

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2003 – 4th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 10 July 2003 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	B1	C3
Loci	L504, L522, L523	L501
Baskets	PC1833	PC1834
Walls	W510, W520, W521	
Floors	F516	

- Continued work in Square B1
  - Starting elevation = 131.07
  - Ending elevation = 130.93
  - Soil is Horizon C: light gray (10YR 7/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) moist; massive; firm, hard in places near the floor; 10 percent pebbles, 10 percent cobbles, 20 percent stones; assumed to be calcareous (by color).
  - List of architectural items . . .
    - 056 corner doorjamb
    - 058 fragment of top of chancel screen post (rounded) – very soft limestone

<b>Basket</b> 1833	<b>Area</b> NEC	<b>Locus</b> L504	<b>Square</b> B1	<b>Opening elevation</b> 131.072
<b>Closing Elevation</b> 130.932		<b>Weight</b> 2.28	<b>Date</b> 10-Jul-03	<b>Manager</b> Schuler
Yes <b>Ceramic</b>		Yes <b>Plaster</b>	No <b>Human Bones</b>	<b>Loci Type</b> destruction fill
Yes <b>Ceramic non-pottery</b>		Yes <b>Architectural Item</b>	No <b>Iron</b>	
Yes <b>Tessera</b>		No <b>Lamp</b>	No <b>Lead</b>	
Yes <b>Glass</b>		No <b>Inscription</b>	No <b>Inscription</b>	
<b>Remarks</b>				
<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>	
0	1	0	0	
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>
1	1	69	0	0
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>
0	0	1	0	2
				<b>OCW Jar Body Shard</b>
				29
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>		
0	0	0		

**Analysis**

broken fragments of chancel screen from very soft limestone (cp AI058)

3 pieces of roof tile

11 small pieces of plaster -- some reds and yellows

tesserae:

1 cm -- 6 black, 9 white

2 cm -- 1 black, 3 white

small fragments of glass

bone fragments:

LOC.		BONE	SIDE	SP.	B	NOTE
504	PC1833	Metacarpus	Proximal	Capra/Ovis	-	
		Scapula	Glenoid-fossa	Capra/Ovis	-	
		Vertebrae	Thoracic	Capra/Ovis	-	
		M3+M2	Mandible	Capra/Ovis	-	Prime-Adult
		Rib	Shaft	Capra/Ovis	-	
		Long bone	Shaft	Bos	-	

- Revealed floor of chancel area. It is made of stones in secondary use tightly fitted in no clear pattern. It is similar to the floor in the tomb room at the south end of the chancel, but it lacks the two cruciform patterns.
- The chancel screen channel ends at CN1. One blank stone (.7m) provides an opening in the screen. The rest of the north aisle is spanned by one screen held by two posts.
- There are three voids in the floor.
  - One is in the NE corner. A paving stone similar to those on the surface rests 6 cm below it. One sees a similar occurrence in the tomb room on the south side (perhaps collapse due to erosion of substrate).
  - A second one (45 x 85 cm) is against W520. It too has paving beneath it, although it has not been fully cleaned.
  - A third void (65 x 90 cm) is in the center of the square. It aligns with the north door (see below) and with the center of the chancel screen that separates it from the rest of the north aisle. This alignment, plus some working of one the of the corner stones, suggests that the void in the floor is not a collapse but rather a locus for an installation for something buried below. It has been designated L523 and will be investigated later.

- A doorway in the north wall (now closed and designated L522) may show up to three phases of construction.
  - The original doorway is framed by finely-worked stones of basalt. It has a width of 114 cm. The many doorjambs recovered in the square and the lintel recovered in B2 last summer are likely from this doorway.
  - In a second phase the door was narrowed by the insertion of a 42cm doorjamb on the west over a threshold that rises 18 cm above F516. The door was closed with limestone blocks.
- Throughout the excavation of B1, numerous fragments of plaster were recovered. At higher levels most were white. Lower in the square, colors, lines, and patterns were observed. The dominant color is red although some yellows are also visible. From PC1831, it is possible to reconstruct from the fragments a broad red band (6-7 cm wide) that is bordered by one to three very narrow stripes (1-2mm). On the opposite side of the narrow stripes, the background color is yellow. From PC1833 comes a fragment with a white background, a yellow band (4mm), and a red blotch that may be grapes. From the same potter container comes a fragment with a yellow background, a brown band (4mm) and a small red blotch. A small fragment from PC1835 may capture the edge of a round red object.
- A small assortment of bones and teeth were collected from the fill in the NE corner of the church. The bones were from sheep/goats. One long bone was from a cow.
- Continued work in Square C3
  - Starting elevation = 130.85 (low) 131.15 (high)
  - Ending elevation = 130.85 (low) 131.05 (high)
  - The soil is Horizon B – grayish brown (10YR 5/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) moist; very weak, coarse subangular blocky structure; 10 percent pebbles, 15 percent cobbles, 35 percent stones; irregular boundary.
  - List of architectural items . . .
    - 057 doorjamb

<b>Basket</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Locus</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>Opening elevation</b>
1834	NEC	L501	C3	131.152
<b>Closing Elevation</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>Loci Type</b>
130.852	2.15	10-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill
Yes <b>Ceramic</b>	No <b>Plaster</b>	No <b>Human Bones</b>		
No <b>Ceramic non-pottery</b>	Yes <b>Architectural Item</b>	No <b>Iron</b>		
Yes <b>Tessera</b>	No <b>Lamp</b>	No <b>Lead</b>		
Yes <b>Glass</b>	No <b>Inscription</b>	No <b>Inscription</b>		

**Remarks**

1834A/B – Late Roman Rim Plate

<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>		
0	2	0	0		
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>	
0	1	79	0	0	
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>	
3	0	0	0	1	
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Body Shard</b>
0	0	0	0	0	24
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>			
0	0	0			

**Analysis**

tesserae:

1 cm --9 black, 2 red, 28 white

1.5 cm -- 10 white

2 glass fragments

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- Typical destruction ruins were removed from more of C3
  - Along the south wall (W510) beginning 47 cm west of the south door (L519) is a series of carefully worked stones lining the wall (Bench? Shelf?). They vary from 38 to 44 cm wide and continue to the west beyond the edge of the square. Five stone have been revealed of varying lengths (60, 40, 100 cm)
  - At the southwest corner of the square, there is some plaster on the wall that shows a curve out to cover the bench/shelf. In two other locations on the bench/shelf, small amounts of plaster adhere to the surface. The exact function of the platform/bench may be clarified as the rest of the square is uncovered.

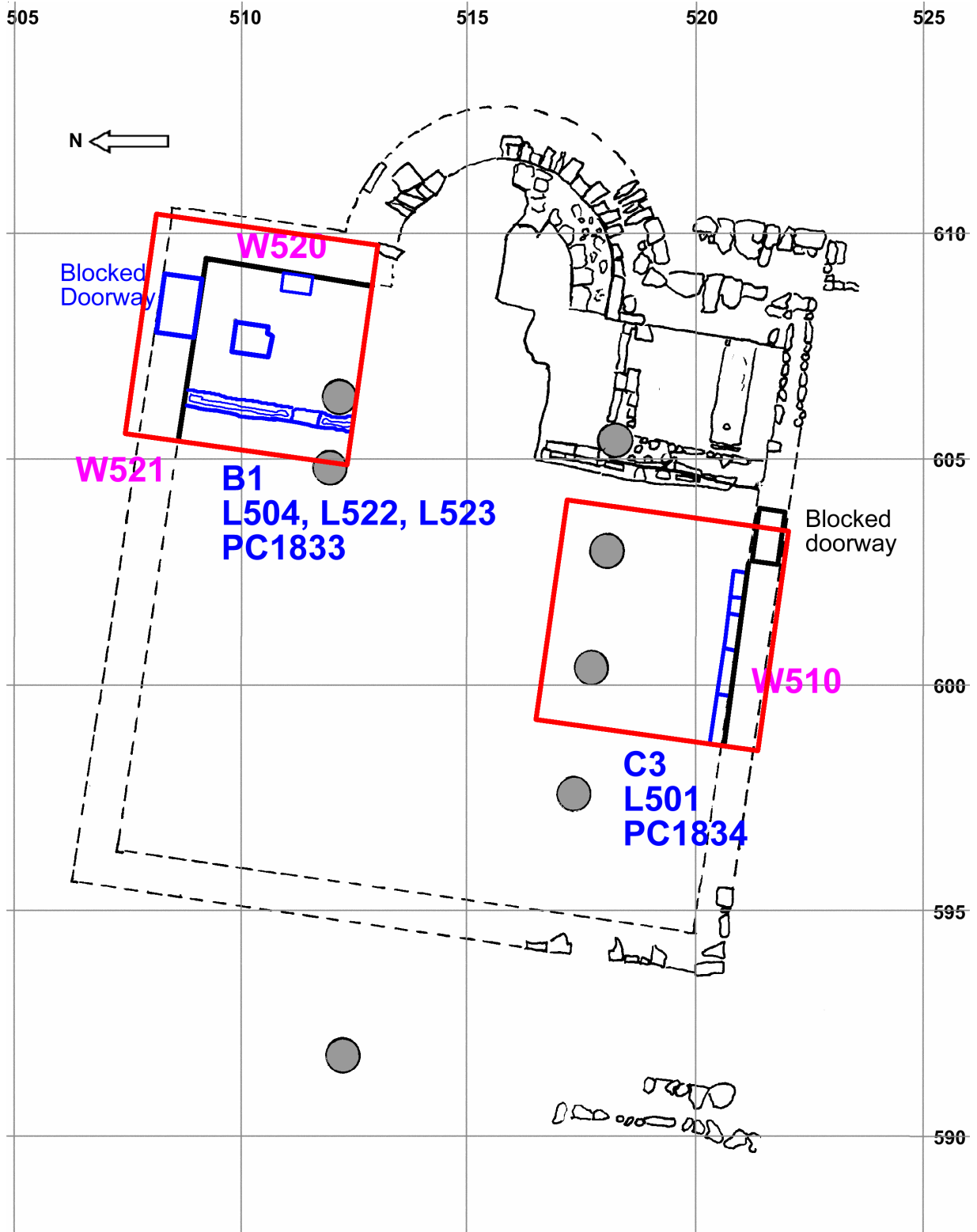
**Observations**

- The north doorway and the central void in the north aisle merit additional careful excavation. Surface remains north of square B1 may indicate a side room or structure.

BBBBB

- Seeking parallels for the bench/platform in C3 may also assist in determining its usage.

Daily Drawing 10 July



BBBBB