

Plan 143: AA-AB-AC,19-20-21 - Overview

No remains from either Stratum 5 or 4 were identified.

Remains from Stratum 3 exist. Stratum 3C foundations were found and some show signs of modifications, but it is not possible to separate them into 3B or 3A. Traces of two 3-Room, and possibly one 4-Room, buildings can be defined. A street running E to W bisects the area, and other roads lead off to N and S.

Fragments of buildings and walls of later strata are evident, but do not allow reconstruction into coherent plans. Though most likely these belong to Stratum 2, there is no way to be certain that they are not Stratum 1.

Evaluation -

Most of this area was excavated in 1932; AA19 was cleared near the end of the 1935 season. The disjointed character of the plan is a result of Badè's digging around the rubble heaps which cover most of the area. One long, narrow heap separates AA19 from the squares to the S, and a second heap takes up about a third of AB-AC19. The largest heap extends from the E edge of AB-AC19, curves a little N in AB-AC,20-21, then sweeps S in Plan 144 and Plan 161. The area excavated was the space available and clear at that time. Photographic documentation is poor. P 1457 shows AA19, and P 964 is a view the length of AB-AC21. No photographs are available for the E edge, i.e. AB-AC21. There are elevations for most floors, but almost no bottom levels for walls.

Building 143.01: Rm 632, Rm 636a, Rm 636b

This is probably a 3-Room building; parts of all three chambers survive, but the plan is only partial. All walls are single-stone work.

Rm 636a is the N long room. Its N wall is on Plan 125 and is slightly shorter than the wall which separates it from Rm 636b to the S. The front of the room has been lost due to either construction or erosion or both. However, it must have faced out on a road to the E, just as Building 126.01 to the N does. It probably did not extend more than another ca. 1.0 to 2.0 m to the E. There is no indication of doorways to either Rm 632, the back room, or Rm 636b.

Rm 636b is the S long room. Only its wall with Rm 636a and a small piece of its wall with Rm 632 survive. Its E wall was probably lost due to later construction, and its S wall, if it survives at all, may be under a rubble heap. This room is cut diagonally from SW to NE by a later wall, but the exact character of this later wall is difficult to define. The plan is drawn in such a way that two wall segments, set off slightly from each other, are represented. P 1457 gives the same impression. This could be an example of a wall with two different phases of construction, or it could be that the wall actually does make a short jag to the N in its course, and that these two segments should then be taken as one constructional phase.

Rm 632 is the back room. Only its S wall does not survive, lost apparently when the wall which cuts through Rm 632 and Rm 636 was constructed. No trace of a doorway to either long room survives.

The space on the plan may allow enough room for another small building between this structure and Building 143.02, or else an additional large room for one building or the other.

Dating of Building 143.01 -

It shares single-stone walls with buildings on at least two sides, and quite probably on a third as well. It is also oriented toward a road running along the central ridge of the town. It does not appear to cut any earlier features. In the surviving remains there is no evidence for rebuildings or modifications. It is probably a 3C foundation used through 3A. It is cut by a later wall, but this wall cannot be attached to any coherent plan, and so it is not possible to say with certainty when this building went out of use. It may continue into Stratum 2.

Function of Building 143.01 -

There is nothing in the plan to indicate other than a domestic role for this structure.

Building 143.02: Rm 289, Ci 304

The plan of this structure is not very clear. Only one room survives at all well; and though there was at least one additional room, its plan is a guess. Given the small space preserved and excavated there are a reasonable number of elevations.

Building 143.02 occupies an interesting position in the Stratum 3 road system. To the W are the certain remains of road Rm 627; if the course of this road does not diverge much from its observed course it would have passed by the S face of Rm 289. In the discussion of Building 126.01 and Building 143.01 it was suggested that these structures faced out on a road to their E in Z-AA19, running along the town's central ridge. If this suggestion is accepted, then the intersection of the two roads would be at a point just E of Rm 289.

Rm 289 is a large, almost square room; possibly it would have been an open courtyard. Its walls are not well-preserved. Its E and N walls seem to have been single-stone work. Its S wall was likely reused in, or destroyed by the double-stone wall found there. This double-stone wall seems to connect with a similar wall which cuts across the line of the continuation of crossroad Rm 627. Its W wall is a pillar wall containing three pillars connected by short sections of masonry (P 964 seems to show that at least one pillar is a monolith). This is certain proof that Building 143.02 contained at least one more room to the W. This space was unnumbered. The true W extent of Building 143.02 cannot be resolved definitively. The possibility that Rm 649 and Rm 650 in Plan 142, and the unnumbered rooms associated with them belong to Building 143.02, cannot be ruled out completely. If these latter rooms are part of Building 143.02 it would be a complex about as large as Building 142.01 and a little smaller than Building 159.082. Note that these two buildings are also found at the intersection of at least two roads. However, because this would make a quite a large building, it seemed better to set Rm 649 and Rm 650 off by themselves as Building 142.08.

Rm 289 also contains a stairway which leads down into it. Its condition is fragmentary, but it seems to have led up to the E, then turned to the S where it would have connected with the continuation of crossroad Rm 627. The area around the top of the steps seems to be cobbled and is perhaps a floor; this is ca. 60 cm above the level of the floor of the rest of the room. The cobbles seem to reach what looks like a single-stone marking the E edge of this room. Between the last step and the cobbles to the S is a gap, which looks almost like a deliberate trough. Is this an accident of preservation or a deliberate feature? If it is deliberate, perhaps it served to channel water from the adjacent road into Ci 304. Ci 304 is a bottle-shaped cistern, as reported by the

1947 report.⁸³²

Part of what is probably the N wall of Rm 289 is preserved. Against it was built a low wall of narrow stones set on end, possibly a small storage facility.

There are two walls in Rm 289 which are probably part of later buildings. The first was mentioned above when discussing the S limit of this room. The other is in the NE corner. It is a double-stone wall projecting from the N wall of Rm 289 in a N to S direction. Unfortunately this is such a small fragment that its true stratigraphic position is difficult to determine; it could even be a late (3A) modification to Building 143.02 rather than from a completely different stratum.

Dating of Building 143.02 -

The dating is problematic. It probably shares walls with buildings to W and N; it is also probably oriented along a crossroad and a ridgeroad of Stratum 3. These are tenuous grounds on which to base a date. However, it is probably a 3C foundation which existed through 3A. It is cut by later walls, which probably, though not certainly are of Stratum 2. This would suggest a possible final date in 3A, though again this is most uncertain.

Function of Building 143.02 -

The evidence is slight. There is nothing to indicate an industrial role, so it is probably a dwelling. If it did extend as far as Rm 649 it

⁸³²I, 129 n. 1.

was probably the home of a well-to do family, otherwise it was probably just a common dwelling. The 1947 report notes that this is virtually the only building found in the center of the town with a pillar wall.⁸³³ But because remains in the center of the tell were so scanty this should not be taken as proof that the upper and lower areas of the town were either similar or dissimilar.

Building 143.03: Rm 381a, Rm 381b -

The plan of this building is most uncertain. The proposed reconstruction is offered with all due hesitancy.

Rm 381a is apparently a long room of a 3-Room building. Its N wall was either incorporated into or destroyed by the construction of a later thick wall. Its W wall is also difficult to trace, though where it joins Rm 381a's back wall there are a few stones which might be part of a single-stone wall. The back wall is relatively clear and is basically single-stone work. The E wall is a mix of single- and double-stone work. To the E of this wall was likely a second long room. The gap between the E wall and the N wall may be an accident of preservation, or may mark where a doorway once led into the room beyond. The room has a stone-paved floor; generally courtyards are not paved, so if the building had one, it would likely be to the E. None of the other walls show any sign of a doorway.

Rm 381b is probably a back room, though the possibility that it was a long room, oriented toward a road in Rm 382, associated with the unnumbered space to the S cannot be ruled out. Its preserved walls are mainly single-stone work, though there is no sign of its E wall. There

⁸³³I, 212.

is no bottom level to compare with Rm 381a.

Dating of Building 143.03 -

The building is a mix of single- and double-stone work; it is also probably oriented along a crossroad and a ridgeroad. It does not seem to cut any earlier features. It may therefore be a 3C foundation which continued through 3A. It is cut by at least two later walls, which may well be Stratum 2, though this cannot be proved. If so, the building probably went out of use in 3A.

Function of Building 143.03 -

The few remains suggest nothing more than a domestic use.

Road System -

Rm 382 probably represents a road running roughly along the town's central ridge. Note that if a set of buildings such as face SW out on to ringroad Rm 600 to Rm 514 is reconstructed on the back of those same buildings facing NE their projected front walls would be roughly in the vicinity of Rm 382. Excavation under the rubble heap could confirm this theory.

The extent of road Rm 382 to the SE is uncertain; it would be blocked by Rm 383. However the double-stone walls of Rm 383 seem to disrupt the orientation of the single-stone walls around them, so this is likely a later room, probably of Stratum 2. Rm 383 seems to contain what from the plan appears to be a stone basin. Unfortunately there is no close up photograph of this area. The installation is ca. 70 cm across by ca. 32 cm high.

The probable continuation of road Rm 382 to the SW would also take it through Rm 570 and Rm 568 in Plan 160. This is not impossible since there is little information on these rooms. However, there is also no reason that the road must continue in that direction; it could dead end. Unfortunately there is not enough evidence to decide the issue.

Rm 339 is in its original phase likely a continuation of crossroad Rm 627 to the W. As discussed above, if this road continues to the E it would likely make an intersection with a N to S ridgeroad on to which Building 143.01 faced. This crossroad could have continued E across the town. Unfortunately this area was only partially excavated and also seems to have been heavily disturbed by Stratum 2, and possibly later Stratum 1 material. Note that on the N, S and W it is limited by double-stone walls; those to N and S seem to be rebuilds over, or on the line of, buildings to either side of the road, and that the wall to the W cuts the road. This set of walls is likely of Stratum 2, but a date in Stratum 1 cannot be ruled out.

Rm 285 is a rectangular thick-walled construction. Its S wall is not preserved, nor are there any direct connections with features on any side. A somewhat similar thick wall to the W running E to W seems to have the same orientation. This wall cuts across Bn 301, which is just on the N edge of the projected course of the E to W crossroad, which probably puts it in Stratum 3. Rm 285 and the neighboring thick wall, however, block the line of this road. For this reason it seem best to assign these features to Stratum 2, at the earliest, though their final phase must be left open.

Rm 465 is treated in the discussion of Plan 160 below.