

Plan 127: X-Y-Z,22-23-24 - Overview

No remains of Stratum 5 or Stratum 4 were discerned.

Remains of Stratum 3C likely once existed here, probably parts of the casemate-like wall, but no certain trace of them survives. It is possible that two caves were in use by this time, if not in Stratum 4. Two sections of wall which would be outside the 3C town may belong to this period.

Remains of Stratum 3B are also difficult trace. Almost certainly a wall connecting the W parts of the inner and outer gate ran through here. There were probably other buildings which have not survived.

Stratum 3A is also uncertain in this area.

Remains of Stratum 2 are the clearest and most extensive in the area. Sections of two dwellings, possibly of the 4-Room variety were discerned, as well as fragments of other structures likely of this period. A drain may also have been constructed at this time, or in 3B. The two caves may have been in use again in this stratum.

Stratum 1 is attested by remains of two distinct but fragmentary phases. The earlier phase probably witnessed the last use of the caves. The later phase is represented by a wall and corner of a large building, which however is too incomplete to reconstruct.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated at the very end of the 1927 season and the early part of the 1932 campaign. X-Y,22-23-24 were cleared in the early

season, and Z22-23-24 were cleared in the latter. There are only a few photographs of the N squares (none of them very clear), and a few general views toward, or inside, the two caves (see P 233 for a good view of the scarp). Also, the area from about the middle of X-Y24 and E was never excavated, which explains why walls running E from X-Y23 stop as though cut by a later feature. The area W of the rock-scarp running roughly diagonally NE to SW from X22 to Y23 was not excavated; approximately half of it is under a rubble heap and probably much of the rest was exposed bedrock, though this is not shown on the plan.

The S section is better-documented photographically, especially from the middle of Z23 and E. However, there are no photographs which show details of the buildings to the W of this line. About half the rooms have bottom elevations, and about half the walls have top levels; there are also a few bottom levels for walls. This area occupies the middle ground between the inner and outer gates; the analysis of its stratigraphy must make constant reference to areas in Plan 93 and Plan 110 to the N, and Plan 144 and Plan 145 to the S.

Building 127.01: Rm 97, Rm 106, Rm 108 -

This may be the remains of a 4-Room type building. Its plan, however, is extremely fragmentary and may well be only foundations. There is no sign of a doorway in any of its walls. Its N part is on Plan 110 and was excavated in a test trench in 1927; none of the features in that trench were numbered. Its S part was cleared in the last days of the 1927 season. The E and SE sections are under unexcavated debris, as is a small piece in the NW. However, enough is available to offer a reasonable outline of the building. The only photograph of this area is P A371, which shows only the test trench; for the more extensively cleared S area there are P A431 and P A432.

First it should be noted that the walls of Building 127.01 are comparable in construction technique to those of Building 110.01, a 4-Room building complex to the N. In both are found substantial walls of large single stones laid one stone wide, and smaller stones usually laid two across. Further, the dimensions of the front parts (i.e. excluding the broad back room) of each structure are similar. Building 110.01 is ca. 10.0 m wide by 9.8 m deep; Building 127.01 is ca. 10.5 m wide by 10.0 m deep. The interior depth of the back room for the former is ca. 2.5 m, for the latter it is ca. 2.0 m. Each is also built over the wall which connected the W parts of the inner and outer gates. Finally, a short section of wall extending perpendicularly from the N wall of Building 127.01 is aligned with a similar section running S from Building 110.01. All of this suggests that these two buildings belong to the same stratum.

Rm 108 is the only number assigned to the area of the front of the building. Its N and W walls are a mix of single- and double-stone work. Its S wall with Rm 97 and Rm 106 is single-stone work. Its E wall is in an unexcavated area. Its W wall, and part of the N wall are founded on the stump of the wall which once connected the west parts of the inner and outer gates. This early wall can be seen in fig. 57 of the 1947 report and in P A371. The 1947 report notes that most of the "loci" above this early (3B) wall could be dated 600-450 B.C.⁷⁶¹ This early wall is every bit as massive as the offset-inset wall which connects the E parts of the two gates. Two stones project S from the N wall of Rm 108; these may be remains of an interior wall within Rm 108, or possibly the remains of an inset in the massive early wall, or both. It is possible that the stump of the early wall served as the foundation for two later walls, such as also seem to have occurred with the E and W walls of Rm

⁷⁶¹I, 201.

379 in Building 110.01. The N wall seems to be built over an earlier drain, which itself crosses over an earlier wall. The W wall is cut by a wide wall built of small packed stones.

The plans show two circular installations in Rm 108. The first is in the NW corner; it measures ca. 1.2 m across and was ca. 10 cm deep, there is no way of determining its height. The second is in about the middle of the W wall; it is ca. 1.0 m across and ca. 40 cm deep, no height can be determined. These installations are not discussed in the 1947. They are drawn according to conventions used elsewhere on the plans to denote stone basins and tannurs. However, fig. 57 in the 1947 report shows a section through the installation in the NW corner, and this shows it to be a flat basin. P A432 is said to be an oven in the N part of the tell. P A431 shows the area of X-Y,23-24, and so it is likely that P A432 shows the second installation in Rm 108.

Although the E portion of Rm 108 was not excavated it is possible to suggest, given the preserved dimensions of the building, that the front part of Building 127.01 (Rm 108) contained two long rooms flanking a central court.

Rm 97 and Rm 106 together make up the broad back room of Building 127.01. They are separated from each other by a thin single-stone partition wall. Its W wall is an extension of the W wall of Rm 108 and is cut by the E wall of Building 127.02; its N wall with Rm 108 was described above. The S wall is wider double-stone work than found in any other part of the structure. The E half of the back room was not excavated.

Dating of Building 127.01 -

The building is built in the intramural debris area which makes it at least 3B. Further, it is built over the 3B wall which connects the W parts of the inner and outer gates. Originally it was probably linked with Building 110.01 to the N, which is similarly related to the 3B defenses. All of this suggests a founding date in Stratum 2. The W wall of Rm 97 is cut by the E wall of Building 127.02, and this later wall is in turn cut by the wide wall of small packed stones, which itself cuts the W wall of Rm 108. This wide wall is the latest feature in the area; it runs roughly parallel with a wall on the N edge of W22, but no direct connection between the two can be established. This evidence suggests that Building 127.01 went out of use by the end of Stratum 2, and that two phases of Stratum 1 are represented here.

Function of Building 127.01 -

The building contained a tannur/oven and apparently a stone installation of some sort; however, the building's condition is in general so fragmentary that it is difficult to decide if it had an industrial or domestic role, or perhaps both.

Building 127.02 Rm 101, Rm 105, Tb 168 -

This building consists of two "rooms" and an associated cave. The true extent of this structure is unknown because it is very fragmentary. The only doorway preserved is into Tb 168.

Rm 101 is a large room; Rm 111 is really only a small N extension which is cut off from the rest of Rm 101 by the late wide wall made of small packed stones. The W wall of Rm 101 is a single course wide of small and medium size stones built as a facing against the scarp wall in which Tb 168 is found. This facing exists N and S of the cave opening.

There is a small landing at the top of the stairway which leads down into the cave. Its N wall, and that of Rm 111, is also single stone work, but the plan is not clear enough to show if this also is a facing against a natural rock outcrop, or is a free-standing wall. There are no photographs of this area. If the wall is free-standing it is very thin and perhaps its true width is not preserved. It cannot be determined if there was any connection to the space numbered Rm 112. The E wall is drawn as a single stone in width, but with hatching. The hatching indicates either that other stones were found in the areas so shaded but not drawn, or that the excavators believed the wall was originally as thick as the hatching suggests and have so reconstructed it. This E wall cuts across the wall which separates Rm 98 from Rm 105, and Rm 99 from Rm 100. This shows that Building 127.01 and Building 127.05 are both earlier than Building 127.02. Its S wall is the 1.6 m wide piece of wall which seems to be constructed as a E extension of the natural rock outcrop between Rm 100 and Rm 102.

Tb 167 and Tb 168 were designated "tombs" when they were first discovered because they bore a superficial resemblance to other cave tombs uncovered at Tell en-Nasbeh. However, their interiors bear no resemblance to the other Early Bronze I, Iron Age and later tombs excavated, nor did they contain any bones or typical tomb furnishings. They are probably natural features adapted for human use. Tb 168 is connected with Rm 101 and Rm 111 to the E and is discussed here; Tb 167 will be treated below.

Tb 168 is connected by ten steps to Rm 101; these descend ca. 1.52 m from upper to lower landing. The steps seem, from the plan, to be constructed of stones, not carved from the natural rock. The floor is uneven, descending another 1.62 m to the lowest point in the cave. It consists of two irregular chambers. The larger, outer chamber is ca. 7.0

m wide by 6.5 m deep; the smaller, back chamber is ca. 4.0 m wide by 4.5 m deep. P 236 shows the exterior of this cave.

Dating of Building 127.02 -

It cuts across two buildings of Stratum 2 and is in turn cut by a wall with the characteristic small packed stone construction typical of some Stratum 1 buildings. Theoretically it could belong to a late phase of Stratum 2, or an early phase of Stratum 1. Since the remains of Stratum 2 from the inner to outer gate have a fairly coherent plan it seems best to assign this structure to Stratum 1.

Tb 168 may have a long occupational history. Although in its last use it probably belongs to the beginning of Stratum 1, it did contain pottery suggestive of use beginning in the earliest part of Iron II (if not Iron I). If, as suggested, the original town wall ran west of the scarp above the "tombs," this cave was outside the Stratum 3C town, and probably outside that of Stratum 4 as well. In this early phase Tb 168 (and Tb 167) could have served as a primary dwelling, or perhaps as storage/service space connected with extramural 3C buildings. When the 3B wall which connected the W parts of the inner and outer gates was constructed it likely made access to the cave more difficult, perhaps making its use more limited. Once the builders of the Stratum 2 4-Room building complexes had removed most of the massive 3B wall access to the cave would have been much easier. The cave was cleaned up and reused, perhaps again as a storage/service area in connection with Building 127.01 of Stratum 2, and later with Rm 101 and Rm 105 in Stratum 1. The 1947 report is rather vague on the dating of this cave. It seems to suggest that it belongs to the Hellenistic, perhaps into the Byzantine

periods.⁷⁶²

Function of Building 127.02 -

Since the true extent of this building is not known its function is not certain either. The structure as it is preserved consists of one large room and a cave. This is not typical of a dwelling, so perhaps the building served some more specialized role.

The 1932 Excavations in Z22-23-24 -

Here it is necessary to discuss the general topography of the area between the two gates and its relationship to the interpretation of the remains in Z22-23-24 and to the S.

The discussion of Plan 93 and Plan 110 above has shown that the 3B town wall continued S from the W tower of what in this report has been called the outer gate. Portions of this wall, every bit as massive as the Stratum 3B wall which connects the E tower of the outer gate with the E piers of the inner gate, were shown to continue below Building 110.01 and Building 127.01. The only certain elevations for this immense wall are a base elevation of 774.96 and top preserved level of 776.12 in W23. Plan 127 and Plan 144 show no trace of this connecting wall farther S than W23. Excavation in this S area, however, reached a maximum depth of 777.03 in Y24, over 1.0 m above the highest preserved elevation to the N. It is therefore quite likely that had excavation continued down ca. 1.0-2.0 m in the S remains of the connecting wall would have been encountered.

⁷⁶²I, 185-186.

The significance of this is that all the remains exposed in Z22-23-24, and to the S, must be Stratum 3A, or later.

Another point which needs to be considered is the relation of the inner gate, Building 145.01, to the remains N of it. Elevations on the stumps of the gate's walls are: 780.55, 779.37, 779.91, 780.01 and 779.57. These should be compared with those on the stone-paved floors of Rm 331 and Rm 326 of Building 144.01: 778.23 and ca. 778.34, and the minimum elevations for the floor level in Building 127.03 (discussed below): 779.93 (bedrock) and 780.53. Also the S wall of Building 144.01 seems to make use of part of the N wall of the inner gate. Finally, stairs lead down into Building 144.01 from the level of the plaza W of the inner gate.

This data indicates that Building 144.01 was "dug in" next to the inner gate at a time when the gate was no longer in use. This means a date in Stratum 2 or later. The issue next to be resolved is the phasing of the architecture NW, N and NE of Building 144.01.

Instead of discussing Building 127.03 in Z-AA,22-23 first, it is necessary to examine the miscellaneous features to its E. This is of primary importance for understanding Building 127.03 itself. These features will be discussed from lowest to highest.

The lowest features are the drain canal which curves from N to SW in Y-Z24, and the 1.7 m wide wall running N-S which abuts it on the W. All other walls in this area either float directly above these two features, or are at a higher elevation. The drain almost certainly is the same one uncovered in W24 and R-S24 to the N. P 160 shows this drain below (or cut by?) the Stratum 2 Building 127.01. This means that the drain itself must be Stratum 2 or earlier, but not earlier than 3B

because there would have been no use for a drain in the 3C or 4 extramural area. If this channel was intended to provide drainage on the E side of the 3B town, it is a little disconcerting that instead of continuing S through the inner gate it suddenly bends here to the W and ends abruptly at a wall. Most perplexing of all is that the drain canal crosses over the presumed course of the 3B wall which would have connected the W parts of the inner and outer gates.

There are two possibilities here. The first is that the drain originally did run through the inner gate, but later building activity on the area destroyed all trace of it and the course of the channel was turned to the W. Note especially that the S wall of the drain is missing just where it begins to bend to the W. Note also that a small section of drain was found just S of the inner gate which might have connect with the section under discussion.⁷⁶³ Another possibility is that water was funneled around the inner gate to the W and somehow fed into the drain as it was found by the excavators.

The problem is compounded by the presence of the 1.7 m wide wall which the drain abuts. Clearly many walls cross over this wall. Like the drain it cross over the area where the wall connecting the two gates on the W should be. There are two possible relations for the wall and the drain. Either the wall cuts the drain, or the drain reaches the wall. Unfortunately excavation does not seem to have reached the level of the drain channel to the W of the wide wall. If the stone at the W end of the drain is taken as part of some down spout for the drain, it would indicate the contemporaneity of the drain and the wall.

⁷⁶³The drain S of the gate is slightly lower than that N of the gate (777.60 vs 777.44), which means that water would have flown into the town through the gate if the two sections are connected. However, many of the elevations S of the gate had to be corrected upwards by a meter. No correction was made on the drain, but possibly such an emendation should be.

It may be that the 1.7 m wide wall is a retaining wall for the Stratum 2 buildings above it, and that it is built over the 3B wall connecting the two gates on the W. The drain could have served the 3B-3A gate complex, and then been modified in Stratum 2. Below it is suggested that the area around Rm 330 might have been a courtyard or plaza for the Stratum 2 buildings around it. If so, perhaps the drain collected runoff from W of the 1.7 m wide retaining wall and the plaza area and channeled it out through the outer gate.

Rm 340 is a stairway of four steps which leads from the 1.7 m wide retaining wall associated with the drain up past the NE corner of Building 127.03 into the space marked Rm 338. This is not clear from the plan, and is better seen on P 835. The S wall of Rm 340 runs across the top of the 1.7 m wide wall associated with the drain and is preserved at least two courses high. The N wall of this room sits on a low rock projection (possibly remains of quarrying?).

Rm 337 is an ill-defined area. It shares its N wall with Rm 340 and its W wall with Building 127.03. On the E is the 1.7 m wide wall associated with the drain, a short stretch of wall at about the same elevation as the S wall of Rm 340, and the wall which separates Rm 337 from Rm 329. This latter wall floats above the level of the short wall extending N from it and the S wall of Rm 340. Rm 337 seems linked to Building 144.01 by a N extension of that building's W wall, which is built against the E wall of Building 127.03, Building 144.01, and Rm 340. There does not seem to have been a passage way between it and Building 144.01; the walls between them are preserved too high for that. Possibly Rm 337 in some way allowed access to Building 127.03, perhaps by means of a now lost stairway. Or possibly it was connected with a building extending from it to the E which is now lost. If, as discussed below, Building 127.03 is a 4-Room type building, an entrance in the

vicinity of Rm 337 would be expected. The 1947 report seems to realize that Rm 337 was some sort of space to the N of Building 144.01.⁷⁶⁴

If the above suggestions are accepted, it is likely that Rm 337 and Rm 340 belong to Stratum 2 in their earliest phase. The construction of Building 127.04 of Stratum 1 probably destroyed some elements of this stratum.

Building 127.03: Rm 333, Rm 334, Rm 335, Rm 336 -

This seems to be the remains of a 4-Room building; its S half is on Plan 144. No near views or detail photographs were taken of this area. P 833 shows the N part of the building well. P 838 shows the E wall of this building, and its relations to other features there; P 835 shows a view across the area, but at a level even with the tops of the walls. Virtually the only clear documentation of the building comes from the plans. For some reason, the builders of this structure were compelled to build its E end over steeply sloping ground. In Rm 335 and Rm 336 there is a drop of over 1.0 m in 2.0 m. Its plan may be slightly trapezoidal, but this is difficult to establish from the incomplete remains. Its walls are mixed construction, somewhat like those of Building 110.01. No doorways can be discerned, but probably these are foundations with only a single course of preserved superstructure.

Rm 333 and Rm 334 make up the S long room on Plan 144. Rm 334 is said to have a paved floor, but this is not visible in any photograph.

Rm 333 was excavated ca. 1.56 m lower than Rm 334. It has two E walls; the one more to the W continues to the N as the E wall of Rm 335

⁷⁶⁴I, 214.

and Rm 336. The one more to the E is shorter and extends only the width of Rm 333. This shorter wall is also preserved to a lower level and is connected to the N wall of Building 144.01. It is uncertain if the shorter E wall originally extended farther N and is only incompletely preserved. It is also not certain what purpose this shorter wall originally served. Perhaps as Building 127.03 was being constructed it was realized that its SE corner needed reinforcing and this additional wall was constructed. It may be that Rm 333's S single-stone wall is more directly associated with the shorter E wall than with the longer wall which makes up the E side of the building. The S wall continues to the W in Rm 334 where it becomes mainly double-stone. Perhaps its original width in Rm 333 is not preserved. It is separated from Rm 334 and Rm 335 by walls of mixed work.

Rm 334's plan shows patches of cobbles at two points, these are presumably sections of the stone paving. Only short sections of its N wall with Rm 335 and the W wall with the unnumbered room to the W are preserved. All the walls are mixed work. It is not clear what the relation of the N wall of Rm 284 on Plan 144 to the S is with the S wall of Rm 334. They seem to run almost, but not quite parallel to each other.

Rm 336 is the N long room. Only its E, S and half its N walls are completely traceable. The W wall is missing all together. It is not certain if the stairs in Rm 340 are in any way connected with this room.

Rm 335 is the central long room; since it is wider than the rooms to N and S it may have been an open courtyard. There is no trace of any pillars along the N and S walls, such as were found in Building 110.01. Its walls are mixed single- and double-stone work. Only the N and E walls can be completely traced. However, the line of its W wall matches

that of Rm 334 to the S. A short section of wall extends S from its N wall; how far it extended in that direction, and what its purpose was, are both uncertain. Typically 4-Room buildings have an entrance way in the central long room. Probably none can be traced here because only foundations have survived. However, it is troubling that there is a 1.0 to 2.0 m difference in elevation between Rm 337 to the E and the approximate floor level of Rm 335. If the entrance were on the E a stairway up to Rm 335 would be expected. The stairway which Rm 340 seems to be apparently goes up to the W, and then N around Rm 336, not toward Rm 335. It may be that the expected stairway has not survived.

The unnumbered space W of Rm 334's and Rm 335's W walls is likely the building's back broad room. Its reconstructed length and width are close to those of Building 110.01's and Building 145.02's back rooms. The construction of its W wall is different from most of the walls of the building; it is composed of small stones. However, it is somewhat similar to that of the E walls of Rm 333.

Another possibility is that Building 127.03 ends on the W with the W walls of Rm 334 and Rm 335, and that the unnumbered space beyond these walls is actually a road, and the wall beyond part of another building. In other words, Building 127.03 could have been a 3-Room building with no back room. Unfortunately there is no evidence to decide the issue conclusively. However, the length of this building is similar to that of Building 110.01 and this report favors a reconstruction as a 4-Room building.

Dating of Building 127.03 -

The building shares a wall with Building 144.01, which in part is built over the 3B inner gate. Since the gate likely continued to the end

of Stratum 3, it is likely that Building 144.01 is a Stratum 2 construction, and the same applies to Building 127.03. The relations with Building 144.01 are described in greater depth under that building. Building 127.03 could have continued into Stratum 1 since there are no later remains cutting it, though such later remains could also have eroded away.

Function of Building 127.03 -

There is nothing to indicate other than a domestic role for this building. It does not seem to have any "extra" rooms such as were found in Building 110.01, Building 125.01 and perhaps Building 145.02. Like all of the Stratum 2 dwellings, it is larger than most of the dwellings of Stratum 3.

Building 127.04: Rm 327?, Rm 328, Rm 329 -

This is a very poorly preserved building; only a few walls at all survive. It may reuse walls of the inner gate Building 144.01 as foundations.

Rm 329 is enclosed on W, N and E by double-stone walls preserved only one course high. However, they float above all the other walls in the area. It is not clear from the plan, or any photograph, if the W wall cuts/crosses over the S wall. This S wall was originally the N wall of Building 144.01; it would form a good S boundary for Rm 329. P 837 seems to show the wall between Rm 329 and Rm 328 preserved to the same levels as the walls bounding these two spaces.

Rm 328 is an E continuation of Rm 329. Both the plan, P 835 and P 837 show what may be a threshold in the N wall of Rm 328. Its S wall is

probably a reuse of the N wall of Rm 324 of Building 144.01. The E end of this room did not survive, so its extent in that direction is unknown.

Rm 327's early phase as part of Building 144.01 is discussed under that plan. Here it will only be noted that the wall between Rm 327 and Rm 322 is the same as the W wall of Rm 328; i.e. it is a later construction. This wall then turns a corner to the E, running along the N face of the pillar wall between Rm 327 and Rm 326. The E extent of this late phase use of Rm 327 did not survive.

The 1947 report seems to realize that Rm 328 and Rm 329 belonged at some point to Building 144.01.⁷⁶⁵ This report suggests that these rooms post-date Building 144.01, but that this area, in Stratum 2, could have been a courtyard or other annex connected to Building 144.01

Dating of Building 127.04 -

This building crosses over and/or cuts buildings of Stratum 2. It may also reuse walls of that stratum. This shows that the building is solely a construction of Stratum 1.

Function of Building 127.04 -

The role of this building is undeterminable. Only fragments of its foundations have survived.

Building 127.05?: Rm 98, Rm 99, Rm 100, Rm 105, Rm 107 -

⁷⁶⁵I, 214.

The grouping of these rooms together into a single building is not certain. However, they do seem to share walls, are oriented the same way, are attached to the back of Building 127.01, and are cut by Building 127.02. There are no photographs for this area. No doorways could be traced; probably only foundations survive. The walls vary widely in construction technique. Only P A431 shows any part of this area.

Rm 98 and Rm 107 seem to be part of one room; the wall which separates them is on a line with the E face of the wall which connects the W parts of the inner and outer gates in W23. Note that the N and S walls of these rooms are built over this "partition" wall. The E continuation of Rm 107 was not excavated. The W wall of Rm 98 is cut across by the E wall of Building 127.02; it is only preserved one course wide, but it is not certain if this was its original width.

Rm 105 is W of Rm 98 and Rm 107. It is on the same orientation, but its walls are constructed differently than its neighbors on the E. Its N and W walls are single-stone work; the N wall to the E is double-stone. Its S wall is a double-stone wall composed of small stones; the S wall to the E is single-stone mixed with double-stone work. As mentioned above, the true nature of the wall between Rm 105 and Rm 98 is uncertain because of the wall cutting across it. All this suggests that Rm 105 (and Rm 100 with it) may be an addition to the main structure. Note also that the W wall is not built flush against the rock scarp.

Rm 100 seems to be a S extension of Rm 105. It shares its N wall with Rm 105, and its E wall seems to be the same construction technique as Rm 105. Its W wall is composed of a short section of double-stone wall, and then the natural rock scarp. It is difficult to determine from a plan alone, but the scarp here may be partially cut or quarried, it

seems far too angular at this point to be natural. If the E wall were continued S it would reach the E extension of the rock scarp. However, the 1.6 m wide wall which forms the S wall of Rm 101 seems to cut the southward continuation of this E wall.

Rm 99 seems to be part of a room S of Rm 98 and Rm 107. It is separated from an unnumbered and partially excavated space to the E by a narrow single stone wall. This wall does not quite reach the N wall of Rm 99, so it is not certain if this is a truly contemporary wall. Its W part is cut over by the E wall of Building 127.02. It is not clear if the wall it shares with Rm 100 on the W is completely preserved, or was perhaps disturbed by the construction of the E wall of Building 127.02. Its SW corner is disturbed by the 1.6 m wide wall which forms the S limit of Building 127.02. Finally, it is not clear if Rm 99 is associated with Rm 104 to the S. The plan does not show any intervening walls or other features, but this area was excavated in only a few days at the end of the 1927 season when recording methods were not so rigorous. The two areas may be connected, and if so Building 127.05? continued much farther S than the limits assigned to it here.

Dating of Building 127.05? -

It is connected to another building likely of Stratum 2, and in any event is later than the 3B wall system over which it is probably built. It is also cut by a later wall, which also cuts its neighbor to the N. A life span limited to Stratum 2 seems warranted.

Function of Building 127.05? -

Not enough of the building or its surroundings survive to suggest any possible use.

Other Features -

Rm 102, Rm 103 and Rm 104 may be rooms or spaces connected with Building 127.05?, but which were not assigned to it for lack of clear connections. There is no sign of any doorway preserved between any of these spaces. Rm 102's W wall is the rock scarp. Unfortunately there are no elevations to indicate how vertical the scarp is here, though P A431 shows that it had not yet come to an end. The wall it shares with Rm 103 to the S and Rm 104 to the E seem to be essentially the same construction technique. The E wall seems to be crossed over at its N end by the 1.6 m wide wall which forms the S wall of Building 127.02. The E extension of Rm 104 was apparently not excavated, though part of the drain canal was found to its E. It is also not clear how completely the area of Rm 103 was excavated. It is odd that no trace of a continuation of the 1.7 m wide wall between Rm 330 and Rm 340 was found there. If Rm 102 and Rm 104 do belong to Building 127.05? perhaps Rm 103 is an area outside the building. All three features are post-Stratum 3, probably 2.

The "squarish" protrusions from the bedrock in Y24 and Z24 are unusual shapes. Perhaps they are the result of quarrying activity in the area associated with the wall which connected the W parts of the inner and outer gates.

Rm 112 is an ill-defined space N and W of Building 127.02. It is bounded on the W by two stone walls, one narrow, the other wide. Both of these walls seem to be cut by the wide Stratum 1 wall of small packed stones. This shows that there are several building phases in this small area, but their plans are too fragmentary to reconstruct. Rm 112 did contain what appears from the plan to be a stone basin ca. 70 cm across, ca. 55 cm high and ca. 25 cm deep. It was probably used in Strata 3 and 2, but how is unclear.

Tb 167 has already been mentioned in connection with Tb 168 above. P 213 shows the exterior of the cave, while P 234 shows part of the interior. It is ca. 6.0 m wide by 4.4 m deep. and has an irregular floor which drops a maximum of 3.73 m from the entrance to the lowest point in the cave. Its doorway is marked by single stone pillar. Unlike Tb 168 its doorway is not a narrow passage but a wide natural opening. Its occupational history is probably similar to that of Rm 168. Its role in Strata 4 and 3 cannot be determined; it could have been part of a dwelling or a service/storage area. The exterior walls to the E are probably from Stratum 2 and the early part of Stratum 1, and served to restrict access to the cave. The thick wall on the N edge of the cave probably served the same function. Perhaps in Stratum 2 it served as a service/storage area connected either with Building 110.01 or Building 127.01. The 1947 report seems to suggest that this cave was used from the Hellenistic into perhaps the Byzantine period.⁷⁶⁶

Rm 338 is apparently a number assigned to the bedrock exposed N of Building 127.03.

Si 339 is a rock-cut installation also N of Building 127.03. To the W in Z22 is what on the plan looks like an unnumbered rock-cut installation ca. 42 cm deep and ca. 70 cm across. It has no architectural context, and so it cannot be assigned to a stratum.

⁷⁶⁶I, 185-186.