



Hippos (Sussita) 2003 – 4rd Season

Locus Card

Locus No. L530

Archaeological Context

Locus Status: closed

Locus Type: mixed fill

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church:

Opening Date: 22 July

Opening Height:

Closing Date: 31 July

Closing Height:

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Fill under F516 around reliquary loculi in center of Bema

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
F516	F517	L531	W515	Base of chancel screen	Apse	

	X coordinate	Y coordinate
North East	519.31	609.12
South West	520.46	607.12

General Description and Soil Analysis

Below the floor 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.

Chronology of Excavation

22 July

- In Square B2B
 - Starting elevation = 130.93
 - Ending elevation = 130.73
 - Removed destruction fill to the level of the plaster base for F517

23 July

- In Square B2B
 - Starting elevation = 130.93
 - Ending elevation = 130.88
 - 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.

24 July

- In Square B2B
 - Starting elevation = 130.88
 - Ending elevation = 130.396
 - Revealed one clear reliquary loculus. The box is of limestone and is badly deteriorated (exterior is 38x45cm; interior is 16x26cm; north wall is 13cm, west wall is 11cm; south wall is 9cm; east wall is 8cm) Two marble slabs cited earlier may have been part of the upper level of this reliquary as they align with the likely lid location
 - A second possible reliquary loculus is directly west. Four stones provide a border (internal dimensions are approx 19x8cm). Another stone serves as a base. It is of similar quality to the reliquary loculus against W520 in the north aisle.
 - The plaster base for F517 seems to have been cut to accommodate these later reliquaries.

27 July

- in Square B2B
 - Starting elevation = 130.73
 - Ending elevation = 130.48
 - Exposed a third reliquary loculus directly south of the one identified previously. The top of its marble walls is approximately the same elevation as the plaster base for F517.
 - While the plaster base of F517 was seemingly cut for the insertion of the north tomb and the two reliquaries on the south side of the central axis, this third reliquary loculus was plastered full. Did it preexist F517 or was it part of F517 and was later plastered full when the north tomb and associated reliquaries were inserted?

Pottery and Small Finds

1858 L530	NEC	B2B	130.93	130.73	22-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 final reading incomplete <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
1865 L530	NEC	B2B	130.93	130.88	23-Jul-03	Schuler	sealed under 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 sealing is partial; final reading incomplete <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

1867 L530	NEC	B2B	130.88	130.396	24-Jul-03	Schuler	sealed under 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	final reading incomplete
								<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	
1874 L530	NEC	B2B	130.73	130.48	27-Jul-03	Schuler	sealed under 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	partially sealed; final reading incomplete
								<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 type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL	

Concluding Remarks

The exact number of loculi for reliquaries is uncertain due to the poor quality of the remains. In the center of the church most of the floor is gone and some layers of soil of missing (e.g., Horizon C).