

Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season

Locus Card

Locus no. W511

Archaeological Context

Locus status: closed

Locus Type: wall

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: July 02

Opening Height: 131.46

Closing Date: 6 Oct 05

Closing Height:

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

West wall of domus

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
		W541	W510	L505	L501	
				L548	L542	
				F545	F538	
				F546	F544	
					L524	
					F526	

	Northing	Easting
Northeast	599.01	505.81
Southwest	594.72	523.79

General Description and Soil Analysis

Wall about 80cm, open door in south aisle, blocked door to nave, door to north lateral chamber

Chronology of Excavation

- 9 Sept 04: Began work in Square D2
 - Starting elevation = from 131.28 in the west to 130.94 in the east.
 - Ending elevation = 103.64 (next to W511) to 130.59
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Removed most of the destruction fill in the square. It was mostly soil with occasional stones, especially closer to W511.

- Recovered a fragment of chancel screen with vine pattern similar to the first fragment.
- After approaching W511, it is hard to discern from the inside if a door exists. The wall seems of very poor quality, if it is indeed a wall. Suggest a trench in E2 to clarify.
- 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.
- 3 Oct 04: Continued work in Square D0
 - Starting elevation = 130.69
 - Ending elevation = 130.60
 - Soil is Horizon is B/C
 - Removed heavy rubble along with earth. Came to a level that might be an earth or plaster floor.

- The west and north walls of the domus do not form a corner. Rather W511 continues to the north and makes a corner at W541. The massive W541 was the exterior wall of the church.
- The later and angular W541 was removed. W541 and the floating W513 may have created a pen around the ruins at time well after the earthquake, as W541 is added to the ruins of W540 and W513 sits roughly half a meter of earth above the atrium stylobate. The line of W513 was likely determined by protruding shafts of the column bases. A Turkish pipe was recovered from fill at the level of these walls.
- A threshold was uncovered in the west wall (W511) between the northwest corner of the domus and the north wall (W540) This large doorway (1.46 m) gave access to the rooms of the north annex as well as providing the expected third entrance to the church from the west. For congregants could make a sharp right turn into the church through a now sealed doorway just to the east of the wellhead of the cistern. A raised north-south ridge in the floor of the north aisle plus distinctly different mosaic floors in the sections created by the ridge suggest this entrance route. The route would also provide easy access to the cistern.
- The identification of W540 as the true north wall of the church plus the additional gate to the north point to the positioning of the NEC to accommodate a number of pre-existing features: the chamber of the cist tomb, the stylobate and columns of the atrium, and perhaps the cistern.
- 4 Oct 04: Continued work in Square D0
 - Starting elevation = 130.60
 - Ending elevation = 130.41
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - List of architectural items
 - Stairs next to W521

- A curved receptacle of sorts in the southwest corner of the room, likely draining into the cistern.
- Finished the removal of W541
- Came to a floor level (130.48). It is a hard plaster floor. Removed about 8cm in southern half of the square, but was still in the midst of hard material and had not come to any base for the floor.
- A large stone sloped down from W511 and the receptacle toward the cistern (part of its covering?)
- Ended work at this point for the year.