

Suggested additions to be made this year in Satterthwaite's report.

1. Complete map of site.
2. Further investigation structure LXI.
3. Do rivers on hill connect with others on back or northerly end (p. A3)?
4. Further exploration apparently needed on sides of hills in upper section of valley (page A4).
5. Further exploration Maler's transverse valley (page A5).
6. Further investigations of southwest section (page A5).
7. Determination of uses of column drums (page A6).
8. Good idea to find terrace levels on right side of pyramid? (page E6)
9. Further digging to reveal various periods of building (page E8).
10. Definite measurements of structure XLV (page E13).
11. Seems essential to do further research on XLV and particularly LXIX (pages E 16 and 26).

Comments on Sats report

Put descriptive letters A-C (or a-c) on plans fig W-1 & plate 4 for Acropolis.

FE-9. On plate W-2, 1, note circle, for vacant number near left top; eliminate or give number. No references to numbers 8 & 9.

FE 14. After description of pieces, mention layer wall sections at corners. Add letters A-B, C-D, E-F, to sections on plate W-3, to ~~add~~ illustrate front & back

Thought: make page references when referring to walls

Comments on Sats notes:

I intend to assign Mary primarily. ceramic stratigraphy, but think that this is careful job with one or two careful helpers, not a gang job.

Point I. O.K., if you wish

" II. Very good, go ahead, but I am not sure of advisability of completely removing later external structure.

" III Excellent; impresses me as most important of 3.

" IV You're probably right, though I couldn't do it myself - too porous.

V a Very good.

b Very important, by all means.

c Good for L1, as part of acropolis complex, but XXXIII might be shadow of L1 from your joint.

d Good bunch, if it to examine briefly & content if classes good.

e By all means try in a few places.

My order of preference III, V b, II, V e, V d, V a, I, V c, IV

i.e., do smaller jobs first & then as much as you can on southeast section, But you may do just as you wish.

Five Sections, best read in this order:

- 1 Surface Observations - pp. A-1 to A-7
- 2 West Group Plaza - pp. D-1 to D-4
- 3 Acropolis - pp. E-1 to E-29
- 4 Southern Ball Court - pp. B1 to B-11
- 5 Southeast Section - pp. C-1 to C26.

Drawings are temporarily numbered with a blue circle around the number, and are referred to by filling in these numbers in pencil in the text.

There are ~~two~~ two series of such numbers, one for Plates, one for Text Figures.

Plates of photographs have been only tentatively worked out: where a photograph is referred to, it is by the number of the individual print in the album and catalogue. These may be found as follows:

Print No.	Album page.		
223	65		
347	64		
207	62	Total number pages, letter size, double-spaced -	79
300 (a&b)	45		
311	48	Total plates (drawings)	13
307	47	" " (photos)	7
274	22		<u>20</u>
294	25	Total text figures	
273	21	(drawings)	9
272	21		
238	8		
324	9		
249	11		
323	13		
257	15		
317	42		

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Surface Observations.

The Carnegie Institution's map led us to many structures unknown to Maler, and further search, as was to be expected, revealed many additional structures to be definitely located when a final and thorough map of the city is prepared. These structures are for the most part small and low, and in a sense are all peripheral to the great ceremonial centers covered by the Carnegie map. These principal centers, consisting of the South, West and East Groups, were explored by Maler and contain most of the structures and all of the monuments recorded on the Carnegie map. We have called them collectively the "Central Section" of the city.

^{Many small mounds lie}
Between the river and the principal courts of the South Group of the Central Section, with their large pyramids and stelae, ^{and} especially south of Structures IV and V, ^{There are} are many small mounds, of varying shapes, more or less jumbled together on terraces dropping successively toward the river. Remains of terraces and occasional low mounds may be seen if one ^{ones} picks his way from here along the slopes behind Pyramids VI and XVIII (but well below the level of their courts) and turns right into the ravine which divides the South from the West Groups.

Across this ravine, the West Group Plaza is in part bordered by a natural shelf, several m below its level. Some of the mounds on this shelf are shown on the Carnegie map, and there are a x good many others. They can be best reached by descending a ruined stairway leading down from Structure XXXIII on the edge of the plaza, opposite Altar 2, and turning left (northeast). There are a good many more southwest of this plaza between the river and Structure XXVIII, also on levels well below the plaza.

The Acropolis bounds the West Group Plaza on its ^{northwesterly} ~~northeasterly~~ side,

and may be said to face the latter. It may be considered as double-
faced, however, for a great stairway (entirely ruined) once led ^(down) from
a projecting group of low mounds, about ~~20 m~~ ^{15 m} below its highest point,
almost ~~near its top~~ to the level valley on ~~its opposite~~ ^{that} side. ~~This~~
~~valley is many meters below the level of the West Group Plaza.~~ Turning
to the right from the bottom of this stairway, and passing a gully in
the side of the Acropolis hill, one comes to a long terrace about 2 m
high, facing the valley floor. Behind it rises ~~in~~ ^{above} two sections, one
and a little behind the other, the debris of what appears to be a very
sizable pyramid, built against the hill (structure LXI). The terrace
is comparable in size with the stelae-bearing terraces of the West and
East Groups, like them it lies before a pyramidal structure built
against the hill behind, and like them descends to a level plaza in
front. It was cleared of bush. If it held stelae they must have fallen
and have been buried by the wash from above. Whether a small temple
crowned the pyramid is as yet uncertain.

If one now walks away from the Acropolis hill, (northwest) he will
do so upon a perfectly flat valley floor, on an elevation still well
above the river, but many ^{considerably} meters (perhaps 15) ^{or} ~~20~~ below the level of
the West Group Plaza. To the left lies the open end of the valley
where the ground rises to meet a series of mounds built right on the
bank; ^{here it is that} and on which the expedition's camp is erected. To the right is
the main trail from Tenosique to El Cayo. We have ~~temporarily~~ called
the floor of this valley, between the river and the main trail, the
"Camp Plaza". In front of our assumed position the northwestern side
of the valley (which is only 200 m or so in width) is bounded by a
long saddle-shaped hill. From the saddle descends a small ravine which
opens out fan-wise on a ^{small} level area a meter or so above the valley floor,

held in by a retaining wall facing the plaza and with ^{low} platforms built against the wall. On the raised area are two interesting mounds, long and narrow, about 2 m in height, perhaps 10 m long, placed at right angles to each other and about 10 m apart. One shows an expanse of vertical wall, standing to a height of close to 2 m, and is therefore a ruined building.

An extensive scramble up that part of the hill lying between the bisecting ravine and the river indicated no structures on the heights above in that direction. But on returning to the structures at the ^{end} foot of the ravine and ascending on the other side, long after leaving all traces of former occupation below and behind, about half-way ^{up} one encounters two long narrow mounds, quite similar to those below, and like them apparently the ruins of buildings. These are entirely isolated, the top of this peak of the hill, behind them, proving bare of remains. Unless, indeed, they are eventually connected with ruins on the back or the northerly ^{low} end of this hill, which were not examined.

Returning to the two structures at the bottom of the ravine, and turning left in the valley of the camp, (northeast,) and away from the river, low platform terraces may be found on either side of the valley until it intersects ~~with~~ another valley, roughly parallel with the river, in which runs the trail from Tenosique to El Cayo, here called the "main trail". This intersection is marked by a complex of mounds, in general built against ^{the} hills forming the four corners of the intersection, and including at least one small pyramid, and two groups of long mounds arranged around small elevated courts. This complex extends a considerable distance down the trail toward Tenosique, and a short distance in the opposite direction. It really marks the end of the camp valley, considered as a plaza, which ^{the latter} ~~it~~ undoubtedly was. The camp valley, much narrowed, continues northeast, however, two or three hundred ^{meters} until it splits

into two branches, running east and north, respectively. Occupation of this extension is proved by two or three low platforms on the right (south-east) side, and by occasional little ^{sherd-bearing} mounds heaped up by rodents, which ~~contain potsherds~~. Beyond the split in the valley all signs of former occupation failed. The sides of the hills bordering this upper section of the camp valley were very imperfectly explored.

We have called the general area just described, which is north and west of the West Group of the Central Section the "Northwest Section". It seems to center about the Camp Plaza. If one now returns to the intersection of the camp and main trail valleys and takes the trail toward El Cayo (in general, southwest) he will find the ^{it} trail rises ~~to~~ ^{and crosses} a saddle, which ~~it crosses~~. Just at the saddle the trail seems to cross a low artificial mound. On the right (towards the river) rises the very high, long, and flat-topped hill which lies behind Structure XLll of the West Group, and behind Structures XXVll and XXVI of the East Group. On the left is another high, flat-topped hill. The tops of both were partially explored, and they seem to be bare of remains. Between them lies a narrow valley into which the trail descends. After ~~descend-~~ ~~ing~~ a considerable distance, the valley widens and the slope becomes gentle. Side excursions into the bush on either side (mostly to the left, for the trail hugs the hill on the right) disclosed many low mounds and terraces. This valley (and the trail) finally passes the rear of Pyramids Vlll, lX, and lll of the South Group and intersects the "Transverse Valley" of Maler, the intersection being still marked by a giant Cieba tree referred to by him. The whole of this trail valley, from a point somewhat below the "saddle", to a considerable distance beyond the Transverse Valley, may be said to be covered with terraces and mounds, which in many cases extend considerable distances up the sides of the

hills. Maler's "Transverse Valley" itself, on both sides of the trail valley, seems to be devoid of remains, though it was only hastily explored.

In the midst of this complex, which we have called the "Southeast Section" of the city, at the base of the end of the high hill on our left as we descended the trail, ^{and} a hundred meters or so from the great Ceiba tree, was ^{Group} ~~Structure~~ LXII, elsewhere described. Behind ^{the} this ^{the} three sides of the end of hill ^{are} were terraced to a considerable height. These lead to a well-defined court of considerable dimensions, with mounds on all sides. Beyond and above this ^{are} were some interesting dome-shaped small mounds. This court, built out boldly from the side of the hill, with terraces descending from it on three sides, holds a very commanding position with reference to the rest of the Southeast Section.

A proper interpretation of these additional, and peripheral, mounds and plazas must await more thorough examination. One is tempted to consider them ^{for the most part} as residential, ~~for the most part~~. In general they are lower and smaller, more varied in form, and show less relation, one to another, than the great complexes of the Central Section. Some of the mounds are high enough to be the ruins of stone buildings, but many more are mere low platforms. They are all as accessible to the great plazas of the Central Section as the mountainous terrain permits. Our one excavation in the Southeast Section reveals structures of an entirely different character from the pyramid-temple and the "palace" of the Central Section, though the latter also contains a fair number of low mounds of similar appearance.

On the other hand Structure LXI, in the Camp Plaza, and a smaller one at the Northeast end of that Plaza, are pyramidal. Structure XVI in the Southeast Section appears to be a small pyramid, and the court

above Structure LXII has all the ear-marks of an embryo acropolis. We may be dealing in part with subsidiary, earlier or later ceremonial complexes.

The failure to find a stone temple on the great pyramid of Structure XLIII (on the Acropolis) raises the question of how many of the other pyramids of the Central Section may have supported no buildings, or buildings of perishable materials.

The corresponding pyramid XLIV, on the other end of the Acropolis, presents about the same surface appearance as did XLIII, and must be set down as doubtful. A surface examination of the seven remaining pyramids of the Central Section (all in the South Group) indicated that Structures III, IV, VI and XVIII very probably did support stone temples, while VIII and IX are more doubtful. The top of Structure V was so covered by trees and their roots that there was no basis for an opinion.

Surface examination of the small pyramid just south of the southeasterly corner of the West Group Plaza (Structure XXXI) disclosed a plain slab, presumably a lintel. Dimensions were 80 cm by 117 cm, with a thickness of only 12cm. One side was rough and eroded, the other smooth, with remnants of plaster adhering except for fairly well defined clean bands at either end. These clean bands are 5 and 12 cm in width and possibly represent those portions imbedded in the walls. If so, we have here a small structure with a doorway 1 m wide, facing southeast.

Surface examination of Structures XXIV and ~~XXI~~ revealed a very interesting detail. Both of these low mounds have on their tops numbers of drum-shaped stones, entirely suitable for use in constructing columns, which ^{have} ~~are~~ generally ^{been} supposed to belong only to the later periods of Yucatecan architecture. In both cases there are a number

of these drums which have fallen in a line, while others have rolled down the slopes. There is little doubt that the drums were set one upon the other, but whether they rose as structural supports, or were low and in the nature of altars, remains to be determined. If they were altars they are of a type not before found at Piedras Negras. Structure XXIV is on the southerly edge of the East Group Plaza. Altar ~~34~~⁴ is on the Plaza just in front of it, and one of the stone drums had rolled down to within a meter or two of it.

If one proceeds south and eventually east along the path through the principal court of the South Group, and the low mounds south of it, he will come to the river at the Sacrificial Rock, described by Maler. Picking his way down-stream over the huge rocks which form the bank (submerged at high water), Dr. Mason came upon several additional engraved rocks. They are one or two hundred meters below the sacrificial rock, and like it are flat-topped projections of bed-rock, tilted up toward the river.

The engravings cover several square meters, and seem to consist primarily ~~(perhaps entirely)~~ of spiral designs. The lines are one to two cm in width, and perhaps 5 mm in depth. They are very badly weathered, and many must be felt rather than seen.

Caps. Plate S-1 to S-3
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Southern Ball Court

The Ball Court of the South Group, (Structure X and XI), like that of the West Group, was identified by finding two parallel rectangular mounds on a level area, each with a low terrace or platform running the lengths of the inner sides. ^{During our season} Dr. Morley's party found a previously unknown one at Yaxchilan and new details associated with it. On his suggestion we made preliminary excavations on the Piedras Negras examples.

The work done on the South Group Court (only parts of five days were available) consisted of a hasty survey with a Brunton ^c compass, tape, and the level; clearing a strip about 1.50 m wide across the centers of the two mounds; the beginning of a trench through the center of Structure X; and minor excavations about the stairways on the backs of the two structures, ~~and~~ in the alley between, and at the ends of the structures.

Plan and sections are shown on Plate B-1, and more detailed sections in Plate B-2. It will be noted that considerable level areas at either end of the structures are connected by a narrow alley between them. Mr. Blom has described the three areas considered as a whole as shaped like a capital "I". To the north this I-shaped field is bounded by a low stepped wall on the westerly side, and by steep unprotected slopes on the other. To the south, it is almost completely enclosed by a step or bench, which, on the ^s southerly and easterly sides, is at the base of Structure VII. The bench to the north rises about 80 cm above the field level, and is about 1 m wide. That at the south is about 45 cm above the field level, and about the same width. It would be interesting to know if, where ball courts have enclosed fields at the ends, as here, these low terraces or benches are a constant feature. The riser to the benches to the west (both north and

south of Structure X), are very slightly battered; those at the base of Vll are vertical.

A test pit in the center of the southern enclosure, as well as excavations between the structures, indicate that the whole level area, north, south and between the, ^m is ~~surfaced~~ ^{covered}, under a thin layer of humus, with small crushed stone, almost certainly the remains of a plaster surfaced floor.

The measured length of each structure is 17.85 m. The width, exclusive of stairways (i.e. horizontal distances from inner edges of platforms to the bases of the outer retaining walls) is 13.13 m for Structure X and 14.00 m for Structure XI. They were probably terraced on the outersides, against which stairways were built at the centers leading to the flat tops, which were surfaced in part with plaster floors. The tops are about 3.30 m above the playing field, and are about 4.75 m in width. Structure X had some sort of minor stone construction on its top, Structure XI apparently had not. The ends were vertical to a height at least 50 cm above the tops of the inner platforms, and are restored on the plan as vertical to their full height. (See Plate (A317)).

From the inner edges of the tops of each, inclined planes, surfaced with stone slabs, lead down to the platforms, which they meet at a measured height of 82 cm above the level of the alley floor. Measurements indicate a slope of 43 degrees from horizontal for Structure X, and $34\frac{1}{2}$ degrees for Structure XI. These are subject to considerable error. The platforms are surfaced with a hard concrete which near the inner or alley sides curve^s downward to double rows of inclined stone slabs, which complete the sides of the platforms. The platforms are about 4.10 m in total width, of which only about 1.60 m ,

next ^{to} the main structure, is level. The width of the ^{alley} ~~latter~~, between the bases of the two platforms, is about 3.20 m. The details here described will be more easily comprehended by reference to the sections in Plate ^{B-2} ~~Plate (#205)~~ ^{is a view across the center of the alley toward Structure X.}

Dr. Morley's party found at Yachilan three small sculptured stone altars or drums, set flush with the pavement; one at the center and one at either end of the longitudinal center line between the two platforms, (a feature previously reported by Blom in Chiapas); and in addition, a fourth and fifth, set in the platforms directly opposite the central stone in the alley between. Dr. Morley was kind enough to send a special messenger down to us with a sketch of this new feature and to suggest that we might find it also at Piedras Negras. Dr. Mason ^{two of} located the three stones in the central alley and then assigned the writer to find the others on the platforms and to determine the main features of the structures so far as time permitted.

The central stone was accurately placed, and ^{is} was a roughly worked cylinder with a maximum diameter of 48 cm and a depth of 38 cm. It has split in two, horizontally, but the upper piece rested in position on the lower. The upper face may have been sculptured, but was too weathered ^{for} a decision. It is represented in Plate ^{B-3, 5, and appears in the foreground in Plate (#205).}

The other two stones were also set mid-way between the platforms, but with their centers in each case about 1.10 m in from imaginary lines joining the ends of the structures. (see Plate ^{B-1}) Like the center stone, they were set flush, or very nearly flush, with the pavement.

The southern stone is nicely circular, and has a diameter of 49 cm across the top, which bulges to 51 cm ^{and} about half-way down, with a maximum depth of 25 cm. The bottom is very roughly chipped, but the bulging sides are nicely pecked. On the top, which is badly weathered,

a raised border is perfectly apparent, and inside this are depressed lines which probably indicate part of a circular or semi-circular band of glyphs. A depression opposite is artificial and probably is all that remains of a central design in low relief. (Plate B-3,4)

The northern stone is badly scaled and broken at the sides, but a remaining portion of the side is nicely pecked and bulging like the southern example. The top is not so badly weathered, however, and not only is there plainly visible a surrounding raised border and remnants of glyph-blocks, outlined by depressed lines, but it is certain that the center was occupied by a sculptured design in low relief. (Plate B-3,3)

The diameter of this stone was 53 cm at the bulge, depth about 18 cm, and the bottom, except at the edges, comparatively smooth.

These end stones in general form are identical with the three found by Merwin in British Honduras, in the same relative positions, which are now in the Peabody Museum at Cambridge. Those stones in each case bear two figures with a disk, (presumably the ball), between them. In cross-section two have a projecting rim at the top, the third a negative or receding rim at the top. The projecting rims may indicate that two of the Peabody stones were set a few centimeters above the alley surface. This may have been the case here, as the floor had entirely disintegrated, though the projecting rims are absent.

The expected stones on the platforms were not found. They may be present, but if so are off center, and await further excavation.

However, slightly north of the transverse center line of the structures, set flush among the smaller facing slabs of the sloping wall leading to the top of Structure X, is a long, narrow, heavy slab with traces of glyphs on its upper surface. (Plate (#205)) This was set in the wall with its base about 50cm above the junction of the wall with the platform, as measured on the slope. The near bottom corner was about

55 cm from the transverse center of the structure, the near top corner about 45 cm from the same imaginary line. It was impossible to photograph the stone properly without elaborate preparations, for which there was no time. The drawing in Plate B-3, 1 gives a fair idea of what is left of the inscription. It is reasonably certain that there were ^(two) columns of twelve large glyphs each, with space for four more glyphs at the completely weathered top.

The style of the glyphs seems archaic.¹ They are in low relief, the

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1. See Morely, "The Inscriptions at Copan", Carnegie Institution, Washington, 1920, p. 54.
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technic appears crude, and the raised surfaces of the glyphs are perfectly flat. Perhaps we cannot be sure we have bar and dot numerals, but there seems to be a ten just below the break on the left ^(A-11 if there are 28 glyphs in all). The bars are not ornamented.

The combined length of the two pieces into which the stone has broken is 192 cm [?], the width ^(except at the bottom, where the right side curves slightly toward the center) is 40 cm measured across the face. The left side and the ends, nicely smoothed, are at right angles to the face; the right side, also well smoothed, slopes out slightly. The top is slightly curved, the bottom straight except at the broken corners. The back is smooth. One wonders if this might be an early and exceptionally small stela, here reused.

On the corresponding slope of Structure XI we found a second slab probably originally sculptured. (Plate B-3-2) The length of this was 93 cm ^{1.05}, the width 67 cm, and the thickness about 105 cm. It was badly broken and completely weathered. It was found flush with surrounding facing slabs, its northerly side right on the transverse center line, its base about 1.10 m ^(measured on the slope) above the junction of wall and platform. It is

much larger and thicker than any of the surrounding facing slabs; its top is symetrically rounded; and the bottom edge at least has been pecked to give it the curved section indicated in the plate. The back and other sides were not examined. The surface was very deeply ~~xxxx~~ and irregularly channeled, while all surrounding ^{all} slabs were quite smooth. If a re-used stela, it was very small indeed. The section of the bottom edge is identical with some lintels, but the rounded top is not consistent with the theory that it is a re-used lintel, unless it was so shaped after use in a doorway.

It may be noted that the South Group Ball Court agrees in all essential with those of the southern area previously cited by Mr. Frans Blom, of Tulane University.¹ In Vol. XXI, No.1, of this Journal, Mr. Robert Burkitt publishes

1. Frans Blom: "A Preliminary Report on Two Important Maya Finds", Proceedings, 22nd International Congress of Americanists, p.165; New York, 1930.

perspective drawings of similar structures ^{in Guatemala} at St. Francis and Chipal ~~Quiché~~ (Province of Quiché) and at Xolchun (Province of Huehuetenango). He shows another probable one at Chichel (Quiché). Mr. Blom has identified ^{or cited} them in Chiapas, Oaxaca, San Salvador, Huehuetenango, Quiché, in the Peten near British Honduras, and especially he confirmed Maler's early suspicion that there was a ball court at the classical "Old Empire" city of Yaxchilan. There Dr. Morley's Carnegie Institution party has found another, and added two stone drums or altars on the platforms to ^{the} three in the alley which correspond to those found by Mr. Blom in the ruins called Tenam, in Chiapas. Mr. J. Eric Thompson ~~and~~ reports two probable ball courts in the Southern Cayo District of British Honduras, including one "altar" in the alley dated 9-19-0-0-0, 9 Ahau 18 Mol.² Mr. ~~Harry Pollock~~ ^{Harry E. D. Pollock} of the Carnegie Institution

2. J. Eric Thompson: "Archeological Investigations in the Southern Cayo District, British Honduras", Field Museum, Anthropological Series, Vol. XVII No. 3, 1931.

recently described two more ball courts, with sloping inner walls and with stone rings, at and near Coba.³

3. Thompson, Pollock and Charlott: "A Preliminary Study of the Ruins of Coba", Carnegie Institution, Washington, 1932.

(British Honduras)

8 - District, Field Museum, Anthropological Series, Vol XVII No. 3, 1931.

report on Copan 3 leads one to strongly suspect that Structures 9 and 10

3. George Byron Gordon: "Prehistoric Ruins of Copan", Memoirs of the Peabody Museum of American Archeology and Ethnology, Vol 1, No 1, Cambridge, 1896.

at Copan functioned as ball courts. The evidence for the existence of the game in early as well as late Mayan times seems to be cumulative.

Whether the sculptured or inscribed slabs on the main sloping walls in our court have significance as intended features of a ball court is questionable; as they may have been merely reused here, as was Stela 43 on the megalithic stairway, Lintel 8 on Structure XXXIII, and, apparently, Lintel 5 on Structure XLIII. Sculptured panels, near one end, have been found on the inner slopes of one of the two known ball courts in the Cobá District.

Structural details, &c.

The stairway on Structure X was perfectly plain at the center, but its width somewhat conjectural. The lowest step had not been disturbed in the least, and was followed from the center north to the point indicated on the plan, when it stopped, but it does not join a side retaining wall. This distance from the center is 3.90 m. To the rear of Structure XI we found the base of a stairway side wall 4.00 south of the center, but no steps in position. Outside (south) of the stairway wall the retaining wall of the structure proper was well built of selected stones; inside it was very rough and uneven. Based on this approximate correspondence in the distances from center to the end of the Structure X step, and to the stairway wall of Structure XI, and an assumption of symmetry, we have restored both stairways centrally placed and as 8.00 m wide. The broken down stairway-wall of Structure XI is shown in Plate

B-2 (1), in elevation, (A) but reversed: that is, as if we had uncovered

the northerly instead of the southerly side wall. This was necessary to maintain the same point of view in sections of both structures, and does no violence to the essential truth.


The symbol marked "B" in Plate ^b B-2 represents walls, and stones generally, found in position and shown in section. It may be noted on these sections that the outer lower retaining wall of Structure X is vertical, that of Structure XI battered; and that the existence of terraces above them is still a matter of inference, easily proved or disproved by slight additional excavations.

The white plaster floor (c) on the top of each structure, extends only to a point about 2.25 m back from the inner edge, in each case, when it gives way to large stones and earth. This is not debris. In the case of Structure X, the top step is in position, though on the other structure the outer edge of the top seems to have fallen. A small excavation through the plaster portion of the ^{floor of} Structure X-floor showed it to rest on a large pure rubble fill (d).

The concrete surface of the ^{inner} platforms ^{below (d)} was about 20 cm thick, and perfectly hard after many centuries of exposure, though entirely unprotected except for 10 to 20 cm of humus. It did not crumble, but broke into large pieces under the pick. It is made up of small bits of crushed stone (uniformly small on the surface, a mixture of small and large ones below) set in some cementing agent quite different from anything observed elsewhere in the city. In structure X at least it rests directly on rubble fill of small broken lime-stone, with considerable soil intermixed. A bed of mixed soil and small stone (f) lies on the bed rock and supports the fill. This bed runs out beyond the edge of the concrete cap and supports the double row of stone slabs which carry the platform to the alley level. The edge of the ^{concrete} cap is much broken,

and the stones appear to have sunk considerably. Probably they formerly rose on a steeper angle, and their ends were imbedded in the edge of the concrete cap.

The lowest course of slabs on the main slope is ~~so~~ imbedded in the cap, and securely locked in place. The slabs of this wall, so far as our trench went (See Plate B-2(3)) rest on a large pure rubble fill, with nothing to bind the stones. The slabs are of varying sizes and irregular shapes. A few are as much as 90 cm long by 50 cm wide; most are considerably smaller. They are about 5 cm thick.

The small stone surface of the playing field is indicated by  in the sections. ~~Note that~~ The builders made a small depression in the bed-rock in placing the central stone between the platforms.

The dotted line ^(h) ~~(H)~~ indicates the surface or "debris" line as found. In the case of Structure X the debris on top (examined only at the center) consisted of humus and irregularly shaped stones of some size to a depth of about 50 cm. Among them were two which may have been fragments of large worked, (possibly sculptured), stones. There were no slabs such as are found in all vaults seen at Piedras Negras. At the inner edge was a ruined wall rising about 50 cm above the floor, as shown in the section. This was formed of well-selected quadrangular stones. Further excavation is needed to determine if it ran the length of the structure. Debris on the top of Structure XI, at the center, was only about 30 cm in depth, and consisted of humus and some medium-sized stones of irregular shape. There was definitely no wall at the center of the inner edge, as on Structure X.

Remains of earlier structures were uncovered under both structures of the Ball Court, but there was no time to follow them up. Under the stairway of Structure XI we came on a wall about 50 cm high, resting

on the floor, and running parallel with the longitudinal axis of the mound, about on a line with the lower retaining wall uncovered to the south of the stairway. The latter was battered, this was vertical. It extends northward from the transverse center line an undetermined distance; southward it runs 55 cm when it turns a right angle and runs 55 cm out toward the bottom of the stairway, then turns southward again, parallel with the longitudinal axis of the mound, and was uncovered for a distance of 1.50 m. It runs still farther under the unexcavated portion of the stairway, but there is no sign of it two meters further south where we located the southern retaining wall of the stairway. This wall is shown, partly in section, partly in elevation, in Plate B-2 2.

Turning to the back of Structure X (Plate B-2, 3) it will be noted that the plaza floor is here higher than the playing field, not only because the bed-rock is higher, but because the floor rests on some older constructions. The northerly end of one of these is shown in elevation in the Plate and is marked "Y". It seems to be a vertically walled platform, about .75 m high, well built, with a high projecting step on the westerly side. The end, 4.00 m north of the transverse center of Structure X, was plastered and runs in under the lower retaining wall of that structure. This lower construction runs southward under and partly outside) the stairway an undetermined distance south of the center line.

Placed against the front of this (i.e. against the westerly side) was a later platform. Its northerly retaining wall extends westward, in line, (at the top) with the end (Y) of the Structure just described. It is shown in elevation in the same drawing, and marked "Z". A step with battered riser, forms the bottom two thirds of this wall. The wall is well built

of flat slabs, and is shown in section in Plate ~~B-2~~, 4. Digging through the plaza floor on the transverse center line, only pure rubble, resting on brown earth, was found against the Structure "Y". (Plate ~~A-2~~ 4. at the right) "Z" therefore appears to have been a platform retaining wall built as an addition to "Y".

The fact that the white plaster floors at the tops of Structures X and XI are of about the same width, and cover the inner portions in each case, suggests the possibility that these structures were originally narrower, and were later widened by additions at the back. If so there should be earlier stairways buried under the latest ones, which might bear some relation to the constructions just described.

SOUTH-EAST SECTION

Group LXII

Plates SE-1 to SE-4
Figs. SE-1 to SE-3
Locand
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26 hp

Led on by the discovery of graves, we made preliminary excavations in a group of small low mounds in the South-east Section, (Group LXII.) The southeast section has not as yet been surveyed, but in general, the group is about two hundred meters south-east of Structure VIII. It lies at the base and near the end of the great hill bounding the South-east Section on the east.

The group consists of three low mounds on a rectangular platform, built on a gentle slope. Behind it ^{to the} (northeast), a series of terraces leads upward at a relatively steep angle to a very considerable court, ^{briefly} described elsewhere. In front, (to the southwest), broad flat terraces lead down at a slight angle to the main trail, across which there are other terraces against the north-easterly side of the hill which forms the southerly boundary of Maler's "Transverse Valley". Low mounds are plentiful on all sides.

Since the Platform is placed ^{about} ~~so much as~~ 25 degrees from the magnetic cardinal points, it will be clearer, assuming a point of view at the south-west, to speak of the front and rear (south-west and north-east, respectively) and left and right sides of the Platform as a whole, and ^{also} of the northeasterly part of Mound 1 of this group (which we will call the "rear wing"), which faces the same way. Description is further hampered by the fact that no general measurements were made except on the rear wing, where we did nearly all our digging. This was to avoid duplication of work, in the expectation that our engineer, ^{Mr. Egan-Wyer,} would later make an accurate survey of the whole group, which lack of time and other duties prevented him from doing. The width of the platform, ^{from} (side to side), was about 35 m, the length possibly a little more.

Beginning a few meters back from the left front corner of the platform, the left side supports a broad flat-topped, "L" - shaped mound, (Mound 1 of the group) which runs to the back and thence across most of the rear. (See Plate SE-1) Entirely free from ^{and to the front of} this, on the right edge of the Platform, ~~and to the front of the rear wing of Mound 1~~ are two much lower, flat topped mounds, (Mounds 2 and 3 of the Group). The Platform functions as a small court bounded on the left and rear by Mound 1, and on the right by Mounds 2 and 3, and is open at the front.

Mound 2 of Group LX11

Perhaps we should state that on all drawings from this group, elevations shown are expressed in meters above or below the latest court floor surface, just in front of the rear wing of Mound 1, and to the right of ^{its} the stairway.

A test pit (see Fig. SE-1) in Mound 2 showed a plaster floor (c) 25 cm above the floor level of the court. This rests on a fill of large pure rubble, (d) about 25 cm in depth, which rests partly on what is probably bed-rock, (f) and partly on soft brown soil containing broken lime+stone fragments, pot-sherds, and some fragments of burned clay. (e)

On the floor was ten to twenty cm of disintegrated plaster or mortar (b) and on this the debris of a stone structure. (a). The depth of debris including the mortar was about 75 cm, except for slight humps rising ten to twenty centimeters higher, where it was correspondingly deeper. These humps seemed to be regularly disposed in two rows near the sides of the mound. The debris included roughly quadrangular blocks, suitable for wall construction, but not for vault construction.

It is apparent that we have here a small quadrangular structure, possibly with stone walls, or possibly with stone foundation piers supporting wooden pillars. The roof must have been of perishable materials,

possibly of wooden beams covered with lime and stone cap, which would account for the thick deposit of mortar. The building fronted on the court, and was entered from it by a single step ^{rising} ~~up~~ from the court to the threshold.

Mound 3 of Group LXII

A small section of Mound 3 was cleared to a plaster floor, with a single step, (the stone edge of the floor), down to the court. The floor was covered by ~~similar~~ ^{similar to that} stone debris, but not so deep as on Mound 2. The section of this excavation was either not made or has been since lost, and this account of Mound 3 is made from memory and incomplete notes. Here again is a structure without a vaulted roof, and little chance that side walls of stone rose to any considerable height.

Mound 1 of Group LXII (^{NE rising wing} Northwest wing)

As stated before, Mound 1 of the Group is L-shaped. Beginning two or three meters back from the left front corner of the main platform its left wing rises on a present steep slope to a level flat top something over a meter above the court floor level, and continues back four or five meters, where it rises a half meter or so. From here back nearly to the junction with the rear wing it is covered by a very low deposit of debris.

We sank a test pit in the level front end of this wing and found it to be here a simple platform which had supported no structure, unless one of entirely perishable materials. (Plate SE-4, 2.) Below a very thin layer of humus (a) was a layer of small broken stone and earth, with pockets of very small broken stone, doubtless the remains of a plaster-covered floor (b). This rested on a fill of large pure rubble (c) and (d); this in turn lay on a deposit of tightly packed, but soft purplish earth, containing sherds and small bits of broken stone (e). The surface of this deposit sloped toward the "front" (the southwesterly end of this wing of Mound 1) and, in our pit, rested partly on a projecting mass of lime -

stone (probably bed-rock) and partly on a level layer of sterile dark brown clay. The latter ran into sterile red clay below.

The rubble fill under the floor was non-characteristic in an important respect. In practically every pure-rubble fill examined at Piedras Negras, and there were a good many, the stones have obviously been artificially broken up, and one may search in vain for a smooth surface on more than a tiny ^{proportion} fraction of the stones. In this case the upper portion ^(c) ~~of~~ of the fill consisted of large stones practically all of which had one smooth flat surface, quite suitable for building rough walls such as most of the retaining walls of the city. These ~~upper portion~~ rest on a layer of somewhat smaller stones of the usual entirely broken-up type. Probably the smooth-faced stones came from another dismantled structure.

The Court

A test-pit was sunk through the court floor, just in front of the rear or northeasterly wing of Mound 1, to the right of the stairway. Under about 20 cm of humus it showed the remains of a plaster floor, with a surface of very small broken stone lying on a layer of larger broken stone and earth (a, Fig. SE-2). This rested on about 30 cm of dark brown clayish earth, containing pebbles, small broken stone fragments and sherds (b). Under this was a 25 cm layer of close-packed broken limestone (larger than ^{in the top layer} ~~above~~), mixed with earth and apparently sterile (c).

This ^{low stone level (c)} had the appearance of an earlier floor, except that we did not find the usual layer of very small stone on top. The top was 50 cm below the surface of the upper floor. Possibly this layer was a fill foundation for the clayish layer, which ^{may have} formed an earlier floor. This can very likely be determined by a trench carrying the test-pit

into the rear wing of Mound 1. The lower layer of stone and earth rested on sterile red clay which, less than 10 m away, and at a slightly higher level, we had found to rest directly on the lime-stone bed-rock.

Mound 1 of Group LXII (rear wing)

Upper Structure

To simplify description we will consider the northeast or rear wing of Mound 1 as a complete rectangle, with its back running from the left rear corner along the rear of the group as a whole. That is, we will treat the northwest or left wing as a projection from the rear wing as a base, though there is nothing on the surface to indicate which is the dog and which the tail.

We identified three of the corners of the rear wing, as shown on Plate SE-1. At these points, (and at two places between) we found or uncovered slightly battered retaining walls, of rough stone, but in good condition. These apparently supported a low terrace running along the rear and across the right end. On the Section C-D (Plate SE-1) the bottom of this wall was about 40cm above the court floor level, and rose 80 cm. Because of the scarcity of stone debris except near the center, it is probable that this retaining wall was never more than a meter high. At about the center there was ^a considerable mass of debris extending a few meters along it and to the rear, very much disturbed and with a considerable depression at one side. This seems to indicate a small construction projecting to the rear, later disturbed by excavation or the falling of a giant tree. This irregular mass is not shown on the Plan, but we do show the base of an undisturbed low flat-topped platform projecting four or five meters from the left end of the wing. This, as well as the beginning of the left wing, the stairway, and part of the front of

the rear wing, are shown on the plan in broken-dotted lines. These are based on rough sketches ^{and} indicate contours for which measurements and elevations were not taken, and which we expected to supply with a later accurate survey. They indicate true relations, but the distance on any given line - the width of the stairway for instance - may show an error to be measured in meters.

From the court a flight of stairs, (badly ruined, but certainly stairs), rises about 1.55 m to the edge of a platform projecting ^{from the front of} ~~to the front~~ from the rear wing (See Plan, and Section C-D, Plate SE-1). The front of this platform against which the stairway is built is held in place by a well-laid retaining wall of large stones, curving inward slightly toward the top. The stairway, ^{at least} immediately in front of the wall, ~~at least~~, rests on medium-sized rubble, with a certain admixture of earth, which in turn rests on soft brown earth containing lime-stone fragments.

The hearting of the platform is a solid fill of earth and stones, containing toward the top many painted sherds, including a rim piece with glyphoid design in black and red on orange. From the lower part of the fill, or more probably from below it in the debris of an earlier structure, we took a tiny piece of thick gray stucco or plaster, with red paint on its surface.

The platform extends back from the retaining wall about 1.60 m, steps up about 20 cm, and then runs back about 1.20 to a slab-paved step or ^{esplanade} ~~bench~~, also 1.20 m wide, and about 20 cm higher. This bench runs to the right, (from a point on the line of Section C-D), beyond the stairway and probably around the right end of the building about to be described. It extends to the left only a short distance when it is cut off by a right-angled turn to the front of the stone-edged floor of the building. The floor is about 50 cm above the bench, and about 2.20 m above the court floor.

The ground plan of the building so far as determined is accurately presented on Plate SE-1. The structure seems to have consisted of a large room about 5 by 8 m, (inside dimensions), with an additional small room, probably a shrine, built against the rear part of its left side, but not communicating with it. The shrine is open at the left end and has a doorway in the front. *(except for a very short projection from the rear wall)*

The walls of the supposed shrine and the left and rear walls of the principal room, *(facing the rear)*, though somewhat ruined, were perfectly plain and were followed so far as is shown in solid black on the Plan. Perhaps it should be noted that breaks in the walls over Burial 3 were not found in the walls themselves, but appear on the Plan merely to show their positions above this grave. The right end wall of the room was more badly ruined but it almost certainly was a continuation of the rear. Apparently there was no front wall. The solid black shown at the front represents a line of stones rising only to floor level. There are, however, several *(indistinct humps)* "humps" of stone debris along it containing a few stones in position, *and* slightly above floor level. In all probability the roof, if there was a roof, was supported in front by wooden pillars resting on stone bases.

The dotted lines in the Sections of Plates SE-1 and SE-2 indicate the small amount of debris from the walls. It was about 50 cm deep in the region of the shrine, where the walls are close together, but in the principal room, there was practically no debris, the floor being covered by pure humus to a depth of about 20 cm or less. The debris, in the shrine region, rested on about 10 cm of soft gray earth, the remains of plaster or mortar, fallen from the walls or roof, and it was only here, under this, that remains of the smooth plaster surface of the floor were preserved.

It seems certain that the smooth plaster surface of floors, and the

actual lime which went into their construction, can only be expected where they have been protected by a considerable deposit above. The principal room of this structure is an excellent example, for we found the smooth plaster floor in position where it was protected by the left wall of the room, but in the center there remained only small broken stone, penetrated to some extent by the humus.

The walls are extremely interesting. As found they at no point rose more than 50 cm above the floor, and were originally perhaps 75 m high, certainly not over a meter. The rear wall was 80 cm thick, the left wall of the principal room was 50 cm thick, and the front wall of the "shrine" 60 cm thick. They are all built of roughly squared stones, apparently laid without mortar. The rear wall where examined consisted of two parallel courses, ^{of stone blocks, roughly squared,} with a small rubble fill between. This was not noted in the narrower walls. That portion of the front "shrine" wall which passes over Burial No. 3 was built as a separate unit, without bonding into the side wall of the main room. We neglected to ascertain if the rear wall of the shrine was structurally continuous with that of the room, or a later addition to it. ^{Sections E-F and G-H through walls, shrine and floor of this structure, on a larger scale, appear on Plate SE-20}

summed across on plan?

The walls are slightly imbedded in a floor made up of tightly compacted stiff gray soil and small stone, varying between 25 and 35 cm in depth. Remnants of a smooth plaster surface were noted, turning up against both sides of the left side wall ^(of the room) and against the front of the front shrine wall. In all probability the walls and floors of both rooms, and the area in front of the shrine, were smoothly plastered.

Nearly filling the shrine are the remains of a rectangular platform, 1.40 m by 2.30 m ⁺, and about 30 cm high, presumably an altar. It is very badly disrupted by two large trees but it appears to have been constructed by filling in enclosing walls with rubble, and surfac-

ing it, in part at least, with stone slabs. It faces a doorway in the front wall, 95 cm wide, slightly to the right of center. The left side of the enclosing shrine was open. The rubble interior contained a considerable deposit of ash and soot, a broken flint blade, a piece of pumice stone and what may have been a bone bead. Further excavation would very likely reveal a cache.

The size of the main room, the shallowness of the debris, and the fact that it contained no stones suitable for vault-building—every known vault at Piedras Negras employs more or less thin slabs—eliminate any possibility that we are here dealing with a vaulted construction. The walls formed either a mere open enclosure, or, more probably, they are foundations for walls of perishable materials. Probably we have here a wooden-frame house, roofed with thatch, or a beam and mortar roof. The walls may have been wattle-and-daub. There was no evidence of fire and the exposed clay would quickly become part of the humus. We have evidence in the fill below the floor that wattle-and-daub construction was practiced in the neighborhood before this structure was erected.

The foundation for the floor of this structure was made principally by a solid, partly by a pure rubble fill, placed over the remains of an earlier structure, of different type, which we found beneath it. The fills are considered in more detail in describing that structure.

So far as surface indications go, there was a similar structure on the rear part of left wing. This seems to be at a slightly lower level.

Middle Structure
Mound 1 of Group LXII (rear wing)

With most of its floor ~~level~~ ^{which is} 90 cm below that of the upper structure, (1.31 m above the latest court floor), we came upon the ruins of another structure, here called the "Middle Structure". Our excavations were so

limited, and the walls so much disturbed by the later Burials land 2, that we are as yet able to present only a fragmentary notion of its ground-plan. (Plate SE-2)

We shall refer to the Burials, which are ^(located) ~~shown~~ on the Plan, merely as a practical aid in indicating positions in the structure. It should not be forgotten, however, that they were all made after this structure was abandoned, and are not original parts of it. Unbroken lines (c) and solid black (d) on the ^{by} Plate represent features found in position; ^{else} stippling (a) and broken lines (b) represent features not excavated or ^{else} destroyed.

To the right of Burial 1 was a room 2.60 m in ^{length} depth, (inside dimensions), and not less than 3.50 in width, as proved by running a trench to the right from Burial 1. This had a doorway, of undetermined width, to the front, and apparently a (relatively) very wide one to the left rear. A long narrow chamber extends to the left, its exact relation to the wide opening into the room obscured by the ^{later} aboriginal excavation for Burial 1. The rear wall of chamber and room is continuous, with plaster in position, along the whole length shown on the plan. However, the well-defined floor of the passage, from the left end to a point behind Burial 1, where it was broken, is 15 cm higher than the floor of the room, which is on the same level as a floor to the front, and ^{as} between Burials 1 and 2. The difference in these levels appears in Section G-H, Plate SE-2, (h). There probably was a small step up to the chamber from the room to the right.

The latest walls of room and chamber (d) are well-built of roughly-quadrangular stones, and are only 35cm thick. The front wall of the chamber extends an undetermined distance to the left, beyond the end wall, which ^{also} extends an undetermined distance to the rear. Both of these walls rest on very well-built "foundation walls" of larger stones reaching about 90 cm below the floor. The same is true of the rear

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wall (as determined only at one point on Section C-D) except that the foundation is only 25 cm deep and forms a ~~flat~~ shelf or ^{blinth} step extending 20cm to the rear of the wall which it supports. These foundation walls are shown in plan and section in Plate SE-2, where they are represented by ^{the} diagonal hatching (f). The front and left walls of the room are imbedded only a few centimeters in the floor, and are without other foundations.

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We ran a trench from the center of the room just to the right of Grave 1, ~~clear out~~ to the rear retaining wall of the Upper Structure. The surface of a layer of tightly-packed brown earth, (containing small broken stone, sherds and burned clay), ran out to the retaining wall. This rear retaining wall apparently supported an esplanade 2.75 m in width running behind our middle structure. The rear part of the esplanade probably served as the lower of two terraces behind the Upper Structure. There was no evidence that it had ever been plastered or otherwise surfaced, and it is therefore shown in broken line on Section C-D, ~~Plate~~.

We seem to have a similar esplanade ^{at} to the front, 1.70 m wide, though a trench from the front did not penetrate far enough to be sure. We found the retaining ^{front at the front} wall shown in Section C-D, and a ruined wall (g) extending from it to the front. The latter may be the remnant of a stairway side-wall. Both it and the retaining wall, however, are built of very much larger blocks than were encountered elsewhere, and may belong to the still earlier structure mentioned below.

No reference yet to (e)

The mortar floor of the chamber (h, Sections E-F and G-H Plate ^{SE-2}) rested on a solid fill of soft gray earth and broken stone, (i), somewhat similar to the floor of the upper structure, which is shown by the same symbol. The floor of the room where excavated (~~g, Fig. SE-3, g.~~ ^(See Fig. SE-3, g.)) rested on a pure rubble fill of small broken stone (~~h¹, Fig. SE-3, h.~~ ^{(g) and (h)}).

The chamber was originally 1.15 m wide and its front wall was probably .70 m thick, and poorly built. This was established by finding that the smooth plaster surface of the chamber floor extended under the later front wall and over what we have called its foundation wall, and turned up against the thicker wall against which the later ^{had been afterward} wall was placed. The relation between these two walls is shown on the Plan, Plate SE-2, and in the section G-H. A good deal of the earlier wall was torn out by the men before we realized that it was a wall. It was also much disturbed when Burials 1 and 2 were made. These portions are shown by stippling (a) in both plan and section. If our reconstruction based on the remaining remnants is correct, this earlier and much thicker wall turned in toward the rear wall just to the left of Grave 1, forming the right end of the chamber, and leaving a doorway 50 cm wide.

The plaster surface of the chamber floor turns up against all three portions of this earlier wall shown in black, as well as against the rear wall. The thin rear wall and the thick front wall are thus ^{definitely} associated. ~~and originally enclosed a chamber 1.15 m in width, with a doorway at the right end 50 cm in width.~~

The relations of this thick front wall to ^{the later wall and another} ~~two later~~ constructions just behind it can be better comprehended by supplementing an examination of the plan in Plate SE-2 with that of Burial 2 in Plate SE-3, 2, where portions of the walls are shown on a larger scale. In ~~Plate~~ ^{this part} the thick wall is labelled (e). Against it, with a plastered end facing the

left, we found one end of a ruined wall-like construction (d) which held a hearting of pure small rubble against the thick wall (e). This extended only a meter or so to the right when it broke off irregularly. It rose 65 cm above the floor and projected 45 cm into the chamber. We have reconstructed it in Plate SE-2 as a rectangular altar, but it may have extended as a bench to the right to meet the right end of the passage. It may have been originally much higher.

That portion of the chamber to the left of this construction (d) was ~~still~~ later narrowed to a final width of 80 cm by ^{the later} wall (c) 35 cm thick, and, as found, about 35 cm high, which was placed against the original thick front wall, and on the plaster floor.

Here one must modify the former interpretation of the walls below floor level, which so nicely underlie this later wall and the end wall of the passage. They certainly support the weight of the walls above them, and so actually function as foundation walls. But the front one at least was hardly intended as such for it was entirely covered by the smooth plaster floor surface which crossed it and turned up neatly against the thick original front wall as if for indefinite use over its entire width, before the upper portion was erected (Section G-H., Plate SE-2).

To the front of the earlier wall of the chamber we uncovered a small portion of a mortar floor, ^{shown in Section G-H,} resting on very large pure rubble (Section 1 G-H). It extended under the thick wall, at the same level as that of the room. ^{on the other side of gravel.} It may possibly belong to the Lower Structure later described, but probably ^{is on the plan} appertains to our middle structure. To the left of Burial 3 we traced a wall 25 cm in height, its top at the same level as the chamber floor and 15 cm above the other floor levels. ~~(e on the plan)~~ It was different in character from any of the other walls, being

made of long rectangular blocks of stone, whose width (25 cm) equaled the width of the wall. It seems not to be associated with any well defined floor.

It is impossible to interpret this middle structure without further excavation. It involves both very narrow and reasonably wide walls. We can say nothing about the original height of the walls except that there seems to have been little or no debris on the floors when filling for the upper structure commenced. The floors are of the usual mortar type, resting partly on solid earth and small stone fill, partly on pure rubble fill ("i" and "d", Sections E-F and G-H, Plate SE-2, and (h), Fig. SE-3). It seems probable that the rear wall had a projecting exterior step or ^{blinth} ledge. The roof may have been of thatch, or of beams and mortar; certainly there were no stone vaults. Most of the floor was 1.30 m above the latest court floor, but this building may have been associated with a lower court floor under it, (b or c, Fig. SE-2). Very probably the court was reached by a stairway ^{at} the front.

It will be noted that the left chamber was filled with ^{small} pure rubble right down to the floor. (k, ^{Section E-F} Plate SE-2) The fill in the room, however, was solid, and a small section of this fill is shown in Fig. SE-3, (b) to (f). ^{Stratum} Symbol (a) represents the upper ^S structure floor. The fill below was not homogenous, but, based on a small carefully dug section, showed the following strata: (b), medium sized irregular stones in dark earth; (c), close-packed small broken stone and red (burned?) clay fragments in light colored soft earth; (d) a shallow layer of larger stones, more tightly packed; (e) ^{together with} small stones, noticeably ^{at} larger at the bottom of the stratum, and red (burned?) clay fragments in softer earth than that of the layer above; (f), a layer 25 cm deep made up of fairly large broken stones, imbedded in soft gray earth. In only the lowest

Many of the sherds were polychrome, some were incised.
layer were sherds entirely absent. There were a few flint chips in layers (c) and (e).

The presence of the lowest layer of soft grey earth and stones supports but does not prove the prior existence of a beam and mortar ceiling. The other layers were by no means easy to distinguish, and without more extensive test sections, we should say little more than that this room was filled up in several successive layers, and that one or two of them (~~*c*~~ and (~~e*~~) may have been floors.

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The red clay fragments were nearly all very small, and not very plentiful, and were not associated with ash or charcoal. They were fairly soft. One lone piece of considerable size from this fill definitely bore the impression of a stick about 2 cm in diameter, and the other side was fairly smooth, but not flat. A similar specimen came from the solid fill to the left of Burial 1, where there was no regular stratification of the fill. The use of wattle and daub construction in the vicinity seems certain, but the fragments encountered may easily come from the ruin of some other structure.

*W-dub
In
v-1-15
fill*

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Against the outer side of the chamber end wall was a deposit of dark purplish earth, containing small stones and sherds (j, *Soc. in E-F*). This slopes down to the wall and rests on large pure rubble. *(Plate SE-2)*

Lower Structure, Mound 1 of Group LXII (rear wing)

This earliest structure is represented only in the Section of Fig. SE-3(j) where it appears partly below the Middle Structure, but mostly below Burial 1. The only portion uncovered seems to consist of a terrace, formed of extremely large limestone boulders imbedded in dark brown earth. At the base of the retaining wall, resting on two courses of small irregular stones, we found in place a facing of large

rough

heavy stones, flat on the outside, irregular on the back. These lean at a very slight angle against the terrace fill. The construction is rough and uneven, but solid and strong.

The terrace faces a floor of broken stones of some size, with no remaining evidence of mortar. This rests on a layer of soft light brown earth (k); the latter on a layer of small broken stone and dark earth (l) running into a layer of sterile red clay (m) which rested on the limestone bed rock. There were no sherds or other human remains below the floor. The floor level as measured was 16 cm above the latest court floor level. The top of the facing slabs of the terrace was about 80 cm above the floor, above which the terrace appears to be a ruin.

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This terrace runs from front to rear at a slight angle to the West, just to the right of Burial 1. We uncovered only about a meter of it under the room of the middle Structure, near the rear, and another small section just in front of this room. At both places it was buried under a deposit of tightly packed brown earth (i) containing small bits of stone, sherds, and considerable quantities of red clay fragments, some charcoal, and many polychrome sherds. One clay fragment, smoothed but not flat, bore on the other side perfectly distinct impressions of three poles or reeds. In the first case at least, this deposit sloped sharply down to the right. Possibly this is a wash from the original top of the terrace or platform. The pure bubble fill for the Middle Structure rests directly on it. The "wash" does not include sufficient charcoal, nor are the clay fragments sufficiently convincing to postulate the burning of a wooden structure on this terrace, without further excavation.

was f. date in 1-2 m. fill with impressions

Miscellaneous Objects

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Aside from potsherds and figurines, few objects were found in this mound. To the upper structure may be assigned a flint point, a piece of pumice stone, and a questionable bone bead, already mentioned, and in addition a very small beautifully polished flat stone metate, with merely vestigial round feet. ~~(Plate #21)~~ Also above this floor was a broken clay spindle-whorl.

①
② Under or in the upper floor were a broken spindle-whorl, a pottery disk, {cut from a sherd}, another of the same, but perforated, a questionable bone awl, and a broken flint blade. Just under the upper floor was a broken metate of the form found in the South Group and the Northwest Section: that is, a large rectangular block of limestone, with a narrow groove worn down in the center. The groove rises at either end to the top of the block, but at the center it has in several instances been worn completely through the bottom. We found another east of the whole group.

Periods of Construction

are
In this mound it is obvious that we have been dealing with at least three periods of construction, and it would be interesting to know if they were continuous, or separated by time-gaps during which the site was not occupied. The very considerable difference in building types argues for the existence of such gaps. The floor outside the lower terrace contains no remains of plaster or very small stone, while other identified floors do; and the facing and fill are different from later terraces. Most of the Middle Structure walls are extremely thin in comparison with the low thick walls of the Upper Structure. The ground plans of these two latter are radically different.

If the deposit over the Lower Structure, and a similar one over the

the Middle Structure (~~Plate~~, ~~Section E-F, j~~) are washes, this would tend to confirm the supposition of periods of abandonment before rebuilding. The scanty remains of pottery on the Upper Structure were for the most part coarse, and apparently none were painted, while quantities of relatively light polychrome sherds came from below the Upper and Middle Structure floors. On the other hand there were no interior humus lines, and ^{the} pure rubble fill of the upper floor reached clear to the floor of the long chamber of the Middle Structure.

Further study of pottery and figurines may throw light on the question.

Further excavation to ^{definitely connect} ~~establish~~ the rear retaining wall with the Middle Structure would seem especially desirable, ~~for~~ from it or from the fill just behind it was taken the lower right corner of an inscribed stone, probably part of an unusually small carved lintel. (Lintel 10, Plate ~~223~~). The thickness of the stone is only about 10 cm. From the photograph Dr. Morley reads this fragment as follows: A2 - ?Kins, 5 Uinals; B2, - Secondary Series Terminal Date Indicator; A3 - ?Kan, Muluc, Ix or Cauac); B3 - ?Ceh (certain). This stone was sent to Guatemala. If we could find the rest of Lintel 10, the chances are excellent that the Initial Series could be read and ^{known} a maximum age for the Middle Structure of this mound established.

This find is interesting in ^{two} respects. It suggests at least that the Middle Structure was in use after the practice of carving stone lintels began at Piedras Negras; and it suggests further that some of the small structures peripheral to the great Central Section may have been earlier, contemporaneous or later minor temples, and may possibly be dated by further finds.

Burial No. 1

The stone burial chamber containing Burial 1 was obviously built

after sinking a pit through the floor of the Upper Structure, above described, or building it at the same time as the Upper Structure. It consists of a stone-walled chamber, shown in plan and longitudinal section in Plate 58-3, 1, and in cross section in Fig. 58-3. The easterly wall is straight and vertical, running about 26 degrees East of Magnetic north; the westerly curves as shown and forms a crude half-vault. Inside dimensions: length 1.95 m; width at north 70 cm., at south 85 cm; height, base of side walls to under side of cap-stones, 35 to 40 cm. At the ^{front or} (south-westerly) corner is a small recess to the south below which the lowest stones of both walls recede to form a small triangular niche, indicated on the plan by broken lines.

The walls are made of very roughly squared blocks, except the upper part of the easterly wall ^{and the upper courses of the westerly wall,} (the half-vault) which consists of small slabs. ^(They are poorly laid without mortar remaining traces of mortar.) The cap-stone slabs were all in position except the most northerly one, the westerly end of which had fallen down on the clay fill over the skeleton. The Upper Structure floor was plainly in position, resting directly on the cap stones.

In removing the cap-stones and the upper slabs of the easterly wall, a portion of a human jaw-bone, ^(first and second molars) with ~~teeth~~ in place, and a number of perfectly sound fragments of long-bones, and a skull ^{Fragment} ~~bone~~ fell out. A later trench through this wall at the center revealed no more of these fragments behind the wall, but there may be a secondary burial further to the north. Basing his opinion on a hasty examination of these bones, Dr. ^(George Wagoner, of the University of Pennsylvania) believes they are probably the remains of a male; and that they are certainly from an individual other than the subject of the burial in the vault, whose bones are much lighter and are more than likely those of a woman. That we are dealing with two individuals is proved by the presence of a superfluity of certain bones. The identifications of sex are, however, by no means certain.

#300, m + v (to be joined)

w/c

J
20

oe?

✓
each

②

①

cut left side of the
of the left side.
first molar
in

cuspid and bi-cuspids each

(but this is hardly certain)

The bones of the burial proper (See plan, _____ and Plate #300, m + v (to be joined))
might at first glance be said to indicate a burial in the flesh, the
body lying on the right side, head to the north-east. One femur was
in place in its pelvic socket. However, the proximal ends of the
tibiae were about 20 cm from the distal ends of the femorae. The skull
lay with its base up, facing to the right, (toward the easterly wall.)
Most of the vertebrae, many broken ribs, clavicles, proximal ends of
the scapula, and ^{other bones} so forth lay in a confused mass between it and the
north end of the vault. About a meter south of the skull was part of
the lower jaw, the cuspid, ~~molar~~ first and second bi-cuspids and the ^{first molar} in
position. The ^{cuspid and bi-cuspids each} appears to have been filed to a point and then much
worn down. ^(but this is hardly certain) The ^{cuspid} has a slight groove in the top near the
right side. A finger or toe bone, a small section of rib, and a
vertebrum were well under the walls in the niche at the southeasterly
corner, that is, more than a meter from the pelvis. Practically all
bones except the long bones of the legs were broken, seldom with the
broken-off portion anywhere near the part found. Long bones were always
broken off neatly, but without any sign of cutting.

The skull pan was intact but came apart in process of removal. Most
of the face and other skull bones were in and around it, including part
of the upper jaw with right cuspid and first bi-cuspid ~~and teeth~~ in
position. The ^{bi-cuspid} had ^{apparently} been slightly pointed, the cuspid
notched in "Sun-God" style. We recovered also a good part of the right half of the lower
jaw, with the first molar, much worn down, in position.

The skull can probably be almost entirely reassembled. The fore-
head is flattened to an extreme degree.

It will be seen that the bones were scattered all over the grave,
and badly broken, yet with a semblance of order, to the extent that all

⊖ skull parts were together, the remains of the pelvis (about a third of it was found) were in about the right relation to the skull for an extended burial, and the tibiae were below the femora.

⊖ The skeleton lay on a fairly level bed of medium-sized, closely packed stones and earth, the top of which was about 40 cm below the under side of the cap-stones and was covered at all points by ^{a layer of stones & earth,} ~~the same,~~ except that at ^{the} right center were two slabs, one of some size, imbedded in the earth at an angle as if fallen from the easterly (right) wall. Over the stones was a deposit of very stiff clay-like earth, dark brown in color. It appears to have been thrown in from above (notice the two ^{hills} "humps" in the section) and varies in depth. At nearly all points the bones were covered by stones and this clay-like covering to a depth of at least 25 cm. Its surface sloped regularly down from east to west and from the humps as shown in the sections. The possibility of later disturbance by rodents or other animals seems eliminated by this regular contour and the entire absence of any signs of them within the stiff clay. The later ^t could not be a later wash, as it was protected by the slabs and floor above except at the extreme north end, and there was no source for such material on the floor above, which was raised well above the surrounding surface.

✓ Despite a careful search we found only ^(seven) ~~the~~ teeth, ^(all in position in fragments of the jaws) although not only those teeth, but all the broken bones recovered were in excellent condition, protected by the clayish covering. We seem to have, without doubt, a secondary burial, or possibly, ^a burial of a dismembered corpse. There were no signs of fire.

✓ Against the north end wall, about 20 cm above the general level of the bones, were the remains of a ^{Small rodent} ~~fair-sized bird~~. These were spread out over a perfectly level area about 15 cm in diameter, within the clay covering. ^(Dr. Moore was unable to identify the species.) Near them was a sherd of a fair-sized rim-bowl with basal

bevel, painted or slipped black. There were no other objects of any kind in the vault.

as
It may be seen on the plan, Plate SE-2, and in the section, Fig. SE-3, that this grave was almost certainly sunk from the Upper Structure, and broke through walls and floor of the Middle Structure. It must therefore be assigned to the latest occupancy of the rear wing of Mound 1.

Burial No. 2.

To the west in the same mound was Burial No. 2, in a stone cist of very different character. (Plate SE-3, 4). The sides of the cist, which is roughly coffin-shaped, consist of a single line of rough broken stones, about 10 cm high, covered with irregular stone slabs, two or three deep, except at the foot. Here a single large slab, nicely curved at the end, as indicated in the plan, covered the grave. Inside Dimensions: length, 1.75 m; width at north end 37 cm, near south end, 26 cm; height, about 10 cm.

All stones were in place, but soft soil and tiny bits of stone, probably evidently washed in, covered the bones, which had almost completely disintegrated. From what there was left, we seemed to have an extended burial, head to the north-east. In particular, all the head, arm, hand and leg fragments recovered were in the right positions to support this theory.

The grave had been floored with a thin layer of plaster, resting directly on earth and stones. This was very uneven, with a very rough surface.

beside
In the region just below the remnants of the skull and ^{beside} along a piece of lower jaw bone we found 17 jadeite beads, diameters 5.5 to 7.5 mm, axes 3 to 4.5 mm; 15 discoidal shell beads, diameters 3.5 to (Plate _____) (Plate _____)

6 mm, axes 2 to 4 mm; and one of the two ornaments (labrets),
illustrated in Plate 10 ^{to be made}. Another of the later ^{possibly} was between
the tibiae. In the same region of the beads and jaw-bone were 7
molars and a ^{lower cuspid}, the latter ^{filled on top to an omega-like form, in the front.} with circular jadeite inset. Near-
by was the shell disk or button shown in Plate 10 ^{to be made}, perforated in the
center, with a deeply incised circle around the center. Diameter 12 mm;
thickness 2.5 mm; hole drilled from the undecorated side at an angle.
Another tooth, ^{also a cuspid} ^(probably) set with a flat circular disk of iron pyrite,
was also found near the knees. ^(this has been sent to Guatemala.) With the right hand bones was a broken
stingray spine. The presence of the tooth so far from the head might
suggest secondary burial here also, but does not prove it, as small
rodents could easily have caused some disturbance here, as a large root
undoubtedly had. The general arrangement of the remaining bone fragments appears
in Plate (# 307). They were white-washed before the photograph was taken.

The ~~bone~~ or shell object which we have tentatively called a labret,
consists of a bell-shaped element, ^{10 mm high} with a flat ~~base~~ ^{end} 10 mm in diameter,
~~and~~ ^{funnel-shaped} ^{drilled from the side,} ~~mm high.~~ A small perforation runs through the lower edge, ^{to}
~~the end.~~ ^{This element}
~~from side to base.~~ Extending at right angles from the top of the ~~base~~
is a straight arm 18 mm long, slightly tapering toward the end, in
section a rounded rectangle, ^(encircled by several slightly raised grooves.) ~~this carries several shallow grooves.~~ Much
more elaborate but essentially identical objects from the ^{same} Cenote at
Chichen Itza may be seen at the Peabody Museum in Cambridge. In the
American Museum of Natural History in New York are similar ~~obsidian~~
^{of polished obsidian} objects in which the arm is only slightly developed.

The floor of this grave, under the plaster, consisted of about 15
cm of earth and broken stone, resting on the floor to the right of
Burial 1, which is at exactly the same level as that of the room of the
Middle Structure. The plaster surface of the grave floor was about
75 cm below the ^{surface of the} Upper Structure floor. The cap-stones were covered
with earth and stones indistinguishable from the surrounding fill. We

did not detect any break in the floor of the Upper Structure, but there was no plaster surface left at this point. In digging for this grave, the makers cut through the thick wall of the Middle Structure (e, Plate SE-3), and used the latter wall and ^{the} so-called altar (c and d) as the north-easterly end. The median line of the grave ran about 18 degrees east of Magnetic north.

It is apparent that this grave, like Burial No. 1, is later than the Middle Structure, and it probably represents a burial beneath the floor of the Upper Structure, ^{and is} to be assigned ^{and is} to it in point of time.

Burial No. 3

Like Burial No. 2, Burial No. 3 was constructed of rough irregular slabs and one worked slab, placed across ^{on} ~~the~~ walls consisting of irregular stones about 10 cm high (See plan and section, Plate SE-4,1). We have here an adult and a child burial combined, the child's skeleton lying in a small chamber joining the larger adult's chamber on the easterly side, a little south of center. The northern two-thirds of the larger chamber was covered by a ^{longitudinally placed} single massive rectangular slab, broken into two pieces, ^(it is a re-used) ~~Probably a re-used~~ plain lintel or very small stela. Irregular thin slabs had covered the rest of this chamber, but they, as well as the large slab, had fallen in on the adult burial. Irregular slabs were in place over the small chamber. The length of the large slab as found was 1.40 m, width 63 cm, thickness about 10 cm. ^{Probable length of large chamber, 1.95 m, width 20 cm;} It had been longer. Inside dimensions of grave: ^{probable} length of small chamber 80 cm, width 20 cm; approximate height of both chambers, 10 cm. The foot end of the small chamber was destroyed by our workman, while the foot end of the large chamber had collapsed entirely.

The adult's bones were in the most fragmentary and soft condition.

On Pl. SE-4-1, north of large chamber
offer table about 40 cm

9/1
with =
Skull fragments, teeth and part of the lower jaw with teeth ^(in position) were in the northerly end; left humerus and ulna, finger bones, a fragment of pelvis and fragmentary leg bones indicated but hardly proved a burial in the flesh, on the back, ^{with} head to the north-east. ^(See plan) We failed to count the teeth recovered before sending them to Guatemala, but they were more plentiful than in the other graves. One had a circular jadeite inset. No objects were found in the grave except five small sherds at the foot. They were painted red, polished, on a yellow slip.

The child's body was jammed into the narrow side chamber, its head protruding into the large chamber opposite the hip of the adult.

is shown
②
It was perfectly preserved except for the skull, which had entirely disintegrated, ^{and appears in Plate #311} The feet were disturbed by the workman in coming on the grave. The bones were ^{damp and extremely soft, and were} fragile and considerably broken in removal. ^{Excavation of this grave was much hampered by daily rains.} This was without question an extended burial in the flesh, on the back, arms at the side. No objects had been placed with it. This skeleton ^{also} was sent to Guatemala.

②
Both bodies had been unquestionably placed in the grave and covered with the stone slabs, ^(bot) without any earth, ^(thrown directly on them) as there ~~there~~ was only soft soil, washed in, over the child's bones, and many ^{fragments of the} bones of the adult adhered to the fallen covering slabs when they were removed.

②
A/S/1
The floor of this cist, unplastered, was simply a mixture of small broken stones and earth, and was only 50 cm below the surface of the Upper Structure floor, which rested on the ~~down~~ ring slabs. It must therefore be later than the Middle Structure. However, it may be earlier than the upper structure, since the large chamber with its heavy cap-stone projected well under the front wall of the ~~shrine~~ ^{chamber}, and the small ~~structure~~ projected well under the left or westerly wall of the Upper Structure. It would have been very difficult to build this

✓
grave with the Upper Structure walls in place, ^{even} were there ^{any} a reason
for doing ~~it~~ so

West Group Plaza

Fig. W-1-b

Second Copy
3 1/2 hrs

A trench was dug in the West Group Plaza floor, running in to the terrace of Stelae 1 to 8 from a point between Altar 1 and the megalithic stairway, and about 10 m out from the base of the terrace. ^(Ken B) A

diagrammatic section at the outer end of this trench is shown in Fig. ^{W-1-b}

Below a thin layer of humus about 5 cm deep was a layer of fine crushed limestone resting on closely packed larger broken limestone, the whole about 55 cm in depth (a). This is undoubtedly what is left of the latest plaza floor, which was presumably plastered. It contained occasional sherds. It lay on a level layer of ^{mixed} ~~clay~~ ^{and} sand, about 10 cm in depth (b). The latter was sterile from the outer end of the trench to a point about 5 m from the terrace, when it turned into a deposit of equal thickness, and equally well defined, but consisting principally of small bits of ^{where} burned red clay and sherds. In this form, this layer, together with the floor above it, ran a meter or so under the terrace, beyond which point it has not as yet been followed. It probably soon runs into the rising bed-rock. Whether the second layer (b) is to be considered as the base of the floor above, or the surface of an earlier stratum is uncertain.

The second layer (b) rested in part on a third deposit of purplish clay, mixed with small crushed limestone, with larger stones at the bottom, about 70 cm deep ^(=c) (f); and in part on lenses in its surface. The layer (f) itself contained ^{an} only/occasional sherd. The lens (c) was composed of dark brown stiff clay and small broken limestone; the lens (d) in which it rested consisted of softer, light brown clay, running into broken limestone toward the terrace. At the bottom of this lens - that is on the surface of a depression in the layer (f) below, were many sherds and a number of animal bones. A Similar deposits occur at about the same level further down the trench, close to and under the

logical deduction?

and was able to identify many bones of scapula of the deer, and a number of a porcupine

terrace. The lens (e) is a thin layer of small broken stone, distinctly bluish in color.

It is quite apparent that the layer (f) is artificial, and that its surface at one time was marked by irregular depressions. Since the under side of layer (b) is quite regular and level, it is ~~also~~ evident that the layer (f) was smoothed off before (b) was spread over it. Perhaps this fact tends to confirm the suspicion that (b) is the surface of an earlier floor. If so, it was not plastered, as there is not the slightest indication of a plaster surface on this or any other layer below the upper floor, well protected as they are.

The ~~layer~~ ^(=e if lens not better) (f) rests on a similar deposit of purplish clay and small crushed stone (g), but darker in color, and marked off from it by the well defined stratum of larger stones at the bottom of (f). This deposit (g) is about 40 cm in depth, and rests on limestone bed-rock. It was entirely sterile, but included in its center a level deposit of very soft pure lime ^(c) (h), about 10 cm in depth, and difficult to explain.

The layer (g) ^(d) with its lime deposit ^(e) (h) came to an end about 6 meters from the terrace, ^(beyond the right end of our section) where they run into what appears to be a projection of bed rock. The only indication that (g) was at one time a floor is the fact that its surface was leveled off. There could have been no plastered surface.

The trench has thus far established little more than the fact that the plaza at this point is artificial to a depth of 1.80 m, and possibly includes three superimposed floors. If the lowest stratum was a floor, it was almost certainly in use before the building of the terrace of Structure XLIV, for it apparently did not run up to it. If the two lower levels (b and g) were floors, they were of packed clay and not plaster-surfaced, with mortar and stone foundation, as the upper floor almost certainly was. Collections of sherds from each distinguish-

able stratum were carefully made, and are reported upon elsewhere in this report.

Structure XXXIII (Str 0-15)

This structure lies at the southeasterly corner of the West Group Plaza, opposite Altar 2. It is a long platform mound, ^{at the front} rising only about 50 cm above the plaza, ~~at the front~~. It is built of pure rubble, and on ^{hills} it humps of debris are arranged in two lines ^{at} on either side. Presumably it was the substructure for a wooden building, perhaps with stone foundation piers for wooden columns. Absence of debris proves there were no stone vaults. From its rear a stairway apparently running the entire length of the building leads down several meters to a level ^{shells} with low mounds, bordering the ravine between the West and South Groups.

The left end of a small lintel, ^{numbered by us} (Lintel 8, Plate #347) was discovered protruding from the surface at the top of this stairway, where it was evidently reused as a building stone. In excavating behind it we found the upper right corner of another, ^{which we term} (Lintel 9).

The height of Lintel 8 is 71 cm, the maximum length of our piece ^{but it was in all probability much longer.} 76 cm, ^(Plate #347) thickness at the top 10 cm, at bottom 13 cm. The left ^{and top} margins ^{are} about 15 cm wide, ~~the top margin 10 cm high~~, and both appear to have been covered with small glyphs. ^{The height of the} Maximum relief in the design panel, ^{the height of the glyph relief} 33 mm; ~~minimum (glyphs)~~ about 10 mm.

The design includes a table altar with tapering legs, like that on Lintel 3. There was a figure on the left end of the table, apparently sitting or kneeling, and probably another on the center, though the top of this has scaled off. There was an L-shaped group of glyphs above the table to the right. The surface of the lower border is very irregular, and here the stone is 3 cm thicker than anywhere above, which may indicate a row of seated figures along this margin, as in the case of Lintel 3.

0/ 8/ 9
The fragment of Lintel ⁹10 (see Plate #2²³) in all probability did not belong to Lintel ⁸9, as its thickness at the top is 13 cm, while that of Lintel ^(at the top)9 is consistently 10 cm or a little less, and we have accordingly assigned it another number. It was found in the fill about two meters from Lintel 8. The edge has the curved section characteristic of Lintels 4, 5, and 7. So much of the surface as we have is covered with the remains of 7 glyphs. From the photograph Dr. Morley reads the two right columns as follows: ^{A1-}~~A1~~, 1 Kin and 15 Uinals; ^{B1-}~~B1~~, 10 Tuns; ^{A2-}~~A2~~, Secondary Series Terminal Date Indicator; ^{B2a-}~~B2a~~, 11, 12 or 13 Ben; ^{B2b-}~~B2b~~, 1, 6, 11, or 16 Kayab, with 11 Kayab the best reading. It is apparent that the rest of this lintel contains an initial series. The fragment had simply been thrown in the fill.

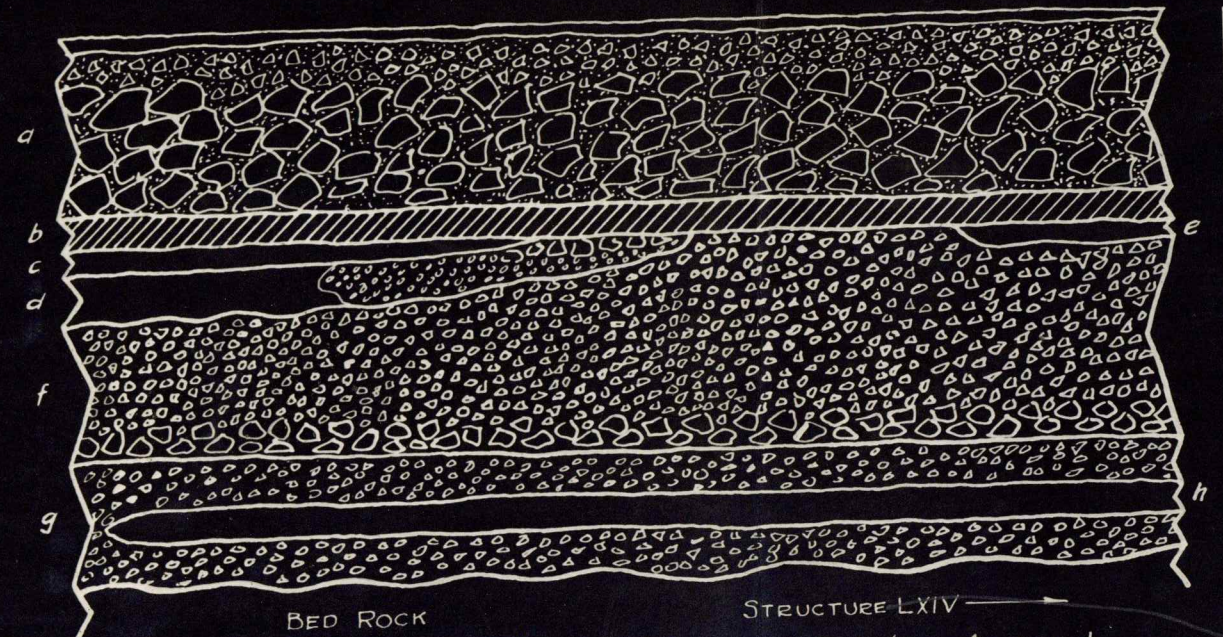
S Possibly the table altar with tapering legs on Lintels ³8 and 8 should be compared with the tapering leg under the support of the lower figure on Stela 40 (Plate #62) and with a similar one appearing on Lintel 4 at El Chicozapote, up the river toward Yaxchilan. ~~On this one, pictured by Maler, the insides of both legs seem to be represented.~~ Dr. Morley's party report the existence of a table altar with legs of this type at Yaxchilan.

Add your conclusions regarding lintels with glyph inscriptions at B. N. & elsewhere.
given on p. E12

Fig W-1-b

change to structure XLIV

West Group Plaza



WEST GROUP PLAZA - SECTION OF TRENCH - S.W. OF ALTAR I

XLIV

OK
Plates W-1 to W-6
Figs. W-1 to W-5
Cops.
31 Pp.
Second column 31 pps

The Acropolis

A ^{full} detailed description of the Acropolis must await completion of the survey. Since we did some work on this complex, however, we shall try to give some notion of it. It is a long precipitous hill, its northeasterly side fronting on the West Group Plaza. At either end the sides are built out into high pyramids, ^{standing free at the tops (broad)} with stelae-bearing ^{along the front} terraces at the bases. These are Structures XLIII and XLIV, at left and right, respectively, as we face the acropolis. The top of XLIII is just over 30 m above the plaza floor, (See Composite Section, ^{and set back a few meters from the front of the terraces} Figs W-1) and XLIV is about the same height. Between them a broad stairway rises a little more than 9 m to Structure XLV, a long porticoed building. Behind this is Court 1, (See ^{Fig. W-1-a} Plate) its sides flanked by broad high platforms running on either side to the inner sides of the great pyramids. Behind the court and the platforms, stairways, terraces and long porticoed buildings lead up at a steep angle to Courts 2 and 3 on the top of the hill. Court 2, on the right, is about 20 m above the plaza floor; Court 3, on the left, is 6 or 8 m higher. Both are surrounded by long rectangular structures, most of which are double ranges of ^{vaults, more or less open or "porticoed"} vaulted rooms, with walls partly standing (See Plates ^{130, #127}). Behind and above these courts is a small pyramidal substructure supporting the highest building in the city, Temple LIX.

^(Back of) Behind this a very steep wall ^{on the rear side of the Acropolis} drops to a small court with low mounds, (Group LX), about on a level with Court 2, and facing the Camp Plaza. From it the ruins of a stairway lead far down nearly to that ^{Exhibit in this and Structure LXI at the base, the rear is precipitous and in its natural shape} plaza. On the right end of the hill, terraces and probably a stairway lead down a few meters from Court 2, and behind Pyramid XLIV, to a small court with low mounds (Group LIII). Below this the hill is a precipice

bare of remains, as is the whole of the other end, facing the river, and the back except for the structures just mentioned, and the terrace and Pyramid LXL far below at the base, which are part of the Camp Plaza complex.

Structure IIII (SHJ-3)

In Plate W-7 we represent as much of this pyramid as was made out with certainty, with considerable reconstruction which is reasonably certain. *Our principal excavations were on the second terrace, the main stairway, and a trench across the top.* When first seen it was a mere mound of debris. It will be seen that the front of the pyramid proper rises in seven steps from a broad terrace at the bottom. *(, running only across the front and a few meters along the right side,* The latter supported four stelae and rested on a minor terrace which descends to the plaza floor. The structure as a whole was ascended by central ^{exterior} stairways. To avoid confusion we shall number the terraces 1 to 9, starting at the bottom. The front wall of the second terrace, which supported the stelae, the lowest step of the stairway rising from it, (called here the "main stairway"), and the front wall of the structure on top, all run about 11 degrees 30 minutes east of magnetic north, and we shall consider that the whole structure faces east. There is an approximate difference of 24 degrees 30 minutes between this orientation and that of Structure XLV on the right.

Measurements for the plan and sections were made with a Brunton compass, a small tripod level, tape, meter stick and a flexible level rod, and so are subject to considerable error, but they were carefully made *(scaled measurements from them will not be far from correct.)* and the errors could hardly lead us far astray. Heights indicated in Sections are measured from the Plaza floor, and are given in meters.

The terraces were not of uniform height, nor of uniform character. *The first was about 49 m long; the others could be identified only near the stairway.* Measured heights of the terraces, in meters, from floor to floor, beginning with the first, were as follows: 3.71, 2.63, 3.03, 4.26, 2.54, 2.60, 2.27, 2.30, and 2.65. The first terrace is decidedly higher than the second, but the fourth is over a meter higher than the third. Above this

the differences are small, possibly all of them without ⁱⁿ our margin of error. The floor of the ninth terrace is 25.99 m above the plaza floor, and 19.65 m above the second terrace.

The first and second terraces are slightly battered at the top and were not excavated to their bottoms. The third is vertical at the bottom, battered at the top; the fourth is battered at the bottom and, (where preserved under the stairway), continues at the same inclination to the top; the fifth is battered at the bottom, curving back still further at the top; the sixth and seventh are vertical, probably to the full height as indicated under the stairway; the eighth is battered, the ninth battered with an extra in-curve at the top. *The width of the second terrace is 5 m. Below the stairway 8.70 at the sides; the others vary around 2 m in widths.*

The width of the stairway leading from the plaza to the second terrace is somewhat problematical, as little digging was done below this terrace. However, the apparent beginning of the right stairway retaining wall was located as shown on the plan, and the protruding debris indicated a stairway about 11 meters wide. The lower portion of the main stairway, from the floor of the second to that of the ^{sixth} ~~fifth~~ terrace, was definitely located by the ^{four} ~~three~~ lower steps in position, and by side retaining walls or remnants of them, (including both sides on the ^{fourth} ~~fourth~~ terrace), as indicated by solid lines on the plan. Above the ^{sixth} ~~fourth~~ terrace the width is problematical, as side walls had completely fallen. The restored width is based on the fact that outside ^{of} the stairway as shown the terrace walls were badly ruined, and floors could be followed only short distances out, and were covered by debris; while inside of these lines the walls were much higher, floors were distinct, and they were covered with artificial fills.

The main stairway steps were entirely fallen except for the ^{four} ~~three~~ lowest, which were in position. *(Plate W-2,2)* On the plan we postulate balustrades 50 cm wide, based on a ^{badly ruined} remnant at the lower left corner (See Plate # 272). The existence of these balustrades is probable, but by no means definitely proved.

Against this corner of the stairway was a rectangular stone platform, (altar?) 70 by 60 cm, and about 40 cm high, shown in the same plate, and on the Plan.

The base of Stela 9 was found in position and is shown on the plan ^{in front of} before the stairway, left of center. Far to the right, near the end of the platform, we located the cists of Stelae 10 and 11, which lie on the slope below. The walls of cists appear ^{in the plan} in broken lines, as being below the terrace floor, but to the extent shown, they were in position and are not hypothetical. Stela 40 now lies a few meters to the left of the lower stairway, on the plaza floor. It could not have been originally placed to the right of stela 9, as the floor there is unbroken. We searched to the left and found a disturbed area but no cist. Stela 40 was in all probability placed four or five meters to the left of Stela 9.

The arrangement of these stelae is decidedly asymmetrical with reference to the pyramid and its great stairway, but in balancing groups of two each. The dates indicate that the two to the right were erected before the two to the left. This is essentially the same ^{balancing} sequence of erection as in the line of ^{earliest} Stelae at the other end of the court, where the first two, counting from left to right, occupy the positions 6 and 8, and the next two occupy positions 2 and 4, as noted by Dr. Morley. ^{Here the sequence is 3, 4, 2 and 1 in the other case also} There also the group of stelae as a whole is to the right of a position symmetrical with the pyramid.

We succeeded in finding most of the pieces of Maler's ruined Lintel 5 (Plate #139 ^{and sixth}). They were scattered on the surface of the debris over the ~~fourth~~ and fifth terraces, and laterally between the right sides of the upper and lower portions of the stairway, as later determined. We naturally expected a vaulted structure at the top, but found instead an apparently quadrangular pure rubble-filled platform, shown on the plan and on

and composite section in Plate W-1 but better represented in section
in Plate W-2, 1. The front ^{and side walls were} wall was vertical, and well made of
quadrangular blocks, ^{while} the rear and ^{wall is} left walls are battered, ^{From a} the right
^{point in back from the front} the left (and possibly the right) wall ^{had}
~~wall apparently is vertical but may, like the left, have been later~~
covered with a battered wall. There was no remaining vestige of a floor
on top. Rows of roughly squared stones running from side to side, rest-
ing directly on the fill, and each a little higher than the row in front,
suggest that the top of this platform originally consisted of a series
of broad low steps, of varying width, rising to a platform about 1.50 m
^{As on other plates, the dotted line indicates the surface of the debris, as found.}
wide at the back. [^]The front of this supposed rear platform, the highest
point on the pyramid, was measured as 30.18 m above the Plaza floor.

The front wall of this structure is set back 5.45 m from the edge
of the ninth terrace, and its top is 2.90 higher. Apparently a stairway
of uncertain width, possibly the whole width of the structure, led down
from the platform to the terrace. This supposed stairway was completely
ruined, but the debris included stones suitable for steps, and underneath
is an earth and stone fill resting on an earlier floor and sloping up
against the structure wall. A puzzling feature is the fact that the fill
below the surface at the rear, is permeated by powdered plaster. The
stones rest on each other, however, as ^din a pure rubble fill. Perhaps
this plaster deposit has ^dwashed down from large ^{decorative} stucco works on the top
and rear of the platform, with all traces at the surface washed away.

To the rear, the substructure drops in two terraces, ^(possibly the remains of a low terrace) with two or
three doubtful steps ^{between}, to a floor connecting it with the sub-
structure of Court 3. Feeble attempts to pick out terrace levels on the
right side of the pyramid failed. On the left a complicated system of
retaining walls descends a few meters only, to meet a precipitous natural
slope to the river, ^{except toward the front, where there is a small}
triangular platform.

It is reasonably certain that the builders did not drag a carved stone of the size and weight of Lintel 5 up a steep slope for use as a mere building stone. ~~It is also reasonably certain~~ From its form, size and design, ^{it is highly probable} that the stone was originally a lintel, and quite certain that it was not used as one here. If the positions in which we found the fragments are near or below those in which Maler found them, as seems ^{likely} probable, this stone was probably set in the wall of the eighth or ninth terrace, a little to the right of the narrower upper portion of the main stairway. All but the lowest courses of these walls are fallen at these points.

✓✓ The Terraces and ^{the} main stairway were without doubt originally covered with stucco, ^(bouldered) the remains of which covered the second terrace to a considerable depth, with the stone debris lying upon it. In this stucco were a few heavy sherds with stucco adhering. Sherds were extensively used in building up stucco design elements on Structure XLV, and the same use may be inferred here. Ten or twelve meters below the 9th terrace the natural hill projects to the left, ^{and a little forward,} spoiling the symmetry of the pyramid on this side. ^{It has been leveled at the top into a small triangular platform, mentioned above.} The ~~front~~ ^{front} of this projection seems to have supported continuations of the pyramid terraces, or perhaps a separate structure, ^(now a mass of debris.) At any rate, the deposit of stucco debris to the left of the stairway was much deeper, and of a lighter color, than elsewhere, and extended 21 ^(from) meters to the left of the stairway, nearly to the end of the terrace, which terminates a little further on in a forward projecting mass of natural rock. The stucco wash, where it was caught in the angle between the left stairway and the third terrace retaining wall, was ^{light cream-colored and} over 1.50 m deep. ^{at the} Actual fragments of stucco decoration were found near the end of the second ^{same point on the other side it was dark gray in color and only about 50 cm deep} terrace, far to the left, and also at levels corresponding to the seventh and eighth terraces a few meters to the left of the stairway.

Objects

Scattered ^{on} ~~along~~ the second terrace in front of but close to the stairway, and imbedded in the stucco wash, were the wholes or broken parts of sixteen very large chert knives (Plate ^{to be made,} #222). Several of these were well above the perfectly well-defined floor and undoubtedly were washed down from above. A small portion of a seventeenth was found in the debris of the stairway, 7 m above the second terrace and 1 meter ^{to the} left of the center. Possibly the presence of these knives may be correlated with the representation of human sacrifice on Stela 11, and the inference drawn that the platform at the top was an outdoor altar. The knives appear to be rather large for the purpose. What appears to be little more than one-half of one is ^{28.5 cm} 285 mm long, and ^{6 cm} 60 mm wide. Two complete ones are, however, only ^{25 cm} 250 mm and ^{27.5 cm} 275 mm long. They are quite different in shape from those found at the base of the stairway of Temple XXVII. ^{but} ~~these are made~~ ^{of} ~~poor quality stone, thicknesses average 2 cm, though one is 44 mm thick~~ ^{4.4 cm}. Buried in the cist, tilted against the center of the base of Stela 9 was the incense burner and cover shown in Plate ^{to be made}. The neck is hollow, forming a chimney, and four grooves radiate from the hole ^(at the top) in the form of a cross. The neck of an exactly similar incense burner was found in the debris over the fourth terrace, to the left of the stairway. At the right front corner, also at the base, was a roughly worked stone drum, diameter 20 cm, height 10 cm. The flat top is fairly smooth and bears a number of scratches or incisions which might indicate its use as a small sacrificial altar. A similar stone was found in the Stela 11 cist, near the front, and one was found in position before the base of Stela 8. Half of a slightly larger cylinder, with an initial series carved on the side, was buried under the floor of Temple XXVII. (Plate ^{to be made})

Two pieces of ^a large pottery face (Plate ^{to be made}) came from the debris on the second terrace to the right of the stairway. A piece of ^{pumice} stone was found in the floor at the rear. The remains of a small Lacandone

incense burner were found on the surface, ^{of the second terrace} just in front of the Stela 10 cist. A number of sherds and figurines were found in the debris and are described by Miss Butler.

Periods of Construction

On the second terrace and in the structure at the top we have certain evidence of at least two periods of building, the later being placed over the earlier, as is so common all over the Maya area. There were two or three hints of the same thing on the terraces between, which could be developed by more intensive digging.

The section in Plate ^{v-2} 2, shows the situation on the second terrace. The original retaining wall of the terrace is numbered 2 on the section. From it an extremely hard floor runs back under the later stairway to the bottom of an earlier stairway, where it stops. Stones from the third to sixth steps of this earlier stairway rest in an inclined bed of earth and stone, numbered 3. The lowest step forms the base for a rough retaining wall built to support the later stairway shown in front. Probably at the same time the terrace was widened by adding the retaining wall numbered 1, and filling the space between. We are here dealing merely with a new stairway, and a wider terrace for the stelae, and not necessarily with an entire earlier pyramid. For if we had reproduced a section to the side of the stairways, it would show that the earlier hard floor runs back against and not under the third terrace retaining wall associated with the later stairway, and stops there.

Nevertheless there may be and probably are remains of an earlier terraced structure buried beneath the terraces of the latest. For example, 25 cm to the front of the base of the retaining wall of the seventh terrace a battered wall descends at least two meters through the

sixth terrace. If this were merely to give added solidity, one might expect the two to coincide.

Turning to the section in Plate W-2, 1, the wall numbered 2 is the retaining wall of the ninth terrace, while behind it is an earlier wall, numbered ³ ~~three~~ in much the same situation as on the sixth terrace. Perhaps it is not straining the imagination too much to suppose that this wall originally rose higher to meet and support the floor above and behind it, and that the edge of this supposed terrace was knocked off to make way for our hypothetical stairway leading to the latest platform structure above.

In that case we would consider that earlier and higher terrace to have been an esplanade in front of an inner and smaller platform structure, the rough battered wall of which we found and have numbered 5. The rear wall of this must have been the vertical wall numbered 6. Possibly there was a later addition to the rear held in by another wall numbered 7. ~~7~~ The stones of the two remaining courses of this wall are ^{fairly} exceptionally well squared, and the bulk of the wall was probably removed for use elsewhere. They are of the same character as those of the front wall (4) of the latest structure, ~~and~~ of the side walls, under later battered additions ^{and}, and this wall (7) is more probably the original back wall of that structure. In this case the battered rear and side walls were secondary additions to the latest structure.

W 2, 8 + 9?
In any case, the latest platform structure was certainly built over an earlier and much smaller platform, unless indeed the buried walls and the floor on which they stand are considered as mere constructional details designed to give added ^{solidity} strength, which does not seem plausible.

The inner structure must have been a solid platform from the first, for its thin battered front wall (5) could never have stood without the support of the fill behind it.

The dates of stelae 10, 11 and 9 as read by Dr. Morley are 9-15-0-0-0, 9-15-5-0-0 and 9-15-10-0-0, respectively. The cists for all three were built partially in the later addition to the second terrace. The date of Stela 40 marks the next hotun ending, and is 9-15-15-0-0. We did not find the cist for this, but we can say ~~negatively~~ from a careful examination of the floor that it must have stood well to the front of the widened terrace. The addition to the second terrace, ^{therefore} must have been made before ^{any of} the stelae were set up, and it seems plausible to suppose that it was made to receive them, at the end of the 14th Katun. It seems a reasonable guess that at the same time the new main stairway was built and the new and larger platform erected on top.

The earliest dated monument in the West Group is Stela 6, 9-12-15-0-0, only 45 years earlier than our supposed remodeling. And it is probable that even before the remodeling, Structure XLIII was not in its earliest form. We are thus probably safe in assuming that the West Group Plaza and the Acropolis were in use ^{for some} ~~a long~~ time before the inhabitants began erecting stelae here instead of in the South Group, where the earliest dates are found.

Structural Details.

So far as examined, all terraces run under the stairways, and consist of a retaining wall of more or less well-selected quadrangular stones, laid up without mortar, holding in a pure rubble fill, the latter covered with the soft remains of a mortar and small crushed stone floor. The older part of the floor of the second terrace is an exception, for it consists of a conglomerate of broken stone bound in some sort of cementing agent which makes it so hard that it required more than an hour for two strong men with pick and heavy crow-bar to break through about

a square meter of it. The floor of the later addition ^{at} ~~to~~ the front was so poor that it was indistinguishable from humus and debris.

The latest main stairway on the second, fourth, fifth, and eighth terraces was partially supported by special battered and slightly in-curving retaining walls, shown in the Center Section on the right of ^{Plate #274 shows the supporting wall at the back of a cut through the stairway in the} Plate W-1. They are in addition to the terrace retaining walls behind them. The lowest is shown on a larger scale in Plate 2. Here ^(are represented) the actual steps ^(and they are shown from the front in Plate #273) ~~can be seen in place~~. The step unit is a large well-squared thick slab, its outer edge supported by one or two smaller and thinner slabs, the step as a whole resting on a base of mixed stone and earth. This in turn is supported by the retaining wall holding in the main fill behind. The bulge in the retaining walls cannot be laid to internal pressure, for they are perfectly sound and devoid of cracks. The principal stone of each step runs under the riser of the next, and so is locked in place. ^{The phot. in Plate (#273) is a close view of the first four steps before digging through to the retaining wall behind.} ^(as mentioned above) ^(the latter) This stairway was built over an earlier one which appears in the section behind it. The steps of ~~this~~ stairway were obviously somewhat displaced, but it is probable that one step did not lock under the one above. The steps rested in a matrix of mixed earth and stone, but this was only a shallow layer resting directly on the pure rubble fill.

The cists for stelae 10 and 11 were similar to those before ^{in front of} Structure XLIV, about 60 cm deep, with rough walls at the sides and front, but with no wall at the rear. The floor of packed earth and small stone rested on the pure rubble fill beneath. The Stela 9 ^{of} cist was of the same character, but was not quadrangular in plan, as were the others (see plan, Plate W-1). The base of Stela 9 was still in the cist, and we show a cross section through it in Plate W-2, 3. Notice that the stela itself was not packed in a solid fill, but in a pure rubble fill

(Photo #267) shows a few of these still in place.

of large stones, jammed tightly into place. The weight of the stones locks them in place. There is nothing to wash away, nothing can give. *who, as we were informed, used the stela for this purpose,* The fall of a tree or the pull of a mahogany cutter's oxen broke the thick stone in two, but the base was tilted only slightly forward.

Behind the stela the exceedingly hard terrace floor was raised 10 cm or so to form a small rectangular platform, running against its back. The area at the sides and front had been dug out when this was noted, and it may have entirely surrounded the stela. This "platform" was of the same hard material as the older portion of the terrace floor, which as we have seen connected with the earlier stairway. It cannot be said to be coextensive with the floor, however, for the rear consists of a line of stone slabs. Certainly the platform was constructed after the stela had been placed, and therefore after the addition to the terrace, which was not hard surfaced.

The stela base as found is twisted so as to face a little to the south *(of a line at right angles to the terrace.)* (See plan) but could easily have been twisted in breaking. However, the rear of the small raised platform is askew to correspond.

^{walls}
P The masonry of Structure XLIII may be described in general as rough but solidly laid, without mortar. The stairway side walls are better than the rest, with many long, well-squared blocks (Plate ²⁷² ~~272~~). The terrace walls are built of roughly squared blocks, not so large, ^{as} In Plate ²⁹⁴ is shown the center of the front wall of the platform at the top, the masonry of which is similar to that of the terraces. Here the floor has been cut away to show the large pure rubble fill beneath. The supporting walls under the stairways are in general of still smaller, and very irregular blocks (Plate #274). The well-made steps of the main stairway have already been described. The rough appearance of ^{stairways} ~~terrace~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ walls was undoubtedly hidden under plaster and stucco.

Lintel 5

Lintel 5 is shown in Plate #207. Its width is 158 cm and its height 120 cm. Despite this extremely large size, the thickness is only about 10 cm at the top; at the bottom the thickness is 13 to 15 cm. The maximum relief is about 30 mm ^{3 cm} (on the body of the principal figure), the minimum about 5 mm ^{.5 cm} (on the glyphs.) The edges are nicely worked and curve back and in and have the same cross-section as that shown on a stone from the Southern Ball Court, Plate B-3, 2. This ^{type of} cross section of the edges is found also on Lintels 4, 7 and 9, while the edges of the others are rough and unfinished.

font reference
The subject is similar to that of Lintel 4, as Maler observed. The principal figure wears a turbaned headdress with plumes curving above from the rear, and holds a staff or spear which rests on the ground before him. There is here also the remnant of a breech-cloth reaching nearly to the ankles. Maler reported captives ^{in front of the figure} before him, but there is space for only one at the most, and the pieces belonging here are missing. There is a raised portion behind the figure, within the frame of the design, which may indicate ^{another} a figure there, or perhaps the remains of a column of glyphs, as on Lintel 4.

There were columns of glyphs above and on both sides of the design. With few exceptions they are too much eroded to be read. The first five ^(of the left column) occupy four spaces each, indicating an initial series to be read straight down as on Lintels 3 and 7. The inscription then seems to run into small glyphs, ^{with an} {average height and width, ^{of 7.5 cm} 75 mm}, but it is here very badly eroded. Assuming an initial series with Introducing Glyph, occupying 24 spaces, and considering only the areas of the stone which were almost certainly devoted to glyphs, as evidenced by scattered unquestionable glyph-blocks within them, the inscription almost certainly contained not less than 130 glyphs. For 98 of these, the glyph blocks are definitely identifiable.

This does not take into consideration the entirely eroded portion at the right lower corner, where there is space within the outside border for 12 more. The ^(principal) inscription thus probably consisted of ~~over 110~~ ¹⁴² glyphs. There are indications of two more glyphs behind the head, and almost certainly there were six additional ones in front of the staff or spear, but these appear to be cut off from the main inscription.

The principal inscription on Lintel 4 contains 79 glyphs, and that on Lintel 3 ~~contains~~ ^(with 90 more subordinate inscriptions.) 68 glyphs. A fragment of the badly shattered Lintel 7 contains the whole or parts of 23 small glyph-blocks, ^(about 6 cm square) arranged in a solid mass six rows deep and six rows across. ^{is therefore an excellent chance that at least six rows of small glyphs ran across the top.} Fourteen more in a double column are identifiable at the lower right hand corner. As this lintel measured something like 1.10 m by 1.40 m, and the glyphs are so small, it ^(in all probability) ~~may very well~~ have contained another long inscription. The main inscription of Lintel 2 contains 90 glyphs. We probably have only a half of Lintel 8, and that is badly eroded. The left and upper margins were probably covered with small glyphs. Only small fragments of Lintels 1, 9 and 10 have been found, and the last two fragments are covered with small glyphs. Lintel 6 bears only an incised design.

Of the nine sculptured lintels thus far represented at Piedras Negras, therefore, four definitely have long inscriptions, a fifth very probably did have, ^{three more} and the four remaining ones may or may not have, ^{had; only one did not.} It appears that the practice here was to carve fewer stone lintels than at Yaxchilan, perhaps, but to place long inscriptions on them. This seems never to have been the custom at Yaxchilan, which is interesting, as the two cities are only one day apart, traveling down stream by water, and Maler reports and pictures a lintel bearing a 113-glyph inscription from the small site of El Cayo ~~several leagues nearer.~~ ^{between them.}

Structure XLV *Str I-2*

broad second terrace fronting the

Between and a little back from the high pyramidal Structure XLIII at the south and the corresponding Structure XLIV at the north, a broad stairway rises from the plaza to Structure XLV which bounds Court 1 at the front. (See ~~Plate~~ *fig W-1^a*). The inside length of the structure, so far as determined, and shown on Plate W-3, was 35.50 m and it is possible that a single gallery or range of chambers extends further to the south ^{west} {to the left, looking from the plaza ^{towards} the acropolis}. If so, such additional features are built into the side of the large platform flanking Pyramid XLIII. The stairway certainly runs the entire length shown on the plan, and so far as surface indications go, runs on below the platform to the pyramid. The height from plaza floor to the floor of the building, as measured with Brunton ^{compass}, level, meter stick and tape, is 9.14 m. The slope is about 32 degrees from horizontal. The steps are badly ruined, but sufficient ^{of them} numbers were found in place, near the center and again to the left, to be sure that we have a stairway and not a series of terraces. The risers appear to have been about 50 cm in height.

The building projects from the high side platform of Pyramid XLIII on the left, as we face the Acropolis, but stands free on the right end. This end is only a meter or two from the base of the side platform of Pyramid XLIV, but the latter is set further to the rear, and there may have been a narrow ~~passage~~ *stairway between them rising from the otela-terrace in front of it* around this end to Court 1. With this exception, our structure cuts off the court entirely from the Plaza below, though the court could easily be entered through the building.

The building was not surveyed after excavation, and the plan and measurements given are based on ^{taped} a field sketch made during the digging. They are substantially correct, but subject to minor errors. The longitudinal axis runs about 36 degrees east of Magnetic north, as

determined with Brunton Compass, *in the center of the rear gallery.*

Reference to the plan shows that the building consists primarily of two long open galleries, connected by two doorways in the medial wall. At the front there are eight piers (average width 1.30 m , thickness, 1.05 m) and nine openings (average width 1.75 m). The openings are thus considerably wider than the piers between them, and the piers are nearly square. Only the right end of the rear gallery (facing the court) is ^{entirely} open, with five piers and six openings of similar proportions. The width of the front and rear galleries is 1.80 m ; interior length of front gallery 23.20 m; of rear gallery 25.70 m; thickness of front and rear walls (and piers) 1.05 m ; thickness of medial wall .90 m . At the right is a typically placed ~~transversely~~ ^{transverse} placed end room, width 2.15 m , length 4.50 m . The doorway, 1.30 m wide, opens on to a steep slope ^(stairway?) leading to the terrace of Pyramid XLIV. Thickness of left (inner) wall, 1 m. At the left end the front gallery turns a right angle to the rear, forming a sort of alcove 2.35 m ^{long} deep and 1.60 m wide. Breaks in the wall suggest that there may have been a door in the ^{left} side wall of this, leading to the badly ruined chambers to the left. However, there is no lintel at the top, and the vault, the inside of which has fallen considerably, is nevertheless still standing. ~~The same may be said of A~~ ^{is also standing} meter or so ^{of the vault} at the left end of the rear gallery, ~~(See Section A-B, Plate)~~ though otherwise the vaults are completely fallen. ^{The} Height of ^{the} spring of arch above floor, ^{the} 2.25. ^{is} Due to the ruined condition of the under sides of these vaults we can say nothing about the angle at which they sprang or the height of the capstones. They seem to have been offset slightly.

As indicated in the sections, the walls stand on a foundation platform or plinth, forming a low step on the outside. This plinth seems identical with the exterior step listed by Lothrop as typical of ~~the~~

East Coast architecture. * It is common here, at Yaxchilan, and in other parts of the Maya area. In the front gallery, the front part of the floor curves slightly down to the edge of the plinth, but in the rear it seems ^{is} to be level. On this structure the step is quite narrow, (10 to 20 cm wide). At the front it descends about 30 cm to an esplanade 1.20 m wide, from which the stairs descend ^{to the plaza.} At the rear it ~~descends~~ ^{drops} about 30 cm to the court floor. (See section E-F) In the case of the left rear doorway, and beyond to the left, there is an additional step, about 1 m wide, descending about 20 cm further. The edge of this is battered and faced with stone slabs, with remnants of ^(plaster) ~~stucco~~ adhering. ^{See Plate #324 and Section A-B} (Section A-B) This seemed to be below the latest surface of the court. A variation in doorways is shown in Section C-D, where the step down from the floor is set back between the piers.

The structure could not have been ornamented by a roof-comb of any size, as indicated by the ^{small} amount of debris (see sections) and the thinness of the medial wall. The surface of the debris as found is indicated by dotted lines in the sections. The lintels must have been of wood, for there was no trace of any stone slabs larger than those known to be used in the vaults, which are much too ^{two} thin and small to span even a narrow doorway. We completely cleared five of the front openings and three of the rear, besides clearing in front of all other openings or doorways but two.

The rear facade was unquestionably elaborately decorated with stucco, ^{small} the fragments of which were plentiful at the bottom of the debris next ^{to} the wall. Curiously, only a few stucco fragments and stucco-covered sherds were found in the debris at the front. One of those ^e apparently represents an ear-plug, diameter 45 mm. Many of the stucco fragments contained large heavy potsherds imbedded in them, and considerable use of sherds in building up stucco figures is thus indicated. This may explain the finding of

sherds in the openings of roof combs, which we know were decorated with Stucco figures and designs. Finding them in this position at Yaxchilan, Maler deduced a custom of burning incense in the roof-combs.*

The floors were well preserved, and surfaced with hard smooth cream-colored plaster, unpainted. This turned up against the walls but the remnants of plaster on ^{the latter} ~~them~~ seemed softer and rougher. There was no sign of resurfacing on the walls, though the floor may have had a second coating.

We cleared the rear gallery to the floor from the left (southwest) end to the second doorway in the medial wall, but not beyond. The front gallery was cleared to the floor opposite both of these central doorways; ^{plate #128 shows remnants of the right front pier, which we almost completely removed} behind the left front opening or doorway, together with the "alcove"; and for a distance of five meters from the right end. The right end chamber was completely cleared. Where we did not excavate the plan is controlled by walls standing well above the debris. Complete excavation might reveal lower features such as platform altars or benches in the rear gallery at the right, or in the front gallery, especially at the center.

Objects

Aside from the coarse heavy potsherds and a fragment of a pottery tortilla griddle from the stucco debris, and a few polychrome sherds from under the floors, no objects contemporary with the builders were found. From the back of the "alcove" of the front gallery we took three whole Lacandonone incense burners, ^{and the isolated face from a sixth.} and the sherds of two others broken by fallen roof stones. The modern use of ruined temples by descendants of the Mayas is of course well known, both in this and other subdivisions of the Maya area. The three whole vessels stood one before the other, almost touching, with the rear one against the rear wall near the right corner. ^{and they are 20 cm above the floor} The two others were crushed under fallen stones a half-meter or so to the left.

(two front)

The whole ones rested on a flat slab lying on ten or twenty centimeters of debris. It was quite level and may have been intentionally placed to hold the incense burners, ^{but only one of the latter was level on its base (Plate # 238)} They ~~latter~~ were covered with a soft wash from the debris in front, which had protected them from ^{the} roof-slabs which afterward fell upon it. ^{all had been coated with a thick soft white stucco-like substance.}

Structural Details

The whole structure apparently rests on a foundation of pure rubble fill, built out from the side of the hill. We broke through the floor at the left (southwest) end of the rear gallery, in the "alcove" at the left end and in the end chamber at the right end, and in each case found the floor resting on such a fill.

A section of the cut through the rear gallery floor is shown in Fig. W-2. The floor proper runs under and supports the walls. The lowest layer, which rests directly on the fill, is an extremely hard conglomerate of small broken stone and some cementing agent, similar to the earlier portion of the second terrace floor of Pyramid XLIII. It is only about 5 cm thick, but very hard to break through with pick and crowbar. On this is about 7 cm of stiff dark brown clay, with an occasional pebble; over this about 9 cm of similar clay, but lighter in color and softer; on this a layer of pure yellow plaster, about 1 cm thick, which does not run under the walls as do the lower layers; and on this the final coat of plaster, about 3 cm thick, which turns up against the walls. This is pure white, though the surface itself is cream-colored. This is probably a natural discoloration on the surface, as we could find no trace of actual paint.

The floor in the end chamber was not so carefully examined, but the bottom layer was very hard, as here. Yet in the alcove, the floor

proved quite easy to penetrate, though it is only a few meters distant from the first cut.

The walls of this structure are built of poorly squared blocks (See Plate #324), ~~apparently laid without mortar, and without any hint of the use of large flat slabs found elsewhere on the acropolis.~~ *with some use small slabs at the corners.* They are not here, or anywhere else at Piedras Negras so far as we know, built of rubble and lime with a mere ^(thin) veneer of stone on the outside. There is just a hint here and there of some notion of binding corners, and the medial wall is bound into the transverse wall at the right by a few stones projecting 10 cm or so ~~into it~~. *(from each wall into the other)* On the other hand this same medial wall was built in two sections, and the ends of the sections, as seen on the surface, are not bound together in any way. ^

There was ample proof in the debris, as well as in the remnants of vaults still standing, that the latter were constructed of thin slabs of stone, set in mortar. This is the characteristic vault of this city, the slabs being so thin that there was no need of beveling, the miniature stepped effect being easily smoothed over with plaster. All that was required was one reasonably straight edge on the slab.

Court 1

To avoid confusion, we shall continue to speak of left and right ~~and right~~, front and rear, bearing in mind that ~~in doing~~ so we are facing northwest, with our backs to the West Group Plaza below, but that "front" means toward the plaza, and "rear" away from it. The floor of this court is just under 9 meters above the plaza, from which it is shut off by Structure XLV, just described. Its dimensions are somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 by 35 m, with the long axis of the quadrangle running from left to right. Either side is bounded by large squarish platforms the tops of which run to each side to join

There is a large depression, too large to ^{have been} caused by the uprooting of a tree, in the center of the former. Possibly it contains burial vaults, which have fallen in.

Pyramids XLIII and XLIV. The one on the right rises about 4.50 m, that on the left a little more, above the court floor. Both were probably reached from the court by stairways.

To the rear (before us, in our assumed position) the hill rises in terraces very steeply to the edge of a narrow esplanade in front of Structure XLVIII, just over 10 meters higher than our court (See Plate ^{W-1} ^{with its}). About half way up (the floor is 4.45 above the court), was a single line of chambers, at least in part an open gallery, with vaulted roof, the whole now badly ruined, (Structure XLVI). The roof was probably flat and the effect ~~was~~ that of a gallery built into a terrace. This structure runs clear across the back of the court and further to the right behind the right platform. It was approached by a stairway, projecting into the center of the court. The lower part is "megalithic", though the stones are much smaller than those of the similar structure on the plaza below. Higher, to the left, a similar structure (Structure XLVII) is built into the side of the slope behind the left platform. The slope ^{there} ~~here~~ rises to a greater height to the front structure of Court 3.

Structure XLVI was trenched near the center. (~~See Plate~~). The width of the gallery is 2.10. Thickness of front pier, only 75 cm; height, floor to under side of vault offset, 2.41. Above and behind ^{is} a remnant of the terrace floor which was probably co-extensive with the roof of this structure ^{and which} indicates an outside height of 4.04 m for the structure, exclusive of the plinth, which is about 30 cm in height.

Behind the stairway is a broad shallow recess in the rear wall, the vault as well as the vertical wall below being recessed to correspond. ^{The left end of this recess, excavated only a half meter below the vault spring, is shown in} The walls and piers of this structure were built of large thick slabs of the type later described in connection with Structure XLVIII immediately above. ^{P. 243}

The court itself was partially trenched on the center line from front to rear. While bedrock appeared near Structure XLV, at the front, the greater part of the court itself is a floor laid on a pure rubble fill. Two or three meters from the rear this was penetrated to a depth of 1.60 m without coming to the bottom.

Court 2

1/5/ ✓
② ✓
The floor of Court 2 was measured as 11.03 m higher than Court 2, and 19.97 m above the West Group Plaza. It is quadrangular, measured 14.60 m from front to rear, and the lateral dimension is about twice as ^{great} long. At two points examined, the floor rests on pure rubble fill of {exceptionally large ^{stones}} which has of course been used to level off and probably to build out the top of the ^{newly eroded} hill.

To the left (still facing northwest) the hill was much higher, and its steep slope, held in by a high retaining wall, rises to the base of Structure LVII on the ^{near} ~~right~~ side of Court 3. There is a great mass of debris at the foot of this wall, but a preliminary trench into it indicates that some sort of a structure, presumably a single gallery or range of rooms, ran along its base, and so bounded Court 2 on the left. We have assigned the number LVII to this supposed structure.

2
The right side is bordered by a very interesting structure, now a mere broad low mound, with parallel humps along the sides and center, (Structure LI). A trench across this proved that it never had a stone vault. The probability is that it was a structure with wooden columns resting on stone pier foundations not over a meter high. It evidently consisted of a double line of rooms, or galleries. The floor was 60 cm above the court, approached by two steps, ^{of approximately equal height} the lower 1 m, the second 60 cm wide (See section, Fig. W-3). There seems to have been a plinth 20 cm

✓ E -20 No mention of any narrow drain(?) at court level between XLVIII & LI.

wide, but only about 10 cm. high. (*not shown on plan or section*)

Reused as one of the line of slabs which formed the outer edge of the second step, face upward, was the very interesting stone shown in Plate ^{to be made}, on which an inscription was begun, but not finished. The stone is broken from side to side through the inscriptions; present maximum length, 46 cm ; width 45 cm ; thickness 6 to 6.5 cm . Presumably it was intended as a lintel for a small interior doorway, and on its being broken, the work ^{was} stopped. Both surfaces are smooth but undulating, and there is no sign of secondary working on the edges. Apparently work was begun on it in the condition it arrived from the quarry. The side margins measure 8 and 9 cms respectively, and apparently the end margin intended to be exposed was 5 cm.

^{As we are reaching in the right direction,}
We have ^{three} ~~four~~ columns of three complete glyph blocks, which have been marked out by roughly parallel lines incised in each direction. These are irregular in the extreme, and even the outer side lines are by no means parallel, so that if nothing further had been done we would set this down as the work of a novice or a child. On the contrary, however, in B-1 a glyph is about one-half finished and shows considerable skill. The glyph is in very low relief but perhaps later the background was to be cut further away. A very well executed beard-like element in the left corner shows ^{none too} plainly in the photograph.

In C-3 the beginning of a sub-fix has been well carved. D-3 has been very irregularly blocked out by incised lines as if to delimit a number or pre-fix and a super-fix from the glyph proper. In A-2 the artist has begun to cut away the background from an oval, ~~filling the space,~~ and in A-3 is a misshapen incised oval undoubtedly intended to later become part of a glyph. None of the other spaces ^{has} have been touched.

The striking thing is the obvious care taken in carving the glyphs

themselves, compared with extreme carelessness in blocking them out, Careful examination of many inscriptions will reveal the fact that, though beautifully executed, their outlines are by no means regular, and there is no reason to suppose that this would not have been a well-executed example if it had been completed. Note also that the sculptor did not start at the beginning and finish one glyph before starting the next, but has worked in four blocks scattered through the three columns without finishing any.

Besides giving us ^{a glimpse} ~~an insight~~ into the habits and methods of the Maya sculptor, the stone affords a hint at least that small interior lintels in the city may sometimes be sculptured.

Beyond this structure, to the right, is a narrow esplanade and then a steep drop to Group LIII.

(Plate #130)

The front of the court is bounded by Structure XLVIII, most of the walls of which still stand to the cornice, with vestiges of the stone vaults in place. This seems to have been originally a long double gallery. The front facade, overlooking Court 1, was a solid wall except the right third, where it breaks into piers. The rear facade is broken by two doorways close together near the left end, and again by a series of piers more or less opposite those in the front, at the right. There is a transverse end room at the left, with a doorway through the end, and also small doorways into the ends of each gallery. ^{The plan of the right end is obscured by debris.} The front gallery at least, and probably the rear, was later broken up into chambers by secondary partition walls. These do not run up straight, but slope into the room, at the top, to conform to the real vault. When plastered they would appear as integral parts of the original construction. The little doorway from the front gallery to the end chamber has been walled up with a very thin and poorly laid stone partition. The plain lintel of this doorway consists of two slabs which overlap, so that, passing from the gallery to the end room, the first 30 cm of the lintel is about 10 cm higher than the remaining 55 cm. This design is the same in principle as in some of the sculptured lintels of Yaxchilan.

The top of a low doorway through the medial wall remains above the debris, and consists of a plain stone lintel supported by stones offset 10 cm into the doorway, so that the lintel stone need not be as wide as the space to be covered. ^(Plate #247) It was nicely plastered ~~(Plate #247)~~.

We cleared one of the rear doorways at the left, and thence to the medial wall, and show a section through it in Plate W-4. The plate might lead one to suppose that we cleared a corresponding section in

in the front gallery, but we did not. The building rests on a plinth. It probably had no roof-comb, or at most a small one. The dotted lines here, as on the other plates, show the level of debris as found. The lintel must have been wooden, for a stone lintel, no matter how broken, could not have escaped us here. The two-member apron cornice was surmounted by a vertical or very nearly vertical upper zone. It is possible that the upper ^{member} ~~chamber~~ of the cornice projected further out, as in Structure L, as the edges were very rough, but if so a considerable number of the stones of this member broke off on a remarkably straight line. Notice that the vault in the rear chamber is offset, that in the front is not. If the section were shifted two or three meters northeast, this same vault would show the offset. That is, following along it, the offset gradually becomes less pronounced and finally disappears. This seems to indicate careless workmanship, and, in this instance at least, seems to negative the theory sometimes advanced that the offset was a constructional necessity. Width of front wall, 1.16 m ; medial wall, 1.05 m ; rear wall 1.30 m ; width of front gallery 1.65 m ; ~~width~~ width of rear gallery, 1.65 m ; height, floor to vault-off-set, 3.06 m ; reconstructed height, floor to cap-stones, 3.30 m. The plinth was measured as 22 cm lower at the front than at the rear. Height, plinth to under side of ^{rear} cornice, 2.20 m .

The most interesting feature of this building is the character of its walls, which are made of stone slabs of varying thicknesses instead of blocks, and are set with plenty of mortar, still hard and solid. Extra large long slabs, nicely squared, are used at the doorway examined, and the corners are perfectly bonded (See Plate #249). This style of masonry is entirely different from that of Structure XLV. *In the photograph two slabs have been removed from the plinth, where it functions as a door-step.* The lower member of the cornice consists of a projecting line of slabs

heavy slabs
1 on which very thin slabs are laid in mortar at a receding angle to form the apron; the second member is merely a row of heavy slabs projecting over the apron (~~See Plate~~). The whole was doubtless originally covered with plaster.

Opposite Structure XLVIII, the rear of the court is bordered by the long rectangular Structure L, the floor of which is elevated 1.20 m above the court. A slab-paved esplanade 1 m wide and 1 m above the court runs along the front. We ran a trench across this and through one of the front doorways to the medial wall and show a section in Plate W-5. We did not excavate in the rear chamber or gallery, nor behind the structure, as the plate might lead one to suppose. There are two long vaulted ranges of chambers or galleries, and most of the front one was probably an open portico. The rear facade was almost certainly entirely devoid of doorways. A transverse end chamber at the left had access to the rear range by a small vaulted doorway, and possibly to the front gallery also. ^{The plan at the right end was not made out.} Lintels were in all probability of wood. The upper member of the two-member apron cornice extends out as far as the lower member, 130 cm. The apron meets the under side of the upper member about 5 cm out from the wall. ^{The} Total height of ^{the} cornice ^{is} 25 cm. The upper zone sloped steeply or was vertical. It is obvious from the Plate that our reconstruction of the vaults is extremely hypothetical.

The most interesting features of this structure are its wide rooms combined with relatively very thin walls. Thickness of front pier, 52 cm; ^{of medial wall 95 cm.} of rear wall 70 cm; height, floor to vault-spring, 240 cm. There was no vault offset at the point drawn. Height, plinth to under side of cornice, 214 cm, ^{measured at the rear right end of structure, where the rear facade is clear of debris}. There is no part of the front vault standing, but there is just as much debris at the front as at the rear.

In the wall construction of this building there seems to be a mixture of ^{the} slab construction of Structure XLVIII and the poor block construction of Structure XLV. (plate # 323)

Only about 1.50 m behind the left half of this building, and ^(extending several meters) ~~behind~~ the ~~court~~ beyond its left end, a ~~high~~ nearly vertical retaining wall rises 6 m or so to a narrow ~~explanade~~ in front of a probably continuous single range of chambers or galleries, (Structure LVIII) built into the ^{its left end joining Str. LVII, with a vaulted passage running through to Court 3.} hill. ^{From the roof of these,} now entirely fallen, at the left, a ~~stairway~~ ^{starway} still indentifiable, ^{LVIII} leads to temple LIX, the highest point of the Acropolis.

Behind the right portion of our Structure I is a small bit of levelled surface, with the ruins of Structure LII, ^{apparently} a very short double range of Chambers.

Court 3.

This court was only hastily examined. It is placed to the left of and a little further back than Court 2, and is six or eight meters higher. At the front, ^{at the rear} ~~right (between the two courts)~~ and at the ^{right (between the courts)} ~~rear~~ are long vaulted structures, ^{Structures LIV, LV, and LVII, respectively} each with two ranges of rooms or galleries. They are, however, shorter than those on the other courts, and the court is smaller. The facades are to some extent at least broken up by the introduction of piers, a feature that is thus seen to be characteristic of every one of the nine long vaulted "palace type" buildings of the acropolis. The left side terminates in a precipitous drop to the river far below, and is open except for a long platform mound only 50 cm in height. ^{Structure LV}

Structure LIX

Because of its position and small size we call this a temple, though its design is more closely analagous to the long structures on the

Acropolis courts than to typical Maya temples. It is on the highest point of the Acropolis and commands a magnificent view in all directions. If the trees and bush were cleared, the whole of the West, South and East Groups would be in plain sight ~~from~~ the front, and from the rear, practically the whole of the Northeast Section. The peak of the hill (bed-rock crops out just behind the temple) has been made over into a pyramidal substructure, more or less imposing, depending on the point of view. To the left this descends only a few meters to the right end of the rear structure of Court 3. To the ^{right} ~~left~~ it descends about 15 meters (the height was not measured) to the little extension of Court 2 behind Structure ~~E~~. In front is an esplanade 1.30 m wide, from which a stairway leads down ^(3.75 m) ~~(3.75 m)~~ to what must have been the flat roof of Structure LVIII, where it breaks off. In front of the latter ^{the} nearly vertical wall, partly behind Structure L, drops to Court 2. ^{at the rear} Behind an extremely steep, though not a vertical, wall drops about 15 meters to a small flat ^{mound-covered} area projecting from the side of the hill, and from that the ruins of an extremely long stairway, already referred to, descend nearly to the Camp Plaza, which ^{hardly} ~~cannot~~ be less than ⁵⁰ ~~45~~ meters below the temple. The temple would be the first thing seen in rounding either of the westward bends in the river just above and just below the city. *Photo #433 shows the rear facade from the north.*

Ground plan and sections are shown in Plate W-6. The building is entirely ^{symmetrical} and cannot be said to have a front or back, but as usual, for purposes of description, we call the easterly side, facing the West Group Plaza, the front. The rear right corner with part of the substructure, had completely collapsed. The roof was vaulted, as proved by the quantity of debris and the roof-slabs in it, as well as by a remnant ^{There is hardly enough debris to postulate a roof comb} in position in the left end room. ^{As in Structure XLVIII and L, we have} transverse end rooms, with small doorways at either end of the rooms leading to two longitudinal narrow galleries. Both front and rear galleries

are really open porticoes, which is the case at the right end of Structure XLIII. The transverse rooms here, like the transverse room there, have full-size doorways in their outer side walls. The only element of design ^{here} not noticed in the long "palace" type structures below is the placing of the two narrow doorways between front and rear galleries, ^{at either end} and covering them with ^{small} vaults instead of lintels. These doorways do not pierce the medial wall, but the latter is merely shortened so that it fails to reach to the inner walls of the end rooms by distances equal to the required widths of the doorways.

The masonry is ^{of well-squared stones, many} excellent, ^{of the slab type,} laid in mortar, and the ^{banded} corners are well bound with long heavy slabs, though not so consistently as noted on Structure XLVIII (See Plate #257). The structure has as yet been only ^{about} one-third cleared, but we dug into end in front of all doorways sufficiently ^{reasonably} to be sure that the lintels must have been of wood. It is not likely that all three of the front lintels, had they been of stone, would have gone down the slope, and at the rear they could not have done so, as the esplanade is here nearly 4 m wide.

Fragments of stucco ornaments were found at both front and rear, though not at the ends, which seemed just as well protected. We found many more in the lower levels of the debris on the floor of the front gallery, behind the central doorway or opening and on either side of it. Apparently the interior vault or the walls of this gallery were decorated with modeled stucco.

Dimensions were as follows: exterior length, 14.75 m; exterior width, 5.10 m; interior length of galleries, 13.35 m; interior width of galleries 1.40 m; width of front doorways, left to right, 1.70 m, 1.60 m, and 1.70 m; width of standing rear doorways, left to right (southwest to northeast), 1.57 m, 1.60 m; interior length of left end room (plotted) 3.75 m; width 1.55 m; width of doorways to galleries not measured;

width of doorway, front gallery to right end room 1.05 m ; width of left doorway between galleries .80 m ; right doorway between galleries .70 m ; of rear wall, .65 m ; height, floor to vault-spring, left end room, 2.10 m ; to cap-stone as reconstructed, 3.60 m ; ~~at~~

The sections shown in Plate W-6 show no outside projection of the plinth. ^{Lower the} The construction is here the same as noted on the other Acropolis buildings, ~~however~~, and at some points the stones of this foundation platform do project a few centimeters. This is shown in Fig. W-4, a section through the right front doorway. Here is shown the usual construction: the building resting on a tight-packed floor resting on pure rubble fill, exposed parts of the floor being covered with mortar and small stone.

The whole building was surrounded by a broad step about 30 cm below the floor level, as if to make up for the absence of the usual projecting plinth. At the front this is 1.30 m, at the left 1.00 m, at the rear .80 m and at the right .58 m in width.

Our ^{re} construction of vaults is not to be taken too literally.

From the debris of the collapsed rear corner came the slab illustrated in Plate ^{to be made} ~~to~~. It seems to have been used here as a roofing slab. The lines of the crudely incised quadruped (deer?) are two to three ^{millimeters} ~~centimeters~~ in width, and about as deep. From the same part of the debris came a curious quadrangular stone slab, 19 cm by 25 cm, and ^{about} 3 cm thick. The fairly straight edges had been carefully formed by breaking off small bits of the stone. An exactly similar slab, 3 cm thick, 25 cm long and 13 cm wide, was found on the second terrace of Pyramid LXIII. Possibly these were used in building up stucco designs. A few figurine heads, considered elsewhere, were the only other finds.

measuring 42 by 48 cm.

Group LX

We cleared a strip across the right mound of Group LX, which, as stated before, lies behind and below Temple LLX and at the head of a long ^{ruined} stairway to the Camp Plaza. It is a long low mound, projecting out from the side of the Acropolis hill on the right edge of the little court. We show a cross-section in Fig. W-5. It was apparently a vertically-sided ^{The walls are well made of roughly squared blocks} substructure for a wooden building. ~~A remarkable circumstance is the fact that~~ Part of the smooth plaster coating, not only on the court floor, but on the building floor, was well preserved, ~~though protected by only about 60 cm of humus and debris.~~ A number of interesting figurines and sherds, and a piece of ^{limestone} stone came from this excavation.

No divisions or further description?

The South Group Ball Court - Structures R-11-a and R-11-b

With Preliminary Notes on the West Group Ball


Court (Structures K-6-a and K-6-b.

- Field and Structures -

There are two known ball courts at Piedras Negras, in the South and West Groups respectively. Preliminary work on the first, in 1931, followed by more thorough excavation in 1932, enables us to describe the South Group Court in some detail.

Our attention was first especially directed to the ball courts by Dr. Morley, whose Carnegie Institution of Washington Expedition found five round stone "markers" in one of the ball courts at Yaxchilan.¹

1. Sylvanus G. Morley, Report of the Yaxchilan Expedition; Carnegie Institution of Washington, Year Book No. 30, page 136-7, 1930-31.

Three of these were on the center line of the alley and one each on the side platforms, at the center. This court was tentatively identified as such by Maler in , but the existence of Old Empire ball courts

2. Teobert Maler: Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumacinta Valley, Peabody Museum Memoirs, Vol. 2 No. 2, page 134. Cambridge, 1903.

was not generally recognized until a considerable number were described by Blom in 1928.³ Dr. J. Alden Mason, Field Director of the 1931 and 1932

3. Frans Blom: "A Preliminary Report on Two Important Maya Finds", Proceedings, 22nd International Congress of Americanists, New York, 1930, p. 165.

expeditions, located three stones in the alley of the South Group court and then assigned the writer the task of ascertaining the remaining features of the southern court.

Plan and sections on Plate 4 show the general features, which agree with those first set forth by Blom for Old Empire ball courts by Blom, in 1928, and in more detail in 1932.⁴ This plate is drawn by the 1932 expedition's architect, Mr. Fred P. Parris, from a careful survey made after excavation. The plan, to avoid too great reduction, does not show the southeasterly boundary of the southern field, and only part of that of the northern field. The whole field is shown on the general plan of the city.⁵

4. Frans Blom, The Maya Ball Game Pok-tapok: Tulane University, 1932 (in press).

Terrace of stelae 1-8

The terraces and other structures which line the foot of the "Acropolis" ~~and~~ at the edge of the northwest court consist of four principal features, a long terrace to the northeast on which are, or were, placed stelae 1 to 8, a megalithic stairway southwest of this which ~~led~~ leads up to this at a point beyond the stelae, a long high staircase which leads up to the small court in front of the Acropolis proper, and a southwest terrace on which stood stelae 9 to 11 and 40. (Sat. will write up last two)

The terrace on which were stelae 1-8 stands at a height of about ^{and a half} four meters above the floor of the court. The northeastern edge descends at a very steep grade to the level of the court at an extension southwest of the northern ballcourt. This part was not cleared. The edge which fronts upon the court near altar 1 was relatively steep and somewhat destroyed, consisting of a steep slope, a small ledge terrace near the base, and another slope to the level of the court. On these slopes and on the court level at the base of them were scattered the fallen fragments of some of the stelae. (photos 11, 14, 16). The upper part of stela 4, face down, lay on the floor of the court, the large middle portion, also ^{face} upside

down, on the slope of the lower ledge. The major part of stela 5 with the face up, lay on the slope of the upper terrace with one shorter edge on the lower ledge. In similar position, farther to the northeast, lay stela 6, complete and face up. Still further north, on the ledge, the two parts together, face down and supported by small stones, was stela 7. Near the northeastern end of the terrace, on the ledge, lay the upper part of stela 8. Stelae 1 to 3, and parts of stelae 4, 5, and 8, lay in or near their original positions on the floor of the terrace above.

Although when first seen the front of the terrace was sloping and scorable with some difficulty, originally it consisted of two comparatively vertical walls, the upper one the higher, and a narrow ledge at a low level. The upper wall, the main terrace wall, was made of rudely piled stones which lay at an angle of about 75 degrees. These stones had no flat faces and were probably covered with stucco. But the stones of the lowest several tiers are of better quality with flat faces and in relatively perpendicular position for a height of about 60 cm. The total height of this wall is about ~~2.20~~ 2.20 m. to the present ^{maximum} maximum point, the present level of the terrace being about one meter higher. The width of the lower ledge was about 3.50 m.

The wall supporting the ledge was of even poorer quality but more vertical. The present height is about 1.45 m., the original height probably about 1.70, the base being slightly below the present level of the court.

This portion of the terrace, from the northeastern end to the edge of the slabs of the megalithic stairway, is about 27 meters in length; all of the eight stelae stood within this space. The level of the terrace is practically the same, however, behind the wall and behind the great staircase, the total length being about ⁵⁶ 33 meters.

The terrace is of varying width, being widest to the southwest of the great staircase in front of the corridor which leads to the hill of the Acropolis, and least in front of the staircase leading up the ^{pyramid} steep hill (XLIV) east of the Acropolis.

A low rectangular platform occupied part of the northeastern section of the terrace. This is about 7 to 8 m. long and about ⁴ 3.80 m. wide, standing about 20 to 40 cm. above the general level of the terrace. The rear wall of this is well marked with a line ^{straight} rough and irregular on the surface, but with straight faces on the lower tier of stones, though these are rude with no straight sides, but the front wall is not clear, due to erosion and the fall of the stela. ^{south} The western boundary is not clear, but it extended no further

southwest than stela 5. Stelae 6 and 7 stood on this platform, stela 8 beyond it to the northeast and at a lower level, stelae 1 to 4 southwest of it; it is not certain whether stela 5 was on the platform or not. The northeastern boundary, between stelae 7 and 8, is also not clear; certain stones here seem to be in line and the slope is definite and rather abrupt. The surface of the terrace without the platform is relatively level and free from stones. The northeastern edge of the platform is at a distance of about 5.50 m. from the northeastern edge of the terrace, and the front or southeastern edge is about 2 m. from the front edge of the terrace, the slope from the level of the ~~platform~~ platform to the edge of the terrace being slight for this distance, steep beyond that. The southwestern limit of the terrace is about opposite the northwestern limit of the stairs leading up the steep hill to the back, the width of the terrace being much less in front of this staircase.

The base of stela 8 was still in place, northeast of the edge of the platform, about 2.5 m. from the present front edge of the terrace, and 1.5 m. from the present side (northeastern) edge.

About at the corner of the two slopes lay, face up, the ~~the~~ mid-

in one large and two small pieces
dle sections of this broken stela, and on the ledge near the foot

in three large and two small pieces.
of the terrace lay the upper section. Maler's plate XVII gives

an excellent concept of this monument which has suffered more

erosion since his time. Most of the fragments shown as missing

in his plate have, however, been found and grouped in their proper

places. The hieroglyphic inscriptions on the two sides have un-

doubtedly been drawn by Dr. Morley. The back was probably carved

also but is now entirely eroded. For a full description see Maler

p. 51, plate XVII, and Dr. Morley's forthcoming work. Maler figured

the height at over four meters. Further observations by the Expe-

dition concerned only the interred base. (photo 20)

The fracture was diagonal, from ground level at the northeast to

55 cm. above ground at the southwest. The width at ground level is

120 cm., the thickness 43 cm. It was interred to a depth of 90 cm.

below the present ground level. The front edge was not parallel

with the edge of the terrace; the southwestern edge being further

from the terrace edge. It was tilted ~~backwards~~ ^{forward} and towards the southwest when first seen. On the base ~~was~~ ^{top of the front face} at the left side is a section, about 25 cm. long, of the lower hieroglyphic inscription, and on the southwestern face is the lower part of the inscription on the side, in two columns about 35 cm. high. Both of these are too eroded to be read by any except the most accomplished epigrapher. The base of the inscription at the front was at a height of about 35 cm. above ground level, ~~that~~ on the side at about 20 cm.

Excavation showed that a hole had been made for its interment, the earth close to the stone being mainly soft black humus, that at a greater distance being firmer and more grayish. At the rear base it was braced with many large limestone rocks; the pit appeared to be larger at the base than at the top. There was no clear line side of the pit at the rear, probably because ~~the~~ it was mainly made by taking out large stones. The base of the stela rested on hard grayish earth, no thing apparently having been interred beneath it or at the rear. A few potsherds of plain vessels were found in this excavation, all red with sand temper and all much eroded. Several were gray buff in color, and one had a very much enlarged rim.

The base was tilted backwards in order to permit excavation in front. Here also were found large and small stones in dark earth, evidently the fill of the pit. The base of the stela was found to be very ^{flat} smooth and well shaped. At the bottom, with its center 45 cm from the southwest edge of the stela, and its rear edge 4 cm in front of it, was a ~~well-shaped~~ ^{plate 2-29} small cylindrical stone, about 20 cm in diameter, and 10 cm high. It is symmetrical but rather rudely finished, the circumference not smooth, but the top flat. Its base was about 8 cm. above the base of the stela; nothing was buried under it. A few inches beneath this and beneath the base of the stela the rubble fill of the terrace was encountered, composed of large limestone lumps with large interstices and without earth, indicating that the terrace was artificially built up. The cist in which the stela was interred was ~~walled~~ walled at the front or south-east side, a ~~wall~~ wall being encountered at a distance of 60 cm in front of the stela base. This wall is 170 cm. long and about 60 cm high. A cist wall was also found at the southwest side, 80 cm in maximum height. The length was uncertain, since it could not be traced behind the stela, but was at least 120 cm long. The east side wall was also evident at the front but uncertain towards the back. No rear north wall was found; probably

8/

the back formed a ramp down which the stela was slid to erect it. The base of the stela was close against the east wall, about 40 cm from the west wall. The width of the west wall is about 40 cm, but the inner edge was very irregular. The walls of this cist are fairly good and high but inferior to those of some of the stelae further to the southwest.

A space of about 160 cm separates the west wall of the cist of stela 8 from the ~~indistinct~~ northeast wall of the ~~terrace~~ platform. This wall, as before noted, is not definite, probably partly destroyed by erosion to the lower terrace. About 2 meters further southwest northeast wall of the the cist of stela 7 is reached, ~~it is~~ 4 m. from the southwest wall of the cist of stela 8.

~~the cist of~~
Stela 7 had completely fallen out of its cist and lay on the ledge near the base of the terrace in two pieces. It had been turned over face down and supported on piles of stone for protection. (See Maler p. 50, 51, plate XVI, and Morley's unpublished work.) As in the case of stela 8, no rear northwest wall of this cist was found; possibly in its place was a ramp by which the stela was placed in position. Before excavation, this cist was marked by a slight depression; it was full of black humus with a very few stones on the surface, a large tree at its south west edge, the roots of which interfered

(Plate 17)
considerably with the work of excavation. The cist measures
155 cm in length parallel with the edge of the terrace, and at
least 170 cm in width. The front wall is very well made of selected
stone blocks with naturally flat faces. The side walls to northeast
and southwest are of similar construction, all superior to those of
the cist of stela 8. The northeast wall was obvious for a distance
of 170 cm from the southeast wall, but here disappeared without any
definite end. All walls consist of three or four tiers of blocks and
are from 40 to 60 cm high at present. Beneath a slight depth of
dark humus and large stones ^{hard-packed} a solid mass of light colored earth and
small stones was encountered. In the south corner, all details
obscured by the mass of tree roots, a ceremonial cache was found.
This consisted of a few plain red potsherds of the vessel in which
the cache was probably interred, and an obsidian chip. The ~~base of the~~
bottom of the cist was found at a depth of a few centimeters below
the base of the walls, and ^{just} beneath this, at a depth of 70 to 90 cm
from the surface, the rubble fill of the terrace.

The next definite stela cist towards the southwest is that of stela 4, the base of which is still in place. Excavations were made in the places where stelae 6 and 5 were figured to have rested, but no cist walls were found.

Stela 6, unbroken, lies face up at the foot of the terrace with one end resting on the ledge below. See Maler, page 49, 50, plate XV, figure 3, and Morley's unpublished work. An excavation was made in the place where it was calculated it should have stood. In the southern corner of this excavation, 2.70 m. southwest of the southwest wall of the cist of stela 7, 3.50 m. northeast of the northeast wall of the cist of stela 4, 30 cm. in front of the prolongation of the line of the front cist wall of stela 7 and 1 m in front of that of stela 4, at a depth of 40 to 50 cm., among the roots of an immense tree, was found a ceremonial cache which was probably interred beside or under the base of stela 6. It consisted of fragments of a pottery plain red olla, 13 objects of obsidian chipped and flaked in peculiar shapes, and 7 similar but larger objects of flint. These, given field numbers W-3-5, were sent to Guatemala (photo 208).

The larger upper portion of stela 5 lay, face up, in a position similar to stela 6. See Maler page 48, 49, plate XV, figure 2, and Morley's promised work. The lower portion consisting of the entire uncarved base and the lower part of the carved portion, ^{in one large and three small pieces} ~~lies~~ ^{face down} in several pieces on the edge of the terrace and ~~has~~ ^{was} apparently never been moved from the place ~~in~~ ^{at} which it fell. The place in which it originally stood was therefore well indicated, ^{and shown by a depressed space} It is now largely filled by a large tree which rendered excavation ~~wholly~~ ^{wholly} inadvisable. Such excavation as could be done indicated no walled cist. It was so close to the cist of stela 4 that the same wall may have served for both; the edge of the fallen base of stela 5 is at present close to this wall. No evidences of front and rear walls were found, but there was some indication of a side wall to the northeast at a distance of 190 cm. from the proximate edge of the ^{wall of the} cist of stela 4. The depth of the excavation may have been about 75 cm.

Note referring to base of # 5.
 is 75 cm of ornamentation

~~Stela 4~~ The major part of stela 4 lay in two pieces, face down, on the slope of the ledge and on the floor of the court below. See Maler page 48, plate XIV and Morley's forthcoming work. The base was still ^{1/2} in place in the cist where it formerly stood on the terrace, ^{at a distance of 12.7 m. from the front edge of stela 8.} An excavation had apparently been made in front of this base, causing it to tilt forward. That this was done in recent years was indicated by the straight face of the side of the pit at the rear, against which the base had formerly rested. The cist was dug out and the base supported and tilted back (photos 17). ¹²⁰ The ^{stone} ~~base~~ measures 130 by 40 cm in section ~~and is of~~ at the top and 125 by 43 cm ^{bottom} at the ~~base~~. The height varies from 100 to 113 cm. The ^{bottom} ~~base~~ was as well finished as the upper part, being almost flat and smooth. At the upper edge a line of incised glyphs, partly fractured, was found. This (photo 70) consists of two groups of three glyphs each, the group to the left almost intact, that to the right very fragmentary. The former occupies a space of 35 cm., the latter 32 cm., the space between being 26 cm. The margin at the sides is 18 cm. in each case. (See drawing in notebook 1/39)

The cist in which stela 4 was interred was rectangular and protected by well-made walls to front and at the front of the two

sides. (photo 18) As in the case of the other cists, no rear wall was found and no definite rear end to the side walls. The dimensions of this cist seem not to have been recorded, but the walls had a maximum depth of about ¹¹⁰~~140~~ cm. The bottom of the stone base was at a depth beneath the ground level which varied between 90 cm at the back and 80 cm at the front. Beneath it was earth of a lighter color and the edges of some massive blocks, but nothing was found interred in the cist or under the stela. The front edge of the stela base was parallel with the edge of the terrace and about 3 m. from it. (270 from Sat s line)

Its northeast edge lay 93 cm southwest of the proximate edge of the bottom of stela 5 at the edge of the terrace and about 40 cm. from the northeast wall of the cist. The southwest edge was close to the southwest wall of the cist, ~~about~~ not more than 10 cm. intervening. (Rear line of base 360 from Sats line)

The fallen and broken parts of stelae 1, 2 and 3 lie all on the terrace to the southwest of stela 4, and rather helter-skelter. The two very large stelae, 1 and 3, almost certainly fell over backwards, and the large basal pieces remained approximately in the place where they fell. It must be remembered that the ~~upper parts~~^{faces} of the fallen stelae which lay uppermost were completely eroded; they were turned over for photographing by Maler, and some were afterwards again turned face down by Morley to preserve them. No certain deductions can therefore be made from their position as first seen by the Expedition. The ~~preserved faces~~ upper portions of stelae 1 and 3 now lie with their preserved faces uppermost, near the back of the terrace and near the foot of the high hill behind, not far from the lower sections which are face-down. The preserved faces were probably originally the rear faces; the other faces show evidences of having been carved in high relief but are now too eroded for identification. Photo 17 shows the present condition of stelae 1 to 4.

Stela 1 (Maler p. 46, plate XII; Morley), is in two large and one small pieces; stela 3 (Maler ^{fig. 20} p. 47, 48, plate XIII; Morley) also in two large and one small pieces. These were unusually large and rectangular. Stela 2 (Maler p. 46, 47, pl. XV, 1; Morley) is of

somewhat different character, being smaller and ~~with~~ quasi-columnar with an ovoid cross-section. It had apparently fallen forward and broken in three pieces, the base being probably almost in place where it fell, the middle section near the edge of the terrace, and the upper section placed on top of the base of stela 1. The distance between the bases of stelae 2 and 3 was apparently about 180 cm. A little desultory digging was done around the bases of these three stelae with the object of locating the cists in which they were interred but without success.

All these stelae lay within a space of 27 meters, all to the northeast of the great stairway and above the terrace wall.

The distance between the ^{centers of the} bases of stelae 4 and 8 was about 14 m.

If the stelae were evenly spaced it would indicate an average distance of 3.50 m between each. This would place stela 1 about opposite the northeasternmost large slab at the end of the great stairway. These distances are probably more or less correct in the main, but probably not in detail.

The total length of this relatively level terrace is about 63 meters. The rear boundary is very irregular. At the northeastern end it begins with the foot of the great pyramid hill XLIV. At a

16/

distance of about 7.50 m. from the northeastern limit the rear is formed by the staircase up the pyramid which extends for about 4.50 m., in an arc, making this the narrowest portion of the terrace. Southwest of this it widens again as the base of the pyramid recedes, and is widest behind the great staircase below and in front of a small high terrace to the southwest side of pyramid XLIV and a narrow corridor which runs to the southwest side of this and into the lower court at the base of the Acropolis. (See Sats notes) The southwestern boundary of the terrace is formed partly by a descent to the great west court at the southwest end of the great stairway, and partly by the ascent to the structures in front of the Acropolis court. Its southwesternmost limit is beyond the northeastern end of these structures. ~~The northeastern end of the great staircase below is at a distance of about 37 m from the northeastern end of the terrace, the southwestern end at about 16/50 m. from the southwest end of the terrace, the staircase being about 17/50 m. wide.~~

MEGALITHIC STAIRCASE

An excellent large staircase built in the main of large blocks, led from the west court up to the terrace. This began at a distance of about 27 m. from the northeastern end of the terrace and extended for about 20 m., the southwestern end being about 16 m. from the southwestern end of the terrace. (photos 11, 12, 13; Maler, p. 43,44)

This staircase extended out into the west court beyond the line of the terrace to the northeast and consisted of a central stairs off five rows of large stone blocks flanked on either side by huge upright stone slabs or blocks. Above these is a terrace about on the same level as the ledge of the terrace to the northeast, and behind and above this stairs of smaller stones leading up to the level of the main terrace.

The width of the central lower stairs is 10.50 m., the flanking ^{three} slabs to the northeast occupying another 5.20 m., ^{four} these to the southwest about the same.

The lower megalithic stairs consists of five tiers of steps, the lower four in a good state of preservation, the uppermost indicated only by a few blocks in place at the southwest end. The other blocks of the upper step lay on the lower steps and on the floor of the court below. Photo 119

The top of the lower step lay approximately on the level of the court below, humus having accumulated to a depth of about 15 cm above the apparent former level of the court, and the base of the steps was apparently about 10 cm below the level of the court.

The number of blocks composing each step was difficult to compute, since many of them had broken; the lower step apparently consists

The ~~widest~~ longest of these measured 265 cm., the shortest 130. of five blocks, an average of 2 m per block. The widths could

not be measured accurately since the ~~top~~ blocks of the next step above rested on the rear section of those below, but those which

had been ~~disrupted~~ *the average width of the step being 75 cm.* measured from 65 to 90 cm. The thickness of one was 40 cm., and that of the others was probably the same.

The interstices between the blocks are at present rather wide.

~~All are sloping forward at present. The upper half of the risers~~

~~of all the steps is beveled and smooth (see plan). The second~~

~~step consists of seven large blocks from 120 to 170 cm long~~

~~(unless two of these are one broken block of 270 cm length).~~

The heights varied from 30 to 38 cm., and the widths from 55 to

the average width of the step being 60 cm. 85 cm. In the case of the narrowest one, the block of the step

above rested on only one corner; in that of the ~~thickest~~ widest

one, the rear extended far under the front of the block above.

The third step probably originally consisted of six blocks, three of which are now broken, from 110 to 300 cm long. The widths vary from 50 to 70 cm., the average width of the step being 70 cm. In the case of the narrowest of these, the block of the step above could not have rested upon it. The heights vary between 32 and 35 cm. The details of the fourth tier were not recorded but were similar, about eight blocks being employed. Only a few blocks of the fifth and upper tier remained, one of which is 50 cm. wide and 30 cm. high, with a rather rough upper surface.

Although ^{some} many of the blocks have tilted and slipped forward, yet the alignment of all is still good and indicated that blocks of different lengths and widths, but of relatively similar heights ^{averaging 34 cm.} were employed. The blocks of the lower tiers were on the average larger than those of the upper steps. The total height of these five steps above the level of the court was about 170 cm. the total width from the face of the lower tier to that of the fifth upper tier about 2.75 m, making a slope of ^{almost exactly 50%} ~~about~~ degrees.
 or $22\frac{1}{2}$ degrees

Western megalithic stairway, 19a
(1932 observations)

This stairway resembled the general type of the other megalithic stairways at this city in the nature of its sloping treads and beveled risers. All of the treads are markedly sloping, and this was intentional and not due to later slipping. The slope averages 17 or 18 degrees. The great blocks, as seen at the side of the stairway, are cut in trapezium shape with horizontally set bases and vertical rear edges, sloping tops and beveled front edges. The beveling of the risers, however, is not over-all, but the lower half is generally vertical, the upper half beveled.

The great staircase was flanked on the southwest side by four great stone blocks or slabs which, slanting backwards toward the top, protected the terrace behind. The steps projected far in front of these; this distance was not recorded, but their tops were a little behind the line of the upper fifth step and about on the same level. The end or southwesternmost of these is smaller than the average and has fallen towards the southwest, the terrace at its back having washed away very much so that it stood partly free. It is 85 cm wide and 35 cm thick, the sides straight, the face rather flat but uneven, the back regular. ^{It stands 190 cm above the level of the court.} The next stone was broken into ~~many~~ several pieces, only the base being in place, and it ~~was~~ seemed to be of a different type than the others, being only 15 cm. thick but 125 cm. wide. Although badly eroded and broken, traces of carving appeared on it, and this was verified when several pieces broken from the top were excavated at its base, these showing glyphs carved in intaglio. It was decided that this was a reused stela, and it was numbered stela 43 (photo 68). Two rows of intaglio glyphs are seen at the top, and traces of intaglio carving on the rest of the face. This style of carving is that used in some of the oldest stelae at Piedras Negras and indicates that it was of early date. The height ^{of} ~~of~~ these two southwesternmost blocks ^{was} were not recorded, but ~~they were~~ ^{it is} practically of the same height as the ~~next~~ ^{other} ones.

The inner blocks are larger, ~~and~~ heavier and unbroken, practically similar to the innermost ones on the northeast side of the staircase. The next one measured 175 cm. in width and 35 cm or more in thickness. It stands 205 cm. above the present level of the soil of the court, the face face relatively flat but irregular, the top beveled so as to be ~~flat~~ horizontal in spite of the inclination of the stone. The innermost stone is 120 cm. wide and stands 165 cm. above present level of the court. The top was beveled and about the same width as the preceding.

Excavation in front of the largest of these blocks ~~indicated~~ revealed 60 cm of soft humus without stones, evidently recent accumulation, and then a compact layer of small stones, evidently the original court level. The stone was interred some 25 cm beneath this level, its total height being 255 cm.

Three huge blocks or slabs flanked the steps in symmetrical position on the northeast side. These are, like those at the southwest, slanting inward from the base at an angle of about 70 degrees. This was doubtless the original position, in order to retain the terrace behind without falling forward. Probably all were originally of the same height ~~at present~~ and were placed tightly together; at present the central one is slightly, and the outer one 30 cm. lower than the innermost, and the latter has fallen slightly to the northeast. (photo 13). The outermost is 130 to 135 cm wide, 45 to 50 cm thick and more than 330 cm high. The base was buried to a depth of 70 cm at the outer edge where the accumulation of soil was least, but still considerably greater than towards the center of the court. The upper 40 cm of this was black humus with few stones, then a layer of many small stones, ^{original} probably the level of the court, and 15 cm below this was the base of the stone which was probably interred in the floor of the court. The central stone, apparently the largest of all, measured 200 cm in width and stands 190 cm, above the soil level which is considerably deeper here. The width is 40 cm. The innermost block is 170 to 180 wide, 40 cm thick, and stands from 130 to 170 above the

level of the soil, which is here in the corner of the stairs very thick. Probably all three of these are 250 cm or more high.

As in the case of the other blocks, the tops are beveled so as to be horizontal. The faces are only relatively smooth with depressions and cracks and it is probable that they were ^{originally} covered with stucco.

Above these slanting blocks and above the great staircase between them is a terrace of relatively uniform level, practically on the same level as the ledge ~~of the~~ near the foot of the high terrace to the northwest. At the rear of this terrace, behind the megalithic steps, is another staircase made of smaller stones and in very disrupted condition, which led up to the level of the main terrace above. From the edge of the upper steps of the large stairway to the foot of the steps of the small stairway, the terrace measures about ~~230~~ 2.30 m. in width, and was apparently approximately level, although now, due to the disappearance of most of the upper fifth tier of steps, the level is sloping. The small stairway is of much poorer construction, the steps more disrupted and washed away so that they are now followed with difficulty; probably they were

originally covered with stucco. About ^{twelve}~~eleven~~ steps can be traced at present but there may originally have been more at the top.

^{in height or} These average 30 cm rise and 30-40 cm. in width or tread. The total height is 230 cm., the total width 460 cm., making, as in the case of the megalithic stairway, a rise of exactly 50 percent or $32 \frac{1}{3}$ degrees. The lower steps are the best preserved, especially the lowest two, then follow two fair ones, four traceable ones, and probably four more above that, now almost entirely disrupted.

The width of this small stairway is difficult to determine as it was cleared only in the center, and the sides are much disrupted.

^{south} On the west side the upper steps apparently ended about behind the further end of the second large vertical slab. Beyond this, the terrace ~~at its base~~ between the two staircases is ^{of uncertain} ~~width~~ ^{washed} extent, but apparently it never extended out to the terminal vertical

slabs which stand almost free. This is indicated by the fact that

^{relatively} the floor of the court is level to the base of the terminal slabs

and to the steep edge of the terrace, indication that there was

little erosion from above. All features in this region are inde-

finite, but apparently the lower terrace was shorter and narrower

than the upper one, the upper terrace probably not so high above it,

The walls in this region are also more disrupted and irregular.

On the northeast side also the small steps did not extend to the full width of the megalithic staircase below but ~~ended~~ appear to end at about the inner side of the last great vertical slab.

Here also the construction is difficult to follow, due to erosion, but the lower wall of the terrace is considerably within or northwest of the line of great vertical slabs. The level of the lower terrace is, however, apparently the same as that of the ledge at the foot of the high terrace to the northeast and probably they were originally continuous. Earth seems to have been thrown over the terrace slopes here, probably from excavations on the terrace above by Maler, and the trench made by Satterthwaite (see his report ^{photo 228}) further obscured this point. The ledge to the northeast becomes less plain as the great staircase is neared, but the trench indicated it by a level of many small stones bound with white lime mortar. Apparently this lower ledge or terrace was not a later addition ^{against} ~~of~~ the wall of the upper terrace, since the latter extends only a few centimeters below the level of the ledge.

Northern Ballcourt F

At the far northeastern end of the west court, northwest of the terrace of stelae 1-8 and between that and the northern ball-court, were several very low mounds, or hummocks of earth and gravel. One was about 4.5 m. long, less than 2 m. wide and about 70 cm. high with steep sides. Excavation showed it to be full of gray earth and small stones with occasional potsherds of red ware, both coarse and thin. It was decided that these were of unexplained natural formation.

At the northeastern limit of the west court is a ball-court (Ricketson XVII-XVIII), consisting of two parallel structures with open ends, the axis between them extending through the length of the west court and relatively parallel with the structures at the base of the acropolis. These structures were of the typical shape for the ball-courts in this region, with a vertical high back on the long outer side, the inner sides consisting of a short vertical wall at the back, a flat terrace at mid height and a low sloping wall at the front. The dimensions of this were not ~~taken~~, *accurately measured, but it was about 22 m in length.* nor was the structure cleared, but some excavations were made to ascertain if it possessed similar features to the southern ball court. A trench had in former years been run by Hawley and Ricketson from the center up the sides, but no details of interest appeared.

No large slanting slabs such as were found on the inner face in the center of the southern ball-court were here found. An excavation in the middle line of the court at the southwestern end revealed no "base" such as those found in the southern ball-court, but possibly the excavation did not include sufficient area. No search was made at the northeastern end. In the center of the court excavation revealed some irregular slabs, and beneath and around these the bones of a human interment were found. The floor of the court was difficult to determine, but the burial probably lay under it at slight depth. No ornaments and only one or two potsherds were found. The bones were apparently those of a small adult, buried in extended position on the back about in the center of the court and transverse to its long axis. The skull was crushed and but parts of the lower maxillary and some of the teeth were in good condition; most of the bones, however, were in such poor and fragmentary condition that they were not worth preserving. The earth was very hard and compact and small stones were mixed with the bones. The humeri lay at the sides, but nothing was found below the elbows, some scattered ribs but no vertebrae.

A

MOUNDS IN CAMP PLAZA

In the far end of the plaza at the northern base of the Acropolis are several small pyramids and mounds about midway between the bases of the hills to north and to south. One of these small mounds apparently surrounded by a rude ring of stones was excavated. The diameter of the ring was about 310 cm. The mound and the interior of the ring consisted of a mass of large and small stones of limestone to a depth of about 50 cm. Interspersed in this were many potsherds. The width of this pile of stones increased with the depth, and it was apparently a small mound or terrace partly covered by the wash from the nearby hills. It lay between two larger, yet relatively small mounds. ~~not/for/for/the~~ Beneath the pile of stones was earthy clay with occasional small pieces of limestone was encountered. This was full of potsherds; the head of an animal femur which had been cut off from the shaft was also found. Beneath a level of 90 cm. it was apparently sterile but there was no marked bottom level.

The potsherds found in the mound above the bottom stratum, possibly including a few from the bottom, were mainly large, heavy and coarse, the maximum thickness at the rim. The maximum rim thickness is 37 mm. the ware coarse red, irregularly and poorly baked, with gravel and sand temper, rough surface, and flat thick rims.

~~The/thinner~~^{often}
 The thinner sherds are ~~generally~~ of a buff color. The finer sherds may have come from just below the mound of stones on the surface of the lower stratum. These consist of: one hard baked, angular, smooth with red paint or slip; one similar with buff slip; one fine smooth smoked black, 4 mm. thick; one with buff exterior slip and smoked black interior; one with buff slip and red paint; and one lump of clay wattle daub.

The sherds from the stratum below the mound of stones consisted of both thick and thin ware. Some of the thick sherds were even thicker than those found above, generally with rudely incised rough surface, evidently a base for the attachment of stucco finish. They have a coarse gravel temper and are poorly baked. Others have a rough but unstriated surface. Others are relatively thick but with ^{red} smooth surface and are well shaped. Some are thin red, and a number have a polished red slip. One has a smoke blackened surface, both inside and outside. Even these thin ones generally have a thin core of poorly baked black paste. A few have a surface of white paint or slip. A few well-made thin sherds are painted in designs, generally red on a buff slip. Two have designs in polished red and black. One is almost certainly an example of negative painting,

B

An excavation made for a well which was finally abandoned at a depth of about m. in the valley near the camp afforded some data on stratigraphy. (Study sherds and notes on them in other book)

Dark humus extended to a slight depth, beneath which was found red buff sandy clay. No potsherds were found above 25 cm. below the surface, but from this depth to that of 130 cm. they were relatively frequent and uniformly distributed. At this depth there is a layer of small irregular limestone lumps of rather uniform size, probably a floor or plaza level. Potsherds are more frequent in this stratum and just above it. These latter are probably in situ where they fell, those in the strata above probably washed in from higher levels. No sherds were found beneath this apparent floor level.

The sherds from the bottom level are mainly thin and fine, often painted red ware. The thinnest, of 3 to 5 mm., have fine incised decoration. Others are painted with dark red and black on an orange slip. The surfaces are often polished red and polished smudged (?) black. The smoked black surfaces are generally on somewhat thicker ware, but ware of fine grade, well shaped and smooth. However one piece of coarse dark ware with rough surface for stucco, like much found in the upper levels, was found.

The sherds from known higher levels, taken out of the sides of the well, show little variation; both thin fine and coarse thick ware were being found. ^{Two} ~~One~~ with ~~a~~ black (smoked ?) surface ^{were} ~~was~~ found at ~~a depth of~~ depths of 65 and 85 cm., a painted sherd at 75 cm., coarse ware throughout. Sherds from unknown levels, most of them probably from in or near the floor, were of similar types but mainly thick, ranging from a thin painted sherd 4 mm thick to coarse ones with broad rims which measured 15 to 33 mm across. The thinnest one has a white exterior slip and a smoked black interior. The thin ware is fine grained and of sandy paste, the surfaces plain, smoked black, or with red and black paint. Some of the thicker ones are also of a good paste, some fine and well-shaped with solid black or smoked black surface. But most of the thicker ones are coarse with a rough red surface and black unbaked cores. Among them were also found ^{amorphous} several lumps of red clay, apparently sun-baked. ^{Two} ~~Several~~ of these had channeled impressions on their sides and were almost certainly mud daub which was applied to wattle construction of walls or ceilings of houses. A cylindrical object like the arm of a figurine was also found.

A test excavation was made in the bottom of a small ravine at the base of the steep slope at the southwest end of the west court near stela 40. (Study these sherds and notes upon them in other book)

The potsherds found were mainly ~~of~~ thick and from large coarse vessels. The binder was apparently of pounded stone. A minority were of thin, smooth, rather hard-baked ware, 4 to 6 mm. thick, a fine grained red or buff sandy ware, sometimes with a fine gravel binder. One was painted with red, white and black, and some seem to have a smoked black surface. The thicker sherds, up to 15 mm in thickness, are coarser and not so well baked with black cores. More sand and large bits of gravel are found in the paste. These have no paint or slip, and the surfaces are often rough. The surface is often in rude coarse incised lines, generally parallel; this was probably not for decorative purposes, but for ~~the~~ a covering of stucco. One lug or foot was found.

West Point

no copy made of pages 1-5

6/

D

11 objects of ~~shells~~ pink and white marine bivalves shells

two of which are carved and incised in human form and

two others incised with ornamental designs.

3 natural shells of univalve molluscs, one apparently fossil.

9 fragments of the spine of the sting^uray

1 phalangeal animal bone

Many bones and vertebrae of a small animal

8 pieces of green stone, probably quartzite and jadeite

2 pieces of jade in shaped forms

3 other light colored stones

1 small discoidal piece of pyrite with shiny surface

2 irregular pieces of pyrite crystal

1 crescentic ornament of flaked and chipped flint.

Altar 2 is at a considerable distance southwest of altar 1 and near the group of stelae 9, 10 and 11. It is also further from the foot of the terrace than altar 1. (Maler ~~plate~~ p. 54, ~~55~~ fig. 22; Exp. photos 73, 141) This altar is rectangular and supported on four rectangular oblong supports. One of these supports had, before Maler's time, been torn out, but the top rested secure and in original position, on the other three legs. The top was removed by the expedition (photos 157, 169-171) and the supports ~~taken~~ ^{removed} disinterred. Nothing was found buried under this altar or under the legs.

The top measures about 218 by 170 cm., the maximum thickness being about 37 cm. The upper surface is irregular and probably was originally carved, the highest parts being near the edges, especially at the short southwest edge, ~~for~~ The long edges lay practically parallel with the foot of the terrace, 23 degrees east of north magnetically, the short sides 65 degrees east of south. At the short southwest edge are three deep grooves which are continued for a distance on the upper face and down the side. The base of the top is very well finished, and the top is not cracked or broken.

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The four sides are covered with rectangular glyph blocks, but these are badly eroded and undecipherable to any but the most experienced epigrapher.¹⁵⁵ There appear to have been three bands of glyphs, but the upper band is much weathered or broken away at the upper edge. The bands and the individual glyphs are separated by straight ~~grooves~~ horizontal and vertical grooves, the vertical ones continuous across all three bands so that there is an equal number of glyphs in each band. Each band contained twenty glyphs on the longer edges, fourteen on the shorter edges, the glyphs averaging 8 cm in height and 2 in width, the diving grooved being about 3 cm wide. *Those on the shorter northeastern end seen to be arranged in pairs, the alternate vertical grooved being deeper.* Beneath the three bands of glyphs, at the lower border of the top, is a plain band about 3.5 cm wide. Through this border, in the alternate vertical grooves, diagonal holes have been cut from the side to the bottom of the top. Most of these holes have been worn or broken through. There are eleven of these on the longer faces, eight on the short faces. The vertical grooves which contain these holes are slightly deeper than the alternate ones, causing the glyphs to fall into pairs, the method in which glyphs are normally read; this feature

is especially noticeable on the north^{east}~~west~~ side. According to Dr Morley, the inscription commences at the southern corner. On the southwest short face, the three deep grooves already noted which were made on the top are unrelated to the glyphs and damage the glyphs of the upper band, probably having been added at a date later than the carving of the altar. The grooves are seen between glyphs 1 and 2, and above glyphs 6 and 10. Maler suggests that the holes at the base of the altar may have~~d~~ been for the purpose of suspending the heads of the sacrificial victims, but the evidence of the scene portrayed on lintel 3 indicates that they were used for the attachment of ornamental tassels.

The four supporting feet are of approximately equal ^zside. ~~The northern one had been torn out and lay at a considerable distance. It was reproduced by Maler in plate X (Mus. photo. 144). It measures 95 cm. in length and about 38 cm. square. All of the legs contained nine glyphs in three columns of three each, in a square space about 32 by 33 cm., the single carved face of each facing the long edges to northwest and southeast. The distance between their proximate edges was 117 cm on the longer faces and 77 cm on the shorter faces. The top may have slipped some distance on the~~

since the tops of the supports are set back from 7 to 23 cm from the edge of the top. The top was cemented to the tops of the leg with plaster of very good quality which, being protected from the elements, was in excellent condition, very hard.

The ^{eastern} ~~northern~~ leg had been torn out and lay at a considerable distance as noted by Maler who reproduced it in plate X. It measures 95 cm in length and about 38 cm. square. (photo 144). The ^{southern} ~~southern~~ leg (photo 143) was removed and found to measure 101 cm in length, of which 50 cm had been buried; it measures 35 by 38 cm in section and was braced with small stones at the base. The northern and western supports were not removed but their lengths were determined as being 95 cm long, of which 50 cm was buried, and 78 cm long, of which 35 cm was buried. The northern one (photo 145) measures 37 by 28 cm in section and the western one ^{photo 142} 38 by 30 cm. The carved face was in every case the widest. Bits of hard plaster adhering to the inner sides of the supports at ground level indicated that the original level of the floor had not changed and that the court beneath the altar, at least, was plastered; probably the entire court was also.