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The Settlement Patterns of Chichén Itzá, Yucatán



Research Year: 1997

Culture: Maya

Chronology: Classic

Location: Yucatán, Quintana Roo, México

Site: Chichén Itzá

Table of Contents

[Abstract](#)

[Resumen](#)

[Excavations at Group Sacbe 61](#)

[Structure 2A17](#)

[Structure 2A21](#)

[Structure 2A22](#)

[Test Excavations](#)

[Survey and Mapping of Structures at Chichén Itzá](#)

[Quadrant 21A](#)

[Quadrant 1Z](#)

[Quadrant 1A](#)

[Quadrant 5D](#)

[Survey and Mapping of Causeways at Chichén Itzá](#)

[List of Figures](#)

[Sources Cited](#)

Abstract

A research program consisting of surveying and excavations was conducted at Chichén Itzá, Yucatán, during the ten-week period between March 31 and June 6, 1997. The final report of the 1997 field season is presented to FAMSI and includes results of the horizontal excavations, test excavations, and mapping at the site. This report describes each of these activities.

Resumen

En Chichén Itzá, Yucatán, se llevó a cabo un programa de investigación que consistió en relevamientos y excavaciones y que se extendió por un período de diez semanas, entre el 31 de marzo y el 6 de junio de 1997. Se presenta a FAMSI el informe final de la temporada de campo 1997, el cual incluye los resultados de las excavaciones horizontales, las excavaciones de prueba, y el mapeo del sitio. El presente informe describe cada una de dichas actividades.

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Excavations at Group Sacbe 61

Group Sacbe 61 is located 1.2 km west of the site center of Chichén Itzá. This group is formed by structures 2A21 (temple), 2A22 (altar), and 2A17 (patio). Before the excavations began, a grid was placed at the group ([Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Figure 3](#), [Figure 4](#), [Figure 5](#), [Figure 6](#), [Figure 7](#), and [Figure 8](#)). The grid was used to record the excavations conducted in units of two by two meters. Excavations were first conducted at Structure 2A17, then at Structure 2A21, and Structure 2A22.

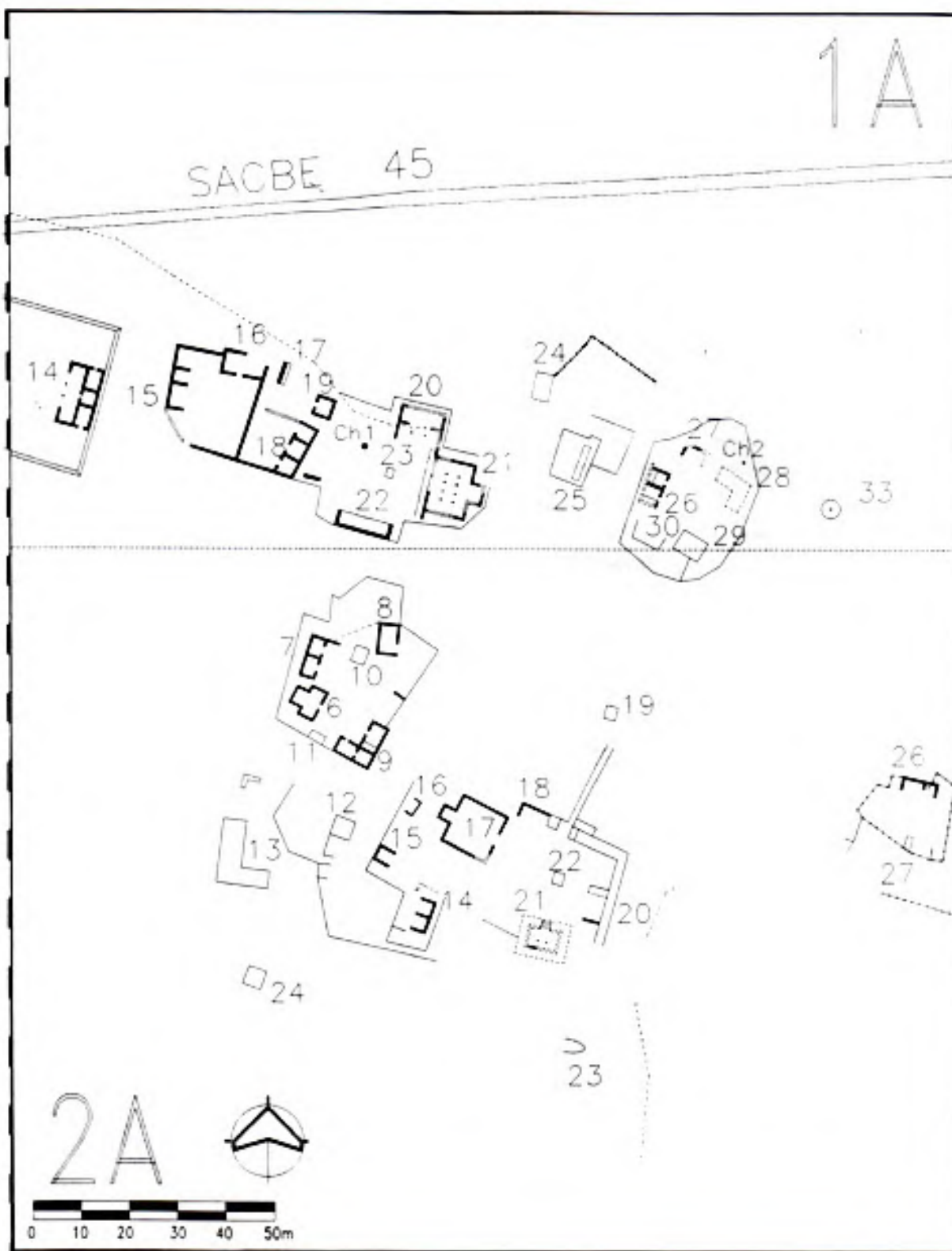


Figure 1. Plan view of Group Sacbe 61.



Figure 2. Group Sacbe 61 before excavation.



Figure 3. Structure 2A22 before excavation, seen from the south to the north.



Figure 4. Group Sacbe 61 after clearing, as seen from the south.



Figure 5. Structure 2A21 and quarry or sascabera.



Figure 6. Structure 2A21 before excavation, seen from the east to the west.



Figure 7. Group Sacbe 61 seen from the east to the west.



Figure 8. Group Sacbe 61 seen from Structure 2A21.

Structure 2A17

This structure is a patio without gallery oriented on a east-west axis, and is located at the west of Group Sacbe 61 ([Figure 9](#), [Figure 10](#), and [Figure 13](#)). Excavations were conducted at the northern, eastern, and western parts of Structure 2A17 as well as in its internal patio ([Figure 14](#), [Figure 27](#), [Figure 28](#), [Figure 29](#), and [Figure 30](#)). The excavations revealed in situ stones used as foundations for the walls of Structure 2A17. A second course of stones was discovered in the interior and exterior of 2A17 that had fallen off the walls of the structure ([Figure 15](#), [Figure 16](#), [Figure 17](#), [Figure 18](#), [Figure 19](#), [Figure 20](#), and [Figure 21](#)).

Few remains of what may have been a third course of stones were found during the excavations, therefore, we cannot be sure that Structure 2A17 had walls with a third course of stones. The data suggests that the walls of structure 2A17 were at least 60 centimeters high ([Figure 22](#), [Figure 23](#), [Figure 24](#), [Figure 25](#), [Figure 26](#), [Figure 27](#), [Figure 28](#), [Figure 29](#), and [Figure 30](#)).

Excavations conducted in the patio of Structure 2A17 revealed the remains of one stucco floor and a bench. The stucco floor was better preserved close to the northern wall of Structure 2A17. The bench was found between the northwest corner and the entrance to the shrine located in the western part of the building, and the walls of the

bench have talud. Several sherds were found inside the bench ([Figure 31](#), [Figure 32](#), [Figure 33](#), [Figure 34](#), [Figure 35](#), [Figure 36](#), [Figure 37](#), [Figure 38](#), and [Figure 39](#)).

A shrine is located in the western part of Structure 2A17 and its only entrance faces the internal patio of this building ([Figure 30](#), [Figure 31](#), [Figure 32](#), [Figure 33](#), and [Figure 34](#)). The doorway to the shrine has two stone jambs located to the north and south ([Figure 39](#), [Figure 40](#), [Figure 41](#), [Figure 42](#), [Figure 43](#), [Figure 44](#), [Figure 45](#), [Figure 46](#), and [Figure 47](#)). Charcoal remains were found close to the northern jamb and were collected so they could be sent to a laboratory for chronometric dating ([Figure 48](#) and [Figure 49](#)). The National Institute of Anthropology and History in México will authorize next month the transportation of charcoal remains from México to the United States of America.

A well preserved bench covered with stucco was found at the rear of the shrine. Although the bench was built along the western wall of the shrine, portions of the bench abut against the northern and southern walls of the shrine ([Figure 40](#), [Figure 41](#), [Figure 42](#), [Figure 43](#), [Figure 44](#), [Figure 45](#), [Figure 46](#), [Figure 47](#), [Figure 48](#), [Figure 66](#), [Figure 67](#), [Figure 68](#), [Figure 69](#), [Figure 70](#), and [Figure 71](#)). Excavations conducted in the bench of Structure 2A17 exposed an offering consisting of a Sisal censer and a tripod vessel ([Figure 50](#), [Figure 51](#), [Figure 52](#), [Figure 53](#), [Figure 54](#), [Figure 55](#), [Figure 56](#), [Figure 57](#), [Figure 58](#), [Figure 59](#), [Figure 60](#), [Figure 61](#), [Figure 62](#), [Figure 63](#), and [Figure 64](#)). This finding pertains to the Sotuta ceramic complex of Chichén Itzá.



Figure 9. Structure 2A17 viewed from north to south before excavation.



Figure 10. Excavation of Structure 2A17.



Figure 11. Group Sacbe 61, screen used for sifting earth.



Figure 12. Group Sacbe 61, screen used for sifting earth.

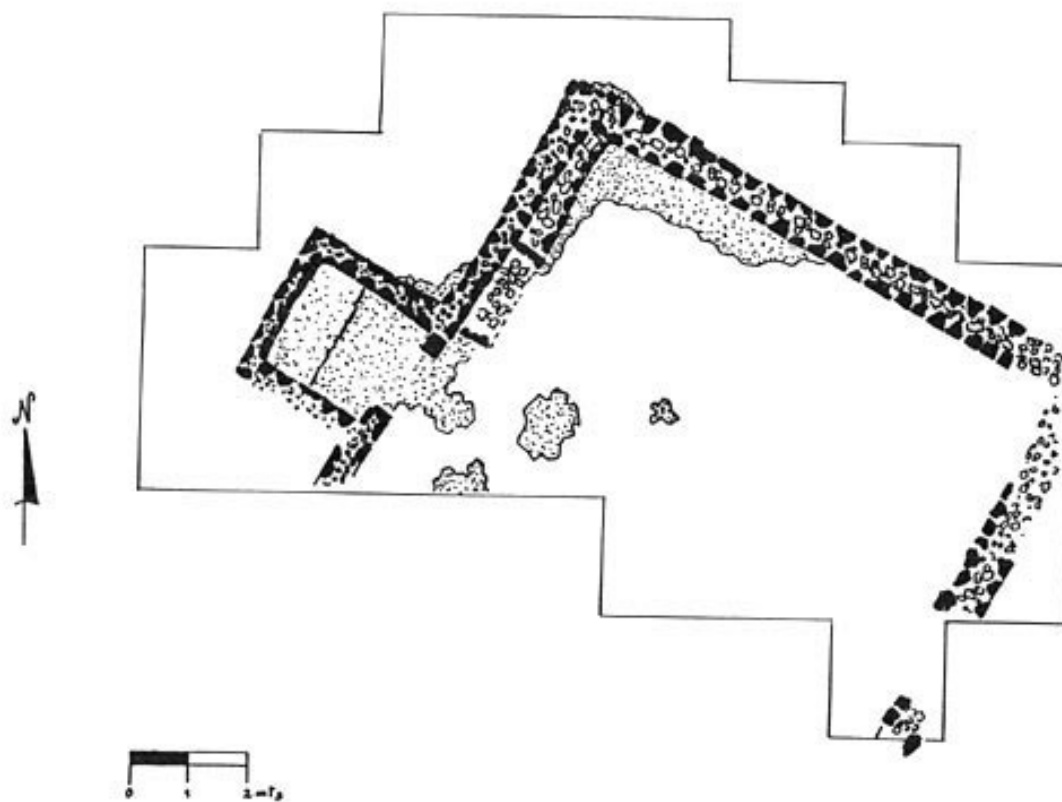


Figure 13. Plan view of Structure 2A17.

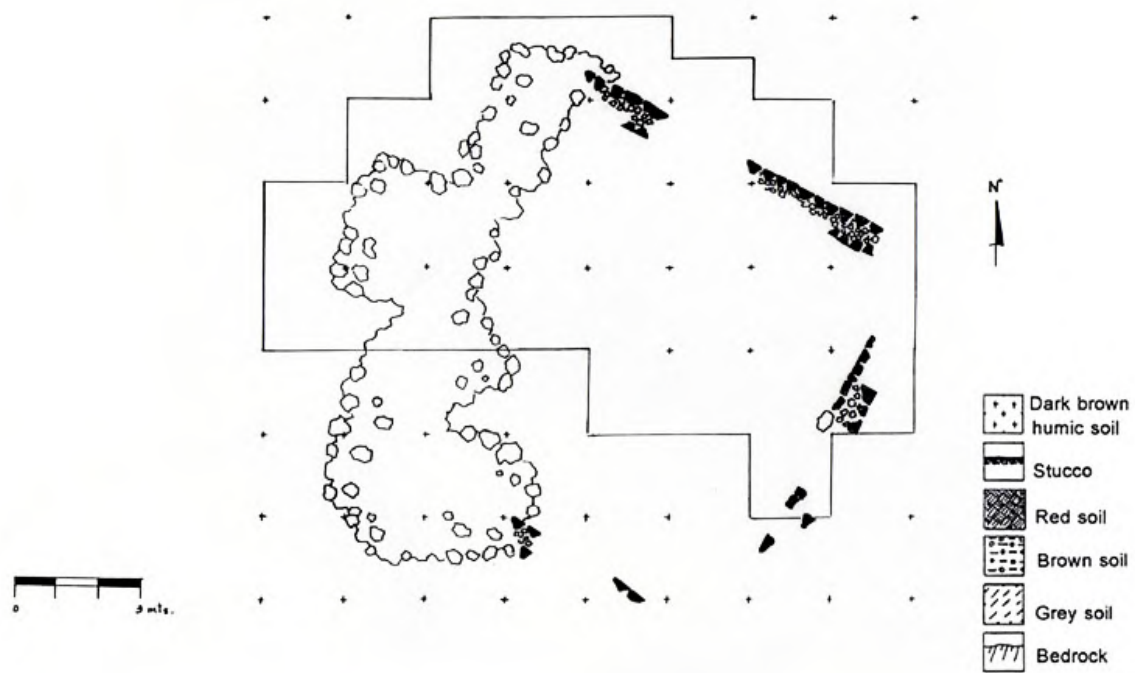


Figure 14. Excavation of Structure 2A17.



Figure 15. Structure 2A17, north wall.



Figure 16. Structure 2A17, north-south view before excavation.



Figure 17. Structure 2A17, excavation of the north wall.



Figure 18. Structure 2A17, Quad 23L before excavation.

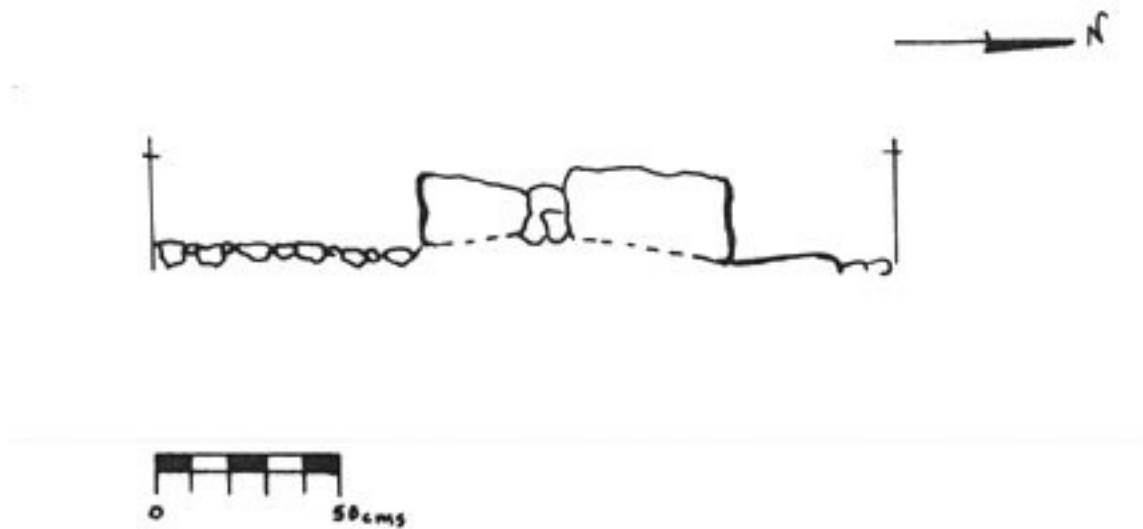


Figure 19. Cross section of the wall in Quad 23L.



Figure 20. Structure 2A17, seen from the northwest to the southeast.



Figure 21. Structure 2A17, excavation of the northwest corner.



Figure 22. Structure 2A17, north side with the possible placement of the third course of stones of the wall.



Figure 23. Structure 2A17, excavation of the bench on the north side.



Figure 24. Structure 2A17, excavation of the north bench.



Figure 25. Structure 2A17, north side and north bench.

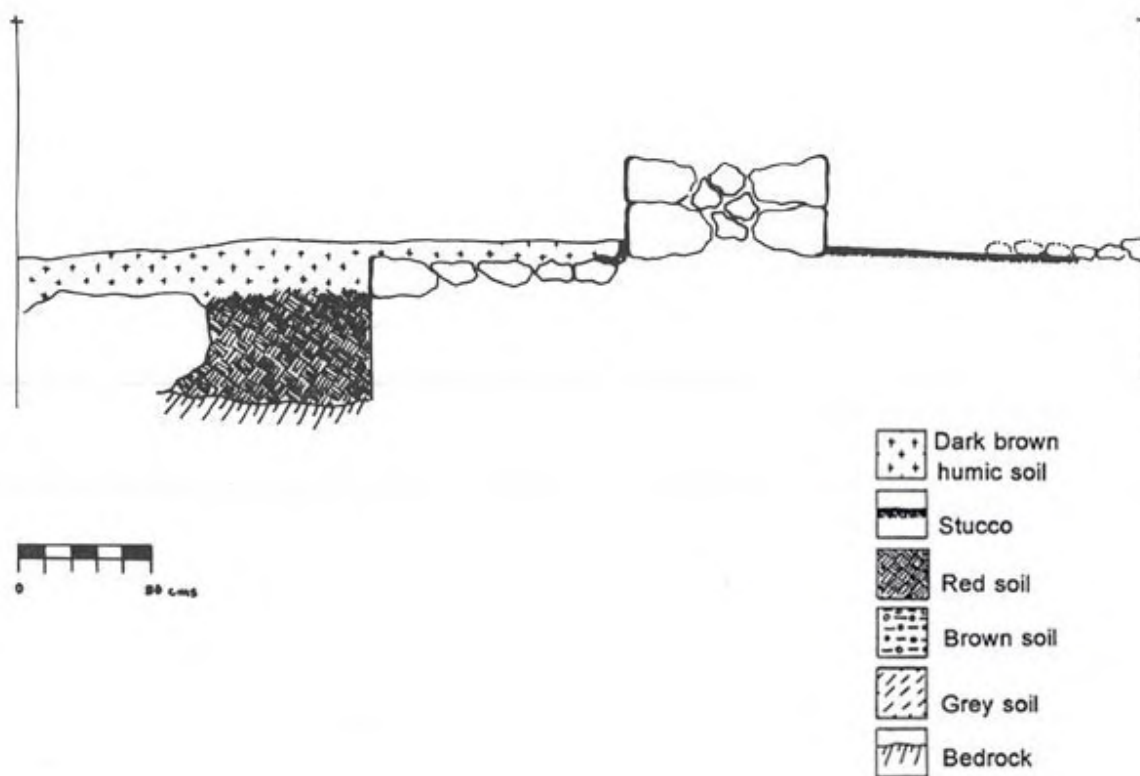


Figure 26. Cross section of the north wall and the bench.



Figure 27. Structure 2A17, seen from east to west before excavation.



Figure 28. Structure 2A17, excavation of the east wall.



Figure 29. Structure 2A17, excavation of the east wall.



Figure 30. Structure 2A17, a view of the excavation from east to west.



Figure 31. Structure 2A17, west side of shrine before excavation.



Figure 32. Structure 2A17, back side of shrine before excavation.



Figure 33. Excavation of the west side of Structure 2A17 and the south side of the shrine.



Figure 34. Structure 2A17, interior of the north side showing the fill on top of the stucco floor.



Figure 35. Structure 2A17, Quad 22J before excavation.



Figure 36. Structure 2A17, Quad 22J before excavation.

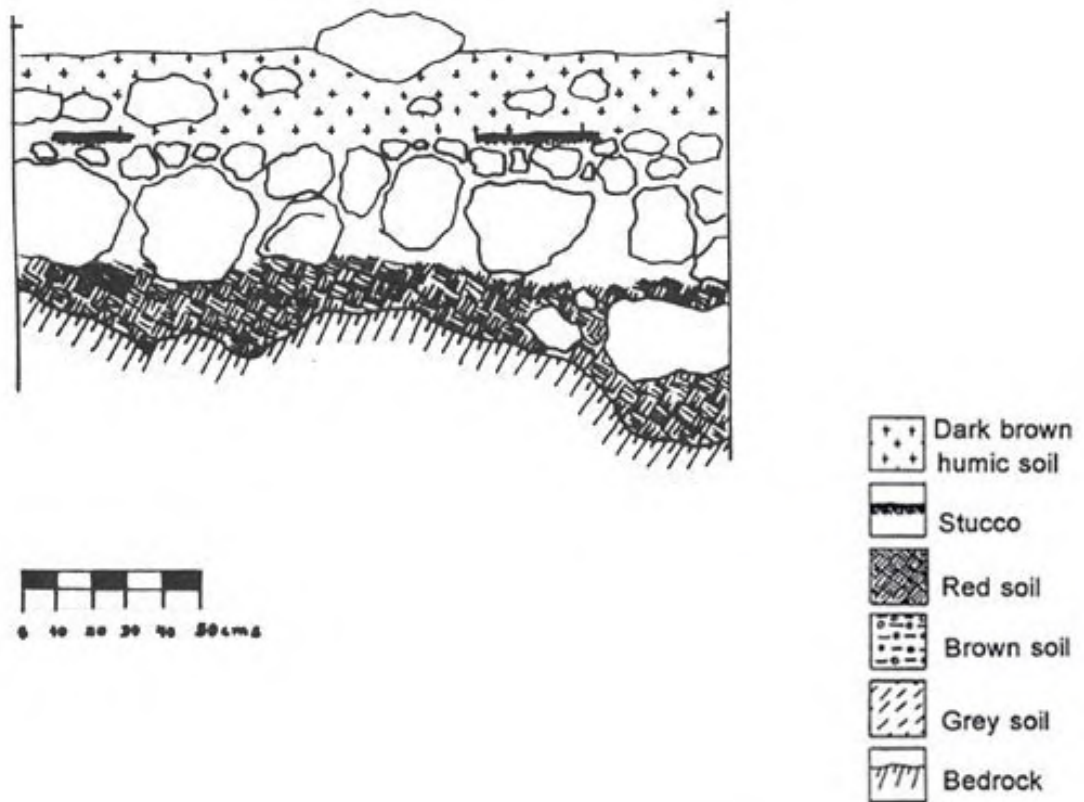


Figure 37. North cross section of the central test excavation.

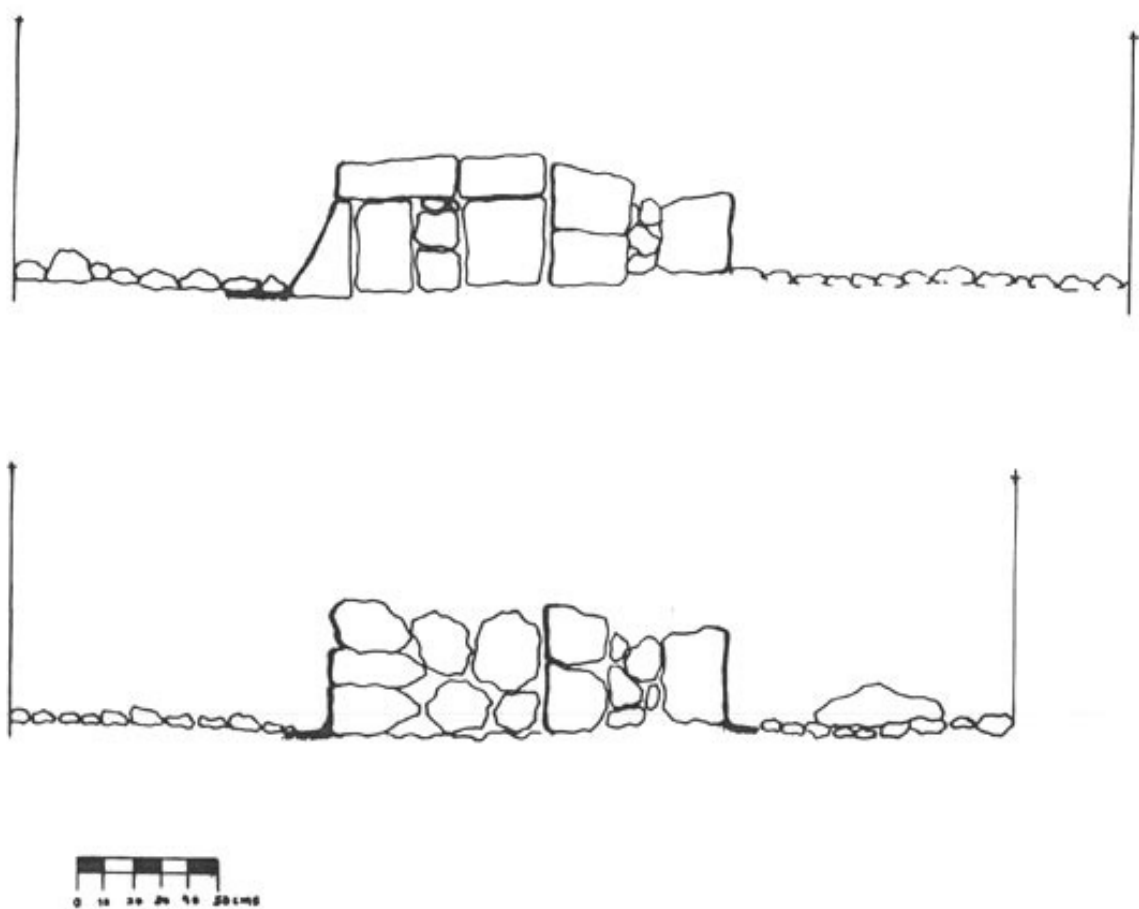


Figure 38. East-west cross section of the bench of Structure 2A17.



Figure 39. Excavation of the shrine seen from east to west.



Figure 40. Excavation of the shrine.

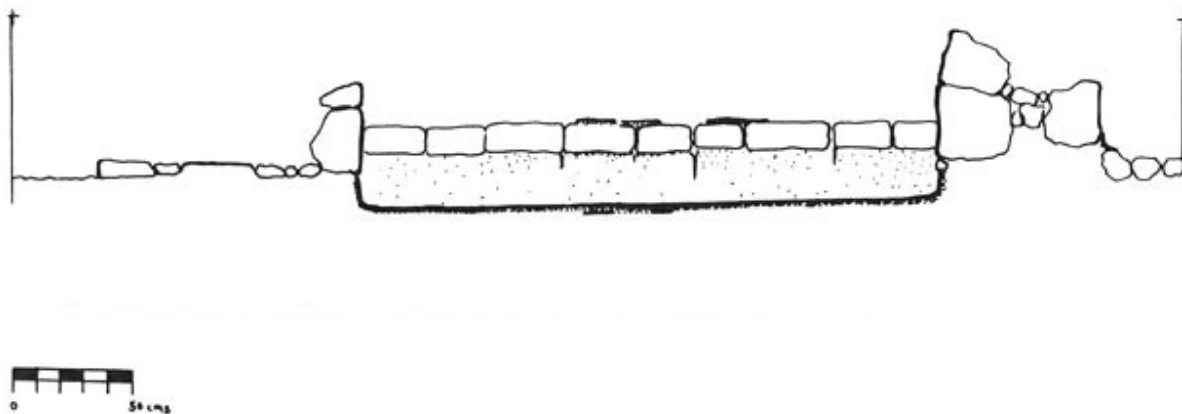


Figure 41. The shrine seen from the east.

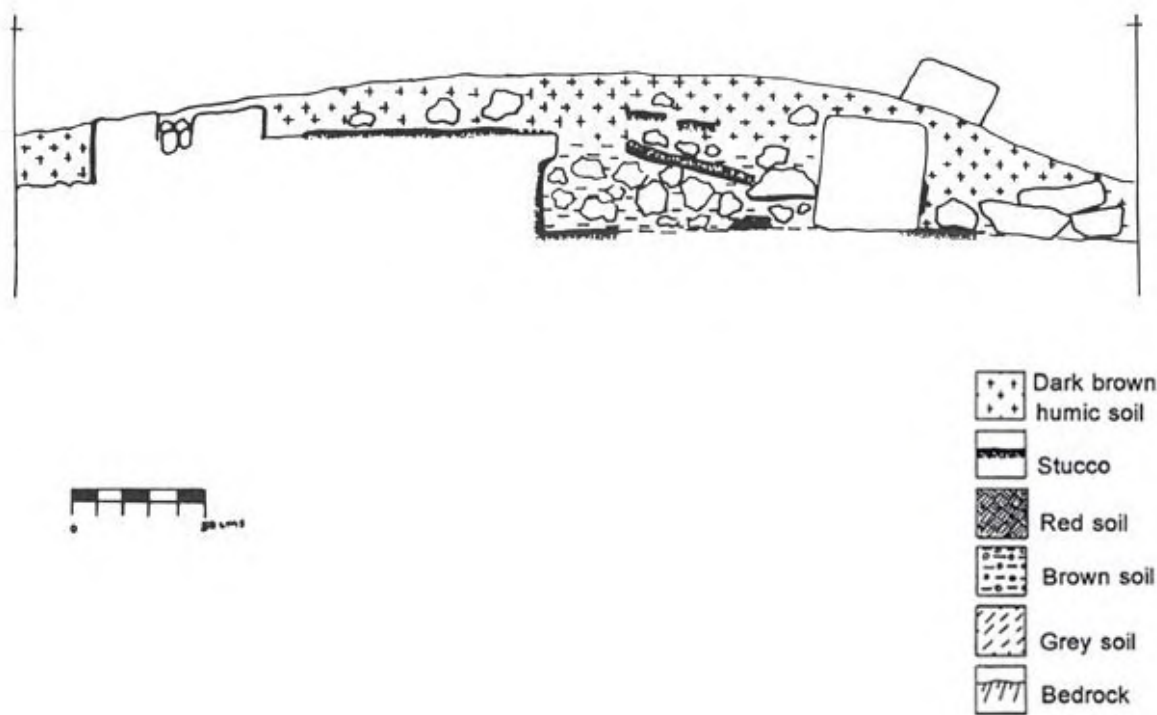


Figure 42. West-east cross section, north side of the shrine.



Figure 43. Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine, view of the north wall with fill or testigo.



Figure 44. Structure 2A17, south side of the shrine, fill or testigo that shows Layer II construction fill.



Figure 45. Fragments of stucco found on Layer II of the fill or testigo.



Figure 46. Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine, south side.



Figure 47. Structure 2A17, main entrance to the shrine.



Figure 48. Interior of shrine. Stucco floor and remains of charcoal and ash.



Figure 49. Interior of shrine. Remains of charcoal and ash beside the north jamb.

Structure 2A21

This structure is a mound in a bad stage of decay and was probably used as a quarry to obtain stones for the construction of nearby field walls. Moreover, the rear of Structure 2A21 collapsed into the lime quarry located directly to the south of the structure ([Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Figure 5](#), [Figure 6](#), [Figure 72](#), and [Figure 99](#)).

Excavations on Structure 2A21 were concentrated on the northern and western parts of the structure and uncovered the remains of at least two terraces and a staircase. The staircase is located on the northern side of Structure 2A21 and faces Structure 2A22 and the beginning of Causeway 61 ([Figure 73](#), [Figure 74](#), [Figure 75](#), [Figure 76](#), [Figure 77](#), [Figure 78](#), [Figure 79](#), [Figure 80](#), [Figure 81](#), [Figure 82](#), [Figure 83](#), [Figure 84](#), [Figure 85](#), [Figure 86](#), [Figure 87](#), and [Figure 88](#)).

The remains of a column and a wall were found on the summit of 2A21. This structure housed front and rear rooms which were divided by an interior wall. The entrance to the rooms probably had two columns, but only one of them was found during the field season.

A stucco floor was discovered on the summit of Structure 2A21. This floor was fully documented and excavation continued beneath the floor which exposed dry core fill and the remains of an earlier structure. This structure has one room and its walls are covered by a thick layer of stucco. The excavation continued beneath the early structure and reached almost two meters in depth. The excavation ceased at this level ([Figure 89](#), [Figure 90](#), [Figure 91](#), [Figure 92](#), [Figure 93](#), [Figure 94](#), [Figure 95](#), [Figure 96](#), [Figure 97](#), and [Figure 98](#)).

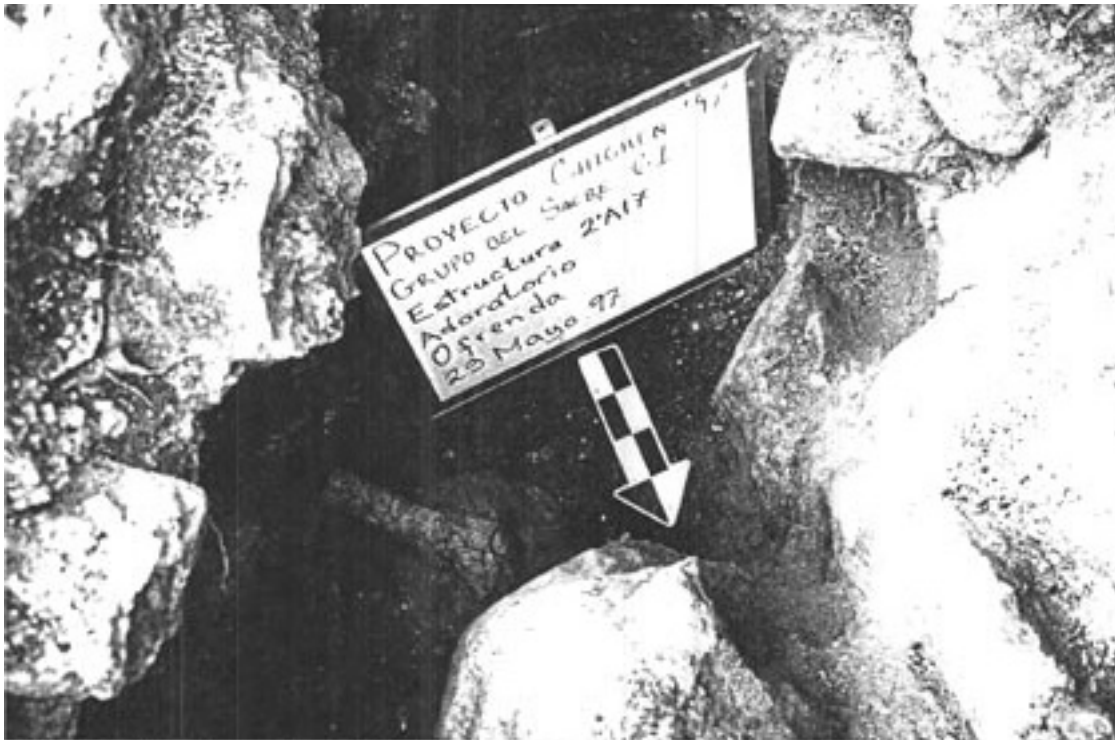


Figure 50. Structure 2A17, Sahumador Sisal deposited as an offering on the shrine.



Figure 51. Structure 2A17, vase deposited as an offering on the shrine.

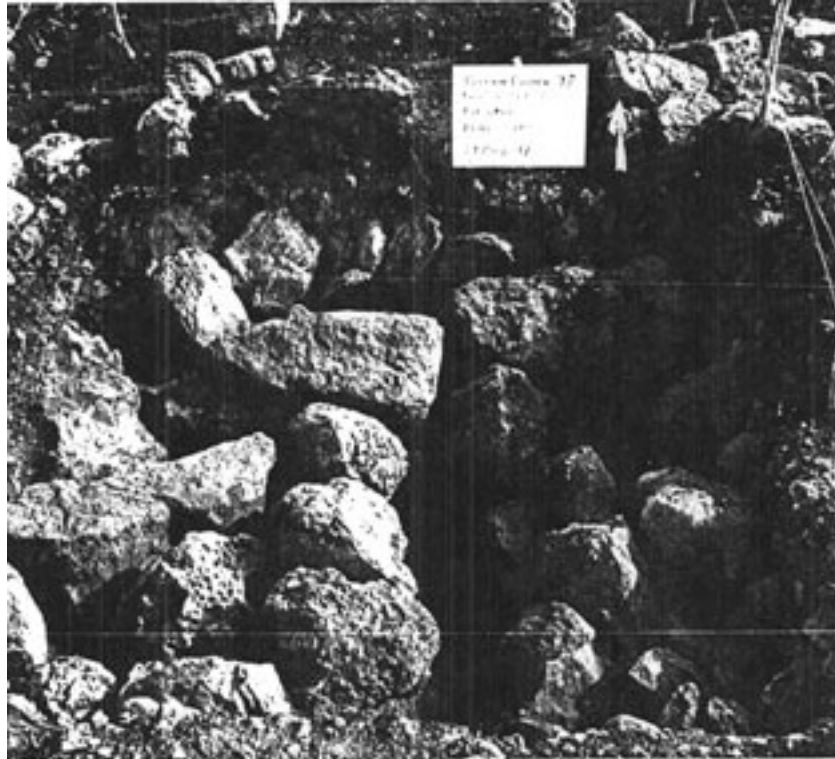


Figure 52. Test excavation 1, construction fill of Structure 2A17.

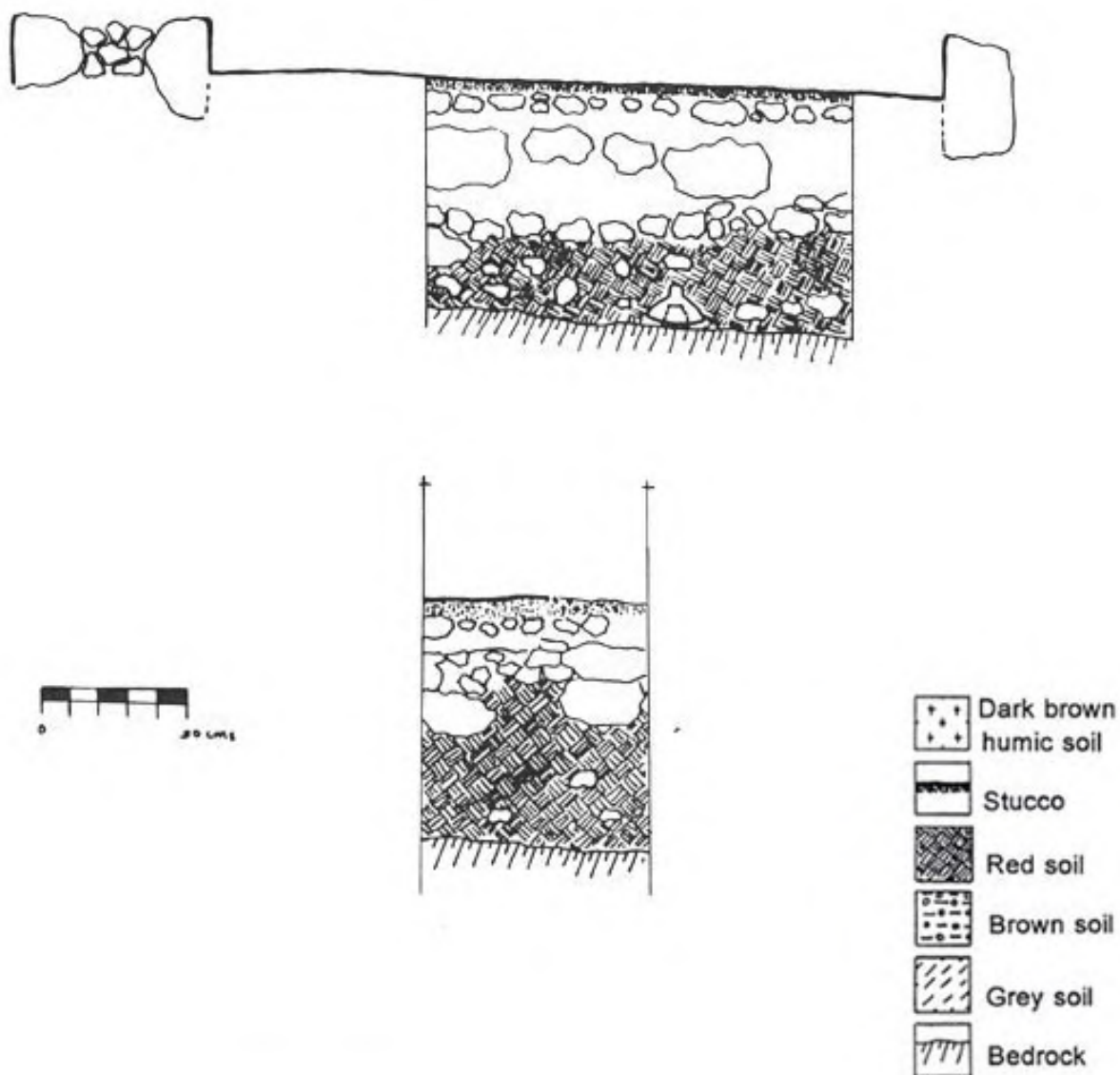


Figure 53. Test excavation 2, interior of the bench.



Figure 54. Test excavation 2, interior of the bench.

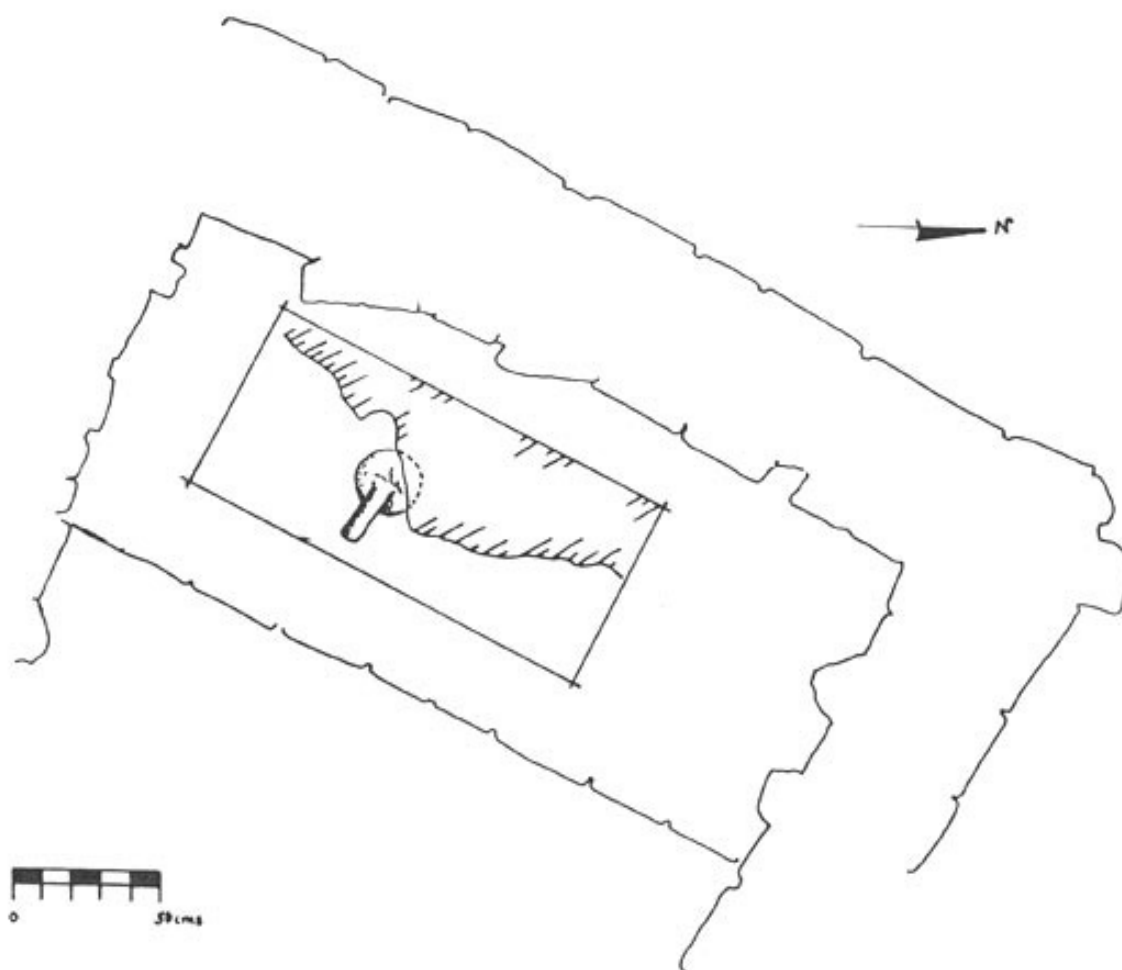


Figure 55. Sahumador Sisal in the bench test excavation.

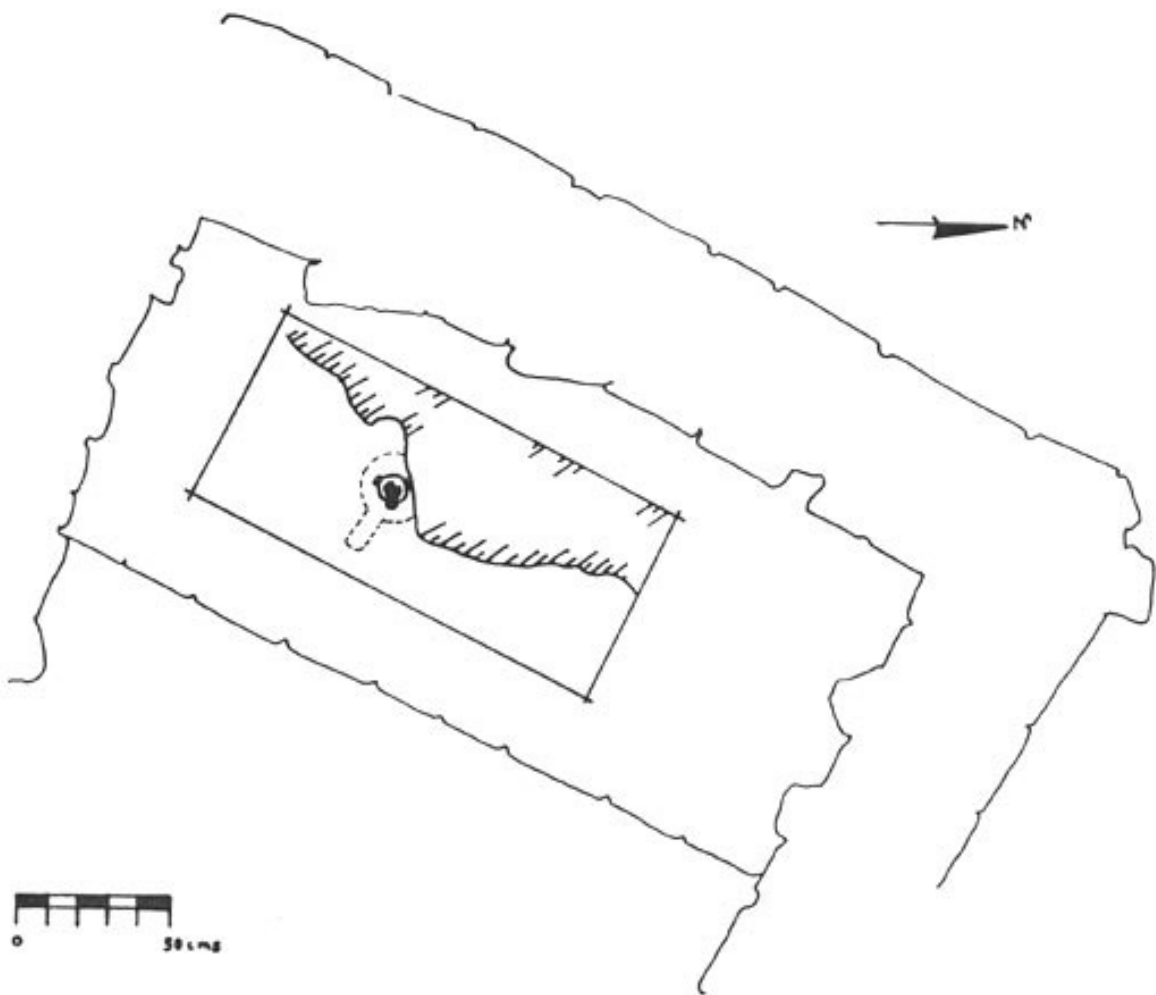


Figure 56. Vase in the bench test excavation.

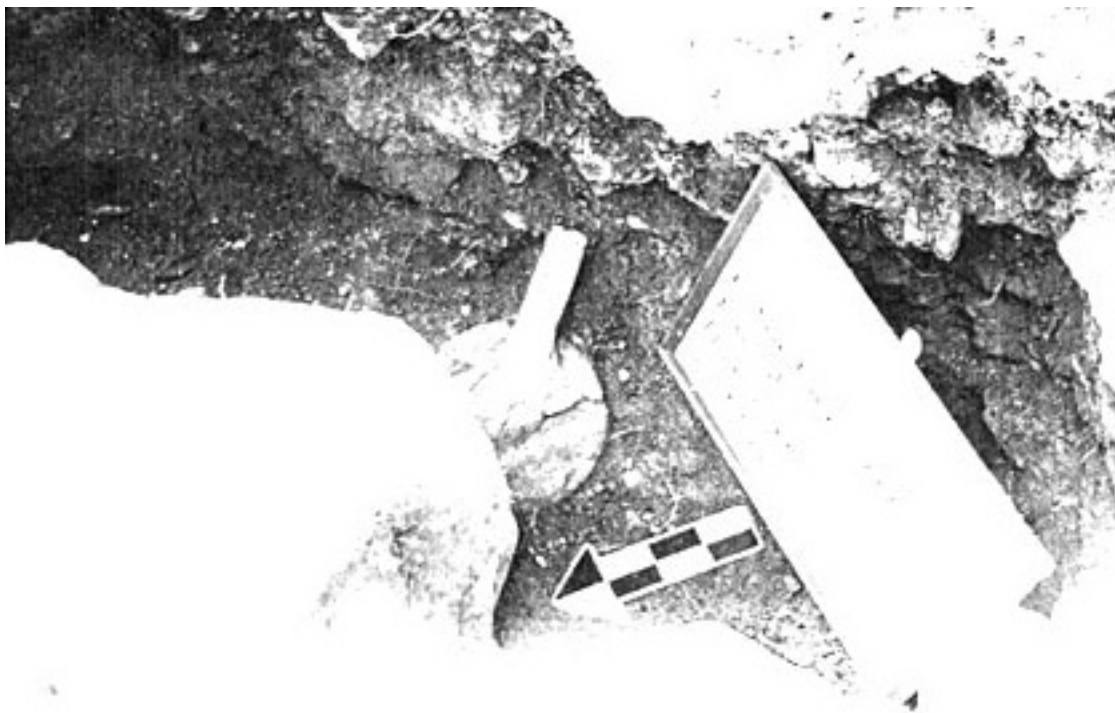


Figure 57. Sahumador Sisal deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 58. Sahumador Sisal deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 59. Sahumador Sisal deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 60. Sahumador Sisal deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 61. Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 62. Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 63. Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.



Figure 64. Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.

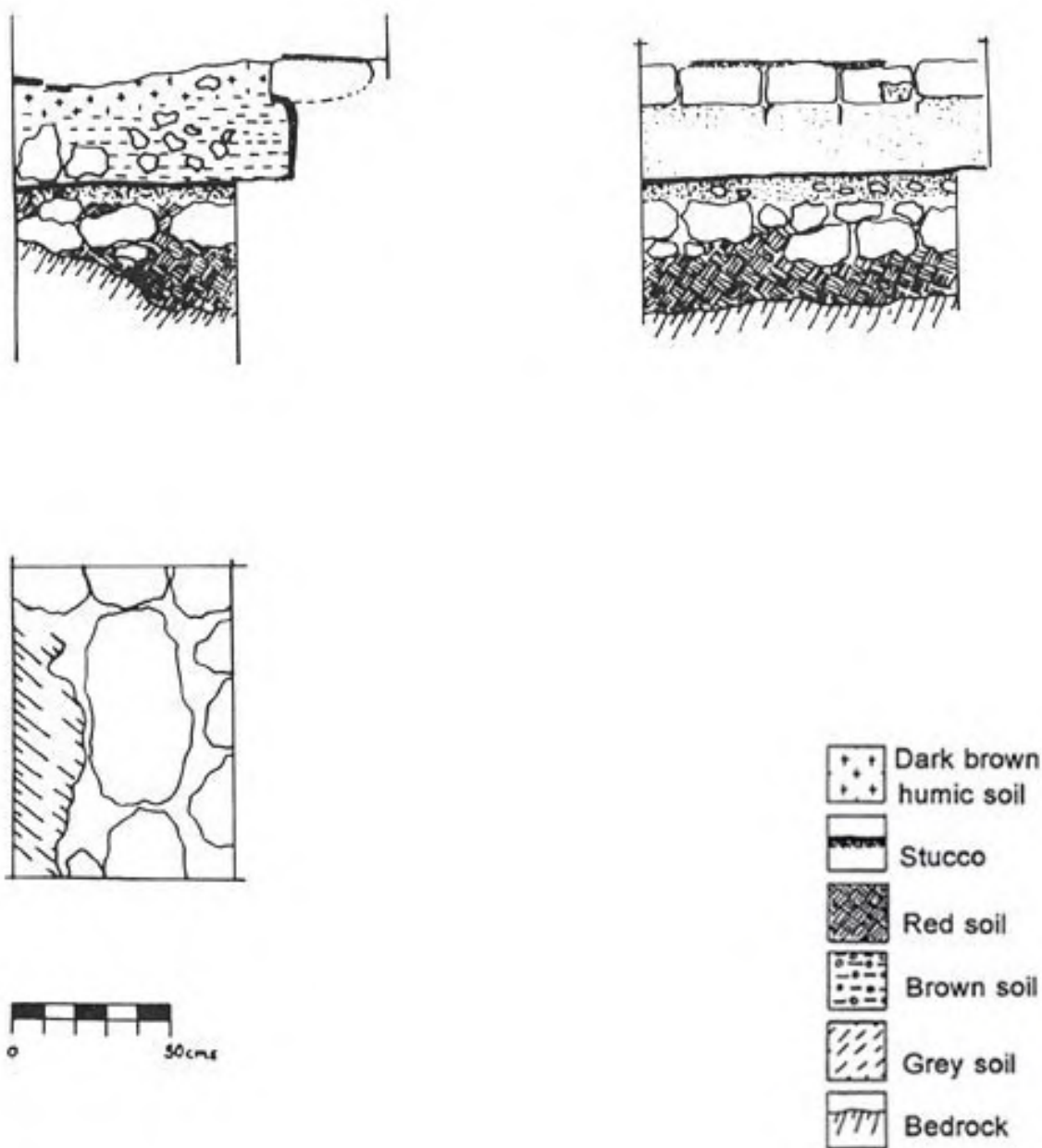


Figure 65. Test excavation in front of the shrine.



Figure 66. Interior of the shrine with bench partially excavated.

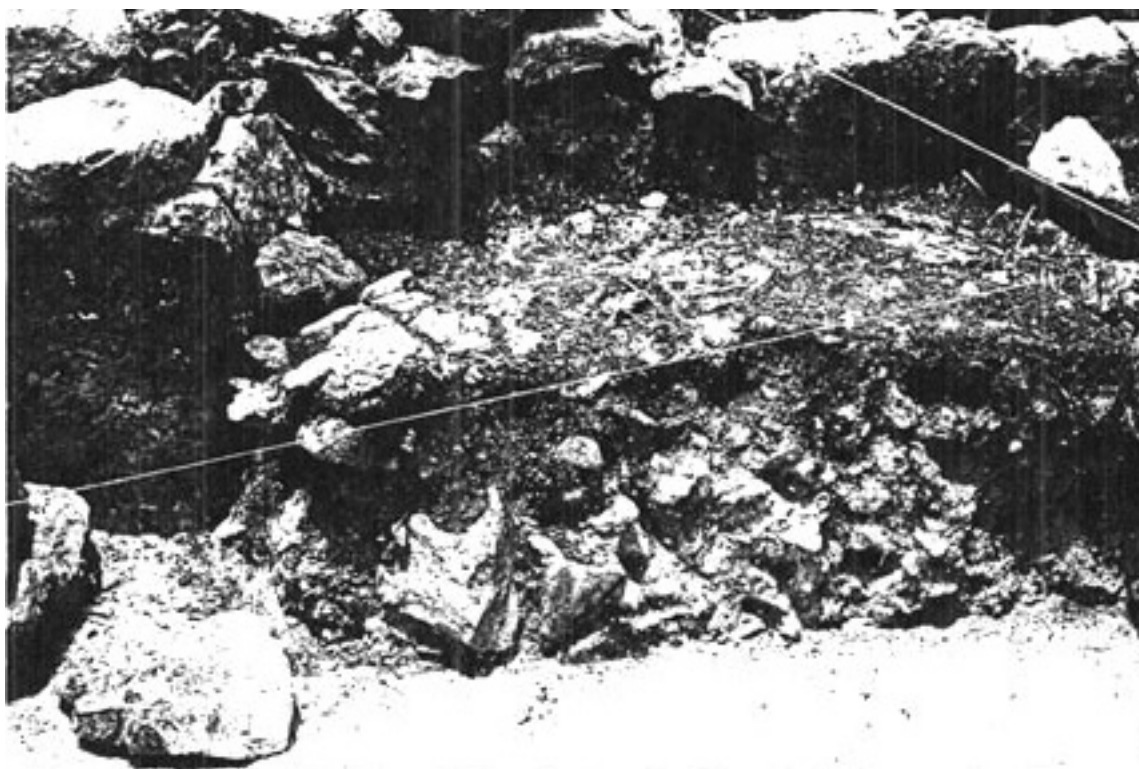


Figure 67. South side of the shrine, testigo that shows the Layer II construction fill, to far left is seen the south jamb.



Figure 68. Structure 2A17, south side of the shrine, testigo that shows the Layer II construction fill.



Figure 69. Interior of the shrine after excavation (north side).



Figure 70. Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine with the testigos.



Figure 71. Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine with the testigos.



Figure 72. North side of Structure 2A21 before excavation.



Figure 73. Structure 2A21, north trench during the excavation.



Figure 74. Structure 2A21, excavation of the north trench.



Figure 75. Structure 2A21, northwest corner, north side.

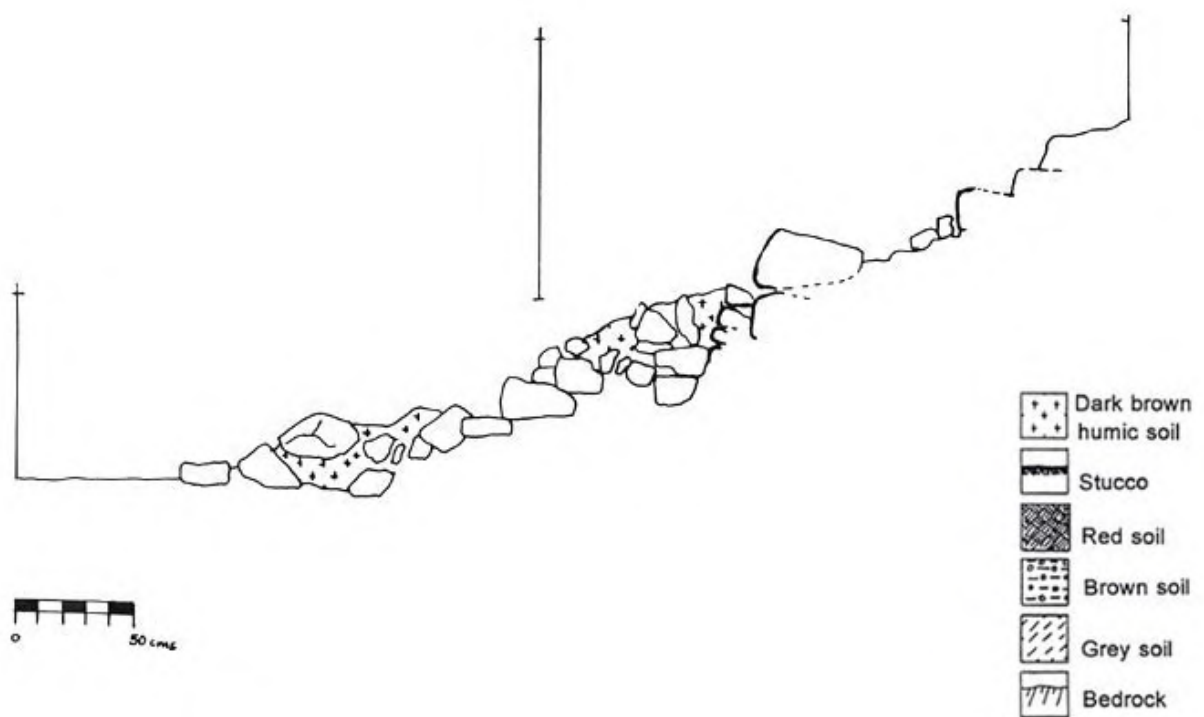


Figure 76. Structure 2A21, north-south cross section, east side of the north trench.



Figure 77. Structure 2A21, north trench.



Figure 78. Structure 2A21, collapsed stair, north side.

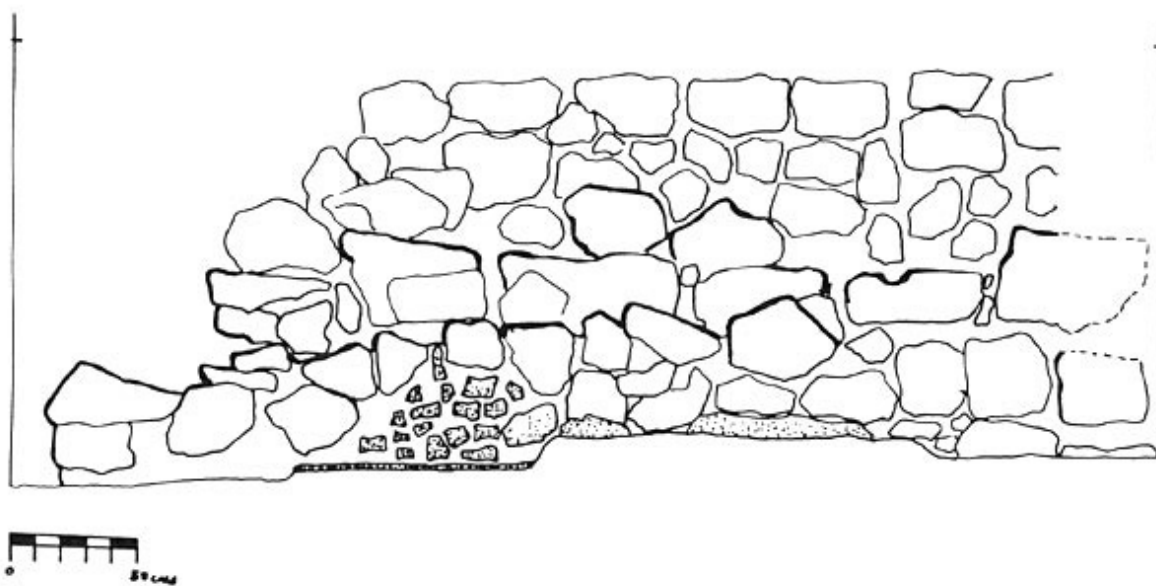


Figure 79. Structure 2A21, northwest corner, west side.



Figure 80. Structure 2A21, plan view of the west side of the northwest corner.

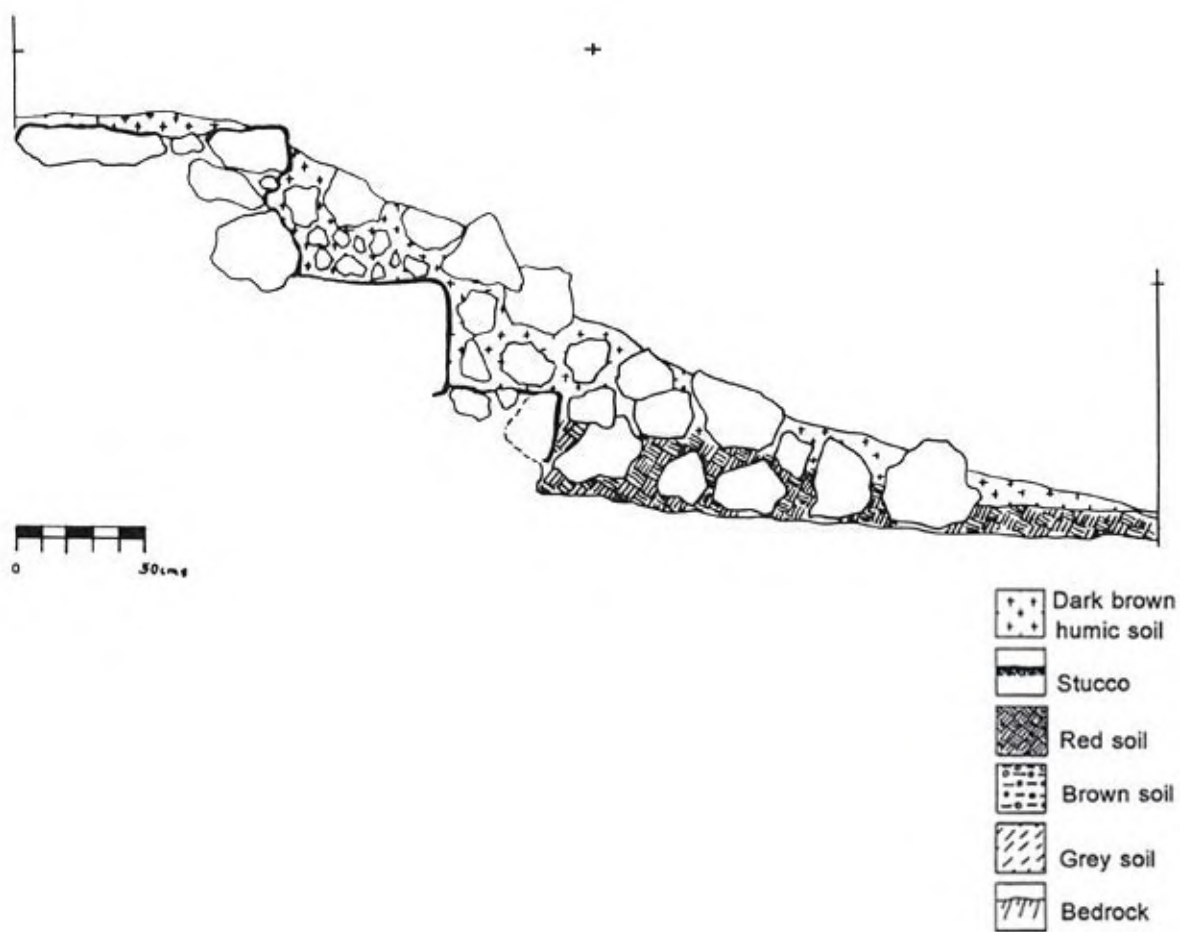


Figure 81. East-west cross section, south face of the west trench.



Figure 82. Structure 2A21, excavation of the west trench.



Figure 83. Structure 2A21, west trench.



Figure 84. Structure 2A21, west trench.



Figure 85. Structure 2A21, west trench.



Figure 86. Structure 2A21, west trench.



Figure 87. West side of Structure 2A21.



Figure 88. Structure 2A21, south profile of the west trench.

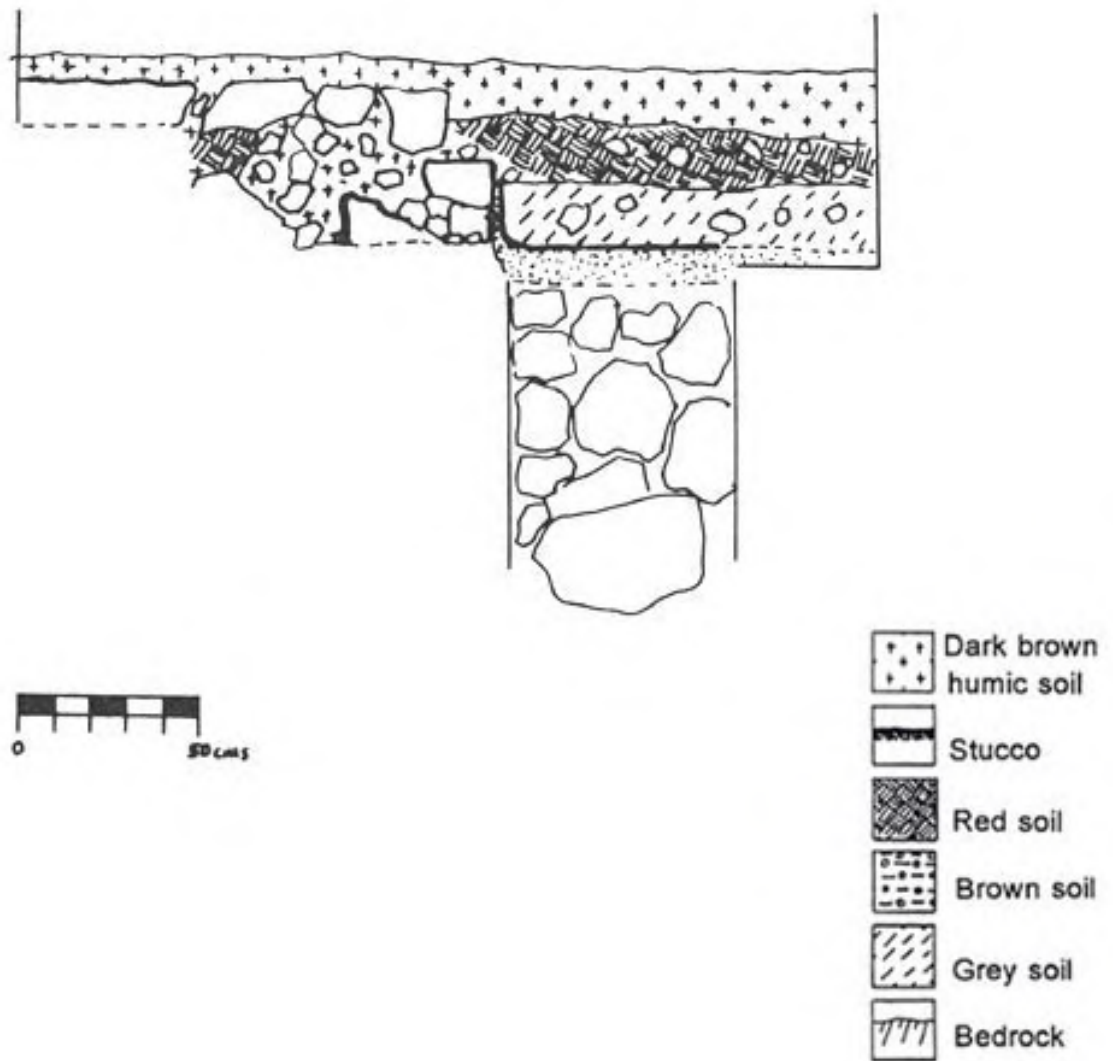


Figure 89. Test excavation on top of Structure 2A21.

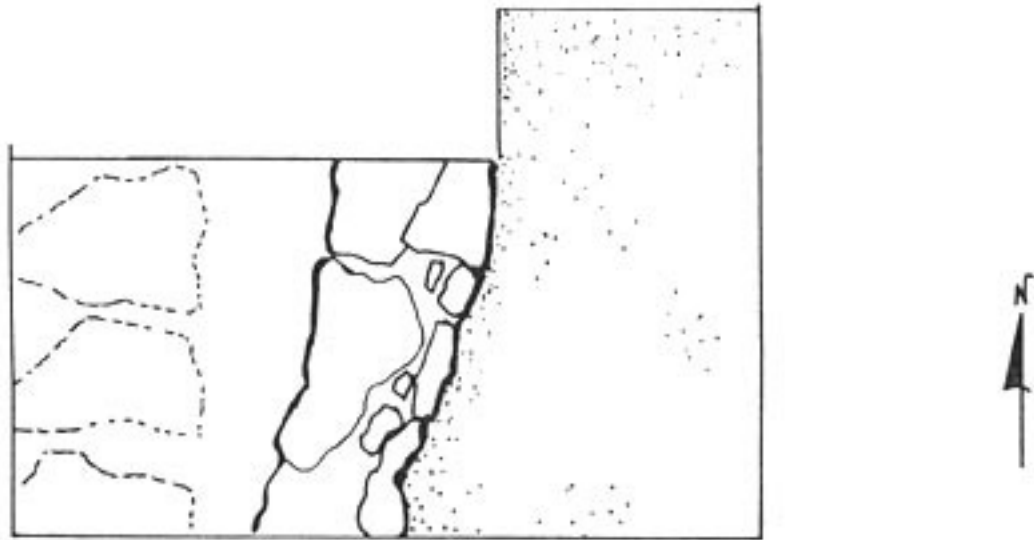


Figure 90. Plan of the test excavation.



Figure 91. Structure 2A21, beginning the test excavation on the upper part of the structure.



Figure 92. Structure 2A21, excavation of the upper part.



Figure 93. Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.



Figure 94. Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.



Figure 95. Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.



Figure 96. Structure 2A21, detail of the stucco floor and construction fill of a possible sub-structure.



Figure 97. Structure 2A21, test excavation beneath the stucco floor.

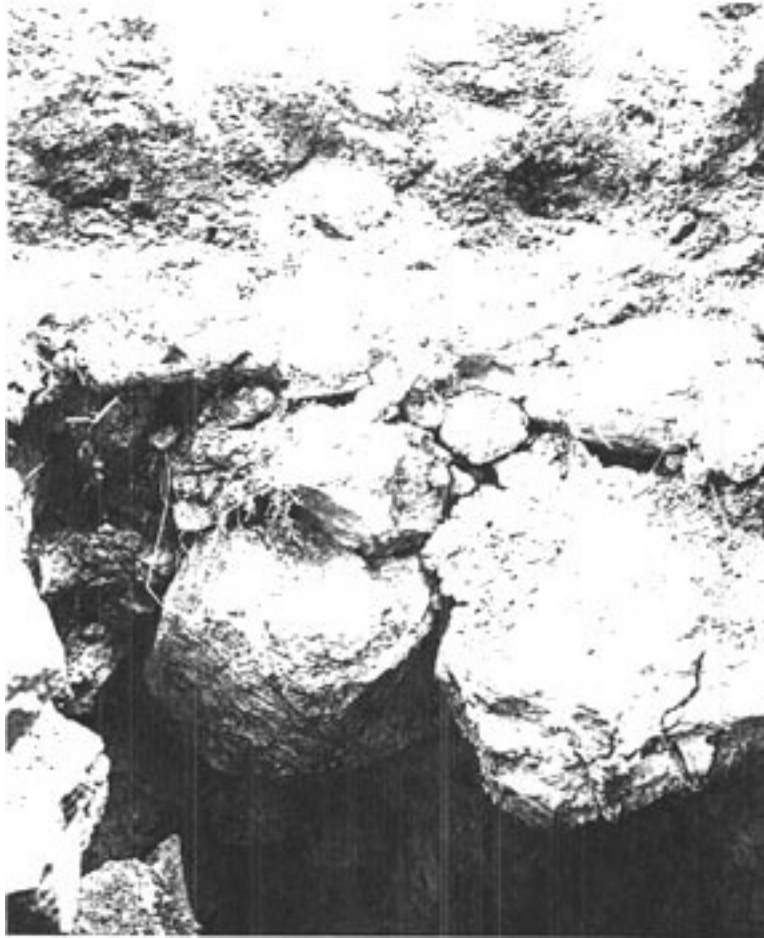


Figure 98. Structure 2A21, test excavation, seen from the stucco layer and the construction fill.



Figure 99. Restoration of the northwest corner of 2A21.



Figure 100. View of structure 2A22 before excavation, as seen from Structure 2A21.

Structure 2A22

This structure is an altar located at the center of Group Sacbe 61 ([Figure 3](#), [Figure 100](#), [Figure 101](#), [Figure 102](#), [Figure 103](#), [Figure 104](#), [Figure 105](#), [Figure 106](#), [Figure 107](#), [Figure 108](#), [Figure 124](#), [Figure 125](#), [Figure 126](#), and [Figure 127](#)). The excavations uncovered the foundation and two course of stones which formed the walls of the altar. An upper course of stones formed the cornice of the altar.

Excavations in the interior of the altar exposed a second altar, or Structure 2A22-sub, which was built with coarse stones ([Figure 109](#), [Figure 110](#), [Figure 111](#), [Figure 112](#), [Figure 113](#), [Figure 114](#), [Figure 115](#), [Figure 116](#), [Figure 117](#), [Figure 118](#), [Figure 119](#), [Figure 120](#), [Figure 121](#), [Figure 122](#), and [Figure 123](#)). Very few sherds were found during the excavation of both altars.

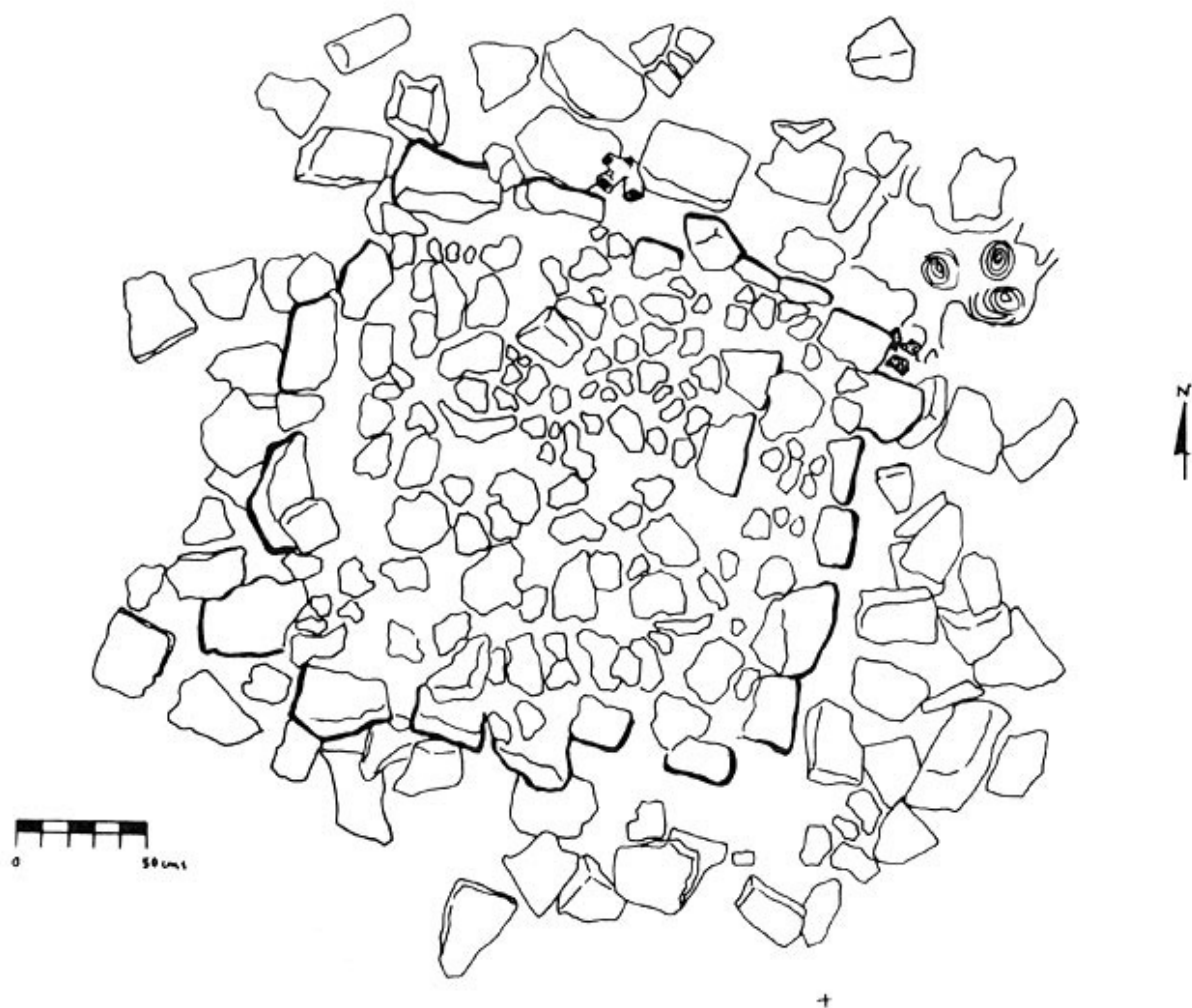


Figure 101. Plan view of Structure 2A22.



Figure 102. Structure 2A22, north side before excavation.



Figure 103. Structure 2A22, view from south to north before excavation.

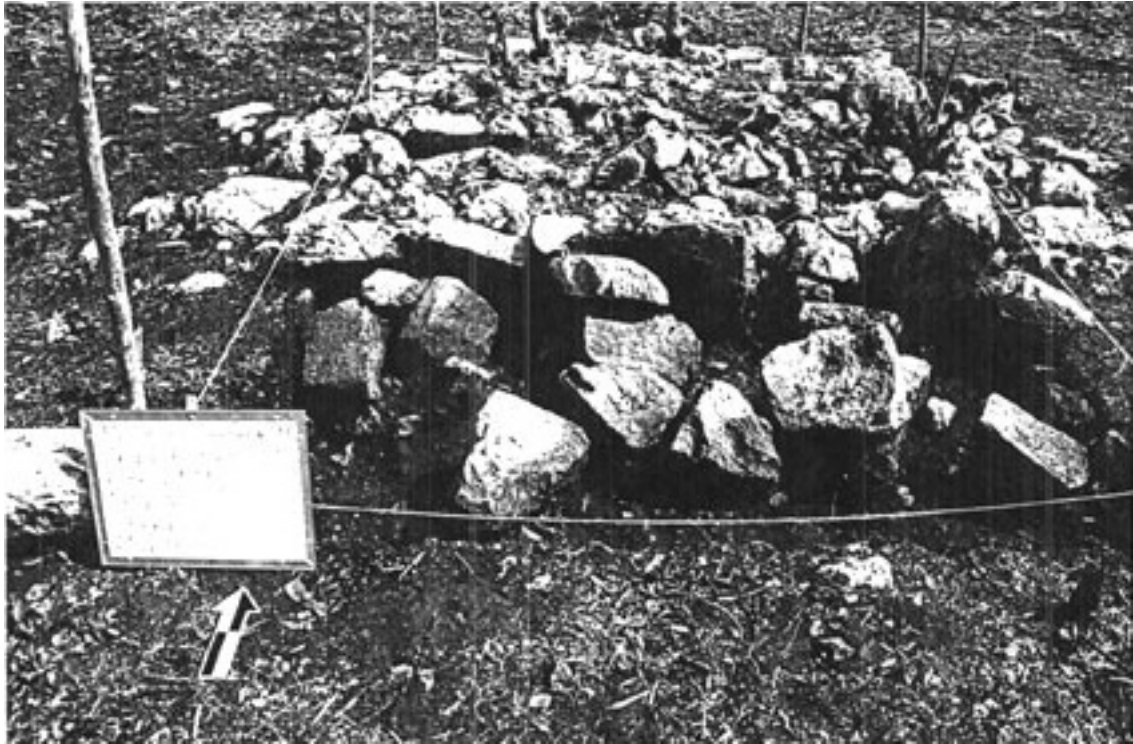


Figure 104. Structure 2A22, excavation of the south side.



Figure 105. Structure 2A22, south side.



Figure 106. Structure 2A22, Quad 17R.



Figure 107. Structure 2A22, Quad 16R before excavating.



Figure 108. Structure 2A22. Quad 17R before excavating.



Figure 109. Plan view of Structure 2A22-sub.



Figure 110. Structure 2A22-sub, north profile.

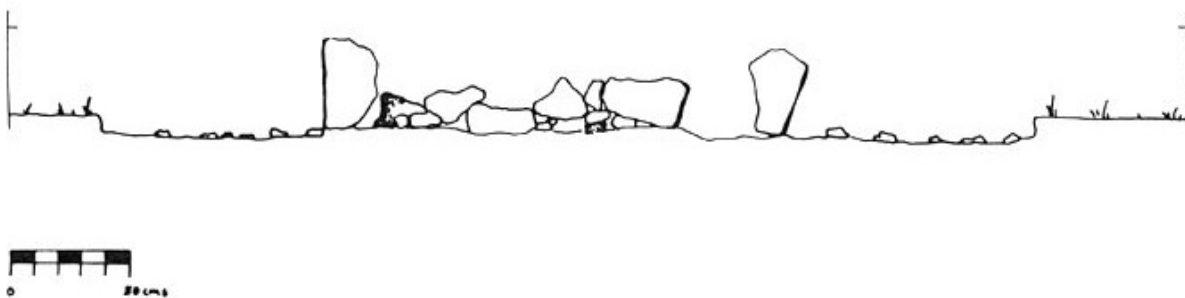


Figure 111. Structure 2A22-sub, south profile.



Figure 112. Structure 2A22-sub, east profile.



Figure 113. Structure 2A22-sub, west profile.

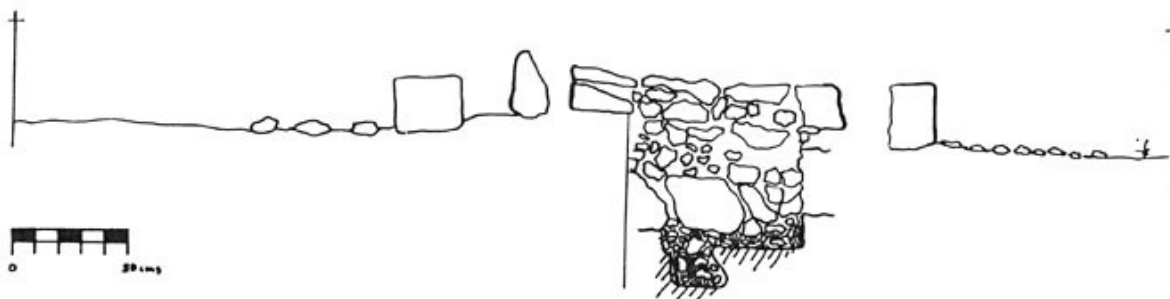


Figure 114. Structure, 2A22-sub, north-south cross section, east profile of the test excavation.



Figure 115. Structure 2A22, Quad 16R before excavating Layer III.



Figure 116. Structure 2A22, Quad 16Q before excavating Layer III.

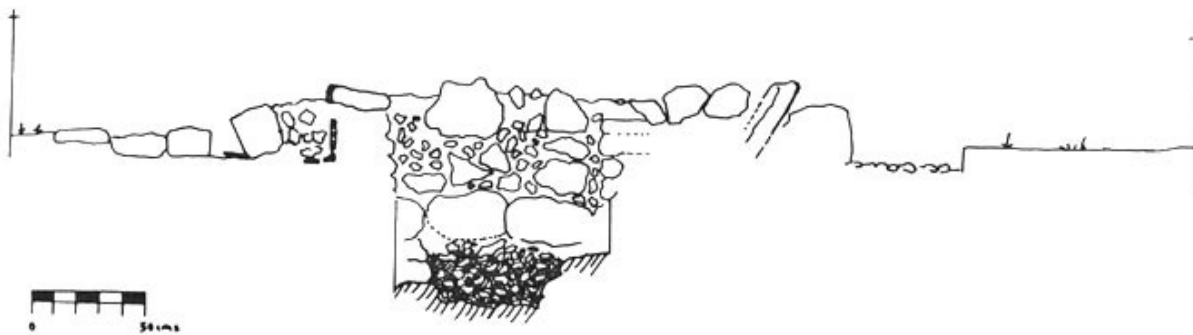


Figure 117. Structure 2A22-sub, east-west cross section, north profile of the test excavation.

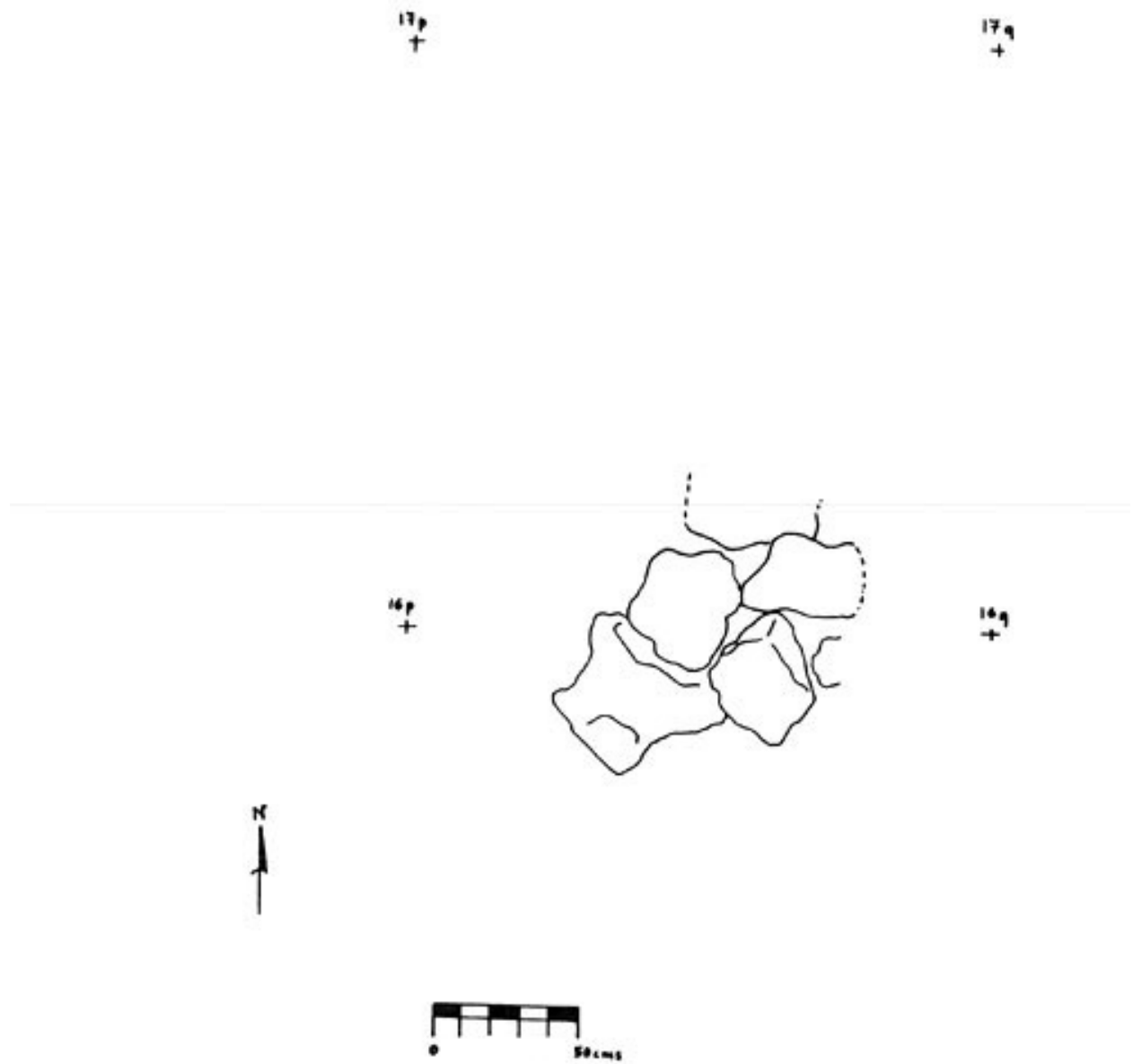


Figure 118. Structure 2A22-sub, Layer V stone fill.

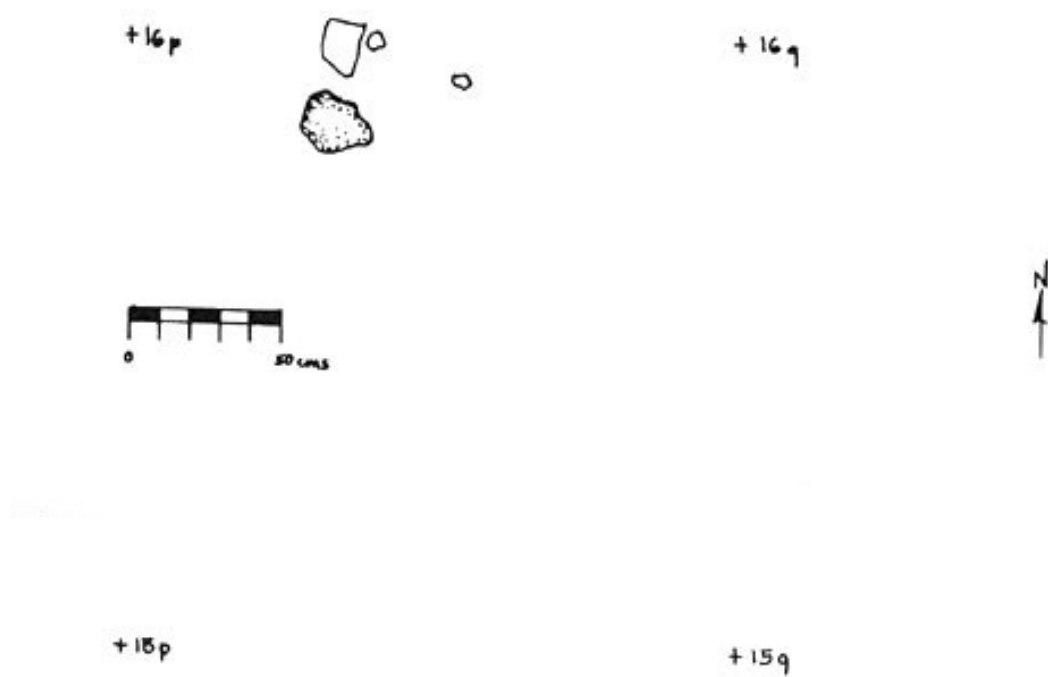


Figure 119. Structure 2A22-sub, stucco blobs in Layer IV.

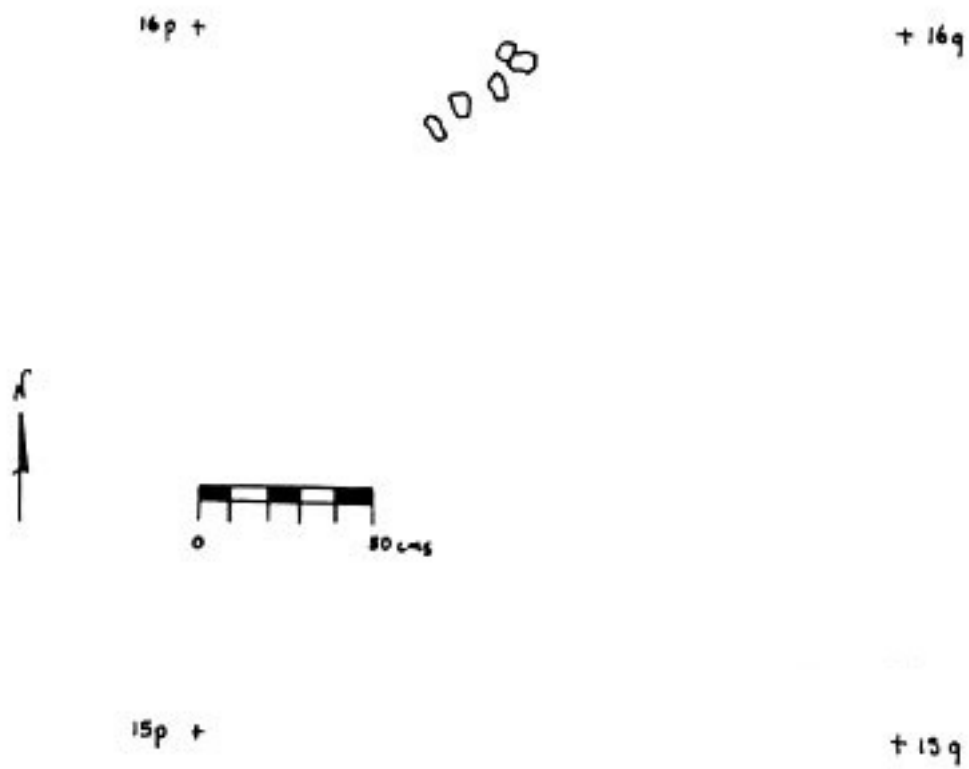


Figure 120. Structure 2A22-sub, stucco blobs in Layer V.



Figure 121. Structures 2A22 and 2A22-sub after excavation.



Figure 122. Structures 2A22 and 2A22-sub after filling the latter.



Figure 123. Restoration of structure 2A22-sub.



Figure 124. View of structure 2A22, to the back is seen Causeway 61.



Figure 125. Structure 2A22, restoration of the west side.



Figure 126. Restoration of Structure 2A22, southwest corner.



Figure 127. Restoration of structure 2A22, south side.

Test Excavations

Eight test excavations were conducted during the 1997 field season in different architectural groups where causeways end. The excavations were undertaken in the following groups: Alux Group associated with the end of Causeway 14 in Quadrant 1Z (test excavation 1), the Far East Group associated with the end of Causeway 19 in Quadrant 3G (test excavation 8), Plazas Group associated with the end of Causeway 20 in Quadrant 3F (test excavation 6), Chultún Group associated with the end of Causeway 34 in Quadrant 4F (test excavation 7), Holtún Group associated with the end of Causeway 41 in Quadrant 1Y (test excavation 4), Sacbe 43 Group associated with the end of Causeway 43 in Quadrant 1Z (test excavation 2), Group of structures 1X9-1X14 located north of Causeway 44 in Quadrant 1X (test excavation 3), Holtún Ball Court Group associated with the end of Causeway 47 in Quadrant 21Y (test excavation 5).

Test excavations uncovered different archeological materials from several contexts. For instance, stucco floors associated with architectural features were found in test excavations number 3 ([Figure 142](#), [Figure 143](#), [Figure 144](#), [Figure 145](#), [Figure 146](#), [Figure 147](#), and [Figure 148](#)), number 4 ([Figure 149](#), [Figure 150](#), [Figure 151](#), [Figure 152](#), [Figure 153](#), [Figure 154](#) and [Figure 155](#)), and number 6 ([Figure 160](#), [Figure 161](#), [Figure](#)

[162](#), and [Figure 163](#)). The walls of substructures were found in test excavations number 1 ([Figure 129](#), [Figure 130](#), [Figure 131](#), [Figure 132](#), [Figure 133](#), [Figure 134](#), [Figure 135](#), [Figure 136](#), and [Figure 137](#)), number 5 ([Figure 157](#), [Figure 158](#), and [Figure 159](#)), and number 7 ([Figure 164](#), [Figure 165](#), [Figure 166](#), [Figure 167](#), [Figure 168](#), and [Figure 169](#)). The dry core fill of platforms were found in test excavations number 2 ([Figure 138](#), [Figure 139](#), [Figure 140](#), and [Figure 141](#)) and number 8 ([Figure 170](#), [Figure 171](#), and [Figure 172](#)).

The ceramic analysis conducted on materials uncovered from Group Sacbe 61 and test excavations has revealed the presence of the Sisal and Dzitás ceramic groups which are the main components of the Sotuta ceramic complex of Chichén Itzá. The results of the ceramic analysis and dates obtained by chronometric dating will be used to support the argument that the apogee of Chichén Itzá occurred between A.D. 800 and 1050.

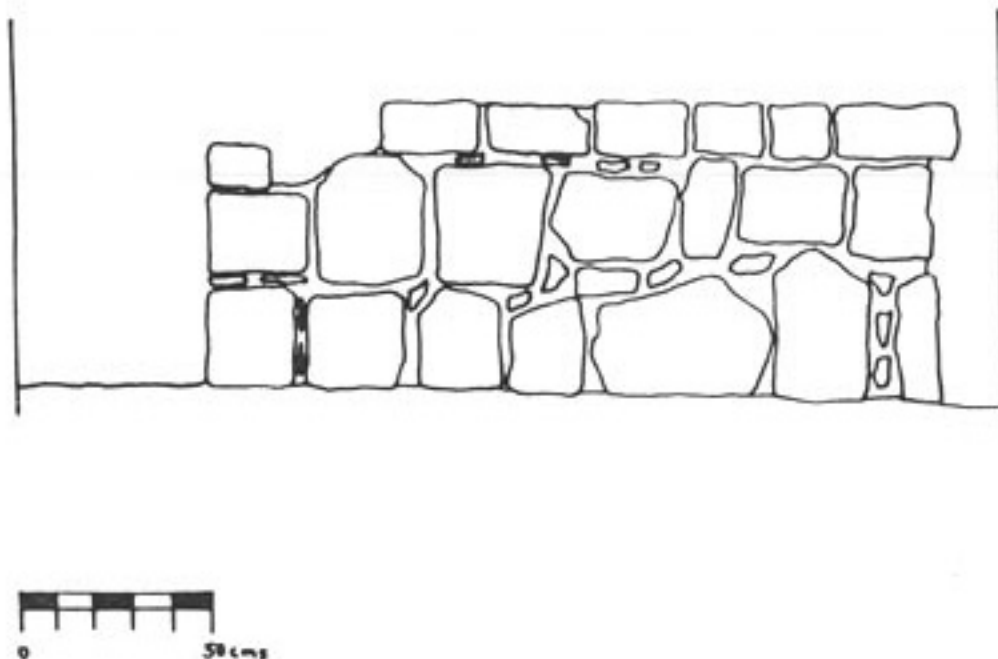


Figure 128. Structure 2A22 after restoration work.

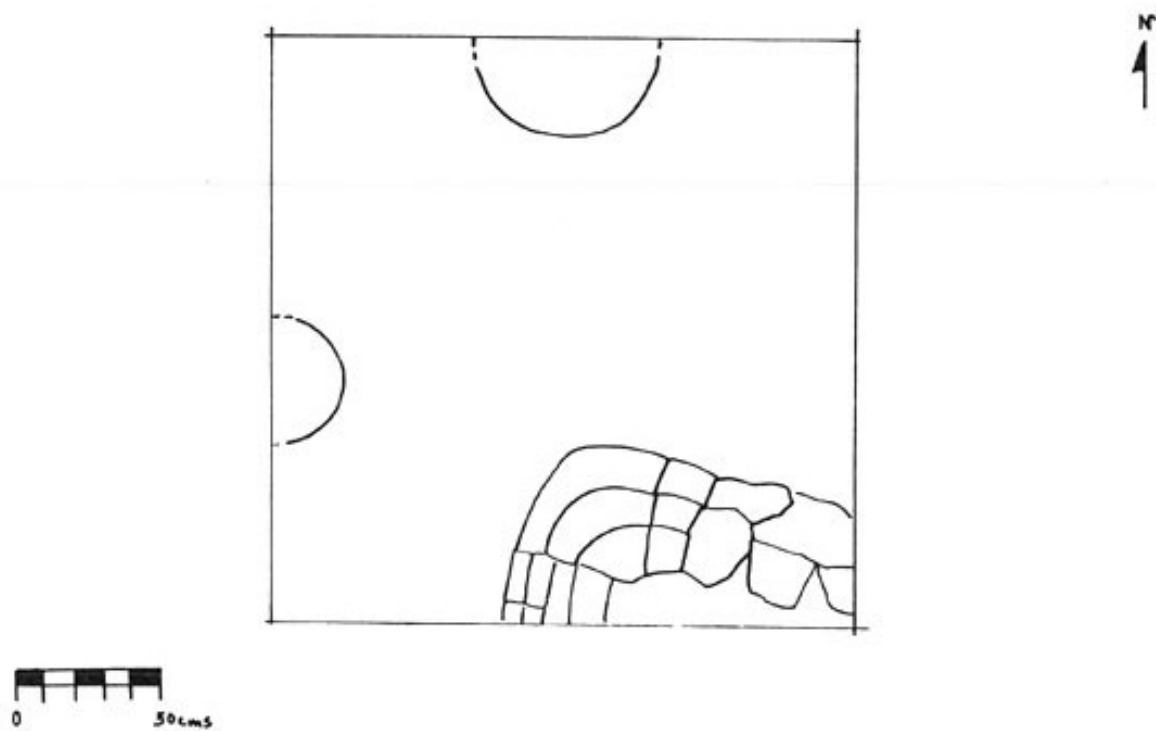


Figure 129. Test excavation 1.

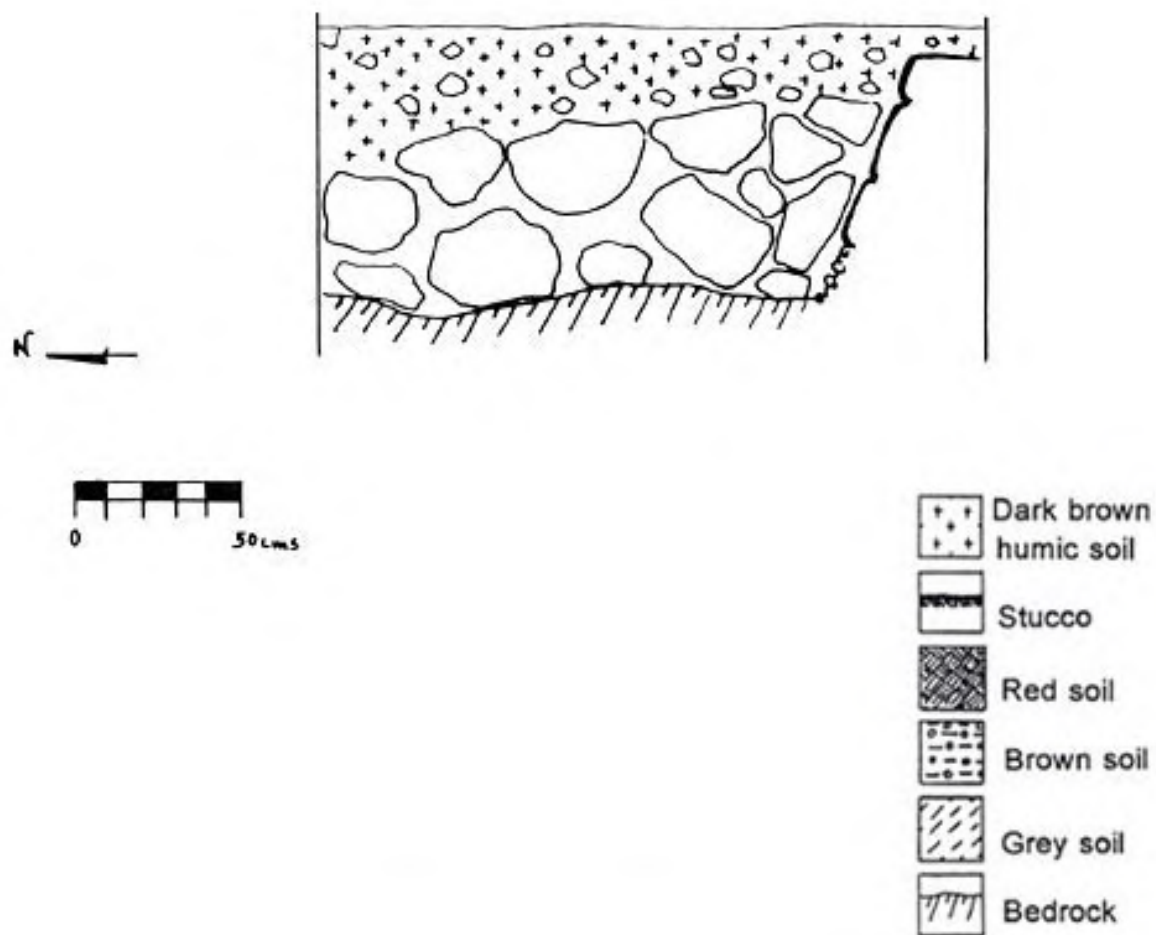


Figure 130. Test excavation 1, east profile.



Figure 131. Test excavation 1, plan view seen from the south to the north.

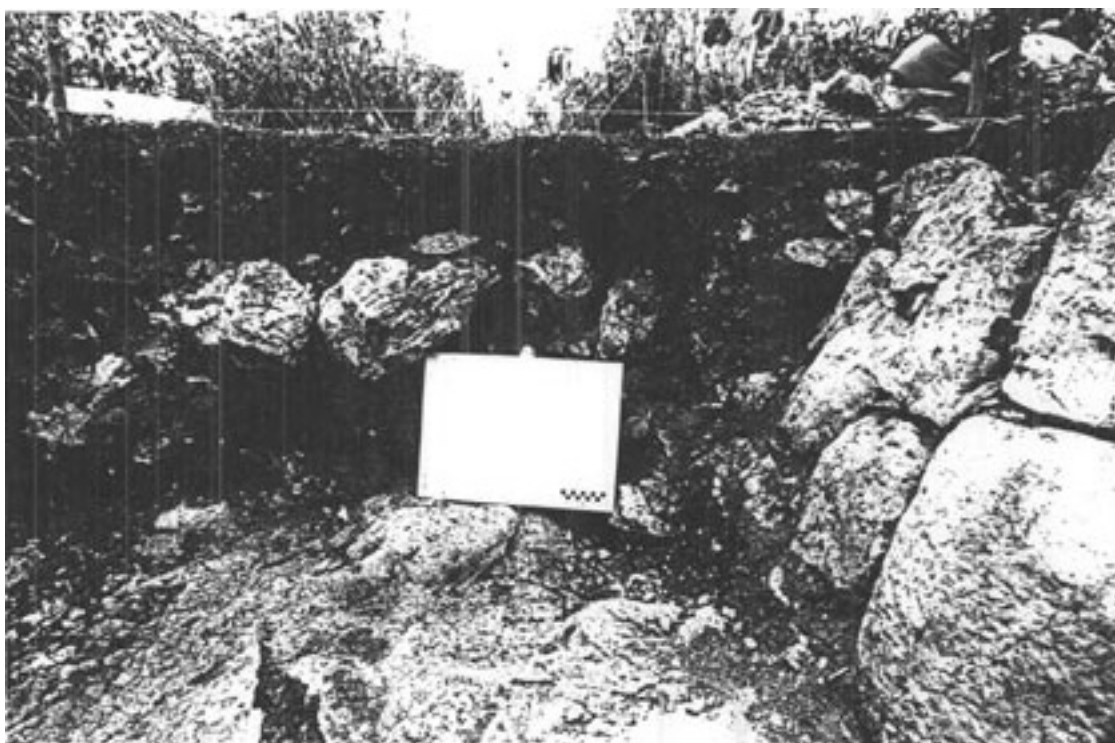


Figure 132. Test excavation 1, east profile.

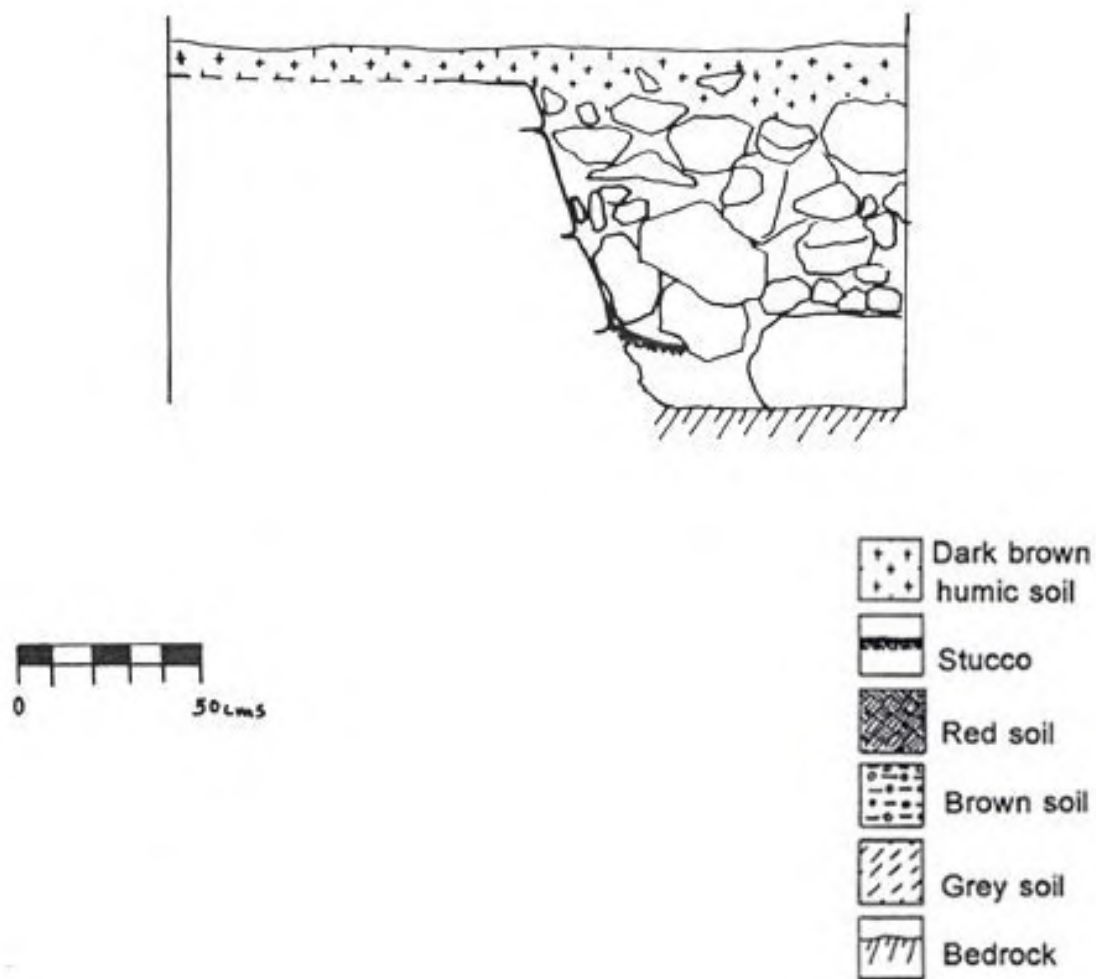


Figure 133. Test excavation 1, south profile.



Figure 134. Test excavation 1, south profile.



Figure 135. Test excavation1, south profile, level 3.

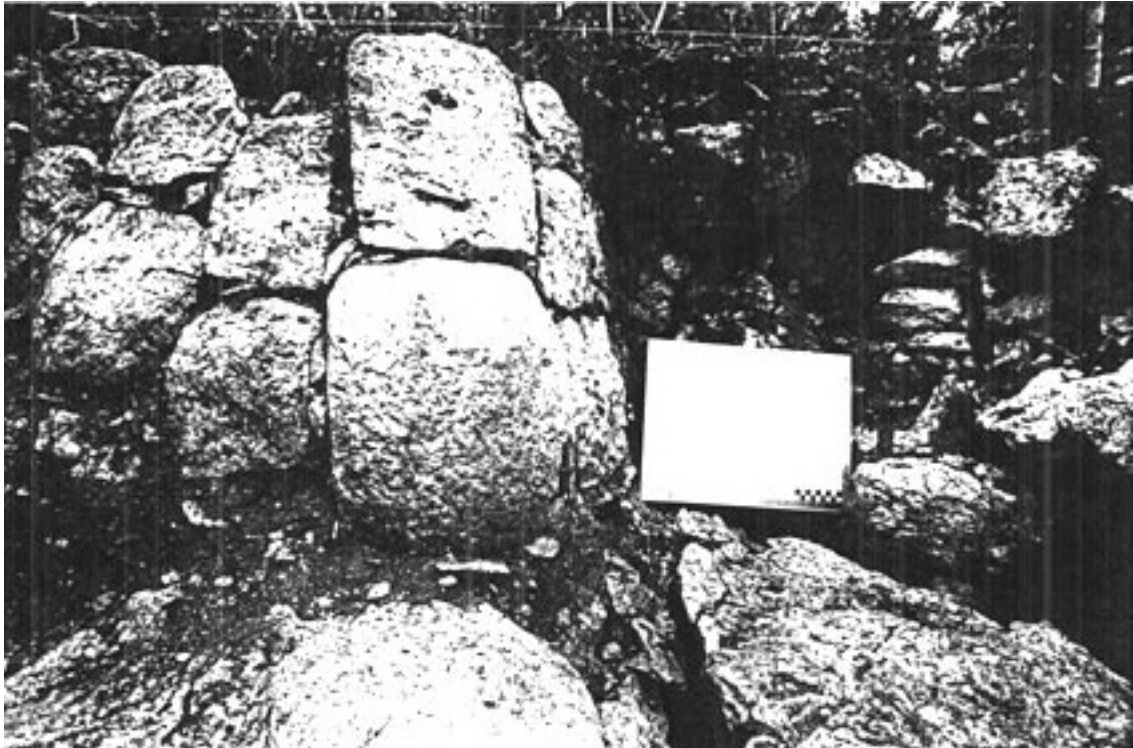


Figure 136. Test excavation 1, south profile, corner of sub-structure and excavation until the bedrock.

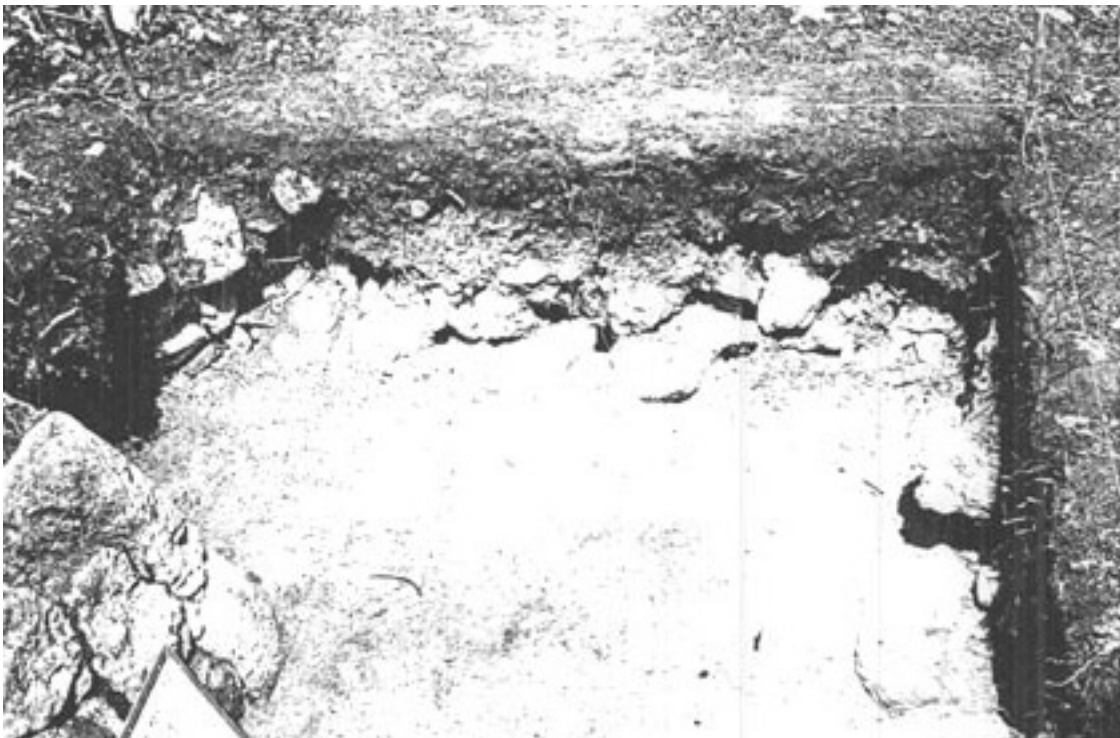


Figure 137. Test excavation 1, west profile, level 3.



Figure 138. Test excavation 2, excavation of level I.

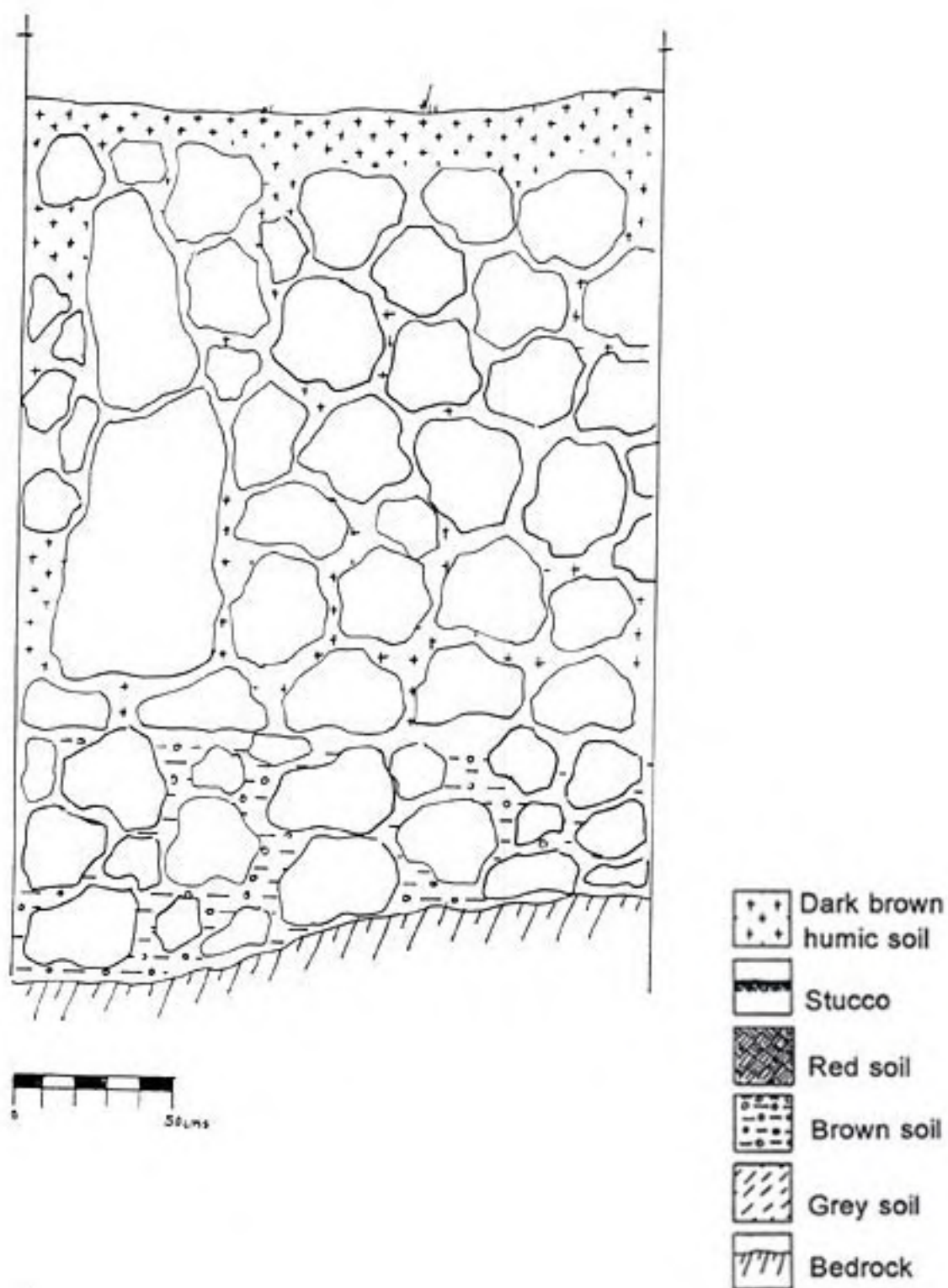


Figure 139. Test excavation 2, north profile.



Figure 140. Test excavation 2, north profile.

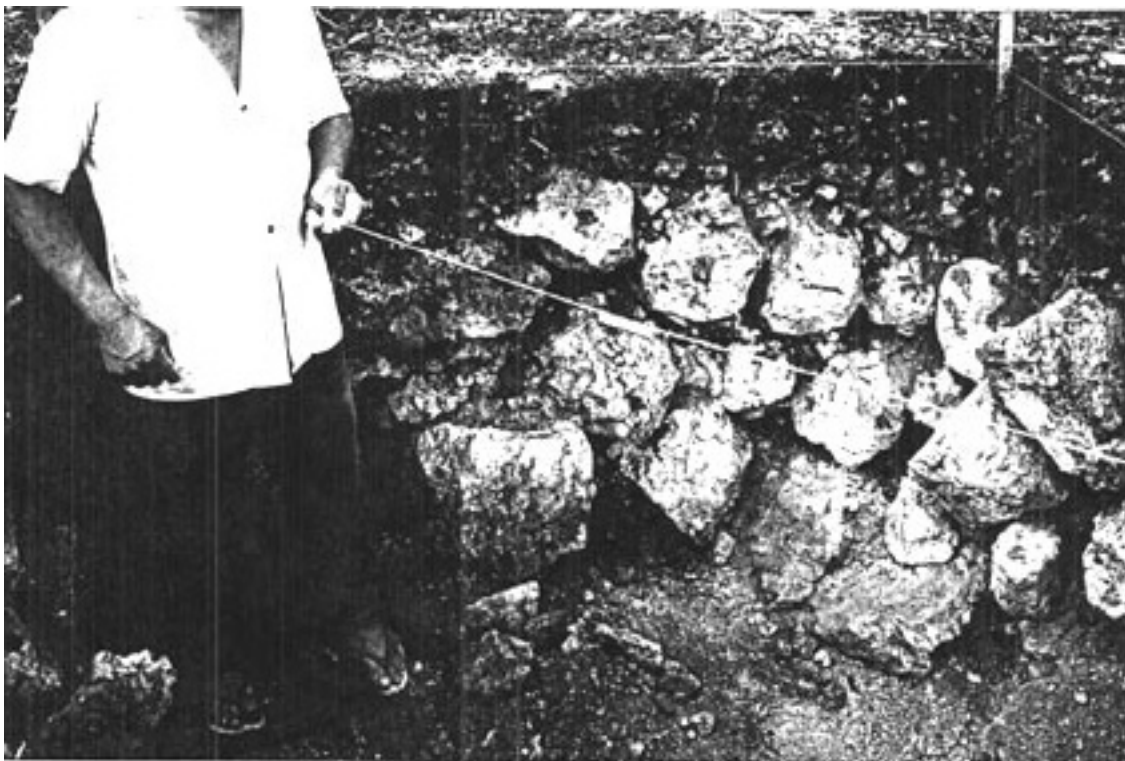


Figure 141. Test excavation 2, west profile and construction fill.

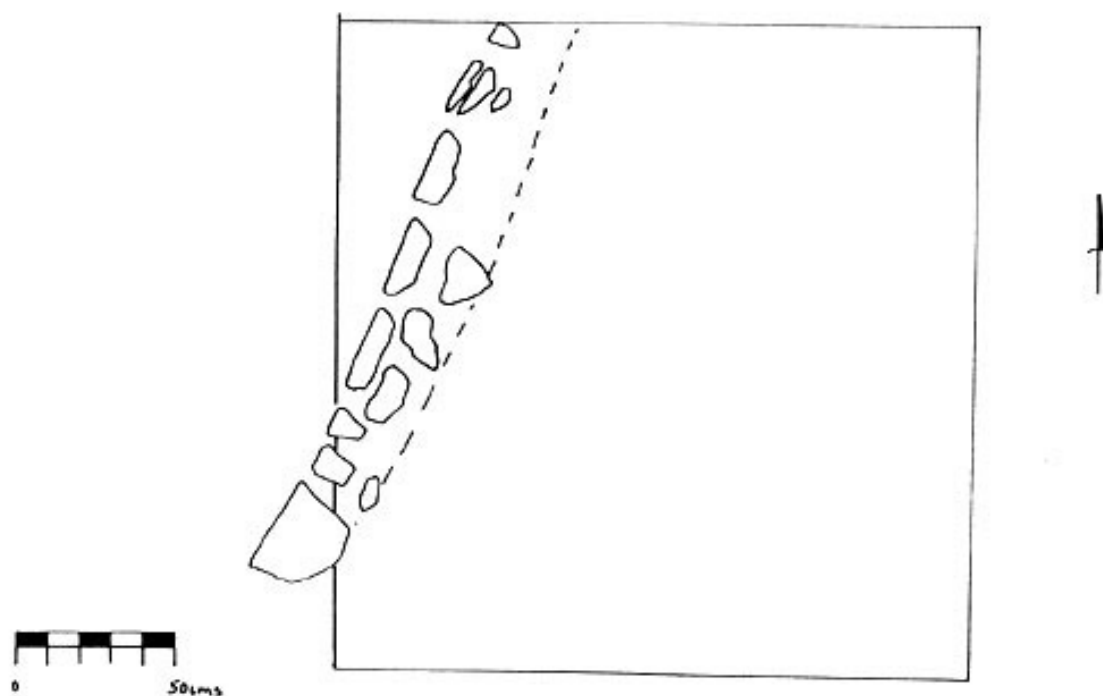


Figure 142. Test excavation 3.



Figure 143. Test excavation 3, detail of the stucco floor seen from south to north.

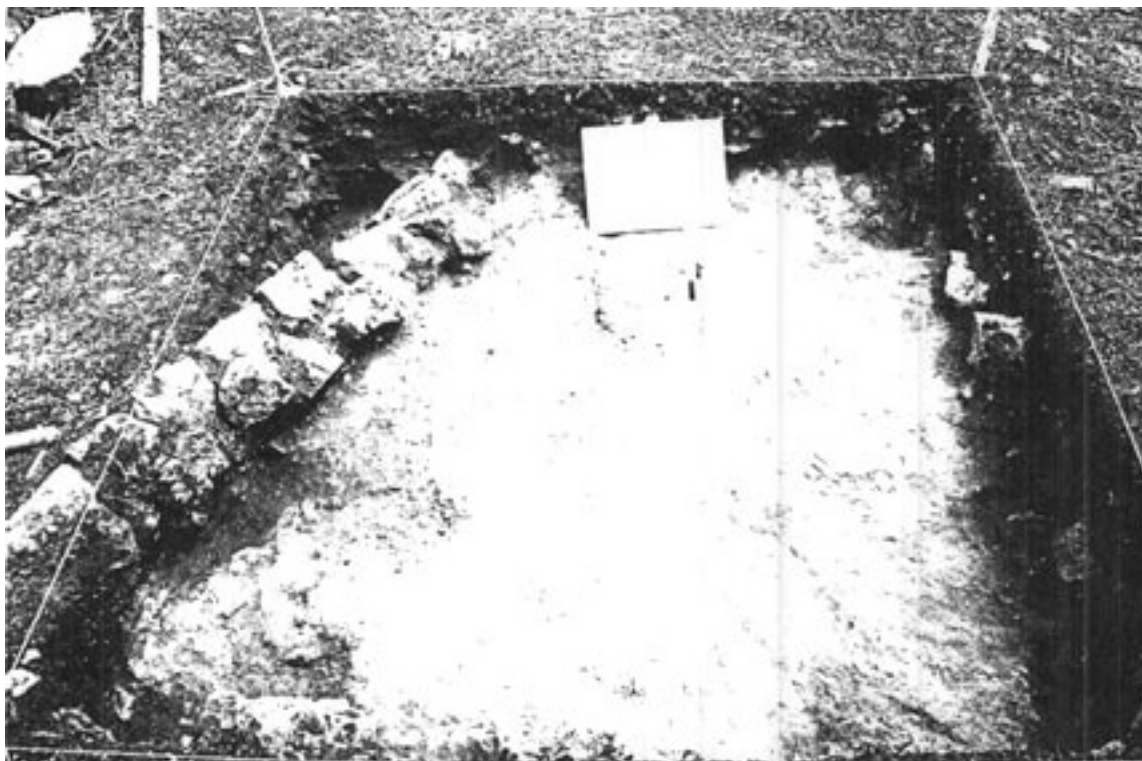


Figure 144. Test excavation 3, stone alignment exposed in the west profile of the excavation.



Figure 145. Test excavation 3, west profile, detail of the stone alignment.



Figure 146. Test excavation 3, excavation of level 3.

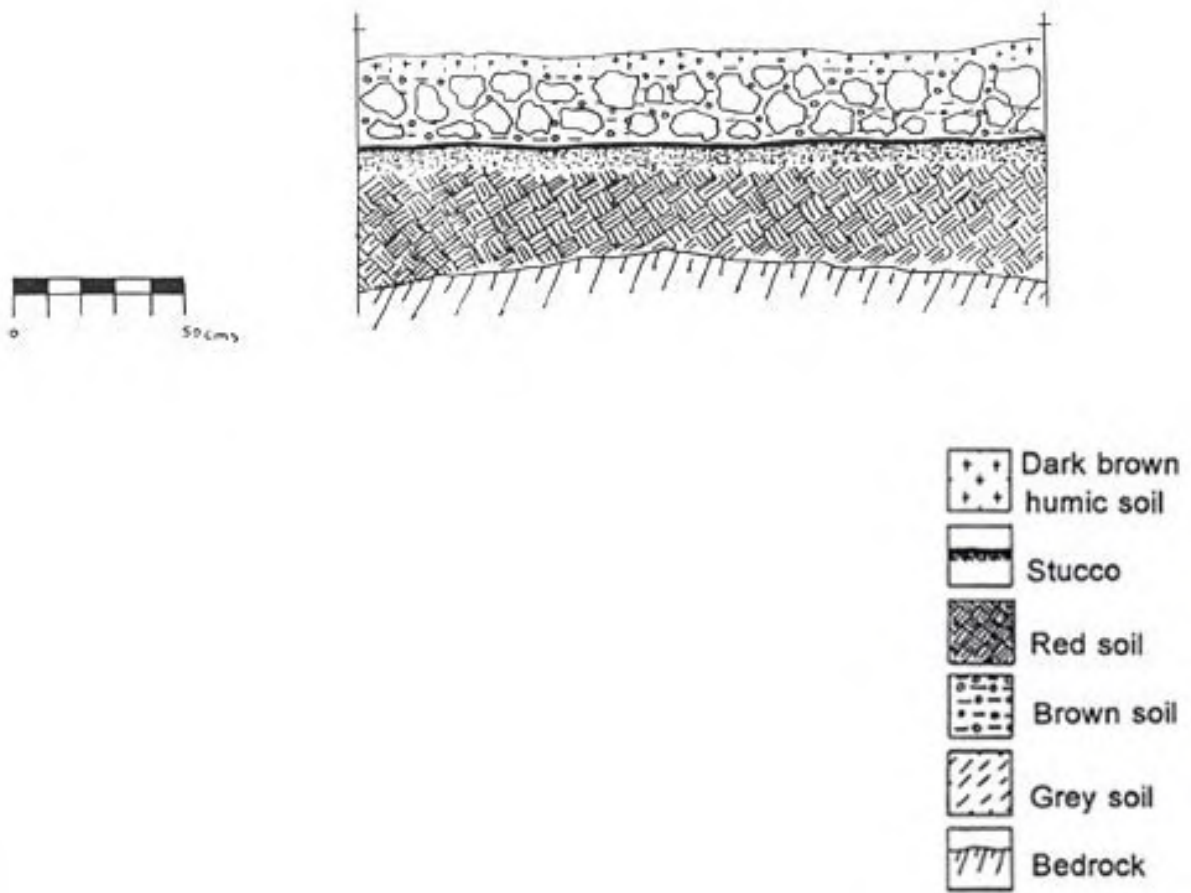


Figure 147. Test excavation 3, south profile.

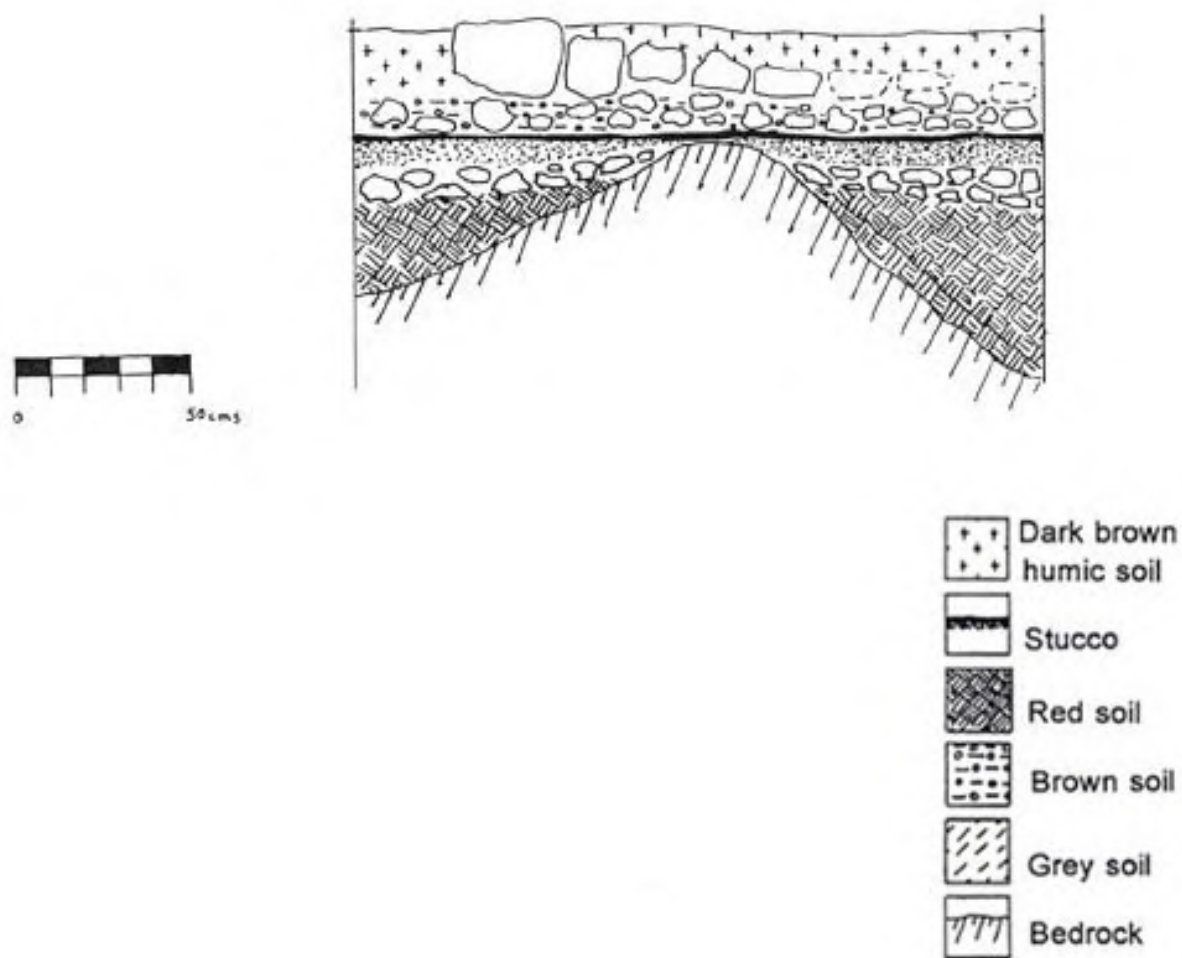


Figure 148. Test excavation 3, west profile.

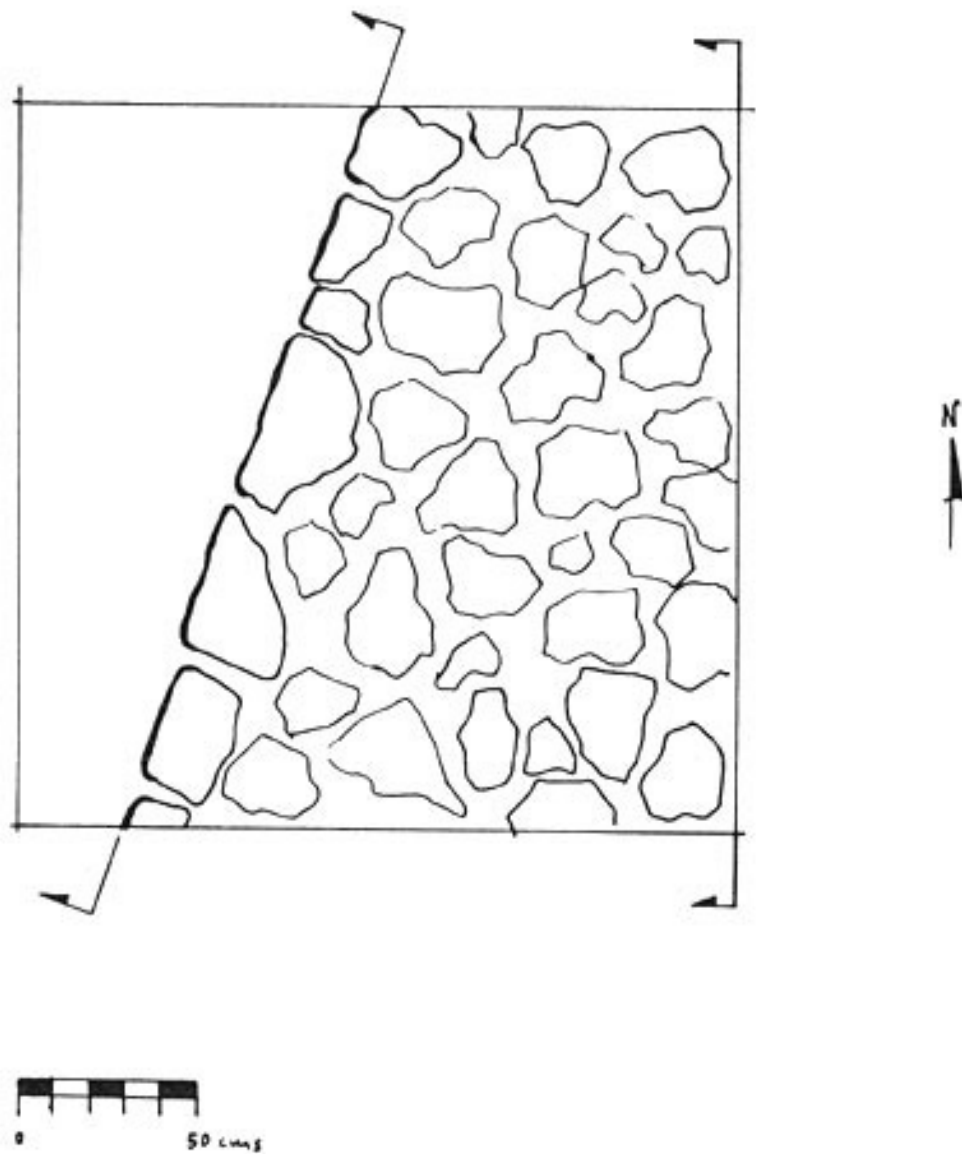


Figure 149. Test excavation 4, plan view of Layer II construction fill.



Figure 150. Test excavation 4, excavation of level II and detail of construction fill.

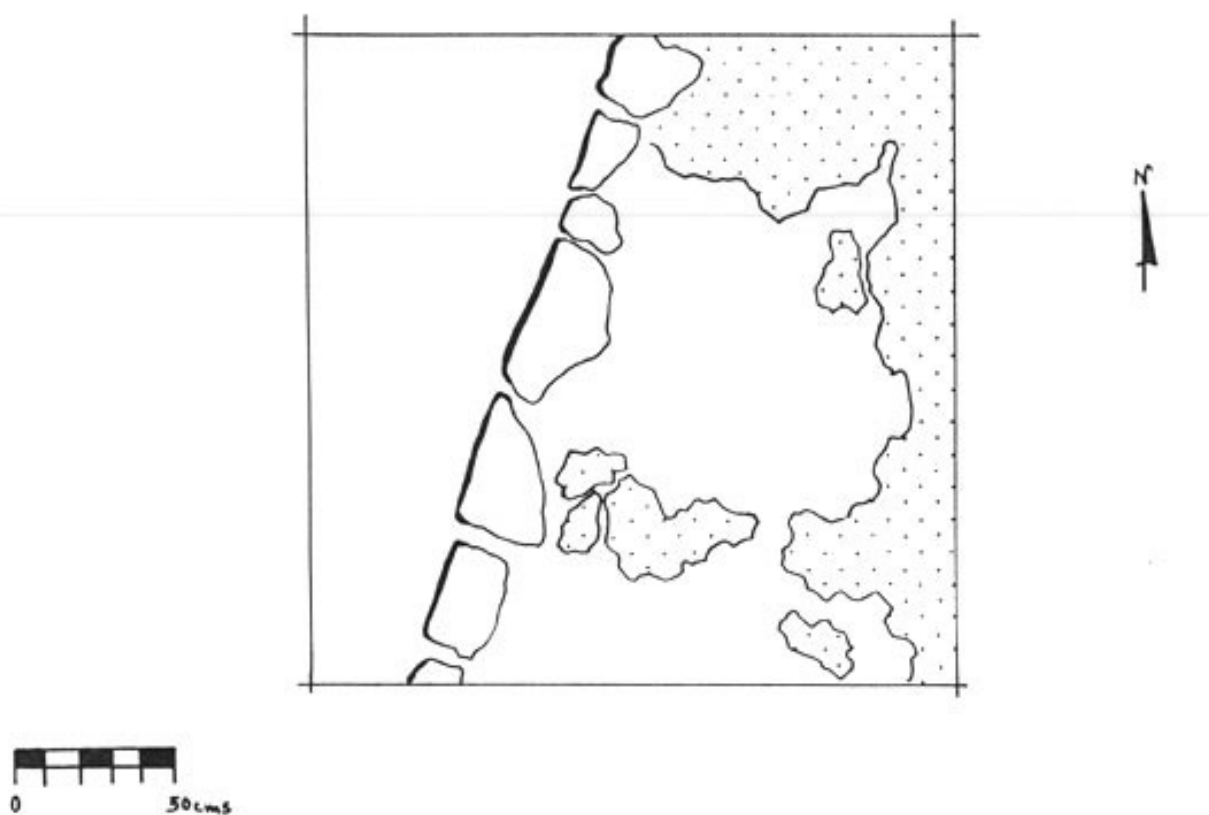


Figure 151. Test excavation 4, stucco floor.



Figure 152. Test excavation 4, stucco floor.



Figure 153. Test excavation 4, detail of the stucco floor.

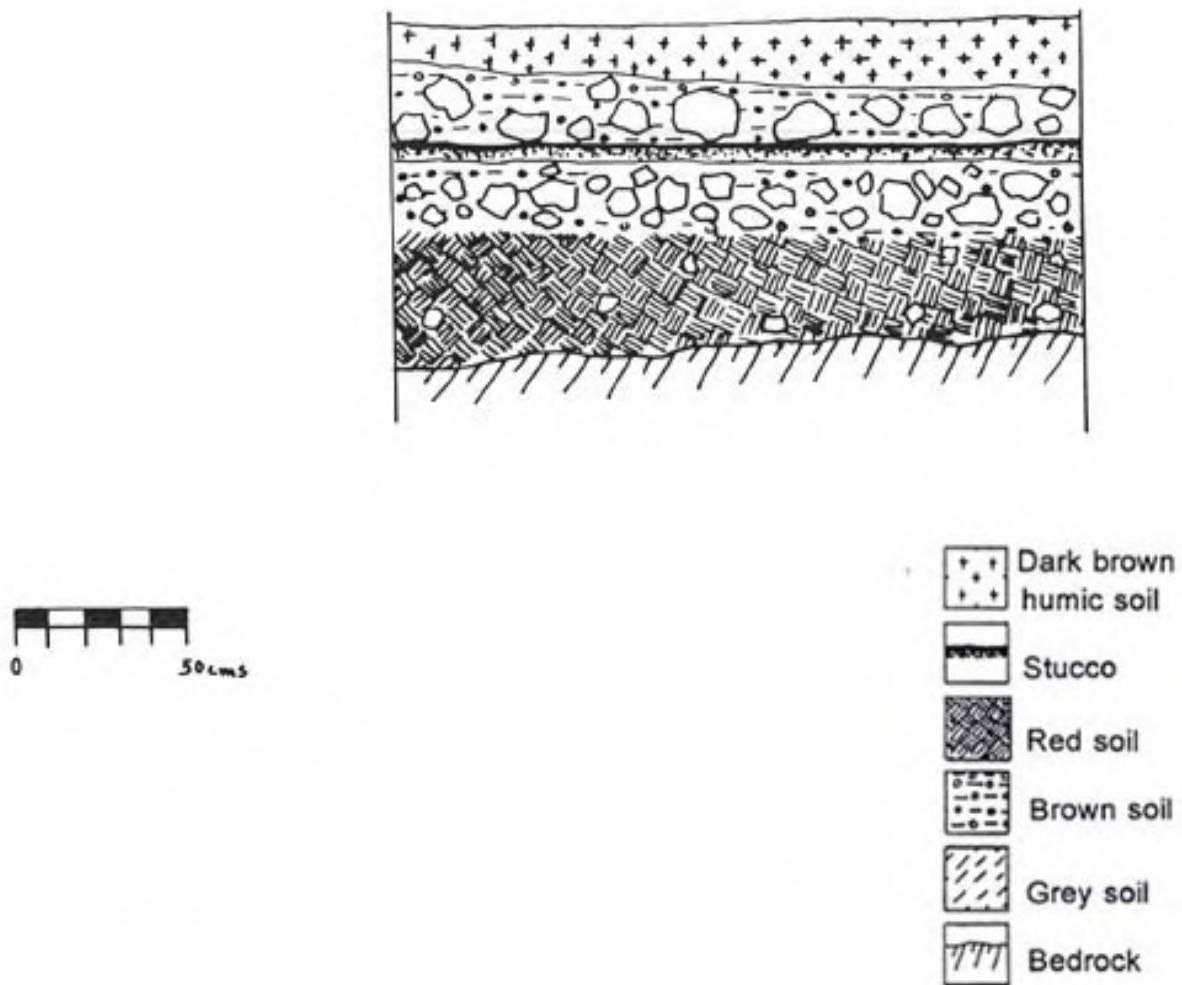


Figure 154. Test excavation 4, east profile.

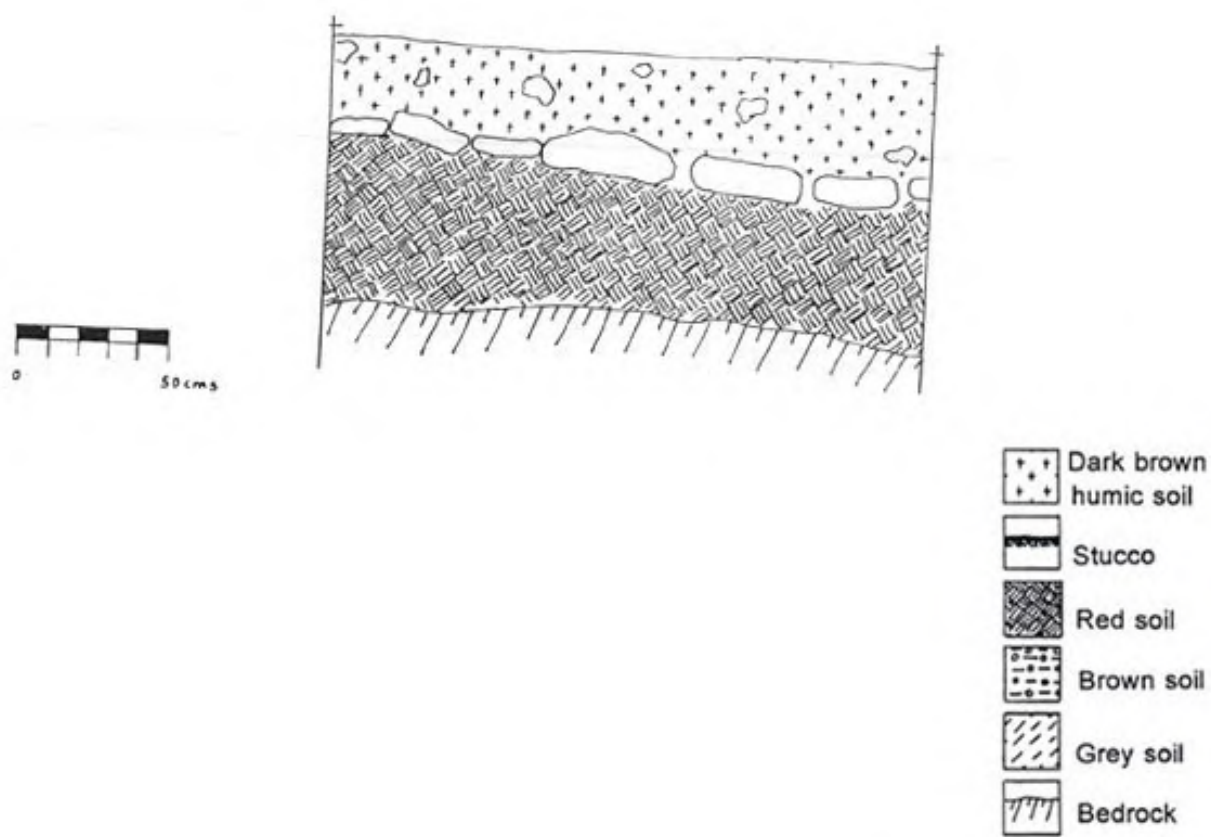


Figure 155. Test excavation 4, east profile, outer view of the feature.

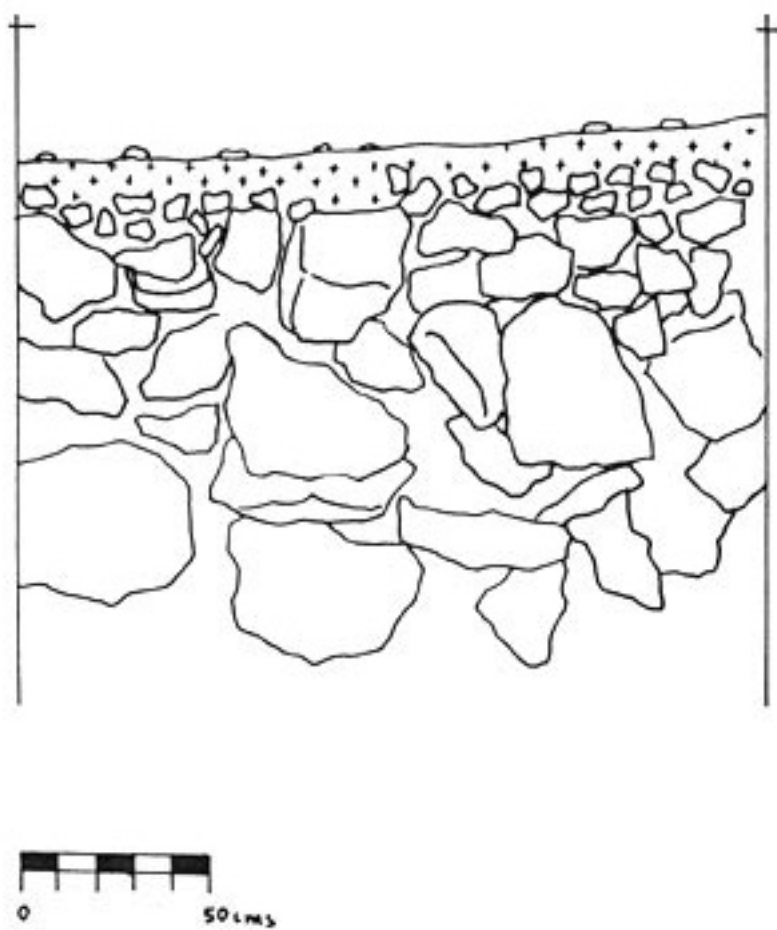


Figure 156. Test excavation 5, north profile.

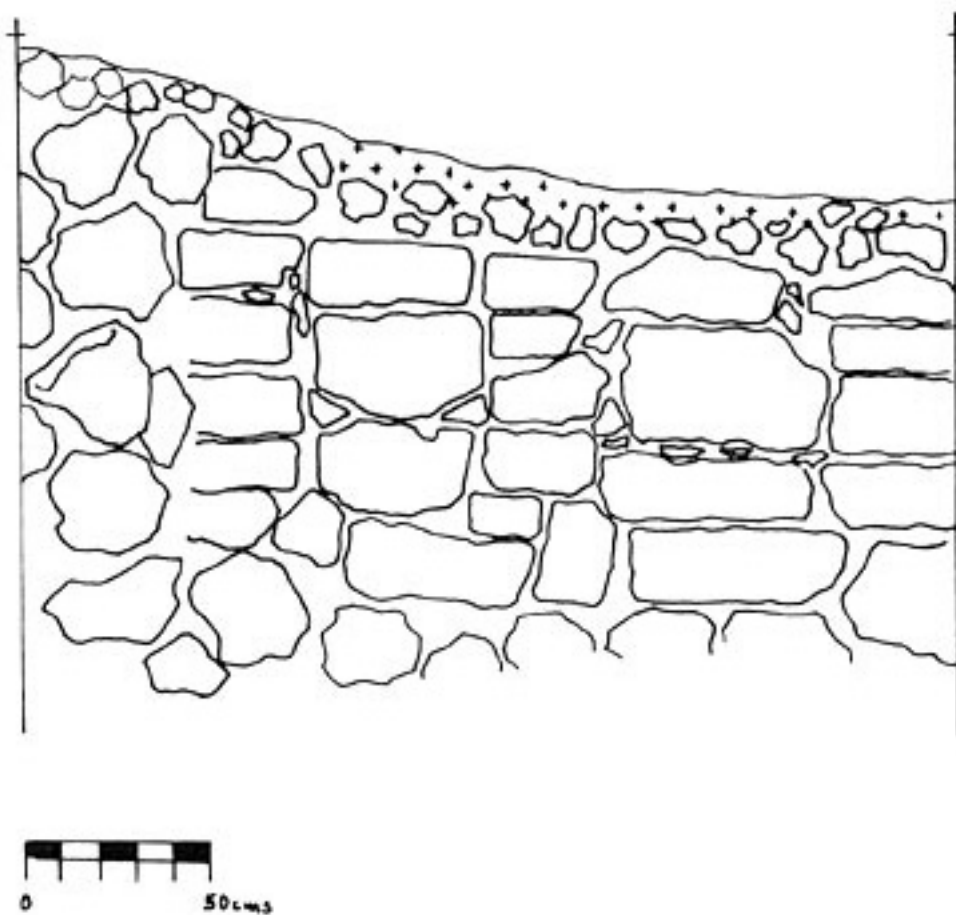


Figure 157. Test excavation 5, east profile.



Figure 158. Test excavation 5, north profile.

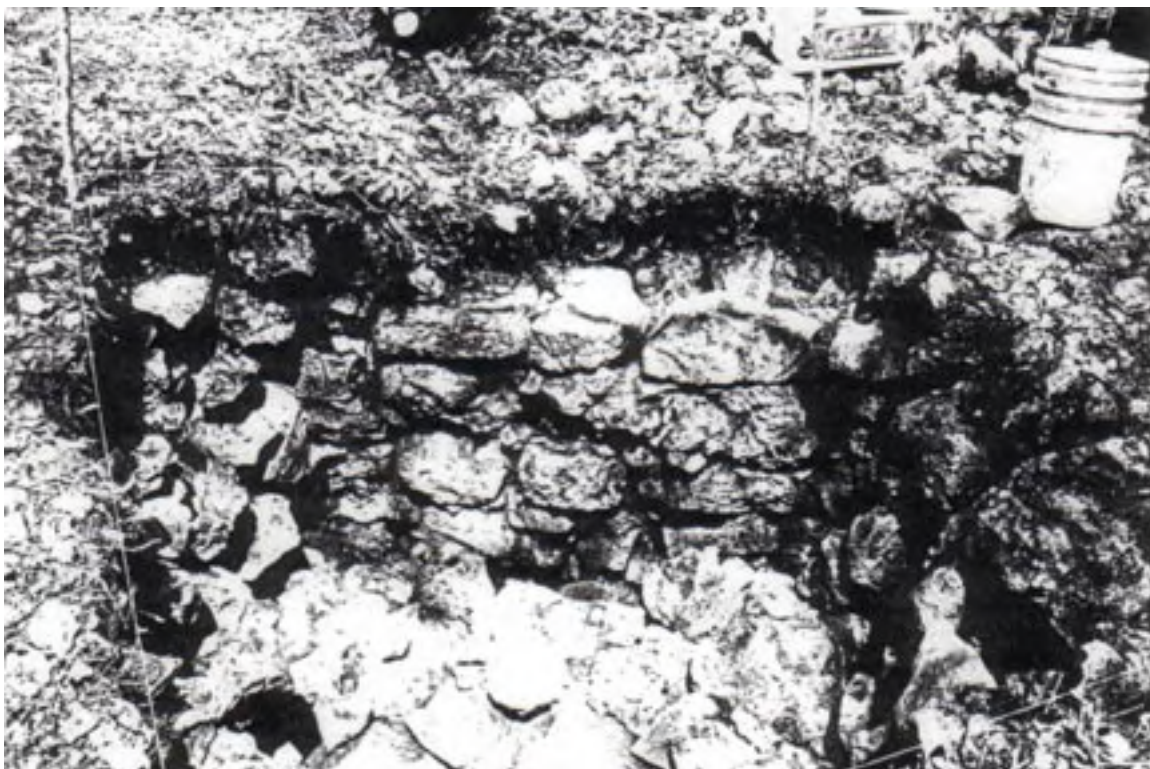


Figure 159. Test excavation 5, east profile, view of the sub-structure wall.



Figure 160. Test excavation 6, level I.

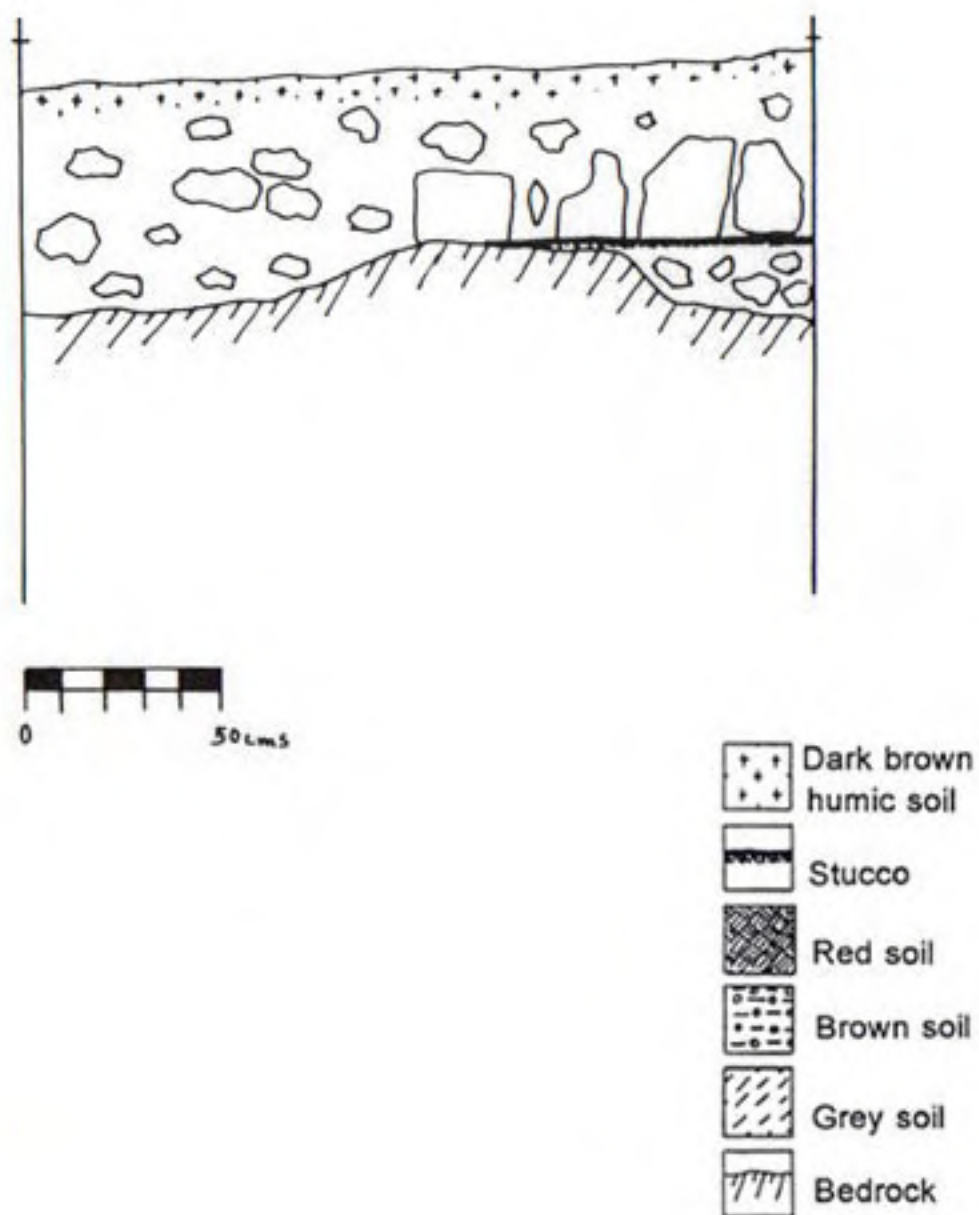


Figure 161. Test excavation 6, south profile.



Figure 162. Test excavation 6, detail of the stone alignment and remains of the stucco floor.



Figure 163. Test excavation 6, excavation until bedrock.

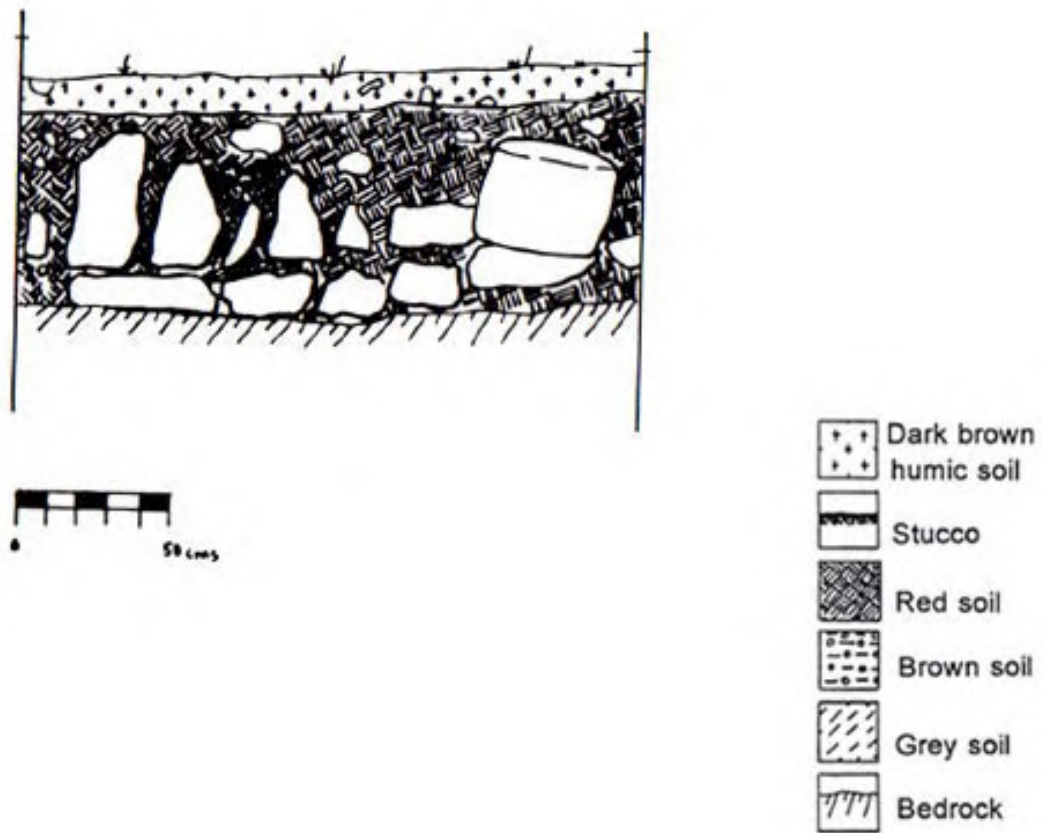


Figure 164. Test excavation 7, east-west cross section, exterior face, south alignment.



Figure 165. Test excavation 7, level II during excavation.



Figure 166. Test excavation 7, view of the alignment and the column drum from west to east.



Figure 167. Text excavation 7, view of the alignment and the column drum from south to north.



Figure 168. Text excavation 7, detail of the concentration of ceramics next to the column drum.

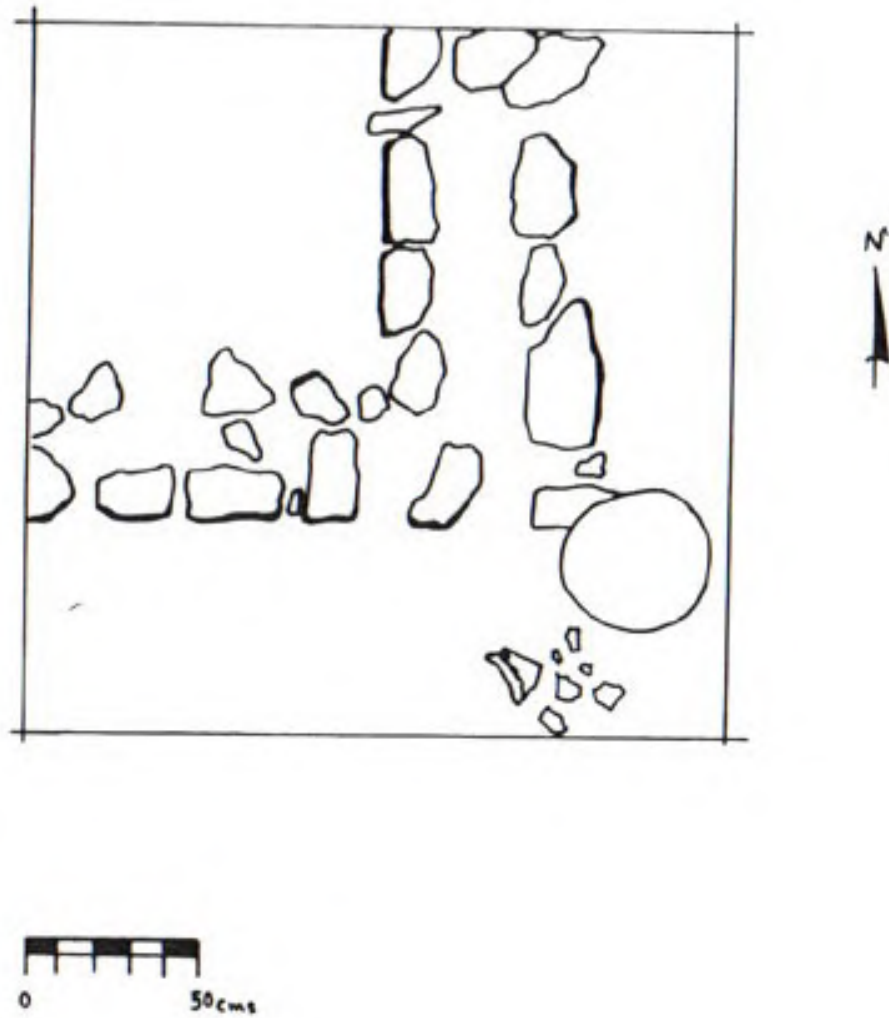


Figure 169. Test excavation 7, plan view of Layer II with the alignment.

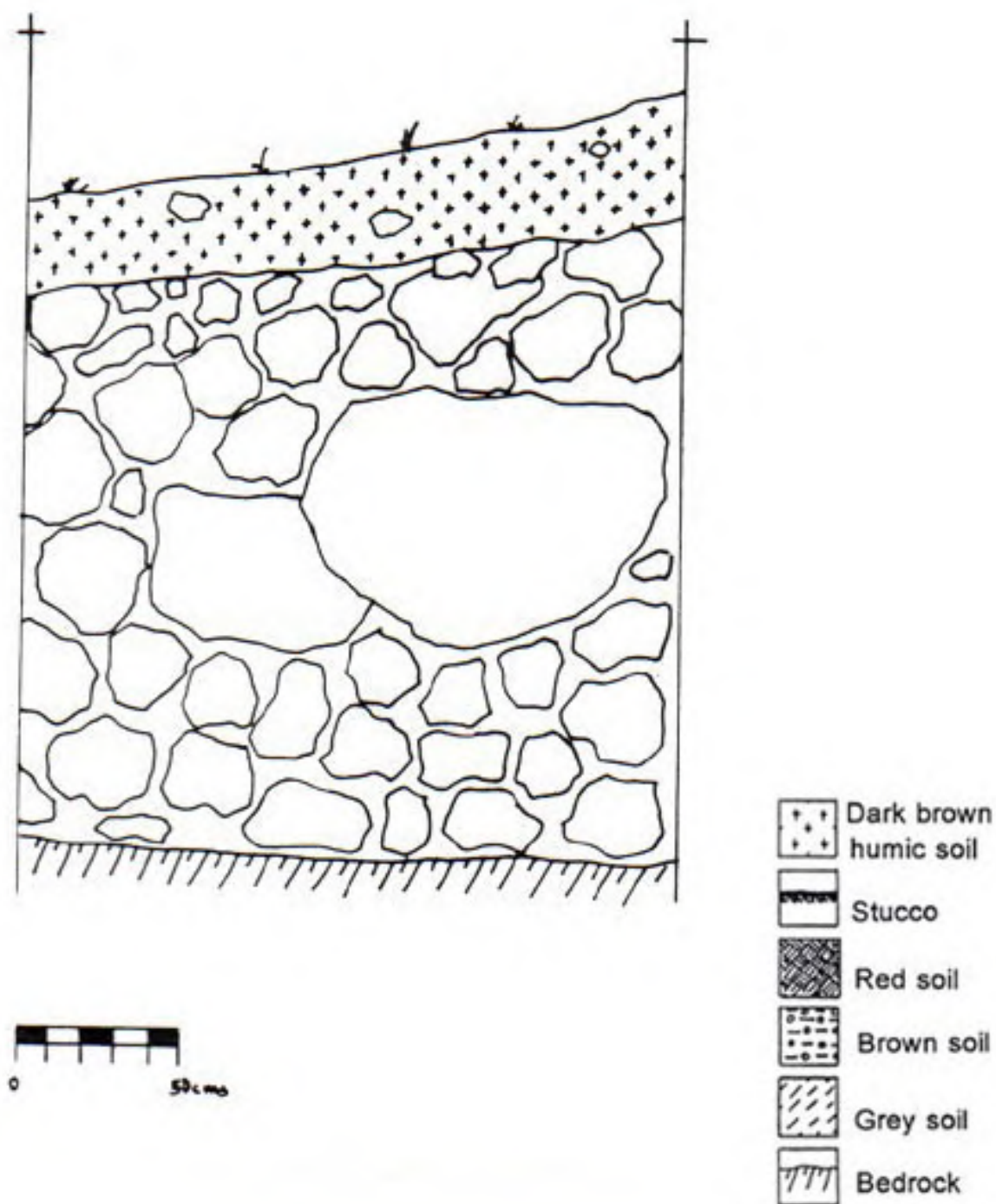


Figure 170. Test excavation 8, north profile.



Figure 171. Test excavation 8, north profile.



Figure 172. Test excavation 8, east profile.



Figure 173. Causeway 46.



Figure 174. Causeway 61.



Figure 175. Causeway 69.

Survey and Mapping of Structures at Chichén Itzá

During the 1997 field season, surveying and mapping activities were carried out in the western part of the site. As a result, two modern constructions as well as 29 Prehispanic structures of different characteristics were mapped at Chichén Itzá. Moreover, causeways 2, 3, 8, 12, 26, 57, and 61 were surveyed to their termini. Portions of causeways 46, 58, and 59 are destroyed, so it was impossible to determine the point where these three causeways end. During the survey activities we discovered six more causeways which we mapped. The numbers of these new causeways are 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69.

Quadrant 21A

Number of mapped structures: 9

Field activity carried out in Quadrant 21A. During the 1997 field season we mapped five platforms, nine structures of varying characteristics, Causeway 69, three metates, eight quarries or sascaberas, and a modern wall. The following is a description of these features:

Structure 21A1

21A1 is composed of a platform and an elevated structure. The plan of the platform is quadrangular in shape and was formed by large stone blocks. Two features associated with the platform include a stairway and a modern wall. The stairway provides access to the upper level of 21A1 from the plaza where Causeway 69 begins. Even though we found the stairway destroyed, we were able to record the presence of eight stairs, each with a length of 50 centimeters, a height of 15 centimeters and a width of 28 centimeters.

The rectangular plan of structure 21A1 is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis and consists of two rooms located to the west and east. The east room of 21A1 is quite destroyed because the north, east and south walls have collapsed. In 1997 we were able to record the presence of a series of small stones in a line about 50 centimeters wide forming part of the interior wall.

Structure 21A2

North of Causeway 69 is Structure 21A2, an altar with a quadrangular plan of approximately 2.5 meters on each side.

Structure 21A3

The construction of 21A3 consists of a circular plan measuring 2.6 meters in diameter. It is formed of regularly shaped stones (between 40 and 70 centimeters).

Structure 21A4

21A4 is a rectangular structure with a ground plan in the shape of a C. This structure is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis and although the back wall is destroyed, the remaining walls have a width of 35 centimeters. The interior of 21A4 is entered from the south side.

Structure 21A5

21A5 is a rectangular structure with a ground plan in the shape of a G. This structure is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The only access to the interior of this structure is on its north side.

Structure 21A6

Structure 21A6 has a rectangular plan and is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis, with three rooms located to the east, center and west of the structure. The only access to the interior of this structure is on its west side.

Structure 21A7

21A7 has a rectangular plan in the form of a C. This structure is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis and consists of only one room. Access to the interior is on the north side of the structure. During 1997, we recorded the presence of two columns measuring 33 centimeters in diameter in the interior of 21A7.

Structure 21A8

21A8 is a rectangular structure with a C-shaped plan. The structure consists of one room. Access to the interior is on the south side of the structure.

Structure 21A9

21A9 is a rectangular construction oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The structure consists of one room and an altar in the rear of the construction. The walls of the room and altar are 50 centimeters wide.

Quadrant 1Z

Number of mapped structures: 5

Field activity carried out in Quadrant 1Z. Two platforms, five structures of varying characteristics, part of the Causeway 67, a metate, and quarry or sascabera were mapped in this quadrant. The following is a description of these features:

Structure 1Z34

The simple C-shaped construction of 1Z34 is formed by the alignment of big stones with a diameter greater than 50 centimeters. The only access to the interior of 1Z34 is on the west side.

Structure 1Z35

1Z35 is an altar with a very destroyed quadrangular plan. This altar is associated with structure 1Z36, which is located to the west.

Structure 1Z36

The C-shaped rectangular plan of 1Z36 is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis. The only access to the interior is located on the east side of the structure. The remains of a bench are found in the interior.

Structure 1Z37

The structure known as 1Z37 consists of a simple alignment of stones distributed on the surface in the form of an L. Access to the interior of the structure faces towards the south.

Structure 1Z38

The quadrangular plan of construction 1Z38 is formed by irregular stones which were used to outline the East and South sides of the structure.

Quadrant 1A

Number of mapped structures: 14

Field activities carried out in Quadrant 1A. Four platforms, 14 prehispanic structures of varying characteristics, two modern structures, part of Causeway 46, six metates, two sculpted fragments and one dry sinkhole or rejollada were mapped.

Structure 1A34

The simple construction of 1A34 is oriented on a northeast southwest axis. The rectangular plan of the structure was built using stones that measure around 70

centimeters. The presence of bedrock in the east part of structure 1A34 appears to be associated with the construction and may have served as a natural "wall".

Structure 1A35

Structure 1A35 is an L-shaped construction oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The structure faces the south and its wall is 50 centimeters thick.

Structure 1A36

The rectangular plan of structure 1A36 is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The construction is composed of three rooms. Of these three rooms the middle room, in comparison with the east and west rooms, has the largest diameter. In all three rooms the walls are 50 centimeters thick.

Structure 1A37

Structure 1A37 is a rectangular construction oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The construction is composed of two rooms facing the east and west, each with walls 50 centimeters thick.

Structure 1A38

The circular plan of construction 1A38 has a diameter of 2.20 meters. The regularly shaped stones of this structure measure between 30 and 70 centimeters.

Structure 1A39

The L-shaped form of construction 1A39 is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The structure, with walls 40 centimeters thick, faces north.

Structure 1A40

The rectangular plan of structure 1A40 is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis. The construction is composed of three rooms. The principal room is found on the north side of 1A40. The only access to this room is on the east side of the construction. Inside this

room we found two sculpted fragments believed to represent a jaguar and a persons right leg.

Structure 1A41

1A41 is a construction whose rectangular plan is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The structure is composed of two rooms located to the east and west.

Structure 1A42

The rectangular plan of structure 1A42 is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. The structure consists of four rooms, each with its respective entrance.

Structure 1A43

The rectangular plan of structure 1A43 is composed of four rooms located at the north and south of the structure.

Structure 1A44

1A44 is an altar which sits on a platform. The platform is located at the point where Causeways 3 and 46 meet (see also Structure 5D129).

Structure 1A45

1A45 is semicircular shaped room measuring 3.5 meters in diameter. The only access to this room is located on the southwest part of the structure and is 1.10 meters wide.

Structure 1A46

1A46 is a rectangular construction with a C-shaped plan. The structure is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis. It consists of only one room with access to the interior from the east side.

Structure 1A47

The construction of 1A47 consists of a circular plan measuring 2.5 meters in diameter. It is formed of regularly shaped stones (between 30 and 50 centimeters).

Quadrant 5D

Number of mapped structures: 1

Field activities carried out in Quadrant 5D. One structure was mapped, the beginning and part of Causeway 8 were mapped and all of Causeways 64, 65 and 66 were also mapped (see the section on causeways for a description of these activities). A description of Structure 5D129 follows.

Structure 5D129

5D129 is an altar located on top of an outcrop of bedrock. The quadrangular shape of the altar measures 3.5 meters on each side. Structure 5D129, along with Structures 1A44, is associated with Causeways 8 and 64.

Survey and Mapping of Causeways at Chichén Itzá

With regard to the identification and recording of prehispanic causeways or sacbeoob at Chichén Itzá during the 1997 field season, the following activities were carried out at the site: the beginning of causeways 3, 8 and 26 was identified as was the end of causeways 57 and 61; causeways 46, 58 and 59 continued to be followed and seven new causeways, including causeways 2, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69, were recorded. The following is a description of each of these activities:

Various researchers had already recorded what they believed to be the ending points of Causeways 3, 8 and 26. For example, the terminus of Causeway 3 had been determined to be Cumtún (Cobos and Winemiller, 1996:292-293), the ending point of Causeway 8 is the western edge of the Hieroglyphic Jambs Group which includes structures 6E1-6E5, 6E7-6E8 (Ruppert, 1952:Figure 151; Lincoln, 1990:522, Map Sheet V), whereas the terminus of Causeway 26 is the portal or Structure 5C16 of the Initial Series Group. Already having identified the terminus of these causeways, it was the goal of the 1997 field season to identify the origins of the causeways.

During the 1996 field season, Causeway 3 was followed from Quadrant 2C to its terminus, 5.7 kilometers from the center of Chichén Itzá, at the site of Cumtún. In 1997, Causeway 3 was followed some 300 meters to the east in order to reveal the origins of the causeway. It became clear that the beginning of Causeway 3 was located at the northwest corner of the Great Terrace, a few meters west of Structure 2D1 or the Great Ball Court. In fact what appears as Causeway 2 in Ruppert's (1952) Quadrant 2C is actually the beginning of Causeway 3. Linking Chichén Itzá and Cumtún, the length of Sacbe 3 can be calculated as being 6 kilometers.

Ruppert (1952:Figure 151) recorded Causeway 8 as occupying the northwest part of Quadrant 6E, the southeast corner of Quadrant 5E and the southeast corner of Quadrant 5D. It was in precisely this point where Ruppert indicated, using a dotted line on his map, the possibility that Causeway 8 continued to the north until arriving at the southern edge of Structure 5D4's platform. In 1983 and 1985, Lincoln (1990:445, 522) surveyed Quadrant 5D and determined that Causeway 8 ended in an area where there was red soil or *kankab*.

The survey and mapping work carried out by the author of this field report in 1997 revealed that Causeway 8 begins at the southern edge of the platform which houses structures 5D8-5D15, 5D18 and 5D128 (see Platform Ho' Che in Lincoln, 1990:425-428, Map Sheet II) and directs itself to the southeast terminating at the northern edge of an outcrop of bedrock located in the mid-eastern part of Quadrant 5D.

In 1994, the termini of Causeway 26 was identified in the northern part of the Initial Series Group. More specifically the causeway was found to end in Structure 5C16, a portal vault associated with the Initial Series Group. The pavement in the portal was believed to pertain to the termini of the causeway. In 1997, the origin of Causeway 26 was found in the Southwest edge of the Ho' Che Platform, a few meters south of the ballcourt or Structure 5D5 (see Lincoln, 1990:Map Sheet I).

The existence of Causeway 61 was reported during the 1996 field season. At this time the beginning of the causeway was recorded as being to the north of Structure 2A18. The end of the causeway could not be identified, however, since it was covered by red soil or *kankab* (Cobos and Winemiller, 1997:49). In 1997, however, it was determined that starting from Structure 2A18, Causeway 61 follows a north-northeast direction until ending on the southern edge of a group of structures consisting in 1A26-1A30 and the Chultún 2 (Cobos, 1996:99-102; see [Figure 174](#) of this report).

In 1995, part of Causeway 46 was discovered and recorded (Cobos and Winemiller, 1996:305). We continued the mapping of this archaeological feature in 1997, along with the survey and recording of Causeway 46 in the northwestern part of the outcrop of bedrock that obstructs this causeway as well as Causeway 3. Causeway 46 continues to the northwest. On the south it passes a large dry sinkhole or *rejollada* and benchmark 17. The causeway is obstructed in the southwest corner of Quadrant 21A due to the presence of patios and modern houses occupied by the inhabitants of Pisté. In fact, benchmark 17 and the place at which Causeway 46 is interrupted are actually the southeastern most points of the modern settlement of Pisté ([Figure 173](#)).

Causeways 57, 58 and 59 were found in Quadrant 4D. Causeway 57 begins at the southern part of Causeway 52 and ends with a structure that was destroyed with the modern construction of the Hotel Villas Arqueológicas at Chichén Itzá. Only 160 meters of Causeway 58 were mapped. This causeway begins at the southern edge of the Great Terrace and continues to the south until the Mexican Federal Highway 180. Causeway 59 begins on the western edge of Causeway 58. It was only possible to record 8 meters of this causeway due to the fact that modern constructions such as warehouses, rooms, and roads leading to the Hotel Mayaland and the Mexican Federal Highway 180 have obstructed the entire central portion of Quadrant 4D.

Causeway 2 (Quadrant 2C)

Causeway 2 begins at the northern edge of Causeway 3, a few meters south of the northwestern Group. From this point Causeway 2 directs itself some 110 meters to the northeast until it ends at a staircase associated with the platform of Structure 2C7 and 2C8 located near the northeast corner of Quadrant 2C (see Ruppert, 1952:18-19, Figure 12, Figure 13, and Figure 151). It is worth mentioning that in Ruppert's Figure 151 (1952) there appears a causeway labeled with a number 2 which links the northwest corner of the Great Terrace and the Southeast Group. It was shown in the 1997 season however, that the causeway that appears in Quadrant 2C with a number 2 on it actually corresponds to the beginning of Causeway 3.

Causeway 64 (Quadrant 5D)

Causeway 64 begins in Quadrant 5D at the southern edge of Causeway 65 and ends where it meets an outcrop of bedrock located in the mid-eastern part of Quadrant 5D. This outcrop of bedrock obstructs Causeway 8 which links structures 5D8-5D15, 5D18 and 5D128 with the Hieroglyphic Jambs Group.

Causeway 65 (Quadrant 5D)

Causeway 65 begins at the southern edge of the platform for structures 5D4, 5D27-5D31 and 5D33 (see Lincoln, 1990:Map Sheet II). The causeway directs itself to the southeast until ending at an outcrop of bedrock and some unmapped platform located on the mid-western part of Quadrant 5E (see the rectangular shaped structure that appears with a dotted line in Ruppert's Figure 151 [1952]).

Causeway 66 (Quadrant 5D)

Causeway 66 begins between Chultún 1 and Structure 5D2, at the northeastern part of the platform which holds structures 5D1-5D6 and 5D20-5D26. The causeway leads to the east until it ends on the western edge of the platform which carries Structures 5D8-5D15, 5D18, 5D128 a few meters to the west of Structure 5D12. Causeway 66 links the two platforms which Lincoln (1990:401-428, 425-428) named Ho' Che and Ek' Xux.

Causeway 67 (Quadrant 1Z)

Causeway 67 begins at the southern edge of Causeway 3 in Quadrant 1Z and directs its path to the southwest. In 1997, only 100 meters of this causeway were mapped.

Causeway 68 (Quadrant 1Z)

Causeway 68 begins at the northern edge of Causeway 3 and follows a northerwestern course. In 1997, only 80 meters were mapped and no terminus was located.

Causeway 69 (Quadrant 21A)

Causeway 69 begins on the western edge of a terrace associated with Structures 21A1-21A2. Following a westerly course for 120 meters, Causeway 69 ends at the northeastern corner of a terrace associated to the east with Structures 21A6-21A7 and to the north with 21A8-21A9 (see [Figure 175](#)).

List of Figures

[Figure 1](#). Plan view of Group Sacbe 61.

[Figure 2](#). Group Sacbe 61 before excavation.

[Figure 3](#). Structure 2A22 before excavation, seen from the south to the north.

[Figure 4](#). Group Sacbe 61 after clearing, as seen from the south.

[Figure 5](#). Structure 2A21 and quarry or sascabera.

[Figure 6](#). Structure 2A21 before excavation, seen from the east to the west.

- [Figure 7.](#) Group Sacbe 61 seen from the east to the west.
- [Figure 8.](#) Group Sacbe 61 seen from Structure 2A21.
- [Figure 9.](#) Structure 2A17 viewed from north to south before excavation.
- [Figure 10.](#) Excavation of Structure 2A17.
- [Figure 11.](#) Group Sacbe 61, screen used for sifting earth.
- [Figure 12.](#) Group Sacbe 61, screen used for sifting earth.
- [Figure 13.](#) Plan view of Structure 2A17.
- [Figure 14.](#) Excavation of Structure 2A17.
- [Figure 15.](#) Structure 2A17, north wall.
- [Figure 16.](#) Structure 2A17, north-south view before excavation.
- [Figure 17.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the north wall.
- [Figure 18.](#) Structure 2A17, Quad 23L before excavation.
- [Figure 19.](#) Cross section of the wall in Quad 23L.
- [Figure 20.](#) Structure 2A17, seen from the northwest to the southeast.
- [Figure 21.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the northwest corner.
- [Figure 22.](#) Structure 2A17, north side with the possible placement of the third course of stones of the wall.
- [Figure 23.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the bench on the north side.
- [Figure 24.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the north bench.
- [Figure 25.](#) Structure 2A17, north side and north bench.
- [Figure 26.](#) Cross section of the north wall and the bench.
- [Figure 27.](#) Structure 2A17, seen from east to west before excavation.
- [Figure 28.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the east wall.
- [Figure 29.](#) Structure 2A17, excavation of the east wall.
- [Figure 30.](#) Structure 2A17, a view of the excavation from east to west.
- [Figure 31.](#) Structure 2A17, west side of shrine before excavation.

- [Figure 32](#). Structure 2A17, back side of shrine before excavation.
- [Figure 33](#). Excavation of the west side of Structure 2A17 and the south side of the shrine.
- [Figure 34](#). Structure 2A17, interior of the north side showing the fill on top of the stucco floor.
- [Figure 35](#). Structure 2A17, Quad 22J before excavation.
- [Figure 36](#). Structure 2A17, Quad 22J before excavation.
- [Figure 37](#). North cross section of the central test excavation.
- [Figure 38](#). East-west cross section of the bench of Structure 2A17.
- [Figure 39](#). Excavation of the shrine seen from east to west.
- [Figure 40](#). Excavation of the shrine.
- [Figure 41](#). The shrine seen from the east.
- [Figure 42](#). West-east cross section, north side of the shrine.
- [Figure 43](#). Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine, view of the north wall with fill or *testigo*.
- [Figure 44](#). Structure 2A17, south side of the shrine, fill or *testigo* that shows Layer II construction fill.
- [Figure 45](#). Fragments of stucco found on Layer II of the fill or *testigo*.
- [Figure 46](#). Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine, south side.
- [Figure 47](#). Structure 2A17, main entrance to the shrine.
- [Figure 48](#). Interior of shrine. Stucco floor and remains of charcoal and ash.
- [Figure 49](#). Interior of shrine. Remains of charcoal and ash beside the north jamb.
- [Figure 50](#). Structure 2A17, *Sahumador Sisal* deposited as an offering on the shrine.
- [Figure 51](#). Structure 2A17, vase deposited as an offering on the shrine.
- [Figure 52](#). Test excavation 1, construction fill of Structure 2A17.
- [Figure 53](#). Test excavation 2, interior of the bench.
- [Figure 54](#). Test excavation 2, interior of the bench.

- [Figure 55.](#) *Sahumador Sisal* in the bench test excavation.
- [Figure 56.](#) Vase in the bench test excavation.
- [Figure 57.](#) *Sahumador Sisal* deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 58.](#) *Sahumador Sisal* deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 59.](#) *Sahumador Sisal* deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 60.](#) *Sahumador Sisal* deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 61.](#) Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 62.](#) Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 63.](#) Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 64.](#) Vase deposited as offering on the shrine bench.
- [Figure 65.](#) Test excavation in front of the shrine.
- [Figure 66.](#) Interior of the shrine with bench partially excavated.
- [Figure 67.](#) South side of the shrine, *testigo* that shows the Layer II construction fill, to far left is seen the south jamb.
- [Figure 68.](#) Structure 2A17, south side of the shrine, *testigo* that shows the Layer II construction fill.
- [Figure 69.](#) Interior of the shrine after excavation (north side).
- [Figure 70.](#) Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine with the *testigos*.
- [Figure 71.](#) Structure 2A17, interior of the shrine with the *testigos*.
- [Figure 72.](#) North side of Structure 2A21 before excavation.
- [Figure 73.](#) Structure 2A21, north trench during the excavation.
- [Figure 74.](#) Structure 2A21, excavation of the north trench.
- [Figure 75.](#) Structure 2A21, northwest corner, north side.
- [Figure 76.](#) Structure 2A21, north-south cross section, east side of the north trench.
- [Figure 77.](#) Structure 2A21, north trench.
- [Figure 78.](#) Structure 2A21, collapsed stair, north side.

- [Figure 79](#). Structure 2A21, northwest corner, west side.
- [Figure 80](#). Structure 2A21, plan view of the west side of the northwest corner.
- [Figure 81](#). East-west cross section, south face of the west trench.
- [Figure 82](#). Structure 2A21, excavation of the west trench.
- [Figure 83](#). Structure 2A21, west trench.
- [Figure 84](#). Structure 2A21, west trench.
- [Figure 85](#). Structure 2A21, west trench.
- [Figure 86](#). Structure 2A21, west trench.
- [Figure 87](#). West side of Structure 2A21.
- [Figure 88](#). Structure 2A21, south profile of the west trench.
- [Figure 89](#). Test excavation on top of Structure 2A21.
- [Figure 90](#). Plan of the test excavation.
- [Figure 91](#). Structure 2A21, beginning the test excavation on the upper part of the structure.
- [Figure 92](#). Structure 2A21, excavation of the upper part.
- [Figure 93](#). Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.
- [Figure 94](#). Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.
- [Figure 95](#). Structure 2A21, stucco floor found during the test excavation.
- [Figure 96](#). Structure 2A21, detail of the stucco floor and construction fill of a possible sub-structure.
- [Figure 97](#). Structure 2A21, test excavation beneath the stucco floor.
- [Figure 98](#). Structure 2A21, test excavation, seen from the stucco layer and the construction fill.
- [Figure 99](#). Restoration of the northwest corner of 2A21.
- [Figure 100](#). View of structure 2A22 before excavation, as seen from Structure 2A21.
- [Figure 101](#). Plan view of Structure 2A22.

[Figure 102](#). Structure 2A22, north side before excavation.

[Figure 103](#). Structure 2A22, view from south to north before excavation.

[Figure 104](#). Structure 2A22, excavation of the south side.

[Figure 105](#). Structure 2A22, south side.

[Figure 106](#). Structure 2A22, Quad 17R.

[Figure 107](#). Structure 2A22, Quad 16R before excavating.

[Figure 108](#). Structure 2A22. Quad 17R before excavating.

[Figure 109](#). Plan view of Structure 2A22-sub.

[Figure 110](#). Structure 2A22-sub, north profile.

[Figure 111](#). Structure 2A22-sub, south profile.

[Figure 112](#). Structure 2A22-sub, east profile.

[Figure 113](#). Structure 2A22-sub, west profile.

[Figure 114](#). Structure, 2A22-sub, north-south cross section, east profile of the test excavation.

[Figure 115](#). Structure 2A22, Quad 16R before excavating Layer III.

[Figure 116](#). Structure 2A22, Quad 16Q before excavating Layer III.

[Figure 117](#). Structure 2A22-sub, east-west cross section, north profile of the test excavation.

[Figure 118](#). Structure 2A22-sub, Layer V stone fill.

[Figure 119](#). Structure 2A22-sub, stucco blobs in Layer IV.

[Figure 120](#). Structure 2A22-sub, stucco blobs in Layer V.

[Figure 121](#). Structures 2A22 and 2A22-sub after excavation.

[Figure 122](#). Structures 2A22 and 2A22-sub after filling the latter.

[Figure 123](#). Restoration of structure 2A22-sub.

[Figure 124](#). View of structure 2A22, to the back is seen Causeway 61.

[Figure 125](#). Structure 2A22, restoration of the west side.

[Figure 126.](#) Restoration of Structure 2A22, southwest corner.

[Figure 127.](#) Restoration of structure 2A22, south side.

[Figure 128.](#) Structure 2A22 after restoration work.

[Figure 129.](#) Test excavation 1.

[Figure 130.](#) Test excavation 1, east profile.

[Figure 131.](#) Test excavation 1, plan view seen from the south to the north.

[Figure 132.](#) Test excavation 1, east profile.

[Figure 133.](#) Test excavation 1, south profile.

[Figure 134.](#) Test excavation 1, south profile.

[Figure 135.](#) Test excavation1, south profile, level 3.

[Figure 136.](#) Test excavation 1, south profile, corner of sub-structure and excavation until the bedrock.

[Figure 137.](#) Test excavation 1, west profile, level 3.

[Figure 138.](#) Test excavation 2, excavation of level I.

[Figure 139.](#) Test excavation 2, north profile.

[Figure 140.](#) Test excavation 2, north profile.

[Figure 141.](#) Test excavation 2, west profile and construction fill.

[Figure 142.](#) Test excavation 3.

[Figure 143.](#) Test excavation 3, detail of the stucco floor seen from south to north.

[Figure 144.](#) Test excavation 3, stone alignment exposed in the west profile of the excavation.

[Figure 145.](#) Test excavation 3, west profile, detail of the stone alignment.

[Figure 146.](#) Test excavation 3, excavation of level 3.

[Figure 147.](#) Test excavation 3, south profile.

[Figure 148.](#) Test excavation 3, west profile.

[Figure 149.](#) Test excavation 4, plan view of Layer II construction fill.

[Figure 150.](#) Test excavation 4, excavation of level II and detail of construction fill.

[Figure 151.](#) Test excavation 4, stucco floor.

[Figure 152.](#) Test excavation 4, stucco floor.

[Figure 153.](#) Test excavation 4, detail of the stucco floor.

[Figure 154.](#) Test excavation 4, east profile.

[Figure 155.](#) Test excavation 4, east profile, outer view of the feature.

[Figure 156.](#) Test excavation 5, north profile.

[Figure 157.](#) Test excavation 5, east profile.

[Figure 158.](#) Test excavation 5, north profile.

[Figure 159.](#) Test excavation 5, east profile, view of the sub-structure wall.

[Figure 160.](#) Test excavation 6, level I.

[Figure 161.](#) Test excavation 6, south profile.

[Figure 162.](#) Test excavation 6, detail of the stone alignment and remains of the stucco floor.

[Figure 163.](#) Test excavation 6, excavation until bedrock.

[Figure 164.](#) Test excavation 7, east-west cross section, exterior face, south alignment.

[Figure 165.](#) Test excavation 7, level II during excavation.

[Figure 166.](#) Test excavation 7, view of the alignment and the column drum from west to east.

[Figure 167.](#) Text excavation 7, view of the alignment and the column drum from south to north.

[Figure 168.](#) Text excavation 7, detail of the concentration of ceramics next to the column drum.

[Figure 169.](#) Test excavation 7, plan view of Layer II with the alignment.

[Figure 170.](#) Test excavation 8, north profile.

[Figure 171.](#) Test excavation 8, north profile.

[Figure 172.](#) Test excavation 8, east profile.

[Figure 173](#). Causeway 46.

[Figure 174](#). Causeway 61.

[Figure 175](#). Causeway 69.

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