

Zacpeten

TP

2/5/97

General Notes

I was actually here Monday (1/3/97), but all I did was desert the workers where to clear and play with the metal detector. I actually ~~put~~ ^{found} signs of metal, but I cannot excavate yet because we do not have permission. Right now the workers are clearing Str. 606 and have already cleared ~~area~~ ^{area} 607, 603, ~~but~~ ^{and} a structure to the west of 603 (Strine(s)); a structure to the south of Str. 602; and a structure to the west of Str. 606. I do not have the numbers for these structures, but I will ask them for them ASAP.

I am personally laying out bags on Str. 603 - this is not really interesting.

Monday - Hilawa, Chico, Gustavo, Marco

Tues - " " & Jose

Wed - " "

Thurs - " " & Felix Ixpatck

2/12/97

I have not written in a while because I am just putting in a grid. Nothing really to note ~~but~~ ^{as I am} putting a grid on Str. 603, Str. 606, and the big pit. I have decided that we will call the big pit (the pit to the west of Str. 606) Str. 1000. I know it's not really a "structure", but it was created by people (partially).

Zacpeten
Str. 603

TP

7/5/97

Str. 603 is the long ^{narrow} structure that runs between Str. 601 and 606. It is about 42m long and 3m wide and is oriented 3° of north (or so it appears prior to excavation).

We will excavate this building in order to observe its shape and the distribution of artifacts around the structure. We (and) have no idea what this building was ~~for~~ and where were more like it at Mayapan (that I know of).

As always, we are excavating levels 1 & 2 in 1x1 meter units in order to observe artifact distribution patterns. In addition, all notes are recorded in forms which ^{describe} a 3x3 m area with 9 1x1 m units within it. The vertical datum was arbitrarily set at 37 cm above unit 307, 571.

Note that in the center of this long structure is a high point (approx 10 cm high than the rest of the building) and is about 2x2 m and this may be another small shrine.

2/17/97

We started to excavate today. First about all of the bag for Str. 603, level 01 are laid out. We started on the eastern side of the structure. I am somewhat confused because Level 01 (which is human) is a grey brown soil with tiny limestone granules - I was expecting collapse. I hope this is not just a pile of dirt (perhaps swept). We are recovering figures, incense, anthropomorphic tripod vessel feet, tortle bone, etc, but in a moderate frequency.

Zacpeten
General Notes

TP

2/18/97

We now have 31 workers. I have them concentrated on Str. 603. Two are building a better dock for the boat and three others are removing some backfill from Str. 602. We have removed backfill from the part of the west wall of the platform of Str. 602 because I am going to excavate some of this wall. We are also removing soil from the southwest corner of Str. 603 in order to encase the burial encountered there last year when - much to my surprise and unhappiness - had not been removed last year. Last year we called this Level 18. I am changing this to Feature 602-1. We now have feature forms. I made this because it is occasionally not a good idea to excavate features in 1X1m units. Hopefully, I can now limit myself to general notes (for the most part) and supervision and leave the group notes for my CUDEP students. We now have five: Ramon Puga, Byron Castellanos, Jan Lopez, Tirso Morales, and Omar Schwendener. Today Heidi Quezada is helping us excavate the burial in the SE of Str. 602.

Zacapa
Stn. 603

TI

2/24/97

The date for Stn. 603, like that of Stn. 607, is 410 m below the date of Stn. 602.

2/25/99

I think we figured it out. On the 494, 570 units we began to remove level 02 and found that it is not colasse, but full of grey brown sand with small limestones. Below this lay a nice plaster floor but the portion of plaster below Stn. 603 was raised slightly above ground to the west of Stn. 603. I think that this raised portion of plaster floor is a low causeway. The full area the plaster floor is a latter construction of the same causeway but its plaster surface was either eroded or never existed. This is good news or a new because I do not see it necessary to excavate the entire structure as the base of unit 01 is on top of the full of the causeway. We will excavate portions of the structure to check out its shape and some features associated with it. I am sure we have some clue to the west of this causeway, to see if there is a stairway on the side of the platform of Group A to the SW of Stn. 601.

Zacpete
Str. 603

TP

2/25/97

I will now excavate the 1x1 m units in 1 m wide trenches instead of groups. There is no reason to excavate large areas of fill:
I have regularly called this fill level 02, but since level 02 is always collapse I changed it to level 03.

Level 01 humus

Level 02 collapse

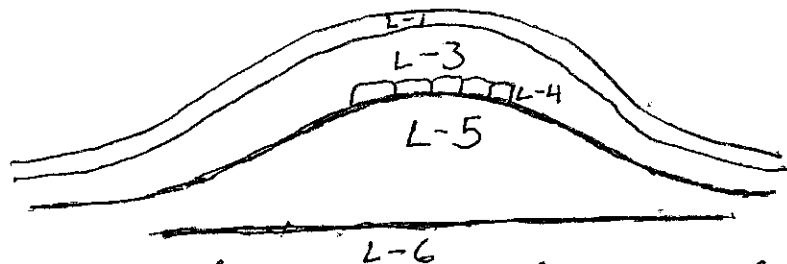
Level 03 fill of the sacbe

Level ~~05~~ 04 plaster surface of ~~earlier~~ earlier sacbe and fill

Level 04 medium sized limestone fill below level 03

Note that we have recovered a few fragments of plaster surface at the top of level 03. This structure was once covered with plaster, but this surface is long gone.

Level 06. ^{plaster surface and} fill below fill of earlier sacbe



Note that we usually did not have a level 02 because there were no walls to collapse (though there certainly must have been settling of the soil).

Zacpeten
Str. 603

TP

~~TP~~
5/4/97

Note that we only excavated level 01 in most areas because this material lay on top of the latest construct of the feature (Str. 603). I only excavated into the fill of the latest construct in a couple of areas where I determined that it really was not worth the time to excavate any deeper.