

Plan 123: X-Y-Z,10-11-12 - Overview

Stratum 5 is represented by a small cave or rock-cut chamber. It may have been a tomb, or less likely a dwelling since it may have been associated with several walls just outside its entrance.

No remains from Stratum 4 could be defined.

Stratum 3C is only clearly attested by a large tower built outside the casemate-like wall which seems to be cut by the offset-inset wall of 3B.

Stratum 3B is represented by the offset-inset wall and by a ca. 5.0 m length of a drain channel which runs through the town wall.

If Stratum 3A is attested here at all it is only by two walls built on the debris poured in between the 3C and 3B wall systems. If they belong to Stratum 3 they probably represent a storage or service area. However, they are poorly preserved and do not match well with the Stratum 3 plan; they could also belong to Stratum 2. The offset-inset wall continues in use.

There are no remains which can be definitely assigned to Stratum 2, though the offset-inset wall continues in use.

Stratum 1 is represented by a small room built on top of the stump of the 3B offset-inset wall. It is poorly preserved.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in about the middle of the 1932 season.

The remains here do not yield plans of complete buildings because this plan represents one of the intramural zones. Only the tower is well-documented by photographs. Elevations are extremely sparse; there are none for the walls of the tower, only the bottoms of the two chambers. However, this is the only area of the tell where there are remains from Stratum 5 to 1.

Building 123.01: The Intramural Tower, Rm 305, Rm 304 -

This is a massive tower; it is discussed briefly in the 1947 report.⁷⁴¹ Its S wall is shown on Plan 140. Its maximum length on each side is: N 10.5, S 10.0, E 8.3, W 8.4; however, its greatest length is along its center, at 11.2 m. The thickness of the walls ranged from ca. 1.8 to 2.2 m. The stones used in its construction are quite large, up to 80 cm long by 50 cm wide. The stones of the outer and inner facings are roughly squared and laid in regular courses. The inner stones are smaller. The whole tower was founded on bedrock. On the S side (Plan 140) the bedrock in one section drops over 3.1 m in 7.0 m (see P 810, P 813). There is no indication of any doorway in any of the walls, so the manner of entry remains unclear.

Rm 304 is the N room. It is 5.7 m long by 1.5 m wide. Rm 305 is the S room. It is 5.7 m long; its width varies from 1.5 on the E to 1.7 on the W.

Dating of Building 123.01 -

The excavators were quite certain that the W wall of the tower was partially demolished to make room for the offset-inset wall, and in fact

⁷⁴¹I, 189.

had been rendered useless by the new defenses (see P 943). However, there is no a priori reason to suggest that the tower went out of use when the new wall was constructed. True, its former function as a primary fortification was lost, but it could still have served as a secondary defense to the main wall, or even as a watch tower.

P 818 shows the small gap between the E wall of the tower and the casemate-like wall. It seems reasonable to assume that the casemate-like wall was built first, and the tower added later to strengthen the W defenses. This, and the fact that it is cut by the 3B offset-inset wall, puts the tower in 3C, but later in the phase than the construction of the casemate-like wall. This is in agreement with the phasing arrived at by the excavators.

Function of Building 123.01 -

This tower was added to the casemate-like wall to strengthen it at the point where it begins to bend almost due N from a more NW course. This is similar to the buttressing of the offset-inset wall, done apparently for the same reasons, which is seen in Plan 140. Its position in the intramural area is similar to Building 73.01, the tower in Q14.

A later parallel to this tower is found at Hazor where a similar two-chamber tower is found adjacent, but not built into, the Stratum VA citadel.⁷⁴² An isolated tower of slightly later date and somewhat larger dimensions was found at Giloh.⁷⁴³

⁷⁴²Y. Yadin, Y. Aharoni, R. Amiran, T. Dothan, I. Dunayevsky, and J. Perrot, Hazor II (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1960), pl. CV; Hazor I, pp. 33-34.

⁷⁴³A. Mazar, "Iron Age I and II Towers at Giloh and the Israelite Settlement," IEJ 40 (1990):96-101.

"Si 315": Si 315a, Si 315b -

This feature should lie just outside, or partially below the line of the casemate-like wall, but no clear trace of that wall was uncovered here. It is cut into the bedrock and consists of three small chambers. Si 315b seems to be two chambers connected by a short tunnel. Si 315b "W" is the smaller of the two, 1.7 by 1.3 m, and has an opening in its S face and/or its roof. From mouth to floor is ca. 1.8 m. Si 315b "E" is ca. 2.0 by 1.5 m. Si 315b "W" is connected to Si 315a to the N by a short, narrow passage. Si 315a measures 1.7 by 1.7 m; part of its roof seem to have caved in.

Si 315 does not have the configuration of the other cisterns or silos. Further, all the remains were from EB I. It seems too small to be a dwelling unless it was a subterranean annex to an aboveground structure which has disappeared. Perhaps the short, single-stone section of wall extending S from its entrance is part of such a structure; P A1046 shows this single course high wall at about the same level as the mouth of Si 315a, while the wall to the NE may be floating above it, though this is not certain. Perhaps, more likely, Si 315 may be a type of shaft tomb. Si 315b "W" would be the shaft, with the other two chambers for burials. Although it is mentioned in passing several times in the 1947 report, its architectural attributes are not discussed.⁷⁴⁴

Other Features -

Rm 303 is a small chamber built over the stump of the offset-inset wall. If it was connected to a larger structure to the E this building did not survive. The plan is drawn in such a way as to suggest that the

⁷⁴⁴I, pp. 60, 72, 74, 75.

W wall of this room extends a little to the S, and also to the N, more than half way through X12. It further seems to suggest that this N extension is cut or crossed over by another wall built on the W edge of the offset-inset wall. P 790 shows the walls crossing over the offset-inset wall. If these are truly late walls crossing each other it is indicative of at least two sub-phases to Stratum 1.

Rm 384 is a space formed by the near intersection of two walls near the E edge of X12. The base of the wall running NW-SE is at a level above the top preserved part of the S wall. They are probably foundations, but it is still uncertain if these two walls, in fact, belong to the same phase, or if the space numbered Rm 384 is an accident of the TEN recording process. If they do belong together it is not clear to what stratum they should be assigned since they are at variance with the Stratum 3 plan, and there are no Stratum 2 or 1 remains preserved in the vicinity. They seem to be close to bedrock, if not built on it, suggesting they may have been built in Stratum 5.

P 875 shows a group of seven mostly intact storage jars standing up right; suggesting that they sit on a floor. The records indicate that these are from X12. Unfortunately the photograph does not show a broad enough view of the jars to determine where in X12 they were found; nor are the records specific on this point. Probably they were found in the area of Rm 384, but this cannot be proved. The records indicate that these are mostly sack-shaped storage jars, though one looks like a LMLK type.

S of Rm 384 and Si 315, in X-Y12, are two walls and a drain which were not numbered. The wall fragment along the X12-Y12 border is similar to that separating Rm 384 from Rm 348, though they are on different orientations. Nor does it seem to be aligned with Rm 303. This wall

belongs to Stratum 3A or later.

The wall which curves SE from the border of X12-Y12 appears to be cut by the drain. If so the curving wall is 3C or earlier. It is not clear if the curving wall is founded on bedrock; if it were it might even be possible to associate it with the EB I, Stratum 5, Si 315 complex.

The plan of the drain channel is not very clear. It almost gives the impression that there are two drains, one above the other. P 791 shows a close view of the drain; there it seems that a later wall is built partially over the S wall of the drain, obscuring its plan. Plan 123 and P 791 do show the drain crossing the offset-inset wall. In the photograph it looks more like a late feature crossing the stump of the wall, but this may well be an illusion created by the later wall built over part of the drain. The 1947 report assumes that the drain is a very late feature crossing the stump of the wall, whereas this analysis takes it as being an integral part of the 3B construction in the area.⁷⁴⁵ The visible drain wall is two stones wide, and the drain had a stone-paved floor. It may be that two capstones survived. This drain is one of a series of drains found along the W and N sides of the town. Since the town slopes from S to N most of these drains were probably installed at the same time as the offset-inset wall in order to drain water from the intramural area. Although the drain could have continued into the Stratum 3 town, it could just as well have served only the intramural area. The late wall built on top of it is probably of Stratum 1.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

⁷⁴⁵I, 185.

The wall in this area ranges from 4.2 to 6.0 m in width, averaging about 5.0 m. A puzzling aspect of the plan is the heavy line paralleling the W face of the wall about 1.0 to 2.0 m to the E. This probably represents a lower, wider base (W of the line) with a somewhat narrower upper part (E of the line). This is borne out by the few elevations on the wall. One elevation on the "upper" section in Y-Z11 is at 776.27, and another in X11 is at 776.50. In the "lower" section in Y11 there are two elevations at 774.85 and 774.89, a difference of ca. 1.03 m between the two areas. Unfortunately there are no photographs of this part of the wall which would confirm this hypothesis.

Excavation did not reach bedrock against either the inner or outer face of the wall in this area. Thus it is not possible to gauge its preserved height. However, in Plan 140 to the S the base of the wall is ca. 5.0 m below the preserved upper-most course. This is confirmed by P 810. Likely the wall is preserved to a similar height in this area too.

As noted in the discussion of Plan 106, there appears to be a curving wall, ca. 1.0 m wide, built along the top W edge of the 3B offset-inset wall. It extends from W11 to X11. It belongs probably to Stratum 1, and as discussed above, may cross over an earlier wall of Stratum 1.

The plan contains two sections of masonry which do not appear in any photographs, or if they do appear it is difficult to distinguish them; nor do they appear on the published Survey Map. The first is a 3.2 m long by 2.0 m wide mass of masonry at the N edge of X12 which extends N into W12. It seems to be built against the inner face of the offset-inset wall; perhaps it is a retaining wall. The other wall section is just to the S. It is ca. 8.0 m long and 1.0 m wide at its widest. The NE corner of Rm 303 seems to be built over its S end. In the N it is very

thin and looks to be built against both the town wall and the wall described earlier in this paragraph. In the S there is a narrow gap between it and the town wall. This wall is too thin to be a retaining wall. If it did not serve as a foundation for some now lost Stratum 1 building, it is difficult to imagine what purpose it had.

The published Survey Map of the site shows a stone revetment-glacis all along the W face of the offset-inset wall. P 943, which focuses on the inside of the wall, shows that excavation had not reached any great depth along the outer face of the wall, at least when the photograph was taken. To N and S (Plan 89, Plan 158, Plan 176) excavation reached low enough to find traces of these outer fortifications. It is likely that the draftsman used a heavy line for the reconstructed line of these defenses all along the W side of the town, instead of a light line such as was used along the E wall. It is likely that the revetment-glacis extended along most, if not all of the W wall, and may have been further reinforced by a moat, such as was found in S10-11.