

# Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5<sup>th</sup> Season

## Locus Card

Locus no. W521

### Archaeological Context

Locus status: open

Locus Type: wall (interior)

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: July 03

Opening Height: 130.84

Closing Date:

Closing Height:

### Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

North wall of domus

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
	cistern	L536	L501	W511	W520	
		L547	L542			
		F549	L504			
		W539	F538			
			F516			

	Northing	Easting
Northeast	610.83	513.35
Southwest	598.03	510.94

### General Description and Soil Analysis

.8m wall, blocked door to chancel, blocked door to north aisle at west end

### Chronology of Excavation

- 7 Sept 04: As fallen corbels were removed from C1, two additional corbels were revealed that were tipped out from the wall. One of the corbels removed had plaster on its upper face. Therefore, the corbels were NOT used to hold up the roof. Rather, they were in secondary use in the north wall (W521). Bench next to the south face of W521 continues to the east, with plaster patches on its upper surface.

- 8 Sept 04: Part of day was spent repairing W521, reinserting collapsing stones including two corbels.
- Revealed a bench running from the previously exposed segments in D1 to the base of the chancel screen. Bench is 7.34 m in length (east to west). Its width varies from 43-51cm. All pieces are basalt, except the block closest to the chancel screen base. The top of the bench is at the level of the chancel screen base. From east to west, the lengths of the stones are: 34cm, 74cm, 82cm, 82 cm, 83cm, 81cm, 82cm, 82cm, 82cm, and 50cm. Those of 81-83cm length appear to be corbels identical to those in the wall! The level of the north stylobate averages 15cm below that of the bench
- 9 Sept 04: While cleaning next to the bench, we discovered mosaic tile going under the bench.
  - Therefore the bench is from a secondary phase of the church, even as is the bench in the south aisle.
  - The north bench is made of corbels identical to those used in the north wall (W521).
  - Therefore the wall repair is from the same secondary phase of the church
  - Perhaps the column bases North of W521 were part of an entrance closed in a secondary reconstruction. Such an entrance might explain the configuration of the column bases in the north aisle.
  - Excavation of Square C0 is recommended.
- 27 Sept 04: Continued work in Square D0
  - Starting elevation = 130.96
  - Ending elevation = 130.69
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Discovered two stairs next to W521 at east end of the square. Although the balk is in the way, the stairs seem to continue to the east over the pillars in C0 (explaining the blocks piled up around them). Could they be leading to a second story or tower in B0?

Could they provide access to a balcony over the north aisle (thus explaining the gap between CN3 and CN4)?

- A blocked doorway provides access through W521 to the north aisle next to the cistern. The doorway closed from inside the church.
- 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.