

in to level the area for Surface A. 3:16. The sherds found in context with these walls were Roman and some Iron III. Of interest is the fact that these walls go below the level of bedrock found in Square 4. Apparently the bedrock in this area is very undulating and the highest point of bedrock seems to be the cistern between the pillar bases, from where it gradually slopes off to the southwest in Square 4. The probe trench in Square 2 seems to indicate that the bedrock was deliberately quarried or faced on that side.

Roman sherds have been identified in every Square, usually at the levels where work terminated this season. However, the line of demarcation between Byzantine and Roman is rather dubious. At present, it appears that the Roman Walls A. 1:12 and A. 2:8 were reused in Byzantine times.

Further excavation will be necessary to delineate clearly the Roman levels on the acropolis at Heshbon.

AREA D

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Area D was laid out with the primary aim of exposing the main entrance to the acropolis area from the lower city to the south. To this end three 6×6 m. "Squares" were plotted to the east of the north-south axis across the eastern half of the south slope of the acropolis of the mound. Their common west balk bisected a gateway that was visible at the summit somewhat east of the center of the south ridge. It then slanted along a presumed path of access on the slope below framed by a pair of standing columns (outside the Area) on the west end. Square 1 straddled the summit where the line of an enclosure wall was just visible through the mass of rockfall that camouflaged the upper slope. Square 2 stretched across the slope below, incorporating on the west the aforementioned wall line that appeared to climb the slope toward the gateway in the summit wall. Square 3 was staked out on a small fairly level shelf.

The final alignment of the Squares was dictated by a second aim of excavation in this Area, *viz.*, the hope of eventually linking structures on the perimeter of the acropolis with structures in the center, specifically those to be excavated in Area A. To this end the Squares of both Areas were laid out in such a way that the north-south axis became the west boundary of both Areas during the 1968 season.

The initial appearance of the Area was of a hillside strewn with boulders and crowned with a stone heap. The removal of this surface tumble, however, revealed a quite different picture. In place of the sloping mound a broad enclosure wall ran along the south perimeter of the acropolis area with rooms and courtyards against the wall within. A meter or more below on the outside of the wall was a more or less level terrace, sometimes walled at its lower end, below which the terrace gave way to a slope dropping off rapidly to the south and west. Between the upper wall and the surface below ran a broad stone ramp or terrace with steps to the south, plastered porch or forecourt to the north, and a low wall along the upper edge framing this elevated access to the acropolis area. This picture, won by the removal of surface earth and rock-fall, describes the basic outlines of construction in Area D throughout the entire period of occupation revealed by the first season's excavation.

Most of the season was spent in the excavation of Arab remains (Stratum I), of which at least three, possibly four, phases can be distinguished. By the end of the season, however, all Arab surfaces and structures had been removed, exposing earlier data. For most of these earlier layers an adequate analysis must await a further season of digging. Where ceramic evidence was available, our analysis was not sufficiently exact, distinguishing only characteristically Roman sherds in a mass of pre-Arab UD material. In addition, key connections between surfaces in different parts of a Square or of the Area and between surfaces and walls had been broken in ancient times or were not observed carefully

enough in digging. Without closer ceramic dating the judgment of relative contemporaneity and sequence in these cases is a precarious one that can at best be only tentative until further evidence is forthcoming. For the purpose of this report, remains from all levels where characteristic Arab pottery was lacking have been lumped into a single stratum category, Stratum II (pre-Arab), a category that must be revised and differentiated as Byzantine and/or Roman (Roman sherds were found in connection with all of these) on the basis of further digging and ceramic analysis. No attempt has been made to distinguish phases in the Stratum II material, except for the last, II A, where reasonable certainty of contemporaneity can be determined on the basis of architectural unity and dependence. Though Stratum II cannot be adequately dated, it can be roughly ordered into a relative chronological sequence that leads directly into the more controlled sequence of Stratum I.

A rough and very tentative stratigraphic and chronological key to the whole Area is presented in Figure 8, providing a chart of sequences, interrelationships and dependencies, plus a ceramic guide insofar as this was possible. Many parts of this sequence will eventually have to be moved, but the backbone of the whole system is Wall D. 1:4, which in its several phases provides the basic continuity through the whole series of excavated remains (Plate XX: A).

Our report begins with a description of the remains of Stratum II, since the remains from Stratum I, the Arab period, consist largely of the reuse and eventual rebuilding of architecture from the previous period, and the period is ushered in by a building project that is simply an addition to a Stratum II structure. The basic outline of the building in the Area is essentially the same throughout the whole excavated sequence. All the connecting architecture—and almost all the architecture found—was found in Squares 1 and 2. Square 3, which shares some surfaces with Square 2, is described

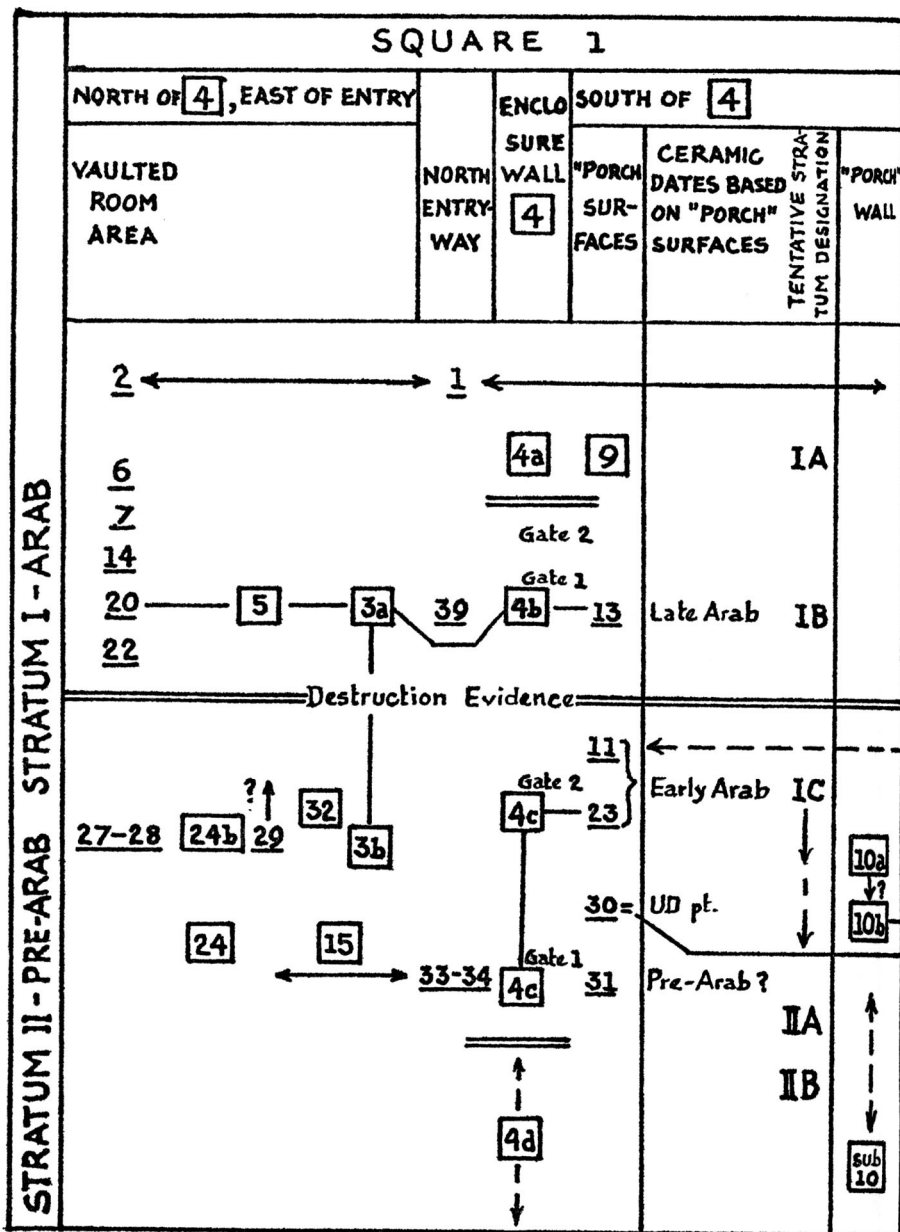


Figure 8. Table showing tentative chronological order and relationship of principal loci in Area D, Squares 1-3. Key: Underlined numerals

separately, because of the quite different occupational remains and distinct problems encountered there.

Stratum II. The last major structure built in Stratum II was the acropolis enclosure Wall D. 1:4c along the south edge of the summit of the mound. The latest construction in this pre-Arab period has been preserved in only one to two courses of ashlar masonry laid in part directly on the foundation, in part upon the first course of an earlier wall, D. 1:4d. How high this foundation of giant undressed field stones stood above the surface of the mound is not known, since neither founding level nor surfaces contemporary with its construction have been reached and a probe slightly to the south was carried to two meters below the gateway level in D. 1:4 without penetrating below Arab levels. Wall D. 1:4d may have been founded on bedrock.

Wall D. 1:4c is constructed of two rather widely separated faces of varying thickness, the whole averaging 1.70 m. in width at foundation level (Figures 9 and 10). It runs across the whole eight meters width of the Square, its outer face roughly paralleling the south balk at a distance from it of *ca.* 1.40-1.30 m. Near the west balk line and extending into the balk stood a gateway, estimated to have been *ca.* 1.00 m. wide, which opened into a paved courtyard, D. 1:33 and 34, of giant flagstones (some 1.00 × .50 m. in dimension) on the north. This courtyard covered the whole 2.75 m. wide area north of the enclosure wall and continued eastward along the wall until it broke off 3.75 m. from the east balk. Upon this surface was laid a narrow (*ca.* .70 m. wide), two-row north-south wall, D. 1:15, perpendicular to Wall D. 1:4, which it abuts *ca.* .50 m. east of the east doorpost; from there it extends northward into the balk. Access to the room thus created was obtained by a doorway just inside the north balk. Further east another north-south wall, D. 1:24, of roughly similar width and construction and with a doorway from the east near the north balk, abutted Wall D. 1:4c 1.50 m. west of the east balk. This wall may have served at some time as the east

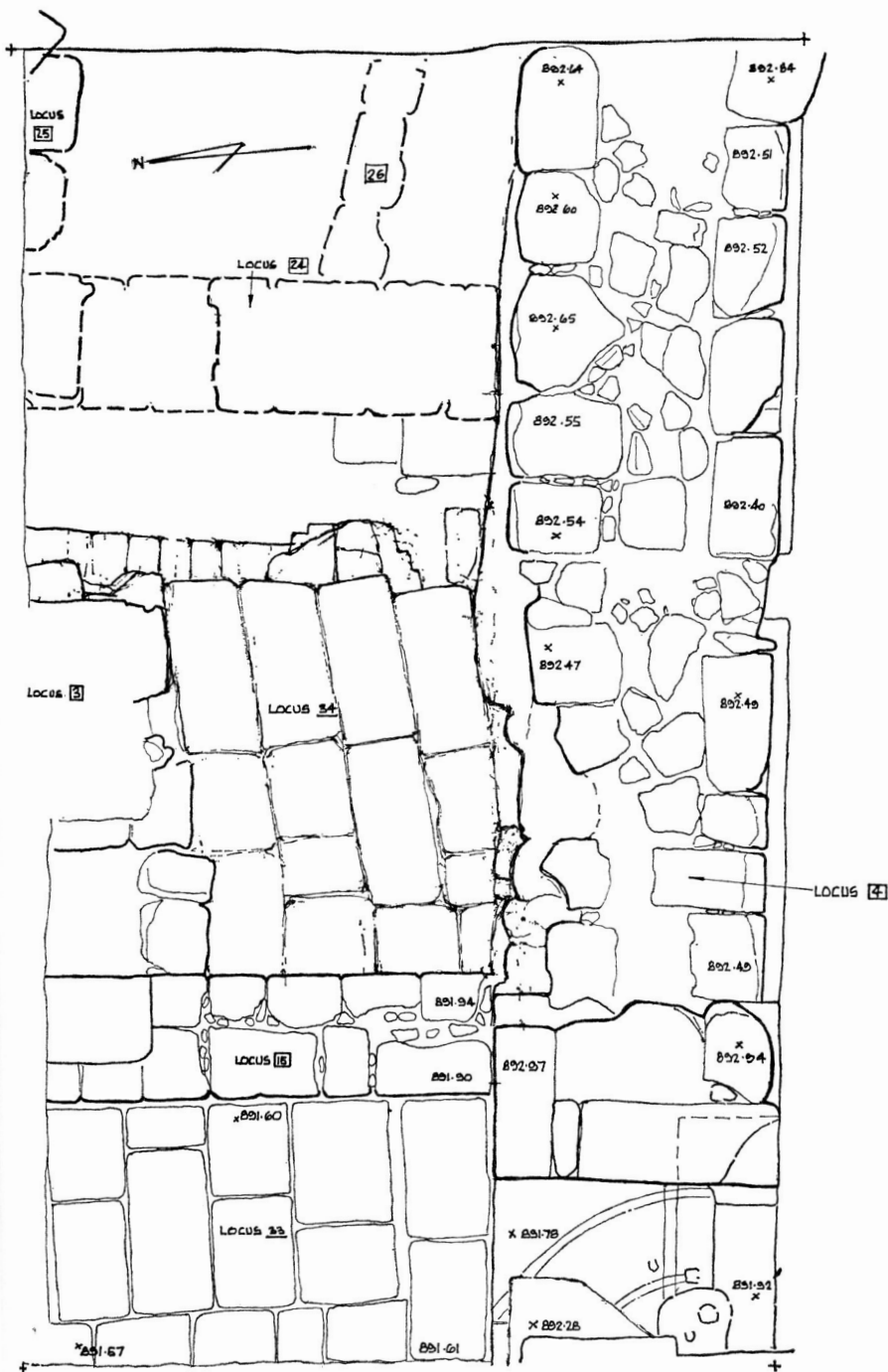


Figure 9. Plan of Area D, Square I, showing the principal architectural features of the pre-Arab Stratum II

wall for a room framed by Walls D. 1:15 and 4 on the west and south, though the surface connection has been lost by the abrupt end of the flagstone paving *ca.* 1.00 m. west of Wall D. 1:24. An additional later and independent use is suggested by a series of earth surfaces and flimsy walls to the east of it.

To the south, outside the gate, an earth and *murwar* surface extending *ca.* one meter east of the east gatepost in Wall D. 1:4c and some three meters or more to the south formed a kind of porch in front of the gateway at the head of what seems to have been a stairway or stone-built ramp running down to the south. The contemporary surfaces and/or structures outside the wall to the east of the raised stair area have not been recovered; excavation there was halted in Arab levels 1.75 m. below the threshold level in the D. 1:4c wall (Plate XX: B).

Details of reconstruction in the south stairway area are unfortunately difficult to recover, in part because the stratigraphic situation is exceedingly complex, in part because evidence outside the Area needed to reconstruct a full picture of the plan is lacking.

The earliest stairs-and-porch/forecourt arrangement seems to have been created in part from an earlier construction, but also to have established a new pattern for the zone of access to the south acropolis gateway. The earliest architectural remains visible in this area are a series of steps (Loci D. 2: sub-7 and sub-2) that suggest a broad stepped terrace on this slope of the mound. The lower three steps, which in digging were not given a separate locus designation from the later steps (D. 2:7), were constructed from thin (*ca.* .17 m. thick) rectangular stones, *ca.* .70 × .45 m. in size, laid end to end lengthwise in staggered rows across the slope so that each step was the height and width of a single stone. The longest stair row as recovered consisted of four stones and extended *ca.* 2.50 m. east of the west balk; but the original dimensions of the terrace-staircase can no longer be determined with certainty, since the south and east edges of the remaining

structure show signs of earlier robbing and mark the west edge of a giant robber trench or pit that extended an additional four meters to the east (to within 1.50 m. of the east balk) and four meters south of the southernmost step (2.50 m. into D. 3).

North of this lower group of stairs and visible only on the east where the east face of a superimposed wall (D. 2:2) was removed was a level strip of stone paving/terracing followed by another series of three low shallow steps. This latter series was formed of stones of approximately the same dimensions as the lower series but laid crosswise with long sides together and with the upper courses overlapping the lower ones by *ca.* .25 m. to leave a tread about .40 m. in depth. How far north this stepped terrace continued is not now apparent, since part of the terrace was clearly robbed out in ancient times and the whole north part of this sector is covered by a terrace of later date and different construction. Whether it conceals an extension of the earlier construction (as may be suggested by what can be seen from the east of the third course down in the D. 1:sub-10 terrace) can only be learned in another season of digging. No date can as yet be assigned to this structure hopefully dubbed "the Roman stairs" to distinguish it from the later stair construction in which it was in part reused. A *terminus ante quem* can be set, however: It is pre-Arab in date and is superseded by at least one, if not two, succeeding pre-Arab constructions in the same sector.

The next phase of building in the stairway area can also not be dated with any exactness beyond the verdict that it must be pre-Arab; it is sealed at one end by pre-Arab surfaces. It consists essentially of a long one-row wall (D. 2:25-D. 1:37) of somewhat rough, poorly fitted and aligned ashlar blocks. *Ca.* .70 m. wide, this wall begins with a large cornerstone set on the top of the three lowest steps, *ca.* 1.25 m. east of the west balk and the same distance from the south balk. Then it angles off in a north-northwest direction, continuing through the north balk and into D. 1, where it stops at the west end of Wall D. 1:4, .50 m. below the D. 1:4c gateway

threshold. This curious angle, diverging from the orientation of all earlier and later structures thus far uncovered in the Area, puts the wall too far west to be connected with the D. 1:4c gateway. The wall is nearly level, and at its present level it is too low to be connected with either the c or d construction stages of Wall D. 1:4. If Wall D. 2:25-D. 1:37 was used with Wall D. 1:4 it was presumably higher, at least at the north end, and accompanied by higher surfaces to the west. Its function is at the present time not clear.

To the west of Wall D. 2:25 near the south end, a broad step was created (Locus D. 2:7b), two to three rows wide, above the bottom group of three "Roman steps" and intermediate in height between the last of these three and the level of the first course of the wall. This step was built in line with the angle of the new wall—though a final row added to the south of the step "straightened" the edge to parallel the lower steps. A second step, integrated into the wall itself, raised the level in the stairway/entryway to the level of the wall.

The last basic alteration of this zone of ascent in the south slope was a direct response to the construction of Wall D. 1:4c and gateway. This two-stage construction is not so apparent in the top course remaining, since it is continuous on the south face; it is markedly clear, however, in the course beneath, where a break midway in the wall is accentuated by different heights and different styles of construction on the east and west ends. The outer (south) face of the wall is built entirely of headers—large, long, somewhat worn ashlar blocks set directly upon a foundation of giant uncut field stones. To the west of the break five exquisitely cut and fitted ashlar blocks (in the sequence, stretcher, stretcher, header, square, stretcher) are laid upon a leveling layer of small field stones that top a foundation of boulders similar to that farther east. The top levels of the stones in this row are all identical, 892.15 m. The first stones in the row have chiseled patterns cut into the face, all different and all differently executed, but all to be distinguished from the rough chisel-patterned boss with

smooth margins—a style found on stones of a wall in Area A. 2. One of them had been cut down from a larger size and shaped to receive the large doorjamb stone, in the process of which two of its smooth margins were lost. The others, judging from their different patterns, may also be reused stones. All the stones in this course had sharply and squarely cut edges on the face side.

The difference between the east and the west ends of Wall D. 1:4c is also apparent in the inner (north) face of the wall. To the west the inner face is very uneven, built of huge boulders and smaller, irregularly shaped stones like the foundation courses on the south. As a result it varies in width, being narrower near the gatepost. To the east, the construction and the width appear to be much more regular, though the inner face there also employs the same rough field stones used in the west end. However, one dressed stone was found next to the east balk and three more, so badly weathered that original dimensions are not certain, are grouped together opposite a place in the south face where a long, shallow, flat depression was cut into the front two-thirds of the five stones next to the middle break. Between these worked stones and the dressed stones in the north face a single dressed stone was laid sideways in the middle of the wall, creating something of a “smooth” surface through the wall at this point. The original function of this construction is no longer apparent.

The second course of Wall D. 1:4c (south face) is constructed of the same finely fitted stones as course one (west), and though they show more wear, conspicuous especially in the rounding off of the top edge, they clearly match the lower course (west); one of the stones has a chiseled chevron pattern that matches a stone in the lower course, while one stone over the older east end wall still shows the same finely tooled margins, and sharply cut straight lower edge that characterized the first course west end. Furthermore, the whole second course is set back *ca.* .10 m. from the lower course, beginning at the edge of the doorjamb block and continuing all the way into the

east balk. It is composed entirely of stretchers, or square stones, forming a narrow face row, except for the first two stones next to the doorjamb. The second course (south) also shows a break in the two parts of the wall, over the break in the course below.

The north face, however, does not seem to support this "continuity of construction" thesis. The west end is again narrower, even narrower than the lower course and is "paved" across with small irregularly shaped flat stones. The east end is wide and of uniform width (*ca.* 1.65 m.) over the whole last three meters; its north face is formed of flat, faced stones, mostly dressed. The interior fill also employs a number of flat stones giving the impression of paving. While the construction narrows toward the west, the relatively smooth and level top surface and the fact that the dressed stones continue over the earlier break in the lower course may be indications that the second course (north) was originally a single-unit construction. The situation on the north face may have been influenced by later building against the inner face of the wall and thus may have a different and even more complicated history of building and rebuilding than that of the south face.

It is difficult to say how much of the foundation belonged to the old wall (D. 1:4d) and how much to the rebuild (D. 1:4c). The fact that the later wall (D. 1:4c) was built at the same foundation height as the earlier wall (D. 1:4d) raises problems as to which surfaces and walls belong to which construction stage. Little can be said about the dates of the two walls—or two construction stages. Sherds from the fill between courses one and two (= under D. 1:4c) were Roman and UD's. Fawzi Zayadine's opinion that the chisel patterns on some of the stones in the D. 1:4c wall are of Byzantine origin is the closest dating evidence we have for the later wall.

Where the entrance was located in the older wall cannot be determined from present available evidence; it is probable, however, that it was not far from the D. 1:4c entrance, since this is the only area that gives evidence of an earlier terrace

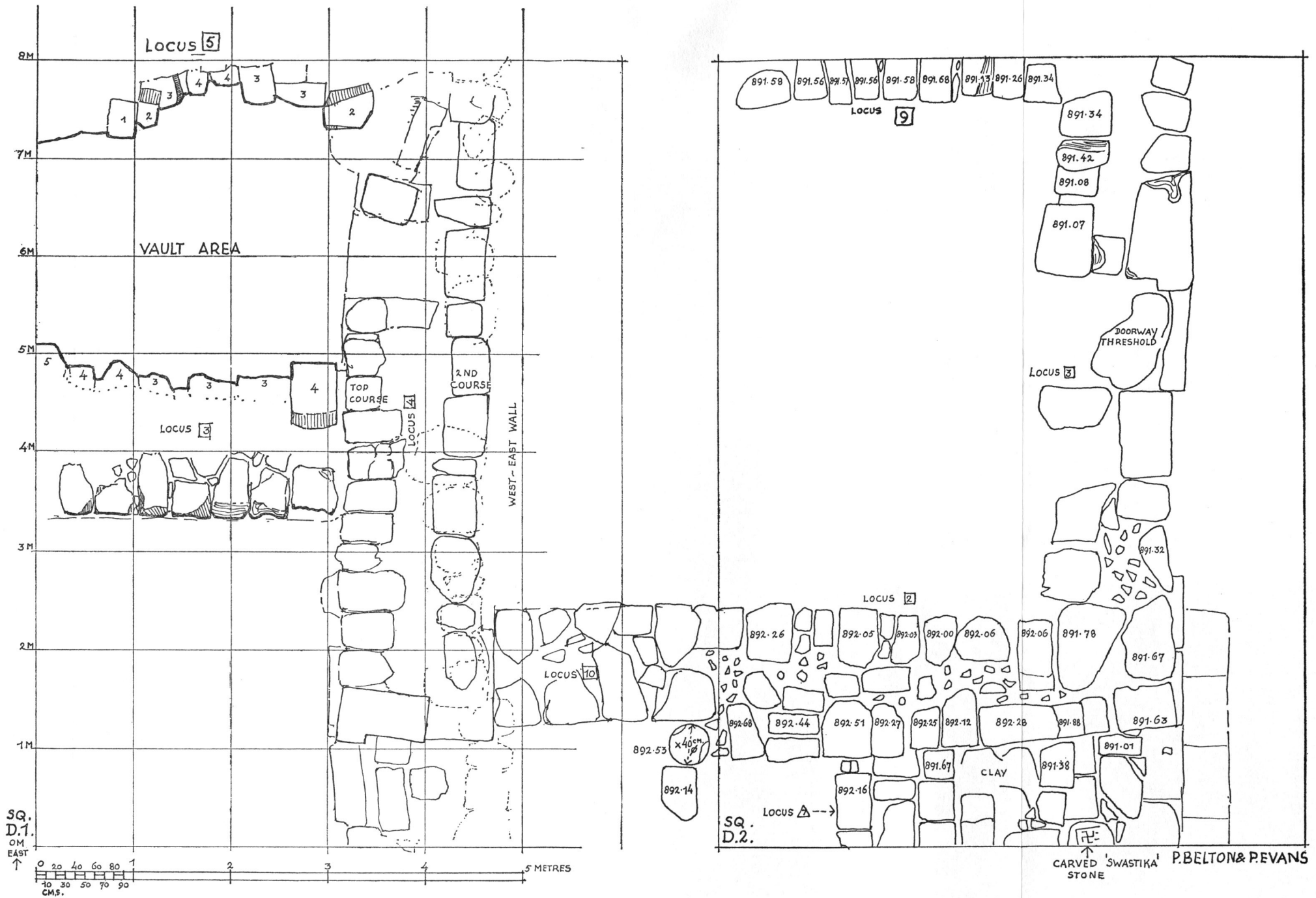


Figure 10. Plan of Area D, Squares 1 and 2, showing the principal architectural features of the Arab Stratum I

that would raise the level of the entryway to the height of the earlier foundation. If the "diagonal wall" was in any way connected with the D. 1:4d entryway, the entrance should have lain to the west of the later one. The gateway used with the D. 1:4c wall seems definitely to be a part of the D. 1:4c wall construction and it is this gateway, reused and rebuilt, that is maintained through all succeeding phases of construction and use. The original D. 1:4c gateway is an example, as is the D. 1:4c wall, of the finest mason's skill represented in any Area D construction uncovered in the entire first season; none of the later construction in and upon it is comparable. The south threshold stone which was set deep into the south terrace was at least 1.50 m. in length by .60 m. in width, and was carved to produce a .35 m. wide step on the south edge and to receive the grooved and socketed doorjamb that overlapped the threshold stone on the east end. The doorjamb in turn was fitted into the lowest course of the wall by carving out the corner of the first course of stones to receive the higher doorjamb. The north part of the threshold and doorjamb block was created from a number of additional large stones finished and fitted into a single architectural unit with the same fine craftsmanship visible in the D. 1:4c wall. The threshold stones display a drag line from the inward swinging door that completed this picture.

North of the D. 1:4c-d enclosure wall were found a number of walls and surfaces used with that wall. For the earliest of these, Walls D. 1:24 and 15 and Surfaces D. 1:33 and 34, no ceramic evidence is available from this season's digging, and the possibility must be acknowledged that some or all pre-date the D. 1:4c construction, a possibility that is in part dependent on the unsolved question of how much of the north face of the original wall was left.

Just below (.15 m.) the threshold level inside on the north a fine flagstone paving (D. 1:33-34) was found which covered the entire northwest quadrant of the Square over to 4.25 m. east of the west balk. Here it breaks off--at a point almost

directly opposite the break between the d and c phases of Wall D. 1:4, south face. This coincidence, however, is less illuminating than it would first appear, since it was the west half of D. 1:4d, *i.e.*, the part of the wall that would have been contiguous to the paving (D. 1:33-34), that was robbed out most thoroughly, while it is the east end of the paving that is missing. The explanation for the loss of the end of the paving seems more likely related to later construction in the area north of Wall D. 1:4 than to the history of the wall itself.

Directly beneath the east edge of Pavement D. 1:33-34 and extending some .50 m. beyond it, an earlier floor of soapstone tiles was visible. The original extent of this paving is unknown, as it is covered by Pavement D. 1:33-34 on the west, while excavation stopped short of this level east of Wall D. 1:24. It did once extend at least as far east as Wall D. 1:24, however, since it is visible that far in the north balk and also in the north end of the subsidiary balk under the west face of Wall D. 1:24. In any case, this tile floor had also been broken through along the west edge of Wall D. 1:24.

It seems that Wall D. 1:24 was built in conjunction with Pavement D. 1:33-34, although objections to this assumption can be raised. The reconstruction of the early history of construction inside the enclosure wall can then be summarized as follows. The earliest paved surface excavated was a soapstone tile floor which may have been associated with the earlier D. 1:4d wall. In that case it may also have been broken away to the west, as was the associated wall. Pavement D. 1:33-34 might then be construed as the main surface connected with the rebuild (D. 1:4c) of the old wall, laid against the new threshold and along the inside of the wall eastward over (the remnant of) the earlier stone tile surface. It was bounded on the east by a north-south crosswall (D. 1:24) whose outer (east) face rested on or close to the surface of the earlier tile floor, but whose inner (west) face began only at the level of the new floor (D. 1:33-34).

The D. 1:33-34 paving shows some signs of having been conformed to the irregular line of the north face of Wall D. 1:4, though it is not impossible that the north face of the wall was built later, cutting into the earlier surface, which was then patched. In that case Pavement D. 1:33-34 would have to be connected with Wall D. 1:4d or part of an even earlier hilltop construction, and a new explanation would have to be found for the relationship of Surface D. 1:33-34 and Wall D. 1:24. Whatever its original date, it was clearly the primary surface associated with the D. 1:4c gateway to the south.

The area paved by the flagstone Surface D. 1:33-34 was bisected by a north-south wall, D. 1:15, abutting the east edge of the composite D. 1:4c gatepost, extending into the balk on the north. The fact that virtually no soil had accumulated on D. 1:33-34 before Wall D. 1:15 was laid (and no foundation trench is apparent) suggests that it was constructed immediately or very shortly after the completion of D. 1:33-34 (unless the whole of an older surface was cleaned down to this level). If it was paired with Wall D. 1:24, then it must have belonged to the original layout of the space immediately inside the newly rebuilt Wall D. 1:4c. Wall D. 1:15 is built against—and therefore after—the D. 1:4c doorjamb and is somewhat broken at the southeast end where the east corner of the gatepost block is also broken and weathered. The wall was preserved in only one course; it was evidently robbed out to this level since no tumble was found near it that could be associated with it. It framed a narrow courtyard on the west inside the (presumably) main south gateway, and a room built east of the wall. Access to this room was gained through a door evident at the north balk line, whose threshold-doorjamb construction, while simpler, is very similar to that of the D. 1:4c gateway and is of a type not found in later walls in this Area. The threshold step and the bases for the doorjamb (raised arms on either side of the threshold) are formed by carving out a depression on the inner side of the wall into a block of closely fitted stones in the first course of the wall

above floor level (see Figure 11: A). This is in contrast to the separate-stones-for-separate levels threshold construction of later walls (see Figure 11: B).

The wall was relatively narrow (.70 m.), but well built of two rows of dressed stones with minimal fill in the center. The outer (west) face was somewhat wider, built of smoother, more regular stones and of more even construction.

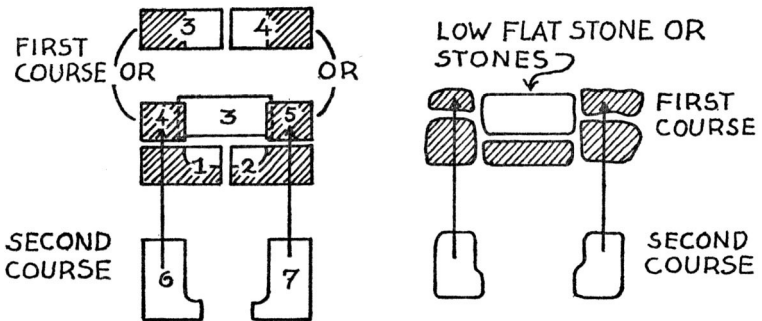


Figure 11.

- A. Basic pattern (top plan) of gate-way construction in D. 1:15, 24 and 4c
 B. Basic pattern (top plan) of threshold design in later walls, D. 1:4b and D. 2:3b
 (Variations within each of the basic patterns are due to overall size, size of stones available, etc.)

For the east wall of the room thus formed three candidates may be suggested: (1) the "original" wall at the edge of the present termination of Pavement D. 1:33-34, now gone except for a line of small rough stones still clinging to the east edge; (2) a wall on top of Pavement D. 1:33-34, somewhere to the east and now totally disappeared; (3) Wall D. 1:24, a north-south wall of rather similar proportions to those of Wall D. 1:15 and with an entrance of similar design opening into the paved area from the east and located just inside the north balk—or almost opposite the door in Wall D. 1:15, 3.25 m. east of Wall D. 1:15 and parallel to it.

The lower threshold stone in the west face of Wall D. 1:24 was laid directly on the old tile floor, and the outer (east) face

of the wall was founded at about the same level. West of Wall D. 1:24 only one surface was found associated with the wall: Locus D. 1:29, a clayey red earth layer with many stone chips or pebbles in it, found at about the level of the west threshold of Wall D. 1:24—which is also the level of Pavement D. 1:33-34. Ceramic dating of Roman and UD offers as yet no possibility of fixing the date of this surface within a sequence of pre-Arab construction and destruction north of the D. 1:4c or D. 1:4d wall. From the available evidence it seems that Surface D. 1:29 is not an original occupation surface, but a robber fill, deposited after the flagstones of Pavement D. 1:33-34 were stripped out along the inner face of Wall D. 1:24. Thus D. 1:29 is later than the wall.

The only candidate remaining then for the original surface east of Wall D. 1:24 is Pavement D. 1:33-34, and this identification makes the best sense in view of the evidence concerning both wall and paving. The inner (west) face of Wall D. 1:24 had only two courses of dressed stones—beginning at the level of the Pavement D. 1:33-34, while the outer (east) face had three. Thus one stepped up from the outside from a level approximately that of the tile floor into a room paved at a higher level. Wall D. 1:24 is thus best understood as a mate to Wall D. 1:15, constructed in connection with Pavement D. 1:33-34 and framing the eastern extension of that surface.

Outside Wall D. 1:24 on the east the lowest surface uncovered was a dark gray, clayey, packed earth surface, D. 1:36, that appeared to just cover the foundation level of the wall on the east, and lay .25-.30 m. below the level of the threshold step. On this undated surface and against Wall D. 1:24 a short partition wall, D. 1:26, was built, *ca.* 1.25 m. long and of one stone thickness. This curtain wall fenced off a space about 1.25 m. wide at the corner formed by Walls D. 1:24 east and D. 1:4 north. It may originally have been used as a kitchen because a *tabun* (baking oven) was built against the east end of it. No other sherds were found in connection with it.

Above Locus D. 1:36 on the east, at about the level of the east threshold step in Wall D. 1:24, were found two presumably contemporary earth surfaces, D. 1:27 (north of D. 1:26) and D. 1:28 (south of D. 1:26), that would appear to signal a new building phase north of Wall D. 1:4c. If, as seems possible, these surfaces can be roughly correlated with construction or destruction further west for which less dating evidence is available, then the date of these surfaces is especially important. Unfortunately, however, the ceramic evidence is not reliable, as D. 1:27 was not well enough distinguished from the layer above it, and because pottery from the foundation trench for Wall D. 1:5, that ran through both surfaces, may very likely have contaminated the readings from both, D. 1:27 and 28. It may be that these surfaces and related construction belong to the first phase of the Arab period, in which case the transition from Stratum I to Stratum II in this area was made without any major destruction, but with continued use or reuse of the basic IA structures accompanied by some innovation. The transition from pre-Arab to Arab occupation in the area south of the wall—where it can be much more accurately and narrowly observed and dated—followed just this pattern of basic continuity with minor innovation.

D. 1:27-28 was an occupation surface, not simply a layer of accumulation on the earlier floor. A wall, D. 1:25, was built upon it stretching eastward from the north edge of the gateway in Wall D. 1:24. Its full width and length cannot be judged, since its north face is hidden in the north balk and its east end was robbed out near the east balk where the foundation trench of Wall D. 1:5 cut through it. It is preserved to a height of two courses approximating the level of the remnant of Wall D. 1:24. Wall D. 1:26 may also have been heightened in connection with the new surface. As excavated, the top (second) course seemed very unsteady, and the last stone toward the east apparently covered the broken edge of the *tabun* built against the first two courses. Quite possibly

Wall D. 1:26 was originally a low curtain wall of only two courses, and was later raised with the higher surface, D. 1:27-28, that covered the *tabun* and most of the earlier wall.

It seems likely that this new building east of Wall D. 1:24 was associated with a change in that wall and with additional, related changes to the west. At some time before the wall collapsed and the space on either side filled up with debris, the doorway in Wall D. 1:24 was walled up—rather neatly, as though continued but different use of the wall was intended. If this doorway blockage was an indication of new use rather than disuse, D. 1:27-28 is the only surface that can be associated with it.

The change in Wall D. 1:24 and the new surface to the east also give a clue concerning the origin and date of Surface D. 1:29 on the west. This was the last surface associated with Wall D. 1:24 on the west and the surface on which the tumble from the collapse of Wall D. 1:24 lay. Since there was little accumulation on that surface prior to the fall of Wall D. 1:24, it should be roughly contemporary with the surface east of the wall that also received part of the collapse, Surface D. 1:27-28. This suggests that the walling up of the D. 1:24 entrance and the robbing out of the earlier floor to the west of the wall were related events that pronounced the extinction of the old D. 1:15-4c-24 room.

The cause for all these changes may possibly be found in a little understood construction, Locus D. 1:3b, that changed the whole picture north of the D. 1:4c wall. Locus D. 1:3b was a broad (1.20-1.40 m.), sprawling wall of two widely spaced faces with a fill of small field stones and rubble mixture. It was planted directly between Walls D. 1:15 and 24, on a thin layer of dirt and pebbles that had accumulated on Surface D. 1:33-34. Like all the other major walls near the acropolis perimeter, it too abutted Wall D. 1:4c on the south and disappeared into the north balk, and, like Wall D. 1:15, it too was only preserved to one course in height. The function of this wall and the reason for its placement remain a mystery,

especially since it seems necessary to assume that both walls, D. 1:15 and 24, were still intact and continued in use after the construction of Wall D. 1:3b. On the west it was connected to Wall D. 1:15 by a short Wall D. 1:33 consisting of two large stones laid between Wall D. 1:3b and the south door-jamb of the D. 1:15 entrance. Unless the position of this cross wall is mere chance, it would seem that the D. 1:15 doorway was still in use, and that some sort of narrow hall or vestibule was created to the north between the two walls; but the answer to where it led and with what it connected is hidden in the north balk.

Stratum I, Phase C. How long the fine paving (D. 1:33) north of the wall (D. 1:4c) was kept up is difficult to calculate. By the time D. 1:3b was built, dirt and pebbles had already begun to accumulate on the portion of it east of Wall D. 1:15, viz., D. 1:34, but whether the same was true outside the wall is less certain. The west balk, however, attests to a series of earth surfaces that built up over Pavement D. 1:33, each thicker—and thus higher—against the wall/threshold, tapering away to a lower level toward the north. Since two of these surfaces appear to have invaded the gateway, we must assume that the threshold level was raised by the addition of more threshold stones at a higher level—or that the gateway had no door for a time. Eventually a completely new threshold level was constructed, paved with a number of various sized stones, including one with a socket for the pivoting door post. This was placed so as to make use of the older D. 1:4c east door-jamb, but the position of the socket inside the Square near the west balk shows that the gateway had been narrowed on the east before or at the time of this construction.

It seems likely that by the time this last D. 1:4c threshold was constructed D. 1:15 (at least) and perhaps D. 1:3b had been leveled down to first courses and covered. Although Surface D. 1:12a was not dug as a continuous surface inside the gateway area, the same brickly red earth by which it was identified was first noted over the remains of Wall D. 1:15,

and the strip of similar material at approximately the same level along the east balk was given the same designation. What is clear, however, is that this last D. 1:4c threshold and at least the latest of the several earth surfaces to the north prior to or connected with this threshold belong to the Arab occupation, Stratum I. Thus it would seem that sometime during the transition to or at the beginning of the Arab period, buildings inside the acropolis area were razed and lost from sight while the gateway remained in continued use, as witnessed by the several surfaces, pre-Arab and Arab—to the north and south—that belong to the several D. 1:4c threshold levels.

South of the new enclosure Wall D. 1:4c the same two zones of architecture remain that were noted for the earlier period; to the west a raised terrace or ramp leading up to the gateway in the enclosure wall, to the east a lower surface at the base of the acropolis wall. How low this surface was when the D. 1:4c construction took place is not known, since no definitely pre-Arab surfaces were excavated in this area in the 1968 season, but unless extensive robbing in later times must be reckoned with here, the surface was probably at least 1.50 m. below the D. 1:4c threshold level.

To the west, the new D. 1:4c gateway was provided with a long "porch" or level, surfaced forecourt at the head of a series of steps that began near the south balk of D. 2. As noted, the stratigraphic situation is complex and connections between the north and south sections of the access area are broken, so that an exact reconstruction of building and use phases in the area where steps and surfaces met is no longer possible. It is clear, however, that D. 1:31 is the first surface in use with the D. 1:4c gateway whose connections with the gateway remained unbroken, and it is this surface that is the first of a series of seven, rising in uninterrupted sequence in the space immediately south of the gateway from pre-Arab times into the late Arab period when this entryway finally ceased from use. This sequence of surfaces beginning with

D. 1:31 has provided us with the best ceramic evidence in the Area, if not on the mound altogether, for the transition from pre-Arab to Arab occupation and for transitions within the Arab period.

Locus D. 1:31, as excavated, was a yellowish clayey layer, that may have had a *huwwar* surface topping it and that in some places, especially toward the south, merged into a thick layer of *huwwar*. In the west balk it is visible, if rightly identified, as a series of *huwwar* surfaces of varying depth over and between layers of yellow clayey soil. Since the surface was worn and difficult to trace it is not possible to say with certainty whether the surface covered the whole area in which we thought to recognize it. Whether it was use surface or simply make-up for the plastered and walled entryway laid on top is not certain.

Locus D. 1:31 was a rather thick layer of surfacing overlying a stone terrace on the east, and a layer of dark earth and small stone fill on the west over the D. 2:25-D. 1:37 structure. The earth fill over D. 1:37 suggests that the terrace had already been built to its present height when the upper courses of that wall were removed. Beyond this suggestion, however, the relationship of the terrace to Wall D. 1:37 can only be explained, on the basis of information presently available, with a large measure of speculation. The terrace construction may antedate the wall (the wall being set into it), it may have been constructed in connection with the wall, or it may have been constructed after the wall, but while the wall still stood. If the terrace is a composite construction, a combination of these possible reconstructions may be required. Assuming that the stone foundation structure was intended to be covered by a surfacing layer, the height of the terrace corresponds well to the D. 1:4c threshold. Since, however, we have noted that a distinction of height probably cannot be made between the D. 1:4c and d constructions, it may just as well have been intended for use with D. 1:4d.

The terrace is built up of layers of medium to large sized

stones, appearing as three distinct courses when viewed from the east or the south. The top two courses bulge outward toward the east (because they were set more loosely with considerable earth fill?) over a course which, from the one stone visible at the southeast corner, suggests it may have been part of the "Roman" terrace—though the evidence is at present inadequate to make any clear judgment. The top two courses on the south consist of irregular building stones, some clearly reused. At the south end the courses are laid in rough rows parallel to Wall D. 1:4 and to the cross rows of the "Roman" stairs. The first two rows from the south are of large stones, but beyond this up to Wall D. 1:4, the top course at least consists merely of an irregular jumble of medium sized uncut stones. The north terrace build-up was a distinct construction from the D. 2:2 or D. 2:sub-2 construction further south; the line of the south terminus of the terrace is clearly visible in the east face of D. 2:2-D. 1:10.

What the contemporary structures to the south looked like is more difficult to say. A few widely spaced stones, some huge, some average-sized, some dressed, others semi-dressed, were found east of Wall D. 2:25. However, it is not clear when they were put there nor to what structure they had belonged.

Turning now to new construction in the sector south of the D. 1:4c gate which is better attested and more fully comprehensible, we recapitulate briefly the earlier evidence. By the time Surface D. 1:31 was laid, a two-zone construction of surfaced terrace and stairs had been established in the avenue of access. How early this began after Wall D. 2:25, and with what wall it was connected to the north, are no longer clear, nor is their relationship to Surface D. 1:31, since a major disruption of surfaces and walls in the sector took place prior to the laying of Surface D. 1:31. The south terminus of D. 1:31 can not be clearly portrayed either, but that of the surface immediately above it (D. 1:30), which has apparently the same southern terminus, can be reconstructed with some certainty. Because of this fact, it is tempting to view D. 1:31

as make-up for the new construction (walls and surfaces) which is laid directly upon it. A serious drawback to this, however, is the ceramic evidence. The pottery from D. 1:31 was read as Roman and UD, while that from D. 1:30 contained a quantity of red-on-orange painted ware (but none of the characteristic early Arab painted ware) that is possibly very early Arab. Either this ware is accidentally missing from D. 1:31 or it was an earlier surface—perhaps badly worn away since little if any trace of *huwwar* was found on it—in the same sector whose earlier structural connections to the south were lost in the later building. If D. 1:31 is make-up for D. 1:30, an Arab Stratum I construction, then the broken surfaces beneath may represent the first construction with the D. 1:4c wall and gateway on the south.

The next construction project in the sector south of the D. 1:4c gate, however close or far in time from D. 1:31, was the walling in of the whole access route and the construction of a new staircase at the south end. The new stairs (D. 2:7a) consisted partly of a rebuilding of D. 2:7b and partly of new construction. At the south end the new staircase made use of the two or three highest "Roman" steps and also of the bottom step in the D. 2:7b-25 construction. It also used the second step, but added another course upon it and to the south of it. Beyond this step to the north and higher still, a further step two rows wide was added. This reached the height of the north terrace surface (D. 1:30 or 31), but was broken off over a meter short of it. Presumably the paving that originally bridged the gap was later robbed out.

The new wall (D. 2:2) that was constructed along the east edge of these stairs did reach the surfaced terrace, framing it with three rectangular stones set side by side lengthwise to form the northern terminus of the wall, or at least of the west face. Wall D. 2:2 was built at the same time as the D. 2:7a stairway and was in part bonded into the stair construction. It is more nearly parallel to the west balk than D. 2:25. It is constructed entirely of face stones and rises in distinguishable

courses. This is in marked contrast to the east face, which has no clear course construction and is built of most irregularly sized and shaped stones in combination with a few dressed stones. The east face may not be original with the earliest wall but a later addition. The wall itself, as the stairway, saw some later additions; when and how substantial these were cannot be determined with any certainty.

The three-stone framing device at the north end of Wall D. 2:2 suggests that the surfaced space to the north was somewhat broader than the stairway. This is confirmed by the wall that frames this surfaced portion (D. 1:10), meeting wall D. 2:2 in line with the easternmost of the three head stones. Wall D. 1:10 begins *ca.* .30 m. east of the east edge of the D. 1:4c entrance or *ca.* 1.30 m. from the west balk and continues south roughly parallel to the balk until it meets Wall D. 2:2. Unfortunately the bottom course, D. 1:10b, which is laid directly upon Surface D. 1:31, cannot be traced this far south; it broke off before reaching the south balk. However, the surfaces connected with this first course, D. 1:30a and b, seem to continue to the north end of D. 2:2, so it is presumed that Wall D. 1:10b did too. Furthermore, Wall D. 1:10b is more similar in construction to the western part of Wall D. 2:2 (built of dressed stones, well fitted) than the courses built upon it (D. 1:10a), and would seem to constitute an ideal mate or continuation to the north. If Wall D. 1:10b had a period of use before D. 1:10a was added, one would expect it to have been one course higher, to match the height of Wall D. 2:2. It is unlikely, however, that any of the D. 2:2-D. 1:10 wall ever stood more than a few courses high. Whether the first wall was broader than the remnant preserved is problematic. A few dressed stones along the east may be left from an earlier wall. As excavated, the east face at this level was a mixture of large and small stones with the space between the faces filled with earth and small stones.

On top of the west face of Wall D. 1:10b at least two more courses were laid (D. 1:10a), the first of rather small, rough

stones, the top of large semi-finished boulders. How much time, if any, elapsed between D. 1:10a and b is not certain. The pottery from D. 1:10a contained one Arab painted piece; no Arab sherds were found in D. 1:10b. Again, the east face does not match the west, but because of the great size of the stones in the west face, the two faces are closer together, with less fill, and appear somewhat more as one wall—though they are not the same height either.

Complicating the reconstruction of a picture of this building on the D. 1:31 terrace surface is a piece of evidence awkward in size and position. Shoved up against the south face of the D. 1:4c wall and gateway threshold and resting on D. 1:31 at the west end, at least, though the east end has been undermined, was a large section of an architrave, *ca.* 1.50 m. long and extending some .60 m. beyond the east edge of the terrace. Its origin and function in this position are a puzzle, as there are no columns immediately connected with the entrance from which it might have fallen. We may speculate, however, from what is visible of the D. 1:4c wall and threshold, *viz.*, reused stones, sometimes of mammoth proportions expertly recut to serve new needs; that perhaps the architrave was selected for the construction of the threshold doorjamb-block and then not used. It may have been left standing on the surface outside the wall, perhaps used briefly as a bench. Whatever its original or intended use, it was built into the east face of Wall D. 1:10. Since, however, the east face of Wall D. 1:10 cannot be accurately dated, the date of the stone is difficult to place.

To summarize our discussion of the new construction in the area south of the D. 1:4c gateway, we would say that on structural grounds Stairway D. 2:7a, Walls D. 2:2 west, D.1:10b west (or simply D. 1:10 west), and Surface D. 1:30 constitute a single architectural unit and that it is the first construction after the D. 1:4c gateway that can be traced more or less continuously throughout this southern access area. But if the architectural evidence has been correctly evaluated and

reconstructed, the ceramic evidence requires some careful consideration.

At first glance, the ceramic evidence would seem to exclude the possibility of the reconstruction we have offered. Wall D. 2:2 and Stairway D. 2:7 were read as Arab (probably early), Wall D. 1:10b as pre-Arab, and Surface D. 1:30 as very early Arab. But the evidence must be considered more closely. Wall D. 2:2 and Stairway D. 2:7a were constructions that were used continuously throughout the Arab period down to the last Arab occupation, presumably. Neither can be considered a sealed locus. Wall D. 2:2 was rather certainly added to in later times. The presence of Arab sherds in such a loose construction in use in the Arab period does not seem necessarily to require that the original construction came from that period.

With Wall D. 1:10 somewhat more precision in sherd collection is introduced, but dangerously small samples; Wall D. 1:10b read UD with no Arab pottery; Wall D. 1:10a had one Arab painted piece in two pails that were otherwise possibly Byzantine, Roman and UD—plus a bronze Arabic coin, date unknown. The best controlled evidence and the largest samples come from the D. 1:30 surfaces, two *huwwar* surfaces *ca.* .02 m. apart overlying D. 1:31 and confined to the area framed by Wall D. 1:10, the first surfaces in use with Wall D. 1:10b. Surface D. 1:30 contained no sherds of the characteristic early Arab painted ware. It did contain recognizably Roman sherds and a quantity of fine painted ware (thin and hard fired, with simple, broad curvilinear red paint designs on red-orange to buff slip). This painted ware is also found in the layer above, D. 1:23, a plaster floor, but in combination with the characteristic Arab paint. It is absent in the surface below, D. 1:31, which is entirely Roman and UD.

We have chosen to take the Surface D. 1:30 reading as diagnostic for the new construction and to read it with Wall D. 1:10b with which it fits nicely. Since the next surface above D. 1:30 (which is Arab) involves a construction change

in Wall D. 2:2 west, the original D. 2:2 west should go with Surface D. 1:30; and in fact the south edge of the remnant of Surface D. 1:30 preserved in the west balk, and the line of the original north end of D. 2:2, coincide perfectly.

Even if the evidence for this new construction can be pushed back to the earlier date of Surface D. 1:30, the fact remains that we have entered the Arab period —or is this ware Byzantine? ²⁴ This raises the question of just where and how the transition to the Arab period occurred and also opens the question concerning how D. 1:4c and assumed contemporary structures to the north were dated. This can be summarized as follows: D. 1:4c wall and original gateway produced only a small collection of pottery which was read as Roman and UD. Surfaces D. 1:33-34 and 36, and Walls D. 1:15 and 24 provided no ceramic evidence. The first Surface D. 1:31 had Roman and UD wares, and the first building phase of Surface D. 1:30 had UD painted, Roman and UD sherds. We then ask, does this evidence represent one or more building phases? In answer, we have attempted to group our data into major building periods to see if these can be correlated for different zones or features of architecture in our Area.

The D. 1:4c wall begins a new building phase, being preceded by a break. To the north two phases use this wall: (1) to the first phase, contemporary with the wall, and not datable, belong Surfaces D. 1:33-34, Walls D. 1:15-24, and Surface D. 1:36; (2) to the second phase, probably early Arab, involving building changes and using the D. 1:4c wall, belong Walls D. 2:3b and D. 1:24b, and Surfaces D. 1:27-28.

²⁴ The ware is entirely different from the thick Arab painted ware and the paint and surface treatment also differed. The ware is much more like the Byzantine/Roman wares, though a bit thicker. Unfortunately, it was not until we had excavated Surface D. 1:30 that we attempted to distinguish this painted ware from our "Arab paint" or "Early Arab." It would be very important now to know where else in the Area (and mound) this paint occurred, especially where to the exclusion of the later Arab paint. It occurred nowhere else in similar clarity in the 1968 season.

After this a major break occurred in which all architecture was destroyed, including Wall D. 1:4c. Extensive robbing occurred elsewhere in the Area.

A new phase begins with a new wall, D. 1:4b, which is late Arab. To the south two or more phases are evident before D. 1:4b. Surfaces D. 1:11 and 23 and Wall D. 1:10a belong to the last of these phases, while Surface D. 1:30, Walls D. 1:10b and D. 2:2 and Stairway D. 2:7a belong to the preceding phase, which was apparently pre-Arab.

The main question is: Can the building phases south of the gate be connected with those on the north? Can the dating evidence, which is clearer on the south, be used to date phases on the north? Is the first building phase with D. 1:4c on the south pre-Surface D. 1:31 or is it Surface D. 1:31, or is it Surfaces D. 1:31/30 (with D. 1:31 make-up for D. 1:30)? If the latter, then a rough correlation between undated Surfaces D. 1:33-34, Walls D. 1:15 and 24 and Surface D. 1:36, but also of Surface D. 1:30, Walls D. 1:10b and D. 2:2 and Stairway D. 2:7a, should be possible. In that case Surface D. 1:30 should be diagnostic for the whole first D. 1:4c building phase—and for D. 1:4c itself. Then this major complex of new building initiated by D. 1:4c is either Byzantine or very early Arab, depending on the eventual identification of the UD painted ware. If it should prove to be the former, then it is noteworthy that the transition from Byzantine to Arab period in this area is one of basic continuity, involving the reuse of earlier structures, rebuilding and adaptation of others and some new building within the older structural framework. The most radical break comes within the Arab period, sometime between the early and late Arab occupations, when almost everything from the preceding period is leveled. Next season's digging should answer some of these questions, but it is still necessary to formulate hypotheses and outline possibilities that will make sense of the evidence at hand.

The next surface above D. 1:30, Locus D. 1:23, introduces

a new ceramic horizon and some architectural modifications in the basic system set by Walls D. 1:4c and 10 and Wall D. 2:2, but it is essentially only a later surfacing of D. 1:30 and was laid only .05-.08 m. above D. 1:30a. By the time Surface D. 1:23 was laid, the top courses of Wall D. 1:10 had been set in place, continuing the line of D. 1:10b all the way to the stone triad at the north end of Wall D. 2:2. Sometime after this, Wall D. 2:2 west was lengthened and the plastered forecourt area correspondingly shortened. A small column drum was set vertically into the ground against the west face of Wall D. 1:10, .60 m. north of the original terminus of Wall D. 2:2 west and 1.80 m. south of the D. 1:4c gatepost. The space between the earlier shorter Wall D. 2:2 west and the column drum was then filled in with small stones, that were also used to fill the narrow space between the drum and the uneven west face of Wall D. 1:10b. Over the small stone fill to the south a capstone was laid giving the appearance of solid wall construction along the whole line of the extended wall. The height of the column drum roughly level with the third course of Wall D. 1:10, and the top of Wall D. 2:2 to the south suggests that these two walls have been preserved in their original height, and that they constituted a relatively low retaining wall framing the stairway and porch.

Locus D. 1:23 was a hard thick plaster surface with a rather rough finish. It covered the new shortened forecourt area, stopping on the south in line with the new "gatepost." On the east the plaster seems to have continued up the face of D. 1:10. It is still preserved in a continuous line from the floor to the second course in the corner where wall and column drum meet. Here it joined the column to the wall, smoothing over the gap between the two courses and plugging the gap between course stones and wall. On the north it rose some .25 m. also in a continuous line to plaster the face of a new composite threshold built in the D. 1:4c gateway. The marks of the mason's trowel on the plaster were still clearly visible when excavated.

D. 1:23 is the first surface south of Wall D. 1:4c containing the characteristic early Arab painted ware found in abundance in all upper levels. It signals a new period of occupation that is mostly a reuse of the basic structures of the preceding period, especially D. 1:4c, which remains the backbone of building in this period. The corresponding surface north of the gate, D. 1:12a, is also the first surface containing the characteristic Arab painted sherds. D. 1:28, the surface connected with the new building east of Wall D. 1:24 which gives the most trustworthy ceramic evidence for the new period of building north of D. 1:4c, had one Arab painted sherd, one UD paint and an uncounted but probably small number of possibly Byzantine/Roman and UD ware. If correlated with the new building phase to the south it is probably Arab.

The next surface above D. 1:23, Locus D. 1:11a and b, a thick plaster surface with a thick resurfacing a couple of centimeters above, seems to presume some lapse of time, represented by considerable accumulation of dirt on the D. 1:23 surface—*ca.* .15 m. However, no change in architecture accompanies it. It used the same upper D. 1:4c threshold as D. 1:23, but is level with the threshold stones. At the south end a single stone step marked the transition between the stair area and the new surface. Surface D. 1:11 was level with the top of the step; the level south of the step is unknown. The ceramic evidence seems to corroborate the architectural evidence; whatever the time span between this and the preceding surface, no significant changes had occurred in architectural or ceramic culture. The pottery is still characterized by the painted Arab ware and no glazed sherds were found in this locus.

Between Surface D. 1:11 and the next surface above, a major break in the occupation of the area occurred. The D. 1:4c wall, which had been the key to the architecture in the transition from the Byzantine(?) to the Early Arab period, was destroyed—apparently to nearly ground level on the north. Only the large multi-stone doorjamb block remained

standing some .40 m. above the rest of the wall and every other structure in the Area. When, why, and by whom this destruction took place are questions whose answers are not provided by our evidence. Perhaps the period immediately following the destruction corresponds to the long silence concerning Heshbon in the literary sources especially prior to the Mamlukian period. Not only were the buildings destroyed at the end of the early Arab period, the stone seems to have been removed wholesale for use elsewhere, as, with the exception of Wall D. 1:24, no signs of tumble from these structures remain. Quite possibly the massive robbing operations at the foot and along the east edge of the "Roman" stepped terrace occurred at this time—and perhaps the top of the D. 2:7a stairway was lost then too, though it is noteworthy that the stairway area seems to have passed relatively unscathed through the widespread destruction—perhaps because it was only a low wall to begin with, but perhaps also because some limited occupation continued in the acropolis area making use of the old stairway.

Again our evidence cannot tell us how long after the destruction and robbing the reconstruction took place, whether the destruction and robbing occurred simultaneously, or whether the destruction followed a period of degeneration and decline. The evidence of some .60-.70 m. accumulation on the floors D. 1:27-28 east of Wall D. 1:24 would suggest that some time had elapsed. This accumulation preceded the .20 m. of fill used to level up a floor over this debris. The debris is of course much higher here than elsewhere, since it incorporated a substantial amount of architectural tumble. If this initial accumulation had been distinguished in digging from the leveling layer laid over it, it would have given the best clue to the time lapse. Unfortunately this was not possible, and even where an attempt has been made to distinguish relative levels from which pails of pottery were dug up, almost every pail contained some of the glazed ware which characterizes the new building period.

Stratum I, Phase B (Late Arab). The next period, which is the last main occupational phase, was a period of extensive building in Area D. It is characterized in general by a poorer, more makeshift quality of construction than that of the previous period, but it was of considerable scope and vigor. It retained the pivotal features of the previous period, *viz.*, the enclosure wall with the gateway in the same place and the same walled ascent, rebuilt them where necessary and augmented them with new structures in new places and of new design. Evidence from walls and surfaces in both Squares 1 and 2 fix this new building and occupation phase firmly in the Late Arab period—or more specifically, in a period marked by the use of glazed wares, which are not attested in any previous layers, but are found in virtually all pottery samples from Phase B loci.

In D. 1, at the beginning of the period little remained visible above ground, except for the outer (south) edge of the D. 1:4c wall—*ca.* 1.00 m. of foundation probably and two dressed courses (*ca.* .60-.65 m.) plus the doorjamb block on the west. The old gateway was filled up with .25 m. or more of earth, and the north edge of the old D. 1:4c wall was probably covered. A few meters north of the wall the debris level may have been lower and the northwest end of Wall D. 1:3b may have protruded enough to suggest a line for a new north-south wall. To the east the debris over and around Wall D. 1:24 also reached almost to the level of the Wall D. 1:4c remains, and was probably leveled up to this height all the way north before new building commenced in this sector.

The new construction in D. 1 consisted of the rebuilding of the perimeter wall, D. 1:4b, using the remnant of the earlier wall as a foundation, and the incorporation into this wall on the north of a vaulted room, perhaps one of a series in a three- or four-sided caravanserai type complex surrounding an open court in the acropolis area (Figure 12). For some reason the construction of the vaulted room required comparatively deep foundations, perhaps because of the slope of the mound

to the north and east of Wall D. 1:4b, perhaps too because a stub of Wall D. 1:3b was exposed to the north. In any case the debris surrounding and covering the remaining lower courses of Wall D. 1:24 was leveled approximately to the level of the Wall D. 1:4c remnant and foundation trenches sunk for the Walls D. 1:3a and 5 of the vault. D. 1:3a, the west wall, was founded on the one-course remnant of Wall D. 1:3b, while D. 1:5, the east wall, was sunk to the depth of the foundation level of Wall D. 1:3b, some 3.30 m. to the east (just outside of the east balk line). Of the two walls, eight courses of Wall D. 1:3a and parts of ten courses of Wall D. 1:5 remained intact at the time of excavation. Both walls, D. 1:3a and 5, abutted the remnant of Wall D. 1:4c on the south. Above the old wall level, Wall D. 1:3a was built free-standing, with a vertical west face and arching east face; the south end terminated roughly in line with the north face of Wall D. 1:4. The new wall, D. 1:4b, was then built across or against the south end of the vault wall and bonded in places with mortar. The bonding of Wall D. 1:5, whose west vault face alone appears within the Square, seems to have been accomplished in a somewhat different manner. It appears to extend somewhat into and over the line of Wall D. 1:4, and the new Wall D. 1:4b seems to accommodate itself in part to this—the lowest courses of Wall D. 1:4b terminate *inside* the southerly extended Wall D. 1:5, while the upper courses march past or into the end of Wall D. 1:5 and seem to be bonded to it. The reason for the difference in the construction of the two walls (D. 1:3a and 5) in this regard is not clear; perhaps Wall D. 1:4b terminated at the east end of Wall D. 1:5 or turned a corner there.

Wall D. 1:4b must have stood considerably higher when built than when excavated. As excavated, the west end of the north face was preserved no higher than the height of the (new) D. 1:4b doorjamb—roughly three courses above Wall D. 1:4c. The bottom course was laid directly on the earth that covered the irregular, badly worn away north face (west

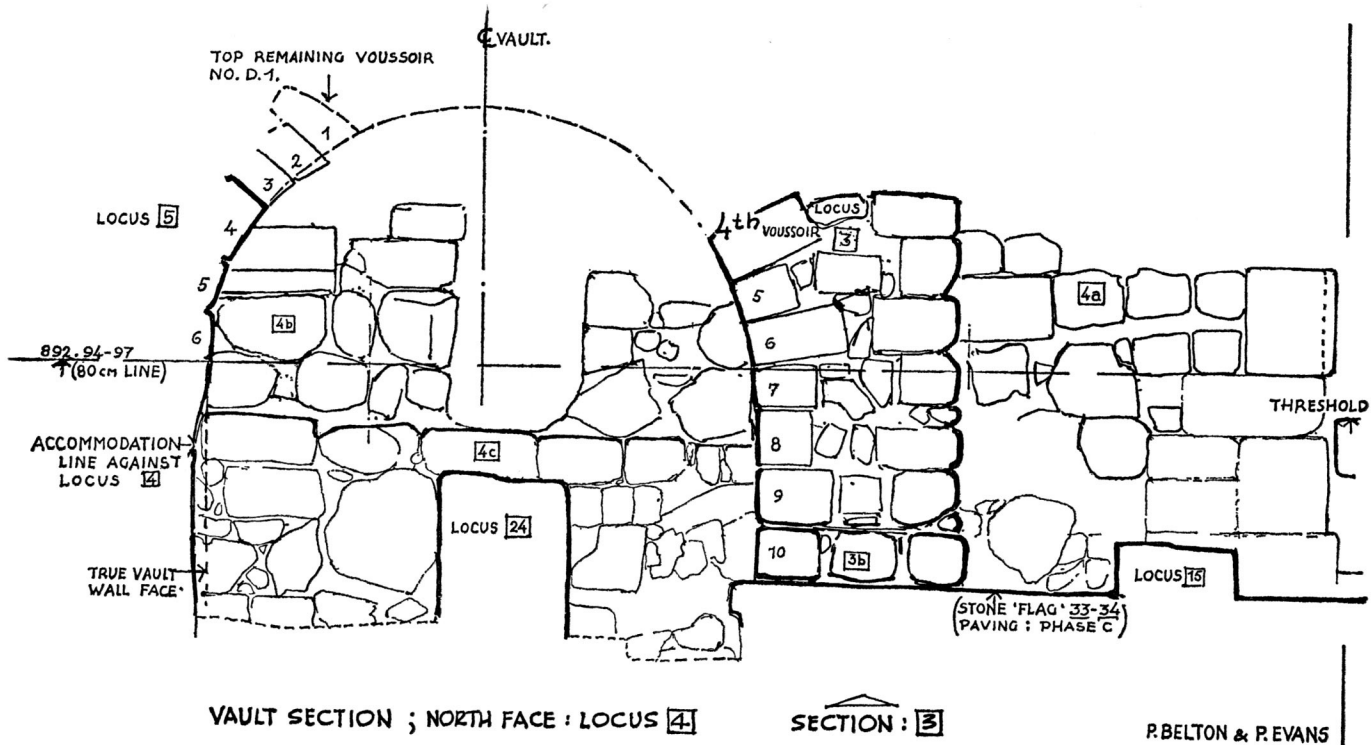


Figure 12. Section of vaulted room and other structures in Area D, Square 1, looking south

end) of Wall D. 1:4c. To the east against the ends of Walls D. 1:3a and 5 an additional course was preserved, giving a maximum height of four courses. Of the south face only two regular courses remained. The south face was built entirely of dressed stones in courses of comparatively level and regular appearance, though badly out of line when excavated. The north face in contrast was much more irregular, employing large boulders for the lowest course and allowing courses to rise and fall in roller-coaster fashion according to the size and shape of stones at hand. D. 1:3a and 5 were well constructed walls in which the courses were kept remarkably level, by chinking where required.

The contrast between the construction of Walls D. 1:3a and 5 and the north face of Wall D. 1:4b at first prompted the opinion that the walls could not be contemporary. Observation of highly differentiated building techniques in contemporary walls of different use and orientation and in the inner and outer faces of a single wall, particularly the enclosure wall (D. 1:4c-d) seems, however, to rob the argument from consistency of style of any final independent authority. The south face in fact may be considered quite comparable in construction to Walls D. 1:3a or 5 if allowance is made for the uneven line by assuming some disturbance, perhaps that which caused the collapse of all but the bottom two courses. Furthermore, the varied evidence for mutual accommodation between Walls D. 1:4b-c, 3a and 5 together with the different lengths of the two north-south walls make it virtually impossible to conceive of the vault as originally constructed free-standing without a south end wall—in addition to the fact that such a reconstruction makes less sense of the sequence of surfaces associated with the architectural remains than an originally end-walled vault. Clear evidence for rebuilding or distinct construction stages are also not forthcoming, though it is an attractive hypothesis to explain some of the puzzling unevenness. Even if this could be shown, it now seems necessary for us to assume the basic hypothesis of original contemporary

construction for Walls D. 1:4b, 3a and 5 as an architectural unit.

The first use of the vaulted room is represented by an earthen floor, D. 1:20, laid directly over the Sub-floor D. 1:22 and covering the foundation trenches at a height level with the top of the old D. 1:4c wall remains. Domestic usage is indicated by the liberal remains of a *tabun* found flattened on the floor and by the wealth of bone and organic material evident in the debris upon the floor, as well as by the fragments of a basalt millstone and part of a marble bowl found in soil upon the floor. The pottery from this surface contained a consistent representation of the glazed pottery that marks the period. How long the surface remained in use cannot be gauged. Piles of small stones had accumulated in all the "corners"—perhaps while the room was still in use. A thinner layer of occupation debris lay across the rest of the floor. Over this uneven accumulation was spread a layer of soft powdery white dung ash(?), that was too soft and uneven to trace as a surface, and above this the fill for the next occupation surface was laid.

In the next stage the room seems to have been converted into some sort of living room. Floor and walls were plastered (several times) and a low brick-surfaced—or red plastered—bench (D.1:8) was built along the whole south end of the room against Wall D. 1:4b. Over this, at about the level of the bench, a window (or door), *ca.* .80 m. wide and at least 1.00 m. high opened to the south through the thick outer wall. A window or door at this same spot—off center—seems to have existed in the first course of Wall D. 1:4b also, corresponding to the level of Floor D. 1:20. This earlier opening was filled up to a little above the bench level in the next room, but a small niche was left at the wall edge into which the bench and the wall plaster of the room were fitted. The height of the ceiling at the apex of the vault for this room is estimated (by the architect) to have been *ca.* 1.60 m., of the lower room *ca.* 1.80 m.

The conclusion that this aperture in Wall D. 1:4b was a window and not a door is based on (1) an estimate of the

contemporary surface level outside (south of) the wall, (2) the absence of a door socket and bolt slot and / or notched door-jamb, and (3) the assumed function of Wall D. 1:4b, *viz.*, as an enclosure wall with limited access from outside through the main gates, such as the gateway near the west balk, and access to inside rooms from the courtyard. Thus we conclude that the door to the vaulted room lay to the north within the acropolis enclosure. We do not know enough analogies from other Arabic architecture of this type to speculate why the window was so low. Alternatively, the aperture could be a door leading to the roof of a structure built on the lower terrace—or, if contemporary with the latest phase in D. 2, to a now missing stairway from the higher Surface D. 1:16.

The ceramic evidence from Surface D. 1:14, lying above that of D. 1:20, was identical in both cases. It seems likely that the time lapse between them was slight since the nature of the later room treatment corresponds best to the first building stage in the IB phase of D. 2. At present, however, we have no way of telling. It could be contemporary with the later phase in D. 2. The distance between Surfaces D. 1:14 and 20 is *ca.* .20 m.

The sector west of the vaulted room and north of the main south gate seems to have been left as an open earth-surfaced entryway or courtyard framed by the vertical west face of Wall D. 1:3a and with a "floor" (D. 1:39) that sloped downward considerably away toward the north from the wall.

The gateway of the D. 1:4b wall was relatively narrow, maintaining the line set by the second D. 1:4c threshold. The west edge of the new gateway is just visible in the balk. It appears that no special doorjamb stone was used on that side—or it has been replaced. The east side of the gateway used the jamb of the earlier wall as its foundation base line and added a slightly skewed large, single-grooved and slotted block of the conventional style at the north (inner) edge of the gateway. This changed the direction of the door from the previous, conventional arrangement, making it swing out to

open rather than in. The new arrangement put the bolt hole outside the door stop, which was in line with the inner face of the wall. Since, however, the position of the bolt hole so close to the long notch in the doorjamb shows that the bolt must have worked inside the door itself rather than behind it, the handle and lock could conceivably have been worked from inside the wall. Or was the door perhaps not locked at all? A lock on the outside seems senseless. The socket for the door was in the lower stone of a stepped threshold at the north edge of the gateway. Corresponding to the reversed position of the doorjamb, the threshold was constructed of two long rectangular stones, the lower, socketed stone was set deeper, within the gateway, but outside (south of) the door line, while the higher step stone on the north (a reused lintel fragment) was at the inside edge of the wall. Later this stepped threshold was leveled by the addition of two smaller stones above the earlier and lower southern stone. Since no socket is evident at this level, it would appear that the gateway was an open one.

South of the gateway no new building is apparent along the avenue of access to the new gate, and the problem is to decide how much of the old structures, specifically steps and walls, were still in use. Since the D. 1:10-D. 2:2 wall line must have remained visible and seems at some time subsequent to original construction to have been augmented in spots, it may be assumed that it still framed the ascent from the south in the IB period. The most serious problem for reconstruction is the dearth of surfaces in this sector. None, either in D. 1 or D. 2, were distinguished in digging, but two threshold levels plus a later wall across the access route demand at least two surfaces. The west balk provided hints of at least one—at an appropriate level for the last surface. It was drawn as Locus D. 1:13, an extension of surface actually located in digging some .10 m. below the later cross wall (D. 1:9). This should probably be designated D. 1:13b and the surface on which the wall (D. 1:9) rested as D. 1:13a.

An additional surface, also not recognized in digging, must

probably also be reckoned with, because a large part of a crater or cookpot was found under stones that form the west doorpost of D. 1:4b. It suggests that the new threshold and west doorjamb were built upon a layer of earth *ca.* .10 m. high that had accumulated in the gateway area after it had gone out of use. This surface must have covered the discarded pot, since its preserved part was not cracked by the stone on top and no fragments belonging to it were found in or near it.

None of these surfaces, either north or south of the entryway, were paved or plastered. They all seem to have been earth surfaces including perhaps a layer of small stones or gravel. The forecourt seems no longer to have been maintained as a level, paved surface, and the surface that can be traced in the balk, D. 1:13, slopes down away from the wall—some .25 m. by the time it reaches D. 2. There, it probably appears as D. 2:5. It was difficult to trace, but being the first surface encountered below the topsoil it must have been the last surface surviving in the Area. This would correspond best with D. 1:13a. The presently available evidence leaves several problems in connection with this and possibly other surfaces in D. 2's upper layers.

The stairs themselves appear to have been maintained in use, at least during the first part of the IB period, with only minor modifications, specifically the addition of a further step at the head of the stairs consisting of a single rectangular stone block.

East of the raised stairway a number of more or less level surfaces were found stretching from the foot of the stairs, where they were contained by an east-west wall, north to the foundation of the perimeter wall (D. 1:4). Though more than a meter's distance separated the lowest from the highest, none of these surfaces can definitely be placed before the Late Arab period (IB), since all contained the characteristic glazed sherds by which the period has been identified. Since our (lack of) knowledge of the ceramic phases in the Arab period did not permit a more refined breakdown of the periods in which

glazed pottery was used, we can only assume rough contemporaneity of the new building in D. 2 with the new building in D. 1 where the same sherds were found and describe the sequence separately in each Square. The correlation of sequences from the two main architectural zones, threshold-stairway-courtyard, and the vaulted room must remain a largely speculative venture in the absence of more refined indicators for transition within the period.

The new construction in D. 2 followed and in part covered a massive robbing and filling operation that must have occurred sometime between the IB phase and the phase immediately preceding (IC). The date of the robbing operation cannot be fixed with any certainty, but the fill belongs to the phase of the new building, IB. At the time the digging took place, the lowest of the bottom three "Roman" steps was covered with earth; the robber trench cut down along the edge of this bottom step, tracing its southern edge, then turning north along the east end of the three bottom steps, leaving a ragged and uneven end that suggests an original extension of the stairs further to the east. The north end of the pit (D. 2:16-D. 3:9) was difficult to recognize and trace, especially since the earth layer to the north (sub-surface layer to D. 2:15 or 10) was composed of material little different in color, composition and ceramic remains from the fill in the pit.

It appears that this pit was filled up in the Late Arab period as an immediate preliminary to new building operations on the lower terrace/slope. The fill of dark loose soil rich in sherds and bone material was dumped at one time, its alternating layers of blackish and orangish earth forming tip lines that slope consistently from west to east and, less sharply, from south to north (exactly the opposite direction from that of the natural wash surfaces on this part of the mound). The homogeneity of the fill is underlined by the abundance of glazed pottery found at every level right to the bottom and by the absence of horizontal or other layering in the pit.

Directly upon (or slightly into) this fill a wide (1.30-1.40 m.), double faced, east-west wall (D. 2:3) was built, parallel to the enclosure wall, D. 1:4, and abutting D. 2:2 on the east, so that its south face roughly matched the south end of D. 2:2. This wall extended across the Square 5.50 m. to the east balk, apparently terminating in or near the balk line. Approximately midway between the balk and Wall D. 2:2 an entrance, *ca.* 1.10 m. wide, opened into a *huurwar*-surfaced "courtyard" to the north (D. 2:10-D. 1:17). A giant (1.20 × .60 m.), roughly carved limestone block with groove and bolt hole served as doorjamb on the east. The matching stone on the west was ungrooved. The threshold, a two-piece construction with front (south) step set deep into the pit fill below and a flat stone set behind it in the gateway, appeared at first to have no socket. Apparently two stages must be reckoned with in the threshold, a later one which is nearly level, in which the lower threshold was raised to almost the height of the step by the addition of one or more flat stones and a socket, and an earlier stage in which the lower threshold consisted of a single, rough smoothed flat stone—with a door socket on the east, just below the doorstep and bolt hole in the doorjamb. From this it would appear that the entrance never had a gate and that the gateway was built of reused materials, rather indifferently put together. The two threshold levels can probably be correlated with two main surfacings of D. 2:10.

The original height of the wall is unknown; the estimate would depend partly on the estimated function of the wall. Three courses at most were preserved for the excavator; the uppermost, visible on the surface, was in part at least a later addition. The line between the two phases of use was, however, difficult to determine exactly. In some places where the wall was more severely worn or damaged, late additions may be found quite low in the wall. The original wall, D. 2:3b, was built of dressed or semi-dressed stones, varying considerably in size and shape, some clearly reused. The two faces were widely spaced, a situation so exaggerated by the conditions of its

collapse (*viz.*, that the upper courses of the north face fell inward on the courtyard floor, pulling the lower course with them away from the outer [south] face), that the remains of the north face that were still standing were at first not recognized as belonging to the same wall construction as the south face.

The eastern terminus of Wall D. 2:3b is somewhat problematic. At its highest level, which consists mostly of late additions to the south face (= D. 2:3a), the south face appears to continue several meters to the east. At a lower level it can be seen clearly to enter the east balk. The inner (north) face, on the other hand, seemed to stop before it reached the east balk, and it is questionable whether any trace of it can be found in the balk. Furthermore, a north-south wall, D. 2:9, whose west face projected from the east balk, met Wall D. 2:3b (north) just where it stopped on the east. From the well matched courses at the corner it appears that the two were an integrated and likely a continuous construction. In that case it is also quite possible that the outer face of the D. 2:3b wall, in contrast to the D. 2:3a construction, also turned northward just east of the balk line, forming an east face for Wall D. 2:9.

Wall D. 2:9 was preserved two courses high at the south end and three at the north. It ran from the north face of Wall D. 2:3b (2.50 m. from the south balk) into the north balk, breaking off in a tumble of fallen stones just as it emerges into D. 1, slightly over 1 m. from the foundation of Wall D. 1:4. It was built entirely of dressed stones, somewhat more uniform in size than those in the remains of Wall D. 2:3b. Evidence from its construction suggests that the row exposed in the east balk—and later removed from the balk—was perhaps one face of a double faced wall, despite the fact that the balk gave no immediate or unambiguous evidence of another face. The bottom course of Wall D. 2:9 consisted entirely of stretchers, while the top courses were constructed primarily of headers, many up to one meter in length. Such an arrange-

ment would seem to presume a two-faced construction. The fact that the balk left by the removal of the west face showed only earth and small stones with the outlines of only a couple of large stones—a picture similar to that of the cross section of Locus D. 2:4, the later fill over the courtyard floor, seen in the north balk—may be due to the width of the wall. If Wall D. 2:9 was built like Wall D. 2:3b, the balk would be an accurate representation of a longitudinal section of the fill between the two faces.

Walls D. 2:9 and 3b were in any case in contemporary use, even if they should prove to be separate constructions. Together they formed the south and east walls of a *hurewar*-surfaced (D. 2:10a and b) courtyard at the foot of the acropolis enclosure wall. To complete this picture, there is some indication that a single-row wall corresponding to Wall D. 2:9 on the east was built along the east face of D. 2:2-D. 1:10 or D. 2:sub-2-D. 1:sub-10 to form the west wall of this courtyard structure.

Within this walled area a slightly raised dirt platform was described in the southwest corner by a line of loaf-sized stones running north from the west gatepost for almost two meters, then turning west where it can be traced for another .75 m. The area outlined by these stones was filled with earth up to the tops of the stones, then paved with the same *hurewar* surfacing as the rest of the courtyard area. It must have been built at the time of the first surfacing of the area, since no second *hurewar* surface was found under it. Whatever its use, it apparently received less wear than the rest of the area, since it showed no sign of resurfacing.

We have described this walled and surfaced sector as an open courtyard because of its size, construction, position, and the absence of any clear indications that it was roofed. The walled enclosure is too large (5×5 -5.50 m.) to be vaulted by the contemporary construction techniques evident in the Area. It is also too large to be roofed with beams without intermediate walls, columns or other supports. Of these latter, no

evidence was apparent, nor was anything found that could be recognized as roofing material debris.

The use of the sector also remains undetermined because of our ignorance of analogies for this type of structure. One suggestion we heard, *viz.*, that it might have been a parking place for horses outside the inner, walled acropolis area, seems difficult to reconcile with the generally good condition of the floor, which seems to have had too thin a surface to sustain the treatment of shod hoofs. However, two crescent-shaped iron horseshoes were found in D. 1 against Wall D. 1:4 which apparently came from upon or above Surface D. 1:17. Some evidence of domestic use was found: (1) a fine Arab crater or cookpot, glazed inside, unglazed and fire-blackened outside, was found on the floor, broken *in situ*, near the center of the north balk and about one meter south of a curious semi-circular rock formation (Locus D. 1:18), that distinguished itself from the rest of the tumble, but whose use remains a mystery—no fire was used with it, so it cannot have been a fireplace; (2) small amounts of charcoal and burnt bone; (3) a basalt millstone fragment, and a large end piece of a saddle quern. All of these could have been part of the later accumulation and fill and unrelated to the original use of the enclosure/room. Another interesting find connected with this area and still wanting architectural interpretation was a quantity of brick fragments plus a number of whole bricks, almost all of which were found close to the floor level.

South of Wall D. 2:3, a *hurwar* surface, D. 2:8 = D. 3:7, covered almost exactly the area of the filled-in pit (D. 2:16 = D. 3:9). When excavated, the surface was rather rough and patchy, showing considerable signs of wear—from weather or man or both. The main sector of use—along the wall between the gateway in Wall D. 2:3 and the stairs—was thicker, giving evidence of at least two resurfacings, which were often simply localized patching jobs that could not be traced across the whole surface. The first surface was laid directly on the pit fill except in the southwest corner, where it

covered a yellowish clayey deposit on the lowest "Roman" step. Here, Surface D. 2:8b met the second step, leaving just the top exposed; Surface D. 2:8a, as dug, just covered the second step.

The D. 2:8-7 surface is of pivotal significance for the stratigraphy of this phase since it links stairway (and possibly D. 1:4 gateway, if stair-gateway-surface connections can be made) sequences with the building and occupation sequences on the lower terrace. Surface D. 2:8 outside the courtyard was contemporary with D. 2:10 inside the walled sector since both, at approximately the same levels, were the primary (and only) surfaces used with the D. 2:3b threshold. At the same time, Surface D. 2:8 was also connected with the stairs in such a way as to show that they were still exposed and in use.

The next phase of construction in D. 2—still within the Late Arab period—is more an indication of disuse than of use. The *hwwar*-surfaced courtyard has become a rock-strewn terrace. The vaulted room in D. 1 is likely in a state of disrepair and abandonment. Only the stairway area remains in use—but the stairs themselves are covered with a layer of dirt and stones. The length of the break between these two building stages in D. 2 is hard to gauge. The .80-1.10 m. separating D. 2:10-D. 1:17 from the next surface above, D. 2:4-D. 1:16, must be attributed in large measure to planned filling operations and not to natural accumulation, since the gateway in Wall D. 2:3b was walled up to contain it. The .25 m. separating Surface D. 2:6 from D. 2:8—or the .10-.25 m. between the possibly earlier Surfaces D. 2:5 or 5b in the stairway—may be a better gauge for the time lapsed.

In any case, sometime in the Late Arab period, the D. 2:3b and 9 walls collapsed inward on the courtyard, leaving only two to three courses standing. Over this fall, which was left on the *hwwar* surface, a deep fill of earth and small field stones was laid to the height of the remaining wall on the east and south. The roughly level terrace excavated by this operation reached to the top of the foundation courses of Wall D. 1:4

and was covered all over with a layer of small uncut field stones; the whole of this fill together with the "surface" was designated D. 2:4-D. 1:16. Prior to this terracing operation the gateway in Wall D. 2:3b had been "walled up" along the line of the south face with a plug of irregularly shaped and sized stones, and in places where Wall D. 2:3b had not been preserved high enough, an additional row of stones (D. 2:3a) may have been laid along the south to form a retaining wall for the fill. The stones of this top course are noticeably more irregular than those of the bottom courses, lending strength to the hypothesis that they were a later addition and not simply part of the original wall that was preserved to a higher level.

The contemporary surface south of the terrace wall should probably be identified with D. 2:6 (perhaps = D. 3:5), a pebbly earth surface found about .25 m. above Surface D. 2:8 in roughly the same sector, though because of a large rockfall near the stairway it could not be traced all the way to the west balk. D. 2:6 is the first surface over D. 2:8 and the last surface below the ground surface humus. The surface that corresponds to this position and level in the stairway area is D. 2:5, between the D. 2:7a stairs and humus—and to the north between the D. 2:12 surface and humus.

In D. 1 no new building or occupation evidence, apart from the second threshold level in D. 1:4b, is apparent that can be correlated with the D. 2:3a and 6 phase in D. 2. The collapse of the vault roof into the vaulted room might possibly be contemporary with the collapse of Wall D. 1:4b; however, if it is associated, as is more likely, with the collapse of D. 1:4b, it cannot be contemporary with the fall of Walls D. 2:3b and 9, since Wall D. 1:4b fell on the D. 2:4-D. 1:16 surface that covered the fall from the courtyard building. In any case the collapse of the vault followed at least two occupation layers, Surfaces D. 1:20 and 14, plus a period of abandonment in which possibly two stages can be discerned. The first surface above D. 1:14, D. 1:7, may be only a weather hardened level

of occupation debris upon the last plaster floor, or it may represent the last poor use of the room. The next layer above, D. 1:6, clearly stems from a period of disuse. It was an uneven layer—or better, a series of layers—of accumulation with a weathering surface that could not be traced consistently over the whole sector.

The architectural tumble in the vaulted room lies over this layer of accumulation, contrasting with the situation in D. 2, where it appears that the Walls D. 2:3a and 9 collapsed upon a surface that was possibly still in use or at least showed no signs of a longer period of disuse. Since no distinction could be made between the final fall from structures on the south edge of the acropolis perimeter and the tumble that covered summit and slope before excavation began this summer—except for the dirt fill—we assume that this collapse was one of the latest events in the occupation history of the Area. The vault collapsed inward, filling up most of the remaining cavity, while the upper and outer part of Wall D. 2:3a fell outward, forming a heap that rose 1.50-1.75 m. to cover the edge of the west face of the two meters of the wall that still stood. Additional tumble lay over the top of the remnant of Wall D. 2:3a and the filled-in room cavity concealing the outline of the remains beneath.

At the same time, apparently, Wall D. 1:4b fell outward (south), pulling away from Walls D. 2:3a and D. 1:5 in places, while the outer (south) face fell away almost completely, leaving only two courses standing upon the earlier foundation of Wall D. 1:4c-d. This tumble piled up on the terrace D. 2:4-D. 1:16 to the south, forming a stone embankment that sloped from the edge of the south face of Wall D. 1:4b some six meters to the south, petering out about 3-3.50 m. short of the terrace retaining wall, D. 2:3a.

Stratum I, Phase A. Perhaps not all this fall should be laid to a single collapse. There are indications of a third phase of building in the Area before final abandonment, but this last phase is

itself an indication of the end of the period and of occupation in the Area. An effort seems to have been made to rebuild the outer edge of Wall D. 1:4, which had been almost entirely lost. A single row of large, irregularly sized uncut—or semi-dressed?—field stones was set upon the outer row of the wall. Whether this new wall D. 1:4a, was once higher is difficult to say. Some of the stones found in the tumble on the slope below appear to have been of similar type, but most were the badly worn, rough-dressed ashlar of the IB phase building. In any case, this last attempt to preserve and use the wall that served as the anchor point for all construction in Area D from the earliest surfaces uncovered this season shows that the vaulted room was no longer intact. The old doorway/window was filled up as was the room itself, and the new wall marched on past the old opening.

Not long afterwards, perhaps even before this last repair of the circumvallation wall was made, a small one-row wall two courses in height (D. 1:9) was built across the south opening into the D. 1:4b gateway on top of the last surface, D. 1:13, the entrance that had been in “continuous” use from (probably) Byzantine times at least. Walls D. 1:4a and D. 1:9 may be contemporary with the latest additions to D. 2:3a, but there is no way to know with any certainty. What is certain is that these last feeble building efforts signify an equally meager occupation in the Area; none even bothered to carry away the stones of the fallen structures to build new buildings until relatively modern times. IA then is simply a last phase of repair of old wall lines with no attempt to rebuild old edifices or to create new ones. In terms of chronology it may be anywhere between the end of the Late Arab period and the “modern” period, most likely toward the former, since the building is in every case directly upon IB structures and surfaces (but, in the rebuilding of walls, time lapse within a single cultural occupation is difficult and perhaps impossible to measure).

Square 3. The structures in Squares D. 1 and 2 were continuous, part of a common, if not always reconstructible, building complex, and so they were described together. Square D. 3, on the other hand, contained no structures contemporary with the main buildings in D. 1 and 2 and shared only a few surfaces and/or earth layers with D. 2. In the period covered by our excavation this season, D. 3 lay outside the zone of construction and occupation on the acropolis mound. It described a sector on the lower slope below a series of structures that saw successive rebuildings and many resurfacings, a sector that caught the sediment washed down from the upper buildings with the yearly rains and reflected, in its many *huwwar* wash surfaces and the quantity of tesserae in the layers between, the laying of floors and plastering of walls above and their disintegration. At times it shared the surfaces that lay outside the lower terrace wall and steps in D. 2 (D. 2:8 = D. 3:7; D. 2:6 = D. 3:5).

Below D. 3:7, which represents the latest main surface in D. 3 and perhaps the only occupation surface (with the possible exception of Surface D. 3:12, whose purpose and use remain unknown) lay a large pit (D. 3:9 = D. 2:16), stretching along the greater part of the north balk and cutting off all the surfaces to the south from any direct connection with D. 2. Only in the northeast corner was a series of layers preserved which may prove to have connections with D. 2 at lower, earlier levels than Surface D. 3:7. Outside of Pit D. 3:9 and a .60 m.-thick platform of chunky *huwwar* (D. 3:12) in the southwest corner through which Pit D. 3:9 cut, the rest of the Area described by D. 3 consisted of a series of wash layers and surfaces, that sloped more or less steeply to the south and the west as they descended. They represent successive deposits of silt and mud wash, often accompanied by masses of rockfall that tended to pile up toward the lower south and west end of the slope. These layers of mud deposit had in places such smooth, hard surfaces that they appeared almost to have been laid floors, but none could be traced very far, since the thin crust of a surface was

easily broken and the same action that built up these layers also worked to destroy them. Pockets and gullies of erosion cut by settling pools or streams of water were frequent in these layers.

As a result of this complementary but stratigraphically confusing phenomenon of sequences of layer build-up and erosion, surfaces could scarcely ever be traced across the entire Square. A number of hard, smooth-finished *hurrwar* surfaces (D. 3:8, 18 and 19) were found near the ground surface in the northeast corner, traced as they descended southward and lost when they gave out before reaching the south or west balks. New surfaces (D. 3:10, 11, 12 and 13) which could not be connected with the surfaces in the northeast corner and which sometimes appeared as intermediate surfaces were picked up in the southeast and southwest quadrants of the Square. Only one, D. 3:10, appeared to continue across most of the south half of the Square.

In addition to the big pit on the north, D. 3:9 = D. 2:16 (which was first located in D. 3), Square 3 boasted two other pits, both along the south balk. D. 3:17, a pit just barely extending beyond the excavators' steps in the southeast corner, gave evidence of a wealth of *tabun* ash and other domestic refuse, but could not be excavated. D. 3:14, a fairly large pit with at times bafflingly indistinct contour, was found along the middle of the west balk. Because its west edge lies directly beneath a cut in the thick *hurrwar* deposit, D. 3:12, it was first thought to have been dug from upper, Arab levels. The upper pottery in the "fill" was also Arab, but the lower pottery was "Roman" with a complete absence of Arab sherds, so the pit must have been filled (first) in Roman times, but only partially filled, so that the upper fill is Arab. The balk also suggests the hypothesis of successive layerings; in fact it was repeatedly doubted that D. 3:14 could be a pit since the layers of deposit in it followed the same degree of incline as the other surfaces or wash layers in the south balk and were at first indistinguishable from them.

Near the bottom of this pit were found remains from at least three human skeletons, one a female, almost complete except for lower mandible, left arm, and legs from the knees down. This skeleton was articulated from the base of the neck downward; the head, three cervical vertebrae and a shoulder blade were, however, detached. The woman, estimated to have been about 40 years old, appears to have died from a large tumor in the left chest, in the cavity of which its calcified remains were found, having the shape and size of an ostrich egg. None of the skeletal remains, including the other skull, long bones and jaw fragment, seem to have been associated with primary burials. All were to a greater or lesser degree "disturbed," resting in and among the heap of stones in the bottom of the pit. The meaning of such a disposition of human remains is not immediately clear to us. The ceramic evidence associated with this level in the pit was characteristically "Byzantine/Roman."

Only two structures were encountered in this season's digging in D. 3: (1) an L-shaped stone fence (D. 3:3-4), one course high and two rows wide, resting only a few centimeters under the ground surface of the mound and presumed to be of relatively "modern" construction, though it could belong to the IA phase in D. 1 and/or last additions to D. 3:3a (pottery evidence is inconclusive); (2) a wall, D. 3:16, first noted below ground surface level in or at the east edge of the big robber pit, D. 3:9. Since only the top of it had been exposed in stratigraphic digging to the east of it, its date cannot be determined from this season's work. The foundation level has not yet been reached, though excavation of the pit revealed three courses on the west.

To summarize our work and its results in D. 3, we must say that it has been an important if often trying school for stratigraphic digging. As our understanding of the nature of this area and its peculiar features grew and as our accuracy in tracing surfaces mounted, we were able to garner a number of fine, large samples of pottery from layers dug in sequence, and

were able to show a sequence of ceramic corpora much more fully representative than those available from the occupation surfaces and structures higher on the mound. This ceramic series obtained from D. 3 wash layers also extends further into the pre-Arab period than our digging had yet progressed in D. 1 and 2. Thus it should give us a key, when properly studied, to the ceramic horizons and periods of occupation to be met on the heights above.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SEASON'S WORK

As the four Area reports indicate, the stratigraphic evidence was rich and varied, as were the finds, ceramic and architectural complexes. In attempting an overall correlation summary, the records currently indicate the most finely subdivided stratigraphic evidence for the Arabic (five subdivisions of three phases in Area D) and Byzantine (five subdivisions of three phases in Area A) periods. The review of the evidence will indicate, by periods, what the four Areas have produced in the first season's work.

Arabic. Evidence for this period occurred in all four Areas excavated. In Area B a few soil layers were found and one possible occupation surface (not associated with architecture), also a pit and a lime kiln. In Area C the evidence included the U-shaped "enclosure" wall partly visible at the start of the excavation, a small portion of a room at the south edge of the Area (the nature of the building remains undetermined), and the only partially excavated structure in the northeast corner of C. 4. A possible second phase of the period is suggested by the cistern fill in C. 4. In Area A, Phase A is limited to a serpentine alignment of stones and column sections which may have served as some sort of pen or enclosure wall. Phase B (considered Late Arabic) comprised the courtyard drainage system with its associated cisterns in A. 2 and possibly A. 3. Phase C includes the storage complex of A. 1 and possibly two fragmentary wall remnants in A. 3 and 4.