

Plan 141: AA-AB-AC,13-14-15 - Overview

No remains which could be assigned to Stratum 5 were found.

Bedrock was reached in a few places, and uncovered several rock-cut installations. One is cut by a Stratum 3 wall, another blocks a Stratum 3 doorway. These two at least belong to Stratum 4. Others may have been cut in Stratum 4, and continued in use in later strata.

Traces of what may be the 3C casemate-like wall were found. Most of the buildings uncovered, three of the 4-Room type and two of the 3-Room type, were likely connected to this wall at an early stage in their history.

Remains of two bins, a possible drain and the offset-inset wall belong to Stratum 3B.

The walls built over the 3C casemate-like wall may belong to 3B or 3A. Modifications to the 3C buildings likely belong to Stratum 3A.

Stratum 2 is represented by a corner of Building 124.01 in AA14, and probably by a few foundations walls crossing over Stratum 3 structures, and which some times block off all access to Stratum 3 rooms. The offset-inset wall continued in use.

Only a part of one room can be assigned to Stratum 1. Its walls cross over the stump of the 3B offset-inset wall.

Evaluation

This area was excavated over two seasons. AA13-14, AB13-half of

AB15 and AC13 were cleared in 1932, mostly toward the end of that season; half of AB15 and AC14-15 were cleared in the latter half of the 1935 campaign. Most of AA15 was left untouched, mainly because of the presence of the end of a long rubble heap.

The area is well-documented photographically; often there are two different angles of the same set of features. Still, there are a few items which do not appear in any photograph. Although there are relatively few elevations on the plan, most, but not all, rooms have bottom levels, and most walls have at least top levels. There are no elevations for the offset-inset wall.

Building 141.01: Rm 393, Rm 395, Rm 396a, Rm 396b, Rm 397, unnumbered rooms, Ci 324, Si 327 -

Although rather fragmentary, this building appears in many photographs, especially its pillared wall. Its N wall is especially ill-preserved and difficult to define. The building seems to be an elaboration of a 4-Room type structure. McClellan essentially reconstructs this building along the lines presented below, though he erroneously assigns Rm 398 to Building 141.01 instead of Building 124.01⁷⁶⁹.

Rm 393 is the S long room. Its S wall is a mix of single-stone and narrow double-stone work; its E and W walls are mainly large single stones. P 1071 gives the impression that the inner face of the E wall might be part of the casemate-like wall, but this is uncertain. The N wall contained seven pillars, though only six show in the photograph; perhaps the missing one (the second from the E) is reconstructed on the

⁷⁶⁹"Planning," 59-60, 64; especially fig. 13.

plan. The pillars are built-up of rough drums; usually three or four are preserved here. The pillars are founded on, and connected by, masonry section. P 1088 shows a roller sitting where the missing pillar should be (see also P 1087). The plan shows a N to S double-stone wall leading up to the place from where the pillar is missing. This wall may be a later addition which displaced the original pillar. Note that it is approximately on the same line as the E wall of Rm 397. Although bottom elevations are given for this room, and most of the others in Building 141.01, is not clear that these represent an actual floor level. The small cobble area between Rm 393 and Rm 397 may be a patch of paving (see P 1054). If so, floor level was closer to the level of the base of the pillars. Passage to the rooms to the N was probably through a gap, or gaps, left between the pillars. It is unclear how high the connecting sections of masonry were preserved, so the number and position of doorway leading N is unknown. P 1088 may show a doorway from the road Rm 394 into Rm 393, but this is uncertain.

Rm 395 was apparently a broad chamber across the N part of the front of the building. Its wall with Rm 393 is the pillar wall described above; its W wall with Rm 397 is single-stone work. A single-stone wall separates it from a small stone paved area to the N in which was a circular stone basin ca. 70 cm across, 46 cm high and 30 cm deep. Probably the original N wall of this extension of Rm 395 was just N of this stone basin; this would match the line of the N wall of Rm 396a. However, the W wall of Building 124.01 cuts the NE corner of the extension, eliminating much of the evidence for the N end of this room. Most of the E wall of Rm 395 is a later rebuild also connected with Building 124.01. Si 327 is cut in the bedrock below Rm 395; it is not cut by any of its walls. It may have been cut earlier than Rm 395 (in Stratum 4) and continued in use with the room, or have been cut as part of the construction of the building.

Rm 397 is west of Rm 395; its walls are single-stone work wherever they can be seen clearly. There are no signs of a doorway, so it is impossible to guess its relations with the surrounding rooms.

Rm 396b is the structure's middle long room. Often these are open courts, but Rm 396a to the N is even broader, and a more likely candidate for a courtyard. Rm 396b is connected to Rm 395 by the narrow cobbled area S of Rm 397, mentioned above. Its N and E walls are single-stone work, to the S is the already mentioned pillar wall. The W wall is less certain. On the plan it looks too thin to be a real wall; perhaps it is a facing against the casemate-like wall? A large block in the SW corner of the room, shown in P 1071, might be a threshold to the back room of Building 141.01.

Rm 396a is the N long room, and probably an open court. Its walls to S and E are single-stone work, as was probably its N wall, though this one is fragmentary. If the line of this wall is extended west it would cut the mouth of Si 323; suggesting that this rock-cut installation predates the building. Ci 324 is not cut by any wall, and is in the middle of the room; it was likely in use with the building, though it could have been hewn as early as Stratum 4. The W wall is again uncertain; some connection with the casemate-like wall may be possible. There is no sign of a threshold leading into the back room(s).

The press and collection vat of an olive oil press were found just beyond what should be the N wall of Rm 396a. Unfortunately this area was not excavated so no architectural context for the pressing installation is available. The press is about 90 cm across and 60 cm high. Its top has a circular channel around its circumference with a small drain hole leading into an interior hollow. In the center of the press is a small circular opening. The vat is roughly square, ca. 85 cm across; its basin

is about 50 cm wide and 50 cm deep. McClellan seems to think that the presses belong to his building, though as stated above this is very unclear.⁷⁷⁰

Building 141.01 had a long back room, but it does not show up clearly in any of the photographs. For some reason it did not receive a number. Its S wall is single-stone work, as is a fragment of an E to W inner partition wall. Its W wall is double stone work, ca. 70 cm wide. The E wall is not well-defined. The plan shows large stones running N to S the length of this room, extending S into Rm 385. Very probably these are the top surviving courses of the early casemate-like wall. This back room is built over the line of the original town wall and gives Building 141.01 more space to the W.

Dating of Building 141.01 -

Si 323 contained only Iron I material according to the 1947 report, which is Stratum 4.⁷⁷¹ If Building 141.01's N wall cut it, this would indicate a foundation date in Stratum 3C. Note that it shares wall with a similar building to the S and both face out on Rm 394, which was almost certainly a ringroad. That the present back room is built over the 3C casemate-like wall, as well as the appearance of walls of different widths, suggests modifications throughout Stratum 3. Building 124.01, probably of Stratum 2, cuts the NE corner of Building 141.01. But it is not clear if the whole building went out of use by that time, or only part. Its main phase is thus 3C-3A, with a possible (though much less likely) extension into 2.

⁷⁷⁰"Planning," 68, fig. 14.

⁷⁷¹II, 125.

Function of Building 141.01 -

There is only the stone basin in Rm 395 to indicate possible industrial use. The building to the N was clearly an olive press. There is nothing to indicate a direct connection between the two. Thus, this building may have had mainly a domestic role.

Building 141.02: Rm 385a, Rm 385b, Rm 386, Rm 387, Rm 392 -

This is probably a 3-Room type building, with modifications over time. Adjacent Rm 388, however, is a problem. There are certain other difficulties as well.

Rm 392 is the N long room. P 1088 seems to show a doorway connecting it to Rm 387. P 1071 shows no other passages through either its N or S walls. Possibly one could gain access to Rm 385b by way of Rm 392, however, no doorway is visible in any of the photographs. They are obscured by a pillar of soil which contains a local bench mark. The N, E and W walls are single-stone work; the S wall is double-stone. The plans shows a 90 cm wide wall cutting N to S across Rm 392, and continuing into Rm 386. The plan seems to show this thick wall cutting through the wall between these two rooms, but this is not certain. On P 1089 this wall looks only one course high, but this too is uncertain.

Rm 386 is the long room S of Rm 392. It is the widest room in the building, and so may be a courtyard. Its S and W walls are single-stone work, its N and E walls are double-stone. There is no hint of a doorway in any of its walls. It may well be that the N wall is a later addition, a fragment of a foundation for a building of which there is little trace, and that originally Rm 386 and Rm 387 were one long chamber. The plan shows two walls crossing the interior of the room from N-S. Already

mentioned is the thick wall at the W end which may be a single course of stones cutting the wall between Rm 386 and Rm 392. The second wall does not show in any of the photographs. The plan has it ending in a pillar, only the pillar has a level, not the rest of the wall. The top of the pillar is 1.25 m above the level of the stone-paved floor. Rm 386 probably allowed entrance to Rm 385a, though the plan does not show a break in the line of the wall.

Rm 387 may be the area through which the building was entered. Perhaps the extra line of stones along part of its E wall is a step down into the building. Rm 387 also seems to allow access to Rm 392, and as mentioned above, the wall between it and Rm 386 is probably a late foundation. Its N wall is double-stone work while the E wall is basically single-stone.

Rm 388 is very odd. On the plan it looks like a long stone-paved room, rather like Rm 541 in appearance. There are no levels for it, though P 1089 does show it. It seems to have a top level close to that of the S wall of Rm 386. Further, it seems to have a N wall built against the S wall of Rm 386. Note especially that this wall continues beyond the end of the S wall of Rm 386, and continues at least up to the E wall of Building 141.02, though this E wall is none too clear on the plan. The W and S walls are also single work.

McClellan noticed the similarity of Rm 388 to Rm 541 to the SE, which is a true road, and suggested that Rm 388 may have been a similar road, only ending in a cul de sac at the edge of Rm 385a.⁷² However, he suggests no purpose for this cul de sac, except perhaps to hint that it may be in some way connected with the drain fragment in AB13. Rm 541 had

⁷²"Planning," pp. 59, 61, fig. 7.

a very clear purpose: it allowed access, to Building 141.04, Building 141.05, Building 141.06 and Building 142.01. It is a raised road leading off from a natural terrace in the hillside. This terrace does not continue in AA-AB14, but in Z15. Since it does not lead through Rm 385 it is difficult to see its connection with the drain in AB13. Only if it is assumed that Building 141.02 and/or Building 141.03 had a second story (or stories) which were entered from an elevated road, in the same way that the probable second story of Building 142.01 was entered, could Rm 388 really make sense as a road. How it connected with the drain in AB13 is also unclear.

Rm 385a and Rm 385b are the back room(s) of this building. Its E, N and S walls are narrow single-stone work, the W wall is wider single-stones. The plans shows a line of large stones running through these rooms N-S. There is no clear photograph of this area, nor any levels, but this may well be the top surviving course of the early casemate-like wall. Since the N wall of Rm 385b and the wall which separates Rm 385a from Rm 385b are built over this line of stones, they represent a post-3C phase to the building, probably 3A.

Dating of Building 141.02 -

The building shares walls with its neighbors to N and S, and so must be contemporary with them. It is oriented toward the ringroad, also as they are. Like Building 141.01 it seems to have back rooms built over the 3C casemate-like wall. Its original phase was likely 3C, with the back of the structure modified in 3A. Late walls cut across it, but these are very fragmentary and could be Stratum 2 or 1. Thus the building has a main life of 3C to 3A, with a possible extension into 2, but coming to and end by 1.

Function of Building 141.02 -

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

Building 141.03: Rm 389, Rm 390, Rm 391, Ci 317, Ci 320, Si 318?, Si 319?, Si 321 and Si 322 -

This is an elaborate form of a 3-Room building. The two long rooms are well-documented in photographs, but neither the back room or the two small chambers in front appear. Though unique, the plan is quite clear.

Rm 390 is the S long room, and the largest of the three; it is probably a courtyard. Entrance to the building was probably through the space between Rm 389 and the small room labeled "cement floor." Its E, W, S and part of its N walls are single-stone work. The wall it shares with Rm 389 contains five pillars, four with four drums each, and one with two drums. The pillars at the E and W ends are connected to the adjoining NW and SE walls by low sections of masonry. All photographs of this building (e.g. P 1090) show these pillars supporting stone lintels, six all told. The 1947 report states that these were found in situ.⁷³ In the SW is a doorway which allows access to Rm 391; this leads right through Si 321, which suggests that this installation had gone out of use by the time Building 141.03 was constructed.

In the NE corner of Rm 390 are two small chambers, the first (1.4 by 1.2 m) has a "cement floor," by which is probably meant a plastered floor of some sort; the other (ca. 0.9 by 0.6 m) was unpaved. In the corner formed by their walls is what looks from the plan to be a

⁷³I, 213.

rectangular stone basin, about 80 cm long by 60 cm wide. The walls of these small "rooms" are ca. 80 cm lower than the tops of the building's main wall, and the floor of the "cemented" space is 30 cm to 60 cm above the floor level of Rm 390 (this is difficult to judge from the elevations on the plans). Without photographs of this area it is difficult to evaluate these spaces. They could be rectangular storage units. Alternatively, the plastered floor and stone basin may indicate an area for processing agricultural products. Rm 390 also contained four rock-cut installations: Si 318, Si 319, Si 322 and Ci 320. Part of the roof of Ci 320 collapsed, taking a section of the S wall with it. No walls of Rm 390 cut these installations suggesting that they may have been in use at least during the last phase of the building. For some reason Badè believed that Ci 320 would have gone out of use when the pillar wall was erected, but it is well clear of that wall and need not have gone out of use when the building was constructed.⁷⁷⁴

Rm 389 is N of Rm 390 and shares its pillar wall. All its other walls are single-stone work. There is no indication of a doorway between it and Rm 391. To the N is the debris filled and stone-paved Rm 388. In the space between the second and third columns from the W is the mouth of Ci 317. P 1073 does not show any masonry cutting its mouth, indicating that though it could predate the building, it may also have been in use with it. The 1947 report calls Ci 317 a bottle-shaped cistern.⁷⁷⁵

Rm 391 is the back room. Its N, S and E walls are narrow single stone work, but its back wall is large single-stone, similar in size to the stones running N-S through Rm 385 to the NW. It may be that this is

⁷⁷⁴I, 213.

⁷⁷⁵I, 129 n. 1.

a part of the early casemate-like wall, perhaps the inner face of its outer wall. If so, the casemate-like wall may have contained offsets and insets of its own, for this section of wall is set off from that to the NW. As mentioned above, Si 321 is in the middle of the doorway to Rm 390, which means that it had probably gone out of use at some time before the building was put into use, or at least before its final period of use.

Dating of Building 141.03 -

It cuts two earlier features, probably from Stratum 4, and is cut by nothing later. All of its walls are single-stone work, and many of these are shared with neighboring structures, with which it also shares a common orientation toward the ringroad. And this building is also connected to a crossroad which begins in Plan 125 as Rm 644. Its back room seems to be built against, rather than over, the 3C casemate-like wall. All this suggests a foundation in 3C. Since it is not cut by any later features it may go as late as Stratum 2, though there is no certain proof of this. Thus the building has a life of 3C to 3A, with a much less likely extension into 2.

Function of Building 141.03 -

The 1947 report notes that the columns (with lintels?) were only 1.1 m high.⁷⁷⁶ McCown believed that Rm 389 was an open court in front of Rm 390 and Rm 391. He was rightly troubled by the presumed height of the ceiling in the "roofed" space of Rm 390. He surmised that the extant plan of Building 141.03 was "a 'basement' shelter for asses, sheep and goats." He believed that the rubble paved area of Rm 388 allowed access

⁷⁷⁶I, pp. 213, 228.

to the upper, living quarters. McClellan seems, in general, to have accepted this evaluation, though he doubted whether even animals could have used such a low space.⁷⁷⁷

Above it was suggested that Rm 390 was the open court, not Rm 389. Note that it is Rm 390 which contains two built-up installations, a stone basin and four rock-cut installations. It is also a wider space to roof. It seems more likely that Rm 389 and Rm 391 were the roofed spaces. Even so, there is no certain proof that either or both had a second story, unless the unusual stone-paved Rm 388 is truly an access to road. This would then provide easy access to a second floor.

The 1947 report also suggests that the rock-cut installations Ci 317 (the report here calls it Si 317), Ci 320 and Si 321 had gone out of use before the building was erected.⁷⁷⁸ This cannot be proved, nor does it seem very likely for the former two; certainly the inhabitants would have required water storage facilities. The report dates Ci 320 to the 8th and 7th centuries B.C.⁷⁷⁹ However, Si 321 probably had gone out of use as suggested. The building's many installations suggest that this was not a mere dwelling but may have served an industrial role as well.

Other Features in AA14-15: Ci 325, Rm 394, Rm 672 -

Ci 325 is associated with Building 124.01 and was treated there.

Rm 394 marks what should be the area of a road on to which the three buildings described above open. On the other side of the street

⁷⁷⁷"Planning," 61.

⁷⁷⁸I, 213.

⁷⁷⁹I, 136.

would have been a band of similar buildings. From Z15 in Plan 124 it is known that the bedrock should drop sharply about the middle of AA15. Rm 614a (at 776.41) is on the upper terrace, and Rm 386 (at 774.45) is on the lower terrace. This means that any buildings NE of Rm 394, including the space marked Rm 672, were likely backed up against the scarp, as Building 124.01 was. McClellan places Rm 394 to the N in Plan 90 and Plan 107, while calling the road E of Building 141.01 and Building 141.02 Rm 395; the road should be Rm 394 throughout its length since Rm 395 is part of Building 141.01.⁷⁸⁰

Building 141.04: Rm 537, Rm 538, Rm 566b -

This appears to have been a 4-Room type structure. Elevations for this building are sparse, but there are several useful photographs (see P 1384, P 1397, P 1398). It is oriented toward the SE. Almost all of its walls are single-stone work.

Rm 537 was probably originally divided down its length by a row of three or four pillars, of which only the N-most survives; this was of the built-up type. The only double-stone wall is a short section in the NE corner. Entrance to this room, and the building, from road Rm 541, was through a stairway in its SW corner. The elevation on the top preserved stair is 776.04, but the next step down is at 776.24; the elevations were probably reversed in writing. Note that the hatching on the stairs indicates a descent to the NE. Unfortunately none of the photographs provide details about this stairway. A gap in the wall with Rm 538 may be where there was a doorway. Likewise, the doorway to Rm 566a may have been in the NE corner; the double-stone wall may be a later addition forcing indirect access to the back room.

⁷⁸⁰"Planning," 64, fig. 13.

Rm 538 was the third long room. It did not have any connection with Rm 566b; its doorway with Rm 537 was mentioned above. The wall it shares with Rm 536 is double-stone. The S half of the room has a stone-paved floor (see P 1397). This provides a guide, within 10 cm, to the general floor level of the building at 775.77.

Rm 566b is the back room. The gap in its NW wall with Rm 390 was caused by the collapse of part of the roof of Ci 320. The wall which separates it from Rm 566a is fragmentary, but enough survives to show its limit to the SW. Its only doorway is with Rm 537.

The 1947 report suggests that Rm 566a and Rm 566b were part of a road which connected the intramural area with the ringroad.⁷⁸¹ The suggestion advanced here that they are back rooms makes better sense of the plan; besides, road Rm 541 serves this purpose. McClellan supports the identification of these spaces as back rooms and reconstructs this building along the same lines as presented above.⁷⁸²

Dating of Building 141.04 -

This building cuts no earlier features, nor is it cut by anything later. It does share single-stone walls with buildings on all sides and is connected with a crossroad which connects with the ringroad. Its beginning phase is probably 3C. Its final phase is open; it likely lasted through 3A, and may have extended into Stratum 2 as well.

Function of Building 141.04 -

⁷⁸¹I, 230.

⁷⁸²"Planning," figs. 7, 13; also p. 61.

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

Building 141.05: Rm 530?, Rm 531, Rm 536, Rm 566a -

This seems to be a 3-Room type building, though not all elements of its plan are clear. There are few elevations. It does, however, appear in all the same photographs as Building 141.04. McClellan's reconstruction is identical to that presented below.⁷⁸³

Rm 536 is the N long room, and is the best-preserved (see P 1397). A stone mortar about 45 cm across, 25 cm high with a central hole 15 cm across was found at an elevation of ca. 775.79; this probably marks the approximate level of the original floor. Its S wall is narrow single-stone work, its W wall was probably a mix of single- and double-stone, and its N and E walls are double-stone. The plan and P 1384 show a threshold leading up into Rm 530. There is no indication of a stairway leading down from road Rm 541 into Rm 536, but such must have once existed, perhaps in the disturbed part of Rm 530.

Rm 530 must have originally been a part of the long room SW of Rm 536, an extension of Rm 531. As excavated, however, it was so fragmentary that no clear wall line to W or S could be fixed. Therefore its limits on the plan are undefined. It is not even clear if the ragged line of stones between it and Rm 531 is really a wall. However, it seems reasonable to extend the SW wall of Rm 531 and the SE wall of Rm 536 to enclose it. Its wall and doorway with Rm 531 were described above. It is possible that a stairway leading into the building once existed here.

⁷⁸³"planning," figs. 7, 13; also p. 61.

Rm 531 is the N extension of Rm 530; together they make up one long room. Its W wall is narrow single-stone work, its E wall is wider single-stone, and its N wall is double-stone wide. P 1397 shows its back wall; it does not show any trace of a doorway to Rm 566a. The narrow line of stones running NW-SE is about on the same line as those to the NW in Rm 385 and those to the SE in Rm 525 which may well be elements of the casemate-like wall. The stones in Rm 531 seem too small to be part of the casemate-like wall, but may perhaps be founded on that earlier wall. They may mark off Rm 531 into small sub-units, perhaps for storage. The room seems to contain two fallen monolith stone pillars.

Rm 566a is the back room. Parts of it can be seen in P 1397 and P 1398. Its NW, NE and SW walls are single-stone work, though the latter two are fragmentary. Its SE wall is preserved at a fairly low level, perhaps right about the level of the floor, which would explain the lack of a doorway with either Rm 536 or Rm 531.

Dating of Building 141.05 -

There is no evidence that it cuts anything earlier. Its SW corner was disturbed by something, but there is no clue to what or when. It shares walls with two other buildings and fronts on a sideroad connected to the ringroad. Its walls are in several types of construction, which may indicate use and modification over time. Although certain traces of the casemate-like wall were not found, it is likely that its SW room is built over that earlier wall. If this building was originally connected with the casemate-like wall, it would have been somewhat smaller. It is probably a 3C construction which survived at least to 3A. It may have continued to Stratum 2, but this is much less likely though, there is no certainty of this.

Function of Building 141.05 -

There is no evidence to suggest other than a domestic role for this building.

Sideroad: Rm 541

On the plan this area looks very much like Rm 388. It is clearest in P 1384 and P 1398. Its NE end is in AC16. Although in the photographs it has a rough appearance, it is probably the remains of an elevated road which allowed access to the two buildings just described, among others. It is discussed in detail on Plan 142. The 1947 report also notes that this may have been a road.⁷⁸⁴

Building 141.06: Rm 605, Rm 617, Ci 363 -

This structure is most problematic. It is either a 3- or 2-Room building. Elevations are few, and one may contain a transposition of numbers. There are no general view photographs of this building. For Rm 605 there are no photographs at all, and Rm 617 only appears in detail photographs of Ci 363. Also walls of a large later building seem to have disturbed its E side. McClellan reconstructs this building along the line presented below.⁷⁸⁵

Rm 617 is the most crucial room to define. It is entered from road Rm 541 by two stairs leading up to a threshold. In the W side of the room was the mouth of Ci 363. The mouth of the cistern was built-up above bedrock by about three courses of stones. Several rectangular

⁷⁸⁴I, 214.

⁷⁸⁵"Planning," 60, 61 and n. 36; figs. 7 and 13.

stones sealed it. The height of the top of one of the stones in the wall is at 776.65. The cistern is fed by a channel which runs into it from the SE. A square stone against the S wall of Rm 617 had a circular hole which was part of a drain bringing water into the channel from road Rm 541.⁷⁸⁶ A large block laid over the S end of the drain is at 776.81. Therefore, the approximate height of the floor should be around 776.65 to 776.81. The lowest point reached in the excavation was 776.19. P 1433 shows all these features, and also what looks like a stone lined bin E of the cistern's mouth. This feature does not appear on any of the plans, and from the photograph it is difficult to decide if it is below the presumed floor level. The top of the threshold is some distance above this floor level; perhaps there was a step or two down into the room which has not survived. The N and S walls are single-stone work, and the wall with Rm 605 is double-stone with at least two, possibly four, preserved pillars of the built-up type. The E wall is a question. In the SE corner of the room it looks like there are two walls. The W one continues the line of Rm 598 to the S, but only for about a meter into the room; the other wall is built just to the E, and becomes wider in the N half of the room. It seems that the short fragment is the original wall, and that the other is later. This thick later wall is probably related to similar walls farther E which disturb other buildings of this stratum. There is no trace of the doorway which once connected Rm 605 with Rm 617, unless it is the slight gap at the NW end of the pillar wall; doorways tend to be at one end or the other in long rooms (see also P 1430 for the very right edge of these two walls).

The 1947 report suggests that Rm 617, Bn 365 (not 345 as written in the report), Rm 613, and Rm 566 formed a passage connecting the

⁷⁸⁶I, 137.

ringroad with the intramural area.⁷⁸⁷ As mentioned above, it is much more likely that Rm 566a and Rm 566b are back rooms, and this means that the other rooms listed are also not passage ways, but rooms within buildings. McClellan supports the idea that Rm 617 is a room within a building, and not part of a road.⁷⁸⁸ He suggests that the stairway leads to a second story, though he notes that this set of steps is the only evidence for an upper floor. He doubts that Rm 617, because of the presence of Ci 363 and its channel, was an area where "human activity occurred." It (and Rm 613) "were low half-cellars or basements, possibly not even used for storage."⁷⁸⁹ While this possibility cannot be ruled out, it does not provide an explanation for how the inhabitants of Building 141.06 entered Rm 617 and Rm 605. Also, it is not clear why a ring of stones around a cistern mouth is indicative of a basement. On still expects a set of stairs leading down to the "basement". For this reason it seems better to accept the suggestion that the preserved steps led up to a threshold from the lower road Rm 541, and that the few steps necessary to reach the lower interior floor have not been preserved.

Rm 605 is said, on the plan, to have a paved floor at elevation 776.16. This is half a meter below the top of the opening to Ci 363. The 1947 report states that the floor of Rm 617 "is almost the same as that of the adjoining R. 605, which has a paved floor."⁷⁹⁰ If it is true that the floors were at the same level, then some elevation here is off. Since several levels support the height of the floor in Rm 617, it may be that the last two digits of the floor level for Rm 605 have been transposed. Perhaps it should be 776.61 instead. Rm 605's walls are all

⁷⁸⁷I, 230.

⁷⁸⁸"Planning," pp. 59 n. 28, 61; fig. 7.

⁷⁸⁹"Planning," 61 and n. 36.

⁷⁹⁰I, 137.

single-stone-work, except for the pillar wall with Rm 617. Plan 142 shows a short single-stone wall in the SE corner; perhaps this is the original partition wall, and the double-stone wall is a later modification?

The architectural relations of Rm 613 and Bn 365 are difficult to determine. Were they a back room connected with Rm 605 and Rm 617, or to Rm 614a? McClellan attaches both these features to Rm 614a, and to Building 142.11 in general.⁷⁹¹ He notes that this insula of building narrows so much here that there was no room for the traditional back room which one would expect for Building 141.06. These features are dealt with under Building 142.11.

Dating of Building 141.06 -

The building seems to be essentially single-stone work in its initial phase. It shares walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to both the crossroad and the ringroad. The thin wall adjacent to the pillar wall is evidence of modifications subsequent to its construction. The original E wall seems to have been destroyed or partially incorporated into a large late building, quite likely from Stratum 2 (see discussion in Plan 142). All this suggests a foundation in 3C, sustained use, possibly with rising floors, into 3A. Although an extension into Stratum 2 is possible, it seems less likely.

Function of Building 141.06 -

There is nothing to suggest other than a domestic use for this structure.

⁷⁹¹"Planning," 60; see especially fig. 7.

Note: Rm 600 is the N-most point in a ringroad which can be traced from as far SE as AH20. Originally it seemed that ingenious reasoning might find an extension through AB15-16 which would continue on and connect with the road fragment in Rm 669 in Z15. However, neither Rm 617 or Rm 616 seems likely to allow such a passage; there are too many walls and stairways in the way. It seems then that Tell en-Nasbeh does not have a true ringroad, as was also recognized by McClellan⁷⁹² Rather, a block or insula of buildings, which stretches from roughly AC15 to AA19, interrupts the ringroad. Someone coming up the stairs of Rm 598 would have had to take road Rm 627 E, turn N in AB19 (see discussion in Plan 143), turn W in Z19 (see discussion in Plan 126) and follow a road which includes Rm 671 and Rm 653 in Plan 142. Still, this distance is less than 100 m and would have taken only a minute or two to traverse.

Other Rooms and Features -

Rm 534, Rm 535, Rm 539, Rm 540 and Ci 357 are part of Building 142.01 and are discussed in connection with that building. Rm 614a and Rm 614b are part of Building 142.11 and are discussed under that building.

There are several features built-up against the offset-inset wall. On the S edge of AB13 are two narrow double-stone walls which look very much like a fragment of a drain, as also recognized by McClellan.⁷⁹³ Unfortunately there is no photograph of this feature. The purpose of the narrow double-stone wall just to the SE is uncertain. Both of these are probably 3B or later.

⁷⁹²"Planning," pp. 57, 59; fig. 7.

⁷⁹³"Planning," 59.

Rm 310, and other features in the vicinity, appear in P 798. Only the E and S walls of this room survive. They are basically double-stone work. The E wall cuts Bn 312 and the S wall crosses over the stump of the town wall. Whatever structure these walls belong to should belong to Stratum 1. The 1947 report also recognizes this as belonging to the latest phase on the site.⁷⁹⁴

Bn 311 and Bn 312 are the N-most bins in the long semi-circular chain of bins that dot the S intramural area. They were built into the debris poured when the offset-inset wall of Stratum 3B was constructed, and so belong to the same phase. The 1947 report assigns these to the latest phase on the site, but clearly this does not take into account the wall cutting Bn 312.⁷⁹⁵ In the space between the two bins is a mass of cobbles, perhaps some sort of small pavement? Perhaps it was part of an installation used in preparing the grain to go into the bins?

Rm 532 is a space formed by the meeting of two walls. If it was ever more than a semi-enclosed space, its W extension may have been destroyed by Rm 310. It may be connected with similar intramural walls found to the SE which seem to partition off groups of bins. This would make it a 3B or 3A feature.

Rm 667 is a space just NE of Rm 614. It does not appear on all plans. Possibly it was assigned a number near the end of the season but was never excavated. It is on the line of crossroad Rm 644 to the E.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

⁷⁹⁴I, 183, n. 15.

⁷⁹⁵I, 183, n. 15.

The wall here is ca. 4.9 to 5.0 m wide, and contains parts of an inset and offset. Also uncovered was a small section of the revetment/glacis which is ca. 1.8 to 2.0 m wide. No elevations are provided for the wall or the revetment. There are no seams in the wall which might indicate different stages of construction. As mentioned above, a wall belonging to a Stratum 1 building (Rm 310) cuts NE-SW across the stump of this 3B wall.