



Hippos (Sussita) 2003 – 4rd Season

Locus Card

Locus No. L507

Archaeological Context

Locus Status: open

Locus Type: construction fill (below floor)

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church:

Opening Date: 13 July

Opening Height: 130.93

Closing Date:

Closing Height: 130.73

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Under the F516 of chancel.

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
F516	L530	W521	W510	Chancel screen base	W520	
	L531				L518	
	F517				W509	

	X coordinate	Y coordinate
North East	513.39	610.77
South West	523.42	606.03

General Description and Soil Analysis

Pockets of an older buried soil were observed below the floor. This soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed but not enough was observed to make a detailed examination. The lighter colored C horizon lies on the floor of the church. The lower soil dug easier in areas where the loculi for the reliquaries were located.

Chronology of Excavation

13 July

- in Square B1
 - Starting elevation = 130.93

- Ending elevation = 130.59
- Excavated two voids in the floor (L507) of the north aisle east of the chancel screen. Both were a loculus for a reliquary. The reliquary and cover piece are missing. Both reliquary loculi go below the level of the previously identified F517 in the tomb room (elevation 130.72)
- The loculus in the void (.69x.45) next to the east wall (W520) is formed by an L-shaped stone and by other stones forming a “U” against the wall. Plaster on the wall behind the loculus suggests that the loculus is from a later phase of the church. The base of the loculus is dirt and is 39 cm below the level of the floor.
- The central void (90x65) contains a single carved stone (57x49) creating a loculus 31x32x17. The base of the loculus is part of the stone. Indications in the plaster above the loculus point to a cover of approx 57x29. A spinal bone in the debris of the loculus has been sent for identification.

22 July

- In Square B3
 - Starting elevation = 130.88
 - Ending elevation = 130.73
 - Removed sections of F516 and fill between F516 and F517 north of exposed sarcophagus.

Pottery and Small Finds

1839 F507	NEC	B1	130.932	130.592	13-Jul-03	Schuler	opus sectile floor	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L	from reliquary loculi; weight due to marble pieces
							<input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HZ		
							<input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL		
1863 F507	NEC	B3	130.88	130.77	22-Jul-03	Schuler	sealed under floor	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L	final reading incomplete
							<input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ		
							<input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL		

Architectural Items

13 July

- From Square B1
 - 059 piece of marble (secondary use floor tile?) in void next to W520

Concluding Remarks

Layer of fill was created when cist tomb was built and the reliquaries were sent in the floor.