

Plan 144: AA-AB-AC,22-23-24 - Overview

No clear remains of Stratum 4 or 5 were discerned. Perhaps this area was outside the settlements of those periods.

Stratum 3C is represented by three fragments of the casemate-like wall; one section even having segments of house walls built against it. A small stone-paved installation, cut by the 3B gate, also belongs to this phase.

Stratum 3B is represented by parts of two storage bins, and by about one third of the inner gate of the inner and outer gate complex (Building 145.01 and Building 93.01).

To 3A belongs the fragmentary remains of a pillared building in the center of the plan, perhaps built over part of the 3C wall. A rebuild over the line of the 3C casemate-like wall, with fragments of attached buildings, also probably belong to this phase.

Stratum 2 is attested by part of a 4-Room building (discussed in Plan 127), a probable 3-Room building, a long enclosure wall, and a few wall segments inside the enclosure. The 3-Room building cuts the 3B inner gate, and is dug in below the gate's floor level. The enclosure wall cuts walls of Stratum 3.

Nothing assignable to Stratum 1 was defined.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in the 1929 season (AB-AC24), and in different parts of the 1932 campaign (AA22-23-24, AB23-24). The area

north of the inner gate (Building 145.01) is fairly well-documented with photographs, including several closeups. There are several photographs of the SE corner of the area, but not a good general view. There are no photographs of the NW or W part of the plan, leaving a couple buildings undocumented. There are a good number of elevations in the N, but far fewer in the S. The stratigraphy in the SE is complex, and was divided by the excavators into a Level I and Level II plan. AB22 and AC22-23 were not excavated due to the presence of large rubble heaps.

Building 144.01: Rm 318?, Rm 324, Rm 325, Rm 326, Rm 327, Rm 331, Rm 332

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This is one of the better-photographed structures in the area. As has already been discussed in Plan 110 and Plan 127 above, the area between the N gate and S gate was enclosed by walls to E and W, forming a long inner and outer gate complex. In Stratum 2 the W wall of this complex was either razed completely, or to near the base of its foundations. Building 144.01 provides more evidence for this.

This seems to be a 3-Room building. Rm 332, Rm 327 and Rm 324 make up the N long room, and Rm 331, Rm 326 and the unnumbered space NE of Rm 326 comprise the S long room. Rm 325 is the back room. Floor levels in this structure are at 778.10, 778.23 and 778.57. A few elevations on the preserved top courses of the inner gate's walls are 780.55, 779.91, 779.57 and 780.01. This demonstrates that Building 144.01 is from ca. 1.0 to 2.0 m below the existing level of the gate, as also noted in the 1947 report.⁸³⁴ Note also that the SE corner of the unnumbered room NE of Rm 326 is built over the NW corner of the inner gate, and that Rm 325 uses the N wall of the gate for its own S wall. All this data proves

⁸³⁴I, 210.

that Building 144.01 was built after the inner gate had gone out of use. Indeed, much of the area N of the inner gate was cleared of debris to a depth of at least 2.0 m in order to construct Building 144.01 and structures N and E of it. This was a major construction effort.

For all this Building 144.01 is not without its problems, as will become clear below. It is a mixture of single- and double-stone construction. The main entrance was probably from the plaza W of the inner gate (marked Rm 236 and Rm 237 on the plan) down the irregularly-shaped stairway into Rm 331. P 926 shows the stairway and a small portion of the stone-paved floor of Rm 331.

Rm 331's S wall continues the line of the N wall of the inner gate. Its E wall is part of the large enclosure marked here as Rm 284. Its N wall ends just short of the stairway to allow those entering to proceed easily to Rm 332. Rm 331's N wall (and that of the rooms to the NE) contains six monolithic pillars. The 1947 report notes that these range from 90 cm to 1.25 m high, and that with their bases their tops were 1.5 to 1.6 m above floor level.⁸³⁵ What appears in the plan as a wall of small packed stone between Rm 331 and Rm 326 is most likely a later construction, post-dating the building (see P 937). P 843 and the plan show how a few stones on the E face of this wall extend around the E side of the third pillars from the W. The photograph also seems to show that this wall is built over the stone floor shared between Rm 326 and Rm 331.

Rm 326 is a NE continuation of Rm 331, as are its N and S walls, and its stone-paved floor. As mentioned above, its W wall is probably a late addition. There is no photograph of its E wall, and the plan does

⁸³⁵I, 214.

not give any elevations for it. However, it is a skimpy wall, not likely load-bearing. It might even be a low partition wall. Note that the NE face of the W wall of the inner gate ends on a line with the E wall of Rm 326.

The unnumbered room NE of Rm 326 does not appear in any photograph, which is unfortunate because there is only one level for its four walls. Most of its area is taken up by a bin, also unnumbered, which is ca. 1.3 m across and preserved to a depth of 57 cm; most of this is below the floor level of Rm 326. A large stone in the middle of its N wall could have been the base for a stone pillar, such as is the case with the other pillars in this wall to the SW. Its skimpy W wall was described above. Its E wall is apparently small packed stones, two, usually three wide, rather like the wall between Rm 331 and Rm 326. This wall continues N to form the back wall to Rm 324. Its S wall is problematic. The S half of this wall looks like a direct continuation of that of Rm 326, but the N half, which almost doubles the width of the wall, is made of smaller stones. It may be that the N half of the wall is part of the foundation of the inner gate, being reused as the base for the thinner wall continuing from Rm 326 to the SW. The maximum thickness of this wall is 1.4 m, similar to the E wall of the inner gate, but much less than the 2.2 m width of the preserved part of the N wall of the gate just to the east in Plan 145. Alternatively, this wall might have a thicker base to better serve as a retaining wall against the debris below the inner gate. It seems best to take it as the reuse of the gate's foundations.

Rm 332 is an odd-shaped chamber. Entrance to it was by way of the stairs leading into Rm 331. This also seems to be the only place movement between the N long room and that to the S was possible. The N long room is also the wider of the two, so it may have been a courtyard.

Its S pillar wall was discussed above. The wall it shares with Rm 327 to the E belongs with the remains of a later (Stratum 1) structure discussed in Plan 127 above. The only base level for this wall (778.44) is higher than the average floor level for the building (778.20-778.30). The W wall is strange. There is a short wall segment in the NW corner of the room, built-up against the E wall (and possibly some bedrock?) of Rm 333. To the S is nothing except what may be a narrow alley, ca. 70 cm wide, between the S wall of Building 127.03 and the N wall of the large enclosure marked by Rm 284. It is not clear why there should be such a narrow alley between two complexes at a much higher level than Building 144.01. If its destination in the W were clear this issue could be resolved. For now it must be left open. Note also that the W wall of Rm 332 also extends beyond the edge of its N wall. This indicates that there was at least a small annex to this building in that direction.

Rm 327 is the NE extension of Rm 332. It is cut from N-S by a later wall; the one bottom level is ca. 80 cm above the floor, so it is floating quite high. The late wall which separates it from Rm 332 was discussed above. This wall turns and runs to the NE, just on the N side of the pillar wall, as shown in P 843, to reach as far as the fifth pillar from the W. There is no bottom level for the wall separating it from Rm 324, so it is difficult to decide if it is original, or an addition.

Rm 324 is the NE end of the N long room. The wall between it and Rm 327 is very rough and dissimilar to any of the other walls in the building. That at one point it is preserved 86 cm above the floor, with no sign of a doorway, probably means that it is later, even part of another (Stratum 1) building. Note also that a fragment of some circular installation floats high above this wall. These late features help explain the presence of Greek and Hellenistic coinage and pottery in

this room, mentioned in the 1947 report.⁸³⁶

Rm 325 is the back room. There was probably no doorway to the unnumbered room NE of Rm 326. The foundations of the NW wall of the inner gate are quite wide there. The only space they allow for access to the unnumbered room leads right over the unnumbered bin. Probably there was a doorway into Rm 324, though there are no elevations or photographs to confirm it. The back (NE) wall of Rm 325 extends to the NW beyond the NW wall of the room. This is a second indication that other structures, possibly connected with Building 144.01, originally stood in that area.

Rm 318 is E of Rm 325 and is within the area of Rm 320 of Building 128.01. It shares its W wall with Rm 325, but there is no doorway between these areas. Its N and E walls are single-stone work. The E wall stops short of the N wall of the inner gate, but likely is not cut by it. The E wall is also much too close to the E wall of Rm 320 for both to have been in use at the same time. Perhaps Rm 318 represents an original construction attached to the back of Building 144.01 and Building 128.01 is a later rebuilding of the area E of Building 144.01. If either Rm 318 or Building 128.01 were connected to Building 144.01 perhaps access between these two areas was on a second story.

The 1947 report discusses this building at some length.⁸³⁷ It recognizes the same core rooms as discussed above, and that the building may have extended N to include the area of Rm 328, Rm 329 and Rm 337. It also realizes that the building must be later than the inner (their "early") gate, which according to their dating would be post-701 B.C., at the latest. The building is characterized as having single-stone

⁸³⁶I, 174.

⁸³⁷I, 214-215.

walls, which is not true; the walls are mixed. This error led to several other problems. The stairway built against the enclosure wall was thought to be a later addition, constructed to provide access to the plaza adjacent to the gate after the plaza had been raised in height. This is the opposite of the theory advanced in this report which sees Building 144.01 as a feature dug in next to the gate. The material recovered from the building largely belonged to "the 6th and later centuries." But it was thought that the building was constructed as much as a century earlier, and that the materials found in it reflect only its last period of use. This last observation is true enough, but it does not provide a sufficient basis for determining the building's foundation. The report also dwells on a "niche" formed by the fourth and fifth pillars from the W in Rm 326 and the wall built against them to the N.⁸³⁸ The possibilities that it served either a "sacred" or more utilitarian role are discussed. The view that this might be a later wall, with no real connection to this building, was not advanced. It should be noted that this is the only place at TEN where such a "niche" is found, which immediately makes it suspicious.

Dating of Building 144.01 -

Since it is built partially over and against the town's 3B defenses, which continued into 3A, this structure is at least 3A. Also, later walls are built through it, partially making use of it. This later building would be Stratum 1. Also, Building 144.01 shares walls with, and so is contemporary with, the large enclosure and 4-Room building Building 127.03, both of Stratum 2.

Function of Building 144.01 -

⁸³⁸I, 255.

The part of this building which is preserved seems to have been at least semi-subterranean; adjacent buildings have floors 1.0 to 1.5 m above its floor level. Possibly it was the lower floor to a two-story structure. If so the entrance to this upper floor cannot be established. Also odd, if this is a bottom floor, is the alley leading W from Rm 332. The presence of the internal bin is unusual. This might mark the building, or part of it, as a storage area; the living floor would be on the second floor then.

Building 144.02: Rm 286, Rm 287, Rm 288? -

This is a very fragmentary structure; it is not even certain that Rm 288 is part of it. Elevations are sparse, and there are no photographs. The W end of the building was left unexcavated below a rubble heap.

Rm 286 is part of a long room. The wall it shares with Rm 287 contains three pillars, evidently connected by sections of masonry. It cannot be determined if the pillars are monoliths, or built-up of rough drums. Its N and E walls seem to be mixed single- and double-stone work.

Rm 287 is a second long room; since it is the wider of the two it might form a courtyard. Its pillar wall with Rm 286 was described above. Its wall with Rm 288 is composed of smallish stones laid one course wide. Its E wall, as drawn, in the N is similar to its wall with Rm 288, and in the S widens to ca. 1.6 m. This is about the width of the fragmentary early casemate-like wall in AB-AC24 (discussed below). Note that the NE corner of Rm 288 also seems to overlie this wider wall. Perhaps this corner of Rm 287 and Rm 288 is founded on that 3C wall system.

Rm 288's wall with Rm 287 was described above. The E wall is mainly large single stones, while its S wall contains two pillars; one connected to the E wall by a section of masonry. If masonry connected the two pillars it has not survived. There must have been an additional room to the S, otherwise the pillar wall would have opened to the exterior of the structure. This area was evidently unexcavated.

The major question concerning these rooms is whether they form parts of one or two buildings. The pillar wall between Rm 286 and Rm 287 indicates that they are part of the same structure. Rm 288 has a pillar wall on its S side, indicating a room in that direction. The wall between Rm 287 and Rm 288 is the key. If it were a pillar wall it would provide a good link for the two rooms, but apparently it was a solid wall. Yet the wall is thin. Could it be a load-bearing wall between two buildings, or is it a partition wall within a large courtyard comprising both Rm 287 and Rm 288? If the latter solution is accepted then the unnumbered room area south of Rm 288 would also be part of Building 144.02. This would create quite a large structure, though not impossibly so.

Another point is the orientation of the building. The front was probably to the SW. If the building had a back room, nothing of it is preserved. However, the construction of the Stratum 2 enclosure wall might have destroyed part of it. Also a short section of a double-stone wall parallel to (and probably contemporary with) the enclosure wall cuts across the area E of Rm 286. The construction of this wall might also have removed all trace of a back room in its vicinity. Thus, the final number of rooms for Building 144.02 must be left open; it ranges from a minimum of two, to as many as five, on the evidence available.

Dating of Building 144.02 -

It seems to be built over a fragment of the casemate-like wall, or at least over the course of its line. This would make it at least 3B, but it does not closely follow the line of the 3C wall, which tends to characterize 3B, so it may well be a 3A construction. It is apparently cut by a least one, possibly two walls associated with the enclosure, which is likely of Stratum 2. This suggests that the building is a purely 3A feature.

Function of Building 144.02 -

Since a final determination of the number of rooms cannot be achieved it is not possible to give a solid interpretation of the building's function. It contains no obvious industrial installations, and so may be some sort of dwelling.

The Great Enclosure: Rm 284? -

Running SE from about the middle of AA23 to the N edge of AD24 is a ca. 26 m long stretch of wall roughly 70 cm wide. It appears in several photographs; P 806 and P 925 are two of the clearest. In the N it turns a corner to the W and runs almost parallel to Building 127.03. There is no clear evidence in the S on how far the wall continued in that direction, or when it turns to the W. On the E it cuts across the line of the early casemate-like wall (Stratum 3C), and also over a wall built over (and later than) the casemate-like wall (3A?). The stairway entrance of Building 144.01 seems to be built against this wall. On the W, it seems to cut across the room S of Rm 288, and possibly any back room which might be associated with Building 144.02. A thin-walled, curved installation in AB23 could be either built-up against the enclosure wall, or be cut by it. No trace of this installation was found E of the enclosure wall, so it seems best to associate this feature with

the wall.

This is the longest single section of wall found at TEN; yet its purpose is uncertain. It does not contain any internal walls built-up against it, or dove-tailed into it. So it is not one large building such as Building 74.01 to the N. If this is so, it may have contained one or more structures. Thus in this report it is called an "enclosure" wall. What it enclosed is also unclear. As already mentioned above, there is a short section of wall cutting across the area E of Rm 286. This wall is also at a different alignment than that of Rm 286. This then may be part of a building within the enclosure. Running roughly E-W from the preserved N end of this short wall segment is what seems to be the fragmentary line of another wall. Several of its stones seem to dovetail with the short wall. So, there may be a corner here. On the border of AA22 with AB22 is another short section of wall, roughly parallel to the fragmentary wall just described. It may be that this wall continued E to make a corner with the N-S wall fragment cutting the back of Rm 286. This reconstruction would yield the corner of one building in the enclosure, and perhaps part of one long room within the building.

Dating of the Great Enclosure -

It cuts across walls which are 3C and 3A, and seems to be contemporary with Building 144.01 which is built over the 3B inner gate (Building 145.01). This suggests a foundation in Stratum 2. No walls cut it, so it may have continued on into Stratum 1.

Function of the Great Enclosure -

It is certainly not part of a private dwelling but of some large scale public structure. Exactly how large is uncertain, as is the number

of buildings within the enclosure.

The Casemate-Like Wall and Associated Rooms: Rm 234, Rm 235, Rm 278, Rm 279, Rm 280, Rm 281, Rm 282, Rm 313, Rm 314 -

These rooms and spaces are treated together because of their complicated inter-phasing. The two unnumbered bins in AC24, with the two related unnumbered bins in AC25 of Plan 145, will also be treated. The walls here are quite tangled and fragmentary. Some walls have no levels and/or do not appear on any photographs. Much of the discussion, therefore, must be theoretical. The treatment is also hampered in that the W extensions/limits of many of these rooms were not excavated. The discussion will proceed as stratigraphically as possible, from the bottom up. P 965 is one of the only photographs of this area.

Running diagonally through AC24, from its SE corner to slightly past the mid-point of the square is a ca. 1.5 m thick wall made of medium-sized stones. Against this wall's SW face are two thin walls which delimit Rm 234 and Rm 235. It could be that Rm 282 is part of this same phase of construction. Rm 235 is further delimited on the Level II plan by a fragment of a thin double-stone wall. These rooms and walls are likely part of the early (3C) casemate-like wall system.

As has already been mentioned, the enclosure wall cuts part of a wall ca. 1.6 m thick in AB24. This thickness is comparable to that of the casemate-like wall section just described 2.5 m to the SE. Admittedly this NW wall section is not quite on the same line as the one to the SE, but if there were occasional offsets and insets in the casemate-like wall this would not pose a serious problem to associating the two wall sections. If this suggestions is accepted, then this wall too belongs to 3C. It is not clear how the walls forming Rm 315 relate

to this wall. The straight NW wall does not dovetail into it, but the jagged SE wall might.

Rooms clearly built over this early wall are: Rm 278, Rm 279, Rm 280 and possibly Rm 281. All of these rooms have thin walls, usually single stones, though the NW wall of Rm 278 is thicker and bends slightly more to the SW. This wall also cuts across the area of Rm 235. These SW to NE walls all reach, and in some cases dovetail into, a wall built slightly NE of the 3C casemate-like wall. On the plan, this is the wall with the large 3.0 m long stone laid lengthwise. This wall ranges from 1.0 to 1.5 m wide and is in part built on top of the 3C casemate-like wall.

The plan gives the impression that these two parallel wall systems are connected in the area of Rm 314. However, this does not seem to be the case. P 806 appears to show the SE wall of Rm 314 crossing over the early casemate-like wall, and almost reaching the NE wall of Rm 313. The plan also shows confusion in relating the more NW wall of Rm 314 to the lower casemate-like wall; the NE line of stones of the wall with the 3.0 m long stone is on the Level II plan, and the stones from its SW face are on Level I. This shows the excavators' uncertainty about the relations of the two walls. However, it may be that the thinner wall on the NE is a repair or some kind of a rebuild to the earlier casemate-like wall, though the evidence is not clear enough to be certain.

Rm 313's NE wall is on about the same line as that between Rm 282 and Rm 279. This might be a sign that the two walls are contemporaneous. It may be that these two NW-SE walls mark the limits of back walls against the wall built over and NE of the casemate-like wall. Note also that the NE wall of Rm 313 is cut by the enclosure wall, a Stratum 2 feature. This suggests that the wall NE of the casemate-like wall is

probably a 3B or 3A construction.

Note, there is no level for the wall between Rm 280 and Rm 281. It could belong to the casemate-like wall phase, or the rebuild above it. Also, NW of Rm 234 and Rm 282 is a single-stone wall which does not match either the lower or upper phases, and it ends just where the enclosure wall ends, so it is not even possible to limit it to Stratum 3; it could be Stratum 2.

Four unnumbered bins are found in the space between this complex of walls and 4-Room building Building 145.02. P 426 shows these well. Parts of three of these appear in AC24 on the Level II plan for Plan 144. Why they were not numbered is a mystery. Since they are built into the fill poured in to the intramural space between the casemate-like wall and the offset-inset wall they are at least 3B. It is uncertain if they are built-up against, or are cut by, the rebuild NE of the casemate-like wall. And even the date of that rebuild is uncertain. If the wall is 3A and the bins are 3B (as they seem to be elsewhere) then the wall is cutting the bins. However it cannot be ruled out that the bins were built-up against the wall, and could be contemporary with, or even later. On the border of AC-AD25 is a short length of wall connecting the casemate-like wall repair/rebuild with 4-Room building Building 145.02. A small quarter circle bin is lodged in this space. The question, again, is whether the walls cut the quarter circle bin, or if the bin was built in the corner of the walls? In this case the short connecting wall, like the 4-Room building, is probably a Stratum 2 feature cutting and built against the bin. Overall though, the placement of the bins in 3B and wall in 3A seems the best option.

Note that the Level I plan for Plan 144 shows three bins in the area of AC25 (they really should appear on Plan 145). However, no bins

like these appear in any photograph showing AC25, nor do they appear on Plan 145. It is impossible to determine how they came to be on this plan.

Other Remains -

Rm 236 and Rm 237 on the Level I plan are undifferentiated parts of what seems to be a plaza adjacent to the inner gate. On the Level II plan they are separated by a fragment of an E-W rubble wall. There is no photograph showing this area excavated to the depth of this wall segment; the plan makes it seem that this wall is sandwiched inside the E wall of the inner gate, i.e. that the gate used this wall as part of its foundation. If so, this is a fragment of a 3C, or earlier, wall lying outside the line of the early casemate-like wall. Apparently no other walls were found in this space except for the short piece jutting south into Rm 237 from the S wall of Building 144.01. This wall, as it survives, does not turn a corner; it just comes to an end. Did it have any such continuation which has subsequently disappeared? Or did it make up a small semi-open chamber by using some part of the W wall of the inner gate, perhaps a "shed" attached to Building 144.01 in Stratum 2? In Stratum 3B-3A the area was probably an open plaza which allowed those entering the town through the inner gate to reach the area of where the old 3C town gate stood, if not the 3C gate itself. This should be somewhere within the 20-30 m between the plaza and the beginning of the rock scarp in Z23. See the discussion on the inner gate in Plan 145 for a detailed treatment of this topic.

Rm 232 is a small chamber with a stone-paved floor. Its NE corner is cut by the SW corner of the 3B inner gate, indicating that this features, perhaps an agricultural installation, belongs to Stratum 3C or earlier. Its narrow walls are one to two stones thick. The Level I and

Level II plans show it to be connected to a 1.7 m thick wall by one irregular and one straight wall. The space so enclosed was numbered Rm 315, but it is not at all clear what its purpose was. Unfortunately there are no levels on these walls, and from the plans it can only be said that these two walls reach Rm 232; there is no indication on the plan, or in P 426, that they were bonded into this installation. P 806 seems to show these two walls preserved only a course high; if so they could only be foundations.

Rm 333 and Rm 334 are part of Building 127.03 and are dealt with in Plan 127. Rm 337, and associated rooms to its E, are also dealt with in Plan 127. Similarly, Rm 230 and Rm 323 belong to Building 145.01, the inner gate, and are treated below in Plan 145.