

Plan 142: AA-AB-AC,16-17-18 - Overview

No remains assignable to either Stratum 4 or 5 were discerned. Especially curious is the relative lack of rock-cut installations, so noticeable in the N and S ends of the site, which seem to have been cut in Stratum 4. Perhaps bedrock was seldom reached in this area it is not surprising that such features were not uncovered. If it is assumed that most buildings had their own cistern(s) it may well be that excavation just did not go low enough to find them.

Stratum 3 is well-represented by one 10-Room structure, two 4-Room, five 3-Room, two 2-Room, one irregular and several too fragmentary for an exact room count. Up to four of these buildings may have had some industrial use, and one contained an assortment of finds which one might term "cultic". Parts of three roads can be traced across this area. All of these structures likely began in 3C, and with modifications lasted through 3A. Some were clearly cut by buildings of later strata.

Stratum 2 is fragmentary, but apparently wide-spread. Walls associated with this phase block streets (even reusing Stratum 3 olive presses) and cut the earlier buildings. The traceable rooms seem to be of large, thick-walled structures.

Nothing directly attributable to Stratum 1 was found.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in 1935, in the last part of the season. Two areas were left untouched because of rubble-heaps. The first stretches E-W across the center of AA16-17-18; the other is a bulge in the SW of AB18 and NE corner of AC18. Both areas are prime spots for

renewed excavations, as they would provide connections with relatively well-preserved previously excavated buildings. Elevations are sparse; there are long stretches of wall without any levels, and more than a few rooms without bottom levels. Photographic documentation is patchy. A few rooms have several photographs, but this is because they all contain some sort of installation, which gave them added importance. Fortunately the plans of most of the eleven buildings to be described are fairly clear, and many can be reconstructed reasonably well.

Building 142.01: Rm 525, Rm 526, Rm 534, Rm 535, Rm 539, Rm 540, Rm 597, Rm 598, Rm 599, Rm 601, Rm 604, Bn 362, Bn 382, Ci 357, and Ci 361 -

This is the largest building of Stratum 3 with a reasonably clear plan (see Building 159.08 for a larger, but more fragmentary building of this stratum). It approaches in size some of the 4-Room building complexes of Stratum 2. It contains ten rooms, two storage bins and two cisterns. All of its walls, except in the W-most room, are single-stone work. As was discussed in the chapter on topography, the tell falls from the central ridge on the E to the W in three or four natural terraces. The lines of these terraces are not always clear because excavation did not reach bedrock everywhere. Part of one of these terraces makes up the E wall of Rm 599; this is an 80+ cm drop (see P 1422). It seems reasonable to suppose that the line of the ringroad roughly follows this terrace. Those entering buildings on the down hillside of the terrace naturally had to go down stairways. Such stairways are found in most of the buildings west of the ringroad as far S as AF19. The description of this building will proceed from E to W.

McClellan seems to reconstruct this building in a way similar to that described below. however, he does not present a discussion of it,

only a plan.<sup>796</sup>

Rm 598 was entered by a flight of five steps from Rm 541 on the NW. The drop from street level is ca. 1.0 m, 777.13 to 776.17. It leads directly into Rm 599. The intervening wall is a later construction; its base floats ca. 70 cm above floor level. P 1419 shows this area. On the basis of P 1419 it does not seem possible to gain entry to Bn 362 from Rm 598. This bin seems to have two compartments. The late wall cuts across the SW wall of the S bin. This spot is not clearly seen in any of the photographs, nor are there any elevations. It may therefore have been possible to reach the S bin from Rm 598.

The 1947 report notes the possibility that Rm 598 may have allowed access to Rm 604 and thus to Bn 362 and Ci 361.<sup>797</sup> Given the heights on the walls in the vicinity, this does not seem very likely.

Rm 599 had a stone-paved floor, though this is not clear from P 1422 which shows a corner of this room. As mentioned above, the east wall of Rm 599 is part of a natural rock terrace. A doorway leads to Rm 597. The plan and P 1418 show a ca. 50 cm gap in the SE corner of Rm 604. This could have provided access to Ci 361 from Rm 599. The plan, however, shows dashed lines crossing this gap, indicating that the excavators believed that the wall continued here.

Rm 604 is of great importance. It contains a flight of five steps leading down from the SW to Ci 361, and there is space for two additional steps. The highest preserved step is at 777.70, and the height of an adjacent wall is 777.26, roughly 1.3 m above the preserved

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<sup>796</sup>"Planning," fig. 13.

<sup>797</sup>I, 214.

floor of the chamber. Presumably these stairs led to a second story. The small size of many of the rooms in this building may also be an indication of a second floor; the walls had to be so close in order to bear the weight of the upper rooms. Access to the upper floor must have been from either the road to the NW (Rm 541) or that to the NE (Rm 600 and Rm 602) because there does not seem to be a doorway from Rm 604 into any of the rooms around it. Unfortunately nothing survives to characterize the missing floor.

Ci 361's opening is a large circular stone with a smaller circular mouth in its center. This block seems to sit on a pedestal of earth which must lead down to an opening in the bedrock. In effect it was a built-up "well". Unfortunately the large stone is not drawn on the plan, so there are no elevations for it; it does, however, appear in P 1418 and P 1419. This cistern is of the bottle-shaped variety.<sup>798</sup>

Rm 601 has a threshold connecting it with Rm 540 at an elevation of 776.41. Although Rm 601 was excavated to a depth of 775.80, its floor level must be closer to the level of the threshold. There does not seem to have been access to either Rm 598 or Rm 604 from this chamber.

Rm 540's only doorway is with Rm 601. Neither the plan, nor P 1384 show any passage through the wall to Rm 535. Perhaps entrance to Rm 540 was by way of the stairs in Rm 604? No elevation is given for its floor.

Rm 535 has a clear threshold with Rm 539 to the S at 776.00, which also marks its approximate floor level. It shows up especially well in P 1398. There is no entrance to either Rm 534 or Rm 540.

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<sup>798</sup>I, 129 n. 1.

Rm 597 is entered from Rm 599. There is a gap in its N wall leading into Rm 604. Since this leads to the back of the stairway the gap is probably only an area where the wall was destroyed. Possibly it is a doorway to a small "closet". Unfortunately there is no photograph of this corner, nor is there one of the wall it shares with Rm 539. Presumably there was one, but the plan gives no clue to its location.

Rm 539 is the longest room on the "bottom" floor. As mentioned above, there was probably a doorway into Rm 597, but it does not appear in plan or photograph. Doorways to Rm 535 and Rm 534 are in the NW corner. P 1384, on the right hand side, shows what may be blockage in a doorway leading into Rm 526.

Rm 526 was probably entered from Rm 539, as mentioned above. The plan shows two heavy black lines across the W wall. P 1384 shows the N part of this wall, and there is a discontinuity here, but the S part of the wall is not shown; so it cannot be determined if this is a blockage of a doorway into Rm 525, or not. Rm 526 also contains Bn 382 in its SE corner.

Rm 534 has a doorway leading into Rm 539. P 1398 shows this room well; it shows no trace of a doorway into Rm 525, nor does the plan. The photograph may show this area to be at a lower level than Rm 539. Ci 357, a bottle-shaped cistern, is shown in the photograph to be below the N wall of Rm 534.<sup>799</sup> This wall is double-stone work and is set off slightly to the south from the rest of the N wall of Building 142.01. This may be an indication that the thick wall is a later rebuild cutting the mouth of the cistern, which served an early phase of the building. It is because of the wall cutting its mouth that the 1947 report placed

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<sup>799</sup>I, 129 n. 15.

Ci 357 in the early part of its Stratum I.<sup>800</sup>

Rm 525 is the back-most chamber of the building. Its exact relationship, however, is uncertain. Its N wall is narrow double-stone work; the W wall is wide double-stone; its E wall is only a single stone wide; its S wall is not clear. Down the middle of the room is another double-stone wall; the plan makes it seem that the W wall partially cuts or crossed this wall. P 1397 shows the N ends of these walls, but not the part where they cross. This wall fragment is on a line with similar fragments to the NW, e.g. in Rm 385, and may be a trace of the 3C casemate-like wall, while the wall on the W may be a 3A rebuild. Any floor of Rm 525 would have to be higher than the 776.31 of this fragment.

Dating of Building 142.01 -

Except for the back-most room the walls are single-stone work. It shares walls with one other building and is oriented to both the ringroad and sideroad Rm 541. This suggests a foundation in 3C. Originally it would have been connected to the casemate-like wall. The variety of walls in the back of the building suggest modifications over time, in 3B and/or 3A. On the E, a wall cuts across Rm 598 and Rm 599, and also floats above their floor level. Ci 361 contained material of the 5th century B.C. Thus the building may have had a final use in Stratum 2, which would place the wall fragment in Stratum 1. Or perhaps only Ci 361 was kept clear and in use in Stratum 2, while the rest of the building was demolished.

Function of Building 142.01 -

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<sup>800</sup>I, 180.

This is a very large building. Its lower floor does not contain anything to suggest any exceptional use; nor does its position in the town plan indicate any special function. The lack of evidence from the presumed upper floor adds another dimension to the problem. Was it industrial space? Living quarters? Something else? Its size at least suggests that it was the dwelling of a large, wealthy family.

Building 142.02: Rm 607, Rm 609

This is a 2-Room building, but not one with two long rooms; instead it has a large front room and a narrower back room. Most of its walls are single-stone work. Details of its construction are obscured by later modifications. Elevations are few. There are several photographs, but none shows the E part, which is where most of the trouble lie. McClellan reconstructs this building in the same manner as described below, but without discussion.<sup>801</sup>

Rm 609 is the broad back room. Two well-constructed piers mark the doorway to Rm 607 (see P 1424). To the E is Rm 611, which is probably the back room of a building facing NE.

Rm 607 is a large open space, probably a courtyard. Its W wall is not clear. In the NW corner there is evidence for two walls. The W-most continues to the NW, blocking road Rm 627. The blockage includes an over-turned olive press (see P 1417). This wall continues SE and turns a corner to the SW. This SW extension also includes an over-turned olive press (see P 1415), and blocks road Rm 602 and Rm 603. It seems quite likely that one, if not both, presses originated in Rm 607 and ended up in secondary use in these near-by late walls. If the W wall of Rm 607 is

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<sup>801</sup>"Planning," fig. 13.

a late addition, then the wall to its E is likely the original. How far it extended to the SE is uncertain. In the space between Rm 607 and Rm 603 are two narrow lines of stones. These do not appear in any photographs, nor is there an elevation for the one to the W. Perhaps these are remains of steps leading down into Rm 607. If so they might serve as part of the entrance to Building 142.03 also, as another set of steps leads down into Rm 606 of that structure from Rm 607.

Within 40 cm of the door between Rm 607 and Rm 609 is a stone basin. An individual could squeeze past this installation, but it probably would have been cumbersome. It may be that this basin was originally positioned elsewhere in the courtyard. The basin is almost 1.0 m across, with the central cavity being ca. 60 cm wide. The elevations written on the basin are in error. As they stand, the outer wall is lower than the depression. Possibly the wall should be 777.54, and the bottom be 777.07, which would make the cavity 47 cm deep.

#### Dating of Building 142.02 -

The building is single-stone work throughout, shares walls with two other buildings, and is oriented along both a crossroad and the ringroad. The structure was likely constructed in 3C. There are no obvious 3B or 3A modifications. If the olive presses in the near-by walls originated in this building then those walls are later than the building's initial phase, and since these walls block the road with which the building is associated they likely post-date the building. These walls could belong to Stratum 2 or 1, it is impossible to decide. This makes the final phase of the building difficult to determine. It probably lasted through 3A; less likely did it continue into 2.

#### Function of Building 142.02 -



A large open courtyard with a basin, and possibly originally two olive presses, is a strong indication of an industrial use of this structure. The back room may have been for storage. Possibly the owner lived in adjacent Building 142.03. McClellan notes that this may be a workshop, but does not mention the reused olive presses.<sup>802</sup>

Building 142.03: Rm 588, Rm 606, Rm 608, Rm 610, Bn 355, Ci 359?

This is a basic 3-Room building. Levels are sparse; two rooms do not have bottom elevations. There is one fairly good photograph. Almost all of the walls are single-stone work. McClellan reconstructs this building in a way identical to that outlined below, but without discussion.<sup>803</sup>

Rm 588 is the S long room, and probably an open courtyard since it is the wider of the two long rooms. Doorways lead from it into both Rm 610, the back room, and Rm 608 the other long room. The wall it shares with Rm 608 contains three stone pillars connected by short sections of masonry. The SW end of the room poses certain problems. Neither the plans or P 1427 shows any sign of a doorway leading from road Rm 589 into Rm 588. Compounding the difficulties are Bn 355 and Ci 359. The SW wall of Bn 355 cuts across the mouth of Ci 359; this wall is a continuation of that of Rm 588. So the cistern had gone out of use by the times this wall was built. The NE wall of the bin is double-stone work, and its NW wall blocks Rm 606. As mentioned above, Rm 606 seems to be part of a stairway beginning in road Rm 603 which leads down into Building 142.03. The first two steps provide access to Building 142.02; a turn to the SE and then two more steps lead down to a level about the

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<sup>802</sup>"Planning," 68.

<sup>803</sup>"Planning," fig. 13.

same as that of Rm 588, 776.86 vs. 776.85. Perhaps originally these stairs led straight into Rm 588; later this passage was blocked to create Bn 355. After this area was blocked, entrance to the building had to be by some other route; unfortunately this route is not clear.

Ci 359 is a large, bottle-shaped cistern.<sup>804</sup> Its mouth is cut by the SW wall of Bn 355 (see P 1416). The 1947 report place it in the early part of Stratum I.<sup>805</sup>

Rm 588 contains an olive press ca. 85 cm in diameter and 70 cm high. It has a narrow channel around its circumference. There does not appear to have been a drain from the channel to the interior collecting basin. On the N was a basin ca. 70 cm across, 70 cm high and 35 cm deep. P 1427 shows that the basin was in a very fragmentary state. It looks almost as it was constructed of upright stone slabs.

As mentioned above, Rm 606 is probably an entrance stairway to Building 142.03. The SW wall of this small room incorporated what looks from the plan to be a small stone basin, no doubt in secondary use. This may be the basin on which Badè rests his hand in P 1432, though it has been removed from its place in the wall (note that the two olive presses shown here have been moved into Rm 607 from their original find spots in Rm 600 and Rm 602).

Rm 608 is the northern long room. Entrance from Rm 588 was probably through the space between the first and second pillars from the SW. Its NE wall is double-stone work.

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<sup>804</sup>I, 129 n. 1.

<sup>805</sup>I, 180.

Rm 610 is the back room. The elevation in the threshold reads 777.11, about 25 cm above the floor of Rm 588. The unexcavated space behind Rm 610 may have been a similar back room to a building facing E.

Dating of Building 142.03 -

The building is not cut by any obvious later features, but its SW wall cut Ci 359. This area seems to have been modified at least once, so it is not clear at what stage in the structure's life the cistern went out of use. The cistern could pre-date the building, or have been inside the building before the area was modified. The building is almost completely single-stone work, shares walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to the ringroad. It is probably a 3C foundation. Its final phase is less certain; it likely continued through 3A, a use in Stratum 2 is much less likely.

Function of Building 142.03 -

The olive press installation indicates industrial activity. McClellan is not certain that this was a "workshop" because it has a typical 3-Room plan.<sup>806</sup> This seems perhaps a bit too skeptical. The other two rooms could have been used for storage or as living quarters. The shared entrance way suggests a connection with Building 142.02. Did the owner of both facilities reside here?

Building 142.04: Rm 616, Rm 619, Rm 622, Rm 623 -

This structure is heavily disturbed by later, probably Stratum 2 construction. It seems to have been a 3-Room building. Levels are few,

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<sup>806</sup>"Planning," 68; fig. 14.

and the only photographs are of the SW end of Rm 616. McClellan comes to the same basic conclusions as discussed below.<sup>807</sup>

Rm 616's original SW wall does not survive. The wall marking its SW limit is part of a later structure. Possibly the short section of the original NE wall of Rm 617, discussed above, also marks the SW limit of this room. If so, the space seems to have been too broad to roof, so this may have been a courtyard. A threshold in its single-stone NW wall leads up into Rm 619. Its east wall contains two stone pillars (one, at least, being a monolith). The SE extension of this wall seems to have been disturbed by a northward continuation of the wall which blocks road Rm 627. Possibly the pillar wall ran as far as the SE wall of Rm 623, in which case it may have had one or two additional pillars. There must have been a doorway which led into Rm 622, however, the construction of the thick Stratum 2 wall in Rm 622 renders it impossible to determine its position. Often such passages are at one end or the other of pillar walls, so perhaps it was in the vicinity of Rm 623. The SE wall of Rm 616 on the plan is slightly different from that of Rm 623. If this wall does mark the original SE wall of Rm 616, then it was impossible to move from ringroad Rm 600 to crossroad Rm 541, which would have blocked access to four buildings. It may well be that this wall is associated with the construction of the late walls which block crossroad Rm 627 and ringroad Rm 600 and Rm 602, and originally the SE wall of Rm 616 was a little more to the NW, which would then allow passage to sideroad Rm 541.

Rm 616 also contained several objects worthy of special notice.<sup>808</sup> These include: an ostrakon with a single inscribed character (for which

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<sup>807</sup>"Planning," 60; fig. 7.

<sup>808</sup>I, pp. 172, 233, 235, 254.

no satisfactory reading could be determined), the base of a hand-burnished stand, a "cosmetic" mortar, fragments of two pinched-face figurines, a small fire place, and oddest of all, a human skull (only a few charred bone fragments were found near it; it is not stated if these were even human). This assemblage might well be considered more than purely domestic, possibly even "cultic."

Rm 619 is the back room. Its surviving NW and SE walls are single-stone work. Its SW wall may have been incorporated into, or replaced by, the Stratum 2 wall which replaced the SW wall of Rm 616. The E third of the room is cut by a ca. 1.0 m wide wall, also of Stratum 2, which parallels the late SW wall of Rm 619 and extends also to the NW and SE. The SE wall may originally have extended farther to the NE, up to the wall with Rm 615, but may have disappeared when the meter wide Stratum 2 wall was constructed. This means that Rm 622 probably did not originally extend as far to the NW as it did when found. The 1947 report states, with a "?", that Rm 619 had a bedrock floor, though this is not indicated in any way on the plan.<sup>809</sup>

Rm 622 is probably a second long room paralleling Rm 616. It is cut on the SW and SE by wide walls probably of Stratum 2. Originally it likely shared the pillar wall with Rm 616. It may also have included Rm 623 originally, which is separated from it by one of the late wide walls, though Rm 623 may also have been a separate chamber. The mass of stones between Rm 622 and Rm 623 may be too wide to be just one wall; it may also include an original partition wall between the two rooms. As noted above, the NW wall is less certain; the construction of the wide Stratum 2 wall may have destroyed a continuation of the SE wall of Rm 619 across Rm 622.

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<sup>809</sup>I, 183 n. 12.

Rm 623 may be the S end of Rm 622, or a separate room, as discussed above. Its NE and SE walls are essentially single-stone work. Its SW wall seems to be a continuation of the late wall cutting Rm 627. Although no threshold survives it may be that this small chamber was the entrance to Building 142.04.

Dating of Building 142.04 -

Though it does not cut any early features, it is cut by three or four walls of considerable thickness which likely belong to a substantial Stratum 2 building. It shares single-stone walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to the ringroad and the crossroad. It is probably a 3C construction and served through 3A, but was put out of use by the construction of the Stratum 2 building.

Function of Building 142.04 -

Its plan seems that of a normal dwelling, but the assortment of unusual objects from Rm 616 may indicate a more specialized function; whether this should be termed "cultic" is another matter. As discussed above, this building blocks any continuation of the ringroad to the NW.

Building 142.05: Rm 615, Rm 620, Rm 624, Rm 626, Rm 628, Rm 629 -

This structure is a relatively large 4-Room building, though its plan is obscured by Stratum 2 constructions. All rooms have bottom levels, but elevations on walls are scarce. There are no photographs at all, so the following evaluation is based on the plan alone. The building is single-stone work throughout. This building is similarly

interpreted by McClellan.<sup>810</sup>

Rm 626 represents parts of three rooms. On the NE is a series of four steps leading down into the building from road Rm 627. McClellan also advances the possibility that the stairs lead to an upper floor, but this seems the less likely interpretation.<sup>811</sup> The central part is probably a continuation of Rm 628 to the NW. Note that the SE continuation of the SW wall of Rm 628 is cut by a 90 cm wide Stratum 2 wall; only a few stones of this continuation are preserved SE of the late wall. The SW part is likely a continuation of Rm 620 to the NW for the same reason brought forward for Rm 628.

Rm 620 is the W long room, with a continuation to the SE in Rm 626. Against the wide Stratum 2 wall which separates it from Rm 626 is an irregular mass of stones. Perhaps this is tumble from an original inner partition wall. The only indication of a doorway to Rm 628 is the gap in the wall between the SW and central parts of Rm 626. Nor is there evidence for a passage into Rm 615.

Rm 628 is the central long room; it is the widest of the three long rooms, and so may be a central open courtyard. The middle part of Rm 626 is its continuation to the SE beyond a wide Stratum 2 wall. The stairs in the NE part of Rm 626 would have led directly into this room. The wide wall on its NE side is also a Stratum 2 wall. Note that it makes a corner with the wall which separates Rm 628 from Rm 626. Rm 628 originally would have extended to the fragmentary SW wall of Rm 624. The wide wall running NW to SE may in fact run through the area where a doorway would have connected Rm 628 with back room Rm 615 and Rm 629.

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<sup>810</sup>"Planning," 60; fig. 7.

<sup>811</sup>"Planning," 60.

This is typically where such doorways are found, and a doorway into the back area is required.

Rm 624 is the E long room. Probably due to the construction of the Stratum 2 wide wall in Rm 628 the SW wall of Rm 624 is preserved for only about half its presumed original length. For the same reason there is no trace of the doorway which likely connected it to Rm 628. It is separated from the stairway on the SE by a single-stone wall. There is no indication of a doorway to Rm 629.

Rm 615 and Rm 629 together make up the back room of Building 142.05. They are separated by the previously mentioned wide wall of Stratum 2. Note that the difference in bottom levels between the two areas is only 14 cm. This same wide wall may cut through a doorway to Rm 628. There is no indication of a doorway leading to either Rm 621 or Rm 660 to the NW. The 1947 report states that Rm 615 had a bedrock floor, though bedrock is not noted on the plan there by contour lines such as are found, for example, in Rm 653.<sup>812</sup>

Dating of Building 142.05 -

The building shares single-stone walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to a crossroad. This indicates a probable initial phase in Stratum 3C. It is cut by two walls of a building which is likely of Stratum 2. This means that the building went out of use at the end of Stratum 3A.

Function of Building 142.05 -

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<sup>812</sup>I, 183 n. 12.



There is nothing to indicate other than domestic usage for this building. It is larger than the typical 3-Room dwellings, and so may been the home of a more well-to-do family.

Building 142.06: Rm 625, Rm 625a, Rm 654, Bn 366 -

This building may be similar in plan to Building 142.03. The NE and SE corners are under rubble heaps, and were left unexcavated. Elevations are few, and there are no photographs; thus the plan is the sole foundation for the following discussion. The walls are single-stone work. McClellan's reconstruction is essentially that outlined below.<sup>813</sup>

Rm 625 appears to be a large courtyard, similar to Rm 607. It was almost certainly entered from road Rm 627, possibly in the SW corner; the other sections of this wall contain a small room or are adjacent to a bin. There was likely a doorway into the back room Rm 654. There was probably a similar back room in the NE corner. There is no wall between Rm 625 and Rm 625a, though this may be an accident of preservation. There may be a doorway connecting with Rm 630 to the E; this is discussed below under Building 142.07. No top elevation is given for Bn 366, but its bottom elevation is ca. 2.0 m below the 777.90 floor level on the W side of the building, and ca. 1.8 m below the 777.75 level near-by. It might be that this installation is an earlier feature below the floor level of Rm 625, which might explain why there is so little space between it and Rm 625a. Because excavation in this area was incomplete, no decision can be reached on this point. The depth of Bn 366 is an important indication that bedrock was not reached throughout most of this area. This is contra the 1947 report which states that bedrock

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<sup>813</sup>"Planning," 60; fig. 7.

was reached in Rm 625.<sup>814</sup> Perhaps what the report intends is that the base of Bn 366 is on bedrock? There may be rock-cut installations dotting this area which were not discovered because excavation did not reach low enough. If Rm 625 is a large courtyard perhaps it once contained one of the olive presses found in reuse in the late blocking walls of Rm 600 and Rm 602.

Rm 625a is a small room which contained a large number of iron tools, including: one large and three small plow points, a sickle fragment, and a hook. Perhaps this room was used to store agricultural implements. For some reason it was built to project out into crossroad Rm 627.

Rm 654's SW corner seems to have two single stone walls. Could the N, lower segment, be a step down into the back room? Or is it a remnant of an earlier phase of the building? Without photographs the issue cannot be decided. Nor can it be established that there was an extension of this room into the unexcavated area to the NE, though this seems likely.

#### Dating of Building 142.06 -

The building shares single-stone walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to the crossroad. This suggests an initial phase in 3C. It does not clearly cut any earlier features, though Bn 366 might be such. It is not cut by any later features, so a final period cannot be established. It likely lasted through 3A; less likely did it continue into Stratum 2. The 1947 report dates this building to ca. 900-

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<sup>814</sup>I, 183 n. 12.

600 B.C.; essentially the same period as determined here.<sup>815</sup>

Function of Building 142.06 -

Its large courtyard and the surprising collection of agricultural tools from Rm 625 suggest an industrial use for the building. Though in exactly what capacity cannot be determined. The possibility that the olive press found in the wall blocking crossroad Rm 627 from ringroad Rm 600 originated in this building should not be ignored. McClellan also notes the possibility that this was a "workshop."<sup>816</sup>

Building 142.07: Rm 630, Rm 648, Rm 658 -

Only about half of this structure was excavated; the other parts are under rubble heaps. It seems, though, that this was a 3-Room building, perhaps similar to Building 142.03. Elevations are few and there are no photographs, thus the following discussion is based on the plan alone. Most walls are single-stone work. McClellan's reconstruction seems similar to that outlined below, however he does not sharply define the border with the building to the N.<sup>817</sup>

Rm 630 is the W long room. Its S end is unexcavated. Its W wall is not well-preserved. It seems to be double-stone work, and according to the plan ends on the N with a pillar. N of the pillar, between the pillar and the N wall, is a gap. This gap is only 40-50 cm wide, just enough space for someone to pass through. Perhaps this was a doorway allowing access to the industrial unit to the W, Building 142.06.

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<sup>815</sup>I, 228.

<sup>816</sup>"Planning," 68.

<sup>817</sup>"Planning," fig. 7.

However, because of the fragmentary state of this wall, and the lack of photographs, this cannot be proved. There must have been a doorway to back room Rm 648 from either Rm 630 or Rm 658, but the plan does not indicate any thresholds. Likewise there must have been a doorway from one of the two rooms facing out on an E extension of Rm 627, but this area is below rubble.

Rm 658 is the E long room; it is slightly wider than Rm 630, and so may be a courtyard. A short length of wall, which ends in a pillar, juts out from Rm 658's W wall, and separates it into N and S halves. The gap between pillar and wall is again only ca. 50 cm. If this is a courtyard the doorways into the building and back room Rm 648 would likely be here.

Rm 648 is the back room. Its W end was either not preserved, or not excavated; it probably extended as far as the W wall of Rm 630. Its N wall was not excavated, but probably does not lie more than 2.0 m to the N, which is slightly more than the width of all the back rooms of its neighbors to the W. This also allows sufficient space for a back room for Building 142.09 to the N. Note that its E wall segment is double-stone work.

#### Dating of Building 142.07 -

The building shares walls with buildings on three sides and faces out on the crossroad. It does not cut any earlier features. Its walls are a mix of single- and double-stone work. This likely indicates an origin in Stratum 3C; the double-stone walls may indicate rebuilding through 3A; less likely did it continue into 2.

#### Function of Building 142.07 -

There is nothing to suggest other than a domestic role. It may share a doorway with Building 142.06 which would be somewhat similar to the situation between Building 142.03 and Building 142.02, though Building 142.07 does not contain an olive press installation such as Building 142.03 does. Could this have been the dwelling of the owner/operator of the possible pressing installation of Building 142.06?

Building 142.08: Rm 649, Rm 650 -

This building was also not completely excavated, and its plan is less certain than that of its neighbor to the W. Elevations are again few, and there are no photographs. The walls are single-stone throughout. McClellan's reconstruction seems similar to that given below, but the line between this building and the one to the W is vague.

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The key to understanding this building is actually the pillared wall on the W of Rm 289 in AB19 in plan 143 to the E. It is not possible to have a pillared wall in which the rooms on either side do not belong to the same building. Therefore, Rm 289 belongs to Building 143.02, and so does the unnumbered space W of the wall. Since Iron Age houses at Tell en-Nasbeh seldom have less than three rooms it seems reasonable to group Rm 649 and Rm 650 together and associate them with the unnumbered, unexcavated area to the N. Like Building 142.07 to the W, it is not possible to determine by what route the building was entered since the front is unexcavated.

Rm 649 is the W long room. The plans shows a gap in its N wall leading to what should be the building's back broad room. In the

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<sup>818</sup>"Planning," fig. 7.

preserved plan there is no evidence of a doorway to Rm 650.

Rm 650 is the E long room; since it is the wider of the two long rooms, it might be a courtyard. A thin partition wall, with no elevations, divides it into N and S halves, but no doorway through the wall is indicated on the plan. There is also no indication of a passage through to the unnumbered room to the N. The plan shows a gap in the NE corner of the room. This could be doorway leading to the unnumbered space to the E. If so, and Rm 650 did belong to Building 143.02, this building would be almost as large as Building 142.01, not a complete impossibility, but it leaves Rm 649 in an uncertain position, and it seems simpler to assume this gap is just an accident of preservation.

The back room is unnumbered. It could not have extended more than another meter to the N because space is required for the back room for Building 125.02. It seems to have had a narrow partition wall in its W half. The wall it shares with Rm 648 is double-stone work. Its east wall is probably on the same line as that of Rm 650. Its only possible preserved doorway leads into Rm 649, which is a little unusual since most back rooms seem to be entered from courtyards, and Rm 650 seems more suited to be a courtyard.

#### Dating of Building 142.08 -

It shares single-stone walls with at least two buildings, and possibly three; it is also oriented to the crossroad. It does not cut any earlier features. It is probably a 3C foundation, in use through 3A and not likely continuing into 2.

#### Function of Building 142.08 -

In the few excavated remains there is nothing to suggest other than domestic use.

Building 142.09: Rm 642, Rm 651 -

This appears to be the front two rooms of a 3-Room building; a small part of the structure is on plan 125. There are a few elevations, but they are mostly on installations, not on walls. Fortunately there are photographs which show this area. Its back room lies unexcavated below a rubble heap. All visible walls are single-stone work. McClellan's reconstruction is the same as that discussed below.<sup>819</sup>

Rm 642 is the W long room; it is by far the wider of the two and may be an open courtyard. The S wall was not excavated, and the N wall is preserved only at its E end. This N wall in part continues the line of Building 125.02, and then narrows to go around what on the plan appears to be a squarish rise in the bedrock. This can be seen most clearly in P 1460. Rm 642 also contains what on the plan looks like a stone mortar, ca. 50 cm across and 15 cm deep, and in the SE a stone basin built of field stones, ca. 1.0 by 1.0 m, 25 cm deep and 80 cm high. Two stones in the N half of the room sit by themselves. P 1460 shows them, but provides no clue to their interpretation.

Rm 651 is the E long room; its S end was not excavated. P 1457 and the plan show what is either a stone pillar, or the threshold for a passage to Rm 642. Since Rm 642's W wall extends farther N than Rm 651's N wall there was likely a small additional chamber N of Rm 651. Perhaps there was a short stairway leading into the building similar to that in Building 125.02 to the E.

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<sup>819</sup>"Planning," fig. 7.

Although the back room was not uncovered, it probably began just under the edge of the rubble heap. This would allow back rooms for both Building 142.09 and Building 142.07 ca. 2.5 m wide. This chamber would be about 6.0 m long, the overall width of the building. Although McClellan recognizes this as a distinct building, he does not reconstruct a separate back room for it.<sup>820</sup>

Dating of Building 142.09 -

The building shares single-stone walls with at least one of its neighbors, and probably with two others. It is also oriented to crossroad Rm 644. It does not appear to cut any earlier features. It is probably a Stratum 3C construction which served through 3A. The N half of the building was demolished, probably during the construction of Building 125.01 of Stratum 2, and other buildings of that stratum to the W. This indicates that 3A is probably the final phase for this structure.

Function of Building of 142.09 -

The mortar and basin suggest some industrial use, at least in part, though the building may well also have been a dwelling.

Building 142.10: Rm 621, Rm 660, Rm 666 -

This seems to be the remains of a 4-Room building. Over half of it, including the entire front portion, lies under a rubble heap. Levels are few, and there are no photographs. All preserved walls are single-stone construction.

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<sup>820</sup>"Planning," 59; fig. 7.



Rm 666 is the W long room. Its W wall seems to have been incorporated into the wide Stratum 2 wall mentioned several times in connection with Building 142.05. Its E wall contains one pillar, and there were probably more to the N. There is no indication of a doorway into Rm 621 to the S.

The unnumbered space to the E of the pillar wall was probably the central room or courtyard for the building. The wide Stratum 2 wall likely continues N under the rubble, but may soon turn a corner to the W to meet up with the thick wall segment in the N part of Rm 618. It may be that this thick wall cuts through the passage way which likely leads into back room Rm 621 and Rm 660. It seems reasonable to posit a third long room in the area to the N of Rm 660, which would have the same E wall line as Rm 660. A wall extended on that course would meet with the single-stone wall which marks the S limit of the space numbered Rm 671, which is part of the crossroad. This N wall would mark the N limit of Building 142.10; it would then connect with the N wall of the stairway leading into Rm 614a.

Rm 621 and Rm 660 make up the back room. It is cut by the oft-mentioned wide Stratum 2 wall. It may be that this late wall cut through the doorway which would connect the back room to the front of the building. The W wall of Rm 621 seems partially incorporated into another wide Stratum 2 wall. The NW wall of Rm 660 is unexcavated.

#### Dating of Building 142.10 -

It shares single-stone walls with at least one other building, and likely with two others. It is oriented to Rm 671 which is part of the same crossroad as Rm 644 to the E. It does not seem to cut any earlier features. This indicates a probable foundation in 3C; it likely

continued through 3A. It is clearly cut by fragmentary buildings of Stratum 2, indicating that it had gone out of use by the end of 3A.

Function of Building 142.10 -

Of the small portion uncovered, there is nothing to indicate other than a domestic role for this building.

Building 142.11: Rm 613?, Rm 614a, Rm 614b, Rm 618a, Rm 618b, Bn 365?,  
Ci 364a, Ci 364b -

These rooms and installations may all belong to the same building, but its plan is unconventional; perhaps a bit like Building 143.02. The problem is complicated by the few levels and lack of good photographs. Also, the connection between Rm 614a and Rm 614b to the W, with the Rm 618 suite to the E, is cut by a corner of a large building of Stratum 2.

Rm 614a is entered from the unnumbered road to the north (a continuation of Rm 644 to the E) by a flight of three stairs. A stone pillar (of uncertain type) may mark the spot where a wall extending S began. This presumed wall would run along the W face of the wide Stratum 2 wall all the way to the SE wall of Bn 365. Its N, W and S walls are single-stone work. When discussing Building 141.06 the possibility was raised that Bn 365 was originally a back room to that building, and was an eastern extension of Rm 613. The stronger possibility should also be kept in mind that Bn 365 and Rm 613 may belong with Rm 614a and Rm 614b respectively. The S walls for Bn 365 and Rm 613 are on the same line as that for Rm 618. This makes Building 141.06 a 2-Room building, which is not impossible. The plan does not show a passage into Rm 614b, which contains Ci 364a and Ci 364b. The line of this wall is just off P 1435. If Rm 613 belongs with Rm 614a, then so would Rm 614b. Perhaps this wall

is a later addition, or is not well enough preserved to show a threshold. Finally, it should be noted that Rm 614a has a floor at 776.41, within 27 cm of the top of a stone in the wall encircling Ci 364b at 776.14. The two cisterns are connected internally and are of the bottle-shaped variety.<sup>821</sup> In his diary of June 3, 1935 Badè indicated that he believed that these two cisterns were covered by the floor of this room, but he does not provide any information to justify this belief.

McClellan made much of the circles of rock found around the mouths of Ci 364 (and Ci 363), suggesting that these circles were indications that Rm 614b (McClellan calls it Rm 613) was not used for normal human activity, but was a "low half-cellar or basement."<sup>822</sup> He does not explain his reasoning and so his suggestion remains doubtful.

The architectural associations of Rm 613 and Bn 365 are a major question. Do they belong to Building 141.06 or Building 142.11? In favor of the association with Building 141.06 is that Rm 613 and Bn 365 occupy the same position in relation to Building 141.06 as Rm 566a and Rm 566b do in relation to Building 141.04 and Building 141.05. These latter two rooms serve as back rooms to their respective buildings. Also, a large stone in the E end of Rm 613's SE wall could have served as a threshold to the front of Building 141.06. On the other hand, the NW wall of Bn 365 curves around a little, while its SE wall with Rm 617 is straight. It seems more likely that a curving wall would face toward the room which provided access to it. Also, the back walls of the back rooms to the NE (Rm 619, Rm 615, Rm 629 and Rm 654) follow the line of the back wall of Rm 617, not the NW wall of Bn 365. Note also that the SW wall of

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<sup>821</sup>I, 129.

<sup>822</sup>"Planning," 61.

Rm 365 dovetails into the wall which separates Rm 614a from Rm 614b. A photograph of this area would be a tremendous help, but none is available. However, it seems best to associate these three rooms with Building 142.11.

Rm 618a is at 776.98, so the floor may slope up from SW to NE from Rm 614a to Rm 618a, or a step or two may have connected the two rooms. Originally this room probably extended as far to the SW as the pillar at the base of the stairs; a wide wall of Stratum 2 occupies about a third of the W part of this room. It may also have been possible to go directly from the stairway directly into Rm 618a; there would be no problem with this once the wide Stratum 2 wall running between the stairwell and Rm 618a is removed.

A wall with one preserved pillar separates Rm 618a from Rm 618b to the E. This wall originally probably contained at least two other pillars. Both rooms probably ran north to a retaining wall for the stairs. Rm 618b originally probably extended to the NE as far as the line of stones marking the SW limit of Rm 666. This means that about half of Rm 618b is taken up by another wide Stratum 2 wall. There is no trace of the doorway which one connected Rm 618a and Rm 618b. It may well have been in the area adjacent to the stairway.

McClellan recognizes that Rm 614a, Rm 618a and Rm 618b belong together.<sup>823</sup> However, he is not willing to specifically assign Rm 613 and Rm 614b to the same building.<sup>824</sup> In fact, he does not assign them to any building. Given that all these rooms share the same back wall, it is

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<sup>823</sup>"Planning," 60-61, fig. 7.

<sup>824</sup>"Planning," fig. 13. Note the dashed line separating the E and W halves of this building. This indicates his own uncertainty about the reconstruction.

best to group them as Building 142.11.

Dating of Building 142.11 -

This building shares single-stone walls with buildings on three sides and is oriented to a continuation of the crossroad traceable as far to the east as Rm 644. There are no indications that it cuts earlier features. It is probably a 3C foundation which ran at least through 3A. The two walls in the room containing Ci 364a and Ci 364b may be indicative of modifications over time. It is cut by three wide walls of a large Stratum 2 building, which means it went out of use by the end of Stratum 3A.

Function of Building 142.11 -

The building contains two cisterns, which is somewhat unusual, and its plan is not at all typical for Tell en-Nasbeh. Whether this indicates other than domestic use remains disputable for no features indicative of industrial use were found.

The Road System -

Rm 600, Rm 602 and Rm 603 are the N end of a ringroad which begins to be traceable far to the SE in AH20; this was noted in the 1947 report.<sup>825</sup> This road system links up the all the earliest clear and extensive remains in the SW part of the town and was laid out in Stratum 3C, continuing through 3A. As mentioned above, it is likely that this road roughly follows the W edge of a natural terrace in the bedrock, which explains the many stairways found leading off this road to the W.

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<sup>825</sup>I, 230.

From Rm 603 a possible set of two stairs may give access to Building 142.02 and Building 142.03. It may be that entry to the upper floor of Building 142.01 was gained from either Rm 600 or Rm 602.

At some later time Rm 600 and Rm 602 were walled off. These late walls include olive presses from near by buildings. Also, a new wall was laid across the front of Rm 607. Perhaps the NE wall of Building 142.01 served as a foundation for other post-road construction in the area. Note that a late wall cuts across this latter building, but floats above the floor level. The reused presses are shown in P 1417 and P 1428. What sort of building this was, or even how far it extended are uncertain. The area of Rm 602 was clearly used for baking of some sort. It seems that the wall which separates Rm 600 from crossroad Rm 627 continues N and connects to the wide Stratum 2 wall in AB16.

An oven was built in the SW corner of Rm 602, see P 1428. According to the 1947 report the oven was ca 77 cm across on the outside, 71 cm on the inside. The complete profile was found at one point, being preserved 36 cm high on the outside, 34 cm on the inside.<sup>826</sup> Evidently there was a draft hole on top which could be covered. It was found to contain about 10 cm of ash. The stratigraphic position of the oven in Rm 602 is uncertain. It is in a space closed off by walls which in two places incorporate olive presses of Stratum 3. The oven may in fact be connected with the large poorly preserved Stratum 2 building in AB16-17. However, it is just possible that this oven belongs in Stratum 3, and like the possible oven in Rm 524 was constructed outside the building to which it belongs, in this case Building 142.01. It is very likely on bedrock, or very nearly so; its bottom elevation, 776.92, is very near that of the exposed bedrock to the W at 776.88. Also the olive

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<sup>826</sup>I, 251-252.

presses might be in the foundation courses of the later building. Its stratigraphic position must remain open. Because of the later walls it is uncertain how much the oven impeded movement along the Stratum 3 ringroad.

Rm 627 is a crossroad leading into ringroad Rm 600 from the E, as noted in the 1947 report.<sup>827</sup> It seems impossible to force Rm 600 to continue N through AB15-16. Crossroad Rm 627 seems as though it must continue E at least as far as the E part of AB19. It may continue farther E, but it likely sends off one branch to the S along the line of Rm 382, and another to the N on the line of Rm 635. These roads are fragments of what was likely a "ridgeroad" running more-or-less the length of the central part of the town. The S extension of the ridgeroad is uncertain, but the N branch continues to Z19 where it sends another crossroad back W; the ridgeroad may well continue N, but late buildings and erosion have effaced all trace of it.

The road branching off to the W is first identifiable as Rm 644, just N of Building 142.09. McClellan also noted that this was a road.<sup>828</sup> This road continues W as Rm 653 (which is on bedrock; see also page 183 n. 12 of the 1947 report) and Rm 671, past the stairway to Building 142.11 until it reaches Building 141.02, where it probably comes to an end, though it may continue as Rm 388, which is a dead-end. This crossroad, roughly parallel to crossroad Rm 627, sends off branches to the N. The first is identifiable as Rm 669 in Z15; the other can be identified as Rm 394 in AA14. Road Rm 669 seems to follow the same natural terrace as Rm 600. Thus, to the N of a central block or insula of buildings there are two "ringroads" and one "ridgeroad," while to the

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<sup>827</sup>I, 230.

<sup>828</sup>"Planning," pp. 59-61, 64.

S there is apparently only one ringroad and one ridgeroad.

The double-stone walls on the N of Rm 671, between Rm 671 and Rm 653, and on the N of Rm 652 cut and/or follow the crossroad in that area. These walls likely belong to fragmentary structures of Stratum 2 and/or 1. P 1478 shows in situ pottery below the N double-stone wall of Rm 671 which is built on top of the earlier double-stone wall of Building 125.04 (P 1476 is a close-up of the in situ pottery). Rm 652 is probably a small piece of a partially excavated 3- or 4-Room building which shared a back wall with Building 142.06.

Rm 541 seems to be an elevated stone-paved sideroad, almost a causeway, between Building 142.01 on the S, and Building 141.04, Building 141.05 and Building 141.06 to the N. The main problem is that, with the present arrangement of walls, there is no clear way to move directly from ringroad Rm 600 to sideroad Rm 541, unless the apparently late walls which meet in the SW corner of Rm 616 are removed, and the original SE wall of Rm 616 is positioned a bit farther to the NW, to about the line of the stairs leading into Rm 617. This might also require changes in Rm 623, or its removal all together. If some such solution is not accepted, the inhabitants trying to reach these buildings N of sideroad Rm 541 would have had to go far to the S along the ringroad to find a lane through the band of buildings, then turn back N through the intramural area. Possible, but a circuitous route nonetheless. For the moment, moving the wall of Rm 616 and Rm 623 seems the better solution.

Why construct such a stone causeway? This is assuredly connected to the fact that ringroad Rm 600 follows a natural rock terrace which drops off sharply to the W and the bedrock may also slope considerably in that direction. Instead of building a stairway down to a lower level



road, the builders of the 3C town decided to construct a raised road with stairs leading off of it.

McClellan discusses this road system in depth.<sup>829</sup> There is substantial agreement between his treatment and that offered here. What McClellan clearly saw was that there was no way to continue the ringroad through roughly the area of AA-AB15. The road comes to and end at Rm 600. He noted that this created a "perpendicular insula" extending from ca. AB-AC14 to ca. Z-AB18 (the present discussion continues the insula to the E edge of Z-AB19). He points out that several lines of stones in Rm 541 may have been drain channels in the road.<sup>830</sup> In his discussion he notes the problem of connecting sideroad Rm 541 with the ringroad. He believes that the landing between the stairs leading up to Rm 617 and down to Rm 598 is a late modification to Rm 541. However, his solution to connecting Rm 541 with the ringroad is the same as that advanced above. He was also the first to suggest that Rm 388 may be a sideroad.

Building 142.00 -

It is difficult to describe this structure; all that is left of it seems to be its foundations, and the broad areas which these walls enclose were not given numbers separate from the earlier features which they cut. McClellan notes the existence of most of these walls, but does not discuss them.<sup>831</sup> They are seen primarily in AB15-16 cutting Building 142.04, Building 142.05, Building 142.10 and Building 142.11. The extant portions make two parallel long rooms. That on the W is ca. 12.0 m long by 2.5 m wide; the other is at least 10.0 m long by 3.5 m wide. The

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<sup>829</sup>"Planning," 57-62; fig. 7.

<sup>830</sup>"Planning," pp. 59, 64.

<sup>831</sup>"Planning," 59.

width of the foundations varies from 70 cm to 1.5 m. It is impossible to say whether this building had a second floor, though the strength of these foundations might be evidence for such.

This building seems to be connected to the changed purpose of ringroad Rm 600 and Rm 602. It also likely belongs to the same Stratum as the thick walls cutting Rm 652, Rm 653 and Rm 671. These in turn are fragments of a building possibly associated with the 4-Room building complex Building 125.01. If all these relations are granted, then this tangle of walls belongs to Stratum 2. Since the buildings here are quite large, fragmentary and probably only preserved to their foundations, little can be said of their role. Perhaps the long rooms in AB15-16 are storage facilities?

Other Remains -

Rm 640, Rm 645 and Rm 646 are Building 125.02 and were discussed on plan 125 above. This is because they front on a continuation of crossroad Rm 644 in that plan and are related to other features there. Rm 584 and Rm 612 belong to Building 159.04 and are discussed below on that plan.