

PAYAN

LATITUDE 18° 32.0' N.

LONGITUDE 89 18.0' W.

The site lies at the southeast end of the laguna of Central Sabana and was named Payan (Maya word for "first") as it was the first site examined by the Fourth Campeche Expedition. The area explored included seven or eight widely scattered mounds. Near the laguna is a very high pyramid apparently rising in vertical zones of which two are partially exposed, showing the facing to be of great stone blocks. A mound on top of the pyramid suggests the former existence of a building.

To the southeast are a number of structures but in only one are portions of the façade standing and rooms definable. The building proper contains 16 chambers (fig. 95) with suggestions of six others, two on each side and two at the rear, at somewhat lower levels as though built into the substructure platform.

North of the central doorway of the west façade is the best preserved section of stone and plaster decoration (fig. 96, pl. 33a). Jambs of the doorways, where exposed, are of medium-sized, faced blocks. In Room 2 the masonry is of crude irregular stones with much chinking. There are no wall recesses. One beam, of a possible six, is in position over the west doorway. Roughly squared, it has a width of 17 cm. The soffit of the lintel is 50 cm. below the overhang of the second zone of the façade. A small stone chip tenoned in the wall and

pierced with a single hole served as a cordholder; it is located 68 cm. south of the jamb and 13 cm. below the lintel. Some thick untinted plaster appears on the wall.

Sections of the vault are in position at either end of the chamber. There is no offset at the spring line. Vault stones are large and lack uniformity as to size and shape; some are crudely beveled on the exposed face but are not smoothed. Beam holes are 24 cm. above the spring line.

Constructional features in Room 3 (fig. 97b) are similar to those in the chamber just described. Cordholders, 10 cm. below the lintel, appear on either side of the doorway. Only one of several beams which formed the lintel is now in position. In Room 4, five of the six or seven beams of the west doorway lintel are in place. The inner one is recessed 2.5–3 cm. Room 10 on the north side of the building is of interest because of the recess in its south wall (fig. 97d). The recess is 1.37 m. long and 41 cm. deep at the top, increasing toward the base. A wooden lintel probably defined the upper margins.

Room 11, 3.05 m. long by 2.08 m. wide, with a single doorway opening into Room 12 deserves mention because of the graffiti on the plaster of the east end wall (fig. 98). There is a 3-cm. plaster offset at the spring line (fig. 97e).