

Plan 58: K-L-M, 19-20-21 - Overview

No remains of strata 5, 4 or 3C were found in this area.

Stratum 3B is represented by a section of the offset-inset wall. No other certain remains from this phase were uncovered.

Stratum 3A is likely attested by walls of a flimsy storage unit built against the offset-inset wall, but nothing more.

No remains of new foundations of Stratum 2 could be discerned, though the offset-inset wall continued in use.

Fragmentary remains of a wall built along the outer face of the offset-inset wall probably belong to Stratum 1.

Evaluation -

This area was cleared in about the middle of the 1929 season. Most of the area of the plan lies outside the area of the town, and so was left unexcavated. Photographs and elevations are sparse. As in Plan 57, diagonal hatching was used to indicate a late wall built over the stump of the offset-inset wall. No stone by stone drawing was done of this feature. Since this is only a small sliver of area against the town wall, no complete building plans were recovered.

Features -

Rm 256, Rm 257 and Rm 258 are the only architectural remains on this plan other than the offset-inset wall. A double-stone wall and a mainly single-stone wall, which extend S into Plan 75, partition off a

small space adjacent to the town wall. The space enclosed by the walls is Rm 257, to the W is space Rm 258, to the E is space Rm 256. The two walls are built against, and do not appear to extend over, the offset-inset wall. On the S the walls come to an end without making corners or connecting to other walls and features. They are built in the intramural area between the 3C casemate-like wall and the 3B offset-inset wall. Since the walls are built against the town wall they post-date it and belong probably to Stratum 3A, or perhaps 2. It may be that Rm 257 is part of a small enclosure for keeping a few animals or storing other materials. Rm 256 and Rm 258 are empty spaces to either side which were given numbers by the excavators. The 1947 report suggests that these spaces belong to the latest phase of its Stratum I, which is the Persian and alter periods, but without elaboration.<sup>658</sup>

The Offset-Inset Wall -

The wall in this section ranges in width from ca. 4.1 m to 4.4 m. There is no sign of any outer defenses such as a revetment/glacis or moat. However, in Plan 73 to the W a retaining wall and moat were both found. No elevations are given for the area N of the offset-inset wall, so it may just be that excavation did not reach deep enough there to uncover any external defenses. Parts of two offsets and one inset were recovered; part of a tower, most of which appears on Plan 76, was found in the SE corner of M21.

The diagonal hatching over the offset-inset wall indicates what McCown calls a "late thin wall".<sup>659</sup> This presumably belongs to the same phase as the "Maccabean" walls in Plan 76, which are also built over the

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<sup>658</sup>I, 183 n. 15.

<sup>659</sup>I, 202.

stump of the town wall. This wall extends as far as N21 in Plan 75. Since the stones of this wall were not actually drawn in, it is impossible to describe its construction. Since the offset-inset wall probably continued in use in Stratum 2, this late wall should belong to Stratum 1, though no other obvious features from that period could be detected on this plan. If such once existed they have been lost to erosion.