

Dor End of Season 2005 Area D1 (West) Supervisor's Report

Preliminary Information / Credits

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Locus bank: L05D1-250 – L05D1-326, W16127, W16850

Basket bank: 05D1-2500 – 05D1-????

Image bank: d/p/v XXY-0001 – d/p/v XXY-0064.

Overview

In 2005, the UC Berkeley team excavated three squares in Area D1 West: AT/15, AV/16, and AV/17. AT/15 and AV/17 were started from topsoil and excavation began in AV/16 where it had stopped in the 2000 season. The goal we had for opening these squares was to determine the northern and eastern extents of the “Monument,” a Phase 3 building which was first found in 1995 and partially excavated in 1998 and 2000.

This building drew our attention this season for several reasons. First, the southwest corner of the building was exposed and the wall is preserved to the level of the toichobate, along with plaster covering the face of the stylobate and portions of the molded wall base. Second, in the 2000 season, several architectural fragments and a Nike akroterion were recovered in squares to the southeast of this corner. These two factors pointed to the likely identification of this building as a free standing public structure dating to the Hellenistic period.

The results from this season were impressive. In AV/17, we were able to trace the western wall (W16850) of the Monument to its northern corner and the beginning of its eastern return (W05D1-296). The building is approximately 12 meters wide (Figure 1). Unfortunately, the preservation in its northern part is not as good as in the south and only the lower foundation courses of the walls remain. (p05D1-9090, p05D1-9091, p05D1-9096) These foundations cut Persian deposits.

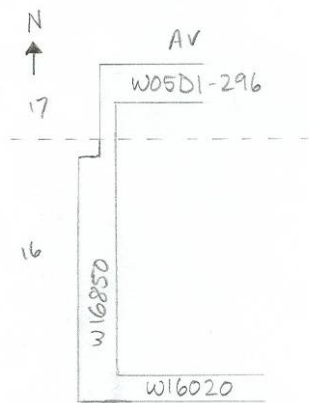


Figure 1

North of the line of the northern wall we found a Roman street (F05D1-278, F05D1-284) and drain (F05D1-293) immediately below (p05D1-9065), most likely the continuation of the north-south street and drain running through Areas F and H. It is also possible that it was an east-west street that would have made a junction here with the street running south from Area H. This street neatly abutted the northern wall of the Monument, indicating that it, or more likely a successor built on the same foundation, still stood in the Roman period. The relations between the street and the northern wall indicate that this would have been a north-facing building. (Figure 2) The street was cut by a massive robber trench (L05D1-288), presumably a British WWII trench, as the soil yielded little to no artifacts. We observed a later cobble and plaster paving along the western edge of the square, very close to the surface and uncut by this robber trench. It is most likely part of the modern Israeli army construction associated with the radar post that occupied the western promontory of the site (El Burj) until 1991.

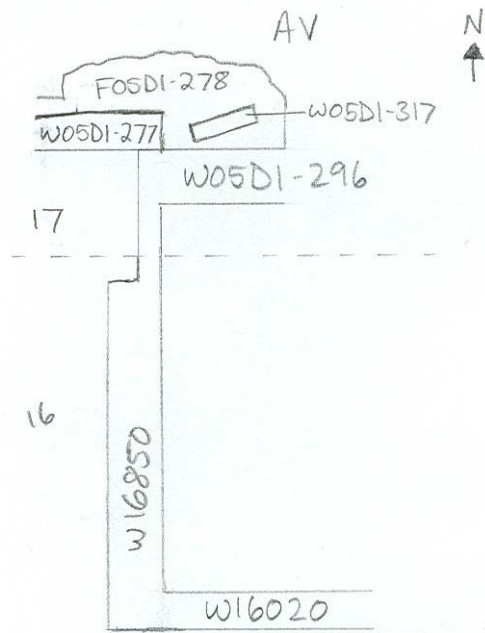


Figure 2 Northwest corner of Monument

Excavation in AV/16 revealed evidence of later activity which partially cut the western wall of the Monument (W16850). An east-west wall (W05D1-260) and a tabun (L05D1-264), located in the corner where the Roman street clearly cut the Monument, provide more evidence for changed nature of this part of the site in Roman period (p05D1-9101, p05D1-9094).

We opened AT/15 to see if we could find more information on the structure that cut the southern wall of the Monument. It is a larger building, its walls extending beyond those of the Monument, at least on the south and east. W16127 is the easternmost of these walls and perhaps marks the entrance to the building as the top course of flat ashlar extends east beyond the foundation and is beveled underneath on its eastern side (p05D1-9000, p05D1-9008, p05D1-9010). (The following discussion concerns only what was found west of this wall. See D1 East, AS/15 for the discussion on the excavations to the east.)

We distinguished two phases of activity in AT/15 related to the function of this building. In Phase 1 there was a cement and cobble floor (F05D1-250) reaching the western side of the beveled course of ashlar of W16127. This was presumably the floor of some kind of open air courtyard just inside the entrance of the building. The situation was somewhat different in Phase 2a. Two socket stones suggest that this area may have been covered over. Below this, in Phase 2b, the situation was again different. We found a large stone installation (W05D1-311, W05D1-314, W05D1-315, W05D1-321) similar to that found in AS/15 and certainly associated with whatever industrial activity was going on.

The main considerations for the stratigraphic scheme

Area D1 West has 6 main local phases. These are assigned based on the *relative stratigraphy*, e.g. F05D1-271 is above the supposed British Trench and so is considered Phase 0, no other walls cut W16127 so it should be Phase 1, as well as on *convention*, e.g. evidence for industrial activity all over the site should be considered Phase 2 and so we place the kilns in Phase 2. Nothing found this season in D1 West contradicts this. W16127B and the associated floor(s) were also placed in this phase. Ilan has suggested that either (a) the nature of the building changed when the stylobate (the beveled top course of W16127) was laid or (b) W16127B (and perhaps W05D1-272?) are sleeper-walls for the stoa or whatever the phase 1 building was and the sockets and kilns represent some kind of open-air activity. I agree with (a), that the purpose of the building changed at the time the stylobate was laid. This would mean that there was an earlier building in which the socket-stone phase replaced the kiln phase. This might fit since the 'bin' in AT/15 showed no evidence of firing (making it indoors?) and the 'bin' in AS/15 showed extensive evidence of burning (making it outdoors?).

Note: I have a feeling that the phasing for the beveled stylobate, the sockets, and the bins/kilns in AS-AT/15 might go

(1a)=stylobate and cobble floor

(1b)=sockets and lower courses of W16127

(2)=kilns

As for the idea that the Monument is Phase 3, this is supported by the tabun L05D1-264 which cut the Monument wall W16850 and by the later building activity which cut the Monument to the east. The features of Phase 4 (a phytolith layer) and Phase 5 (a pavement) were assigned based on their relative chronological relation to the Monument.

Phase 0

AV/17 (BJH): F05D1-271, L05D1-288, L05D1-324

Phase 0 represents modern activity in this square. L05D1-288 and L05D1-324 both designate the British WWII military trench (p05D1-9066, p05D1-9063). This trench cuts the Phase 2a pavement (F05D1-288, F05D1-284) and drain (L05D1-293). F05D1-271 is a chalky cobble and plaster paving running along the western edge of the square (try p05D1-9066, p05D1-9063. The photo numbers were never entered onto the database locus card.). As this paving lies above the level of the British trench, we presume that it is part of the construction associated with the modern Israeli army base.

Phase 1

AT/15 (EKD): F05D1-250, F05D1-263, W16127 (Stage A)

W16127 (p05D1-9000, p05D1-9008, p05D1-9010) is a Phase 2 wall reused in Phase 1. Specifically, the top course of flat ashlars, what we call Stage A, was laid and used in Phase 1. F05D1-250 is a concrete and cobble floor reaching Stage A of W16127 (p05D1-9085, p05D1-9086, p05D1-9095). F05D1-263 is a patchy dirt floor which is most likely sub-flooring for F05D1-250. It also probably reached W16127 (stage a), but the relations are unclear. F05D1-263 did reach W05D1-272 on the northern and eastern faces of the wall and reached W16127 (stage b).

W16127 (Stage A) is the eastern entrance of an east-facing building which cut the monument. The flat ashlars of this stage presumably constitute the stylobate of this building. The beveling on their eastern face would seem to confirm this interpretation. F05D1-250 would therefore most likely have been the floor of an inner open-air precinct or court.

Key Loci: The key loci in this phase are those sealed below the floors. These loci are L05D1-256 (floor make-up of F05D1-250) and L05D1-273 (floor make-up of F05D1-263). L05D1-256 yielded a Dor Type 26 lamp fragment, dating the fill from the end of the 1st to 3rd centuries CE. L05D1-273 contained fragments of Roman glass.

Phase 2

AT/15 (EKD): F05D1-291, F05D1-310, W16127 (Stage B), W05D1-272, W05D1-311, W05D1-313, W05D1-315, W05D1-321, L05D1-281, L05D1-290

Phase 2 in AT/15 is represented by two sub-phases.

Phase 2a: W16127 (Stage B, the lower courses) is a Phase 2b wall reused in Phase 2a. W05D1-272 is also a Phase 2b wall reused in Phase 2a. F05D1-291 is a patchy plaster floor that reaches W16127 (Stage B) and probably reached W05D1-272 (p05D1-9092, p05D1-9093). F05D1-291 also reached the southern socket stone L05D1-290 and presumably reached the northern socket stone L05D1-281. We believe that these socket stones held posts for the roof of a building whose eastern wall was W16127 (Stage B). It is possible that the western wall could have been W05D1-272, but the short length of this wall (3.35m) and its position between the two socket stones makes it unlikely. The nature of this building is unclear.

Phase 2b: The main feature of this subphase is a stone installation (p05D1-9102, p05D1-9103, p05D1-9105, p05D1-9100).. It is basically a pit with four walls making up the sides (N-W05D1-311, E-W05D1-314, S-W05D1-321, W-W05D1-315) and a smaller wall (W05D1-313) serving as a partial foundation for the eastern wall, W05D1-314. A solid plaster floor, F05D1-310, reached W16127 and reached and partially covered the northern installation wall, W05D1-311. F05D1-310 did not appear to reach W05D1-272. The entrance to the installation was from the north, since its northern wall, W05D1-311, was at the same level as F05D1-310. The two side walls, W05D1-314 and W05D1-315, curve in slightly at their northern ends, forming a doorway of sorts into the installation and excavation inside revealed a step down from this northern doorway.

Phase 3 (or lower)

A small portion of a wall in the south part of the square, W05D1-326, was identified in the last days of the season. It has no relations to any floors or other walls. It is unclear to what phase it belongs, but as of now the installation appears to cut it.

Key Loci: The key locus for Phase 2 in AT/15 is L05D1-300, the unsealed floor make-up of F05D1-291.

AV/16-17 (EKD, BJH): F05D1-278, F05D1-284, W05D1-260, W05D1-268, W05D1-277, W05D1-317, L05D1-264, L05D1-288, L05D1-324, L05D1-293

Phase 2 in AV/16-17 is represented by two sub-phases.

Phase 2a: In this phase there was massive ashlar construction around the northwest corner of the Phase 3 Monument. The main feature here is the pavement of the Roman street (F05D1-278, F05D1-284) (p05D1-9065), probably the same north-south street that runs through Areas F and H. It is also possible that this is an east-west street forming a junction with the north-south street. A drain (L05D1-293) that runs under the street may be the same drain that underlies the street in Areas F and H (p05D1-9065). The street and drain are both cut by a massive robber trench (L05D1-288, L05D1-324), probably the British military WWII trench. F05D1-278 reaches W05D1-277 (p05D1-9065), a course of thick ashlar forming a short curb along the southern edge of the street. There is a lower course of ashlar in W05D1-277 (faced with plaster stucco), which abuts W16850, the western wall of the Phase 3 Monument. East of W05D1-277, the pavement runs south a very short way until it abuts W05D1-296, the northern wall of the Monument. W05D1-317 is built on top of the southern portion of the pavement and consists of only four ashlar laid end to end.

Phase 2b: In this phase, there was construction affecting W16850, the western wall of the Monument, at its northern end. W05D1-268 is a rubble wall which reaches and partially covers W16850 from the west (p05D1-9101). A short distance to the north, W05D1-260, an east-west header-stretcher wall, cut half way through the thickness of W16850 (p05D1-9101). A tabun (L05D1-264) was built just north of this wall and also cut W16850 (p05D1-9094). North of the tabun lies W05D1-277, the Phase 2a "curb" discussed immediately above. (At this time we believe the tabun to have been constructed before W05D1-277. However, it is possible that this wall and the pavement (F05D1-278) were built first and that the tabun was built in the corner this wall made with W16850, making the tabun Phase 2a and the pavement and associated walls Phase 2b.) (Figure 1).

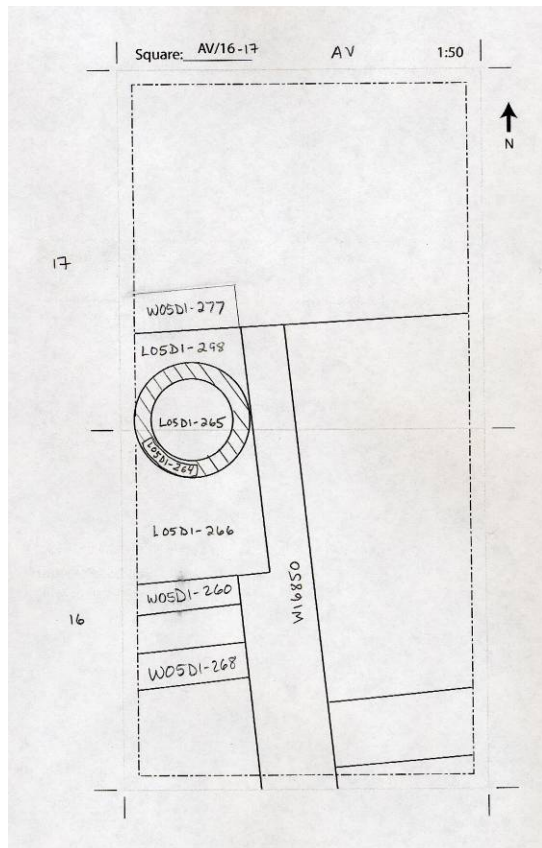


Figure 3

Phase 3

AV/16-17 (EKD, BJH): W16850, W05D1-296

Phase 3 in AV/16-17 is represented by the west (W16850) and north (W05D1-296) walls of the Monument. W05D1-296 abuts W16850 and is reached by F05D1-278, the Phase 2a pavement. W16850 is cut by W05D1-260 and by tabun L05D1-264, both Phase 2b. W05D1-277 abuts W16850.

Phase 4

AV/16 (EKD): F05D1-253

Phase 4 (local?) is represented by one floor, F05D1-253 (p05D1-9091, p05D1-9090, p05D1-9096). It is a more than a layer than a true floor, marked by a layer of yellowish ashy soil, determined by the Weizmann Institute team to be phytoliths. The Monument wall W16850 cut through this floor.

Key Loci: The key loci associated with this phase are those representing the Persian and Hellenistic fills through which the monument wall W16850 cuts. These are L05D1-253 and the fill beneath its floor, L05D1-299.

Phase 5

AV/17 (BJH): F05D1-288

Phase 5 in this square is represented by F05D1-288 (p05D1-9066, p05D1-9063), a massive ashlar pavement below the Phase 2b pavement F05D1-278 and F05D1-284. This pavement is believed to be an earlier street most likely on the same orientation as the later one. It was discovered when the fill in the British WWII trench (L05D1-288) had been removed. The relations to any walls are unknown since the rest of the square has not been excavated to this level. So we tentatively assign this pavement to (local) Phase 5, with the understanding that further excavation may change this assignment.