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Grave Matters: A Presentation and Comparative
Analysis of the Late Classic Burials
from Guajilar, Chiapas,
Mexico

Shelley Lorraine Wells

A thesis submitted to the faculty of
Brigham Young University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

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ABSTRACT

Grave Matters: A Presentation and Comparative Analysis of the Late Classic Burials from Guajilar, Chiapas, Mexico

Shelley Lorraine Wells
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Master of Arts

This thesis aims to identify the possible origins of the peoples who immigrated into the archaeological sites of Guajilar and Lagartero, located in the upper Grijalva River Basin region in southern Chiapas, Mexico, during the Late Classic period (AD 650-900). First, I present the Late Classic burial data from both sites according to four basic descriptive criteria: burial location, grave type, burial type, and grave goods. Then, I conduct a comparative analysis of the burial practices found at these two sites based on these criteria so that patterns in burial practices can be identified. Following the comparative analysis between Guajilar and Lagartero, I then compare their burial practices to those from two sites in the southern Maya Lowlands (Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal) and those found at various sites in the Guatemala Highlands (which border the upper Grijalva River Basin region to the north and east, respectively). The analysis reveals greater similarities in burial practices with sites in the Guatemala Highlands than with those in the southern Maya Lowlands. This suggests that peoples from the Guatemala Highlands were more likely to have immigrated into Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period.

Keywords: burials, Late Classic, Upper Grijalva River Basin, Maya Lowlands, Guatemala Highlands, NWAf

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1| INTRODUCTION

Guajilar is an archaeological site located in the upper Grijalva River basin region in the Mexican state of Chiapas near the border of Guatemala. It was excavated in 1976 and 1978 by the archaeologists of the New World Archaeological Foundation (NWAf). The archaeological record reveals an occupational timeline beginning in the Late Preclassic period (300-100 BC), followed by an abandonment of the site throughout the Early Classic period (AD 300-650). By the Late Classic period (AD 650-900) Guajilar had become occupied by a different cultural group than who had originally constructed the site during the Preclassic period. Who were these people? Where did they come from?

This thesis addresses those questions through a comparative analysis of the Late Classic (AD 650-900) burials and associated burial offerings from Guajilar with the contemporaneous Late Classic burials from Lagartero (another Late Classic ceremonial center located in the same region). The aim of the comparative analysis is to define some of the Late Classic burial practices for these two sites. By addressing interrelated descriptive characteristics of burial locations, grave types, burial types, and the associated grave goods I provide a holistic study of these features and lay a foundation for determining the cultural affiliations of the occupants of these sites during the Late Classic period.

I argue that the burial practices revealed in the comparative analysis exhibit stronger similarities to the burial practices described for Maya peoples of the Guatemalan Highlands than to those recorded for Maya peoples of the Maya Lowlands along the Usumacinta River. If the people who reoccupied Guajilar and Lagartero continued to bury their dead in the traditional ways from their homeland, the burial patterns seen at these two sites indicate that the Maya

peoples living there in Late Classic period emigrated from the Guatemalan Highlands to the east rather than from the Maya Lowlands to the north.

The following two chapters provide the data and structure for the comparative analysis presented in the fourth chapter. The second and third chapters describe the archaeological sites of Guajilar and Lagartero, their occupational timelines, and the excavated Late Classic burials. These descriptions review each burial's location, grave type, burial type, and grave goods when that information is available.

The fourth chapter compares the Late Classic burials from Guajilar and Lagartero, and brings to light some of the patterns of burial practice at these sites. These patterns are then compared to burials from a few southern Maya Lowland and Guatemala Highland sites. These comparisons also focus on burial location, grave type, burial type, and associated grave goods when that information is available.

In the fifth and final chapter of this thesis I discuss and interpret the results of my analysis. I consider how the burial practices, which show the strongest similarities to the Guatemala Highland burial practices, might indicate possible origins for the people who reoccupied Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period.

The remainder of this introductory chapter provides an overview of the methodologies implemented in this thesis, a summary of the upper Grijalva River Basin environment as well as a review of a general history of occupation for this region. Understanding the history of the region provides the context for identifying the occupants of Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period.

My thesis only focuses on burials and the presence or absence of certain trends in burial location, grave type, burial type, and associated grave goods. Data on the osteological remains and ceramic vessels were not equally available between the sites, so I provide them where I can but chose to exclude them from the main analysis of my thesis and focus on the four previously mentioned criteria.

Methods

Descriptions

The two purposes of my thesis are (1) to report the excavation information of Guajilar for the Late Classic burials found in the 1976 and 1978 season, and (2) to describe my comparative analysis of Late Classic burial practices at Guajilar and Lagartero. The results of the analysis are then compared to burial practices from both the southern Maya Lowlands and the Guatemala Highlands.

To do this I spent three summers (2011-2013) in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, at the NWAf's lab. I compiled the known data for the Late Classic burials recovered from Guajilar, as well as the known data from all of the recovered burials so a comprehensive index could be added to my thesis and made available for future research.

During my first summer there, with the help of John Clark and NWAf personnel, I organized all the known field notes, site maps, feature records, plan and profile drawings, artifacts, artifact records, and photos connected to Guajilar. In the summer of 2012, with the help of Tim Boyer, I photographed and recorded all artifacts that had not been turned in to the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) and are still stored at the NWAf.

During the summer of 2013, with the help of Michaela Miller, I reorganized all the collected data and artifacts. We correlated the written records with the artifacts found in each burial. The burial features were identified and typed according to what was written on the feature and artifact records. These compiled reports were then compared to the partially completed final report by the late Thomas A. Lee Jr. to verify details and rectify discrepancies in the burial descriptions. We also re-photographed a few of the artifacts. The black and white negatives of the 1976 and 1978 field seasons were scanned and then organized into their associated excavation units and features to organize all materials for eventual publication.

Each burial feature described here is based on the plan and section drawings, field notes, and photographs. I redrew the plan and section drawings of each burial as found in the feature records in Adobe Illustrator, for clarity to the descriptions. Any other associated photographs were also included.

I visited and spoke with Lee in 2011 and 2012 about his time and work at Guajilar with the purpose of filling in some of the gaps of information that was lost over the past 30 years. He was able to answer some questions about the field work and methodology. Clark, who was present for the second season, also helped fit the pieces of Guajilar back together to present some of its data. Bryant also provided all the photographs he had in his possession of the 1978 season that have helped in describing and analyzing the burials found during the 1978 excavations.

I also attempted to determine the location of the artifacts from Guajilar's burials that were turned into INAH. These include the ceramic vessels, human remains, and other valuable artifacts. Unfortunately, my efforts to track down and analyze these artifacts failed, thus, my notes and illustrations of these artifacts are based on information on file with the NWF rather than on a re-analysis of the artifacts in question.

Analytical Methods

After the description chapter of Guajilar's Late Classic burials I present a chapter on Lagartero where I provide a brief overview of the archaeological work conducted there, the cultural history of the site, and a review of the Late Classic burials and mortuary offerings recovered during the NWAFF excavations.

This summary of the burial data is followed by a discussion of the similarities and differences found between the burials from Guajilar and Lagartero. My analysis of the burials here follows simple methods. I focused on identifying the following four attributes for both Guajilar and Lagartero burials: burial location, grave type, burial type, and associated grave goods. While each category is distinct in its characteristics, they are also intricately interwoven and connected, making it impossible to talk about one without incorporating aspects of the others. For example, burial location can influence the type of grave construction, the manner in which the dead were interred into the grave, or the quantity and quality of grave goods.

The burial practices identified from these two sites are then compared to burial practices described for a few southern Maya Lowland sites (Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios), and the burial practices recorded for the Guatemala Highlands, as described by Andrés Ciudad Ruiz (2003). I conclude my thesis by showing that there are more similarities in Guajilar and Lagartero's Late Classic burial practices with the Maya in the Guatemala Highlands than the Maya in the southern Maya Lowlands, and that these similarities indicate the possible region the occupants immigrated from during that time.

Background

Regional Location and Environment

The upper Grijalva River Basin is located in the southeast segment of the Chiapas Central Depression (Figure 1.1), in the southern end of Mexico. The basin forms the southwestern frontier of the Maya Lowland region and is flanked by mountains on three sides. Bordering the southeast region are the Cuchumatan Mountains, which mark the border between Chiapas and Guatemala. The southern side of the Central Depression is bordered by the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains that run parallel to the Chiapas Pacific coast. At the opposite end of the Grijalva River Basin the Chiapas Central Highlands and the extensive Comitán Plateau border the north. And in the northwest the upper Grijalva Basin connects to the Chiapas Central Depression.

The wide region in the upper Grijalva River Basin consists of hill terraces, slopes, and mesas and are drained by the upper Grijalva River, and various other rivers including the San Miguel, San Gregorio, Santo Domingo, and the Ontela. The Grijalva River “drains the 9,000 km² of the Central Depression” and “flows north-northwest from its headwaters near La Libertad, through the long Angostura basin, and past Chiapa de Corzo, after which it enters the Sumidero Canyon on its way to the Gulf of Mexico” (Clark 1988:3). The Central Depression region is also considered to be hot with an average rainfall of less than 1,000 mm (Sharer and Traxler 2006:34).

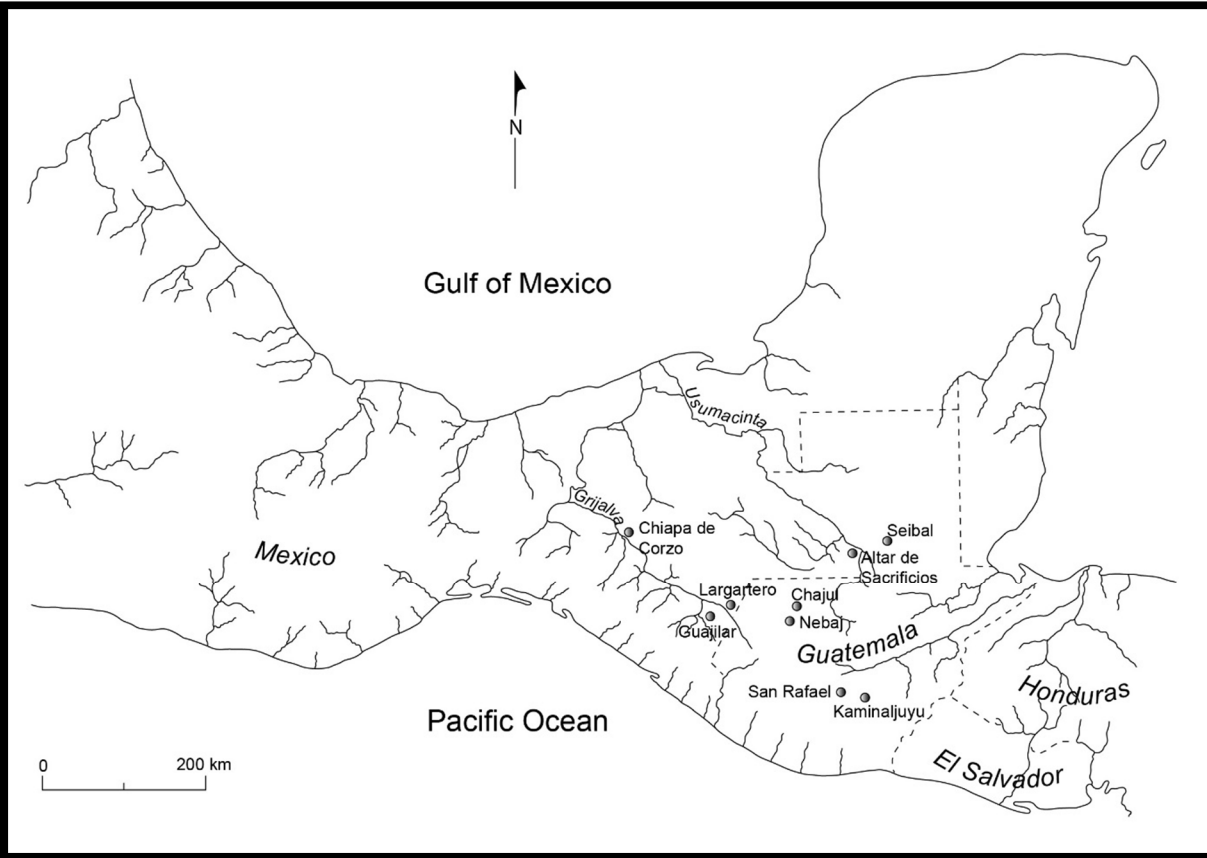


Figure 1.1: Guajilar and Lagartero in relation to a few southern Maya Lowland and Guatemala Highland sites. Map by author.

History of the Upper Grijalva River Basin Region

According to studies of ceramic complexes for the upper Grijalva River Basin there were many important moments in the prehistory of this region. These studies indicate that “the 4000 years of its documented prehistory span the Late Archaic to Colonial periods. Spaniards were the final colonists-conquerors of the region, but they were not the only ones. They were preceded by the Mayas, Olmecs, and others” (Clark 2005:652).

The dates and details of occupation for the following time periods in the upper Grijalva Basin are established by the excavations, studies, and research on ceramics carried out by a

number of archaeologists. The following observations are only a brief overview of the history of occupation in the upper Grijalva Basin according to a comprehensive study by the NAAF (Bryant et al. 2005). The following overview of the history of occupation of the upper Grijalva River Basin comes from this study. Knowing the history of the region provides a better understanding of the cultural history for both Guajilar and Lagartero, and offers some evidence that may indicate who occupied these sites during the Late Classic period.

Archaeological evidence in the upper Grijalva River Basin implies an occupation by at least the Late Archaic period (?-1700 BC), and indicates a tie to the cultures of the Soconusco region. Around 1700 BC inhabitants in this region were influenced by their neighbors on the Pacific coast. In the upper Grijalva River Basin the people began adopting the Soconusco use of pottery and their sedentary lifestyle.

Archaeological evidence for the Early Preclassic period (1700-1000 BC) come from Camcum, Entre Rios, Potrero Mango, and Santa Marta Rosario. Data suggest that the area was inhabited but do not reveal much about the peoples' architecture and site layouts. There were probably small villages with perishable buildings and structures but were not preserved in the archaeological record. Based on mixed basal deposits and other secondary contexts, the archaeological remains indicate that the region was occupied by Mixe-Zoque people during this time.

Sites such as La Libertad, Santa Marta Rosario, and Ojo de Agua reveal a time of cultural florescence and population growth during the Middle Preclassic period (1000-300 BC). Sites with large earthen mounds and other public structures were constructed, as well as large amounts of residential mounds. Some of these were later reutilized in the Early and Late Classic time periods. Ceramic vessels were also shared across the upper Grijalva River Basin, which suggests

regular contact and trade between sites in the region. Overall, the Zoquean culture in the upper Grijalva Basin was flourishing and strongly influencing people and groups in the surrounding areas.

By the Late Preclassic period (300-100 BC) mound construction stopped and settlements dispersed (Bryant and Clark 2005). It was during this time that contact between the Lowland Maya and the Zoque people of the upper Grijalva River Basin began to increase. The introduction of trade wares from the Maya Lowlands signaled the start of a cultural shift from Mixe-Zoque to Maya. Middle and Late Preclassic sites such as La Libertad, Guajilar, and Potrero Mango were abandoned, perhaps their inhabitants dispersed with the initial advance of Maya peoples into the region. Archaeologically this time period is poorly represented.

For the Protoclassic period (100 BC-AD 300) ceramic complexes at Guajilar share a mix of Zoque and Maya characteristics. Lowland Maya influence was becoming stronger as more Maya were immigrating into the region, but it was not strong enough to completely replace Zoquean styles and techniques.

Sites with a strong Early Classic (AD 250-500) occupation include Ojo de Agua and Tenam Rosario. An early Classic presence or occupation was not frequently noted in other sites. This period is also poorly represented in the archaeological record of the region, but what evidence that exists indicates a Zoquean presence or at least an influence among ceramics at Ojo de Agua and Tenam Rosario. Some pottery styles and decoration ideas from these sites were probably following some Lowland trends as well. During this time period Maya continued to immigrate into the Central Highlands and Comitán Valley and occupy and build sites that were more easily defended, due to possible conflict with the local populations they were pushing out of the region (Bryant 2005:399).

The Middle Classic period (AD 500-650) is represented at Ojo de Agua, Tenam Rosario, and Lagartero. This period is characterized by a halt in mound construction. It is proposed that this halt may be attributed to the powerful and extensive Teotihuacan influence felt in adjacent regions at this time. It should be noted that while there was Teotihuacan influence in the adjacent regions, it did not obviously extend into the upper Grijalva River Basin (Agrinier and Bryant 2005:401). A few isolated ceramic types from the Middle Classic period did show some “modal similarities to Middle Classic pottery from the central Maya Lowlands and adjacent Guatemala Highlands” (Agrinier and Bryant 2005:401).

It is also during this time that Maya immigration into this region was briefly interrupted. The local population, however, appears to have continued its use of earlier ceremonial centers, but mainly for burial purposes (Bryant 1978:4).

The construction hiatus of the Middle Classic ends with the huge influx of Maya immigrants into the area during the Late Classic period (AD 650-900), as well as in the adjacent Central Highlands and Comitán Valley to the north. By AD 700 Maya cultural influences in the upper Grijalva Basin region were strong, and the Late Classic became a period of Maya florescence and high population density (Blake et al. 2005:415). While the exact places these Maya people came from are currently unidentified, “it is tempting to posit that immigrants entered the study area to escape destabilizing forces just preceding or coinciding with the collapse of civilization in the adjacent southern Maya Lowlands” (Blake et al. 2005:415).

A large Maya occupation at hundreds of sites, including Lagartero, Tenam Rosario, Guajilar, and Ojo de Agua, is strongly supported in the archaeological record. The archaeological records indicate that it was common practice for the people occupying these sites to build on top of or expand already existing major structures. According to Blake et al.

Later occupants elevated earlier temples with stone, rubble, and sherd fill, and faced them with well-shaped limestone and travertine blocks. At Tenam Rosario, Ojo de Agua, and Lagartero, temples and platforms were constructed over Protoclassic and Early Classic buildings, and new plaza groups were added. At Guajilar, temples were constructed over existing Middle Preclassic and Late Preclassic architecture, even though the site's Preclassic linear layout did not conform well to the Late Classic enclosed plaza group configuration. (2005:416)

Domestic ware ceramics were found to be similar throughout the sites while more differences were found in the "finer serving, cache, and burial vessels" (Blake et al. 2005:417). Large domestic urn vessels were found in elite burial contexts, but these may have been previously used for preparing, serving, or storing large portions of food (Blake et al. 2005). Overall, pottery from elite contexts at Ojo de Agua, Lagartero, Tenam Rosario, and Guajilar shared very little similarities. In fact,

This was unexpected because, until the Late Classic period, pottery complexes were quite similar and homogenous throughout the region. This variability was due, in large part, to two factors. First, the local ceramic producers made a much wider range of decorated pottery during the Late Classic than they had during earlier periods. Second, a few widely-traded wares streamed into the project area during the Late Classic period, attesting to increased contact with regions outside the upper Grijalva Basin. (Blake et al. 2005:545)

Some of the pottery recovered from the upper Grijalva River Basin region indicates contact with the Tabasco Gulf Coast region, the Pacific Coast, the Guatemala Highlands, and the Chiapas Central Highlands (Blake et al. 2005:546).

Only a small number of mainly small sites with a light scatter of Postclassic remains, shallow deposits, burials, and offerings were found dating to this time period (AD 900-1530). Guajilar is the only known large Late Classic site that also had Postclassic midden deposits. In general, the start of the Postclassic was the beginning of a cultural decline, which followed the florescence of the Late Classic. People appear to have continued living at some of the larger Late Classic sites, while other Late Classic sites were abandoned. These abandoned sites, however, were sometimes used for the internment of Chinautla cremation urns (globular body, narrow neck, strap handles) that were placed at the tops of earlier mounds (like those found at Guajilar) or in nearby caves.

Late Postclassic sites were less frequent in the region than Early Postclassic sites as people continued to leave the region. Los Encuentros and Canajasté were the two largest Late Postclassic sites excavated. This period ends with most of what was left of the population in the upper Grijalva Basin occupying the hilltops in the western half of the Central Highlands, and the arrival of the Spanish.

When the Spanish came into the region (AD 1530-1800) they began resettling the people into towns for easier control (Lee et al. 2005:650). Ceramics from these sites became blended of indigenous types and imported wares from the Spanish, but some traditional forms were still in use throughout this period.

2| LATE CLASSIC BURIALS OF GUAJILAR

This chapter provides the descriptions of the Late Classic burials from Guajilar. The descriptions of Guajilar's burials review the burial location, grave type, burial type, and grave goods of each feature so that some of the burial practices from the Late Classic can be identified. The burial practices of Guajilar described here are then compared to the Late Classic burial practices from Lagartero, which are described in the following chapter. By defining the burial practices for these two sites and then comparing them to a few burials found in the Guatemalan Highlands and the southern Maya Lowlands (see chapter 4), similarities and differences can be more clearly drawn between the burial practices of these two regions. The burial practices with the strongest similarities in burial location, grave type, burial type, and grave goods may suggest possible origins for the people who occupied Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic.

Proceeding the burial descriptions is an introduction to the area surrounding Guajilar, a site description, a review of the history of excavation, and a possible occupational timeline of the site.

Location and Environmental Setting

The archaeological site of Guajilar is located in a flat valley, consisting of a rich black soil mantle in the easternmost part of the municipal of Trinitaria, a little less than 20 km from the Guatemalan border. It is situated almost in the center of the largest, rock-free area (at least 5000 ha), in the region, making it a prime location for agricultural use, both anciently and today.

Guajilar can be found near the Pan-American Highway off the Rancho Niagara access road near the small town of San Caralampio. It sits on the south bank of the Santo Domingo River, about 12 km upstream from its junction with the San Gregorio River. A forest of "ceiba,

ramon, la nona, cela de lagarto, amate, zapote, guajil, guanacaste, sabimo choxlib, madron, kima, and fresno line the river banks of this river, reaching heights of up to 30 meters” (Bryant 1978:1). Local fauna that thrive in the nearby hills and along the Santo Domingo River include iguana, armadillo, rabbit, quail, river fish such as mojara and macabin, and many other animal species (Bryant 1978:1).

Milpas, or farmland, of mainly corn cover most of the site and are divided up by fences which cut through the archaeological features and structures in various sections (Figure 2.1). A number of the smaller mounds have been planted over, while the larger mounds have been farmed up to their bases. Some of the non-farmed sections have been left as grazing fields for cattle and other livestock.

Most of the mounds that make up Guajilar fit within about a 16 ha area, while the center of the site is dominated by a line of five tall mounds running in a northwest to southeast direction, parallel to the south bank of the Santo Domingo River (Figure 2.2). A sixth mound sits about 40 meters southwest of the axis line of these five mounds, and reaches a height of 14 meters. The largest mound in this main axis line is 17 meters tall, and the smallest is about 5 meters tall. The mounds that make up Guajilar include public buildings and domestic structures; they range in size and function. Fifty-one small domestic mounds and other structures are scattered throughout the site but cluster mainly in the northern half near the line of larger mounds.



Figure 2.1: Slightly northeast view of Mounds 29 and 42 (background, center of the picture). Mound 29 is the smaller mound to the left and Mound 42 is the larger mound to the right. The foreground shows some of the fenced-off modern divisions of the land for farming.

The Central Plaza is bordered by two of the major mounds (50b to the west and 50a to the east), a 3 m high platform to the northeast, and a 4 m high mound to the southwest. The ground level of the plaza was also found to be slightly lower than the other surrounding surfaces. Two ball courts were also built along the line of major structures. The first is a small ball court with two parallel mounds located northeast of the largest mound, and the second is a T-shaped ball court located immediately northwest of the Central Plaza.

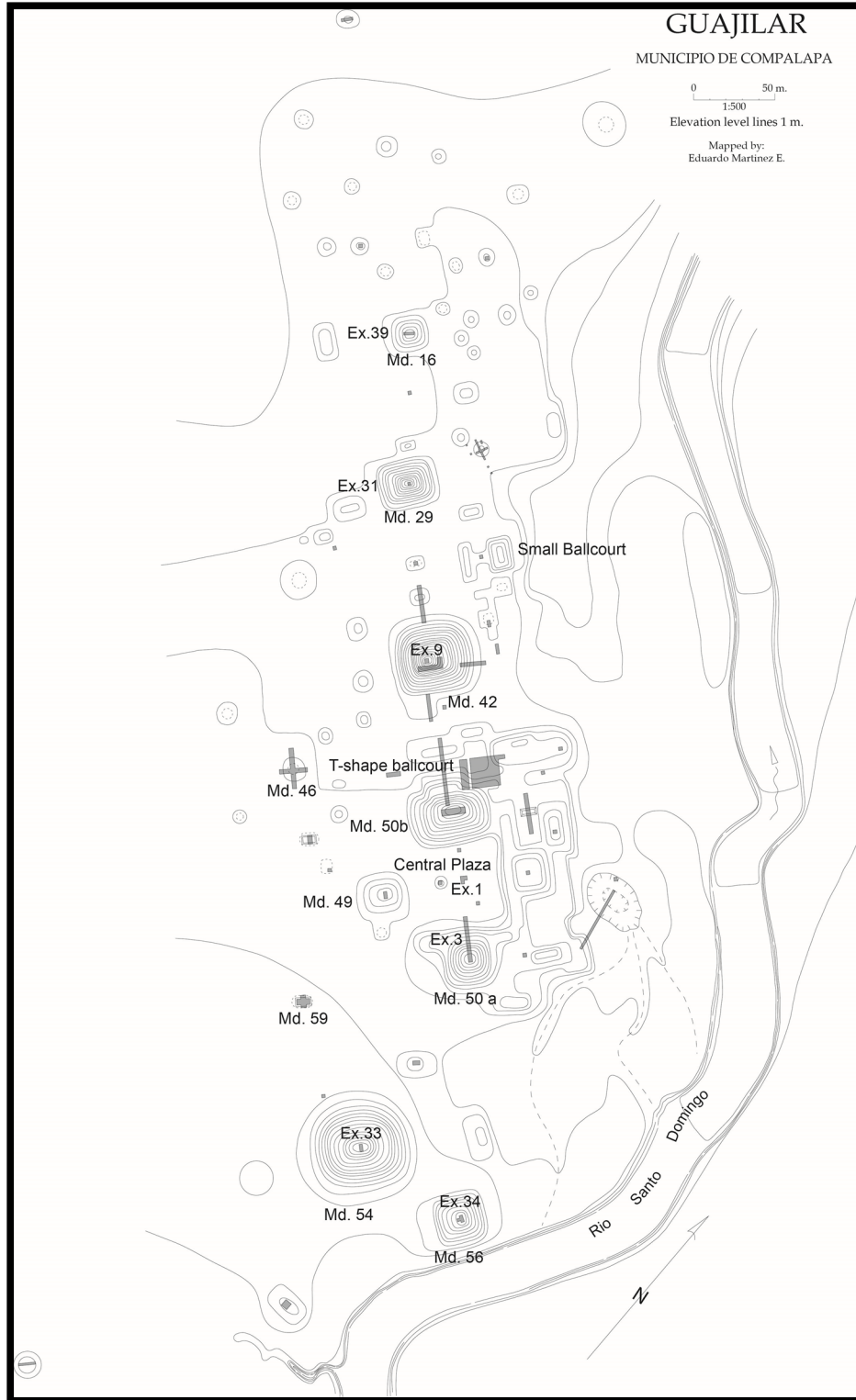


Figure 2.2: Site map of Guajilar showing the locations of the excavation units containing Late Classic burials, as well as some of the major mounds. The site was mapped by Eduardo Martinez during the 1976 and 1978 excavations.

History of Excavation

Upper Grijalva River Basin Project

From 1973 to 1981 the NWAFF carried out a large survey and excavation project initially known as the Upper Grijalva Maya Project (later renamed the Upper Grijalva River Basin Project [UGRB] when early research revealed non-Maya beginnings for the region), which covered the Upper Grijalva Basin region (Clark et al. 2005:1).

The main purpose of the project was “to test alternative hypotheses for the development of Maya culture and society, as suggested by linguistic models which postulated Maya origins about 1800 BC in the adjacent Cuchumatán Mountains of Guatemala” (Clark et al. 2005:1). One of the project goals was to understand the cultural evolution of the region “over the course of all prehistory and trailing into the Colonial era and, if possible, to trace different ethnic and linguistic identities through time and space” (Clark et al. 2005:1).

The NWAFF became aware of the existence of Guajilar while conducting the Upper Grijalva Basin Maya Project and decided to add it to the list of sites to explore in the coming years.

Excavations at Guajilar

Guajilar was selected for excavation based on its categorization as a regional center. Lee categorized it as a “ceremonial center” because of the high degree of ceremonialism present at the site, defined by the presence of two ball courts, platforms with multiple superstructures, and an enclosed plaza on three sides (1976:1). The presence of public and domestic structures presented the opportunity to study domestic life as well as Guajilar’s ceremonial aspects.



Figure 2.3: Workers moving an unidentified funerary urn vessel at Guajilar during the 1978 field season. Photo on file at the NAAF.

Excavations took place over the course of two field seasons, beginning in 1976 and the second season in 1978 (Figure 2.3). Both were led and directed by Thomas Lee. He began the first season of excavation on April 20 and worked until June 15. On average, there were 16 to 28 men working on excavations under Lee's direction. The goals of this first season were to discover the parameters of the site and to determine the major periods of occupation. Work began with a surface collection of ceramics in order to begin determining the occupational timeline of Guajilar. The ceramics recovered revealed a tentative beginning in the Late Preclassic (300-100 BC) with an ending in the Early Postclassic (AD 900-1250). After some of the initial excavations of the mounds, the timeline was determined to extend into the Late Postclassic (AD 1250-1530).

In the initial surveys 57 structures were mapped and drawn by Eduardo Martinez which lay within the 16 ha site area. Other small mounds exist outside of this area but their exact number and locations were not recorded.

During the 1976 season, 15 excavations pits were opened to learn more about the duration of human occupation, location and depth of primary trash deposits, and the consistency of the mound fill so that a second more intensive field season could be planned.

Lee also directed the second season in 1978 and excavated from February until April when John Clark and Douglas Bryant arrived to help with the work. Lee oversaw the rest of the 1978 season but left the field work to Clark and Bryant. They excavated from April to May, with the southern portion of Guajilar directed by Clark and Bryant directing work in the northern half. During this season 33 more excavations (for a total of 48) were undertaken to help answer these questions. Most of the excavation units consisted of 2 x 2 meter square test pits that, in general, were not very deep with the exception of Excavation Unit 33 which reached a little over 7 m down from the apex of Mound 54. Excavation Units 18 and 19 covered a large surface area of 264 square meters, and Excavation Unit 37 was a trench 40 m long and 1 m wide.

The main purpose of the 1978 season excavations was to test for chronological placement of the major structures and to determine their relationships to the other buildings at the site. The second purpose was to determine the relationships of the domestic structures, or mounds, to the ceremonial center and to each other.

In the two field seasons some amazing discoveries were made, among them at least 50 burials rich in ceramics, jade, shell, and other valuable burial offerings. Lee completed a preliminary report of the first phase of excavations at Guajilar which he turned in to Mexico's

Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in 1976. He began compiling a final report of the two excavation seasons, but it was never finished before his death in 2013. The NAAF has the partially completed manuscript on file in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. It contains a short summary of the field seasons, a chapter started on the field excavations, an incomplete chapter on the burials and caches recovered from both seasons, a chapter on Lee's analysis and typology of the ceramics, and descriptions of the other artifacts recovered from the site.

Sequence of Occupation

According to the analysis of the ceramics collected in surveys and excavation, and the stratigraphy revealed in larger mounds, most of Guajilar's mounds were constructed in the Late Preclassic (300-100 BC) by an unknown group, most likely Mixe-Zoque. This is evidenced by the presence of numerous Chiapa IV and V waxy slip orange, black, and white sherds with wide, everted rims. The distinct lack of sherds and ceramics from the Early Classic suggest the site was abandoned after the Protoclassic (100 BC to AD 300) and unoccupied during Early Classic times (AD 300-650). Excavation units in the larger mounds reveal a gap in the time line as construction phases jump from the Late Preclassic straight to the Late Classic. Other ceramics collected from around the area also revealed a complete lack of Early Classic ceramics, which also suggests a cessation of use of the site during that time period.

It was not until the start of the Late Classic (AD 650) that Guajilar was occupied by Maya peoples who emigrated from unknown regions. The ceramics analyzed for Guajilar, suggest one possible explanation that its Late Classic occupants may have come from the southern and central Maya Lowlands. Contact, however, was limited during the Late Classic period with the southern Lowlands, as evidenced by the lack of imported glossware Maya polychromes from that region in the upper Grijalva River Basin (Blake et al. 2005:546).

During the Late Classic period at Guajilar, the Maya constructed a number of domestic structures, most likely over the remains of the Preclassic house mounds based on the superimposed floors found during the excavation of a few of them (Bryant 1978:5). They may have made additions to some of the larger structures as well, but it was difficult to tell with the state of preservation of the mounds. A number of house mounds are found around the ceremonial center of the site, but clustered mostly to the east of Mounds 51b and 42. A larger number of residential mounds were found across the Santo Domingo River at the contemporaneous site of El Niagara (the exact count was not specified in Bryant's 1978 field report).

The people of Guajilar ate corn, beans, and squash, as well as collected local wild fruits, fished, and hunted in the surrounding area. It was also during this time period that a figurine industry thrived, the two ball courts were constructed, and cotton was possibly produced (Bryant 1978). According to Bryant's 1978 preliminary report of the second season it was during the Late Classic that tombs and other urn burials dug into the largest mounds and intruded through the Preclassic fill.

By the Early Postclassic (AD 900-1250) the people no longer lived at the site, but they still utilized the area as a burial ground until the Late Postclassic (AD 1250-1500).

Guajilar's Late Classic Burials

Twelve Late Classic (AD 650-900) burial features were excavated during the two field seasons at Guajilar. Another three features were found that may be Late Classic burials as well. In his final report Lee labeled two of these features as "disturbed" and the other as a mouth-to-mouth vessel offering (Lee et al. 1989). Notes on each feature indicate the presence of possible

cremation water jars. Four possible Late Classic mortuary offerings were also found near some of the burial features.

Excavations at Guajilar focused mainly on the major mounds along the main axis line, but they also explored a few of the smaller mounds and other areas of the site. The recorded Late Classic burial features and mortuary offerings were found in the major mounds and Central Plaza (Fig. 2.1). Late Classic burial features likely exist in other structures of the site that have not been excavated. The burials described here should be assumed to be a small sample of all the Late Classic burials at the site.

The main mounds at Guajilar constructed in Preclassic times, and the structural additions made in the Late Classic period do not appear to have been undertaken for mortuary purposes. Rather, field notes and feature records indicate that many burials were intruded into extant structures. In Bryant's 1978 field report he mentions and describes, additions made to large mounds when Guajilar was reoccupied in Late Classic times. He further describes the poor state of preservation of these architectural additions, and the poor state of preservation of the structures in general. Some additions made to mounds may have been motivated by mortuary activities and rituals, but these cannot be ascertained from current information. In this thesis I focus on the construction of the graves and the burials themselves rather than on architecture and the purposes of the mounds and platforms.

In the following sections I define grave and burial types and the typology used to describe burials at Guajilar. Most of these I take from Lee's final report (Lee et al. 1989). After writing definitions, I describe the Late Classic burials recovered from Guajilar in the sequential

order of excavation units. These descriptions include all available information regarding burial characteristics and associated grave goods I have been able to recover from field and lab records.

Grave and Burial Type Definitions

Lee did not distinguish between grave type and burial type in his typology, but for clarity, *grave type* refers to the structure that contained the burial and *burial type* refers to the interment of human remains and associated grave goods (A. Smith 1972:212). Any reference to *burial feature* signifies both the grave and burial as a whole. All these data are summarized in Table 1.

Most of the Late Classic burials at both Guajilar and Lagartero have been identified as elite burials (Gurr-Matheny 1987:573; Bryant and Clark 1979:21). For both sites, burial location and associated grave goods were used as the main determining factors for this identification. Burials were identified as elite if they were located in ceremonial centers, major mounds, and other central areas of a site. Non-elite burials were those generally located outside of this central area, in surrounding residential areas (although these areas were not explored). Grave goods associated with elite burials included jade and shell artifacts, obsidian blades, fine ceramic vessels, and other rich offerings. Non-elite burials usually did not contain many grave goods (at least non-perishable grave goods), or such valuable grave goods like jade.

Excavations at both sites were focused in exploring the central and ceremonial centers. According to Gurr-Matheny, in regards to Lagartero, “the northwest plaza was an area reserved for elite burial and that burial there would indicate elite status while the site was functioning” (1987:573). At Guajilar, “Variation in house types and mortuary practices are indicative of social status or ranking” (Bryant and Clark 1979:21). House mounds immediately surrounding the ceremonial center at Guajilar were determined to be elite based on their size and architecture.

A few non-elite house mound were also found near the ceremonial center (smaller size), but most were located on the other side of the river at the contemporaneous site of El Niagara. According to Bryant and Clark, “Non-elite houses consist of scatters of small stones, sherds, chipped stone, and some fragments of ground stone [and] were only detected by plowing” (1979:22).

Some of the burials from these two sites, and discussed in this thesis, may not have contained elite individuals. Burials that may have actually been offerings to other burials may have contained the remains of non-elite individuals. These particular burials will be discussed in the appropriate sections in this chapter and the next.

Urn burials

Urn burials are burials placed in urns. An urn is a large globular vessel with a restricted opening or mouth (some of the narrow necks and rims of urn vessels were cut off to widen the opening). The openings, or mouths, of urns were sometimes covered with a smaller vessel placed inverted over the mouth to act as a lid or cover. Urn burials were found in various grave types at Guajilar. Bones found in urns were not well enough preserved to determine whether they were in a flexed position as a primary burial or disarticulated as a secondary burial (or if that corresponded to urn vessels that had complete necks and rims or if they were cut off).

Cremation burials

In cremation burials the body was burned to charred bone fragments and ash. The remains, sometimes accompanied with other small artifacts such as jewelry or obsidian blades,

were placed in small water jars. The water jars usually have three loop handles around the larger section of the body. The tall necks of these water jars were restricted and narrow. Sometimes a ceramic stopper or lid was placed over the mouth of the jar. It is very likely these water jars were functioning jars before being used to inter the remains of the dead. Three possible Late Classic cremation burials were found at Guajilar. Lee labeled two as “disturbed” and one as a mouth-to-mouth vessel offering. The feature record of the mouth-to-mouth offering (Excavation Unit 39, Feature 56) includes notes that it was possibly a cremation burial due to the presence of a water jar.

Secondary burial

In Lee’s final report only one burial is labeled or classified as a possible secondary burial. The disarticulated bones were found in Excavation Unit 1 with a large bowl turned upside down and placed over the top of them. The bowl dates to the Late Classic period (AD 650-900). The burial was found just outside of Burial Feature 6, a cist urn burial. It is possible that this secondary burial was actually an offering, but without access to the bones and more detailed notes I cannot tell. The remains appear to have gone through some kind of defleshing process before inhumation. This would explain their disarticulated state and tight bundling which allowed them to fit under the bowl.

Cist graves

Cist graves were cut into structural fill to inter burials. They were lined with rock slabs or had some kind of definite outline that distinguished them from the rest of the fill. Four cist graves were found that date to the Late Classic period. Three were found in Excavation Unit 1 in the Central Plaza, and the fourth was found in Mound 29. Two more may have been found in Excavation Unit 34 (Mound 56). While these last two appear to fit the description of cist graves they may have been associated with the nearby crypt grave. They were labeled as simple urn burials in Lee's report. He classified one burial feature (found in Mound 56) as a crypt grave. It dates to the Late Classic period. He did not describe the architecture or defining characteristics of the burial feature. The feature records, and the plan and profile drawings, describe a large cist-like grave that contained multiple urns. This supposedly singular crypt burial was actually found with two other urn burials and one mortuary offering placed between the urn vessels. They were found close together in a rock enclosed cist (actually lined with two courses of stone), with the spaces between each urn filled with rock, charcoal, clay, and sandy loam. The two other urn burials found in the crypt also date to the Late Classic period, suggesting the possibility of contemporaneous interment within the same grave structure. It is very likely that these are closely placed cist graves and not a crypt grave.

Tombs

One undisturbed tomb burial was found in Mound 50a. It was a corbel masonry tomb constructed with hard, well-formed tabular building stones. A large urn was found inside, and it was surrounded by offerings. According to Lee's notes the stone construction of the tomb was

laid up in narrow courses and cemented with mud mortar. A burial found in Mound 54 was labeled as a “destroyed tomb,” but no notes were found in Lee’s report or on the feature records of the type or method of its construction and architecture. A sketch accompanied the feature record which appears to be a pit lined in rock with one bowl and a few artifacts left behind. An urn may have been placed there at one time before looters took what they wanted and destroyed what was left. Both tombs date to the Late Classic period (AD 650-900).

Simple graves

This type includes graves that were crudely cut into structural fill. These graves were sometimes furnished with a few offerings and personal adornments (or sometimes with no offerings at all), and then covered with loose rocks and fill. At least two simple graves were found with Late Classic urn burials placed inside of them.

Disturbed

Two burials were found that were labeled as “disturbed.” No records were found that clarifies what “disturbed” means, but field notes mention looters coming in the night and digging up partially revealed but still buried artifacts. This looting left the archaeologists unable to clearly classify these features as burials. Both burial features, however, contained two handled water jars, which may suggest they were at one time cremation burials. Both features date to the Late Classic period.

Mortuary offerings

In general, offerings at Guajilar consisted of a bowl or two (sometimes mouth to mouth) with beads, obsidian blades, or other artifacts in or around them. These were then interred throughout the site in the structural fill of the mounds. There was only one offering, found in Mound 34 that was clearly associated with a burial. This was the offering found among the urns in the crypt-urn grave, also dating to the Late Classic period. One mouth-to-mouth offering was found among the cist urn burials of the Central Plaza, but Lee did not label it as a mortuary offering. His notes do not indicate why he chose to classify it simply as a mouth-to-mouth offering despite its proximity and contemporaneity with the cist urn burials. An incense burner cache (Feature 31-28) was found almost directly above a cist urn burial (Feature 31-29) and is contemporaneous with the burial feature. Lee did not indicate or note any connection the cache may have with the burial. A ritual cache (Feature 4) was found in the same section of Excavation Unit 3 as the tomb-urn burial (Feature 21). Despite its contemporaneity with Feature 21 Lee did not note a relationship between the two features. No feature record was found, or plan and profile drawings, that may have clarified its exact location and context within the excavation unit. Other offerings and caches were recovered from the site but did not appear to be associated with any burial features that could categorize them as mortuary offerings.

Excavation Unit	Feature	Grave & Burial Type	Osteo. Remains	Position	Num.	Sex (M/F)	Age (A/Y/D/C)	Funerary offerings	Ceramic	Stone	Shell	Other
1	5	UNK	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	-
1	6	Cist urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	X
1	14	Cist urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	X	-
1	16	Cist urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	X
3	21	Tomb urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	X
9	20	Disturbed (CR?)	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
9	23	Disturbed (CR?)	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
9	25	Simple urn	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
33	33-24	Destroyed tomb	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
34	34-27	Crypt urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	-	-
31	31-29	Cist urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	X
34	34-30	Simple urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
34	34-35	Simple urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	X
39	39-56	M/M offering (CR?)	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	X	-
39	39-57	Simple urn	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	-
3	4	Ritual Cache	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	-	-	-
31	31-28	Incense Burner Cache	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	-	-	-
34	34-34	Mortuary offering	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	X	-
1	15	M/M offering	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	-	-

Table 1: Late Classic burial features and their characteristics from Guajilar. The last two entries are not burials but possible mortuary offerings. “X” denotes the presence of an item and “-” denotes the absence. UNK=unknown, M/M=mouth to mouth, N/A=not applicable, CR=cremation.

Late Classic Burial Features

Before each burial feature and offering was recorded all documents related to it were reviewed to fill in any missing information. Many original plan and profile drawings were quick

sketches made in the field and do not show all the items found with a burial. I recorded everything as I found it rather than make alterations based on my own assumptions. For the sake of some clarity, I redrew the plan and section drawings of each burial feature and re-photographed all the artifacts in storage at the NAAF and the few artifacts on display in the Regional Museum of Anthropology and History of Chiapas in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. The negatives of the black and white photographs of excavations and of the artifacts are on file at the NAAF. The color photographs of the site and artifacts were taken by me or by BYU undergraduate students working with me. Some photos (negatives) of the features could not be located at the NAAF. Thus, some features described here lack accompanying photographic evidence.

With regards to the location of storage of the skeletal remains and burial goods, some guesses had to be made. Some skeletal remains from Guajilar are stored at Antropológicas at the National University in Mexico City. I have not been able to locate the fragmented bones and cremated remains from the urn and cremation burials. None of the human remains were available to me for restudy.

The ceramic vessels associated with each burial were used to determine its chronological placement. Most of the complete ceramic vessels were turned into the INAH regional museum in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, years ago and are stored there. Some water jars from the cremation burials, a beautifully sculpted anthropomorphic bowl and lid from the tomb-urn burial, and some other unique artifacts are on display in the prehistoric exhibit hall of this museum. Figurines, sherds, and other ceramic artifacts from Guajilar are also stored at this museum. I was unable to get permission to study them because of museum remodeling and inventorying at the time of my stay in Chiapas.

Some of the other mortuary artifacts, especially the more unique and valuable ones, were turned into INAH and are either in storage or on display in the Tuxtla Museum. Some artifacts from Guajilar are still stored at the NWAFL lab in San Cristóbal de las Casas. I analyzed these with the help of two of BYU's undergraduate students, Timothy Boyer and Michaela Miller. The recording process included photographing each artifact, taking weights and measurements, weight, and writing descriptions. With the help of Mayari Castellanos, a master's graduate from Mexico, I was able to distinguish jade artifacts from serpentine artifacts. No other analyses were undertaken of the artifacts. Following are the burial descriptions.

Excavation Unit 1

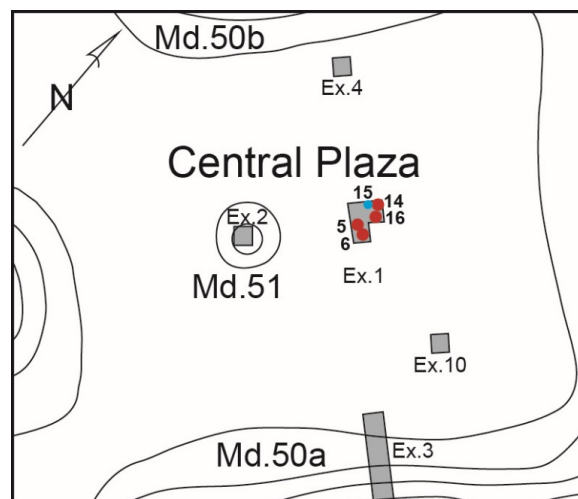


Figure 2.4: Close-up view of the Central Plaza at Guajilar and the excavation units in the surrounding area. The red dots signify the approximate locations of Late Classic burials from Excavation Unit 1. Blue dot signifies possible mortuary offering. Close-up from original map by Eduardo Martinez.

Excavation Unit 1 (Figure 2.4) was opened in the center of the Central Plaza (located between Mound 50a and 50b). Four burial features and one possible burial offering were uncovered in the excavation pit (divided into Sections A and B). A possible secondary burial

(Feature 5) and one cist urn burial (Feature 6) were found in Section A, while two more cist urn burials (Features 14 and 16) and a possible burial offering were found in Section B.

The secondary burial (Figure 2.5) consisted of disarticulated human remains that were arranged to fit entirely underneath a large bowl turned upside down. No other artifacts or offerings were found under or near the bowl. The feature was found just outside of Feature 6, which may suggest that it was possibly a burial offering for the cist urn burial and not an intentional burial in its own right. Lee did not indicate any connection between the two features.

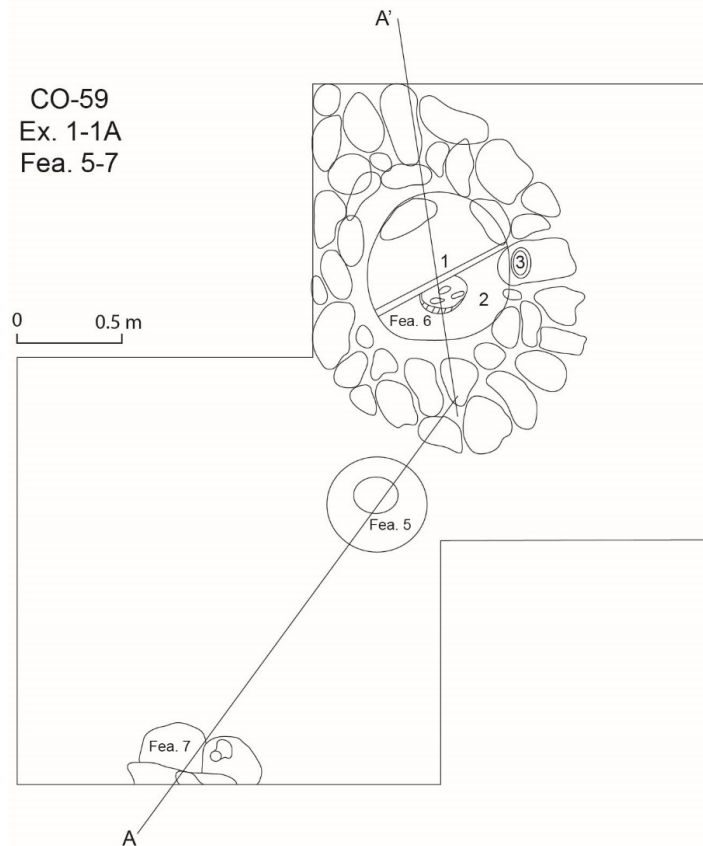


Figure 2.5: Plan drawing of Features 5, 6, and 7 in Excavation Unit 1. Document on file at the NAAF.

Feature 6 (Figure 2.6) consisted of a formally constructed grave of rocks stacked tightly around a large round urn. The neck and rim of the urn vessel were cut off, and a large effigy

bowl was placed upside down over the new mouth of the urn as a lid or cover. Many artifacts were found inside of the urn (Figures 2.7 and 2.8). They included jade and shell beads, two carved shell ear flares, four incised and decorated limestone spindle whorls (hemispherical shape, flat base and biconical body), five carved bone rings (four anthropomorphic designs and one zoomorphic design), and two marine shell pendants. A small bowl was found outside of the urn, resting approximately at the middle section of the urn vessel in the fill between the burial and the rock wall of the grave.

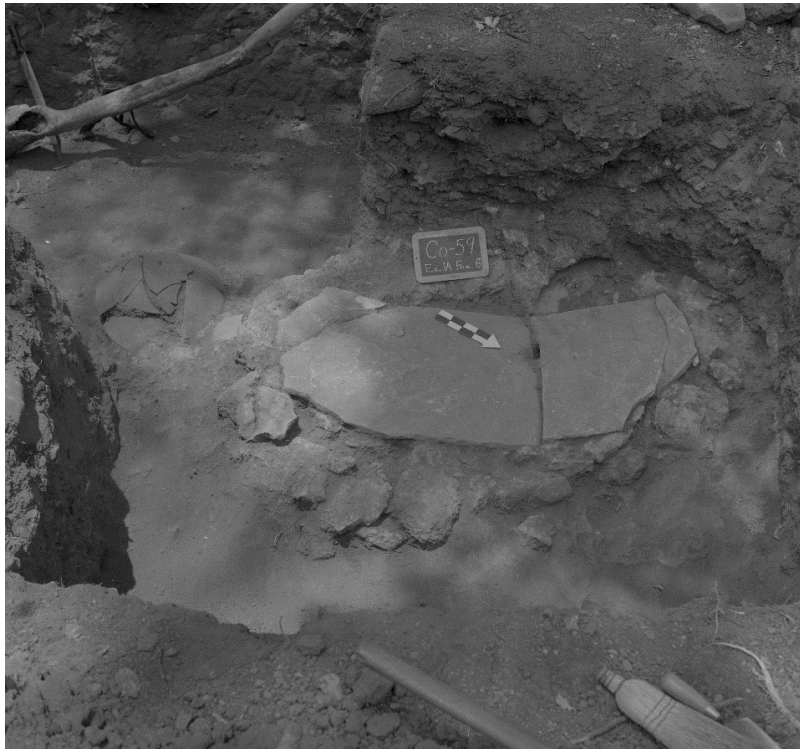


Figure 2.6: Field photo of Feature 6 in Excavation Unit 1. Photo on file at the NAAF.

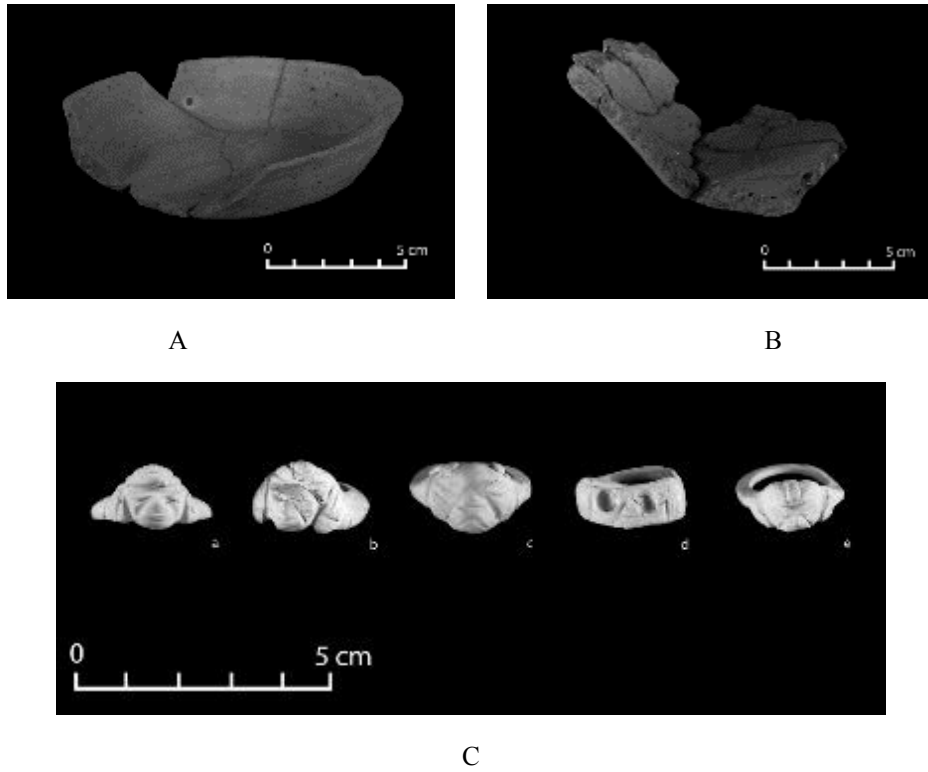


Figure 2.7: Artifacts from Feature 6. A) Uninajab Slipped: Uninajab Variety small bowl (MRE-6914). B) Sherd disk pot lid fragment of a Patajama Orange-white Variety unspecified vessel (MRE-6949). C) Carved bone rings a.MRE-26777, b.MRE-26778, c.MRE-26779, d.MRE-26780, and e.MRE-26781



Figure 2.8: Shell breast plate, jade beads, shell beads, spindle whorls, and obsidian blade from Feature 6 in Excavation Unit 1.

Feature 14 and 16 (Figures 2.9 and 2.10) were cist graves that consisted of rocks stacked tightly around two urn burials. A rock wall separated the urns, but they were still located side-by-side in the Central Plaza (Figure 2.11). Feature 14 held a large, flat-bottom urn vessel with a large, upside-down bowl on top as a lid. A polychrome cylinder vessel was found inside of a bowl that was placed along the west side of the outside of the urn (Figure 2.12). A few marine shell fragments were found inside of the urn, but no other grave goods were recovered during the excavations.

The urn from Feature 16 also had an upside-down cover vessel over its mouth, but it contained a number of unique artifacts inside of it resting at the bottom of the vessel. These grave goods included two hollow figurine rattles (with small ceramic balls inside each), a ceramic bird effigy Ocarina (whistle), jade and shell beads, fragments of a stone disk mirror back and pyrite mirror pieces, amber beads, a marine shell breast plate pendant, a bone ring (not described in the feature record), an incised stone bead, and carbon fragments (Figure 2.13). The skull and some of the human remains were still semi-decently preserved, but are not described in the notes or on the feature record.

Feature 15 was the mouth-to-mouth vessel offering found in Section B with the two previously described cist urn burials (Figure 2.14). It was located 54 cm northwest of the center of Feature 14. The offering consisted of two similar bowls placed mouth to mouth with human bone fragments, a bifacial obsidian blade, and a trapezoidal obsidian blade found resting inside at the bottom of the lower bowl (Figures 2.15 and 2.16). Its proximity and contemporaneity with the two nearby cist urn burials suggest the possibility that it may have been a mortuary offering. Lee recorded its location but did not describe the relationship between these features.

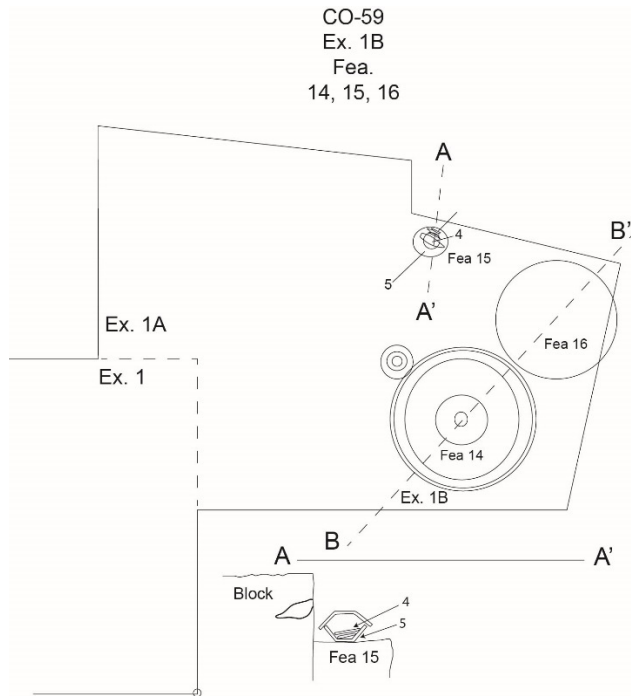


Figure 2.9: Plan drawing of Features 14, 15, and 16 in Excavation Unit 1. Drawing on file at the NWAf.

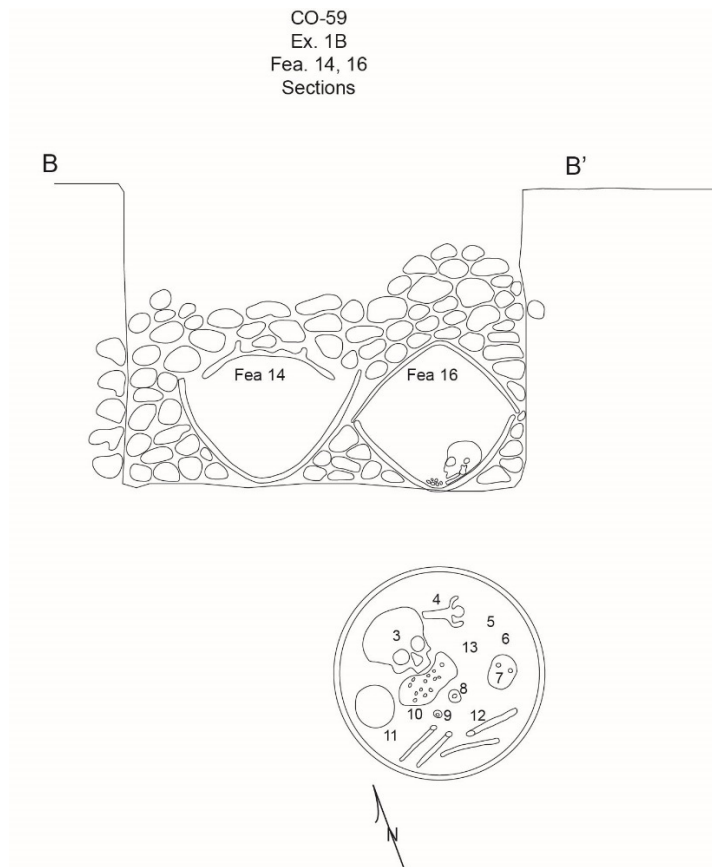
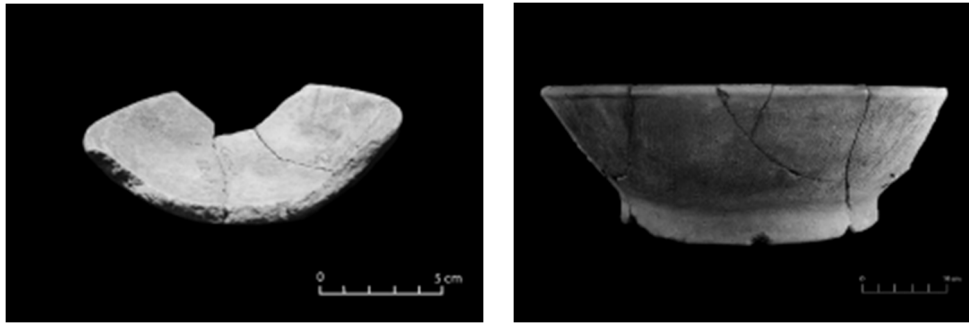


Figure 2.10: Profile drawing of Features 14 and 16 in Excavation Unit 1. Drawing on file at the NWAf.



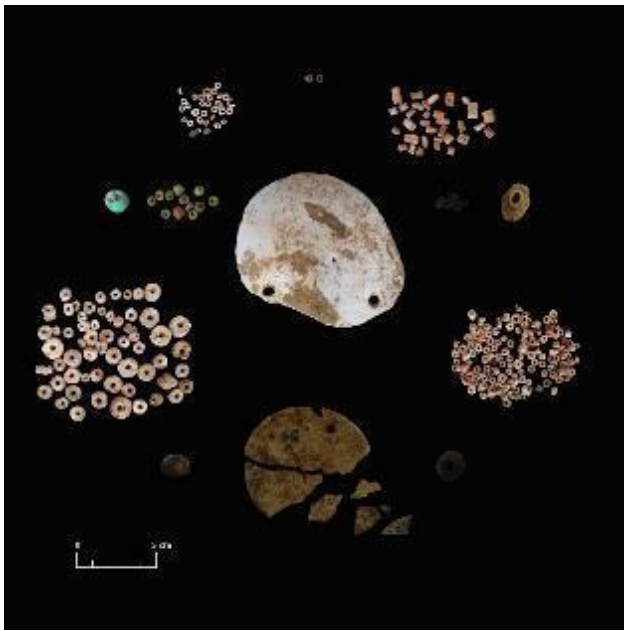
A

B

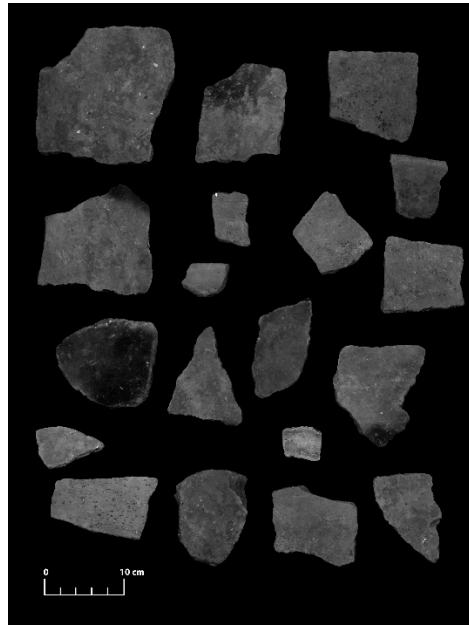
Figure 2.11: Ceramic vessels from Feature 14. A) Uninajab Slipped:Uninajab Variety bowl (MRE-9882). B) Uninajab Slipped:Yaliovy Variety large ring base bowl (MRE-6998). Photos of the urn and cylinder vessels were not available. Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.12: Field photo of Features 14 and 16 in Excavation Unit 1. The Feature sign and north arrow are below Feature 14. Feature 16 is the urn to the left. Photo on file at the NAAF.



A



B



C

Figure 2.13: Artifacts from Feature 16 in excavation Unit 1. A) Shell breast plate, shell beads, jade beads, spindle whorl, and amber beads. B) Ceramic sherds. C) Ceramic bird effigy whistle and two ceramic figurine rattles. Color photos are by the author, and black and white photos are on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.14: Field photo of Feature 15 in Excavation Unit 1. Photo on file in the NAAF.

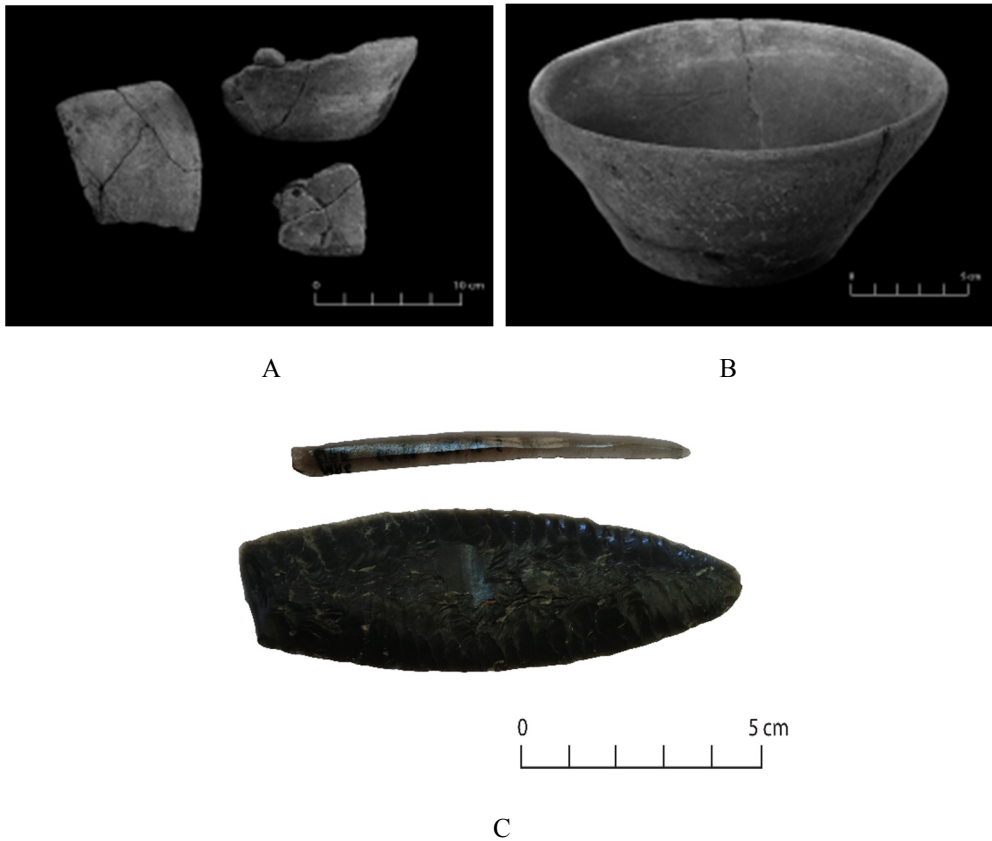


Figure 2.15: Artifacts from Feature 15 in Excavation Unit 1. A) Fragmented Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-9824). B) Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-6920). C) Top trapezoidal obsidian blade, bottom obsidian bifacial blade. Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.16: Human bones from Feature 15 in Excavation Unit 1. Photo by author.

Excavation Unit 3

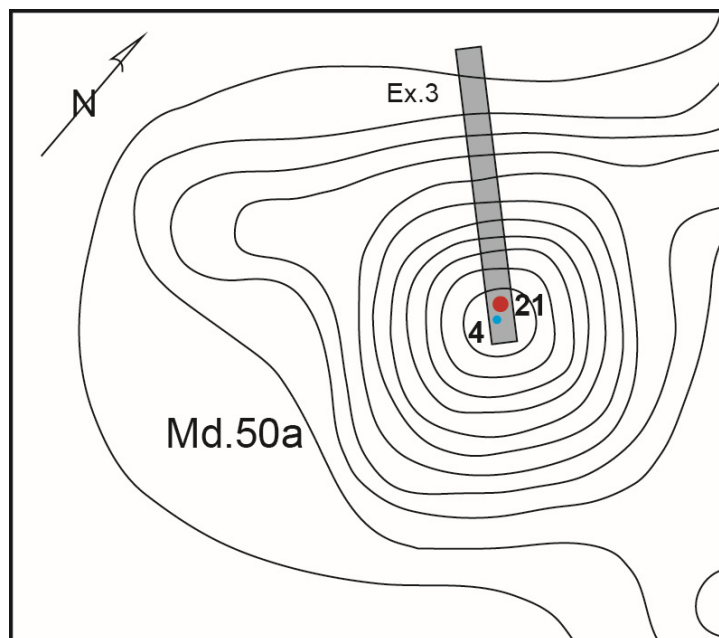


Figure 2.17: Close-up of Mound 50a and Excavation Unit 3. Red dot marks the location of the tomb urn burial (Feature 21). Blue dot marks the location of possible mortuary offering (Feature 4) in Section M. Close-up from original map by Eduardo Martinez.

One burial feature and one possible mortuary offering were recovered from Excavation Unit 3 (Figure 2.17), near the top of Mound 50a. The burial feature (Feature 21) was a large urn burial found in a tomb in Section M of the excavation unit (Figures 2.18 and 2.19). Lee described the grave as a corbel masonry tomb that consisted of hard, well-formed tabular building stones laid up in narrow courses and set in mud mortar (Lee et al. 1989). No further description was made of the tomb construction.

Inside of the tomb was an urn burial surrounded by a large number ceramic vessels and other grave goods (Figures 2.20, 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, 2.24, and 2.25). This burial feature was by far the most elaborate in construction and number of grave goods found at Guajilar. The ceramic vessels included sixteen large bowls (some polychrome, some incised, and some monochrome), one red wash cylinder, one red wash jar, one anthropomorphic effigy jar with a lid, fourteen tripod bowls, three effigy shoe-shaped vessels, one pedestal incense burner, and fragments of an unidentified vessel. Some of these vessels were stacked on top of each other. All were placed around the outside of the urn. One vessel contained white ash and charcoal; another contained a few small water worn pebbles; and, one held faunal bone fragments. Some of the vessels broke in situ over time but were reconstructed after excavation. Other grave goods included jade and shell beads, a jade anthropomorphic pendant, long bone needles, two pyrite ear ornaments, prismatic obsidian blades, a bone tube with incised glyphs, two hollow bone ear plugs, a carved gastropod shell, mosaic mirror fragments and pieces, marine shell fragments, and human remains found outside of the urn that may have been an offering. These were also found outside of the urn burial. Human remains were also found inside of the urn, but neither their condition nor placement is described in the field notes or feature record.

One possible mortuary offering (Feature 4) was found outside of the tomb structure, also located in Section M of Excavation Unit 3 (Figure 2.26). Lee classified this feature as a ritual cache that consisted of three incense burners (Figure 2.27). The largest of the three and had modeled-appliquéd decoration. Once again, the possibility of its categorization as a mortuary offering is based solely on its proximity and contemporaneity to the burial feature. Lee did not indicate a relationship between these two features but did suggest they were interred sometime between the Late Classic (AD 600-900) and Postclassic (AD 900-1250) periods.



Figure 2.18: Field photo of Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. Photo on file at the NWAf.



Figure 2.19: Close up shot of the smaller item grave goods found in Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. Photo on file at the NWAf.

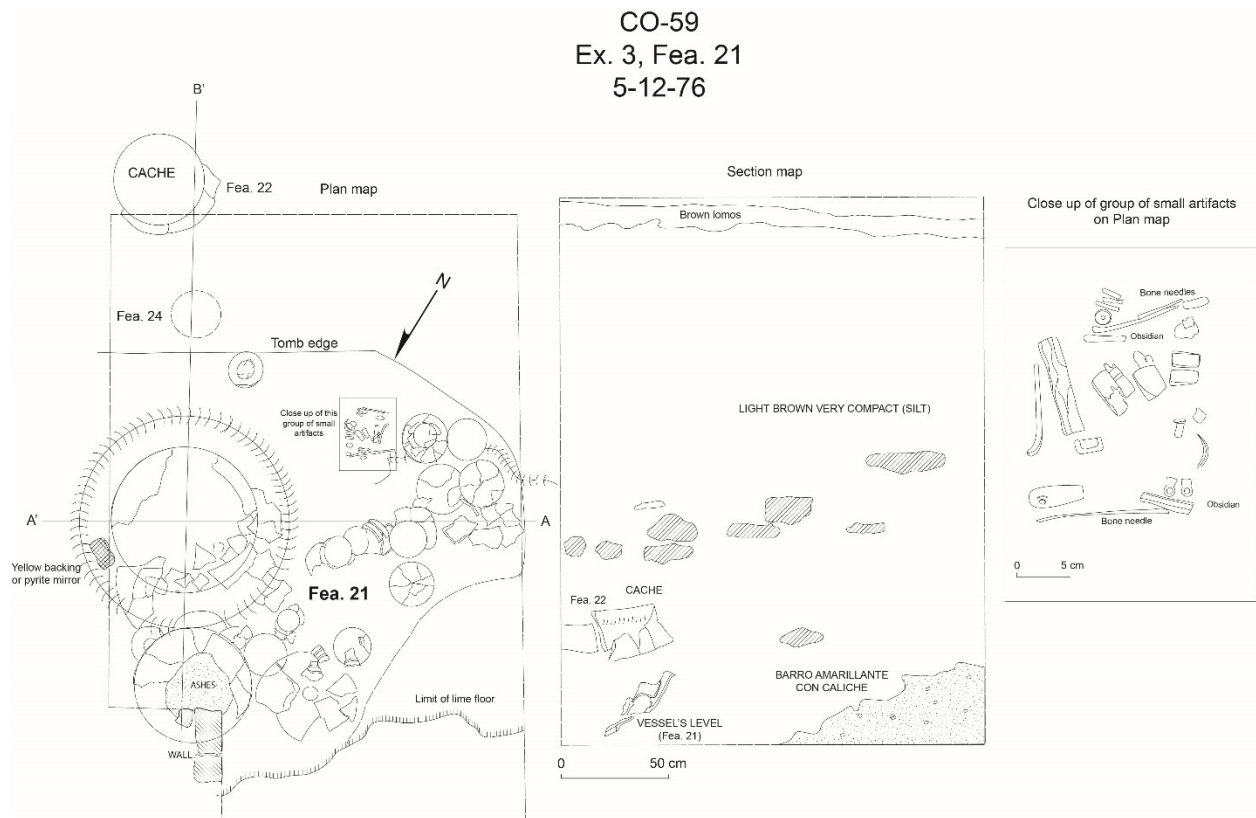


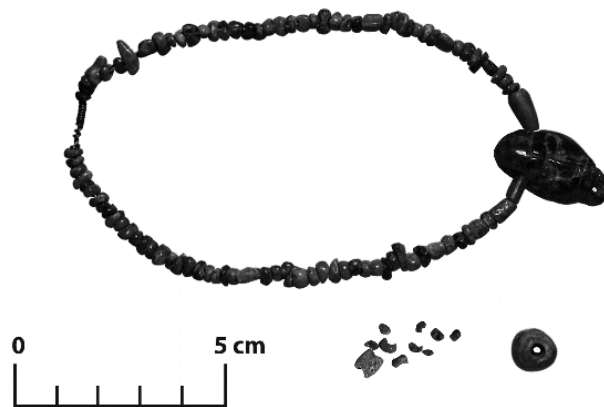
Figure 2.20: Plan and profile drawings of Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. Close up box is of the group of small artifacts found just to the north of the main burial urn of Feature 21. Document on file at the NWAf.



A



B



C

Figure 2.21: Artifacts from Feature 21. A) A carved bone tube (MRE-26773), two carved bone ear plugs (MRE-26774 & 26775), and a carved shell (MRE-26776). B) Bone needles (MRE-6217). C) Jade beads and a carved jade pendant (MRE-6257). Color photo by author, black and white photos on file at the NWAf.



A



B



C

Figure 2.22: Artifacts from Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. A) Mosaic mirror pieces and fragments, jade and shell beads, and stone pendants. B) Rodent incisors and bone bead. C) Obsidian blades. Photos by author.

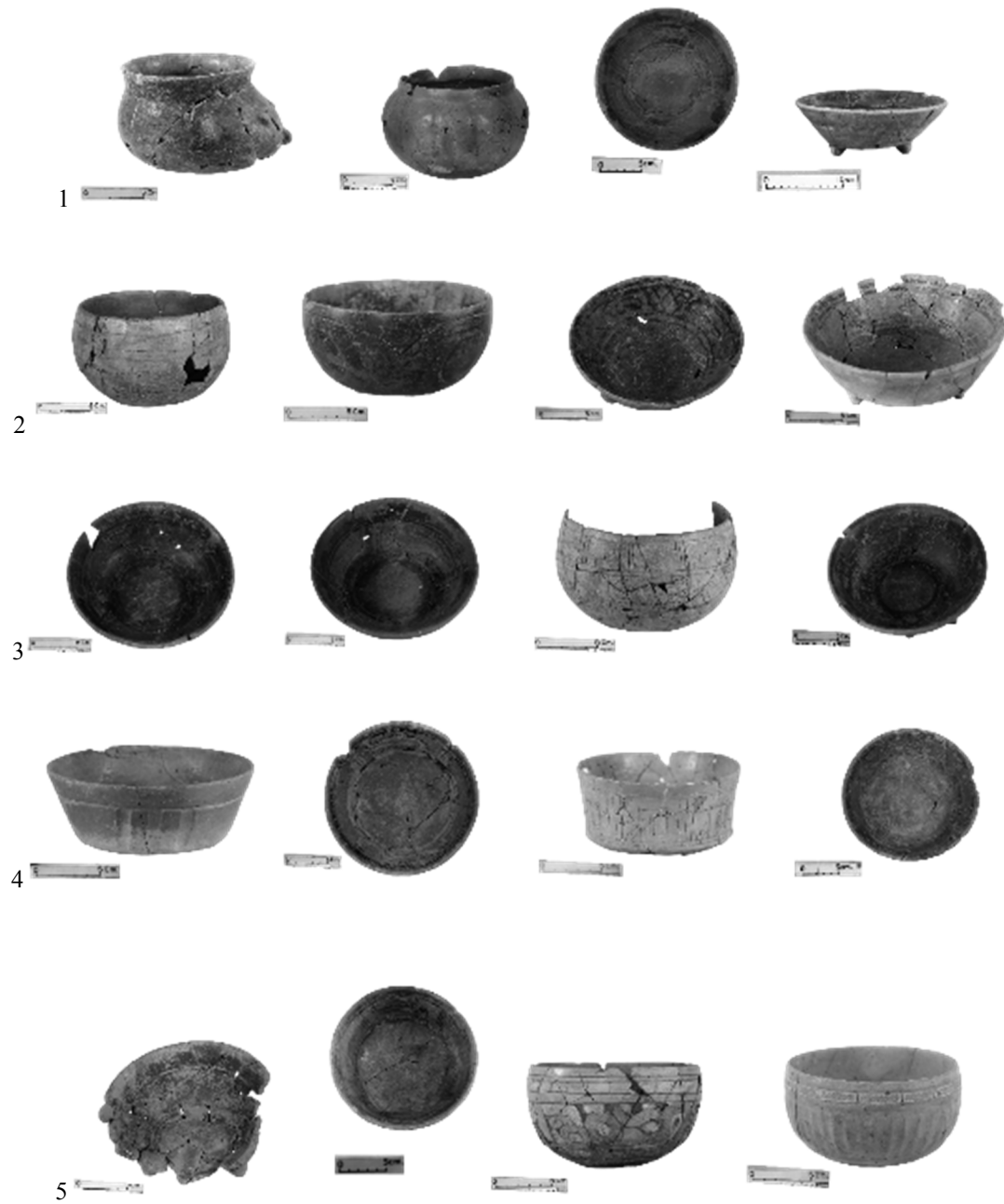


Figure 2.23: Ceramic vessels from Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. From left to right by row the MRE numbers are listed and can be matched up with the descriptions provided in the Appendix. Row 1: MRE-6837, MRE-6843, MRE-6842, MRE-6840. Row 2: MRE-6850, MRE-6854, MRE-6856, MRE-6855. Row 3: MRE-6862, MRE-6861, MRE-6859, MRE-6857. Row 4: MRE-6864, MRE-6863, MRE-6869, MRE-6867. Row 5: 6895, MRE-6883, 6881, MRE-6873. Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.24: Ceramic vessels of Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3 continued. From left to right by row the MRE numbers are listed and can be matched up with the descriptions provided in the Appendix. Row 1: MRE-6907, MRE-6923, MRE-6911, MRE-6910. Row 2: MRE-6929, MRE-6926, MRE-6925, MRE-6924. Row 3: MRE-6974, MRE-6938, MRE-6936, MRE-6930. Row 4: MRE-6992, MRE-9840, MRE-6997. Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.25: Modeled effigy jar with lid from Feature 21 in Excavation Unit 3. Black and white photo on file at the NWAf. Color photo by author.



Figure 2.26: Field photo of Feature 4 in Excavation Unit 3. Photo on file at the NWAf.

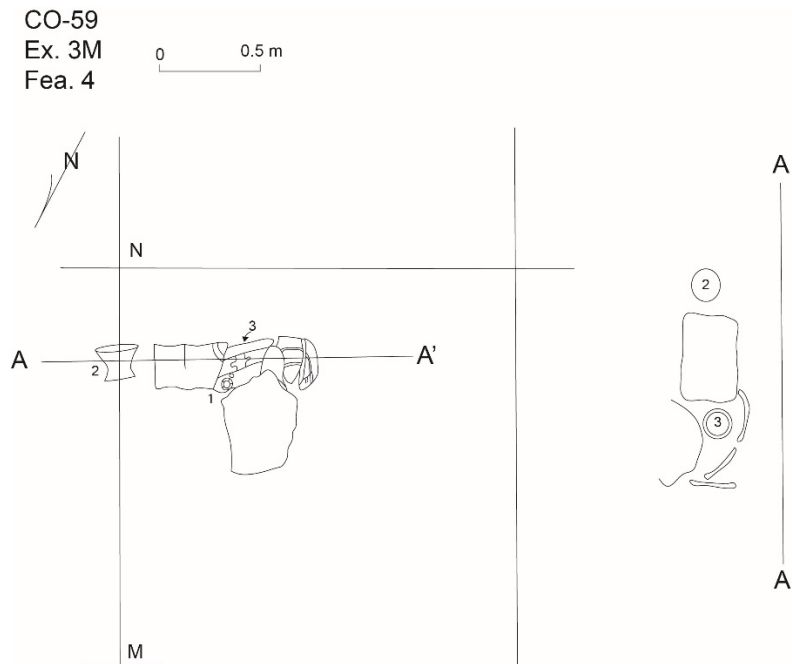


Figure 2.27: Plan and profile sketches of Feature 4 in Excavation Unit 3. Document on file at the NAAF.

Excavation Unit 9

Three burial features were found in Excavation Unit 9 (Figure 2.28), opened at the top of Mound 42. Lee labeled two of the features simply as “disturbed” (Features 20 and 23), but the feature records suggest the possibility that both may have been cremation burials because of the presence of water jars (which were the vessel of choice for cremation burials at Guajilar during the Postclassic) (Figure 2.29). The “disturbed” state of the features may have been caused by modern grave robbers. The field notes and feature records do not clarify the context or the exact location in which they were found, because a north arrow was not included in the drawings. The plan and profile drawings show, however, that the two possible cremation burials were interred close together. There is no indication in the notes of any kind of formal grave construction which would suggest that these were interred in simple graves.

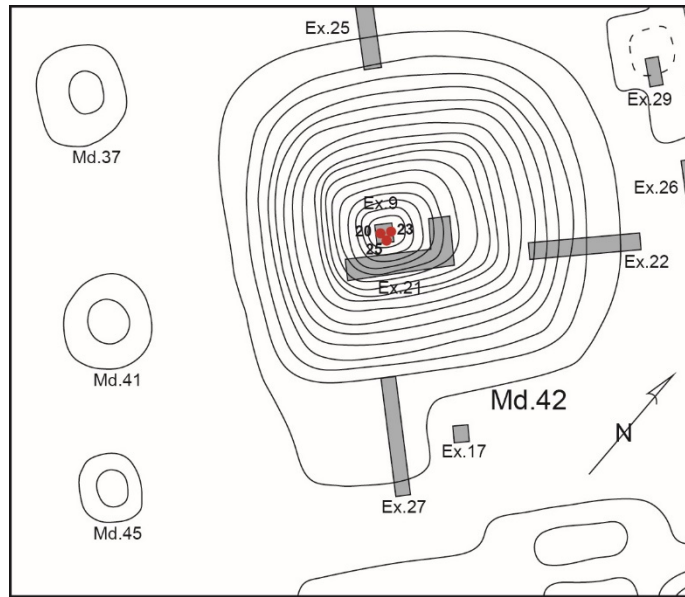


Figure 2.28: Close-up view of Mound 42 and the surrounding excavation units. The red dots represent the possible burial features recovered from Excavation Unit 9. Features 20 and 23 were found at the bottom of the excavation unit and Feature 25 was found in one of the excavation unit walls. The exact locations of the burial features are unknown. Close-up from original site map by Eduardo Martinez.

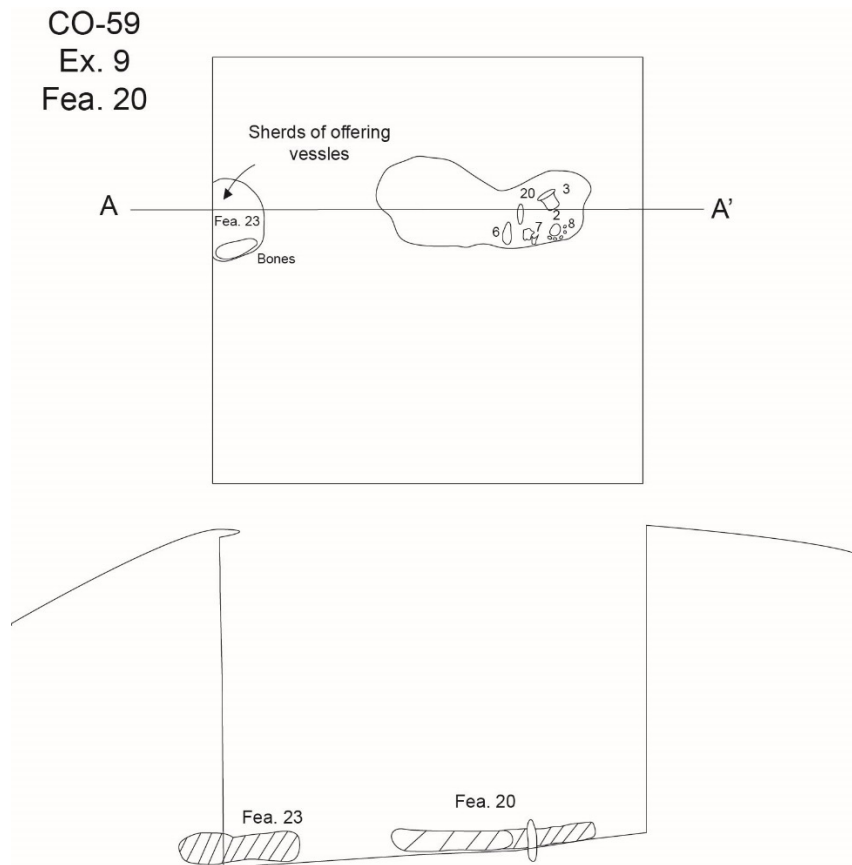
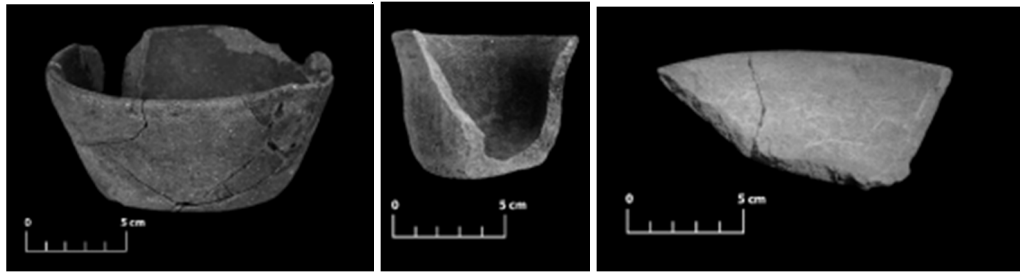


Figure 2.29: Plan and profile drawings of Features 20 and 23. Document on file at the NWAFF.

Feature 20 contained a number of grave goods besides the painted two-loop-handled water jar. These included three ceramic bowls, another jar, obsidian bifaces, jade and shell beads, a fragment of a shell bird effigy ring, and a shell pendant (Figure 2.30). Some of the vessels were found in a fragmented state and were later reconstructed. The context of the grave goods is unclear in the feature record and plan drawing. The feature record does not list any human remains associated with the burial feature so the feature could be a mortuary offering.

Feature 23 also contained a two-handled water jar (Figure 2.31), but only a few other grave goods. These included a trapezoidal pyrite mosaic mirror piece, a fragmented stone disk mirror back (with four conical drilled holes near its edges), a chert biface, and two marine shells. Human bones and ashes were listed on the feature record, but it was not clear whether they were found in the water jar or among the other grave goods.

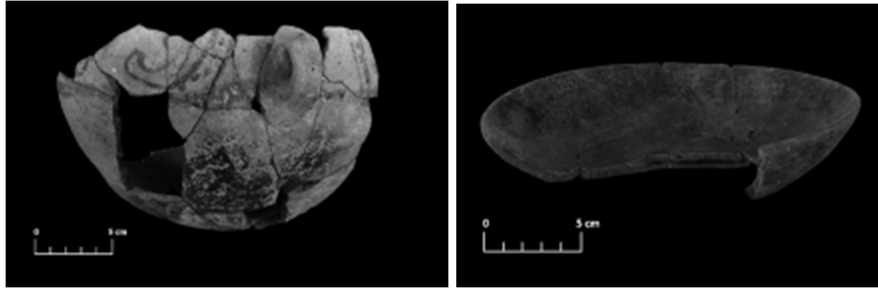
A simple urn burial (Feature 25) was also found in Excavation Unit 9 (Figure 2.32). The urn was found protruding from one of the walls of the excavation pit (it is unclear which wall), beneath a layer of stones. The feature record does not indicate whether it was intruded into the mound, or whether there was any kind of formal grave construction beside the layer of stones found above it. In the profile drawing, the layer of stones is not directly above the urn and does not appear to have been as much a part of the grave as they are a part of the mound construction. The grave goods found with the urn include a cover vessel with a decorated rim, shell beads, one jade bead, and one round mosaic piece (Figure 2.33).



A

B

C



D

E



F

Figure 2.30: Artifacts from Feature 20 in Excavation Unit 9. A) Unidentified ceramic bowl (MRE- 6851). B) Yaluc Coarse:Yaluc Variety bowl (MRE-6906). C) Solferin Orange: Solferin Variety bowl (MRE-9858). D) Fragmented Coxcoxté Painted: Coxcoxté Variety two loop handle jar with concave base (MRE-6952). E) Tochib Red: Tochib Variety bowl (MRE-6909). F) Mosaic mirror fragments, jade and shell beads, bone ring fragment.

Black and white photos on file at the NAAF, color photo by author.

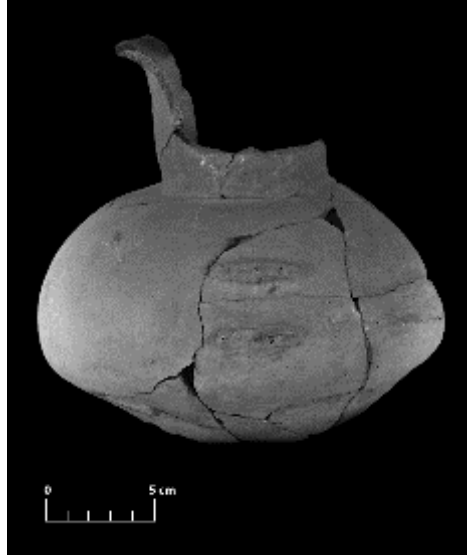


Figure 2.31: Ceramic vessel from Feature 23 in Excavation Unit 9. Yaluc Coarse: Yaluc Variety two loop handle jar, fragmented (MRE-6962). Photo on file at the NWAf.

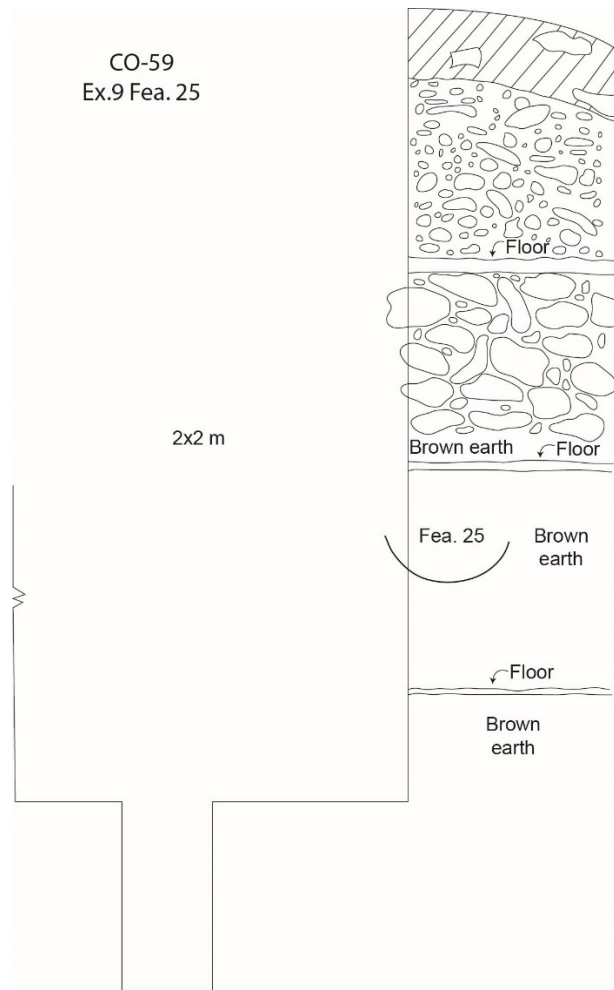


Figure 2.32: Profile drawing of Feature 25 in Excavation Unit 9. Document on file at the NWAf.

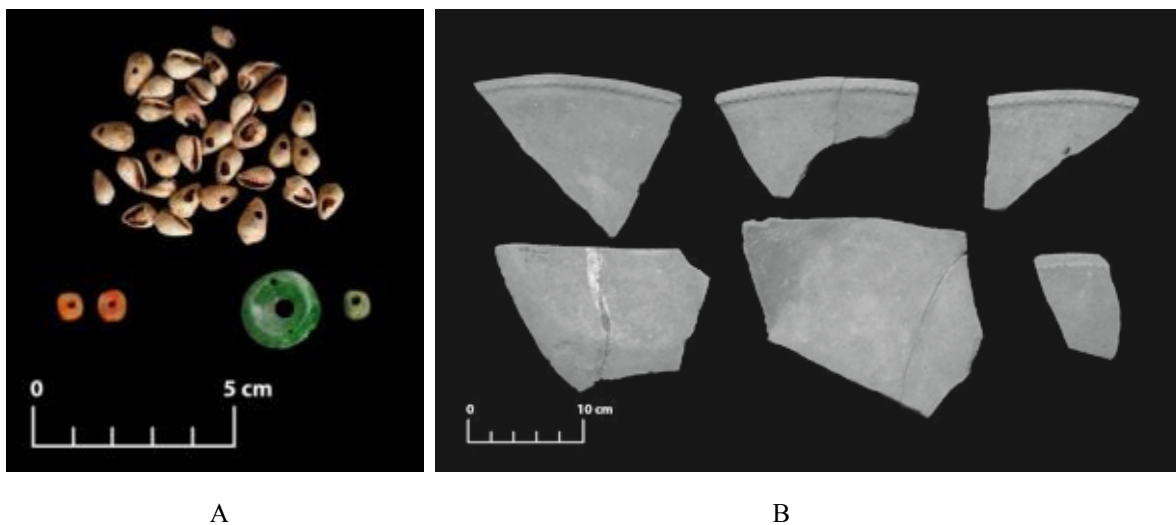


Figure 2.33: Artifacts from Feature 25 in Excavation Unit 9. A) Jade and shell beads. B) Ceramic sherds. Color photo by author. Black and white photo on file at the NAAF.

Excavation Unit 31

One burial feature and one possible mortuary offering were found in Excavation Unit 31 (Figure 2.34) opened in Mound 29. The burial feature (Feature 31-29) was a cist urn burial (Figure 2.35). The grave construction consisted of rock-lined walls and three long stone slabs across the top as a cover. No fill was found surrounding the urn. The burial consisted of a large globular urn with an inverted bowl as a cover over its mouth (Figures 2.36). A bowl and a plate were found in a mouth-to-bowl position (bowl upside-down over the plate) resting slanted against the southeast side of the middle of the urn and the cist wall (Figure 2.37). A large jade nose plug, three jade beads, some shell fragments, and plaster fragments were found inside of the urn. An obsidian blade and ceramic sherds were found resting under the urn vessel.

The possible mortuary offering (Feature 31-28) was found almost right above, but slightly to the southwest, of the stone slab covers of Feature 31-29 (Figure 2.38). The offering

rested on another layer of stones, and consisted of a spike-covered tripod vessel with an anthropomorphic effigy lid (Figures 2.39 and 2.40). Lee labeled this feature as an incense burner cache but did not propose a relationship between the features, despite their proximity and contemporaneity.

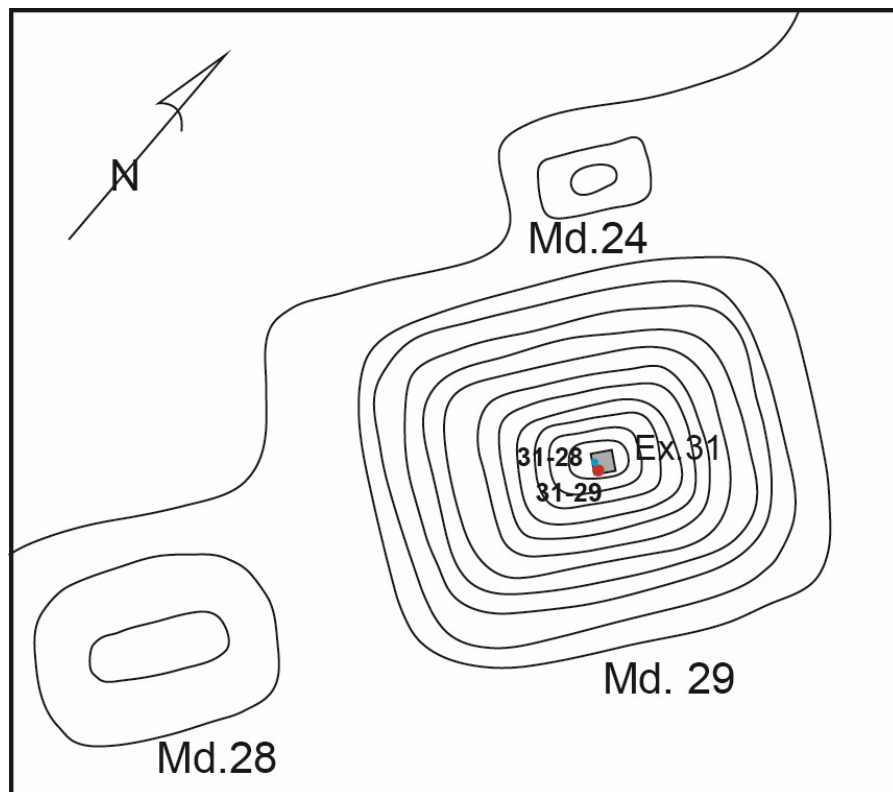


Figure 2.34: Close-up view of Excavation Unit 31 located in the top of Mound 29. Red dot signifies the location of the cist urn burial, Feature 31-29. Blue dot signifies the location of the possible mortuary offering, Feature 31-28. Close-up from original site map by Eduardo Martinez.

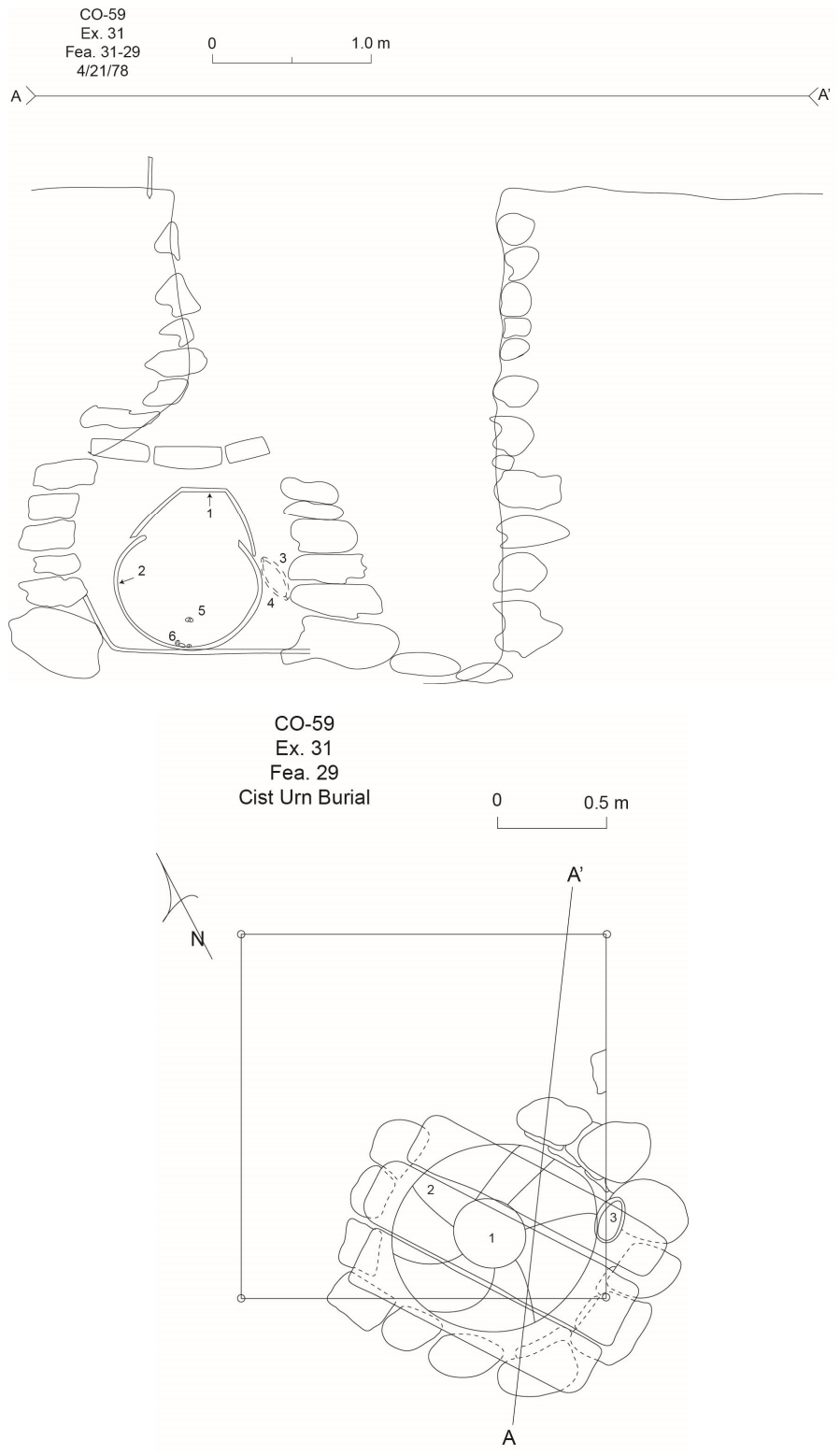
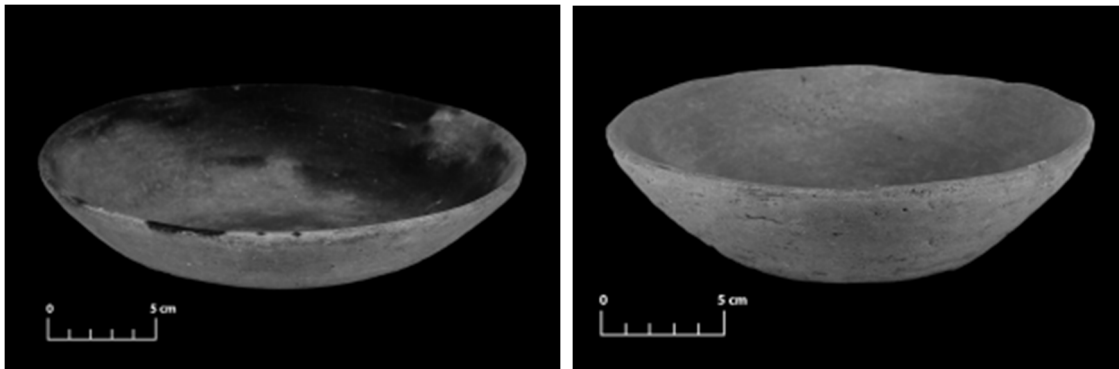


Figure 2.35: Plan and profile drawings of Feature 31-29 in Excavation Unit 31. Documents on file at the NAAF.

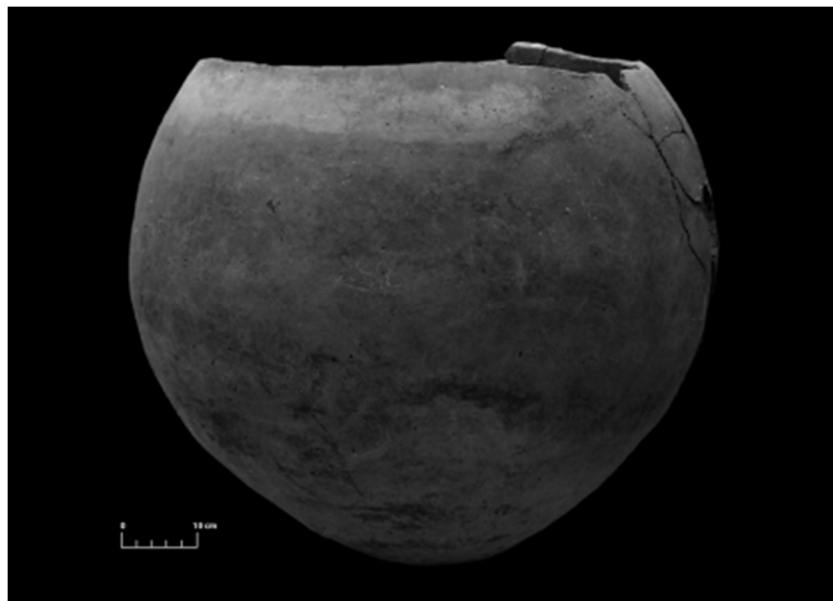


Figure 2.36: Top photo is an aerial shot looking south at Feature 31-29, and the bottom photo is a profile shot of the same feature in Excavation Unit 31. Photos on file at the NAAF.

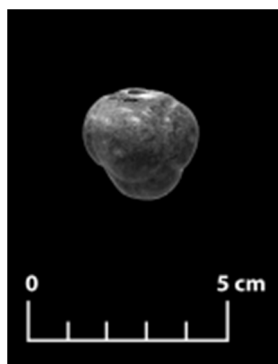


A

B



C



D

Figure 2.37: Artifacts from Feature 31-29 in Excavation Unit 31. A) Unidentified plate (MRE-6896). B) Unidentified bowl (MRE-6908). C) Urn vessel (MRE-6953). D) Jade nose plug (MRE-6259). Photos on file at the NAAF.

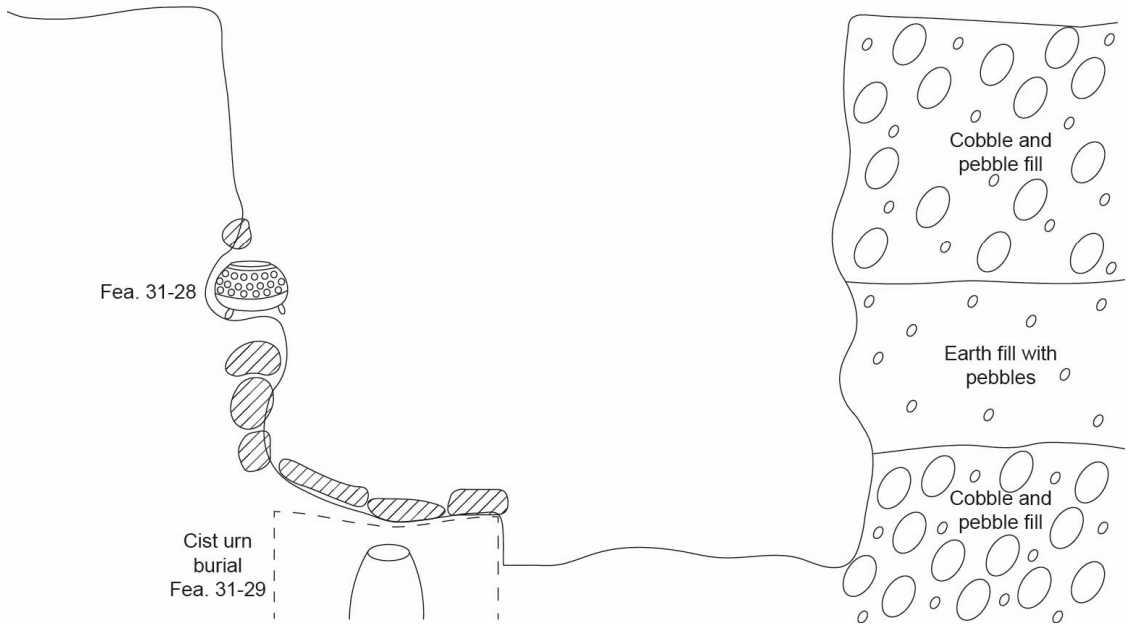
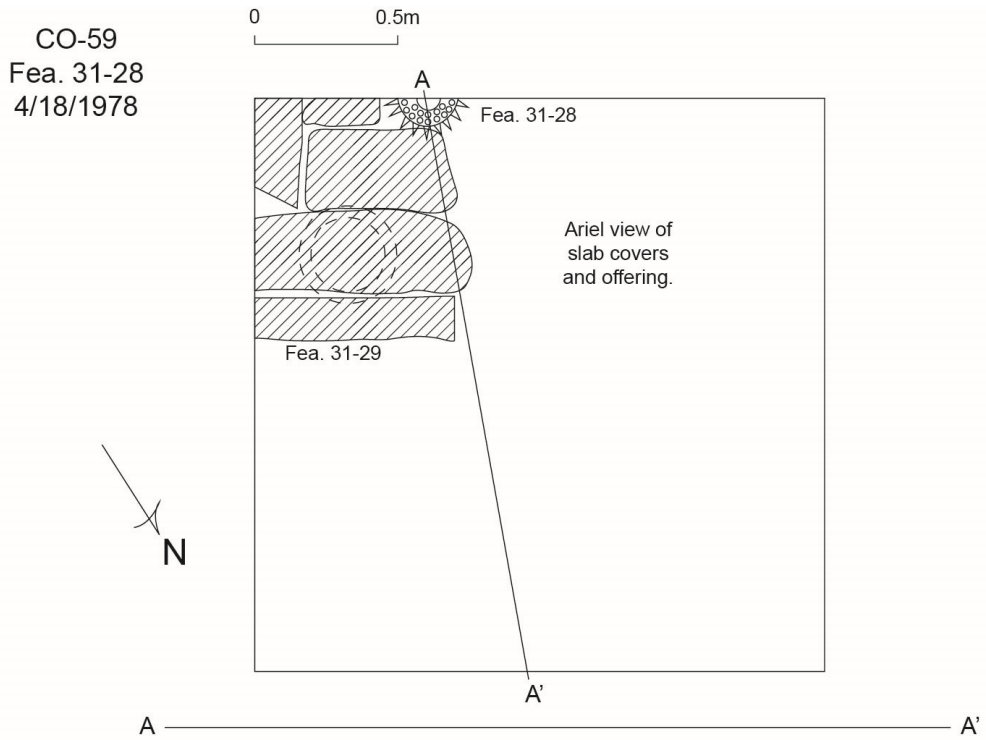
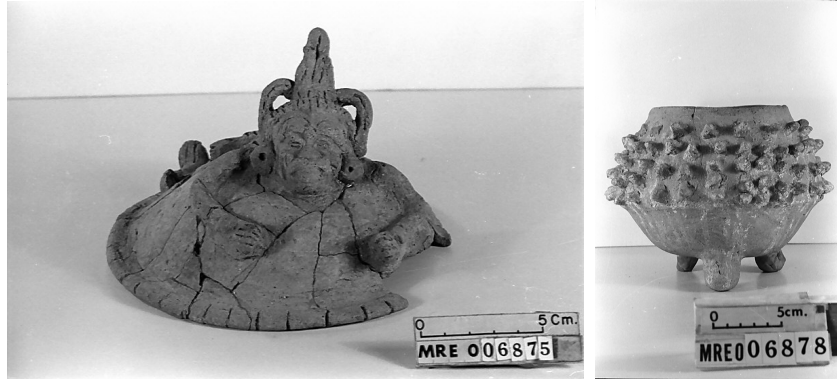


Figure 2.38: Plan and profile drawing of Feature 31-28 in Excavation Unit 31. Document on file at the NAAF.



A

B

Figure 2.39: Artifacts of Feature 31-28 in Excavation Unit 31. A) Unidentified variety anthropomorphic effigy lid. B) Unidentified variety spike covered tripod bowl. Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.40: Field photo looking slightly southwest and Features 31-28 and 31-29 in Excavation Unit 31. Photo on file at the NAAF.

Excavation Unit 33

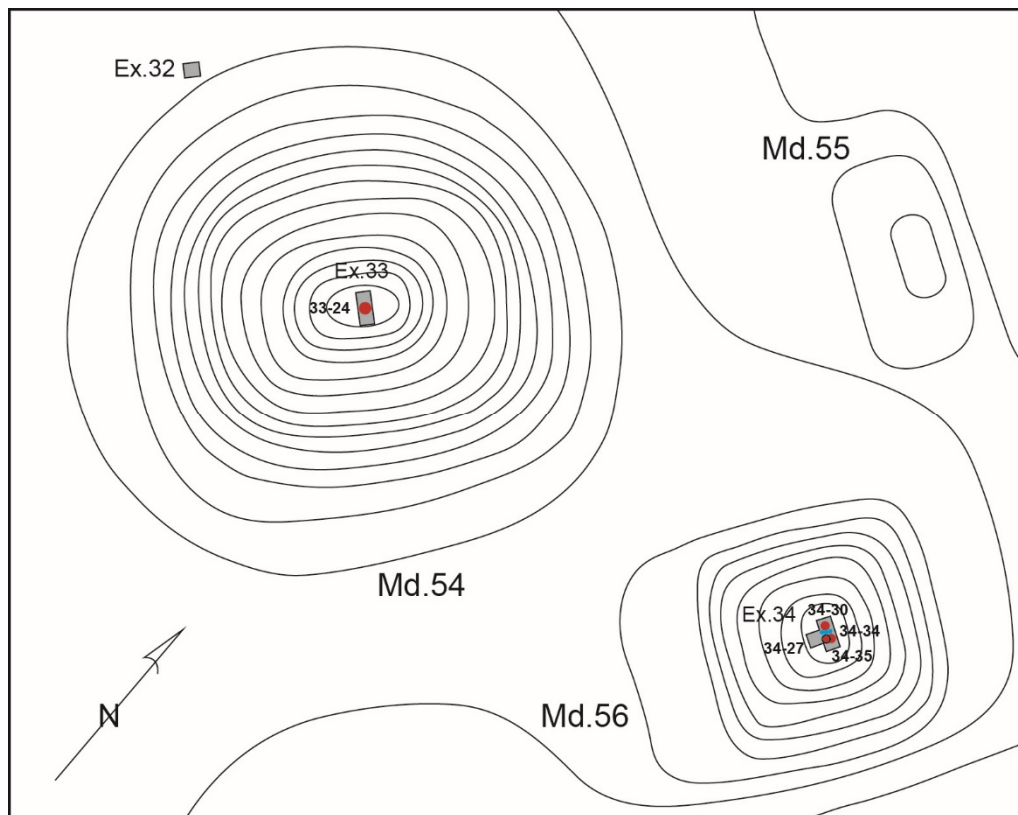


Figure 2.41: Close-up view of Excavation Units 33 and 34, found in the tops of Mounds 54 and 56, respectively. Red dots signify the location of burial features, and blue dots signify the location of a mortuary offering. Close-up from original site map by Eduardo Martinez.

One destroyed tomb (Feature 33-24) was found in Excavation Unit 33 (Figure 2.41) Section 1, opened at the top of Mound 54. No feature record or plan and profile drawings, were made of this feature. Lee listed the tomb in his final report but gave no description of its construction or the type of burial it may have contained. The cause of its destruction is not specified, but it was most likely destroyed by grave robbers who disturbed other graves during this field season. The grave goods that Lee listed in his report include a ceramic bowl, shell pendant, and fragmented stone backing to a mosaic mirror (Figure 2.42).

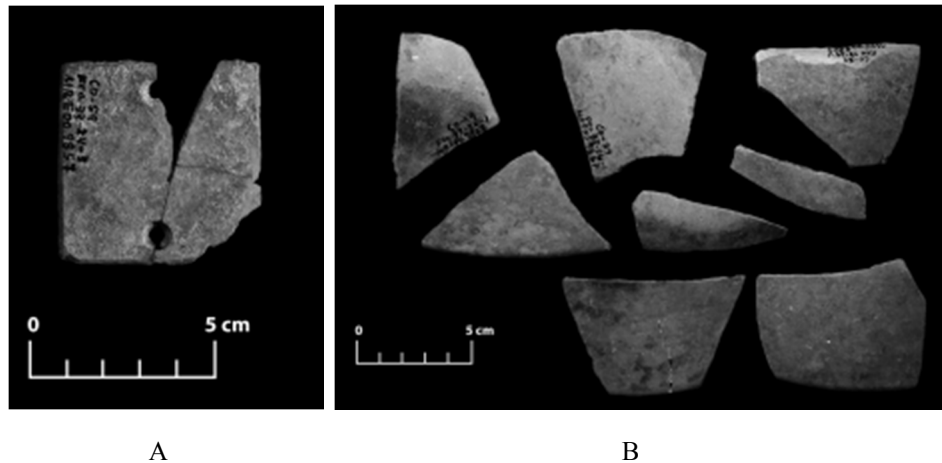


Figure 2.42: Artifacts recovered from Feature 33-24 in Excavation Unit 33. A) A square stone mosaic mirror back, fragmented. B) Sajasam Red: Sajasam Variety bowl. Photos on file at the NAAF.

Excavation Unit 34

Three burial features and one mortuary offering were found in Excavation Unit 34 (See Figure 2.41), located in Mound 56. The first burial feature was found in Section 1 and was labeled as a crypt urn burial (Feature 34-27) but may actually be a cist urn burial. This feature was found in direct association with two other urn burials (Features 34-30 and 34-35). Feature 34-27 was found at a higher level than the two other urn burials, but its grave construction still seemed to include them. Lee’s report does not describe these two urn burials as part of the “crypt,” but the plan and profile drawings show connected rock lining around and between all of them, and over the tops (Figures 2.43, 2.44, and 2.45).

The urn in Feature 34-27 was large and round, with a high neck and an everted thick rim that was flat on top and rounded on the exterior edge (Figure 2.46). The grave goods found inside of the urn vessel include one possible turquoise bead, jade and shell beads, an anthropomorphic figurine head, and human remains (Figure 2.47). In his report, Lee notes the possibility of a second set of human remains but provides no other details.

Feature 34-30 was found in Section 2 of the excavation unit, and Feature 34-35 was found in Section 1 (Figure 2.48). Feature 34-35 was found east of Feature 34-30 and northeast of and below Feature 34-27. In his report Lee describes urn burial 34-35 as being enclosed in a rock cist that consisted of two courses of stone, but he labeled it as a simple urn burial (Figure 2.49). The grave goods from Feature 34-30 include jade beads, one shell bead, one obsidian blade, one tip of an obsidian blade core, a small fragmented ceramic jar, a large jar neck, and a bowl (Figure 2.50). The grave goods from inside the urn of Feature 34-35 include jade and shell beads, stone beads, a large fragmented jar, four bowls, other bowl fragments, obsidian prismatic blades, faunal (bird) bones, one fragment of painted stucco, a small quartz crystal, and one badly eroded shell ear flare (Figures 2.51, 2.52, and 2.53). A few jade beads and obsidian prismatic blades were found outside of the urn.

The mortuary offering (Feature 34-34) was found to the west of Feature 34-35 and in Section 2 of the excavation unit (Figures 2.54 and 2.55). The offering included four bowls, one zoomorph effigy ladle incense burner, jade and shell beads, and a small natural black rock (Figures 2.56 and 2.57). This was the only offering that was clearly associated with the nearby burial features.

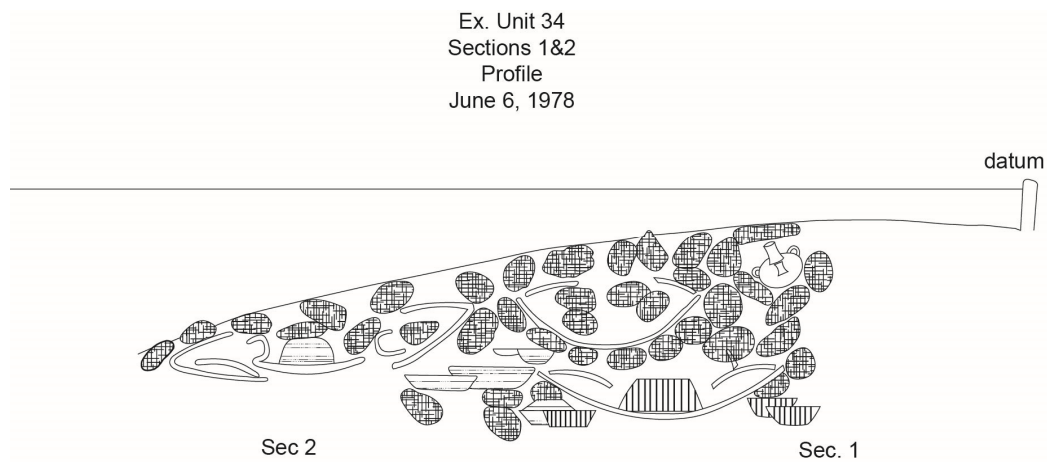


Figure 2.43: Profile drawing of Excavation Unit 34, Sections 1 and 2. Document on file at the NAAF.

Ex. Unit 34 Plan of all features June 6, 1978

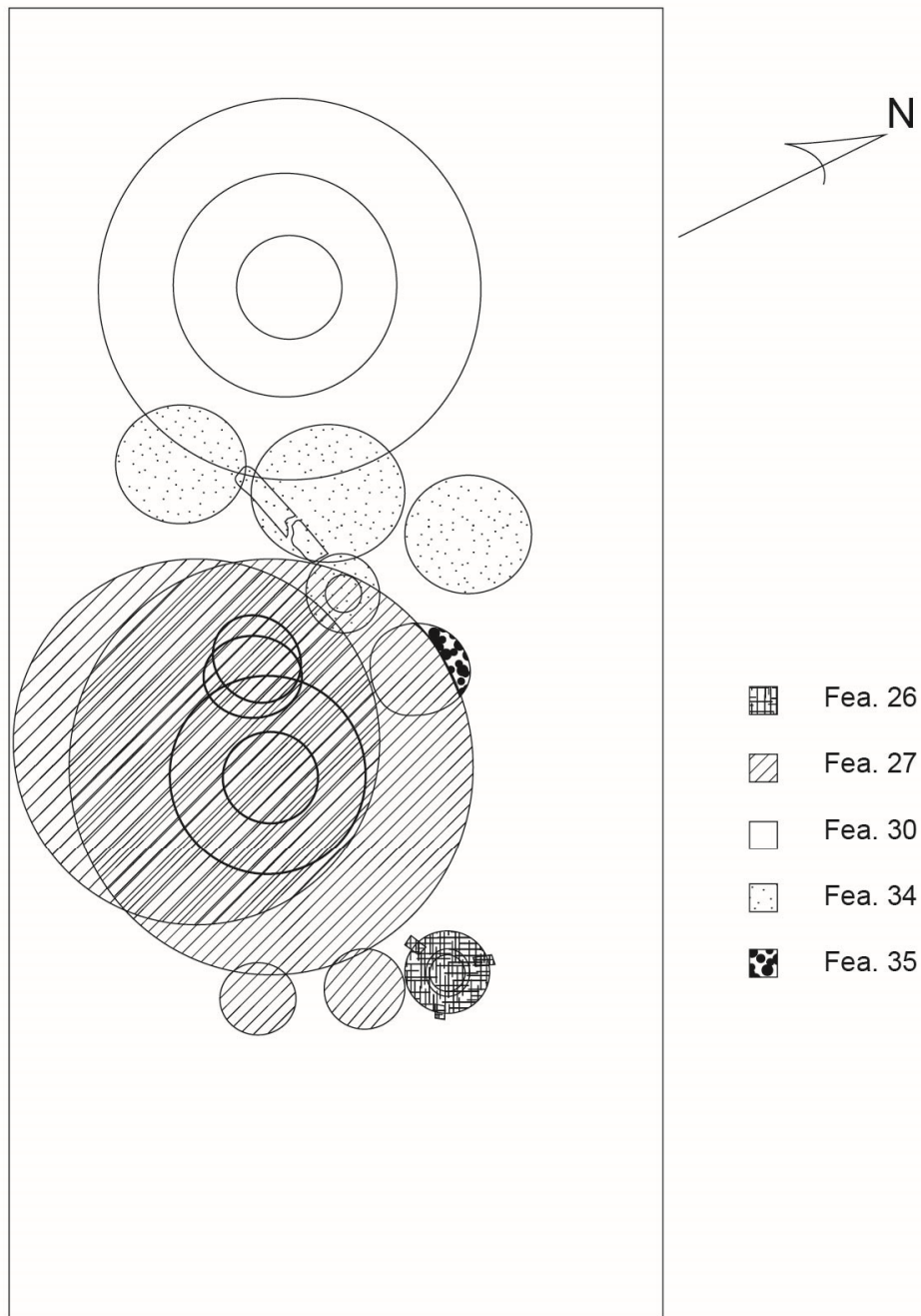


Figure 2.44: Plan drawing of Features 26, 27, 30, 34, and 35 in Excavation Unit 34. Document on file at the NAAF.

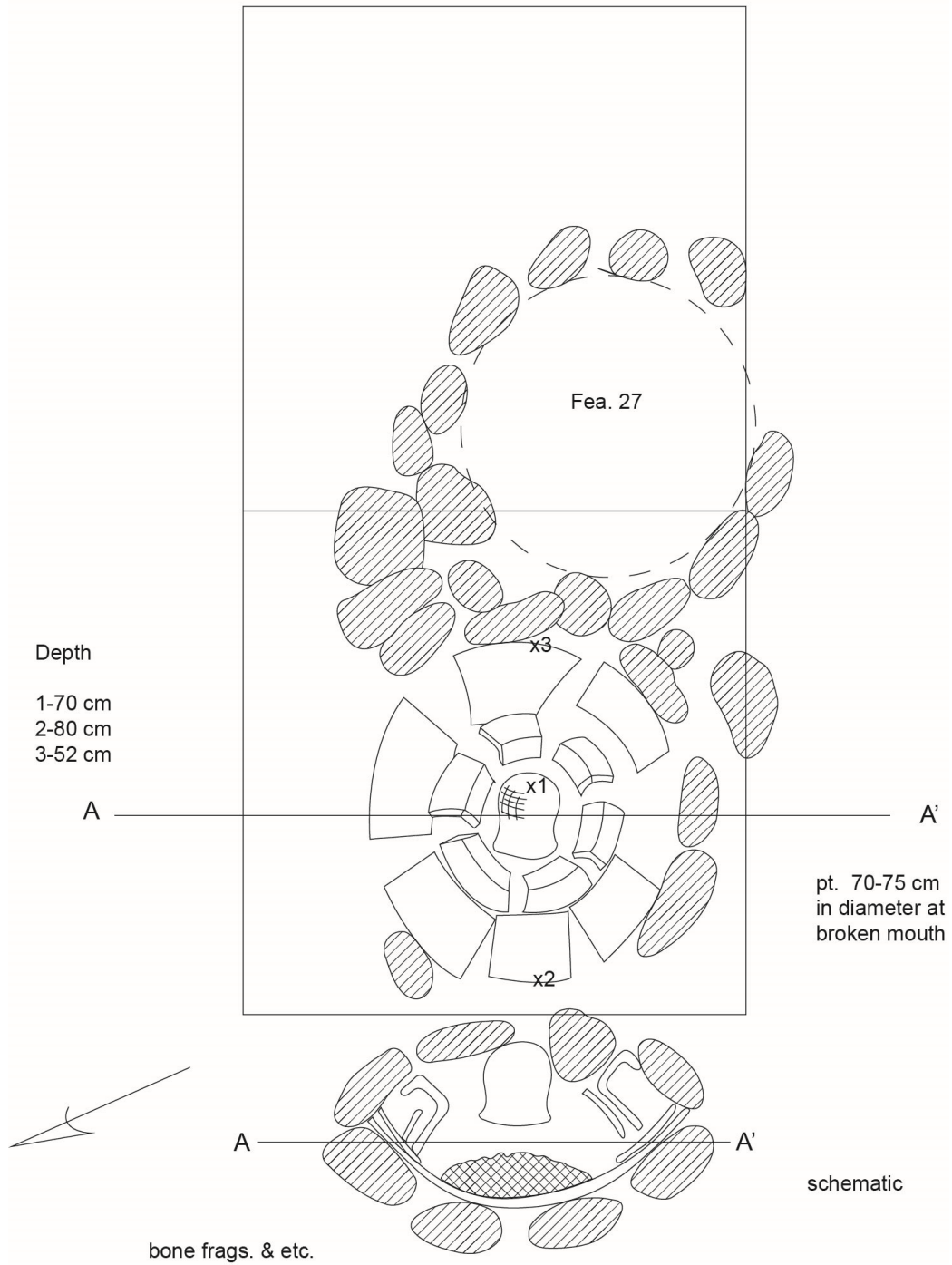


Figure 2.45: Plan and profile drawings of Features 27 and 30 in Excavation Unit 34. Document on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.46: Field photo of Feature 34-27 in Excavation Unit 34. Photo on file at the NWAf.



Figure 2.47: Shell, jade, and serpentine beads from Feature 34-27 in Excavation Unit 34. Photo by author.



Figure 2.48: Field photo of Feature 34-30 in Excavation Unit 34. Photo on file at the NWAf.

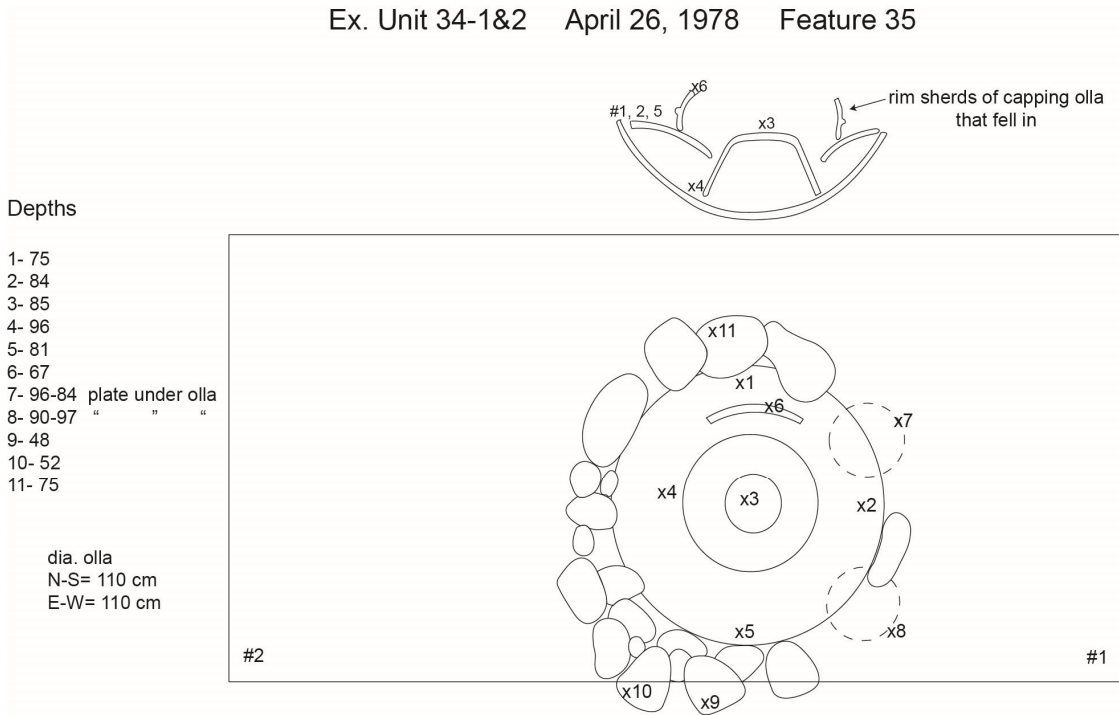


Figure 2.49: Plan and profile drawing of Feature 34-35 in Excavation Unit 34. Document on file at the NWAf.

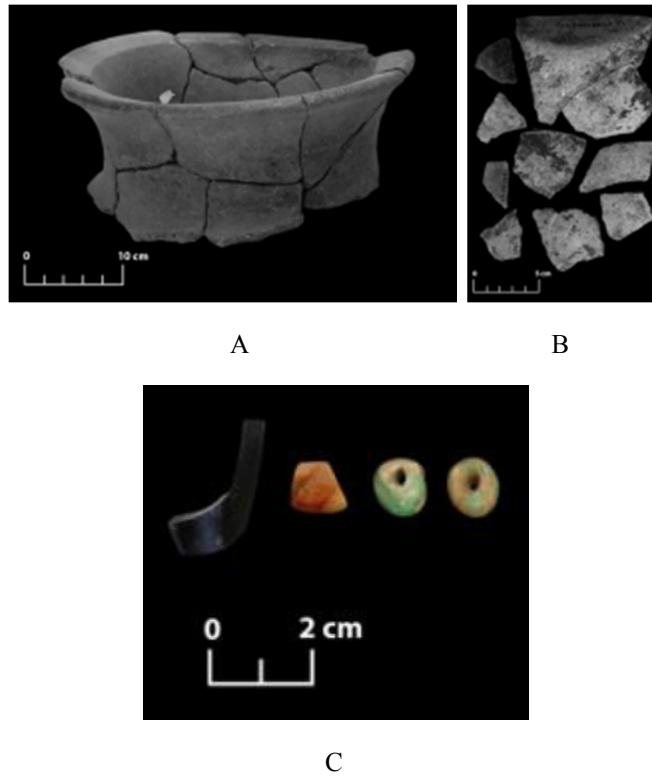


Figure 2.50: Artifacts from Feature 34-30. A) Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety large neck of a jar (MRE-6966). B) Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety bowl, fragmented (MRE-6970). C) Obsidian flake, shell bead, jade beads (photo by author). Photos on file at the NAAF.

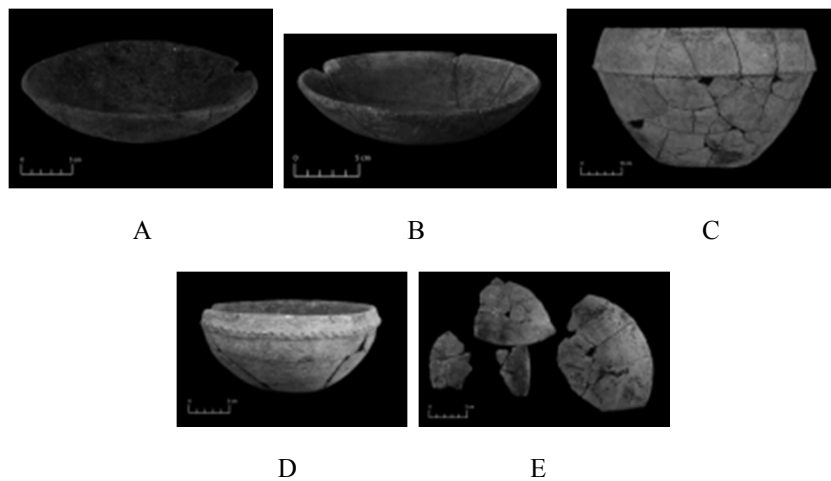


Figure 2.51: Ceramic vessels from Feature 34-35 in Excavation Unit 34. A) Yalishao Red-rim: Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6860). B) Yalishao Red-rim: Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6927). C) Unidentified cover vessel (MRE-6996). D) Uninajab Slipped: Jalal Variety bowl (MRE-9839). E) Uninajab Slipped: Uninajab Variety bowl, fragmented (MRE-9831). Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.52: Jade and shell beads from Feature 34-35 in Excavation Unit 34. Photos by author.



Figure 2.53: Obsidian blades and bone fragments from Feature 34-35 in Excavation Unit 34. Photos by author.

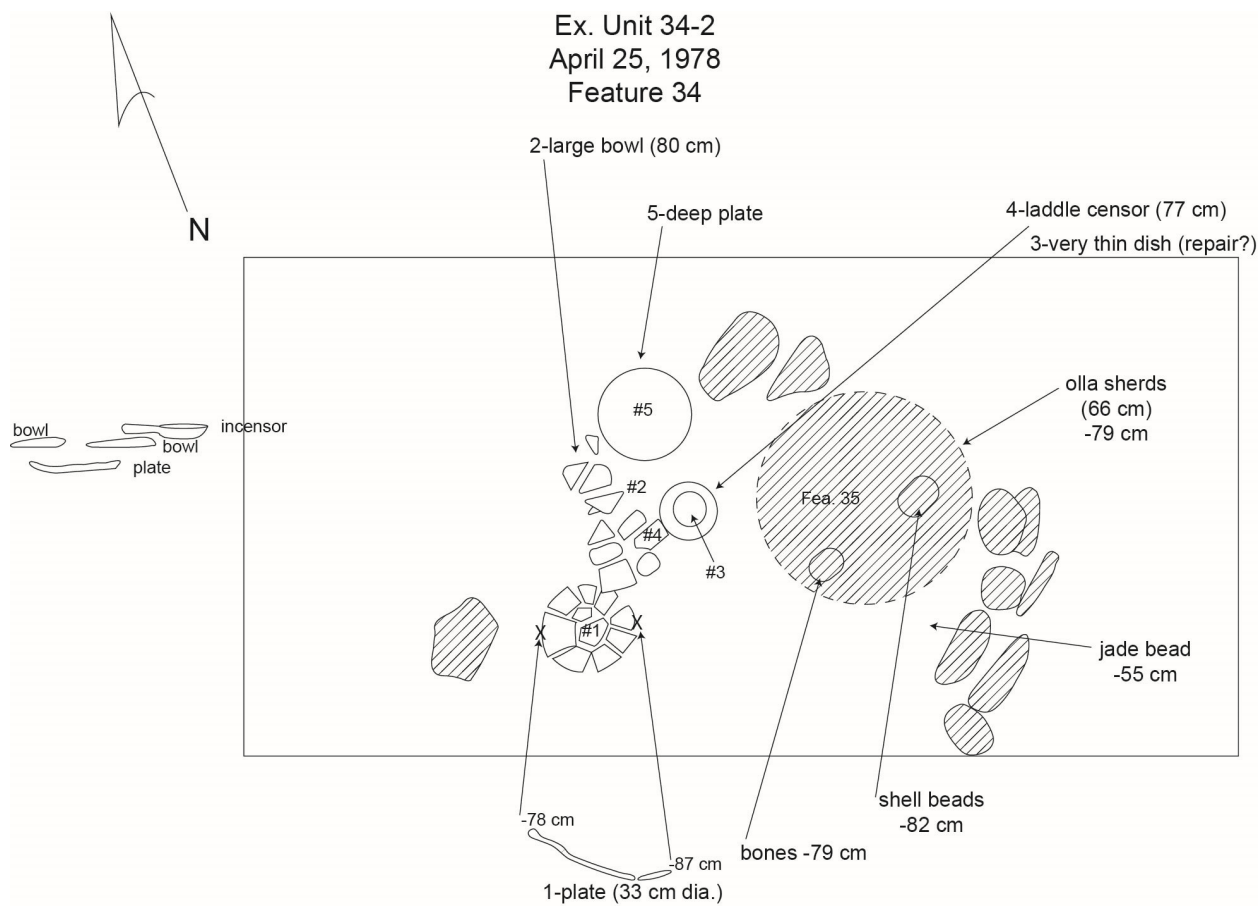


Figure 2.54: Plan drawing of Feature 34-34 in Excavation Unit 34. Document on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.55: Field photo of Feature 34-34 in Excavation Unit 34. Photo on file at the NAAF.

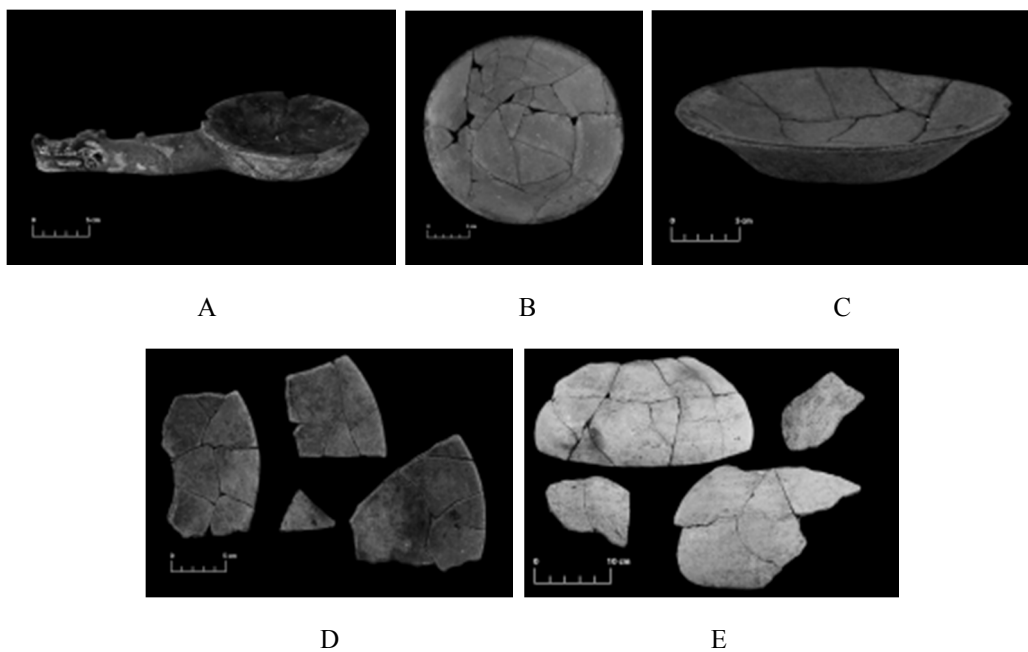


Figure 2.56: Ceramic vessels from Feature 34-34 in Excavation Unit 34. A) Zoomorphic effigy ladle incense burner (MRE-6848). B) Yalishao Red-rim: Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6844). C) Yalishao Red-rim: Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6845). D) Uninajab Slipped: Uninajab Variety bowl (MRE-6975). E) Unidentified bowl (MRE-6976). Photos on file at the NAAF.



Figure 2.57: A shell pendant from Feature 34-34 in Excavation Unit 34 (MRE-6251-1). Photo by author.

Excavation Unit 39

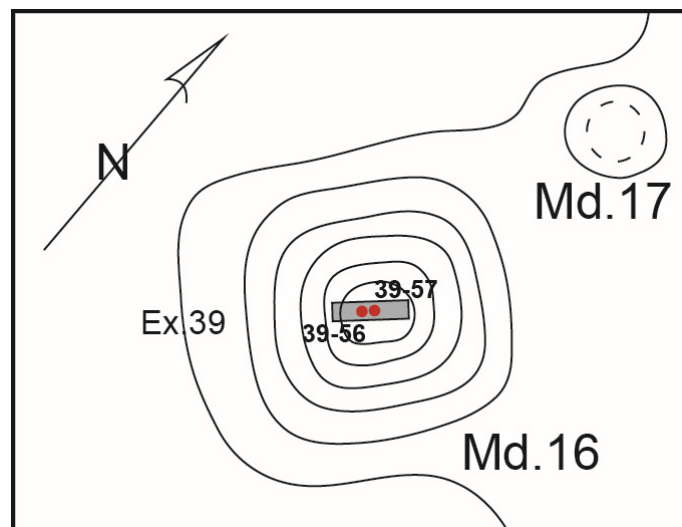


Figure 2.58: Close-up view of Excavation Unit 39 located at the top of Mound 16. Red dots signify the locations of Burial features 39-56 and 39-57. Close-up from original site map by Eduardo Martinez.

Two burial features were found in Excavation Unit 39, which was opened at the top of Mound 16. One feature was an urn burial in a simple grave (Feature 39-57) located in Section B

of the excavation unit (Figure 2.58). A kill hole was found near the fillet banded rim of the urn vessel, while the urn vessel itself was found almost completely flattened from the pressure of the collapsing mound fill above it (Figure 2.59). The human remains were described as badly eroded, and consisted of only a few fragments (Figure 2.60). No other grave goods were found in associated with the burial feature.

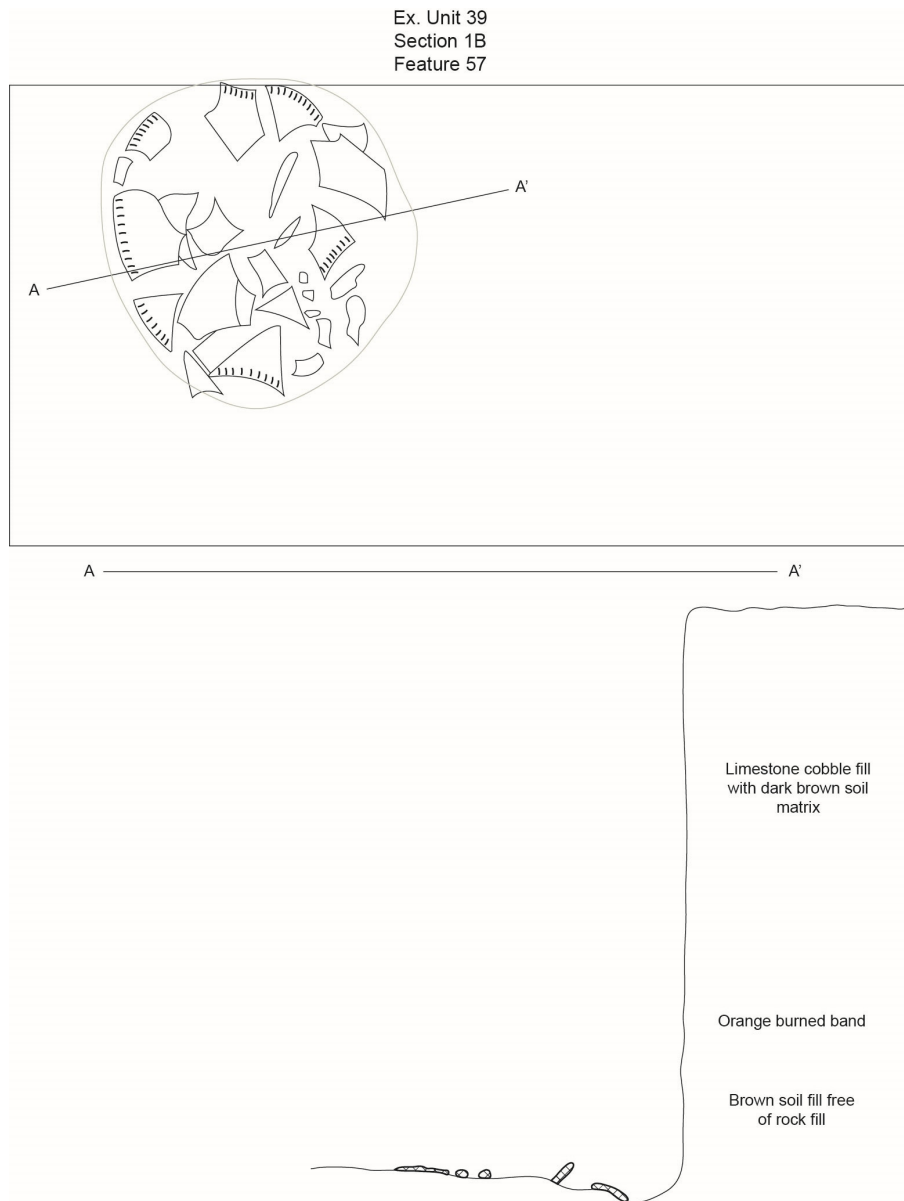


Figure 2.59: Plan and profile of Feature 39-57 in Excavation Unit 39. Document on file at the NWAf.



Figure 2.60: Field photo looking east of Feature 39-57 in Excavation Unit 39. Photo on file at the NWAf.

The second feature, also found in Section B, was a mouth-to-mouth vessel cache (Feature 39-56) that may have been a cremation burial (Figure 2.61). The cache consisted of a two handled water jar with a smaller inverted two handled jar placed in the mouth as a stopper (Figures 2.62 and 2.63). Jade beads, a shell pendant, two bifacial projectile points, and shell fragments were all found inside of the larger water jar (Figure 2.64). The notes on the feature record suggested the possibility that it was a cremation burial, but Lee labeled it as a mouth-to-mouth vessel cache in his final report.

Ex. Unit 39 Section B
Feature 56

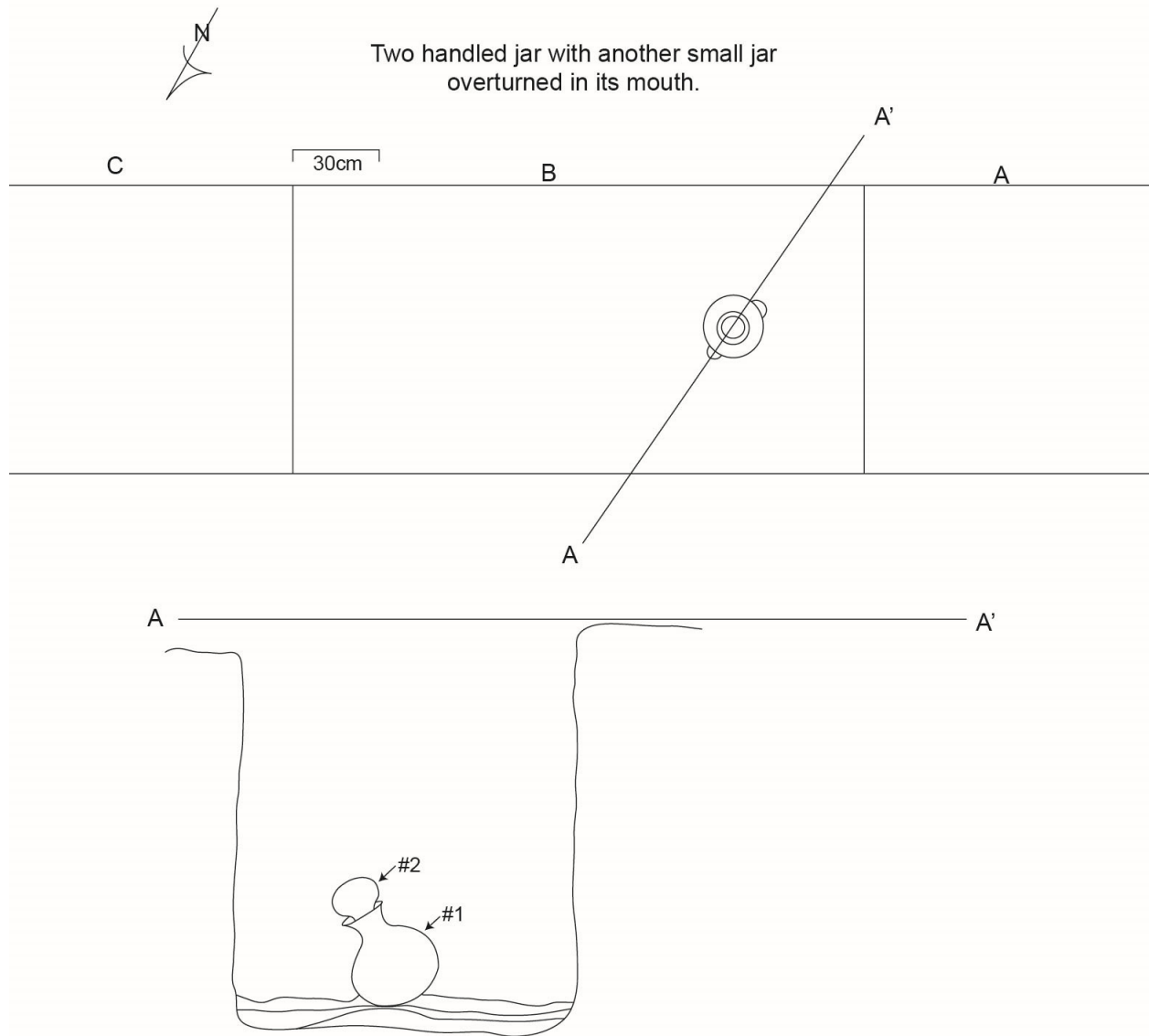


Figure 2.61: Plan and profile drawings of Feature 39-56 in Excavation Unit 39. Document on file at the NWAFA.



Figure 2.62: Field photo looking south at Feature 39-56 in Excavation Unit 39. Photo on file at the NAAF.

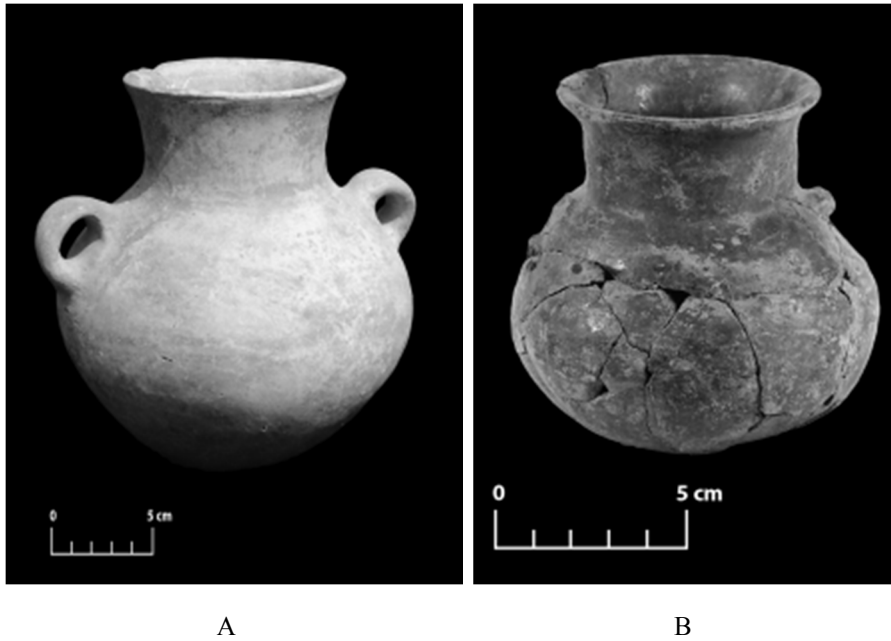


Figure 2.63: Ceramics from Feature 39-56 from Excavation Unit 39. A) Solferin Orange: Solferin Variety two loop handle jar (MRE-9833). B) Tochib Red: Tochib Variety two handle small jar (MRE-6902). Photos on file at the NAAF.

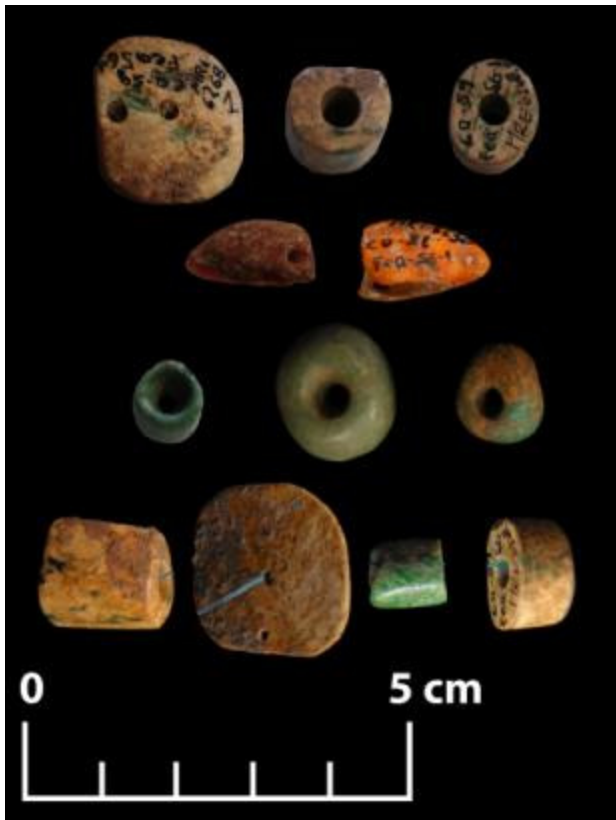


Figure 2.64: Jade and shell beads from Feature 39-56 from Excavation Unit 39. Photo by author.

3| LATE CLASSIC BURIALS OF LAGARTERO

This chapter describes the Late Classic burials that have been recovered during various excavations on the island of Limonal at the archaeological site Lagartero in southern Chiapas, Mexico. This summary includes data on the burial locations, grave types, burial types, and associated grave goods of the burial features presented here. Burial data from Lagartero is necessary for the comparative analysis with Guajilar and the burials from the southern Maya Lowlands and the Guatemalan Highlands. Osteological data are provided in this chapter, but are not a component of the comparative analysis. They are not included because similar data are not available for the other sites used in the analysis.

Location and Environmental Setting

Lagartero (Site Tr-99) is an archaeological site located approximately 22 km northeast of where the Pan-American Highway crosses the Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemalan border (Ekholm and Gurr-Matheny 2012). It is found in the northern portion of the upper tributaries sub-region of the upper Grijalva River Basin and within the Lagartero swamp. The swamp consists of a large area of swiftly flowing streams and lakes, which are fed by springs and the backed-up water of the Lagartero and San Lucas Rivers (Ekholm 1979:172).

The site consists of various complexes of buildings and structures found across a wide area of islands and peninsulas in the Lagartero swamp. Its main ceremonial center is located on the larger island of Limonal (Figure 3.1), which is estimated to measure approximately 8 ha (Torres 2010). The northern end of the site holds the larger structures and a few smaller mounds that may have served as other public buildings (Figure 3.2). The residential mounds are located more to the south and southwest area.

History of Excavation

Lagartero was first brought to the attention of the NAAF in 1973. It was then visited in the same year by Gareth Lowe and other NAAF members to determine its excavation potential. During this time the majority of the excavation area was being used by the local inhabitants for either corn cultivation or cattle grazing.



Figure 3.1: General view of the major structures on Limonal from across the way on Puente Mora (Gurr-Matheny 1987). Used with permission from the author.



Figure 3.2: Site map of the island of Limonal in the archaeological site of Lagartero (Gurr-Matheny 1987). Black squares in the main plaza show the location of the Operation units opened by Ekholm and Gurr-Matheny. Map by Eduardo Martinez E. in 1976.

The primary excavators that led and guided the NWAFF field work at Lagartero were Susanna Ekholm and Deanne Gurr-Matheny. Excavations were concentrated in the main northwest plaza of the ceremonial center on the island of Limonal. According to Gurr-Matheny “the northwest, or main, plaza on Limonal, if judged by its size, location and associations, was one of the most important foci of ceremonial activity at the site” (1987:54). The plaza occupies an area measuring approximately 60 m by 45 m and is surrounded by four of the largest mounds (Mounds 1-4), or structures, found in the ceremonial center. Seven small platforms are also associated with the plaza. Excavations, however, were only focused on the plaza while the surrounding structures and platforms were left for possible later investigations.

Survey and excavation did not take place until 1975 when Ekholm first opened a test pit to try and determine the construction and occupational timeline of the plaza. Instead, she came across five burials. The following season Gurr-Matheny joined her in the investigation of the plaza and placed more test pits. These modest excavations revealed 54 more burials which Gurr-Matheny believed to “strongly indicate that the northwest plaza functioned as a necropolis for at least some segment of the ancient population at Lagartero” (1987:55). Overall, fieldwork uncovered dozens of elaborate burials and cache offerings, as well as a large refuse dump along the south base of Mound 7a, a dump which was full of fragments of Maya polychrome pottery, elaborately decorated trade wares, figurines, stone pieces, and various other amazing artifacts. Based on the recovered ceramics, the time period established for Lagartero stretches from the Middle Preclassic (750-300 BC) until at least the Late Classic (AD 650-900). Gurr-Matheny (1987) believes it may even extend into the Postclassic Period (AD 900-1530) as well.

The burials were found at various levels beneath the topsoil, and the excavation of one usually led to the partial exposure of another (making it difficult to close the excavation pits). The burials were also usually clustered so close together that it made it difficult to determine the correct association burial offerings to burials.

Neither the plaza, nor its perimeters, were completely excavated or defined. It was concluded that burials are most likely still buried beneath the plaza, as well as in many of the unexplored mounds, platforms, and other areas of Lagartero. More detailed descriptions of the field work and findings of the excavations carried out by Ekholm and Gurr-Matheny in the mid-1970s are in Deanne Gurr-Matheny’s 1987 dissertation.

Recent excavations have been conducted (and are currently still in progress) by Sonia Rivera Torres in other areas of Limonal. A few urn burials are described in one of her reports to

INAH. Other burials found in Pyramid 2 and are described in another report (Castilleros et al.). These burials were not dated and were not classified as urn burials so I chose to not include them in the analysis.

A blog also mentions Lagartero among of a list of archaeological sites, which INAH is in the process of excavating and has opened to the public (Ancient Mesoamerican News Updates 2008).

Sequence of Occupation

None of the structures or mounds were investigated during the excavations by Ekholm or Gurr-Matheny so the phases of construction at the site were not determined. The phases of occupation, however, were ascertained based on the presence of certain ceramic vessels. Gurr-Matheny did note, as well, that there is “some evidence, including several burials and sculpture, [which suggest] that Limonal was serving some ceremonial or administrative function [by at least] the Late Preclassic and Protoclassic periods” (Gurr-Matheny 1987:68). This occupation was possibly by the Zoque people, who not long before had had a cultural florescence in the upper Griljalva River Basin region (Bryant and Clark 2005:265). The practically non-existent presence of Early Classic ceramics, however, implies that there was little to no occupation during the Early Classic period.

A large collection of Late Classic pottery and ceramics (especially Maya glossware polychrome pottery) at Lagartero suggests a reoccupation of the site during this time period. The people who immigrated into Lagartero during the Late Classic period were Maya, but it is uncertain if they came from the Maya Lowlands after the start of the decline of that region following the Early Classic period or somewhere else (Blake et al. 2005:415). The presence of

urn burials also supports the idea that the site was utilized during the Late Classic period and the beginning of the Early Postclassic period.

The lack of artifacts or ceramics after the Postclassic period suggests that the site was again abandoned, but this time not reoccupied until modern times in the surrounding areas.

Late Classic Burial Features

For the purpose of my thesis only data on the burial features from the Late Classic period are considered. The data come from Gurr-Matheny's 1987 dissertation and some reports on recent excavations from Torres. The dating of the burial features was determined mainly by time sensitive ceramics. It must be noted that Gurr-Matheny's dissertation was completed long before an official typing was established for the region in Paper 67 by the NAAF in 2005. She identified and named the pottery and ceramics from Lagartero based on their descriptive characteristics. I focus on grave types, disposal methods, and grave goods. The location of burial features is not as prominent in this discussion, due to the fact they were all recovered from the main plaza and Pyramid 2 (Figure 3.3).



Figure 3.3: Close-up view of the main plaza on Limonal, showing the location of the Operation units (Gurr-Matheny 1987). The exact location of the excavation work conducted by Torres on Pyramid 2 is not available at this time.

Nineteen burial features from the main plaza were dated to either the Late Classic, Late-Terminal Classic, or somewhere between the Late Classic and the Early Postclassic (Table 2) time periods. Seven more burial features (which were all urn burials) could not be dated. Gurr-Matheny, however, stated that all of the urn burials appear to date to either the Late Classic or the beginning of the Early Postclassic periods (1987:58). This is why I decided to include them in the analysis.

Operation	Burial	Burial Type	Position	Osteo. Remains	Num.	Sex (M/F)	Age (A/YD/C)	Funerary offerings	Ceramic	Stone	Shell	Other
2	2	Urn	FLX	X	1	M		None	-	-	-	-
2	4	Urn	FLX	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	X	-
2	5	Urn	UNK	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	None	-	-	-	-
7	7	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	-
7	8	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	A	X	X	-	-	-
7	9	Urn	FLX	X	1	M	YA	X	X	-	-	-
7	10	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	X
17	4	Simple	EXT	X	1	M	A	X	X	-	-	-
17	5	Urn	Indi. A FLX, Indi. B UNK	X	2	A(F) / B(UNK)	A(A) / B(UNK)	X	X	X	-	-
17	9	Urn	FLX	X	1	UNK	A	X	X	-	-	-
17	10	Urn	UNK	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	-
17	11	Urn	UNK	X	1	M	A	X	X	X	-	-
17	13	Urn	FLX	X	1	F	A	X	X	-	-	-
20	1	Urn	FLX	X	1	M	A	X	X	-	-	-
20	7	Urn	Indi. A FLX, Indi. B UNK	X	2	A(M) / B(F)	A(YA) / B(A)	X	X	-	-	-
20	9	Urn	FLX	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	X	X	X	-	-
20	10	Urn	FLX	X	1	F	YA	None	-	-	-	-
23	3	Urn and Simple	Indi. A FLX, Indi. B FLX, Indi. C UNK	X	3	A(F) / B(UNK) / C(UNK)	A(A) / B(UNK) / C(YA)	X	X	-	-	-
23	4	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	A	X	X	-	-	-
23	5	Urn	UNK	X	2	A(M) / B(UNK)	A(A) / B(UNK)	X	X	-	-	-
23	6	Simple	FLX	X	1	UNK	C	X	X	-	-	-
23	7	Urn	Indi. A=FLX, Indi. B=DA & below Indi. A	X	2	A(M) / B(F)	A(A) / B(A)	X	X	-	-	X
23	8	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	A	X	X	-	-	-
23	9	Urn	UNK	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	None	-	-	-	-
23	10	Crypt	EXT	X	1	F	A	None	-	-	-	-
23	12	Urn	UNK	X	1	UNK	UNK	X	X	-	-	-
A10	BI	Urn	UNK	X	1+	UNK	UNK	X	X	UNK	UNK	UNK
A10	SM	Urn	FLX	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	-	-	-	-
E19	-	Urn	UNK	X	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	-	-	-	-
23	3	Cache	UNK	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	UNK	X	-	X	-
23	4	Cache	Vessels face NW	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	UNK	X	-	-	-

Table 2: Overview of possible Late Classic burials from the main Plaza and Pyramid 2 on Limonal at Lagartero.

A10 and E19 are from Pyramid 2. Burial numbers for the two urns in Cuadro A10 are unknown so they are distinguished as BI=bigger urn and SM=smaller urn. "X" signifies presence of an item, "-" signifies absence of an item. Indi. = individual, FLX=flexed, EXT=extended, DA=disarticulated, M=male, F=female, A=adult, YA=young adult, C=child, UNK=unknown, N/A=not applicable.

Gurr-Matheny states that she used Robert Smith's (1971:114) definitions of burial and grave, which are as follows: "the term burial includes everything connected with an interment:

grave, skeletal material, and associated objects,” and “The term grave is used as a general heading for various types of resting places for the dead: simple, cist, and crypt” (1987:58). According to Gurr-Matheny, five grave types were found during excavations at Lagartero: urn graves (which I categorize as “burial”), simple graves with the body in a flexed position, simple graves with the body in an extended position, cists graves, and crypt graves. Some urn burials, simple graves (of both varieties), and a crypt grave were dated to or around the Late classic. This typology is not too different from the definitions I have chosen to use, except Gurr-Matheny combined some of the burial types as grave types. Table 2 is a summary of these burials and grave types from the main plaza as well as three burials from Torres’s report to INAH.

Urn Burials

Urn burials were the most frequently encountered burial type found during the excavations of the main plaza. Sixteen urn burials could be dated to the Late Classic while seven of them could not be specified. Urn burials were found in each of the operation units (or excavation units), but especially in Operation 23 which contained seven.

A variety of urn vessel types were used for interment, including large storage jars, wide-mouth urns, urns with zoomorphic modeling, and a small urn that had three holes drilled into the side. A number of Postclassic cremation water jars found at Guajilar also had holes drilled into the body portion of the vessel, all of which Lee labeled as kill holes. Most of the urns at Lagartero also “had inverted basins or other urns as covers; in some cases large potsherds were used to seal the overlapping area between the urn and its cover” (Gurr-Matheny 1987:59).

Ceramic vessels (the most common grave good at Lagartero) were commonly found placed around the outside of the urn, although sometimes some vessels and other offerings were

found placed inside the urn with the body of the deceased. The remains of the deceased were not placed in specific urns based on sex or age, and usually the remains of only one individual was found in each urn. There were, however, three urn burials from the Late Classic and two that could not be dated. Each contained the remains of more than one individual. The preservation of the interred human remains varied from poor to good condition, which made determining the position of the bodies within the urn sometimes difficult. The decomposition of the remains usually left the bones and offerings in a jumble at the bottom of the urn. A few urns, however, did hold bones that were still in anatomical position where the body position was easily noted and described.

It was also difficult to determine whether the urn burials were primary burials or secondary due to the position of the bones. Gurr-Matheny leaned towards labeling an urn burial primary when anatomically correct bones were found (possibly flexed burial, or a wrapped body placed inside the urn), and labeled it a secondary burial when the bones were jumbled or held the remains of multiple individuals. She points out, however, that the first individual in these circumstances may have been a primary burial but the following individuals may have been added or interred later as secondary burials.

Offerings were found more frequently placed outside of the urn while very few were placed inside with the body of the deceased. Urn burials containing no ceramics were not dated but may have still been interred during the Late Classic. Following are a list of the urn burials and their associated funerary offerings in more detail.

Operation 2: Three urn burials (Burials 2, 4, and 5) were found in Operation 2 that could not be given a relative date but may be associated with the Late Classic period. Burials 2 and 4 were both found in a flexed position, but only Burial 2 could be assigned a sex (male) due to the

good condition of the remains. This urn definitely contained only one individual in a possible seated/flexed position, but no funerary offerings were found in association with it. The urn from Burial 2 was set into a fragment of a larger urn, and utilized another smaller vessel on top as a lid. Surrounding the urn were large sherds that included a ladle censer fragment.

While Burial 4 was associated with funerary offerings that included a bowl and possibly a shell pendant (which was found beneath the urn putting into question its association), the osteological remains were not studied, so the sex or number of individuals could not be determined. At least one individual (found in the flexed position) was placed inside the urn of Burial 4 but without a proper analysis of the remains it could not be ruled as a single burial. The urn of Burial 4 was badly broken but had a modeled monkey on the side body of the vessel and was covered by an inverted basin vessel as a lid.

Burial 5 was also found in poor condition and did not appear to have any associated funerary offerings. The osteological remains were not available for Gurr-Matheny to study them, so sex, age, and the number of individuals were not determined.

Operation 7: Four urn burials (7, 8, 9, and 10) were found in Operation 7 that date to or around the Late Classic period. Burial 7 dates to sometime during the Late or Terminal Classic periods. The urn was broken but covered by a basin vessel as a lid. Osteological remains were also found among the fragmented urn and appeared to be from only one individual, but they were in such poor condition that the position, sex, and age of the remains could not be determined. Three bowls and two dishes constituted the funerary offerings.

Burial 8, 9, and 10 all dated to the Late Classic or possibly the Early Postclassic period. The burial urn of Burial 8 was covered by a basin vessel with offering vessels placed all around

it. These included one pedestal censer, one small pedestal censer, one fragmentary dish, one flower pot censer, and one red groove incised dish. The osteological remains consisted of one adult individual, however, the deteriorated condition of the remains made it difficult to determine its sex.

Burial 9 consisted of a burial urn with an inverted basin vessel on top serving as a lid or cover. A stack of ceramic vessels were found outside of the urn and were stacked in the following order: one dish, one ladle censer bowl, another dish, and then basin fragments. The flexed remains found inside of the urn belonged to a young male adult. A small spherical nodule of enamel was found on one molar that Gurr-Matheny identified as enameloma.

Burial 10 contained the remains of only one individual, but the condition of the bones were too deteriorated to determine their position, and the sex and age of the individual. The burial urn had an inverted basin on top serving as a lid or cover, and only one fragmentary bowl and a dog canine were found as funerary offerings.

Operation 17: Five urn burials (5, 9, 10, 11, and 13) were found in Operation 17 that date to or around the Late Classic. Burial 11 is definitely from the Late Classic period while the rest date to the Late Classic or possibly the Early Postclassic period. Burial 5 was found with stones resting on top of a badly broken urn. Gurr-Matheny believed that the stones were originally acting as a possible cover for the burial but over time collapsed down on top of the urn subsequently crushing it. Two individuals were found inside the crushed urn. The remains of the first individual, found on top in a flexed position, belonged to an adult female, which may have been a secondary burial that was added later. The second individual, found beneath the female, was in much poorer condition, so its position, sex, and age could not be determined. All of the funerary offerings associated with Burial 5 were found to the east of the urn and included

one fragmentary basin (found inside of the urn), one small tripod dish, one ladle censer, two dishes, two bowls, one basin vessel, one fragmentary dish, and four obsidian prismatic blades.

One adult individual was found in a flexed position in Burial 9, but the sex could not be established. An inverted basin vessel was found on top of the urn acting as a possible lid or cover, and a dish fragment was also found on top of the urn. The funerary offerings included a small bowl and a dish.

Burial 10 had an inverted basin vessel on top acting as a cover or lid, and a number of ceramic funerary offerings were found just to the south of the urn. All but one of the offerings were stacked on top of each other and included three dishes, one flower pot censer, two bowls, one pedestal censer, one ladle censer, one bowl with three hollow ovoid rattle supports, one large pedestal base (possibly from a bowl), and one incurved bowl. The osteological remains were not available for study so Gurr-Matheny could not determine the position, the number of individuals, sex, or age.

The urn from Burial 11 had a basin vessel on top that acted as a cover or lid, and the funerary offerings were arranged in a semi-circle around the west side of the urn. Some of the ceramic funerary offering vessels were stacked as well. These included fifteen bowls, five dishes, two censers, four vases, and one cylindrical jade bead. While the position of the remains could not be determined they did belong to a single adult male.

Burial 13 also had an inverted basin covering the mouth of the burial urn, and its funerary offerings were found clustered around the southwest and northeast sides of the urn. Some of which were also stacked. The offerings included eleven bowls and eight dishes. The remains appeared to have been flexed and belonged to a single adult female.

Operation 20: Operation 20 contained two urn burials (1 and 9) that dated to the Late Classic or somewhere between the Late Classic and the Early Postclassic periods. Two more urn burials (7 and 10) were found that could not be dated to a specific time period.

The urn from Burial 1 was found resting inside of another broken urn, and dates to the Late Classic or Early Postclassic. A cut-off jar vessel with the neck and rim was placed over the top of them, and then on top of that was an inverted basin vessel. The remains were found in a flexed (possibly seated) position and showed evidence of a possible treponemal infection, or a bowing of the tibia. The remains belong to an adult male, and are accompanied by two bowls and one ladle censer as funerary offerings.

The urn from Burial 9 had an inverted basin vessel resting on top acting as a cover, and dates to the Late Classic. Funerary offerings were found surrounding the base of the urn in a semi-circle from the north to the west, and include two dishes, two bowls, and one pedestal censer. The remains were found in a flexed (possibly seated) position, but the sex, age, and whether or not there was more than one individual within the urn was not determined.

The first urn burial with no specified time period, Burial 7, was also covered by an inverted basin that acted as a cover or lid. The remains consisted of the bones of two individuals that were in both poor to fair condition. The first individual was found at the top in a flexed (possibly seated) position and may have been added to the urn later. This later interment may have disturbed the bones of the second individual making it difficult to determine its position. The remains of the first individual belonged to a young adult male, while those found beneath belonged to an adult female. One bowl was found as a funerary offering.

The second urn burial with no specified time period, Burial 10, contained the remains of a young adult female. The urn itself seems to have broken and fallen apart over time which allowed the remains to slide out the east side. The body was found resting in a flexed position and lying on its side. No funerary offerings were found in association with the burial.

Operation 23: Operation 23 contained the most Late Classic (or possibly Early Postclassic) urn burials. Five urn burials (4, 5, 7, 8, and 12) were all dated to the Late Classic or possibly the Early Postclassic, while Burials 3 and 9 (also urn burials) could not be dated to a specific time period.

Burial 3 consisted of an urn burial and a simple burial outside of the urn. It contained the remains of three individuals (two inside the urn and one outside but next to the urn). The flexed remains of the first individual in the urn belonged to an adult female. She was found lying on her back (or possibly her side) with her head oriented to the west. Her bones were found in fair condition, and her teeth exhibited dental mutilation on one canine and four incisors. The sex and age of the second individual could not be determined with the poorly preserved bones, but the flexed remains are possibly secondary and appeared to have been disturbed by later activity (possibly the interment of the last individual previously described). The head was oriented to the southwest and its mandible shows the loss of molars and premolars, as well as the resorption of the sockets. Two bowls were found as funerary offerings for either the first or second individual, or possibly both. While the very fragmented bones of the third individual could not reveal position or sex they did appear to belong to at least a young adult (and is mentioned again in the Simple Burial section below). One bowl was found as a funerary offering that most likely is associated with this third individual.

The urn from Burial 4 had an inverted bowl as a cover, and was found with a number of offering vessels surrounding it in a semi-circle around the northwest, west, and south sides. These include four bowls, one censer, one effigy vessel, one censer, one base pedestal censer, one pedestal bowl, and one dish. The remains belonged to an adult but the position and the sex were not determined.

Burial 5 is an urn burial that contained the remains of two individuals. The first individual, found on top and interred last, was an adult male but the poorly preserved bones made it difficult to determine his position upon interment. The remains of the second and first interred individual were so poorly preserved and fragmented that the position, sex, and age could not be determined. The burial urn itself was covered by two inverted vessels that acted as covers for the mouth. Five bowls, four dishes, and one censer were found as funerary offerings.

The urn from Burial 7 was found with no coverings or lids, but did contain the remains of two individuals. The first individual was found above the second individual and laying on its left side near the top of the urn. The remains were in a flexed position and belonged to an adult male. They were also found in fair to good condition. His teeth showed signs of mutilation in the upper medial incisors and on one upper lateral incisor. The remains of the second individual may have been slightly disturbed by the interment of the previous individual, but the bones were still in fair to good condition as well. They belonged to an adult female with a mandible that showed the loss of the molars and the resorption of the sockets. Both of the skulls showed the tabular erect variety of cranial deformation. One bowl and one pedestal censer base were found as associated funerary offerings. The remains of a possible third individual may also have been found within the urn but it was not officially determined.

The urn from Burial 8 was found with another urn vessel inside of it and an inverted basin vessel on top acting as a cover. Five dishes and three bowls were found as funerary offerings surrounding the outside of the urn on the west, south, and east sides. The remains belonged to an adult but the position and sex were not determined.

The urn from Burial 9 also had an inverted basin vessel covering it but no funerary offerings were found in association. While osteological remains were found inside, the position, number of individuals, sex, and age were not determined.

The last urn burial, 23-12, dating to the Late Classic or Early Postclassic period consisted of an urn with an inverted basin vessel as a cover or lid. Two bowls, one vase, and one dish were found as funerary offerings. Osteological remains were found inside but the position, number of individuals, sex, and age were not determined.

In a report of some of the recent work going on at Lagartero Torres briefly describes lab work conducted on three large pots found in Pyramid 2 (Torres 2013). The first pot (located in 1° cuerpo) contained sherds of multiple incomplete vessels. The other two pots (located in Cuadro E19 and Cuadro A10) contained human remains and were classified as urn burials.

The urn burial in Cuadro E19 was found in 2009 and consisted of a globular vessel with a broken neck and rim. The fragmented pieces of the neck and rim appear to have broken naturally after interment and were found inside the urn with a rock and earth fill. Torres believes that the rock and earth fill fell into the open urn over time. The bones found beneath the rock and rim fragments were human, but at the time of the report an analysis had not been conducted to determine number of individuals, sex, and age of the remains. A description of its exact location in the pyramid or grave type was not included in the report.

The second urn burial, located in Cuadro A10, was found just to the southeast side of a slightly smaller urn that also contained human remains, but it was not included in the report because it had not been brought to the lab for analysis. Torres does note that the bones in this smaller urn were found in a flexed position, and a field photograph of the two urns in situ shows a large upside down bowl resting over the mouth of the smaller urn acting as a lid (Torres and Sánchez 2013:7). A hole is visible in the center of the base of this bowl. The larger urn did not appear to have had a lid. A large piece of tin foil covered the top of the urn in the field photo and Torres did not note the presence of a lid or cover vessel in the report. The urn did contain bones from multiple individuals of different ages, but a total MNI, sex, and approximate ages were not determined. The grave type was not described but the field photo shows some rocks in the pit's southeast corner walls. It is unclear, however, whether the rocks are part of the grave or pyramid structure. Offering vessels, consisting of bowls and plates (exact count unknown), were found surrounding the northern side of the urn vessel and between the smaller urn.

Crypt

Gurr-Matheny described this type as “the most formal, of which there were only two examples (Burials 23-1 and 23-10) found in the northwest plaza” (1987:67). She used the definition found in the site reports of Zaculeu that describes crypts as “box-like repositories with sides of large vertical slabs placed closely together. They are covered by long, horizontal stones, and in some a slab bottom was included” (1987:67, quoting Trik 1954:78).

One crypt grave that dates to the Late Classic or Early Postclassic period, was found in the plaza (Operation 23 Burial 10). According to Gurr-Matheny, this crypt “is an example of the long narrow type,” while “long, narrow slabs were used to construct the sides and several large slabs provided its cover” (1987:68). The remains of the deceased were found extended and lying

on its back with hands resting on the pelvis (Figure 3.4). The bones belong to an adult female between the ages of 30 to 45 years. Cranial deformation was found on the skull as a possible result of the use of tabular board. No funerary offerings were found within the crypt, but two caches, 23-3 and 23-4, may be associated with it. Cache 23-3 consisted of a group of still standing ceramic vessels found approximately 153-170 cm below the ground surface, and just to the west of Burial 23-8 and north of Burial 23-10. The cache included two bowls, a small jar, and one shell bracelet. Cache 23-4 consisted of a group of various incense burners (Figure 3.5) located approximately 122-203 cm below the ground surface, and just east of Burial 23-10 and south of Burials 23-8 and 23-7. All of the censers were broken and missing pieces, but included some very intricate designs and models. They included a large tubular censer with an abstract anthropomorphic face, an anthropomorphic censer, a large tubular censer with stylized anthropomorphic face and limbs, two censer covers with bird effigy heads, two possibly censer covers with anthropomorphic heads, a scepter censer, a fragment of another tubular censer with an abstract anthropomorphic face, and several censer fragments to do not fit any of the previously mentioned censers.



Figure 3.4: Operation 23 Burial 10 from the main plaza on Limonal (Gurr-Matheny 1987). Used with permission from the author



Figure 3.5: An anthropomorphic incense burner lid (left) and incense burner (right) from Operation 23 Cache 4 (Gurr-Matheny 1987). Used with permission from the author.

Simple

According to Gurr-Matheny, “simple graves are those in which there was no formal grave construction and the bodies were simply placed in a pit excavated in the plaza” (1987:65). A number of simple flexed and extended burials were found all throughout the excavations in the northwest plaza, and include the remains of both male and female adults as well as sub-adults. The flexed simple burials were possibly bound tightly with perishable materials that disappeared over time but left the bodies in a flexed position. Fewer extended simple burials were discovered than flexed, most of which were found in a supine position. Three simple burials were found that could be dated to the Late Classic.

The first was an extended simple grave found in Operation 17 (Burial 4). Upon excavation the bones were discovered laying on its back and in decent condition with the head pointed south. The remains belonged to an adult male and were accompanied by one vase and one dish.

The second simple grave contained two individuals (A and B in Operation 23 Burial 3 in the above chart) in association with an urn that held a third individual (C in the chart above). The urn burial itself is listed as unknown in regards to the time of its interment but once again it is highly likely from at least the Late Classic. Due to the simple burial’s association with the urn it is also most likely that it too is from the Late Classic period. The remains of both of the individuals found outside of the urn were flexed. Individual A was an adult female placed in a flexed position possibly on her back or side. Individual B was an adult of undetermined sex, and may have been a secondary burial. The remains of the individual inside the urn were too deteriorated to determine its position, but they did belong to a young adult.

The third simple grave was located in Operation 23 (burial 6). The body was in a flexed and seated position on top of a pile of stones that separated Burials 11 and 12 (urn burials) (only burial 12 was dated to the Late Classic or Early Postclassic period). The remains were propped up by a large stone, and a ceramic vessel was placed inverted over the skull. The bones may belong to a child of possibly 8 to 9 years of age. Four bowls were found in associated with the remains.

4| COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Both Guajilar and Lagartero were occupied by incoming Maya immigrants during the Late Classic period (AD 650-900), but it is uncertain as to exactly where these Maya people came from. Guajilar and Lagartero are located close to each other in the upper Grijalva River Basin, are considered to have been important regional and ceremonial centers during the Late Classic period, and share a similar cultural history. By describing the burial practices from these two sites I can identify possible patterns in the archaeological record that can be compared to burials from Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal in the southern Maya Lowlands, and to burials from sites in the Guatemala Highlands. These comparisons may indicate the possible region the peoples came from who occupied Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period.

For the scope of this thesis I focus on the presence and absence of certain burial trends and artifacts from Guajilar and Lagartero. The discussions on burial location within the site, grave type, burial type, and associated grave goods are the four criteria I use for the comparative analysis. Each one of these burial characteristics approaches the burial data of Guajilar and Lagartero from a different angle. This provides a general overview of what each burial consisted of and how the burials from each site compare to each other, and to burials from the proposed two regions. Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal were chosen for the analysis because of their accessible burial data.

Burial Location

The focus and goals of the excavations differed between Guajilar and Lagartero. The main goals of the excavation work at Guajilar were to discover the size of the site and determine

the major periods of occupation, and to test for chronological placement of the major structures and determine their relationship to the remainder of the site (Lee 1976; Bryant 1978). All the major structures and central areas were explored to some extent. In contrast, at Lagartero in the 1970s, excavations were going to explore the site's occupational timeline starting with the main plaza, but after a high number of burials were found the focus shifted to determining the construction and occupational timeline of the plaza instead (Gurr-Matheny 1987). The main focus of field work was on the northern end of the plaza, but eventually included the center, eastern, and western areas. Due to the high concentration of burials found within the main plaza the area was categorized as a necropolis (1987:55).

Burial features were also found in the Central Plaza at Guajilar, but the area was not explored to the same extent as Lagartero's main plaza. If the plaza were fully excavated, it is very likely that a number of other Late Classic burials would be found.

While most of the Late Classic burials from Lagartero came from the main plaza (and possibly three from Pyramid 2), Late Classic burials from Guajilar were found in almost all of the major ceremonial mounds as well as in the Central Plaza (Table 3). Four burials were recovered from the Central Plaza at Guajilar, consisting of three cist-urn burials and one secondary burial (which may be an offering).

The burials found in the mounds were all located approximately near the top center area. The excavation units opened in Mounds 16, 29, 54, and 56 were all opened right at the top of the Mound in order "to find the burials before the looters" (Lee, personal communication 2012).

<i>Location</i>	<i>Grave/Burial Type</i>							
	Tomb Urn burial	Destroyed Tomb	Crypt Urn burial	Cist Urn burials	Simple Urn burials	Possible Cremation burials	Unknown	Mortuary Offerings
Main Plaza	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1
Mound 16	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Mound 29	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Mound 42	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Mound 50a	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mound 54	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mound 56	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1

Table 3: The locations of the Late Classic burial features found at Guajilar.

Lee knew that the tops of the mounds, and not the bases, most likely contained burials, caches, or other ancient artifacts, and it was highly likely that looters knew that as well. Clark's fieldnotes mention that on April 26, 1978, looters had come the night before and had pulled out some of the ceramics from around one of the simple urn burials in Mound 56. He could not tell whether anything was taken, but luckily the burial itself was left untouched. According to Lee excavations were definitely a race to find and record the burials and other features before looters got to them. The mounds may hold more burials in other areas besides their summits.

Mounds 42 and 50a were explored more extensively than the other mounds. Mound 42 had multiple excavation units (9, 21, and 22) around the top, sides, and near the base. A long

trench (Excavation Unit 3) was opened on Mound 50a that ran from the top of the mound, down the west side, to the base, and slightly out into the eastern Central Plaza area. The Late Classic burials found in these mounds, however, were located only near the top.

A tomb-urn burial was the only Late Classic burial found in Mound 50a, and it was the most elaborate in grave goods as well. Its position in Mound 50a is almost perfectly centrally located in the site, and borders the southeast side of the Central Plaza. A significant location within the site, a large grave structure, and rich burial offerings and grave goods imply that this burial most likely belonged to a very important figure in the Late Classic community at Guajilar. The destroyed tomb was the only Late Classic burial found in Mound 54, but its destruction precludes any further analysis.

Mounds 16 and 42 were the only structures that housed the three possible Late Classic cremation burials. These may have been interred towards the close of the Late Classic. The burial trend of the Postclassic period at Guajilar was characterized by mostly cremation burials.

Between Guajilar and Lagartero the patterns found in burial location within the site depend on where excavations took place. Late Classic burials were recovered from most of the major mounds at Guajilar and from the main plaza of the ceremonial center and Pyramid 2 at Lagartero. Other burials most likely exist in the unexplored areas of the sites, but for now all that can be said with certainty is that people were at least buried in the major mounds and central areas of both sites.

Grave Types

The most obvious differences in grave types present at both sites are evident in the variety at Guajilar and the lack thereof at Lagartero (Figure 4.1). Tombs, cists, a crypt, and simple graves were all found at Guajilar while the Late Classic graves at Lagartero consisted mostly of simple graves.

A Late Classic crypt (23-10) was found in the Lagartero plaza (it contained the remains of one adult female placed in an extended position rather than in an urn), but no tombs or cists were encountered. Two of the Lagartero urn burials found within the same grave in Pyramid 2 may have had formal grave construction, but the descriptions of the grave are not available to officially determine the grave type. For this reason I decided not to include them in the grave type analysis. The crypt burial is the only Late Classic burial feature from the Lagartero main plaza that exhibited any kind of formal grave construction. The crypt burial was long and narrow, with long stone slabs lining the walls and set over the top as a cover.

According to Gurr-Matheny's descriptions, most of the urn burials were placed in simple pits dug into the plaza floor and had no formal lining that would have categorized them as cists or another grave type. Burial 17-5 did have a row of single-course stones found in the northwest corner of the original pit that seem to have been intended to cover the burial. This might qualify it as a cist, but Gurr-Matheny seemed hesitant to do so without a formal rock lining throughout the rest of the grave as is characteristic of other cist graves in the area. A second individual had been interred later into the urn of Burial 17-5, over the first individual, which may indicate that the stones had been placed there to reseal the grave.

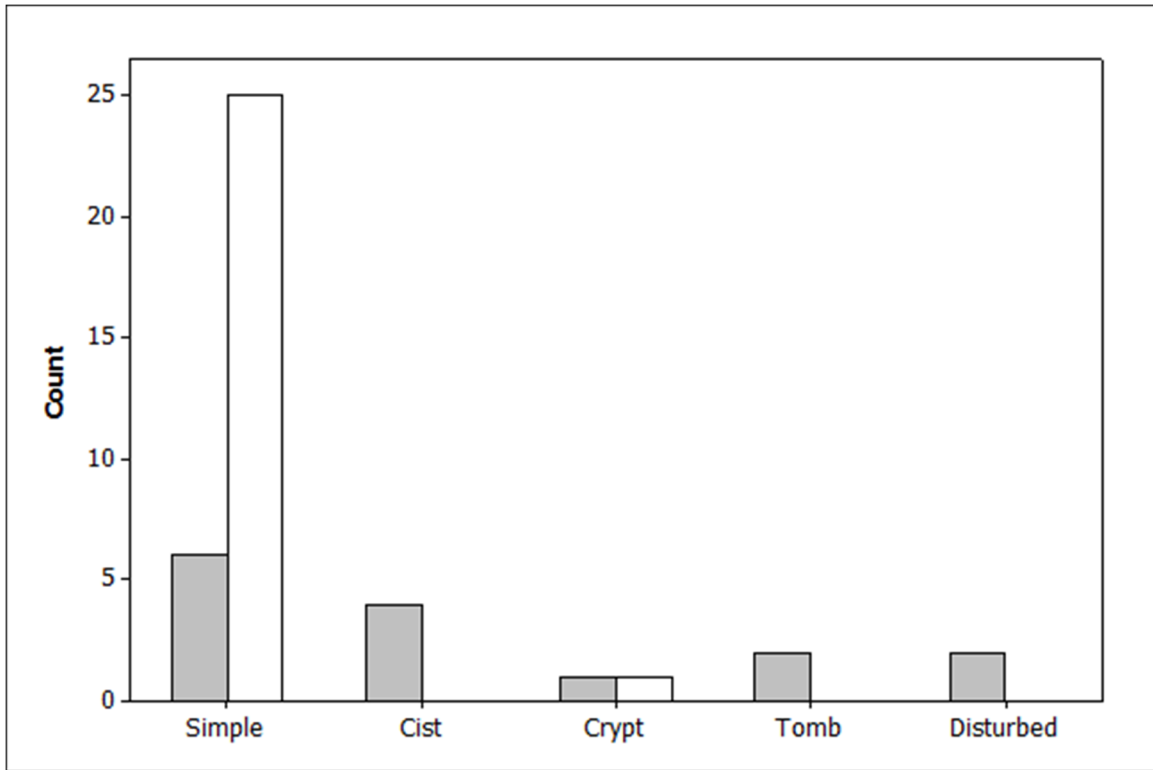


Figure 4.1: Comparison of the number of graves per type present at Guajilar and Lagartero. Gray=Guajilar, White=Lagartero.

Guajilar’s Central Plaza burials surprisingly contained multiple burials with formal construction. Three cist urn burials (Features 6, 14, and 16) were found in Excavation Unit 1, opened in the center of the plaza. Another Late Classic cist-urn burial (Feature 31-29) was recovered in Mound 29. The pits of all of the cist graves were lined with rocks and the urns were placed inside. Rocks were then placed around the urns of Burial Features 14 and 16 in the plaza, and over the tops of the cover vessels. The grave of Feature 6 was not filled in with rocks after the urn was placed inside, but it had some empty space left around it. Stone slabs were placed over the top of the opening of Feature 6 before more rocks were piled on top. The pit of Feature 29 was also lined with rock with space left between the urn and the grave walls. Long rock slabs were placed over the opening of the pit as a cover.

The burials found within Excavation Unit 1 were found in close proximity to each other. The burials in Lagartero's main plaza also tended to be found clustered or close to each other. As Gurr-Matheny (1987) mentioned, excavations were difficult to finish because the discovery of one burial would usually expose another, which prompted further expansion of the excavation units (or Operations). The interment of so many burials in graves placed so close together may have been due to limited space in the main plaza. Gurr-Matheny concluded that the main plaza at Lagartero was a necropolis, and with further investigation it would be interesting to see whether the Central Plaza at Guajilar served a similar function during the Late Classic period.

The one crypt grave (Feature 34-27) at Guajilar contained an urn burial and may have been associated with two other urn burials. The structure of the crypt was very similar to the cist graves, which may mean it is actually a cist grave and not a crypt (as was discussed in Chapter 2). Rocks lined the floor and walls of the pit and filled in between the urns. The two courses of rock, which enclosed the crypt, settled over time, and caused the urns to partially collapse in on themselves from the weight.

The tomb urn grave is described by Lee (Lee et al. 1989) as a corbel masonry tomb built intrusively into Mound 50a. The materials used in the construction of the tomb were hard, well-formed tabular stones that were laid up in mud mortar in narrow courses. The space inside the tomb was filled with a number of grave goods (discussed below). No other burials at Guajilar or in the main plaza at Lagartero exhibited this degree of construction or architecture. The destroyed tomb (Feature 33-24) may have, had at one time, similar construction, but the rubble that was left made it impossible to discern any formal shape or design in the rocks.

Some of the urn burials and possible cremation burials at Guajilar were placed in simple graves, or pits, that were dug into the mounds and then covered over with earth and fill. One Late Classic simple burial at Lagartero consisted of a simple urn interment holding the remains of one individual; remains of two more individuals were found just outside of the urn. Both were flexed individuals placed in simple graves. An urn burial at Guajilar (Feature 20-58) was also found with an individual just outside of it, encircling the base with its body. It was originally thought to be a Late Classic burial but after Lee analyzed the ceramics he dated it to the first half of the Postclassic period. The simple burial, however, of the flexed individual encircling the urn was labeled as an offering and listed with the other grave goods associated with it. The two individuals placed outside of the Lagartero urn burial may have been offerings as well and not burials.

Three simple graves found in the main plaza at Lagartero did not contain any burial vessels. Instead, the graves consisted of an extended male adult in Burial 17-4, two flexed adults (one female and the other unknown) in the same simple grave with an urn burial (Burial 23-3), and of a child (Burial 23-6) in a flexed seated position. All appeared to have been placed into a pit without any formal lining in the plaza floor. The child, however, was found resting on top of a rock pile that had been placed between two urns. Gurr-Matheny did not elaborate on whether or not Burial 23-6 was associated with either of those two urns. If an association can clearly be made between the flexed individuals in Burials 23-3 and 23-6 with the nearby urns, then they may be offerings and not burials. Late Classic simple graves with flexed or extended remains were not found at Guajilar. One secondary burial (Feature 5), however, was found in a simple grave that potentially may be an offering to one of the cist urn burials found in Excavation Unit 1.

Formal grave construction was more likely to be found with burials located in the major mounds of the sites. Once data becomes available for the burials in Pyramid 2 at Lagartero it will be interesting to see whether the urn burials were placed in cists or simple pits like those found in the plaza. It will also be interesting to see whether any other Late Classic burials found in the Central Plaza at Guajilar have formal grave construction like the cist graves found in Excavation Unit 1.

Burial Types

The most common burial type from both sites included the use of urns (36 urn burials between both sites, 26 from Lagartero and 10 from Guajilar). The types of graves the urns were placed in and how the remains were placed inside of the urns, however, differed between the sites. Other burial types were also found that included cremation burials at Guajilar and flexed and extended burials at Lagartero.

Cremation Burials

Three possible cremation burials were found at Guajilar (Features 20, 23, and 39-56) that date to the Late Classic. While cremation burials are considered to be a Postclassic and Colonial tradition in the Maya Lowlands and Highlands (Ricketson 1925), “evidence for earlier occurrences exist” (Weiss-Krejci 2006:76). Two of the burial features Lee typed as “disturbed” (Features 20 and 23) contained fragmented water jars, and the feature records from both features noted the possibility that they may have been cremation burials. Lee categorized one feature as a mouth-to-mouth offering (Feature 39-56) in his report. The offering consisted of a two-loop handled water jar with a smaller jar upside-down in its mouth. The notes of Feature 39-56 have

a question mark next to the feature type but seem to indicate the possibility that it was a cremation burial.

Cremation has been described as a mortuary practice for the elite members of Lowland Maya society (Landa 1986[1566]:68), because it required a large quantity of resources to burn and reduce the bones to ashes, an act that required wealth (Weiss-Krejci 2006). This may hold true for the upper Grijalva River Basin region as well.

Urn Burials

Urn burials from Guajilar and Lagartero mostly consisted of large urns with an inverted dish or plate over their mouths which acted as a lid or cover. Age and sex of the bones within the urns are unspecified at Guajilar but vary at Lagartero. Thanks to Gurr-Matheny's osteological analysis we know that both males and females were interred in urns, as well as adults, young adults, and children. Usually only one individual was placed inside of an urn at Lagartero, which also appears to have been the case at Guajilar. Other human remains were found in other vessels within the tomb urn burial Feature 21 at Guajilar, but these remains may have been offerings and not burials.

Five of the Late Classic urn burials from Lagartero definitely contained more than one individual. Gurr-Matheny (1987) believed that the burials containing multiple individuals were not interred at the same time but may have been reopened later in order to inter a second individual. She believed this explains why the remains found at the bottom of the urn were usually in poorer condition. She hypothesized that these may have been family graves that were reutilized over time (1987:578).

The urn vessels themselves seemed more diverse in shape and design at Lagartero than at Guajilar. For example, Gurr-Matheny described two urns that had modeled monkeys on their sides, and one urn had three distinct holes drilled into its side (1987:58). The Lagartero urns also ranged in size, and some may have served as functional storage vessels before becoming funerary vessels. This is evidenced by some urns that had been cut at the neck in order to widen the mouth, possibly in order to make enough room for a body to be fit inside. Other urns were made with wider necks and mouths, which Gurr-Matheny believes were manufactured later specifically for funerary purposes (1987:58).

Some of the urns at Guajilar were also altered, presumably for the same reasons. The urn from Feature 6 had its neck and rim cut off, as well as the urn from Feature 34-35. Some urn burials, such as found in Feature 34-27, had unaltered high necks and rims. In these features a clear description of the bones would have helped to determine whether or not the bones were disarticulated or bundled. Other urns had been so completely flattened from the rocks and fill above that it was not possible to determine whether or not any alterations had been made to the urn vessel.

Urn burials from both sites almost all had an inverted vessel over the top that served as a lid or cover. A few of the urns at Lagartero sometimes utilized a large potsherd as a cover, a practice that was not noticed at Guajilar. One of the cist urn burials, Feature 6, at Guajilar utilized a large effigy bowl as the lid to the urn and one of the simple urns (Feature 34-30) used an inverted jar to plug up the opening of the urn. Urn burials were definitely an elite burial practice that transcended rank or status among that group. Variation only becomes apparent when also considering its location within the site, grave type, and associated grave goods.

Flexed and Extended Burials

The three simple graves found without urns vessels at Lagartero contained the remains of flexed and extended individuals. The first burial (17-4) was of an adult male found on his back (supine) in an extended position with his head oriented to the south. The second burial contained two individuals interred next to an urn burial. Both individuals outside of the urn were placed on their backs or sides into simple graves in flexed positions. Gurr-Matheny suggests the possibility that at one time they may have been bound. The textile material that may have bound the remains was not found and would have deteriorated over time, but left the bodies in their flexed positions. Their proximity and possible association with the urn burial may suggest that the two flexed individuals may have been offerings rather than burials.

The third burial (23-6) was of a child in a flexed seated position. This particular burial was found resting on top of a layer of stones that had been stacked to fill the space between two urn burials, 23-11 and 23-12 (only urn burial 23-12 was dated to the Late Classic). The flexed and seated body of the child on top of the rocks was propped up by a large rock. A large inverted vessel had also been placed over its skull. This burial may also have been an offering for one or both of the urns below, but Gurr-Matheny did not find an association between them besides proximity.

The untyped grave, Feature 5 (possibly a simple grave), at Guajilar is a secondary burial. The remains were not flexed or extended but appear to be disarticulated and arranged to fit completely under a large inverted bowl.

The only common thread between these particular simple burials at both sites is the use of a vessel placed inverted over some of the remains in some way. The vessel over the child's

head at Lagartero is a practice that was also seen in the Maya Lowlands during the Classic period (Welsh 1988). The burial that Lee labeled as secondary at Guajilar also had a ceramic vessel over the remains, but the remains were disarticulated and completely covered by the vessel, not just the head. The extended remains of the male in Burial 17-4 were accompanied by ceramic vessels, but they were placed off to the side. Each individual in Burial 23-3 at Lagartero had one ceramic vessel associated with it as well. Both vessels found with the remains outside of the urn, however, were placed off to the side of the heads of the individuals (one to the southeast side of the head of Individual B and one just to the west of the head of Individual A).

Grave Goods

Analysis of the grave goods found with the burials at Guajilar and Lagartero reveals stark differences in content and context. I chose not to include the containment vessels (i.e., the urns, their cover vessels, and the cremation water jars) of the burials as grave goods because they are considered to be a part of the burial facility and not the offerings.

Figure 4.2 presents an overview of the presence and absence of grave goods associated with each burial feature at Guajilar and Lagartero. The most obvious pattern evident is the lack of diversity in grave good materials from the burials at Lagartero compared to those from Guajilar. The location of each burial feature within the site may be a contributing factor to the quality and quantity of offerings and grave goods.

In the following sub-sections I compare some of the types of goods interred with the dead at Guajilar and Lagartero. These include the possible burial offerings and caches, ceramic vessels, and non-ceramic grave goods (stone, shell, etc.). Patterns in context of the grave goods

in relation to the burials then concludes this section. I did not include the urn burials from Pyramid 2 at Lagartero because the information on any associated grave goods was not available.

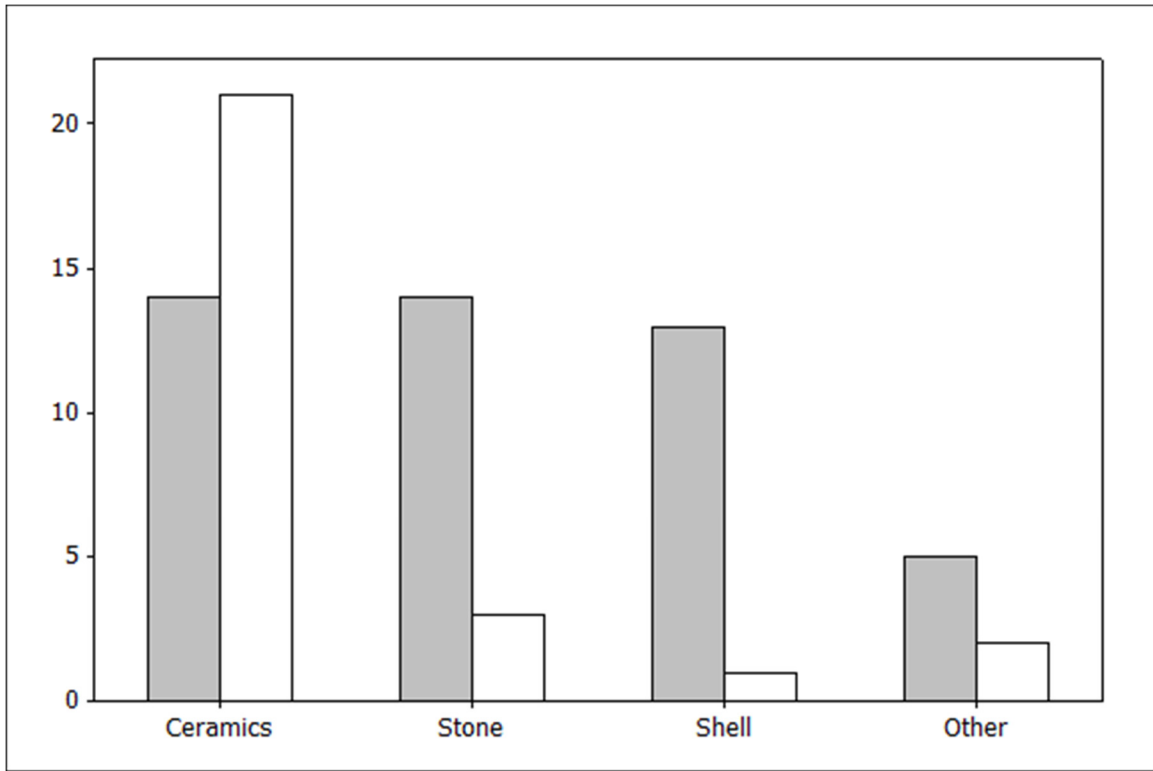


Figure 4.2: The number of Late Classic burials from Guajilar and Lagartero containing each type of grave good. Gray=Guajilar, White=Lagartero

Mortuary Offerings and Caches

Three possible mortuary offerings were recovered from Guajilar. Two were found near clusters of Late Classic graves, and the third was almost directly above a single cist urn burial. The first (Feature 15, a possible mortuary offering) was found near the group of cist-urn burials in the Central Plaza, and the second (Feature 34-34) was found among the crypt urn burials in Mound 56. Feature 15 consisted of two bowls placed mouth-to-mouth with human bone fragments, an obsidian biface, and a trapezoidal obsidian blade all resting at the bottom of the bowl. It appeared to be closest to Feature 14, one of the cist urn burials. Feature 34-34 was

definitely categorized as a mortuary offering. Its presence within the crypt grave clearly marked its association with the urn burials. It consisted of four bowls, a zoomorphic effigy ladle incense burner, shell and jade beads, and a fragment of a natural black rock. They were all placed along the west side of burial Feature 34-35 and below Features 34-27 and 34-30.

The third offering (Feature 31-28 in Mound 29) was labeled as an incense burner cache. It was found above and slightly southwest of Feature 31-29, a cist urn burial. While the two features are contemporaneous, Lee did not indicate whether the cache was an offering for the burial or not. The possibility of the cache's connection to the cist-urn burial prompted me to include it in the analysis. The cache consists of a spiked covered tripod vessel with an anthropomorphic lid. No other artifacts were found in association with the cache.

The two caches (23-3 and 23-4), possibly offerings, from Lagartero are possibly linked to the one crypt burial (23-10) found in the plaza. Both caches were found outside of the crypt, which is why Gurr-Matheny was uncertain of their association. Cache 23-3 consisted of two bowls, one small jar, and a shell bracelet. Cache 23-4 was a very interesting collection of slightly broken and disheveled incense burners that were all facing northeast, away from the crypt. The incense burners included two large tubular censers with abstract anthropomorphic faces, one anthropomorphic censer, a large tubular censer with stylized anthropomorphic face and limbs, two censer covers with bird effigy heads, two anthropomorphic heads that may have once been attached to censer covers, one scepter censer, and censer fragments that do not match up with any of the other censers.

Each one of these possible mortuary offerings or caches is different in what it consists of and the burial type it is associated with. There are not enough identified mortuary offerings, yet,

to determine any kind of pattern that would suggest a common trend or practice. The only conclusion that can be made is that sometimes mortuary offerings and caches were interred near or with burials during the Late Classic in the upper Grijalva River Basin.

Ceramics

Various ceramic vessels and artifacts were found among the grave goods and burial offerings at both Guajilar and Lagartero (Figure 4.3). The most common ceramic vessels were bowls. The types of bowls, as well as their designs and decorations, varied considerably, but for my purposes I compare vessel forms (with the exception of tripod bowls which I thought were different enough to warrant their own column). Incense burners, though less numerous, also showed considerable diversity in design, especially in Cache 23-4 at Lagartero, which contained only incense burners that had various modeled and decorated characteristics.

The ceramic vessels at Lagartero consisted mostly of bowls (n=68), dishes (n=39), and incense burners (n=26). A few vases (n=6), jars (n=2, one is an effigy jar), tripod bowls (n=4), and various ceramic sherds were found. No figurines, cylinders, whistles, or rattles were found at Lagartero but were found at Guajilar. The cist-urn burial from Guajilar (Feature 16) contained two rattles and a whistle. It was the only burial found with musical objects.

Most ceramic vessels at Guajilar were bowls (n=37). Two cylinder vessels, one dish or plate, six jars (one is an effigy jar), fourteen tripod bowls (all found in the tomb urn burial, Feature 21), three effigy shoe-shaped vessels (also all found in Feature 21), two incense burners, one figurine, two rattles, one whistle, and various ceramic sherds were also found associated with Late Classic burials at Guajilar. The effigy jar from Guajilar was found in the tomb urn

burial, and the effigy jar from Lagartero was found in a simple urn burial (Operation 23 Burial 4).

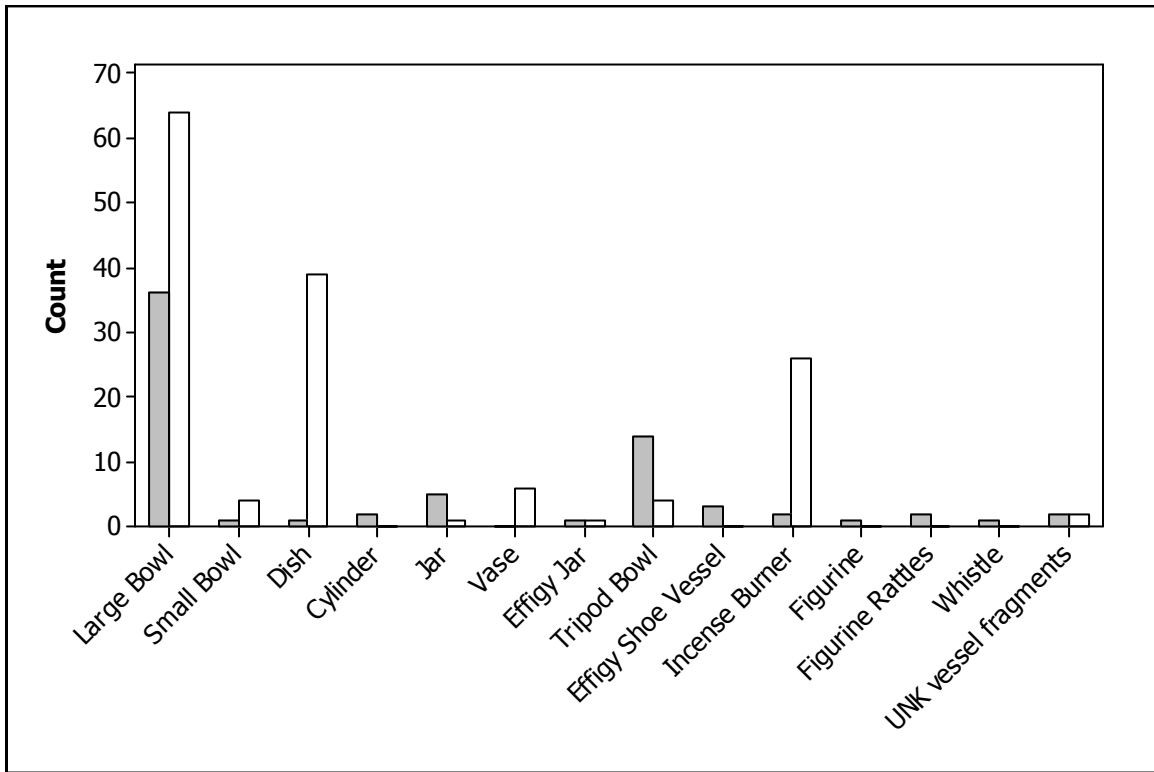


Figure 4.3: A comparison of the types of ceramic vessels and artifacts found among the Late Classic grave goods at Guajilar and Lagartero. Gray=Guajilar, White=Lagartero.

The tomb urn burial had the most diverse ceramic vessels. These vessels were also very diverse in design and decoration and include a wide variety of slipped, polychrome, and incised designs. Some of the vessels even held the contents placed in them at the time of interment. One of the cylinders from the tomb held ash and charcoal, which suggests that something may have been burned as part of the funerary rituals. Faunal bones were found in one of the polychrome solid tripod bowls. A few of the tripod bowls were also stacked on top of each

other, one of which held three small water worn pebbles. These ceramics, and the other artifacts discussed in the next section, supplied the individual interred in the tomb with many provisions for the afterlife.

Diversity in ceramic forms was lacking at Lagartero, but it was made up for in the quantity of ceramic vessels. Both sites had burials devoid of non-perishable grave goods or offerings, but overall the burials from Lagartero were more likely to be accompanied by ceramic vessels than the burials found at Guajilar.

Stone, Shell, and Other Grave Goods

Stone, shell, and other artifacts were more common in the burials at Guajilar than at Lagartero, but once again burial location may have been a contributing factor to this difference. The tomb urn burial at Guajilar had the most offerings manufactured from the widest assortment of raw materials. Found among the large number of bowls and other ceramic vessels were rodent incisors, long bone needles, shell beads, prismatic obsidian blades, pyrite ear ornaments, incised bone tubes (incised with glyphs), bone ear plugs, a gastropod shell with a carved anthropomorphic face, mosaic mirror fragments, a beaded jade necklace with an anthropomorphic pendant, and even bones (possibly human) resting between the urns and above them.

Some of the other amazing grave goods found in several of the other Guajilar burials include bone rings with carved anthropomorphic heads, limestone spindle whorls, various jade and greenstone beads, a jade nose plug, shell beads, carved shell ear flares, shell pendants, a marine shell breast plate pendant, obsidian blades and knives, amber beads, chert blades, and projectile points (refer to the photos and illustrations in Chapter 2).

Jade and shell beads were rather common among Guajilar's burials, but a few of the burials held grave goods that were unique only to them. Feature 16, mentioned in the ceramic section, was the only burial that contained musical artifacts, a marine shell breast plate pendant, and amber beads. A ceramic bird whistle was also found in Feature 25-16, Mound 38, which was categorized by Lee as a burial but was not dated. Feature 6, one of the cist urn burials found in the Central Plaza, held the only three spindle whorls among the Late Classic burials (and all three were incised with decorative designs). Feature 6 also had the four bone rings carved with anthropomorphic heads, and one bone ring carved with a zoomorphic head. Feature 39-56, one of the possible cremation burials, was the only feature with projectile points. These unique offerings may represent an aspect (gender, occupation, etc.) about the deceased individual in some way. Not enough data, however, exist at either site at this time that could make a connection between mortuary offerings and gender or occupation. At this point, only observations of these unique occurrences of grave goods can be made.

The Lagartero burials exhibited very little outside of ceramic grave goods. A fragmented shell pendant from Burial 2-4 and a dog canine from Burial 7-10 were the only non-ceramic grave goods found in Operations 2 and 7. The only other non-ceramic grave goods found among the rest of Late Classic burials in the other Operations consisted of four prismatic obsidian blades from Burial 17-5, one cylindrical jade bead from Burial 17-11, one cylindrical bead and one spondylus shell effigy bead from Burial 20-9, and one perforated dog canine found inside the urn of Burial 23-7. One shell bracelet (typed as *glycymeris gigantean*, Gur-Matheny 1987:257) was found in Cache 23-3. Besides the shell bracelet in the cache, all of the burial features that had non-ceramic artifacts were urn burials. The mortuary offerings and grave goods from Lagartero

seem non-existent in comparison to Guajilar's when looking at other offerings besides ceramic vessels.

Grave Good Context

The human remains in the urns at Lagartero were sometimes accompanied by small offerings, but more frequently offerings and grave goods were placed closely around the outsides of the urns. The urns at Guajilar tended to have grave goods placed inside them than outside.

The urn burials in Lagartero's plaza may have been limited in the diversity of grave goods, but some were very rich in ceramic funerary offerings. Four of the Late Classic urn burials from Operation 17 had many ceramic vessels as grave goods stacked around the outside. Burial 17-5 had 9 ceramic vessels as offerings, seven of which were found just to the east side of the urn. Fragments of a vessel (possibly part of the cover vessel of the urn) were found inside of the urn, and a small tripod dish with three solid feet was found just to the north of the urn. Burial 17-10 had 11 vessels that almost were all stacked on top of each other (except one large pedestal base of a possible bowl that sat alone) on the southern side of the urn. Burial 17-11 had the most ceramic offerings (n=26) of any of the Late Classic burials from Lagartero and was only surpassed in quantity by the 38 ceramic vessels found in the tomb urn burial at Guajilar (Feature 21). The vessels in Burial 17-11 at Lagartero were arranged in a semi-circle around the western side, which reached the southern and northern ends of the urn. Multiple vessels were stacked on top of each other to create the half circle. Burial 17-13 boasted 19 ceramic offerings that were grouped together around the southwestern and northeastern sides of the outside of the urn.

Some of the stone and shell beads may have been jewelry worn by the dead when they were interred but over time broke apart when the string or cord holding them together disintegrated, which would explain their scattered placements within the burials.

It appears that, in general, the burials at Guajilar contained a wider array of provisions for the afterlife. Most of the burials at Guajilar contained ceramic, stone, *and* shell grave goods, while Lagartero burials were more likely to contain only ceramic grave goods. I believe that burial location and grave type were important determining factors in the types of grave goods that were found in burials at Guajilar and Lagartero. When more burial data from the major mounds are made available from Lagartero, a more thorough comparison can be made. This will reveal whether or not more diversity exists in the types of grave goods that were placed with burials outside of the main plaza.

Burial Patterns at Guajilar and Lagartero

A few simple patterns were found at Guajilar and Lagartero that are important for the comparison with the southern Maya Lowlands and the Guatemalan Highlands. Guajilar and Lagartero burials were found near the tops of major mounds and in the main plazas of their ceremonial centers. Gurr-Matheny (1987) categorized the main plaza at Lagartero as a necropolis. Formal graves, such as cists and tombs, were found among the mounds at Guajilar, while simple graves were located mainly in the main plaza at Lagartero. The most common burial practices at both sites was the use of funerary urn vessels, which consisted of large globular ceramic vessels covered with upside-down bowls or plates as lids. Grave good materials were diverse and relatively evenly spread among the Guajilar's burials (with the exception of Feature 21). Grave goods with Lagartero's plaza burials consisted mostly of ceramic vessels stacked around the outside of the urn vessels.

Southern Maya Lowland Burials

The Maya Lowlands cover a large area and include many diverse living and ancient Maya cultures. The southern portion of the Lowlands runs along the Usumacinta River and sit at the foot of the Chiapas Highlands. If it was Lowland Maya people who immigrated into the upper Grijalva River Basin region during the start of the Late Classic period, then it is probable that they came from sites in the southern Lowlands. Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal are two such sites that are located in this region. Some of the known burial practices at these sites are identified and then compared to the practices from Guajilar and Lagartero.

Altar de Sacrificios

Most of the Early Classic and Late Classic burials found at Altar de Sacrificios were simple graves, with the exception of four cist burials and two crypt burials (Smith 1972:212). The cist and crypt burials were all found in ceremonial structures, with the exception of one cist burial found below the plaza floor at the base of Structure A-II. One urn burial was found which dated to the Salinas ceramic phase (AD 150-450, Protoclassic to Early Classic timeframe), and contained the remains of a child between 1-4 years old. One cist grave and one crypt grave, which contained female adults in the extended supine position, were found that date to the Pasión ceramic phase (AD 630-780, Late Classic period). One cist grave, which contained a seated adult male, was found that dates to the Boca ceramic phase (AD 780-900, Terminal Classic period) (Smith 1972:214).

Simple graves were common at Lagartero, but the remains placed inside were, for the most part, found in funerary urn vessels. Only a few simple graves at Lagartero contained

extended or flexed individuals. Some flexed and extended burials were found in Pyramid 2, but the information on the time period of their interment is not available at this time.

The Late Classic burials at Altar de Sacrificios were found in house mounds, ceremonial platforms, temple mounds, and under plaza floors (although only three were found under plaza floors). The locations of the burials at Altar de Sacrificios do not differ significantly from analogous locations at Guajilar, but the small number of burials found under plazas floors at Altar de Sacrificios does differ from the large number of burials found under the main plaza at Lagartero. In the Maya Lowlands it is not common to find a concentration of burials in enclosed areas or cemeteries (Welsh 1988:25).

During the Late Classic period at Altar de Sacrificios it also became common to place the bodies in flexed positions, with a preference to orient the head to the east. Head orientation to the east was not a common practice found throughout the rest of the Maya Lowlands (Smith 1972:213). The remains from the burials at Altar de Sacrificios included those of “108 adults and 36 children between the ages of birth to 14 years old” (Smith 1972:214). They consisted of both male and female individuals. Seven burials at Altar de Sacrificios contained the remains of more than one individual, usually multiple children within a burial (Smith 1972:214). Graves with multiple bodies, however, “are much more common in the highlands of Guatemala and Highland Chiapas, and in the Motagua Valley” (Smith 1972:214). This practice was not documented for Guajilar, but Gurr-Matheny (1987) did find a number of multiple burials in the main plaza at Lagartero.

Grave goods at Altar de Sacrificios did not vary much between the burials in the house mounds and those found in ceremonial structures. They were also relatively modest (1 to 2

vessels per burial) (Smith 1972:213). Three burials found in Structure A-III were the richest burials found at the site and included numerous ceramic vessels. Other grave goods, though less numerous than ceramic vessels, included “ornaments of jade and shell, objects of flint and obsidian, stingray spines, iron pyrites, animal, bird, and fish bones, pierced feline teeth, and red pigment” (Smith 1972:213). Not surprisingly, the most elaborate graves at Guajilar also contained a larger quantity and more diverse grave goods.

Many Late Classic figurine whistles were found at Altar de Sacrificios, many of which were wholly or partially mold-made (Willey 1972:14). The designs of the whistles include “effigies of humans, mammals, some amphibians and reptiles, birds, and a few miscellaneous inanimate objects” (Willey 1972:14). A Late Classic, possibly early Postclassic, fish or bird effigy rattle was also found at the site. None of these artifacts, however, was clearly associated with any burials. Their presence at Altar de Sacrificios reminds me of Feature 16, one of the cist urn burials from the Central Plaza at Guajilar, which contained a bird effigy whistle and two anthropomorphic figurine rattles. I do not know whether these artifacts were manufactured at Guajilar or traded from other areas, but the figurine rattles bear similar resemblance to some of the styles found on some of the figurines found at Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:38, Figure h), especially the surviving modeled head from one of the rattles at Guajilar.

Seibal

Archaeological work at Seibal encountered very few burials, the majority of which were found in the peripheral settlement area and a few in some of the major structures (Tourtellot 1990:85). Approximately 22 burials were dated to the Tepejilote ceramic phase (AD 650-830, or the Late Classic period), a very small number compared to the estimated 3,000 to possibly 8,000

people who lived at Seibal during that time (Tourtellot 1990:127). In general, very few females were identified among the remains. This may be explained by excavation strategies utilized by the archaeologists and/or by differential treatment of the dead by the ancient occupants of Seibal (Tourtellot 1990:128).

Late Classic grave types found at Seibal include simple earthen graves (no visible pit), pit graves (a pit with a visible outline), cist graves (stone-lined pits), cap graves (an unlined pit with capstones placed over the skeleton, not on the walls of the pit), cap-slab graves (cap grave with a stone slab at the bottom of the grave which the body would rest upon), and pit crypts (a stone-lined pit covered by capstones) (Tourtellot 1990:85). No tombs, cremation burials, or urn burials were found at Seibal. Simple graves were much more common than more formally constructed graves, and only males were found in the more elaborate graves (Tourtellot 1990:130). All of the simple graves were located in open spaces probably associated with domestic areas, while the more elaborate graves were found in association with ceremonial mounds (some of which have been identified as actual burial mounds) and central areas of the site (Tourtellot 1990:131). By way of comparison, the one Late Classic elaborate grave found at Lagartero during excavations (Burial 23-10, crypt) contained an adult female. The ratio of female to male at Lagartero was almost 1:1 (11 individuals could be sexed, 6 female and 5 male).

Traits found in Late Classic buried remains at Seibal included “inlaid teeth, fronto-occipital deformation of the cranium, and pottery bowls inverted over the skull” (Willey et al. 1975:43). Most of the bones in the burials were found in flexed positions, usually resting on the right side of the body (Tourtellot 1990:132). Most of the remains from Lagartero and Guajilar were also flexed, but they were flexed to fit within funerary urns and not simple pit graves. A female from Burial 23-3 at Lagartero exhibited some dental mutilation, but this did not appear to

be a common practice. The osteological data were not reported for the Late Classic human remains at Lagartero and Guajilar.

Grave goods were relatively scarce at Seibal and lacked diversity, but they did include ceramic vessels which were sometimes placed inverted over the head or some portion of the body (Willey et al 1975:43). Most of the simple burials from the Late Classic period that had grave goods were interred with one to two vessels, usually a bowl or plate (Tourtellot 1990:133). Many burials at Seibal contained no grave goods. The graves found in the burials mounds at Seibal did contain more vessels than graves found in domestic areas. All of the vessels among the grave goods were open vessels, such as bowls or plates, and not jars or vases (Tourtellot 1990:133). The vessels from Lagartero's burials were predominantly bowls and plates, but some vases and jars were found as well. Guajilar's tomb urn burial contained many diverse ceramic vessels, but the majority were also bowls.

A few other types of grave goods were found among the Seibal burials. They included a small number of perforated animal teeth in one burial (from a possible necklace) and two jade beads (one found in the mouth of one individual and the other bead found between the legs of another individual) (Tourtellot 1990:133). Similar to Seibal, Lagartero did not exhibit much variation in grave goods outside of ceramic vessels, but the burials at Guajilar contained numerous stone and shell grave goods.

Guatemalan Highland Burials

During the Classic and Late Classic periods in the Guatemalan Highlands, burial practices were diverse and varied from site to site (Ciudad 2003:105). While there were no

established burial practices that were exercised entirely throughout the region, there were some shared trends that were found among neighboring sites.

The Classic period in this region was, in general, characterized by the construction of special stone enclosures (or graves) for the dead, which included cists, crypts, and tombs (Ciudad 2003:107). This trend to formal grave construction varied in style from site to site but followed a general practice of simple graves from earlier time periods.

Sites such as Río Negro, Chisajcap, El Jocote, Chuicruz, and Guaynep began using cists during the Classic period as a form of grave construction to inter mainly adult males (Ciudad 2003:91). The bodies placed in these cists were usually in extended supine positions with their heads oriented in no particular direction, and were accompanied by various grave goods (Ciudad 2003:91). The only burial fitting this description from Guajilar and Lagartero was the crypt burial found in Operation 23 (Burial 10) at Lagartero, which contained the remains of an extended adult female. The cist graves at Guajilar all contained urn burials.

It was during the middle of the Classic period that the use of large urns as funerary vessels also became widespread in the Guatemala Highlands, especially at the site of Nebaj (Ciudad 2003:94). Sites such as Acul, Baschuc, Pulai, Chajul, and others under the area of influence of Nebaj also contained numerous urn burials (Butler 1940). In general, the urns were large ceramic vessels with restricted necks and rims and were usually accompanied with a lid. The openings of the urns were so restricted that it was common to find the neck and rim cut off so the bundled bodies of the deceased could fit inside, and then the cut off portion replaced. The bodies were usually bound with the knees up to the chest and the arms wrapped around the legs. Most of the remains from these sites appear to have been primary burials (Ciudad 2003:94). The

vessels themselves may have originally functioned as utilitarian food storage vessels before being reutilized as funerary vessels (Ciudad 2003:94). Gurr-Matheny's (1987) urn descriptions from Lagartero were similar, although some of Lagartero's urn vessels contained the remains of multiple individuals while urn burials in the Guatemalan Highlands usually contained only one individual.

At Nebaj the urn burials were found in simple graves beneath modern day streets and surrounding fields, but not in the major mounds and ceremonial structures. Associated grave goods sometimes included ceramic vessels but no jade artifacts or pyrite mirrors. Their location within the site of Nebaj, and lack of diverse or rich grave goods, suggests that urn burial was a possible practice for commoners and not for elite members of society (Ciudad 2003:96). The urn burials at Lagartero are more similar to the urn burials at Nebaj than those found at Guajilar. The grave goods found with the urn burials at Lagartero consisted mostly of ceramic vessels. Some, however, were accompanied by a *large* quantity of ceramic vessels (like the 26 bowls, plates, vases, and incense burners from Burial 17-11, and the 19 bowls and plates from Burial 17-13). Gurr-Matheny believes that their concentration and location in the main plaza of the ceremonial center on Limonal during a time when Lagartero was being actively occupied and utilized suggests that these urn burials may have contained the remains of elite members of society (1987:57). The urn burials at Guajilar contained grave goods that included jade artifacts, mosaic mirror fragments, and other rich artifacts associated with the elite classes of society. Therefore, Guajilar and Lagartero shared the trend of utilizing large globular ceramic vessels as burial containers with the Guatemala Highlands, but the practice at these sites was used for elite burials as well.

The burials found in the major mounds at Nebaj contained extended or flexed individuals in simple graves and were accompanied with richer grave goods than those buried in urn vessels (Ciudad 2003:96). Some tomb burials were also found at Nebaj. The main individuals of these burials were placed extended in the center of tombs and with possible human sacrifices placed in flexed positions along the walls. No Late Classic simple graves with flexed or extended burials were found at Guajilar, but the tomb urn burial (Feature 21) did contain human remains within the tomb facility that may have been sacrifices. The flexed burials at Lagartero (Burials 23-3 and 23-6) may also have been sacrifices to the nearby urn burials.

The locations of urn burials at Guajilar and Lagartero varied considerably from those at Nebaj. At Guajilar, excavations were opened in a few of the surrounding domestic mounds as well as the major structures, and while urn burials were found in the major mounds none was found in the few domestic mounds explored. This does not mean that urn burials do not exist in the other unexplored domestic mounds or in the surrounding fields, but their presence in important structures and areas of the site contradicts the burial patterns for Nebaj. Urn burials were at least *also* practiced by the elite classes of Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period.

Six urn burials in simple graves were also found at the site Zaculeu, located in Guatemala. All of these urn burials date to the Late Classic period (Trik 1953:78). Two of the urn burials (Graves 1-13 and 9-4) were found under the Plaza 1 floor, three (Graves 6-5, 6-6, and 6-13) were found on the south side of Structure 6 beneath the lower stairway, and one urn burial (Grave 13-5) was found on the north side of Structure 13 below the terrace floor. Much like those from Lagartero, these burials contained adult individuals of both sexes, and children. The grave goods of these burials were simple and consisted mostly of a few ceramic vessels. It is

believed that because a few of these urn burials were found in some of the major mounds of the site that the individuals interred within them may have had some sort of special social standing within Zaculeu's Late Classic society (Woodbury and Trik 1953:285), such as those found at Guajilar. A number of other burials were also found at Zaculeu in various structures. They included simple graves (with extended, flexed, and disarticulated remains), cist graves (circular, square, rectangular, and irregular shapes), and crypt graves (Trik 1953:78).

Summary

The above comparisons of Late Classic burials from Guajilar and Lagartero between the southern Maya Lowland and the Guatemala Highland burials did not reveal identical burial practices, but some similarities and differences in practices were discovered. Some burial practices, such as significant central locations for elite burials vs less central locations for non-elite burials, were shared at sites in all three regions. Other burial practices from one region, such as the placement of extended and flexed individuals in simple graves at Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal, were not shared or commonly used at sites in the other two regions. Between the four criteria used in the comparative analysis, aspects of burial location and burial type from Guajilar and Lagartero exhibit the strongest similarities with the burial practices from the Guatemala Highlands.

Lagartero burials, however, exhibited a few similarities with Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal burials. These included the use of simple graves, minimal non-perishable grave goods, and ceramic vessels as the predominant grave good in the burials. Despite some of these shared practices with peoples from sites in the southern Maya Lowlands, the shared burial practices with peoples from the Guatemala Highlands are more evident. The use of central plazas as cemeteries at Lagartero and urn burials at both Guajilar and Lagartero exhibit greater ties to

Guatemala Highland burial practices. Urn burials at Guajilar and Lagartero may have been utilized differently, or by a different social class, than in the Guatemala Highlands, but their presence in the archaeological record contrasts greatly with the lack of urn burials in southern Maya Lowland sites. It is more probable that peoples from the Guatemala Highlands occupied Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period, than peoples from the southern Maya Lowlands.

5| CONCLUSIONS

During the Late Classic period the upper Grijalva River Basin region experienced a cultural shift. A number of sites which had originally been occupied possibly by Mixe-Zoque people, such as Guajilar and Lagartero, were occupied by Maya people immigrating into the area. Ceramic analysis for the region suggests that there was contact with the Maya Lowlands as well as the Guatemala Highlands, but from which region were these Maya people coming?

I believe that the burial practices from Guajilar and Lagartero during the Late Classic period exhibit stronger similarities to the practices documented for the Guatemala Highlands than to those from the Maya Lowlands for that time. Shared practices with the peoples of the Guatemala Highlands suggest the possibility that the people who occupied Guajilar and Lagartero came from this region and brought some of their burial traditions with them. An examination of the burial practices evident in burial locations, grave types, burial types, and grave goods, reveals shared trends and stark differences that led to my conclusion. While Guajilar and Lagartero, in the upper Grijalva River Basin, exhibit stronger similarities with burials in the Guatemala Highlands there are variations between the two regions and some similarities with practices found some southern Maya Lowland burials.

The location of burials within sites found in the upper Grijalva River Basin, southern Maya Lowlands, and Guatemala Highlands exhibited relatively similar patterns, with a few exceptions. Elite burials from sites such as Guajilar (Bryant and Clark 1979), Altar de Sacrificios (Smith 1972), Seibal (Tourtellot 1990), and Los Encuentros (Ciudad 2003:92), were usually found in major mounds and structures while non-elite, or at least less elaborate burials and graves, were found in domestic mounds and areas surrounding each ceremonial center. The main exception is the existence of necropolis, or cemeteries, in public or ceremonial plazas.

Burial *mounds* existed at Seibal, but neither Seibal nor Altar de Sacrificios appears to have utilized their central plazas as cemeteries. A few burials were found in plazas at these southern Lowlands sites, but not nearly as many burials as were found in Lagartero's main plaza.

According to Gurr-Matheny,

Lagartero is part of a pattern evidenced, at least by ancient Highland Maya sites, where certain areas in the ceremonial center, often the major buildings and plazas, served as a necropolis for some segment of the population. It seems logical to state that one important function of Maya ceremonial centers, related perhaps to ancestor worship, was that of necropolis for elite inhabitants. (1987:57)

In the western and northern regions of the Guatemala Highlands, concentrations of burials have been found, which are similar to the cemetery in Lagartero's main plaza. Some of these cemeteries date as far back as the Preclassic period, but they were especially common during the Late Postclassic period (Ciudad 2003:83).

Formally constructed graves (such as cists, crypts, and tombs) have been found at sites such as Altar de Sacrificios from the southern Maya Lowlands (Smith 1972:212), Zacualpa in the Guatemala Highlands (Ruis 2003:93), and Guajilar in the upper Grijalva River Basin (Lee 1976:140). Simple graves were common in all three regions as well. What is surprising is the relatively few number of formally constructed graves found at Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios compared to the number found at Guajilar. Most of the Late Classic graves excavated at Guajilar were constructed with some kind of stone lining but were at least all found just in the major mounds and in the Central Plaza. Lagartero's graves (which were mostly coming from the main plaza) on the other hand, were predominantly simple pits. The main difference in grave use

between southern Maya Lowland sites and Guajilar and Lagartero was how bodies were placed in the graves.

Urn burials were the most common method of interring the dead at both Guajilar and Lagartero. Bodies in flexed and extended positions was the norm at Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios. Peoples from a number of sites in the Guatemala Highlands also utilized urn vessels to inter their dead, but at places like Nebaj, this method was practiced by the common people and not the elite. According to Smith, “Urn burials do occur at various sites in the Petén and in Usumacinta Valley but are more common in the highlands and on the Pacific coast of Guatemala, as well as to the north at such sites as Kabah, Dzibilchaltun, Mayapan, Chichen Itza, and Jaina” (1972:212). Urn burials were practically non-existent at southern Maya Lowland sites such as Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios.

At Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios, grave goods were not very elaborate or numerous, even in burials that were determined to belong to elite individuals. The grave goods at this site consisted mostly of ceramic vessels. Ceramic vessels were also the dominant grave good at Lagartero. Seibal’s burials usually contained 1 to 2 vessels, but a few of Lagartero’s burials contained almost 10 times that number (a few burials from both Seibal and Lagartero contained no non-perishable grave goods). At Seibal, it was not uncommon to find one of the ceramic vessels placed inverted over the deceased individual’s head. This was only found in one burial at Lagartero. Guajilar’s burials were found with diverse grave goods that included items other than ceramic vessels. These included jade and shell beads, spindle whorls, obsidian blades, figurines, bone rings, and other elaborate grave goods. This diversity of grave goods was not found at Lagartero, Seibal, or Altar de Sacrificios.

A few commonalities were found between the burials at Guajilar and Lagartero and the burials at southern Maya Lowland sites, but many differences also existed. The similarities in burial practices, especially the use of urn burials and plaza cemeteries, are greater with sites in the Guatemala Highlands than those with the southern Maya Lowlands. An exact Maya cultural group was not identified, but my analysis of burial practices shows that the people who immigrated into Guajilar and Lagartero likely came from the Guatemala Highlands.

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APPENDIX

The following descriptions of the burials from Guajilar are grouped and presented in chronological order by time period and ceramic phase, from earliest to latest. The photographs and figures for the Late Classic burial features are presented in Chapter 2 of this thesis. All color photographs are by the author, and all of the black and white photographs and plan and profile drawings are on file at the NAAF.

Protoclassic Period

Hun Phase (100 BC-AD 100)

Feature 33-44 (5/3/1978)

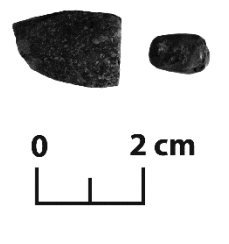
Type: Cache offering

Location: Mound 54, Excavation Unit 33, Section A-1

Contents:

1. Lante Modeled:Lante Variety bowl (MRE-6884); H: 7.56 cm, D: 21.5 cm, W.Th: 0.59 cm. **2.** One jade pebble (MRE-6262); L: 1.16 cm, W: 0.78, Th: 0.66 cm; **3.** Two ceramic ear flares (MRE-6668-1, 2). **4.** Ceramic necklace (MRE-6668-3-17) (15 beads); Tubular (4) and sub spherical (11)

Comments: The feature is labeled as an extended burial on the feature record but is labeled as a cache offering on Lee's final report. Both were dated to the same time period (Protoclassic). More artifacts are listed on Lee's report than on the feature record. No bones are listed on the content section of Lee's report either. The state of preservation of the human remains are not described, but according to Clark they were mostly complete but slightly fragmented and deteriorating. The clay beads and ear flares appear on the feature record and plan and profile drawings but there is no record of what happened to them. The burial appears to have been intrusively placed into the mound. A floor was found at a higher level than the body within the mound but it was not found directly above where the opening would have been dug.



A

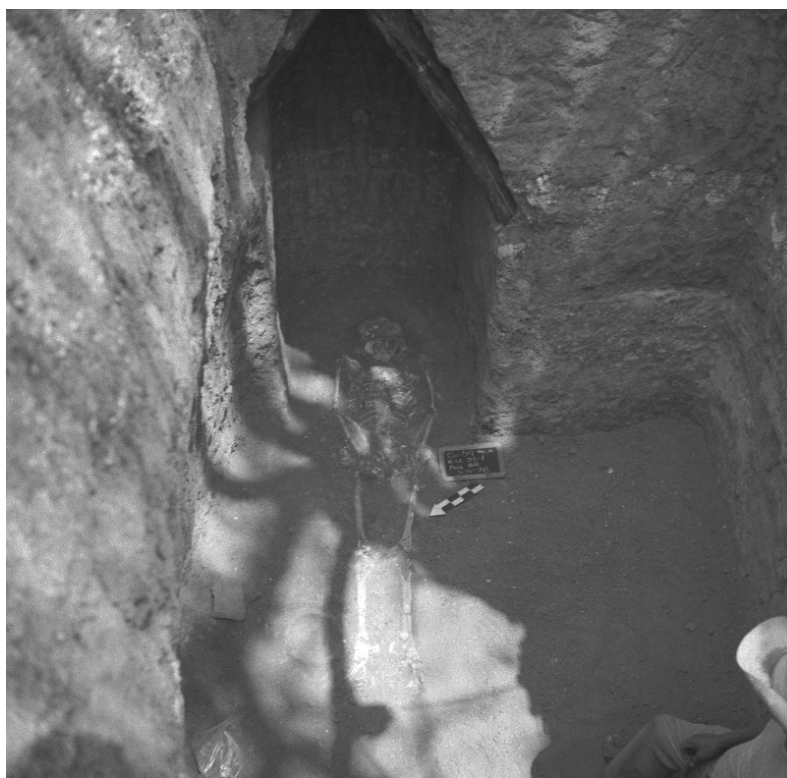


B



C

The mortuary offerings found with Feature 33-44. A. Jade pebble (MRE-6262). B. Ceramic earflares and ceramic beads (MRE-6668). C. Lanté Modeled: Lanté Variety bowl (MRE-6884).

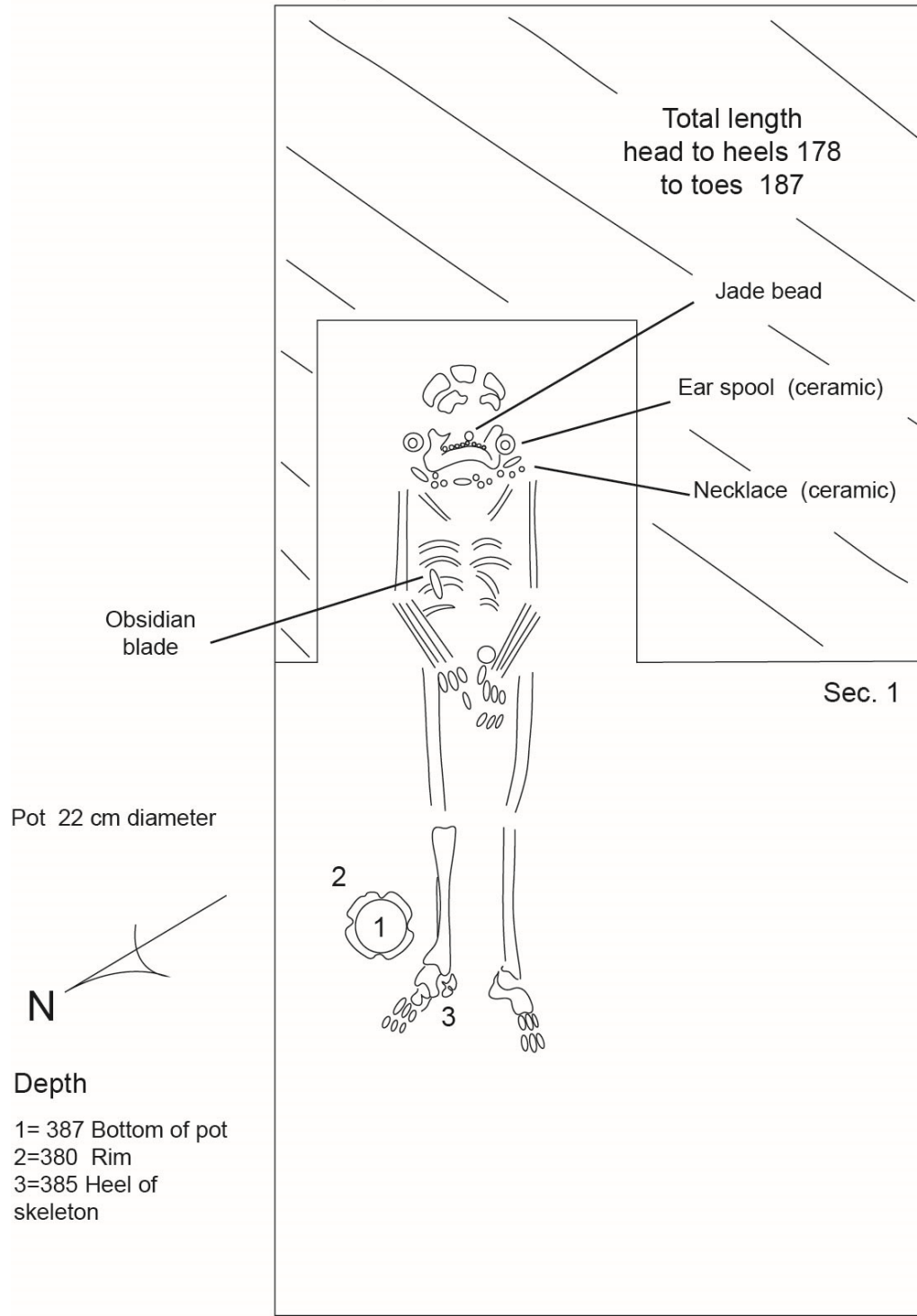


Field photo of Feature 33-44 In Excavation Unit 33.

May 5, 1978

Ex. Unit 33-1

Feature 33-44



Plan drawing of Feature 33-44 in Excavation Unit 33.

Late Classic Period

Mix Phase (AD 650-900)

Feature 5 (4/27/1976)

Type: Unknown burial

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-A. It is also placed just outside of the Feature 6 cist-urn burial.

Depth: 1 m, in the very northeast corner of Ex. Unit 1, Located next to Feature 6 (refer to Feature 6 record).

Contents:

1. Chascal Decorated Rim:Chascal Variety bowl (MRE-6985); H: 16 cm, D: 44 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm

Comments: Possibly a simple grave consisting of a secondary burial. The human remains were covered by a large bowl that was turned upside down and placed over the top of them. It appears from the plan and profile drawings that the entire skeleton fit under the upside down bowl suggesting that the remains were disarticulated in order to fit under it. The sketch of the remains in the profile drawing also indicate that the bones were disarticulated. No artifact photos were found of the bowl.

Feature 6 (4/30/1976)

Type: Cist-urn burial

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-A

Depth: 25 cm to cist top, but 1.88 m to urn bottom. The cist is in the eastern half of the excavation unit.

Contents:

1. Uninajab Slipped:Jalal Variety large effigy bowl (MRE-9822) (lid to urn); H: 31.3 cm, D: 64 cm, W.Th: 0.95 cm. **2.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large urn, neck and rim cut off (MRE-9823); H: 60± cm, D: 75± cm, W.Th: 1.5 cm. **3.** Uninajab Slipped:Uninajab Variety small bowl (MRE-6914); H: 3.2 cm, D: 14.1 cm, W.Th: 0.4 cm. **3a.** Sherd disk pot lid fragment of a Patajamal Orange-White Variety unspecified vessel (MRE-6949); H: 0.85 cm, D: 10 cm
4. Jade and shell bead necklace (69) (MRE-6236); Tubular (23), Disk (27), Fragments (19). **5.** Carved shell ear flare (MRE-6249-1); D: 2.8 cm, Th: 0.47 cm
6. Carved ear flare (MRE-6249-2); D: 2.75 cm, Th: 0.42 cm. **7.** Incised decorated white limestone spindle whorl (MRE-6248-1); D: 2.24 cm, Th: 0.92 cm, Wt: 8.5 grs. **8.** Bone ring carved with an anthropomorphic head on it (MRE-26778); W: 3 cm, head L: 1.4 cm, ring hole D: 2.4 cm, ring band Th: 0.4 cm
9. Bone ring carved with an anthropomorphic head (MRE-26781); W: 2.9 cm,

head L: 1.4 cm, ring hole D: 2.4 cm, ring band Th: 0.4 cm. **10.** Prismatic obsidian blades (7) (MRE-6187); Size range: L: 6.22-7.66 cm, W: 0.74-1.07 cm, Th: 0.22-0.32 cm. **11.** Marine shell pendent (MRE-?). **12.** Marine shell pendant. Two holes drilled near “leak” edge (MRE-6214); L: 10 cm, W: 11.8 cm, Wt: 98.5 grs **13.** Bone ring carved with a zoomorphic head (MRE-26780); W: 2.3 cm, head L: 1 cm, ring hole D: 1.9 cm, ring band Th: 0.3 cm. **14.** Bone ring carved with an anthropomorphic head on it (MRE-26779); W: 2.8 cm, head L: 1.4 cm, ring hole D: 2.5 cm, ring band Th: 0.5 cm. **15.** Bone ring with an anthropomorphic head carved on it (MRE-26777); W: 2.9 cm, head L: 1.25 cm, ring hole D: 2.5 cm, ring band Th: 0.5 cm. **16.** Jade and shell bead necklace; Jade (21) MRE-6266; Shell (54) MRE-6235. **17.** Incised decorated limestone spindle whorl (MRE-6248-2); D: 2.35 cm, Th: 1.21 cm, Wt: 8.5 grs. **18.** Incised decorated limestone spindle whorl (MRE-6248-3); D: 2.03 cm, Th: 1.24 cm. **19.** Spindle whorl, stone (MRE-6248). **20.** Human bones (MRE-?). **21.** Pishilar White:Pishilar Variety flaring rim bowl (MRE-6949); H: 7.5 cm, D: 22.5 cm, W.Th: 0.75 cm, Not part of the mortuary offering, but from the earlier Hun Ceramic Complex.

Comments: Large bowl (Item 1) was covering the large urn (Item 2). Item 3 was located outside item 2, near its west side about 42 cm below the mouth level and 28 cm up from the base inside the large urn vessel. Item 21 consists of sherds from a partially destroyed Protoclassic vessel which occurred as fill material around the urn (item2) near item 3. Item 21 not listed on feature record. The feature was originally dated to the Protoclassic on the feature record, but Lee later dated it to the Late Classic after the ceramic analysis. The remains were disarticulated inside of the urn.

Feature 14 (5/3/1976)

Type: Cist-urn burial and offerings

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-B (According to Lee’s final report), 1A and East (according to feature record).

Contents:

1. Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large ring base bowl (MRE-6998); H: 19.7 cm, D: 55.8 cm, W.Th: 1.1 cm. **2.** Uninajab Slipped:Jalal Variety large flat bottom urn (MRE-6999); H: 50± cm, D: 68 cm, W.Th: 1.1 cm. **3.** Uninajab Slipped:Uninajab Variety bowl (MRE-9882); H: 5.8 cm, D: 26.4 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm. **4.** Bon Polychrome:Bon Variety cylinder (MRE-?); H: 17.5 cm, D: 16 cm, W.Th: 0.3 cm. **5.** Marine shell fragments. **6.** Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: Item 1 was mouth down over item 2. Item 4 was inside Item 3 which in turn was next to the west side base of Item 2. An item was made at Lagartero and traded to Guajilar (the notes do not indicate which item, presumably one of the ceramic vessels).

Human remains are not described and are not drawn in the plan drawing. An unknown bowl with no MRE # was listed on the feature record but not on Lee's final report.

Feature 15 (5/4/1976)

Type: M/M (mouth-to-mouth) cache

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-B. The cache was 54 cm northwest of the center of Fea-14, item 1 and 20 cm west. The base of the offering was 40 cm below the surface.

Contents:

1. Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-6920); H: 8.1 cm, D: 18.8 cm, W.Th: 0.87 cm.
2. Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-9824); H: 7.7 cm, D: 16.3 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm.
3. Human bone fragments (MRE-6221).
4. Bifacial obsidian blade (MRE-6176); L: 10.96 cm, W: 3.7 cm, Th: 0.99 cm
5. Trapezoidal obsidian blade (MRE-6188); L: 9.13 cm, W: 7 cm

Comments: A two vessel cache set in a mouth-to-mouth position. According to Lee Items 3-5 were found at the bottom of Item 2 (artifacts inside bowl). Possibly a mortuary offering due to its proximity to burial Features 14 and 16. The fragments of human remains were not described so it is unknown what part of the body they were.

Feature 16 (5/5/1976)

Type: Cist-urn burial

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-B. It was located in the north corner of the excavation unit, 68 cm below the surface, and the base of the urn burial was 1.6 m below the surface.

Contents:

1. Cover vessel (MRE-6991); W.Th: 1.9 cm.
2. Urn (MRE-6985); H: 68 cm, D: 71 cm, W.Th: 1.1-1.8 cm.
3. Human skull and bones (MRE-?).
4. Hollow mold-made pottery figurine with several small pottery balls inside (rattles) (MRE-26767); H: 12.1 cm, W: 6± cm, Th: 3.5± cm, W.Th: 0.3 cm.
5. Hollow mold-made pottery figurine with several small pottery balls inside (rattles) (MRE-6290); H: 12± cm, W.Th: 0.3 cm.
6. Ceramic bird effigy Ocarina complex mouthpiece, two stop, tubular resonating chamber (MRE-6657); H: 6.8 cm, W: 4.8 cm, Th: 3.7 cm, Wt: 31 grs.
7. Stone disk mirror back fragments and two pyrite mosaic mirror pieces (MRE-6229).
8. Amber button (MRE-6277-3); D: 1.8 cm, Th: 1 cm.
9. Jade and shell bead necklace; Jade (13) max-min- D: 1-0.4 cm, L: 1.4-0.7 cm (MRE-6265), Jade fragments (MRE-6275), Shell (151) (MRE-6238), Incised stone bead (MRE-6251-2) D: 1.63 cm, L: 1.44 cm.
10. Marine shell breast plate pendant (MRE-6215); L: 8.9 cm, W: 11.1 cm, Th: 0.9 cm

11. Amber center piece (MRE-6277-4); D: 1.7 cm, Th: 0.7 cm. **12.** Bone ring (MRE-?). **13.** Carbon fragments (MRE-6230) **14.** Thick amber disk beads (8) and thick shell disks (2) (MRE-6281).

Comments: Items 3-12 were found in the bottom of Item 2. Item 14, a thick amber disk bead and thick shell disks, are listed on Lee's final report but not on the feature record so their context within the burial are unknown. Lee did not type the cover vessel or the urn. The notes indicate that the human remains were disarticulated in the urn.

Feature 20 (5/11/1976)

Type: Disturbed burial (possible cremation burial)

Location: Mound 42, Excavation Unit 9, exact location in excavation unit is unknown.

Contents:

1. Bifacial obsidian blade (MRE-6174); L: 22 cm, W: 4.6 cm, Th: 1.56 cm
2. Jade beads (2) (MRE-6273-2); L: 1.4 cm, D: 1.4 cm. **3.** Yaluc Coarse:Yaluc Variety bowl (MRE-6906); H: 6.6 cm, D: 9.1 cm, W.Th: 0.71 cm. **4.** Tochib Red:Tochib Variety bowl (MRE-6909); H: 3.1 cm, D: 17 cm, W.Th: 0.8 cm
5. Two stone disk mosaic mirror backs and 16 polished pyrite mosaic mirror pieces (MRE-6160, 6161, 6282); D: 9-9.25 cm, Th: 0.37-0.59 cm. **6.** Bifacial obsidian blade (MRE-6175); L: 12.3 cm, W: 3.2 cm. Th: 0.68 cm. **7.** Jade and shell beads (MRE-6263, 6243); Jade (3), D. Max: 1.26 cm, L. Max: 0.86 cm Shell (2). **8.** Shell pendant (MRE-6250-2); L: 2.38 cm, W: 0.28 cm. **9.** Coxcocte Painted:Coxcocte Variety two loop handle jar with concave base (MRE-6952); H: 18.1 cm, W.Th: 0.76 cm. **10.** Bowl (MRE-6851); H: 7.9 cm, D: 17.1 cm, Th: 0.76 cm. **11.** Distal end of obsidian prismatic blade (MRE-6282); L: 2 cm, W: 1 cm, Th: 0.2 cm. **12.** Solferin Orange:Solferin Variety bowl (MRE-9858); H: 4 cm, D: 18 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm. **13.** Yaluc Coarse:Yaluc Variety jar with concave base (MRE-9859); H: 15± cm, D: 21 cm, W.Th: 0.7-0.9 cm. **14.** Jade disk and shell disk necklace and shell bird effigy ring fragment and half of a thick shell disk (MRE-6952-2); Jade (29), Shell (230).

Comments: Items 4, 10, 12, and 13 were partially reconstructed from the sherds placed all together in the field as Item 4 (bag 284). They were undoubtedly part of the undisturbed burial/mortuary offering. Items 8-14 are not listed on the feature record. No mention was made of any human remains. It is assumed that the above listed mortuary offerings were found in a mixed or "disturbed state," and not in the position in which they were originally placed at the time of interment. The presence of a two-loop handled water jar suggests the possibility that it was a cremation burial (which may be why no remains were found).

Type: Tomb-urn burial

Location: Mound 50a, Excavation Unit 3, Section M

Contents:

- 1.** Bowl fragmentary (MRE-6992); H: 15.6 cm, D: 30.7 cm, W.Th: 1.9 cm.
- 2.** Modeled effigy jar with lid (MRE-26765); H: 20.3 cm, L: 18.5 cm, W: 17.2 cm.
- 3.** Flayan Bichrome:Flyan Variety hollow tripod bowl (MRE-6856); H: 7.4 cm, L: 20.3 cm, W.Th: 0.81 cm.
- 4a.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety Tripod bowl (MRE-6883); H: 6.1 cm.
- 4b.** Shell disk beads (23) (MRE-6242) Inside Item 4.
- 5.** Cruznab Red Wash:Cruznab Variety jar, fragmentary (MRE-6997); H: 23+ cm, D: 62+ cm, W.Th: 1.1 cm.
- 6.** Cruznab Red Wash:Cruznab Variety cylinder, fragmentary (MRE-6984); H: 26+ cm, D: 53 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm.
- 7.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6910); H: 8.5 cm, D: 19.7 cm, W.Th: 0.84 cm.
- 8a.** Xinil Fine Incised:Xinil Variety bowl (MRE-6859); H: 11.46 cm, D: 14.8 cm, W.Th: 0.35 cm.
- 8b.** Jomanil Red-Black:Jomanil effigy shoe vessel (MRE-6929); H: 5.8 cm, D: 16.1 cm, W.Th: 0.61 cm.
- 9.** Jomanil Red-Black:Jomanil effigy shoe vessel (MRE-6925); H: 10.5 cm, D: 13.2 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm.
- 10.** Chaca Painted Incision:Chaca Variety bowl (MRE-6881); H: 9.4 cm, D: 15.6 cm, W.Th: 0.39 cm.
- 11.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety bowl (MRE-6862); H: 7.9 cm, D: 19.7 cm, W.Th: 0.77 cm.
- 11a.** Two rodent incisors inside Item 11 (MRE-6224); L: 3.27, W: 0.41/0.43 cm, Th: 0.42 cm.
- 12.** Xinil Fine Incised:Xinil Variety bowl (MRE-6938); H: 10.6 cm, D: 15.4 cm, W.Th: 0.46 cm.
- 13.** Chaca Painted Incision:Chaca Variety bowl (MRE-6873); H: 9.4 cm, D: 15.6 cm, W.Th: 0.39 cm.
- 14.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6930); H: 7.2 cm, D: 19.1 cm, W.Th: 0.73 cm.
- 15.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6857); H: 8.2 cm, D: 20.2 cm, W.Th: 0.77 cm.
- 16.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6895); H: 8.4 cm, D: 19.3 cm, W.Th: 0.85 cm.
- 17.** Solid tripod bowl (MRE-6923).
- 18.** Sacchana Dark Brown:Sacchana Variety bowl (MRE-6854); H: 9.3 cm, D: 17.4 cm, W.Th: 0.41 cm.
- 19.** Chiquinib Gouge Incised:Chiquinib Variety bowl (MRE-6907); H: 11.1 cm, D: 16.2 cm, W.Th: 0.42 cm.
- 20.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6861); H: 7.8 cm, D: 20.8 cm, W.Th: 0.85 cm.
- 21a.** Bowl (MRE-6843); H: 12.2 cm, D: 17.8 cm, W.Th: 0.43 cm.
- 21b.** Chiquinib Gouge Incised:Chiquinib Variety bowl, badly broken, not restored (MRE-6869); H: 8.01 cm, D: 15.03 cm, W.Th: 0.4 cm.
- 21c.** Bowl (MRE-6924); H: 13.8 cm, D: 11.3 cm, W.Th: 0.46 cm.
- 22a.** Bone needles (5) (MRE-6217); L: 4.96-17.6 cm, D or W: 0.26-0.91 cm, Th: 0.35 cm.
- 22b.** Shell disk bead (MRE-6251); D: 1.4 cm, Th: 0.39 cm.
- 22c.** Prismatic obsidian blades (2) (MRE-6192); L: 4.28/4.56 cm, W: 0.98/1.51 cm, Th: 0.28/0.32 cm.
- 22d.** Two pyrite ear ornaments (MRE-6164); L: 1.85/1.9 cm, W: 1.16/1.22 cm, Th: 0.22/0.26 cm, Wt: 1.5 grs each.
- 22e.** Incised bone tube decorated in a long spinal panel of glyphs. Ends terminated in three narrow bands (MRE-26773).
- 22f.** Two hollow carved

bone ear plugs. One end is smooth and undecorated, the other decorated end is laid out in two bands separated by a narrower smooth band. The decoration which pierces the tubes in the form of small triangles in the outer band and small ovals in the outer band and a curvilinear band in the inner band (MRE-26774, 26775); L: 4.2 cm, D: 2.4 cm, W.Th: 0.3-0.4 cm. **22g.** Carved gastropod shell. The spire has been removed and an anthropomorphic face is incised into the shell surface on the opposite of the aperture. The eyes and mouth perforated the shell wall leaving holes in the shell (MRE-26776); L: 4.9 cm, D: 2.2 cm, W.Th: 0.3 cm

23. Tanal Wiped:Tanal Variety pedestal fose incense burner (MRE-9840); H: 9.5 cm, D: 16 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm. **24.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-6974); H: 12.1 cm, D: 28.5 cm, W.Th: 1.29 cm. **25.** Jomanil Red-black:Jomanil effigy shoe vessel restored (MRE-6837); H-11.2 cm, D-15 cm, W.Th-0.78 cm

26. One mosaic mirror piece and four mirror back fragments, mirror block reconstructed diameter of 9.16 cm (MRE-6162); Mirror block Th: 0.43

27. Olla neck (part of vessel 5a) (MRE-6993); H: 41.8 cm, D: 57.3 cm, W.Th: 1.4 cm. **28.** Bowl (MRE-6864); H: 7.1 cm, D: 18.4 cm, W.Th: 0.58 cm.

29. Chiquinib Gouge Incised:Chiquinib Variety bowl (MRE-6911); H: 10.1 cm, D: 14.2 cm, W.Th: 0.44 cm. **30.** Chiquinib Gouge Incised:Chiquinib Variety bowl (MRE-6936); H: 10.7 cm, D: 14.1 cm, W.Th: 0.39. **31.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6855); H: 7.7 cm, D: 20.4 cm, W.Th: 0.72 cm. **32.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6863); H: 8.3 cm, D: 20.8 cm, W.Th: 0.79 cm. **33.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6842); H: 7.6 cm, D: 21.1 cm, W.Th: 0.86 cm

34. Bones between burial urns and above vessels, burial offering? Or another burial? (MRE-?). **35a.** Xinil Fine Incised:Xinil Variety bowl (MRE-6850); H: 11.1 cm, D: 16.3 cm, W.Th: 0.62 cm. **35b.** Chiquinib Gouge Incised:Chiquinib Variety bowl, fragmentary, size unknown (MRE-9891). **36a.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6840); H: 7.6 cm, D: 20.6 cm, W.Th: 0.76 cm. **36b.** Wash Polychrome:Wash Variety solid tripod bowl (MRE-6867). **37.** Solid tripod bowl (MRE-6926); H: 7.8, D: 18.9 cm, W.Th: 0.79 cm

38. Bones inside Item 37, the main burial? Or offering? (MRE-?). **39.** Prismatic obsidian blade (MRE-6193); L: 4.2 cm, W: 1.5 cm. **40.** Jade bead necklace with anthropomorphic pendant, 97 beads, 94 irregular round, 4 tubular, and 1 large sub-spherical bead. There are 9 jade bead fragments and one tubular shell bead (MRE-6257-1-3); L: 1-2.9 cm, D: 0.9-1.6 cm. **41.** Marine shell fragments (MRE-?). **42.** One obsidian flake inside Item 36b (MRE-6841); L: 3.5 cm, W: 2.2 cm, Th: 0.4 cm.

Comments: A corbel masonry tomb, built intrusively into mound 50a. The building stones were hard, well-formed tabular building stones. The construction was laid up in mud mortar in narrow courses. Item 6 was full of white ash and charcoal. Item 15 had animal bones in it. Item 32 was nested in item 33. Item 37 was nested in Item 36a, and 36a was in 36b. Item 37 has three small dissimilar water worn pebbles in it, one small

white pebble (D: 1.2 cm) and one small black pebble (D: 1.2 cm) and one large black pebble (D: 3.8 cm). The large plan drawing was possibly drawn by Pierre Agrinier who was visiting the site around that time. Possible multiple burials were found inside of the tomb, or they may be funerary offerings for the main urn burial. Two separate mouth-to-mouth vessel offerings were found in close proximity to the tomb structure but neither dated to the Mix phase of the Late Classic period. The earliest offering, Feature 24 dates to the Hun phase of the Protoclassic period (100 B.C.-A.D 100), and was located approximately 7 cm from the southeast edge of the tomb and 45 cm higher than the floor of the tomb. The second offering, Feature 22, dated to the Tan phase of the Late Postclassic period (A.D. 1250-1530) and was located approximately 55 cm southeast from the edge of the tomb and 74 cm above the floor of the tomb.

Feature 23 (5/12/1976)

Type: Burial disturbed (possible cremation burial)

Location: Mound 42, Excavation Unit 9, L. 10-11, the exact location in excavation unit is unknown.

Contents:

1. Human bones and ashes (MRE-?).
2. Yaluc Coarse: Yaluc Variety 2 loop-handle jar, fragmentary (MRE-6962); H: 22.25 cm, D: 26.3 cm, W.Th: 1.1 cm
3. Trapezoidal pyrite mosaic mirror piece (MRE-9847); L: 2.2 cm, W: 2.01 cm, Th: 0.3 cm, Fine sided.
4. Stone disk back for mosaic mirror, fragment
Four conical holes drilled in disk (MRE-9848); D: max-min, 0.6-0.45 cm
D: 9.65 cm, Th: 0.35 cm.
5. Chert bifacial blade (MRE-9849); L: 15.8 cm, W: 4.8 cm, Th: 1.3 cm.
6. Two marine shells (MRE-9850); H: 1.7/0.5 cm, L: 7.4/2.5 cm, W: 2.9/1.8 cm.

Comments: Items 3-6 are not listed on the feature record. The presence of the two loop handled water jar suggests the possibility that it might be a cremation burial, which would explain the bones (not described. Burned? Fragmented?) found with the ashes.

Feature 33-24 (4/13/1978)

Type: Destroyed tomb

Location: Mound 54, Excavation Unit 33, Section 1

Contents:

1. Sajasam Red-Sajasam Variety bowl (MRE-9867); H: 5.5 cm, D: 20 cm, W.Th: 0.48 cm.
2. Shell pendant (MRE-?).
3. Square stone mosaic mirror back, fragmentary (MRE-9857).

Comments: No feature record was found of this burial feature. Without notes or plan and profile drawings I cannot verify if this grave is typed correctly or what type of burial it contained. Nothing indicates the presence of human remains or an urn. Feature 33-24 can be found on the Plan drawing of Feature 21.

Feature 25 (5/21/1976)

Type: Possible urn burial

Location: Mound 42, Excavation Unit 9, exact location in excavation unit is unknown.

Contents:

1. Chascal Decorated Rim:Chascal Variety cover vessel (MRE-9866); H: 14.5± cm, D: 48 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm. **2.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety urn (MRE-9845); H:? (80-90) cm, D: 68.5± cm, W.Th: 1.2-2.2 cm. **3.** Shell beads (32) (MRE-6252-1); L: 1.1 cm, D: 0.7 cm. **4.** Jade bead and round mosaic piece (MRE-6271); Bead, D: 0.72 cm, Th: 0.41 cm. Mosaic, D: 1.95 cm, Th: 0.28 cm.

Comments: No indication on the feature record or Lee's final report if it is a burial, no human remains are listed but it is typed as an urn burial. The feature record only shows the profile drawing with an outline of the urn from Feature 25. Item 1 (upper urn) on the feature record is listed as MRE-6866, but as MRE-9866 on Lee's report. Items 3-4 are not listed on the feature record.

Feature 34-27 (4/19/1978)

Type: Crypt-urn burial

Location: Mound 56, Excavation Unit 34, 40 cm below the surface

Matrix: Rocks, light brown sandy soil and rootlets.

Stratification and Relationships: Located at the same level as Feature 26 and associated with the same rock pile.

Contents:

1. Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large round urn, with high neck and everted thick rim, flat on top and with rounded exterior edge (MRE-6989); H: 80± cm, D: 80± cm, W.Th: 1.1-2.5 cm. **2.** Skull fragments (upside down) and bones (MRE-?); Inside urn? **3.** One blue, possibly turquoise bead (MRE-?). **4.** Anthropomorphic figurine head (MRE-?). **5.** Shell button (1), solid rods (2), and olivella specimen bead (1) (MRE-6232); Max-Min: L-3.11-1.67 cm, D: 1.47-0.63 cm. **6.** Possible second human skeleton fragments (MRE-?), Offering? Inside or outside urn? **7.** Jade beads (3), two spherical, one triangular (MRE-6267); Max-Min: L-2.31-1.15 cm, D: 1.5-1.3 cm.

Comments: Beads from item 4 were listed separately on feature record. According to the feature record the figurine head and beads were found inside of the urn. Clark's field notes mention that the position of the body was disturbed by root growth and rocks.

Teeth were found scattered and mixed throughout the fill of the urn, and all of the bones were in poor condition. His notes also indicate the possibility that all of the urn burials from this excavation unit may have been interred at the same time in one large pit.

Feature 31-28 (4/18/1978)

Type: Incense burner cache

Location: Top of Mound 29, Excavation Unit 31

Stratification: Surrounded by a band of earth around the top have and rock cobble fill around the bottom.

Contents:

1. Variety spike covered tripod vessel (MRE-6878); H: 17.5 cm, D: 19.3 cm, W.Th: 0.67 cm. **2.** Variety anthropomorphic effigy lid (MRE-9875); H: 9.7 cm, D: 16.8 cm, W.Th: 0.49 cm.

Comments: This incense burner cache is located almost right above and slightly to the southwest of Feature 31-29, a cist-urn burial. The notes do not indicate a connection between the two except that they are contemporaneous.

Feature 31-29 (4/19-21/1978)

Type: Cist urn burial

Location: Mound 29, Excavation Unit 31, exact location in excavation unit is unknown.

Contents:

1. Cover vessel/bowl, fillet decoration (MRE-?). **2.** Large urn (MRE-6953); H: 78.5 cm, D: 80.1 cm, W.Th: 1.2 cm. **3.** Bowl (MRE-6908); H: 6.4 cm, D: 21.8 cm, W.Th: 1.01 cm. **4.** Plate (MRE-6896); H: 6.16 cm, D: 25 cm, W.Th: 0.84 cm. **5.** Large jade nose plug (MRE-6259); L: 2.6 cm, D: 2.7 cm. **6.** Three jade beads (MRE-?). **7.** Obsidian blade and flakes (MRE-?). **8.** Human bones (MRE-?). **9.** Shell and plaster inside #2 urn (MRE-?).

Comments: Items 3 and 4 were in a mouth-to-mouth position, 3 above 4. Item 7 was found below item 2. Lee did not type the ceramic vessels. The condition of the bones is not described.

Feature 34-30 (4/21/1978)

Type: Urn burial

Location: Mound 56, Excavation Unit 34, Section 2

Matrix: Brown clay and sand (mixed), with xac and surrounded by rocks.
Stratification and Relationships: Directly associated with Feature 27.

Contents:

1. Human bones (MRE-?). **2.** Jade beads (3), one squarish L: 0.9 cm, W: 1.5 cm, 2 round, D: 1.1 cm (MRE-6254-3, 6274-1). **3.** One shell bead (MRE-?).
4. Obsidian blade and core tip (plunging blade) (MRE-6282-2); L: 2.6 cm, W: 0.8 cm. **5.** Small jar, too badly broken and fragile to restore (MRE-?); H: 16± cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.85 cm. **6.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large jar neck (MRE-6966a); H: 28.1 cm, D: 43.1 cm, W.Th: 2.5 cm. **7.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large urn (MRE-6966b); H: 85± cm, D: 76± cm, W.Th: 1.2 cm. **8.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety bowl (MRE-6970); H: 15.6 cm, D: 6.6 cm, Th: 0.4 cm.

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described. Item 5 was presumably used as the lid to the urn, and was placed inverted in the mouth of the urn. Item 8 is not listed on the feature record. Refer to Feature 34-27 for plan and profile drawings.

Feature 34-34 (4/25/1978)

Type: Mortuary offering

Location: Mound 56, Excavation Unit 34, Section 2

Contents:

1. Yalishao Red-rim:Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6845); H: 5.7 cm, D: 28.7 cm, W.Th: 0.8 cm. **2.** Bowl (MRE-6976); H: 15.2 cm, D: 37.6 cm, W.Th: 1.2 cm
3. Uninajab Slipped:Uninajab Variety bowl (MRE-6975); H: 5.2 cm, D: 22.5 cm, W.Th: 0.76 cm. **4.** Zoomorph effigy ladle incense burner (MRE-6848); H: 5.1 cm, D of bowl: 16.5 cm, W.Th: 0.82 cm, total L: 33.3 cm. **5.** Yalishao Red-rim:Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6844); H: 5.7 cm, D: 29.3 cm, W.Th: 0.88 cm.
6. Beads (shell and jade) (MRE-?). **7.** Fragment of small natural black rock (MRE-6286-5); L: 1 cm, W: 0.9 cm, Th: 0.2 cm.

Comments: This mortuary offering was associated with Feature 27, 30, and 35 (all urn burials). It was next to Feature 35, and below Feature 27 and 30. No measurements were listed for the jade and shell beads, and they are not in storage at the NWAF.

Feature 34-35 (4/26/1978)

Type: Urn burial

Location: Mound 56, Excavation Unit 34, Section 1

Matrix: Enclosed in a rock cist (2 courses of stone), clay, charcoal, and patches of sandy loam.

Stratification and Relationships: East of Feature 34 and Feature 30; Northeast of and below Feature 27.

Contents:

- 1.** Jade, shell, and stone beads (MRE-6275, 6253-1, 6253-3); Jade (2), L: 1 cm, D: 1.1 cm. Shell (21, 16 disk, 5 tubular), L: 1.9 cm, D: 0.6 cm. Stone (3 rectangular), L: 1.5 cm, W: 1.5 cm, Th: 0.5 cm.
- 2.** Cover vessel, olla with fillet band below rim (on top) (MRE-6996); H: 37 cm, D: 61.5 cm, W.Th: 1.8 cm
- 3.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large jar unrestored, bottom olla (sketch on feature record of olla #2 and #3) (MRE-9843); H: 80± cm, D: 78± cm, W.Th: 1.0 cm.
- 4.** Uninajab Slipped:Jalal Variety bowl, fillet band bowl (MRE-9839); H: 11.7 cm, D: 23.7 cm, Th: 0.8 cm.
- 5.** Yalishao Red-rim:Yalishao Variety bowl (MRE-6927); H: 5.2 cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.95 cm.
- 6.** Obsidian prismatic blades (2) (MRE-6191, 6189); Max-Min: L-7.5-6cm, W: 1.3-1.1 cm, Th: 0.3-0.2 cm
- 7.** Stone and shell beads (76), inside olla, most likely #3 (MRE-6233, 6282-3, 6284, 6270); 39 stone, 31 shell, 6 jade, 1 obsidian prismatic blade fragment, 1 orange pigment eroded, L: 3.7 cm, W: 1.9 cm, Th: 1.7 cm.
- 8.** Human bones (MRE-?).
- 9.** Uninajab Slipped:Yalivoy Variety large round bodied urn, with neck and rim cut off, too fragmentary to restore, black bowl (MRE-6987); H: 80± cm, D: 77± cm, W.Th: 1.1 cm.
- 10.** Yalishao Red-rim:Yalishao Variety bowl, red bowl, on top, of #11 (MRE-6860); H: 4.8 cm, D: 21.1 cm, W.Th: 0.81 cm
- 11.** Uninajab Slipped:Uninajab Variety bowl, very fragmentary, partially restored, red bowl, beneath #10 (MRE-9831); H: 5.2 cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm.
- 12.** Jade beads (3), outside of urn/olla (MRE-6272); 1 tubular, 1 incised button, 1 disk, Tubular bead- L: 2.17 cm, D: 0.75 cm.
- 13.** Obsidian prismatic blades (2), outside of urn/olla (MRE-6194); L: 3.75, 4.1 cm; W: 0.79, 1 cm; Th: 0.23, 0.25 cm.
- 14.** Misc. sherds from cached bowls of Feature 30 (MRE-?).
- 15.** Two beads inside #10 & #11 (MRE-6273-4, 6254-1); 1 round jade bead: D: 1.1 cm, 1 round stone bead: D: 1.5 cm, W: 1.1 cm.
- 16.** Stone and shell beads (42) (MRE-6275-2, 6237); 10 tubular, 32disk, Stone beads: 1 blue, 1 green, D: 0.8 cm, D: 0.4 cm.
- 17.** Human teeth, bones, and one piece of a nacar shell (MRE-6223).
- 18.** 6 small water worn pieces of silica (MRE-6286-1); 1 clear, 5 black, L: 1 cm, Th: 34 cm.
- 19.** 2 human teeth, 1 incisor and 1 molar (MRE-6287-1).
- 20.** Very small and thin walled human or animal/bird bones, one fragment of painted stucco and one small quartz crystal (MRE-6287-3).
- 21.** Shell ear flare, badly eroded (MRE-?); D: 21 cm, Th: 0.7 cm, central hole D: 0.48 cm.

Comments: Associated with Features 27, 30, and 34. The three bags of beads are probably all from the same necklace, #12 & #13 were found between #9 & #10. Items 18-21 not on the feature record.

Feature 39-56 (5/17/1978)

Type: M/M vessel cache. Possible cremation burial or burial offering.

Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, Section B. The rim was 1.02 meters below datum (surface?). Base was 1.24 meters below the datum (surface?).

Matrix: Dirt fill full of small cobbles of limestone.

Stratigraphy: Below Features 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53.

Contents:

1. Solferin Orange:Solferin Variety two loop-handle jar (MRE-9833); H: 19.5 cm, D: 18.5 cm, W.Th: 0.72 cm, Bag # 2102.
2. Tochib Red:Tochib Variety two handle small jar (MRE-6902); H: 11.4 cm, D: 10.7 cm, W.Th: 0.42, Bag # 2103.
3. Two round jade beads (MRE-6273-1); D: 1.6/1.1 cm, Bag # 2104.
4. Two bifacial projectile points (MRE-6179); L: 4.7/9 cm, W: 2.1/3 cm, Th: 0.7/0.9 cm.
5. Jade beads (3), shell pendant and natural fragments (MRE-6262-1, 6268, 6250-2).

Comments: Items 4 and 5 are not listed on the feature record. Item 5 was found in Item 1. The feature is labeled on Lee's final report as a mouth-to-mouth vessel cache but there are a number of notes on the feature record that suggest that there is a possibility it could be a cremation burial due to the presence of the water jar. No human remains were noted.

Feature 39-57 (5/19/1978)

Type: Urn burial

Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, Section B

Matrix: The urn burial is within a stratigraphy of light brown earth fill practically full of rock. The rock fill is evident in the side wall 25 cm above the level of the urn burial

Contents:

1. Soferin Orange:Solferin Variety bowl, broken urn (MRE-6866); H: 5.1 cm, D: 19.2 cm, W.Th: 0.82 cm, Bag # 2149.
2. Large bowl (MRE-6957); H: 18.4 cm, D: 62.1 cm, W.Th: 1.4 cm.
3. Human bone (MRE-?); Bag # 2150.

Comments: A large wide mouth vessel, badly broken, with very fine fillet band 1 cm from rim. It is associated with a few pieces of badly eroded human bones. The Soferin Orange bowl, or the urn, has a kill hole near the fillet banded rim. The urn is squashed practically flat on the ground. Item 2 listed as bones on the feature record. Item 2 has two pairs of small mending holes, one pair on each side of the vessel. It is unclear if the second bowl was a cover to the urn. Bones are listed as Item 3 on Lee's final report, but their condition is not described.

Postclassic Period

Nichim Phase (AD 900-1250)

Feature 19-4 (2/23/1978)

Type: Cremation pit

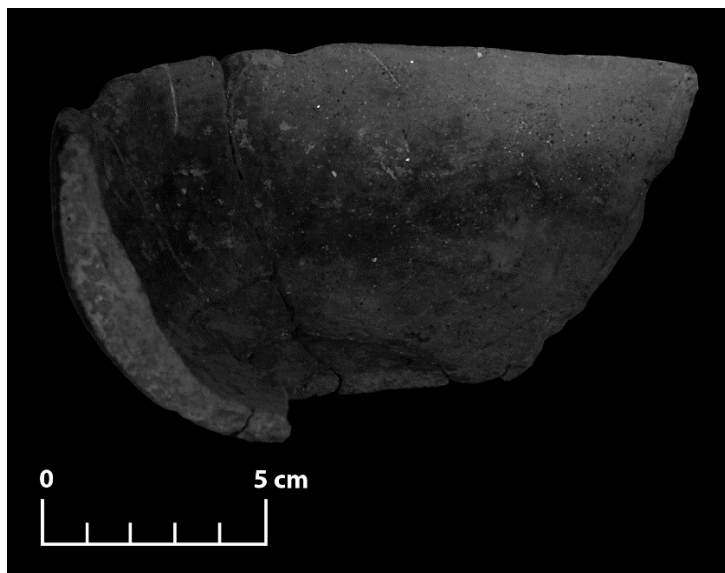
Location: Ball court and Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 19, Section B-1, level 4

Stratification and relationships: The pit has burnt rocks around the edge of the pit and some over the top and scattered in between. Some rocks were so heavily burnt that they turned into lime.

Contents:

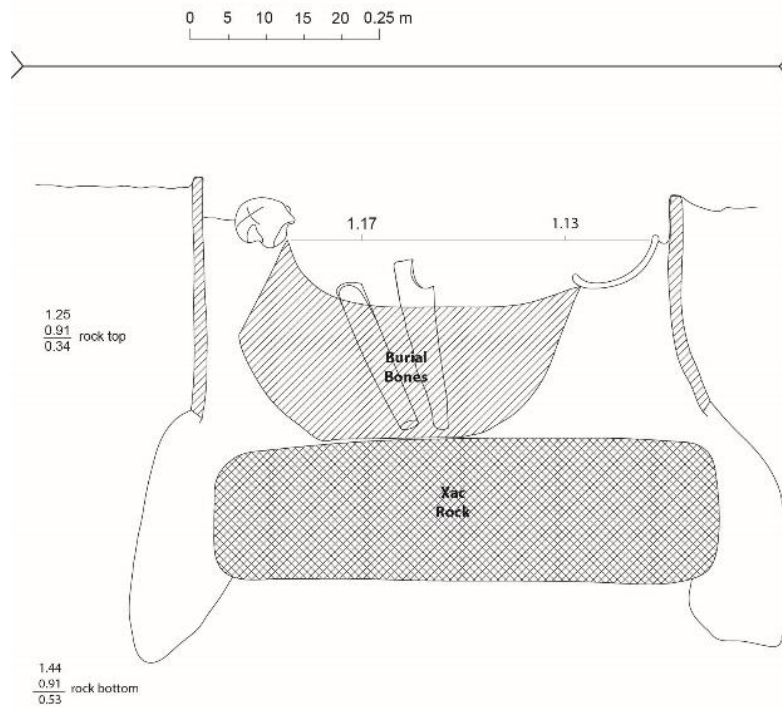
1. Human bone fragments (MRE-?). **2.** Sherds (MRE-?). **3.** Carbon 14 sample (MRE-?). **4.** Water jar, fragmentary (MRE-?). **5.** Watsanhuitz Red:Watsanhuitz Variety bowl (MRE-6912); H: 6.9 cm, D: 17.3 cm, W.Th: 1.5 cm.

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described. The edge of the pit is burnt a brick red and grades to bright yellow outside the deep red area. Thickness is 2.5 cm of red and yellow.



Watsanhuitz Red: Watsanhuitz Variety bowl (MRE-6912) from Feature 19-4.

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Ex. Unit 19-4



Profile of Feature 19-4 in Excavation Unit 19.



Field photo of Feature 19-4 in Excavation Unit 19.

Feature 7 (5/6/1976)

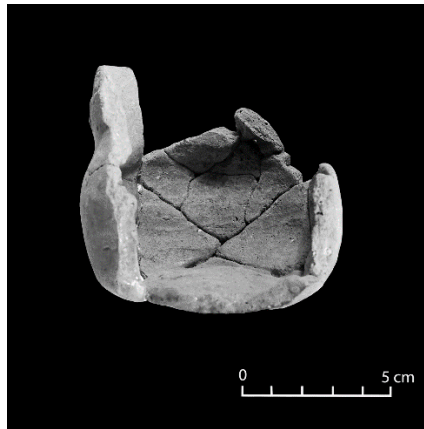
Type: Cist-urn burial

Location: Center of main plaza, Excavation Unit 1, Section 1-A. In the north wall of the excavation unit, 0.8 meters from the northeast corner. Depth to the top of the feature is 0.45 meters

Contents:

1. Watsanhuitz Red:Watsanhuitz Variety small jar (MRE-6905); H: 8.5 cm, D: 9.3 cm, W.Th: 0.85 cm.

Comments: The burial was disturbed and badly preserved. Only one small vessel was salvageable. The large stones of the cist were no longer in position and no more than fragments of the urn were still present. Please refer to Features 5 and 6 in Chapter 2 for plan and profile drawings.



Watsanhuitz Red: Watsanhuitz Variety small jar (MRE-6905) from Feature 7 in Excavation Unit 1.

Feature 25-13 (3/14-15/1978)

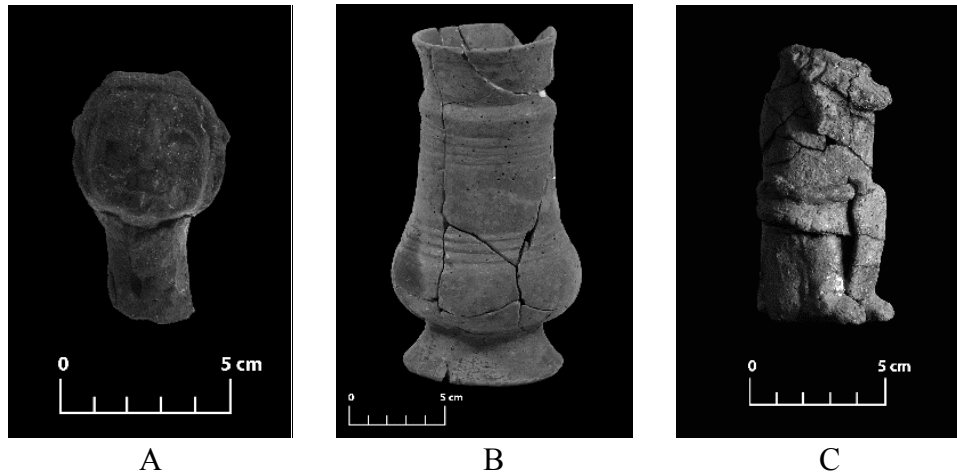
Type: A burial under large stone slabs (simple or cremation?)

Location: Mound 38, Excavation Unit 25, exact location in excavation unit unknown.

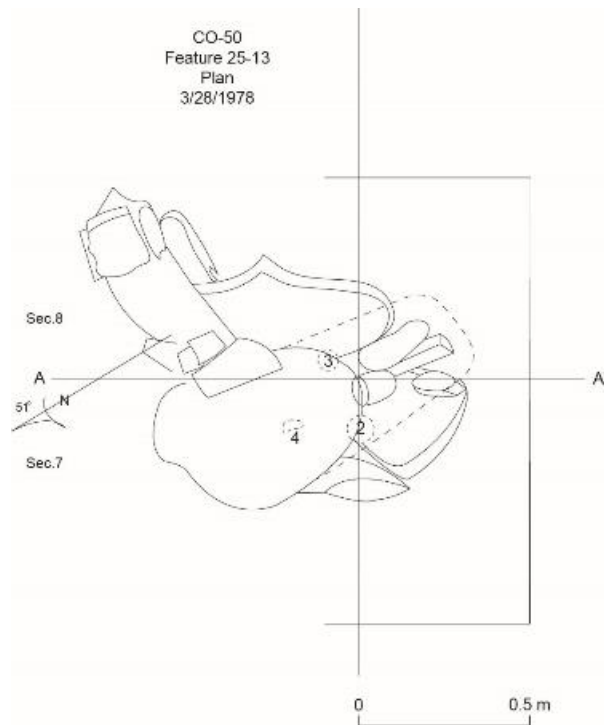
Contents:

1. Human bones (MRE-?).
2. Tumbador Incised:Tumbador Variety vase (MRE-6885); H: 18.9 cm, D: 10.8 cm, W: Th-0.39 cm.
3. Effigy head (MRE-?).
4. Naturalistic hollow male, mold-made figurine head with elliptical eyes (MRE-6293); H: 7.2 cm, W: 4.54 cm, Th: 3.2 cm.
5. Chamumula Rough:Tsintul Variety hollow tubular figurine body (MRE-9841); H: 10.5 cm, W: 4.7 cm, Th: 5 cm, W: Th-0.5 cm.

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described. Item 5 is not listed on the feature record.



Ceramic artifacts from Feature 25-13. A. Ceramic effigy head (MRE-6293). B. Tumbador Incised: Tumbador Variety vase (MRE-6885). C. Chamumula Rough: Tsintul Variety hollow tubular figurine body (MRE-9841).



Plan drawing of Feature 25-13 in Excavation Unit 25.



Field photo of Feature 25-13 in Excavation Unit 25.

Feature 30-31 (4/18/1978)

Type: According to the feature record it is a two burial cluster (is this referring to Features 30-31 and 31-32?).

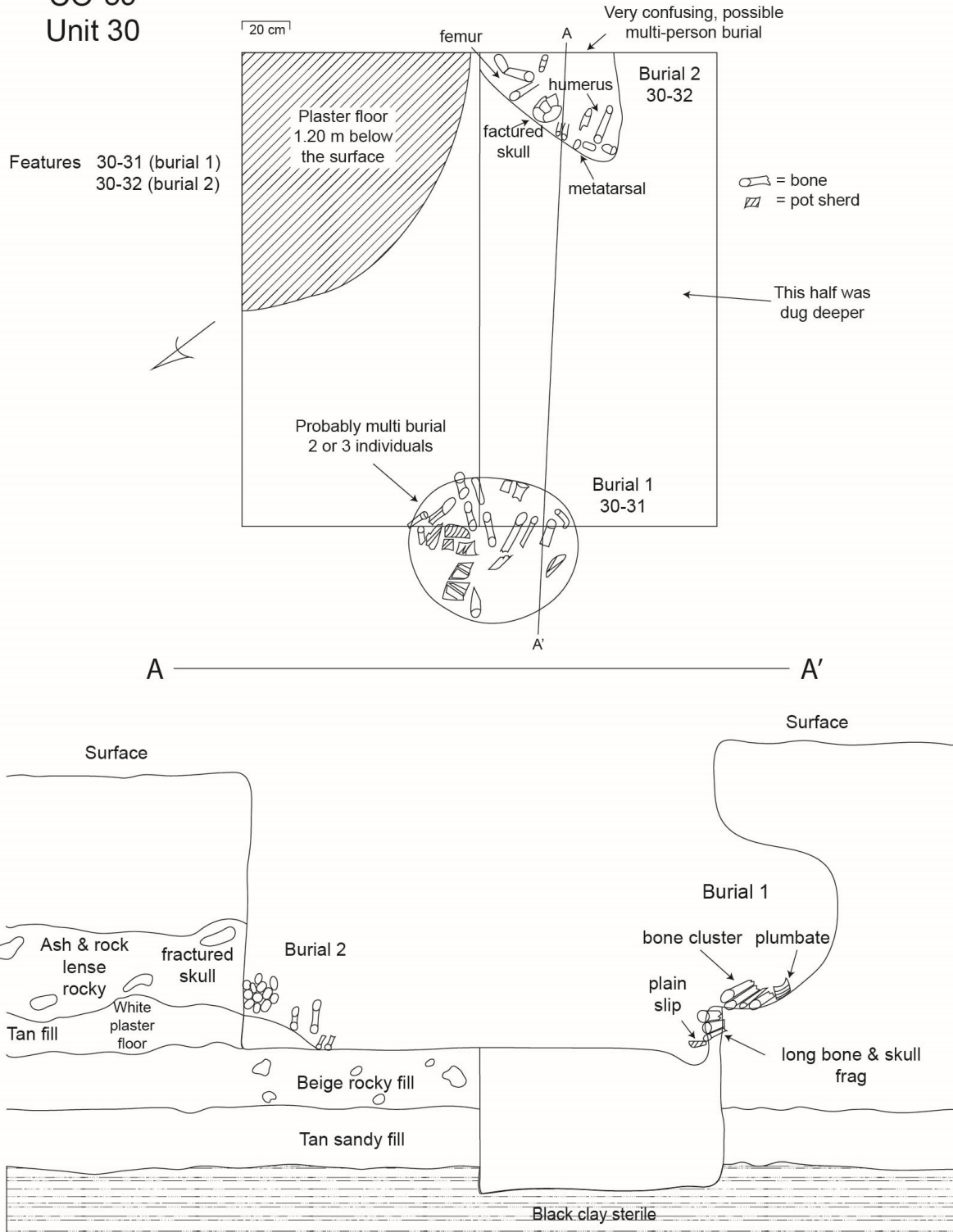
Location: Mound 34, Excavation Unit 30, Section L. They were recovered in the north and south sides of the excavation unit.

Contents:

1. Effigy bowl in form of a turtle, listed as “vessel?” on Lee’s final report (MRE-?).
2. Human figurine. Pottery. Listed as “two hollow nobular rattle vessel support. Fine paste “Vessel?” on Lee’s final report (MRE-6689-1, 2).
3. Tripod feet (vessel?) (MRE-?).
4. Tumbador Incised: Tumbador Variety (MRE-6886); H: 17.7 cm, D: 10.3 cm, W.Th: 0.49 cm.
5. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: Burial 1 (possibly Feature 30-31 according to plan and profile drawings) was rich in offerings, yielding an effigy bowl, a figurine with a moving head, and a plumbate vessel. Burial 2 (possibly Feature 30-32 according to plan and profile drawings) was interred with a single jade bead. Both were in very poor condition with the bones completely fractured into small pieces. It is possible the burials were multiple burials. The burial almost certainly contains the remains of more than one individual. No bones were listed on Lee’s final report, or the feature type. Item 3 was listed as a question mark on Lee’s final report, but the feature record listed it as “tripod feet.” Item 4 is listed as “Plumbate vessel” on the feature record.

CO-59
Unit 30



Plan and profile drawings of Features 30-31 and 30-32 in Excavation Unit 30.

Feature 39-50 (5/10/1978)

Type: A possible burial, listed as a vessel cache on Lee's final report

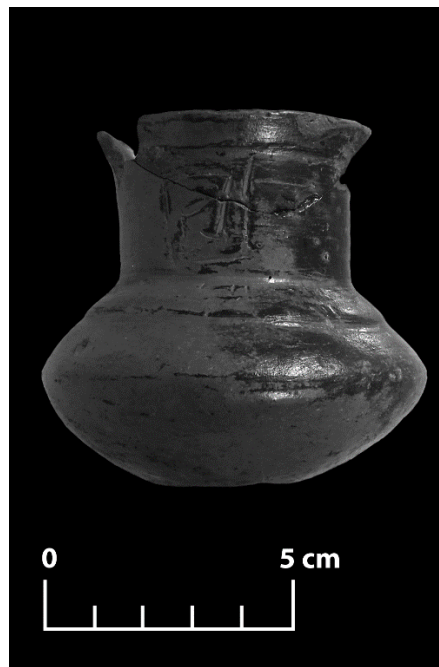
Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, Section B. It is at approximately the same level as a burial and are the same depth as two cremations in the top of the mound

Stratification and Relationship: Possible association with burial or cremation burials

Contents:

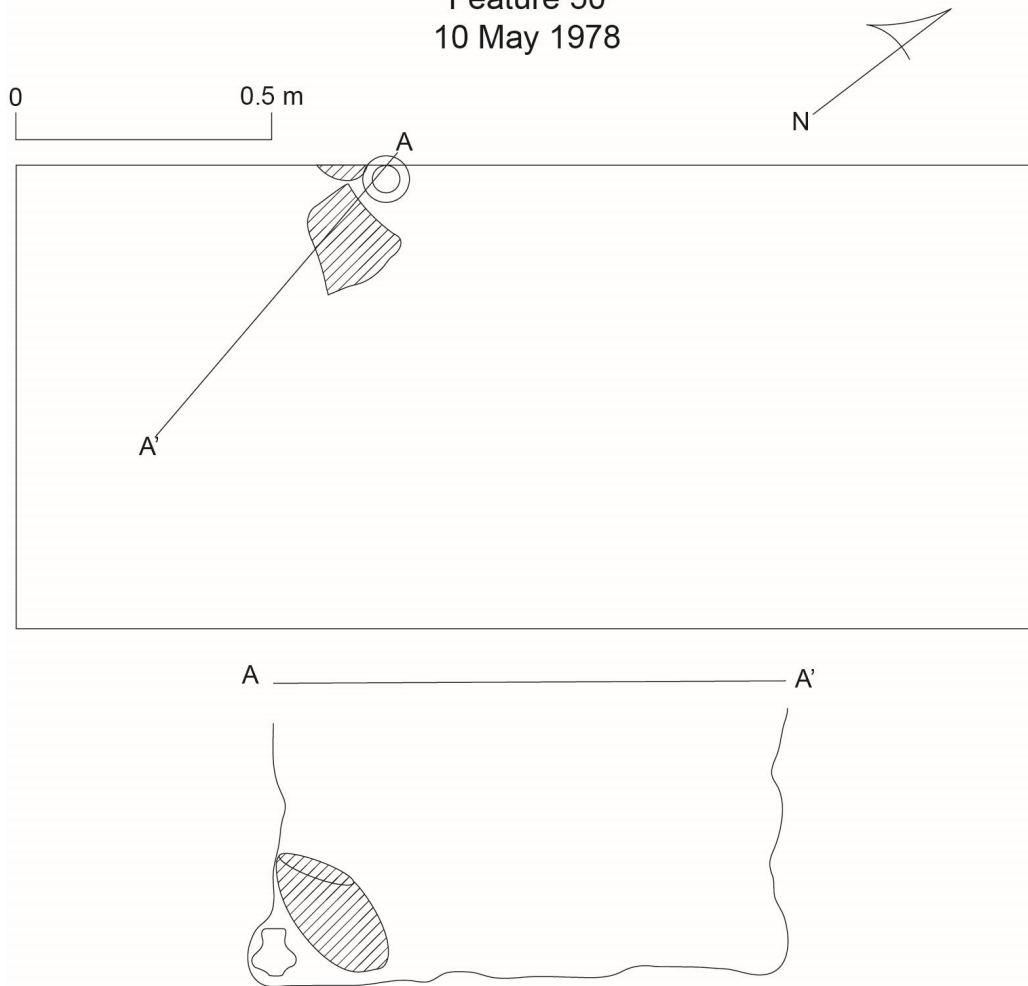
1. Tumbador Incised:Tul Variety small jar (MRE-6928), plumbate vessel; H: 7.7 cm, D: 8.5 cm, W.Th: 0.49 cm, Bag # 2010.

Comments: The vessel is an Early Postclassic plumbate vase. Small with incising on the neck. The vase represents a cache with a burial laid out flat in 39A with the skull extending into unit 39B. Broken olla and jade bead recovered directly above the olla.



Tumbador Incised: Tul Variety small jar (MRE-6928) from Feature 39-50 in Excavation Unit 39.

CO-59
Ex. 39 B
Feature 50
10 May 1978



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 39-50 in Excavation Unit 39.

Feature 20-58 (5/20/1978)

Type: Urn burial surrounded by vessel offerings

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, Section D-1 and D-2

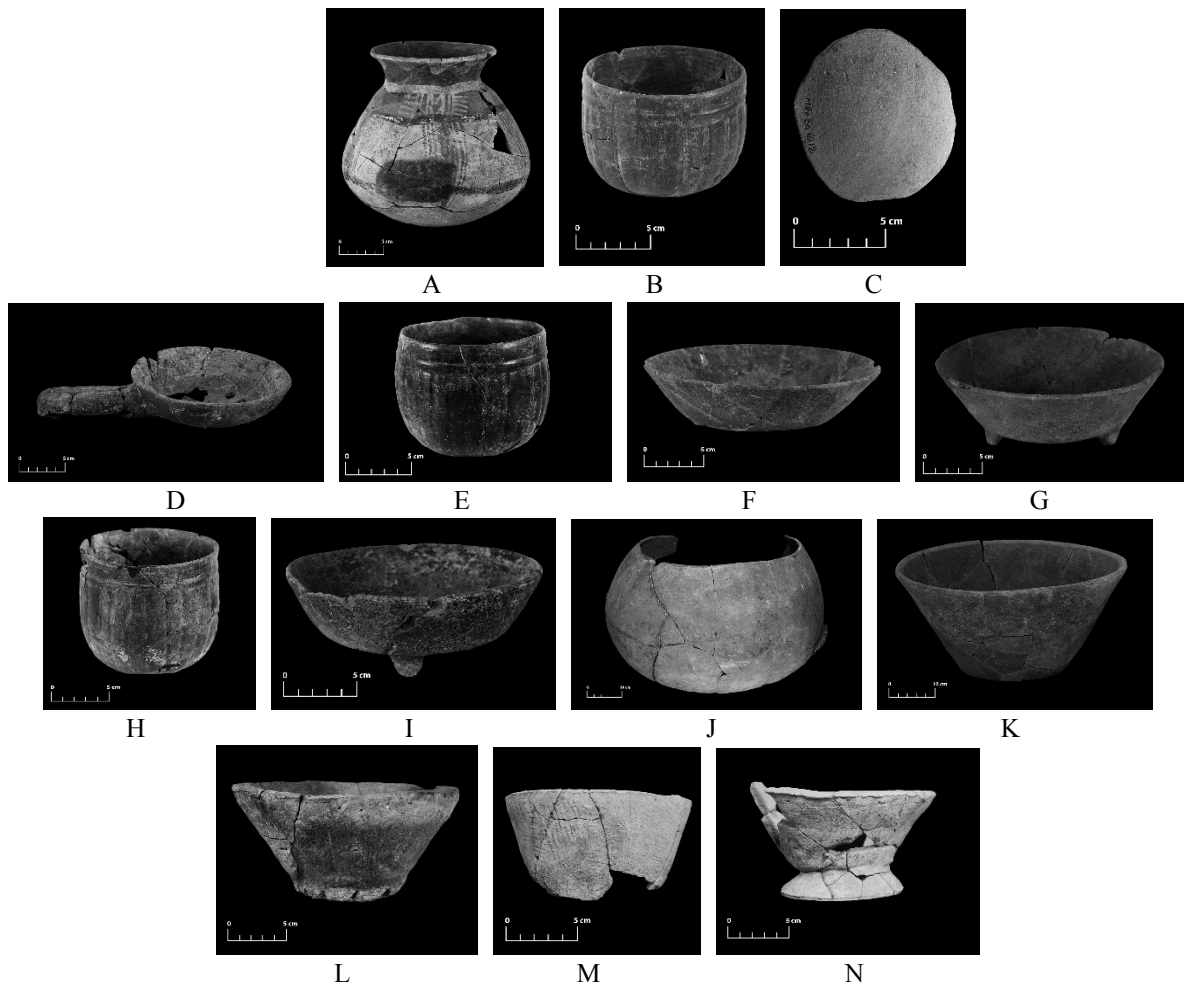
Matrix: The burial is cut deep into the earth fill which contains exclusively Chiapa 3, 4, and 5 sherds. The urn is capped by a covering of cobbles which resembles a triangle in the cross section.

Stratification and Relationships: It is cut through the Preclassic levels of the mound.

Contents:

- 1.** Tanal Wiped: Tanal Variety pedestal base incense burner, fragmentary (MRE-9832); H: 7+ cm, D: 21.1 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm. **1a.** Tanal Wiped: Tanal Variety pedestal base incense burner (MRE-9865); H: 9.3 cm, D: 17.5 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm
- 2.** Cover bowl (Red cap vessel to urn) (MRE-6958); H: 26.6 cm, D: 66.2 cm, W.Th: 1.9 cm.
- 3.** Urn containing burial, neck and rim cut off (MRE-6956); H: 39.5 cm, D: 45.2 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm.
- 4.** Tanal Wiped: Tanal Variety pedestal base incense burner, full of ash (MRE-9832); H: 10.1+ cm, D: 21.1 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm.
- 5.** Two digging stones cached above object #1 (MRE-?).
- 6.** Carbon 14 sample from Item 4 (MRE-?).
- 7.** Memelita Black: Memelita Variety bowl, lightly polished (MRE-6858); H: 10.6 cm, D: 12.1 cm, W.Th: 0.46 cm.
- 8.** Chixcante Black-painted: Chixcante Variety bowl (MRE-6904).
- 9.** Lolanchan Deep Red: Lolanchan Variety bowl (MRE-6897); H: 7.5 cm, D: 20.4 cm, W.Th: 0.95 cm.
- 10.** Uisquil Polychrome: Uisquil Variety jar, black and white on red (MRE-6827); H: 25 cm, D: 26.4 cm, W.Th: 0.75 cm.
- 11.** Memelita Black: Memelita Variety bowl, dull black gadrooned (MRE-6898); H: 11.6 cm, D: 12.4 cm, W.Th: 0.6 cm.
- 12.** Memelita Black: Memelita Variety bowl, black, polished, gadrooned (MRE-6917); H: 9.7 cm, D: 12.6 cm, W.Th: 0.45 cm.
- 13.** Lolanchan Deep Red: Lolanchan Variety bowl (MRE-6891); H: 5.4 cm, D: 22.4 cm, W.Th: 0.6 cm.
- 14.** Chamumula Rough: Chamumula Variety ladle handle incense burner, below #4 (MRE-6847); H: 5.3 cm, D: 16.4 cm, W.Th: 0.8 cm, Handle: L-11.7 cm, D: 3.4 cm, Ventilation holes: D: 1.05 cm.
- 15.** Human burial extended around urn (MRE-?).
- 16.** Shell beads (134) (MRE-6244); D: 4.61/4.73, Th: 0.25 cm.
- 17.** Bones from within the urn (MRE-?).
- 18.** Sherd disk pot lid of Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety vessel fragment (MRE-6918); D: 8.8 cm, Th: 1.47 cm, Wt: 134 grs.
- 19.** Disk pendants (MRE-6245).

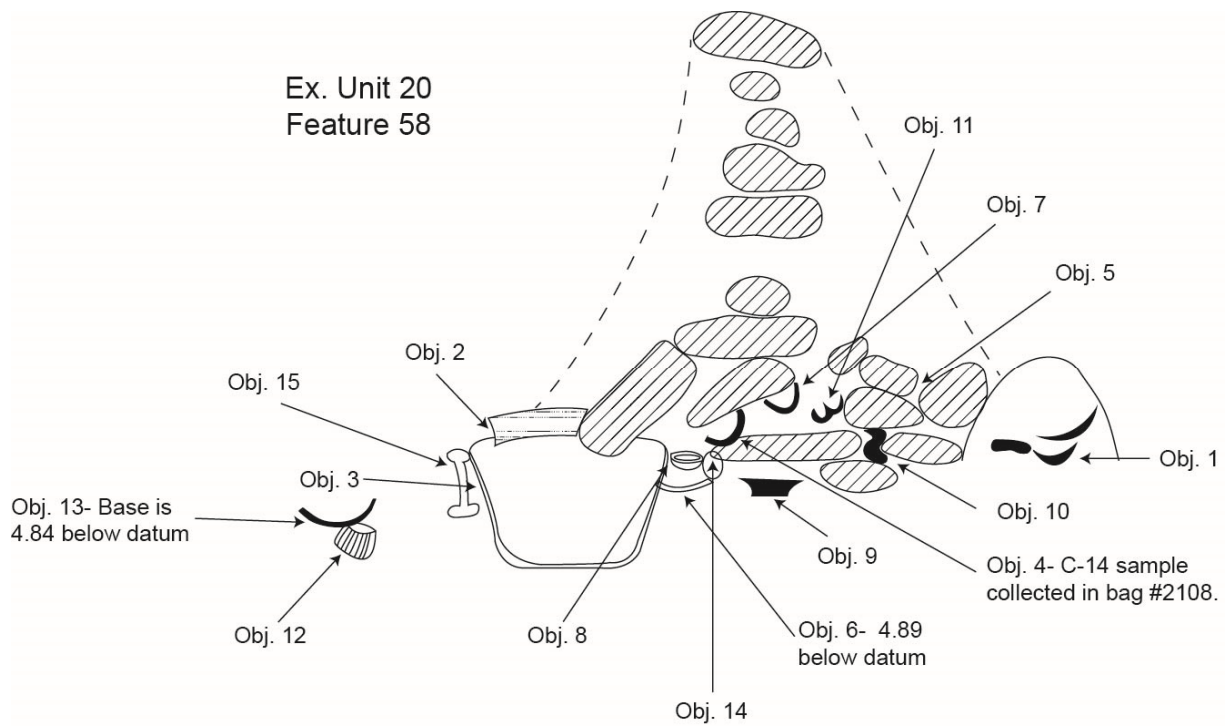
Comments: A full length (flexed in a semi-fetal position) burial of an individual is resting or encircling the urn burial on the left side with the abdomen facing in toward the urn. Refer to the plan and profile drawing to see placement by number of the following listed artifacts. There is a different numbering system on Lee's final report from the feature record. A C-14 sample was removed from Item 4, but there is no record of what happened to the sample. The condition of bones is not described.



Ceramic vessels from Feature 20-58. A. Uisquil Polychrome: Uisquil Variety jar (MRE-6827). B, E, & H. Memelita Black: Memelita Variety bowls (B. MRE-6917) (E. MRE-6858) (H. MRE-6898). C. Sherd disk pot lid of Uninajab Slipped: Yalivoy Variety vessel fragment (MRE-6918). D. Chamumulá Rough: Chamumulá Variety ladle handle incense burner (MRE-6847). F& G. Lolanchan Deep Red: Lolanchan Variety bowls (G may be tripod MRE-6897) (F. MRE-6891). I. Chixcanté Black-painted: Chixcanté Variety bowl (MRE-6904). J. Urn with the neck cut off (MRE-6956). K. Unidentified cover bowl (MRE-6958). L & N. Tanal Wiped: Tanal Variety pedestal base incense burners (L. MRE-9832) (N. MRE-9865). M. Tanal Wiped: Tanal variety pedestal base incense burner, fragmented (MRE-9864).

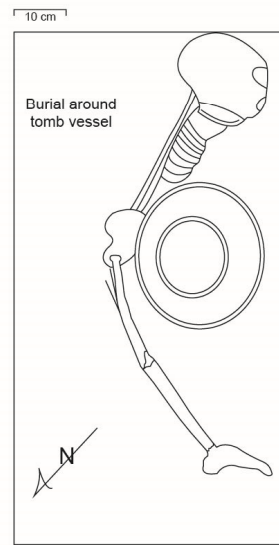
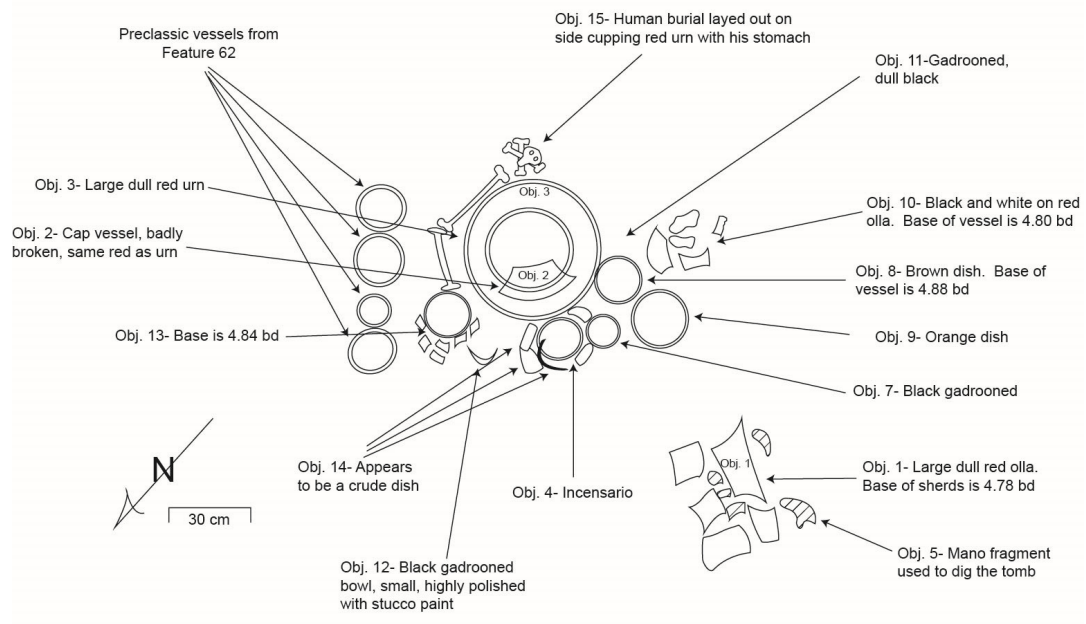


Shell beads from Feature 20-58 in Excavation Unit 20.



Profile drawing of Feature 20-58 in Excavation Unit 20.

Ex. Unit 20
Fea. 58



Plan drawing of Feature 20-58 in Excavation Unit 20.



Field photo of Feature 20-58 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 44-61 (5/30-31/1978)

Type: A possible flexed burial under two small ollas

Location: Mound 59, Excavation Unit 44, Section C and E

Matrix: In trash deposit, possibly underneath the house floor.

Stratification and Relationship: Resting on xac layer (see diagrams).

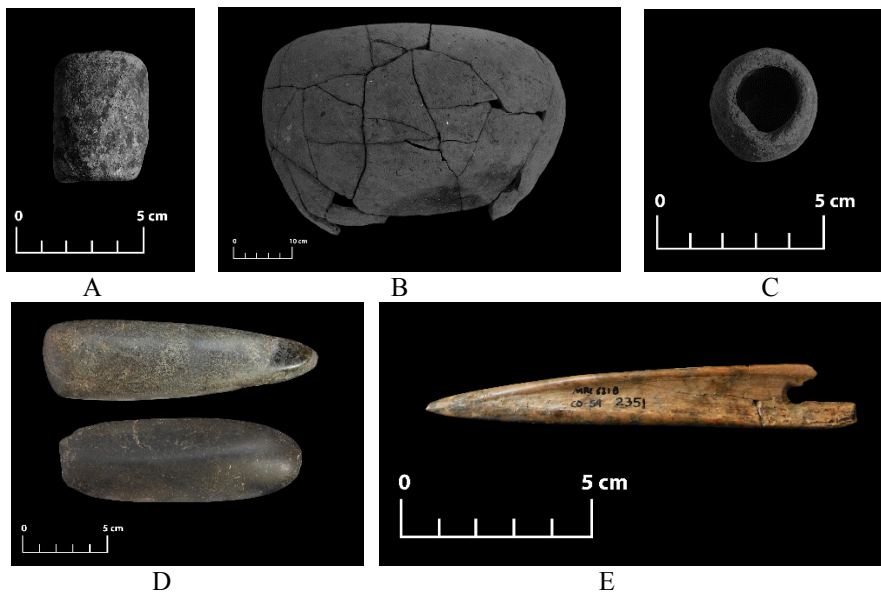
Contents:

1. Chamumula Rough: Chamumula Variety deeply concave bottom, over the skull (base up), unrestorable (MRE-9844); H: 50-60? Cm, D: 44 cm, W.Th: 0.8 cm, Bag # 2347. **2.** Bowl over the long bones (MRE-6964); H: 32+ cm, D: 47.1 cm, W.Th: 1.5 cm, Bag # 2349. **3.** Two stone celt (MRE-6148); L: 12.4 cm, W: 4.3 cm, Th: 3.3 cm, Bag # 2350. **4.** Pointed bone awl (MRE-6218); L: 10.7 cm, W: 1.6 cm, Th: 0.65 cm, Bag # 2351. **5.** Hollow male:Shallow Punctate Eye Variety figurine heads (MRE-6291, 6316); H: 8.45 cm, W: 6.96 cm, Th: 0.44 cm, Bag # 2354? **6.** Burned nut (MRE-?); Bag # 2352. **7.** Polihedral obsidian core (MRE-6186); L: 4.6 cm, W: 2.7 cm, Th: 1.5 cm, Bag # 2353. **8.** Chamumula Rough:Chamumula Variety miniature cosmetic dish or bowl (MRE-9862); H: 3.2 cm, D: 3.3 cm, W.Th: 0.4 cm, Bag # 2354? **9.** Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2360. **10.** Chamumula Rough:Chamumula Variety miniature cosmetic bowl (MRE-9863); H: 5.2 cm, D: 4.1 cm, W.Th: 0.5 cm, Bag # 2361. **11.** Human bones outside burial (MRE-?); Bag # 2362. **12.** Chert biface (MRE-?). **13.** Ear spool fragment with Item 11 (MRE-?).

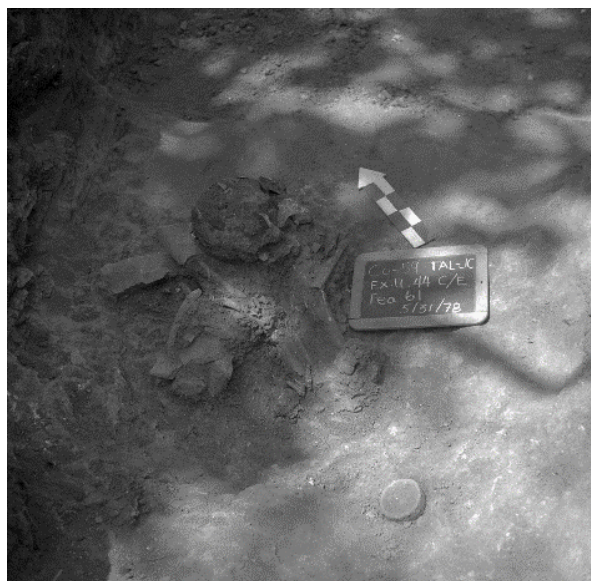
Comments: The condition of human bones is not described. Items 11 and 12 were combined/listed with other items on feature record.



Hollow made figurine heads from Feature 44-61 in Excavation Unit 44.

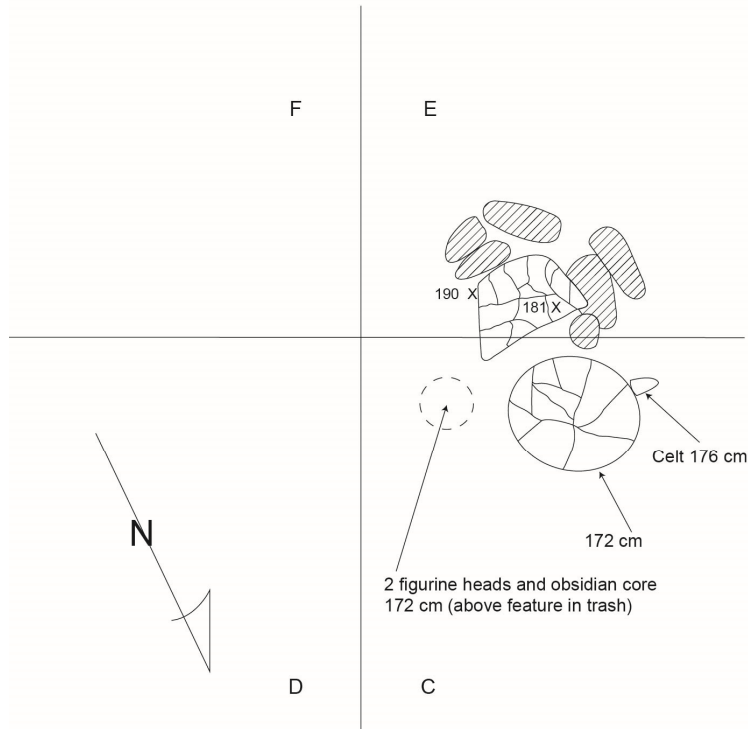


Artifacts from Feature 44-61. A. A polyhedral obsidian core (MRE-9863). B. Unidentified bowl that covered the long bones (MRE-6964). C. Chamumulá Rough: Chamumulá Variety miniature cosmetic bowl (MRE-9862). D. Stone celts (MRE-6148-1, 2). E. Pointed bone awl (MRE-6218).



Field photo of Feature 44-61 in Excavation Unit 44.

Ex. Unit 44 C & E
Feature 61
5/30/78



Plan drawing of Feature 44-61 in Excavation Unit 44.

Tan Phase (AD 1250-1530)

Feature 1 (4/22/1976)

Type: Cremation burial (time period not specified on feature record)

Location: Mound 50a, Excavation Unit 3, Section M-1

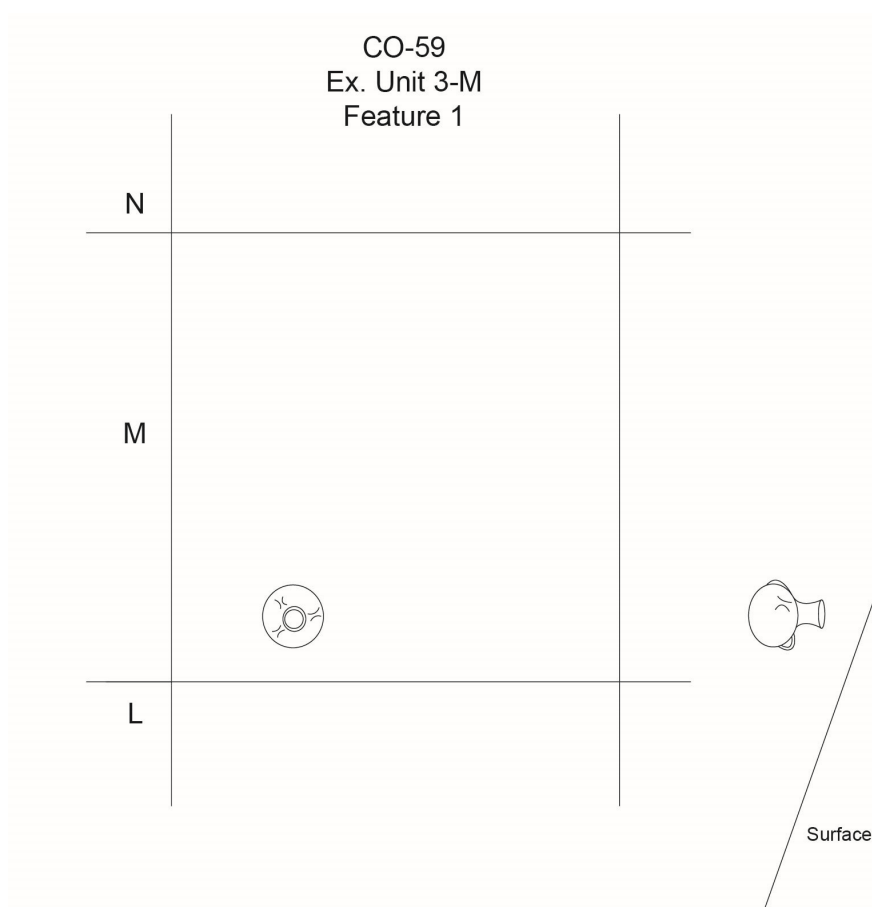
Contents: Artifacts listed on Feature Record

1. Water jar (presence or absence of handles not listed) Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety, three loop-handle (MRE-6836); H: 29.8 cm, D: 22.76 cm, W.Th: 0.85 cm
2. Bones and ash, Burnt (MRE-?).

Comments: Vessel was found in an upright position. It has a “kill” hole (D: 0.95 cm) located in the upper shoulder between two loop handles in the second zone. In Lee’s final report he described the hole as drilled.



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 1 in Excavation Unit 3.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 1 in Excavation Unit 3.



Field photo of Feature 1 Excavation Unit 3.

Feature 20-5 (3/1/1978)

Type: Cremation burial in a water jar

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, Section C-2

Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6818); H: 35 cm, D: 26 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm.
2. Human bone, fragments and ash (MRE-?).



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 20-5 in Excavation Unit 20.



Field photo of Feature 20-5 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 20-6 (3/1/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Under wall on top of Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20

Contents:

1. Petehua Fugitive White:Petehua Variety two loop-handle effigy water jar (MRE-6828); H: 23.3 cm, D: 22.7 cm, W.Th: 0.47 cm.
2. Human bone fragments and ash (MRE-?).
3. Round pottery jar lid (MRE-6979); D: 9.6 cm, Th: 0.8 cm.

Comments: Item 3 is not listed on the feature record.

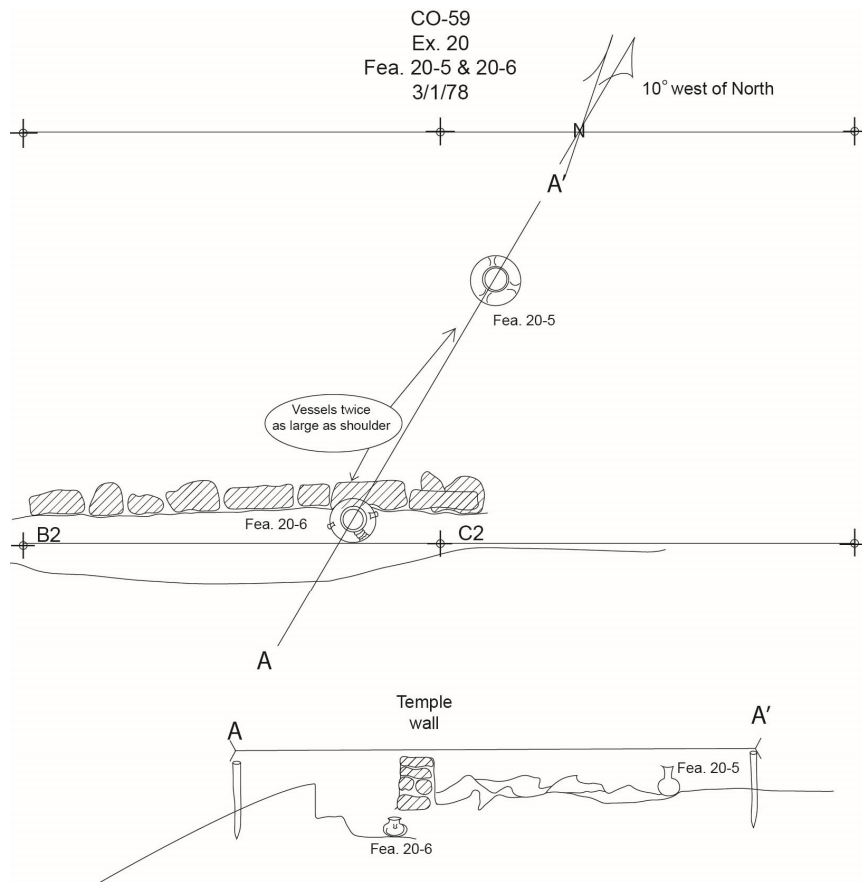


A

B

Ceramic vessels from Feature 20-6. A. Petehua Fugitive White: Petehua Variety two loop handle effigy water jar.

B. Unidentified round pottery jar lid.



Plan and profile drawings of Features 20-5 and 20-6 in Excavation Unit 20.



Field photo of Feature 20-6 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 8 (4/28/1976)

Type: Cremation burial in a water jar (nothing mentioned or described about the contents of the water jar, ash?)

Location: Mound 50a, Excavation Unit 3, Section N

Stratification: mound fill

Contents:

1. Tsalani Black-on-tan:Tsalani Variety 3 loop-handle water jar (MRE-6830);
H: 23 cm, D: 20.76 cm, W.Th: 0.83 cm, V: 3100 ml.
2. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: From Lee's final report: Item (water jar) had two small (less than 0.3 cm) holes in the upper shoulder which appear to be the cause of random stone breaks rather than purposefully made "kill" holes. The condition of the bones is not described and are not listed on the feature record.



Tsalani Black-on-tan: Tsalani Variety three loop handle water jar (MRE-6830) from Feature 8 in Excavation Unit 3.

Feature 9 (4/30/1976)

Type: Cremation burial in a water jar

Location: Mound 50a, Excavation Unit 3, Section N. The burial was located in the center of the excavation and 25 cm from its south edge at a depth of 25 cm below the surface of the mound.

Depth: 0.27 meters below surface to the bottom of the water jar.

Stratification: mound fill.

Contents:

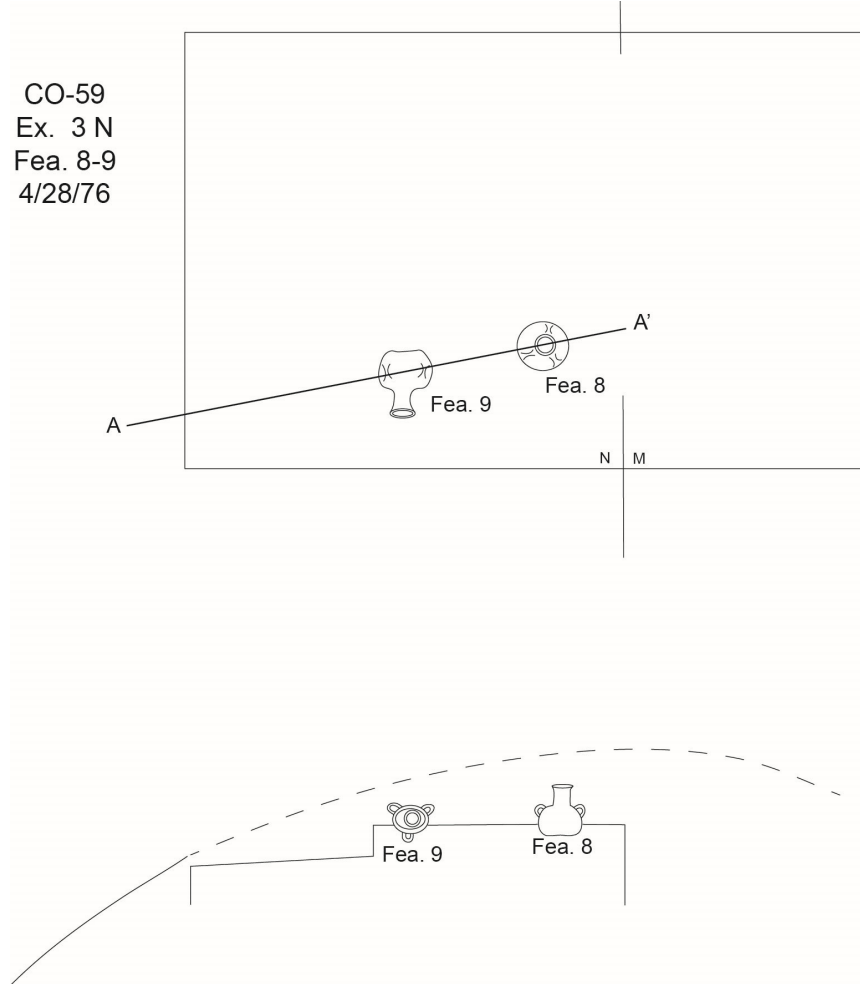
1. Xela Polychrome:Xela Variety 3 loop-handle water jar (MRE-6983).
2. Human bones, burnt (MRE-?).

Comments: Burnt human bones were listed on Lee's final report. No mention or description of the contents of the water jar were found on the feature record. Lee's final report mentions that the water jar was found tipped on its side. He described a drilled

“kill” hole (D: 1.3 cm) on the shoulder between two loop-handles through base of hatched red triangle (third zone of design). The bones are not listed on the feature record.



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 9 in Excavation Unit 3.



Feature 11 (4/30/1976)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50 a, Excavation Unit 3, Section L. It is located 0.15 meters below the surface, 1.78 meters below the surface to the bottom of the vessel and 1.5 meters below the surface to the mouth of the vessel

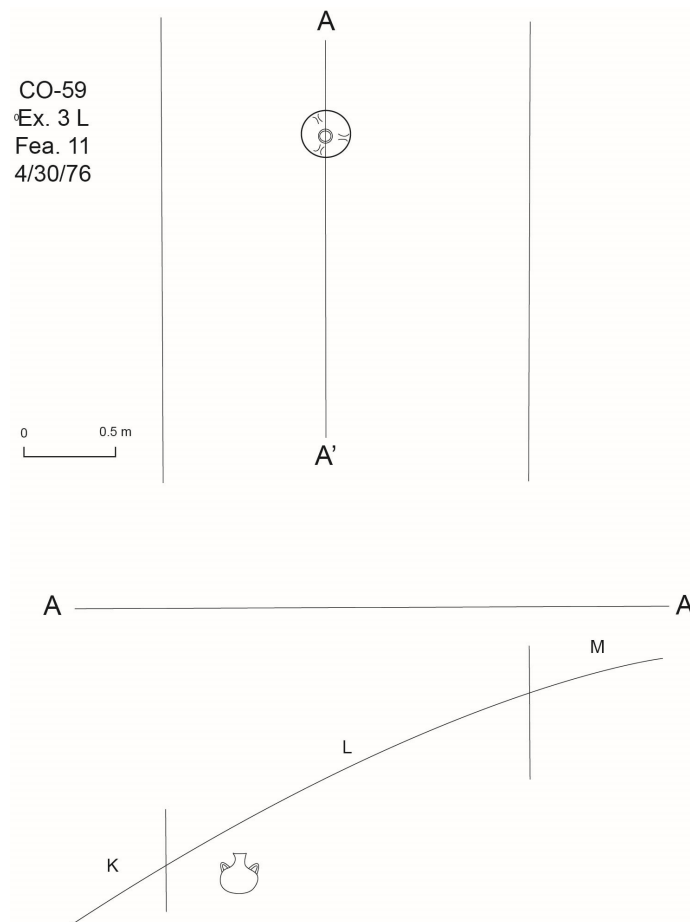
Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6819); H: 31.7 cm, D: 25 cm, V: 5700 ml.
2. Carbon (MRE-6170)

Comments: No mention or description of the contents of the water jar were noted on feature record. The vessel was found in an upright position. The burial is in the upper mound slope of Mound 50a. Carbon is not listed on the feature record.



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three-loop handled water jar from Feature 11 in Excavation Unit 3.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 11 in Excavation Unit 3.

Feature 12 (5/3/1976)

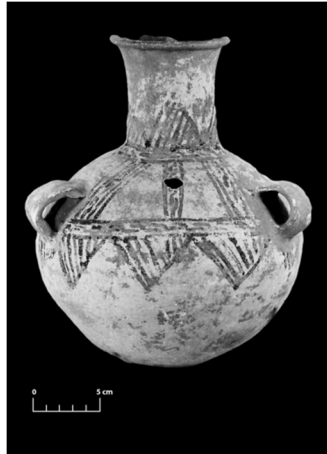
Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50a, Excavation Unit 3, Section J

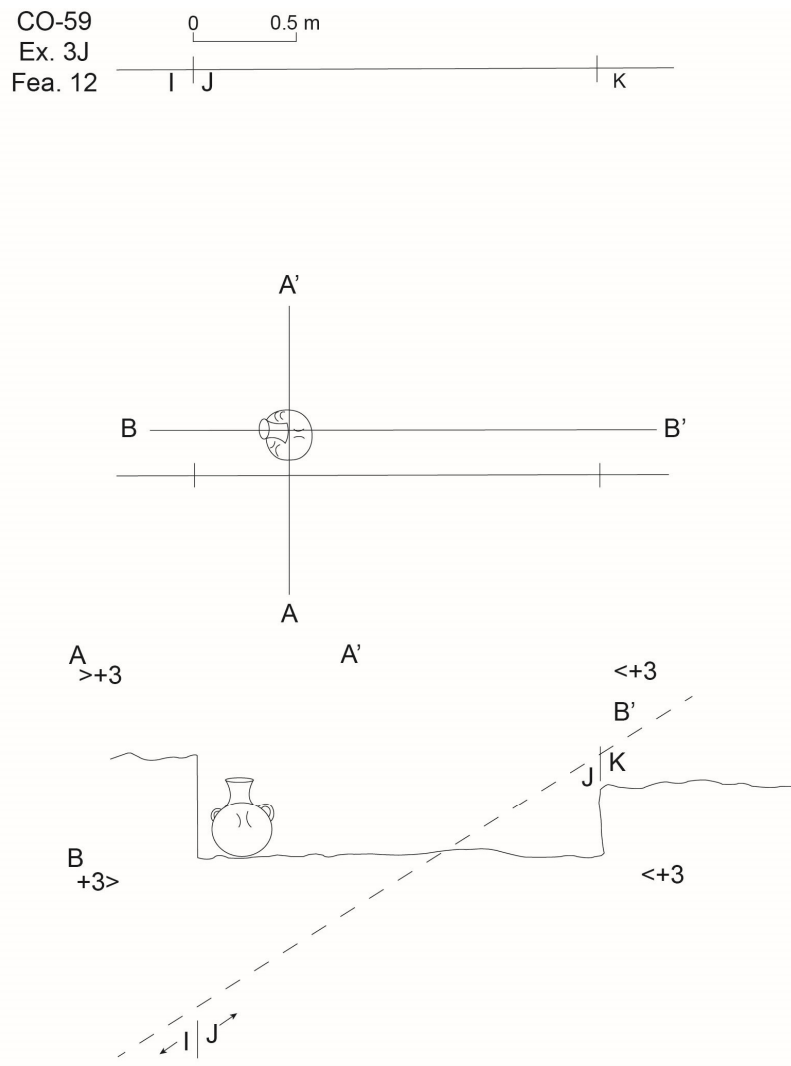
Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety 3 loop-handle water jar (MRE-6825);
H: 30.15 cm, D: 24.5 cm, W.Th: 0.7 cm, V: 5750 ml

Comments: No mention or description of the contents of the water jar were noted on the feature record. The vessel was found in an upright position. The burial location is on the steep face of Mound 50a. It has a large “kill” hole (0.8-1.5 cm) through second zone of design between the two looped handles. Lee described the hole as pecked in his final report.



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 12 in Excavation Unit 3.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 12 in Excavation Unit 3.

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 54, Excavation Unit 33, Section 1

Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety loop-handle water jar (MRE-6833); H: 31.2 cm, D: 25.5 cm, W.Th: 0.74 cm.
2. Human bones and ash (MRE-?).
3. Copper ring, filigree (MRE-6166-1); D: 1.99 cm, W: 0.8 cm, Th: 0.13 cm
4. Copper ring, filigree (MRE-6166-2); D: 2.06 cm, W: 0.33 cm, Th: 0.1 cm
5. Copper ring, solid (MRE-6166-3); D: 1.99 cm, W: 0.33 cm, Th: 0.1 cm.
6. Obsidian blades (4) (MRE-6190); Max-Min: L: 11.14-4.48 cm, W: 1.88-1.29 cm, Th: 0.4-0.28 cm.
7. Small round disc of amber (MRE-6277-2); D: 1.8 cm, Th: 1.0 cm.
8. Yellow pigment (MRE-6172).
9. Carbon (MRE-6170).
10. Tol Polychrome: Tol Variety bowl (MRE-6871), collard rim bowl; H: 10.06 cm, D: 19.5 cm, W.Th: 0.45 cm.
11. Sherd disk pot lid of a Tulumichim Plain: Tulumichim Variety comal bottom (MRE-9876); D: 9.1 cm, Th: 0.5 cm, Wt: 40.5 grs.

Comments: Items 1 and 2 are switched on feature record. Items 3 and 5 are switched on the feature record. Item 11 not on feature record. In his final report Lee described a small pecked "kill" hole (D-0.6 cm) in item 1 between two looped handles near point of notched triangle (third zone of design).



A

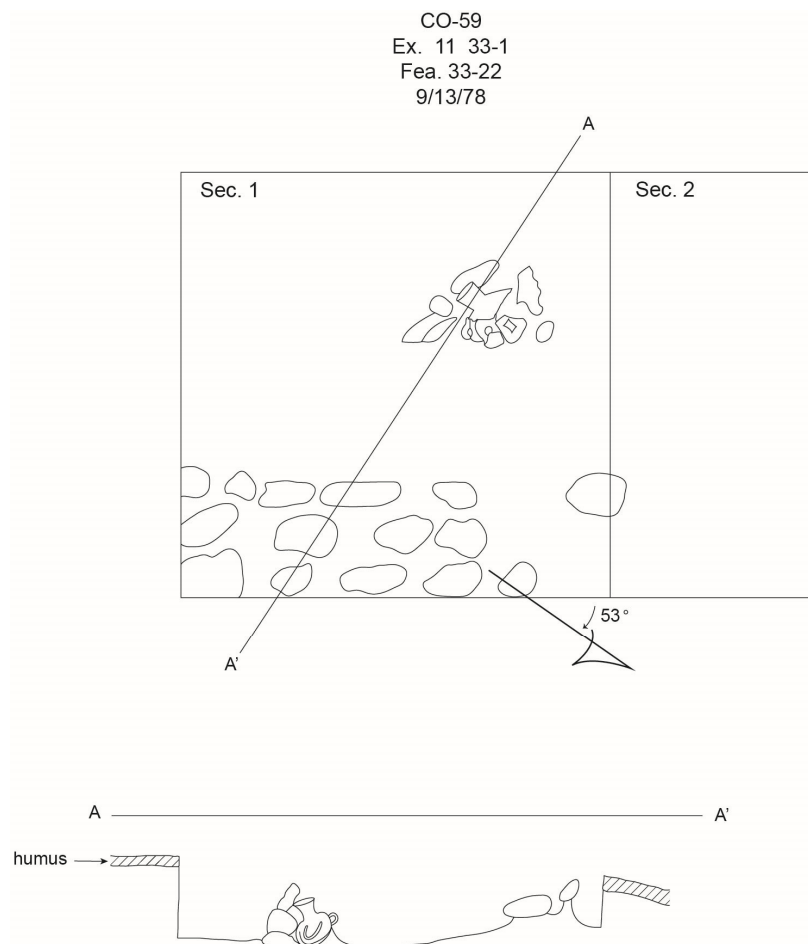
B

C

Ceramic vessels from Feature 33-22 in Excavation Unit 33. A. Sherd disk pot lid of a Tulumichim Plain: Tulumichim Variety comal bottom. B. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety three loop handle water jar. C. Tol Polychrome: Tol Variety bowl.



Copper rings (MRE-6166-1, 2, 3) from Feature 33-22 in Excavation Unit 33.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 33-22 in Excavation Unit 33.



Field photo of Feature 33-22 in Excavation Unit 33.

Feature 33-23 (4/13/1978)

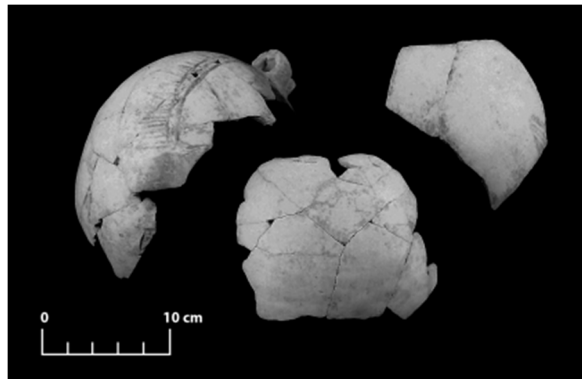
Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 54, Excavation Unit 33, Section 2

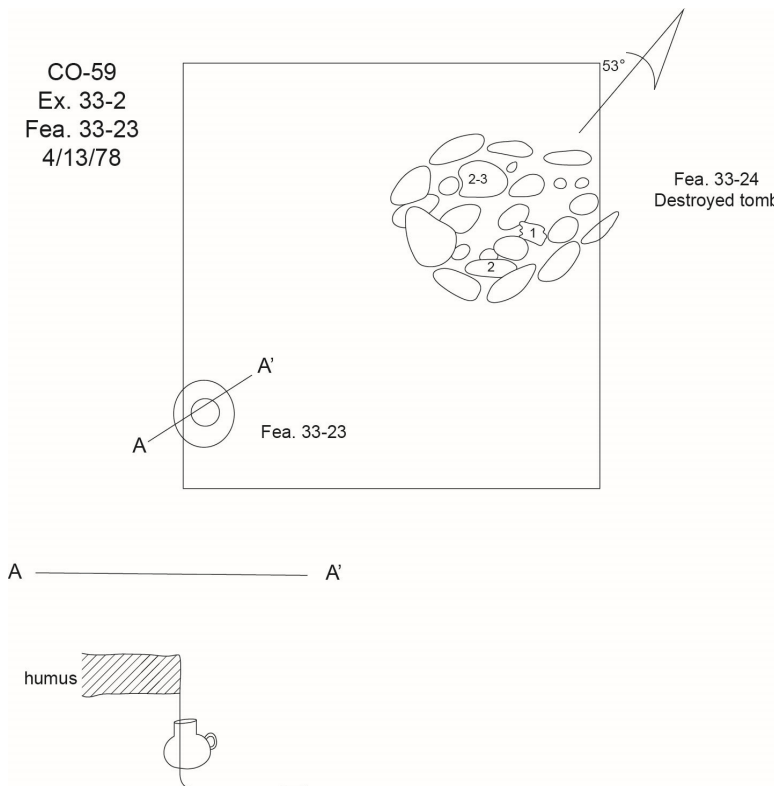
Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome: Xela Variety 3 loop-handle water jar (MRE-9826);
H: 28+ cm, D: 24± cm, W.Th: 0.5 cm

Comments: This burial feature does not have a feature record.



Xelá Polychrome: Xelá Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 33-23 in Excavation Unit 33, fragmented.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 33-23 in Excavation Unit 33.

Feature 34-26 (4/19/1978)

Type: Cremation burial in a 3-handled water jar

Location: Mound 56, Excavation Unit 34

Matrix: Surrounded by rocks, charcoal, and a light brown sandy soil.

Stratification and Relationships: 20 cm below the surface. It was covered with a layer of rocks that were visible prior to excavation.

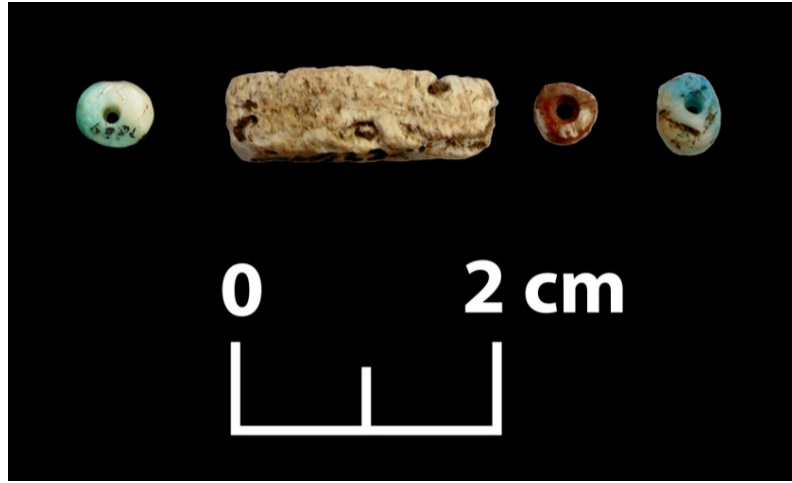
Contents:

1. Burnt human bone fragments (MRE-?).
2. Quartz crystal (MRE-?).
3. Small sub-spherical red/orange shell bead (MRE-6254-1); D: 1.5 cm, Th: 1.1 cm.
4. One obsidian fragment (MRE-?).
5. Xela Polychrome: Tante Variety loop-handle water jar (MRE-6820); H: 29.2 cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.75 cm.
6. One rectangular shell bead (MRE-6254-6); L: 1.9 cm, W: 0.55 cm, Th: 0.5 cm
7. One disk shell bead (MRE-6254-7); D: 0.4 cm, Th: 0.2 cm.
8. One jade disk bead (MRE-6274-5); D: 0.55 cm, Th: 0.3 cm, Wt: 0.5 grs.

Comments: Items 6-8 are not listed on the feature record. In Lee's final report he described a small "kill" hole (D-1 cm) pecked through the vessel wall, and located in zone two of the decoration near the center point between two of the handles.



Field photograph of Feature 34-26 in Excavation Unit 34.



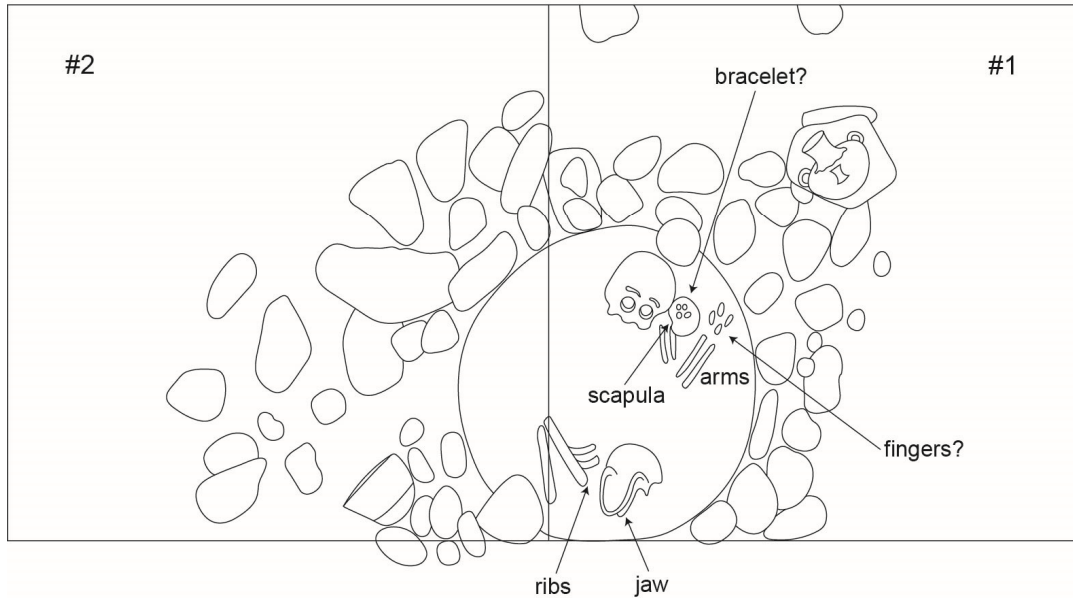
A

B

Artifacts from Feature 34-26 in Excavation Unit 34. A. Xelá Polychrome: Tanté Variety loop handle water jar. B. Beads.

Ex. Unit 34 Fea. 34-26

April 20, 1978 p.6



Plan drawing of Feature 34-26 in Excavation Unit 34.

Feature 20-33 (4/21/1978)

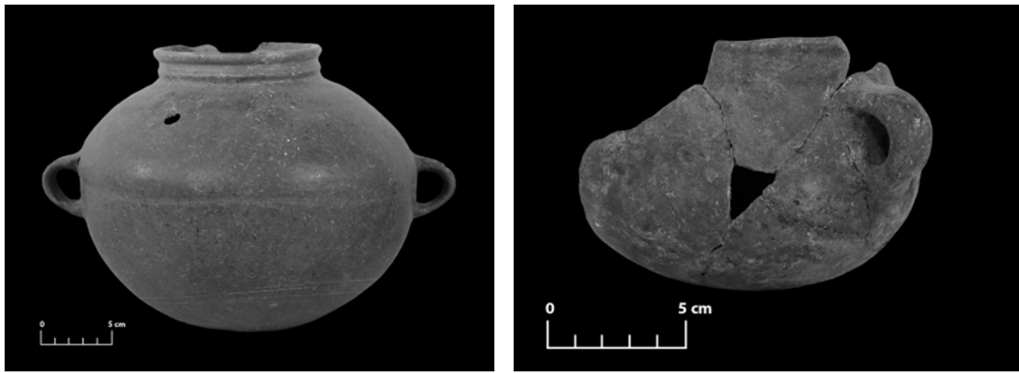
Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, exact location in excavation unit unknown.

Contents:

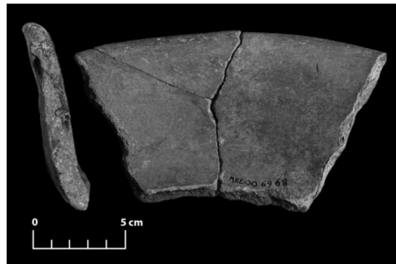
1. Sitit Grooved: Sitit Variety two loop-handle water jar (MRE-6832); H: 22.6 cm, D: 27.2 cm, W.Th: 0.59 cm.
2. Disk of xac stone, vessel cover, has beveled edge (MRE-9830); D: 12.5 cm, Th: 2.5 cm.
3. Copper ring (MRE 6169).
4. Human bone fragments and ash (MRE-?).
5. Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety two loop-handle water jar (half missing) (MRE-6967); H: 10.7 cm, D: 13.8 cm, W.Th: 0.71 cm.
6. Uninajab Slipped: Uninajab Variety bowl (MRE-6968); H: 7.7 cm, D: 21.5 cm, W.Th: 1.2 cm.

Comments: Items 5-6 are not listed on the feature record.

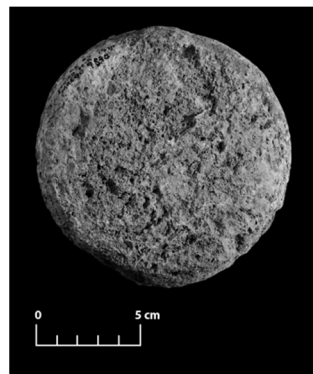


A

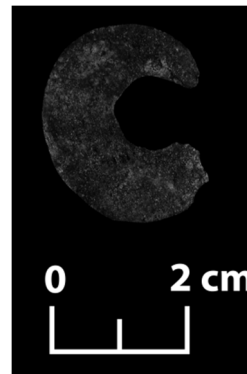
B



C



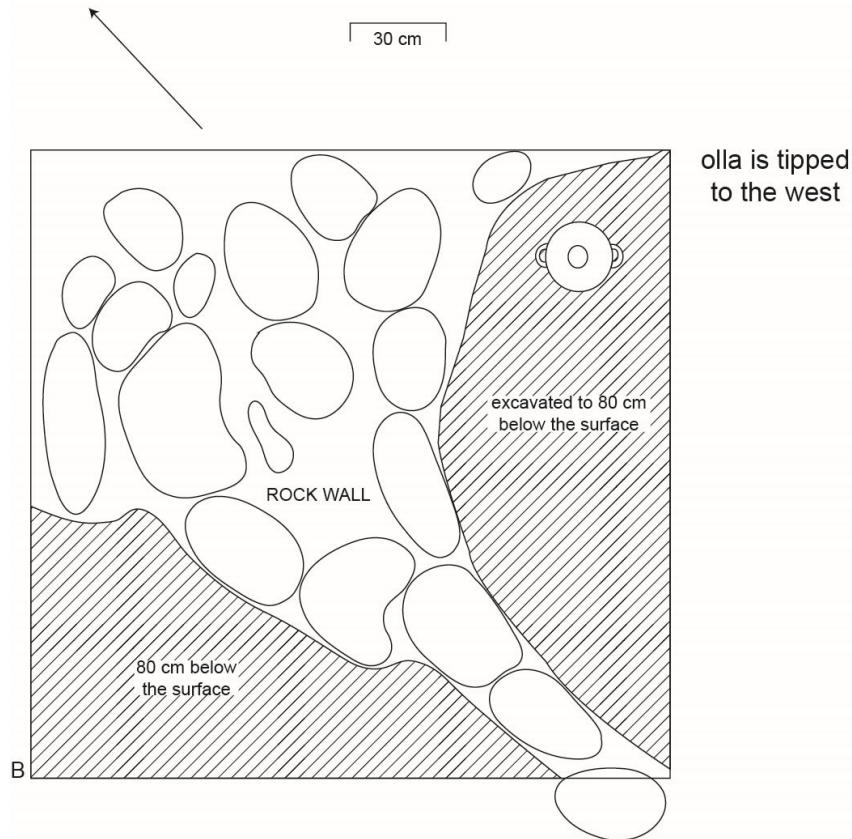
D



E

Artifacts from Feature 20-33. A. Sitit Grooved: Sitit Variety two loop handle water jar. B. Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety two loop handle jar, fragmented. C. Uninajab Slipped: Uninajab Variety bowl, fragmented. D. Disk of xac stone, vessel cover. E. Copper ring.

Excavation 20 Feature 33



Plan drawing of Feature 20-33 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 20-36 (4/26/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, Section E-1

Matrix: Limestone and Xac fill-grey earth.

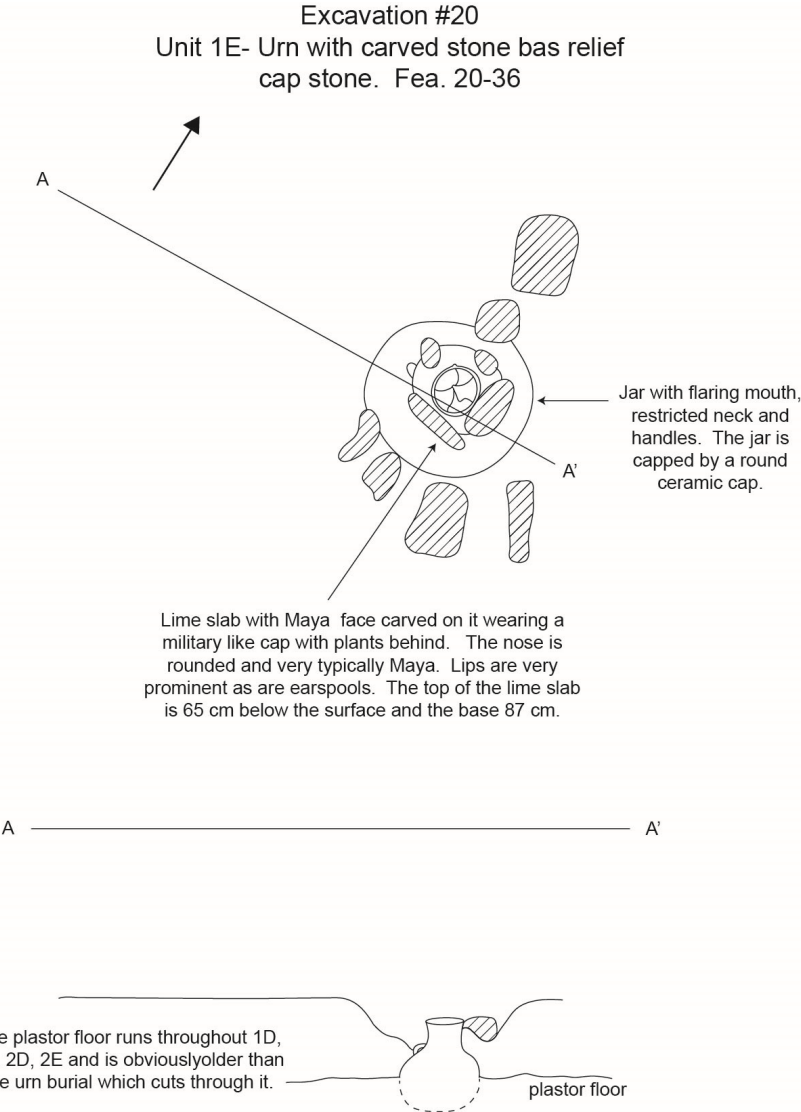
Stratification and Relationships: Cut through uppermost preserved plaster floor. See graph 3 and plan and profile drawings.

Contents:

1. Petehua Fugitive White:Petehua Variety two loop-handle water jar typed vessel with effigy face (MRE-6829); H: 30.1 cm, D: 26.7 cm, W.Th: 0.6 cm, V: 6900 ml. **2.** Sherd disk pot lid, made from Yaluc Coarse:Plain Variety vessel (MRE-6934); D: 12.4 cm, Th: 0.74 cm. **3.** Bas relief sculpture (possible stela fragment) (MRE-9889); L: 24 cm, W: 30.5 cm, Th: 4 cm. **4.** Copper lancet, square (MRE-6165); L: 21.5 cm, W: 0.46 cm square, Wt: 34 grs. **5.** Human bone fragments and ash (MRE-?). **6.** Jade (3) and amber (2) beads (MRE-6278); Jade

beads: 1 tubular, 2 round. Amber beads are tubular. 7. Jade nose ring (MRE-6260); L: 1.5 cm, W: 1.9 cm, Th: 0.5 cm, Wt: 7.5 grs.

Comments: Item 1 has a small “kill” hole (Lee described the hole as chipped through the vessel wall in his final report) located below the decoration and directly below the jaguar’s head. The jar vessel has a restricted neck and flaring rim. There are two strap handles on the sides. The jar was capped with a clay stopper and is accompanied by a stone bas relief of a large nosed Maya figure. The vessel was nesting on a plaster floor which may have at one time extended up to the tomb wall. Items 6-7 are not listed on the feature record, possibly thrown in with Item #4 on the feature record.



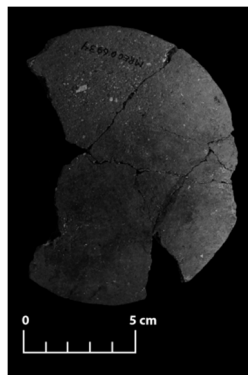
Plan and profile drawings of Feature 20-36 in Excavation Unit 20.



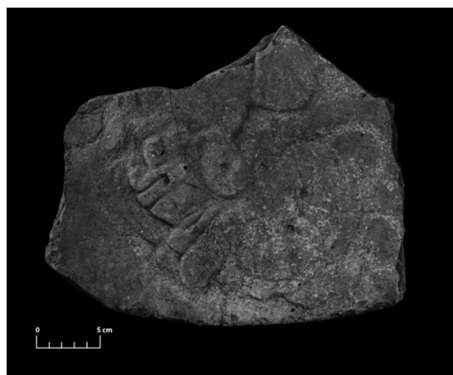
Field photograph of Feature 20-36 in Excavation Unit 20.



A



B



C

Ceramics from Feature 20-36 in Excavation Unit 20. A. Petehua Fugitive White:Petehua Variety two loop-handle water jar typed vessel with effigy face (MRE-6829). B. Sherd disk pot lid, made from Yaluc Coarse:Plain Variety vessel (MRE-6934). C. Bas relief sculpture (possible stela fragment (MRE-9889).



Amber and jade beads from Feature 20-36 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 35-38 (4/27/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 49a, Excavation Unit 35, Section 2

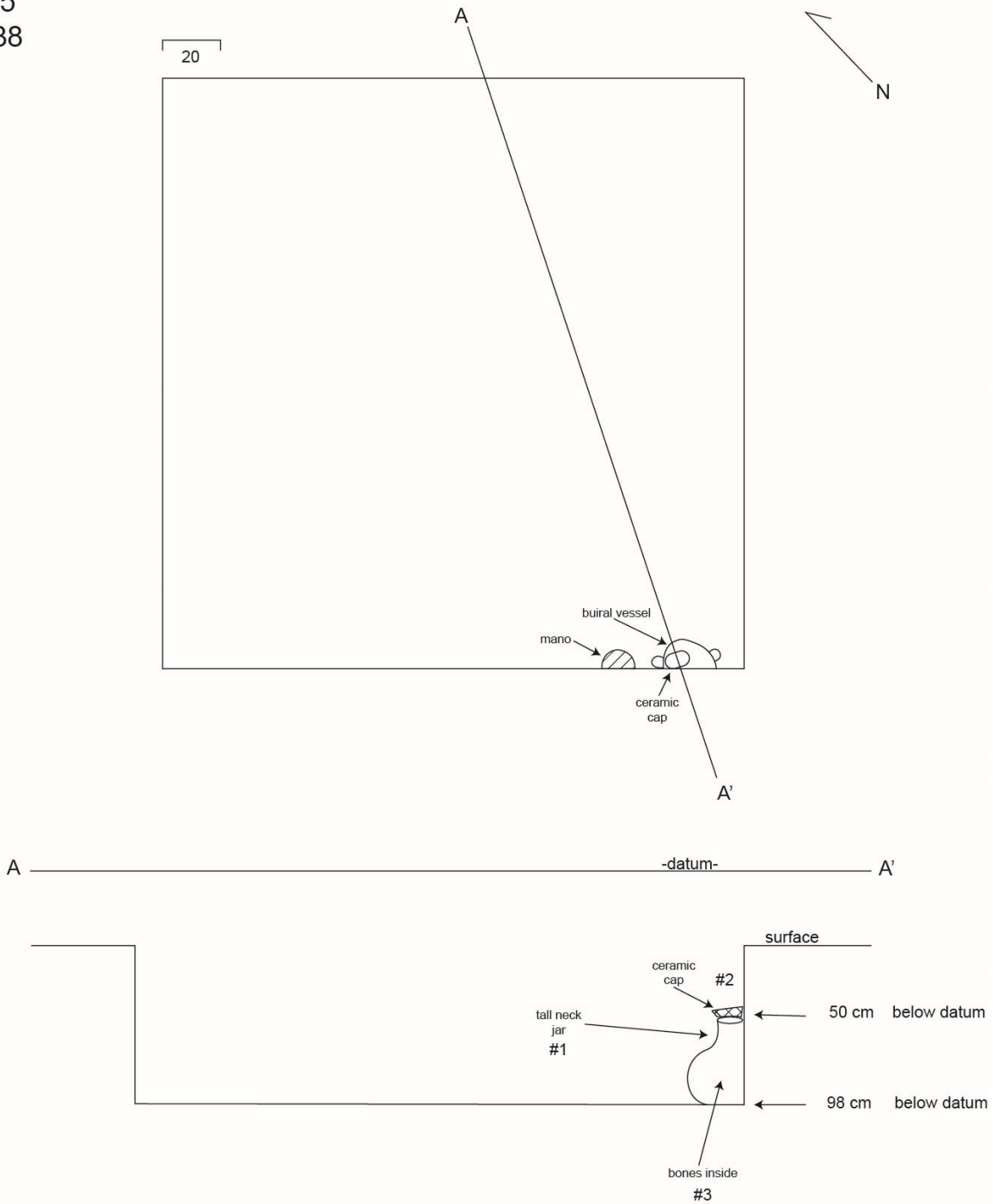
Matrix: Large cobble mound fill.

Contents:

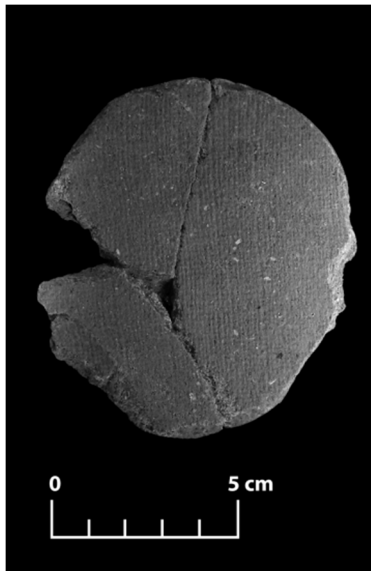
1. Xela Polychrome: Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6821); H: 29.01 cm, D: 22.05 cm, W.Th: 0.64 cm, Bag #1838.
2. Sherd disk pot lid of a Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety vessel (MRE-6933); D: 9.5 cm, Th: 0.79 cm, Wt: 65.5 grs, Bag #1839.
3. Human bone MRE-?), Bag # 1840.

Comments: About midway between two loop handles a small “kill” hole (D-0.6-0.8 cm) has been pecked through the vessel wall in the zone 2 of the decoration. The cremation vessel is a 3-handled water jar with a restricted neck and flaring mouth. The cremation was interred with an upright standing jar. The vessel rim is within 25 cm of the present surface (in 1978). Burial was that of a child. A small upper maxilla was recovered, but no adult teeth had burst through. The disk (Item 2) has a textile impression on the interior surface. The cloth had a thin thread warp and a much thicker weft, perhaps three times thicker. The weave appears to be over two, under two.

Ex. 35
Fea. 38



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 35-38 in Excavation Unit 35.



Sherd disk pot lid of a Salsahuitz Black-brown:Salsahuitz Variety vessel from Feature 35-38.



Field photo of Feature 35-38 in Excavation Unit 35.

Feature 36-39

(4/27/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 52, Excavation Unit 36

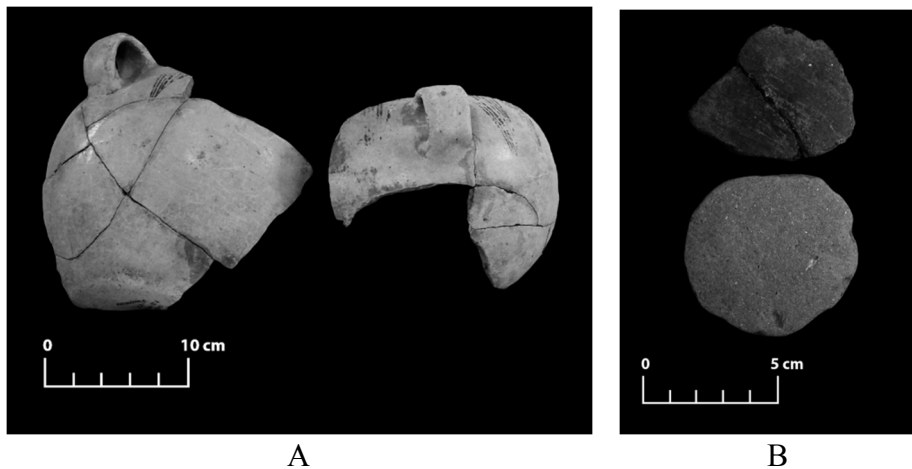
Matrix: Dark sandy soil. The dark color is from wood ash and chunks of charcoal.

Stratification and Relationship: Intrusive into the mound. Intrusive pit is evident.

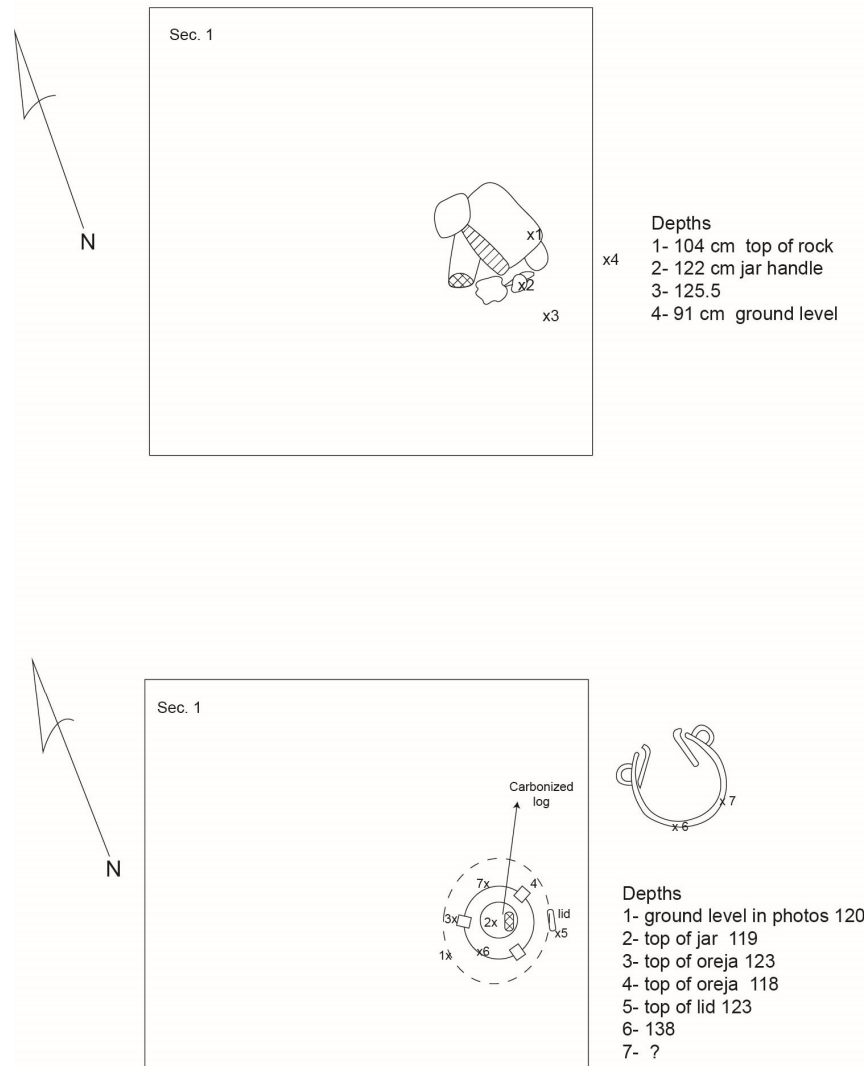
Contents:

1. Tsalani Black-on-tan: Tsalani Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6900); H: 18.1 cm, D: 23.6 cm, W.Th-1.1 cm, Bag # 1843.
2. Human bones & obsidian fragment (MRE-?), Bag # 1844.
3. Sherd disk pot lid of a Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety vessel (MRE-9875-1); D: 6.4 cm, Th: 0.95 cm.
4. Sherd disk pot lid fragment of a Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety vessel (MRE-9875-2); D: 9.4± cm, Th: 0.7 cm, Wt: 27 grs.

Comments: Items 3 and 4 are not listed on feature record.



Ceramic vessels from Feature 36-39. A. Tsalani Black-on-tan: Tsalani Variety three loop handle water jar, fragmented. B. Sherd disk pot lids.



Plan drawing and depths of Feature 36-39 in Excavation Unit 36.

Feature 20-40 (4/27/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, Section G-1

Matrix: Limestone and xac mound fill

Stratification and Relationships: The cist for the urn was cut through the uppermost preserved plaster floor.

Contents:

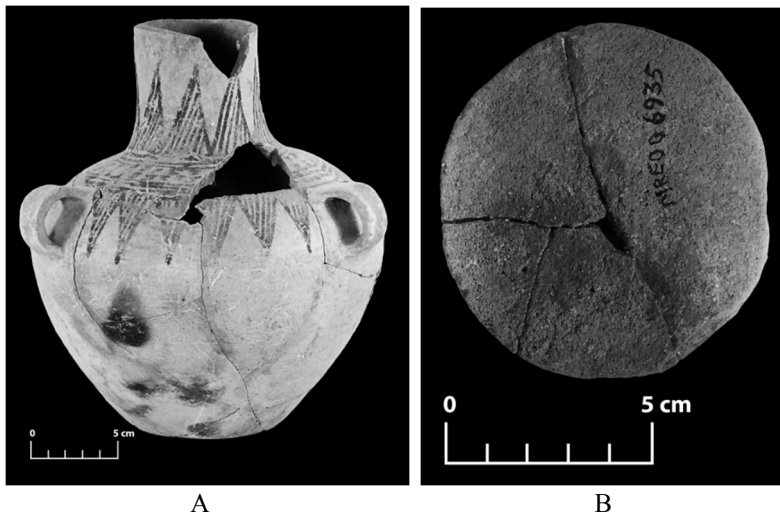
1. Xela Polychrome: Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6826);

H: 27.35 cm, D: 24.2 cm, W.Th: 0.81 cm. **2.** Sherd disk pot lid made from a Cruznob Buff: Variety unspecified (MRE 6935). **3.** Human bone fragments and ash (MRE-?).

Comments: In his final report Lee described a small “kill” hole (D: 1.3 cm) “pecked” through the vessel wall between two triangles in zone 3 of the decoration midway between two handles. The plan and profile drawings refer to it as cremation, but Bryant seems to use the term “urn” and cremation interchangeably. It consists of a 3 handled vertical tall neck jar containing a bowl with a rounded clay cap and a large slab that was holding the cap in place. No offerings were found in association with the burial. It appears to be an identical burial to Feature 38 found in Mound 35.



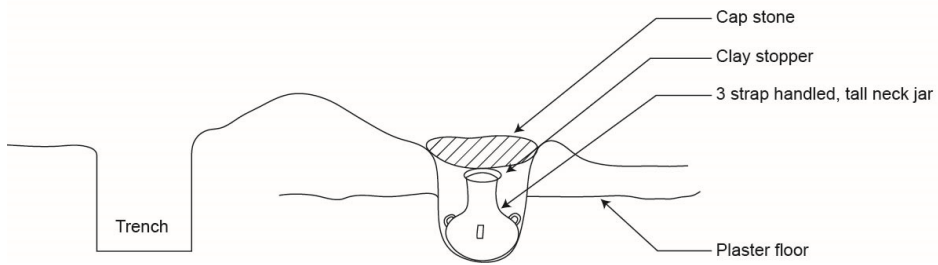
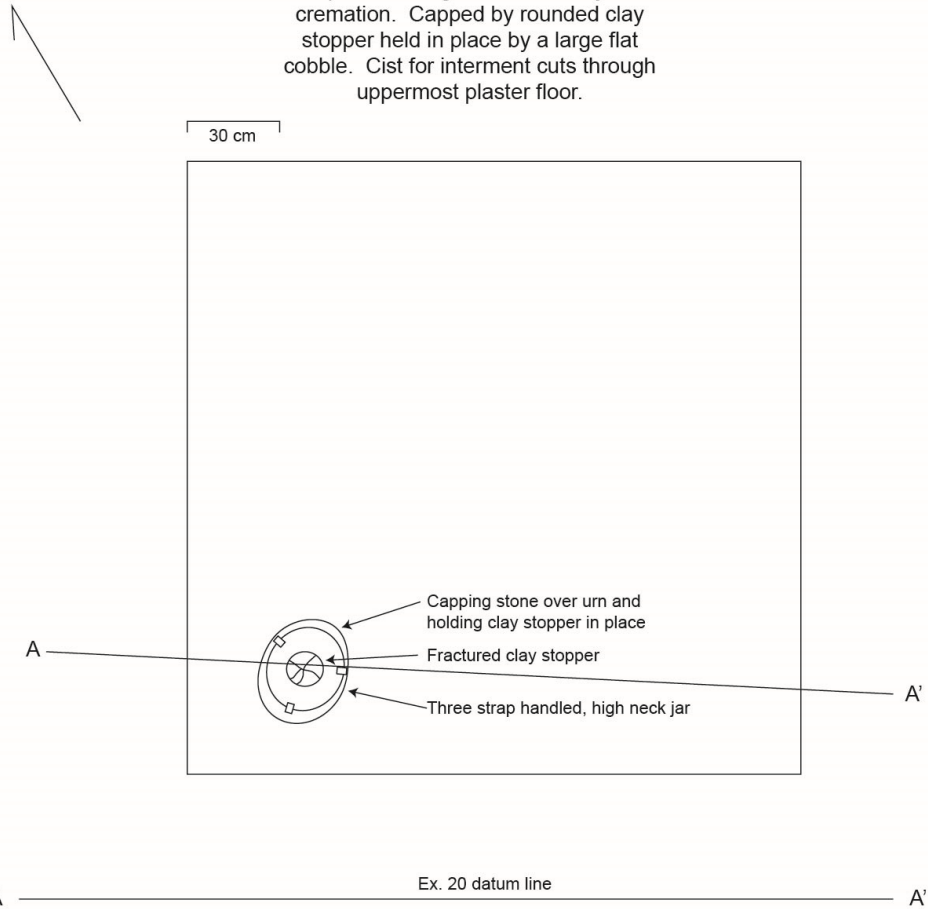
Field photograph of Feature 20-40 in Excavation Unit 20.



Ceramic vessels from Feature 20-40. A. Xelá Polychrome: Tanté Variety three loop handle water jar (MRE-6826). B. Sherd disk pot lid (MRE-6935).

Excavation 20
Unit 1G
Feature 40

3 strap handle, high vertical neck jar with cremation. Capped by rounded clay stopper held in place by a large flat capping stone. Cist for interment cuts through uppermost plaster floor.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 20-40 in Excavation Unit 20.

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 52, Excavation Unit 36, Section 2

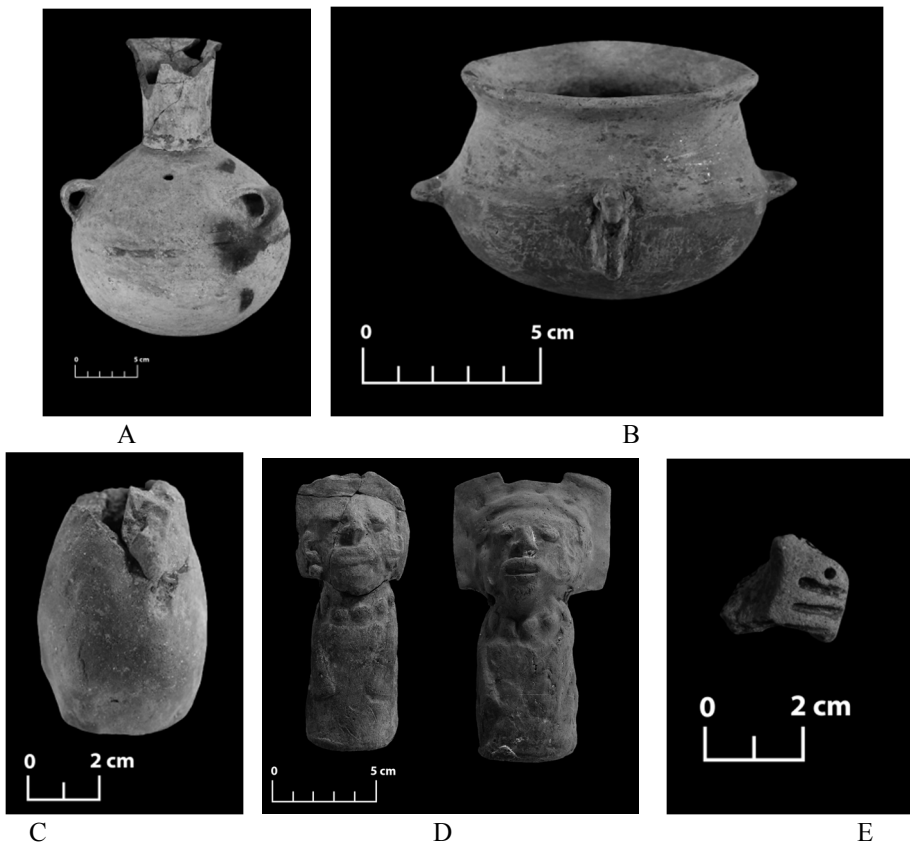
Matrix: Light brown sandy soil

Stratification and Relationships: Partly surrounded by ½ circle of rocks

Contents:

1. Chujha Red-on-tan:Chujha Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6822); H: 27.8 cm, D: 21.05 cm, W.Th: 0.58 cm, Bag # 1900. **2.** Pedestal body, notched headdress hollow figurine (MRE-6381); H: 14.1 cm, W: 8.3 cm, Th: 4.2 cm, Bag # 1917. **3.** Pedestal body, notched headdress hollow figurine (MRE-6381); H: 15.4 cm, W: 8.5 cm, Th: 5.15 cm, Bag # 1918. **4.** Patate Effigy:Patate Variety bowl (duck or turkey?) (MRE-6876); H: 6.8 cm, D: 10.1 cm, W.Th: 0.46 cm, Bag # 1920. **5.** Pedestal body, notched headdress hollow figurine (MRE-6380); H: 13.3 cm, W: 3.9 cm, Th: 3.7 cm, Bag # 1919. **6.** Stemmed flat ceramic stamp fragment (MRE-9708); L: 2.9+ cm, W: 2.2+ cm, Th: 1.2 cm, Wt: 6 grs, Bag # 1921. **7.** Bones (human?) (MRE-?), Bag # 1925. **8.** Jade (4) and shell (123) beads, from inside jar (MRE-6269-4, MRE-6239); Bag # 1926, 113 disk and 10 tubular, shell colors are white, rose, and amethyst. **9.** Jade bead with rosin on it (MRE-6269-1); L: 5.57 cm, D: 0.97 cm. **10.** Amber beads (11) and three fragments (MRE-6276). **11.** One small water worn stone (MRE-6286-3).

Comments: Clark took all the photos as Feature 40 cremation (his mistake). See plan drawing for Feature 42. It was visible on the surface before excavations began. Items 4 and 5 are switched on the feature record. No artifact listed on Lee's final report for Item 7, but the bones are listed (condition not described) on the feature record. Item 10 on the feature record is listed as Item 8 on Lee's final report. Item 11 is not on the feature record. In his final report Lee described a small round "kill" hole (D-0.7 cm) "pecked" through the upper shoulder wall midway between two of the loop handles. The feature record notes that the jar was broken by pick man Arturo Cano.

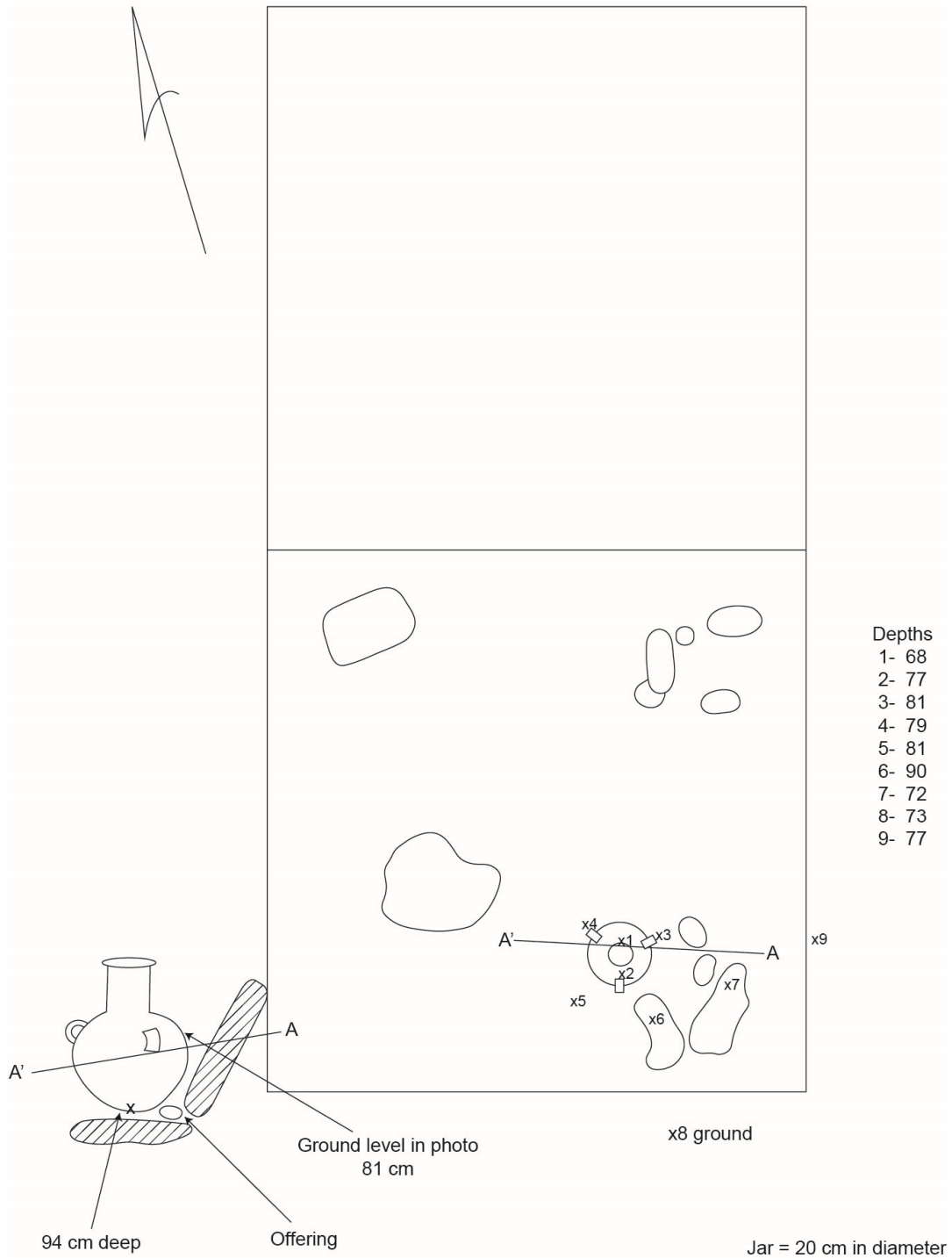


Ceramic artifacts from Feature 36-41. A. Chujhá Red-on-tan: Chujhá Variety three loop handle water jar (MRE-6822). B. Pataté Effigy: Pataté Variety bowl (MRE-6876). C, D, & E. Pedestal body, notched headdress hollow figurines (figurine MRE-6380 and pedestal base MRE-6387). E. Stemmed flat ceramic stamp fragment (MRE-9708).



Artifacts from Feature 36-41. A tubular serpentine bead with resin inside of the hole, jade beads, and amber beads.

Ex. Unit 36-2 Feature 41 May 2, 1978



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 36-41.

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 52, Excavation Unit 36

Matrix: Surrounded by small rocks underneath a large capstone. Charcoal mixed with soil on top

Stratification and Relationships: Associated with Feature 41 (Clark put cache of obsidian in with this feature)

Contents:

1. Tsalani Black-on-tan:Tsalani Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6824); H: 29 cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.63 cm, Bag # 1916. **2.** Two obsidian blades, bloodletters (MRE-?), Bag # 1922. **3.** Bones (MRE-?), Bag # 1923. **4.** Obsidian projectile point, from inside jar #1 (MRE-6283); L: 2 cm, W: 1 cm, Th: 0.2 cm, Bag # 1924. **5.** Shell (MRE-?). **6.** Sherd disk pot lid of a Salsahuitz Black-brown:salsahuitz Variety vessel (MRE-6289); D: 7.1 cm, Th: 0.6 cm, Wt: 36 grs.

Comments: Items 4 and 5 were inside Item 1. In his final report Lee described a drilled “kill” hole (D-1.15-0.6 cm) located about midway between two handles through a pendant notched triangle on Item 1. The condition of the bones is not described. Items 4 and 5 are combined in the feature record. Item 6 is not listed on the feature record.



A



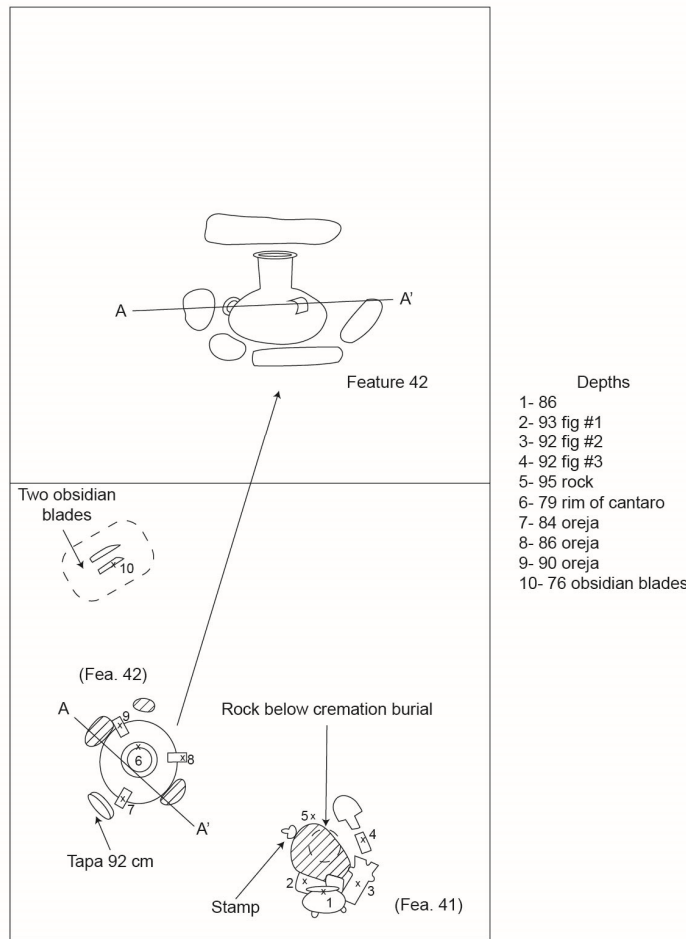
B

Ceramic vessels from Feature 36-42. A. Tsalani Black-on-tan: Tsalani Variety three loop handle water jar. B. Sherd disk lid of a Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety vessel.



Artifacts from Feature 36-42. Obsidian bloodletters and an obsidian projectile point.

Excavation Unit 36-2 Feature 41, 42 May 2, 1978



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 36-42 in Excavation Unit 36.



Field photo of Feature 36-42 in Excavation Unit 36.

Feature 20-43 (5/3/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 50b, Excavation Unit 20, Section A-1

Matrix: Xac and small amount of brown earth fill. The vessel rests on a foundation of large pebbles and small cobbles of xac

Stratification and Relationships: 10-15 cm below temple wall. The burial was dug into a shallow cist in the xac back below the temple wall. It is very likely that it was placed under the SW temple wall, but the wall is now gone

Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6835); H: 31.2 cm, D: 24.5 cm, W.Th: 1 cm.
2. Xac stone stopper (MRE-?).
3. Human bone fragments and ash (MRE-?).

Comments: Consists of a vertical neck 3 strap handled carton type vessel containing the cremation. The vessel is larger than (olla neck or most) with a 12 cm diameter mouth compared to the 10 cm wide mouth in Feature 40 and 38. In his final report Lee described a small “kill” hole (D-0.8 cm) pecked through the upper shoulder of the body about midway between two handles, in zone two design area of the water jar.



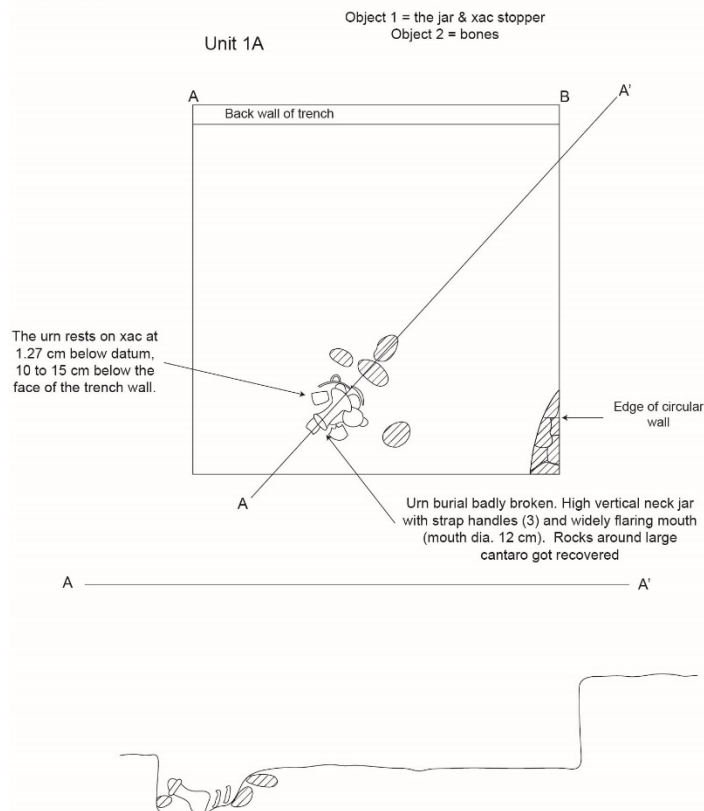
Field photograph of Feature 20-43 in Excavation Unit 20.



Xela Polychrome: Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar from Feature 20-43 (MRE-6835).

Ex. 20
Unit 1A
Fea 43

Urn burial very
near the surface



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 20-43 in Excavation Unit 20.

Feature 36-45 (5/3/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 52, Excavation Unit 36, Section 2

Matrix: Surrounded by small rocks underneath a large capstone. Charcoal mixed with soil on top (same as Feature 42)

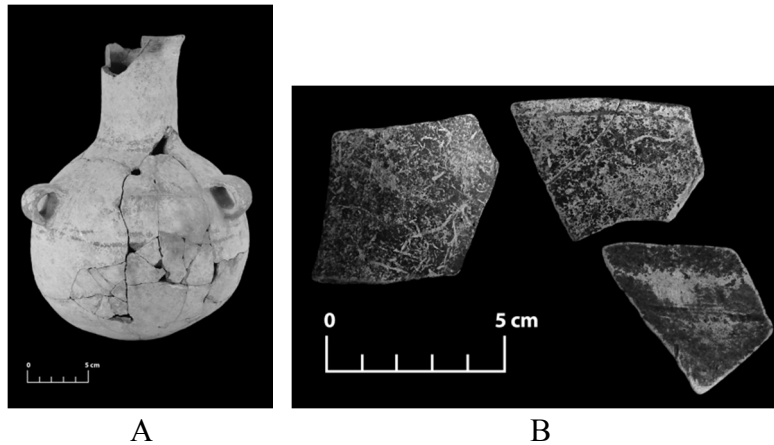
Stratification and Relationships: Right next to (South) of cremation burial Feature 42

Contents:

1. Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety jar (MRE-6945); H: 13.7 cm, D: 25.1 cm, W.Th: 0.65 cm, Bag # 1937.
2. Copper bells (3) (MRE-6280); Max-Min- L: 2.24-1.68 cm, W: 1.07-0.99 cm, Th: 0.83-0.87 cm
3. Chujha Red-on-tan: Chujha Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6823); H: 30 cm, D: 22 cm, W.Th: 0.65, Bag # 1948.
4. Shell beads (17) (MRE-6253-5); 13 disk, 4 tubular, D: 7 cm, Th: 0.2 cm, L: 1.1 cm, D: 0.4 cm.
5. Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 1950.
6. ? (unknown item) (MRE-6279).
7. Copper bell (MRE-

?); L: 2.5 cm, W: 1.2 cm. **8.** Obsidian blade, bipolar percussion fragment and a waste flake (MRE-6282-4-6).

Comments: Item 2 listed as “beads, obsidian, and shell” on feature record (bag #1947), possibly items 6-8 on Lee’s final report. Item 4 is listed as copper beads inside Item 3 on feature record (bag #1949). Human bones found inside item 3, state not described. In his final report Lee described a small conical round “kill” hole (D-0.8-0.9 cm) drilled through upper shoulder of item 3, midway between two looped handles. The copper bells, items 2 and 7, were probably part of the shell bead necklace, item 4.

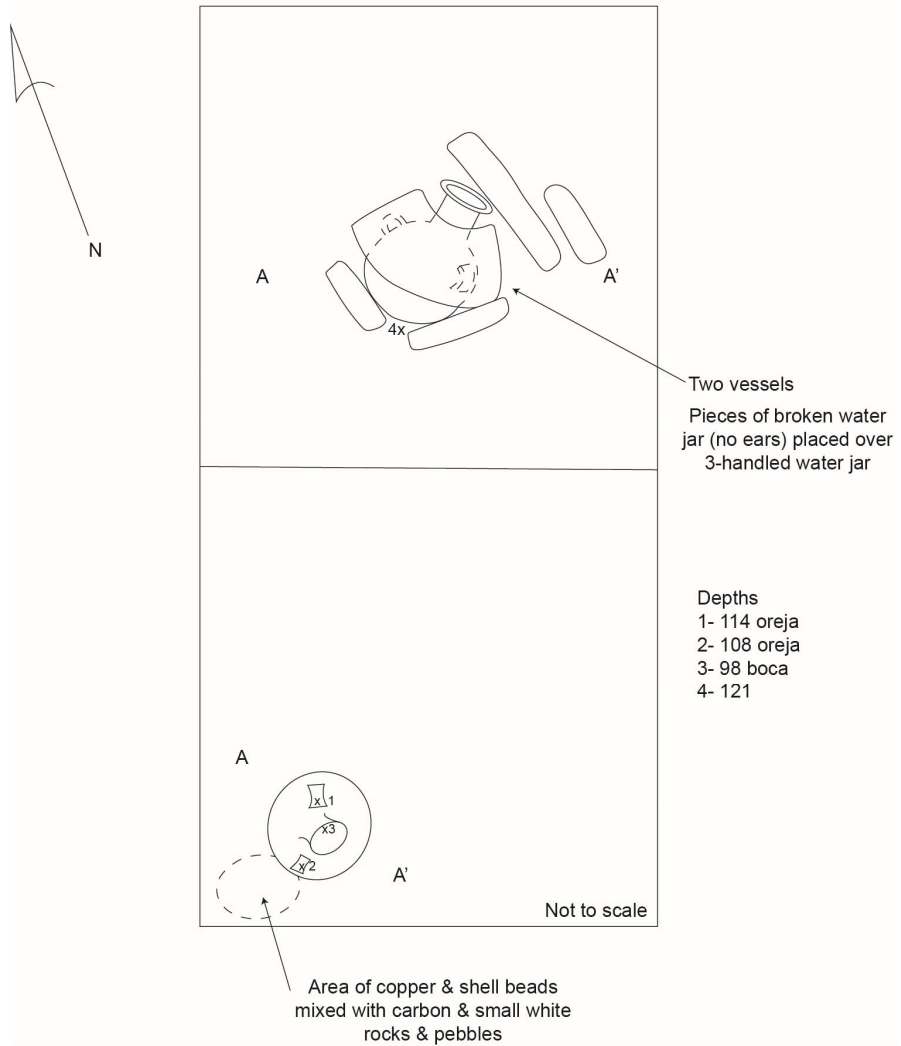


Ceramic vessels from Feature 36-45. A. Chujhá Red-on-tan: Chujhá Variety three loop handle water jar (MRE-6823). B. Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety jar (MRE-6945).



Artifacts from Feature 36-45. Shell and stone beads, and copper bells.

Ex. Unit 36-2 Feature 45 May 3, 1978



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 36-45 in Excavation Unit 36.



Obsidian stone tools from Feature 36-45 in Excavation Unit 36.

Feature 39-46 (5/5/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

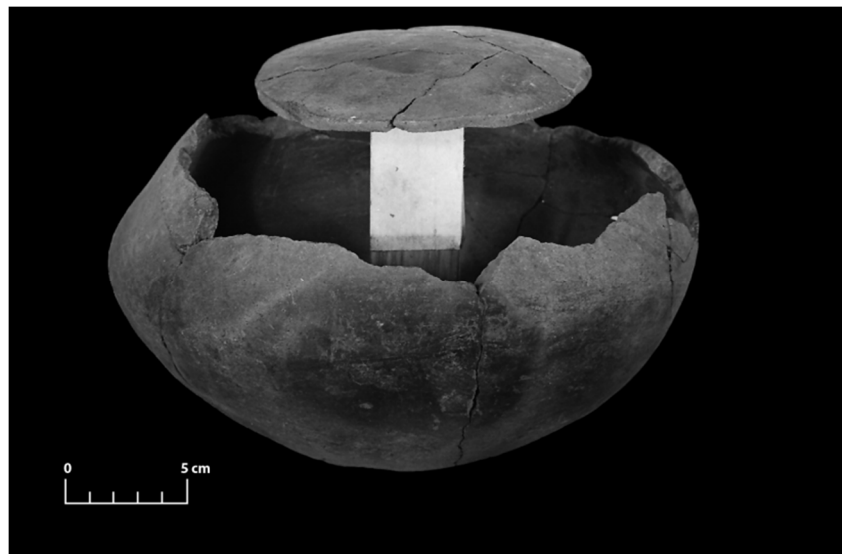
Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39

Stratification and Relationships: Surface to 10 cm

Contents:

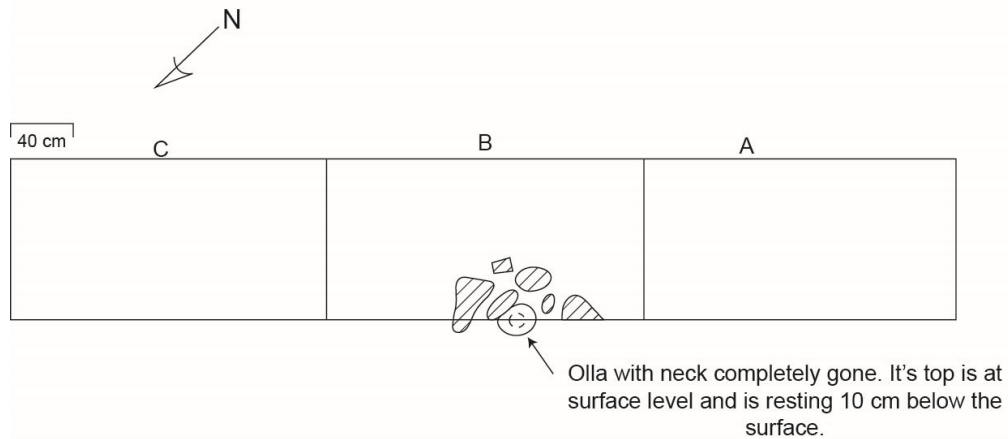
1. Salsahuitz Black-brown:Salsahuitz Variety plain jar with shoulders and neck missing (MRE-6913); H: 16+ cm, D: 27.1cm, W.Th: 1.2 cm, Bag # 1978.
2. Human bones and ash, Bag # 1979.
3. Sherd disk pot lid made from body sherd of a Salsahuitz Black-brown:salsahuitz Variety jar (MRE-6913); D: 15 cm, Th: 1 cm.

Comments: An olla resting 10 cm from the surface with the top of surface level, lacks mouth. The olla is resting on top of a solid bed of large limestone cobbles, and mound fill on the fallen walls from the latest construction phase. Its nearness to the surface implies a great deal of erosion at the surface level, as at one time the cremation must have been buried more than 10 cm below the surface. Charred bones were recovered from inside the vessel, but no offerings. Item 3 not on the feature record.

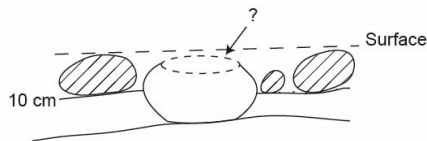


Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety plain jar with shoulders and neck missing and a sherd disk pot lid from Feature 39-46.

Excavation 39b
 Feature 46 - cremation
 5/5/1978



The vessel is different from any so far recorded containing cremations. It has a composite silhouette form and is considerably thicker near the mid-line break from outflaring to constricted.



Cremation recorded from the top of the fired 20 cm level. This level also yielded plumbate and fine orange sherds, and is either Late Classic or Early Postclassic.

Plan and profile drawings of Feature 39-46 in Excavation Unit 39.

Feature 35-47 (5/10/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 49a, Excavation Unit 35, the exact location in the excavation unit is unknown

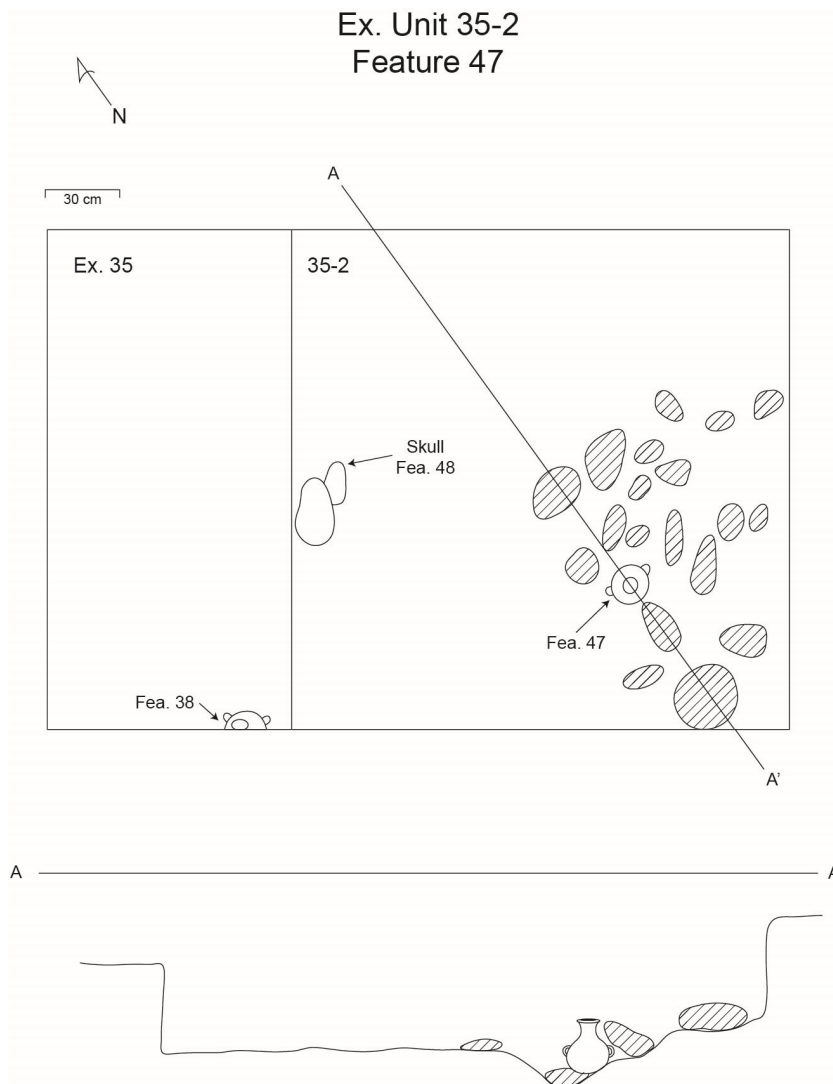
Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6831); H: 25.9 cm, D: 17.7 cm, W.Th: 0.66 cm. Bag #1992.

Comments: In a high neck 3 strap handled jar, located very near the surface in a mound of limestone cobbles (see graph profiles). According to Lee's final report a small drilled "kill" hole (D-0.35 cm) was located in the upper limit of zone 3 decoration.



Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar from Feature 35-47 (MRE-6831).



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 35-47 in Excavation Unit 35.

Feature 39-49 (5/10/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

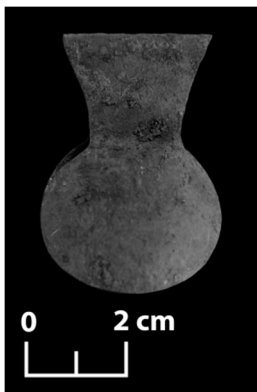
Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, 0.25-0.50 meters below the surface

Stratification and Relationship: Located approximately 5 cm southwest of Feature 51 and the lower part of the jar is approximately 13 cm higher than Feature 51

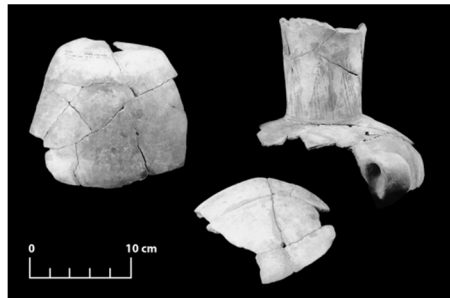
Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (strap handles missing) (MRE-9827); H: 28+ cm, D: 23 cm, W.Th: 0.6 cm, Bag # 2009.
2. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-9828); H: 28.8 cm, D: 21+ cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm.
3. Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2019.
4. Copper tweezers (MRE-6167); L: 5.45 cm, W: 3.62 cm, Th: 0.1 cm, Wt: 8 grs, Bag #2018.

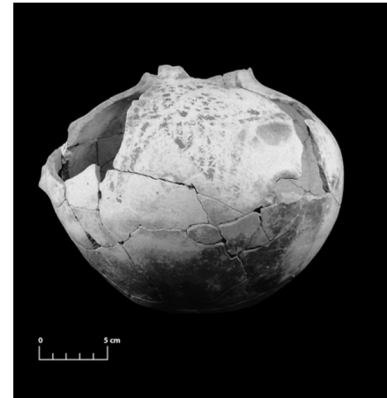
Comments: Item 2 listed as a copper object on feature record, instead item 4 on Lee's final report. Item 2 water jar not listed on feature record. The condition of the bones is not described.



A



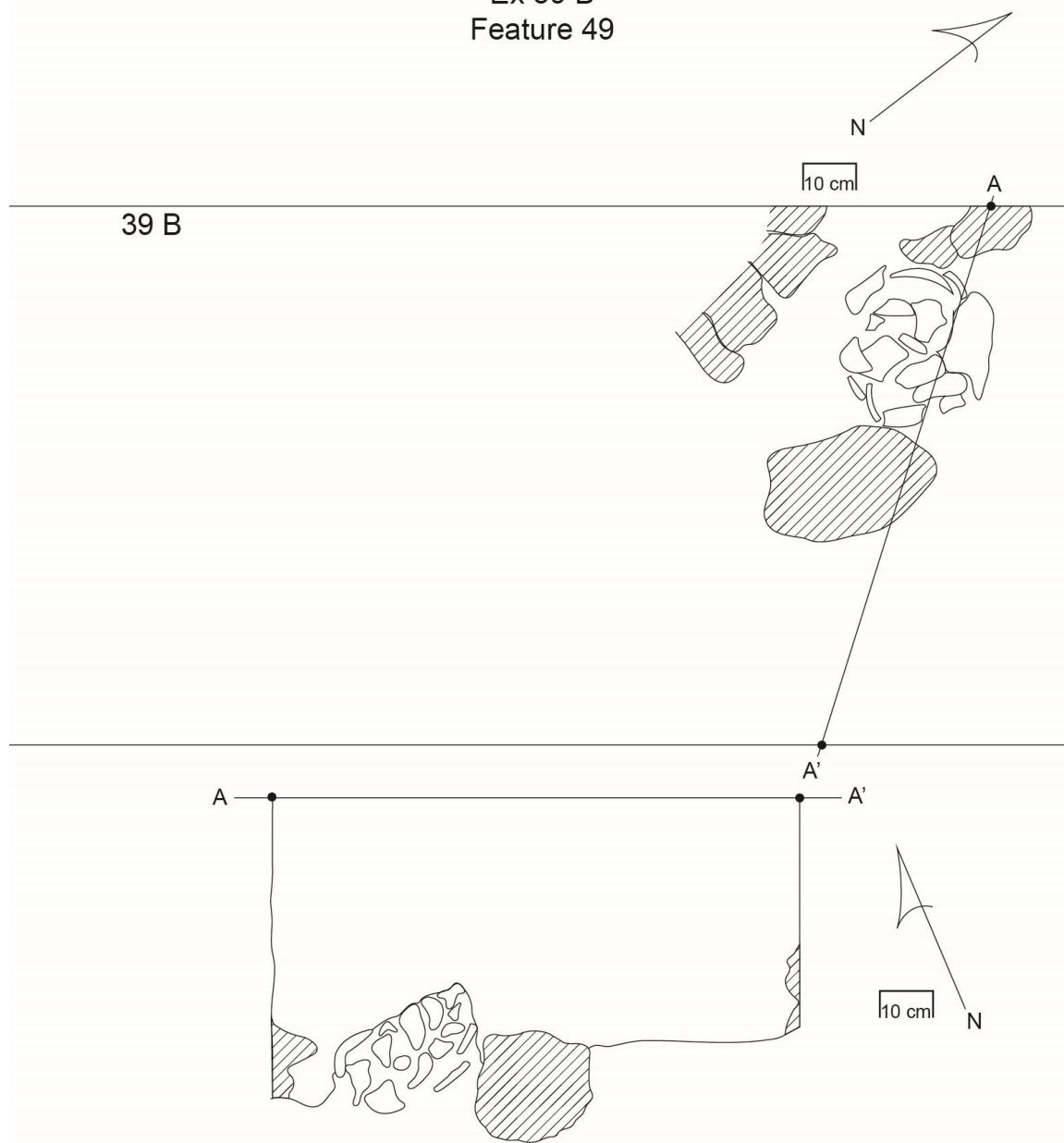
B



C

Ceramic vessels from Feature 39-49. A. Copper tweezers. B. Fragmented Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-9828). C. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-9827).

Ex 39 B
Feature 49



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 39-49.

Feature 39-51 (5/11/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

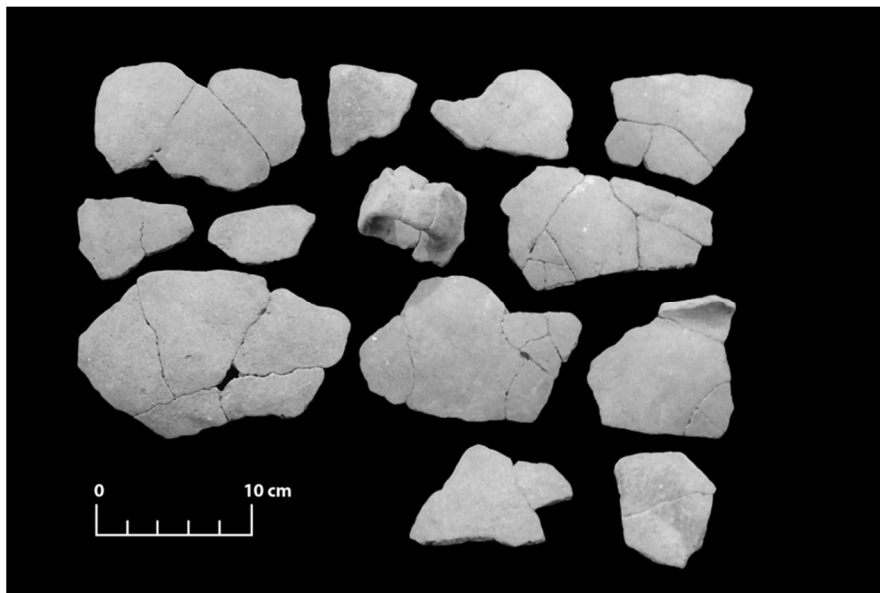
Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, 10 cm from NW back of Ex. Unit 39, and lying half in Section B and half in Section C

Stratification and Relationships: Located 5 cm NE of Feature 49 bottom of jar is 13 cm lower than bottom of Feature 49

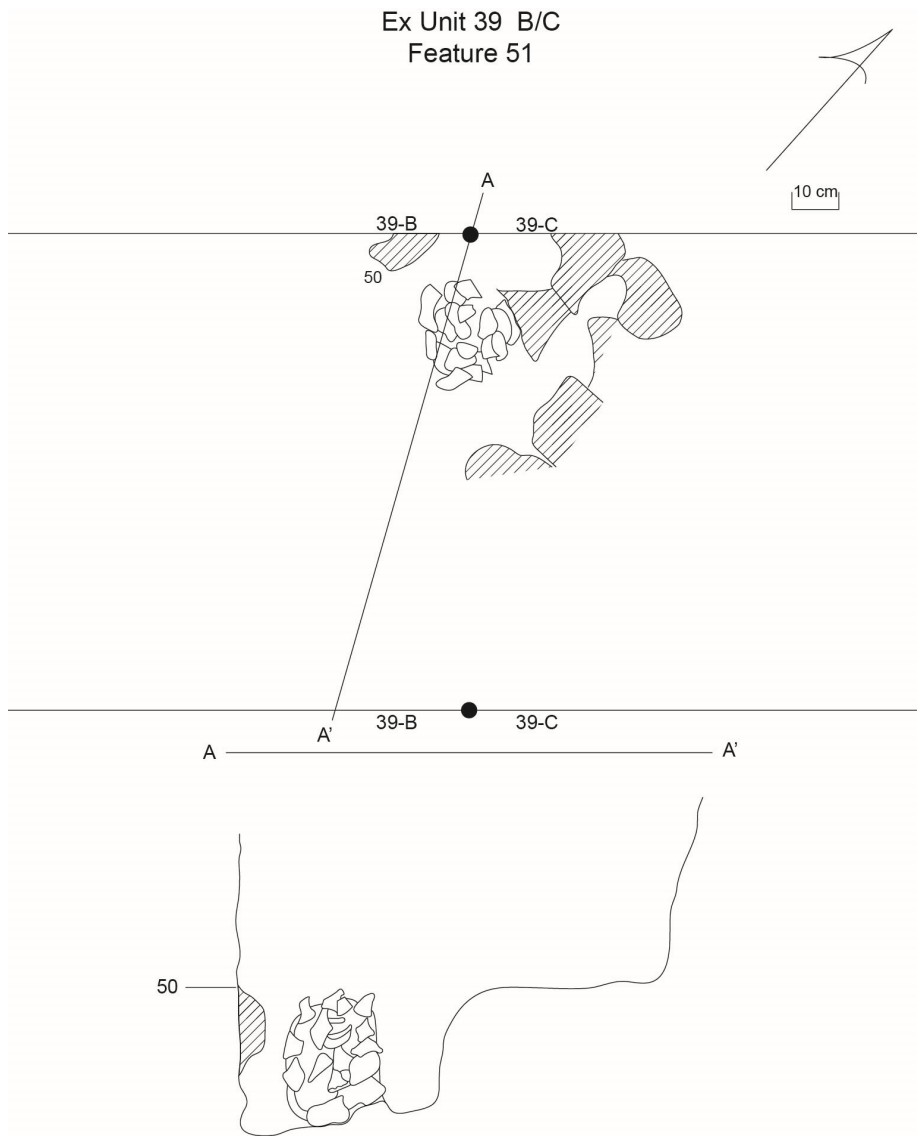
Contents:

1. Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety three loop-handle water jar, not restorable (MRE-9834); H: 30+ cm, D: 32 cm, W.Th: 0.5 cm, Bag # 2035.
2. Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2036.

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described.



Fragmented Salsahuitz Black-brown: Salsahuitz Variety three loop handle water jar from Feature 39-51.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 39-51 in Excavation Unit 39.

Feature 39-52 (5/11/1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, S 1/4 Section b

Matrix: Mound fill; predominately limestone with some xac and a little light brown soil in between

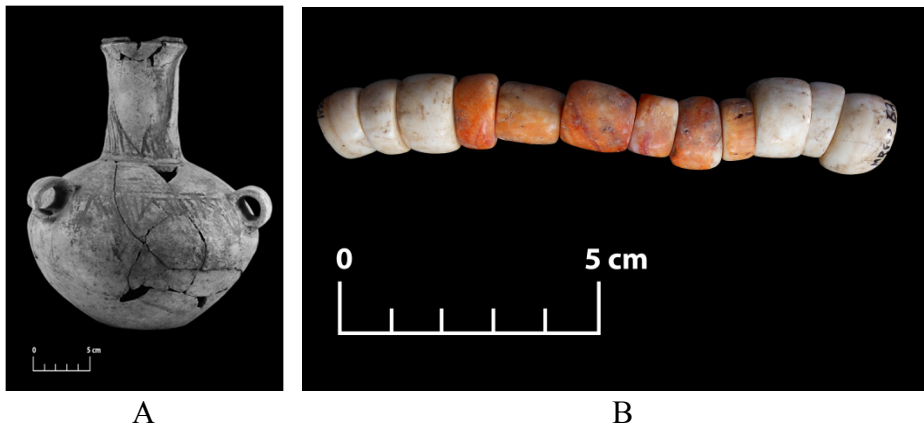
Stratification and Relationships: Vessel is stratigraphically below Feature 46, 49, 50, and 51

Contents:

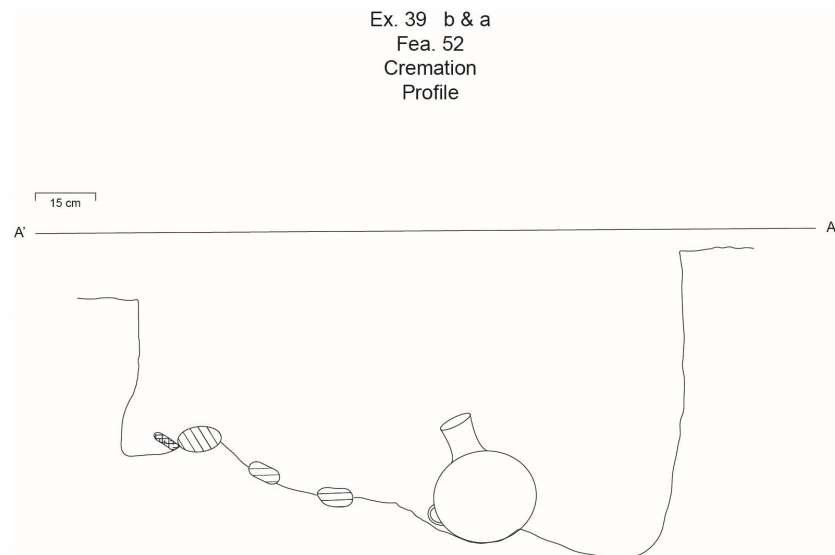
1. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar (MRE-6838);

H: 33.1 cm, D: 22.2 cm, W.Th: 0.35 cm, Bag # 2037. **2.** Human bones (state of preservation not described) (MRE-?); Bag # 2038. **3.** Large disk stone beads (12) (MRE-6234); D-1.45-1.1 cm, Th-1.25-0.4 cm, Bag # 2047. **4.** Sherd disk pot lid of Tulumichim Plain:Tulumichim Variety comal bottom (MRE-6883-1); D: 9.6 cm, Th: 0.8 cm.

Comments: Human remains were found with Feature 53, where the individual is on its side facing east with head resting on top of body of the jar. Individual is curled up, resting on its side facing east. Burial is stratigraphically below Features 39-46, 39-49, 38-50, and 39-51. In his final report Lee described a small “kill” hole (D-0.6 cm) drilled through the vessel wall located about half-way between the upper edge of one handle and the neck of the vessel in zone 2 of the decoration. Item 4 is not on the feature record.



Artifacts from Feature 39-52. A. Xela Polychrome:Tante Variety three loop-handle water jar. B. Shell beads.



Profile drawing of Feature 39-52 in Excavation Unit 39.

Feature 35-63 (April or May 1978)

Type: Cremation burial

Location: Mound 49a, Excavation Unit 35, Section 2

Contents:

1. Xela Polychrome:Xela Variety three loop-handle jar (MRE-6817); H: 34.5 cm, D: 28 cm, W.Th: 0.9 cm.

Comments: No mention of a burial is found on this feature record, only listed Lee's final report.



Xela Polychrome:Xela Variety three loop-handle jar from Feature 35-63.

Unknown Time Period

Feature 25-14 (4/4/1978)

Type: Burial (simple)

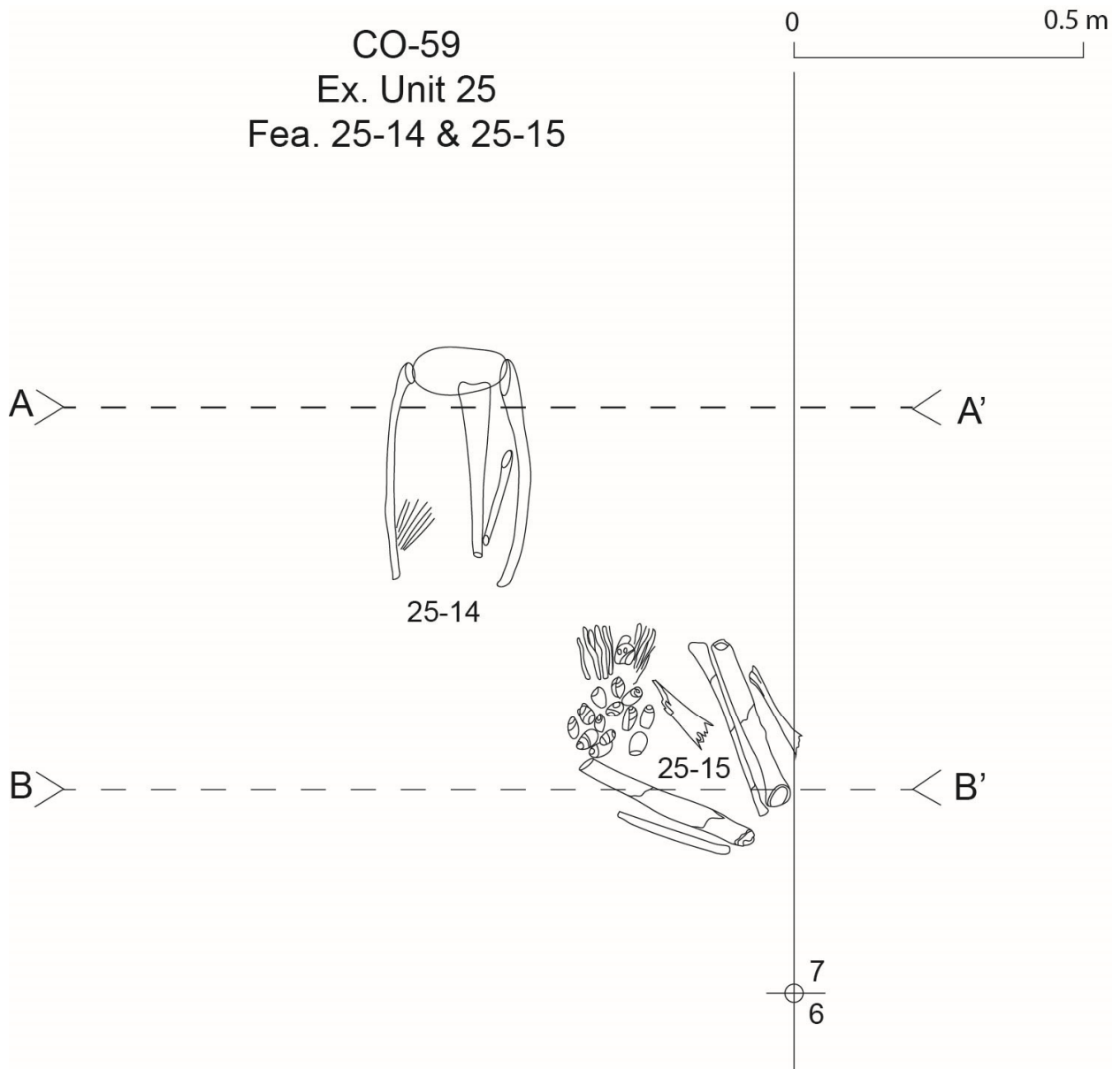
Phase: Unknown, due to lack of ceramics in burial

Location: Mound 38, Excavation Unit 25, exact location in excavation unit unknown

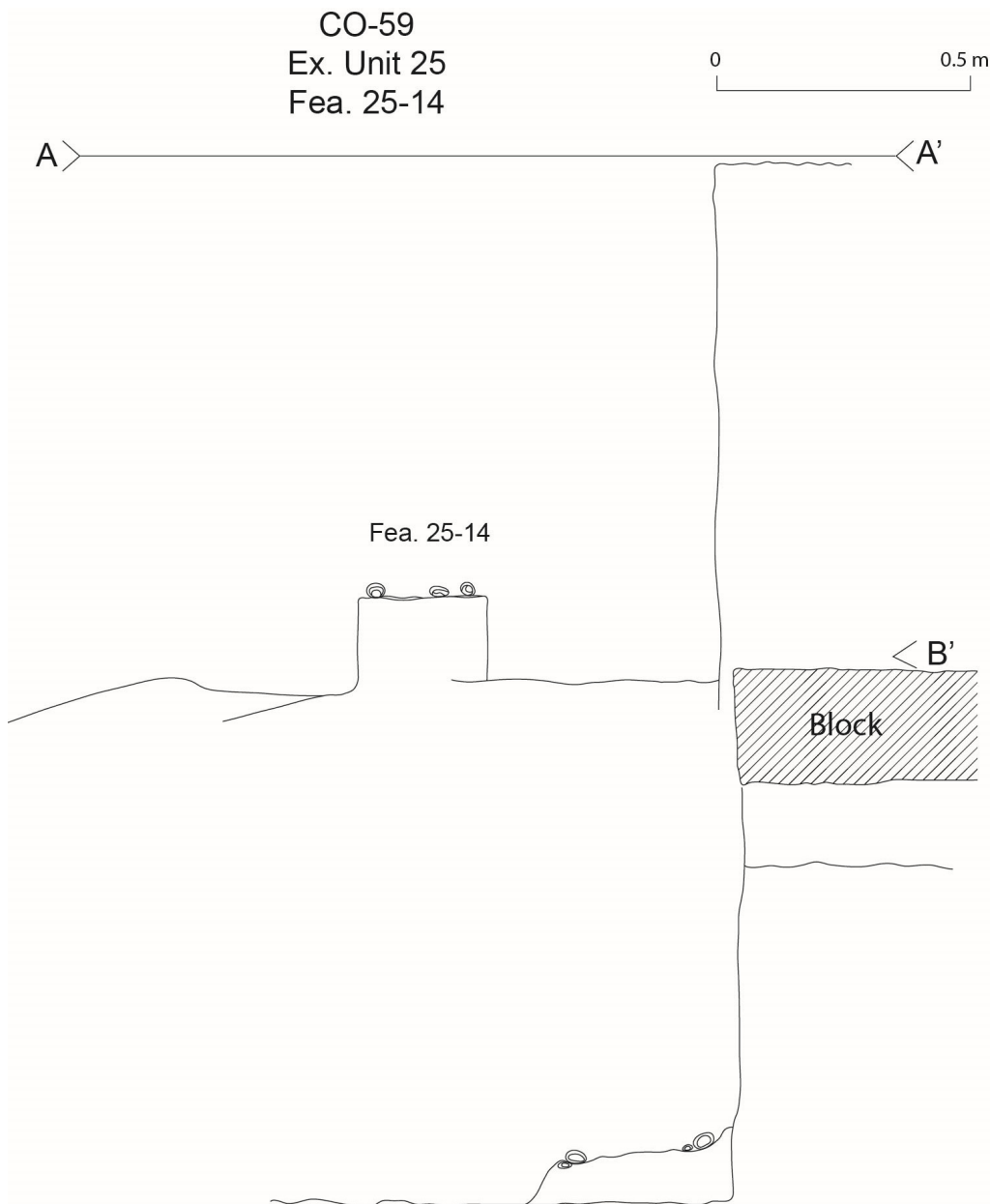
Contents:

1. Human bones (MRE-?).
2. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described. No feature record was found, no artifact photographs.



Plan drawing of Features 25-14 and 25-15.



Profile drawing of Feature 25-14 in Excavation Unit 25.

Feature 25-15 (4/4/1978)

Type: Unknown burial (possibly a simple burial)

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics

Location: Mound 38, Excavation Unit 25, exact location of excavation unit unknown

Contents:

1. Gastropod pierced back shell bead necklace (15) (MRE-6216); L: max-min 5.8-3.5 cm, W: 3.2-1.7 cm, W.Th: 0.3-0.1 cm.
2. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: See Feature 14 plan and profile drawings. The items are listed in opposite order on feature record. The condition of the bones is not described.



Gastropod pierced back shell bead necklace from Feature 25-15.

Feature 25-16 (4/4/1978)

Type: Burial (possibly a simple burial)

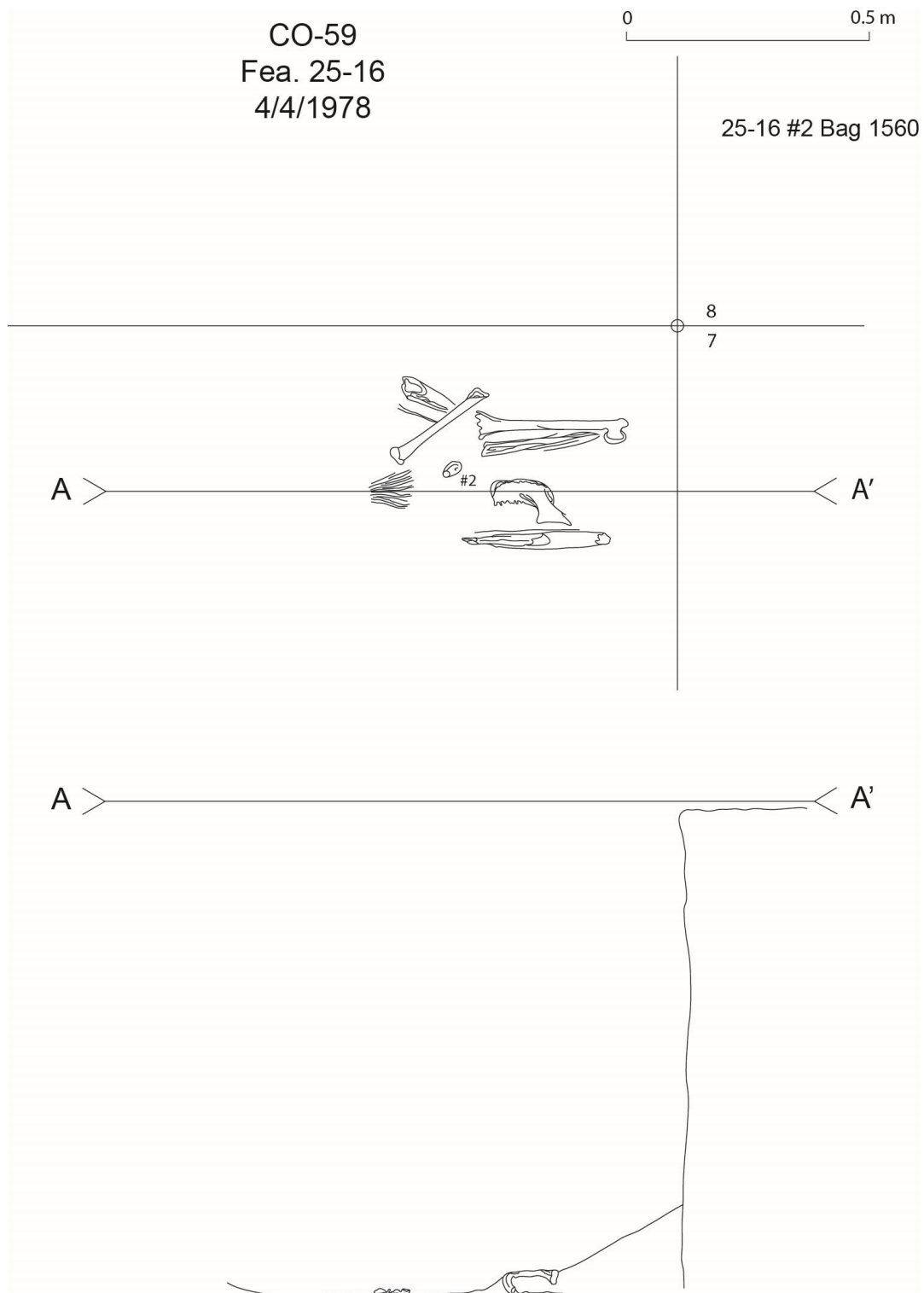
Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics

Location: Mound 38, Excavation unit 25, exact location in excavation unit is unknown

Contents:

1. Human bones (MRE-?).
2. Pottery bird whistle (MRE-?).

Comments: The condition of the bones is not described. No feature record was found, and no artifacts photographs.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 25-16 in Excavation Unit 25.

Feature 27-20 (4/7/1978)

Type: Double burial (simple?) or offering of one adult and one child

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics or other artifacts

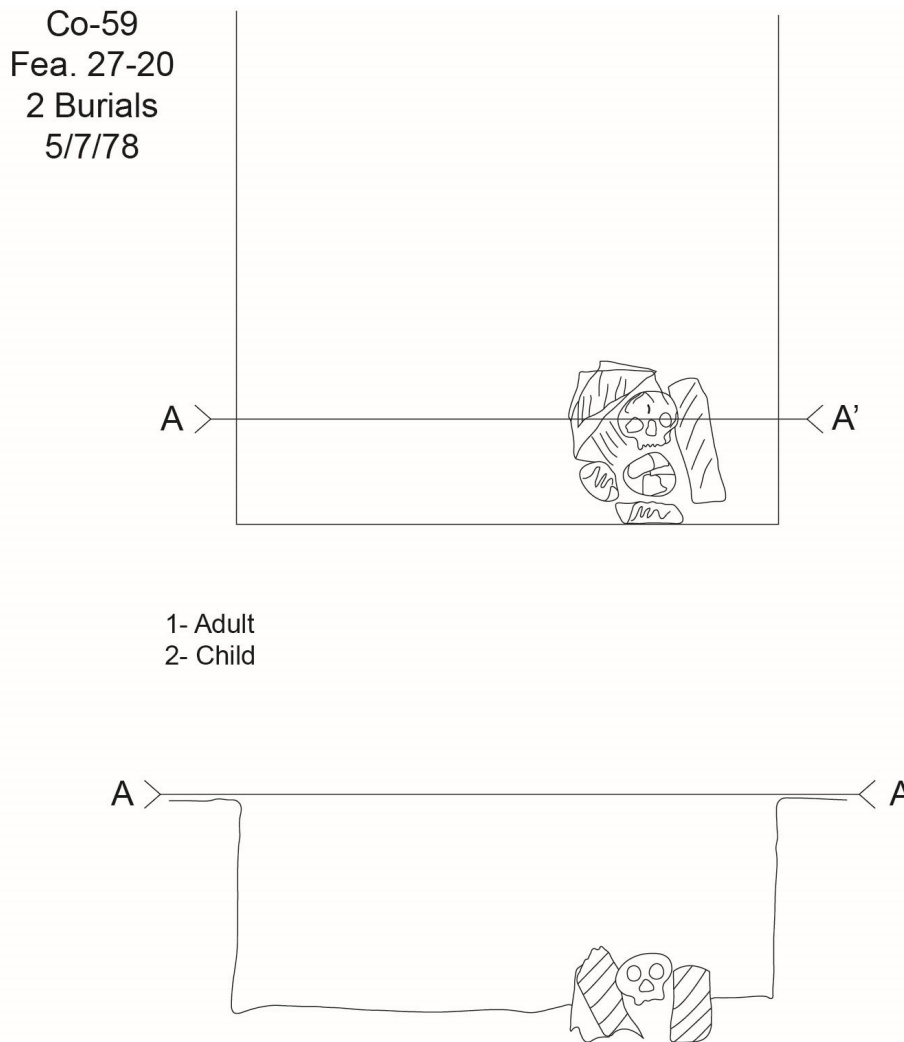
Location: Mound 42, Excavation Unit 27

Stratification and Relationships: Large xac rocks around the two burials

Contents:

1. Adult bones (MRE-?).
2. Child bones (MRE-?).
3. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: No artifacts were listed on the feature record. The condition of the bones is not described. No artifact photographs.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 27-20 in Excavation Unit 27

Feature 30-32 (4/21/1978)

Type: Burial (possibly a simple burial due to lack of presence of vessels or other distinguishing features, not specified)

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics. If related to Feature 30-31 then possibly from the Nichim phase, Postclassic

Location: Mound 34, Excavation Unit 30, exact location in excavation unit is unknown

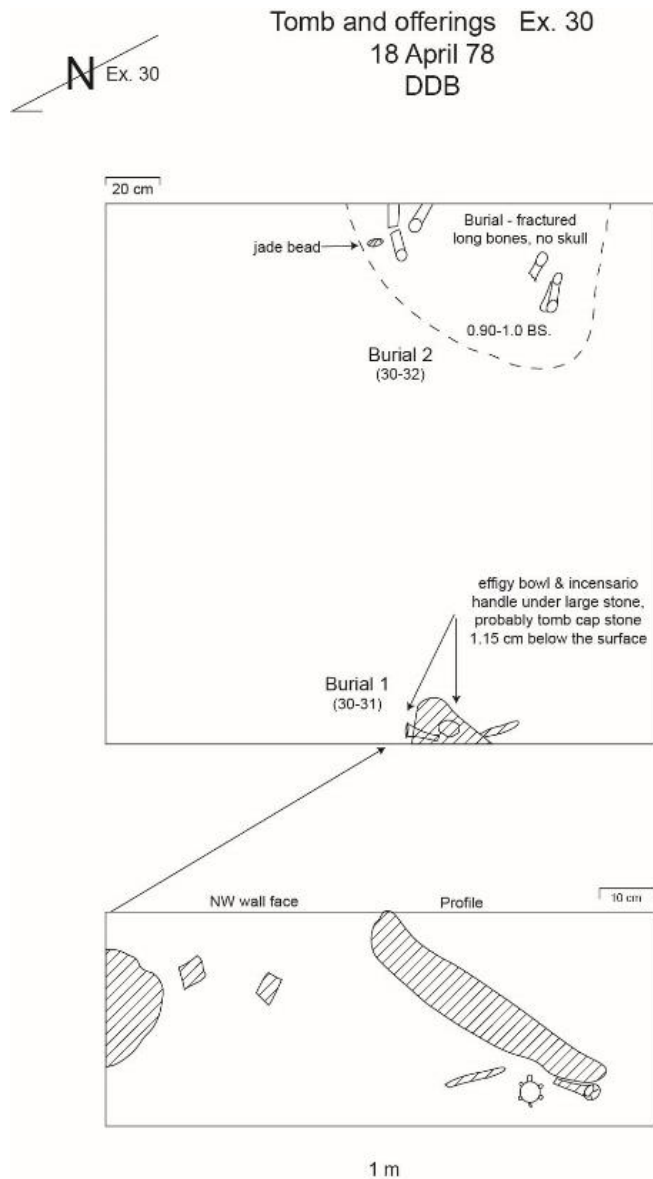
Contents:

1. Stone bead (MRE-6226); L-4.23 cm, D-1.47 cm, Th-0.92 cm.
2. Human bones (MRE-?).

Comments: See Feature 30-31 for plan and profile drawings. The condition of the bones is not described.



Stone bead from Feature 30-32 in Excavation Unit 30 (same bead but from different sides and angles).



Plan drawing of Feature 30-32 in Excavation Unit 30.

Feature 35-48 (5/10/1978)

Type: Burial (simple?)

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics

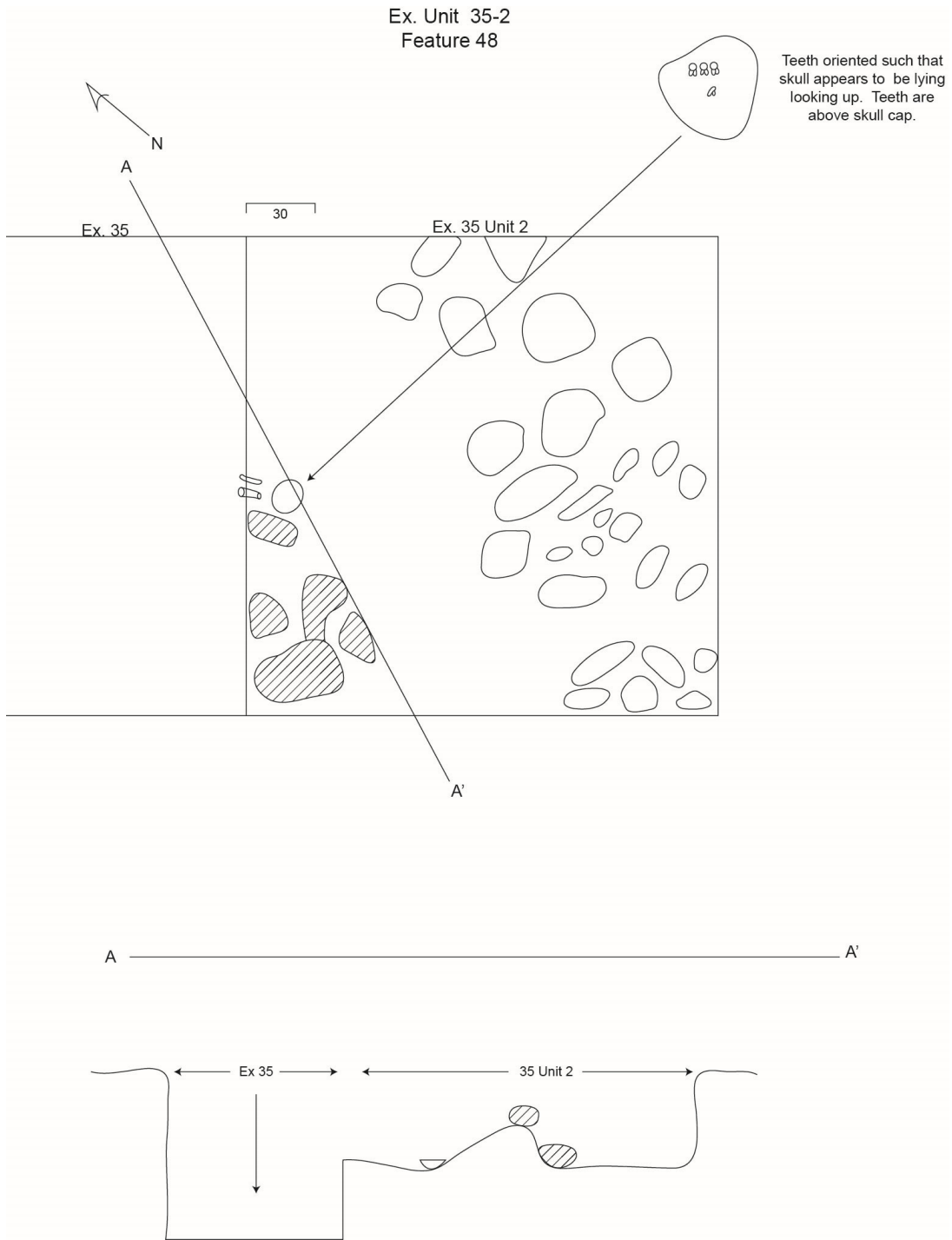
Location: Mound 49a, Excavation Unit 35

Stratification and Relationships: Same level as Feature 47. The skull is laying on the tip of the cobble limestone mound fill which served as the foundation of the Feature 47 cremation burial

Contents:

1. Skull cap and bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2005.

Comments: The burial consisted of a badly decayed skull below the flat limestone slab, as well as a few badly fractured long bones associated with the skull. No artifact photographs.



Plan and profile drawings of Feature 35-48 in Excavation Unit 35.

Feature 39-53 (5/11/1978)

Type: Burial (simple?)

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics

Location: Mound 16, Excavation Unit 39, faces east with the head resting on jar of Feature 52

Matrix: Mound fill

Stratification and Relationships: Head is resting on jar of Feature 52. Burial is stratigraphically below Features 46, 49, 50, 51, and 52

Contents:

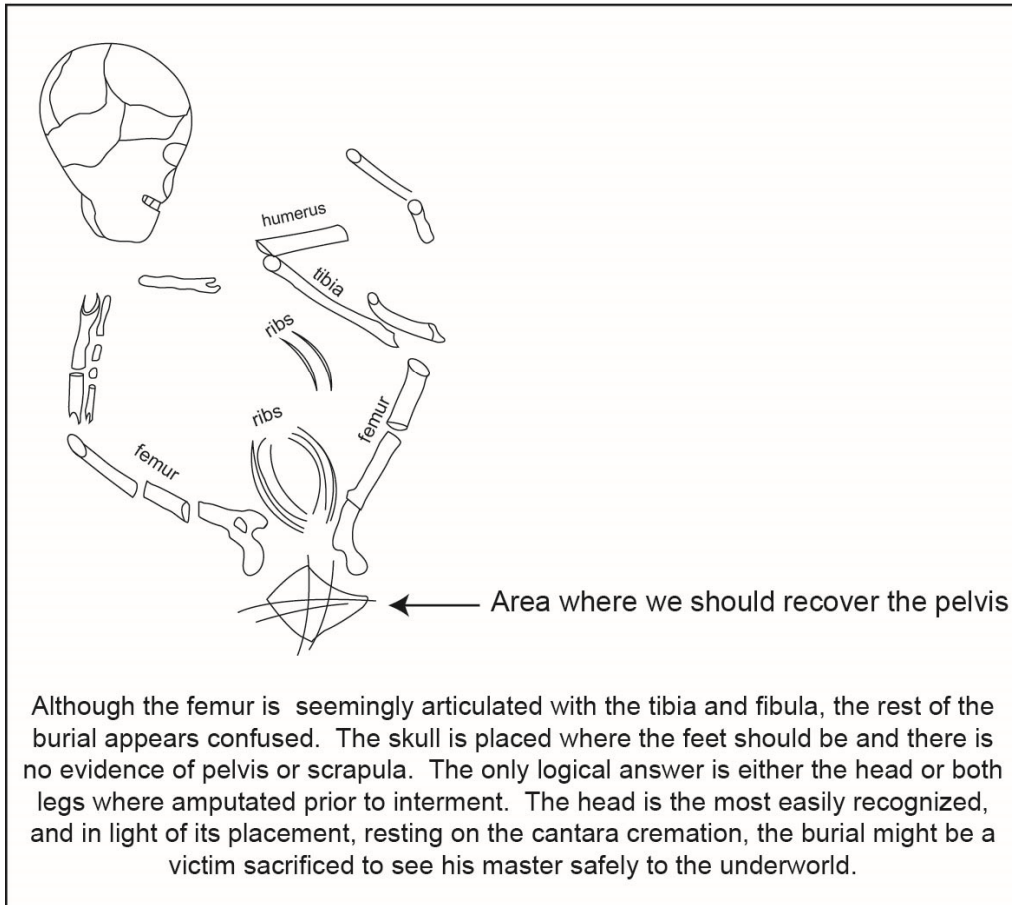
1. Carbon (MRE-?). **2.** Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2049. **3.** Disk-shaped amber pendant (MRE-6277-1); D: 1.9 cm, Th: 0.7 cm, Bag #2114.

Comments: The remains are mostly disarticulated. The femur is articulated with the tibia and fibula, but the head is resting at the feet. It is possibly a burial representing a vassal sacrifice to assist the individual in one of the nearby jar cremation in the afterlife. Item 1 is not on feature record. The condition of the bones is not described beyond their placement.



Field photo of Feature 39-53 in Excavation Unit 39.

Ex. Unit 39
Feature 39-53



Plan drawing of Feature 39-53 in Excavation Unit 39.



Amber pendant from Feature 39-53 (MRE-6277-1).

Type: Possible simple burial

Phase: Unknown due to lack of ceramics

Location: Mound 10, excavation unit 40

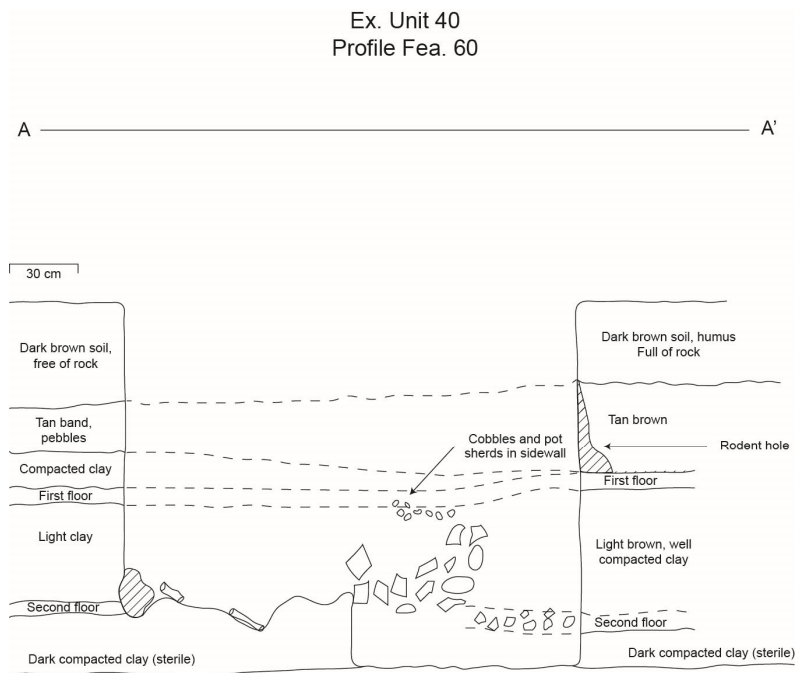
Depth: 1.20 m below the surface and 2.00 m below the datum (I'm confused here, did Bryant set his own datum? According to Lee, no datum was ever placed at the site during either season (personal communication))

Stratification and Relationships: Contemporary with the second floor. It is lying on the surface of the second floor within a band of angular pebbles and small cobbles

Contents:

1. Human bones (MRE-?); Bag # 2244.
2. C-14 sample (MRE-?); Bag # 2243
3. Stone (Mano?) (MRE-?); Bag # 2245.

Comments: The bones are jumbled and sticking up at odd angles as if it was simply dumped in the pit. It might mean it was a secondary burial or that the remains were dumped. The condition of the bones is not described. There is record of what happened with the C-14 sample. No artifact photographs.

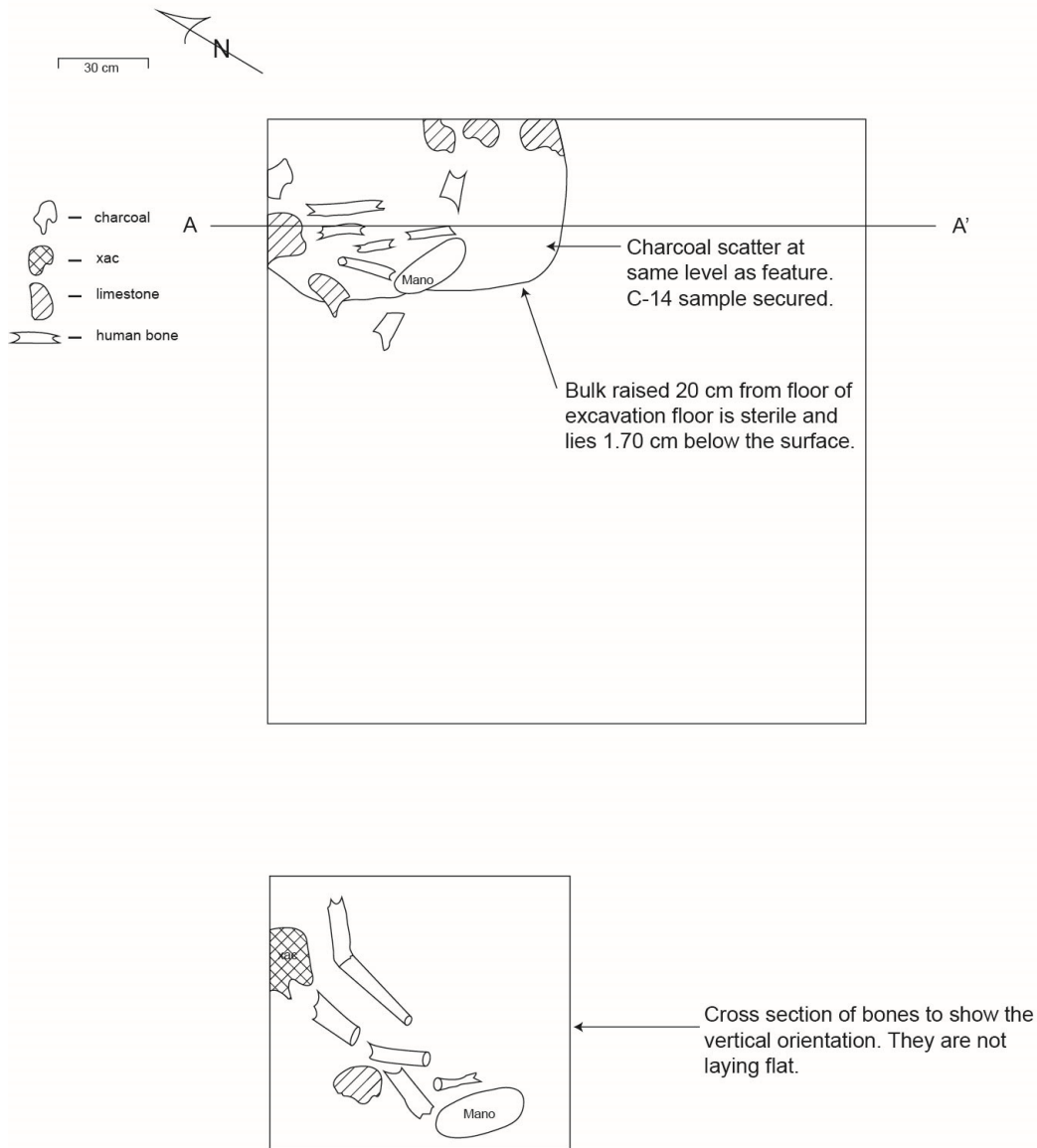


Both the first and second floor were defined by extremely concentrated bands of pot sherds exposed lying flat. Both floors are around 10 cm thick. Feature 60 is lying just below the second floor.

The second floor is characterized by a band of angular cobbles mixed with many pot sherds in the side wall.

Profile drawing of Feature 40-60 in Excavation Unit 40.

Ex 40- Fea. 60- Burial- thought to be secondary or very disturbed



Plan drawing of Feature 40-60 in Excavation Unit 40.