

SECTION E, N, H

1952

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Section N

General Stratification. The area was tremendously disturbed by quantities of late pits, bothroi and walls. The Late Roman level, which we found only immediately west of the pp.1620 ff. Gymnasium Apse, was 0.40 - 0.60 m. of 5th - 6th century A.D. fill. Below this, throughout the entire area, we had a p.1880 deep Roman filling of the 1st to 3rd centuries A.D. In the southern part of the section this went all the way to bedrock. Its depth varied with the contours of bedrock beneath; where rock rose high, fill was shallower, and conversely. It seemed to have been deposited as part of a landscaping project, turning the area west of the Odeion into a level plateia.

In the northern part of the section, below this 1st-3rd century fill, was a thin skin of earth over bedrock. This seemed to belong to the 1st century A.D., and of course contained some earlier sherds. Again a leveling off process seems to be involved.

pp.1647,  
1802 ff. Earlier fills, except for one or two small patches, were found only in wells and pits cut down into bedrock. They included Mycenaean, 7th century B.C. and 4th century B.C.

The absence of any quantity of earlier fill below the 1st century A.D. floor suggests a denuding process; the great and varying depth of the 1st-3rd century fill above suggests a deliberate raising of the general level and refurbishing of the square, perhaps at 400 A.D. in connection with the Gymnasium, as the upper limit of the fill seems to be the ground level that goes with the Gymnasium.

Section,  
p. 1619

Early Deposits.

pp.1812  
ff.

- 1) Mycenaean tomb (at 03/AZ). This tomb lies a few meters SE of the great white marble altar. The chamber is an irregular rectangle, oriented roughly N-S, with dromos leading in at a very gentle slope from the north. The dromos had been cut through by a Turkish well. The tomb itself was of irregular enough shape to suggest that it had never been completed. A very few sherds and fragments of bone were recovered from the upper levels of the collapsed bedrock with which it was filled. The fragmentary pottery, which included many kylikes and several very large pots, was recovered almost entirely from the dromos. It seems probable that the tomb collapsed before burials were made in it (the lower 1.80 m. of the tomb contained only collapsed bedrock and no sherds) and perhaps the dromos may have been used as a sacrificial pit of some sort. (Cf. Section Z, Pits at 39/I, 24/I; notebooks XXII, p. 4334 f., XXIV, pp. 4631, 4635-7)

Catalogued objects:

Kylix	P 22273 (N 938)	Open bowl	P 22277 (N 942)
Amphora	P 22274 (N 939)	High-necked jug	P 22278 (N 943)
Skyphos	P 22275 (N 940)	Decorated bowl	P 22279 (N 944)
Hydria	P 22276 (N 941)	Flaring bowl	P 22280 (N 945)
		Flat-bottomed bowl	P 22281 (N 946)

- 2) Seventh Century Well at 6-7/NH. The bedrock in Section N is very soft and crumbly. Not only was the Mycenaean tomb never finished, but a seventh century well found several meters north of the tomb seems never to have been completed and used. Again the fill inside is largely

collapsed bedrock, with very few sherds in the bottom 1.20 m.

Total depth of well: 3.60 m.

Objects catalogued:

Protocorinthian skyphos	P 22282	(N 947)
Attic skyphos	P 22283	(N 948)
Coarse pot	P 22284	(N 949)
Two fragments of Protoattic amphora	P 22285	(N 950)
Fragment of Protoattic pot	P 22286	(N 951)

3) Fourth Century Hole, ca. 09/KZ. Very puzzling was a  
pp.1632 ff. large and irregular hole (ca. 7 x 5 m.) cut ca. 2 m. deep  
in bedrock at the south end of the area, a few meters SW  
of the Mycenaean tomb. Pottery from the hole was con-  
sistent late 4th century B.C. A large number of objects  
was catalogued, including many fragments of terracotta  
moulds, T 3108-3110 and T 3118-3121 (N 777, 778, 779, 830,  
831, 847, 850); and a diecast's ticket, B 974 (N 807) and  
ballot, B 988 (N 954). The purpose of the hole remains  
unfathomed.

see pp.  
1922 ff.

4) Grove. Along the west side of the Odeion, south of the  
apse of the Gymnasium and north of the E-W Roman wall that  
runs between Gymnasium and Tholos, we found a number of  
cuttings in bedrock. These were of varied size and shape,  
although the majority were roughly rectangular and none was  
of great size. These were filled with dug bedrock, and  
contained very mixed sherds, but always up to and including  
the first century A.D., so that their filling seems to have

pp.1648,  
1706

been connected with the slight dressing of bedrock that goes with the first century A.D. level found in the northern part of the area (see above, on stratification). At the very bottom of two of the cuttings we found small bronze scraps, apparently of shields (B 980, N 883). We would like to think that the cuttings were for small trees and shrubs, making a pleasant green spot in the center of the west side of the Agora.

Early Roman Period.

pp. 1630,  
1635

©, XII,  
p. 2239,  
2240

At the extreme south end of the section running across the Fourth Century Hole (see above) we found remnants of a bedding for an East-West wall, in which there was a little crumbly yellow-grey mortar. This lies about 6 m. north of the early Roman temple in section Theta, and may be all that remains of the terrace wall of that temple.

pp.1854 ff.

(photos.  
pp.1861 f.)

Also see  
E VI, p. 1143

In the central part of the section, south of the Gymnasium apse, we learned little more than that the small garden seems to have gone out of use in the first century A.D. Most of our evidence for the early Roman period came from the northern part of the section, where we found a firm and wide-spread general level. At the east, close to the Odeion, this rests directly on bedrock. Further west, where bedrock slopes downward (section E) there are several classical levels beneath the 1st century floor. Marks of traffic can be seen coming down past the Middle Stoa, along the east side of the great white marble altar, and turning eastward past the front of the Odeion.

pp.1660,  
1686

Around the NW corner of the Odeion we have found a light enclosure wall which goes with the 1st century floor. It runs closely (if not exactly) parallel to the Odeion foundations, some 5 m. away from them. It may have its eastward return at the south in a very deep foundation that turns east ca. 17 m. south of the north wall of the Odeion and ends at the line of the supplementary foundations of the Odeion. Perhaps it was some sort of box-office arrangement ?  
See accompanying plan.

p.1708

pp.1654  
and 1826

Outside this wall, and facing the road, were two monuments. The first, of which we have only three blocks of the lowest course, seems to have been approximately square, 2.20 x 2.75 m. (ca. 0.35 m. packing on E and W). It is built directly against the north side of the light enclosure wall. The blocks of the base seem to have been rifled in the 4th-5th centuries A.D., though the base must have gone out of use some time before.

pp. 1655 ff.,  
p. 1828

Just a little north of this base is another, considerably larger. Preserved are seven blocks of the bottom two courses. It is a rectangle ca. 4.10 m. (N-S) x 3.65 m. (E-W). It seems to have been a hollow shell of blocks, with smaller stone packing in the middle and additional large blocks on the E-W axis for stability. Two of the blocks of the preserved upper course display masons' marks, one on the west reading (from inside) H O; that on the east, A E. The fill over that part of the base inside the apse is apparently that of the floor level of the apse. Very near the base, in the fill, we found a fragment of a large gilded bronze horse's hoof (B 976 - N 872), perhaps a remnant of a handsome equestrian statue which once topped this base ?

Gymnasium Apse ( ca. 400 A.D.)

pp.1650  
ff.

We found the apse partially excavated to bedrock and thoroughly disturbed by late pits and walls. We cleared it all to bedrock, except where we found the southeast corner of the rectangular room that seems to have been abandoned, even while it was being built, in favor of the semi-circular apse. Over this wall the fill was 4th-5th century A.D.

p.1652

There is an exceedingly broad doorway to north of center in the apse wall. Its threshold block does not begin to bridge the distance between the pivot-holes, which are in separate blocks. The total width of the door, pivot-hole to pivot-hole, must have been nearly 2.50 m. This is far too large for a house door, and must belong to the period when the apse had an official function. Why it should have been set off center is not clear. The threshold goes with the top of Layer IV of the inside of the apse, and with the outside ground level of the apse as indicated by the thickened foundation footing of the apse wall.

see phot.  
p.1649

p. 1688

The interior wall of the apse was at a considerably higher level, and constructed without the solidity characteristic of the apse wall proper. It was shallow and narrow, and would have been a partition wall at most. It contained nondescript pottery, and one piece of combed ware; and it seems to me to go rather with the house that was built against the apse in the 6th century A.D. than with the apse itself.

Sixth Century A.D. House

pp.1620 ff.  
See  
accompanying  
plan

In the late Roman period a house was built against the Gymnasium, utilizing the apse wall. In plan, as far as it could be made out, the house was a conglomeration of irregular rooms, with an entrance at the north. The entrance was a small stoop and a threshold laboriously worked from a Roman monument base (I 6477 - N 834). The orientation of the house is closer to that of the later Byzantine settlement in the area than to that of the preceding Roman buildings, although some of these must still have been standing when the house was built.

We found the two or possibly three NW rooms of the house cleared to their floor level. Just below the floor

pp.1628 ff. was a fairly elaborate plumbing system (in red on the plan), which showed signs of hard use and repairs. The most interesting feature of this system was the large drain

pp.1669 ff. (Drain W) which started in the SW corner of the house, also  
E, 1932,  
# 3,  
pp.489,  
510;  
E VI, pp.  
1123 ff.

turned under its outside wall, and ran westward into the Great Drain. It was solidly and carefully constructed of large tiles, but its covering was in places haphazard. We found inscriptions I 6506 (N 905) and I 6507 (N 906) as well as a millstone used in place of more conventional tiles. The installation had destroyed the earlier road strata to the west of the house.

p.1850

The terracotta water channel which ran through the house at the deeper level than the drains, cutting through



the ground level of the Gymnasium, may have been cut off at its west end by the installation of Drain W. It seems to go rather with the period preceding the house than with the house itself; possibly it went with the Gymnasium, although at its east end it seems to have been destroyed by the building of the apse wall.

Possibly the odd remnants of wall found to the south of the apse are to be considered as part of the Sixth Century House or houses in this area. These walls, however, do not make up into any plan, and the pottery recovered from them was not very helpful. In one was found the portrait head of the third century A.D., S 1604 (N 863).

Section H

H'  
pp.801 ff., and around the large Late Roman building whose shell occupies 1414 ff.

Work in section H was largely confined to cleaning in most of the section. East of the building, in cleaning bed-rock reached in previous excavations; we found a Mycenaean well; cleaning inside the east part of the building disclosed a fine archaic altar and peribolos; and cleaning at the west side of the section enabled us at least partially to fix the limits of many of the monument bases on the east bank of the Great Drain.

Monument Bases

see  
accompanying  
plan  
H X  
pp.1818 ff.

Of the eleven bases lining the Great Drain in section H, few are preserved above the bottom course of foundations. Almost all were cut into by Byzantine and Turkish pits, and so were exposed in part. One or two had been covered by Byzantine walls. The bases are of various sizes, materials, workmanship and date; but they fall roughly into a line along the road which follows the Great Drain. Very little evidence for chronology was obtained. Measurements are approximate.

Base # 1

H X p. 1910 ff.      3.0 EW x 4.30 NS      Breccia

Bottom course of 14 blocks remains. Well built, with outside ring of 10 blocks, central filling of 4 blocks and small stone packing. Directly over blocks was Hellenistic pottery, with possibly a few early Roman pieces.

Base # 2

H X p. 1910 ff.      2.60 EW x 1.40 NS      Poros

Situated 0.12 m. north of Base # 1, and perhaps a meter further east. Preserves the 4 blocks of its lowest (?) course. Present ground level, flush with top of blocks, is probably original ground level of base. Fill above blocks was like that over Base # 1: Hellenistic, with a few possibly early Roman pieces. Perhaps base for a seated figure?

Base # 3

H X p. 1902      1.75 EW x more than 5.30 NS

Part of carelessly made lower course remains. Directly over this course was a Byzantine wall, north of which the fill above the base was 4th-5th century A.D. and south of which it was apparently 4th century B.C. to Hellenistic. The full length of the base is not yet cleared. It seems unusually long and narrow; perhaps it was for a row of standing figures?

Base # 4

H X p. 1898      4.20? EW x 2.30 NS      Breccia

Bottom course and part of second course preserved. Set deeper than Base # 3, therefore perhaps it is earlier than Base # 3.

Base # 5

H X p. 1898      ca. 2.10 EW x 3.30 NS

Parts of two (?) courses preserved. Set directly against north end of Base # 4. Above the blocks we found 6th century A.D. pottery.

Base # 6

H X pp. 1898 (+ 1810, 1814) ca. 3.60 m. x 3.60 m ?

Parts of 2 courses remain. Fill over upper course contained Hellenistic sherds.

Base # 7

H X p. 1812 2.20 m. E.W. (NS dimension not preserved).

Parts of 3 blocks of the north end of the lowest course are preserved.

Base # 8

H X p. 1896 more than 0.70 m. EW x 0.80 m. NS

One large block exposed, but not yet entirely cleared.

Base # 9

H X p. 1896 Exposed 1.40 m. NS.

Dimensions not yet measurable, as base has not been cleared.

Two shallow blocks (the northmost 0.22 m. high, the southmost 0.10) above ca. 0.25 m. of small stone packing.

Base # 10

H X p. 1808 3.50 m. EW x 4.90 m. NS Poros

A few blocks of lowest course of foundation with stone packing below. Seems to have been a hollow rectangle of blocks, filled with packing, and with additional support of large blocks on the EW axis.

Base # 11

H X p. 1795 6.40 EW x 5.40 m. NS

Preserves part of bottom course and perhaps three blocks of second course of a large rectangular base. Stone packing used freely in bottom course, sometimes replacing large blocks even at outside. Occasional large blocks placed more or less at random in the interior packing give extra stability. The little pottery found above the blocks was 1st 1/2 3rd c. A.D.

Archaic Altar

H X  
pp. 1770 ff.

In clearing the north end of Room I of the Roman Building of remaining late wall ends and scraps of earth we came upon a sturdy foundation of three large blocks and a stone packing, its orientation more or less that of the temple of Ares and the many monument bases further west. Only the eastern part of the monument was left to us; its western part had vanished in the construction of the Roman building and subsequent disturbances. As it remains it presents a T-shaped plan, with a central foundation of larger blocks, and a lighter packing of stones on each side of them. It is probably to be interpreted as an exedra, facing the Peribolos of the Twelve Gods. Pottery from the interior filling of the exedra indicates that it was built in the late second century B.C. (petal bowl fragment P , H 790). The fill above the large blocks was 1st c. A.D., and marks destruction of the exedra. It was further dismantled in the 4th c. A.D., as is shown by the sherds from the plunder cut of its South wall. This was probably done in connection with the construction of the Roman Building.

plan,  
p.1773

The exedra lay directly upon the blocks of a beautifully made archaic altar, which was oriented with the Peribolos of the Twelve Gods. The altar had two building periods: it was at first a very simple hearth, and was later enlarged by the addition of a poros pavement and an enclosure wall of orthostates.

Of the first period, the simple eschara, we have left 3 blocks and a fragment of a 4th which give us SE and SW corners and most of the W side of a hollow rectangle. The blocks are

of reddish lime stone and are dressed with a slight sill along the E and W sides, and a much higher sill at N and S, rather reminiscent of the ends of small table altars. Inside this sill have been spread layer upon layer of hard packed clay floor to protect the stone from burning, and much ash has collected between the layers. The 2 blocks of the S end are 0.33 m. wide and 0.90 m. long, and the join between them is extremely close. The single block of the west side is 3.05 m. long.

Not very long after the eschara was built, it was enlarged by the addition of a pavement and enclosure wall of yellow poros, of which 12 blocks remain. The pavement was made by simply placing poros slabs (averaging 0.22 m. in thickness) upon the ground level that went with the eschara, dressing down this ground level a little when necessary. The surface of the pavement was flush with the highest rim of the eschara, at its north and south ends. It was one block wide 1.10 m. wide on the east, ca. 0.85 m. on N and S (one block); and 1.90 m. wide on the west (ca. two blocks). Around the pavement at the same level, ran blocks 0.50 m. wide which carried the orthostates. Setting lines and weather marks define clearly the width of the orthostates as ca. 0.29 m.; their length may be indicated by shift and pry holes placed every 0.70 m. around the perimeter (except for one interval of 0.80 m. in the middle of the south side). Candidates for orthostates are A 1266, A 1267, discovered near by in 1946. (A 1268 is fragment of one of the paving blocks). The paving blocks are carefully trimmed and fitted,

with fine marked anathyrosis at joints. Jointing of outer band of blocks is never allowed to match that of inner paving slabs except at the corners. A double T clamp was used at the SE corner.

In the center of the east side there was a door, as is shown by a) marked signs of wear on sill block; b) double T clamp holding together joint that falls on central axis of altar; c) long narrow cutting at right angles to central axis, which probably held a door step; d) cuttings at S end of door sill block, at least one of which must have been used as pivot hole for the gate. One of these cuttings still contains the lead in which something was set.

On the northmost inner paving block of the east side are a group of 3 small cuttings around a roughened area of perhaps 0.50 m. greatest width. This marks the place where some object was set.

The fill just below the ground level of the 1st period of the altar was late 6th century B.C., and included the black skyphos P 22266 (H 776) and horse's head T (H 783). Set down in it was bronze shield strap B 985 (H 782). Note that a fragment of shield rim B 767 was found only about a meter to the north, at approximately the same level, in 1946. H', XI, p. 2070, 2064). The ground level seems to be identical with that of the first period of the Peribolos of the Twelve Gods. The stone used in the first period of both monuments as well as the working of the stone, is also strikingly similar.

We acquired no evidence for the date of the addition of

p.1848

the peribolos, but it cannot have been very much after the construction of the eschara. The ground level of the peribolos was about 0.10 m. above that of the eschara. Earth accumulated around the peribolos and even ran over the edges of its blocks during its time of use. Pottery from that earth was no later than the 4th c. B.C., and may perhaps be 5th c. Above this was the 2nd century exedra. In the packing of the exedra were many fragments of the peribolos, including the crowning moulding A 1988 (H 768). Over the central hearth, north of the packing for the exedra, we found a very thin layer (0.02-0.07 m.) of 4th c. B.C. fill, in which was another crowning moulding fragment A (H 785). Above this was a layer ca. 0.13 m. deep, containing 4th-3rd c. B.C. pottery. And above this was a layer about 0.15 m. deep, with 3rd-2nd century B.C. pottery, and quantities of chips from the reworking or breaking up of a bluish marble monument. Such chips were a notable feature of the packing of the exedra, and this level therefore is probably to be thought of in connection with its construction. It appears that the altar and peribolos had fallen into disuse during the 4th century, and had been replaced in the 2nd century by an exedra looking towards the Altar of Pity - but with a different orientation.

p.1809  
(in blue on  
location  
plan)

The stone water channel along the east bank of the Great Drain was connected by a lead pipe to a settling basin just a few meters west of the Altar of Pity. It belongs, probably, to the period of the exedra. The introduction of running water into this part of the Agora must have added greatly to the pleasantness of the area.

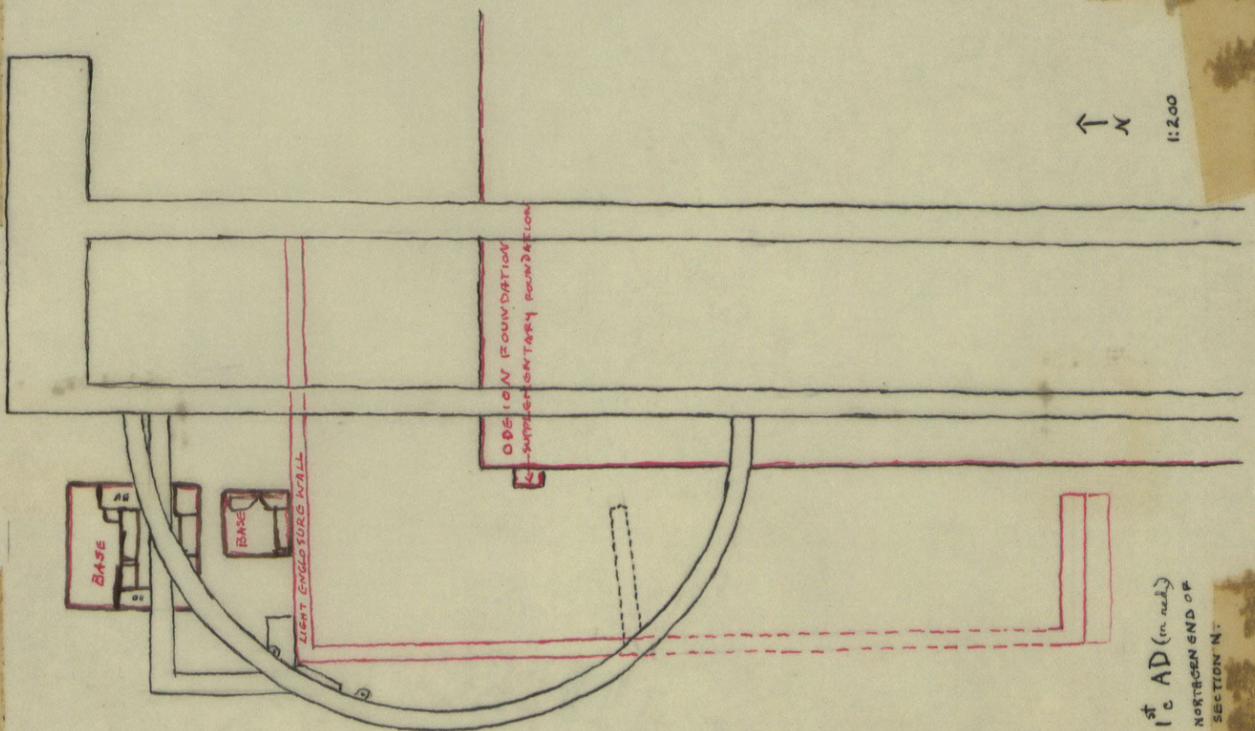


The little hearth altar with its surrounding wall suggests a Heroon. Herodotus, 5.89, speaks of the dedication of a sanctuary to Aeacus in the Agora in 499 B.C. (R.Lattimore's date). Pausanias mentions no such sanctuary in the Agora, but his description of the Aeaceum in Aegina (Book II, chapter 29) is of a quadrangular enclosure of white marble. At the entrance was a relief showing envoys sent by the Greeks to Aeacus. Within the enclosure grew olives, and there was an altar that rises but little above the ground. While the peribolos in the Agora is by no means so handsome as this, it does show two of the main features of the Aeginetan sanctuary. It is surrounded by a wall, and its altar rises but little above the ground. May not the Athenian example have used the Aeginetan as its prototype? The motives of the Athenians in dedicating a sanctuary to Aeacus at all did not, according to Herodotus, rise from sheer respect and devotion to the hero. A simple temenos would meet the need.

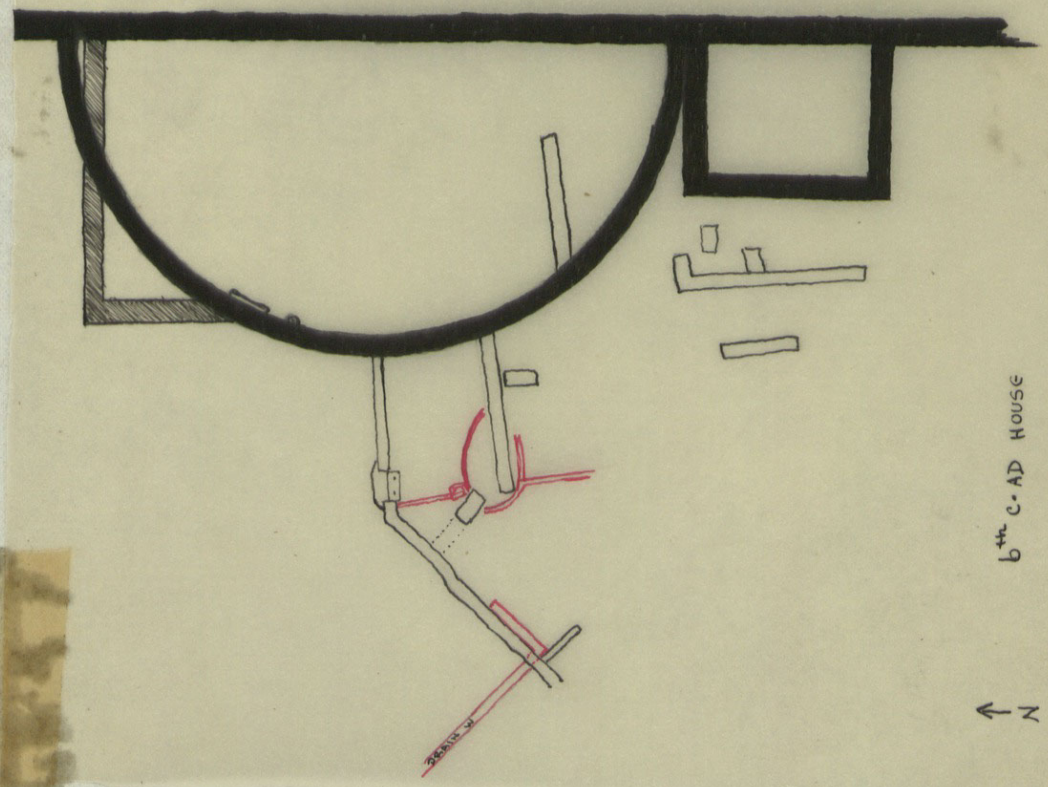
The sanctuary in the Agora, which seems to have gone out of use in the 4th century B.C., and was certainly completely buried by the 2nd century B.C., would not have been seen by Pausanias. His failure to mention the Aeaceum is thus explained.

Mycenaean Well at 53/IH

In cleaning bedrock east of the Roman building we came upon a small well of the LH III period. Its total depth was 2.20 m. One whole water jar was recovered, P 22264 (H 771). Other pottery was very fragmentary, and only a few pieces were decorated at all. Notable was the fragment of a rhyton P (H 788). Fragments of about a dozen cylices were among the pottery; one catalogued P 22267 (H 780). The well is interesting as being the earliest sign of habitation in the Agora area, unless as has been suggested (and as the rhyton fragment perhaps indicates) the well was used only for ceremonial and funerary purposes.



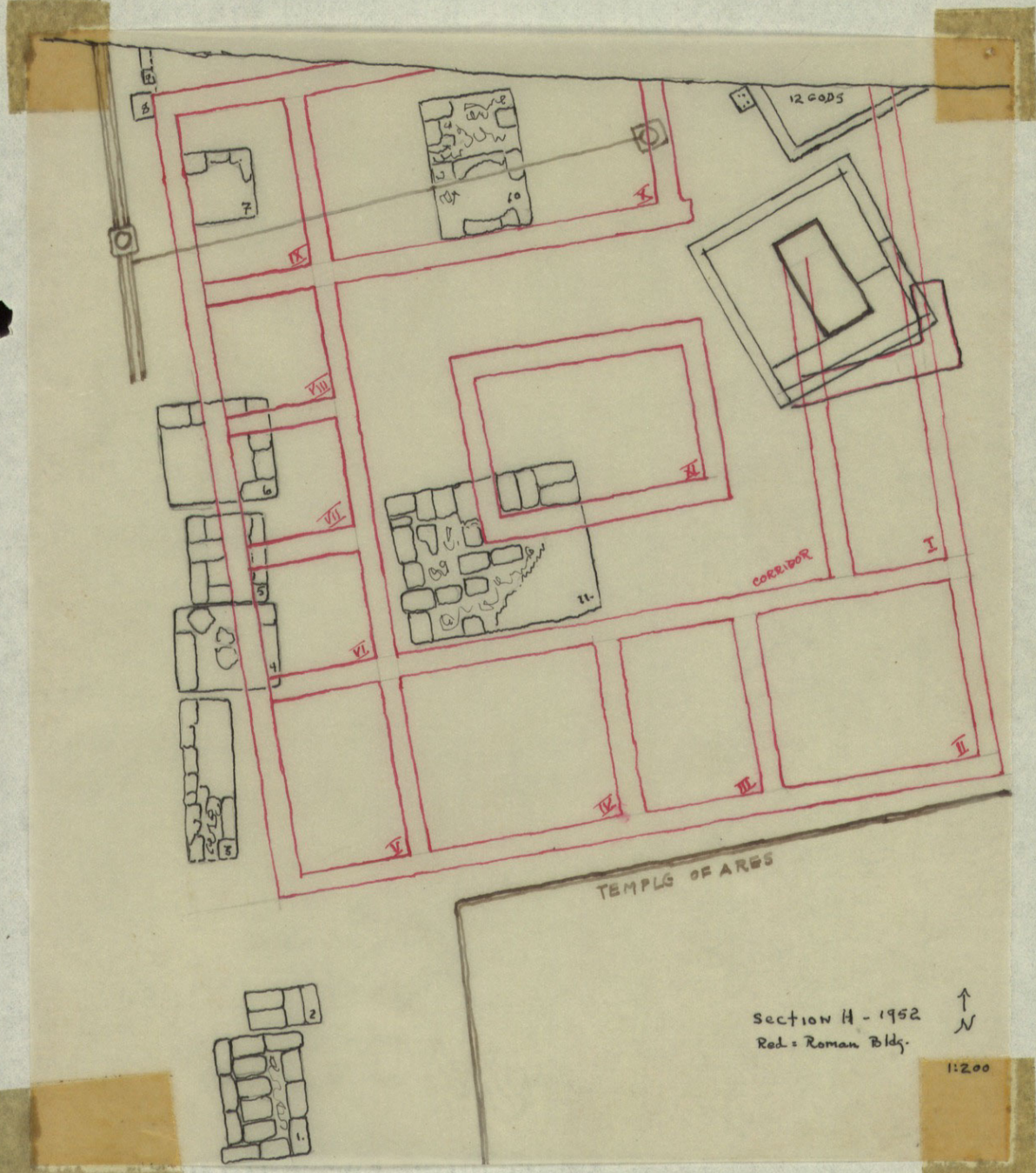
1<sup>st</sup> C AD (in. scale)  
 NORTHERN END OF  
 SECTION N.



6<sup>th</sup> C. AD HOUSE

↑ N

1:200



Section H - 1952  
 Red = Roman Bldg.



1:200