

## EXCAVATION SUMMARY

### Section BA: 1971

This season's work was confined to the eastern half of Section BA with the western limits set at the foundations of the west peristyle of the Basilica. To the east, work was extended to grid area R3 in a small extension excavated to find the eastern limits of Roman House c (see below, IV). It should be noted that, in this eastern area, we were troubled by a trench dug in March-May 1890 by S. Koumanoudes (cf Δελτιόν 1890, pp. 8-11). The maximum limits of this earlier excavation were the Railroad Wall to the south and Hadrian Street to the north; Q/12-R/2, west to east. Throughout most of the area thus defined, Koumanoudes had dug to bedrock and removed most walls and floors in his way. This will be remembered when we discuss Roman House c and the Byzantine remains in this area.

Another preliminary remark might be made regarding the nature of the excavation in the earlier levels beneath the Basilica. These excavations were carried out in a series of relatively small holes wherever later disturbances had broken through the Basilica floor. The resulting picture of Greek House 6 (See below, III) is necessarily less than complete, but enough emerged from these various probes to enable a relatively secure restoration wherever the remains are still covered.

Finally, cognizance should be made of the fact that, whereas bed rock constantly rises toward the east, floor levels (especially in Roman House a) were kept down. For example, the latest (Third Century after Christ) floor levels of Roman House c are about 0.75 meters lower than the marble paving of the court of the Second Century after Christ Basilica. This results in a marked stratigraphic compression with, for example, the latest floor of Room 6 of Roman House c lying directly over bedrock.

#### I. The Roads

##### A. The East-West Road

Large stretches of this road were uncovered last year (BA 1970, I.C.2 and I.D.2) and we excavated three small additional areas of this same road in 1971 (Area Q/20-6/10, 11: pp. 1347-1349; Area P/18,19-6/15: pp. 1713-1717; Area P/13,16-6/13,15: pp. 1637-1641, 1651-1659).

Of these three areas, that just outside Room 9 of Greek House 6 (Area P/13,16-6/13,15) proved to be the most informative. Here was found layered road metal running at least into the First Century after Christ (Strosis 6, Pot Lot 259; one higher strosis existed but did not yield distinctive pottery). This corresponds well with the chronology discovered last year for the closing of this road by the construction of the Basilica. The road layers ran back in time with a gap between the Hellenistic and the Classical (compare stroses, 8,9,10 - Pot Lots 263, 266, 267 - with strosis 11 and layers 11a and 11b - Pot Lots 268-270). Although the pottery from the Hellenistic roads was too non-descript to allow precise dating, it is probably a justifiable assumption that this gap is to be identified with that recognized last year as the result of a grading and landscaping which took place at about the time of construction of the Stoa of Attalos.

Below this chronological gap the layered road metal continued down, and back in time, with the lowest strosis (no. 16, Pot Lot 283) to be dated into the Eighth Century B.C. This strosis rested partly on bedrock which had been levelled off (cf. p.1655) and partly on a layer (no. 17; Pot Lot 285) of soft green fill which had apparently washed down into a small natural ravine in the bedrock. The pottery from this layer was exclusively Late Helladic III. The East-West Road can, then be given a life span of about 900 years from the Eighth Century B.C. to the Second Century after Christ.

#### B. The North-South Road east of Roman House c

At the extreme eastern end of Section BA, just outside Roman House c, there was found the western edge of a North-South road and there was exposed the edge of a terracotta drain with cover plaques. Only one strosis of this road was excavated (Pot Lot 389; cf. Pot Lot 390) and the most which can be said is that this road was in use in early Roman times. The existence of the road makes certain, however, that the eastern limits of Roman House c have been recovered.

#### C. The Alley between the Basilica and Roman House c

This narrow passageway east of the Basilica was created when the Basilica was constructed, and went out of use when the Basilica was destroyed (Pot Lots 295-300). Emptying out into a small plateia to the south, we do not know its termination to the north.

## II. The Waterworks

### A. The Street Drain in front of Greek House 6

Last year there was found a tributary of the large north-south Built Drain (BA 1970, pp. 9-10). This tributary flowed into the Built Drain from the east and was constructed of terracotta tiles. In 1971, there were uncovered two sections of the more easterly part of this drain. These two sections (O/19, P/2-6/10, 11 and P/14, 16-6/15) were constructed of small stone side walls 0.40 meters apart with cover slabs over the top. The ceramic indications for the construction of this drain are clearly post-Sullan (Pot Lots 264, 265, 267), but more precision from the pottery is not possible. It seems likely, however, that the construction date should be set in the mid-Second Century B.C. Such a date would fit well with the construction of the North-South Built Drain found last year (BA, p.9) into which this Street Drain flows. The change of construction in this drain, from rubble walls and cover slabs to terracotta tiles, will have been occasioned by the post-Sulla repairs to the Built Drain. At that time the Street Drain also will have been repaired at its western end with tiles.

The closing of the Street Drain, probably as a part of preparations for the construction of the basilica, took the form of dumping fill and debris (mostly amphorae) into the drain. This occurred at least in the last quarter of the First Century after Christ, or perhaps later although there are no secure ceramic parallels from the Second Century after Christ (Pot Lots 254, 255; Deposit OP 6:1; BI 847, 848, L 5690, P 28919).

### B. The Zig-Zag Drain (pp. 1333, 1611, 1615, 1629, 1675)

This splendidly built north-south drain runs along the outside of the east wall of the Basilica. It takes its name from the fact that, at P/20, Q/1-6/9, it makes a 90° turn to the east and, after 2.60 meters, it makes another 90° turn back to the south. Further to the south the drain is cut off by the Railroad, but, just north of the railroad wall, the drain appears to be bending toward the east.

The silt fill of the drain (of the late Sixth, or possible early Seventh, century after Christ; Pot Lots 396-399; S 2420, 2428, 2429, J 158, G 612-614, B 1370, IL 1532, L 5668, 5669 5688, 5689, P 28747, 28748) was dug out throughout the length of the drain in Section BA, and followed out of the section beneath Hadrian Street to the North. This

work was pursued for 11 meters until, at Q/4-5/14, a disturbance was reached in the form of a Turkish pithos (Deposit Q 5:1). This was dug, upside down, but it did not seem safe to continue beyond this point. There were some indications, however, that the drain might be turning to the west at this point (p. 1675).

Although no ceramic evidence was recovered for the construction date of the Zig-Zag Drain, it is a reasonable assumption that it is closely contemporary with the construction of the Basilica. This assumption is partially confirmed by the bricks which pave the drain north of the zig-zag. These bricks are very characteristic, being flat and curved on the narrow sides for the construction of a vault. Now another of these (A 4249) was discovered in the backfill between a cover slab of the drain and the foundations of the east wall of the Basilica at Q/1-6/5. Yet another (P 29085) was found in Greek House 6 in a cistern which was filled at the time of the construction of the Basilica. Given the direction of the Zig-Zag Drain and its date vis-a-vis the direction and closing date (BA 1970, p. 10) of the Built Drain further west, it is logical that the former is the successor of the latter; That is, the Zig-Zag Drain was built to carry drainage from the same source east of the Stoa of Attalos as had the Built Drain before the construction of the Basilica put it out of use.

The Zig-Zag Drain continued in use after the Herulii as is shown by the lateness of the pottery in the closing silt (see above) and by a repair at Q/2-6/12 where two fragmentary geison blocks were reused as cover slabs. One of these (A 4285) matches a block found last year (A 3826), while the second (A 4284) is from the Roman Circular Building (cf. A 638). The final closing of the Zig-Zag Drain is probably to be associated with the Slavic invasion in the late Sixth Century after Christ.

### III. Greek House 6 (Fig. 11)

#### A. Architecture

As excavated in 1971, this structure lies almost completely beneath the Basilica and is known through a series of relatively small trenches which have revealed the general outlines of the building. This is a structure with a double row of small rooms, or shops, facing southwards onto the East-West road discussed above. The eastern and southern limits of Greek House 6 are clear, while the northern lies outside the section to the north. The western limits are no longer extant, having been destroyed by the foundations of the west peristyle of the Basilica, but they can

be estimated within a two meter range which gives an overall east-west dimension for Greek House 6 of 23 to 25 meters. If the room at the southwest corner of the building has, like its neighbors, a width of 3.30 to 3.40 meters, then the east-west dimension of Greek House 6 will have been ca. 23.40 meters.

Of the rooms which face out onto the street, only one (Room 6) has its full dimensions still extant. These are, in the classical period, ca. 3.40 x 3.40 meters. This room had a door in the middle of its southern wall giving out onto the road, and another in its northwest corner providing intercommunication with Room 3. The remaining traces of walls from other rooms justify the restoration of four such rooms along the south side of Greek House 6 with a series of four more rooms behind these to the north.

The southeast area of Greek House 6 is slightly different, however. Here there was, in the classical period, one large room ca. 7.30 x 7.70 meters with no traces of any subdivision. This room was, then, the space of four normal rooms, with southern frontage of two normal rooms.

The area north of the double row of rooms is not known except in the extreme eastern area where a cistern was found at P/17-6/5 (p. 1749). This may be taken as indicative of domestic activities in the northern part of Greek House 6, although the suggestion is obviously tenuous.

The function of the exposed areas of this building should have been commercial, and evidence of light industry from different levels was discovered in different rooms:

Room 3 - Layers 5 and 6 (Second Century B.C., Pot Lots 148, 149)

layers of marble dust and small chips and a crudely made (or unfinished) statuette base (ST 795).

Room 4 - Layer 6c (first half of the First Century A.D.; Pot Lot 154)  
small pit filled with marble chips and pumice.

Room 5 - Layers 6 and 6a (mid-First Century A.D.; Pot Lots 166, 167)  
Layer and pit with marble chips, pumice, uncatalogued marble statuette arm and clay metal mould.

Layer 8 (Sullan destruction; Pot Lot 170) Large quantities of miltos and ochre (cf. pp. 1308, 1310).

Room 7 - Layer 3 (Sullan destruction; Pot Lot 214) miltos

Layer 6 (first half of the Third Century B.C.; Pot Lot 219)

Marble dust and chips.

Room 9 - Layer 2 (Sullan destruction; Pot Lot 237) Large quantities of Milto.

Also in Room 9 are two basins of different dates (see below) which would be appropriate for industrial purposes.

#### B. Chronology

##### 1. The Geometric Predecessor (pp. 1653-1657)

In one small area (P/12,15-6/13) there was found a short stretch of rubble wall 3.50 meters long and 0.55 meters wide which lies partially beneath the street wall of Greek House 6, and at a slightly different orientation. No other architectural remains belonging with this wall were found, nor can its purpose be determined, but it must be an exterior wall since the east-west road ran alongside it (cf. above I.A.) Although the pottery from the footing trench was non-descript Geometric (Pot Lot 284), that from the road strosis immediately above this trench clearly belonged to the second half of the Eighth Century B.C. (Pot Lot 283). To this same period can be assigned the construction of this wall.

The wall seems to have remained standing for a relatively long period since a road strosis containing mid-Sixth Century pottery (Pot Lot 282) gathered against it, but a layer with pottery of the (early?) last quarter of the Sixth Century covered the wall thus providing a destruction date at about the middle of the last half of the Sixth Century B.C. (Pot Lot 279).

##### 2. Archaic (fig. 2)

Due to the constant process of redigging and grading which went on in the structure, especially at the end of the Fifth or the beginning of the Fourth Century B.C., little remains of the archaic levels in this area. There is enough, however, to assign certain elements to the last quarter of the Sixth Century and to conclude that Greek House 6 had the essential outlines of its later form already in the Archaic period.

The most important element is the southern wall of the building which is constructed of soft yellow poros orthostates (0.65 meters high) laid in a good ashlar style over a poros toichobate. The orthostates nowhere have a higher original course above, and this may indicate that the upper wall was of mud brick. The attribution of this wall to the Archaic period is based on strata both inside and outside the wall near its

eastern end. Outside the wall both the foundation trench (Pot Lot 277) and the layer directly above the trench (Pot Lot 276) contained pottery of the last quarter of the Sixth Century B.C. Inside the wall, in Room 9, the late Roman "Green Lime Mortar" Wall separated the stratified fill from the street wall of Greek House 6. Nonetheless, there were clear floor levels with pottery of the second half of the Sixth Century B.C. (Pot Lots 251, 252) which may be used as confirmatory evidence for the date of this wall.

The second area where stratified fill indicates the assignment of an element to the Archaic Greek House 6 is in Room 7 where three layers of the late Archaic period (Pot Lots 225-227) run hard up against the lowest part of the north-south wall between Room 7 and Room 4-5. Both this wall and the lowest of the three layers rest directly on levelled bedrock.

Finally, there remains in Room 8 the northwest corner of the original large southeastern room of Greek House 6 (see above). Running up against this wall was a good floor strosis with late Sixth Century B.C. pottery beneath it (Pot Lot 233). Thus, although the foundation trench lower yet produced non-descript pottery (Pot Lot 234), this wall also can be assigned to the Archaic period.

One other feature of the Archaic period in the area of Greek House ought to be mentioned, even though it appears to be earlier than the building. In Room 4-5 there was discovered a layer of mud bricks (pp. 1303, 1313, 1345) preserved two "courses" high in some places. These bricks do not extend quite as far as the east wall of Room 4-5, but no other limits to south, west, or north have been recovered. There is no foundation for them, but they rest rather on a firm strosis of the second half of the Sixth Century B.C. (Pot Lot 163; cf. 164). These bricks are probably not, therefore, structural in their present positions; might they represent a stock-piling of bricks for the original construction of Greek House 6?

### 3. Classical (fig. 2)

Although a Persian destruction and a subsequent Fifth Century reinhabitation of Greek House 6 are reasonable assumptions, the traces of such a history are slight and confined to Rooms 8 and 9 (Pot Lots 232 and 247-250 respectively). The reason for this absence is that in the very early Fourth Century B.C. Greek House 6 underwent a heavy

remodelling. This remodelling is best seen in Room 6 where layer 11 (Pot Lot 206) represents a floor laid over a heavy layer of fill which produced a large quantity of of Archaic pottery with a few sherds of the late Fifth or very early Fourth Century B.C. (Pot Lot 207).

It is to this period that several elements are to be dated: the east, west and north walls of Room 6 (the latter wall preserved only in its foundations); the west wall of Room 7; and (by analogy of style of construction) the south and east walls of Room 1-2. These walls are all constructed, above floor level, of very neat polygonal masonry which has a surface treatment of vertical strokes made with a single point.

In addition to these elements, the earlier street wall (Pot Lot 203) and the northwest corner of Room 8-9 (Pot Lot 231) remained in use. Doorways, as always, are a problem and only three can be securely identified: between Rooms 1-2 and 4-5; between Rooms 3 and 6, and south out of Room 6. Somewhat later the doors in Room 6, at least, had their thresholds raised. The door to Room 3 was so altered in the late Fourth Century B.C. (Pot Lots 202-203), while that out to the south was raised in the first quarter of the third century (Pot Lot 198) at which time there was also a 'step' block added on the inside (p. 1626).

Also during the late Fourth or early Third Century (Pot Lot 218) a block was set on end near the southwest corner of Room 7 (p. 1375). This may well have been a jamb for a doorway in this position.

The sunken rectangular basin in Room 9 will have been added during the early Third Century B.C. at the earliest (p. 1679, Pot Lot 245) although it could be later. East of this basin there was found an unlined rectangular shaft (pp. 1673, 1781; Pot Lot 241) of unknown purpose which was filled at the middle of the Third Century B.C.

These additions bring us to a period of abandonment, or at least decline, for Greek House 8. This decline is symbolized by the dumped deposit of amphoral and roof tiles (Layer 8b, p.1329; Pot Lot 195) in Room 6 and even more by the three pyres found in Rooms 6, 7 and 9. While the pyre in Room 7 is slightly earlier (second quarter Third Century; Deposit P6:4), the other two are of the third quarter of the Third Century B.C. (Deposits P6:5, Room 6; P6:6, Room 9). All of this indicates

a lack of



a lack of normal activity in Greek House 6 in the mid-Third Century B.C.

4. Late Hellenistic (fig. 3)

The next period of concentrated activity begins in the third quarter of the Second Century B.C. and is symbolized by a burst of construction in Greek House 6 which took the form, for the most part, of rebuilding earlier walls. Thus the south and west (closing the door) walls of Room 6 were reconstructed at a higher elevation (Pot Lot 191) as were probably also the east and north walls although later disturbances have destroyed the evidence. Also thus raised was the west wall of Room 7 (Pot Lot 190, 217).

The only new feature of this period was the east-west wall dividing Rooms 8 and 9 which replaced the more northerly and earlier wall (Pot Lots 229, 230, 237). Repairs to the south and east walls of Room 9 near the southeast corner (cf. p.1696) by means of rubble and red conglomerate blocks may have occurred now also, but the post-Sulla phase is also possible.

5. Sulla to the Basilica (fig. 4)

a. There is throughout Greek House 6 widespread evidence for Sullan damage in the form of heavy layers of debris (Pot Lots 156, 168-170, 188-189, 214-215, 237-238; cf. especially coins 449-453). It seems that this damage was not fully repaired for some time. It is not until the second half of the First Century B.C. (and probably late in that half century) that there is evidence for remodelling. The wall between Rooms 1-2 and 3 was moved further north and a doorway put between the two rooms (Pot Lot 143). The same situation holds for the wall between Rooms 4-5 and 6 (Pot Lot 187) while a new north wall was added to Room 7 (Pot Lot 215).

Filled with debris from Sulla (Pot Lot 237), the basin in the center of Room 9 certainly went out of use at this time and was probably replaced by one in the southeast corner of Room 9. This basin (p. 1711) is not well preserved, but it may well have been drained by a terracotta channel about 2 meters west of its southeast corner. This channel passes out through the street wall of Greek House 6 and into the Street Drain (see above II.A).

Preserved in isolation from any stratigraphy, two pieces of tile chip paving, one in the center of Room 9, one in the southwest corner of Room 10, must both date

from this post-Sullan reconstruction of Greek House 6. The reason for assigning these fragmentarily preserved pavements to this phase is that their elevations are very nearly the same as another tile chip pavement in Room 1-2. The northern limits of this latter pavement are not available to us, but it had an east-west dimension of ca. 2 meters and was surrounded, at least on its east, south and west sides by a low stone curb much in the fashion of a very small court. Two coins (309, 310) were found embedded in the concrete packing of this tile chip pavement. One of these dates from the period between Sulla and the end of the First Century B.C., while the other dates ca. 50-30 B.C. and is quite worn. The tile chip pavement of Room 1-2 (and probably the other such pavements in Greek House 6) ought to be dated to the last quarter of the First Century B.C.

b. The life of this paving in Room 1-2 was not very long, for in the second half of the First Century after Christ an east-west wall was set over the top of it forming a division for Rooms 1 and 2 (Pot Lots 136, 140). This wall continued eastward dividing Rooms 4 and 5 (Pot Lot 166) while the wall south of it and parallel to it (dividing Rooms 5 and 6) was no longer in use. At this time Room 4 was given a paving of square terracotta tiles over a mortar bedding (p. 1295).

To the second half of the First Century after Christ should belong also the cistern in Room 8 and P/17-6/5 (p. 1749). This cistern was crowned by a head formed of a hollowed porous block which was surrounded by a layer containing pottery of the late First Century after Christ (Pot Lot 226), although the cistern itself contained very little pottery (Pot Lot 235). It did, however, have in it a vaulting brick (A 4283) like those in the Zig-Zag Drain (above II.B) and its side chamber was cut off by the east wall of the Basilica so that the cistern must have been in use until the construction of the Basilica.

Finally, there is evidence for a well interrupted during its construction in the east part of Room 1 (p. 1357). This was a shaft dug through the tile chip floor of Room 1-2 and earlier layers and which ended after ca. 2.50 meters and had several well tiles lying askew at the bottom.

Late in the First Century or early in the Second Century after Christ, the history of Greek House 6 ended. Its walls were reduced to a fairly uniform level and layers of alternating cement and working chips covered the area (pp. 1281-3,

1321-3). These layers obviously are the result of work on the Basilica itself, while the levelling of the walls can be understood as a part of preparations for the construction of the Basilica. Another part of these preparations are several pits which were dug and filled with debris of plaster, burnt wood, nails, etc. These pits must be the results of pre-Basilica clean-up operations and they occur in Room 4 (P 28467, 28469, L 5658, A 4238, P 28548, BI 863, Pot Lots 152, 153), Room 6 (Deposit P 6:2), Room 7 (Deposit P 6:3), and Room 9 (Pot Lots 242, 243). Another such pit occurs, as will be seen, just east of the Basilica in Roman House ε.

#### IV. Roman House ε

##### A. Architecture (fig. 5)

This building lies east of the Basilica and north of the Stoa of Attalos and is dominated by a central court yard off which open several rooms. Although the northern limits of Roman House ε lie beneath Hadrian Street, the extent of the building may be indicated by the inlet of a terracotta channel in the east wall of the Zig-Zag Drain at Q/4-5/16. If this is so, Roman House ε will have a north-south dimension of 18-19 meters, while its east-west length is 21 meters.

The central court yard originally had three columns spaced nearly 3-meters apart on each of its long sides, but this arrangement was changed when the well at the southeast corner (see below) was added, and the blocks at the northeast were worked down back to a base only 4.50 meters (on center) from that (restored) at the northwest. In this latest phase the court was paved with marble slabs over a concrete bedding with a curious rock-packed channel along the west side. Even more curious is the circle outlined in small tile fragments in the concrete bedding just southeast of the center point of the court. In places where this paving has been broken through, there are discernible two earlier pavements, one of tile chips, the lowest of pebbles. The flooring of the aisle around this court is of clay. A small Ionic column capital found in the destruction debris of the Wall Painted Room (A 4241) and another fragment of a similar capital (A 4281) found in the well at the southeast corner of the court may belong to the peristyle of the latest phase of the court. This latest phase is to be dated to the mid-Third Century after Christ (Pot Lots 364-368, 371-373; Coin 487-239 A.D.)

Opening off the west side of this court is a large room (4.40 meters east-west, 5.50 meters north-south as now known) which is entered through a wide doorway which appears to have had, in the latest period, a distyle in-antis arrangement. The 'stylobate' of this doorway is broken on the south by a later disturbance, but, as preserved, consists of two Hymettian marble blocks which were originally threshold blocks the tops of which were worked off in the latest period (cf. the working chips in layer 3 of the west aisle of the courtyard; Pot Lot 371). The interior faces of the walls of this room still have preserved plaster which is painted with a yellow 'socle' ca. 0.22 meters high topped by a ca. 0.02 meter thick black stripe. Above this the background is white with panels formed by a red vertical stripe flanked by two green and two black stripes. The red stripes are ca. 1.55 meters apart and turn to form a continuous horizontal band ca. 0.72 meters above the floor. The floor which belongs with this plaster (cf. p. 1689) can be dated to the mid-Third Century after Christ (Pot Lot 314) and so too must the plaster be dated.

South of the court yard there is a series of 5 rooms averaging 3.50 x 5.75 meters (the easternmost of these is completely gone in the Railroad cut, and all have been lost in varying degrees to the Railroad). The central of these, Room 4, is entered from the courtyard by a doorway slightly west of center. Room 4, the doorway, and the south part of the court all have the same clay floor. The significance of this lies in the fact that Rooms 2,3 and (as far as discernible) 5 did not have any intercommunication with the rest of Roman House c, but must each have been entered from the south by means of individual doors. Moreover, Rooms 2 and 3 had floor levels some 0.40 meters higher than the contemporary floors of the rest of the building in its latest phase (e.g. ca. 55.55 meters for the rest of Roman House c vis-a-vis 55.89 meters for layer 2 of Room 3, p. 1735, Pot Lot 332). Given these facts, the conclusion is obvious that Room 4 served as an entrance into Roman House c, whereas the other four southern rooms were independent shops opening out onto a small plateia bordered by Roman House c, the Basilica, and the Stoa of Attalos. This plateia will have had extremely narrow (0.90-1.00 meter) entrances to the northwest and southwest.

Along the west wall of Room 4 there is a structure cut off on the north by a Byzantine pit and on the south by the Railroad wall. This structure may well have been part of a stairway since one block at the south has a well worn tread 0.30 meters wide and 0.60 meters above the floor. Its situation is such that we may restore a 10 step stairway rising to the north with treads 0.30 meters wide and risers of a similar height. This indicates a second storey for Roman House c about 3.00 meters above the first.

The rooms opening off the east side of the court have been damaged in part by the earlier excavations in this area (see above, p.1) so that the placement of doors in them is not known. The southern of the two, Room 6, extends further east than Room 7 and thus creates a curious zig-zag in the line of the east wall of Roman House c. On the extant parts of the north and east wall of Room 6 there is a double layer of painted plaster (pp. 1807-9) each of which is very colorful if not of the highest quality.

The nature of the commercial activity which went on in Roman House c in its latest phase is indicated by the mass of bone tools (e.g. BI 857-862) and pieces of bone, some worked to varying degrees, which was found in the destruction debris over the courtyard of Roman House c (Pot Lot 361). Several more of these bone tools were discovered in the use levels of the well at the southeast corner (BI 866-874). These finds justify the identification of Roman House c as a bone working establishment.

## B. Chronology

### 1. Latest phase

All of the arrangements described above belong to a remodelling of Roman House c which occurred at the middle of the Third Century after Christ (cf. above on the Wall Painted Room). Since Roman House c did not survive the Herulii (Pot Lots 313, 332, 346, 357, 361), this latest phase was not long lived. This close chronology is, perhaps, best illustrated by the well at the southeast corner of the court (Deposit Q 6:4). After digging over 13 meters of backfill thrown in by Koumanoudes, there appeared nearly two meters of destruction debris (Pot Lot 391) characterized by bones, horns, plaster, revetment, bricks, and roof tiles. Below this was the period of use which produced a large quantity of pottery (and several bone tools) along with some coins (496-499). The most significant of these (Coins 496) is of Gordian

III from the period 242-244 A.D. This was found only 0.15 meters above another change of fill in the well which produced marble working chips, plaster, pumice stone, etc. This layer can be taken as symbolizing the remodelling of Roman House  $\epsilon$  at its latest phase. Since the well ended only 0.30 meters lower, and the pottery below the 'remodelling' layer was not discernibly earlier than that above, the whole period of use of the well should be bracketed within the period of the 240's A.D. to 267 A.D. This same chronology for all of the latest phase of Roman House appears elsewhere, especially in the west aisle of the court where the third layer below the latest floor (Layer 5, p. 1771) produced another coin (487) of Gordian III; this one dated to 239 A.D.

## 2. Earlier phases

With bedrock so near and with the thorough-going nature of the latest phase of remodelling, perhaps it is not surprising that our knowledge of the earlier phases of Roman House  $\epsilon$  is very incomplete. That there must have been some building on the site in the archaic and classical periods is shown by the various floor levels of those periods found in the area (Pot Lots 329, 330, 343-345, 378-386). None of these floors can, however, be associated with any architectural elements. Even more indicative of activity in the area is a cistern side channel at Q/9-6/5 which went out of use in the mid-Third Century B.C. (Pot Lot 386), and a collapsed cistern at Q/9-6/9, again filled in the mid-Third Century B.C. (Deposit Q 6:5, note the implicit decline of activity in this period which is paralleled in the neighboring Greek House  $\delta$ , cf. above, p. 8 )

Although very little of the later Hellenistic levels remained, there was enough to show that the west and north walls of Room 3 of Roman House belong to the Second Century B.C. (Pot Lots 337, 339). The pottery will not allow of closer dating, but the identical alignment of the north wall of Room 3 with the wall between Rooms 8 and 9 of Greek House  $\delta$  (above, p. 9 ) would suggest a similar date for both: the third quarter of the Second Century B.C. Such a dating allows the hypothesis that Roman House actually represents an Hellenistic eastward extension of Greek House  $\delta$ . Certainly the two buildings had a common wall - the north-south wall which originally had been the east wall of Greek House  $\delta$ . If this theory is correct, then, from the mid-Second Century B.C. to the construction of the Basilica, the two buildings actually formed one unit with an east-west dimension of ca. 46.90 meters (cf. fig. 4).

Such an interpretation gains strength from the parallelism of the histories of the two structures. Like the pits found in Greek House  $\delta$  which were part of the preparation for the Basilica construction (cf. above p. 10), another pit of precisely the same ceramic date was found in the Wall Painted Room of Roman House  $\epsilon$  (Deposit Q 8:2). This pit had its own special character, however, for it was predominantly filled with plaster painted with 'fantastic' architecture on a brilliant red background reminiscent of Pompeian painting.

Another pit, this one in Room 3 of Roman House  $\epsilon$ , was also of about the same date (pp. 1735, 1745; Pot Lot 334), but this pit seems to have been for the purpose of metal casting since many fragmentary clay moulds and a great deal of iron slag was found therein.

If Roman House  $\epsilon$  was, then, damaged or partially destroyed during the construction of the Basilica, it seems to have been rebuilt thereafter. The date of this construction cannot be established with precision, but one floor in the wall Painted Room contained pottery of the Second Century after Christ but none of the Third (Pot Lot 315). It would appear that the columns of the courtyard during this period were constructed of terracotta wedge-shaped bricks (A 4282) since some three dozen of these were found in fill associated with the mid-Third Century after Christ remodelling of Roman House  $\epsilon$  (Pot Lot 367, p. 1757).

Nothing has been said regarding a Sullan destruction and post-Sullan reconstruction of Roman House  $\epsilon$  since no secure evidence of such was found (but see Pot Lots 335, 336). However, the existence of a tile chip pavement (like those of Greek House  $\delta$ ) in the courtyard (see above p. 11) may well imply such a history for Roman House  $\epsilon$  (or rather, for the Roman House  $\epsilon$  part of the then expanded Greek House  $\delta$ ). The lower pebble pavement of the court might belong to the Hellenistic period of Roman House  $\epsilon$  when it was, perhaps, a part of Greek House  $\delta$ .

## V. The Basilica

### A. Architecture (fig. 5)

This building, that part of the Northeast Complex which was called 'The Marble Paved Building' last year, was this year excavated as completely as will be possible

in Section BA. The association between the Basilica and the 'Northeast Stoa' suggested last year was confirmed by the discovery of the east wall of the Basilica. This wall aligns perfectly with the east wall of the 'Northeast Stoa' south of the Railroad.

This east wall (photos 86-653 and 691) has a heavy concrete footing with foundations above of neatly jointly soft yellow poros blocks. Some of these blocks have drafted margins which were done in their present positions despite the fact that they were never visible. These foundations, preserved three courses high in some areas, have a maximum thickness of 1.65 meters. Balanced on the second course of foundations along the west face of the wall is a lighter wall of concrete and rubble used, in part, to support a 'toichobate' of Hymettian marble 0.17 meters wide (p.1360). This 'toichobate' will have carried a moulded base (e.g. A 4046, 4047) with revetment above.

As exposed so far, this east wall is solid with no evidence of any doorway through it. A doorway through the east wall on the short axis is suggested by the mass of mortar discovered on top of the wall, fallen as if from a jamb. This is not the only possible source for this mortar, however, and such a door would open out against the back wall of Roman House c. Another possible area for a small door through the east wall would be out onto the plateia between the Stoa of Attalos and Roman House c, but this area is now completely obliterated by the Railroad.

A probe at P/11,14-6/2 (p. 1701) over the line of the east peristyle of the court of the Basilica showed that the peristyle continues northward and does not turn. Since the peristyle would have turned here if the court had been square, the building must be restored as rectangular with its long axis running north-south. Perhaps the most reasonable ratio of length to width for the court would be 2:1. The overall interior dimensions of the core of the Basilica would, then, be about 26.75 x 42 meters, with the 'Northeast Stoa' adding another ca. 6 meters to the north-south length.

The main entrance to the Basilica is now obviously to be placed on the short south side behind the columnar facade of the 'Northeast Stoa'. Subsidiary doors through the west wall south of Roman Building  $\beta$  and/or through the east wall are possibilities, but the nature of these walls preclude their having served as



principal facades with monumental entranceways. The analogous situation of the Basilica of the Roman Forum at Corinth may be noted.

A problem which remains is the nature of the paving of the aisles of the Basilica. The grandiose nature of the structure should, it would seem, be sufficient to preclude an earth floor, yet no trace of any other type of paving has been found in Section BA.

The purpose of the Basilica is not known and nothing was found this year to help in defining the building's function. The possibility that it served as a law court is obvious, but has, for the moment, no proof.

#### B. Chronology

In 1970 a date for the Basilica was suggested in the later years of the reign of Hadrian. This year considerable areas of construction fill from the east aisle (pot Lots 306, 307), outside the east wall (Pot Lots 308-310), and beneath the central court (Pot Lots 301-304) were excavated. The ceramic evidence from these areas would, if anything, tend to make the date of the Basilica slightly earlier than that previously suggested. The mass of this pottery finds its closest affinities with Group G (Agora V), with only a few pieces (e.g. P 28977, P 29083) more closely paralleled by pottery from Group H. The coins, also, are much earlier with the latest ones (e.g. Coins 476) belonging to that group, mined under Augustus, which circulated until the beginning of Athenian Imperial coinage under Hadrian. Although it is an argument from silence, the absence of any Athenian Imperial coins is indicative of a construction date for the Basilica before the Hadrianic minting of Athenian coins.

Again, the pits dug in various parts of Greek House 6 and Roman House 6 which were part of the preparations for the Basilica construction (see above, pp. 10 and 15), as well as the closing of the Street Drain (see above, p. 3), can be dated with security on the ceramic evidence only to the late First Century after Christ, and not necessarily later. Of the 24 coins found in these pits, 13 were well enough preserved to be identified (361, 364-366, 395, 413, 439, 461, 463, 464, 467, 471). Eight of these belonged to the Augustan series mentioned above as circulating throughout the First and into the Second Century after Christ. The other five coins were all from the First Century B.C., but somewhat earlier than Augustus.

It might, then, be tempting to date the Basilica as early as the reign of Trajan, and the ceramic evidence for a later date is slight. The style of construction is, however, so unlike that of known Trajanic buildings (e.g. the Library of Pantainos), that a Hadrian date is to be preferred. A date of ca. 125 A.D., or slightly earlier, would probably not be too far wrong.

#### VI. Late Roman

Very little was found of late Roman remains in 1971, but there should be mentioned the blocks in the northwest corner of the Wall Painted Room of Roman House c. These were set in place in the Fourth Century after Christ or later (Pot Lot 312), but their function is not apparent. They may be placed together with the 'isolated blocks' discovered last year (BA 1970, p. 24).

The northern of the two Late Roman Long Walls (the 'Green Lime Mortar' Wall) was followed eastward this year until it disappeared into the Railroad wall at Q/5-6/15. It does not, as suggested last year, turn northward at P/17-6/12 (BA 1970, p. 23). The supposed northern turn is actually the rubble-concrete wall on the west face of the east wall of the Basilica (see above, p. 16). The total length of this wall is, as preserved to us without its east end, some 58 meters.

#### VII. The Chamber Tomb (pp. 1811-1815) (fig. 5)

In the northeast corner of Room 3 of Roman House c (Area Q/7,9-6/11,12; Deposit Q 6:3), and partially beneath the northern and eastern walls of this room, there were found the remains of an irregularly circular tomb with its blocked dromos running out toward the northwest. This tomb had been disturbed already in the Sixth Century B.C. (Pot Lot 399) and again in the early Byzantine period. There remained to us part of one skeleton along the south side of the tomb and the membra disiecta of another which had been pushed off to the east side. The only objects which remained were a monochrome one-handled jug (P 29005) and two biconical spindle whorls or buttons of steatite (MC 1185, 1186).

#### VIII. The Byzantine Complex. (fig. 6)

The fairly well preserved remains of part of a Byzantine structure were found this year in the eastern part of the section. Cut off on the north by Hadrian Street, on the east by Koumanoudes, and on the south by the Railroad, the full limits of

this building are not known. It would appear that it was a house with a double row of rooms along the north side and a court yard in the southeast corner. This courtyard was provided with a pithos along its northern side and a well at its northeast corner. The courtyard had communication with the two rooms along its north side and one of these, Room 11, had a stone structure which may have had to do with a stairway leading up to a second storey (p. 1257). The two rooms further north (Rooms 12 and 14) were both equipped with storage pithoi, and in the northeast corner of Room 15 and the southwest corner of Room 16 were found large flat-bottomed jars with their mouths broken away sunk down into the floors (pp. 1264-5).

By the Thirteenth Century after Christ, this building had been destroyed and abandoned (Pot Lots 402, 403, 408, 416), while its construction date appears to have been in the Twelfth, or late Eleventh, Century after Christ (Pot Lots 410, 415, 420, 425, 429, 431). Some traces remained of a reinhabitation of parts of the building in the Thirteenth Century after Christ, but these were confined to Rooms 15 and 17 (pp. 1261-3; Pot Lots 422, 423, 430), and were probably more in the nature of squatters' quarters than permanent settlement.

List of Deposits cited in the discussion above

- ✓ P 6:2 Early Roman Pit at P/3-6/6,7 in Room 5 of Greek House 5.  
P 28471-28481, BI 838-841, B 1358, ST 785, L 5663, 5664, SS 14738  
Coins 361, 362, 364-366 Pottery Container 184  
Probably also to be associated with this deposit (cf. p. 1381)  
are the following: P 28749, 28750, B 1371, SS 14745 and Coin 413.
- ✓ P 6:3 Early Roman Pit at P/7-6/4 in Room 7 of Greek House 5.  
P 28920-28926, SS 14754, IL 1531, B 1365-1367 Pottery Container 212
- P 6:4 Pyre at P/7-6/6 in Room 7 of Greek House 5.  
P 28557-28574
- ✓ P 6:5 Pyre at P/2-6/9 in Room 6 of Greek House 5.  
P 28581-28584, Coin 417. Pottery Container 201
- ✓ P 6:6 Pyre at P/17-6/9 in Room 9 of Greek House 5.  
P 28978-28982, L 5713-5714, Coin 459. Pottery Container 239
- ✓ OP 6:1 Fill of Street Drain in front of Greek House 5.  
P 26549-26555, A 4239 Pottery Container 254  
Probably also to be associated with this deposit (cf. p. 1633)  
are the following: P 28919, BI 847-848, L 5690, and Coin 439

Pottery Container 255.

Q 6:1 Turkish Pithos at Q/14,15-6/7

P 28450-28456 Coins 272, 273

Pottery Container 401

Y Q 6:2 Plaster Dump at Q/2,5-6/7,9 in Wall Painted Room of Roman House<sup>e</sup>

P 28983-28993, P 29089-29092, L 5715-5722, L 5734, BI 865

Coins 461-475

Pottery Container 317

Q 6:3 Chamber Tomb at Q/7,9-6/12,13

P 29006, MC 1185, 1186 (cf. Pottery Container 393)

√ Q 6:4 Koumanoudes' Well at Q/14-6/11 in southeast corner of court of Roman House<sup>e</sup>

Layer of Destruction Debris

P 28998, 29003, 29020, 29027, 29077-29079, A 4281

Coin 495

Pottery Container 391

Period of Use

P 28997, 28999-29002, 29005, 29009-29016, 29018, 29019, 29021-29026,  
29029-29032, 29034, 29035, L 5723, 5724, J 159, BI 866, 867, 869, 870  
IL 1535, 1571.

Coins 496-497 Pottery Containers 392A-392J

Period of Construction Clean-up

P 29004, 29007, 29008, 29017, 29028, 29033, G 617, BI 871-874, IL 1536-  
1538, 1570.

Coins 498-499 Pottery Containers 392 K-392 N

√ Q 6:5 Collapsed Cistern at Q/9-6/9 south of court in Roman House e.

P 29094-29101, L 5735-5737, SS 14766-14769, T 4011, 4012, S 2449, ST 796,  
MC 1195

Coins 484-486 Pottery Container 370

Q 5:1 Turkish Pithos at Q/4,5-5/14,15 intruding on Zig-Zag Drain

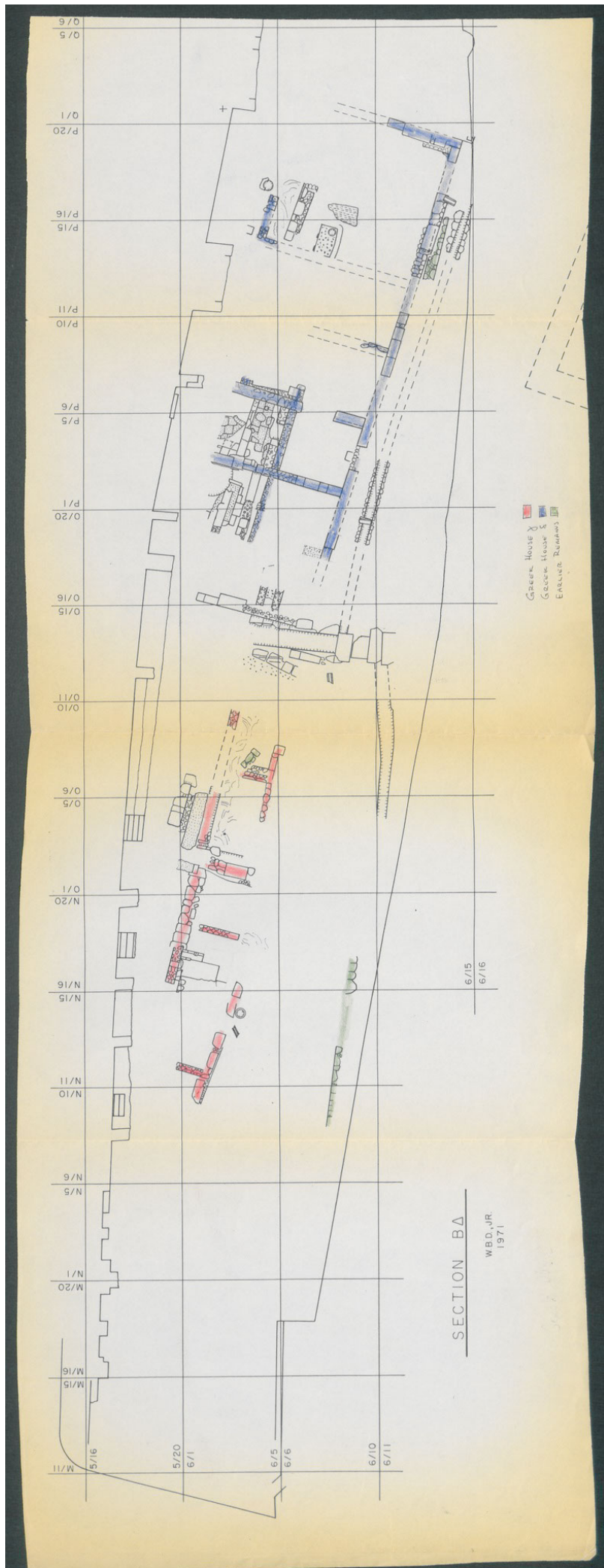
P 28938-28973 G 616

Pottery Container 400

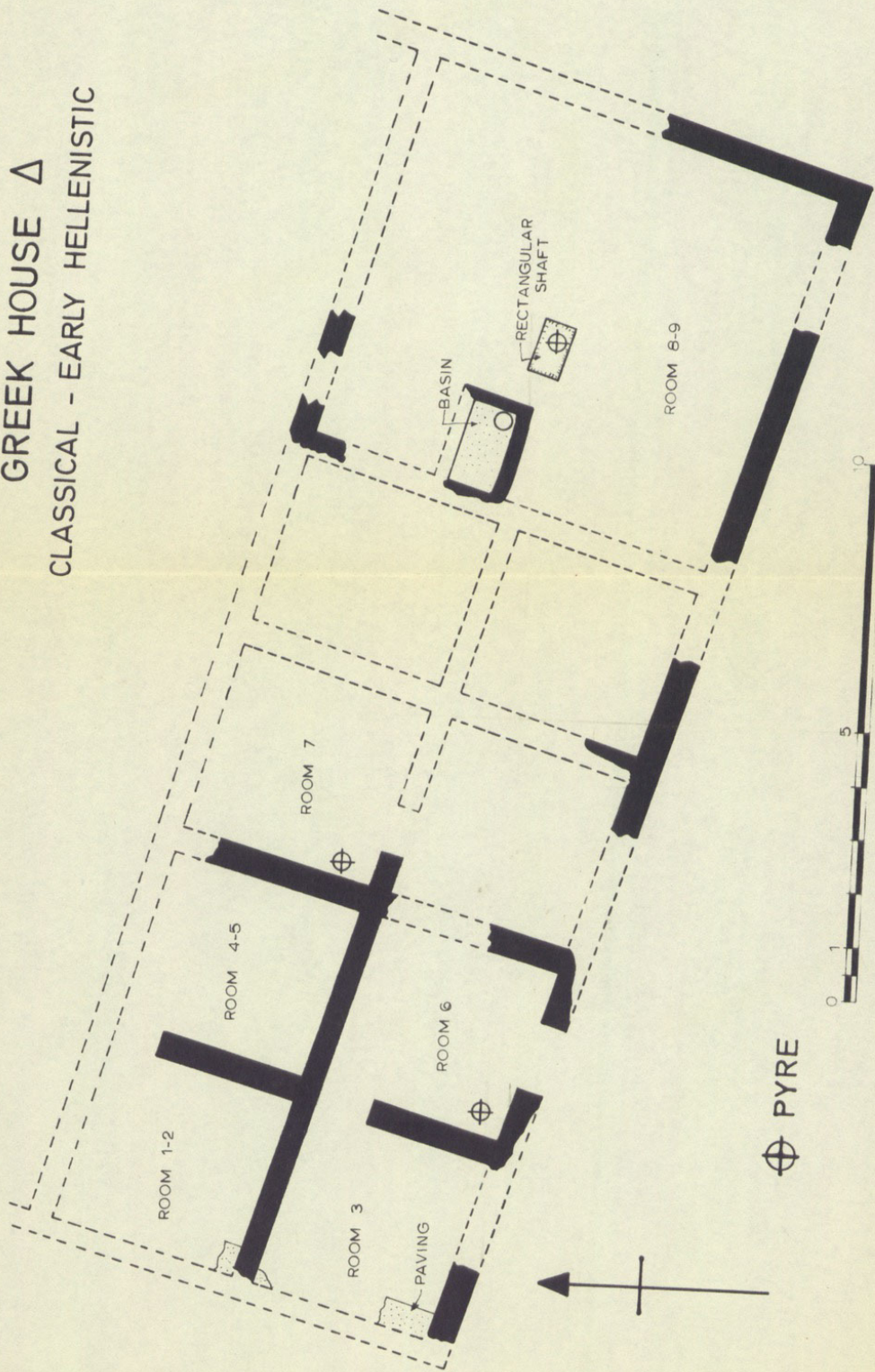
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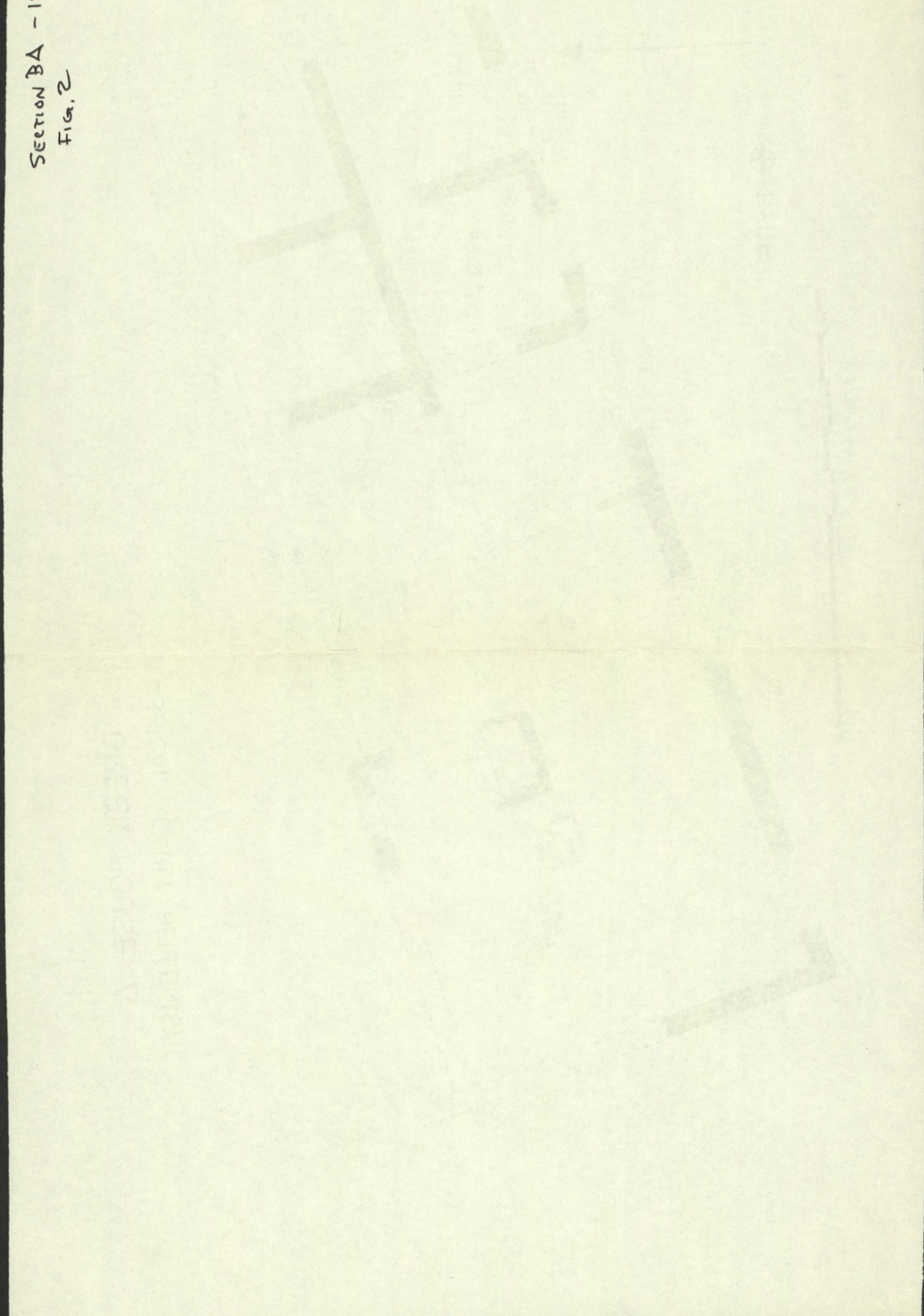
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GREEK HOUSE Δ  
CLASSICAL - EARLY HELLENISTIC

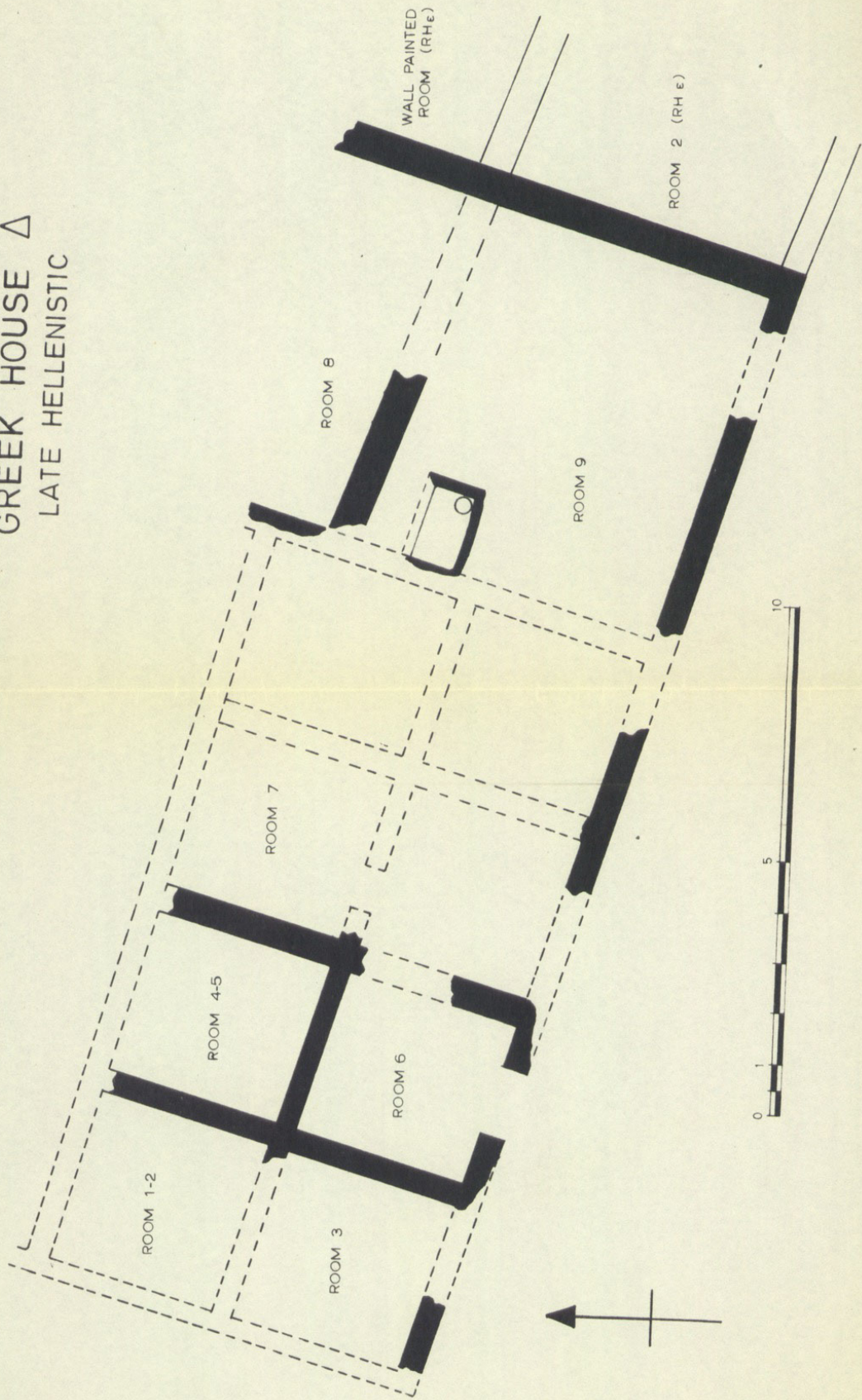


SECTION BA - 1971  
Fig. 2



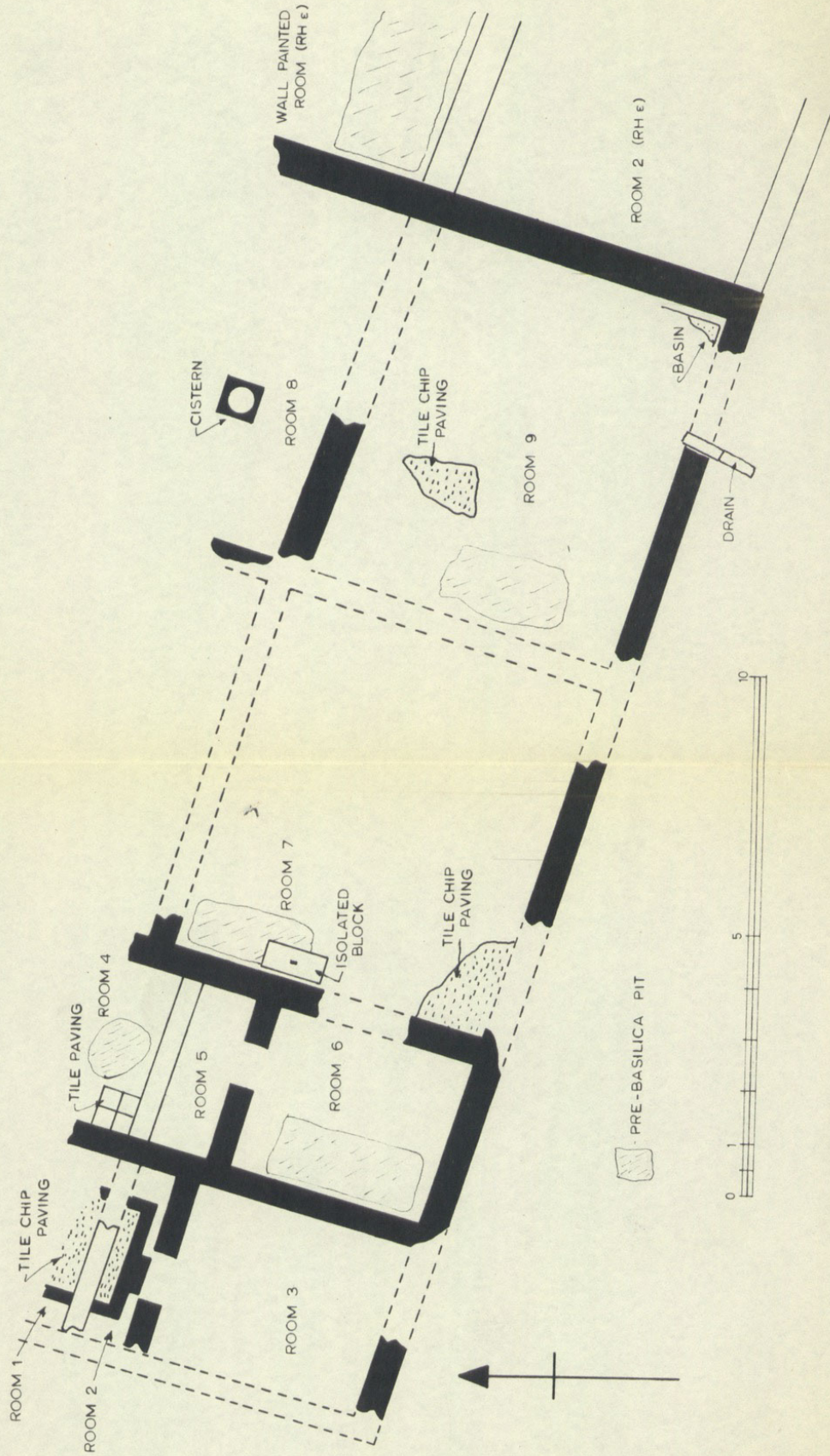


GREEK HOUSE Δ  
LATE HELLENISTIC

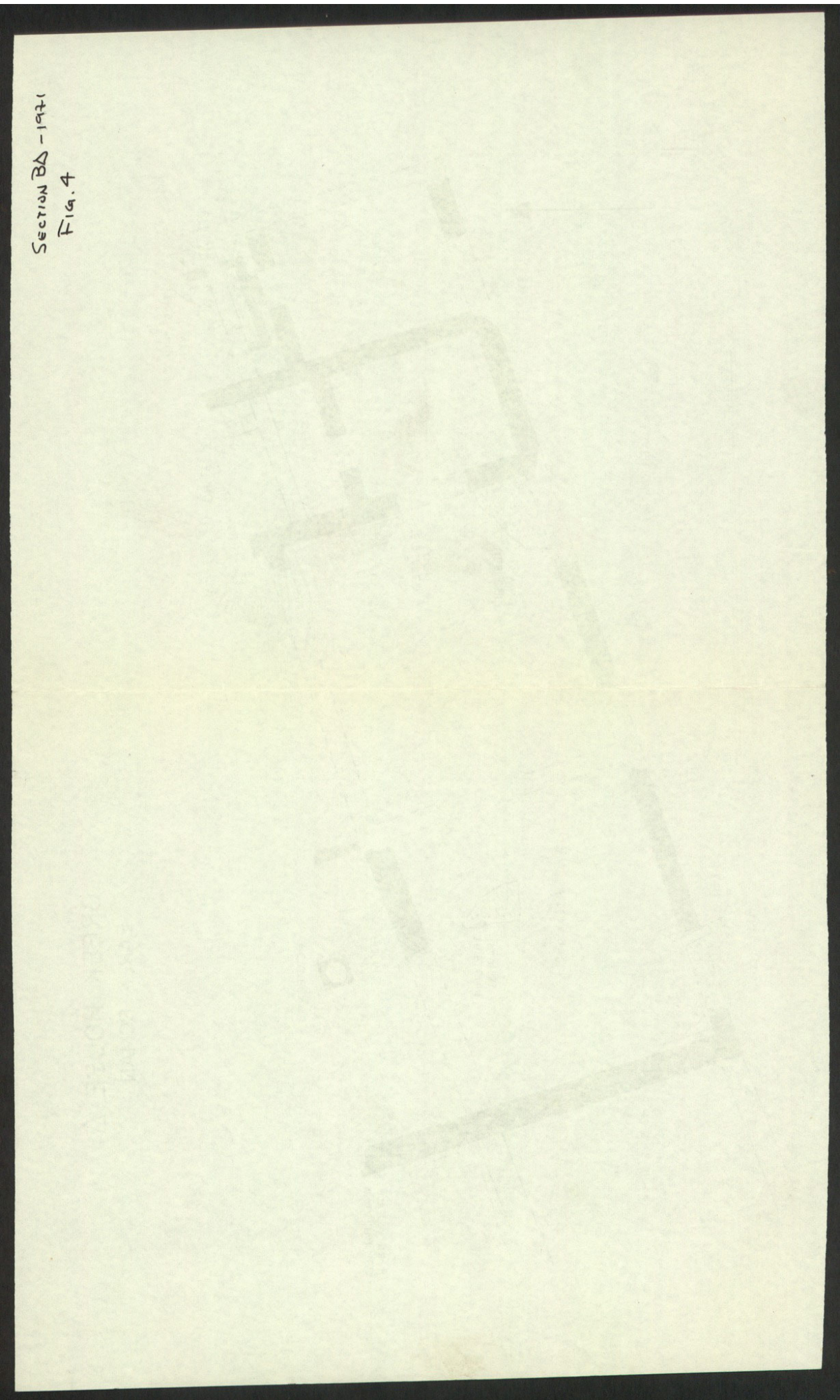


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FIG. 3

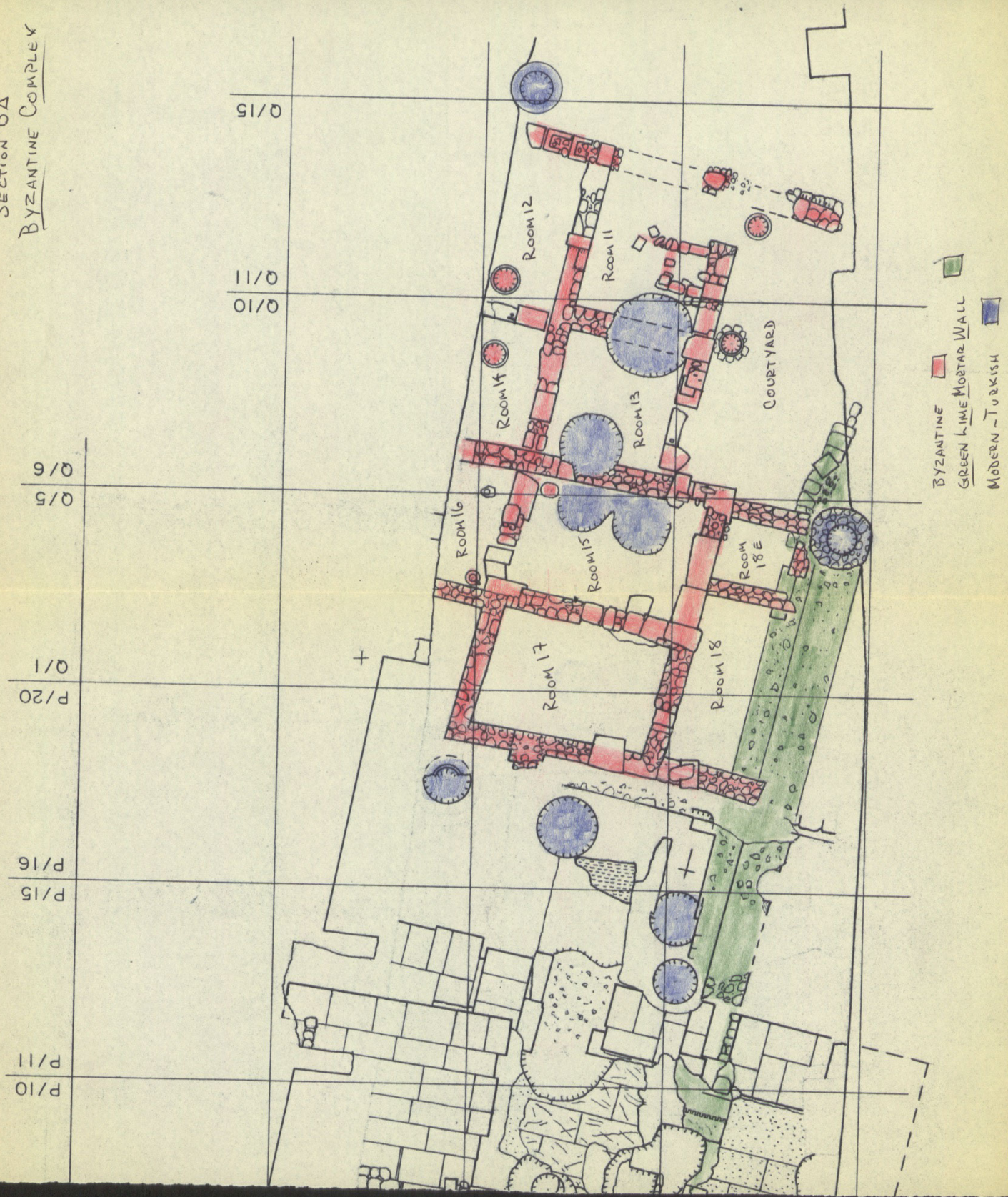
GREEK HOUSE Δ  
EARLY ROMAN



SECTION BA - 1971  
FIG. 4



SECTION BA  
 BYZANTINE COMPLEX



SECTION BA 1971

FIG 6

BYZANTINE