

§3 The North-West Building

Virtually all the architecture from Level III exposed to the west of the Stele Building appears to belong to a single complex of rooms which we refer to now as the “North-West Building”. By far the most complete plan of this complex is given us by the IIId phase. Phases IIIa and IIIb were not reached in 2007-2011. The fresh evidence for the following phase, Level IIIc, comes exclusively from a sounding beneath the floors of the main reception room in the IIId phase (Room 32) and beneath Rooms 37-38 to its south, and will be described first. After the description of the IIId building, the scattered evidence for the IIIe phase is presented, and this section concludes with a discussion of the chronological placement of these three phases and the possible function of the building.

§3.1 The North-West Building, Level IIIc

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Level IIIc (Plan P3)

The limited area in which phases IIIa-c were explored in the excavations of the 1990s meant that there was no coherent building layout, and our principal conclusion was that the ceramic assemblage throughout the whole of Level III seemed remarkably consistent. In the north, beneath Room 32, the architecture (W740, W5808 and W5810) was a continuation of phase IIIc as observed to the west in H19b, and the alignment of walls, although shifting east or west in different phases, remained consistent, supporting the grouping of the five distinct architectural phases IIIa-e into a single Late Bronze Age level. On the other hand the IIIc walls exposed further south below Room 37 (W5811 and W5812) seem to be differently aligned and were separated from the northern area by a patch of rough stones which might suggest that there was a separate building here in this phase.

Level IIIc below Room 32

Work in 2009 uncovered more of the IIIc phase under Room 32, and the results of that work broadly backed up the conclusions of the 1990s, despite raising some queries about wall continuations and some doubts about the identification of phases. Underneath the earliest floor level of the IIId room was a series of fill layers to a depth of ca. 40 cm, which presumably represent the main levelling fill for laying the foundations of the IIId building. Below the lowest of these fill layers (94045; 94038) was discovered the eastern continuation of the IIIc building first identified in the 1990s (Photos [3.1.1](#), [3.1.2](#)).

This consisted of a stone foundation (W5808) running roughly NW-SE, parallel to but further to the west than W112, the IIId east wall of Room 32. At its south end W5808 turned westwards as W5810, running parallel to, but further north than, W5805. Wall 5810 then petered out and did not reappear to the west of pit P08/46. Wall 5808 continued further north through the temporary section and then turned westwards to become W740, which had been identified in H19b in the 1990s (EKT Fig. 831). Despite its irregular appearance W741 presumably functioned as the west wall of a room formed by these walls, which would have measured some 4 m x 5 m. Once the new walls had been defined a new fill number was assigned to describe the fill deposit to the south of the temporary baulk that was confined by the walls. This new fill was numbered 94048/94059 – depth of ca. 7-8 cm but similar to deposit 94045 above. Once this fill was removed a solid surface was reached (94053). It was plastered white in places and was picked up both sides of the temporary section, reaching to the base of both W5808 in the east and W740 to the north. Against W5808 in the area south of the temporary section it was extremely compact, in places looking like an external surface due to the small stones

found in it. The surface slumped down from the wall edges (with which it was clearly associated) into the centre of the room by some 7 cm, and found resting on the surface at the east side of the room close to W5808 was a pair of copper torcs, identical in look and size, with curled clasps (I19/691=296; Photo 3.1.3). These clearly had been deliberately placed on the floor.

This solid surface – 94053 – changed in consistency as it moved westwards across the room space. About halfway across it turned into a yellow plaster-like deposit which is presumed to be the same surface – perhaps there was a division between outdoor and indoor space here. In association with the west centre of the room (i.e. the western side of the area we were excavating) were found the remnants of a stone feature associated with a dump of grey ashy material (94054), which was given the fire installation number FI09/08 (Photo 3.1.4). This stone feature when complete was roughly square in shape with larger stones along its north wall petering out to smaller rougher stones on its eastern and western sides. It was not clear if it was walled on its southern side and it might well have been open there.

Little further was done in this area except for the removal of surface 94053 on the eastern side up against W5808 to see if a lower sequence of IIIc floors might be present. The fill beneath the 94053 surface – 94060 – was 5–14 cm in depth. Once this was removed a clay rimmed horse-shoe shaped hearth was found and given the number FI09/09. It was quite fragmentary, measuring 73 cm in length with a surviving width of only 29 cm as so little of the clay surround remained. A single clear mudbrick measuring 42 cm by 7 cm was discernible along the northern edge of the FI and in the south half of the FI was a deposit of white ashy material (Photo 3.1.5). No associated surface was identified and although W5808 was left in place it was not clear whether this feature related to the walls.

To the NW of W740 all that survived from phase IIIc was a fragmentary stone foundation (W5809) which appears to belong to a wall running towards the NW from the W740 wall-face, implying that the IIIc building extended further in this direction. However as excavated in the 1990s there were the foundations of a small room here in the IIb phase (walls W102, W103 and W104, EKT Fig. 489) apparently at the same absolute elevation. The plan of this room does not fit well with the IIIc walls W740 and W5809, but it is not possible to say whether they were in fact contemporary, or the IIIc structure was countersunk leaving the stone foundations at the same level as the earlier IIb walls.

Units and finds

Fill below 94053 surface: 94060

94060	I19/698	Copper needle	323
94060	I19/697	Whetstone	696

Highest IIIc surface: 94053

Grey ash overlying 94053 in NW: 94054

Fill above IIIc surface: 94039, 94040, 94048, 94059

94039	I19/653	Fossil	590
94048	I19/672	Fragment of copper	388
94059	I19/691	Copper torcs	296
94059	I19/699	Copper wire	360
94059	I19/732	Re-used sherd disc	18

Level IIIc below Room 37 (Photo 3.1.6)

Because the IIId floors in Room 37 had been unaffected by later intrusions (since the two pits within the room were contemporary with the surfaces themselves), this was a good place to access undisturbed Level IIIc deposits. The space delimited by the IIId walls of Room 37 was mostly bisected by the large central pit P09/16, and the area was therefore divided into a north and a south half.

The clearance of a band of fill directly below Level IIId Surface 2 (11105) exposed the highest surviving stones of W5811 which ran west-east below the south end of Room 37 and returned as W5812 beneath FI08/11 in the SE corner of the IIId room. South of W5811 there was a patch of

ground surface (11106) covered with large heavy potsherds (Photo [3.1.7](#)). Some of these were retrieved and yielded among others part of a jar (I19/757), others remain unexcavated beneath the foundation stones of the IIId wall W5806, indicating that both W5811 and the associated surface to its south continued towards the west and lay beneath IIId Room 38. It is clear from this that the layout of the IIId building south of W5805 and W5807 differed from the IIId plan, and it seems likely that when the NW Building was reconstructed in phase IIId, it was extended southwards beyond Room 32 and absorbed an area which was previously separate.

Units and finds: South half of Room 37

IIId floor surface: 11106

Fill above 11106, below IIId Surface 2: 11105

11105	I19/755	Jar handle	<i>Anatolian Studies</i> 64, 147 Fig. 50
11105	I19/763	Flint flake	605
11105	I19/757	Ceramic vessels	

Below the north half of Room 37 there was a sequence of horizontal fill layers, resting above an unplastered surface with grey ash and trampled potsherds. This seems likely to have been an open space, and immediately south of the IIId wall W5805 was a stretch of untidy stones at the IIId ground level, which tends to reinforce this conclusion (Photo [3.1.8](#)). The northern limit of this open space would presumably have been W5810 as exposed in the SE corner of Room 32.

Units and finds: North half of Room 37

Fill below 11116: 11117, 11119

11117	I19/769	Libation arm	
11117	I19/768	Copper ingot	369
11117	I19/770	Tortoise carapace	
11119	I19/813	Human scapula	
11119	I19/814	Human metacarpal	

Surface below 11115: 11116

Fill below 11108/11113: 11115

11115	I19/777	Sherd with potter's mark	
11115	I19/812	Ivory dome	473

Surface below 11108: 11109, 11113

Fill below Surface 2: 11108

11108	I19/766	Jar handle	<i>Anatolian Studies</i> 64, 147 Fig. 50
11108	I19/778	Ceramic sherds	
11108	I19/810	Astragalus	496
11108	I19/811	Astragalus	495

Level IIId below Room 38

A small sounding was placed against the west face of W5806 to examine the stratigraphic status of the wall. Beneath a dense dark brown packing layer immediately underlying the single IIId floor of Room 38 there was a further similar layer, giving a total depth of about 45 cm. The lower part of this deposit ran beneath the lowest foundation stones of W5806, and the east side of Room 38 was shaved back for the insertion of Room 37's west wall. At the base of these packing layers, respecting the highest surviving stones of W5811 which here continues westwards from its appearance beneath Room 37, was a distinct surface "clear, hard and quite smooth", and virtually flat at +96.16 m. A pair of goat horn-cores (I19/785) was lying on it (Photo [3.1.9](#)), and could have been placed there at the time of the rebuilding. A vertical cut line was noted parallel with the west face of W5806, and this is the same as the cut noted in the south section (see below on Room 37), which must have been made to accept the IIId foundation of the wall.

Units and finds

The North-West Building

Floor below 11127: 11128

11128 I19/785 2 goat horns

Fill below IIIrd surface: 11123, 11127

11123 I19/791 Ceramic disc **13**