

OKOLHUITZ

LATITUDE 18° 27.6' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 18.9' W.

The site lies about 15 minutes' walk southeast of the aguada. It comprises two distinct groups (pl. 71). The western, a small quadrangle, has in its northwest corner a two-chambered structure supporting a roof comb (fig. 103).

STRUCTURE I. The building has collapsed to the extent that many details of construction are not determinable. Nothing can be said of the east façade and only a portion of the west soffit of the vault of Room 1 is in position (pl. 36a). This retains a heavy layer of plaster which forms an offset at the spring line. The vault stones are long slabs roughly worked on the exposed face. A peculiar inset in the vault is indicated by the north margin only. It is 8 cm. deep, is 70 cm. high, and extends southward from a point 80 cm. north of the doorway of the medial wall. The base of the inset seems to be at the upper margin of a beam hole 28 cm. above the spring line.

The doorway connecting the two chambers, located south of the transverse axis of the building, is 70 cm. wide and its soffit is stepped upward (1.33 m.) from Room 1 to Room 2 (fig. 103c). Small poles served as lintels. Now partially filled with debris the doorway probably contains a short flight of stairs giving from one level to the other.

The west room is the better preserved but is now much filled with debris. A niche in the east wall, 40 cm. wide, 46 cm. high, and 28 cm. deep, has its soffit 1.22 m. below the spring line. There is no offset at the spring line, which is 1.92 m. higher than in the east room.

The elaborate west façade is standing in part (fig. 103a and pl. 36b). In the center is a recessed panel, appearing as a blocked doorway which it may have been intended to represent. At either side are panels ornamented with key designs. Beneath this zone is an ornamented band representing a podium; if continued around to the east side of the building its upper molding would be on a level with the spring of the vault of Room 1. Due to its collapse and the accumulation of debris, little is known of the facing below the false podium although small sections in position on the west suggest that it may have risen in stepped zones.

The roof comb is 6.35 m. long, 3.37 m. high, and 1.04 m. wide at the base, which decreases 4 cm. at the

top. At both ends the stones of the first course curve slightly upward (fig. 103a). The south end contains a recessed panel 30 cm. wide (pl. 37a). The decoration on the east and west faces is similar: a plain lower area, above which, in the center, is a mask. From this rises a standing human figure. A stucco head (pl. 35c) found by Denison at the east base of the building may belong to the figure on that side. The roof comb is pierced by a number of small rectangular openings. To the north and south of the standing figure is an inverted T-shaped opening. Embedded in the plaster which lines both of them and 14 cm. in from the western edge, is a single row of snail shells following the contour of the opening.

At the north base of Structure I, and abutting it, are remnants of two chambers. The interior masonry is crude; slabs worked only on the exposed face form the vault. A 3-cm. plaster offset appears at the spring line. There are a number of wall niches and the west chamber has been divided by a crude secondary wall.

The building forming the north range of the quadrangle, while now little more than a mound, contained two parallel rooms. A niche in the back wall (1.20 m. thick) of the rear chamber is 1.60 m. long by 98 cm. deep. Although much in ruin, it is suggestive of the niche in one of the structures near Alta Mira.

STRUCTURE II, the southernmost in the East Group, faces south and is approached on this side by a series of nine steps approximately 5 m. wide. Resting on the platform is an eight-chambered building with two masonry towers. The latter rise in stepped zones and bands of carefully worked stones, the exposed faces measuring 12 by 20 cm. and 16 by 26 cm.; those at the corners are cut with a curve (pl. 37b).

The vault in Room 5, north of the east tower, is partially standing. This chamber, measuring 1.50 by 3.70 m., was entered through a vaulted doorway in the east wall. The entrance is 70 cm. wide, 1.26 m. long, and the top of the vault is formed of four capstones which have a span of 30 cm. (fig. 104).

North of the west end wall of Room 5 and abutting the exterior of the building is a small section of faced masonry showing a panel decorated similarly to those in the court of Structure IV at Becan (fig. 70).

STRUCTURE III, now in ruin, had two parallel longitudinal chambers flanked at either end by a transverse room. The latter project slightly beyond the line of the east longitudinal room. From the terrace, about 5 m. wide, in front (east) of the building there is a long gradual 10-m. descent. Near the upper margins of the talus, remnants of masonry walls indicate a series of longitudinal rooms 2 m. wide; one apparently is 12 m. long. The roofs of the chambers were on a level with the top of the terrace.

STRUCTURE IV. Only in the eastern projection of Structure IV are masonry walls exposed; these give evidence of three parallel longitudinal chambers. A doorway on the south side is suggested by the contour of the debris. The two rooms to the north are not connected by a doorway to the south chamber. In the latter the base of the vault is 2.30 m. lower than in the chambers to the north. No offsets appear at the spring lines.

STRUCTURE V, on the central east side of the east group,

is represented by a long low platform supporting an elongated mound. The platform, 1.50 m. high, has a stairway on the west, 15 m. wide, made up of a series of five steps; the risers have a slight batter.

STRUCTURE VI is to the north. Facing west, it is one of the best preserved buildings at the site. The supporting platform had a height of 50 cm. In plan the building has two parallel ranges of chambers with a series of three rooms in the outer row and a single long (15.10 m.) room in the inner. The exterior masonry is of large square veneer blocks fitted closely together. Rough block-type masonry with much chinking was used in the interior. In the rear chamber the vault rises 1.35 m. and the capstones have a span of 35 cm. Beam holes are 20–25 cm. above the spring line. The stones of the first course of the vault are large with the face beveled; other courses are of slabs. The north end of the vault of the rear chamber is inset 20 cm. from a point 20 cm. below the level of the spring line whence it rises vertically 50 cm. to its fallen upper margin (fig. 105).