

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

Date: 9 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0	A1	A2	B5	D5	E8	F0	B0
Loci	L1226	L1226	L1226	L1205 L1226	L1205	L1243	L563	
Baskets	5452	5453	5453	5454 5455	5456	5457	5458	
Walls	W553, W575, W581, W583, W1231, W1246, W1252, W1253, W1267							
Floors	F580							

- Continued work in Square A0
  - Starting elevation = 129.935 level of mosaic floor between W583 and W575
  - Ending elevation = 129.935 level of mosaic floor between W583 and W575
  - Soil is Horizon C
  - Carefully removed remaining broken mosaic floor leaving surviving section intact. Very little of the floor survived.
- Continued work in A1 and A2
  - Starting elevation = 131.406 (A1), 131.540 (A2)
  - Ending elevation = 130.975 (west), 131.347 (east)
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Identified full line of W1267.
  - Between W1267 and W575 the soil is chalky and full of roof tiles.
  - Except near the apse, there are no doorways in W1267. The one near the apse is blocked.
  - So far no east to west walls are visible east of W1267.
- Continued work in B5
  - Starting elevation = 131.530 (east), 131.158 (west)
  - Ending elevation = 131.228 (east), 130.999 (west)
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Street opposite east is 131.108
  - Clarified the east face of W581.

- Continues to clear the alley and north face of W1253. The south face is much less certain.
  - An intact oil lamp (Item #277) was recovered from the fill.
  - Continued work in Square D5
    - Starting elevation = 130.107 (high), 129.625 (low)
    - Ending elevation = 129.615
    - D4 room near wall = 129.652
    - Street west of D5 = 129.847
    - Soil is Horizon B
    - Cleared to the level of the door threshold. There may be one paver to the east of the doorway next to W1231. The doorway in W1231 is blocked. Drew the blocked doorway.
    - Nails and nail fragments were recovered from the fill (Item #s 272-276).
  - Continued work in Square E8
    - Starting elevation = 128.843 (expanded area to the south)
    - Ending elevation = 128.764 (pavers of decumanus), 128.555 (near street), 128.433 (paver near street south of staircase), 128.584 (trough of catch basin), 128.996 (top of cistern), 129.295 (top of pillar by doorway)
    - Soil is Horizon B/C
    - Completed the excavation of E8.
    - To the west end of the square, half of a doorway is visible in W1252. A column base and small wall mark the line of the doorway.
    - To the east is a channel for capturing water and funneling it into the cistern. The channel has stone on both sides and soft limestone (?) paving. Plaster marks on the wall indicate the line of the downspout. The catch basin had been plastered.
    - Further to the east is a bench or small wall marking the east side of the catch basin.
    - We presume the stairs, which sit on the pavers (and are thus later) gave access to the roof or a second story of the south block building. Exactly what bridges the gap between the staircase and the building is uncertain.
  - Continued work in Square F0
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- Starting elevation = 130.180
- Ending elevation = 129.64 (wall)
- Removed the north balk at the east and west ends of F0/E0. Left a balk in the middle.
- Began to reveal the line of a wall to the north of W553 and at a low level. We speculate that this wall along with W1246 were used to provide a level platform west of the line of the cardo or were the foundation for an earlier building.
- Fanning tumble in the northwest corner supports the latter hypothesis, for it suggests that these walls stood to a higher level.
- The partially revealed wall seems to continue east beyond the line of the stylobate, but this hypothesis is uncertain.
- Conservation of floor in B0
  - Repair and cleaning continue.
  - All complete except the central section.

## Observations

