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EXCAVATION SUMMARY

Section BA: 1972

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EXCAVATION SUMMARY

Section BA: 1972

The efforts of 1972 in Section BA were almost exclusively devoted to the exploration of the lower levels in the western area of the section. The only exception to this general statement were the removal of certain modern intrusions, the recovery of a few layers of late Roman road, and the discovery of the westward continuation of the southern foundation of Roman Building β (q.v.). The various probes into the earlier levels revealed significant, if necessarily incomplete, new information regarding the topographical outlines of this area of the Agora in Prehistoric, late Geometric, Archaic, and Classical times.

I. Roads and Drains

A. The East-West Road

This road, which had been tested further East already in 1970 (cf. Summary, pp. 4,6), was explored at several points along its course. Although the lines of the road varied in different periods, the general course is clear, and during the late Archaic and Classical periods the road clearly had a width of 4-4.50 m. and continued, as far as we have been able to dig, in a straight line to the West (i.e. it did not bend northwards to follow the bend in the southern wall of Greek House γ).

It is now clear that this road did not begin to function until the very late Eighth or, more likely, early Seventh Century B.C. In every test the lowest level of the road over bedrock contained late Geometric pottery, although frequently mixed with heavy late Helladic concentrations (pottery lots 512, 513). It was, moreover, not until a century later in the very early Sixth Century that the East-West Road became heavily travelled. Only at this time begins the build up of successive layers of hard road metal (e.g. pottery lots 455, 456, 490, 492 596).

The later history of the East-West Road has been documented in the excavations of previous years, as, for example, the southward shift of its line by

some 3 meters caused by the construction of Roman Building β , and its closing by the construction of the Hadrianic Basilica. More evidence was found in 1972 for various gradings of the road especially in the Fourth (compare pottery lots 27 and 28 with pottery lots 438 and 439) and the Second Centuries B.C. (compare pottery lot 460 with pottery lot 461).

In later times the East-West Road appears to have been revitalized. These higher levels are not well preserved, but in one area (N/1, 6-6/7,8) we recovered five successive road metal strokes of post-Herulian times (pottery lots 496-501). The limits of the road at this time cannot be determined, but two very hard strokes of similar date and probably of the same road were found to cover the western area of Roman Building β (area M/12, 20-5/19,20; pottery lots 554,555).

B The Early Drain

This drain was originally an open channel made of large yellow porous blocks with the line of the drain cut through them giving the shape of an inverted Π . Although cut through by Roman Building β and by the later Water Mill Tail Race, a total north-south length of some 6.50 meters was exposed in Section BA. The flow of water was northward with an average slope of ca.0,015 m. for every meter of length. The existence of such an open drain channel or gutter presupposes not only an open area, but also a north-south road parallel to the channel. Since such a road has not been found to the East, one should be found to the West (i.e. grid square M) although its precise limits obviously cannot be estimated.

The original date of the channel cannot be closely defined. All the pottery found in relevant layers (period of use, pottery lots 605, 606; previously existing layers, pottery lots 607, 608) was of Fifth Century date, but too non-descript to allow close dating (see below on Early Wall 2). The pottery, and the channel, were certainly post-Persian and may be assigned provisionally to the second or third quarters of the Fifth Century. Very early in the Fourth Century the channel was repaired, the side walls raised by the use of relatively thin slabs of limestone, and, perhaps, covered by very neat limestone slabs. The

Second Century grading of the area has removed secure evidence for this covering of the drain, and the heavy wear on the tops of the later slabs of the side walls must be noted. The possibilities are: 1) the cover slabs are contemporary with the raising of the side walls of the Channel; 2) the cover slabs are later than the raising of the side walls, but at sometime earlier than the closing of the drain which, in the area south of Roman Building β , appears to have taken place in the first quarter of the Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 603).

The date of the repairs and raising of the side walls of the channel seems secure in the first decade of the Fourth Century (pottery lots 570, 605) and may be associated with the fragment of a poros drain channel (BA 926) found loose and upside-down 2 meters East of the line of the drain in fill of the very early Fourth Century B.C. (pottery lot 509).

II Architecture

A. Roman Building β (The Augustan Colonnade)

Although no new evidence was discovered in 1972 regarding either the function or the date of Roman Building β (cf. pottery lots 556, 557), an educated guess can now be made regarding its east-west length. The foundations of the southern colonnade of the structure were uncovered westward for an additional ca. 11 meters this year so that the total exposed length is ca. 40.40 meters including the full thickness of the building's remodeled eastern wall. Since the foundations continue westward under modern Areopagus Street with no indication of a return, since the interaxial spacing of the facade columns is known (on the basis of the piers of the foundations, 2.73 m) and since the monument (or gate) with its neighboring north-south road found last year in Section BF (see summary pp. 7-8) provides a western limit, the maximum length of Roman Building β can be closely estimated. There are two possibilities, assuming an even number of columns along the facade: 1) if the BF structure is a gate with a road through it, and another such structure is, therefore, to be restored on the east side of the road, then Roman Building β will have had a maximum length of ca. 42.50 m. with 16 column prostyle, or 14 in-antis, along the front; 2) if the BF structure is simply a monument on one side of a north-south street with Roman Building β

coming to an end on the opposite side of the street, then the building will have had a length of ca. 48 meters with 18 prostyle, or 16 in-antis, columns along its facade.

In the past years it had seemed likely that Roman Building β was Ionic (or Corinthian) since the eastern end of the foundations of the facade show no sign of corner contraction, and this contention gains strength from the many ionic column fragments found in the destruction debris over the western end of the foundations (pottery lot 555; A 4360, 4361).

B. Greek

1. Greek House γ

The search for the western end of Greek House γ in 1972 yielded inconclusive results. At a point along its southern wall some 25.20 meters west of the restored eastern wall of the structure the southern wall simply ends with no sign of a return to the north. Other information concerning the structure was, however, recovered.

The section of the southern wall exposed this year is well built of a combination rubble-polygonal style with large roughly dressed stones at intervals. Although the eastern area of Greek House γ yielded evidence of remodelings in the Classical and Hellenistic periods in the excavations of 1970, the section uncovered this year had been disturbed by the builders of Roman Building β down to the Archaic levels. The only exception is a section of the wall itself at N/10,11 where the wall is preserved to a total height of about 1.40 m. and exhibits a marked change from the earlier rubble-polygonal to a more ashlar construction style higher up. In addition, the foundation trench of the wall further east yielded a Fourth Century kantharos rim (pottery lot 518) which must be indicative of some late Classical work on the building (cf. pottery lot 538).

The original Archaic date for Greek House γ of which we had found only suggestions in 1970, was clearly documented in 1972. A series of four stroses ran hard against the south face of the wall and all are to be dated in the late

second quarter or early third quarter of the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lots 536, 543-546). Even more conclusive was the pyre (Deposit N6:4; pottery lot 537) of this same period which was laid against the south face of the wall, and which shows that the wall had to have been in existence by that time.

Although the western limits of Greek House γ were not firmly established, there is evidence of a later Archaic westward extension of the line of the southern wall of the building. After a two meter gap, a line of small stones, preserved for the most part only one course high, continues westward in the face of our scarp for another 4 meters. Although of lighter construction, this continuation is perfectly aligned with the south wall of Greek House γ and must represent an addition to it.

The destruction date of this Continuation cannot be securely fixed, but it was certainly out of use by the Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 572). The only layer preserved against its face is to be dated into the early fourth quarter of the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lot 581), while a succession of layers of the middle and third quarter of the Sixth Century pass beneath this Continuation (pottery lots 583-587, et al.). Thus, whatever the precise nature of the western addition to Greek House γ , it was clearly constructed about a generation later than the original building.

One of the more curious structures found this year is an unlined pit located in the two meter gap between the western end of the south wall of Greek House γ and the eastern start of the Continuation, and just south of the line of these walls. The pit is thus located in the "sidewalk" triangle formed by the divergence of the lines of the East-West Street and the south wall of Greek House γ . The pit is constructed of dry rubble masonry resting on bedrock and measures about 1.00 X 1.20 m. with a preserved depth of 0.65 m. Filled with pottery of the mid-Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 568; P 29747, T 4027), the pit was constructed much earlier since three layers of the second half of the Sixth century ran hard against it (pottery lots 581, 583, 586), while layers of the second quarter and of the middle of the Sixth century were cut by its construction

(pottery lots 590-592, et al.). The pit was, then, built after the original construction, but before the Continuation, of Greek House γ.

2. Early Wall 2

In the southwestern corner of Section BA a trench at N/1,6-6/6,8 uncovered a tremendously thick layer of dumped fill the ceramic contents of which ranged down through the second half of the Fifth Century, and into the very early years of the Fourth Century B.C. (Deposit N 6:3; pottery lot 509). The removal of this deposit revealed the northeast corner of a structure whose significance and function is unclear. The extant dimensions of the foundations are about one by four meters, but the rest of the structure is cut off by the railroad. The foundations are a peculiar mixture of rubble and re-used yellow poros blocks while two nicely forked limestone blocks survive in the first course above these foundations. Since these blocks have no good interior face, we may think of a solid core for the structure with a monument designation.

The ceramic contents of the original ground level of the monument come into the period of, or just after, the Persian War (pottery lot 510) so that the construction date of the monument should be early in the second quarter of the Fifth Century B.C. (Note; this chronology also works very well with the elevations of the stroses of the Early Drain, p. 3 above; compare monument ground level 53.31 with pre-Drain level 53.33. The monument should be two layers earlier than the drain). The monument was not longlived, however, since as noted above it was covered by fill of the very early Fourth Century B.C.

C. Late Geometric - Early Wall 1

Perhaps the most impressive architectural unit to emerge this year is a wall which runs along the south side of Section BA. The northwest corner of this structure is located at N/8-6/8 and is constructed of large roughly worked blocks which are carefully laid if not neatly jointed. Away from the corner the stones are smaller and the construction a more simple rubble technique. The maximum preserved height of the wall is about 0.80 m. and the wall is preserved in a north-south direction for a length of 1.20 m. before it disappears into

the railroad to the south. Toward the east we uncovered a continuous stretch of 12.50 m. from the corner, and, after an interruption of 3.80 m., another stretch of a wall 3.20 m. long. The latter segment does not align precisely with the former, and the intervening gap precludes certainty as to the identity of the two segments. If they are of the same wall, then the maximum preserved length of the wall is 20.70 m. Since the easternmost stone of the eastern segment shows signs, albeit inconclusive, of being a corner stone, then the total east-west length of Early Wall 1 may have been 20.70 m.

The function of Early Wall 1 is not determinable, but two facts are suggestive: 1) there are no interior crosswalls; 2) the interior, or south, face of the wall is very irregular and cannot have been visible. A possible interpretation is, then, that Early Wall 1 served as a terrace or retaining wall used to create a level area here where the bedrock is sloping off to the north. (Note: Across the railroad, 12-13 m. to the south, bedrock is 2 meters higher than at the line of Early Wall 1).

This same slope of the bedrock prevented an accumulation of fill on the exterior of Early Wall 1 so that the evidence on the north of the wall is merely that the wall was in use throughout the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lots 444, 456, 477, 493). On the interior, however, two tests were made with the same results; the pottery from the pre-existing layer (pottery lot 467), from the foundation trench (pottery lot 466, 495) and from the first layer above the foundation trench (pottery lots 465, 494), was uniformly of the last quarter of the Eighth Century B.C. with the latest pieces belonging very late in that period. Thus the wall should be dated to the end of the Eighth or very early Seventh Century B.C.

As mentioned above, the wall continued in existence throughout the Sixth Century and was not destroyed until the Persian Wars as shown by the discovery of a late Archaic pelike (P 29423) and an ostrakon of Hippokrates (P 29431) in association with the destruction debris of the wall (pottery lots 443, 477, 478).

D Prehistoric - Early Wall 3

Although not so formidable as Early Wall 1, this wall and its return are

at least of equal interest because of its date. Located within the western area of Greek House γ (area N/8,15-5/18, 6/2), Early Wall 3 runs in a southeast northwest direction for an extant length of nearly 7 meters (the southeast end was cut off by the construction of Greek House γ and the northwest end disappears into the scarp below Hadrian street). At its northwestern end it has a cross wall, or a return, which runs toward the southwest for nearly a meter before being cut off by the south wall of Greek House γ . (Note: Early Wall 3 is cut through at one point by the return of the late Roman Green Lime Mortar Wall). Constructed of rubble with larger stones at irregular intervals, the south side of Early Wall 3 is very uneven, but a more regular face runs along the north.

The function of Early Wall 3 is unclear, for while the irregular south face might suggest a simple terrace wall, the crosswall at the northwestern end argues for a more complex structure. Further excavations to the north beneath Hadrian street may well shed more light on this question.

Early Wall 3 was excavated in two different trenches which revealed no less than 11 different layers in various types of association with the wall. (Some of these layers are the same, only dug separately, but there are still 8 different layers when all possible combinations have been made). Of these layers all but one were exclusively Late Helladic III in date, and the exception (layer 5; pottery lot 531) is a pure Late Helladic III layer except for one archaic sherd which is to be understood as intrusive from the cut of the south wall of Greek House γ into this layer. Such a series of Late Helladic layers cannot be fortuitous, and Early Wall 3 must be considered as Mycenaean.

A precise date within the Late Helladic III period is not, however, easily derived. The pottery is too scrappy, and the quantity of closely dateable pieces too small, to allow the setting of narrow chronological limits for the wall. It is clear that the pottery from layers passing beneath the wall is at least of Late Helladic IIIB date, but possibly slightly later (pottery lots 521,525,526). The same is true of the pottery from the use layers of Early Wall 3, with slightly stronger indications of a possible Late Helladic IIIC date (pottery lots 520, 522, 524, 532, 533), while the layers over the tops of Early Wall 3 are almost certainly Late Helladic IIIC in date (pottery lots 519, 531). It should be noted

with regard to the later layers that they contained no evidence of violent destruction (e.g. fire, tiles, etc.).

The significance of Early Wall 3 is obvious. It is the first tangible remain of a late Mycenaean settlement on the north side of the later Agora the discovery of which was predicted by Mrs Immerwahr (Agora XIII, pp. 251, 154; cf. pp. 113 114). Knowledge of this settlement, its extent and nature, may well be increased as the excavations approach the south bank of the Eridanos.

Deposits cited in the preceding discussion

- N 6:3 Classical Dump at N/1,6-6/6,8
P 29527-29533, 29607-29620; L 5773-5777; A 4362
Pottery container (6 tins) 509
- N 6:4 Archaic Pyre at N/9-6/1,2
P 29629-29631 Pottery container (bag) 537

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EXCAVATION SUMMARY

Section BΔ: 1972

The efforts of 1972 in Section BΔ were almost exclusively devoted to the exploration of the lower levels in the western area of the section. The only exceptions to this general statement were the removal of certain modern intrusions, the recovery of a few layers of late Roman road, and the discovery of the westward continuation of the southern foundations of Roman Building β (q.v.). The various probes into the earlier levels revealed significant, if necessarily incomplete, new information regarding the topographical outlines of this area of the Agora in Prehistoric, late Geometric, Archaic, and Classical times.

I. Roads and Drains

A. The East-West Road

This road, which had been tested further East already in 1970 (cf. Summary, pp. ^{4,6}), was explored at several points along its course. Although the lines of the road varied in different periods, the general course is clear, and during the late Archaic and Classical periods the road clearly had a width of 4-4.50 m. and continued, as far as we have been able to dig, in a straight line to the West (i.e. it did not bend northwards to follow the bend in the southern wall of Greek House γ).

It is now clear that this road did not begin to function until the very late Eighth or, more likely, early Seventh Century B.C. In every test the lowest level of the road over bedrock contained late Geometric pottery, although frequently mixed with

heavy late Helladic concentrations (pottery lots 512, 513). It was, moreover, not until a century later in the very early Sixth Century that the East-West Road became heavily travelled. Only at this time begins the build-up of successive layers of hard road metal (e.g. pottery lots 455, 456, 490, 492, 596).

The later history of the East-West Road has been documented in the excavations of previous years, as- for example, the southward shift of its line by ~~some~~ ³ meters caused by the construction of Roman Building β , and its closing by the construction of the Hadrianic Basilica. More evidence was found in 1972 for various gradings of the road especially in the Fourth (compare pottery lots 27 and 28 with pottery lots 438 and 439) and the Second Centuries B.C. (compare pottery lots 460 with pottery lot 461).

In later times the East-West Road appears to have been revitalized. These higher levels are not well preserved, but in one area (N/1,6-6/7,8) we recovered five successive road metal stroses of post-Herulian times (pottery lots 496-501). The limits of the road at this time cannot be determined, but two very hard stroses of similar date and probably of the same road were found to cover the western area of Roman Building β (area M/12,20-5/19,20; pottery lots 554, 555).

B. The Early Drain

This drain was originally an open channel made of large yellow poros blocks with the line of the drain cut through them giving the shape of an inverted Π . Although cut through by Roman Building β and by the later Water Mill Tail Race, a total north-south length of some 6.50 meters was exposed in Section BA. The flow of water

was northward with an average slope of ca. 0,015 m. for every meter of length. The existence of such an open drain channel or gutter presupposes not only an open area, but also a north-south road parallel to the channel. Since such a road has not been found to the East, one should be found to the West (i.e. grid square M) although its precise limits obviously cannot be estimated.

The original date of the channel cannot be closely defined. All the pottery found in relevant layers (period of use, pottery lots 605, 606; previously existing layers, pottery lots 607,608) was of Fifth Century date, but too non-descript to allow close dating (see below on Early Wall 2). The pottery, and the channel, were certainly post-Persian and may be assigned provisionally to the second or third quarters of the Fifth Century. Very early in the Fourth Century the channel was repaired, the side walls raised by the use of relatively thin slabs of limestone, and, perhaps, covered by very neat limestone slabs. The Second Century grading of the area has removed secure evidence for this covering of the drain, and the heavy wear on the tops of the later slabs of the side walls must be noted. The possibilities are: 1) the cover slabs are contemporary with the raising of the side walls of the channel; 2) the cover slabs are later than the raising of the side walls, but at sometime earlier than the closing of the drain which, in the area south of Roman Building β , appears to have taken place in the first quarter of the Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 603).

The date of the repairs and raising of the side walls of the channel seems secure in the first decade of the Fourth Century

(pottery lots 570, 605) and may be associated with the fragment of a poros drain channel (ΒΒ 924) found loose and upside-down 2 meters East of the line of the drain in fill of the very early Fourth Century B.C. (pottery lot 509).

II. Architecture

A. Roman Building β (The Augustan Colonnade)

Although no new evidence was discovered in 1972 regarding either the function or the date of Roman Building β (cf. pottery lots 556, 557), an educated guess can now be made regarding its east-west length. The foundations of the southern colonnade of the structure were uncovered westward for an additional ca. 11 meters this year so that the total exposed length is ca. 40.40 meters including the full thickness of the building's remodeled eastern wall. Since the foundations continue westward under modern Areopagus Street with no indication of a return, since the interaxial spacing of the façade columns is known (on the basis of the piers of the foundations, 2.73 m.), and since the monument (or gate) with its neighboring north-south road found last year in Section ΒΓ (see summary, pp. 7-8) provides a western limit, the maximum length of Roman Building β can be closely estimated. There are two possibilities, assuming an even number of columns along the façade: 1) if the ΒΓ structure is a gate with a road through it, and another such structure is, therefore, to be restored on the east side of the road, then Roman Building β will have had a maximum length of ca. 42.50 m. with 16 column prostyle, or 14 in-antis, along the front; 2) if the ΒΓ structure is simply a monument on one side

of a north-south street with Roman Building β coming to an end on the opposite side of the street, then the building will have had a length of ca. 48 meters with 18 prostyle, or 16 in-antis, columns along its façade.

In past years it had seemed likely that Roman Building β was Ionic (or Corinthian) since the eastern end of the foundations of the façade show no sign of corner contraction, and this contention gains strength from the many Ionic column fragments found in the destruction debris over the western end of the foundations (pottery lot 555; ^{BA} ~~912, 913~~).

A 4360, 4361

B. Greek.

1. Greek House γ

The search for the western end of Greek House γ in 1972 yielded inconclusive results. At a point along its southern wall some 25.20 meters west of the restored eastern wall of the structure the southern wall simply ends with no sign of a return to the north. Other information concerning the structure was, however, recovered.

The section of the southern wall exposed this year is well built of a combination rubble-polygonal style with large roughly dressed stones at intervals. Although the eastern area of Greek House γ yielded evidence of remodelings [in the Classical and Hellenistic periods in the excavations] of 1970, the section uncovered this year had been disturbed by the builders of Roman Building β down to the Archaic levels. The only exception is a section of the wall itself at N/10,11 where the wall is preserved to a total height of about 1.40 m. and exhibits a marked change from the

earlier rubble-polygonal to a more ashlar construction style higher up. In addition, the foundation trench of the wall further east yielded a Fourth Century kantharos rim (pottery lot 518) which must be indicative of some late Classical work on the building (cf. pottery lot 538).

The original Archaic date for Greek House γ , of which we had found only suggestions in 1970, was clearly documented in 1972. A series of four stroses ran hard against the south face of the wall and all are to be dated in the late second quarter or early third quarter of the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lots 536, 543-546). Even more conclusive was the pyre (Deposit N6:4; pottery lot 537) of this same period which was laid against the south face of the wall, and which shows that the wall had to have been in existence by that time.

Although the western limits of Greek House γ were not firmly established, there is evidence of a later Archaic westward extension of the line of the southern wall of the building. After a two meter gap, a line of small stones, preserved for the most part only one course high, continues westward in the face of our scarp for another 4 meters. Although of lighter construction, this Continuation is perfectly aligned with the south wall of Greek House γ and must represent an addition to it.

The destruction date of this Continuation cannot be securely fixed, but it was certainly out of use by the Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 572). The only layer preserved against its face is to be dated into the early fourth quarter of the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lot 581), while a succession of layers of the middle

and third quarter of the Sixth Century pass beneath this Continuation (pottery lots 583-587, et al.). Thus, whatever the precise nature of the western addition to Greek House γ , it was clearly constructed about a generation later than the original building.

One of the more curious structures found this year is an unlined pit located in the two meter gap between the western end of the south wall of Greek House γ and the eastern start of the Continuation, and just south of the line of these walls. The pit is thus located in the "sidewalk" triangle formed by the divergence of the lines of the East-West Street and the south wall of Greek House γ . The pit is constructed of dry rubble masonry resting on bedrock and measures about 1.00 x 1.20 m. with a preserved depth of 0.65 m. Filled with pottery of the mid-Third Century B.C. (pottery lot 568; ~~909, 910~~), the pit was constructed much earlier since three layers of the second half of the Sixth Century ran hard against it (pottery lots 581, 583, 586), while layers of the second quarter and of the middle of the Sixth Century were cut by its construction (pottery lots 590-592, et al.). The pit was, then, built after the original construction, but before the Continuation, of Greek House γ .

BA 29747, T 4024

2. Early Wall 2

In the southwestern corner of Section BA a trench at N/1,6-6/6,8 uncovered a tremendously thick layer of dumped fill the ceramic contents of which ranged down through the ~~second~~^{5d} half of the Fifth Century, and into the very early years of the Fourth Century B.C. (Deposit N6:3; pottery lot 509). The removal of this deposit revealed the northeast corner of a structure whose significance and function is unclear. The extant dimensions of the foundations are about one

by four meters, but the rest of the structure is cut off by the railroad. The foundations are a peculiar mixture of rubble and re-used yellow poros blocks while two nicely forked limestone blocks survive in the first course above these foundations. Since these blocks have no good interior face, we may think of a solid core for the structure with a monument designation.

The ceramic contents of the original ground level of the monument come into the period of, or just after, the Persian War (pottery lot 510) so that the construction date of the monument should be early in the second quarter of the Fifth Century B.C. (Note: this chronology also works very well with the elevations of the stroses of the Early Drain, p. 3 above; compare monument ground level 53.31 with pre-Drain level 53.33. The monument should be two layers earlier than the drain). The monument was not long-lived, however, since as noted above it was covered by fill of the very early Fourth Century B.C.

C. Late Geometric - Early Wall 1

Perhaps the most impressive architectural unit to emerge this year is a wall which runs along the south side of Section BΔ. The northwest corner of this structure is located at N/8-6/8 and is constructed of large roughly worked blocks which are carefully laid if not neatly jointed. Away from the corner the stones are smaller and the construction a more simple rubble technique. The maximum preserved height of the wall is about 0.80 m., and the wall is preserved in a north-south direction for a length of 1.20 m. before it disappears into the railroad to the south. Toward the east we

uncovered a continuous stretch of 12.50 m. from the corner, and, after an interruption of 3.80 m., another stretch of a wall 3.20 m. long. The latter segment does not align precisely with the former, and the intervening gap precludes certainty as to the identity of the two segments. If they are of the same wall, then the maximum preserved length of the wall is 20.70 m. Since the easternmost stone of the eastern segment shows signs, albeit inconclusive, of being a corner stone, then the total east-west length of Early Wall 1 may have been 20.70 m.

The function of Early Wall 1 is not determinable, but two facts are suggestive: 1) there are no interior crosswalls; 2) the interior, or south, face of the wall is very irregular and cannot have been visible. A plausible interpretation is, then, that Early Wall 1 served as a terrace or retaining wall used to create a level area here where the bedrock is sloping off to the north. (Note: Across the railroad, 12-13 m. to the south, bedrock is 2 meters higher than at the line of Early Wall 1).

This same slope of the bedrock prevented an accumulation of fill on the exterior of Early Wall 1 so that the evidence on the north of the wall is merely that the wall was in use throughout the Sixth Century B.C. (pottery lots 444-456, 477-493). On the interior, however, two tests were made with the same results; the pottery from the pre-existing layer (pottery lot 467), from the foundation trench (pottery lot 466, 495), and from the first layer above the foundations trench (pottery lots 465, 494), was uniformly of the last quarter of the Eighth Century B.C. with the latest pieces belonging very late in that period. Thus the wall should be dated to the end of the

Eighth or very early Seventh Century B.C.

As mentioned above, the wall continued in existence throughout the Sixth Century and was not destroyed until the Persian Wars as shown by the discovery of a late Archaic pelike (P 29423) and an ostrakon of Hippokrates (P 29431) in association with the destruction debris of the wall (pottery lots 443, 477, 478).

D. Prehistoric - Early Wall 3

Although not so formidable as Early Wall 1, this wall and its return are at least of equal interest because of its date. Located within the western area of Greek House γ (area N/8,15-5/18,6/2), Early Wall 3 runs in a southeast-northwest direction for an extant length of nearly 7 meters (the southeast end was cut off by the construction of Greek House γ and the northwest end disappears into the scarp below Hadrian Street). At its northwestern end it has a cross wall, or a return, which runs toward the southwest for nearly a meter before being cut off by the south wall of Greek House γ . (Note: Early Wall 3 is cut through at one point by the return of the late Roman Green Lime Mortar Wall. Constructed of rubble with larger stones at irregular intervals, the south side of Early Wall 3 is very uneven, but a more regular face runs along the north.

The function of Early Wall 3 is unclear, for while the irregular south face might suggest a simple terrace wall, the crosswall at the northwestern end argues for a more complex structure. Further excavations to the north beneath Hadrian Street may well shed more light on this question.

Early Wall 3 was excavated in two different trenches which

revealed no less than 11 different layers in various types of association with the wall. (Some of these layers are the same, only dug separately, but there are still 8 different layers when all possible combinations have been made.) Of these layers all but one were exclusively Late Helladic III in date, and the exception (layer 5; pottery lot 531) is a pure Late Helladic III layer except for one archaic sherd which is to be understood as intrusive from the cut of the south wall of Greek House γ into this layer. Such a series of Late Helladic layers cannot be fortuitous, and Early Wall 3 must be considered as Mycenaean.

A precise date within the Late Helladic III period is not, however, easily derived. The pottery is too scrappy, and the quantity of closely dateable pieces too small, to allow the setting of narrow chronological limits for the wall. It is clear that the pottery from layers passing beneath the wall is at least of Late Helladic IIIB date, but possibly slightly later (pottery lots 521, 525, 526). The same is true of the pottery from the use layers of Early Wall 3, with slightly stronger indications of a possible Late Helladic IIIC date (pottery lots 520, 522-524, 532, 533), while the layers over the tops of Early Wall 3 are almost certainly Late Helladic IIIC in date (pottery lots 519, 531). It should be noted with regard to the latter layers that they contained no evidence of violent destruction (e.g. fire, tiles, etc.).

The significance of Early Wall 3 is obvious. It is the first tangible remain of a late Mycenaean settlement on the north side of the later Agora the discovery of which was predicted by Mrs. Immerwahr

(Agora XII^I, pp. 251. 254; cf. pp. 113-114). Knowledge of this settlement, its extent and nature, may well be increased as the excavations approach the south bank of the Eridanos.

Deposits cited in the preceding discussion

N6:3 Classical Dump at N/1,6-6/6,8

P 29517-29533, 29607-29620; L 5773-5777

926 A 4362 .

Pottery container (6 tins) 509

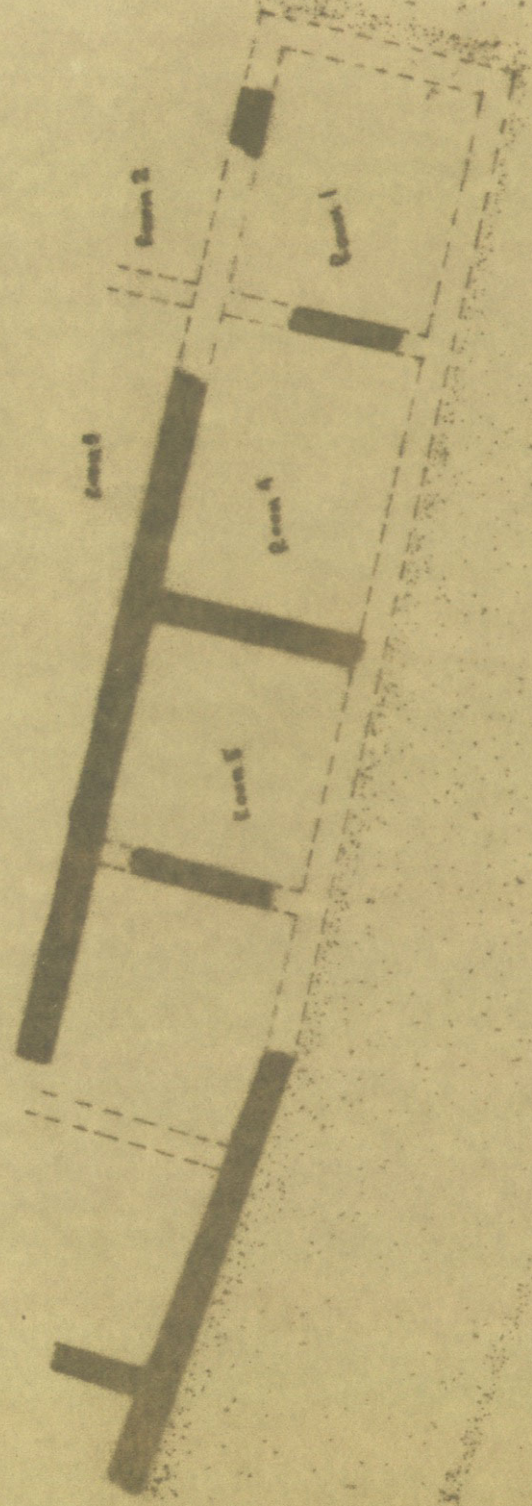
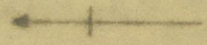
N6:4 Archaic Pyre at N/9-6/1,2

P 29629-29631

Pottery container (bag) 537

SECTION 3A
Plan 2

SECTION 3A
Plan 2



GREEK HOUSE
SECTION 3A
PLAN 2