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2018

Ayelet Gilboa, Ilan Sharon, Jeffrey R. Zorn
and Sveta Matskevich

EXCAVATIONS AT DOR, FINAL REPORT

VOLUME IIA

AREA G, THE LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGES:
SYNTHESIS, ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

DIRECTED BY

EPHRAIM STERN 1986–2000

ILAN SHARON AND AYELET GILBOA 2002–2004

with contributions by:

John E. Berg, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Allen Estes

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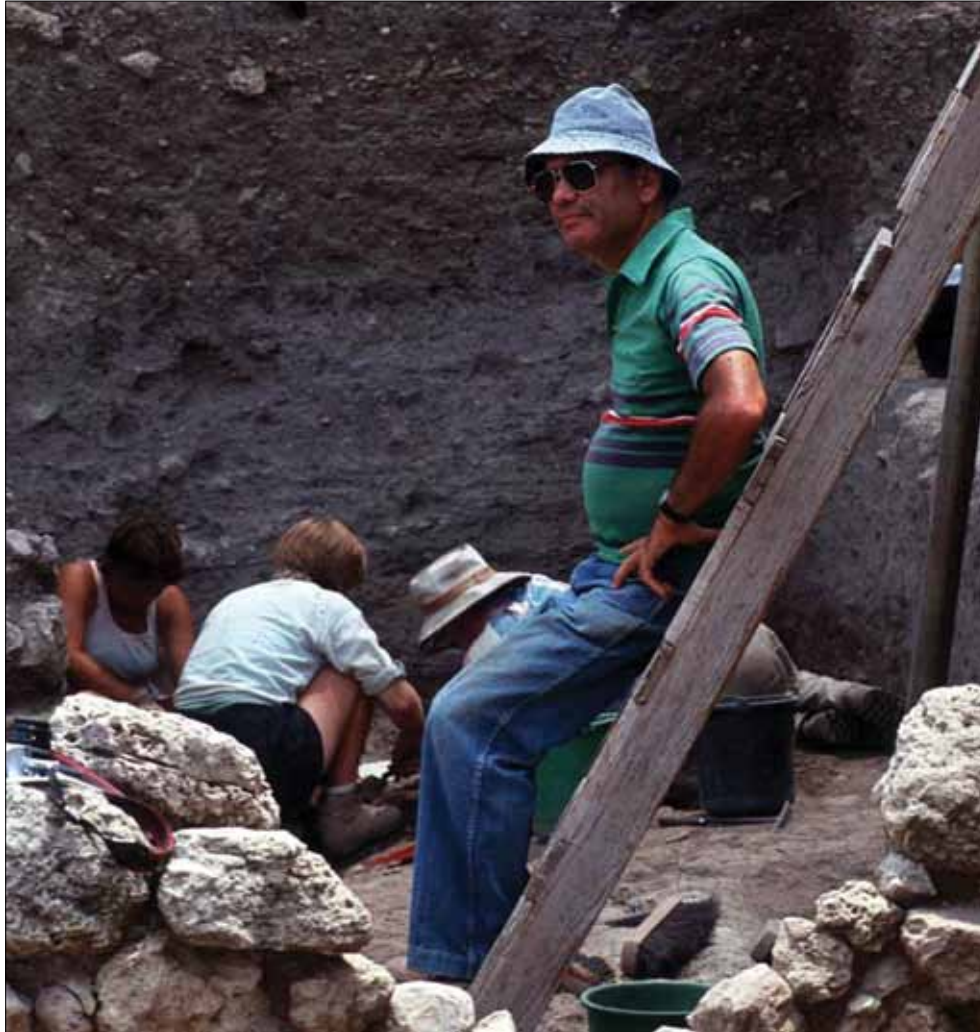
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Lastly, we gratefully acknowledge our debt to Professor Ephraim Stern, for initiating all of the principals to the Tel Dor staff, supporting us as graduate students and consigning to us the responsibility of bringing this publication to completion.



In memory of
Professor Ephraim Stern (1934–2018), Director of the Tel Dor Excavations
1980–2000

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CHAPTER 7

“CHERYL’S ROOM”: AH–AG/33—PHASES 5–8

Allen Estes and Jeffrey R. Zorn

Excavated by:

AH/33

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Cheryl Bowden (1991)
Ranbir Sidhu (1991–1992)
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Margaret Streubel (1997)
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INTRODUCTION

The material presented in this chapter includes the Iron Age deposits primarily located in AH–AG/33, east of W9266 and west of W18045, from Phase 5 of the late Iron Age down through Phase 8 of Iron Age I. This area includes a large Phase 6b ceramic assemblage found on Floor 9657 (“Cheryl’s floor”). It is also significant because of the discovery of two adjacent ovens associated with the assemblage.

As in virtually the entire Area G Iron Age stratigraphic sequence, the walls remained in use from phase to phase, sometimes with only subtle construction changes. For example, W9266 stands to #15.50 and was exposed along its eastern face to a depth of ca. #13.15 (2.35 m) without the bottom being reached. Mudbrick wall W18045 of Phases 6c–7? was rebuilt as stone foundation W9957 in Phase 6a and stone foundation W18575 of Phase 8 was rebuilt as mudbrick wall W9735 in Phases 7–6b-c. Only on the south is the early sequence less certain, because the surviving Phases 7–6 walls there were never removed. Another factor to consider is the pronounced slope from north to south in this room in all the phases excavated, which made tracing floors difficult.

WALL AND FLOOR STAGES

Table 7.1. Walls and floors per stage and phase

| Stage | Phase and Horizon | Walls and Floors | Plans |
|-------|-------------------|---|--|
| vii | 5 – Ir2b–c | W9266? = F9611 = F9706 = F9710 = F9711 | Details: Plan 10 |
| viii | 6a – Ir2a | W9266a = W9957 = F9305 = F9311 | Details: Plan 9 |
| ix | 6b – Ir1l2 | W9266b = W9735 = W9990 = W9936 = W18045 = F9657* = F9897 = F9986? = F18076 = F18081 | Thumbnail plan: Fig. 7.5; details: Plan 8 |
| x | 6c – Ir1l2 | W9266b = W9735 = W9990 = W9936 = W9989 = W18045 = F9896 = F9951 = F18551 = F9983 = F18558? | |
| xi | 7 – Ir1b | W9266b = W9735? = W9990? = W9936? = W9989? = W18045? = F9950 = F18209 = F18247 = F18253 = F18558? | Thumbnail plan: Fig. 7.19; details: Plan 7 |
| xii | 8a – Ir1alb | W9266b = W18575 = F18278 | Thumbnail plan: Fig. 7.25; details: Plan 6 |
| xiii | 8b – Ir1alb | W9266b = W18575 = F18554 | |
| xiv | 8c – Ir1alb | W9266b = W18575 = F18564 = F18565 = F18304? | |

* pottery assemblage in Pls. 20.56–20.62

WALL DESCRIPTIONS

North–south W9266 is the western wall of the room associated with “Cheryl’s floor”, F9657 (Figs. 7.6, 7.12, 7.14, 7.21, 7.26, 7.28; cf., Figs. 5.4–5.5). It was preserved to #15.45–14.86 and excavated down to #13.12 along its eastern face, without its base being reached; based on parallels with nearby W9684, which had a base at #12.90, it is possible that this is the lowest course of W9266. The upper stage of the wall, W9266a, begins at ca. #14.50 and is four courses high, composed of moderate-size stones ranging up to 50 cm long by 30 cm wide, with smaller chinking stones. The lower stage, W9266b, consists

of larger boulders, up to 80 cm long by 50 cm wide. Three courses of this lower wall were cleared.

The northern edge of the room is formed by a sequence of two walls: W9735 and W18575. W9735 is an east–west mudbrick wall (ca. 50 cm wide, top ca. #14.56, base ca. #14.00; Figs. 7.1, 7.7, 7.21, 7.29) at the northern end of AH/33. It has no stone foundation and does not seem to have been built on W18575, which is located below it; there seems to be an intervening floor. Most of the bricks were laid in header fashion. W9735 abuts W9266b on the west. It may have formed a corner with W18045 on the east, but the connection is under a balk. W18575 is an 80 cm-wide wall built of small fieldstones and preserved one course high that runs east to west at the northern end of AH/33. Only the top preserved course of this wall was excavated (top ca. #13.50; Figs. 7.26–7.27). It abuts W9266b on its eastern face and was below W9735, although it does not seem to have formed a foundation for it. It extends 1.2 m from W9266b to the east and ends in a straight face which potentially marks a doorway to the north, although this remains uncertain due to incomplete excavation.

The eastern edge of the room is also formed by a sequence of two walls: W9957 and W18045. W9957 is a short wall fragment, 1.7 m long and 50 cm wide, running diagonally from northwest to southeast in the northwestern corner of

AG/33 (Figs. 7.1–7.2, 7.10). It consisted of two courses of small- to medium-size fieldstones, two stones wide (top #14.82, base #14.30); it sits on top of W18045. The latter is a mudbrick wall (or pisée, as it was not possible to identify any courses or individual bricks) running diagonally across AG/33 from northwest to southeast (80 cm wide, top #14.40, base undetermined; Figs. 7.1–7.2, 7.18, 7.24).

Several walls were found in the southern end of the unit. W9990 is a short section of a fieldstone wall, 1.2 m long and 60 cm wide, at the southern end of AH/33, abutting W9266b on its east face (Figs. 7.6, 7.14, 7.20, 7.22, 7.28). It is preserved two–three courses high and is two stones wide, composed of mainly medium-sized stones (top ca. #14.30, base #13.90). About 1.2 m into the room, the stone construction stops and the wall continues in mudbrick construction, renamed W9989 (ca. 40 cm wide, top ca. #14.34, base ca. #13.76; Figs. 7.6, 7.14, 7.22, 7.28). This mudbrick wall is preserved two to three courses high, with no stone foundation; a few yellowish tracer bricks could be identified. It may have formed a corner with W18045 to the east, but that possible juncture is obscured by a later pit and because excavation in AG/33 ceased before the base of either wall was reached. The stone section (W9990) and the brick section (W9989) were apparently dovetailed. This is by no means the only case at Dor of a wall built of sections of

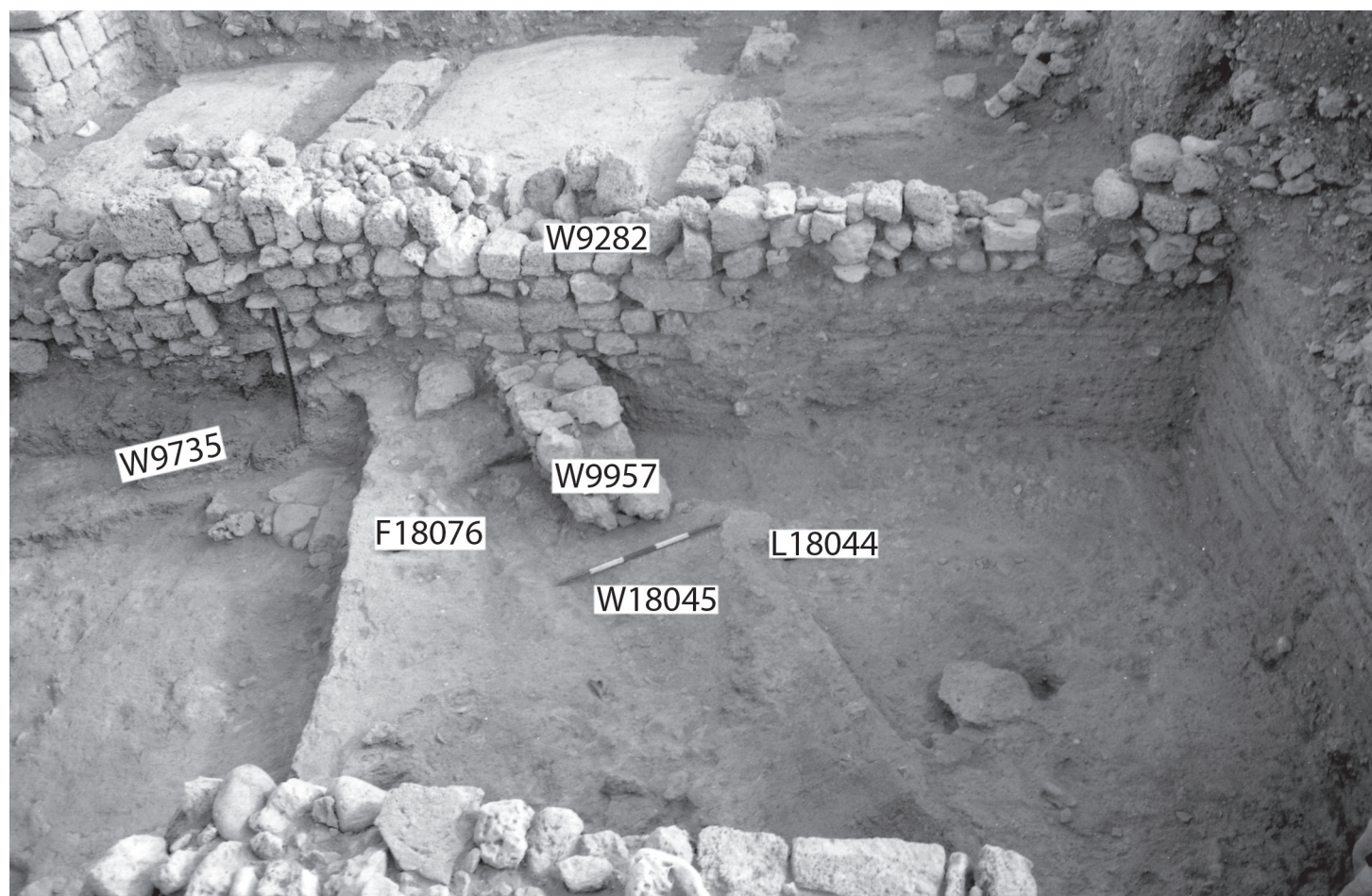


Fig. 7.1. General view of AH–AG/33, looking north; stone W9957 above mudbrick W18045; F18076 and F18044 reach W18045. Note possible corner of W18045 and W9957 with mudbrick W9735 below late W9282. (p08Z3-1069)

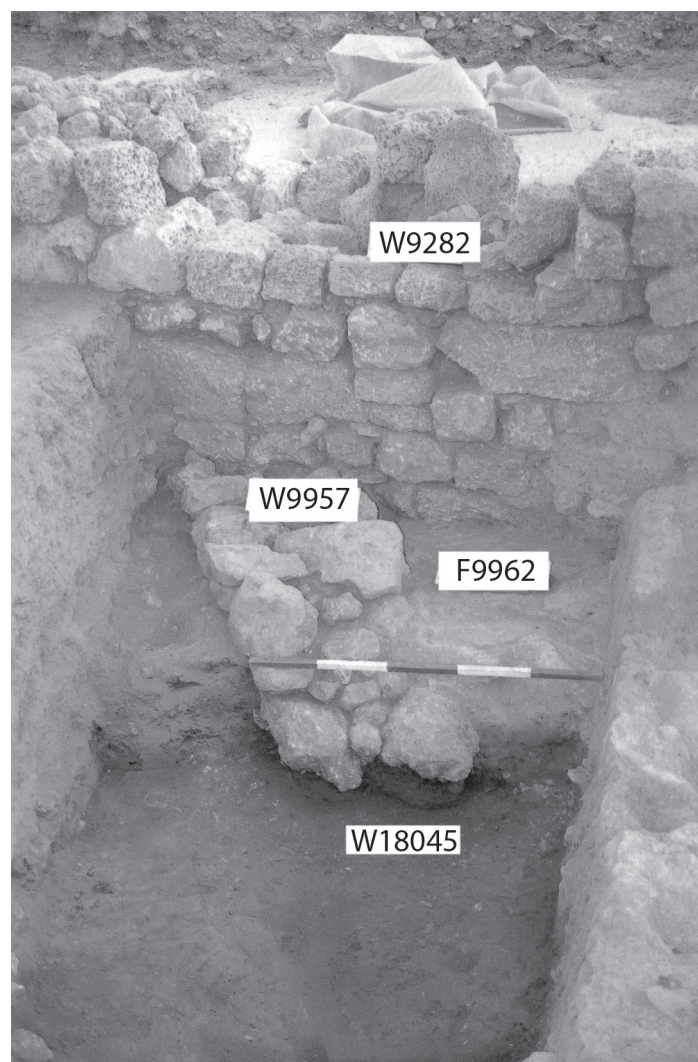


Fig. 7.2. Phase 1 W9282 above Phase 6a W9957, looking north. Top of mudbrick W18045 below W9957 just beginning to appear. F9962 reaches W9957. (p08Z3-1046)

mudbrick and sections of stone (cf., e.g., W18229; Chapters 3 and 9).

Finally, W9936 is a short stretch of a narrow wall (40 cm long, 20 cm wide; Figs. 7.6, 7.8–7.9, 7.14, 7.28) at the southern end of AH/33. It runs parallel to W9266 and abuts the southeastern corner of W9990. It was excavated to a depth of three courses and was mostly one stone of medium size in width (top ca. #14.40, lowest course ca. #14.00). Its full length is unknown because its southern end is in the balk.

DISCUSSION OF PHASES AND STAGES

Phase 5 (Stage vii)

stage vii: W9266? ≡ F9611 = F9706 = F9710 = F9711

It is possible that W9266, which survives to ca. #15.50, continued in use into the latter part of the Iron Age (Phase 5). However, only one patch of floor (#15.15–15.10) was found to the east of W9266 above Phase 6 that might relate to it. This floor was found in L9706, L9710 and L9711, below W9274,

W9278, W9279 and W9288 of Phases 2–3. F9611 was found in a robber trench of these walls. It is possible that this floor is the same as F9305 = F9311 of Phase 6a to its south, since the elevations are only slightly higher. However, the floor here sloped down from south to north (as opposed to the common north to south slope in Area G), so it has been assigned to Phase 5. Small pockets of late pottery were found here, sealed in brown soil deposits, perhaps degraded mudbrick debris, e.g., L9267, L9249 and L9611.

Phase 6a (Stage viii)

stage viii W9266a ≡ W9957 ≡ W9735? ≡ F9305 = F9311 (above “Cheryl’s floor”)

Fieldstone W9957 may have made a corner with mudbrick W9735 if it had continued in use into Phase 6a; however, any such wall juncture lies under the balk. No floors reached W9957 on the east in this stage. There is no evidence for a wall marking the southern limit of this room in this stage. F9311 = F9305 (ca. #14.90; Figs. 7.3–7.4) reached at least part of the eastern face of W9266a.

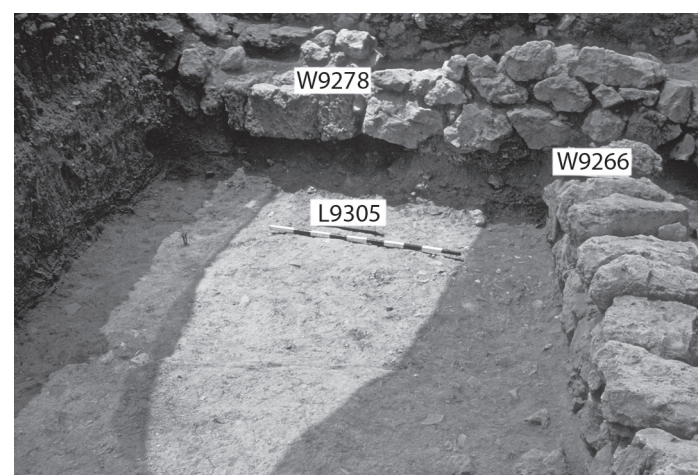


Fig. 7.3. F9305 (= F9311) below foundation of W9278, but reaching W9266a, looking south (photo courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0064)

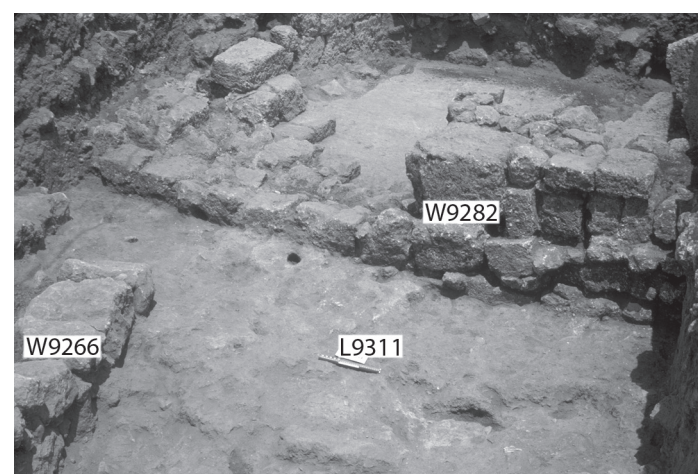


Fig. 7.4. F9311 = F9305 at its northern end adjacent to late W9282, looking north. To north of W9282 is “Ana’s basement” of Phase 1 (photo courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0065)

Phase 6b (Stage ix)

stage ix W9266b \equiv W9735 \equiv W9900 \equiv W9936 \equiv W18045 \equiv F9657
 \equiv F9897 \equiv F9986? \equiv F18076 \equiv F18081 (“Cheryl’s floor”)

The defining Area G Phase 6b ceramic assemblage, indeed, the only secure ceramic assemblage of many restorable vessels belonging to this phase, was found on F9657 (Figs. 7.10–7.11). The floor also contained two ovens (9880 and 9658), which were found in the corner formed by W9266b and W9990.

W9266b marks the western limit of the room associated with “Cheryl’s floor”, although F9657 itself did not reach it. Its eastern face is abutted by W9990 on the north and W9735 on the south.

Mudbrick W9735 on the north abuts W9266b and probably also W18045, since they would have formed a perfect corner; the connection, however, is hidden in the northern balk below W9282 (Plan 7). F9657 could not be traced to W9735.

Fieldstone W9990 on the south slopes up to abut the eastern face of W9266b and makes a corner with W9936 (Figs. 7.6–7.9). It may be that W9990 and W9936 formed a small bin against the eastern face of W9266b, because the space created by these two walls seems too small for any other use. The rest of W9936, however, lies in the southern balk, so this remains uncertain.

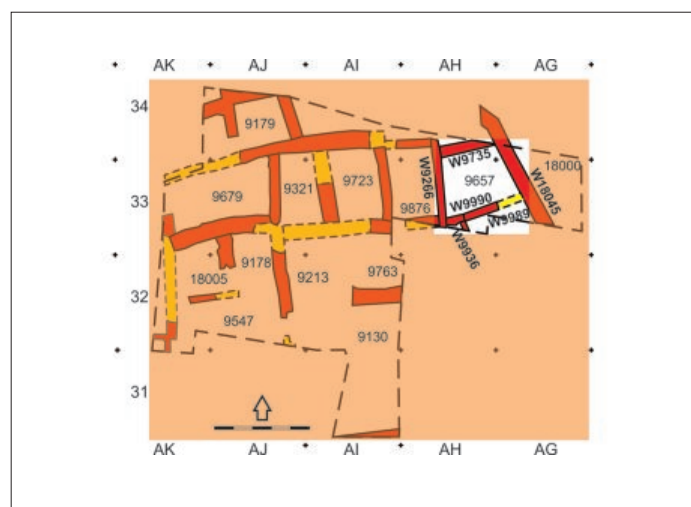


Fig. 7.5. Thumbnail plan of Phase 6b, AH-AG/33. For details, see Plan 8. (d09Z3-1283)

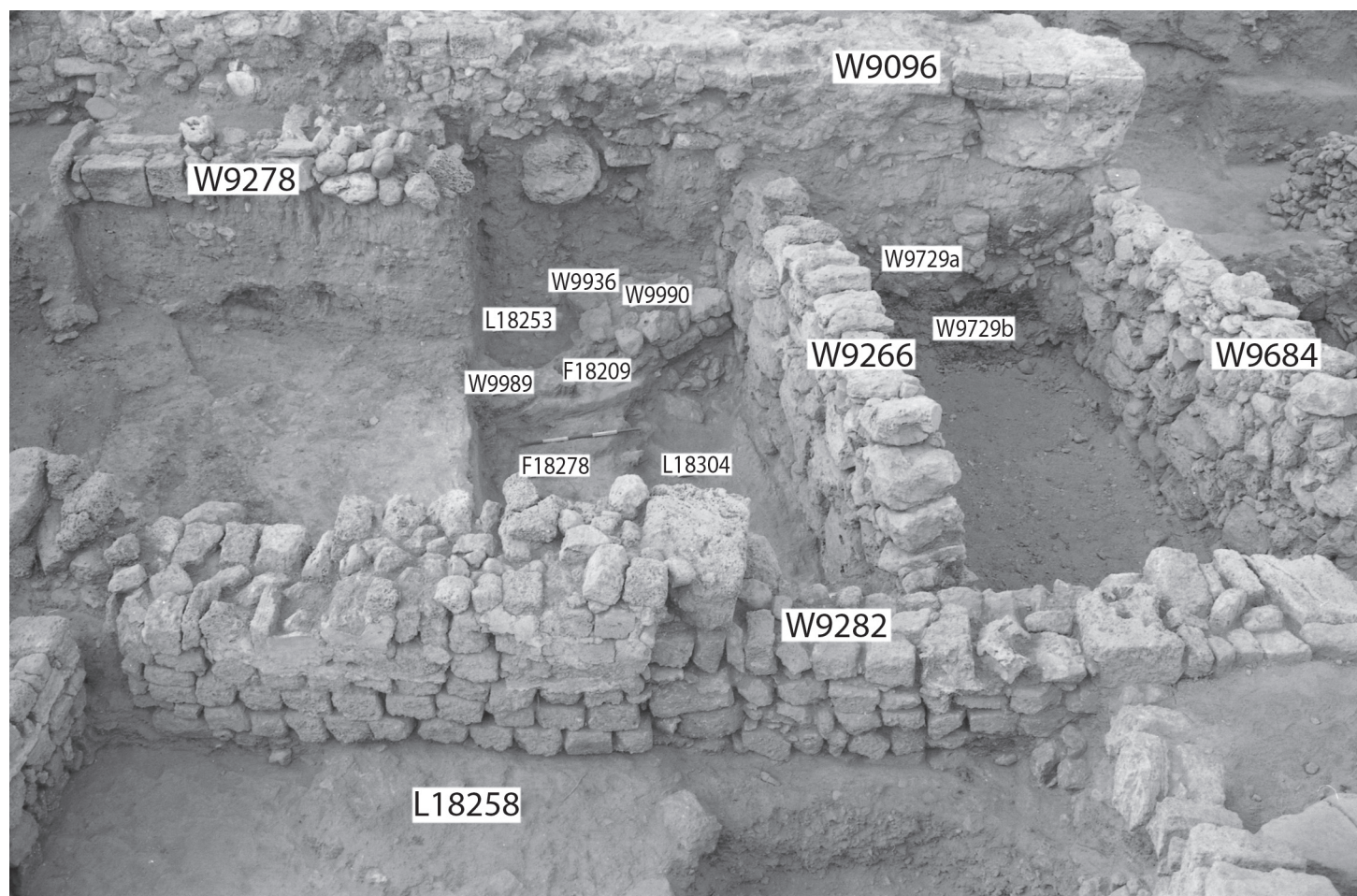


Fig. 7.6. General view of primarily AI-AH-AG/33, looking south. Background: Phase 1 cement foundation (incorporating column drum) W9096 and Phases 2-3 W9278 which crossed over Phases 6-9 W9266 and W9684. Foreground: W9684 and W9266 cut by Phase 1 W9282. Upper right: stone and mudbrick stages of W9729a-b and doorway in corner with W9684. Phase 6b W9990 and W9936 form a small bin against the eastern face of W9266b. Note that W9990 and W9729a match fairly well for elevations. (p08Z3-1095)

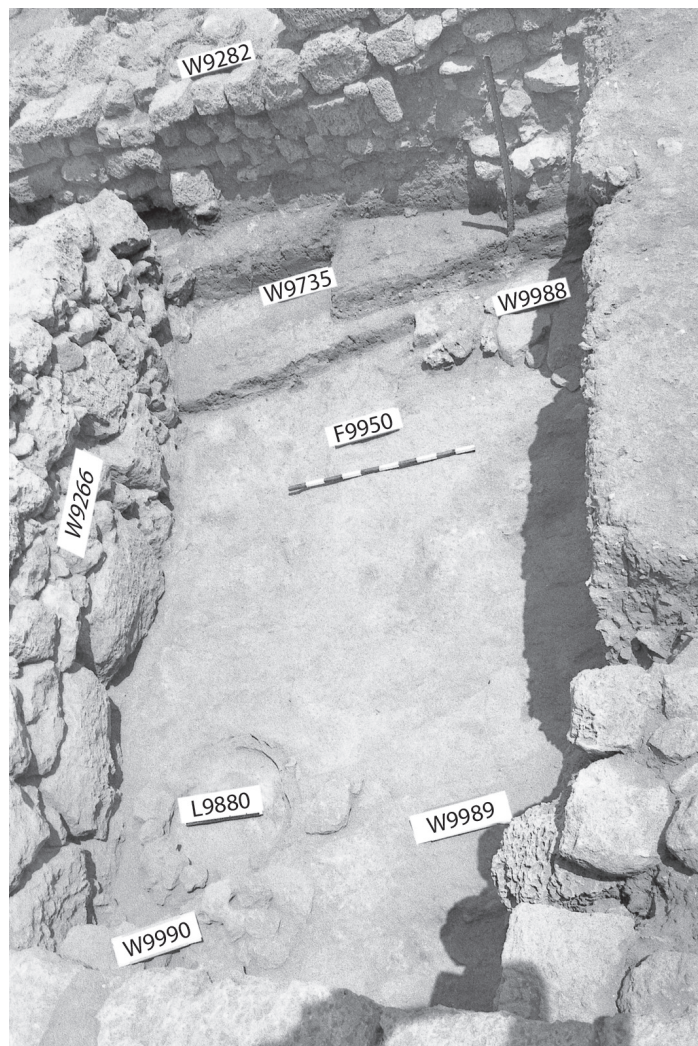


Fig. 7.7. W9735 (partially excavated) abutting W9266b below W9282, looking north. Note: 9988 in upper right corner is possibly a stone pavement, not a wall. (p08Z3-1043)

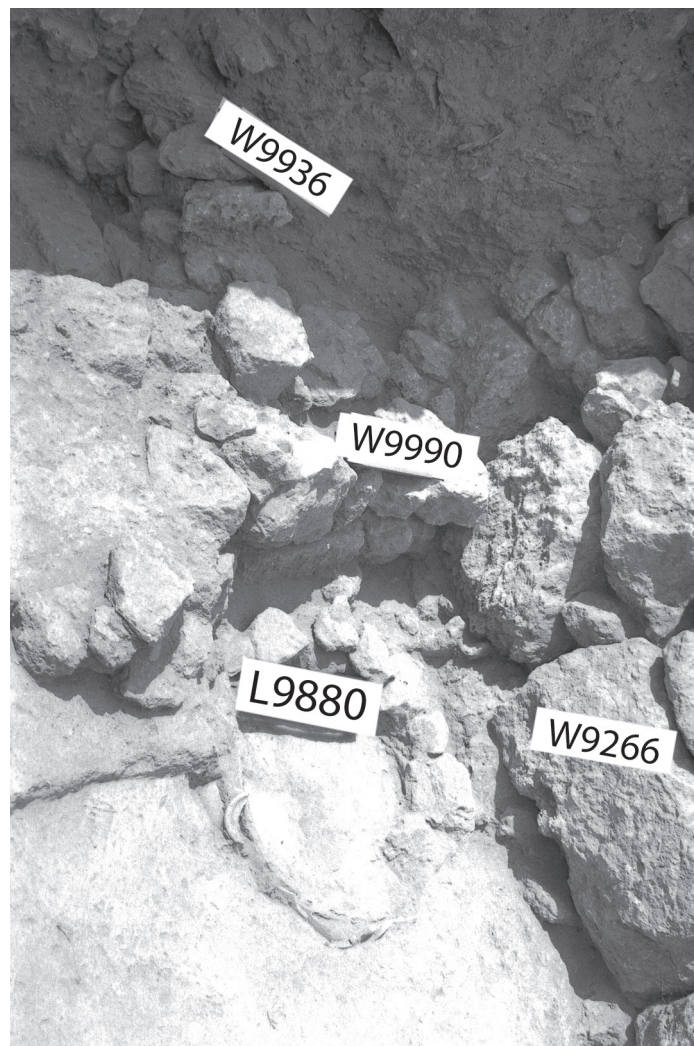


Fig. 7.8. Detail of juncture of W9936 and W9990, possibly forming a small bin, looking southwest. W9990 abuts W9266. (p08Z3-1115)

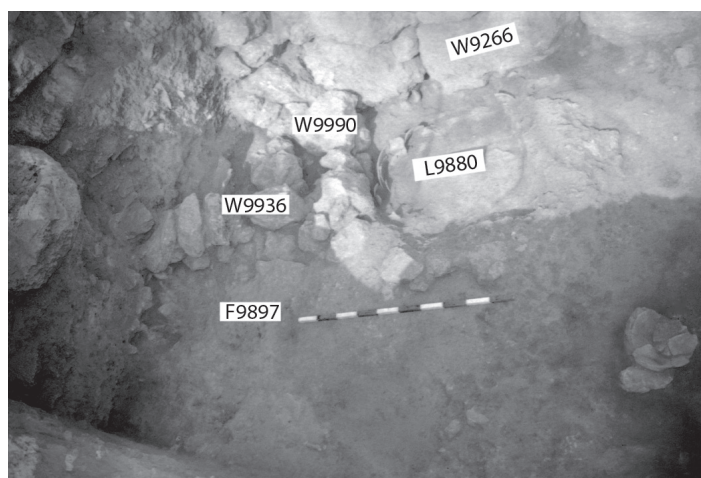


Fig. 7.9. Corner of W9936 and W9990, looking southwest. W9990 abuts W9266b (background). F9897 reaches W9936 and covers mudbrick W9989. Oven L9880 is built against W9990. (p08Z3-1048)

Mudbrick W9989 formed an eastward continuation of W9990 towards W18045. Any connection between the two walls in Phases 6 and 7 is obscured by a possible pit, L18557 (top ca. #14.15, lowest point reached ca. #13.83; Figs. 7.18, 7.24), cut at their likely juncture and because excavation in AG/33 did not reach the base of either wall. W9989 was reached on its southern face by F9897 (#14.13–14.10; Fig. 7.9); F9657 could not be traced to its northern face.

The main section of “Cheryl’s floor” (F9657, ca. #14.30), made of crushed *kurkar*, did not reach any of the surrounding walls, although extensions of it, such as F18076 (#14.33–14.18, Fig. 7.10), reached W18045, and F9897 (#14.13–14.10) reached W9936 and W9989 (Figs. 7.10–7.11). F9657 was covered with a large number of restorable vessels that define the Phase 6b assemblage (Pls. 20.56–20.62).

Two fine examples of ovens (L9658 and L9880) were built against W9266b, each constructed with a different technique. Oven L9658 (top #14.66, base #14.07; Figs. 7.12–7.13; interior material designated L9898) had an interior lining of

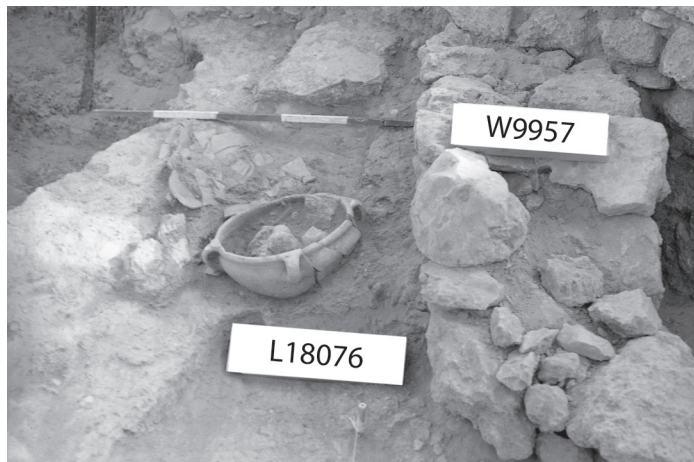


Fig. 7.10. *In situ* krater on F18076 (= F9657 on the east) which reaches W18045, below W9957, looking north. (p08Z3-1140)

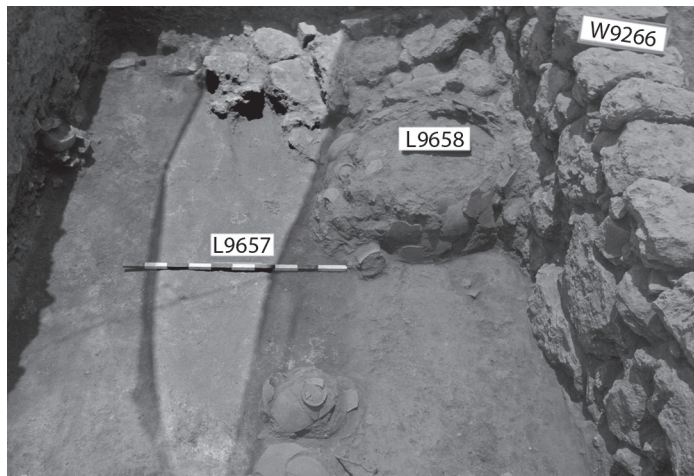


Fig. 7.11. A few of the many vessels found *in situ* on F9657, looking north (photo courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0066)

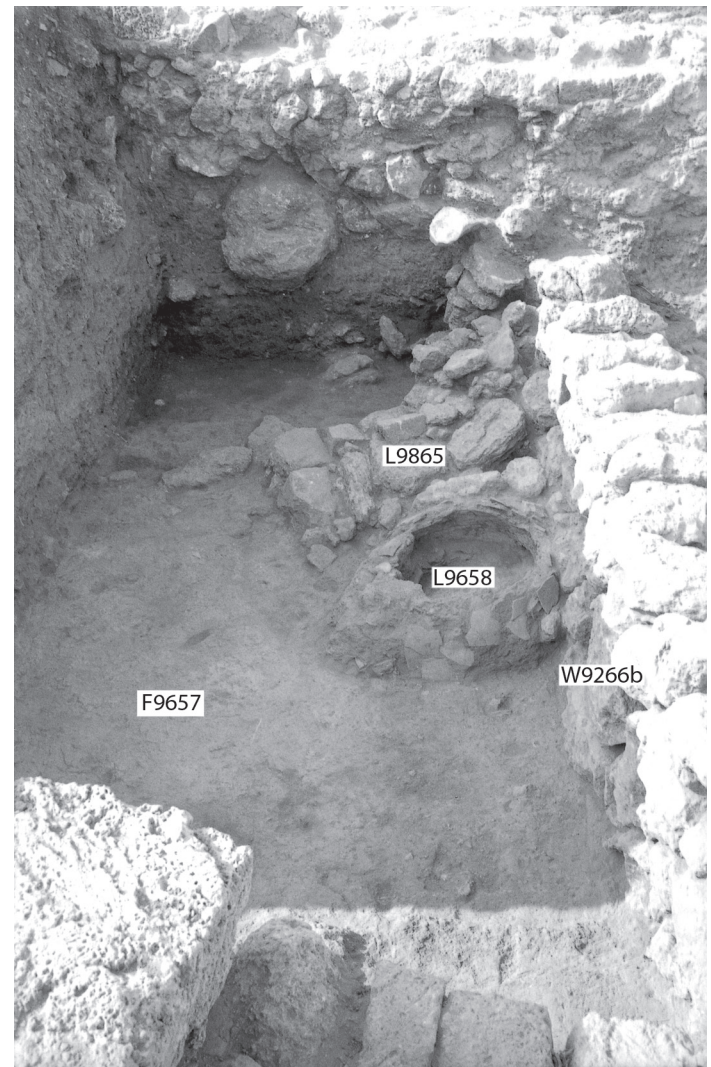


Fig. 7.12. Oven L9658 against W9266b, looking south, before exposure of oven L9880 under rubble L9865. (p08Z3-1062)

clay baked to yellowish-brown from use, with an exterior lining of up to three layers of pottery body sherds. The interior (L9898) contained some sherds fallen from the exterior lining and much ashy material. The base consisted of sandy/silty material on top of a layer of hard mudbrick material that covered Phase 7 floor, F18247.

The second oven, L9880 (top #14.54, base #13.59; the interior material was designated L9899; Figs. 7.14–7.16), was found buried under collapse from W9266b (L9865, Fig. 7.12). The construction of this oven was more complex, with walls made of mixed materials at different levels. The interior wall was a typical clay lining. The exterior wall, especially on the southwest near W9266b and W9990, was partially composed of fist-size stone cobbles and partially lined with sherds, including body sherds, rims, bases and handles. Sherd sections never overlapped with stones. Two small holes, possibly for ventilation, were found in the oven's northern wall, near the level of floor F9657 (Fig. 7.15). The base of the oven was a *kurkar* bedding.

The contents of oven L9880 were quite different from that of L9658. The upper level contained typical debris, including ash, sand and fallen oven lining. Below this, however, a large

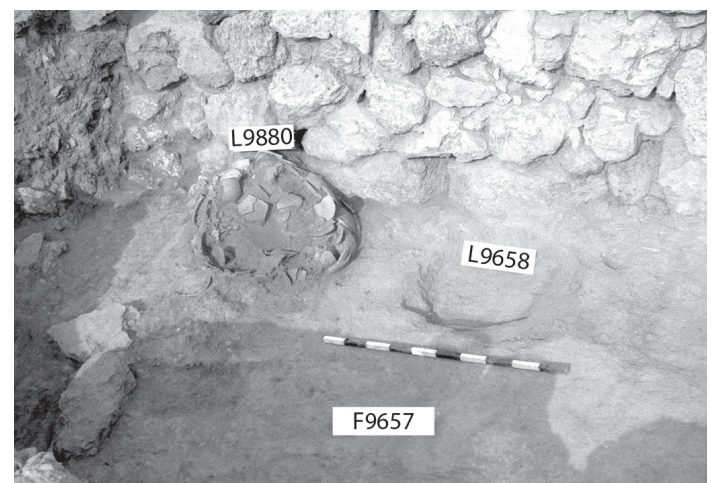


Fig. 7.13. Ovens L9658 and L9880, looking west, against W9266b, after rubble was removed from oven L9880, but before W9990 and W9936 were excavated to the left of L9880. (p08Z3-1061)

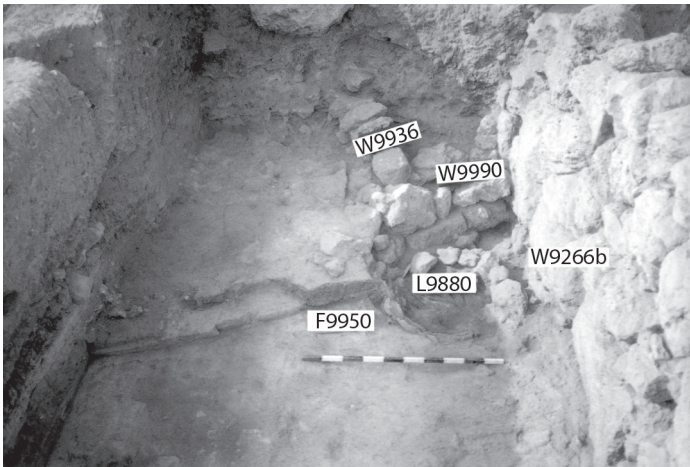


Fig. 7.14. Oven L9880 in the corner formed by W9266b and W9990, looking south. F9950 belongs to Phase 7. (p08Z3-1052)

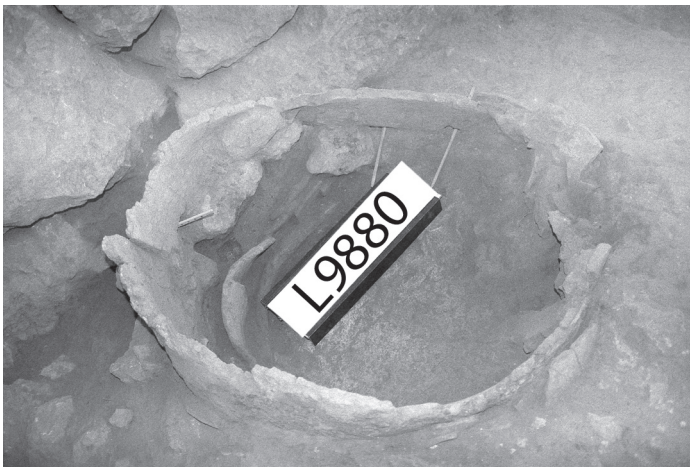


Fig. 7.15. Detail of oven L9880 with exterior sherd lining, looking northwest. Note two ventilation holes in the oven’s walls, marked by sticks. (p08Z3-1054)

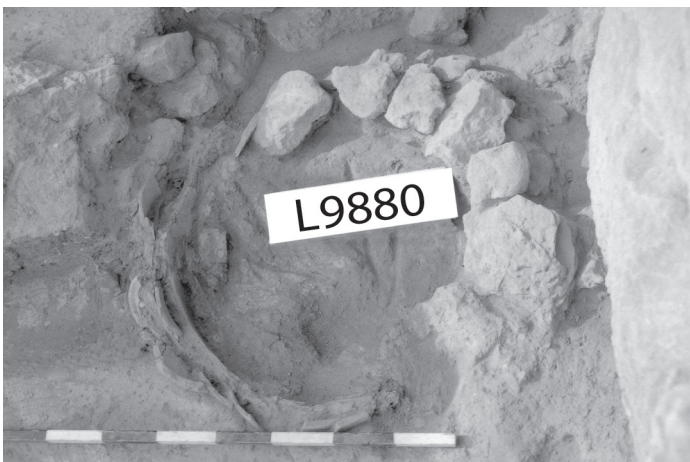


Fig. 7.16. Lower cobblestone wall of oven L9880, looking south. (p08Z3-1051)

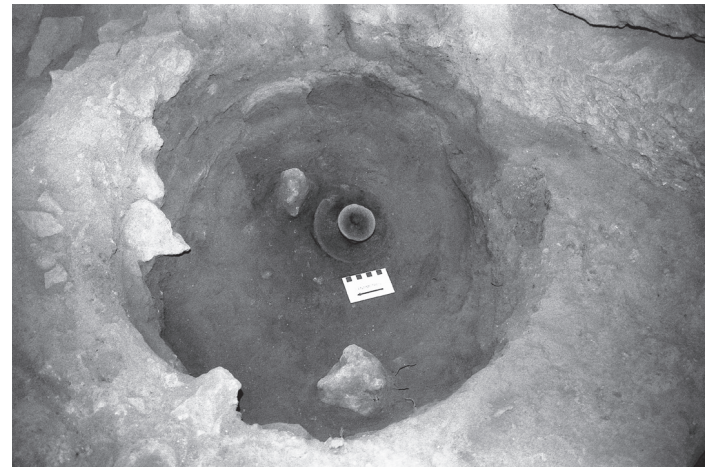


Fig. 7.17. Cup-and-saucer *in situ* in oven L9880, looking west. (p08Z3-1136)

amount of partially restorable pottery was recovered, including an almost complete cup-and-saucer (Fig. 7.17; Pl. 20.62:10).

Identifying the initial periods of construction for the ovens is tricky, as no floor could be directly traced to them. Oven L9658 was founded on top of one of the Phase 7 sloping surfaces of L18209 at ca. #13.76. It is possible that the oven could have been constructed directly on this floor, although being partially sunk below the later floor level seems more typical; thus, it seems most likely that this oven was constructed in Phase 6c and continued in use through 6b. Oven L9880 was actually sunk completely through the floor of L18209 and it is thus possible that it was first in use already in Phase 7 and continued in use through 6b. The rubble collapse on it demonstrates that it went out of use before Phase 6a.

Phase 6c (Stage x)

stage x W9266b \equiv W9735 \equiv W9900 \equiv W9936 \equiv W9989 \equiv W18045 \equiv F9896 = F9951 = F9983 = F18551 = F18558? – Phase 6c (under “Cheryl’s floor”)

Phase 6c consists of a series of patches of floors which are all below Phase 6b F9657. These include F9896 = F9951 = F18551 = F9983 = F18558? (ca. #14.17–14.00; Fig. 7.18). Like F9657, they were constructed of crushed *kurkar*.

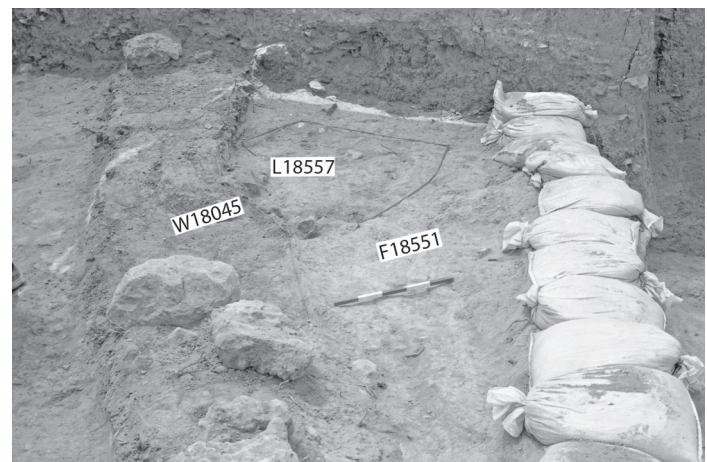


Fig. 7.18. F18551 slopes up and seems to reach W18045, looking south. (p08Z3-1078)

L9988 (top ca. #14.04, base ca. #13.70; Fig. 7.7) may have been a small paved stone area south of W9735 in Phase 6c.

Phase 7 (Stage xi)

stage xi W9266b = W9735? = W9900? = W9936? = W9989? = W18045? = F9550 = F18209 = F18247 = F18253 = F18558? (before “Cheryl’s floor”)

The understanding of Phase 7 is somewhat complex, due to two main factors. The first is that two of the Phase 7 walls have no discernible foundations and were built on top of the earliest Phase 7 floor(s). Several of the walls described above as having been in use in Phases 6b-c (W9735, W9990, W9936 and W9989) were constructed directly on earlier white ashy floors of Phase 7 (Figs. 7.20–7.22). Some subsequent Phase 7 floors (i.e., raising of floor levels within 7) may have reached these walls (e.g., F9950). The second factor is the north to south slope of the floors—from ca. #14.00 on the north down to ca. #13.76 on the south. However, when these floors were being excavated, this slope was not immediately recognized and the area was excavated as though it were flat. This means that some material excavated at the south will likely belong to a somewhat earlier stage of Phase 7 than material assigned to the same locus to the north at the same level. In the best of all possible worlds, there would have been two or more stages here; the lowest stage for the floor on which the walls were built and other stages for the floors that reach the walls. However, because the slope across the area was not detected until rather late in the process, it is not possible to say which floors on the north are really equivalent to those on the south. So, all were designated one stage/phase, instead of attempting to make distinctions that are not sure. However, the Phase 7 floors are all found within a band ca. 16–25 cm thick and all clearly post-date Phase 8 below. Thus, while the staging within Phase 7 is obscured, any distortion in ceramic dating is likely to be minimal. The sloping Phase 7 floors are: F18247 (#13.72–#13.60; Figs. 7.20–7.21), F18209 (#13.98–13.76; Figs.

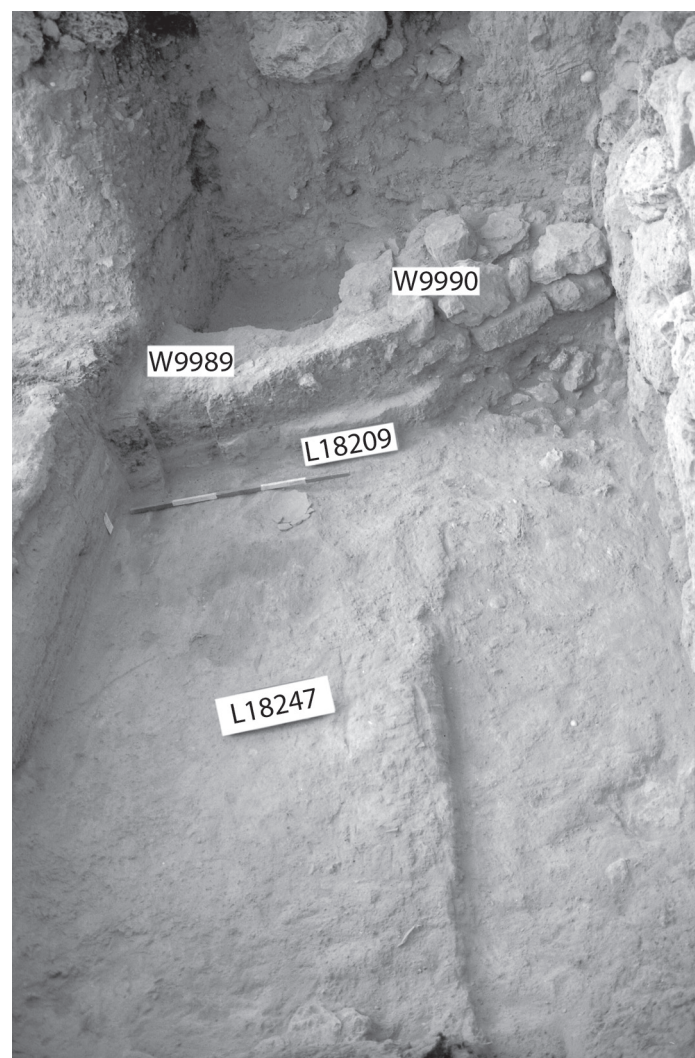


Fig. 7.20. F18247 running below W9989 in AH/33, looking south. (p08Z3-1103)

7.20–7.23), F18253 (#13.86), F18558? (#13.85–13.68; Fig. 7.24), F9950 (#13.96–13.93; Figs. 7.7, 7.14).

Another difficulty is that W9735 and W9989 at the northern and southern ends of the room (and possibly also W18045) were purely mudbrick constructions without any stone foundations, whose exterior faces remained somewhat elusive. During excavation, it seemed that some Phase 7 floors might reach these walls, but they might also have been running underneath them. Excavation below W9989 revealed traces of F18209 (Fig. 7.28). Likewise, a cut into W9735 seemed to show F18209 below this wall (Fig. 7.23). Most of these other sloping floors are also likely below W9735 and W9989. Because of its fairly consistent high elevation, only F9950 (and so, possibly Phase 6c) likely reached these two walls, although there was no certain connection between this floor and the surrounding walls (Figs. 7.7, 7.14).

F18558 (ca. #13.89) does seem to have reached W18045, but it was a small patch isolated from the main floor sequence to the west. If Phase 6 floors sloped down to the east (which would not be typical, as most slopes in Area G are downward

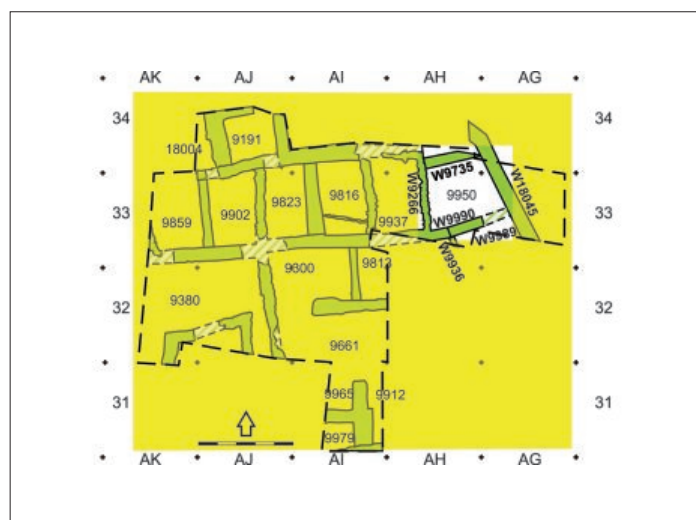


Fig. 7.19. Thumbnail plan of Phase 7, AH-AG/33. For details, see Plan 7. (d09Z3-1284)

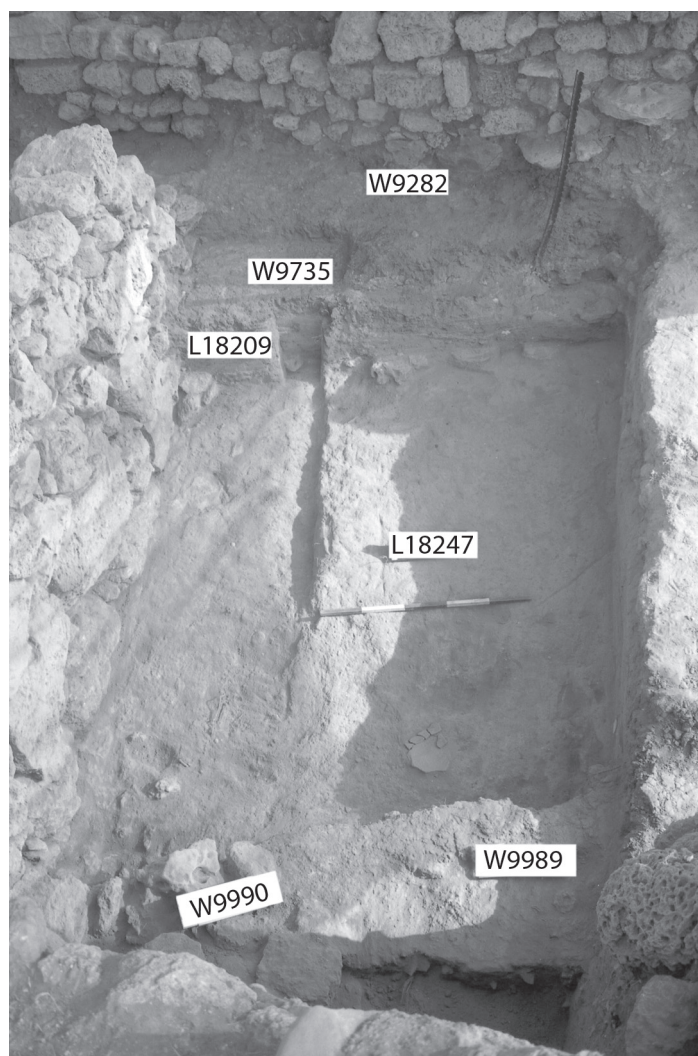


Fig. 7.21. F18247 running below W9735 in AH/33, looking north. (p08Z3-1104)

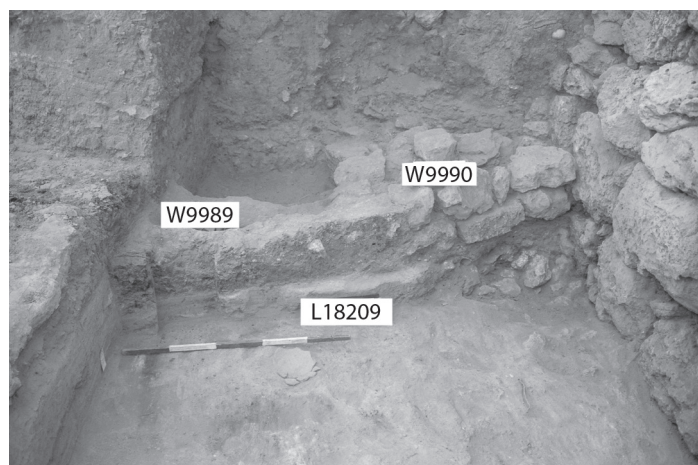


Fig. 7.22. F18209 running below W9989 in AH/33, looking south. (p08Z3-1101)

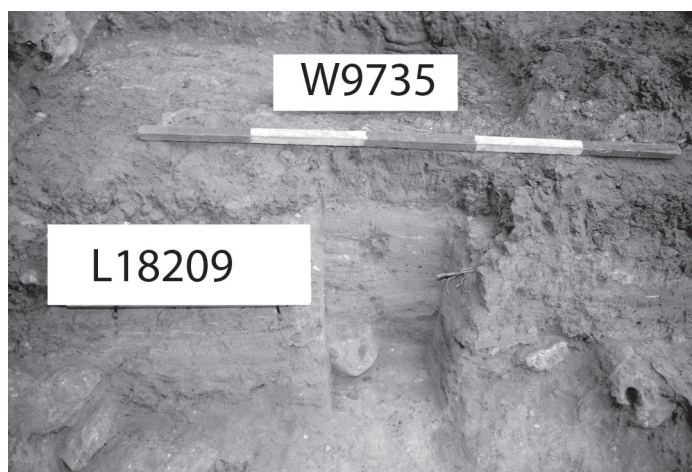


Fig. 7.23. Detail of F18209 running below W9735 in AH/33, looking north. (p08Z3-1100)

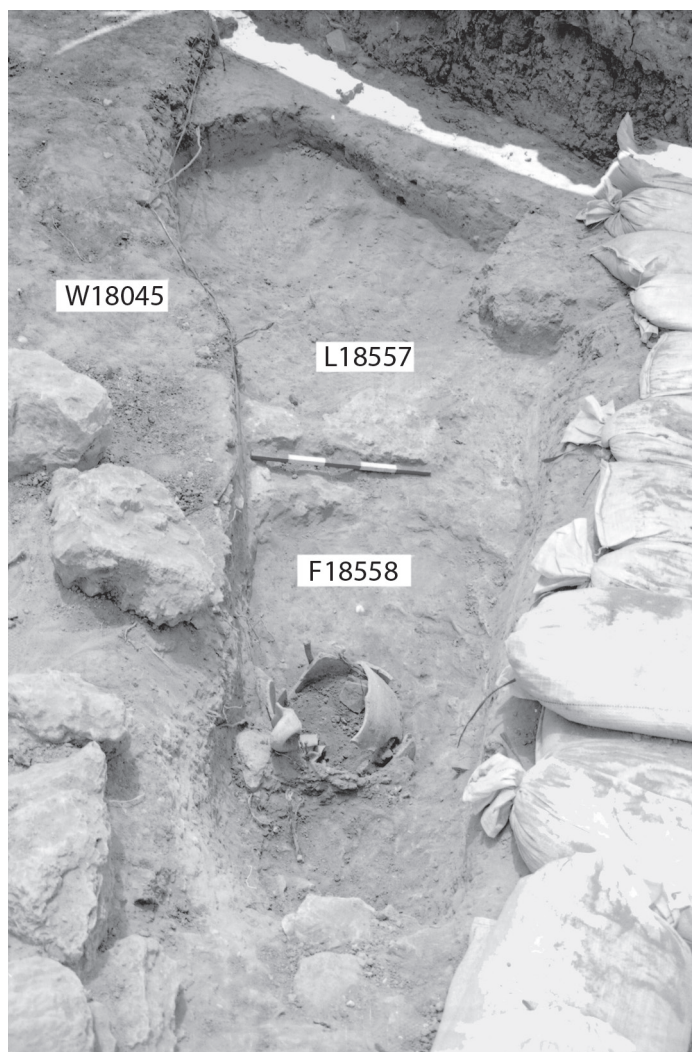


Fig. 7.24. W18045 and *in situ* jar on F18558 in AG/33, looking south. (p08Z3-1076)

from north to south and east to west), F18558 might be Phase 6, although this seems less likely.

Two additional points relating to the north–south walls are worth noting. First, all of these sloping surfaces likely reached W9266b, which was constructed in Phase 9. Second, excavation immediately west of W18045 did not penetrate deeply into Phase 7, reaching only the highest-level floor likely related to it (F18558, although this may be Phase 6c). Thus, the relationship of the complex of Phase 7 floors in the western part of the unit to W18045 on the east is unknown.

In summary, it is clear that the massive, deep W9266b founded in Phase 9 was still in use in Phase 7. Moreover, given all the above considerations, the most likely scenario is that the Phase 6 walls described above were first constructed on an early Phase 7 floor and that some floors later within Phase 7 reached these walls. Possibly, oven L9658 began its use at this time as well.

Phase 8a–c (Stages xii–xiv)

stages xii–xiv W9266b \equiv W18575 \equiv F18278 > F18554 > F18564 = F18565 = (?) F18304

The stages represented in Phase 8 are gradual raisings of the floor level of the room.

F18278 (#13.54–#13.40; Figs. 7.28–7.29) = xii = 8a

F18554 (#13.53–#13.33; Fig. 7.30) = xiii = 8b

F18564 = F18565 = F18304? (#13.42–#13.12; Fig. 7.28) = xiv = 8c

W9266b, founded in Phase 9, continued in use in Phase 8. W18575 (80 cm wide, top at #13.58–13.46, base undetermined, Figs. 7.26–7.27) abuts it on the northeast and forms a good corner. From this corner, W18575 could only be traced for ca. 1.2 m to the east, where it seems to have ended, possibly forming a doorway with a wall that might have existed in the area to the east in AG/33 that remained unexcavated below the Phase 7 remains. W18575 is covered by the Phase 7 floors and W9735, described above. It is possible that W18575 had a mudbrick superstructure that had been completely removed. Because of the presence of Phase 7 floors above W18575, it

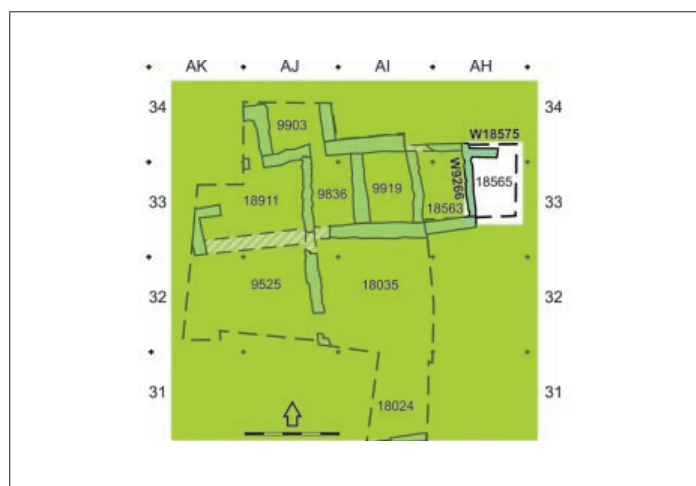


Fig. 7.25. Thumbnail plan of Phase 8, AH–AG/33. For details, see Plan 6. (d09Z3-1285)

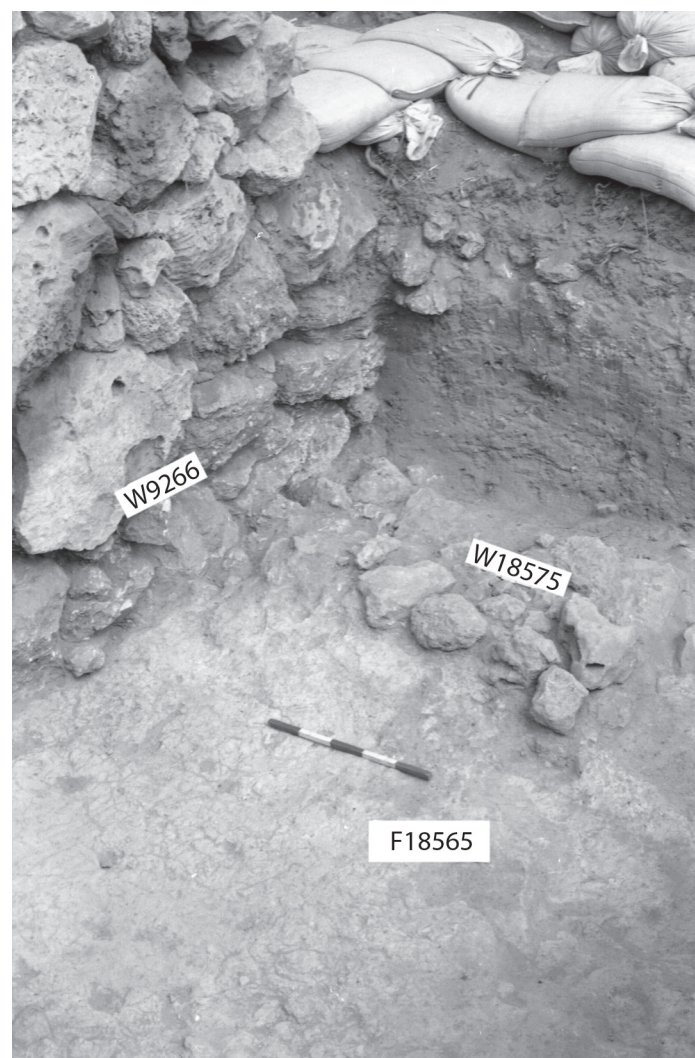


Fig. 7.26. W18575 abutting W9266b, looking northwest. F18565 slopes up to reach W9266b and W18575. (p08Z3-1082)



Fig. 7.27. W18575 abutting W9266b, looking south. F18565 reaches both W9266b and W18575. Background: Phase 6b–c W9990 and W9936 float above F18565. (p08Z3-1083)

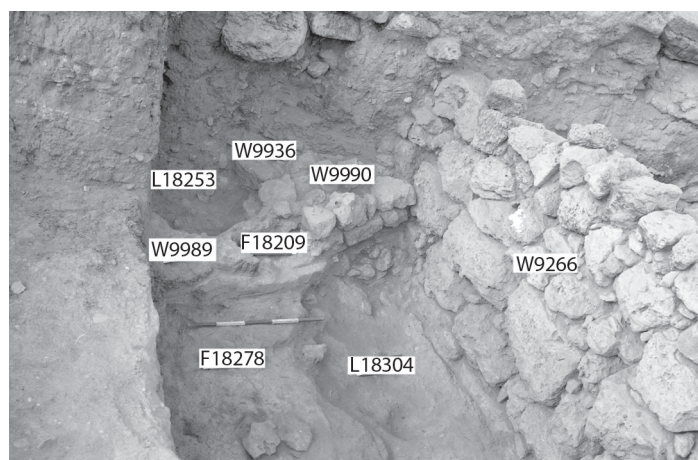


Fig. 7.28. Southern end of F18278 and F18304, looking south. Phase 7 F18209 below mudbrick W9989. (p08Z3-1097)



Fig. 7.30. F18544 and its probable relation to W9266b, looking south. (p08Z3-1077)

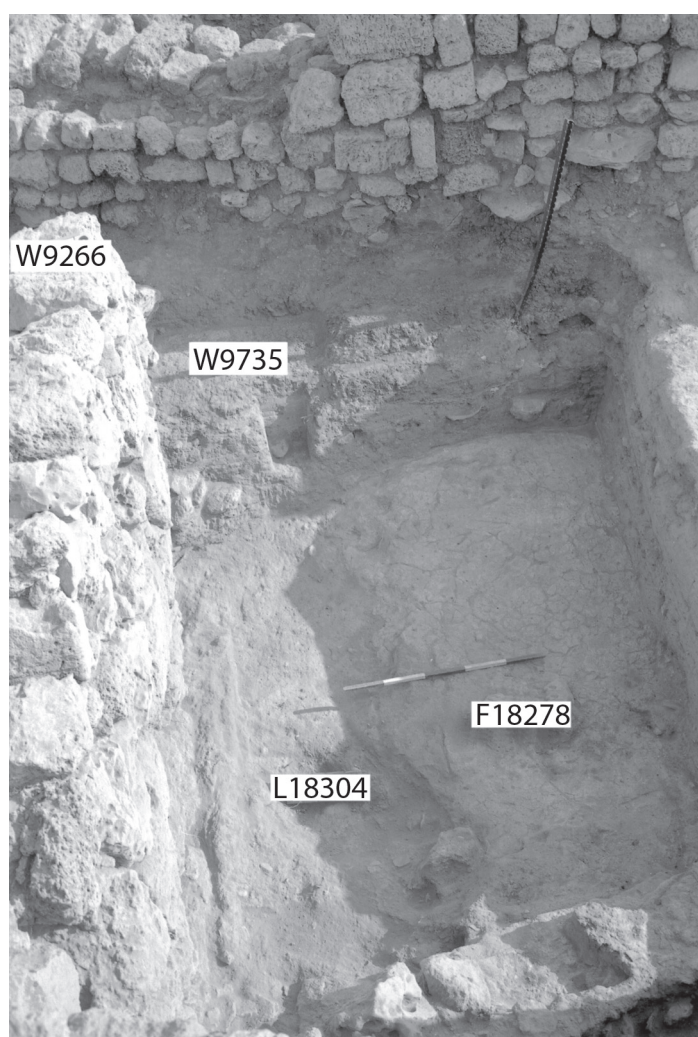


Fig. 7.29. Northern end of F18278 and F18304, looking north. W9735 floats above F18278. (p08Z3-1094)

does not seem possible that W9735 could be its superstructure. The area below and to the south of W9990 and W9989 of Phase 6 southwards was not excavated, so the southern limits of this room in Phase 8 are unknown.

On the western side of the room adjacent to W9266b, the ashy floors (e.g., F18278 and F18544) tended to be poorly preserved in Phases 8a–b, so that no connections to W9266b or W18575 could be established for these stages. It was only in Phase 8c that a clear floor (F18565) could be identified there and clearly traced to both W9266b and W18575. Since the lowest Phase 8c floor in the room did reach W18575, it is certain that those above did as well.

POSTSCRIPT: CORRELATIONS OF STAGES TO PHASES IN “CHERYL’S ROOM”

“Cheryl’s room” is located two units to the east of the central wall juncture in Area G, upon which the stratigraphic scheme of Phases 5–12 was determined (cf., Chapter 3). Furthermore, the western wall of the unit, W9266, was built in Phase 9 (based on its relations to elements in the “pithoi room” to the west; cf., Chapter 5) and remained in use until at least the end of Phase 6. Thus, it proves to be a barrier, preventing any direct correlations between elements on either side of it. Other walls of the unit (e.g., W18575, W9735, W9990) all abut W9266 and thus cannot serve, in and of themselves, to anchor the “floating stratigraphy” in this unit.

Excavation did not reach the base of W9266 (it was excavated deeper on its western side) and neither was any evidence detected of the Phase 9 destruction. Thus, the conjecture that the deepest floors found in this unit belong to Phase 8 seems sufficiently grounded. “Cheryl’s floor”, F9657, is the third stage in the unit, counting from the top. Assuming that the first, very high stage with late Iron Age pottery is Phase 5, then the second stage would belong to Phase 6a and “Cheryl’s floor” (stage ix) would be Phase 6b, leaving the tightly packed series of surfaces right under it (stage x) as Phase 6c (for which read “local accumulation within the use-phase of 6b”, since there is no independent phase “6c” in Area G). The next set of floors (stage xi) is thus Phase 7 and then comes another set of tightly packed surfaces (stages xii – xiv), which are relegated to Phase 8.

The issue at stake here is whether, allowing for some other permutation of the local stages to general phases, we might

be able to attribute “Cheryl’s floor” to Phase 7a. This would mean that the two significant primary assemblages in the Ir1/2 horizon, the *in situ* pottery on “Cheryl’s floor” and the skeleton and smashed jars in “Doreen’s room” (Chapter 10) might actually represent the same event. Such an interpretation can also go a long way towards simplifying the stratigraphic scheme, as it would leave Phase 6 (with no need to subdivide it to a and b in that case) as Ir2a, while pushing the entire Iron Age I/II transition into Phase 7.

On the down side, apart from making Phase 7 rather more

substantial than it currently is (incorporating local stages ix–xi), the elevations better fit our preferred interpretation. F9657 (#14.30) and F9897 (#14.13–14.10) fit the Phase 6b floors, F9817 = F9827, west of W9266 (cf., Chapter 5, the “pithoi room”). The southern wall of the “pithoi room” was rebuilt in Phase 6 (W9279a-b), making the differentiation between Phases 6 and 7 rather easier there.

Bearing this in mind, we prefer to remain with the interpretation of stage ix = Phase 6b in this report and we merely note the alternative possibility, with its pros and cons.

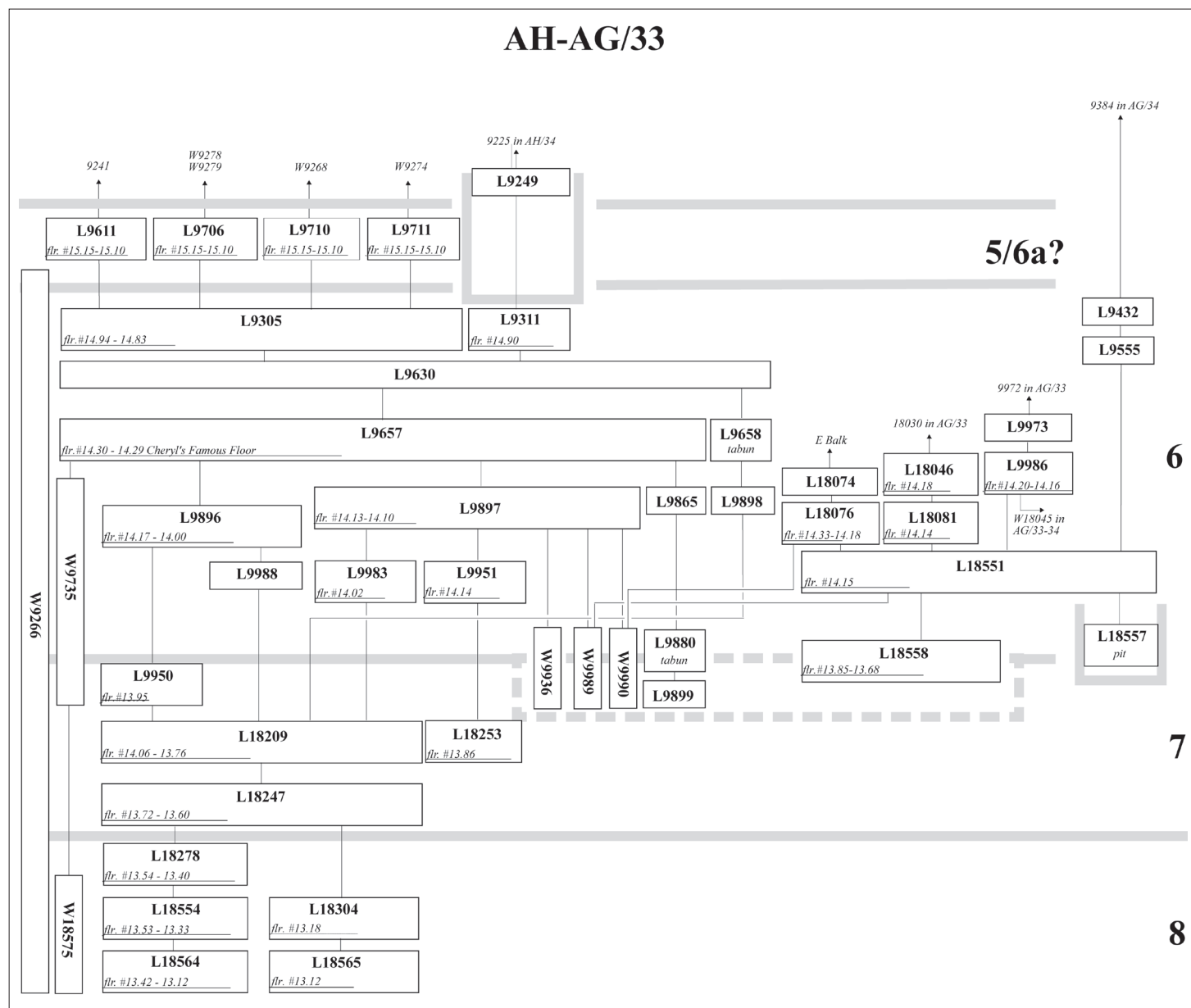


Fig. 7.31. Locus genealogy for AH-AG/33. (d09Z3-1286)