

SECTION Φ

Excavation Report 1958

This section had been excavated in 1957 down to the classical level. This report covers only its Southwestern side and the area under Aischines St. from 48-57/A-MZ, which were further explored from March to May 1958.

EAST STREET (Area 52-58/K- AH) pp. 1450 ff. Sections p.1449, pp.1453, 1467

This Street runs N-S from a stair through the South Stoa up over the shoulder of the Areopagus. It is bordered on the East and West by the walls of houses and measures ca. 3.00 m. wide. To judge from early floors under it, the Street existed, but was narrower in pre-Persian days (pp. 1449, 1470 f.). Down the center runs a tile drain, which was patched at different periods. The road metal, preserved to a maximum depth of 0.75 m., is composed of hard-packed gravel and pottery, which, wherever dug, were largely of the early 5th c., but running into the 4th c. (Containers 243-245). An Arretine sherd (P 26191 = Φ 985) by the corner of a Roman house indicates the latest period of re-alignment. How the Street was carried up over the steep hillside between the Polygonal House & the Southwest House is not clear, but presumably by a series of steps which J.T. has investigated (see Section Plan). The distance between this East Street and the West Street in Section Y (pp. 865 ff.) is ca. 24.55 m., allowing for the width of two houses of ca. 11 m. each in width.

HOUSES

In addition to the Street, traces of several houses were found in the area. At the North beside Asteroskopeiou St. two

cistern mouths, C and D, at 45/E and 46/I (phot. p. 1362) testify to the existence of a house of which all other evidence has vanished. These were not excavated. At a distance ca. 10.50 m. South of Asteroskopeiou St. an area of stone packing suggested to J.T. an alley dividing this North House from those in the southern part of the area. He has so restored it on the Section Plan with a width of 2.00 m.

The two houses to the South of this alley are better preserved. One, adjoining the "Polygonal House", called in the Φ 1957 Excavation Report, the "Southwest House" was largely excavated before 1958. The other, lying North of this, is here detached from its prior association with the Southwest House and called the "Central House". They will be discussed here only in brief; for details, see the notebooks to which reference will be made. The evidence for their chronology will be given separately, since the two houses in this Section, unlike those in Section Y, met different fates. It should be noted that in excavation the houses were not at first separated. Rooms I-VIII fall within the "Southwest House" and Rooms IX-XI within the "Central House" (cf. pp. 1395 f.)

SOUTHWEST HOUSE (42-55/KZ-MZ)

Plan with Room numbers p. 1395 & accompanying heliograph Plan.

General Phots. pp. 1333, 1560 ff.

Sections pp. 1215, 1349, 1391, 1409, 1412.

Page references below and on Stroseis chart from Container numbers

Containers Φ 165-167, 191-204.

pt m 17:7

sw House

L-m 17-18:1

I. Greek Period

Of the scanty remains of the Greek period, the most significant evidence may be summarized:

A. Plan (shown in blue on Plan p. 1395 and General Plan).

The earliest house had a court on the west, with a Well (B) and two small rooms at the North. A pit at 54/ΑΓ (p. 1210) served the area and a good water pipe by it (p. 1209) suggest that the East wall lay along the later line.

A few interesting points emerge regarding the rooms:

Room IV

The four wall lines are preserved. On the West is a bedding, on which later the Polygonal Wall was set that divided the house from the Southeast House in Section Y. The East wall was built of poros blocks, W. 0.50. A collapsed Well (B) at 44/ ΑΓ (pp. 1484 f) was filled in in the early 5th c. and further packed with conglomerate blocks probably in the Augustan period.

Two North walls were found. One, narrow (W. 0.40 m.) and sunk in bedrock, must have been the first that went with the well, which lies ca. 1.- m. south of it. The later wall, 0.50, of poros, was set over the well. At the South, the two walls seem to be contemporary. One is set in a scarp in bedrock, cut 0.34 m. deep, W. 0.55 m. Behind it lies a wall of W. 0.70 m. on top of the scarp and in line with the South wall of the house in Y for which it acted as a terrace wall. Very possibly this wall served the same purpose for our house, if the bedrock lay originally high behind it. J.T. points out that a passage between house walls was a common form of building and referred to as a *περίσταςις* in an inscription. Extensions of these two South walls were

picked up just East of the East wall of Room VI (with 6th c. objects - P 25882, Φ 769; T 3566, Φ 771, cf. pp. 1390, 1472).

The floors of this room were peculiar. High up, on the rock between the two South walls lay stroseis 1-2 (pp. 1388 ff., Containers 193-4), apparently Perserschutt and earlier. Within the area of the room, stroseis 3-4 produced much 6-5th c. pottery, but had clearly been disturbed in Late Hellenistic and even Early Roman times (pp. 1393, 1398; Container 195, photos. pp. 1397 ff.). Broken blocks, tiles, mud brick and flooding testify to the collapse of the house at about the time of Sulla (cf. SS 14318, dated by V.G. as of the late 2-1 c. B.C.).

Room VIII

The only South wall was that which lay North of Room IV's later wall (see above) and a bit of N-S wall by it (p. 1434) survive.

Traces of one other Greek wall were found at the East end of this room on line with its South wall and separated from it by a cut step in bedrock that apparently led to a passageway. We have called this rubble foundation an "Early Wall" (pp. 1419 f.). Its width, 0.60 m. and its character of bedding suggest that it originally carried limestone polygonal blocks, as did the wall against which it abutted at the North. It rested on the earliest floor in Room VII (pp. 1416 f.) of the 6-early 5 c. B.C. Its level and character show that it must belong to the post-Persian period of the house or even later. As it disappears under the Roman concrete flooring after it turns eastward, it cannot be further traced. Presumably it extended to the Street line.

If the house originally extended Southward or as is more probable, another house lay there, it has been cut away. Pre-

sumably it lay on the level of the "Polygonal House" to the East.

II. Roman Period (shown in red on Plan, p. 1395 and General Plan).

Most of the Roman house had been cleared in 1957. For further photos and Sections, see Index to vols. VII-VIII. A little more evidence of significance can be added:

The plan of the house is clear: a court on the Street side, three rooms on the South, approached through a Vestibule, but none preserved on the NW. Since no trace of building, even at the appropriate level, was discovered over Rooms IV and VIII, it seems possible that the area served as a garden at this time.

Chronology of Building

Sufficient evidence appeared to suggest that the Roman house was built at about the time of Augustus. Pottery (container 201) with Augustan lamps (p. 1414) was found beside the marble base at 49/AA one of B3 apparently set down to support columns in the court (p. 1408, Plan p.1395) and a sherd in Room I (p. 417, Container 119). The marble chip mosaic pavement that covered an area ca. 10 x 6 m. (see p. 1395) and was found under Rooms I,V,VI and Vestibule (pp. 1216, 1348, 1354, 1400, 1408) is suitable for this period. At its destruction level was found a quantity of painted early Roman plaster (p. 1402, T 196) with sherds of about the 2nd c. A.D. This was therefore probably the date of the laying of the flagging set in concrete in Room VI. Two phases of this floor and its accompanying revetment are traceable (pp.1373, 1411). On its level fell Herulian debris (pp. 1350, 1414, Containers 191-2,200). Rubble Walls 1 & 2 seem to have been sunk through it in the 4-5th c. (pp. 1214,1218,1423, Containers 116-118).

CENTRAL HOUSE (42-52/IZ-KZ)

General Plan p. 1396 with Room numbers (Roman and Greek)
and accompanying's heliograph and Plan

General photos. pp. 1560, 1584 f.

Detailed Plans: 1501, 1541, 1543 (Room XI)

Sections: pp. 1391 (IV-V), 1425 (VII-X), 1433 (IX), 1463 (XI),
pp. 1467 (XI), 1495 (X-XI), 1497 (X), 1511 (IX),
pp. 1539 (XI), 1543 (XI), 1555 (X).

Stroseis Chart with containers q.v. page references.

Containers 184-189, 205-245.

Phase I : Early House : Plan (Shown in blue on Plan, p. 1396
and General Plan)

The plan of this complex is best preserved from its earliest period. This shows a well-aligned and sophisticated organization that is surprising for the 6th c. A court lay in the centre, three rooms on South and on North and a single unit on East and West, the latter open ^{to the East}. How far the later phases followed this plan is uncertain ^{but} and will be suggested. Greek letters are used for the rooms of the 6th c. house on Plan I. The Roman numerals are arbitrary divisions applied during excavation, shown on Plan II. Wherever the difference is significant, it will be noted.

The early plan shows a house measuring ca. 9.50 x 8.50 m. (E.W.). It was bordered on the East by a Street and an alley way on the North. The West and South walls have been destroyed, but probably followed the same lines as the later. The early South wall lay at the base of a scarp D. ca. 0.60 m. in bedrock, ca. 1.48 m. ^{<N.>} from the line of the later Polygonal Wall (p. 1512). It probably bore the same relation to it as the South wall of Room IV of the Southwest House (above p. 3). Cobbling was

found on the earliest floor of the Court (E) (p. 1540). Walls X and Y (p. 1396) dividing the three south rooms are well preserved, W. 0.35 m. The ends of the parastades of Room δ ; most of the walls of Rooms θ and Δ are also in good condition and of the same scale and type.

Two phases can be traced in this early plan. The lowest floors (Stroseis 6, Room XI, 13 Room X. See accompanying chart for references) date the building near the middle of the 6th c. Later, probably toward the end of that century, a post was added between the parastades and the floor raised about 0.10-0.15 m. (p. 1559 Strosis 7 and Strosis 12 Room X). This house was destroyed by the Persians.

Further changes in the Plan will be noted in the discussion of each phase of the later House.

Phase II : Later House ca. 450-280 B.C. (Shown in green on plan, p. 1396 and General Plan).

Phase I : ca. 450-400 B.C.

The walls X and Y evidently collapsed down to their stone socles and were covered with Perserschutt and thereafter by a very hard trodden surface (Room X, Str. 11; Room XI, Str. 5). Evidently a path, approximately parallel with the East St., crossed the ruined house for a time. When, however, rebuilding began, the line of the earlier walls was followed again, though with wider foundations (0.45 m). These walls were extended southward to join the "Terrace Wall" line. Many well glazed 5th c. roof tiles (A 2722, Φ 1026 and others in Container 221, cf. pp. 1536, 1556) from both the construction and destruction period show that a new roof was put on at this time.

The best preserved structure of the 5th c. is the "Stone Pit" (p. 1540, Sections 1539-41). It measures 0.82 x 1.30 m. (interior) with a depth of 0.60 m. Its walls are W. 0.25-0.35m. It was set into the deep Perserschutt filling that covered the early house, especially at its North end (Room IX,5, XI N C 3). It somewhat resembles the 5th c. Pit built outside the Southwest House at 54/ ΑΓ, (pp. 1206 ff.); J.T. has observed others. Since no 5th c. well was found in either house (and water appears to have been piped into the Polygonal House), it may be that in the 5th c. such pits took the place of wells or cisterns to keep food cool. It was filled in the late 5th c. (Containers 238-9) at about the time a Cistern (B, p. 1318) was dug and its white clay spread over contemporary floors (brown on Stroseis chart). A silver triobol found in the corner of Room X by its North doorway (p. 1492, Room X, Strosis 9, 6/5/8) gives a Terminus antiquum for the hard floor (9) that covered this room after the end of the 5th c. It dates (according to Head) very close to 400 B.C. The floors of the 5th c. are soft and thin - a fact that suggests that their surfaces (and their missing walls in the North area) were cut down later.

The pipe line runs under the Pol. House but it did not necessarily supply the house.

Cistern as early?

Phase III : ca. 400-280 B.C.

During the early 4th c., the house underwent rebuilding. The South part of the house apparently kept its old lines, but the court must have been enlarged because Cistern B was sunk through the South wall of Room Θ, presumably including its area in the court. Two pithoi (X and Y, p. 1272) were set in the court at the same level or a trifle higher (XI N C, strosis 3).

Later in the 4th c. much greater activity took place. Probably about the middle of the century (or possibly in the previous decades), the Polygonal Walls of limestone blocks, in style identical with those in Section Y, were set up, presumably on the old wall lines. This style can be fairly closely dated to the first half of the fourth century by its resemblance to that of the Cononian Wall at Eleusis. Since these blocks (surviving in situ only along the East side of Room X) are large and heavy and required solid bedding on rock, the rock was probably trimmed down at this time, eradicating the 5th c. levels. At this time also Cistern B at the North was filled, and to replace it, Cistern A was dug, organized with a heavy stone structure to support a windlass (Plan and Section p. 1543; pp. 1544 ff. Room XI). Very shortly thereafter, apparently about 25 years, a pebble mosaic floor was ^{laid and} edged by a curb (p. 1272), the outlines of which are indicated on the plan on p. 1396. A low poros partition protected it on the West and a similar low limestone wall on the South (pp. 1461, 1544, photos. pp. 1529, 1537). A pebble mosaic pavement like this seems suitable for the centre of a court and need not imply that liquids were stored in the pithoi (as suggested p. 1274; cf. houses in Section Z etc.). At this time the North wall of Room X was adjusted in width and raised from the level of Strosis 10 to 7 to accompany the general heightening of levels by ca. 0.40 m. Apparently a post was also set on a millstone that rested on strosis 10 (ϕ 1029, see p. 1496; photos. pp. 1499, 1439) to support a lifted roof beam?

Within the 4 stroseis of Room X of this period, which appear to have accrued rapidly within a limited time, a surprising number of objects were found. They include such diverse subjects as: a

lead token (IL 1448 , Φ 1012), an arrow head (B 1214, Φ 999), a huge ox's knucklebone, and several ^{objects} of bone or ivory: a whorl (BI 771, Φ 992) a boss (BI 769, Φ 987) and a handle (BI 770, Φ 988). Presumably also from this level, but found last year (1957 Report p. 4a) is a lamp of the mid fourth century bearing six names written backwards (L 5298, Φ 802) that seems to have been buried complete under the floor probably in Strosis 6, ^{esumab} probably with magical intent. Perhaps the most surprising finds from Stroseis 5 through 9 were coins: 1 silver tetradrachm (dated ca. 350-340 BC) and 31 bronzes as follows:

<u>Strosis</u>	<u>nb. pp.</u>		
9	p. 1492	(AR and 2 others)	mid 4th c.
	1494	(1) Φ 393	" "
8	1491f.	(2) 1165, 162	" "
7	1459	(2) 26/4/56 #4	" "
	1490f.	(13) 26/4/58 # 6-12	" "
6	1457f.	(6) 24/4/58 #5	" "
5	1456	(5) 22/4/58 # 4	late 4th c.

Of this series actually only two were hard well-trodden floors: Strosis 9 and Strosis 5. These others must be accumulations, amounting to ca. 0.40 m., during building operations. On Strosis 9 white clay was strewn, as also on other similar levels (underlined in blue on the Stroseis Chart). It seems likely that it came from excavating Cistern A. The next hard floor, Strosis 5 was laid down at the end of the 4th c. when operations were finished. Lamps of type 25 A of the sort dating before ca. 310 BC

were found at this level under the mosaic floor (Room XI C, Strosis 2). Other floors can be even more closely dated as follows:

Room XI by and under mosaic floor (dated by B. Sparkes)

Strosis 2	<u>ca.</u> 400-375 B.C.	Deep under mosaic floor
lb	<u>ca.</u> 350	Just " " "
la	<u>ca.</u> 350-325	Contemporary with Use
Pithos Y filled	<u>ca.</u> 350	
Cistern B	" <u>ca.</u> 350	(p. 1332; Containers 187-88)
" A	" <u>ca.</u> 280	(p. 1331; Containers 184-6)
Saucer Pyre II set down	<u>ca.</u> 280	(p. 1518; Container 218)

Phase IV : ca. 280-150 B.C.

At some time in the early 3rd c., catastrophe struck the house (cf. the same date for abandonment of the houses in Section Y). In Rooms IX and X (IX Stroseis, 3a,b; X, 4-3), layers of burned wood, tiles and fallen bricks testify to fire. From the marked slope of this debris from West to East in Room IX and South to North in Room X, we must assume that the South and West walls were most affected (pp. 1474 ff., photos. p. 1509, cf. p. 1536). The debris fell on the floors unevenly and was not later levelled off, but apparently gradually accrued. A "red Hellenistic fill" overlay the mosaic floor and a deep intrusion dug into it dug in the 2nd c. (XI, C Strosis 2 and Container 229, cf. 231b, p. 1273). The Polygonal Wall was soon plundered for its blocks (pottery found in its plundered trench goes down to ca. 150 B.C. Container 209; SAH; SS 14319, Φ 986; SS 14320-1, Φ 990-1, early 2nd c. B.C., lamp, L 5345, Φ 983, type 34 A, ca. mid 2nd c. B.C.). Stroseis formed over the plundered trench down to the late Hellenistic

period (Room IX, 2-1; X, 2-1). The abundant remains of final level line date so close to ca. 150 B.C. that possibly it can be related to the reorganization of the Agora and its concomitant regarding of levels and streets. The condition of the house at ca. 150 B.C. is shown on the photograph p. 1221. It looks like abandonment, with the tops of the Polygonal East wall blocks serving as a curbing to the Street. Probably in the impoverished late Hellenistic Period the area was over-grown, as seemed true also in Section Y.

Phase V : Roman Period

Very little evidence survives for this period which was so well preserved in the Southwest House. No good floor was found. Some evidence of further plundering at the time of Sulla is suggested at the SE corner of Room X (pp. 1219 f., Container 209 a, Late Hellenistic pottery and glass). Possibly at this time or a little later, the EW rubble wall footing (# 3) was thrust down through the Hellenistic filling to rest on Stroseis 8-9 (pp. 1428 ff.; 1550; photos p. 1549, etc. Container 211 - later destroyed by us). No floor was found to accompany it, but beside and over it much debris of the 3rd c. A.D. (p.1221, Container 207a). This presumably was thrown in or left when a cross N-S wall was built (p. 1222 etc. and on Section Plan). It rested only on Strosis 5 and was even worse built than the N-S Section), probably in post-Herulian times.

The only other evidence for Roman building lay at about the level of the top of the Hellenistic latest strosis and 0.16 m. below the tops of the Polygonal East wall, the old

mortar set up on a marble block in Room X (pp. 1425-6 etc.)
(erroneously called a "well-head" in note books). It was set
down with mortar, accompanied by Early Roman sherds (Container
210).

Phase	Strata	Depth	Room	Contents	Character	Walls	Found	Date
I, 1			XI 15	242	Floor	Panastade	Bldg House	Mid 6c?
I, 2	6		IX	207		?		L 6c
			X			"	"	"
2	R-13	1.28	X	233	Floor	walls X-Y rest on it	Rebldg saul, hen	"
	6		XI E	226	tiling		"	"
			XI NC	233	Floor		"	"