

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

Date: 16 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0/A1/A2	C4	C5	C1
Loci	A0A1W 1226 1257 (A2A3) 1226 (A1E) 1259 (A2 probe) 1260 (cistern)	L595	L1205	
Baskets	5478 5479 5480 5483 5484	5481	5482	
Walls	W575, W1231, W1262, W1267			
Floors	F538			

- Continued work in A0, A1 and A2
  - Starting elevation = 129.996 (average street), 130.751 (A1 east), 130.400 (average of room in A2)
  - Ending elevation = 129.893 (street in AOA1), 130.334 (A1 east), 130.338 (A2 average)
  - Soil is Horizon B
  - Continued work on both side of W1267
  - Leveled the street area of A1 and A2 to a hard surface at the base of the threshold in W575. The upside down column base next to the blocked doorway sits on this surface. Revealed a wall (W1262) between W575 and W1267 at the north end of the square. In the northwest corn of the street, a column drum and a plain capital on a column drum sit next to W1262. The bases of these two pieces had not yet been reached. A 12 cm nail (Item #285) came from the fill nearby.

- We reduced the level of fill east of W1267 in A1, but have not yet clarified if there is a wall going east.
  - In the room in A2/A3 east of the apse, we dug a small probe inside the north doorway. We met heavy fill within several centimeters. The depth of probe at north doorway = 130.095.
  - We cleared the top of the rectangular fixture. It seems to abut the wall that was taken apart to accommodate the exterior apse wall. This cleaning revealed that the remaining section of the wall and the fixture are below the first course of stones making up the exterior apse wall.
  - A nail (Item #283) came from the fill
  - To the south of the fixture, we discovered a cistern filled with rubble. The head and neck or missing. Only the bulb remains. The opening is 0.80 x 0.75m and the sides expand outward immediately. We speculate that the cistern was decommissioned and filled with rubble from the wall when the church was constructed. We removed half a meter of fill from the cistern. The top of cistern neck is at 129.682.
  - Continued work in Square C5
    - Starting elevation = 129.776 (average), 129.857 (paver or wall?), 129.532 (paver)
    - Ending elevation = 129.841
    - Soil is Horizon B
    - Removed most of the rest of the fill in C5 to the top level of the probe (about 10 cm above the paving). The area of D5 and C5 may be bisected by a small north south wall next to which an animal trough (limestone) was discovered (Item # 284). Next to W1231, heavy concentrations of broken pottery were discovered (with little calcification).
    - The soil was quite moist and some bedrock may be visible under W1229.
  - Continued work in Square C4
    - Starting elevation = 130.225
    - Ending elevation = 130.010
    - Soil is horizon B
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- Continued to lower the level of the fill in the east part of the square. At the end of the day, we may have revealed the first evidence of a stone floor.
- Conservation of floor in C1
  - Conserved plaster on north bench in north aisle.

Observations

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Daily Drawing

