Sth K-5.

See Envelopes ① + ② in 208:1-

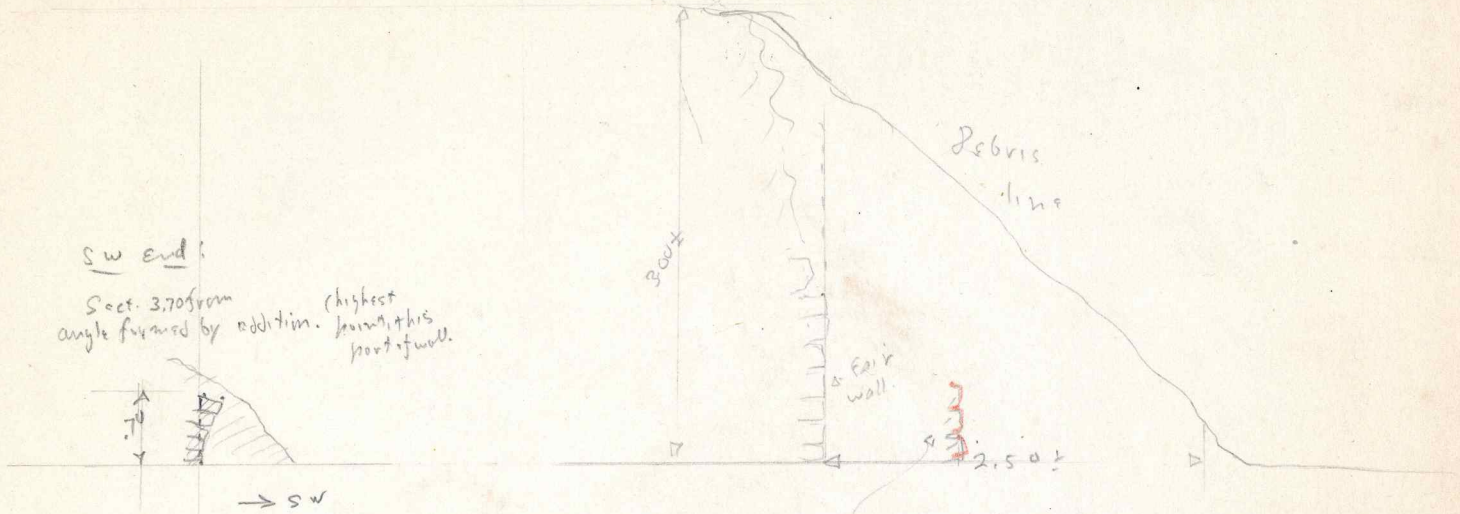
K-6 West Gr. Ball Court.

Debris Sections K-6-a 1933

NB floor level = base of wall at point indicated - levels not taken - meter stick only.

See K-6-a

Section near center (rear)



followed from SW corner nearly to trench - after that, dug out (?) without seeing it, for several meters - hunting for further m. - later found & followed to corner.

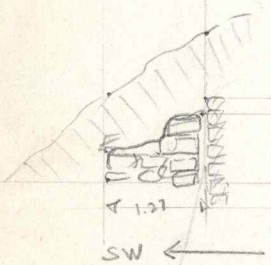
SW end:

Sect. 3.70 from angle formed by addition. (highest point of this part of wall.

Sect. — m. from above point. Cliff is farther back than same for K-6-b.



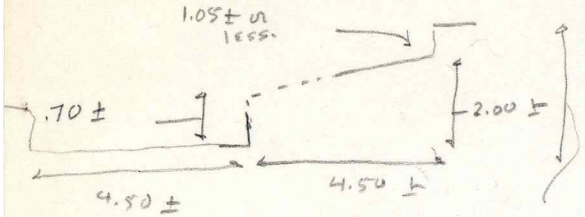
Sect. 30 front of angle



Also some four blocks in addition - large [illegible]


P/N
K-6
4 x .01 = .04
5½
14°
.79
84

Uvractum Pyr.



Benches almost identical, except for reconstructed height of alley wall, which may be wrong.

alley is somewhat narrower.

Standard measurements (average):

Phase B. Length 21 - 21.25 = 2.12
Depth = 9.00
alley width 6.05 ÷ 15 = 6.10

Benches:
Depth 4.30 - 4.10 = 4.35
Rear height,
1.50 - 2.03 = 1.90

Platforms:
Min h. 3.19
add .10 to floor 3.30 (possibly a little low).

3.16
4
12.64

3.16
2.03
1.13
10
1.23 (K-6-b)
(K-6-a).

1.23± (res.

3.19
180

.70

2.38
4
9.52

35
70
1.05 (thick, min. vertical).

.35

h = 2.30 line of slabs

h = 2.03

.40 on this reconstr.

.05 (5½)

.15

.10

from K-6-a (K-6-b same, not so smooth)

see text for min. reconstruction conditions. (1443)

1.63

(1155)

1.58

.79

.84 (from K-6-a)

84
4
336

.05

2.03
- .40
1.63
4
652

0.00

2.03
4
812

4 3.5
4
1740
12

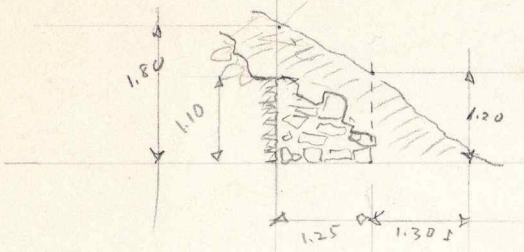
20.5
4
1538

Oversized item not scanned

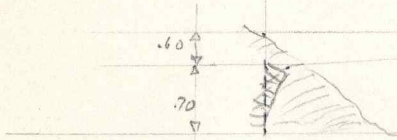
Debris Contours K-6-b 1933.

- See note on similar sheet for K-6-a. (meter stick only).

Section .30 front of secondary addition



Section 2.20 front of above (about ohf. upper wall.)

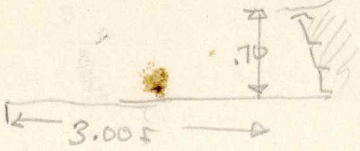


Section 5.50 from same (near front corner)



Northern Ball Court. 1932.
Str. XXXVII
15-6A

wly Str.



about in center (other side of alley not dug.
wall leans out.

Measurements to center very approximate - made at 6.30 by match light, might be before leaving.

x S.g.m. - same color of platform, abp'tly sloping back at Calakmul.

Johnson Exped. 1931 Sh. XXXVII

Memo re teeth, No. 1-16-975

(West Group Ball Court)

11 molars : mot particularly worn down. - 2 with fragments of jaw

2 upper cuspids)
2 lower cuspids) all filed, more or less to points, some
2 lower bi-cuspids) with "shoulders".

4 bi-cuspids, not filed

21 teeth

N.B. 1 molar and 1 bi-cuspid (not filed) appear to have been lost since identification.

Label not typed for opening of hall

Sculptured Panel from the West Group Ball Court

The Maya (and other Middle American peoples) played a game with a rubber ball in more or less elaborate courts. In later Maya times, and probably even in the earliest, one of the objects was to knock the ball, without touching it with the hands, through rings in the sides of the court. They gambled on the results of the game, and the spectacle was greatly enjoyed by the onlookers, but it certainly had ceremonial and religious purposes as well.

The recovered fragments of this stone formed a vertical center of the inner panel in the side of (one of) the parallel twin structures which formed the main elements of the court. It probably supplemented a line dividing the court transversely at the center.

Parts of two figures are shown facing each other. They are probably dancing, either before or after the game. This is indicated by the objects held in the right hand of each, which seems to be a gourd rattle with pendent feather tassels. But the men are in all probability dressed for the game, as their clothing and ornaments have been reduced to a minimum, in sharp contrast with figures on the other monuments.

What looks like some form of pad or guard may be seen tied to the right knee of each figure. It is probable that the players, in striking the ball with their bodies instead of with their hands, which they were not permitted to use, often dropped to one knee. Since the game was played on a plastered concrete surface, such a guard would be very useful.

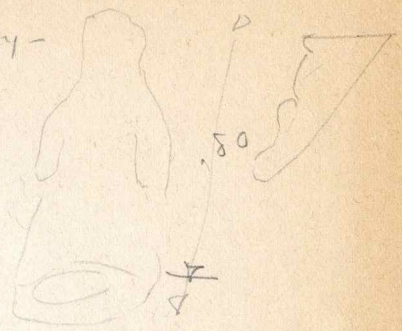
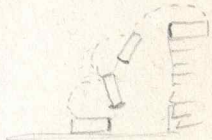
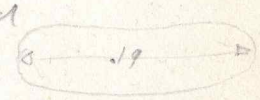
We have historical hints that such a device was in use in later times among the Highland Maya.

Apart from the fact that this piece, though badly eroded, gives us fair pictures of ball players ready for action, it is almost unique in the apparent use of a plain background. Usually the Maya artist could not resist the temptation to fill up all available spaces. Maya sculptures showing such spirited action are likewise uncommon.

With reasonable certainty this piece may be dated as later than 9.11.10.0.0 (Maya Count) which fell on August 24, A.D. 662 or, according to another school of thought, in A.D. 402. This date was found on a broken fragment of a throne, used as a wall stone in the other of the twin structures. How much later we are not in a position to say. The shallow relief must be attributed to deliberate choice by the artist, as deeper relief occurs on earlier monuments.

West Group Ball Court W-7

Objects.

Sept 29	W-7-3	Pottery foot.	Debris SW end of K-6-a, near dated Misc. stone #.	large; hollow; effigy - probably animal. 
"	W-7-4	Misc. Sculptured stone # 9.	Among fallen wall stones, S.W. end K-6-a, about 1.50 to front of angle, about 1.00 from wall - ambiguous level, lying flat. top down, sculptured? edge toward & parallel to end wall of K-6-a.	Appears to have had long straight (sculptured) edge part of wall facing, if stone turned over in falling. Position reported by very reliable Benjamin Aguirre - moved before I saw it. 
May 1	W-7-5	Mano stone.	Fallen debris, str. K-6-a, alley.	Material ? Chert  
"	W-7-6	Mano ii (Globular end).	Fallen debris, str. K-6-b, alley.	~~Pecked~~ nicely cylindrical 
"	W-7-7	Sherd.	"	
"	W-7-8	Small quen-stone celt	"	
May 5	W-7-9	Fragments of Sculptured Panel, badly weathered, part missing. - Mus. SS. #10	to be given	
May 9	W-7-10	Sherds	Surface debris, various parts of structures	
	W-7-11	Small pottery disks.	Surface debris K-6-b,	
	W-7-12	Fig. heads	"	
	13	"		
	14	"		
	14	"		

N-1

Fig

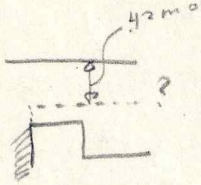
Check sheet.

For a central pier on right side.; then an anta; outside rear corner; front corner of ring. block.
- after Leveling Cross Section.
- " Photographing.

For meaning of long humps on wings. - not blocks - only fill stones

Front steps at Center.

For rear wall thickness, left room. 42 cm other side



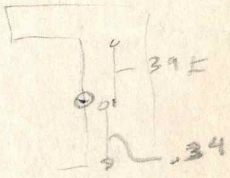
~~Redraw carefully "vaulting near pond entrance.~~
Draw vaulting + wall near pond entrance.
Draw same as rear, left.

Locate rear corners of wings.
Are sand walls tied to chamber rear wall?
Fig out left outer chamber wall + pier.
Sketch elevations - chamber, inside + out.
Benches
Piers.

~~Fig cross Sect. Plan + rear of Shrine~~

See if wings run well behind - yes. - no rear corner broken + Surface remains it - probably cleaned off about from center on.

Fig out floor of Furnace.
Check sect for tracing
Photos.
"Left of rear cornerstone (either).
Locate N. rear corner of furnace. - add .34 to point



Draw Lintel

Check Furnace Section + rear plan - new drawing in place

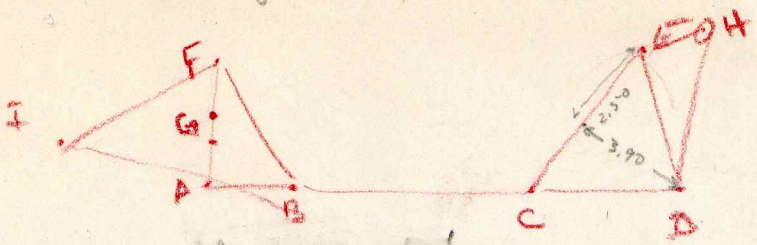
(2)

Key to Plan Work Sheet #1

IV-1

1935

Key to Plan sheet.



AF = 6.94 = 6.97 ~~inch~~ check (inches).
A-B 3.87
~~B~~-C 5.05
C-D 481
A-D (check? - 13.72
C-E 6.27
D-E 5.15
F-G 2.00
F-B. 7.57
C-H - 8.00 (7.95 on check with other tripe).
D-H - 6.15 (5.13 on check)
E-H - 1.79
I-F - 6.66
I-B - 7.75

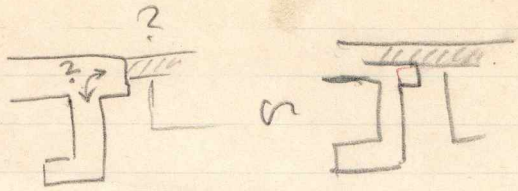
3.87
5.05
4.81
13.73

Queries for N-1

Check Points F 14

30 + 31.

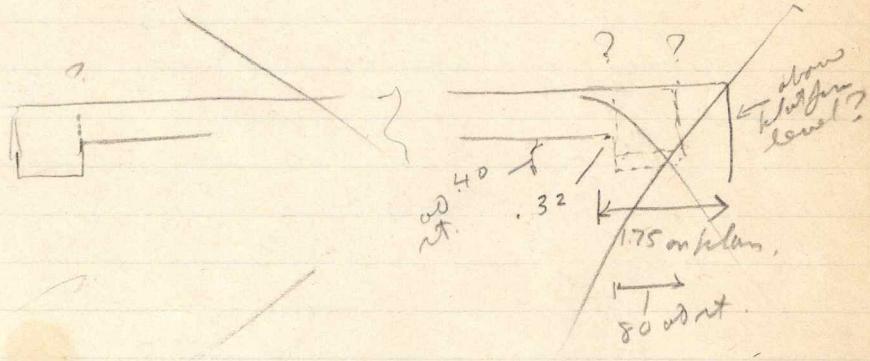
How are arch walls tied to chamber?



What about Points 34 + 32? ~~Anything~~ do they correspond - Mess. Stairs out of any.

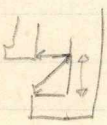
Dig out Nt. pier

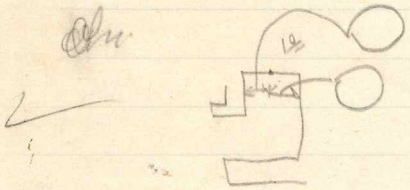
Dig out Pond 25.



look for rear corner piers.

Mess Sanct.





Locate outer wall of Sanct, Nt.

Also inner corner of pier.

Center Pier? No

Locate Rt Wall (Pts 41+42).

Center Cross Section

Long Cross Section.

~~Start the elevations. - chamber + benches~~

~~Plan Sanctuary~~ Shrine

Long Cross Sect of "

Petrie Surface Sect. between front piers. (the center shoe for whole)

~~Plan - locate Trench + its steps. Nt s/s~~

Inside of Shrine ~~Plan~~ + Sections.

Locate Bayou of Jailhouse and back.

Cross Sect thru b/o room (+ bench)

Dig out area corner of outer wings.

Mess. to complete center line Sect. of Petrie, and back. - no b/o now

~~Dig out 1/2 of Shrine floor, front.~~

Dig out rt. side of long platform - Petrie - Photo.

Level b/o side wall stones to farthest point.

How far did we follow pent - Plat well, method old stairway? - to Point C.

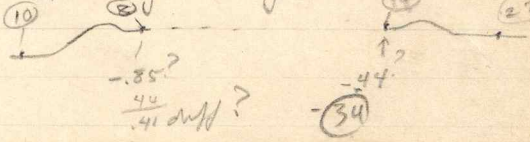
1.78
1.34
4.44

3.20
2.35
.85

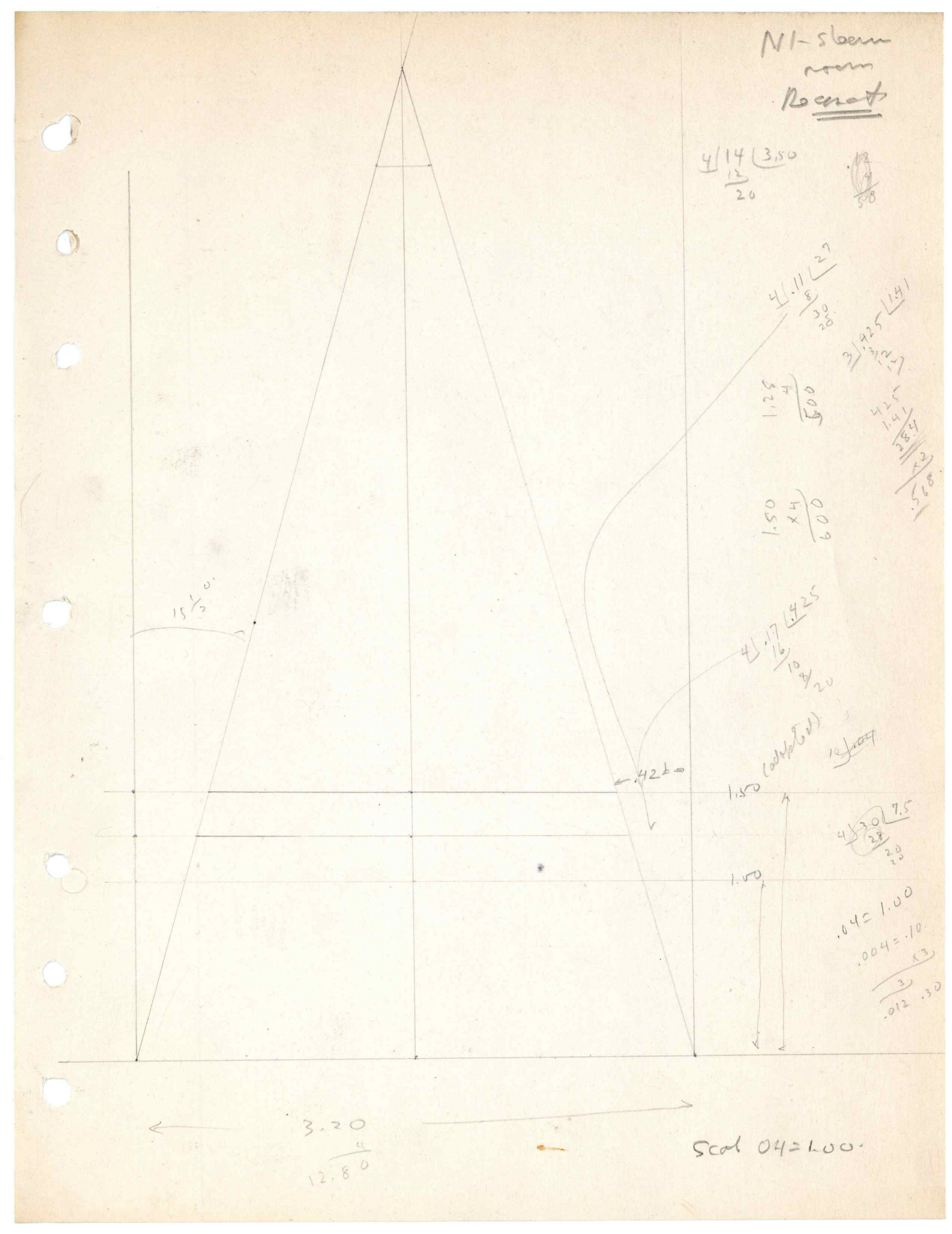
Check Pts 41, 42, 43

Careful long Cross Sect of Chamber Walls.

Check wing levels against each other.



Oversized item not scanned


N1-sheer
room
Recent
15 1/2°
.42±
1.50
1.50
1.50
3.20
12.80
Scal 04=1.00.

Platform Units DIMENSION TABLES

Units	Lengths	Depths	Heights	Slopes
M (N-1-2nd)	16.00	8.15	1.00	V
N (N-1-1st)	"	"	.40	V
A (Upper level)	29.60	11.00*	.60	V
A (Step terrace)	"	1.00	.30	V
A (complete)	"	12.00*	.60	V

Platform Units

Building Units

	Section Table			Elevation Table		
	W	R	W	Length	Depth	Door
J (Enclosing Bldg.)				15.20	7.45	
J-@ (" ")				16.00	"	
I (Sweat-room)	.70	3.25	.70	6.20	4.65	.70
H (Fire Box)				2.15	1.45	.70
H (Same, interior)				1.15	.85	

Acct N-1

Acropolis Table

Units

Platform Units

	Lengths	Depths	Heights	Slope
M (N-1-2nd)	16.00	8.15	1.00	✓
M (N-1-1st)	"	"	.40	✓
A (Ulthen level)	29.60	11.00*	.60	✓
A (Stoa terrace)	"	1.00	.30*	✓
A (Court)	~~12.00~~	12.00		✓

from plans 1945

Building Units

	Length	Depth	Height
J (enclosing Bldg.)	15.20	7.45	?
J-G (enclosing Bldg.)	16.00	"	?
I (Sweat-room)	6.20	3.85	2.30*
I (interior)	4.70	3.15	2.00*

Building Units

Section Table

	W	R	W'
I (enclosing Bldg.)			
I-G (enclos. Bldg			
I (Sweat room)	.70	3.25	.70
H. (Filter box)			
H. (interior)			

Elevation Table

	Length	Depths	Door
I (enclosing Bldg.)	15.20	7.45	
I-G (enclos. Bldg	16.00	"	
I (Sweat room)	6.20	4.65	.70
	6.20	4.65	
H. (Filter box)	2.15	1.47	.70
H. (interior)	1.15	.85	

*Dimensions determined on Reconstruction

7.45
3.85

6.20
3.85
2 | 135 | 6 | 480

6.20
1.40

4.65
3.25
140

3.85
3.15
0

12
15

3.85
140
2.45

Sta. IV-1

Plan Sheet

Long Sect.

M = 2.35 down

1	.86 down	
2	.99	
3	1.49	
4	1.98	
5	2.26	
6	2.35	
7	2.45	
8	3.20	
9	3.07	
10	3.84	
11	1.94 (typ. Sanford)	
12	1.93	
13	2.41 = ground level, lower here is clear around.	
14	1.80	
15	2.42	
16	2.45 (edge of slot, clearance to stone, in section)	
17	1.12	
18	1.73	
19	1.78	
20	1.47	
21	1.73	
22	1.93	

Plan Cuts

1 2.20 F; 1.55 G; 5.43 B

2 2.32 F; 2.36 G; 6.99 B

3 2.38 ½; 2.04 G; 1.54 3½

4 2.35 F; .57 G; 1.28 ½

5 3.45 F; 3.15 A; 4.07 B

6 .73 A; 3.45 B;

7 1.20 A; 1.48 G

8 4.57 A; 3.07 B; 1.33-½;

9 1.28-8½; 60-1½; 4.32 B

10 1.40-1½; 4.30 B;

11 4.88 A; 2.91 B; 1.48-9½;

12 ~~4.00~~ B; 3.61 C

13 4.44 B; 3.21 C.

14 2.00 C; 4.57 D

15 7.58 D; 4.04 14½; 3.50 14½; 2.93 E

16 .85 C; 3.10 E.

20 3.70-1½; 1.30 D. 6.82 H. 31 1.25 H 2.28 E

21 2.75 C; 5.80 E; 3.31-2½

22 4.39 E; 4.88 C

23 6.19 H

24 4.66 E; 5.40 H

25 1.43 A; 3.60 I

26 1.92 E; 6.13 I

27

28

29

30 2.62 H; 2.29 E

32 8.36-A; 6.05 I

33 7.92 I; 8.20 E

34 12.02 E; 12.95 C

35 10.35 E; 12.67 C

36 5.18 I; 5.46 A.

37 9.79 C; 4.05-10½; 8.17-2½

38 6.21 A; 4.86 B

39 7.11 A; 5.95 B; 8.40 I

40 7.38 A; 6.68 B; .96 3½.

Left Plan

40-6-3½; (corner to P.L.)

Col. Sheet 4

Stairwell to 105 to 8' above floor

KEUFFEL & ESSER CO., N. Y. NO. 359-14L Millimeters

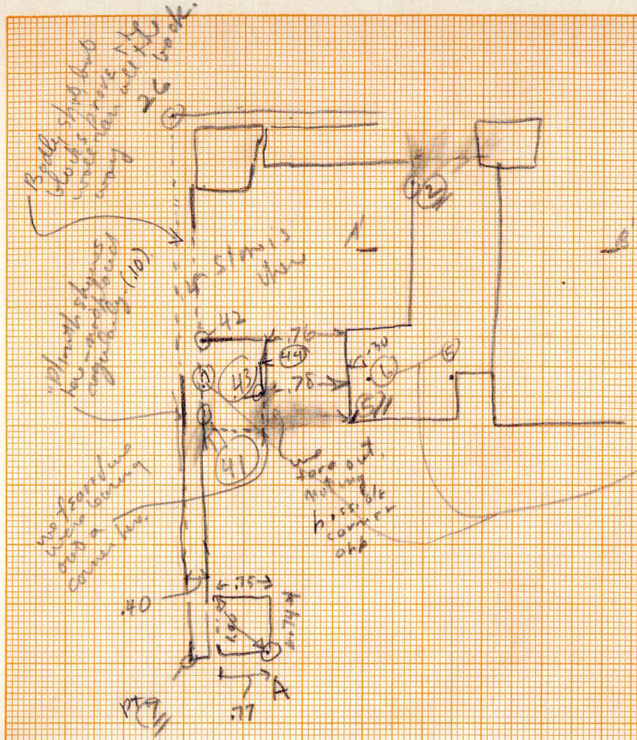
N-1

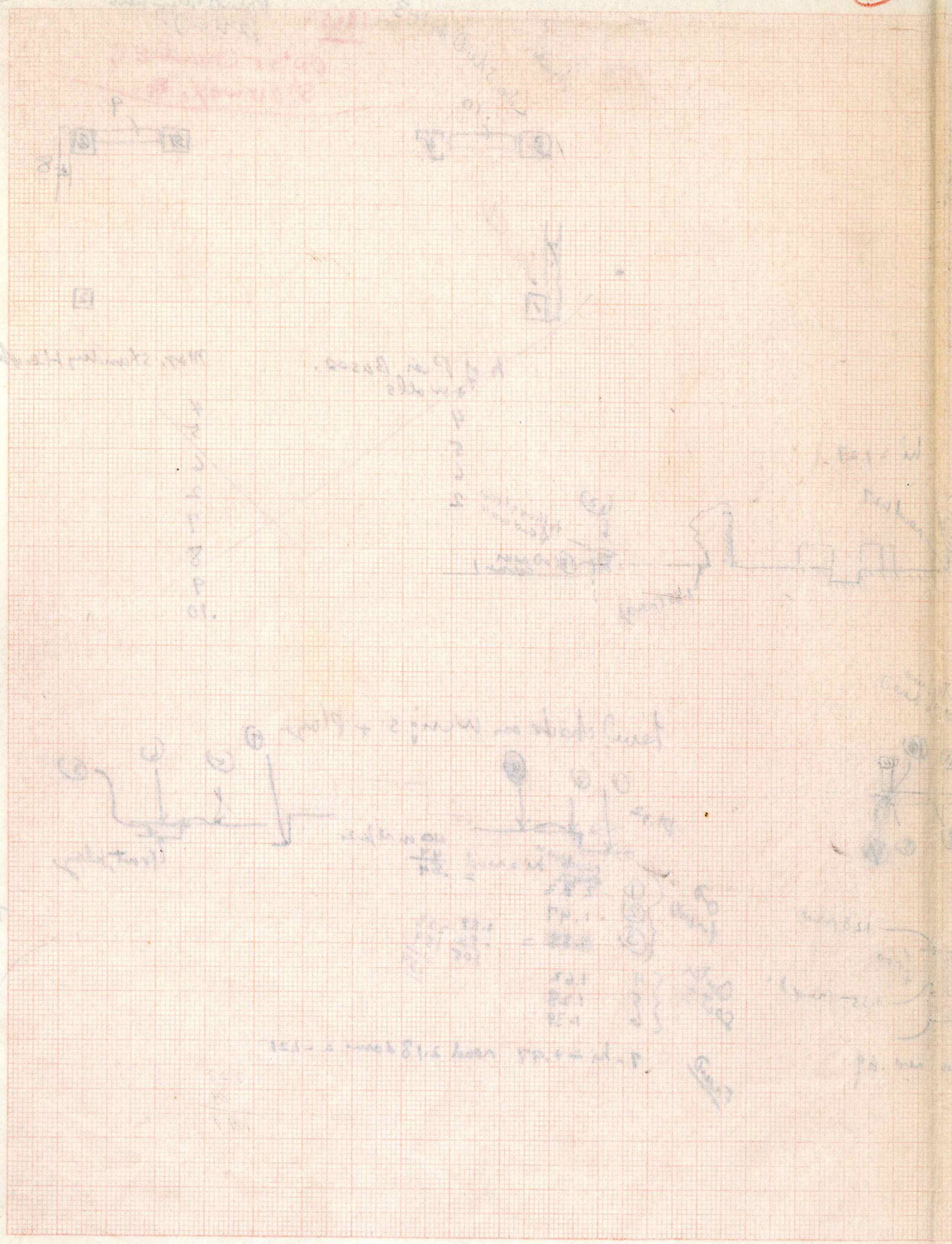
(4)

St. N-1 (See sheet 1 for new Panel numbers (4)

1955 (June) (5)

Outer Chords 5) Stairways, &c.





Elevations N-1 Sheet (3) (6)

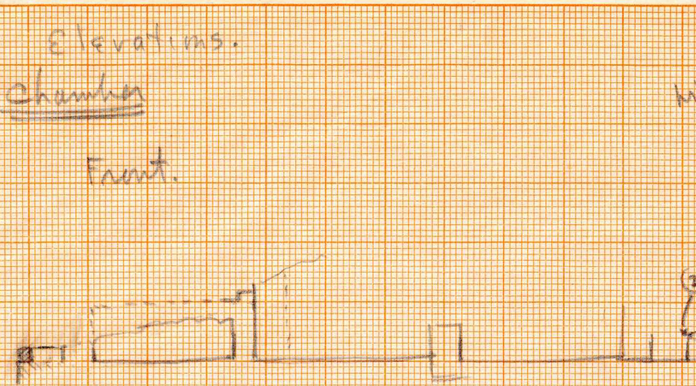
St. N-1 1935

Outer Chamber Mixed.

Elevations.

Chamber

Front.

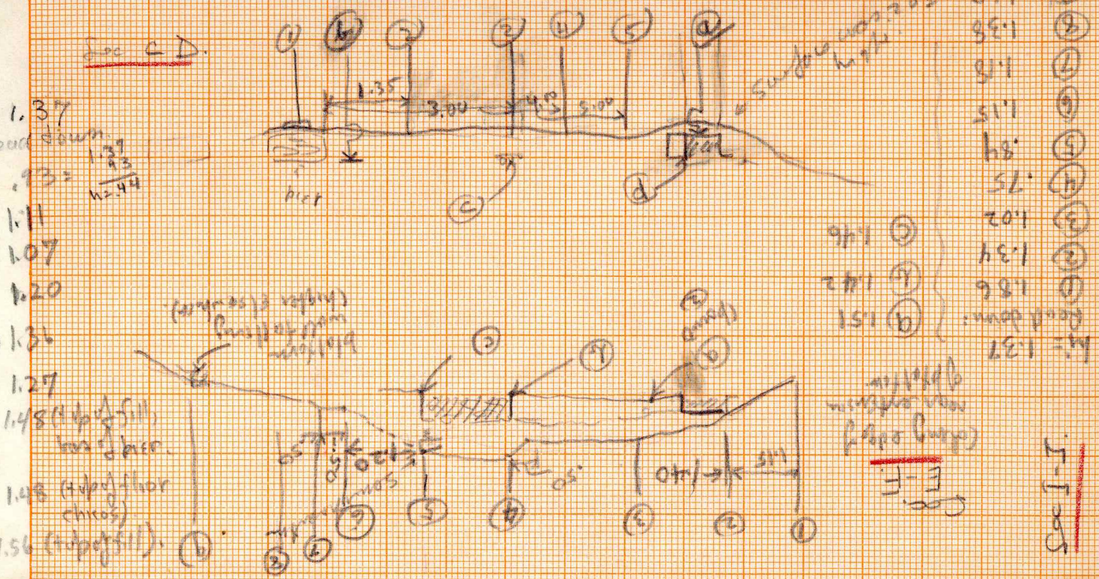

platform
Chute-tail
Ring to feed
Rail spout
Work a
conveyor
40 pull
Belt
Counter
Shute
Bound
Bound
Bound
Point
Bound
Bound
Bound

For Sections see sheet (1).

Sec C-D

hi = 1.37
Read down.
① .93
② 1.11
③ 1.07
④ 1.20
⑤ 1.36
⑥ 1.27
⑦ 1.48 (+dpth fill)
⑧ 1.48 (+dpth floor chrcs)
⑨ 1.56 (+dpth fill).

1.48 1.37 -.11



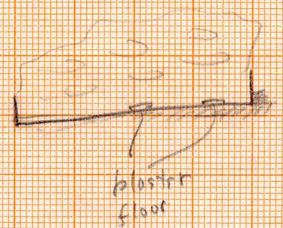
Sec E-E

Sec G-H

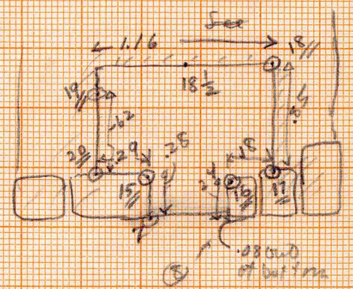
hi = 1.37
① .94
② .61
③ 1.38 (grd plaster from gr lock of niche)



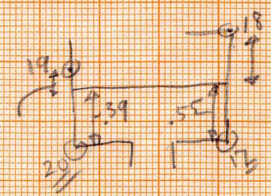
Sec K-L
(+Elev.



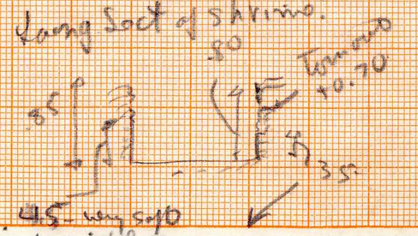
Shrine



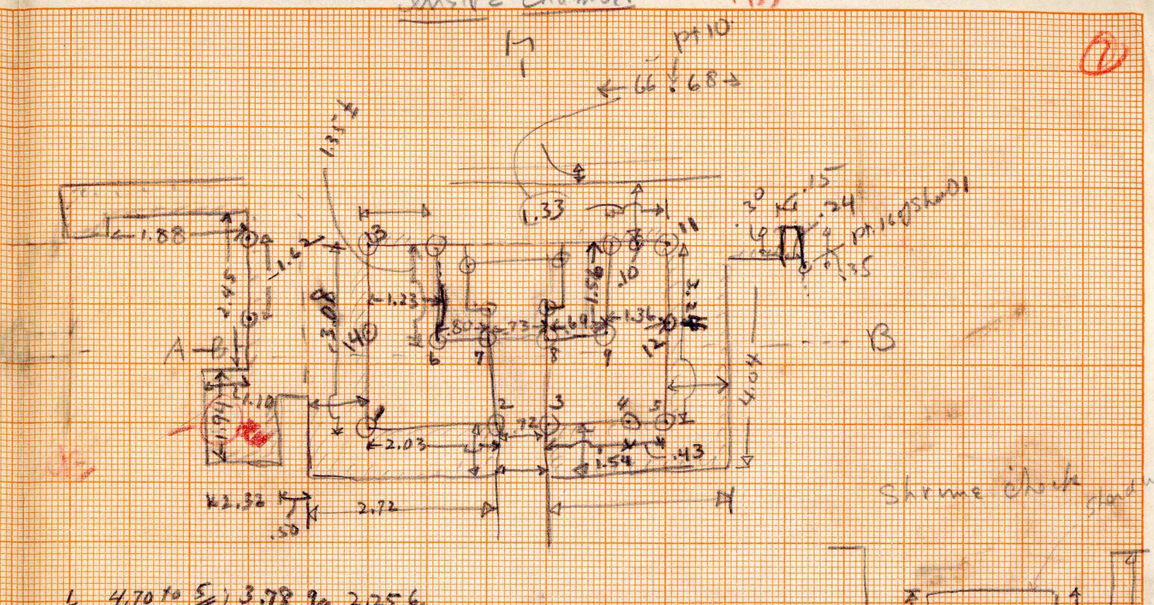
Early step in shrine floor.



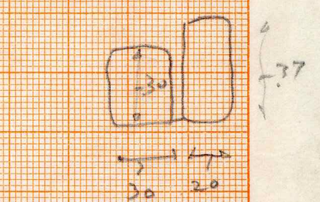
Long Sect of shrine:



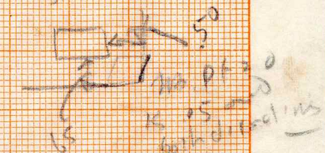
Inside chamber

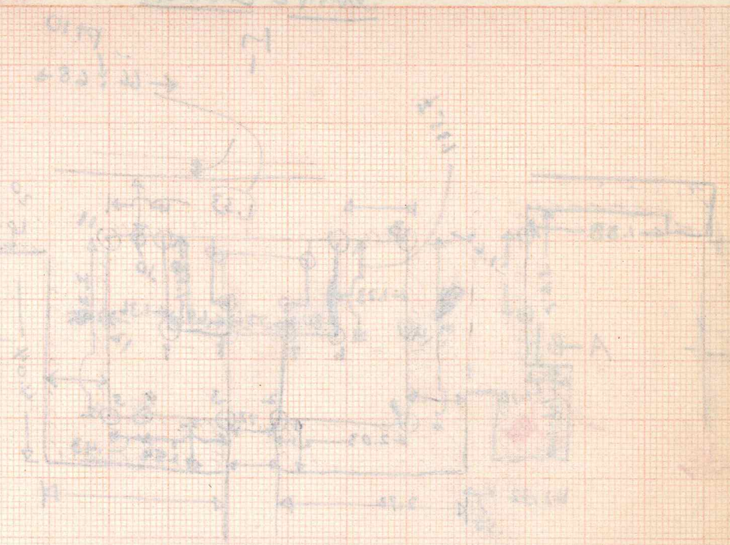


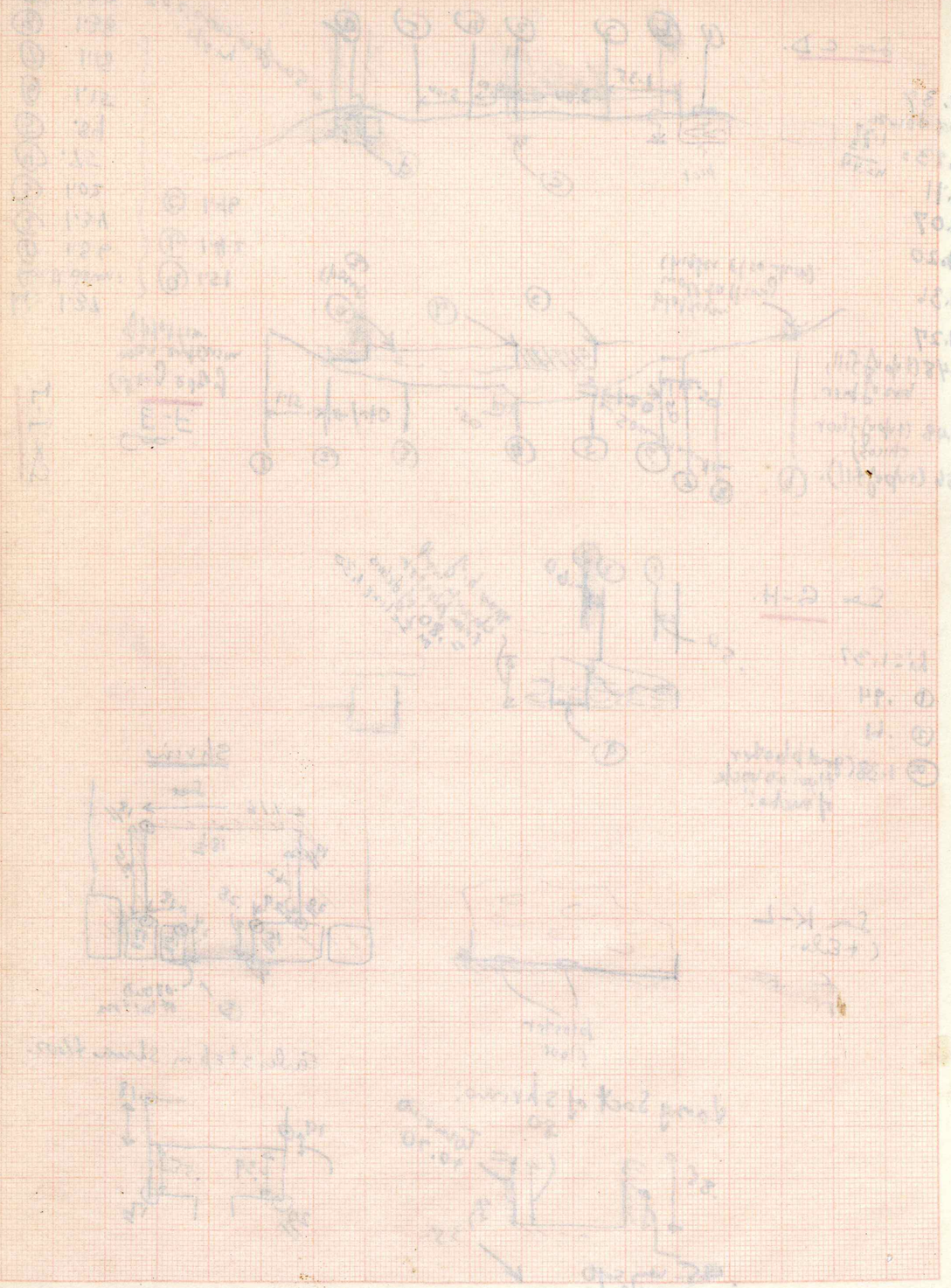
½ 4.70 to ⅝; 3.78 ⅜ 2.25 ⅝
2 - 4.11 C 4.50 B
3 - 3.77 C 4.98 B 1.94 ⅝;
4 - 3.49 C 6.13 B
5 - 3.99 - ⅜; 2.16 ⅝;
6 - 6.19 C 5.53 B
7 - 5.77 C 6.09 B
8 - 5.49 C 6.39 B
9 - 5.24 C 6.70 B ; 1.66 - ⅛;
10 - 6.70 C 8.32 B
11 - 2.00 - ⅜; 3.24 ½
12. 1.36 ⅜; 2.55 12 ⅝;
13 1.72 ⅝ 3.08 ½
14. 1.23 ⅝ 2.72 - ⅜;
15. .76 - ⅝
16 .78 - ⅜
17 1.37 - ⅛
18. 1.16 - 15; 89 - 16;
18½ 1.15 - ⅞; 1.18 - ⅝;
19 .70 15; 1.23 1⅝;
20 1.35 - 15; 62 1⅝.



Lock Rail







Sht. No 1
1935

(5) Central Chamber
- Wall Sections
- Elevation (8)

Sect of
NW wall of
chamber

92.

plumb

h=1.45 - water - Class in place = surface

24' cracks longitudinal 1.00 (small
slopes + tends to go to here.

h=.92

h=1.27

h=1.10

1.15 high (in place) with plumb over it.

.45

.02

.07 h=.75 (from)

.18 h=.50

.45

good
Stone
Vertical

floor

.12

Sect of
Mound - Sht 20

NO Side

1.15

h=2.20

1.50

Sect of
Mound

1.50 2/30

65 3/325

18 3/3.6

65 2/30

.15

x

2/90

1.50 2/300

Wall Sect, 1945

91

.17

74

There seems to be a
circle, very slight vertical spring
on all sides 20 around 50
(Like upper blank chamber of P-7
There are slight ending stones on this
level on all sides - nothing
regular - bonds the spring harmonic.

Left
wall
center
11

h=1.12

.05

= surface

h=.65

.00

h=.50

.05

Section
2.
mound No Sht Hdg

h=+.35 (in
flow outside)

.74

.17

Left wall
.55 from dome center

.97

h=2.25

h=1.60

h=.80

.04

h=.52

h=.38

.13

.10

.18

surface

.87

5th

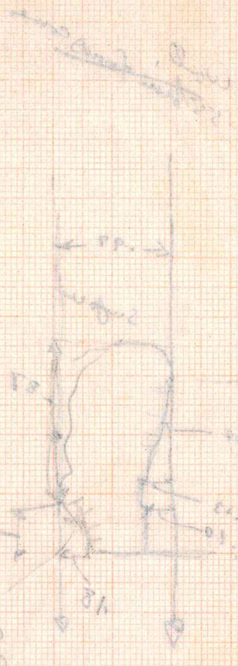
13 Gage
Around
Curb Floor

A 1.47

3rd/30

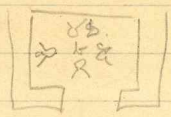
Str N-1

(8)



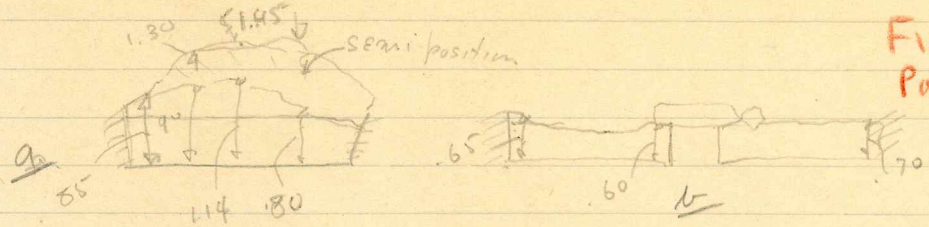
Str IX-1
1935

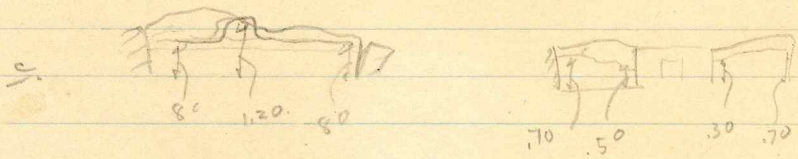
Elevation Central:



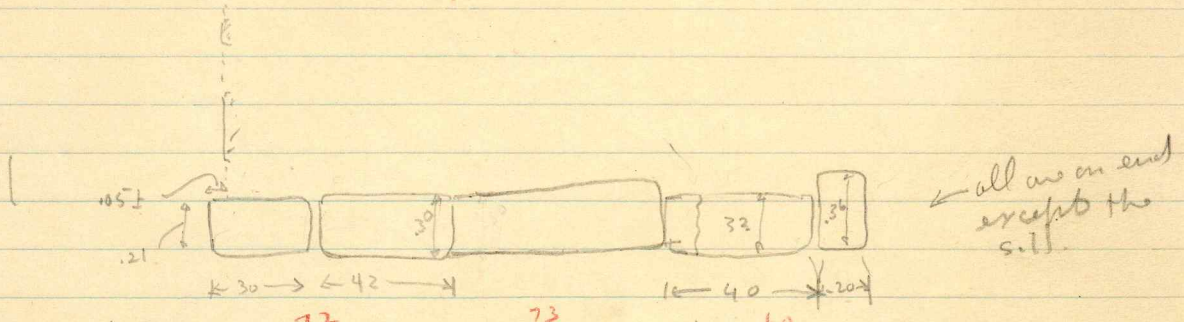
Central chamber - Elevation of walls.

Fire chamber - d.ito.
Passage - slope.

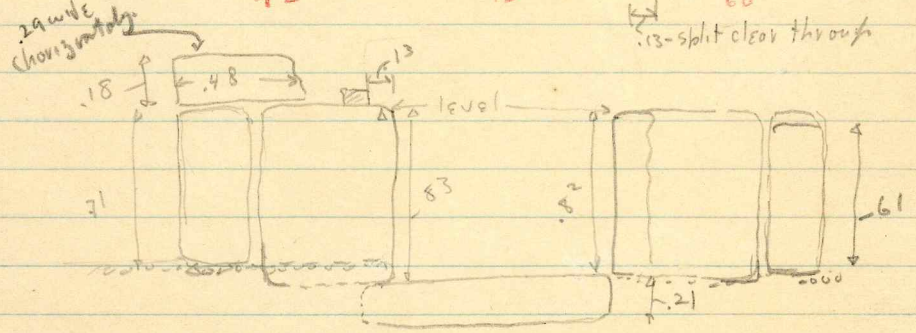




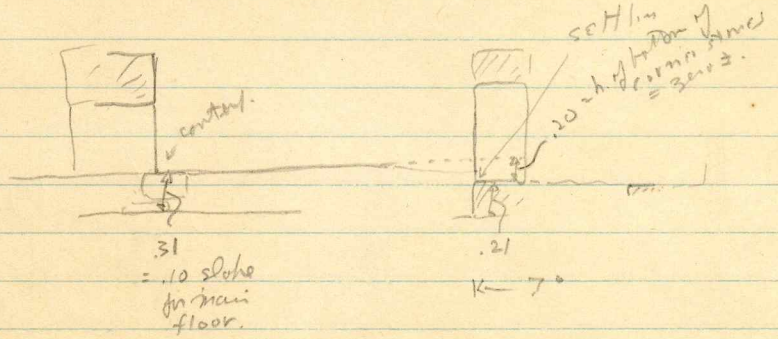
Furnace



Rough (but ~~serviceable~~) trodden jamb + corner stones: rest jambs go down to step level.



72
72
60
204



Str. N-1
1935 (10)

Str N-1

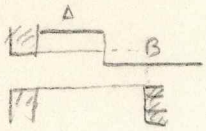
Notes in Camp same night. Central chamber + Fire chamber - 1 shard with "knife" plaster defendly overing - but came right. two sections of drains &c.

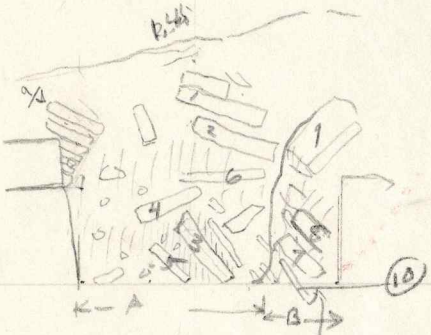
2 shards ═══ with plastering material between.

Shard + plaster, latter in contact with underside of lintel — every sign that it was in position, though s[illegible] & easily detached.

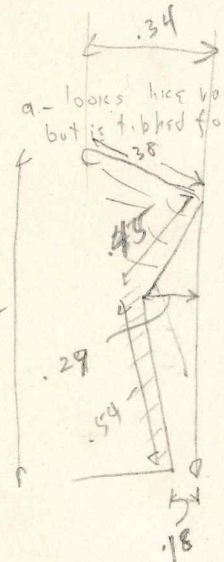
Shards fallen possage, rise & become more plentiful ~~as in~~ something doorway. They were absent in general debris above fallen lintel & in centre of Sanct. above its level. They appear, with broken plaster clear to portals back wall, at lintel-top level.

compound section.



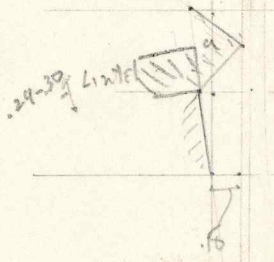


Portals in relation to each other, with mortar between.



a - looks like vaulting, but is tilted forward.

a - Starts just below bottom of Lintel. stones in pos. set in mortar slightly gray



This piece was part of vertical wall of slabs were horizontal. - I.P. v.s. of jamb was above top of lintel

a good deal of mortar, yellow toward bottom.

The slabs are very thick; or short.

Sx. faces

1. .08 th, .58 l/m.
2. " .60 "
3. .10 x .50
4. .9 x .40
5. .05 x .25
6. .08 x .44
7. .11 x .50 x .26 to about ∫ way ing.
8. .08 x .30 x .28
9. .08 x .50 x .40
10. .04 x .39 x .33

Slabs are right on floor & over passage, descend into it

The mortar is use for vaults. Slabs, large & small, are liberally in wall.

65

3d 2 / 76

1 1/2 / 16 8

54 1/2 / 108

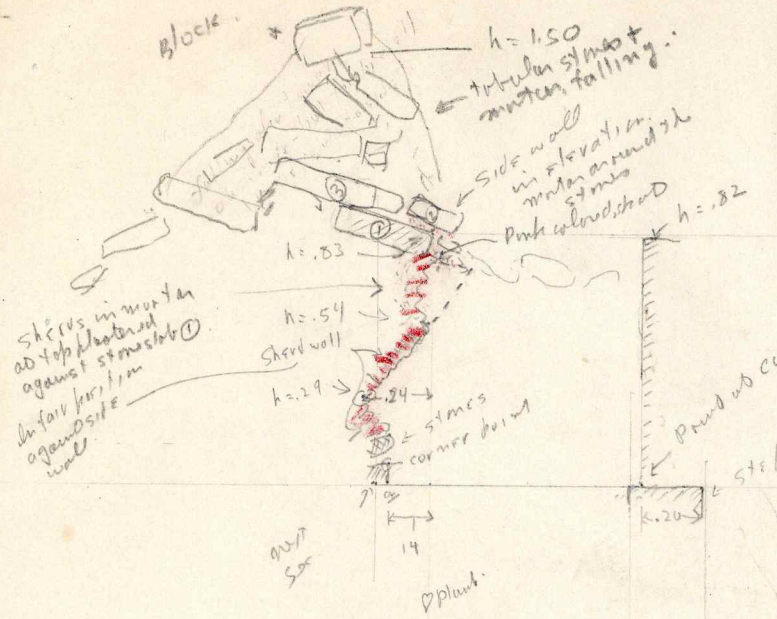
54 1/2 / 108

(11)

N-1
1135

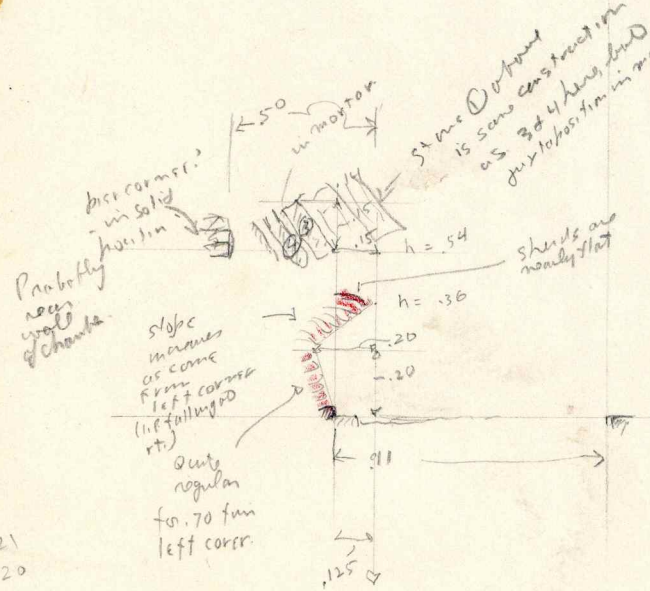
Fire chamber - rear wall

Section "Shm"



Stone ② is in semi horizontal position; it is under ③ which is clearly part of wall extending clear thru side wall. The stone sloped level over the latter. This ② falls down toward center toward observer, with another on top of it because of the overhang. Semi half rounding, shard wall reaching to bound indicated is clear. See photos. Stone ③ is abutted by mortar + rests on stone ①. mortar is clear + thick out. Stone ③ is surely part of main room wall

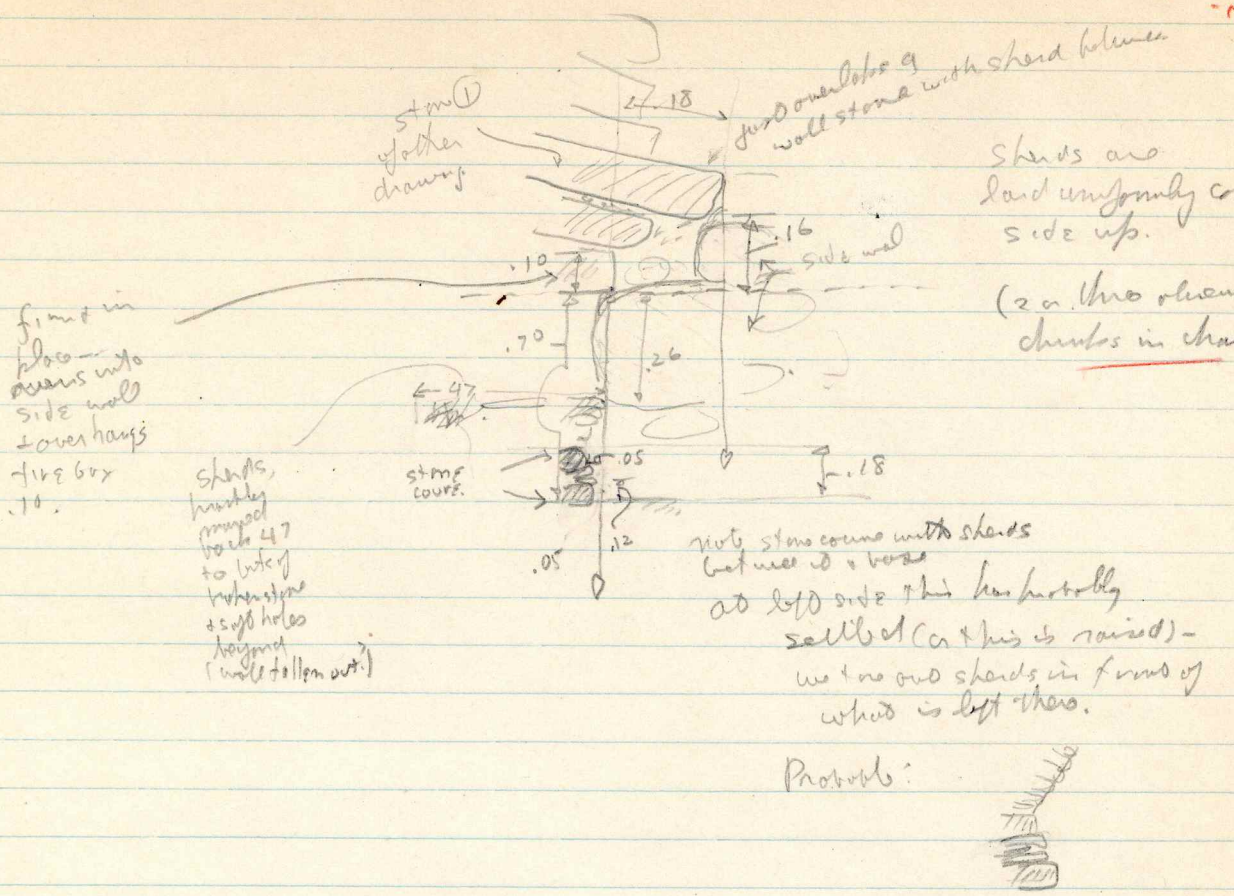
Section .67 from center.



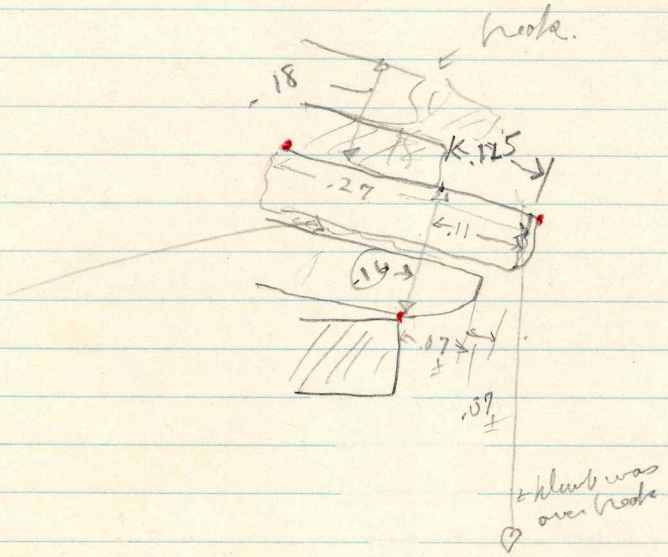
125/100

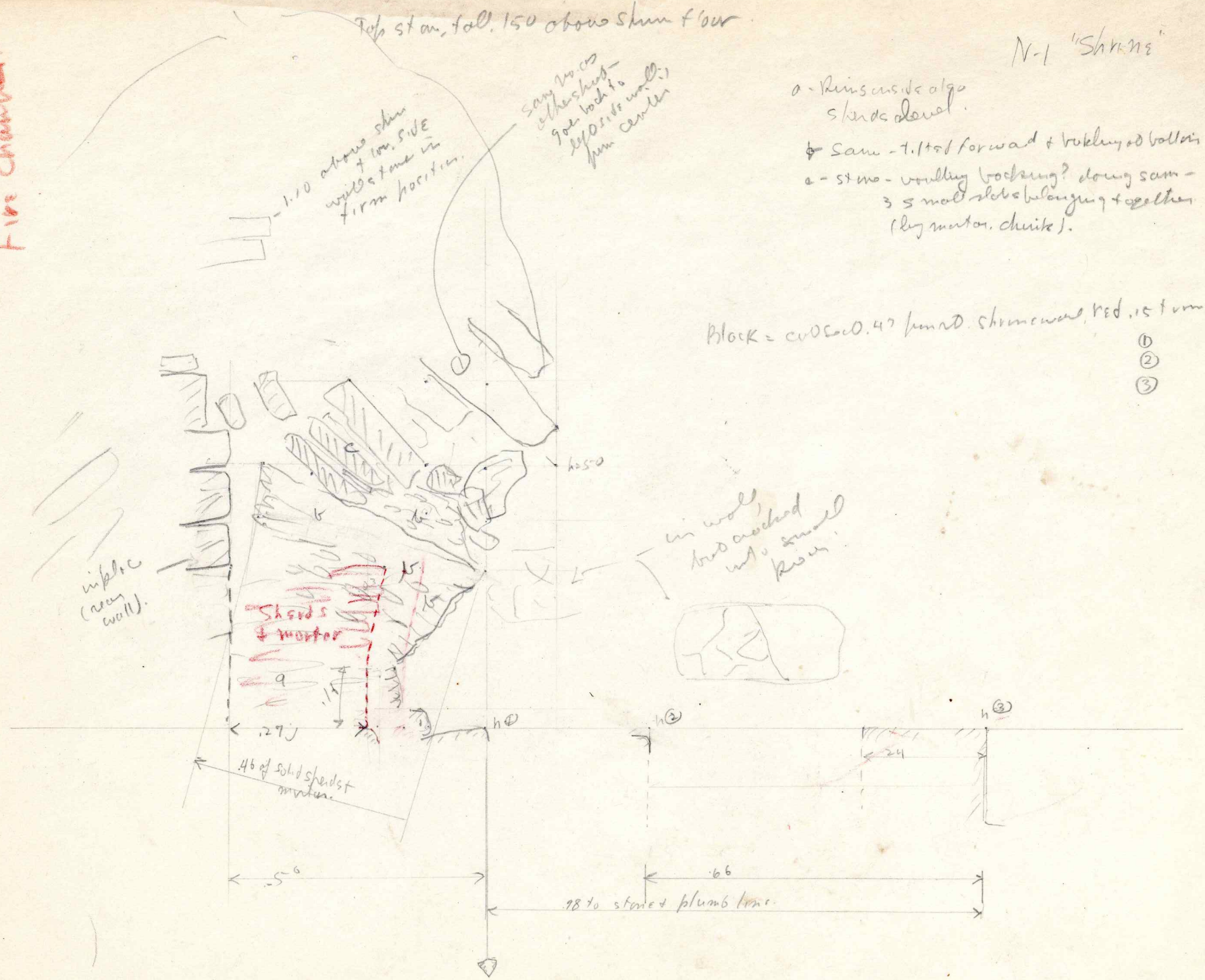
N-1 (12)
1935
Five Chamber
near wall

N-1.



Probable:




Top stone, tail. 150 above shim floor
N-1 "Shrine"
a - Rim inside algo slanted down.
b - Same - tilted forward & broken off bottom
c - Stone - cracking? along seam - 3 small slots belonging together (by mortar, chinks).
Scale 1:10
N-1
193-
Fire chamber
13
1.10 above shim floor, side stone in firm horizon.
Same as other shim - got back to left side wall in firm center
Block = curved 0.47 from D. shim, end, tied, is from same
1
2
3
h=5.0
inside (new wall).
in wall, broken off, small piece
Shards & mortar
.9
.15
.29
h1
h2
h3
.24
.46 of solid shards & mortar
.56
.66
.98 to stone & plumb line.

N-1
1435
IV-1,
(14)

Shed wall.

Fire chamber-Sherd wall

Central Chamber—
rear wall section

Rt side

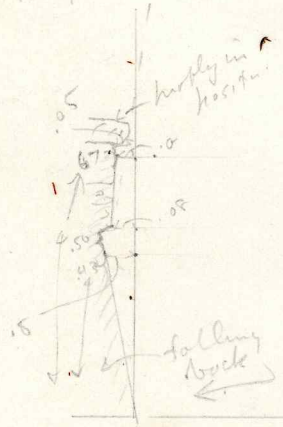


Sod + Elevation of rear wall (last check-up

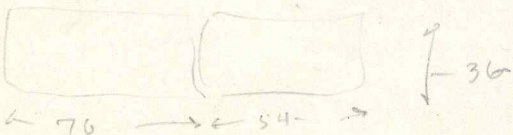
Thickness seem diff units.

This is the end of the wall as exposed + thus is standard section.

Sod of 1/10 new comm. Thin rear wall.



Mean limb



protrudes 76

76
54
130

.65 wide.

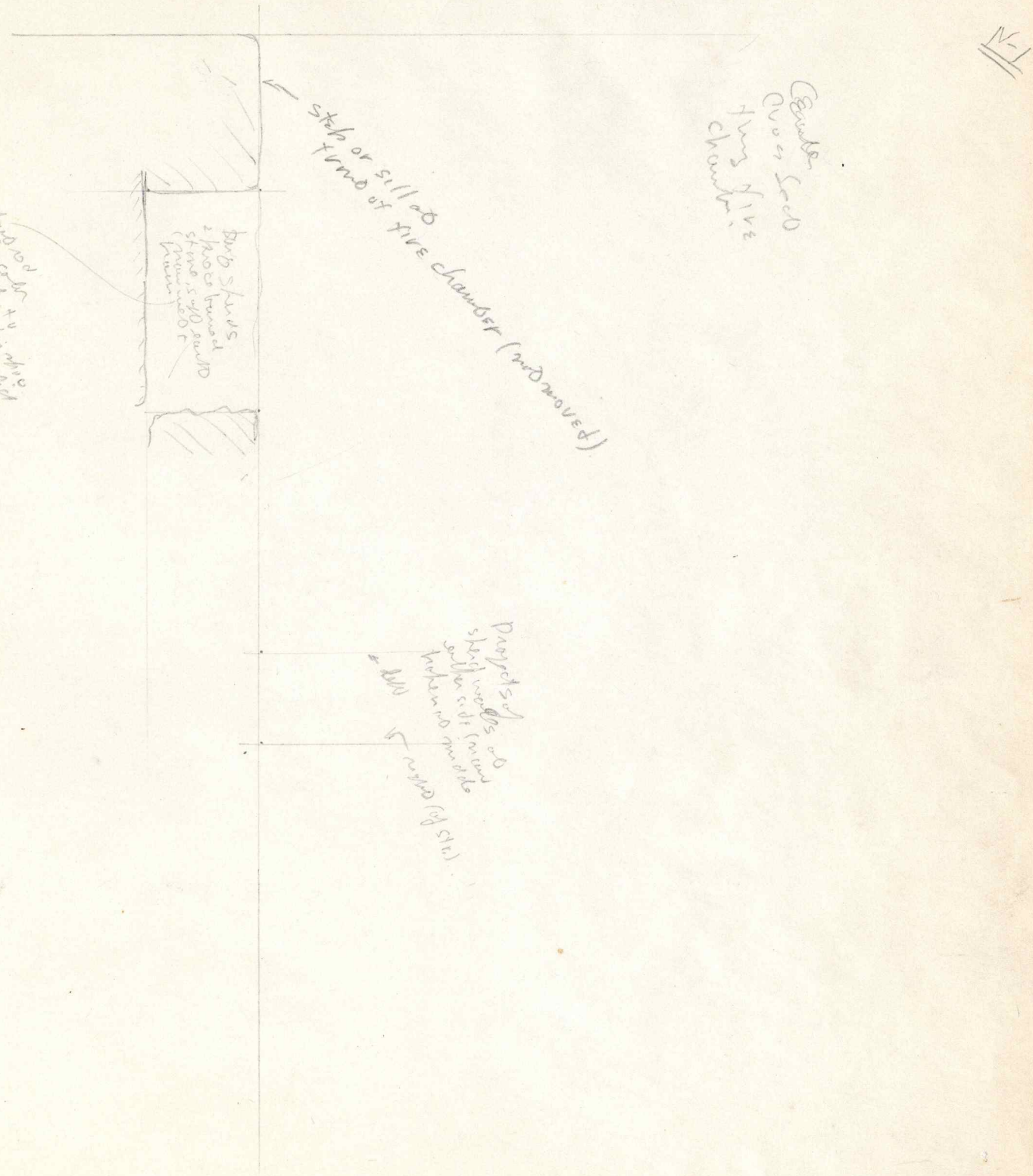
Ranch house face, under side very well tooled. Even on fractured surfaces.

IV-1 (15)

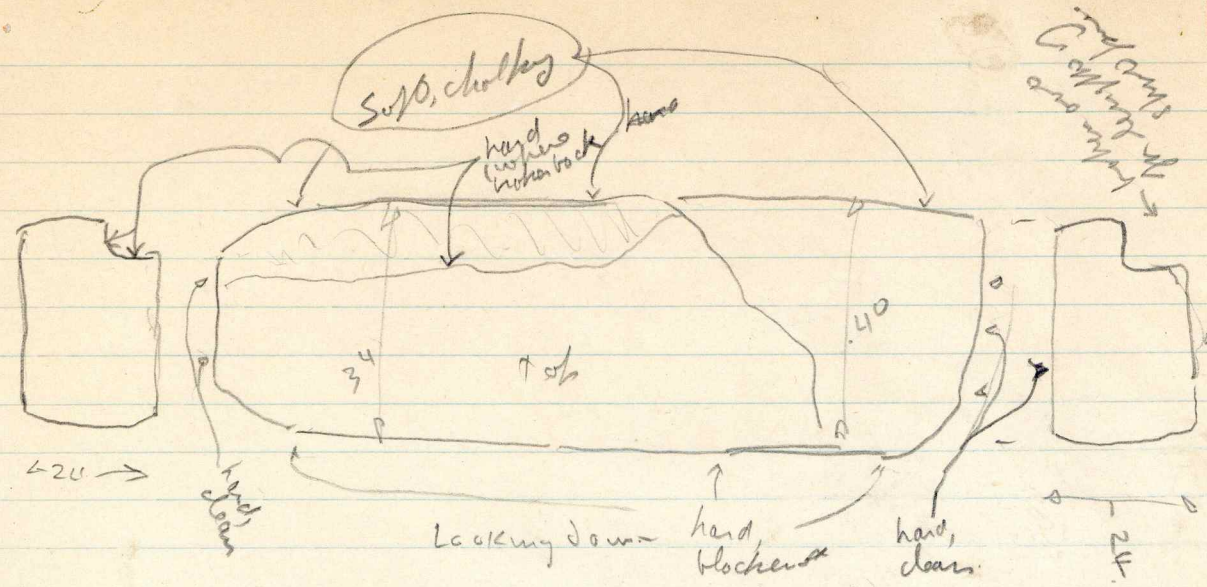
1435

Scale must be 1:10 (5.11 is 20 cm high ±.

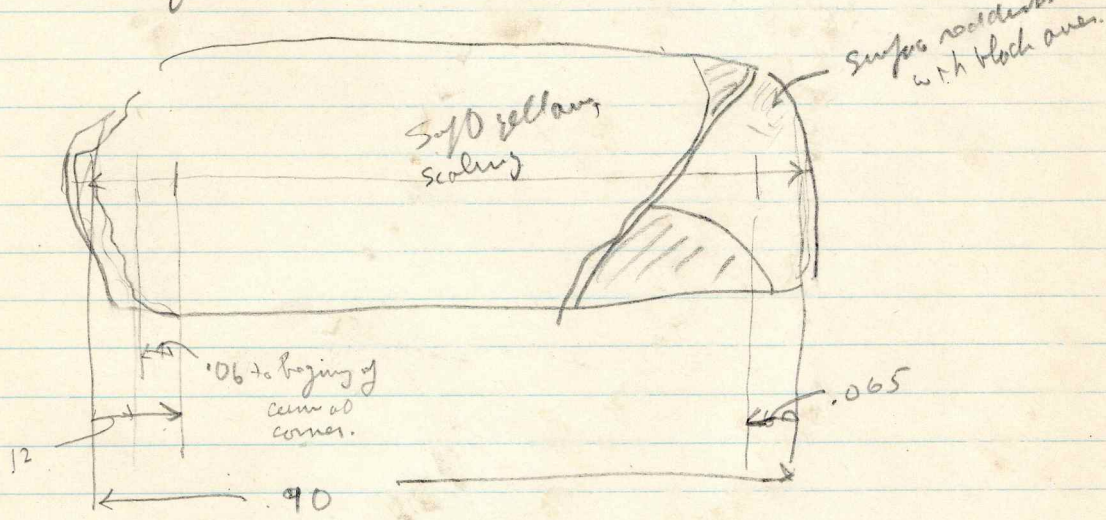
Fire chamber – Center tread – room section, final check-up.

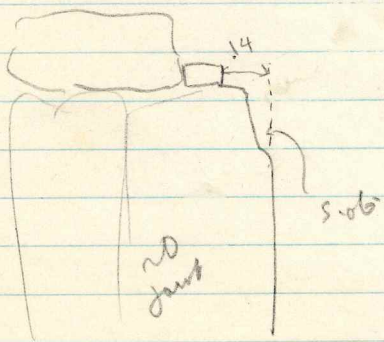


N-1 · 1935 (16)
Fire chamber
Lintel



98 long.





Shrine Passes 2 tests for coloring.
- soft chalky when vs hard
- dull to ringing sound when scuffed by trowel.

Following loss test: Sides walls
Insides of jambs
Jambs for inner jew arms only; floor step
Bottom of lintel (excepting buried ends.
Rear of lintel.

Rest of lintel & jambs: also front of step, ~~and hand~~ in front head of top (about 3/4).

Block discoloration: ~~under~~ outside of lintel; top of step; (mud joint); floor plaster of passage - broken for 1st .60, then on to underpassway - then broken short on side plaster also, which seems pretty clean in general.

soft gray dust & broken burned rocks in floor (see photo - passage bottom only)
Lintel & rear of jambs scaling off.
Large block in N.O. wall in location had cracked to many pieces.

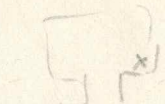
Str N-1

N-1
1935 (17)

Notes on opening Fire chamber.

Opening Shrine

Sherds, large + coarse - very thick, rising on all sides toward walls. always in association with "yellow paste" plaster, soft; or adobe x with large pieces of soft buff firm thick white stucco. Piece of this, obviously molded. adobe x.



Another brain ~~~ with "paste" mortar between.

No signs of smoke inside.

Sherds rise on sides to to within .10 of underside of lintel level, no more as yet.

Later from Memory:

The stone lining stone is very soft + chalky.

The rear corner of left jamb scaling off - on inside only - big slabs on bed. of the wall were ready + fell from position on removal of debris - thought it was stucco or plaster at first.

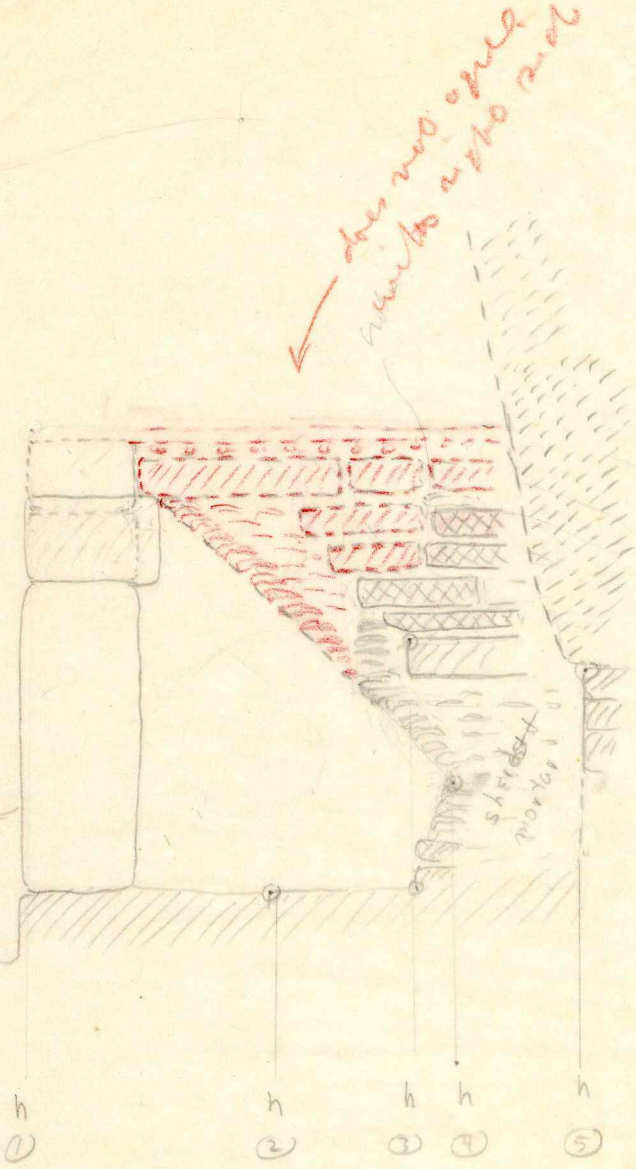
~~Cracked~~ Broken stone - pieces size of fist or more - showing sharp edges - angular fracture - often a bluish color inside - very soft + easy to break further - were found on the floor in quantity - and kicked from the side walls where I thought they were heavy stucco work at first.

As a result, inner walls are in bad shape.

There were no sign of charcoal or smoke inside - on the face of lintel only.

(18)

N-1
Fire chamber
- 1st reconstruction
of shield wall



4/27/35

Sunken entrance passage under lintel of front doorway continues inside building across center to "stone enclosure". Passage has walls of stone blocks up to floor surface level. Beginning about .10 m. below floor surface level there is pink plaster with white finishing plaster. The plaster is about .03 m. thick + was originally on the walls; it is still in a vertical position but has fallen out from the wall so that the finishing plaster is up to .08 m. from the wall stones.

Sherds in sunken passage. Many large thick crude plain sherds scattered thru debris in passage. Some sherds are above pieces of wall plaster, showing definitely that they fell into passage after plaster had fallen from walls. other sherds are below pieces of wall plaster, showing that plaster fell from wall onto sherds. Sherds were not found over passage above general floor level in front of large stone block on left (N.W.) side of passage; but they were over passage above floor level beside the stone block (to its right or S.E.), both above, below, + under the fallen lintel (?) there. "Lintel" is black on front face. Sherds were found up near top of large stone block + many sherds were behind block going back for .50 m at level of its top + going down .20 m. at least.

Sherds in passage are much scattered. One bottom piece was directly upside down. Sherds are in debris at various levels — mixed with fallen stone + wall plaster

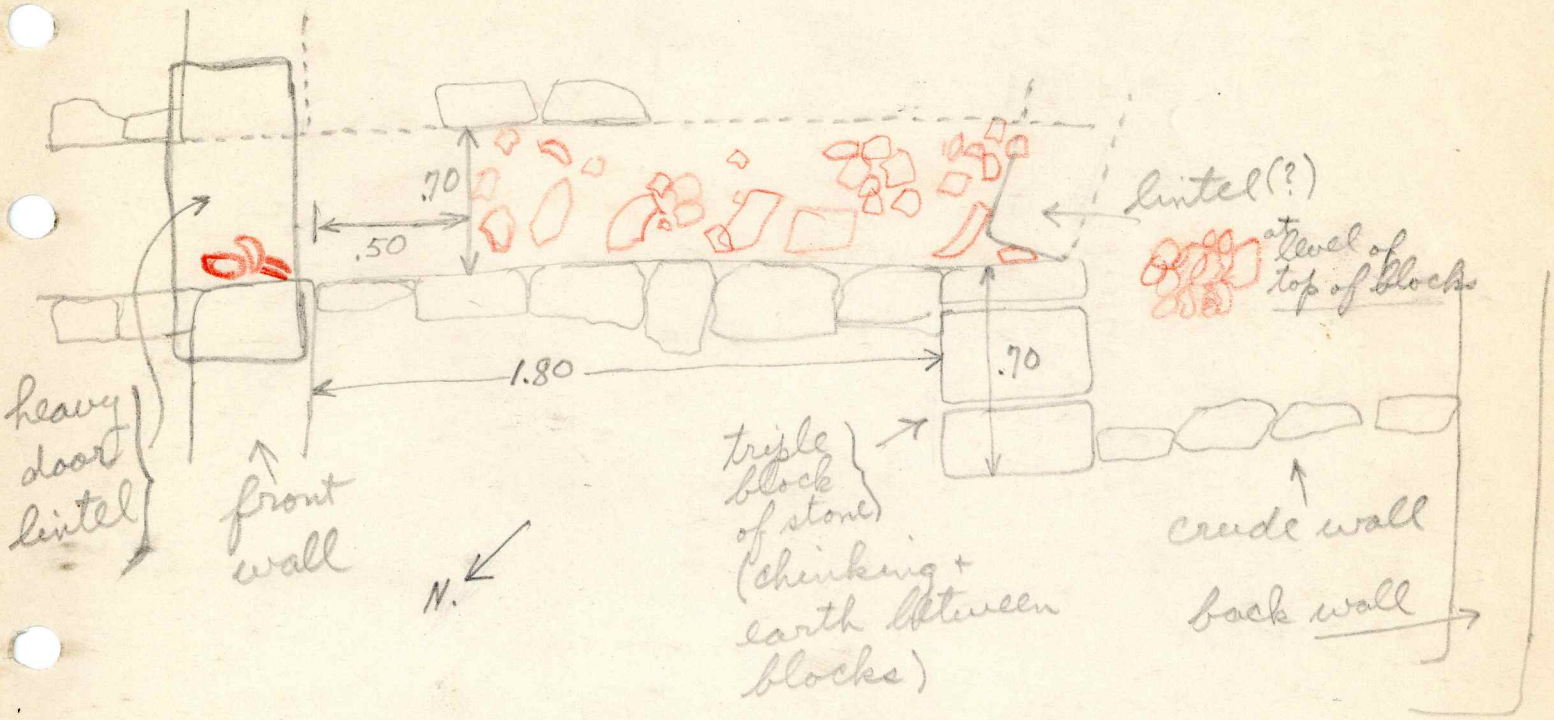
N-1 (20)

4/27/35

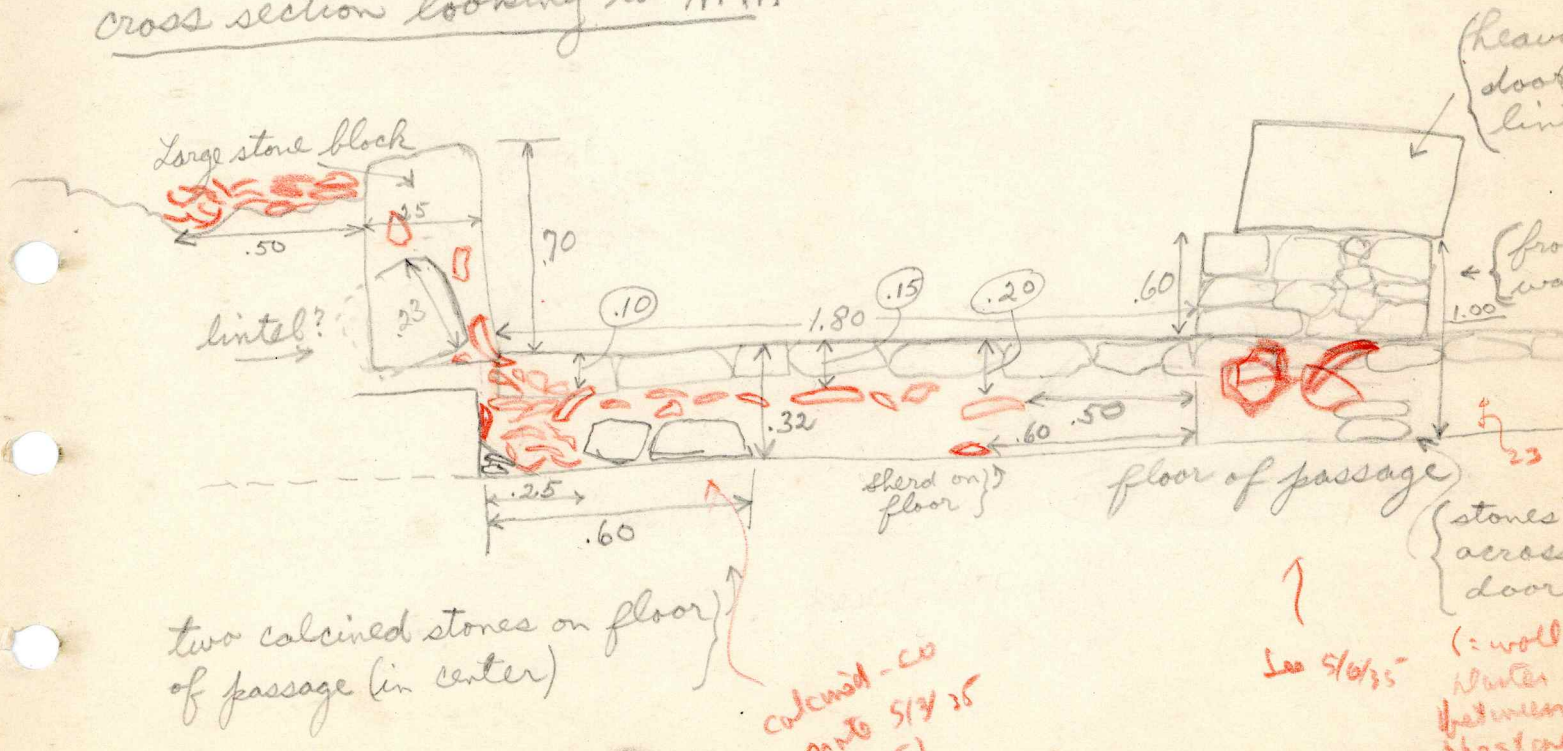
Sunken entrance passage

approximate location of sherds in red.

Plan



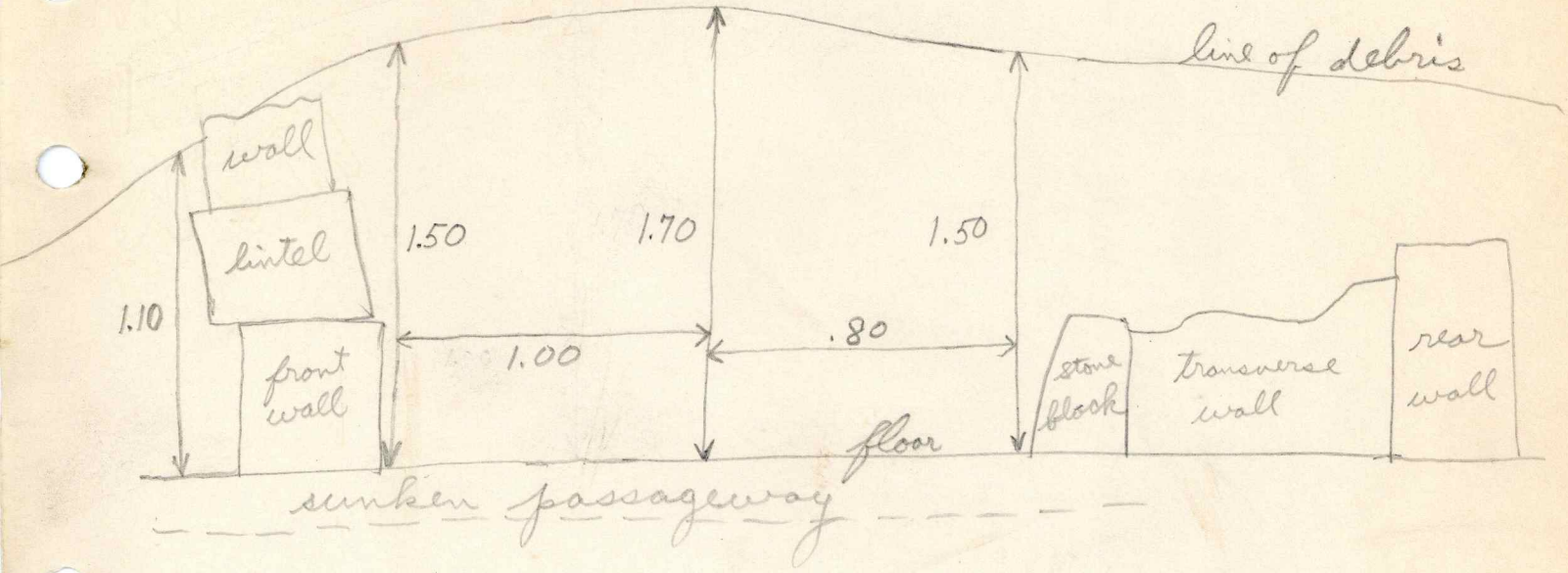
cross section looking to N.W.



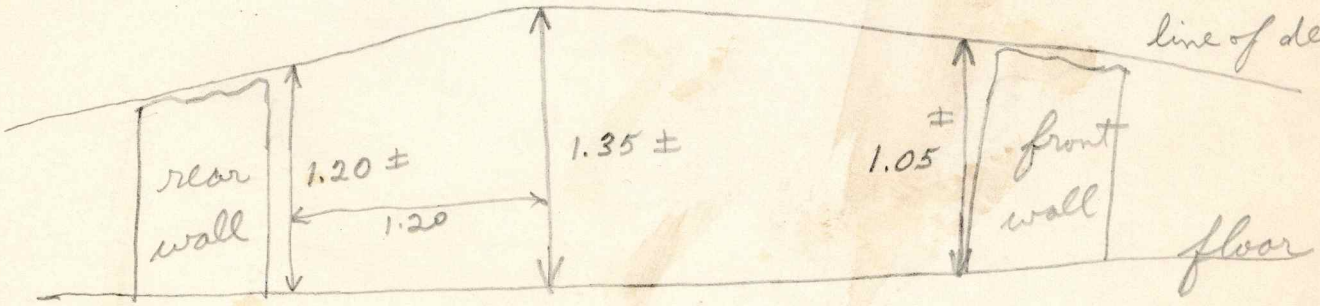
N-1

4/27/35

Cross section of debris thru center of lintel over front doorway, along sunken passageway. Looking to S.E.



Cross section of debris about .50 m. S.E. of N.W. end wall. Looking to N.W.



4/30/35

Sunken entrance passage may possibly have had a stone step about 1.30 m. ± in front of doorway. If so steps went up going toward building.

Room debris has much soft, light-colored disintegrated mortar among stones + slabs in last .50 m. above floor.

above fallen lintel of "sanctuary" — lots of building stone (flat blocks) + lots of mortar. No sherds. a few pieces of pink plaster above lintel. Sherds under lintel (~~[illegible]~~ ~~for 37 [illegible] s~~) — right up against under side + downward. Very numberous, scattered positions, mixed with disintegrated mortar + pieces of pink plaster. Some sherds with pinkish plaster directly on them. One sherd against lintel but with plaster packed tightly between. No sherds directly above lintel. There were a few sherds against left jamb above level of lintel in its present position. Sherds against left jamb below lintel. Sherds on inside of both jambs, below lintel. and all across doorway under + in back of lintel a little above floor level of main room, + right down to floor level of sanctuary. Most sherds nested with about 1 cm. of plaster between them. One group of nested sherds measured .15 by .25, + .20 thick (right angles to sherds)

5/3/35

Hardly any sherds on floor of entrance passage, or below level shown in drawing (about .10 to .15 below top of passage.

Two calcined stones on floor in center of passage, front of front one being .60 from door jamb of sanctuary. Two more small calcined stones in corner between floor of passage + step between jambs of door of sanctuary. Step is .05 behind front of jamb blocks. No sherds in this corner between step + floor but one sherd against center of step near its top. Sherds found to floor of passage between two sets of calcined stones, coming out .25 m. from front of jambs.

Floor of passageway inside building is covered with finishing plaster which in most places is blackened, like front of lintel over door of sanctuary.

One sherd on floor of passage in center + .20 in front of step in doorway of sanctuary.

Sherds like ones in center of sanctuary also against back wall of sherds, packed up tightly against it where it is overhanging, right down to base. Could not have fallen under overhanging part of wall, but might have fallen to floor + wall bulged out over them afterword. Look more as if they were in position against wall.

Room debris — most all flat stones that look like slabs turn out to be flat blocks. There are a good many flat blocks like these in the walls.

5/6/35

Cracked stones found on floor of sanctuary. Gray + pinkish in color. Cracked with sharp edges + sharp angles.

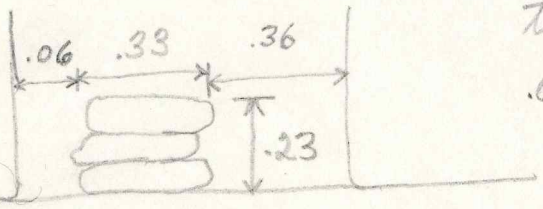
On floor level of sanctuary color of dirt changes in places from a light brown or tan to a definite gray.

Sherds used for chinking in right S.E. wall of sanctuary.

Sherds used for chinking between blocks of left (N.W.) jamb stones.

Large sherds in front doorway of building, .55 below lintel, .05 to .30 from left (N.W.) jamb. Two nested in upside down position over uppermost of group of stones across doorway. Two more nested in vertical position behind stones + extending both above + below their top. Between lower sherd over stone + top of stone was a piece of plaster cracked into several smaller pieces, white, with lower surface rough, + upper surface smooth + dark gray + against inside of bottom of sherd.

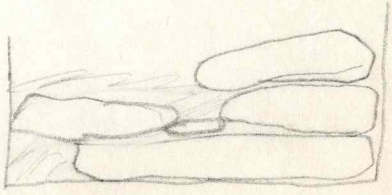
Stones in doorway, looking to S.E.



top of top stone .64 below lintel

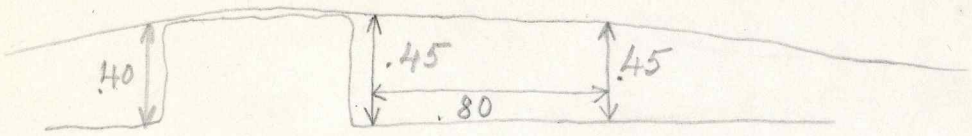
Stones had plaster between them.

front view



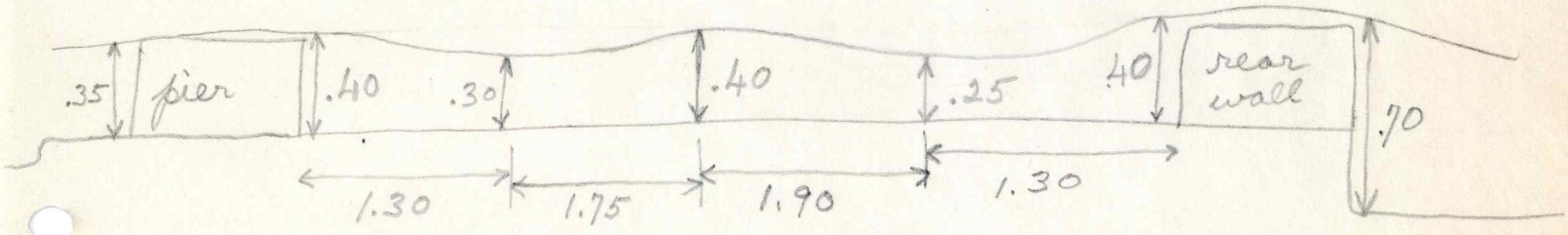
5/4/35

center of
cross section thru pier + debris at
East corner of platform on S.E. side of
building. Looking to S.E.



5/6/35

cross section of debris from front to back across platform on S.E. side of building, on line of N.W. side of pier at E. corner of platform. Looking to S.E.

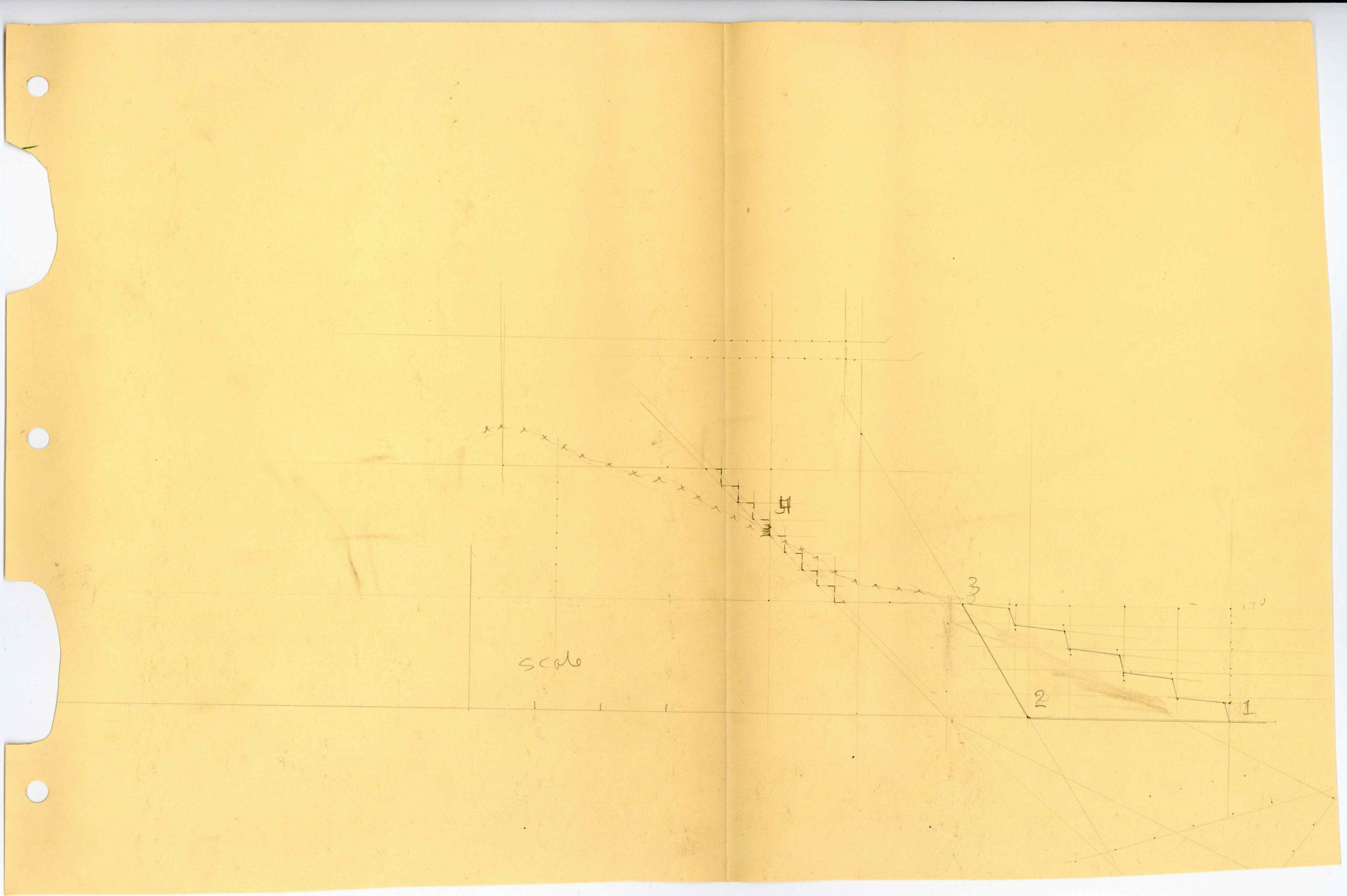


N-1 (20)

5/10/35

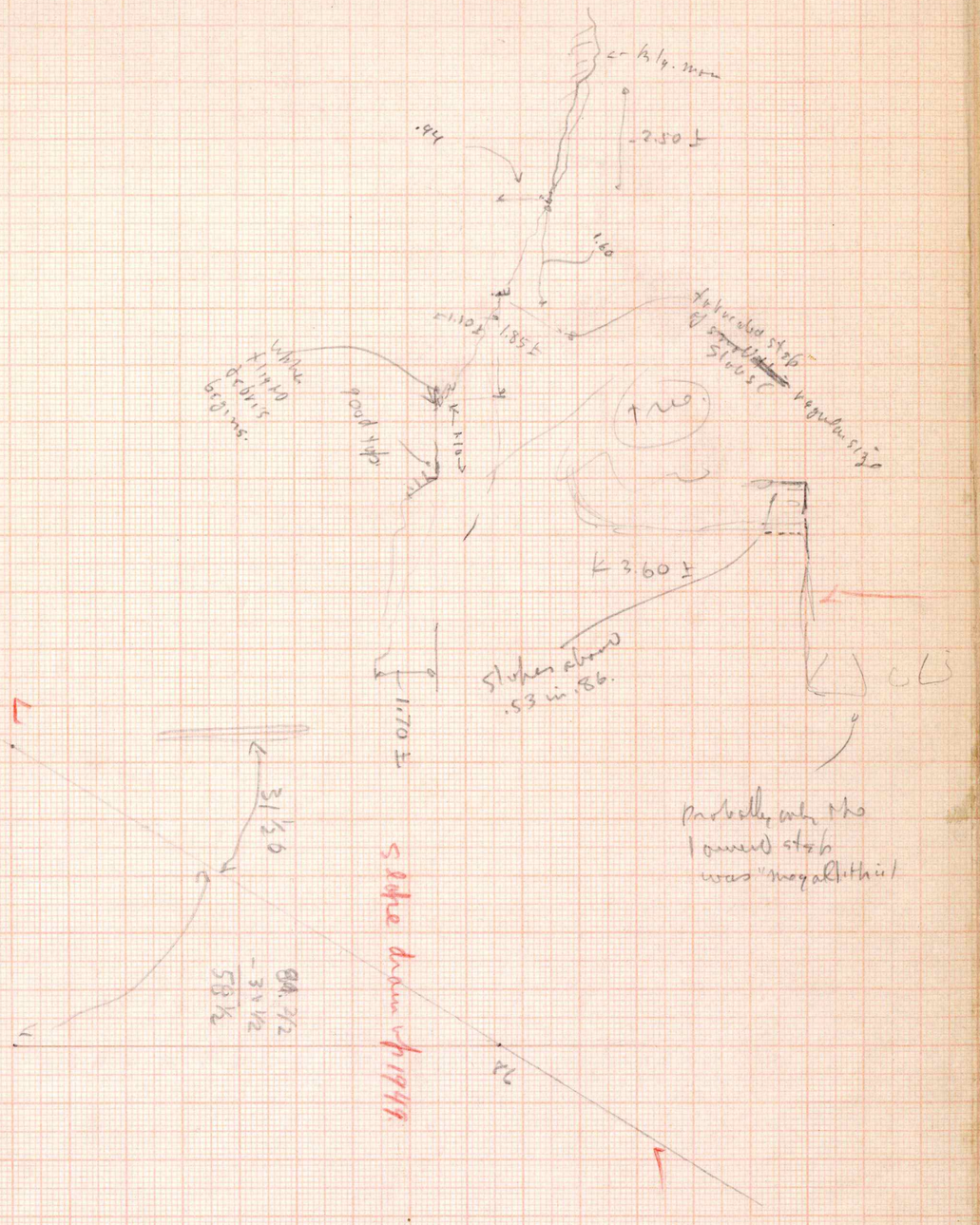
Interior of sherd wall at back of sanctuary. Made up mostly of inside sherds but also contains some rim sherds, facing either to front or to rear, or either side. Some sherds are horizontal; others tilted, usually toward front, sometimes to side. Several cases of horizontal + much-tilted sherds touching. Sherds go back to wall stones at rear.

Date	No.	Fl No.	Stp.	Ex.	Bevis	Twis	Light	Str.	Lin	
May 11		1	22	1"	1"	9.00	S	N-1		Chart at wall.
		2	"	"	"	9.15	"	N-1		" from wall - Note good squared (but not packed) corner stones with bonding as base of left of faint white plaster on wall of passage; block on floor.
		3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Rt Passage wall + no faint.
		4	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Travel & article as on blocked floor plaster before shown white wall below. Thegel can shows no wall plaster. See white surface on a piece in position another above which has the white rubbed off. The floor plaster is white below surface.
		5	22	1/2	1/2	1/2	S.	N-1	E	Shard wall - falling mass no. in position - no balloon left over knife. Blunt but hangs over edge of falling mass; Slickensides on falling small slabs, no angle.
		6	22	1/5	1/5	11.+	S	N-1	E.	Shows limit. Not blocked face. - 3 rounded corners


5
4
3
2
1
17°
scale

Str O-2
Jan 1939

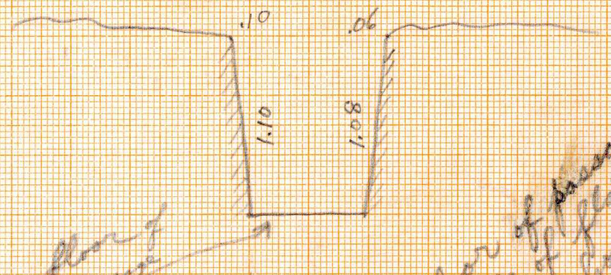
O-2



KEUFFEL & ESSER CO., N. Y. NO. 359-14L
Millimeters, 10th lines heavy.
MADE IN U.S.A.

KEUFFEL & ESSER CO., N. Y. NO. 359-14L Millimeters.

A-B



floor of passage

floor of passage made of flat tile on concrete slab (where indicated) covered with plaster .03 thick which has fine white finishing plaster on top

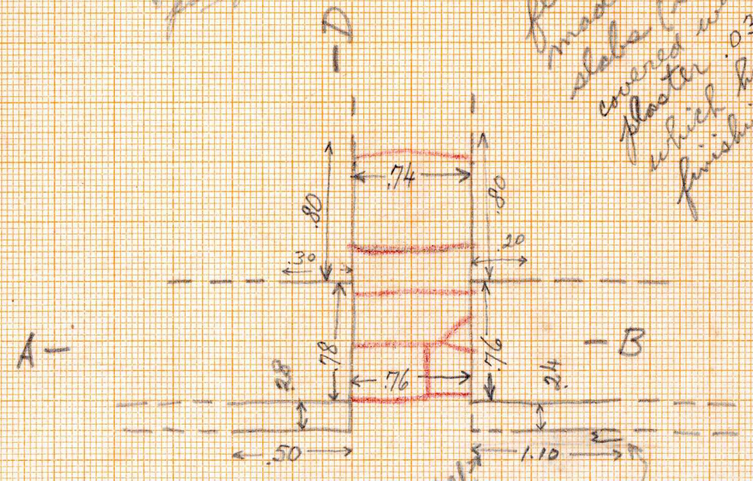
back of pier + front of pedestal made not to show on this plate. These are tied by one stone at bottom and one at top

C-D



floor finished off

A-B



corner broken off

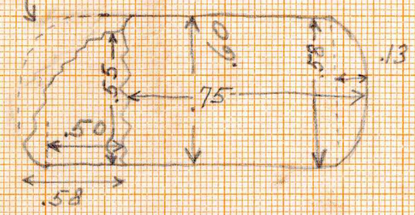
C-D

plaster moulding .05 thick, .08 high at base of plinth wall.

front of pedestal made not to show on this plate

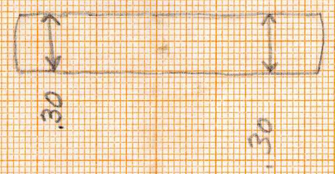
LINTEL

corner broken off as shown



scaling off in plaster going up





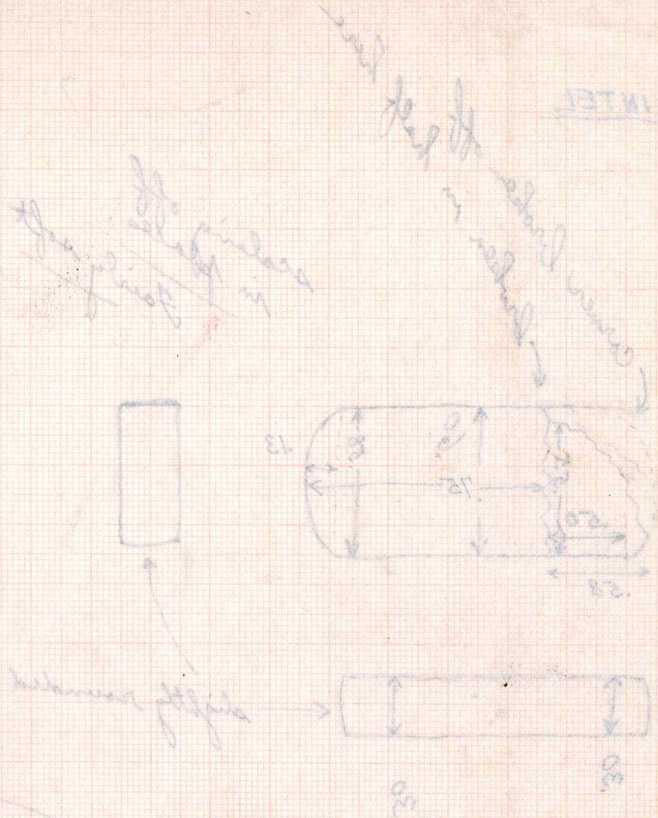
slightly rounded

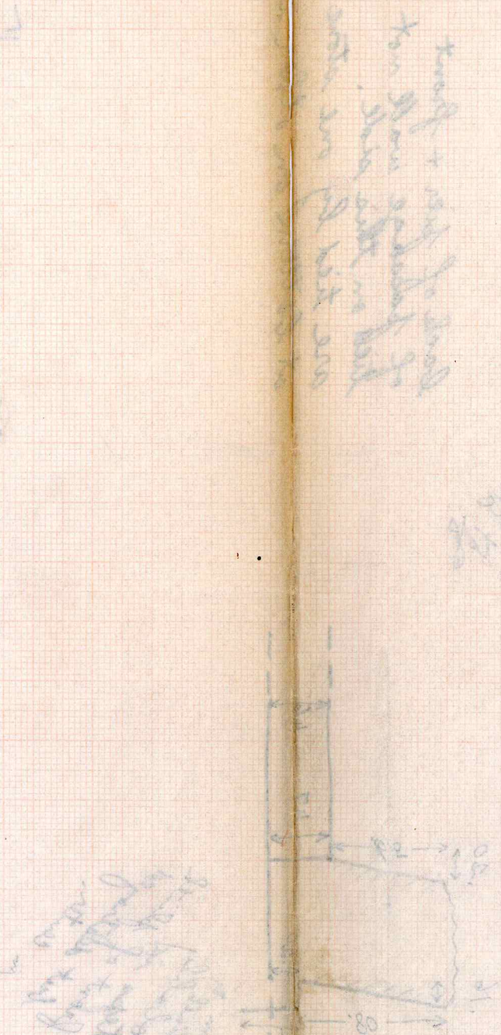
Lintel length = 1.75 + .15 + .13 = 2.03

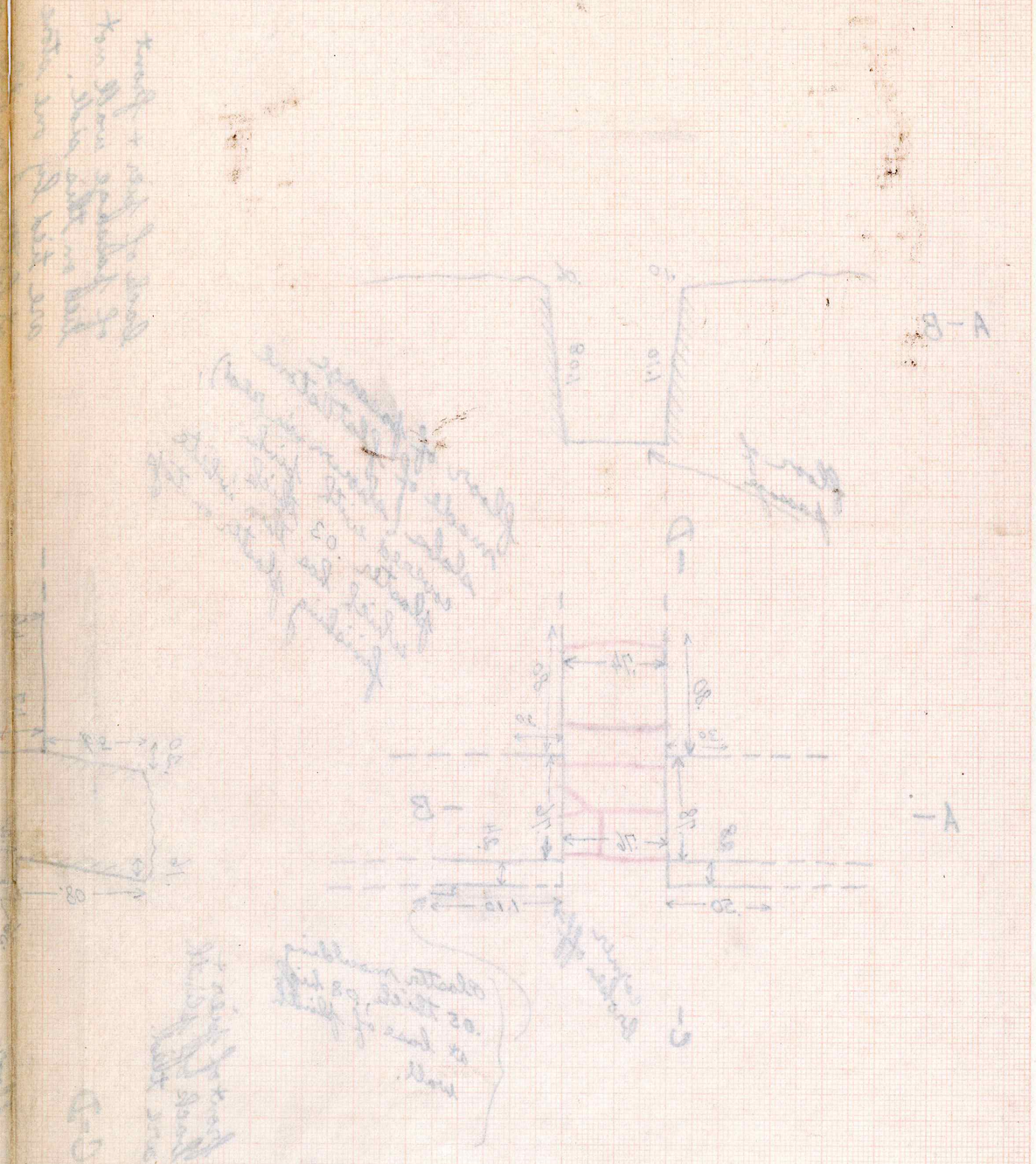
2.5, 1945

O-4

1936







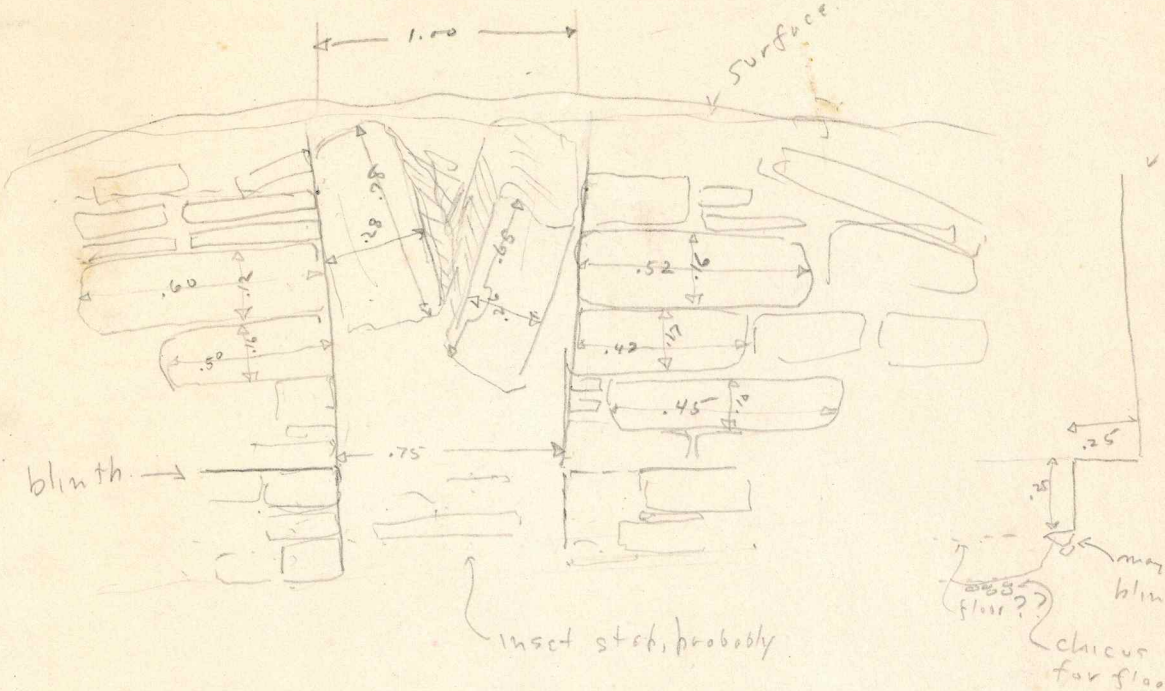
5/25/32

S-9-1 - Mound of the broken lintel in doorway (NW side of court N of Pyramid XVIII (Upper Ter.).

Str XXI

(Str 0-4)

Rubble only 2 notes in front of doorway.
- Great quantity (4 whole boys sad load) of Chicca sherds - many with stucco adhering - usually & considerably large pieces - mostly heavy.



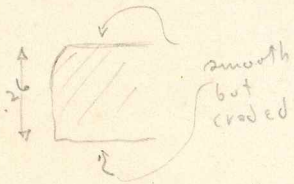
Isons out very evenly on both sides of door.

may this is blinth brick.

Ophh. length of Lintel 65 / 78 / 143 } see season, 1936

S.9.M. - no doubt other Old. E. S. lies. (1T

Badly eroded.
Just a suggestion of the southernmost piece.



NB 1434 - this mound is wide enough to indicate double range

N3 1945 - yes, but it's a sweat-room.

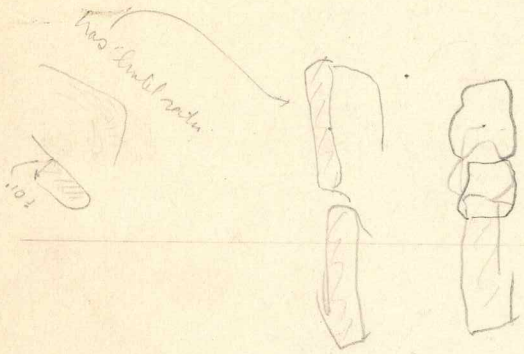
Nothing in cists - seem to rest on large & medium fill

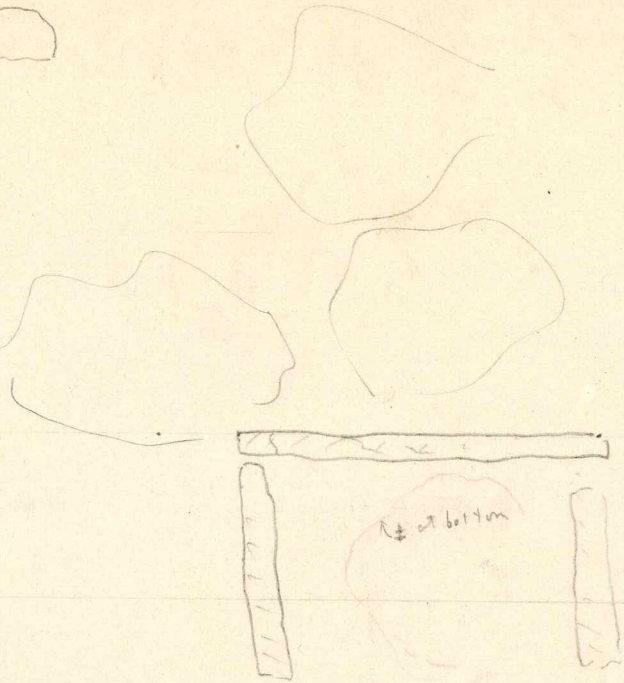
Cists are badly fallen.

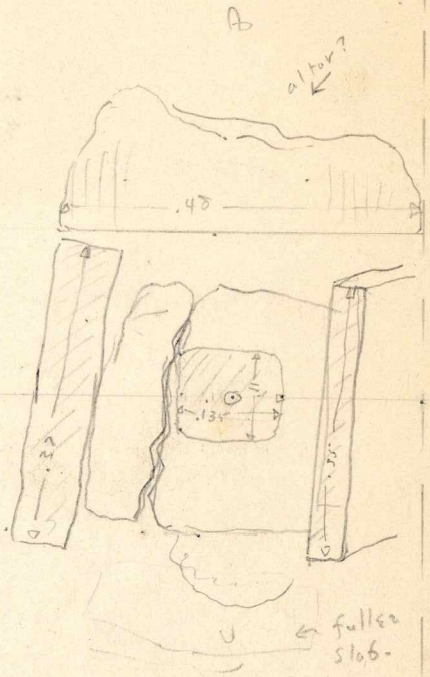
The stone N.O.S. of "fetish" is badly broken at top.

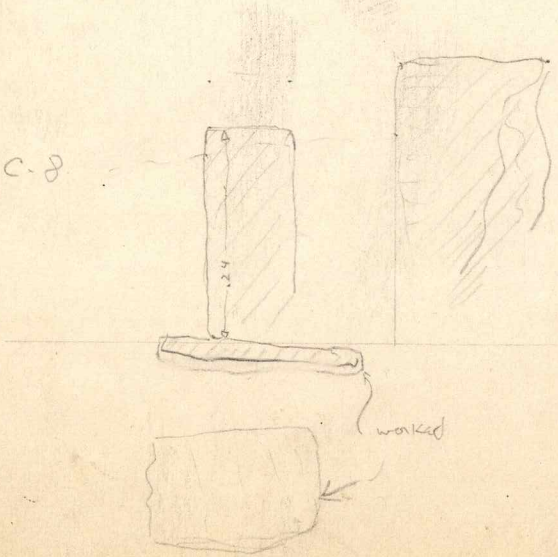
Burned bone fragments + tooth were around, not in the cists.











CV-07

CIST 5 - 5/23/32

1" = 1'0"

Oversized item not scanned

Oversized item not scanned

4/21/32

Str. XXIV ("Columns").

O-7

1948. th "E-W" is probably cubitangi, remainder, mostly long-tudinal lonigang to rear

Section e-w .50 S of "cist" back stone. mass of small rubble stones on surface. - extend back to trees - in front to slabs.



Pilasters

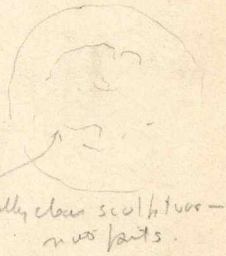
		Lower (as found)	Thickness	Height
a	sculpture type erasing	can't say.	.20	.47
b	" (±)	smooth but not worked	.25	.50
c	" (±)	"	.23	45
d	"	" (worked somewhat).	.25	48
e	" (but badly broken)	smooth (worked also) - can't say if worked	.25	51
f	Smooth. (worked).	smooth by no worked	.33	53
g	Scalloped(?) - broken badly	- entirely broken	?	48
h	- sc. [ ] ← smooth.		.29	45
i	"sculpture."	smooth	.28	51
j	"sculpture"	worked broken.	.30	40
k	"	smooth } clearly worked	.30	52
l	(can't say - broken.	smooth } - " but rougher	.28	50
m	Sculpture type ±	Smooth.	.40	50
n	- only facing use - smooth, not worked Rest - broken.		?	
p	Smooth.	Smooth.	.24	.44
q	Smooth (not worked)	} under roots.	.24	2
r	Smooth (not worked)		.26	2
s	Smooth probably	Smooth	.29	50
t	Smooth (worked ±)	Smooth — rough worked like L.	.28	50
u	Scal(?) (broken)	Smooth (not worked)	.30	48
v	Sculpt.	Smooth "	.28	50
w				
x				
y				
z				

14

Grounders turn plan

W. - dia .49 th .40

robbed down Ely side found no vase.



Pretty clean sculpture — humps in vase parts.

X - very doubtful - 10 cleanly broken from center (Martha - only sign to go by. - th. .23

Y. 12 water drum, 2 in E of N column. 2 fragments of altar, well worked.

a. dia .48 th .20±

b. dia ? - th .29. - the inside crosses = that of "scalloped tops on platform.

Z. Piece 5.00 N + 2 W of main column th .23 ±

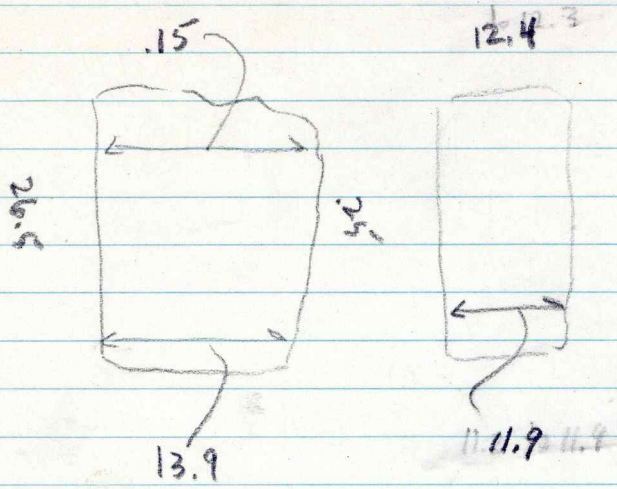
Altars are very roughly made cylinders - do not show the section of ball court bases.

Probably all were plain.

Calculation of S.N. 0-7
.wct.
(Rectangular
Column).

(Nov. 6th LS,
1948.)

Center diameters



26.5
25.0

Notes on O-7 photos
(1948)

"Cists"

S-78 Large slab, floor, and third of (Fig 19) S112, extended floor of altar cist toward front??
altar in place, floor not showing

S-79 - altar reloved on slab floor.

S112 - Big slab at right was near inserted position.
- were other fronts slabs on edge.

- Big fill stone behind cist is in position.

S-113 - shows rear "bench" in cist (Unit A) - corner - with cover slabs

S-113 - shows forward and building's left side group of altars.

S-114 - shows other sub-group of altars (Fig 17)

S-115 - Altars as seen (Fig. 19).

(Note on Unit B: two photos fail to take in end section of Unit B referred to

S-127 Rear end of Bench, cleaned out:
shows slab bottom; heavy, 20 or so thick.
slabs at back are in position, on edge, and would (have) have been removed.

Redrawn by LS, 1948

PIEDRAS NEGRAS
PLATFORM OF THE TWENTY FIVE ALTARS.
STRUCTURE O-7

BROKEN LINES INDICATE RUINED FEATURES (RESTORED) OR OUTLINES OF DEBRIS.

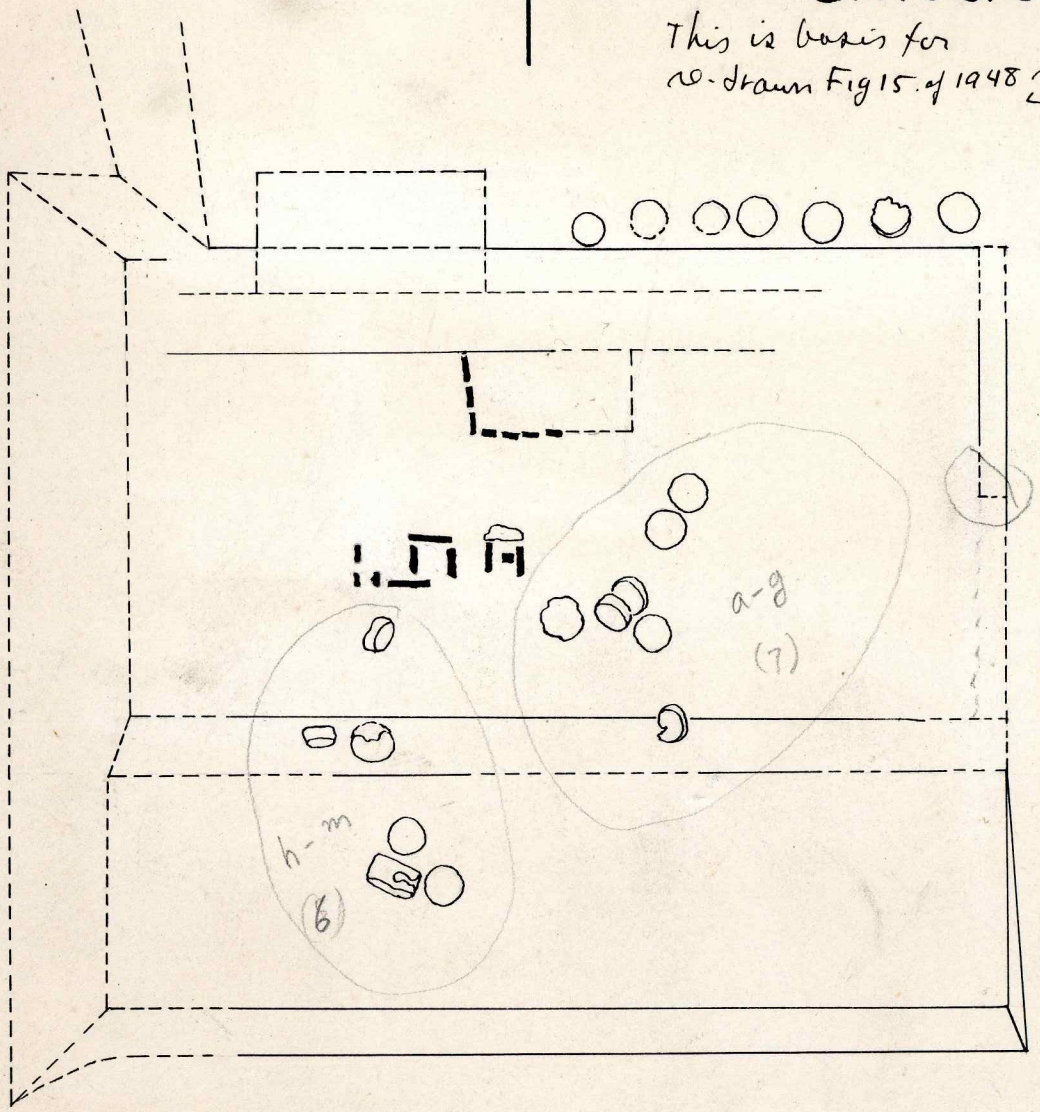
This is basis for re-drawn Fig 15. of 1948 rpt'd. LS.

SCALE IN METERS.

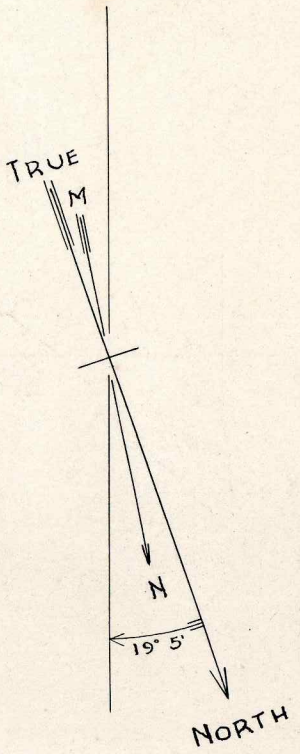
1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5

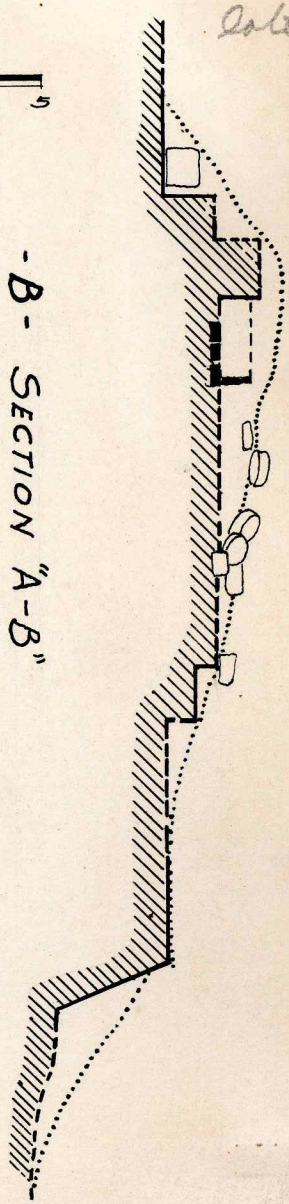
SCALE IN FEET.

0 5 10 15



-A- PLAN





-B- SECTION "A-B"

FRED P. PARRIS. 1932.

PLATE I

Re

Structure of the Twenty-five Round Altars

(Structure O-7, East Group)

General Description

Structure O-7 is essentially a low stone platform, apparently facing the important pyramid-temple Structure O-13, from the opposite (southwesterly) side of the East Group Plaza. It is situated at the top of a gradual ten meter slope which separates the East Group from the principal court of the South Group, as shown on the general plan of the city.[1] The surrounding surface on the plaza side of the structure as well as on its southeasterly side, is much lower than along the southwest and part of the northwest sides. Here as elsewhere in the city the builders seem to have utilized the natural terrain to get a fairly imposing effect of height from what we consider the front (i. e., from the plaza), with a minimum amount of labor.

1 Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers, No. 1, 1933.

Plate I shows plan and center section of the structure, which is a nearly square stone platform, divided into two levels. The front portion is about 60 cm below the rear portion, and connected with it by a single step running, apparently, the full width (Plate 1, plan and section). Exposed to the elements without a deep covering of debris, and badly damaged in parts by trees, many features, such as this step, could not be followed to their original full extent.

Our reasons for considering the northeasterly side the front will be set forth below. In this description "left" and "right" are those of the building, and the reverse of those of an observer who looks at it from the front.

The over-all dimension, front to rear, is 10.85 m, plus 60 cm occupied by the slope of the front retaining wall. Of this, the breadth (front to rear dimension) of the lower portion is 3.80 m, that of the step 70 cm (it is about 30 cm

high), and the distance from here to a rear wall or sill is 4.90. The thickness of the latter, according to our restoration, is 80 cm, but it may have been about 60 cm thicker and have been continuous with the rear wall of the platform, as found at a lower level. The full width was about 11.50 m, but could not be accurately determined, as the retaining wall on the right side had completely disintegrated. Viewed from the ground in front, the lower front portion was about 1.50 m high; from the rear, the higher rear portion was only about 60 cm high (due to the greater elevation of the ground there) plus another 50 cms or so for the rear wall or sill.

As indicated in the plan, the retaining walls are of both vertical and battered types. The vertical ones are low as compared with the battered walls to the front, and the distinction may result from the height to be attained, that is, conditioned by structural considerations. The lower front portion, which included both battered walls, may be a later addition. The structure was badly ruined, but there remained fairly certain evidence that the rear part of the left wall was broken by a single step, while this evidence failed farther to the front. (See plan, Plate I). The surrounding surface opposite this step is the same height as that at the rear - only 60 cm below the higher portion of the platform. This side step may have been an auxiliary, or even the main place for ascending the platform.

We have, however, restored a stairway at the rear, well off center to the right. The evidence for this was a protruding mass of debris at the point indicated (see plan) ; the base of a ruined side retaining wall to the east, and a more doubtful one to the west, at the points indicated by the restoration in the plan; and the position of the seven round altars to be discussed below, which were placed off-center to the left.

If this was a stairway, it had to ascend to the top of a low wall or sill, running from side to side along the rear of the structure (see plan and section). This could not be followed to the left (northwest) of center, due to the presence of large trees (shown from the rear in Plate 2, a). The front face of it could

be followed with certainty from the center well out to the right, and there is little doubt that it extended clear across the rear of the platform. We have restored its thickness on very unsatisfactory evidence. Its rear face was nowhere intact, and may have been continuous with the rear wall of the platform itself, which was in place only to the level shown in the cross section. If this was the actual fact, the elevation at the rear, which could have been little more than 50 cms high, as found, was really a third level of the platform, though only about 1.40 m in breadth. In principle, this would not differ greatly from the narrow final level of the platform surmounting the Pyramid Structure J-3. [2]

---

2 Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers No. 3

Whether of greater width than shown, or not, one may conjecture that the final elevation represented by this wall served as a base for some of the round altars to be discussed later, or as a background against which they were placed. This is of course, guess-work, and we may be dealing with the low foundation wall of a wooden building, such as are not wanting elsewhere at Piedras Negras. It is quite certain however, that there were no side walls or antae ~~and no front wall~~ in connection with it, as is the case elsewhere at Piedras Negras (Str. V-1) and as reported at Coba[3] and in British Honduras[4]

---

3 Harry E. D. Pollock in "A Preliminary Study of the Ruins of Coba", Publication No. 424, p. 113; Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C. 1932

4 J. Eric Thompson, "Archaeological Investigations in the Southern Cayo District, British Honduras, Publication 301, Anthropological Series Vol. XVII No. 3, p. 241, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, 1931.

The Twenty-five Round Altars.

Our attention was led to this low mound, out of many, by the presence of six stone drums, which were plainly visible before clearing. These were the six on the platform to the left, as shown on the plan (Plate 1), and in the foreground of Plate 2, b. A few of those to the right were also visible at this time. Their positions justified at the time a suspicion that they came

from two fallen columns, which, though common in Yucatan, are unknown at Old Empire sites. Excavation soon led to more and showed plainly that they are all round altars--that is, each was meant to stand separately.

Seven were found in position, ranged along the left half of the rear wall, a few centimeters from it, and resting on the artificially leveled surface surrounding the platform at this point. Because of their favored position in the lee of the vertical rear wall, these were buried by debris and were better preserved than most of the others. The maximum diameters of all the altars found varies but slightly from 50 cms, though there is less uniformity as to height. Among these seven the height varies from 24 to 30 cms. The upper surfaces of the two at the extreme left were badly eroded, and there is therefore the possibility that they were sculptured. The tops of the other five of this group were quite certainly plain. The bottoms of all but two of this group were examined. Three had been artificially worked smooth, and two showed the natural smoothness yielded by splitting stratified lime-stone along the bedding plane.

Fourteen more were found on the platform in the positions indicated on the plan (Plate 1). They fall roughly into two groups of seven and six each, with an odd one, somewhat fragmentary, in the center. This one, as we shall show, was at some time placed on edge, where it was found, intentionally. The others, quite obviously, have been disturbed and scattered. The odd central altar formed part of a more or less buried cist. The seven stones of the right (easterly) group lay on the approximate floor levels of the platform as constructed. Five of the left (westerly group) also lay on the surface as found, but at varying heights above floor level, on a small hump of debris projecting from the rear at this point, but not appearing elsewhere. A sixth, nearer the center, was slightly below floor level. This situation is indicated on the section, Plate 1.

About half of these thirteen scattered altars lay more or less at an angle, one entirely on its edge. Some of the others may have been upside down,

but, since we know from the seven in position at the rear of the structure that some at least were smoothed on both top and bottom sides, and as sides are about straight, this could not be determined. There is plenty of evidence, however, to justify the conclusion that they were moved about from their original positions by human agency. Tree roots are absent in their vicinity. Indications are that those on the lower front portion of the platform, and on the step between them, were rolled down from the higher rear portion. The position of the left group on a deposit of debris sloping up to the raised wall or sill at the back, suggests that all may have come from there. But granted a human element in their disturbance, we cannot say anything about their original positions with certainty.

The altars on the platform (except the one in the cist) had no protecting covering of debris, and are for the most part badly broken or eroded, or both. In only one case could we make out that both top and bottom were smooth, and that therefore the altar was a plain one.

Of these thirteen altars which were apparently scattered and were found on the surface, nine were found with one flat face down, and therefore more or less protected. Seven of these protected surfaces were smooth on the bottom and protected face, irregular and badly eroded on the upper exposed face. The eighth, mentioned above, was smooth on both sides, the ninth eroded on the upper and broken on the lower side. The evidence of these upright stones is unsatisfactory. At least one was a plain altar. Its upper surface was fully exposed, yet it is one of the best preserved of the stones on the platform. This tends to raise the suspicion that the roughness of the other upper surfaces is due to the fact that they were sculptured on the top, but differences in hardness of the stone might account for the difference.

The suspicion is strengthened however, by the condition of the remaining four of the thirteen stones scattered on the surface. Both faces of three of these were equally exposed to the elements, the stones lying on their round edges, and in the fourth case this condition was approximated. Of these, three showed one smooth flat surface, the other irregular and badly eroded;

the fourth showed on~~e~~ eroded face, the other broken.

Unfortunately, the only altar which was buried, and which might have extablished the presence of carved altars here, has one face badly broken, the other being smooth.

The diameters of the fourteen altars on the platform itself, just ~~discussed~~ discussed, are all very close to 50 cm. Heights, however, vary from 20 to 30 cm, with a single one 40 cm high.

Large parts of three more altars were found on the slope in front of the platform, and a complete one close to the right (easterly) side. These had almost certainly been rolled from the platform, and bring the total number identified to twenty-five. There may have been others which we did not find. The complete one at the east was 49 cm in diameter and 40 cm in height, the same as the highest found above on the platform. One face of this, more than any of the others, gave a distinct appearance of having been sculptured, though it was too badly eroded to be sure. In particular there were no channels or depressions in the stone such as are ususlly formed by water running along roots, but merely a series of elevations in the center, within an apparently unsculptured border.

The sides of all the altars found, where not broken or badly eroded, showed the marks of nice tooling, though they had not been rendered actually smooth. There is little doubt but that the sides of all were plain.

From the above considerations we think there is a probability that most of the altars on the platform were sculptured on the upper face, although one certainly was not, and five of the seven on the surrounding pavement at the north were certainly not. But the fact is by no means established.

The sides were approximately straight, without any sign of the intentional bulge observed on two of the markers in the South Group Ball Court, which are also stone drums and are often called altars.[5]

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5 Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers, No. 2, (p. VI,) 1933.

Dr. Mason has suggested that the drums found on the platform and fallen from it may have been placed column-wise at the rear, the upper one in each case being sculptured; that the single drum on the platform which was unquestionably plain may have been a bottom drum from the right end of the row of seven along rear wall, where there is space for it. This is an interesting hypothesis, but it seems unlikely. As stated, some of the drums at the rear are much better smoothed on the upper face than the lower. If all the drums were piled on eight bases, they would be three deep, with one over. And there are more than eight with equal claims to having been sculptured.

Stone Cists

A little to the right of the center of the rear raised portion of the platform, was a line of three small stone cists, built of slabs set on edge, and probably originally covered with slabs, though covers were not found in place. These are indicated in solid black on the plan. They were badly disrupted and it is possible that the group was one long cist divided into compartments. We show only slabs found in place. One large slab, sufficient to have covered almost twice the area of one of the cists shown (or two compartments of a single long cist) lay flat on the ground in front of the left (westerly) cist, (Plate 2,d)

All were extremely crude. The tops were about at the surface. They were 20 cm deep, more or less, resting on the large broken rock of the foundation fill, which formed the only floor except in the left cist, where a single thin slab formed the floor. Set upright on this, in the center of the cist, which is about 40 cms square, was a small stone column, (Plate 2, c. and d). This is rough-tooled throughout, 24 cm high. In section it is rectangular with rounded corners, 13.5 cm by 11 cm, with the broader sides facing front and rear. Top and bottom are flat and plain. There were no signs of fire upon it. Nothing else was found in this cist, nor in any of the others. This cist lacked a front side and the others were even more torn up.

The rear of this left cist was formed not by a thin slab, but by the flat face of one of our round altars, which had been set on edge for the purpose

(Plate 2, c). This circumstance enables us to say with assurance that this group of cists was built after the disturbance of the round altars, and at a time when the builders were willing to leave the altars scattered about the platform, some of them on a small pile of debris. The hump of debris, already referred to, probably was thrown up in constructing the cists, which descend to the foundation of the floor. While all evidence of the floor surface had disappeared, there was plenty of crushed stone and humus lying on it to indicate a floor thickness of fifteen or twenty centimeters. One is tempted to date the cists as after the abandonment of the city, and they might even be the work of modern Lacondones. However, the upright stone column is comparable, except in point of size, to stone columns found on six of the seven pyramids of the South Group, and at all three excavated levels of Structure K-5. [6]

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6 All of these with one possible exception had been placed in temples. At least two had had fires built against or around them. All are 40 cm or more in height, the other dimensions corresponding. Their widespread use at the city proves them to have been of great importance, and the excavations which brought them to light will be published shortly in this series. Apart from the great difference in size, the only differences from the small stone found here are in a greater tendency to approach true cylindrical form, and a tendency to taper toward the base.

In any case, there is surely a strong presumption that the builders of the cists scattered the altars from their original positions.

Placed against the wall running across the rear or higher part of the platform was a much larger, rectangular box-like construction. (See Plan, Plate 1). The right outer corner may be seen at the upper left of Plate 2, d. The two large trees already referred to completely obliterated the left (westerly) part of this construction, and the roots disturbed the rest. It was about 35 cm high, and projected about 1.10 m out from the wall. Assuming that it was placed in the center of the wall, we have restored its width, from side to side, as 1.20 m. It is floored by heavy flat-faced blocks. The sides are simply thin slabs set on edge, and the top was covered with similar slabs.

The roofing slabs were small and badly broken, so that the fact that the construction was found filled with stone and humus means little in itself. However, the side walls were too flimsy, and the space to be covered too great, to suppose that this was anything but a solid construction, in spite of the well paved floor.

We were able to excavate half of what we suppose was the whole--that is, about a square meter, and hoped to find a cache or possibly a burial within, but found nothing whatever but broken stone and humus.

Unlike the cists previously described, this may have been a feature of the platform as originally constructed. When finished it would have formed a rectangular altar of dais, centrally placed at the rear of the platform. In such case it would have been a ready quarry for the builders of the cists. However its construction was very inferior to the usual masonry encountered at the city, including the rest of this platform. Probably it was a late addition to the platform, but built while the latter was still in use as a place of ceremony; but it may be the work of the cist-builders.

Periods of Building, Construction, Etc.

We have little to report under these heads, as excavation was superficial only. The foundations of the floors are of medium sized broken rock. The floors themselves, being unprotected by any amount of debris, were entirely disintegrated, but were without doubt plastered concrete.

A shallow excavation on the rear upper portion of the platform showed a layer of crushed stone, beginning about 50 cm below the surface. This is a strong hint that the platform covers an earlier one.

Objects.

The yield of objects was meagre. All came from or near the surface. A few potsherds, a perforated figurine head, a perforated figurine pendant, a small pottery disk, and what appears to be a pottery rosette were found, and will be discussed in papers on figurines and pottery. In addition, there was a sherd cut, in the opinion of the writer, to a rounded rectangular form,

modified by concavities in the sides to give a sort of four-petal outline, but with one corner broken off. This he would place, with the disk, in the class of "counters" found in the South Group Ball Court[7], but Miss Butler, who will

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7 Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers, No. 2, p. 16.

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report on the pottery of the city, considers it a mere sherd, as it may be.

There was also a small piece of cut shell, apparently perforated, and a small lump of material, probably hematite. Three small bits of burned bone and a human molar tooth were found near the surface about the cists, but careful search revealed nothing more of this nature.

Four "eccentric" obsidian pieces were recovered, which will be figured in a special paper on the eccentric flint and obsidian forms fount at the city, which are numerous. One of these was found in, or among the debris on, the step between the front and rear portions of the platform, 2.50 m from the left (northwesterly) side, and rather close to the pottery disk and "rosette" mentioned above. The three others were found in or on the same step, at points between 1.50 and 3.50 m from its supposed right termination. None was found undisturbed, nor were there potsherds in the vicinity in either case. It is highly probably, however, that these obsidians come from two caches, placed in the step or in the front of the upper platform level on either side.

A large worked flint flake, found in the general superficial clearing, is probably a knife. It is roughly rectangular in outline, and double-edged; length, 6 cm, maximum width 3 cm, maximum thickness 1.5 cm.

General Considerations

The main purpose of this small excavation job was to determine if round stone columns were in use here. The answer is in the negative. We may go another step and suggest that the mere presence of numbers of disturbed drums, even when in positions suggestive of a fall from a column, do not justify the same conclusion in the Old Empire that they would in northern Yucatan.

We have now (1933) completely examined the surface of the three main ceremonial groups and a great deal of the surrounding area (which was probably devoted to domicilary purposes), without encountering any such collection of round altars as here. One was reported as found on Structure R-2, also a low platform, but it could not be found during the 1933 season, and may have been a rounded corner stone from the closely adjoining pyramid R-3. There are one or two badly weathered cylindrical stones in the South Group which were probably associated with stelae, as at other cities, including Yaxchilan. Apart from that, these are the only low round stones of this type yet found at Piedras Negras.

Their presence in such numbers on one platform is thus unique at the city and must indicate that some special type of ceremony was performed here. It would be interesting to know if one such structure is common to each of a number of other cities, in the Usumacinta district and elsewhere. Could there be any connection between this extraordinary concentration of round altars on one structure and the almost complete, if not complete, absence of their use before stelae at Piedras Negras, a practice so common elsewhere? Could they have served originally ~~with~~ stelae, and been later removed here, when the great table-altars came into vogue?

As to the date of this interesting little structure, we have no clues. It is pretty well separated from the South Group, with its early monuments, and looks across the East Group to the late monuments. But the East Group is not now in its earliest form, and this might easily be an early surviving structure.