

S. Pedro Caacua

PRELIMINARY SITE REPORT: SAN PEDRO CARCHÁ  
TORRES, POTRERO, AND MORALES

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SAN PEDRO CARCHA

The barrio of San Pedro Carcha is located in the far eastern foothills of the Altos Cuchumatanes in the department of Alta Verapaz, in highland Guatemala. The Barrio is situated to the south of the Rio Cahabon, approximately 4.5 miles north-west of Cobán. San Pedro Carcha is accessible by road from Cobán, where there is a working airstrip. Roads also connect the region with the Pan American Highway in Huehuetenango, 40 miles to the west.

Some areas of this hilly terrain are under cultivation or in use as pasture land. During the spring months rainfall can be expected on the average of once or twice daily. I would assume that vegetation in the area would be relatively thick and quick-growing. At this point, little else may be said about the topology and ecology of the Barrio.

Mary Butler (research associate; University Museum, University of Pennsylvania) carried out a series of excavations within the barrio of San Pedro Carcha in the spring of 1939. Her collections and records of these excavations are located in the store rooms and archives of the University Museum.

Butler carried out excavations in five areas of the Barrio:

1) Cagua Olchan (Kanihab); 2) Morales; 3) Potrero; 4) Torres; and  
5) San Pablo Chimax. Some surface collections were made in other

areas of the Barrio; however their exact provenance is unknown.

Butler never published any reports of these excavations. The only

known published reference to her work in San Pedro Carcha is to

be found in E. P. Dieseldorff's Kunst und Religion der Mayavölker,

Vol. I, Taf. 4 & 5. Dieseldorff includes plates of (her) ceramic

finds at Kanihab. (Museum catalog nos. 39-30-181 - 39-30-183;

39-30-186 - 39-30-189) Richard E.W. Adams makes a passing reference

to San Pedro Carcha in The Ceramic Chronology of the Southern Maya

(Part II, 1966); no mention is made of Butler's work however.

There are no known publications pertaining to prior excavations

in San Pedro Carcha.

It would appear that Butler's objective in carrying out this series

of excavations was to obtain additional data for the for the

formulation of her ceramic sequence for Alta Verapaz. (Maya and

Their Neighbors, 1940)

TORRES

The Torres site is comprised of three structures purportedly of the Late- or Post- Classic period, located on a hilltop accessible on foot from San Pedro Carchá. Two previous excavations are known to have been carried out on this site, but no information survives about this research. The first excavations were carried out around the turn of the century by an assistant of E. P. Dieseldorff of Coban. Two large carved conch shells found in this excavation were exhibited at the Madrid Exposition. An excavation in the 1930's by a Sr. Gonzalez is said to have produced "no results". Trenches from these excavations were found on the top level of Structure 1. The results were apparently insignificant, and they were not published.

Dr. Mary Butler received permission from the Torres family to begin excavations on their land on March 13, 1939. She worked at this site until April 10, employing about eight local labourers each day. In the course of the excavation Butler shows an interest in the collection of potsherds and establishing pottery types, as well as some interest in the study of architectural features and in determining the periods of occupation.

The data record consists of daily summaries of the work, a rectified site plan (fig. ) and sections through some of the trenches. The catalogues provide descriptions of the artifacts. The field notes are an incomplete record of the excavation, but they still provide

some useful information. Photographs were taken of the site, but can not be located. The site plan shows the relative position of the three structures and of the trenches. The exact size and shape of the structures are conjectural, as they were never cleared of underbrush except for a path and the immediate area of the trenches. The structures had eroded into mound forms, and a presumed artificial plaza and the lower platform of Structure 1 were under cultivation. A profile of the three structures (fig. 1) shows their relative heights. The site is aligned  $55^{\circ}$  east of magnetic north.

The trenches excavated at Torres ranged in size from two to five meters in length and from one to two meters in width. One trench (Tr. 9) was dug into the artificial plaza, and all other trenches were located on Structures 1 and 2. No investigation of any kind was carried out on Structure 3. The trenches were located so as to reveal some architectural features, although trenches placed centrally at the base of each platform may have shown these more clearly.

The trenches revealed a series of strata, each designated a Feature. The stratigraphy of only six of the nine trenches was drawn in section, and some of these were recorded in more detail than others. One series of numbers has been assigned to the strata in Structure 1, and another to the strata in Structure 2. Features have been correlated in the different sections whenever they were clearly related, but difficulties sometimes arise within a single trench because no clear record was kept of each layer as it was removed. Most information comes from the drawn sections. A complete list of all features shown in section appears in the Appendix (p. 15). The descriptions

of the trenches are based on Butler's field notes, but attempts at phasing and interpretation of the site, as well as the numbering of features, is original to the author.

Structure 1 is a large pyramidal shaped structure comprised of two platforms. The lower platform measures 97 meters by 105 meters at its base, but is 77 meters by 53 meters on top, the steeper sides being the northeast and southwest. The upper platform measures 34 meters by 33 meters at its base and 14 meters by 15 meters on top. These measurements are taken from the site plan, and their accuracy is questionable. The upper platform rests on the southwestern portion of the lower, and stone foundations show on its top surface. The structure incorporates at least two constructional phases. An earlier construction with *mezcla* (mortar) facing is covered by a larger stone construction. The composition of these early and later constructions was most clearly revealed in the excavation of Trench 2.

Trench 2, located on the northwest edge of the lower platform, was excavated to a depth of almost three meters. Its eastern section is illustrated in figure 2. The deposition of strata will be discussed in terms of six phases, beginning with the earliest.

The earliest known phase represents an early construction in the interior of Structure 1. The earliest stratum revealed in the excavation is construction fill consisting of "yellow clay and pebbles" (F.1/28). There is no way to determine if this fill is

consistent throughout the structure's interior, or if it overlies a still earlier phase. The mezcla facing (F.1/26) is 1.25 meters high, extending down to a flat surface and backed by a thicker deposit of "burnt mezcla and wood" (F.1/27). One meter south and on a higher level is a similar mezcla face (F.1/24). 0.5 meters high and also supported by "burnt mezcla and wood" (F. 1/25). An ashy layer (F. 1/23) seals the fill (F.1/28) between the mezcla faces and may represent debris thrown off of or eroded from the upper part of the construction. Butler's layer descriptions would seem to indicate a firm adobe construction (F.1/28) surface vertically by successive coats of plaster (F.1/24, 25, 26, 27). The amount and condition of the wood in F.1/25 and F.1/27 are unknown, but perhaps it was used to strengthen the inner coats of mezcla. The construction was presumably stepped, as indicated in figure 2.

The next phase combines Features 1/20 through 1/22. A low stone wall (F.1/20) cuts through the horizontal mezcla surface (F.1/26), and so is later than the mezcla construction. A "fire-pit" (F.1/21), sterile except for stones, fills the space between the stone and mezcla walls, and a similar ashy deposit (F.1/22) forms a thin layer to the west of the stone wall, sealing the yellow construction fill (F.1/28). It seems likely that what Butler has termed a "fire-pit" is in actuality debris from activity above. Its position on an intermediate level of the stepped construction, behind a stone wall, is an unlikely location for an intentional fire-pit. Perhaps the wall (F.1/20) was built to contain and hide ash that had fallen from a higher level, and F. 1/22 represents spreading of the same ashy

debris. As the burning of incense and other offerings often took place on the upper surface of ceremonial structures, it is likely that charcoal and ash would be swept over the side.

A layer of brown mixed earth (F.1/19) covers the wall and the ashy layers, sloping northward from the mezcla faced construction, and this is sealed by a line of earth, ash, charcoal and clay (F.1/18). F.1/19 may have eroded from the surface or it may have been intentionally deposited during later construction. F.1/18 may represent burning on the slope, but it was probably due to activity from above and scattered over the surface along with F.1/23, the ashy layer mentioned above.

The next phase, representing a later structure, contained pottery similar to that from the site of Kanihab. Because of the similarity of construction, it is thought that not much time elapsed between the building of the stone wall (F.1/20) and of the later stone facings (F.1/13 and F.1/14). "Dark yellow mixed" construction fill (F.1/15) completely seals all earlier deposits, and contains a lens of black soil (F.1/16) above a lens of light yellow fine clay (F.1/17). This fill may also represent a layer of adobe, although Butler's description differs slightly from that for F.1/28. A single line of well-laid undressed stones (F.1/14) showing traces of mortar forms the northwestern face of the platform. F.1/13, of similar construction, is a lower portion of the platform wall, which was apparently built in high, wide steps, as was the earlier construction. According to Butler, floor sections were clearly shown on this lower wall.

Butler locates another "fire-pit" to the north of the outer stone facing (F.1/14), above a loping layer of brown mixed earth (F.1/12). Her description is as follows: "fire-pit with layer of red burnt earth (F.1/10) above. (not burnt  $\alpha$  EPD; potter's clay  $\alpha$  comissario.) Contains charcoal, burnt bone, pumice stones- white and oval, fragments of mica, 2-3 pieces of obsidian, burnt sherds apparently all from one pot. Pit (F.1/11a) ca. 1' deep with a layer of clay (F.1/11b) in middle. Probably ca. 5-6' wide. Pumice stones used for mixing with clay for pottery". It is apparent that Butler thought that this was a place of ceramic manufacture, with potter's clay, pumice stones for ceramic temper, and a broken pot all in evidence. However, it is very likely that this phase represents in situ trash, thrown down from activity above, as with the earlier "fire-pit". The sloping layers do not give the appearance of having been deposited as a result of activity in the immediate area.

The most recent phase is comprised of erosion deposition. F.1/9 is dark yellow mixed earth, only deposited north of the upper stone facing. It forms a thin layer over the "fire-pit". Above the surface of the stone-faced platform (F.1/15) are thin areas of charcoal and burnt clay (F.1/8). A thick layer of brown mixed earth (F.1/7) on the northern half of the trench is covered by a layer of dark brown top soil (F.1/1) which extends over the surface of the entire structure. These upper strata may represent a later structure which has eroded away, but it is more likely that they are due to the erosion of the stone-faced platform.

Trench 1 (fig. 4) is also on the lower platform of Structure 1, in the center of its northeast edge. This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5 meters, but was not continued down to the level of the earlier construction. The top soil (F.1/1) is the same as in Trench 2. The construction fill is yellow clay with river pebbles (F.1/5) above reddish clay with pebbles (F.1/6). Butler observed a "series of steps just below the surface" indicated by color change and a line of stones (F.1/2, 3, 4). The masonry is similar to the stone construction revealed by Trench 2, although the fill is somewhat different. The lower portion of Structure 1 was probably a multiply terraced sustaining platform. Because the trench is so narrow, it is impossible to determine if an actual flight of stairs was revealed, or if the "steps" represent the terraced platform surface.

The trenches cut into the upper platform of Structure 1 will be considered next. Three trenches are aligned centrally on the northeast side of the platform, from its base to the summit, and a fourth is located on the southeast side.

Trench 3, at the base of the upper platform, has been described in some detail. This trench clearly shows the mezcra construction with the stone construction above (fig. 5), as seen in Trench 2. A stepped construction (F.1/33) is covered with mezcra, in a manner similar to the inner construction (F.1/26) in Trench 2. The inner construction fill is deep yellow (F.1/42), sealed by brown earth (F.1/37). The brown layer appears unbroken in the north section, but is less consistent on the south side of the trench. In the

west section, the fill below a mezcla floor surface (F.1/33) is shown as dark brown earth, but it seems likely that this was an error and should be either brown earth as F.1/37 or deep yellow as F.1/42. The north and south walls of the trench extend 0.5 meters further west than was illustrated in section, so that the strata do not seem to coincide exactly in the three sections. The mezca construction includes areas of burnt mezcla and earth (F.1/31 and F.1/34), possibly due to erosion of the mortar and its admixture with the surrounding earth. A stone floor surface (F.1/35 and F.1/40) appears in front of and below the mezcla construction. Probably it was built upon the dark yellow fill (F.1/42), although the stones in the north section appear to have some of this fill above them. A stratum of brown earth (F.1/30 containing fragments of stalactite, limestone, and potsherds seals the mezcla layer and forms the fill of the later stone construction (F.1/29). This stone construction is thought by Butler to be a flight of stairs contemporary with the stonework on the lower platform of Structure 1, but may, once again, represent terraced construction. Dark brown top soil (F.1/1) overlies this construction layer.

Trench 4 is located on the top edge of the upper platform, but no details of this excavation are known, and no sections were drawn.

A stone foundation showed on the surface of the upper platform, and the area was cleared to reveal its rectangular outline. Trench 5 (fig. ) was dug across its northeast wall, in a rather unsuccessful

attempt to learn more about this construction. F.1/46 represents a wall, and f.1/47 and F.1/48 probably indicate scattered rubble. F.1/45 is a layer of stones on the present summit, also seen in Trench 6, which was much disturbed. Dark yellow construction fill (F.1/49) continues to a depth of almost three meters, and the excavation was continued no further. Sherds of fine pottery were found in the fill. A small rectangular building seems to have occupied the summit of Structure 1, supported by the platforms.

The excavation on the southeastern side, Trench 6, cut through the wall of this construction as well, although the exact location of the trench was not recorded. Yellow fill as in Trench 5 appears below the construction level, and is shaded from darker to lighter yellow, up to the brown top soil.

When Structure 1 was in use it probably appeared as a multiply terraced sustaining platform supporting a similar platform, with a flight of stairs on the north east side, facing Structures 2 and 3. A small stone building measuring approximately 6 meters by 8 meters occupied the surface of the upper platform, and probably had a ceremonial function. It is possible that this large structure was built by core construction and that the interior construction with mezcla facing was never exposed as a finished structure. Perhaps even the stone facing was never exposed, and finely finished walls were built farther out and not seen by Butler's expedition. Traces of plaster on the stone work may indicate a plaster coating for finished sustaining walls, or may just be the remains of mortar

holding the stones together. Structure 1 was built in at least two stages, but it can not be determined from the available evidence if the end-product from each stage was actually utilized as a completed structure.

Structure 2, the smallest at Torres, lies 15 meters to the north of Structure 1. Trench 8 (fig. ), at its northwest base, revealed a line of steps (F.2/11), or stepped terracing, above a two meter deep deposit of yellow clay and river pebbles streaked with brown earth (F.2/13). Above these steps is rich brown loose soil containing sherds (F.2/1). A large "fire-pit" of burnt earth (F.2/12) below the level of the wall contained fragments of plaster, mostly toward the top of the pit. Large boulders (F.2/14) are imbedded in clay below the pit.

Trench 7 (fig. ) cuts across the southwestern portion of the platform of Structure 2. Rich brown loose soil (F.2/1) covers the surface of the trench, although Butler does not regard this as "top soil". Below this, the fill is deep yellow clay (F.2/2) streaked with pink and white clay (F.2/7 and F.2/8). The western portion of the trench reveals a stone "pier" (F.2/5), and a stone "cimiento (foundation) or base for a wood/adobe wall" (F.2/6) occupies the central portion of the trench. The south section of the trench reveals an area of light brown earth (F.2/3) next to a column of yellow clay and river pebbles streaked with brown earth (F.2/4), opposite the stone foundation. F.2/9, a layer of red clay west of the found-

ation, may represent a floor level, and seals a deposit of light brown earth (F.2/10).

Trench 9, located next to a large boulder on the plaza on which the structures were built, has not been illustrated. A wall or stairs was apparently seen in the trench, with masonry similar to that seen in Structure 2, below a stratum of brown soil. A stone floor is said to extend across the entire trench, constructed of large stones on a foundation of smaller ones, above yellow clay. This floor level is 0.45 meters below the floor level recorded for Trench 8.

Structure 2 is seemingly a stepped platform similar in its architectural style to Structure 1, but no earlier stage of construction was revealed by the excavation. Perhaps all three structures were built along similar architectural lines, although this can not be substantiated. The stone surface revealed in Trench 9 is an indication that the structures were built on an artificial plaza (of undetermined dimensions) rather than upon a natural hilltop.

The finds, in the collection of the University Museum, are catalogued 39.30.133 through 39.30.156, and include 1330 potsherds. They are numbered according to their location on the site, but several features were combined as "levels" for the purpose of sherd collection. Potsherds, stone, and obsidian flakes were collected from Trenches 2, 3, 8 and 9 only, and from the surface of Structures 1 and 2.

Study of the collection may indicate a general time span in which Torres might fall, and may indicate a difference in time between the mezcla and stone constructions of Structure 1. However, most of the sherds probably came from construction fill and may indicate a time period much earlier than the actual occupation of Torres. None of the sherds can be proven to relate to activity at Torres, although some of them, and particularly the surface finds, may well have been deposited during the occupation of the site.

Although Torres was excavated before Potrero and Morales, this site was studied much more systematically. In this site alone some interest was shown in the architectural features and in determining phases of occupation and construction, although the collection of sherds may still have been Butler's primary objective.

TORRES: APPENDIX

Feature List

Structure 1 (figures 2-6)

- F.1/1 Dark brown top soil.
- F.1/2 Stone.
- F.1/3 Stone.
- F.1/4 Stone.
- F.1/5 Yellow clay mixed with river pebbles.
- F.1/6 Reddish clay mixed with river pebbles.
- F.1/7 Brown mixed earth.
- F.1/8 Line of charcoal and burnt clay.
- F.1/9 Dark yellow mixed earth.
- F.1/10 Red burnt potters' clay.
- F.1/11a Fire-pit.
- F.1/11b Dark yellow mixed clay.
- F.1/12 Brown mixed earth.
- F.1/13 Stone.
- F.1/14 Stone.
- F.1/15 Dark yellow mixed earth.
- F.1/16 Black soil.
- F.1/17 Light yellow fine clay.
- F.1/18 Line of earth, ash, charcoal and clay.
- F.1/19 Brown mixed earth.
- F.1/20 Stone.
- F.1/21 Fire-pit and ash.
- F.1/22 Layer of fire-pit and ash.
- F.1/23 Layer of fire-pit and ash.
- F.1/24 Mezcla.
- F.1/25 Burnt mezcla and wood.
- F.1/26 Mezcla.
- F.1/27 Burnt mezcla and wood.
- F.1/28 Yellow clay and pebbles.
- F.1/29 Stone.
- F.1/30 Brown earth, with limestone and stalactite fragments.
- F.1/31 Mezcla and earth.
- F.1/32 Stone.
- F.1/33 Mezcla.
- F.1/34 Mezcla and earth.
- F.1/35 Stone.
- F.1/36 Deep yellow earth.
- F.1/37 Brown earth.
- F.1/38 Mezcla and earth.
- F.1/39 Charcoal.
- F.1/40 Stone.
- F.1/41 Mezcla.
- F.1/42 Deep yellow earth.
- F.1/43 Burnt mezcla and wood.
- F.1/44 Dark brown earth.
- F.1/45 Stone.

- F.1/46 Stone.
- F.1/47 Stone.
- F.1/48 Stone.
- F.1/49 Dark yellow earth.

Structure 2 (fig. and )

- F.2/1 Rich loose brown soil.
- F.2/2 Deep yellow mixed earth.
- F.2/3 Light brown earth.
- F.2/4 Yellow clay and river pebbles, streaked with brown.
- F.2/5 Stone.
- F.2/6 Stone.
- F.2/7 Pink clay.
- F.2/8 Pink clay.
- F.2/9 Red clay.
- F.2/10 Light brown earth.
- F.2/11 Semi-dressed stones with traces of plaster and mortar.
- F.2/12 Fire-pit.
- F.2/13 Yellow clay and river pebbles, streaked with brown.
- F.2/14 Boulders imbedded in clay.

POTRERO

The site of Potrero consists of three "mounds", presumed to be structural remains, located on the Pareded' cattle ranch and municipally owned lands to the east, in the vicinity of San Pedro Carcha. In 1939 Mary Butler dug a series of test pits on the site, commencing work on April 10 and continuing for 5 days. No previous archaeological excavations are known to have been carried out on this site, although looting was evidenced by a filled-in trench on the southwest side of Structure 3. The site has been assigned, by Butler, to the Late Classic Maya period, on the basis of pottery types.

No plan exists of Potrero, and details of the site's layout and appearance are not known. A sketch map of Structure 1, showing the approximate location of the trenches is on deposit in the University Museum. This sketch seems to show a terraced structure consisting of at least three platforms, and possibly having a staircase on the eastern side. Butler's notes indicate that other structures existed in the immediate vicinity, forming a "mound complex". Structure 1, the only one of the group from which pottery was recovered, was presumably the tallest structure, occupying the westernmost position in the group, on the Paredes' property. Structure 2, termed a "platform", was located to the east of Structure 1 in an area not cleared for pasture land, and south of this was a "small mound", Structure 3.

Excavations on Structure 1 consisted of fourteen small test pits, although nine of these were dismissed as "unproductive". Several

trenches were also excavated on the other mounds. Many of the trenches were located just off the edge of platforms, the area that was the most productive in terms of potsherds.

Brief summaries of each days work and notes on the pottery form the entire record of excavations at Potrero. No description of the structures or of the nature of the strata was recorded, and Butler offers no interpretation of the data. Her pottery catalogue describes and illustrates the different wares from Structures 1 and 2, but the exact find spots and stratigraphic relationships of the sherds are unknown. Apparently no photographs were taken of the site, and no overall site plan exists.

The following description of the excavation are based on Butler's field notes, and all descriptive terms are hers.

Only one structural element was recorded on the site: a wall of dry-laid undressed stones on the northwest corner of the upper level of Structure 1. Two lines of stones remained, running east-west. No north-south line was found, and no other stone work was recorded at Potrero. The construction fill was yellow sand, which was not present in the other mounds. The excavations on Structure 1 revealed two small dumps of fine pottery. One, on the north side, contained mostly medial flanged ring-based bowls. Broken earth and trash marked another on the slope of the second platform on the south side, and may represent a midden deposit. Three concave-sided white bowls,

(not in University Museum collections), found in two separate locations, were similar to wares found at Kamihab, as were painted and incised sherds. Sherds of heavy orange ware, common at Torres, also show up at Potrero, which, according to Butler, bears out her previous assumption that Torres was earlier than Potrero.

Pottery from Structure 2 comes from a dump just off the edge of the platform. (This can be interpreted either as a midden or as erosion of the construction fill.) The one trench dug on Structure 3 yielded just three rimsherds and one fragment of an "idol head".

Of the sherds collected from the Potrero site, 248 were discarded and 485 remain on deposit in the University Museum. The pottery from Structure 1 is catalogued as numbers 39.30.17 through 39.30.44, and that from Structure 2 is numbered 39.30.73 through 39.30.87. Catalogue numbers 39.30.131 and 39.30.132 refer to Structures 1 and 2 respectively, but these sherds may have been collected at a different time/ Butler did not separate the finds by trench or level, and so the catalogue numbers bear no relation to provenance.

Most of the Potrero pottery came from "dumps", but the meaning of this term is somewhat ambiguous. From the available information, we can only say that a "dump" is an area in which pottery was found. Butler was unable to determine the context in which the sherds were found. The absence of stratigraphical recording makes it unclear whether the sherds came from construction fill, either within a

structure or redeposited by erosion, or from midden deposits. The sherds may not relate to the actual occupation of the site.

Even so, Butler assigns Potrero to a period between Torres and Kanhab, on the basis of pottery types. Perhaps pottery similar to that from Torres came from construction fill, which may have been soil and debris redeposited from an earlier site, while the pottery similar to that from Kanhab was refuse from the actual occupation of the site. This is only conjectured, and can not be substantiated from the data. On the basis of pottery, Butler also says that the occupation of Potrero was contemporary with that of Morales. It is impossible to determine how long the site was in use or if there was more than one period of occupation.

Butler used Potrero as a place from which to collect sherds, and paid little attention to the architectural features of the site. Seriation of pottery or sites was probably her main objective in digging at Potrero. Because we can not determine if the pottery dates to the occupation of the site, from the time of construction of the site, or is from the construction fill and thus earlier, Potrero can not be accurately included in a sequence of sites from Alta Verapaz. The collection is of abstract value, and without details of provenance it does little to further our understanding of the site.

The excavations at Potrero would have been more worthwhile had Butler tried to determine the extent and nature of the structures, and had she carefully controlled the recovery of potsherds for use

as dating evidence. However, the data she did record is insufficient for interpretation of the site. Further study of the pottery will not lead to a firm chronology for Potrero, and results of such a study would probably be insignificant in regard to this site.

MORALES

Valentine Morales Hill is situated in or near the town of San Pedro Carchá. In 1939 Mary Butler excavated on its north side. The first excavations were carried out on April 14 and 15, when four men were engaged in digging five trenches. Three additional trenches were dug by three laborers from May 2 through 4. The location of the trenches seems to indicate Butler's continued interest in pottery types.

Morales is not a natural hill, but rather the eroded remains of a "Late Classic Maya" structure. More recently, until ca. 1900, an old Ermita (hermitage) occupied the site, and at the time of the excavation the property was part of an Indian ranch. The structure was comprised of three superimposed platforms, and the summit extended 37 meters from east to west and was crossed by a modern road.

Summaries of each day's work and the finds catalogues are our only sources of information on Morales. The notes are brief and incomplete, particularly in reference to the earlier excavation. No photographs or drawings are known to have been made. A rough sketch (fig. 9) shows the approximate positions of the trenches in relation to the road and hillside terraces. I have taken the liberty of re-numbering the trenches in a uniform manner, from 1 to 7. The eighth trench remains unaccounted for on the plan, though it is known to have been located on the upper platform.

Of the five trenches excavated on April 14, only Trench 1 on the lower terrace and Trench 2 on the upper terrace were "productive". Other trenches may have produced some sherds, but these were neither saved nor recorded. The following descriptions have been based entirely on Butler's scanty notes.

Trench 1 measured two meters by one meter, and was 1.5 meters deep. Trench two was also two meters by one meter, running east-west, and was quite shallow. Trench 3, excavated on May 4, was an eastern extension of Trench 2, running north-south for two meters by 1.5 meters. These three trenches all shared a similar stratigraphic sequence. The uppermost layer was light brown soil containing fine sherds. Below this (at a depth of 0.8 m. in Trench 3) was a layer of bright yellow earth. Then, at a depth of 1.1 m., a layer of black leaf mold appeared, which extended over the entire site. The leaf mold went down to at least 1.5 m., overlying a layer of black-brown soil with occasional flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. The three trenches all contained similar types of fine pottery.

Trenches 4 and 5 were excavated on the upper terrace of Morales, about 16 meters east of Trench 3. Trench 4 was situated alongside the road, east of the remains of the Ermita. This trench struck the corner of the building's east wall, revealing curved baked clay roof tiles with grooved edges. The building foundations were exposed one meter below the ground surface, on a layer of black earth, charcoal, and burnt clay. This dark earth seems to have been a fire-pit cut into bright yellow soil. Because this trench was only

five meters from the edge of the platform, Butler did not extend this excavation further. Instead, another trench was begun 5.5 meters to the north. Trench 5 extended north south for four meters, and was three meters deep. A layer of heavy ash, charcoal and burnt clay was found in this trench at 0.5 to 0.6 meters below the ground surface. Below this, at a depth of 1.5 meters, streaks of reddish clay and charcoal appear in the grey. This overlies the black leaf-mold, which continued down for 0.5 meters. Some yellow soil appears below this layer. A fireplace was seen in Trench 5, two meters from the edge of the trench, consisting of burnt and unburnt stones resting on charcoal, covering an area approximately one meter square, and extending from 0.7 to 1.0 meters below the surface. Trenches 4 and 5 are both described as having streaky "fire-pit" soil. Pottery from these two trenches was collected at arbitrary levels of 0.5 meters each. The pottery was mostly household wares, with no very fine sherds, and was consistent throughout the layers of the two trenches.

Pottery from Morales is in the collections of the University Museum. Catalogue numbers 39.30.111 through 39.30.114 and 39.30.120 represent the combined finds from Trenches 1 and 2. Finds from Trench 3 are catalogued as numbers 39.30.103 through 39.30.109 and 39.30.124. Sherds from the surface to 0.5 meters were separated from those collected from below 1.1 meters. Number 39.30.121 represents the top 0.5 meters of Trenches 4 and 5 combined, and 39.30.122 represents these two trenches from 0.5 to one meter in depth. Unprovenanced finds, all fine wares, are catalogued as numbers 39.30.102 and 39.30.110. A bark beater found on the surface of the ranch across

from the excavation is catalogued as 39.30.125. The collection consists of 821 sherds, and no complete or restorable vessels were found.

Trenches 4 and 5 produced heavy grooved orange sherds and other "house wares" similar to sherds collected at Torres. Fine wares, similar to sherds from Potrero, were found in Trenches 1, 2, and 3, and as surface finds. Butler believes that Torres was occupied prior to Potrero, but still it seems likely that Morales was only occupied during one stylistic period. The coarse wares represent a deposit contemporary with the occupation of the site, as they were found in and around a fireplace. The fine wares probably represent a midden deposit rather than construction fill, if they are truly later than or contemporary with the coarse wares, as Butler states in her notes.

POTTERY REPORT

Butler's article, "A Pottery Sequence from Alta Verapaz, Guatemala", suggests four periods, designated Chixoy I-IV, corresponding to the Early Classic, Late Classic, Post Classic, and Proto-historic culture periods (Butler, 1940, Table III; Smith, 1952, Table I). The pottery on which this sequence was based was collected by Robert Burkitt from Chama, Chipal, Kixpec, Tambor, Chihuatal, and Ratinlixul.

On the basis of pottery types, Torres, Potrero and Morales can be assigned to both Chama 3 and Chama 4/Chipal 1, subdivisions of Chixoy II, the Late Classic. The diagnostic form of this period is the decorated cylindrical jar.

The collection, on deposit in the University Museum, consists of over 2500 potsherds. No complete or restorable vessels are in the collection. The small size of the majority of the potsherds made analysis of form and design virtually impossible for a large portion of the collection. Loosely following Butler's classificatory system, the sherds were sorted according to decorative techniques, by color, and by shape where it could be determined. The resulting wares are described below.

Relief Decorated

TORRES: Applied bands (fig. and ), knobs, gouging, pie-crust fillet, and an applied U-shaped strip decorate orange, brown, cream, red and smoked wares.

POTRERO: Cream and orange slipped wares with applied knobs and red ware with applied, indented bands, and a portion of a "monkey head" were collected from Structure 1, along with sherds decorated by the champ-leve technique. The champ-leve sherds are of orange paste with cream slip, with a carved design painted red. The rim is also red, and the interior is orange on white. Relief decorated sherds from Structure 2 include applied bands on black and red wares, and grey monkey heads (fig. ). These modelled and incised monkey heads formed friezes on bowls and cylindrical jars (Smith, 1952, fig.2).

MORALES: Decorative elements include champ-leve (fig. ), applied knobs (fig. ) and indented bands (fig. and ), deep grooves and geometric designs in high relief (fig. ). One fine example of relief decoration is a moulded face of a man, painted red, beneath a white flaring rim (fig. ). Orange, brown, cream, smoked, black and red wares are represented.

#### Incised and Gouged

TORRES: Orange, red, black and cream wares show geometric and some curvilinear designs, with orange wares predominating (fig. , and ). Two unslipped sherds are decorated with lattice patterns.

POTRERO: Most incised sherds from this site are cream slipped, with a geometric pattern (Smith, 1952, fig.12-15) (fig. and ). A brown sherd with impressed circles (Smith, 1952, fig.12k), a grey ware sherd and some cream-and-red wares, including one with a fine design

of a seated figure (fig. ) were recovered from Structure 1, while Structure 2 produced several incised red sherds.

MORALES: The Morales pottery has fewer geometric patterns than that from Potrero, and these were found on cream (fig. ), red, cream-and-red, and orange wares. Curvilinear designs decorate both red and cream wares. A design was etched on an orange rim above a grey body (fig. ), and a brown sherd has double perpendicular lines. Black wares were red impressed or decorated with moon-shaped gouges (fig. ). Few incised sherds were recovered from Trenches 3, 4, and 5.

### Polychrome

POTRERO: Structure 1 produced mostly red, black and orange patterns on an orange-over-white background (fig. ). The sherds are badly worn and the designs are illegible for the most part. Orange ware flanged bowls with cream slipped rims have three-color polychrome interiors. Black designs are found on red backgrounds, and a black and red design on white was recovered from Structure 2. Other sherds from Structure 2 appear to represent Chama style cylindrical jars (Smith, 1952, fig. 19) (fig. ). These sherds have vivid orange, red, white, and black designs, but the patterns are obscured by the small size of the sherds.

MORALES: Polychrome sherds include red and black designs on an orange background (fig. ), red on orange (fig. ), and cream bowls with red rims and black and red designs on an orange interior. No polychrome sherds were found in Trenches 4 and 5.

### Negative Painted

POTRERO: Negative painted sherds were decorated by the resist technique (Smith, 1952, p.228) and were not found on the other two sites.

Examples from Structure 1 include two white-on-black patterns (fig. and ), one being the tau and dot design described by Smith (Smith, 1952, fig. 17g,1), and a light-on-dark orange pattern (fig. ). Structure 2 produced a black-and white sherd and several brown-and-white sherds (fig. ).

### Incensario

POTRERO: Two examples of incensario ware were found at Petrero. An unslipped red rim from structure 1 was covered with a calcareous (incensario white) coating, and decorated with spikes (Smith, 1952, Fig. 9e and 21d) (fig. ). An unslipped brown rim from Structure 2 was incised with a lattice design, and may have been part of a censer lid.

### Cream Ware

TORRES: Bowls have ring or flat bases, and are sometimes slipped only on the interior. One round-sectioned handle and two tripod supports were recovered. One medial flanged bowl was cream colored from the rim to the flange only, with an orange under-slip.

POTRERO: Cream slipped sherds include slanting rims, a doubled rim with a flat top, medial flanges, flat bases, and mammoform tripod supports (fig. ). Some cream wares from Structure 1 have an orange under-slip. Most of these are medial flanged bowls, often with the cream color only above the flange (Smith, 1952, fig. 18).

MORALES: Cream wares from Morales have ring, flat, and tripod bases. nicked and plain medial flanges, and round-sectioned handles. Rim shapes include flaring, straight cylinder jar, bead, and right-angle rims, as well as a thick squared right-angle rim. Trenches 4 and 5 produced no cream wares.

### Orange Ware

TORRES: Orange B wares (with no under-slip) predominate at Torres. Rims are flaring (fig. and OO), incurved, curved, straight, right-angle, doubled, and flanged. One bowl is ring-based; others are flat or curved. Olla handles are flat- or round-sectioned.

POTRERO: Orange slipped wares from Potrero are mostly of Butler's type Orange A, with a white under-slip. These are mostly thick household wares. Rims are straight, curved, slanting or doubled, and some bases have small cylindrical tripod supports. Only four orange ware sherds were collected from Structure 2.

MORALES: Sherds from Morales represent cylinder jars (fig. and ), plain bowls (fig. ), flanged bowls, and two-handled jars. Nine of the sherds are coarse and porous (fig. ), and most are thick. Rims are straight or curved, one is thickened, and one is flanged. Both plain and nicked medial flanges occur. Ring bases predominate over flat bases, and one light orange basal flange is nicked and gouged. Trenches 4 and 5 show a preponderance of thick, dark Orange B, while the rest of the site has mostly Orange A wares.

### Red Ware

TORRES: Red, brown, and maroon wares were found in abundance at Torres. Forms include flaring jar rims, right-angle, incurved, and straight rims, round and oval-sectioned handles, medial flanged bowls, and flat and indented-disc bases. Red rims also topped cream, orange, and buff vessels (fig. ).

POTRERO: Red paint covers a cream slip on the exterior of bowls, and maroon right-angle rims top two buff colored ollas.

MORALES: Red wares include right-angle rims, ridged rims, and thick handles. In addition, there are maroon right-angle rims, maroon and buff rims, and a maroon flange. One flaring rim, attached to the body at a right-angle, is brown-slipped.

### Smoked Ware

TORRES: Smoked sherds from Torres are too small to impart any information about the shape of the vessels.

POTRERO: Smoked wares are mostly represented by shallow bowls with medial flanges and ring bases. One rim from Structure 1 may represent a cylindrical jar.

MORALES: Curved and ring bases from bowls and a flat base from a cylindrical jar were found at Morales. Rims are mostly slanting bowl rims, as well as one bead rim and one double outcurved rim. Medial flanges decorate some of the bowls. Few smoked wares were recovered from Trenches 4 and 5.

### Black Ware

TORRES: Black slipped sherds include flat bases, slanting rims, and medial flanges.

MORALES: A segment of a shallow black slipped bowl was recovered from Trench 4 or 5, along with several other black ware sherds.

### Unslipped

TORRES: Unslipped wares are white, orange, buff and brown. Seven white, orange and buff sherds were coarse and porous. Rims are straight (fig. and ), flaring, right angle, thumb impressed, flaring with a thinned edge, or doubled (fig. ). Flat and rounded handles are attached at or below the rim. (fig. , and ). Medial flanges are plain, and bases are flat, ring, and curved. Tripod supports are hemispherical or shaped like truncated cones. Basketry was impressed on the interior of one orange sherd, and the upper part of a right-angle rim of a buff colored vessel was painted orange. Cylinder jars, flanged bowls, and large storage jars with straight rims are some of the forms of the unslipped wares.

POTRERO: Unslipped wares range in color from buff to orange, brown and grey. Structure 1 produced flaring, right-angle, and slanting rims, as well as one each of doubled, incurved, straight, and thickened rims. Three rims, including two with a coarse, gritty paste, had ornamental projections (fig. and ). Rims from Structure 2 are mostly flaring or straight and thick, along with several slanting and a doubled, outcurved rim (fig. ). Bases are ring, rounded, or tripod, with one flat and one indented disk base. Plain and nicked

medial flanges, and handles (fig. ) were also recovered. Two brown colored unslipped sherds from Structure 1 were impressed with a twined basket, and several sherds were of a coarse, gritty paste.

MORALES: The color of the paste is white, buff, orange, brown or grey. Rims are mostly flaring, followed by slanting, straight, incurved, flat-topped, bead, and doubled, and several have ornamental projections. Bases are ring, flat, or curved, or have tripod supports, and medial flanges are mostly plain, with one nicked flange. Handle fragments are both round and oval sectioned. Six sherds are of the porous clay. Most of the unslipped wares are from Trenches 3, 4, and 5.

#### Figurines

TORRES: A modelled figurine (fig. ), painted red and fire blackened, represents a pregnant female torso, and may have had significance for fertility. A brown animal head (fig. ) was modelled, with an incised mouth and gouged eyes. Black, orange, and red quetzal feathers (fig. and ) and several unidentifiable fragments were also collected at the site.

POTRERO: A red figurine or "idol" (fig. ) was moulded in a fine style comparable to finds from Kamikab and Chipec (Smith, 1952, fig.23). Other figurine fragments, also from Structure 1, were modelled, and include an incised deer head (fig. ) a crudely incised face (fig. ) and a number of unidentifiable fragments. A clay base for a figurine

and two small modelled fragments were recovered from Structure 2.

MORALES: Modelled clay from Morales includes a brown colored face (fig. ), an orange arm (fig. ), and a fragment that may be part of a torso. An orange fragment (fig. ) is carved in relief.

#### Associated Artifacts.

TORRES: A bark beater (fig. ), grooved on one face, was found in a field across the road from the excavation. A small piece of mezcla from the construction of the platforms is in the collection, but obsidian flakes collected from the site were apparently discarded.

POTRERO: A serpentine rubbing stone (fig. ) with a smooth face and abraded edges, a barbed and tanged arrow point, (fig. ), a bifacially worked jasper end scraper (fig. ), two flint chips, and an obsidian flake were found on Structure 1.

#### Conclusions

Potrero and Morales are roughly contemporary sites, according to Butler. This seems to be substantiated from the similar pottery types, although Potrero has negative painted and more polychrome sherds. Less household sherds are in the Potrero collection, but this is in proportion to the relative size of the collection. Torres, the earliest site, lacks polychrome and negative painted wares, and has fewer fine wares in comparison to the other sites. The Torres collection is comprised mostly of unslipped sherds, along with a large number of heavy orange and red slipped sherds. The time difference between the sites would not be great, as all three sites date from the Late Classic period.

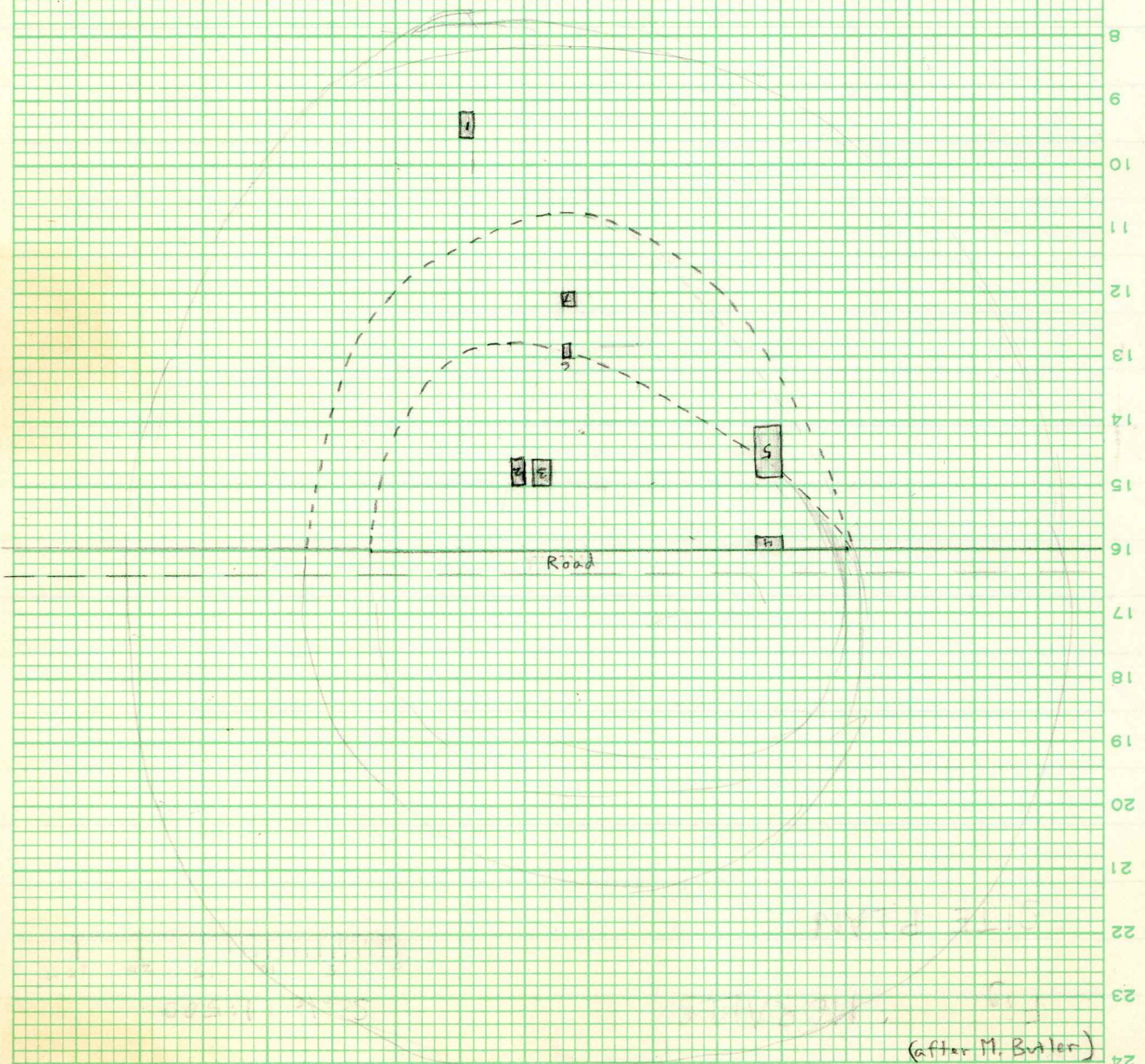
SITE	TORRES	POTRERO	MORALES
Relief. Decorated	22	13	30
Incised and Gouged	20	30	37
Polychrome	X	59	37
Negative Painted	X	12	X
Incensario	X	2	X
Cream Ware	44	160	173
Orange Ware	187	54	118
Red Ware	115	9	29
Smoked Ware	14	47	147
Black Ware	39	X	8
Unslipped	882	86	236
Total:	1330	485	821

Table : Distribution of Wares by Site

Fig. 9 : MORALES

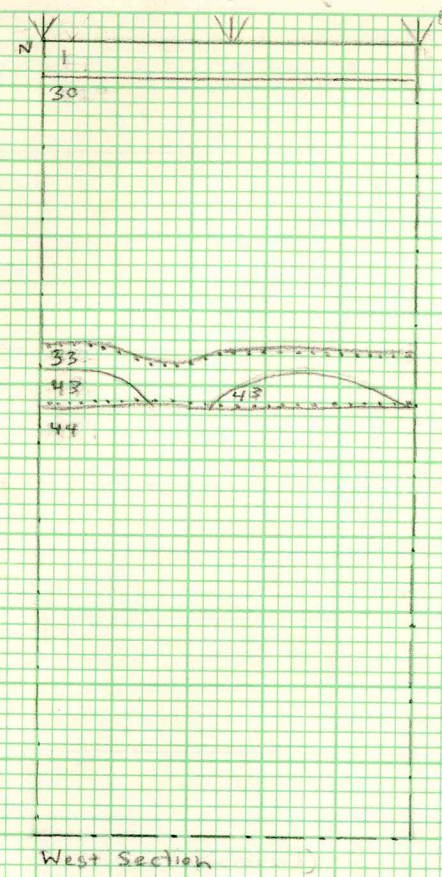
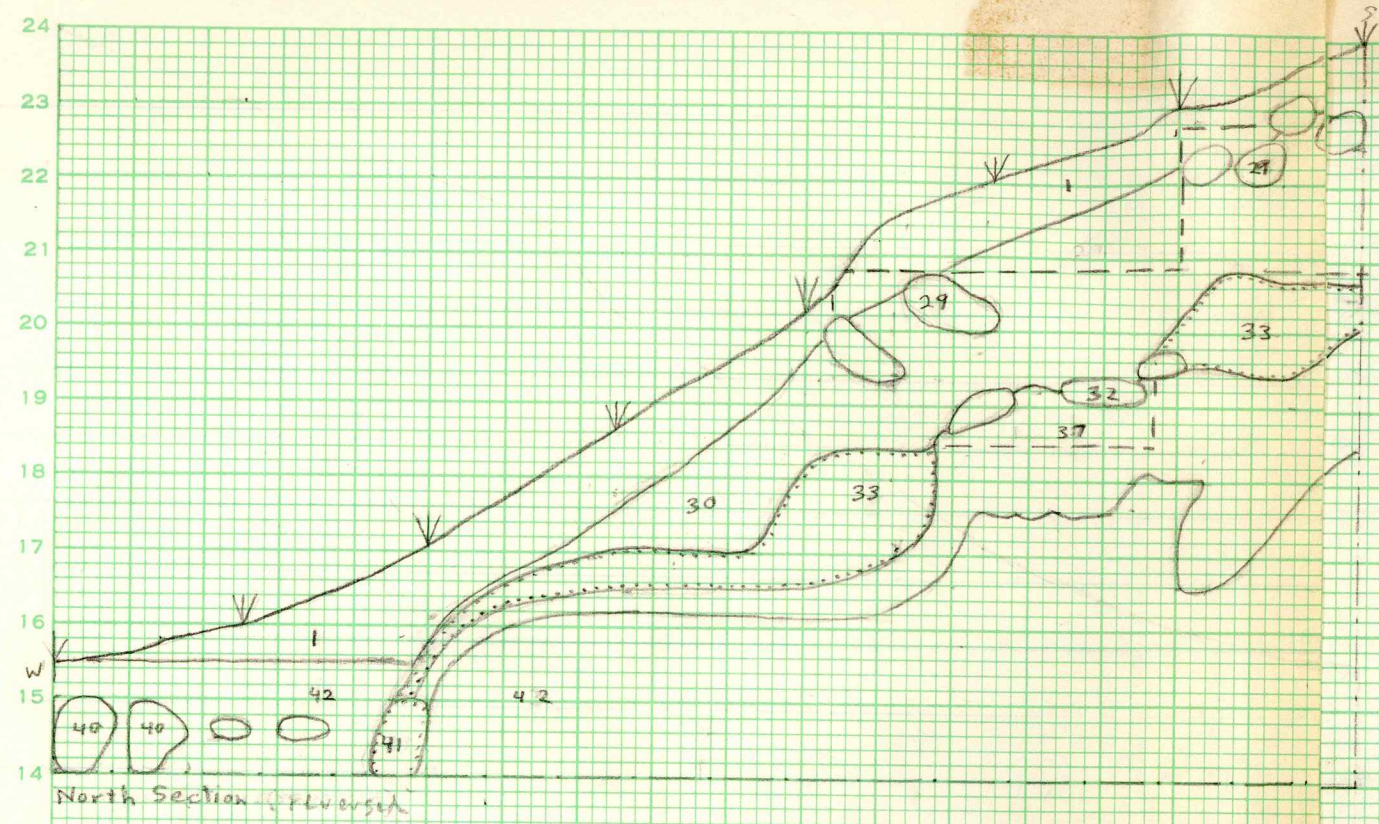
Rough Site Plan

Scale 1:500



(after M. Butler)

Oversized item not scanned



Scale 1:20

W  $\diamond$  E

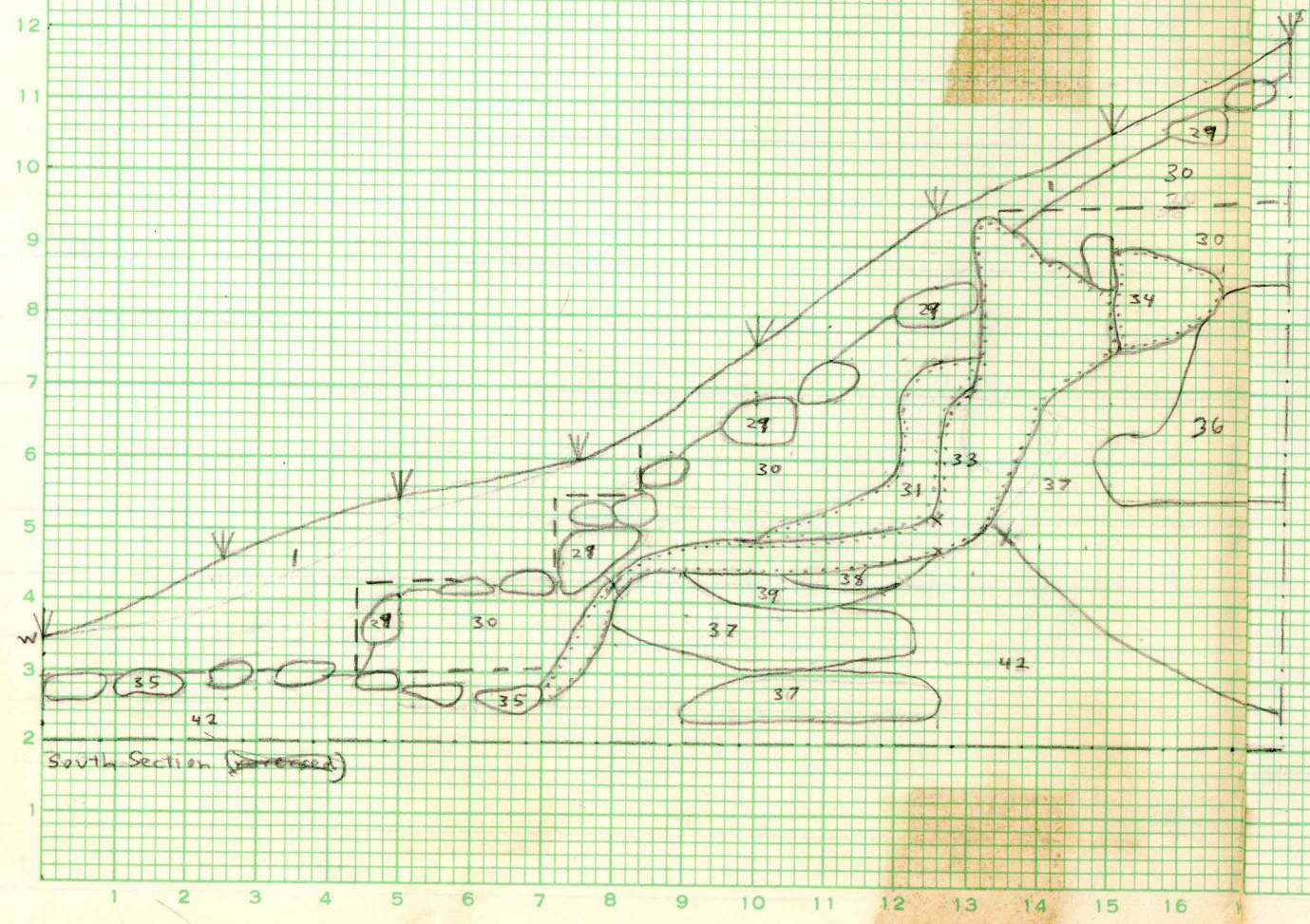


Fig. 5 : TORRES  
Trench 3, Structure 1

(after M. Butler)

E.W. II

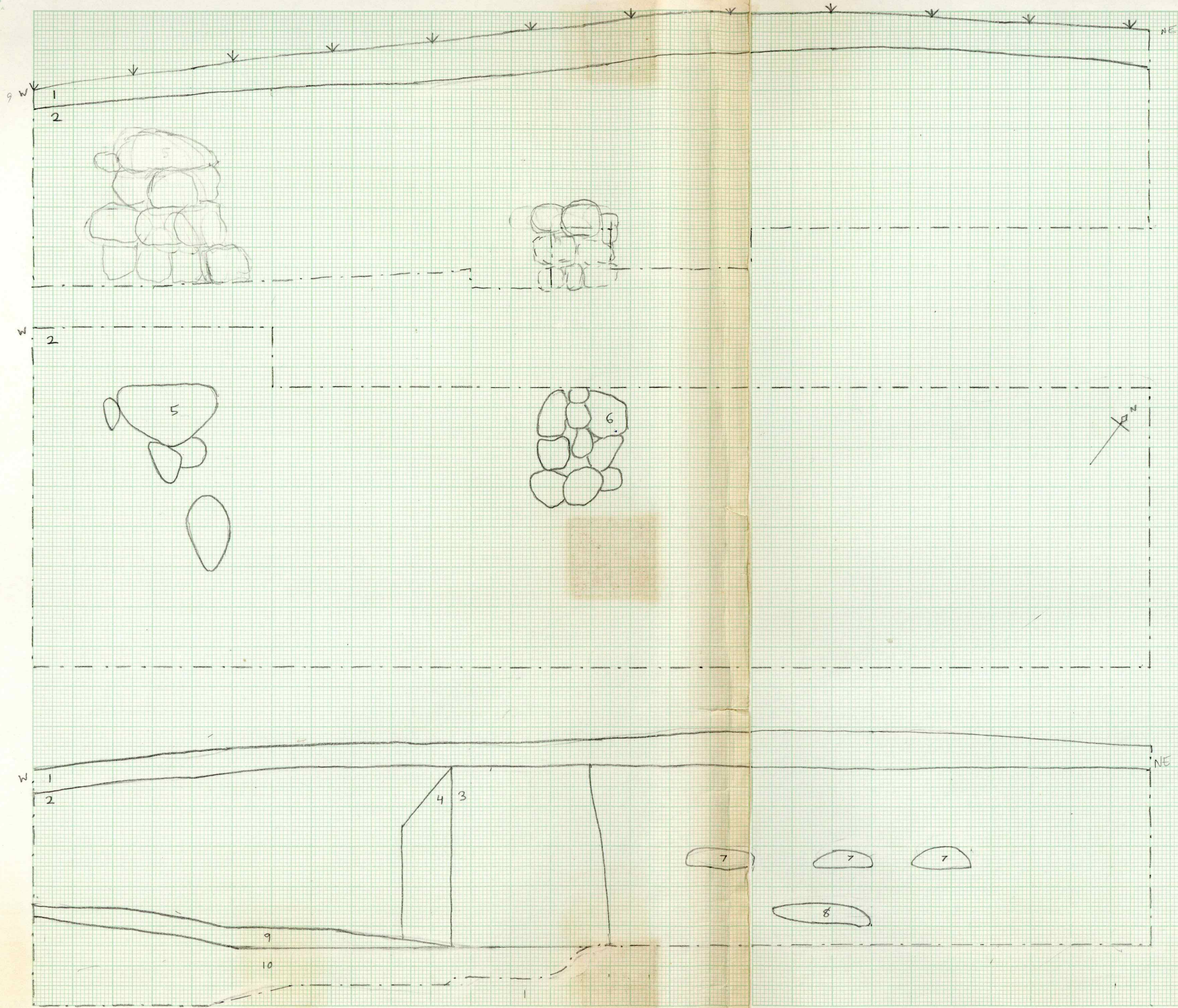
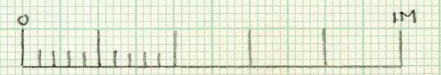


Fig. 7 : TORRES

Trench 7, Structure 2

W |

Scale 1:20



(after M. Butler)

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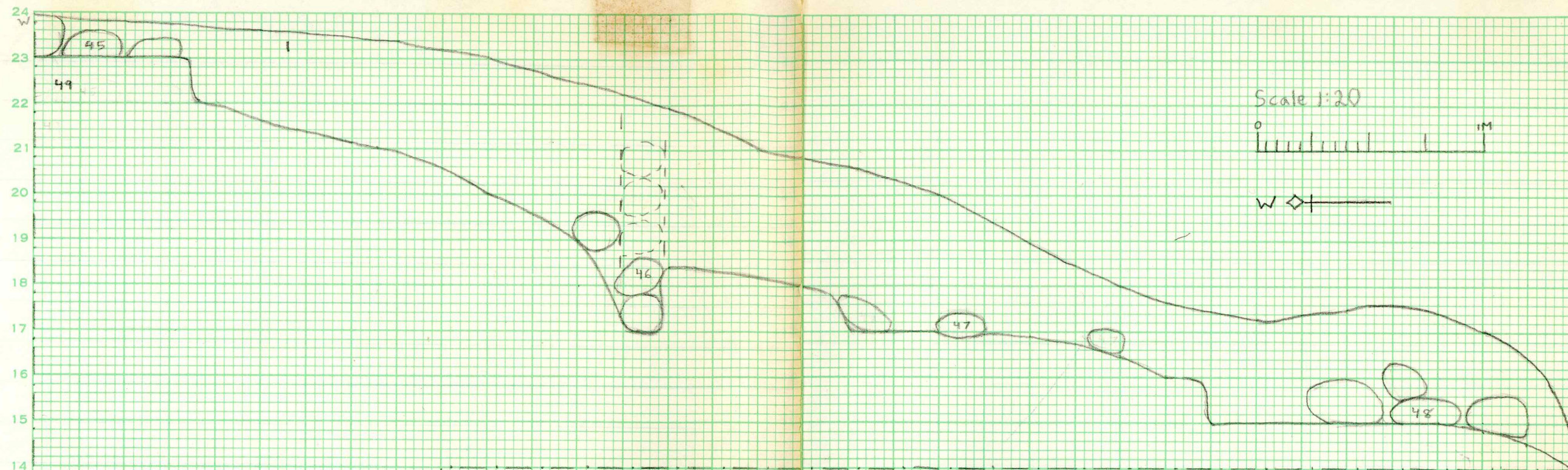


Fig. 3 : TORRES  
Trench 5, Structure 1

reverse  
these

North Section

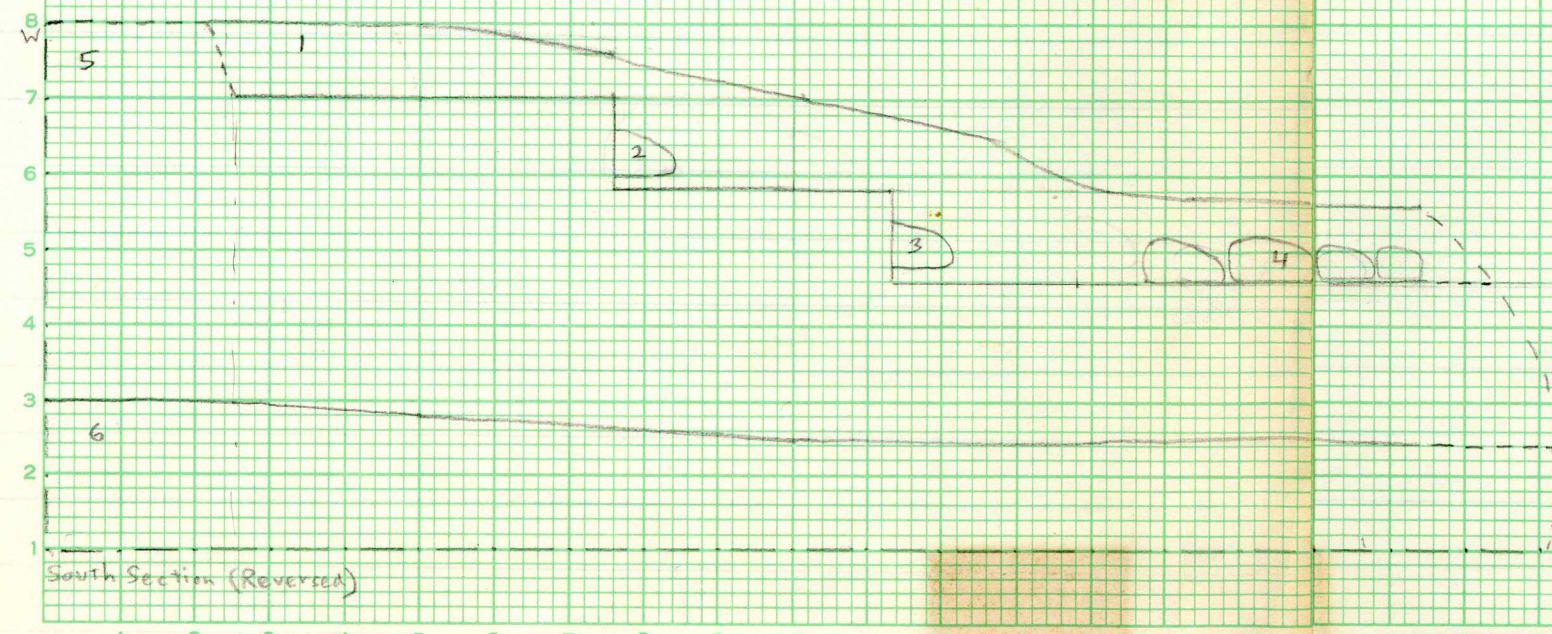


Fig. 4 : TORRES  
Trench 1, Structure 1

South Section (Reversed)

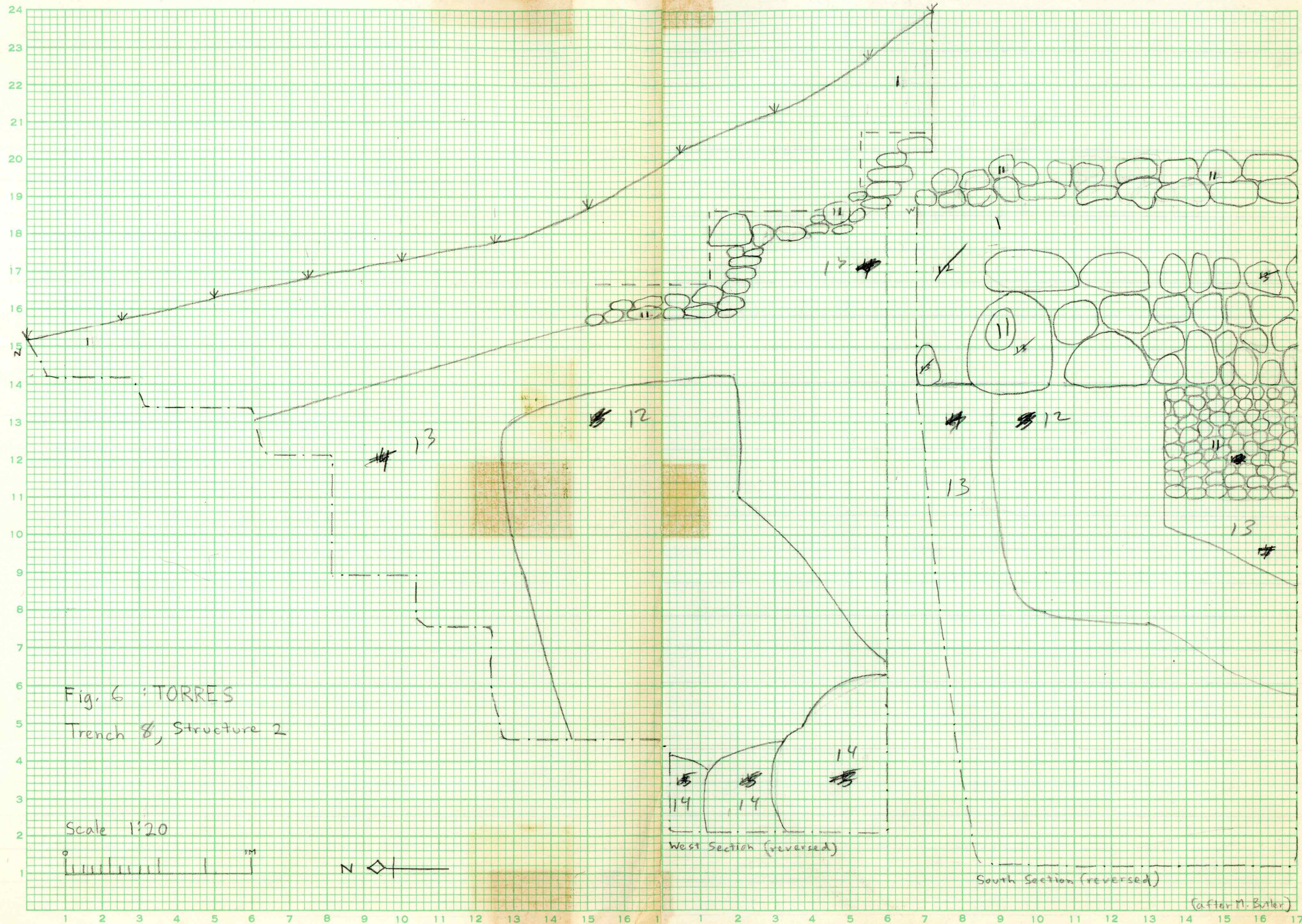


Fig. 6 : TORRES  
Trench 8, Structure 2

Scale 1:20



West Section (reversed)

South Section (reversed)

(after M. Butler)

fully I will be able to expound more fully on this once analysis of the collection is complete.

I have no real conclusions to draw on Kanihab at this point, the notes and plan are just too confusing. For the moment I will continue to refer to the entire area uncovered in the excavation as a single structure, with the various structural remains designated as features. Functional assessment of the site is a matter of pure speculation; temporal assessment will have to await further analysis and comparison with the other sites within the barrio of San Pedro Carcha.