

PEOR ES NADA

LATITUDE 18° 50.5' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 22.2' W.

Peor es Nada is about 12 km. slightly north of east of Pechal, a four-hour trip on muleback. Halfway between the two sites the terrain is very hilly and the bush high. At the base of steep cliffs is the camp of San Roman where there is a large clear spring. At the old camp of Peor es Nada is a small aguada where the expedition camped March 23-31, 1938. The ruins lie not over a kilometer almost due east of the aguada. Although Peor es Nada and Pechal cover about the same area, the latter has a great many more small mounds and the former shows more thought in planning (pl. 75).

The first sizable group encountered when the site is approached from the southwest includes a number of mounds enclosing two courts. Two somewhat cylindrical stones, 1.25 m. long, were associated with the east mound of the south court. One stone rests on the second of three steps on the east side; the other was found on the north slope.

STRUCTURE I defines the north side of the second court. The building consists of seven chambers and a projecting tower at the northeast and northwest corners. Most of the vaults have fallen; in Room 6 three courses of the north soffit are in position (pl. 46*a*). The stones are much weathered but were cut with a bevel. At the spring line, 47 cm. above the first zone of the west façade, are four beam holes (fig. 118*g*). The masonry of the first zone of the west façade is of veneer-like stones, the faces averaging 18 by 24 cm. (fig. 118*c*, pl. 46*b*). Two holes, 7 cm. in diameter and 4 cm. deep, have been worked in facing stones of this façade.

The masonry towers are now in a state of ruin with no facing stones exposed above the debris. In the south side of the eastern projection of the northwest tower is an opening to a dead-end passage. The entrance, slightly narrower than the passage, irregular in shape, its sill 5 cm. lower, is now in poor repair (fig. 118*d,f*). From the rise in the floor level the passage extends westward 2 m. to a doorway, whence it continues 3.12 m. to the south. The inner wall of the passage rises vertically 1.04 m. to the capstones; the outer, vertically 60 cm. to where two vault stones rise to the capstones, which have a span of 46 cm. The doorway at the north end of the eastern section has a width and height of 48 cm. and 71 cm. respectively (fig. 118*e*).

A passageway in the northwest tower has an opening on the north and extends by a circuitous route to an opening on the west side. Details of the passage vault are shown in figures 118*a,h,i*; the masonry is of rough unfaced stones. A small section of façade decoration is in position at the north entrance (fig. 118*b*).

STRUCTURE II varies from most Maya buildings in that it is asymmetrical in plan (fig. 119). Now much fallen and covered with debris, it would require considerable excavation to determine if it had been built as a unit. Facing north, the east front room has two masonry columns across the façade which, with the antae, formed a triple entrance. The small stone blocks forming the columns are carefully worked, the face of each being slightly curved. Rising from a podium 65 cm. high, the west façade of the rear chamber, inset 37 cm. from that of the front, is of carefully worked veneer stones; the same façade of the front room is of large rectangular blocks with much chinking (pl. 46*c*).

STRUCTURE III, now represented by little more than a mound, rises on the west side to a terrace about 5 m. wide. Beneath this and north of the transverse axis is a small chamber 2.50 by 2 m. A continuous elevated area east of the terrace is higher at the north and south than in the middle. These eminences may have been masonry towers. On the south side of the north one are sections of faced masonry, the end and medial walls of chambers.

STRUCTURE IV, two parallel ranges of three rooms with a solid mass of masonry to the south, supports a roof comb (fig. 120*a*). The vaults of the chambers have fallen and only small sections of wall masonry are exposed. Above the plain lower zone of the east façade a portion of molding is ornamented on the battered surface with a series of grooves (fig. 120*b*). The base of the molding is 33 cm. below the spring line of the vault. The roof comb, its base 1.77 m. above the spring line of the north chamber, is 1.90 m. wide, 17.30 m. long, and now has a height of 5.35 m. The lower 2.40 m. are solid masonry; above this it is divided into five sections by continuous horizontal transverse openings (pl. 46*d*). In the north face of each section is a recessed panel 97 cm. wide by 29 cm. deep. The roof comb was faced

with veneer stones and plastered. No trace of stucco relief ornamentation is indicated.

Structures III and IV define the northwest corner of a great plaza which in size and shape is so similar to the one described as an amphitheater at Pechal, that it probably served a like purpose. The long mound on the east which curves around to define the south side, as well as the west mound, were examined but only in the case of the latter were traces of steps noted. Two small mounds in the plaza rise not over a meter.

STRUCTURE V, the northernmost in the city, rising from a 2-m. platform, includes a number of chambers and two masonry towers (fig. 121). The facing of the towers has fallen except for a small section on the north side of the east one, which rises from the level of the roof (49 cm. above the capstones of Rooms 2 and 7). From a 10-cm. band and inset 5 cm. the section of carefully worked stones of the facing now rises vertically 50 cm. This is in line with the south end wall of Room 6.

The masonry of the end walls of Rooms 2 and 7 is of blocks measuring on the face 20 by 25 cm. and 15 by 30 cm. (pl. 47*b*). There is no offset at the base of the vault soffits or end walls and the spring lines in Rooms 2, 6, and 7 are at the same level. The vault in Room 6 has a height of 1.35 m. and is made up of 11 courses; the stones of the first course are larger than those above (pl. 47*a*). The relation of the levels of the floors, spring lines, and capstones of Rooms 3-7 is shown in figure 122*a*.

A bench appears at either end of Room 7 (cf. bench in Structure I, Rio Bec, Group III). Each has a depth of 2.05 m., a width of 2.32 m. (the same as the room), and a height of 55 cm. (fig. 123, pl. 47*c*). The facing rises with a band, a plain zone, and a cornice. Medially located in the plain zone is a recess 40 cm. deep and 1.14 m. wide. The cornice of the bench where it spans the recess is supported by two cylindrical stones, 18 cm.

in diameter. The benches are contemporaneous with the construction of the chamber as they rest on the rough unfinished floor and no wall plaster was noted extending behind them.

The west end wall and portions of adjacent side walls and vault soffit are all that remain of a subfloor chamber beneath Room 4 (fig. 122*b,c*). A doorway, 34 cm. wide and spanned by a stone lintel, in the west end wall is blocked.

STRUCTURE VI, a ball court, lies off the western edge of a large terrace, a projection of the terrace forming the east range of the parallel walls. The bench is 21 m. long and the playing area is 8.50 m. wide. At the north end of each and facing the playing area is a vertically set stone 85 cm. high, 60 cm. wide, and 30 cm. thick. The bench is 4.35 m. wide and rises at an angle of 10° to the vertical back wall. Four courses of carefully worked and squared stones of the west wall were found in position. The west range now rises not more than 3 m. End-markers or disks were not found.

The terrace east of the ball court supports two sizable pyramidal mounds, of which the eastern one is the larger. Almost in the center of the terrace is a circular mound a meter high. A long terrace defining the eastern side of the city supports eight mounds. One, at the north end, is 6 m. high. A badly weathered, upright stone at its south base may be a stela.

About a kilometer north of the aguada is a small group of mounds. In the largest were seen portions of two passageways, each 70 cm. wide. One, now 2 m. long, ends in a solid masonry wall and each soffit of the vault is formed of a single course of stones on which rest the capping blocks. In section, the second passage resembles the east one at Structure I (fig. 118) in that one wall rises vertically to the capstones and the other supports two courses of vault stones.