

Azoria Project Final Report 2017

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Donald C. Haggis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Classics; Curriculum in Archaeology; Research Laboratories of Archaeology

Margaret S. Mook, Iowa State University
Program in Classical Studies, Department of World Languages and Cultures

Introduction

Fieldwork was conducted at the site of Azoria (Kavousi, Ierapetra) in northeastern Crete for 11 weeks, including preparation (May 22-28); excavation and closing of trenches (May 29-July 14); emergent architectural conservation and wall consolidation (July 17-28); and finds processing, object conservation, study, and reporting at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete in Pacheia Ammos (July 17-August 11).

The work was conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), Department of Classics, under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), by permission of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi, and with the support of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete (INSTAP-SCEC). The institutions contributing funding, technical and consultant support, and student participants were the UNC-CH Department of Classics, Curriculum in Archaeology and Research Laboratories of Archaeology; Iowa State University, Program in Classical Studies; Trent University, Department of Anthropology; the Azoria Project Volunteer Program (UNC-CH Department of Classics); and the Institute for Field Research.

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The 2017 field staff consisted of D.C. Haggis (director); M.S. Mook (field director and pottery specialist); R.D. Fitzsimons (architect); C.M. Scarry (archaeobotanist); F. Dibble (zooarchaeologist); M. Eaby (assistant director); A. Cabaniss (surveyor and GIS specialist); J. Martini (registrar); G. Riehm (archaeobotany assistant); E. Kasotakis (excavation foreman); Fani Skyvalida (illustrator).

Primary excavation and documentation were conducted by seven trench supervisors— B. Baker (UNC-CH), C. Judson (UNC-CH), A. Griffin (UNC-CH), O. Vanwalleghem (University of Bordeaux), H. Senn (Macquarie University), Eirini Paizi (University of Cincinnati), and Sophie Cushman (University of California, Berkeley)—assisted by 40 student trench assistants from universities in North America and Greece; and 23 workmen from the local villages of Kavousi, Pacheia Ammos, and Kentri. There were four pottery washers from Kavousi. Administrative support was provided by Eleanor Huffman (INSTAP-SCEC). The representative of the Greek Archaeological Service (Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi) was Evanthi Saliaka (Ianos Ike, Ayios Nikolaos).

The plan, reporting, and review of site conservation were conducted by Dr. Stephania Chlouveraki (Conservation Department, T.E.I. Athens). The on-site work was conducted by the excavation foreman, Manolis Kasotakis (Kavousi), and supervised by the Project Director Haggis. Results were reviewed by Klio Zervaki, chief conservator of the Archaeological Museum in Ayios Nikolaos (Lasithi ephorate). Object conservation was conducted by Matina Tzari (INSTAP-SCEC).

Summary of work at Azoria in 2017

Trenches (sample units) excavated: 21 (8 continuing; 13 new)

Loci (stratigraphic units) defined: 129

Pottery pails/stratigraphic units defined: 768

Objects/small finds catalogued (non-pottery artifacts): 413

Pottery processed—examined or studied: 2059.664 kg; 17,670 sherds; as of 07-27-2017

Soil samples (collected, floated, and coarse residue sorted): 613 (6023 liters)

Floatation samples sorted and studied: 175 light and coarse fraction; 289 coarse residue

GPS statistics (units plotted): 14,976 points (8,517 architectural; 1,718 elevations of walls, stratigraphy, and sections; 4741 wall outlines, features, objects, soil samples, and pottery pails; 266 objects).

(Unless specific dates are given, in this report, the term “protoarchaic” means late 8th to mid- 7th c. B.C., roughly contemporary with the Late Geometric to Orientalizing periods. The term “archaic” refers generally to the 6th century B.C. (including the end of the 7th through to the beginning of the 5th century B.C.), unless a more specific date is possible and relevant to the discussion. “Late Archaic” refers to late 6th to early 5th centuries B.C. The term “Hellenistic” (HL) refers to the late 3rd and early 2nd centuries B.C.—the Howland’s type 32 lamps and Hierapytnian (*trichalkon*) coins from A3100, B300, and B6900 give a terminus post-quem around 200 B.C. for Hellenistic activity and occupation).

Excavations at Azoria in 2017 were concentrated in five areas of the site (fig. 1):

- (1) the West Building (D3500, D3300, D3200, D2500, D3400, D3100, D2800), with one test trench excavated to the north of the building;
- (2) the Hellenistic Building in the area of the South Slope Buildings (B6900; B6400; B7000);
- (3) the upper southwest slope of the peak of the South Acropolis (A3600; A2500);
- (4) the southern area of the Southwest Buildings (B6200; B6800; B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700);
- (5) the north end of South Building 2 (G1200).

(1) The West Building (figs. 2-7)

We completed the excavation of the West Building, exposing nine interconnected rooms running in an approximate north-south direction along a wide terrace at the 344-346 m (asl) contour, which extends below and southwest of the Northwest Building, and along the west side of the north-south street that parallels the ramp and terrace of the Monumental Civic Building. The outlines of six of the rooms had been partially exposed in 2016 (D2800, D3100, D2500), but only three at the southern end (D2900, D3000) had been completely excavated to floor level. Thus, the goals of excavation were to determine the limits of the building on the north, and to complete the definition and excavation of the rooms of the buildings.

The stratigraphy of the west slope at this juncture is consistent across the terrace. A deep layer of silt and slope wash was recovered from across the excavated areas—in some cases exceeding 2.0-3.0 meters in depth, especially on the east, and including numerous wall blocks and dolomite boulders that had fallen at various stages of collapse and erosion from ancient buildings and retaining walls upslope on the east.

These deep layers, the result of events of erosion and silting episodes, alternate with massive rock slides, and covered a deep stratum of wall collapse and ceiling clay (phyllite silt) that capped the ancient occupation levels. In several instances, the fallen wall blocks penetrated the roofing clay down to the floor surface, crushing pottery vessels that had tipped over or collapsed under the weight of the fallen ceiling beams and roofing clay. The roofing clay and floor surfaces showed clear indications of extensive burning, especially on the better-preserved eastern half of the rooms: charcoal and ash were found throughout the matrix, in some cases burned red from contact with the heat; and at the base of the walls, the surfaces of the stones have black and dark gray ash residue and staining from the fire. While the rooms in A2900, excavated in 2016, had indications of burning, there were few in-situ finds preserved on the floors. The adjoining rooms to the north, however, contained remarkable artifact assemblages.

The walls forming the east side of the building stand to a height of 2.5-3.0 m, and are best preserved at the bonded corners of cross walls (D2506; D3307; D2806). The construction technique is typical of archaic buildings at the site. Dolomite boulders are used for the foundation courses, while the upper faces of the walls are made of smaller dolomite boulders set in irregular courses with occasional string courses of *sideropetra* and schist. Chinking stones are also used for the interstices of the larger boulders. Very large or monolithic dolomite boulders are used for the foundations of the east walls (especially in D3200 and D2500) and at the western ends of east-west cross walls and as corner stones.

The bedrock on the east side of the building has been cut back into the slope to form roughly vertical faces, against which the east wall was built. Most of the foundations—the bottom visible level of the wall—are bedded on cut bedrock. A ledge, about 0.10 -0.20 m high, has been fashioned out of the bedrock to form the bedding for the wall line. In some cases, such as the north wall of D3300 (the northern end of the building), the wall is constructed flush with the cut bedrock, while in others roughly stacked stones or stone fill occupies the space between the wall line and the bedrock face.

The floors are well preserved. They consist of a thick layer of consolidated phyllite clay (gravelly silt), yellowish-brown in color, though in parts discolored red, gray and black from contact with charcoal and other burnt organic debris. In patches, especially on the east and center areas of the rooms, the surfaces are well consolidated and smooth—forming hard-packed, almost burnished or metaled, surfaces. The clay is set variously directly on the bedrock, or on gravel fill or packing, especially at the western edges. The contours of the bedrock terrace required a gradual stepping down of the floor levels from D3300 in the north to D2800 in the south, with a step back up from D2800 into D2900 at the southern end, where the doorway has a pivot on the D2800 (north) side. There is also stepped threshold from D3300 down into D3200, while the floor of the doorways between D3200 and D2500, and D3400 and D3100 is hard-packed phyllite clay, requiring no transitional step. There is also a stepped threshold down into D3400 from D2500. The doorway between D3100 and D2800 is obscured by both conditions of architecture and preservation, but the rooms had the same floor level.

The uniform preserved elevation of the courses of the abutting east-west cross walls is interesting. Walls D2507, D3105, and D2906 are extant to fairly-even levels across their preserved elevations. This suggests to us intentional lowering, deconstruction, or dismantling of the walls at the time of abandonment and just before the burning of the building. Wall D2812 was also deconstructed to a uniform wall height even though it is bonded with the east wall, requiring some effort to disengage the uppermost courses from the east wall, and then to dismantle and lower the courses to a uniform level. While the height of these lowered cross walls varies from 0.20 to 0.70 m, the top extant courses appear remarkably level, that is, courses were removed intentionally to create an even top of the wall at a uniform lowered height. While this regular and even preservation of the top extant course could be related to conditions of destruction and post-abandonment disturbance, the consistency is striking and happenstance destruction, or even deep ploughing seem unlikely causes. One wall, D2507, has not only a uniform elevation and even top extant course, but it was also capped with a thick layer of phyllite-clay roofing debris, lying directly on top of

the full extent of the exposed wall. Similarly, wall D3105, between rooms D3400 and D3100 was lowered to only one to two courses, and was covered with burned roofing material—a very hard packed red phyllite clay. These instances demonstrate that the walls had been dismantled and lowered to a fairly level elevation prior to the collapse of the roof, perhaps shortly before or during the final destruction of the building.

D3300

The northernmost room of the West Building is roughly 10 m² (about 4.0 m (east-west) x 2.80 m (north-south)). The north wall of the room consists of a foundation of smaller dolomite boulders (2-3 courses at the base), with three very large dolomite boulders at the western end of the wall. The upper courses, above the dolomite foundations, are alternating rows of schist string courses and rounded dolomite stones. The wall, built directly against the cut-bedrock face, curves in the northeast into the line of the east wall, fronting a staircase which is preserved on the north and northeast. Four or five risers are extant, conforming to the curving north wall and modified bedrock. The stair would have ascended above and behind the roof level of the room, curving in an eastward direction, and would have joined the north-south street that runs above and behind the east side of the West Building.

A small niche or shelf (0.20 x 0.20 x 0.26 m high) was built into the northeast curve of the wall face, similar in size and construction to one in D2800. It is formed by schist slabs on the top and bottom and smaller dolomite, *sideropetra* (dark gray crystalline limestone) and schist fieldstones on its sides. The foundations for a short spur wall (1.20 m long) closes off the east side of the room, forming a small room or closet. It extends from the north face of the south wall, its west face in line with the east doorjamb of the doorway into D3200. The doorway in the middle of the south wall (into D3200) has a stone-built threshold stepping down into D3200 and well fashioned doorjambs—*sideropetra* headers and stretchers in the west jamb (with pecked margin for a doorframe), and for the east, a single dressed block of breccia (0.50 deep; 0.27 wide; and 1.10 high). The room's west wall is partially preserved to one course.

Evidence for burning in the room was extensive, but most heavily concentrated (or preserved) on the east side, southeast corner, and extending into the doorway and into D3200. Ash and charcoal is most dense in the east, but extends across the center of the room, and out to the western margin, where it has been eroded.

While few objects were recovered from the floor of the room, including two pieces of pumice and a pierced hare scapula, there were relatively high amounts of grain and pulses—with grain predominating—perhaps stored in sacks other organic containers.

D3200

The room is the largest in the building—an impressive 35 m² in area (ca. 7.0 m x 5.0 m)—with massive boulder foundations at the base of the east wall. A collapsed segment near the north end of the room exposed the worked-bedrock foundations, as well as an impressive 3.0-4.0 m high cut-bedrock vertical face forming the backing for the wall. The foundation of the north, east, and south walls is a ledge of modified bedrock, cut back and worked to form a face vertical with the wall. This bedrock bedding is most visible on the north and east, where the bedrock foundation forms a 0.30-0.40 m high socle for the wall. A well-fashioned *sideropetra* post base was found in the south half of the room, slightly east of the central axis of the south doorway, about 3.0 m from the east wall, and 1.70 from the south wall. The cylindrical block is dressed, with visible pecking on the margins and top. As in D3300, burning is evident throughout the space, but most heavily concentrated in the north and northeast corner, with ash and charcoal residues along the base of the north wall, north doorway into D3300, and along the south between the post base and the south wall.

11 pithos stands (schist slabs and *sideropetra* blocks) were exposed and left in situ, most distributed on the north side of the room, though others may have been displaced amidst the wall collapse which penetrated to the floor surface. A paved platform of schist and *sideropetra* slabs was found near the northwest corner, abutting the inner face of the west wall. The rectangular platform (ca. 0.70 x 0.90 m) has a small slab-built bin or pot stand on its north side—the east side of the bin is formed with a single large *sideropetra* slab, bedded with a flat leveling stone; the west side is bordered with a small *sideropetra* block and plinth; and a dolomite fieldstone closes the small bin on the north.

A large stone-lined bin (ca. 0.90 x 1.10 m) in the northeast corner of the room is contained by the north and east walls, and curbed on the south by four small dolomite and *sideropetra* boulders sitting on a row of small *sideropetra* and dolomite bedding stones. One of the bedding stones is a mortar fragment. On the west, the bin is closed by a row of *sideropetra* and dolomite fieldstones.

A pithos scatter was collected in the southwest area of the room—at least one jar—on the floor surface, and pithos fragments were recovered across the central and southeast quadrants. Given the bins and the cluster of pithos stands in the central and north area of the room, the space was likely to have been given to storage. Along the eastern wall of the room we recovered two complete sets of agrimi horn cores, and in the bin in the northeast corner there was a dense deposit of burned animal bones, including the burned lower legs of goats, suggesting abandonment-phase sacrifice. Both horn cores and burned lower legs of goats suggest structured deposition.

In addition to pithos scatters, among the finds on the floor, there was a jug, a strainer, a bronze fish hook, a spindle whorl, and a number of ground-stone tools. One peculiar vessel has a large globular funnel-like spout perforated with irregular rows of holes (like a strainer), a vertical handle projecting from the neck of the spout, and a squat oval body with an aperture on the side. The form of vessel and body sherds showing signs of burning on the interior, suggests a function as incense burner.

D2500

A well-preserved doorway connects D3200 and D2500. The latter is 15 m² and contained a dense deposit of pithoi and other vessels found broken across the entire floor surface (collected as 19 different pails), including at least one small jar. Evidence for burning was found in all areas of the room, with ash and charcoal stains visible on the foundations of east, north and south walls. The west wall is extant to the level of the floor surface, bedded on bedrock, ca. 0.50 m below floor level. Three *sideropetra* pithos stands were found in situ, though the shaved bedrock along the eastern half of the room should have accommodated others. The western end of the south wall has a doorjamb and built threshold indicating access into D3400 to the south. Non-pottery finds include a bronze pin; fragmentary iron blade and spike; an iron spit; and several ground stone tools. While olives are found in all the rooms of the building, a preliminary analysis of the course residue fractions from D2500 points to a particular high concentration of olives in this room.

D3400

D3400 is somewhat narrower than D2500—only 2.5 m wide. It has a 1.0 m high bench (ca. 0.90 m deep) along the east side of the room. A slab built bin in the northeast corner was constructed up against the bench (ca. 0.5 m wide and 1.20 m long, interior dimensions) with upright slabs (ca. 0.40 m high) of *sideropetra*, schist and dolomite. The bottom of the bin is layered with phyllite clay. The bench is a high platform, built with dolomite wall stones and bordered on the north and south by the walls of the room. The southern edge of the bench bonds with the south wall, forming the eastern door jamb for the doorway into D3100. The doorway is ca. 0.91 m wide and has no built threshold or door socket. There is a small

paved platform of schist and *sideropetra* slabs near the southwest corner of the room (ca. 0.60 x 1.00 m long), and two *sideropetra* pavers in the room's center are possible pithos stands. The room was heavily burnt, especially along the north and east sides, and around and on top of the bench, and the ash stains on the the wall foundations extend across the space of the room and through the doorway into the east area of D3100.

While fragmentary pithoi were found in the room, the space contained a wide variety of fine ware pottery and other objects, such as loomweights, spindle whorls, an iron spike fragment, and a number of ground-stone tools including a large stone weight and quern. Fragmentary pithos scatters were found in the southeast corner, near the doorway into D3100, and in the western half of the room, where there were at least two jars. Other finds included a chytra, hydrias (or table amphorae), lekanes, a strainer, and multiple cups including miniatures. A number of cups and other fine-ware vessels were recovered in 2016 from the top of the bench along the eastern wall, and in 2017 multiple vessels along the base of the bench at floor level. As with D3300, the volume of pulses and grains is relatively higher in this room, with pulses predominating.

D3100

The long narrow room adjoining D3400 on the south is D3100. The space is only 2.20 m wide and about 6.0 m long. Pottery scatters occupied nearly the entire area of the floor, with pithoi dominating the assemblage. There is a pithos stand near the western end of the south wall, and a linear cluster of paving stones (schist and *sideropetra*), covering an area of about 0.60 m x 2.0 meters in the southeast area of the room. There is also a small pot stand or bin made of small *sideropetra* blocks near the western edge of the preserved floor. The foundation of the east wall is cut-bedrock, forming the wall face at its base. Indications of burning, while extensive throughout the room, were most pronounced on the east bedrock wall face, and across the north face of the south wall at the eastern end of the room. The bedrock foundation of the east wall is remarkably high (1.10-1.40 m in height), forming a neat cut-bedrock ledge (ca. 0.40 m deep) for the upper built courses of the wall. At the bonded southeast corner, wall stones are fitted between projecting bedrock face and the corner stones of the south wall.

A possible blocked doorway is indicated at the west end of the south wall D2812—exactly 1.10 m wide between the visible seams. It is also possible that the extant west end of the wall could be the east doorjamb for a narrower (ca. 0.90 m) wide doorway extending out to the inner face of the west wall, whose foundations are preserved some 1.60 m from the end of D2812, and 0.80 m below the extant floor level of the room. It is also possible that the blocked doorway could have functioned earlier, perhaps to facilitate access and movement of pithoi, only to be blocked for the rebuilding of the doorway in the southwest corner of the room.

Pithos scatters covered essentially the entire area of the floor, a density of in-situ ceramic remains that is similar to that discovered in D2500. The density of the pithoi, the narrowness of the room, and the paving stones are a good indication that storage was the room's primary function. The deposit is consistent with storage assemblages on the site—on first examination during excavation, there were identified as many as seven pithoi; four amphorae, including transport amphorae; cups, chyrtas, and smaller vessels; fragments of lead and iron; a bronze vessel handle; three loomweights; and a number of stone tools, including a quern; and two triton's trumpet shells. While there was some grain and pulse in the room, the assemblage is dominated by olives and grapes.

D2800

D2800 is a fairly large room, about 21 m² (3.5 m x 6.0 m internal dimensions). The bedrock rises along the east side of the room, where it has been shaved and shaped—in general, along east side of all the

rooms of the West Building, there has been significant modification of the bedrock, with floor levels significantly higher in the rooms' eastern quadrants, where the clay floor has been set to level off the irregularities in the bedrock. In A2800 the highest point is in the northeast corner, sloping down to the south and west.

The stratigraphic conditions and deposition in A2800 were slightly different than in the other rooms to the north. The roofing clay was evidently more eroded (washed) and wall tumble had apparently sunk or penetrated to the floor level across the entirety of the space. Moreover, even though there was considerable burned material—probably wood charcoal from the roof's superstructure—embedded in the matrix of the roofing clay, neither the ceiling collapse nor floor level exhibited the same level of preservation of burning evident in the other rooms of the building. Pieces of charcoal were found in and on the floor surface, but the matrices had less ash and red-black discoloration common in the burned deposits in the neighboring rooms. This is likely to do with erosion, as the wall foundations exhibit the same dark ash discoloration along north, south and east walls. The floor itself is badly eroded at the western margin.

While only three in-situ pithos scatters were identified during excavation, the room had at least seven pithos stands—and rooms of this approximate size elsewhere on the site could accommodate up to eight 400-500 liter jars. A built niche or shelf in the east wall—exposed during excavation in 2016—is about 1.16 m above the floor level, and is has very regular dimensions (0.34 x 0.34 x 0.34 m.). A series of *sideropetra* pavers and two upright stones (one schist and one *sideropetra*) in the east-center of the room look like a curbed hearth, though there is little direct supporting evidence that the room was used primarily for food preparation. The presence of stone tools is not probative of food processing, and the plant remains show very little residual debris of grains and pulses, normally encountered in kitchens. Grapes and olives (primarily grape) dominate the assemblage, and relative to other rooms in the building we are inclined to see the room as functioning, at least at the time of abandonment, for wine or must storage. Although the hearth installation had no evidence of burning from the area between the curb stones, it should be said that no built hearth from archaic levels at Azoria has yet to produce evidence of ash or charcoal from the features themselves. They had evidently been cleaned before the destruction.

The finds from the floor include at least three pithoi, and several smaller vessels including at least one amphora; a piece of sheet bronze; a bronze pin, fish hook, and bracelet; two pieces of worked bone; and 12 stone tools, including a large quern near the doorway in the southwest.

Comments on the West Building

The West Building is a freestanding architectural unit, some 36 meters long and seven meters wide, bordered on the north and south by stairways allowing passage up the bedrock slope to the north-south street above, and thus direct access to the Northwest Building, the ramp to the Monumental Civic Building, and the street leading south to the Service Building. The foundations for the western wall of the building are preserved in segments, evidently built on bedrock and in part on cobble fill. While floors were constructed of clay on bedrock, surfaces along the western edge evidently used cobble fill for their substructure (D2800; D3100; D3400). The structure is composed of nine interconnected rooms arranged in a row along the terrace, occupying over 250 m², with a total area of at least 140 m² interior floor space. While there are indications of entrances to rooms from the west, in D2500 and D3400, the main entrance to the building may have been from the south through a vestibule in D3000. On the west, the ancient ground surface—and likely street or corridor—is no longer extant. Excavation exposed modern agricultural terrace fill, and in the deepest layers, archaic cobble fill, supporting, and in some cases, providing fill for the foundations of segments of the western wall, bedded as much as a meter below the floor levels of the building.

On preliminary analysis of the form, contexts, and assemblages, the building's function is consistent with that of a storehouse or storage magazines, suggesting the centralized and administered organization of a range of foods by the city or other supra-household authority. If the total internal area of the space were committed to agricultural storage, which seems likely, we could estimate the building's maximum storage capacity at about 31,000 liters. (Our estimate is conservative, derived from the average capacity of well-preserved storerooms with in-situ assemblages elsewhere on the site, which is about 4000 liters of pithos storage/18 m² (that is ca. eight 500-liter jars). This does not, however, account for the volume of smaller vessels such as small jars, amphorae, and hydrias, and other perishable containers such as cloth or hide sacks, woven baskets, or wooden boxes; such vessels would significantly increase the volume. It is however unlikely that the entire floor space of the rooms would have been occupied by pithoi, and perhaps not all rooms were in use at the same time. The number does however emphasize the significant potential storage capability of this single building; the allocation of space for storage on an unprecedented scale at Azoria or elsewhere in the Aegean for this period; and the dedication of space, and the construction of a separate structure to accommodate and centralize the storage of agricultural produce.

Continuing study of the plant remains from the various rooms, while incomplete, is beginning to demonstrate some organization and perhaps a degree of segregation of foodstuffs. Pulses (e.g., chick pea, broad bean, lentil) and cereals (wheat and barley) may be concentrated in certain rooms (D3300 and D3400), which also lack the dense pithos scatters—perhaps indicating a preference for smaller perishable containers for those products. Grapes (remains of must) and olives, however correlate strongly to rooms with numerous pithoi. For example, grape remains were most prevalent in D3100 and D2800, a good indication that the pithoi in those rooms contained must or wine. The distribution of olive is more widespread and relative volumes are harder to interpret, though a preliminary scan of the residues from D2500 shows a high volume in that room, which also had several large pithoi in situ. Although the fragmentary remains of seeds are probably residues or palimpsests, cumulative traces of what these rooms may have contained during their use life, Scarry's preliminary study indicates the possibility of crop-specific storage practices, with grain and pulse in D3300 and D3400, almond in D2900, wine in adjoining rooms D3100 and D2800, and olives in D2500. In addition to olive, grape, grain and pulses, there were figs, pomegranate, and almond. The range of foods is on the whole diverse, and thus not dissimilar to that of other civic and residential cooking and dining contexts on the site, which suggests shorter-term storage for consumption, perhaps for preparation of public feasts, rather than large-scale and long-term effective surpluses.

While storerooms have been found elsewhere in civic contexts, normally juxtaposed to food processing rooms in the Communal Dining and Service Building, the West Building is the first identifiable building committed exclusively to this purpose. The discovery thus introduces some interesting questions on the construction and function of civic space, and changes our perspective on the spatial limits of the civic complex itself and the importance of food storage at Azoria. Indeed, farther south along the 340-345 m contour, the complex of rooms comprising the Southwest Buildings are, as we have reported, not easily interpreted as residential spaces, as we originally published the spaces; these rooms more likely represent a continuation of the public buildings on this slope. As with the West Building, storage seems to be of paramount importance, with storerooms in B3900, B3600 (upper and lower rooms), B3200, and B5800. The West Building adds to this emerging picture, providing a very clear example of state-level centralization and organization of foodstuffs, and introducing the possibility that other such freestanding storage magazines might exist on the site in areas yet unexcavated to the west.

In earlier reports, we have presented evidence for the control and redistribution of food in various contexts and scales of public feasting. Clusters of storerooms are linked to kitchens in the Communal Dining Building, while the Service Building, which may have been larger than we originally thought, communicates directly with the Monumental Civic Building. Moreover, residential storage, far exceeding the nutritional needs of individual families, and containing few foods that constitute actual primary

subsistence foodstuffs, appears to be linked to a system of food allocations for public stores and ultimately communal dining. The West Building constitutes evidence for another stage in the process of mobilization and administration of surpluses, perhaps an intermediary facility between houses and public dining buildings; a place where tithes or payments of foodstuffs could be collected, measured, monitored and temporarily stored before being cycled into storerooms of the Communal Dining Building or the Service Building.

(2). The Hellenistic Building (South Slope Buildings): B6400, B6900, B7000 (figs. 8-9)

Excavation exposed a series of three interconnected rooms of Hellenistic date (B6900, B6400, and B7000) immediately adjacent to and southwest of B1900, B5100, and B100. The discovery of these rooms now permits us to reconstruct a Hellenistic building on the south slope of the South Acropolis, evidently related to the towers on the peak (3rd-2nd c. B.C.). The original archaic buildings occupying the 360-365 m contours in this area (B1900, B100 and B300) had been partially destroyed or dismantled, and then rebuilt, with Hellenistic structures set inside the architectural armature of the archaic buildings. Isolated hearth rooms in B100 and B200, as well as small paved rooms in B1900 and B100, are examples of the HL modification of the spaces. The small room B5100 (a storeroom containing vetch), the adjacent paved room in B1900, and the hearth room in B100, clearly intruded into the archaic occupation debris, often to the floor levels of those rooms, while using segments of the standing archaic walls as foundations for the new buildings. Excavation in 2017 exposed more rooms of this HL building on the adjacent terrace below, where the bedrock slopes to the southeast. Here some archaic walls survived the renovation, but for the most part, the HL builders dug into the hillslope, bedding their walls and floors on the bedrock. Because of the condition of the eroded bedrock slope on the southwestern edge of B100, we cannot determine with certainty the communication between the upper terrace (B1900, B5100, and B100), and the lower terrace (B6900, B6400, and B7000), but a sufficient number of walls survive for us to define a single HL building complex whose rooms extended across both terraces.

B6400

The best preserved of the HL rooms is B6400, which is a regular square (ca. 4.5 m interior dimensions), about 20 m² in internal area. The floor is constructed of phyllite clay layer on the eroding bedrock, which slopes rather steeply, some 0.45 m. from northeast to southwest. The unevenness of the floor—and steeply sloping bedrock—is the result of both the seismic titling of the south slope to the southwest, as well as the resultant erosion.

The room's northeast (north) wall (B6402), preserved to six courses (ca. 1.10 m in height), has one face and is built up against the bedrock at the back, which rises sharply up the slope into B100. The wall perhaps originally retained an HL room or corridor above and to the northeast, connecting the upper and lower terraces. The room's northwest and southeast walls are both ca. 0.60-0.70 m wide, and extant to three to four courses, while the southwest wall (south) uses large dolomite boulders—most likely remnants of an archaic spine wall running along this 359-360 m (asl) contour—partially fitted with regular *sideropetra* blocks. The walls of the building use very regular medium-sized *sideropetra* blocks, in regular courses with dressed faces or regular facets—the same building materials are found in the HL towers on the peak of the South Acropolis. These stones were evidently selected from the dismantled archaic buildings along the slope and then reused to form the HL buildings. One doorway is in the northern part of the northwest wall, leading into B6900—it has a bedrock threshold, leveled with a schist paver, and a door socket in B6900 to the southwest of the doorway. Another possible doorway is located in the middle of the southeast wall, connecting the room to B7000.

The room has several built features: a bench in the middle of the room; a square platform/bin in the east corner, curvilinear platforms/bins in the north and south corners, and a curvilinear bin in the west corner. The low square platform in the east corner (ca. 0.20 m in height; ca. 1.0 m square) is two courses high on the west side, and built up to five courses on the south, conforming to the slope of the bedrock. It is built of *sideropetra* blocks and the top stones form a slight curb, forming shallow bin of sorts, surfaced on the interior with clay and schist slabs. The curvilinear platform in the north is built up to two courses of *sideropetra* blocks on the exterior (ca. 0.32 m in height; ca. 0.80-0.90 m wide) and the top surface is lined with dolomite and *sideropetra* cobbles. The platform in the south is preserved only one course high, and like the square platform in the east, it may have been a shallow bin—the outer stones form a curb and the interior was evidently surfaced with *sideropetra* and schist slabs (ca. 1.0 m. wide). In the west corner, the curvilinear bin is four courses high (ca. 0.50 m in height), with a high curb formed by the uppermost two courses creating a 0.33 m deep enclosure (ca. 1.0 m wide). Other features in the room consist of eight slabs and blocks of *sideropetra* and schist clustered near the southwest wall, between the wall and the central bench. Given the locations and number of ground-stone tools in this area—including a large stone mortar, turned upside down on one of these slabs—we surmise that the stones may have functioned as work platforms or bases for larger stone implements.

The most impressive feature in the room is the central bench. Built with two courses of regular *sideropetra* blocks and a schist leveling course in between, the bench stands about 0.40-0.46 in height, with a length of 1.10 m, and width of 0.60. The top course does not form an even or flat surface, but has a slight depression in the middle, ca. 0.22 x 0.58 m x 0.10 m deep, lined at the bottom with irregular dolomite cobbles, and pieces of schist and *sideropetra*. The bench takes the form of contemporary altars—rather than clearly that of a functional bench or hearth—though there is no evidence of associated burning, bones, figurines, or other ritual or cooking activity. We thus assume given the room's assemblage—pointing to heavy processing of grains and pulses—that the bench was a work platform. Among the non-pottery finds, there were some 20 stone tools, including two mortars, three querns and a fragment of a hopper rubber; four loom weights; five iron and bronze nails; and a piece of bronze sheet. A large mortar and a small quern, were found face down—the quern had been placed carefully in the western bin—the normal position of tools during periods of use.

B6900

The neighboring room to the west/northwest is B6900, connected to B6400 through a doorway stepping up through the north end of the northwest wall. The room's north/northeast wall (B6902) is a Hellenistic construction, and continuation of B6402 to the east/northeast, and like the wall in B6400, it was built on and against the rise in the bedrock. It is preserved to two-three courses along its face, though makes use of an archaic dolomite wall, extending from the north in B100. The floor, at a higher level than in B6400, is less well preserved than that in the latter, but consists of phyllite clay, layered on the bedrock surface—though both are extremely eroded. Parts of the west/northwest wall also use archaic dolomite boulders fitted with segments of *sideropetra* blocks.

An area of paving occupies the southwest quadrant of the room—*sideropetra* and schist slabs abutting the east/southeast face of the northwest wall. The southwest wall is no longer extant, though most likely made use of archaic boulders from the spine wall constructed at this contour. The pavers form a roughly oval-shaped and shallow basin in the southwest (ca. 0.80 x 0.90 m. dimensions—the bottom bedded on phyllite clay. One interesting find in the middle of the room (center of the northeast side) was a jug fragment and bone lying on a concentration of charcoal (B6905.09). The non-pottery objects from the room included an iron nail, a bronze nail; a fragment of bronze sheet; two stone weights; five ground-stone tools; three loom weights; an iron blade, axe, and spike or spit. One find important for dating the room and the HL complex was a bronze Hierapytnian *trichalkon* (Laureate head of Zeus/Palm tree,

akrostolion and the ethnic in form of a monogram), dated by V. Stefanaki between 230/20 and the first quarter of the 2nd century BC.

B7000

The room or space to the east/southeast and contiguous to B6400 is hard to interpret and not well preserved—the northeast wall is no longer extant, and only a few boulders of the archaic spine wall, extending from B6400, survive to form a west corner of the space. The archaic wall on the east, B4905, may have served as the room's eastern border. We assume that this is a room or courtyard, entered from the southwest, and probably functioning as a work space or vestibule for the HL complex. Because no well consolidated floor surface or discernable roofing material was identified, we are not certain that the area was interior space. A door from B6400 stepped up into the space. While much of this area of the room (ca. 15 m²) may have had a paved surface, some 30 *sideropetra* and schist slabs forms patches of paving survive along the west/northwest and southwest areas of the space. Fitzsimons has suggested that there was a drain separating the main patches of stones, given their arrangement creating a regular 0.35 m wide channel between areas of paving. One of the paving stones near the southwest wall has a door socket marking the entrance into the space.

From B7000 one could enter B6400—stepping down into that room—or ascend into a corridor or room to the north/northeast situated just outside the hearth room and paved room in B100. There must have been access (a doorway) from this space into the storeroom with the vetch deposit (B5100) and the neighboring paved room in B1900, possibly stepping up through the wall that extends to the west/southwest from the west corner of the hearth room in B100. This group of rooms—B100, B5100, and B1900 on the upper terrace, and B6400, B6900, and B7000 on the lower terrace—should then form a single building, with a pair of storerooms in B1900 and B5100; a hearth room (food processing) and adjoining storeroom (B100); and grain and pulse processing in B6400. The function of B6900 is unknown, but the stone tools, animal bone debris, and iron blade, axe, and spit probably indicate food processing.

(3) Archaic rooms on the upper southwest slope of the peak of the South Acropolis (A3600; A2500) (fig. 10)

At the southern edge of the western terraces of the archaic Communal Dining Building, we opened two trenches (A3600 and A2500), south of A2600 and southwest of A3000, following the line of the spine wall that extends across the east side of the terrace of rooms A3300, A3200, A2800, and A2900. There is a break in the spine wall in A2900, partly because of the extreme erosion and instability of the slope at this juncture; and partly because the area may have been the principal east-west access from the Monumental Civic Building and Service Building to the Communal Dining Building. Archaic floor surfaces and occupation layers are not preserved in the area from the north end of A2800 (where the FN-EM I building came to light in 2016, about 1.0 m below the archaic surface level and base of the eastern spine wall) to A2900 and A2600 in the south. We reconstruct an archaic-period stair or ramp in this corridor, extending up the slope from D200 in the west, along the south side of A3100, into the Communal Dining Building, providing access to rooms in A3100, A2800, and ultimately A3000 and the stair and vestibule in A1900S.

Exploring the terrace to the south of A2900, we recovered the continuation of the spine wall, and three archaic rooms in A3600 and A2600. We traced the spine wall for about 9.0 m until it disappears under the HL paved room in B1900. The spine wall (A3608 and A2509) forms the E wall for a room in A3600—preserved only in the southeast corner, and an adjoining room in in A2500.

A3600 (north room)

In A3600, the clay floor is well preserved only along the east side near the spine wall, and against the south wall (A3609). A single boulder projecting north from the west wall of A2500 (A2519) might indicate the western limits of the room and the southwest corner, providing a room width of 2.5 m. The room's southeast corner at the spine wall is well preserved. Neither the north nor the west walls are extant.

A2500 (west room)

A2500 is well preserved. Its architecture forms a small rectangle— interior dimensions are 4.5 m. long (north-south) and 2.5 m wide (east-west)—bordered by the spine wall on the east, and impressive boulder walls on north, south, and west sides. The structure is unusual and distinctive in the use of dolomite boulders for the foundations for all four walls—individual stones measure between 0.50 m to 1.50 m in length, and are as wide as 0.80 to 1.0 m. These large stones are bedded on smaller dolomite boulders and cobbles, which form a distinctive leveling course at the base of the walls. The spaces between the boulders are fitted with smaller dolomite boulders and *sideropetra* blocks, regularizing the wall faces and room corners. There is a doorway in the northwest corner, at the west end of the north wall (ca. 1.0-1.10 m wide), providing access into the adjoining room in A3600. The threshold, marked by a roughly worked door socket on the west side (within A2500) is hard-packed phyllite clay fitted with schist and *sideropetra* slabs. The doorjamb, extant on the east side, consists of the end of a boulder, fitted with smaller dolomite stones to form an even face at the wall end. The room's floor surface, exposed under a layer of roofing clay and wall collapse, is hard-packed phyllite clay on bedrock, higher in the north half of the room, where the bedrock rises. Four *sideropetra* and schist pavers are embedded in the floor in the south half of the room.

The function of the room is uncertain—the room lacks distinctive features or probative assemblages—though it is certainly part of the Communal Dining Building or an early phase of that building. Its location is important—situated at the southern end of the terrace that should have been a critical transition between the dining rooms in A3100, A3000, and A2000, and the other rooms of the complex on the south slope, such as G300 and G500, which we consider an extension of the building to the east. The non-pottery finds in A2500 include a bronze strap, a bronze pin, an iron rod or spike fragment, a loomweight and a number of stone tools. The ceramic assemblage consists primarily of drinking and dining wares of 7th and 6th century date.

A2500 (east room)

On the east side of the spine wall (A2509), directly opposite the rectangular room but inaccessible from it, is another room, narrower than the west room—about 1.0-1.5 m wide (2.0 m wide at the widest point in the north, and 4.5 meters long as exposed)—situated between the spine wall on the west and a high cut-bedrock outcrop on the west. The bedrock rises to a surprising height of over 1.6 m in the south, to over 3.0 m in the central and north parts of the room. The outcrop turns to the northeast where the room's north wall (A2527) abuts the bedrock face. This north wall is constructed with dolomite boulders throughout (six to eight courses) and is preserved in the northeast corner to a height of 2.2 m. It appears to bond with the spine wall at the northwest corner. The southern limit of the room is obscured by the construction of the HL paved room in B1900; a boulder or outcrop of bedrock, however, projecting to the west/southwest

from underneath the HL room in B1900 could mark the southeastern limits of the room. The space was divided by a short spur wall, about 2.60 m from the northwest corner of the room. This short wall projects about 0.80 m into the space of the room, creating a narrow passage (0.65-0.90 m wide) between the wall and the bedrock face. The spur wall, preserved to two courses, is constructed with dressed dolomite blocks (0.50 m high; 0.65 m wide), suggesting a doorjamb, and thus dividing the space into two rooms. As in the west room, this east room had a phyllite clay floor. The oddly inaccessible and narrow space of the room, and the predominance of fine wares in the assemblage—cups, skyphoi, aryballos, and bowls—suggests that it functioned as a pantry or closet, perhaps serving rooms to the south and southeast, now obscured or destroyed by the construction of the HL building in B6900, B6400, and B7000. Other finds include seven spindle whorls, two ground-stone tools, and a stone bead.

The ceramic assemblages from both rooms belong to the 6th century, suggesting that the A2500 rooms, and the adjoining room A3600 belong to the late 7th century rebuilding of the site, and the initial phase of construction of the Communal Dining Building. The lack of Late Archaic forms and characteristic destruction debris means that the rooms in this area had probably gone out of use before the abandonment of the site at the beginning of the 5th century.

(4) The southern area of the Southwest Buildings (B6200; B6800; B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700) (figs. 11-12)

The southern area of the Southwest Buildings consists of B5800, an archaic storeroom (excavated in 2016), and contiguous rooms to the south, B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700 (excavated in 2017). Situated next to this group on the adjacent terrace to the west are B6200 and B6800, also excavated in 2017. This cluster of rooms occupies the southern end of a street or corridor, B5400-B5500, and in the archaic phase, the rooms would have been bordered by a street above and on the east side of B5800 and B6500. The relationship of these seven rooms to the northern part of the Southwest Buildings is still difficult to understand, because contiguous spaces to the north, B5600 and B5900, do not have preserved archaic or protoarchaic levels—excavation in both areas exposed cobble fill (late 7th c.) resting on bedrock. Moreover, the archaic buildings in B3500 were mostly destroyed and rebuilt in HL, obliterating archaic phases of the room.

What we can say is that in the archaic period, B6800 and B6200 were connected by means of a doorway to a room in B5600. That is, the rooms had a northern orientation and communication, forming part of a larger building that evidently included B3500 and B3400 to the north. It is also likely that B5800 and B6300, both in use in Late Archaic, were connected to B5600 as well, through a doorway in the northern part of the west wall of B5800. Adjoining rooms B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700, belong to a original protoarchaic building on the upper terrace.

B6800

B6800 is an impressive space, some 30 m² in area (ca. 7.6 m long by 4.0 m wide, east-west). The floor is well-preserved throughout—with no evidence of the Late Archaic burned destruction that was found in the adjacent room B5800. The floor is a thick layer of hard-packed phyllite clay on bedrock and gravel leveling fill. As the result of the seismic tilt of the west slope, the northern half of the floor and north wall

has sunk some 0.20-0.30 m below the level of the south part of the room, shifting and slid to the northwest. Even with the tilting of the room to the west/northwest, the floor itself was in remarkably good condition.

The east wall (B6314) is the foundation of the west wall of rooms B6300, B6600, and B6700 on the terrace above. It was constructed with dolomite boulders in the foundation, and then smaller dolomite boulders and some *sideropetra* blocks for the upper courses. Chinking stones are used throughout the construction. Preserved to a height of 1.60 m, its foundations should constitute the line of the original protoarchaic building to the east. The room's south wall (B6804) is preserved for about 4.5 m from the southeast corner to the western edge of the terrace where its southwest corner is obscured by a large fallen boulder. At about 1.80 m from the southeast corner the wall abuts an outcrop of bedrock that forms a cavity in the wall face, ca. 0.40 m deep, 0.80 m high, and ca. 0.50 m wide. The bedrock has been partially worked to form the opening, and the interior is lined with pisé embedded with calcined limestone. The feature is a fireplace of some kind—and oven or furnace—and although we recovered no evidence of its original form or use, fragments of pisé and smithing hearth-bottoms were recovered from the deep layer of roofing clay above the floor (B8606). It is likely to have been a feature of an earlier protoarchaic use of the terrace.

The east segment of the south wall (east of the furnace installation) is built with irregular courses or sections of *sideropetra* blocks and dolomite cobbles and boulders. On the west side of the bedrock furnace installation is the continuation of the south wall, which angles to the west of the southwest orientation of the east segment. This western part of the wall is preserved to two courses of small dolomite boulders and fieldstones. We cut the scarp back to the south far enough to expose both a northern and southern face, suggesting the existence of a yet-unexcavated room to the south. The room's north wall forms a neat right angle abutting the east wall in the northeast corner. Constructed of large dolomite boulders and smaller dolomite cobbles, used as bedding stones, it is preserved only two courses high. It extends to the southwest—parallel with the east segment of the south wall—for 1.90-2.0 m where a dolomite boulder forms the east doorjamb, for the door stepping up into B6200 to the north. The doorway has a stepped threshold (dolomite cobbles and schist pavers), originally ascending ca. 0.50 m to the level of the earliest 6th c. floor recovered in B6200. The doorway was eventually blocked—and B6800 had gone out of use—when a new south wall of B6200 was constructed on an east-west orientation off axis of the original wall line.

The room's west wall in the southwest is obscured by the fallen boulder. Farther to the north, along the western margin segments of the western wall are preserved. They are constructed of small dolomite boulders and fieldstones set on top of several large dolomite boulders that form impressive foundations, bedded some 0.70 m below the extant floor surface on the west. The foundations for the rooms northwest corner are constructed with two large *sideropetra* blocks, forming a face in line with the stacked dolomite boulders foundations to the south along the western wall line.

One post base—a small *sideropetra* slab—is extant in the north central part of the room, about 2.50-2.70 from the east wall, though with the tilt of the floor at this juncture, its original location was probably on the central north south axis of the room.

The deposition in the room above the floor level was unusual. Dense stone debris—evidently collapsed upper courses of the walls—was found throughout the room in the upper levels, intruding a deep deposit

of phyllite clay, about 0.40 m deep across the full extent of the room (B8602 and B8605). While we interpreted this material as roofing clay and mixed with wall fallen wall stones, the loci contained a considerable amount of cultural material, including extremely dense deposits of pottery and animal bone, indicating a dump or midden, not dissimilar to fill and dump deposits in the Communal Dining Building (A3100, A3400, and G300). Removal of the wall stones and dumped debris revealed a deposit of roofing clay (B8606), about 0.40-0.50 m deep in the south and as deep as 0.80 in the north, though it was difficult to distinguish the matrix of the roofing clay from the dumped material in the upper levels—the actual occupation level may have been exposed, abandoned and allowed to collect dumped debris from various adjacent areas, eventually becoming mixed as the roof was allowed to collapse into the space.

The finds from the dump deposits and roofing clay levels consist of large amounts of drinking, dining, serving, and cooking wares; as well as loomweights, spindle whorls, a lead fishing weight, a piece of bronze sheet, a terracotta votive plaque, an animal figurine fragment, a bronze blade, three smithing hearth bottoms, and 12 pieces of pumice—several with scarring from the working of metal implements—and several stone tools.

The function of the space is problematic, as the room lacks definitive features or coherent systemic assemblages. The vast amount of ceramic and bone material appears to be discarded drinking and dining debris, with the same range of shapes and vessel types that we have recorded in archaic dumps in the Communal Dining Building. That said, the metal-working debris (pumice, smithing hearth bottoms, and fragments of pisé) suggests a cumulative palimpsest, residual material from an earlier use of this space, perhaps related to the protoarchaic use of the adjacent rooms to the east. The date of the pottery on the floor level of the room is 6th century, mixed with earlier forms.

B6200

B6200 is a small room, adjoining B6800 on the north. In its earlier 6th century phase, it was entered from B6800 through the stepped doorway in the north wall of that room. The western limits of the room are defined by a dolomite boulder wall (B6214)—similar in construction and preservation to the west wall of B6800. This wall consists of five large dolomite boulders fitted with smaller dolomite boulders and fieldstones. A neat corner is formed at the north, where a short dolomite spur wall (B6213) runs east-west for about 1.5 m, creating two rooms, a narrower room across the width of the northern end (ca. 1.5 m deep), and a large space to the south (ca. 3.20 m x 2.80 m). The room is bordered on the east by the foundations of the west wall of B5800 (B5611), and closed on the north by wall B5612, which also uses dolomite boulders for its foundation—fitted with a dolomite cobble bedding course.

Three occupation phases (floor levels) were exposed in 2017. The earliest two levels reached are 6th century in date and should correspond to the use of the large room B6800 to the south. In the room's last phase, access to B6800 was blocked, and a new south wall, B6203, was constructed, effectively closing off the room from the abandoned room to the south. In this phase, a doorway in the north wall, B5612, was in use, though we are uncertain of its earliest date of construction. Schist slabs and *sideropetra* blocks are used for the upper wall foundations and threshold into B5600. A one-course high bench or platform (0.90 x 0.40 m) of dolomite cobbles was constructed against the east wall, near the northeast corner of the room, and a small bin, fashioned with a *sideropetra* slab and dolomite boulder was installed in the southeast corner. A phyllite clay floor covered the entirety of the space of the room, though the top of the boulder spur wall B6213 was visible, its top extant course protruding the exposed floor level. An odd

feature is a narrow one-course screen wall that extends from the east end of the spur wall, running ca. 3.0 m to the south down the center of the room. This single row of dolomite and *sideropetra* fieldstones does not appear to have any comprehensibly structural function. A large stone mortar was recovered face down in the southeast corner near the bin.

The pottery from the room is 6th century in date, and like B6800, there was no discernable burning in the abandonment phase, suggesting that the room had fallen out of use by the early 5th century, though abandoned later than the adjoining room.

B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700 (protoarchaic building)

In 2017, we recovered a series of four small rooms south and contiguous to B5800—an archaic storeroom excavated in 2016. The doorway in the middle of the south wall of B5800 (B5807) leads into a four-room building of 7th century date. Indeed, wall B5807, is the original north wall of this structure, and thus we presume the front or perhaps even the original facade of the building in the protoarchaic phase. That is, the original building had a northern aspect and orientation. Examination of the residual pottery on the floor surface of the later adjoining room B5800 revealed 7th century forms, though the configuration of this room and this space in the protoarchaic phase is not clear. It is likely that a protoarchaic room occupied this space until B5800 was constructed or remodeled at the end of the 7th century, eventually accommodating the archaic storeroom.

The protoarchaic-phase building consisted of a row of three rooms, from north to south, B6300, B6600, and B6700; a fourth room, B6500, next to B6300 on the east, was evidently entered from the north through a passage between the east wall of B6300 (B6308) and the bedrock on the east, which has been modified to accommodate the irregular shape of the room.

B6300

The doorway from B5800 leads into a narrow rectangular room (ca. 2.0 m wide x 3.0 m long). In its 7th-century phase, it had a clay floor, bedded on bedrock, and a large semicircular feature, sunken in the floor directly in front of the doorway into the room from B5800. The interior sides and the top of the feature are lined with schist slabs, forming a depression in the floor surface about 1.40 m wide and 0.20 m deep. The bottom of the basin is phyllite clay layered on the bedrock, which rises on the east side. The logic of the placement and function of the feature remains unclear. The built threshold in the doorway belongs to the subsequent phase, so we are uncertain if the basin was contained by a wall or lining in this area.

The latest pottery contained in the floor packing that eventually filled the receptacle is late 7th century in date, suggesting that the basin had gone out of use by the archaic period, perhaps coinciding with the construction of the storeroom B5800 to the north. In the archaic phase, the floor was resurfaced, burying the basin, and allowing the room to function as a pantry, a convenient extension of the storage space in B5800—in the Late Archaic phase the room contained a number of fragmentary vessels including amphorae or hydrias.

B6600

An off-center doorway in the south wall of B6300 (B6306) stepped up into an adjoining room, B6600, at a higher level (ca. 0.20 m) and narrower than B6300 (ca. 1.50 m wide x 3.0 m long). The room has a clay floor and no distinctive features. The latest pottery on the floor surface is 7th century, and the doorway between the rooms was eventually blocked, suggesting that the room had gone out of use before the archaic period.

B6700

The southernmost room, B6700, is built up against bedrock in the south and east, and is roughly the same dimensions as B6600 (ca. 1.10 m wide in the east, and ca. 1.60 m wide in the west). The walls of the room are impressive. The east wall is extant to over 1.5 m in height (six irregular courses), and consists of dolomite boulder foundations and *sideropetra*, dolomite and schist blocks for the upper wall. The south wall uses the same materials, but has a string course of schist and *sideropetra* blocks supporting more regular courses of small, worked dolomite boulders. Indeed, in all three rooms of the building, *sideropetra* blocks, roughly dressed dolomite boulders, and schist and *sideropetra* string courses are in evidence.

While no doorway between B6600 and B6700 was identified with certainty, it is clear that the wall had been rebuilt, closing off use of the space. One peculiarity of the space is that the floor level (and bedrock contour on the east side) is about 0.40 higher than in the neighboring B6600, suggesting that it should have required a stepped access up into this space from the north. The floor is phyllite clay, bedded on the rise of bedrock on the east, but constructed on a deep leveling fill of phyllite clay and dolomite fieldstones on the center and west areas of the room. The date of both the floor packing and occupation level of the room is 7th century.

B6500

On the east side of the building between the east wall of B6300 and the bedrock outcrop is an irregular room (B6500), ca. 1.80-2.0 m wide (east-west) by about 2.50 long (north-south). The room has an impressive east wall and northeast corner (B6303), preserved to about 1.75 m in height, and composed of eight irregular courses of dolomite boulders and fieldstones bedded on and built against the bedrock. The earliest floor recovered, dating to the 7th century, was made of phyllite clay. In the southeast area of the east side of the room, there is another wall, likely to be earlier in date (B6315), forming a slight curve and conforming to the bedrock in the southeast corner. The segment, made of *sideropetra* and worked dolomite blocks, is extant to about 1.5 m in length, with six courses standing to about 1.10 in height—it was constructed directly on the bedrock at floor level, and up against the bedrock face. Given its position and style of architecture, it should be the original east wall of the room, constructed we presume at the same time as the main building to the west, probably early in the 7th century. While there is no surviving stratigraphic evidence for the two building phases, it is clear that the dolomite wall (B6303) is a secondary phase, cutting the earlier *sideropetra* wall (B6315).

The dolomite wall represents a later phase of construction, which we associate with the installation and use of an iron-working furnace. A large piece of pisé—part of the furnace lining—was found adhering to the west face of the bedrock and dolomite wall B6303, where it truncates the earlier *sideropetra* wall segment. Pieces of pisé were also found in-situ along the southern edge of the room, adhering to the outcrop of bedrock and the east face of wall B6308 where it abuts the bedrock. The exposed bedrock on

the south side of the room is also heavily calcined, evidently burnt, and fragments of pisé and vitrified rock with traces of iron slag adhering to the surfaces suggest metal working in this space. The bedrock floor of the room, especially exposed outcrops on the east side of the room, at the base of wall B6303, also show signs of burning.

The abandonment conditions of the space of the room provide little residual debris of this iron-working function, and we have yet to test the fill of the space for hammer-scale. It looks as if prior to abandonment the space had been thoroughly cleaned—given the normal or expected residual ash and slag debris left behind by smelting or smithing. A number of stone tools and pumice fragments were recovered from adjacent rooms B6300, B6600 and B6700, and a stone crucible was found at the western edge of B6300 (B6313.25), probably belonging to the original floor of the room with the semicircular basin. Smithing hearth bottom were however recovered from the neighboring room B6800.

The only certain evidence of phasing is that the room, originally accessible from the north—a 1.10 m passage between the northeast corner of walls B5807 and B6308 and the dolomite wall B6303—was closed off by the construction of the archaic wall, B5808, which was built into this early doorway, creating the southeast corner of the storeroom B5800.

The function of this cluster of rooms in the protoarchaic period is not clear. All the rooms (B6300, B6500, B6600, and B6700) appear to have been constructed in the 7th century. While we have not determined the terminus post quem or ad quem date, at this stage of study, it is likely to be the late 8th or early 7th century, contemporary with the other protoarchaic buildings so far recovered on the site: the Protoarchaic Building (B4000, B4100, B4400, B3000, B3900, B3800, B3700, and B4500); B5200; and the rooms on the upper middle terrace of the Communal Dining Building (A3300, A3200, and A2800).

B6700 shows little evidence of regular destruction debris. Although there were wall stones found fallen into the space, the matrix of the deposits above the floor level indicates various silting events, suggesting that the room had been abandoned, and then left open without filling the space. B6600 showed a more regular pattern of deposition, with a deep layer of wall stones across the room, but most dense on the better preserved east side. A layer of roofing clay was found in this room, preserved perhaps because the space was better protected by the room's location and the wall collapse layer. Though it too seems to have been left open after abandonment—neither space was evidently used or filled in during the archaic transition. B6500, however was intentionally filled in. While the bottom 0.40 m was soft phyllite clay, the upper levels consisted of a deep layer of wall stones and loose earth, probably fill dumped into the space after the blocking off of the room for the construction of B5800.

The building was abandoned before the end of the 7th century. While B6300 was resurfaced and repurposed as a pantry adjoining the storeroom in B5800, the other rooms were apparently abandoned in the archaic transition. Only B6500 appears to have been filled in in order to buttress the southeast corner of B5800.

What is interesting is that the rooms were apparently left standing and still visible throughout the 6th century, though neither destroyed nor buried by cobble fill. Similar treatment of 7th century buildings can be seen in the Protoarchaic Building, where rooms B4400 and B4100 were left standing in the landscape. While B4000, B3000, and B4500 were filled in to accommodate a street, B3800 and B3700 were left largely intact. B4000, B4500, and B3800 had 7th-century floor deposits in situ. This is not of course a

uniform pattern. A3300, A3200, and A2800, in the Communal Dining Building, were reused with modifications to the spaces. The same is probably the case for the upper terrace of the Service Building where the rooms are founded on protoarchaic structures, though D400 in the north, and B1200 in the south had preserved 7th-century deposits.

(5) The north end of South Building 2 (G1200) (fig. 13)

Excavation was conducted at the north end of the South Building 2, with the goal of establishing the northern limits of the building. Our excavation confirmed the north wall (G1213) and northwest corner of G1200-1—two large boulders that had fallen onto the wall in the northeast corner of the room were removed in 2017, allowing excavation of the space, the northeast corner of the room, and the archaic floor surface. The wall (G1213) is about 0.80 m high, and constructed with dolomite boulders and fieldstones. It was evidently built up against a high outcrop of bedrock on the north, which formed the foundation for the wall's northern face. To the north of wall G1213, this bedrock outcrop forms a long narrow shelf (room G1200-2) (ca. 8.0 m long, north-south by about 2.5 m wide, east west). The space was probably a room, bordered by wall G1213 on the south, cut-bedrock on the west and north (evidently bedding for walls and floor), and a series of six dolomite boulders built against the bedrock shelf on the east, apparently foundations for the room's east wall. While traces of the floor survive along the western margin in the south, little of the surface is extant across the space—it was evidently clay bedded on fill to level off the bedrock across the space. The clay floor, or remains of floor packing, survive in the south area of the room, while in the north, the bedrock has been worked to shape the floor surface.

Access into this cut bedrock space, G1200-2, was likely from the room to the south (G1200-1), through a doorway between the east end of the room's north wall (G1213) and the northern end of the spine wall, G602, which runs across the eastern edge of the uppermost terrace of the South Building 2. The door would have opened onto a wide terrace (G1200-3) (ca. 8.5 m long and ca. 3.5-4.0 m wide), projecting to the east about 3.0-4.0 meters from the eastern edge of G1200-1. Neither the doorway from G1200-1, nor the access up to the upper bedrock room (G1200-2) are extant. The rooms at this juncture are extremely eroded, and have been damaged by post abandonment disturbance (Hellenistic reoccupation, erosion and seismic activity)—several large dolomite boulders had fallen into these spaces, destroying the archaic constructions and exacerbating the erosion. The ground level of the terrace (G1200-3) would have been about 0.60-0.70 m lower than that of G1200-2, extending along the entire east side of the upper room. The terrace forms a rectangular projection or bastion of sorts, adhering to an outcrop of bedrock. It is well built on the north and northeast corner, using regular courses of worked dolomite blocks to regularize the bedrock terrain. The north wall (G1214) is 4.0 meters long and forms an impressive retaining wall—it is preserved to three courses (ca. 0.90-1.0 m high from the bedrock contour) of worked or dressed dolomite boulders forming even facets on the north face. That a room occupied the terrace is evinced by one course of dolomite-fieldstone foundations of the room's north wall. The northeast corner of the built terrace is preserved, but the east wall is no longer extant; only a small segment of the south terrace wall is extant.

The rooms of G1200 form the northern end of the South Building 2, and were evidently constructed as part of the archaic building. While the doorways between G1200-1 and the terrace, G1200-3; and between G1200-3 and G1200-2 do not survive, the surviving architecture and the bedrock terrain allows us to infer that these are three interconnecting rooms.

The north part of room G1200-1 was excavated to the archaic floor level, which was retained by wall G602, and bedded at the eastern edge by cobble fill. Finds included a loomweight, three spindle whorls, and four stone tools. In the upper bedrock room, G1200-2, we recovered a terracotta strainer, two terracotta weights, a bronze strip, a worked bone, a small stone celt, and two pieces of pumice. On the projecting east terrace (G1200-3) a spindle whorl was found. The levels excavated are extremely eroded—essentially surface wash and silt layers, with few surviving patches of occupation surfaces. Though we know that G1200-1 was exposed in the Hellenistic period, the later intrusions into G1200-2 and G1200-3 may be the result of surface wash contaminating archaic levels. Given the state of preservation, we have not determined certain functions of these spaces.

Conservation report 2017

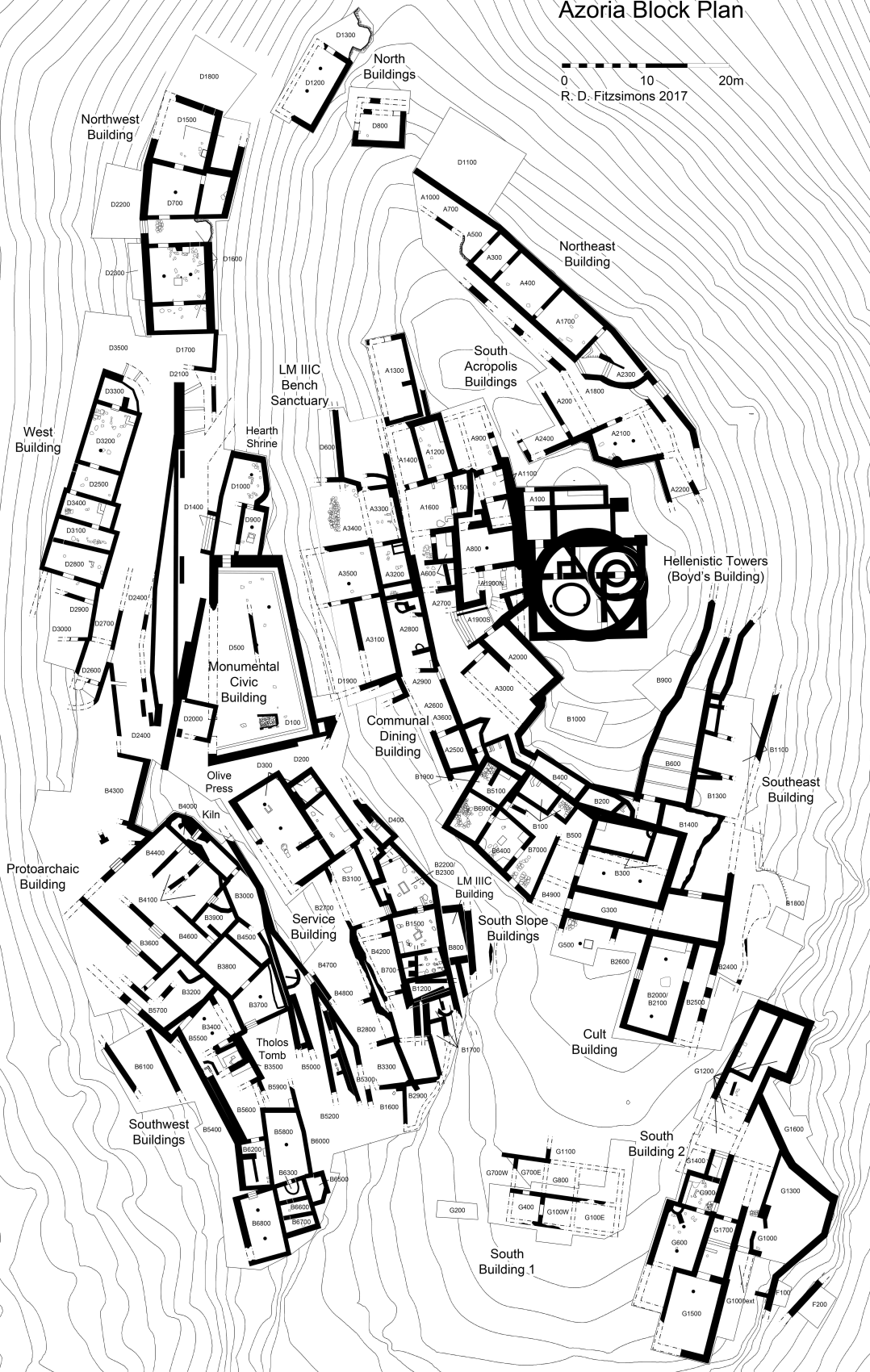
Conservation of walls was conducted at Azoria for a period of three weeks using the methods, materials and applications described in detail in our conservation reports for 2013-2016, and designed and directed by Stephania Chlouveraki, and reviewed by Klio Zervaki, the chief conservator of the Archaeological Museum of Ayios Nikolaos (Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi): “Εκθεση εργασιών συντήρησης αρχιτεκτονικών καταλοίπων στον αρχαιολογικό του Αζοριά κατά την ανασκαφική περίοδο του 2015,” της Σ. Χλουβεράκη, Επιστημονική Συνεργάτιδα, ΙΝΣΤΑΠ Κέντρο Μελέτης Αν Κρήτης (Αρ. Αδ.: 466). The work in 2017 was conducted concurrent with excavation and for a period of three weeks after the closing of excavation trenches. There were three goals of work in 2017:

- (1) to conduct emergent conservation of unstable walls and installations; that is, to conserve walls excavated in 2016-2017 that were found to be unstable because of ancient formation processes of destruction, abandonment, and post-abandonment degradation; and current conditions of preservation and erosion;
- (2) to conserve buildings excavated in 2013-2017 which after recovery and exposure to the elements, and natural erosive processes, required stabilization and conservation;
- (3) to repair sections of walls and individual wall stones that had become displaced from the time of their conservation (2003-2009).

The following buildings were conserved in 2017:

1. South Building 2 (all walls and floors, except for G1200, excavated in 2017)
2. B5800 (floor capping)
3. B6300, B6500, B6600, B6700 (walls)
4. B6800 (north, south and east walls)
5. B3500 (floor capping)
6. West Building: D3300, D3200, D2500, D3400, D3100, D2800; D2900 (walls)
7. A2500: north wall of east room

Azoria Block Plan





street

stair

stair

D3300

D3200

D2500

D3400

D3100

D2800

D2900

D3000



street

ramp to
Monumental
Civic Building

stair

D2500

D3100


D2800

D2900

D3400

D3200

D3300



D3200
(progress)

D2500

D2500

D3100

D3400



D3100



D2800





B6900

B6400

B7000



B6400

B1900

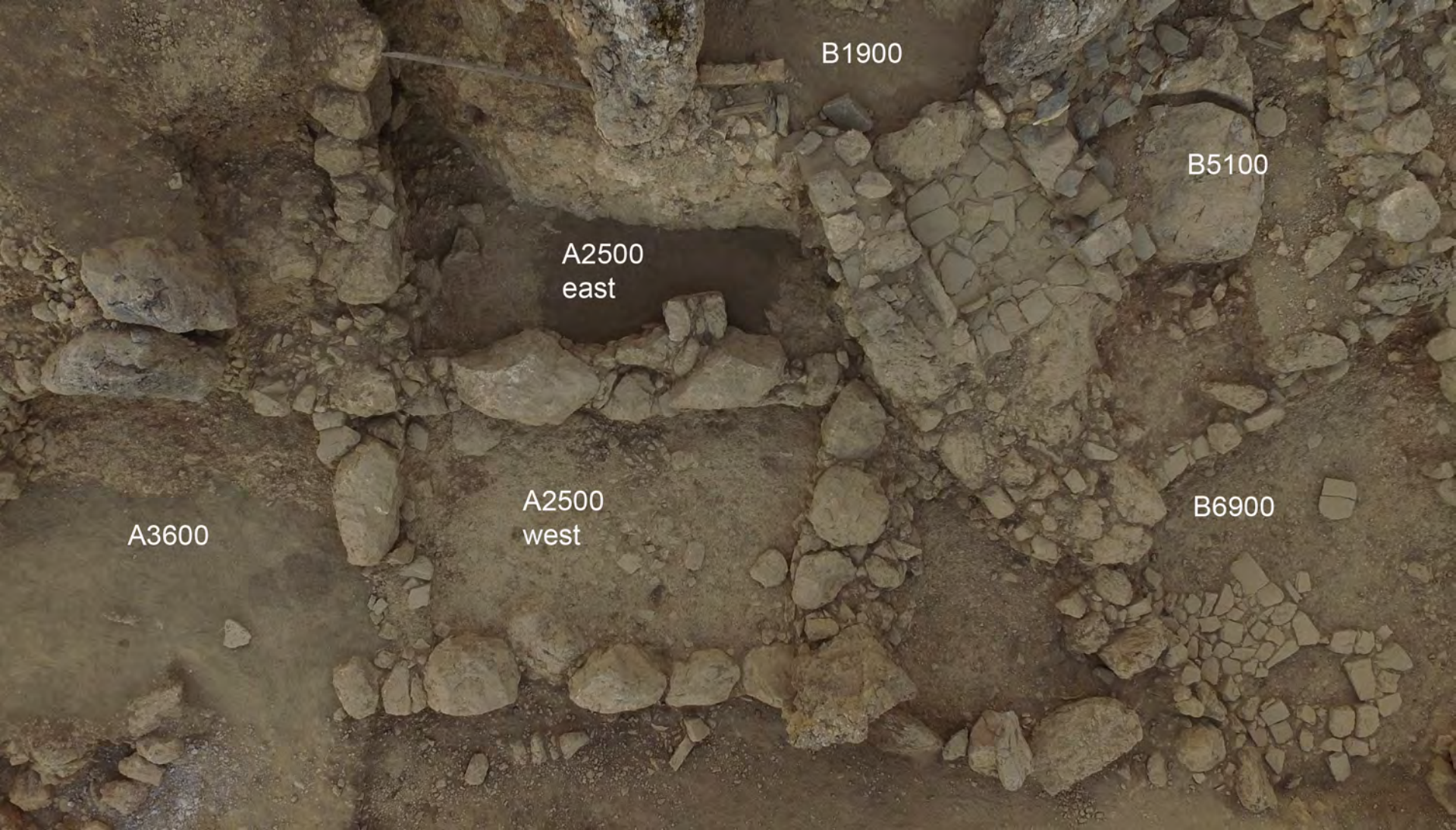
B5100

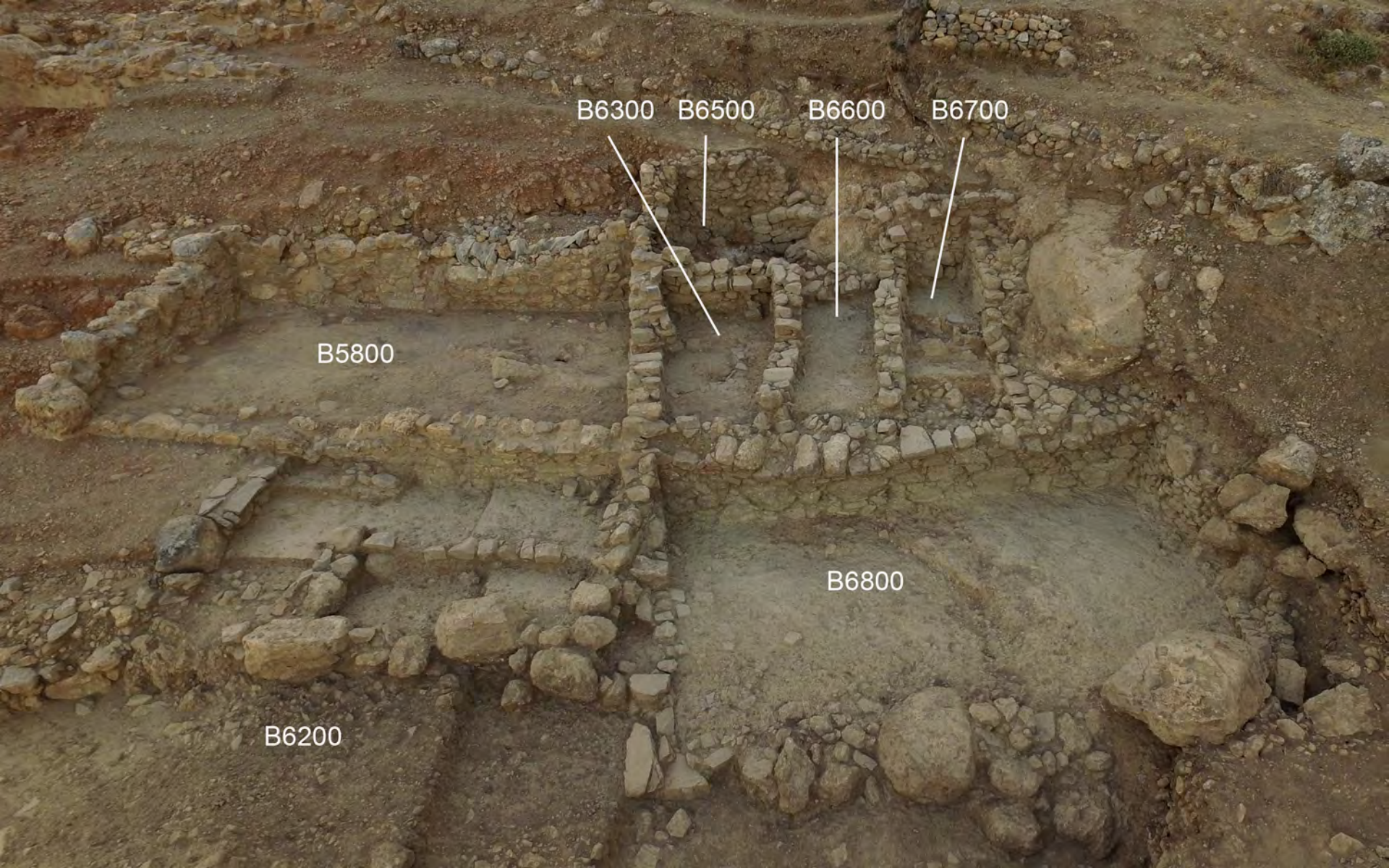
A2500
east

B6900

A3600

A2500
west





B6300

B6500

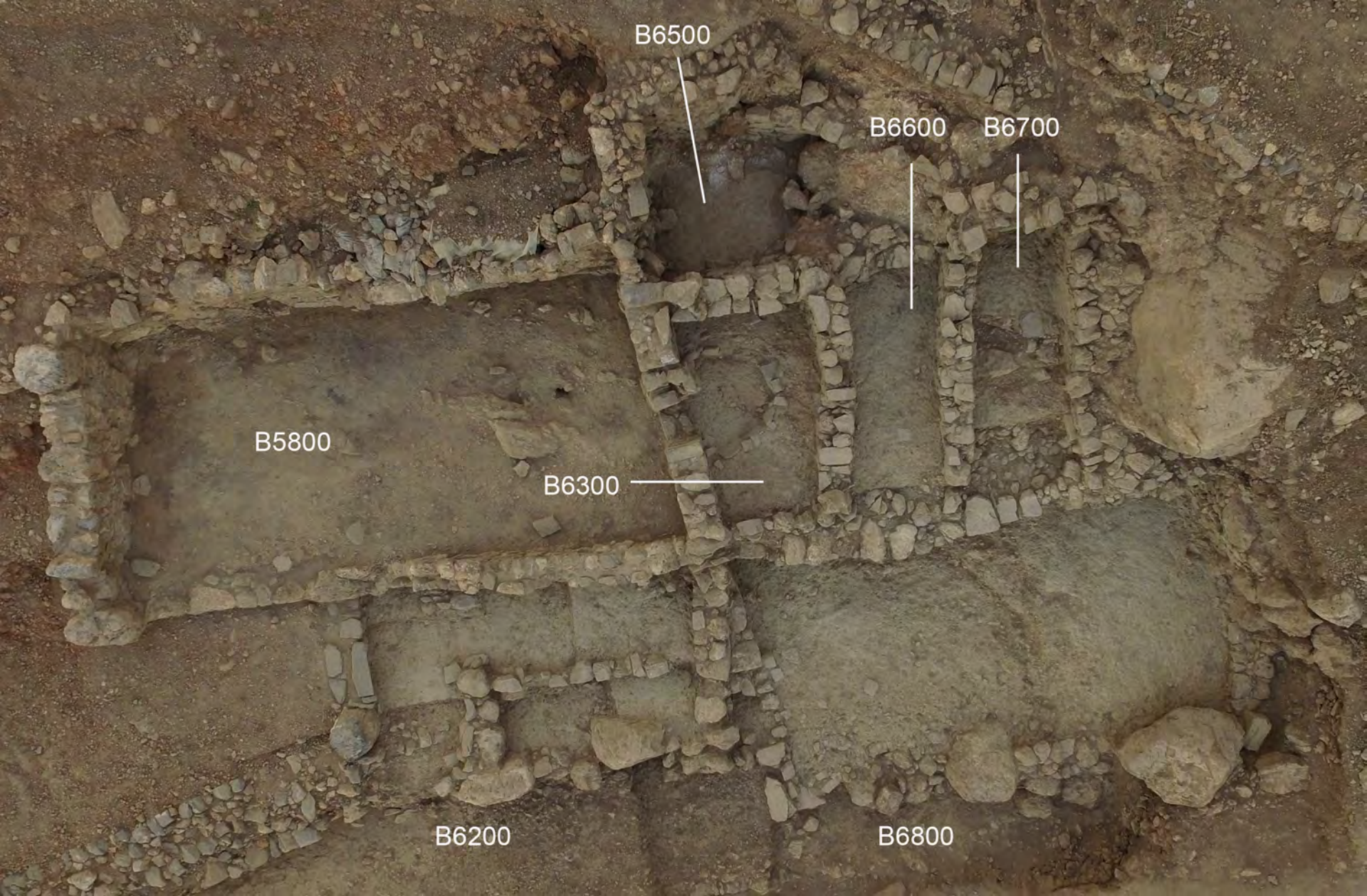
B6600

B6700

B5800

B6800

B6200



B6500

B6600


B6700

B5800

B6300

B6200

B6800



G1200-1

G1200-2

G1200-3