

Plan 91: R-S-T,16-17-18 - Overview

Stratum 5 is attested possibly by one rock-cut installation; it contained only EB I material, but whether this is real evidence of use in Stratum 5, or fortuitous back-filled debris, is uncertain.

Stratum 4 is characterized by a continuation of the dense series of rock-cut installations so common in Plan 74 to the N. A few scraps of walls may also belong to this phase, but this is far less certain.

The remains of Stratum 3 are fragmentary and it is not possible to discern sub-phases within the stratum. The variety of wall types and orientations does suggest rebuilding throughout the life of the stratum. Most of the walls seem to be of domestic structures.

Stratum 2 is represented by a section of the large public building found predominantly on Plan 74 and Plan 75. There are no other remains from this phase.

No remains of Stratum 1 were uncovered.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in 1929, and only parts of R16-17-18 were cleared. The squared-off lines in which all the walls end indicate that this was the end of one excavation field. The features here are direct continuations of those of Plan 74 to the N, and share many of the same difficulties. In this area, however, bedrock is not so near the surface, and the remains are more connected than to the N. Only one photograph, P 369, shows this area.

Elevations are sparse, some walls and rooms do not have any. Like all the areas cleared in 1929, this area was divided into two levels, which appear on different plans. It is the upper level (Level I) which appears on the published Survey Map. The lower level (Level II) only appears in figure 41 of the 1947 report. Had excavation continued to S and W the plans of several of the buildings would have been much clearer. Excavating the W area of Plan 91 and the E part of Plan 90 would link the two areas and provide control over the interpretation of both areas. It would also be valuable to trace the limits of the large public building to the S to certify its stratigraphic position.

Building 91.01: Rm 162, Rm 166 -

The plan of this building is uncertain due to its incomplete excavation. Unfortunately P 369 shows only Rm 162. The plan shows one short, curved dashed line at the S limit of this room, and another not far from its N end. The photograph may show traces of a low stone wall about where the N dashed line is located, but the angle of the photograph makes this difficult to determine. The walls of Rm 162 are basically single-stone work.

The main problem is deciding if Rm 162 is a long room, or a broad room. The fragmentary condition of remains to the N in Plan 74, and the incomplete excavation of the areas to S and W are what makes the choice difficult.

If Rm 162 is a long room, than so should be Rm 166, since Rm 159 belongs to Building 74.02. Rm 166 is partitioned across its width, if it is a long room, but this could be an interior step. The plan seems to show it bonded into the E wall of Rm 166, so they should be contemporary. In this case Rm 153 would be the back room to the

building, while Rm 146 (in Plan 74) would be a road in front of the structure. Rm 155 would likely be part of another building.

Alternatively, if Rm 162 is a back room, then the N part of Rm 166 (Rm 166a) is one long room, and its S half (Rm 166b) another long room. Rm 166a would perhaps be a courtyard, since it is the wider of the two long rooms. In this scenario either Rm 146 or Rm 153 (or both) could be roads. It is also possible that Rm 153 could be part of a building connected to Rm 155. The area of Rm 153 shows much evidence of rebuilding over time, note the overlapping walls and double-stone construction. It is very difficult to decide this space's original use given this prolonged usage.

The N and E walls of Rm 166a are single-stone work. The wall between it and Rm 166b is narrow double-stone work. The E wall of Rm 166b is a double-stone continuation of the E wall of Rm 166a. Its S wall is narrow double-stone work.

The E wall of Rm 153 exhibits a complicated phasing. The Level I plan shows two clear overlapping walls; the uppermost is double-stone, the nature of the one below it is not clear. The Level II plans shows that these two are founded on a single-stone wall. The phasing, from the bottom up, is either 3C, 3B and 3A or 4, 3C and 3B/3A.

Si 222, on the Level II plan, is in the middle of Rm 166a and was probably cut in Stratum 4. It is not cut by any walls, and so could have continued in use into Stratum 3.

Dating of Building 91.01 -

The mixture of wall types may indicate a lengthy period of use.

Since it does not cut any earlier features, or is cut by any later ones, it is only possible to phase this structure by comparing its style and orientation with buildings around it. In this light its orientation fits with Building 74.02, which belongs to Stratum 3. Perhaps this is another 3C foundation which survived throughout the period.

Function of Building 91.01 -

Its fragmentary remains suggest nothing other than a domestic role.

Building 74.01: Additional Notes on Rm 149, Rm 192, Rm 196 -

The over all architectural context of these rooms in relation to large public building Building 74.01 was discussed in Plan 74 above. Only a few comments are required here to clarify its relations with features on Plan 91.

Rm 192 contains a narrow double-stone wall which is very well-aligned with the structures SW of Building 74.01, but does not match the orientation or construction technique of Building 74.01. It is likely a fragment of a Stratum 3 building destroyed to make way for Building 74.01. The only level on this fragment seems to be just at, or slightly below the patches of cobbled floor to the N.

This wall in turn cuts the mouths of Si 262 and Si 263; the former contained material, according to the excavators, of Iron Age I. In a very small area then, Strata 4, 3 and 2 are attested. Si 261 is below, but not cut by walls of Rm 192. Si 255 is cut by the W wall of Rm 192. Si 250 is below, but not cut by walls of Rm 196. Si 207a is partially cut by the W wall of Rm 149. Of the rock-cut installations which are cut

by later walls, only two are recorded as containing datable material. Si 250, Si 261 and Si 262 contained EB I material.⁷⁰⁴ Si 207a is Iron I-IIa.

Associated Rooms: Rm 160, Rm 161, Rm 163, Rm 165 -

These four room fragments all share the same single-stone wall. The S parts of Rm 160, Rm 163 and Rm 165 lie in unexcavated debris. Rm 163 is separated from Rm 160 to the SW and Rm 165 to the NE by double-stone walls. The wall between Rm 163 and Rm 165 partially cuts the mouth of Si 204 from the Level II plan. It is not possible to determine how many, or to which structures these rooms belong.

Rm 161 is NW of the rooms just described. It could be either part of the same building(s) or part of a road. Note that its SW wall is single-stone work similar to, but not bonded into the SE wall shared with the three rooms. This area, however, saw much rebuilding. Even the SW wall is founded in part on an earlier wall (see Level II). The same is true for the NW corner of this space, where three walls overlap (see discussion of Rm 153 above). The walls which form the N limit for this space are of different techniques and orientations. One is double-stone wide and may have originally cut the mouth of Si 172. Another part is narrow double-stone work and is connected to the wider section by a short section of single-stone construction. All these features appear in P 369. Si 172 may have been encircled originally by some sort stone wall or curb, but neither the plan or photograph can confirm this.

The single-stone construction of several of the walls, the apparent orientation to the ringroad, and the construction of one of the

⁷⁰⁴I, pp. 68, 75.

walls over a rock-cut installation suggest a foundation in Stratum 3C, and the double-stone walls suggest rebuilding, perhaps as late as 3A. The large Stratum 2 Building 74.01 cuts the E limit of Rm 165 which indicates that they went out of use by the end of 3A.

Other Rooms:

Rm 150 is an ill-defined space just S of Rm 149. It may have been part of a road in Stratum 3, though this is quite uncertain because its E limit is cut by the large Stratum 2 Building 74.01.

Rm 167 is a room fragment SW of Rm 160. It is totally out of alignment with the walls N of it. Also, its walls are partially double-stone work. This may mean that it is part of a later structure; or perhaps the area SW of Rm 160 was a large open area, perhaps industrial, and Rm 167 is part of a small installation. It probably belongs to Stratum 3.

Rm 154 is the space S of Building 74.02. Because of the disjointed and fragmentary state of the walls which define it, it is difficult to arrive at a reasonable interpretation for this space. If Rm 153 is a road, Rm 154 might be its continuation. The only certain relation is that the NE end of this space was interrupted by the large public structure Building 174.01.

Several rock-cut installations under lie the rooms just described (see the Level II plan). Si 203 is partially cut by the SW wall of Rm 161. Si 226 seems to have been partially covered by a circular patch of stones. Unfortunately this is not in any photograph. It is below, but not sealed by Rm 161. Si 223 is barely cut by the N wall of Rm 155. These belong to Stratum 4.

Rm 216, Rm 217, Rm 218 and Rm 219 (see Level II plan) are not rooms per se. P 409a and P 409b show parts of this area. These spaces look like a large rock cutting in which two walls crossing at right angles were constructed. It is not possible to decide if the walls belong to the same stratum in which the cutting was made, or were added later when the buildings above were installed. The S and W walls of Rm 216 serve as foundations for the S and W walls for Rm 159. The W wall of Rm 219 serves as a foundation for the W wall of Rm 154. Only the wall between Rm 217 and Rm 218 did not obviously serve as a foundation. However, if a wall were reconstructed along that line of the Level I plan, it would make a decent S wall for Rm 162 and the rooms associated with it. This reconstructed wall would bisect the length of Rm 153 and could turn the S half of that space into an alley. The Level II plan shows a Si 249 cut into the area of Rm 219. The wall between Rm 218 and Rm 219 is built partially over this installation, as is a short, enigmatic single-stone wall. The placement of this wall over this installation is the best evidence that the walls do not belong to the original phase of the cutting.

The cutting in which the walls were built likely belongs to Stratum 4. The walls are single stone work and may belong to 3C because several of the walls above them are double-stone work which suggests rebuilding later in 3A, though they might possibly belong to 4.

Rm 152 and Rm 159 are discussed under Building 74.02 above. So too are Si 205 and Si 208 (see Level II plan). The chapter on Plan 74 also contains a short discussion on the purpose and date of the rock-cut installations so common in this area. In summary: they probably originate in Stratum 4 and were likely used in the processing and storage of agricultural products. Most of them probably went out of use when Stratum 3 was built, though some may have continued on.