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S
Northwest

A PYRAMID WITHOUT TEMPLE REMAINS

(Structure R-3)

~~I~~
INTRODUCTORY

The following report covers a superficial investigation rather than the proper excavation of one of the largest and most imposing of the thirteen major pyramids at Piedras Negras. Its chief claim on our interest is the fact that, while apparently not early, but contemporary with pyramid temples, it did not support a masonry temple, and probably supported no building at all. In its final form it is to be thought of as a gigantic altar, not flat-topped. It nevertheless was furnished with carved stelae, elsewhere at this site found only on or before temple-bearing pyramids.

Three successive episodes of building have been distinguished, and others very likely lie below the shallow limits of our trenches. One of the three known periods, not the earliest, can be provisionally dated at about 9.15.0.0.0 in the Maya chronology. The danger of misinterpretation in this respect is very much reduced by the occurrence on the dated construction of four stelae marking successive hotuns, and, on the same plaza, a single line of stelae marking eight earlier successive hotuns, with a gap of only one hotun between the two series. It is unlikely that either group has been moved as whole. From this follows the improbability that any have been moved, the habit of building up a group of stelae at one spot, then soon moving to our pyramid and repeating the process, being rather well established.

The structure provides opportunity to describe a monument found and numbered "Lintel 5" by the discoverer of the city, Teobert Maler, but not illustrated by him; and to show that, while illegible, it contained a long inscription, in common with most other of the smaller monuments of the city. These have been in the past labeled "lintels" on the theory that they once spanned doorways. However, they are usually very thin, always lack suitable plain ends to give bearing on the door-jamb, and some of them disagree in other ways from known stone lintels here and elsewhere. The occurrence of "Lintel" 5 where there was no masonry temple confirms our belief that stone panels were here carved for vertical placement; and in some cases at least were not set in building walls.¹

The yield of objects was meagre, but includes items of great interest: flint knives in positions suggesting their use on the spot,

- NB: Go to end the line above notes*
1. To distinguish such stones we here add quotation marks to the term Lintel, where a stone has been already referred to as such; another has been given a number in a series of "Miscellaneous Sculptured Stones". One carved stone at Piedras Negras we ~~will~~ believe to have been a true lintel- Lintel 11.
- still*

though they may have been cached under floors; a pottery censer of unusual type, and stone "portable altar" cached at the base of a dated stela; and part of a pottery mask, besides figurines and potsherds.

Something has been learned of local methods of building up the fill or heaving, of stairway construction, and of preparing the terrace for reception of stelae.

The work on this structure was done in 1931 by the writer under Dr. J. Alden Mason, Director of the First Eldridge R. Johnson Middle American Expedition of the University Museum. The contemporary dates of monuments mentioned are according to a manuscript list very kindly furnished us by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Morley has referred to various Piedras Negras readings in various publications, but has not as yet published the full list, nor his detailed discussions of particular inscriptions.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Structure J-3 is a "false" pyramid built against the southwesterly corner of the Acropolis hill, facing the end of the long West Group Plaza where it gives place to lower levels between it and the river. It was ascended by exterior flights of stairs placed over the terraced front facade. The pyramid faces about ~~nineteen~~ ^{nineteen} degrees south of east. Looking to the front from the platform which surmounts it there is a commanding view over the West and South Groups with much of the Southeast Group plainly visible beyond. To the left most of the East Group is in view, with the pyramidal temple K-5 of the West Group at the extreme left. A little to the right the river curves out of sight beyond the Sacrificial Rock.

Looking out from the left side of the structure, Court 1 lies in full view almost immediately below, with the pyramidal temple, Structure J-4, rising beyond, the stone temple on its summit being at about eye level. Besides the three palaces associated with Court 1, (Structures J-2, J-6 and J-8,) the two on the easterly sides of Courts 2 and 3, (Structures J-9 and J-18,) are close at hand on the left, the first considerably below, the latter about on the eye level. The relations of all these buildings are shown on the general plan of the city.²

To the rear and to the right precipitous bedrock drops to the surface of the river, about 80 m. below at low water. The location is an imposing one, except from the northwest, where the pyramid abuts upon a still higher portion of the Acropolis.

- NB: Better without the line →
2. Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers, No. 1, 1933; in small scale in Preliminary Paper No. 4, 1935; and to appear in large scale in Morley's "Inscriptions of Peten", Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington. For the sake of consistency, throughout the description, where not otherwise indicated, "left" and "right" are those of a person facing the same way as the structure.

Considering the Acropolis as a whole, the mass and form of this pyramid balances that of J-4 at the other end of that group of buildings, and takes full advantage of the steeply rising hill to gain an imposing height with a minimum of labor. Its full height (30 m.) is seen only from the front. Seen from the rear it is only about 6 m. high. Seen from the platform terrace J-5 on its left, its height is about 15.50 m. The greatest impression of height is to be had on its right (river) side, but practically all of this side is natural bedrock, carved to a steep slope by the river.

Maler discovered "Lintel" 5 on the slopes of this pyramid and reported the partial remains of a rear apartment still standing and we naturally expected to find a stone temple at the top. While excavation on the top was not complete, there is no doubt that the pyramid proper served to support only a solid platform which is more or less integral with it, indicated in plan and section in Plate 1, A and C, and in section again in Plate 11, A; with the possibility but hardly probability that there was a perishable building on this. This platform is approximately rectangular, measuring about 10 m. in length and about 6.75 m. in width. It is not flat-topped. Rows of roughly squared stones resting directly on the fill, each row parallel with the front and being a little higher than the row before it, suggest rather conclusively that the top of this platform consisted of a series of broad low steps rising to a final and rear level measuring only about 1.75 m. from front to rear. All signs of concrete flooring had long since disappeared, doubtless because there was no temple debris to protect them.

The lines of stones could not be traced clear to the sides, nor for equal distances. They were undoubtedly partially obliterated by tree roots and possibly there were others which were entirely so. The levels of those found, however, seem to rule out the hypothesis that the front part of the platform was

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The lines of stones could not be traced clear to the sides, nor for equal distances. They were undoubtedly partially obliterated by tree roots and possibly there were others which were entirely so. The levels of those found, however, seem to rule out the hypothesis that the front part of the platform was really a stairway with very broad treads of approximately equal widths. The measurements indicate, from front to rear, four steps or levels having "treads" of about 80, 180, 140 and 90 cms. depth, respectively, (front to rear measurements) and each about 30 cms. high, leading to the rear level at the top, which as stated is only about 1.75 m. in depth.

The height of this rear portion of the platform, 30.18 m., is the height used above for the pyramid as a whole. The height reached by the main front stairway, which rises to the ninth terrace, is just short of 26 m., and this perhaps should be taken as the height of the pyramid proper, when comparing it with others which support temples on their summits.

The front and side walls of the surmounting platform, at least in its original form, were vertical. This was almost certainly true of

3. Teobert Maler, *Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumacinta Valley*, Peabody Museum Memoirs, Vol. 2, No.1, p. 55, Cambridge, 1901.

✓ the original rear wall, but in the latest form the rear wall is battered, and a battered wall was placed against the right (southwest) wall. ~~We f~~
 We failed to make this out on the left side but it may have been present.

The front wall is set 5.45 m. back from the edge of the ninth terrace and its top is 2.90 higher. Apparently a stairway, completely ruined and of uncertain width, led from the ninth terrace up to the front and lowest level or "step" of the platform. The debris here included stones suitable for steps and underneath is a solid earth and stone fill (Plate II, A). This stairway probably passed over a tenth terrace or subsidiary platform which we show in broken lines on the plan. (Plate I, A). The evidence for this is the floor running under the fill and under the front platform wall, numbered (4), in the section, Plate II, A, and the level of the terrace wall at the rear, which is marked (8) on the same section.

The pyramid proper, disregarding the platform at the top with its vertically walled tenth terrace, just described, consists of nine terraces, numbered from the bottom up. A glance at the plan shows that most of these, due to the location on a steep hillside, had to be built only at the front and to a varying extent at the sides. Only the ninth and the somewhat problematical tenth extend around the rear.

As found, the structure was a mere mound. We failed to find walls of the eighth, ninth or tenth terraces in position on the left (Northeasterly) side though we penetrated to pure rock fill. Remnants of these three are in place on the other side. At the front the fourth to ninth terraces were in fair condition under the stairway, and for two or three meters on either side, at which points they had completely fallen. While our excavations at these levels included only the stairway and strips two or three meters wide on either side, further excavation would probably have yielded nothing more in position.

We cleared but little on the first terrace. The second, which carried Stelae 9, 10, 11 and 40, was cleared from end to end, from the front to a line coinciding with that of the bottom step of the main stairway rising from it. We followed the side walls of this stairway back to the third terrace wall with trenches about three meters wide. We could have followed this terrace wall farther to either side, but did not, and the debris covering the rear of this broad second terrace may still contain something of interest.

The first terrace is subsidiary to the second. The latter is longer and very much deeper than any of the others, and served to support the four stelae mentioned. This second terrace appears to be not quite symmetrical with those above. Comparison with the stelae-bearing terrace J-1 at the other end of the Acropolis lends additional evidence for disassociating it from the rest of the pyramid from the point of view of design. It is about 49 m. long and 7.70 m. deep, except where the stairway rising from it projects forward 3.70 m. from the third terrace wall.

The length of the third terrace as restored is about 45 m., that of the ninth 25 m., the others being restored to correspond. These

dimensions are consistent with the contours of the debris and bedrock, but are by no means accurate.

The terraces were not of uniform height, nor of uniform character. The first is decidedly higher than the second, but the fourth is about a meter higher than the third. Above this the differences are small, possibly within our margin of error. Measured heights from floor to floor, beginning with the first and lowest, were 3.71 m., 2.63 m., 3.03 m., 4.26 m., 2.54 m., 2.60 m., 2.27 m., 2.30 m., and 2.65 m. At the front the floor of the supposed tenth terrace or subsidiary platform was 1.40 m. above the floor of the ninth terrace. At the rear it is a little higher and was further increased by a secondary floor contemporary with the final battered rear wall of the platform above. (See section, Plate II, A.)

The height of the final platform above the front level of the perhaps hypothetical tenth terrace is 1.50 m. at the front, 2.79 m. at the rear. That is, the rear and highest level of the platform is about 1.30 m. higher than the front.

The depths (front to rear dimensions) of all the terraces except the second and the ninth vary somewhat, but are all about 2 m. The depth of the ninth was perhaps greater, but could not be measured.

All our excavations on this building were made during the 1931 season, and measurements were with Brunton compass, a small tripod level, tape, meter stick and flexible leveling rod. They are subject to the error inherent in these types of instruments, but where we have checked similar measurements with the transit the error has seldom been more than one or two decimeters or, in the case of bearings, one degree. Plate I was drawn by Mr. Fred P. Parris, the excavated details being based on notes of the writer. The writer is entirely responsible for Plate II.

The retaining walls of the first and second terraces are slightly battered at the top and were not excavated to their bottoms. That of the third is vertical at the bottom, battered at the top; that of the fourth is battered at the bottom and (where preserved under the stairway) continues at the same inclination to the top; that of the fifth is battered at the bottom and curves back still further at the top; the walls of the sixth and seventh are vertical, probably to the full height, as indicated under the stairway; that of the eighth is battered, and that of the ninth battered with an extra in-curve at the top.

The lowest flight of the stairway rises from the West Group Plaza to the second terrace, passing over the first. Excavations here were slight, but the debris indicates its width as about 11.50 m., slightly less than that of the second and main flight. This lower flight rises about 6.34 m., receding about 9 m. in the process, giving an angle of ascent of approximately 35 degrees above horizontal. It was in a badly ruined state.

The second flight was well preserved at the bottom, having the four lowest steps in position (Plate 3, A, B and C) and is here 13.50 m. wide. It rises full width to the top of the sixth terrace. Although the steps above the fourth were completely fallen, this was definitely

established by the positions of remnants of the vertical side retaining walls. These were found at the left (northeasterly side) on the second, third and fifth terraces; and at the right on the second, fourth and fifth terraces. The side retaining walls found on the fifth terrace obviously carried the stairway to the surface of the next or sixth terrace. On the sixth and higher terraces all traces of stairway side walls had disappeared. We could determine the approximate width of this higher portion by noting where the terrace retaining walls still rose to some height - they are always better preserved under the protecting debris of stairways - and especially by noting where the deposit on the terraces ceased to be obviously fallen debris and gave way to artificial rock fill. These two criteria gave consistent results on the sixth, seventh and eighth terraces, on both sides, and indicate the restored width, about half that of the lower portion.

We have restored the lower and wider portion as continuous with the narrower upper portion. If it was in reality a separate flight the sixth terrace must have been made deeper at the center than at the sides by a now fallen addition. But since the plane of ascent of the lower portion of the stairway, as indicated by the four steps in position at the bottom, just clears the front edge of the sixth terrace as found, we believe our restoration is correct. The angle of ascent for the whole flight, which we have sometimes called the "main stairway", is about 45 degrees above horizontal, the flight rising about 19.65 m. and receding toward the rear about 18 m. The risers of the lower four steps are about 22 cms. in height, the width of the treads about the same.

There was no satisfactory evidence remaining to give the width or the size of the steps of the final flight leading to the top platform. Its angle of ascent was probably a little more gentle than that of the main flight below.

There were some uncertain hints of minor stairways leading down from the right (southwesterly) side of the platform to a triangular projection of bedrock to the right and somewhat forward of the platform. The surface of this projection had been leveled off artificially at about the level of the fifth terrace.

At either end of the four preserved lower steps were stones in position which can hardly be anything else than the last vestiges of balustrades. Their width was definitely 50 cms., the outer sides being continuous with the side retaining walls of the stairway. Of their height we can say no more than that they were high enough to more than clear the front edges of the steps. We have no data showing their presence or absence on the upper part of this flight, nor on the other flights.

Against the right corner of this flight a small low rectangular platform or altar was placed on the second terrace, so that its front face was continuous with the front and lower end of the balustrade (Plan, Plate I, A and Plate III, A). This construction was 60 cms. wide, 75 cms. long, and not less than 40 cms. high. We may have destroyed higher courses without realizing it.

The terraces and the main or second flight of the stairway were without doubt covered with plaster, remnants being found on the lower steps. In all probability there was considerable ornamental stucco work. Disintegrated mortar covered the entire second terrace, underlying stone debris everywhere, showing that it had washed down before the structure itself began to crumble. In the deposit were a few heavy sherds with stucco adhering. Sherds were extensively used in building up stucco designs on Structure J-2⁴, and the same use may be inferred here. The bulk of such stucco work would be expected on the terraces at the sides of the stairway, where our excavations on the rear of the terrace are incomplete.

The deposit of plaster or stucco debris rises from a few centimeters depth at the front to 50 cms. in depth in the angle between the stairway and terrace walls, on the left (northeast) side. Here it was gray in color. In the corresponding corner at the other side the depth was 1.50 m. and the color a light yellow. This latter deposit extends almost to the southwesterly end of the terrace, over 20 m. distant. Actual fragments of ornamental stucco work, of the same color, were found near the outer end of this deposit, and also in debris at levels corresponding to the seventh and eighth terraces. There was evidently much more stucco decoration on the right or southwesterly side than on the left, and possibly there was here a separate or subsidiary structure.

A puzzling feature of the rock fill below the surface of the rear and highest level of the platform at the top is that it is permeated by a fine yellow powder, presumably disintegrated plaster or stucco. The stones rest one on the other, as in pure rock fills, and we are not dealing with a mortar and rubble fill. Perhaps the plaster was washed down from large stucco designs on the upper level with all traces washed away near the surface. More probably this mortar is debris from an earlier period and found its way into the fill for the latest.

PERIODS OF BUILDING

Our excavations were too superficial to show whether or not the pyramid is placed over entirely buried earlier structures, but they were sufficient to show extensive remodeling.

The cross-section in Plate II, B, shows the situation revealed by trenching into the center of the stairway leading up from the second terrace. Behind the latest steps is a structural wall which is very crude with the exception of the lowest stones. These are well squared and laid, and form the bottom step of an earlier stairway, 1.25 m. behind the later one. The second step of this early stairway had been torn out in building the structural wall, but the third, fourth and fifth, though considerably displaced, were found in approximate position. These

4. Piedras Negras Preliminary Paper No. 3, p.9, Philadelphia, 1935.

were set in a sloping surface of solid earth and stone fill, laid on pure rock fill, and there was no question about the existence of an earlier stairway.

An extremely hard concrete floor begins at this earlier lowest step and runs forward to a rather crude retaining wall marked (2) in the drawing, 4.15 m. distant. The final and later terrace wall retains broken rock fill laid against this, with nothing but humus to represent its floor, which was completely disintegrated.

Although the earlier front wall is quite crude, its association with such a different type of floor which in turn connects with the earlier stairway, leaves little doubt that it was the front terrace wall when the earlier stairway was built, or else a fill wall just behind the exposed terrace wall of the earlier period, the latter being removed for its stone during alterations.

In following this very characteristic and easily identified ^{the} hard early hard floor back to the third terrace wall, (at ~~side~~ sides of the latest main stairway) we expected it to pass under the latest to an earlier third terrace wall belonging with the earlier stairway and earlier second terrace wall. Instead, we found that it ran against the the supposedly late third terrace wall and stopped. The third terrace wall therefore served with both the earlier and the later stairways, and we have no evidence that terraces, other than the second and probably the first, were modified by additions to the front.

Since the hard floor does not run under the earlier stairway at the front, but just meets it, it must be contemporary with it. We may assume that since it did not run under the early steps at the center, neither did it pass under the side walls of the earlier stairway. It does pass under the side walls as well as under the steps of the later stairway. It is therefore highly probable that the earlier stairway was not so wide and that its side walls lie buried under the later. We did not realize this at the time, or we would have trenched laterally to examine their construction. Before the remodeling the second terrace was 6.60 m. wide (front to rear dimension), and the earlier stairway, which was not so wide as the later, projected out upon it for a distance of 2.45 m.

Considering the fact that the angle of ascent of the latest stairway is close to the maximum observed elsewhere, and that the base of the earlier one is set 1.25 further to the rear, one would expect that an earlier series of terraces, placed a corresponding distance to the rear, ~~and~~ had been buried by a later. But we have seen that this was not so, at least in the case of the third terrace, as proved by the associated floor. An alternative hypothesis is that the early terraces were all ~~used~~ used with the later stairway, but each ~~was~~ was then raised to a greater height. Possibly the variations in slope of the third, fifth and ninth terrace walls (See Plate 1, C) result from such additions. We did not investigate this point as we should have done. The postulate requires buried earlier floors within each terrace. There was none in the sixth terrace, which we trenched to a depth of nearly two meters.

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 deep ✓

The platform at the top was almost certainly twice enlarged, in each case by additions at the rear and not at the front; but each addition very probably extended around to the sides. The evidence for this is set out in Plate 11, A. The wall at the left in this drawing, marked (1), is the upper part of the eighth, and that marked (2) is the wall of the ninth terrace of the pyramid. Those marked (3) and (5) are crude fall walls, exposed only during the period of construction. The wall marked (4) is the original as well as the final front wall of the platform. The buried wall to the rear marked (6) is of the same character as (4), and we suppose it to be a remnant of the original rear wall of the platform, which was thus 4.75 m. deep (front to rear). The two remaining courses of the wall marked (7) are also of the same general character, apparently marking an increase in platform depth to 6 m. Both of these rear walls were partially removed before the platform was enlarged to its third and final form, when the depth was increased to about 6.65 m. at the top, and, because of the batter of the final rear wall, to about 7.70 m. at the bottom.

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The upper surface arrangement as found bears no relation to these buried rear walls and we can say nothing regarding the surface in the earlier periods. It is quite possible that a suitable base for a temple was then present. It is difficult to imagine any building, even of perishable materials, on the stepped surface in the final period.

~~STELAE~~

STELAE

Four stelae, Nos. 9, 10, 11, and 40, were originally placed on the long and deep second terrace, far below the summit, but well above the West Group Plaza floor itself. Stelae 10 and 11, now lie more or less over the first terrace, approximately below and in front of their original positions. Stela 9 lies on the second terrace, close to its base, from which it has been broken. Stela 40 was found by Drs. Morley and Ricketson close to plaza level and was removed to Philadelphia by Dr. Mason in 1932.

✓ sa

When erect, Stela 9 was placed before the second or main stairway, but somewhat to the right of its center axis; Stelae 10 and 11 stood far to the left of the stairway. The cists of these monuments are shown on the plan, Plate 1, A, in broken lines because below floor level, not because they were not found intact. Stela 40 lay a few meters to the right (southwest) of the lower stairway. It could not have been placed to the left of Stela 9, originally, unless very much farther forward, as the hard floor is there unbroken. We failed to find its cist to the right of Stela 9, but did find a disturbed area. There is little doubt that Stela 40 was placed four or five meters to the right of Stela 9, and about in line with it, a position consistent with the location in which it was found. The exact original position being unknown, it is not shown on the plan.

The arrangement of these four stelae is decidedly asymmetrical with reference to the pyramid and its great stairway, but is in balancing groups of two. The dates as read by Morley indicate that the two

stelae of the left group were erected before the two of the right group, the lack of symmetry being very marked at first, but corrected somewhat, later on. This is essentially the same sequence, so far as it goes, as in the series of eight monuments (Stelae 1 to 8) on a similar terrace before Structure J-3, a pyramid temple at the other end of the same plaza. A clearer picture of the arrangement of monuments will result if we reverse our point of view and look at them from the plaza. Morley pointed out to the writer that, if we number the positions of these stelae from left to right, the first four positions successively filled were 6, 8, 2 and 4. These readings give first a pair to the right of the center of the final group (and near the end of the terrace, which is very long), then a pair to the left of the center of the group, in that case maintaining open positions between each stela, which were later filled. Here on J-3, numbering positions in the same manner, the sequence is 3, 4, 2 and 1.

The stelae have been illustrated elsewhere⁵, and will be further dealt with by Dr. Morley in his forthcoming "Inscriptions of Peten". The hitherto unlocated base of Stela 9 was found in its cist. This adds to the feet of two figures on the front, the lowest flyph-blocks of each side in side inscription and parts of two more of the left side inscription to the body of Piedras Negras stone art and inscriptions.

In Plate IV, D, is a rear view of this stela base, in position as found, but with the cist cleared out. Behind the monument the hard terrace floor was raised about 10 cms. to form a small rectangular platform or dais running against it back. See also Plate III, C, at the extreme left. This probably surrounded the stone, but front and sides were dug out before its presence was noted. The dais was of the same hard concrete as the older portion of the terrace floor, which we have connected with the buried stairway. But it cannot be said to be co-extensive with the floor, for the rear part, which overlaps the floor slightly, is a line of stone slabs (See cross section, Plate 11, C.) Certainly the dais was constructed after the stela had been placed and therefore after the front addition to the terrace, which was not hard surfaced, but into which the cist extends,

The stela base as found was twisted so as to face a little to the right of front. This could easily have occurred when it was broken. But the rear of the dais is correspondingly askew. There are one or two similar inconclusive hints of stelae facing not quite to the front elsewhere in the city.

"LINTEL" 5

"Lintel" 5, discovered and briefly mentioned by Maler⁶, is shown

5. Stelae 9, 10 and 11 are described by Maler, *op.cit.* pp. 55-58 and pictured in plates 18, 19 and 20, respectively. Stela 40 is illustrated by Mason in the University Museum Bulletin, Vol.5 No.2, Philadelphia, March, 1934; and in "Maya Sculptures Rescued from the Jungle", Bulletin of the Pan American Union, Washington, February, 1934.

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"LINTEL" 5

"Lintel" 5, discovered and briefly mentioned by Maler⁶, is shown in Plate IV, C. Its width is 158 cms. and its height 120 cms. Despite the large size, the thickness is only about 10 cms. at the top; at the bottom the thickness is 13 to 15 cms. The maximum relief is about 30 mm. (on the body of the principal figure), the minimum about 5 mm. (on the glyphs). The edges are nicely worked and curve in from front to back, giving one of the corners a carinated form. This cross-section of the edges is very much more marked on "Lintel" 12, as yet unpublished. The borders are only 5 to 7 cms wide, making its use as a lintel all but impossible.

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 without doubt rested on the ground before him. There is here also the remnant of a breech breech-cloth reaching nearly to the ankles. Maler reported captives before the principal figure, but there is space for only one at the most, the pieces belonging here being missing. There is relief behind the figure, within the frame of the design, which may indicate another figure there, or perhaps the remains of a column of glyphs, as on "Lintel" 4.

There were columns of glyphs above, 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 block spaces each, indicating an Initial Series to be read straight down as on "Lintels" 2, 3, and 7. The inscription then seems to run into small glyphs, but it is here badly eroded and it is safer to assume there were six large glyphs, thus allowing for an Introducing Glyph. Further on the size of the glyphs is clearly about 75 mm. square. On the above assumption and considering only areas certainly devoted to glyphs, the inscription contained not less than one hundred and thirty glyph-blocks, large and small. Ninety-eight of these can be individually made out. The hopelessly eroded area at the right lower corner (facing the stone) provides space for twelve more, giving a probable length for the principal inscription of one hundred and forty-two glyph-blocks. There are indications of two more blocks behind the head and almost certainly there were six additional ones in front of the staff or spear.

It may be of interest to compare the length of this inscription with those of others on supposed "lintels", since on definitely known lintels of the Usumacinta region long inscriptions are absent, or are spread over a series of stones from the same building.⁷

6. Teobert Maler, op. cit., p.55.

7. "Lintels" 1, 2, 4, and 6 are illustrated by Maler, op. cit., Plates 30, 31, 32 and Fig. 26 respectively; "Lintel" 3 by Mason in University Museum Bulletin, Vol. 3 No.1, November, 1931; "Lintels" 3 and 12 again by Mason in National Geographic Magazine, Vol.48, No.5, November, 1935.

"Lintel 11" we believe was a true lintel, being thick, having a long plain butt on the known end, and being found in the doorway of a temple (Structure 3-3). If a lintel, its inscription consisted of thirty-two large blocks. "Lintel" 6 we eliminate, since it has neither carved inscription nor design, but merely an incised abstract figure.

Of the remaining stones which we believe have been mistakenly labelled lintels, only five are complete. "Lintel" 2 has one hundred and six and six glyphs; "Lintel" 3 has one hundred and fifty-eight; "Lintel" 4 has seventy-nine; "Lintel" 12 has sixty-six.

We have many of the fragments of "Lintel" 7, which measured about 1.10 m. by 1.40 m. Sixty-eight glyphs are present, and the total was probably over one hundred.

Two stones, "Lintels" 8 and 13 apparently had short inscriptions. Both are unusually small. Much of each has been lost.

Three "lintels" are known only by single small fragments, "Lintels" 1, 9 and 10, the last two bearing small glyphs.

Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone No. 13 is very similar to "Lintels" 2, 4, and 5 in the arrangement of its design. Though much smaller than any of those, its inscription ran to at least eighty small blocks.

We do not have the ends of "Lintel" 13. The end borders on all the other stones considered above are very narrow, like our "Lintel" 5, except for Lintel 11, where thickness and position call for a true lintel function; they are also relatively thin, except for two - "Lintels" 7 and 12.

"Lintel" 5 thus belongs to a species of carved slab at Piedras Negras characterized in general by long inscriptions of small glyphs, and by the absence of plain ends suitable for mounting on doorjambs for use as lintels. Since true carved stone lintels seem to be all but absent at the city, the presence of this stone on a pyramid without a temple raises no presumption that it was moved here from elsewhere.

Maler reports and pictures a "lintel" with narrow borders and a 113-block inscription at the small and nearby site El Cayo.⁸ It seems not to have been reported from further afield.

If the positions in which we found the fragments are near or below those in which Maler found them, as seems likely, "Lintel" 5 was probably set in the wall of the seventh, eighth or ninth terrace, a little to the left (northeast) of the narrower upper portion of the main stairway. All but the lowest courses of these walls are fallen at these points. If this is correct the stone was in a sense at the head of the lower and wider portion of the main stairway.

8. Maler, op. cit., Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 89 and Pl. 35.

OBJECTS

Scattered on the second terrace forward of yet close to the base of the second flight of steps, or "main" stairway, were found the whole or broken parts of sixteen large chert knives. Two are shown in Plate V, D. Several of these were well above the terrace floor; but all were in the deposit of disintegrated plaster or stucco and under the layer of stone debris. A small section of a long bone, almost certainly part of a human tibia, was found in the same deposit and general location, in that case behind Stela 9. The presence of these objects in the plaster wash, and near the center rather than the sides of the stairway, below and not mixed with the stone debris, makes it very probable that they had been left somewhere on the surface of the stairway, and had not been cached under it. A small portion of a seventeenth knife was found in the stairway debris, 1 m. to the left of center at about the level of the fourth terrace, suggesting that all may have fallen from this or higher levels, possibly from the top.

These knives possibly may furnish a hint of human sacrifice. But the knives appear large for the purpose. A portion of one is 28.5 cms. long and 6 cms. wide, and it is incomplete. The longest complete example however is only 27.5 cms. long. Thicknesses average about 2 cms., though one is 4.4 cms. thick. These knives, so far as known, are all more or less leaf-shaped, but are not sharply pointed. An example of each appears in the plate. The form differs from that of a number of thick short flaked knives or celts found near Altar 5, a stone table, at the base of the stairway of Pyramid Temple O-13. Those are pointed at one end, rounded at the other. The material, a poor, thickly patinated, bluish gray flint or chert, is the same in both cases.

Buried at the bottom of the cist of Stela 9, against the extreme left of the front face of its base, to the right of an observer facing the stela was a crudely tooled stone drum, diameter 20 cms., height 10 cms. The flat top is much smoother than sides and bottom, and bears a number of scratches such as would result from the cutting of objects placed upon it. Possibly it was originally used as a very small sacrificial round altar. A similar stone was found in the center of the cist of Stela 11, and another was placed against the center of the front face of the base of Stela 8, at the bottom of its cist on the stela terrace of Structure J-4. The latter is shown in Plate V, C. Half of still another small stone drum, a little larger, was buried in or under the floor of the rear room of Temple O-13. That example (Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 1) bears in relief the Initial Series 9.10.6.(5).(9). The bracketed uinals and kins represent missing glyph-blocks as restored with a question mark by Dr. Morley. The scratches on the upper surface were noted only on the stone from the Stela 9 cist.

Two similar stone drums have been found on the floors of small buildings on low substructures, and have been called "portable altars". One of those showed a shallow irregular depression in its top, and its sides were painted red, the top being without color.

A rounded piece of pumice stone was found in the floor of the eighth terrace, northeast of the stairway.

Placed against the center of the base of Stela 9, at the very bottom, like the stone drum or altar, was the spiked pottery incense burner shown in Plate V, A.⁹ It was in all probability set squarely on its base, but was found tilted slightly forward, probably by the later corresponding tilt of the stela base. (See section, Plate II, C). The cover was approximately in place. The heavy broken rocks used to support the stela in the cist had been so placed around and over the censer that even after the shifting of the stela, it was but little damaged.

There are no perforations in the bowl, which has a deep ring base. The diameter of the rim is 16 cms., the height 8 cms. The neck of the cover is hollow, forming a sort of chimney about 1.8 cms. in diameter. The diameter of the rim is 17 cms. the total height 10 cms. From this orifice, at the top, four wide shallow grooves extend to the outer edges of the "chimney", in the form of a cross. The top of an exactly similar "chimney" was found in the debris over the fourth terrace, to the left (northeast) of the stairway.

Under the high floor running into the lowest of the terraces at the rear of the pyramid, corresponding in general to the level of terrace ^{nine} at the front, was found an extremely heavy thick portion of a vessel, probably a censer. It indicates a deep ring base, the body (or the base) pierced by holes or slots. There is enough remaining to suggest large cruciform perforations.

Figurines and sherds recovered in and about this building, have been considered in the paper on the ceramics of the city, by Miss Butler, already cited. Six pottery figurines or fragments were found. One was in the plaster wash on the second terrace, and another in the stone debris over this wash; one was in the debris at the rear of the pyramid, and two were in the debris on the ninth terrace, at the front. A sixth was recorded as in a floor, but at a level which would place it between the eighth and ninth terrace floors. This was probably also in debris. All may be regarded as probably, but not certainly, post-dating the erection of the pyramid.

A pottery mask is represented by part of the nose, and most of the half-open mouth and chin, and is shown in profile in Plate V, B, in full face in Plate 14, Fig. 10 of Miss Butler's paper. It is somewhat less than life size. There seem to be no remaining traces of slip or paint. It was found above the second terrace floor in the angle between the right (southwesterly) side of the stairway and the third terrace wall. Notes fail to specify whether it was in the plaster wash, or above in the layer of stone debris.

9. Also illustrated by Mary Butler in Piedras Negras Preliminary Paper No. 4, 1935, Plate 6, Fig. 18; and see p. 15. The bowl is of the same form as modern Lacandone incense burners but lacks the applied face and perforations; while they are not supplied with covers, or spikes.

Potsherds were encountered which may be assigned to a date prior to the final stage of building, and there are others which may date from before or after that time. In the first category are sherds from under the second terrace floor; in the Stela 9 cist, in the stairway fill on the eighth terrace and under the floor at the rear of the Pyramid. A few sherds encountered in clearing the empty cists of Stelae 10 and 11 may or may not have found their way there at the time the stelae were erected. The sherds with stucco adhering probably came from stucco decoration applied to the terraces. Sherds were found in the debris on the front of the pyramid at various levels, and on the ninth terrace, at the front. Sherds were not found in groups, nor associated with other objects. The ruin of the pyramid was so complete, however, that sub-floor caches may have been made and subsequently scattered.

Some of the sherds are decorated, both painting and incision being represented. Only those under the second terrace floor can be dated with reasonable certainty as prior to the date of the earliest stela on the terrace (9.15.0.0.0).

The recovered fragments of stucco have been mentioned above. There are only one or two giving information as to the type of designs involved, and these will be considered with examples from other buildings in a later paper.

DATE

✓ 9
 The dates of stelae 11, 9, and 10 as read by Dr. Morley are 9.15.0.0.0, 0.15.5.0.0, and 9.15.10.0.0, respectively. The cists for all three were built partially in the later front addition to the second terrace. The date of Stela 40 marks the next hotun ending, 9.15.15.9.15.15.0.0. We did not find the cist for this, but we can say from a careful examination of the hard 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, toward the end of Katun 15. It seems a reasonable guess that at the same time the new main stairway was built and possibly the first or second addition was then made to the platform at the top.

According to Morley the earliest dated monument in the West Group is Stela 39, 9.12.5.0.0, 11 hotuns (about 55 years) earlier than Stela 11. It is quite possible that even before the remodeling, and beginning of stela erection in the West Group. Structure J-3 was not in its earliest form. We are probably safe in assuming that the West Group Plaza and the Acropolis were in use for some time before the inhabitants began erecting stelae here instead of in the South Group, where the earliest dates are found. Consistent with such a hypothesis is the presence of Structure J-6-2nd on the nearby Court 1 of the Acropolis, which was partially torn down to make way for Structure J-6, probably about 9.17.15.0.0, only about half a century later than the supposed date of remodeling here. 10

date of remodeling here.¹⁰

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

- Walls, Floors and Fills -

The terrace walls are built of rather rough stone blocks of medium size. The original front, side, and first two rear walls of the upper platform, all vertical, are of fairly well selected and better squared blocks of medium size, though the battered rear and right walls of the latest phase were like the terrace walls.

The side retaining walls of the stairway, on the second terrace, include much longer blocks, and are superior to all the others, though still mediocre (Plate III, A, and Plate IV, B). There is more chinking in evidence here.

Terrace floors above the second presented the soft remains of mortar and crushed stone concrete. There was no remaining sign of floors on the upper platform, nor on the late addition to the second terrace. The original second terrace was floored with concrete of extreme hardness, as mentioned before. This was so hard that we wonder whether, although its elements must differ from the others, part of its hardness may not have come with time. If the builders knew what they were laying, it was a triumph of the mason's art.

Floors vary between 10 and 20 cms. in depth, and in most places rest directly on pure broken rock fill. The plaster surfaces had in all cases disappeared.

All fills observed were of pure broken rock - dry laid rubble - except under the steps of the stairways, where it was partly or completely solid earth and rock, possible remains of very poor concrete.

The pure broken rock fills are for the most part of fairly large and heavy stones. The crude sloping "wall" marked (5) on the cross section of the upper platform (Plate II, A) illustrates an interesting practice in fill construction, much more plainly demonstrated by Dr. Mason under Structure K-5-2nd. This wall consists of ordinary and extremely irregular broken rocks, and shows that the fill behind it was laid up before that in front, and with a fairly regular sloping face. This may have been designed to give added strength, or may result from a task system or some unknown cause. A similar constructional wall was encountered in the fill of the addition to the second terrace

10. Since this was written a total of five building periods, some of them subdivided into separate episodes, have been established in Court 1. This raises a strong presumption that our pyramid J-3 is now known only in its latest periods. Burial levels have appeared in pyramids R-3, O-13 and K-5, the latter on this plaza.

was encountered in the fill of the late addition to the second terrace, running from the old to the new front wall.¹¹

- Stairways -

The lowest steps of the stairway on the second terrace show the method of building the steps. The treads are slabs, as in some other cases, but quite thick and fairly well squared. (Plate III, B). Each extends under the next riser, thus binding the steps together. At the front they are supported by one or two small slabs laid flat. The whole rests on a solid earth and stone fill, which possibly may have had some slight admixture of mortar. This construction is shown in cross-section in Plate II, B.

The most interesting feature of this stairway is the fact that special supporting retaining walls were built under and behind the solid fill. Part of that on the second terrace is shown in the above mentioned drawing, and in the photograph, Plate IV, A. The steps and fill placed against it appear at the left of the trench. Similar walls were found in position over the fourth, fifth and eighth terraces, and are shown in cross-section in Plate I, B. They are very crude, but superior to the mere "fill" walls described above. They are true walls and show a tendency to curve back toward the top, probably so that they could be carried fairly high. The curve is not due to subsequent bulging. That over the fourth terrace nearly meets the wall of the fifth. There is little doubt that these walls are in addition to the terrace walls, which follow through behind the stairway wherever they were followed.

Excavations were not sufficient to determine whether this feature was used in the earlier stairway observed on the second terrace or not. The positions and smaller size of the blocks of that stairway, which was somewhat disturbed, suggest that the treads did not tie under the risers, as in the later stairway. This early stairway differs from the later in having only a thin layer of solid earth and stone, possibly poor mortar, to support the actual steps. This layer of solid fill is marked (3) on the cross-section (Plate II, B), which illustrates the relations involved.

- Stelae Cists -

All stelae whose methods of erection have been studied (all of them in the West Group) have a plain extension or base which was set into the terrace. To receive this a cist with rough walls was generally built below the floor-level of the terrace. The cists are

-
11. These interior constructional walls have now appeared in several other fills, and probably date from early Piedras Negras times. Although usually sloping, they are sometimes vertical.

(18)

usually built below the floor-level of the terrace. These cists are

(18)

usually approximately rectangular, except that no rear wall was built. Possibly this was omitted to assist in the erection of the stone, though the rear wall could easily have been built afterward. The cists are considerably larger than the bases of the stelae, and since they were placed in a tightly packed pure broken rock fill, their function is not entirely clear, and they may have been ceremonial rather than structural in function.

The three found on this structure are shown on the plan (Plate I, A). Only that of Stela 9 departs markedly from the rectangular form. In Plate II, C, is a cross-section from front to rear, through this cist and stela base, the latter in position as it was found. There is plenty of room about the stela, particularly in front. The space at front, sides and back of the base was filled with heavy broken rock, the same sort of construction to be found outside of the cist walls. The weight of these stones, which are angular and irregular, locks them in place. There is nothing to wash away and nothing can give unless there is a general slip of the surrounding terrace, or the stela is forced well out of equilibrium.

If the latter occurs, it is difficult to see how the cist walls would help, as they are nothing more than thin retaining walls placed against and resting on the fill. Perhaps they were built for reception of the ceremonial objects frequently, as here, but not always, found in them. However the walls do not protect the objects in any way.

The cist floors are merely a thin deposit of earth and small broken stone, possibly with a little mortar. The weight of the stelae appears to have been borne by the rock fill, without special attention to foundations, though we have not investigated this thoroughly.

REPORT ON THE TEMPLE
A PYRAMID WITHOUT TEMPLE REMAINS

(Structure B-3)

INTRODUCTORY

The following report covers an investigation ~~of~~ rather than

the proper excavation of ~~one~~ one of the largest and most imposing and important

~~The work was~~ of the thirteen pyramids at Piedras Negras. Its chief claim on

our interest is the fact that, while apparently not early, ^(but contemporary with pyramid) it did

not support a masonry temple, and probably supported no building at

^(In its final form) all. ^{nevertheless} It is to be thought of as a gigantic altar, not flat-topped. It/

was furnished with carved stelae, elsewhere at this site found only

on or before temple-bearing pyramids.

successive episodes

Three periods of building have been distinguished, and others

very likely lie below the shallow limits of our trenches. One of the

three known periods, ^(not the earliest,) can be provisionally dated at about 9.15.0.0.0

in the Maya chronology. The danger of misinterpretation in this

respect is very much reduced by the occurrence ~~of~~ on the dated

construction of four stelae marking successive hotuns, and ^{(on the same plaza,} ~~of~~ a single

earlier successive line of stelae marking the eight preceding hotuns, with a gap of only

one hotun between the two series. It is unlikely that either group

has been moved as whole. From this follows the improbability that any have been moved, the habit of building up a group of stelae at one spot, then ^(soon) moving to our pyramid, and repeating the process, being rather well established.

The structure ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ provides opportunity to describe

and numbered "Lintel 4" a monument found by the discoverer of the city, but not illustrated

Reverts, photo space
omit page numbers

temples, temples

by him; and to show that, while illegible, it contained a long inscription, in common with most other of the smaller monuments of the city. These have in the past been labeled ~~lintels~~ "lintels" on the theory that they once spanned doorways. However, they ~~ix~~ ^{usually} are very thin,

^{always} lack suitable plain ends to give bearing on the door-jamb, and / some of them

disagree in other ways from known ~~lintels~~ lintels here and elsewhere. The occurrence of "Lintel" ^{masonry} 5 where there was no / temple confirms our belief that relatively small stone panels were here carved for vertical placement; and in some cases at least not in building walls!

The yield of ~~objects~~ objects was meagre, but includes items of great interest: flints knives in positions suggesting their use on the spot, though they may have been cached under floors; a pottery censer of unusual type, ^{and stone "portable altars"} cached at the bases of - a dated stela; and part of a pottery mask, besides figurines and potsherds.

Something has been learned of local ^{building up} methods of erecting the fill or hearting, of stairway construction, and of preparing the terraces for reception of stela.

1. To distinguish such stones we here add quotation marks to the term Lintel, where a stone has been already referred to as such; another has been given a number in a series of "Miscellaneous Sculptured Stones". One carved stone at Piedras Negras we still believe to have been a true lintel - Lintel II.

(performed in 1931)

The work on this structure was ~~done~~ by the writer under ~~the direction of~~ Dr. J. Alden Mason, Director of the First ~~Expedition~~ Eldridge R. Johnson Middle American Expedition of the University Museum. The contemporary dates of monuments mentioned are according to a manuscript list very kindly furnished us by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Morley has referred to various Piedras Negras readings in various publications, but has not as yet published the full list, nor his discussions of particular inscriptions.

From here on, begin every page with a new sheet

~~A PYRAMID WITHOUT STONE TEMPLE~~

(Structure J-3)

- General Description -

Structure J-3 is a "false" pyramid built against the south-westerly corner of the Acropolis hill, facing the end of the long West Group Plaza where it gives place to lower levels between it and the river. It was ascended by exterior stairways placed over the terraced front facade. The pyramid faces about nineteen degrees south of east. Looking to the front from the platform which surmounts it there is a commanding view over the West and South Groups with much of the Southeast Group plainly visible beyond. To the left most of the East Group is in view, with the pyramidal temple K-5 of the West Group at the extreme left. A little to the right the river curves out of sight beyond the Sacrificial Rock.

Looking ^{out} from the left side of the structure, Court 1 lies in full view almost immediately below, with the pyramidal temple, Structure J-4, rising beyond, the ^{stone} temple on its summit being at about eye level. ~~Be~~
~~sides~~ ^{on the} The three palaces associated with Court 1, (Structures J-2, J-6 and J-8,) ~~are~~ ^{and} the easterly sides of Courts ¹ and ² Structures J-9 and J-18, ^(three) are close at hand on the left, the first considerably below, the latter about on the eye level. The relations of all these buildings are shown on the general plan of the city. ²

To the rear and to the right ~~the~~ precipitous bedrock ~~leads~~ drops straight down to the surface of the river, which at low water is about

² Piedras Negras Preliminary Papers, No. 1, 1933; in small scale in Preliminary Paper No. 4, 1935; and to appear in large scale in Morley's "Inscriptions of Petén", Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington.

(below at low water.)
30 m. ~~below~~

The location is an imposing one, except from the northwest, where the pyramid abuts upon a still higher portion of the Acropolis.

Considering the Acropolis as a whole, the mass and form of this pyramid balances that of J-4 at the other end of that group of buildings, and like it, takes full advantage of the steeply rising hill to gain an imposing height with a minimum of labor. Its full height (30 m.) is seen only from the front. Seen from the rear it is about 6 m. high. Seen from the platform terrace J-5 on its left, its height is about 15.50 m. The greatest impression of height is to be had on its right (river) side, but practically all of this side is natural bedrock, carved to a steep slope by the river.

~~Partial excavations by the writer during the 1931 season yielded the information given below.~~ P Maler discovered "Lintel 5" on the slopes of this pyramid and reported the partial remains of a rear apartment still standing and we naturally expected to find a stone temple at the top. While excavation on the top was not complete, there is no doubt that the pyramid proper served to support ^{only} a solid platform which is more or less integral with it, indicated in plan and section in Plate I, A and C, and in section again in Plate II, A; ^{with the possibility but hardly probability of a perishable building on this} It is approximately rectangular, measuring about 10 m. in length and about 6.75 m. in width. It is not flat-topped. Rows of roughly squared stones resting directly on the fill, each row parallel with the front and being a little higher than the row before it, suggest rather conclusively that

3 Teobert Maler, Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumacinta Valley, Peabody Museum Memoirs, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 55, Cambridge, 1901.

the top of this platform consisted of a series of broad low steps rising to a final and rear level about 1.75 m. wide.

(All signs of concrete flooring had long since disappeared, doubtless because there was no temple debris to protect it.)

The lines of stones could not be traced ^{to} the sides, nor for equal distances. They were undoubtedly partially obliterated by tree roots and possibly there were others which were entirely so. The levels of those found, however, seem to rule out the hypothesis that the front part of the platform was really a stairway with very broad treads of approximately equal widths. The measurements indicate, from front to rear, four steps or levels having "treads" of about ~~80 cms., 1.80 m., 1.40m., and .90 cm. deep~~ ^{80, 180, 140 and 90 cms. depth,} respectively, and each about 30 cms. high, leading to the rear level at the top, which as stated is only about 1.75 ~~cms. wide.~~ ^{m. in depth, front to rear.}

The height of this rear portion of the platform is the height used above for the pyramid as a whole. The height reached by the main front stairway, ^{which rises} ~~rising~~ from the second to the ninth terrace, is about 25 m. ~~and this perhaps should be taken as the height of the pyramid proper when comparing it with others which support temples on their summits.~~

The front and side walls of ^{the} ~~this~~ surmounting platform, at least in its original form, were vertical. ~~This was almost certainly true of the original rear wall, but in~~ the latest form the rear wall is battered, and a battered wall was placed against the right (southwest) wall. We failed to make this out on the left side but it may have been present.

The front wall is set 5.45 m. back from the edge of the ninth terrace and its top is 2.90 higher. Apparently a stairway, completely ruined and of uncertain width, led from the ninth terrace up to the front and lowest level or "step" of the platform. The debris here

because there was no temple debris to protect it.

*Carbon -
without
interpolations
+ 0 lead w/o correction*

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c/
s/ c/

A PYRAMID WITHOUT STONE TEMPLE

(Structure J-3)

- General Description -

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

80 m. below. The location is an imposing one, except from the north, where the pyramid abuts upon a still higher portion of the Acropolis.

Considering the Acropolis as a whole, the mass and form of this pyramid balances that of J-4 at the other end of that group of buildings, and like it, takes full advantage of the steeply rising hill to gain an imposing height with a minimum of labor. Its full height (30 m.) is seen only from the front. Seen from the rear it is about 6 m. high. Seen from the platform terrace J-5 on its left, its height is about 15.50 m. The greatest impression of height is to be had on its right (river) side, but practically all of this side is natural bedrock, carved to a steep slope by the river.

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2/ Teobert Maler, Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumacintia Valley, Peabody Museum Memoirs, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 55, Cambridge, 1901.

the top of this platform consisted of a series of broad low steps rising to a final and rear level about 1.75 m. wide.

The lines of stones could not be traced to the sides, nor for equal distances. They were undoubtedly partially obliterated by tree roots and possibly there were others which were entirely so. The levels of those found, however, seem to rule out the hypothesis that the front part of the platform was really a stairway with very broad treads of approximately equal widths. The measurements indicate, from front to rear, four steps or levels having "treads" of about 80 cms., 1.80 m., 1.40m., and .90 cm. deep respectively, and each about 30 cms. high, leading to the rear level at the top, which as stated is only about 1.75 ^{clear} cms. wide.

The height of this rear portion of the platform is the height used above for the pyramid as a whole. The height reached by the main front stairway rising from the second to the ninth terrace is about 25 m., and this perhaps should be taken as the height of the pyramid proper when comparing it with others which support temples on their summits.

The front and side walls of this surmounting platform, at least in its original form, were vertical. This was almost certainly true of the original rear wall, but in the latest form the rear wall is battered, and a battered wall was placed against the right (southwest) wall. We failed to make this out on the left side but it may have been present.

The front wall is set 5.45 m. back from the edge of the ninth terrace and its top is 2.90 higher. Apparently a stairway, completely ruined and of uncertain width, led from the ninth terrace up to the front and lowest level or "step" of the platform. The debris here

included stones suitable for steps and underneath is an earth and stone fill (Plate II, A). This stairway probably passed over a tenth terrace or subsidiary platform which we show in broken lines on the plan. The evidence for this is the floor running under the fill and under the front wall, shown in the section, Plate II, A, and the level of the terrace wall at the rear, which is marked (8) on the same section.

The pyramid proper, disregarding the platform at the top and its subsidiary platform or tenth terrace, just described, consists of nine terraces, numbered from the bottom up. A glance at the plan shows that most of these, due to the location on a steep hillside, had to be built only at the front and to a varying extent at the sides. Only the ninth and the somewhat problematical tenth extend around the rear.

As found, the structure was a mere mound. We failed to find walls of the eighth, ninth or tenth terraces in position on the left (northeasterly) side though we penetrated to pure rock fill. Remnants of these three are in place on the other side. At the front the fourth to ninth terraces were in fair condition under the stairway, and for two or three meters on either side, at which points they had completely fallen. While our excavations at these levels included only the stairway and strips two or three meters wide on either side, further excavation would probably have yielded nothing more in position.

We cleared but little on the first terrace. The second, which carried Stelae 9, 10, 11 and 40, was cleared from end to end, and from the front to a line coinciding with that of the bottom step of the main stairway rising from it. We followed the side walls of this stairway back to the third terrace wall with trenches about three meters wide. We could have followed this terrace wall farther to either side, but we did

not, and the debris covering the rear of this broad second terrace may still contain something of interest.

The first terrace is subsidiary to the second. The latter is longer and very much deeper than any of the others, and served to support the four stelae mentioned. This second appears to be not quite symmetrical with those above. Comparison with the stelae-bearing terrace J-1 at the other end of the Acropolis lends additional evidence for disassociating it from the rest of the pyramid from the point of view of design. It is about 49 m. long at the front and 7.70 m. deep, except where the stairway rising from it projects forward 3.70 m. from the third terrace wall.

The length of the third terrace as restored is about 45 m., that of the ninth 25 m., the others being restored to correspond. These dimensions are consistent with the contours of the debris and bedrock, but are by no means accurate.

The terraces were not of uniform height, nor of uniform character. The first is decidedly higher than the second, but the fourth is about a meter higher than the third. Above this the differences are small, possibly within our margin of error. Measured heights from floor to floor, beginning with the first and lowest, were 3.71 m., 2.63 m., 3.03 m., 4.26 m., 2.54 m., 2.60 m., 2.27 m., 2.30 m., and 2.65 m. At the front the floor of the supposed tenth terrace or subsidiary platform was 1.40 m. above the floor of the ninth terrace. At the rear it is a little higher and was further increased by a secondary floor contemporary with the final battered rear wall of the platform above. (See section, Plate II, A.)

✓ The height of the final platform above the front level of the perhaps hypothetical tenth terrace is 1.50 m. at the front, 2.79 m at the rear. That is, the rear and highest level of the platform is about 1.30 m. higher than the front.

The widths (front to rear dimensions) of all the terraces except the second, which has been already described, and the ninth, vary somewhat but are all about 2 m. The width of the ninth was undoubtedly greater, but could not be measured.

All our excavations on this building were made during the 1931 season, and measurements were with Brunton compass, a small tripod level, tape, meter stick and flexible leveling rod. They are subject to the error inherent in these types of instruments, but where we have checked similar measurements with the transit the error has seldom been more than one or two decimeters or, in the case of bearings, one degree. Plate I was drawn by Mr. Fred P. Parris, the excavated details being based on notes of the writer. The writer is entirely responsible for Plate II.

✓ ^{retaining walls of the}
The first and second terraces are slightly battered at the top and were not excavated to their bottoms. That of the third is vertical at the bottom, battered at the top; that of the fourth is battered at the bottom and (where preserved under the stairway) continues at the same inclination to the top; that of the fifth is battered at the bottom and curving back still further at the top; the walls of the sixth and seventh are vertical, probably to the full height as indicated under the stairway; that of the eighth is battered, and that of the ninth battered with an extra in-curve at the top.

The lowest flight of the stairway rises from the West Group Plaza to the second terrace, passing over the first. Excavations here were slight, but the debris indicates its width as about 11.50 m., slightly less than that of the second and main flight. This lower flight rises about 6.34 m., receding about 9 m. in the process, giving an angle of approximately 35 degrees above horizontal. It was in a badly ruined state.

The second flight was well preserved at the bottom, having the four lowest steps in position (Plate 3, A, B and C) and is here 13.50 m. wide. It rises full width to the top of the sixth terrace. Although the steps above the fourth were completely fallen, this was definitely established by the positions of remnants of the vertical side retaining walls. These were found at the left (northeasterly side) on the second, third and fifth terraces; and at the right on the second, fourth and fifth terraces. The side retaining wall on the fifth terrace obviously carried the stairway to the surface of the next or sixth terrace. On the sixth and higher terraces all traces of side walls had disappeared. We could determine the approximate width of this higher portion by noting where the terrace retaining walls still rose to some height - they are always better preserved under the protecting debris of stairways - and especially by noting where the deposit on the terraces ceased to be obviously fallen debris and gave way to artificial rock fill. These two criteria gave consistent results on the sixth, seventh and eighth terraces, on both sides, and indicate the restored width, about half that of the lower portion.

We have restored the lower and wider portion as continuous with the narrower upper portion. If it was in reality a separate

flight the sixth terrace must have been made wider at the center than at the sides by a now fallen addition. Since the plane of ascent of the lower portion of the stairway, as indicated by the four steps in position at the bottom, just clears the front edge of the sixth terrace as found, we believe our restoration is correct. The angle of ascent for the whole flight, which we have sometimes called the "main stairway", is about 45 degrees above horizontal, the flight rising about 19.65 m. and receding toward the rear about 18 m. The risers of the lower four steps are about 22 cms. in height, the width of the treads about the same.

There was no satisfactory evidence remaining to give the width or the size of the steps of the upper flight leading to the top platform. Its angle of ascent was probably a little more gentle than that of the main flight below.

There were some uncertain hints of minor stairways leading down from the right (southwesterly) side of the platform to a triangular projection of bedrock to the right and somewhat forward of the platform. The surface of this projection had been leveled off artificially at about the level of the fifth terrace.

At either end of the four preserved lower steps were stones in position which can hardly be anything else than the last vestiges of balustrades. Their width was definitely 50 cms., the outer sides being continuous with the side retaining walls of the stairway. Of their height we can say no more than that they were high enough to more than clear the front edges of the steps. We have no data showing their presence or absence on the upper part of this flight, nor on the other flights.

Against the right corner of this flight a small low platform or altar was placed on the second terrace, so that its front face was continuous with the front and lower end of the balustrade (Plan, Plate I, A and Plate III, A). This construction was 60 cms. wide, 75 cms. long, and not less than 40 cms. high. We may have destroyed higher courses without realizing it.

The terraces and the main or second flight of the stairway were without much doubt covered with plaster, remnants being found on the lower steps. In all probability there was considerable ornamental stucco work. Disintegrated mortar covered the entire second terrace, underlying stone debris everywhere, showing that it had washed down before the structure itself began to crumble. In the deposit were a few heavy sherds with stucco adhering. Sherds were extensively used in building up stucco designs on Structure J-2³ and the same use may be inferred here. The bulk of such stucco work would be expected on the terraces at the sides of the stairway, where our excavations on the rear of the terrace are incomplete.

The deposit of plaster rises from a few centimeters at the front to 50 cms. in depth in the angle between the stairway and terrace walls on the left (north-east) side. Here it was gray in color. In the corresponding corner at the other side the depth was 1.50 m. and the color a light yellow. This latter deposit extends almost to the southwesterly end of the terrace, over 20 m. distant. Actual fragments of ornamental stucco work, of the same color, were found near the end of this deposit, and also above in debris at levels corresponding to the seventh and eighth terraces. There was evidently a great deal

³ Piedras Negras Preliminary Paper No. 3, Philadelphia, 1933.

more stucco decoration on the right or southwesterly side than on the left, and possibly there was here a separate or subsidiary structure.

A puzzling feature of the fill below the surface of the rear and highest level of the platform at the top is that it is permeated by a fine yellow powder, presumably disintegrated plaster or stucco. The stones rest one on the other, as in pure rock fills, and we are not dealing with a mortar and rubble fill. Perhaps the plaster was washed down from large stucco designs on the upper level with all traces washed away near the surface.

- Periods of Building -

Our excavations were too superficial to show whether or not the structure is placed over entirely buried earlier buildings, but were sufficient to show extensive remodeling.

The cross-section in Plate II, B. shows the situation revealed by trenching into the center of the stairway leading up from the second terrace. Behind the latest steps is a structural wall which is very crude with the exception of the lowest stones, which are well squared and laid, and form the bottom step of an earlier stairway, 1.25 m. behind the later one. The second step of this early stairway had been torn out in building the structural wall, but the third, fourth and fifth, though considerably displaced, were found in relative position. These were set in a sloping surface of solid earth and stone fill, laid on pure rock fill, and there was no question about the existence of an earlier stairway.

An extremely hard concrete floor here begins at this lowest step and runs forward to a rather crude retaining wall marked (2) in the

drawing, 4.15 m. distant. The final and later front wall retains broken rock fill laid against this, with nothing but humus to represent its floor, which was completely disintegrated.

Although the earlier front wall is quite crude, its association with such a different type of floor which in turn connects with the earlier stairway, leaves little doubt that it was the front terrace wall when the earlier stairway was built.

In following this very characteristic and easily identified early hard floor back to the third terrace wall, we expected it to pass under the latter to an earlier third terrace wall belonging with the earlier stairway and earlier second terrace wall. Instead, we found that it ran against the supposedly late third terrace wall and stopped. The third terrace wall therefore served with both the earlier and the later stairways, and we have no evidence that terraces, other than the second and probably the first, were modified by additions to the front.

Since the hard floor does not run under the earlier stairway at the front, but just meets it, it must be contemporary with it. We may assume that since it did not run under the steps at the center, neither did it pass under the side walls of the earlier stairway. It does pass under the side walls as well as under the steps of the later stairway. It is therefore highly probable that the earlier stairway was not so wide and that its side walls lie buried under the later. We did not realize this at the time, or we would have trenched laterally to examine their construction. Before the remodeling the second terrace was 6.60 m. wide (front to rear dimension), and the earlier stairway, which was not so wide as the later, projected out upon it for a distance of 2.45 m.

Considering the fact that the angle of ascent of the latest

stairway is close to the maximum observed elsewhere, and that the base of the earlier one is set 1.25 further to the rear, one would expect that an earlier series of terraces, placed a corresponding distance to the rear, had been buried by a later. But we have seen that this was not so, at least in the case of the third terrace, as proved by the associated floor. An alternative hypothesis is that the early terraces were all used with the later stairway, but each was raised to a greater height. Possibly the changes in the slopes of the third, fifth and ninth terraces (See Plate I, C) result from such additions. We did not investigate this point as we should have done. The postulate requires buried earlier floors within each terrace. There was none in the sixth terrace, which we trenched to a depth of nearly two meters.

The platform at the top was almost certainly twice enlarged, in each case by additions at the rear and not at the front, but each very probably extended around to the sides. The evidence for this is set out in Plate II, A. The wall at the left in this drawing and marked (1) is the upper part of the eighth terrace wall and that marked (2) is that of the ninth terrace. The wall marked (4) is the original as well as the final front wall of the platform. The battered wall behind it is extremely crude and almost certainly never was exposed as a permanent outer wall. The next one to the rear marked (6) is of the same character as No. 4 and indicates an original width of 4.75 m. for the platform. The two remaining courses of the wall marked (7) are also of the same general character, and increase the width to 6 m. Both of these rear walls were partially demolished and the stone removed before the platform was enlarged to its third and final form.

The upper surface arrangement bears no relation to these buried rear walls and we can say nothing regarding the surface in the earlier periods.

- Stelae -

Four stelae, Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 40, were originally placed on the long and wide second terrace. All now lie more or less on the first terrace, approximately below the positions formerly occupied, except Stela 9 which is on the terrace close to its base, from which it has been broken.

Stela 9 was placed before the second or main stairway, to its right, stelae 10 and 11 far to the left. Their cists are shown on the plan, Plate I, A. They are shown in broken lines, in this case because the walls are buried below the floor, and not because they were not found intact. Stela 40 now lies on the plaza, a few meters to the right (southwest) of the stairway. It could not have been placed to the left (northeast) of Stela 9, unless very much farther forward, as the hard floor is there unbroken. We failed to find its cist to the right, but did find a disturbed area and there is little doubt that Stela 40 was placed four or five meters to the right (southwest) of Stela 9, which agrees with the position in which it was discovered by Ricketson and Morley. But since its exact position is unknown we do not show it on the plan.

The arrangement of these four stelae is decidedly asymmetrical with reference to the pyramid and its great stairway, but in balancing groups of two. The dates as read by Morley indicate that the two of the left group were erected first before those of the right group, Stela 10

✓ first, and then Stela 11 on its left. Next came ^{Stela} 9 of the right group, and finally Stela 40, on its right. This is essentially the same balancing sequence of erection as in the line of Stelae 1 to 8 before Structure J-1 at the other end of the plaza. If we reverse our point of view, looking at the stelae from the plaza, and number positions from left to right, the first four stelae erected in the J-1 Group occupied positions 6, 8, 2 and 4, as noted by Morley. That is, two were first erected at the end of the line to our right, and then two toward the end at our left. Here the sequence, numbering positions in the same manner, is 3, 4, 2 and 1.

We do not illustrate the stelae as monuments as they will be properly dealt with by Dr. Morley in his forthcoming publication on the Inscriptions of Peten. In Plate IV, D, is a rear view of the base of Stela 9, in the position found, but with the cist cleared out. We found the hitherto unlocated base of Stela 9 in its cist. This adds the feet of two figures on the front, and two glyph blocks at the bottom of each side inscription, together with parts of two more on the stela's left side, to the corpus of Piedras Negras stone art and inscriptions.

Behind Stela 9 the exceedingly hard terrace floor was raised about 10 cms. to form a small rectangular platform or dais running against its back (Plate IV, D). It probably entirely surrounded the stela, but the sides and back had been dug out when this was noted. The dais was of the same hard concrete as the older portion of the terrace floor, which as we have seen connected with the earlier stairway. However it cannot be said to be coextensive with the floor, for the rear part which overlaps the floor slightly is a line of stone slabs. (See cross-section, Plate II, C). Certainly the dais was constructed after the stela had

been placed and therefore after the front addition to the terrace which was not hard surfaced.

The stela base as found was twisted so as to face a little to the right of front. This could easily have occurred when it was broken. But the rear of the dais is correspondingly askew. There are one or two similar inconclusive hints of stelae facing not quite to the front elsewhere in the city.

- Lintel 5 -

Lintel 5, discovered and briefly mentioned by Maler,⁴ is shown in Plate IV, C. Its width is 158 cms. and its height 120 cms. Despite the large size, the thickness is only about 10 cms. at the top; at the bottom the thickness is 13 to 15 cms. The maximum relief is about 30 mm. (on the body of the principal figure), the minimum about 5 mm. (on the glyphs). The edges are nicely worked and curve in from front to back, giving one of the corners a carinated form. This cross-section of the edges is very much more marked on Lintel 12, as yet unpublished.

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 without doubt rested on the ground before him. There is here also the remnant of a breech-cloth reaching nearly to the ankles. Maler reported captives before the principal figure, but there is space for only one at the most, the pieces belonging here being missing. There is a raised portion behind the figure, within the frame of the design, which may indicate another

⁴Teobert Maler, op. cit., p. 55.

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 block spaces each, indicating an Initial Series to be read straight down as on Lintels 2, 3 and 7. The inscription then seems to run into small glyphs with an average height and width of 75 mm., but it is here very badly eroded. Assuming an Initial Series with Introducing Glyph, occupying 6 block spaces of 4 blocks each (a total of ^{twenty-four} ~~24~~ such glyph-block 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 one hundred ^{and} thirty glyphs. It is possible definitely to identify ninety-eight of these glyph-blocks. This does not take into consideration the entirely eroded portion at the right lower corner, where there is space within the outside border for twelve more. The principal inscription therefore probably occupied one hundred and forty-two glyph-blocks. 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 apart from the main inscription.

The principal inscription on Lintel 4 occupies seventy-nine ⁻glyph-blocks and that on Lintel 3 sixty-eight glyphs, with ninety more in subordinate inscriptions. A fragment of the badly shattered Lintel 7 (unpublished) contains the whole or parts of ^{twenty-three} 23 small glyph-blocks, about 6 cms. square, arranged in a solid mass six rows deep and six rows across. There is therefore an excellent chance that at least six rows of small

glyphs ran across the top. Fourteen more in a double column are indentifiable at the lower right hand corner, indicating a double column at the right. A similar double column follows the Initial Series on the left. As this lintel measures something like 1.10 m. by 1.40 m., and the glyphs are so small, in all probability it contained another long inscription. The main inscription of Lintel 2 contains ^{ninety} 90 glyph-blocks. We probably have only half of Lintel 8, (unpublished) 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 (unpublished) are covered with small glyphs. Lintel 12 (unpublished) has not as yet been completely divested of a secondary coat of plaster, but glyphs occupy a large part of its face. Lintels 11 and 13 (unpublished) and Lintel 14 (Maler's Stela 29) appear to have been entirely devoted to glyphs. Lintel 6 bears only an incised design.

Of the thirteen sculptured lintels thus far found at Piedras Negras, therefore, four definitely have long inscriptions, a fifth very probably did have, and the others may or may not have. It appears that the practice here was to carve fewer stone lintels than at Yaxchilan, perhaps, but to devote them to a much greater extent to inscriptions. The two cities are only one day apart, traveling down stream by water, and Maler reports and pictures a lintel bearing a 113-glyph-block⁵ inscription from the small site of El Cayo between them.

It is reasonably certain that the builders did not drag a carved

⁵Maler, op. cit., Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 89 and Pl. 35.

stone of the size and weight of the so-called Lintel 5 up a steep slope for use as a mere building stone. 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, this stone was probably set in the wall of the seventh, eighth or ninth terrace, a little to the left (northeast) of the narrower upper portion of the main stairway. All but the lowest courses of these walls are fallen at these points.

- Objects -

✓ Scattered on the second terrace in front of, yet close to, the base of the second flight of steps, or "main" stairway, were found the whole or broken parts of sixteen large chert knives. Two are shown in Plate V, D. Several of these were well above the terrace floor and so had been washed down from above, but all were in the deposit of disintegrated plaster or stucco and under the layer of stone debris. A small section of a long bone, almost certainly part of a human tibia, was found in the same deposit and general location, in that case behind Stela 9. The presence of these objects in the plaster wash, and near the center rather than the sides of the stairway, below and not mixed with stone debris, makes it very probable that they had been left somewhere on the surface of the stairway, and had not been cached under it. A small portion of a seventeenth knife was found in the stairway debris, 1 m. to the left of center at about the level of the fourth terrace, suggesting that all may have fallen from this or higher levels, possibly from the top.

These knives possibly may furnish a hint of human sacrifice, which is depicted on Stela 11, from the second terrace. But the knives appear large for the purpose. A portion of one is 28.5 cms. long and 6 cms. wide, and it is incomplete. The longest complete example however is only 27.5 cms. long. Thicknesses average about 2 cms., though one is 4.4 cms. thick. There are two forms, both more or less leaf-shaped, an example of each being shown in the plate. Both of these forms differ from a number of thick short chert knives found near Altar 5, a stone table, at the base of the stairway of Pyramid Temple O-13. Those are pointed at one end, rounded at the other. The material, a poor, thickly patinated, bluish gray chert, is the same in both cases.

Buried at the bottom of the cist of Stela 9, against the extreme left of the front face of its base, was a crudely tooled stone drum, diameter 20 cms., height 10 cms. The flat top is much smoother than sides and bottom, and bears a number of scratches such as would result from the cutting of objects placed upon it. Possibly it was originally used as a very small round altar. A similar stone was found in the center of the cist of Stela 11, and another was placed against the center of the front face of the base of Stela 8, at the bottom of its cist. The latter is shown in Plate V,C. Half of still another small round stone, a little larger, was buried in or under the floor of the rear room of Temple O-13. That example (Miscellaneous Sculptured Stone 1) bears in relief the Initial Series 9.10.6.(5).(9). The bracketed uinals and kins represent missing glyph-blocks as restored with a question mark by Dr. Morley. The scratches on the upper surface were noted only on the stone from the Stela 9 cist.

A rounded piece of pumice stone was found in the floor of the eighth terrace, northeast of the stairway.

Placed against the center of the base of Stela 9, at the very bottom, like the stone drum or altar, was the pottery incense burner shown in Plate V, A. It was in all probability set squarely on its base, but was found tilted slightly forward, probably by the later corresponding tilt of the stela base. (See section, Plate II, C). The cover was approximately in place. The heavy broken rocks used to support the stela in the cist had been so placed around and over the censer that even after the shifting of the stela, it was but little damaged.

There are no perforations in the bowl, which has a deep ring base. The diameter of the rim is 16 cms., ^{the} ~~its~~ height 8 cms. The neck of the cover is hollow, forming a sort of chimney about 1.8 cms. in diameter. The diameter of the rim is 17 cms. the total height 10 cms. From this orifice, at the top, four wide shallow grooves extend to the outer edges of the "chimney", in the form of a cross. The top of an exactly similar "chimney" was found in the debris over the fourth terrace, to the left (northeast) of the stairway.

Under the high floor running into the lowest of the terraces at the rear of the pyramid, corresponding in general to the level of terrace nine at the front, was found an extremely heavy thick portion of a vessel, probably a censer. It indicates a deep ring base, the body pierced by holes or slots. There is enough remaining to suggest large cruciform perforations.

These, as well as figurines and sherds recovered in and about this building, will be more thoroughly considered in a paper on

the ceramics of the city, in preparation by Miss Mary Butler.

Six pottery figurines or fragments were found. One was in the plaster wash on the second terrace, and another in the stone debris over this wash; one was in the debris at the rear of the pyramid, and two were in the debris on the ninth terrace, at the front. A sixth was recorded as in a floor, but at a level which would place it between the eighth and ninth terrace floors. This was probably also in debris. All may be regarded as probably, but not certainly, post-dating the erection of the pyramid.

A pottery mask is represented by part of the nose, and most of the half-open mouth and chin, and is shown in profile in Plate V, B. It is not much less than life size. There seem to be no remaining traces of slip or paint. It was found above the second terrace floor in the angle between the right (southwesterly) side of the stairway and the third terrace wall. Notes fail to specify whether it was in the plaster wash, or above in the layer of stone debris.

Potsherds were encountered which may be assigned to a date prior to the final stage of building, and there are others which may date from before or after that time. In the first category are sherds from under the second terrace floor, in the Stela 9 cist, in the stairway fill on the eighth terrace and under the floor at the rear of the Pyramid. A few sherds encountered in clearing the empty cists of Stela 10 and 11 may or may not have found their way there at the time the stelae were erected. The sherds with stucco adhering probably came from stucco decoration applied to the terraces. Sherds were found in the debris on the front of the pyramid at various levels, and on the ninth terrace, at the front. Sherds were not found in

groups, nor associated with other objects. The ruin of the pyramid was so complete, however, that sub-floor caches may have been made and subsequently scattered.

Some of the sherds are decorated, both painting and incision being represented. Only those under the second terrace floor can be dated with reasonable certainty as prior to the date of the earliest stela on the terrace (9.15.0.0.0).

The recovered fragments of stucco have been mentioned above. There are only one or two giving information as to the type of designs involved, and these will be considered with examples from other buildings in a later paper.

- Date -

✓ 9 ✓
The dates of stelae 11, 10 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 front addition to the second terrace. The date of Stela 40 marks the next hotun ending, 9-15-15-0-0. We did not find the cist for this, but we can say from a careful examination of the hard 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, toward the end of the 15th Katun. It seems a reasonable guess that at the same time the new main stairway was built and possibly the first or second additions was then made to the platform at the top.

✓
According to Morley the earliest dated monument in the West Group is Stela 39, 9.12.5.0.0, only 11 hotuns (about 55 years) earlier

than Stela 11. It is quite possible that even before the remodeling, Structure J-3 was not in its earliest form. We are probably safe in assuming that the West Group Plaza and the Acropolis were in use for some time before the inhabitants began erecting stelae here instead of in the South Group, where the earliest dates are found. Consistent with such a hypothesis is the presence of Structure J-6-2nd on the nearby Court 1 of the Acropolis, which was torn down to make way for Structure J-6, probably about 9.17.15.0.0, only about half a century later than the supposed date of remodeling here.

- Details of Construction -

Walls Floors and Fills

The terrace walls are built of rather rough stone blocks of medium size. They seem to have been laid without mortar, but we did not pay sufficient attention to this point. The original front, side, and first two rear walls of the upper platform, all vertical, are of fairly well selected and better squared blocks of medium size, though the battered rear and right walls of the latest phase were like the terrace walls.

The side retaining walls of the stairway, on the second terrace, include much longer blocks, and are superior to all the others, though still mediocre (Plate III, A, and Plate IV, B). There is more chinking in evidence here.

Terrace floors above the second presented the soft remains of mortar and crushed stone concrete. There was no remaining sign of the floor on the top of the upper platform, nor on the late addition to the second terrace. The original second terrace was floored with concrete of extreme hardness, as mentioned before. This was so hard that we wonder

whether, although its elements must differ from the others, part of its hardness may not have come with time. If the builders knew what they were laying, it was a triumph of the mason's art.

Floors vary between 10 and 20 cms. in depth, and in most places rest directly on pure broken rock fill. The plaster surfaces had in all cases disappeared.

All fills observed were of pure broken rock - dry laid rubble - except under the steps of the stairways, where it was partly or completely solid earth and rock, possibly remains of very poor concrete.

The pure broken rock fills are for the most part of fairly large and heavy stones. The crude sloping "wall" marked (5) on the cross section of the upper platform (Plate II,A) illustrates an interesting practice in fill construction, much more plainly demonstrated by Dr. Mason under Structure K-5-2nd. This wall consists of ordinary and extremely irregular broken rocks, and shows that the fill behind it was laid up before that in front, and with a fairly regular sloping face. This may ^{have been} designed to give added strength, or may result from a task system or other unknown cause. A similar constructional wall was encountered in the fill of the late addition to the second terrace, running from the old to the new front wall.

- Stairways -

The lowest steps of the stairway on the second terrace show the method of building the steps. The treads are slabs, as in some other cases, but quite thick and fairly well squared (Plate III, B). Each extends under the next riser, thus binding the steps together. At the front they are supported by one or two small slabs laid flat. The whole rests on a solid earth and stone fill, which possibly may have

had some slight admixture of mortar. This construction is shown in cross-section in Plate II, B.

The most interesting feature of this stairway is the fact that special supporting retaining walls were built under and behind the solid fill. Part of that on the second terrace is shown in the above drawing, and in the photograph, Plate IV, A. The steps and fill placed against it appear at the left of the trench. Similar walls were found in position over the fourth, fifth and eighth terraces, and are shown in cross-section in Plate I, B. They are very crude, but superior to the ^{were} "fill" walls described above. They are true ^{walls} and show a tendency to curve back toward the top, probably so that they could be carried fairly high. The curve is not due to subsequent bulging. That over the fifth terrace nearly meets the wall of the sixth.

There is little doubt that these walls are in addition to the terrace walls, which follow through behind the stairway. They have not been observed elsewhere, except under an early stairway in the South Group ⁶ Ball Court.

✓ ?
Excavations are hardly sufficient to determine whether this feature was used in the earlier stairway observed on the second terrace or not. The positions and smaller size of the blocks of that stairway, which was somewhat disturbed, suggest that the treads do not tie under the risers, as in the later stairway. This early stairway differs from the later in having only a thin layer of solid earth and stone, possibly poor mortar, to support the actual steps. This layer of fill is marked (3) on the cross-section (Plate II, B), which illustrates the relations involved.
✓

⁶ Piedras Negras Preliminary Paper No. 2, Philadelphia, 1933.

- Stelae Cists -

✓ ✓ All stelae whose methods of erection have been studied (all of ^{them} those in the West Group) have a plain extension or base which was set into the terrace. To receive this a cist with rough walls was generally built below the floor-level of the terrace. These cists are usually approximately rectangular, except that no rear wall was built. Possibly this was omitted to assist in the erection of the stone, though the rear wall could easily have been built afterward. The cists are considerably larger than the bases of the stelae, and since they were placed in a tightly packed pure broken rock fill, their function is not entirely clear, and may have been ceremonial rather than structural.

✓ ✓ The three found on this structure are shown on the plan (Plate I,A). Only that of Stela 9 departs markedly from the rectangular form. In Plate II, C, is a section from front to rear, through this cist and stela base, ^{is} in position as it was found. There is plenty of room about the stela, particularly in front. The space at front, sides and back of the base was filled with heavy broken rock, the same sort of construction to be found outside of the cist walls. The weight of these stones, which are angular and irregular, jams them in place. There is nothing to wash away and nothing can give unless there is a slip of the surrounding terrace, or the stone is forced well out of equilibrium.

If the latter occurs, it is difficult to see how the cist walls would help, as they are nothing more than thin retaining walls placed against and resting on the fill. Perhaps they were built for protection of the ^{ceremonial} original objects frequently, as here, found in them.

The cist floors are merely a thin deposit of earth and small broken

stone, possibly with a little mortar. The weight of the stelae appears to have been borne by the rock fill, without special attention to foundations, though we have not investigated this thoroughly.

stairway is close to the maximum observed elsewhere, and that the base of the earlier one is set 1.25 further to the rear, one would expect that an earlier series of terraces, placed a corresponding distance to the rear, had been buried by a later. But we have seen that this was not so, at least in the case of the third terrace, as proved by the associated floor. An alternative hypothesis is that the early terraces were all used with the later stairway, but each ^{then} was raised to a greater height. Possibly the ^{variations} changes in the slopes of the third, fifth and ninth terraces (See Plate I, C) result from such additions. We did not investigate this point as we should have done. The postulate requires buried earlier floors within each terrace. There was none in the sixth terrace, which we trenched to a depth of nearly two meters.

The platform at the top was almost certainly twice enlarged, in each case by additions at the rear and not at the front; but each ^{addition} very probably extended around to the sides. The evidence for this is set out in Plate II, A. The wall at the left in this drawing, ^(pyramid) and marked (1) is the upper part of the eighth terrace wall and that marked ^{(Those marked (3) and (5) are crude fill walls visible only during construction.)} (2) is that of the ninth terrace. [^] The wall marked (4) is the original as well as the final front wall of the platform. ~~The battered wall behind it is extremely crude and almost certainly never was exposed as a permanent outer wall.~~ ^{buried wall} The ~~next one~~ [^] to the rear marked (6) is of the same character as No. 4 and indicates an original ^(depth) width of 4.75 m. for the platform. The two remaining courses of the wall marked (7) are also of the same general character, and increase ^d the width to 6 m. Both of these rear walls were partially ~~demolished and the stone re-~~ ^{removed} before the platform was enlarged to its third and final form.

The upper surface arrangement bears no relation to these buried rear walls and we can say nothing regarding the surface in the earlier periods. *It is quite possible that a suitable base for a temple was then present. It is difficult to imagine dry building, even of perishable materials, in the final period.*

- Stelae -

Four stelae, Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 40, were originally placed on the long and wide second terrace. *(Stelae 10 and 11)* All now lie more or less ~~on~~ ^{over} the first terrace, approximately below the positions formerly occupied, ~~except~~ ^(lies) Stela 9, ^(second) which is on the terrace close to its base, from which it has been broken. *Stela 40 is now on exhibition at the museum in Philadelphia, and was found by Morley and Ricketson close to Plaza level.*

Stela 9 was placed before the second or main stairway, to ^{of center} its right, stelae 10 and 11 far to the left. ^(see plan, page I.) Their cists are shown on the plan, Plate I, A, ~~They are shown~~ in broken lines, in this case because the walls are buried below the floor, and not because they were not found intact. Stela 40 ^(lay) now lies on the plaza, a few meters to the right (southwest) of the stairway. It could not have been placed to the left (northeast) of Stela 9, unless very much farther forward, as the hard floor is there unbroken. We failed to find its cist to the right, but did find a disturbed area and there is little doubt that Stela 40 was placed four or five meters to the right (southwest) of Stela 9, which ^(is consistent) agrees with the position in which it was discovered by Ricketson and Morley. But since its ^(original) exact position is unknown we do not show it on the plan.

The arrangement of these four stelae is decidedly asymmetrical with reference to the pyramid and its great stairway, but in balancing groups of two. The dates as read by Morley indicate that the two of the left group were erected ~~first~~ before those of the right group, Stela 10

first, and then Stela 11 on its left. Next came ^{Stela} 9 of the right group, and finally Stela 40, on its right. This is essentially the same balancing sequence of erection as in the line of ^{Nos.} Stelae 1 to 8 before Structure J-1 at the other end of the plaza, ^(to which Morley has called the writer's attention.) If we reverse our point of view, looking at the stelae from the plaza, and number positions from left to right, the first four stelae erected in the J-1 Group occupied positions 6, 8, 2 and 4, as noted by Morley. That is, two were first erected at the end of the line to our right, and then two toward the end at our left. Here the sequence, numbering positions in the same manner, is 3, 4, 2 and 1.

We do not illustrate the stelae as monuments as they will be properly dealt with by Dr. Morley in his forthcoming publication on the Inscriptions of Peten. [^] In Plate IV, D, is a rear view of ^{its} the base ~~of~~ ~~Stela 9~~, in the position found, but with the cist cleared out. We found the hitherto unlocated base of Stela 9 in its cist. This adds the feet of two figures on the front, and two glyph blocks at the bottom of each side inscription, together with parts of two more ~~on the stela's~~ ^{of the} left side, ^(inscriptions) to the corpus of Piedras Negras stone art and inscriptions.

Behind Stela 9 the exceedingly hard terrace floor was raised about 10 cms. to form a small rectangular platform or dais running against its back ^(and Plate III, C at the extreme left.) (Plate IV, D). ^{front} It probably entirely surrounded the stela, but the sides and ~~back~~ had been dug out when this was noted. The dais was of the same hard concrete as the older portion of the terrace floor, which as we have seen connected with the earlier stairway. However it cannot be said to be coextensive with the floor, for the rear part, which overlaps the floor slightly, is a line of stone slabs. (See cross-section, Plate II, C). Certainly the dais was constructed after the stela had

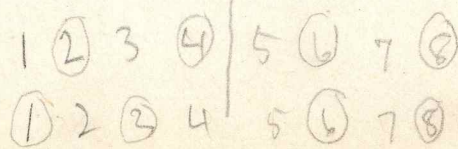


figure there, or perhaps the remains of a column of glyphs, as on "Lintel" 4.

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 block spaces each, indicating an Initial Series to be read straight down as on Lintels "2, 3 and 7. The inscription then seems to run into small glyphs with an average height and width of 75 mm., but it is here very badly eroded. Assuming an Initial Series with Introducing Glyph, occupying ~~6~~ ^{consisting of six glyphs} block spaces of 4 blocks each (a total of ~~24~~ ^(Twenty-four) such glyph-block 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 one hundred thirty glyphs. It is possible definitely to identify ^{and} ~~ninety-eight~~ ^{the blocks of} of these ~~glyph-blocks~~. This does not take into consideration the entirely eroded portion at the right lower corner, where there is space within the outside border for twelve more. The principal inscription therefore probably ^{consisted of} ~~occupied~~ one hundred and forty-two ^{glyphs,} ~~glyph-blocks~~. 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 apart from the main inscription.~~ ^{The length of this inscription may be compared with other panels.}

The principal inscription on Lintel "4 occupies seventy-nine ⁻glyph-blocks and that on Lintel "3 sixty-eight glyphs, with ninety more in subordinate inscriptions. A fragment of the badly shattered "Lintel" 7 (unpublished) contains the whole or parts of ~~25~~ ^{twenty-three} small glyph-blocks, about 6 cms. square, arranged in a solid mass six rows deep and six rows across. There is therefore an excellent chance that at least six rows of small

Remito

glyphs ran across the top. Fourteen more in a double column are identifiable at the lower right hand corner, indicating a double column at the right. A similar double column follows the Initial Series on the left. As this lintel measures something like 1.10 m. by 1.40 m., and the glyphs are so small, in all probability it contained another long inscription. The main inscription of Lintel 2 contains ^{ninety} 90 glyph-blocks. We probably have only half of "Lintel 8" (unpublished) 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 (unpublished) are covered with small glyphs. "Lintel 12" (unpublished) ~~has not as yet been completely divested of a~~ *exhibits sixty-six glyph blocks.*

~~secondary coat of plaster, but glyphs occupy a large part of its face.~~
 "Lintel 11 and 13 (unpublished) and Lintel 14 (Maler's Stela 29) appear *probably consisted only of an inscription, though short.* to have been entirely devoted to glyphs. "Lintel 6 bears only an incised design. Lintel 11, which we think was a true lintel, probably bore an inscription of 32 glyph blocks, each of large size.

Of the ~~thirteen~~ ^{twelve} sculptured "lintels" thus far found at Piedras Negras, ~~therefore~~ *which were probably panels* four definitely have long inscriptions, a fifth very probably did have, and the others may or may not have. *all but one of* It appears the single true lintel, while ^{all}-glyphic, has a relatively short inscription, such as occur *at Yaxchilan.* that the practice here was to carve fewer stone lintels than at Yaxchilan. "Lintel" 4 thus seems to belong to a group of carved slabs characterized by perhaps, but to devote them to a much greater extent to inscriptions. *long inscriptions.*

The two cities are only one day apart, traveling down stream by water, *apparently of the same type,* and Maler reports and pictures a "lintel", bearing a 113-glyph-block inscription from the ^{nearby} small site of El Cayo ⁷ ~~between them.~~ ⁵ *But the type has not been reported from further afield.*

It is reasonably certain that the builders did not drag a carved

Maler, op. cit., Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 89 and Pl. 35.

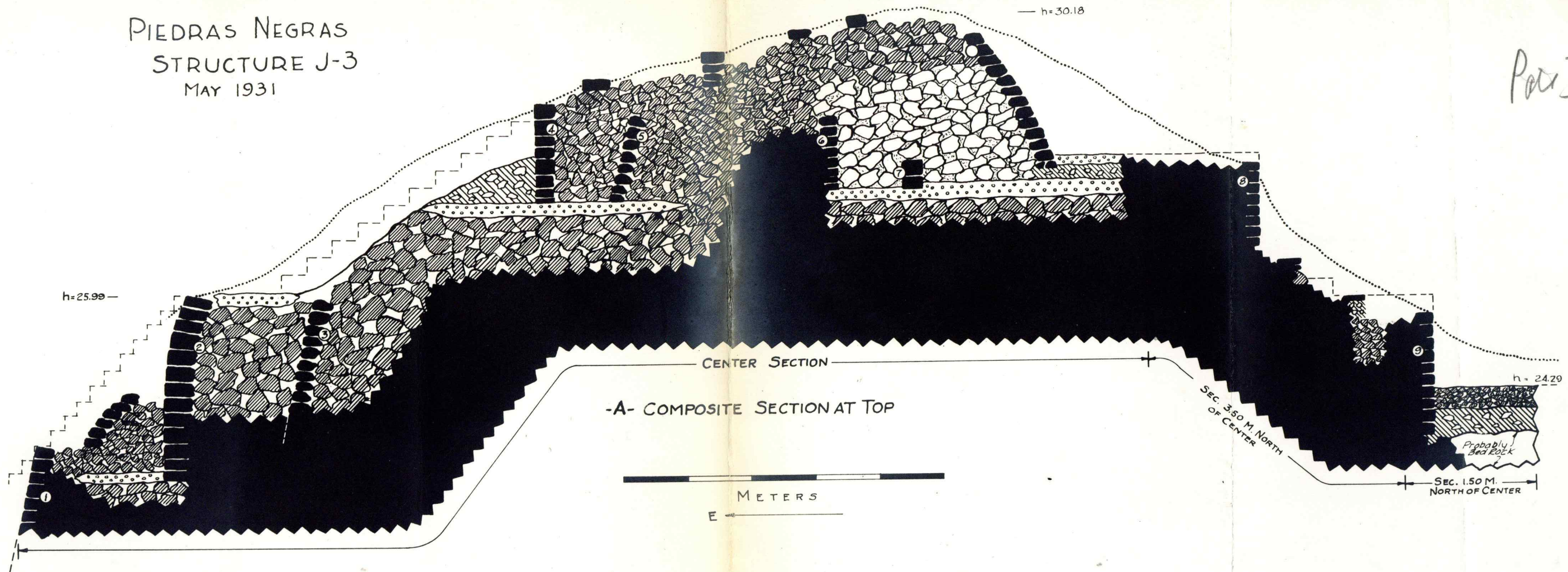
A thirteenth panel, Mis. S.S. No 13, contained 80 or more glyph blocks.

- 1 (4)
- 2 (3)
- 3 (2)
- 4 (12)
- 5 (7)
- 6 (1)
- 7 (9)
- 8 (10)
- 9 (6)
- 10 (7)
- 11 -
- 12
- 13 *MS 13*

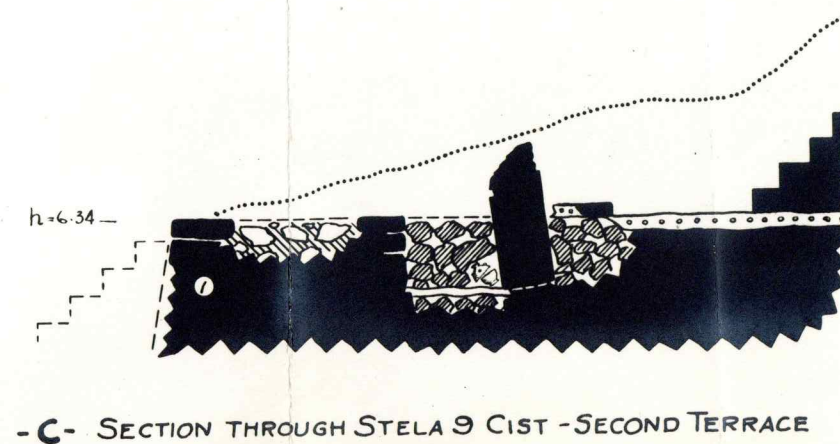
Oversized item not scanned

PIEDRAS NEGRAS
STRUCTURE J-3
MAY 1931

Part II



- Hypothetical:
 --- Fallen - Restored
- In Position:
- Concrete Floors
 - Debris line
 - Walls, stairs, &c.
 - Fill - mixed earth & broken rock
 - Fill - broken rock & some disintegrated plaster
 - Pure broken rock Fill





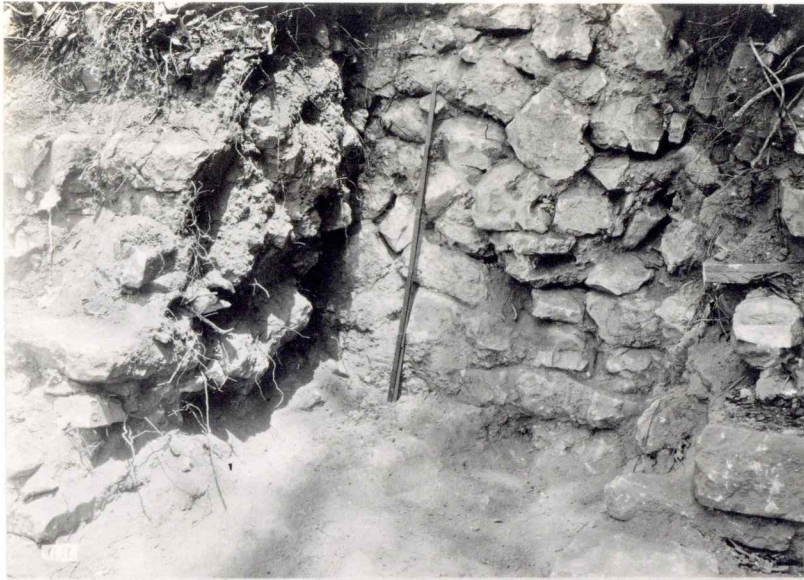
A



B



C



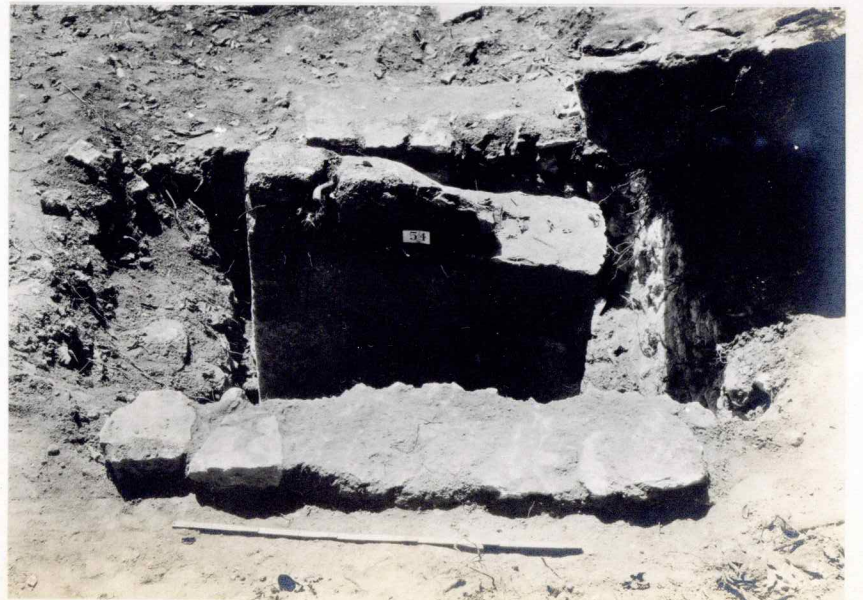
A



B



C



D



PLATE V