

A NABATEAN ROADSIDE TEMPLE AT ḤORBAT ḤAZAZA IN THE NEGEV HIGHLANDS

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INTRODUCTION

In August 2001, excavations were carried out at Ḥorbat Ḥazaza in the Central Negev to facilitate conservation work.¹ The site is located 2.5 km northeast of the Ḥaluqim Junction near Kibbutz Sede Boqer (map ref. 183376/534142) and situated on a low hilltop overlooking the modern Sede Boqer–Yeroḥam Road 204 on the west and Naḥal Ha-Ro‘a and Naḥal Ḥazaz on the east (Fig. 1). The site was established next to an ancient track linking the Oboda/Sede Boqer region with the Nabatean site of Mampsis in the Classical period.

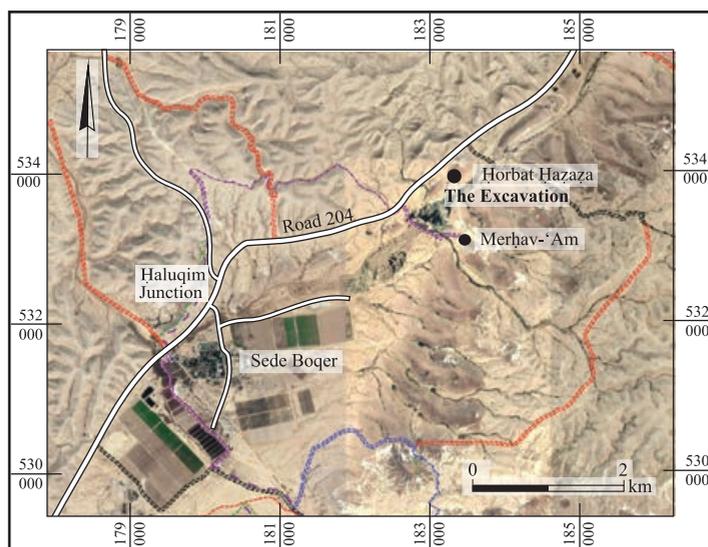


Fig. 1. Location map of the site and its surroundings

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¹ The excavation (Permit No. A-3470) was directed by the author on behalf of the IAA. I thank Anna Dudin (pottery drawings) and Donald T. Ariel (numismatics) for their contribution to this project. The plan of the site (Plan 1) is based on Rudolf Cohen's publication of his excavations at the site (Cohen 1981:41, Fig. 5). I thank Rivka Cohen-Amin for providing me with access to Cohen's excavation files, which included the elevations.



Fig. 2. Stepped exterior of W5 and Room 22, looking northeast.

History of Research

Ḥorbat Ḥazaza was discovered in 1953 during an archaeological survey of the area conducted by Emmauel Anati on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums (IDAM). During that survey, a structure and a large stone basin, measuring 1×1 m, were noted by Anati, who proposed that the site was a Nabataean temple (Rudolph Cohen, pers. comm.). The site was first excavated in 1971 by Rudolph Cohen on behalf of the IDAM (Permit No. A-281; Cohen 1971). The excavation plan and a small amount of the pottery discovered appeared in his survey map of the Sede Boqer area (Cohen 1981:42–45); in addition, a preliminary description of the excavation was published (Cohen 1993a). The site included a large, rectangular building (22×51 m) that was constructed on a northwest–southeast axis and possessed two separate wings (Plan 1), each of which had a series of rooms situated around a large inner courtyard. Each wing had a separate entrance, located along the eastern side of the structure. The north wing measures 22×33 m, and the south wing, 18×22 m. The exterior wall of the structure was constructed of finely dressed hard limestone ashlar (Figs. 2–4). The exposure of the northwestern corner shows that the western wall enclosing both wings was stepped in a rather unusual decorative fashion, not normally found in Nabataean architecture in the region during this period.

Cohen (1971:27; 1993a; 1993b) dated the structure to the second through fourth centuries CE and proposed that it was “an important road station” on the ancient road between Oboda and Meẓad Yeroḥam.² Cohen’s excavation of the site produced only one bronze coin of

² In his study of the Negev in the Byzantine period, Rubin (1990:93, 96, 173) referred to Ḥorbat Ḥazaza as an example of a farmhouse and proposed that the stepped water cistern in Room 10 was used for processing fruit. Likewise, he proposed that the large stone basin, first noticed by Anati, was a trough for watering livestock.



Fig. 3. Stepped exterior of W5 and Room 22, looking north.



Fig. 4. Stepped exterior of W6 and Room 22, looking south.

Hadrian (117–138 CE) minted in Ashqelon, which was found in the cistern in Room 10 (see Ariel, below: Cat. No. 3).

The Archaeological Phases

Three occupation phases were discerned at the site in the 2001 excavation. Phase 1 comprises the construction and earliest occupation of the structure. This phase is Nabataean and may be dated to the Early Roman period (prior to the Roman annexation in 106 CE), i.e., the second half of the first through the early second centuries CE. Phase 2 commenced when the north wing was restored and expanded following earthquake damage in the early second

century CE and corresponds with the second, post-annexation phase of occupation (post-106 CE). Domestic use of the courtyard (Room 30) appears to indicate that the structure ceased to function as a temple sometime during the second century CE. This phase extends primarily through the second and third centuries CE. Phase 3 is represented by a minor amount of material in one corner of the courtyard (Room 30) as late as the Early Byzantine period (fourth to mid-fifth centuries CE).

THE EXCAVATIONS

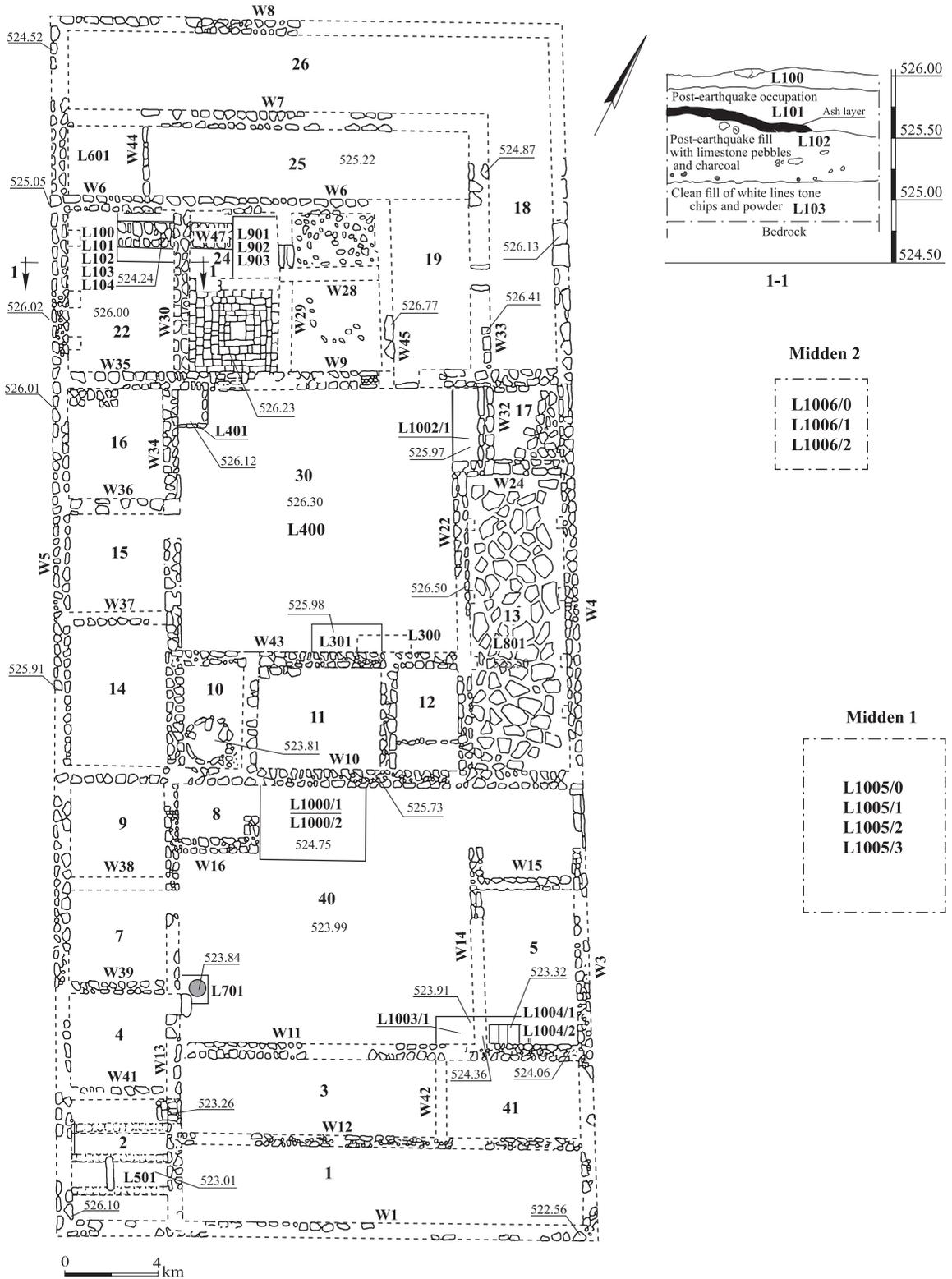
The 2001 excavations concentrated on parts of the north wing, the south wing and in a midden located along the eastern side of the structure (Plan 1).

The North Wing

The rooms of the north wing are situated around a large, square courtyard (30; 11 × 11 m). Two long parallel rooms (25 and 26) were constructed in a terraced fashion below the level of the northern side of the north wing. These rooms were cleared down to the earthen floor level, which was covered with a thick layer of dark soil that appears to have been organic in composition. A few Late Roman cooking-pot (Fig. 17:3–5) and amphora (not illustrated) sherds were found in the corner of W44 and the southern wall of Room 25 (W6), in what appears to have been the remains of a campfire (L601, B9).

Room 22, located on the western side of the north wing, was cleared down to the original beaten earth floor level, where the bases of three arches were found along the inner face of W5. A few centimeters of dark soil (L101), probably organic material (dung) overlying a thin layer of ash, was found throughout the room. A probe excavated in the northwestern corner of the room (W6, W30) down to bedrock (Plan 1: Section 1–1) revealed the construction of a wide subterranean terrace or support, W47, running underneath Rooms 22 and 24 (Figs. 5, 6). This low, wide wall is situated 0.15 m southeast of and parallel to the northern wall of Rooms 22 and 24 (W6). Wall 6 was constructed from fine, hard limestone ashlar resting on a wide foundation (Fig. 7). A narrow space (L104) separated W47 and the foundation of W6. A heavy fill (L103) of light colored soil and limestone pebbles was packed over and around the terrace (Fig. 8), creating a solid support for the room's floor and, in effect, extending the hillside's platform to the northwest. A patch of black soot was found on the lower eastern wall of Room 22 (W30), a few centimeters above the foundation stones on a small flat stone extending from the wall (Fig. 7).

In the adjacent Room 24, a probe was excavated in its western half (L901, L902 and L903), revealing the continuation of W47 and the same heavy fill found in Room 22. Pottery sherds dating to the first century CE were found in the fill underlying the earthen floor (see Figs. 12:6, 10; 14:2). Excavated sections in the central courtyard of the north wing uncovered a shallow layer of dark brown soil and patches of ash overlying the uneven bedrock. Ash with a fairly large amount of pottery dated to the third century CE was found in the northwestern and the southeastern corners of the courtyard (Fig. 16:5–7).



Plan 1. Site plan and section.



Fig. 5. Support W47 under Rooms 22 and 24, looking northeast.



Fig. 6. Support W47 along Rooms 22 and 24, looking northwest.

One long room (Room 13), possibly used for storage, was cleared down to a flagstone floor. This room produced a very minimal amount of finds (L801, B11; not illustrated). Finally, an unidentified architectural element was discovered along the eastern side of W33 (Fig. 9).



Fig. 7. Foundation under W30, looking northeast.



Fig. 8. Fill 103 overlying support W37.



Fig. 9. Architectural feature on eastern side of W33.



Fig. 10. Mud-brick substructure under Room 5.

The South Wing

Although no conservation work was carried out in the south wing, five probes were excavated in order to determine the structure's date of construction and to investigate the possibility that the south wing had originally been connected to the north wing by a monumental staircase along its southern wall. Excavation on the northern side of the courtyard (40), along the southern face of W10 (L1000/1, L1000/2), were inconclusive regarding the existence of a staircase. However, unlike other parts of the courtyard, no ash and only a small amount of pottery was found in this area, within a very shallow layer of reddish soil above bedrock. A large rectangular stone found in the center of the courtyard appears to have belonged to a staircase, whose stones may have been robbed following the abandonment of the south wing.

Small sections were excavated in the southwestern and southeastern corners of the courtyard (W11/13, W11/14; L701, L1003/1) and within the southwestern corner of Room 5 (W11/14; L1004/1, L1004/2). The first section exposed pottery sherds (Figs. 12:9, 14; 13:2, 4–7, 9–11) in a layer of soil mixed with ash overlying the bedrock around the entrance to Room 4. A small clay-lined *tabun* was found a few centimeters north of the entrance to Room 4, along W13 (L701, B10). The debris layer in the courtyard proved to be quite shallow on the eastern side of the enclosure. In Room 5, a mud-brick substructure was found below the floor level of the room (Fig. 10). This substructure was constructed over a heavily packed fill of light colored soil and limestone pebbles (L1004/1, B17).

Room 2 had previously been excavated down to floor level by Cohen in 1971, revealing three fallen arches, laying *in situ*. In the present excavation, two of these arches were removed and the soil below them (L501), which was excavated down to bedrock, was sieved completely. Although scant material remains were found in the level below the floor, sherds of Nabatean painted-ware bowls (Fig. 12:2, 5, 13) appeared, with painted decoration of the first century CE.



Fig. 11. Midden 1, looking west.

The Midden

Ten meters east of the structure, two probes were excavated in the midden, which was located outside the entrances to both wings (Plan 1). It appears that refuse was spread there throughout most of the occupation of the structure. The larger excavation (designated Midden 1) was a 5×5 m square, only 0.38 cm in depth, with four thin layers of debris deposited over bedrock (L1005/0–L1005/3, B19–22; Fig. 11). A second small probe (designated Midden 2), 0.45 cm in depth, was excavated further to the north, opposite the entrance to the north wing (L1006/0–L1006/3, B27–30). Pottery sherds were carefully collected from the surface of both sections and the debris from both was sieved from surface to bedrock. Midden 1 produced only two coins (L1005/1, B20; L1005/2, B21): one (see Ariel, below: Cat. No. 2) dates to the reign of the latest Nabatean king, Rabbel II (70–106 CE), and the second (see Ariel, below: Cat. No. 1) dates to 25–40 CE, during the reign of Aretas IV.

THE FINDS

Pottery

Phase 1 (Mid-First–Early Second Centuries CE)

Pottery from this Early Roman-period phase was found throughout the south wing and in sections under Rooms 24 and 25 in the north wing, and most extensively in Midden 1. They include a wide array of Nabatean Fine Ware, such as Nabatean Painted-Ware bowls and a beaker sherd, Eastern Terra Sigillata bowls, Cypriot Sigillata wares, plain ware and rouletted bowls, a fine-ware goblet, juglets, storage jars, including the early form of a Gaza wine jar, serving and cooking pots, lamps and coroplastic sherds.

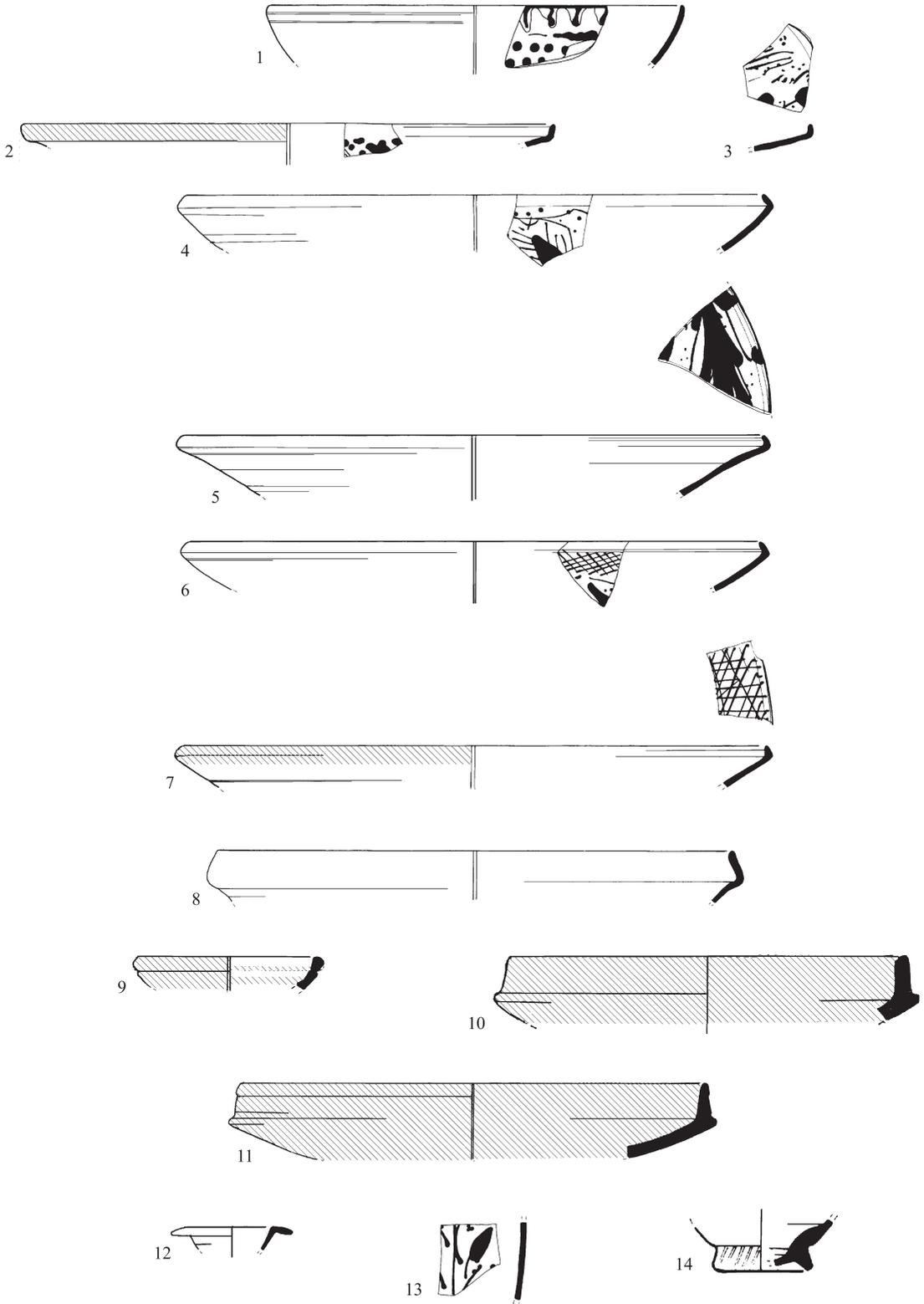


Fig. 12. Phase 1 pottery.

◀ Fig. 12

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description	Comparisons
1	NPFW bowl	1005	20/1	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); red decoration (2.5YR 4/6)	Petra (Khairy 1990: Fig. 42.9) Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Fig. 87:58)
2	NPFW bowl	501	8/1	Red (2.5YR 5/6); dark red decoration (2.5YR 3/6)	ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 90)
3	NPFW bowl	1005	22/2	Red (2.5YR 5/8); red decoration (2.5YR 4/6)	
4	NPFW bowl	1005	20/2	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); red decoration (2.5YR 4/6)	Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 1.2:6) Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Fig. 84:39, 40, 43)
5	NPFW bowl	501	8/2	Red (2.5YR 5/8); occasional tiny white and gray inclusions; red decoration (2.5YR 4/6); pale slip applied to ext. rim	ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 91)
6	NPFW bowl	903	25	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); red decoration (2.5YR 4/6)	Mampsis (Negev and Sivan 1977: Fig. 3:12; Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 1.2:12, 13) Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Figs. 85:44–48; 86:51–53; Magness 2002: Fig. 12.1) Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2002) ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 89)
7	NPFW bowl	1005	20/1	Red (2.5YR 5/8); red decoration (2.5YR 4/6); red slip applied to ext. rim (2.5YR 4/6)	Schmid's Dekorgruppe 3a (2000: Abb. 89) Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Figs. 85:44–48; 86:51–53)
8	Bowl	1005	20/3	Reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3); dark gray core; brown slip (7.5YR 4/2) on ext. rim	ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 50, 51)
9	Cypriot Sigillata bowl	701	10/1	Red (2.5YR 5/6); occasional large white inclusions; red burnish (10R4/8)	Hayes' Cypriot Sigillata Form 9 (1985: Tav. XIX:1)
10	ESA bowl	902	18/1	Reddish yellow (7.5YR7/6); red burnish (10R 4/8)	Hayes' Form 35 (1985: Tav. V:9)
11	ETS bowl	1005	22/3	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); red burnish (10R 4/8)	Hayes' Form 35 (1985: Tav. V:8)
12	Beaker	1005	21/1	Reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6); dark gray core; partially charred	Oboda (Negev 1986: No. 634) ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 215–226: No. 220)
13	NPFW beaker	501	8/3	Red (2.5YR 5/8); occasional tiny white and gray inclusions; red decoration (2.5YR 4/6)	Oboda (Negev 1986: Nos. 415–417)
14	Fine-ware jug base	701	10/2	Completely charred; rouletted decoration on ext.	Oboda (Negev 1986: Nos. 531, 532).

Nabatean Painted Fine Ware Bowls.— Nabatean Painted Fine Ware (NPFW), primarily bowl sherds, were found extensively in Midden 1, in the south wing and in the fill underlying Room 24 in the north wing. A hemispherical bowl from Midden 1 (Fig. 12:1) has a decoration similar to that found on bowls from Petra dated to the first half of the first century CE (Khairy 1990: Fig. 42.9). The pattern on this bowl also appears to be similar to that found on a sherd discovered at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Fig. 87:58).

Painted-ware bowls with inverted rims found below the collapsed arches in Room 2 and in Midden 1 (Fig. 12:2–5) correspond to Schmid's Dekorphase 2b, dated to the first century CE (Schmid 2000: Abb. 90). Bowls with the same form and decoration were found in the Nabatean dump at Oboda (Negev 1986:51, No. 367), as well as in the earliest layers of the Nabataean dump at Mampsis, dated to the mid-first century CE (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 1.2:6), and at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Fig. 84:39, 40, 43).

The painted-ware bowl rims (Figs. 12:6, 7), with a running-wreath and latticework decoration, correspond to Schmid's Dekorphase 3a. Similar bowls were found at Mampsis, in contexts dated to the mid-first century (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 1.2:12, 13), as well as at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Figs. 85:44–48; 86:51–53). Sherds with lattice-work decoration were found under the floor of the Roman army camp's principia at Oboda, together with coins from Year Two of the First Jewish Revolt (68 CE; Erickson-Gini 2002) and in the siege camp at Masada (Magness 2002: Fig. 12.1). Considering the continued appearance of lattice-work decoration on bowls as late as the early second century CE, Schmid's terminal date of Dekorphase 3a (80 CE) requires revision (Erickson-Gini and Tuttle 2017:117–118).

Nabatean Plain Ware Bowl.— A Nabatean Plain Ware bowl rim was found in Midden 1 (Fig. 12:8). It is made from a medium fine-ware fabric and has a carinated, inverted rim. It belongs to a class of Nabatean plain ware bowls found at ez-Zantur, belonging to Schmid's Gruppe 6 (2000: Abb. 50, 51) and dated to the late first century BCE through the first century CE.

Eastern Terra Sigillata Fine Ware Bowls.— A Cypriot Sigillata fine-ware bowl (Fig. 12:9), corresponding to Hayes' Cypriot Sigillata Form P10, dated to the first century CE (Hayes 1985: Tav. XIX:1), was found in the courtyard of the south wing. Eastern Terra Sigillata (ETS) Fine Ware bowls corresponding to Hayes' Form 35 (Hayes 1985: Tav. V:8), dated between 40 and 70 CE, were found in the fill under Room 24 (Fig. 12:10) and in the earliest layer of Midden 1 (Fig. 12:11).

Nabatean Fine Ware Goblet.— The rim of a Nabatean Fine Ware goblet, with an extended ledge rim, was found in Midden 1 (Fig. 12:12). The neck of this vessel flares and the rim angles downward. Goblets of this type have been found at Oboda (Negev 1986: No. 634) and ez-Zantur (Schmid 2000: Abb. 220).

Nabatean Painted Fine Ware Beaker.— The sherd of a NPFW beaker was discovered sealed by the collapsed arches in Room 2 (Fig. 12:13). The exterior of the vessel is decorated with a motif of leaves and branches similar to that found on beakers discovered at Oboda (Negev 1986: Nos. 415–417) that date to the first century CE.

Fine Ware Juglet.— A charred Nabatean Fine Ware juglet base with a rouletted pattern on its exterior (Fig. 12:14) was found inside a small clay *tabun* in the courtyard (Room 40). Although no exact parallels were found, rouletting on the exterior of Nabatean Fine Ware beaker and juglet bases has been documented at Oboda (Negev 1986: Nos. 531, 532).

Jars.— A Nabatean ribbed-neck jar found in Midden 1 (Fig. 13:1) has parallels with jars of this type from Oboda and also at ‘Aqaba in early first- to early second-century CE contexts (Dolinka 2003: Nos. 20, 21).

A Nabatean wide-mouth jar with a flanged rim (Fig. 13:2) found in the south wing has handles extending from the rim. Jars of this type have been found at other Nabatean sites, such as Mampsis, Oboda and Petra, where they date to the first and second centuries CE. Another sherd found in Midden 1 (Fig. 13:3) appears to belong to a storage jar. It has a low, incurved neck and a triangular everted rim. No parallels were found for this jar type.

In the courtyard (Room 40) in the south wing, a Judean-type storage jar with a tall neck ending in a thickened, everted rim was found (Fig. 13:4). It is made of a light, reddish brown fabric, covered with a light brown slip. Parallels for this jar are found in contexts dating to the second half of the first century CE at ‘Aro‘er (Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 5:2) and Machaerus (Loffreda 1996: Group 10).

Rims of Gaza jars, corresponding to Majcherek’s Form 1 (Figs. 13:5, 6) were uncovered in the courtyard of the south wing (Room 40). These have a thick, slightly inverted neck and a rounded rim. A deep groove is present below the neck and the body is ribbed. These jars are dated to the first–third centuries CE (Majcherek 1995:166, Pl. 4) and they have been found in small quantities in Cohen’s early second-century CE contexts at other sites in the Negev. Two complete examples of this jar from contexts dated to the early third century CE were uncovered in excavations at Moyat ‘Awad and Mezad Neqarot (Erickson-Gini and Hirschfeld, forthcoming). The jar published by Cohen (1995:166, Pl. 4) has a barrel-shaped body similar to Majcherek’s Form 1. Rare kilns producing this early type of Gaza wine jar have been uncovered in excavations in Ashqelon, in the Third Mile Estate (Israel and Erickson-Gini 2013:174–176, Fig. 6) and in the Shimshon Neighborhood (Feder and Erickson-Gini 2012: Figs. 2–9).

Serving and Cooking Vessels.— A Nabatean serving pot found in the south wing (Fig. 13:7) is a common form of Nabatean pottery produced in the Petra area between 100 and 300 CE (‘Amr and al-Momani 1999: Fig. 14:15, 16). It is made from a medium fine-ware fabric covered with a pale brown slip. This pot has a closely ribbed body and a flanged rim.

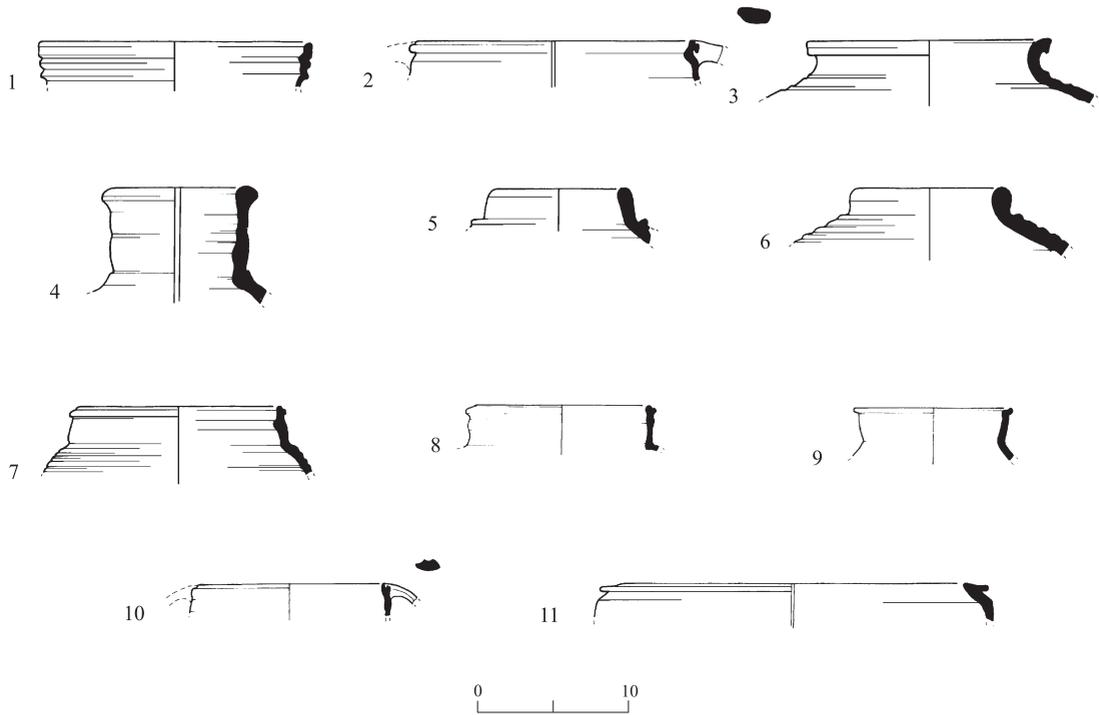


Fig. 13. Phase 1 pottery (cont.).

Cooking pots uncovered in the midden and ascribed to Phase 1 include Fig. 13:8, with a vertical neck and a grooved rim. It is made from a brittle brown fabric covered with a red slip. Two other rather small cooking pots were found in Early Roman contexts (Figs. 13:9, 10) in the south wing. Figure 13:9 has a slightly flaring neck and a grooved, everted rim. Figure 13:10 is thin-walled, with an upright neck, a slightly flanged rim and handles attached from rim to body. The latter is more commonly found in contexts dating from the late second–early fourth centuries CE.

The rim of a wide casserole with a grooved, horizontal rim (Fig. 13:11) was also found in the area of the south wing. This vessel has a carinated shoulder below the rim.

Lamps.— Two lamp fragments were found, both of which appear to be variations of the Southern lamp, dated between 70 and 135 CE. The first example was found in Midden 1 (Fig. 14:1). It is made from a reddish yellow fabric with a molded decoration in the form of an amphora. Although no exact parallels were found, this type of molded decoration has been found on Southern lamps from other sites (Israeli and Avida 1988:63, Nos. 142, 143). A sherd of a second lamp (Fig. 14:2), apparently a Southern lamp, was found under Room 24 in the fill above bedrock. It has molded radial lines, is made from a pink fabric and has traces of a reddish brown slip. No exact parallels were found for this lamp.

◀ Fig. 13

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description	Comparisons
1	Jar	1005	21/1	Light red (2.5YR 6/8); numerous tiny dark gray and occasional tiny white inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/3)	Oboda (Negev 1986: No.1024) Aqaba-Aila (Dolinka 2003: Nos. 20, 21)
2	Jar	701	10/3	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); very pale brown (10YR 7/3)	Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 7.1:5) Oboda (Negev 1986: No. 1011) Petra (Murray and Ellis 1940: Pl. XXXII:129) ez-Zantur (Stucky et al. 1994: Fig. 16:A)
3	Jar	1005	21/2	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); numerous tiny dark gray and occasional tiny white inclusions; very pale brown (10YR 7/3)	
4	Storage jar	701	10/4	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4); micaceous, light brown slip (7.5YR 6/4)	‘Aro‘er (Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 5:2) Macherus (Loffreda 1996: Group 10)
5	Gaza jar	701	10/5	Brown (7.5YR 5/4); occasional tiny-to-small white and organic inclusions; self-slip; charred int.	Majcherek’s Form 1 (1995: Pl. 4:1, 2) Ashqelon (Israel and Erickson-Gini 2013: Fig. 6:1–3; Feder and Erickson-Gini 2012: Fig. 9) Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 21:2) Ḥorbat Ḥazaza (Cohen 1981: Fig. 7:5)
6	Gaza jar	701	10/6	Brown ware (7.5YR 5/4); occasional tiny-to-small white inclusions	As No. 5
7	Serving pot	701	10/7	Red (2.5YR 5/6); numerous tiny gray and white inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/4)	ez-Zurraba/Wadi Musa (‘Amr and al-Momani 1999: Nos. 14–17)
8	Cooking pot	1005	22/4	Brown (7.5YR 5/2); red slip (2.5YR 4/6)	
9	Cooking pot	701	10/8	Brown (7.5YR5/4); charred ext.	
10	Cooking pot	701	10/9	Red (2.5YR 5/8); tiny dark gray inclusions; dark brown slip (7.5YR 3/2)	
11	Casserole	701	10/10	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); numerous tiny and large dark gray and white inclusions; grayish brown slip (10YR 5/2); rough texture with large white and gray inclusions	

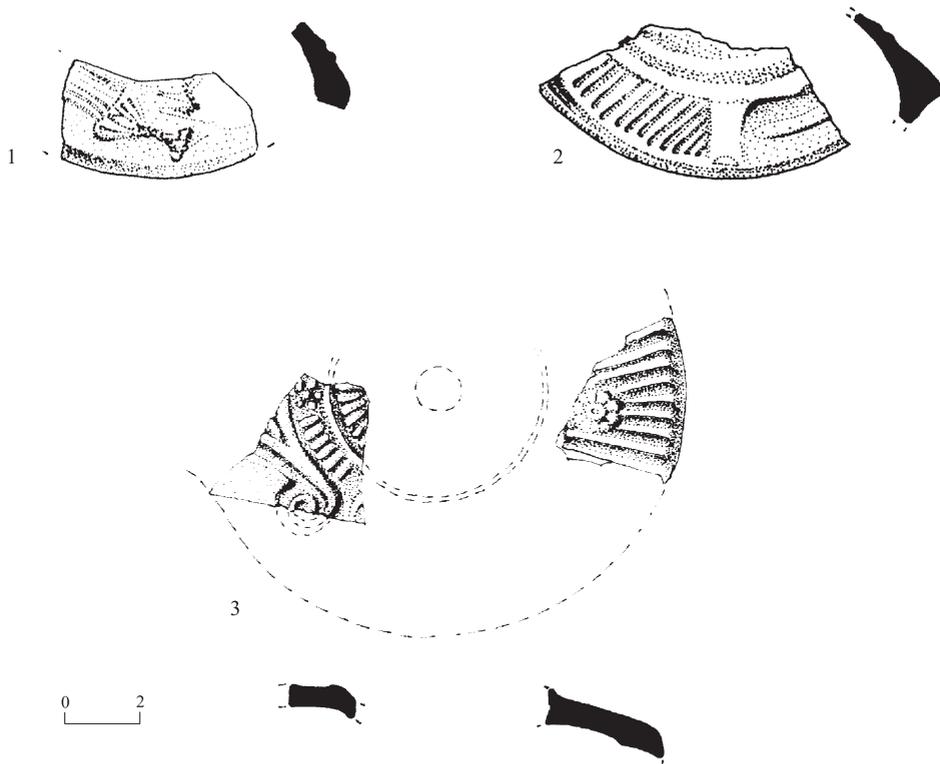


Fig. 14. Phase 1 oil lamps.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Comparisons
1	1005	21	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6); unslipped; molded decoration	Israeli and Avida 1988:63, Nos.142, 143
2	903	25	Pink (7.5YR 7/4); very worn red slip (2.5YR 4/6)	Israeli and Avida 1988: No. 215
3	1005	21	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); occasional small dark gray and white inclusions; self-slip	'Amr's Type 2 ('Amr 1987: Pls. 10–19) Negev's Type 1 (Negev 1986: Nos. 1164–1189)

Parts of a Nabatean lamp, commonly found in contexts dated to the first and early second centuries CE, was also found in Midden 1 (Fig. 14:3). It is made of a brown fabric and decorated on the nozzle with radial lines, rosettes and volutes. It corresponds to 'Amr's Type 2 and Negev's Type 1 ('Amr 1987: Pls. 10–19; Negev 1986: Nos. 1164–1189).

Coroplastic Objects.— Parts of coroplastic objects were discovered in Midden 1. Many of these (Fig. 15:1, 2) occur in reddish fabrics and probably were brought to the site from Petra. These include a camel saddle corresponding to Tuttle's Type C.2.3 (Tuttle 2009:463). It is somewhat similar to an unidentified form, Tuttle's Type G.3 (2009:613). Part of a figurine (Fig. 15:3) appears to be the hoof of a molded horse or camel, or simply the foot of a quadruped, classified as Tuttle's Type C.7.6a (Tuttle 2009:558), occasionally found at Nabatean sites from the late first century CE, particularly at Oboda (Negev 1986: Nos. 1057, 1059–1061). An

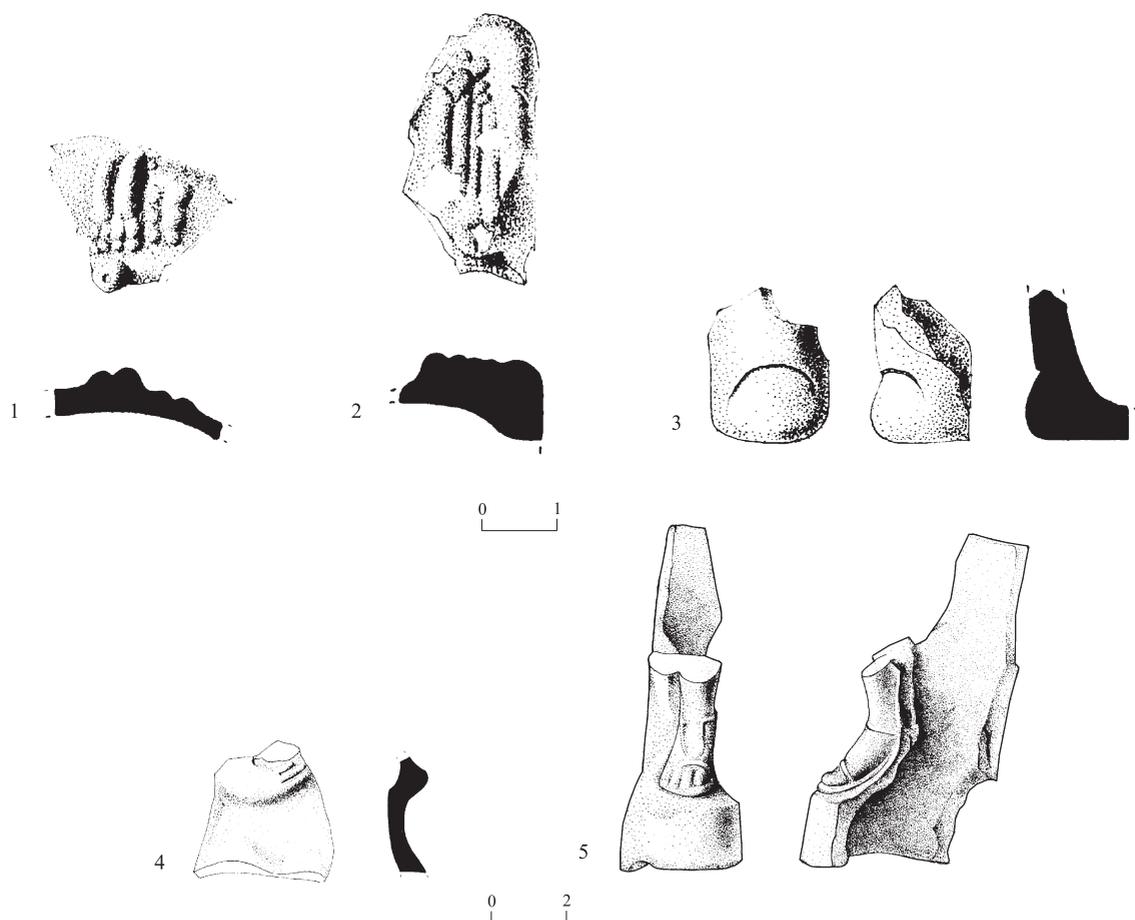


Fig. 15. Phase 1 coroplastic objects.

No.	Object	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Figurine	1005	20	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6); occasional tiny gray and small white inclusions; red slip (2.5YR 5/8) applied to ext.; burnish(?)
2	Figurine	1005	20	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4); red slip (2.5YR 4/6) applied to ext.
3	Figurine	1005	20	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4); numerous tiny dark gray inclusions; red slip (2.5YR 5/6) applied to ext.
4	Figurine	1005	20	Red (2.5YR 5/6); slightly micaceous; red slip (2.5YR 4/6); burnish(?); very worn
5	Statuette	103	7/1	Very pale brown (10YR 8/3); very light gray core; occasional small white inclusions; fine ware quality; self-slip; charring around lower ext.

anthropomorphic figurine (Fig. 15:4) appears to be that of a pregnant female, similar to an identical part of a figurine discovered at nearby Oboda in a post-annexation context (Erickson-Gini 2010: Fig. 3:2). It is made from a brown fabric and appears to be a hand and fingers resting on the stomach of a pregnant woman or on the figure's breast. The object is classified as Tuttle's Type A.5.7 (2009:426). Both this figurine and the Oboda example are somewhat similar to a figurine fragment discovered in the Nabatean caravanserai at Be'er Menuḥa (Tuttle

2009:425). A complete figurine of this type dated to the Roman period was formerly on display at the National Museum in Amman. That figurine shows a pregnant woman with her hands on or above her extended stomach. Figurines like this, and others discovered at Jerash, appear to be depictions of medical conditions such as childbirth or tumors, and they were probably offered as gifts to local gods.

The base of a terracotta statuette (Fig. 15:5) was discovered in the foundations of the building below Room 22 (L103). Traces of soot were extant on the base of the statuette and on the stone where it apparently stood, possibly indicating that the object was originally placed on the extended stone where some organic substance (incense?) was burnt. This apparently belonged to a full-sized, molded statuette of a type found in the potter's workshop in Jerash (Iliffe 1945: Nos. 44, 45). The Hazaza statuette is made from a well-levigated, light buff ware and shows a finely molded foot and toes shod with sandals. It was supported by a hollow, square base with rounded corners and some charring is visible near the toes and on the front of the base. The statuette was probably buried as a foundation offering and was later broken during repairs made to the north wing when the structure was damaged by an earthquake in the early second century CE. The statuettes discovered in the potter's workshop at Jerash are several centimeters high and appear to depict medical conditions. However, it is impossible to determine whether the statuette buried at Hazaza depicted a human or a divine figure.

Phase 2 (second–early third centuries CE)

Pottery sherds representing the post-annexation phase of the structure were uncovered in an ash layer in Room 22 and in the northern courtyard (Room 30).

Carinated Plain Ware Bowls.— Two plain-ware bowls with a carinated shape (Fig. 16:1, 2) were uncovered. The first example is rather shallow and has a ribbed profile and a rounded, everted rim. The second bowl (Fig. 16:2) has a deep, wide profile and a rounded, everted rim. A similar bowl was found in the excavation of a kiln dated between 100 and 300 CE in the Wadi Musa area near Petra ('Amr and al-Momani 1999: Fig. 9:10). Plain carinated bowls of this type were found extensively at sites along the Petra–Gaza road in early third-century CE contexts, as well as at Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010: Fig. 2).

Ledge-Rim Bowl.— A ledge-rim bowl sherd was found on the surface outside the building (Fig. 16:3); it has a shallow profile and a deep groove under the rim. Parallels for this type of carinated, ledge-rim bowl have been found in Late Roman contexts at Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 2010: Fig. 2:20) and near Jerash (Palumbo et al. 1993: Fig. 11:4, 5).

Fine Ware Krater.— The rim of a Cypriot Sigillata fine-ware krater was uncovered in Room 22 (Fig. 16:4). It has inverted sides and a slight, rounded rim with a heavy flange along the exterior. It corresponds to Hayes' Form P40 (1985:88, Tav. XXI:4), mainly dated to the first half of the second century CE.

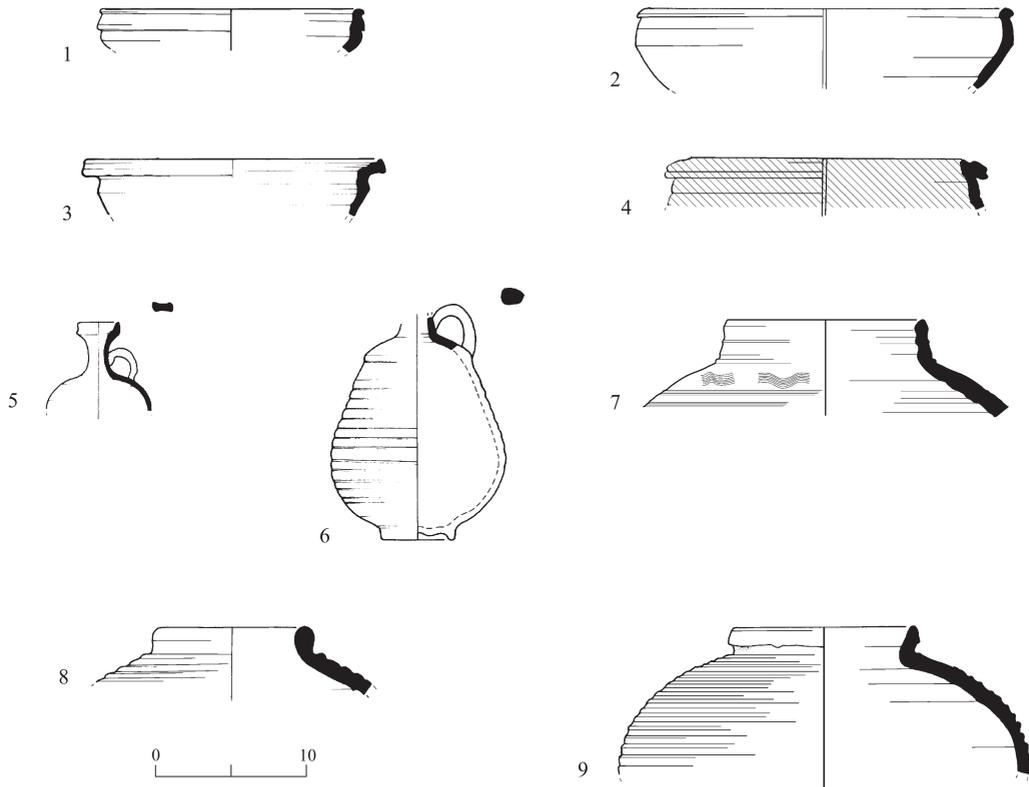


Fig. 16. Phase 2 pottery.

Juglets.— Two juglets found in the courtyard of the north wing include a small fine-ware juglet and a plain-ware juglet (Figs. 16:5, 6). Both juglets, which are quite different in fabric, have small loop rings extending from the shoulder of the vessel to the lower neck. The fine-ware juglet (Fig. 16:5) has a globular shaped body and a high neck that generally ends in a flared opening. The rim is pointed and upright. This vessel has a lined, ribbon handle. The second juglet (Fig. 16:6) appears to be made of a semi-coarse, highly micaceous fabric similar to that found in some Gaza ware jars. The fabric of this vessel is very flaky and peeling, giving it a very weathered appearance. The juglet is ribbed and bag-shaped with an omphalos base. The handle is rounded. No exact parallels were found for these vessels.

Jars.— A jar, uncovered in the upper layer of the southeastern corner of the north courtyard (Fig. 16:7) has sloping shoulders with an incised wave decoration placed at intervals along the upper shoulder under the neck. The neck is slightly ribbed, both on the exterior and the interior, ending in a slightly rounded and grooved rim. Two other jars (Fig. 16:8, 9) appear to be variations of the early form of Gaza wine jars described above in Phase 1. This type of jar continued to be produced in a similar form as late as the end of the third century CE (see above, Fig. 13:5, 6).

◀ Fig. 16

No.	Object	Locus	Basket	Description	Comparisons
1	Bowl	1000	13/1	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); numerous tiny dark gray and slightly micaceous inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/3)	
2	Bowl	101	26/1	Light red (2.5YR 6/6); numerous tiny dark gray, occasional tiny white and slightly micaceous inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/3)	ez-Zuarraba/Wadi Musa ('Amr and al-Momani 1999: Fig. 9:10) Naḥal Zālzal (Cohen 1985: Fig. 7:5) Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010: Fig. 2:17)
3	Bowl	Surface	Surface	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6); somewhat coarse; numerous tiny dark gray inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/4)	Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 2004: Fig. 2:20) Tell Faysal, Jarash (Palumbo et al. 1993: Fig. 11:4, 5)
4	Krater	101	26/2	Red (2.5YR 5/6); red burnish (10R 4/8); fine ware	Hayes' Form P40 (1985:88, Tav. XXI:4)
5	Juglet	400	1/2	Red (2.5YR 5/8); numerous tiny-to-medium white inclusions; fine ware; red slip (2.5YR 4/8)	
6	Juglet	400	1/3	Reddish brown (5YR 4/4); highly micaceous; flaky, peeling fabric; light red slip (10R 4/4)	
7	Jar	300	4/1	Reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6); slightly micaceous; numerous tiny dark gray and small white inclusions; very pale brown slip: (10YR 7/3); incised wavy decoration on shoulder	ez-Zantur (Stucky et al. 1994: Fig. 16:D)
8	Gaza jar	1000	13/2	Brown (7.5YR 5/4); micaceous, light yellowish brown slip (10YR 6/4); partially charred ext.	Majcherek's Form 1 (1995: Pl. 4:1, 2) Ashqelon (Israel and Erickson-Gini 2013: Fig. 6:1–3; Feder and Erickson-Gini 2012: Fig. 9) Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 21:2) Ḥorbat Ḥazaza (Cohen 1981: Fig. 7:5)
9	Jar	101	5	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6); occasional small to white and dark gray inclusions; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/4)	

Phase 3 (fourth–mid-fifth centuries CE)

Sherds of pottery vessels identified as belonging to the early Byzantine period were uncovered in the north wing. They include a ledge-rim bowl, jars with incised decoration and cooking vessels.

Ledge-Rim Bowl.— A large plain-ware bowl with a ledge rim was found in the courtyard of the north wing (Fig. 17:1). It is made from a brown fabric covered with a pale brown slip and

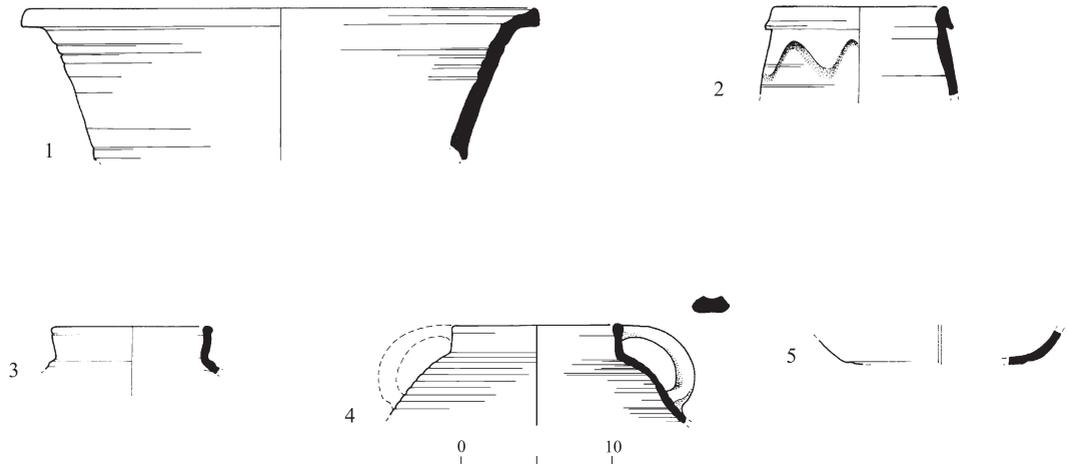


Fig. 17. Phase 3 pottery.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description	Comparisons
1	Ledge-rim bowl	400	1/1	Brown (7.5YR 5/4); tiny to small white inclusions; micaceous, gold flecked; very pale brown slip (10YR 7/3)	Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 3.3.4) Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2004: Fig. 2:21)
2	Jar	400	1/2	Very pale brown (10YR 7/3); slightly micaceous; self-slip; incised wave decoration under rim; finger pressed plastic decoration on ext. rim	
3	Cooking pot	601	9/1	Red (2.5YR 5/6); tiny dark gray inclusions, micaceous; reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3)	
4	Cooking pot	601	9/2	Red (2.5YR 5/6); tiny dark gray inclusions, micaceous; reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3)	Mampsis (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 21.2.1–3) 'En Ḥazeva (Erickson-Gini 2004: Fig. 2:66)
5	Cooking pot	601	9/3	Red (2.5YR 5/6); tiny dark gray inclusions, mica; reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3); charred ext.	

it is wide and deep with flaring sides and a slightly ribbed appearance on both the exterior and interior of the vessel, and along the rim. The thick wedge-shaped rim is elevated and everted. A slight bulge protrudes from the bottom exterior of the bowl directly above the base which is flat. An exact parallel of the example presented here has been found in late second and early third-century contexts at Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010: Fig. 2:21). It has also been found at Mampsis in contexts dating to the same period (Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 3.3:4). This type of bowl was found in Cohen's earlier excavation of the site (1981: Pl. 7:1).

Jar.— A jar with incised decoration was found in the courtyard area of the north wing (Fig. 17:2). It has a high inverted neck and a flanged rim. An incised wave decoration appears below the rim. It is made from a pale brown fabric and is unslipped. No parallels were found for this vessel.

Cooking Pots.— Parts of two cooking pots were found in an ash layer in Room 25 (Fig. 17:3–5). This type of pot is common in the region in the Late Roman period, the late third and fourth centuries CE. One example (Fig. 17:4) has a rounded rim and pinched handles that extend from the rim to the middle-to-upper half of the vessel; the base is flat (e.g., Fig 17:5). This type of Late Roman closed cooking pot is found in contexts dated to the fourth century CE at Mamphis and Mezad Hazeva (L341; Erickson-Gini 1999: Fig. 21.2:1–3).

Coins

Donald T. Ariel

1. Reg. No. 21, L1005/2, IAA 97787.

Aretas IV, Petra, 25–40 CE.

Obv.: Jugate busts of king and queen r.

Rev.: Double cornucopias; between horns, above and below: [ח]רתת/שקי'ילת

Æ, ↑, 3.52 g, 17 mm.

Cf. Meshorer 1975:105, No. 112.

2. Reg. No. 20, L1005/1, IAA 97786.

Rabbel II (70–106 CE).

Obv.: Jugate busts of king and queen, r.

Rev.: Double cornucopias; between horns, above and below: [ר]בא/[ל]חג[ר]

Æ, 2.66 g, 15 mm.

Meshorer 1975:111, No. 164.

3. No Reg. No., Cistern in Room 10, IAA 10015.

Hadrian (117–138 CE), Ascalon.

Obv.: [- - -] Laureate, draped bust r.

Rev.: ACKA[- - -] Tyche stg. l. on prow, holding scepter and aphaelaston; in l. field, altar; in r. field, dove.

Æ, 12.24 g, 22 × 24 mm.

Cf. *BMC Pal.*:127, No. 175.

CONCLUSIONS: THE DATING AND FUNCTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The new evidence from the 2001 excavations at the site indicates that it was established in the mid-first century CE, during Nabatean rule over the area. The material discovered in the south wing, together with evidence of the fallen arches in Room 2, point to its destruction and subsequent abandonment of the south wing sometime in the early second century CE, after which it may have been stripped of its building stones. In contrast, the north wing was rebuilt and continued to be partially occupied well into the post-annexation period (Phase 2; second–third centuries CE) and early Byzantine period (Phase 3; fourth–mid-fifth centuries CE). The event that damaged the structure may be the same earthquake detected at several other sites in the central Negev and ‘Arava Valley, including an early structure next to Meẓad Ma‘ale Maḥmal, excavated by the author in May 2004, and Meẓad ‘En Raḥel, excavated in 1981 by Nahlieli and Israel (1981:35; Korjenkov and Erickson-Gini 2003) and an early Nabataean structure investigated next to ‘En Yoṭvata by the author in 2005 and 2006. Structural collapse, as well as damage and repairs, probably caused by the same earthquake event, have been detected in southern Jordan at Khirbat et-Tannûr (Glueck 1938:13; 1965:521), Khirbat ed-Darih (Roller 1983:180), ‘Aqaba (Dolinka 2003:30–32, Fig. 14) and Petra (Joukowsky and Basile 2001:50; Kolb 2002:260–261; 2007:167). The north wing continued to function in some manner in the second and third centuries CE. Sometime after the Roman annexation of Nabatea in 106 CE, probably in the Severan period, the road running past the site toward Mampsis was fortified with the establishment of tower forts at Ḥorbat Ḥaluqim (Cohen 1976) and possibly at Meẓad Yeroḥam, also excavated by Cohen (1993b). Recently, a milestone was discovered several kilometers southwest of the site along this track (Haim Ben-David, pers. comm.).

In the north wing’s latest phase, during the early Byzantine period, the original function of the building appears to have changed and several rooms in the building were used as a sheepfold alongside some limited domestic occupation. The partially published assemblage discovered by Cohen (1981:45, Fig. 7) includes parts of three Gaza wine jars and part of an oil lamp of the third–fourth centuries CE, similar to that discovered in Phases 2 and 3 of the 2001 excavation (Fig. 13:5, 6). In the later Byzantine period, the building was apparently stripped of its stones to construct farming terraces in the nearby wadi. Evidence of *spolia* from the site can be found on the slope below the structure next to and incorporated into the terraces.

Cohen’s proposal that the structure was “an important road station” lacks archaeological support. Instead, the architecture of the building, as well as the paucity of coins evident in both the previous and latest excavations, and the shallow layers of debris inside the structure and the midden, all indicate that the structure was of a very different nature than that of the caravan stations excavated by Cohen along the Petra–Gaza road between Orḥan Mor (Moyat ‘Awad) and Elusa (Ḥaluẓa). In light of the accumulated evidence, Anati’s identification of the building as a Nabatean temple appears to be the most feasible proposal. Support for the latter interpretation may be found in the superior workmanship invested in the architectural

features of the building. These include the attractive stepped facade of the external walls; the small internal room with an elaborate stone pavement in the north wing; the construction of several long rooms (storage rooms or triclinia?) on the perimeter; the construction of a small, well-built cistern, probably used for ceremonial purposes; the presence of large rectangular stone basins; and numerous Nabataean coroplastic objects found at the site. In particular, the rectangular stone basins, which were discovered by Cohen, are noteworthy as the placement of such installations near the entrances of temples has a long history in the region. Petrie recorded their presence at the entrance of the Bronze Age mining temple of Serabit el-Khadem in Sinai and proposed that they were used for ablutions similar to those found in the courtyards of mosques (Petrie 1906:87–88, Figs. 105, 106, 143, No. 16). Some rectangular stone basins discovered in Oboda and the surrounding area bear Nabatean inscriptions and have been identified as libation altars (Negev 1997:4; 2003:18*, Figs. 27, 28). Although Negev translated a particular word on one of these basins as “dam,” claiming that this term was a reference to the terraced fields and agricultural activity found below the site, another researcher, O. Eissfeldt has suggested translating this word as “measuring vessel,” proposing that the basins were used to measure out wine to be distributed during religious festivals (Negev 2003:18*). Whether they were used for ablutions, libations or for some other purpose, the presence of rectangular hewn basins points to the function of the site as a temple or shrine.

Certain aspects of the structure and its construction have parallels with temples in other parts of the Nabataean realm. The temple lies roughly on a north–south axis and the two entrances are situated along the eastern side of the structure, similar to the plans of the Western Temple at Oboda (see Negev 1997: Fig. 17, Photographs 63, 64) and the Muhayy temple in Moab (Brünnow and v. Domaszewski 1904:69–75; Negev 1977:610, Fig. 14; Erickson-Gini 2014:87–88). Both those temples have a division between their northern and southern wings similar to that found in Ḥorbat Ḥazāza. The finely-built stepped wall of the structure points to its cultic use. Walls of this type are rare and not commonly found in buildings of a domestic character. In 2012, a structure described as an extremely high-quality limestone platform was excavated north of Petra in the Bayda (Siq el-Barid) vicinity (Christopher A. Tuttle, pers. comm.); it was found to have a similar stepped wall.³

Substantial effort was taken to level off the uneven bedrock surface of the hilltop on which the building is situated, by quarrying the bedrock, building subterranean walls and filling underground spaces. This type of construction was noted by Glueck in the temple at Khirbat et-Tannûr (Glueck 1938:8):

³ The platform is supported all around by a stepped wall similar to that at Ḥorbat Ḥazāza. It was excavated in the 2012 season by Emanuela Bocancea, Clive Vella and Christopher A. Tuttle as part of the Brown University Petra Archaeological Project (BUPAP) directed by Susan E. Alcock and Christopher A. Tuttle. The ceramic evidence from the excavation of the structure was processed by the author.

The building operations during the various reconstructions and enlargements of the Nabataean temple-complex on the comparatively small, fairly flat area on top of the steep Jebel et-Tannur were so extensive, that what with the necessity of sinking foundations, smoothing out uneven parts of the surface, and building up levels, all earlier remains which the rains may not have carried away would have been well-nigh obliterated.

Another similarity between the temple at Khirbat et-Tannur and Ḥorbat Ḥazaza lies in the lack of any other kind of settlement activity nearby. Other notable features are the cluster of small rooms on the northern side of the north wing that recalls the “square within a square” and the forecourt, features commonly found in Nabatean temples (Hachlili 1975:96). Due to the early second-century CE earthquake damage at the site, this area appears to have been reconstructed. Further, more excavations are needed at the site to determine the precise layout of the rooms in their earliest phase. The finely dressed pavement stones in Room 21 and the pattern in which they were laid indicate that the room served a special purpose. It should be noted, however, that the plan differs from that of most Nabatean temples in that both of the courtyards at Ḥorbat Ḥazaza are surrounded by a series of small rooms, with the exception of the long rooms located along the northern and eastern sides of the building.

Anati surveyed another site, also described by him as a possible temple, on the eastern bank of Naḥal Besor along the Petra–Gaza road between Oboda/Ḥorbat Ma‘agura and Elusa. This site, No. 87 in Cohen’s survey of Sede Boqer West (Cohen 1985:58–59), is a single Nabatean building that requires further investigation. Given the frequency of temples in the Nabatean realm, particularly next to major roads, it is natural to assume that temples would also be present in the Negev Highlands. Nabatean temples and shrines are known to have existed in the two major towns along the Petra–Gaza road, i.e., Oboda and Elusa, as well as at Ḥorbat Qasra (Erickson-Gini 2006:162). Isolated roadside temples along the two most frequently used roads in the Negev Highlands in the Early Roman period fit the pattern established by the Nabateans on the eastern side of the ‘Arava Valley. The custom of sleeping in temples for sacred purposes or simple lodging has been commented on at length by Petrie (1906:67–71). On his journey between Arabia and Egypt, King Herod is recorded as having lodged overnight in a temple (Josephus Flavius, *The Antiquities of the Jews* 14.2). Temples such as the one at Ḥorbat Ḥazaza evidently afforded security for travelers along the treacherous desert roads. Moreover, they were well-positioned to siphon off payments along trade routes in the region in the manner described by Pliny the Elder concerning the Incense Road between Arabia and Gaza (Pliny *NH* 12.32.63–65):

Fixed portions of the frankincense are also given to the priests and the king’s secretaries, but besides the guards and their attendants and the gate-keepers and servants also have their pickings: indeed all along the route they keep on paying...

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