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10

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Ayelet Gilboa, Ilan Sharon, Jeffrey R. Zorn
and Sveta Matskevich

EXCAVATIONS AT DOR, FINAL REPORT

VOLUME IIA

AREA G, THE LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGES:
SYNTHESIS, ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

DIRECTED BY
EPHRAIM STERN 1986–2000
ILAN SHARON AND AYELET GILBOA 2002–2004

with contributions by:
John E. Berg, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Allen Estes
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In memory of
Professor Ephraim Stern (1934–2018), Director of the Tel Dor Excavations
1980–2000
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Supervised by:
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INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with remains of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages found south of W9066 in AK/33 and AK/32, primarily east of late W9147, west of W9140(S) in AJ/32, and bounded on the south by the balk of AJ–AK/32. This unit is nicknamed the “antler room”, after the complete antler of a fallow deer found among the contents of one of the Phase 9 rooms. AJ–AK/32 suffered especially serious damage from Phase 4 Persian period pits, which destroyed much of the architecture in the eastern and southern parts of this area. The west and north are less damaged.

Very few remains can be tentatively attributed to late Iron Age Phase 5, mostly due to the damage of the later pits. With the possible exception of Phase 8, the area under discussion was never a single architectural space. It was divided by various partition walls, the position of which changed from one phase to another, into a warren of smaller chambers. Many of these were too small to function as rooms and may have been installations. The presence of an oven in Phase 6 or 7 suggests it was at least partially unroofed. In Phase 9, it seems to have been a narrow, winding corridor, on the floors of which were found either in situ or otherwise primary deposits (the latter possibly fallen from a second story). This leads us to suggest that, at least in this phase, it functioned as a stairwell (see Chapter 2). The area east of W9140(S) (AI/32) was used for metallurgical activity in Phases 10 and 11 (see Chapter 9), but direct evidence for such is missing from this unit, except that it was used as a dump for refuse connected with such industries. Phase 11 also contained an enigmatic installation with a shell-lined floor, surrounded by three single-course partition walls.

WALL AND FLOOR STAGES

This unit is located to the southwest of the central wall junction on which the general scheme for phasing Area G was determined (see Chapter 3). The “Western Wall Sequence” and the “Southern Wall Sequence” there form the northern and eastern edges of the unit respectively. Table 14.1 summarizes these sequences.

The correlation of local stages in this unit to the global phases of Area G is thus straightforward and simply follows this scheme, adding other features (partition walls, floors) as they relate to the above sequence (Table 14.2). In addition, several unrelated walls which float (by elevation at least) above the Phase 6 walls are relegated to Phase 5 and an installation, which is (by elevation) below the base of the Phase 10 walls, is designated Phase 11.

Table 14.1. Summary of the phasing of the central wall junction as it relates to AJ–AK/32

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Walls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 6</td>
<td>W9065 = W9140(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 7</td>
<td>W9400 = W9140(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 8</td>
<td>W18048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 9</td>
<td>W9915a = W18048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 10</td>
<td>W9915a-c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 14.2. Walls and floors per stage and phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Phase and Horizon</th>
<th>Walls and Floors</th>
<th>Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>viii</td>
<td>Phase 5/?/4?? – Ir2b–c/ Persian</td>
<td>W9162 = W9217</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.1; details: Plan 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix</td>
<td>Phase 5/?/6a?? – Ir2b–c/ Ir2a</td>
<td>W9456 =? F9081a-c ≥? F9112 ≥? F(?)/9128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x–xi</td>
<td>Phase 6 – Ir112–Ir2a</td>
<td>W9065 = W9066 = W9140(S) = W9557 = W(?)/9917 = W(?)/9942 = W(?)/9943 = (F18005 = F18008) = F9547 = F9893 ≥? (F9154 = F9178 = F9173 = oven 9204)*</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.4; details: Plans 8–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xii</td>
<td>Phase 7 – Ir112–Ir1b</td>
<td>W9400 = W9140(S) = W9413 =? W9993 = W9970 = W9959 = F9877 =? F18019 =? (F9154 = F9178 = F9173 = oven 9204)*</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.12; details: Plan 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiii</td>
<td>Same walls = F9380 = F9502 = F9924 =? F9884 = F9958 = F(?)/9995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiv</td>
<td>Phase 8 – Ir1a/b</td>
<td>W18048 = F9920</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.18; details: Plan 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xv</td>
<td>Phase 9 – Ir1a late</td>
<td>W18048 = W9099a = W9915a = W9998 = W18250 = F18214 = F18242* = F18293 = F18371 = F18338 = F18241** = F18239*** = F18249 = F18370 = F18306</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.19; details: Plan 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xvi</td>
<td>Phase 10 – Ir1a early</td>
<td>W9099a-b = W9915a-c = W18250 = W9998 = F18398 = F18409 = F18372 = F18394 = F18344 = F18367 = F18388</td>
<td>Thumbnail plan: Fig. 14.30; details: Plans 2–4</td>
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<tr>
<td>xvii</td>
<td>Phase 11a – Horizon 4</td>
<td>F18417 = F18409 = F18394 = F18395 = F18403</td>
<td>Plan 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xviii</td>
<td>Phase 11b – Horizon 3</td>
<td>W18463 = W18471 = W18528 = F18470 = F18472</td>
<td>Plan 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xix</td>
<td>Phase 12 – Horizons 1–2</td>
<td>No walls, sandy soils</td>
<td>Plan 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This floor is 6/7/7; in the plans, it is shown in Phase 6b (Plan 9)

Phase 5 (Stages viii–ix)

W9162 = W9217

A few remains in AJ–AK/32 can be tentatively attributed to late Iron Age Phase 5, in as much as they are cut by the numerous Phase 4 pits and float above the first articulated set of floors in this unit, which can be attributed to Phases 6 or 7 (see below). West of W9147, the corner formed by fieldstone wall W9162 (top #15.82, base #15.39) with W9217 (top #15.71) might be a candidate (Figs. 14.2–14.3). They are obviously different from the Phase 2 W9156, which lies adjacent to W9162, and seem too close to be in use with the Phase 3 W(?)/9155. Their preserved remains are at about the elevation of similar walls in AI/31 and AH/33 that are attributed to Phase 5. It should be noted that these walls might also be attributed to Phase 4, except that the latter generally seems to lack architecture.

W9456 =? F9081a-c ≥? F9112 ≥? F(?)/9128

W9456 is a stub of a north–south wall (top #14.75, base #14.30) which seems to continue, in position and orientation, the line of W9975 in “Sloan’s room” to the north (see Chapter 15). The latter wall, however, existed from at least Phase 8 (excavation never reached its bottom) to Phase 6, and its top of preservation (#14.10) is below the bottom of W9456. A line of disturbed loci probably
F9081a–c are a series of ashy white surfaces located in the northern and western balks of AJ/32 (# ca. 14.65, ca. 14.55 and ca. 14.45, respectively). L9081 itself is cut by Phase 4 pits L9042, L9168 and L9064 and its contents are mixed. The highest of these surfaces may have sealed Phase 6 W9140(S) and they are all about 50 cm higher than any definite Phase 6 floors. In addition, while there is no direct relationship between these surfaces and W9456 (they were excavated in different units and during different seasons), they generally fit its elevations. F9112 (#14.45–14.35) may be an extension of F9081c or a slightly lower surface. Several plaster fragments in L9128 below (#14.35–14.25) may mark an even lower occupation surface within the same series. Note, however, that by now we are well below the top of Phase 6 W9140(S) (ca. #14.50), so these last surfaces may indeed be high floors of that phase.

In AK/32, there are a number of loci which might belong to this stage as well. These include L9457 and L9482 (mudbrick detritus on either side of W9456), L9459 (a splay of ash along the east balk of the unit) and L9458 (mudbrick material along the southern edge of the unit). All of these generally fit the elevations of W9456 and F9081a–c. However, the center of the unit and most of its area is taken up by pit L9460 of Phase 4 and even later features, such as the robber trench for Phase 3 W9510. All of these loci are contaminated to one extent or another.

Thus, although elements attributable to Phase 5 comprise some 1.5 meter of accumulation (from the top of W1962 to the bottom of W9456), and perhaps two successive construction episodes, no integral deposits can be attributed to this phase.

**Phase 6 (Stages x–xi)**

**Phase 6 Walls**

\[
\text{Phase 6 Wall Numbers:} \quad \text{W9065} \equiv \text{W9066} \equiv \text{W9140(S)} \equiv \text{W9557} \equiv \text{W(?)9917} \equiv \text{W(?)9942} \equiv \text{W(?)9943}
\]

marks its robber trench through AK/33 (see below). If this conjecture is correct, W9456 must have been built after the robbing of W9975. In addition, W9456 floats well above the adjacent F18005, the only good candidate for a Phase 6a floor in this unit. All of these factors argue that W9456 must be later than Phase 6.

On the other hand, while there is no direct relation between W9456 and W9162 and W9217, discussed above, the former is quite low. The top of its preservation is some 65 cm lower than the base of W9162 (the bottom of W9217 had never been reached, although excavation in this corner did not proceed below ca. 15.00). Thus, it is hardly likely that these three walls are contemporary. Three possible explanations are: a) W9162 and W9217 are Phase 4, while W9456 is Phase 5; b) W9162 and W9217 are Phase 5, while, contrary to the arguments above, W9456 is (some sort of late sub-phase within) 6; c) these walls represent different constructional sub-phases within Phase 5. The last explanation seems preferable, in view of the fact that Phase 5 is not defined as a distinct construction–destruction cycle, but rather is a catchall category for everything that might have gone on in Area G between the Iron Age IA and sometime in the Persian period, a quite considerable length of time.
For the ascription of W9065, W9066 and W9140(S) to Phase 6, see detailed argumentation in Chapter 3.

W9557 is an east–west segment of mudbricks not directly attached to any other wall. Its attribution to Phase 6 is based partly on its elevation and partly on the observation that it is situated right next to and above W9993, which was assigned to Phase 7 (see below). Three interconnected and poorly preserved features—9917, 9942, 9943—might be a trio of walls (Fig. 14.7; see discussion below). Assuming that these are indeed walls (or even rubble in the robber trenches of ghost walls), they should be placed in Phase 6, in as much as they directly overlie W9993, W9970 and W9959 of Phase 7.

The slightly curved east–west W9066 (top #14.08, base #13.79) abuts W9140(N) (top #14.67, base #12.75) and would likely have abutted W9140(S) (top #14.51, base #13.65) to form the northeastern corner of the space discussed here, but the connection is cut by a later pit. This space is subdivided into two rooms by north–south W9065 (top #14.13, base #13.69; for both walls, see Figs. 14.5, 14.8–14.9, 14.11, 14.17). The bottom elevations for these two walls mark the hypothetical plane at ca. #13.80–13.75 as the lowest possible elevation for a Phase 6 floor (see below). W9066 and W9065 are ca. 80 cm wide and preserved only one to two fieldstone courses high, compared to 60 cm wide and some four courses high for W9140(S). The stones in W9140(S) are 10–35 cm across, while those in W9066 and W9065 are generally smaller. The difference in construction, as well as the deeper foundations of W9140(S), mark it as an older wall that is being reused in Phase 6. While no mudbricks remained atop the Phase 6 walls, W9065, W9066 and W9140(S), the nearly 1 m-deep layer of mudbrick detritus covering the floors around them attests to their existence.

Roughly parallel to W9066 to the south in AK/32 is W9557, a line of mudbricks, each about 30 cm long by 17 cm wide, (top #13.98; base ca. #13.74; Figs. 14.5–14.6), resting on a layer of shells, which suggests it was an east–west partition wall which further sub-divided the unit.

In AK/32 are poorly preserved remains of several interconnected walls—W9917, W(?)9942 and W(?)9943 (Fig. 14.7). Below them is a series of Phase 7 walls (W9959, W9970 and W9993; see below), so these features, whatever they are, must belong to Phase 6.

W9917 (top #13.51, base #13.13) is a rough line consisting of three courses of rubble, about 40 cm wide. It is possible that the mudbrick debris in L9499 (top #14.39) and similar material below, found on top of the fieldstones of W9917, represent its degraded mudbrick superstructure.

W9943 and W9942 may likewise be degraded rubble of poorly preserved Phase 6 walls. W9943 (top #13.69, base #13.30; Fig. 14.7) is a 40 cm-wide mass of small fieldstones, 10–20 cm across, running north–south, with no apparent facing on either side. It may represent the degraded upper part of W9959 which lies directly below or, possibly, rubble thrown into the robber trench of the latter. W9942 (top #13.73, base #13.42) is even more problematic. It is a 70 cm-wide line of stones laid flat. It could be a poorly preserved patch of stone paving or the base of a wall for which no upper courses could be identified. Favoring the wall theory is the fact that stone pavements are rare in Area G, otherwise found only in AI/32 (see Chapters 2 and 9). On the other hand, F9958 was
found right below it, which might show the replacement of a dirt floor by a stone one.

Finally, we assume that the Phases 6–8 W9975, uncovered in “Sloan’s room” north of W9066, originally continued south through AK/32 (possibly to meet W9942) and left a robber trench through the unit. This wall would have been the western edge of the two-room space herein discussed and possibly, the western edge of the house. This robber trench, it should be stressed, was not observed by the excavators, nor can its existence be corroborated by the line of earlier walls, because excavation in this part of the unit was ceased at about #13.00. The hypothetical robber trench was introduced at the time of analysis, based on the line of W9975, discovered only several seasons later in another unit, and a series of disturbed deposits across the unit. Disturbed loci located in, or contaminated by, this robber trench include L9540 and L9532 in AK/32 and L9720 in AK/33.

**Description and Phasing of Phase 6 Floors**

Preserved patches of flooring and associated finds reveal little about activities in the western room of the unit, west of W9065 and south of W9066. The best-preserved floor sequence is found in AK/33, contained within the northeastern corner formed by these two walls. A sequence of three floors was found in this corner: F18005 (#13.91–13.73) > F18008 (#13.86–13.69; Fig. 14.8) > F18019 (Fig. 14.15). The first two clearly seal W9400 and so belong to stages x and xi, Phase 6a and 6b respectively. The last reaches W9400 and thus belongs with Phase 7 (see below). Whether the two closely packed floors, F18005 and F18008, really represent two different occupation phases or merely one continuous accumulation is moot and the sub-phase is question-marked accordingly. The question might be significant in as much as Phases 6a and 6b had been assigned to different periods on typological grounds in Area G (see Chapter 20). Note that north of W9066, both F9679 (the floor in “Sloan’s room”, assigned to Phase 6a) and F9860 (Phase 6b) are higher than both F18005 and F18008. Thus, assigning both F18005 and F18008 to Phase 6b might be more appropriate, although this is little more than conjecture. Both floors had few finds, so they cannot...
contribute to the typological discussion, nor can typology help solve this question.

In AK/32, south of partition wall W9557, F9547 (#13.97–13.75) is a kurkar surface sloping down to the west which reaches this wall. North of this wall is a small patch of floor, F9893 (#13.74); its relation to the wall or to the floors to the north (F18005 = F18008) is unclear. Judging by elevations alone, it is more likely that these features belong to stage xi (Phase 6b) than x (6a), but the attribution to either is conjectural.

In the eastern space of this unit, between W9065 and W9140(S), the main floor incorporates F9154 (#13.80–13.70) and F9173 in AJ/32 and the adjacent F9178 in AK/32 (#13.80–13.70). Oven 9204 (Figs. 14.9–14.10) is probably associated with this floor. Poor preservation, and the fact that the connection to L9154 was cut in the effort to delineate the oven, preclude attributing it to this or the next lower floor with certainty. As an aggregate, this floor reaches W9140(S) and W9066 (although the juncture between these walls was destroyed by Phase 4 pit L9168; Fig. 14.11). The predominant matrix is mudbrick debris, with increasing quantities of ash in proximity to the oven, which would argue for an association between the two. Near the oven, in L9154, the bottom of a storage jar (which proved non-restorable) sat buried in a bedding of shells. In it was a complete cup and saucer (Plate 20.76;7) and various sherds. South of the oven and the embedded storage jar, a large semi-circular ash pit, L9185, abutted W9140(S) in AJ/32. Its top elevation (#14.02) indicates it was dug during the build-up of L9154. Further south and west, the preservation of the floor progressively worsens and it is cut by Phase 4 pit L9064. The phasing of this floor, however, is problematic. The excavators recorded conflicting observations on whether the floor reaches W9065 and W9066 (i.e., corresponds to the Phase 6 wall system) or stops short of W9066 (ostensibly reaching W9400, which was not yet exposed at the time) and goes under W9065 (i.e., belongs with
Phase 7). Especially problematic is F9173, which flanks both sides of W9065. Unless there was a doorway here, this seems to indicate that the floor is earlier than the wall. Adding to the confusion is a disagreement about elevations. As recorded by the unit supervisors, the floor is at #13.78–13.69; but the independent levels taken by the surveyors are #13.60–13.49. The latter would certainly make the floor Phase 7.

As a result of all these uncertainties, we cannot judge whether this floor belongs to Phase 6 (and, if so, to which of its sub-phases) or whether it belongs to (an upper sub-phase within) Phase 7. Since the plans have to depict but one of the possible scenarios, it is drawn in Phase 6b (Plan 8), but this choice is little more than arbitrary.

**Phase 7 (Stages xii–xiii)**

**Overview**

W9400 is the only wall that connects this complex to the stratigraphic sequence of other parts of Area G, as it is part of the central wall junction, described in detail in Chapter 3. This wall runs directly below Phase 6 W9066, but is quite shallow and floats over Phase 8 elements (see below). Thus, it is the defining element for Phase 7 in this unit and other elements are attributed to this phase by their relations to it. The other walls attributed to this phase, W9412 and W9413 in AJ/32 (Fig. 14.11), present a corner of some feature which was robbed on the west, with W9993, W9959 and W9970 in AK/32 being another trio of interconnected walls, robbed on the east. The relation between these two sets of walls is not clear. The simplest scenario is that both sets are part of the same feature, although the orientation of W9993 is different from that of W9412 and the elevations do not quite match. In as much as W9993, W9959 and 9970 are below Phase 6 features (W9557, W9917, W9942 and W9943) on the one hand, and W9412 and W9413 float above Phase 8 F9920 on the other, these features seem to be limited to Phase 7.

**Descriptions of Walls (Stages xii–xiii)**

W9400 ≡ W9140(S) ≡ W9412 ≡ W9413 ≡? W9993 ≡ W9970 ≡ W9959

This space is flanked on the east by W9140(S), constructed most likely in Phase 7 and used through Phase 6, described above. W9400 marked the northern side of this area. It has a barely preserved mudbrick superstructure, ca. 1 m wide (top #13.68, base #13.66), on top of fieldstone foundation/socle (base #13.47). W9412 (top #13.94, base #13.19) and W9413 (top #13.78, base #13.11) in the southern part of this space in AJ/32, are fieldstone foundations, each about 50 cm wide and preserved two to three courses high (Fig. 14.11). In AK/32, the southern part of the unit is less well preserved (Figs. 14.13–14.14). W9970 is a 70 cm-wide east–west line of mudbrick material below the western part of W917 (top #13.21, base #12.68). No
intact bricks could be identified in its upper part, but lower down, a single course of bricks was traced. The wall was two bricks wide; the northern face was three bricks laid in header fashion (45 cm long by 25 cm wide), while the southern face was two stretcher bricks (42 cm long by 30 cm wide). Continuing the line of W9970 to the east, and also below W9917, is W9993, a fieldstone wall also ca. 70 cm wide, constructed of stones 25 cm across and smaller (top #13.43, base #12.96). W9993 and W9970 thus seem to form a single wall along the southern border of AK/32. W9993 forms a corner with ca. 50 cm-wide fieldstone W9959 (top #13.43, base #12.93). W9959 is composed of stones 25 cm across and smaller. Because the wall is adjacent to a balk, it is not clear if the entire width of the wall is known, but it is at least two stones wide. It also projects slightly beyond the northern face of W9993, suggesting that it extended farther north before being cut by pits. It is on a good line with W9975 in AK/33 to mark the western end of the space that extends west of W9140 in AJ/32. As the southwestern corner of this unit was not excavated any deeper, it is not clear if the lowest course(s) of W9970, W9993 or W9959 were reached.

Description and Phasing of Floors (Stages xii – xiii)

Two distinct floor levels seem to have been associated with the Phase 7 walls, though this is not everywhere evident, and, consequently, not all (or not even most) features can be unambiguously assigned to stage xii or xiii.

The only place where two floors were visibly superimposed was in the AJ–AK/32 balk removal, where F9893 (Phase 6, see above) > F9987 (#13.68–13.60, stage xii) > F(?)9995 (#13.53–13.46) = F9958 (stage xii, cf., Fig. 14.15). Even this is not certain, as F9987 is rather close in elevation to F9893 above it and so, might conceivably still be a Phase 6 floor.

In AK/32, patchy surfaces F9924 (#13.46–13.35), F9884 (#13.45) and F(?)9995 (#13.43) are candidates for a floor at more or less the same elevation as F9958. Of these, F9958 had evidence for collapse and some in situ jar fragments (Fig. 14.16), which did not mend to a whole pot, however. Due to the heavy disturbance of AK/32 by the (presumed) robber trench of W9975, it is impossible to know if all of these patches made up a coherent floor across the room. Note also that although two distinct floor surfaces are present, the patchy preservation prevents the segregation of clear “7a” and “7b” deposits.

In AJ/32 floor F9154 (= F9178 = F9173 = oven 9204) was already discussed above. If it is indeed not a Phase 6 floor, it comprises the first of two Phase 7 surfaces in this square. Below it, a similar build-up of ashy lenses rested on F9380 (#13.60–13.51) and sloped down to the south up against W9412 as F9502 (#13.58–13.48). L9502 differed from the others in the inclusion of fieldstones, measuring ca. 20 cm in diameter, of undetermined purpose or source within the area. This build-up of alternating brown and grey non-continuous surfaces that could be distinguished and counted, with greater concentrations of ash to the south, might indicate some industrial activity; either in the main space (which might have been an open courtyard at this phase) or, perhaps that the space enclosed by W9412, 9413, 9993 and 9959 is some sort of pyrotechnical installation. This could not be investigated, however, as the area circumscribed by the abovementioned walls was still disturbed by the remains of
Persian pit L9064. No recovered artifacts hint at the source of all the ash either.

In the AK/33 portion of the unit, only one Phase 7 floor was located, F18019 (#13.73–13.61; Fig. 14.17). It is hard to say which of the two floor levels in AJ/32 and AK/32 it corresponds with, as its elevations are somewhat intermediate. Since excavation was not continued below this floor, it is not possible to know if there was another Phase 7 floor lower down.

**Phase 8 (Stage xiv)**

Ashy splays blanketing the sloping ground surface, identical to those of Phase 7, demonstrate that whatever activity attested in the area through Phase 7 likely began in Phase 8. Phase 7 walls subsequently hemmed in what had been a more expansive open area in Phase 8.

![Fig. 14.18. Thumbnail plan of Phase 8, AJ–AK/32. For details, see Plan 6. (d09Z3-1263)](image)

**W18048**

Determining which wall demarcates the eastern edge of this area is difficult (see discussions in Chapters 3 and 9 regarding W9140(S) or W18048 in Phase 8). Judging by the elevations of the bottom of W9140(S) (#13.65), the top of W18048 (ca. #13.50), and of the floors in this unit (see below), W18048 was the eastern border of this unit in Phase 8, having continued in use from Phase 9 (see below).

No northern or southern bordering walls for this unit were uncovered in Phase 8; the ashy splays continued to the edges of the excavated area (Square AJ/32). Excavation in AK/32 apparently did not reach stage xiv deposits. However, it is likely that a Phase 8 wall lies under W9400, which was not removed, and formed the north border of this space at this time.

**Description and Phasing of Floors**

L9493 = L9501 = L9525 = L9494 = L9920 = L9474 = L9851

As excavated, the lowest ashy lenses of the Phase 8 accumulations L9525 and L9494 (Fig. 14.11) appear to dip below the corner of Phase 7 W9412 and W9413, where they were excavated as L9920 which came down on F9920 (#13.14–12.97). F9920 is below Phase 7 W9412 and 9413 and seals the Phase 9 destruction debris.

Evidence corroborating activity involving burning in the immediate area includes successive ashy splays creating lenses of alternating grey and brown bands (L9493, L9501, L9525, L9494, L9920, L9474, L9851; Fig. 14.11), accumulated for 25–30 cm. The specific activity that produced this material remains undetermined.

**Phase 9 (Stage xv)**

W18048 ≡ W9909a ≡ W9915a ≡ W9998 ≡ W18250 ≡ F18241
≡ F18242 = F18293 = F18371 ≡ F18338 ≡ F18241 ≡ F18239
≡ F18249 = F18370 = F18306

**Overview**

In Phase 9, due to the violent destruction of the building, this unit was very well preserved and many restorable vessels lay smashed on floors, mainly in the eastern half, often flipped upside down in their fall to the floor below. Second-story collapse in the “antler room” left successive layers of smashed and complete vessels, the material in L18239 being the upper floor (Figs. 14.25–14.26), with L18306 (Figs. 14.28–14.29) being the ground floor (see below and further discussion in Chapter 3 for issues relating to the phasing of the rooms west of W18048).

In Phase 9, the area of AJ–AK/32 contained three rooms and was accessed from the central courtyard to the east (see Chapter 9; Figs. 14.20–14.21). From the paved portion of the courtyard, the floor slopes nearly 75 cm through doorway F18214, between W18048 and W18332 to the south, into a narrow room or corridor (F18242). Turning to the right, one

![Fig. 14.19. Thumbnail plan of Phase 9, AJ–AK/32. For details, see Plan 5. (d09Z3-1264)](image)
walked the approximately 3 m length of the room towards W9909 bordering it at its far end on the north (Fig. 14.22), where one turned left to pass through doorway F18293 (Fig. 14.23) into the larger room (F18241) (Fig. 14.24), whose western and southern borders remained unexcavated. Turning immediately to the right, one passed through doorway F18371 between W9909 and W9998 (Fig. 14.27), to enter Room 18239, nicknamed the “antler room” after the complete antler of a fallow deer (*dama mesopotamica*) found among the room’s contents (Figs. 14.25–14.26).

Following the destruction of the building, the area lay in ruins, subject to pitting and dumping or perhaps intentional leveling meant to prepare the surface for distinctly other purposes, in Phase 8.
Description of Walls

\( W18048 \equiv W9909a \equiv W9915a \equiv W9998 \equiv W18250 \)

These five walls delineate the three rooms (Figs. 14.20–14.21). The most substantial wall, \( W18048 \) (top \#13.69, base \#12.08), ran north–south separating the three rooms from the central courtyard to the east. This wall is discussed in detail in Chapters 3 and 9. \( W18048 \) abutted the upper mudbrick courses of \( W9915 \) to its west. \( W9915a \) (top \#13.48, base \#12.48) consists of ten mudbrick courses laid header fashion; each brick was 60 cm long, 37 cm wide and 9 cm high and were high in kurkar content. Grey mortar was visible between the bricks and traces of reed matting between the courses were identified. Below the mudbrick, there were two stone stages: \( W9915b \) (top \#12.48, base \#12.00–11.92) is four to five courses high and four stones wide, the stones being approximately fist-size. \( W9915c \) (top \#12.00, base \#11.92–11.43) was a one-to-two-course high socle of small boulders and chinking stones. In Phase 10 (see below), \( W9915 \) was a free-standing wall. In Phase 9, it perhaps served a dual
purpose: to buttress W18048 and as a bench or ledge in the “antler room”.

East–west W9909 (top of mudbrick #13.23, base of stone socle #11.44, socle begins at #12.89–12.56), with five mudbrick courses (W9909a) preserved above a five- to-six course high stone socle (W9909b), dovetails with the perpendicular W9915. Bricks were 8 cm high, 37 cm wide and 50 cm long and stones in the socle were 10–30 cm across.

North–south W9998 was preserved two to three courses of mudbrick high (W9998a: top #13.08, base #12.39; bricks ca. 35 cm wide) on top of five courses of fieldstones (W9998b: top #12.70, base #12.08, stones ca. 5–20 cm across). A single large stone at the southern extent of the mudbrick-on-stone wall created a doorway across from the western end of W9909. Only part of it was excavated because it ran along the edge of the balk (Fig. 14.27).

While undoubtedly still standing in this period, little remained of the upper extent of the north–south W18250. Constructed like all the other walls in the vicinity, W18250 was preserved to four mudbrick courses (W18250a; top #12.89, base #12.06), five stone socle courses and one stone foundation course (W18250b; top #12.85, base #11.55; Fig. 14.21).

The two doorways, L18293 (between W18250 and W9909) and L18371 (between W9998 and W9909), were filled with yellowish mudbrick detritus, deriving its distinctive hue from kurkar inclusions. Perhaps these distinctively colored bricks were singled out for constructing doorways and when the building collapsed, they fell into the recess below.

Post-Destruction Leveling Operations

The deposits between the Phase 9 and Phase 8 floors can roughly be divided into two types: structural collapse on the destruction layer (to be described below) and leveling fills above them. While the collapsed debris was made up largely of intact or semi-intact burnt bricks and was almost sterile of finds down to the destruction layer on the floor, the dumping/leveling loci typically contained mudbrick detritus, mixed with cobbles, ash, pottery, shells, bone and charcoal. L9941, L9947 and L9967 overlay the corridor, L9908 and L18230 covered the second room, and L9907 and L9997 sealed the “antler room” below. It is not possible to say, based on internal stratigraphic evidence from this unit, whether or not these represent dumps from some hypothetical post-destruction (but pre-Phase 8) domestic activities, or constructional fills containing Phase 9 (and earlier) finds in secondary deposition, brought in to fill the hollow formed here by the terraced construction on the slope (see Chapter 2). The records do not show tip lines, local sub-surfaces or spays, which are typical of accumulation of domestic refuse over time (as is the case, for instance, in the Phases 6–7 sequence).

Phase 9 Destruction Layer and Floors

Doorway F18214 = F18242 = F18293 = F18371 = F18338 = F18241 = F18239 = F18249 = F18370 = F18306

Doorway F18214 = F18242 (#12.13) is between W18048 and W18332. Burnt mudbrick material filling the doorway was less vividly colored than comparable material in rooms to the east.

Just inside the long, narrow corridor was F18338 (#12.01[E]–12.11[W]), covered with burnt mudbrick and part of a wooden beam. Broken vessels and cobbles littered the rest of the corridor, F18242 (#12.00[S]–12.20[N]; Fig. 14.22) clustered in the northeast and southeast reaches. The upside-down orientation of many of the pots suggests they fell from above, i.e., from some kind of shelf or a second story. However, no clear remains of a second story were found here and a shelf would have further constricted the approximately 1 m-wide corridor.

In the next doorway F18293 (#12.05) between F18242 and F18241, a complete strainer jug (Pl. 20.28:12) lay on the floor. Vessels were also found crushed on F18241 (#12.12–12.01) in the eastern extent of the western room (Fig. 14.24).

Doorway F18371 (#12.03–11.98) between W9998 and W9909 (Fig. 14.27) provided access into the “antler room”. Here, F18249 (#12.22–12.04) above F18371 suggests the presence of a second story (see further discussion below).

Fig. 14.27. Doorway F18371 between W9909 and W9998, marked by larger stones, looking north. (p05Z3-0721)
Of all the three rooms west of W18048, the depositional sequence and relationship of loci to each other and to the walls in the “antler room” is the most complex, and the staging of the various superimposed floors presents some problems. Two potential Phase 9 floor surfaces were found here, both with restorable pottery on them. F18239 (#12.64–12.21) is a highly sloped surface with in situ pottery, but little evidence of fire. Below it is F18370 = F18306 (#12.19–11.66), with burnt debris and more restorable pottery (Figs. 14.28–14.29). None of these surfaces physically reach the associated walls, so alternate reconstructions are possible. Yet another floor was found in this room (F18398), discussed below.

The three small rooms west of W18048 essentially present the following situation: three sets of superimposed floors in the “antler room” (the two discussed above and F18398, which will be described below) to be shoehorned into two phases in the other two rooms. One possibility is to place the highest floor-set—F18239 = F18249—in Phase 9, and the lower two—(F18306 = F18370) = (F18242 = F18293 = F18371) = F18338 = F18241 (middle) and F18398 = F18372 = F18367 (lowest)—in Phase 10, as sub-phases 10a and 10b. Another possibility is to place the lowest floor-set in Phase 10 and understand the upper two floors as Phases 9a and 9b. Although the rest of Phase 9 in Area G generally manifests only a single floor phase and Phase 10 often more than one, it is a priori tempting to go with the former solution. There are, however, several considerations that contradict this, the main one being that the upper two floors in the corner formed by W9909 and W9915—F18239 above and F18306 = F18370 below—both have in situ pottery on them. If F18306 belonged to Phase 10, it would be the only locus with such material. Moreover, a significant part of the mudbrick debris on F18306 seems to have been burnt orange, which fits well with a Phase 9 context, whereas L18239 was primarily a sandier matrix with no direct evidence of burning.

In light of the above, it seems most likely that the upper set of surfaces in these rooms is a collapsed second story, which would also explain the very sloped appearance of F18239 and why vessels in primary deposition, many upside down, were found in the 1 m-wide corridor of F18242, as though they had tumbled from above. The single obstacle to this reconstruction is the ring of stones (L18294) sitting at #12.24 (i.e., well above the floor of the first story), but this installation might have collapsed as-is from the second story or the alleged ring might be a result of accidental removal of stone debris from wall collapse. It seems that attribution of only the lowest floor to Phase 10 best explains the observed data.

**Phase 10 (Stage xvi)**

W9909a–b ≡ W9915a–c ≡ W18250 ≡ W9998 ≡ F18398 = F18409 = F18372 = F18394 = F18344 = F18367 = F18388

**Overview**

The main architectural difference between Phases 9 and 10 is in the positioning of the courtyard, which moves south and west relative to Phase 9 (cf., Chapter 3). Courtyard 18333 now extends all the way to W18250.
Analyses conducted by a team from the Weizman Institute in the southern and western balks of AJ/32 revealed no significant traces of metalworking activity in Phase 10 in this unit (Berna et al. 2007). All such activity seems to have taken place east of W9915. Likewise, the phenomena of multiple thin surfaces and small fire pits are by-and-large missing from this unit.

**Description of Walls**

Apart from W18048 (first built in Phase 9), the walls of Phase 9 in this unit (W18250, W9909, W9915, W9998; described above in Phase 9) were all first built in Phase 10.

**Description and Phasing of Floors**

See above, Phase 9, for a survey of the problems in distinguishing the remains from Phases 9–10 in this area.

The construction of Phase 10 over 11 seems to have progressed as follows: W18463, W18471 and W18528 of the Phase 11 Shell-Floor Installation (see below) were still extant in some fashion. In order to create a new, higher living surface over the last Phase 11 floor (F18409), approximately 20–25 cm of debris was spread across the area, creating a floor level at ca. #12.05. They then proceeded to rob out stones from the walls of the earlier phase to reuse in their new constructions.

Unlike in AI/32 to the east, only one stage of floors clearly assignable to Phase 10 was found in AJ/32; floors below these often seem to be at least partially below the lowest courses of the adjacent walls. The analysis of the remains will proceed according to individual rooms, defined as the northern room, southwestern room and the southeastern room, the latter being essentially part of the large courtyard.

The northern room (18398) is the area below the Phase 9 “antler room”, bounded on the south by W9909 (top #13.31–13.23; base #11.86–11.44) and on the east by W9915 (top #13.35–13.31; base #11.52–11.43; for additional information see the descriptions under Phase 9 above). F18398 (#11.88–11.78) could not be traced to either wall, but is at an elevation to reach the fourth stone course from the top of W9915 and the fifth course of W9909. Fills were loose medium-brown material. The northern and western limits are unknown due to lack of excavation. F18409 below (#11.88–11.68) could be lower within Phase 10 or 11a; it did not reach any surrounding walls.

The southwestern room (18307) is the area west of W18250. F18372 (#11.88–11.70; Fig. 14.31) and F18394 (#11.80–11.67; Fig. 14.32) both slope up towards W18250, although no connection could be observed. These are the last floors in this space that could reach W18250. It is not clear whether F18394 is Phase 10 or 11, although its elevations match better with F18417 (#11.81–11.67), a Phase 11 floor below Phase 10 W18250.

The southeastern room (18333) is the area which leads from AI/32 into AJ/32 and east of W18250; it is a continuation of the large Phase 10b–c courtyard discussed in AI/32 (Room 18333; Chapter 9). This area is very distant from W18229 (the northern wall of courtyard 18333, the relation to which identifies the sub-phasing of floors in that area). Thus, it
was not possible to isolate separate sub-phases. F18344 (#12.03–11.95; Fig. 14.33) has a very clear connection with W18250 at the threshold between this room and that to the west (#12.00). The floor slopes up towards the fourth or fifth course of W9909, but a connection was not observed. F18367 (#11.77–11.69) and F18388 (#11.76–11.66) were less certain floors below F18344.

Note that all Phase 10 floor levels roughly correspond with the division between W9915b and W9915c (#12.00–11.92; see discussion above). This suggests that the large-boulder stage of W9915c is the foundation course and W9915b is part of the superstructure. Unlike other rooms of this phase, there seems to be no gradual buildup of floors in this unit and thus, no criterion exists for a division into sub-phases 10a–b–c. Structurally, the floors seem to have been built together with the walls (i.e., in Phase 10c), as they reach the interface between foundation and superstructure; however, the material in the loci should be considered general Phase 10.

**Phases 11–12? (Stages xvii–xix)**

Here are grouped all the deposits under the base of all walls of the Courtyard House. The only architecture in this unit (and in Phases 11–12 as a whole) is the “Shell-Floor Installation”, described below. The material in Phases 11–12 exhibits the general downslope from north to south characteristic of the early phases in Area G (see Chapter 2).

**Phase 11a (Stage xvii, Sloping Debris)**

It seems that when the “Shell-Floor Installation” (described below) went out of use, the area was filled in by the ashy-sandy material that is evidence of the dumping of wastes connected with the metallurgical activity in the east of Area G in Phases 11–10, and the leveling of mudbrick debris left by the destruction of the walls of the “Shell-Floor Installation”. Possible Phase 11a floors include F18417 (#11.81–11.67) below W18250 of Phase 10, as well as F18409 (#11.77–11.68; F18410; F18407; W18250).

**Phase 11b (Stage xviii)**

*Installation 18470 = W18463 ≡ W18471 ≡ W18528*

The “Shell-Floor Installation” (Figs. 14.35–14.36) is located in the northwestern corner of the square. It consists of a northern wall, W18463 (top #11.80–11.64, base #11.36–11.25), an eastern wall, W18471 (top #11.74–11.58, base #11.38) and a southern wall, W18528 (top #11.42–11.35, base #11.26). These walls were set in shallow foundation trenches (L18529 for W18528 and L18505 for W18471). Alternatively, these trenches around the walls might be robber trenches which removed the entire superstructure and left only the lowest course of foundation intact. W18463 was only partially exposed; most of it lies unexcavated in the northern balk. W18471 was mostly destroyed by Phase 10 robber trench L18393, W18258 was mostly destroyed by the construction of W9909 and W18250 of Phase 10.

The area under the walls and the floor of the installation were covered by a layer of small *Glycimeris* bi-valve shells, ca. 2–10 cm thick, designated F18470 (#11.59–11.33; Fig. 14.37; shells excavated as L18478). The shells also spread beyond the walls to the east (F18472; #11.36; Fig. 14.36) and south, but their further extension to the east may possibly...
have been destroyed by the construction of Phase 10 W9915. It is unclear if the relatively small number of shells found south of W18528 is due to later disturbances or to the intent of the original builders of the installation. L18457, gray material with charcoal above the shells of F18472, might be part of a surface laid on top of them, using them as a sort of foundation, or the remains of whatever activity took place in this installation. In general, the floor of the installation slopes down from north to south, following the general topography of the area.

The material inside (L18448, L18462, L18466) seems to be mudbrick collapse from the installation walls.

Farther south, beyond W18528, the debris is characterized as sandy-muddy wash containing sherds and bones, suggesting an exterior space (L18450, L18455, L18501; high ca. #11.45, low ca. #10.70). Small pit L18442 (top #11.49, base #11.34) with sand and cobbles was located there as well.

The area east of the “Shell-Floor Installation” was dotted with four small pits: L18461 (top #11.49, base #11.34) with brown soil, L18490 (top #11.48, base #11.36) and L18492 (top #11.44, base #11.36) with grey soil and cobbles, and L18442. These pits average ca. 0.4 wide. They are at about the level of F18470, suggesting that they belong to an early period in the use of the installation, although their purpose in relation to it is unknown.

Analyses conducted by a team from the Weizman Institute in the southern and western balks of AJ/32 revealed no significant traces of metalworking activity in Phase 11b (Berna et al. 2007). However, the samples from the western balk came from the mudbrick debris of the “Shell-Floor Installation” and another sample came from the shell bedding itself, not from the debris dumped in this space (which was no longer available for sampling at the time).

**Phase 12? (Stage xix, Sandy Soils)**

Below the shell layer L18478 of the Phase 11b “Shell-Floor Installation” was material characterized as brown soils with ashy and sandy material (L18488, L18497, L18506, L18526; ca. #11.50/#11.10). Due to limited exposure of these deposits, it is not clear if they are an earlier stage in Phase 11 or represent Phase 12.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY


Fig. 14.38. Locus genealogy for AK/33. (p10Z3-0085)

Fig. 14.39. Locus genealogy for AK/32. (d09Z3-1266)
Fig. 14.40. Locus genealogy for AJ/32, Phases 5–8. (d09Z3-1267)

Fig. 14.41. Locus genealogy for AJ/32, Phases 9–12. (d09Z3-1461)