

SECTION K

Excavation Report : 1954

E.V.

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SECTION K

Excavation Report : 1954

Excavation was carried on in Section K from the end of March to the beginning of June 1954.

Almost all the Hellenistic and later fills that remained in the area between the Fountain House and the Middle Stoa were removed and the hard cobbled surface of the classical square was exposed at many points. In this process the northeast extension to the Fountain House (formerly referred to as the Porch) was more fully uncovered. In the Fountain House itself a little work was done which added greatly to our understanding of the form and development of the building. The road west of the Fountain House was cut down from its late Roman to its Hellenistic level. One well was dug near the center of the Heliaina (48:IE); it proved to be of late Geometric times.

THE SOUTHWEST FOUNTAIN HOUSE

a. The Original Building. (Late V cent. B.C.)

Plan I, green

The building as originally constructed was square with a hollow corner at the northwest giving it the shape of an L with short thick legs of equal length. The over-all dimensions were about 17 x 17 m., and the width of each leg was about 10.40 m. An inner foundation divided the building into two L-shaped compartments.

Of this original building, which was set deeply into the soft bedrock of the hillside, the foundation cuttings are preserved practically throughout. In a few places, as indicated on the plan, some blocks of the lowest foundation course remain; these are of soft yellow poros. In the eastern part of the north wall several blocks of the toichobate remain in situ. They are stretchers of hard grey limestone 0.80 m. wide and rest on a single foundation course of headers which project inward some 0.50 m. On the top surface of the toichobate the setting marks of the lowest wall course can be seen (width 0.60 m.). These marks show that the wall ended about five metres from the corner of the building, on the line of the inner L-shaped foundation. West of this point the surface of the blocks as far as preserved (ca. 0.50 m.) shows signs of heavy wear. Evidently an opening began at this point. Along the south face of the toichobate blocks some stucco remains.

The larger L-shaped compartment along the east and south sides of the building must have been the water basin although no floor slabs or wall blocks remain to prove the point. The stucco on the inner face of the toichobate blocks was, however, clearly intended as waterproofing. Furthermore the position of this compartment set deeply into the hillside at the back of the building is suitable. Finally with the basin here it could have been readily supplied with water from the aqueduct at the southeast corner (see below). A parapet and a row of piers to support the roof may be restored on the inner foundation.

The smaller compartment will have been a portico facing out on the Agora and the street, and we may restore columns along its broken facade. A stylobate block of hard grey limestone re-used in the later basin in the NW corner of the building probably comes from this facade. It bears the mark of an unfluted column 0.62 m. in diameter, the outline deeply pitted all around.

There is no ceramic evidence whatever for the date of the original building, and it is hard to see where any could be obtained. In the thirties a little of the original packing against bedrock on the east side of the building was dug, but no pottery was found in it. (Notebook p. 1166). The material used in the construction, particularly the soft yellow poros suggests a date in the second half of the fifth century B.C.

Needless to say no remains of earlier buildings were found, for the fifth century Fountain House was set so deeply into the hillside that it completely destroyed anything that may have been there. One geometric well was found and dug in 1934 (at 16:ET).

It was in the trench for the south wall at about its mid-point. There were several Mycenaean vases in its upper fill.

b. Later Classical Additions (IV cent. B.C.)

Plan I, blue

In later classical times, probably in the fourth century B.C., two additions were made to the Fountain House.

1. At the southwest corner a rectangular addition was made which is perhaps best thought of as designed to increase the storage capacity of the reservoir. Its wall and floor blocks are of conglomerate. I have not noticed any stucco. From its NW corner a retaining wall led NE, intended to keep the earth of the road out of the low triangular area north of the addition. Whether it was possible to draw water directly from the north side of the addition is not clear, but seems unlikely.

2. At the northeast corner a more considerable addition was made running along the adjacent "Heliaia" almost as far as its northern front.

The earliest element of this addition appears to be its northernmost part. This is a broad, deep but not perfectly regular foundation cutting which runs westward about six meters from the northwest corner of the "Heliaia". It is not certain whether this is to be thought of as a part of the Fountain House, say a running fountain facing directly on the square (a channel in the earth but without pipes, leads away from it towards the west) or as an independent monument.

No!
Belongs to
Heliaia

Between this heavy foundation cutting and the Fountain House two compartments were subsequently added. The southern is the better preserved; it has hitherto been called the Porch of the Fountain House. Its floor was paved with pebble mosaic and a stone water channel ran around it. It seems to have been a fountain with water running from spouts and was fed directly by the big aqueduct that runs along the east side of the Fountain House.

North of this and going as far as the big foundation cutting was another compartment. It is in a very ruinous state. Remains of stucco on its east wall and fragments of stuccoed floor found in the fill just over bedrock suggest that it too was a hydraulic establishment, probably a running fountain like the compartment to the south. These two compartments were accessible from the west; no west wall has been found, and it may be that they were simply open. Their construction is poor and there is much re-used material in them.

c. Adjustments at Time of Construction of Middle Stoa
(mid-II cent. B.C.)

Plan II, brown

The construction of the Middle Stoa and the consequent raising of the ground level in front of the Fountain House created a serious problem and eventually caused radical changes in the building.

The northeast addition was immediately dismantled and its ruins were covered with earth.

The original building seems to have remained essentially unchanged for some time. In order to keep it accessible, however, a retaining wall had to be thrown across the open part of the north side (colonnade and hollow corner). This wall was shabbily built of re-used blocks not carefully jointed and having small stones in the interstices. Some of the blocks were evidently drawn from the northeast addition (those with stucco, and those with a shallow step cut in them; some of the latter still remain in one of the walls of the addition). There must also have been a retaining wall on the west side of the hollow corner, for the triangular area north of the southwest addition was filled up at this time and a stone drain built along the line of its former western retaining wall. Whether the existing wall here belongs to this period or to the next is not clear. Nor is it clear how one entered the building (i.e. descended into it) at this period; it may have been by a short flight of steps into the hollow corner.

From the west end of the retaining wall across the front of the Fountain House another but lighter retaining wall was built running in a northeasterly direction for about eight meters. This was intended to make good the difference between the new high level of the Fountain House and the old level of the road to the west. The road level gradually built up, however, and by early Roman times this retaining wall was covered.

d. The Early Roman Period (I cent. A.D. (?).)

Plan III, red

The Hellenistic alteration left the old Fountain House sunk well below the contemporary ground level on all sides. This was

an intolerable situation and in early Roman times radical alterations were made. The water basin was shifted to the northwest corner where some of the west wall and a few paving slabs can still be seen, their joints made tight with a coarse reddish cement.

The rest of the building, i.e. the old portico and the old water basin, appears to have been demolished and filled in up to the contemporary level outside. In the excavations of the 'thirties a great quantity of fill with early Roman pottery was found in the building from the level of the floor of the late Roman house with the fresco down to bottom, and this seems a reasonable way to account for its presence. To be sure, this fill was taken by the original excavator to be destruction fill of late Roman times. In the summary on page 1167 of the K notebooks, under date August 18, 1935, we read, "The destruction fill dates from the Late Roman Period but contains a great deal of earlier material (chiefly Late Hellenistic and Early Roman), but even where the fill was fairly uniform in its early character an occasional Late Roman sherd appeared over bottom".

It seems on the face of it, however, most unlikely that after the general Herulian destruction a great mass of almost pure early Roman fill should have been available to be dumped in the Fountain House area. In other parts of the excavations, we know, the people of the late third century A.D. had no lack of rubbish of their own times to cover the ruins of the old buildings. It is far more likely that the early Roman fill belongs right here, that it was dumped into the Fountain House in early Roman times to raise

the level and that it was disturbed, in some places only slightly, in later Roman times by seekers after blocks. This view is supported by what we now know of the levels outside the building in late Hellenistic and early Roman times which seem to call for a high level inside too.

We have seen that the water basin was removed to the northwest corner of the building. How the rest of the building was arranged, and what it was used for we do not know. At the northeast, almost exactly on the line of the old northeast extension, a new extension was made. This included the north-south wall of large blocks, with its cross walls, the rubble foundations and probably also the poros fragment wall which ran east-west about five meters south of the Middle Stoa. (See plan).

As these walls enclose the northwest corner of the "Heliaia" which we know was remodelled in early Roman times, it seems probable that they are to be considered as additions to that building. Perhaps most of the area formerly occupied by the original Fountain House was now added to the "Heliaia" complex and the hydraulic functions were entirely confined to the northwest corner.

THE AQUEDUCT EAST OF FOUNTAIN HOUSE

Plan IV

The aqueduct which runs along the east side of the Fountain House has suffered somewhat since it was originally uncovered in 1934, and several of its blocks have slipped out of place. It may be well, therefore, to repeat here some of the information about

it recorded by J. H. Oliver in May 1934 in the notebook of Section K, p. 1011, together with the levels taken at that time by C.S. Spector (ibid. p. 1132); the levels are likewise recorded on the attached plan (Plan IV).

"The levels which Mr. Spector established for the Water Channel at various places are recorded (1-6) on the last page of this volume (p. 1132). It runs along evenly from its first appearance (at 28:B) to the break at 26:Δ. In the 2.35 m. between that point and its continuation at 27:Σ it drops 0.49 m. It runs smoothly thereafter, with a drop of about 1 cm. to every meter until it reaches the north end of the building.... Here, at 27:KA, it drops suddenly c. 1.25 m." (i.e. into area of "Porch").

The levels given on p. 1132 are as follows :

1.	Depth of Water Channel at	28:B	62.42 m.
2.	" " " " "	26:Δ	62.37 m.
3.	" " " " "	27:5	61.88 m.
4.	" " " " "	27:1Δ	61.84 m.
5.	Preserved Top of Water Pipe at	27:KA	61.70 m.
6.	Depth of Water Channel at	27:KB	60.44 m.

The break of 2.35 m. noted by Oliver between 26:Δ and 27:Σ comes just outside the SE corner of the Fountain House. There is a difference of 0.49 m. in the level of the channel before and after the break. It seems therefore that there may have been a settling basin here and also a branch of the aqueduct which supplied the large basin of the Fountain House.

ADJUSTMENT OF LEVELS AT SW CORNER OF MIDDLE STOA

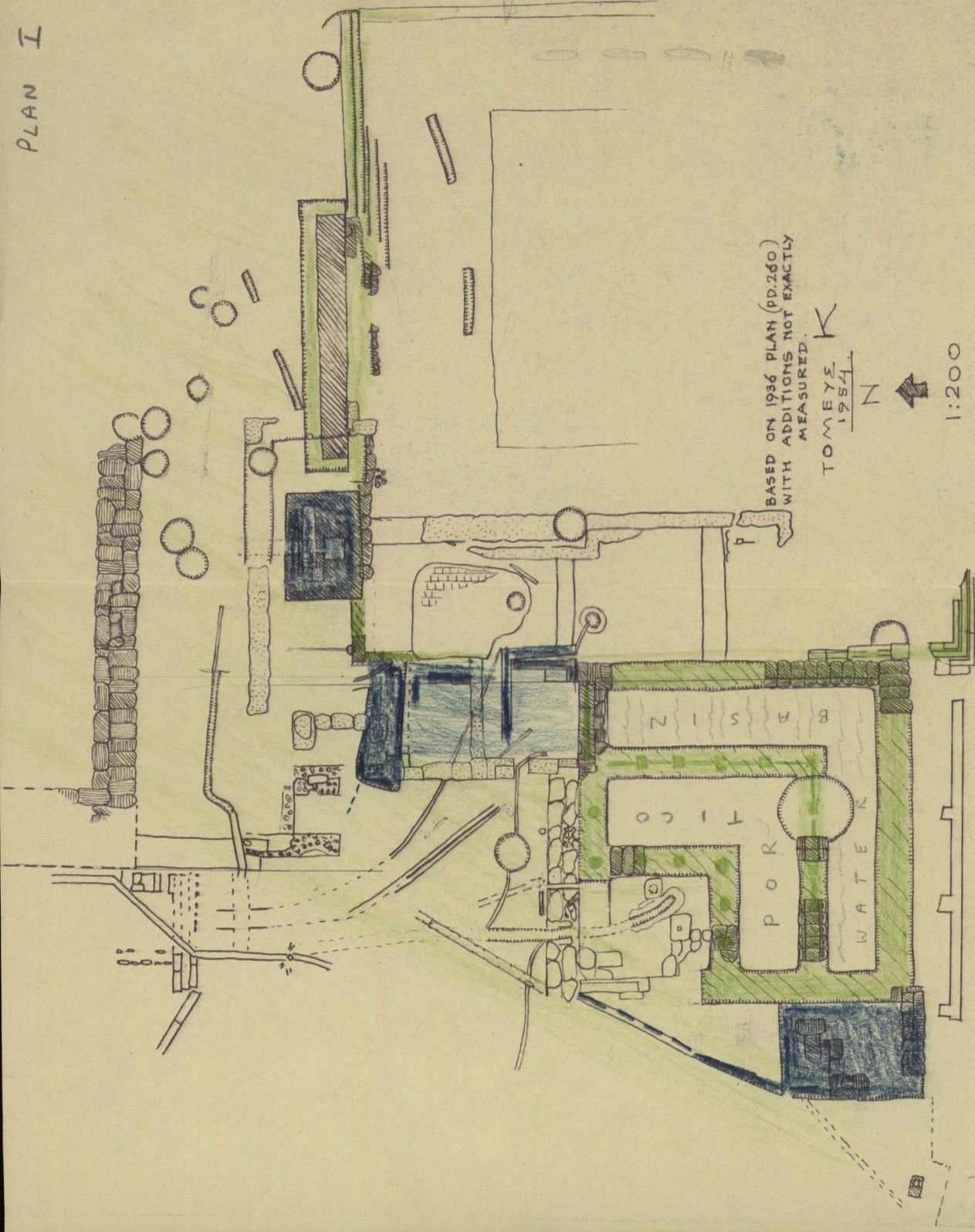
When the Middle Stoa was built some sort of transition had to be provided between the low level which remained to the west and the new high level which had been established to the south.

The first solution, made at the time of construction of the Stoa, was a retaining wall running south for about six meters from the southwest corner of the Stoa; this retaining wall bonds with the Stoa foundations. A ramp was created which rose gradually as it swept around the south end of the retaining wall. The difference in level had practically been made good by the time the northwest corner of the "Heliaia" was reached. We found the hard packed surface of this ramp at a number of points southeast, south and southwest of the retaining wall this season. It is called the Intermediate Strosis in the notebooks.

The second solution was a flight of three steps about six meters wide west of the retaining wall. The level south of the steps was raised somewhat and the original ramp (intermediate strosis) was covered over. Among the sherds from the fill over the original ramp were fragments of ribbed Megarian bowls which suggests a date in the late second century B.C. for this deposit, and hence for the steps. This is confirmed by the sherds from the first earth to accumulate over the lowest step; among them also some ribbed Megarian bowls. The steps were soon (I cent.B.C.) entirely covered, except for the top one, and a sloping strosis formed at this level which appears to have lasted for some time.

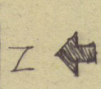
The third solution came in the first century A.D., probably in connection with the alterations to the Fountain House and the Heliaia in this period. The level west of the Middle Stoa, which in the previous solutions had been kept fairly low, was raised a meter or more, the steps were deeply buried and the difference in level between the north and south sides of the Stoa was taken up in the sloping street to the west of the Stoa.

PLAN I



BASED ON 1936 PLAN (P.D. 260)
WITH ADDITIONS NOT EXACTLY
MEASURED.

TOMEYE K
1954



1:200

SOUTHWEST FOUNTAIN HOUSE

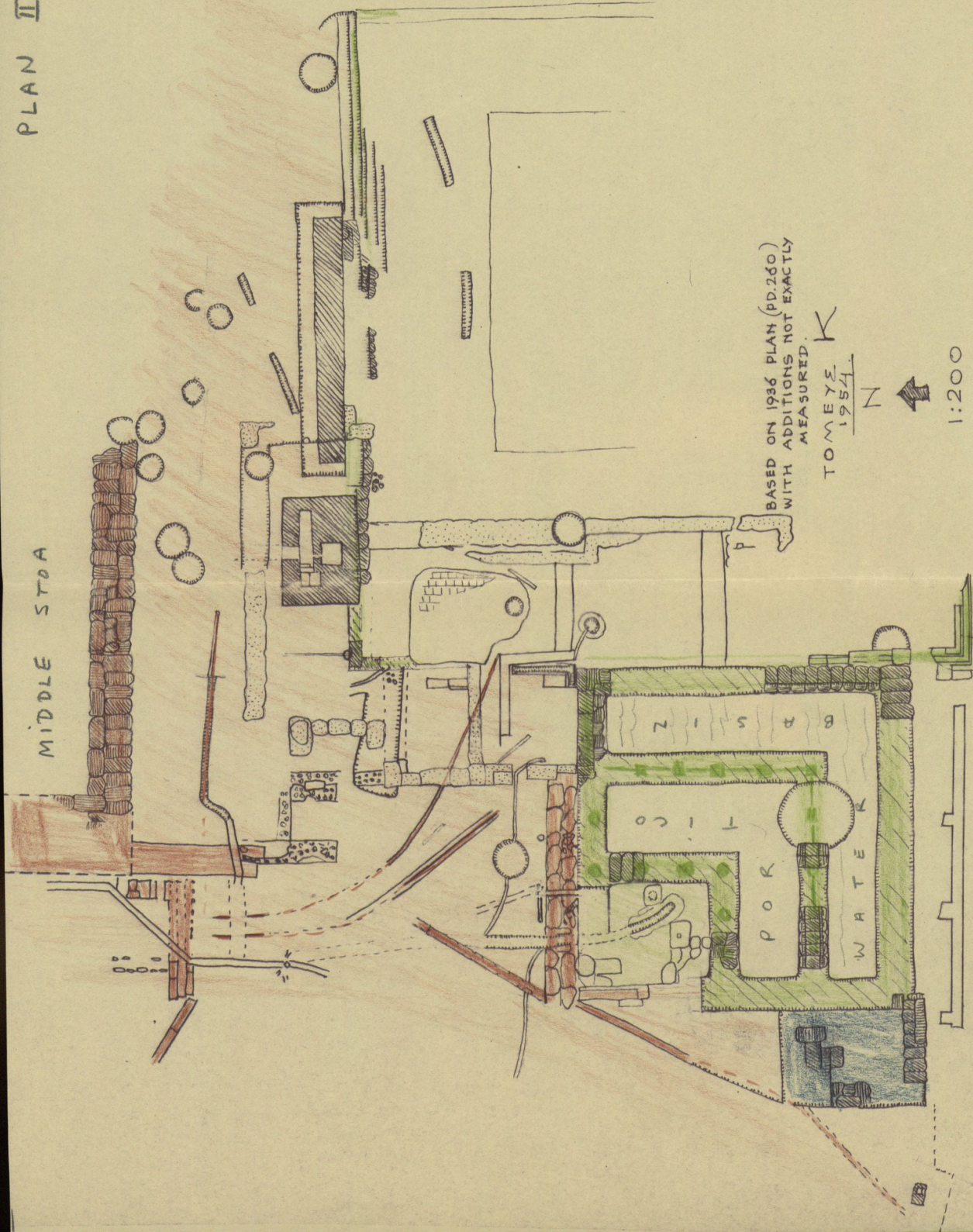
CLASSICAL PERIOD

■ FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

■ FOURTH CENTURY B.C.

1:200

PLAN II



BASED ON 1936 PLAN (P.D. 260)
WITH ADDITIONS NOT EXACTLY
MEASURED.

TOMEYE K
1954

N



1:200

SOUTHWEST FOUNTAIN HOUSE

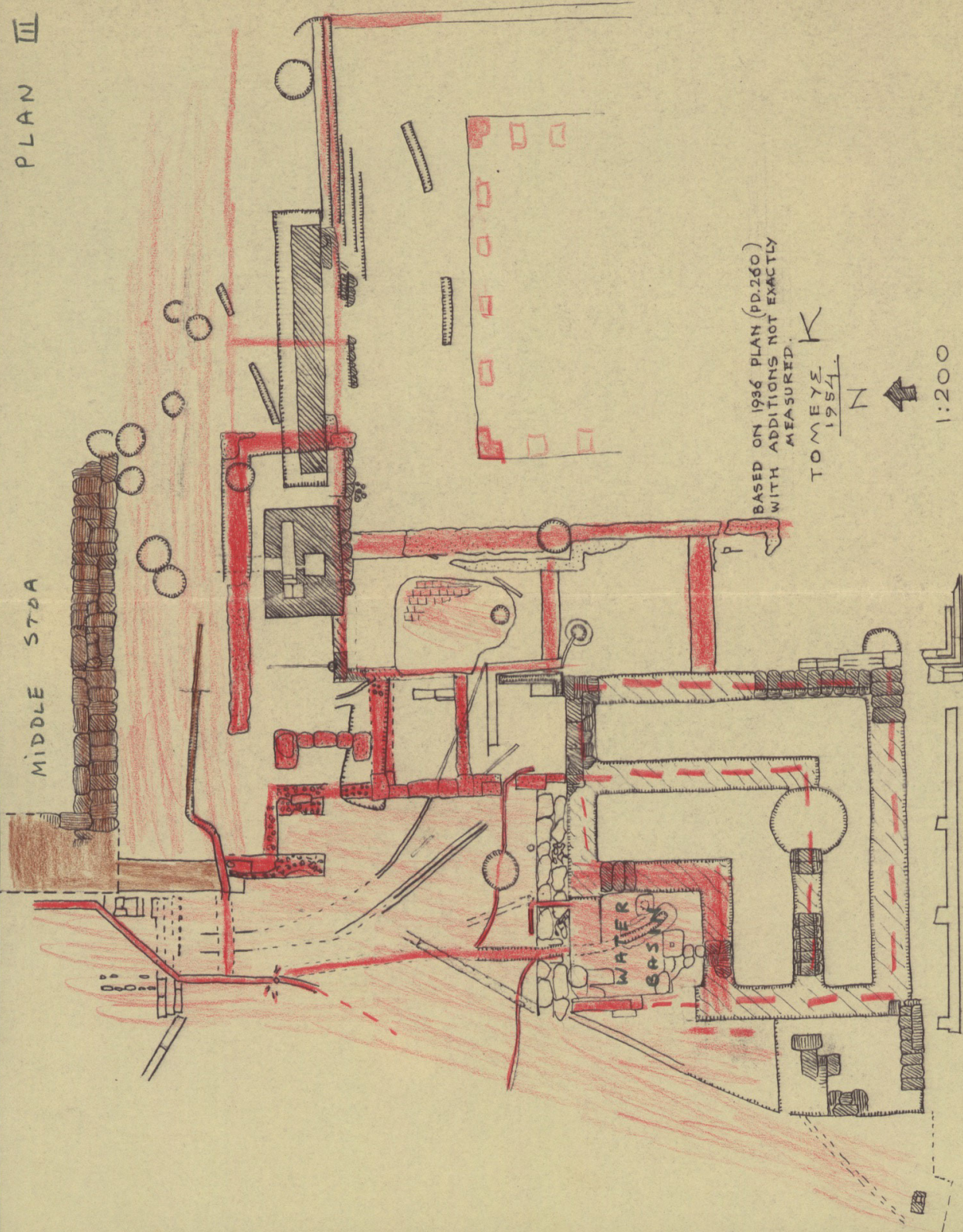
HELLENISTIC PERIOD

- FIFTH CENTURY B.C. (STILL STANDING)
- FOURTH CENTURY B.C. (STILL STANDING)
- MID-SECOND CENTURY B.C.

1:200

PLAN III

MIDDLE STOA



BASED ON 1986 PLAN (p.260)
WITH ADDITIONS NOT EXACTLY
MEASURED.

TOMEYE K
1954



1:200

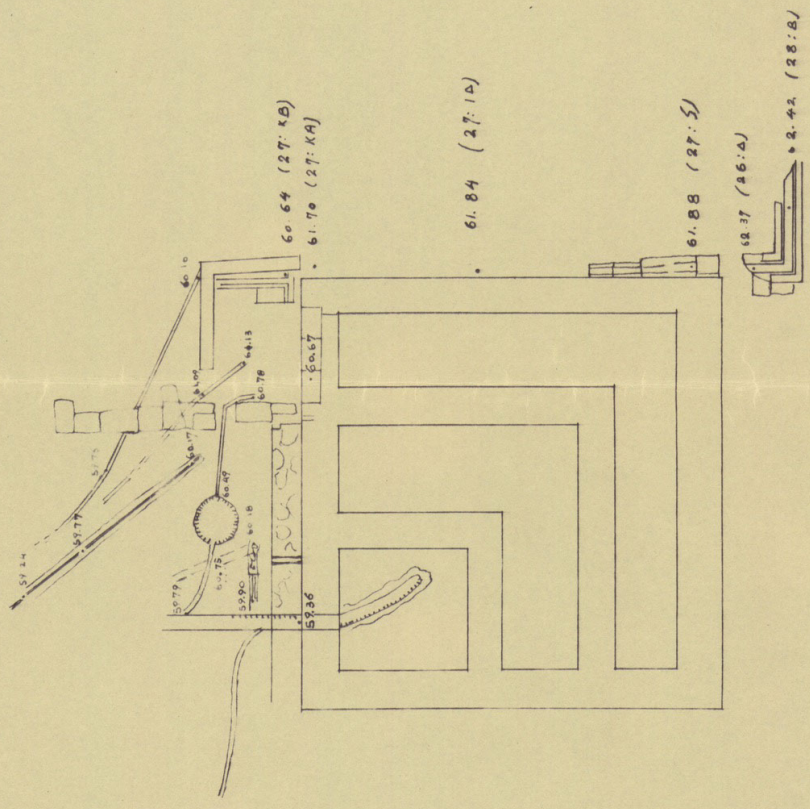
SOUTHWEST FOUNTAIN HOUSE
ROMAN PERIOD

- CA. FIRST CENTURY A.D.
- HELLENISTIC (STILL STANDING)

1:200

PLAN IV

Levels N of F. H
J. T. 1954
Levels of porous channel
East of F. H. (with grid numbers)
C. S. Spector 1934



SECTION K
1954
WATER CHANNELS
NORTH OF FOUNTAIN HOUSE