

## AREA B AND SQUARE D.4

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In 1974, work in Area B was carried out in Squares B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, and D.4, Squares which had been opened during earlier seasons,<sup>1</sup> as well as in Square B.7, a large new Square which was laid out to the north of B.2 and B.3.<sup>2</sup> Squares B.5 and B.6, small probes which had been opened in 1973, were not continued in 1974. Squares B.2, B.4, B.7 and D.4 were worked simultaneously throughout the 1974 season, while Squares B.1 and B.3 were each worked for only one to two weeks. In Square B.1, the work consisted only of balk trimming in the 3.75 m. north extension of the Square, to uncover new architecture which the winter rains had partially exposed in the east and the west balks. Since the rains had also exposed an articulated human skeleton in the north balk of Square D.4, part of that balk was also taken down stratigraphically. Otherwise, the other Area B balks were not removed during the 1974 season. The Area B dump continued to be located to the southeast of Square D.4.

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

*Description (Stratification):*<sup>3</sup> Additional remains of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Strata 2-3 were attested in Area B (B.7, D.4) in 1974.

<sup>1</sup> For the results of the 1968, 1971, and 1973 seasons, 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; J. A. Sauer, "Heshbon 1971: Area B," *AUSS* 11 (1973): 35-71; J. A. Sauer, "Heshbon 1973: Area B and Square D.4," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 135-169. The present report assumes complete familiarity with the above reports, especially with the descriptions and interpretations of "Heshbon 1971: Area B" and "Heshbon 1973: Area B and Square D.4."

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Fig. 1. The irregular shape of Square B.7 (8.00 x 6.00 x 8.21 x 7.78 m.), like the irregular shapes of Squares B.3 and D.4, was caused by the need to align the balks of the Square with the main north-south axis of Area D.

<sup>3</sup> Pre-excavation cleanup in Area B consisted of Loci B.2:117, 123, B.3:88,

Square B.7 was located on a fairly level shelf at the base of the acropolis, but the Stratum 2 ground surface soil (B.7:1, 2, 3) in the Square still sloped down gradually towards the south and the west. The layer of soft black soil (ca. 0.30 m. thick) had a number of large (ca. 0.50 m.) boulders resting in it, and it sealed against Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Wall B.7:6 in the southern portion of the Square.

Wall B.7:6 ran east-west through the southern portion of B.7, where it was the continuation of Wall D.4:6, which appeared in the north balk of D.4 in 1973. The wall was visible in the unexcavated ground surface soil, running ca. 4.00 m. to the west of B.7, and it joined another wall there which ran north-south up the slope of the acropolis. Wall B.7:6 was constructed of large (ca. 0.50 m.) boulders, and while it was two rows wide (ca. 1.15 m.),<sup>4</sup> it had a preserved height of only one course. There were no use surfaces preserved against the wall, but its shallow foundation trench (B.7:7, 9) cut down into the B.7:5 plaster layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 5.

In northern B.7, two large, intersecting Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pits (B.7:4, 10),<sup>5</sup> beneath the Stratum 2 ground surface soil, cut down deeply into Early Byzantine Strata 5 and 6.

Pit B.7:4, equaling Pit D.2:16=D.3:9 of 1968, was located in the northeast portion of the Square. It ran ca. 4.00 m. along the

B.4:199, 200, 201, 206, and D.4:39, 52, 54, 55. These loci produced the following bones:

Sheep/Goat	56	Large Mammal	2	Chicken	1
Cattle	3	Dog	1	U.D.	5
Camel	1				

The cleanup loci also produced one registered artifact, a stone loomweight from Locus B.2:123 (Object 1932).

<sup>4</sup> Locus B.7:8 was the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk soil between the two courses of Wall B.7:6.

<sup>5</sup> Although it would not be impossible for Pit B.7:4 and Pit B.7:10 to have been one large interconnected pit or robber trench, there was a difference between them in shape and in soil, and possibly also in artifacts, which would argue for keeping them separate (as excavated).

north balk, and it extended irregularly ca. 0.50–2.00 m. south into the Square. The pit was ca. 1.50 m. deep, and it contained gray-brown soil and small rocks. Undercutting sharply to the south,<sup>6</sup> the B.7:4 pit cut through the B.7:5, 14 layers of Early Byzantine Stratum 5, as well as the B.7:17 rock tumble layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 6. Beneath the B.7:4 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pit was the B.7:12 plaster layer (unexcavated), apparently of Early Byzantine Stratum 7.

Pit B.7:10 was located in the northwest portion of the Square, and it ran ca. 4.00 m. along the north balk, to intersect with Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Pit B.7:4. Somewhat circular in shape, Pit B.7:10 extended ca. 3.00–4.00 m. south into the Square, and it was ca. 1.25 m. deep (partially excavated). The pit contained loose brown soil, and, like Pit B.7:4, it cut through the B.7:5, 14 layers of Early Byzantine Stratum 5, and the B.7:17 rock tumble layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 6.

In the north balk of D.4, the D.4:1 Stratum 2 ground surface soil and the D.4:6 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk wall covered over the D.4:7, 8 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pit (equaling Pit D.3:14 of 1968), which contained an articulated human skeleton. The adult skeleton, positioned east-west with its head to the west, was laid out on its back, with its head facing south and its hands resting folded across the hips. The pit, partially excavated in D.4 in 1973,<sup>7</sup> cut through Pit D.4:9, 11 of Early Byzantine Stratum 4, plaster Layer D.4:3 of Early Byzantine Stratum 5, rock tumble Layer D.4:4 of Early Byzantine Stratum 6, and the plaster and soil layers of Early Byzantine Stratum 7.

In the southeast portion of D.4, the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure, with its D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches, cut down into the Early Byzantine-Early Roman remains of Strata

<sup>6</sup> Locus B.7:11 was a vertical trimming of the undercut south edge of Pit B.7:4, to prevent the collapse of the overhanging B.7:5, 14 and B.7:17 layers of Early Byzantine Strata 5 and 6.

<sup>7</sup> In 1973, Pit D.4:7, 8 was assigned to the 'Abbāsid period (ca. A.D. 750–878), but in 1974, several Ayyūbid/Mamlūk sherds came from the pit.

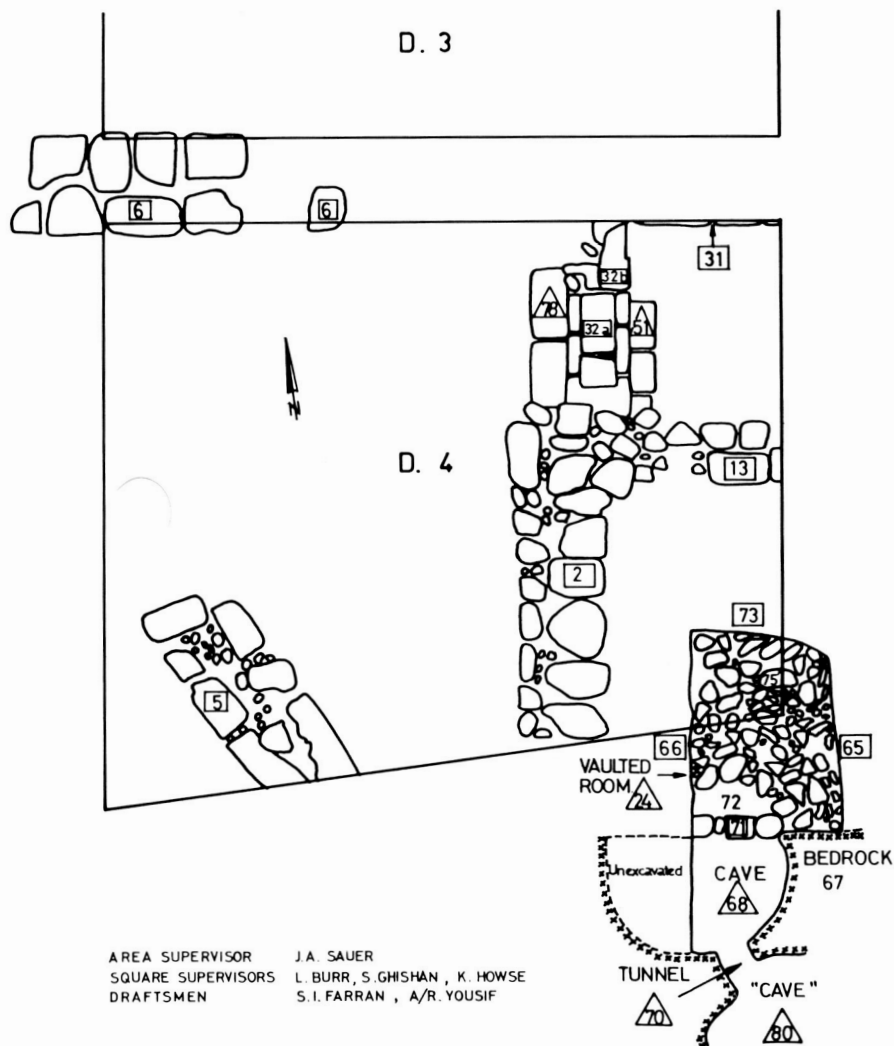


Fig. 4. Composite plan of Square D.4.

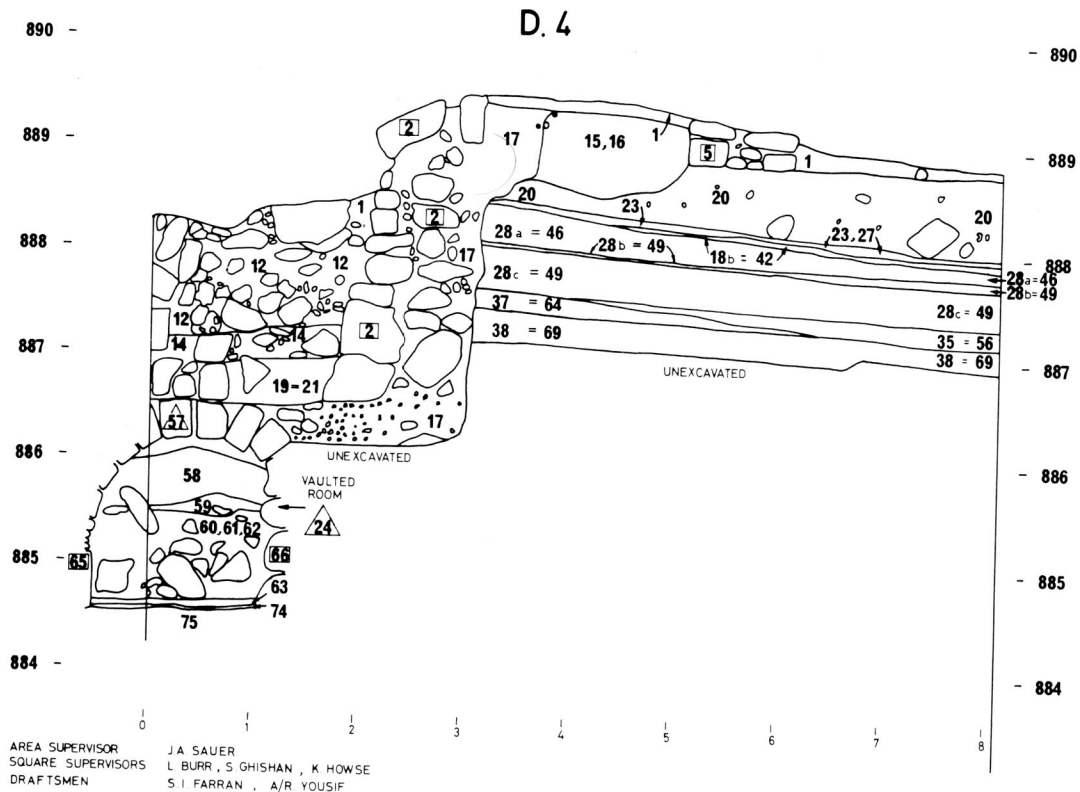


Fig. 5. Section of south balk of Square D.4.

887 -

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886 -

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885 -

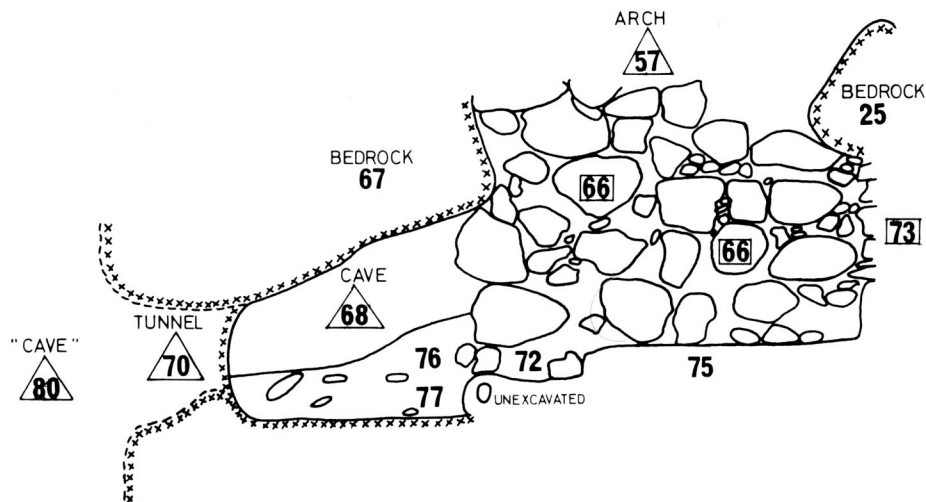
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Fig. 6. North-south section through vaulted Room D.4:24 (Arch D.4:57 and Wall D.4:66), Cave D.4:68, Tunnel D.4:70, and "Cave" D.4:80.

6-12.<sup>8</sup> Partially excavated in 1973, the interior of the structure had a cracked bedrock floor (D.4:25, 26), with a small vaulted room (D.4:24) built against it (and at the same level) to the south.

The D.4:24 vaulted room was constructed in the ca. 2.10 m. north-south space between two bedrock blocks, Bedrock D.4:25 to the north, and Bedrock D.4:67 to the south (outside the Square). Two north-south walls (D.4:65, 66), constructed of medium-sized (ca. 0.25-0.40 m.) unworked stones, formed the east (D.4:65) and the west (D.4:66) sides of the ca. 1.60 m. wide room. The north side was formed by the edge of Bedrock D.4:25, supported underneath by another wall constructed of unworked stones (east-west Wall D.4:73). The south side was formed by the edge of Bedrock D.4:67, which had an opening, partially blocked by another low wall (Wall D.4:71), into Cave D.4:68.

The D.4:57 arched roof of the vaulted room, constructed of ca. 0.25-0.40 m. squared stones, curved from east to west on top of Walls D.4:65 and D.4:66, to reach a combined height of ca. 1.50 m. On the north and south, the arch was built against Bedrock D.4:25 and Bedrock D.4:67. Two small openings in the arch, where several squared stones were missing, provided access to the vaulted room from above.

The D.4:24 vaulted room was almost completely filled with superimposed layers of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk soil (D.4:58), soil mixed with white organic material (D.4:59), and rock tumble (D.4:60, 61, 62), which rested on the fairly even, ca. .10 m. thick, compacted D.4:63 soil layer of Iron I Stratum 19. To the south, the low Wall D.4:71, which partially blocked the opening to Cave D.4:68, retained the D.4:61, 62 rock tumble layers, but its shallow D.4:72 foundation trench cut down into the D.4:63 layer of Iron I Stratum 19.

<sup>8</sup> Locus D.4:40 was a vertical trimming of the west edge of the D.4:17 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk foundation trench. In addition to bone evidence (Sheep/Goat 14; Cattle 3; U.D. 1), the locus produced two registered artifacts, a ring stone (Object 2007) and a mortar fragment (Object 1707).

Cave D.4:68 lay beneath Bedrock D.4:67, and its opening was partially blocked by Wall D.4:71. It was a semi-circular cave, ca. 1.50 wide north-south, ca. 2.50 m. wide east-west at its opening (extending west of Wall D.4:66, unexcavated), and ca. 0.75-1.25 m. high. The shallow cave was only partially filled with two Ayyūbid/Mamlūk layers of soil and small rocks (D.4:76, 77), which sloped down to the south from Wall D.4:71.

Leading off to the southeast from the back of Cave D.4:68 was a small (ca. 0.50 m. wide, ca. 0.70 m. long) rock-cut tunnel (D.4:70), which was blocked by a single large stone. The D.4:70 tunnel led to another opening in bedrock, which appeared to be another, larger cave to the south (D.4:80). A 1.00 m. probe inside "Cave" D.4:80 revealed collapsed bedrock blocks, air pockets, and soft brown Ayyūbid/Mamlūk soil (D.4:79).

*Description (Bones):* The Ayyūbid/Mamlūk loci produced the following bones in 1974:

Sheep/Goat	334	Gazelle	1	Small Mammal	1
Cattle	28	Large Mammal	36	Rodent	5
Horse	2	Pig	5	Chicken	22
Donkey	1	Dog	16	Human	7
Camel	4	Cat	1	U.D.	51

*Description (Samples):*<sup>9</sup> The analysis of samples taken from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk loci produced the following results:

B.7:4 2 Common Wheat, 1 Lentil

B.7:8 2 Barley

B.7:10 Modern Cache of Wild Grass (Hordeum)

*Description (Artifacts):* The latest pottery from the above loci was Ayyūbid/Mamlūk. A single Mamlūk coin of An-Nāṣir Muḥammad (A.D. 1293-94, 1299-1309, 1310-41) came from Pit B.7:10 (Object 1741), and an Umayyad (A.D. 661-750) coin came from Locus D.4:62 in the D.4:24 vaulted room (Object 2057). In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci:<sup>10</sup>

B.7:3	1759	Bronze Ring	D.4:59	1920	Bottle
B.7:4	1795	Shell	D.4:60	2084	Jar Lid
B.7:10	1745	Iron Nail	D.4:61	1925	Plough Point
B.7:10	1746	Iron Nail	D.4:61	1977	Metal Ring
B.7:10	1830	Iron Nail	D.4:62	2091	Spindle Whorl
B.7:10	1856	Iron Nail	D.4:62	2096	Iron Nail

<sup>9</sup> The samples included in this report were analyzed by Robert B. Stewart. Other samples were taken from controlled Loci in 1974, but these samples have not yet been fully reported.

<sup>10</sup> Only registered artifacts have been included in this report. Other artifacts, especially of glass, stone, and metal, were found and were saved, but were not registered as "objects."



*Interpretation:* Although the new numismatic evidence from Area B was still meager, it would seem possible, tentatively at least,<sup>11</sup> to phase the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk remains of Area B into two phases of Stratum 2 (Mamlūk), and one phase of Stratum 3 (Ayyūbid).

The large boulders resting in the ground surface soil of Stratum 2 could probably be interpreted as the earthquake-caused tumble from the collapse of Wall B.7:6=D.4:6 and other contemporary walls to the north, especially Wall D.1:4a in Area D. These walls, as well as Wall B.6:11 (and Wall D.4:5?), would seem to have been boundary walls, constructed for agricultural or pastoral purposes on the southern slopes of the acropolis. Since the boulders and the walls represented the latest Ayyūbid/Mamlūk occupational evidence in Area B (and Area D), they could probably be dated to the Late Mamlūk period of occupation at the site (ca. A.D. 1400-1456).

The D.4:2, 13 structure, including the D.4:24 vaulted room, the D.4:68 cave, the D.4:70 tunnel, and the D.4:80 "cave," could probably be dated, with the vaulted rooms of Area D (D.1:3, 5) and Area C ("North Building"), to the ca. A.D. 1260-1400 Early Mamlūk period (Stratum 2).<sup>12</sup> Iron I remains of Stratum 19 would have been reused when the D.4:24 vaulted room was constructed, and it cannot yet be determined when the D.4:68 cave, the D.4:70 tunnel, and the D.4:80 "cave" would originally have been cut into Bedrock D.4:67. The D.4:2, 13 structure, like the B.6:10 wall, could have been part of a domestic complex, and the D.4:24 vaulted room and its associated caves could have served as cellars. Some of the Area B Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pits could also be dated to the Early Mamlūk period

<sup>11</sup> It should be stressed that the phasing is tentative, and that it could be changed when additional numismatic evidence becomes available, or when the final ceramic analysis is completed.

<sup>12</sup> The A.D. 661-750 Umayyad coin from Locus D.4:62 inside the D.4:24 vaulted room must, on the basis of the clear Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ceramic evidence, be considered outside its original chronological context. The correlations referring to data in other Areas are based on field judgments about the architectural, ceramic, and numismatic evidence available at the conclusion of the excavation season.

(ca. A.D. 1260-1400), especially Pit B.7:10, which produced the A.D. 1293-1341 Mamlūk coin. Pit B.7:10 could either have cut through Pit B.7:4, or it could have robbed out additional Early Byzantine architecture to the west of Pit B.7:4.

Pit B.7:4 could probably be dated, with its D.2:16=D.3:9 extension across the balk into Area D, to the ca. A.D. 1200-1260 Ayyūbid period (Stratum 3). Since the very large pit cut off the plaster, soil, and rock tumble layers of Early Byzantine Strata 5-6, it could have been a robber trench which removed architectural remains (stairs?) from along the north side of those layers. Pit D.4:7, 8, which contained the articulated human skeleton, could probably be dated either to the Ayyūbid period (Stratum 3), or to the Early Mamlūk period (Stratum 2), and it could clearly be interpreted as a grave pit.

The five pig bones (from Loci B.7:3, D.4:7, and D.4:62) would contrast with the evidence from 1973, when no pig bones were attested from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk loci.

#### *'Abbāsīd (ca. A.D. 750-878)*

*Description:* No new 'Abbāsīd remains were attested in Area B in 1974. In 1973, Pit D.4:7, 8 produced mixed pottery, the latest being 'Abbāsīd, but in 1974 several Ayyūbid/Mamlūk sherds came from the pit.

*Interpretations:* Pit D.4:7, 8 should be dated to the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, rather than to the 'Abbāsīd period (cf. above).

#### *Early Byzantine Strata 4-9 (ca. A.D. 324-410ff.?)*

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Early Byzantine Strata 5-9 were attested in Area B (B.7, D.4) in 1974.

In B.7, beneath the B.7:3 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk ground surface soil, cut into by the B.7:7, 9 foundation trench of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Wall B.7:6, and cut through entirely along the north by the B.7:4 and B.7:10 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pits, was the B.7:5 plaster layer (ca. 0.50-0.80 m. thick) of Early Byzantine Stratum 5. Although the layer was composed of five (or seven?) distinct thin (ca. 0.10-0.15

m.) plaster layers (B.7:5 A-E), in some places it was eroded into a single decomposed layer (B.7:13). Within the Square, the B.7:5 plaster layer sloped down gradually to the west, but it was essentially horizontal from north to south. Beneath the plaster layer was the B.7:14 soil layer (ca. 0.10-0.35 m. thick) of Stratum 5,<sup>13</sup> which covered over the B.7:17 rock tumble layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 6.

The B.7:17 rock tumble layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 6, exposed but not excavated, lay beneath the B.7:14 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 5. The layer contained numerous medium and large sized (ca. 0.25-0.75 m.) rocks, and it was cut off along the north by the B.7:4 and B.7:10 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pits. The layer sloped down gradually to the west, and it may have rested on top of plaster Layer B.7:12.

Plaster Layer B.7:12, exposed but not excavated, lay beneath the B.7:4 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pit in the northeast corner of the Square, and it could possibly represent the plaster layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 7.

In D.4, the thin D.4:18B=42 plaster layer over the ca. 0.20-m.-thick D.4:28A=46 soil layer, both belonging to Early Byzantine Stratum 8, were cut through in the southeast portion of the Square by the D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure, but elsewhere in the Square these Stratum 8 layers sloped down gradually from the east balk to the west balk.

Beneath the D.4:28A=46 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 8 were the westward sloping D.4:28B=29=49 plaster layer and the D.4:28C=49, 30 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 9, which were also cut off in the southeast portion of the Square by the D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure. The D.4:28C=49, 30 soil layer of Stratum 9 covered over the D.4:34=53 Late Roman rock tumble from Wall D.4:32A, as well as part of the D.4:35=56 plaster layer of Late Roman Stratum 10, and in the northeast corner of the Square

<sup>13</sup> Loci B.7:15, 16 were cleanup loci beneath the B.7:5E plaster layer, and they probably equaled Locus B.7:14.



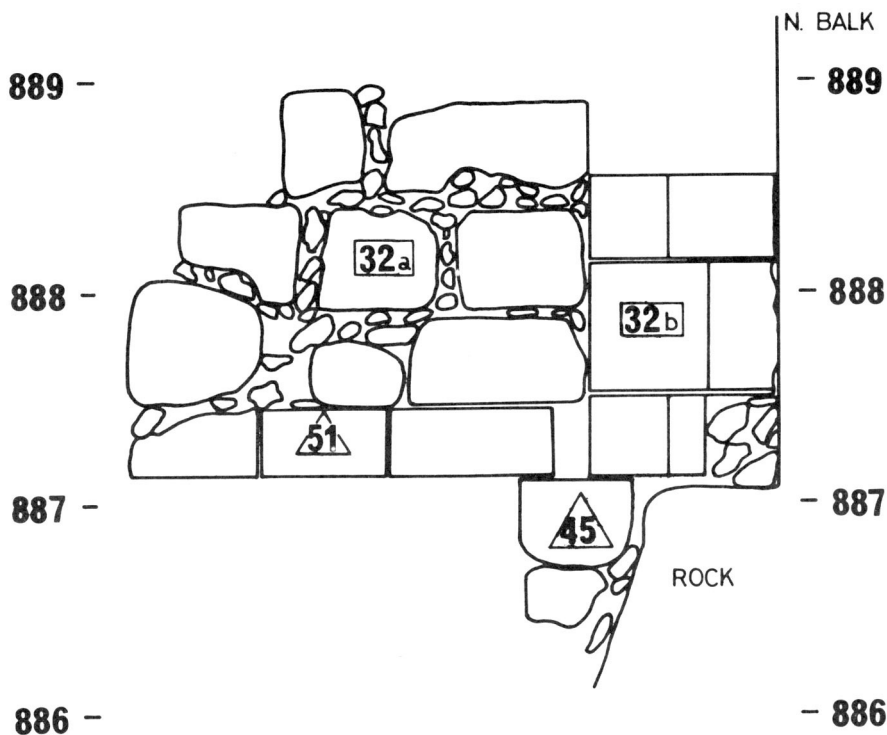
*Late Roman Strata 10-11 (ca. A.D. 135-324)*

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Late Roman Strata 10-11 were attested in Area B (B.1, D.4) in 1974.

Wall D.4:32A, constructed of medium sized (ca. 0.25-0.60 m.) roughly squared stones on top of Wall D.4:32B, ran ca. 2.50 m. north-south into the Square from the north, ca. 1.75-2.50 m. from the east balk. Four courses of the wall were preserved above Wall D.4:32B, and at the level of the second course, three rectangular stones were laid end-to-end along the west face of the wall to form a kind of bench (D.4:78). To the south, Wall D.4:32A and "Bench" D.4:78 were cut off by the D.4:10 foundation trench of the D.4:13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk wall, but the southernmost stones of Wall D.4:32A and "Bench" D.4:78 were left in position and were incorporated into Wall D.4:13.

In the western portion of D.4, the D.4:34=53 Late Roman rock tumble, beneath the D.4:28C=49 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 9, sloped down to the west and the south from above and against the west face of Wall D.4:32A and "Bench" D.4:78. The rock tumble consisted of medium and large sized (ca. 0.25-0.70 m.) squared and unsquared stones, and while it was ca. 1.00 m. thick next to Wall D.4:32A and "Bench" D.4:78, it tapered out completely ca. 1.00-2.00 m. from the west and the south balks of the Square. The rock tumble rested on the D.4:35=56 and D.4:37=64 layers of Late Roman Stratum 10, and it was cut through to the southeast by the D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure.

Beneath the D.4:34=53 Late Roman rock tumble, and also partially beneath the D.4:28C=49 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 9, were the D.4:35=56 and D.4:37=64 layers of Late Roman Stratum 10. Layer D.4:35=56 was a plaster layer, ca. 0.15 m. thick in the west balk, which tapered out gradually to the east, but which continued beneath the D.4:34=53 rock tumble as a compact brown soil layer (D.4:37=64), which sealed against the lower part of "Bench" D.4:78. To the southeast, the D.4:37=64 layer was cut through by the D.4:17, 10



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Fig. 7. East elevation of Wall D.4:32, showing Wall D.4:32a, Wall D.4:32b, Threshold D.4:45, and Threshold D.4:51.

foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure.

Beneath the D.4:35=56 and D.4:37=64 layers was the D.4:38=69 soil layer of Late Roman Stratum 10, which ran under "Bench" D.4:78 and sealed against the lower part of Wall D.4:32A. The D.4:38=69 soil layer covered over partially excavated bedrock blocks and a possible wall (Wall D.4:83) in the northwest corner of the Square, but beneath that Stratum 10 soil layer, the plaster layers of Late Roman Stratum 11 and Early Roman Stratum 12 were not attested in 1974.<sup>16</sup> In the southeast corner of the Square, the D.4:38=69 soil layer of Stratum 10 was cut through by the D.4:17, 10 foundation trenches of the D.4:2, 13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structure.

In the northeast corner of D.4, beneath the D.4:30 soil layer of Early Byzantine Stratum 9, were the thin D.4:30A-D Late Roman plaster and soil layers, which sealed against Wall D.4:32A on the west, and against Wall D.4:31 on the north. The D.4:30A-D plaster and soil layers, which were cut through to the south by the D.4:10 foundation trench of the D.4:13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk wall, covered over the D.4:33 Early Roman layer.

In the 3.75 m. north extension of B.1, the B.1:154 and B.1:153 "podiums" of Early Roman Stratum 12 (cf. below), cut through by the B.1:10 installation of Early Byzantine Stratum 4, were sealed over by the B.1:12 soil layer of Late Roman Stratum 10, and were sealed against by the B.1:13A thin plaster layers of Late Roman Stratum 11.

*Description (Bones):* The Late Roman loci produced the following bones in 1974:

Sheep/Goat	77	Large Mammal	4	Chicken	1
Cattle	12	Pig	3	Shell	1
Poss. Horse	1	Poss. Dog	1	U.D.	16
Poss. Donkey	1				

*Description (Artifacts):* The latest pottery from the above loci was Late Roman. A 3d century A.D. coin (Object 2104) came from Locus B.1:12 of Late Roman Stratum 10, in the 3.75 m. north extension of B.1. In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the Late Roman loci:

D.4:64 1978 Ring Fragment                      D.4:64 2087 Bronze Bead

<sup>16</sup> The plaster layers of Strata 11-12 were not attested in the D.4:40 vertical

*Interpretation:* Wall D.4:32A (including "Bench" D.4:78) could still be interpreted as the eastern boundary of the Stratum 10 roadway, which led to the Late Roman stairway in Area D. Wall D.4:32A continued north into D.3 as Wall D.3:16, where it formed the eastern boundary of the D.3:39 Late Roman stairway.<sup>17</sup> The D.4:35=56 plaster layer of Stratum 10 also continued north into D.3, probably as plaster Layer D.3:44, which ran up to the lowest step of the D.3:39 stairway.<sup>18</sup> And, above the D.4:35=56 plaster layer, the D.4:34=53 Late Roman rock tumble layer could probably still be interpreted as the earthquake-caused collapse of Wall D.4:32A onto the Stratum 10 roadway.

Since the plaster layers of Strata 11 and 12 were not attested in western D.4 or in southwestern D.3, it could be suggested that they ran up to a north-south wall located in western D.4 (Wall D.4:83?) and western D.3 (Wall D.3:47?), or in the balk between B.3 and D.4. There could thus have been a major change in the Area B roadway system between Late Roman Stratum 10 and Late Roman Stratum 11. The two "podiums" in B.1 (B.1:154, 153), which were associated with the plaster layers of Strata 11 and 12, would argue for interpreting the Strata 5, 7-12 roadway layers in the context of the new architectural evidence for a temple on the acropolis of the site (cf. above, *Early Byzantine*; below, *Early Roman*).

In the northeast corner of D.4, outside the area of the Stratum 10 roadway, the D.4:30A-D Late Roman plaster and soil layers could have belonged either to Stratum 10 or to Stratum 11.

The 3d century A.D. coin from Locus B.1:12 would agree with the ca. A.D. 135-324 date which was suggested in 1971 for Late Roman Strata 10 and 11.

trimming of the D.4:17 foundation trench (cf. above, n. 8), nor were they attested in the southwest corner of D.3 in 1973 (cf. Geraty, "Heshbon 1973: Area D," pp. 196-199).

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Geraty, "Heshbon 1973: Area D," pp. 198-199.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.



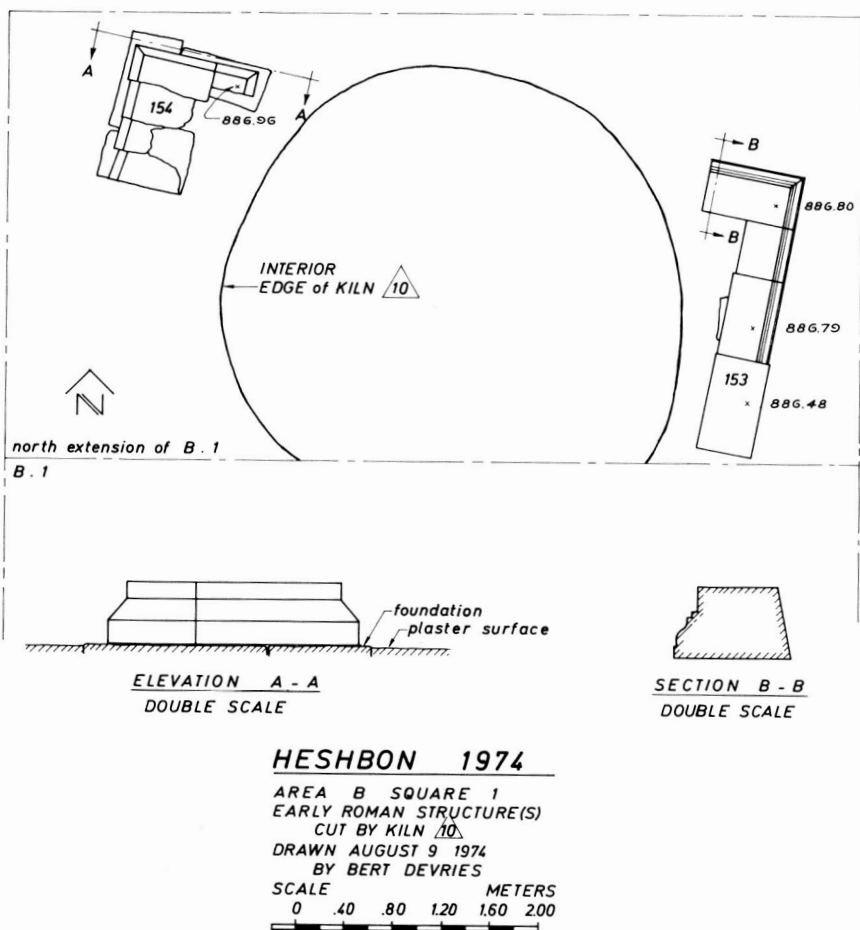


Fig. 8. "Podiums" B.1:154 and B.1:153, cut by Kiln B.1:10 in the 3.75 m. north extension of Square B.1.

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

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Early Roman Stratum 12 and Stratum 13 (earthquake, pre-earthquake) were attested in Area B (B.1, B.4, D.4) in 1974.

In the western portion of the 3.75 m. north extension of B.1, the B.1:154 "podium" of Early Roman Stratum 12 was partially cut through by the B.1:10 circular installation of Early Byzantine Stratum 4. The B.1:154 "podium" (ca. 1.10 × 1.10 m. square) was constructed of medium sized (ca. 0.25-0.40 m.) finely squared stones, which formed a one-course high base with fairly plain, slanted sides. The "podium" was approximately oriented to the main north-south axis of the excavation, but its (unexcavated) foundation stones had a slightly different orientation. The B.1:154 "podium" lay beneath the B.1:12 soil layer of Late Roman Stratum 10, was sealed against by the B.1:13A plaster layers of Late Roman Stratum 11 and the upper B.1:13B plaster layers of Early Roman Stratum 12, and it rested on top of the lower B.1:13B plaster layers of Early Roman Stratum 12.

In the eastern portion of the 3.75 m. north extension of B.1, the B.1:153 "podium" of Early Roman Stratum 12 was also cut through by the B.1:10 installation of Early Byzantine Stratum 4. Only four of the "podium's" finely tooled, rectangular (ca. 0.45 × 0.70 m.) stones were preserved, three of them running north-south to form the east side of the "podium," and the fourth running east-west to form the northeast corner of the "podium." The southernmost stone, laid partially beneath the next stone to the north, formed a possible step on the south side of the "podium." The other three stones had ornately tooled external faces, with a combination of ribbed and curved sides. The B.1:153 "podium" was covered over by the B.1:12 soil layer of Late Roman Stratum 10, was sealed against by the B.1:13A and B.1:13B plaster layers of Late Roman Stratum 11 and Early Roman Stratum 12, and it rested on top of the B.1:15B soil layer of Hellenistic Stratum 16.

In the northeast corner of D.4, Wall D.4:32B, beneath the

D.4:32A Late Roman wall, extended ca. 2.50 m. north-south into the Square, ca. 1.75-2.50 m. from the east balk. Wall D.4:32B, constructed of finely squared stones, consisted primarily of a doorway, only the north doorjamb and the threshold(s) of which were preserved. The north doorjamb was preserved to a height of three courses, which from the front (east) were tooled with alternating vertical bosses. The doorway had a lower, original threshold (D.4:45) at a level of 887.10, and an upper, later threshold (D.4:51) at a level of 887.44, set in front of the doorway itself. The two thresholds extended ca. 1.75 m. south from the doorjamb, where they were cut off by the D.4:10 foundation trench of the D.4:13 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk wall.

Beneath the D.4:30A-D Late Roman plaster and soil layers was the D.4:33 Early Roman plaster layer, which sealed on the west against the D.4:51 upper threshold of Wall D.4:32B, and on the north against Wall D.4:31. It covered over soil Layers D.4:41, 43, which lay on top of the compact brown D.4:44 Early Roman soil layer. Layer D.4:44 sealed against the D.4:45 lower, original threshold of Wall D.4:32B, and it ran under Wall D.4:31 in the north balk. Beneath Layer D.4:44 were three additional soil layers (D.4:47, 48, 50, partially excavated), which sealed against and possibly ran under Wall D.4:32B itself. All of these Early Roman layers, like Wall D.4:32B, were cut off to the south by the D.4:10 foundation trench of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Wall D.4:13.

In the southeast corner of B.4, beneath the B.4:112, 113, 119 Late Roman layers, a portion of Layer B.4:122 remained unexcavated above Bedrock B.4:193 and Channel B.4:250.<sup>19</sup> Excavated in 1974 as many thin layers (B.4:208-214), Layer B.4:122 sealed against Wall B.4:120 (except in the east balk) and Wall B.4:156 of Early Roman Stratum 12.

A new Early Roman rock tumble layer was identified in B.4 in 1974, beneath the mixed layer of Early Roman Stratum 12, and between the post-earthquake and the pre-earthquake remains of Early Roman Stratum 13.

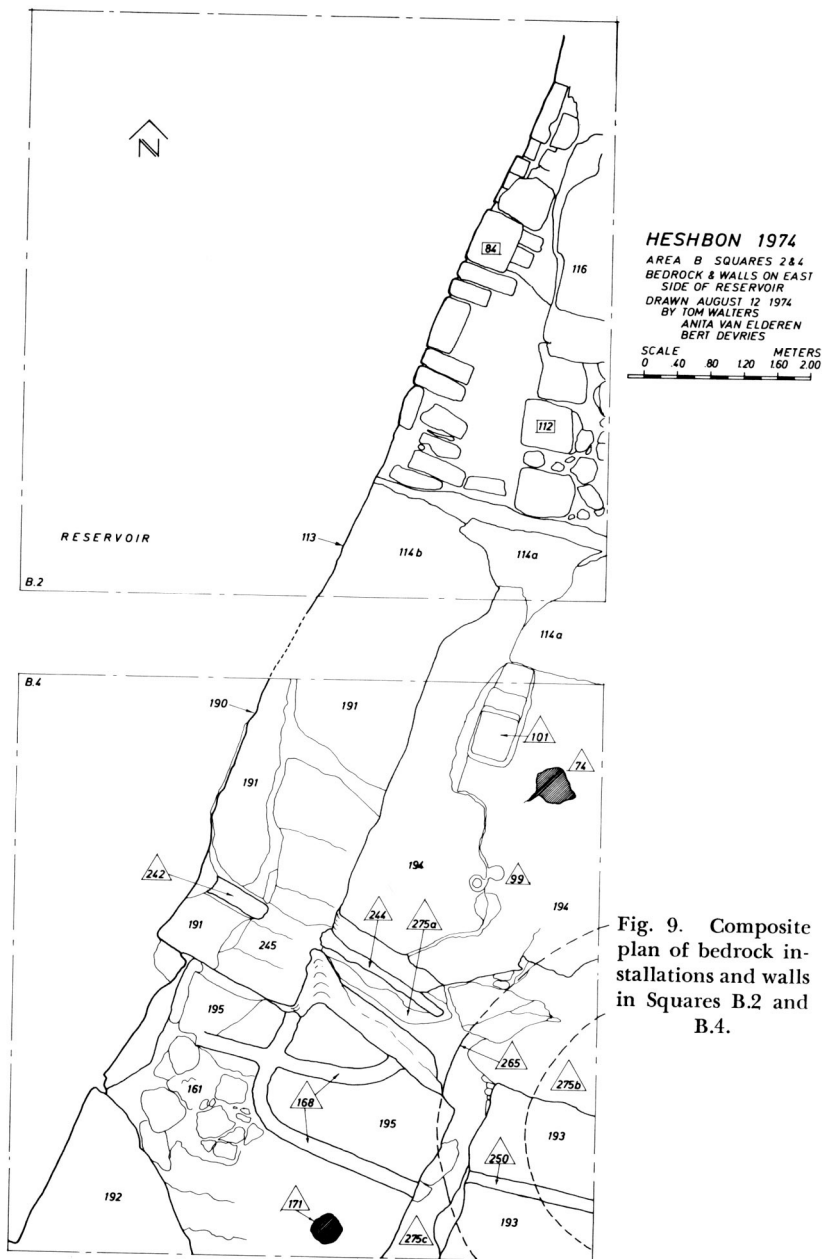
<sup>19</sup> It was left as part of the small excavation stairway in 1973.

In the southeast corner of B.4, beneath the mixed layer of Stratum 12, and beneath Bedrock B.4:193 and Bedrock B.4:246 in the B.4:247 "cave," the rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13 (B.4:217, 223, 230, 237, 256, 257, 258, 260, 263) lay against the west and east faces of pre-earthquake Wall B.4:222, and it covered over the B.4:226, 227 Early Roman soil layers of pre-earthquake Stratum 13. The rock tumble also filled the B.4:275A "channel" between Bedrock B.4:194 and Bedrock B.4:195, covering over the smaller B.4:244 channel (cf. below, *Iron II/Persian*).

In western B.4, west of Bedrock Blocks B.4:191, 195, 192, the rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13 (B.4:238, 248, 251, 254) was cut into by the B.4:236 shallow foundation trench of Wall B.4:120=239 of Early Roman Stratum 12, and it lay beneath the mixed layer of Stratum 12, and beneath Wall B.4:73/127 of post-earthquake Stratum 13. The rock tumble sealed against the south face of pre-earthquake Wall B.4:115=231, and to the south it covered over the B.4:253=268 wall, the B.4:262, 261 *tabuns*, and the other partially excavated remains of pre-earthquake Stratum 13.

Early Roman remains of pre-earthquake Stratum 13 were attested in the southeast corner of B.4, in western B.4, and in northeastern B.4.

In the southeast corner of B.4, in the B.4:247 "cave" beneath Bedrock Block B.4:193 and Bedrock Block B.4:246, was the B.4:222 Early Roman wall of pre-earthquake Stratum 13. Wall B.4:222, constructed of small and medium sized (ca. 0.10-0.50 m.) unhewn stones, was ca. 1.50-1.75 m. high and ca. .60 m. thick, and it ran ca. 3.00 m. north-south into the Square from the south balk. The wall was preserved intact as a kind of support wall beneath ceiling Bedrock B.4:193, but it had collapsed to the north beneath fallen ceiling Bedrock B.4:246, which had broken off from Bedrock B.4:193 and Bedrock B.4:194 (the ceiling bedrock of Cave B.4:74), along the line of possible "Channel" B.4:275B (cf. below, *Iron II/Persian*). To the west, Bedrock B.4:195, the collapsed ceiling bedrock of Cave B.4:171,



had also broken off from Bedrock B.4:193, along the line of possible "Channel" B.4:275C, and from Bedrock B.4:194, along the line of possible "Channel" B.4:275A, and it had fallen down onto the B.4:235 floor bedrock (equaling the B.4:197 floor bedrock inside Cave B.4:171) in front of Wall B.4:222. Wall B.4:222 was built on top of several thin Early Roman plaster and red soil layers (B.4:226, 227), which sloped up slightly from east of the wall to the B.4:235 floor bedrock on the west, and which covered over Pool B.4:265 (cf. below, *Late Hellenistic*). Beneath the B.4:226, 227 layers was the thicker B.4:228=259 Early Roman soil layer, which filled the upper 0.25-0.40 m. of the B.4:265 pool, and which covered over the B.4:229 Late Hellenistic layer in the pool.

In western B.4, above Bedrock B.4:191, Wall B.4:115=231 of pre-earthquake Stratum 13 was built over the B.4:242 channel of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18. Along the north side of Wall B.4:115=231, its B.4:149=225 foundation trench cut down into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16. Along the south side of the wall, beneath Wall B.4:73/127 of post-earthquake Stratum 13, the rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13 sealed against the wall.

South of Wall B.4:115=231, and beneath the rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13, Wall B.4:253 ran north-south ca. 4.50 m. into the Square from the south balk, ca. 0.50-1.00 m. in front of Bedrock B.4:192, 195, 191, (partially in the west balk), and it cornered (as Wall B.4:268) to run ca. 0.90 m. into the west balk. The partially exposed, irregular B.4:253=268 wall was constructed of medium sized, unhewn stones, ca. 0.40 m. high. Along the north side of Wall B.4:268, its B.4:269 foundation trench cut down into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16.

Running north-south in front of Bedrock B.4:192, 195, and 191, Wall B.4:253=268 almost blocked a partially exposed western lateral entrance into Cave B.4:171, beneath the ceiling Bedrock B.4:192 and 195.

In the irregular space between Wall B.4:115=231, Wall B.4:

253=268, and Bedrock B.4:192, 195, 191, and beneath the rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13, were two Early Roman *ṭabuns* (B.4:262, 261) of pre-earthquake Stratum 13, with their associated soil layers. The *ṭabuns* and soil layers did not seal against the south face of Wall B.4:115=231, but they were cut down in front of that wall into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16.<sup>20</sup>

The later (southern) *Ṭabun* B.4:262, ca. 0.35 m. in diameter, contained a layer of soft brown soil (B.4:262A) over a layer of soft gray-black ash (B.4:262B). *Ṭabun* B.4:262 was sealed against by the thin B.4:267 plaster layer, which also sealed against Bedrock B.4:195, 191 and Wall B.4:253=268, but which partially covered over the earlier (northern) *Ṭabun* B.4:261.

*Ṭabun* B.4:261, ca. 0.50 m. in diameter, but partially cut through by *Ṭabun* B.4:262, contained the B.4:261A layer of gray-black ash. *Ṭabun* B.4:261 was sealed against by the thin B.4:266 plaster layer (beneath *Ṭabun* B.4:262 and Layer B.4:267), which also sealed against Bedrock B.4:195, 191 and Wall B.4:253=268. *Ṭabun* B.4:261 was founded on the partially excavated B.4:264=270 Early Roman soil layer, beneath the B.4:266 plaster layer.

In northeastern B.4, "Cistern" B.4:188 of pre-earthquake Stratum 13 was cut into the B.4:196 bedrock floor of Cave B.4:74. The cone-shaped, circular "cistern" was ca. 1.80 m. high and ca. 2.10 m. wide at the bottom, and it had a ca. 0.95 m. round opening, with a slightly smaller (ca. 0.70 m.) lip. The sides of the "cistern" were unplastered, and bedrock cracks and toolmarks were visible. The "cistern" contained superimposed layers of Early Roman soil (B.4:184, 187, 232), white straw-like material (B.4:240), and rock tumble (B.4:241, 243), which rested on its B.4:252 bedrock floor.

<sup>20</sup> Also cutting down into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16 in the northwest corner of B.4 were several Early Roman pits (B.4:204, 221, 233, 255), which lay mostly in the west balk of the Square.

*Description (Bones):* The Early Roman loci produced the following bones in 1974:

Sheep/Goat	254	Camel	2	Rodent	16
Cattle	61	Large Mammal	20	Chicken	12
Horse	1	Pig	4	U.D.	28
Donkey	1	Dog	21		

*Description (Samples):* The analysis of samples taken from the Early Roman loci produced the following results:

B.4:217 4 Common Wheat, 3 Barley

B.4:232 5 Common Wheat, 4 Barley, 1 Bitter Vetch

B.4:255 2 Olive

*Description (Artifacts):* The latest pottery which came from the above loci was Early Roman. An A.D. 64-109 Phoenician coin came from Locus B.4:211 (Object 1768), and an A.D. 117-138 coin of Hadrian came from Locus D.4:41 (Object 1743). In addition, the Early Roman loci produced the following registered artifacts:

B.4:209	1780	Flint	B.4:254	1969	Slingstone
B.4:222	1968	Stone Pestle	B.4:263	2083	Ivory Hairpin
B.4:228	1972	Mortar Fragment	B.4:263	2093	Stone Grinder
B.4:237	2009	Pendant Fragment	B.4:264	2038	Stone Weight

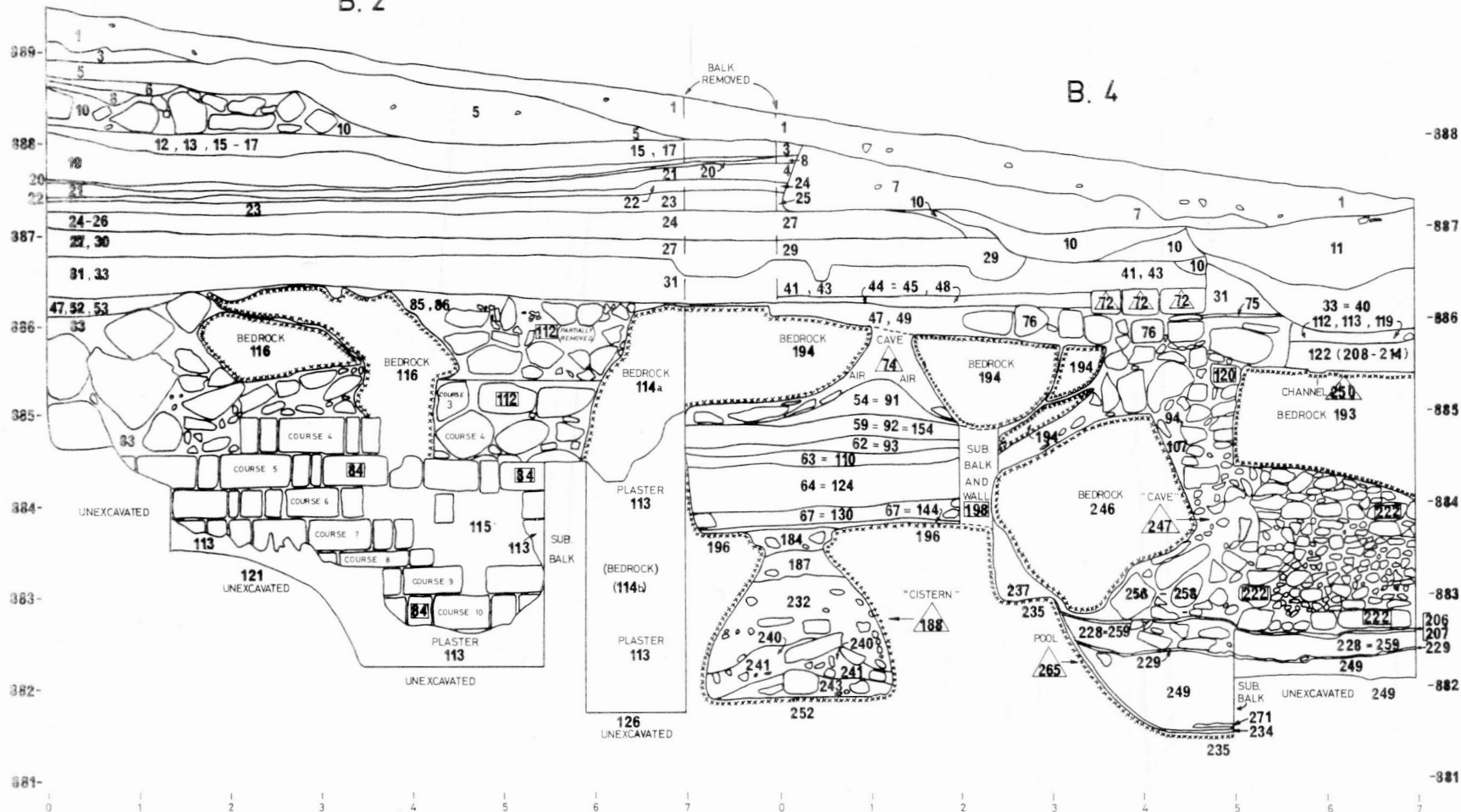
*Interpretation:* The beautifully tooled B.4:154 and B.4:153 "podiums," associated with the Stratum 12 roadway layers, would fit the context of an acropolis temple better than an acropolis fort (cf. above, *Early Byzantine*, *Late Roman*). "Podium" B.1:154 would have postdated slightly "Podium" B.1:153, which was sealed against by the earliest Stratum 12 roadway layers, but both of the Stratum 12 "podiums" would have remained in use through Late Roman Stratum 11, after which they would have been covered over by the roadway layers of Late Roman Stratum 10. The "podiums" could originally have stood higher than their preserved single courses, but the exact function of the "podiums" cannot yet be determined.

The Stratum 12 roadway layers, like those of Stratum 11, could have run up to a north-south wall located in western D.4 (Wall D.4:83?) and western D.3 (Wall D.3:47?), or in the balk between B.3 and D.4 (cf. above, *Late Roman*). If so, Wall D.4:32B, the finely tooled north-south doorway, could have paralleled that wall to form the eastern entrance to a Stratum 12 structure, located to the east of the Stratum 12 roadway itself. Supporting this suggestion would be the A.D. 117-138 coin which



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B. 2

AREA SUPERVISOR  
SQUARE SUPERVISORS

J. A. SAUER

B. 2 L. HERR, T. ISLIM, N. JOHNSON, U. WORSCHKECH, A. ABU SCHMAIS  
 B. 4 P. POST, D. UNDELAND, J. BATTENFIELD, S. SAUER  
 DRAFTSMAN S. I. FARRAN

Fig. 10. Composite section and elevation of east balks of Squares B.2 and B.4.

came from Locus D.4:41, one of the soil layers which sealed against the thresholds of Wall D.4:32B.

If Layer B.4:122 and "Stairway" B.4:71, 155, 156 were associated with the Stratum 12 roadway, as was suggested in 1973, then the A.D. 64-109 coin which came from Layer B.4:211 (=B.4:122) would agree with the ca. A.D. 70-135 date which was suggested in 1971 and 1973 for the Stratum 12 roadway.

The new Early Roman rock tumble layer of Stratum 13 could be interpreted in the context of the 31 B.C. earthquake, which probably brought about the collapse of Bedrock Blocks B.4:195 and B.4:246, and which cracked Bedrock B.4:194. It would seem likely that when Bedrock Blocks B.4:195 and B.4:246 collapsed, they broke off from Bedrock B.4:194 and Bedrock B.4:193 along the weakened lines of "Channels" B.4:275A, B, C (cf. below, *Iron II/Persian*).

Thus, prior to the 31 B.C. earthquake, Caves B.4:74, 247, and 171 would probably have been connected beneath a single B.4:194, 246, 193, 195, 192 bedrock ceiling, and Walls B.4:198 and 222 would probably have served as dividing walls within that large cave. In addition to the ca. 0.40 m. circular openings into Caves B.4:74 and B.4:171, there would seem to have been a lateral entrance into Cave B.4:171 from the west, where the pre-earthquake Stratum 13 walls and *tabuns* were cut down into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16. In Cave B.4:74, "Cistern" B.4:188 would probably have been used for dry storage, which would support the other evidence for interpreting the pre-earthquake Stratum 13 remains as a domestic occupation. Since there was evidence for Hellenistic, and possibly for Iron II/Persian, use of the B.4:74, 247, 171 cave (cf. below), it would seem likely that the cave was largely cleaned out prior to its use by the Early Roman occupation of pre-earthquake Stratum 13.

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

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Late Hellenistic Strata 14/15, 16 were attested in Area B (B.2, B.4) in 1974.

In B.2, the B.2:69, 105 foundation trench of the Stratum 14/15 B.2:62 wall cut down ca. 3.75 m. deep into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16. The ca. 1.80-1.25 m. wide lower courses of Wall B.2:62 were constructed of medium and large sized (ca. 0.25-1.50 m.) unhewn stones, and they butted up against Plaster B.2:113 on vertical bedrock Face B.2:114B of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18.

In the southeast corner of B.4, inside the B.4:247 "cave" and beneath the Early Roman remains of pre-earthquake Stratum 13 (including Wall B.4:222), was the B.4:265 plastered pool. The partially excavated circular pool was cut down ca. 1.50 m. deep into the B.4:235 bedrock floor of Cave B.4:247, and it had a rim diameter of ca. 4.00-5.00 m. The gradually sloping sides of the B.4:265 pool were plastered with three thin (ca. 0.04, 0.01, 0.01 m.), greenish-colored plaster layers (B.4:234A, B, C), against Bedrock B.4:235. The upper (ca. 0.25-0.40 m.) portion of the pool was filled with the B.4:228=259 Early Roman soil layer of pre-earthquake Stratum 13. Beneath Layer B.4:228=259 was the thin B.4:229 gray compact layer of Late Hellenistic Stratum 14/15. And filling up the pool beneath Layer B.4:229 was the very thick (ca. 0.80-1.00 m.), stoneless, moist, gray-black, clay Layer B.4:249, which included the small B.4:271 pocket of huwwar and soil, of Late Hellenistic Stratum 14/15.

The soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16 were attested in B.2, where they were cut into by the B.2:69, 105 foundation trench of Late Hellenistic Wall B.2:62 of Stratum 14/15, and in northwestern B.4, where they were cut into by the remains of Early Roman Stratum 13. The Stratum 16 layers consisted of numerous brown soil and black ashy layers (B.2:94, 107, 111=118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 125, 126; B.4:202, 203, 205, 207, 215, 216, 218, 219, 220, 224, 272, 273, 274), partially excavated in B.2 (ca. 3.50 m. deep) and in northwestern B.4 (ca. 1.75 m. deep), which produced quantities of Iron II/Persian pottery. The layers sealed against the B.2:113, B.4:190 plastered face of Wall B.2:84, vertical Bedrock B.2:114B, and vertical Bedrock B.4:191 (the

eastern wall of the Iron II/Persian Stratum 18 "reservoir"). From that plastered wall the soil layers sloped down sharply to the west, but while in northern B.2 they also sloped down to the south, in northwestern B.4 they sloped down to the north. Beneath the soil layers in northern B.2, exposed but not excavated, was the B.2:121 rock tumble of Stratum 16, which also sealed against the plastered face of Wall B.2:84.

*Description (Bones):* Of the Late Hellenistic Stratum 14/15 loci, only Wall B.2:62 produced bone evidence in 1974, as follows:

Sheep/Goat	134	Pig	3	Chicken	11
Large Mammal	7	Cat	1	U.D.	15

The bones from Stratum 16 have been cited as Iron II/Persian bone evidence (cf. below).

*Description (Samples):* The analysis of samples taken from the Late Hellenistic loci of Stratum 14/15 produced the following results:

B.4:229 Cow Dung/Dung Ash

B.4:249 2 Wheat

B.4:271 Dung Ash

The samples from Stratum 16 have been cited as Iron II/Persian evidence (cf. below).

*Description (Artifacts):* The latest pottery from the loci of Stratum 14/15 was Late Hellenistic. The Stratum 16 layers produced essentially pure Iron II/Persian pottery, but a single clear Hellenistic sherd came from the Stratum 16 rock tumble in 1973. A stamped jar handle (Object 2095), reading ΕΠΙΛΙΣΤΕΙΔΑ ΣΜΙΝΘΙΟΥ, and dated to the early 2d century B.C.,<sup>21</sup> came from the B.4:249 thick clay layer in Pool B.4:265. In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the loci of Stratum 14/15 in 1974:

B.2:62 1765 Arrowhead

B.2:62 2001 Bone Spatula

The artifacts from Stratum 16 have been cited as Iron II/Persian evidence (cf. below).

*Interpretation:* The B.4:229, 249 Stratum 14/15 layers in the B.4:265 plastered pool would show that "Cave" B.4:247, probably including Caves B.4:74 and B.4:171 (cf. above, *Early Roman*), was used in the Late Hellenistic period. Inside Cave B.4:74, "Cistern" B.4:188 was similar in shape to the B.3:47, 59, 64 Late Hellenistic "cisterns" inside the B.3 cave, and thus the B.4:188 "cistern" could also have been cut originally in the Late Hellenistic period. The B.4:265 pool could perhaps represent some kind of industrial use of Cave B.4:247, south of Wall B.2:62, and the early 2d century B.C. stamped jar handle would agree

<sup>21</sup> Cf. James J. C. Cox, "A Rhodian Potter's Date-Stamp," pp. 149-155 below.

with the ca. 198-63 B.C. date which was suggested for Stratum 14/15 in 1973.

Since, except for the B.4:229, 249 layers in the B.4:265 pool, Caves B.4:74, B.4:247, and B.4:171 contained only Early Roman remains, it would seem likely that the caves were cleaned out prior to their use by the Early Roman occupation of pre-earthquake Stratum 13. Since, however, there was also some possible evidence for Iron II/Persian use of the caves (cf. below), it would even be possible for the caves to have been cut originally in the Iron II/Persian period.

The Stratum 16 soil layers could still be interpreted as a massive fill, which was scraped from the acropolis and dumped into the Iron II/Persian "reservoir" of Strata 17 and 18, early in the Hellenistic period (prior to Stratum 14/15). Thus, the bones and artifacts from the Stratum 16 soil layers have been included below with the description of the Iron II/Persian evidence.

*Iron II/Persian Strata 17, 18 (ca. 800?-500 B.C.)*

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Iron II/Persian Stratum 18, and possibly also Stratum 17, were attested in Area B (B.2, B.4) in 1974.

In B.2, two more courses of the Stratum 18 B.2:84 header-stretcher wall were exposed, sealed against on the west by the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16. The two courses brought to ten the total number of exposed courses for the wall, and while the uppermost surviving (tattered) course was removed in 1973, the second and third courses, and the southern portion of the fourth course, were removed in 1974 to provide ceramic evidence for dating the construction of the wall.<sup>22</sup> The wall was constructed of uniform stones<sup>23</sup> in an alternating double-header,

<sup>22</sup> These courses were also removed during the 1974 season because they threatened to collapse where some of the stones from the lower courses were missing (B.2:115). All of the stones from Wall B.2:84 were kept for possible future restoration of the wall.

<sup>23</sup> Harold James, the expedition geologist, noted that Wall B.2:84 was one of the very few walls at the site which was constructed of uniform lithic material.

single-stretcher fashion, with additional double headers placed behind the stretchers to produce a wall of ca. 1.20 m. thickness (against Bedrock B.2:116 and Wall B.2:112 of Iron I Stratum 19). Wall B.2:84 continued to the south as vertical bedrock Face B.2:114B, which slanted down slightly westward to an exposed depth of ca. 3.50 m. Three thin layers (ca. 0.02, 0.01, 0.01 m.) of white plaster (B.2:113A, B, C) remained well preserved on the west face of Bedrock B.2:114B, and while only patches of the plaster were preserved on the upper courses of Wall B.2:84, the plaster seemed to be better preserved on the lower courses of the wall.

Vertical bedrock Face B.2:114B and Plaster B.2:113A, B, C of Stratum 18 continued into the northwest corner of B.4 as vertical bedrock Face B.4:191 and Plaster B.4:190A, B, C, sealed against on the west by the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16, and exposed to a depth of ca. 1.25 m. Wall B.4:115=231 of Early Roman pre-earthquake Stratum 13 was built on the east over Bedrock B.4:191, while on the west its B.4:149=225 foundation trench cut down into the soil layers of Hellenistic Stratum 16. To the south of Wall B.4:115=231, the Early Roman remains of Stratum 13 (partially excavated) sealed against the continuation of Bedrock B.4:191. Bedrock B.4:195, the eastward-tilted ceiling bedrock of Cave B.4:171, joined Bedrock B.4:191, but south of that join the B.4:195 and B.4:192 bedrock blocks opened up to form a possible lateral entrance into Cave B.4:171 of Early Roman Stratum 13. In the southwest corner of the Square, Bedrock B.4:192 cornered to run west.

Beneath the Early Roman Wall B.4:115=231 of pre-earthquake Stratum 13, the B.4:242 plastered channel, ca. 0.25 m. wide, 0.25 m. deep, and 0.70 m. long, was cut east-west into the lip of Bedrock B.4:191 (level: 884.09). To the east, beyond a depression (B.4:245) in Bedrock B.4:191, and beneath the Early Roman rock tumble of earthquake Stratum 13, the B.4:244 unplastered channel, ca. 0.20 m. wide, 0.15 m. deep, and 1.70 m. long, was cut east-west into bedrock along the south face of Bedrock

B.4:194, to an easternmost point (level: 884.16) at the edge of "Cave" B.4:247 and above Pool B.4:265 (cf. above, *Early Roman, Late Hellenistic*).

Channel B.4:244 was cut into Bedrock B.4:194, beneath and along the line of "Channel" B.4:275A, one of three possible connected "channels" which ran between Bedrock B.4:194 and B.4:195 ("Channel" B.4:275A), between Bedrock B.4:246 and B.4:193 ("Channel" B.4:275B), and between Bedrock B.4:195 and B.4:193 ("Channel" B.4:275C). The B.4:275A, B, C "channels" would have weakened the ceiling bedrock of Caves B.4:74, B.4:247, and B.4:171, so that during the earthquake of Early Roman Stratum 13, Bedrock B.4:195 would have broken off from Bedrock B.4:194 and Bedrock B.4:193 along the lines of the B.4:275A and B.4:275C "channels." To judge from the broken edges of Bedrock B.4:193 and Bedrock B.4:195, the B.4:275C "channel" would have been ca. 0.65 m. wide and ca. 0.55 m. deep, and it would have had vertical sides and a horizontal floor. The dimensions of the B.4:275A and B.4:275B "channels" could not be determined. The B.4:275A, B, C "channels" would apparently have intersected the smaller B.4:168, 250 channels, which were cut into the top of Bedrock B.4:195 and Bedrock B.4:193.

*Description (Bones):* The Iron II/Persian loci produced no bones in 1974, but the following bones came from the soil layers of Stratum 16 (cf. above, *Late Hellenistic*):

Sheep/Goat	698	Camel	1	Rodent	4
Cattle	23	Large Mammal	45	Reptile	1
Horse	1	Pig	5	Chicken	19
Donkey	2	Dog	9	U.D.	46

*Description (Samples):* The analysis of samples taken from the soil layers of Stratum 16 (cf. above, *Late Hellenistic*) produced the following results:

B.2:118 4 Olive

B.4:203 1 Olive

B.4:205 65 Olive

B.4:207 6 Emmer Wheat, 50 Six-Rowed Barley, 1 Bitter Vetch, 2 Olive

*Description (Artifacts):* The second, third, and fourth courses of Wall B.2:84 produced a total of 28 small body sherds, the dominant and latest of which were Iron II/Persian. While red wheel-burnished, and black-painted sherds were well attested, the wall did not produce any black wheel-burnished pottery. The soil in the B.4:244 channel also produced clear Iron II/Persian

pottery. Otherwise, no registered artifacts came from the Iron II/Persian loci in 1974. An ostrakon (Object 2092), dated by Cross to the early 6th century B.C.,<sup>24</sup> came from the B.2:126 ashy layer of Stratum 16 (cf. above, *Late Hellenistic*). In addition, the following registered artifacts came from the soil layers of Stratum 16:

B.2:118	1727	Bone Spatula	B.4:205	1728	Pierced Shell
B.2:124	2034	Bronze Button	B.4:205	1793	Ceramic Figurine
B.4:202	1757	Metal Needle	B.4:205	1827	Ivory Inlay
B.4:205	1704	Flint	B.4:205	2103	Stone Bowl Fragment

*Interpretation:* Wall B.2:84 and vertical bedrock Faces B.2:114B, B.4:191, B.4:195, and B.4:192 could still be interpreted as the ca. 16 m. long plastered eastern boundary of the Stratum 18 "reservoir." The "reservoir" would have been filled with the soil and rock tumble layers of Stratum 16, above the B.1:119=143 clay layer of Stratum 17, early in the Hellenistic period. In southwestern B.4, the Stratum 16 layers would have been cut into, along the face of Bedrock B.4:191, B.4:195, and B.4:192, by the Early Roman occupation of pre-earthquake Stratum 13.

It would seem likely that Channels B.4:242 and B.4:244 were originally connected, and their slight westward slope would indicate that they probably directed water over the lip of Bedrock B.4:191 into the Stratum 18 "reservoir." Since the B.4:244 channel extended eastward to the edge of "Cave" B.4:247, above Pool B.4:265, it would not be impossible for "Cave" B.4:247 and Pool B.4:265 to have been used in the Iron II/Persian period, in connection with the Stratum 18 "reservoir." Some support for this possibility would be the fact that the B.1:121=144 "cement" layer and the B.2:113=B.4:190 plaster layer of the "reservoir," and the B.4:234 plaster layer of Pool B.4:265, each attested three distinct layers of "cement" or plaster. Against the possibility would be the fact that the B.4:234 plaster alone was greenish-colored (tinted by the B.4:249 clay?), that the B.4:265 pool produced only Late Hellenistic pottery, and that the B.4:74, B.4:247, and B.4:171 caves otherwise produced no Iron II/Persian pottery.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. F. M. Cross, Jr., "Heshbon Ostrakon XI," pp. 145-148 in this number.



Since the B.4:244 channel was cut into Bedrock B.4:194, beneath and along the line of "Channel" B.4:275A, it could be suggested that "Channels" B.4:275A, B.4:275B, and B.4:275C were originally cut in the Iron II/Persian period, in connection with the Stratum 18 "reservoir."

The Iron II/Persian pottery from Channel B.4:244 could perhaps reflect the Stratum 17 (ca. 700-500 B.C.) use of the channel. The pottery and the header-stretcher construction of Wall B.2:84 could indicate that the Stratum 18 "reservoir" was constructed earlier in the Iron II period (pre-700 B.C.?).

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

*Description (Stratification):* Additional remains of Iron I stratum 19 were attested in Area B (B.2, B.3, D.4) in 1974.

In southeastern B.2, in the space (ca. 1.50-2.50 m. wide) between vertical bedrock Face B.2:116 (north) and vertical bedrock Face B.2:114A (south), the upper two courses of Stratum 19 Wall B.2:112, constructed of large (ca. 0.75 m.) boulders, were removed in 1974 to provide ceramic evidence for dating the construction of the wall. Beneath those two courses, two additional courses of Wall B.2:112 (=Wall B.3:80) were exposed (but not removed) when the upper courses of Wall B.2:84 were removed (cf. above, *Iron II/Persian*).

In southern B.3, in the space (ca. 1.50-2.00 m. wide) between vertical bedrock Face B.3:84=90, 85 (north) and vertical bedrock Face B.3:86 (south), additional superimposed soil, rock tumble, and ash layers of Iron I Stratum 19 (B.3:82, 83, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97)<sup>25</sup> were attested, beneath those which were excavated in 1973. The B.3:83 rock tumble covered over the B.3:91 red layer, and beneath B.3:91 the B.3:92 rock tumble covered over the B.3:93-97 brown soil and ash layers. The layers sealed against bedrock Face B.3:90 on the north, against bedrock

<sup>25</sup> Locus B.3:89 was a temporary balk left against the face of vertical Bedrock B.3:90, which was later removed.

Face B.3:86 on the south, and against Wall B.3:80 on the west.<sup>26</sup> Wall B.3:80 (=Wall B.2:112) was constructed of medium and large sized (ca. 0.25-0.75 m.) boulders, in the west balk between Bedrock B.3:84=90, 85 and Bedrock B.3:86. The soil, rock tumble, and ash layers continued into the east balk, but to the southeast they were cut off next to Bedrock B.3:86 by Wall B.3:78, which equaled the B.4:198 eastern boundary wall inside Cave B.4:74 (Early Roman pre-earthquake Stratum 13). Bedrock B.3:90 and Bedrock B.3:86 sloped down gradually, ca. 4.00 m. deep, to join and form the ca. 0.75-m.-wide B.3:98 bedrock floor, which lay beneath the Stratum 19 soil, rock tumble, and ash layers. Irregularities in the surface of vertical Bedrock B.3:90 were filled with smooth gray plaster (B.3:99).

In southeastern D.4, in the ca. 2.10-m.-wide space between vertical bedrock Face D.4:25 (north) and vertical bedrock Face D.4:67 (south, outside the Square), the D.4:57 arched roof of the D.4:24 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk vaulted room was built on top of two north-south walls, Wall D.4:65 to the east and Wall D.4:66 to the west. The two walls, set ca. 1.60 m. apart east-west, were constructed of medium sized (ca. 0.25-0.40 m.) unworked stones, and they sealed against Bedrock D.4:25 to the north, and against Bedrock D.4:67 to the south. Beneath Bedrock D.4:25 was another wall, east-west Wall D.4:73, which formed the north side of the "room." To the south, Bedrock D.4:67 opened up into Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Cave D.4:68, which was partially blocked by Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Wall D.4:71. Inside the "room" formed by Walls D.4:65, 66, and 73, and beneath the D.4:61, 62 Ayyūbid/Mamlūk rock tumble, the D.4:63, 74 thin compacted soil and ash layers of Iron I Stratum 19 lay above the D.4:75 cobblestone pavement, which was constructed of small (ca. 0.10-0.25 m.), flat stones. The D.4:63, 74 layers and the D.4:75 cobblestone pavement sealed against Walls D.4:65, 66, and 73, and they were cut

<sup>26</sup> For safety reasons, a balk ca. 0.60 m. high was left in front of Wall B.3:80, just above bedrock Floor B.3:98; so it is not certain whether the B.3:93-97 soil and ash layers ran up against or ran under Wall B.3:80.

through to the south by the D.4:72 foundation trench of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Wall D.4:71. A probe (ca.  $0.70 \times 1.70$  m.) beneath the D.4:75 cobblestone pavement exposed the D.4:81, 82 Iron I soil and ash layers (partially excavated), which sealed against Walls D.4:66 and 73.

*Description (Bones):* The Iron I loci of Stratum 19 produced the following bones in 1974:

Sheep/Goat	23	Large Mammal	7	U.D.	19
Cattle	13	Pig	1		

*Description (Samples):* The analysis of samples taken from the Iron I loci produced the following results:

B.3:94 Ash Only

*Description (Artifacts):* The pottery from the above Stratum 19 loci was Iron I, with nothing earlier. The Iron I loci of Stratum 19 produced no registered artifacts.

*Interpretation:* The preserved Iron I Stratum 19 occupation in Area B would seem to be confined to a space ca. 1.50-2.50 m. wide, 4.00 m. deep, and 13.00 m. long (east-west) between two relatively vertical bedrock faces, Bedrock B.2:116, B.3:84=90, 85, D.4:25 on the north, and Bedrock B.2:114A, B.3:86, D.4:67 on the south. It was not possible to determine if the vertical bedrock faces were manmade or natural, but at least in B.3, one of the bedrock faces was partially plastered. The western end of the space would have been blocked by the large B.2:112=B.3:80 wall, and in eastern D.4, the two small D.4:65, 66 walls, associated with the D.4:75 cobblestone pavement, would have been built across the space as well. In B.3, the lower (B.3:93-97) soil and ash layers would seem to have been occupational remains, while the upper soil layers and rock tumbles would seem to have been fill. The D.4:65, 66 walls and cobblestone pavement would seem to represent a domestic occupation, and perhaps the bedrock space occupied by the Iron I remains of Stratum 19 could be compared to the pits which are characteristic of Iron I occupations at other sites.