

## RIO BEC

LATITUDE 18° 21.4' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 21.7' W.

The site was first reported by the French explorer and archaeologist Comte Maurice de Perigny in 1908. In 1912 R. E. Merwin and C. L. Hay, of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, discovered other groups, one of which contains a remarkably well preserved building (Hay, 1935, p. 29). The Second and Third Campeche Expeditions visited the site March 30–April 17, 1933, and March 10–15, 1934. Of the many structures seen by Perigny and Merwin, only Merwin's Group F (Structures XV, XVI, and XVII of Group I) could be found by the Carnegie expeditions. However, many more groups were located, including two ball courts and 11 stelae.

The 1933 expedition reached Rio Bec from Placeres (lat. 18° 08.5' N., long. 89° 24.2' W.). While at La Muñeca some of the workmen described the site of Hormiguero said to be near San Lorenzo, 15 km. to the northwest. However, due to lack of a direct trail it was necessary to follow a roundabout route through Placeres, Nochebuena, Reforma, and Rio Bec. From Placeres a trip was made to the aguada of Misterioso near which ruins and stelae were reported (Lundell, 1933a, p. 169). A rather extensive group of low mounds was seen on the east side of the aguada; no buildings or stelae were found. The futility of scouring the bush for ruins heard of but not definitely known to any members of the party was soon apparent. A year later the expedition staff was informed that the ruins were in a *ramonal* beyond a logwood swamp, several kilometers south of the aguada visited. The trail north of Placeres was so overgrown that it required five days for the workmen to open the 17 km. to Nochebuena (chap. 3). From here to Rio Bec is about 8 km. by trail. The 1934 expedition reached Rio Bec from San Lorenzo, coming from Rio Desempeño and Oxpemul (chap. 8). The distance from Rio Desempeño via San Lorenzo is about 60 km.; via Rio Desempeño–Placeres it is 136 km.

The name Rio Beque, although the spelling Rio Bec is now in general use, was given to the site by Perigny. Rio may have referred to a dry stream or water hole near by; Beque is perhaps an attempt to Gallicize the

Maya word "Bec" or "Beec," which designates the tree locally called, in Spanish, *roble*.

The aguada at Rio Bec, Group I, was of ample size and covered with lechuga. At one time there had been a small chicle camp on the south rim, which might indicate that the water supply was fairly permanent. The country is very hilly and supports a good stand of high timber, including sapodilla and ramon.

The ruins, arranged in a number of independent groups, cover an extensive area. During the first season only one group was examined; the second year, four others were mapped and studied. The first indication of the ruins, when the site is approached via Placeres and Reforma, is a standing wall and mounds bordering the east side of the trail about a kilometer before reaching the aguada.

This wall, Structure XVI, with Structures XV and XVII (pl. 64), forms a small court which was studied by Merwin and is designated by him as Group F. Merwin cleared this group in 1912; the bush had so completely grown back that when seen by the Second Campeche Expedition 21 years later no sign of the felling of trees remained. The 1933 survey included this group and the area to the west. The next nearest structure of the Merwin survey (Merwin's unpublished field notes in Peabody Museum of Harvard University), Structure E, is 2.41 km. to the east of Group F and 4.18 km. farther to the northeast is said to lie his beautiful Rio Bec B (Hay, 1935, p. 29).

A search in 1934 failed to discover building B or building A, .40 km. to the north of B. (The 1933 expedition did not realize that it was at the ruins of Rio Bec until its return to Chichen Itza, when geographic coordinates were checked, although Structure XI, Group I, at the time of discovery was noted as being of Rio Bec type.) The bush is so dense that it is possible to be within a few meters of a structure without detecting its presence. This density of vegetation doubtless accounts for Perigny's and Merwin's failure to discover Groups I–V of the Carnegie expeditions.

## GROUP I

This group (pl. 64), examined in 1933, is included in an area 800 m. east and west by 280 m. north and south, lying west of Merwin's F. The terrain is rough and dotted by hills. There is a gradual ascent from east to west. In general the ruins are scattered; there are a few related units, but no formal plan for the group as a whole.

STRUCTURE I, containing two parallel chambers, occupies the highest position in the extreme western end of the city. The building is in poor preservation, having only the south and west walls rising slightly higher than the vault spring and the east and north walls standing only in part. It rests on a podium, 73.5 cm. high, which was faced on the east and west. As seen in figure 24a, the facing has upper and lower bands with a central zone elaborated with equally spaced sets of three colonnettes. The south and west walls of the building, except for the north end of the latter, rise 5.60 m. (pl. 5c). The east wall, north of the doorway, has partly collapsed and the north end of the inner chamber has practically all fallen. The west façade, set 3 cm. inward from the upper band of the podium, rises as a plain zone sloping inward 5 cm. from base to top (pl. 5d). The masonry is of large blocks, their faces measuring from 34 by 37 cm. to 43 by 47 cm. Four courses below the top of the plain lower zone the stones are somewhat smaller, the faces of the stones in the three final courses measuring from 10 by 16 cm. to 10 by 18 cm. The masonry is not veneer-like, the tenons showing very little taper. The stones, laid in courses which are maintained with some care, are carefully worked and have square corners so that they fit tightly together.

Above the plain zone is a 57-cm., three-member molding (fig. 24), followed by the second zone rising 1.70 m. with a slight batter. At intervals on its surface are raised areas as though it had borne stucco decoration. Defining the top of the zone is a 13-cm. band with an overhang of about 5 cm.; above this the facing of the façade had fallen, although the core of the wall rises slightly higher.

The north and south sides of the building are faced with crudely worked stones, relatively well coursed and showing many chinks. The molding was not carried across the south or north end. The stone forming the first member of the molding at the southeast corner is a true cornerstone and projects onto the south side. This calls to mind the corner molding stone of the east and west walls of the Monjas, East Annex, at Chichen Itza.

A blocked doorway was noted in the south exterior wall. It was not seen on the interior, as here the wall

is covered with two layers of plaster. The doorway has its east jamb 2.25 m. from the southeast corner of the building and is 1.95 m. high. The width is 70 cm. at the base and decreases slightly toward the top. The upper limits of the doorway are poorly defined as there is no true lintel visible and some of the stones of the east jamb project within the line of the doorway (pl. 5c). A single stone at the top, somewhat resembling a lintel although not squared or worked, has a length of 75 cm. Serving as part of the fill in the doorway is a stone upon which is carved a scroll (pl. 5c).

The single doorway in the east wall is 3.60 m. from the south end of the chamber and has a depth of 95 cm. The north jamb has fallen so that the width could not be determined. A socket worked in a stone of the south jamb is 45 cm. from the eastern edge of the doorway and 2.26 m. above the sill; the diameter and depth are 7 cm. and 9 cm. respectively.

The eastern chamber is 9.50 m. long, 2.30 m. wide, and 4.70 m. high above the floor. An irregularly shaped recess in the east wall is 16 cm. long, 10 cm. high, and 20 cm. deep; it is 2.18 m. below the spring line and 1.27 m. from the north wall. A beam hole in the east wall, 35 cm. from the north end of the chamber, has a diameter of 14 cm. Portions of the arch remain at the south and north ends of the chamber. Single beam holes occur in both the east and west vault soffits at the spring line, approximately 28 cm. from the south wall; they have diameters of 15 cm.

The masonry of the vertical walls is mixed: some stones are carefully dressed and squared; others are very rough and show no working. The chinks are large and have been filled with stone chips and spalls. There are two layers of plaster on the south wall: the basal layer is very thick and rough; the second, smooth and hard, still retains traces of red tinting.

The vault stones are unevenly cut: some slightly beveled in a careless manner, others mere slabs showing no special working. There is no offset at the spring line.

Entrance to the inner room is through a single doorway in line with the transverse axis of the medial wall of the structure. The north jamb has a depth of 1.40 m.; the south jamb has fallen. Practically all the west wall and west vault soffit of the inner room are standing. A recess in the west wall, 1.04 m. from the south end of the chamber and 2.70 m. below the spring of the vault, has a height of 29 cm., a width of 30 cm., and a depth of 30 cm. It is carefully squared and plastered.

The section of the vault above the west wall rises 1.45 m. at an angle of 62° and shows several beam holes

at the spring line. The first is 25 cm. from the south wall; the second and third are spaced at intervals of 2.60 m. and 3.50 m. Only the southernmost beam hole now shows in the east vault soffit. The masonry of the inner room is similar to that of the outer.

STRUCTURES II-IV, the farthest north in Group I (pl. 64), are approximately 2.40 m. north-northeast of Structure I. They consist of some large mounds on which only occasional sections of walls are visible, so that no plans can be made out and no details of architecture determined.

STRUCTURE V is to the south and east. The plan of the complex is shown in plate 64, and interest centers in the pyramidal structure on the south, which supported a building rising from a podium (fig. 25). The medial zone of the podium was exposed for a distance of 3 m., all of which was plain. Beyond the portion examined, it may be elaborated with colonnettes, scrolls, or inset panels, but this could not be determined in the time available.

The building, containing two parallel chambers, faces north and measures approximately 12 by 8 m. A single doorway in the north façade has a width of 1.80 m. The outer chamber is 2.40 m. wide and the medial wall is 1.35 m. thick. The contour of the debris indicates a single doorway between the first and second chambers. Approximately 1.70 m. west of the outer doorway is a mosaic panel, framed on either side by a 55-cm. section of the façade projecting 8.5 cm. The portion of the panel now *in situ* is composed of three zones separated by bands (fig. 25, pl. 6a); the lower, 43.5 cm. high, is made up of a series of T-shaped motifs. The second zone carries a key pattern, which reversed, is used in the upper zone. The relief of the stone mosaic key pattern has a depth of 57 cm. It seems reasonable to suppose that a similar panel existed east of the doorway, although excavations were not made to determine this point.

STRUCTURES VI-IX are to the south of Structure V. Each represents a group of mounds, some of which support rather good sections of standing walls.

STRUCTURE X, lying 40 m. east of Structure VII, consists of two or three compactly placed mounds.

STRUCTURE XI, an eight-room building with lateral towers (fig. 26, pl. 6c), essentially of the Rio Bec type (cf. Hormiguero, Structure II), faces east and lies directly east of Structure X. It is apparently 34 by 8 m., not including the projection of the towers. The building has fallen or is so filled with debris that only occasional wall surfaces can be made out.

Little remains of the east (main) façade. The entrance, a doorway 1.95 m. wide, is flanked on either side

by a plain 55-cm.-wide area, beyond which is a 2.60-m. stone and plaster decorated area (pl. 6b). This section of the façade now rises to a height of only 2.75 m. A few centimeters beyond each decorated area is a side facing of the projection of the towers. The sides and corners of the towers rise in a number of bands and plain zones much as do the towers on Structure II, Hormiguero, and, as at the latter site, the corners are rounded. The façades of the rooms lying beyond each tower have entirely fallen.

The masonry facing of the towers is composed of very carefully worked stones (pl. 6d). Those forming the corners measure from 9 by 12 cm. to 7.5 by 24 cm. on the face and have a slight curve (pl. 7b). None of the façade stones of the ornamental stairways above the debris now remains in position.

The rear elevation of the building shows that it stood on a podium 82 cm. high, formed of two 18.5-cm. bands separated by a 45-cm. medial zone. The latter is formed of plain areas, 2.80 m. long, separated by plain inset areas 1.75 m. long.

The lower zone of the rear wall, set in 3.5 cm. from the upper band of the platform, rises vertically to a height of 3.10 m. (pl. 7a). Above this is a three-member molding. The lowest element, a 15-cm. apron, overhangs 20 cm.; set inward a few centimeters from the top of this rises a second, a 50-cm. beveled, member, formed of a single course of stones; the third and final member is a 10-cm. band overhanging 15 cm. The zone above this molding, plain for the portion still *in situ*, rises vertically for a distance of 1.10 m., at which point the facing has fallen.

Room 1. The east and west walls have practically all fallen or are covered with debris. The ends of the vault at the north and south rise 1.20 m. from the spring line to the capstones, which have a span of 65 cm. The masonry of the end walls is of rough, irregular blocks with many chinks (pl. 7c), the vault stones are roughly beveled on the exposed faces.

Room 2 has the same width as Room 1 but its length is increased to 10.15 m. The wall separating the two rooms, from the contour of the debris, contained a single doorway in line with its transverse axis. Both end walls, as well as the one at the west, rise 2.20 m. above the debris. The vault is similar to that in Room 1, with the stones beveled but not carefully worked. The end walls rise vertically throughout with no offset at the spring line, which is 1.40 m. above the base of the molding of the south façade. (Structure I shows the spring line 1.50 m. above the base of the molding, fig. 24.) There are four beam holes in the west vault at the spring line, of which two are within 20 cm. of either wall.

*Room 3*, lying north of Room 2, is in a very poor state of repair. The vault extends east and west, and a doorway in the north wall is indicated only by the west jamb.

Rooms 4 and 5 are so wrecked and covered with debris that they yield no details of architecture. Room 6, lying south of Room 2, is similar to Room 3. It, as well as Rooms 7 and 8, has collapsed and is filled with detritus. A doorway leading from Room 6 to Room 7 is indicated by the west jamb.

STRUCTURE XII lies 140 m. east of Structure XI and on a level 6 m. lower. It is now represented only by mounds, from the westernmost of which projects a small section of wall. Of interest is the U-shaped plan formed by the mounds outlining three sides of a low terrace. Two or three steps, which were continuous across the south side (the open part of the U), give onto the terrace.

STRUCTURE XIII, northeast, and STRUCTURE XIV, almost due east, of Structure XII, although comparatively large units, are so buried by their collapse that they now show only a few wall surfaces and yield no details of plan or construction.

STRUCTURE XV, a building lying directly east of Structure XIV, faces south and contains two parallel series of three rooms each (fig. 27). To the west it abuts the north end of Structure XVI, long collapsed. The building has an approximate width and length of 7.50 m. and 22 m. respectively. Since the north range of rooms, as well as the east and west exterior walls of the south range, have fallen or are covered with debris, no accurate measurements could be taken.

The exposed portion of the south façade shows a plain lower zone rising 18 cm. above the top of the doorway, where there is a 13-cm. offset. This offset probably represents a molding, but, as even the face of the member is weathered, it could not be determined whether it rose vertically or with a batter.

Each room in the south tier has a single doorway opening in the façade so that the rooms in the second tier must have opened to the north.

*Room 1*. The doorway seemingly rose to a height of 3.25 m., with the jambs formed of blocks measuring from 20 by 30 by 40 cm. to 30 by 45 by 55 cm., all nicely worked and squared. Two sockets, presumably for the insertion of poles, were noted in each jamb (pl. 8c). Those of the east jamb are 1.02 m. below the top of the doorway. One socket, 42 cm. in from the south face of the doorway, has a diameter of 7 cm. and a depth of 7 cm. The second, 9 cm. from the first, has a diameter of 5 cm. and a depth of 4 cm.

The masonry of the room shows a variation in size

of stones, from 20 by 37 cm. and 18 by 23 cm., to 7 by 27 cm. The larger ones are the more carefully squared and dressed. There are three beam holes in the south wall. The first, 20 cm. from the southeast corner of the room, is 93 cm. below the spring line, has a depth of 20 cm. and a diameter of 10 cm. The second, 1.10 m. from the same corner and 1.50 m. below the spring line, is 25 cm. in depth and 12 cm. in diameter. The third, 56 cm. west of the doorway and 1.50 m. below the spring line, has a depth of 23 cm. and a diameter of 13 cm. A single beam hole in the east wall is 1 m. from the southeast corner of the room and 40 cm. below the spring of the vault. It has a depth of 23 cm. and a diameter of 7 cm.

The east end of the chamber shows two courses of vault stones *in situ*. Especially interesting in the end wall are some carefully cut trapezoidal stones (Ruppert, 1931, p. 139, and 1935, p. 265) which abut the vault stones. The first course of vault stones is set out 3.5 cm. from the vertical line of the wall. This offset was filled with plaster and small chips so that in the finished surface it does not appear. The vault rose at an angle of 70°. The stones are large, having an average length and height of 80 cm. and 25 cm. respectively, and are carefully worked and cut with a bevel. There is a beam hole at the spring line of the south vault soffit, 20 cm. from the east wall; it has a depth of 22 cm. and a diameter of 11 cm.

*Room 2*. At the doorway, the south wall of Room 2 as fallen below the line of the lintel, but sections *in situ* at either end of the chamber support portions of the vault. The masonry, as seen in the south wall, is more uniform than in Room 1. It is made up of large well-worked rectangular blocks, averaging 30 by 40 cm., on which in places still remain two layers of plaster. There are two beam holes in the south wall. One, 29 cm. from the east end of the room and 70 cm. below the spring line, has a depth of 20 cm. and a diameter of 14 cm. A beam hole in the north wall is directly opposite. The second beam hole in the south wall is 34 cm. from the west end of the room. It is 75 cm. below the spring line, has a depth of 20 cm. and a diameter of 9 cm. A possible recess in the west wall, 19 cm. from the southwest corner of the room, has a length of 24 cm., a height of 6 cm., and a depth of 14 cm. Beam holes in the vault are at the level of the spring line. One in the south vault soffit, 22 cm. from the west end of the room, has a diameter of 8 cm. and a depth of 30 cm. Directly opposite in the north half of the vault is a corresponding beam hole.

The east half of the south wall, the entire east wall, and all but a very small portion of the north wall of Room 3 have collapsed or are hidden by debris. The

doorway in the south wall seemingly had a height of 3.25 m., as the west jamb is apparently completely standing. A single socket was observed in this jamb.

*Room 3.* The masonry of Room 3 is better than that of Room 1 but not so good as that of Room 2. The stones in the west wall are uniform in size but are much weathered. In the south wall one recess (fig. 28a), 63 cm. west of the doorway, has a depth of 29 cm. A second recess, probably a beam hole, near the west end of the room has a depth of 18 cm. A horizontal beam hole in the hearting of the south wall, 75 cm. above the top of the west jamb of the doorway, is 12 cm. in diameter and 50 cm. long. Its position in the hearting of the masonry, 40 cm. in from the facing of the wall, is seen in figure 28b.

A section of the vault west of the doorway now rises 1.10 m. with four courses at an angle of 70° (pl. 8b). The vault stones are very carefully worked with the exposed face of all showing a bevel and some, a slight convexity. Untinted plaster still remains on some of the stones and there are two beam holes at the spring line (fig. 28a).

STRUCTURE XVII (the south building in Merwin's Group F), lying southeast of Structure XV and facing west, has the same plan as the latter structure except that doorways in the medial wall connect the two ranges of chambers. The building has approximate over-all measurements of 8 by 28 m. It rests on a podium, 93 cm. high, whose facing shows a plain zone with a projecting band above and below. Beneath and set out 15 cm. from the lower band, is the foundation, 30 cm. deep, formed of two courses of irregularly shaped stones showing only superficial working (fig. 29). Beneath and in front of the foundation is the hearting of the terrace.

The façade of the central chamber stands 5.70 m. high. This is the only exterior wall visible. The remainder has collapsed or is covered with detritus (pl. 8a). The central doorway is 1.70 m. wide by 2 m. high; to either side the decoration in stone and plaster represents a large serpent head in profile (pl. 8d). Beyond

is a series of profile mask ornaments, which rise in a vertical band 85 cm. wide. The sill of the ruined central doorway was formed by the final member of the platform facing. There is no indication of a stairway leading up to this sill.

*Room 1,* in the west tier and to the north, is approximately 8.30 by 2.70 m. The south wall is 65 cm. thick.

*Room 2,* the central chamber on the west, is 7.95 by 2.70 m. and the east wall is 1.20 m. thick. It seems likely from the contour of the debris that a doorway in this wall opened into a chamber to the east (Room 5). The walls of Room 2 rise to a height of 3.30 m. There is a noticeable lack of uniformity in the masonry. Whereas the tenons of the stones average 16 cm. in length, the faces vary from 15 cm. to 25 cm. square. In places stones of similar size are put together, in others they are mixed. This lack of homogeneity results in chinks, which are filled with chips and spalls. No beam holes were seen in the walls.

The vault rises at an angle of 54°. Some of the stones are crudely beveled, others are long, thin slabs. There are single beam holes in the vault at the spring line 20 cm. from either end wall, with average diameters of 15 cm. At the south end of the chamber, where a large part of the vault is *in situ*, no other beam holes were found (pl. 9a).

*Room 3.* The length is not known, as the southern half of the chamber is partly fallen and filled with detritus. No doorway could be found on the west, although, presumably, one existed here. The north jamb of a doorway in the east wall, opening into Room 4, is 3.35 m. from the north end of the chamber. The masonry of the north wall, indicated by a 97-cm. high section exposed between the debris and the level of the spring line, shows a nice example of coursing (pl. 9b). The large, carefully faced stones, now much weathered, have a height of 45 cm. in the first tier and 32 cm. in the second; those in the band have a height of 10 cm. The chinks have been filled with small chips. The east range of chambers is now covered with fallen material.

## GROUP II

This group (fig. 30) is located about half an hour's walk southeast of the aguada of Aurora. There are many artificial mounds between the aguada and the group, but these are not included, as they do not show standing buildings. In making the map only a Brunton compass and a 25-m. tape were used so that too much accuracy must not be attached thereto. Group II, a quadrangle measuring, roughly, 85 m. north and south by 140 m. east and west, was thought worthy of mapping

because it includes an assemblage of structures suggesting the plan of Group E at Uaxactun (Ricketson, 1927, p. 257).

STRUCTURE I, to the east, has a length of 70 m. Although it shows no standing walls it has somewhat the plan of the east range of this type assemblage.

STRUCTURE III, forming the west side of the quadrangle, has its counterpart in E-VII at Uaxactun. It is a pyramid, approximately 40 m. square and 18 m. high.

STRUCTURE IV is a ball court with its long axis east and west. The south range abuts the north side of Structure III. The court is so ruined that only very general measurements could be made. It is 32 m. long and the playing area (the space between the benches) is 10 m. wide. The face of the bench, as well as that of the inner walls, may have risen vertically although,

since no excavations were undertaken, a definite statement can not be made.

The mound in the center of the quadrangle is 7 m. square and not over a meter high. Five stelae were found in this group: Stelae 1, 2 (plain), and 3 at the west base of Structure I, Stela 4 (plain) at the north base of Structure II, and Stela 5 on the summit of Structure III.

### GROUP III

Groups III, IV, and V lie northeast of Merwin's F and north-northwest of the aguada of Aurora. Group III is about an hour's walk from the aguada. Group IV lies 2.5 km. beyond Group III; and Group V, 1.6 km. beyond Group IV. As seen in the plan (fig. 31), Group III is composed of five structures, of which only the one to the north, Structure I, shows more than an occasional standing wall.

STRUCTURE I. It was impossible to obtain a clear understanding of the plan of this building, which at first was thought to be relatively simple, because in its disintegration many walls were covered or had completely collapsed. There is a bare suggestion of chambers projecting from the south façade (cf. Nakum, Temple E; La Hondradez; Calakmul, Structure III), but their existence is rendered somewhat doubtful by the apparent narrowness of the supporting platform.

A 1.50-m. section of the south façade, west of the doorway to the central chamber, projects 25 cm. It is decorated with a three-member molding (pl. 9c). The east façade of the building, as well as the facing of the supporting platform on this same side, is the best preserved. The great platform which supports the structure rises to a height of approximately 4 m. above the terrace. The lower section of the facing of the platform is made up of a plain zone rising with a slight batter (pl. 9d); above this zone is a molding formed of an apron member and a band. This is topped by a 50-cm. zone elaborated with colonnettes, geometric figures, and plain areas. Above this is another band, the height of which is not known, for this section of the facing has fallen.

Set inward 1 m. from the top of the east side of the basal substructure is a podium directly supporting the building. The middle zone of the podium is elaborated with colonnettes in groups of three, plain areas, and areas ornamented with stucco. The east façade of the

building now rises to a height of 2.69 m. in a number of vertical panels, along the top of which remain traces of a continuous band. Above this level the façade has fallen. The southernmost panel in the east façade is a plain area with its southern edge probably at the corner of the building. North of it is a 1.20-m. area which seems to be a blocked-in doorway or a deep recess. Next to this is a 1.80-m. panel in which the lower 2 m. and the upper 31 cm. are plain, the two spaces being separated by a 38-cm., three-member molding. The next panel, 1.80 m. wide, is made up of plain zones, bands, and stone mosaic in geometric patterns (fig. 32). North of this area the façade has fallen.

The central chamber on the south side of the building is 11.40 m. wide and 2.20 m. long, with the vertical wall rising to a height of 3.76 m. There is no offset at the spring line and the vault rises at an angle of 68°. The north doorway of the chamber is 2.50 m. wide and the floor level of the south room seems to be 10 cm. higher than that of the room to the north.

On either side of the doorway in the north chamber and built against its south wall are the remains of a bench. It is 84 cm. high; the width is not known but may have been the same as that of the room (cf. bench at Peores Nada, Structure V). The east face of the west bench is located 45 cm. from the jamb of the doorway and projects 70 cm. from the wall. It shows a 15-cm. lower band, a 45-cm. plain zone, and an upper 24-cm. band. The east bench is 42 cm. from the jamb and projects 55 cm. from the wall to its broken northern margin. This section is made up of a 22-cm. lower band, a 42-cm. plain zone, and a 20-cm. upper band. The room west of the central-south chamber now shows a 2.40-m. section of east wall. Re-used in the facing of the wall is a sculptured stone depicting, in low relief, a seated human figure (pl. 9c).

## GROUP IV

This small group of four structures is located on a single terrace and arranged as a quadrangle (fig. 33). Only Structures I and II retain standing wall surfaces.

STRUCTURE I, forming the north side of the quadrangle, rests on a podium of which 18 m. of the north facing are exposed. It is 1.05 m. high and made up of a lower and upper 26-cm. band separated by a 63-cm. zone. The exposed section of this zone now shows three plain areas having lengths, measured from east to west, of 4.20 m., 4.40 m., and 4.35 m. respectively. They are separated by groups of three colonnettes, each group having an average length of 1.30 m.

The building contains two parallel ranges of three longitudinal chambers (fig. 34). There are three doorways in the south façade, each opening into a single room of the first (south) range. From these chambers a single doorway leads into the corresponding chamber in the second range. Only the lower portion of the south façade is now standing. The exterior masonry is of large blocks carefully laid so that there are relatively few chinks. The interior masonry is similar, except that

the stones are somewhat larger and less precisely worked, with a consequent increase in chinks. The vault stones have the exposed face slightly curved (cf. Hormiguero, Structure II, Room 2) and there is no offset at the spring line.

STRUCTURE II, forming the west side of the quadrangle, shows in plan a single range of two chambers, with approximate over-all measurements of 4.25 by 15 m. The room to the south has a width and length of 2.25 m. and 4.90 m. respectively, whereas the north chamber has the same width, but its length is close to 7.40 m. A section of the west (back) wall and that separating the two rooms is *in situ*; the former is 1 m. thick and the latter 68 cm. The lower zone of the west façade rises vertically to within 15 cm. of the level of the spring of the vault where there is an offset, the beginning of the molding which has now fallen. The vault rises 1.90 m. at an angle of 65° from a 2-cm. plaster offset at the spring line. The stones are cut with a bevel and so carefully worked and laid that there are only small interstices between them.

## GROUP V

Group V, on the crest of a hill, occupies an area, roughly, 175 by 100 m. (pl. 65). There is a northwest projection at a slightly lower level, supporting a number of small mounds, and about 120 m. east of the main group, off the crest of the hill, is a low platform on which are two sculptured stelae. As the main group is approached from the south there is a great stairway, at least 10 m. wide, leading up to the leveled terrace surmounting the hill. The treads and risers of this stairway average 45 cm. and 40 cm. respectively, with all risers apparently cut with a batter. Cf. Coba, Court N (Thompson, Pollock, and Charlot, 1932, p. 51); Piedras Negras, Structure J-6 (Satterthwaite, 1935, p. 22); Ox-pemul, Structures Ve, VII (*infra*); Chichen Itza, Caracol, risers of lower section of lower platform stairway (Ruppert, 1935, p. 51). The topmost eight risers are *in situ*. The stones vary in length from 1.07 m. to 2.28 m.

STRUCTURE I, immediately west of the top of the stairway, is now nothing more than a mound with indications of a stairway on its north slope. Stela 1 stands at its eastern base.

STRUCTURE II, a ball court having its long axis east and west, has a length of 16 m. and a playing area 5.50 m. wide. The structures have greatly fallen, so that in no place does the debris rise more than 1.50 m. above the terrace level.

STRUCTURE III, on the west side of the plaza, shows only an occasional standing wall so that its true plan is not known. The building rests on a platform about 1 m. high; the stairway from the plaza to this platform is 11 m. wide and made up of four risers and three treads measuring approximately 25 cm. and 23 cm. respectively. The contour of the debris of the structure suggests four chambers: possibly two parallel rooms across the back and two lateral chambers in front, one on either side of the landing. The east doorway of the central chamber is 2.30 m. wide.

STRUCTURE IV, occupying the north side of the main group and now for the most part represented by a mound, is the largest and highest in the city. The southern projection seems to have been furnished with a series of steps (pl. 10a), but the top of the mound does not show any building to which they may have led. On the north side of the structure a number of chambers are arranged in two parallel series of three each (fig. 35). Other chambers existed in the southeast section but are now buried in the detritus of their collapsed walls.

Room 1 in the northeast corner has a doorway in the south wall opening into Room 2, where jamb and vault construction are of special interest. The east jamb and 48 cm. of the adjacent wall in Room 1 rise 1.36 m. above the spring line (pl. 10b). In Room 2 the spring line is

1.05 m. higher than in Room 1, but the wall adjacent to the jamb rises vertically the same height as in Room 1. Above this point the jamb and adjacent walls have fallen. The sections of jambs and walls *in situ* indicate that the construction was similar to that at Culucbalom, Structure I, and Becan, Structure VIII, where the portion of the vault above the doorway rose at a different angle than the main portion of the vault.

*Room 2.* The west end of Room 2 shows the vault rising 2.35 m. at an average angle of 67°. The long thin capstones have a span of 65 cm. To form each vault soffit 15 courses of variously sized and shaped stones were used. The lower three courses are carefully cut with a bevel; others show a slight curve on the exposed face and many small stones were used to fill the chinks. A single beam hole seen in the standing section of the south vault soffit is 30 cm. from the west end of the room and 30 cm. above the spring line.

In the south wall of the room, near the southwest corner, is a recess 92 cm. wide by 2.20 m. deep (fig. 36). The masonry lining of the recess is crude and unfinished, and has been plastered on the east and west walls for a distance of 1.56 m. inward from the south wall of Room 2. At this point the plaster curves slightly outward, probably indicating that here a wall across the rear of the recess had been torn out. The finished floor, 1.76 m. below the ceiling, does not extend south of the line of the outward-curving plaster on the side walls, further substantiating the existence of a razed rear wall. A roughly surfaced floor, directly beneath the well-finished one, extends to the present back wall of the recess. The plaster on the east and west walls extends downward below both floors, perhaps to the level of the floor of Room 2. This latter level is not known.

The ceiling of the recess was made of rubble masonry supported by small poles extending east and west, of which, at present, only four are in position. From these and from the beam sockets in the masonry walls it is evident that ten poles must originally have been used. The entrance was blocked with masonry except for an

aperture 36 cm. wide by 42 cm. high in the upper east corner (fig. 36). The masonry is of somewhat roughly worked stones, the surfaced side facing into Room 2. This side was carefully plastered like the room; the other, only carelessly daubed with mortar. Of interest are a series of graffiti in the plaster of the east and west walls of the recess. Because they extend under the masonry blocking the original entrance they must be ancient (figs. 37, 38).

STRUCTURE V occupies a position on the east side of the main terrace, south of Structure IV. It stands on a platform approximately 1.50 m. high with a stairway on the west and sculptured Stela 2 at the base of the southwest corner. The distance from the head of the stairway to the façade of Room 4 is about 7.50 m. The building was made up of eight chambers (fig. 39), of which two (Rooms 1 and 6) form lateral extensions. The only section of façade visible is a portion on the west. It has a doorway, leading into Room 4, flanked on either side by a recessed panel.

*Room 4* has two doorways in the east wall. One, in line with the transverse axis of the chamber, having a width of 1.38 m., is now blocked with masonry; the other is near the south end of the room and tapers upward to the final margins of the jambs where it is 98 cm. wide. The top of the doorway is in the form of a stepped vault (fig. 40); the lintel spanning the final corbel has a thickness of 12 cm., a length of 77 cm., and a span of 44 cm. The top of the lintel is on a level with the spring of the vault.

Rising at an angle of 73° with a 4.5-cm. offset at the spring line, the vault stones are precisely cut with a bevel (pl. 10c), the faces measuring from 21 by 62 cm. to 23 by 37 cm. There are four beam holes in the east vault soffit (fig. 40a). All except the one at the south end of the room are at the spring line.

*Room 5* has a length of 9.50 m. The east wall has fallen; the north and south walls have a thickness of 85 cm. and 1.05 m. respectively.



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