

CHANNA

LATITUDE 18° 28.5' N. (ESTIMATED)

LONGITUDE 89° 28.8' W. (ESTIMATED)

While the Third Campeche Expedition was camped at the aguada of Carmelita during the work at Becan, it was decided to locate a site reported lying to the east. On March 3, 1934, Denison and I visited the ruins and took measurements and photographs. A second visit was made by the entire staff March 5, when camp was being moved from Becan to Piu.

To reach the ruins from Becan or the aguada of Carmelita it is advisable to proceed along the San Roman trail for about 50 minutes to a point where it forks, one branch leading to Tanche, the other to San Roman and Reforma (fig. 1). Almost immediately after leaving this fork on the way to San Roman, it is necessary to strike out southwest through the bush, for from here there is no trail. The distance, however, is not great, as a walk of about 15 minutes brings one to the ruins. The

name Channa, *chan* meaning "little" and *na*, "house," was given to the site because of its single standing structure. The workmen could not find an aguada near the ruins, although they felt that there must be one nearby, as a herd of peccaries had been seen in the vicinity and these animals generally do not wander far from water.

The site, located on a leveled area about 100 m. square, consists of a group at the southeast corner (fig. 76), a small pyramid to the north and a larger one to the west (not shown on map). The southeast group rests on a terrace, rising not more than a meter above the great leveled area, with a wide stairway on the north side. On the south is a six-chambered structure now partially intact; there is a two-chambered building on the east and abutting the west side of the terrace is a four-chambered building.

SOUTHEAST GROUP

STRUCTURE I is the principal building and the best preserved of this group. Located on the south side of the terrace, it is of the residential type having two parallel series of three longitudinal chambers, all with doorways opening to the north (fig. 76, pl. 24c).

The north façade, as shown from the portion now standing, was elaborately ornamented with columns, friezes, cornices, and stucco decoration. Originally there was a doorway opening into each end room and a triple entrance into the middle chamber, the latter formed by two round masonry columns and the antae of the chamber. Later the doorways between the columns and the antae were closed with masonry. The lower zone of the façade rises vertically and, at a point 1.60 m. from the jamb of each anta, the façade is set outward 43 cm. At the corner formed by each offset there is an engaged column (fig. 77).

The vertical lower zone of the façade is topped by a frieze of stone and stucco T-shaped ornaments and a continuous plain band. Rising above this is an overhanging apron molding. Small sections of the upper façade directly above the engaged columns show various moldings and battered zones with projecting stone blocks such as are sometimes used for supporting figures.

The building is placed on the south edge of the terrace. The latter is not faced, and attains an average height of 1.25 m. from the debris at its base (pl. 24d). From the terrace floor a 60-cm. plain zone, probably a podium, supports the building. The lower zone of the south façade of the building itself, set inward 2 cm. from the edge of the podium, rises with a batter of 83° (fig. 78). Above this zone is a two-member molding with the base of the upper member on a level with the spring of the vault in Room 5. The second zone, also rising with a batter, attains a height of 1.50 m. and terminates with a band. Above this point the façade has fallen but certainly extended at least 65 cm. to the relatively flat roof, of which portions are still *in situ*.

Rooms 1 and 4, at the west end of the building, have only portions of the east walls standing, so that architectural details are lacking.

Room 2. The vault rises at an angle of 65°. The distance from the under side of the capstones, which have a span of 46 cm., to the roof of the structure is 65 cm. Beam holes were noted at both ends of the vault, about 15 cm. from the end walls and at the level of the spring line.

The north wall of Room 2 was originally pierced by

three doorways formed by the east and west antae and the two round columns. The north elevation of the room (fig. 79, nos. 1 and 2) shows a stone hook in each anta. The lintels over the lateral doorways formed of wooden beams are still in position, but their number could not be determined as the doorways are now blocked by masonry walls 71 cm. thick (pl. 24a). The round masonry columns defining either side of the central doorway have diameters of 88 cm., rise 1.87 m., and were painted red. The capitals are interesting, as they are composed of three members (fig. 77, pl. 24b). The lower, a 20-cm. apron, was painted blue; the second, painted red, is a 10.5-cm. band; and the third, a 19.5-cm. overhanging beveled member, was painted blue. The columns and capitals are made of carefully dressed blocks, the face of each cut with a curve, laid in mortar and heavily plastered. The wooden beams spanning the central doorway have long since disappeared with a consequent collapse of the vault and façade.

At the base of the south wall of Room 2 is a projecting molding. As it extends the length of the wall a step is formed at the doorway leading into Room 5.

Room 5. The floor of this chamber is 37 cm. higher than in Room 1, as seen in figure 78. A similar construction is seen at Becan, Structure X, Room 2. The lintel of the doorway giving into Room 5, presumably of wooden beams, has disappeared. From the present height of the jambs the soffit of the lintel must have been 35 cm. below the spring of the vault. The south and east walls of Room 5 are 92 cm. and 80 cm. thick respectively. The vault rises at an angle of 60°.

Rooms 3 and 6 are in a poor state of preservation. The east ends of both having fallen, they are now buried in debris; the west ends show only portions of the walls and vaults in position.

The exterior masonry of the building is of carefully worked and faced stones with relatively short tenons; that of the interior is of blocks left somewhat rough. The vaults all have an average 8-cm. offset at the spring line. The stones of the first course are heavier than those above and are beveled on the exposed face. Subsequent courses are less carefully worked, some show no bevel, and all are laid in regular courses with much mortar and many spalls (pl. 24a).

STRUCTURE II, a low mound with traces of walls, lies on the east side of the terrace. It probably contained two longitudinal chambers.

STRUCTURE III, to the west, has two parallel longitudinal rooms flanked at either end by a transverse chamber. The east room is in line with the western edge of the terrace. Little of the structure now remains standing above the debris, but measurements of the east transverse room give it a length of 5.50 m., a width of 1.85 m., and the south wall a thickness of 90 cm. A portion of an apron molding above the vertical zone at the southeast corner of the building has an overhang of 17 cm.

A series of four steps was noted on the north edge of the terrace associated with Structures I-III. In line with its medial axis and at the top of the stairway is a low mound.

STRUCTURE IV, a small mound not over a meter in height, is located about midway between the north edge of the terrace and Structure V.

STRUCTURE V, 25 m. east and west and not over 8 m. high, lies about 50 m. due north of Structure IV.

STRUCTURE VI (not shown on the plan of the site), a mound approximately the same size as Structure IV, is roughly 50 m. west of Structure IV; its long axis extends north and south.