

ALISAR IN THE ASUR TRADE COLONIAL PERIOD

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RESEARCHES IN ANATOLIA—VOLUME VIII

THE ALISHAR HÜYÜK

SEASONS OF 1930-32

PART II

By

HANS HENNING VON DER OSTEN

Field Director of the Anatolian Expedition



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WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

WILTON MARION KROGMAN

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Table 4.6. Major Anatolian Principalities with Assyrian Merchant Colonies

Period	Historical Chronology	Kültepe (Kaneš) Kārūm	Boğazköy (Ḫattuš)	Alişar (Ankuwa?)	Karahöyük	Acemhöyük (Puruşanda?)
1600 B.C.E. MBA IV	Hittite Old Kingdom Muršili I Ḫattušili I Labarna I	I a=M6	Büyükkale IVc3		I	
1700 B.C.E. MBA III	Assyrian kings İsme-Dagan Şamši-Adad	İstar-Ebri? Zuzu Perwa Anitta Piḫana Waršama Inar Ib = M7	Piušti Büyükkale IVd Lower City 4	10 T	II	3
1800 B.C.E. MBA II	Erişum II Naram-Sin Puzur-Aššur	Ic Ḫurmeli Ḫarpatiwa? II = M8	Büyükkale Va Lower City		III	
1900 B.C.E. MBA I	Şarru-kin Ikunum	II = M8 III	Büyükkale Vb		IV	
2000 B.C.E.	Erişum I	IV	Lower City	11T 5M		7

The excavations carried out by the Oriental Institute in Alişar have caused many problems with the cultural hierarchy in the settlement. The most important problem experienced among the excavations carried out by OI in Alişar is that in the mound (M), the terrace (T) and the contemporary BC. It is the absence of 2nd millennium BC layers. The settlement on the mound may have been destroyed. This is also stated in Osten's publications. Osten is also believed that the Phrygians settled in the 8th century citadel/mound, and before this settlement they cleared the existing remains to build their own walls. It is impossible to explain this situation at the moment.

We know that 13th century BC in the end, many Hittite cities faced destruction or abandonment. Alişar is among them, among the cities abandoned by fire. And indeed, with the Phrygians who settled long after them. There is a fire layer between the 2nd millennium BC settlements.

Another factor is; For example, the attack of enemy forces here may be the cause of the destruction. It is known that there were attacks of Kaška in Central Anatolia after Suppiluliuma I and after him.

It can be thought that they went as far as Nenaşsa in the south, which is accepted as Nevşehir today, and before that they destroyed Alişar.

On the other hand, Alişar may have been damaged as a result of internal conflicts between Hattusili III and Urhi-Teshup. In any case, the destruction of the enemy forces must have left a serious wreckage during the renovation work in the city. Of course, this abandonment may have been the result of environmental factors such as a drought, an epidemic. It is not possible to give a very satisfactory answer to all these.

In the past, in the studies of placing the Alişar layers in an appropriate chronological framework; Especially ceramics, lead figurines, marble idols and figurines and Old Assyrian cuneiform tablets were coming from the Kültepe excavations. Of course, these are indicators in chronological terms. Analysis of the pottery groups at Kültepe and Alişar helps with this dating. In the table below, the comparative chronology between Kültepe and Alişar is given based on the ceramic parallels of this period.

TABLE 5. COMPARISON OF THE EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM CERAMICS FROM ALIŞAR HÖYÜK AND KÜLTEPE

Kültepe and its Ceramic Repertoire					Alişar Höyük	
Area		Ceramic Descriptions			Area	
Mound	Kārum	Monochrome	Cappadocian	Other	Mound	Terrace
7	Ib ¹	100%	0%		?	11-10cT
8	II ²	dominant	limited	Wellenlinien	?	11T?
9 ³	III	70%	30%		"refuse"	
10 ⁴	IV	50% (=1st Wheelmade)	50%		5aM	12T
					5bM	12T
11 ⁵	--		1st Occurs	Intermediate; Syrian Flasks	6M	--
12 ⁶	--			Intermediate; Depas	7M	--
13 ⁷	--			Red-Slipped	8-11M	13-14T

The 6M wall at the Sitadel Mound (M) is the oldest of the walls apparently built for the protection of the citadel. The pottery unearthed in relation to this wall is a mixture of intermediate and Cappadocian pottery. These two ceramic groups are handmade. Their coexistence is the indicator of the last phase of the 3rd millennium.

Level 7M at Alişar is contemporary with Level 12 of Kültepe. There, too, the intermediate pottery was seen to be related to the Alisar I pottery. Level 6M of Alişar corresponds to Level 11 of Kültepe. And here, too, intermediate ceramics are seen together with Cappadocian ceramics. Alişar Mound, Second Millennium BC layers start with 5M, and on Terrace with 12T.

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10 ⁴	IV	50% (=1st Wheelmade)	50%		5aM	12T
					5bM	12T
11 ⁵	--		1st Occurs	Intermediate; Syrian Flasks	6M	--
12 ⁶	--			Intermediate; Depas	7M	--
13 ⁷	--			Red-Slipped "Copper Age"	8-11M	13-14T

EARLY 2nd millennium BC ARCHITECTURE REMAINS IN ALISAR (MBA I)

There are very few architectural remains belonging to the early phase of MBA. This causes us to rely only on ceramic remains for the existence of that period. For this, we need to look at Kültepe.

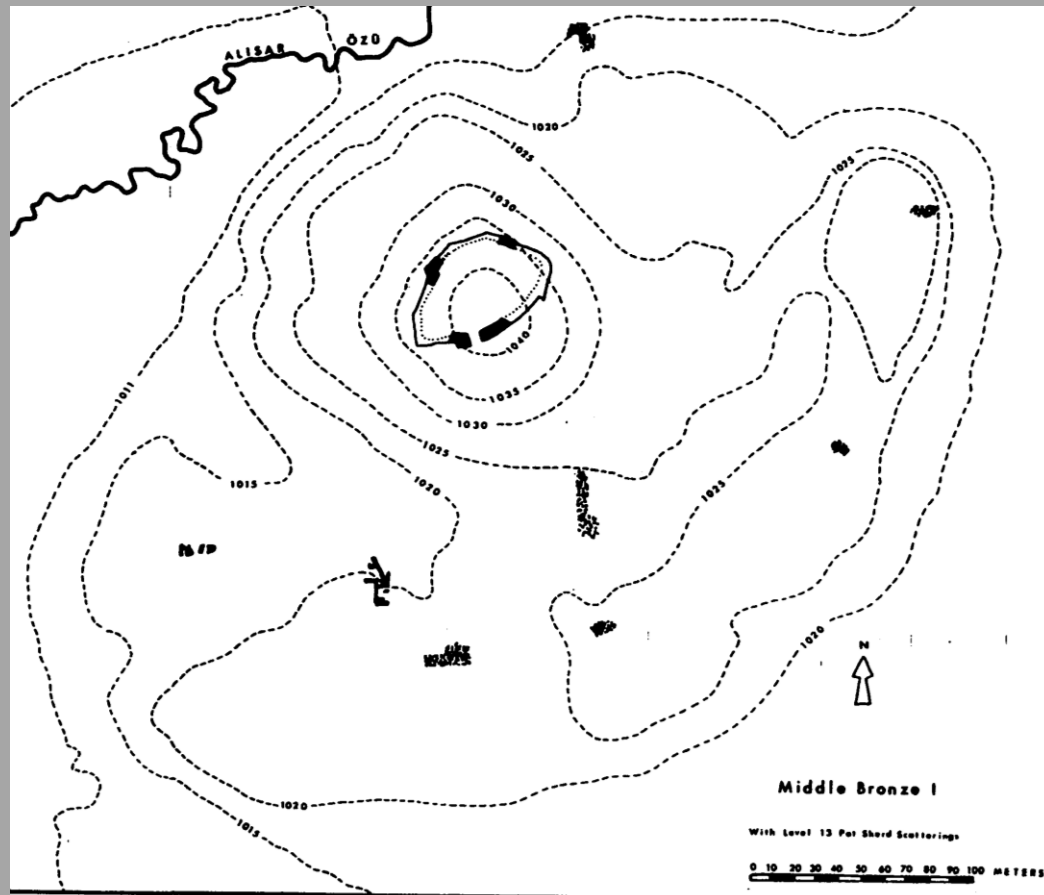


Figure 1. Plan of Alişar Höyük During MB I

The wall is more massive than the previous period and is the main structure that can be dated to MBA I. The stadel wall, like the Stadel gate, has 2 phases. The total height of these 2 phases is 2.80 m. Stratigraphically, the 5M wall has two phases. In these, 5aM is the early stage at the top and 5b M is the late stage at the bottom.

Monochrome and Cappadocia ceramics were found together in phase 5a M of the city wall. However, there is no data in the publications as to whether this monochrome ceramic is associated with the earlier 5bM wall. This is contemporary with the Cappadocia pottery with a 5bM wall and the city gate (5bM City gate), in which the same situation has been identified with the monochrome ceramics not yet seen here. When evaluated together with the ceramics found here, this whole city wall should be dated to MBA I.

To summarize, MBA I period shows significant developments in Alişar settlement. However, the layers belonging to this period were excavated in a very small area both on the terrace and on the city mound. While Stadel 5M was surrounded by water in MBA I, there is no data on this in 12T on the terrace.

Alişar walls are studied in two phases, 11T (Karum II) and 10T (Karum Ib).

MBA II.

Immediately after MBA I, a city wall was built on the terrace in the casemate system, which was common in Central Anatolia in this period and continued in the Hittite Period. These are also found in Prensa, Kültepe (?), Karahöyük-Konya, Boğazköy, Alaca Höyük and Mersin. However, Karum II. The contemporary (8th floor) of the floor is the same. To the northeast of the Höyük in Alişar, there is a flat backed with plasters every 4 meters instead of this support wall.

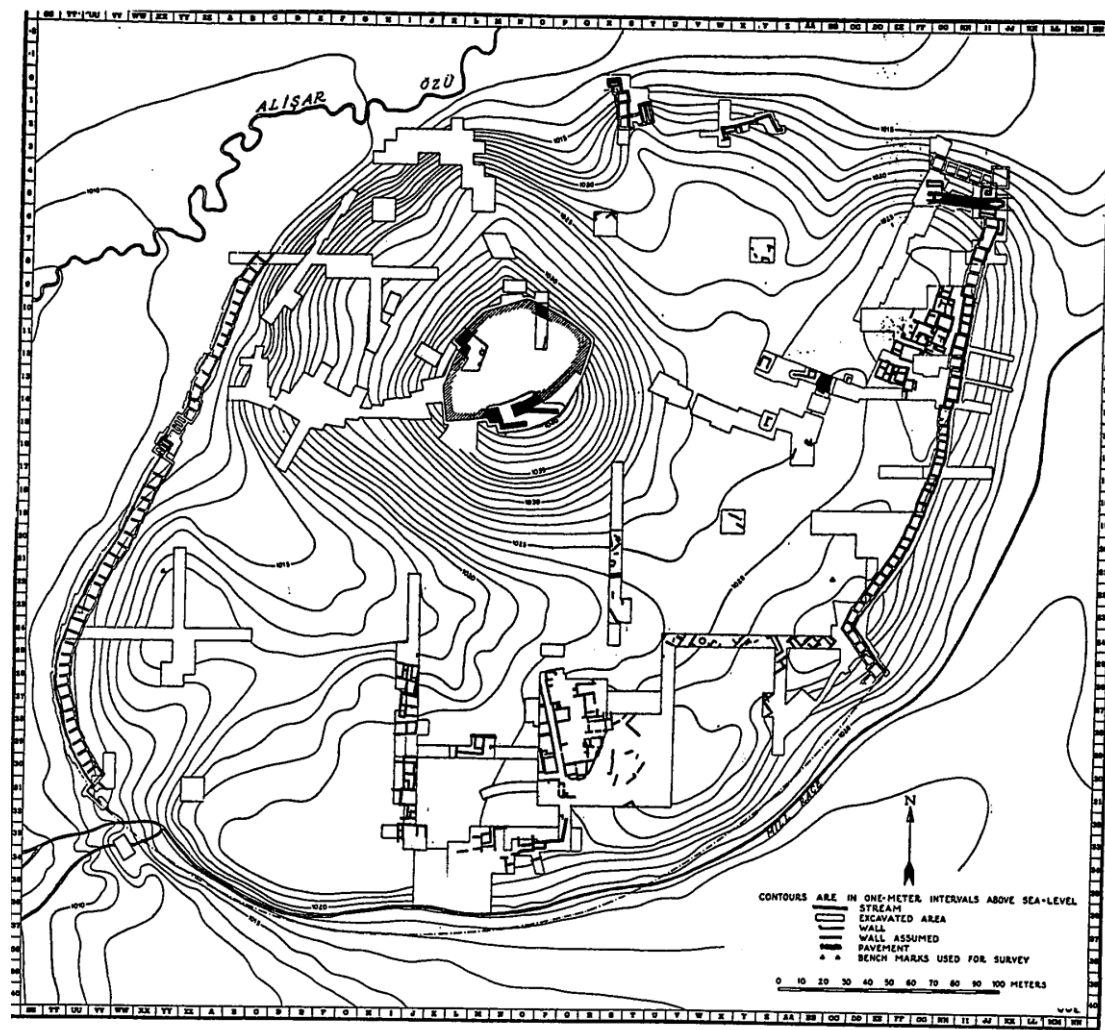


Plate 6. Plan of Level 11T

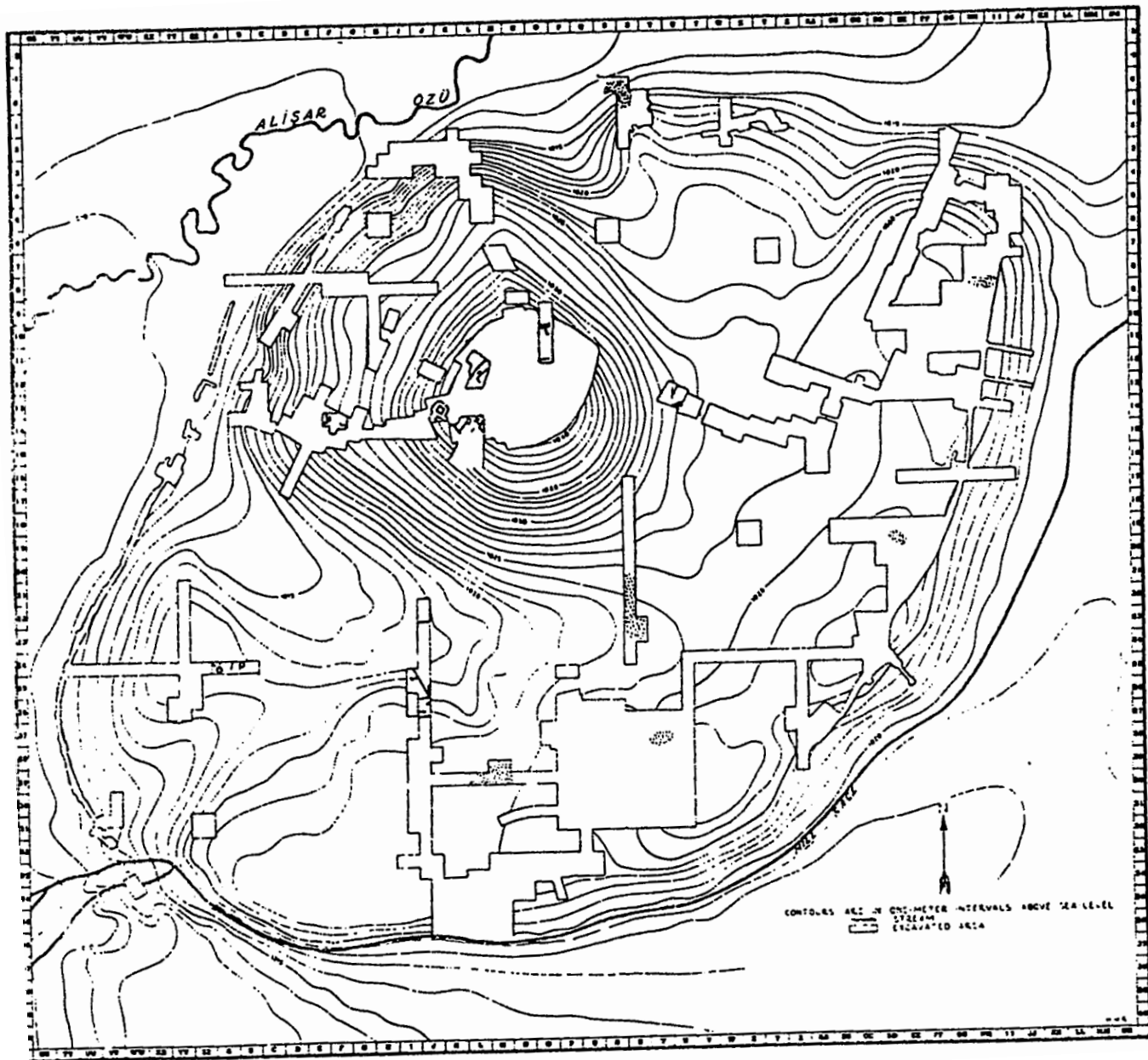


Plate 7. Plan of 12T

The 11T wall was built on the contours of the mound as in the early settlement (Pl. 6). Excavation photographs (OIP 29, fig. 43B, Fig. 45, fig. 313) show that an embankment-filling was made under the city wall on the slopes. This set may have a glacis-type (beveled) surface, but is uncertain as there are not many remains. This wall is dated by the ceramics found next to it.

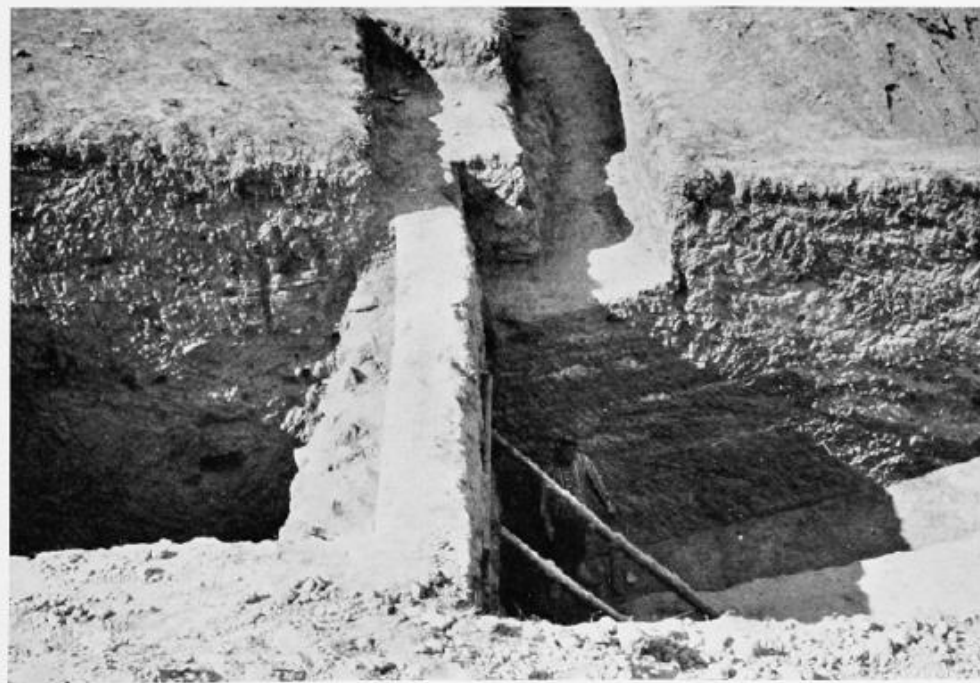


FIG. 45.—FRONT WALL OF THE BOX IN GG 17 AFTER EMPTYING OF BOX, SHOWING EMBANKMENT BEFORE IT

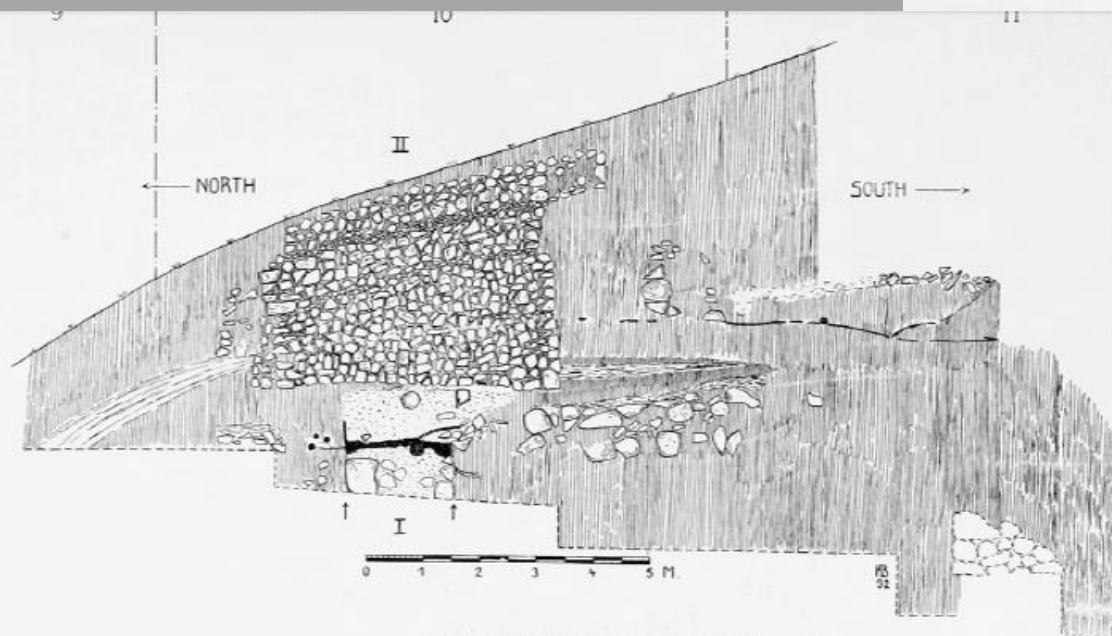


FIG. 313.—EASTERN PROFILE OF O 9-11. SCALE, 1:100

Three phased gates were discovered in grid-squares CC-DD24. Unlike the gates in the southwest, west and north, the wall is lower here. The southwestern gate is the highest.

The earliest of the structures in grid-squares CC-DD24 were dated by von der Osten to either the last phase of 11T or the first phase of 10T.

In the northeast corner of the terrace (Pl. 10-11, fig. 3), a two-phase false-arch weave technique was discovered. The first stage of this is 11T. As stated above, according to von der Osten's observations, the saw blade shaped wall technique gives way to the flat wall technique supported by plasters every 4 meters on both sides of the pottern. No explanation for this has been offered, but Gorny has gone for the comments here. According to von der Osten, this wall was built together with the original wall. but Gorny claims that this is not the case, that the potern was added to the wall later, and therefore the plain wall with plaster was added later.

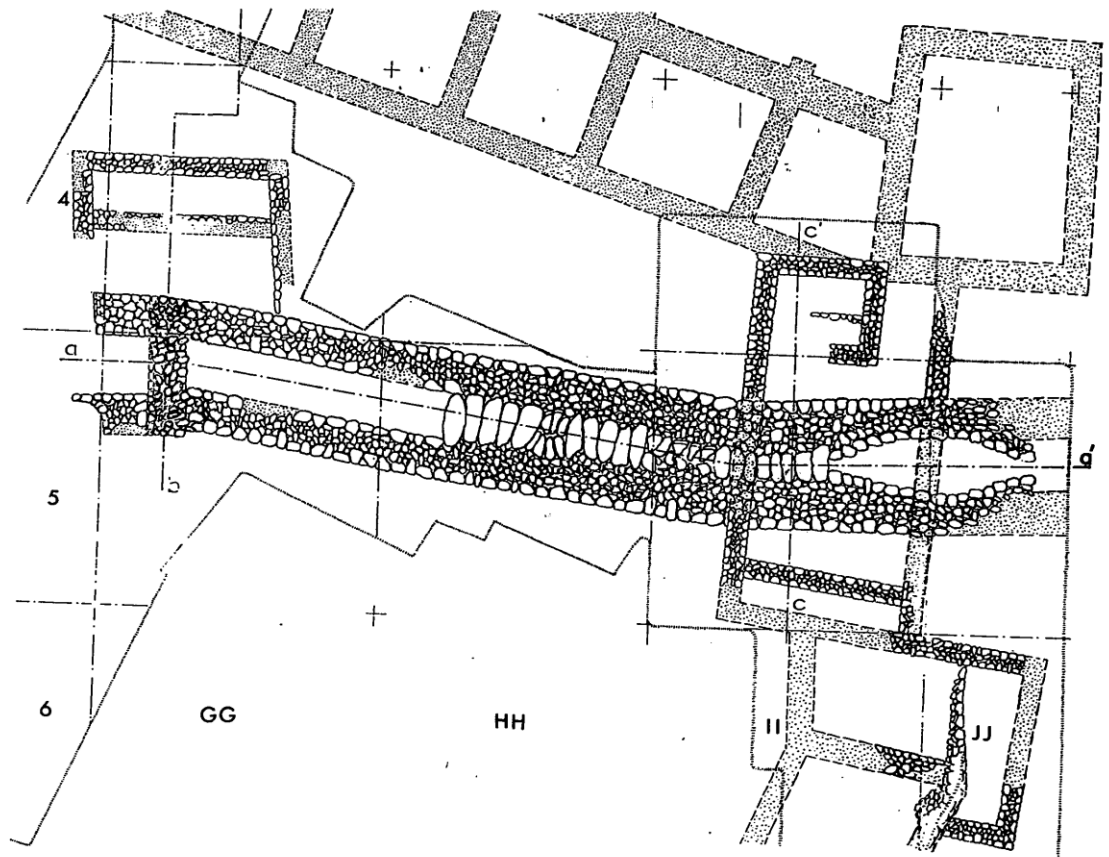


Plate 10. Plan of Postern Gate (Level 11T)

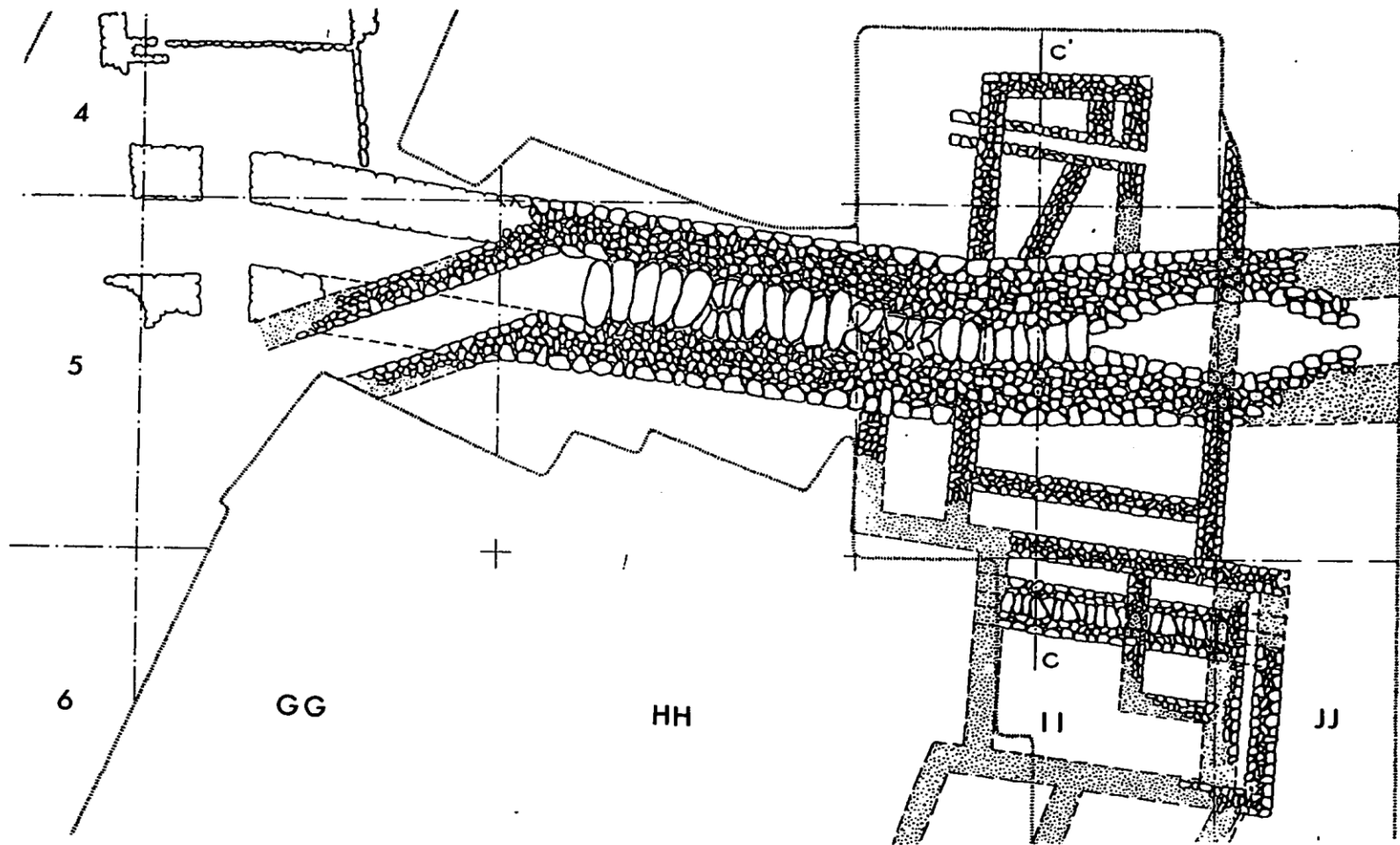


Plate 11. Plan of Postern Gate (Level 10T)

Level 2 of Complex I in grid-squares EE-HH/9-11 during the 1929 excavation belongs to 11T and therefore MBA II. Although this is one of the most important areas of the excavation, it is the least understood area (Pl. 14-15). In this area, the road running along the inside of the city wall provides communication with the areas in the north and south. It is difficult to understand its function since there are no finds inside.

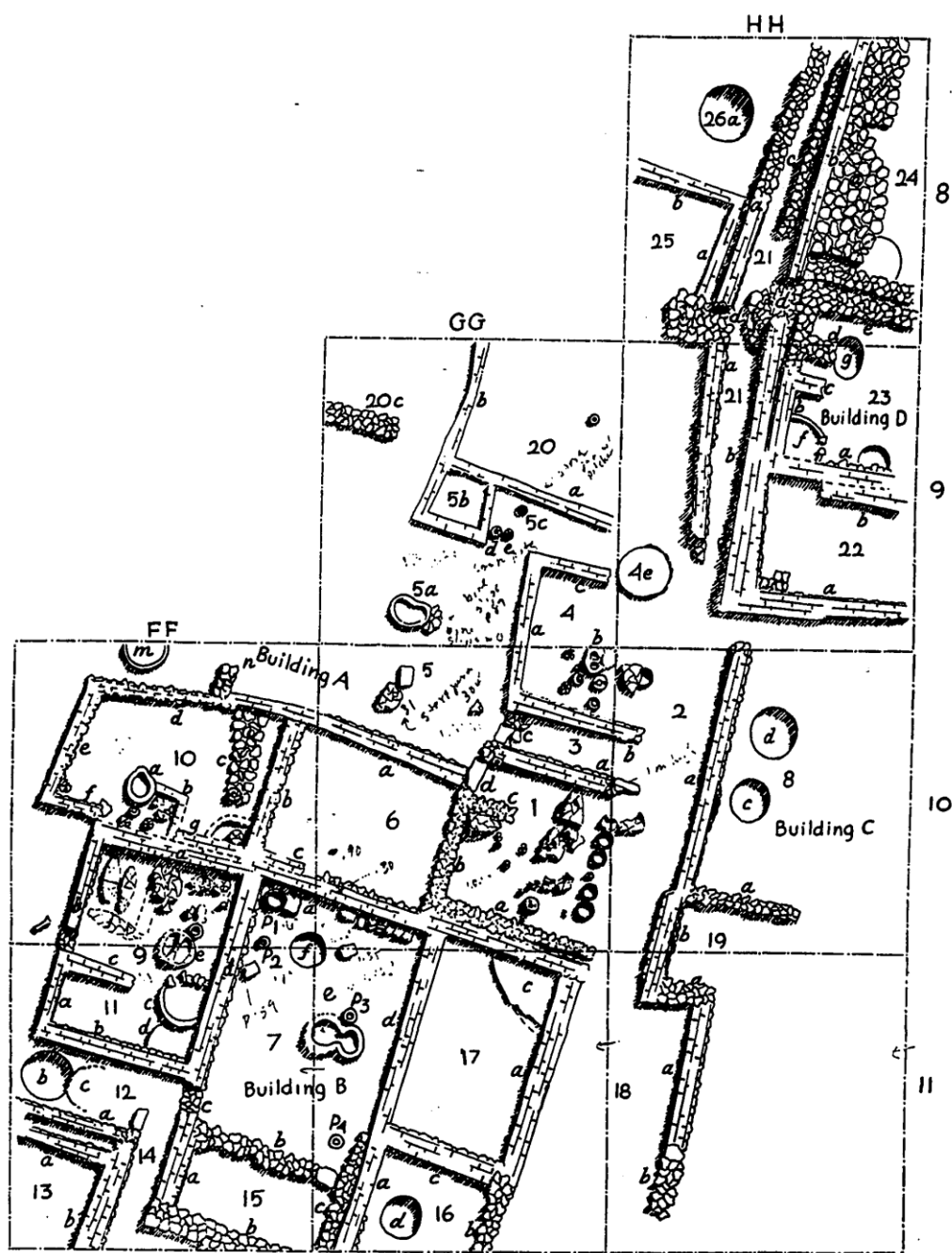


Plate 14. Plan of Complex I, Level 1

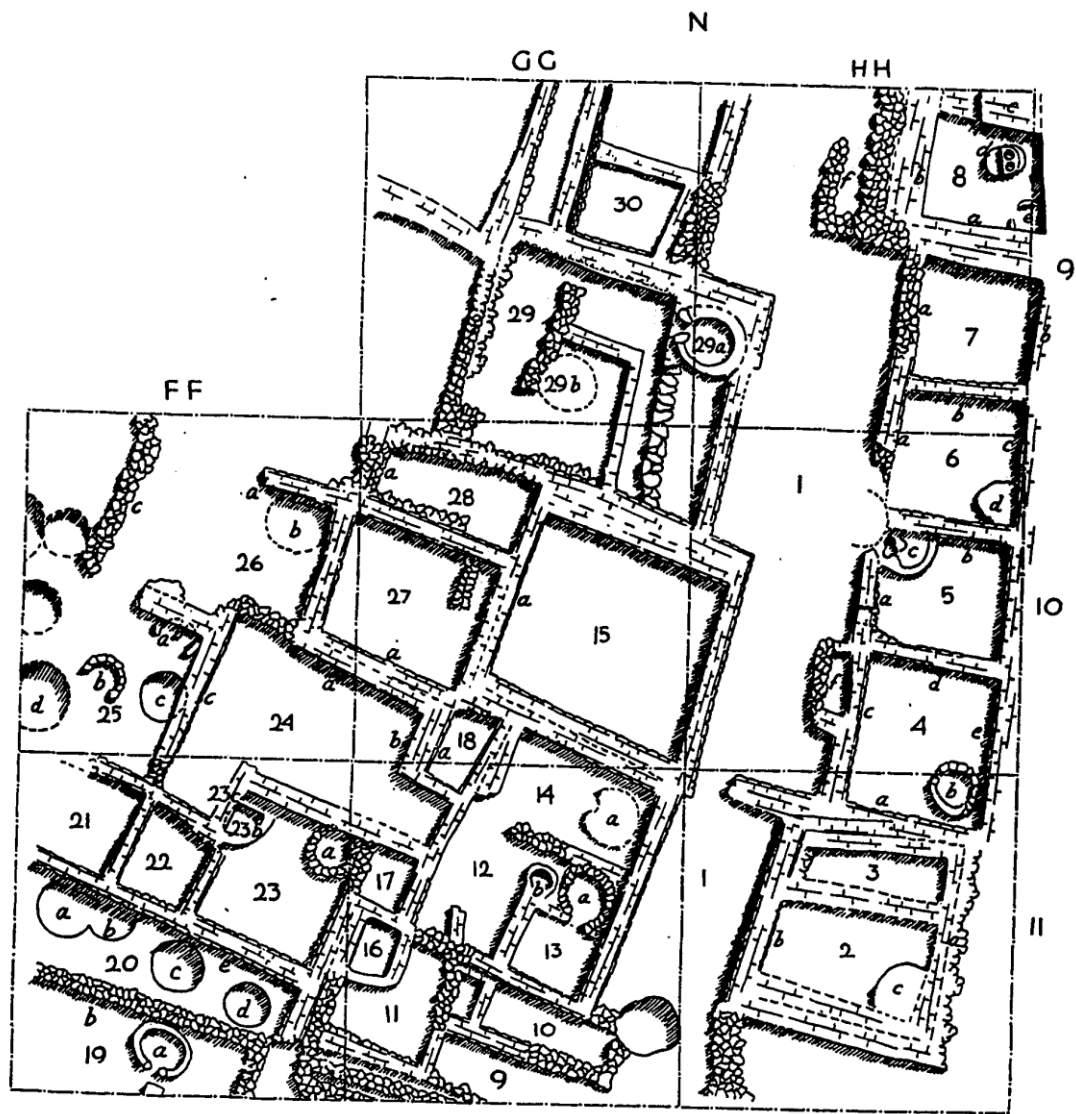
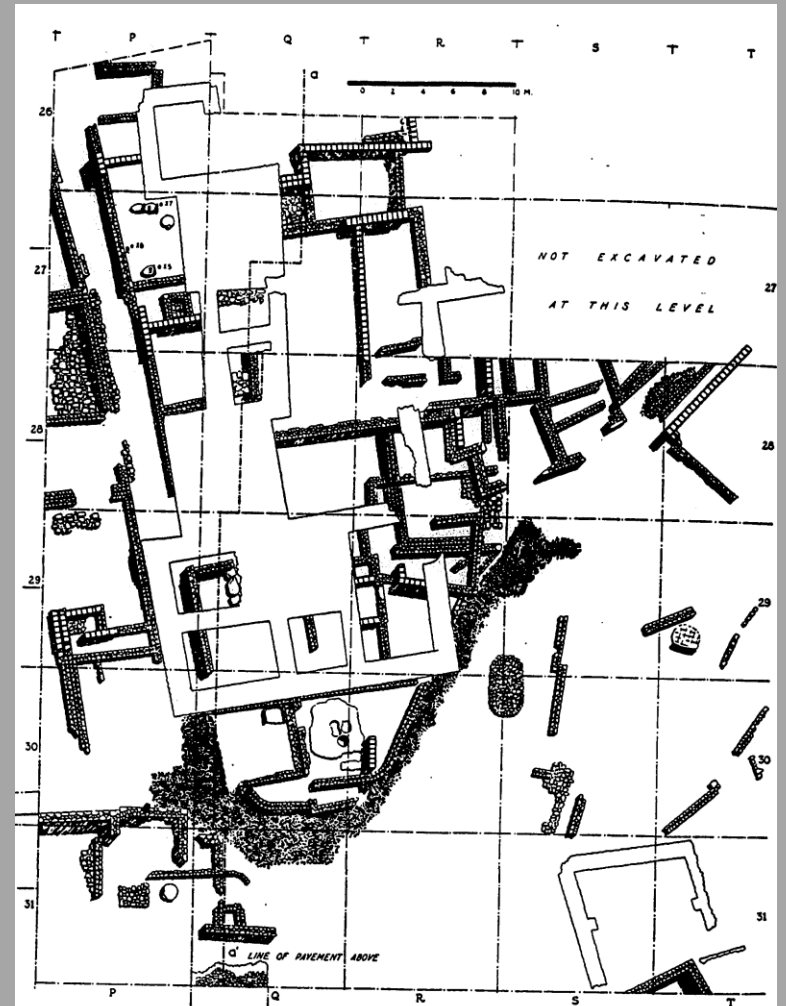
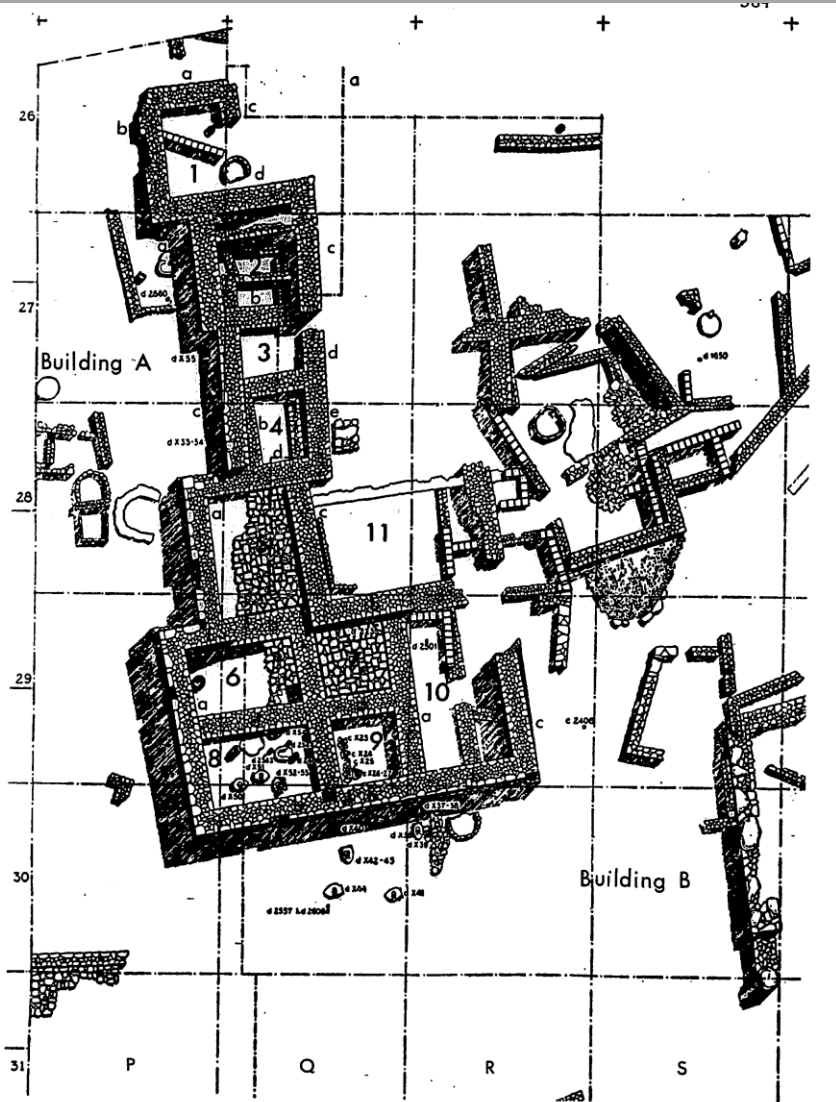


Plate 15. Plan of Complex I, Level 2

Although the remains of Level 11T of Complex I of the 1931 excavations (P-R/26-30) were destroyed by the late period Mansion structure, they constitute the largest area of the excavation (Pl. 18-19). The phases of this structure are important in that they show that 11T here had at least four building levels.



The north-south trench (Pl. 21, 77-78) in grid-square I-J/21-23 shows three secondary building levels, the earliest of which is dated to 11T. Numerous 1-3 chambered structures were unearthed here.

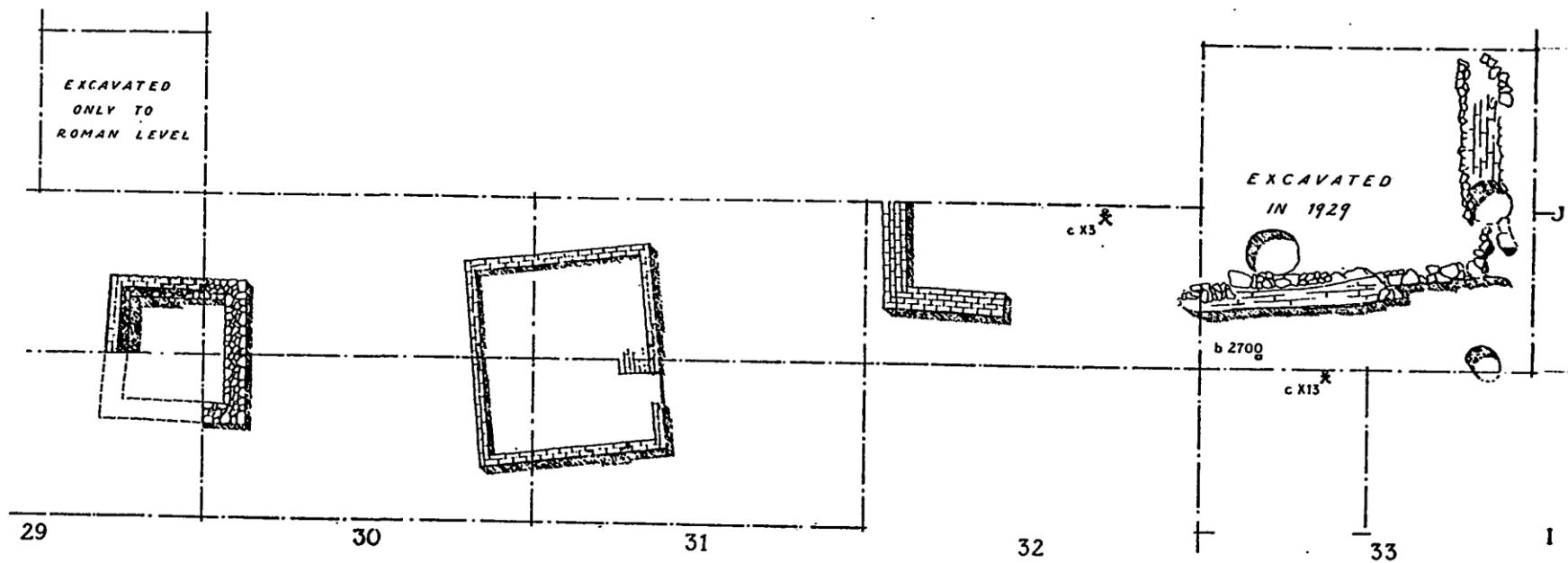


Plate 21. Plan of Square Structures in Squares I-J 29-33

MBA III

The MBA III phase is very intense at Alişar; it covers the mound and the entire terrace (fig. 3). On the terrace, MBA III is defined by 10cT. The later destruction of the mound makes it difficult to define this period.

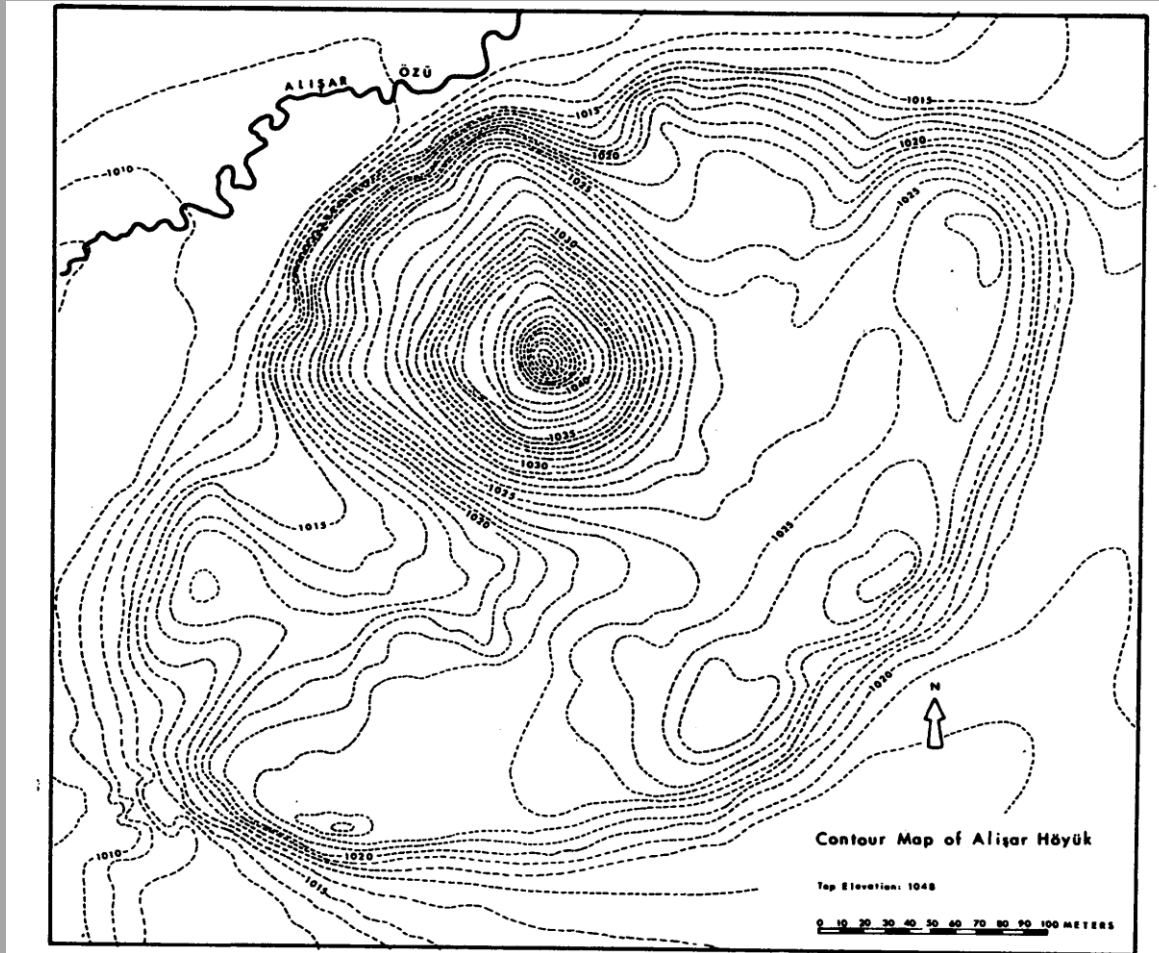


Plate 3. Contour Map of Alişar Höyük

The fortification wall at 10T on the terrace, its predecessor can be distinguished from the 11T walls (Pl. 7) by a thin layer of fill-rubble. It seems like not much time has passed.

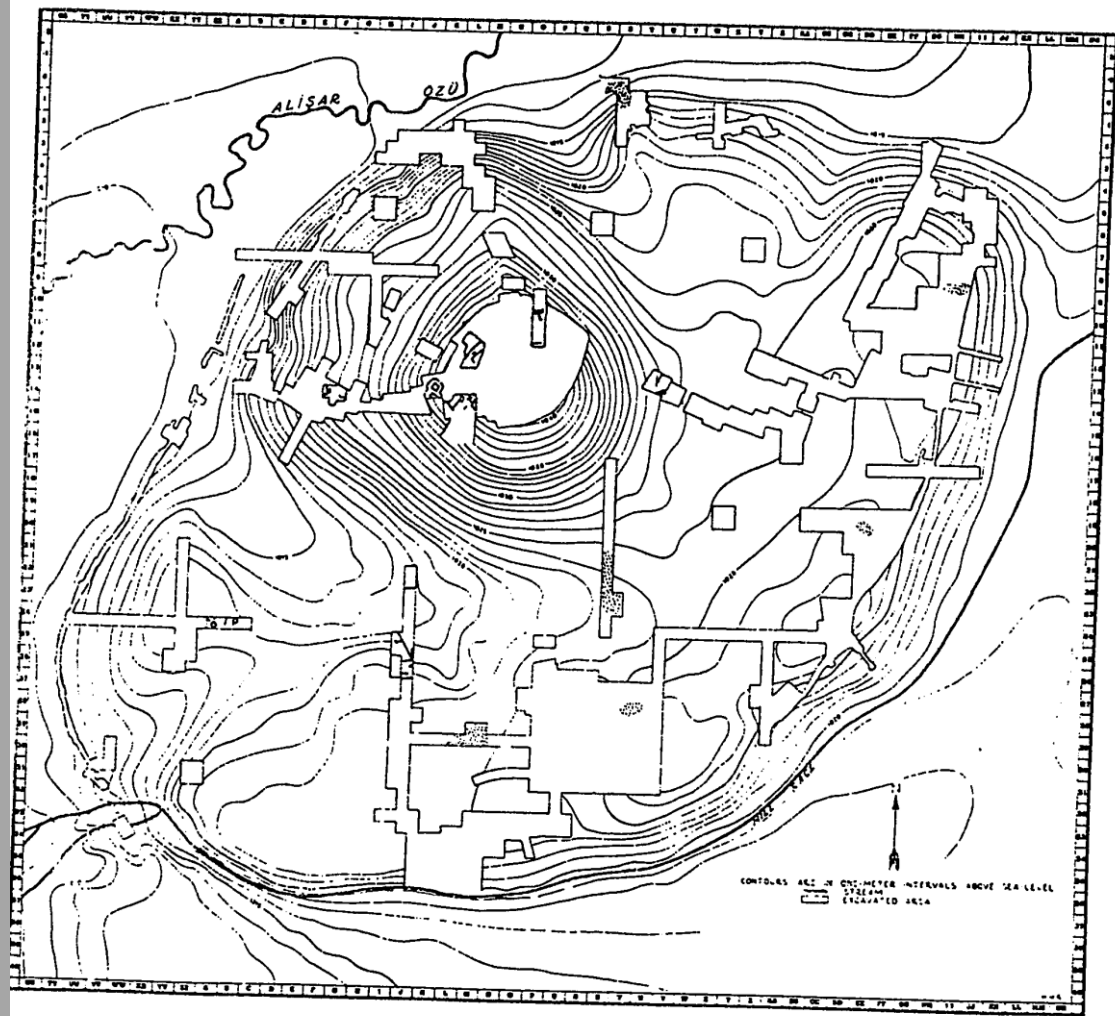


Plate 7. Plan of 12T

Numerous gates provide access to houses and shops within the city wall. It is difficult to say that most of them are contemporary with the city wall; they must have probably been made in the late karum phase. Such are the terrace doors in grid-squares XX-YY/16 in the west and R-T/0-2 in the north.

The West Gate was not completely excavated, its connection with the city wall suggests this.

The North Gate has two architectural phases. The first should belong to the 11T, and the second to the 10T.

The Southwest Gate on CC-DD/24 is the same. Doors with patterns in MBA II are discussed and these pottery also help to date the structure. The few information found on the buildings to the northeast on the terrace help them to be dated between MBA I and III. The Cappadocian pottery, which is not seen in the buildings to the north of the Pote, indicates that they were made late, after this pottery ceased to be used, that is, until the time of MBA III. All phases of pottery date to a later period than these buildings. Almost all of them belong to the end of MBA II and MBA III. Apparently, the gate was not used after the Late Bronze Age I, as it is not connected to a building from that period.

The south terrace door area in J-N-32-35 presents different problems. The gate here is not associated with ATCP structures. (Lev. 20 and 7) Gorny wants to date this door (south terrace door) to a later period. Regardless, the remains under the eastern part of this great gate belong to MBA III. These structures are securely dated by the ATCP tablets d 2200 and d 2500 found here.

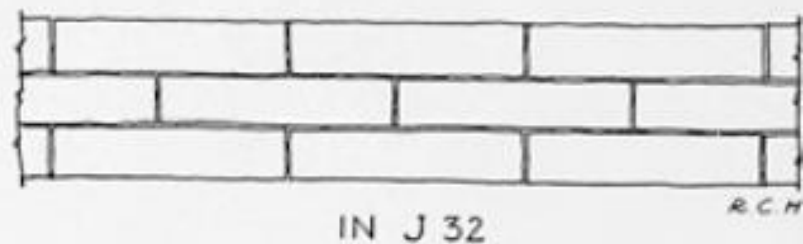
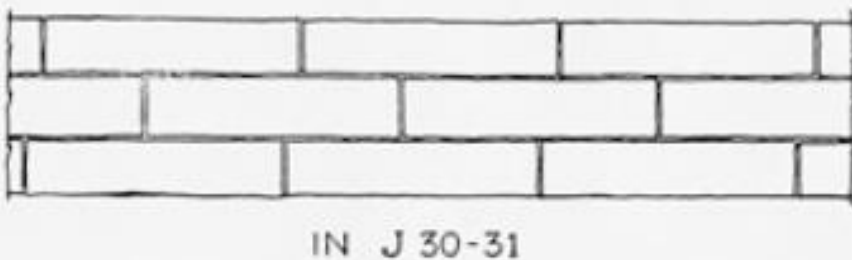
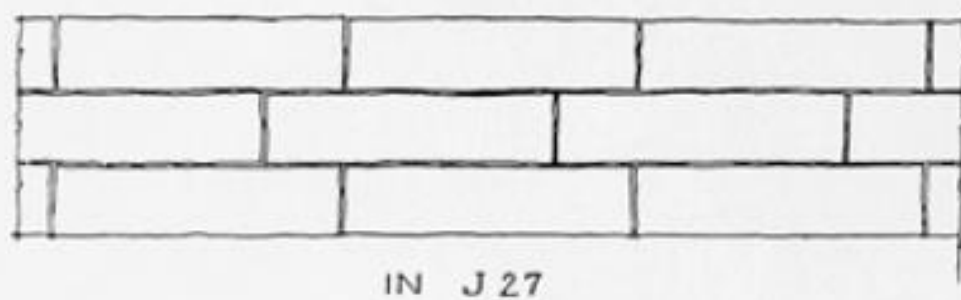


FIG. 1.—DRAWINGS OF MEASURED BRICKS IN THREE WALLS OF LEVEL 10 T. SCALE, 1:20

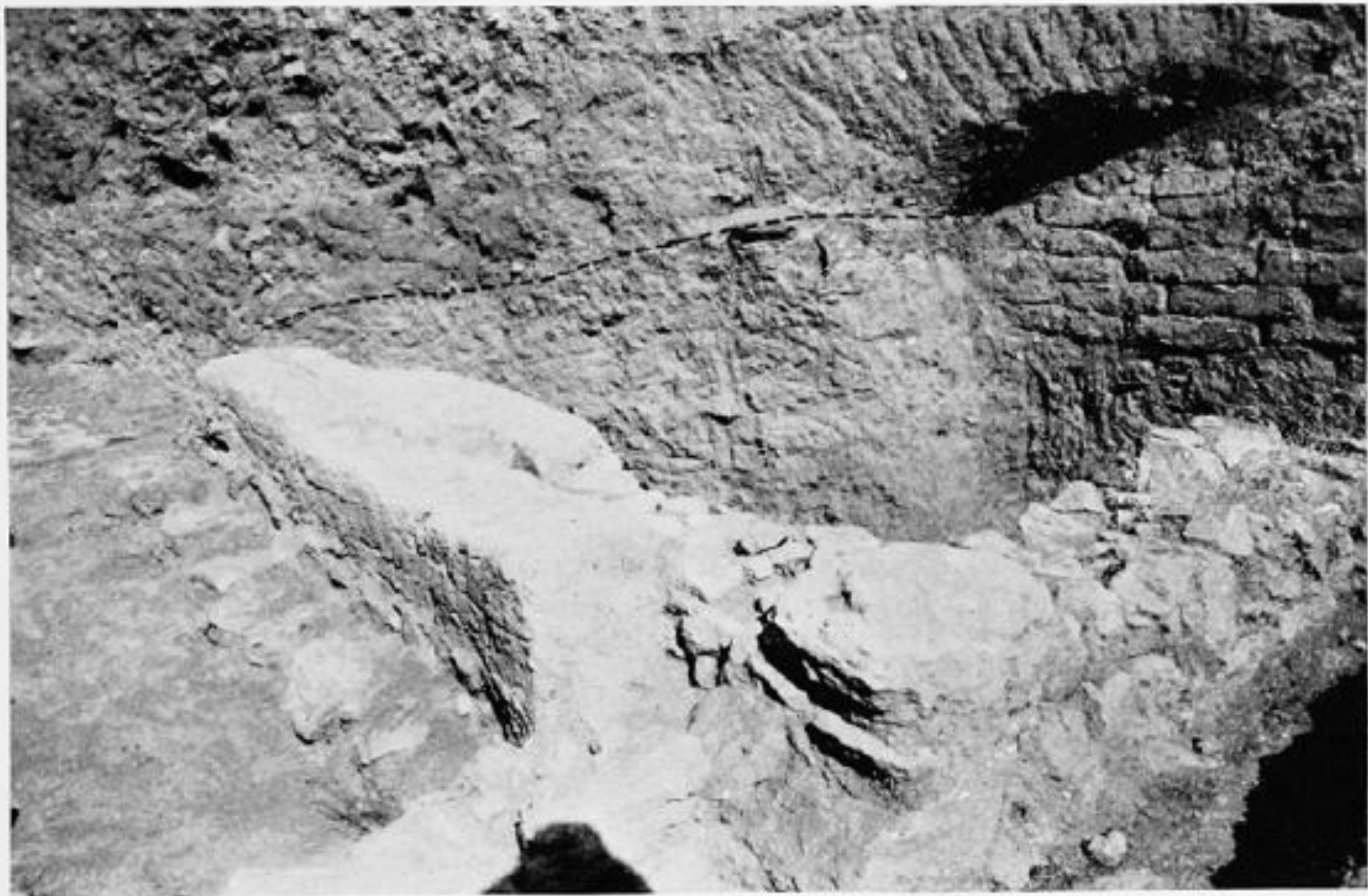


FIG. 2.—SECTION OF THE CITY WALL IN EE 21. DOTTED LINE SHOWS SURFACE OF FILLING AS PRESERVED ON THE SOUTHERN WALL OF THE PLOT



FIG. 3.—*Kerpiç*-LINED PIT IN A BOX OF THE CITY WALL IN GG-HH 13-14



FIG. 4.—FIREPLACE AND TAMPED *Kerpiç* FLOOR IN A BOX OF THE CITY WALL IN GG 17



FIG. 5.—AN OUTER WALL OF THE WEST TOWER OF THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY IN LEVEL 10 T



FIG. 6.—HEARTH IN LEVEL 11 T IN BB 24



FIG. 7.—ROOM IN LEVEL 10 T IN P 27 CONTAINING A FIREPLACE AND A LARGE VESSEL.



FIG. 8.—*Kerpic* Wall in the Oldest Sublevel of Level 10 T in S 28 and Superimposed Wall of the Latest Sublevel of Level 10 T, from West of North



FIG. 9.—FIREPLACE IN LEVEL 10 T IN R 28



FIG. 10.—DADO SLABS ON THE SOUTHERN FAÇADE OF THE MANSION OF LEVEL 10 T



FIG. 11.—FIRE POT IN MANSION OF LEVEL 10 T (IN P 20)



FIG. 13.—CHARRED REMAINS OF WOODEN GRILL USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF SOUTHERN WALL OF MANSION OF LEVEL 10T



FIG. 14.—RUBBLE PAVEMENT IN LATEST SUBLEVEL OF LEVEL 10 T IN S 28-29



FIG. 15.—*Kerpig* DOOR SOCKET WITH STONE CENTER
IN LEVEL 10 T IN U 30



FIG. 16.—MARBLE DOOR SOCKET IN LEVEL 10 T IN
U 31



FIG. 18.—FALLEN *Kerpiç* WALL IN LEVEL 10 T IN M 33

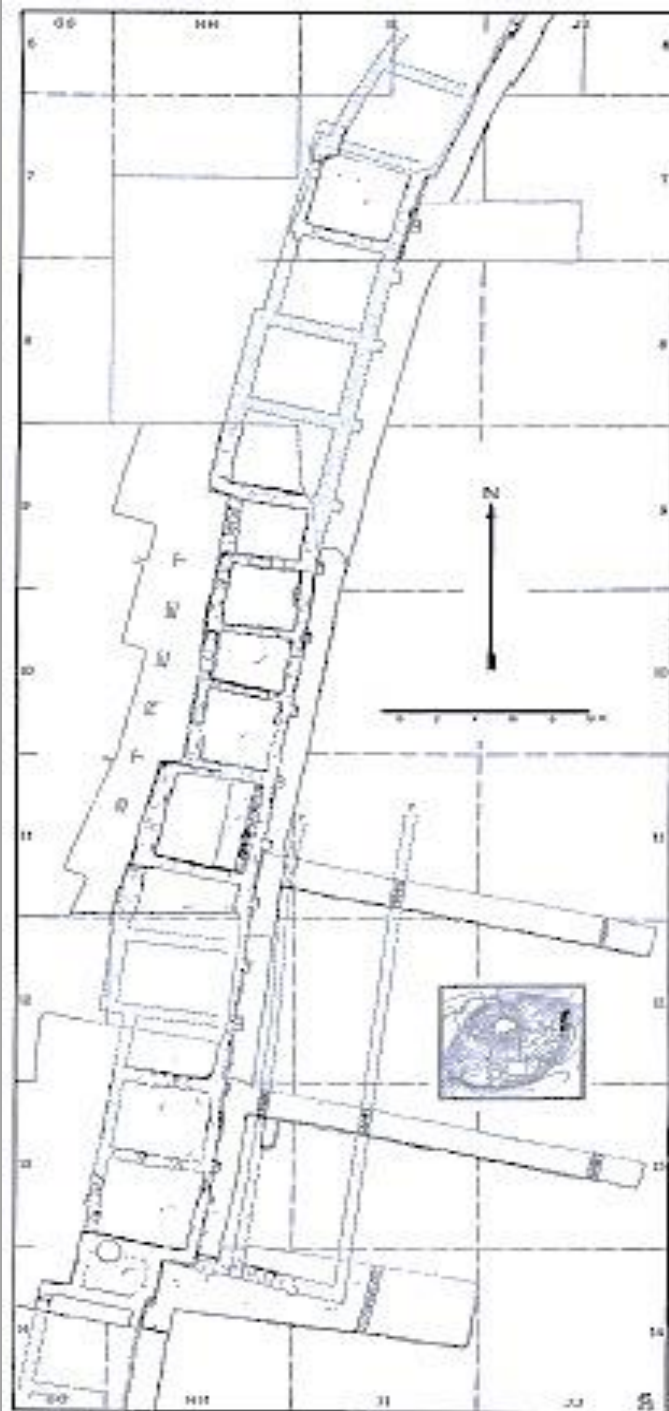


Fig. 16.—Plan of the Palace of the Herods, Section 14 115-16-18114. (Reproduced from *Plan of Jerusalem*.)

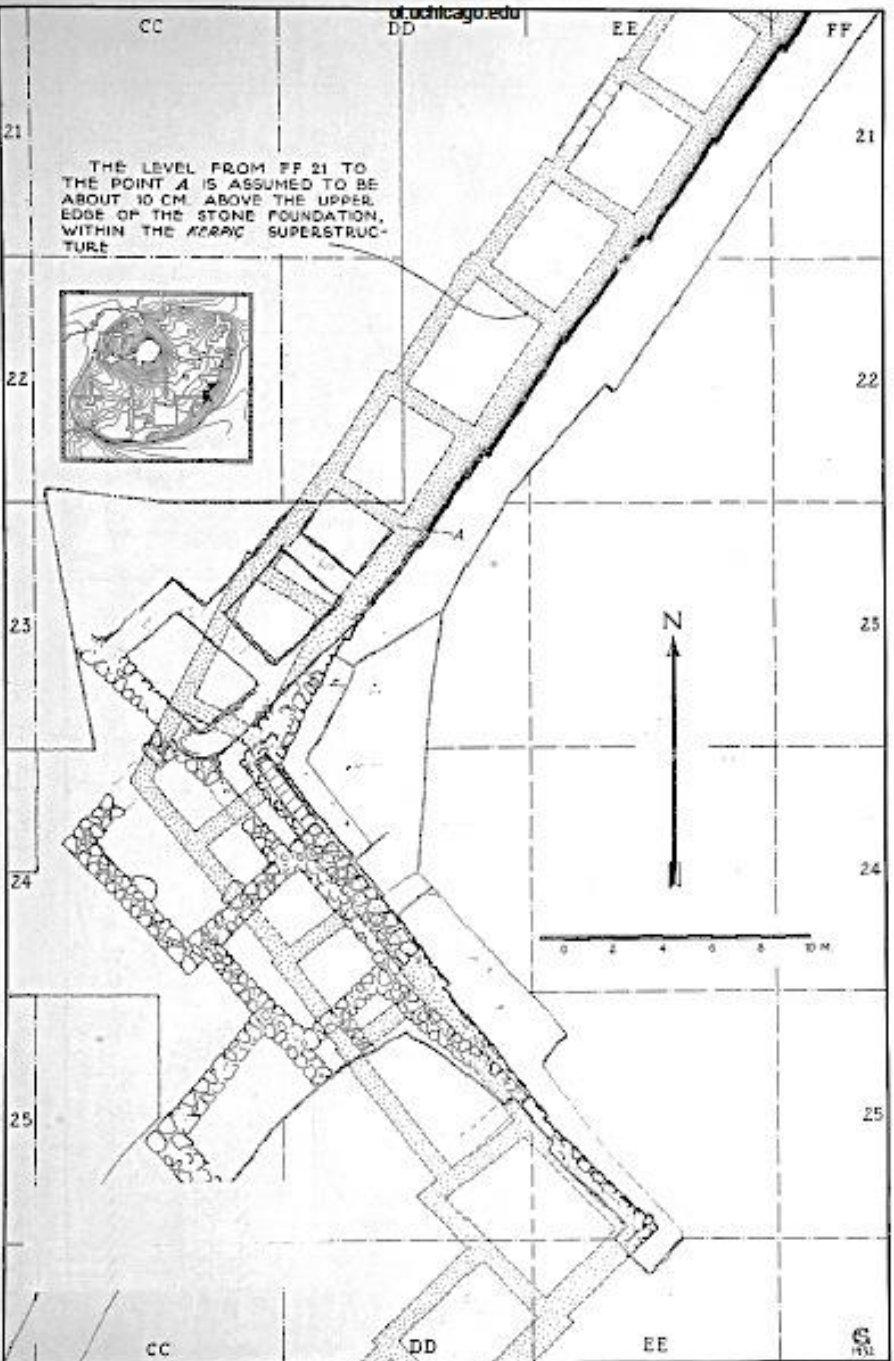


FIG. 21.—PLAN OF CITY WALL IN EE-FF 21-EE 24 (SP. FIG. 55). RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1:200

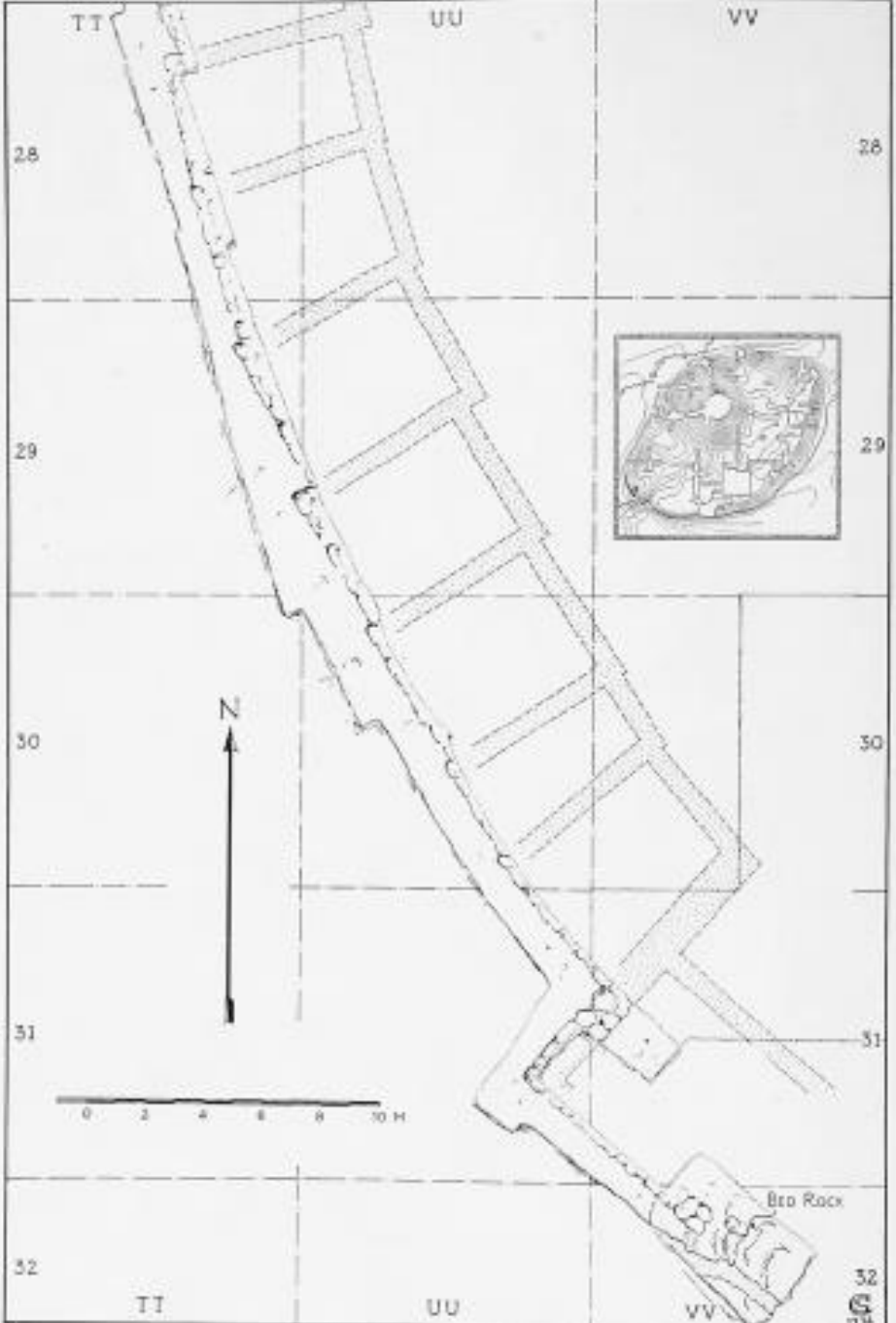


FIG. 22.—PLAN OF CITY WALL IN TT 28-VY 32. RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1:200

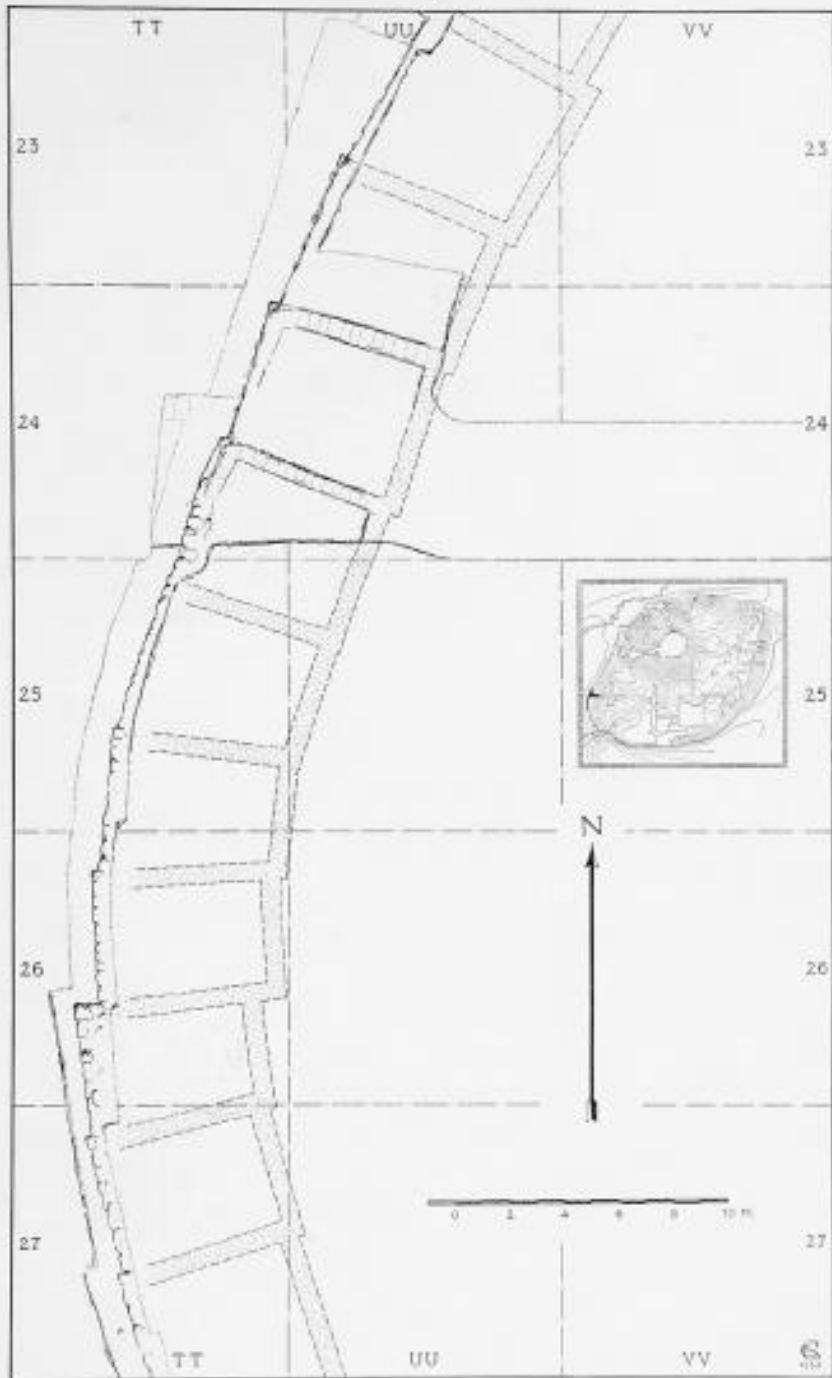


FIG. 23.—PLAN OF CITY WALL IN UU 23-TT 27. RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1:200

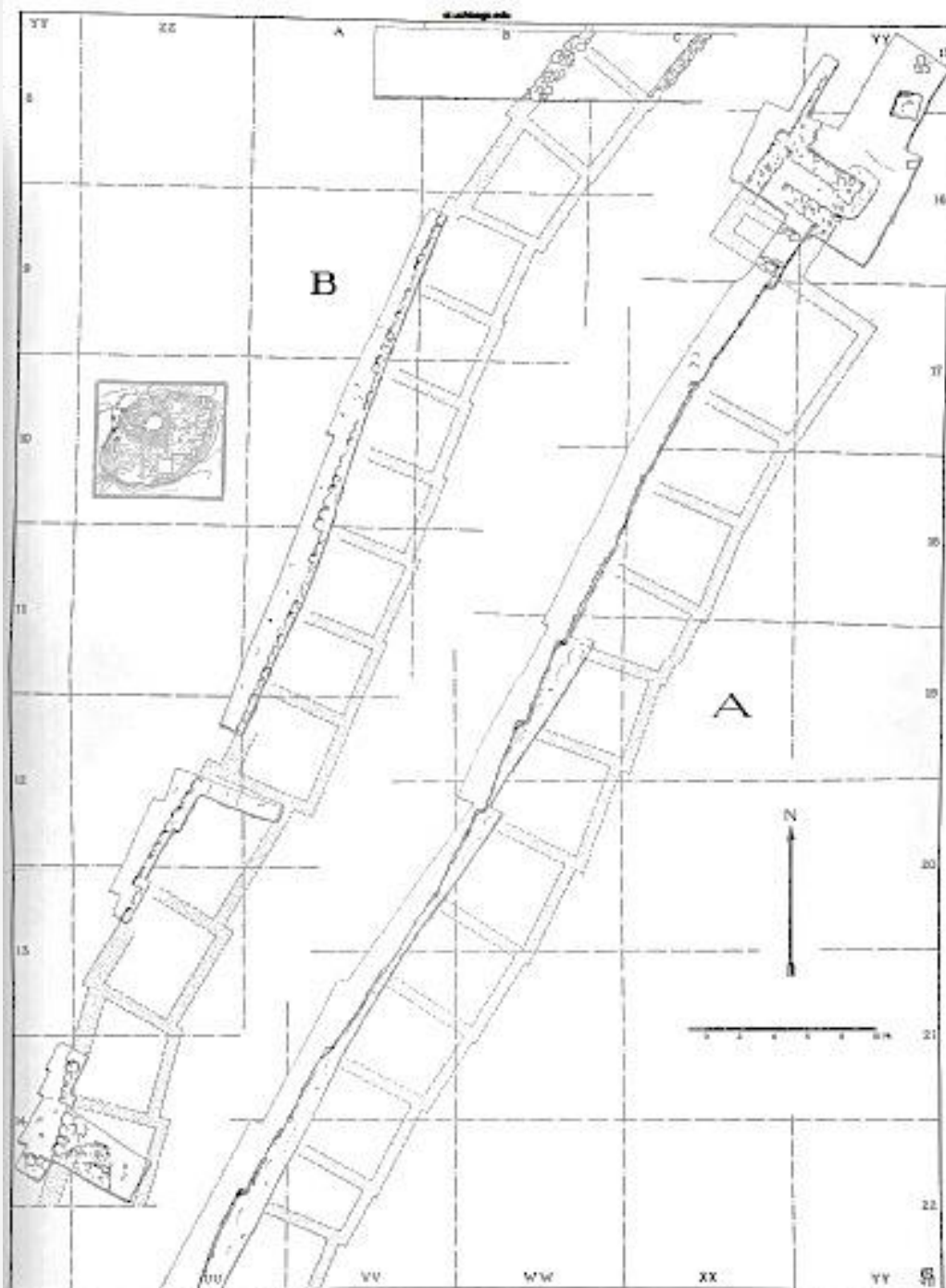


FIG. 24.—A. PLAN OF CITY WALL IN YY 15-TT 22. B. PLAN OF CITY WALL IN S-CX-YY 22-15. RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1:200

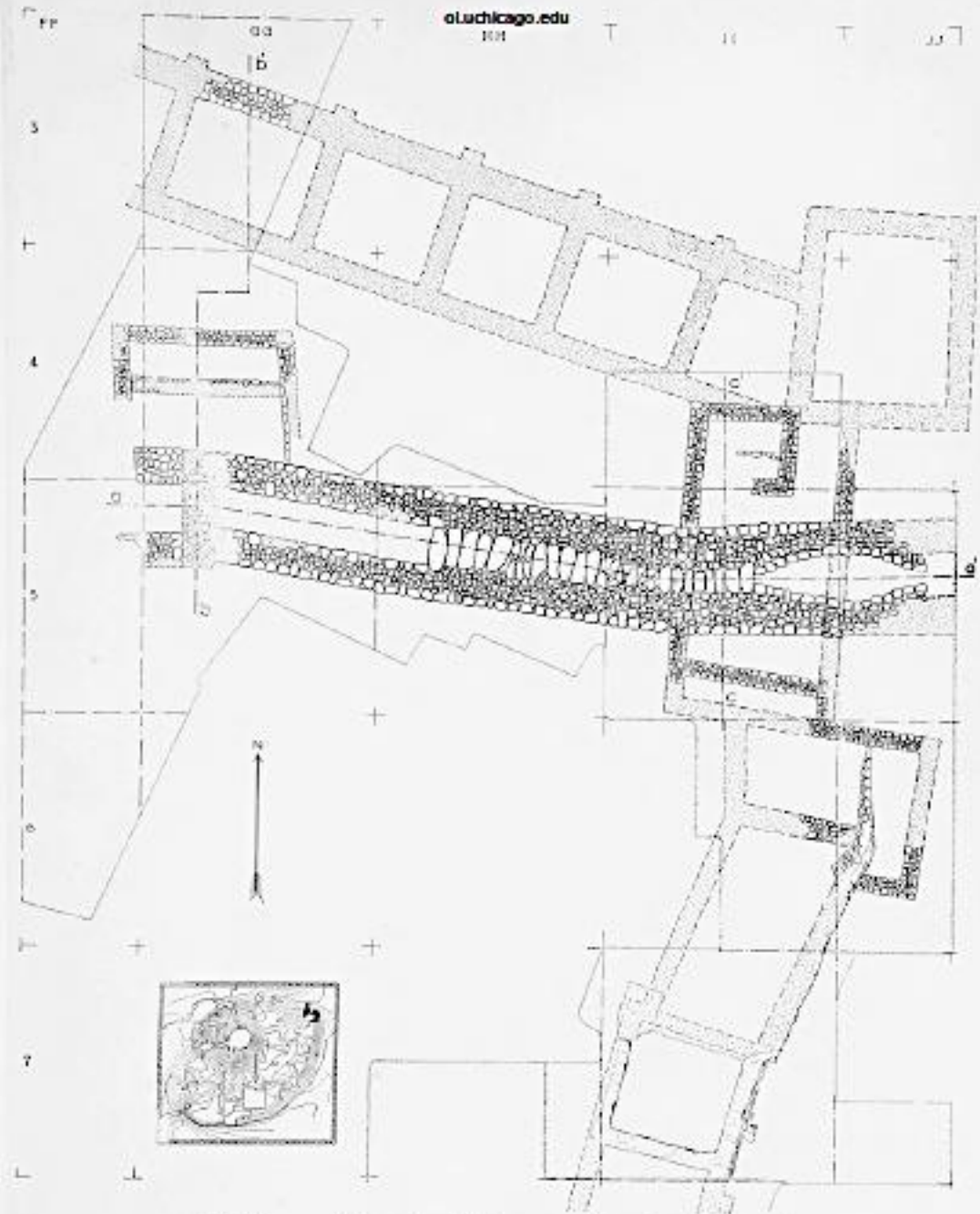


FIG. 27.—PLAN OF THE PARTHENON, LEVEL II T. RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1/200

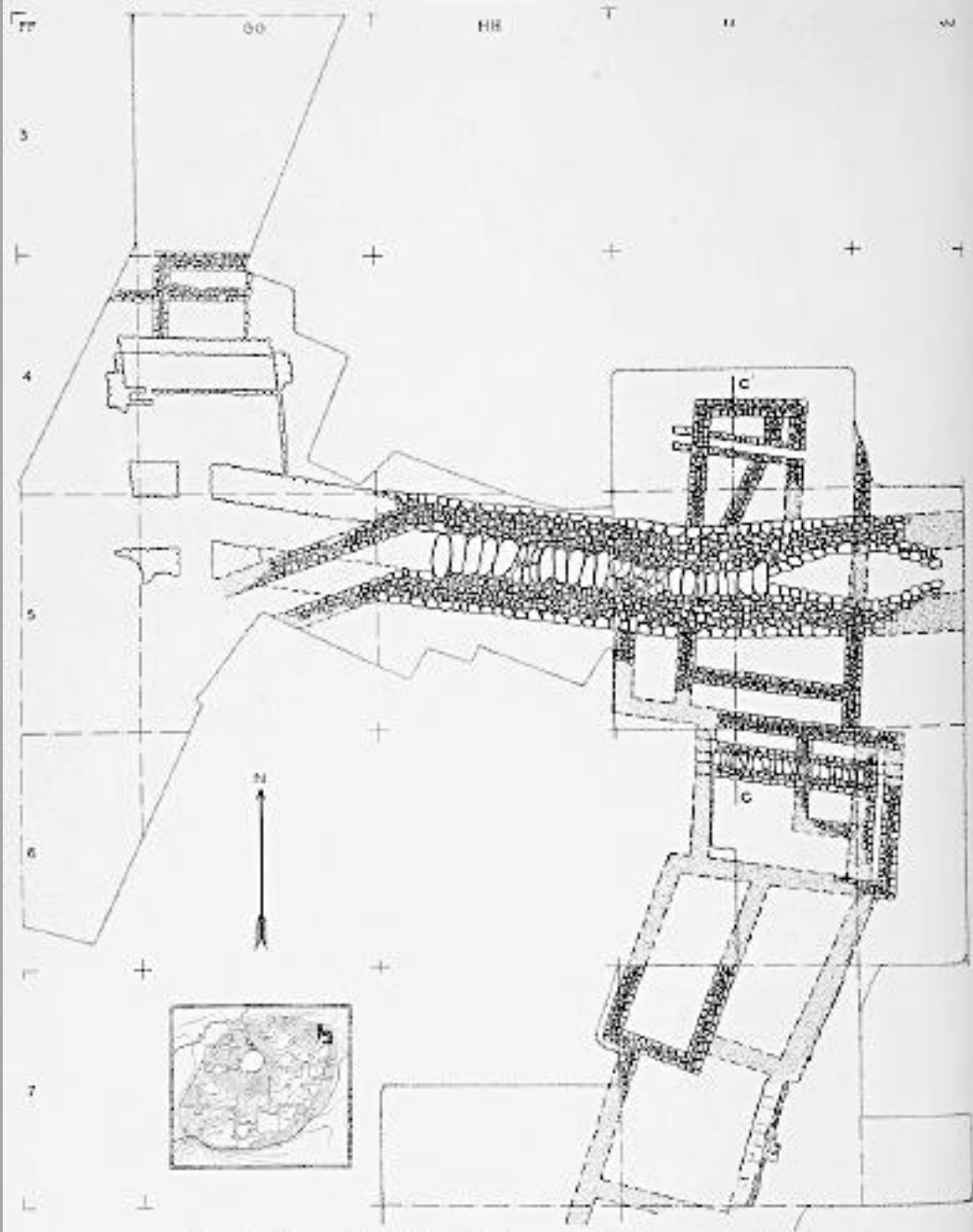


FIG. 25.—PLAN OF THE PARTHENON, LEVEL 10 T. RECONSTRUCTED PARTS STIPPLED. SCALE, 1:200

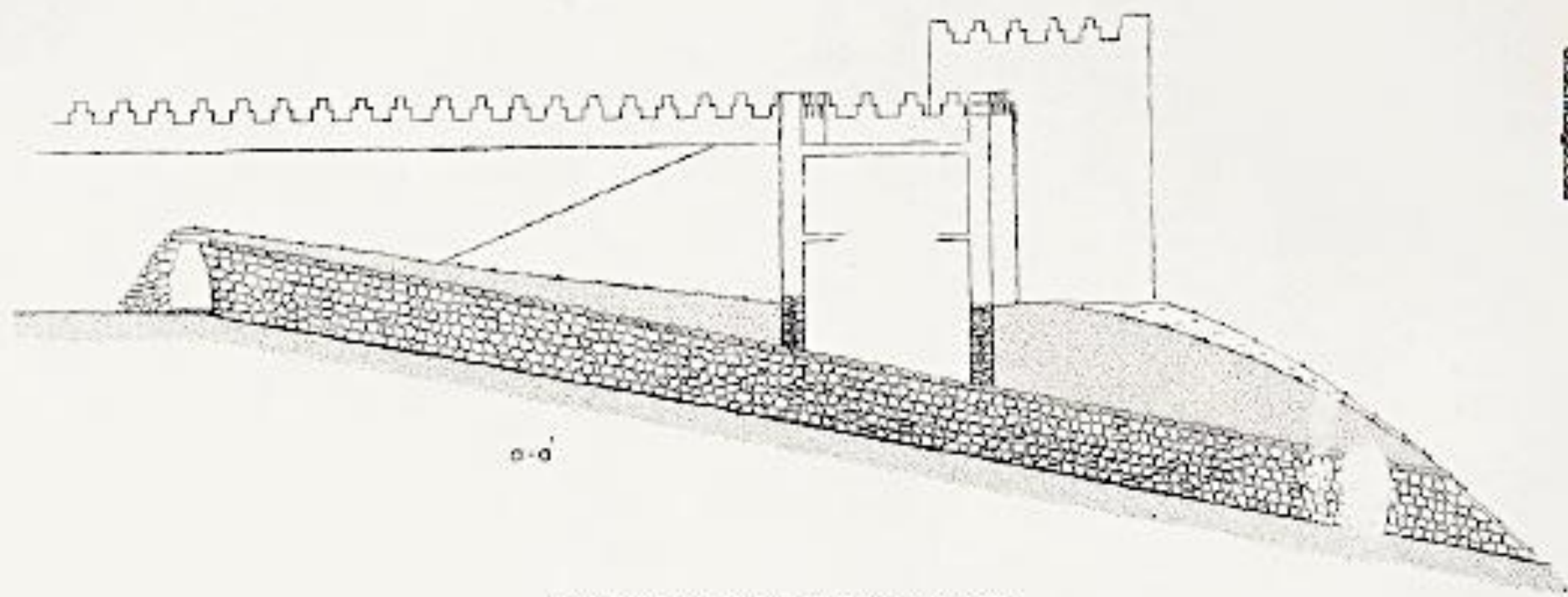
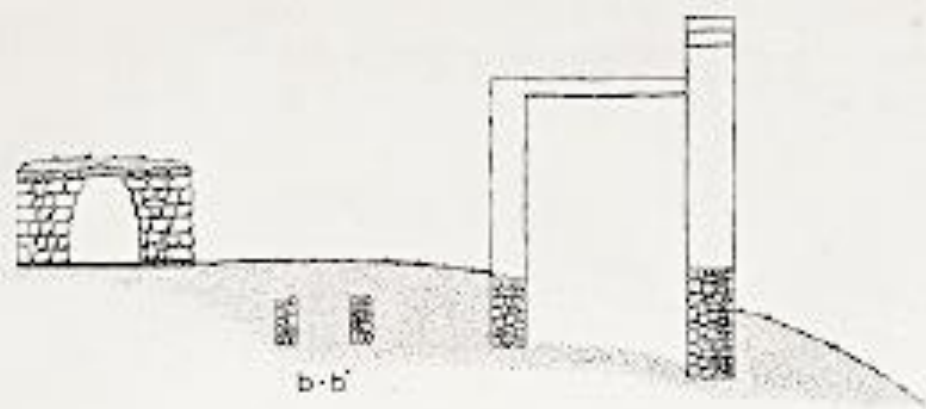


FIG. 25.—SECTIONS THROUGH THE FORTIFY. SCALE, 1:200

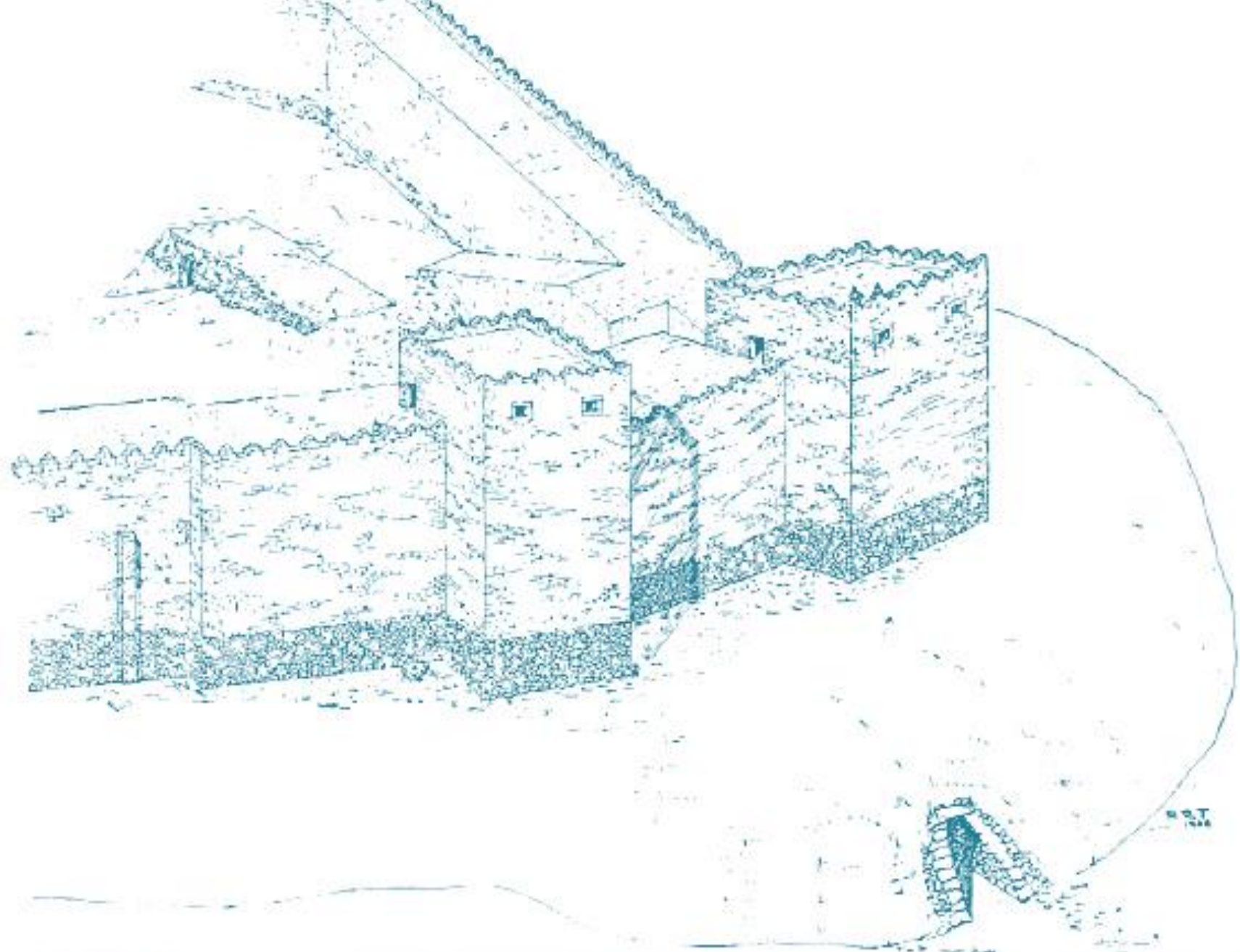


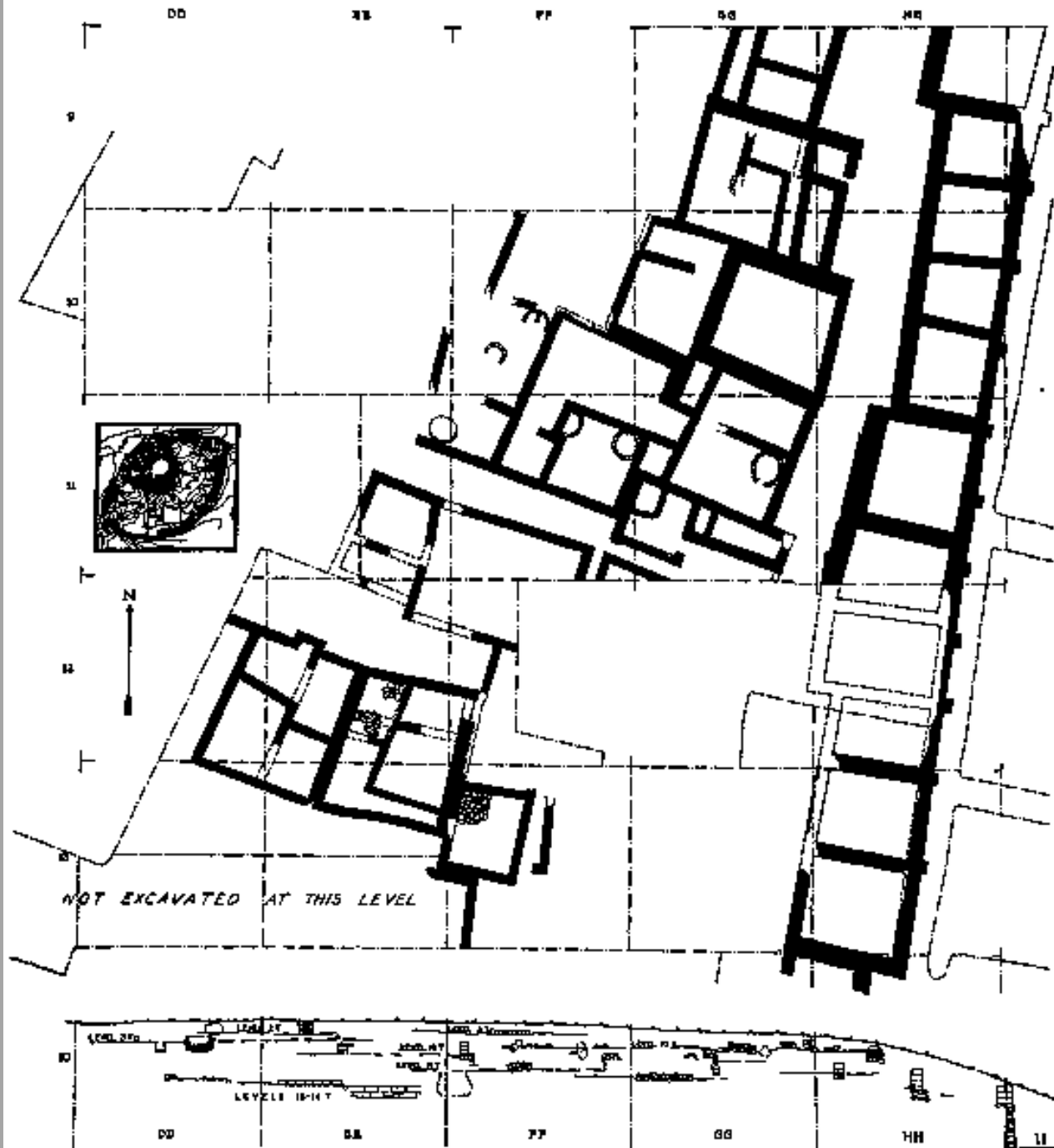
FIG. 30.—RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE CITY FORTIFICATION, INCLUDING POSTERN OF LEVEL II T



FIG. 31.—POSTERN FROM EAST-NORTHEAST, SHOWING NEW ENTRANCE CUT IN SOUTH WALL OF PASSAGE DURING PERIOD OF LEVEL 10 T



FIG. 34.—STREET LEADING TOWARD THE WALL STREET IN COMPLEX I OF 1929



Pl. 25.—A. Plan of Level II-T ("Level 9" or 1000) of Colosseum I of 1000 and of Plans II-VII of 1607. B. Cross-Section of Colosseum I of 1000, Eastern Axis with Levels Formed Therein. Scale, 1:200.



FIG. 49.—ORIGINAL OUTER FACE OF CITY WALL (c) AND TWO REBUILDINGS (a-b) ALONG COMPLEX II OF 1929 (FF 19-EE 21), SEEN FROM SOUTH



FIG. 39.—CUT IN HH-JJ 11-12, FROM EAST

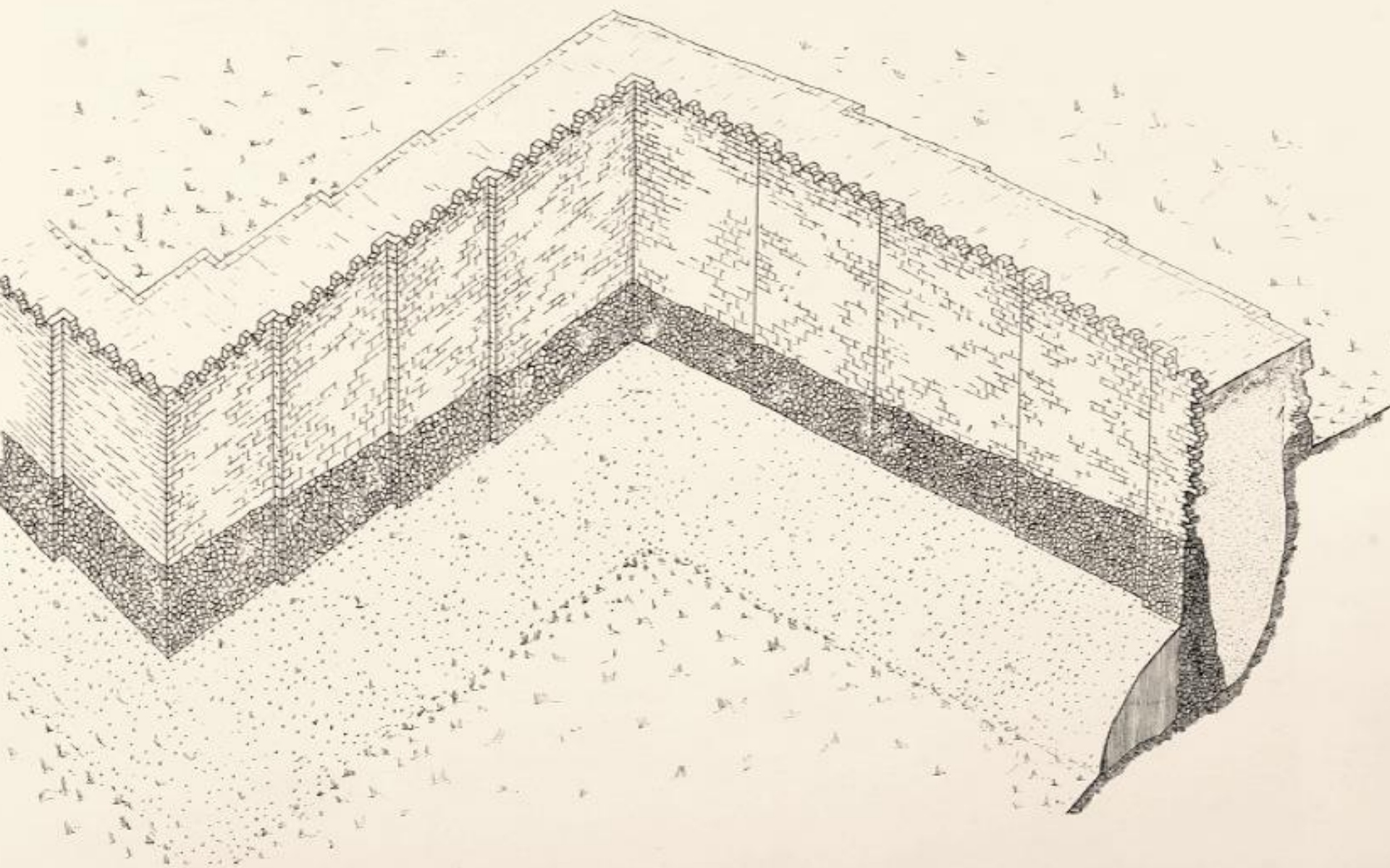
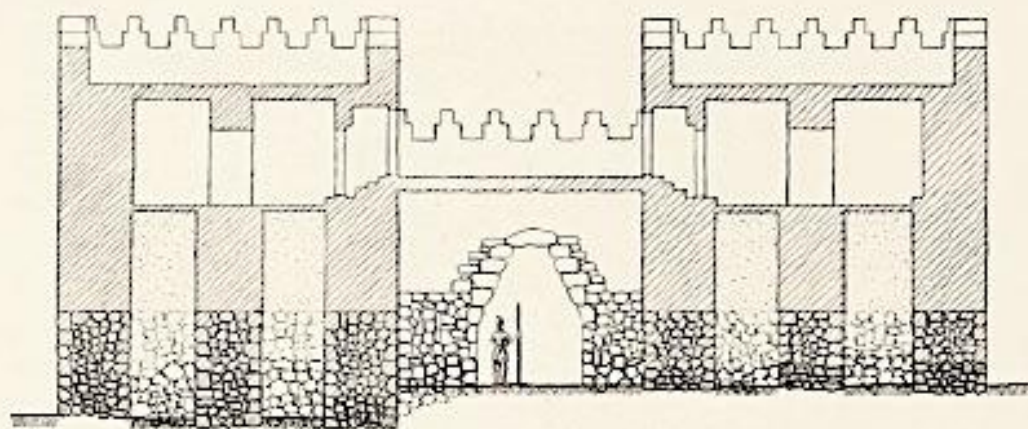


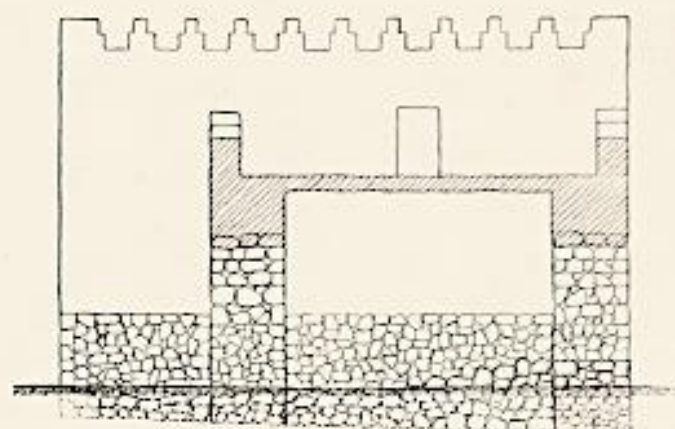
FIG. 52.—TENTATIVE RECONSTRUCTION OF ORIGINAL CITY WALL IN EE 26-EE 22



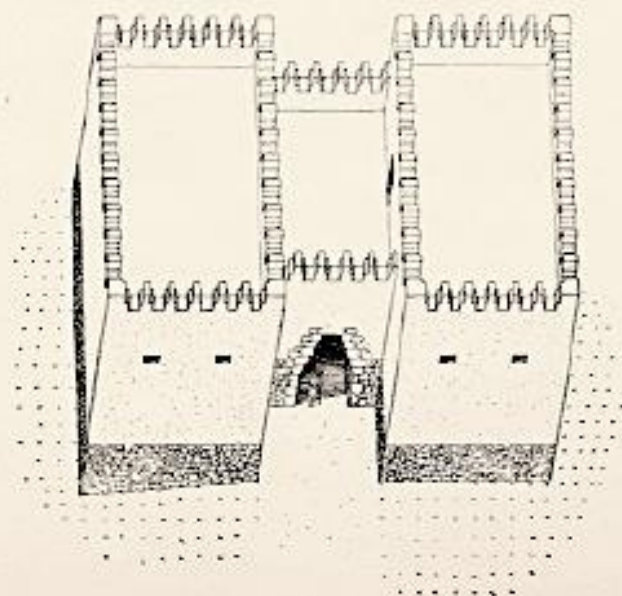
FIG. 75.—ROOM OF LEVEL 11 T IN P 27 CONTAINING BURIALS e X5-7, FROM WEST



A



B



C

FIG. 89.—SOUTHERN GATEWAY OF LEVEL 10 T. A. CROSS-SECTION, WEST-EAST. B. CROSS-SECTION, SOUTH-NORTH. C. RECONSTRUCTION. SCALE OF A-B, 1:200

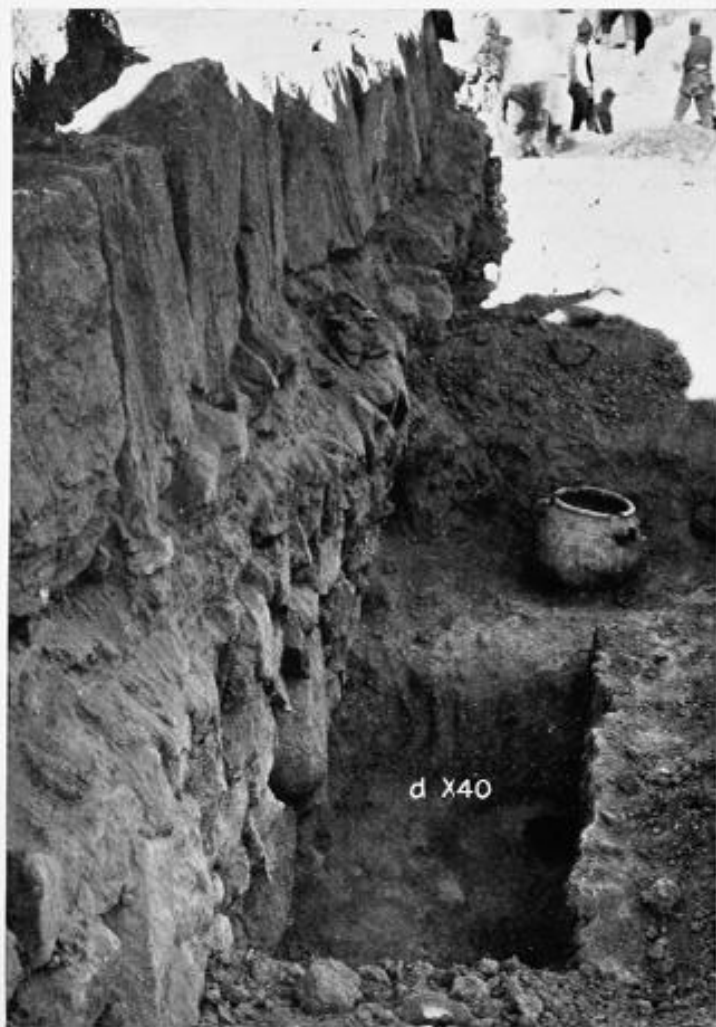


FIG. 71.—SOUTHERN FAÇADE OF MANSION (AT LEFT) AND EARLIEST SUBLEVEL OF LEVEL 10 T



FIG. 72.—STREET AND BUILDING REMAINS OF LEVEL 11 T SOUTH OF MANSION OF LEVEL 10 T, SEEN FROM WEST



FIG. 73.—SOUTHWEST ROOM IN MANSION, FROM NORTHEAST



FIG. 74.—STONE-PAVED ROOM IN MANSION, FROM NORTH



FIG. 75.—ROOM OF LEVEL II T IN P 27 CONTAINING BURIALS e X5-7, FROM WEST



FIG. 76.—ROOM IN P 27 WITH BURIALS e X5-7 UNCOVERED, FROM WEST



FIG. 90.—SOUTHERN GATEWAY OF LEVEL 10 T, FROM WEST



FIG. 91.—WESTERN TOWER OF SOUTHERN GATEWAY, FROM NORTH

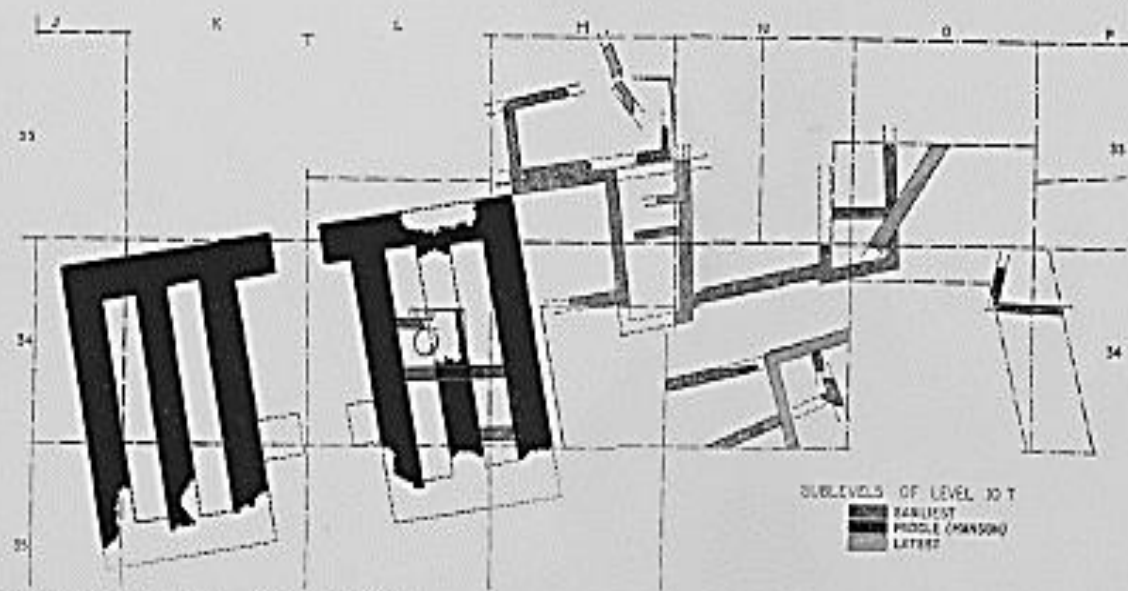
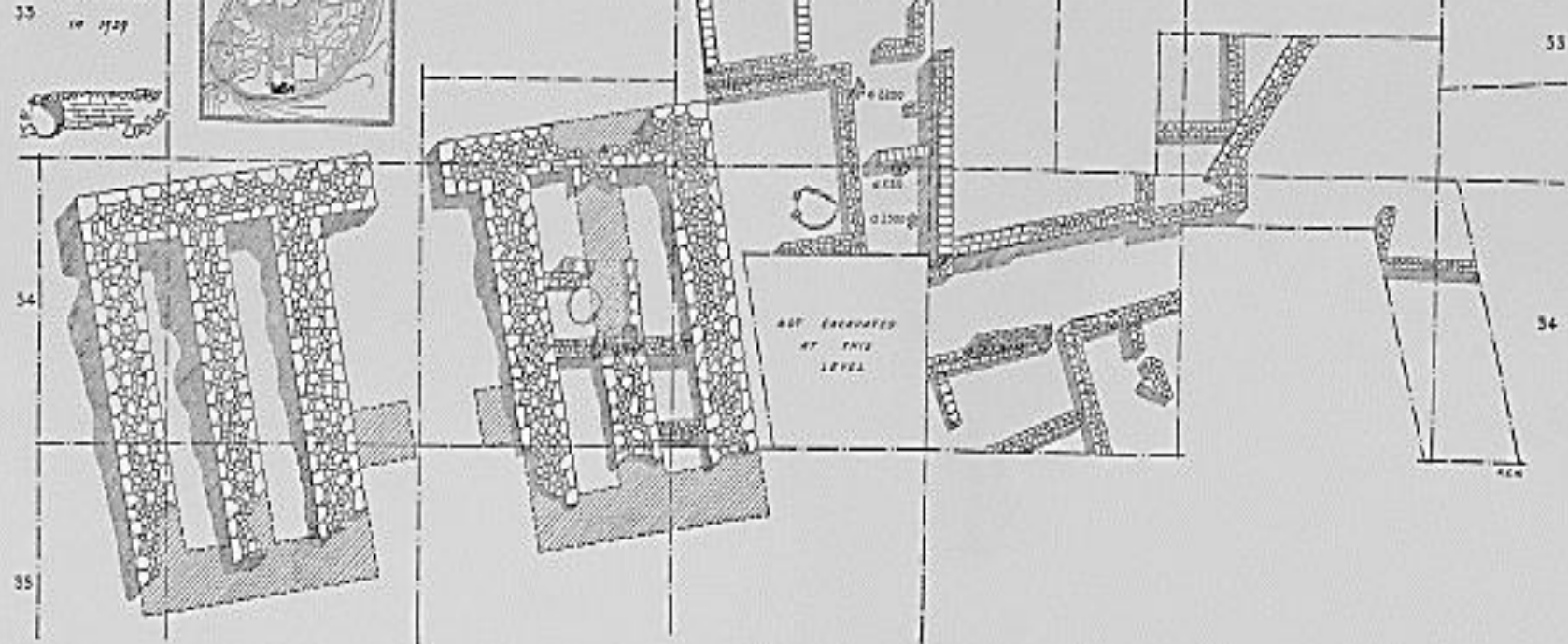


FIG. 81.—THE EXCAVATED AREAS OF LEVEL 30 T IN J-P 33-35 SOUTHWEST OF THE COMPLEX OF 1031. PLAN, SCALE, 1:200. B. KEY TO THE STULSVELLA. SCALE, 1:200