

Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season

Locus Card

Locus no.F545

Archaeological Context

Locus status: closed

Locus Type: floor

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: 13 Sept 04

Opening Height: 130.62

Closing Date: 3 Oct 04

Closing Height:

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Portico west of domus

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
L548	F546	W553	Street	Stylobate	W511	
				W513		

	Northing	Easting
Northeast	598.45	505.66
Southwest	591.87	523.44

General Description and Soil Analysis

Flagstone floor with gate to north and south

Chronology of Excavation

- 13 Sept 04: Continued work in Square E2
 - Starting elevation = 131.09
 - Ending elevation = 130.62
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Clarified that the main doorway to the nave had been blocked at some time later in the history of the church. A small diameter

column drum (see columns in C0) and several blocks are laid flush with the exterior of W511)

- The opening for the nave doorway begins 6.4m from the SW exterior corner of the church
- To the west of W511 is a flagstone floor (F545) that overlays a mosaic floor (F546). A portion of the mosaic floor (F546) is visible next to W511 running south from the doorway for the nave About 4m from the SW exterior corner is some sort of installation 56cm wide and octagonal in shape. It is partially plastered over. Its function is unclear.
- On the mosaic (F546), there is a swirl border approx 21 cm wide running next to W511.
- Plaster from the mosaic floor (F546) curves up the wall in spots, indicating that the exterior of W511 was plastered.
- 21 Sept 04: Continued work in Square E3
 - Starting elevation = 130.80
 - Ending elevation = 130.61
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - List of architectural items
 - 087 – segment of arch (south and west of SW entrance)
 - 088 – lintel of SW door (on dirt in front of SW entrance)
 - Exposed a double-width threshold running east/west at the sw corner of the church. Suspected due to large lintel stone recovered from the rubble above in the previous year. Threshold spans width between W511 and W513.
 - W513 is built above column bases sitting on a stylobate. The bases are of similar size and profile to those in the church. The southern most base is on a line between the SW corner of the church and the threshold, sitting just west of the threshold. The threshold is later than the columns and stylobate. Intercolumnation seems to be 3 times the diameter.

- A street runs to the south of the threshold. As in the NWC, a street brings participants to the main entrance. Perhaps the street is one of the *cardines* of the city.
- Several ashlar for a frame between the first two column bases on the stylobate. Otherwise, W513 seems to float above the column bases.
- Elevations
 - Flagstone floor (F545) = 130.610
 - Stylobate = 130.627
 - entrance stone = 130.718
 - threshold = 130.844
 - street = 130.793
- 26 Sept 04: Floor was cleaned in E2 after plaster was removed. A similar band of mosaic is visible north of the main door as was visible south of it.
- 27 Sept 04: Continued work in Square E1
 - Discussion of phasing in atrium
 - Stylobate and column bases seem to precede church, as the stylobate seems to run south of the SW corner of the church
 - Church comes next with the mosaic floor in the atrium. Some of its plaster curves up the side of the exterior wall of the church
 - Flagstone floor overlays the mosaic, so it is later. The floor seems to be contemporaneous with the main threshold and the street to the south, but all were put in after the stylobate and columns as the threshold overlays a column base and abuts the column (not a normal position). A wall (552) running south from the threshold and column overlays the street (is later than the street). W513 comes from much later and floats on top of the column bases. Some framing between the first two column bases on the stylobate does

not float and may come from the time of the threshold installation.

- We need to find the relationship between the mosaic and the stylobate.
- 3 Oct 04: Continued work in Square E0
 - Starting elevation = 130.63
 - Ending elevation = 130.59
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - Cleared to the north end of the atrium at which there is a threshold for a northerly gate (95cm wide). There is an L-shaped notch in the threshold for a locking bar.
 - The atrium stylobate ends approximately 1.1 m from the northerly wall, seemingly not allowing space for a portico between the north wall of the atrium and the stylobate. The stylobate possibly pre-existed the church construction.
 - A cover for a floor reliquary (with an inscribed bowl and hole) is in secondary use as part of the flagstone paving. It has the exact dimension of the missing cover for the reliquary loculus in the north section of the cancel.
 - While sweeping the northerly section of the atrium, several nail fragments were retrieved from the lacunae in the flagstone floor next to the exterior west wall (W511) of the *domus* (in square E1).
 - A stone bench in one of the lacunae suggests that benches filled all of the lacunae along the west wall (W511), even as benches are a feature of the exterior west wall of the NWC.