

Plan 93: R-S-T, 22-23-24-25 - Overview

No remains of Strata 5, 4 or 3C were uncovered. This area was likely outside the limits of the settlements of those periods.

Material of Stratum 3B is the earliest attested. These include the E and W towers of the outer gate with its guard rooms and outer plaza, and sections of the offset-inset wall with its revetment/glacis. Possibly also of this period is a stone-lined drain channel.

Remains of Stratum 2 are extensive. The gate and offset-inset wall continued in use in this phase. Two 4-Room building complexes were constructed adjacent to the gate and offset-inset wall. Also found was a room of possibly a third building.

Stratum 1 is also well-attested here. Walls built over the gate show that it had gone out of use in this late period. A kiln was found in the middle of the approach to the gate; this installation, and another in Plan 76 to the N, also belong to Stratum 1. Fragments of walls which must belong to Stratum 1 are found S and W of the outer gate.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in two parts of the 1932 season. The gate, the area immediately inside it on the S, and the area stretching outside to the N was cleared early in the season. The area inside the offset-inset wall in R-S-T22 and T23 were uncovered in the last weeks of that campaign. The discovery of the gate of Tell en-Nasbeh was one of Badè's driving concerns. He spent a great deal of time tracing the town walls searching for it. Ironically it was found in almost the last unexcavated

spot along the circuit of the walls.

There are a moderate number of elevations. Most walls have a top level, but often one level must suffice for a 10 m stretch. Surprisingly, a fair number of walls actually have bottom levels, though many rooms do not. This is the reverse of the usual situation. Dozens of photographs were taken of the gate; it is photographically the most well-documented feature on the site. Unfortunately only a few photographs are available for the area of R-S-T22.

Building 93.02, the Outer Gate: Rm 273a, Rm 273b, Rm 273c, Rm 274, Rm 275, Rm 276 -

As mentioned above, this is the most photographed feature at Tell en-Nasbeh. Elevations are relatively few, and it is surprising that there are none for the floors of the gate chambers. The discussion will proceed from S to N.

Rm 274 and Rm 275 represent part of the plaza inside the outer gate which led to the inner gate. The wall which separates them is poorly constructed of small stones, is only one course high and floats about two thirds of the height of the E wall of Rm 378 (see P 909). This is a late addition to the area, post-dating even Building 110.01, putting it in Stratum 1. Originally this space extended to the W as far as the first dotted line in Rm 378. this marks the line of the wall which connected the inner and outer gates, but which went out of use in Stratum 2. See the discussion under Plan 110 below. The niche in the W face of the offset-inset wall S of the E tower may have been for a ladder.

Rm 273a, Rm 273b and Rm 273c are the two guard chambers and

central passage of the gate. Rm 273c is the E chamber. Benches were found along its N and S walls, and a slot for the bolt which shut the gate leaves was found inside the N wall. Photographs seem to indicate a stone slab floor on which the benches sat (see P 952). Rm 273b, the central passage way, seems to have had a plastered surface. Rm 273a also had a stone slab floor. Photographs taken of this room before it was completely cleared do not show benches along its N and S walls (P 950). Photographs taken after the gate was cleared do show benches (P 1076b). These were reconstructed by the excavators. Rectangular blocks for these reconstructions are visible in the blockage later used to close off the gate, especially in the blockage of the W half (see P 958). The presence of the benches in the blockage makes the reconstruction reasonable.

The blocking took place in several stages. First the gate was narrowed by extending the walls of the W chamber ca. 1.0 m. Later Rm 273a and Rm 273c were blocked by N-S walls. Finally, Rm 273b was filled with debris and a section of wall, preserved two courses high, was built connecting the N walls of both chambers (see P 992, P 996 and P A890). Badè believed that the double wall in R23-24 was built at the same time as the gate was blocked, suggesting it was used to narrow the approach to the gate.⁷⁰⁵ If so, it probably later served as a retaining wall for the debris on which Building 93.03 was constructed.

In his clearance of the gate, Badè noted that the extensions of the walls of Rm 273a were built on clay-gravel debris 40-60 cm thick, and posited that this was wash from his "stepped street" inside the gate (see discussion of Rm 377, Rm 374 and Rm 373 below). It is possible that this is wash, but it could also be debris deliberately placed when blocking was begun.

⁷⁰⁵W.F. Badè, "New Discoveries at Tell en-Nasbeh," Werden und Wesen des Alten Testaments (Beiheft 66 zur ZAW), 32.

There is no clear sign that the gate was ever destroyed by enemy attack. A "burned layer" was found outside the gate, in the area of R24 and extending to the S and to the N, almost a meter over the gate, to V24 (see P 930).⁷⁰⁶ This lack of a clear-cut destruction makes it difficult to assign a date to the blocking of the gate. The gate was blocked in stages. It is uncertain if the blocking was all done in the face of the same threat, though this is the more likely probability. Since the gate continued in use in Stratum 2 there are two main possibilities. First, the gate may have been partially blocked at the end of Stratum 3, in the face of the Babylonian attack, and continued in use in this state during Stratum 2. Secondly, the gate may have been blocked during the last part of Stratum 2, in the late 5th century B.C., though against what foe is unknown. This study leans toward the latter theory.

Rm 276 is the plaza outside the gate. Benches extended along the W face of the E tower, and outer face of Rm 273c. Remains of a bench which would fit along the outer face of Rm 273a were found in the gate blockage, and so reconstructed by the excavators. P 932 shows what appears to be fragments of paving stones sticking out from below the benches. On the W side of the plaza was the offset-inset wall and its revetment/glacis, on the E was the E tower of the gate. The drain running through the plaza is discussed at the end of this chapter. When the gate went out of use in Stratum 1 the plaza may have continued in use with buildings connected to the kilns to the N. A tomb was found below the road leading up to the gate; it appears in P A937, but not on any plan. It was not given a number and no records were kept of it.

Badè provided the following dimensions of for various parts of the

⁷⁰⁶I, 232.

gate; these match well with measurements taken from the plans.⁷⁰⁷

Base of E tower (with revetment): 13.35 m E-W; 13.20 m N-S

Platform of E tower: 9.40 m E-W; 9.99 m N-S

Width of Rm 276: 9.15 m E-W

Width of Rm 273b: 4.25 m E-W

Width of guard rooms: 2.30 m N-S

Width of piers: 1.55-1.50 m N-S

Width between town walls inside gate: 11.70 m E-W

Width between town walls outside gate: 12.10 m E-W

Badè did not provide measurements for the W tower. In the discussion of Rm 377 below it will be suggested that the original 3B version of the tower may have extended somewhat farther S than it is shown on Plan 93. The W tower as it is depicted on the plan is that of Stratum 2. The measurements of this later version are ca. 7.1 m E-W and 5.2 m N-S.

The E and S faces of the E tower appear in P 1018 and P 1020.

The stone work on parts of the outer gate is some of the best in the town. The faces of the piers of the guard rooms (inside and out) and the faces of the outer plaza are mostly of stones of ashlar and near-ashlar quality, especially at the corners. The NW corner of the revetment\glacis of the E tower is especially fine work, though the rest of the N face is of smaller, less well-worked stones. Still, there were gaps in the masonry which had to be filled with mud and small stone chinking. It is unclear if bedrock was reached around the outer gate

⁷⁰⁷I, 196.

though Wampler implies as much in the 1947 report.⁷⁰⁸ However, none of the photograph clearly show the walls on bedrock, so character of the lowest courses of the gate are uncertain.

The following section summarizes the data presented about the outer gate as described in the 1947 report.⁷⁰⁹

The gate complex is formed by the overlapping of a section of the offset-inset wall coming from the N by another from the S. Each overlapping end formed a tower, but that on the E was larger than that on the W. The gate itself is composed of two opposing pairs of piers, each pair serving to form one guard chamber on each side.

The following "accessories" were found associated with the gate. The slot for the gate bar in the NE pier, an opposing lock hole in the NW pier, stone sockets for each of the outer piers on which the gate leaves turned, a stone threshold running between the sockets with a gate stop in the middle of the threshold (see P 996), benches in the guard chambers and lining the outer plaza (see P 950 and P 993), and the drain in the outer plaza (see P 992). Note that the door sockets and lock hole stone were not found in situ but apparently in the area of Rm 274 and Rm 275.⁷¹⁰ One of the sockets was found broken in half (see P 918).⁷¹¹

⁷⁰⁸I, 201.

⁷⁰⁹I, pp. 195-199, 202-203.

⁷¹⁰In More News from Tell en-Nasbeh, an unpublished paper in the Bade Institute in a file labeled "Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Tell en Nasbeh," p. 3, it is stated that "the gate sockets and the perforated gate-lock stone, however, were found in the inner court of the gate," i.e. not in situ.

⁷¹¹Badè, W.F., "New Discoveries at Tell en-Nasbeh," Werden und Wesen des Alten Testaments 66 (1935):33. Badè suggested that the socket was broken deliberately in antiquity to remove the W gate wing when the W half of the gate was narrowed.

The gate was constructed shortly after 900 B.C. and was put out of use either by the Assyrians in 701 B.C., or more probably by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The fact that no destruction level was found inside the town, that the gate was not demolished or burned, and that no conclusive evidence that the town wall had ever been torn down, caused many problems when trying to establish the final date for the defensive system. The excavators seem to have believed that the gate area continued to function as some sort of building after it ceased to be used as a gate for they suggest that Rm 273 and Rm 274 (and Rm 373, Rm 374, and Rm 375 to the W) were "enclosed and roofed."⁷¹²

Dating of Building 93.01, the Outer Gate -

This massive gate was built downslope of the 3C town, which shows that it post-dates that phase of the town, and thus belongs to 3B. The final phase of use is in Stratum 2. Note especially that the floor level of Stratum 2 building Building 110.01 is at roughly the same level as the floor of the gate (see P A1193). This shows that the inhabitants of that building had every intent of using the adjacent gate.⁷¹³ Building 93.02, constructed over the gate, shows that it went out of use by Stratum 1.

Function of Building 93.01, the Outer Gate -

This was the town first line of defense in Strata 3B-3A, and its only defense in Stratum 2. It was an especially strong construction.

⁷¹²I, 231.

⁷¹³I, 231. McCown was less certain of the building N and NW of the outer gate, Building 93.03 and Building 93.04?. At one point he suggests that they post-date the offset-inset wall (230), yet on the next he allows that they may be earlier than the blocking of the gate (231); earlier he affirms that the wall and gate went out of use at the same time (203).

Corners and outward faces were of ashlar and the E tower is one of the most massive defensive works in ancient Judah. Note especially the constricted space of the outer plaza (Rm 276), only ca. 9 m across, and how defenders could hurl missiles from three sides on their attackers.

The location of the gate in the NE corner of the town troubled Albright, who believed that if Tell en-Nasbeh were Mizpah its gate should point S, toward Jerusalem.⁷¹⁴ Badè also expected the gate to be located in the S, or toward the W where the ancient N to S road lay. It is one of the ironies of the excavation that Badè found the gate in virtually the last uncleared section of the wall. However, the reason for its location here is clear from aerial photographs. Access to the wall on the E, S and W is fairly easy once the top of the natural plateau on which the tell sits is reached. On the N a low saddle connects the plateau with the ridge on which Ramallah sits. However, the saddle drops sharply on the E side, and it is exactly the NE corner of the town which provides the steepest approach to the wall. It is because of the defensibility of the terrain that the gate was built here. Wampler notes that the area on which the gate was built was "rather flat," and this may also have played a part in the selection of this spot.⁷¹⁵

Building 93.02: Rm 270, Rm 271, Rm 272 -

There are no photographs which clearly show the areas of these rooms. They are also very fragmentary and so little can be learned about their maximum extent. The W limits of none of these rooms could be

⁷¹⁴W.F. Albright, "Review of P. F.-M. Geographie de la Palaestine," JBL 58 (1939): 180. "That the Mizpah which Asa fortified against Baasha of Israel should not have a gate opening southward toward Jerusalem, is simply incredible."

⁷¹⁵I, 201. See also fig. 1 in the 1947 report.

determined. Their stratigraphic position is, however, clear. The walls of all these rooms are double-stone work, and each is defined on the E by the same wall. There are no signs of any doorways.

Rm 270 is built over the W tower of the outer gate. Its S wall turns a corner to the W but only extends ca. 1.0 m before it is no longer preserved. Its N wall is built on the rectangular projection described above. The wall with Rm 271 is rough work, perhaps a foundation only.

Rm 271 is built partially over the rectangular projection, partially over the revetment/glacis. Neither its N wall with Rm 272 or its S wall with Rm 270 extended over the town wall when found, but originally probably did so. A silver Seleucid coin, possibly of Demetrius II (130-125 B.C.), was found underneath one of the walls of this room.⁷¹⁶

Rm 272 is built on top of the revetment/glacis. There are two walls (a double wall) on the N of this room, both extending to the E well beyond the limits of these rooms. The wall more to the N is lower at its base than the one to the S; it is also preserved at a lower level. Perhaps the N wall is a retaining wall for that on the S. Rm 272's W wall does not reach either of the two N walls. It should also be noted that another double-stone wall in P23 was built over the revetment/glacis, and runs almost, but not quite, parallel to the two on the N of Rm 272. Note also that both N walls end just short of the drain channel. Badè suggested that the double wall was used to narrow the approach to the gate (see above). If so, it may have been reused as both a retaining wall and the N wall for Building 93.02.

⁷¹⁶I, 232, 275 no. 6.

Dating of Building 93.02 -

This structure lies over both the 3B outer gate and offset-inset wall, both of which continued in use into Stratum 2. This puts Building 93.02 in Stratum 1. This shows that the gate had gone out of use by this late date. There is nothing to indicate the final phase of use here. The excavators realized that these were the latest features in the area and assigned them to the latest phase of their Stratum I, which they date ca. 586-400 B.C., though they also provide a date of 500-150 B.C. for Rm 270.⁷¹⁷ The late Hellenistic coin from below a wall of Rm 271 suggests a second century B.C. foundation.⁷¹⁸

Function of Building 93.02 -

It is uncertain if the two N walls of Rm 272 are original to that room, or were reused from an earlier phase. If they are earlier than Rm 272 to what phase do they belong? It may be that the walls are hasty extra defenses thrown up outside the gate at some time prior to the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem at the end of Stratum 3, or more likely are defenses erected at the end of Stratum 2 at the end of the 5th century. This would explain the narrow gap at the E end. It provides a narrow space, with two turns, for those wanting to enter the town. On the other hand, they could belong originally with the three rooms under discussion. In this case perhaps they and the wall in P23 formed a work space connected with the two kilns found between the walls. Probably the area of Rm 276 continued as some sort of plaza connected with the building. If this latter possibility is accepted, then Building 93.02 may be connected with pottery production. If the walls are in reuse in

⁷¹⁷I, pp. 185, 231.

⁷¹⁸I, 232.

Stratum 1, then this is still an extensive pottery production area. Given the fragmentary condition of these remains, this suggested used is offered only tentatively.

Building 93.03: Rm 365, Rm 366, Rm 367, Rm 368, Rm369, Rm 370 -

This seems to be the remains of a 4-Room building similar in size to the core part of Building 110.01, but some what more irregular in plan.

Rm 366 is the E long room. Its E and N walls are double-stone work, its W wall is single stone and the S wall is triple-stone. The E wall is built-up against the offset-inset wall. Substantial intramural architecture does not occur in Stratum 3. The situation of this building in the intramural area suggests a date in Stratum 2. The W wall with Rm 368 and Rm 369 preserves four monolithic stone pillars separated by short sections of masonry. There is no sign of a doorway in any of the walls, but there was probably one in the W wall to allow passage to and from the central court.

Rm 368 and Rm 369 are two parts of the central court, which may well have been open. Its E wall with Rm 366 was described above. Its W wall is very similar in construction, also preserving five monolithic stone pillars with intervening sections of masonry. The space to the E was left unnumbered by the excavators, but was probably similar to Rm 366, though wider. The unnumbered room did not likely extend farther W than the preserved W limit of its double-stone S wall. The S wall of Rm 369 is double-stone work. Note that just W of the E pillar wall of Rm 369 the double-stone wall becomes triple-stone construction. The reason for this is not at all clear. P 936 and the plan show what looks like a doorway in the SE corner of Rm 369 which leads into Rm 370. The N wall

of Rm 368 was either not completely excavated or not well-preserved, and there is no sign of a doorway. **P A1066** shows the partition wall between Rm 368 and Rm 369. Only the top course is clear, but it seems that this is the only course, and that it rests on fill. From the photograph this course seems only slightly below the top level of the pillars, and well above the floor of Rm 368 and Rm 369. Unfortunately there are no elevations on this wall.

Rm 365 and Rm 367 make up the back room to this structure. Rm 365 is on the E. Its N, W and E walls are single stone work. The E wall is built-up against and offset in the offset-inset wall. According to the plan, the E wall is bonded into the double-stone S wall. Although the plan shows no doorway in the wall between Rm 365 and Rm 367, one probably did exist there. There is no sign of a doorway into Rm 364, but this may be part of a separate structure. The plan shows that the S wall of Rm 365 (and Rm 367) is built on top of a lower wall. This could be an earlier phase of the wall (attesting to two sub-phases within the stratum), or perhaps more likely a foundation for the wall above. **P A1066** shows this S wall preserved three or four courses high.

Rm 367 shares the same N, E and S walls with Rm 365; however, only about half of this room was excavated. It probably did not extend more than another 3.0 m to the W. No trace of a doorway in any wall is preserved, but such likely existed between it and Rm 365 to the E and into Rm 368 to the S.

Rm 370 is probably a short alley way which provided access to Rm 369. A doorway in its NE corner leads directly into Rm 369. There is no sign of a doorway leading into Rm 371 or Rm 372 (see the discussion above on these rooms). Because the area to the W was not excavated it is not possible to say into what kind of space this alley opened.

Dating of Building 93.03 -

This structure was built on the debris in the intramural area and up against the 3B offset-inset wall. This shows that the structure is at least 3A. But even during that long period, there was relatively little new construction in the intramural area, most of it was rebuilding or expansions, and nothing on the scale of this building. There is also its general similarity in size to the core 4-Room structure Building 110.01. Building 110.10 is 13.0 m by 10.0 m, compared to the 12.5 m by 9 m of Building 93.03. This suggests a date in Stratum 2. It is not clear when this building went out of use, but if Building 93.02 extended W of the offset-inset wall it would have cut Building 93.03, which would then limit it to Stratum 2. The excavators realized that these rooms were late; how late they were uncertain. Since all the other walls which reached the town wall according to their scheme were postexilic, they assumed that these rooms were too; i.e. they belonged to their late Stratum I.⁷¹⁹

Function of Building 93.03 -

There is nothing to indicate more than a domestic role for this structure.

Building 93.04?: Rm 363, Rm 364 -

The assignment of these fragmentary rooms to a separate building is most tentative. It seems more likely that they are independent of Building 93.03 than a part of it. There are no close up photographs of these features. No doorways are preserved.

⁷¹⁹I, pp. 183 n. 15, 230; though on 231 they are less certain about this dating.

Rm 363 seems to be a partially excavated space N of Rm 364. No walls, other than the one it shares with Rm 364 were uncovered. Its extent is unknown.

Rm 364 is built right against the inner face of the offset-inset wall. Unlike Rm 365 to the S it does not have its own E wall. Its other walls show multiple phases or foundation courses. The N wall is a mix of single- and double-stone work, but its W end seems to show that it is built on a line of stones laid in stretcher fashion. The same is true about its W wall. Here there is a single-stone wall, with another wall below it on the S. Note that the S-most stone of the W wall is below Rm 364's single-stone S wall. This may indicate that the walls dovetail together. In the W half of the room is a single-stone wall laid in stretcher fashion which reaches the lower phase of the N wall.

Without photographs, or more extensively excavated remains, it is difficult to decide if the lower phases of these walls are foundations, or earlier walls being reused as foundations. The stretcher wall in the W half of Rm 364 does not show any signs of reuse. This may be taken to indicate that the lower walls are an earlier phase of this structure, and the upper walls a subsequent rebuild along virtually the same lines.

Dating of Building 93.04? -

Like Building 93.03 it is built against the 3B offset-inset wall in the intramural area. Substantial structures were not built in the intramural area in Stratum 3, this suggests that the building belongs to Stratum 2 or later. Since it shares a wall with Building 93.03 it is a Stratum 2 foundation, and since it is not cut by later walls its final period of use remains open; it may have continued as late as Stratum 1.

Function of Building 93.04 -

There is not enough information to suggest a role for this structure.

Other Features -

Rm 277 is a difficult feature to interpret, primarily because there are no photographs of it. Its walls are all double-stone work, but no N or S walls are preserved for it. There is a gap in its W wall which may possibly be a doorway. Note especially the one header at the S end of the N section of the wall. A short section of single-stone masonry extends perpendicular to the W from the S section of the wall. This is drawn as though to represent the bottom of a series of steps. If here are remains of a doorway and set of steps it is difficult to understand the role of the wall blocking the doorway on the W and running N from the step. Perhaps this is evidence for two phases of construction in the area. Note also that the E wall of Rm 277 consists of two overlapping wall segments.

Since this feature is built over part of the Strata 3B to 2 defenses it seems likely that it belongs to Stratum 1. How far it extended in any direction is impossible to determine. Its function is also obscure.

Rm 371 and Rm 372 are just S of Building 93.03. It is uncertain if these two rooms constitute a separate, independent structure on their own, or perhaps represent an annex connected with 4-Room building Building 93.03 (described above).

Rm 371 is built-up against the W tower of the outer gate (Building

93.01). Its N and S walls are thick triple-stone construction. The nature of the W wall is difficult to determine. The one course high wall between Rm 373 and Rm 374 seems to cut across the original W wall of Rm 371 at a slight SW-NE angle, which explains why the S end of the W wall of Rm 371 widens out (see P 936). The photograph shows that the W wall is preserved ca. three to four courses high.

Rm 372 is of much cruder construction than Rm 371. Its N wall varies between double- and triple-stone work, while its W wall appears to be single-stone construction, though it may not have been completely excavated. P 936 seems to show that the N and S wall are only one course high. The top of the N wall is similar in elevation to the N wall of Rm 370 (778.22 and 778.04). There is a ca. 1.5 m gap in the S wall of Rm 372 before the W wall is reached. Extending perpendicular to the N from the W end of the W wall is a short section of wall, which from P 936 looks to be preserved ca. half a meter below the top of the S wall.

The interpretation of this data is difficult. If the N wall of Rm 372 is only one course high and is over a meter above the floor threshold from Rm 369 to Rm 370, it does not seem likely that Rm 370 (attached to Building 93.03) and Rm 372 could be in use at the same time. There would have been no wall to retain the debris to the S of Rm 370. If this is the case, then Rm 372 probably belongs to Stratum 1. On the other hand, the short wall extending perpendicular into Rm 372 is much nearer to the threshold elevation of Rm 370. It may be that the lower courses of the N and S walls of Rm 372 were not cleaned well-enough before being photographed (note especially the slope of the debris below the S wall in P 936), and so these walls may only appear to be preserved to a single course, when they might be deeper.

The walls of Rm 371 are thick and survive to several courses. The

E walls of Building 93.03 appear to be built against it. It may be that Rm 371 belongs to the defenses of Stratum 3B and was used in Stratum 2 along with Building 93.03. Either in Stratum 2, or later, Rm 372 was built against Rm 371. Nothing more specific seems possible to determine.

Rm 377 is an area of some importance. Unfortunately there are no photographs specifically of this area. P 919 and the plan indicate that the wall which forms the E limit of Rm 377 floats at a level even with the top preserved corner of Rm 378 of Building 110.01. It is probably part of the same poorly preserved building as the similar floating wall between Rm 274 and Rm 275.

The two parallel dotted lines in Rm 378 mark the course of the wall which originally connected the inner and outer gates in Stratum 3B. These lines extend N into Rm 377 where they actually define the E and W faces of this wall. That this massive wall is preserved to a greater height in Rm 377 than in Building 110.01 shows that the builders of Stratum 2 removed only those Stratum 3 features which they had to for their construction purposes. P 936 shows the W face and P 954 shows the E face. P 954 shows that the E-most line is preserved at least four courses high, and the line of stones just to the W is two courses higher still. Badè interpreted these lines as part of a "stepped street" leading W away from the gate. Photographs taken near the end of the season show that the excavators reconstructed several more steps, but these were not so found (see P A955). P 954 shows two other features not marked on the plan.

There appear to be two more steps to the W of two indicated on the plan. Extending S from the SE corner of the W tower of the gate and below the NE corner of Rm 378 there is a line of stones W extending in front of the first excavated "step" in the "street." It may be that the

W tower originally (in 3B) extend farther S than when its final phase (2). When the area between the inner and outer gates was redeveloped in Stratum 2, part of this tower may have been disassembled. This line of stones and the stone work to its W, may be remains of a more extensive W tower. This might explain why the S face of the W tower, facing on to Rm 377, seems to have a lower and upper phase (see P 954). This may not have been the original S face of the tower, but only what was left once the tower had been partially dismantled.

Badè's reconstruction of Rm 377 as a stepped street is certainly possible and would explain the purpose of Rm 373 and Rm 374 to the W.

Rm 373 and Rm 374 are W of Rm 377. They both lie in the intramural area between the presumed line of the 3C casemate-like wall and the 3B offset-inset wall. In Stratum 3 the area extending N from Rm 373 would have been mostly empty space, such as in other parts of the intramural area. The wall which separates Rm 373 and Rm 374, and continues N between Rm 372 and Rm 371 is a scrappy affair floating one course high. It ends at the N wall of Rm 375. This shows that the builders took that Stratum 2 house wall into account when they put in the scrappy wall. If Rm 377 was reused as a stepped road in Stratum 2, then the road must have led through Rm 373 and Rm 374. This indicates that the scrappy wall probably belongs to some Stratum 1 structure. As discussed above, Rm 371 was probably constructed in Stratum 3B or 3A and continued into 2. The nature of the area covered by the probable Stratum 1 walls of Rm 372 in Stratum 2 is unclear. It is possible that the area between Rm 370 and Rm 373 was open during Stratum 2. At the W end of Rm 373 there appear to be two short E-W sections of wall, one built partially on top of the other. P 936 shows these walls, but not clearly. They are at elevations similar to Rm 372's walls; they may thus be further fragments of a Stratum 1 building.

Although they do not explain their reasoning for it, the excavators thought that the road formed by Rm 373, Rm 374 and Rm 377 was enclosed and roofed after the outer gate ceased to function as a gate.⁷²⁰

Rm 375 and Rm 378 are discussed under Plan 110 below.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

Parts of two insets and one offset are found in the W part of the overlapping sections, while in the E overlap are one offset and an inset. The width of the W wall varies from 4.2 to 4.7 m, with the revetment/glacis varying between 3.2 to 3.5 m. The maximum width of the W defenses is 7.6 to 8.2 m. The E wall varies between 4.3 and 5.0 m, with the revetment/glacis at ca. 3.2 m. This gives the E defenses a range of 7.5 to 8.2 m. From the base of the revetment on the E tower to a point on the preserved top of the tower is a distance of ca. 6.5 m, and this would have been much higher when the tower was intact. From the floor of the outer plaza to a preserved point on the town wall is a vertical height of ca. 3.0 m.

The Kiln -

In R23 is one of the two kilns located N of the outer gate (see P A1073 for a general view of the kiln and its relation to the offset-inset wall). It is horseshoe-shaped and ca. 4.0 m long by 3.0 m wide. Its walls are made of stone and evidently lined with clay (see P 995). Extending from the E wall is a large block which served to support the floor of the chamber which held the pottery. The area around the block was the used to hold the fuel. W of the kiln is a narrow single-stone

⁷²⁰I, 231.

wall which perhaps served to mark off the kiln itself from the general work area around it. This wall continues N into Q23, but it does not directly reach the kiln in Q24, but runs roughly 3.0 m W of it. See the discussion of Building 93.02 above for the possible architectural context of this feature.

The Drain -

In R-S24 a ca. 14.0 m length of drain channel was uncovered. It was stone lined and preserved twenty-nine of its cover stones (see P 993). Similar segments of drain channel were found in W24 and Y-Z24 to the S. It is possible that all these channels belong together as a unit. Unfortunately the area beneath the floor of Rm 273b, the central part of the gate, was not excavated, so it cannot be proved that the drain runs through the gate. See the discussion under Plan 127 for more details on the dating of the drains. The drain ends on the E of what seems to be a rock-cut installation. This feature is roughly 2.0 m on a side and 1.5 m deep. There is no photograph of this feature, but possibly it is a cistern into which the drain emptied. This would have provided water outside the town for arriving people and animals.