The most probable explanation for this change is that the building had been left abandoned and open for a long period of time before collapsing.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF THE BUILDING

The walls belonging to the original entryway are the side and back walls. The left, or northeast wall, is preserved only in its lowest courses above floor level. Averaging 0.45 m. in thickness, it is constructed of squared limestone masonry mortared with mud, a form of wall construction found in the earliest buildings at Cosa and dating to the third century B.C.4 This wall terminates at its southeast end with an immense quoin block not bonded to the back wall of the entryway. The northeast wall, then, belonged to an earlier structure.

The walls on the southeast (back) and southwest (right) sides are of different construction from that of the left wall (Fig. 11: back wall; Fig. 12: right wall). The random rubblework foundations, laid in a trench and measuring from 0.55-0.80 m. thick, are of unshaped stones set compactly in a very hard lime mortar. Above the foundations are a few scattered remnants of the walls, set back on the exterior by approximately 0.15 m. These walls consist of roughly shaped stones with a flat exterior face loosely mortared together. This is an example of another type of wall construction used all over the site: the combination of coursed and random rubblework which has been set back from the exterior face of the foundation.5

The façade wall, preserved in only one or two courses of masonry, exhibits two types of wall construction of which one is of better quality than the other. The better constructed portions of

4 Brown, "Excavations at Cosa, 1965-1968" (supra n. 1) p. 4 of typescript.
5 Brown, "Cosa I" (supra n. 1) 60-63, 109-110. The back wall is interesting for it presents a break in the construction of foundation and socle (Fig. 13). Here two large quoin blocks are placed flanking an opening later filled with the same manner of construction. This opening, measuring 2.0 m. wide, is centered in the back wall. The filling of the foundation is not bonded to the quoin blocks. In the socle itself a quoin block appears only on the northeast side of the opening. The most logical explanation for this construction is that the door in the back wall of the entryway was walled in at a later date; on this see the forthcoming Cosa III, The Buildings of the Forum.
wall are found at the left and right ends and are not bonded into the side walls. The lower course, where visible, was set down into the portico paving. The left end extends 1.90 m. to the leftmost sill block (Fig. 14). On the right end, the remaining exterior plaster conceals the point where the better construction ends (Fig. 15); certainly it runs 1.70 m., possibly a little more to balance the part on the other end. The original thickness of these parts of the wall are also unknown owing to later constructions on the right, and to the action of olive roots on the left. The masonry, as preserved, presents a single thickness of small squared limestone or travertine blocks set in lime mortar.

The façade of the structure was apparently not completely closed until its last building phase when the reused sill blocks were set into place above the plinth of the central column of the original entryway. Altogether there are three of these sill blocks, two of which rest on the column plinth (see above, p. 7). The complete threshold is 3.55 m. long. To the right of the threshold is a section of coarsely constructed wall which adjoins the better constructed part at that end (Fig. 16). The coarser wall is made of a jumble of generally unshaped stones chinked with broken tiles and large pottery sherds, all set in copious quantities of mortar. This part of the façade wall rests on top of the portico paving.

The outside of the façade was coated with a layer of red painted plaster which covers part of the coarser wall and most of the better constructed wall at the right end. At the time of excavation in 1967, this plaster was preserved to a maximum height of 0.30 m. above the portico paving (Fig. 15).

The interior of the entryway was paved with opus signinum whose rudus rests on virgin earth (supra p. 8; Fig. 17). This paving was laid at a higher level than the portico paving along the front of the building. The difference in levels is most clearly visible in the test pit at the left end of the façade where the portico paving is 0.225 to 0.235 m. below the surface of the interior paving (Fig. 14).

Inside the building, partition walls and bases roughly divide the room into three sections. On the left is a T-shaped wall, 0.50 m. thick and 3.65 m. long including the thickness of the façade wall. The actual join is obscured by an olive tree which could not be removed. This wall sets off a long, narrow room from the central