

Plan 179: AG-AH-AJ,25-26-27 - Overview

No certain remains of Stratum 5 were uncovered, however several rock cavities, similar to the cave tombs found in Plan 196 to the S, may belong to that period.

No certain remains of Stratum 4 could be discerned, but the rock-cut installations in the W part of the area may have been hewn then.

Stratum 3C is attested a section of the casemate-like wall, and possibly by a few walls attached to it.

Stratum 3B is represented by the offset-inset walls and by twelve storage bins in the intramural area. Rebuilds over the casemate-like wall might belong to 3B as well.

The rebuilds over, and to the W of the casemate-like wall possibly belong to Stratum 3A. Several walls extending E into the intramural area may also be of Stratum 3A.

No certain remains of either Stratum 2, except for continued use of the offset-inset wall, or 1 could be discerned in this area. A grave found in the revetment is probably "modern".

Evaluation -

This area was excavated over the course of three seasons. AH25 and AJ25-26-27 were cleared in 1926; the NW corner of AG25 was uncovered in 1927; AG-AH,26-27 were cleared in 1929. A major complication is that remains in the W part of this area were severely eroded because of the height of the bedrock in that area. No complete plan of any building

could be recovered. Even clear, recognizable rooms are by no means certain. For the first two campaigns no elevations are available and photographic documentation is sparse, and where it does exist it is often of poor quality. Elevations were noted in 1929 and photographs are available and useful.

As has been noted in previous chapters, rock-cut installations are especially common in the N and S parts of the site, though this may be an accident of excavation. The excavators may simply have not reached bedrock as often in the broadly excavated W side of the tell. Probably like their counter parts in the N, where there is some stratigraphy, the rock-cut installations here were hewn in Stratum 4. Some went out of use at the end of that stratum, while others continued in use into, and in some cases through, Stratum 3. Unfortunately no walls cutting the mouths of these installation survive.

Building 179.01?: Rm 206, Rm 207, Rm 208, R, 209, Rm 210 -

The term "building" is applied to these chamber with a great deal of reservation because of their fragmentary nature. Indeed, it is likely that the rooms listed here actually belong to two separate structures. However, it is now impossible attribute them to their respective buildings. They are assigned one building number here to stress that they appears to belong to a common architectural complex.

The N and S walls of these rooms are double-stone work. The W wall of this series is very fragmentary but seems primarily to have been of double-stone work also. The E wall is the best-preserved. It is double-stone work and was constructed on the stump of the outer wall of the 3C casemate-like wall. This may be seen in P 421. No doorways survive for any of these rooms.

Just to the W of Rm 206 is a simple olive press. This consists of a smooth sloping rock surface on which the olives were pressed and a small circular stone basin for collecting the oil (see P A553c). It is unclear if the press predates Building 179.01, or may be in a courtyard connected to it.

Dating of Building 179.01? -

It is built on top of the 3C casemate-like wall. It may be 3B or 3A, but probably not any later. However, these chambers are likely rebuilds or modifications following the lines of structures erected in 3C.

Function of Building 179.01? -

If the press was in use with Rm 206 the building was in part used for olive oil production. Otherwise nothing survives on which to base an analysis of the role of this set of rooms.

Building 179.02: Rm 8, Rm 9, Rm 10 -

The attribution of these rooms to a single structure is some what better-based than for those assigned to Building 179.01?, but it is still tentative. The walls are a mix of single- and double-stone work, though double-stone is the majority. There are gaps in the walls, but it cannot be determined if these are doorways, or accidents of preservation.

Rm 8 and Rm 9 have the appearance of a single long back room bisected by a short wall. The back E wall of these rooms overlaps slightly with the back wall of Rm 210. Thus the N wall of Rm 9 is

formed in part by this overlap, and in part by a single-stone wall. This back wall is almost certainly founded on the early casemate-like wall, though excavation did not reveal it at this point. The S wall of Rm 8 is not well-preserved, but it probably followed the line of the S wall of Rm 10 to the W. This is at the point where a 1.6 m wide wall begins and then runs roughly parallel to the line of the back wall of Rm 8 and Rm 9. This wide wall is probably later and destroyed the original S wall of Rm 8.

Rm 10 is a number assigned to what should be the front part of this building. Its S wall is double-stone work, while its N wall seems to have been single-stone, if the tiny part preserved is any indication. A single stone extending into Rm 10 on the same line as the wall which separates Rm 8 from Rm 9 may mark a partition wall running the length of Rm 10, which would make this structure essentially a 3-Room building.

Si 15, Si 16, Ci 32, Ci 37, Ci 38 are rock-cut installations in the area of Rm 10. The relation of these installations to Building 179.02 is uncertain because of the fragmentary nature of the building. However, if the surviving stubs of Building 179.02's walls were extended to the W they would cut Si 16, Ci 32 and Ci 38, meaning that they pre-date the building (see below). Si 15 and Ci 37 would probably not be cut by walls. They could have been hewn at the same time as the building was constructed, afterwards, or be earlier and either have served with the building, or also gone out of use like the other installations in the area when the structure was built.

Dating of Building 179.02 -

It is oriented to the line of the casemate-like wall, suggesting a date within Stratum 3. The E-most walls seem to be rebuilds along the

line of the casemate-like wall, suggesting a date in 3B or 3A. The rock-cut installations probably cut by the walls of this building likely belong to Stratum 4.

Function of Building 179.02 -

The remains are too fragmentary to suggest any possible role.

Storage Bins: Bn 1, Bn 2, Bn 30, Bn 194, Bn 195, Bn 196, Bn 197, Bn 198, Bn 199, Bn 200 -

These storage installations continue the band of "bins" which begins in AC24, and which continues around the S end in the intramural area to AD15 on the W. Those excavated in 1929 may be seen in P 421. The bins range in width from 80 cm to 2.0 m and average 1.4 m. Their preserved depths range from 60 cm to 1.2 m; on the W side of the town two bins were preserved to a height of ca. 2.0 m. If it is assumed that these bins were originally at least that deep, then the average storage capacity for the bins here was 3.3 cubic meters, for a total of 33 cubic meters.

The bins are built in the intramural area between the 3C casemate-like wall and the 3B offset-inset wall on debris poured in to level up this space. This means that the bins belong to Stratum 3B. Bn 2 appears to be built against the back wall of Rm 8 and Rm 9, or else the wall partially cuts the bin. Unfortunately there are no elevations or photographs to clarify this issue. Bn 1 and Bn 2 are connected by a short wall, which continues on the N side of Bn 1 and extends as far as Bn 30; how much farther it originally extended to the N is unclear. Walls either connecting or enclosing the intramural bins are a common feature. Several of the bins have walls which reach each other. Bn 200

seems to have been built against Bn 196, unless Bn 196 cuts Bn 200, which seems less likely.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

The wall here contains parts of two insets and one offset. It ranges in width from ca. 4.5 to 5.0 m with an external revetment\glacis of ca. 6.8 m in width. The height of the revetment is difficult to determine, but from a point on bedrock just below the revetment to a point on the stump of the wall is ca. 5.4 m. The maximum width of the wall and revetment\glacis is 11.3 to 11.8 m. The wall was further strengthened by a moat ca. 5.0 m from the base of the revetment, ca. 5.0 to 3.5 m wide and ca. 1.5 m deep. From the base of the moat to the preserved top of the wall is a drop of ca. 9.8 m over a distance of ca. 14.0 m.

A grave was dug into the revetment in AG27. However, except for this note on the plan and P A601, which shows it covered by a small stone slab, nothing else is known about this burial. It may very well be modern, like the "Grave of a Turkish Soldier" in AJ21 of Plan 177.

The revetment probably stretched N from here all the way to the E tower of the outer gate since sections of it were found at several points along the wall. The revetment/glacis does not appear to have extended S of this tower. Probes against the wall failed to turn up any trace of it.

The one tower is ca. 10.0 m long by 6.6 m wide; it has a revetment/glacis ca. 3.4 to 3.9 m wide and ca 3.7 m high. The maximum thickness at the tower is 10.0 to 10.5 m. The wall contains no obvious seams that would indicate different phases of construction. The back of

the tower is, however, slightly set off from the line of the wall to N and S.

Other Features -

Rm 211 and Rm 212 are spaces E of, and outside of the rebuild over the 3C casemate-like wall in AH25. They are separated by two parallel double-stone walls on the W, and by a double-stone wall on the E which is situated between the two walls on the W. The plan and P 405 may indicate that these "walls" are actually a drain; some of the stones in the central wall section seem to be arranged in a header fashion that looks suspiciously like capstones. If so, this is the only example of an intramural drain on the E side of the town similar to those found on the W. These "walls" are built out into the intramural area and over the line of the outer wall of the 3c casemate-like wall, showing that they are at least 3B in date. It is clear that these walls are too close together to be part of a conventional building. It is not possible to offer a completely satisfactory interpretation for this series of walls. The only available elevation, 770.46 cannot be correct, it is far too low.

Ca 277 is a cavity in the bedrock similar in size to two unnumbered cavities S of Bn 198 and Bn 199. There is a third unnumbered cavity below Bn 197. No artifacts are recorded from these features, and there are no photographs of them. They certainly pre-date Stratum 3B for they are covered by the debris used to level up the intramural area which was poured in at that time. Also Bn 197 is built over one. They are about the size of CT 7 in AK26. It may be that these were also EB I tombs which were robbed of their goods. If so, they belong to Stratum 5.

Save for their location there are some features about which almost

nothing is unknown. These are: Ci 32, Ci 35, Ci 37, Ci 38, Ci 53, Ci 191, Ci 192, Ov 126, Si 15, Si 16, Si 39, Si 52, Si 54, Si 120, Si 121, Si 189, and Si 190. P 89 shows Ci 38 and Si 39, which are typical for the area and reminiscent of those at the N end of the site. Ov 126 must have belonged to some sort of building, but no trace of this structure survives.⁹⁶⁷ This is all the stranger because the oven did. Si 189 was found sealed by a covering stone (see P A549). Ci 191 was a large cistern which contained a large amount of pottery and bones. The 1947 report suggests that it was of the bottle-shaped variety,⁹⁶⁸ and dated its final period of use to 625 to 500 B.C., though allowing that it was cut much earlier.⁹⁶⁹ It seems that Ci 191 also cut Si 190 when it was hewn. Ci 192 has three openings, none of which are directly above the sub-surface chamber, but instead are slightly set off from it.

⁹⁶⁷P 111 and P A372 are said to be views of Ov 126. However, both show a wall, possibly on fill, at a higher level than the preserved top of the tannur. If the oval feature on Plan 175 marked "126" is supposed to be this oven it should have a wall close to it, which is not the case as shown on the plan. P A439 is Ov 118 and is clearly not the same feature as in the photographs above. Possibly these photographs are of Ov 136, which is otherwise unattested on the plan or in photographs. Unfortunately the problem seems unresolvable.

⁹⁶⁸I, 129 n. 1.

⁹⁶⁹I, 134.