

UXUL

LATITUDE 17° 51.7' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 59.3' W.

Range of Dates: 9.9.9.18-9.12.0.0.0

Finishing the work at La Muralla, we decided to visit the new site of Uxul. From Aguada Union (Pared de los Reyes) the new trail led northwest to Esperanza, the last outpost or chicle-receiving station for the western area. When the expedition reached Esperanza April 15, 1934, the water hole was almost dry and the little water remaining was thick with silt. This and the scarcity of ramon made it impossible to stay more than overnight and the next day camp was moved two leagues south to the aguada of Sasilha (lat. 18° 08.3' N., long. 90° 05.0' W.), which is of fair size, covered with lechuga and provided an abundant supply of clear, cool water. Directly north is a small site now indicated only by mounds.

The party left Sasilha on April 19. A forty minutes' ride to the east over a trail cut by the workmen the previous day, through relatively high bush including occasional stands of guano palm, brought the expedition to the San Felipe road. This was followed southward an hour and forty minutes, when a trail to the left was taken. Only 10 minutes' travel beyond this fork a blazed tree carried the date, "Feb. 12, 1934" and the initials "C.D.N." and "C.L.C." Camp was made at the aguada of Bateas. During the following two days, while the men opened trails, explorations were made around Bateas and a number of minor sites, now only low mounds, were examined. Of interest was a quarry in which stones had been left in the process of being cut from the limestone ledge (pl. 31a).

April 21 the party moved from Bateas, passed the

abandoned camp of Limon, and stopped at Discordia. Here, again, two days were spent exploring while the workmen opened trail. One group of ruins examined is located on two natural terraces, one above and to the west of the other, the lower supporting the highest mounds and the upper the greater number. They are laid out in a series of unrelated courts and plazas. No standing walls or monuments were found.

Uxul lies southeast of Discordia whence it can be reached in two and a half hours' ride by mule. The site was given the name Uxul ("the end") as it was the last one visited during the 1934 season. Camp was maintained here April 24-28.

The aguada is large, partially covered with lechuga, and furnishes an ample supply of good water. The bush is high and includes a heavy stand of sapodilla, ramon, and palm; the leaves of the last were used for temporary shelters. The terrain seems fairly flat compared to areas to the north. Lying on a natural terrace directly south by east of the aguada, the ruins occupy an area 720 m. east and west by 395 m. north and south. The city shows no general planning; the individual courts and assemblages are placed without apparent relation to each other. There are four more or less distinct groups (pl. 70): the West Group—Structures I-IV; the North Group—Structures V-VII; the East Group—Structures XI-XIII, with Structures VIII-X and XIV somewhat less closely related; and the Southeast Group—a quadrangle, Structure XV.

WEST GROUP

This group comprises seven sizable mounds, of which the four of major importance, arranged about three sides of a court, have been given structure numbers.

STRUCTURE I, closing the west end of the court, measures 12 by 22 m. at the base and rises 7.50 m. A stairway, located on the east side, is now indicated only by the contour of the debris. The building surmounting the platform contained two parallel longitudinal chambers. Only small portions of the east and medial walls were standing above the detritus. The

north jamb of the exterior doorway is of small irregularly shaped blocks averaging 28 by 34 by 16 cm. The exterior masonry of the east wall is much like that of the jamb; the interior masonry is less block-like, the component stones are irregular in shape and show little dressing.

On the west side of the medial wall, about 2.50 m. from the north end of the chamber, is a masonry pier, or pilaster, 79 cm. on its west face and 32 cm. thick. The masonry of the buttress does not seem to tie into that of the wall; however, they may be contemporaneous.

The spring of the vault is 2.88 m. above the floor; it is possible that some poorly defined and irregular openings at the spring line may indicate the location of beam holes. The vault stones are not specially worked beyond being shaped into slabs, averaging 58 by 39 cm. by 12 cm. thick, and were placed at a slight angle (pl. 31*b*). Stela 1 and Altar 1 are at the east base of this structure.

STRUCTURE II, which with Structure III bounds the north side of the court, is a very high, steep pyramid supporting a building. None of the pyramid facing stones were seen in position. The stairway is on the south side: from the contour of the debris the upper half appears narrower than the lower. Stela 2 is at its base. The north, east, and west façades of the building are standing in part. On the west side there is evidence that it is supported by a platform 60 cm. wide and 1.20 m. high (fig. 90*a*). The lower zone of the building rises with a very slight batter. It is separated from the more strongly battered upper zone by a band molding. The masonry is of irregularly shaped blocks, not carefully worked, varying from 23 to 47 cm. by 17 cm.; the tenons have an average length of 25 cm. Some heavy coarse plaster remains *in situ*. The greatest standing height of the upper zone is now 1.46 m. The upper margins of the doorway have fallen. In the rear wall of the single-chambered building is a recess, which probably rose to the spring line although this point is not definitely known as the facing has here fallen (cf. Alta Mira, Structure X, and "Notes" at end of chap. 6). A rectangular opening 22 by 24 cm. and 36 cm. deep appears in the back wall of the recess. The masonry of the room is mostly of irregularly shaped stones left unfaced, but some cut blocks were used; many chips and spalls fill the interstices (pl. 31*c*) and the mortar is of poor quality with few binding properties.

The vault rises at an angle of 77° without an offset at the spring line, and a slight overhang is suggested at either end. The vault stones are crudely worked slabs (pl. 31*c*). Two beam holes were observed at the level of the spring; the one at the east end has a depth of 70 cm.

STRUCTURE III lies to the east of Structure II and has Stela 3 at the south base. A small section of exposed masonry on top of the pyramid is probably the medial wall of a two-chambered building.

STRUCTURE IV, on the south side of the court, faces north. The stairway on this side was about 7.50 m. wide; the building surmounting the pyramid apparently contained four chambers (fig. 91). A section of the

lower zone of the south façade (rear), 8.50 m. long, is intact. It rises 2.48 m. without a batter, to a band molding above which all facing stones have fallen (fig. 92).

Room 1, about 10 by 1.40 m., extended across the front of the building. That this room existed is attested only by a small section of vault rising from the south wall opposite Room 4 (fig. 91) and the contour of the debris; the latter suggests that it was a single room occupying the entire length of the building.

Room 2. Only the west wall and small sections of the south and north walls are standing above the detritus. A doorway probably opened from Room 2 into Room 3.

Room 3 is filled with fallen material to the level of the spring line. The south vault is standing to the capstones, which are thin slabs 36 cm. wide and 10–11 cm. thick. There are two beam holes in this vault: one, 25 cm. below the capstones and 1 m. from the east wall, the other 1.07 m. below the capstones and 96 cm. from the east wall.

Room 4. The west wall has entirely fallen (pl. 32*a*). The north and south walls rise vertically from the floor to the base of the vault. A doorway in the east wall, opening into Room 3, has its soffit 68 cm. below the spring line; here it is 40 cm. wide; 67 cm. lower it is 45 cm. wide (fig. 92). Below this point the doorway is filled with debris. Five beams, average diameter 20 cm., their under sides roughly flattened, were used to form the lintel. The masonry of the vertical walls is of rough, unsurfaced stones, heavily plastered. On the north wall, 2 m. above the floor, the plaster curves into the masonry as though marking the completion of a section of lower wall (L. Roys, 1934, p. 70*n*.). A single beam, 12 cm. in diameter (pl. 32*b*), is directly below the spring line of the vault and 27 cm. from the east end of the chamber. A second beam, now indicated only by the hole into which it was fitted, was 40 cm. below the spring, 1.15 m. from the east wall, had a diameter of 10 cm. The vault rises 1.23 m. at an angle of 65°–68°. The stones are long, thin slabs showing no special working. The only beam hole noted in the vault is 1.57 m. from the east end of the room and 59 cm. below the capstones. These stones, having a span of 28 cm., are much like those used in the vault except that the former have a greater length. The roof of the building, 52 cm. above the soffit of the capstones, is indicated by a carefully smoothed and finished surface. Rising above it is a mass of masonry now standing to a height of 1 m. which may be the remains of a roof comb (fig. 92).

Stelae 4 and 5 are at the north base of Structure IV.

NORTH GROUP

The North Group includes Structures V, VI, and VII.

STRUCTURE V is a large complex of mounds, terraces and platforms (pl. 70). No walls are exposed.

STRUCTURE VI is 40 m. east of the north end of Structure V. It rises in two levels; the lower on the south side, 5 m. wide by 1 m. high, is probably a platform. Near the south edge and in line with its transverse axis is sculptured Altar 2 (pl. 59).

STRUCTURE VII is due south of Structure V and comprises five distinct groupings of mounds.

Between the North and East Groups are Structures VIII, IX, X, and XIV.

STRUCTURE VIII is now identified by a long mound rising to a height of 4 m. Stela 7 stands at its northwest corner and Stela 8 on the opposite side of the structure and 5 m. from its base. There may possibly have been a

stairway on the east side of the mound, but there is no direct evidence of its existence.

STRUCTURE IX, a rectangular mound, has Stela 6 at its west base.

STRUCTURE X lies to the east. On the south side is a low platform apparently several meters shorter than the mound itself. A stairway from the plaza to this platform has a width of 15 m. and is formed of five steps, the risers and treads measuring 20 cm. and 37 cm. respectively.

STRUCTURE XIV, a ball court, lies 87 m. south of Structure X. The parallel ranges, 17 m. long and 6 m. apart, their long axes north and south, are in a very poor state of preservation. Each is 5.50 m. wide and 1.80 m. high. No standing walls, end- or middle-markers were found associated with the structure.

EAST GROUP

This group includes three structures, XI–XIII, enclosing three sides of a plaza.

STRUCTURE XI, to the west, is a pyramid roughly 35 m. square. Altars 3 and 4 are at the east base. The structure is in a poor state of repair, but a stairway is indicated on the east side. The stairway apparently rose 6 or 7 m. to a landing whence a second flight led to the top of the structure. On the landing and probably at either side of the base of the second flight of stairs is a stela, Stela 12 to the south and Stela 13 to the north. Surmounting the pyramid is a solid mass of masonry measuring 4 by 4.70 m. and rising with a batter 2 m. in some places. On the east and west sides a section 1.50 m. long projects 20 cm. This block of masonry is much weathered, but may have been an altar, although such conjecture is dangerous as, without excavation, the true nature of the construction must remain unknown.

STRUCTURE XII defines the north side of the plaza. No walls were seen, although four doorways may be indicated by low areas in the debris. A stairway on the south side is about 27 m. wide with the risers and treads measuring 34 cm. and 39 cm. respectively. Its component stones are much weathered and are unusually long, 1.10–1.19 m. Stelae 14 and 15 are at the base of the stairway.

STRUCTURE XIII, on the east side of the plaza, is a platform 75 m. long, 17 m. wide, and 4.50 m. high, supporting four mounds. No stairways were noted on its west side, but there is no doubt that at least one must have existed. Of the four mounds, only in XIIIb do walls rise above the debris. This building occupies a

position in line with the transverse axis of the platform and, as in many examples of the Uaxactun, Group E, type assemblage, is set back (east) from the line of Structures XIIIa and XIIIc (cf. Oxpemul, Structure Ve; Naachtun, Structure XXIIIa; Rio Bec, Group II, Structure I; Balakbal, Structure VIII). It has an over-all north-south length of 12.20 m. and contained three parallel longitudinal chambers (fig. 93). The west and south façades have fallen; practically all the lower and middle zones and a small portion of the upper zone of the north and east façades are intact (fig. 94). The lower zone of the east façade rises with a slight batter. Centered in the projection of the central part of the back wall 73 cm. above the base of the zone, is a sunken panel, 8 cm. deep and slightly wider at the base than at the top. Also in this portion of the façade are five openings (fig. 94a) which may be ventilators, although the inner orifices could not be observed as the chamber is filled with detritus.

In the section of the façade to the north as well as in that to the south of the projection, there are four orifices appearing at two levels (fig. 94a). The middle zone of the east façade overhangs the lower by 19 cm. and rises with a batter. The projection of the central portion of the lower zone is continued in the middle one. The upper zone stands to a height of 2.40 m. and also rises with a batter. A single ventilator was found at its base; it opens into the vault of the rear chamber.

The masonry is of block type, the faces of some of the stones measuring 12 by 52 cm., 17 by 30 cm., and 17 by 46 cm. They are all well shaped and carefully worked. The interstices have been filled with spalls.

This façade retains some untinted plaster. The stones of the first course of the middle zone, those forming the overhang, are large and heavy. They have a rain-drip, 10 cm. wide and 1.5 cm. deep, on the under side, 8 cm. from the edge (cf. La Muñeca, Structure XVI; Calakmul, Structure III).

The north façade of the rear chamber stands intact (fig. 94*b*, pl. 32*c*) and that of the front and middle chambers rises approximately to the height of the spring of their respective vaults. The outer north wall, however, was not indented as was the case in certain buildings at Naachtun (Structures XXIII*b*, XXIII*c*, Structure Va), the outer wall of the first and central rooms being in the same plane and only that of the rear room projecting. A recessed panel, 7 cm. deep, appears in this projecting section (fig. 94*b*, pl. 32*c*). There are also four small openings in the lower zone, two at its base and two 25 cm. below the top. The middle and upper zones are similar to the corresponding zones of the east façade.

The north façade of the front and middle chambers was traced a distance of 3.06 m. to its fallen western margin. Here the base of its first zone is covered with debris, but probably rose from a level lower than that

of the eastern section (cf. Naachtun, Structures XXIII*a*, *b*, *c*). The second zone of the middle chamber overhangs the first by 20 cm. and is 23 cm. lower than the same zone of the rear chamber. The lower zone of the north façade of the rear chamber still retains a heavy layer of plaster, which shows traces of orange-red tinting directly below the overhang of the middle zone where it was protected from the weather.

The rear chamber is 96 cm. wide and the vault, springing 1.93 m. above the floor (assuming that it corresponds with the base of the lower zone) without an offset, rises at an angle of 85° (pl. 32*d*). A single beam hole was noted in the middle of the east vault, 2.45 m. above the spring line. The masonry of the interior walls of the chamber is much like that of the exterior, except that in the former the blocks are smaller. Some of the vault stones have been cut with a slight batter, whereas in other cases plaster and spalls were used to produce the bevel. The beveled vault stones have measurements varying from 14 by 38 cm. to 19 by 46 cm., with tenons averaging 39 cm. long. Little may be said of the other chambers. They both probably had a length and width of 9.30 m. and 90 cm. respectively.

SOUTHEAST GROUP

STRUCTURE XV. The principal mounds of this group are arranged around a court 62 m. east and west by 45 m. north and south. The one forming the north range of the quadrangle, the largest, rises to a height

of 8.60 m. The second highest, that of the east range, rises 5 m. above the court level. The absence of standing walls or vaults allows little description of this assemblage.