

While the teeth were spread across three units, they may have belonged to the same individual, though an extensive osteological analysis has not yet been conducted.

Located around Str. 766B were a chert knife and two chert biface fragments (Figure 8-13). With such a low frequency, one cannot call this a concentration, but it is noteworthy that objects used for cutting overlapped with human teeth, maxilla, and cranial fragments scattered upon the plaza surface. Three beads were also found upon Str. 766B. As mentioned, beads were also used as offerings.

In sum, the majority of the artifacts of Str. 766 appear to have been swept to the south of the structure. North of the structure was the medial axis of Group C, which was probably an important ritual area cleaned before events, but obsidian blades were found in this area. Patojo Modeled censer sherds, bone, shell, and lithic flakes were concentrated south of Fea. 766A-1 and 766A-2, suggesting that these were focal activity areas. Another concentration of exotic artifacts south of Fea. 766A-1 includes artifacts that may have been objects with supernatural power. Finally, several human teeth and bones were found around Str. 766B suggesting mortuary or sacrificial behavior.

Str. 767 and Str. 1003

Str. 767 is located on the southern side of Group C in the position and form of an open hall in a Mayapán-style temple assemblage (Figure 8-1). It is a C-shaped building facing 8° east of north (Figure 8-31 and 8-32). This is the most poorly constructed hall at Zacpetén as its masonry was the least substantial and its walls the most asymmetrical. The interior appears to have been painted red, and four masonry rectangles/ altars lay in its western half. North of the east side of Str. 767 is Str. 1003, a low platform connecting

Str. 767 and Str. 764. Northwest of Str. 767 is a stairway leading to a lower terrace on the hill upon which Group C was constructed. The vertical datum of Str. 767 is the same as that of Str. 764. A 434-m² area covering 100% of Str. 767 was excavated.

Architectural Composition of Str. 767

Str. 767 has a C-shaped exterior wall and bench, which were once broken by a medial niche that was later filled. The exterior walls of the building are very poorly preserved. The interior face of the bench is composed of a single face of rubble blocks and vertical slabs. Portions of plaster remain on the bench surface to the west of the medial niche, 0.83 m above the plaza, and 0.36 m above the adjacent floor of the structure. Upon the surviving plaster were found a few small circular burn spots. Furthermore, near the medial niche, portions of red wash were found upon the plaster surface. The medial niche of the bench was once 2.2 m long, but its width is uncertain. The niche faces 7° east of north.

The floor on the interior of the structure was split-level, increasing in height as one moved further into the structure (south). Near the entrance, the remnants of the plaster floor lie 0.25 m above the plaza surface, but adjacent to the bench, they lie 0.47 m above the plaza. In the higher part of the floor were found several circular burn marks.

The entrance to Str. 767 was the entire open northern side of the structure. For the most part, the front retaining wall supporting the floor is composed of rubble vertical slabs, standing 0.25 m high. Unlike Structure 615, no clear column foundations were encountered in Str. 767.

Four masonry rectangles were found in the western half of Str. 767 that are similar to those in Structure 606 and Structure 615. Note that in all three cases, the

rectangles appeared in only one half of the structure. The westernmost masonry rectangle, Fea. 767-1 measures 1.21 by 0.75 m and stands 0.2 m above the floor. No plaster surface was found beneath Fea. 767-1, therefore it was built prior to the construction of the floor of the building. Fea. 767-2 differs from the others because it is larger, does not lie adjacent to the interior rise in the floor, and is oriented with the long axis running north to south. An equivalent feature is not found in Structure 615; however, Feature 606-1 is very similar. Fea. 767-2 measures 1.2 by 2.12 m and stands 0.1 m higher than the floor of the structure. This feature was built after the floor of the structure had been constructed, as beneath it was a reddish-brown washed plaster floor. It was, therefore, constructed after Fea. 767-1 and 767-3. Fea. 767-3 is 1.22 m long, 0.8 m wide, and stands 0.1 m high. The lack of a plaster surface beneath Fea. 767-3 suggests that it was built before the construction of the structure's floor. The easternmost masonry rectangle, Fea. 767-4 was capped by a small tree, but it appears to be 0.8 m wide and 0.25 m high, with the root disturbance increasing the height. The disturbance also eliminated clear evidence demonstrating whether Fea. 767-4 was built before or after the structure's plaster floor.

Three of the four masonry rectangles were constructed in line, including Fea. 767-1, 767-3, and 767-4. These features look similar to columns except for the fact that they only exist in half of the building. Fea. 767-2 was constructed after the others and after the floor of the structure, suggesting at least one major renovation event.

Previous Construction of Str. 767

With the exception of Fea. 767-2 and the filling of the medial niche, there is no evidence of a previous construction of Str. 767, but earlier construction stages of the

plaza were encountered. In Test Pit 892, 296 located adjacent to the north side of Fea. 767-1, three earlier plaster surfaces were found beneath that of Str. 767. These floors seem to be earlier plaza surfaces and are described above in the introduction to Group C.

Str. 1003

Str. 1003 is a low platform lying between Strs. 764 and 767, which delineate its north and south edges, respectively. The eastern side is defined by the eastern edge of the plaza, but the western side is formed by a single course of rubble vertical slabs. A 63-m² area covering 100% of Str. 1003 was excavated. No evidence of a superstructure was found upon the platform.

Artifact Distributions of Str. 767 and Str. 1003

As with the other open halls at Zacpetén, Str. 767 was relatively clean of artifacts. Most artifacts were distributed without a clear pattern. Ceramic sherds, chert debitage and flakes, miscellaneous bone, and shell were associated with the structure's edges and were most likely contained in architectural fill. Unfortunately, no concentrations of artifacts surrounding the masonry rectangles indicate their possible uses.

A concentration of Patojo Modeled (Figure 8-14) and La Justa/Extranjeras censer sherds lies on Str. 1003. Two shell beads, an animal tooth bead, a crystal (Figure 8-16), marine shell fragments (Figure 8-12), and a concentration of miscellaneous bone were also found in this area. These concentrations lay adjacent to a ceremonial refuse heap that lay on the side of Str. 764 and were most likely run-off from this deposit.

Str. 767 continues the association of crystals with colonnaded halls also seen in Structure 606 and Structure 615. Six quartz crystals were found around Str. 767, four of

which lay inside the superstructure. In front of the structure was a piece of a hematite mosaic mirror, an artifact often found in open halls. Another continued trend is the presence of a stone phalli found inside Str. 767. A similar object was found adjacent to Structure 615. Several spindle whorls were also found inside the superstructure.

Adjacent to the medial niche were a couple of chert knife/ lance points or fragments of such points (Figure 8-13). There are three other such objects in and around Str. 767. The two points near the niche would, in any other case, seem inconsequential; however, given that two points were also recovered around the niche of Str. 615.

Within the superstructure, corner-notched points are skewed to the western side of the structure (Figure 8-33). These objects may have been associated with the masonry rectangles, but a clear overlap is not apparent. The west side of Str. 767 is open to the plaza, but the east side faces Str. 764; hence, activities may have been skewed to the west side because of its greater visibility.

Str. 767 differed from the other halls at Zacpetén, from Str. 188 of Nixtun-Ch'ich (Pugh 1996: 216), and from Str. Q-97 of Mayapán because large quantities of ceremonial refuse were not piled against its back walls. On all three sides, the outer walls of the structure were adjacent to the platform edge and it simply may have been difficult to dispose refuse behind it. Another location must have been used for the majority of refuse disposal. Concentrations of miscellaneous bone and shell were found adjacent to the northeast corner of the structure (Figure 8-11). A light concentration of net weights was also found in this area. This was not run-off from the ceremonial refuse of Str. 764 and was most likely a deposit associated with Str. 767, perhaps evidence of ceremonial feasting. This area may have been the refuse dump for the building.

In sum, Str. 767 was relatively clean of artifacts and does not appear to have been a primary location of censer use. Crystals and stone phalli were associated with the structure. The latter have been only found in this building type in Postclassic Petén.

Group C Summary

The central plaza in Group C appears to have been constructed in the Postclassic period. Terminal Classic strata exist in the base of some test units, but this material may have been brought in as fill from elsewhere. The plaza was built directly upon exposed bedrock some of which was burned by *milpa* or dedication fires. The layout of Group C closely follows the plan for a Mayapán temple assemblage. The central building is a temple medially located on the east side of the plaza and faces west. In front of the temple is Str. 766A, an elongated shrine, placed slightly south of the medial axis of the temple, perhaps to allow access to the latter building. Upon this shrine are two rectangular altars and at its western end is a circular altar. Just west of Str. 766A is Str. 766B, a rectangular masonry altar. At a right angle to and south of the temple is an open hall. To the right and facing in the same direction as the temple is Str. 1002, likely an oratorio. A raised shrine, Str. 765, is located in the northwest corner of the plaza facing into the western side of the open hall toward masonry rectangles within the latter structure. The shifted position of the raised shrine and the elongated shrine define the Petén variant of the temple assemblage. A low platform, Str. 1003, stands between Str. 764 and Str. 767, but its function is unknown.

The temple or god house, Str. 764, stood on the highest platform in Group C and faced to the west. It had a medial altar, interior altar, and L-shaped bench. Upon the