UAACBAL

Latitude 18° 19' 6" N. (Estimated)

The staff, with a number of workmen, left Oxpenuuk for Uaachbal on February 16, 1934; the packs followed and camp was made at the abandoned chicle station of Rapido. As there was no trail from camp to the ruins the riding animals were left behind and the party proceeded on foot. The ruins are about 6.5 km. east of Rapido and were reached in one and one-half hour's steady walk.

The site had not previously been named and so was called Uaachbal, a Maya word meaning "that which is thrust upward," because of the high mound surmounted by a roof comb. The country between Rapido and Uaachbal is relatively flat. From the top of the highest mound no elevations were noted close at hand so that the site seems to be located in a great area of low, undulating hills with high ranges appearing only in the distance. The nearest known aguada is that of Rapido, a small unwholesome water hole. The site, as examined, consists of a small quadrangle covering an area not over 65 m. square (fig. 66).

The west range is formed by a continuous mound with the central portion wider and higher than the sections to the north and south. Rising from the talus of the central portion is a masonry core. The lower part is unfaced (pl. 18d), suggesting that this may have been a distinct zone or unit of construction. The upper part is faced with veneer-like stones, has rounded corners, and rises 2.35 m., with a slight batter, from an even margin. It had been ornamented with human figures in low-relief plaster. They are in a poor state of preservation; only traces of decoration may be seen on the east, south, and west (pl. 18b,c,d). On the west side, above the figures, are three glyph blocks in plaster; one has a coefficient of four. There is a recessed panel on the east side, 1.55 m. wide, 80 cm. deep, the floor 22 cm. above the lower margin of the faced area; it now rises a meter to the terminal faced stones here in position.

Defining the top of the ornamented zone just described is an apron molding overhanging 16 cm. Above it the facing probably rose with a batter but is now so badly fallen that measurements of its height or slope could not be taken. Surmounting the structure is a roof comb formed of two parallel walls inclined toward each other and containing three compartments. On the west face and south end are traces of human figures in plaster (pl. 18c,d).

The south range of the quadrangle consists of a series of longitudinal rooms. An occasional wall surface shows the masonry to be of large blocks, the exposed face measuring 43 by 20 cm., 71 by 24 cm., and 51 by 26 cm. The basal structure of the east range is a low platform with two steps indicated on the west. Placed 5 m. east from the final step rose a podium with three colonettes exposed at the northeast corner. The building as indicated by the contour of the debris contained a series of longitudinal rooms with doorways facing into the quadrangle. The north range differs in proportion from the south. As no wall surface is exposed, it is impossible to determine its plan.