

Zacpeten, Group A

Proyecto Maya-Colonial 1996



Zacpeten
Str. 606

TP

2/24/97

In 531, 569, we found a piece of burned plaster wall still affixed to the stones of the wall - the building ^{606c} (a part of it) was burned. The fire must have been fairly hot because the plaster was carbonized - note that we recovered a sample Stangely (a perhaps appropriately) enough, we encountered three projectile points in the unit immediately to the south of the southwall of 606c. The same worker (Dionilo) found all of this points, each of which was $\approx 2\text{cm}$ in length. I suspect there are more than we recovered, but some of the workers are missing them in the screens.

We have also recovered several pieces of what appear to be burnt laybats on the SW corner of the building. These batis are rather well preserved I think (and this is only after the excavation level 01) we have evidence of another one - well see after we excavate level 02.

* Important Note!! 2/26/97

We found the NW corner of the 1994 excavation of Str. 606a at coordinates 530.78N, 572.95E,

* We encountered stone 100N, 206E of the 1994 excavations of Str 606A at coordinates 521.36, 578.84.

Note ~~to~~ ~~not~~ ~~with~~ ~~now~~ ~~take~~ ~~my~~ ~~personal~~ ~~notes~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~excavation~~ ~~of~~

521, 597

524 $\frac{125}{585}$

7/16/97
Note that L37 of Str. 606 was full
behind the altar (2nd fragment - the one
further to the east that composed 60%
of the altar) fragment embedded in the
south wall of the platform of the structure.
It included several units (1x1's).

Beginning @ 185. Ended @ 267

grey soil with small & medium sized
stones (fill).

Zacpeten

General Notes

2/21/97

TP

I have not been able to write any general notes lately because Romulo has not been in the field (he was supposed to start Tuesday). As a result, I have had to take care of 32 workers and have had little time to do anything else. We have removed level 01 from all of Str. 603 (about 216 units) and from the SW corner of Str. 606 (about 40 more units). We have also laid bags out on Str. 607. I have decided not to personally excavate Str. 607, I will supervise Bayro Costello as he excavates the Str. as part of his seminar. I have also been working a little on Str. 602. The west wall was not clearly defined. There was a discrepancy between what we saw in the SW corner at that encounter to the south of the lower stairway. I will, therefore, excavate to the south of the stairway until we have eliminated the discrepancy.

at the present time (beginning 2/17/97), Bayron & Ramon Puga are completing mapping of the site, did not complete last year.

Things are going really fast - actually too fast. I will be somewhat relieved. I'm looking forward to the field.

Zacpeten

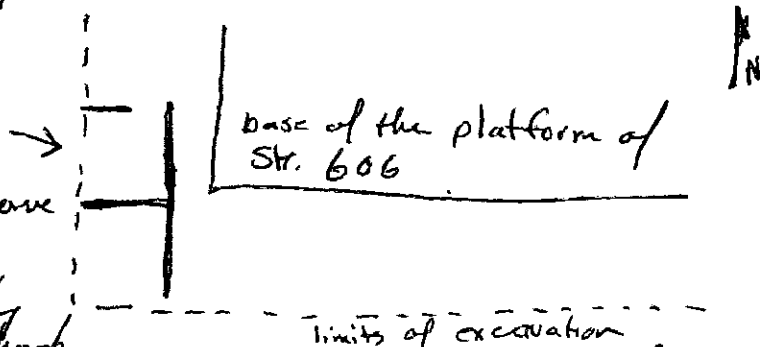
Str. 606

2/21/97

TP

We have been excavating the SW corner of this structure (606) in front of 606b and 606c (meaning to the south of their open fronts). To the SW of the base of the platform of Str. 606 we are encountering some interesting low walls.

I have no idea what these walls are but we will excavate them further (note that at present we have only removed level 01, but will not move any further to the south (though I may excavate to the west). The workers really have us running so I better get back to it



This small structure is Str. 614. It appears to be an altar.

4/22/97

EXCAVATION NOTES FOR TP 531, 577 (STR. 606) 6/16/97

①

Picking up where Kevin left off, we cleaned up the loose that had blown & fallen in over the weekend and began excavating level 22. Whereas the unit had been divided into 2 separate lots by the north/south oriented (Classic) wall running through the excavation, and into additional lots for the three intrusive, unbracketing, pit-like features (levels 23, 24, & 25), level 26 appears to be a single, unbroken fill layer extending across the entire excavation.

Level 25 - consists of fairly densely-packed grey-brown to light greenish-brown soil containing small limestone fragments (ranging in size from ~1-10 cm in diameter). Opening elevations for level 26 are: NE = 147, SE = 152, NW = 155, SW = 152 cms. below datum.

Jose began taking down level 26 across the entire excavation w/ associated artifacts mainly consisting of lithics & ceramics. He also hit several large pieces of carbon (~3 cm in diameter) at ~157 below datum in the NW corner of the excavation. This appears to be a particularly good sample since it was recovered from a sealed context below 2 plaster floors (still visible in the northern, eastern, & western profiles). In addition to the carbon, large numbers of shells (Classic?), shell, burned faunal bone, and 3 biface fragments (chert), as well as (3) obsidian blade fragments, and several nice polychrome shards (one w/ part of what may be a glyph band) were recovered.

During the excavation of level 26 Jose hit yet another feature which was intruded through the surrounding matrix, as w/ the three previously excavated features (levels 23, 24, & 25), level 27 consists of a roughly circular area in the NW corner of the unit measuring ~25 x 30 cm. It contains a soft, loose tawnyish-brown soil and initially appeared as a concavity when the more densely packed fill of level 26 was removed from above it. Level 27 began at 169 cm below datum and extended to a depth of 194 cm BD. The feature contains animal bones, ceramics, carbon, & lithics. (See plan map for relationship of level 27 to other intrusive features). Level 27 extends into both in northern & western walls in the corner of the excavation. In addition to the artifacts present in the fill, the feature fill includes ~30 limestone fragments / small cobbles (~8-12 cm in diameter), as well as numerous limestone pebbles. As in the cases of the level 23, 24, & 25 features, the sides & base of the level 27 feature were easily identifiable as the surrounding matrix (level 26) is darker in color, more densely packed, and generally includes smaller pieces of limestone fill (1-10 cm in diameter as compared to ~8-12 cm in the feature fill). Level 27 appears to be intrusive not only through level 26, but also extends into a layer of ~~limestone~~

CONCRETE FILL UNDERLYING LEVEL (26). THIS LOWER/EARLIER FILL EPISODE WAS (2) DESIGNATED LEVEL (28).

6/17/97

LEVEL (26) ENDED AT NE = 160, SE = 162, NW = 164, SW = 170 AS THE GREYISH-BROWN FILL OF LEVEL (26) GAVE WAY TO THE LIGHTER GREYISH-BROWN FILL OF LEVEL (28). THE AVERAGE SIZE OF THE FILL INCREASED IN LEVEL (28) TO 2-10 CM IN DIAMETER. LEVEL (28) WAS ALSO DRIER AND LESS DENSELY PACKED THAN THE FILL OF OVERLYING LEVEL (26).

A FIFTH FEATURE (DESIGNATED LEVEL (29)) WAS ENCOUNTERED INTRUSIVE INTO LEVELS (26) & (28). THE LEVEL (29) FILL CONSISTED OF THE SAME LOOSE, TANNISH-BROWN FILL PRESENT IN FEATURES (23), (24), (25), & (27), AS WELL AS OF LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS OF SIMILAR SIZE (~ 5-10 CM IN DIAMETER). ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS INCLUDE: LITHICS (SECONDARY & TERTIARY FLORES), AS WELL AS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SHERDS RECOVERED FROM THE FEATURES TO DATE (ESP. LARGE - > 10 CM. IN LENGTH - PLAINWARE SHERDS, POSSIBLY FROM AN OLLA).

LEVEL (29) BEGAN AT 183 CM BELOW DATUM & EXTENDED TO A DEPTH OF 205 CM BD. AS IN THE CASES OF THE OTHER 4 FEATURES, THE SIDES/SIZES AND BASE OF LEVEL (29) WERE IDENTIFIABLE WHERE THE MUCH LOOSER, FINER FILL OF THE FEATURE GAVE WAY TO THE MORE DENSELY-PACKED FILL (W/ CONSIDERABLY LARGER LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS) OF SURROUNDING LEVEL (28). LEVEL (29) INCLUDED A SINGLE, VERY NICE POLYCHROME SHERD (SEE SKETCH - PAGE (3)) - APPARENTLY FROM A PLATE OR LOW-SIDED DISH. LIKE LEVEL (27), LEVEL (29) EXTENDED INTO THE WESTERN WALL OF THE EXCAVATION.

LEVEL (28) ENDED AT NE = 173, SE = 190, NW = 170, SW = 189. THE DOMINANT CHANGE WAS TEXTURAL, W/ THE UPPER SURFACE OF LEVEL (30) BEING DISTINGUISHED BY LARGER PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION FILL (LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS UP TO 40 CM IN LENGTH/DIAMETER). LEVEL (28) INCLUDED CERAMICS, LITHICS, AND A SINGLE OBSIDIAN BLADE FRAGMENT.

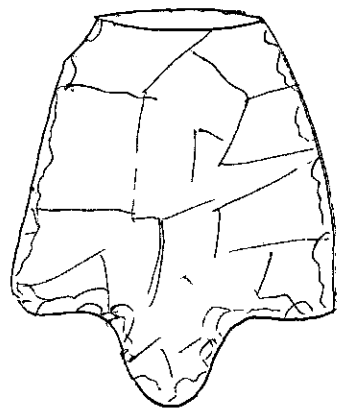
AS LEVEL (30) WAS EXCAVATED IT BECAME CLEAR THAT NOT ONLY WAS THE AVERAGE SIZE OF THE FILL SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THAT IN OVERLYING LEVEL (28), BUT THAT THE LEVEL WAS LESS COMPACTED THAN LEVELS (26) & (28). (Og. OCCASIONAL AIR-POCKETS WERE ENCOUNTERED W/IN THE FILL). THE SOIL OF LEVEL (30) WAS SIMILAR IN TEXTURE TO THE FILL OF LEVELS (26) & (28) ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LIGHTER GREYISH BROWN THAN THE SOIL OF LEVEL (28).

AS EXCAVATION OF LEVEL (30) PROCEEDED, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE ROUGH ALIGNMENT OF STONES WHICH HAD BECOME VISIBLE AT ~ 170 CM BD ALONG THE EASTERN PROFILE IN FACT REPRESENT A WELL-BUILT DRY-STONE WALL (LATER DESIGNATED LEVEL (44)). THIS LOWER WALL IS BETTER MADE THAN THE POSSIBLE RETAINING WALL (LEVEL (43)) PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE SOUTHERN PROFILE (EXTENDING FROM ~ 50 - 180 CM BD). UNLIKE THE LEVEL (43) "WALL" WHICH BECOMES INALISTINCT AT ITS WESTERN END, THE LEVEL (44) WALL CONTINUES INTO BOTH THE NORTHERN & SOUTHERN PROFILES (APPEARS TO BE A SECTION OF A SUBSTANTIAL, LARGER WALL).

NOTE: ALTHOUGH DEPTHS WERE TAKEN AT EACH CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION AT THE TOP & BOTTOM OF EACH LEVEL, ONLY THE OPENING & CLOSING DEPTHS BELOW DATUM IN THE NE CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION WERE USED TO AS LEVEL MEASUREMENTS ON LOT CARDS.

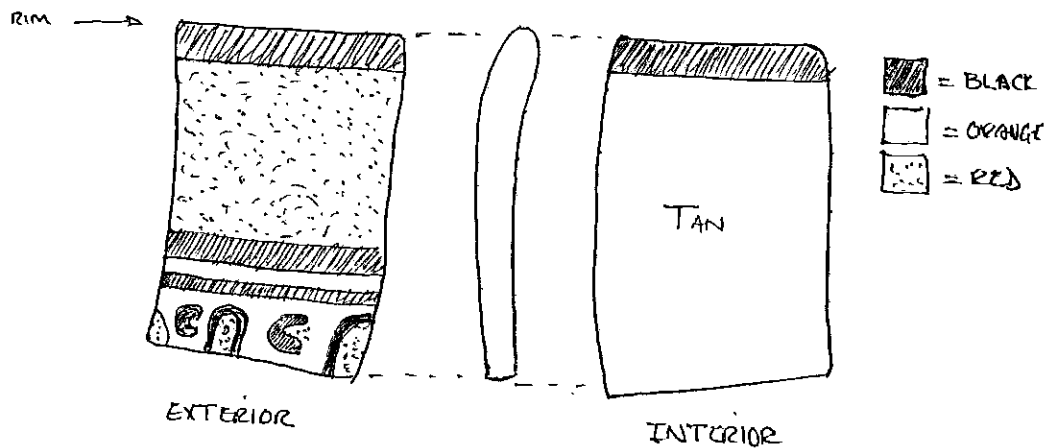
Level (26) Artifacts:

LITHIC FROM LEVEL (26)

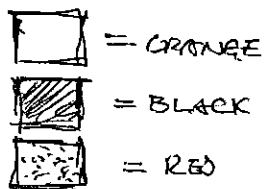
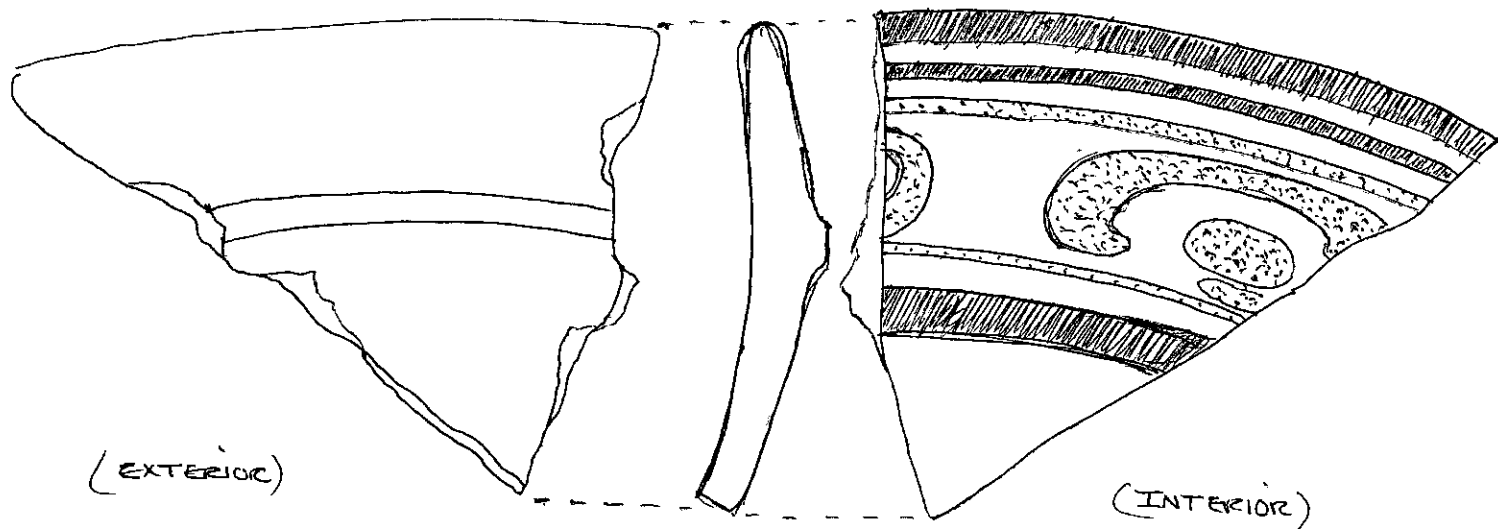


LIGHT GREY CHERT

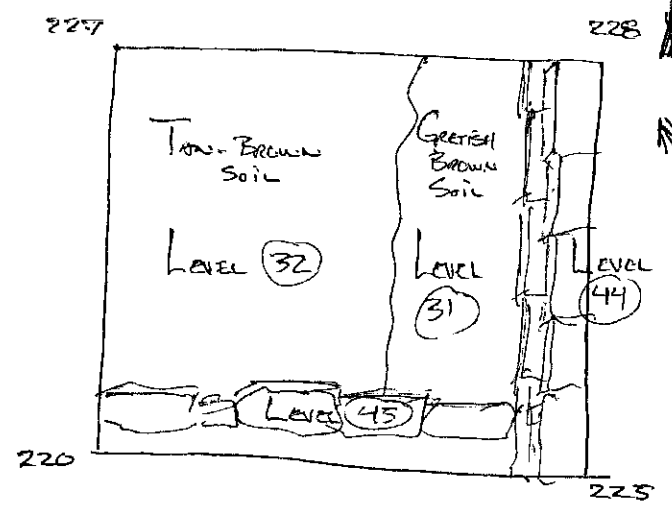
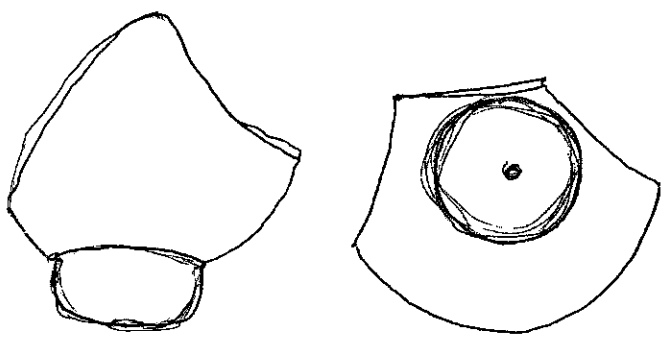
Level (26) POLYCHROME SHEETS



Level (29) Artifacts



IN ADDITION TO THE LITHICS & BONY SHEBROS, A SINGLE FRAGMENT OF A MAMMOFORM FOOT WAS RECOVERED FROM THE FILL OF LEVEL 30. (I'm LOUSY W/ CERAMICS, BUT THIS IS A MARKER OF THE PRE-CLASSIC - I THINK?) SEE SKETCH BELOW. (LEVEL 30 ALSO CONTAINED FAUNAL BONE).



BACK TO THE EMERGING ARCHITECTURE. THE WALL IN THE EASTERN PROFILE (LEVEL 44) LEANS SLIGHTLY TO THE EAST, BUT IS OTHERWISE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. AT THIS POINT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL IF WE HAVE THE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF A STRUCTURE.

THE SOIL BEGAN TO CHANGE SLIGHTLY AT THE BASE OF LEVEL 30 (NE = 228, SE = 225, NW = 227, SW = 220), GIVING WAY TO A LIGHTER TAN-BROWN ZONE TO THE WEST AND BECOMING A DARKER GREYISH-BROWN ALONG THE EASTERN PROFILE OF THE EXCAVATION (SEE SKETCH ABOVE).

A THIRD MASONRY WALL (LEVEL 45), BECAME VISIBLE RUNNING ROUGHLY PARALLEL TO THE SOUTHERN PROFILE AT ~225 CM BELOW DATUM (THE UPPERMOST PART OF THE WALL HAD BECOME VISIBLE AT AS HIGH AS 200 CM BS, BUT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIABLE AS AN ACTUAL WALL).

THINKING THAT THE TAN-BROWN SOIL OF LEVEL 32 MIGHT REPRESENT SOME TYPE OF CUT, IT WAS EXCAVATED SEPARATELY FROM ADJACENT LEVEL 31 TO THE EAST.

LEVEL 32 OPENS AT NW = 227, SW = 220 CM BELOW DATUM AND CONTAINED CERAMICS, SHELL, LITHICS, AND A SLAB METAL FRAGMENT. A COLOR CHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE BASE OF LEVEL 32 AS THE TAN BROWN SOIL AT 270 CM BS IN THE NW CORNER & AT ~280 CM BS IN THE SW CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION.

LEVEL 31 OPENS AT NE = 228, SE = 225 CM BS AND EXTENDS TO DEPTHS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF LEVEL 32, ENDING AT NE = 252, SE = 255. THE LEVEL 31 FILL RANGES IN SIZE FROM ~5-50 CM IN DIAMETER (AND INCLUDES SEVERAL EXTREMELY LARGE LIMESTONE BOULDER), W/ THE MAJORITY OF THE RUBBLE AVERAGING 10-20 CM IN DIAMETER. ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS INCLUDES CERAMICS, SHELL, & A SINGLE HUMAN TOOTH, HOWEVER THE ARTIFACT FREQUENCY DID NOT DISTINGUISH LEVELS 31 & 32 (EE. DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT LEVEL 32 IS A FEATURE INTRUSIVE THROUGH

Level (31). Level (31) WAS TERMINATED WHEN THE GREYISH-BROWN FILL GAVE WAY TO THE SAME TANNISH-BROWN MOTTLED W/ LIGHT GREYISH-BROWN SOIL ENCOUNTERED AT THE BASE OF Level (32) (i.e. THE TOP OF Level (33)). IN RETROSPECT, IT APPEARS THAT THE DIFFERENCES IN COLOR PRESENT BY LEVELS (31) & (32) ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT AND MERELY REPRESENT VARIATION W/IN A SINGLE FILL EPISODE. WHICH ALSO INCLUDES Level (33) (WHICH WAS ALSO PRIMARILY DISTINGUISHED BASED UPON COLOR DIFFERENCES).

Level (33) OPENED AT NE=252, SE=255, NW=270, SW=280 CM BELOW DATUM. AND WAS COMPRISES OF A MIXTURE OF TANNISH-BROWN MOTTLED W/ LIGHT GREYISH-BROWN SOIL AND LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO THOSE OF LEVELS (31) & (32) (~ 5-70 CM IN DIAMETER) W/ AN AVERAGE OF 10-20 CM IN DIAMETER. THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE NOTICEABLE IN Level (33) WAS THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE LIMESTONE COBBLES TOWARDS THE BASE OF THE LEVEL. Level (33) FILL CONTAINS CERAMICS, LITHICS, SHELL, AND AN OBSIDIAN BLADE FRAGMENT.

THE Level (44) & (45) MASONRY WALLS ARE INTERESTING, FOR ALTHOUGH THEY ABUT ONE ANOTHER IN THE SE CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION, THE NORTH/SOUTH ORIENTED WALL (Level (44)) IS OBVIOUSLY THE EARLIER, W/ THE EAST/WEST TROWING (Level (45)) WALL HAVING BEEN MADE AT SOME LATER POINT IN TIME. AT THIS POINT IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IF WE ARE DEALING W/ INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR WALL SURFACES, ALTHOUGH, AS TIM POINTED OUT, THE SLIGHT LEAN OF THE Level (44) WALL TO THE EAST MAY SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE THE OUTSIDE OF A STRUCTURE. INTERESTINGLY, NEITHER WALL SHOWS ANY EVIDENCE OF HAVING BEEN PLASTERED (NO PLASTER IS PRESENT ON EITHER OF THE WALL SURFACES AND NONE WAS PRESENT IN RECOGNIZABLE FORM IN THE FILL). OVERALL, BOTH WALLS ARE HIGHER & MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN WE INITIALLY EXPECTED THEM TO BE. IT'S SURPRISING THAT THEY WERE LEFT UPRIGHT TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS LATER STRUCTURES WERE BUILT OVER THEM.

6/19/97

THE BOULDERS INCREASINGLY PRESENT IN THE FILL BELOW ~ 2.5 m BELOW DATUM BECAME SO LARGE AND DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE FLOOR OF THE EXCAVATION THAT WE INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE THE EXCAVATION TO A 1x2 AND CONTINUE TO EXCAVATE ALONG THE EASTERN WALL OF THE UNIT WHERE THE FILL WAS OF A MORE MANAGEABLE SIZE. ULTIMATELY, HOWEVER, WE WERE ABLE TO LOOSEN THE LARGEST BOULDERS AND LIFT THEM OUT W/ ROPES SO THAT THE 2x2 m. UNIT COULD BE CONTINUED.

JUST BELOW THE BOTTOM-MOST BOULDERS WE HIT A ZONE OF DENSELY-PACKED GREYISH-BROWN MOTTLED W/ TANNISH-BROWN SOIL WHICH CONTAINS ONLY VERY SMALL LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS / PEBBLES (~1-3 cm in diameter). THIS WAS DESIGNATED Level (34) AND PROVED TO CONTAIN CERAMICS (SOME W/ WAXY RED SLIPS - SIERRA RED?), LITHICS, SHELL, C-14, AND 4 OBSIDIAN BLADE FRAGMENTS. Level (34) OPENED AT NE=304, SE=302, NW=300, SW=306 CM BELOW DATUM AND CLOSED AT NE=316, SE=319, NWE=320,

SW = 315 CM BELOW DATUM AND THE TOP OF A PLASTER FLOOR (Level 35) (6)

Level 35 PROVES TO BE A FAIRLY WELL-PRESERVED PLASTER FLOOR ALONG THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE EXCAVATION, BUT AS CLEARING CONTINUED TO THE WEST, THE FLOOR DISAPPEARED. (AS EXCAVATION CONTINUED AND THE FLOOR WAS EXPOSED IN THE PROFILES IT UNIMAGINABLY APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CUT THROUGH - ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHERN PROFILE WHERE IT ENDS SUDDENLY AT THE EDGE OF AN APPARENTLY INTRUSIVE FEATURE (DISCUSSED BELOW AS LEVEL 33)). THE FLOOR DOES NOT END AS ABRUPTLY IN THE NORTHERN PROFILE, APPEARING MORE TO HAVE BEEN GROGGER THAN CUT THROUGH (Cf. EVEN THOUGH THE PLASTER FOR THE MOST PART DISAPPEARS AT A POINT ~ 40 CM WEST OF THE EASTERN WALL OF THE EXCAVATION A LAYER OF PEBBLES AND SMALL LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS CONTINUE TO THE WEST AND APPEAR TO BE REMNANTS OF THE FLOOR SURFACE).

AS LEVEL 35 WAS CLEARED TO THE WEST, WE HIT A COMPLETE BLACKWARE VESSEL (INVERTED) AND DUG INTO THE FILL AT THE BREAK B/T THE PRESERVED SECTION OF FLOOR (TO THE EAST) AND THE DARKER AREA OF FILL TO THE WEST (SEE PLAN MAP OF TOP OF LEVELS 35, 36, AND 33).

THE VESSEL APPEARED TO BE PLACED IN A SMALL CUT (LEVEL 36) WHICH EXTENDED FROM 316 TO 335 CM BELOW DATUM AND CONTAINS GREYISH BROWN FILL W/ SMALL LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS (2.5 CM IN DIAMETER). THE CACHE ITSELF APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT W/ SOME TYPE OF TERMINATION OR OBSCURATORY ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH NOT FULLY SUBMERGED IN THE FLOOR (THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE VESSEL MEASURED AT 311 CM BELOW DATUM), THE VESSEL WAS DEFINITELY INTRUDED INTO THE FLOOR (LEVEL 35) AND THE DARK GREYISH-BROWN MATRIX TO THE WEST (LEVEL 33) JUDGING BY THE DIFFERENT COLOR OF THE FILL IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING THE VESSEL.

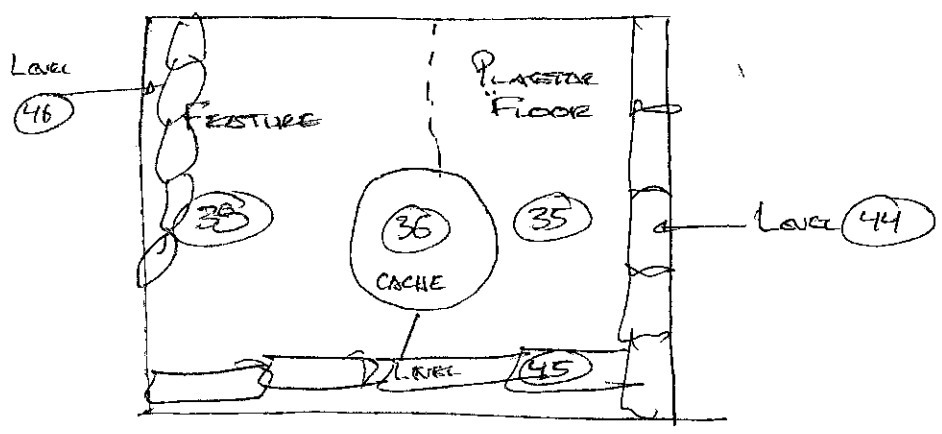
PLACED UPSIDE-DOWN IN THE CUT, THE VESSEL CONTAINED A SINGLE OBSIDIAN BLADE (W/ NO USE-WEAR, ACCORDING TO ROMANO). WE WERE ABLE TO REMOVE ~ 2/3 OF THE VESSEL INTACT (THE REST CAME OUT IN PIECES). THE SOIL CONTAINED W/IN THE VESSEL WAS TAKEN AS A SOIL SAMPLE. A SINGLE TANNISH RIM SHARD FROM ANOTHER VESSEL WAS ALSO RECOVERED FROM JUST BENEATH THE BLACKWARE JAR. LEVEL 36 ITSELF MEASURES 36 CM NORTH/SOUTH BY 34 CM EAST/WEST AND IS A TOTAL OF 19 CM IN DEPTH (SEE PLAN MAP OF TOP OF LEVELS 35, 36 & 33). INTERESTINGLY, DESPITE THE SIZE & APPARENTLY HAPHAZARD PLACEMENT OF THE LARGE PIECES OF FILL PRESENT IN OVERLAPPING LEVEL 33, IT APPEARS THAT THIS FILL WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN PLACED OVER & AROUND THE CACHE CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO CRUSH THE VESSEL (WHICH WAS CRACKED, BUT STILL ARTICULATE AND ONLY MISSING A PORTION OF THE RIM AT THE TIME OF EXCAVATION).

6/20/97

AS SEVERAL OF THE LARGEST BOULDER FROM THE LEVEL 33 FILL HAD BEEN ROLLED OUT OF THE WAY AND STACKED AGAINST THE WESTERN WALL OF THE EXCAVATION DURING THE EXCAVATION OF THE CACHE, WE SPENT THE FIRST PART OF THE MORNING LIFTING THESE OUT OF THE UNIT W/ ROPES.

AFTER FINISHING THE PLAN MAP OF THE TOP OF LEVELS 35, 36, & 33 WE BEGAN EXCAVATING LEVEL 33.

Level 38 - Although the edge of the plaster floor (Level 35) was quite distinct to the south of the cache cut (Level 36) (see plan sketch below), the point at which the floor ends and the fill of Level 38 begins to the north of Level 35 is difficult to distinguish.



As a result, we began at the western edge of the visible floor and worked west into Level 38. Although the feature & floor appeared to grade into each other north of Level 36, a zone of pebbles and small limestone fragments appear to mark the edge of the floor (crossed) in this area of the excavation.

Level 38 consists of (dark) greyish brown fill w/ small limestone fragments < 5cm in diameter, moderate amounts of carbon, lithics, a high concentration of shreds, shell, faunal bone, & several obsidian fragments. The fill is densely packed in comparison to the overlying layers of dry, loose construction fill. Apart from the dark color of the soil, Level 38 is most distinguishable by the dense high # of shreds contained in the fill (these were immediately visible on the surface of the feature once overlying Level 39 was removed). Although distributed vertically throughout the feature fill (rather than in a single layer), the shreds were nearly all including horizontally. Overall, probably 400-500 shreds were present in Level 38. Level 38 extends under a low masonry wall (Level 46 - only a single course high) which was encountered along the western face of the excavation and which enters the western profile of the unit before reaching the SW corner. At least along the southern wall of the excavation, Level 38 appears to have ^{been} intruded ^{into} Levels 35 (the plaster floor) & 39 (the fill zone lying immediately beneath the floor - see below). Level 38 ends at BT 345-355 cm below datum hitting bedrock in some areas & the dark fill of Levels 40 & 41 in other places (see below).

Level 35 (the plaster floor) was excavated once Level 38 had been removed. The floor extended from 315-320 cm in the NE corner of the excavation and from 314-320 cm in the SE corner. Floor fill contained lithics & shreds.

The floor was underlain by Level 39. A densely packed zone of sub-floor fill consisting of greyish-brown soil w/ small limestone inclusions (< 10 cm in diameter). Level 39 contained ceramics, lithics and shell.

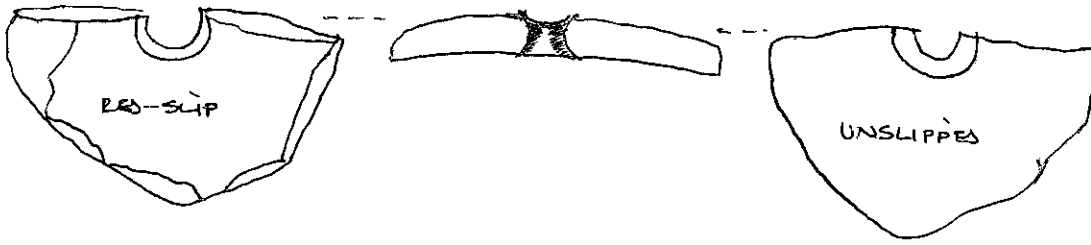
Level (39) began at NE = 320, SE = 322, NW = 327, ~~328~~ (NO MEASUREMENT IN SW CORNER OF EXCAVATION AS LEVEL (39) APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTED THROUGH IN THIS AREA BY THE LEVEL (38) FEATURE). LEVEL (39) ENDS AT NE = 330, SE = 331, NW = 340 CM BS (AND CONTINUES TO BE ABSENT IN THE SW CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF THE FEATURE - LEVEL (38)).

Level (39) was underlain by Level (40), a zone of densely-packed dark greyish-brown soil w/ numerous limestone fragments 10-20 cm in diameter. The fill contains shreds, lithics, bone, C-14, a fragment of daub w/ leaf impressions, and a single small jade bead. Level (40) extends to NE = 353, SE = 344, NW = 362, SW = 360 where it gave way to a very dark greyish brown level of fill.

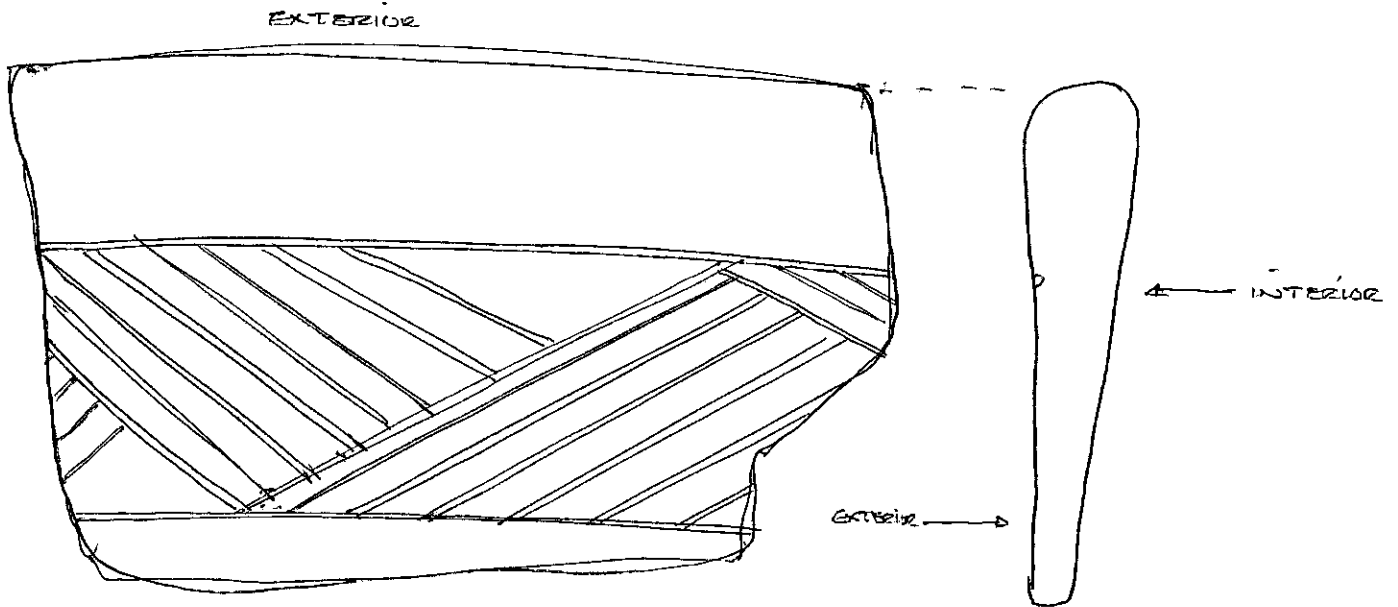
Level (41) - very dark greyish brown soil w/ high clay content directly overlying an uneven bedrock surface. Level (41) is densely packed & contains small limestone inclusions (< 2 cm in diameter). Although the number of artifacts dropped off considerably in Level (41), the fill contains midden-like material including ceramics, lithics, burned limestone fragments, shell, & carbon.

While cleaning up the floor of the excavation to expose bedrock across the entire surface, Jose' knocked loose some of the Level (30) fill in the Northern Profile and revealed an intact polychrome vessel in the wall of the excavation. As it was the end of the day & we didn't feel comfortable leaving the vessel exposed overnight we quickly drew & photographed it, and removed it from the wall. When the vessel was lifted out, there proved to be bone behind it in the profile (which appears to be parts of 2 human femora). The small, loose fragments were collected and bagged separately & the feature (presumably a burial) was designated Level (42). Although only a very small portion is exposed, the feature appears to extend from 214 - 228 cm BS. Although it's hard to tell for sure w/out further excavation, the burial & vessel appear to have been placed in the loose fill of Level (30) while it was being deposited rather than having been intruded in at a later point in time (the burial does NOT appear to be immediately surrounded from fill which is different from the surrounding matrix of Level (30)).

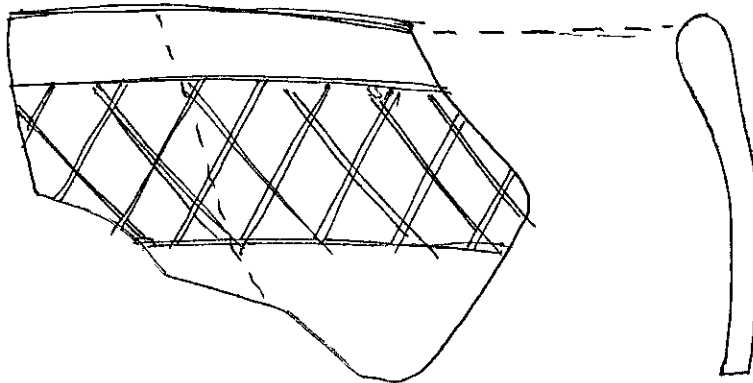
ARTIFACTS FROM LEVEL 38



POSSIBLE SPINALE WHORL (MADE FROM SHEAR).
FROM LEVEL 38



INCISED BLACKWARE RIMSHEAR
FROM LEVEL 38



INCISED BLACKWARE RIMSHEAR
FROM LEVEL 38

Excavation Summary of TP 535, 584:

7/1/97

Overall, TP 535, 584 did not prove to be particularly informative (e.g. it did not produce the cache which we were hoping may have been placed in the central niche of Str. 606). No surviving architectural features were encountered b/t the Postclassic plaster floor at which the excavation opens & the presumably Classic period floor surface at which the 1x1 m unit was terminated. It is certainly possible that a cache is located w/in the niche and that the excavation simply missed it [the single conch fragment (?) and obsidian blade recovered from Level (50) (just above the Classic floor surface - Level (51)) may have been associated w/ ritual behavior such as conch-smashing, however, there's insufficient evidence to support such an interpretation].

What is interesting about the various levels encountered in the TP is their apparent correspondence w/ architectural features and fill episodes visible in other excavations in Str. 606. The fill of Levels (47), (48), (49), (50) in TP 535, 584 for example appear to roughly correlate w/ the greyish-brown fill w/ limestone rubble encountered in the first meter of TP 531, 577 (e.g. Levels (15), (17), (19)).

Although the cut-off points of the levels do not exactly match b/t the 2 excavations, this may largely be a result of Tim's, Matt's, and my somewhat subjective level designations w/in these somewhat unclear layers of fill.

Ultimately, the correspondence of TP 535, 584 & TP 531, 577 fill layers is strengthened by the presence of ~~the~~ what is apparently the same plastered floor surface at roughly the same level in both TPs (e.g. Level (51) in TP 535, 584 and Level (21) in TP 531, 577). As the plaster floor in TP 535, 584 was not excavated, it is impossible to determine if it too lies above the earlier plaster floor (Level (22)) encountered in TP 531, 577.

SUMMARY OF EXCAVATION OF TP 531, 577:

(1)

This summary presents a brief description and interpretation of the stratigraphy & architectural features encountered in TP 531, 577 (in Str. 608), working from the earliest through the most recent (see profile drawings).

The bottom-most level encountered in the excavation is an uneven bedrock surface which was exposed across the base of the unit, ranging in depth from ~ 340 - 390 cm BS. The first layer of fill (level 41) / lot 13157 extended from 353 cm BS - Bedrock, consisted of a very dark greyish-brown densely-packed soil w/ a high clay content and contained small limestone inclusions (< 2 cm in diameter). Although having the appearance of being a partly natural deposit, the fill contained ceramics, lithics, burned limestone fragments, shell, carbon, suggesting that it represents a midden. Level 41 was overlaid by level 40 / lot 13156 which extends from 330 - 353 cm BS and consists of a densely-packed layer of dark greyish-brown fill w/ small limestone fragments (ranging from 1 - 10 cm in diameter). Level 40 is also a cultural deposit, containing ceramics, lithics, bone, carbon, small amounts of daub and a single jade bead. Level 39 / lot 13155 subsequently developed on top of level 40 as a layer of densely-packed greyish-brown soil w/ limestone inclusions (~ 1 - 10 cm in diameter), which extends from 320 - 330 cm BS. Level 39 may also be a midden, as the fill contained ceramics, lithics, & shell.

Following the deposition of level 39, level 35 / lot 13151 (a plaster floor) was apparently constructed over these lowest fill levels. The floor extends from 316 - 320 cm BS w/ both lithics & shells being included in the fill. At this point, the well-constructed dry-stone wall visible in the eastern profile (level 44) / lot 13160 of the excavation was constructed in association w/ the floor surface. The wall, however, definitely appears to post-date the floor as the plaster surface extends underneath the wall in the eastern profile.

At this point, the sequence of events becomes less clear, w/ several features being intruded through the floor surface. The large, pit-like feature of level 38 / lot 13154, containing dark greyish-brown soil w/ limestone inclusions (< 5 cm in diameter), carbon, lithics, shell, faunal bone, obsidian, and large numbers of shells, extending from 320 - 355 cm BS appears to have been intruded through the floor surface and into underlying fill levels 39 & 40. The cache (level 36) / 13152 w/ the inverted blackware vessel and obsidian blade, likewise appears to have been intruded into the floor surface. Although the fill of levels 36 & 38 graded into ^{one} another in such a way that it was difficult to determine where one feature ended & the next began (see plan map of top of levels 35, 36, 38, & 39), it appears that the cache post-dates the level 38 feature. At some point following the intrusion and filling of the level 38 feature, a rough alignment of stones (consisting of a single course), level 46 / lot 13162, was constructed over the feature.

The second well-constructed dry-stone wall (level 45 / lot 13161), visible in the southern profile, post-dates the level 38 feature as well, as it ~~too~~ appears to have been constructed over it. At this point, the densely-packed greyish-brown mottled w/ tannish brown soil of level 34 / lot 13150 w/ limestone inclusions (< 3 cm in diameter), ceramics, lithics, shell, carbon, and obsidian, extending from 304 - 316 cm BS appears to have been deposited. The deposition of this fill layer post-dates the construction of the level 44 & 45 walls as level 34 is absent from both the southern & eastern profiles.

level 33 / lot 13149 consisting of light tannish-brown mottled w/ light greyish brown soil, limestone fill 5 - 70 cm in diameter, ceramics, lithics, shell, and an obsidian blade fragment, and extending from 252 - 304 cm BS; level 32 / lot 13148 consisting of tan-brown soil w/ limestone fill 10 - 40 cm in diameter, ceramics, shell, lithics, grandstone fragment, and extending from 227 - 270 cm BS; and level 31 / lot 13147 extending from 228 - 252 cm BS and consisting of light greyish-brown soil w/ limestone fill 10 - 20 cm in diameter, ceramics, shell, and a human tooth; may represent a single fill event w/ internal variations in soil color (rather than as 3 separate events, as the levels were excavated).

Following the deposition of fill layers 34, 33, and 32, the level 42 / lot 13158 burial w/ the polychrome bowl (214 - 230 cm BS) appears to have been incorporated into the fill of level 30 (173 - 228 cm BS). Although it is difficult to determine for certain w/ out further excavation, the burial appears to have been placed in level 30 (greyish-brown soil w/ limestone cobbles 10 - 50 cm in diameter) when the fill was initially deposited, rather than representing an intrusive event. (The level 42 fill does not appear to differ dramatically from that of level 30). The fill of level 28 appears to represent the next depositional event.

Next, the level 43 "retaining" wall appears to have been constructed following the deposition of level 28. The construction of the wall appears to have preceded the deposition of level 26, as the fill does not extend beneath the wall. The densely-packed greyish-brown to light greyish-brown soil of level 26 (extending from 146 - 172 cm BS) and containing limestone fragments 1 - 10 cm in diameter, lithics, ceramics, carbon, shell, obsidian, & burned faunal bone was deposited on top of level 28 and adjacent to level 43. At some point following the deposition of levels 22 & 28, the intrusive features (apparently trash-pits) of levels 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, & 29 (containing tannish-brown soil w/ limestone fragments, ceramics, & lithics), were intruded through the fill of levels 26 & 28.

level 22 (the earlier of 2 plaster floors) extending from 147 - 15 cm BS was constructed in association w/ the dressed-stone wall of

level (20). level (19) ^{lot 13124} (light-greyish brown soil w/ limestone fragments ~ 5-10 cm in diameter) wall deposited as fill behind this wall. A thin layer of greyish-brown soil w/ limestone pebbles (~ 2 cm thick) (apparently not assigned a level number owing to its thinness), was deposited on the surface of the level (22) plaster floor. (This fill may have been associated w/ a period of abandonment). The floor was then refurbished, as the much more substantial level (21) lot 13137 plaster floor was laid above the earlier floor surface. A concentration of sherds (level 18 B), extending from 118-143 cm BS was deposited on this floor surface adjacent to the base of the level (20) wall. Fill layer of level (18) lot 13127 (light grey soil w/ limestone inclusions) built up upon the later floor surface (presumably following abandonment?). level (17) lot 13126 (light greyish-brown soil w/ limestone fragments ~ 1-20 cm in diameter) was deposited next.

Finally, level (15) (the Post-classic wall) was constructed, w/ levels (16) lot 13135, (14) lot 13133, and (13) lot 13132 being deposited as subfloor fill. The final event appears to have been the construction of the Postclassic plaster floor surface associated w/ the level (15) wall.

EXCAVATION NOTES FOR TP 535, 584:

1x1 m TEST-PIT
IN STR. 606

6/27/97

TIM PLACED THIS UNIT APPROXIMATELY IN THE CENTER OF THE CENTRAL NICHE OF STR. 606 TO CHECK FOR A CACHE ABOVE THE CLASSIC FLOOR.

- LEVEL (47)

OPENING ELEVATIONS: NE = 20, SE = 22, NW = 24, SW = 21 CM BD.

LEVEL (47) IS A DARK GREYISH-BROWN SOIL W/ SMALL LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS (< 3 CM IN DIAMETER) W/ SMALL ROOTS. ALTHOUGH A PLASTER FLOOR (POSTCLASSIC) SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE TOP OF THIS FIRST LEVEL, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY GROBES AT THE LOCATION AT WHICH THE EXCAVATION WAS PLACED. ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS FROM LEVEL (47) INCLUDE: FAUNAL BONE, SHELL, LITHICS, AND CERAMICS. THE LEVEL CLOSED AT NE = 32, SE = 33, NW = 31, SW = 32 CM BELOW DATUM. (AS IN PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS, THE ELEVATIONS BELOW DATUM IN THE NE CORNER OF THE EXCAVATION WERE RECORDED AS THE OPENING & CLOSING DEPTHS FOR EACH LEVEL).

- LEVEL (48) - AT THE TOP OF THIS SECOND LEVEL, THE SOIL BECAME NOTICEABLY LIGHTER IN COLOR, CHANGING FROM A DARK GREYISH-BROWN TO A GREYISH-BROWN. THE LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS PRESENT IN THE FILL INCREASED IN SIZE TO ~ 5-10 CM IN DIAMETER. ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS INCLUDE: FAUNAL BONE, SHELLS, LITHICS AND A FAIRLY HIGH # OF SHELLS. THE LEVEL EXTENDED TO NE = 61, SE = 62, NW = 65, SW = 64 CM BELOW DATUM AT WHICH POINT THE SOIL CHANGES TO A DARK GREYISH-BROWN IN COLOR & THE SIZE OF THE LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS IN THE FILL INCREASED TO ~ 10-20 CM IN DIAMETER.

- LEVEL (49) - DARK GREYISH-BROWN SOIL W/ LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS ~ 10-20 CM IN DIAMETER. A SINGLE LARGE, RECTANGULAR CUT-STONE (~ 50 CM IN LENGTH) APPEARED IN THE WESTERN 1/2 OF THE NORTHERN PROFILE AT 67 CM BELOW DATUM, BUT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ASSOCIATED W/ ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL OR TO BE PART OF AN INTACT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE. LEVEL (49) ARTIFACTS INCLUDE: CERAMICS, LITHICS, SHELL, AND FAUNAL BONE. TOWARDS THE BASE OF THE LEVEL WE BEGAN TO PICK UP SMALL FRAGMENTS OF LIGHT GREY (BURNED LIMESTONE). THE LEVEL WAS CLOSED AT NE = 75, SE = 93, NW = 94, SW = 94 CM BD.

- LEVEL (50) - CONSISTS OF GREYISH-BROWN SOIL W/ LARGE AMOUNTS OF (LIGHT) GREY (BURNED) LIMESTONE FRAGMENTS & LIMESTONE DUST. A FEW FRAGMENTS OF BURNED PLASTER WERE ALSO RECOVERED. THE BURNED LIMESTONE & PLASTER FORMS A COMPACT MATRIX THAT IS ALMOST FLOOR-LIKE ACROSS THE BASE OF THE EXCAVATION. HAS THE APPEARANCE OF RUBBLE FROM A BURNED AND/OR CHOPPED THROUGH FLOOR THAT WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTRUCTION FILL. ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS INCLUDE: CERAMICS, LITHICS, & A LARGE OBSIDIAN BLADE (~ 6-7 CM IN LENGTH). LEVEL (50) ENDED AT A PLASTER FLOOR WHICH WAS IN RELATIVELY GOOD CONDITION (ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT GROBES NEAR THE NORTHERN EDGE). THE FLOOR WAS ENCOUNTERED AT NE = 15, SE = 17, NW = 16, SW = 18. THE FLOOR WAS DESIGNATED LEVEL (51). EXCAVATION STOPPED AT THIS LEVEL.