

Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season

Locus Card

Locus no. W540

Archaeological Context

Locus status: open

Locus Type: wall

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: July 03

Opening Height: 131.59

Closing Date:

Closing Height:

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

North exterior wall of the church

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
		?	L536	W511	?	
			L547			
			F549			

	Northing	Easting
Northeast	?	?
Southwest	599.13	506.34

General Description and Soil Analysis

1.2m wall

Chronology of Excavation

- 28 Sept 04: Continued work in Square E0
 - Starting elevation = 130.76
 - Ending elevation = 130.63
 - Soil is Horizon B/C
 - List of architectural items
 - N1950

- N1947
 - Grinding stone base (meta)
- Continued to remove soil and heavy fill.
- W540 seems to end at the line of W511. Upon closer inspection, W511 seems to extend to the north to W540. W540 is the outer wall of the church structure, explaining why there is no clear cornerstone at the NW corner of the domus in W511.
- W541 seems to be a much later wall, floating above the ruins like W513.
- 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.