

Plan 125: X-Y-Z,16-17-18 - Overview

No remains assignable to either Stratum 5 or 4 were traced. Especially noticeable is the complete lack of rock-cut installations so characteristic of the central part of the site in the N and S.

Stratum 3C is represented by remains of five reasonably clear 2- and 3-Room buildings, by fragments of an uncertain number of additional buildings, and by part of a crossroad. One of the buildings contained an olive press.

Several of the buildings contain signs of rebuilding or modifications over time. However, it is not possible to separate these into 3B and/or 3A.

Stratum 2 is attested by remains of a large 4-Room building complex, similar to several others from the same period.

Stratum 1 is represented by a large building complex for which no clear interior wall or floors could be defined; probably only the foundations survive. This is the most extensive set of remains from this stratum found on the site. Probably the latest pottery in the area should be associated with this structure. Remains of what appears to be a kiln, cutting the large Stratum 1 building, belong to a late phase within Stratum 1. However, the area around it is heavily disturbed.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated at two points during the 1935 season: the N part near the beginning and the S section at its end. These two areas are separated by a long rubble heap which was not removed and so the

area below was not excavated. The N and W limits of the N part are also defined by rubble heaps. The amount of covering soil thins considerably toward the E, until in Plan 126 bedrock is very near the surface.

Almost every room has bottom elevations, and most walls have top levels, though not all, and there are no bottom levels for walls. The photographic documentation for the N is sparse, some features are visible only from a great distance. The S is reasonably well-covered. The S is also clearer architecturally; some rooms in the N cannot be assigned to buildings at all because the remains are too fragmentary.

Building 125.01: Rm 472?, Rm 473?, Rm 477, Rm 638, Rm 641, Rm 643, Rm 647, Rm 659 -

The possibility that rooms farther E, in Plan 126, are part of the Building 125.01 complex will be discussed in that plan. This building is bisected by the long E to W rubble heap; almost its entire NW corner lies unexcavated. There are few wall levels, but the building is well-documented in general view and detail photographs. It is mainly double-stone work, with some large single-stone sections.

Rm 477 is the N long room. It was evidently partitioned from the unnumbered central court by a line of pillars, as is suggested by the survival of a single stone pillar on the edge of the rubble heap. There is room for four or five additional pillars. P 1296 clearly shows its stone-paved floor, and may also show a section of masonry which would have connected the pillar with its neighbor to the W. A wide wall composed of small packed stones cuts the N wall of this room. It seems that excavation did not reach low enough in the tiny area available W of this later wall, for no pavement is visible in the photograph. Probably Rm 477 was separated from a northward continuation of Rm 659 by that

room's E wall.

Rm 641 is a long room S of the unnumbered central court. It has a stone-paved floor similar to that in Rm 477, as shown by P 1456. Its walls are all double-stone work, and at the W end of its N wall there is a doorway into the unnumbered central court. There is no evidence for any other doorways. This room cuts the Stratum 3 road on to which Building 125.02 faced.

Rm 643 is a second long room S of the unnumbered central court. Its walls are of mixed construction. It has only one doorway, in the E end of its N wall, which leads to the court. This room extends W into the area where normally a S extension of Rm 659, the back room, should be found. Thus, Building 125.01 deviates slightly from the basic 4-Room pattern. Rm 643 has a special significance, for on its unpaved floor were found the in situ remains of two large hole-mouth pithoi, and possibly other in situ vessels as well (see P 1455, P 1456 and P 1458). This room also cuts the line of road Rm 644, and probably destroyed a Stratum 3 building N of that road.

Rm 647 is set off from the unnumbered central court by a wall of thin stone slabs set on their narrow ends. This is probably a small storage area. It probably did not extend farther N, for if it did this would block access to the back room from the court. Note also that the entrance to the building was probably through the central court, and that this doorway would have to lie below the rubble heap.

Rm 659 is the back broad room. Normally such a back room would span the whole back of the building, but in this structure it does not because of the W extension of Rm 643. The N half of this room is under the rubble heap. It is likely that there is a doorway in the N part of

its E wall which leads into the central court. Its walls are mixed work.

Rm 473, Rm 638 and possibly Rm 472 on Plan 126 probably form an E annex to Building 125.01. This is borne out by P 1457 and P 1295 which show the N and S walls of Building 125.01 extending E to form the N and S limits of Rm 473 and Rm 638. Rm 472 is less certain, but may also belong to this building.

Dating of Building 125.01 -

The building cuts features of Stratum 3 and is on a completely different orientation from that stratum's ringroad plan. The mixed building technique of large single- and double-stone work is similar to buildings of Stratum 2, such as Building 110.10. This suggests that it is a Stratum 2 foundation. The building is cut on the N by a later building, which is oriented differently to the plans of both Stratum 3 and 2; this structure would have to belong to Stratum 1. This means that Building 125.01 is probably limited to Stratum 2.

Function of Building 125.01 -

If the attribution of the rooms in Plan 126 adjoining the core part of Building 125.01 to this same building is correct, then this is another example of a 4-Room building serving as the core for a more extensive complex, as can be seen in Building 110.01 adjacent to the city gate. Such a large structure is probably more than a common dwelling, though there is nothing in its plan to suggest any specialized use. It should likely be regarded as the dwelling of a wealthy individual or official.

Building 125.02 Rm 640, Rm 645, Rm 646 -

This is a typical 3-Room building. There are several good photographs and the plan is reasonably clear, although the back room (Rm 646, on Plan 142) is mostly under a rubble heap. It faces out on to a crossroad which is an E extension of road Rm 644. Building 125.01 of Stratum 2 cuts most of this road and the entrance to the building (see P 1457). Its walls are single-stone, except for that on the N, which is double-stone. McClellan discusses this building briefly.⁷⁵⁴ His treatment agrees with that put forward here. He too recognizes that Building 125.02 likely shares its back wall with Building 142.08.

Rm 640 is the E long room; it is considerably wider than the other long room and so may be an open courtyard. It is entered from the road to the N by a flight of four stairs with an upper landing (see P 1460). There is a small pillar at the base of the stairs. The elevation on the landing, 779.52, gives an approximate level for the road. The wall with Rm 640 contains three stone pillars separated by sections of rubble masonry. The pillars seem to be monoliths, with smaller drums on top. The doorway to Rm 640 may have been at the N end of this wall. Plan 142 shows a clearly marked doorway leading into back room Rm 646.

Rm 645 is the W long room. There do not seem to have been any doorways to either the back room or the stairway, only to Rm 640.

Rm 646 is the broad back room. Most of it was left unexcavated under the rubble heap, but the doorway with Rm 640 and segments of its E and W walls attest that the building did have a back room. It probably shares its S wall with Building 142.08.

⁷⁵⁴"Planning," 59-60, fig. 7.

Dating of Building 125.02 -

It shares single-stone walls with at least three, and probably four buildings. It is oriented along a crossroad which intersects with parts of the Stratum 3 ringroad. There are no clear signs of rebuildings or modifications, unless the double-stone N wall is such. The building went out of use by the end of 3A, at the latest, because its entrance is blocked by Building 125.01 of Stratum 2.

Function of Building 125.02 -

The plan suggests nothing other than a domestic role for this building.

Building 125.03: Rm 655, Rm 656, Rm 661 -

This is either a 2- or 3-Room building; the back part of the structure has in part been lost to erosion, and in part lies probably under the rubble heap, so it is not possible to say for certain if there was a back room. Only P 1482 shows any part of this building, and then only from a distance of ca. 30 m. It faces S on to a W extension of crossroad Rm 644, which on Plan 142 is numbered as Rm 653. Note also the differences in elevation across this area. Rm 657 to the E is at 779.41, Rm 661 is at 778.12, and Rm 663a is at 777.15. This suggests that the crossroad probably sloped considerably and that stairways would have been necessary to enter many buildings. The walls are mixed construction. McClellan briefly discusses this building.⁷⁵⁵ He believes it is a 3-Room building, but notes that its back room is "obscured."

⁷⁵⁵"Planning," 60, fig. 7.

Rm 655 and Rm 656 together make up the E long room; since they make up the wider of the two long rooms they may have constituted an open courtyard. They are separated from each other by a double-stone wall and from Rm 661 by a wall containing four pillars, apparently built-up from rough stone drums, which are connected by short masonry sections. Their E wall is part stone facing against a high bedrock outcrop, and part outcrop. Rm 656 seems to be the entrance to the building. Its S wall preserves four steps which descend from W to E and a small piece of bedrock which serves as a bottom fifth step. There was probably a landing on the top of the stairs, but this has not survived. The single-stone wall with the lone pillar at the top of the stairs marks the S limit of this room. The E continuation of this wall seems to have been lost, or was destroyed by the construction of the double-stone wall which marks the S limit of Rm 657. The difference in elevation between Rm 655 and Rm 656 is 78 cm. It may be that it was not possible to move directly from one room to the other, or if it was, then there must have been a short stairway to connect the two which has not survived. Otherwise access to Rm 655 would have been only through the N part of Rm 661. However, there is no sign of a threshold there, or an elevation on Rm 661's E wall to prove that such passage was possible. Since the contemporary structure to the E was destroyed by the construction of Building 125.02 it is not possible to say if access to Rm 655 was possible from the area of Rm 657, or not.

Rm 661 is the W long room; it has a stone-paved floor. Its wall with Rm 655 and Rm 656 was discussed above. It is not clear, however, if a direct connection to Rm 656 was possible through the pillar wall, or if communication between these two rooms was only possible through the unnumbered room at the S of Rm 656 and Rm 661. If communication was by this small room, then the landing at the top of the stairs would have been quite narrow, otherwise access to Rm 656 would not have been

possible. Its W wall with Rm 662 is single-stone work in a rough header construction.

Dating of Building 125.03 -

It shares a single-stone wall with one building and faces out on a crossroad which intersects with the Stratum 3 ringroad. It is probably a 3C foundation. There are no clear signs of later additions or modifications, unless the double-stone wall between Rm 655 and Rm 656 is such. The area to the S of this building, in Plan 142, is cut by a series of walls probably of Stratum 2. These remains are very fragmentary. It may be that this late construction blocked access to Building 125.03. If so this building went out of use by the end of 3A; if not the building could have continued into Stratum 2. The former seems the more likely possibility.

Function of Building 125.03 -

There is nothing to suggest other than a domestic role for this building.

Building 125.04: Rm 662, Rm 663a, Rm 663b -

This is either a 2- or 3-Room type building. Most of the back of the structure was left unexcavated under a rubble heap. As noted above, there is a ca. 1.0 m drop from the floor of Building 125.03 to that of Rm 663a. There is no significant difference in elevation between Building 125.04 and Building 125.05 to the W. The difference in elevations between the floor of the building and crossroad cannot be determined accurately; Rm 663a is at 777.15 and an elevation in Rm 653, part of the crossroad, is at 778.06. A flight of steps may have been

necessary to enter the building, but none have survived. The building fronts on a W continuation of the crossroad Rm 644, here numbered Rm 671. The walls are uniformly single-stone work.

Rm 662 is the E long room; since it is the wider of the two it may have been an open courtyard. The 1:100 plan shows no evidence of doorways into any of the neighboring rooms. However, the N wall is fragmentary and there may well have been a doorway there which led into the area of the unnumbered back room. The 1:400 Survey Map shows a doorway leading into Rm 663b, but this does not appear as such on the 1:100 plan. The S wall, on Plan 142, seems to have been a double-stone wall, though this is difficult to prove because there is a later wall built over it. This later wall seems to be part of a complex of walls which belong to a Stratum 2 building, more of which is visible on Plan 142. Rm 662 also contained a stone olive press ca. 64 cm high, ca. 85 cm across with a narrow channel around its circumference and a central collecting hollow ca. 33 cm deep. There is no sign of a narrow hole connecting the peripheral channel with the central hollow. Near by was a stone basin ca. 58 cm high, 95 cm across and 39 cm deep. Both of these installations are shown clearly in P 1471, which also shows traces of a cobble floor beneath and between the press and the basin. The 1947 report refers to these presses as "dyeing plants."⁷⁵⁶

Rm 663a and Rm 663b together make up the W long room. There is no sign of a doorway from Rm 663a into the area of the back room, but this wall is not well-preserved. Nor is there any trace of a doorway between Rm 663a and Rm 663b; however this wall is quite scrappy and was no more than a thin partition wall. The possibility of a doorway connecting Rm 663b and Rm 662 was discussed above. On the plan Rm 663b is shaded as

⁷⁵⁶I, 256.

though to indicate a possible stone floor; the photographs of the area can neither confirm or disprove this. P 1482 and the plan show a later rebuild over the original W wall of Rm 663b. This photograph shows the surviving courses of the rebuild 10-20 cm above the barely visible earlier wall. The S wall of Rm 663b is a continuation of that of Rm 662 and displays the same early and late phases. Plan 142 shows a stone pillar at the point where the W and S walls of Rm 663b should meet, but do not because of a small gap in the S wall. The purpose of this pillar is uncertain. It seems to belong to the late wall built over the original W wall of this building.

The E wall of Rm 662 continues N beyond the room's N wall. This may be evidence of a broad back room which was not excavated. However, at the W end of this space, N of Rm 663a, is a double-stone wall. This wall is too close to Rm 663a's N wall to be part of Building 125.04; it is probably a fragment of an ill-preserved late (Stratum 2?) building. The S wall of this possible room is poorly preserved and there is no sign of a doorway into either room to the S.

Dating of Building 125.04 -

This building shares single-stone walls with structures on either side and faces out on a crossroad which connects with the Stratum 3 ringroad plan. This suggests a foundation in 3C. The front of the building is cut by a later wall, as is the area of the possible back room. These probably belong to Stratum 2 structures. The building probably then went out of use by the end of 3A.

Function of Building 125.04 -

The presence of the olive press installation shows that this

building clearly had an industrial use. Whether it also served a domestic role is uncertain. McClellan also notes that this is an industrial building. Although he does not discuss it, his plan seems to reconstruct a back room to this building.⁷⁵⁷

Building 125.05: Rm 664, Rm 665 -

This appears to be a 4-Room building in which all the rooms run parallel to each other, i.e. there was no back room. It is oriented E to W and faces out on road Rm 669, which is a continuation of the ringroad which stretches from AC16 to AH20. The front part of the building, on Plan 124, has mostly disappeared, but cannot have extended much farther W than the ends of its present walls. Room is necessary for the ringroad which runs along the natural rock terrace there. There are a few elevations. P 1482 shows most of this building, some of it in detail. The walls seem to be uniformly single-stone work.

Rm 664 is the center long room; it has a stone-paved floor. It is separated from Rm 665 to the S by a wall of four pillars connected by short masonry sections. Two pillars survive to indicate a similar means of partitioning Rm 664 from the unnumbered space to the N. This N wall has room for at least one additional pillar. Unfortunately the photograph is at such an angle that it is impossible to describe the nature of these pillars. Rm 664 has a stone-paved floor; a small part of its E end is separated off by a narrow wall, possibly to create a storage area about 2.2 m long by 80 cm wide. A roughly square stone basin sits on the floor; its height cannot be determined, but it was ca. 27 cm deep and ca. 80 by 70 cm.

⁷⁵⁷"Planning," 60; fig. 7.

The unnumbered space to the N of Rm 664 contains fragments of two double-stone walls meeting to form a corner. These walls are on a different orientation than the rest of Building 125.05; They are also too close to the N wall of Rm 664 to have been in use at the same time. Perhaps these are remains of a Stratum 2 building.

Rm 665 is the S long room. Its plan is much less clear than that of Rm 664. Since its E wall is shared with Rm 663b, it has the same two phases of construction. A line of five medium size stones running into Rm 665 from its NE corner seem to form a corner with the rebuild; P 1482 gives the impression that these stones are floating above the floor of this building. If this is true, these two walls are evidence of a 3B/3A modification to Building 125.05 or an entirely new construction of Stratum 2, or later.

The unnumbered room to the S of Rm 665 is probably also part of Building 125.05 since the area beyond this space to the S is a W continuation of crossroad Rm 644. However, the S and W limits of this room are uncertain because these areas are under the rubble heap. In the NE corner of the room is a small (a meter on each side), square enclosed space, probably a small storage unit. The E wall of this installation is crossed by the late wall described above.

McClellan mentions this building in passing.⁷⁵⁸ He notes the probability, also advanced here, that a continuation of the ringroad ran past the front of this building as a N branch of Rm 644, an E-W crossroad. This report advocates the reconstruction of a long room S of Rm 665, while McClellan prefers to leave this area as an open space, sort of a small plaza. Since the area is unexcavated, either possibility

⁷⁵⁸"Planning," 64; fig. 7.

could be true.

Dating of Building 125.05 -

This building shares a single-stone wall with a neighboring structure. It is also oriented toward a continuation of the Stratum 3 ringroad and a crossroad connected to it. It is probably a 3C foundation. There is no certain evidence for remodeling or additions within Stratum 3, unless the walls crossing Rm 665 and the room to the S are earlier than Stratum 2. The walls in the room N of Rm 664 are probably of Stratum 2. This suggests that the building had gone out of use by the end of 3A.

Function of Building 125.05 -

The building does not have a standard plan. This may be because of its position at the intersection of two roads. It contains a stone basin and two walled-off enclosures. There is not enough evidence to determine if this was a dwelling, or possibly a storage facility.

Building 125.06: Rm 475, Rm 483, Rm 484, Rm 486, Rm 491, Bn 372? -

The reconstruction of this building as outlined here is offered tentatively because the remains in this area are fragmentary and most unclear. The debris above bedrock was thinner here than to the S. Even the presumed E to W orientation of the building is not certain. It seems to be a 4-Room type building. Most rooms and walls have elevations, but these are spaced far apart. P 1295, a general view of the area, does not show enough detail to be useful, and there are no other photographs. Most of the walls are single-stone work.

Rm 475 is taken to be the central court and is the clearest of all the rooms since all of its walls can be traced. It would have faced out on a road to the E, in the area of Rm 474 and Rm 476. None of its walls shows any trace of a doorway, but this is probably because only foundations are preserved. There is a narrow wall in its E end. This may be a partition wall or an internal step. Its S wall is the only double-stone wall in the building.

Rm 491 would be the N long room. Its W and S walls are clear, and its E wall seems to continue that of Rm 475. Its N wall was destroyed when the wide Stratum 1 wall of small packed stones between it and Rm 478 was constructed. There may also have been an internal step or partition wall similar to that in Rm 475. Bn 372 is just W of the center of the room. It too seems to be cut by the Stratum 1 wall. It probably belongs with Building 125.06 since its W wall seems to connect with the S wall of Rm 491, but it could have been an earlier feature preserved below the floor level of the building.

Rm 483 would be the S long room. Only its N wall with Rm 475 is clear, though a few stones following the line of the W wall of Rm 475 probably mark Rm 483's W limit too. Its E wall is cut by another wide Stratum 1 wall made of small packed stones. Its S limit is cut by the N wall of Building 125.01, and also probably was lost to erosion since bedrock is quite high there. There are two "cup-marks" in the bedrock, and also a short thin wall fragment. It cannot be determined if the "cup-marks" are contemporary with the building, or are earlier or later. A narrow partition wall runs S from the N wall and seems in line with the E face of a drop in the bedrock. The W end of this room would have been higher and access would have been by a stair or two.

Rm 484 is the broad back room. Only its E wall is preserved at

all. Its N and W walls, however, may have followed approximately the lines of the two wide Stratum 1 walls made of small packed stones. The S limit of the room is lost on the high bedrock and also seems to have been cut by the construction of Rm 487, which seems to have been a kiln, though it is not described as one (or even discussed at all) in the 1947 report.

Rm 486 is an ill-defined space which originally probably included parts of Rm 483 and Rm 484.

Dating of Building 125.06 -

The building is of single stone construction, but it cannot be connected with any other buildings in its vicinity. Even its orientation is uncertain. Since it is cut by buildings of Stratum 2 and Stratum 1 it is a Stratum 3 structure. It was likely founded in 3C and went out of use by the end of 3A.

Function of Building 125.06 -

Its plans and remains are too fragmentary to reach any clear decision. If the "cup-marks" could be assigned to this building it might have had some industrial use. However, since this is uncertain it is best to consider this a domestic structure.

Building 125.07 -

This is a building to which no rooms can be assigned. It is a collection of walls which likely belong to a large Stratum 1 structure which is preserved only in its foundations. The general characteristic of its walls is that they are wider than those of Strata 2 or 3, and are

composed of small well-packed stones. Many of these walls cut features of Strata 2 and 3. It is not possible to discuss the building's plan since so little of it survives. All that can be offered here is a list of the walls which can be assigned to it:

1. W wall of Rm 474 and Rm 476
2. N wall of Rm 474 and Rm 479
3. E wall of Rm 480
4. N wall of Rm 484 and Rm 491
5. W wall of Rm 484
6. W wall of Rm 485?
7. W wall of Rm 496?
8. W wall of Rm 495?
9. E wall of Rm 490
10. S wall of Rm 490

It is likely that this building also reused walls of buildings from Strata 2 and 3 in its foundations, but it is not possible to determine which of these were so used.

Crossroad: Rm 644 -

This is part of a crossroad which can be traced with some certainty from Z19 on the E to AB16 on the W. Over much of its course in Plan 125 and Plan 142 it is cut by walls of Stratum 2 buildings. It continues W as Rm 653 and Rm 671 in Plan 142. It almost certainly forms an intersection with a S extension of Rm 669 in Plan 124, which is a continuation of the Stratum 3 ringroad. It also likely forms an intersection with an unnumbered road leading S in Z-AA19 (see Plan 126 and Plan 143).

McClellan discusses this road, and its extensions, in some detail.⁷⁵⁹ He reaches essentially the same conclusions as advocated in this report, i.e. that a road stretched from Building 125.02 on the E to Building 141.02 on the W, and that two versions of the ringroad branched off it to the N, one at Rm 669, the other at Rm 394 (in Plan 141). McClellan has the E end of Rm 644 branch off to the S just E of Building 125.02; as will be seen in the discussion of Building 126.01, there is a branch to the S, but it is ca. 7.0-8.0 m E of where McClellan puts it. Also, he extends the road farther W, into Rm 388.

Other Features:

Rm 487 mentioned above, is probably a kiln. On the plan, and from a very distant view of it in P 1295, it has the same basic plan as K1 106 in AM20: "key hole"-shaped, with some sort of internal lining, and a short central wall which supported the floor of the firing chamber. It seems to cut one of the Stratum 1 walls, but is perhaps built-up next to another, which would make it one of the latest features in the area. It is oriented to the E like the kilns N of the outer gate. Unfortunately this installation is not discussed anywhere in the 1947 report.⁷⁶⁰

Rm 657 is a number assigned to an out crop in the bedrock between Building 125.01 and Building 125.03. Possibly there was a building here in Stratum 3, but no trace of its survives.

Rm 495 and Rm 496 are in Y16 and appear in P 1295. The remains are fragmentary and seem to be a jumble of walls from Strata 3 to 1. A small stone mortar ca. 50 cm high, 45 cm across and 23 cm deep was found. The

⁷⁵⁹"Planning," pp. 59-61, 64, fig. 7.

⁷⁶⁰Could it have produced wine jars for use with the two grape presses also assigned to Stratum 1?

intersection of a drain and a feeder channel was also found, with three in situ cap stones.

Rm 478, Rm 480, Rm 481, Rm 482, Rm 488, Rm 489, and Rm 490 are a series of "rooms" in X17-18 which cannot be grouped into coherent building plans. Nor can they be assigned to specific strata since walls of different types are used to mark off these areas. They belong to Strata 3 and 2, but that is all that can be said.

Rm 474, Rm 476 and Rm 479 are N of Building 125.01. There is a narrow partition wall at the E end of Rm 476, possibly marking a small storage bin. Possibly Rm 476 is a crude storage and/or service area attached to Building 125.01. If so, perhaps Rm 474 and Rm 479 were also part of a N annex belonging to the same building. Unfortunately Stratum 1 remains cross the area making any such determination impossible.