

# Hippus (Sussita) Excavations 2005 – 6th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: \_\_\_ 12 July \_\_\_ Area: \_\_\_ NEC \_\_\_ Manager: \_\_\_ Schuler \_\_\_

Squares	B0	B4	E4		
Loci	L558	L557	L548		
Baskets	1983	1984	1985		
Walls	W521, W540, W560, W510, W512, W554, W552				
Floors	F561				

- Continued work in Square B0
  - Starting elevation = 132.16
  - Ending elevation = 131.72
  - Soil is Horizon A
  - Identified a new north/south wall (W560) between W521 and W540. It is 2.90m to 2.95m east of W539 and has an average width of 66cm. Its position is just west of the blocked doorway to the chancel in W521. W540 continues to the east of W560. There may be an exit from the room created by these walls to the north. As W560 seems insufficient to support a tower, we are less confident that the staircase in the north lateral chamber continued east of W539. It either went to some sort of loft at the east end of the north lateral chamber or to a balcony in the church. Complete excavation of the room will clarify the character of the stairs.
  
- Continued work in Square B4
  - Starting elevation = 131.58
  - Ending elevation = 131.46
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Discovered a second base for a vault on the north wall (W510) 2.2m west of the earlier one. Opposite it on W554 are a pedestal and an upside down Roman pilaster base of fine quality. This feature likely served as the opposite side of the vault. We will refer to this room from now on as the “south vaulted chamber.”

- We expanded the square half a meter to the east to reach the southeast interior corner between W512 and W554. The distance between W510 and W554 is 5.65m
- Continued work in Square E4
  - Starting elevation = 130.75
  - Ending elevation = 130.73
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Cleared to the street level (F561) between W552 and the unidentified building. This north-south street may have been one of the cardines of the city
  - 3.95m south of the threshold of the atrium, the paving changes. A 1m wide section of paving has a rounded channel cut in it that flows from east to west. The channel is 11cm wide and 5 cm deep. It flows from under the unidentified building to W552 and proceeds under that wall for 24 cm. The channel seemingly empties into a cistern. A stone dropped into the cistern took a second to hit the bottom. The cistern opening seems to be round and about 38cm wide.

#### Observations

The use of a Roman pilaster in south vaulted chamber and the appropriation of a Roman plaza as the atrium of the church suggest that the site was previously occupied by a Roman temple complex.

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Daily Drawing

