

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

Date: 23 July 2003 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	B2A	B2B	D3	B3
Loci	L532	L530	F526	
Baskets	PC1866	PC1865	PC1864	
Walls				
Floors	F516, F517, F526			

- Continued work in Square B2B
 - Starting elevation = 130.93
 - Ending elevation = 130.88
 - Below F517 in square B2B, the soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed but not enough was observed to make a detailed examination. The lighter colored C horizon lies on the floor of the church. The lower soil dug more easily.

Basket	Area	Locus	Square	Opening elevation
1865	NEC	L530	B2B	130.93
Closing Elevation		Weight	Date	Manager
130.88		0.3	23-Jul-03	Schuler
Yes Ceramic	No Plaster	No Human Bones		
No Ceramic non-pottery	No Architectural Item	No Iron		
Yes Tessera	No Lamp	No Lead		
No Glass	No Inscription	No Inscription		

Remarks
sealing is partial; final reading incomplete

FW Bowl/Plate Base	FW Bowl/Plate Rim	FW Bowl/Plate Handle	FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard
0	0	0	0
FW Juglet Base	FW Juglet Rim	FW Juglet Handle	FW Juglet Body Shard
0	0	0	0
CCW Pot Rim	CCW Pot Handle	CCW Body Shard	CCW Casserole Base
0	0	16	0
CCW Casserole Handle	CCW Bowl Base	CCW Bowl Rim	CCW Bowl Handle
0	0	0	0
CCW Lid Base	CCW Lid Rim	CCW Lid Handle	OCW Jar Base
0	0	0	0
OCW Jar Rim	OCW Jar Handle	OCW Jar Body Shard	
0	0	11	
OCW Other Base	OCW Other Rim	OCW Other Handle	OCW Other Body Shard
0	0	0	0
Lamp Base	Lamp Rim	Lamp Handle	Lamp Body Shard
0	0	0	0

Analysis
4 pieces of marble

4 bones

tesserae:
1 cm -- 2 black
1.5 cm -- 2 white

- Removed and labeled tiles from F516 at the east end of Square B2B
- Revealed two perpendicular marble pieces, standing on end, oriented to church axes (33x2 e/w piece; 14x2 n/s piece. They may have been part of an upper level of a reliquary loculus to be revealed later.
- Most of B2B is a plaster base for F516. Seems as if plaster was cut to make room for north tomb and several (?) reliquaries.
- Continued work in Square B2A
 - Starting elevation = 130.48
 - Ending elevation = 130.48
 - For soil, see description for B2a

Basket 1866	Area NEC	Locus L532	Square B2A	Opening elevation 130.48	
Closing Elevation 130.48	Weight 0.02	Date 23-Jul-03	Manager Schuler	Loci Type destruction fill	
Yes Ceramic	No Plaster	No Human Bones			
No Ceramic non-pottery	No Architectural Item	No Iron			
Yes Tessera	No Lamp	No Lead			
No Glass	No Inscription	No Inscription			
Remarks					
final reading incomplete					
FW Bowl/Plate Base	FW Bowl/Plate Rim	FW Bowl/Plate Handle	FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard		
0	0	0	0		
FW Juglet Base	FW Juglet Rim	FW Juglet Handle	FW Juglet Body Shard	CCW Pot Base	
0	0	0	0	0	
CCW Pot Rim	CCW Pot Handle	CCW Body Shard	CCW Casserole Base	CCW Casserole Rim	
0	0	1	0	0	
CCW Casserole Handle	CCW Bowl Base	CCW Bowl Rim	CCW Bowl Handle	CCW Lid Base	
0	0	0	0	0	
CCW Lid Rim	CCW Lid Handle	OCW Jar Base	OCW Jar Rim	OCW Jar Handle	OCW Jar Body Shard
0	0	0	0	0	0
OCW Other Base	OCW Other Rim	OCW Other Handle	OCW Other Body Shard	Lamp Base	
0	0	0	0	0	
Lamp Rim	Lamp Handle	Lamp Body Shard			
0	0	0			
Analysis					
1 bone					

1 piece of marble

- No work done, due to opening of sarcophagus in B3
- Continued work in Square D3
 - Starting elevation = 130.78
 - Ending elevation = 130.68
 - Soil is Horizon C -- dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, very dark brown (10YR 2/2) moist; weak fine granular structure; friable; 10 percent pebbles, 15 percent cobbles, 30 percent stones.

Basket 1864	Area NEC	Locus F526	Square D3	Opening elevation 130.78
Closing Elevation 130.68	Weight 0.65	Date 23-Jul-03	Manager Schuler	LocI Type mosaic floor
Yes Ceramic	No Plaster	No Human Bones		
No Ceramic non-pottery	No Architectural Item	No Iron		
Yes Tessera	No Lamp	No Lead		
No Glass	No Inscription	No Inscription		

Remarks

mostly pebble base, although some segments of mosaic remain; final reading incomplete

FW Bowl/Plate Base	FW Bowl/Plate Rim	FW Bowl/Plate Handle	FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard	
0	0	0	0	
FW Juglet Base	FW Juglet Rim	FW Juglet Handle	FW Juglet Body Shard	CCW Pot Base
0	0	0	0	0
CCW Pot Rim	CCW Pot Handle	CCW Body Shard	CCW Casserole Base	CCW Casserole Rim
0	1	17	0	0
CCW Casserole Handle	CCW Bowl Base	CCW Bowl Rim	CCW Bowl Handle	CCW Lid Base
0	0	1	0	0
CCW Lid Rim	CCW Lid Handle	OCW Jar Base	OCW Jar Rim	OCW Jar Handle
0	0	0	0	1
				OCW Jar Body Shard
				15
OCW Other Base	OCW Other Rim	OCW Other Handle	OCW Other Body Shard	Lamp Base
0	0	0	0	0
Lamp Rim	Lamp Handle	Lamp Body Shard		
0	0	0		

Analysis

7 bones (one larger)

tesserae:

1 cm -- 1 red, 5 white

1.5 cm -- 9 white, 2 yellow, 1 black

2 cm -- 1 white

- Continued to slowly remove dirt from mosaic floor F526
- Floor is fragmentary
- Some mosaic is visible north of the stylobate (recovered for next year).
- CS4 seems to be sitting on stones and not on a clearly defined stylobate. The stylobate has shown poorer construction just east of CS4 and does not continue west of it.
- Continued work in Square B3
 - No change in elevation
 - After raising the level north of the sarcophagus with dirt and sand to the top of the box of the sarcophagus, the lid was rolled off just before 8:00am.
 - The box was essentially empty, with the bones gathered toward the west end under the hole of the reliquary. Major long bones form a xét around the skull and pelvis.
 - The skeleton does not seem to be complete. The skull and many bones are broken.

- The top of the sarcophagus is solid limestone. The box is also limestone with a cut interior. It is rounded on the inside at the west end and square at the east end.
- Box has a visible decorative line on the south side parallel with the south edge.
- Lid was set on small stones that were plastered in place creating a gap that was later plastered shut.
- Interior width is 40cm; interior height is 39cm
- The reliquary hole was drilled in the limestone and capped with a stone basin that was plastered in place.
- After measurements, photography and diagrams, bones and bone fragments were removed, boxes, and sent for analysis
- Remaining soil and bone fragments were swept from the sarcophagus and gathered in three buckets. Later sifting of the contents recovered numerous small bone fragments from the west end and 15 toe bones and 4 tesserae from the east end. Total volume was 12.45kg.

Observations

Hypothesis

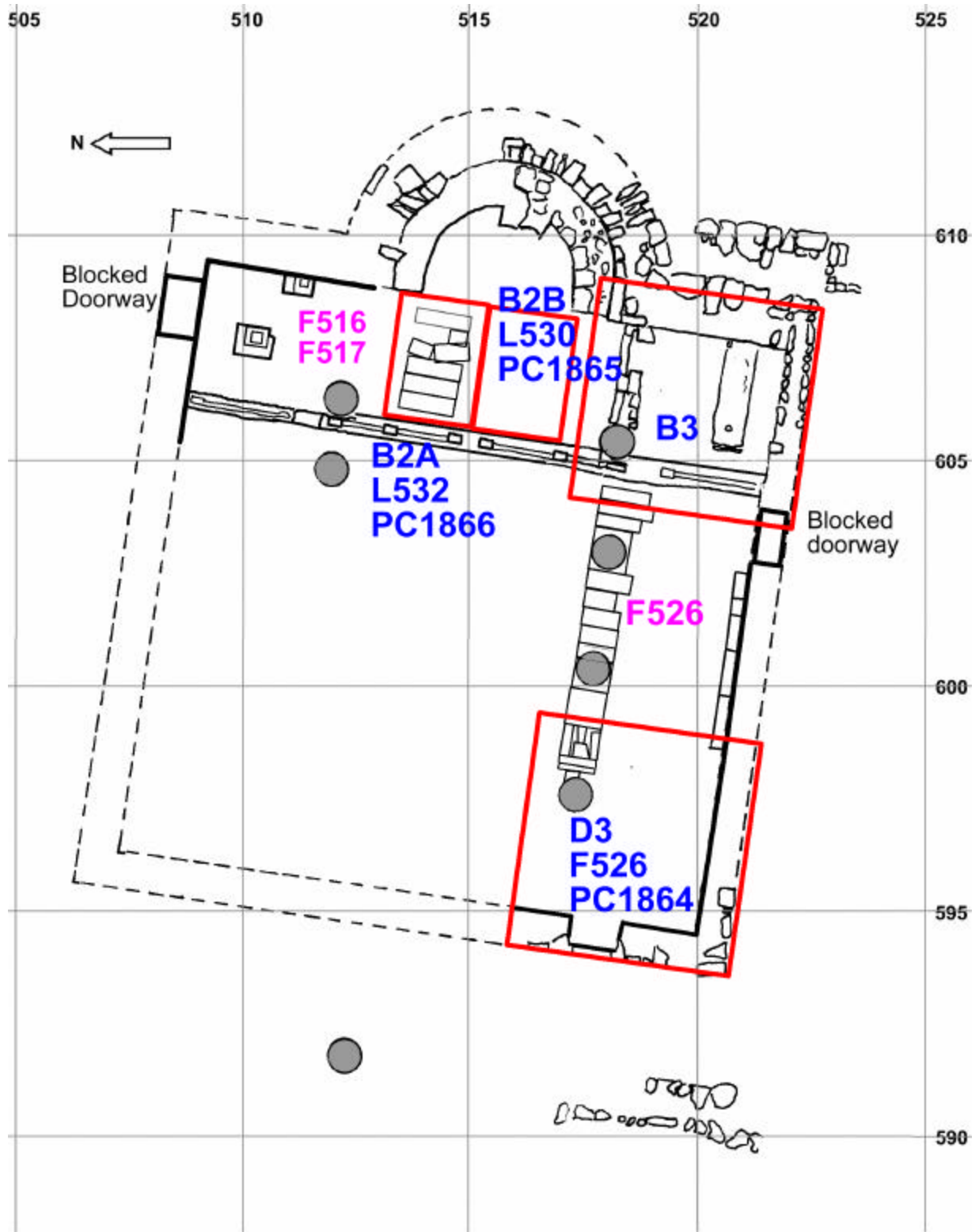
- Phase 1: sarcophagus of south tomb, F517 (mosaic), and original church
- Phase 2: north tomb, reliquaries, F516 in chancel, and repairs to mosaic in south aisle
- Phase 3: walls around south tomb, plaster repairs, blocked doors

Hypothesis concerning the sarcophagus in the south burial

- The sarcophagus had originally been used for a full body burial as is evidenced by the toe bones recovered from the dirt in the west end of the sarcophagus.
- At some point the sarcophagus was opened (to remove relics? as an act of desecration? to facilitate different rituals such as anointing the remains?).
- Subsequently, the tomb was closed again after the remaining bones were gathered under the reliquary opening (Phase 3 above?). It is possible that the

reliquary opening was drilled at this later time since the cup for capturing oil was plastered to the surface.

Daily Drawing 23 July



BBBBB