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Evaluation of an Early Classic Round Structure at Santa Rita Corozal, Belize

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EVALUATION OF AN EARLY CLASSIC ROUND STRUCTURE AT SANTA RITA
COROZAL, BELIZE

by

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B.A. Rollins College, 2011

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
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ABSTRACT

Round structures in the Maya area are an architectural form that is not well understood, in part due to the relatively few examples recovered through archaeological excavations. The site of Santa Rita Corozal, Belize offers one of the few examples of an Early Classic Period round structure (Structure 135) in the Maya region, one that is distinctive in its timing and architectural form. This thesis seeks to compare Structure 135 with the patterns of round structures identified in the Preclassic and Terminal/early Postclassic Periods, when there are comparatively more examples and to pinpoint the multiple construction periods evidenced in the excavations to define the changes to the structure over time. Based on this research, Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal does not clearly conform to earlier or later patterns of round structures in the Maya region and its use before abandonment and eventual transformation to a rectilinear shape was shorter than previously thought. This research also offers insights into the need for the contextual analysis of ceramics, and the difficulties of assuming context through the use of construction fill, even with a clear cultural formation process.

For Dad and Omi.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Stone temples, jutting from the grips of the thick jungle captured the imaginations of early researchers, explorers, and the public. The Spanish in the sixteenth century were even captivated by the wealth of stone architecture saying, “For it is true that in its buildings and the multitude of them it is the most remarkable of all things which up to this day have been discovered in the Indies; for they are so many in number and so many are the parts of the country where they are found, and so well built are they of cut stone in their fashion, that it fills one with astonishment” (Tozzer 1941: 171–172). The first impression of the ancient Maya on much of the contemporary world was one of awe-inspiring structures somehow lost to the jungle. The desire to understand who could have made these structures, and how, quickly ensnared early explorers and archaeologists, who began documenting (Stephens 1969 [1841] and Catherwood) and excavating large Maya centers. This early focus on monumental architecture was somewhat sensational, but not entirely misguided. While the large buildings and their surrounding areas and monuments still present a major focus of research, more recent work has focused increasingly on the 'unseen' architecture of the Maya (e.g. D. Chase 1990). This is in no small part due to the fact that stone architecture provides well-preserved and purposefully constructed areas to study.

The site of Santa Rita Corozal, Belize offers a multitude of stone constructed architecture and has provided valuable information to the understanding of the Postclassic Period Maya people and their culture. Santa Rita Corozal is best known for its Postclassic florescence as the regional capital for the Chetumal Bay area (D. Chase 1988:65-68, 1990: 199). However, its history reaches back to the Early Preclassic era (1200-900 B.C.E.) with continuous occupation evidence into the present. Early excavations were conducted by Thomas Gann, Ernestine Green, Norman Hammond, and Raymond Sidrys; Diane Z. Chase and Arlen F. Chase undertook

excavations and laboratory work from 1979-1985 as part of the Corozal Postclassic Project and their students continue to examine the collections at the University of Central Florida. The Corozal Postclassic Project was the most intensive investigation at the site to date and much of the knowledge of the early prehistory of the site is due to these excavations. This thesis will focus on one structure from Santa Rita Corozal, Structure 135, and its unique qualities and transformation over time. Themes of architecture and transformation will recur throughout this work and a knowledge of these ideas and how they are represented in the Maya area is crucial.

Architecture and its Meaning to the Ancient Maya

Architecture and the built environment have consistently been an important focus of Maya archaeology because they frequently provide a context within which to understand other artifacts (Webster 1998:13; e.g. Houston 1998; D. Chase and A. Chase 1998). Architecture provides a means to examine the interaction of humans with their environment, and how this relationship is dynamic; humans change their built environment, and these changes then affect the ways humans interact with it and one another (Webster 1998:17; Olick and Robbins 1998:108).

Today, Maya archaeology dealing with architecture ranges from site-peripheral vacant terrain excavation to the phenomenology of space and place. Regardless, it is understood that architecture, whether great or small, requiring incredible effort or very little, is an important part of understanding the ancient Maya and how they created, utilized, and reacted to their built environment. Webster (1998: 17) notes, "We assume that the built environment reflects ancient patterns of behavior, organization, and meaning in coherent ways, and we try to use it to

reconstruct these features of past societies.” Therefore, buildings are manifestations of ideas that are created, reinforced, and perpetuated through use, and are therefore important markers of these ideas for the archeologist (Norberg-Schulz 1984, Aimers et al. 2000).

The study of architectural transformation over time has occurred as archaeologists more frequently uncover not only deeper levels of monumental architecture, but also excavate in vacant terrain and otherwise previously disregarded areas (see D. Chase 1982 for a relevant example). These inquiries allow us to identify and describe patterns over time and space. Webster (1998) and others have noted the plasticity of Maya architecture and their willingness to modify, and even destroy, structures (McAnany 1998; Scarborough 1991: 129; Willey et al. 1965: 48). However, while the architecture of a place may be transformed over time, the actual place has great significance to the Maya. Such efforts in razing and rebuilding on a specific location, as well as the interments and caches in many buildings over long periods of time, indicates that location is imbued with great cultural significance and social memory (McAnany 1998; see also Aimers et al. 2000; D. Chase and A. Chase 1998).

Architecture is only part of the archaeological story of the Maya and often provides the context within which we study artifacts. Arlen and Diane Chase have long argued the benefits of using primary, as opposed to secondary, context deposits to better understand both architectural chronology as well as other cultural patterns indicated by caching or burial events, such as changing views of ritualized space (e.g. D. Chase and A. Chase 1998; see also A. Chase 1994; A. Chase and D. Chase 1987a; A. Chase and D. Chase 1987b; D. Chase and A. Chase 2004; A. Chase and D. Chase 2013).

Contextual Analysis of Ceramics

A tangential and brief discussion of ceramic analysis is afforded by the research completed for this thesis. While this information is not directly relevant to the understanding of round structures, it is relevant to the ongoing discussion of ceramic analysis in the Maya region. Therefore, a brief introduction to ceramic analysis in the Maya region is presented here and will be discussed further later.

Archaeological ceramics are of great interest to Maya researchers because their creation is a result of a series of human decisions (see Rice 1987[2005]; Orton and Hughes Gifford 1976:3), and they are usually the most prevalent artifact found at Maya sites (A. Chase 1994: 158). These factors have spurred archaeologists to give great weight to the study of ceramics, a subject that has developed significantly over the past few decades (see discussions in Shepard 1965, Orton and Hughes 2013[1993]: 3-22, Rice 2005[1987], 1996a, and 1996b). Despite the wide range of questions being asked with ceramic data, and the advances in techniques used to test them, the basic system used to describe and analyze sherds, type: variety-mode, is still a topic of contention.

Type-variety (Smith et al. 1960; Gifford 1960; Gifford 1976) is the classification system that groups independent and important attributes of pots, as identified through sherds, into a hierarchical taxonomic system, designed to help with intersite comparison of ceramic assemblages and chronological considerations on a site and regional scale (Gifford 1976; Aimers 2013: 235-236; Smith 1955). Basically, it uses combinations of surface treatments and sometimes form to identify and name ceramics, and these identities are used to imply meaningful decisions made by the Maya about which combinations to use. Many researchers have argued for

the efficacy of this method of analysis (Gifford 1976; Ball 1979; Sabloff 1975; and Sabloff and Smith 1969); however, others have argued with some of its basic tenets, and disagree that the results are useful in meaningful discussions (Smith 1979; Wright 1969). The disagreement over the basic function and proper use of type: variety-mode analysis discussed by Smith (1979) and responded to by Ball (1979) is a good example of the discussions that continue today (see Aimers edited volume 2013 for a discussion of current topics concerning type: variety-mode).

One factor often ignored in type: variety-mode is that of context. Analyses are based on collections of ceramics taken as a whole, and all ceramics within that collection are examined with equal analytical weight. Often stratigraphic level is the extent of contextualization, with little weight given to primary, compared to secondary, contexts. However, there is a clear cognitive break between sherds as parts of cached or purposefully placed vessels in primary contexts and sherds used as construction material in secondary contexts which are “divorced from their original cultural milieu” (D. Chase and A. Chase 2013: 49). Secondary deposits of sherds, which are most commonly seen in construction fill in Maya buildings are composed of ceramics that were discarded initially, then recollected and used for construction; these deposits often contain a wide assortment of ceramic dates and types (A. Chase and D. Chase 2013: 49).

Contextual analysis is an attempt to confront these issues of type: variety-mode by creating ceramic subcomplexes, which are simply “a culturally meaningful component of ceramic complexes (Willey et al. 1967)—as originally suggested by Joseph Ball (1977a) and subsequently modified by ourselves (A. Chase and D. Chase 1987a)” (A. Chase and D. Chase 2013: 47). Contextual analysis uses cultural context as its basis, thus adding analytical value to a cultural decision made by the Maya (e.g. to place a specific pot in a primary context, especially a burial or cache).

This research adds to the discussion of type: variety-mode analysis. Specifically by asking if reconstructable sherds indicate primary context deposits, knowledge that may be useful for future research of collections analyzed using type: variety-mode and not focused initially on context.

Problem

Round structures are a poorly understood architectural form, especially in the Early Classic Period; Santa Rita Corozal offers an example of this form and time period thus allowing for a discussion of diachronic and synchronic patterns both within this structure and in the Maya region in general. To address this problem, this thesis specifically seeks to: 1) determine where this structure fits among the wider patterns of round structures from the Maya region through time, 2) identify how it compares specifically with another Early Classic round structure from Barton Ramie, Belize (Structure F from BR-1), and 3) provide a detailed identification of the phases of construction of Structure 135 to allow for a re-evaluation of the construction sequence and primary context ceramics (adding to previous work by the excavators, Diane and Arlen Chase) as well as secondary context ceramics, to better define the use of this structure.

These problems are addressed with an analysis of evidence from the excavations at Santa Rita Corozal during the Corozal Postclassic Project, excavated by Diane Chase (1982) from 1979 to 1985 for her dissertation work. The notes of the archaeologists and many of the artifacts they found and subsequently described (and are now archived) are located in the University of Central Florida Archaeology Lab. These, subsequent publications about the site, and the Chases' findings and interpretations make up the foundation for this research.

I argue that Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal does not conform to earlier or later patterns of round structures in the Maya area, it differs significantly from another Early Classic round structure, and the use-life of the round structure was shorter and there were more construction events at that place than previously thought.

CHAPTER TWO: BACKGROUND

Round Structures of the Maya Area: Patterns and Change Over Time

Pollock (1936) was the first author to discuss directly the multitude of round structures in "Middle America." He discussed much more than just the Maya area; however, his work helped to define the round structure as being rare at sites while common enough to argue for some overarching symbolisms. While Pollock's main argument focused on the intrusive Postclassic cult of Quetzalcoatl, this argument was based largely on the misinformed idea at the time that Chichen Itza was fluorescent in the Postclassic Period (see Andrews et al. 2003). Pollock did extensive work to document and analyze known round structures. However, since most archaeological investigations of the time were relatively shallow (literally speaking), much of the information available to early researchers was about later Maya occupations. It follows, then, that our knowledge of round structures has increased dramatically since Pollock's time.

Unfortunately, even with a growing knowledge of the existence of round structures, archaeologists still know very little about the function of these buildings and the role they played in the culture at large. This problem is specifically prominent in the Classic Period, as there are drastically fewer round structures from this time period from which to identify patterns. An outline of the knowledge of round structures through time follows, to better appropriately define what is, and is not, known about them.

Preclassic

Aimers and colleagues (2000) undertake the most detailed discussion of Preclassic round structures. Of the 55 Preclassic round structures identified by the author, the highest number are from their work (see APPENDIX A: PRECLASSIC ROUND STRUCTURES IN THE MAYA REGION). The authors focus on four specific examples from Cahal Pech, one (Structure B-4/7th) from the site core, one (Structure 2/2nd) from the peripheral Zotz Group, and the final two (Structure 14 and 15) from another peripheral group called the Tolok Group. The authors make the argument that these, and other round structures of the Preclassic Period, were related to ancestor worship and a belief system that lost favor in the Early Classic Period (Aimers et al. 2000: 82).

Structure B-4/7th is located in Plaza B of the site core “the largest, least enclosed plaza at the site, [which] most likely served as the main entrance to the site,” under multiple layers of other buildings which eventually created Structure B-4, a small pyramidal structure in the plaza (Aimers et al. 2000: 74). This early structure was built with cut limestone blocks which were mortared together on a plastered building platform (Aimers et al. 2000:74; Loten and Pendergast 1984:5).

Structure 2/2nd from the Zotz group is part of a peripheral clustered household group, the buildings all constructed on a raised platform (Aimers et al.: 74-75). This structure was approximately 1.2m tall and 3.6m in diameter, “constructed of cut limestone blocks set in mortar and stuccoed” with a thick plaster floor and an elliptical outset stairway (Aimers et al. 2000: 75). This platform was built over in the Early Classic Period with a rectilinear structure, and this building phase is associated with two burials into the front stair of the earlier round platform. Later in the Classic Period seven more burials were intruded into the round platform. In the Late

Classic Period another rectilinear platform was constructed, and its additional seven cist burials which intrude into the earlier constructions.

Finally, Structures 14 and 15 from the Tolok Group were both found underneath four successive plaster floors in this peripheral informal patio group. Structure 15 was the smaller and earlier of the two platforms, with a height of 40cm and a 5.5m diameter, and was constructed on a tamped floor during the late Middle Preclassic (650-550 B.C.E.) (Aimers et al. 2000: 76). Structure 15 is described as being “partially exposed” with an enclosed patio built off the northwest end (Aimers et al. 2000: 76). It was overlapped by Structure 14, which is 55cm tall and 9.5m in diameter, and has a lower subsidiary platform providing access from the south, which allows a further descriptor of “keyhole shape” (Aimers et al. 2000: 76; see also Glass 1965: 52). This platform is dated to the late Middle Preclassic Period (500-350 B.C.E.), and sees intrusive burials later in time; four from the Late Preclassic and five from the Late Classic (Aimers et al. 2000:77). After the late Middle Preclassic the group was “transformed with the burning and partial destruction of Structure 14 . . . [and] was replaced by three successive plaza floor surfaces” (Aimers et al. 2000: 78).

Aimers and colleagues emphasize the performative aspects of the round platforms at Cahal Pech, and argue that these platforms “foreshadowed the ceremonial function of the Classic Period temple as a place of communication between the Maya and their ancestors,” and that Preclassic round platforms in the Belize Valley were “used as stages for performance activities, related to their role as burial shrines” (2000: 82-83).

An additional argument is made by Hendon (1999), who also focuses on the performative aspects of Preclassic round platforms. She looks closely at Structures E, F, and G from the site of Uaxactun, Guatemala, which are early architecture in the E Group at the site. Structures E and F

are both about 30cm high and 5 to 6m in diameter; each has a connected rectangular addition, which gives them a “keyhole” shape, with no superstructure and a stucco coating. Structure G consists of two round platforms connected by a straight platform, giving it a dumbbell shape. (Hendon 1999:105; O. Ricketson 1937: 114-117). Hendon notes the increasing delineation of round structures over time, at Uaxactun, the three structures examined are eventually surrounded by a low retaining wall. She argues the importance to group identity is reflected in these structures and states "these distinctive forms of architecture developed as part of the domestic built environment, providing a way for households to differentiate themselves, as a group, from other households" (Hendon 2000: 300; Hendon 1999:114). Eventually, this space becomes increasingly public (1999: 116-117) and is eventually built over with an entirely public space. In sum, Hendon argues, the early round structures are associated with residential groups, and see increased delineation from these groups over time as they become more public and are finally built over with completely public space (in this case, the E Group configuration at Uaxactun).

Both researchers argue for the Preclassic round structure as an important early form of permanent construction at Maya sites. The Preclassic has a trend of early occupational areas being covered by platforms later in the period, showing that transformative trends in the Maya area reach as far back as permanent architecture (Powis 1993; Hendon 1999: 110; Wilk and Wilhite 1991: 126). A commonality in understanding Preclassic round structures is their focus on place, and the importance of using one specific place over time; as evidenced in the reuse of either the same structure or platform (Aimers et al. 2000: 75-76) or the building of new structures which cover the old, but take up the same place (Aimers et al.: 74, 78; Hendon 1999, 2000). In summation, the trend of Preclassic round structures includes low constructed platforms, approximately 3-6m in diameter and usually with no superstructure. These structures sometimes

have associated or intrusive burials, however this is not always the case (as with the Uaxactun examples). These are the features that can be used to compare Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal with Preclassic trends.

Classic Period

The data from the Classic Period show a marked decline in the number of excavated round structures. Of the 89 round structures mentioned in publications (see APPENDIX B: ALL ROUND STRUCTURES, only four are documented from the Classic Period (See Table 1). This dearth of information is precisely why work, like that undertaken in this thesis, is important to understanding round architecture in this time period.

Table 1: Classic Period Round Structures of the Maya Area

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period of Round Structure |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Barton Ramie | Willey et al. 1965: 36-90 | Structure F | Early Classic |
| Puerto Rico, Campeche | Andrews IV 1968; Kowalski et al. 1993 | round str. | Late Classic |
| Rio Azul | Aimers et al. 2000, Hendon 2000, 1989 | Str. 1 | Early Classic |
| Santa Rita Corozal | Chase & Chase 1988 | Str. 135 | Early Classic |

Terminal/Early Postclassic

Round structures in the Maya area during the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic Periods are considered to be intrusive from central Mexico and comparatively more examples of round structures exist than in the Classic Period (13 recorded here, see Table 2) (Andrews IV 1965; D.

Chase 1982: 485; Kowalski et al. 1993; Harrison-Buck 2012; Pollock 1936; Tozzer 1957). In the Maya area, this outside influence is seen at sites such as Seibal, Uxmal, Chichen Itza, Obispo, Oshon, Pechtun Ha, Nohmul (D. Chase and A. Chase 1982: 606-607; Harrison-Buck 2012) (See Table 2). Many of these structures are tied to an influential belief system related to the cult of Quetzalcoatl, which is demonstrated by the similarities in architecture and iconography in the Maya region (Harrison-Buck 2012; Harrison-Buck and McAnany 2013; Ringle and Bey 2009; Ringle et al. 1998). Another argument for Terminal/early Post Classic round structures is one of celestial observations based on alignments with important celestial events throughout the year (Aveni 1980; although see Harrison-Bucks argument against this 2012: 74). Both of these arguments differ from the use and meaning associated with the Preclassic round structures, and demonstrate that the two forms, while similar in form, are different in function and meaning.

Harrison-Buck (2012) identifies three main architectural types seen in the Terminal Classic Period. One of which consists of a non-plastered round platform, the second of a short-walled building with perishable superstructure and plinth that appears as a step-like feature around the circumference; the third construction type is created by filling in a second-type-structure and building a short-walled building with perishable superstructure built over top (Harrison-Buck 2012: 69-70). Therefore, Terminal/early Postclassic round structures are usually raised between 1- 4 meters, and often function alone in their architectural group— indicated by their enclosed construction and location (Kowalski et al. 1993: 4 for Uxmal example; Harrison-Buck 2012 for general discussion; Chase and Chase 1982: 605 for Chichen Itza, Seibal, and Nohmul examples).

Table 2: Terminal and Early Postclassic Round Structures of the Maya Area

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period |
|--------------|---|----------------|------------------------------|
| Chichen Itza | Chase&Chase 1982; Chase & Chase 2007 | Casa Redonda | Terminal Classic |
| Chichen Itza | Chase & Chase 1982 | 3C15 (early) | Terminal Classic |
| Coba | Kowalski et al. 1993; Benavides 1976; Navarette, Uribe, and Martinez 1979) | | Terminal Classic? |
| Mayapan | Chase & Chase 1982 | Q-84 | Late Postclassic |
| Mayapan | Chase & Chase 1982 | Q-59b | Late Postclassic |
| Nohmul | Chase & Chase 1982; D. Chase 1982; Chase & Chase 2007; Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 9 | Terminal Classic |
| Obispo | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 479–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| Oshon | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 402–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| Oxtankah | Kowalski et al. 1993; Ramirez Acevedo (1991) | | Terminal Classic? |
| Pechtun Ha | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 100–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| Seibal | Kowalski et al. 1993; D. Chase 1982: 123; Willey et. al 1975:36; Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. C-79 | Terminal Classic (879-930AD) |
| Uolmuul | Kowalski et al. 1993; Harrison 1979, 1984 | | Terminal Classic? |
| Uxmal | Kowalski 1990; Kowalski et al. 1993; Harrison-Buck 2012 | round str. | Terminal Classic |

Transformation

Transformation, is an important aspect of ancient Maya architecture, and it is important to keep in mind that Maya architecture was often changed over its uselife (Powis 1993; Hendon 1999: 110; Wilk and Wilhite 1991: 126). Operating under the assumption that human relationships with their built environment are interactive and dynamic (Weber 1998:17), we can look to early round structures as indicators of places where the Maya began purposefully

constructing public space, and use subsequent transformations as indicators of the changing relationship with their built environment.

Early round structures are usually argued to be important based on the continued use of the space over time and increasing delineation from the rest of the residential area, but this is shown differently depending on the example. At Uaxactun, Hendon (1999; 2000) argues that the importance of the round platforms (E, F, and G) is evidenced by their location near residential architecture, but with a clearly different function. The area of these round platforms is transformed over time by the addition of a low retaining wall, which emphasizes their importance and sets them further apart from the residential architecture (a transformation she also notes at Rio Azul and Cuello through the elevation of round platforms 1999:114; 1989; and which Aimers and colleagues (2000: 76) note in the Tolok Group of Cahal Pech). Eventually, the entire area is covered in a plaza floor to create the first formal iteration of what is known today as the Uaxactun E Group. These transformations of the same space over time show their continued importance even with the “shift in function from residential to public” construction (Hendon 1999:117).

The round platform from the Zotz Group at Cahal Pech discussed by Aimers et al. (2000) also shows a transformation of space, however in a much different way than the previous example. This platform was built over with a rectilinear structure in the Early Classic, however it retained its interpretation as part of the house group, and the area was never converted in the way Uaxactun’s E Group was (into a public space). Furthermore, this place contains 16 burials, two from the construction of the Early Classic rectilinear building, seven subsequent Early Classic burials, and seven more burials in the summit of the later, Late Classic, platform. These burials emphasize the space and its continued importance over time, however they are not associated

with the use of the Preclassic Period round structure. Despite this transformation, the round structure is an important part of the history of this place that warranted such ancestor veneration (Aimers et al 2000: 82). Overall, Aimers and colleagues interpret the Preclassic round structures at Cahal Pech as representations of an ancient belief system that quickly lost favor in the Early Classic, thus explaining their covering and building over with rectilinear structures (82). But the pattern of transformation is clear, and the importance of place is demonstrated even through these transformations.

Patterns of round structures through time in the Maya area are still being developed, but some, like those discussed here, are apparent. This understanding of the patterns provides context for the presentation of a case study of the Early Classic round structure from Barton Ramie, Belize.

Case Study: Barton Ramie, Belize

Barton Ramie, in the Belize River Valley, was chosen as a comparison site on the advice of Arlen Chase, due to its Early Classic date, the presence of a round structure (Structure F in Mound BR-1), thorough excavation, and the corresponding published reports. Structure F is a unique building at the site, the authors did not encounter any other such structure. They found another rounded wall in BR-44, however the excavation was not sufficient to show construction methods or to confirm that the wall was part of a larger round structure (see Willey et al. 1965: 179-183). Structure F however, was the first permanent construction at Mound BR-1, with evidence of at least three previous occupations (3 successive fire pits) and one stratum of dark soil (from the previous Period 2) which Structure F was built directly on. Dating utilizing fill

ceramics indicated that “because of the low percentage of Floral Park sherds, the high percentage of Hermitage sherds, and the presence of Tiger Run material, there is an indication that the structure was probably built late in the [Hermitage] phase” (Glass 1965: 58). According to the ceramic culture sequence provided, Hermitage dates to the Early Classic Period between 100 and 600 A.D. Further, this structure is identified as having domestic use based on the mostly utilitarian ceramics and likeness of this unexcavated mound with the over 200 others in the area (Willey et al. 1965: 16-17, Glass 1965: 47).

There are a total of 9 “periods” or episodes of construction or deposition (Glass 1965: 36) noted above Structure F of BR-1 in the report, and the mound reached a height of over 2 meters at the time of excavation. This is to say, there is significant construction on top of Structure F in BR-1. After Structure F, the area was transformed with floors sealing it and in Periods 4, 5, and 6 a clear rectilinear structure was constructed.

The latest dates at Mound BR-1 are New Town Ceramic Phase (as late as ca. 1200 A.D.) when the site was likely abandoned. These latest sherds come from the uppermost portions of the mound and are not associated with new construction, although some later burials indicate they may have been placed during this time (if the New Town sherds present in them are not intrusive).

Glass compares Structure F in BR-1 to Structures E, F, and G at Uaxactun. These are noted as some of the earliest constructions in the E Group at Uaxactun, and represent early group ritual space within a residential area (Hendon 1999:119). The Uaxactun E Group sequence “[is] as early as or earlier than Structure F of BR-1” (Glass 1965: 59).

The ceramics of BR-1 at Barton Ramie were carefully excavated and evaluated in reference to cultural and arbitrary levels. It was an explicit task of Willey and colleagues (1965:

36) to control the provenience of the artifacts and to make them “meaningfully related to their depth in the mound and to the cultural and physical features of the mound stratigraphy.” All sherds that were excavated were evaluated based on group level (because there is less reliance on attributes only present on specific parts of a pot e.g. gouge-incisions above a flange). Glass used the ceramic analysis to date each subsequent level of the building, and to identify potential areas of intrusion. These data indicate this structure was contemporaneous with Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal and is therefore a useful comparison later in this thesis.

There are six interments associated with Structure F at BR-1; however, all of them are intrusive to this building. Associated dates are between Late Hermitage (late Early Classic) and Spanish Lookout (Late Classic) Phases, suggesting a likely termination date of sometime after Late Hermitage but before Early Spanish Lookout Phase—early Late Classic Period (Glass 1965: 87-89). The closest burial, in time, to the use of Structure F is a badly preserved child’s burial (Burial 26). “It lay in an extended position with the head to the south and facing west. The skeleton was located . . . below the disturbed floor of Structure F, a Hermitage Phase construction, and may be Hermitage or later in date. There were no accompanying artifacts” (Glass 1965: 89). There was one primary context ceramic vessel noted in another burial (Burial 24), which was intrusive to Structure F. This is the only primary context deposit and “provides the most positive evidence for dating the burial” to the Spanish Lookout (Late Classic) Phase (Glass 1965:89).

Although Structure F was dated through the use of secondary construction fill, the stratigraphic sequence at the site helps to determine and confirm its placement in the Early Classic Period. Structure F is similar to Preclassic round structure patterns in that it is clearly the first permanent construction at Mound 1 and is a relatively low construction. However, it

diverges from Preclassic patterns in that it has low walls and likely a perishable superstructure, indicating it was not a platform used for public performance. Furthermore, Willey and colleagues' identification of the structure as domestic indicates that it was also not used as public ritual space. To further the discussion of Early Classic round structures, a more thorough evaluation of Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal, and the site in general is in order.

CHAPTER THREE: SANTA RITA COROZAL AND STRUCTURE

135

Transformation is a theme not only relevant to the round architecture viewed over time, but also to Santa Rita Corozal itself. Because this thesis is based on looking at one structure through time, a general understanding of the changes that occurred at Santa Rita Corozal is important. Special attention is paid to changes in burial practices because they are often the location of identifiable ceramics used in contextual analysis by the archaeologists (Diane and Arlen Chase).

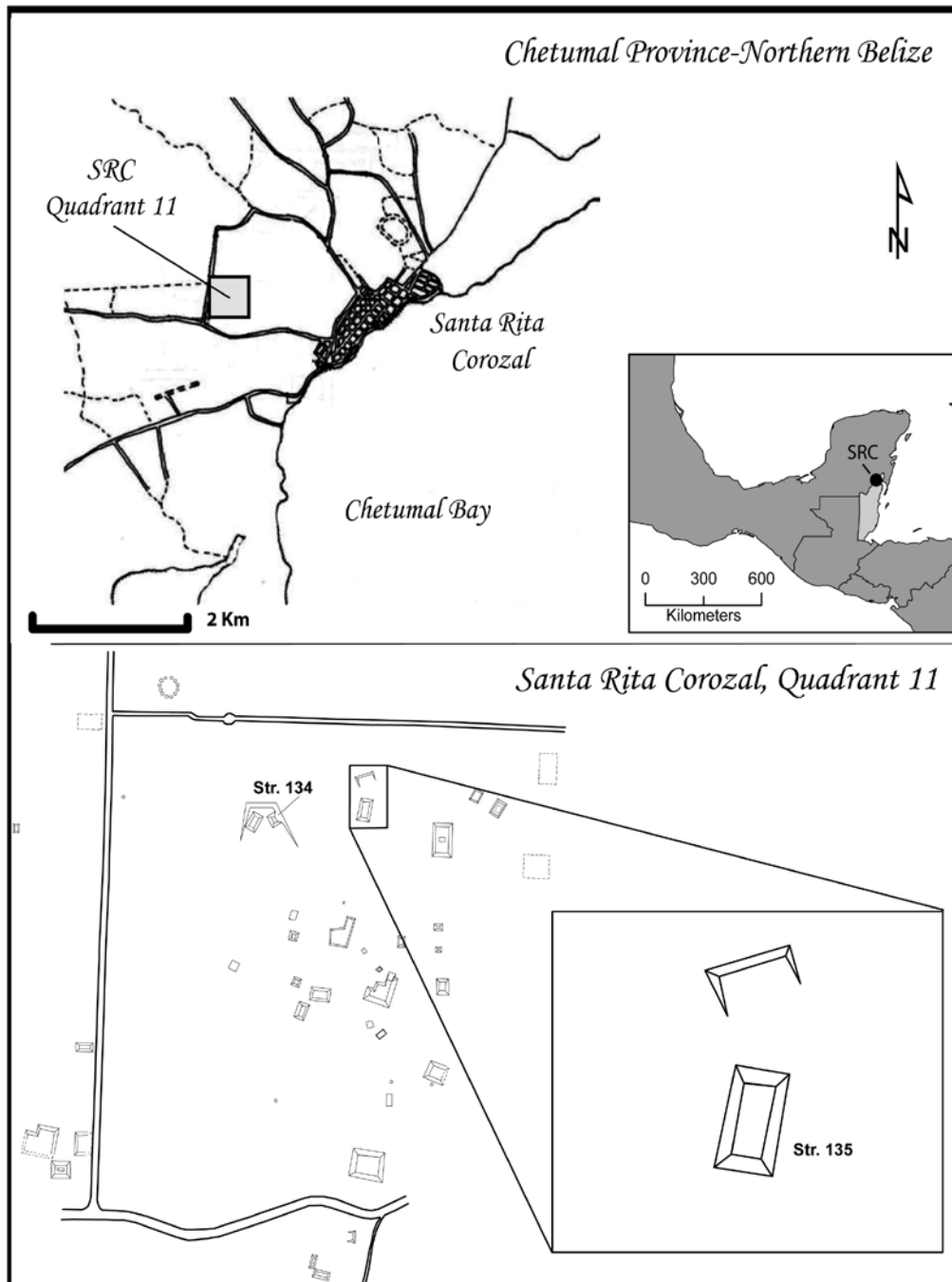


Figure 1: Overview map showing Santa Rita Corozal and Structures 134 and 135 (Adapted from Marino et al. 2015)

Santa Rita Corozal: Patterns of Change

The site of Santa Rita Corozal had humble beginnings with approximately 150 inhabitants along a 4 kilometer bluff above the Chetumal Bay (see Figure 1) in the Early and Middle Preclassic Periods (ca.1200-300B.C.E.) (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b: 49; D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 244; Chase D. Z. 1990: 199). There are identifiable changes in burial practices even in this early time. Chase and Chase identify an Early Preclassic burial subcomplex that "consists of a partially flexed individual accompanied by a single Consejo Red dish placed in the chest area"(A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b: 51). By the Middle Preclassic, this trend had changed into two distinct burial subcomplexes: 1) similar to the earlier burial subcomplex, with one or more vessels in the chest area, and 2) one inverted vessel near the head (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:51).

By the Late Preclassic Period (300 B.C.E.-A.D. 200) the population had risen to approximately 1,000 (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 246-247; Chase D. 1990: 211) and burial subcomplexes had increased in variety, most associated with the typical Sierra Red large dishes, which were "placed near or over the heads of flexed individuals. When they cover the entire body, they are often found covering other Sierra Red vessels, particularly one or more chocolate pots or dishes in combination with a smaller florero or jar with high rim"(A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:51-23).

The Early Classic Period (A.D. 300-550) saw Santa Rita take the role of key site in Chetumal, replacing Cerros in this position likely due to its location along vital trade routes (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 246; D. Chase and A. Chase 1986:15; D. Chase and A. Chase 1988:63; D. Chase & A. Chase 1989: 27; Sharer & Traxler 2006:610; Walker 1998). Furthermore, Santa

Rita not only had a rise in population to approximately 1,500 people (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 246; Chase D. 1990: 213), but also saw the advent of monumental architecture and social stratification evidenced by long distance trade items and burial practices (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 246; D. Chase and A. Chase 2005; A. Chase and D. Chase 1987b: 58). The first extended burials are documented from the Proto/Early Classic Period. Although flexed burials remain, this represents a major shift in burial practices (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b: 53), and the extended burials are associated with more elaborate interments placed in important locations, specifically the largest building at the site (Structure 7) and the site's second largest structure, Structure 134 (Chase & Chase 2005: 112-117; Figure 1). The ceramic styles of this period reflect new influences from the Maya "heartland" in the Peten region of Guatemala and "a wealth of different fineware pottery, most of it introduced, at least initially, to the area" (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:68). There are three burial subcomplexes identified for this period: 1) flexed burials with Dos Arroyos polychrome plates over the skull; 2) extended burials with polychrome bowls and additional inverted bowls that cover additional skulls (Structure 134); and, 3) extended burials with polychrome plates, cylinder tripods, or pedestaled (or other form) bowls (Structure 7) (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b: 56, 58). Additionally, the grave goods in the extended burials are similar to the elaborate burials at Tayasal, indicating that external contacts may have provided a driving force behind the social stratification apparent in this time period (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b: 58). The burial goods associated with elaborate interments "indicate that the elite of both Tayasal and Santa Rita were encompassed within the same social network, while the non-elite followed other, more localized, patterns"(A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:58).

The social stratification and elite regional ties evidenced in burial subcomplexes are not apparent in the Late Classic Period (A.D. 550-900) but a majority of the population of

approximately 2,500 people (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:58; D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 246; D. Chase 1990: 213) had easier access to material goods (D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 246), and the ceramics show more regional affiliation with the northern Lowlands, instead of the Maya “heartland” (D. Chase and A. Chase 1986:15). There were two burial subcomplexes apparent: 1) flexed burial with polychrome plates covering the head; and, 2) extended burials with head either covered or accompanied by a bowl (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:58).

In the Terminal Classic/Early Postclassic Period (A.D. 900-1200) Santa Rita Corozal saw a drastic shift in burial practices that resulted in very few interments from this era being encountered during excavations. This period saw a slight decline in population from 2,000 to approximately 1,800 (D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 247; D. Chase 1990: 213). Ceramics in the entire eastern Lowlands seemed to be relatively closely related, especially to those of Tulum (Sanders 1960; D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 247) and Colha (Valdez 1987; D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 247), with other ceramic influences in the form of Yucatec-style slatewares and trickle wares (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:61).

Santa Rita Corozal hit its apex in the late-facet of the Late Postclassic Period (A.D. 1300-1530), with occupation occurring in nearly all excavated locations and a population estimated at 6,800 (D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 247; D. Chase 1990: 213). A multi-room palace with interior shrine room was the focal point of one elaborate group, and most other groups of structures were focused around plaza areas. The ceramics of this period are in a new ceramic tradition whose earlier facets are similar to those in Tulum and whose late facet is similar to those of Mayapan. Furthermore, the Late Postclassic Period has three burial subcomplexes that are different from previous periods: 1) mass burials (with many individuals) that have a variety of ceramic types (see A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:64 for discussion); 2) flexed individuals, laying

on their sides , sometimes with water jars and modeled red ware jars; and, 3) an elite subcomplex of seated upright burials without ceramic vessels, but usually with other types of elaborate goods (A. Chase and D. Chase 1987b: 64). The first two subcomplexes are common both underneath and behind platforms or structures, while the elite subcomplex is commonly encountered in stone shrines purposefully constructed for this purpose, as well as sometimes inside shrines in multi-room palaces (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004:248).

Structure 135

Structure 135 was excavated as part of the Corozal Postclassic Project in 1980 and is located in the Southwest Sector of the site (D. Chase 1982: 403-406; see Figure 1). Only two excavations were conducted in this area, Structures 134 and 135, thus much of the information about this locale is still unknown, and due to modern construction and habitation on the site, likely impossible to recover. The sector has occupational history from the Early Preclassic (evident in Structure 134) through to Historic times (D. Chase 1982:403-406).

Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal consists of two main building phases (although see Chapter Four for a more defined construction sequence), one with early burials dating to the Early Classic (135-2nd) and later burials indicating abandonment in the Late Early Classic, the other construction phase dating to sometime after the Late Early Classic (135-1st) with use of this place reaching into the Terminal Classic. Buildings in both major phases face east and have a frontal platform/floored plaza. Terminal Classic trash was located east of the structure (D. Chase 1982:406). Nearby is Structure 134, the building with the most elaborate burials outside of

Structure 7, but more than likely Structure 135 is not directly associated with Structure 134 based on location and topography (see Figure 1).

The earlier phase was constructed during the Early Classic Period and consists of a circular inner building with defined antechamber and rectangular room, (D. Chase & A. Chase 1988:63; See Figure 2) creating a squared quality to some of the footprint of the building. The round chamber is about five meters in diameter and is divided by a central wall with an offset doorway. The structure's control of space both inside and out is interesting and, while the burials are not representative of the site's elite, the control of space and the arguable 'inner room' is similar to Structures 7 and 134 in many ways, although does not exhibit the same level of spatial control as these structures.

This earlier phase is defined by three associated burials, two under capstones and the third with an Orangeware Flanged Plate directly over the skull. While the flexed position is considered non-elite, ceramic vessels are in themselves considered a status marker. Therefore, the third burial that is associated with the Orangeware Flanged Plate may be indicative of high status; this burial was not fully excavated, so other potential grave goods may have existed with this interment. The other two flexed burials with no associated ceramics are indicative of non-elite burials common at the site and were dated based on stratigraphic association with the third burial (D. Chase & A. Chase 2005:124).

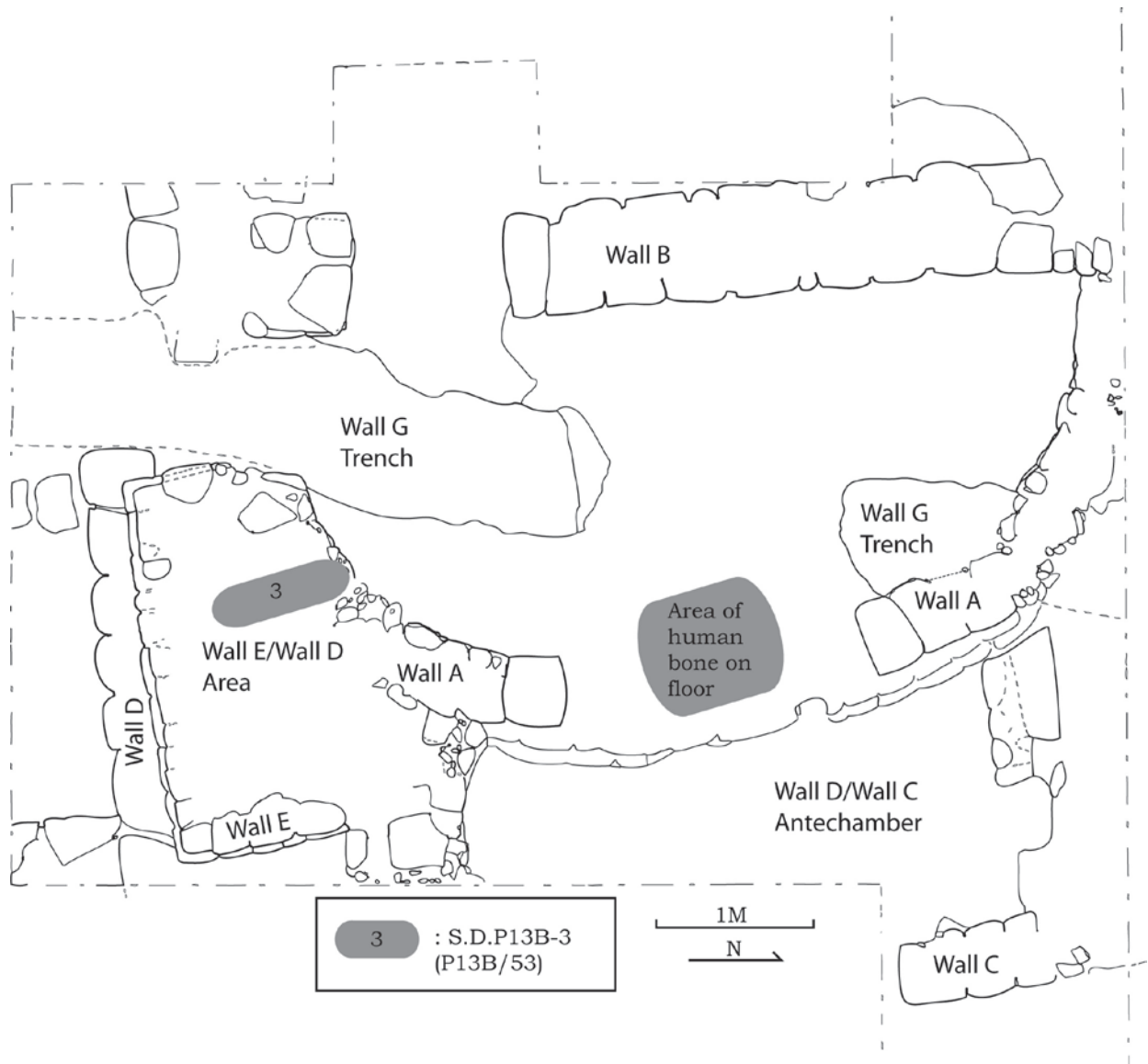


Figure 2: Lower Plan of Structure 135 (Courtesy Diane and Arlen Chase)

The Late Early Classic termination period of the early structure is defined by three burials, S.D.P13B-1 was placed just outside (east) of the round Wall A, S.D.P13B-2 was on the floor of the plaza area outside (east of) the entire building and over the previous burials. These two burials can be interpreted as part of the termination of the building phase (see Figure 4), given their location on floor surfaces (D. Chase and A. Chase 1998: 300). S.D.P13B-3 was

placed in a cut into the antechamber of the earlier structure and contained two vessels, one of which is presented in this research (Figure 12; the other is not present in the archaeology lab, and was likely kept in Belize). These later burials were previously considered to be associated with the construction of the later building (D. Chase 1982: 405-406; D. Chase and A. Chase 1986:15), however upon further analysis for this research, Arlen Chase determined they are in fact, associated with the abandonment and transformation of the round structure in the late Early Classic Period (A. Chase Personal Communication). Another indication of the termination of Structure 135-2, and a possible indication that this building had a ritual use, is the human bone left on the floor surface just inside the door of this round structure. These bones were not given a special deposit (S.D.) number in the field, but the lot cards and excavation notes clearly discuss these bones and their placement in the doorway (see Figure 2; D. Chase and A. Chase 1998: 301).

The later phase of Structure 135 is defined by two walls, both with deep foundation trenches running north-south, and a floor and facing stone. One wall (Wall G) cuts through the earlier construction phase's walls and floors, the other just west of the round structure (Wall H) (see Figure 3 and Figure 4). The floor (Floor 2) and associated facing stone were not initially interpreted as part of this building phase, however reconsideration of the excavation materials demonstrates that they are associated stratigraphically. After this second major construction phase, there is another discreet phase indicated by Floor 1 (see Figure 4) and there is refuse that dates as late as the Terminal Classic Period in the final phase of the structure (D. Chase 1982: 406 notes this in relation to the second major building phase, however it is associated with this final phase, after Floor 1), indicating continued use of this locus through this time period.

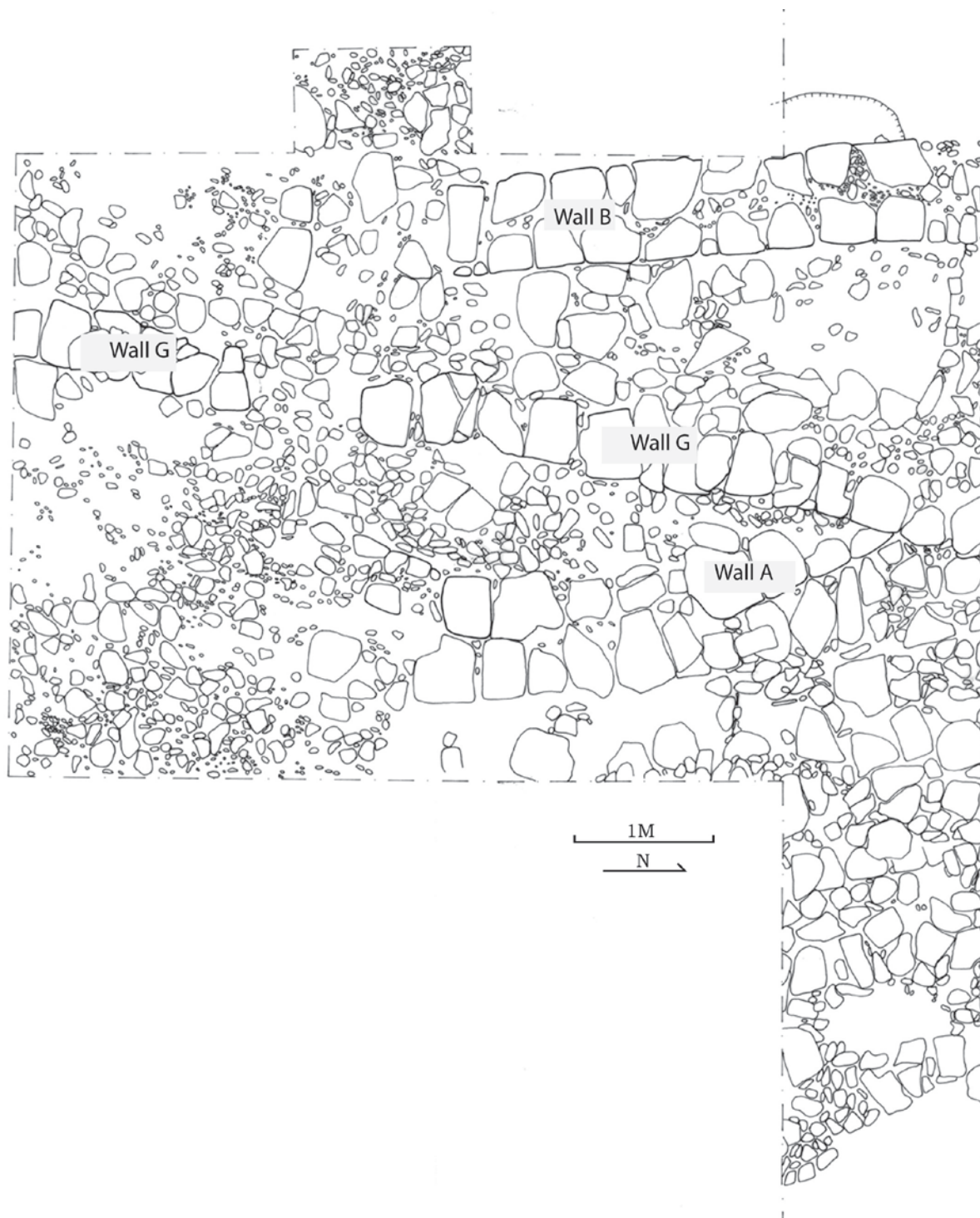


Figure 3: Upper Plan of Structure 135. (Courtesy Diane and Arlen Chase)

The apparent extreme change in the building construction over time is not unusual in the Maya area; round structures are commonly replaced by rectilinear structures (Pasztory 1978: 110), and this is indicative of the transformations common in Maya architecture.

Current Research

While Structure 135 has been included in multiple publications since the Corozal Postclassic Project excavated it, further evaluation of this unique structure is needed to learn more about its place among broader Maya trends. The oddity of a round structure in the Early Classic Period was not lost on the primary investigator of Santa Rita Corozal (Diane Chase), and there are a multitude of research questions that can be asked about this structure. The current research aims to build upon the initial data collection at the site, by examining it with reference to trends in round structures through time and by a direct comparison with a similar round structure at the site of Barton Ramie, Belize (Structure F from Mound BR-1). This research is meant to: 1) situate this round structure with the wider trends over time, identifying its similarities with, and divergence from, these trends, 2) the comparison to Structure F from BR-1 is meant to give an example of similarities and difference of the two Early Classic round structures, and 3) detail the construction sequence of the structure in order to re-evaluate both the phases of construction as well as primary and secondary context sherds. Beyond the comparison of known trends, this research also offers insights into the need for contextual analysis of ceramics, and the difficulties of assuming context through the use of secondary context fill sherds, even with a clear cultural formation process.

This research was conducted, in one iteration or another, over the past three years, with a focus on analysis of sherds over the past year in the University of Central Florida Archaeology Lab, where the collection from Santa Rita Corozal is stored. Initial sorting was completed by the author and a team of dedicated student volunteers. The project began with the creation of an Access 2007 database, and each lot and catalogue card (describing a unit of excavated space and a single artifact respectively) from Operation P13 (excavations associated with this structure all fell under the name Operation P13) was entered and verified. Ceramics were located in the lab and each lot was organized and confirmed with the lot and catalogue cards. In order to maintain the condition of the sherds and their upkeep as artifacts, all lots were re-bagged. Any un-numbered sherds were appropriately numbered to maintain accuracy of the data. 10 lots were unavailable for this analysis (See Table 3).

Table 3: Unavailable Sherds

| Object Lot |
|------------|
| P13B/4 |
| P13B/8 |
| P13B/17 |
| P13B/29 |
| P13B/45 |
| P13B/49 |
| P13B/58 |
| P13B/68 |
| P13B/70 |

The current research has a history of re-evaluation and changing directions, the culmination of which is the current research questions and design. Much of the methodology

used in previous iterations of this work proved to be invalid for one reason or another, therefore here I present a discussion of some of these previous attempts, and how they resulted in the current methodology.

Methods

The basic analysis for this research is based on: 1) excavation data from field notes, lot cards, and catalogue cards, as well as publications since excavation, and 2) on clarification of the cultural formation process and total sherd counts from the various cultural contexts. In the beginning, this research sought to use surface decoration as a possible proxy for function. The intention was to identify if surface decoration (the main feature used in type: variety-mode) indicated different functional types than non-decorated, which could then be used to evaluate the types of fill present (utilitarian/household fill, or decorated/specialized fill); a methodology that did not result in useable data.

The over 15,000 sherds were inspected for surface decoration, diagnostic features, and potential reconstruction. These were recorded with counts from each lot and additional notes. Unfortunately, all surface decorations were treated with the same analytical weight, not accounting for the differences in utilitarian wares (such as those with incisions common to these types) and potentially special use wares (such as those with polychrome decorations). For this reason, the numbers collected for the surface decoration were not used in the final analysis. Despite this, useful data were still collected and the research question shifted to one able to be answered with the available data.

After sherds were counted, all lots indicating reconstructable sherds, defined as either direct refits, or based on similar paste, diagnostic features, and decoration (if present) were examined more closely, and any rim-to-base reconstructions were assembled and drawn. These data are useful to the discussion of identifying primary and secondary context through sherds. Therefore, two specific reconstructions were illustrated in Adobe Illustrator and are included in the results (see Figure 6, and Figure 7).

Defining patterns of round structures in the Maya area, and the direct comparison of Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal with Structure BR-1 at Barton Ramie, were conducted through literature review.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

The excavation notes and drawings were used to re-evaluate the construction phases of Structure 135. The ceramic sherds from the excavations were then connected to their appropriate construction phase, based on the lots they were excavated with.

First Construction Phase

First occupation is evidenced by the stratigraphic break to the west of Wall Trench H (see Figure 4). The western portion of the excavation was the only place to reach bedrock and this stratigraphic break is evidence that the spot was built on before the construction of the round structure. While the shape or function of this early cultural level cannot be defined, it is clear that there was use of this place before the round structure. The two levels were not broken up in excavation, and their numbers are presented together in Table 9, as “Under Floor 10.”

Early Classic Round Structure

Secondary Context

The first major construction sequence of Structure 135 began with the construction of Wall A, Wall B, and Wall C (see Figure 4, Figure 5, Table 4, and Table 5), with Floor 8 inside the round Wall A/Wall B structure. Floor 5 was laid inside the antechamber defined by Wall A and Wall C.

The interior of the round Wall A/Wall B structure was then covered by Floor 7. While the ceramic data was not available for this lot, the lot card notes “Few sherds- 3.” Likely coeval with the laying of Floor 7, the antechamber was covered by Floor 4 (see Figure 5).

After Floor 7 on the interior of the structure, Floor 6 was laid, but again with no sherds present in the fill below (the lot cards indicate “no sherds present”). In the antechamber, Floor 3 was laid above Floor 4, but Floor 3 extends out of the building and into the area between Wall A and Wall F to the east (see Figure 4). Floor 6, inside the round structure, and Floor 3, in the antechamber and to the east, are the last cultural deposits from this building phase.

In the round Wall A/Wall B structure, is the Wall E/Wall D room to the south of Wall A (see Figure 2). This area is disturbed by the later burial, and excavation never reached a floor level. However the deepest excavation is stratigraphically under and separate from the burial, and both are associated with the round structure.

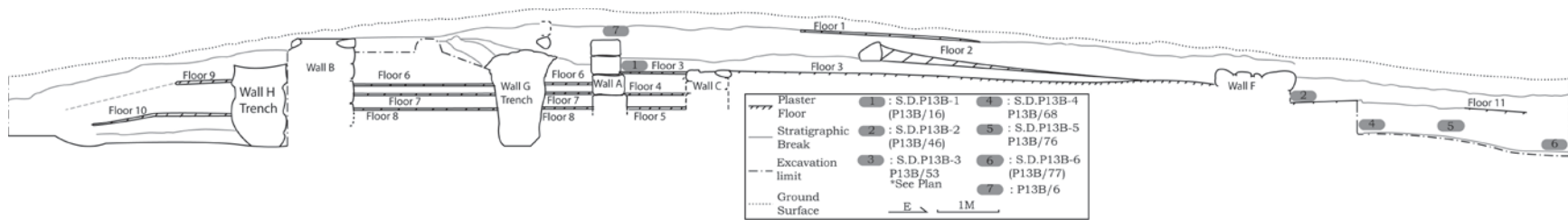


Figure 4: Trench Profile with Cultural Levels Defined. Note: Floor levels 4-8 and Wall A are off-section and reconstructed from lot card and excavation information.

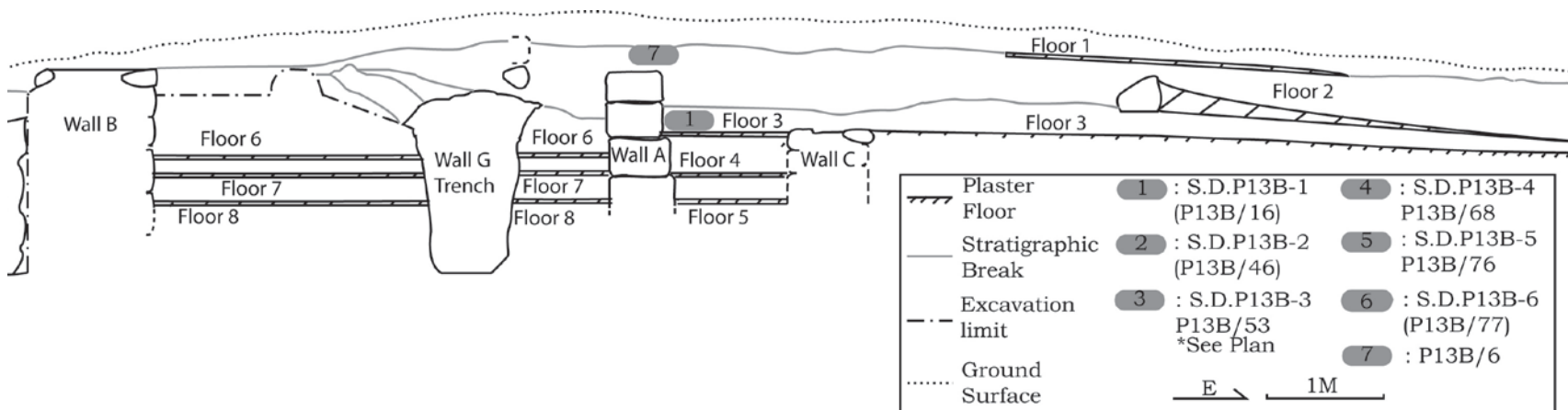


Figure 5: Profile Detail of Round Wall A/Wall B Structure and Wall A/Wall C Antechamber Note: Floor levels 4-8 and Wall A are off-section and reconstructed from lot card and excavation information.

Table 4: Round Structure Wall A/Wall B Total Sherd Counts

Above Floor 6

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/21 | 10 |
| P13B/38 | 54 |
| P13B/39 | 94 |
| P13B/48 | 22 |
| P13B/55 | 76 |
| Total | 256 |

Below Floor 6

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/69 | 0 |

Below Floor 7

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/70 | 0 |

Table 5: Antechamber Wall A/Wall C Total Sherd Counts

Below Floor 3

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/40 | 26 |
| P13B/41 | 46 |
| P13B/62 | 2 |
| Total | 74 |

Below Floor 4

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/50 | 14 |
| P13B/58 | 0 |
| P13B/62 | 2 |
| P13B/74 | 1 |
| Total | 17 |

Table 6: Wall E/Wall D Room Associated with Early Classic

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/44 | 772 |
| P13B/64 | 6 |
| Total | 778 |

South of the round Wall A/Wall B structure and Wall E/Wall D room, the outside of the building has many associated sherds (see Table 7 and Figure 2), and produced two unique reconstructable vessels (see Figure 6, and Figure 7). This area was of specific use for discussing context based on sherd counts, which is addressed in Chapter Five.

Table 7: South of Round Wall A/Wall B Structure

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/52 | 327 |
| P13B/54 | 769 |
| P13B/57 | 381 |
| P13B/60 | 565 |
| P13B/61 | 199 |
| P13B/65 | 22 |
| Total | 2241 |



Figure 6: Bowl with fingernail punctations, reconstructed from P13B/54 (Drawing by author).

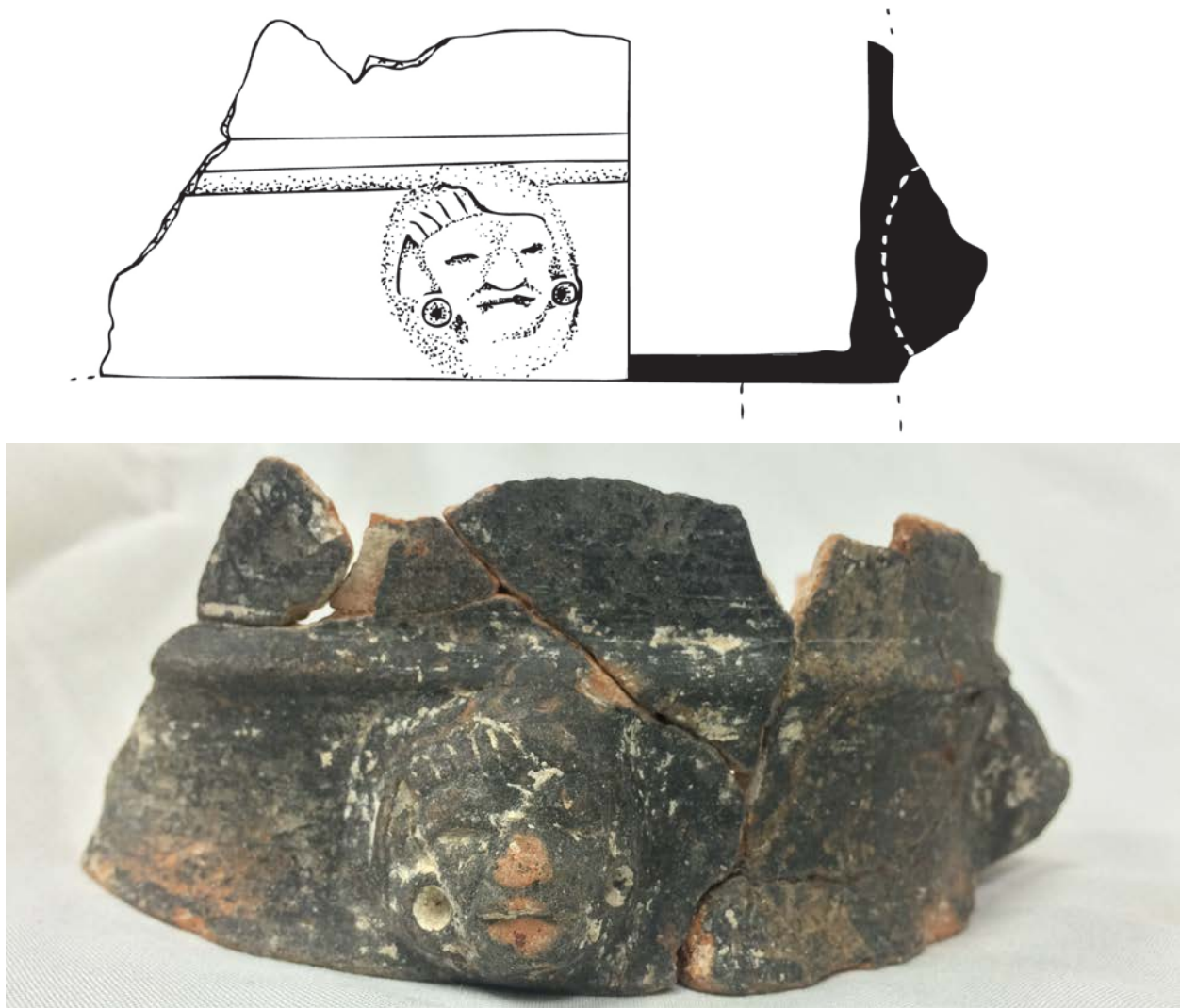


Figure 7 Image of cylinder tripod dating to the late part of the Early Classic Period, reconstructed from P13B/61 (Drawing by author, model detail by Angelica Costa).

The round Wall A/Wall B structure was dated based on its stratigraphic association with the burials to the east of it. The entire area containing these burials is east of Wall F and has only one associated floor (see Figure 8), Floor 11. Floor 11 seals these burials, and given the late

Early Classic burial on top of Floor 11 that is associated with the abandonment and subsequent transformation of the early phase of the structure, everything below this floor is securely dated as Early Classic.

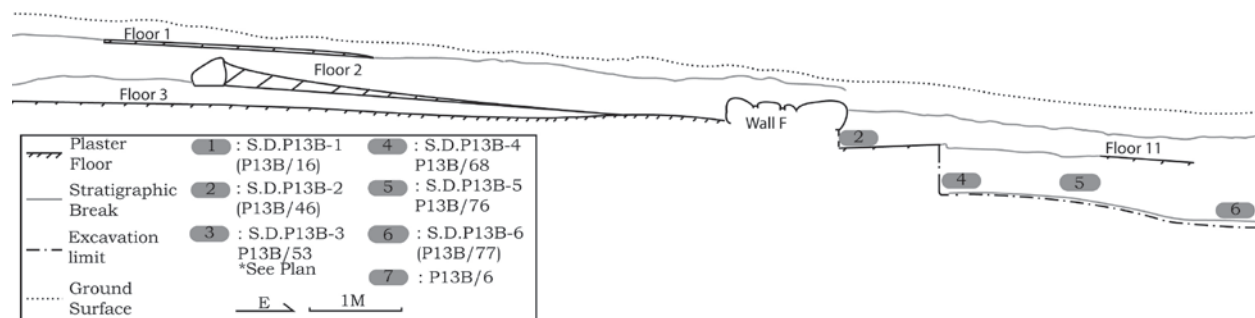


Figure 8: Profile Detail East of Wall F.

Table 8: East of Wall F (Counts Do Not Include Primary Context Sherds)
Below Floor 11

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/37 | 64 |
| P13B/63 | 335 |
| P13B/66 | 335 |
| P13B/71 | 45 |
| P13B/73 | 70 |
| P13B/75 | 80 |
| Total | 929 |

West of the round Wall A/Wall B structure there are two floors, both of which are cut through to place the Wall H Trench. This is the only area of the excavation that was dug to

bedrock. Floor 10 (See Figure 9 and Table 9), is deeper than any of the other floors identified in excavations. The association of Floor 9 with the rest of the building cannot be determined because the western-most wall trench interrupts all stratigraphy between the floor and the round Wall A/Wall B structure (see Figure 9), however, because these are both above the earliest stratigraphic level and cut through to place the Wall H Trench, they are included in the Early Classic round structure counts.

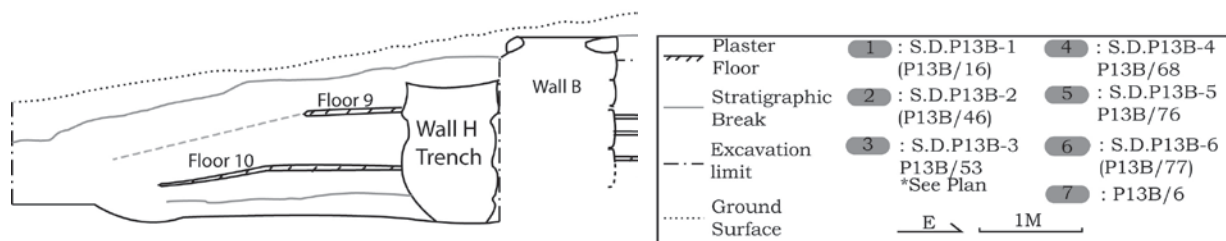


Figure 9: Profile Detail West of Wall B.

Table 9: West of Wall B
Above Floor 10

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/23 | 224 |
| P13B/24 | 29 |
| P13B/33 | 15 |
| P13B/35 | 47 |
| Total | 315 |

Below Floor 10

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/29 | 0 |
| P13B/36 | 84 |
| Total | 84 |

Primary Context

The Early Classic Period has three associated burials. One of which contained a complete Orangeware flanged plate that dates to the Early Classic (Figure 10). The other two burials contained no vessels, but the associated sherds are listed in Table 10.

Table 10: Early Classic Phase Primary Context
Early Classic Burials

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| S.D.P13B-4 (P13B/68) | 0 |
| S.D.P13B-5 (P13B/76) | 49 |
| S.D.P13B-6 (P13B/77) | 59 |
| Total | 108 |

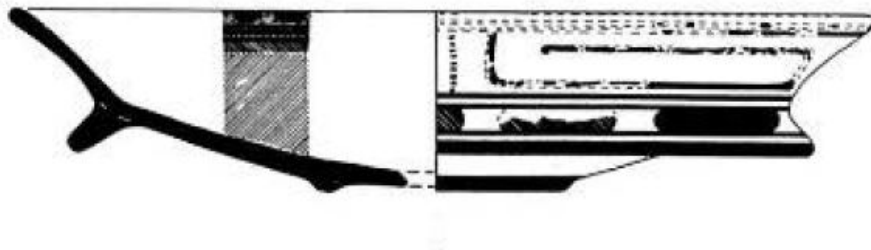


Figure 10: Ceramic vessel from S.D.P13B-4 (P13B/68) (D. Chase and A. Chase 2005: Fig 13).

After the Early Classic burials were deposited and sealed, in association with the use of the round structure, the late Early Classic Period in the round structure then contains three subsequent burials associated with the end of its uselife, these contain three reconstructable vessels (see Table 11, Figure 11, and Figure 12).

Table 11: Late Early Classic Termination Primary Context.

| Late Early Classic Burials | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
| S.D.P13B-1 (P13B/16) | 259* |
| S.D.P13B-2 (P13B/46) | 64 |
| S.D.P13B-3 (P13B/53) | 261*† |
| Total | 584 |

*indicates sherds from reconstructed vessels

† indicates lot estimated sherd count of extra vessel (vessel in Belize). Estimate is additional 150 sherds

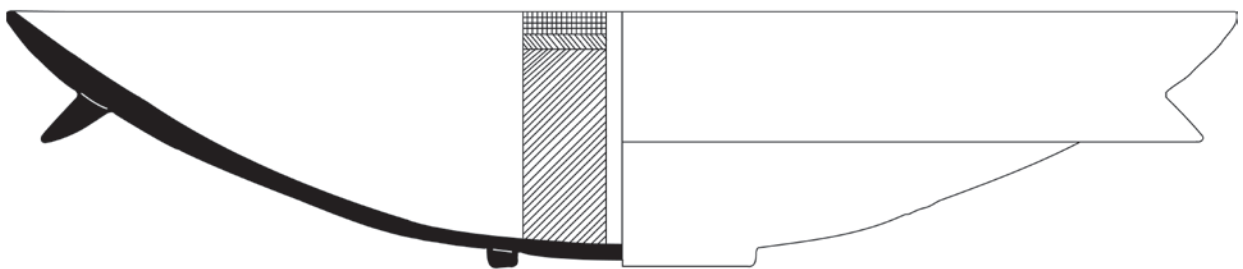


Figure 11 Reconstructed Redware flanged plate from S.D.P13B-1 (P13B/16) burial (Drawing by author).

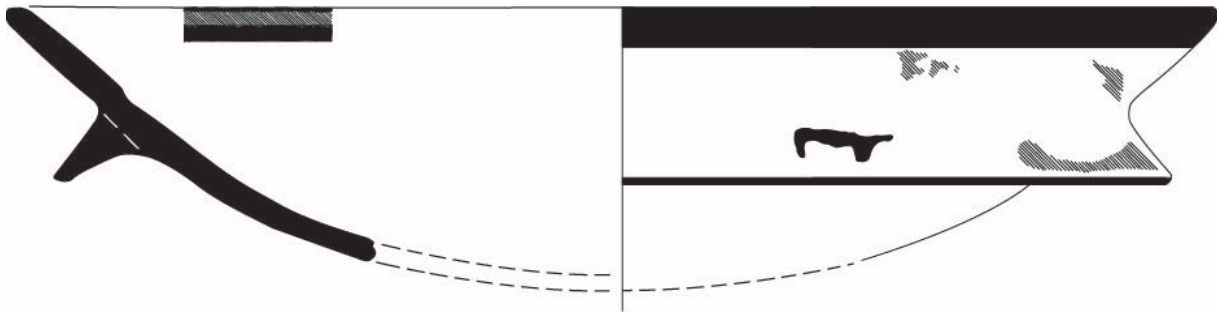


Figure 12 Reconstructed Late Early Classic Flanged plate from S.D.P13B-3 (P13B/53) (Drawing by author).

Construction Sealing Round Structure

Based on the stratigraphy, there is a deposit which served to seal the round structure, and level out the entire area. This level consists of the stratigraphic break starting at the eastern end of the trench and abutting Wall F, is continued by the base of Floor 2 and the associated facing stone (constructed later) and the stratigraphic break to the west of these, which were cut through to create the Wall G Trench and the Wall H Trench (see Figure 4). This level continues to the west, above Floor 9.

Table 12: East of Wall F
Above Floor 11

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/9 | 388 |
| P13B/32 | 1035 |
| P13B/78 | 2 |
| Total | 1425 |

Table 13: East of Wall A above Floor 3, Under Floor 2

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/14 | 21 |
| P13B/15 | 66 |
| P13B/19 | 47 |
| P13B/20 | 27 |
| P13B/22 | 6 |
| Total | 167 |

Table 14: Above Floor 9

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/4 | 0 |
| P13B/10 | 396 |
| P13B/13 | 25 |
| P13B/31 | 30 |
| Total | 451 |

Rectilinear Structure

Secondary Context

The rectilinear structure is architecturally defined by two deep wall trenches, the western-most of which is Wall H, and the eastern-most is Wall G, as well as Floor 2 and the associated facing stone. These wall trenches cut through the layer above Floors 3 and 6, and all previous floors in the round Wall A/Wall B Structure, and to the west of it (see Figure 13). The Wall H trench was only investigated in the axial excavation, however the Wall G trench cuts through the entirety of the southern extension (see Figure 2).

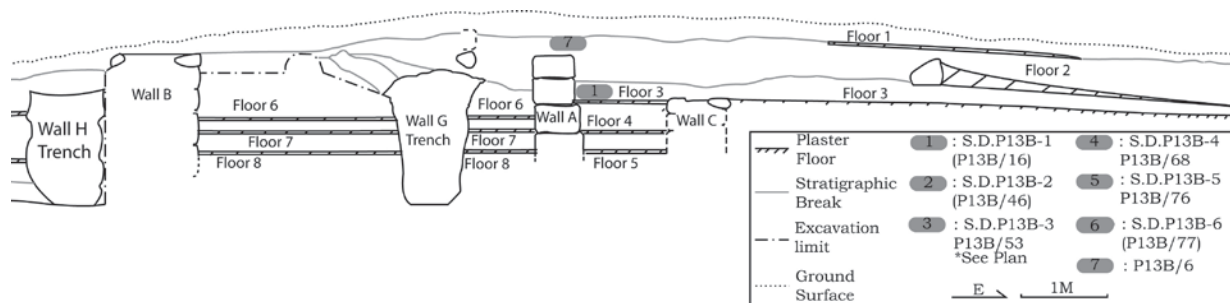


Figure 13: Profile Detail with Wall Trenches. Note: Floor levels 4-8 and Wall A are off-section and reconstructed from lot card and excavation information

Table 15: Wall Trenches

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/34 | 87 |
| P13B/42 | 548 |
| P13B/43 | 409 |
| P13B/59 | 12 |
| Total | 1056 |

The later phase of this building has no associated primary context deposits. This phase must have been built after the late Early Classic Period, when the early structure had its final primary deposits and was filled in. However Floor 2, abutting the unnamed facing, is of significant interest as it has 1,911 sherds noted *in* the floor, as part of its removal, more than any other area defined in the building (see Table 16).

Table 16: Removal of Floor 2

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------|-------------------|
| P13B/12 | 1911 |

Final Construction Phase

The final cultural level is represented by Floor 1 and an associated stratigraphy break (see Figure 4). This level covered Wall G, Wall H, and Floor 2 and its associated facing. There are both primary and secondary context sherds from this level (see Table 17). The primary context comes from a sherd smash located in the removal of the humus layer.

Table 17: Lots Associated with Final Construction Phase

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Secondary Context | |
| P13B/11 | 573 |
| Primary Context Sherd Smash | |
| P13B/6 | 155 |

Number of Reconstructable Sherds from Primary and Secondary Contexts

The analysis of sherds from Structure 135 included reconstruction of vessels from all contexts. These data have implications for the use of sherds in archaeological analysis, specifically the usefulness of sherds as an analytical unit. The analysis of sherd numbers and reconstructable vessels from primary and secondary contexts as a percentage of the total number indicates that of the 847 sherds from primary context, 52% were reconstructable, and of the 14,609 sherds from secondary context, 0.6% were reconstructable (see Table 18 and Table 19).

Table 18: Reconstructable sherds from secondary contexts

| | |
|---|-------|
| Total | 84 |
| Total reconstructed rim-to-base vessels | 8 |
| % of total secondary context sherds that were reconstructable | 0.57% |

Table 19: Reconstructable sherds from primary contexts

| | |
|---|--------|
| Total | 444 |
| Total reconstructed rim-to-base vessels | 3 |
| % of total primary context sherds that were reconstructable | 52.42% |

These data illustrate that, while eight reconstructable rim-to-base vessels came from secondary context fill, these vessels still only account for a fraction of the total sherds in this context. Therefore, reconstructable sherds do not necessarily indicate primary context and collections that do not define context must be reanalyzed using cultural stratigraphy such as sealed floors or tombs.

Comparison with Barton Ramie

The comparison of Structure 135 with Structure F at Barton Ramie illustrates how these contemporaneous structures are similar and different. Structure F from Barton Ramie seems to fall within the patterns seen in Preclassic round structures; it is a low platform with no clear

superstructure (although one is assumed by the archaeologists based on a few examples of waddle-impressed clay). Glass (1965) identified the structure, indeed the whole mound, as residential, and we see the "keyhole" design often associated with Preclassic platforms (see Glass 1965: 53-55, Figures 20, 21, and 22 for plan drawing and photographs). During the late Early Classic this structure was built over, a commonality with all architecture in the Maya region, and it became a large raised mound supporting a rectilinear masonry building. Even through its transformation, the archaeologists still identified it as a residential mound. It keeps with their residential interpretation of the majority of the mounds at the site, however this interpretation is based almost solely on the number of ceramics in the phases of construction, as well as it being the sole building on the mound (as opposed to the multi-structure mound at Barton Ramie). This interpretation differs from the patterns in Structure 135 in some significant ways.

Structure 135 was never interpreted as residential, but instead as a ritual building with control of space not conducive to public ritual. Furthermore the burials in the two buildings are very different. While all the burials in Structure F are intrusive, and none are associated with the construction of the building, three of the burials in Structure 135 are associated with its construction. This difference in burial patterns may indicate a different use; where Santa Rita Corozal's are associated with construction and may be more accurately viewed as caches with significance to the construction phases of the building, the burials in Structure F may not have the same significance with the construction, since none of them are placed in association with construction phases. However this would take significantly more discussion than that undertaken in the present work.

Despite these differences, there are important similarities in the structures as well. They are both about 5m in diameter, have a keyhole design, and a rectangular feature at the entrance (Wall E/Wall D room for Structure 135 and the rectangular patio area for Structure F).

Overall, Structure 135 diverges in meaningful ways from patterns in Structure F at Barton Ramie. This analysis helps to illustrate that while these two structures have some definite similarities in construction, they are likely different in function, based largely on the control of space in Structure 135. More evidence would need to be gathered in order to identify clear patterns (if they exist) in Early Classic round structures, especially considering this comparison could have, at best, shown a coincidence, and not a pattern. Round structures during the Early Classic Period, even based on this small sample, have some clear differences in construction and function.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion

The combined information from the previous work done on Structure 135 and the current research offers additional detail for Early Classic Period round structures. This thesis has accomplished three main goals: 1) it has outlined the patterns that Maya round structures tend to adhere to over time, and articulated how Structure 135 fits into these patterns, 2) it has compared Structure 135 with Structure F, the Early Classic round structure from Barton Ramie, to illustrate how these two structures differ even within the same time period, and 3) it has better detailed the formation process of Structure 135 which provides the opportunity to look at this single round structure over time and re-evaluate the primary context ceramics—which helped narrow the use-life of the structure—as well as the secondary context ceramics. This final point of analysis of secondary context ceramics has provided data that allow a discussion of ceramic analysis techniques, specifically in terms of potential for assuming context of sherds used for type: variety-mode analysis.

This thesis has outlined the patterns of round structures in the Maya area over time, and showed the distinct differences especially in Preclassic and Post/early Terminal Classic round structures. This compilation of information (see APPENDIX A: PRECLASSIC ROUND STRUCTURES IN THE MAYA REGION, Table 1, Table 2), along with the detailed formation process of Structure 135 shows that Structure 135 not only appears in a time period with low

reported numbers of round structures, but it also deviates from both earlier and later patterns in the Maya area. While Hendon (1999, 2000) argues for round platforms as the places where public performance and ceremony developed, this assumption is not upheld here. Structure 135 is not a simple platform, but also goes beyond a round room. Instead, Structure 135 has a medial wall that separates the space, something not seen in earlier round structures. Furthermore, while many early round structures have platforms or ramps that create a “keyhole” shape, Structure 135 has an entire walled antechamber. The control of space demonstrated by the medial wall, antechamber, and additional rectangular room (see Figure 2) all indicate that this was not a space for public performance or ritual. While it was likely a place of ritual as indicated by the divided inner rooms and the presence of human bones left on the floor in the doorway, these rituals were not on a public scale, and would have required purposeful entry into the building to be a part of (Hendon 1999 indicates control of space can imply different types of ritual activities, after Drennan 1983). This is in contrast to the open public performance Hendon (1999, 2000) describes at Uaxactun. Even the eastern plaza area that reaches to the Wall F retaining wall likely would not have provided insight into the building, or the events taking place within it. Beyond this, the medial wall has an offset door which blocked direct line of sight even to a person standing in the doorway. The control of space of Structure 135 indicates that it was not used for public ritual or performance, as one would expect to see if this building followed the Preclassic patterns of round structures.

A more obvious departure from Preclassic patterns is the fact that Structure 135 was not constructed until the Early Classic Period and the place it was built on has earlier evidence of construction. Furthermore, its closest excavated neighbor, Structure 134, was occupied in the

Preclassic. Therefore, Structure 135 is clearly not one of the earliest structures at the site. This, again, shows that this structure does not fit Preclassic patterns.

Structure 135 does not fit into known patterns for the Terminal/early Post Classic Period either. The intrusive architecture from Mexico is usually built on a significantly raised platform, and often is a fully constructed masonry structure. These structures are tied with either the Quetzalcoatl cult, or celestial observation. The different construction patterns are evidence against Structure 135 as part of the Quetzalcoatl cult patterns, and there are no noted celestial connection by the excavators, such as those described by Aveni at Chichen Itza (1980: 258-267; although see counter-argument against this pattern by Harrison-Buck 2012: 74).

Beyond Structure 135's place in the patterns of ancient Maya round structures over time, this thesis also investigated the changes of this place and structure over time. This work further defined the construction sequence, not only shortening the use-life of the round structure, but also illuminating two previously un-discussed construction sequences.

Structure 135 conforms to the common pattern of Maya architecture being transformed over time, and through these transformations some connections to the changing culture at the site are apparent. The Early Classic construction of the round building is associated with three burials to the east of the main structure (see Figure 4). The Early Classic was a period of great social stratification at the site of Santa Rita Corozal, and all three burials, while not elite, show signs of importance (S.D.P13B-5 and S.D.P13B-6 both under capstones, and S.D.P13B-4 with a ceramic vessel). These burials, and the unique architecture of the building indicate that it was an important place to the Maya of Santa Rita Corozal from the time of its construction and may have reflected the changing cultural atmosphere noted by the Diane and Arlen Chase, including

an increase in social stratification as the site rose to prominence in the Chetumal Bay area (D. Chase & A. Chase 2004: 246; D. Chase and A. Chase 2005; A. Chase and D. Chase 1987b: 58). During less than 250 years of use, changes in culture took place at the site of Santa Rita Corozal (A. Chase & D. Chase 1987b:58; D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 246; D. Chase 1990: 213) and are mirrored in the burial patterns of this building. The burials used to at the end of the early phase of the building spread out considerably. This could be a result of the changing cultural patterns, reflected again in burial patterns at the site, which indicate a lessening social stratification and more even access to material goods (D. Chase and A. Chase 2004: 246). Structure 135 could well be an architectural indicator of this change in culture, from elite control of material goods and ritual space, to a more even distribution; and may be tied (as Aimers and colleagues (2000) suggest at Cahal Pech) to a change in belief systems that suddenly made the round architecture undesirable.

One interpretation that must be discussed for this round structure is the possibility that Structure 135 is a sweatbath. There is a long tradition of sweatbaths in the Maya area, dating back to the Preclassic Period (Andrews & Andrews 1980; Child 2006: 444; Hammond and Bauer 2001; Helmke 2006a; Helmke 2006b; Helmke 2006c), with two main patterns emerging during the Classic Period, one of rectilinear sweatbaths, and the other of round domed sweatbaths (Child 2006 for an in-depth discussion of the rectilinear sweatbaths at Piedras Negras, Guatemala; Helmke 2006a: 67; Helmke 2006b: 83). Round domed sweatbaths have a few architectural features that are normally associated, including a low doorway, high benches for sitting, a hearth, a firebox, and a small diameter, usually of approximately 2-3m (Helmke 2006a: 54; Helmke 2006b: 79; also see Helmke 2006a: 66, Table 4 for a table of sweatbaths in the Maya area,

including site, shape, and dimensions). Despite the round shape of Structure 135 at Santa Rita Corozal, it is unlikely that this structure was a sweatbath. While the medial wall could have delineated a rear bathing chamber, there is no evidence of a firebox or hearth, no indication of drainage (either a sloped floor or an external “sunken passage” that would drain the runoff as noted at Pook’s Hill by Helmke 2006a: 80), and no evidence of fire-cracked rock or burning to indicate long-term use of a heat source. Without any of these indicators, an argument for this building as a sweatbath is unconvincing.

Beyond the diachronic and synchronic evaluation of the Structure 135 this thesis considered the tangential question of whether reconstructable sherds indicated primary context and could therefore possibly serve as a means to further examine type: variety-mode collections and add contextual meaning.

Because most ceramics in the Maya region are analyzed using the type: variety-mode methodology, there are some inherent issues that arise when it is used to examine sherds in secondary fill context on the same interpretive level as those in primary context. If context could be assumed based on the presence of reconstructable sherds, it could offer a means to add a contextual component to type: variety-mode. However, the data collected indicates that reconstructable sherds do not imply primary context, and can be found in secondary fills, although with less frequency (see Table 18 and Table 19). This is important to consider especially in the re-evaluation of ceramics from excavations where culturally sealed contexts are difficult to identify, or the where primary contexts are rare.

The primary context sherds produced four reconstructable vessels, while the secondary context produced eight. Two of the vessels from the secondary context are from the same lot and

are fairly unique in design (see Figure 6, and Figure 7). At first glance, these vessels, and their location outside the back of the building, might indicate primary context refuse. However, there is no evidence of a cultural seal (e.g. a floor) to show primary context. They can only be safely interpreted as secondary fill. This, again, shows the importance of considering sherds within their context, and allowing primary context sherds more analytical weight than secondary. Despite these issues with secondary context fill, type: variety-mode has proven incredibly useful for intersite comparisons and macro chronologies.

Conclusions

This research addressed three main goals: 1) to situate this round structure with the wider trends over time, identifying its similarities with, and divergence from, these trends, 2) to compare Structure 135 with Structure F from Barton Ramie, another Early Classic round structure, to identify similarities and differences, and 3) to detail the construction sequence of the structure in order to re-evaluate the phases of construction as well as both the primary and secondary context sherds. The conclusions drawn from this research are also threefold.

Firstly, there are identifiable patterns of round structures in both the Preclassic Period and the Terminal/early Postclassic Period, however Structure 135 does not fit into either pattern. Preclassic Period round structures are often low constructed platforms, approximately 3-6m in diameter, usually with no superstructure; these platforms are interpreted as early public performative spaces. Structure 135 however, is not interpreted as a public performative space as it exhibits a control of space with its medial wall with an offset door and constructed

antechamber, all of these elements demonstrate that Structure 135 would not have been used as a place for public ritual, and therefore does not conform to construction or function patterns in the Preclassic Period.

Secondly, Structure 135 shares similarities with the coeval Structure F from Barton Ramie, Belize; however the differences in the structure's likely function are important. The similarities in construction include a similar technique of using cut stone masonry, possible perishable superstructure (although the evidence at Barton Ramie is inconclusive), a rectangular front element of the building (the ramp at Structure F and the antechamber at Structure 135), and the two are both of approximately the same diameter. These elements all speak to a similar construction technique, however the interpretation of the buildings differs.

Structure F is interpreted as a residential structure and is one large round room with a frontal ramp to enter. Structure 135, on the other hand, is interpreted as a ritual building and the main round room is divided by a medial wall with an offset doorway, in addition it has another rectangular room added to the side, and the front entrance is a walled antechamber. The control of space in Structure 135 implies a different function than that of Structure F, and therefore the two differ markedly. However, without further research, these two examples are insufficient to determine if there is a pattern present in the Early Classic Period and if so which of these two conforms to it and which does not.

Finally, the re-evaluation of the construction sequence illuminated important details about this structure. The round structure and later rectilinear structure were each previously thought to have three burials associated with their construction. However, this research has shown that all six burials are associated with the round structure, three with its construction, and

three with its abandonment/transformation. The re-evaluation of associated vessels, as well as the construction sequence, indicate that the round structure had a shorter use-life than previously thought. Furthermore, the re-evaluation of the construction sequence showed that this place had at least four construction phases. The two major phases, which have been defined and described before (the early round structure and later rectilinear structure), but also two minor phases, which sealed the major phases (one layer seals the early round structure, the other seals the later rectilinear structure). This definition of the construction sequence adds valuable information to the understanding of this place over time, and the process used in construction on this place.

The present research also adds to the tangential discussion of ceramic analysis. While this information is not directly relevant to the understanding of round structures, it is relevant to the ongoing discussion of ceramic analysis in the Maya region. The analysis of ceramic data in this structure shows that context cannot be assumed either by sherd count, or by the presence of reconstructable vessels. This is useful to potential re-analysis of ceramic collections that were initially analyzed using type: variety-mode and which do not organize the collection based on primary and secondary context. If these collections are to be re-analyzed, context cannot be assumed through the sherd counts or reconstructable vessels and must be determined in some other way (such as through excavation notes). The data collected here provide a small contribution to the ongoing discussion of type: variety-mode (see Aimers 2012 edited volume).

This research adds to discussions of Maya architecture and the meaning we as archaeologists can infer from unique architectural forms, such as the Early Classic round structure at Santa Rita Corozal, and their contents. This is important to understanding how the ancient Maya interacted with and created their built environment and offers insight into the

importance of the built environment to humans over time, as well as how it reflects changes in human culture that can be identified in the archaeological record.

Future Research

There is more to be done to fully understand the importance of Structure 135 not only at the site of Santa Rita Corozal, but also in the intersite interactions in which it may have participated. A full architectural survey of the site, building off of Diane Chase's dissertation materials on the Late Postclassic architecture, would help to refine this structure's articulation with the rest of the site. Further study of all artifact classes in Structure 135 would undoubtedly reveal more information about this building and its place within the site, especially during the Early Classic rise, and subsequent occupation into Historic times. While this research discussed Early Classic round structures, the question of why there are even fewer Late Classic round structures is now better articulated, but not fully understood. If architecture reflects changing cultural patterns, then the few examples of Late Classic round structures must reflect a strong change in architectural preferences, and the meaning behind this change is a research question worth investigating.

APPENDIX A: PRECLASSIC ROUND STRUCTURES IN THE MAYA REGION

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period of Round Structure |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Altar de Sacrificios | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 20 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Altun Ha | Aimers et al. 2000; Pendergast 1982: 177, 186-189,200, 202 | Str C-13/3rd A | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Altun Ha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str C-13/4th | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Barton Ramie | Aimers et al. 2000; Pendergast 1982 186- 189; Willey et al 1965: 179-182 | Cut 4 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | small platform | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 7E-346 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | round structure #1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | round structure #2 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Pina Chan 1985:62-63; Chase&Chase 1982 | Str. 16 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Structure B4/7th | Middle Preclassic |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Structure 2-2nd | Middle Preclassic (specifically 650-300bc) |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 14 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 15 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Chakantun | Aimers et al. 2000 | circular structures | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Chan Chen | Sidrys & Andresen 1978; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str F-2 | Late Preclassic (300BC- 250AD) |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. I | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. J | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. II | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. III | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. A | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 301 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 304 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 306 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 309 | Middle or Late Preclassic |

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period of Round Structure |
|---|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 311 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 322 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Hendon 1999 | Str. 324 | early Middle Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000, Hansen 1998 | Str. 327 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dos Hombres (or close but independent, see Trachman 2008) | Trachman 2009; Trachman 2008; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 3 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dzibilchaltun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 605 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dzibilchaltun | Aimers et al. 2000 | 2A Platform | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| El Mirador | Aimers et al. 2000 | Unit 2 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| El Pilar | Ford et al. 1995; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str EP-9 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Ixac | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| K'axob | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| K'axob | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 1-D | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Komchen | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 18J-3 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Komchen | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 22N-1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Lamanai | Pendergast 1981:96-97; Powis 2001 | | Before 100BC |
| Luisville | Haberland 1958; Sidrys & Andresen 1978; Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic (300BC-250AD) |
| Medicinal Trail (part of La Milpa) | Houk & Valdez Jr. 2009; Hyde & Martin 2009 | A-Sub-1 | Late Preclassic |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 70 | Late Preclassic ~300BC |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic ~200BC |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic ~100BC |
| Oxkintok, Yucatan | Gonzalez Arana 1990; Kowalski et al. 1993; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. DZ-12 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Rio Azul | Aimers et al. 2000, Hendon 2000, 1989 | Str. 2 | Late Preclassic |
| Santa Rita Corozal | Chase & Chase 1988 | Str. 182 | Late Preclassic and Protoclassic |

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period of Round Structure |
|-------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. E | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. F | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. G | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Xculun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 226 (Wall9) | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Xunantunich | Yeager 1996: 143-144; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 7 | late Middle Preclassic |
| | | | |

APPENDIX B: ALL ROUND STRUCTURES

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Altar de Sacrificios | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 20 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Altun Ha | Aimers et al. 2000; Pendergast 1982: 177, 186-189, 200, 202 | Str C-13/3rd A | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Altun Ha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str C-13/4th | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Barton Ramie | Willey et al. 1965: 36-90 | Structure F | Early Classic |
| Barton Ramie | Aimers et al. 2000; Pendergast 1982 186-189; Willey et al 1965: 179-182 | Cut 4 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | small platform | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 7E-346 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | round structure #1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Aimers et al. 2000 | round structure #2 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Becan | Pina Chan 1985:62-63; Chase&Chase 1982 | Str. 16 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Blue Creek | Preston 2007; Guderjan 2012; Harrison-Buck & McAnany 2013 | 3-tiered Str. (shrine?) | ? |
| Caye Coco | Rosenswig and Masson 2002; Harrison-Buck & McAnany 2013 | | |
| Cerros | Walker 1990; Harrison-Buck & McAnany 2013 | | |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Structure B4/7th | |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Structure 2-2nd | Middle Preclassic |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 14 | Middle Preclassic (specifically 650-300bc) |
| Cahal Pech | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 15 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Chakantun | Aimers et al. 2000 | circular structures | late Middle Preclassic |
| Chan Chen | Sidrys & Andresen 1978; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str F-2 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Chichen Itza | Chase&Chase 1982; Chase & Chase 2007 | Casa Redonda | Terminal Classic |
| Chichen Itza | Chase&Chase 1982 | 3C15 (early) | Terminal Classic |

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period |
|--|--|-------------|---------------------------|
| Coba | Kowalski et al. 1993; Benavides 1976; Navarette, Uribe, and Martinez 1979) | | Terminal Classic? |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. I | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. J | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. II | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. III | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Colha | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. A | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 301 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 304 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 306 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 309 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 311 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 322 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Cuello | Hendon 1999 | Str. 324 | early Middle Preclassic |
| Cuello | Aimers et al. 2000, Hansen 1998 | Str. 327 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dos Hombres (or close but independent, see Trachman 2008) | Trachman 2009; Trachman 2008; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str 3 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dzibilchaltun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 605 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Dzibilchaltun | Aimers et al. 2000 | 2A Platform | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| El Mirador | Aimers et al. 2000 | Unit 2 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| El Pilar | Ford et al. 1995; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str EP-9 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Hum Chaak, Belize Valley | Harrison-Buck 2011, 2013 | | |
| Ik'nal, Belize Valley | Harrison-Buck 2011, 2013 | | |

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Isla Mujeres | Chase&Chase 1982 | | ? |
| | | | |
| Ixac | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| K'ak'nal, Belize Valley | Harrison-Buck 2011, 2013 | | |
| K'axob | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| K'axob | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 1-D | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Komchen | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 18J-3 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Komchen | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 22N-1 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Lamanai | Pendergast 1981:96-97; Powis 2001 | | Before 100BC |
| | | | |
| Luisville | Haberland 1958; Sidrys & Andresen 1978; Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic (300BC- 250AD) |
| Mayapan | Chase&Chase 1982 | Q-84 | Late Postclassic |
| Mayapan | Chase&Chase 1982 | Q-59b | Late Postclassic |
| Medicinal Trail (part of La Milpa) | Houk & Valdez Jr. 2009; Hyde & Martin 2009 | A-Sub-1 | Late Preclassic |
| | | | |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 70 | Late Preclassic ~300BC |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic ~200BC |
| Nakbe | Aimers et al. 2000 | round str. | Late Preclassic ~100BC |
| | | | |
| Nohmul | Chase&Chase 1982; D. Chase diss; Chase & Chase 2007 | Str. 9 | Terminal Classic |
| Obispo | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 479–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| Oshon | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 402–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| | | | |
| Oxkintok, Yucatan | Gonzalez Arana 1990; Kowalski et al. 1993; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. DZ-12 | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| | | | |
| Oxtankah | Kowalski et al. 1993; Ramirez Acevedo (1991) | | Terminal Classic? |
| Paalmul | Kowalski et al. 1993 | | |
| | | | |
| Pechtun Ha | Harrison-Buck 2012 | Str. 100–1st B | Terminal Classic |
| | | | |
| Pooks Hill | Helmke 2006b; Harrison- Buck and McAnany 2013 | | |

| Site | Publication | Structure # | Time Period |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Puerto Rico, Campeche | Andrews IV 1968; Kowalski et al. 1993 | round str. | Late Classic |
| Rio Azul | Aimers et al. 2000, Hendon 2000, 1989 | Str. 1 | Early Classic |
| Rio Azul | Aimers et al. 2000, Hendon 2000, 1989 | Str. 2 | Late Preclassic |
| Sak Pol Pak | Spenard, Reece, & Powis 2012; Conlon 1999 | Unit 6 round temple | ? |
| San Gervasio (Cozumel) | Kowalski et al. 1993 | | |
| San Juan | Guderhan 1988; Guderjan & Garber 1995, Harrison-Buck 2005; Guderjan 2012 | 3-tiered Str. (shrine?) | ? |
| Santa Rita Corozal | Chase & Chase 1988 | Str. 182 | Late Preclassic and Protoclassic |
| Santa Rita Corozal | Chase & Chase 1988 | Str. 135 | Early Classic |
| Seibal | Kowalski et al. 1993; D. Chase 1982: 123; Willey et. al 1975:36 | Str. C-79 | Terminal Classic (879-930AD) |
| Tulum | Kowalski et al. 1993 | | |
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. E | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. F | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Uaxactun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. G | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Uolmuul | Kowalski et al. 1993; Harrison 1979, 1984 | | Terminal Classic? |
| Uxmal | Kowalski 1990; Kowalski et al. 1993 | round str. | Terminal Classic |
| Xcaret | Chase&Chase 1982 | D-1 | ? |
| Xcaret | Chase&Chase 1982 | E-III | ? |
| Xculun | Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 226 (Wall9) | Middle or Late Preclassic |
| Xunantunich | Yeager 1996: 143-144; Aimers et al. 2000 | Str. 7 | late Middle Preclassic |
| Yalku | Kowalski et al. 1993; Chase&Chase 1982 | | |
| Yaxuna | Freidel & Suhler 1999; Aimers et al. 2000 | | |

APPENDIX C: CERAMIC DATA FROM ALL LOTS

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count | Total Diagnostic | Total Decorated | Both diag and decor | SD |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| P13B/1 | 49 | 9 | 11 | 3 | |
| P13B/2 | 40 | 13 | 6 | 4 | |
| P13B/3 | 277 | 37 | 41 | 14 | |
| P13B/4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/5 | 565 | 85 | 78 | 26 | |
| P13B/6 | 155 | 6 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/7 | 1469 | 186 | 152 | 25 | |
| P13B/8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/9 | 388 | 28 | 69 | 5 | |
| P13B/10 | 396 | 46 | 94 | 16 | |
| P13B/11 | 573 | 97 | 82 | 19 | |
| P13B/11 | 573 | 97 | 82 | 19 | |
| P13B/12 | 1911 | 287 | 349 | 21 | |
| P13B/13 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 0 | |
| P13B/14 | 21 | 6 | 11 | 3 | |
| P13B/15 | 66 | 11 | 11 | 5 | |
| P13B/16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Present |
| P13B/17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/18 | 125 | 15 | 78 | 13 | |
| P13B/19 | 47 | 6 | 18 | 3 | |
| P13B/20 | 27 | 0 | 16 | 0 | |
| P13B/21 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 0 | |
| P13B/22 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | |
| P13B/23 | 224 | 30 | 86 | 15 | |
| P13B/24 | 29 | 2 | 21 | 1 | |
| P13B/25 | 185 | 25 | 40 | 9 | |
| P13B/26 | 360 | 66 | 68 | 14 | |
| P13B/27 | 586 | 71 | 123 | 22 | |
| P13B/28 | 340 | 47 | 107 | 16 | |
| P13B/29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/30 | 56 | 17 | 27 | 8 | |
| P13B/31 | 30 | 5 | 15 | | |
| P13B/32 | 1035 | 113 | 335 | 35 | |
| P13B/33 | 15 | 3 | 10 | 3 | |
| P13B/34 | 87 | 34 | 36 | 12 | |
| P13B/35 | 47 | 11 | 20 | 3 | |
| P13B/36 | 84 | 18 | 46 | 8 | |
| P13B/37 | 64 | 7 | 10 | 2 | |
| P13B/38 | 54 | 12 | 20 | 8 | |
| P13B/39 | 94 | 14 | 37 | 7 | |
| P13B/40 | 26 | 2 | 5 | 2 | |

| Object Lot | Total Sherd Count | Total Diagnostic | Total Decorated | Both diag and decor | SD |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| P13B/41 | 46 | 13 | 12 | 3 | |
| P13B/42 | 548 | 129 | 237 | 54 | |
| P13B/42 | 548 | 129 | 237 | 54 | |
| P13B/43 | 409 | 97 | 235 | 40 | |
| P13B/44 | 772 | 125 | 319 | 48 | |
| P13B/45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/46 | 64 | 22 | 43 | 7 | Present |
| P13B/47 | 77 | 2 | 15 | 0 | |
| P13B/48 | 22 | 0 | 21 | 0 | |
| P13B/49 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/50 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 2 | |
| P13B/51 | 37 | 6 | 11 | 0 | |
| P13B/52 | 327 | 54 | 130 | 36 | |
| P13B/53 | 82 | 18 | 53 | 13 | Present |
| P13B/54 | 769 | 129 | 372 | 57 | |
| P13B/55 | 76 | 13 | 39 | 4 | |
| P13B/56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/57 | 381 | 52 | 230 | 33 | |
| P13B/58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/59 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 1 | |
| P13B/60 | 565 | 111 | 283 | 62 | |
| P13B/61 | 199 | 33 | 116 | 23 | |
| P13B/62 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/63 | 335 | 41 | 158 | 35 | |
| P13B/64 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/65 | 22 | 0 | 18 | 0 | |
| P13B/66 | 335 | 67 | 127 | 26 | |
| P13B/67 | 89 | 38 | 73 | 13 | |
| P13B/68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Present |
| P13B/69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/71 | 45 | 10 | 20 | 4 | |
| P13B/72 | 57 | 9 | 23 | 7 | |
| P13B/73 | 70 | 28 | 59 | 8 | |
| P13B/74 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| P13B/75 | 80 | 16 | 44 | 7 | |
| P13B/76 | 49 | 7 | 24 | 4 | Present |
| P13B/77 | 59 | 17 | 26 | 10 | Present |
| P13B/78 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |

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