IMAGINE THERE'S NO BIG HOUSE:

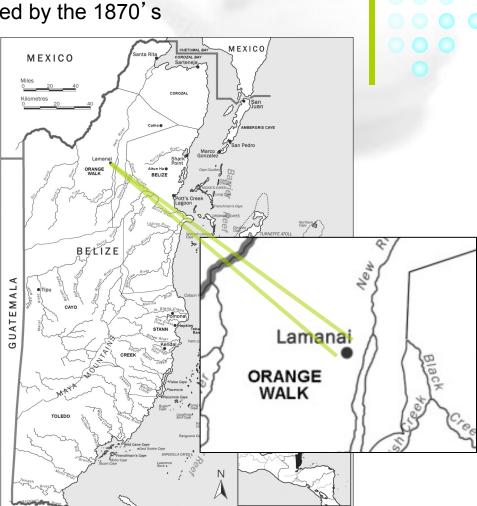
#### A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF ARCHITECTURE AND IDENTITY AT THE BRITISH PLANTATION SETTLEMENT AT LAMANAI, BELIZE 1837-1868

**Tracie Mayfield** 

## Introduction

- Lamanai, Belize ٠
- British Settlement, 19th Century ٠
- Indian Church Plantation Grant, 1837 ٠
- Abandoned by the 1870's ٠





## **Problem Orientation**

- colonial landscapes were a well incubated form of labor and social control by the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- physical landscape at Lamanai already heavily modified before the arrival of European colonists









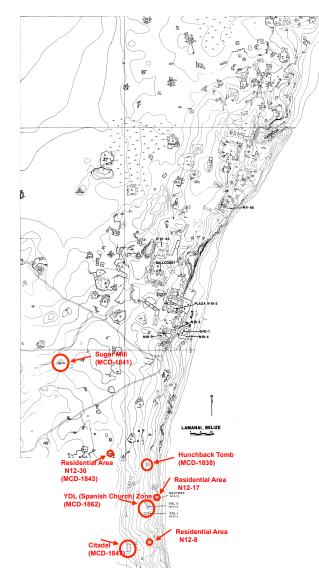


# Research Design/Project Overview

- nature of relationships
- distinct features/nominal artifacts
- spatial and material tension



## **Project Overview**



Land Grant(**1837**) British coin (**1838**) HUNCHBACK TOMB (**1838**) possible residential/midden

SUGAR MILL (**1841**) industrial work zone N12-30 (**1843**) residential\*\*

CITADEL (1847) possible residence or general store

Median Occupation from documentary sources (1853) OVERALL SITE from mean ceramic dating (1854)

James Hyde and Company bankrupt (1858)

#### SPANISH CHURCH ZONE (1862) domestic activity/midden

British Honduras Company acquires land/imports Chinese labor (**1864**) Ironwork for Sugar Mill fabricated (**1866**) Wars with Ichaiches/British military on site (**1867-68**) Belize becomes a Crown Colony (**1871**) SURFACE COLLECTION (**1873**)\*

> \*surface collection was used for mean ceramic dating; this assemblage did not contribute to the overall site timeline other than for general informational purposes as these data could not be placed into archaeological context.

\*\*MCDs for residential features N12-8 and N12-30 were not calculated due to extremely small sample size

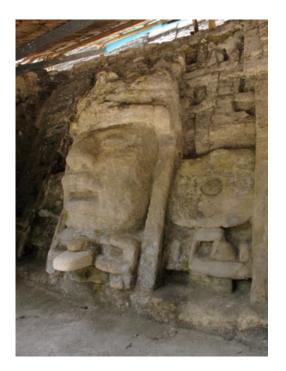


## Material and Theoretical Implications of Landscape

- symbolic and natural dialogue
- manipulation of abstract space
- constructed landscapes both reflect and shape interactions
- mutable meanings







# Landscape Analysis

- "ideology of descent" (Sahlins 1965)
- recreation/construction of history
- not "mystified objectivities" (Orser 2006)
- real/manifest realities
- landscape at Lamani beyond manipulation by colonists









#### Landscape Analysis (cont...)

- British & Spanish colonial approaches markedly different
- no creation of 'new' landscape by British
- in-between spaces/local negotiation
- British another resource on Indigenous land?











## Landscape Analysis (cont...)

- repeated use of space by different groups
- British limited the manipulation of space
- inability to achieve symbolic space



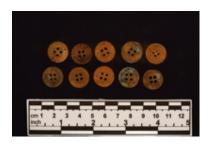




#### Discussion

- conscious decisions/conscious constructions (Orser 2006)
- Lamanai landscape did not conform to colonial aesthetics











# Conclusion



