

§3.3 The North-West Building, Level IIIe

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Remnants of the IIIe phase survived in squares H19, I19/20, and J19/20. The architectural remains are fragmentary, and comprise the corner of a substantial building in I19c that runs into the southern baulk on a NE/SW alignment, Wall 111 which is the IIIe rebuild of the NE wall of Room 30, with the associated courtyard area to its east, and two short stretches of wall running parallel to each other to the east of the IIId building, which were cut down by the construction of the Level II Stele Building. Any IIIe remains overlying the main area of the IIId building must also have been cut away by the IIa occupation of the Western Courtyard. Where the IIIe walls have survived it is because their foundations rested on surfaces lower than the interior of the IIId building, or in the SW where the Level IIa activities had cut less deep, and the only surviving IIIe occupation surfaces are in the earlier Eastern Courtyard, associated with W6001 on the south side. Since the walls are the only surviving features the description below takes them in turn. For the IIIe deposits beneath Rooms 1-3 of the Stele Building see §5.

Walls 5802 and 5803 ([Plan P5](#))

Over much of I19 the lowest Level IIa courtyard deposits (84009) peeled directly off the tops of the Level IIId walls, with no sign of phase IIIe between. However, towards the SW part of I19c the base of phase IIa rises up and as a result material from IIIe survived here. This consisted principally of Walls 5802 and 5803 which overlie the IIId walls of Room 38, and form the corner of a substantial room or building on a similar alignment to them, but without any extension to the NW or NE. In fact W5802 (IIIe) was situated directly above W5806 (IIId) although it did not extend as far north. Wall 5803 was on an alignment parallel with W5807 to the north. Both W5802 and W5803 were well built solid structures, substantial enough to have sunk to quite a depth where they met (Photo [3.3.1](#)). W5803 was ca. 70 cm wide, and W5802 slightly wider, ca. 80 cm. Both foundations consisted of a single course of stones, with a 10-12 cm capping of mud-brick surviving on top, although no individual bricks were visible. The stones were laid in a shallow foundation trench, wider than the wall itself (max. 0.97 m) for W5802, filled with loose brown soil, which was also between the stones themselves. The walls were constructed in the usual method with outer faces of smoothed large stones and an inner rubble core of smaller rough stones. The larger stones in W5802 had a maximum length of 40 cm, smaller than those used along the sides of W5803, some of which were typically 50 cm in length. W5802 stretched for 4.10 m from the NE outer corner to the point where it lies beneath the H19d south baulk, and W5803 for 3 m from the outer corner to the baulk, with no apparent cross walls in the surviving stretches, indicating a relatively big room. The stones of W5802 directly overlie the mud-brick of the west wall of Room 37, implying its builders were aware of the IIId layout. They did not however build over the east wall of Room 37 (W5804) where the charcoal-rich layer 84017 overlying the fill of Room 31 appears to run straight across the line of the earlier wall.

Inside the angle of the two walls the shallow wall trench was cut through a layer of yellow/grey fill (84012) contained by the walls, which resembles (and probably is) the standard material filling Room 37 and other rooms in Level IIId, here in Room 38. Against the outside face of W5802 the equivalent yellow/grey fill of Room 37 (84038) was overlain by an orange band (84050) and a surface (84020, top at +96.88 m); above this was a brownish fill (84013/84035 and 84014), which is presumed to have been part of the levelling process for laying the walls. The surfaces associated with the use of the walls must have lain higher than 84012 and 84013/4, but were removed along with the upper parts of the walls by Level II activity, represented by a layer of brickly fill (84009).

P09/60 (Photo [3.3.2](#))

To the NW of W5803, the highest IIId floor of Room 38 was sealed by the exterior packing layer 84013 (base at +97.08 m), and it was only in the subsequent excavation season, when trying to trace this floor with units 94056-94057 that it became apparent that a large rectangular cut with vertical sides had been made through it, measuring 4.15 m in length from its east end (just west of W5806) to where it ran under the southern baulk of H19d, with an average width of 1 m. The fill of this cut (numbered P09/60) was very distinctive, being at the top a dense brown clay which retained moisture longer than the surrounding soil, overlying two lower layers of similar clay (91021 above 91022) separated by light yellow bands and clearly visible in the south section. The lowest clay layer (91023 and 94057 in I19d) was extremely dense and hard-packed, with more charcoal inclusions, and it overlay a dump of randomly placed large (30 cm x 15 cm) and medium (20 cm x 15 cm) sized stones (as shown in [plan P5](#); highest point of stones ~96.80 m). The total depth of clay deposit in this rectangular cut was ca. 55–60 cm; at the NW edge of the cut the highest point of 91021 at +97.57 m was level with the surviving top of the IIId north wall of Room 38 (W5807), but on the SE the cut fill had itself been cut by the foundation stones of the IIIe wall W5803, their base at ~97.00 m, and its SE edge was located 1.10 m in from its NW face and sealed by the base of W5803. The IIId floors in both Room 38 and Room 33 to the north were at +96.72 m, and it is therefore clear that the cut was excavated after this part of the IIId building had been back-filled to a depth of at least 85 cm. Whatever its purpose, it had itself been back-filled with stones and hard clay packing, before stone foundations of the Level IIIe wall W5803 were let into it to a depth of nearly 60 cm. Since the cut is aligned with the IIId architecture and avoids the IIId walls to its NW and NE, it seems likely to have been dug while the outlines of the IIId building were still visible, if not actually in use. It can hardly have been designed for the benefit of the W5803 foundation which extends beyond its edges in both NE and SE directions, but as we have noted, W5802's foundation stones rested on the mud-brick of the east wall of Room 38, and one must conclude that the IIIe structure was built in awareness of the IIId outline, and that the cut represents an episode at the end of the lifetime of the IIId building but before the IIIe walls were erected. Since the most obvious purpose of a linear trench filled with hard packed materials is to act as a foundation, it may therefore be that this represents an aborted foundation for a wall which was never built but shortly replaced by W5803.

Units and finds

Fill of P09/60 in H19d: 91021, 91022

Fill of P09/60 in I19c: 94056, 94057

94056	I19/689	Clay leg of animal	7
94056	I19/735	Worked astragalus	492

IIIe walls W5802, W5803: 84015, 84016, 84021, 84022

Fills assoc. with W5802 and W5803: Material overlying W5806: 84012, 84013, 84014

84012	I19/471	Spindle Whorl	194
84014	I19/540	Fragment of grindstone	748
84035	I19/563	Piece of grindstone	749

Material overlying W5806: 84035

84035	I19/566	Stone vessel rim	683
84035	I19/743	Ceramic sherd with incised mark	

IIIe deposits overlying Rooms 31 and 37 and W5804: 84017, 84024

W6001 and W6002

Beneath the foundation level of the IIa Stele Building in the NE end of Room 8 in J19c was the remnant of a wall-foundation (W6002) running NE-SW approximately in agreement with the orientation of the Level IIId building. Its western end overlay the IIId wall corner formed by W5811 and W831, and its eastern end went beneath the north wall of Level IIa Room 8, so that it can be safely attributed to Level IIIe. It measured between 0.45 and 0.60 m in width and 2.5 m in length, and

was made up of two courses of two rows of roughly worked stones of varying sizes, with no mud-brick surviving on top. No associated floor surface was seen; to the north the stones were let into a dark occupation deposit which must represent a late IIId phase, and any associated IIIe occupation deposits were presumably sliced away when the Stele Building was first constructed, given that the lowest stones of W5701 between Rooms 8 and 9 directly overlie the stones of W6002. When viewing the NW wall of the Stele Building from the west there is a noticeable step up to the NE in the base of the foundation stones at this point, which presumably reflects the fact that this wall base was simply left *in situ*.

None of the three pits identified under the eastern side of Room 8 (P09/24, P09/26 and P09/27) was sealed by W6002, and the probability is that they were dug from IIIe levels. Their outlines were first seen at the same level, indicating that their upper parts had all been cut away by later activity, possibly the ground clearance for the Stele Building. To judge from their outlines in plan, the smallest (P09/24) was the latest, and P09/26 to the west the earliest. Their presence here is consistent with considering this space as an external courtyard area in Level IIIe. For this space beneath Room 8 see also under §5.

To the east of the IIId building another wall W6001 was excavated in the NW corner of J19a and assigned to phase IIIe. It ran NE/SW on a similar alignment to the SE wall of Room 30 (W830) although slightly further south, and it was roughly parallel with Wall 6002, some 4 m to the SE. To the east it runs beneath the foundation stones of the western wall of the Stele Building, and its western end may have abutted or bonded with a row of about five IIIe stones along the line of the underlying Level IIId wall W831; in any case W6001 did not extend beyond this into the space that had been Level IIId Room 31 beneath. This IIIe wall W6001 was composed of two lines of stones of substantial size without the usual inner rubble core. The foundation stones had been placed in a 30 cm deep trench; on the south side of the wall there was a second and lower course of foundation stones (but not on the north side) as though the wall had been terraced against the slope of the mound (stones removed as 81609). A stone previously used as a door socket was built into the wall (J19/655 see [plan P5](#)), and a copper blade was found pushed up against the stones in the inside of the wall (J19/657). To the south of the wall was an area of blackened surface also believed to be IIIe in date (84055, 84056). To the north was a well-defined exterior surface, over which was spread a clutter of material containing complete fallen bricks and packing material (77079). In among these (as shown on P5) were a loomweight (J19/614), a spherical white stone (J19/617) and a grindstone (J19/615). There were also some larger stones, which must belong with a group of loose stones located at the south side of I20 on the IIIe floor of the Eastern Courtyard excavated in the 1990s (shown on EKT Fig. 491). This black ashy surface is the southward continuation of the deposit noted in I20d and J20c, and described as “some 20 cm thick in places and rich in ash and charcoal ... readily recognized by the carbonized figs” (EKT p. 118). We should therefore see W6001 as supplying the southern limit to the Eastern Courtyard, which in phase IIIe, as indeed in IIId, was an open area with at least one fire installation (FI95/9 in the NE, north of the NW corner of the Stele Building). The extent of a heavy black charcoaly deposit suggests that as in IIId a serious fire had taken place here, including in its victims at least one string of dried figs. Stray carbonized figs turned up both here and in packing material south and east of W6002.

In J19 next to W6002 directly beneath this IIIe courtyard floor was a layer of packing (84054), and beneath this another packing layer (84058) of the distinctive yellow/grey material observed as the main packing in most of the IIId rooms once they had gone out of use (see above, p. 26).

W6001 and W6002 units and finds

Eastern Courtyard packing over IIId surface: 84054, 84058

84054	I19/544	Spindle whorl	195
<i>Stones of W6001: 77076, 77078, 81609</i>			
77078	J19/610	Carbonized fig	
77078	J19/612	Copper needle	327

77078	I20/647	Large ceramic bowl	
81609	J19/657	Copper blade	309
81609	J19/655	Door socket	719
<i>Fill or packing S of W6001: 74555, 74573(?)</i>			
<i>IIIe surface S of W6001: 84055, 84056</i>			
<i>Stones above W831: 81610</i>			
<i>Eastern Courtyard IIIe surface N of W6001: 77079</i>			
77079	J19/614	Chalk ball	737
77079	J19/615	Grindstone	750
77079	J19/617	Spindle whorl	199
<i>Stones of W6002: 96524</i>			
96524	J19/723	Grindstone	751
<i>Packing around W6002: 96512, 96513, 96515</i>			
96512	J19/708	Chalk lump	736
96512	J19/731	Copper needle	326
96513	J19/713	Carbonized Fig	¹⁴CS56
<i>Burnt deposit: 96514, 96525</i>			
96514	J19/734	Ram's head protome	
<i>Pits SE of W 6002: 96523 (P09/24), 96527 (P09/26), 96528 (P09/27)</i>			

W111

The west side of the Eastern Courtyard was formed by W111 (see Photos [3.3.3](#), [3.3.4](#)). This wall was first excavated in 1994. Its foundation stones lie alongside the east face of W113 (the SW wall of the courtyard in IIId, which formed the NE wall of Room 30), so that the occupation surface of the IIId courtyard and the burnt debris on it run beneath the base of the stones of W111's foundation course (see EKT pp. 117-8). At the SE end of W111 a stretch of the mud-brick superstructure survived above two to three stone courses, and this was virtually indistinguishable from the Level IIId mud-brick of W113 along its SW side.

Summary

Taken together, the IIIe remains give a consistent picture: to the east they are built up against the exterior NE wall of the Level IIId building, founded little higher than the occupation surface of the Eastern Courtyard, and hence distinctly lower than the surviving IIId walls further west. The conclusion seems inevitable that at the end of the IIId phase the walls and room fills of the IIId building were left standing much higher than the ground level of the courtyard outside, so that any IIIe construction in the courtyard area would be founded appreciably lower than contemporary walls above the building itself. When, at the time the Stele Building was erected, the space occupied by the NW Building was cleared and converted to an open space, any IIIe walls and floors overlying the IIId building would have been cleared away, probably along with the latest IIId floor surfaces too, but because in the Eastern Courtyard the IIIe walls were founded much lower, and the courtyard surface was also lower than floor surfaces inside the building, some remnants of this phase survived here where they were not cut away by the stone wall foundations of the Stele Building.

Similarly, to the SW we have some IIIe walls because here their bases had been cut down into the IIId deposits. To judge from its shape and orientation, the rectangular pit P09/60 may have been intended as a foundation trench for a new wall, and whether it should be seen as a very late IIId occurrence, or a first version of the IIIe structure, it sits well below the surviving IIId walls and floors of Room 33, suggesting that rather like the Eastern Courtyard Room 38 may have been an open space where the IIId deposits had not accumulated to the same height as inside the rooms.

In other words, the evidence suggests that there may have been a later occupation phase of Level IIId which has been completely lost from the northern range corresponding to Rooms 30, 32, 33 and 34, and that a IIIe phase of the building was built here with its foundations so much higher than those in the adjacent courtyard areas that they were later completely sliced away by Level II builders.

In this way, one may see the later IIId and putative IIIe phases of the NW Building as a raised platform surrounded by lower open areas, in exactly the same way as we have been able to reconstruct for the Stele Building in its IIc and IId phases, when the rebuilding of the interior of the structure raised its floor levels much higher than the contemporary courtyard levels outside. This had the result that the Level IIe surface in the Eastern Courtyard, and the walls of Level IIe constructions along the south side of the IIc Stele Building, survived where the ground surface had remained lower, but no IIe material was found directly above the IId phase inside the building.

It is obvious, in any case, that the IIIe builders were well aware of the IIId structure, and indeed in places, such as along the NE wall of Room 30 or above W5806 on the west side of Room 37, consciously aligned their walls with their IIId predecessors. Their innovations seem to have been the two walls south of the Eastern Courtyard (W6001-6002) which have no IIId forerunners, and W5802 and W5803. These two walls overlying Room 38 seem to belong to a separate structure and suggest that the IIIe builders did not replicate Rooms 31 and 37 but left open space where they had been, while they decided to erect a separate large and substantially constructed building to the SW which encroached on space which had previously been an unroofed or poorly maintained area in the domestic south range of the IIId building. Unlike the main North-West Building, this building may have been replaced when the Stele Building was erected, since walls W834-836, which are contemporary with phases IIa/b of the Stele Building, retained the same alignments although their location shifted eastwards by more than 2 m.

The date of the North-West Building

Virtually the only criteria for dating the occupation of the North-West Building directly are the ceramics, a single stamp seal, and a few ¹⁴C dates (see §2). Stratigraphically the earliest ¹⁴C sample we recovered came from beneath the IIId floors in Room 37, and at 68.2% probability gave a date in the second half of the 15th century (1452-1406 BC). This is easily reconciled with the animal bone sample from the large IIId pit (P09/16) in Room 37, which gave a date in the 14th century (1394-1311 BC).

When it comes to phase IIIe the samples (Nos. 4-8) all came from beneath the IIa foundation level of the Stele Building and mostly offer dates between the last decades of the 15th and the end of the 14th century. These are, as to be expected, close to the dates for the IIa phase of the Stele Building (samples 9, 11-12), suggesting that the transition from the North-West Building to the Stele Building should be broadly assigned to the mid-14th century.

The resultant very approximate date for Level IIIc-e in the later 15th and earlier 14th century does not conflict with the ceramics recovered from Level IIIc-d in particular (see provisionally Kozal 2014, 145-7). On the other hand the best parallels for the very well stratified IIId ivory stamp seal have been assigned to the 13th century (see the catalogue entry for object 1). It may be that we should choose a later option from the ¹⁴C samples, but it seems equally possible that our samples indicate an earlier date for such seals. In any case, as expected, we can safely assign the North-West Building Level IIIc-e to the Late Bronze II period as observed, for instance, at Tarsus.

The function of the North-West Building

It is difficult to be definitive about the function of this building, not least because it is uncertain how much of the original plan has been lost on the western side. Concentrating on the best preserved phase IIId, one can identify storage in Room 30, social gathering in Room 32 with its centrally placed hearth, cooking in Room 37 for certain and probably also in Room 31 with its two fire installations. The exceptionally assiduous replastering of Room 32 hints at a formal role for this space, and the clean floor and wall plaster of Room 33 combines with its unique stone-paved triangular bench to point to some formal activities involving liquids. As a whole the complex of rooms does not resemble a normal residential house (although it must be admitted we do not have many contemporary examples at Kilise Tepe to compare it with), and it is therefore tempting to see the North-West Building as having fulfilled some of the same functions as the Stele Building (see §5), principally a storage and

cultic role. Moreover, the Stele Building's administrative function is underscored by the recovery of four lentoid seals from in and around it, and this is mirrored in the presence of the ivory stamp seal in the IIIId occupation levels of Room 32. To sum up, there is good reason to think that in respect of its function the North-West Building represents a forerunner of the Stele Building. Architecturally it is very different, and of course it is quite differently oriented and stands further to the west, in the space which later becomes the Western Courtyard, but the reasons for these changes are now sadly beyond our reach.

