

Plan 126: X-Y-Z,19-20-21 - Overview

No remains of either Stratum 4 or Stratum 5 were discerned. Especially interesting is the complete lack of rock-cut installations found in the N and S parts of the site.

Stratum 3C is represented by the fragmentary remains of a 3-Room building, and possibly by a few scattered walls.

No clear remains of 3B or 3A could be traced. Since remains of these strata are represented mainly by rebuilds or modifications of 3C it is not surprising, given the small exposure of 3C, that no material assignable to the latter part of Stratum 3 was found.

Stratum 2 is attested by what appears to be an E annex to Building 125.01, and by a few scattered walls.

Stratum 1 is represented by a wall of a tower-like structure which is discussed in Plan 109.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated primarily in 1935, in the first and last quarters of that season; a sliver of it was cleared in 1927. X20 was cleared in 1927; Y19 was excavated early in 1935 and Z19 in the last part of 1935. The area between the 1935 sections is crossed by a rubble heap. Rubble heaps also cover most of X19 and X-Y-Z,20-21. P 1295 and P 1457 indicate that bedrock is very close to the surface here. Architectural remains are thus fragmentary, and more so the farther to the N one goes. It is not clear if excavation in these unexcavated areas would yield much undisturbed material. Bottom levels for almost all

rooms, and top elevations for about half the walls are available. There are only a few useful photographs.

Building 126.01: Rm 633, Rm 634, Rm 639, Rm 639a -

This is apparently a 3-Room type building. Its plan is fragmentary, but enough is available for a successful reconstruction. It is oriented W-E and likely faced out on a road running N-S. This N-S road would have intersected with an E extension of road Rm 644 (Plan 125) somewhere along the E edge of Z19. The E extension of road Rm 644 is lost due to the construction of Stratum 2 buildings N of Building 126.01. The building is uniformly single-stone work.

Rm 633 is the S long room. It seems to be unpaved. Typically Iron Age houses have paved roofed areas and unpaved courtyards. Since Rm 634 is paved, Rm 633 may be a courtyard. The E end of the room is lost due to the construction of a late (Stratum 2 or possibly 1) wall which marks the W limit of Rm 635. The room seems to have been somewhat trapezoidal. A gap in its E wall probably marks a doorway into the back room Rm 639a and Rm 639. The plan shows a sharp 30 cm drop at the W end of the wall between Rm 633 and Rm 634. Unfortunately no photograph shows this area, so it is difficult to judge if this marks a narrow (ca. 45 cm) doorway, or not. It is possible that only foundations survive here and that no doorway was preserved at all. Alternatively, the doorway may have been in the demolished E end of the room.

Rm 634 is the N long room and is said to have a paved stone floor. This may be the irregular section of stones visible in the N part of this chamber in P 1457. Like Rm 633 its E end was lost due to the construction of the late wide wall marking the W limit of Rm 635. Its original N wall was lost when the S walls of Rm 638 and Rm 637 were

built. However, Rm 634's N wall must have followed approximately the line of the N wall of Building 125.02 (Plan 125), which would place it roughly where the late walls now run. No sign of any doorways are preserved to either Rm 633 or Rm 639, but this is probably because only foundations survived here.

Rm 639 and Rm 639a together comprise the back room. They are separated by a partition wall, which according to the plan contains a threshold. This doorway is not visible in P 1457. Like Rm 634, the N wall of Rm 639 is cut by the S wall of Rm 638. Both rooms share their W wall with Rm 640 of Building 125.02. Rm 639a's doorway with Rm 633 was discussed above. Bade's diary for June 8, 1935 note that much crushed pottery was found in Rm 639a, as if a roof had fallen on it.

Dating of Building 126.01 -

The building shares single-stone walls with buildings on two sides. It is also apparently at an intersection with a Stratum 3 crossroad and a sort of "ridgeroad" running along the spine of the town. This suggests a foundation in 3C. There is no evidence for internal modifications. It is cut on the N by a wall probably of Stratum 2, and on the E by another wall of Stratum 2 or 1. This indicates that the building went out of use by the end of 3A.

Function of Building 126.01 -

There is nothing to indicate other than a domestic use for this building.

East Annex for Building 125.01?: Rm 472, Rm 473, Rm 638, possibly Rm 470 and Rm 637 -

The walls of Rm 472, Rm 473 and Rm 638 are aligned similarly to, and built in a technique much the same as Building 125.01. Unfortunately the doorway of Building 125.01 which would best demonstrate the connection between the two areas is below the E to W rubble heap.

Rm 638 appears in detail in P 1452; this photograph shows how the bedrock was roughly smoothed to form a floor for this chamber. How far to the N this use of bedrock continues cannot be determined from the photographs, though Plan 125 may indicate traces of bedrock along the W wall of Rm 473. The construction of the S wall of Rm 638 probably demolished the N wall of Building 126.01. Its E wall with Rm 637 is wider than the other walls of Building 125.01, and looks like the Stratum 1 walls in Plan 125 which are made of small well-packed stones. Also, the S wall of Rm 637 is wider than the S wall of Rm 638, though it continues the same line. Nor is the S wall of Rm 638 dovetailed into the walls of Rm 637. It may be that the Rm 637 is actually part of a Stratum 1 building reusing part of Building 125.01, or a late Stratum 2 addition to Building 125.01. The evidence to decide the issue is not at present available.

Rm 473 appears in P 1295. This photograph may show that the scrappy little wall which appears on the plan between Rm 472 and Rm 473 is only a poorly preserved part of a more substantial wall. Its E wall with Rm 470 is also not well-preserved, but it does not look like a continuation of the wall now marking the E limit of Rm 638.

Rm 472 is not clear. Its E and N walls are fragmentary. Its W wall is a continuation of the E wall of the core part of Building 125.01. This wall makes a good corner to the E (and perhaps continuing N as well), but then disappears, and just to the S is another short wall section which ends right where the N continuation of Rm 472's E wall is

expected. Either the N wall of Rm 472 made a jag to the S here before continuing E, or this is a later modification, or is part of some even later, poorly preserved structure.

Rm 637 was discussed above in connection with Rm 638. It may be connected with Building 125.01, but its walls are wider and not directly bonded into Rm 638, and so it could be a late Stratum 2 addition, or belong to Stratum 1.

Rm 470's walls are ill-preserved, but seem to match the technique of Building 125.01. However, the area suffered so much from erosion that no conclusion can be reached.

Dating of East Annex of Building 125.01 -

If these rooms are connected with Building 125.01 they belong to Stratum 2. In any event, they are later than Stratum 3 since they cut walls of that Stratum (Rm 638), and are at a different alignment.

Function of East Annex of Building 125.01 -

If these rooms are connected to Building 125.01 they may be storage or work areas, while the core 4-Room building was the dwelling area.

Other Features -

Rm 635 is a space bounded by walls from different periods. Its N wall may be a continuation of the S wall of Rm 637 but it is set off slightly more to the S. Its W walls is composed of small, well-packed stones similar to the Stratum 1 walls in Plan 125. It is also similar to

the S wall of Rm 637, so possibly they are connected. Its E and S walls are single-stone work and might well be survivals from Stratum 3. The S wall might in part be a continuation of the S wall of Rm 633. The E wall forms a corner with another wall running off to the SE. Above it was suggested that the area of Rm 635 also marks the area where a N-S "ridgeroad" intersected with an E extension of road Rm 644. This "ridgeroad" likely continued S to intersect with an E extension of road Rm 627 in Plan 143.

Rm 471 is too poorly preserved to be certain that it is anything more than a jumble of walls from different strata, possibly 3A and later.