



Hippos (Sussita) 2003 – 4rd Season

Locus Card

Locus No. L504

Archaeological Context

Locus Status: closed

Locus Type: destruction fill

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church:

Opening Date: 9 July

Opening Height: 131.33

Closing Date: 15 July

Closing Height: 130.93

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Fill above F516 in chancel

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
L501	F516	W521	W515	L542	W520	
					W502	

	X coordinate	Y coordinate
North East	513.39	610.77
South West	521.49	606.45

General Description and Soil Analysis

C horizon - 55 to 150 cm; 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).

Chronology of Excavation

9 July

- In Square B1
 - Starting elevation = 131.28
 - Ending elevation = 131.07
 - The pattern of debris in the destruction fill is to the southwest. Larger stones and blocks in the rubble are oriented that way. There were no large stones next to the north wall. It seems that the Northwest Church was destroyed at the same time as was

the cathedral, the collapsed pillars of which point in the same direction.

- Most of the east wall (W520) is collapsed at this elevation. For safety and stability, some of the fill above it was removed.
- One to two courses of well-worked stone are visible in the north wall.
- Several more stones cut on angles were removed from the debris. Likely they were part of the arches between the pillars.

10 July

- In Square B1
 - Starting elevation = 131.07
 - Ending elevation = 130.93
 - 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 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.

13 July

- In Square A2
 - Starting elevation = 131.33
 - Ending elevation = 130.93
 - Removed the last of the destruction debris to the floor. The synthronon, made of soft limestone and plaster is in deteriorated condition. There is a possible void in the synthronon next to the apse (W502).

14 July

- in Square B2
 - Starting elevation = 131.23
 - Ending elevation = 131.09
 - Removed a portion of unremarkable destruction fill. At this elevation, other squares were 10 YR 8/2

15 July

- in Square B2
 - Starting elevation = 131.09
 - Ending elevation = 130.95
 - Removed rubble to floor level and cleaned most of B2
 - Cleaned A2
 - Most stone in the floor pattern are missing. But there seems to be a similar opus sectile pattern on the north side of the chancel as on the south (partial reconstruction possible).
 - There are three openings in the chancel screen: north of CN1, south of CS1, and in the center.
 - One stone off center has an inscribed section: a rectangle that narrows slightly from right to left

Pottery and Small Finds

1831 L504	NEC	B1	131.282	131.072	09-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	1831A/B Late Roman C. Form 3 bcw rim 1831C Umayyad lamp base
1833 L504	NEC	B1	131.072	130.932	10-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	

1836 L504	NEC	A2	131.332	130.932	13-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	1836A – Byzantine/Umayyad rim of jar
1840 L504	NEC	B2	131.232	131.092	14-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	1840A – Late Roman C rim of Plate
1842 L504	NEC	B2	131.092	130.952	15-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	1842A – Hellenistic Casserole Rim
1845 L504	NEC		130.952	130.932	16-Jul-03	Schuler	opus sectile floor	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	most floor tiles missing

Architectural Items

9 July

- From Square B1
 - 053 partial doorjamb
 - 054 doorjamb broken

10 July

- From Square B1
 - 056 corner doorjamb
 - 058 fragment of top of chancel screen post (rounded) – very soft limestone

14 July

- From Square B2
 - 061 limestone doorjamb
 - 062 massive corner cornice (basalt) L50xW48xH38

15 July

- From Square B2
 - 063 small marble cornice fragment

Concluding Remarks

In the central part of the beme, little of this level (by soil color) is discernable.