

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2008 – 9th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 3 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0	D5	E6	E8	F1	B0
Loci	L1226	L1205	L1243	L1243	L567	L1241
Baskets	5418	5419	5420	5421	5422	
Walls	W575, W583, W1231, W1239, W1267					
Floors	F580					

- Continued work in Square A0
 - Starting elevation = 130.633
 - Ending elevation = 130.260 (east of wall), 130.380 (west of wall)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Began to clear west of W575 to W583
 - At the north end of the square, a column drum is appearing (in situ?). It is .475m in diameter.
 - Two full courses of the earlier block fixture have been exposed on the east side of W1267.
- Continued work in Square D5
 - Starting elevation = 130.482
 - Ending elevation = 130.405 (east), 130.811 (west)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - As more of the south face of W1231 is exposed, it is apparent that the south-facing doorway was intentionally blocked. So many blocked doorways in the complex point to an intentional closing of most of the facility, rather than just gradual abandonment.
 - Very few ceramic shards in the fill.
- Continued work in Square E6
 - Starting elevation = 130.196 (north of wall), 129.700 (south of wall)
 - Ending elevation = 129.894 (north), 129.308 (south)
 - Soil is Horizon C

- The southerly part of the square has been cleared to 0.20m below the level of the street (129.513). No floor or indicator of a floor is present so far.
 - Heavy destruction fill was removed from this southerly area.
 - In the northerly section, we continue to follow the north face of W1244
 - Continued work in Square E8
 - Starting elevation = 129.375
 - Ending elevation = 128.720
 - Soil is Horizon B/C
 - With the appearance of at least six steps, the block fixture in the NE corner of the southerly block building is clearly a staircase, climbing to the east and then turning south. The treads of the stairs vary from 18 to 24 cm. The steps rise between 20 and 27 cm. The area around the bottom of the staircase awaits clearing.
 - One 6.7cm nail was recovered from the fill (Item # 256).
 - To the west of the stairs a column base was removed from the fill. The drum is 49 cm in diameter. The piece is 108cm in height, with a 3cm lip. The column base was inspected for an inscription, but lacked any.
 - An accumulation of potter and bones were recovered from the interior corner of the staircase feature.
 - Continued work in Square F1
 - Starting elevation = 130.186
 - Ending elevation = 129.999
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Removed the last horizon B soil from the square.
 - Recovered four nails from the fill (item #s 255, 257, 258, 259). They are in length 9, 6, 10, and 4.5 cm. Additional unidentified metal was also recovered (Item # 260).
 - A small fragment of a column base and two soft metal fragments (lead) were recovered from the fill.
 - The exposed level of stones visible in the SW corner of F0 continues into the NW corner of F1. Its function is uncertain at this time. It is approximately .80 m by 1.80 m and oriented north to south.
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- The appearance of this feature leads to a decision to open a 1m probe running east to west from the stylobate to the west end of F1. The probe will straddle the line of the church's north wall and will touch the fixture.
- Conservation of floor in B0
 - Repair and cleaning continue.

Observations

Final Drawing



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Northeast Church Complex
Hippos 2008
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M. Schuler