

AREA B AND SQUARE D.4

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In addition to the four Area B Squares of 1968 and 1971 (B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4),¹ three new Squares were worked in the Area in 1973 (B.5, B.6, D.4).² Square B.5 was a 2.00 x 2.00 m. probe north of B.2, and B.6 was a 1.00 x 6.00 m. probe west of B.1. Both were planned to test the lateral extent of the Strata 5-12 plaster layers. Square D.4 was laid out east of B.3, to link Area B with Area D. While Squares B.5 and B.6 were each worked only a few weeks, the other five Squares were excavated during most or all of the seven-week season. As part of the work in B.2, the balk between Squares B.2 and B.4 was taken down stratigraphically, and it is designated herein as Balk-B.2. In 1973 Area B continued to utilize the dump southeast of Square D.4.

Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Strata 2-3 (ca. A.D. 1200-1456)

1968, 1971: In addition to the Modern remains of Stratum 1, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains of Strata 2 and 3 were attested in Area B in 1968 and 1971. The Stratum 2 ground surface soil covered Area B, and the Stratum 3 pits and robber trench cut down into the Early Byzantine ff. remains of Strata 4 ff., but no Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structures were attested in 1968 or 1971.

1973 *Description (Stratification)*.³ In addition to the Stratum 2 ground surface soil and the Stratum 3 pits, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk

¹ For the results of the 1968 season, cf. D. M. Beegle, "Heshbon 1968: Area B," *AUSS* 7 (1969) : 118-126; E. N. Lugenbeal and J. A. Sauer, "Seventh-Sixth Century B.C. Pottery from Area B at Heshbon," *AUSS* 10 (1972): 21-69. For the results of the 1971 season, cf. J. A. Sauer, "Heshbon 1971: Area B," *AUSS* 11 (1973) : 35-71; J. A. Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971* (Berrien Springs, Mich., 1973), pp. 1-74. While the present report regularly includes references to the results of the 1968 and 1971 seasons, it assumes prior familiarity with the above reports, especially with the descriptions and interpretations of "Heshbon 1971: Area B."

² Cf. Figs. 1, 4. Square D.4 was included in the Area D numbering sequence in 1971, but in 1973 it was excavated as part of Area B.

³ Pre-excavation cleanup in Squares B.1-B.4 consisted of Loci B.1:117, B.2:71, B.3:49, and B.4:77,79,82. These Loci produced the following bones:

structures and associated soil layers were attested in Area B (Balk-B.2, B.5, B.6, D.4) in 1973.

The Stratum 2 ground surface soil (Balk-B.2:1; B.5:1, 2; B.6:1; D.4:1) partially covered the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains in the Area, and completely covered the 'Abbāsīd and the Early Byzantine remains.

In Balk-B.2, the robber Trench B.2:18, 32 of Stratum 3 cut down into the Early Byzantine—Late Roman plaster layers of Strata 7-11 (B.2:15-31 a-d).

Beneath the Stratum 2 ground surface soil in Square B.5 were two superimposed plaster layers (B.5:3, 4) which rested on a soil layer (B.5:5) over a small-rock layer (B.5:6). The roughly horizontal plaster layers were thin (ca. .05-.20 m.) and badly eroded, while the soil and the small-rock layers were each quite thick (ca. .35-.70 m., and ca. .10-.25 m. respectively). These Ayyūbid/Mamlūk layers, which lay above the Early Byzantine Stratum 7 layers in the Square (B.5:7-10), had no Strata 2, 3 counterparts in B.1-4 in 1968 or 1971.

In B.6, two Ayyūbid/Mamlūk walls (B.6:11, 10) were set down into the Early Byzantine—Roman stratification (Strata 5-12) in the Square.

Wall B.6:11 ran north-south through B.6, ca. 3.00 m. west of the east balk of the Square, and its top surviving stones were visible in the unexcavated ground surface soil north and south of the Square. The wall was constructed of medium-sized (ca. .25-.40 m.) stones, and it was only one course thick. It was preserved to a height of only two courses. On the east side of the wall, its foundation trench (B.6:12) was dug down into the Square's Early Byzantine—Roman Strata 5-12 plaster layers (B.6:5, 4). On the

Sheep/Goat	102	Horse	1	Domestic Chicken	3
Cattle	4	Large Mammal	2	Wild Bird	1
Donkey	1				

The cleanup Loci also produced the following registered artifacts:

B.3:49	1521	Coin (A.D. 138-161)	B.4:82	1453	Slingstone
B.4:82	1321	Iron Ring	B.4:82	1469	Iron Clamp
B.4:82	1322	Iron Hook			

west, Layer B.6:13 sealed against the wall, and it covered over the B.6:14, 15 foundation trench of the earlier (Ayyūbid/Mamlūk) Wall B.6:10.

Wall B.6:10 also ran north-south through B.6, ca. 1.00 m. west of Wall B.6:11. It was constructed of larger (ca. .40-.70 m.) stones, and it was one course thick, but five courses of its western face were exposed during excavation. On the east, the wall's B.6:14, 15 foundation trench lay beneath Layer B.6:13 and Wall B.6:11, and it had been cut down into the Early Byzantine—Roman Strata 5-12 plaster layers. On the west, a ca. 1.00 m. deep rock tumble layer (B.6:7) sealed against the wall, and this layer rested on two superimposed plaster layers (B.6:8, 9). Plaster Layer B.6:8 sealed against the wall, and plaster Layer B.6:9 (exposed but not excavated) seemed to seal against it as well.

In D.4, the Stratum 2 ground surface soil partially covered a shallow Ayyūbid/Mamlūk wall (D.4:6) in the northwest corner of the Square, as well as another shallow wall (D.4:5) in the southwest corner of the Square. It also partially covered two walls of a deeply founded Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure (D.4:2, 13) in the southeast portion of the Square.

In the northwest corner of D.4, Wall D.4:6 ran eastward ca. 3.00 m. into the Square from the west balk, and its line was visible in the unexcavated ground surface soil north of B.3 and B.2. The wall was constructed of large (ca. .50-1.00 m.) roughly squared stones, and it was two courses thick and survived one course high. It rested in the D.4:1 Stratum 2 ground surface soil, and it lay over the Early Byzantine Stratum 5 plaster Layer D.4:3, and over the D.4:7, 8 'Abbāsīd pit.

In the southwest corner of D.4, Wall D.4:5 ran ca. 2.00 m. northwestward into the Square from the south, and its line was also visible in the unexcavated ground surface soil south of D.4. The wall was constructed of large (ca. .25-.75 m.) rectangular-

cut stones, and it was two courses thick and survived only one course high.

In the southeast portion of D.4, north-south Wall D.4:2 and east-west Wall D.4:13 formed the northwest bonded corner of a deeply founded Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure. Both walls were constructed of large (ca. .40-.80 m.) roughly squared stones, and within the Square they both were ca. 2.00 m. long. The walls were preserved to a height of 9-10 courses, but they were "faced" only towards the interior of the structure. The exterior "faces" of the walls merged into the rock tumble of their foundation trenches (D.4:17 to the west of Wall D.4:2,⁴ and D.4:10 to the north of Wall D.4:13). The D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches were cut through the Early Byzantine-Late Roman and earlier (Strata 6-10 ff.) layers in the Square (D.4:4 ff.), apparently to found the walls on bedrock (D.4:25, 26). Inside the structure, two rock tumble layers (D.4:12, 14), ca. 2.00 m. deep, covered over a soil layer (D.4:19=21) which sealed against the two walls, and which covered over cracked bedrock (D.4:25, 26). At the level of Bedrock D.4:25, 26, but in the south balk of the Square, Layer D.4:19=21 also covered over a possible vaulted "cellar" (D.4:24), which was exposed but not excavated in 1973.

1973 Description (Bones): The Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	119	Large Mammal	9	Domestic Chicken	8
Cattle	19	Dog	2	Snail	134
Horse	1	Poss. Cat	2	Human	16
Donkey	1	Rodent	1		

It should be noted that Loci D.4:12, 14 produced all 16 of the disarticulated human bones, as well as 130 of the 134 snail shells.

1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the above Loci was Ayyūbid/Mamlūk. A single 1382-1399 Mamlūk coin came from Locus D.4:1 (Object 1527). In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci:⁵

⁴ Loci D.4:15, 16 were shallow pits which spread out irregularly, for several meters, from the western edge of foundation Trench D.4:17. These Loci may have been part of D.4:17, or they may have been independent pits like those uncovered in B.4 in 1971 (Stratum 3).

⁵ Only registered artifacts have been included in this report. Numerous other artifacts, especially of glass and of stone, were found and were saved, but were not registered as "objects."

B.2:1	1465	Glass Bead	D.4:1	1371	Slingstone
B.2:18	1498	Bronze Bracelet	D.4:12	1423	Iron Hook
D.4:1	1326	Copper Bracelet	D.4:12	1432	Shell Bead
D.4:1	1330	Iron Nail	D.4:12	1443	Cloth Pouch
D.4:1	1347	Perforated Clay Disk	D.4:17	1479	Perforated Clay Disk

1973 Interpretation: The new evidence for Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structures in Area B would agree with that from Areas A, C, and D, where extensive Ayyūbid/Mamlūk architectural remains were uncovered in 1968, 1971, and 1973. In addition to the Stratum 3 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk robbing and pitting, which was well attested in 1971, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk construction work would now be evident in Area B as well. Yet this construction would not seem to have been carried out according to a coherent plan in the Area excavated to date.

The B.5:3, 4 plaster layers did not have any counterparts in B.1-4, but these layers could possibly be compared to similar plaster layers in D.1 and D.2 which were associated with the Area D stairway/gateway (D.1:11, 23; D.1:17=D.2:10; D.2:8).

The B.6:11 wall would seem to have been a boundary wall, perhaps for agriculture, while the B.6:10 wall could have belonged to a domestic complex to the west. Since Wall B.6:11 postdated Wall B.6:10, there would be architectural evidence for two phases of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk activity in Square B.6.

In D.4, Walls D.4:6 and D.4:5 would also seem to have been late, shallow boundary walls.

In the southeast portion of D.4, the D.4:2, 13 structure could have been part of a domestic complex. However, since it was constructed below ground level, and since it contained disarticulated human bones, it could also have been part of a funerary installation.

Since most of the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structures were constructed in, or were only partially covered by, the Stratum 2 ground surface soil, it would seem likely that they should be dated to the Mamlūk (ca. 1260-1456) rather than to the Ayyūbid

(ca. 1200-1260) period, and the A.D. 1382-1399 Mamlūk coin from Locus D.4:1 would agree with this suggestion. The B.5:3-6 layers and the B.6:10 wall could perhaps be Ayyūbid in date. However, the evidence in Area B is not yet strong enough to allow for clear distinctions to be made between the Ayyūbid and the Mamlūk structural remains.

The absence of pig bones from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci should be noted here, since this evidence would agree with a Moslem occupation (cf. below, Early Byzantine).

'Abbāsīd (ca. A.D. 750-878)

1968, 1971: No 'Abbāsīd remains were attested in Area B in 1968 or 1971, since nothing was found in the Area between the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains of Strata 2 and 3, and the Early Byzantine remains of Stratum 4.

1973 Description (Stratification): Two 'Abbāsīd pits, beneath the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ground surface soil of Stratum 2, were found to be dug down into the Early Byzantine remains of Strata 4-7 in Area B in 1973.

In B.6, stone-lined Pit B.6:2 lay beneath the B.6:1 ground surface soil, ca. .40 m. west of the east balk. The pit had a diameter of ca. 1.25 m., and its two-course thick lining was constructed of small (ca. .10-.40 m.) stones. The pit's foundation Trench B.6:6 was dug down into the uppermost part of the B.6:5, 4 Early Byzantine—Roman plaster layers of Strata 5-12. No use surfaces were preserved against the pit exterior, but it did contain a layer of brown ashy soil (B.6:3).

In the north balk of D.4, Pit D.4:7, 8 lay beneath the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk D.4:1 ground surface soil and D.4:6 wall. The pit was dug down into the D.4:3, 4 ff. Early Byzantine plaster and soil layers of Strata 5-7, and it apparently intersected an Early Byzantine pit of Stratum 4 (D.4:9, 11) to the east. Pit D.4:7, 8 had a diameter of ca. 1.50 m., was ca. 1.25 m. deep, and contained soft black soil and small rocks.

1973 Description (Bones): The 'Abbāsīd Loci produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	8	Cattle	5	Domestic Chicken	3
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1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the above Loci was 'Abbāsīd. Pit B.6:2 produced an essentially homogeneous, if small, group of 'Abbāsīd pottery, while the pottery from Pit D.4:7, 8 was very mixed. No coins were attested, but the following registered artifacts came from the 'Abbāsīd Loci:

D.4:7	1374	Iron Spike	D.4:8	1403	Iron Nail
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D.4:7	1383	Iron Spatula
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1973 Interpretation: The new evidence for an 'Abbāsīd occupation in Area B would agree with that from Area C, where 'Abbāsīd traces were also found in 1973. No 'Abbāsīd coins have yet come from the site, but an 'Abbāsīd literary reference would indicate that *Heshbān* did not cease to exist in A.D. 750,⁶ as had been suggested in 1971.⁷

The two pits in Area B would thus seem to reflect a minor use of the Area in the 'Abbāsīd period, perhaps as a camping place.

The absence of pig bones from the 'Abbāsīd Loci should again be noted here (cf. above, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk).

Early Byzantine Strata 4-9 (ca. A.D. 324-410)

1968, 1971: Early Byzantine remains of Strata 4-9, covered over and cut into by the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains of Strata 2 and 3, were attested in Area B in 1968 and 1971. Stratum 4 consisted of Installation B.1:10 and Wall B.1:8B, both of which cut down into Strata 5ff. Strata 5, 7-9 were Area-wide superimposed plaster and soil layers, while Stratum 6 was a rock tumble layer between Stratum 5 and Stratum 7. Early Byzantine Strata 5-9 continued the Area-wide plaster and soil layers of Late Roman Strata 10-11 and Early Roman Stratum 12. In the southwest corner of B.4, south of Wall B.4:46, several Early Byzantine layers (Stratum 9?) apparently sealed against and over Wall B.4:71 (partially exposed).

1973 Description (Stratification): Additional remains of Early Byzantine Strata 4-9 were attested in Area B (Balk-B.2, B.5, B.6, D.4) in 1973. The strata lay beneath and were cut into by the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains of Strata 2, 3, and they were also cut into by the 'Abbāsīd pits.

⁶ Cf. O. Grabar, "A Small Episode of Early 'Abbasid Times," *Eretz-Israel* 7 (1963): 44-47; W. Vyhmeister, "The History of Heshbon from Literary Sources," *AUSS* 6 (1968): 171.

⁷ Cf. "Heshbon 1971: Area B," 44.

Stratum 4 was represented in D.4 by Pit D.4:9, 11, a pit along the north balk of the Square which contained many small (ca. .02-.05 m.) rocks. The pit lay beneath Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ground surface Soil D.4:1, and it was apparently cut into by 'Abbāsīd Pit D.4:7, 8. It was ca. .80 m. deep and ca. 2.00 m. wide east-west, and it was dug down into the D.4:4, 27, 18A Early Byzantine layers of Strata 6 and 7.

Stratum 5 was attested in the northwest corner of D.4, where the D.4:3A, 3B plaster and soil layers lay beneath Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ground surface Soil D.4:1 and Wall D.4:6. The D.4:3 layers were cut by 'Abbāsīd Pit D.4:7, 8 on the east, and they tapered into the ground surface soil towards the south. They covered over the Early Byzantine D.4:4, 20 rock tumble layer of Stratum 6.

Stratum 5 was also possibly attested in B.6. In the eastern portion of B.6, the B.6:5, 4 plaster layer lay under Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ground surface Soil B.6:1, and it was cut into by the B.6:6 foundation trench of 'Abbāsīd Pit B.6:2. Towards the west, it was cut off by the B.6:12 and B.6:14, 15 foundation trenches of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Walls B.6:11 and B.6:10. The B.6:5, 4 layer, exposed but not excavated in 1973, was ca. 1.25 m. thick, and it was composed of many thin plaster layers. Since the uppermost level of B.6:5, 4 was ca. 887.75 m., and since the uppermost level of the B.1:6A (Stratum 7) plaster layer was ca. 887.50 m., it would seem likely that the upper .25 m. of the B.6:5, 4 layer belonged to Stratum 5. The lower 1.00 m. of the layer would correspond to Early Byzantine Strata 7-9, Late Roman Strata 10-11, and Early Roman Stratum 12.

Stratum 6 was represented in D.4 by the D.4:4, 20 rock tumble layer, which lay beneath the D.4:3 layers of Stratum 5. In the southeast portion of D.4, the rock tumble layer was cut through by the D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure. In the northern portion of the Square, it was also cut through by 'Abbāsīd Pit D.4:7, 8 and Early Byzantine

Pit D.4:9, 11 (Stratum 4). The layer contained many large (ca. .25-.60 m.) rocks in the northeast portion of the Square, but towards the east and the south there were fewer and smaller rocks. The layer rested on top of the D.4:22, 23, 27 plaster layer of Stratum 7.

Stratum 7 was attested in Balk-B.2 and in D.4, and also probably in B.6. It may also have been present in Square B.5.

In Balk-B.2, beneath ground surface Soil B.2:1, the B.2:15, 17 plaster layer lay over the B.2:19 soil layer, and both of these layers were cut into by the B.2:18, 32 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk robber trench of Stratum 3. The plaster and soil layers rested above the B.2:20 plaster layer of Stratum 8.

In D.4, the D.4:22, 23, 27 plaster layer, beneath the rock tumble layer of Stratum 6, lay over the D.4:18a soil layer. The plaster and soil layers both sloped up evenly eastward, but the plaster layer became less distinct in that direction. The layers were cut by the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure, the D.4:7, 8 'Abbāsid pit, and the D.4:9, 11 Early Byzantine pit of Stratum 4. They lay over the D.4:18b plaster layer of Stratum 8.

In B.6, the ca. 1.25 m. thick B.6:5, 4 plaster layer, unexcavated, would probably include Stratum 7 (cf. above, Stratum 5). The layer was cut off to the west by the foundation trenches of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Walls B.6:11, 10.

In B.5, Stratum 7 may possibly have been represented by the B.5:7-10 plaster and soil layers (partially excavated), which lay beneath the B.5:1-6 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains in the Square. The combined layers were ca. .60-1.15 m. deep, but they were very uneven within the Square. The uppermost level of Layer B.5:7 varied from ca. 887.75 m. to ca. 888.40 m.

Like Stratum 7, Strata 8 and 9 were attested in Balk B.2, in D.4, and probably in B.6. In Balk-B.2, Stratum 8 consisted of plaster Layer B.2:20 over soil Layer B.2:21, and in D.4 the stratum consisted of plaster Layer D.4:18b over soil Layer D.4:28a. Stratum 9 lay beneath Stratum 8, and in Balk-B.2 it

consisted of plaster Layer B.2:22 over soil Layer B.2:23, and in D.4 it consisted of plaster Layer D.4:28b=29 over soil Layer D.4:28c, 30. In B.6, Strata 8 and 9 would probably be included in the unexcavated B.6:5, 4 plaster layer (cf. above, Stratum 5). Strata 8 and 9 were cut by the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk B.2:18, 32 robber trench, D.4:2, 13 walls, and B.6:11, 10 walls. In D.4, Stratum 9 covered over the D.4:34 Late Roman rock tumble (from Wall D.4:32), as well as Wall D.4:31 and Locus D.4:30a, while elsewhere it rested on top of the Late Roman plaster layer of Stratum 10.

*1973 Description (Soil Samples):*⁸ Soil samples were taken from the red clay lining in the B.1:10 installation of Stratum 4, and from the white material in the B.1:71 plaster layer of Stratum 5 (both excavated in 1971).

1973 Description (Bones): The Early Byzantine Loci of Strata 4-9 produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	293	Poss. Calf	1	Domestic Chicken	6
Cattle	36	Large Mammal	3	Snail	4
Poss. Horse	4	Pig	15	Human	1
Poss. Donkey	1	Small Mammal	2		

It should be noted that the single human bone came from Pit D.4:9, 11.

1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the above Loci was Early Byzantine, and a ca. A.D. 4th century coin came from Locus B.5:8 (Object 1539).⁹ In addition, the Early Byzantine Loci produced the following registered artifacts:

D.4:4	1398	Bronze Buckle	D.4:4	1466	Faience Bead
D.4:4	1436	Iron Nail	D.4:18A	1490	Lead Weight
D.4:4	1442	Bone Dice	D.4:18A	1511	Bone Needle
D.4:4	1458	Small Iron Hook	D.4:28A	1611	Inscribed Base

1973 Interpretation: The interpretations which were suggested for Early Byzantine Strata 4-9 in 1971 would seem to be supported by the new 1973 evidence.

Since Pit D.4:9, 11 cut down into Strata 5-7, it could probably be associated with Kiln B.1:10 of Stratum 4. Kiln B.1:10 cut down into Strata 5-12, and it would seem to reflect a radical restructuring of Area B (and the acropolis) in the early 5th century A.D.

⁸ Only soil samples which have been submitted for analysis have been included in this report. Other samples (organic, mineral, soil) were taken in 1973, but analysis is not yet completed.

⁹ Note also the A.D. 2nd-4th century coin (Object 1538) which was found during cleanup of Locus B.2:80 (cf. below, n. 20).

The Strata 5, 7-9 plaster and soil layers could still be interpreted as roadway resurfacings. They were attested from B.6 in the west to D.4 in the east, for a total length of ca. 35 m. They were also apparently attested from B.5 in the north to B.4 in the south, for a total width of ca. 19 m. In the west, they were cut off by the foundation trenches of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Walls B.6: 11, 10, and originally they could have extended farther west, or they could have been retained there by a robbed out wall. In the east, they continued faintly into the east balk of D.4, and they covered Wall D.4:32, which retained the Stratum 10 Late Roman layer (cf. below). In the north, the layers were uneven in B.5, but they seemed to continue through that small Square to the north. In the south, the layers sloped down over partially robbed out Wall B.4:46, which originally would have retained the Strata 10-12 Roman layers (cf. below), as well as over the B.4:71, 155, 156 "stairway" of Strata 10-12 (cf. below). The layers sloped up eastward through Area B, and they could still probably be associated with the Area D. stairway/gateway. Because of their width, they could perhaps be termed a "plaza" as much as a "roadway," but they would still seem to reflect the history of the two Roman roads which met at *Hesbān*. The coin from B.5:8 would agree with the ca. A.D. 324-400 date which was suggested in 1971 for Strata 5-9.

The Stratum 6 rock tumble layer could still be interpreted in the context of the A.D. 365 earthquake.

The pig bones from Early Byzantine Strata 4-9 should be noted here, since they would contrast with the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk and the 'Abbāsid bone evidence (cf. above). They could be expected in either a pagan or a Christian context.

Late Roman Strata 10-11 (ca. A.D. 135-324)

1968, 1971: Late Roman remains of Strata 10 and 11, cut into by Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Stratum 3 and by Early Byzantine Stratum 4, lay beneath and were cut into by Early Byzantine Stratum 9. Strata 10 and 11 were primarily Area-wide plaster and soil layers, and they would probably have been retained on the south by east-west Wall B.4:46, which was partially robbed out by Early

Byzantine Stratum 9. These Late Roman layers continued the Area-wide plaster and soil layers of Early Roman Stratum 12.

1973 Description (Stratification): A new Late Roman rock tumble layer (D.4:34, 36) was attested in D.4 in 1973, and additional remains of the Strata 10 and 11 plaster layers were attested in Balk-B.2, in D.4, and probably in B.6. In the southern portion of B.4 and in the northeast corner of D.4, additional Late Roman remains were attested which lay outside the portion covered by the Strata 10 and 11 plaster layers. The Area B Late Roman remains lay beneath Early Byzantine Stratum 9, and they were cut into by the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk foundation trenches and Stratum 3 pits.

The D.4:34, 36 rock tumble layer lay beneath the D.4:28c, 30 Early Byzantine soil layer of Stratum 9, and it lay on top of the D.4:35 plaster layer and D.4:37 soil layer of Late Roman Stratum 10. The layer was ca. 1.00 m. deep, and in addition to its large (ca. .25-.70 m.) rocks (D.4:34), it contained pockets of red ashy soil (D.4:36). The tumble lay against the west "face" of Wall D.4:32, which ran north-south into the Square ca. 2.00 m. west of the east balk. While Wall D.4:32 had no preserved face on the west, it had a face surviving two courses high of finely squared stones on the east. Both the D.4:34, 36 rock tumble layer and the D.4:32 wall were cut off to the south by the D.4:10 foundation trench of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure.

The Stratum 10 plaster and soil layers were attested in Balk-B.2, in D.4, and probably in B.6. In Balk-B.2, the stratum consisted of plaster Layers B.2:24a-d over soil Layer B.2:27, and in D.4 it included plaster Layer D.4:35 (exposed but not excavated) over soil Layer D.4:37 (partially excavated, over unexcavated D.4:38). In D.4, the Stratum 10 layers also sealed against the west "face" of Wall D.4:32, beneath the D.4:34, 36 rock tumble layer. In B.6, the B.6:5, 4 plaster layer would probably include Stratum 10 (cf. above, Early Byzantine Stratum 5). The Stratum 10 layers were cut into by Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci B.2:18, 32, D.4:2, 13, and B.6:11, 10.

Stratum 11 was attested in Balk-B.2, and probably in B.6. In Balk-B.2, the thin B.2:31a-d plaster layers lay beneath the B.2:27 soil layer of Stratum 10, and they continued the thin B.2:31e-h plaster layers of Early Roman Stratum 12. In B.6, the B.6:5, 4 plaster layer would again probably include Stratum 11 (cf. above, Early Byzantine Stratum 5). Like Stratum 10, the Stratum 11 layers were cut into by Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci B.2:18, 32, D.4:2, 13, and B.6:11, 10.

In the southwest corner of B.4, beneath Early Byzantine Stratum 9, Layer B.4:129 sealed against the south face of Wall B.4:46, as well as against the west face of Wall B.4:71. Wall B.4:71 was the westernmost wall of the B.4:71, 155, 156 "stairway," which butted up against the south face of Wall B.4:46, and which stepped down from the west to the east (cf. below, Early Roman Stratum 12). In the southeast corner of B.4, red Layers B.4:112, 113, 119 sealed against the south face of Wall B.4:46, as well as against the east face of Wall B.4:156 (the easternmost wall of the "stairway"), and they continued over Bedrock B.4:193 into the east and south balks of the Square.¹⁰ These layers lay beneath Ayyūbid/Mamlūk "Pit" B.4:33=40 of Stratum 3.

In northeastern D.4, the Early Byzantine Layer D.4:28c, 30 covered over Wall D.4:31 and Locus D.4:30a, as well as Wall D.4:32. Wall D.4:31 was an east-west wall surviving two courses high, which appeared in the north balk of D.4. It was constructed of large (ca. .40-.80 m.) roughly squared stones, and at the balk line it seemed to butt up against the east face of Wall D.4:32 to form a corner. Locus D.4:30a consisted of several poorly preserved plaster layers which seemed to seal up against Walls D.4:31 and D.4:32. Beneath them was the well preserved D.4:33 plaster layer (exposed but not excavated), which did seal up against the walls. Loci D.4:30a and D.4:33 were both cut off to the south by the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure.

¹⁰ Locus B.4:116 was a similar Late Roman layer which lay between Wall B.4:71 and Wall B.4:155.

1973 Description (Soil Samples): Soil samples were taken from the white material in the B.2:24b plaster layer of Stratum 10, and from the white material in the B.2:31c plaster layer of Stratum 11.

1973 Description (Bones): The Late Roman Loci produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	96	Large Mammal	2	Snail	4
Cattle	9	Poss. Pig	1		

1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the above Loci was Late Roman, and an A.D. 218-222 coin came from Locus B.4:113 (Object 1522).¹¹

In addition, the Late Roman Loci produced the following registered artifacts:

B.4:112	1413	Stone Spindle Whorl	D.4:34	1627	Glass Bead
B.4:116	1420	Bronze Bowl Rim	D.4:34	1682	Plaster Fragment

1973 Interpretation: The D.4:34,36 rock tumble would seem to represent the partial collapse of Wall D.4:32 onto the Stratum 10 plaster layer to the west. This collapse could reflect a destruction by earthquake,¹² or it could reflect a major architectural restructuring of the Area prior to the laying of the Early Byzantine Stratum 9 roadway layer (cf. the Stratum 9 robbing of Wall B.4:46).

The Strata 10 and 11 plaster and soil layers could still be interpreted as roadway layers, like Early Byzantine Strata 5-9. The layers would have been bounded by Wall B.4:46 on the south, and by Wall D.4:32 on the east (Stratum 10 only?), while in the west they could have stopped in B.6, or extended further west beyond that point (cf. above, Early Byzantine Strata 5-9). To the north, it would seem that the Stratum 10 plaster layer extended into D.3 to meet the Late Roman stairway, which ascended from D.3 towards the top of the acropolis. In southern B.4, if the B.4:71, 155, 156 walls formed a stairway (cf. below, Early Roman Stratum 12), that stairway could have provided access to the roadway from the south.

If the B.4:71, 155, 156 walls did not form a stairway, they could have belonged to a structure which was located to the south of the main roadway area. In northeastern D.4, the D.4:32 and D.4:31 walls could have formed the corner of another struc-

¹¹ Note also the A.D. 138-161 coin (Object 1521) which came from cleanup Locus B.3:49 (cf. above, n. 3).

¹² Cf. D. H. Kallner-Amiran, "A Revised Earthquake-Catalogue of Palestine," *IEJ* 1 (1950-51): 225 (A.D. 306?).

ture, which lay to the east of the main roadway area. These two Late Roman structures could have belonged either to Stratum 10 or to Stratum 11.

The A.D. 218-222 coin from B.4:113 would agree with the ca. A.D. 135-324 date which was suggested in 1971 for the Late Roman remains of Strata 10 and 11.

Early Roman Strata 12-13 (ca. 63 B.C. - A.D. 135)

1968, 1971: Early Roman remains of Strata 12 and 13, cut into by Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Stratum 3 and by Early Byzantine Strata 4 and 9, were attested beneath the Late Roman remains of Stratum 11 in 1968 and 1971.

Stratum 12 consisted of the earliest Area-wide plaster layers, which rested on an Early Roman mixed soil and rock tumble layer. Associated with the first (earliest) Stratum 12 plaster layer was a "curbing" (B.4:72 = B.3:31), which ran north-south from B.4 through B.3. Wall B.4:46 was partially robbed out by early Byzantine Stratum 9, but it would originally have retained the Stratum 12 plaster and soil layers on the south. The leveling operation for the Stratum 12 layers would have damaged the remains of earlier Strata 13-16.

Stratum 13 lay beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer, and it was damaged by the leveling operation for that stratum. It was an Early Roman occupational stratum, the tattered remains of which included soil layers in Cave B.4:74, the B.4:66 *Ṭabun*, and the possible Wall B.4:73.¹³ Bedrock cracks through Cave B.4:74 and through bedrock in B.3 suggested that the Early Roman Stratum 13 occupation experienced a major earthquake, and while post-earthquake remains were attested in 1971, pre-earthquake remains were not yet clearly exposed through excavation.

1973 Description (Stratification): Additional remains of Early Roman Stratum 12 and Stratum 13 (post-earthquake and pre-earthquake) were attested in Area B (B.2, B.3, B.4, and probably B.6) in 1973.

The Stratum 12 Area-wide plaster layers were attested in Balk-B.2, where the thin B.2:31e-h plaster layers lay beneath the Late Roman layers of Stratum 11. In B.6, the Stratum 12 plaster layers would also probably be included in the B.6:5, 4 layer (cf. above, Early Byzantine Stratum 5). In Balk-B.2, the plaster layers rested on the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.2:76, 85, 86, 93), and remnants of this mixed layer were also attested in the

¹³ *Ṭabun* B.2:54 and soil Layer B.2:63, tentatively attributed to Stratum 13 in 1971, should probably be associated with plaster Layer B.2:77 of Stratum 14 (cf. below, n. 19).

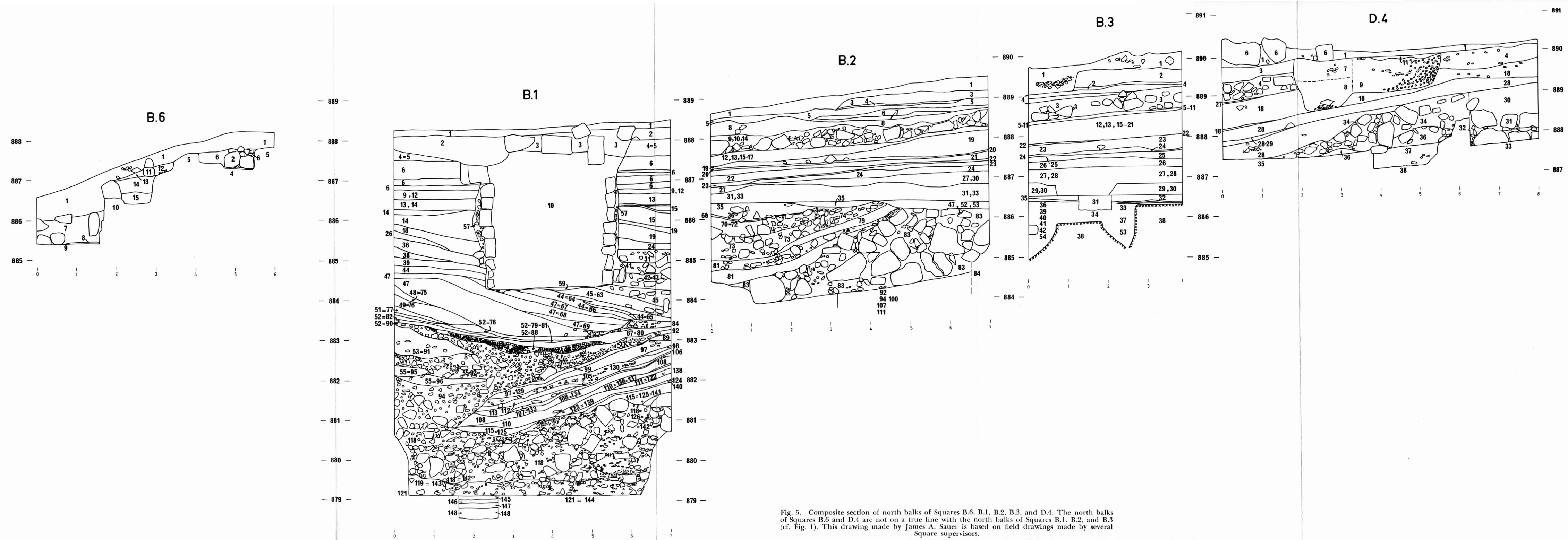


Fig. 5. Composite section of north balks of Squares B.6, B.1, B.2, B.3, and D.4. The north balks of Squares B.6 and D.4 are not on a true line with the north balks of Squares B.1, B.2, and B.3 (cf. Fig. 1). This drawing made by James A. Sauer is based on field drawings made by several Square supervisors.

B.3 cave (B.3:55, 56, 57), in southern B.3 (B.3:72, 73, 79), and in northern B.4 (B.4:78, 80). In these sectors, the Stratum 12 mixed layer covered over the Early Roman remains of Stratum 13, the Hellenistic remains of Strata 14, 15, 16, and the Iron I remains of Stratum 19, as well as Bedrock B.2:114a, 116, B.3:84, 85, 86, 87, and B.4:194.

In southern B.4, Wall B.4:46 of Stratum 12 was partially robbed out by Early Byzantine Stratum 9, but its preserved portion still retained the Stratum 12 mixed layer on the north. Wall B.4:46 was built on top of a ca. 1.25 m. thick foundation wall, Wall B.4:120,¹⁴ which also ran east-west through southern B.4. Wall B.4:120, surviving ca. .50-1.25 m. deep, abutted Bedrock B.4:192 and B.4:195, and it ran over Bedrock B.4:195 (including Channels B.4:168) and Plaster B.4:161 (Iron II/Persian Stratum 18) to butt up against and run past Bedrock B.4:193. Between Bedrock B.4:195 and Bedrock B.4:193 the wall rested on top of the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:165; partially excavated).

South of Wall B.4:46/120, the wall was butted up against by three parallel north-south walls (B.4:71, 155, 156). The surviving tops of the three walls were stepped down like a stairway from west to east, and while they were constructed of roughly cut stones as found within the Square, they were constructed of large (ca. .40-.75 m.) finely squared stones as seen in the south balk. There were pockets of soil between the three walls (B.4:151, 153, 157, 158, 159, 160, 164), and the walls were built over Bedrock B.4:192 and Plaster B.4:161 (Iron II/Persian Stratum 18), as well as on the Early Roman Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:163, 167, above Bedrock B.4:195 and Channels B.4:168).

In the southwest corner of B.4, beneath the B.4:129 Late Roman layer, Layers B.4:131, 132 sealed up against Wall B.4:46 and Wall B.4:71. Beneath these layers was the Stratum 12

¹⁴ Wall B.4:120E lay east of Bedrock B.4:192, 195, while Wall B.4:120W lay west of Bedrock B.4:192, 195. Several stones of what later was clearly part of Wall B.4:120W were originally termed Locus B.4:135.

mixed layer (B.4:134, 136, 138), partially excavated, which sealed against Wall B.4:120 and Bedrock B.4:192.

In the southeast corner of B.4, beneath the B.4:112, 113, 119 Late Roman layers, Layer B.4:122 sealed against Wall B.4:120 and Wall B.4:156, and it ran over Bedrock B.4:193. Beneath Layer B.4:122 was the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:117, 123, 125, 133, 137, 139, 162), partially excavated, which covered over Bedrock B.4:195, Channels B.4:168, and Cave B.4:171.

North of Wall B.4:46/120, to the east, the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:94, 106, 107, 111, 146, 166), partially excavated, filled the space between Wall B.4:120 and Bedrock B.4:194. To the west, the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:169, 170), partially excavated, also filled the space between Wall B.4:120 and Wall B.4:73/127.

Stratum 13 Wall B.4:73/127,¹⁵ beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer, ran into the Square from the west, and it ran eastward somewhat between Bedrock B.4:194 and Bedrock B.4:195. Built against the south face of Wall B.4:115, it was constructed of medium-sized (ca. .25-.40 m.) stones. It was ca. .80 m. thick, survived ca. 1.00 m. high, and rested on a yet unexcavated rock tumble.

To the south, Wall B.4:73/127 was sealed against only by the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:169, 170), which filled the space between Wall B.4:120 and Wall B.4:73/127.

To the north, beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer, Wall B.4:73/127 was sealed against by the Stratum 13 soil Layers B.4:81, 88, 118, 180, 182, which also sealed against the vertical face of Bedrock B.4:194=B.2:114a, and which continued into B.2 (B.2:96) to seal against the south face of Wall B.2:62. Associated with these Stratum 13 layers in the north balk of B.4 was a square stone installation (B.4:83, 86, 87; B.2:95), which was covered by a plaster layer (B.4:85) that sealed against Bedrock B.4:194=B.2:114a and Wall B.2:62. *Ṭabun* B.4:66 and *Ṭabun* B.4:84, next to Wall B.4:73/127, were also associated with the layers. *Ṭabun* B.4:66 was sealed against by Layer B.4:81, and it

¹⁵ Locus B.4:148 was the soil within Wall B.4:73/127, during the initial dismantling of its upper courses.

lay above Wall B.4:115. *Tabun* B.4:84, containing soil and ash Layers B.4:140, 141, 142, 143, 145, was sealed against by Layer B.4:88, and its B.4:121 foundation trench cut down into the Stratum 13 soil layers below (B.4:89, 90, 98, 126, 172). Next to *Tabun* B.4:84 was a jar (B.4:174), containing Loci B.4:175, 176, 178, which apparently cut down into Walls B.4:115 and B.4:100.

Stratum 13 Walls B.4:115 and B.4:100 lay beneath and were apparently cut into by the Stratum 13 Loci associated with Wall B.4:73/127. Wall B.4:115 ran east-west flush against the north face of Wall B.4:73/127, from the damaged corner with Wall B.4:100 eastward to the southwest corner of vertically faced Bedrock B.4:194. The wall, constructed of medium-sized (ca. .25-.40 m.) stones, was ca. .75 m. thick and survived ca. 1.00 m. high, and while it was founded in the east on Bedrock B.4:191, in the west it had a foundation trench (B.4:149) which cut down into Layers B.4:150, 173 of Hellenistic Stratum 16. North-south Wall B.4:100 ran northward from the damaged corner with Wall B.4:115 through to Square B.2 (B.2:106), where it butted up against the south face of Wall B.2:62. The wall, constructed of small and medium sized (ca. .15-.40 m.) stones, was ca. .60 m. thick and survived ca. .50 m. high, and it rested on top of Layers B.4:150, 173 of Hellenistic Stratum 16.

Inside the Stratum 13 "room" formed by Wall B.4:115, Wall B.4:100=B.2:106, Wall B.2:62, and vertical bedrock Face B.4:194=B.2:114a, numerous patchy soil layers (B.4:95, 96, 97, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 114, 128; B.2:98, 101) lay on top of the well preserved B.4:102=B.2:99 cobblestone pavement. Beneath the cobblestone pavement were several layers of soil and rock tumble (B.4:147, 152, 186), which covered over Bedrock B.4:191=B.2:114b (Iron II/Persian Stratum 18).

To the west of Stratum 13 Wall B.4:100=B.2:106, several soil layers sealed against that wall and against Wall B.2:62 (B.4:89, 90, 98, 126, 172; B.2:102, 103, 104). These layers, cut into by the B.4:121 foundation trench of *Tabun* B.4:84, lay above Layers

B.4:150, 173 and B.2:108 (partially excavated) of Hellenistic Stratum 16.

Occupational remains of Early Roman Stratum 13 were also attested in two caves in B.4.

In northeastern B.4, the opening to Cave B.4:74 was found in cracked Bedrock B.4:194, beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer. Near the opening were two bedrock-cut installations, the B.4:99 cupmarks and the B.4:101 rectangular depression. Beneath Bedrock B.4:194, the B.4:74 cave had a surviving height of ca. 1.50 m., and an overall size of ca. 3.00-4.00 m. Wall B.4:198, constructed of large (ca. .40-.80 m.) stones, formed the boundary of the cave on the east and the south. The cave was filled almost to its opening with a number of superimposed Stratum 13 soil layers (B.4:54=91, 59=92=154, 62=93, 63=110, 64=124, 67=130, 67=144=185=189), which sloped down from the opening to Wall B.4:198 south and east in the cave. The lower layers (B.4:63=110 ff.) were more horizontal within the cave, and Layer B.4:67=130 appeared as white straw-like material. Beneath Layer B.4:67=144 in the northern portion of the cave was the ca. .70 m. round opening to "Cistern" B.4:188, which was cut into the cave floor Bedrock B.4:196. The "cistern" was only partially excavated in 1973 (Layers B.4:184, 187).

In southern B.4, beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer (B.4:162), the ca. .40 m. diameter opening to Cave B.4:171 was found cut into Bedrock B.4:195. Because the surface of Bedrock B.4:195 sloped down sharply to the east (broken off from bedrock Blocks B.4:192, 193, 194), the cave had a pinched off surviving height of ca. .35-1.00 m., and a reduced floor space of ca. 1.50-3.00 m. The opening to the cave was blocked by a large stone, and inside the cave the three superimposed Stratum 13 soil layers (B.4:177, 179, 181), which covered cave floor Bedrock B.4:197, did not fill the cave up to the level of the opening. There may have been walls on the west and the north sides of the cave, supporting Bedrock B.4:195 from underneath.

1973 Description (Soil Samples): Soil samples were taken from the lining in the B.4:84 *tabun*, and from the white straw-like material in the B.4:67 = 130 layer, both of which belonged to Stratum 13.

1973 Description (Bones): The Early Roman Loci of Strata 12 and 13 produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	272	Large Mammal	9	Domestic Chicken	5
Cattle	39	Pig	2	Wild Bird	4
Donkey	4	Cat	1	Rodent	3
Poss. Camel	4	Small Mammal	2	Snail	7

These bones were fairly evenly distributed among the Early Roman Loci of Strata 12 and 13. It should be noted, however, that the two pig bones came from Loci B.4:91 and B.4:94, and that the four possible camel bones came from Locus B.4:141 (inside the B.4:84 *tabun*).

1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the above Loci was Early Roman. While the Stratum 12 plaster layers continued to produce only small quantities of Early Roman pottery, which could not be closely dated, the Stratum 12 mixed layer produced large quantities of Early Roman II-III (ca. 37 B.C. - A.D. 73) pottery. Early Roman II-III pottery also came from the Stratum 13 Loci associated with Wall B.4:73/127 and from the upper Stratum 13 layers (B.4:54 = 91, 59 = 92 = 154, 62 = 93) in Cave B.4:74. Early Roman I (ca. 63-37 B.C.) pottery came from the Stratum 13 Loci associated with Walls B.4:115 and B.4:100, from the lower Stratum 13 layers (B.4:63 = 110 ff.) in Cave B.4:74, and from the Stratum 13 layers in Cave B.4:171.

A 9 B.C. - A.D. 40 coin (Object 1646) came from Locus B.3:72, from the Stratum 12 mixed layer. Another 9 B.C. - A.D. 40 coin (Object 1645) came from Wall B.4:120, the foundation wall beneath Wall B.4:46, which retained the Stratum 12 mixed layer. From Locus B.5:105, a Stratum 13 layer associated with Walls B.4:115 and B.4:100, came an early 1st century B.C. coin (Object 1644). From Locus B.4:124, a Stratum 13 layer inside Cave B.4:74, came a 40-37 B.C. coin (Object 1523).

In addition, the Early Roman Loci of Strata 12 and 13 produced the following registered artifacts:

B.3:56	1446	Glass Bead	B.4:120	1668	Greek Ostrakon ^{15a}
B.3:73	1601	Basalt Mace	B.4:127	1636	Grinding Stone
B.4:94	1351	Iron Nail	B.4:130	1433	Grinding Stone
B.4:94	1367	Door Socket	B.4:169	1622	Stone Bead
B.4:94	1384	Iron Spike	B.4:175	1667	Millstone
B.4:94	1389	Ivory Pin	B.4:186	1671	Clay Loomweight
B.4:105	1463	Lamp	B.4:186	1683	Stone Bowl
B.4:118	1405	Stone Bowl			

1973 Interpretation: Although there was apparently no evidence for a stairway in Area D until the Late Roman period (cf. above, Stratum 10), the Early Roman Stratum 12 plaster layers could still be interpreted (like Late Roman Stratum 11) as

^{15a} Bastiaan Van Elderen, "A Greek Ostrakon from Heshbon: Heshbon Ostrakon IX," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 21-22.

roadway layers in Area B. It would seem that Wall B.4:46/120 was built during the construction of the roadway, south of Wall B.4:73/127 over the Stratum 12 mixed layer and cracked bedrock. The Stratum 12 mixed layer would have filled in the spaces next to Wall B.4:46/120, and leveled up the roadway sector for the laying of the first Stratum 12 plaster layer. Walls B.4:71, 155, 156 could have formed a stairway providing access to the roadway from the south. The two 9 B.C.-A.D. 40 coins from Stratum 12 would agree with the ca. A.D. 70 date which was suggested in 1971 for the original construction date of the roadway. The construction and use of the Stratum 12 plaster layers could thus probably be dated to ca. A.D. 70-135.

Beneath the Stratum 12 roadway would have been the Stratum 13 Early Roman occupation, which was more extensive in Area B than had been anticipated in 1971. However, unless the Stratum 13 remains were scraped off north of Wall B.2:62 during the Stratum 12 roadway leveling operation, this occupation would have been confined to the area south of Wall B.2:62. It would seem that the Stratum 13 occupation built up after cutting along the south face of Wall B.2:62, reusing that Hellenistic Stratum 14 wall, and it may also have cleaned out Hellenistic Stratum 15 remains from Caves B.4:74 and B.4:171 (cf. below). Stratum 13 also cut down into the Hellenistic Stratum 16 layers, exposing the bedrock edge (B.4:191) of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18. Stratum 13 would seem to have been a domestic occupation, to judge from its minor walls, *tabuns*, and other installations. The occupation would have been interrupted by an earthquake, and both the post-earthquake and the pre-earthquake remains were found in Area B in 1973.

The post-earthquake Stratum 13 remains would consist of Wall B.4:73/127, its associated Loci, and the upper soil layers (B.4:54=91, 59=92=154, 62=93) in Cave B.4:74. Since Wall B.4:73/127 was built between Bedrock B.4:194 and Bedrock B.4:195, it would postdate the earthquake which cracked open

those bedrock blocks, and it would seem to have replaced Wall B.4:115. The upper soil layers in Cave B.4:74 filled up that cave almost to the level of its opening, and they would seem to have been dumped into the cave after its B.4:194 bedrock ceiling was cracked by the earthquake. South of Wall B.4:73/127 there would not seem to have been any post-earthquake Stratum 13 occupation, unless its remains were removed during the Stratum 12 construction of Wall B.4:46/120.

The pre-earthquake Stratum 13 remains would consist of Walls B.4:115 and B.4:100=B.2:106, and their associated Loci, the lower layers (B.4:63=110 ff.) in Cave B.4:74, and the layers in Cave B.4:171. Wall B.4:100=B.2:106 could be compared with Wall B.1:25,¹⁶ and these walls could have formed a series of rooms against the south face of Wall B.1:17=B.2:62. Bedrock would have been connected, forming the ceilings of (dry storage?) Caves B.4:74 and B.4:171 until it was cracked by the earthquake into large blocks (B.4:191/194, 192, 193, 195).¹⁷ Bedrock Block B.4:195 would have collapsed to the east, breaking off from Bedrock B.4:194 and B.4:193, and it would have pinched off the opening to Cave B.4:171. Cave B.4:171 would not have been used again after the earthquake, while Cave B.4:74, only cracked by the earthquake, would have remained open and been filled up gradually. The 40-37 B.C. coin from Layer B.4:124, inside Cave B.4:74, would agree perfectly with the 31 B.C. date which was suggested in 1971 for the Stratum 13 earthquake. The post-earthquake Stratum 13 occupation could thus probably be dated to ca. 31 B.C. - A.D. 70. The pre-earthquake Stratum 13 occupation could probably be dated to ca. 63-31 B.C., although it could have begun earlier in the 1st century B.C. (cf. the early 1st century B.C. coin which came from Layer B.4:105).

¹⁶ Wall B.1:25 was assigned to undated Stratum 14 in 1971.

¹⁷ The bedrock ceiling of the B.3 cave would also have been cracked by the earthquake into large blocks (B.3:84, 85, 87). Cf. below, Late Hellenistic Stratum 15.

Late Hellenistic Strata 14, 15, 16 (ca. 198-63 B.C.)

1968, 1971: In addition to the Early Roman occupation of Stratum 13, the undated walls of Stratum 14, the Late Hellenistic remains of Stratum 15, and the Iron II/Persian rock tumble and soil layers of Stratum 16 lay beneath the Early Roman mixed layer of Stratum 12 in 1968 and 1971. Stratum 14 consisted primarily of Wall B.1:17 = B.2:62, which cut down into Stratum 16.¹⁸ Stratum 15 consisted of two soil pockets and an unexcavated "cistern" (B.3:47) in B.3. And Stratum 16 consisted of a ca. 6.50 m. deep (partially excavated) rock tumble and soil layer accumulation in B.1, which also appeared in B.2 and possibly in the northwest corner of B.3.

1973 Description (Stratification): Additional remains of Strata 14, 15, and 16 were found in Area B in 1973, and the new evidence would suggest that Strata 14 and 15 were contemporary Late Hellenistic accumulations, and that Stratum 16 was deposited by an earlier Hellenistic operation.

Wall B.1:17=B.2:62 of Stratum 14 ran east-west through B.1 and B.2, beneath the Early Roman mixed layer of Stratum 12. Constructed of large (ca. .25-1.50 m.) stones, it was ca. 1.10 m. thick in B.1 and ca. 1.80 m. thick in B.2. Its foundation trench (B.1:40, 103; B.2:69, 105) was cut down into the Stratum 16 layers, ca. 4.75 m. deep in B.1, and ca. 1.75 m. deep (partially excavated) in B.2. The wall butted up against vertical bedrock Face B.2:114a, and it partially covered over bedrock Surface B.2:114b and the top of Wall B.2:84 of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18. On the south it was sealed against by the Early Roman remains of Stratum 13, while on the north it was sealed against by a tattered Late Hellenistic layer.

Plaster Layer B.2:77, beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer in the easternmost portion of B.2, sealed against the vertical west face of Bedrock B.2:116 and Wall B.2:112 of Iron I Stratum 19. The layer sloped upward to the south, but it was shaved off by the Stratum 12 leveling operation just before it reached the north face of Wall B.2:62. Beneath Layer B.2:77 was a mixed soil layer (B.2:78, 88, 89, 90, 91, 109) which sealed against Walls B.2:62 and

¹⁸ Stratum 14 also included Wall B.1:27 and Walls B.1:21, 25, 28 in 1971. Wall B.1:25 has now been assigned tentatively to Stratum 13, while the other walls remain undated.

B.2:112, and which partially covered over the layers of Stratum 16 and Wall B.2:84 of Stratum 18. Two storage jars were associated with the B.2:77 plaster layer.¹⁹ Jar B.2:82, intact, had a foundation trench (B.2:87) which was cut down into Wall B.2:84. The jar's body was buried in the mixed layer beneath Layer B.2:77, and its neck was sealed against by plaster Layer B.2:77. A small rock covered the mouth of the jar, and the jar contained very little soil. Jar B.2:75, containing Soil B.2:110, rested near Wall B.2:62 in the mixed soil layer beneath Layer B.2:77, but its upper portion was shaved off by the Stratum 12 leveling operation.

In central B.3, bedrock Blocks B.3:84, 85, 87 formed the fractured roof and opening to a cave. The cave had a height of ca. 1.00-1.50 m., and an irregular size of ca. 2.00-3.00 m. Beneath the Stratum 12 mixed layer inside the cave were three Late Hellenistic Stratum 15 "cisterns" (B.3:47, 59, 64). The three "cisterns" were cut into the bedrock floor of the B.3 cave, and on that floor there was a single soil layer (B.3:71) associated with them.

"Cistern" B.3:47 was cone-shaped, with a ca. .40 m. diameter circular opening, a ca. 1.60 m. diameter circular floor, and a ca. 1.75 m. height. Toolmarks were clearly visible on the walls of the "cistern," and the southern wall attested blocking stones (B.3:69) which filled a space where the "cistern" had broken through bedrock Blocks B.3:84, 85 into the Iron I layers of Stratum 19. The opening to the "cistern" was covered with a capstone, and the "cistern" contained only several soil layers (B.3:50, 51, 52) on its bottom.

"Cistern" B.3:59, northeast of "Cistern" B.3:47, was also cone-shaped, but it was cut off-center towards the east. It had a ca. .65 m. diameter circular opening, a ca. 1.65 m. diameter irregular floor, and a ca. 2.10 m. height. The "cistern" walls again attested clear toolmarks, and the western bedrock wall attested

¹⁹ *Tabun* B.2:54 and soil Layer B.2:63, tentatively assigned to Stratum 13 in 1971, could also probably be associated with the B.2:77 plaster layer.

stones (B.3:65) which blocked a space where "Cistern" B.3:59 and "Cistern" B.3:64 intersected. The opening to "Cistern" B.3:59 was not covered with a capstone, and the "cistern" was filled to the top with a number of superimposed soil layers (B.3:58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66). The lowest layer (B.3:66) consisted of a thin gray straw-like deposit above the bedrock floor of the "cistern."

"Cistern" B.3:64, northwest of "Cistern" B.3:59, was cone-shaped, with a ca. .40 m. diameter circular opening, a ca. 2.00 m. diameter circular floor, and a ca. 2.00 m. height. Toolmarks were clearly visible, and the "cistern" intersected "Cistern" B.3:59 on the east. The opening to the "cistern" was blocked with a capstone (B.3:70), and the "cistern" contained only two thin soil layers (B.3:67, 68) on the bottom. Layer B.3:68 was similar to Layer B.3:66 in "Cistern" B.3:59.

Stratum 16 was attested in B.1, B.2, and northwestern B.4, and possibly also in northwestern B.3. It lay beneath and was disturbed by Early Roman Stratum 12 in B.1 and B.2, and it was cut into by Early Roman Stratum 13 in southern B.2 and B.4. It was also cut into and sealed over by Late Hellenistic Stratum 14 in eastern B.2, and possibly also in northwestern B.3

The Stratum comprised sloping soil and rock tumble layers, which were ca. 7.00 m. deep in B.1, and ca. 2.00-3.00 m. deep (partially excavated) in B.2. In B.4, the layers were only touched beneath Early Roman Stratum 13, while in B.3 the stratum included only several possible soil Loci above Bedrock B.3:38.

The uppermost rock tumble and soil layers of Stratum 16, sloping down westward, were attested in B.2 (B.2:72, 73, 74, 79, 80, 81, 83),²⁰ and possibly also in northwestern B.3 (B.3:54, 53). In northern B.2, the B.2:83 rock tumble layer sealed over and against Wall B.2:84 of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18, and this layer possibly continued into B.3 as Loci B.3:54, 53.

Beneath the uppermost rock tumble and soil layers of Stratum

²⁰ A single A.D. 2nd-4th century coin (Object 1538) came from early morning cleanup of Locus B.2:80. It should be considered intrusive.

16 was a deep (ca. 1.00-2.00 m.) soil layer, which contained numerous thin layers of soil and black ash (B.1:127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138=122, 139=123, 140=124, 141=125;²¹ B.2:92, 94, 100, 107, 108, 111; B.4:150, 173). The Stratum 16 layer sloped down sharply westward, and it sealed against Wall B.2:84, bedrock vertical Face B.2:114b, and bedrock vertical Face B.4:191 (the eastern wall of the Iron II/Persian Stratum 18 "reservoir").

The thick Stratum 16 soil layer tapered out in the western portion of B.1 between rock Tumble B.1:94 and rock Tumble B.1:118=126=142. Rock Tumble B.1:118=126=142 was ca. 1.00-2.00 m. deep and contained large (ca. .25-.75 m.) squared and unsquared stones which had numerous air pockets between them. Despite its depth, the tumble contained relatively little pottery (ca. 120 registered sherds). The Stratum 16 tumble rested on top of the Iron II/Persian clay Layer B.1:119=143 of Stratum 17, which covered over the Iron II/Persian "cement" Layer B.1:121=144 of Stratum 18 (the floor of the "reservoir").

1973 Description (Bones): The Late Hellenistic Loci of Strata 14 and 15 produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	36	Domestic Chicken	2	Snail	1
Large Mammal	2	Wild Bird	6		

The bones from Stratum 16 have been included with the Iron II/Persian bone evidence (cf. below).



Fig. 5A. Hellenistic sherd from rock Tumble B.1:142. Scale 1:2. Color: 7.5R 6/8 (light red).

1973 Description (Artifacts): The latest pottery from the Loci of Strata 14 and 15 was Late Hellenistic. The Stratum 16 layers produced essentially pure Iron II/Persian pottery, but a single clear Hellenistic sherd (Figure 5A)

²¹ These Loci also equal Loci excavated in other parts of B.1 in 1968 and 1971 (cf. Fig. 5). Locus B.1:120 was balk trim.

came from the Stratum 16 rock Tumble B.1:142.²² No relevant coins or stamped jar handles were attested in 1973, but the following registered artifacts came from the Loci of Strata 14 and 15 in 1973:

B.2:75	1679	Glass Bead	B.3:62	1399	Bone Spatula
B.2:82	1455	Slingstone	B.3:62	1400	Ornamental Bone
B.3:58	1358	Stone Bowl	B.3:62	1406	Door Socket
B.3:58	1359	Iron Strip	B.3:62	1418	Bone Spatula
B.3:58	1364	Small Bronze Hook	B.3:62	1427	Granite Macehead
B.3:61	1382	Iron Nail	B.3:67	1444	Cosmetic Palette
B.3:61	1474	Lamp	B.3:70	1487	Slingstone
B.3:61	1475	Ceramic Plate			

The artifacts from Stratum 16 have been included with the Iron II/Persian artifacts (cf. below).

1973 Interpretation: The Stratum 14 B.1:17=B.2:62 wall could still probably be interpreted as a defensive structure at the base of the acropolis. On the north side of the wall, the B.2:77 plaster layer was associated with Wall B.2:112 of Iron I Stratum 19; that layer would probably reflect reuse of Wall B.2:112 and primary use of Wall B.1:17=B.2:62. On the south side of Wall B.1:17=B.2:62, either there would have been no occupational use of the wall, or the remains there (including remains in Caves B.4:74 and B.4:171?) would have been removed by Early Roman Stratum 13.

The Stratum 15 B.3:47, 59, 64 "cisterns" in the B.3 cave probably would have been contemporary with Stratum 14 B.1:17=B.2:62 wall, although there was no direct stratigraphic connection excavated between them. "Cistern" B.3:64 would have predated slightly "Cistern" B.3:59, since "Cistern" B.3:59 was cut into it and was then dug off-center to the east. Since the walls of the "cisterns" were unplastered, and since toolmarks, bedrock cracks, and blocking stones were also found, the "cisterns" could not have held water, and they would probably have been used to store dry materials (straw? cf. Loci B.3:66, 68) instead.

The Stratum 16 soil and rock tumble layers could now, on the basis of the Hellenistic sherd which came from rock Tumble B.1:142, be interpreted as a massive fill which was dumped into

²² The sherd could not have been intrusive, since it was observed in the field by the Square Supervisors, James Battenfield and Adib Abu-Schmais.

Area B early in the Hellenistic period (prior to Stratum 14). Since only tattered Iron II/Persian remains were recovered above bedrock on the top of the acropolis, it would seem likely that the Hellenistic occupants cleared off the acropolis and dumped the Iron II/Persian remains into (and, in northern B.2, over) the decaying Iron II/Persian "reservoir" of Strata 17 and 18. Most of the Stratum 16 bones and artifacts would thus probably be Iron II/Persian rather than Hellenistic in date, and thus they have been included below with the Iron II/Persian evidence.

Iron II/Persian Strata 17, 18 (ca. 700-500 B.C.)

1968, 1971: The Stratum 16 soil and rock tumble layers were assigned to the Iron II/Persian period in 1968 and 1971, but they now would seem to have been produced in the Hellenistic period (cf. above). No remains earlier than the Stratum 16 layers were exposed through excavation in 1968 or 1971.

1973 *Description (Stratification)*: Beneath the Stratum 16 layers in B.1 was the moist clay layer of Stratum 17, which rested on the thick horizontal "cement" layer of Stratum 18. In eastern B.2 and B.4, the Stratum 16 layers were retained by the Stratum 18 wall and vertical bedrock faces.

In B.1, beneath the B.1:118=126=142 rock tumble of Stratum 16 was the moist gray clay Layer B.1:119=143 of Stratum 17. The clay layer was ca. .30-.40 m. deep and it contained large quantities of pottery (ca. 1000 registered sherds) and other artifacts (cf. below) in addition to small and medium sized rocks.

The clay layer of Stratum 17 rested on top of the horizontal "cement" Layer B.1:121=144 of Stratum 18,²³ which was exposed in a ca. 2.00 x 6.00 m. sector of B.1. The top surface of Layer B.1:121=144 showed forty-two ca. .05-.10 m. diameter cupmarks, eight to the west (B.1:128), and thirty-four to the east (B.1:144a). Two probes (1.00 x 1.00 m., and .50 x .50 m.) into the B.1:121=144 "cement" layer revealed three superimposed gray and yellow "cement" layers (B.1:145=149, 146=150, 147=151),

²³ The material in Layer B.1:121 = 144 was much harder and smoother than plaster, and it has thus been termed "cement."

each ca. .08-.10 m. deep, which lay above horizontal bedrock Surface B.1:148=152 (cf. Plate IV:B).

In B.2, beneath the eastern end of Wall B.2:62 and plaster Layer B.2:77 of Late Hellenistic Stratum 14, and beneath and sealed against on the west by the rock tumble and soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16, was the Stratum 18 north-south Wall B.2:84 and vertical bedrock Face B.2:114b. On the east, Wall B.2:84 was built against Wall B.2:112 of Stratum 19, and against vertical bedrock Face B.2:116. The wall was constructed of ca. .80 x .22 x .35 m. finely squared stones, and it was laid in an alternating double-header, single-stretcher coursing. During this season, eight surviving courses of the wall were exposed, but in the lower courses some of the stones (B.2:115) were missing. The wall line was exposed for ca. 6.00 m., and at the north balk it seemed to be curving slightly westward. To the south, the wall line continued as vertical bedrock Face B.2:114b, and patches of facing plaster (B.2:113) were found on the west face of both Wall B.2:84 and Bedrock B.2:114b (cf. Plate IV:A).

Bedrock Face B.2:114b and Plaster B.2:113 of Stratum 18 continued into northern B.4 as vertical bedrock Face B.4:191 and Plaster B.4:190, beneath Early Roman Stratum 13, and was sealed against on the west by Hellenistic Stratum 16. Between Bedrock B.4:191 and Bedrock B.4:195 there was a break in the bedrock, which was later filled by Early Roman walls of Stratum 13. Bedrock Surface B.4:195, beneath Early Roman Stratum 12, was tilted down eastward (cf. above, Stratum 13), but it still had plaster preserved on its western, formerly vertical face. On its eastward-tilted surface were found three cut channels (B.4:168), each ca. .12 m. wide, which converged to form a single channel on the west. The southernmost channel ran in the direction of bedrock Surface B.4:193, and that block also preserved the remains of a cut channel. Bedrock Face B.4:195 was tilted slightly out of line from vertical bedrock Face B.4:192, but fractured Plaster B.4:161 still joined them. Bedrock Face B.4:192

continued into the southwest corner of B.4, where it cornered to run west (cf. Plate V:A).

1973 Description (Soil Samples): A soil sample was taken from the moist gray material in the B.1:119 clay layer of Stratum 17.

1973 Description (Bones): The Iron II/Persian clay Layer B.1:119 = 143 of Stratum 17 produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	215	Camel	1	Large Mammal	5
Cattle	31	Gazelle	2	Snail	1
Donkey	2				

In addition, the following bones came from the rock tumble and soil layers of Stratum 16 (cf. above, Hellenistic):

Sheep/Goat	1242	Prob. Pig	5	Domestic Chicken	8
Cattle	63	Dog	1	Wild Bird	6
Poss. Donkey	3	Cat	8	U.D. Bird	2
Gazelle	6	Rodent	2	Snail	3
Large Mammal	3	Turtle	1		

1973 Description (Artifacts): The dominant (ca. 1000 registered sherds) and latest pottery from the B.1:119 = 143 clay layer of Stratum 17 was Iron II/Persian. The B.1:121 = 144 "cement" layer of Stratum 18, including Layers B.1:145 = 149, 146 = 150, 147 = 151, produced only seven small body sherds, which seemed to be Iron II/Persian or Iron Age. The uppermost course of Stratum 18 Wall B.2:84 produced only Iron II/Persian body sherds. An eleven-line ostrakon (Object 1657), dated by Cross to ca. 600 B.C.,²⁴ came from the B.1:143 clay layer of Stratum 17. In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the Stratum 17 B.1:119 = 143 clay layer:

B.1:119	1329	Iron Blade Point	B.1:143	1561	Poss. Ostrakon
B.1:119	1392	Lamp	B.1:143	1576	Horse Head Figurine
B.1:143	1547	Iron Arrowhead	B.1:143	1631	Animal Figurine

The following registered artifacts came from the rock tumble and soil layers of Stratum 16 (cf. above, Hellenistic).

B.2:72	1313	Bowl Base	B.2:74	1324	Copper Bar
B.2:72	1317	Grinding Stone	B.2:81	1396	Stone Weight
B.2:72	1318	Slingstone	B.2:83	1401	Stone Loomweight
B.2:72	1343	Bronze Fibula	B.2:83	1404	Slingstone
B.2:72	1658	Ostrakon ²⁵	B.2:83	1431	Slingstone
B.2:72	1659	Ostrakon ²⁶	B.2:94	1625	Scarab
B.2:73	1319	Grinding Stone	B.2:94	1656	Ostrakon ²⁷
B.2:73	1320	Slingstone	B.4:150	1461	Faience Bead

²⁴ Cf. F. M. Cross, "Ammonite Ostraca from Heshbon: Heshbon Ostraca IV-VIII," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 17.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 19, 20.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 18, 19; dated ca. seventh century B.C.

1973 Interpretation: The B.1:119=143 clay layer of Stratum 17, having yielded many artifacts, could probably be interpreted as a use deposit at the bottom of the Stratum 18 "reservoir" (cf. below). In the Hellenistic period the Stratum 16 soil and rock tumble layers would have been dumped into the "reservoir" on top of the Stratum 17 clay layer.

The B.1:121=144 "cement" layer and the B.2:84 plastered wall and B.2-B.4 bedrock faces could probably be interpreted as parts of a large Stratum 18 water reservoir.

The B.1:121=144 "cement" layer was so thick (ca. .26 m.) that it must have been part of a major installation, and it must have been intended to hold water. Containing Layers B.1:145=149, 146=150, 147=151, it could have been surfaced three separate times, or it could have been surfaced once with three distinct layers of "cement." Since the layer was horizontal, and since in B.1 it lay ca. 6.50-7.00 m. below the level of the uppermost portion of Wall B.2:84 and the B.2-B.4 bedrock faces, it could be interpreted as the floor of the (ca. 7.00 m. deep) Stratum 18 "reservoir."

Before they would have been cracked by the Stratum 13 earthquake, Wall B.2:84 and vertical bedrock Faces B.2:114b, B.4:191, B.4:195, and B.4:192 would probably have formed the ca. 16 m. long, plastered eastern boundary of the Stratum 18 "reservoir." Before bedrock Block B.4:195 was tilted eastward by the earthquake, Channels B.4:168 would probably have conducted water westward into the "reservoir." Since both Wall B.2:84 and bedrock Block B.4:192 seemed to show possible corner lines to the west, and since the western wall of the "reservoir" was not attested in B.1 (ca. 13 m. from Wall B.2:84), it could be suggested that the "reservoir" was approximately square (16 x 16 m.). Agreeing with this suggestion would be the fact that the Stratum 16 Hellenistic soil and rock tumble layers sloped down westward in B.2, and down eastward in B.1, apparently from the east and west sides of the "reservoir."

The pottery from the B.1:119=143 clay layer of Stratum 17 would suggest that the "reservoir" was used during the Iron II/Persian (ca. 700-500 B.C.) period. However, the Stratum 18 "reservoir" could have been constructed earlier in the Iron Age, since the pottery from "cement" Layer B.1:121 = 144 and from Wall B.2:84 consisted mostly of Iron Age body sherds. The header-stretcher construction of Wall B.2:84 could be compared with the similar, but finer, 9th-8th century B.C. header-stretcher construction of walls at Samaria.²⁸ It has been suggested by some that the Stratum 18 "reservoir" could have been one of the pools of Heshbon which was referred to in Canticles 7:5 (traditionally attributed to Solomon).

Iron I Stratum 19 (ca. 1200-1100 B.C.)

1968, 1971: No Iron I remains were attested in Area B in 1968 or 1971.

1973 Description (Stratification): In 1973, Iron I remains of Stratum 19 were attested in southern B.3 and possibly in south-eastern B.2.

In southern B.3, beneath the Early Roman mixed layer of Stratum 12, Iron I remains were attested in a ca. 1.50-2.00 m. wide space between vertical bedrock Face B.3:84, 85 on the north, and vertical bedrock Face B.3:86 on the south. The remains consisted of several superimposed soil layers (B.3:74, 75, 76, 77, 81, 82) which sealed against a possible wall in the west balk (B.3:80), as well as a possible wall in the east balk (B.3:78). Both the layers and the walls sealed against vertical bedrock Face B.3:84, 85 on the north, and against vertical bedrock Face B.3:86 on the south. Wall B.3:80 was constructed of large (ca. .25-.75 m.) stones, while Wall B.3:78 was constructed of small (ca. .10-.20 m.) rocks. The walls and the layers were exposed to a depth of ca. 2.50 m., above unexcavated rock Tumble B.3:83. The Late Hellenistic B.3:47 "cistern" of Stratum 15 broke through Bedrock

²⁸ Cf. J. W. Crowfoot, K. M. Kenyon, E. L. Sukenik, *Samaria-Sebaste I* (London, 1942), pp. 3-8ff., 94ff.; Pls. XII/2, XIII/1, 2, XX/2, XXX/1.

B.3:84, 85 on the south "cistern" perimeter, and it cut into the Iron I remains beneath rock Tumble B.3:83.

In southeastern B.2, beneath the Early Roman mixed layer of Stratum 12, Wall B.2:112 filled the ca. 2.50 m. wide space between vertical bedrock Face B.2:116 on the north, and vertical bedrock Face B.2:114a on the south. The wall's west face was sealed against by the Late Hellenistic B.2:77 plaster layer of Stratum 14, and beneath that layer it was built against by the Iron II/Persian B.2:84 wall of Stratum 18. Wall B.2:112 was constructed of large (ca. .60-.75 m.) stones, and while two courses of its surviving west face were exposed through excavation, the wall itself was not dismantled. Since bedrock Block B.2:116 would probably equal bedrock Block B.3:84, 85, and since bedrock Block B.2:114a would probably equal bedrock Block B.3:86, the construction of Wall B.2:112 could probably be dated, with possible Wall B.3:80, to the Iron I period.

1973 Description (Bones): The Iron I Stratum 19 Loci in B.3 produced the following bones in 1973:

Sheep/Goat	51	Donkey	2	Pig	2
Cattle	3	Large Mammal	9	Domestic Chicken	2
Horse	5				

1973 Description (Artifacts): The pottery from the above Stratum 19 Loci in B.3 was Iron I, with nothing earlier. The Iron I Loci of Stratum 19 produced no registered artifacts.

1973 Interpretation: The Iron I remains of Stratum 19, partially excavated in Area B, were too meager to interpret extensively. The ca. 1.50-2.50 m. wide space between Bedrock B.2:116 = B.3:84, 85 and Bedrock B.2:114a = B.3:86 could have been a natural bedrock cleft, or it could have been a bedrock channel or pit, intentionally cut in the Iron I period. Wall B.2:112 = B.3:80 could possibly be interpreted as a fortification wall, with the B.3 soil layers as fill behind it, but unless the wall was part of a tower, its north-south orientation would argue against that interpretation.

However, the new evidence for an Iron I occupation in Area

B would agree with the new evidence from Area C, where Iron I layers were also found above bedrock in 1973. The Iron I remains on the top of the acropolis, if any (Areas A, D), could have been scraped off during the Iron II/Persian period, since otherwise more Iron I pottery would normally have been found in the Stratum 16 soil and rock tumble layers.

The Iron I evidence from Areas B and C would seem to reflect a small village occupation at the site, not a large city. This evidence could perhaps be associated with an Israelite settlement,²⁹ but at the present time it could also be associated with a pre-Israelite³⁰ or with an early Ammonite settlement.³¹ In this context the pig bones from the Iron I Loci of Stratum 19 in Area B should be noted.

²⁹ For the Israelite settlement of Heshbon, cf. Numbers 32:3, 37; Joshua 13:15-17. To associate the Iron I evidence from *Heshbān* with an Israelite settlement would be to agree with the reconstruction of Albright (cf. *Tell Beit Mirsim*, 1: 53-61), which has been followed by many (cf. G. E. Wright, "The Archaeology of Palestine," *BANE*, pp. 115-116). However, that reconstruction would not explain the absence at *Heshbān* of Late Bronze evidence, if the Numbers 21:21-31 account of the conquest of Heshbon is taken seriously.

³⁰ For such a treatment of similar Iron I evidence, cf. J. A. Callaway, "New Evidence on the Conquest of 'Ai,'" *JBL* 87 (1968): 312-320. This treatment attempts to distinguish between a pre-Israelite Iron I pottery and an Israelite Iron I pottery, but the typological distinctions which are made are not yet convincing. Thus far, there would seem to be only one stratigraphic and typological phase of Iron I at *Heshbān*, which could perhaps be interpreted as pre-Israelite. However, such an interpretation would push the date of the conquest down into the 12th century B.C., and it would not satisfy the need from literary evidence for a post-conquest Israelite settlement at the site.

³¹ Similar Iron I pottery has come from several recently excavated sites near Amman. Cf. M. Ibrahim, "Archaeological Excavations at Sahab, 1972," *ADAJ* 17 (1972): 30-31; H. Thompson, "The 1972 Excavation of Khirbet al-Hajjar," *ADAJ* 17 (1972): 59-62. It has also been found in quantity on the surface of Tell Safut, northwest of Amman. For the early history of the Ammonites, cf. Judges 11:4-33, I Samuel 11:1-11. Cf. also G. M. Landes, "The Material Civilization of the Ammonites," *The Biblical Archaeologist Reader*, 2, pp. 70-72; J. Bright, *A History of Israel*, pp. 110, 159, 167.