into bedrock and capped by two large, limestone slabs and a large stalagmite or stalactite fragment. A burial (S.D.C32C-2) was placed in U.2 but only a few fragments of very poorly preserved human bone and a few teeth were recovered from this interment. A second burial of a child (S.D.C32C-3) was found in the west wall of Sub-Op. C32C and was partially exposed by the excavation. The simple burial was placed directly on bedrock which probably contributed to the very poor preservation of the bone. Due to time considerations, a record was made of only that part of the burial exposed in the test pit. A second cache deposit (S.D.C32C-4) was identified in the laboratory and consisted of three miniature dishes. These dishes were found in the humus layer of the excavation and may be part of the final use of the platform. No evidence for earlier floors or other architectural features were found in Sub-Op. C32C.

Special Deposit C32C-1. This deposit (Fig. 5.29) was a cache of a barrel-shaped ceramic vessel with a modeled and appliqued face (Object 1). The sherds to a flat lid (Object 2) were found inside the barrel as were twenty obsidian chips. The face was oriented to the east.

Object 1 (C32C/4-4a) is the barrel-shaped ceramic vessel. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (2.5YR4/6). The eyes were modeled, and the nose and mouth were appliqued, as were two small ceramic balls below the nostrils and a ceramic circle on each cheek. The diameter of the rim measures 22.2 cm and the height is 20.8 cm.

Object 2 (C32C/4-4b) is the lid to the bowl. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (2.5ZYR4/6). The color fades on the exterior surface to a lighter red (2.5YR5/8) towards the top. The rim diameter is 23.5 cm and the height is 5.2 cm.

Object 3 (C32C/4-5, a-o) consists of the 20 small obsidian chips found within the bowl. The total weight of this material is 10.4 gms.

Special Deposit C32C-2. Special Deposit C32C-2 is a very poorly preserved burial in U.2. The crypt measured 1.00 m north-south, 0.65 m east-west and 0.30 m deep and was capped by two, large, limestone slabs and one, large, limestone stalagmite or stalactite fragment (Fig. 5.29). The preservation was extremely poor and only a few fragments of human bone and a few teeth were recovered. Based on the

teeth, one adult individual was interred (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). A worked marine shell ornament (Object 1) and a round chert "marker" (Object 2) were found within the crypt.

Object 1 (C32C/6-4) is a cut shell ornament. The piece was made by taking a vertical "slice" from a complete marine shell so that the inner structure of the shell was featured. Two drill holes were made in one edge in order to attach the piece to some other object, perhaps clothing. The ornament is 4.3 cm long, 0.6 cm thick, has a maximum width of 2.3 cm and weighs 5.2 gms.

Object 2 (C32C/6-6) is a small chert "marker", which was retouched into a flat, circular piece. It is 1.2 cm in diameter, 0.5 cm and weighs 0.9 gm.

Special Deposit C32C-3. This deposit is a simple burial placed directly on bedrock and covered by the dark brown construction fill of the platform. The burial was partially exposed in the excavation; due to the extremely poor preservation of the bone preservation and due to time considerations, a record was made of only that portion of S.D.C32C-3 exposed in the excavation. The individual was placed directly on bedrock in a flexed position, with the head to the east. Based on the cranial fragments recovered, this person was probably less than 5 years of age at the time of death (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989).

No associated artifacts were recovered which would directly date the deposit.

Special Deposit C32C-4. This deposit is a cache of three miniature vessels deposited in the platform construction fill, just below the humus layer. The vessels were very fragmented and were not recognized as a special deposit in the field.

Object 1 (C32C/10-1) is a partially reconstructed unslipped dish with a missing base. The exterior surface is red (between 2.5YR6/6 and 2.5YR6/8) at the rim and fades to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR6/6 and 7.5YR7/6) on the walls. The base is brown (7.5YR5/2). The interior surface is the same reddish-yellow as that found on the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 5.3 cm and the height ranges from 2.2 cm to 2.5 cm.

Object 2 (C32C/10-2) is a partially reconstructed unslipped, dish, less than half of which was recovered during excavation. The exterior and interior surfaces are buff (7.5YR6/4). Only a small portion of the rim is available; the diameter of the base is 3.7 cm and the height is 2.5 cm.

Object 3 (C32C/10-3) is the largest of the three vessels recovered from this deposit. The dish is partially reconstructed and the base is missing. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped buff (7.5YR6/4). The rim diameter is 8.0 cm and the height is 3.0 cm.

Structure M12 Recovery Lots

Lot C32C/1 is associated with the humus layer of Sub-Op. C32C. Five ground slate grinding drill bits, similar to Object 4 from Sub-Op. C32B, were recovered from this Lot. The bits ranged in length from 3.6 cm to 2.9 cm, were thickest in the middle, and tapered to rounded ends. It is believed that the tapered ends were used to grind the surfaces of the shell pieces to a smooth finish (Pope 1991).

Lot C32C/2 is associated with the dark brown matrix removed above bedrock. The artifacts recovered from Lot C32C/1 and from this Lot were related to the construction, use and abandonment of the platform and of the group. The material recovered from Sub-Op. C32C included sherds, and fragments of unworked slate, metates and obsidian blades. More than 2 kg of chert debitage and 1 kg of marine shell debitage were recovered from the 1.125 m³ of humus and construction fill removed above bedrock.

Structure M12 Summary

A single phase of occupation is interpreted for this locus, based on the uniformity of the construction fill for the platform and its depth from the humus level to bedrock. The cache offering designated S.D.C32C-4 may be related to the latest use of the platform rather than to the construction of this feature because it was found within the humus level of the excavation. In contrast, the cache offering

designated S.D.C32C-1 and the burials, S.D.C32C-2 and S.D.C32C-3, may be associated with either the use or the construction of the platform. It is not clear whether the deposits were intrusive to, or sealed by, U.1. Given that bedrock was found just 50 cm beneath the humus layer and given the uniformity of the construction fill and the lack of a plastered surface, it is conceivable that any of these deposits could be intrusive to the plaza surface with any telltale changes in the matrix being obscured.

Structure M12 served a ritual function as evidenced by the interment in the tomb included in the core of the building (S.D.C32B-1) as well as by the burials (S.D.C32C-2 and S.D.C32C-3) and cache offerings (S.D.C32C-1 and S.D.C32C-4) deposited in front of it.

No firmly datable deposits were recovered in Sub-Op. C32C; however, based on the similarity of the modeled cache vessel from S.D.C32C-1 with the cache vessel from Sub-Op. C22E (S.D.C22E-1), the construction and use of Str. M12 occurred during the Late Classic Period. Based on the artifacts recovered from Sub-Ops. C32A and C32B, the platform was in use by 9.13.0.0.0. (A.D. 690, A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989:14).

Structure M12 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plaza surface associated with the use of Str. M12.

UNIT 2: Crypt cut into bedrock for S.D.C32C-2.

Structure M12 Recovery Lots

C32C/ 1: Material recovered from the humus layer.

C32C/ 2: Dark brown matrix mixed with some small rubble
above bedrock.

Structures M11 - M14 Group Summary

Based on the amount of chert and shell material recovered from Sub-Op. C32C (over 2 kg of chert debitage and 1 kg of shell debitage) and on the amount of these materials recovered from the other excavations conducted in this group, Strs. M11 - M14 served as the locus of a shell workshop. It is also possible that Strs. M11 - M14 served a domestic function. Metate fragments were found in Sub-Op. C32C and fragments of ollas were found in Sub-Op. C32A. In addition, Str. M11, which covers an area of 62.5 m², greatly exceeds the minimum of 20 m² of potentially roofed space defined by Ashmore (1981c:47) as being necessary for a building to have functioned as a residence.

The occupants of Strs. M11 - M14 appear to have been members of an elite sector of Caracol society based on the presence of the specially prepared tomb in the core of Str. M12. However, the artifacts included with the individuals in this tomb are not any more elaborate than those found, for example, in the crypt burial in front of Str. C13 (Sub-Op. C22E). This makes it difficult to assume that the individuals interred in a tomb enjoyed a more special status

than those interred in a burial type which required less labor investment in the preparation of the locus.

Based on the vessel forms recovered from the trash deposit in Str. M11 and on the vessel forms recovered from the tomb in Str. M12, the group was occupied as early as 9.13.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989:14). The construction of the group appears to have been accomplished in a single effort based on the data from Sub-Op. C32C. There is no firm evidence for the length of occupation.

Structures 3D24 - 3D34: Operation C34

Structures 3D24 - 3D34 are located in a low lying area of terraces, 134 m east of the Conchita Causeway, and 2.29 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.11). The group is characterized by four large substructures bordering a plaza area. On top of each substructure are the foundations for small superstructures. Rather than being raised above the terrace surface, the plaza is defined by lines of stone between the substructures. Structures 3D24 - 3D34 is an unusual group as it is one of two groups with monumental architecture occurring in the settlement between the epicenter and the Conchita terminus (the other group is located north of Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 and consists of a 6 m high pyramid, Str. 3D19, which is adjacent to a small plazuela group, Strs. 3D15 - 3D18). The north, west and south substructures range from 2 m to 3 m in height and each supports from one to three superstructures, all less than 1 m in height. The

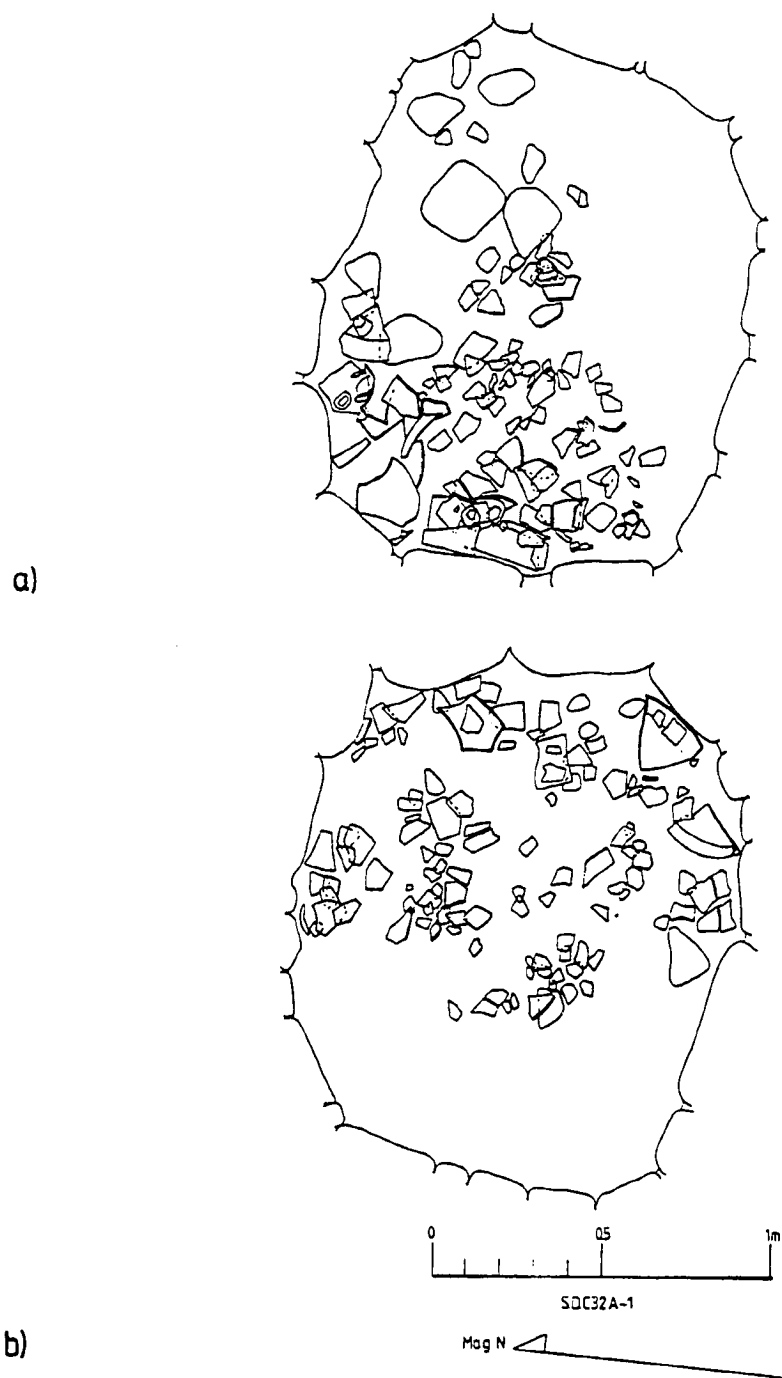


Figure 5.24. Structure M11 Special Deposit C32A-1 a) upper layer b) lower layer.

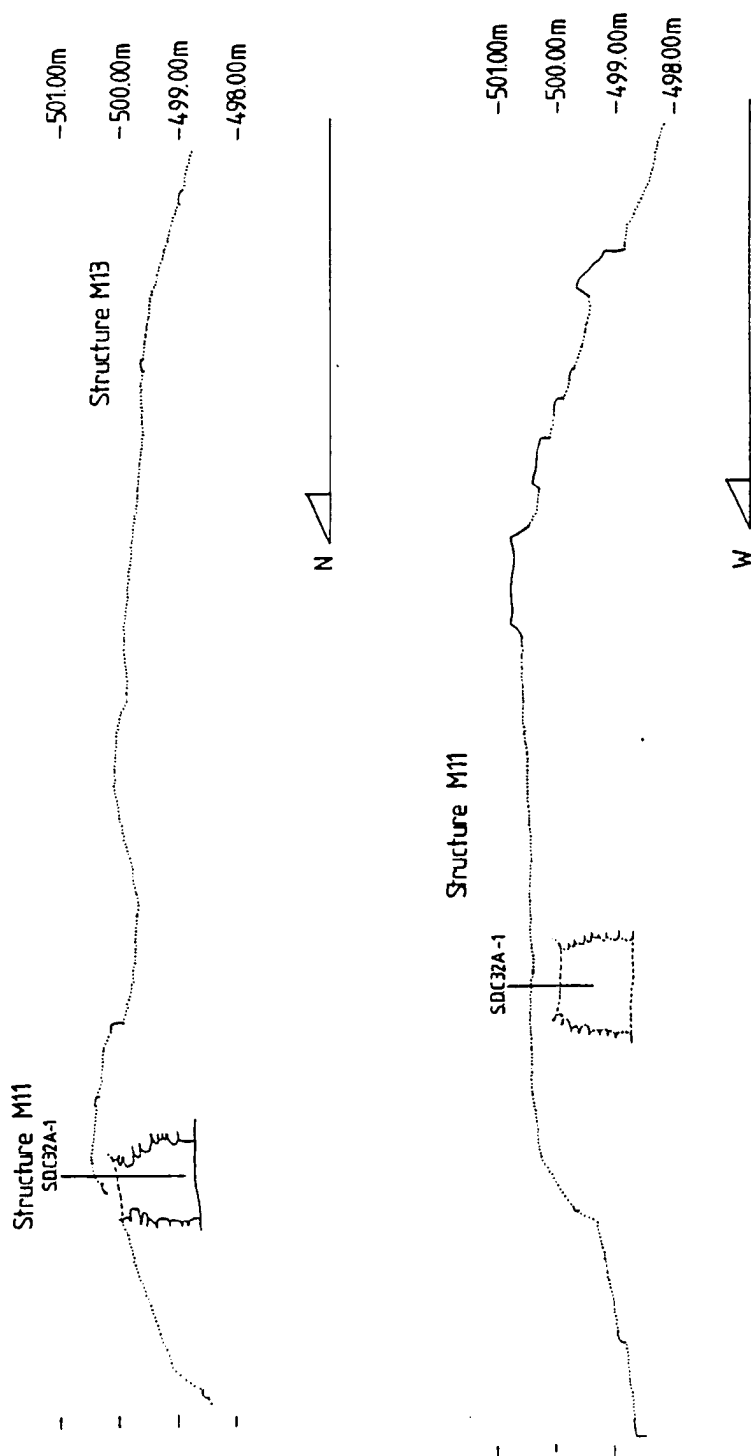


Figure 5.25 Structure M11 a) north-south mound profile showing the location of Special Deposit C32A-1 as well as the location of Structure M13 across the plaza, b) east-west mound profile showing the approximate location of Special Deposit C32A-1.

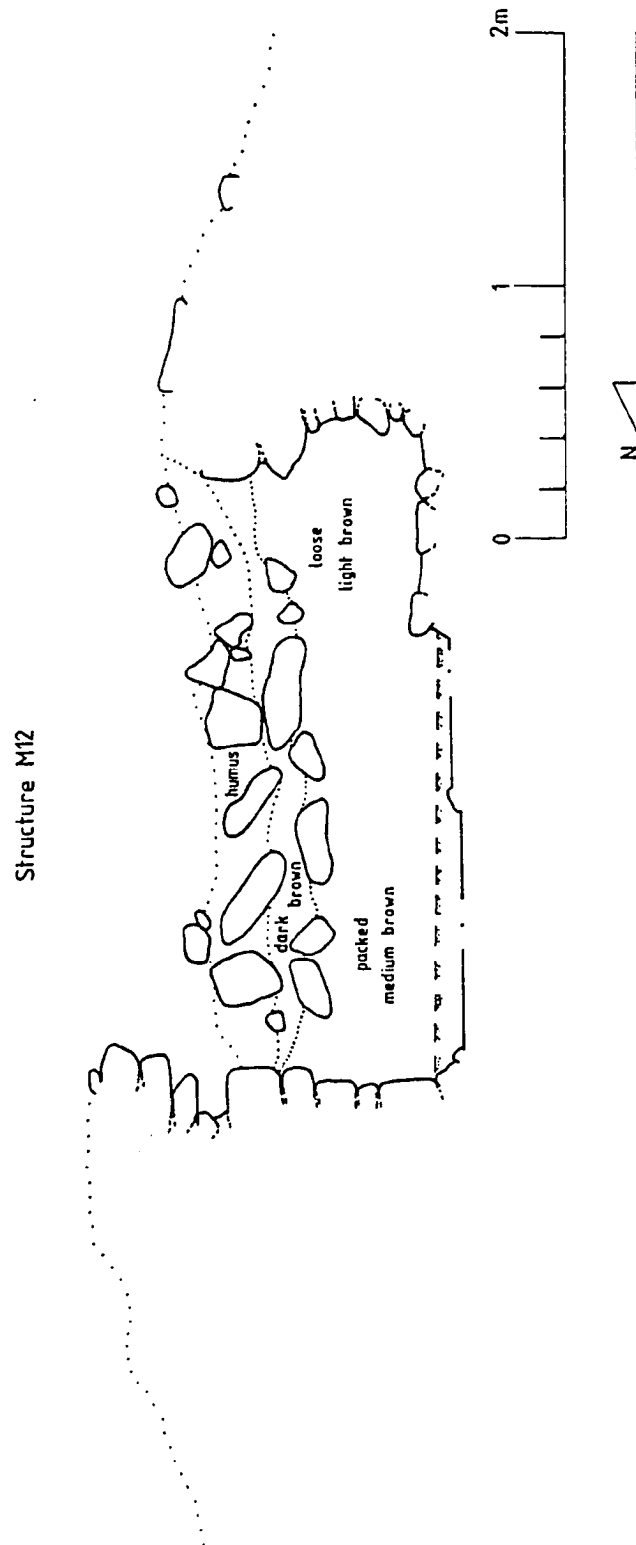


Figure 5.26. Structure M12 north-south mound profile with the north-south section of Special Deposit C32B-1.

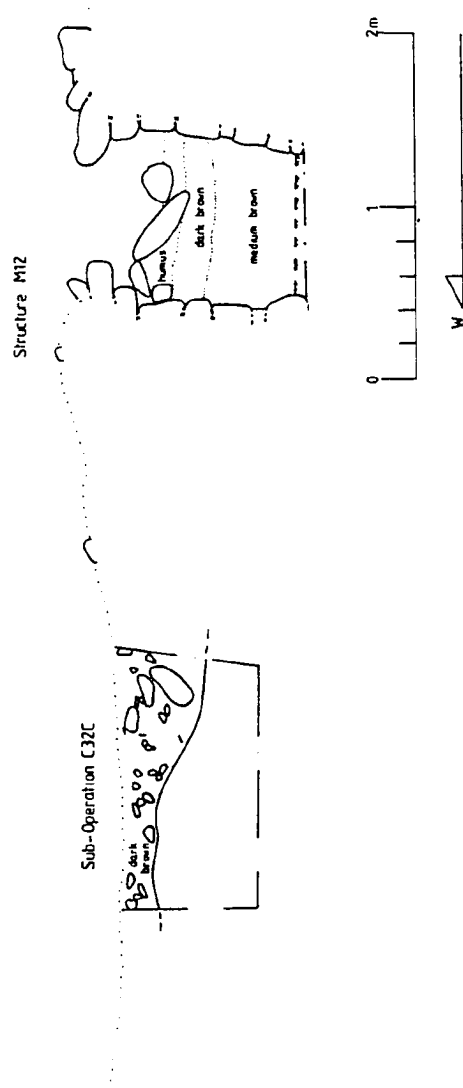


Figure 5.27. Structure M12 east-west mound profile with the east-west cross-section of Special Deposit C32B-1 and the section of Sub-Operation C32C.



Figure 5.28. Structure M12 Special Deposit C32B-1 a) upper layer b) lower layer.

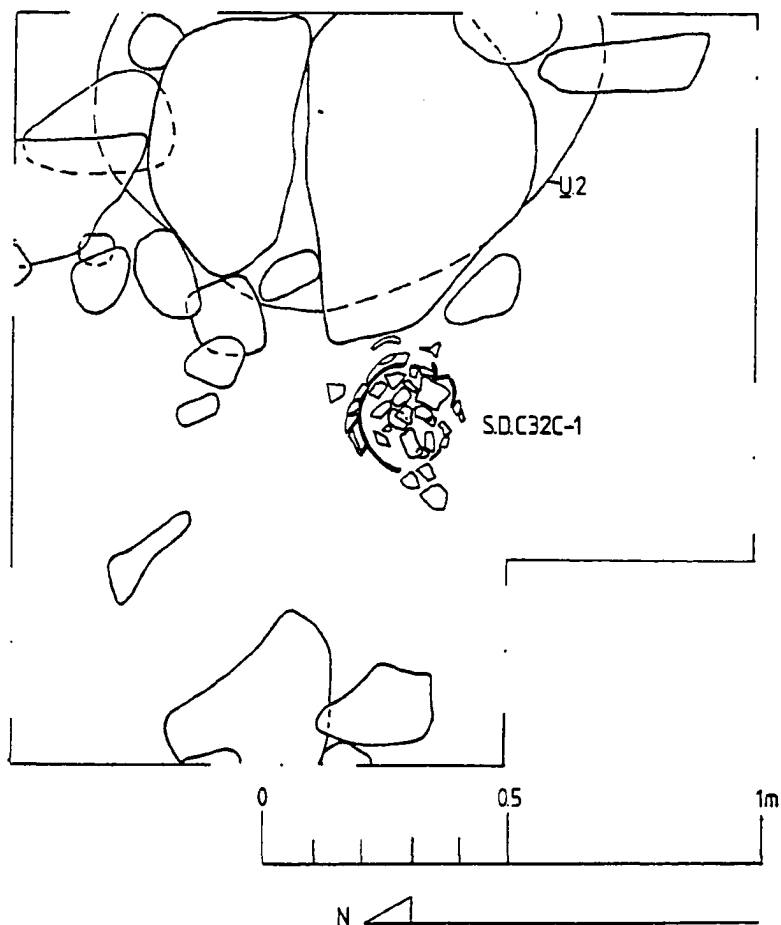


Figure 5.29 Sub-Operation C32C Special Deposit C32C-1 and the capstones for Special Deposit C32C-2.

group is dominated by the eastern substructure, rising some 6 m above the plaza surface, which supports Strs. 3D25 - 3D27. This construction was deeply trenched by looters some time prior to its discovery in 1988 by the Caracol Project. The group defined by Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 is also notable for the chultun dug into the plaza floor in front of Str. 3D25. This chultun is one of a half-dozen known throughout the Caracol settlement. The arrangement of the buildings around the central plaza makes Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 an example of a Type 1 group within the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures 3D24 - 3D34 were chosen for investigation during the 1989 field season because of their size and location within the settlement and because of the chultun in the plaza. The chultun was part of the sample chosen by Clarissa Hunter from Ball State University who investigated these features at Caracol. The excavation associated with the chultun was assigned Sub-Op. C34B and is discussed in detail by C. Hunter (in preparation). A second test pit (Sub-Op. C34C) was placed in the plaza, on axis to and in front of, Str. 3D26 in order to supplement the data recovered from the looters' trench (Sub-Op. C34A) and from the chultun investigation. The excavations in this group were directed by Thomas Sallette from the University of Central Florida.

Sub-Operation C34A

The substructure which supports Strs. 3D25 - 3D27 had been severely looted prior to its discovery by the Caracol Project in 1988. The looters had dug a deep axial trench into the back of the platform, exposing a series of construction levels, as well as evidence for at least two earlier buildings in this locus. Sub-Operation C34A was assigned in 1988 to the surface collection of the looters' trench.

The earliest construction revealed in the eastern locus of this group is represented by an apron molding of dressed-stone construction located near the bottom of the looters' trench. The apron molding is similar to that found in early construction efforts in the epicenter and in an acropolis group colloquially referred to as Tulakatuhebe by the Caracol Project. Tulakatuhebe is located at the end of a short causeway leading to the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 83). This early building was left largely undisturbed except for a small hole dug into its construction core near the bottom of the trench.

Subsequent building activity in this locus is represented by a partially preserved wall, which is located about half way along the length of the looters' trench. The stratigraphy between this wall and the early apron molding is punctuated by a series of five construction pauses capping layers of large rubble mixed with a compact, pink

matrix. It is from within this matrix that a complete cache vessel was found and discarded by the looters, after having been robbed of most of its contents. Pink dirt clung the exterior surface of the vessel which allowed it to be provenienced to the second construction episode in this locus. The vessel is a deep-sided urn with a lid. The exterior surface of the bowl is an unslipped pink (between 5YR7/3 and 5YR7/4) with a grey firecloud (between 2.5YR4/0 and 2.5YR5/0) on one side. The interior surface is an unslipped, light reddish-brown (between 5YR6/4 and 5YR7/4). The diameter of the rim measures 20 cm and the height ranges from 20.2 cm to 20.6 cm. The lid to the bowl is also unslipped and is the same color as the bowl. The rim diameter measures 21 cm and the height measures 3.1 cm. A partial oyster shell was found with the vessel on the surface of the looters' trench. The shell is 7.5 cm long, 6.8 cm wide and weighs 26 gms. The cache vessel is similar to one found within the construction of Str. A6 (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:12-13). Although similar in form, the urn recovered from Sub-Op. C34A is of a different paste. Based on the radiocarbon dates associated with the vessel from Str. A6 and based on the architecture associated with the earliest building in this locus, the second construction episode took place some time during the Early Classic Period.

A final construction episode for the eastern locus was revealed in Sub-Op. C34A. The construction of this building

was represented in the looters' trench by medium and dark brown matrices mixed with small to large rubble.

During the 1989 field season, a test pit excavation, Sub-Op. C34C, was placed in the plaza, on axis to and in front of, Str. 3D26 in order to supplement the data recovered from Sub-Op. C34A and from Sub-Op. C34B, the chultun excavation.

Sub-Operation C34C

Sub-Operation C34C measured 1.5 m by 1.5 m. Humus was removed to expose the lowest step (U.1) of the eastern substructure (Fig. 5.30). Smashed pottery was found in front of U.1, 17 cm to 32 cm below the surface, in the southeast corner of the excavation. The pottery was unreconstructible but the sherds included applique fragments, probably from incensarios. The paste characteristics of these sherds were similar to the paste characteristics of reconstructible incensarios found in other excavations at Caracol. A small quartzite poulder was found among the sherd concentration. Remnants of a plaster floor (U.1) were found in the northern portion of the test pit, 24 cm to 50 cm below the surface.

Excavation revealed that the small stone bedding for U.1 abutted the step of the substructure and that this bedding was placed directly on bedrock. The stratigraphy revealed in the north wall of the excavation exhibited a second level of small stone which may have been the floor

bedding for a later plaza floor (U.2) in this locus (Fig. 5.30). UNIT 2 was not recognized as a feature during excavation, however, this surface would have been approximately 7 cm above U.1. The smashed incensarios found in the southeast corner of the excavation were deposited at an elevation equivalent to U.2. It is unknown what changes, if any, were made to the building when U.2 was put in place.

A series of cache offerings were found in Sub-Op. C34C. The offerings were placed in pits cut into the bedrock and at least one of these offerings, S.D. C34C-1, was sealed by U.1. It is possible that the other caches were also sealed by U.1, however, based on the fact that the bedding for this surface was found only as far as 50 cm to the west of U.1 and S.D.C34C-2 through S.D.C34C-5 were found in the southern portion of the test pit, it is likely that these four offerings were intrusive to U.1 and were sealed by the later U.2. It is unclear whether all four deposits were made at the same time or if they were made at different times and the floor patched. The deposits were placed in two different pits cut into bedrock and each deposit formed a discrete entity within its pit (Fig. 5.31). It is assumed that the offerings placed in each pit were deposited during the same ritual event. One of the vessels included in S.D.C34C-4 (Object 1) may provide a date for this ritual activity. The vessel is characterized by a modeled and appliqued face which is similar to a cache vessel deposited as part of

S.D.C59A-15 recovered from Str. 2E28 (Sub-Op. C59A) in Late Classic Period context.

Special Deposit C34C-1. This deposit is a cache offering made in the northern most pit dug into bedrock (U.3), 45 cm to 65 cm west of U.1 and sealed by the plaza floor designated U.1 (Fig. 5.31). The deposit consists of a deep-sided bowl and lid (C34C/7-1a,b). The bowl is decorated with an appliqued and modeled face characterized by an appliqued horizontal "bar" in the middle of the "forehead" and by three balls in the mouth. On each "cheek" is an appliqued circle with a ball in the center. When the bowl was placed in the pit, the face was oriented to the north. The exterior surface is an unslipped yellowish-red (5YR5/8). The rim diameter measures 13.4 cm and the height is 11.0 cm. The sherds found within the bowl were from the lid which is an unslipped yellowish-red (5YR 5/8). The diameter of the lid is 16.0 cm and the height is 3.5 cm.

Special Deposit C34C-2. This deposit is an offering consisting of a partial cache vessel and four marine shells placed in the northern half of a pit dug into the bedrock (U.4), west of U.3 (Fig. 5.31). This offering is one of two caches deposited in the same pit. They are treated here as separate offerings because they occupied discrete areas but they are considered to be part of the same event. The marine shell (Object 2) included in this deposit is identi-

fied as two halves of a ribbed clam with small teeth along the interior edges of each half and two oyster-like valves. The clam shells are both 7.7 cm long and 3.9 cm wide. They have a combined weight of 29.0 gms. The oyster shells range from 2.2 cm to 3.3 cm long, 1.6 cm to 2.7 cm wide and have a combined weight of 2.9 gms. The partial vessel (Object 1) associated with the shells is from an unslipped, flaring-walled dish.

Special Deposit C34C-3. Special Deposit C34C-3 is a cache of two flaring-walled dishes, set lip-to-lip, in U.4, south of, S.D.C34C-2 (Fig. 5.31). This offering is part of the same event as S.D.C34C-2 but is treated here as a separate offering because of the discrete area it occupied within the pit. These dishes are and unslipped reddish-yellow, similar in shape, size, and paste characteristics to flaring-walled dishes found in cache deposits excavated elsewhere at Caracol (eg., S.D. C59A-2 from Str. 2E28, Sub-Op. C59A).

Special Deposit C34C-4. This deposit is a cache of at least four vessels, all with modeled and appliqued faces, 75 cm to 100 cm west of U.1. Special Deposit C34C-4 is one of two offerings made in the largest pit cut into bedrock (U.5), in front of Str. 3D26 (Fig. 5.31).

Object 1 (C34C/10-1) is an unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) deep-sided bowl. The face is characterized by a modeled

chin as well as modeled eyes and eye brows. The nose is appliqued and has two small balls below the nostrils. The mouth is also applied and the lips are well defined; within the mouth is an appliqued tooth or tongue. On each cheek is an appliqued disk with a central ball. However, the most distinctive feature of this face are the appliqued "buttons" or "jewels" framing the sides and forehead. This is similar to Object 4 from S.D.C59A-15, which was found in a Late Classic Period context. The rim diameter of this bowl measures 15.0 cm and the height is 14.4 cm.

Object 2 (C34C/10-2a,b) is a small bowl and its lid found, smashed, within Object 1. This bowl has incurving sides and a simple appliqued face. The eyes are small buttons and the mouth is an open horizontal oval. The bowl, as well as the dome-shaped lid that went with it, are unslipped light red (2.5YR6/6). The rim diameter of the bowl is 10.4 cm and the height is 8.4 cm. The rim diameter of the lid measures 8.8 cm and the height is 1.9 cm.

Object 3 is a deep-sided bowl similar in shape to Object 1. The bowl has not yet been reconstructed in the laboratory but exterior surface is characterized by a modeled and appliqued face.

Object 4 is a reconstructible vessel found smashed within Object 3 and may actually be a lid for this bowl.

Special Deposit C34C-5. Special Deposit C34C-5 is a cache of miniature lip-to-lip vessels deposited in U.5,

south of S.D.C34C-4 (Fig. 5.31). Within this set was a third miniature vessel of the same form. S.D.C34C-4 and S.D.C34-5 were part of the same event but are treated here as two separate caches because of the discrete space each occupied within the cache pit.

Object 1 (C34C/11-1) is an unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) bowl with straight sides and a slightly flaring lip. The rim diameter is 10.0 cm and the height ranges from 4.1 cm to 4.3 cm.

Object 2 is similar to Object 1 in size, shape and paste characteristics. This vessel formed the lip-to-lip pair with Object 1.

Object 3 is similar to Objects 1 and 2 in shape and size. This dish has not yet been processed in the laboratory.

Sub-Operation C34C Recovery Lots

Lot C34C/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the humus and dark brown matrix above U.1. This material includes artifacts probably associated with the final use and abandonment of the locus because this Lot also includes the floor bedding of U.2. Sherds, chert debitage, scattered fragments of marine shell and obsidian blades, as well as a piece from a slate mirror back were recovered from this Lot.

Lot C34C/2 is associated with the unreconstructible incensario fragments and the quartzite pounder recovered from in front of U.1, at a level equivalent to U.2. This

material is likely associated with the final use of the Strs. 3D25 - 3D27 locus and it indicates that it served a ritual function.

Lot C34C/3 is assigned to the compact, greyish-brown matrix removed just above bedrock. This Lot includes the small stone bedding for U.1 and is largely associated with the construction of this feature. When Lot C34C/3 was removed, the five cache offerings, which were placed in pits cut into bedrock, were exposed.

Lot C34C/4 is associated with the cache deposit placed in U.3 and sealed by U.1. Special Deposit C34C-1 is included in this Lot.

Lot C34C/5 is associated with the cache offerings deposited in U.4. Special Deposit C34C-2 and S.D.C34C-3 are included in this Lot.

Lot C34C/6 is assigned to the cache offerings deposited in U.5 and includes S.D.C34C-4 and S.D.C34C-5.

Structures 3D25 - 3D27 Summary

Based on the stratigraphy revealed in the looters' trench (Sub-Op. C34A), there were at least three building phases in the Strs. 3D25 - 3D27 locus. The architecture associated with the earliest building exposed in the trench indicates an Early Classic Period occupation of Strs. 3D24 - 3D34. This date is supported by the urn-shaped cache vessel recovered from the surface of the looters' trench, which may

be associated with the second building constructed in the eastern locus.

The cache patterns revealed in Sub-Op. C34C indicate that Strs. Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 underwent a change in function. Deep-sided, lidded urns, like the one recovered from Sub-Op. C34A, have been found in the epicenter (Str. A6) and in the groups of monumental architecture at the termini of the causeways (Str. 8F8, A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:46-47). These groups do not appear to have served as fully residential areas. In its earlier phases, the structure in the eastern locus, and the group of which it is a part, probably served a ritual and/or administrative function for the residential settlement in this sector of Caracol.

Cache vessels with modeled and appliqued faces have been recovered primarily from the smaller groups in the Caracol settlement, which in contrast, appeared to have served primarily as residences. Object 1 associated with S.D.C34C-4 is similar to Object 4 from S.D.C59A-15 which was found in a Late Classic Period context in the Str. 2E28 locus (Sub-Op. C59A). Thus, the small superstructures which remain on the summits of Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 are, therefore, possibly the remains of house foundations built during Late Classic Period occupation of the group.

Sub-Operation C34C Units

Unit 1: Lowest step of the substructure supporting Strs.

3D25 - 3D27 revealed in Sub-Op. C34C.

Sub-Operation C34C Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: Remnant of a plaster floor constructed directly on bedrock. This feature abutts U.1.
- UNIT 2: Reconstructed plaza floor located 7 cm above U.1.
- UNIT 3: Pit cut into bedrock associated with the deposit of S.D.C34C-1. This deposit was sealed by U.1.
- UNIT 4: Pit cut into bedrock associated with the deposit of S.D.C34C-2 and S.D.C34C-3, west of U.3.
- UNIT 5: Pit cut into bedrock associated with the deposit of S.D.C34C-4 and S.D.C34C-5, south of U.3 and U.4.

Sub-Operation C34C Recovery Lots

- C34C/ 1: Humus and dark brown matrix removed above U.1.
- C34C/ 2: The concentration of incensario sherds and a quartz pounder, found at a level equivalent to U.2.
- C34C/ 3: The compact, greyish-brown matrix removed above bedrock, exposing U.3 through U.5.
- C34C/ 4: Material associated with S.D.C34C-1, deposited in U.3.
- C34C/ 5: Material associated with S.D.C34C-2 and S.D.C34C-3, deposited in U.4.
- C34C/ 6: Material associated with S.D.C34C-4 and S.D.C34C-5, deposited in U.5.

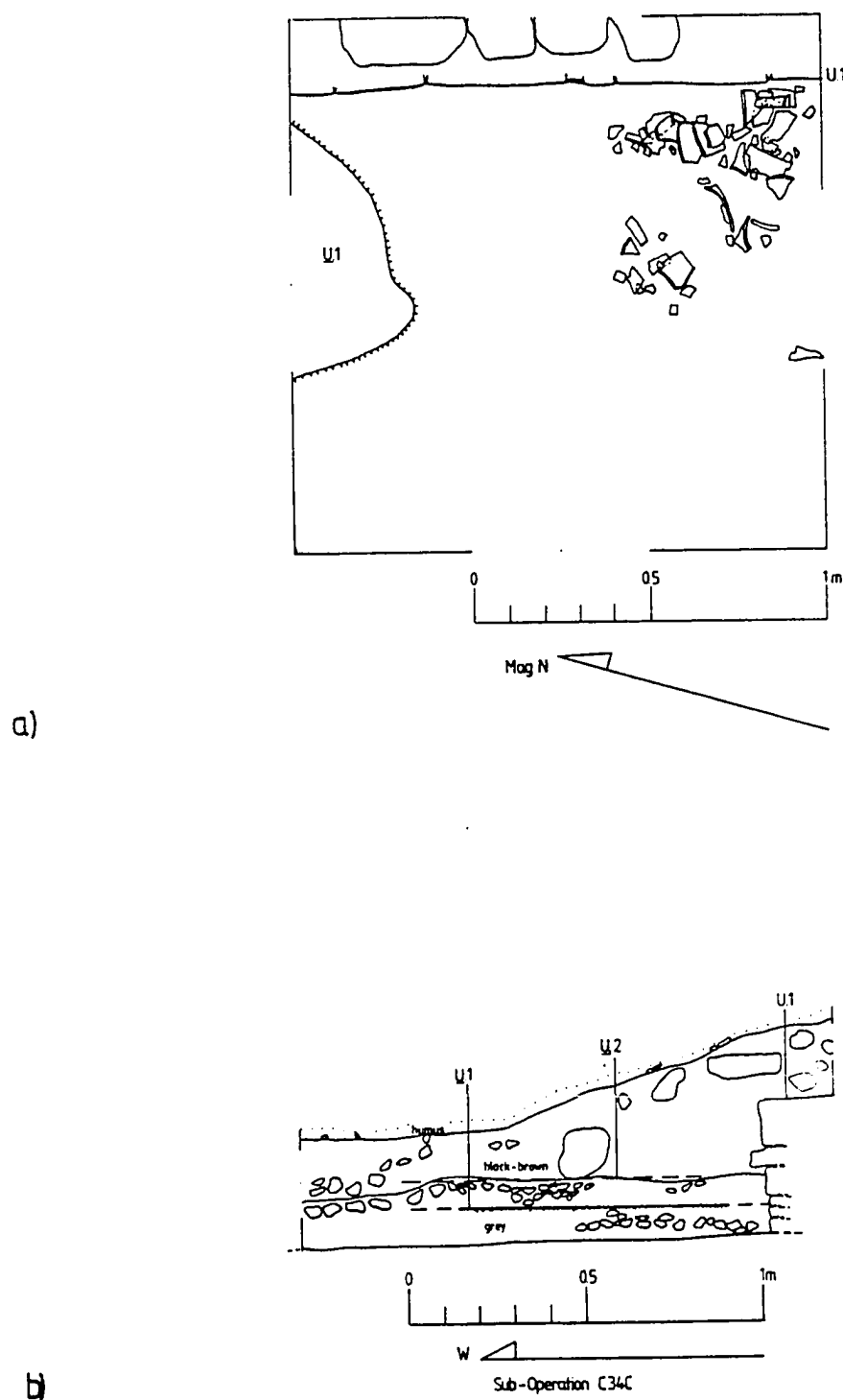


Figure 5.30. Sub-Operation C34C - a) plan of the sherd concentration in front of Unit 1, b) section.

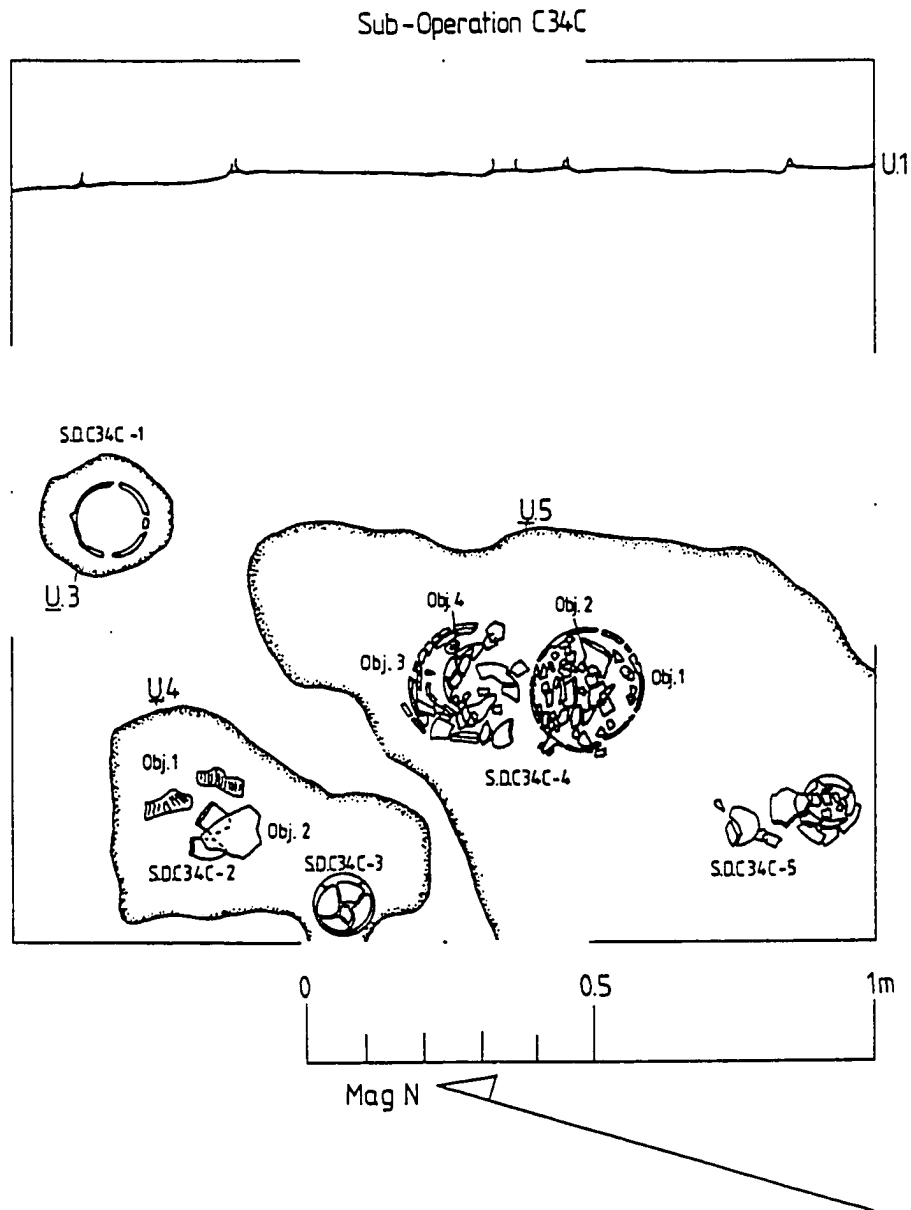


Figure 5.31. Sub-Operation C34C Special Deposits.

Structures M6 - M10: Operation C41

Structures M6 - M10 are located in a heavily terraced, low-lying area, adjacent to the Conchita Causeway and 1.39 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.7). It is characterized by four small buildings, ranging from 0.5 m to 1 m in height, arranged around a central plaza, on a low platform. The group was discovered and mapped in 1986 by A. F. Chase and it is an example of a Type 2 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures M6 - M10 were chosen for investigation primarily because they are located approximately halfway between the epicenter and the terminus of the Conchita Causeway in a heavily terraced area of the settlement; excavation in this group would provide comparative data to groups located on hilltops and/or in less densely terraced areas. A second reason for investigating Strs. M6 - M10 was to assess the significance of groups aligned with the Causeway versus groups not aligned with the Causeway (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989). Operation C41 was assigned to the excavation of this group and to two test pits excavated on the Causeway at this locus. Clarissa Hunter of Ball State University directed the work during the 1988 field season.

Structure M7

Structure M7 is the eastern building of the group defined by Strs. M6 - M10. It rises 0.75 m above the plaza

floor and covers an area of 22 m². There was a deep depression on the front slope of the building indicating either a collapse in the platform construction or in the underlying bedrock. A test pit was excavated in this locus in order to recover datable deposits from which to ascertain when the group was built and occupied.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C41A was assigned to a 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M7. The test was later extended 1.8 m east to include the depression in front of the structure in order to determine the nature of the collapse. The final dimensions of Sub-Op. C41A were 1.5 m north-south by 2.68 m east-west.

The humus layer was removed to expose a concentration of chert in the southern portion of the test. Preliminary analysis of the material in the laboratory revealed that the concentration consisted primarily of debitage, with 13.1% of the material being fragments from retouched pieces. A cache (S.D.C41A-1) was also exposed; however, due to its fragmented condition, this was not identified in the field as a special deposit, rather it was identified during artifact processing in the laboratory. As excavation proceeded, it became apparent that the plaza floor (U.1) consisted of packed dirt rather than a plastered surface as no remnants of plaster or a floor bedding were found. A layer of scat-

tered small and medium rubble was removed with the dark brown matrix, beneath the humus layer. The chert debitage continued to be recovered from the upper portion of this matrix, apparently having been worked into the floor during occupation of the group. Soft limestone bedrock was encountered 30 cm to 50 cm below the surface (Fig. 5.32). The depression in the front slope of Str. M7 turned out to be a collapse of the bedrock at this locus.

Special Deposit C41A-1. This deposit was a poorly preserved cache of one small, unslipped, red dish in the dark brown matrix beneath the humus level. The deposit was made just beneath the humus level and may have been deposited during the use of the locus. The dish was very fragmented and was identified as a cache vessel on the basis of its form and paste characteristics in the laboratory. It is similar in size, shape and paste characteristics to other small cache vessels found throughout Caracol (eg., S.D.C31B-1 from Str. 2E20, Sub-Op. C31B).

Structure M7 Recovery Lots

Lot C41A/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the humus and the upper level of the dark brown matrix. The artifacts associated with this Lot are attributed to the use and abandonment of the Str. M7 locus. The inventory includes incensario fragments, chert debitage, obsidian blade fragments, burnt animal bone and unworked slate fragments.

Preliminary analysis of the chert in the laboratory revealed that 13.1% of the material was from retouched pieces. More detailed analysis of the debitage is being conducted by Cynthia Pope from the University of Texas at Austin.

Lot C41A/2 is associated with the material recovered from the dark brown matrix above bedrock. This material is part of the construction of the platform and includes fragments of obsidian blades, marine shell, chert and unworked slate.

Structure M7 Summary

The platform on which Strs. M6 - M10 are situated was constructed in a single effort and no refurbishments were made to the surface. No architectural details for Str. M7 are available. It is possible, given the artifacts recovered from Lots C41A/1 and C41A/2, that Str. M7 served as a workshop as well as a ritual building for the group.

No deposits were recovered which would directly date the construction of the platform and the use of Str. M7. The cache vessel associated with S.D.C41A-1 may serve as an indication that this locus was used during the Late Classic Period. Cache vessels similar to this one in size, shape and past characteristics have been found in Late Classic contexts (eg., S.D.C31B-1 from Str. 2E20, Sub-Op. C31B); however, the full time range of this cache type is not yet certain. Analysis of caching practices at Caracol continues

and may provide a more secure time frame for this type of cache vessel.

Structure M7 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Plaza floor constructed of packed dirt, associated with the use of the Str. M7 locus.

Structure M7 Recovery Lots

C41A/ 1: Humus and the upper level of the dark brown matrix, mixed with scattered small and medium rubble.

C41A/ 2: Dark brown construction fill removed above bedrock.

Structure M6

Structure M6 is the northeastern building in the group defined by Strs. M6 - M10. This building is oriented with the direction of the Conchita Causeway in this portion of the settlement (see Fig. 4.22, Quadrant M). Structure M6 rises 1 m above the plaza surface and covers an area of 33.0 m².

Excavation

Sub-Operation C41D was a 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M6. The humus layer was removed to expose the leading edge of the front wall of the building (U.1) as well as some scattered, fallen rubble. The wall was constructed of roughly shaped limestone blocks.

The excavation also exposed a portion of a simple burial, designated S.D.C41D-1. This interment was largely covered by the structure and only a small portion of long bone was exposed in the northeast corner of the test pit. Due to time constraints, only that portion of the burial which was exposed was recorded. As in Sub-Op. C41A, there was no evidence that the plaza floor (U.1) in front of the building was ever plastered. Thus, it appears that S.D.C41D-1 was sealed by the packed dirt surface of the plaza. The construction fill of the platform consisted of a medium brown matrix, lightly mixed with very small stone. This matrix was removed to reveal a soft limestone bedrock 70 cm to 80 cm below the surface (Fig. 5.32).

Special Deposit C41D-1. This deposit was a partially exposed simple burial of one individual. The burial was made at this locus during the construction of the platform and prior to the construction of Str. M6. Due to time constraints, only that portion of the burial exposed in the test pit was recorded. Only a small portion of long bone was revealed immediately in front of U.1 and the broken ends of three other long bones were just visible in the east wall of the excavation. Thus, it appears that the individual was probably partially flexed, with the head to the north. No sex or age identification was possible, nor were any artifacts recovered which would directly date the deposit.

Structure M6 Recovery Lots

Lot C41D/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the humus and dark brown matrix above the level of S.D.C41D-1. This material is associated with the final use of the Str. M6 locus and includes fragments of unworked slate and obsidian blades, as well as fragments of granite and limestone manos and a fragment from an incensario.

Lot C41D/2 is assigned to the medium brown construction fill removed d beneath the level of S.D.C41D-1. This matrix was the construction fill for the platform. Very few artifacts were recovered from this Lot.

Structure M6 Summary

Based on the artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C41D, it is likely that Str. M6 was a locus of domestic activity for Strs. M6 - M10. In addition, the building covers an area of 33.0 m² which exceeds the minimum area of 20 m² which Ashmore (1981c:47) suggested for a building to function as a residence. No special deposits were recovered which would directly date the construction and use of Str. M6.

Structure M6 Units:

Unit 1: Front wall of Str. M6.

Structure M6 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plaza floor constructed of packed dirt, associated with the use of Str. M6.

Structures M6 - M10 Group Summary

Based on the inventory of the artifacts recovered from Sub-Ops. C41A and C41D, Strs. M6 - M10 functioned as a residential group. However, this group stands as an anomaly in the settlement investigated along the Conchita Causeway in that only two special deposits were recovered - a simple burial in the Str. M6 locus and a simple cache in the Str. M7 locus. No excavation penetrated the construction of either of these buildings so it is unknown if other special deposits are buried within the constructions. Nevertheless, the special deposits recovered from these excavations are quite simple compared to those deposits recovered from groups of similar size and configuration. For example, the deposits recovered from Strs. C11 - C14 (Op. C22) and from Strs. M11 - M14 (Op. C32) were more elaborate and thus more costly in terms of their preparation and in terms of the goods included in the deposits. This may be taken as an indication that the occupants of Strs. M6 - M10 did not a) participate in the same rituals as the occupants of other residential groups, b) did not occupy this locus long enough to deposit the same number of ritual caches and burials as found in other groups, c) did not have the same access to resources as the people living in the other residential groups, or d) some combination thereof.

The platform on which Strs. M6 - M10 were constructed was built in a single construction effort probably during

the Late Classic Period. This is based on the similarity of the artifacts recovered from Sub-Ops. C41A and C41D with the artifacts recovered from excavations in other groups which seem to be aligned to the orientation of the Conchita Causeway (eg., Strs. M11 - M14, Op. C32 and Strs. M80 - M85, Op. C42). Excavations conducted by the Caracol Project along the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway yielded data indicating that groups which were aligned with this causeway were occupied subsequent to 9.13.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, 1989). The excavations conducted in Strs. M6 - M10 yielded data comparable to the information recovered by the Caracol Project, thus, this group was likely occupied after 9.13.0.0.0.

Structures M80 - M86: Operation C42

Structures M80 - M86 form a plazuela group consisting of seven buildings, ranging from 0.5 m to 1.5 m in height, on a low platform. The group is located in a heavily terraced, low-lying area of the settlement, 57 m south of the Conchita Causeway and 1.42 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.7). The northern and eastern buildings, Str. M80 and Str. M81 respectively, had been damaged by looters prior to the group's discovery by the Caracol Project in 1987. Structure M80 has a partial axial trench cut into its front (south) slope and Str. M81 has a partial trench cut into its northern side. Other than this, the foundations of the buildings were fairly well preserved in spite of the

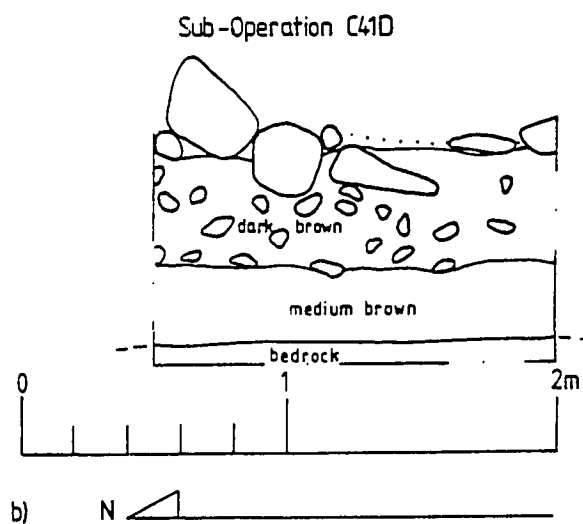
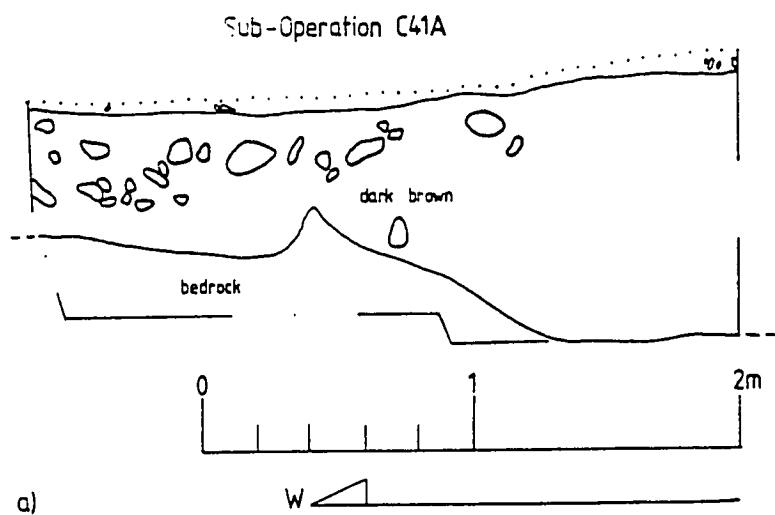


Figure 5.32. a) Sub-Operation C41A section, b) Sub-Operation C41D section.

large trees growing on the summits of most of the structures and the exposed architecture was characterized by roughly-dressed, limestone blocks. Based on the arrangement of the buildings around the plaza, Strs. M80 - M86 are an example of a Type 6 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures M80 - M86 were chosen for excavation as part of the sample chosen to test the significance of groups aligned with the Causeway versus groups not aligned with the Causeway (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989). Operation C42 was intended to provide comparable data to that recovered from Strs. M6 - M10 (Sub-Ops. C41A and C41D). Excavation within this group was undertaken in 1988 under the supervision of Clarissa Hunter from Ball State University.

Structure M85

Structure M85 is a 1.25 m high building with a long, low wing structure on either side, which defines the western edge of the platform. This building covers an area of 30.7 m². Structure M85 was chosen for excavation partially by default; Str. M80 was damaged by looters and Str. M83, the southern building, had a mature cedar tree growing on its summit with the roots covering the front slope of the building. Sub-Operation C42A was assigned to the excavation in this locus.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C42A was a 1.56 m north-south by 1.50 m east-west test excavation placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M85 (Fig. 5.33). This excavation was intended to recover data regarding the potential date and function of this western structure.

The humus layer was removed to reveal the remains of a plaster floor approximately 20 cm below the surface. The excavation also partially detailed the front wall of the building (U.1). Based on the exposed architecture outside of the excavation limits, it is likely that this wall also served as the front step. The floor appeared to extend beneath U.1, thus indicating that the plaza surface (U.1) was plastered prior to the construction of Str. M85. It was preserved only up to 33 cm east of the front wall of the building. Beneath the humus and the remains of U.1, a dark brown matrix, mixed with scattered, small stone, was removed. This matrix changed approximately 50 cm below the surface to a medium brown matrix with scattered small stone. This material was excavated to the level of soft bedrock which was reached approximately 60 cm to 80 cm below the surface.

Structure M85 Recovery Lots

Lot C42A/1 is associated with the humus layer removed above U.1. The artifacts recovered from this level of the excavation are attributed to the use and abandonment of the

Str. M85 locus. The material includes fragments of obsidian blade fragments, chert, and shale.

Lot C42A/2 is associated with the dark brown and medium brown matrices removed beneath U.1. This material was part of the construction fill for the platform. The artifacts recovered from Lot C42A include a fragment of burnt animal bone and fragments of a slate mirror back with traces of limonite on the surface.

Structure M85 Summary

No architectural details for Str. M85 are available. However, Sub-Op. C42A revealed that the platform was constructed in a single effort and that the surface (U.1) was plastered prior to the construction of Str. M85 in this locus. Based on the artifacts recovered from this excavation and from Sub-Op. C42B, the construction of the platform and of Str. M85 occurred during the Late Classic Period. No artifacts or special deposits were recovered from Sub-Op. C42A which would directly indicate a particular function for Str. M85. It is possible, given the area the building covers, that Str. M85 may have functioned as a residence within the Strs. M80 - M86 group. It covers 30.7 m², which is greater than the minimal residential unit defined by Ashmore (1981c:47).

Structure M85 Units

Unit 1: Front (east) wall of Str. M85.

Structure M85 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Plastered surface of plaza floor which lies beneath the front wall of Str. M85.

Structure M85 Recovery Lots

C42A/ 1: Humus removed above U.1, east of U.1

C42A/ 2: Dark brown and medium brown matrices removed beneath U.1, above bedrock.

Structure M81

Structure M81 is 1.25 m high and it covers an area of 41.0 m²; a low wing structure is located on the south side of the building. Looters attempted to penetrate the core of Str. M81 on its north side but did not succeed in reaching any great depth into the core of the construction.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C42B was assigned to a test excavation, measuring 1.6 m north-south by 1.5 m east-west, placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M81 (Fig. 5.34). The excavation was later extended 60 cm to the south in order to facilitate recovery of a special deposit. The final dimensions of Sub-Op. C42B were 2.18 m north-south by 1.5 m east-west.

The humus layer was removed to reveal a layer of small to medium rubble in a dark brown matrix. Part of this rubble probably served as the ballast for the plastered

plaza floor (U.1), remnants of which were found in Sub-Op. C42A. Excavation revealed that U.1 abutted the front wall of Str. M81 (U.1). Based on the exposed architecture along the base of the building outside of the excavation limits, U.1 probably also served as the front step of the structure. Two large, flat, rectangular, limestone slabs were partially exposed at the bottom of the humus level. The slabs served to cap a burial deposited in a cist (S.D.C42B-1). The cist was oriented east-west and extended some 45 cm under the front wall of the structure. It was probably sealed by U.1 as the capstones were found at the same elevation as the small rubble of the floor bedding. The eastern most capstone was partially covered by U.1, indicating that either a) the cist was put in before Str. M81 was constructed or b) a portion of the front wall was removed in order to place the cist in this locus and that portion was then replaced. No evidence for a floor below U.1 was found, thus it is most likely that the cist was built in this locus and the burial deposited prior to the construction of Str. M81. One individual was interred in S.D.C42B-1 but the preservation of the bone was poor and no sex or age identification was possible (Fig. 5.35). This deposit is discussed in further detail below.

Excavation of Sub-Op. C42B continued in the northern portion of the test pit, leaving the walls of S.D.C42B-1 intact. The dark brown matrix changed to a medium brown

color, mixed with small to large rubble. In this level, approximately 1 m below the surface, a multiple burial (S.D.C42B-2) was found, 15 cm to 18 cm below the floor level of the cist represented in S.D.C42B-1. The general orientation of the deposit was north-south, extending beneath S.D.C42B-1 to the south and into the wall of the excavation to the north (Fig. 5.35). Due to time constraints, only that portion of the burial exposed in the northern half of Sub-Op. C42B was recorded. Nevertheless, enough information was recovered to determine that least two adults and possibly one subadult were interred in this deposit. This deposit is discussed further below.

Bedrock was finally reached 1.2 m to 1.4 m below the present ground surface.

Special Deposit C42B-1. This deposit was a poorly preserved burial interred in a capped cist (Fig. 5.35). The cist was oval-shaped, measuring 58 cm at its widest point and 145 cm east-west. Three poorly preserved long bones were recovered 32 cm to 38 cm below the capstones, in a dark brown matrix. The best preserved of the bone were two partial femurs in the central portion of the cist and the northern one was tentatively identified as being animal (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). A badly fragmented, partial fibula was found west of the southern femur. Excavation of the eastern portion of the crypt required tunneling beneath the front wall of Str. M81 (U.1) and beneath the

eastern most capstone which was still in situ, partially covered by U.1. Small and medium sized rubble was removed from this portion of the cist and a temporal fragment was recovered. No other cranial or pelvic remains were found. Thus, the sex of the interred individual is unknown and age identification was not possible. If a complete body had been placed in the crypt, the head would have been to the east. No artifacts were recovered which would directly date this deposit. However, based on the stratigraphic relationship with the floor bedding for U.1, as well as on the artifacts recovered from the humus level above U.1, the deposit was made during the Late Classic Period.

Special Deposit C42B-2. Special Deposit C42B-2 was a multiple burial of at least two adults and possibly one subadult. The burial was found 15 cm to 18 cm below the floor level of S.D.C42B-1 and had a north-south orientation (Fig. 5.35). It extended into the excavation limit to the north and beneath S.D.C42B-1 to the south. Due to time constraints, the burial was only partially exposed and recorded within Sub-Op. C42B. Although a few cranial fragments were recovered from among the long bones, it appears that the general orientation of the individuals was head to the south. The identification of adult and subadult individuals was based on the teeth recovered. One cranial fragment included a sizeable mastoid process indicating that at least one individual was probably a male (D. Z. Chase,

personal communication 1989). No artifacts were recovered which would provide a direct date for this deposit.

Structure M81 Recovery Lots

Lot C42B/1 is associated with the humus level removed in Sub-Op. C42B. The material recovered from this Lot is attributed to the use of the Str. M81 locus and includes incensario fragments, a granite metate fragment, a sherd from a cylinder vessel with a carved hieroglyphic text as well as chert debris. Sabloff (1975:198) has noted that model-carved cylinders were found in Terminal Classic Period context at Seibal in both ritual and domestic settings.

Lot C42B/2 is associated with the dark brown and medium brown matrices removed beneath the humus level in the northern portion of the test pit. This material was part of the construction fill of the platform. The artifacts recovered from this Lot include chert debris and sherds. Lot C42B/3 is assigned to the material recovered from S.D.C42B-1. No artifacts were recovered from this interment which would directly date the deposit.

Lot C42B/4 is assigned to the material recovered from S.D.C42B-2. The burial was only partially exposed and recorded and no artifacts were recovered which would directly date this deposit.

Structure M81 Summary

No architectural details are available for Str. M81 but based on the data recovered from Sub-Op. C42B, it appears that the platform, as well as the building, were constructed in a single effort. Structure M81 was built this locus while the platform was being constructed and the building was completed before the plaza surface was plastered. Two burials (S.D.C42B-1 and S.D.C42B-2) were deposited in the construction fill of the platform. Based on the diagnostic sherd from a model-carved cylinder, recovered from Lot C42B/1, the platform and Str. M81 may have been constructed and used during the Terminal Classic Period. However, based on the data recovered from other excavations conducted along the Conchita Causeway as part of this research and from excavations conducted in other area of Caracol, Str. M81 was probably used during the Late Classic Period.

Based on the artifacts recovered from above the level of the plaza floor, Str. M81 served, at least, a ritual function for the people who occupied and/or used Strs. M80 - M86. Some of these artifacts, however, indicate that this locus may have also served a more domestic function (eg., a metate fragment and the model-carved cylinder fragment). Structure M81 exceeds the minimum area defined by Ashmore (1981c:47) for a building to serve as a residence.

Structure M85 Units:

Unit 1: Front (west) wall and step for Str. M81.

Structure M81 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plaza floor which would have abutted the front wall of Str. M81.

Structure M81 Recovery Lots

C42B/ 1: Humus removed in Sub-Op. C42B.

C42B/ 2: Dark Brown and medium brown matrices removed in the northern portion of Sub-Op. C42B.

C42B/ 3: Material associated with S.D.C42B-1.

C42B/ 4: Material associated with S.D.C42B-2.

Structure M80 - M86 Group Summary

Two test excavations (Sub-Ops. C42A and C42B) were conducted in this group and two burials (S.D.C42B-1 and S.D.C42B-2) were recovered. The group was built largely in a single effort during the Late Classic period. Nevertheless, based on the stratigraphic relationship between the plaza floor and Strs. M81 and M85, it appears that the eastern building, Str. M81, was constructed before the western building, Str. M85.

The ceramic material and other artifacts recovered from Sub-Ops. C42A and C42B indicate that Strs. M80 - M86 were a residential locus. It is unknown whether a tomb is part of the construction in this group as no excavations penetrated the core of the buildings. The artifacts recovered from the burials do not give a clear indication of the status of the occupants. The architecture of the buildings which comprise

this group is similar in size and elaboration to groups which are believed to have been occupied by elite members of Caracol society (eg., Strs. C11 - C14). Thus, it is likely that the occupants of Strs. M80 - M86 may also have been members of an elite sector of Caracol society but this remains questionable.

The deposits and artifacts recovered from Sub-Ops. C42A and C42B indicate that Strs. M80 - M86 were constructed and occupied during the Late Classic Period. This group is oriented with the direction of the Conchita Causeway in this area of the settlement. Investigation of groups aligned to their respective causeways has yielded data indicating that these groups were occupied after 9.13.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, 1989).

Structures 3E34 - 3E36: Operation C45

Structures 3E34 - 3E36 are three small structures which form a plazuela group on top of a hill. This group is one of a few plazuela groups known to have an aguada directly associated with the platform on which the buildings are situated. The group is located 2.79 km southeast of the epicenter and 88 m south of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.12). The buildings rise 0.5 m to 1.0 m above the plaza surface. A fourth structure may have existed on a lower extension of the platform on the south side of the group, however there is no surface evidence of this. The arrange-

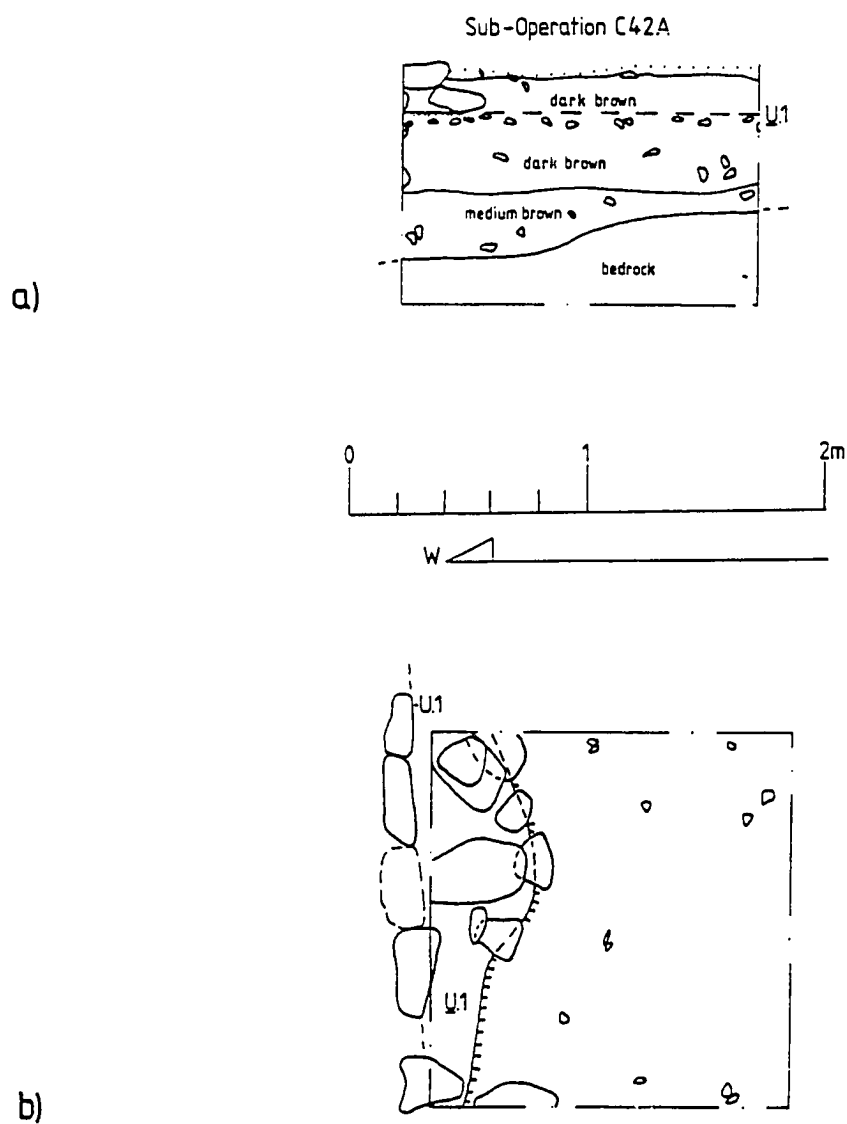


Figure 5.33. Sub-Operation C42A - a) section, b) plan.

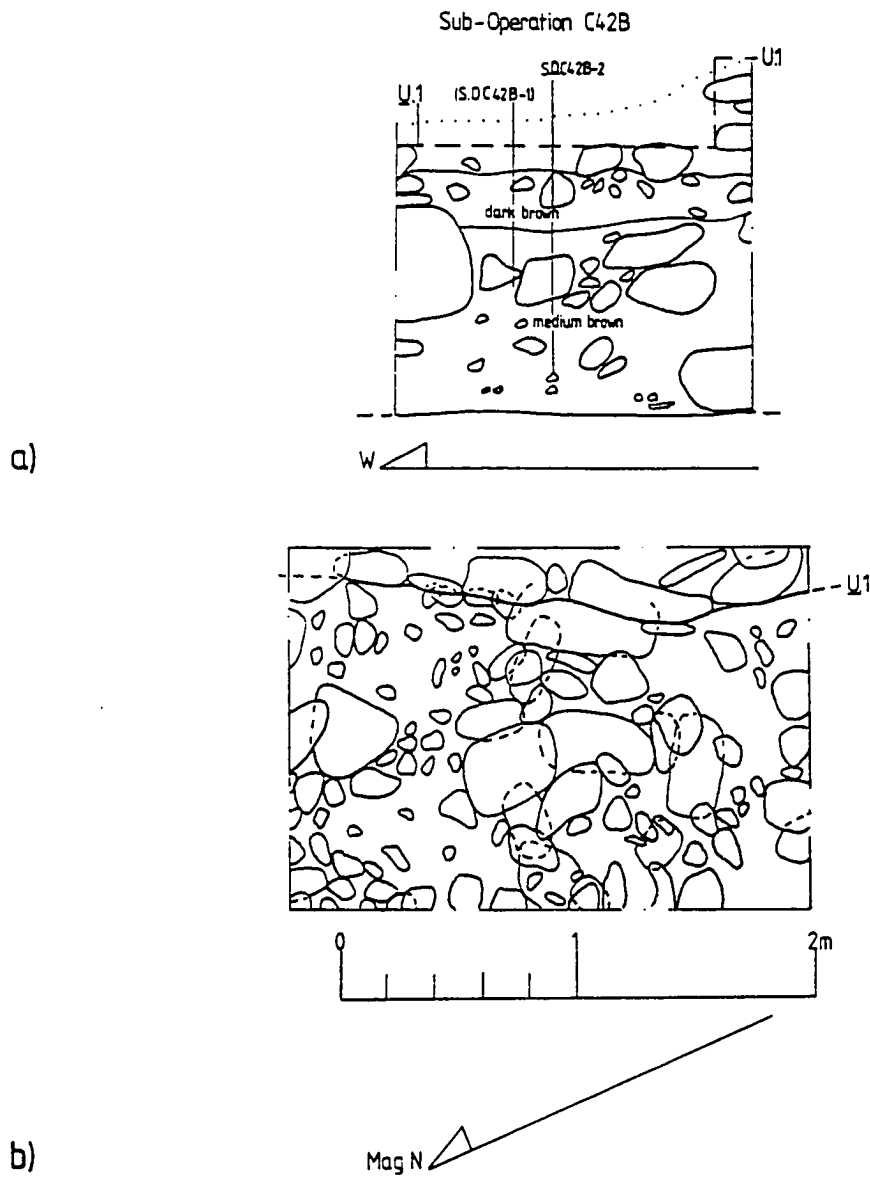


Figure 5.34. Sub-Operation C42B - a) section, b) plan.

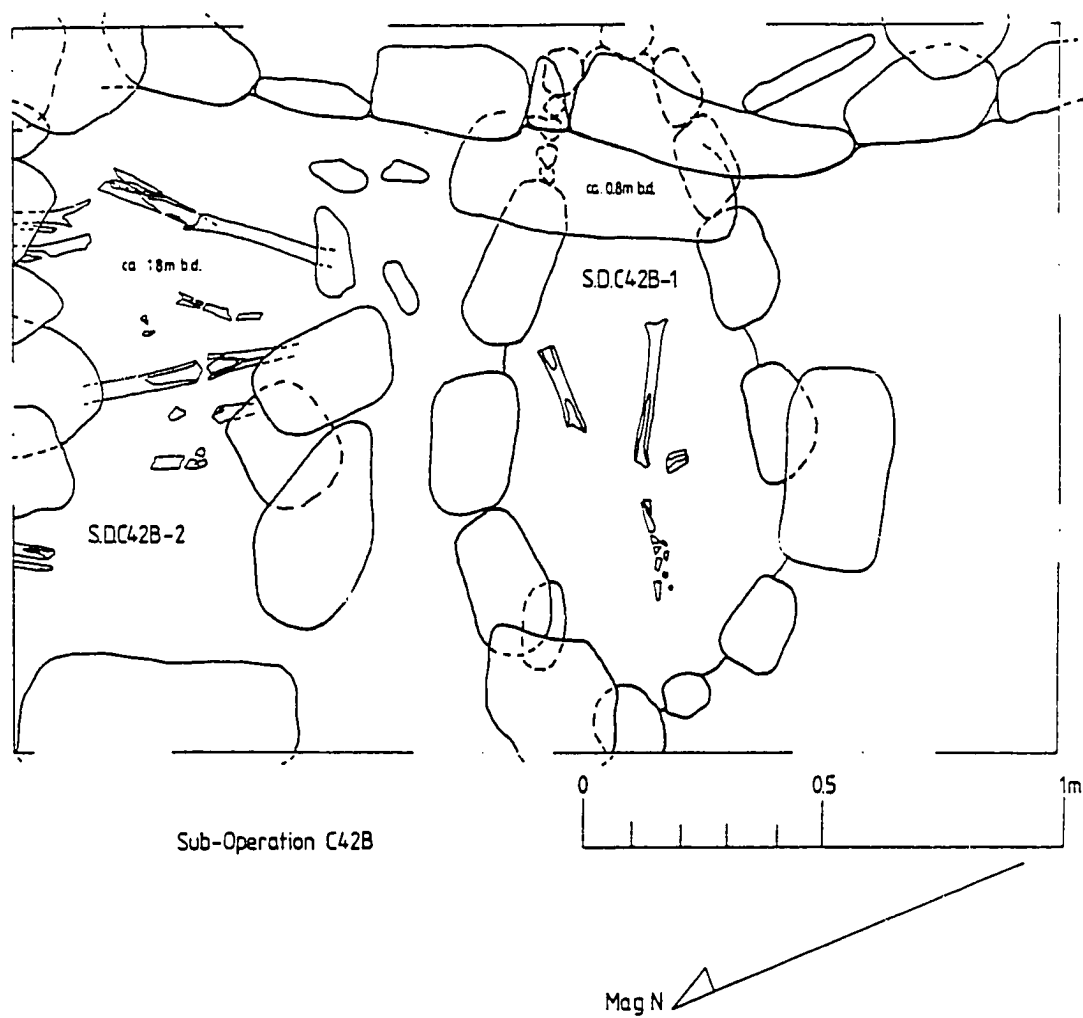


Figure 5.35 Sub-Operation C42B Special Deposits.

ment of Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 around the central plaza makes this an example of a Type 2 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures 3E34 - 3E36 were chosen for investigation because of the group's proximity to the terminus of the Conchita Causeway and to the Conchita Precinct. Excavation was conducted in 1988 under the direction of Susan Jaeger.

Structure 3E34

Structure 3E34 was chosen for investigation in order to collect data regarding the use of this northern building. The building rises 1 m above the plaza floor and covers an area of 16.0 m². Sub-Operation C45A was assigned to the excavation associated of this locus.

Excavation

A test pit, measuring 1.5 m by 1.5 m, was placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. 3E34 (Fig. 5.36). The humus layer was removed to reveal a dark brown matrix, mixed with large and medium rubble. This matrix, in turn, was followed to a depth of 26 cm to 40 cm below the humus, where it changed to a medium brown matrix with scattered small stone. Soft limestone bedrock was found 40 cm to 55 cm below the surface. Miscellaneous sherds and two obsidian blade fragments were recovered from this excavation.

No architectural features of the building were exposed nor was any evidence encountered that the plaza surface was

at one time plastered. No deposits were recovered which would indicate the function of this building or provide an indication of when the building and the group were occupied.

Structure 3E35

Structure 3E35 is the eastern building of the group defined by Strs. 3E34 - 3E36. It rises 1.0 m above the plaza surface and covers an area of 31.4 m². The back (east) side of this building was clear of humus when it was discovered and the large, limestone block architecture was revealed.

Excavation

The excavation associated with Str. 3E35 was assigned Sub-Op. C45B and consisted of a 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit placed in front of, and on axis to, the building (Fig. 5.36). The excavation was intended to recover deposits which may be datable and thus provide an indication of when the structure, and the group as a whole, were built and occupied.

The humus layer was removed to reveal a dark brown matrix lightly mixed with small stone. Approximately 18 cm to 25 cm beneath the surface, this changed to a very hard packed medium brown matrix heavily mixed with small and medium rubble. Within this level three special deposits were recovered. The first deposit, S.D.C45B-1, was encountered approximately 25 cm beneath the surface. It was a

cache of marine shell (Object 1) and unretouched obsidian blades (Object 2) deposited just to the north of the central axis of the building, approximately 130 cm west of the structure. The other two special deposits were discovered resting on bedrock and both were cache deposits (Fig. 5.37). Special Deposit C45B-2 was a cache of a ceramic vessel with a modeled face containing a small fragment of marine shell and a lump of specular hematite. This cache was placed north of the midline of the building. Special Deposit C45B-3 consisted of two ceramic vessels, placed side by side, on the midline of the structure. One of the vessels had a modeled face oriented to the northwest. These deposits are discussed in detail below. The medium brown matrix served as the construction fill for the platform upon which the group was built. Since no small stone ballast was encountered which would indicate that the plaza surface was, at one point in time, plastered, it is assumed that this surface was constructed of packed dirt.

Bedrock in this locus was fairly soft and sloped down from west to east. It was found 30 cm to 50 cm beneath the surface.

Special Deposit C45B-1. This deposit was a cache of two oyster shells (Object 1) and four unretouched obsidian blades (Object 2), found 1.30 m west of Str. 3E35. The oyster shells were placed next to, and east of, the obsidian.

Object 1 (C45B/3-1,a-h) is comprised of one complete and one fragmented oyster shell. The complete shell is 7.6 cm long, 6.2 cm wide and 1.5 cm thick. The total weight of the oyster shell is 35.8 gms.

Object 2 (C45B/3-2,a-d) incorporates the unretouched obsidian blades. They range in length from 3.1 cm to 8.7 cm and vary in width from 1.0 cm to 1.4 cm. The total weight of the obsidian is 15.6 gms.

Special Deposit C45B-2. Special Deposit C45B-2 was a cache of a deep-sided bowl with a modeled face (Object 1), found 55 cm to 80 cm west of Str. 3E35 and 37 cm to 46 cm below the humus (Fig. 5.37). The vessel was very poorly preserved and the sherds were quite soft and friable. During excavation, only one eye could be identified, indicating that the face was oriented to the southeast or the southwest when the vessel was deposited. A fragment of a marine shell and a lump of specular hematite were included in this cache. Object 1 has not yet been reconstructed in the laboratory but it is similar in size and form to the cache vessel included in S.D.C32C-1 (Sub-Op. C32C, Str. M12).

Special Deposit C45B-3. This deposit was a cache of two vessels, found 37 cm to 55 cm west of Str. 3E35, 40 cm to 67 cm south of S.D.C45B-2, and 43 cm to 51 cm below the humus (Fig. 5.37). As with S.D.C45B-2, the degree of pres-

ervation was very poor and the fragments of the vessels were quite friable.

Object 1 (C45B/5-1) is a small, unslipped dish. It was placed right-side up and adjacent to the north side of Object 2. The exterior and interior surfaces are red (2.5 YR5/6), however a dark grey (2.5YR3/0) fire cloud covers most of the exterior surface.

Object 2 is the larger of the two vessels. It is an unslipped red, deep-sided bowl with a modeled face. When the cache was detailed for recording, only the modeled eyes and appliqued nose were visible as the mouth was below the curve of the vessel wall. When the vessel was deposited, the face was oriented to the northwest. This vessel has not yet been reconstructed in the laboratory but it is similar in size and shape to the cache vessel included in S.D.C32C-1 (Sub-Op. C32C, Str. M12).

Structure 3E35 Recovery Lots

Lot C45B/1 is associated with the removal of the humus and the dark brown matrix. The artifacts recovered from this Lot include a marine shell fragment and some chert debris and are likely from the final use of this locus.

Lot C45B/2 is assigned to the hard packed, medium brown matrix which was part of the construction fill for the platform. This Lot includes the three special deposits. The cache vessels included in S.D.C45B-2 and S.D.C45B-3 are similar in form and face characteristics to cache vessels

recovered from Late Classic Period contexts (eg., S.D.C22E-2 from Str. C13 and S.D.C32C-1 from Str. M12).

Structure 3E35 Summary

No architectural details for Str. 3E35 are available nor is there evidence that the plaza surface was originally plastered. Three cache offerings were deposited in the construction fill of the platform. The cache deposits were all recovered from the same matrix between the humus and bedrock, and there was no evidence that they were intruded into this matrix. Thus, it appears that the platform was constructed in a single effort. Based on the similarity of the cache vessels from S.D.C45B-2 and S.D.C45B-3 with cache vessels recovered from other excavations (eg., S.D.C22E-2 from Str. C13 and S.D.C32C-1 from Str. M12), Str. 3E35 was probably constructed and occupied during the Late Classic Period.

Structures 3E34 - 3E36 Group Summary

Two test pit excavations were conducted in the group defined by Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 and three special deposits were recovered. The deposits were all caches made in front of the eastern building, Str. 3E35. The vessels included as part of two of the deposits indicate that the group was constructed in a single effort and used during the Late Classic period.

The arrangement of the buildings around the central plaza indicate that the Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 form a Type 2 group in the Caracol Group Typology. However, Sub-Op. C45B revealed a different pattern of deposits in this group than that found in other groups of similar size and complexity investigated in the Caracol settlement. The point here is that no burials were made in front of the eastern structure, where at least one burial was made in the eastern locus of other groups (eg., Strs. C11 - C14, Strs. M11 - M14, Strs. M41 - M43 and M86). This suggests that the primary function of Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 was non-residential, directed perhaps more towards ritual activity. No excavation was conducted to penetrate the construction of Str. 3E35 so it remains unknown whether a tomb was included in the construction of this building. Thus it also remains unknown what status the people who used the group enjoyed within Caracol society.

Structures M41 - M43 and Structure M87: Operation C51

Structures M41 - M43 and Str. M87 comprise a small group of four buildings on two agricultural terraces, 1.06 km southeast of the epicenter and 194 m northeast of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.7). The group was discovered and Strs. M41 - M43 were mapped in 1987 by Susan Jaeger and appear in the 1987 publication of the Caracol site map (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). A fourth building was discovered just to the east of Str. M41 when the group was cleared for excavation in 1989. This small building was

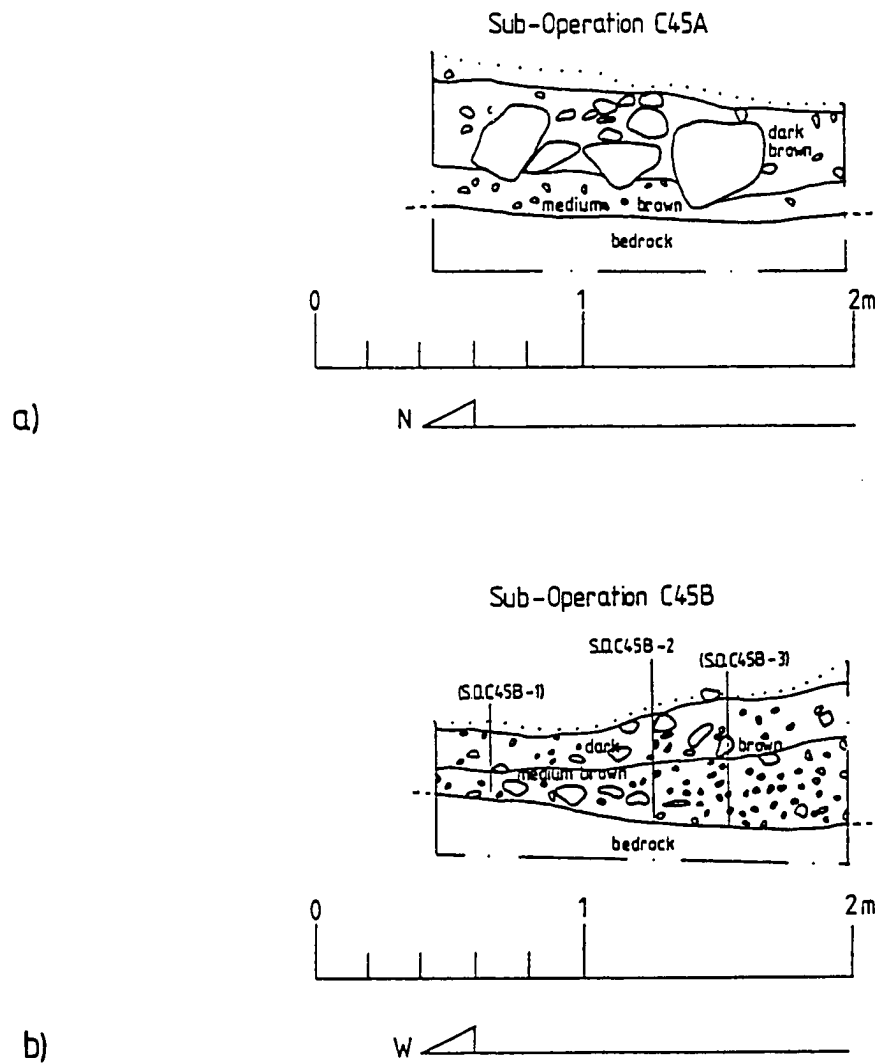


Figure 5.36. a) Sub-Operation C45A section, b) Sub-Operation C45B section.

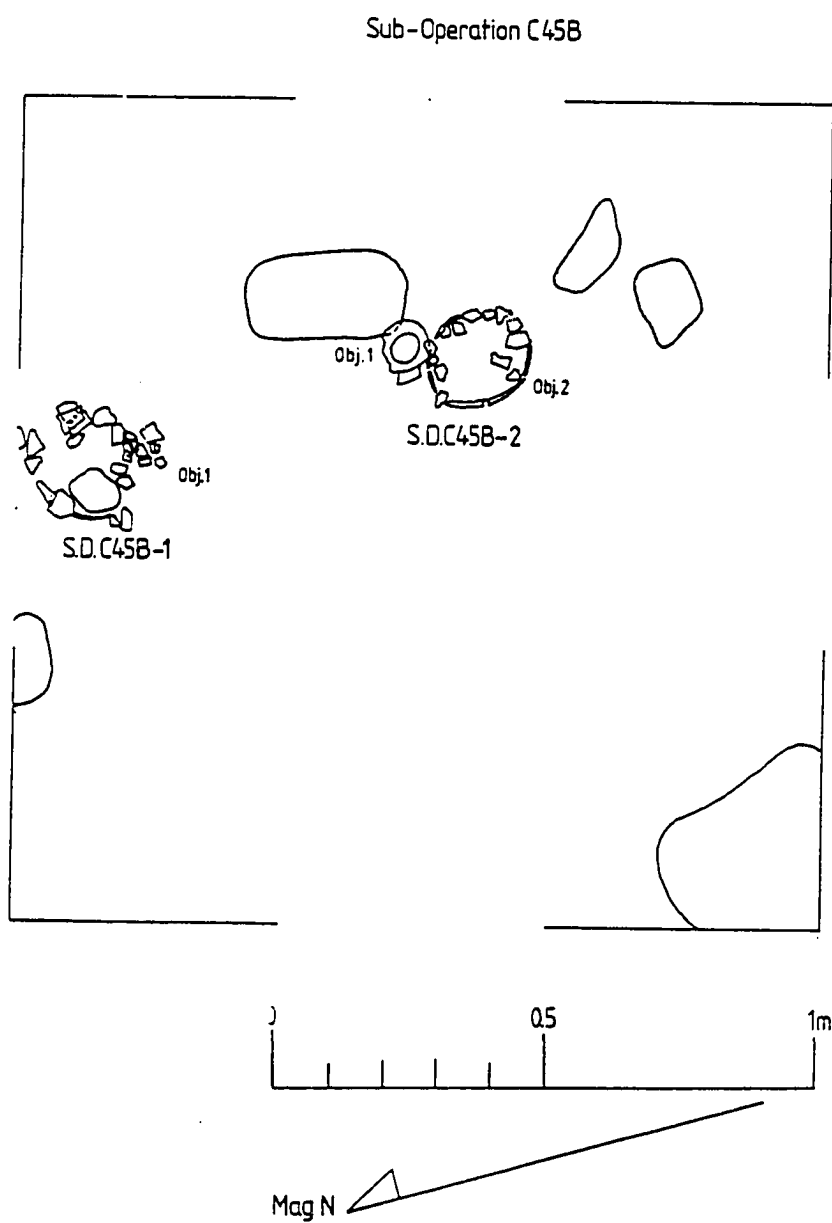


Figure 5.37. Sub-Operation C45B Special Deposits.

designated Str. M87 because this was the next structure number to be assigned in numbering sequence for the M quadrant. The buildings range in size from approximately 7 m² to 31.3 m² and rise from less than 0.5 m to 1.25 m above the plaza surface. The arrangement of the buildings around the central plaza make this an example of a Type 2 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

The Str. M41 group was chosen for investigation primarily because the buildings were constructed directly on the terrace surfaces, the first of this kind of group to be tested in this area of the Caracol settlement. A second reason for excavating this group was that the eastern building, Str. M42, had a tomb within its core. This feature was discovered because the entrance to the chamber was open on the north side of the mound. Operation C51 was assigned to the excavations conducted in 1989 under the supervision of Clarissa Hunter from Ball State University.

Structure M42

Structure M42 is the eastern building of the group defined by Strs. M41 - M43 and Str. M87. It rises 1.25 m above the plaza floor and covers an area of 31.3 m². When the group was discovered in 1987, an opening on the north side of the structure indicated that a tomb was part of the construction of the building. The tomb appeared to have been open for some time judging by the moss growing on the

walls of the entrance. The entrance was open enough, without excavation, to reveal that the chamber was oriented north-south and that its western wall had collapsed into the open space, partially filling the chamber with construction material. There was no indication that the chamber had been looted, so Sub-Op. C51A was assigned to the salvage excavation of this feature.

Excavation

The tomb, designated S.D. C51A-1, appeared to have been open for some time and a large amount of construction material filled the chamber, so the excavators expected to recover a poorly preserved interment. A great deal of effort was necessary to remove the large rubble from within the chamber, as the entrance was fairly restrictive (Fig. 5.38). As excavation proceeded, the roughly dressed stone walls of the entrance were exposed as well as the rough boulder construction of the main chamber (Fig. 5.38). The original floor may have been packed dirt because no evidence for a plaster floor was recovered. The entrance to the tomb measured 0.79 m north-south, 0.50 m east-west and was 1.34 m high. The step down into the chamber was 1.10 m high. The chamber itself measured 3.40 m north-south, 1.10 m east-west, and ranged from 1.60 m to 1.70 m high (Figs. 5.38 and 5.39). A vault spring was located 0.76m to 0.90m above the

floor and the volume of the chamber was approximately 3.56 m³.

A total of 3.61 m³ of humus, dark brown matrix and construction fill were removed from the tomb. The material recovered through this effort included rodent bone, chert debris, and sherds as well as a total of 740.0 grams of granite and quartz groundstone fragments and 274.0 grams of slate pieces. The latter were tentatively identified as fragments from chisels or groundstone axes. These and the groundstone fragments may have originally been in the construction fill of Str. M42 and subsequently collapsed into the chamber. It appears that the tomb was either a) never used or b) was used for temporary interments. The possibility of the latter alternative is indicated by the fact that many of the burials at Caracol include more than one individual, some of them disarticulated at the time of interment at that particular locus (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase in press). This indicates that the bodies had been allowed to deflesh or were buried somewhere else before being placed in their final location.

Platform Relationships to Structure M42

A test excavation, measuring 1.5 m north-south by 1.5 m east-west, was placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M42 (Fig. 5.40). This excavation was assigned Sub-Op. C51B and was intended to supplement Sub-Op. C51A by recovering poten-

tially dateable deposits and provide information regarding the construction of the terrace and the group.

The humus was removed and a concentration of smashed, partial vessels, mixed with rubble and a dark brown matrix, was revealed in the eastern portion of the excavation. Some of the rubble may have collapsed from the structure but some of it may be part of the construction fill for a front step. This step (U.1) was not preserved within the limits of Sub-Op. C51B, however, it was visible in the north excavation limit and is defined by two roughly-shaped, limestone blocks resting on a medium brown matrix. The excavation did not expose the front wall of Str. M42 thus, U.1 may have been a small, outset step, measuring more than 50 cm east-west. Unit 1 rested on a level equivalent in elevation to the upper edge of the terrace (Fig. 5.40). No evidence for a plastered floor was recovered, thus, the plaza floor (U.1) associated with the step may have been constructed of packed dirt. The partial vessels may be associated with the last use of Str. M42; alternatively, because none of the vessels were reconstructible, they may have been deposited in this locus during the construction of U.1.

Beneath the humus and the rubble, the matrix changed to a medium brown material. In the western portion of the excavation, this material was fairly heavily mixed with small stone; however, in the eastern portion of the excavation, beneath the rubble and the concentration of sherds,

the medium brown matrix was less firmly packed. The loose matrix extended to approximately 59 cm below the humus where it changed to a more firmly packed, medium brown material, lightly mixed with small and medium rubble. Within the upper elevation of this matrix, a burial designated S.D. C51B-1 was exposed in the east excavation limit. The burial consisted of a single, disarticulated adult male enclosed within a series of ceramic vessels (Fig. 5.41). The interment was placed in a pit (U.2) dug into the medium brown matrix and covered by a lighter brown material mixed with small pieces of soft limestone (Fig. 5.40). Unit 1 may have been constructed after the deposit of S.D.C51B-1 in U.2; however, based on the looseness of the matrix above the burial and based on the poor preservation of U.1 within the excavation limits, it is possible that a portion of the step was removed to deposit S.D.C51B-1 in this locus and then replaced. This deposit is discussed further below.

Large limestone slabs, as well as medium and small rubble were encountered below the level of S.D.C51B-1 in the same medium brown matrix within which the burial was intruded. This matrix was followed to approximately 90 cm to 100 cm below the humus and is believed to be part of the construction fill of the terrace upon which this group was built. Within this context, three partial, miniature cache vessels were found at different elevations and in different locations within the excavation. The most complete vessel

(C51B/11-1) was a miniature bowl with a slightly flaring rim, with a rim diameter measuring approximately 7 cm and a height of 3.3 cm. The other partial vessels were similar in size and shape to this. All were represented by half, or less, of the vessel and were not deemed to be in situ. It is possible that these vessels were deposited in front of Str. M42 and were disturbed by subsequent activity in this locus. Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, the vessels were initially deposited in some other disturbed locus and redeposited here as incidental construction fill.

The medium brown matrix changed to a dark brown material which covered some of the lower limestone slabs. Within this matrix, approximately 1 m below the surface, a concentration of smashed sherds was found in the northeast corner of the excavation, resting on one of the slabs. Fragments of at least two vessels were represented, one of which was identified as a modeled incensario. Bedrock was found 1.4 m below the surface.

Special Deposit C51B-1. This deposit was a burial of an adult male within a series of ceramic vessels (Fig. 5.41). The burial was placed in U.2 which was dug into the medium brown matrix and covered by a looser and lighter brown material. At the time of burial, the body was disarticulated and incomplete. The post-cranial remains conspicuously lacked ribs and not all phalanges were found. The pelvis was absent and some of the long bones appeared to be

cut in order to fit them into the space defined by the vessels. The identification of this individual as an adult is based on the teeth and the sex identification is based on the size of the mastoid process. These identifications were made by Diane Z. Chase (personal communication, 1989). The vessels used to enclose the body include at least one jar (labeled vessels 1,4 and 9 in the field), a red-slipped dish with a ring base (labeled vessel 3 in the field), two red-slipped cylinders (labeled vessels 2 and 8 in the field), and possibly part of an incensario. No other artifacts were included with this burial. The final depth of the interment was 75 cm below the eastern surface of the excavation.

Structure M42 Recovery Lots

Lot C51A/1 is assigned to the material recovered from within the tomb (Sub-Op. C51A) located within the construction of Str. M42. The material was recovered from the humus and collapsed construction fill removed from the chamber and included rodent bone, chert debris, and sherds as well as a total of 740.0 grams of granite and quartz groundstone fragments and 274.0 grams of slate pieces. The latter were tentatively identified as fragments from chisels or groundstone axes. These and the groundstone fragments may have originally been in the construction fill of Str. M42 and subsequently collapsed into the chamber.

Lot C51B/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the humus and dark brown matrices removed from Sub-Op. C51B.

The artifacts are attributed to the use and abandonment of Str. M42 and include partial ceramic vessels, incensario fragments, pieces of obsidian blades and unworked slate, and chert debitage. The vessel forms recovered from among the rubble included at least one red-slipped bowl, five red-slipped dishes (some with decorated flanges and at least one tripod), two jars, and one incensario. The incensario fragments indicate that Str. M42 was the locus of ritual activity.

Lot C51B/2 is associated with the loose, medium brown matrix removed beneath the rubble and concentration of sherds in the eastern portion of Sub-Op. C51B. This material is associated with the deposit of S.D.C51B-1 and the construction or repair of U.1. The artifacts recovered from this Lot include an obsidian core, some incensario fragments and a few pieces of what appeared to be burnt deer bone (J. Morton, personal communication 1989).

Lot C51B/3 is assigned to the medium brown matrix mixed with rubble and large slabs which was removed in the western portion of the excavation and beneath Lot C51B/2. This matrix is part of the construction fill of the terrace. The artifacts recovered from this Lot include fragments of chert, slate, a partial greenstone celt, and three partial cache vessels. A sherd from a modeled-carved vessel was also recovered from within the terrace construction fill which indicates that the terrace was constructed during the

late part of the Late Classic Period or, possibly, during the Terminal Classic Period (Sabloff 1975:198).

Lot C51B/4 is assigned to the material recovered from the dark brown matrix removed above bedrock. The artifacts associated with this Lot include at least two potentially reconstructible ceramic vessels, one of which may be a modeled incensario.

Structure M42 Summary

Structure M42 was constructed directly on the terrace surface. A tomb (Sub-Op. C51A) was part of the construction of the building but no evidence was recovered to indicate that a permanent human interment was deposited within the chamber. A burial of an adult male (S.D.C51B-1) was deposited within the terrace construction fill beneath the front step of the building. Based on the artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C51B, Str. M42 was the locus of ritual activity during the later part of the Late Classic Period.

Structure M42 Units

Unit 1: Front step of Str. M42, which was not preserved within Sub-Op. C51B but was visible in the northern excavation limit.

Structure M42 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Reconstructed plaza floor associated with the final use of Str. M42.

UNIT 2: Burial pit dug into the terrace construction fill for S.D.C51B-1.

Structure M42 Recovery Lots

- Lot C51A/ 1: Humus and collapsed construction fill removed from within the tomb.
- Lot C51B/ 1: Humus and dark brown matrix removed from Sub-Op. C51B.
- Lot C51B/ 2: Loose medium brown matrix removed in the eastern portion of Sub-Op. C51B, in the locus of U.1.
- Lot C51B/ 3: Medium brown matrix mixed with small and medium rubble as well as large limestone slabs. This matrix was part of the construction fill of the terrace.
- Lot C51B/ 4: Dark brown matrix mixed with large limestone slabs removed above bedrock.

Structure M41

Structure M41 is the northern building of the Str. M41 - Str. M43, Str. M87 group. The building rises 1.0 m above the plaza surface and covers an area of 30.4 m². This locus was chosen for excavation in order to obtain data regarding the use and possibly the construction of this part of the group. A test excavation, 1.54 m north-south by 1.61 m east-west, was placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. M41 (Fig. 5.42). The excavation was assigned Sub-Op. C51C.

Excavation

The humus was removed to reveal a dark brown matrix, mixed with small stone. This, in turn, was removed to reveal a layer of packed, small stone 20 cm to 30 cm below the humus. This level may have served as bedding for a plaza surface, however, this layer was not found in Sub-Op. C51B. It is possible that this bedding was, at one point in time, present in the Str. M42 locus and that due to erosion is no longer present. Based on the elevation of this layer in Sub-Op. C51C, the bedding would have been found a few centimeters beneath the ground surface and would have abutted the front step of Str. M42. The front wall of Str. M41 (U.1) was also exposed when the humus and brown matrices were removed. The wall was constructed of roughly-dressed, limestone blocks. Beneath the packed, small stone, the matrix changed to a medium brown mixed with large stone, similar to that found in Sub-Op. C51B. Soft bedrock was met 40 cm to 50 cm below the humus.

No deposits were recovered from this excavation which would directly indicate when the building was constructed. However, based on the information from the other excavations conducted within this group, Str. M41 was constructed and definitely used during the Late Classic Period.

Structure M41 Recovery Lots

Lot C51C/1 is associated with the humus and dark brown matrices removed the layer of packed, small stone. The

artifacts recovered from this Lot included fragments from obsidian blades and assorted sherds.

Lot C51C/2 is associated with the layer of packed, small stone which may have served as the bedding for a plaza floor. It ranges from 6 cm to 18 cm thick. No artifacts were recovered from this Lot.

Lot C51C/3 is associated with the lower level of Sub-Op. C51C. The material recovered from this Lot included obsidian blade fragments as well as chert debris.

Structure M41 Units

Unit 1: Front wall of Str. M41

Structure M41 Recovery Lots

C51C/ 1: Humus and dark brown matrix removed above Lot C51C/2.

C51C/ 2: The layer of packed, small stone beneath Lot C51C/1.

C51C/ 3: The medium brown matrix, mixed with large stone, beneath Lot C51C/2.

Structures M41 - M43 and Structure M87 Group Summary

Based on the size of the group and its general configuration, as compared to similar groups excavated in other parts of the Caracol residential zone (such as the Str. 3F1 group, Op. C53), Strs. M41 - M43 and Str. M87 probably functioned as a residential group. This is somewhat supported by the material recovered from Sub-Ops. C51B and

C51C. Both Strs. M41 and M42 cover an area greater than the minimum residential unit defined by Ashmore (1981c:47) which supports the possibility that at least one of these buildings functioned as a residence.

The group and the terraces upon which it sits were built and occupied towards the end of the Late Classic Period or even possibly during the Terminal Classic Period. This is based on the model-carved sherd recovered from Sub-Op. C51B. Model-carved vessels have been considered trade items and horizon markers for the Terminal Classic period at the centers of Altar de Sacraficios, Uaxactun and Seibal (Sabloff 1975: 198); however, at Caracol, these may have been produced and used slightly earlier (A. F. Chase personal communication, 1989).

Structures 3F1, 3F2, 3F6 - 3F8: Operation C53

Structures 3F1, 3F2, 3F6 - 3F8 form a small plazuela group, situated on two agricultural terraces, 140 m south of the Conchita Causeway and 2.15 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.10). The buildings range in size from 3.80 m² to 37.12 m² and rise from less than 50 cm to 1.00 m above the plaza. Structures 3F1 and 3F2 were discovered and mapped in 1987 by Susan Jaeger and appear on the published Caracol map (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). Structures 3F6 - 3F8 were not discovered until the group was cleared for excavation in 1989 and were assigned the next available

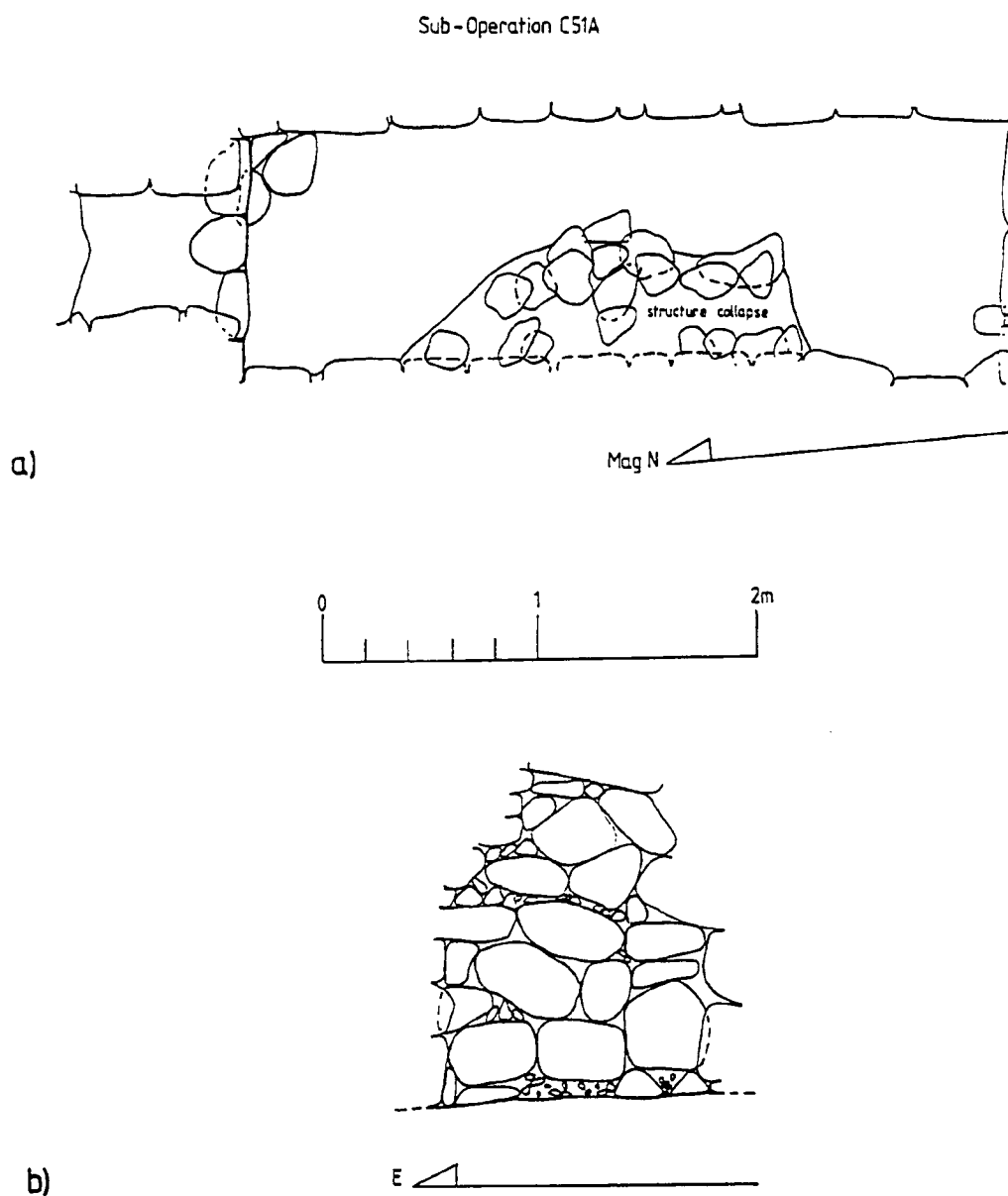


Figure 5.38. Structure M42 Special Deposit C51A-1 -
a) plan, b) elevation of the south wall.

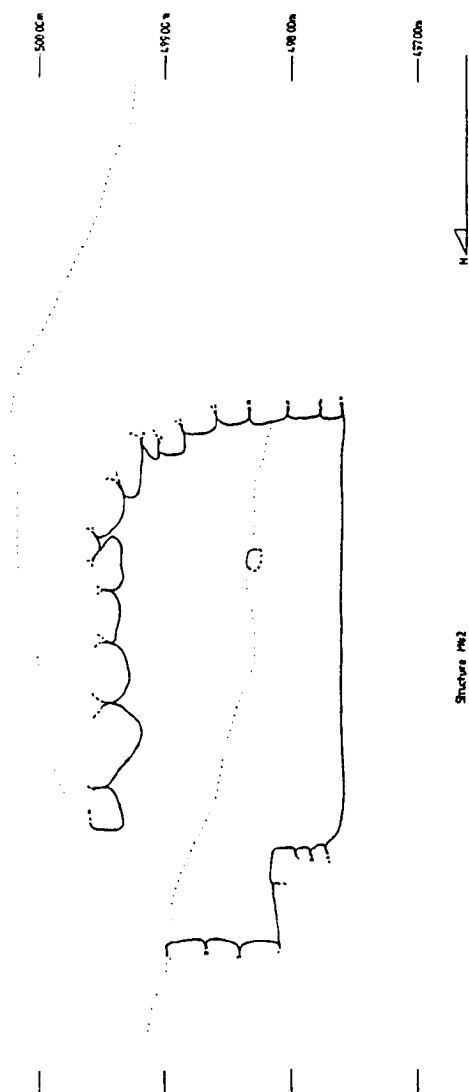


Figure 5.39. Structure M42 north-south mound profile with the north-south section of Special Deposit C51A-1.

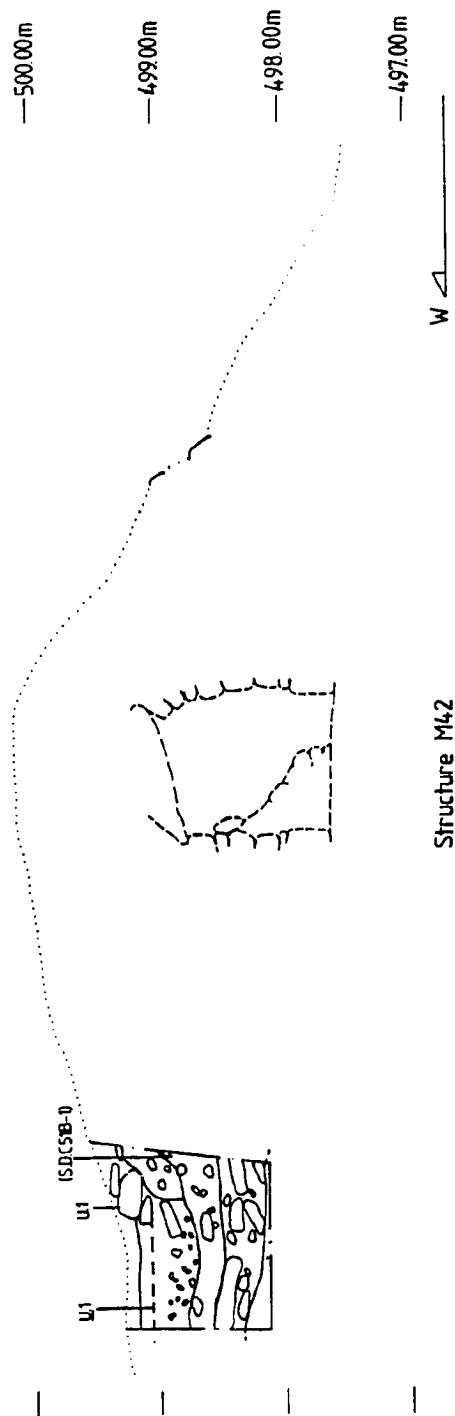


Figure 5.40. Structure M42 east-west mound profile with the east-west cross-section of Special Deposit C51A-1 and the section of Sub-Operation C51B.

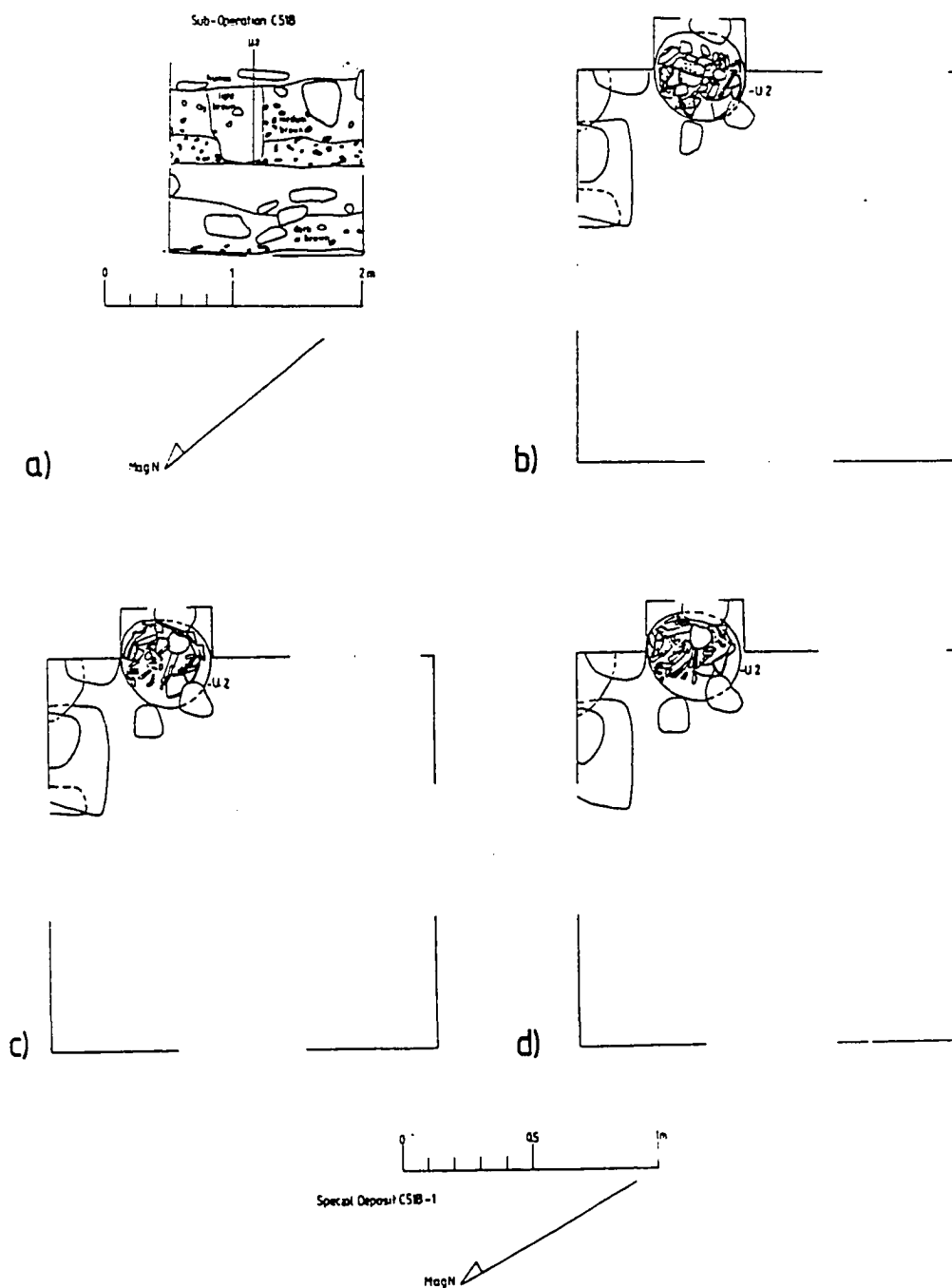


Figure 5.41. Sub-Operation C51B Special Deposit C51B -
 a) section of the northern excavation limit showing the deposit, b) upper layer, c) middle layer, d) lower layer.

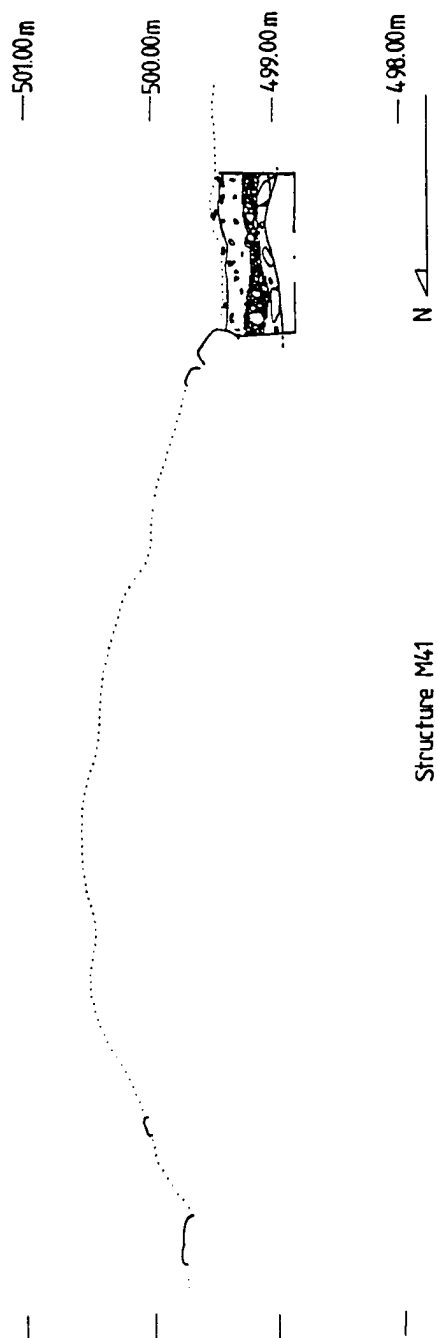


Figure 5.42. Structure M41 north-south mound profile with the section of Sub-Operation C51C.

structure numbers in the 3F quadrant of the site. Structures 3F1, 3F2, 3F6 - 3F8 are an example of a Type 4 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

The Str. 3F1 group was chosen for investigation for two reasons -- 1) Str. 3F2, the eastern building, had a partially open tomb, and 2) this group was built directly on the terrace surfaces and it was hoped that data comparable to that recovered from Op. C51 would be gained. Operation C53 was assigned to the excavations conducted in the Str. 3F1 group during the 1989 field season under the direction of Wendy Giddens from the University of Central Florida.

Structure 3F?

When the group was mapped in 1987, Str. 3F2 had a depression on its summit and on its north side, the entrance to a tomb was partially exposed. Sub-Operation C53A was assigned to the investigation of the partially exposed entrance. A test pit, measuring 0.75 m north-south by 1.20 m east-west, was placed over the entrance in order to gain access to the interior. Excavation revealed a shaft-like entrance constructed of roughly smoothed, limestone blocks, extending to a depth of 1.20 m. The east-west dimension of the entrance was 0.76 m and the north-south dimension decreased from 0.70 m at the top to 0.51 m at the bottom. The most striking feature of the entrance was that it was partially blocked on the south side by a 50 cm thick wall, which was part of the original construction of the tomb

(Fig. 5.43). A 40 cm to 50 cm opening was left between the top of the wall and the lintel which greatly restricted access to the chamber. A total of 1.25 m³ of humus and packed dark brown matrix were removed from the chamber, which was designated S.D. C53A-1, to reveal a rough limestone block construction and a bedrock floor. The bone recovered from this excavation includes agouti and snake (J. Morton, personal communication 1989), probably of recent origin. No evidence of a human interment was found. The artifacts recovered from within the chamber include 67 fragments of chert (total weight = 871.6 gms), three obsidian blade fragments, one slate fragment and two incensario fragments. The final dimensions of the chamber were 0.72 m to 0.86 m east-west, 1.82 m north-south, and 1.0 m to 1.4 m high with a volume of 1.2 m³; a possible vault spring was located 70 cm above the floor (Fig. 5.44).

The tomb in Str. 3F2 is similar to the tomb in Str. M42 (S.D. C51A-1) in that no human remains were recovered. It is possible that if the tomb were built for a specific individual, that person died too far away from Caracol for the body to be returned for interment. However, it is more probable that the tomb served as a temporary facility for a body or bodies which were subsequently interred elsewhere (see also A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press).

Platform Relationships to Structure 3F2

A 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit was placed in front of, and on axis to, Str. 3F2 (Fig. 5.45). This excavation was intended to recover potentially datable deposits from which to assess when the group was occupied and when the associated plaza and terraces were built. Below the humus and sparse fallen rubble from the structure, a badly fragmented plaster floor (U.1) was found, 24 cm to 30 cm below the humus. The floor was best preserved in the western portion of the test pit, extending up to 70 cm east of the west excavation limit. It is likely that this surface was cut through when a second tomb (S.D.C53B-6) was constructed and Str. 3F2 modified. UNIT 1 was removed to reveal a series of special deposits.

A single miniature ceramic vessel was deposited, right side up, north of the building's central axis in a medium brown matrix. This cache was designated S.D.C53B-1. South of the building's axis, a set of caches and a poorly preserved burial were also found. Sub-Operation C53B was extended 20 cm south in the southwest corner of the test pit in order to recover this material.

A cache of three ceramic vessels, designated S.D.C53B-2, were placed in a coarse, medium brown matrix. The cache consisted of two modeled and appliqued face vessels, placed right side up and one on top of the other (Fig. 5.46). The third vessel was plain and was placed on its side, adjacent

to the other two vessels. Just to the east of S.D.C53B-2, in the same coarse, medium brown matrix was a lip-to-lip cache of two miniature ceramic vessels on a small limestone slab (Fig. 5.46). This deposit was assigned S.D.C53B-3 and is discussed in more detail below.

Immediately below S.D.C53B-2 and S.D.C53B-3, the matrix changed to a looser and less coarse, medium brown soil. Within this matrix, S.D.C53B-4 was deposited. It consisted of at least two smashed ceramic vessels and assorted fragments of appliques which are generally associated with cache vessels or incense burners. The sherds from the two vessels were mixed together; that is to say that the vessels were not smashed in situ, rather they were redeposited in this locus (Fig. 5.46). Beneath S.D.C53B-4, in the same matrix, was a very poorly preserved burial which was assigned a separate special deposit number. Special Deposit C53B-5 consisted of some skull fragments and teeth of a child (D. Z. Chase personal communication, 1989), as well as some small limestone beads which may have been part of a necklace or bracelet worn by the child. This burial was made on an earlier plaster floor (U.2) which was preserved only below this deposit and in no other place within the excavation. This floor was located 16 cm below U.1, approximately 32 cm below the humus. These deposits are discussed in more detail below.

Even though these deposits, S.D.C53B-2 through S.D.C53B-5, were assigned separate special deposit numbers, they appear to all be part of no more than two related events. Special Deposit C53B-5 was placed on U.2 and was covered by S.D.C53B-4, which, in turn, was partially covered by a limestone slab. There was no evidence for a floor sealing these deposits therefore, either as part of the same event, or shortly thereafter, S.D.C53B-3 and S.D.C53B-2 were deposited - one directly on the slab and the other directly on S.D.C53B-4. These deposits were then sealed by U.1.

The excavation was placed in such a way as to expose the front wall (U.1) of Str. 3F2. This precipitated the discovery of a second tomb (S.D.C53B-6) just to the west of the one investigated in Sub-Op. C53A, behind the front wall of the building (Fig. 5.45). Sub-Operation C53B was extended 0.85 m east in order to expose the capstones and facilitate the investigation of this deposit.

Approximately 1.53 m³ of a fairly loose, dark brown matrix, mixed with small and medium rubble, was removed from within the tomb to reveal the interment of two adults, placed side by side with their heads to the south. At least ten ceramic vessels and ten small artifacts were included in this interment (Fig. 5.47). The chamber was constructed of rough limestone blocks on bedrock, which served as the tomb floor (Fig. 5.48). Excavation of the chamber revealed that the north wall was constructed of small rubble rather than

the larger blocks which characterized the other walls and thus was not as well defined as the other walls. In fact, the north wall almost appeared to be part of the construction fill of the building. This deposit is discussed in more detail below. The loose dark brown matrix removed above the deposit yielded a total of 4.65 kg of chert debitage as well as 0.45 kg of chert fragments with retouched edges and incensario fragments.

Based on stratigraphic evidence, S.D.C53B-6 may have been a later addition to Str. 3F2. UNIT 1 was cut and a pit was cut into the matrix beneath it in order to construct the chamber; then the latest version of Str. 3F2 was built. However, the excavation did not explore the relationship of this chamber with the one investigated in Sub-Op. C53A so it remains unclear if the construction of these chambers were coeval or sequent events.

Within the test pit, the excavation continued below the level of S.D.C53B-5 and the sparse remains of U.2 were removed. Where the floor was not preserved, the matrix consisted of a medium brown clay, heavily mixed with marl and small stone. This changed approximately 70 cm below the humus to a grey clay mixed with pebbles. Approximately 20cm below this was a fairly soft, dark pink matrix mixed with some large rubble. This was followed by a fairly soft limestone bedrock 1.20 m below humus.

Special Deposit C53B-1. This deposit was a cache of a miniature bowl, deposited right side up and was sealed by U.1. The bowl was unslipped red (2.5YR5/8) with a rim diameter of 8.2 cm and a height of 3.0 cm to 3.1 cm. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C53B-2. Special Deposit C53B-2 was a cache of three vessels in a medium brown, coarse, clay-like matrix (Fig. 5.46). The deposit was probably sealed by U.1 as the vessels were found a few centimeters below the elevation of this poorly preserved surface. Object 1 and its lid were placed upright on top of Object 2. Both vessels have appliqued faces which were oriented to the west. Object 3 was placed on its side, just to the south of Objects 1 and 2. This vessel is undecorated but has a conical lid associated with it, which has a tri-lobed flower applied to the top as a handle. Inside this vessel were twelve oyster shell fragments and one conch shell fragment.

Object 1 (C53B/8-2a,b) is a deep sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face and a dome shaped lid. The eyes are modeled but the nose and the mouth are appliqued. The face is distinguished by one flat disk attached to each cheek and a ceramic plug is part of the mouth. The exterior and interior surfaces of Object 1 are unslipped red (2.5YR 5/6) which fades to brown (7.5YR5/4) towards the base. The diameter of the rim measures 14.1 cm and the height of the bowl measures 12.0 cm. The lid to this vessel is also an

unslipped red. The rim diameter is 13.0 cm and the height is 1.8 cm.

Object 2 has the same form and face characteristics as Object 1.

Object 3 is a plain, unslipped bowl. The exterior surface is a yellowish red. The lid associated with this vessel is cone shaped and is decorated with an appliqued, tri-lobed flower for a handle.

Object 4 (C53B/8-1,a-m) consists of the collection of shell fragments found inside Object 3. One of the fragments is from a conch shell and the remainder are pieces of oyster shell.

Special Deposit C53B-3. This deposit was a cache of two miniature vessels placed lip-to-lip on a small limestone slab (Fig. 5.46). It is believed that this deposit was part of the same ritual event as the deposit of S.D.C53B-2. The vessels are similar in size and shape as those recovered from S.D.C34C-3 and S.D.C59A-2. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C53B-4. This was a deposit of at least two badly smashed vessels and assorted fragments of appliques, either from other cache vessels or incense burners (Fig. 5.46). The appliques included noses, eyes, and flat discs generally found on the cheeks of modeled faces. The sherds from the two vessels were mixed together, thus indi-

cating that they were redeposited in this locus. It is possible that this deposit was actually part of the burial in S.D.C53B-5; however, since the vessel forms are associated with cache vessels or incensarios elsewhere at Caracol, this deposit is interpreted as a separate but related cache rather than part of S.D.C53B-5.

Special Deposit C53B-5. Special Deposit C53B-5 was a very poorly preserved burial of a single individual. The only bone consisted of miscellaneous skull fragments and assorted incisors and molars. The individual was a child, approximately 4 years of age at the time of death (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). Included with this burial were seven flat, limestone beads, ranging in diameter from 0.2 cm to 0.9 cm, with a total weight of 2.0 gms. These were probably part of a necklace or bracelet which the child wore at the time of interment.

Special Deposit C53B-6. This deposit was a burial made in a tomb, located just behind U.1 of Str. 3F2 (Figs. 5.47 and 5.48). It was constructed of roughly dressed limestone blocks and bedrock served as the floor. Two adults were interred side by side, with their heads to the south. Individual 1 was placed in a prone position in the western portion of the chamber. Due to the fragmented nature of Individual 2, it was not possible to tell whether this person was placed face up or face down in the eastern por-

tion of the tomb. Sex identification was not possible for either individual. Based on the teeth recovered, Individual 1 was between 25 and 35 years of age and Individual 2 was between 35 and 45 years of age at the time of death (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). Individual 1 had at least one jade inlaid and notched incisor. Minimally ten ceramic vessels and ten small objects were included with this burial. Five vessels were placed adjacent to Individual 2 while four vessels were placed adjacent to, or on, Individual 1. One small vessel, of a cache form, was found scattered about the chamber. The tomb measured 3.0 m to 3.7 m north-south by 2.38 m east-west and 1.1 m to 1.2 m high. A vault spring was located 30 cm to 44 cm above the floor and the volume measured approximately 3.88 m³ (Fig. 5.45).

Object 1 (C53B/16-24) is a very eroded, polychrome bowl. The exterior surface has a 5 mm wide band of red, immediately below which is a series of overlapping large red spots encircling the vessel. The red slip is between 2.5YR 4/6 and 2.5YR4/8. Emanating from the band of red spots is a black curvilinear design which repeated a total of four times. This design is painted on a background of reddish yellow slip (5YR6/6). The interior surface has traces of a black (5YR2.5/1) band around the rim and traces of an orange (2.5YR5/8) slip. The rim has a diameter of 21.5 cm and the vessel ranges in height from 6.9 cm to 7.4 cm. Object 1 was placed on the legs of Individual 2, adjacent to Object 8.

Object 2 (C53B/16-18) is a very eroded dish with a ring base. Traces of red slip (10R4/8) are present on the interior surface over a yellowish-red underslip (7.5YR7/6). The exterior surface is an unslipped light red (2.5YR6/6), fading to a reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/6). The rim diameter measures 24 cm and the height of the vessel varies from 5.2 cm to 5.4 cm. This vessel was found in pieces in the south-east portion of the chamber, along the east wall.

Object 3 (C53B/16-17) is a partial, shallow ceramic dish with a spout. The exterior and interior surfaces are an unslipped reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/6). The vessel was included in the burial with part of its spout missing as no sherd was recovered from the excavation to fit this old break. The width of the dish is 12.3 cm and the width of the spout is 10.1 cm. The length of the dish is 15.4 cm and the height ranges from 2.4 cm for the bowl to 4.8 cm for the spout. Object 3 was placed on the legs of Individual 1 towards the west wall.

Object 4 (C53B/16-25) is an eroded polychrome bowl similar in form and decoration to Object 1. The exterior surface has a 5 mm wide black band (5YR3/1) encircling the rim. Immediately below this is a series of overlapping large red (2.5YR4/6) spots. The black (5YR3/1) curvilinear design emanates from the red spots and repeats a total of four times. The background slip is orange (between 5YR5/6 and 5YR5/8). The interior surface has traces of a black

stripe, 2 mm wide, encircling the rim and traces of a bright orange (5YR6/8) slip. The rim diameter measures 21.5 cm and the height of the bowl ranges from 7.1 cm to 7.6 cm. Object 4 was placed adjacent to Objects 6 and 7 in the northeast portion of the tomb.

Object 5 (C53B/16-23) is an unslipped, flaring walled dish, similar in form and color to Object 8. The interior and exterior surfaces are red (2.5YR5/8) fading to patches of pale brown (7.5YR6/4). Object 5 has an uneven rim which has a diameter measuring 22.5 cm and ranges in height from 3.9 cm to 4.6 cm. This vessel was placed next to the head of Individual 1, in the southwest corner.

Object 6 (C53B/16-23) is an unslipped dish with a ring base and a crimped "pie crust" rim. The exterior surface of the vessel is a patchy red (2.5YR5/6), dark reddish grey (5YR4/2) and dark grey (10YR4/2). The interior surface is a mottled red (2.5YR4/6), reddish brown (5YR4/3), pale brown (10YR6/3) and grey (10YR4/1). The rim of Object 6 measures 26.5 cm and the height ranges from 5.1 cm to 5.4 cm. The dish was placed on top of Object 7, adjacent to the legs of Individual 2 in the northeast corner of the chamber.

Object 7 (C53B/16-19) is a badly eroded polychrome dish. The interior is decorated with a 3 mm wide band of black (7.5YR2/0), followed by a 9 mm wide band of red (2.5YR4/6) encircling the vessel just below the rim. Below the red band are traces of a bright orange slip (7.5YR6/6) on an

underslip of yellowish-red (7.5YR4/4). The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) fading to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR7/6 and 7.5YR6/6) towards the base. The diameter of the rim measures 27 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 5.5 cm to 6.8 cm. Object 7 was placed adjacent to the legs of Individual 2, along the east wall, beneath Object 6.

Object 8 (C53B/16-20) is an unslipped flaring walled dish with an uneven rim. The interior and exterior surfaces are red (2.5YR5/8) fading to patches of yellowish-red (7.5YR6/6). The rim diameter measures 23.5 cm and the height ranges from 3.7 cm to 4.5 cm. Object 8 was placed next to Object 1 on the legs of Individual 2.

Object 9 (C53B/16-26) is an unslipped red dish. The exterior and interior surfaces are red (2.5YR5/6) fading to a reddish-yellow (7.5YR6/6) toward the base. The rim diameter measures 22.2 cm and the height of the dish ranges from 5.5 cm to 5.8 cm. Object 9 was placed in the southeast corner of the chamber, next to Individual 1's skull, with Object 5.

Object 10 (C53B/16-1) is a carved shell marker in the shape of a four petal flower. Alternatively, this marker may be identified as a "kin" sign. Object 10 was found in the southeasy corner of the chamber and measures 1.80 cm long by 1.90 cm wide. It is 0.3 cm thick and weighs 2.0 gms.

Object 11 (C53B/16-2) is a pinkish-white shell bead, rounded on one side and flat on the other. The bead was placed adjacent to Individual 1's skull. It has a diameter of 1.35 cm, a thickness of 0.2 cm and weighs 0.7 gms.

Object 12 (C53B/16-3a,b) consists of two carved shell ornaments found towards the south wall of the chamber, near Individual 1's skull. The pieces are rounded with a five petal flower carved on one surface and a central drill hole. C53B/16-3a measures 2.2 cm long, 2.3 cm wide, and 0.6 cm thick. It weighs 5.2 gms. C53B/16-3b measures 2.2 cm long, 2.1 cm wide, and 0.6 cm thick. This ornament weighs 4.2 gms.

Object 13 (C53B/16-5a,b) consists of two limestone spindle whorls. C53B/16-5a is a plain white spindle whorl which has a diameter of 2.7 cm. It is 1.4 cm thick and weighs 14.1 gms. C53B/16-5b is a pinkish white spindle whorl with a five petal flower incised design. It measures 2.3 cm in diameter and is 1.2 cm thick. It weighs 8.3 gms. One spindle whorl was found in the shoulder area and the other was found among the leg bones of Individual 1.

Object 14 (C53B/16-6) is a metallic blue fragment of a hematite mirror back with one polished surface. The mirror fragment measures 1.0 cm long, 1.1 cm wide, and 0.2 cm thick. It weighs 0.6 gms.

Object 15 (C53B/16-7) is a fragment of a polished dark green celt. This was placed in the shoulder area of Indi-

vidual 1. It is 4.5 cm long, 3.0 cm wide, 1.1 cm thick and weighs 16.0 gms.

Object 16 (C53B/16-13 a,b) consists of two small, rectangular, limestone blocks. These were placed in the southwest corner of the chamber, adjacent to Object 5. C53b/16-13a measures 5.0 cm long, 2.1 cm wide, and 1.5 cm thick. It weighs 25.2 gms. C53B/16-13b measures 6.1 cm long, 2.1 cm wide, and 1.9 cm thick. This bar is heavier than the other one, weighing 35.4 gms.

Object 17 (C53B/16-21) is a miniature vessel of a form generally associated with cache vessels. This vessel was not assigned a number in the field as it was smashed and the fragments scattered around the chamber. It is an unslipped light brown (7.5YR6/4), with a rim diameter of 6.4 cm and a height of 2.7 cm to 3.0 cm.

Structure 3F2 Recovery Lots

Lot C53A/1 is associated with the dark brown matrix removed from within the tomb investigated in Sub-Op. C53A. No evidence for a human interment was found; however, the artifacts recovered from this Lot included chert debitage, obsidian blade fragments, an unworked slate fragment and a fragment from an incensario. Some of this material may have entered the tomb through the burrowing activity of animals which used the chamber, after the group was abandoned.

Lot C53B/1 is associated with the use and abandonment of the Str. 3F2 locus. The artifacts recovered from this

Lot were recovered from the humus level above U.1 and included fragments from incensarios and fragments of obsidian blades.

Lot C53B/2 is associated with the medium brown construction fill of U.1. Assorted sherds and chert debitage were recovered from this Lot.

Lot C53B/3 was assigned to the material associated with S.D.C53B-1, which was deposited within the medium brown construction fill beneath U.1.

Lot C53B/4 is assigned to the material associated with S.D.C53B-2 through S.D.C53B-5. These deposits are treated as a single Lot because it is believed that they were part of the same, or part of two related, ritual events. Based on the vessel forms, the cache vessels recovered from these deposits indicate that the construction of this plaza floor took place during the Late Classic Period. This date is confirmed by the ceramic vessels recovered from S.D.C53B-6.

Lot C53B/5 is associated with the material recovered from S.D.C53B-6.

Lot C53B/6 is associated with the material recovered from beneath the level of U.2. This is the initial filling of the area for the building pad which eventually supported Str. 3F2. If the terrace were constructed and used prior to the construction of Str. 3F2, this Lot would then include the construction fill of the terrace. Very few

artifacts were recovered from this Lot and included two fragments of chert and an obsidian blade fragment.

Structure 3F2 Summary

Structure 3F2 was constructed as a low substructure with rough limestone masonry. The initial construction probably took place early in Late Classic Period and included a tomb (Sub-Op. C53A) within the core of the building. This feature does not appear to have been used for a permanent interment, based on the lack of human remains recovered in the excavation. A second tomb (S.D.C53B-6) was revealed in Sub-Op. C53B but it is unclear whether this was constructed at the same time as the first tomb or if it was part of a later building modification. Two plastered plaza floors, both poorly preserved, were also revealed in Sub-Op. C53B. Very little of the earlier floor (U.2) was recovered and the later floor (U.1) was found only in the western portion of the excavation. A series of special deposits were made in front of Str. 3F2 and were probably sealed by U.1.

Assuming that the tombs were sequent events, Str. 3F2 was modified once in the Late Classic Period by cutting through U.2 and constructing the western chamber. The height and dimensions of the structure remained largely the same.

Structure 3F2 Units

Unit 1: Front wall of Str. 3F2, exposed in Sub-Op. C53B.

Structure 3F2 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Upper plaster floor revealed in Sub-Op. C53B.

UNIT 2: Remnant of a plaster floor revealed 16 cm beneath
U.1.

Structure 3F2 Recovery Lots

- C53A/ 1: Dark brown matrix removed from within the tomb investigated in Sub-Op. C53A.
- C53B/ 1: Material recovered from the humus level of Sub-Op. C53B. This Lot includes the surface collection.
- C53B/ 2: The medium brown construction matrix for U.1.
- C53B/ 3: Material associated with S.D.C53B-1 which was deposited within Lot C53B/2.
- C53B/ 4: Material associated with S.D.C53B-2 through S.D.C53B-5 which were deposited within Lot C53B/2
S.D.C53B-2
- C53B/ 5: Material associated with S.D.C53B-6.
- C53B/ 6: Material recovered from beneath the level of U.2.

Structure 3F8

Structure 3F8 is the western building of the Str. 3F1 group. It rises less than 1 m above the terrace surface upon which it was built, but rises approximately 1 m above the lower plaza surface. The building covers an area of

33.4 m² was built on a terrace level above the plaza surface. Sub-Operation C53C was a 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. 3F8. The excavation was intended to recover data regarding the use of this building as well as provide additional information related to the occupation of the group.

Excavation

Below the humus layer, the matrix was firmly packed and dark brown in color, mixed with some medium-sized rubble (Fig. 5.49). Approximately 20 cm below the humus, the matrix changed only in that it was mixed with smaller stone. A medium brown matrix, mixed with pebbles was encountered 30 cm to 50 cm below the humus. This was followed by bedrock, located 40 cm to 70 cm below the surface. In this locus, the bedrock was fairly soft and had a dark pink color.

No floors were encountered in this excavation and no deposits were recovered to provide direct information about the date of occupation or the function of Str. 3F8. The artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C53C include 31.0 gms of slate fragments, 182.9 gms of chert debitage, two obsidian blade fragments and assorted sherds. Based on the size of the building, which exceeds Ashmore's (1987c:47) minimum residential unit, and the material recovered from in front of it, it is possible that Str. 3F8 served a domestic function, possibly as a residence.

Terrace Test Excavation

Sub-Operation C53D was a 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit placed on the terrace behind the south building, Str. 3F7. The purpose of this excavation was to recover data regarding the construction of a terrace and possibly to relate its construction to the construction of the Str. 3F1 group.

Beneath the humus, the matrix was a fairly dense, dark brown material, mixed with small limestone rubble (Fig. 5.50).

Approximately 10 cm to 20 cm below the surface, the dark brown matrix changed to a looser and lighter brown material, mixed with small pebbles. This, in turn, changed to a denser, more clay-like, greyish-brown matrix, mixed with small rock, 35 cm below the surface. An orange tinted limestone was encountered 40 cm to 50 cm below the humus.

The artifacts recovered from this excavation include 25 gms of chert and a single slate fragment weighing 1.8 gms.

The construction fill of this terrace is quite different from the construction fill of the terrace associated with the Str. M41 group (Sub-Ops. C51B and C51C). The contrast is marked by the absence of large limestone slabs near the bottom of the construction fill and by the density of the matrix above the bedrock in Sub-Op. C53D. This difference may be related to the type of terrain associated with each of these groups. The Str. M41 group is located near the base of a hill but not quite in the valley bottom while Str. 3F1 group is located in a fairly level area,

where a slope is barely noticeable. The large limestone slabs encountered in Sub-Op. C51B may have contributed to water drainage down the slope of the hill in that locus, while the density of the matrix in Sub-Op. C53D may have been a way of retaining water in that particular area of the settlement. Alternatively, the differences in the construction matrices associated with the terraces may be due to the kind of raw material available in the different locations. This issue must be resolved with further research.

Structures 3F1, 3F2, 3F6 - 3F8 Group Summary

Three excavations were conducted in the group defined by Strs. 3F1, 3F2, 3F6 - 3F8 built on two adjacent terraces. One other excavation was conducted on the terrace behind Str. 3F7. The earliest construction identified in this group was U.2, a plaster floor located in the plaza area, in front of Str. 3F2. The extent of this floor is unknown and the coexistence of structures in the group at this time is also unknown. It is likely, however, that this construction took place during the early part of the Late Classic Period.

Some time during the Late Classic Period, Str. 3F2 was constructed on the terrace surface. Based on the data recovered from Sub-Op. C53A, this building was used as a temporary holding facility, or "charnel house" (cf. A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press) for deceased individuals, perhaps from nearby residential groups, before they were permanently interred elsewhere. The entrance to the eastern

tomb within the core of the building was designed to partially seal the chamber but still provide some access to its interior. A second tomb, which housed a permanent burial, was found within the construction core of Str. 3F2, to the west of the tomb investigated in Sub-Op. C53A. It is not entirely clear whether this chamber was coeval or sequent to the eastern chamber, however, it is believed that it was a later addition to the building.

The relationship between Str. 3F2 and Str. 3F8 is not known, but they probably formed a contemporaneous grouping.

Based on the artifacts associated with the use of Str. 3F2 and with the use of Str. 3F8, the Str. 3F1 group served a residential function. It is comparable in size and configuration to the Str. M41 group (Op. C51), which probably served a residential function. In addition, Strs. 3F1, 3F2, 3F7, and 3F8 all exceed the size of the minimum residential unit defined by Ashmore (1987c:47). Based on the artifacts associated with the interment in S.D.C53B-6, the people who occupied and/or used the Str. 3F1 group were members of an elite sector of Caracol society. The ceramic vessels, the shell ornaments and the other objects included as burial furniture are comparable in kind and quantity to items included in other interments in tombs found throughout the Caracol residential settlement (for example, S.D.C54A-1 from Str. 3D3 and S.D.C59A-11 from Str. 2E28).

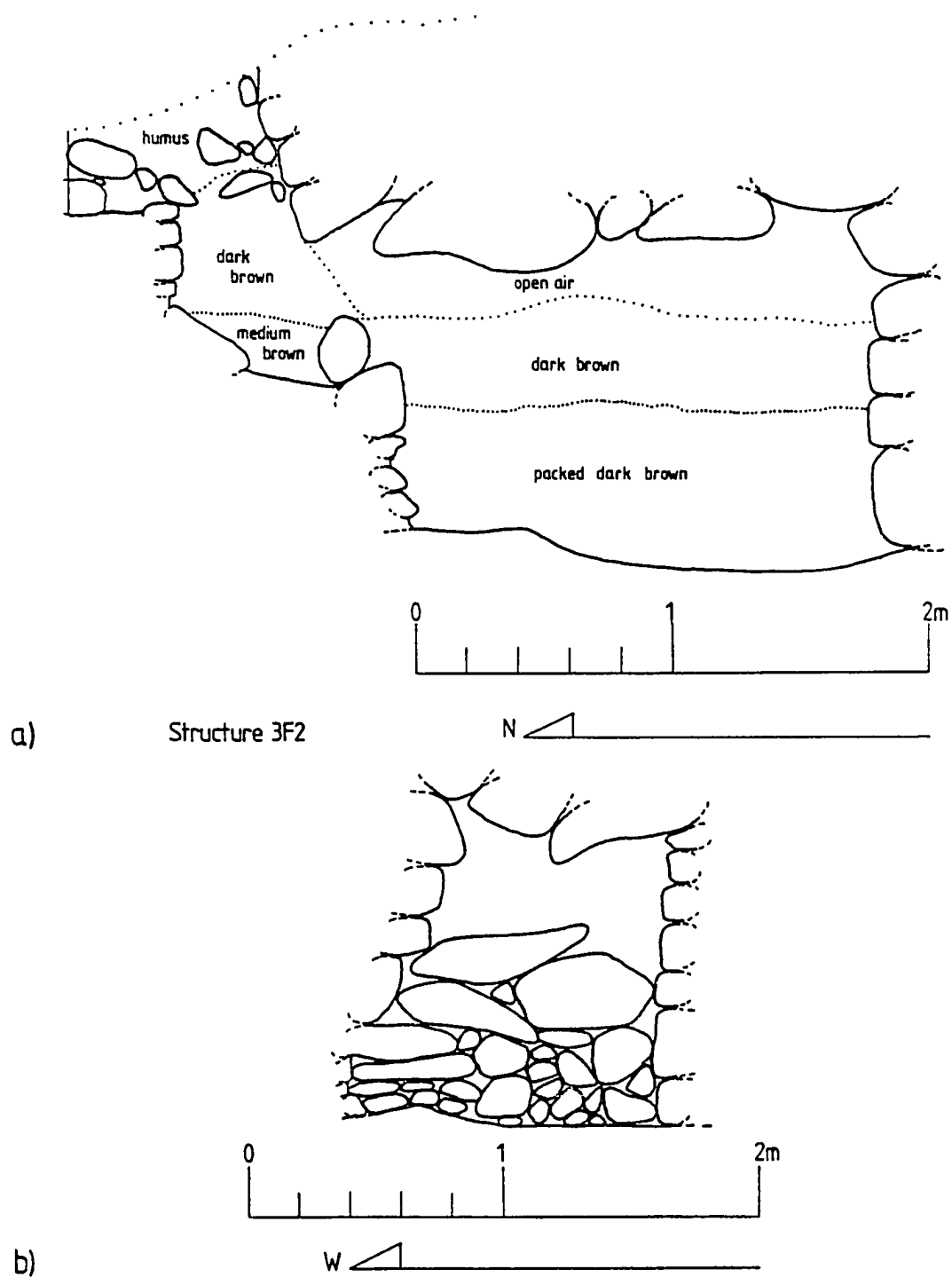


Figure 5.43. Structure 3F2 Special Deposit C53A-1- a) north-south section of tomb, b) elevation of the north wall and entrance.

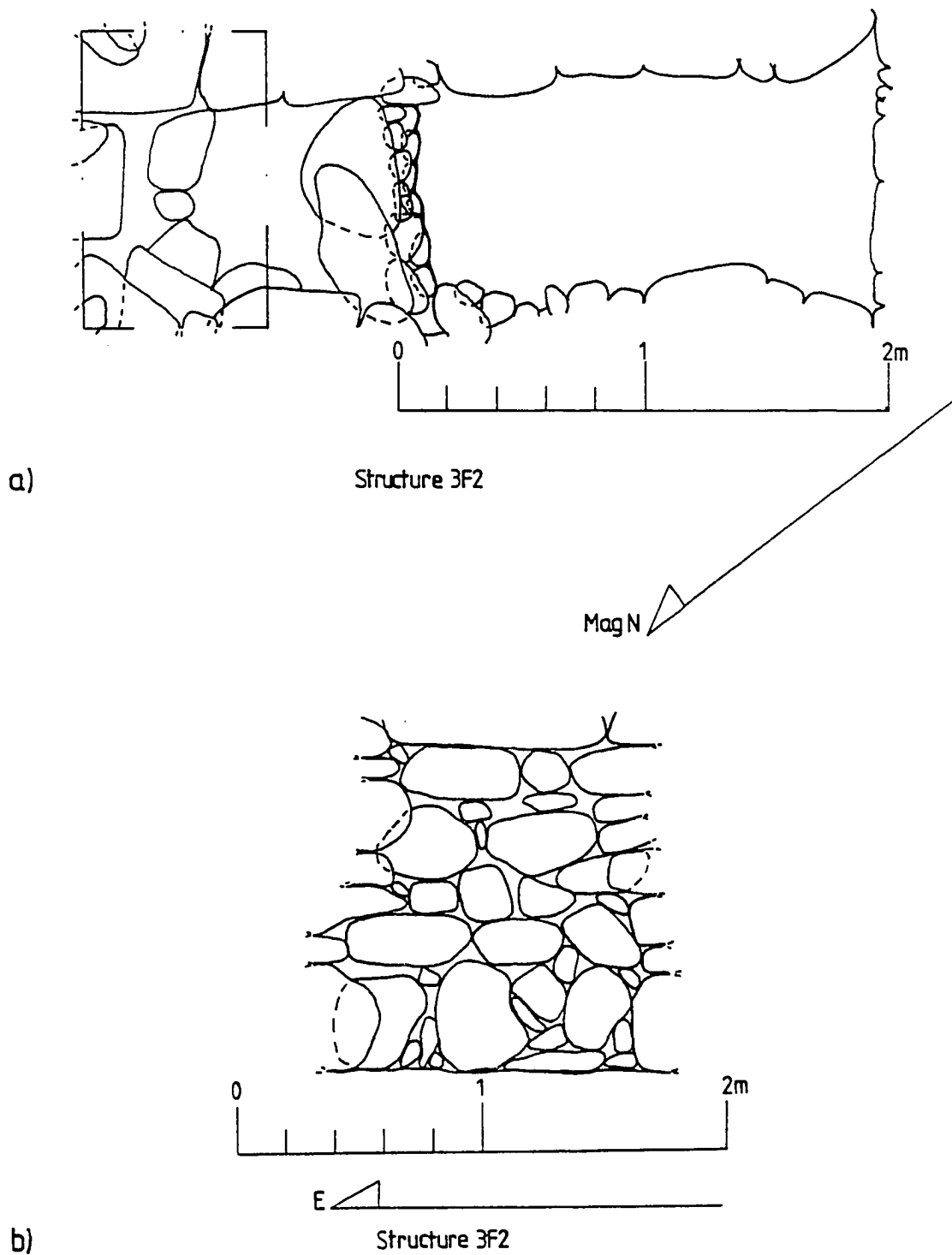


Figure 5.44. Structure 3F2 Special Deposit C53A-1 - a) tomb plan, b) elevation of the south wall.

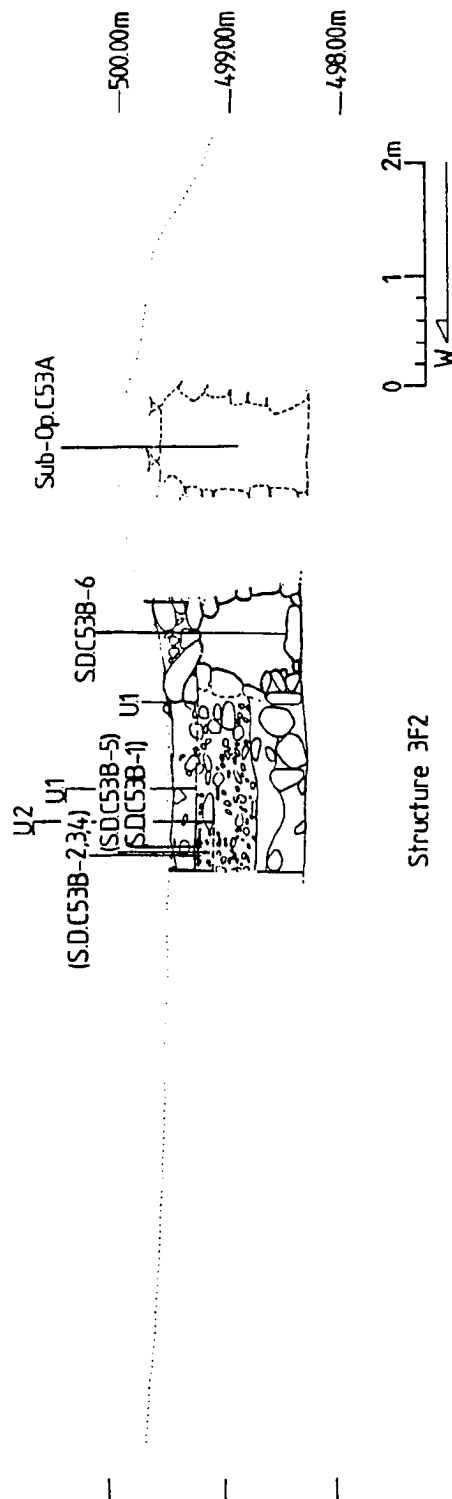


Figure 5.45. Structure 3F2 east-west mound profile with the east-west cross-section of Special Deposit C53A-1 and the section of Sub-Operation C53B.

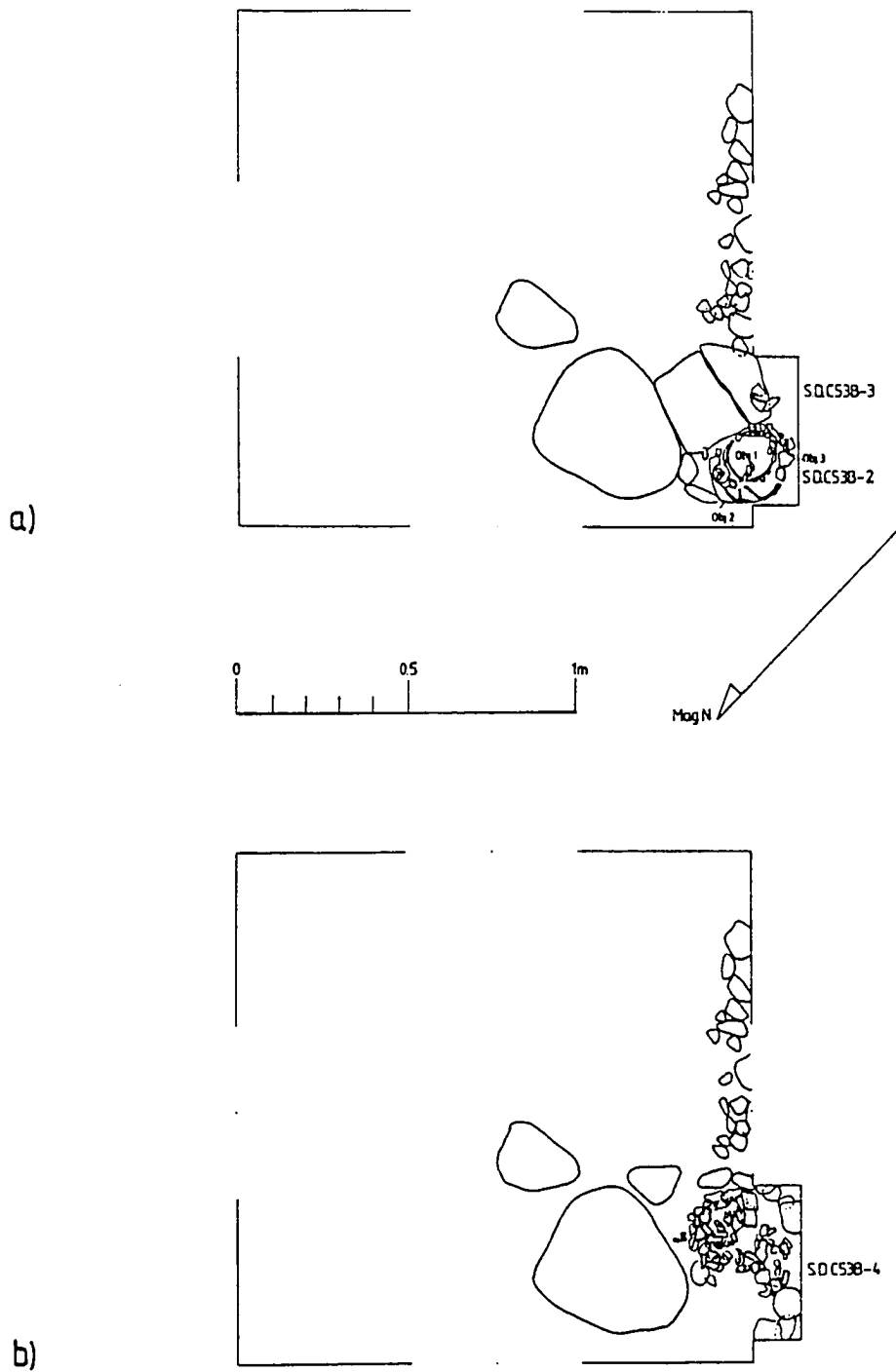


Figure 5.46. Sub-Operation C53B a) Special Deposit C53B-2 and Special Deposit C53B-3, b) Special Deposit C53B-4.

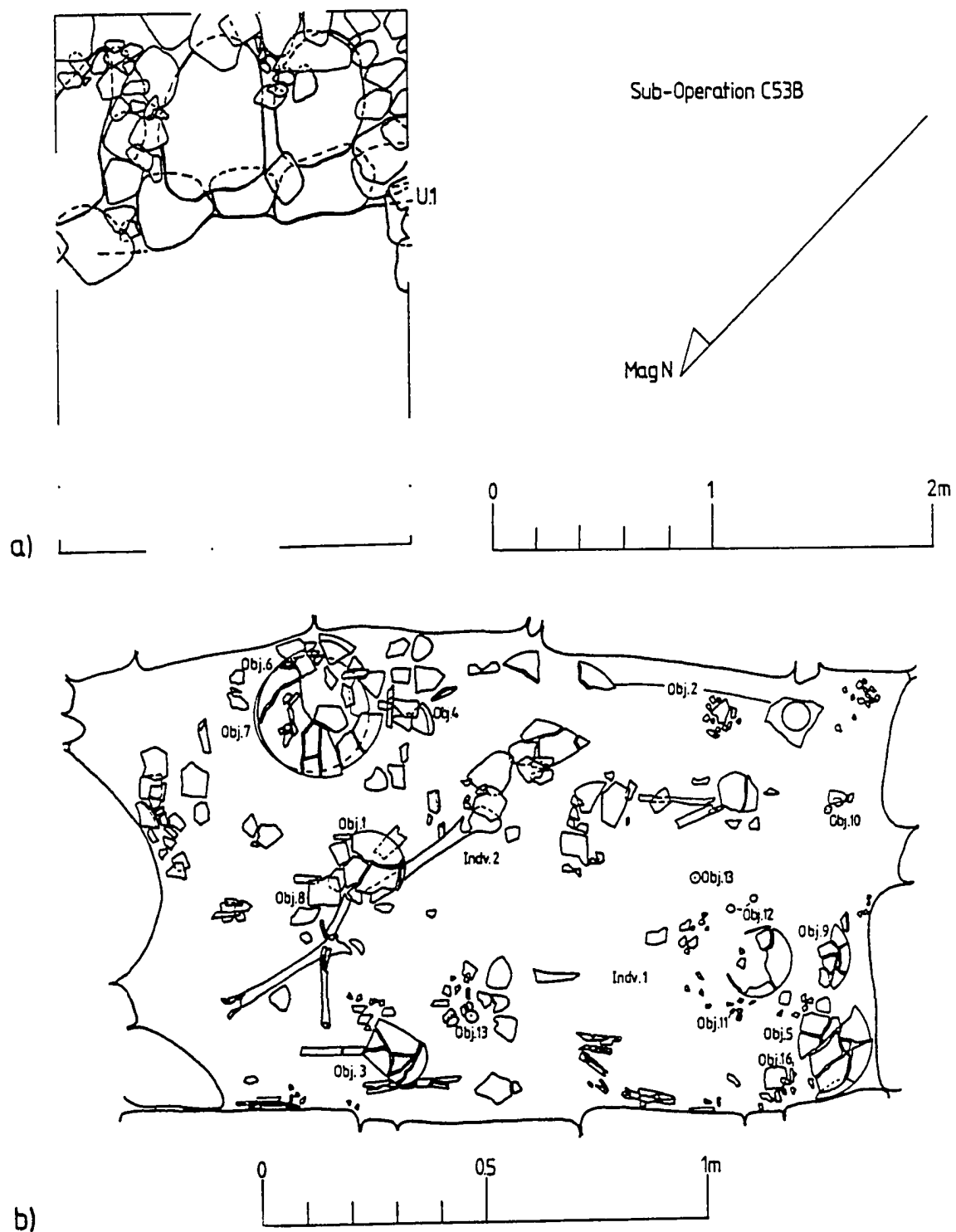


Figure 5.47. Sub-Operation C53B Special Deposit C53B-6 - a) plan of capstones, b) burial plan.

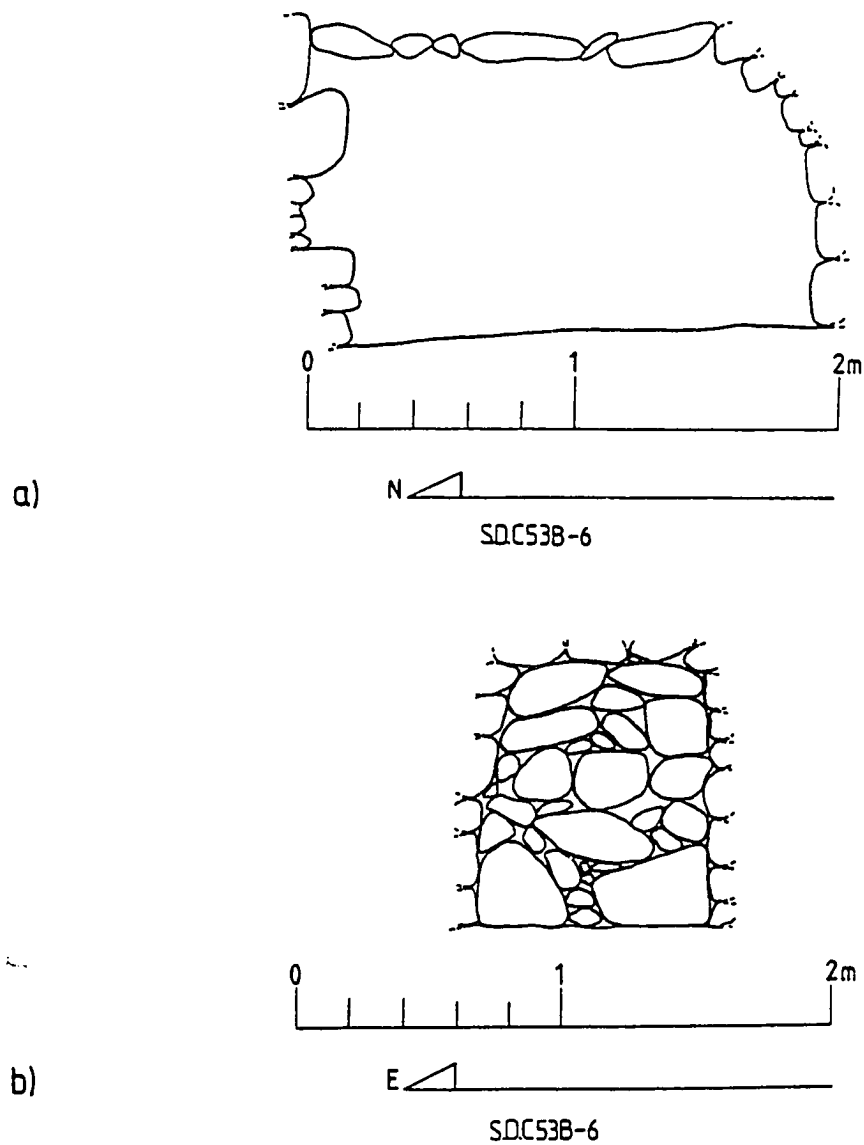


Figure 5.48. Sub-Operation C53B Special Deposit C53B-6 - a) north-south section, b) elevation of the south wall.

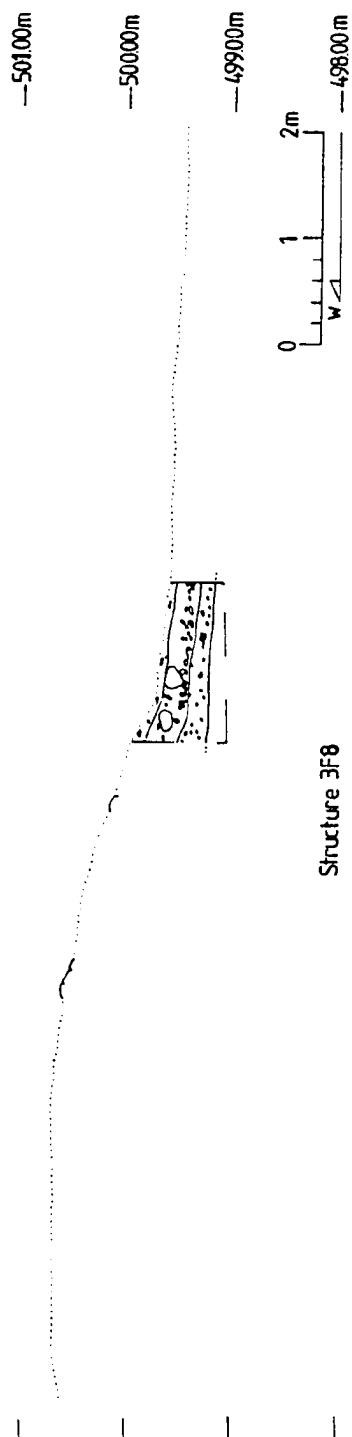


Figure 5.49. Structure 3F8 east-west mound profile and the section of Sub-Operation C53C.

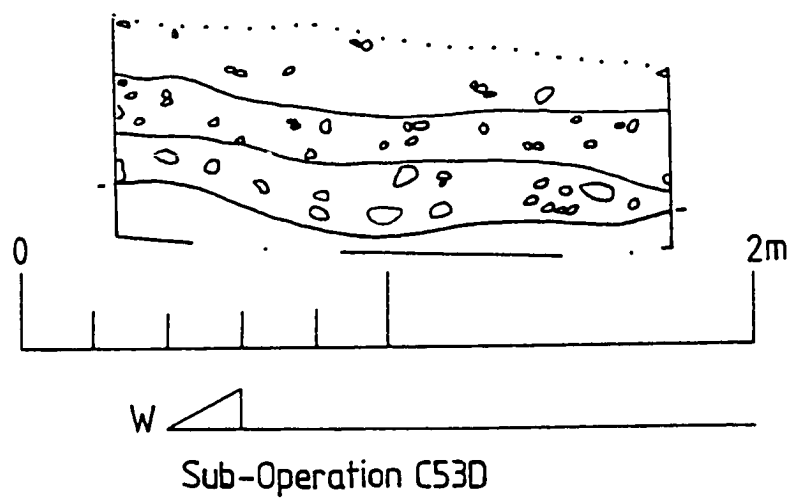


Figure 5.50. Sub-Operation C53D section.

Structures 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51: Operation C54

The group defined by Strs. 3D1 - 3D5 and Strs. 2E48 - 2E51 is comprised of nine buildings arranged around a single plaza on top of a small hill, located 193 m north of the Conchita Causeway and 2.05 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.9). The buildings range in size from 7.8 m² to 81.0 m² and range in height from 0.5 m to 2.0 m. The configuration of the buildings around the plaza makes the Str. 3D1 group an example of a Type 1 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51 were discovered and mapped by Susan Jaeger during the 1988 field season. The group was chosen for excavation during the 1989 field season for two reasons. One reason was that the eastern building, Str. 3D4, had a deep depression at the summit which indicated that an interior chamber had collapsed. A second reason for excavation in this group was to increase the sample of groups investigated on the northeast side of the Conchita Causeway. The excavations conducted in this locus were assigned Op. C54 and were undertaken during March of the 1989 field season under the supervision of Gregg Cestaro from the University of Central Florida.

Structure 3D4

Structure 3D4 is the eastern building of the group defined by Strs. 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51. It rises 2 m above

the plaza floor and covers an area of 81.0 m² at its base. Sub-Operation C54A was assigned to the excavation of the collapsed chamber at the summit of this building.

Excavation

Approximately 2.5 m³ of humus and a light brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble and capstones, were removed to reveal a chamber constructed of rough limestone blocks, measuring 1.95 m north-south, 1.28 m east-west and 1.08 m high, with a volume of 2.43 m³. A vault spring was located 0.84 m to 1.04 m above the floor (Fig. 5.51). The floor of the tomb was made of plaster which did not continue into the formal entrance located at the northwest corner of the chamber. Excavation in the entrance revealed that it was an alley-like feature, also built of rough, limestone blocks, measuring 1.18 m north-south and 0.48 m east-west. It varied in height from 0.80 m at the junction with the chamber, decreased to 0.48 m in the midsection and increased to 0.64 m towards the north end. From the chamber, the entrance sloped upward toward the northern edge of Str. 3D4 (Fig. 5.51).

Two adults were interred in the chamber with 18 ceramic vessels and assorted small objects (Fig. 5.52). A few cranial fragments and some phalanges were found in the entrance which may have been a third individual or may possibly have been part of Individual 2. The interment was

designated S.D.C54A-1. The bone of the two people placed within the chamber was fragmented due to the collapse of the structure from above but was, nevertheless, fairly well preserved. Individual 1 was placed in the center of the chamber with the head to the southwest. Individual 2 was disarticulated and the bones were placed along the east wall of the chamber. No sex identification was possible for either individual (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989).

The ceramic vessels associated with this interment were placed around the perimeter of the chamber along the east, south, and west walls. The vessels along the east wall were, for the most part, placed on top of Individual 2; however, some of this individual's phalanges were found within Object 16 and fragments of the humeri were found in Object 18. It is conceivable that this is an example of two separate burial events in a single chamber, i.e., Individual 2 was interred some time before Individual 1 and had been moved over to make room for the later interment. The only evidence for this scenario is that Individual 2 is disarticulated. The relationship of the ceramic vessels to the bone within the chamber would argue for a single burial event. Thus, a more likely explanation is that Individual 2 was either buried elsewhere or the body was allowed to deflesh (perhaps in proposed "charnal houses" like those in Sub-Ops. C51A and C53A; cf., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1991) before

being interred with Individual 1 in this locus during the Late Classic Period.

The ceramic vessels and small objects included in this burial indicate that, at least the primary interment, Individual 1, was a person of some significance within the Caracol community. If the number of artifacts per person deposited in a tomb is considered, and if at least half of the objects were associated with Individual 1, then this person was buried with a greater number of objects than any other individual in other excavated tombs in the residential settlement. If the kinds of objects are considered, Individual 1 was buried with a wider assortment of ceramic vessels, including two incensarios and a bichrome bowl with a band of glyphs painted below the rim. Among the small objects are a plethora of obsidian blades (Obj. 22) and a polished jadeite pendant (Obj. 19). Obsidian blades and blade fragments are associated with many of the burials investigated throughout the residential settlement. Jadeite objects have been found with other burials investigated throughout the residential settlement (eg., the simple burial S.D.C22A-1, Sub-Op. C22A; also A. F. Chase, personal communication 1990) as well as from burials located in the epicenter and in the groups at the termini of the causeways (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). However, the pendant included in S.D.C54A-1 is not common and the size of this

piece as well as the number of obsidian blades included in the burial may be significant.

Object 1 (C54A/4-25) is a large, flaring-walled dish found stacked on top of Object 2, in the northwest corner of the tomb. The dish is unslipped and the exterior surface is predominately dark grey (2.5YR3/0) with a red (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) patch at the rim. The interior surface is red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6). The dish has a rim diameter of 31.0 cm and ranges in height from 8.7 cm to 9.4 cm.

Object 2 (C54A/4-18) was found in the northwest corner of the tomb. This is an incensario with an hour glass, or biconical, shape and a modeled face. There is no evidence to indicate that this vessel was used to burn incense prior to being included in this burial. The basic form of this vessel resembles the incensarios found in Balankanche Cave in northern Yucatan (Andrews, IV 1970) although the dating of this vessel is much earlier. Object 2 has flanges where the Balankanche vessels do not and the iconography of this incensario represents a different deity. Many of the Balankanche incensarios represent Tlaloc; however, the face on Object 2 is characterized by a twisted rope or "cruller" between the eyes and a pointed front tooth and is identified as the Jaguar God of the Underworld or God G3 in the Palenque Triad. This deity and the flanges are frequently found on Late Classic Period incensarios at Palenque. However,

the incensarios from Palenque are cylindrical in form and the imagery is composed of stacked faces rather than just one face (Rands and Rands, 1959). If the Jaguar God of the Underworld is considered a representation of the sun, Ahau Kin, in his journey through the underworld (Schele and Miller 1986:50), then it seems appropriate that this incensario was part of the tomb contents. Individual 1's death and subsequent journey through the underworld, was linked to that of Ahau Kin's. Object 2 has traces of white stucco over the exterior surface but there are no indications of paint. The exterior surface is otherwise unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) with patches of pink (5YR7/4) and very dark grey (5YR3/1) fire clouds. The rim diameter of this vessel varies from 20.5 cm to 21.0 cm and the height ranges from 22.5 cm to 23.0 cm.

Object 3 (C54A/4-14) is a small, unslipped, flaring-walled dish. This dish was placed right side up, south of Objects 1 and 2, along the west wall of the chamber. The exterior surface is reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) fading to a yellowish-red (5YR5/6) towards the base. A dark grey (5YR 4/1) fire cloud extends from just above the basal break across the entire base. The interior surface is light brown (7.5YR6/4). Object 3 has a rim diameter of 18 cm and ranges in height from 4.2 cm to 4.5 cm.

Object 4 (C54A/4-12) is a very deep-sided, straight-walled bowl, with an outward flaring rim. The exterior

surface is slipped red (10R5/6) with grey (10YR6/1) fire clouds. The interior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/6). Object 4 was found on its side, just to the south of Object 3 along the west wall of the tomb. The bowl has a rim diameter of 21.0 cm and is 14.6 cm high.

Object 5 (C54A/4-26) is a deep, straight-sided bowl with a partially preserved, painted stucco decoration on the exterior surface. This bowl was placed right side up, between Objects 4 and 6, along the west wall of the chamber. The white (10YR8/1) stucco originally covered the entire exterior surface but is preserved only over the upper half of the bowl. A 2 cm red (10R5/6) band was painted on the stucco encircling the rim. Below the band, six large blue (5G7/1) spots were painted in a horizontal band. The stucco was applied to a brown-slipped surface which has an olive tinge to it (10YR6/3). The interior surface is unslipped grey (between 10YR6/1 and 10YR5/1). The rim diameter of vessel 5 measures 14.2 cm and the height ranges from 15.8 cm to 16.1 cm.

Object 6 (C54A/4-28) is a small bowl with slightly flaring walls and a flaring rim. The bowl was placed right side up, just south of Object 5, in the southwest corner of the chamber. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6). The rim diameter of the bowl is 18.0 cm and the height is 5.9 cm.

Object 7 (C54A/4-16) is a red-slipped, deep-sided bowl, found on its side in the southwest corner of the chamber, adjacent to Object 6. Where the slip is preserved on the exterior and interior surfaces, it is 10R4/8. Where the slip is not preserved, the surfaces are reddish-yellow (5YR6/6). The rim diameter of Object 7 measures 16.0 cm and the height ranges from 10.7 cm to 10.9 cm.

Object 8 (C54A/4-13) is a very deep, straight-sided bowl, similar in form to Object 4. The bowl was placed right side up in the southeast corner of the chamber, adjacent to Objects 9 and 18. The exterior surface is slipped red (between 10R4/8 and 10R5/8) which fades into areas of weak red (2.5YR5/2) and dusky red (2.5YR2.5/2). The interior surface is unslipped, light red (2.5YR6/6) with very dark grey (2.5YR3/3) fire clouds on the rim. The diameter of the rim measures 19.7 cm and the height of the bowl is 14.2 cm.

Object 9 (C54A/4-15) is a small bowl with slightly flaring walls and a flaring rim, similar in form to Object 6. This bowl was found on its side in the southeast corner of the chamber, adjacent to Objects 8 and 10. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (2.5YR 5/6) and the exterior surface has dark grey (2.5YR4/0) fire clouds on the base. The diameter of the rim is 18.0 cm and the height of the bowl ranges from 5.9 cm to 6.2 cm.

Object 10 (C54A/4-20) is a deep-sided, polychrome bowl, similar in form to Object 7. This bowl was found on its side, in the southeast corner of the tomb, between Objects 9 and 11. The interior surface of the bowl is slipped orange (5YR6/8) with a 2 mm wide black (5YR4/1) stripe encircling the rim. Immediately below the black stripe is a red 2.5YR 4/8) band, 6 mm wide. The exterior surface of the bowl has a brownish-black (between 5YR3/2 and 5YR4/1) band, 5 mm wide, encircling the rim. Below this is a partially eroded hieroglyphic band, painted in brownish-black on an orange-slipped (5YR6/8) background. One glyph includes the T77 "wing" superfix and another may be identified as God N. Below the glyph band is a partially preserved scene of "dancers" painted in orange on a black background. An additional feature to the exterior surface is the presence of vertical, finger-width impressions, barely apparent on the lower half of the vessel. The rim diameter is 17.4 cm and the height of the bowl ranges from 14.9 cm to 15.3 cm.

Object 11 (C54A/4-22) is a flaring-walled dish with a rounded base, placed right side up, on top of Objects 12 and 18, in the southeast corner of the tomb. The exterior surface is slipped reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR6/6 and 7.5YR67/6) which fades into a darker, reddish-brown (5YR5/4) over half the vessel. The interior surface is unslipped, light, reddish-brown (5YR6/3). The rim diameter measures

23.0 cm and the height of the dish ranges from 6.3 cm to 6.6 cm.

Object 12 (C54A/4-29) is a deep-sided, polychrome bowl, similar in form to Objects 7 and 10. This vessel was placed right side up between Objects 11 and 13, along the east wall of the tomb. The exterior surface is eroded but a red (2.5YR4/8) and black (5YR2.5/1) curvilinear design is partially preserved on the lower half of the vessel. The design was painted on an orange (5YR7/8) background. Below the design are four alternating, horizontal bands of red and orange extending to the edge of the slight indentation on the base. The interior surface is slipped orange (5YR6/8). The rim diameter is 18.0 cm and the height of the bowl ranges from 14.1 cm to 14.3 cm.

Object 13 (C54A/4-27) is a deep-sided bowl, similar in form to Objects 7, 10 and 12. Object 13 was found on its side, between Objects 12 and 14, along the eastern wall of the chamber. The exterior surface is slipped a reddish-yellow (5YR6/8) which fades into a brighter orange-red (2.5YR5/8) over half the surface. A grey (5YR4/1) fire cloud occurs toward the base. The upper wall of the interior surface is slipped reddish-yellow like the exterior but the slip extends roughly 10 cm below the rim. Below the slip, the interior surface is unslipped pink (between 5YR7/4 and 5YR7/6). The diameter of the rim measures 17.0 cm and the height of the bowl ranges from 11.2 cm to 12.1 cm.

Object 14 (C54A/4-21) is a deep-sided bowl, similar to Objects 7, 10, 12 and 13. Object 14 was placed right side up, between Objects 13 and 15, along the east wall of the tomb. The exterior surface is eroded but remnants of a red (2.5YR5/8) slip, fading to an orange-red (5YR5/8), are visible on the upper portion of the bowl. The eroded surface is a light, reddish-brown (5YR6/3). Traces of an orange-red (5YR5/8) slip are evident on the interior of the vessel, extending 2.3 cm below the rim. The rest of the interior is unslipped, light red (2.5YR6/8). The rim diameter is 14.0 cm and the height of the bowl is 9.5 cm.

Object 15 (C54A/4-19a,b) is a biconical or, hour glass-shaped, incensario with a lid. This vessel was placed just to the north of Object 14, along the east wall of the tomb. It is similar in form to Object 2 and resembles, both in form and decoration, the incensarios from Balankanche Cave in the northern Yucatan (Andrews, IV 1970:19 and figure 12). Five rows of applied spikes encircle the exterior from top to bottom. In addition, Object 15 has four tau-shaped cut out designs on the lower section, below the base of the receptacle. The matrix within the incensario was tinted a blueish-grey which may be ash; however, there was no evidence on the interior surface of the vessel to indicate that incense was burned in it before it was included in this interment. A sample of the matrix was taken for analysis. The rim diameter of Object 15 is 24.0 cm and the height is

23.0 cm. The lid associated with this vessel is dome-shaped with a rounded top. It is also decorated with spike appliques, four of them encircle the medial angle and three encircle the top. In addition to the spikes, the lid has three vertical pairs of cut out circles on the upper portion. The basal diameter of the lid is 22.0 cm and the height is 16.0 cm.

Object 16 (C54A/4-23) is a flaring-walled dish with a rounded base, similar in form to Object 11. Object 16 was placed right side up, next to Object 17, near the northeast corner of the tomb. The exterior surface of the dish is slipped red (2.5YR4/8) which fades to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR6/6) over half the vessel. The interior surface is unslipped, light reddish-brown (5YR6/4). The rim diameter is 24.0 cm and the height of the dish ranges from 5.8 cm to 6.2 cm.

Object 17 (C54A/4-30) is a deep-sided bowl with slightly flaring walls and a flat base. The bowl was found on its side, near the northeast corner of the tomb, next to Object 16. The exterior surface is eroded but traces of a reddish-orange (2.5YR5/8 but more orange) slip are present. The eroded surface is light red (2.5YR5/6) fading to a reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) towards the base. A light brown (7.5YR6/4) fire cloud occurs on the base. The interior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow. The diameter of the

rim measures 18.0 cm and the height of the bowl measures 11.8 cm.

Object 18 (C54A/4-24) is a large, polychrome dish, with slightly curving walls and a ring base. Object 18 was placed right side up, beneath Object 11, in the southeast corner of the tomb. The exterior surface does not appear to have been slipped except for a 2 mm wide black (5YR2.5/1) stripe around the lip and a 3 mm wide red (2.5YR4/8) strip encircling the vessel, 7 mm below the rim. Other than these two stripes, the exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR7/6) which fades to a pale brown (10YR7/4) towards the base. The interior surface of the dish is eroded; however, there are remnants of a red (2.5YR4/8) and black (5YR2.5/1) design on an orange (between 5YR6/8 and 5YR7/8) background. The design is very poorly preserved but some of the elements include concentric, irregular circles, with a spot in the middle, curvilinear lines and one irregular circle on the bottom. The rim diameter measures 29.0 cm and the height ranges from 6.5 cm to 6.9 cm.

Object 19 (C54A/4-1) is a polished, flat, oval shaped, jadeite pendant. Four holes were drilled for hanging the piece from a larger assemblage. No incisions or carvings decorate this piece. Object 1 was found along the east wall of the chamber, next to the long bones of Individual 2 and

Object 15, one of the incensarios. The pendant measures 6.8 cm long, 4.6 cm wide, 0.5 cm thick and weighs 35.6 gms.

Object 20 (C54A/4-2a,b) is comprised of two shell disks, pinkish-white in color. There are no drill holes nor is there evidence for carving or incision on either disk. One disk was placed in Object 18, a polychrome dish, and the other was located just west of this vessel on the floor, in the southeast corner of the chamber. C54A/4-2a is 3.8 cm in diameter, 0.4 cm thick and weighs 5.3 gms. C54A/4-2b is 3.9 cm long, 3.7 cm wide, 0.4 cm thick and weighs 5.4 gms.

Object 21 (C54A/4-3) consists of both halves of a clam shell, each with a drill hole near the hinge. The exterior surfaces are white and the interior surfaces have a pearly sheen. These were placed together, west of Object 8, among the bone fragments of Individual 2 at the south end of the chamber. The shells are 5.3 cm long, 2.8 cm wide, and have a combined weight of 13.9 gms.

Object 22 (C54A/4-4,a-n and C54A/4-17,a-g) comprises the collection of fifteen virtually complete obsidian blades, five blade fragments and a retouched obsidian disk. Most of the pieces are a smokey, dark grey with darker grey or black stripes. The rest are either a smokey, dark grey with dark spots, transparent or black. One blade and a fragment were found just east of Object 2, near the west wall of the tomb. Another blade and a fragment were found in the chest area of Individual 1 and the disk and one blade

were placed next to the east femur. The remaining blades and fragments were found among the long bones fragments of Individual 2 at the south end of the chamber. The length of the five obsidian fragments range from 2.4 cm to 5.5 cm. They range in width from 0.8 cm to 1.3 cm and all have a maximum thickness of 0.3 cm. The fifteen complete, or virtually complete, blades range in length from 5.2 cm to 9.1 cm and range in width from 0.7 cm to 1.7 cm. They range in maximum thickness from 0.3 cm to 0.5 cm. The retouched disk is 0.7 cm in diameter and 0.1 cm thick. The total weight of obsidian recovered from this tomb is greater than 40 gms.

Object 23 (C54A/4-5,a-d) consists of four pieces of worked animal bone. The bone was identified as mammalian long bone by June Morton of McMasters University (personal communication 1989). All the pieces were cut and smoothed to form long points and may have been awls or pins. Three pieces, which do not fit together, were found just west of Object 18, in the southeast corner of the chamber. One complete point was found beneath Object 2, near the northwest corner of the tomb. The fragments range in length from 3.2 cm to 3.7 cm and range in width from 1.1 cm to 1.3 cm. The complete point is 15.1 cm long and has a maximum width of 1.7 cm. The total weight of the worked animal bone is 12.4 gms.

Object 24 (C54A/4-7,a-c) consists of three small limestone bars, similar to those found in the west tomb of Str. 3F2 (S.D.C53B-6, Sub-Op. C53B). All of the bars are long and rectangular in cross section, with smoothed surfaces. There is no indication of a carved or incised design. The bars were found beneath Object 18 in the southeast corner of the chamber. They range in length from 10.2 cm to 11.2 cm and they range in width from 1.6 cm to 2.1 cm. The thickness of the bars ranges from 0.9 cm to 1.5 cm. The total weight is 73.4 gms.

Object 25 (C54A/4-6) is the collection of unworked animal bone recovered from the floor of the tomb, in the vicinity of Object 18, in the southeast corner of the chamber. The faunal identification was made by June Morton (personal communication 1989). The presence of two rodent incisors may be attributed to a burrowing animal entering the chamber after it was sealed. A mammal humerus was very tentatively identified as belonging to a non-human primate and was included as part of the interment. Unfortunately, no other possible primate bone was recovered to aid in the interpretation of this deposit. The other unworked animal bone was too small to identify as to type.

The artifacts recovered from the surface of the structure and from the collapsed matrix above the tomb floor include chert debitage (n=13), groundstone fragments (n=3), unworked slate fragments (n=3) and incensario fragments

(n=2). This material is attributed to ritual, rather than domestic, activity at this locus. One mano and one metate fragment were part of the facade of the building, being incorporated in the southeast corner of the structure.

Platform Relationships to Structure 3D4

Sub-Operation C54B was assigned to test excavation placed as close as possible to the base of Str. 3D4 in the plaza. The excavation initially measured 1.5 m by 1.5 m but the east excavation limit was subsequently cut into in order to recover a special deposit (Fig. 5.53). Sub-Operation C54B was placed along the medial axis of the building, however, a fallen tree along the front of the structure prohibited placing the excavation over the base of the staircase. The front of the structure had a bulge evident in the surface contour indicating that Str. 3D4 had an outset staircase.

Humus was removed above a fairly packed, dark to medium brown matrix, mixed with small to medium sized rubble. Just below the humus, a cache of a single vessel (S.D.C54B-1) was found just north of Str. 3D4's midline (Fig. 5.54). The cache vessel had a modeled face oriented to the southeast. No additional artifacts were associated with this deposit. The matrix became more firmly packed just below the level of S.D.C54B-1 and further excavation revealed scattered large sherds and incensario fragments among the rubble. In addition, two more caches were found. Special Deposit C54B-2

was a cache of a single, small dish, located just north and slightly east of S.D.C54B-1 (Fig. 5.54). The dish was found on its side, 20 cm to 30 cm below the humus. In the southwest corner of the excavation, two discreet concentrations of ceramic vessels were found, 25 cm to 40 cm below the humus (Fig. 5.54). In other excavations where multiple, adjacent but discreet cache deposits were encountered, the concentrations were each assigned separate special deposit numbers but were considered to be possibly part of the same ritual event because of their stratigraphic relationship (eg., Sub-Op. C53B) or because they were placed in the same cache pit (eg., Sub-Op. C34C). In Sub-Op. C54B, the two adjacent deposits were assigned the same special deposit number, S.D.C54B-3, but may have actually been separate events. In this discussion, S.D.C54B-3 refers only to the northern deposit of two ceramic vessels. Special Deposit C54B-5 refers to the cache of three vessels and obsidian eccentrics, placed to the south of S.D.C54B-3. These deposits are discussed in detail below.

Excavation of the firmly packed, dark to medium brown matrix continued below the level of the caches for a few more centimeters until a soft orange bedrock was encountered some 40 cm to 60 cm below the humus.

At the level of bedrock, in the east wall of the test pit, a section of small rubble without matrix was encountered. Investigation of this anomaly revealed the western

edge of large, limestone slabs. The excavation was extended east, below the humus, into the excavation limit to investigate this deposit. Two plaster floors (U.1 and U.2) were found 20 cm to the east of the original east excavation limit, separated from each other by 1 cm to 2 cm of medium brown matrix, 34 cm to 38 cm above bedrock. UNIT 1 refers here to the upper floor and UNIT 2 refers to the lower floor. Some of the dark brown matrix was removed above the U.1 in order to define the cut edges of both floors. Incensario fragments and a complete laurel leaf shaped, chert point were recovered from this matrix.

Beneath the paired floors, two different matrices, placed side by side, were visible. To the north, was a fairly loose light brown matrix, mixed with small and medium rubble. This matrix extended 70 cm south of the north excavation limit and 30 cm below U.2, stopping a few centimeters above the capstones. Adjacent to this, on the south, was a loose, pink matrix which was mixed with small and medium rubble. This matrix extended from below U.2 to the capstones and a "finger" of the pink matrix extended north between the light brown matrix and the capstones. Within the pink matrix, some human bone and two obsidian blade fragments were recovered. As the excavation continued east beneath the floors, the light brown matrix was eventually replaced by the pink matrix in the northern part of the test

pit. The excavation above the special deposit extended a total of 60 cm east of the original east excavation limit.

Three large and two small limestone slabs were exposed and all but one were removed to reveal a crypt (U.3) cut into the soft bedrock, within which S.D.C54B-4 was placed. The capstones did not quite span the width of the cut and were supported by a total of 0.43 m³ of very loose, pink matrix. This matrix may have been the product of the original excavation into bedrock when U.3 was constructed or it may have silted into the pit after it was capped. Two adults were interred in U.3, with nine ceramic vessels during the Late Classic Period occupation of the group (Fig. 5.55). Based on the presence and absence of certain bones within the crypt, it appears that both individuals were reburied in this locus. This burial is discussed in more detail below.

Special Deposit C54B-1. This deposit was a cache of a small, deep-sided, cer-amic bowl with a modeled face (Fig. 5.54). The deposit was made just above the level of U.2, which was found only in the eastern extension of the excavation. There is no direct evidence for a later floor sealing this deposit. However, both U.1 and U.2 were cut which indicates that a later floor must have existed in this locus. This floor (U.4) would have sealed S.D.C54B-1. The cache vessel was oriented with the face pointing slightly

east of south. The face is characterized by a simple nose and two round, flat eyes. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (7.5YR6/6) with a few patches of red (2.5YR-5/6). The interior surface is also a reddish-yellow. The diameter of the rim measures 8.7 cm and the height of the bowl measures 9.0 cm. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C54B-2. Special Deposit C54B-2 was a cache of a small, flaring-walled, ceramic dish in the dark to medium brown matrix, which was mixed with small and medium rubble. The dish was found on its side at a level equivalent to where U.2 had once been located (Fig. 5.54). The dish is unslipped, reddish-yellow (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR7/6). The rim diameter is 10.0 cm and the height of the dish ranges from 2.4 cm to 2.7 cm. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C54B-3. This deposit was the northern concentration of two adjacent but discreet concentrations of ceramic vessels found in the southwest corner of Sub-Op. C54B (Fig. 5.54). The concentrations were assigned the same special deposit number in the field but are treated here as two separate cache offerings (S.D.C54B-5 is the cache offering made to the south of S.D.C54B-3). The vessels associated with S.D.C54B-3 were deposited in the same matrix as S.D.C54B-2, at a slightly lower elevation. Thus, it appears

east of south. The face is characterized by a simple nose and two round, flat eyes. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (7.5YR6/6) with a few patches of red (2.5YR-5/6). The interior surface is also a reddish-yellow. The diameter of the rim measures 8.7 cm and the height of the bowl measures 9.0 cm. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C54B-2. Special Deposit C54B-2 was a cache of a small, flaring-walled, ceramic dish in the dark to medium brown matrix, which was mixed with small and medium rubble. The dish was found on its side at a level equivalent to where U.2 had once been located (Fig. 5.54). The dish is unslipped, reddish-yellow (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR7/6). The rim diameter is 10.0 cm and the height of the dish ranges from 2.4 cm to 2.7 cm. No other artifacts were associated with this deposit.

Special Deposit C54B-3. This deposit was the northern concentration of two adjacent but discreet concentrations of ceramic vessels found in the southwest corner of Sub-Op. C54B (Fig. 5.54). The concentrations were assigned the same special deposit number in the field but are treated here as two separate cache offerings (S.D.C54B-5 is the cache offering made to the south of S.D.C54B-3). The vessels associated with S.D.C54B-3 were deposited in the same matrix as S.D.C54B-2, at a slightly lower elevation. Thus, it appears

that S.D. C54B-3 was deposited at the same time as S.D.C54B-2. The deposit consisted of a deep-sided bowl with a modeled face (Object 1), oriented to the northeast, with a dish-shaped lid (Object 2). In the field, Object 1 was designated vessel 4 of S.D.C54B-3, and Object 2 was assigned a separate vessel number, vessel 3, because of its form.

Object 1 (C54B/5-5b) is a deep-sided bowl with a modeled face. The face is characterized by a simple nose and flat eyes. The mouth is a single, downward curving applique and a flat spot has been applied just below the curve. On each cheek is a flat disk with a small knob in the middle. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) with dark grey (2.5YR4/0) and brown (7.5YR5/4) fire clouds. The interior surface is unslipped red. The rim diameter of the bowl is 18.8 cm and the height is 14.6 cm.

Object 2 (C54B/5-5a) is a flaring-walled dish which was used as a lid for Object 1. Object 2 is unslipped red like the bowl. The rim diameter of the lid is 19.0 cm and the height is 7.5 cm.

Special Deposit C54B-4. Special Deposit C54B-4 is the burial of two individuals placed in a crypt (U.3) which was cut into bedrock through U.1 and U.2. The walls of the crypt sloped from top to bottom. The upper edge of U.3 was roughly oval-shaped and measured approximately 1.5 m north-south and had a maximum east-west dimension of 74 cm. In contrast, the floor of U.3 was more rectangular and measured

1.4 m north-south by 54 cm east-west. Two adults were interred with nine ceramic vessels (Fig. 5.55). Individual 1 was placed in the center of the crypt. The bone was extremely well preserved; however, not all the bones of the body were included in this burial. For example, no bones of the hands or feet were found nor were the mandible or teeth for this individual included. It appears that these parts of Individual 1 had been removed before being buried. The skull was placed face up in the south end of the crypt and the post-cranial material was placed in correct anatomical position to the north. However, some of the bones overlap because the crypt was not long enough for a complete recreation of the body in this locus and the distal ends of the tibiae and left fibula may have been broken in order to fit the body within the limits of U.3. A pelvic fragment was found adjacent to Individual 1's skull and based on its relative degree of preservation compared to the rest of the bone in the crypt, it is likely that this fragment belongs to this person. Individual 1 has been identified as an adult male (D.Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). A red-slipped dish (Object 1) and an eroded cylinder (Object 2) were placed along the east wall of the crypt. A total of seven vessels (Objects 3-9) were placed on top of the post-cranial material of Individual 1. Object 3 was placed upside down, to the north of the skull, Object 4 was placed on its side to the north of Object 3 and Objects 5 - 9 were

stacked and placed to the north of Object 4. Individual 2 was placed to the east of Individual 1. Based on the fragmented nature of the bone, it appears that Individual 2 was given a secondary burial in this locus. The skull was placed in the southeast corner of the crypt and a fragment of the mandible was found. Like Individual 1, the long bones for Individual 2 were placed north of the skull, partially on top of Object 1. No sex identification was possible for Individual 2.

Object 1 (C54B/11-3) is a red-slipped dish with three nubbin, slab feet. The dish was placed right side up next to the east wall of the crypt, north of Individual 2's skull. The exterior surface is red (10R4/8) and is decorated with a shallow, 2 mm wide, incision encircling the rim and a series of small oval impressions around the medial angle. The interior surface is also red-slipped. The rim diameter measures 24.0 cm and the height is 4.8 cm.

Object 2 (C54B/11-10) is a very eroded, polychrome cylinder, which was placed on its side, along the east wall of the crypt, partially beneath Object 1 and adjacent to Object 3. The exterior surface has traces of a red (2.5YR 4/6) and black (2.5YR2.5/0) design on remnants of a cream (7.5YR8/4) slip background. There are also traces of a black band around the rim. The interior surface is unslipped, light brown (2.5YR6/4). The diameter of the rim is uneven because the vessel was badly fragmented in the depos-

it and subsequently warped. The diameter varies from 11.0 cm to 11.6 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 25.0 cm to 25.5 cm.

Object 3 (C54B/11-3) is an eroded, bichrome, tripod dish. The dish was placed upside down, along the midline of the crypt, north of the skull for Individual 1. Patches of a soft, brown, organic substance were pressed onto the base of this vessel. Samples were taken for analysis. The dish has flaring walls above the medial angle and a ring base. However, the dish was supported by three rounded feet, each having three narrow, vertical slits. The exterior surface of the vessel is unslipped red (2.5YR6/6) above the medial angle and is reddish-brown (between 5YR5/4 and 5YR6/4) below the angle. The interior surface is eroded but has traces of red (2.5YR5/8) and black (2.5YR3/0) slip on what appears to be an underslip. The underslip is also eroded and the traces which remain are orange (5YR7/6). The rim diameter of vessel 3 measures 25.5 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 5.7 cm to 6.2 cm because the rim is uneven.

Object 4 (C54B/11-2) is a small, deep-sided bowl with long vertical incisions encircling the vessel. The bowl was placed on its side, along the midline of the crypt, just north of Object 3. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/8) with a grey (10YR7/4) fire cloud near the base. The incisions begin 2.0 cm to 2.6 cm below the rim of the bowl and extend to within 0.5 cm of the base.

They are 2 mm wide and are 3 mm to 4 mm apart. The interior surface is unslipped pink (7.5YR7/4). The rim diameter is 11.5 cm and the height ranges from 12.0 cm to 12.1 cm.

Object 5 (C54B/11-5) is a flaring-walled dish with an uneven rim. This dish was placed upside down, over Objects 6 through 9. These vessels formed a stack of dishes placed on the lower legs of Individual 1, towards the north end of the crypt. The exterior surface of Object 5 is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) with a dark grey (2.5YR 3/0) fire cloud on the base. The interior surface is also unslipped red but fades to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR 6/4 and 7.5YR7/4) above a dark grey (7.5YR4/0) on the bottom. The rim of the dish is uneven and the diameter varies from 19.8 cm to 20.5 cm. The height of Object 5 ranges from 3.9 cm to 4.3 cm.

Object 6 (C54B/11-6) is a flaring-walled dish, similar in form to Object 5. This dish was placed upside down below Object 5 in the stack of dishes towards the north end of the crypt. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR5/8) which fades to a patch of pale brown (7.5YR6/4) along the rim. There is a small grey (5YR4/1) fire cloud on the side of the dish. Horizontal wiping striations and faint coils are visible on the exterior surface. The interior surface is unslipped red with the patch of pale brown at the rim like the exterior surface. The bottom of the interior is grey (5YR4/1). The rim of

Object 6 is uneven and the diameter varies from 14.3 cm to 14.8 cm. The height ranges from 3.4 cm to 3.7 cm.

Object 7 (C54B/11-7) is a flaring-walled dish, similar in form to Object 5. Object 7 was placed upside down below Object 6 in the stack of dishes towards the north end of the crypt. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) which fades to a brownish-grey (between 5YR4/1 and 5YR5/2) towards the base. Horizontal wiping striations and faint coils are visible on the exterior surface. The interior surface is unslipped red with the patch of pale brown (10YR6/4) at the rim and a grey (10YR 3/1) fire cloud at the bottom. Like Objects 5 and 6, the rim of Object 7 is uneven and the diameter varies from 17.0 cm to 17.5 cm. The height ranges from 3.2 cm to 3.5 cm.

Object 8 (C54B/11-8) is a flaring-walled dish, similar in form to Object 5. Object 8 was placed upside down below Object 7 in the stack of dishes towards the north end of the crypt. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) which fades to a reddish-brown (between 5YR4/2 and 5YR4/3) towards the base. Horizontal wiping striations and faint coils are visible on the exterior surface. The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior surface. The diameter of the rim is 17.2 cm but it is uneven like the other vessels in the stack and the height of Object 8 ranges from 3.2 cm to 4.0 cm.

Object 9 (C54B/11-9) is a flaring-walled dish, similar in form to Object 5. Object 9 was placed upside down at the bottom of the stack of dishes towards the north end of the crypt. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) which fades to a grey (between 10YR 4/1 and 10YR4/2) fire cloud towards the base. Horizontal wiping striations and faint coils are visible on the exterior surface. The interior surface is unslipped red with the patch of pale brown (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR6/6). The diameter of the rim is 17.0 cm but it is uneven like the other vessels in the stack and the height of the vessel ranges from 3.5 cm to 4.0 cm.

Special Deposit C54B-5. This deposit was one of two cache offerings found in the southwest corner of Sub-Op. C54B. This deposit was placed 36 cm south of S.D.C54B-3. Based on its strati-graphic relationship to S.D.C54B-2 and S.D.C54B-3, S.D. C54B-5 may have been made at the same time as these two deposits. The offering consisted of a bowl, Object 2, placed on its side but at a downward angle and a dish, Object 1, placed upside down over this. Within the bowl was a small dish, Object 3, placed on its side with a pile of 27 obsidian flakes, blades and eccentrics. On the top of the obsidian pile an eccentric with a rounded distal end and a sharply pointed proximal end (Object 4a) was oriented with the point to the southwest. To the east of this was a double-notched blade and a small, multi-notched

blade. To the west was a notched blade core. Object 4a was resting on a blade with a pointed, distal end and slightly waisted sides (Object 4b). The point of this object was oriented to the southeast. Adjacent to Object 4b was a partial blade with multiple notches. Flakes with multiple notches were also found toward the bottom of the pile. To the east of the pile was a blade retouched to a vaguely cruciform shape. Unretouched flakes were found to the east, as well as to the south of the pile.

Object 1 (C54B/5-2) is a flaring-walled dish with a flat base. In the field, the dish was designated vessel 1 of S.D.C54B-3. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (between 5YR7/4 and 5YR7/6) with patches of pale brown (10YR7/4) around the rim. The interior surface is also reddish-yellow with patches of pale brown on the walls. The rim diameter of this dish measures 18.6 cm and the height ranges from 6.0 cm to 6.1 cm.

Object 2 (C54B/5-3) is an unslipped, deep-sided bowl with slightly inward curving walls and a flat base. In the field, Object 2 was designated vessel 2 of S.D.C54B-3. The exterior and interior surfaces are reddish-yellow (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR7/6). The rim diameter measures 18.5 cm and the height ranges from 15.0 cm to 15.1 cm.

Object 3 (C54B/5-4) is a small, unslipped, flaring-walled dish. In the field, the dish was designated vessel 5 of S.D.C54B-3. The exterior surface is a pinkish-grey

(between 5YR6/1 and 5YR6/2) with a patch of light red (2.5YR 6/6) on one side. The interior surface is the same pinkish-grey as the exterior but has vertical streaks of dark grey (7.5YR3/0) fire clouds. The rim diameter measures 13.2 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 3.1 cm to 3.3 cm.

Object 4 (C54B/5-1,a-aa) consists of the collection of 27 obsidian blades, flakes and eccentrics included in S.D. C54B-5. Object 4b is black in color with darker black, vertical stripes. This point measures 9.0 cm long, 1.9 cm thick and has a maximum width at the proximal end of 3.4 cm. It weighs 48.6 gms. Object 4b is 9.2 cm long, 2.6 cm wide and is 1.4 cm thick. It weighs 31.1 gms and is solid black in color. Two flakes were retouched into leaf shapes. One is transparent with black patches and measures 6.9 cm long, 0.5 cm thick and has a maximum width of 3.5 cm. It weighs 9.9 gms. The other leaf-shaped flake is transparent with black stripes. It is 6.4 cm long and has a maximum width of 4.1 cm. It is 1.8 cm thick and weighs 28.4 gms. One blade was retouched into a vaguely cruciform shape. It is 4.5 cm long, 0.6 cm thick and has a maximum width of 2.3 cm. It weighs 5.4 gms and is smokey grey with black stripes. A long blade core was notched. This core is 9.3 cm long, 2.0 cm wide, 1.3 cm thick and weighs 25.8 gms. Included in this collection are two single notched blades. One is transparent with dark stripes, which measures 4.2 cm long, 2.5 cm wide 0.6 cm thick and weighs 4.5 gms. The other single-

notched blade is a smokey grey with black stripes. It is 2.7 cm long, 3.1 cm wide, 0.6 cm thick and weighs 3.0 gms. One long blade has five notches along one side and two notches on the opposite side. It is transparent with dark stripes and is 8.2 cm long, 3.6 cm wide, 1.4 cm thick and weighs 21.3 gms. One blade fragment has a single notch on either side. It is smokey grey with black strips and is 7.1 cm long, 4.0 cm wide, 0.9 cm thick and weighs 19.1 gms. The rest of the obsidian is comprised of an assortment of unretouched blade fragments and flakes which range in size from 1.0 cm long, 1.4 cm wide, and 0.2 cm thick to 9.1 cm long, 4.2 cm wide and 1.3 cm thick. The total weight of the unretouched pieces is 92.4 gms.

Structure 3D4 Recovery Lots

Lot C54A/1 is associated with the humus and medium brown matrix removed above the floor of the tomb investigated in Sub-Op. C54A. The artifacts recovered from this Lot are attributed to the construction of the building and the final occupation of this locus. The material includes chert debitage, unworked slate fragments and incensario fragments. This inventory is not overwhelmingly indicative of a ritual function for Str. 3D4; however, based on the special deposits recovered from Sub-Op. C54B, it is believed that some of this material was incorporated into the construction fill of the building and that the primary function of Str. 3D4 was ceremonial.

Lot C54A/2 is assigned to the material associated with the interment of two individuals in S.D.C54A-1. The ceramic vessels recovered from this burial indicate that the interment was made during the Late Classic Period.

Lot C54B/1 is associated with the material recovered from the humus level of Sub-Op. C54B. The artifacts recovered from this Lot are attributed to the final use of the Str. 3D4 locus and include incensario fragments, chert debris, and assorted sherds.

Lot C54B/2 is assigned to material recovered from the dark to medium brown construction fill of the platform, removed from within the original excavation limits of Sub-Op. C54B. The artifacts recovered from this Lot included large sherds from smashed vessels as well as chert debitage. Within this construction fill, four cache deposits (S.D. C54B-1, S.D.C54B-2, S.D.C54B-3, and S.D.C54B-5) were recovered.

Lot C54B/3 is assigned to the material associated with the dark brown matrix removed above U.1 in the 60 cm extension of Sub-Op. C54B to the east, beneath the humus. The artifacts recovered from above U.1 include a laurel leaf chert point and fragments of incensarios.

Lot C54B/4 is assigned to the light brown matrix which was removed beneath U.2 in the extension of Sub-Op. C54B. This Lot was removed above the capstones for S.D.C54B-4, adjacent to Lot C54B/5.

Lot C54B/5 is associated with the loose, pink matrix removed above the capstones for S.D.C54B-4. The artifacts recovered from this Lot included three obsidian blade fragments and some human bone.

Structure 3D4 Summary

Sub-Operation C54A was the investigation of the collapsed chamber located within the construction of Str. 3D4. Two adults were interred in the chamber with eighteen ceramic vessels and a variety of small objects, including two incensarios and a jadeite pendant. The vessel forms indicate that the interment (S.D.C54A-1) was made during the Late Classic Period. The incensarios are similar in form to those found at Balankanche Cave in Northern Yucatan (Andrews IV, 1970:19) but in the context of S.D.C54A-1, are much earlier in date.

Sub-Operation C54B investigated the platform relationship to Str. 3D4. It was impossible to place the excavation directly over the base of the building so no architectural features of the building were recovered. Some of the activity associated with the Str. 3D4 locus can be reconstructed; however, it remains unclear what relationship some of this activity had with the construction of the building and the interment of S.D.C54A-1.

The platform was constructed and a plaster floor (U.2) put in place. A second plaster floor (U.1) was constructed on top of U.2. Based on the artifacts recovered from S.D.

C54B-4, the floors were constructed and used during the Late Classic Period. The floors were cut and the interment designated S.D.C54B-4 was placed in a crypt (U.3) dug into bedrock. New construction material was then collected in the Str. 3D4 locus for a new platform surface. Within this matrix, west of S.D.C54B-4, four cache offerings were deposited (S.D.C54B-1 through S.D.C54B-3 and S.D.C54B-5). Based on their stratigraphic relationships with each other, S.D.C54B-3 and S.D.C54B-5 appear to have been deposited at the same time and S.D.C54B-1 and S.D.C54B-2 were deposited shortly thereafter. There is no evidence for any of these offerings being intrusive to the platform construction fill in front of Str. 3D4. A platform floor (U.4) must have been constructed in this locus, just above the level of S.D.C54B-1, and sealed the four cache offerings.

It is possible that the interment of S.D.C54A-1 was associated with the construction of U.1 or U.2 and is therefore, slightly earlier in time than the interment of S.D.C54B-4 and the cache offerings. The fact that the tomb had an entrance suggests that the chamber was accessible after Str. 3D4 was constructed. The entrance was closed by construction material indicating that the building and the platform continued to be used after the interment was made.

Structure 3D4 was the locus for ritual activity. This is based on the incensario fragments recovered from the collapsed fill above the floor of the tomb in Sub-Op. C54A

and on the cache offerings recovered from Sub-Op. C54B. The groundstone fragments recovered from the excavations are parts of manos and metates which may have been used in the course of the ritual events and are not necessarily part of domestic activity. Two of these fragments were incorporated into the facade of the southwest corner of the building.

Structure 3D4 Platform UNITS

UNIT 1: Upper plaster floor found in the east excavation limit of Sub-Op. C54B.

UNIT 2: Lower plaster floor found in the east excavation limit of Sub-Op. C54B.

UNIT 3: Crypt cut into bedrock for S.D.C54B-4.

UNIT 4: Reconstructed plaza floor.

Structure 3D4 Recovery Lots

C54A/ 1: Humus, medium brown matrix and construction fill removed above the floor of the tomb.

C54A/ 2: Material associated with S.D.C54A-1.

C54B/ 1: Humus removed from Sub-Op. C54B.

C54B/ 2: Dark to medium brown construction fill for the platform.

C54B/ 3: Dark brown matrix removed above U.1 in the extension of Sub-Op. C54B to the east.

C54B/ 4: Light brown matrix removed beneath U.2 in the extension of Sub-Op. C54B.

C54B/ 5: Loose, pink matrix removed above the capstones for
S.D.C54B-4 in the extension of Sub-Op. C54B.

TABLE 5.8
STRUCTURE 3D4 TIMESPANS

TIMESPAN	EVENT	ASSOCIATED UNITS	ASSOCIATED LOTS	DATE
I	Abandonment		C54A/1, C54B/1	
II	Use of Str. 3D4		C54A/1, C54B/1	LC
IIa	Construction latest platform floor	<u>U.4</u>	C54B/2, C54B/3	LC
IIb	Deposit S.D.C54B-1		C54B/2	LC
IIc	Deposit S.D.C54B-2 S.D.C54B-3 S.D.C54B-5		C54B/2	LC
IIId	Deposit S.D.C54B-4	<u>U.3</u>	C54B/4, C54B/5	LC
III	Use of platform surface	<u>U.1</u>		LC
IVa	Construction platform surface			LC
IVb	Deposit S.D.C54A-1		C54A/2	LC
V	Use of platform surface	<u>U.2</u>		LC
IV	Construction platform surface			LC

Structure 2E49

Structure 2E49 is the western building of the group defined by Strs. 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51. The building rises 1 m above the plaza floor and covers an area of 27.3 m². Excavation in this locus was intended to recover data regarding the use of Str. 2E49 as well as additional data regarding the use and construction of the platform.

Excavation

A 1.5 m by 1.5 m test pit excavation was placed on axis to, and in front of, Str. 2E49 (Fig. 5.56). Humus was removed to reveal a dark brown matrix which was mixed with small and medium-sized rubble. This changed to a more compact greyish-brown matrix, still mixed with the small and medium rubble, some 25 cm below the surface. A light brown matrix was encountered 45 cm below the surface which was mixed with small rubble. This matrix was less compact than the greyish-brown matrix above it and it rested on bedrock, which was encountered 60 cm below the surface.

Artifacts recovered from this excavation include some incensario fragments, two obsidian blade fragments, two unworked slate fragments, as well as a mano and a metate fragment. A similar inventory of artifacts were recovered from Sub-Ops. C54A and C54B. Although no ritual deposits were found, it is possible that Str. 2E49 was the locus of both ritual and domestic activity.

Structures 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51 Group Summary

Three excavations were conducted in group defined by Strs. 3D1 - 3D5, 2E48 - 2E51. The data indicate that the group was built and occupied during the Late Classic Period. The collapsed tomb at the summit of Str. 3D4 (Sub-Op. C54A) was excavated, revealing the interment of two adults with an assortment of ceramic vessels and small objects. The quantity of the burial goods, as well as the kinds of objects included with the interment, are taken as an indication that the primary individual interred in the chamber was a person of some consequence in the Caracol community.

A test excavation was placed in the plaza, at the base of Str. 3D4. No architectural details are available for the building; however, two plastered plaza surfaces were revealed in Sub-Op. C54B and a third one is believed to have existed. Structure 3D4 was the locus of ritual activity for the group. Four cache offerings were deposited in the platform construction fill and a burial was interred in a crypt cut into bedrock in front of Str. 3D4.

A second test excavation, Sub-Op. C54C, was placed in front of Str. 2E49, on the west side of the platform. No architectural features of the building were exposed and no evidence for a plastered plaza surface was found. The inventory of artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C54C indicate that this building probably served a ritual and a domestic function for the occupants of the group.

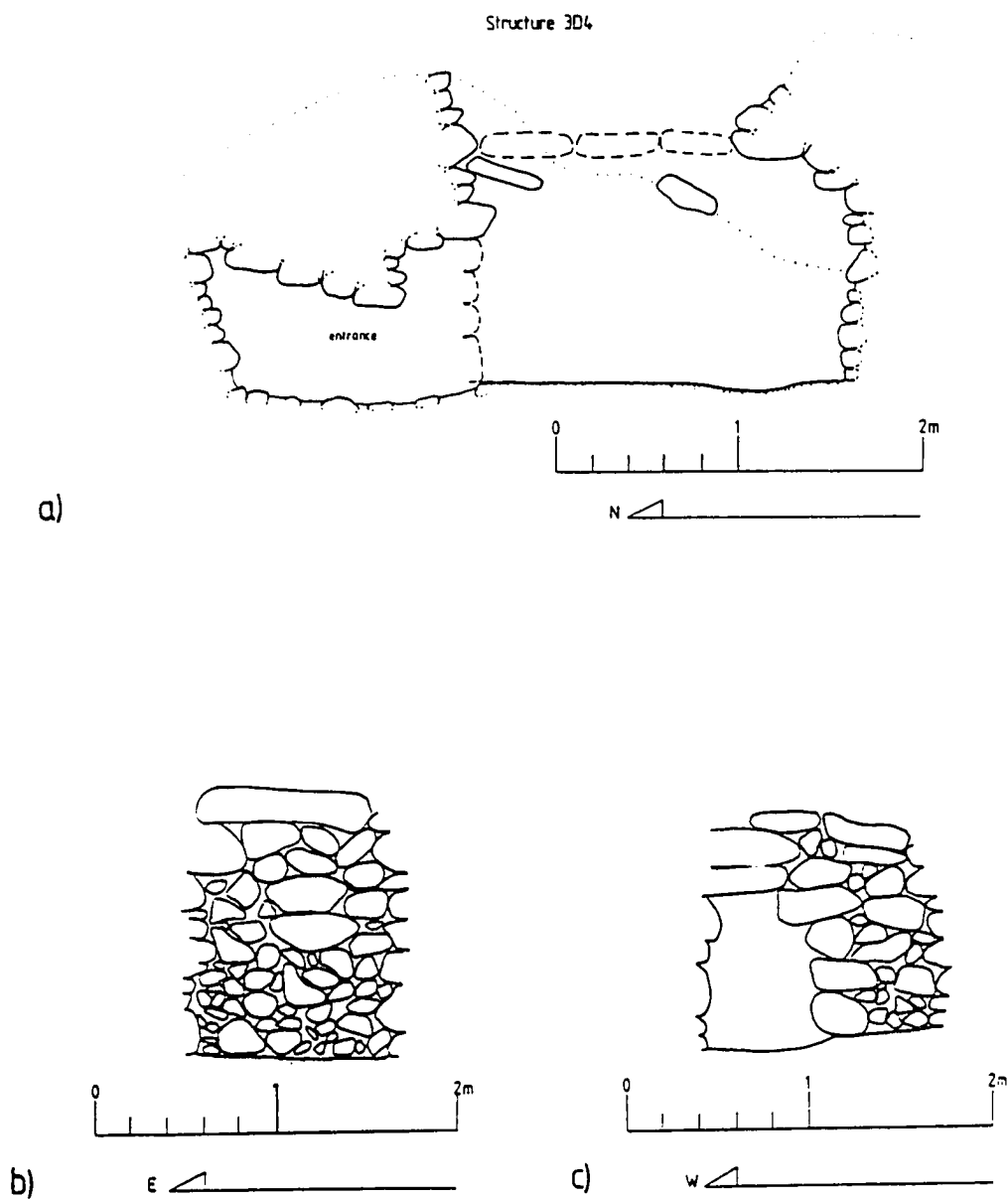


Figure 5.51. Structure 3D4 Special Deposit C54A-1 a) north-south section, b) elevation of the south wall, c) elevation of the north wall and entrance.

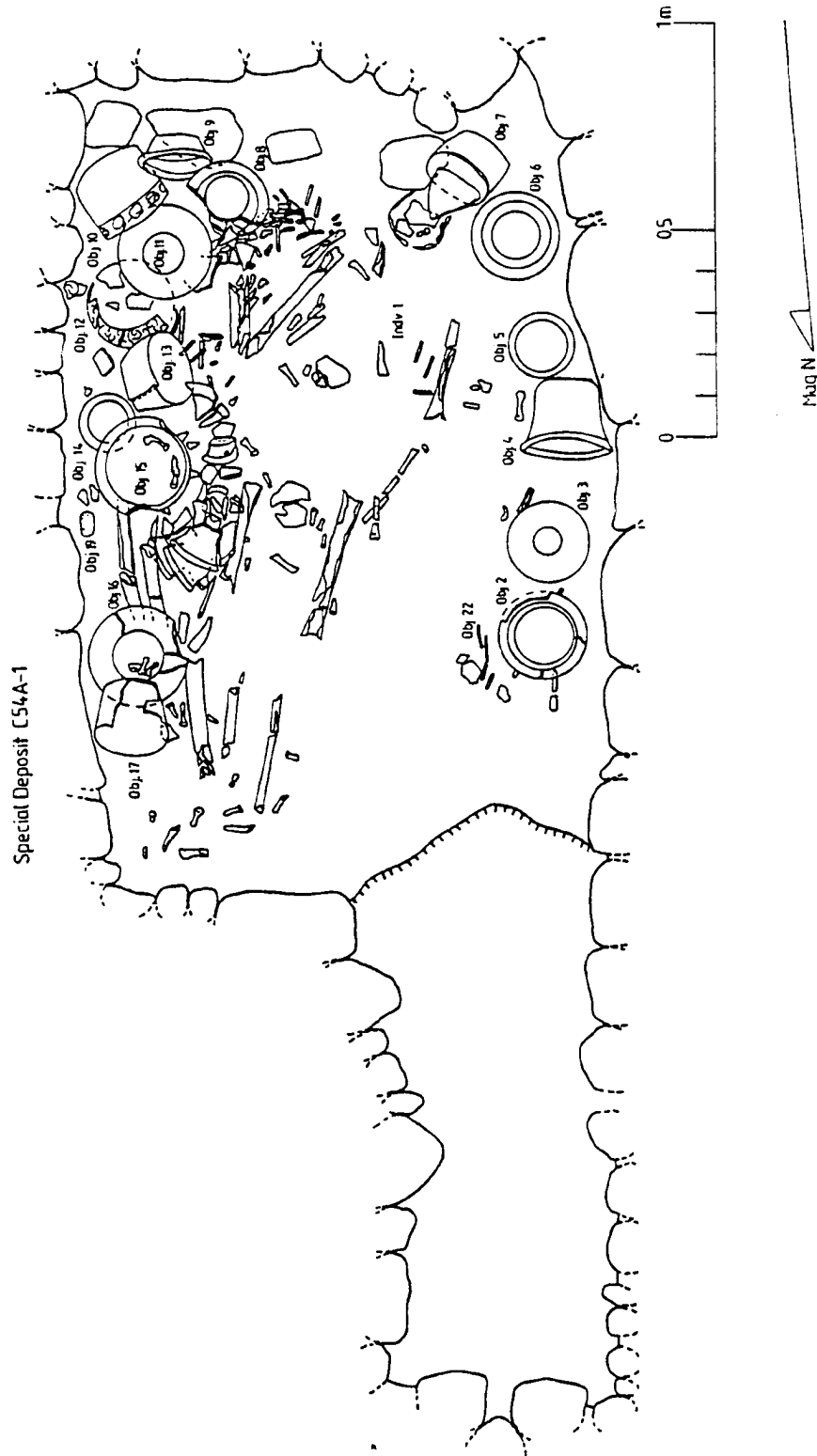


Figure 5.52. Structure 3D4 Special Deposit C54A-1 plan.

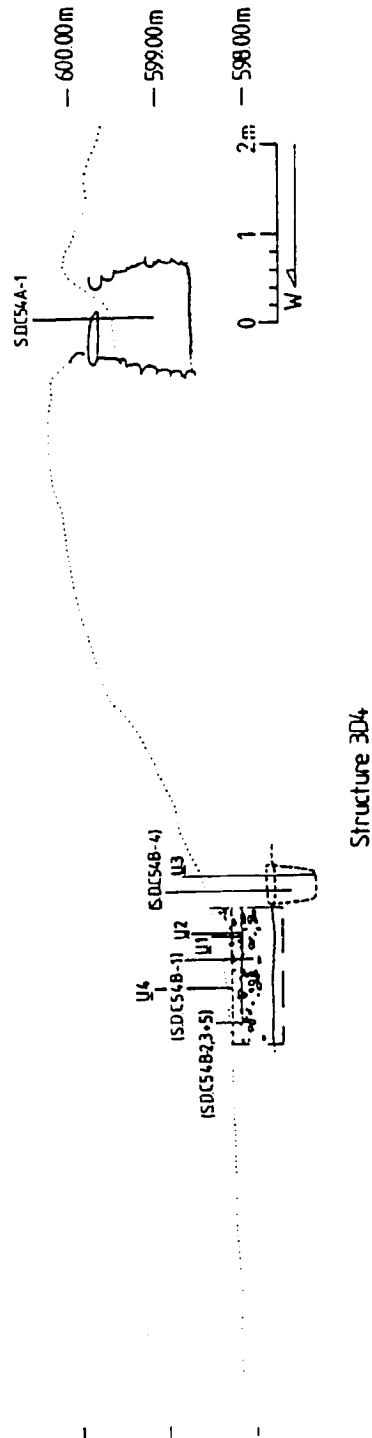


Figure 5.53. Structure 3D4 east-west mound profile with the cross-section of Special Deposit C54A-1 and the section of Sub-Operation C54B.

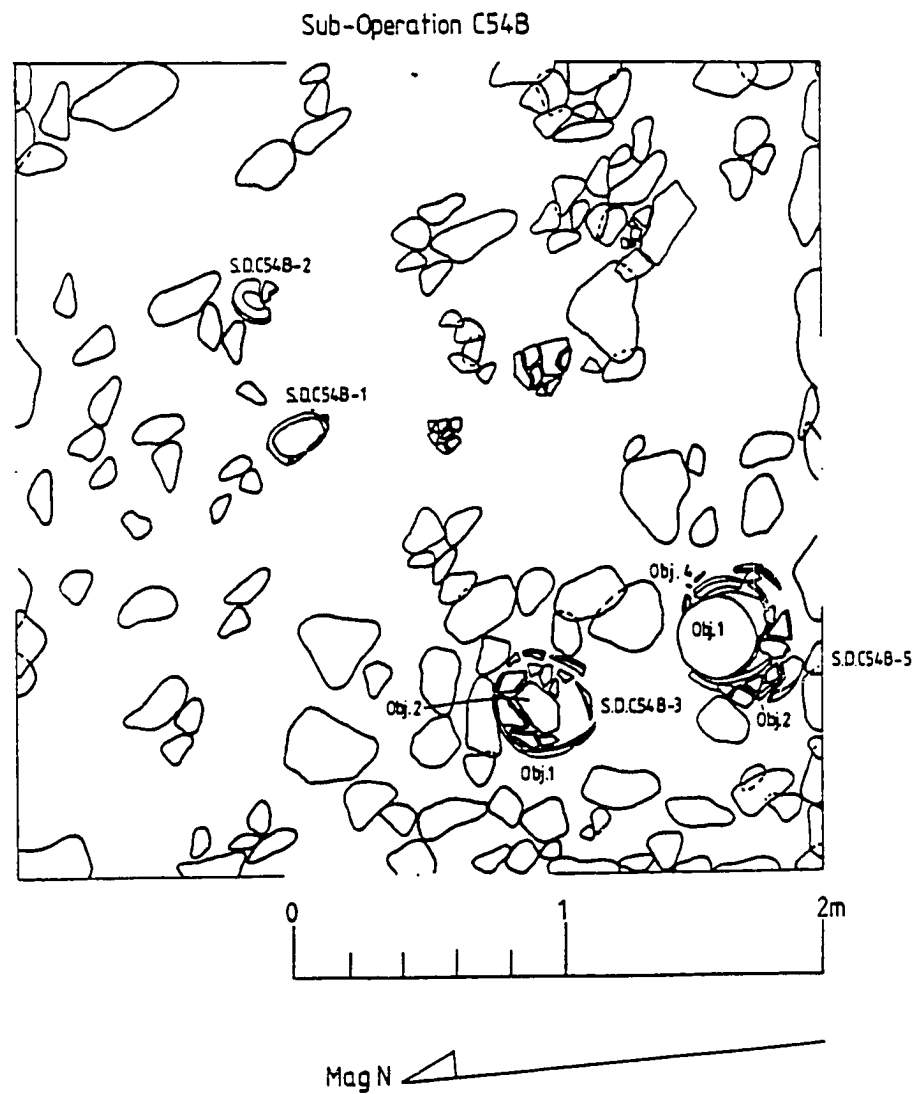


Figure 5.54. Sub-Operation C54B Special Deposits.

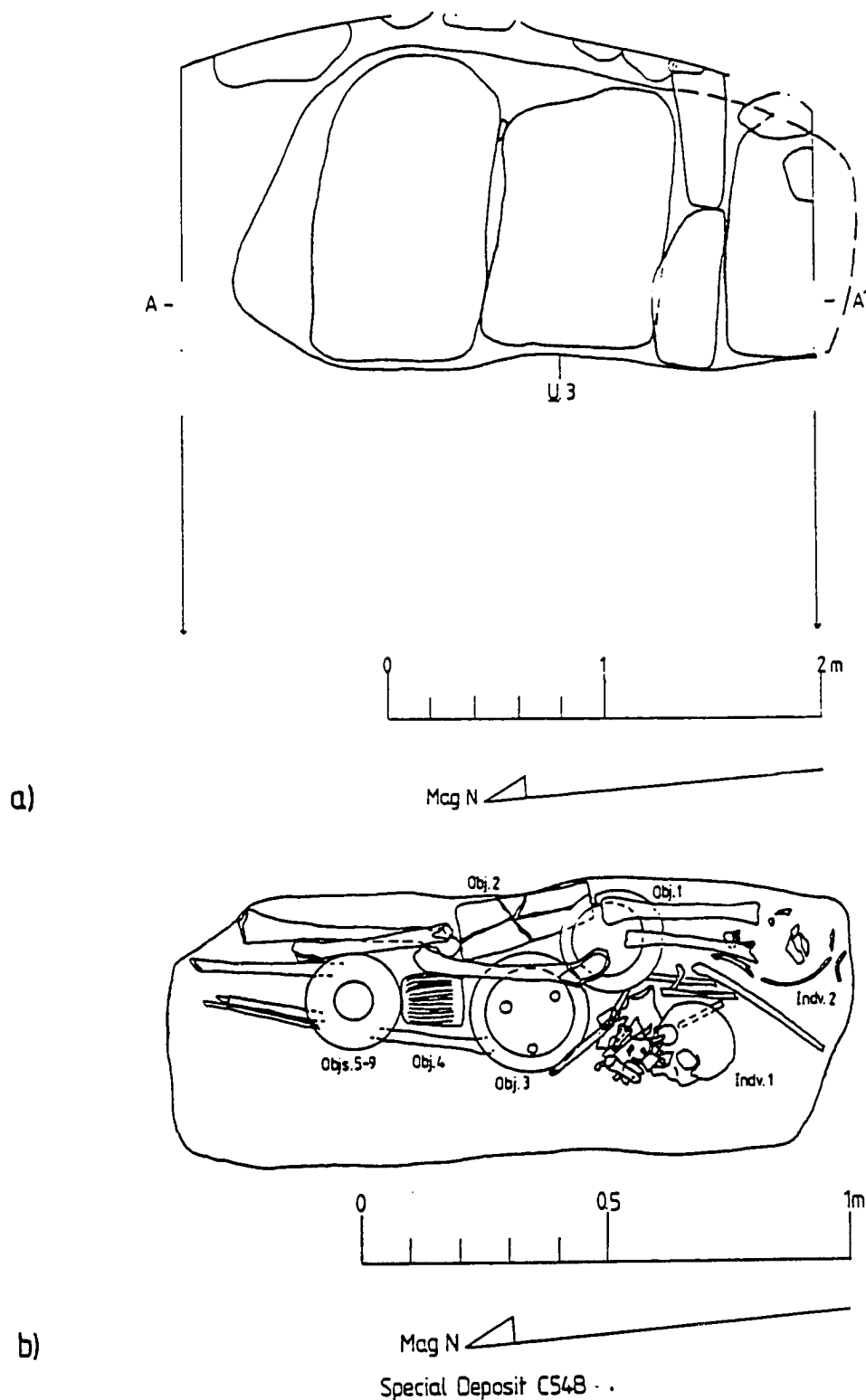


Figure 5.55. Sub-Operation C54B Special Deposit C54B-4
 a) plan of capstones, A-A' refers to the location of the original east excavation limit; b) plan.

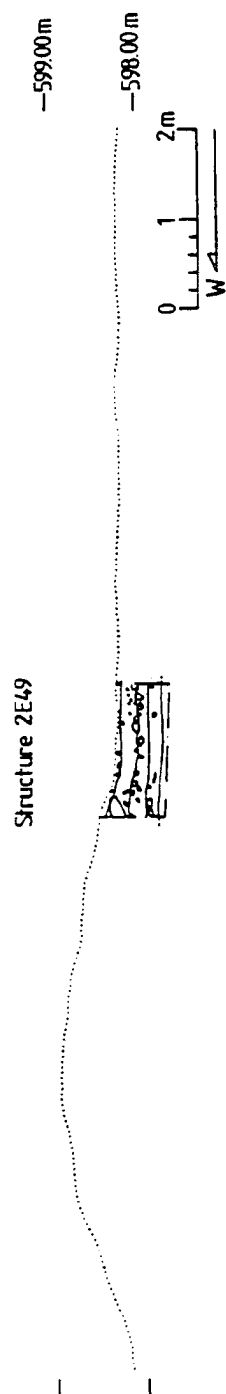


Figure 5.56. Structure 2E49 east-west mound profile and the section of Sub-Operation C54C.

Structures 2E26 - 2E34: Operation C59

Structures 2E26 - 2E34 comprise a group of nine buildings situated around a central plaza on a platform located on top of a hill, 138 m southwest of the Conchita Causeway and 1.95 km southeast of the epicenter (see Fig. 4.9). The hill upon which the group is located is on the eastern edge of a valley which is densely terraced. Structures 2E26 - 2E34 range in size from 23.52 m² to 126.60 m² and range in height from 1.0 m to 2.0 m above the plaza floor. They were chosen for investigation based on the prominence of the group and in order to recover information regarding the occupation history of this part of the residential zone. The group was mapped in 1987 and excavations, designated Operation C59, were conducted during April and May of 1989. Structures 2E26 - 2E34 are an example of a Type 4 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structure 2E28

Structure 2E28 rises approximately 2 m above the plaza floor on the east side of the group and at its base, covers an area of 82.6 m². The excavation was supervised by Susan Jaeger and by Raul Valencia from the Belize Department of Archaeology.

Excavation

An axial trench, designated Sub-Op. C59A, was excavated in this locus, measuring 8.9 m east-west by 1.5 m north-

south (Fig. 5.57). The east excavation limit was placed at the building's summit and as excavation proceeded down through the construction phases, the western-most edge of the building, in all its phases, was met. Sub-Operation C59A revealed that at least three buildings were constructed and modified in the Str. 2E28 locus during the Late Classic Period.

Structure 2E28-3rd

The earliest activity in this locus was the construction of a plaster floor (U.1) directly on bedrock. Although the floor was found within this excavation up to 4.6 m west of the east excavation limit, the floor must have originally extended further west into the plaza and may have been the original plaza floor. Subsequent building activity in this locus resulted in the partial removal of this original floor in the western portion of the excavation. On this floor, 2.0 m to 2.2 m east of the east excavation limit, a simple burial (S.D.C59A-16) was discovered.

Special Deposit C59A-16. This deposit (Fig. 5.58) was the simple burial of a child believed to have been five years of age or less at the time of death (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). One adult lower molar was included with this burial as were fragments of an unidentified animal. No artifacts were associated with this inter-

ment which would indicate when this burial was deposited on U.1.

The burial was covered by a dark brown matrix mixed with small to large rubble which constituted part of the construction fill for Str. 2E28-3rd. This fill was placed directly on U.1 to a height of 30 cm to 50 cm above this surface. A plaster construction level (U.1) partially capped the dark brown fill. It was found 1.8 m to 3.0 m west of the east excavation limit but the dark brown matrix extended almost 4.0 m west of this limit. Unit 1 is believed to have been a construction level rather than a floor based on its degree of preservation. The plaster was soft and flaked easily, in contrast to the harder and smoother surface of U.1 and other plaster surfaces encountered in Sub-Op. C59A. Directly above U.1 was a small patch of medium brown matrix from which a carbon sample was recovered. This may have been the remnants of domestic activity or it may have been part of a ritual associated with the construction. As the carbon was found within a small pocket of matrix with no rubble, which, in turn, was covered by grey-brown matrix, it is possible that the carbon was the result of ritual activity associated with the construction of Str. 2E28-3rd. The carbon sample has not yet been processed for dating. Construction of Str. 2E28-3rd continued with the deposit of a greyish-brown matrix mixed with small and large rubble above U.1 and the dark brown matrix to a

height of 0.8 m to 1.1 m above the original plaza floor. Two plaster surfaces were encountered in the excavation, partially sealing the greyish-brown matrix. One floor (U.2) extended approximately 2 m west of the east excavation limit and the other floor (U.4) was found at a slightly lower elevation and extended from 2.8 m to approximately 3.8 m west of the east excavation limit. Unit 2 and U.4 are believed to be all that remains of Str. 2E28-3rd. Much of the construction of this building and the plaza floor which must have been associated with it (U.2) are no longer preserved as a good portion of this was removed when later deposits and constructions were undertaken in this locus. Based on the stratigraphy and the preserved architecture revealed in the excavation the form of Str. 2E28-3rd is reconstructed here. The summit of the building is represented by U.2 which must have resolved into a one-course step (U.3) leading to U.4. The top step of the front staircase (U.5) was found beneath the western edge of U.4. Thus, Str. 2E28-3rd was a two room, tandem plan building which measured approximately 4.5 m east-west. Unit 4 was the floor for the front room which measured 1.7 m east-west and rose approximately 0.8 m above U.2. This surface may have actually served as a terrace in front of the room at the summit of the building. Unit 2 was the floor for this summit room which measured at least 2.2 m east-west and rose approximately 1 m above U.2. This building plan is similar

to that revealed for Str. C11 in Sub-Op. C22A, which is believed to have served as a residence for Strs. C11 - C14. Thus, it is possible that Str. C2E28-3rd also served as a residence for Strs. 2E26 - 2E34. No artifacts associated with Str. 2E28-3rd were recovered which would directly date the construction and use of this building. However, based on its stratigraphic relationship with subsequent constructions in this locus, and on the other excavation conducted within this group of buildings, Str. 2E28-3rd was probably built during the Late Classic Period.

Structure 2E28-2nd

Some time during the Late Classic Period, a new building was constructed in the eastern locus over Str. 2E28-3rd and was modified once during its lifespan. The earliest version of this building is designated Str. 2E28-2nd-b (Fig. 5.57).

A light to medium brown matrix, mixed with boulders and small to medium rubble, was deposited above U.2 and U.3. This matrix extended 2.9 m west of the east excavation limit and rose approximately 70 cm above U.2 to increase the height of Str. 2E28-2nd above Str. 2E28-3rd. Remnants of a plaster floor (U.6) were found above this matrix and the largest portion was located 1.7 m to 2.0 m west of the east excavation limit. Unit 6 served as the floor for the summit room of Str. 2E28-2nd-b. A greyish-brown matrix, mixed primarily with small rubble, was deposited on U.4 to raise

the height of the front room of the new building by approximately 60 cm above the earlier surface. This was also covered by a plaster surface (U.8) which served as the floor for the front room of the new building. One or two steps (U.7) joined the two rooms, however, these were not found in the excavation and may have been removed during later construction in this locus. The plastered front steps for Str. 2E28-2nd-b (U.9) were partially preserved and the upper three steps were most readily visible in the north wall of the trench. The construction fill for U.9 consisted of large and medium rubble mixed with a pinkish-grey matrix. Large, pink marl blocks were also included in this fill. Two cache offerings, S.D.C59A-14 and S.D.C59A-15, are associated with the construction of U.9. Special Deposit C59A-14 was found within the pinkish-grey matrix beneath the third step and S.D.C59A-15 was found on U.1, covered by the material associated with the construction of this feature. A plastered surface was found in the western portion of the excavation at the same elevation as U.1. However, based on the stratigraphy and on the angle of U.8, this surface (U.3) may have served as the plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E28-2nd-b. Thus, Str. 2E28-2nd-b was a two room, tandem plan building like Str. 2E28-3rd. The new structure measured at least 5 m east-west at the base. Unit 8 was the floor for the front room which measured 1.1 m east-west and rose approximately 1.3 m above U.3. Similar to U.4 for Str.

2E28-3rd, U.8 may have actually served as a terrace in front of the room at the summit of the building. Unit 6 was the floor for the room at the summit of Str. 2E28-2nd which measured approximately 2.5 m east-west and rose 1.6 m above U.3. Structure 2E28-2nd-b was constructed some time during the Late Classic Period based on the stratigraphic position of this building at this locus and based on the data collected from the other excavation conducted within this group of buildings. This serves to roughly date the deposit of S.D.C59A-14. Analysis of the cache deposits recovered from throughout Caracol may eventually provide a more concise date for the vessel forms included in S.D.C59A-14 and S.D.C59A-15 and thus for the construction of Str. 2E28-2nd-b.

Special Deposit C59A-14. This deposit consisted of a small bowl (Object 1), placed right-side up, with a miniature barrel-shaped cylinder (Object 2) placed inside (Fig. 5.58). The cylinder has a dome-shaped lid. The offering was deposited in the pinkish-grey construction matrix of U.9.

Object 1 (C59A/35-2) is a small, unslipped bowl. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/6) fading to a brown (7.5YR 5/4) on one side. A dark grey fire cloud (2.5YR4/0) is on the rim. The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 9.3 cm and the height measures 6.1 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/35-1a,b) is a miniature cylinder with a dome-shaped lid. The cylinder was pinched into shape and the finger impressions are apparent on the exterior surface. The exterior surface is a yellowish-red (5YR5/6) which fades to a dark grey (7.5YR3/0) towards the rim. The interior surface is yellowish-red like the exterior. The lid is unslipped light red (2.5YR6/8). The rim diameter of the cylinder is 4.9 cm and the height of the vessel is 5.7 cm. The diameter of the lid is 4.6 cm and the height is 1.2 cm.

Special Deposit C59A-15. This deposit consisted of two sets of ceramic vessels, placed side by side on U.1 and covered by the construction material associated with U.9 (Fig. 5.58). Object 1 is a deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face. Two miniature flaring-walled dishes, Objects 2 and 3, were placed lip-to-lip within this bowl. The sherds to a badly fragmented deep-sided bowl (Object 5) and part of a very shallow dish (Object 6) were found beneath Object 1. Based on its size, Object 6 may have been a lid for Object 5. A third deep-sided bowl, Object 4, was placed adjacent to, and west of Object 1. Objects 1 and 4 are almost identical in form and face characteristics. Object 4 was oriented so that the face was to the east. Eight obsidian eccentrics (Object 7) were placed inside of Object 4, as were two human finger bones (Object 9) and what may be bird bone (Object 8). The eccentrics consist of some notched blades, a disk and several unretouched blades.

Object 1 (C59A/38-6) is an unslipped, deep-sided bowl with a modeled and applied face. The face is characterized by modeled eyes, a simple applied nose and a downward curving mouth. The most striking feature of this face is an applied band around the sides and top of the face. On this vessel, the band was broken off before the bowl was deposited. The face is similar to the face on Object 4 in this deposit and is very similar to one of the cache vessels recovered in S.D.C34C-4. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR 5/8) and fades into a dark grey fire cloud (2.5YR4/0) near the base. The interior surface is the same red as the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 11.5 cm and the height measures 14.0 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/38-1) is a miniature flaring-walled dish, found within Object 1. The exterior surface of the dish is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/8 and 2.5YR6/8) which fades to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR6/6) towards the base. The interior surface is a blotchy red and reddish-yellow. The diameter of the rim measures 10.5 cm and the height ranges from 3.6 cm to 3.8 cm.

Object 3 (C59A/38-2) is a miniature flaring-walled dish, found within Object 1. The exterior surface of the dish is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/8 and 2.5YR6/8) which fades to a dark greyish-brown fire cloud (between 10YR3/1 and 10YR3/2) towards the base. The interior surface is

unslipped red. The rim diameter measures 10.0 cm and the height ranges from 3.8 cm to 4.5 cm.

Object 4 (C59A/38-5) is an unslipped red deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face similar to that on Object 1. The band encircling the face on Object 4 is intact and is comprised of a string of "jewels" or small appliqued disks. and The exterior and interior surfaces are red (5YR7/6). The rim diameter measures 12.0 cm and the height of the vessel is 11.5 cm.

Object 5 (C59A/38-7) is a partially reconstructed deep-sided bowl found beneath Object 1. The top portion of the bowl could not be attached to the bottom portion as the sherds either were not included in the deposit or had eroded away. Since this vessel is more eroded than any of the other vessels associated with this cache, it is likely that the vessel was broken prior to deposit and not all the sherds were included in the deposit. The exterior and interior surfaces are red (between 2.5YR4/6 and 2.5YR5/6). The diameter of the rim is 12.0 cm and the reconstructed height of the bowl is approximately 11 cm.

Object 6 (C59A/38-8) is a partial dish found beneath Object 1, which may have served as a lid for Object 5. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a reddish-brown (5YR5/4) towards the top. The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior. The diameter of the lid is 15.0 cm and the height is 3.0 cm.

Object 7 (C59A/38-3,a-i) comprises the collection of eight obsidian eccentrics found in Object 4. Two of the blades are double-notched on one side, a third blade has a single notch and one piece has been retouched into a disk. Three blades, one flake, and a small fragment do not appear to have been retouched. The blades range in length from 5.2 cm to 6.5 cm and range in width from 1.1 cm to 3.0 cm. The flake is 4.7 cm long and 3.9 cm wide. The disk has a diameter of 3.5 cm. The total weight of the eccentrics included in this cache is 149.7 gms.

Object 8 (C59A/38-4) is the bird bone found within Object 4.

Object 9 (C59A/38-9a,b) consists of two human finger bones found within Object 4. They are both identified as second phalanges (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989).

Structure 2E28-2nd was modified once with the construction of a new staircase (U.10), however, the motivation for this is unclear. Very little of this construction was preserved in the excavation and was best noted in the north wall of the trench (Fig. 5.57). The surface of U.8 was extended almost 40 cm to the west to cover the top step of U.9. This extension resolved into U.10, a portion of which was noted above the third step of U.9. Although most of U.10 was removed during subsequent building activity in this locus, it appears that the material used to construct this feature was similar to that used for U.9. Thus, Str. 2E28-

2nd-a maintained the form of Str. 2E28-2nd-b but the front room was increased by some 40 cm. It is assumed that a new plaza floor (U.4) was constructed when U.10 was built, however, no clear evidence for this surface was found in the excavation.

Structure 2E28-1st

During the later part of the Late Classic Period, a new building was constructed and modified once in the Str. 2E28 locus (Fig. 5.57). Based on the stratigraphy revealed in the trench, it appears that the motivation for this building activity was likely the construction of a tomb (S.D.C59A-12) beneath the steps of Str. 2E28-2nd, at the base of the structure. Unit 10 and U.9 were removed in order to construct the tomb (U.11) which was dug into bedrock. The tomb was found 4.6 m to 5.6 m west of the east excavation limit. After U.11 was sealed with large limestone slabs, the construction of Str. 2E28-1st-b proceeded with the deposit of a medium brown matrix, lightly mixed with medium rubble, to the west of the cut U.9 and U.10. This matrix reached a height of approximately 70 cm above the capstones for S.D. C59A-12. The medium brown matrix was mixed with larger rubble at the summit of the new building. No architecture was preserved at the summit, however, based on the different matrices revealed in the trench, Str. 2E28-1st-b reached a height of approximately 2 m above the plaza floor. Based on the plaster surfaces of the earlier buildings, it

is likely that the summit of Str. 2E28-1st-b had a plaster floor (U.12) which measured at least 2.6 m east-west. A small remnant of a plaster floor was found 3.2 m to 3.5 m west of the east excavation limit. Again, based on the stratigraphy revealed in the north wall of the trench, this floor was likely the surface for a terrace level (U.14) near the summit of the building. Unit 14 measured approximately 90 cm east-west and rose approximately 1.6 m above the plaza floor. A one-course step (U.13) is reconstructed between U.12 and U.14 as is a staircase (U.15) leading from U.14 to the plaza below. Because of the slope of the building and due to the final building activity in this locus, very little of U.15 was preserved in the excavation. This feature is represented by a slumped plaster remnant above the lowest remaining step of U.9 and by one step in the north wall of the trench just to the west of, and slightly below, this surface. Two cache offerings were deposited beneath U.15 -- S.D.C59A-6 was deposited in the construction fill above U.8 and S.D.C59A-13 was deposited in the construction fill west of the cut through U.9. Small stone packed in a medium brown matrix was found approximately 5 m to 5.9 m west of the east excavation limit, west, and below the elevation, of the in situ step of U.15. This may have served as a floor bedding for a shallow terrace level near the base of Str. 2E28-1st-b, constructed 40 cm above the capstones for S.D.C59A-12. This terrace (U.16) would have

measured approximately 90 cm east-west and it was likely plastered, given the other plaster surfaces found in this excavation. A one-course step was found 6.2 m to 6.3 m west of the east excavation limit in the southern portion of the trench. This is reconstructed as being the lowest step (U.17) leading from U.16 to the plaza floor. Three cache offerings, S.D.C59A-7, S.D.C59A-9 and S.D.C59A-11, were deposited in a north-south line beneath U.17, just west of the capstones for S.D.C59A-12. These deposits were partially sealed by U.17 and by the plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E28-1st-b (U.5). No clear evidence for U.5 was found in the excavation, however, this may be due to the final building activity, and associated deposits, undertaken in this locus. Thus, Str. 2E28-1st-b rose approximately 2 m above U.5 and measured approximately 6.3 m east-west. It had a terrace in front of the room at the summit and a shallow terrace near the base of the staircase.

Special Deposit C59A-6. This deposit was a cache of a miniature bowl (Object 1) and a clam shell (Object 2) in the medium brown matrix used as construction fill for U.15 (Fig. 5.59).

Object 1 (C59A/18-2) is a miniature bowl with slightly flaring walls and a flat base. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) and the interior surface is unslipped reddish-brown (5YR6/4). The diameter of the

rim measures 8 cm and the height ranges from 3.3 cm to 4.0 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/18-1) is a clam shell represented by one half of a bivalve. The exterior surface is white and the interior surface is tinted orange. The shell is 4.0 cm long, 4.0 cm in maximum width and weighs 5.2 gms.

Special Deposit C59A-7. This deposit was the northernmost cache found just beneath the leading edge of U.17 (Fig. 5.60). It consisted of a deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face oriented to the southwest. The face is very simple as the eyes and mouth are represented by appliqued disks. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (2.5YR5/6). The rim diameter of the bowl is 10.0 cm and the height is 8.3 cm.

Special Deposit C59A-9. This deposit was a cache of seven ceramic vessels beneath the leading edge of U.17 (Fig. 5.60). This was the southernmost deposit of the three caches placed beneath U.17. Two adjacent sets of vessels comprise this deposit, part of which was placed in a shallow cut made into U.3. A deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face (Object 5) was placed in the cut with the face oriented almost due west. Two miniature bowls (Object 4 and Object 7), set lip-to-lip, were placed within this vessel. A second pair of lip-to-lip flaring-walled dishes (Object 1 and Object 2) was placed a few centimeters to the

south of Object 5. Between Object 5 and the flaring-walled dishes was a miniature, barrel-shaped cylinder with a flat lid (Object 3), set right side up. A second miniature, barrel-shaped cylinder (Object 6) was placed beneath Object 2, the bottom dish of the lip-to-lip pair. One human phalanx was found within Object 3 and two, possibly three, were found within Object 7. The form of the miniature, barrel-shaped cylinders (Object 3 and Object 6) are similar to those found at the sites of Tikal and Cenote in Tzakol 3 - Tepeu 1 transitional context, however, they may be somewhat later in date in this context (A. F. Chase, personal communication 1989).

Object 1 (C59A/21-3) is a miniature flaring-walled dish which was placed, lip-to-lip, on top of Object 2. The exterior surface is unslipped light pinkish-brown (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR7/4). The interior surface is the same light pinkish-brown as the exterior but there is a reddish-yellow (5YR7/6) patch on the wall as well as a small dark grey fire cloud (7.5YR4/0). The rim diameter measures 7.6 cm and the height measures 2.3 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/21-4) is a flaring-walled dish which was the bottom vessel of a lip-to-lip pair with Object 1. The exterior surface of Object 2 is unslipped light pinkish-brown (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR7/4) with a dark grey fire cloud (7.5YR3/0) on the rim. The interior surface is a slightly lighter pinkish-brown (between 7.5YR6/2 and 7.5YR

6/4) than the exterior surface. The rim diameter is 9.0 cm and the height is 2.5 cm.

Object 3 (C59A/21-5a,b) is a miniature barrel-shaped cylinder and its lid, which is a flat, circular disk. The exterior and interior surfaces of the cylinder are unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR5/8). The rim diameter measures 4.7 cm and the height ranges from 4.5 cm to 4.7 cm. The lid is the same color as the cylinder. The diameter of the lid measures 4.4 cm and the height is the thickness of the lid which is 0.7 cm.

Object 4 (C59A/21-2) is a miniature bowl with straight walls and a slightly flaring rim. This was the top vessel of a lip-to-lip pair with Object 7. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR6/6 and 7.5YR7/6) over half the surface. The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior. The rim diameter measures 6.4 cm and the height ranges from 2.8 cm to 3.0 cm.

Object 5 (C59A/21-7a,b) is a deep-sided bowl and its lid. The bowl is decorated with a modeled and appliqued face which is characterized by oval-shaped eyes and a simple nose. The mouth is open with a small ball appliqued in the center and a chin has been exaggerated below the mouth. A circular disk is applied on each cheek with a ball in the center. The exterior and interior surfaces of Object 5 are unslipped red (2.5YR5/6). The rim diameter is 17.0 cm and

the height is 16.8 cm. The lid associated with this vessel is a shallow dish shape and is unslipped red like the bowl. The diameter of the lid is 16.1 cm and the height is 2.2 cm.

Object 6 (C59A/21-6a,b) is a miniature barrel-shaped cylinder and flat lid. This is the same form as Object 3. The exterior and interior surfaces of the cylinder are unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR5/8). The rim diameter measures 4.4 cm and the height is 4.2 cm. The lid is a flat, circular disk and is unslipped red like the cylinder. The diameter of the lid is 4.4 cm and the height is the same as the thickness which is 0.9 cm.

Object 7 (C59A/21-1) is the lower vessel of a lip-to-lip pair with Object 4. Object 7 is a miniature bowl with straight walls and a slightly flaring rim. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR4/8) which fades into a reddish-brown (5YR5/4) over half the vessel. A very dark grey fire cloud (5YR5/1) is present on the base. The diameter of the rim is 6.5 cm and the height ranges from 2.8 cm to 3.0 cm.

Object 8 (C59A/21-8) is the human bone recovered from the matrices of Objects 3 and 7. The bone from Object 3 is the first phalanx and the bone from Object 7 consists of the first, second and possibly third phalanges from a finger.

Special Deposit C59A-11. This is a cache deposit of twelve obsidian eccentrics beneath U.17 (Fig. 5.59). The excavator, Raul Valencia, noted a thin plaster layer over

this cache which may be all that remains of U.5. The eccentrics were arranged in a circular pile. Six of them are blades which do not appear to have been retouched. One blade has a single notch, one has "waisted" sides and another is curved with two slight projections at either end. One of the blades has been retouched into a "D"- shape and another has a portion of its distal end knocked off with remaining portion retouched into a rounded edge. The most unusual piece is thick and curved, with what look like blade scars along the inner edge of the curve, the outer edge of the curve is pumice. The total weight of obsidian included in this cache is 220.0 gms.

Special Deposit C59A-12. This deposit consisted of at least five individuals buried in a tomb, cut into bedrock, located beneath U.16 (Figs. 5.57 and 5.61). The construction of this feature (U.11) cut through the steps of Str. 2E28-2nd as well as through U.1 and U.3, extending to a depth of 1.18 m. The maximum length measured 2.54 m north-south and the volume was 2.66 m³. The western wall of the chamber was partially lined with a wall of roughly shaped limestone blocks. After the burial was interred, a greyish-brown matrix was used to fill in the chamber and the limestone slabs used to cap the burial rested on this material as they were not large enough to span the width of the cut. Two different matrices were found in the chamber indicating

either that two different burial events occurred in this chamber or that differential silting occurred when the tomb was open. Based on the construction history revealed in the excavation, it appears that the different matrices are due to differential silting. The varying degrees of bone preservation and the different forms of the ceramic vessels recovered from the chamber indicate that all or part of an earlier burial, perhaps encountered during the construction of this feature, were redeposited with this interment. A very loose, greyish-brown matrix, mixed with human bone and smashed vessels, was found in the south end of the chamber and a more compact, medium brown matrix was found in the northern three-quarters of the tomb. Individual 3 and, possibly, Individual 5 were part of the redeposited burial. At least five of the vessels (Objects 10, 13, 18, 19, and 20) recovered from the tomb may be associated with this redeposited material. Objects 10, 13 and 20 were smashed and the sherds were mixed together. Object 18 was also smashed and the sherds were piled beneath Skull 5. Object 19 is similar in form to these other dishes and exhibits a similar degree of preservation. All five vessels were either fully or largely reconstructible. Individual 3 was identified by very fragmented cranial material in the southern end of the tomb, mixed in the loose, greyish-brown matrix with broken bone and smashed vessels. Individual 5 was initially identified by a skull found beneath the loose,

greyish-brown matrix which was more complete than the skull for Individual 3. Based on the teeth and the size of the mastoid process, Individual 5 may have been an adult female; however, the size and robustness of the mandible suggest that this person was a male (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). Teeth found just to the east of this skull belong to Individual 5 and include a notched incisor with a jade inlay still in place. Long bone fragments were found around this skull but it is unclear whether these belonged to Individual 3 or Individual 5 or were from both. It is very possible that Individual 5, unlike Individual 3, was not redeposited in this tomb because the degree of preservation of the skull and its completeness is comparable to the skulls associated with Individuals 1, 2 and 4. It is clear, however, that both Individual 3 and Individual 5 were disarticulated when buried in this locus. A fairly well preserved pelvis and left femur were found 1.2 m to 1.6 m north of the south wall of the chamber. It is uncertain whether these belonged to Individual 3 or Individual 5 but, whichever the case, at least one of these people was an adult female based on the shape of the sciatic notch.

Based on the preservation of the bone, Individual 2 was not part of the redeposited material. The body was placed along the west side of the chamber in an extended position with the head to the south. The size of the bone and the sciatic notch of the pelvis believed to be associated with

Skull 2, indicate that this individual was an adult male. A red-slipped tripod cylinder (Object 14) was placed on the chest of Individual 2 and a second cylinder with traces of red slip (Object 16) was placed adjacent to this person's left hip.

Individual 4 was the next person to be buried in this chamber and was placed in a prone position, with the head to the south. The body was partially flexed in the central portion of the chamber. The pelvis believed to be associated with Individual 4 was used to identify the sex of this person as a female. Individual 4 had at least one inlaid maxillary canine but the inlay was not recovered in the excavation. A red-slipped tripod dish (Object 6) and red-slipped dish with nubbin-slab feet (Object 7) were placed right side up on top of Individual 4's skull.

The final person interred in this tomb was Individual 1, who was placed supine, with the head to the south and resting in Object 6. Individual 1 was placed east of Individual 2. No sex identification was possible for this person as very little pelvic material was preserved. Based on the teeth recovered in the vicinity of Skull 1, this person was an adult; however, some of these teeth could belong to Individual 2 and include a notched and inlaid incisor and an inlaid canine. The inlays were not recovered in this excavation. When Individual 1 was placed in the chamber, a deep bowl with flaring walls (Object 15) was

placed on top of Object 16 and a polychrome dish (Object 17) was placed on its side, against the east wall of the chamber, over Individual 4's pelvis.

Many of the femurs recovered from this interment have at least one hole drilled in the shaft and one femur has as many as three. Some of the long bone found on top of Individual 4's pelvis were found with the proximal ends to the north and some teeth were recovered in the vicinity of pelvis believed to be part of Individual 3 or Individual 5. Thus, it is possible that at least part of a sixth person was included in the redeposited material. Small artifacts recovered from this tomb include a limestone mace head (Object 26), two shell pendants (Object 21), two shell markers (Object 23), two shell ear plugs (Object 22), a limestone spindle whorl (Object 25), four drilled oliva shells (Object 24) and eight obsidian blades (Object 27). Most of these items were found toward the south end of the chamber although some of the obsidian was found in the central area, as well as in the north end with the spindle whorl. One of the ear plugs was found in the central area and the other ear plug was found beneath Skull 5 in the south end of the chamber.

Object 1 (C59A/30-11) is a red slipped cylinder found, in fragments, in the south end of the chamber, on top of the pile of bone and artifacts. The exterior surface is red (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) fading into a black (7.5YR

2/0) and grey (10YR5/1) fire cloud towards the base. The eroded surface of the vessel is a buff (10YR7/3) color. The interior surface is unslipped buff but there are remnants of a red-slipped band extending 2.8 cm below the rim. The rim diameter measures 11.0 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 25.9 cm to 26.5 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/30-12) is a partial cylinder which at one point in time had a flange or some an appendage encircling the vessel below the rim. About three-quarters of the vessel was recovered in the excavation; a portion of the wall is missing as is the base and no sherds were recovered to complete the cylinder. This vessel was found towards the top of the pile of bone and artifacts in the south end of the tomb and may be part of the material redeposited in the chamber. The exterior surface is slipped a dark brown (7.5YR3/2) and the interior surface is somewhat darker in color (7.5YR2/0). The diameter of the rim is reconstructed as 9.6 cm and the height of what remains of the vessel is 16.1 cm.

Object 3 (C59A/30-13) is a partial cylinder, represented by the base. The cylinder was found in the south end of the tomb, on top of the pile of bone and artifacts and may have been redeposited in this locus. The exterior surface of the cylinder is red-slipped (2.5YR5/8) which fades to a buff fire cloud (between 7.5YR5/4 and 7.5YR6/4) towards the base. The interior surface is unslipped red

(2.5YR5/6). The diameter of the base measures 10.8 cm and the height of the portion of the cylinder remaining measures 4.4 cm.

Object 4 (C59A/30-14) is a small, very eroded cylinder found in the south end of the chamber. The eroded exterior surface is red in color (2.5YR6/6), fading to a light brown fire cloud (10YR7/3). The interior surface is red like the exterior surface but there are remnants of red slip (2.5YR 5/6) towards the rim. Less than three-quarters of the rim is present and no sherds were recovered to complete this vessel. This may be due to erosion or to the possibility that this vessel may have been redeposited in this chamber. The diameter of the base measures 7.0 cm and the height of the cylinder measures 11.0 cm.

Object 5 (C59A/30-15) is a very eroded cylinder found on its side towards the south end of the tomb, next to the east wall. The exterior surface was once slipped red (2.5YR 5/6) and remnants of a yellowish-brown (between 10YR5/4 and 10YR5/6) fire cloud is present on the rim. The eroded surface color is also red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6). The interior surface is unslipped red like the eroded exterior surface. The vessel is warped so the rim diameter varies from 12.2 cm to 12.8 cm and the height measures 20.1 cm.

Object 6 (C59A/30-16) is a red-slipped tripod dish. Object 6 was found right side up near the south end of the

chamber with Skull 1 resting in it. The exterior surface is decorated with three shallow incisions -- two incisions encircle the rim and one encircles the medial angle. The feet are hollow and each has two oval slits and a loose clay pellet inside. The exterior surface is red (between 10R5/4 and 10R5/8) which fades to a light brown (between 7.5YR5/2 and 7.5YR6/2) fire cloud on one side. Below the medial angle, the surface is eroded with remnants of slip present. The eroded surface is a buff color (between 10YR7/2 and 10YR8/2). The interior surface is slipped red (2.5YR5/8). The diameter of the rim measures 28.0 cm and the height of the vessel ranges from 8.8 cm to 9.3 cm.

Object 7 (C59A/30-2) is a red-slipped dish found beneath Object 6, near the south end of the tomb. The medial angle was pinched out slightly when the vessel was formed and it was decorated with oval-shaped notches. The dish has three nubbin-slab feet but, when the dish rests on a flat surface, only one of these feet touches that surface. The exterior surface is slipped red (10R4/8) which fades to a dark grey (5YR4/1) and yellowish-red (5YR5/6) fire cloud above the medial angle. Below this angle, the exterior surface is eroded and is pale brown (between 10YR6/3 and 10YR7/3) in color. The interior surface is red slipped like the exterior surface but the eroded surface is a light reddish-brown (5YR6/4) color. The dish is warped and the

rim diameter varies from 27.2 cm to 27.5 cm and the height ranges from 6.7 cm to 7.8 cm.

Object 8 (C59A/30-18) is a red-slipped, tripod cylinder with short, slab-shaped feet. This cylinder was found on its side towards the east wall of the chamber, north of Objects 6 and 7. A very shallow incision encircles the cylinder 15 cm below the rim. The exterior surface is slipped red (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) over a light red underslip (2.5YR6/6). The interior surface has a 10 cm wide band of red slip encircling the rim but the walls of the vessel are unslipped pink (7.5YR8/4). The diameter of the rim measures 12.5 cm and the height ranges from 21.0 cm to 21.1 cm.

Object 9 (C59A/30-19) is an eroded shallow bowl found within the pile of bone in the south end of the chamber, beneath Objects 2 and 3. The exterior surface has remnants of an orange-red slip (5YR5/6) but the color of the eroded surface is red (2.5YR4/6), which fades to a black fire cloud (5YR2.5/1) over the lower half of the bowl. The interior surface was also once slipped an orange-red. The rim diameter of the bowl is 20.0 cm and the height ranges from 6.3 cm to 6.5 cm.

Object 10 (C59A/30-20) is a very eroded dish found upside down, below Object 1, in the south end of the chamber. The eroded surface of the exterior is a reddish-brown color (5YR5/4) at the top which fades into a greyish-brown

(between 5YR5/2 and 5YR5/3) and then a dark grey fire cloud (5YR3/1) towards the base. The interior surface is reddish-brown and greyish-brown like the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 28.0 cm and the height ranges from 6.5 cm to 6.8 cm.

Object 11 (C59A/30-21) is a very eroded, partial cylinder represented only by the base. It was found in the south end of the tomb, just north of Object 10. The exterior surface is red in color (2.5YR5/8) which fades into a dark grey (2.5YR2/0) fire cloud towards the base. The interior is red like the exterior surface. The diameter of the base is 13.2 cm and the height of what remains of this cylinder is 6.0 cm.

Object 12 (C59A/30-1) is a miniature, unslipped jar or bottle. The body of the vessel is rounded but two side are flattened to give an oval-shaped, horizontal cross-section. This bottle was found on its side, beneath Object 5, towards the south end of the chamber. The rim diameter measures 3.3 cm and the height ranges from 5.4 cm to 5.2 cm.

Object 13 (C59A/30-22) is a very eroded dish, similar in form to Object 10. The sherds for Object 13 were found next to Object 10, in the pile of bone at the south end of the chamber. The concentration of the sherds in one location within the chamber indicate that this vessel was redeposited in this tomb. The eroded exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/6), which fades to a dark grey (2.5YR2.5/0) fire

cloud over the lower half of the vessel. The interior surface has traces of a red slip (2.5YR5/8) on the eroded red surface. The diameter of the rim is 27.0 cm and the height ranges from 5.7 cm to 6.4 cm.

Object 14 (C59A/30-23) is a red-slipped, tripod cylinder with short slab feet. This vessel is similar in form and color to Object 8. It was found, broken in two and on its side, in the pelvic region of Individual 1, near the west wall of the tomb. The exterior surface is eroded but there are remnants of red slip (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) on a light red (2.5YR6/8) underslip. The color of the eroded surface is a pinkish-white (7.5YR8/2). The interior surface is unslipped pinkish-white like the exterior surface but there is a 1.4 cm wide band of red slip encircling the rim. The rim diameter is 12.0 cm and the height ranges from 21.2 cm to 21.4 cm.

Object 15 (C59A/30-27) is a deep-sided bowl with slightly flaring walls. This bowl was found right side up, next to the western wall of the chamber, near the left knee of Individual 1. The exterior surface is eroded but there are traces of red (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) and orange (between 5YR6/8 and 5YR7/8) slip on a pink (5YR8/2) underslip. The eroded surface of the bowl is red (2.5YR5/6) which fades to a pale brown (between 10YR6/4 and 10YR7/4) and black (10YR3/1) fire cloud towards the base. The interior surface has remnants of the pink underslip at the rim

but the rest of the surface is eroded red and pale brown like the exterior. The rim diameter measures 16.0 cm and the height ranges from 12.6 cm to 12.9 cm.

Object 16 (C59A/30-32) is an eroded cylinder found, on its side, between Object 15 and the left knee of Individual 1. Object 16 has a kill hole 2 cm above the base and a spalling scar near the rim. The exterior surface is very eroded but there are traces of a red slip (2.5YR5/8) towards the rim and base and there are traces of a black slip (2.5YR 2.5/0) towards the base. The eroded surface is a buff color (between 7.5YR8/2 and 7.5YR8/4). The interior surface is unslipped buff like the exterior but there are traces of a black slip on the lip. The rim diameter measures 9.9 cm and the height ranges from 22.5 cm to 22.7 cm.

Object 17 (C59A/30-28) is an eroded, polychrome, tripod dish. This vessel was found on its side, adjacent to the eastern wall of the chamber, at the right hip of Individual 1. The exterior surface is eroded but there are remnants of a black slip (7.5YR2/0) on the rim and the medial angle. The eroded surface color is pink (between 7.5YR8/4 and 7.5YR8/6). The interior surface has a 7 mm wide red-slipped band (2.5YR4/8) encircling the rim which is followed by a 1 mm wide white stripe (7.5YR8/2). The walls are decorated with vertical orange (2.5YR6/8) stripes or "feathers" painted on a red background (2.5YR4/8). Immediately below this is a white stripe and a red stripe, encircling the

angle between the wall and the bottom of the interior. The bottom is eroded but there are remnants of a red square with lines off two diagonal corners. The feet of this dish are tall and are characterized by oval slits. There are two slits and one loose, clay pellet per foot. The diameter of the rim is 29.0 cm and the height ranges from 11.0 cm to 11.2 cm.

Object 18 (C59A/30-29) is a partial dish, similar in form to Objects 10 and 13. The vessel was smashed and the sherds were piled beneath Skull 5 in the south end of the chamber, indicating that this dish was redeposited in this chamber. Object 18 is very eroded and is represented only by the upper half of the dish. The eroded surface is red (2.5YR5/6) fading into a black fire cloud (2.5YR2.5/0). There are traces of black slip (2.5YR3/0) on the exterior surface towards the rim and there are remnants of a red slip (between 2.5YR4/8 and 2.5YR5/8) on a light red underslip (2.5YR6/8) on the interior surface. The diameter of the rim measures 31.0 cm and the height of what remains of this dish measures 4.2 cm.

Object 19 (C59A/30-30) is a small, flaring-walled bowl. This dish was found on its side, adjacent to the east wall of the chamber, beneath the right knee of either Individual 3 or Individual 5. The exterior surface of Object 19 is very eroded and is red(5YR5/4) in color, fading to pale brown (between 5YR6/3 and 5YR6/4) over approximately half of

the vessel. A black fire cloud (7.5YR2/0) is present on the base. The interior surface is dark brown (between 7.5YR3/2 and 7.5YR4/2) towards the rim and fades into black (7.5YR2/0) towards the bottom. The rim diameter measures 15.5 cm and the height ranges from 3.5 cm to 4.0 cm.

Object 20 (C59A/30-31) is a very eroded dish similar in form to Objects 10, 13 and 18. This was reconstructed from sherds found in the pile of bone at the south end of the chamber, mixed with the sherds for Object 13. It is believed that Object 13 was redeposited in this chamber and since the sherds for both of these vessels were mixed together, it is likely that Object 20 was also redeposited in this tomb. The exterior surface is red (2.5YR5/6) and fades to a pale brown (between 10YR6/3 and 10YR7/3) towards the base. The interior surface has remnants of a red slip (2.5YR5/8) and a black slip (2.5YR3/0) towards the rim. The eroded surface color is red like the exterior surface. The diameter of the rim measures 32.0 cm and the height measures 6.4 cm.

Object 21 (C59A/30-3a,b) is comprised of two white, shell pendants, each ground and polished into a crescent or "tooth" shape. These were found among the long bone fragments, west of Skull 2. C59A/30-3a is 4.1 cm long, 1.4 cm wide, 0.8 cm thick and weighs 5.6 gms. C59A/30-3b is 4.2 cm long, 1.6 cm wide, 0.8 cm thick and weighs 5.4 gms.

Object 22 (C59A/30-4a,b) consists of two carved, shell ear plugs. One was found just to the east of Object 14 in the center of the chamber and the other was found beneath Skull 5 at the south end of the tomb. Both ear plugs have three concentric circles incised on the outer surface and a central drill hole. C59A/30-4a is 2.6 cm in diameter, 1.1 cm thick and weighs 8.9 gms. C59A/30-4b is 2.7 cm in diameter, 1.1 cm thick and weighs 9.4 gms.

Object 23 (C59A/30-5a,b) is comprised of two pinkish-white, shell markers, carved into circles. These were found with the shell pendants, among the long bone fragments, west of Skull 2, towards the south end of the chamber. C59A/30-5a is 2.3 cm in diameter, 0.2 cm thick and weighs 1.7 gms. C59A/30-5b is 1.5 cm long, 1.3 cm wide, 0.3 cm thick and weighs 0.9 gms.

Object 24 (C59A/30-6,a-d) consists of four drilled and polished, white, oliva shells found, with the shell markers (Object 23) and shell pendants (Object 21), towards the south end of the chamber. One shell has one hole drilled in the side while the other three each have four holes drilled in the side. Three of the shells are missing both ends while one shell is only missing one end. They range in length from 1.6 cm to 2.5 cm, range in width from 0.8 cm to 1.4 cm and range in thickness from 0.6 cm to 1.1 cm. The total weight of the shells is 6.2 gms.

Object 25 (C59A/30-8) is a white, limestone spindle whorl. This object is undecorated and was found beneath the ankle bones and digits at the north end of the tomb. The spindle whorl is 2.8 cm in diameter, 1.6 cm thick and weighs 19.1 gms.

Object 26 (C59A/30-9) is a limestone, donut-shaped mace head. This was found on top of the pile of bone and artifacts at the south end of the chamber. It is 12.9 cm long, 11.9 cm wide, 6.1 cm thick and weighs 1.36 kgs.

Object 27 (C59A/30-10,a-h) is comprised of the collection of eight obsidian blade fragments recovered from throughout the chamber. Two blades were found beneath Skull 5 and its mandible in the south end of the chamber, three were found between the long bone fragments west of Skull 2 and the west wall of the chamber, and three were found in the north end of the tomb, in the vicinity of the ankle bones and digits. The blades range in length from 4.0 cm to 10.1 cm, they range in width from 0.8 cm to 1.5 cm and range in thickness from 0.2 cm to 0.3 cm.

Object 28 (C59A/30-7) is a polished long bone fragment from an unidentified animal found towards the south end of the chamber. The bone measures 3.1 cm long, 1.7 cm in diameter and weighs 1.5 gms.

Object 29 (C59A/30-33) is a long, polished, bone bead. This object was cut from a longer piece of bone. It is 3.2 cm long, 0.6 cm wide, 0.7 cm thick and weighs 0.6 gms.

Object 30 (C59A/30-17) consists of the collection of rat and unidentified small mammal bone found in Object 6.

Special Deposit C59A-13. This was a cache of a single, brown, chert point, with the tip oriented to the north, in the construction fill of U.15, west of the cut through U.9 (Fig. 5.59). The point is tanged and measures 9.6 cm long, 3.4 cm in maximum width, 0.8 cm thick, and weighs 24.7 gms.

Structure 2E28-1st-b was modified once with the construction of a new staircase. The form of Str. 2E28-1st-a is reconstructed here because very little architecture was preserved in the excavation (Fig. 5.57). A small patch of plaster floor was found towards the south wall of the trench, 2.9 m to 3.2 m west of the east excavation limit. This floor is believed to be part of U.12, which was extended approximately 60 cm to the west when Str. 2E28-1st was modified. This surface partially covered a one course step (U.18) which was above a lower, partially preserved plaster floor (U.19). Unit 19 was preserved along the south wall of the trench and was found approximately 3.2 m to 3.6 m west of the east excavation limit and may have served as a very shallow terrace level or broad step in front of the summit room. Based on the profile of the mound, U.19 resolved into a staircase (U.20) which covered U.15. The construction material used for U.20 consisted of a medium brown matrix, lightly mixed with small to large rubble. Unit 15 was likely removed in order to construct U.20 as

very little of the earlier staircase was found in the excavation. Based on the profile of the mound, U.20 probably resolved into U.16, the shallow terrace near the base of the building. Unit 16 was extended 40 cm to the west and resolved into a set of steps (U.21) to the plaza floor (U.6). Unit 21 was represented in the excavation by two, partially preserved steps at the base of the mound in the western portion of the excavation. As many as six different cache offerings are associated with the construction of this feature. Three deposits, S.D.C59A-3, S.D.C59A-4 and S.D.C59A-5, were found in the locus of the preserved step and slumped plaster remnant of U.15. Special Deposit C59A-4 was found on the surface of the floor and the other two deposits were placed in the medium brown matrix above this surface. Two cache offerings, S.D.C59A-8 and S.D.C59A-10, were found beneath U.21. Part of the lowest step of U.15 had been removed when the offerings were deposited. A sixth cache offering, S.D.C59A-2, was placed in front of the lowest step of U.21 in a cut made into U.3, the plaza floor associated with Str. 2E28-2nd-b. This deposit was sealed by the plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E28-1st-a (U.6). Due to erosion, no clear evidence for UNIT 6 was found in the excavation and it is reconstructed in this discussion. Thus, Str. 2E28-1st-a rose approximately 2 m above the plaza floor and measured approximately 6.7 m east-west. It had a single room at the summit of the building and a shallow

terrace level near the base. It was constructed and used during the later part of the Late Classic Period or during the Terminal Classic Period, based on the ceramic types associated with S.D.C59A-4 as well as on fragments of model-carved cylinders which were recovered from the matrix above the preserved architecture associated with this building.

Special Deposit C59A-2. This is a cache offering of a deep-sided bowl (Object 1) in a shallow cut made into U.3 and sealed by U.6 (Fig. 5.62). The bowl was very fragmented and was found on its side. A jadeite pebble (Object 2) was recovered from the matrix within this vessel. The deposit included sherds adjacent to Object 1, some of which were applique fragments from a modeled face vessel.

Object 1 (C59A/8-2) is an unslipped, deep-sided bowl. The exterior surface is primarily a yellowish-red (5YR5/6) which fades into a reddish-brown (5YR4/3) over the lower portion of the bowl. Patches of red (2.5YR4/6) are present on the rim and small, grey fire clouds (5YR4/3) are on the sides.

Object 2 (C59A/8-1) is a jadeite pebble found within Object 1. The pebble is mottled orange, green and white in color. It is 1.9 cm in diameter, 1.6 cm thick and weighs 8.0 gms.

Special Deposit C59A-3. This deposit is a cache of a single miniature bowl, placed right side up in the medium

brown construction matrix of U.20 (Fig. 5.62). The bowl (C59A/9-1) has flaring walls and was pinched into shape, finger impressions are evident on the exterior surface. The exterior surface is unslipped light reddish-brown (5YR6/3) with yellowish-red (5YR5/8) streaks. Small, dark grey fire clouds (between 7.5YR2/0 and 7.5YR4/0) are present on the base of the vessel. The interior surface is unslipped yellowish-red like the exterior. The diameter of the rim measures 8.9 cm and the height ranges from 3.6 cm to 3.9 cm.

Special Deposit C59A-4. This deposit consisted of a concentration of sherds and a partial vessel (Object 1) with a modeled and appliqued face, found just north of S.D.C59A-3 (Fig. 5.62). The sherds were found on the slumped plaster remnant of U.15 and may be part of refuse left on this surface when U.20 was constructed. A fragment of an obsidian blade (Object 2) was also included in this deposit. - Object 1 is similar in form, and face characteristics to Carro Modeled: Carro Variety bowls which were recovered from midden deposits associated with elite households at Becan (Ball 1977:110, 177-178, fig 37). Ball notes that these bowls also occur at Uaxactun, in the Peten, in Tepeu 3, or late Late Classic Period, context. A sherd from a model-carved cylinder was also recovered from this deposit which indicates that the construction of Str. 2E28-1st-a took place during the Terminal Classic Period (Sabloff 1975:198). Sabloff notes that at the site of Seibal, model-carved

vessels were found in both the ceremonial center and in small structures, in dedicatory and domestic refuse contexts.

Object 1 (C59A/11-2) is a partial vessel with a modeled and appliqued face. The exterior and interior surfaces are slipped a reddish-brown (5YR6/3). The face is characterized by oval-shaped eyes and mouth, each with a circular impression in the center. The rim diameter measures 15.8 cm and a height measures 5.5 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/11-1) is a small obsidian blade fragment recovered from among the sherds associated with this deposit. The fragment is 1.9 cm long, 1.7 cm wide and weighs 0.9 gms.

Special Deposit C59A-5. This deposit is a cache of a miniature bowl found south of S.D.C59A-3 and S.D.C59A-4. It was placed upside down in the medium brown construction matrix of U.20 (Fig. 5.62). This vessel (C59A/14-1) is a flaring-walled bowl which was pinched into shape as vertical finger impressions are evident on the exterior surface. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped red (2.5YR5/6). The diameter of the rim is 8.0 cm and the height ranges from 3.3 cm to 3.8 cm.

Special Deposit C59A-8. This deposit was a cache of two ceramic vessels, three obsidian eccentrics and assorted sherds (Fig. 5.60). The deposit was placed in the matrix of

U.17 which was partially removed when U.21 was constructed. A small bowl with a modeled face (Object 2) was placed within a larger bowl (Object 1) which, in turn, was placed on a bed of assorted sherds. The obsidian eccentrics and chips (Object 3) were placed adjacent to Object 1 as was the lid to this bowl. Among the assorted sherds was part of the rim of a Belize Red type dish which indicates that this deposit (and the construction of Str. 2E28-1st-a) occurred after 9.12.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase, personal communication 1989).

Object 1 (C59A/20-3a,b) is a deep-sided bowl with a lid. The exterior and interior surfaces are unslipped light red (2.5YR6/6). A reddish-yellow fire cloud (7.5YR7/6) is present towards the base on the exterior surface. The lid to this vessel is essentially flat and the color is the same as the bowl. The rim diameter of the bowl measures 10.0 cm and the height is 9.2 cm. The diameter of the lid varies from 8.9 cm to 9.2 cm and the height of the lid is its thickness which ranges from 0.8 cm to 1.1 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/20-1a,b) is a small bowl with a modeled and applied face. A dome-shaped lid was found broken inside this vessel. The face is characterized by two round disks for the eyes, a simple nose and an open, oval-shaped mouth. The exterior surface of the bowl is unslipped light red (2.5YR6/8) which fades into a light brown (between 7.5YR5/6 and 7.5YR6/4) over half the vessel. A dark grey

fire cloud (2.5YR3/0) is present on the base. The interior surface is the same light red as found on the exterior. The lid was pinched into shape. It is unslipped light brown (between 7.5YR5/6 and 7.5YR6/4) which fades into a dark grey fire cloud (7.5YR3/0) over half the surface. The rim diameter of the bowl varies from 7.8 cm to 8.5 cm and the height ranges from 6.4 cm to 6.9 cm. The diameter of the lid measures 7.4 cm and the height is 2.9 cm.

Object 3 (C59A/20-2,a-f) consists of the collection of three obsidian eccentrics and chips found adjacent to Object 1. The eccentrics are all wide blades and two have been notched. One blade has two notches on one side and the other has a small notch on one side. The blades range in length from 5.1 cm to 7.6 cm, range in width from 2.4 cm to 3.7 cm and range in thickness from 0.6 cm to 1.0 cm.

Special Deposit C59A-10. This was a cache of four complete vessels, one partial vessel and a clam shell, deposited above U.17, south of S.D.C59A-8 (Fig. 5.60). A deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face (Object 1) was placed on top of a second deep bowl (Object 3), which was partially embedded in the matrix of a third bowl (Object 4). A small flaring-walled dish (Object 2) was placed adjacent to, and south of this stack. The fragments of a partial flaring-walled dish (Object 5) were found inside Object 3. Assorted sherds and the clam shell (Object 6)

were found just beneath the level of Object 1 and around Object 4.

Object 1 (C59A/24-1a,b) is a deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face. A slightly curved lid is associated with this bowl. The face appliqued on this bowl differs from other such caches found at Caracol in that it represents a bird rather than a human. The eyes are rounded and slightly pointed and the beak has an incised line which marks the upper and lower halves of the beak. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) which fades to a reddish-yellow (between 7.5YR7/4 and 7.5YR7/6) over the upper portion of the face. A small grey fire cloud (7.5YR4/0) is present at the rim. The interior of the bowl is reddish-yellow like that found on the exterior surface. The exterior surface of the lid is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/6 and 2.5YR6/6) and the interior surface is pink (7.5YR7/4). The rim diameter of the bowl measures 11.0 cm and the height ranges from 7.7 cm to 7.9 cm. The diameter of the lid is 11.0 cm and the height is 1.3 cm.

Object 2 (C59A/24-2) is a flaring-walled dish. The exterior surface is unslipped red (between 5YR6/6 and 5YR7/6) which fades into a light pinkish-brown (between 7.5YR6/4 and 7.5YR7/4) over half of the surface. The interior surface is red like the exterior surface. The rim diameter measure 11.2 cm and the height ranges from 2.7 cm to 2.9 cm.

Object 3 (C59A/24-5) is a fairly tall, deep-sided bowl. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/8) which fades into a light brown (between 7.5YR5/4 and 7.5YR6/4) over half the vessel. The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior. The rim diameter measures 10.0 cm and the height ranges from 11.2 cm to 11.5 cm.

Object 4 (C59A/24-3) is a deep-sided bowl, similar to Object 3. There is a shallow, discontinuous groove cut on the exterior surface just below the lip. This surface is unslipped red (between 2.5YR5/8 and 2.5YR6/8) which fades to a very pale brown (between 10YR7/3 and 10YR7/4) towards the base. The interior surface is red like the exterior. The rim diameter is 12.4 cm and the height ranges from 12.4 cm to 12.6 cm.

Object 5 (C59A/24-4) is part of a small flaring-walled dish with a rounded base, reconstructed from the sherds within Object 3. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a light reddish-brown (5YR6/4) over half the vessel. A dark grey fire cloud (5YR4/1) covers the base. The interior surface is light reddish-brown like that found on the exterior. The diameter of the rim measures 11.0 cm and the height measures 3.0 cm.

Object 6 (C59A/24-6) is a complete clam shell, represented by one half of the bivalve. The shell is 2.3 cm long, 1.6 cm wide and weighs 1.3 gms.

A cache offering designated S.D.C59A-1 was found north of S.D.C59A-2 at the base of the building but it is unclear whether it is associated with the construction of Str. 2E28-1st-a or Str. 2E28-1st-b. Like S.D.C59A-2, this deposit was placed in a shallow cut made into U.3. Based on the reconstructions of the plaza floors associated with the two versions of Str. 2E28-1st, it is possible that this deposit may have been sealed by either U.5 or U.6.

Special Deposit C59A-1. This deposit was a cache of four complete vessels and the fragments of possibly two more (Fig. 5.62). A deep-sided bowl with a modeled face (Object 2) was placed upright in a shallow cut made in U.3. Within this bowl were two miniature flaring-walled dishes (Objects 3 and 4), placed lip-to-lip. To the east of Object 2 was a small dish or plate (Object 1) which may have functioned as a lid for this cache. Sherds for a possibly two additional vessels were on the north side of Object 2 and included applique fragments which may have been from a modeled face vessel.

Object 1 is a small dish or plate found, smashed, to the east of Object 2. It has not yet been processed in the laboratory.

Object 2 is a deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face. This vessel has not yet been processed in the laboratory.

Object 3 (C59A/7-1) is a miniature, flaring-walled dish which was the top vessel of a lip-to-lip pair with Object 4. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (between 5YR7/6 and 5YR7/8) with a very dark grey fire cloud (7.5YR 3/0) towards the base. The interior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow like the exterior. The rim diameter measures 9.5 cm and the height measures 3.8 cm.

Object 4 (C59A/7-2) is the bottom vessel of the lip-to-lip pair with Object 3. This is also a miniature dish with flaring walls. The exterior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR6/6) which fades into pale brown (7.5YR6/4) over the lower portion of the dish. The interior surface is unslipped reddish-yellow like the exterior. The rim diameter measures 9.5 cm and the height ranges from 4.1 cm to 4.3 cm.

Structure 2E28 Recovery Lots

Lot C59A/1 is assigned to the material recovered from the surface and from the humus layer of Sub-Op. C59A. This material is associated with the final use of Str. 2E28-1st-a, which appeared to have served a ritual and domestic function during the later part of the Late Classic Period or the early Terminal Classic Period. The date for the use and construction of Str. 2E28-1st-a is provided by the model-carved cylinder fragments found in Lot C59A/1 as well as by the ritual deposits recovered from within the medium brown construction fill (Lot C59A/2) associated with this build-

ing. Special Deposit C59A-4, in particular, includes two ceramic types which place this activity in the later part of the Late Classic Period (the Carro Modeled type bowl) or in the early Terminal Classic Period (the model-carved cylinder fragment). The combination of these types indicates one of two possibilities -- either model-carved vessels occurred slightly earlier at Caracol than at Seibal (Sabloff 1975: 198) or Carro Modeled bowls occurred slightly later at Caracol than at Becan (Ball 1977:110). Based on these diagnostic vessels, the construction and use of Str. 2E28-1st-a occurred during the later part of the Late Classic Period or during the early Terminal Classic Period.

The function of Str. 2E28-1st-a as both a ritual and domestic locus is indicated by the artifacts recovered from C59A/1. Fragments from incensarios, as well as a fragment of a small statue carved from serpentine and a small, complete statue carved from limestone are believed to have been from ritual activity in this locus. Fragments of granite grinding stones and chert recovered from Lot C59A/1 are taken as evidence that this building may also have served a domestic function even though these materials were not recovered in the same quantities found in other domestic loci (eg., Strs. C11 - C14). The fragments of at least one model-carved cylinder recovered from the humus level indicate that this locus may have served a dual function as Sabloff (1975:198) reports that model-carved vessels were

recovered from both ritual and domestic context at the site of Seibal.

Structure 2E28-1st-b, like Str. 2E28-1st-a, served a dual function during the later part of the Late Classic Period or early Terminal Classic Period. Special Deposit C59A-4 was found on a step of U.15 and may have been part of refuse left on this surface when U.20 was constructed. As noted above, Sabloff (1975:198) reports that model-carved vessels were recovered from both ritual and domestic contexts and Ball (1977:177-178) reports that Carro Modeled bowls were recovered from midden contexts associated with elite households. The series of cache offerings, S.D.C59A-6, S.D.C59A-7, S.D.C59A-9, S.D.C59A-11, and S.D.C59A-13, deposited beneath U.14., U.15, and U.17, in the construction fill of this building indicate that Str. 2E28-1st-b also served also a ritual function for the occupants of this group.

Lot C59A/3 is the medium brown construction matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, used to construct Str. 2E28-1st-b above U.6, U.7 and U.8. The artifacts recovered from this matrix include fragments of chert, marine shell and incensarios. However, a date for this construction is provided by the artifacts recovered from the Special Deposits found beneath U.16 and U.17. The ceramics associated with S.D.C59A-12 indicate that the deposit was made and

the construction of Str. 2E28-1st-b took place during the Late Classic Period.

Lot C59A/4 is assigned to the dark brown matrix west of, and partially beneath, U.21 associated with the construction of U.5 and U.6, in front of Strs. 2E28-1st-a and 2E28-1st-b. Very few artifacts were recovered from this matrix, which included a single fragment of an obsidian blade.

Lot C59A/5 is associated with the material recovered from the pinkish-grey matrix, mixed with large and medium rubble, used to construct U.9 of Str. 2E28-2nd-b. Special Deposit C59A-14 and S.D.C59A-15 were deposited within this matrix, however, neither of these provide a clear date for the construction and use of Str. 2E28-2nd.

Lot C59A/6 is the medium brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, used to construct U.6, U.7 and U.8 of Str. 2E28-2nd-b. Very few artifacts were recovered from this matrix, however a fragment of fossilized coral and two marine shells (identified as mollusc and possibly oyster) are included in this material.

Lot C59A/7 is the greyish-brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble used in the construction of Str. 2E28-3rd above U.1. As with the construction matrices used in the later building episodes in this locus, very few artifacts are associated with this material. A carbon sample, recovered from the medium brown matrix deposited on U.1, is

included in this Lot. It has not yet been processed but it may provide a date for the construction of Str. 2E28-3rd.

Lot C59A/8 is associated with the dark brown construction matrix beneath U.1 and is part of the construction of Str.2E28-3rd. It is within this matrix that S.D.C59A-16 was deposited, however, no artifacts were associated with this deposit which would provide a date for the construction of this building.

Structure 2E28 Summary

At least three buildings were constructed in the Str. 2E28 locus with modifications made to two of them. The construction of the first building in this locus, Str. 2E28-3rd, took place on U.1, an already existing plastered surface, and yielded a two room, tandem plan, building which rose approximately 1 m above the plaza floor. Based on this building plan, which is similar to residential buildings excavated elsewhere at Caracol (eg., Str. C11 and C13, Op. C22), Str. 2E28-3rd may have functioned as a residence. No clear date is associated with this construction; however, based on the subsequent activity in this locus, as well as on the data collected from the other excavation conducted in Strs. 2E26 - 2E34, Str.2E28-3rd was most likely built and occupied during the Late Classic Period.

The second building in this locus was Str. 2E28-2nd which was modified once during its use. Structure 2E28-2nd-b was a two room, tandem plan building, like the structure

it replaced, which rose approximately 1.6 m above the plaza floor. The construction of this building is associated with the deposit of two cache offerings, S.D.C59A-14 and S.D.C59A-15, beneath U.5. The building was modified by extending the front room 40 cm to the east and constructing a new staircase (U.10). Much of U.10 was later removed when S.D.C59A-12 was deposited in U.11, the chamber dug into bedrock beneath the staircase. What the motivation for the modification of Str. 2E28-2nd was remains uncertain.

After the interment designated S.D.C59A-12 was deposited in U.11, Str. 2E28-1st-b was constructed over Str. 2E28-2nd. The ceramics associated with the burial indicate that this deposit was made and the new building constructed during the Late Classic Period. The ceramics associated with S.D.C59A-4 indicate that Str. 2E28-1st-b was used during the later part of the Late Classic Period or early Terminal Classic Period. In addition, these artifacts, indicate that Str. 2E28-1st-b may have continued to serve a domestic, as well as a ritual, function for the occupants of this group. The ritual function for this building is indicated by the cache offerings, S.D.C59A-6 and S.D.C59A-13, deposited beneath U.15 and by S.D.C59A-7, S.D.C59A-9, and S.D.C59A-11 deposited beneath U.17. Structure 2E28-1st-b rose approximately 2 m above the plaza floor. It had a single room at the summit, with a shallow terrace or broad step in front of it. Based on the stratigraphy revealed in

the excavation, Str. 2E28-1st-b is believed to have had a lower terrace level near the base of the staircase.

One modification was made to Str. 2E28-1st. The room at the summit of the building was extended to the west by approximately 60 cm and a new staircase was constructed. The lower terrace near the base of the staircase was maintained in the new construction. The ceramics associated with S.D.C59A-4 and the artifacts recovered from the humus layer of the excavation indicate that Str. 2E28-1st-a was constructed and used during the later part of the Late Classic Period or early Terminal Classic Period.

Thus, during all of its phases, Str. 2E28 functioned as a domestic building (probably a residence) and as a ritual building. The people who occupied and used this building enjoyed some degree of elite status within the Caracol community based on the artifacts recovered from the special deposits associated with the various construction phases of Str. 2E28.

Structure 2E28 Units

- Unit 1: A plaster construction level capping the dark brown construction matrix associated with Str. 2E28-3rd.
- Unit 2: The plaster floor at the summit of Str. 2E28-3rd.
- Unit 3: A reconstructed step joining U.2 and U.4.
- Unit 4: The plaster floor for the front (west) room of Str. 2E28-3rd.

- Unit 5: Reconstructed front staircase for Str. 2E28-3rd leading to U.2.
- Unit 6: Partially preserved plaster floor for the summit room of Str. 2E28-2nd-a and Str. 2E28-2nd-b.
- Unit 7: Reconstructed step joining U.6 and U.8.
- Unit 8: Plaster floor of the front room of Str. 2E28-2nd-a and Str. 2E28-2nd-b.
- Unit 9: Partially preserved, plastered front staircase of Str. 2E28-2nd-b leading to U.3; this was cut when U.11 was constructed.
- Unit 10: Reconstructed front staircase for Str. 2E28-2nd-a; this was cut for U.11.
- Unit 11: Cut into bedrock for the construction of the tomb associated with S.D.C59A-12.
- Unit 12: Reconstructed plaster floor at the summit of Str. 2E28-1st-b which was later extended west for Str. 2E28-1st-a.
- Unit 13: A reconstructed step joining U.12 with U.14 for Str. 2E28-1st-b.
- Unit 14: Partially preserved plastered terrace level below U.12, west of U.13, for Str. 2E28-1st-b.
- Unit 15: Reconstructed front staircase of Str. 2E28-1st-b, leading U.16.
- Unit 16: Reconstructed terrace level near the base of Str. 2E28-1st-b which was extended to the west for Str. 2E28-1st-a.

- Unit 17: Reconstructed step between U.16 and U.5 for Str. 2E28-1st-b.
- Unit 18: A one course step, joining U.12 to U.19, for Str. 2E28-1st-a.
- Unit 19: Partially preserved, broad step, west of U.12, for Str. 2E28-1st-a.
- Unit 20: Reconstructed front staircase leading from U.19 to U.16 for Str. 2E28-1st-a.
- Unit 21: Two partially preserved steps leading from U.16 to U.6 for Str. 2E28-1st-a.

Structure 2E28 Platform UNITS

- UNIT 1: Plaster floor constructed directly on bedrock, located beneath dark brown construction fill for Str. 2E28-3rd.
- UNIT 2: Reconstructed plaza surface associated with the use of Str. 2E28-3rd.
- UNIT 3: Plaza floor located west of U.11, associated with the use of Str. 2E28-2nd-b.
- UNIT 4: Reconstructed plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E28-2nd-a.
- UNIT 5: Reconstructed plaza floor associated with use of Str. 2E28-1st-b.
- UNIT 6: Reconstructed plaza floor associated with the use of Str. 2E28-1st-a.

Structure 2E28 Recovery Lots

- C59A/ 1: Surface collection and humus associated with the structural collapse and use of Str. 2E28-1st-a.
- C59A/ 2: Medium brown construction fill for Str. 2E28-1st-a, lightly mixed with small rubble.
- C59A/ 3: Medium brown construction fill for Str. 2E28-1st-b, mixed with large and medium rubble.
- C59A/ 4: Dark brown construction matrix associated with the construction of U.5 and U.6.
- C59A/ 5: Pinkish-grey construction matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, used for the front steps of Str. 2E28-2nd.
- C59A/ 6: Medium brown matrix, mixed with large and medium rubble, used in the construction of U.6 and U.8 of Str. 2E28-2nd.
- C59A/ 7: Greyish-brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, above U.1 and associated with the construction Str. 2E28-3rd. This Lot also included the medium brown matrix deposited on U.1.
- C59A/ 8: Dark brown matrix, mixed with small to large rubble, between U.1 and U.1, which is associated with the construction of Str. 2E28-3rd.

TABLE 5.9
STRUCTURE 2E28 TIME SPANS

TIMESPAN	EVENT	ASSOCIATED UNITS	ASSOCIATED LOTS	DATE
I	Abandonment		C59A/1	
II	Use of Str. 2E28-1st-a	<u>U.6</u>	C9A/1	LC/ TC
IIIa	Construction Str.2E28-1st-a	U.18-U.20	C59A/2,4	LC/ TC
IIIb	Deposit S.D.C59A-2			
IIIc	Deposit S.D.C59A-3 and S.D.C59A-5			
IIId	Deposit S.D.C59A-8 and S.D.C59A-10			
IVa	Use of Str. 2E28-1st-b	<u>U.5</u>		LC/ TC
IVb	Deposit S.D.C59A-4			
Va	Construction Str.2E28-1st-b	U.12-U.17	C59A/3,4	LC
Vb	Deposit S.D.C59A-6			
Vc	Deposit S.D.C59A-7, S.D.C59A-9 and S.D.C59A-11			
Vf	Deposit S.D.C59A-12	U.11		
Vg	Deposit S.D.C59A-13			
VI	Use of Str. 2E28-2nd-a	<u>U.4</u>		LC
VII	Construction Str.2E28-2nd-a	U.10		LC
VIII	Use of Str. 2E28-2nd-b	<u>U.3</u>		LC

TABLE 5.9 - Continued

<u>TIMESPAN</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED UNITS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATED LOTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
IXa	Construction Str.2E28-2nd-b	U.6-U.9	C59A/5,6	LC
IXb	Deposit S.D.C59A-14			
IXc	Deposit S.D.C59A-15			
X	Use of Str. 2E28-3rd	U.2		LC
XIa	Construction Str.2E28-3rd	U.1-U.5	C59A/7,8	LC
XIb	Deposit S.D.C59A-16			

Structure 2E30

Sub-Operation C59B was a test pit excavation, 1.5 m by 1.5 m placed in front of, and on axis to, Str. 2E30, located in the southeast corner of the group defined by Strs. 2E26 - 2E34. Excavation in this locus was intended to provide data regarding the building history of this locus and possibly data pertaining to the function of this structure.

Excavation

Humus was removed 15 cm to 30 cm below the surface to reveal a greyish-brown matrix, mixed with small and medium rubble (Fig. 5.63). This material was removed to a depth of 46 cm to 86 cm below the surface. A few pieces of chert debitage were recovered from this matrix as were some incensario fragments and an unworked slate fragment.

The matrix changed to a dark pink below the greyish-brown. Large rubble was exposed in the southwestern half of

the test pit but only a few small rocks were found in the northeastern portion of the excavation. The rubble and dark pink matrix were removed to a depth of 1.3 m below the surface. A burial (S.D.C59B-1) was partially exposed in the northeast corner of the test pit in the dark pink matrix.

The dark pink matrix was followed to the bottom of the test pit along the east excavation limit. However, in the western portion of the test, the matrix changed to a layer of white marl which rested on a light pink matrix, both of which were devoid of any stone. Approximately 1.3 m below the surface, the dark pink matrix began to be more heavily mixed with small and medium rubble while small and large rubble was encountered in the pale pink matrix. Very few artifacts were recovered from these matrices. The excavation was stopped approximately 2.0 m below the surface as it became difficult to lift the rubble out of the test pit. It is believed that the pink matrices mixed with rubble were used as construction fill to build up the platform and increase the occupation area of Strs. 2E26 - 2E34.

Structure 2E30 is approximately 24.2 m² in size which is just large enough to be considered a minimum residential unit (Ashmore 1981c:47). The artifacts recovered from the humus and greyish-brown matrices include incensario fragments which indicate that this building served a ritual function. It is very likely that Str. 2E30 served several

purposes and was the locus of residential and ritual activity within Strs. 2E26 - 2E34.

Special Deposit C59B-1. This was a simple burial of a single individual in the dark pink matrix, 1.0 m below the surface. The excavation exposed the ends of three long bones identified in the field as two tibiae and a fibula. The body extended east into the east excavation limit, beneath Str. 2E30. The bone was very poorly preserved and due to time constraints, the burial was not completely exposed. From the bone recovered, the individual appears to have been a subadult, possibly as young as five years of age at the time of death (D. Z. Chase, personal communication 1989). No artifacts were recovered which would provide a direct date for this burial.

Structures 2E26 - 2E34 Group Summary

The excavations conducted in this group indicate that the two buildings investigated, Str. 2E28 and Str. 2E30, served ritual and probably domestic functions. The platform was occupied prior to the construction of a building in the Str. 2E28 locus, presumably sometime during the early part of the Late Classic Period. It is unclear when Str. 2E30 was built, but the surface area of the hilltop upon which the group is situated was increased by building up the base with construction material which expanded the southeast corner of the platform. It is likely that Str. 2E30 was added to the

group some time after the earliest occupation of this hill-top because there was no evidence for the original plaster floor found at the base of the excavation in Str. 2E28. Structures 2E26 - 2E34 were occupied at least as late as the Terminal Classic Period based on the artifacts recovered from the surface and from the humus layer of Str. 2E28.

Structures 4N1 - 4N6: Operation C65

Structures 4N1 - 4N6 comprise a small group of buildings constructed directly on two agricultural terraces just southwest of the Conchita Precinct at the southeast end of the Conchita Causeway (see Fig. 4.12). The group is located 2.80 km southeast of the epicenter on the south side of a large hill which blocks direct access to the Conchita Causeway. On top of this hill are Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 (Op. C45). The direct distance between the Conchita Causeway and Strs. 4N1 - 4N6 is 186 m; however, without passing through another group, the distance between this group and the Causeway is approximately 220 m. Structures 4N1 - 4N6 range in size from 11.5 m² to 31.9 m², and all rise less than 1 m above the plaza floor. This group is similar in size and configuration to the group defined by Strs. 3F1, 3F2, and 3F8 - 3F10 (Op. C53) and is an example of a Type 4 group in the Caracol Group Typology.

Structures 4N1 - 4N6 were chosen for investigation in order to collect data pertaining to the occupation history

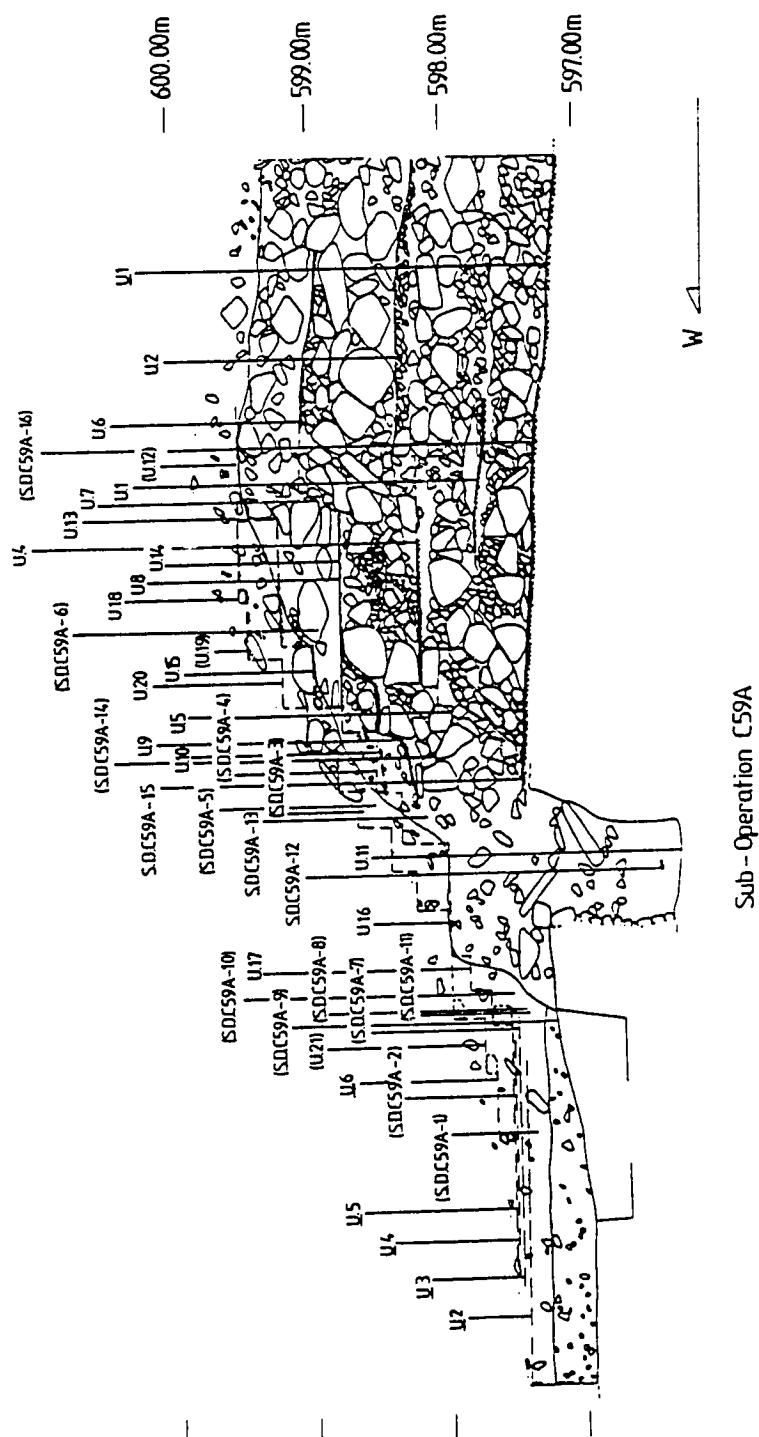


Figure 5.57. Structure 2E28 section.

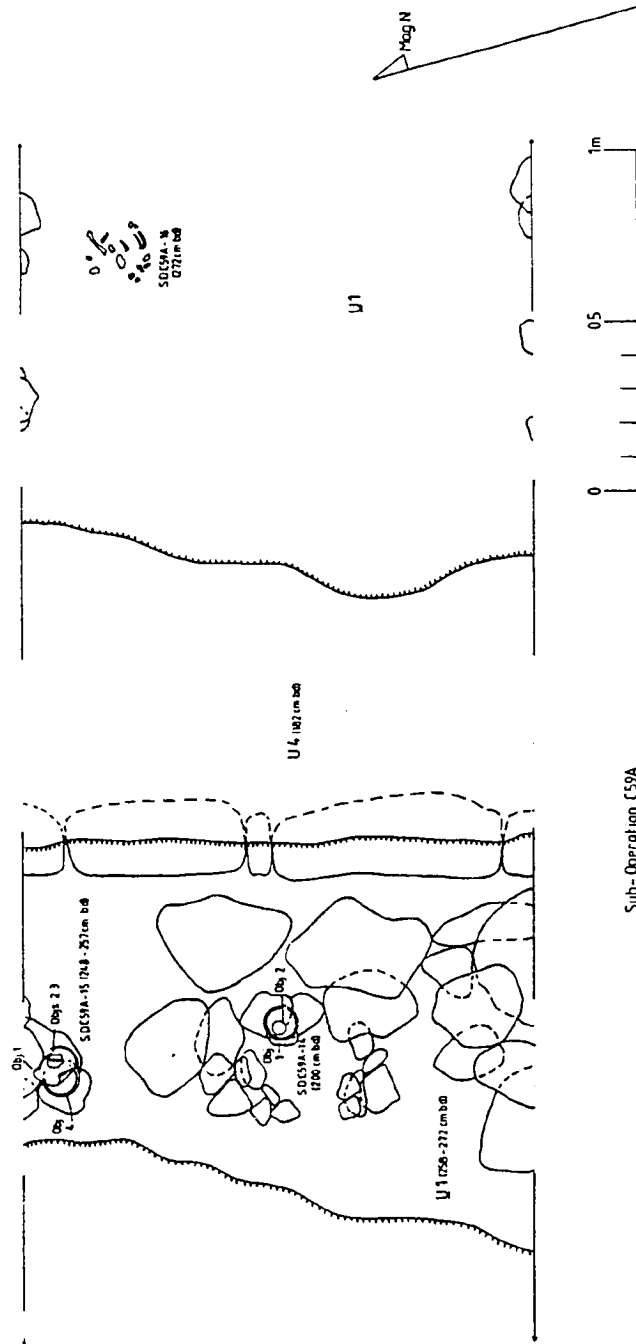


Figure 5.58. Structure 2E28 Special Deposit C59A-14, Special Deposit C59A-15 and Special Deposit C59A-16.

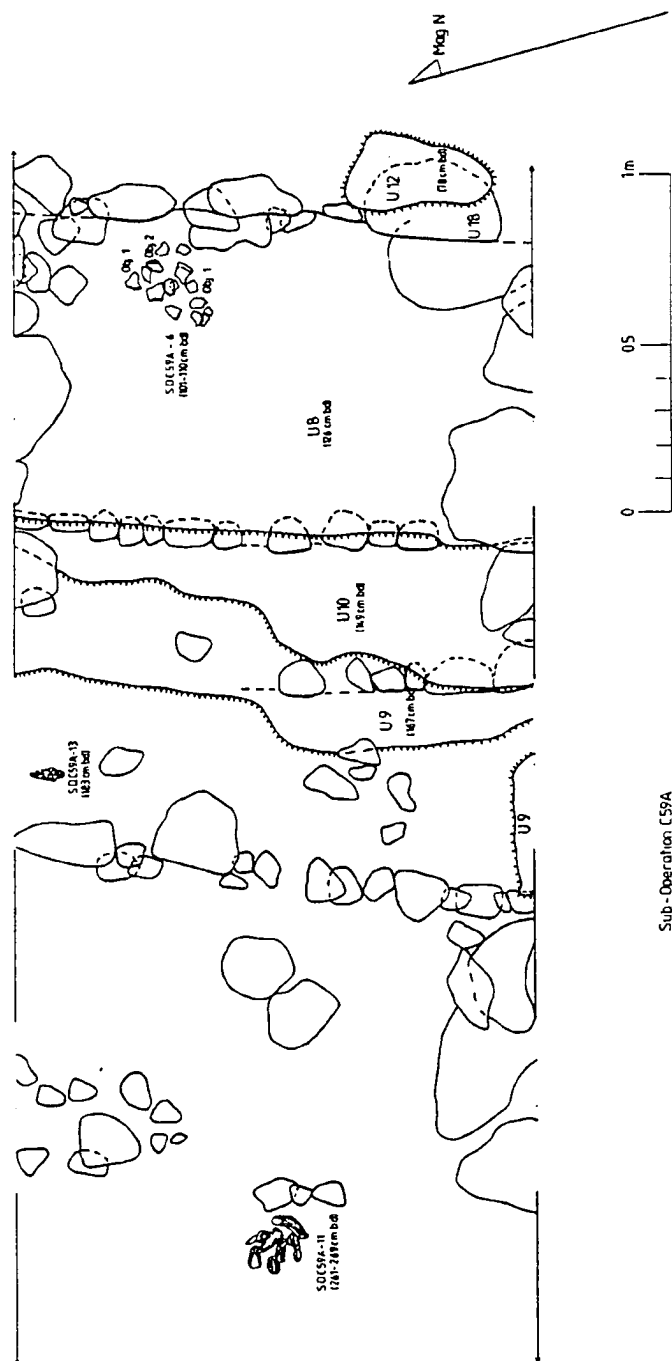


Figure 5.59. Structure 2E28 Special Deposit C59A-6, Special Deposit C59A-11, and Special Deposit C59A-13.

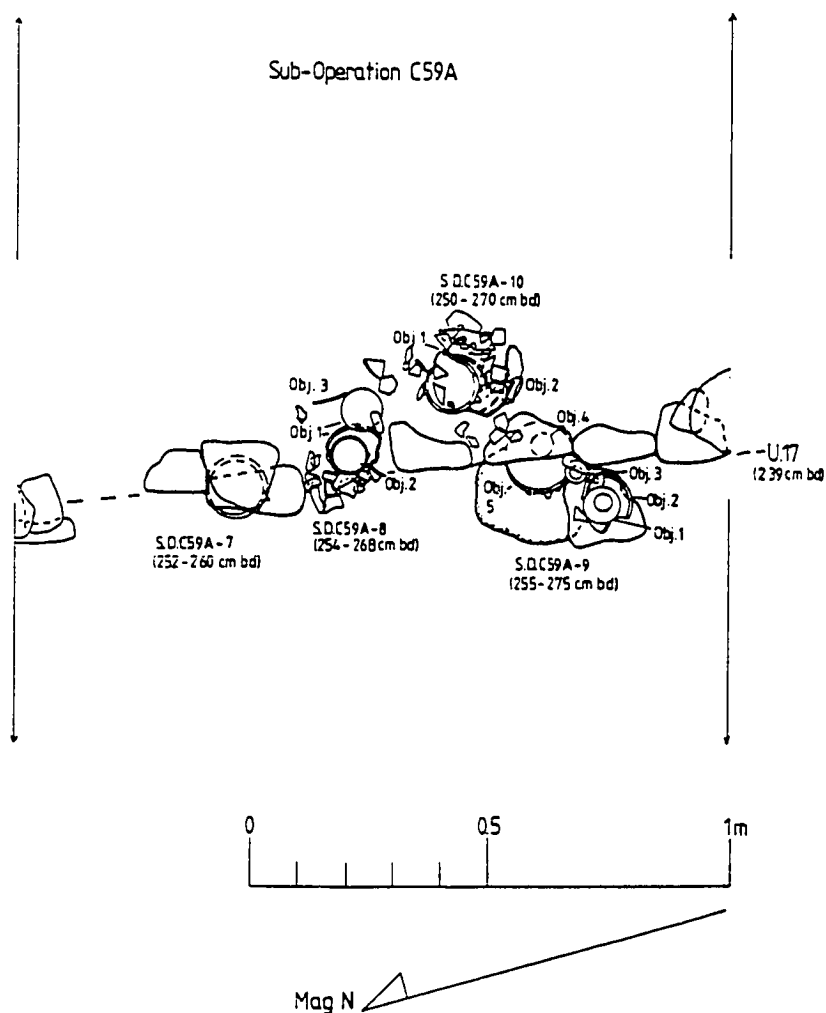


Figure 5.60. Structure 2E28 Special Deposit C59A-7, Special Deposit C59A-8, Special Deposit C59A-9, and Special Deposit C59A-10.

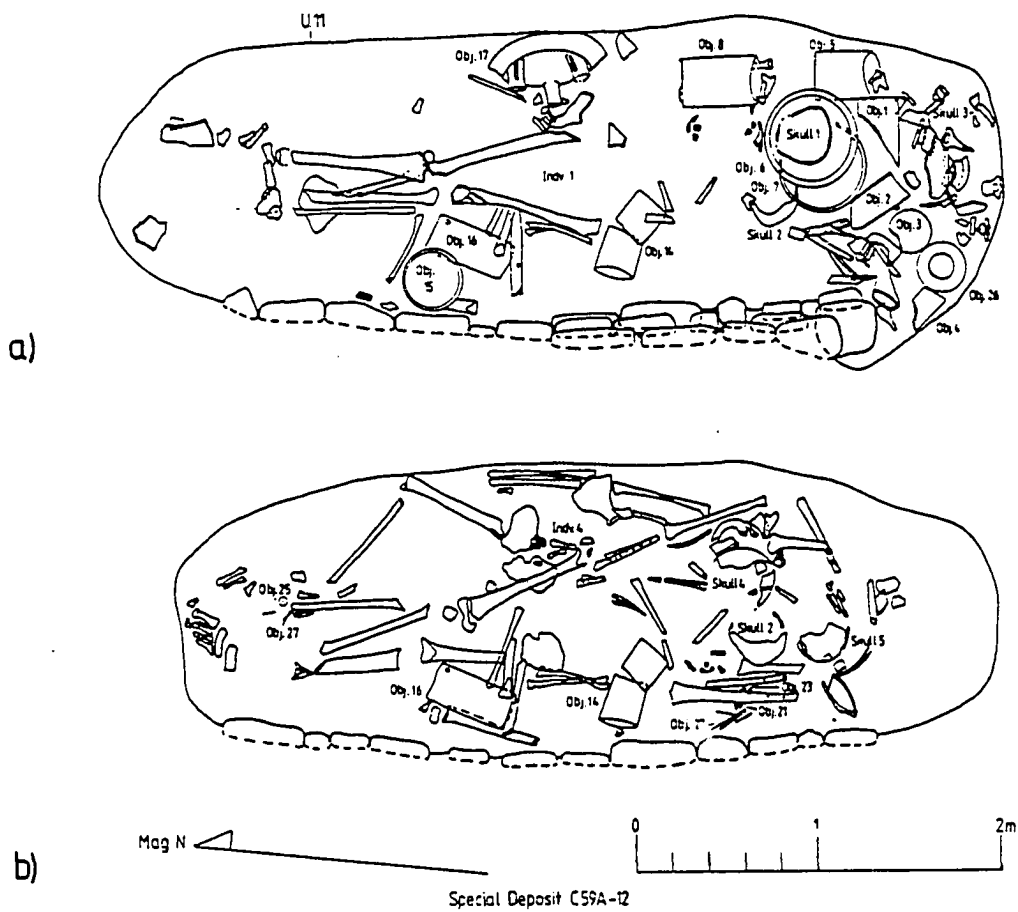


Figure 5.61. Structure 2E28 Special Deposit C59A-12 -
a) upper layer, b) lower layer.

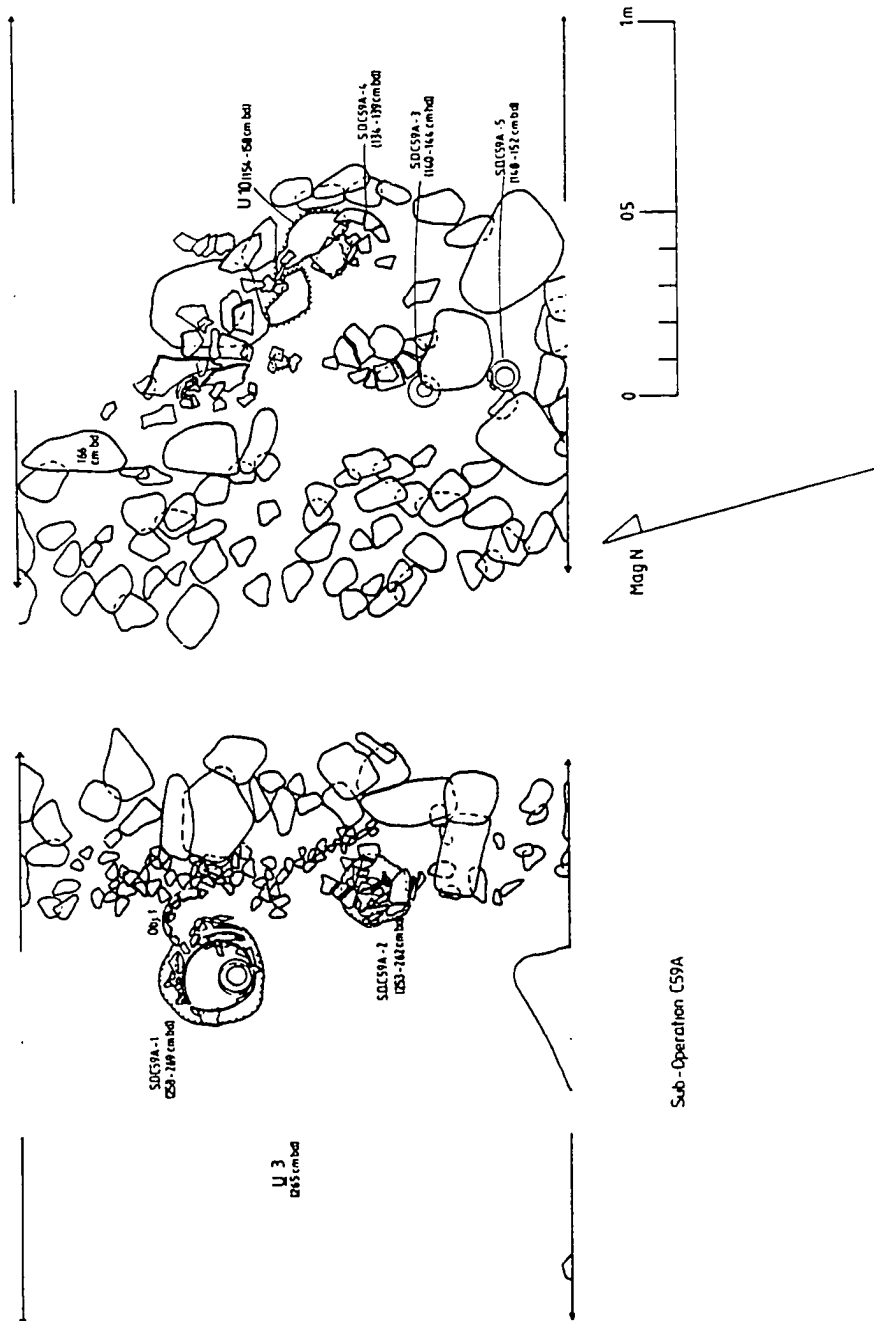


Figure 5.62. Structure 2E28 Special Deposit C59A-1, Special Deposit C59A-2, Special Deposit C59A-3, Special Deposit C59A-4 and Special Deposit C59A-5.

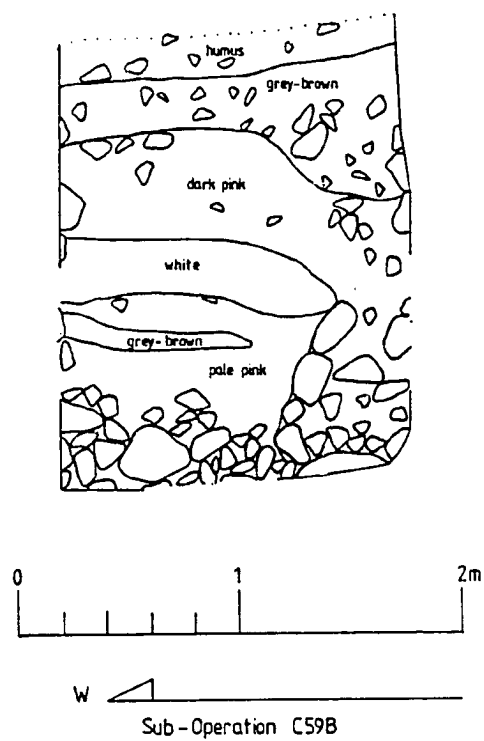


Figure 5.63. Sub-Operation C59B section.

of this area of the residential zone. The data would also be comparable to that recovered from Strs. M41 - M43, Str. M87 (Op. C51) and from Op. C53 regarding the occupation of groups constructed directly on terrace surfaces. Operation C65 was assigned to the excavations conducted in this group during May 1989 under the supervision of Jennifer Wallace from the University of Central Florida.

Structure 4N2

Structure 4N2 is the eastern building of the group defined by Strs. 4N1 - 4N6. It rises less than 1 m above the plaza floor and covers an area of 11.5 m². This locus was chosen for investigation in order to recover potentially dateable deposits from which to ascertain when this group was constructed and occupied.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C65A was assigned to the test excavation measuring 1.5 m by 1.5 m test placed in front of, and on axis to, Str. 4N2. The excavation was later extended 0.5 m west in order to record a crypt located in front of the building (Fig. 5.64).

Humus was removed above a dark brown matrix, which was lightly mixed with some small stone. This matrix became more compact just above a floor bedding (U.1) constructed of packed, small stone, found 34 cm to 40 cm below the surface. The front step/wall of Str. 4N2 was not exposed within the

excavation limits; however, UNIT 1 appeared to continue east, beneath the building, and it was encountered across the extent of Sub-Op. C65A except in the southeastern quarter of the excavation. A cache offering and a smashed incensario were found with obsidian blade fragments in this area of the test (Fig. 5.65). The cache, designated S.D. C65A-1, consisted of a small bowl located just below the level of U.1 and the sherds to a tall, cylinder incensario were found at the same level as U.1, adjacent to the bowl. Additional sherds to the incensario were recovered from beneath the slumped stones of the front step/wall of Str. 4N2. This deposit is discussed below in more detail. Based on the relative elevations of S.D.C65A-1 with the remains of U.1, it is likely that a later plaza floor (U.2) was constructed in this locus and sealed the deposit.

The floor bedding was removed and revealed a second cache deposit of two vessels, located just to the north of S.D. 65A-1 (Fig. 5.65). The deposit was assigned S.D.C65A-2 and consisted of a deep-sided bowl with a modeled and appliqued face placed right side up in a dish. Based on the stratigraphic relationship, S.D.C65A-2 was sealed by U.1. The floor also sealed a stone-lined crypt, located 0.80 m to 1.3 m west of Str. 4N2. Two people were interred in the crypt during the Late Classic Period with four ceramic vessels and a spindle whorl (Figs. 5.65 and 5.66). This burial, S.D. C65A-3, is discussed below in more detail. It is unclear if

the crypt was intrusive to the dark brown matrix beneath U.1. The matrix found within the crypt was similar to that found to the east of it in the excavation.

Excavation continued to bedrock east of S.D.C65A-3. Beneath U.1, the matrix was a compact, dark brown material, similar to that found above the floor. However, very little stone was mixed with this matrix until approximately 0.8 m below the surface where it became mixed with some small stone just above the bedrock. Bedrock was reached 1.1 m below the surface.

Special Deposit C65A-1. This deposit was a cache of a small bowl with a lid (Object 1) and a smashed incensario which also had a lid (Object 2) (Fig. 5.65). The bowl was placed upright, at an elevation slightly below that of U.1. The incensario was smashed to the northeast of Object 1, at the level of U.1. Sherds belonging to Object 2 were found beneath the fallen stones of the front step/wall of Str. 4N2 as were three obsidian blade fragments. It is possible that the cache vessel and the smashed incensario represent two different events in this locus. The incensario is a tall cylinder with flanges and the iconography is composed of two stacked faces. The lower face makes up three-quarters of the cylinder and is characterized by the twisted rope or "cruller" between the eyes, a characteristic of the Jaguar God of the Underworld or God G3 of the Palenque triad. The upper face is dominated by a projecting applique which

resembles a plug. The iconography and form of this incensario are similar to others known from Late Classic Period context at Palenque (Rands and Rands 1959).

Object 1 (C65A/3-5a,b) is a small bowl, with inward curving walls, and a slightly dome-shaped lid. The exterior and interior surfaces of the bowl are unslipped reddish-yellow (5YR7/8). A patch of lighter reddish-yellow (7.5YR 6/6) is present on the exterior surface towards the base. The rim diameter measures 8.0 cm and the height measures 8.0 cm. The exterior and interior surfaces of the lid are the same reddish yellow (5YR7/8) as that found on the bowl. The rim diameter is 7.9 cm and the height is 1.8 cm.

Object 2 (C65A/3-6a,b) is the reconstructed incensario and its lid. The incensario has flanges on either side of the stacked faces which are decorated with small disks or "jewels" along the outside edges. A disk is applied in the center of each flange, just below the level of the eyes of the lower face. As noted above, the lower face comprises three-quarters of the vessel and is identified as the Jaguar God of the Underworld. A band of small disks or "jewels" separates the faces. The upper face is characterized by a protruding applique below arched "eyebrows". The pedestaled base of the incensario is no longer present but the diameter of the vessel increases slightly from top to bottom. The exterior surface of the incensario is light red (2.5YR6/6) with areas of reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/6). The rim diameter

measures 13.8 cm and the height measures 33.0 cm. The lid is characterized by a hollow, flame-shaped point at the top, which has three long slits cut through the wall. Below this point are three curved spikes encircling the medial angle. Towards the bottom of the lid are three more curved spikes, separated by small, circular cut outs. The lid could not be fully reconstructed. The diameter of the rim varies from 13.0 cm to 13.5 cm and the reconstructed height is approximately 10 cm.

Object 3 (C65A/3-1,a-c) is comprised of the three obsidian blade fragments found beneath the front step/wall of Str. 4N2 with the sherds from Object 2. Two of the fragments are transparent black and one is a smokey grey with black stripes. The length of the pieces ranges from 2.2 cm to 4.7 cm and their width ranges from 1.1 cm to 1.5 cm. The total weight of obsidian recovered from this de-posit is 4.7 gms.

Special Deposit C65A-2. This deposit was a cache of two ceramic vessels just to the north of S.D.C65A-1, in front of Str. 4N2 (Fig. 5.65). The deposit consisted of a small bowl with a modeled and appliqued face (Object 1) which was oriented almost due south. This bowl was placed right side up in a dish (Object 2). The cache was sealed by the plaza floor. The material recovered from this deposit was very poorly preserved and the vessels have not yet been reconstructed.

Special Deposit C65A-3. Special Deposit C65A-3 was the burial of two individuals in a stone-lined crypt, located 0.8 m to 1.3 m west of Str. 4N2 (Fig. 5.66). The walls of the crypt were built of stone and dark brown matrix and the floor was bedrock. The length of the crypt measured 1.14 m north-south and the width decreased from 0.32 m east-west at the top to 0.22 m east-west at the bottom. It was 0.5 m deep. The burial was not well preserved and the bone was fairly soft. Two individuals were identified based on the location of cranial material and the number of long bones included in the crypt. No sex or age identification was possible for either person. Individual 1 was placed in an extended position, probably supine, with the head to the north. The lower legs were either cut or broken and placed on top of the upper legs in order to fit this person within the confines of the crypt. Individual 2 was placed in the southern end of the crypt and the bones were also arranged so as to fit the body within the confines of the area. Individual 2 was probably reburied in this locus as there is no indication of any part of the body being articulated at the time of burial. Four ceramic vessels were included in the burial. A small cylinder with an incised decoration (Object 4) was placed on its side, beneath a red-slipped dish (Object 2). Object 2 was placed right side up beneath Individual 1's head. A second cylinder (Object 3) was placed upside down, adjacent to the south side of Object 2.

The rim of Object 3 appears to have been cut to shorten the height of the cylinder. Finally, a red-slipped, tripod dish (Object 1) was placed right side up over Individual 1's head and Object 2. A limestone spindle whorl was also included in this burial. Three large, limestone slabs covered the crypt which was then sealed by U.1. The matrix included in the crypt was a dark brown material, similar to that found throughout Sub-Op. C65A. The artifacts found within this matrix, which do not appear to have been intentionally part of the burial included some chert debitage and two mano fragments.

Object 1 (C65A/9-8) is a very eroded, tripod dish. The medial angle of the dish is notched and the feet are solid. The eroded surface of the exterior is a dark reddish-brown (5YR5/3) with dark grey fire clouds (2.5YR3/0). There are remnants of a red slip (2.5YR5/8) on the lip of the dish. The interior surface is also very eroded and is red (2.5YR 3/8) in color. The rim is very uneven and the diameter measures 27.0 cm. The height of the dish ranges from 6.3 cm to 7.3 cm because of the uneven rim.

Object 2 (C65A/9-10) is a straight-walled dish with a rounded base. Two shallow incisions encircle the vessel, one below the rim and one just above the medial angle. Small, oval-shaped impressions decorate the medial angle. The upper portion of the dish is red-slipped (10R4/8). Below the medial angle, the surface was probably never

slipped and is a light brown (10YR6/4) color. The diameter of the rim is 29 cm and the height is 7.6 cm.

Object 3 (C65A/9-7) is a very eroded cylinder. The height of the cylinder appears to have been shortened by cutting the rim at a slight angle. A very shallow incision encircles the cylinder, 1 cm above the base, and vertical incisions were made below this to the base. The exterior surface has traces of a red slip (10R4/8) on an eroded surface color of reddish-yellow (7.5YR7/8). The interior surface is also eroded and is the same color as the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 11.0 cm and the height ranges from 13.2 cm to 13.8 cm.

Object 4 (C65A/9-6) is a short cylinder with an incised decoration on the exterior. The design is composed of a series of horizontal ovals encircling the vessel below the rim. A horizontal line has been incised above the ovals and two horizontal lines are incised below them. A panel of vertical rectangles has been incised below the ovals. The exterior surface is unslipped red (2.5YR5/6) which fades into a reddish-brown (5YR4/3). The interior surface is unslipped red like the exterior surface. The rim diameter measures 9.4 cm and the height measures 16.1 cm.

Object 5 (C65A/9-1) is a plain, white, limestone spindle whorl. It is 2.8 cm in diameter, 1.3 cm thick and weighs 13.1 gms.

Structure 4N2 Summary

The earliest activity in this locus is the burial of two individuals in a stone-lined crypt (S.D.C65A-3). It is unclear if this crypt was excavated into an already existing terrace matrix or if the surface was built up at the time the crypt was constructed. Throughout the excavation, the matrix is the same dark brown color mixed with varying amounts and sizes of stone. It is probable that the crypt was excavated into an already existing terrace surface as there is no real change in matrix to indicate that material was brought to this locus to build up the surface. Artifacts recovered from approximately the same elevation as the top of the crypt include an obsidian blade fragment and an igneous metate fragment, as well as sherds and some chert fragments. These are probably from ephemeral activity at this locus prior to the excavation of the crypt and the construction of Str. 4N2 and do not appear to be part of a trash deposit. Possibly in conjunction with the burial, a cache (S.D.C65A-2) of a small bowl with a modeled and applied face was placed inside a larger dish and these were deposited to the east of the crypt. A plaster floor (U.1) was then constructed, sealing both the crypt and the cache.

A second cache offering (S.D.C65A-1) was deposited in the Str. 4N2 locus. The deposit consisted of a single bowl and a smashed cylinder incensario. The sherds to the incensario were found at the same level as U.1 and extended east be-

neath the slumped front step/wall of Str. 4N2. The bowl was found at a level slightly below U.1. It is possible that the bowl and the incensario represent two different ritual events. A later floor (U.2) was probably constructed in the Str. 4N2 locus which abutted the front step/wall of Str. 4N2 and sealed S.D.C65A-1.

The artifacts recovered from above U.1 included a partial serpentine celt which had been embedded in the floor bedding and which fit with a second celt fragment recovered from a slightly higher elevation within the excavation. Fragments of obsidian blades and assorted fragments of incensarios were recovered along with assorted sherds and scattered chert fragments. Based on this inventory, Str. 4N2 served at least a ritual function for Strs. 4N1 - 4N6 during the middle to late part of the Late Classic Period.

Structure 4N5

Structure 4N5 is located in the southwest corner of the Strs. 4N1 - 4N6 group. It rises less than 1 m above the plaza surface and covers an area of 25.4 m². Excavation in this locus was intended to provide information regarding the use of Str. 4N5.

Excavation

Sub-Operation C65B was a test excavation measuring 1.5 m by 1.5 m placed in front of, and on axis to, Str. 4N5 (Fig. 5.64). Humus and a dark brown matrix, mixed with small

stone, were removed above a slightly lighter brown matrix, mixed with small and medium rubble. This matrix was found approximately 15 cm below the surface and was followed to a depth of approximately 90 cm below the surface. At this level, the matrix was mixed only with scattered small stone and extended approximately 1.2 m below the surface. The matrix changed to an orange-brown color without any stones. No artifacts were recovered from this matrix so excavation was terminated at a final depth of 1.5 m below the surface.

Artifacts recovered from the dark brown matrix beneath the humus level include two incensario fragments and a metate fragment, as well as assorted sherds and a few chert fragments. A shell disk and four obsidian blade fragments were recovered from the lighter brown matrix. This data is not conclusive as to the function of Str. 4N5; however, it is assumed that it served several functions for the group, probably residential and ritual.

Structures 4N1 - 4N6 Group Summary

Two excavations were conducted in the group defined by Strs. 4N1 - 4N6 and three special deposits were recovered from the Str. 4N2 locus. The data from these excavations show that the group was constructed and used during the Late Classic Period. Structures 4N1 - 4N6 are similar in size and the group is similar in configuration to other groups which are believed to have been residences. Thus, it is possible that this group served a similar general function.

The artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C65A indicate that Str. 4N2 served as a ritual locus for the occupants of the group. The incensario recovered as part of S.D.C65A-1 is unusual for the residential zone in that it is similar in form and iconography to one recovered from excavations conducted within the epicenter (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:24, fig. 19). In contrast, the iconographic elements noted during excavation for the modeled and appliqued cache vessel associated with S.D.C65A-2 is similar to cache deposits found in the smaller groups throughout the residential zone. It appears that the occupants of Strs. 4N1 - 4N6 may have participated in a different set of rituals than those undertaken in groups of comparable size and complexity.

The inventory of artifacts recovered from Sub-Op. C65B is similar to those recovered from Sub-Op. C65A. Although no special deposits were found in this locus to directly indicate such a purpose for this building, Str. 4N5 may have also served a ritual function. However, it can not be ruled out that Str. 4N5 may have also served a domestic function for the occupants of the group.

Conchita Causeway Test Excavations:
Operation C41 and Operation C43

Test excavations were placed on the Conchita Causeway in two different places in order to gather information regarding the construction of the Causeway and its relationship to adjoining terrace walls. The goal of these excavations, in

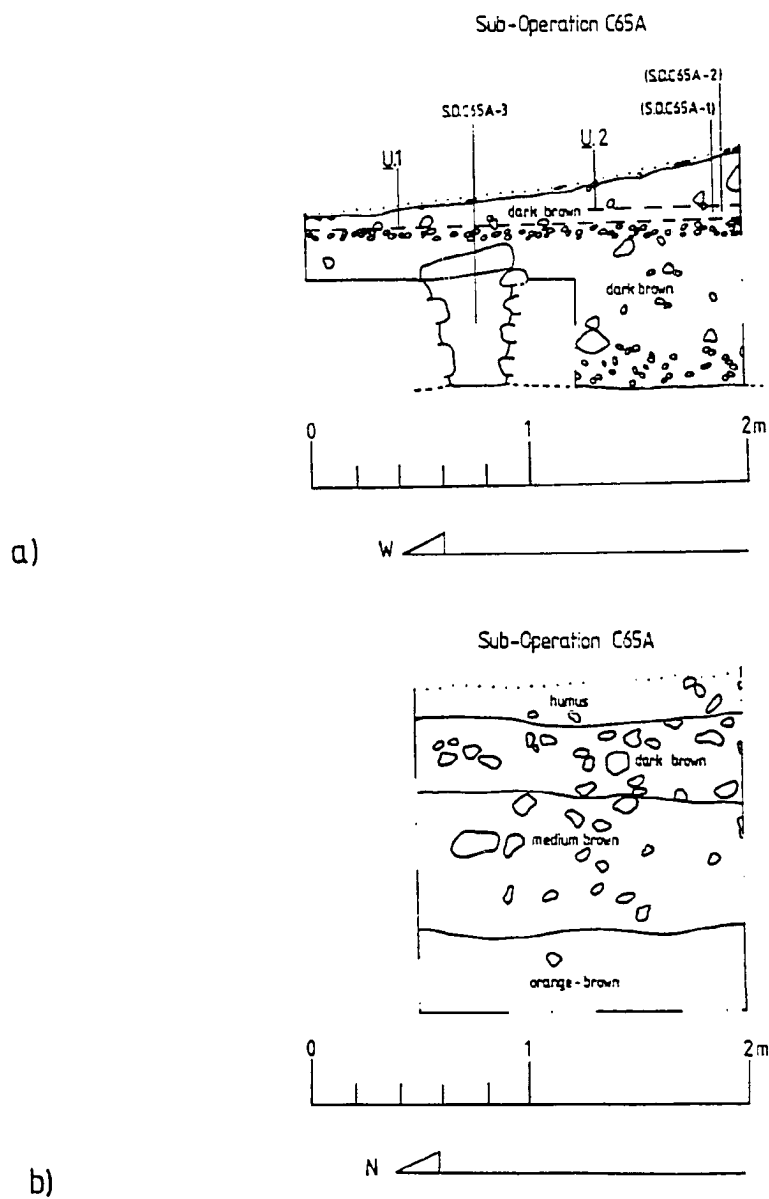


Figure 5.64. a) Sub-Operation C65A section, b) Sub-Operation C65B section.

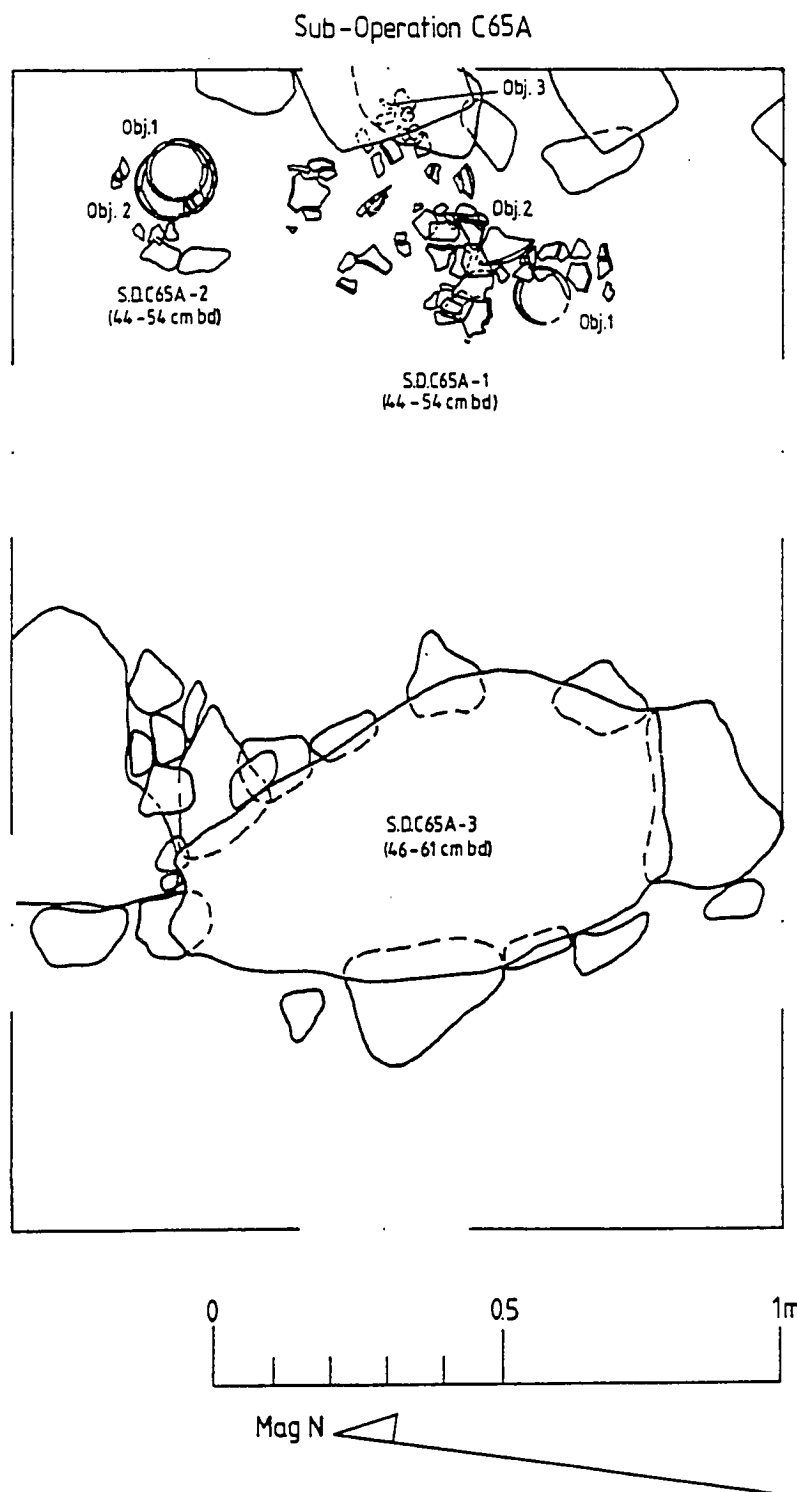


Figure 5.65. Sub-Operation C65A Special Deposit C65A-1, Special Deposit C65A-2 and the capstones for Special Deposit C65A-3.

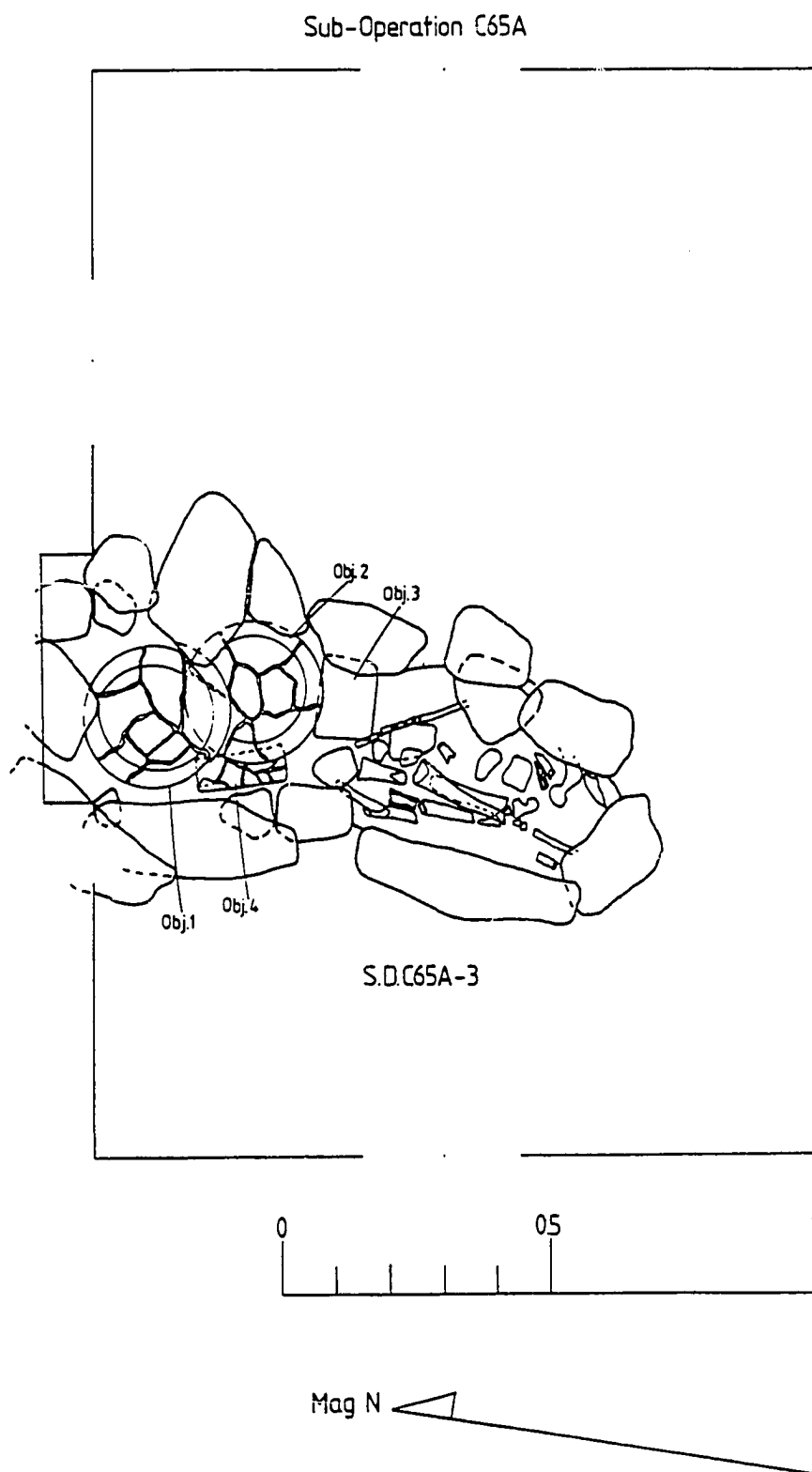


Figure 5.66. Sub-Operation Special Deposit C65A-3 plan.

conjunction with the excavations conducted in the nearby plazuela groups, was to date when the Conchita Causeway was built. The first set of excavations were undertaken as part of Operation C41, which included the test excavations conducted in Strs. M6 - M10 (Sub-Ops. C41A and C41D). These were designated Sub-Ops. C41B and C41C and were placed on the Conchita Causeway, approximately 1.3 km southeast of the epicenter, just to the northwest of Strs. M6 - M10 (see Fig. 4.2). The second set of test excavations on the Causeway were assigned Operation C43 and were placed approximately 2.8 km southeast of the epicenter, where a terrace wall meets the sacbe. Operation C43 was located near the base of the hill upon which Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 (Op. C45) are located and consisted of two tests designated Sub-Ops. C43A and C43B. In this area of the Caracol settlement, the surrounding terrain is characterized by a gentle, almost imperceptible, north to south slope, which is intersected by the sacbe.

Sub-Operation C41B

Sub-Operation C41B was a 1.54 m northeast-southwest by 1.34 m northwest-southeast excavation placed on the northwestern edge of the Causeway, where a well-defined terrace wall meets the side of the sacbe. The humus was removed to expose a layer of small stone, packed in a dark brown matrix (Fig. 5.67). The Causeway wall was defined by roughly smoothed, medium-sized limestone blocks. Excavation contin-

ued to bedrock which was encountered approximately 70 cm below the humus level of the Causeway. The excavation revealed that the adjoining terrace wall abuts the sacbe, thus indicating that the Causeway was built prior to, or at the same time as, the terrace system in the immediate vicinity of this portion of the Causeway. Artifacts recovered from the excavation include a few eroded sherds, a fragment from an obsidian blade and a small fragment from a piece of worked slate.

Sub-Operation C41C

Sub-Operation C41C was a 2.4 m northeast-southwest by 0.8 m northwest-southeast excavation placed on the southeastern edge of the Conchita Causeway, directly opposite Sub-Op. C41B (Fig. 5.67). This excavation was intended to define the edge of the sacbe at this locus, so only the humus layer was removed, exposing a dark brown matrix, packed with small stone. The Conchita Causeway, at this locus, is 4.98 m wide and rises 0.6 m to 0.8 m above the terrain.

Sub-Operation C43A

Sub-Operation C43A was a 3.0 m north-south by 1.0 m east-west test placed over the south wall of the sacbe where a terrace wall, constructed of large, limestone boulders, meets the Causeway. In contrast, the Causeway wall in this locus is constructed of medium and large, roughly dressed, limestone blocks and rises approximately 70 cm above the

surface of the terrace. Humus was removed to reveal a dark brown matrix packed with small stone and medium-sized rubble (Fig. 5.68). This material was the construction fill for the sacbe. In contrast, the construction fill for the terrace consisted of a dark brown matrix with scattered small and medium rubble. The Causeway construction fill was removed up to 45 cm below the surface of the sacbe, at which point the dimensions of Sub-Op. C43A would have had to be extended in order to facilitate excavation to bedrock. The terrace fill was also excavated to a depth of approximately 45 cm below the terrace surface before stopping. Sub-Operation C43A revealed two possible building relationships between the Causeway and the adjoining terrace. The first is that the terrace was in place prior to the construction of the Causeway as the northernmost boulder of the terrace wall was incorporated as part of the sacbe wall. Alternatively, the terrace and the Causeway may have been built simultaneously, taking advantage of the boulders in the area as building material.

Sub-Operation C43B

Sub-Operation C43B measured 2.0 m north-south by 1.2 m east-west and was placed over the north wall of the Conchita Causeway, directly opposite Sub-Op. C43A (Fig. 5.68). Excavation here was intended to define the edge of the sacbe, therefore, only the humus layer was removed, which revealed the same small stone and medium-sized rubble as

that found in Sub-Op. C43A. The partially preserved wall of the Causeway was also exposed. Originally, the wall was probably two or three courses high, providing a "step-up" of approximately 40 cm onto the adjacent terrain. At this locus, the Conchita Causeway is 3.60 m wide. The artifacts recovered from Op. C43 include a scant collection of sherds, primarily from the humus level.

Conchita Causeway Test Excavations Summary

It is generally found that the surfaces of causeways throughout the Maya area are plastered or stone-paved (eg., Benavides Castillo 1981:70, fig. 7). The packed small stone layer encountered in Sub-Ops. C41B, C41C, C43A, and C43B would indicate that the Conchita Causeway was, indeed, plastered in this section of the road. In other, unexcavated, sections of the Causeway, large flat limestone slabs are visible on the surface, indicating that these sections of the road may have been stone-paved.

Excavations conducted throughout the residential settlement, both along the Conchita Causeway and between this sacbe and the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway to the west, indicate that the area was densely occupied by 9.13.0.0.0. Thus, it is probable that the Conchita Causeway was constructed prior to, and certainly by, this date (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989:13-15).

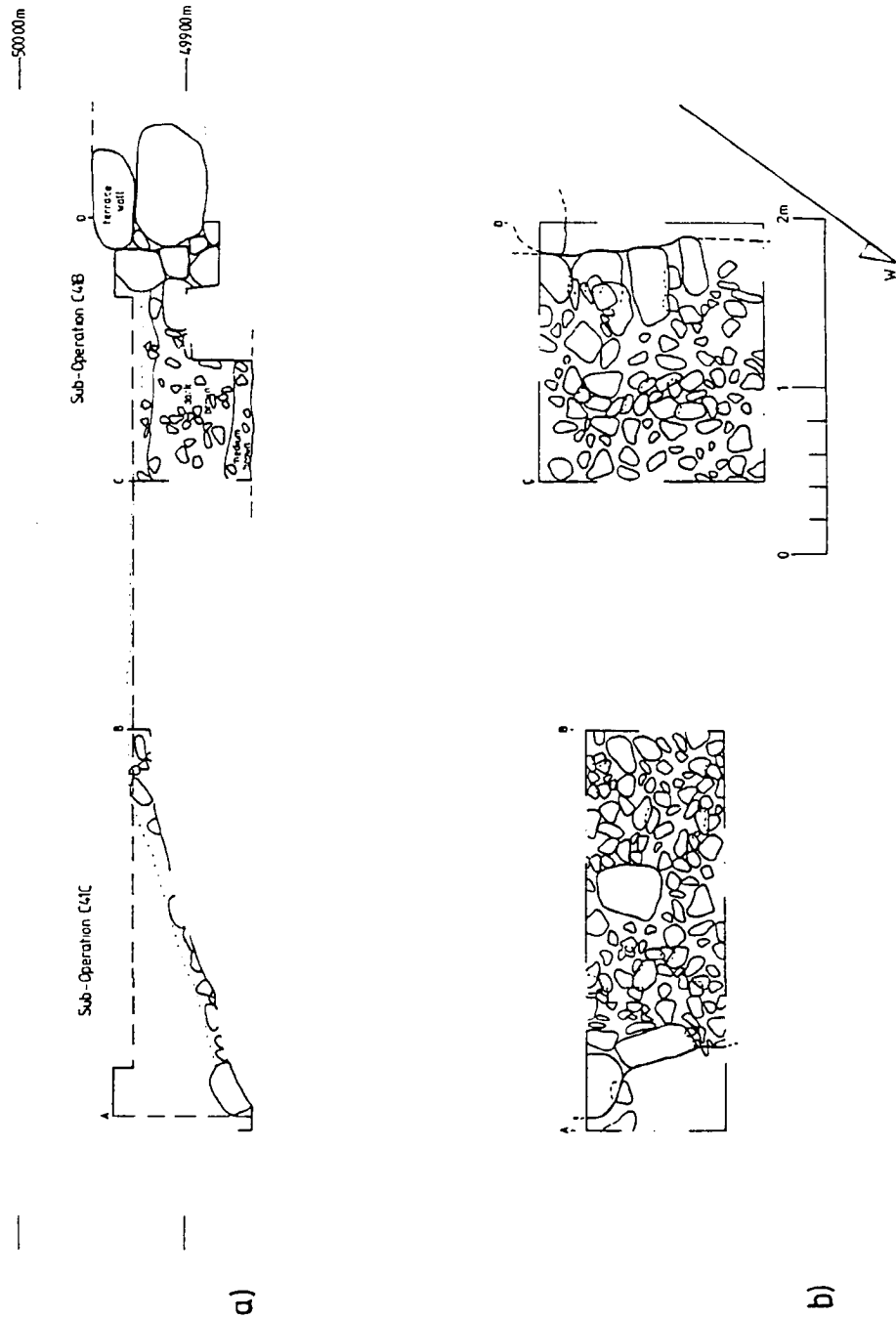


Figure 5.67. Sub-Operation C41B and Sub-Operation C41C - a) sections, A-B and C-D refer to the plans, the terrace wall is represented by the large boulders on the right side of the C-D section; b) plans.

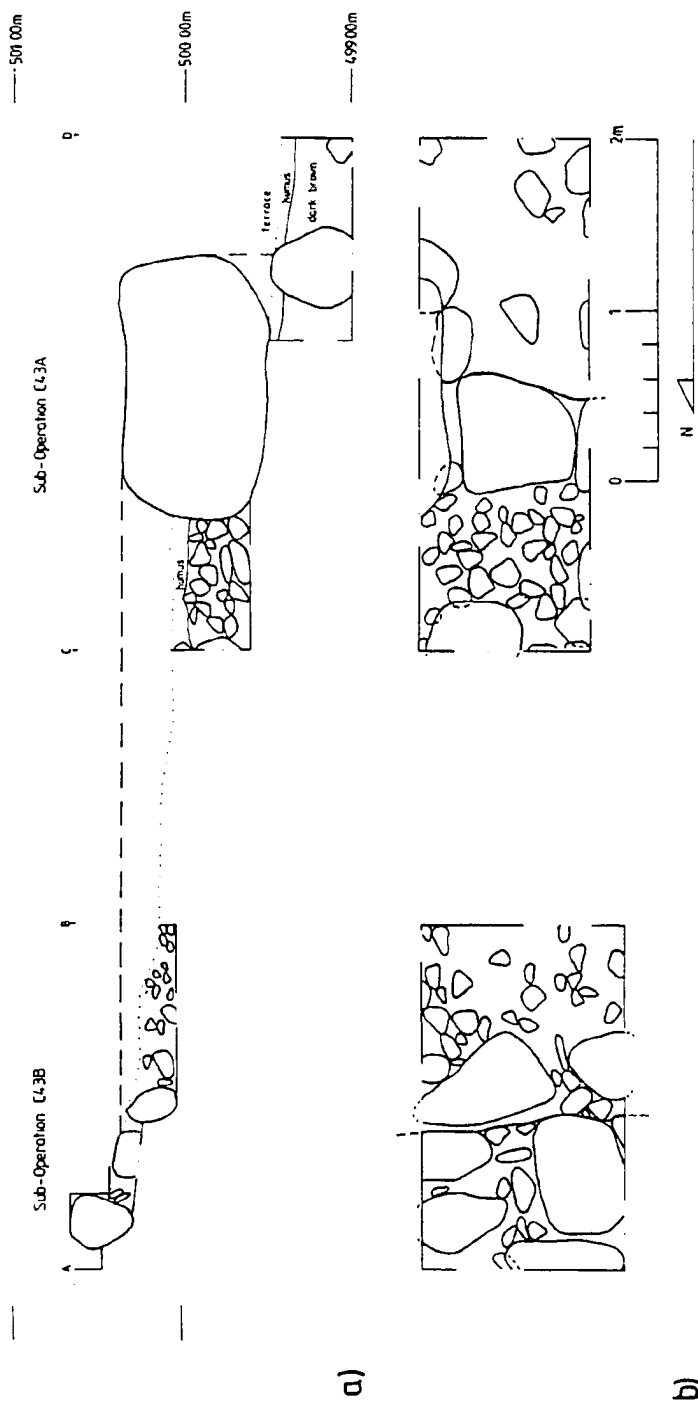


Figure 5.68. Sub-Operation C43A and Sub-Operation C43B - a) sections, A-B and C-D refer to the plans; b) plans.

CHAPTER VI

THE CONCHITA CAUSEWAY, CARACOL, AND THE CLASSIC PERIOD MAYA

The discussion in this chapter is an attempt to bring together the survey data and the information recovered from the excavations conducted as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram, in order to address the sociopolitical organization of Caracol. This is offered as a contribution to an overall understanding of the Classic Period Maya.

Growth of the Residential Area

The dynamic political history recorded in the monuments of Caracol (see Chapter Three) is reflected in the settlement history of the city. Excavations conducted in the epicenter of the site by Linton Satterthwaite in the 1950's and by the Caracol Project in 1985 and 1986 indicate that Caracol was occupied as early as the Protoclassic Period (ca. 0 - A.D. 200) to well into the Postclassic Period (ca. A.D. 1250) (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:2, 13). The excavations conducted by the Caracol Project also produced four distinct ceramic assemblages from four tombs with painted texts. Each text included a date and, thus, allow the associated ceramic assemblages to be placed in a specific time frame. In addition, "because enough stylistic variability is evident between the various dated groupings

of vessels, it has proved possible to seriate other hieroglyphically undated, but contextually recovered, vessel sets into the epicentral sequence" (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989:12). This has allowed relatively concise dating of the occupations throughout the Caracol settlement.

The question addressed by the Conchita Causeway sub-program is the development of the settlement outside of the epicenter -- i.e, who comprised the population which supported the aggressive policies of the ruling elite? How did the settlement grow? What were the relationships among the people who occupied and/or used the different plazuela groups? What were the relationships between these people and the people who occupied and/or used the ceremonial complexes located in the epicenter, as well as at the termini of the causeways? The excavations conducted as part of this research and by the Caracol Project in the settlement adjacent to this, indicate that the sector of the site south of the epicenter was occupied as early as the Preclassic period (A. F. Chase 1991, personal communication). Substantial evidence for a Protoclassic occupation early occupation was recovered from a looted tomb in the Str. 6G30 Acropolis (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:45-49), located approximately 2.0 km southeast of the epicenter, and from a chultun burial in a small, apparently residential, group located approximately 2.7 km southeast of the epicenter (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989 personal communication; also C. Hunter,

in preparation). The extent of the Protoclassic settlement is unknown; however, it is believed to have been fairly sparse. The excavation data further indicate that this sector was occupied continuously from the early part of the Late Classic Period (ca. A.D. 550, or 9.6.0.0.0., in Strs. 2E18 - 2E25, Operation C31) through the Terminal Classic Period (beginning ca. A.D. 800, or 9.18.10.0.0., in Strs. 2E26 - 2E34, Operation C59). It appears, however, that the area was most densely settled after A.D. 692 (9.13.0.0.0.).

In Chapter Four, a Group Typology was outlined which was originally proposed by A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase (1987:54-56). It was noted that groups representing Types 1 through 4 were considered to be general function groups whereas, groups representing Types 5 through 12 were believed to have served more specialized functions. It was noted in Chapter Four that within the area covered by the Conchita Causeway subprogram, the only types not represented in the sample are Types 8, 9, 10, and 11. Of those types which are included in the sample, 85% of them are Types 1, 2, 4, and 6. The excavations described in Chapter Five were conducted in a total of 13 plazuela groups, representing Types 1, 2, 4, and 6. With the exception of two groups, all of those investigated appeared to have served primarily residential functions. Excavation in Strs. 3D24 - 3D34 (Operation C34) and in Strs. 3E34 - 3E36 (Operation C45) did not yield clear evidence for the function of these groups; however, it is

apparent that, at least, they served a ritual function, either for a larger segment of the residential population or for a smaller group of people. Thus, the occupation in this sector of Caracol was primarily residential. Even though the groups within each type differ in size (i.e., number of buildings), this is not entirely unexpected. Considering the area covered by construction, Types 1 through 4 and Type 6 have a greater range than Types 5, 7, and 12. This can be taken as evidence to support the excavation data that Types 1 through 4 and Type 6 functioned as residences because the area covered by construction would be a factor of the number of people occupying that group, the range of domestic and family level activities undertaken (including craft production), and perhaps to relative status. In contrast, the area covered by construction in the more specialized Types 5, 7 and 12 might be governed primarily by the function served. Additional excavation is necessary in plazuela groups representing Types 5, 7, and 12 in order to assess their function or functions within the residential settlement.

Excavations conducted by the Caracol Project in the area west of the Conchita Causeway subprogram provided evidence that the Pajaro-Ramonal Causeway (see Fig. 4.1) was probably constructed by 9.13.0.0.0. and it is likely that the Conchita Causeway was also built by this time. With a large population living in this sector of Caracol and large scale

construction of the sacbes undertaken, it is probable that most, if not all, of the terrace systems south of the epicenter were also constructed by 9.13.0.0.0. (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1989:15; see also Healy et al. 1983). The density of occupation and the construction and maintenance of large scale constructions, such as the sacbes and the terrace systems, coincide with the aggressive acts that Caracol undertook against Tikal and Naranjo. The implication is that the population grew rapidly, possibly by migration into the area, and economic prosperity was enjoyed by the majority of the population, at least partially as a result of successful warfare (D. Z. Chase et al. 1990:501). These effects are evident in Caracol's settlement pattern outside of the epicenter.

Settlement Patterns and Social Organization

A series of dichotomies have generally been used in discussions of the spatial organization of various Maya centers such as "central" versus "peripheral" and "elite" versus "non-elite"; in addition, there is an attendant association of "central" with "elite" and "peripheral" with "non-elite" (cf., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 49-50); a second association combines the "periphery" with food production. Haviland (1963: 538-539), for example, proposed that a large population living at Tikal consumed the food that was raised by people living in a surrounding rural region. This sentiment was echoed by Kurjack (1974:94), who

stated, "the form and size of the central aggregate [at the site of Dzibilchultun] do not allow for efficient access to agricultural fields. Instead, this aggregate probably served to allow increased interaction between members of the social elite; other members of the elite were the 'facet of the environment' with whom people living in the central aggregate desired to have easy access." The implication of central-elite-rulers and specialists in contrast with peripheral-nonelite-farmers coincides with the concentric pattern of spatial organization first described by Landa (Tozzer 1941). This concentric pattern is described for several Maya sites (eg., Haviland 1963 for Tikal, Thomas 1981 for Becan, Folan et al. 1983 for Coba); however, other Classic Period centers are believed to have had somewhat different organizations (eg., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 57-58, for Caracol; Ashmore 1981b for Quirigua; Tourtellot 1988b: 363, 426 for Seibal; see also Arnold and Ford 1980 and Becker 1983 in contrast to Haviland 1963 for Tikal).

The map of Caracol (Fig. 4.2 - Fig. 4.13) clearly illustrates the intimate association of small and large plazuela groups with extensive agricultural terrace systems, which extend from the "edge" of the epicenter to beyond the termini of the causeways. The excavation data collected as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram indicates that the majority of the plazuela groups functioned as residential

compounds. This is supported by the data collected by the Caracol Project in the area adjacent to this research (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987, 1989). The survey data, combined with the excavation data, indicate that the dichotomies outlined above do not apply in this situation and that the relationships between status, location and food production are more complex at Caracol than are described for other centers. The factors which are traditionally used to identify status -- structure size and group complexity, burial patterns, and proximity to resources (including the epicenter) will be assessed as to their utility as status markers at Caracol.

Structure Size and Group Complexity

It has been argued that based on survey data alone and without the benefit of excavation, it is difficult to assume that the complexity of a residential group and the sizes of the buildings which comprise that group are automatically related to the status of the occupants (eg., Jaeger 1987, 1990). It is frequently found that the observed size of a large building is the result of subsequent building phases in that particular locus and that the number of buildings included in a group may be a function of the length of occupation and the number of people who occupied the group. Some temporal control is needed to assess the contemporaneity of residential groups if relative size is going to be of any use as a status marker. The excavations conducted

throughout the residential settlement south of the epicenter indicate that this area was continuously and most densely occupied between A.D. 692 and A.D. 800. Most, if not all, of the residential groups investigated in the Conchita Causeway subprogram were occupied during this time and, thus, were essentially contemporaneous. Those structures which were revealed through excavation to have been constructed in a series of construction phases appeared to have undergone the architectural changes fairly rapidly during the Late Classic Period (eg., Str. C11, Operation C22; Str. 2E28, Operation C59).

The survey conducted south of Caracol's epicenter revealed that structure size and group complexity were not reliable indicators, in and of themselves, of differential status within the Caracol community. The residential settlement of Caracol is characterized by the plazuela arrangement of the groups with each group being centered around a single courtyard (see Fig. 4.2 - Fig. 4.13). The groups differ in the number and size of the buildings of which they are comprised, as well as in the amount of area they cover. The presence of tombs, revealed through the efforts of looters or through structural collapse, in groups of different sizes, indicate that the residents of this sector of the city all had some access to resources and labor. The data recovered from the tombs and from other types of burials encountered in the excavations (see the

discussion below) do not provide a clear correlation of elaborate interments with large buildings or large groups (for example, compare S.D. C29A-1 from Str. C97, Operation C29 with S.D.C54A-1 from Str. 3D4, Operation C54 and S.D.-C53B-6 from Str. 3F2, Operation C53). The area a group covers, briefly considered in Chapter Four, may be a factor of relative status within the Caracol community. Since the terraces are integrated with the residential settlement, and it is believed that the terrace systems are contemporaneous with the residential occupation of this sector, it was argued in Chapter Four that the amount of area each group covers (measured as the area covered by construction) could be a reflection of relative status. It was noted that even though the area a group covered was strongly correlated with the number of buildings of which it is comprised, there remains the possibility that other factors were involved in determining the space allotted to living rather than to cultivation. An example was offered contrasting the area associated with Strs. C11 - C14 (Operation C22) and the area associated with Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 (Operation C31) which was noted as 1152 m² versus 999 m² respectively. The excavations revealed that both groups served residential functions and were apparently occupied by people with some access to resources. The immediate implication is that the area a residential group covers is a function of the relative status of the family occupying that group; however, based on

the burial types recovered from each group. it is possible that Strs. 2E18 - 2E25 were occupied by a group of people with greater access to resources than those who occupied Strs. C11 - C14. It must be noted that the excavation of Str. C13, located in the latter group, was inhibited by the presence of a mature Ramon tree at the summit of the building and that if this tree had not been present, the deep excavation of the trench (Sub-Operation C22E) would have completely penetrated the construction core. It is likely that a tomb is present within Str. C13, given the overwhelming presence of this burial type throughout the settlement and it is possible that if such a burial type is associated with Str. C13, the interment may be fairly elaborate, given the data recovered from the interment in the cist (S.D.C22E-1) located beneath the front steps of the building. Also, it must be noted that, if this were true, the size of the buildings and the size of the plazuela group would not be an adequate reflection of the relative status of the occupants of the respective groups.

Thus, while structure size and group complexity do not appear to reflect relative status at Caracol, the factor of area is one to be reconsidered with a larger sample of plazuela groups from the site as a whole. The size of the sample of groups considered here is too small to determine the statistical significance of this factor in relation to differential status.

Treatment of the Dead

Building on the work by Saxe (1970), Binford (1971), and Tainter (1975), among others, Goldstein (1978:54) states the two basic assumptions underlying current archaeological mortuary analysis -- "... (1) the variables within a mortuary site cluster so that they partition the universe of mortuary practices and these partitions represent different social statuses or classes; and (2) the principles which organize the sets of statuses are the same as the organizing social relations in the general society." Relative status within a community is assumed to be related to the amount of energy expended in preparing the burial locus and in preparing the body (or bodies) and the associated burial furniture for interment. As Tainter (1975:2) points out, "... higher social rank of a deceased individual will correspond to greater amounts of corporate involvement and activity disruption and hence should result in the expenditure of greater amounts of energy in the interment ritual. Energy expenditure should in turn be reflected in such features of burial as size and elaborateness of the interment facility, method of handling and disposal of the corpse and the nature of the grave associations" (see also Binford 1971:22-23). For example, in Maya studies, people buried in tombs are assumed to have enjoyed a greater status within the community than those buried in a simple interment (eg., Loten and Pendergast 1984). Even in the case of multiple individuals

buried in a tomb, if they were interred at the same time, it is assumed that some of the individuals may actually have been so-called retainers and/or slaves but may have enjoyed a reflected status associated with the primary individual.

At Caracol, A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase (1987:56-57) identify four types of burials which are found in a variety of contexts. The types are defined as follows: simple interments are those which do not exhibit distinct outlines and are assumed to be non-intrusive in nature; cists are prepared areas with clear outlines, marked either by soil changes or by stones, there is no formal construction associated with this type, although the interment may be capped, cists are frequently, but not always, cut into existing constructions; crypts differ from cists in that they do have formal walls and roofs and are generally open-air inside, they vary from tombs in that the amount of space enclosed within the construction is very limited, generally being just large enough to hold the contents; tombs are formal constructions larger than necessary to hold their contents and they are always large enough for relative ease of movement about the chamber.

The distribution of these burial types found in the Conchita Causeway subprogram is summarized in Table 6.1. It must be noted that most of the burials in this sample are associated with eastern structures and that more than one

burial type may be associated with a building. While the eastern locus certainly held special significance for the Maya in terms of religion and ancestor worship (eg., Becker 1971, 1972; A. F. Chase 1983; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press), the association in this sample is somewhat skewed due to the excavation strategy employed. Within a given plazuela group, the eastern structure was always excavated, while buildings in other positions were chosen for investigation based on apparent degree of preservation or to increase the sample of excavated buildings with a particular orientation. This strategy was employed because during the 1986 and 1987 field seasons, it became apparent that at least one dateable deposit could be recovered from the eastern locus. In addition, it must be noted that burials interred in non-eastern buildings at Caracol tend to be deposited within the construction core of the structure. In the sample from the Conchita Causeway subprogram, only one non-eastern building was penetrated by a trench excavation which yielded two interments (S.D.C22A-1 and S.D.C22A-2 from Str. C11, Operation C22). Two other interments which were associated with non-eastern buildings were partially covered by the associated constructions (S.D.C41D-1 from Str. M6, Operation C41 and S.D.C59B-1, from Str. 2E30, Operation C59). Thus, it is very likely that throughout the residential area, burials were deposited in non-eastern loci within

TABLE 6.1

DISTRIBUTION OF BURIAL TYPES FOUND IN THE CONCHITA CAUSEWAY
SUBPROGRAM

simple	cist	crypt	tomb
S.D.C22A-1			
S.D.C22A-2			
S.D.C22E-3		S.D.C22E-1	
		S.D.C29A-1	
		S.D.C29A-2	
		S.D.C31A-1	
S.D.C31B-2			
		S.D.C32B-1	
S.D.C32C-3			
S.D.C32C-2			
S.D.C34B-1*			
S.D.C41D-1			
S.D.C42B-2		S.D.C42B-1	
		S.D.C51A-1	
		S.D.C51B-1	
		S.D.C53A-1	
S.D.C53B-5		S.D.C53B-6	
		S.D.C54A-1	
S.D.C54B-4			
S.D.C59A-16		S.D.C59A-12	
S.D.C59B-1			
S.D.C65A-3			

note:

(*S.D.C34B-1 is a poorly preserved, simple burial in a chultun located within Strs. 3D24 - 3D34, Operation C34. This deposit will be discussed by C. Hunter, in preparation)

a given residential group but were not discovered by excavation. Since tombs are considered indicators of elite status and they are generally found in a limited spatial distribution within a site (eg., Becker 1971:180-181 for Tikal; A. F. Chase 1983:1260-1264 for Tayasal; Smith 1972:261, 266 for crypts at Altar de Sacrificios which fit the definition of a tomb used in the current study; Tourtellot 1990 for Seibal) it is significant that at Caracol, this type of burial is common and has a wide spatial distribution (cf., A. F. Chase 1992). Elite status is frequently associated with vaulted and/or fairly substantial architecture (eg., Willey et al. 1978, Folan et al. 1983). The point here is that taking the presence of a tomb as a status marker, the elite members of Caracol society lived in groups which varied widely in structure number, building size, and architectural elaboration. The data from the Conchita Causeway subprogram show that tombs were included in, or beneath, non-vaulted buildings which range in construction volume from 9.8 m³ (Str. M12, S.D.C32B-1, Operation C32) to 165.0 m³ (Str. 2E28, S.D.C59A-12, Operation C59) and that two tombs were incorporated in the construction fill of a building with a total construction volume of only 27.0 m³ (Str. 3F2, Sub-Op. C53A and S.D.C53B-6, Operation C53). Thus, it can be definitely stated, following the discussion above about architectural remains, that building size and elaboration are not correlated at Caracol with relative status.

Given the wide spatial distribution of tombs and the association of this burial type with a wide range of building sizes, the question to be examined here is, can any status differentiation be made within the residential population? A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase (1987:57) note that, in general, tombs recorded from the epicenter and from the Causeway termini differ from those found throughout the residential settlement in that the epicentral tombs tend to have single individuals, painted texts, and the chambers tend to be at the upper end of the size range. The data from the Conchita Causeway subprogram (summarized in Table 6.2) indicate that perhaps some differentiation along these lines may be possible, as well, in the residential area. The sample of tombs excavated in the Conchita Causeway subprogram is too small to make definitive statements regarding different statuses within the residential settlement. In addition, of the nine tombs in the sample, two were looted (S.D.C29A-2 and S.D.C31A-1) and two were empty of any human remains (Sub-Operation C51 and Sub-Operation C53). Nevertheless, some trends will be discussed here which will be reconsidered in a later publication with the burial sample from Caracol, as a whole. It is possible to interpret the data in several ways; however, the position taken here is that in burial rituals, people will try to emulate the behavior of the ruling elite in an effort to establish an identity with this upper echelon of their society.

Clearly, the major investment in time, labor and material goods was expended on the interments made in the tombs. The tombs noted in Table 6.2 were all found in eastern buildings but other tombs have been found in non-eastern buildings at Caracol (eg., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987: 26, 1989, in press; A. F. Chase 1992). The tombs which were excavated as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram were found in buildings ranging in size from 9.8 m³ (Str. M12, Operation C32) to 165.2 m³ (Str. 2E28, Operation C59). It is clear that the size of the burial chamber does not correlate with the number of individuals interred, nor does the size of the chamber (measured as volume) covary with the size of the building with which it was associated (measured in construction volume). The most striking example of this are the two tombs associated with Str. 3F2, which included two large tombs within its construction (Sub-Operation C53A and S.D. C53B-6).

The number of individuals included in a chamber may be a key to status identification. As noted above, tombs excavated in the epicenter and at the termini of the causeways tended to house single interments. Three of the tombs excavated as part of the Conchita Causeway subprogram, S.D. C29A-1 (Str. C97, Operation C29), S.D.C53B-6 (Str. 3F2, Operation C53), and S.D.C54A-1 (Str. 3D4, Operation C54), have one or two individuals interred in the chamber. In the case of S.D.C54A-1, Individual 2 was given a secondary

TABLE 6.2

SUMMARY OF BURIAL DATA RECOVERED FROM THE CONCHITA CAUSEWAY SUBPROGRAM

Burial	age/sex	1/2	date	volume	dm	c	o	j	wb	b	gr	sw	ch	sh	m	f
S.D.C29A-1	A/M	1	LC	1.17	2						1				2	
S.D.C29A-2	C/? A/?	? ?	late EC	1.14	3	fr.									2	
S.D.C31A-1	2A/?	?	LC	3.39	ji	2										
S.D.C32B-1	2A/? A/M S/? ?/?	1 1 ? ?														
			LC	1.61	1-6	2									2	1
Sub-Op.C51A --			late LC	3.56	empty chamber											
Sub-Op.C53A --			early LC	1.20	empty chamber											
S.D.C53B-6	2A/?	?	LC	3.88	ji	10						2			4	1
also 3 limestone bars and 1 celt frag.																
S.D.C54A-1	2A/?	1/2	LC	2.43	18	15	1	1	4						3	
also 3 limestone bars																
S.D.C59A-12	2A/F 2A/? 1A/M	1/2	LC	2.66	ji	20	8	2			1	1			10	

Table 6.2 - Continued

Burial	age/sex	1/2	date	volume	dm	c	o	j	wb	b	gr	sw	ch	sh	m	f
S.D.C31B-2	1A/?															
	1A/F		early													
	1S/M	1/2	LC		3	1									1	
S.D.C32C-2	A/?	1	LC										1		1	
S.D.C54B-4	1A/M															
	1A/?	2	LC		9											
S.D.C65A-3	2?/?	1/2	LC		4						1					
S.D.C22E-1	2A/?															
	3A/M	1	LC		ji											
					pi	6			1			1			3	
S.D.C42B-1	1?/?	?	LC													
S.D.C51B-1	1A/M	2	late LC													
S.D.C22A-1	2S/?															
	2A/?	2	LC													
	also pyrite pendant frag. and 1 galena bead															
S.D.C22A-2	1A/F	1	LC													
S.D.C22E-3	1?/?	?	LC													
S.D.C32C-3	1C/?	?	LC													
S.D.C41D-1	1?/?	1	LC													

Table 6.2 - Continued

Burial	age/sex	1/2	date	volume	dm	c	o	i	wb	b	gr	sw	ch	sh	m	f
S.D.C42B-2	2A/?		late													
	1S/?	?	LC	partially excavated												
S.D.C53B-5	1C/?	?	LC												7	
S.D.C59A-16	1C/?	?	LC	no artifacts associated,											1 adult molar included	
S.D.C59B-1	1S/?	?	LC	partially excavated												

note:

The number of items in a particular category is recorded, if material is fragmentary then fr. noted.

1/2 = primary or secondary interment, volume = chamber volume (where applicable)
 dm = dental modification (ji = jade inlay, pi = pyrite inlay), c = ceramic, o = obsidian, j = jade, wb = worked animal bone, b = unworked animal bone, gr = groundstone, sw = spindle whorls, ch = chert, m = mirrors, f = figurine

burial in this tomb and it is believed that this person may have had some relation to Individual 1, who was given a primary burial in this locus (Str. 3D4). Similarly, even though the preservation of the bone and objects in S.D.C53B-6 was relatively poor and it was not possible to clearly distinguish whether the two individuals interred in this tomb were given primary or secondary burials in this chamber, it is likely that one of the individuals was a primary interment and the other was a secondary interment. These burials are similar to the pattern described for the epicenter and for the groups located at the termini of the sacbes. The other intact tombs included in the Conchita Causeway sample, S.D.C32B-1 (Str. M11, Operation C32) and S.D.C59A-12 (Str. 2E28, Operation C59), had at least five people interred in each chamber, some of whom were given primary and some of whom were given secondary burials in their respective loci.

If the size of the burial chamber is considered, the chambers associated with S.D.C53B-6 and S.D.C54A-1 fall within the upper range of tomb sizes excavated in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. In fact, S.D.C53B-6 was found in the largest chamber in the sample. If the size of the chamber is considered in relation to the number of individuals interred, the tombs with one or two individuals have more space per person than the tombs with five individuals. One implication of this is that the individuals interred

singly, or with one other person, were sufficiently wealthy and/or prestigious enough to have been able to have a burial chamber larger than necessary to house their exclusive interment.

One other point to consider is the burial furniture. It is clear from Table 6.2 that S.D.C53B-6, S.D.C54A-1, and S.D.C59A-12 have the largest number and variety of artifacts included with the burials; the first two burials included two individuals and the third included at least five. The most elaborate assemblage is from S.D.C54A-1, which included a jade pendant, a polychrome bowl with a hieroglyphic band and two decorated incensarios; however, it may be productive to consider the number of objects per person included in each of these three tombs. Again, it must be noted that due to the degree of preservation found in S.D.C53B-6, it was not clear whether both individuals were primary interments or if one was a secondary burial in this locus. If both individuals were primary interments, and assuming each person was potentially buried with an equal number of items, then each person was buried with an average of 10.5 objects. If one of the individuals was given a secondary burial in this locus, and assuming that this person was reburied with only a few objects, then the primary interment was made with more than 10.5 objects. It was noted in Chapter Five, under Str. 3D4, Operation C54, that if at least half of the objects included in S.D.C54A-1 were associated with the burial

of the primary individual, then that person was buried with an average of 22.5 objects. This figure reflects the possibility that the other person buried in this chamber had an equal number of objects associated with his burial in this locus; however, it is equally possible that the secondary interment was made with only a few objects. In the case of S.D.C59A-12, if it can be assumed that the three individuals given a primary interment in that locus all potentially had the same number of objects associated with their burial, then each primary individual was buried with an average of 11.3 objects. This figure does not include those artifacts associated with S.D.C59A-12 which are believed to have been redeposited in this chamber (see the discussion of S.D.C59A-12 under Str. 2E28, Operation C59 in Chapter Five for these redeposited objects).

The point to be made here is that the number of individuals interred in a chamber, the size of that chamber, and the number of objects included as part of the burial may provide some clue as to relative status within the Caracol community. The sample of tombs recovered in the Conchita Causeway subprogram is not large enough to adequately assess the significance of the trends described here and they must be reconsidered with a larger sample from the residential settlement of Caracol as a whole (cf., A. F. Chase 1992; A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press).

Attention will now turn to the other types of burials recovered in the Conchita Causeway subprogram, which are just as important to the discussion of relative status within the residential settlement at Caracol. It is clear from Table 6.2 that some of the interments included people who must have had some access to resources which is in contrast to the burial treatment they received. The best example of this comes from S.D.C22A-1. This was a poorly preserved simple burial of at least four individuals, including two subadults, in the construction core of Str. C11, a residence on the north side of the group defined by Strs. C11 - C14. The objects associated with this interment included three pieces of unworked jade, a fragment from a pyrite pendant, and a galena bead. Only one other burial in this sample, S.D.C54A-1, had a jade object associated with it. It must be stressed here that jade objects are not associated with burials of any one type at Caracol and have been recovered from tombs as well as simple burials, both in the epicenter and in the surrounding settlement (e.g., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:11, 26, 38, 43). Another example of people interred in a relatively low cost burial but who must have had some access to resources is S.D.C22E-1, a multiple burial in a stone-lined cist located beneath the front steps of Str. C13. One individual had jade and pyrite inlaid teeth which is generally taken to be an indicator of status (Becker 1973, Sharer 1978). It must be noted here

that in the burial sample from the Conchita Causeway sub-program, examples of individuals with dental modifications are not frequent. The artifacts associated with this burial include a carved shell ring, a spindle whorl, a polished bone tube, two shell markers and six ceramic vessels. One of the vessels (Object 3) is similar in form and surface decoration to a vessel recovered from a looted tomb in Str. 4L6, located at the terminus of the Conchita Causeway (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:43-45, Jaeger 1987:103).

Thus, the point to be made about the treatment of the dead with regard to determining relative status within the residential community at Caracol is that it is difficult to distinguish clear divisions within the sample. Archaeologically, the status of an individual is frequently determined by the kinds of objects that are included in their burial, as well as by the type of burial which they are given. This is generally translated into relative "cost", which reflects access to resources such as labor and construction materials as well as access to imported materials and laboriously crafted objects or luxury items. At Caracol, the burial data do not fall within a readily discernable differentiation of cost expended. Objects and materials generally associated with elite burials were found in simple burials, as well as in tombs, and the objects included in a tomb were neither necessarily very elaborate nor abundant. Questions to be considered with the larger burial sample from the

site, as a whole, include, what significance, if any, can be accorded to an elaborate interment in a crypt compared to a simple interment in a tomb and is it possible to distinguish significant variation within the burial sample from a larger residential area to identify differential status within what is believed to be a middle class sector of the Caracol community (Jaeger 1990)?

Proximity to Resources

Figure 4.2 through Figure 4.13 illustrate the distribution of large and small plazuela groups in the settlement addressed by this research. In this discussion, however size is defined -- either by the number of buildings, the size of the buildings or as the area covered by construction -- large and small groups are distributed throughout the settlement. This kind of distribution is found throughout the area south of the epicenter (see A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:63-84 for the adjacent area of the settlement). There is no clear pattern of large groups being located in proximity to the epicenter (as proposed, for example, by Kurjack 1974), nor with proximity to the complexes of monumental architecture located at the termini of the causeways, nor with proximity to the Conchita Causeway (as originally proposed in this research). The burial data also indicate that wealth was distributed throughout the settlement.

Thus, proximity to the epicenter and proximity to the Causeway were not factors in status distribution within 3 km of Caracol's epicenter. As settlement research continues at Caracol beyond the termini of the causeways, proximity to the epicenter and/or to the causeways may become a factor in defining relative status within a larger sphere of settlement.

A very distinctive feature of the Caracol settlement is the intimate association of the plazuela groups with the terrace systems (see Fig. 4.2 - Fig. 4.13). Terrace walls abut platform walls and some groups appear to have been constructed directly on the surface of the terrace rather than on a raised platform. Healy et al. (1983) report that, based on soil analysis, the terraces at Caracol were used for intensive agriculture rather than for settlement, defense, or for some other purpose. This is supported by the analysis of a core extracted from one of the water reservoirs, located in the epicenter, which still holds water today. The preliminary results identified pollen from corn, ragweed and other Compositae which, Healy et al. note (1983: 407), are usually associated with cultivation. The point here is that the terraces were constructed and used for intensive agriculture. The range of crops grown is not clear, however, it is likely that a combination of special and subsistence crops were cultivated in the core of Caracol's settlement. From informal survey, it is known that

the terrace systems extend further than 3 km from the epicenter and this, combined with the density of the occupation, leads to the possibility that the labor force employed in working these fields was made up of the residents living in the groups situated in the midst of these systems.

Social Organization

At Caracol, the distribution and, in particular, the juxtaposition of architectural remains, burial patterns, and proximity to resources encourages a reconsideration of the archaeological definitions of elite and non-elite used in Maya studies. This also encourages a discussion of a "middle class" segment in the Caracol sociopolitical organization. What is important is the underlying assumption that the dichotomies represented by the terms "central" versus "peripheral" and "elite" versus "non-elite" are combined as elite-ruler-specialist who live in an urban core versus commoner-peasant-farmer who live in the peripheral areas of a center. Most, if not all, Mayanists would agree that there must have been a "middle" class or different kinds of status between these two extremes. As Becker (1972), Adams (1970) and others (eg., Morley, Brainerd and Sharer 1983) have pointed out, there was certainly a wide assortment of occupational specialists in Maya society who may have enjoyed a degree of status in this middle ground but are difficult to identify archaeologically. In a discussion of assumptions, definitions and models of Mesoamerican elites,

D. Z. Chase and A. F. Chase (1992: 11) addressed the problem of fitting the theoretical definition of elite to their archaeological identification. They proposed the term "bourgeoisie" to identify an "intermediate group of people defined archaeologically by their possession of luxury or high status material remains" but who, because of the hereditary nature of Maya nobility (eg., Schele and Freidel 1990) probably did not control "political administration, formal religious activities, architectural planning and direction or provide leadership in warfare (Adams 1970:490)." Based on the survey and excavation described in this research, and based on similar results from the work conducted by the Caracol Project throughout the site (A. F. Chase 1992), it is believed that the residential settlement south of Caracol's epicenter included members of a "middle class" which constituted a sizable proportion of the community. The integration of the residential groups with the terrace systems indicates that the occupants were involved in some aspect of farming, whether it was in a managerial role or as laborers or a combination thereof. There is also evidence for craft specialization (eg., Str. M12, Operation C32; see also A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987). The elite trappings these people had access to include such luxury items as jade, obsidian, marine shell and special pottery. Many of these objects were recovered from burials, a good proportion of which were made in specially prepared tombs or crypts but

which were also found in the less costly cists and simple burials. It is likely that a "middle class" existed at other centers, but for various reasons, is not possible to identify it "on the ground".

One question arises which concerns the origin of this "middle class" segment of Caracol's population. It was noted in the discussion of the growth of the residential settlement that Caracol's population appeared to grow very rapidly in the period beginning ca. A.D. 550 and that the population was quite dense after A.D. 692. A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase (1989: 15) estimate that the population of the city increased by approximately 325% following the initial war with Tikal in A.D. 562 (9.6.8.4.2.) and it is possible that this was a result of migration into the area. This influx of people is believed to have been promoted by the successes of subsequent militaristic campaigns led by the ruling elite of Caracol against other centers during the Late Classic period (D. Z. Chase et al. 1990:501). The non-local identity of the population may be reflected in the ritual behavior, encompassed in burial patterns (see the discussion above) and ritual offerings recorded in the excavations.

Ritual behavior at Caracol was revealed to be quite complex and composed of distinct but related components. Within the residential settlement, cache offerings were placed in front of, or within the construction of, the

eastern building which also housed the more elaborate interments of a particular group. These offerings include sets of ceramic vessels placed lip-to-lip, obsidian eccentrics with and without associated ceramic vessels, modeled vessels representing human and nonhuman heads, and single vessels which are miniature versions of other cache forms. Not all of these types of offerings were found in every group but some combination of them was found. The details of the ritual cycle followed by the residents of Caracol are not yet clear; however, it appears that the cache offerings were related to the interment or interments placed in the eastern loci of each group (eg., A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase in press). It must be noted that the burial patterns and the patterns of ritual offerings are similar in all of the residential groups investigated by excavation in the Conchita Causeway subprogram. This is in contrast to the burial and cache patterns found in the epicenter. Here, the form of the cache offerings is less varied and important burials were placed in northern and eastern loci. It is possible that these differences can be related to the social organization of Caracol; that is, the ritual behavior found in the residential settlement was family oriented and the ritual behavior found in the epicenter was oriented towards encompassing the whole community (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase, in press).

The ritual behavior found at Caracol differs from that described for other contemporary Southern Lowland Maya centers. For example, Leventhal (1983:65) has reported that at Copan, family shrines are found only in the larger, more architecturally impressive groups and not in the smaller ones. Tourtellot also reports a fairly limited distribution of family shrines at Seibal (1983:47, see also Leventhal 1983:68-69) but attributes these to a system of folk beliefs rather than to organized religion. Leventhal notes in his survey of household organization and Classic Period Maya religion that large, elite groups contained the family shrines and were the immediate foci of ritual activity for the surrounding population. He further notes that ancestor worship, which was the generating force behind the ritual activity, was practiced along vertical lines of social organization (Leventhal 1983:75). At Caracol, the preponderance of family shrines indicates that the people who occupied the sector south of the epicenter were probably worshipping their own ancestors and that there were weak, or few, vertical social relationships within this portion of the population. The differences in the ritual behavior found in the residential settlement of Caracol and the ritual behavior practiced in the epicenter suggest that there were two separate but related ritual schedules; i.e., a public one in the epicenter and a private one at the household level. Thus, the vertical social relationship at

Caracol was between the epicenter and the residential settlement in the core area of the city. This would coincide with the belief that the population of this sector of the city moved into Caracol from elsewhere and carried their "ancestral" baggage with them. They would have needed, however, to form some sort of ideological identity with their adopted city and participated in an overarching public ritual cycle which integrated the residential population with the agenda of the ruling elite. It is certain that the causeway systems so characteristic of Caracol served to integrate the community residing and working in the core and beyond with the epicenter and the activities which took place there. The nature of the terrain and the variations in the constructions of the sacbes are taken as evidence that they were used to facilitate travel and communication throughout the city. It is also likely that some of the sacbes, including the Conchita Causeway, were used for funeral processions leading to the terminal groups. For example, the group located at the terminus of the Conchita Causeway, defined by Strs. 4L4 - 4L13, may have served as a necropolis group given the number of tombs discovered here by looters prior to its discovery by the Caracol Project in 1986 (A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase 1987:43-45). The procession of the funeral party along the Conchita Causeway would have served to involve the community in the burial ritual of

the deceased, as they traveled from the epicenter to Strs.
4L4 - 4L13.

Final Remarks

The settlement pattern of Caracol is characterized by a series of intra-site causeways which radiate from a central core of monumental architecture like the spokes of a wheel. The research conducted as the Conchita Causeway subprogram focused attention on a portion of the settlement through which one of the longer intra-site causeways passes. This was based on the proposition that a causeway is an artifact of past relationships and implies deliberate planning on the part of those responsible for its construction. Thus, an intra-site causeway is a culturally defined transect which serves to focus attention on a particular portion of the settlement and defines some of the spatial dimensions of the sampling universe. Survey and excavation conducted over a five year period in the residential settlement south of the epicenter have provided data on the social organization of this city. The settlement is characterized by a dense population living in distinct plazuela groups which are integrated with extensive systems of agricultural terraces. The juxtaposition of architectural remains, burial patterns, and agricultural terraces have permitted the identification of a "middle class" segment of the Caracol community. Based on the data presented here and on data collected by the Caracol Project from throughout the site, it is believed

that the residential population of the city grew, at least in part, by migration into the area. This is considered to be one result of a series of successful militaristic campaigns led by the ruling elite of Caracol against other Maya centers during the Classic Period. This "middle class" was supported by and, in return supported, the aggressive policies of the ruling elite.

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