



Indian Church Village Artisans' Center



IC Village, Artisans' Center (lower rt) & Lamanai Site



Some members of the Indian Church Village Artisans



Jewelry Studio

Indian Church Village Artisans' Center (and Hurricane Shelter): Constructed 2002-2003.

Adjacent to the Maya site of Lamanai in Belize, this center was established to provide training and a workspace to villagers who make crafts for their livelihood in this small, rural, economically disadvantaged community.

Building design and construction was directed by Claude Belanger and Karen Pierce. Funded by the British High Commission and the Government of Belize, with a multitude of volunteers providing numerous hours of volunteer labor and teaching. Building size: 41'-0" x 41'-0" (approximately 1,600 square feet). Concrete, Steel, Wood, Paint.

The Indian Church Village Craft Training Project in Belize was initiated by Karen Pierce who voluntarily directed the project from 1999 - 2007. This included grant writing and implementation, fundraising (over \$160,000 US), building design and construction of a 1600 sf craft center, supply procurement, recruitment of approximately 26 volunteer craft teachers from abroad + 11 from Belize, establishment of instructional outlines for workshops; plus teaching jewelry, and other craft skills, as well as teaching craft business and marketing skills.

The Indian Church Village Scholarship Program is a separate & ongoing program, coordinated by Karen Pierce, to raise funds to send the village children to high school, and to provide student loans for junior college.



ICV Scholarship students



Four of the six 2007 ICV high school graduates

KAREN PIERCE'S ARCHAEOLOGY INVOLVEMENT: THE PROJECT SITE—LAMANAI, BELIZE

In 1998 I became involved with archaeology at Lamanai (<http://www.lamanai.org.uk>) by attending my first archaeology field school there. I've participated in various archaeology projects at Lamanai in the year since, including my thesis excavations at the Ottawa Group in 2014. Over the years I got to know many of the Maya and Mestizo people in the adjacent village of Indian Church. The three main projects I worked on for archaeology were the architectural recording and investigation of the structures of an elite residential complex called "Ottawa"; the investigation of the production of copper artifacts at Lamanai and the search for a "metal production workshop"; and the reproduction of jade artifacts and of large limestone monuments, called stelae and altars. I've also helped to reorganize the artifact storage and with artifact documentation and curation. Additionally, I became involved with several humanitarian projects in the village.

The Maya site of Lamanai (formerly called Indian Church—named after the ruins of two Spanish contact period churches built on the site) is located in the Orange Walk District in northern Belize approximately 30 miles inland from Belize's east coast on the Caribbean Sea. The site is situated on the western margin of the New River Lagoon, a 28 mile long lagoon flowing north into the New River, which meets the sea about 80 miles from Lamanai, near the modern day town of Corozal. Excavations have revealed an occupation of the site spanning from late Preclassic, or earlier, through the Spanish Colonial Period—from around 1500 BC to AD 1550 and beyond.

"OTTAWA" (Administrative Group)

The N10[3] architectural group (Ottawa), located in the Central Precinct of Lamanai, has been interpreted as a 'palace' group of significance due to its lengthy occupation span and its location adjacent to two important ceremonial plaza groups. During the Late to Terminal Classic period (A.D. 624–962 at Lamanai), the Ottawa Group underwent a major architectural transformation, which may be an indication of changing functions and strategies on the part of Lamanai elites. At this time the tops of the structures were chopped off and the entire plaza was filled in with a boulder core, thus burying what was left of the buildings. New perishable buildings were built on top of this new surface. Only as the boulder covering was removed were the earlier structures revealed. There were lots and lots of stones in the Ottawa complex!



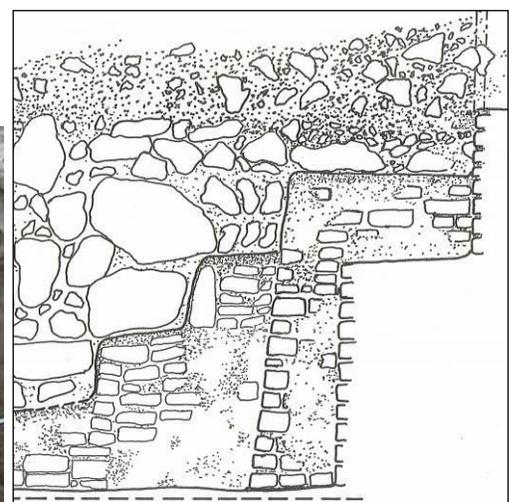
Jaguar Temple and Plaza



"Ottawa" Complex surrounding N 10-3 Plaza



A cache of ceramic vessels



The archaeology team at work—Karen's at the drawing board in the lower left, drawing details such as this staircase that is covered with boulders.