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PVC-Op 120-Excavation Report

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Site (Operation) 120

Site 120 consists of 25 modest stone constructions that were raised on and around three large earthen platforms. The latter are 1.5-2.5m high by 30-50m in diameter and extend in a line trending southeast-northwest for a distance of 150m. The stone architecture is scattered across these edifices and covers a total area of about 190m north-south by 100m east-west. In general, most of the settlement's component buildings are arranged in an irregular line running northwest-southeast along the east edge of a ca. 1.4m-high natural rise. Within this aggregate are several patio-focused clusters; Strs. 120-2, 120-4, and 120-5 atop Str. 120-6 near the center's south edge and Strs. 120-22, 120-23, and 120-24 along its southwest margin. Most of the buildings comprising Site 120 were well preserved when the settlement was investigated from April 20-May 11, 2004. The exceptions are Strs. 120-20 and 120-21 in the southern part of the locus. Both appeared on the surface to be piles of cobbles that probably were the remains of small structures that had been heavily damaged. Structure 120-22 on the settlement's southwest edge had been cut, losing its eastern edge.

Site 120 is roughly 200m south of the confluence of the Rios Cacaupala and Chamelecon. The former river winds around the settlement on the south before turning north to join the Chamelecon. The land on which Site 120 was built rises from east to west towards the low range of hills that border the locus on the west and from north to south.

Structures 1, 2, 4-8, and 22 were investigated from April 20-May 11 during the 2004 field season, all excavations being directed by Leigh Anne Ellison and Charles Webber. A total of 152m² was cleared in the course of this work.

The following temporal designations are used in this report:

MPC	Middle Preclassic	(1200-400 BCE)
LCL	Late Classic	(600-800 CE)
TCL	Terminal Classic	(800-1000 CE)

Structure 120-1

Structure 120-1 is the northernmost of the three large earthen platforms recorded at Site 120. It is about 2.5m tall in the east and southeast, rising to ca. 0.8m high on the west and northwest. This height discrepancy results from the edifice having been raised atop an east-southeast to west-northwest rise. Structure 120-1's diameter is 30m and it lies 35m northwest of Str. 120-7, the next sizable earthen platform in the line. Excavations here were limited to a 1x2m trench, oriented 295 degrees, that was dug into the platform's southeast flank near the summit (Subop. 120F). Excavations reached a maximum depth of 1.75m below modern ground surface. This work revealed Str. 120-1's architectural fill but did not expose other construction features. One building phase was tentatively recognized in the course of this work which was overseen by Leigh Anne Ellison.

Time Spans

Time	Construction				
Span	Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates

1	Str 120-1-1 st	U.1-2	-	-	MPC
2	-	-	S.1	-	

Time Span 1

The first activity attested to in our investigations within Subop. 120F was the deposition of at least 0.57m of a brown (10YR 4/3), hard-packed, silty sand (U.1) in which a moderately dense concentration of large cobbles was embedded. Unit 1 slopes up 0.68m over the 2m it was exposed running southeast to northwest. Unit 2, a brown (10YR 5/3), moderately hard-packed, silty sand overlies U.1 by 0.87-1.15m. A few small to medium-size cobbles were embedded in U.2, their numbers and density decreasing from those noted in underlying U.1. Like its predecessor, U.2 ascends from southeast to northwest, rising in this case 0.41m over the 2m it was exposed. A lens of brown (10YR 4/4), hard-compacted, silty sand is lodged within U.2 (included in U.2). This intrusion is 0.34m thick by 0.73m long northwest-southeast and was found tilting down 0.18m from northwest to southeast over its exposed extent.

Given the close similarity in the compositions of U.1 and 2, we have included them in a single building episode. As such, Str. 120-1-1st stood at least 1.82m tall by the TS.1's conclusion (its base and summit were not revealed in Subop. 120F). The building's southeast flank at least apparently rose in a continuous ascent from southeast to northwest; there is no evidence that this side of the edifice was faced with stone construction.

Time Span 2

After Str. 120-1st's abandonment the building was covered by 0.04-0.14m of a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) topsoil.

Structure 120-2

Structure 120-2 is part of a small group of buildings (Strs. 120-2, 120-4, and 120-5) that are clustered atop Str. 120-6, a large earthen platform. Structure 120-2 was raised above the eastern slope of the latter's summit, the ground dropping away relatively quickly from west to east. Structure 120-5 is 9m to the north of Str. 120-2 while Str. 120-4 lies 7.5m to the northeast. Together these buildings define a patio covering approximately 44m² that is open to the west. Digging here within Subop 120B, J, and I, directed by C. Webber, uncovered ca. 17m² in the course of revealing about two-thirds of the building. Excavations were pursued to maximum depths of 0.28m and 0.86m below modern ground surface east, and beyond the building and west and into Str. 120-6's architectural fill, respectively. One major construction phase was identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	Str. 120-6-1st	U.1, 2	-	-	MPC
2	Str. 120-2-1 st	U.3-7, 14	-	-	LCL/TCL

3	Str. 120-2-1 st	U.8-13, 15	-	-	LCL/TCL
4	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

Excavations off Str. 120-2-1st's west side probed the uppermost 0.68m of Str. 120-6-1st's fill. The lowermost segment of this hearting encountered in Subop. 120B is a fine-grained, hard-compacted, brown (10YR 5/3) soil (U.1). Unit 1 rises 0.2m over the 0.94m it was exposed running east to west and is at least 0.2m thick (the unit's base was not encountered). Blanketing U.1 by 0.43-0.58m is a moderately hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark gray-brown (10YR 4/2) soil (U.2). Unit 2 also ascends from east to west, in this instance rising 0.28m over 0.94m. Unit 2 was further distinguished from its predecessor by its greater concentration of cultural material and the presence of medium-size cobbles embedded in this matrix.

Time Span 2

During this interval Str. 120-2-1st's core platform was raised. This building is delimited by basal stone facings (U.3-5) that rise in a single surviving ascent of 0.28m to the summit. Given that the edifice was raised atop a ground surface that was falling off at a rate of 0.39m across 2.92m from west to east, this situation created a summit that was canted down markedly to the east. It may be that the downslope basal facing (U.6) once stood approximately 0.25m taller, thus leveling out the platform's upper surface. This inference is tentatively supported by the large amount of fallen debris (F.1, TS.4) that was found scattered east of U.6; much less architectural debris was found adjoining other parts of the building. Consequently, it seems reasonable to propose that U.6 once stood taller than its preserved 0.28m, thus accommodating the slope of the land over which it was built to create a relatively level summit surface. No built-in constructions, such as benches or shelves, were recorded atop Str. 120-2-1st. The summit covers 2.6x5m and was surfaced with stones (U.14).

By the conclusion of TS.2, Str. 120-2-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.28m high on all sides save the east where it was an estimated 0.53m tall. This height discrepancy results from the platform having been built over a west-to-east descent, the east facing having to be taller than its counterparts in order to level out the edifice's summit. Structure 120-2-1st encompasses 2.9m by 5.2m and was aligned ca. 7 degrees. The building's summit appears to have been devoid of built-in architecture and encompassed 13m². There are no clear signs that it was enclosed. All constructions raised now were fashioned from unmodified cobbles the flatter aspects of which were generally directed outwards. These rocks were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval a 0.35m-high annex defined by four vertical facings (U.8-11) was appended to Str. 120-2-1st's southeast corner. Unit 8, the western basal wall, intersects Str. 120-2-1st at a point 0.4m west of its southeast corner. Unit 10, the annex's northern facing, joins the earlier platform 2.2m north of that same corner. As the annex was located downslope from Str. 120-2-1st, the latter's eastern basal wall (U.6) still rose to its full height above the addition. Overall, U.8-11 measure 1.7m on a side, the whole being oriented approximately 7 degrees. No architecture was recorded on the annex's summit which was paved with stones (U.15).

A 0.3m-high terrace (U.7) originates 0.1m north of the addition and runs at least 0.9m to the north, fronting Str. 120-2-1st on its east, downsloping flank. Unit 7 is 0.6m east from U.6, the core platform's eastern facing, for the 0.9m they were exposed north of U.8-11. As excavation ceased north of this point we are not sure if U.7 ran the full north-south length of the building's east side. Unit 12 runs 0.7m east from U.7's south end, paralleling U.10, the annex's north basal wall. Unit 12 is 0.1m north of U.10 and, like U.7, may have been built to slow the process of erosion down the eastern slope. Remnants of what might have been an additional terrace (U.13) were recorded running perpendicular (east-west) to and over U.7. Unit 13 lies an addition 0.65m north of U.10 and stops 0.2m east of U.6. As only 1.5m of this putative construction was revealed, it is unclear what functions it might have served. As during TS. 2, architecture raised now consists of cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter faces of the rocks that delimit the exteriors of terraces and facing are directed outwards.

Time Span 4

Following Str. 120-2-1st's abandonment as much as 0.32m of a fine-textured, brown (10YR 4/3), sand (S.1) was laid down. Stratum 1 covered all but the highest surviving portions of Str. 120-2-1st. Embedded in S.1 are rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final phase architecture. These stones were sparse on all sides of the building save the east where, as noted under TS.2, they are numerous. This pattern probably reflects the greater toll that erosion has taken on Str. 120-2-1st's downslope east side.

Structure 120-4

Structure 120-4 closes off the northeast corner of the patio that is defined by Strs. 120-2 and 120-5 on the south and northwest sides, respectively. Structure 120-5 is 3m to the west whereas Str. 120-2 rests 7.5m to the southwest. Like its near neighbors, Str. 120-4 was erected atop Str. 120-6, a large earthen platform. The ground here slopes up 0.24m over 10.06m from south to north and about 0.26m across 5m east to west. Full 61m² were excavated under the direction of L. Ellison within Subop 120D, N, Q, R, T, U, V, W, Y, Z in the course of clearing approximately three-quarters of the edifice. Digging was pursued to maximum depths of 1.2m and 0.55m below modern ground surface beyond and within architecture, respectively. One principal building effort was recognized in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	Str. 120-6-1st	U.1-5	-	-	MPC
2	Str. 120-4-1 st	U.6-9, 25	-	-	LCL/TCL
3	Str. 120-4-1 st	U.9-12, 18, 19	-	-	LCL/TCL
4	Str. 120-4-1 st	U.13-17, 20-24	-	-	LCL/TCL
5	-	-	S.1, 2	F.1	

Time Span 1

Excavations beneath architecture pertaining to TS.2 revealed the uppermost layers of Str. 120-6-1st's construction fill (U.1-5). The lowest of these entities, U.1, consists of a hard-compacted, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2), silty sandy clay that contains small amounts of cultural material. Unit 1 is at least 0.45m thick (its base was not encountered) and was revealed off Str. 120-4-1st's north flank. Here, U.1 ascended 0.32m over the 2.4m it was revealed running from north to south. Unit 2, a hard-compacted, dark gray-brown (10YR 4/2), silty sandy clay blankets is predecessor by 0.22m. Unit 2 is distinguished from U.1 by the former's greater concentration of cultural material. As with U.1, U.2 also rose from north to south, climbing in this instance 0.49m across 3m in this direction. A nearly identical soil (U.3) covers U.2 by 0.15m, rising 0.29m across 4.1m north to south. What distinguishes U.3 is the greater number of small stones (0.02m or less in diameter) and artifacts within it compared to U.1 and 2. Unit 4, a brown (10YR 4/3) silt, was exposed for 0.13m beneath Str. 120-4-1st's north basal facing (U.8), 1.38m south of the northernmost exposures of U.2 and 3. Unit 4 differs slightly from U.1-2 by its somewhat lighter hue and greater concentration of small stones (0.02m or less in diameter); it has lower densities of artifacts within it than does U.3. Covering U.4 by 0.18m is another very similar earth (U.5). Unit 5 contains cultural material as well as some rocks that are larger than those found in the exposed portions of U.1-4. Unit 5 was also revealed immediately north of Str. 120-4-1st's south basal facing (U.6) and its southern addition (U.13). These discontinuous exposures span 6.4m north-south over which distance U.5 maintains a relatively level upper surface (dropping 0.2m from north-to-south over that distance).

The recorded differences among U.1-5 suggest that they may represent slight variations in the composition of the architectural fill that capped Str. 120-6-1st. In that case, the upward sloping U.1-3 probably mark the upper portion of that early platform's north flank, U.3 leading to the summit which likely consisted of U.5's upper surface.

Time Span 2

Structure 120-4-1st was, during this interval, a platform defined on all sides by vertical stone facings (U.6-9) that rise 0.3-0.43m to the building's stone-paved (U.25) summit. Units 6 and 8, the edifice's southern and northern basal walls, were sunk 0.38m and 0.22m into U.5, respectively. The platform's southwest corner was inset, measuring 0.65m north-south by 0.3m east-west. Unit 6 apparently continued at least 3.25m west of Str. 120-4-1st's southwest corner (U.6's western terminus was not definitively identified). The purpose of this extension is unclear. It may be that this wall, which is 0.23-0.35m wide, defined the south side of a work space located next to the platform.

Overall, Str. 120-4-1st was, by the conclusion of TS.2, a 0.3-0.43m-tall stone-faced platform that measured 3.41x4.75m, and was aligned roughly 268 degrees. An inset corner, measuring 0.3x0.65m, graced the edifice's southwest corner. The summit (Room 1) is surfaced with stones (U.25) and covers 12m². It is not clear if this space was ever enclosed by perishable walls. There were no signs of built-in architecture atop the platform. Structure 120-4-1st's south basal wall continued minimally 3.25m west of the platform's southwest corner, possibly defining the south side of a work area bordering the building on this flank. All constructions raised during TS.2 were fashioned primarily of river cobbles, the flatter aspects of which are directed outwards. These stones were set in a mud mortar.

Time Span 3

During this interval, Str. 120-4-1st was expanded to the north through the addition of an enclosure raised directly on ground surface (Room 2). Room 2's earthen floor is bounded by stone foundations (U.10-12) on all sides save the south where the compartment is delimited by the platform's northern basal facing (U.8). Units 10-12 are 0.35-0.57m tall and enclose a space covering 3.9m². Units 10 and 11, the eastern and northern footings, are 0.85m and 0.9m wide. The western foundation, U.12, is considerably broader. Where U.12 forms Room 2's northwest corner it is 0.6m north-south by 1.4m across; the unit's southern 0.5m is 0.95m wide. The northern segment may have doubled as a wall support and stone-faced and -surfaced shelf. A 0.5m-wide gap in Room 2's southwest corner (between U.12 and the platform's northwest corner) likely served as a door leading into the enclosure.

Another earthen-floored compartment raised directly on ancient ground surface, Room 3, was likely erected against the platform's west side during TS.3. Room 3 covers 0.6m east-west by 2.1m north-south and is delimited by stone foundations on the west (U.18) and south (U.19). The enclosure is bounded on the east by the platform's west facing (U.9); the inset southwest platform corner was apparently sealed at this point by continuing U.9 for 0.65m south to join U.6, the platform's southern basal wall. Units 18 and 19 are 0.5m tall and measure 0.35m and 0.8m across, respectively. Unit 19, which borders Room 3 on the south, was built against the westward extension of U.6; it is likely that U.6 continued for at least 2.05m west of Room 3's southwest corner.

As TS.3 drew to a close, Str. 120-4-1st's core platform retained its earlier form, dimensions, and orientation from TS.2. The major changes made to the building at this time consisted of the raising of two earthen-floored enclosures on ground surface adjacent to said platform's north and west flanks. These rooms are bounded by the platform on one of their sides and stone foundations on the remaining flanks. Those footings are 0.35-0.57m tall and, with one exception, are 0.35-0.95m wide. Unit 12, in northern Room 2, diverges from this pattern; in that enclosure's northwest interior corner U.12 expands to cover 0.6m north-south by 1.4m east-west. The northern compartment (Room 2) encompasses 3.9m², the aforementioned expansion of U.12 possibly serving as a stone-faced shelf nestled in the compartment's northwest interior corner. Room 3, off the core platform's west flank, measures 1.3m² and lacks any surviving built-in furniture. A 0.5m-wide door in Room 2's southwest corner provided access to that enclosure's interior. Lying 0.4m to the southwest of that portal, a 0.6m-wide door leads into Room 3. Movement between these two compartments would, therefore, have been relatively easy as people skirted the core platform's northwest corner to pass from one enclosure to the other. All constructions raised now were fashioned of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these rocks were commonly directed outwards.

Time Span 4

The primary changes made to Str. 120-4-1st now occurred on its south and east flanks. It was during this interval that the platform was expanded 1.53m to the south through the construction of U.13. This facing projects 0.21m above the top of the U.5 fill, extending 0.35m into that earthen construction. Unit 6, the core platform's southern basal facing, projects 0.2m above the earthen surface

backing U.13 to the north. Unit 13 joins with U.14 on the east, this riser expanding the core platform's basal dimensions 0.7m to the east. Only the southernmost 1.5m of U.14 was uncovered and we are not sure if this construction runs for the full north-south length of the platform's east side. At this point, such a supposition is the simplest interpretation, though it has not been substantiated. On the west, U.24 extends 1.5m north from its corner with U.13, terminating on the north at its junction with U.6's westward extension. In addition to delimiting the west side of the southern addition, U.24 bounds Room 4 on the east. This enclosure in another compartment built on ground surface, bounded by stone foundations on the north (U.20), west (U.22), and south (U.21). Units 20 and 22 extend north and south, respectively, from the westward extension of U.6. The latter continues for minimally 0.8m to the west at which point it left our excavations. Units 21 and 22 are 0.2m tall by 0.25-0.3m wide while U.20 on the north encompasses 0.8m across. The relatively unusual girth of the last foundation hints at its use as both a wall support and shelf that ran across Room 4's entire northern flank. Altogether, Room 4 encompasses 0.9x1.25m and was entered through a 0.85m-wide door in its southwest corner.

At least two stone faced terraces now bordered Str. 120-4-1st on the south. The basal riser (U.16) is 0.12m tall and measures 1.2m across. Its earthen tread ends in U.15 on the north, the latter ascending 0.31m above U.16 and running 2.68m north to U.13. Unit 13 projected an estimated 0.08m above U.15's earthen tread. Another possible terrace, U.17, was noted 1.05m south of U.16 beyond the limits of our excavations. Given that U.16 was not exposed, we are not sure what the dimensions of this putative terrace might have been or if it qualifies as a purposeful construction.

Unit 24, a low terrace, extends at least 1.3m south of the U.13/14 junction (excavations did not reveal the full dimensions of this construction). It is unclear how U.24 relates to U. 15-17; it may define the eastern limits of any one or all of these terraces. Even less clear is the architectural significance of U.23. This low wall, likely a terrace facing, intersects U.24 at a point 1.05m south of the U.13/14 corner. Unit 23 was traced for 0.5m east from its intersection with U.24 at which point our investigations ceased. Most likely U.23 was raised to connect Str. 120-4-1st to construction on the east. Such architecture was not identified on ground surface. This hypothesis was not tested by our research.

By TS.4's conclusion, Str. 120-4-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.3-0.43m tall, measured an estimated 4.94m north-south by 5.45m east-west, and continued to be aligned ca. 268 degrees. The core platform erected during TS.2 still projected 0.2m above the earthen-floored southern and eastern additions. Room 1 on the summit now encompassed roughly 22.9m², its floor consisting of two different levels, a stone-paved area encompassing 15.4m² while the rest of the area is taken up by an L-shaped earthen surface that is 0.2m lower than the core and wraps around the core's south and east flanks. No built-in furniture was identified atop the edifice. Rooms 2 and 3 off the core's north and west sides remained open while a new compartment, Room 4, was added off the west flank of the south addition. Room 4 was erected on ancient ground surface, its earthen floor covering 1.1m². A 0.8m-wide shelf might have defined the compartment's north side, a 0.85m-wide door breaching Room 4's southwest corner. At least two, possibly three, terraces front the newly expanded edifice on the south. The two clearest examples rise 0.12m and 0.31m high and are 1.2m and 2.68m wide. The third example is 1.05m further south. As it was only identified based on rock patterns noted on modern ground surface, we are unsure about the reality, let alone the dimensions, of this putative construction.

Another terrace seems to head east from the addition. The architecture raised during TS.4 consists of cobbles set in a mud mortar, their flatter faces looking outwards.

The general pattern noted at Str. 120-4-1st was for an initial core platform to become the focus of multiple rooms raised directly on ground surface and expanding out from its flanks to the north and west. The expansion of the platform to the south would have increased the amount of living and work space atop that edifice. There are also slight hints of construction built against Str. 120-4-1st's east side, a part of the building that largely went uninvestigated during 2004.

Time Span 5

After Str. 120-4-1st's abandonment, approximately 0.24m of a very dark gray-brown soil (10YR 3/2) was laid down (S.2). Stratum 2 was subsequently covered by 0.08-0.28m of a very similar dirt (S.1) that was distinguished by its fewer included artifacts and greater quantity of small roots than were noted in its predecessor. Embedded in S.1 and 2 is a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that likely fell from final-phase architecture.

Structure 120-5

Structure 120-5 seals off the northwest corner of the patio defined by Str. 120-4, 3m to the east, and Str. 120-2, 9m to the south. The ground here rises 1.03m over 17m east to west. As with Strs. 120-2-st and 120-4-1st, Str. 120-5-1st was raised atop the sizable bulk of Str. 120-6. Digging supervised by L. Ellison within Subop. 120D, E, N, P, S, and X uncovered ca. 35m² in the course of revealing about 75% of what seems to have been the core constructions within a warren of rooms built on ancient ground surface. Excavations reached maximum depths of 1.87m and 0.39m below modern ground surface beyond and within Str 120-5-1st, respectively. The former deep test probed architectural fill associated with Str. 120-6-1st. One major building phase was identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	Str. 120-6-1stA	U.10-11	-	-	MPC
2	Str. 120-6-1stB	U.12	-	-	MPC
3	Str. 120-5-1 st	U.1, 2, 7	-	-	LCL/TCL
4	Str. 120-5-1 st	U.3-6, 8-9	-	-	LCL/TCL
5	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to in the immediate environs of Str. 120-5 is the deposition of at least 0.54m of a brown (10YR 4/3) soil that contains cultural material (U.10; this soil's base was not encountered here). Unit 10, in turn, supports a 0.02-0.04m-thick layer of yellow-brown soil (10YR 5/4) that contains orange inclusions (U.11). Most likely U.11 constitutes the remains of a floor laid atop earthen fill (U.10). As the deep probe dug west of Str. 120-5-1st was the only place where we identified a possible break in Str. 120-6-1st's construction, we have tentatively assigned U.10 and 11 to an earlier version of Str. 120-6 (120-6-1stA) than that which came after it in TS.2 (glossed as Str. 120-6-1stB).

Time Span 2

Unit 11 was buried during this interval by 1.16m of soil (U.12) that is identical to U.10. Unit 12 pertains to the final surviving iteration of the underlying platform; i.e., Str. 120-6-1st as it was exposed in Subop. 120K. It is atop this version of the platform that Strs. 120-2-1st, 120-4-1st, and 120-5-1st were erected.

Time Span 3

We infer that the earliest version of Str. 120-5-1st consists of two low (0.15m tall) broad (0.9-1.2m across) walls that form an "L" open to the south (U.1 and 2). The long segment of this configuration (U.2) runs 2.95m along an alignment of ca. 91 degrees. The shorter 'leg' (U.1) projects 0.9m south from U.2's east end. The relatively ample girth of these walls tentatively implies that they might have been raised primarily as free-standing shelves, possibly associated with the burgeoning growth of the room complex surrounding Str. 120-4-1st beginning during the latter's TS.3 (Str. 120-4-1st's Room 2 is 2.85m to the east). Unit 7, a 0.2m-high by 0.61m-wide wall, is 2.15m west of U.2. Oriented approximately 2 degrees, U.7 is 2.5m long. The architectural significance of this seemingly free-standing wall is unclear. It may be part of a building lying west beyond our excavation limits or could have served to demarcate spaces within what appears to have been a sprawling room complex that is anchored by Str. 120-4-1st on the east.

Constructions raised during this span were fashioned of river cobbles set in a mud mortar. Rocks arrayed along the exteriors of U.1 and 2 were generally oriented so that their flatter aspects faced outwards.

Time Span 4

This interval witnessed the expansion of Str. 120-5-1st on all sides save the east. On the west, U.2 was amplified by the addition of U.4. The latter extended U.2 for 1.25m westward making the leg of the original 'L' 4.2m long. On the north a 0.15m-tall by 0.25m-wide wall (U.5) now projected 1m north of its abutment with U.2. Unit 5 is oriented roughly 5 degrees and joins U.2 at a point 1.35m east of the latter's northwest corner (on the U.4 addition). Unit 6, in turn, is a 0.15m-tall construction that is built against U.2's north side and intersects U.5 at a point 0.3m south of that wall's northeast corner. Unit 6 runs for 1.3m at an angle of ca. 112 degrees at which point it joins U.9. The latter, like U.6, is built against U.2's north face. It projects 0.4m north of U.2 and extends 1.45m east from its intersection with

U.6, running at an orientation of approximately 89 degrees. Unit 9 projects 0.2m east of U.2's eastern terminus. Together, U.6 and 9 seem to have formed a low stone-faced shelf that is bordered by U.5 and 2 on the west and south, respectively.

On the south, U.3, a 0.25m-tall by 0.95m-wide wall, joins U.2 at a point 1.1m east of the latter's southwest corner. Unit 3 runs for 1.4m south from U.2 at an angle of ca. 174 degrees. Lying 0.1m east of U.3's southeast corner is a 0.15m-tall by 0.85m-wide wall (U.8) that is at least 0.6m long running at an azimuth of approximately 354 degrees (U.8's southern end was not found). Units 3 and 8, together with U.1 and 2, border an earthen floored space measuring 1x1.4m. A gap measuring 0.5m across between U.1 and 8 may have provided access to this 'room' through its southeast corner.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 120-5-1st seems to have been converted into a surface-level building the perimeter of which is delimited by U,1, 2, 3, and 8 and which was entered through a 0.5m-wide door in its southeast corner. The earthen-floored interior of this structure measures 1.4m². While no built-in furniture was identified in this compartment, it is very likely that the broad foundations that surround it (measuring 0.85-1.2m across) doubled as supports for perishable upper walls and as shelves. Another shelf was apparently raised against the structure's north face (U.5, 6, 9). This 0.15m-tall construction varies from 0.4m to 0.8m wide (broadest at its western terminus) and is 2.8m long east-west. The expansion of U.2 for 1.25m to the west (U.4) brought that wall to within 0.90m of the seemingly free-standing wall (U.7) that was raised during TS.3. It may be that this addition was intended to create another enclosure, this one defined by U.4 on the north, U.7 on the west, and U.3 on the east. If this was the case, the room thus created was floored with earth, covered 2x1.5m (3m²) and was open on the south. The 0.9m separating U.7 from U.4 might have provided another means of accessing this interior space; it certainly would have facilitated the flow of air through it.

Overall, the various additions made to Str. 120-5-1st during TS.4 had the effect of creating what appear to have been two earthen-floored rooms arranged in an east-west line, each such space amply equipped with elevated shelf space provided atop their broad bordering foundations. The exposed portion of this complex covers 4x5.8m, its components general aligned due east-west. Constructions comprising Str. 120-5-1st were fashioned of unmodified river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of the facing stones are usually directed outwards.

Time Span 5

After its abandonment, Str. 120-5-1st is covered by as much as 0.2m of a very dark gray-brown (10YR 3/2) humus horizon (S.1) that blankets final-phase architecture. Embedded within S.1 is a very light scattering of rocks (F.1) that likely tumbled from nearby constructions. The paucity of these displaced stones suggests that the constructions described here were never much taller than they were when uncovered.

Structure 120-6

Structure 120-6 is the southernmost of the three large earthen platforms recorded at Site 120. It is 85m south of Str. 120-1 and 25m south of Str. 120-7, the northernmost and central members of the

triad. Structure 120-6 appeared on the surface to be a conical earthen platform that is about 2.5m tall and measures ca. 40m in diameter. Structures 120-2, 120-4, and 120-5 were erected on Str. 120-6's summit while Strs. 120-8 cling to its eastern flank. Digging here within Subop. 120K took the form of a 1x2m test pit that was oriented roughly north-south and excavated to a depth of 3.06m below the platform's summit. The work, which was supervised by C. Webber, identified one clear building episode that was preceded by what seems to have been a protracted period of occupation on this spot. Other evidence pertaining to Str. 120-6 was recovered from investigations conducted on and around Strs. 120-2, 120-4, and 120-5.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Features	Dates
1	-	-	S.3	-	-
2	-	-	S.2	F.1	MPC
3	Str. 120-6-1 st	U.1-3	-	-	MPC
4	-	-	S.1	-	-

Time Span 1

During this interval, at least 0.06m of a hard-compacted, fine-textured, dark red-brown (5YR 2.5/2) clay (S.3) was laid down (S.3's base was not encountered). Stratum 3 was found at the base of excavation in Subop. 120K where its upper surface ran flat for the 1m it was traced north-south. No cultural materials were recovered from this locally distinctive soil though, given its limited exposure, we cannot make strong claims for S.3 being culturally sterile.

Time Span 2

Time Span 2 witnessed the deposition of 0.42m of a very dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay (S.2) that covers S.3 and contains some artifacts, especially pottery sherds. The level upper surface of S.2 is capped over most of its extent by a 0.02-0.04m-thick layer of carbon-rich soil (F.1). Feature 1 extended 0.72m south from the north margin of the deep probe and was stained black from the included carbon (10YR 2/1).

Time Span 3

Stratum 2 and F.1 were buried by 0.32-0.44m of a dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) clayey soil (U.1). Unit 1 contains some cultural material and its upper surface slopes up 0.08m across the 1m it was exposed running south to north. Unit 2, in turn, blankets U.1 by 1.67-1.75m. The former consists of a hard-compacted, brown (10YR 5/5) dirt that contains numerous cultural materials, especially pottery

fragments and *Pachychilus* sp. shells (from riverine snails, called *jutes* locally). Capping this sequence is 0.41m of U.3. This entity is nearly identical to its immediate predecessor, being distinguished from the latter by its slightly darker hue (dark gray-brown, 10YR 4/2).

We interpret U.1-3 as fill units introduced to raise Str. 120-6-1st to its full height of about 2.5m above what appears to have been the detritus of an earlier occupation in this area. As there are no clear breaks in this sequence, we infer that the platform was raised in one building effort. This may not have been the case in all parts of the platform. A possible hiatus in Str. 120-6-1st's construction was tentatively noted in a deep probe dug off the west side of Str. 120-4-1st in the summit's northwest corner (Str. 120-4-1st, U.11). The possible U.11 floor would correspond in elevation to a point roughly mid-way within U.2. No sign of such a construction was noted within Subop. 120K which is approximately 10m south of the Str. 120-4-1st investigations. It may well be, therefore, that all of Str. 120-6-1st was not raised simultaneously. The core might have been erected in one major building effort while other portions rose more incrementally. Ultimately, through multiple possible additions, the platform may have come to possess a single level summit that encompassed approximately 12x12m. We cannot, with the evidence in hand, reconstruct the details of this sequence.

Time Span 4

Following its abandonment, about 0.06m of a brown (10YR 4/3) humus formed atop U.3. Most likely what had been Str. 120-6-1st's summit was considerably disturbed and modified by the constructions raised here (especially Strs. 120-2-1st, 120-4-1st, and 120-5-1st).

Structure 120-7

Structure 120-7 is the central large earthen platform in the line of three that includes Str. 120-1, 35m to the northwest, and Str. 120-6, 25m to the south. On the surface, Str. 120-7 appeared to be an earthen platform that stands 1.5m tall and encompasses 25m in diameter. In order to test the cultural origins of this rise and determine something of its history, a 1m east-west by 2m north-south trench (Subop 120L) was dug in the building's approximate center. Directed by C. Webber, these investigations reached a maximum depth of 2.07m below modern ground surface. Two building episodes were identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 120-7-2 nd	U.1-3	-	F.1-2	MPC
3	Str. 120-7-2 nd	U.4	-	-	MPC

4	Str. 120-7-1 st	U.5	-	-	MPC
5	-	-	-	-	-

Time Span 1

The earliest activity attested to within Subop. 120L was the deposition of a fine-textured, dusky red (2.5YR 3/2) clay that lacked cultural materials (S.1). As much as 0.28m of S.1 was revealed before excavation ceased, its base never having been reached. Stratum 1's upper surface defined a gently sloping, shallowly concave surface. It dropped 0.1m over 0.8m from south to north before rising 0.06m across 0.8m in the same direction. The absence of artifacts within S.1 tentatively suggests that there was no, or only a slight, human occupation in the area when it was laid down.

Time Span 2

During this period, Str. 120-7-2nd was erected directly atop S.1. This construction began with the introduction of U.1, a 0.4-0.54m-thick deposit of hard-compacted, fine-textured, reddish-brown (5YR 4/4) soil that contains cultural materials. Unit 1 maintains a level upper surface for 0.44m north from its first appearance in the southernmost segment of Subop. 120L (U.1's south end was not uncovered). At this point the construction ascends 0.08m over 0.06m south to north. It then runs level for the remainder of its exposure (1.5m). A 0.05m-thick deposit of dark black (10YR 2/1), charcoal-stained soil (F.1) pinches out on the north against U.1's upward slope, thickening to the south for 0.44m; it apparently continued south beyond our excavation limits. Feature 1 seemingly constitutes debris laid down just prior to the termination of Str. 120-7-2nd.

Unit 2 overlies the elevated northern 1.5m of U.1 with 0.53m of a dark yellow-brown (10YR 4/4) soil in which are embedded artifacts and other cultural materials, especially snail shells (*Pachychilus* sp.). Unit 2's southern vertical face rises directly above U.1's upward ascent and is topped by a 0.03m-0.1m-thick deposit of very fine-textured, dark gray-brown soil (10YR 4/2; U.3). Unit 3 is coterminous with U.2's summit, stopping abruptly at the latter's south, vertical edge. This material thickens from south to north. In the last direction, U.3 overlies F.2, a 0.04m-thick lens of red-brown (2.5YR 4/4) burnt earth. Feature 2 sits on U.2 and pinches out 0.34m south from the north excavation margin. It seems likely that U.3 consists of charred debris that is associated with the burning that created F.2, both sitting on U.2.

Structure 120-7-2nd comprised, by the end of TS.2, an earthen platform that stood at least 1.1m above ancient ground level, defined by S.1's upper surface. The portion of the edifice that was exposed in Subop. 120L consisted of at least one vertical terrace facing (U.2) that rose 0.61m above the level surface created by the first construction element (U.1) within the Str. 120-7-2nd sequence. Unit 1 was followed for 0.44m south of the terrace's south face before excavation ceased. Almost certainly Unit 1 ends in at least one ascent located on the south beyond the limits of investigations. The U.2 terrace tread measured at least 1.45m north-south (its north edge was not found) and was apparently subject to intense burning which covered that surface with 0.03-0.1m of charred material. It is possible that what we are calling U.2's tread was the platform's summit at this point. More charcoal-stained soil was

found overriding U.1 south of U.2's vertical face. It may well be that this iteration of Str. 120-7-2nd was terminated through the performance of rites that involved burning, the resultant debris being left in place to be covered by TS.3 and 4 construction.

Time Span 3

During this interval, as much as 0.36m of a light olive brown (2.5YR 5/4) soil (U.4) was deposited atop U.3, the presumed summit of the previous version of Str. 120-7-2nd. Unit 4 pinches out on the south above U.3, expanding to reach its maximum exposed thickness on the north. It is possible that U.4 was introduced to increase the platform's height. At least as preserved, however, U.4 lacks the clear lines of U.1 and 2 and appears more as a pile of dirt than a formal construction. Possibly, U.4 was introduced as part of the same termination efforts that might have included U.3 and F. 1 and 2. In any event, Str. 120-7-2nd stood maximally 1.46m tall at the end of TS.3.

Time Span 4

The introduction of U.5, a brown (7.5YR 4/3) soil that contains cultural materials), covered all architecture pertaining to Str. 120-7-2nd. This means that F.1 was now submerged beneath 1.36m of architectural fill whereas U.4 lay under 0.3m of the same material. The transformed building is glossed as Str. 120-7-1st, an edifice that stood 1.76m above S.1. The appearance of this earth platform cannot be inferred from the material uncovered in Subop. 120L; surface evidence suggests that it might have had a conical form.

Time Span 5

No soil level formed atop U.5 after the platform ceased to be used. Consequently, we infer that the years following Str. 120-7-1st's abandonment saw more erosion of dirt off the building than the accumulation of earth here.

Structure 120-8

Structure 120-8 appeared on the surface to be a line of stones running for 9.4m north-south (aligned ca. 350 degrees) and located ca. 6m east of Str. 120-4 on the east flank of the Str. 120-6 earthen platform. The terrain here ascends 0.3m across 4.8m east to west. Structure 120-8 was investigated by C. Webber who directed the excavation of a 1x8m trench (Subop. 120M) that bisected the putative line from east to west. Digging reached a maximum depth of 0.35m below modern ground surface immediately east of the one identified architectural element (U.1). One building phase was identified in the course of this work.

Time Spans

Time Span	Construction Phase	Units	Strata	Feature	Dates
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1	-	-	S.1	-	
2	Str. 120-8-1 st	U.1	-	-	LCL/TCL
3	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified within Subop. 120M was the deposition of at least 0.1m of S.1, a very dark gray soil (7.5YR 3/1; S.1's base was not reached). As we could not distinguish between the portions of S.1 that were laid down before and after the construction of U.1, we are unsure how much of this soil was introduced now. The 0.1m figure given here is a conservative estimate, referring to the thickness of this soil where it was observed to underlie U.1.

Time Span 2

Structure 120-8-1st is constituted solely by U.1, a 0.44m-tall by 1.01m-wide stone wall that was traced within Subop. 120L for 1.2m at an azimuth of ca. 350 degrees. As noted, U.1 was mapped as being 9.4m long based on the appearance of what we took to be its component rocks on modern ground surface. Excavations 2.5m west and 3.49m east of U.1 did not recover any other evidence of construction, suggesting it was a free-standing wall or terrace facing. It may be that Str. 120-8-1st was a terrace raised to slow erosion down Str. 120-6-1st's east side during the time when Strs. 120-2-1st, 120-4-1st, and 120-5-1st were in use upslope and to the west. The recovery of prehistoric artifacts on and around U.1 imply that it is not a recent construction. The lack of other architecture of recent vintage in the immediate area supports this view.

Time Span 3

Following Str. 120-8-1st's abandonment the deposition of S.1 resumed, as much as 0.25m of this dark gray soil accumulating during this interval. A very light scattering of rocks (F.1) fallen from nearby architecture was found embedded in S.1, primarily east and downslope from U.1. The paucity of tumbled rocks implies that U.1 never stood much taller than it was when it was investigated in 2004.

Structure 120-22 (formerly designated Str. 120-3)

Structure 120-22 is located in the southwest corner of Site 120, about 160m southwest of Str. 120-2. This building closes off the south side of a patio that is enclosed by Strs. 120-24 and 120-23 on the east and north, respectively. The space they border is open on the west. The land on which this building was raised was relatively flat. Structure 120-22's east flank had been severely disrupted by stone robbing, thereby making it difficult to reconstruct the edifice's basal dimensions. Preservation on the other flanks and the summit was generally quite good. Digging, supervised by C. Webber, within Subop. 120C, G, and H cleared about 25m², excavations being pursued to a maximum depth of 1.28m below modern ground surface beyond architecture. The building's construction fill was not investigated.

Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	-	-	S.4	-	-
2	-	-	S.3	-	MPC
3	-	-	S.2	-	
4	Str. 120-22-1 st	U.1-10	-	-	LCL/TCL
5	Str. 120-22-1 st	U.11	-	-	TCL
6	-	-	S.1	F.1	

Time Span 1

The earliest activity identified in the course of investigating Str. 120-22 was the deposition of at least 0.24m of a hard-compacted, dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay (S.4; this layer's base was not encountered). Stratum 4 ascends 0.1m south-to-north across the 1m it was exposed in a deep probe dug off Str. 120-22-1st's south flank. The lack of cultural materials within the exposed portion of S.4 suggests that there was at best a scant human occupation in the area while this earth was being laid down.

Time Span 2

Stratum 4 was covered by 0.56m of a dark yellow-brown (10YR 3/4) clay that contained artifacts (S.3). Like its predecessor, S.3 also rises from south to north, ascending 0.1m over 1m in this direction.

Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a fine-textured, dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty soil, accumulated to a depth of 0.26m atop S.3 during this span. Stratum 2 continued the pattern of a south to north ascent, climbing 0.12m across 1.4m in this direction. Artifacts retrieved from S.2 point to a human occupation in the vicinity while it was being deposited.

Time Span 4

During this period, Str. 120-22-1st took nearly its final form. The building is a platform defined on the north, west, and south by vertical stone facings (U.1-3) that rise 0.3-0.5m directly to the earthen-floored summit; what had likely been the eastern basal wall was destroyed before it could be documented. A stone pavement (U.10) abuts the northern facing (U.3) and was traced for 0.74m north

of U.3 before excavation ceased. The superstructure consisted of a room defined by substantial rock foundations (U.4-7) that are 0.2-0.4m high by 0.4-0.93m wide. The earthen-floored space delimited by these footings covers 2.06m by 4m. It is divided by a 0.15m-high by 1.25m-wide stone-faced and –filled bench (U.8). Unit 8 spans the 2.06m north-south width of the summit compartment. A low stone-faced shelf (U.9) measuring 0.4m across north-south, projects 1.3m west from the superstructure’s northeast interior corner. It stops 0.4m shy (east) of U.8. The central room is bounded by open summit spaces measuring 1.93m, 1.2m, and 1.13m across on the north, south, and west respectively.

By the conclusion of TS.4, Str. 120-22-1st was a stone-faced platform that stood 0.3-0.5m tall, covered 6.34m north-south by an estimated 9.5m east-west, and was aligned roughly due east-west. A stone floor extends at least 0.74m north of the platform into the patio. The earthen-floored summit is capped by one room bounded by stone foundations that measure 0.2-0.4m high by 0.4-0.93m wide. This enclosure’s interior covers 8.2m² and contains a stone-faced bench and shelf. The former is a 0.15m-tall, 1.25m-wide construction that runs 2.06m across the compartment’s entire north-south width. Fully 1.7m of the room lies east of the bench, 1.05m of the enclosure being found to its west. A low 0.4m-wide shelf projects 1.3m west from the room’s northeast interior corner, running along the interior of that enclosure’s north footing. The summit spreads out 1.93m, 1.2m, and 1.13m north, south, and west of the room. Constructions raised now were fashioned of river cobbles that are set in a mud mortar. The flatter aspects of these facing rocks are directed outwards. Unit 3, the north basal wall, is something of an exception to this pattern. In the limited (1m-wide, east-west) segment of it that was exposed, there seems to have been a deliberate effort to use large rocks with markedly vertical faces. Whether these stones were modified to create this effect is uncertain.

Time Span 5

The major change made at this time was the expansion of Str. 120-22-1st for 1.68m to the west by the construction of U.11. Unit 11 is a 0.28m-tall terrace faced on its western exterior with stones set on end. The fill (included in U.11) backing this facing to the east consists of rocks also arranged in a comparable way, the entirety of U.11’s rocks now tilting out to the west. Unit 2 continued to project 0.19m above U.11’s tread. The effect of adding U.11 was to provide the platform with a 0.28m-tall by 1.68m-wide terrace on its west side. Structure 120-22-1st, therefore, retained its original height, orientation, and summit architecture from TS.4. The major difference is that the building now covered 6.34m north-south by an estimated 11.2m east-west. As noted, U.11 was built using cobbles that were set vertically. They were bound together using a mud mortar.

Time Span 6

Following its abandonment, Str. 120-22-1st was largely covered by the deposition of much as 0.32m of S.1, a fine-grained, dark red-brown (5YR 3/2) sandy soil. Embedded within S.1 was a moderately dense concentration of rocks (F.1) that had tumbled from final-phase architecture. Feature 1 was traced for 0.46m south and at least 0.7m north of the building.