

AREA C

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Area C, located on the west slope of the acropolis of Tell H̥esbân, produced evidence, through the 1968, 1971 and 1973 excavations, from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk back to the Iron II period. Excavation in 1974 had as aims: (1) to clarify the distinctions in the strata represented especially in C.2 and C.3; (2) to investigate further the extent and function of the Roman wall which had been discovered in C.1 and which seemed to extend into C.5; (3) to trace the possible extension of the Iron II wall in C.3 into a new Square (C.7) opened to the south; (4) to investigate further the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk architectural remains that extended east from C.4; and (5) to excavate C.8 east of C.6 and up the slope toward Area A to see what connections might be found between Areas A and C.

This report will comprise three sections: (1) describing the excavations in the various squares; (2) offering interpretation of the results; and (3) drawing pertinent conclusions.

In this report, the order of treatment of the Squares will be, C.1 and 5; C.2, 3 and 7; and C.6 and 8, to give a picture of the relationship of material in these squares.

Description of the Excavation

Square C.1 (see Fig. 11). The Roman Wall C.1:49 exposed by previous work was thought to extend possibly through the west balk of C.1 into C.5. In C.1 Wall 49 had turned south and become Wall C.1:63 and Wall C.1:40, both of which rested on bedrock. At the corner of Walls C.1:49 and 63 there was a joint where Wall C.1:30 proceeded to the north.

C.1:102 was the inter-seasonal erosion debris containing sherds from Ayyūbid/Mamlūk back to Iron I and miscellaneous objects and bone fragments. At the northwest corner of C.1 lay C.1:103

HESHBON 1974

AREA C SQUARES 1&5

LOCI 40, 60, 77, 82

DRAWN SEPT. 16 1975

BY BERT DEVRIES

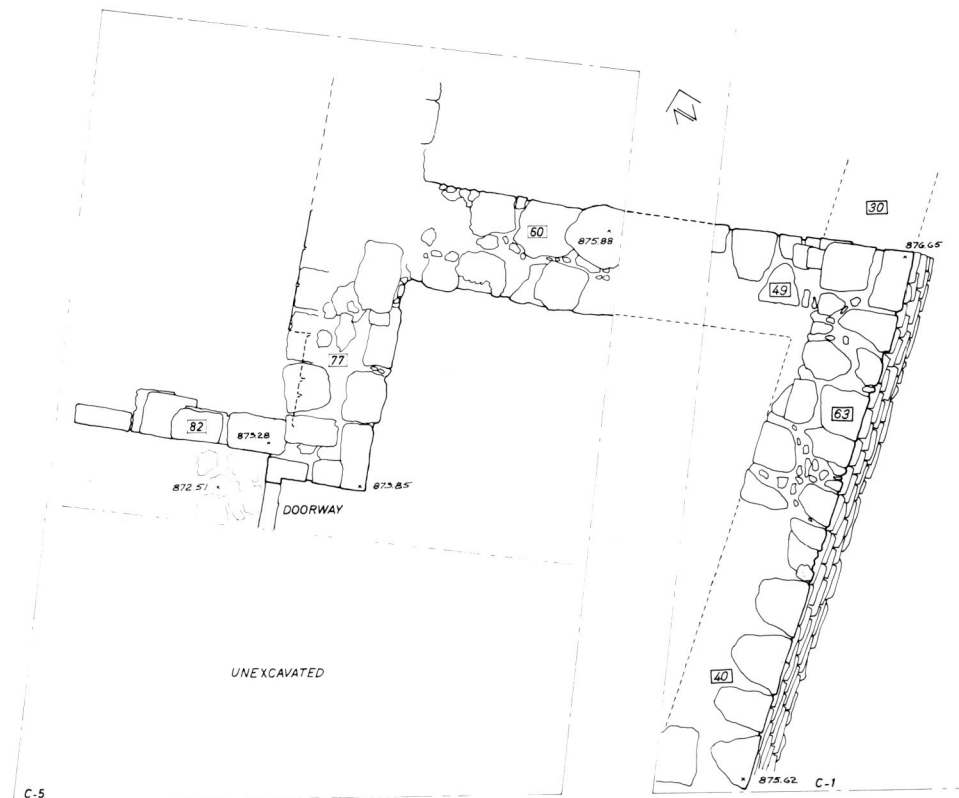
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Fig. 11. Top plan of the Early Roman Tower in Squares C.1 and 5 on the west edge of the city.

and 104, gray soil layers of Early Roman date, under which was C.1:105, a brown packed soil layer with sherds from Early Roman to Iron I. It was not possible to determine the point at which the Iron Age accumulation was covered by Early Roman material.

C.1:106, possibly a fire pit of gray soil and ash next to the west balk, produced Roman sherds and earlier Hellenistic, Iron II, and Iron I. In it was C.1:107, a shallow pit of Roman date probably used for outdoor cooking. C.1:109 and 111, containing loose soil and *huwwar* bits and running along the west and east-sides of Wall C.1:30 respectively, were foundation trenches for Wall 30. The dates from sherds were Early Roman.

C.1:110, of Early Roman date, was the foundation trench on the north side of Wall C.1:49, extending east from the west balk toward C.1:51, the foundation trench for Walls C.1:63 and 40. C.1:110 was probably related to C.1:51, both having been dug together when Walls C.1:40, 63 and 49 were built.

On the east side of Wall C.1:30, Late Roman C.1:112, comprised a number of lenses of different soils.

Wall C.1:30, which ran north from the corners of Walls C.1:63 and 49, being 4.50 m. long, 0.80 m. wide, and surviving up to 1.60 m. high, was composed of large smooth stones on the west face and small stones roughly fitted together on the east. Its foundation trenches C.1:109 and 111 and the material under C.1:30 date it as Early Roman.

C.1:117 sloped down westward under Wall C.1:30 to the edge of Layer C.1:105 in lenses of brown-gray soil with a spread of sherds from various periods. C.1:118, under C.1:105, with Iron II sherds as the latest but including some Iron I, extended along the west balk. What the transition between the Early Roman and Iron II of C.1:117 and C.1:118 means is not clear.

Square C.5 (see Fig. 11). In the 1971 season a 3.00 m. to 4.00 m. depth of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk dump had been cleared down the westward slope of C.5. As in C.1, many tip lines angled from southeast to northwest with heavy undulation.

In 1974 excavation in this massive fill was continued in the

northern part of the Square. C.5:50, a soil layer with a top level of 876.91 m. (southeast) and 874.37 m. (northwest) contained sherds ranging from Ayyūbid/Mamlūk to Early Roman. In the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Loci C.5:51, 52 and 54, C.5:52 seemed to have been a fire pit, either Ayyūbid/Mamlūk or possibly Umayyad.

A large number of loci from C.5:55 down were of Byzantine date, mostly dump materials scattered over much of the Square. Wall C.5:55, dated Byzantine by the sherds in and under it and measuring 3.15 m. long, 0.75 m. wide and 0.60 m. high, ran northwest-southeast in the northeast corner of C.5.

Byzantine dump materials continued from C.5:63 through C.5:71, containing small- to large-sized rocks, some of which seem to have fallen from destructions up the slope. In C.5:66, 0.83 m. north of the south subsidiary balk and 1.08 m. east of the west balk was found a small number of bones of a human skeleton which possibly had been thrown into the Byzantine dump in a time of destruction (there were ash pockets). C.5:70 produced a Greek ostrakon with the letters H Σ preceded by another broken letter, possibly the end of a name. C.5:63-71 produced a few bone fragments and a Maccabean coin.

C.5:72-74, 76, all in the southwest corner of C.5, and triangular in plan, comprised portions of possible surfaces, dated Byzantine, with a moderate quantity of bone fragments, mostly of sheep and goat. C.5:59 and 61 in the northeast corner produced brown dump materials of the Early Roman period. C.5:75, moist brown soil 0.48 m. deep with Byzantine and Roman sherds, was bounded by Walls C.5:60 and 77.

Wall C.5:60, of fairly smooth partly worked stone, extended west from the east balk, measuring 2.40 m. long, 1.08 m. wide and 1.90 m. high; it was clearly an extension of Wall C.1:49. C.5:62 was the north face foundation trench for Wall C.5:60 and its sherds showed the construction of Wall C.5:60 to be Early Roman. Wall C.5:77 formed the northwest terminus of Wall C.5:60 and ran 2.85 m. south, varying from 1.30 m. to 0.60 m. wide

and surviving from 2.14 m. to 1.30 m. high. It ended in a well worked door entrance with a bolt hole in one upright.

C.5:82, a well formed worked stone wall extended west from the door entrance of Wall C.5:77 for 2.42 m., being 0.46 m. wide and surviving from 0.79 m. to 0.24 m. high, with paving stones (C.5:83) laid to its south. C.5:80 and 81 to the north and west of Walls C.5:82 and 77 were parts of the Byzantine dump materials.

Square C.2. In 1974 work was done only in the sector south of the subsidiary north balk. The balk erosion debris C.2:53-55 contained a mixture of sherds from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period back to the sixth century B.C.

Many of the loci excavated in C.2 in 1974 may be considered dump material from the eighth to sixth centuries B.C. This was true of the triangular locus C.2:87 next to bedrock under the Hellenistic Pit C.2:46, in the northeast sector. On the north, adjacent to the subsidiary north balk and to the west of C.2:87, lay C.2:69-71 and 74, thin loci of gray *huwwar* layered between accumulations of small grained sand and gravel, with C.2:74 quite stony. Though Early Roman sherds show up with Iron II and Hellenistic, these loci may be interpreted as seventh or sixth century B.C. dump material with balk-fall intrusions. The thin gray *huwwar* layers of C.2:75-83, in the northeast sector, are also to be considered Iron II dump material. The bone fragments were predominantly sheep and goat. The same interpretation can be given for the gray *huwwar* to reddish brown soil of C.2:84-85 near the northeast corner of the subsidiary south balk, and for C.2:56-63 and 73, loci of gray *huwwar*, located 1.25 m. north of the south balk and 1.50 m. east of the west balk. The thin loci, C.2:64-68 and 72, one under the other, extending south from C.2:56-63 are the same; the bones here were mainly sheep and goat.

The remainder of a course (two large stones) of Wall C.2:90, a wall of undressed stones designated Wall 52 in 1973, was removed, showing a lower course of fist-to-head-sized stones underneath. With the consistent Iron II sherd evidence from the soil

in Wall C.2:52=90, and the wall's foundation trench appearing to cut into Iron II *huwwar* material, the wall may be dated in the seventh or sixth centuries B.C. Although Wall C.2:90 turned south into the south balk and also continued westward into C.1 possibly to join Wall C.1:90 there, such evidence did not indicate a function for Wall C.2:90. There were in it only a few bone fragments.

C.2:90-94 and 96-99, loci under one another comprising gray *huwwar* shifting to yellowish and reddish *huwwar*, located in the southwest sector, contained pottery as early as Iron I and led to the conclusion that they represented an earlier Iron Age dump. The reddish soil showing up over bedrock (C.2:99) was virgin soil.

Square C.3 (see Fig. 12). Work in 1974 was concentrated mainly in the south half of the Square, at the previously left subsidiary south balk. Cleanup Locus C.3:44 had a variety of sherds from Ayyūbid/Mamlūk to Roman and yielded a number of sheep and goat bone fragments and a bronze spatula.

C.3:45 was the ground surface soil with some stones at a top level of 881.20 m. The succeeding loci, C.3:46-47, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk as was C.3:45, continued the layers of stone material, possibly part of a wall. C.3:50, a black soil layer sloping down westward at 20° near the southwest corner of C.3, was the first distinguishable soil layer under C.3:45-48 and was not clearly dated, possibly Byzantine.

Ceramics from C.3:51-57, loci all sloping downward to the west at 15° to 20°, represented a mixture of periods: first 'Abbāsid, then Umayyad, Ayyūbid/Mamlūk and again Umayyad. It may be concluded that these materials were mixed in being moved down the slope, perhaps partly by the seasonal rains. This same erosion process seems a possible cause of sloping loci in C.2, such as C.2:7 and 9. The charcoal and burnt *huwwar* material in C.3:52 and 53 suggested that some burned structures and debris had come down from further up the slope. There were a number of

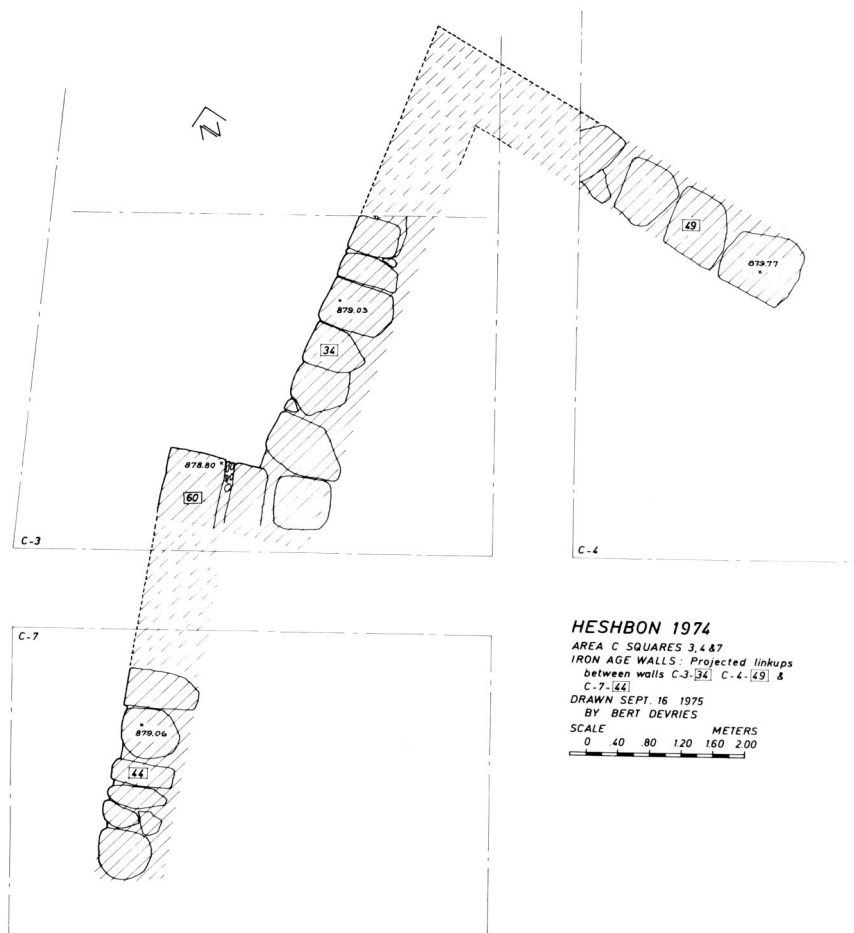


Fig. 12. Top plan of the possible Iron II Defense Perimeter in Squares C.3, 4, and 7, on the west side of Tell Heshbân.

sheep and goat bone fragments scattered through C.3:51-57. C.3:53 produced a Late Roman coin (early fourth century A.D.)

C.3:58, of Umayyad date, was a horizontal locus, as was C.3:59, whose Byzantine date meant that it separated the later loci above from the Iron II Wall C.3:26=60 beneath.

C.3:60 included the head-sized stones that extended east 3.20 m. from the west balk and also included from that point east for another 1.33 m. the large stones resting on bedrock. The large stone group was called Locus 26 in 1973. C.3:26=60, from the 1973 pottery evidence, seemed definitely to be an Iron II wall and was seen to enter the south balk.

C.3:61, dark brown soil in a small probe from the northwest corner of C.3, together with C.3:62, a semicircular pit in that probe along the west balk, produced Ayyūbid/Mamlūk sherds. There were no bones, and only two beads found.

Square C.7 (see Fig. 12). C.7:1 was the surface soil of a new 6.00 m. Square south of C.3 at a top level of 881.46 m. (southeast corner), with an array of sherds from Ayyūbid/Mamlūk to Iron II and a needle point, flint and iron nail. C.7:2-12 included several wall fragments, all of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk construction, and Loci C.7:13-37 and 39, primarily Ayyūbid/Mamlūk also, were soil materials found within, around and under these wall fragments. C.7:40-43 were soil layers dated from the sherds as Umayyad, except for C.7:41, which may possibly be 'Abbāsīd (from one piece found).

Wall C.7:2, 0.86 m. wide and surviving 0.70 m.-1.10 m. high, ran south from the north balk 2.40 m. to near, but not joined to, Wall C.7:3, which extended east 1.40 m. from the west balk, being 0.45 m.-0.65 m. wide and surviving 0.80 m.-1.10 m. high. It is possible that Walls C.7:2 and 3 together with installation C.7:12, a semi-circular row of stones joining Wall C.7:2 on its west face, considered a manger, formed a part of an Ayyūbid/Mamlūk courtyard.

Of Walls C.7:4, 5 and 6, located in the southeast sector, Wall C.7:4, 0.45 m. wide and surviving 0.80 m. high, ran west from the

east balk 1.45 m. Walls C.7:4 (E-W) and 2 (N-S) may have formed a room, part of which was preserved in the northeast corner of the Square. That such a room was a domicile might be argued from the bone needle found there in the medium brown packed earth of C.7:8. C.7:11, composed of a hard packed brown soil embedded with small stones, was probably a rough floor surface inside Walls 2 and 4. Soil Loci C.7:7-11 yielded some sheep and goat bone fragments. Wall C.7:5, 0.30 m. wide and surviving 0.82 m. high, extended north from the south balk for 2.50 m. and lay at a right angle to Wall C.7:4, while Wall C.7:6 lay southeast of Walls C.7:4 and 5. C.7:19, 26, 31, 33, 34, soil layers also in the northeast sector, produced a number of bones, mainly sheep and goat; also there were found an iron knife, an Umayyad coin, and a bone needle.

In C.7:20, 22, 28 and 39, in the south and west sectors, were found a number of bones, mainly sheep and goat, and an iron nail, a bronze ring and a stone mortar foot. C.7:13-17, 21, 23-26, 27, 29, 30 were soil layers in the northwest sector, and of these C.7:14, a hard packed stony soil, may have been a floor for the possible courtyard west of Wall C.7:2. C.7:13-17 produced a number of sheep and goat bones.

C.7:44, a wall of large stones in the northwest sector, 0.70 m.-0.90 m. wide, extending 3.10 m. south from the north balk, seems clearly to be a continuation of Iron II Wall C.3:60, which extended into the C.3 south balk. Brown crumbly soil holding Ayyūbid/Mamlūk to Iron II sherds, which was over and around the surviving top of Wall C.7:44, produced a few sheep and goat and other bones.

Square C.6 (see Fig. 13). All the loci worked in 1974 (C.6:10-25) represented material deposited in Ayyūbid/Mamlūk times, but also containing sherds of the 'Abbāsīd, Umayyad, Byzantine, Roman (C.6:14 and 25) and Iron Age (C.6:25).

In the southeast sector, Wall C.6:4, 1.80 m.-1.00 m. wide and surviving three to four courses high, extended 3.35 m. north from the south balk to the corner doorpost in Wall C.6:7, at which was

an entrance for a room in the house. Powdery gray soil (C.6:11) which covered this and the southwest sector produced many sheep and goat and other bones, an Islamic coin (Ayyūbid, el-Aziz Uthman, 1193-98), one bronze ring and a second fragment, and a lamp handle. The soil of C.6:18 inside the room (southeast corner of the Square), showed signs of burning, evidence of destruction. C.6:28, the hard surface layer in that corner, was probably a floor for the room.

In the northeast sector of C.6, Wall C.6:15 was a double-row, slightly curving wall running north-south and connecting Wall C.6:4 with Wall C.6:2 (to the north) which extended east from the west balk. C.6:19 was a stub of a wall surviving three courses high and 0.63 m.-0.84 m. wide, extending south from the north balk for 0.63 m. to come near the east end of Wall C.6:2, forming a threshold there. The tumbled hewn and field stones of C.6:16, lying in between Wall C.6:7 and Wall C.6:8 (the latter a spur out of the east balk in the northeast corner of the Square), suggested a wall or roof collapse; this locus contained a large number of sheep and goat bones, several iron pieces, jewelry, and a sherd inscribed with the Arabic word for "four."

In the northwest sector was another room bounded by Wall C.6:2, the west balk, the north balk, and the threshold between Walls C.6:2 and 19, with its double door-socket stones *in situ*. C.6:21 was a nicely laid *huwwar* floor, running right up to Wall C.6:2, on which was found a loaf-shaped grinding stone.

In the southwest sector of C.6, C.6:22 and 23 produced an outdoor surface and C.6:25 the tumbled hewn stones of a time of disuse and decay. There were a number of sheep and goat bones found here. The objects found in C.6:20, 22, 23, and 25 included two Mamlūk coins (both with the inscription of al-Manṣūr Ṣalāḥ ad-Dīn Muḥammad, 1361-63), a bracelet, and beads.

Square C.8 (see Fig. 13). C.8, 6.00 m. east-west by 8.00 m. north-south, was located east of C.6 up the slope toward Area A north of the main E-W axis. C.8:1, the surface soil, produced Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, 'Abbāsīd, Umayyad, Byzantine and Early Roman sherds,

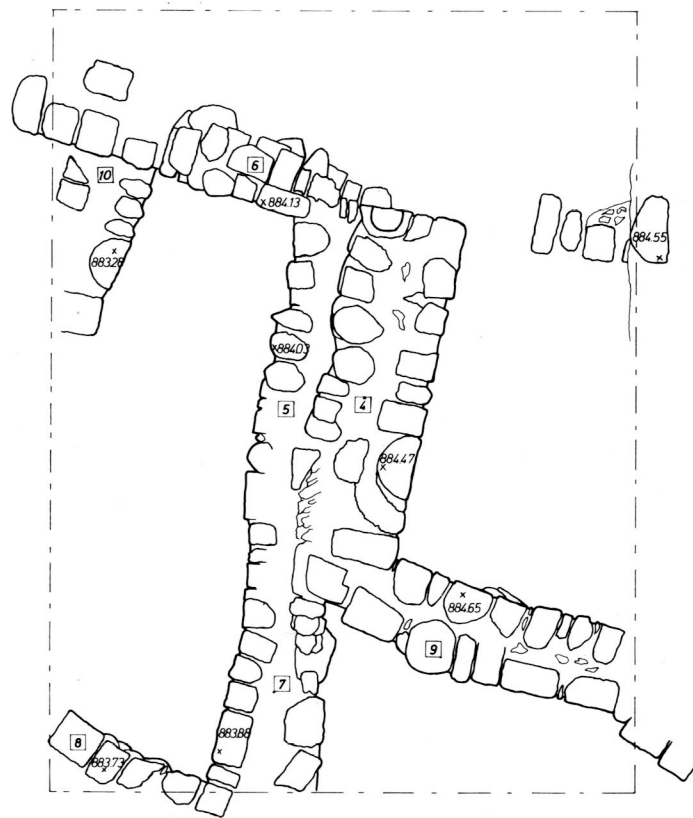
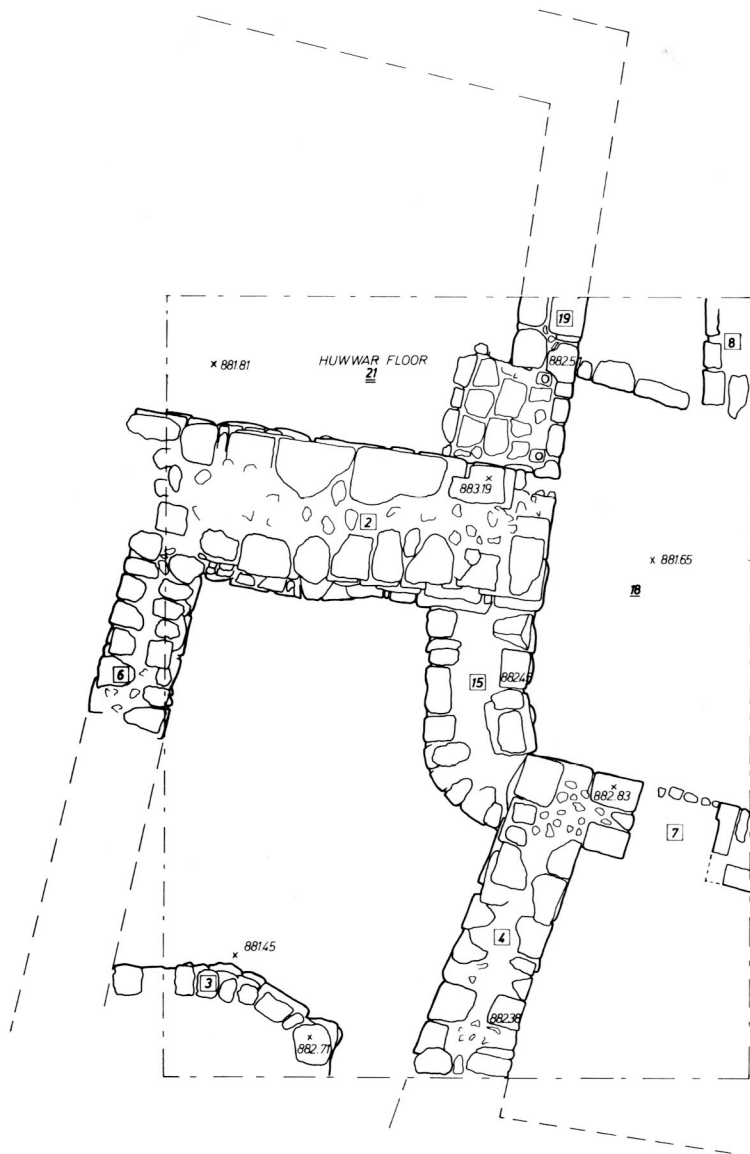


Fig. 13. Top plan of
Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Domest-
ic Structures exposed in
Squares C.6 and 8.



HESHBON 74
AREA C SQUARES 6 & 8

AYYUBID-MAMLUK HOUSE

DRAWN BY:

BERT DE VRIES

PAUL BROHL

AUGUST 1974

SCALE METERS

0 .40 .80 1.20

and a number of sheep and goat bones, an Islamic lamp fragment, and an iron ring.

The loci worked in C.8 this season were all of Ayyūbid/Mamlūk dates. Walls C.8:4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 on the west side seem to connect together to form an auxiliary room although no clear entrance was found. Wall C.8:4, three surviving courses exposed, was located in the north-central sector of C.8, and bounded at its north end to Wall C.8:6 at 1.95 m. from the north balk. Wall C.8:5, of roughly dressed stones exposed to six of its surviving courses, was a skin wall on the west face of Wall C.8:4, ending at its south end at what seemed to be a threshold stone. South of it continued Wall C.8:7 with four surviving courses of dressed stone exposed on its west face, continuing in a double row of stones to the south balk where it met Wall C.8:8. Wall C.8:8 of which three surviving courses were exposed (average width of 0.50 m.) extended in a northwest line into the west balk.

In the northwest sector Wall C.8:6, composed of dressed stone (c. 0.50 m.-0.60 m. wide), extended west-northwest from its junction with Walls C.8:4 and 5 into the west balk where it seemed to connect with C.6:8. Wall C.8:10, mainly of undressed stone, exposed to a depth of two surviving courses, c. 1.00 m. wide, extended 1.50 m. south-southwest from Wall C.8:6 where it ran into the west balk. C.8:14, an additional wall with two surviving courses exposed, mainly of undressed stone (c. 0.90 m. wide), extended somewhat parallel to wall C.8:10 for 1.80 m. from Wall C.8:6. This sector, encompassed by these walls and the west balk, may be a room or a yard. In this west sector, the large fallen stones in soil Layer C.8:11 may have been collapsed parts of surrounding walls. C.8:11 also included an Islamic lamp and a few sheep and goat bones.

In the east half of C.8, Wall C.8:4 (east face) with Wall C.8:15 extending E-W to the east balk, and Wall C.8:9 extending west from the east balk to Wall C.8:4 may enclose part of another room.

In the south east sector of C.8, south of Wall C.8:9 and east of Wall C.8:7, soil layer C.8:12 contained large fallen stones and a

whetstone. Likewise in the north Locus C.8:13 north of Walls C.8:15, 4 and 6, contained large fallen stones.

Interpretation of the Remains

The following portion gives an analysis, by strata and phases, of the possible integration of the architectural features, soil layers, bone analysis, and coins of the loci involved. Also included is an analysis of the functional evidence of the architectural features and other loci excavated.

Ayyūbid/Mamlūk. The wall structures of C.6 and C.8 have been seen to be parts of the same basic house complex. The pottery from the walls and soil layers of C.6 and 8 consistently continued to show the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period of construction and habitation, and since in C.6 this dating was found also below the founding levels of Wall C.6:2 (on its south face) and in the rooms and courtyards there, the conclusion is that those constructions in C.6 are to be dated to the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period. The walls of C.8 seem to connect with the room doorways near the east balk in C.6. All this indicated that there was in C.6 and 8 a dwelling complex of several rooms and courts. In C.6 there were two or three rooms, a part of one of which (between Wall 2 and the north balk) seemed to be some sort of work space, since a grinding stone was found on its floor (Locus 21); the southwest sector of C.6 can be taken to be a courtyard where (in Locus 23) a great number of bone fragments were found, some of sheep and goat, cattle, camel, and one of a horse. In C.8 toward the west balk there is a sector which may have been a courtyard or room for domestic use, to the east of which there seemed to be one or two more rooms. The north building in C.4, described in the Heshbon 1971 report, may also be a part of this house complex lying further west.

The wall structures and soil layers of C.7 have been shown to be of the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period and thus were of the same general date as those in C.6 and C.8, but how these walls and enclosures connected, if at all, was not yet determined. The same

general domestic pattern was seen in C.7 as in C.6 and 8: an outer courtyard and other rooms. In the sector of C.7 proposed as the courtyard with manger, Locus C.7:12 and 14 produced a substantial quantity of sheep and goat bone fragments together with some of cattle. The other Squares of Area C produced no Ayyūbid/Mamlūk structures, and the sherds found in those squares from that period were parts of eroded debris from earlier seasons of work.

'Abbāsīd. There were no structures found from this period, and the evidence for an 'Abbāsīd occupation is sparse, being found to a limited degree in C.7, in Locus 21 and possibly Locus 35 (cf. Loci 51 and 52 at the south balk of Square 3).

Umayyad. No structures of this stratum were found, but here and there were uncovered apparently Umayyad soil layers. For example, in the northwest corner of C.7 the pottery and stratigraphy indicated several layers of Umayyad deposit (Loci 38, 40, 44); (cf. C.3:54, 56-58). It is to be remembered that Umayyad walls were found in C.4:12, 13 and 50, in C.1:7, C.5:7, and C.2:11, as described in an earlier report.

Byzantine. There were no walls or other evidence of structures from the Byzantine period found in Area C this season, such as the Byzantine Wall C.1:8 and some early Byzantine layers found earlier in C.4:41, 53, 54. However, the 1974 season continued to show through analysis of the pottery, especially within the Roman tower (bounded by Walls C.5:60 and 77), evidence of the massive fill from the Byzantine period that had evidently been dumped there from some structures and layers farther up the slope. Evidence of an Early Byzantine locus was seen in the dump material of C.3:71, and C.7:43 also showed a Byzantine layer (cf. C.3:59, south balk).

Late Roman. There was practically no evidence from this period. A Late Roman coin (fourth century A.D.) showed up in C.5 but it was found in the Byzantine dump material of C.5:81; there appeared also a few Late Roman sherds in the Roman Wall C.5:60.

Early Roman. The main evidence in Area C for this period in 1974 was found in what can tentatively be called a Roman defense tower in C.1 and C.5. The pottery coming from the foundation trenches of Wall C.1:49 and C.5:60 was consistently Early Roman, and so it seemed reasonable to conclude that the complex of Walls 40, 63, and 49 in C.1, and Walls 60 and 77 in C.5, connected to make three sides of a structure (the fourth side presumed to be in the subsidiary south balk of C.5 and the south balk of C.1) built in the Early Roman period. The threshold at the bottom of the doorjamb (with a bolt hole cut into it) on the south end of Wall C.5:77, and the paving to the west of the doorway there, with a corresponding line of stones with a surviving upper course offset (Wall C.5:82), all the stones being fairly dressed, and extending to the west balk, indicated a rather formal entrance running uphill eastward into the sector beyond Wall C.5:77. There was another possible doorway off Wall C.5:82 opening north into another room. Thus, this whole structure may well have been part of a Roman defense tower with a guardroom inside. A number of large well-cut stones, some of them grooved and one with a bolt hole in it, that had fallen on and into the wall complex suggested that there was more of the structure in finished stone higher up on the tower to the east, possibly meaning that there was a second story to the tower. The other part of the doorway at the south end of Wall C.5:77 lay in the subsidiary south balk of Square 5. The tower complex seemed to extend north into the north balk of C.5, and the Wall C.5:82 running west of the doorjamb of Wall C.5:77 seemed to extend into the west balk of C.5, all suggesting that there may have been a larger and more intricate defense system of which the tower was one part.

It is to be noted that the foundation-trench material for Wall C.1:30, a wall abutting the corner Wall C.1:49, extending north, was shown to be Early Roman, thus dating Wall 30 to this period also.

Hellenistic. There were no Hellenistic structures discovered in Area C in this season. Although Hellenistic sherds appeared

here and there in C.1 and C.5, there were no clearly Hellenistic loci uncovered. This agrees with evidence from other parts of the tell that Hellenistic settlement here may have been slight.

Iron II. In the northwest sector of C.7, below the Umayyad Loci C.7:38, 40-42 and the one Byzantine locus (43), there was uncovered Wall C.7:44. It was c. 1.00 m. wide, built of coarse stones, and lay on a line running from the north balk south-southwest. This wall was in line with the Iron II Wall C.3:60 (the C.3:26 of 1973) as the latter entered into the south balk of C.3. The surviving top of Wall C.7:44 was at almost the same level (from 879.06 m. to 878.97 m.) as the top of Wall C.3:60 (at 878.80 m.), which suggested that Wall C.7:44 was the extension of, or an upper layer of, stones overlaying Wall C.3:60. This pattern seen in C.7 and C.3 suggested a similarity to other Iron II zigzag walls.

In C.1, in the sector under the Early Roman Wall C.1:30 which abutted on, and extended north from the massive Early Roman Wall complex C.1:49, 63, and 49, the mixed pottery of the Early Roman, Iron II, and the Iron I periods (Loci 117, 118) presented a stratigraphical problem as to the distinction between the Early Roman, the Iron II, and the Iron I periods. This was the same problem encountered regarding those same periods in one of the Squares of Area B. It is to be observed that the Iron II, Iron I dating in C.1:118 can in a number of cases be determined only on the basis of body sherds. Iron II sherds, though mixed with later ones in several Area C Squares, are the latest sherds in some loci of C.2 and date them accordingly.

Iron I. Although scattered sherds of the Iron I period appeared in Squares C.1, 2 and 5, there was no evidence of Iron I structures and very little evidence for clearly Iron I loci; the few cases were Loci C.2:92, 94, 96-99. The paucity of evidence found so far seemed to point to a scanty Iron I habitation on this part of the tell.

Conclusions

In summary, the 1974 excavation in Area C has shown on the lower west slope evidence for a substantial Roman outer defense tower, and up the slope has provided more evidence regarding the Iron II wall in C.3, now also found in C.7. An extensive Ayyūbid/Mamlūk house complex has been uncovered. Further seasons of excavation should help clarify the meaning of these habitations. Evidence of meaningful connections between Areas A and C has not yet been produced.