

## XPUHIL

LATITUDE 18° 30.6' N.

LONGITUDE 89° 24.5' W.

The site, visited February 20–25, 1938, was named after the aguada of Xpuhil (“place of the cattails”) which lies almost due east. This is not the site of Ixpuhil reported by Spinden and shown in the Atlas Arqueologico de la Republica Mexicana. Spinden did not visit Ixpuhil but only heard of a site of that name. The ruins comprise a number of mounds and some partially standing buildings (pl. 72).

Some of the huts of the abandoned chicle camp on the edge of the aguada were roofed with the bark of a tree known to the workmen as “granada.” J. C. Brydon informs us that the following are the local names of trees whose bark is used to make roofs and even side walls, and that they are listed in the order of their importance for that purpose: majahua, tzalam, cedro, granada, canchunut, and chaca. (Cf. also Lundell, 1937, and Roys, 1931.)

STRUCTURE I, largest and westernmost, is of Rio Bec type and has 12 chambers and three towers with ornamental stairways (figs. 108, 110, 111; pl. 38c; and frontispiece). The basal construction is a platform not over 2 m. high with a stairway, on the east side, 18 or 19 m. wide, of eight 45-cm. treads. The risers may have had a slight batter.

A podium, where exposed on the west side, has a height of 95 cm. The first zone of the east façade of the building, 3.33 m. high, was pierced by three doorways and ornamented with mask panels (pl. 39a). Only small sections of the façade above the first zone, where protected by the abutting north and south towers, are in position. It was probably similar to the west side where on the exterior of Room 3 it now rises 2.77 m. (pl. 39b). The first zone of the west façade measures 3.25 m. in vertical height—8 cm. less than the same zone on the east.

The spring line of the vault in Room 1 is 85 cm. higher than in Room 3 and the capstones 31 cm. higher. If the roof line of the building was level, the combined thickness of the capstones and material must have been 45 cm. for Room 1 and 76 cm. for Room 3. The upper façade on the west must measure 3.60 m. as compared with 3.25 m. on the east side. The base of the lower zone on the east is 27 cm. higher than on the west.

The difference in these measurements seems to indicate that the floor level of the front rooms of the building was slightly higher than at the rear, but without excavation this was impossible to ascertain. Hay (1935, p. 29) shows a similar change in floor levels in Rio Bec B and this is possibly a feature of these buildings. However, it is uncertain how this change of level was reflected in the podium, which was not exposed at the front of the building.

The first zone on the west side was probably not ornamented with panels or engaged columns. In this zone on the north side of the north tower are remains of a plain inset panel. The exterior masonry of the building is of carefully worked stones laid in even courses with an absence of chinking.

The north and south towers are lower than the central one and are now in a greater state of ruin (pl. 38c). The south tower contains a passageway with portions of the upper part intact. Presumably one entrance was in a plain inset panel of the first zone of the south side whence a stairway led upward to the level of the roof of the building. Five of the final upper risers are intact. From the top of the series of steps the passage extends horizontally westward 1.28 m., then northward 3.45 m. to the margins of the fallen masonry (pl. 40a); this portion is vaulted. The passageway had no doubt continued 70 cm. farther to open through the north façade of the tower directly onto the roof of Room 1 (fig. 109). No indications of a passage were seen in either of the other towers.

The west tower, best preserved of the three, has most of the facing of the rounded corners in position and the upper third of the ornamental stairway has the treads and risers intact (pl. 39b). The risers, of two courses of stones with the upper of relatively long blocks, measure 25 cm. (pl. 40b). The base of the first rounded corner is on a level with the base of the podium. Plain balustrades, 50 cm. wide, rise at an angle of 80°. Portions of two stucco masks remain on the west stairway, the upper one almost complete. Surmounting the summit platform is a masonry block 2.25 m. wide, 5.65 m. long and over 3.85 m. high. On its east and west sides are

inset panels; in each is a small niche 38 cm. wide, and 32 cm. high and deep. To the east and west of the panels are remnants of stucco decorations of profile serpent heads; the sides are plain except for suggestions of moldings.

Measurements were taken for many of the rooms, although in most cases the vaults have almost entirely fallen. The walls have heights varying from 4.05 m. to 4.48 m., and the vaults rise from 1.50 m. to 2.04 m. No offset was noted at the spring line. The masonry in Room 7 is typical: roughly coursed and of uneven blocks with some chinking. In the west wall the course directly below the spring is of long rectangular slabs, the exposed faces measuring from 16 by 41 cm. to 16 by 93 cm. The vault stones in the first course are larger than those above; all are somewhat roughly worked and the exposed face slightly curved (pl. 40c). There are 11 courses in the west vault soffit and the capstones have a span of 40 cm. Four beam holes appear at the spring line and were placed 12 cm. and 2.34 m. from the south end of the room and 10 cm. and 1.99 m. from the north end.

The only wall recess seen is in the north end wall of the vault of Room 8. The outer facing is partially broken away, but the opening can be made out as measuring 22 cm. square and having a depth of 33 cm. The recess itself measures 50 cm. high, 43 cm. deep, and

1.10 m. long. Its floor, on a level with the sill of the entrance, and walls are of roughly faced stones.

STRUCTURE II, across the plaza to the east of Structure I, shows little masonry rising above the debris. Resting on a platform, it faces east with five rooms arranged in a series of three with a transverse chamber at either end. A mound abutting on the south has no exposed masonry.

STRUCTURE III, a series of four longitudinal rooms facing north, is on a very low platform. Panels on the façade between the doorways are inset 17 cm. and the molding above overhangs 10 cm. In Room 2, the spring line of the south vault soffit is 50 cm. above the spring of the north soffit. The latter is 22 cm. above the basal molding of the second zone of the façade.

STRUCTURE IV shows only small sections of standing masonry. In the center of the structure is a pyramidal mound, approximately 5 m. high, supporting a two-chambered building. At the north and south base of the pyramid appear to have been two parallel chambers. A fragment of masonry, measuring 92 cm. by 1.08 m., on the east side of the south rooms is of small, carefully faced stones.

STRUCTURES V AND VI, of which very little now remains, formed the final group. On the north façade of the latter and near the west end is a portion of a mask panel.