

Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season

Locus Card

Locus no. W513

Archaeological Context

Locus status: open

Locus Type:

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: July 02

Opening Height:

Closing Date:

Closing Height:

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

On line of the east stylobate of the atrium (floating)

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
	L548	W541?	?	?	L505	

	Y-coordinate	X-coordinate
Northeast		
Southwest		

General Description and Soil Analysis

Late wall (floating) Turkish?

Chronology of Excavation

- 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
- 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 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.