

Plan 124: X-Y-Z, 13-14-15 - Overview

A part of a rock-cut chamber from Stratum 5 (discussed on plan 123) is the earliest feature attested. There are no other clear remains from this stratum.

Stratum 4 is represented by rock-cut installations in the NW corner of the plan which are cut by walls probably of 3C. It is not possible to assign all of these to 4 with certainty as only a few are cut by later walls. But it seems likely that most were hewn then. Some of these installations may well have continued into Stratum 3.

Stratum 3C is attested by a section of the casemate-like wall and a few walls associated with it which cannot now be reconstructed into convincing rooms. Possibly some of the rock-cut installations were dug at this time.

It is difficult to distinguish between Stratum 3B and 3A in this area. There are rebuilds and additions to the 3C basic plan, but most of them could belong to either stratum.

Stratum 2 is represented by remains of a variant of a 3-Room building. Although it is fragmentary, it does seem to cut remains of Stratum 3.

No certain remains of Stratum 1 could be traced.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in the 1932 season, and the last few days of the 1935 season. X13 and Z13-14 were cleared primarily in 1932 and

Z15 in 1935. There are no photographs for the 1932 season, and only two for the latter campaign. Problems in the evaluation of Z14-15 are compounded by two other difficulties. The first is that the W half of this area was excavated in 1932, while the east was cleared in 1935. None of the photographs show the complete plan of the building. The second consideration is that the original 1:100 plan of this area was lost. A new copy was prepared from partial plans available in the Badè Institute of Biblical Archaeology, but these lacked elevations. However, levels for X13 are fairly plentiful.

Most of the area of this plan was not excavated. This includes X14-15, Y13-14-15 and parts of Z13-14. The extreme E parts of X-Y-Z15 are covered by a rubble heap, but not the area to the W. Photographs indicate that the debris was relatively thick here, at least ca. 2.0 m worth. Because of its position between areas excavated to N and S this is an especially important area to excavate. It would provide necessary architectural links between N and S, and also E and W. Hopefully it would provide good stratified remains as well.

Building 124.01: Rm 398, Rm 399, Rm 668, Rm 670, Ci 325? -

This seems to be a 3-Room type building with a small additional chamber in the NW corner. Though fragmentary its plan and stratigraphic position seem reasonably clear. Its walls are mainly double-stone work. Oddly, McClellan offers no reconstruction for this building, though its plan is fairly clear.⁷⁴⁶

Rm 668 is the broad back room. Its E wall is primarily the face of a steep rock scarp evened out by masonry additions (see P 1482). A

⁷⁴⁶"Planning," fig. 13; see also p. 61 and n. 36.

threshold in its W wall leads to Rm 339. The N part of the room was not completely excavated, therefore the gap in the W wall to the N of the threshold may only indicate that excavation there did not reach deep enough to locate the continuation of the wall. The S wall is built over a rock-cut installation called Ci 367. Since the excavators attempted to number all non-room, non-tomb features in a continuous series, it is disturbing to note that at the end of the 1935 season they also had a Bn 367 in AF17.

Rm 399 is the N long room; it is wider than Rm 670 and may be a courtyard. Only its S part was completely excavated; most of its NW section is still buried. In the wall separating it from Rm 670 are two gaps, one at either end, which probably indicate doorways. This wall is made of large stones, some almost a meter long, by half that in width.

Rm 398 is a small room W of Rm 399. P A1156 and P 1088 show the single-stone walls to be better-constructed, with more regularly dressed stones, than those in Building 141.01 to the SW. They are also preserved to a higher level. Rm 398 seems to cut the N part of Rm 395 of Building 141.01. For these reasons Rm 398 should be connected with Building 124.01. Unfortunately the photographs and plan do not give any indication of doorways into Rm 398.

Rm 670 is the S long room. It also was not completely excavated; most of its S wall (on Plan 141) lies under a rubble heap. P 1482 shows what may be a stone-paved floor in this room; however, the 1947 report does not list it as having one.⁷⁴⁷ Since this room was one of the last excavated, it may be that this possible floor may not have been recorded. The same photograph also confirms that there was no direct

⁷⁴⁷I, 183 n. 12.

access from Rm 670 to Rm 668.

Ci 325 is an interesting feature. Its mouth is ca. 1.5 m wide, at its widest, and the cistern is almost 6.0 m deep. It also lies roughly in line with where the E wall of Rm 670 should be, unless it made a short jag to the S to allow room for the cistern. It may well have been dug at the same time that Building 124.01 was constructed, rather than being a feature which continued in use from an earlier stratum, since it would otherwise block N to S traffic through road Rm 394 (Plan 141). It was likely bottle-shaped.⁷⁴⁸

Dating of Building 124.01 -

The W end of the building not only seems to cut Building 141.01 of Stratum 3, but also seems to block the road, Rm 394, on to which Building 141.01 and Building 141.02 must have faced. This road seems to turn a corner to the E just S of the wall which marks the S border of the space marked Rm 672. Also Ci 325, which seems to be connected with Building 124.01 is in the middle of road Rm 394. It is possible that road Rm 394 is an alley which ended at Building 124.01. Weighing against this are the buildings in Plan 90 and Plan 107 which also must have fronts facing on to a road like Rm 394. It seems better to assume that this road continued all along this path, rather than create one or more dead end alleys. Finally, it should also be noted that Building 124.01 is mainly double stone work, which is common in rebuilds of 3A, but when used building-wide is most common in Stratum 2.

Function of Building 124.01 -

⁷⁴⁸I, 129 n. 1.

This is not one of the larger Stratum 2 structures. There is nothing to indicate other than a domestic role.

Building 124.02?: Rm 346, Rm 348, Rm 349 -

In the discussion of plan 107 it was suggested that Rm 311 and Rm 312 belonged with Rm 343 and Rm 344 as parts of a 3-Room building. If this hypothesis, for the moment, is accepted it may also be possible to suggest, very tentatively, that Rm 346 and Rm 349 and part of the space defined as Rm 348 also be considered as elements of a similar 3-Room building.

Rm 346 would be the N long room; since the two long rooms are virtually the same width it is not possible to suggest which may have been the courtyard. The N single-stone wall cuts the mouth of Ci 310. This cistern is connected by a short, narrow tunnel to Ci 306a. If the two were connected it is likely that both went out of use at the same date; i.e. when the N wall of the room was built. It cannot be determined which of these cisterns was cut first. The narrow double-stone S wall cuts just a part of Si 305, probably indicating that this rock-cut installation also had gone out of use when the building was constructed. The mixed single- and double-stone W back wall cuts Ci 306c and Ci 313, showing that these cisterns had also gone out of use early. The purpose of the short section of wall adjacent to the W wall is uncertain. It may be a fragment of the original back wall of the building left in place when the new back wall was constructed. The E part of the room was not excavated; however, it must have faced out on a ringroad in the W part of X14. The plan does not show any threshold to the back room, and the other walls are not well enough preserved to determine the placement of doorways. The 1947 report notes that Ci 310 and Ci 313 are both covered by walls of that report's "Stratum I," which

placed these rock-cut installations into "Stratum II."⁷⁴⁹

Rm 349 would be the S long room. Its E half was also not excavated; its W wall is a continuation of that of Rm 346 and was described above. Its S wall is single-stone work but is not preserved all the way to the W wall of Rm 349. There are no traces of any doorways. None of its walls cross rock-cut installations. In the middle of its floor is the mouth of Ci 306b which may be an earlier feature which continued in use with this building, or have been cut specifically for use with the structure, or have gone completely out of use by Stratum 3. The 1947 report notes that a fragment of an altar/stand was found in this room, but this is not enough to assign it a special role since the find was not in its original context and no other cultic material came from the vicinity.⁷⁵⁰

Rm 348 is an ill-defined space W of Rm 346 and Rm 349; most of it is actually on Plan 123. Part of this area likely formed the back room of the building. In Z13 a part of the casemate-like wall was found. Its course at that point suggests that it followed a line approximately along the W edge of X-Y13. If so, this line would mark the original W wall of the back room. Its N and S walls would have been roughly on a line with the N wall of Rm 346 and the S wall of Rm 349. The single-stone wall shown on the plan is probably a late wall, either Stratum 2 or 1; it is oriented along the same line as the NE wall of Rm 384 in Plan 123 and so may belong with it.

Dating of Building 124.02 -

⁷⁴⁹I, 180 n. 8 and n. 9.

⁷⁵⁰I, 241; pl. 84:18.

The building shares single-stone walls with buildings to N and S. It is oriented both to the line of the casemate-like wall and to what was probably a version of the town's ringroad. It also cut the mouths of five rock-cut installations. All this suggests a founding date in 3C. An unattached wall fragment may be indicative of use through out the stratum. The area of the back room seems to have been demolished by a later structure, but it is not certain if this is a Stratum 2 or 1 feature. Thus the building could have continued into Stratum 2, though more likely its end is at the close of 3A.

Function of Building 124.02 -

There is nothing in the plan to suggest other than a domestic role; but the plan is fragmentary, so not too much weight should be placed on it.

Building 124.03? Rm 347, Rm 350 -

This building is even more uncertain than its neighbor to the N. Neither its E or S limits were excavated. While Rm 350 is certainly a long room of some building, and Rm 347 is part of a partitioned back room, it cannot be absolutely established that these two rooms do not belong to Building 124.02, rather than being elements of an independent structure.

If the faintly drawn-in line of four stone pillars which appears on some plans of Rm 350 is just evidence of incomplete inking of the plan, and truly reflects what was excavated, this would be strong evidence that Rm 350 was independent of Building 124.02. To have such a pillar wall implies that there was yet another related room to the south. This would make Building 124.02 a very wide 5-Room building; not

impossible, but not likely either. It would make better sense then to set off Rm 347, Rm 350 and the space S of the possible row of pillars as a separate 3-Room building, at least until such time as excavation in X-Y13 clarifies the matter.

Rm 350's N wall seems to cut the mouth of Ci 316, but not that of Ci 314a. Ci 316 is thus probably earlier than the building. The 1947 report notes that this is a bottle-shaped cistern.⁷⁵¹ Above it was suggested that Ci 306b could have been cut at the same time as Building 124.02 was constructed. If this is so, then Ci 306b cuts Ci 316 rather than vice-versa. Ci 314a is connected by a short narrow tunnel to Ci 314b, which is cut by walls of Rm 347; this suggests that both cisterns went out of use when the building was constructed, though which of these two was cut first cannot be determined. The 1947 report notes that Ci 314(b) and Ci 316 are both cut by walls of that report's "Stratum I," which placed them in "Stratum II".⁷⁵²

Rm 347's S and E walls are single-stone work; its N wall seems to be a relatively narrow double-stone wall; the W wall is wider double-stone work. If this is a back room, then the S wall is probably only a partition wall; originally Rm 347 was probably extended a meter or two more to the S. Its E wall is quite different from the similarly positioned wall of Building 124.02 to the N. This may be additional evidence for the separation of Rm 347 and Rm 350 from Building 124.02. The W wall follows the line of the casemate-like wall found in Z13 and is probably a rebuild over it.

Dating of Building 124.03 -

⁷⁵¹I, 129 n. 1.

⁷⁵²I, 180 n. 9.

The building shares double- and single-stone walls with one excavated building. It is oriented to the casemate-like wall and the line of a probable ringroad on the E. It also cuts the mouths of two cisterns. This suggests a founding in 3C. There is no real evidence to suggest a final date; it likely continued through 3A, and may have been used as late as Stratum 2, those a closing data at the end of 3A seems more likely.

Function of Building 124.03 -

The plan is so fragmentary that its function is uncertain. However, in the absence of further information it is probably best to consider that it served a domestic role.

Other Features -

Rm 669 is a road. P 1482 shows that it is ca. 1.6 to 1.9 m higher than the floor area of Rm 668. The drop in the bedrock here marks one of the natural terraces on the hill on which the town was constructed. It is likely a continuation of the terrace on which the ringroad Rm 600 and Rm 602 is built in AC16 in Plan 142. This area of bedrock also must have allowed access to Building 125.05 to the E, which is mostly on Plan 125. The front of this building must have been within a meter or two of the E wall of Rm 668, and if Rm 669 was not a road there was no way to get into the building. This road probably continued to the NW for some undefinable distance, and also to the SE where it would have intersected with the road defined by Rm 644 to Rm 671. McClellan also recognized that this was a road which sat on a continuation of the scarp in AC16.⁷⁵³

⁷⁵³"Planning," p. 61; fig. 7. The road is not numbered on the map.

In Z13 a segment of the outer wall of the casemate-like wall was found. At this point it is ca. 1.5 m thick. It continues in Plan 141 to the SE; it likely follows a course approximately along the W edge of X-Y13 and is picked up again in V13 of Plan 107. The present W wall of Rm 347 is probably a rebuild constructed over, or at least on the line of, the casemate-like wall.