

СІММА-  
СІСІОН

Excavations at Chama-Chichun

*What town is located nearby?*  
*Sebestman*

The site of Chama-Chichun is located atop a low hill approximately one mile east and on the opposite side of the Tsalbha River from Chama Group A. The summit on which this site is situated is not perfectly flat and slopes up c. 0.85m from the southwest to the northeast. In general plan, Chama-Chichun consists of six recognized structures, the four largest of which (Structures 1, 2, 4, and 5) enclose an area roughly 33m square on the northern part of the summit while the remaining two (Structures 3 and 6) occupy the southwestern, tongue-like projection of this same ridge (See Plan 1). All of these structures, with the exception of Str. 2, would seem to have been built immediately adjacent to the edge of the ridge thereby implying that the available area was being utilised to the fullest.

In the following discussion, each of the six structures will be considered separately, beginning with the two smallest units to the southwest, Structures 6 and 3, and then moving on to a discussion of the four northernmost constructions, Structures 1, 5, 4 and 2. This order roughly parallels Butler's original emphases, beginning with that structure to which she devoted the least attention, Str. 6, and concluding with the one to which she devoted the most, Str. 2. The results of the test-pitting program will be presented last. In view of the ambiguity of the phrase 'test-pitting' I feel I should make it clear that, here, this term applies solely to those excavations located outside of the bounds of structures, the prime purpose of which was to recover ceramic materials. Butler refers to many "tests" within structures which, for the purposes of

this paper, will be described in the section covering the relevant structure. In all that follows, the new standardized designation system suggested by Drs. Coe and Sharer will be employed (See Plan 1 and Table 1). It should also be noted that the heights of each structure is given with reference to the nearest known control point on the summit surface, both of which are located on Plan 1 (points X and Y).

On the matter of Mary Butler's objectives in the excavation of this site, I believe we can infer two: First, the recovery of ceramic materials to establish Chama-Chichun's chronological position; Second, the location and recovery of burials. The former goal would seem to have been in her mind prior to her commencement of work, the latter was apparently determined by the large amount of skeletal material encountered in the excavations centered on Str. 2. An unfortunate aspect of Butler's work at Chama-Chichun is that these two objectives seem to have become fairly exclusive, with the result that other aspects of the site, i.e. its architecture, were largely ignored. Following from this, much of what is said below was, perforce, based on inferences from various aspects of Butler's records and must be understood as only a tentative reconstruction of what was actually uncovered during the period from April 3-April 26 when Butler was working on this site.

#### Structure 6

Structure 6 is a low (c. 0.65m high) platform located at the southwestern tip of the ridge on which Chama-Chichun sits. Oriented roughly northwest-southeast, this structure would appear to have had only one of its faces fashioned artificially (the northeast) while its other flanks are composed of the

natural contours of the hill. While it is possible that a portion of this structure has been destroyed by the erosion of the immediately adjacent Chichun Creek (Butler gives no evidence to support such a supposition) it seems equally likely that this structure represents a platform 'built into' the southwestern tip of this ridge. The length of the northeast face is approximately 24.75m while the greatest width northeast-southwest is c. 10.0m. Butler never excavated Str. 6 and, though she had it cleaned of vegetation, never photographed or recorded it beyond placing it on the site plan.

### Structure 3

Structure 3 is a low (d. 1.0m high), rectangular structure located along the crest of the ridge approximately 5.25m northwest of Str. 6. Oriented roughly northeast-southwest, this structure measures roughly 12.5m northeast-southwest by 10.0m northwest-southeast.

Exploration of Str. 3 took the form of two linked trenches. One was placed along the centerline of this structure and extended c. 5.0m from near its northwestern edge while the other joined the former at its approximate center and extended c. 4.0m to the southwest. As these trenches appear to have formed a single unit of excavation they will both be given the same excavation number (Excavation 1).

There was only one possible feature recorded by Butler relevant to this work; what she referred to as a "baby crematorio (dump)" (Feature 1, Str. 3). What Mary Butler means here is a matter of conjecture, a point not helped by a lack of relevant photographs, drawings or further notes. As Butler does not, however, refer to the fragments of bone, charcoal

and other materials which one might expect to be associated with an actual cremation site, and she does include the deposit within her series of "Dumps" for the site (a series which generally seems to refer to large deposits of ceramics) we might infer that Feature 1, Str. 3 is a small ("baby") midden deposit. Even if this point is accepted, we are still left in doubt with respects to several important aspects of this feature; i.e. where, precisely, is it found; what is its depth; and, perhaps most importantly, is Str. 3 actually a structure or a feature of some other sort entirely, i.e. a mound of backdirt collected as the result of repeated plaza sweepings? No evidence of architecture is described from this excavation and, as noted earlier, no photographs, drawings or further notes seem available to aid in a solution of these problems.

### Structure 1

Structure 1 consists of a rectangular platform c. 36.0m north-south by 8.0m east-west supporting on its northern half an apparent superstructure approximately 11.0m north-south by 8.0m east-west. The height of both platform and superstructure are 1.18m and 1.82m above ground surface, respectively. As with all of the other structures in the northern group, of which Str. 1 is the westernmost, this structure is oriented N5<sup>0</sup> E.

Exploration of this unit consisted of a single trench 2.0m x 1.0m dug into the northern face of the platform of Str. 1 near its northwest corner. (Excavation 2). No features, architectural or otherwise, were reported being found in the course of this excavation. I might, however, offer the very tentative suggestion that Structure 1 functioned as a residential

unit at Chama-Chichun. The evidence for this is, admittedly, scant and rests solely on the presence of a possible midden immediately adjacent to and west of the Str. 1 superstructure. The assumption, here, is that the material deposited in this occupational debris midden was simply cast off the rear (west side) of Str. 1 (See Test-Pitting Program, Excavation 7 for the description of this deposit.).

#### Structure 5

Structure 5, the northernmost of the structures at Chama-Chichun, consists of a rectangular platform c. 33.5m east-west by 13.5m north-south and 1.95m high surmounted by a square-shaped superstructure on its western end. This latter structure is approximately 11.5m on a side and its summit is c. 2.35m above ground level to the south. The orientation of Str. 5 seems to be  $W5^{\circ}N$ . As with the other structures at this site, Str. 5 was built immediately adjacent to the ridge line with, possibly, its western and eastern flanks slightly overlapping that ridge and continuing down slope for a short distance.

No excavations were carried out on this structure by Mary Butler.

#### Structure 4

Located on the eastern edge of the summit, Structure 4 consists of a rectangular platform approximately 40.0m north-south by 12.0m east-west, and c. 2.35m high, supporting a rectangular superstructure on its southern half. This superstructure is roughly 17.5m north-south by 8.0m east-west and is 2.75m above ground level. Str. 4 is oriented  $N5^{\circ}E$ .

Exploration of this structure by Mary Butler took the

form of a 3.5m x 1.5m test trench (Excavation 3) located roughly in the center of the south face. As with Excavation 2, this trench is only briefly noted by Butler and no reference is made to any features which she may have encountered.

### Structure 2

Structure 2 is the largest of the structures at Chama-Chichun, rising c. 5.62m above ground surface. It is roughly square in plan, measuring c. 25.0m east-west by 22.0m north-south and would seem to occupy a central position with respect to the site as a whole. (See Plan 1). As with the other structures of this northern group, Str. 2 was oriented N5°E.

Of all the structures at Chama-Chichun, Str. 2 would seem to have been the most thoroughly investigated. One trench, (Excavation 4) was focused on the northwest corner and measured c. 10.0m x 7.0m while a second, (Excavation 5) was situated at the approximate center of the north face and was irregularly shaped, (maximum dimensions 8.5m x 6.0m). In addition to these two major excavations, five small pits were scattered over the summit and upper northern and western flanks of Str. 2. As Butler does not refer to these excavations in her notes and fails to distinguish between them when presenting the material recovered, this group of five pits are, here, given the same excavation number (Excavation 6).

Before presenting the report on the excavations in Str. 2 I feel I must reemphasise a point made earlier. As with other work at this site, little attention was paid here to architectural detail and, what Butler does describe, is presented in only the vaguest of terms. Certain photographs and field sketches have provided some help in circumventing

this problem but, I am afraid, what is described below must be understood as only a very tentative interpretation, much of which only further excavation could substantiate.

In general, there seem to be two levels of earth uncovered in both Excavations 4 and 5. The higher of these is a layer of dark brown "disturbed" soil ranging in thickness between roughly 0.40m-0.80m, while the lower is a white sand horizon which seems to extend down well over a meter. It is very unclear how these apparently natural levels relate to the architectural features uncovered by Butler. In general, judging principally from photographs, it would seem that the level of the dark brown soil tends to overlay evidence of construction while the white sand seems to appear immediately beneath architectural features. It also seems probable that the fill of Str. 2 is largely composed of the white sand of level 2. In sum, therefore, it appears that Str. 2 was built upon the white sand horizon and, after abandonment, capped by the brown earth of level 1.

At least the lower portion of the northern wall was exposed at several points in the basal excavation of Str. 2. Best preserved in Excavation 5 at the structure's center, this wall was composed of two courses of rectangular, faced block masonry standing roughly two courses high (0.65m) (Feature 1, Str. 2). The stones utilised in this construction are not listed by Butler but appear, from photographs, to have been limestone (?). The orientation of this wall was W5°N which confirmed the readings taken earlier based solely on surface indications of the line of the structure. The northwest corner of this feature might have been encountered in Excavation 4

though here it seems far less well-preserved and there are no photographs to help guide our interpretation. Designated Feature 2, Str. 2, this 'corner' would seem to have consisted of a rough line of fairly crudely faced stones of diameters less than 0.30m and c. 0.50m high. (See Plan 2 for the rough locations of these features.) Based on examinations of photographs, it seems highly unlikely that this northern wall extended <sup>directly</sup> all the way up to the summit of Str. 2. More probably, what Butler uncovered may have represented the basal courses of a lower, northern terrace, though the height of this proposed terrace, whether its surface was paved or not and how many other such features might have existed is not known. Mary Butler also seems to have encountered c. 3.44m north of "the main northern wall" in Excavation 4 a "simple line of stones" oriented W5<sup>0</sup>N, (Feature 1, Excavation 4). While there is some doubt as to what this feature is, I might propose the very tentative suggestion that it represents the outer perimeter of, perhaps, a very low platform which extended northward from the face of Str. 2. Owing to my failure to determine any good connection between this feature and the body of Str. 2, however, I have designated this feature in reference to the excavation unit in which it was found, (See Plan 1).

One additional architectural detail was also encountered in Excavation 4. This was an alignment of irregularly shaped stones c. 0.37m in diameter running parallel to but at some distance insided the outer, northern wall (Feature 3, Str. 2). Owing to the rough nature of this alignment, it may well be that this feature represents some sort of fill-retaining wall, though, as with all of the other features thus far described,

insufficient evidence was available to make this designation more than tentative.

In addition to the above architectural features, Butler also located one cache and twenty-two burials in the course of her excavations in the north face and northwest corner of Str. 2 (Cache 1 and Burials 1-5, 7-23). These features will be treated in detail below.

#### Test-Pitting Program

The test-pitting program carried out by Butler consisted of seven small excavations situated at various points on the slope west of Str. 1. In one of these excavations a "small pottery dump" was located though, unfortunately, Butler does not specify in precisely which of these ~~excavations~~ it was found. On the basis of inferences from her notes and what seems to have been the logic of her excavations, I have tentatively identified the large 4.0m square immediately adjacent to the west flank of Str. 1 as the pit which struck this deposit and designated it Excavation 7, (See Plan 1). The remaining test pits were not reported on, nor were any materials, apparently, recovered from them. As a result, I have not given them excavation designations.

The midden recovered in Excavation 7 (Feature 1, Excavation 7) consisted of three levels of "disturbed brown soil" sloping down to both the west (downhill) and, most markedly, the south. On what basis these three levels are distinguished is unknown though it seems quite likely, given that each represents a rather consistent depth (c. 0.25m), that they are arbitrarily defined units. Feature 1, Excavation 7 seems to have been rather limited both horizontally and vertically, being contained

almost totally within the limits of Excavation 7 and extending down to a depth of no more than a meter below ground surface. This midden was underlain by a deep layer of white sand which extended down roughly two meters below the bottom of Feature 1, Excavation 7. The identified sherd material recovered from this deposit seems to have consisted largely of plumbate and fine-orange pieces, with little variation in "type or quantity from top to bottom" of the feature.

At some depth below Feature 1 (depth not given) "a pile of stones in white sand" was uncovered (Feature 2, Excavation 7). This collection of stones does not appear to have been very thick nor areally extensive, though neither of these dimensions are recorded. Immediately northeast and at the same level as the bottom of this feature was located the bundled remains of Burial 6. Burial 6 will be described in more detail below. It might be noted that Butler sees Feature 1 as a single episode of deposition intended to cover the stone pile (Feature 2) and Burial 6. While the lack of apparent differentiation in sherd materials from Levels 1-3 of Feature 1 would seem to suggest that this deposit was laid down over a relatively short period of time, I can find no good reason to suppose a firm relationship of the type envisioned by Butler between these various features. At present, I believe that it would be best to see these units as distinct features and not to presume a close temporal relationship.

#### Special Deposits

Because of the large number of special deposits to be dealt with and the need to have their descriptions in some easily comparable form, the following outline has been adopted.

After the designation of each feature has been given, the excavation in which it was found will be presented followed by its depth below datum, its location relative to other described features and, then, a brief description. Those units whose 'absolute' location within Excavations 4 or 5 can be inferred are marked with an asterik and the reader is referred to Plan 2 for reference.

\*Cache 1.

E  
Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.35m

Relative Location- Located at the approximate center of the north face of Str. 2 c. 0.30m below the line of the northern wall of Str. 2 (Feature 1, Str. 2).

Description- Cache 1 consisted of one complete, globular vessel (A3/20 field designation) resting on and between five large stones<sup>Each</sup> roughly 0.40m x 0.20m x 0.10m. Several of these stones look as if they were faced. The type of stone used looks similar to that used in the construction of Str. 2 (limestone?). This group of stones was not merely part of a continuous deposit of fill but appears to represent a unique collection of this material intended solely for deposit with the aforementioned vessel.

\*Burial 1.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 0.98m

Relative Location- Located "just inside the(northwest) corner" of the northern wall of Str. 2 (Feature 2, Str. 2). Situated as it is within the white sand of Level 2, it would appear that this interment was at least within the fill of Str. 2 if not actually below the level of Feature 2.

Description- A largely fragmented interment, the skeleton was oriented S15<sup>0</sup>W and consisted of fragments of skull and several long bones extending over an area roughly 1.4m north-south by 0.40m east-west.

Burial 2.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 0.55m

Relative Location- Resting immediately east (the exact distance is unknown) of Burial 1 this interment is situated at

the interface between the brown disturbed soil of Level 1 and the white sand of Level 2.

Description- Unfortunately, Burial 2 had "everything below approximately the fifth rib removed" during excavation and we are left in doubt as to how complete this skeleton originally was. Despite this loss and the rotten nature of the bones, Butler reports that this burial was oriented roughly east-west.

\*Burial 3.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.19m

Relative Location- Burial 3 was situated in "the sand (Level 2) between Burials 1 and 2 and below both". This interment was also overlain by the the wall designated Feature 2, Str. 2.

Description- Oriented N20°E with its head to the south, and covering an area roughly 1.8m north-south by 0.80m east-west, Burial 3 was found within a "stone cyst" composed of two parallel lines of rather irregularly-shaped stones. These stones flanked the body on its immediate east and west sides and supported, at least over the head, a transversely laid covering stone. The sizes of these stones ranged 0.40m x 0.15m and the number of courses composing the cyst is unknown as is their height and composition. The skeleton was extended on its back, fully articulated and identified by Butler as male.

\*Burial 4.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.45m

Relative Location- Located within the same white, sandy matrix as Burial 3 and c. 0.50m directly to the north of that latter interment.

Description- Oriented N20°E with its head to the south, and covering an area roughly 2.2m north-south by 0.70m east-west, Burial 4, according to Butler, was interred within a stone cyst. The outline of such a 'cyst' surrounding Burial 4 would seem to be rather sketchy, with only four stones forming an arc about the head of the skeleton and two located along the skeleton's west side. These six remaining stones are oval in shape and measure roughly 0.30m by 0.15m. As with Burial 3 the nature of these stones and their height are unknown. The skeleton is extended on its back, still articulated and complete except that the bones below the knee are missing. Located c. 0.50m north of the base of the femora were three vessels (A3/15).

\*Burial 5.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.92m

Relative Location- Located c. 0.70m west of Cache 1 in the white sand of Level 2. Burial 5 was situated c. 0.45m below the bottom of the wall exposed in Excavation 5 (Feature 1, Str. 2) and extended southward c. 1.0m under Str. 2.

Description- Oriented almost due north-south, the bones of this skeleton were apparently quite jumbled with fragments of skull, long bones and pelvis occurring within an area roughly 1.15m north-south by 0.22m east-west. Three vessels were located c. 0.10m north of the main bone concentration, just north of and below the line of Feature 1, and seem to be associated with Burial 5. (A3/18<sup>A</sup> and 18<sup>b-c</sup>).

Burial 6.

Excavation- 7

Depth- ?m

Relative Location- Burial 6 was located in a white, sandy matrix at some point below the 'midden' uncovered in Excavation 7 (Feature 1, Excavation 7) and northeast of and at the same level as the stone pile designated Feature 2, Excavation 7.

Description- Burial 6 was a very compact, tightly bundled interment occupying an area c. 0.45m east-west by 0.25m north-south. Two small jade beads were found accompanying this burial.

\*Burial 7.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.32m

Relative Location- Located in the sandy matrix of Level 2, approximately 0.40m north of Burial 4 and c. 3.0m north of the exposed northern wall of Str. 2, this deposit was overlain by the "simple line of stones" designated Feature 1, Excavation 4.

Description- Oriented roughly due north-south with its head to the south and covering an area c. 1.55m north-south by 0.70m east-west, Burial 7 was placed within a stone cyst. The stones composing this "cyst" were irregularly-shaped, and ranged in size around 0.30m x 0.15m, and enclosed the body on all four sides. The number of courses of stone involved, their height and composition are unknown. The skeleton seems to have been extended on its back with legs flexed at the knee. Only the skull, two humeri and several jumbled leg and hand bones remained. One vessel (A3/19) and a solitary skull were found c. 0.80m northeast and c. 0.15m north of the perimeter of the cyst respectively. It is difficult to establish any sure relationship between these items and Burial 7.

\*Burial 8.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.56m

Relative Location- Located c. 0.90-1.10m northeast of Cache 1 and largely north<sup>below</sup> and outside of the line of Feature 1, Str. 2, and within the white sand of Level 2.

Description- Burial 8 consists of a fairly scattered array of bones covering an area roughly 2.2m north-south by 0.40m east-west. Fragments of pelvis, femor, tibia(?), and several arm bones compose this interment. It should be noted that the presence of a dark stain extending from the surface down to this burial might suggest that Burial 8 was intruded into level 2 from above.

\*Burial 9.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.89m

Relative Location- Burial 9 is situated c. 0.45m immediately below Cache 1 and, apparently, quite close to the southward extension of Burial 8.

Description- The skeleton appears to be fairly complete and articulated. It is tightly flexed on its left side and oriented E15°S with its head to the east. The area covered by this burial was 0.75m east-west and 0.45m north-south. Found with the burial was a "small axe" (A3/41) and 9 jade beads in the area of the neck and jaw (A3/40). The axe was located c. 0.10m south of the skeleton.

\*Burial 10.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.54m

Relative Location- Located c. 0.30-0.50m due south of Burial 5 within the white sand of Level 2.

Description- While Butler refers to this skeleton as being "tightly flexed" it would seem, from her field drawings, to have been, rather, a bundle of bones with no apparent articulation among its members. The interment was oriented roughly northwest-southeast and covered an area approximately 0.60m northwest-southeast by 0.40m northeast-southwest. In addition to the bones of the skeleton, three vessels (A3/21 and 26) and four chipped obsidian knives (A3/36) were located at the southern margins of the main bone concentration.

Burial 11.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.45m

Relative Location- Burial 11 is not mentioned by Butler in her fieldnotes nor is it photographed. As a result, outside of being able to assign it a general location within Excavation 4, I cannot, at this time, be more exact.

Description- Burial 11 was oriented approximately due north-south and it would seem that interment was within a prepared stone-lined receptacle which surrounded the body on four sides. The stones used in this construction were irregularly shaped, and c. 0.25m x 0.10m in size. As with Burials 3, ~~4~~<sup>3, 4</sup> there seem to have been several gaps in the placement of these stones, some as wide as 0.40m. Whether such openings were intentional or the result of later robbings of stone is not known. The area covered by this cyst was c. 2.75m north-south by 0.85m east-west. The three bones composing this burial were very fragmented and scattered within the bounds of the stones defining the cyst wall. One jade bead (A3/37) was found with Burial 11.

Burial 12.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.09m

Relative Location- Situated at the interface between Levels 1 and 2,

Description- This burial receives only scant attention in the fieldnotes and never seems to have been drawn or photographed. According to Butler, this burial consisted of an extended interment, head to the south, with all bones save for the lower jaw, right arm and several right-hand side ribs missing. Butler believes that Burial 12 was originally placed within a ston-lined cyst though only four of these stones now remain.

Burial 13.

Excavation- 5

Depth- ?

Relative Location- Burial 13 was never drawn, photographed and only received a one-line mention in the fieldnotes. "Bones appear just west of Burial 5."

Description- This burial was described by Butler as "flexed."

Burial 14.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.40m

Relative Location- Located in the white sand of Level 2, "just under Burial 12 but with a layer of stone between."

Description- Burial 14 consists solely of six leg bones with no apparent articulation among the members. The area covered by this interment is c. 0.55m north-south by 0.20m east west. The bones appear to be tightly bundled.

\*Burial 15.

Excavation -55

Depth- 1.03m

Relative Location- Burial 15 was located c. 0.60-0.80m east of Cache 1, partially underlying but mostly extending north of the line of Feature 1, Str. 2. Burial 15 was located in the white sand of Level 2.

Description- Oriented S25<sup>0</sup>W, Burial 15 was tightly flexed on its right side and covered an area approximately 0.50m northeast-southwest by 0.35m northwest-southeast. Under the knees of this interment was a plumbate vessel (A3/29).

Burial 16.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.02m

Relative Location- Only very brief notes and a single sketch refer to this interment. It was located c. 0.20-0.40m south of Burial 18 (see below).

Description- Burial 16 would appear to have consisted of a single skull (face down).

\*Burial 17.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.50m

Relative Location- Located apparently near (though the distance and precise azimuth involved are not given) the northeast corner of Str. 2.

Description- Oriented roughly due north-south, Burial 18 consists of four long bones deposited within a stone cyst tomb, the entire southeastern quarter of which is missing. The extant portion of this cyst reveals a construction of irregular stones (c 0.30 x 0.15m in size) with stone slabs (dimensions unknown) laid across the top. The area covered by this deposit was

approximately 1.55m north-south by 1.15 m east-west. One whole vessel (A3/61) was found in association with this deposit.

Burial 18.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.81m

Relative Location- I was unable to locate this burial with respect to any of the previously described features in this area.

Description- Burial 18 would appear to be a collection of fragmented, jumbled bones (including pieces of cranium) covering an area approximately 0.35m north-south by 0.40m east-west. One sherd was found with this burial (A3/62).

\*Burial 19.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 1.16m

Relative Location- Located immediately (c. 0.29m) below Burial 15.

Description- Immediately below Burial 15 Butler noted a "cairn" or pile of stones and a "dark stain going down". It was within this deposit of stones that Burial 19 was located. Several very fragmentary skull and long bone fragments composed this burial. Beneath the level of this interment Butler notes that "only one more layer of big stones" was located but that the dark stain continued downward.

\*Burial 20.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 2.19m

Relative Location- Located c. 0.50m immediately below Burial 19 and 1.20m below Burial 15, in the white sand of Level 2. Burial 20 also appears to underly Feature 1, Str. 2 though to what extent is not known.

Description- For approximately 0.50m below Burial 19 the dark brown stain noted above (containing charcoal flecks, fragments of bone and sherds) continues down until it terminates at the level of Burial 20. This latter interment consisted of two individuals, one extended and oriented roughly east-west with its head to the east while the other appears to have been tightly flexed or bundled and deposited along with the bulk of the attendant vessels at the northeast corner of the interment. While one of these skeletons appears extended in plan, it should be noted that a great many of its bones are missing especially those above the pelvis. The area covered by the burial is roughly 2.4m east-west by 1.2m north-south. Associated with this burial were eight vessels (A~~3~~/64) most of them

clustered in the northeastern portion of the interment with several others scattered near its central and western portions.

Burial 21.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.09m above datum.

Relative Location- Located in the white sand of Level 2 within (to the south of) the north wall of Str. 2 (Feature 1, Str. 2.)

Description- Burial 21 consists of "one molar between two tibia heading west". This burial does not appear to have been photographed, drawn or noted in any detail.

Burial 22.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.30m above datum.

Relative Location- Located within the brown, disturbed soil of Level 1 and extending c. 0.66m into the area behind Feature 1, Str. 2. It is apparently in the same general area as Burial 21.

Description- Consists of the largely disarticulated remains of what Butler suggests is one individual.. Orientation is roughly east-west with its head to the east and it covers an area c. 1.45m east-west by 0.35m north-south.

Burial 23.

Excavation- 5

Depth- 0.65m above datum.

Relative Location- Located in the same general area as Burials 21 and 22 and within the same disturbed brown soil as Burial 22.

Description- This interment appears to have consisted of a single bone which was later lost. This interment may be considered a dubious addition to this list of burials.

Feature 1.

Excavation- 4

Depth- 1.55m

Relative Location- No photographs or scale drawings of this feature seem to be available and I cannot, at present, locate this feature with respect to the other features already described.

Description- This feature would seem to represent the stone outline of a stone cyst which seems empty of any interment. Feature 1 was built up of 11 irregularly-shaped stones (of unknown height) outlining an area c 0.45m wide. The orientation and length of this feature are not known. Contained within the space defined by these stones were one small fragment of bone and one complete vessel (A3/25).

\*Feature 2.

Excavation- 4

Depth- ?

Relative Location- Located c. 0.50m south<sup>EAST</sup>west of Burial 17. No photographs or scale drawings are, at present, available.

Description- Feature 2 is the partial outline of what seems to have been another empty stone cyst. This feature consisted of only eight stones composing what would have been the northwest corner of this cyst. It is not completely clear whether the rest of the stones were missing or if the remaining area was not excavated .

Table 1.

Structure Designation Equivalences

Mary Butler's Designations

Mound 1

Mound 2

Mound 3

Mound 4

Mound 5

Southwesternmost Structure

Burial Designation Equivalences

Burial 1

" 2

" 3

" 4

" 5

" 6

" 7

" 8

" 9

" 10

Grave 11

Burial 12

" 13

" 14

" 15

" 16

New Designations

Structure 1

Structure 2

Structure 3

Structure 4

Structure 5

Structure 6

Burial 1

" 2

" 3

" 4

" 5

" 6

" 7

" 8

" 9

" 10

Feature 1

Burial 11

" 12

" 13

" 14

" 15

Table 1. (cont.)

Burial Designation Equivalences

Mary Butler's Designations

New Designations

Burial 17

Burial 16

" 18

" 17

" 19

" 18

" 20

" 19

" 21

" 20

" 22

" 21

" 23

" 22

" 24

" 23

Cyst southeast of Burial 18

Feature 2

Table 2.

Brief Description of Material Found with Burials.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
A3/20	Cache 1	Globular jar; orange- Buff; Unslipped.
A3/15a	Burial 4	Globular, long-necked jar; Brown with red design.
A3/15b	"	Brown, globular jar.
A3/15c	"	Basally flanged, ring-based, polychrome bowl; red on orange, black interior.
A3/19	NE of Burial 7	Brown, globular bowl; vertically- ribbed exterior.
A3/21a	Burial 10	Tripod bowl, orange to brown.
A3/21b	"	"Hour-glass" shaped bowl; unslipped.
A3/26c	"	Globular jar, plumbate; gadrooned sides; Deep Gray.
A3/24	Burial 15	Similar to A3/26, Globular, gadrooned- sided, plumbate jar.
A3/61	Burial 17	Polychrome bowl; red and black on orange; depicts in red, a bird between two hor- izontal bands of red, both edged in black.
A3/12a	Burial 5	Orange, flanged bowl.
A3/12b	"	Brown globular jar.
A3/12c	"	Black, globular jar.
A3/25	Feature 1	Red-slipped, flanged tripod bowl (feet missing).

Table 2.(cont.)

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
A3/64a	Burial 20	Polychrome bowl, ring-base; snake design in red, gray and black on orange.
A3/64b	"	"
A3/64c	"	Polychrome bowl, ring-base with snake design in red, buff and black on orange.
A3/64d	"	Same as above but with snake design in red and black on orange.
A3/64e	"	Black, tripod bowl.
A3/64f	"	"
A3/64g	"	Black, flanged, tripod bowl with applied designs on the legs.
A3/64	"	Brown bowl, smoked with three panels containing two horizontal rows of 9 "bumps" each.

Addendum:

It should be noted that I could find nothing in Mary Butler's records to ~~indicate or~~ locate <sup>Absolutely</sup> the various burials she refers to in her notes. She seems to have used a system of triangulation from two known points in her location of these features, but I could not, on the basis of her records, reconstruct these points. As a result, Plan 2 is an attempt to locate the various features relevant to Str. 2 in a very approximate fashion and should not be taken as an absolute plan ~~of these features~~. Its purpose is largely illustrative.

Structure 2, Lithics

Field Designation	Museum Accession No.	Context	Description	Evaluation
A1/1	40-20-33	West side, surface.	Obsidian burin (1)	Sketch.
A1/4	40-20-24	West wall, among stones.	Mano fragment, greenish diorite?(1)	"
A1/5	40-20-39	West side, under stones.	Mano fragment, greenish diorite.(1)	Sketch, dimensions given.
A1/8	40-20-27	Excavation 14, surface-0.20m	Rubbing stone fragment, greenish diorite. (1)	Sketch
A1/9	40-20-30	"	Metate fragment, Tufa. (1)	Sketch, dimensions given.
A1/10	40-20-38	"	Stone ball.	Dimensions given.
A1/11	40-20-37	West side, surface.	Crude head, reddish sandstone pebble.	Sketch.
A1/13	_____	Str. 2.	Fragment of graphite?	_____

\* Museum Accession Numbers refer to the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania collections.

@ Refers to collections units for which there exists a conflict; i.e. two lists give conflicting accounts of the content of a unit, etc...

Structure 2, Ceramics

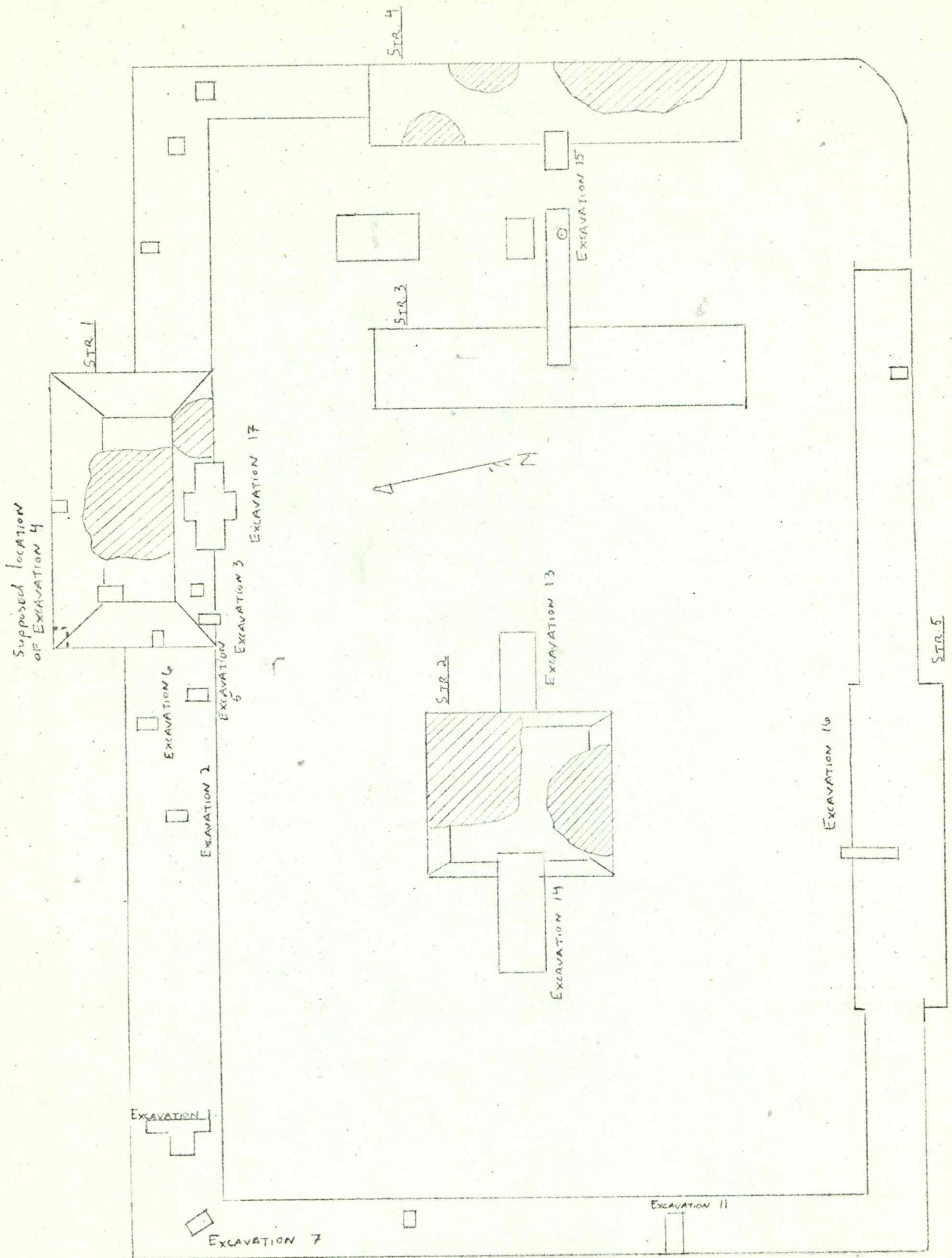
<u>Field Designation</u>	<u>Museum Accession No.*</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
A1/51	40-20-14G	Excavation 14, beginning Layer 1.	3 male figurine heads, mould-made, Classic, 1 complete and 2 broken.	Some qualitative description.
A1/52	40-20-14A	Surface, west side.	53 sherds	_____
A1/53	40-20-13A	Excavation 14, surface-0.20m	37 sherds, decorated.	Qualitative description of sherds, some sketches.
"	40-20-13B	"	3 Figurine fragments.	_____
"	40-20-13C	"	Clay lump.	_____
A1/54	40-20-16A	Excavation 13, east surface.	3 decorated sherds.	Qualitative description, several sketches.
A1/55	40-20-14C <sup>ⓐ</sup>	Excavation 14, beginning Layer 1.	3 decorated sherds.	Qualitative description.
A1/59	40-20-14H	West side, surface.	Figurine head, monkey, modeled.	Qualitative description.
A1/61	40-20-14D	Excavation 14, Layer 2.	5 decorated sherds.	Qualitative description.
A1/62	40-20-14F	Excavation 14, surface-0.20m at foot of steps.	5 decorated sherds.	Qualitative description.
A1/63	40-20-14E <sup>ⓐ</sup>	Excavation 14, Layer 3.	1 decorated sherd	Qualitative description.
A1/65	40-20-14B <sup>ⓐ</sup>	Excavation 14, Layer 1, fill inside stones.	5 sherds and a portion of a negative-painted vessel.	Qualitative description, plus drawing with dim- ensions of the vessel. <u>A.T. 27.</u>

Structure 2, Ceramics




Field Designation	Museum Accession No.	Context	Description	Evaluation
—	40-20-13	Excavation 14, surface-0.20m	466 sherds.	Some sketches of rim profiles.
—	40-20-15	West, c. 0.20m below surface.	1 partially re-constructable brownish slipped bowl.	Qualitative description
—	40-20-16	Excavation 13, surface.	139 sherds.	Some sketches of rim profiles.
—	40-20-17	West side, 10 inches deep.	218 sherds	Qualitative description Late Classic.
—	40-20-18	Layer 1, black earth.	159 sherds	Qualitative description Late Classic.
—	40-20-19	Excavation 14, Layer 1.	29 sherds.	Qualitative description Late Classic.
—	40-20-20	Excavation 14, Layer 2.	27 sherds	Qualitative description Late Classic.
Combined from A1/52 and A1/55	40-20-14J	Surface and beginning of Layer 1, west side.	13 figurine fragments.	Qualitative description
—	40-20-16B	Excavation 13, surface.	1 pottery disk	_____
—	40-20-16C	"	1 figurine fragment	_____

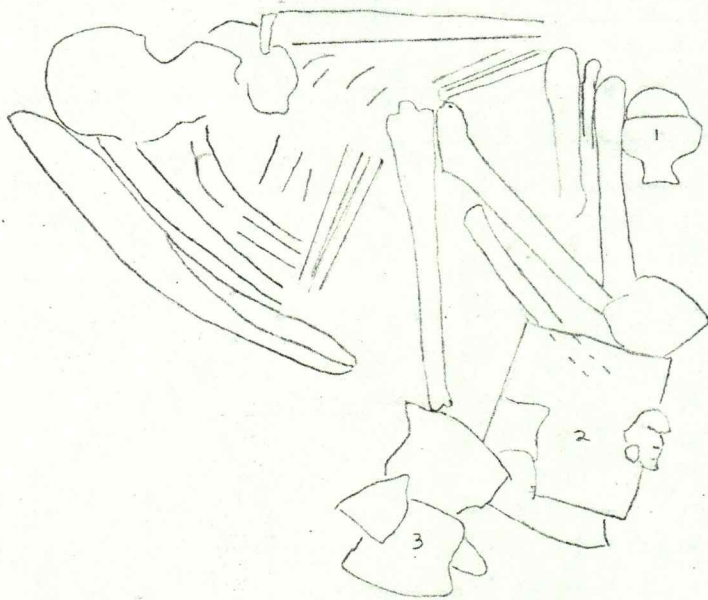
Structure 2, Photographs

<u>Photo Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Direction Taken From</u>	<u>Camera Setting</u>
No. 6	Strs. 5 and 2.	NW. from Str. 1.	3/16: f6-1/50
No. 10	West side trench showing Layers 1-3 (Excavation 14).	West, 15 feet.	3/18: f10-3
No. 7	Strs. 2 and 1.	South, from Str. 5.	3/16: f6-1/50
?	West side trench showing Layers 1-3 (Excavation 14).	?	3/18: f10-3



Scale 1:500

-  EXCAVATIONS KNOWN TO MARY BUTLER
-  MARY BUTLER'S EXCAVATIONS (NUMBERED WHERE KNOWN)
-  LOCATION OF CACHE 1



BURIAL 1, Deepest  
INTERMENT

SCALE 1:10

DESIGNATION:

- #1 PLUMBATE VESSEL
- #2 RATTLE BASE CYLINDER  
JAR
- #3 RED TIGER-HEAD  
TRIPOD

## Excavations in Group A

Chama Group A is composed of six recognized structures; two (Structures 2 and 3) are located within the rectangular area defined by the low, <sup>perimeter</sup> encircling wall (Structure 6), while the remaining three (Structures 1, 4 and 5) are situated at points along that wall (See Plan 1). In the following discussion, each of the six structures will be considered separately, starting with the enclosing wall (Str. 6) then, the southernmost of Mary Butler's "mounds", Str. 5, and onwards, proceeding counter-clockwise to a consideration of Strs. 4, 3, 2 and 1. This order roughly parallels Butler's original emphases, beginning with those structures to which she devoted the least attention, i.e. Str. 5, and continuing towards those which apparently received the most. While the special deposits recovered during these investigations will be mentioned in connection with the structures in which they are found, their detailed consideration will be reserved until after the descriptions of individual structures. The results of the test-pitting program within this complex will be presented last. In all that follows, the new standardized designation system suggested by Drs. Coe and Sharer will be employed. (See Table 1 for the equivalences between Butler's field designations and the system used here.) One final comment should be made before beginning the following discussion. On the basis of what Butler actually did in Group A and, to a lesser extent, on what she said about what she did I believe we can infer two

dates of work

of her general objectives for work within this group. First, and perhaps the most important of the two, she seemed to be concerned with collecting ceramic materials from this complex in order to date it. Second, to delineate the architectural details of the structures of this group. The more specific objectives which each excavation was hoped to accomplish will be discussed as they become relevant within the text.

Structure 6 - a wall structure?

Structure 6 was, apparently, a relatively low wall enclosing a rectangular open space roughly 95 m east-west by 55.5 m north-south. The width of the wall, itself, varied between its four arms, the widest point being the western portion of the north arm, c. 8 m, while the western, southern and eastern sides were all 5 m. Examination of the plans and sketches of this group would seem to indicate that the southeastern corner of this structure was either open or slightly lower than other points along the wall. As this 'gap' is not mentioned by Butler we are left in doubt as to whether such an opening actually exists and, if so, how it appears on the ground, i.e. is it merely a lower point on the wall or a well-defined entry point into the group.

Excavations in this structure, in addition to concentrating primarily on the location of stratified sherd deposits (See Test-Pitting Program, below) also produced some information on the architectural nature of this structure. First, it would appear that this wall was built up of earth with no evidence of any stone facing. Second, both Excavations 1 and 11, the only

excavation units which were reported on in sufficient detail to permit these inferences to be drawn, produced evidence of a pumice pebble surface at some depth below the summit of the structure. These surfaces are designated Features 1 and 2 <sup>OF STR. 6</sup> as, to my mind, insufficient evidence exists to establish their existence as one contemporary feature.

Structure 5

Structure 5 appears, in plan, to be a relatively low, long rectangular structure incorporated within the earth wall which encloses this group (Str. 6). Its dimensions are, approximately, 28 m east-west by 8 m north-south.

Exploration of this structure consisted of a trench, located roughly in the center of the north face, and extending from the 'plaza' to about the center of the structure. (Excavation 16). In addition to this principal excavation, a smaller pit (Excavation 10) was sunk into the summit of Str. 5. In addition to the general goals of collecting ceramics and defining the architectural nature of this structure, these excavations seem to have been designed to determine if the well-defined pebble surface encountered in the environs of Strs. 2, 3 and 4 (see below) might be located adjacent to this structure. If so, the relationship between Str. 5 and this surface was also to be determined.

With respect to the first objective, no definite pebble surface was found in or adjacent to the north face of Str. 5. Rather, a "heavy" layer of white sand <sup>(FEATURE 1) EXCAVATION 10</sup> was located which began at about the same level as the surface noted in the area of Str. 2. Whether this sand acted as some sort of 'substitute' for

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a pebble surface in this area or how it relates to the pebble surfaces noted elsewhere in the group was not securely determined. Excavations were not sufficiently extensive to allow a full understanding of the original plan of this structure. All that can be noted with some surity is that Str. 5 consisted of oblong, roughly faced blocks of stone over a core of earth fill. The summit pit (Excavation 10), did reveal the remains of a stucco floor and walls with a large posthole containing burnt wood and mezcla being found in the floor. Again, there is insufficient evidence available in the notes to give even a rough idea of the size of this feature<sup>2</sup> (here designated Features 2, the walls and floor of stucco, and 3, the posthole<sup>3</sup>). The goal of collecting ceramic materials was, also, only partially successful. Some "Household" ware sherds were recovered from beneath the floor on the summit, to which Butler gives a very tentative date of Chama 4. By and large, however, very little artifactual material was recovered from the excavations in this structure. Given the apparent length of the trench dug into the north face of this structure and the lack of any reference to an earlier structure being found therein, I believe that we can infer that Str. 5 was solely a single-component structure.

#### Structures 4 and 3 (Ballcourt)

These structures are dealt with together as Mary Butler considered them as components in a single 'functional' unit; a ballcourt. Whether this interpretation is correct or not, I have decided to treat these two structures as a unit, first, because very little work was carried out on Str. 4 by Butler and its presentation here makes for an economy of description, and, second, because much of Butler's work in the area of

these two structures is not understandable unless both Strs. 3 and 4 are considered as a single unit.

These structures are both long, c. 32 m north-south, and narrow, c. 7 m east-west, and parallel each other with an orientation of N. 10 degrees E. Str. 4 is approximately 2.2 m high and appears to be incorporated within the encircling earth wall (Str. 6). Str. 3 is c. 1.3 m high and stands directly opposite Str. 4 at a distance of c. 16 m to the west. As noted above, Str. 4 was not deeply trenched, perhaps owing to the extensive disturbance caused by earlier excavations, and no information specific to it was recovered from the notes.

A long trench, c. 20.5 m east-west (Excavation 15) was dug along the centerline between Structures 3 and 4 and extending to near the center of Str. 3. In addition to this principal excavation, a pit was dug on the west side of Str. 3 and several pits were dug in the northern portion of the intervening area between Strs. 3 and 4. These pits were not given excavation numbers as no material was, evidently, recovered from them and they are mentioned but rarely within the notes. The specific objective of these investigations, in addition to the more general ones <sup>of RECOVERING CERAMIC AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION</sup> noted earlier, was to recover ballcourt markers and to delineate the boundary lines of the 'ballcourt'. The nature of the surface intervening between Strs. 3 and 4 was also to be determined, i.e. was there a prepared 'plaza' in this zone? etc...

Str. 3, like Str. 5, consisted of a rock facing over earth fill. Excavation 15, the long centerline trench, was continued to the approximate center of Str. 3 and does not

against?

appear to have encountered any evidence of an earlier construction. The earth fill encountered was, as with Str. 5, very poor in cultural materials (c. 1 sherd/<sup>cube</sup>yard of fill.). Excavation 15 also revealed a surface of quartz pebbles at a depth of c. 0.15 m below the surface in the area between Strs. 3 and <sup>(FEATURE 1, EXCAVATION 15)</sup>44. How extensive was this surface, i.e. was it found throughout the area uncovered by Excavation 15 and the two pits dug to the north, was not discussed by Butler. The <sup>bottom of the</sup> east wall of Str. 3 apparently lies well below the level of this surface, thereby indicating the possibility that this structure predates the construction of the quartz pebble surface. Also located during the excavation of the long centerline trench <sup>AT THE APPROXIMATE MIDDLE POINT BETWEEN STRS. 3 AND 4,</sup> was the deposit designated Cache 1. This deposit consisted of a large stone, incorporated within Feature 1 of Excavation 15 and protruding c. 0.08 m above it, which capped a deposit of polychrome sherds and sandstone and pyrite mirrors. A more detailed consideration of this feature is reserved for later in this report.

## Structure 2

Structure 2 was the first structure of Chama Group A to be excavated by Butler in 1940. It is located in the approximate center of the space defined by Str. 6 and is approximately 26.5 m west of Str. 3. The form of this structure is roughly square, c. 14 m east-west by 17 m north-south. The orientation, taken along its west wall, is N <sup>OE mag?</sup> 10 degrees E, which seems to line it up, more or less, with the other structures of this group.   
*where?*

Owing to the disturbance caused by previous excavations on the summit, northeast corner, and south side explorations were confined to trenches oriented perpendicularly to the lines of

Str. 2, extending from the 'plaza' into the center of the east (Excavation 13), and west faces (Excavation 14). In neither case does this structure appear to have been deeply penetrated. A pit was also begun on the west face of this structure but apparently yielded very little as it seems never to have been labelled nor the material described. As with all of the other excavations in this group, we might infer from her actions that Butler was attempting to gain information on the architectural nature of this structure, its chronological position as indicated by the associated artifactual material, and, more specifically, to determine if any special deposits/burials similar to the deposit located near Str. 1 (see below) might also be located here.

Two architectural features were almost immediately uncovered by Butler's trenching on the east side of Str. 2. The first, Feature 1 of Excavation 13, was a thin line of pebbles located c. 0.05 m below ground level. Because of the proximity of this feature to the modern ground line and the fact that it was restricted in occurrence to the west corner of the trench,

Butler concluded that this pebble line might represent debris outwash from R. Burkitt's earlier excavations in this structure. The second feature, Feature 2 of Excavation 13, was a more well-defined surface of pumice stone pebbles located approximately 0.30-0.40 m below the surface. Excavation 14 encountered much the same configuration of features, with an irregular line of pebbles near the surface (Excavation 14, Feature 1), and a pumice pebble surface (Feature 2, Excavation 14) at a depth of about 0.40 m. In both cases, sherds were

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few and badly worn in the earth above the pumice pebble surfaces and virtually non-existent beneath them. Butler also mentions, with respect to Excavation 14, that three levels of earth were associated with these features. The highest stratigraphically was the black earth which contained the first line of pebbles (Feature 1); below that was a layer of brown "clayey" soil which overlies Feature 2; a red clay level underlies this feature.

Following the pumice pebble surface east in Excavation 14 Butler encountered a jumble of stone which, according to her interpretation, could have represented either a stair or rock outfall (Feature 1, Structure 2). Further east, into Str. 2, Butler encountered what she seems to feel was a more probable line of steps, consisting of two courses of stone, the top being c. 0.95 m above the level of Feature 2, Excavation 14. This feature is designated Feature 2, Str. 2. This 'step line' was only exposed, so it seems, to a width of three stones. In terms of the more general architectural characteristics of this structure, Str. 2, like Strs. 5 and 3, appears to consist of an exterior layer of stones roughly faced on their outer surface overlying a fill of undetermined composition. Chunks of *mezcla* were also used, here, as chinking stones. It is also of interest to note that the pumice pebble surface identified in Excavation 14 appears to continue under Str. 2, thereby suggesting that it might predate that structure. In addition, Butler notes that the similarity in elevation of this surface in both Excavations 13 and 14 suggests that these features were at least contemporary, if not parts of the same constructional unit. This latter unit Butler tends to call

a 'plaza floor'.

A final feature, Feature 3, Str. 2, was noted at some point near the west wall of Str. 2. It appears to have consisted of a "domed-shaped fill" of black earth, ash, burnt clay and much charcoal and might represent, according to Butler, a pit excavated from the layer of Black earth noted earlier into the level of brown clay. Unfortunately, I found the description of this feature to be too vague to determine exactly how it related to Str. 2 and to the layers of earth noted stratigraphically.

superimposed "structures"

As mentioned earlier, both Butler's field notes and plans would seem to indicate that the excavations carried out in Str. 2 were not sufficiently extensive to determine if there had been earlier phases of construction.

Structure 1

Structure 1, according to Butler the largest of the structures of this group, is rectangular in shape, c. 24 m east-west by 14.5 m north-south. It is situated on the northern boundary of the plaza. There is some doubt in my mind how this structure relates to the dirt enclosing wall (Str. 6). The plan and several references by Butler would seem to suggest that, at least the southern half of Str. 1 was built on top of this wall, though the paucity of excavated evidence relating directly to this question would seem to suggest that this need not be the case. In accordance with the other structures of this group, the south wall of Str. 1 is oriented W 10 degrees N. Exploration was carried out by axial trenching along the centerline of the south face, beginning c. 2 m south of the structure and extending into it c. 2.5 m.

What's the color of the pumice pebble surface anyway? Why significant?

(Excavation 17). This excavation was later expanded both west and east to follow exposed architectural features. Test-pitting was also carried out in those areas least disturbed by previous excavators, primarily the northwest (Excavation 4) and northeast (unnumbered excavation) corners. Several pits were also run in other areas of the structure, of these only Excavation 3 near the southwest corner can be definitely identified. The principal stated objective of these excavations was to determine if the "plaza floor" (the pumice pebble surface located near Str. 2) already known from Excavations 13 and 14 could be located along the south face of this structure and, if so, how these two architectural features were related. In addition, information on the architecture and artifactual associations of this structure was also sought.

As with other structures excavated in this group, insufficient architectural detail was exposed to allow the delineation of a complete plan. What was recovered indicates that Str. 1 was stepped or terraced, the exposed lower portion of its southern wall consisting of at least two courses of faced stone masonry, the lower projecting out from beneath the upper about one stone's width. I could not fathom whether Mary Butler conceived of this 'stepped' effect as the product of natural actions 'springing' the masonry or as a purposefully set step. On the basis of Butler's photographs, I am tentatively designating this projection as Feature 1, Str. 1 as it appears to represent a purposefully laid step. The terrace up to which these steps led would seem, from available photographs, to have been quite low, approximately two courses of stone high. The surface of this terrace was supposed to have

Work commenced August 1st

been covered by a pebble surface (Feature 2, Str. 1) though this does not show up clearly in the Pictures examined. The dimensions of this terrace and its relationship to other features, if any, is not detailed. It must be noted that the above architectural description is based on, what I feel to be, very shaky grounds. Butler, in her notes, was quite vague concerning these features and, I fear, I have not been able to much improve upon this original state. No definite indication of the nature of the fill of this structure is given. Attempts to link the so-called plaza floor with this structure were frustrated. In a situation similar to that encountered near Str. 5, a definite pebble surface was not located immediately in front of Str. 1. Rather, a fill of white sand, Feature 1, Excavation 17, was found at roughly the same depth as the pebble surface located in Excavations 13 and 14. A pebble surface of some sort, Feature 2, Excavation 17?, was located in work west of the centerline but how it relates to Str. 1, the previously noted pebble surfaces/white sand fills, or even to the System of excavations was not indicated.

A further architectural note concerns the possible presence of an earlier construction within Str. 1. ~~Butler~~ Butler encountered at some point in her excavations, presumably on the centerline (but this is not well established) what she termed "an early platform rising in steps east to west" within the fill of Str. 1. While the description of this feature was rather brief, it apparently having been exposed over only a very limited extent, it would seem that this 'platform' was relatively low, composed of gray-brown clay with some stone facing and to have been associated with a possible pebble

surface (Feature 3, Str. 1) on the west. This latter feature apparently sits at about the same level as the white sand fill in front of Str. 1 (Feature 1, Excavation 17). This platform seems, later, to have been overlaid by orange sandy soil presumably representing a portion of the fill of the now visible Str. 1. Owing to the limited amount of data available on this 'structure' and the fact that, in parts, what is available seems ambiguous, it is designated here as a feature and not added to the list of structures (Feature 4, Str.1).

In addition to the above architectural features, a burial within a rock cairn was uncovered near the center of the south face of Str. 1 by Excavation 17, (Burial 1). This feature is treated separately below.

#### Test-Pitting Program

The test-pitting program carried out by Mary Butler at the Chama Plaza encompassed 11 small excavations scattered at various points about the group, but principally along the summit of Str. 6. Unfortunately, a good many of these excavations were not numbered either originally or on the group plan. The plan presented in this report indicates those excavations for which excavation numbers could be derived from an examination of both the notes and plans. It is, quite obviously, not complete, with many gaps in enumeration obvious. The primary purpose of these excavations was, apparently, to locate stratified samples of pottery in order to delineate the ceramic sequence for this group.

In line with these goals, only one possible midden was uncovered, and this in Excavation 1 at the northwest corner of Str. 6, (Feature 1, Excavation 1). Very little information was

provided in the notes concerning this feature. In general, it seems to have extended down c. 0.70 m and to have been divided <sup>by her?</sup> into three layers. I was unable to determine the nature of these levels and how they were differentiated. While the other test pits appear to have encountered some artifactual material, none seem to have encountered the stratified deposit Dr. Butler was searching for.

Special Deposits

Cache 1: The deposit tentatively labelled Cache 1 was located more or less in the center of Excavation 15, on a line between the approximate midpoints of Strs. 3 and 4, (c. 7.5 m east of Str. 3). This deposit consisted of a roughly circular, rounded piece of limestone lying horizontally over a crushed polychrome cylinder jar (Mary Butler's field designation, A1/58) and a set of <sup>plastic</sup> pyrite mirrors. The stone was 0.30 m thick, had a diameter of roughly 0.80 m, and rested about 0.07 m below the surface. The relationship between this stone and the quartz pebble surface located in Excavation 15 is, to my mind, still problematical though it might be reconstructed as follows. The cache <sup>g</sup> stone appears to have been laid horizontally at about the same level as this surface but projecting approximately 0.08 m above it, and projecting downwards c. 0.22 m below the surface. In short, the quartz surface seems to have surrounded the cache stone, but not to have underlain it. In its place <sup>WERE</sup> was found the fragments of polychrome cylinder jar noted above. These fragments were found beneath the center and northern half of the stone as well as immediately north of the stone itself. This disposition of the sherds indicated to Mary Butler that, originally, the jar had been placed centrally and then

crushed and scattered to the north with the fall of the stone which had been set from the south. Below this deposit of polychrome sherds and c. 0.30 m below the base of the stone were found the remains of 7 sandstone-backed pyrite mirrors, most of which were just soil discolorations at the time of discovery. Butler indicates that these 'mirrors' had originally been laid in a ring below the base of the stone. In sum, Cache 1 consisted of a horizontally-laid circular limestone rock, protruding slightly above the level of the surrounding pebble surface (Feature 1, Excavation 15) and covering, first, a fragmented cylinder jar and, below this, a collection of pyrite mirrors.

The temporal relationship of this cache to the surrounding pebble surface, i.e. was it intruded into a pre-existing surface or did it precede that surface, is a question which cannot be satisfactorily answered due to the premature removal of the 'capping stone' by workers before Butler could return to supervise them.

Burial 1: Burial 1 was encountered by the centerline trench (Excavation 17) of Str.1 adjacent to and partly underlying the southern face of the lower terrace/step mentioned earlier.

While there is some question in my mind as to the structure of this burial, it would appear that a deep pit a little over 1 m deep was first dug into the white sand level fronting Str. 1 (Feature 1, Excavation 17). After this, a burial was placed at the bottom of this pit. This deposit consisted of a fairly complete <sup>Butler assessment</sup> female skeleton lying on her back, with the skull resting on the right ear and her arms and legs flexed

to the right. The material found with this burial was fairly elaborate. Three vessels, one of which was plumbate, were found by the feet of this individual, while her head rested on a green diorite metate. Also near the skull were located; 2 copper ornaments, 1 jade <sup>solid</sup> mask, and several jade beads. A string of 31 jade beads was found around the ribs (see Table 2).

Apparently immediately above this burial a rock cairn, extending upwards almost to the white sand level, was deposited. This pile of rocks measured roughly 1.10 m north-south by 0.70 m east-west, and was oriented N 10 degrees E or, perpendicular to the wall line of Str. 1. The rocks which composed this pile were evidently unprepared in any fashion and seem to have been merely jumbled together. It was within this cairn, roughly 1 foot above the deep internment that the fragmentary remains of three more individuals were uncovered. This 'collection' was located at c. 1.00 m below the first appearance of the stones near the surface and the head of the northernmost individual rested more or less in line with a hypothetical downward projection of the lower southern terrace wall. The bones of this group were fairly jumbled, with the only relatively complete individual being an extended skeleton, its arms flexed to the right and its head to the northwest. The other two "individuals" would appear to be very fragmentary and, to ease in presentation, are designated the "central" and "southern" individuals in Table 2. In association with these remains were several whole or fragmented ceramic vessels located to the east, south and west of the main bone concentration; several jade beads which seem to have been situated between the teeth of these individuals; and one metate under the head of the

extended individual.

Scattered throughout the rest of this stone pile were disarticulated and fragmentary skeletal remains along with sherds and fragments of sandstone which Mary Butler interprets as mirror-backs. The soil immediately above the cairn, and seemingly ~~at and below the level of white sand~~, was brown to orange in color and contained large quantities of charcoal, burnt bone and clay. This dark, disturbed soil was surrounded by the light yellow-white sand of what seems to be Feature 1 of Excavation 17. Apparently capping this entire deposit at about the same level as the base of the lower southern terrace (the base of the previously discussed 'step') and located immediately adjacent to and touching that construction was a rather dense concentration of large vessel fragments, some burnt bone, and a large metate. (See Table 2 for a more detailed description of these sherds). I am unsure as to how many whole vessels may be present within this deposit. There is also some question as to what, if anything, overlay this 'capping' deposit. Mary Butler seems to feel that a wall "roughly laid and messy" was built in front of the lower terrace and extended south over this sherd/bone deposit. She does not seem to be sure of this interpretation, however, as she states that this 'wall' might have represented the results of a rock fall. As a result, I have given no special designation to this possible wall.

*of how many - and all small bones.*

Two further points remain to be made with respect to this burial. First, in addition to the bones noted above, a 'child's' skeleton was found intruded under the base of the lower terrace wall. This internment was bundled in at a 45

17

degree angle sloping below the stone of the wall, with its pelvis down and its arms and legs flexed up towards the head. The latter protrudes out slightly from under the wall and is covered by a metate. It is on this grinding stone that the above-noted 'capping deposit' of pottery and bone was located. Mary Butler does not seem to consider this interment as temporally distinct from those in the cairn as she does not give it a separate burial designation. Indeed, if the metate covering the skull of this burial is contemporary with it, then the relationship between this interment and, at least, the capping deposit seems fairly close. Second, all of the material immediately above, below, and within the stone cairn has been included in Burial 1 following Mary Butler's original designation. While this seems to be a well-founded grouping on the basis of similar ceramics being found throughout the deposit, (e.g. plumbate sherds being found in both the 'capping deposit' and the deepest interment), thereby implying some degree of contemporaneity, there is still much room to question this decision. Still, while it is possible that the cairn, deepest interment and 'capping deposit' are not strictly contemporary, it would seem that they are so close in time that the fine temporal sequences needed to distinguish them may well be beyond our reach at the present time. Following from this, all of the skeletons and associated goods have been grouped as one burial, in part because of this close contemporaneity and because they seem, subjectively to form a single, purposeful deposit. The 'capping deposit' of sherds and bone is also included here rather than giving it a separate cache designation for these same reasons. I question, however, the validity of this latter decision and have lumped it with Burial 1<sup>2</sup> to ease presentation.

Discussion

While it may be premature at this point to offer a possible sequence of construction for this group, I do believe that Mary Butler's material provides sufficient detail to support such a tentative sequence. Five parts or periods may be recognized here. First, as Mary Butler notes, since the bottom of the east wall of Str. 3 lies "well below" the pebble surface at this point (Feature 1, Excavation 15), we might tentatively suggest that Str. 3 predates that surface. Now, Feature 1, Excavation 15 was found to be at about the same elevation as Feature 2, Excavation 13; Feature 2, Excavation 14; Feature 1, Str. 6; and the surface located in the pit dug adjacent to the west wall of Str. 3. Not only were all of these surfaces at about the same elevation, not more than 0.10-0.12 m variation at any one point, but they all seemed to be rather similar in appearance and to have similar artifactual material resting on them. Butler takes this evidence to indicate that these surfaces may be considered as the isolated manifestations of the same "floor". If this is the case, and it is admitted that the evidence is still too weak to establish this point with surity, then we might say that Str. 3 predates this entire 'plaza floor' and, by extension, Strs, 2 and 6 which appear to be underlain by this floor, (e.g. Feature 2 in Excavation 14 seems to "run under" Str. 2 and Feature 1 in Str. 6 appears to underlie the earth fill of this structure.). If these arguements are tentatively accepted, we would then have three possible phases of construction; the construction of Str. 3 followed by the addition of the pebble plaza floor,

pumice pebbles >

construction?

(9)

on which is subsequently raised both Strs. 2 and 6. Attempts to relate Cache 1 to this sequence are vitiated by the circumstances of its recovery noted earlier. If, as seems possible, the southern half of Str. 1 was built on top of the north wall of Str. 6 then we might assume that it postdates the construction of at least that arm. This latter point is complicated by several factors; first, the lack of good archaeologically-derived data which might reveal the relationship between these two structures more definitely and, second, the presence of the supposed earlier platform within Str. 1 (Feature 4, Str. 1). So little of this feature was exposed that it would be premature at this point to suggest even its tentative placement within this sequence. The last point deals with an assumption that I have made that may not prove valid. In stating that Str. 1 predates Str. 6 I have assumed that all of the arms of Str. 6 were built at the same time, thereby allowing me to say that a structure which overlays one of them is later than all. While there do not appear to be any breaks in the construction of Str. 6, except for the previously noted southeast corner, it must be realized that this assumption has not been archaeologically validated. The last feature to be placed is Burial 1. According to Butler, the top of this burial was represented by a pit intruded into the white sand level fronting Str. 1 (Feature 1, Excavation 17). She goes on to say that this sand level was at about the same elevation as the plaza floor discussed above. If, indeed, this sand level can be equated temporally with this floor and if the pit intruded into it is contemporary with all of the material found beneath (Burial 1) then we might say that Burial 1 is later than the plaza floor. The relation of Burial 1

to Str. 1 is slightly more complex. The evidence available would seem to suggest that Burial 1 predates Str. 1 and may be summarised as follows. First, the burial is located axially to the structure, a fact which implies that, assuming the greater importance of Str. 1, that the structure antedates the internment. Here the assumption would seem to be that the less important feature is oriented with respect to the more important. Second, several fragments of "mirrorbacks" presumably associated with Burial 1, were found resting against the stones of the lower terrace of Str. 1. Third, the child's burial noted earlier protruded out from under the wall of Str. 1 and were sealed or covered by a metate. According to Mary Butler, it was upon this stone that that the concentration of sherds and burnt bones which supposedly capped Burial 1 were located. Here again we must make several rather tentative assumptions: if the child's skeleton was intruded under the lower terrace wall of Str. 1 and did not precede it, as Butler seems to think, and if the sherd/bone concentration is indeed contemporary with Burial 1 and serves to seal it, then the fact that this deposit rests on top of a stone which, in turn, seals a deposit intruded under Str. 1 suggests that Burial 1 postdates Str. 1. We therefore might say that, following the construction of the plaza floor and, then, Str. 6, Str. 1 was added to the group and, subsequent to this, Burial 1 was intruded into the floor immediately in front of this structure.

Str. 5 and 4 are difficult to place within this scheme. No good stratigraphic links were noted which might link Str. 5 to other constructions within the group. The fact that the

site plan indicates that this structure was fully incorporated into the southern wall of Str. 6 might lead us to conjecture some degree of contemporaneity between these units. As noted above, however, we are unable to state first, howt Strs. 5 and 6 are related in any precise way and, second, that the arms of Str. 6 are all of the same age. For example, while excavations may indicate that one arm was underlain by the so-called plaza floor, the other arms may actually predate that feature. Str. 4 might be considered as roughly of the same period as Str. 3 owing to the similar form and location of the two and the subjective feeling that the plan conveys that they were built to form one coherent architectural unit. Unfortunately I could find no good evidence to support this supposition.

As I Have emphasised before the above sequence is not meant as the final word on this subject. Problems and unanswered questions abound throughout this presentation, i.e. does similarity in the elevations of features imply that they are of the same age and, more specifically, parts of the same constructional unit? etc... We lack, I am afraid, the basic archaeological knowledge of this site to present anything more than the most tentative of conclusions. What is presented above should be taken simply as a suggestion which might fruitfully be tested by further work at this site.

Related to the above question is the problem of how much time was involved in the building of this group.

Unfortunately I could glean little from Butler's notes which might help to provide an answer. The general paucity of cultural material from construction fill, (possibly indicating little deposited trash with which the structure might have

*Can you generalize on architectural form & construction?*

*Seems to be a 1050 level topic here*

been built) and the apparent failure of Mary Butler to locate a definite, deep midden deposit all might point to a short period of occupation for this group. The presence of only one possible superimposed structure on this site might support this proposition. Unfortunately, the above argument rests on the assumption that Chama Group A was used as a living site and that the paucity of debris was directly related to the duration of occupation. An alternative suggestion might be that this plaza was reserved solely for ceremonial activities and, as a result, was kept clear of all debris. The latter point might be partially vitiated by the lack of physical evidence of such activities, only Cache 1 and Burial 1 supporting this position, but the question is still far from answered. Both of the above arguments are seriously weakened by being based on the lack of evidence for their support; in neither case has any positive evidence been marshalled to establish them.

The above argument points to a general problem of determining what the function of the Chama Group A, as a whole, and of its individual structures might have been. Outside of Mary Butler's apparently subjective designation of Strs. 3 and 4 as a ballcourt and the evidence for some form of building atop Str. 5, I could discern very little of a functional nature relevant to this group. Temporally, the problem is little better. The two primary deposits, Cache 1 and Burial 1, would seem to indicate a Late Classic-Early Postclassic occupation of the site. Cache 1 sealed what apparently was a Late Classic polychrome cylinder jar, while Burial 1 abounded with sherds/vessels of Plumbate and Fine Orange. Unfortunately, the relationship of these primary deposits to the sequence of occupation/use of the site is,

*and construction?*

*was Burial 1 (Plumbate) intrusive to a Late Classic Group?*

as noted, questionable. With respect to the sherds collected from the possible midden and the material recovered from secondary contexts, i.e. construction fill, I have, at present, been unable to determine how these might be interpreted chronologically. Perhaps a more detailed search of Butler's notes and the examination of the available collections will help to clear up this problem.

A final question which cannot be answered at this time is the relationship of this group to the structures which are known to exist within a kilometer. While there seems to be some limited evidence at hand to suggest at least some degree of contemporaneity between Group A and at least one or two of these structures, I feel it would be better to wait until I have more fully examined the material relevant to these constructions, especially the work of R. Burkitt, their principal investigator.

The above problems and their tentative answers are posed simply as suggestions, they most assuredly do not exhaust the total range of possibilities for either questions or answers. Further research and, hopefully, further excavation will certainly expand the scope of the <sup>QUERIES</sup> conclusions presented here and serve to evaluate the validity of the conclusions.

*What about Dresselдорff?*

Table 1:

Excavation Designation Equivalences

Mary Butlers' Designations

New Designations

Pit 11

Excavation 1

" 2

" 2

" 3

" 3

" 4

" 4

" 5

" 5

" 6

" 6

" 7

" 7

" 8

" 8

" 9

" 9

" 10

" 10

" 11

" 11

" 12

" 12

Trench a

" 13

" b

" 14

" c

" 15

" d

" 16

" e

" 17

Structure Designation Equivalences

Mound 1

Structure 1

" 2

" 2

" 3

" 3

" 4

" 4

" 5

" 5

Encircling wall

" 6

75  
Table 2

Deepest Internment within Burial 1

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
A1/77	By the feet.	1 orange tiger-head tripod. 1 plumbate jar with applied tiger head. 1 rattle-based jar with 'Tzulbaca' head on side.
A1/24	Against right side of skull.	Green diorite metate
A1/32	Under chin	1 copper bell 1 copper bead
A1/27	Under the head	Jade mask
A1/27	Around the ribs	31 jade beads. 1 turquoise bead.
A1/27	Found in general area of skull.	jade beads.

Triple Internment within Burial 1

A1/74	East and adjacent to main bone concentration	1 black dish with 'pie-crust' fillet 1 smoked cylinder jar sitting within dish.
A1/74	South and adjacent to bone concentration	1 red dish 1 fragment of red-on-buff olla. 1 orange, dog-head tripod. 1 rose cylinder jar lid. 1 fragment of effigy jar. 1 red bowl base and associated foot.
A1/74	West and adjacent to bone concentration	1 orange dog-head tripod.
A1/26	Under chin of extended individual	2 jade beads.
A1/30	In skull of central individual.	1 jade bead.
A1/31	Between teeth of southern individual	1 jade bead.

20

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Description</u>
A1/31	North of left shoulder of extended individual	1 broken jade earplug.
?	Beneath head of extended individual	1 green stone metate.
A1/29	Within the smoked cylinder jar.	2 jade beads
A1/82,83,84	In general area of this internment.	3 jade beads

'Capping Deposit'

A1/68*	Located immediately above cairn of Burial 1.	Fragments of: 1 plumbate frog-headed vessel. 1 fine-orange grater bowl. 1 fine-orange tripod jar. 1 orange melon jar. 1 red cylinder jar. 2 small unslipped cylinder jars. 1 orange animal-head foot tripod. 1 negative-painted flanged tripod bowl.
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\* Some conflict exists between the materials catalogue, the notes and the plan for this deposit, concerning its precise content. What is presented here is taken from the materials catalogue as it seemed the fullest description and included all of the material elsewhere. *NOTED.*

BARRIO OF SAN PEDRO CARCHA

1. San Pablo Chimax

2. Kanihab

Mary Butler

Karen Miller

SAN PABLO CHIMAX

San Pablo Chimax is situated "behind" the Ermita Chicoc within the barrio of San Pedro Carcha. The Ermita is the location of the Morales excavation carried out by Butler in the spring of 1939. A more exact correlation of the location of the San Pablo Chimax site in relation to the Ermita has not been determined from Butler's field notes; "behind" is not known to be synonymous with any of the directional points of a compass.

Temporally, Butler describes San Pablo Chimax as being roughly contemporaneous with the Morales site, placing it in the Late to Post-Classic Period. Dating apparently was based upon analysis of ceramic finds at the site.

Ownership of the San Pablo Chimax land is unknown. Butler apparently obtained the necessary permission to excavate and proceeded with her excavation from 24 April 1939 to 29 April 1939, employing five contracted laborers from the Barrio. There is no record of prior excavational work at San Pablo Chimax, nor any published reference to the site.

Butler's excavational record of San Pablo Chimax consists of three pages of field notes, an excavation plan, rough profile, and several sketches of features. Photographs are mentioned in the field notes, although they are not to be found within the collection of Butler's files; the negatives are not within the University Museum's Negative files, and their current location is not known.

San Pablo Chimax is situated on the crest of a hill and covers an area approximately 16m X 16m. Butler designated two major mounds in her field notes, both oriented N-S, (Butler refers to them as a "tomb" mound and a "house" mound) as well as a series of mounds at the north end of the crest. These latter mounds have been omitted from the rest of this summary as there are no data pertaining to them available.

Five trenches were dug, numbered in chronological order of excavation. There is mention of a sixth trench being dug, though it is not designated on the excavation plan and its exact provenance is undetermined. No real attempt was made to maintain stratigraphic levels during excavation.

## STRUCTURE I ("Tomb" Mound)

Butler began excavation in the mound situated at the southern end of the hill crest. The excavation plan delineates an area 6m X 8m, with a small boulder marking each of the south, east, and northern corners of the area. Whether these perimeters delineate the actual area covered by the mound or a specific structural boundary is questionable. Butler makes no reference to structural features (ie. walls) in the field notes, but the field notes, at best, are sketchy. The excavation plan would seem to indicate a structure however. On the assumption that Butler perhaps observed something indicative of a structure before actual excavation got underway and simply never committed it to paper, I have designated the mound as Structure I.

Excavations 1-3 were dug through Structure I. Excavation 1, (run through the center of the structure in an E-W direction, elongating to N-S along the eastern perimeter) revealed what Butler referred to as a tomb. (Burial I) Excavation disclosed a hollow 4m X .5m X 1.2m, covered with large and small stones extending over an area 6m X 2m. One of the larger covering stones is described as as having a perforation through it. The stone is 75 cm X 120 cm. and 20 cm thick. There is no indication as to whether the perforation is natural in origin

of which, though the latter could also be possible. It would

or worked, though the latter would appear plausible. It would also seem probable that the majority of the covering stones were probably relatively flat, as was the perforated stone. It appears that the hollow beneath these covering stones was lined with "semi-dressed stones like Kanihab." In the field notes from Kanihab there is a reference to semi-dressed stones laid without mortar, and I would assume that Butler was indicating that these lining stones were also laid without mortar. (The sketchiness of Butler's field notes make such assumptions risky but necessary.) These stones were laid upon a layer of clay. There is no indication as to whether or not this clay layer was brought in specifically as a base for the construction work on top of it; it seems more likely that the clay is naturally found in the area at that depth.

There are some contradictions within Butler's records in relation to Structure I. At no point in her field notes is there any reference to skeletal remains found in association with the structure. However, Museum Cat. 39-30-157b from the San Pablo Chimax collection describes five teeth and part of a skull as having been recovered from "outside the tomb."

(These skeletal remains were not to be found with the rest of the San Pablo Chimax collection.) It is conceivable that these

may have at one point been placed within the hollow (along with the rest of the skeleton?) and that they had simply been displaced over the years by animals or looters. There are large gaps in the covering stones that might be accounted for in this manner. It might also account for the lack of any other skeletal material, assuming of course that it didn't deteriorate from natural causes. It is my assumption that this is a severely disturbed burial, and designation as such is mine.

Collection from Structure I consists of sherds and the aforementioned bone fragments. Sherds are listed as having been recovered from both inside and outside the "tomb"; whether they were all recovered from the excavations or surface collection is undetermined. The question arises as to whether or not the sherds were originally placed with the burial, or simply were used as fill in covering it. The fact that there are no whole ceramic finds could again be accounted for by looting or animals, and the question remains unanswered.

#### STRUCTURE II ("House Mound")

Excavation continued in the second mound, situated towards the

northern end of the hill crest. The excavation plan delineates an area 10m X 6m. Excavation 4 runs N-S through the approximate center of the structure, Excavation 5 runs E-W through the center, beginning at the western perimeter and continuing until it reaches Excavation 4. These excavations revealed a structure described by Butler as being constructed in the same manner as the "tomb": "semi-dressed" or "faced" stones, laid without mortar on top of clay. Such stones are to be found running the entire length of the structure's southern perimeter and at least partially up the western perimeter. There is no indication as to whether or not they continue or not, but it is probable that at one point they ran the length of all four sides of the structure. These stones form a low wall, rising approximately two feet above the surface of the hill crest.

Within the boundaries of this wall, Butler describes an "artificial" fill, consisting of large and small stones, and liberally laced with sherds. It is undetermined as to whether this layer of fill is flush with the top of the wall, mounds above it somewhat, or stops somewhere below the top of the wall. The notes to indicate that it was covered with a 15cm layer of topsoil.

Butler offers no interpretation of this structure except in her references to the "house mound". It seems plausible that this wall and fill served as a base platform for another structure - perhaps a pole and thatch hut construction, which perished long before excavation was carried out. A more thorough investigation on Butler's part might have revealed post holes to help substantiate this hypothesis. One might speculate that further investigation might also have revealed some manner of steps to reach to the level of the platform base: actual steps constructed in addition to the platform, or perhaps a niche cut into the platform itself.

Excavation 4 revealed a skeleton (Burial II) 3.8m E of the SW corner of the structure. The skeleton is described as being uncovered at a depth of 50 cm, apparently within the base fill. The skeleton was oriented E-W, extended on its back with the skull to the west. Butler's sketches indicate the burial was disturbed, though there was much more remaining than at Burial I. The face of the skull may or may not have been facing to the north.

Running in a NW - SE line along the southern side of the skeleton is a row of large stones, extending from just above the skull to just beyond the feet. On Butler's plan, this row of stones is shown to be a line of stones that runs parallel to the wall of the structure.

of stones appears to abut against the wall of the southern perimeter. No mention of this row of stones is made in the field notes, but it is drawn in both the detail sketch of the burial and the excavation plan.

The skeleton was laid upon a layer of orange sandy soil, described as being like that found at Portrero and Morales. While informants indicated that the soil was to be found naturally in the locale, Butler insisted that it's presence here was as fill, though there is no indication as to why. There was nothing found in association with the skeleton.

The location of the skeleton within the platform fill gives rise to speculation as to why it was there. It is possible that the skeleton was buried within the platform by it's builders sometime after completion of the structure. However the placing of the stones along the side of the skeleton might have been somewhat difficult endeavor if the burial took place after completion of the structure. Perhaps the skeleton was someone that died during construction of the platform, and the builders simply deemed it expedient to cover the body with the platform rather than constructing a separate tomb. (This might help explain what appeared to me as something of a discrepancy - the well constructed tomb in such close proximity

to what appears to be a "more hasty" burial.)

Excavation 5 revealed a "box" approximately 2m NW of the skull. Whether or not this actually is a box is a matter of question. Excavation disclosed a group of large stones arranged in a square configuration 65 cm X 65cm. It is assumed that these stones form the sides of the "box." There is no indication as to how far down these stones extend, they were uncovered at a depth of 50 cm. Within the box formed by the stones was a layer of the same orange soil as found beneath the skeleton; it extended about 25 cm, its upper limits apparently flush with the top of the stones. Beneath this was a layer of fill consisting of clay, large and small stones, and sherds, and extending for about 35 cm. Below this is a layer of bright yellow clay, mixed with rocks, apparently natural strata.

Possible function of this "box" is open to speculation. The most plausible interpretation might be to assume that the box was some sort of a sub-floor cache (as described at Kanihab) that had been looted prior to Butler's excavation. The Museum Catalogue lists none of the San Pablo Chimax collection as having been recovered from the box, nor is this indicated in Butler's field notes.

in Butler's field notes. This does raise a question as to the presence of the orange sandy soil here. If it is, as Butler insists, "fill" with the burial, is it also fill here? There is no mention of this soil being found elsewhere at San Pablo Chimax. It seems improbable however that looters would take the trouble of bringing in soil from somewhere else to cover their tracks. I would tend to agree with Butler's informants that this orange soil is part of the natural stratum of the site.

The collection from Structure II consists largely of sherds, along with somestone artifacts (polished stone, obsidian blades and flakes) as well as a piece of bone of undetermined origin. Butler describes the bulk of the sherds as being household in origin, which seems entirely plausible, especially if Structure II did serve as a base platform for some sort of a house structure. As butler's knowledge of pottery is much more extensive than mine, I will let her analysis stand for the moment, until I can attempt my own.

Further investigation of the collection will help to determine whether Butler's assessment of San Pablo Chimax's temporal relation to other sites within the Barrio are accurate. Her

functional assessments seem quite probable, but further investigation is needed to determine the relationship of San Pablo Chimax to the other sites within the Barrio.

KANIHAB  
(CAGUA OLCHAN)

The Kanihab site is situated on a hill within the barrio of San Pedro Carcha. Exact location of the hill within the Barrio is unknown. Kanihab is apparently the Kekchi Indian name for the locale, referring to the valley and its watercourse. Cagua Olchan would appear to be a post-conquest naming of the area; informants described Cagua as meaning "Master" and Olchan as "wonder worker." It is also said that there are twelve "olchanes" or the disciples of Christ.

Butler received permission to excavate from Miguel Urrutia, then proprietor of the Kanihab land. Kanihab is described as being "national" property, it is no longer under the ownership of a dueno. Excavation was carried out from 17 February 1939 to 10 March 1939, employing varying numbers of contracted laborers from within the Barrio. There is no record of any prior excavational work at Kanihab.

Butler's excavational record from Kanihab consists of six pages of field notes, an excavation plan, and several pages of dia

diagrams, including a rough profile. Photographs are mentioned in the field notes but are not to be found within Butler's files. The negatives are not in the University Museum's Negative files, and their current location is not known. Included with the site report is a "catalogue" of the Kanihab collection, complete with two sets of catalogue numbers.

Butler's field notes from the Kanihab excavation are extremely limited. This, coupled with the fact that there is no indication of what is what on the excavation plan make correlation of the notes and plan quite difficult and severely limit interpretations of the actual excavation.

The Kanihab site is situated on a monte or hill. The hill, roughly 54m in height was covered by vegetation of at least three years growth at the time of excavation. It is undetermined how much of the structural remains at Kanihab were evident prior to excavation and how much was obscured by the overgrowth.

There is no mention of any initial survey of the site nor of any surface collection. Either Butler was not terribly concerned with preliminaries or she simply did not consider such things as needing mention in the record.

A stepped trench, approximately 101 m in length was run, extending up the southern slope, curving to the north-west as it approached the summit and continuing down the north-west slope. Six steps were dug on the southern slope, and four more on the north-west slope below the summit. Butler refers to these steps as terraces and platforms, but established no apparent ordering system for them, and when reference is made in the field notes to a particular step, it is anyone's guess as to which step reference is being made. For the moment I have taken the liberty of designating the step levels sequentially in combination with their slope locations; thus S.I. is the lowermost step level on the southern slope, S.VI the level right below the summit on the southern slope, the summit is simply VIII, NM. VIII becomes the uppermost step level on the north-western slope and so on. This is done in an attempt to put some reasonable order to the excavational record at Kanihab. The order of designation has nothing to do with the order of excavation, as excavation actually began at the summit and proceeded down both slopes simultaneously.

It would appear that Butler's trench steps more or less followed the lines of a series of terraces that had been cut into the hill side. The northern and southern perimeters of

S.I - S.IV are bounded by what Butler describes as retaining walls: stones laid without mortar, built up upon boulders and stones already there on the ground. S.V has a wall on it's eastern side, as does the summit. NW VIII - XI are bounded by these retaining walls as are S.I - IV.

Aside from the retaining walls S. I - IV and NW VIII - XI seem to have revealed nothing else, although some of the sherds collected at Kanihab may have come from these.

A trench was dug in S.V. Running N-S, it extended for about 6m in length, 1 - 1.5 m in width. Depth of the trench is not known. The trench was dug alongside a pile of rocks (Butler also refers to this pile of rocks as a rock platform - whether it is actuality a platform is a matter of speculation.) What the trench actual revealed is questionable. A layer of small pebbles is described, lying above the natural rock strata of the hill. A similar layer is described at a depth of 20cm at the summit, it's depth in the trench is not indicated. Butler describes a "ridge" of rocks extending from the pile of rock on S.V to S.VI (and possibly to S.IV?). Whether or not this is just a natural arrangement is not known.

Butler refers to a possible altar on S. V ; it seems probable that she is referring to the aforementioned pile or platform of rocks

of rocks. Several small celts (perhaps jadeite) were found on S.V. Butler also notes that part of the walls of S.V. have been dressed on the outer surfaces, and that they are well aligned and laid without mortar, with natural boulders serving as foundations.

S. VII is something of a dilemma. It is much smaller than the other step levels, being only 3.8 m in length. Between Butler's notes and excavation plan it is almost impossible to determine what S. VII actually revealed. It appears to be bounded on the east and west by natural boulders, on the north and south by walls of large stones. I'm not sure if these latter walls are of the same retaining type as described before; Butler marked them on the excavation plan differently than she did the retaining walls.

S. VII encompasses the summit of the hill, and covers an area of 6 - 9.5m X 16.5m. It is aligned about 38 degrees N of E. Butler makes references to walls, an altar, house, and porch at this level, but correlating the description from the field notes to the excavation plan is difficult. I would assume that the "house" mentioned is the collection of features at the northern end of the summit, with the "altar" being those drawn at the southern end close to the wall between S. VI and

and S. VII. Butler's references as to the "front" and "back" of these constructions has so far eluded my comprehension, as has her determination of them as house and altar.

Two trenches were dug on the summit, though their exact location is a matter of question. I assume that they were dug through the remains of the "house." Butler describes uncovering a sub-floor cache in association with a severely disturbed skeleton (Burial III) in (a) "hole which lies NS along the center line of house." Whether the location of the cache and/or trench is marked on the plan is debateable.

The burial and cache are described as occupying an area about 5 X 5 ( the field notes seem to indicate that this measurement is feet.) The deposit begins about 2' below the probable floor surface of the house, and Butler indicates traces of fire both above and below the deposit.

The cache consists of many broken ceramic figurines, sherds, stone implements (broken, metates perhaps?) obsidian blades and flakes, as well as pieces from a whistle box. Butler sought the aid of E.P. Dieseldorff in analysis of some of the ceramic pieces from the sub-floor cache (specifically the whistle box fragments and some fragments of a pottery headress. Dieseldorff described these pieces as "plastic ware." Hope-