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SECTION Ψ  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLORATION:  
JULY - AUGUST, 1959

Location and Objectives

Ψ VII  
p. 1301 ff.      We have been concerned with an area measuring ca. 16 m.  
N - S by ca. 45 m. E - W in the N part of the section. It  
falls in the SW angle made by the intersection of the Pan-  
athenaic Way and the E - W street that bordered the south side  
of the Agora. The south edge of the E - W street, unfortun-  
ately for our purpose, is now concealed beneath the modern  
road, but it had been fairly thoroughly explored in 1955  
(cf. T XXX, pp. 5895-5906). Toward the S we accept as a limit  
fairly well preserved E - W walls that appear to mark the divi-  
sion between houses. On the E the area is bounded by the con-  
crete wall that carried the late Roman aqueduct. On the W we  
just include a narrow N - S street with a large tile drain  
beneath it. The East Branch of the Great Drain ran from S to  
N through the middle of the area.

Our intention was to complete the exploration of the  
houses that occupied this area and then to refill the deeper  
parts and level the area so as to create a parking lot for the  
convenience of visitors to the Stoa.

It must be admitted and emphasized that we did not go to  
bottom throughout the area; indeed considerable masses of early  
fill were left. But bedrock was already exposed by huge late  
disturbances in both the east and the west parts of the area,

so that the adjacent stratification was in full view, and at various other points we carried test cuts down to bedrock. It is hoped, therefore, that nothing of great consequence has escaped our attention in the way either of stratification or of structural remains. We did not track down all the early house foundations that were observed here and there at low levels, but they are undoubtedly in a very tenuous condition and it is doubtful whether much could be made of them unless by an infinite expenditure of time and effort. If in the future this should seem worth while the area may be reopened.

#### Results in General

Apart from a small deposit of Middle Helladic date, the earliest traces of habitation are of the 7th century B.C. From then on the area was occupied by private houses continuously down to the Herulian sack of 267 A.D. and appears to have been in part at least re-occupied thereafter until the 6th or 7th century. In no case has it been possible to recover the plan of a whole house, and only in a few instances could we determine the dimensions of a room. The houses of all periods appear to have been of a very modest nature, while the planning of the individual houses as well as the relation of one house to another seems, at any rate in their present state, capricious.

#### Prehistoric Deposit

In the east part of the area, close below Hellenistic house floors and close above bedrock, we encountered a sandy deposit ca. 0.20 m. thick over an area of at least 2 x 5 m.

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The pottery from the deposit was predominantly pre-Mycenaean, at least as early as Middle Helladic, though it also contained some archaic. From here also came a celt of green stone (ST 696, Ψ 1113), a rubbing stone (ST 697, Ψ 1114) and a fragment of a prehistoric stone bowl (ST 698, Ψ 1115).

This deposit is to be brought into connection with the more extensive remains of the Middle Helladic period noted in 1955 farther to the west in the deep cuts through the E - W street (Hesperia, XXV, 1956, p. 49).

#### Foundations of the Archaic Period

T XXX

p. 1352 ff., The most intelligible structural remains of the archaic  
p. 1363

period belong to a substantial drain that ran from SE to NW in the SW part of our area. Although the drain could not be followed to its source, it was evidently intended to carry off the water from the gully between the Acropolis and the Areopagus, and hence it is to be thought of as a predecessor of the East Branch of the Great Drain (Late 2nd century B.C.) The early drain ended toward the NW in a trumpet-like mouth that points toward the deep gully noted some years ago to the W of the west end of the Southeast Fountain House.

The drain was well built of sizeable masses of Acropolis limestone laid in a rough polygonal style; its walls rest on bedrock. The channel measures 0.65 m. wide inside and at one point the walls still stand to a height of 1.15 m. No trace of covering was observed, nor of flooring.

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The pottery from behind the drain walls runs down into the early 6th century B.C., and that from the gravelly accumulation on its floor is of the 7th and early 6th centuries. The drain would therefore seem to have had a short existence in the early 6th century.

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In the NE part of our area is a remnant of a curved wall, its convexity being toward the NW. It can be traced over a distance of ca. 10 m. but is broken away at both ends. It is made, like the drain noted above, of masses of Acropolis limestone roughly jointed. The pottery from above the ruinous top of the wall was 7th - early 6th centuries; a cistern of the 4th century B.C. was set down through it. We have to do, no doubt, with the remains of a house of early archaic times.

Remains of 5th - 4th Centuries B.C.

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In the extreme SW part of the area we came on a short run of polygonal limestone wall that appears to have formed the north side of a small room or pit measuring ca. 1.90 x 3.80 m. inside. The floor of the room was covered with silt; above the silt lay a mass of loose fill that yielded pottery of the late 5th century B.C.

Our area is bounded on the extreme E by a substantial wall of rubble masonry; to the west are remains of houses, to the east is gravelly road metal, apparently the Panathenaic Way of the time of the houses, for which the stratification indicates a date in the late 4th century B.C. Within our area the west edge of the Panathenaic Way lay as much as 2.00 m. to the W of the great aqueduct of the 2nd century A.D. that fixed its W limit for later times.

Of the houses that bordered the Panathenaic Way in this area the remains are extremely tenuous. Toward the NE is preserved a corner of a pebble mosaic floor. The interval of 0.95 m. between the mosaic and the walls of the room was surfaced with gray cement. The room was probably an andron.

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A little to the south is a flask-shaped cistern (Deposit R 17:6) which was set through the early curved wall noted above (p. 4 ) and which in turn was overlaid by the wall of a house of the Roman period. The cistern was small: 1.35 in diameter at the floor with short blind extensions toward the NW and SE. It was of the normal 4th century type, its walls cut from the soft bedrock and plastered with gray hydraulic cement. The little pottery in the fill was late 4th century B.C. (P 26735, Ψ 1117; P 26736, Ψ 1118). Several metres to

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AA VI, p.  
1100;  
AA VII,  
p. 1285

the south is another cistern of similar type and date, cleared earlier (43/IET, Deposit R 18:2); there appears to be no connection between the chambers. Just to the east of the cisterns is a tile-curbed wall also dug earlier (well at 46-47/IH, Deposit R 17:4: early Roman below, late Roman above; it drew water from Poros Aqueduct).

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### Hellenistic Period

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The most substantial and best documented structure of the Hellenistic period is the East Branch of the Great Drain which sweeps through the area from SE to NW. In this stretch it was built with substantial stone walls, stone floor and stone cover slabs. The width is fairly uniform at 0.60 m.; the height of the walls varies from 0.60 to 1.00 m. The evidence for dating is provided by the filling of a stone-curbed well (Deposit Q 18:4) that was put out of use and partly overlaid by the drain; the upper fill of the well was as late as the 2nd half of the 2nd century B.C.

The drain within our area seems not to have been overlaid by a road; in fact house walls that must be but little later in date than the drain were actually carried over it.

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A narrow road, 2.20 m. wide, runs from S to N more or less parallel to the Drain but farther W. It is bordered on the E by a house foundation of Acropolis limestone, and on the W by one of conglomerate. Beneath the road runs a large terracotta drain. This alley is probably earlier than Hellenistic and it certainly continued in use into Roman times.

### Early Roman Period

Although the whole area continued, no doubt, to be thickly inhabited throughout early Roman times, only a few rooms can

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be definitely associated with the period. One of the most interesting, in the south central part of the area, retains traces of painted wall plaster on its north, west and south

walls, those on the high south wall being the most comprehensible. Above an orange 'euthynteria' is an orthostate course consisting of long white panels in alternation with shorter panels painted in imitation of mottled marble: red on yellow, black on green. The wall surface above the orthostate was divided into vertical panels of which however only the lower edge remains. On the wall there were traces of two successive coats; on the north wall of three. The stratification indicates that this room and those adjoining date from the 1st or early 2nd century A.D. and that they continued into use until the Herulian sack of 267 A.D.; their uppermost floors were overlaid with debris of the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.

Probably contemporary with these rooms is a tile-curbed well near the very middle of our area, its top fitted with a massive poros bedding for a puteal with cuttings for the upright posts of a windlass. This well was left undug. (R 18)

Another contemporary room of some interest lay in the northeast part of the area, its east wall overlying the cistern described above. In the floor of the room were a couple of little round hollows, their bottoms deeply covered with the sludge from the working of marble with emery dust, similar to those observed on the Sculptor's Studio in the Library of Pantainos and in the east aisle of the East Stoa.

The house walls of this period are very miscellaneous in character. The underground foundation commonly consists of a packing of field stones thrown into a trench. The upper parts are of rubble stone, large re-used ancient blocks, occasionally bricks; the binding material is usually clay, sometimes a poor

lime mortar. The room of the marble working is characterized by a great rough block of Acropolis limestone at each of its corners.

#### Late Roman Period

Although only limited amounts of stratified deposit of the significant period remained, the evidence indicates damage and desolation in the second half of the 3rd century A.D. Much at least of the area was reoccupied, after an interval of uncertain length, and it continued in use, to judge from the latest pottery, down into the 6th, perhaps even 7th century A.D.

The structural remains of the period are very tenuous. In the southeastern part of our area the post-Herulian rebuilders for reasons not now obvious made a marked change in orientation, the earlier and later walls now forming an X. Elsewhere little remains but scraps of concrete wall and the mortar bedding for marble-slab floors.

No deposit of the Byzantine period was encountered in this season's work.