

Plan 158: AD-AE-AF,13-14-15 - Overview

No remains attributable to either Stratum 5 or 4 were uncovered here. Probably this area was outside the settlements of those periods.

Stratum 3C is represented by parts of the back rooms of two dwellings, and what may be a section of the casemate-like wall.

Stratum 3B is attested by the offset-inset wall, three storage bins, possibly an enclosure wall around the bins, and likely by a drain through the town wall.

Rebuilds and expansions of the 3C houses, and possibly the bin enclosure wall, belong to Stratum 3A.

No new foundations belonging to Stratum 2 could be defined; the offset-inset wall continued in use, and possibly some of the other Stratum 3 features as well.

Fragments of walls, several built over the 3B town wall attest the presence of Stratum 1. If the drain does not belong to 3B it has to belong to Stratum 1.

Evaluation -

The offset-inset wall and the strip immediately adjacent to the E were excavated in the 1932 season; the remaining area (the NE corner of AD15) was cleared in the 1935 campaign. The area W of the offset-inset wall was not excavated. There are only a few photographs, and only P 1359 shows a close up; unfortunately with workers all around. Generally there are a good number of elevations, many walls even have top and

bottom elevations. The offset-inset wall, however, has only a few elevations, and those along the inner face. There are none on the late walls over the town wall.

The only rooms which belong to recognizable buildings are in AD15. Rm 525, Rm 526, Rm 534, Rm 539 and Bn 381 are discussed under Building 142.01. Rm 527 is treated under Building 159.01. The other features and rooms must be dealt with individually.

#### Storage Bins -

Bn 380, Bn 381 and Bn 383 are the NW-most in the series of similar storage facilities which stretches from AC24 on the E to AD15 on the W, all in the intramural area between the early 3C casemate-like wall and the 3B offset-inset wall. They are constructed in the fill poured in to level out this space. Note that the lowest measured point for the inner face of the offset-inset wall is 772.74, and the preserved top of the wall running the length of Rm 525 (which is likely a portion of the casemate-like wall) is at 776.31. This indicates that at least 3.0 m of fill was poured in.

The circular walls of the bins are constructed of stones laid one stone wide. The average diameter of the bins is ca. 1.2 m. If the bins were originally at least 2.0 m high, as several to the SE were, then the total capacity of these bins would have been ca. 6.6 cubic meters, or an average of 2.2 cubic meters per bin.

Bn 383's N wall was later incorporated into the S wall of Rm 308. Bn 380 and Bn 381 may have been separated from the W intramural area by a wall which runs NW to SE in AD-AE15 and continues at least as far as AF17 to the SE; similar walls are found even farther SE. This wall was

also constructed in intramural 3B fill and does not reach bedrock. Since it cannot be determined whether the intramural storage bins were privately, communally or nationally owned installations the real purpose of these "screening" walls is uncertain. If the bins were privately owned they may have marked enclosures attached to the homes of their owners. This does not help explain why there are no enclosure walls for the bins on the E side of town. If the bins were owned by the community, or by the "national" government as a reserve food supply, the enclosure wall may have served to separate them from walking space along side the offset-inset wall to the W. Though this does not explain the lack of such enclosure walls in the E intramural area.

Other "Rooms": Rm 306, Rm 307, Rm 308, Rm 309, Rm 528, Rm 533 -

These spaces will be discussed from roughly N to S. Since they are all built in the intramural fill they must be 3B or later. The 1947 report places all of these spaces in the late part of its Stratum I, citing their position on the plan, but without discussion.<sup>846</sup>

Rm 306 may be a fragment of a late, Stratum 1, building. The plan seems to show a double stone wall built along the inner face of the offset-inset wall. Unfortunately there are no elevations for this stretch of the wall, nor any photographs. This wall does, however, seem to reach a similar double-stone wall which cuts perpendicularly across the offset-inset wall in AC13-14 of Plan 141.

Rm 309 may be a space likewise connected with a Stratum 1 building since its S and W walls are primarily double-stone work.

---

<sup>846</sup>I, 183 n. 15.

Rm 308 has walls which are all of different techniques: wide double-stone, double-stone, and single-stone. P 1397 shows them all preserved to the same height. Its relation to the drain is discussed below.

Rm 307 and Rm 533 are S of the drain. There is no trace here of any wall crossing over the offset-inset wall. They are W of the line of the enclosure wall, so in Strata 3B-3A they, and Rm 306, were probably part of a passage way along the SW side of the town.

Rm 528 is an ill-defined space within the line of the enclosure wall, but W of the back rooms of the adjacent houses. It probably was an open court which allowed movement around, and access to the bins.

#### The Drain in AD14 -

This is another in the series of drains found along the N and W sides of the town, and one of the few preserved well enough to show its channel through the offset-inset wall. Its length is 8.4 m. The width of the channel is ca. 30 cm and its preserved depth is 15 cm. The thickness of its walls is ca. 1.0 m. It is uncertain how far to the NE the channel extended. If it was intended solely to drain the Stratum 3B and later intramural area, it need not have been far. This would also hold true if it drained the fragmentary Stratum 1 structure.

The NW corner of Rm 308 seems to either cut, or be built on the N wall of the drain. The only bottom level for Rm 308 is 775.69 while the closest elevations for the drain wall are at 775.89 and 776.28. The E wall of Rm 308 has a bottom level of 775.98. Since the drain was probably originally some what higher than its preserved remains, it is possible that Rm 308's E wall cut the drain, if it extended that far.

Note that no trace of the drain was found E of Rm 308 where excavation reached a depth of 775.88. If the walls of Rm 308 cut the drain its assignment to Stratum 3 would be fairly certain because there are no Stratum 2 remains preserved in the vicinity. However, since the drain is a sub-surface feature it cannot be disproved, on the evidence available, that the drain and walls above it are not part of the same Stratum 1 building operation, though this seems the less likely option.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

The wall in this area ranges from ca. 4.2 to 5.5 m in width. It contains two offsets, one inset, a tower, and in AD13 what looks like part of a curving revetment. There are no seams in the wall to indicate different phases of construction. The tower is an integral part of the wall, not a separate feature built against it. The tower's length is 10.0 m. Its width, exclusive of the wall is ca. 2.5 m; including the wall it is ca. 6.3 to 6.6 m. At one spot along the inner wall excavation reached ca. 3.8 m below the top of the wall, in another it reached only 1.7. It is not indicated whether either of these reached bedrock, or if the wall itself is founded on bedrock.

Aside from the drain's mouth, there is only one top elevation along the outer face of the wall, and no bottom levels. The published Survey Map shows a revetment/glacis against the wall. However, the area plan does not show it. It is probable that the outer face of the wall was excavated only low enough for it to be traced, and that the level where the revetment/glacis would be was not reached. The Survey Map shows a reconstruction of the course of the revetment/glacis base on similar examples of this defense found farther NW and SE. The draftsman used here a heavier line than on the E side of the tell.

As mentioned above, in AD13-14 there are traces of walls belonging to structures of Stratum 1. What sort of structures these were cannot be guessed. The drain which runs through the wall is probably contemporary with it(i.e. 3B), though a later date with the fragmentary Stratum 1 remains, cannot be ruled out.