

### Str. 765

Str. 765 is located in the northwest corner of Group C, approximately 9.3 m north of Str. 766 (Figure 8-1). This building is a raised shrine composed of a low asymmetrical platform with a small rectangular superstructure facing due south (Figure 8-17 and 8-18). While raised shrines are part of the typical Mayapán temple assemblage, this building is not in the proper position to be part of the archetypical assemblage. It is, however, in the proper position for the Petén variant of the temple assemblage. An 81-m<sup>2</sup> area covering 100% of Str. 765 was excavated.

#### Architectural Composition of Str. 765

The platform of Str. 765 had a single low terrace with no stairway. Its edges were faced by vertical slabs. The superstructure of Str. 765 is a rectangular structure facing to the south enclosed by very thin walls. The single entrance to the superstructure is only 0.80 m wide. The floor of the superstructure is flush with that of the platform, but is capped by a preserved plaster surface. Against the rear (northern) wall of the superstructure lays a small medial altar. Just southeast of the altar is a circular charred area on the plaster where an offering was likely burned.

The superstructure of Str. 765 was tested in search of burials and caches. The one test pit into the medial altar revealed a thin plaster floor 0.2 to 0.3 m below the top of the altar. Since this floor was level with the floor inside the superstructure, it appears that the altar was a later addition to the shrine. No other evidence of previous constructions of the shrine or plaza was encountered within the test units, which encountered bedrock 0.87 to 1.10 m below the plaster surface of the superstructure.

### Artifact Distributions of Str. 765 and the Northern Stairway

For the most part, chert debitage and flakes, obsidian blades, and miscellaneous ceramics, bone, and shell in Str. 765 and the northern stairway were concentrated near walls, suggesting inclusion in wall and platform fill. Within the superstructure of Str. 765 were encountered a pair of Gotas Composite Censers to the south of the altar (Figure 8-19). The sherds from one (Vessel 1) were spread out across the interior. The other (Vessel 2) was concentrated in the southeast corner of the superstructure above the circular burn spot on the floor. At least two Mumul Composite censers were encountered (Figure 8-20), but the vessels were much less complete than the Gotas vessels. The sherds of part of one Mumul vessel (Vessel 3) were concentrated in the southeast corner of the superstructure above the charred portion of floor, and the other vessel(s) were deposited west of the northwest corner of the platform. Some La Justa/ Extranjeras censer sherds were found in the superstructure, but no clear patterns were observed in the distribution of these artifacts. Patojo and Idolos Modeled censer sherds were low in frequency and distributed without a clear pattern.

An interesting artifact within the interior of the superstructure was an oval-shaped offering dish found to the west of the altar (Figure 8-16). This bowl was made of the sherd of a large Chilo Unslipped jar. This artifact might have been categorized simply as miscellaneous ceramic sherds had similar artifacts not been encountered in Str. 721. It is possible that the sherds of Vessel 3, because they represent only a portion of the vessel, mentioned above, may represent another such offering dish.

Two concentrations of human remains were found on or near Str. 765. At the southern end of the platform were found part of a human mandible and three human teeth

(Figure 8-12). Located near the human remains are two animal teeth---the only such artifacts found on Str. 765. The human and animal teeth seem to be platform offerings similar to those in Str. 764. On the slope off the edge of the plaza to the west of the northeast corner of Str. 765 was found a concentration of human long bones (Burial 765-1) (Figure 8-21). The remains included at least two individuals, an adult and a child. These remains included an adult's right tibia, fibula, right scapula, clavicle, two radii, and a child's left humerus, right femur, left femur, and tibia. The remains were stacked parallel to one another, generally oriented north/south indicative of secondary or perhaps tertiary burial.

#### Str. 766

Str. 766 is located immediately west of the base of the western stairway of Str. 764 (Figure 8-1). The excavations revealed that it, like Str. 607, its counterpart in Group A, is comprised of two buildings: Str. 766A and Str. 766B (Figure 8-22, 8-25, and 8-26). On the former structure were two or three small altars; therefore, it is an elongated shrine. It is clearly analogous to Mayapán statue shrines, but its extension along the medial axis is part of the Zacpetén variant of the assemblage. Both Structures 766A and 766B were oriented 2° north of east. Str. 766 was investigated with a 70-m<sup>2</sup> excavation block covering 100% of the building.

#### Architectural Composition of Str. 766A

Str. 766A is the portion of Str. 766 lying closest to the temple stairway. It is not centered upon Str. 764, but lies 1 m south of the medial axis extending from the latter structure. It is a long low platform and the western end of the structure was rounded