

Plan 128: X-Y-Z,25-26-27 - Overview

No remains assignable to either Stratum 5 or Stratum 4 could be discerned. This area may have been outside the settlement of those periods.

No remains of Stratum 3C could be traced.

Stratum 3B is represented by the offset-inset wall with its revetment-glacis and a retaining wall.

No remains established in Stratum 3A are attested.

Stratum 2 is represented by sections of a building later than Stratum 3B, and which are associated with probable Stratum 2 buildings in plan 127 to the W. The function of the building is unknown. The 3B offset-inset wall continued in use.

Stratum 1 is attested by walls crossing over the 3B offset-inset wall. There are probably two phases to the Stratum 1 remains here, however, their connection to remains to the W and NW is not clear.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in 1932. The area of X-Y,26-27 and Z27 were not cleared. The only photograph which shows the section inside the town wall is P 834, but the area adjacent to the gate is difficult to distinguish. The area ca. 2.0 m beyond the inner face of the W edge of the town wall was also evidently not excavated. The excavators seem to have been interested only in tracing the line of the town wall and did not do much more than clear its W face. A number of photographs are

available for the outer, E face of the fortifications. Several walls cut across the top of the offset-inset wall; however, these are not clear from the photographs, and some times even difficult to evaluate on the plan.

Building 128.01: Rm 320, Rm 322 -

The exact nature and limits of these two rooms cannot be determined. Even their existence as an independent building is open to doubt. The following discussion treats these chambers together, rather than separately.

Like other buildings to the S and W its preserved upper courses are below the upper courses of the inner gate Building 145.01. If this gate was the direct access type then Building 128.01 stood directly in front of its entrance.

The W wall of Rm 320 and Rm 322 (in Plan 127) seems to reach the N face of the inner gate. P 834 shows only one clear course in this wall, though there may be more. This wall also forms the back E wall to Rm 325 of Building 144.01 of Stratum 2 and this building's apparent extension to the N in Z24.

There are two possibilities. The first is that the E wall of Building 144.01 (=W wall of Building 128.01) is a later construction replacing and extending to the N the original E wall of Building 144.01. This would indicate some construction in the latter part of Stratum 2. Note especially Rm 318 in AA25 of Plan 145. This small chamber could fit very well as a second back room attached to Rm 325 at an early stage in the building's history. It does not fit well with plan of Rm 320; the E wall of Rm 318 is too close to the E wall of Rm 320 for both to have

been in use at the same time.

The second possibility is that the back E wall of Building 144.01 was built at the same time as the rest of the structure, and in association with Building 128.01. This would leave Rm 318 as a remnant of a pre-Stratum 3B building cut by Building 144.01. This problem will be taken up again below.

The N wall of Rm 322 extends from its W wall to ca. 70 cm beyond the edge of its E wall, and ends abruptly. Neither P 834 nor the plan give any indication that it ever reached the town wall, or crossed over it. Because very little of Y25 was excavated it is impossible to understand the relation of Building 128.01 to structures to the N, and therefore the reason for this very short extension of the wall. The wall could have extended all the way to the town wall, but the evidence to decide the issue is not available.

The E wall of Rm 320 and Rm 322 is visible in P 834 and appears to have been preserved three to four courses high. This wall continues S into Z25 on Plan 141 and stops ca. 80 cm short of the N wall of the inner gate, without making a corner. It is unclear if this gap is a doorway, or is due to poor preservation. In Rm 316 of the inner gate is a short section of masonry which is on the same line as the E wall of Building 128.01, but its base is about 1.0 m higher than the top of the wall in Rm 316.

From P 834 it seems that the wall which separates Rm 320 from Rm 322 is preserved only one course high. It crosses these two rooms on a slightly diagonal course from NW to SE. It is difficult to decide if it is perhaps a later addition to this building, or is a fragment of a later building, one perhaps connected with Building 127.04. The

photograph gives the impression that this wall actually crosses over the W wall of Building 128.01, and possibly connects with the other wall fragments floating above the level of Building 128.01's W wall. If so, this would clinch its position in Stratum 1.

All in all, it seems best to consider Building 128.01 a later addition to a small complex consisting of Building 127.03, Building 144.01 and Building 128.01 with the space numbered Rm 330 (and perhaps the area occupied by Rm 328 and Rm 329 during Stratum 2) serving as a open courtyard. Rm 318 would have been part of the original Building 144.01, but was replaced by Building 128.01.

Rm 321 is the space between the E wall of Building 128.01 and the offset-inset wall. The function of this space is not at all apparent. Nor is it clear if this space was roofed; its N half was probably too wide to be roofed anyway. Perhaps it was a storage and/or work area connected to Building 128.01.

Dating of Building 128.01 -

The building blocks access to the 3B inner gate and is connected to a Stratum 2 building to the W. It seems best to assign this structure to a later phase of Stratum 2, though the partition wall within it could belong to Stratum 1.

Function of Building 128.01 -

The building does not seem domestic in character, but there is not enough evidence to determine its true role.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

Two insets, one offset and a portion of the massive tower defending the inner gate are shown. The tower, its revetment/glacis, and retaining wall are well-documented in photographs. Since no elevations are given for the wall N of the tower it may be that excavation only uncovered its upper courses; there are no photographs of this N stretch of the wall.

The wall varies in width from ca. 4.2 m in the S to 4.8 m in the N. There may have been a revetment-glacis here, as is restored on the Survey Map of the 1947 report since such additional defenses are found outside the inner gate and a stretching a few meters S from the E tower of the outer gate. However, excavation evidently did not reach low enough against the outer face to prove this.

Five short fragments of walls can be seen cutting across the top of the offset-inset wall in X25. There are too many of these spaced too closely together for them all to belong to the same stratum. If, as suggested above the town wall and outer gate continued in use through Stratum 2, then these wall fragments belong to Stratum 1 and represent early and late phases of that stratum. They may be connected in some way with Building 127.02 (the Tb 168 structure) and the large wall which cuts it. If X24 were further excavated possibly some clue as to the relationship of these two areas could be determined.

The plan gives the impression that a ca. 1.3 m wide wall stood on the E edge of the offset-inset wall, and might be connected with the middle wall of the five fragments already mentioned. Whether this is truly a later addition to the town wall, or an accident in the drafting of the wall, must remain an open question.

The offset-inset wall is not bonded to the tower of the inner

gate. The total width of the tower in Z25-26 is 12.7 m. The tower makes up ca. 6.5 m, the revetment-glacis ca. 4.5 m, and the retaining wall 1.7 m. From the base of the retaining wall to the upper-most preserved part of the tower is ca. 6.0 m.

The 1947 report states that the excavators believed that a later glacis covered an earlier one.⁷⁶⁷ The reason for this assessment can be seen in P 896 where a small patch of the "early" glacis can be seen. It does appear to be below the level of the "late" glacis. If the "late" glacis changed its slope at the top of its preserved upper course it might join with the "early" glacis and so really form one glacis surface. This question must remain open.

Also unclear from the plans and photograph is the relationship of the retaining wall to the revetment-glacis. P 896 shows the glacis in Z26 coming down almost on top of the retaining wall, while in AA26 the glacis is clearly behind the retaining wall. The 1947 report notes that the retaining wall was indeed built E beyond the "later" glacis.⁷⁶⁸

Other Features -

Fragments of two walls which may have met to form a corner were found in Y25. Since the area to the N and W was not excavated their further relations cannot be known. They are either Stratum 2 or 1.

⁷⁶⁷I, pp. 193 , 200.

⁷⁶⁸I, 200.