CB 3.6 SW a.k.a. “Gus”
Kedesh 2006
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INTRODUCTION
The southwest quadrant of CB 3.6 was opened toward the end of the 2006 dig season, with the intent of better elucidating what was going on in CB 2.6 NE (to the southeast of CB 3.6 SW) and CB 2.6 NW (immediately south of CB 3.6 SW). An opus sectile floor had been uncovered in CB 2.6 NE (a square originally thought to perhaps contain a bathhouse) and, at a higher level, the courtyard floor had been uncovered in CB 2.6 NW. In addition, a wall could be seen in the balk of CB 3.6 SE (immediately east of CB 3.6 SW) that ran westward into CB 3.6 SW on top of the north-south wall that divided CB 3.6 SW and CB 3.6 SE. Because of the limited time that we had to work with, it was decided to leave a full 1 meter balk on the west side and to therefore dig a 5 m x 4 m square. At the conclusion of 11 days of digging we identified seven phases of activity:

I - Persian-Hellenistic courtyard floor and walls
II - Early Hellenistic building use phase
III - Late Hellenistic “squatter” phase
IV - Middle-Late Roman fill/deposition after wall robbing
V - Byzantine (or later) burial
VI - Islamic disturbance/fill
VII - Modern deposition

It should be noted that there is a small triangle of soil just north of the “crappy east-west wall” (CB36037 – see below) that was dug to expose the face of the wall and then left for future seasons when that area will be dug. That first unit below the top of the wall is CB3.6.057 and the locus is CB36032.

As a point of orientation for somebody reading this report without a final top plan, there is a locus list at the end of this document. The main features in the square are as follows: The west balk is a 1 m balk, so the square is only 4 m east-west but 5 m north-south. The courtyard floor spans the southern width of the square (CB36035 – runs into square CB 2.6 NW). The north wall of the courtyard (CB36034) is located immediately to the north of the courtyard floor and also spans the east-west axis of the square, ca. 1.15 m – 40 cm from the south balk line (those measurements from the south balk line being the western and eastern ends of the wall). The courtyard wall is ca. 80 cm wide. The “crappy north-south wall” (CB36036) runs perpendicular to the courtyard wall, beginning ca. 80 cm to the north of it and ca. 1.1 m – ca. 1.4 m east of the west balk (those measurements from the west balk being the southern and northern ends of the wall). The “crappy east-west wall” and the “crappy north-south wall” are both ca. 60 cm wide. The crappy north-south wall runs into the north balk. It is intersected at a nearly right angle by the cranny east-west wall (CB36037), which is ca. 40 cm to ca. 85 cm south of the north balk (those measurements being the western and eastern ends of the wall). It continues ca. 50 cm into CB 3.6 SE.

K06 (CB3.6SW)
PHASE I - PERSIAN-HELENISTIC COURT/YARD FLOOR AND WALLS

Though we did not dig through the courtyard floor (CB36035) and did not find the foundation level of the courtyard wall (CB36034) in the south of the square, it is assumed here from data collected in CB 2.6 NE, CB 2.6 NW, and CB 2.7 that the courtyard floor and wall were constructed in the Persian period. The wall was later robbed down to 464.84 m, a level just below that of the courtyard floor (which is at 464.92 m), and after the robbing activity a baby burial was built on top of it (see below for details of both activities). The wall is more than 80 cm wide, extremely solid, and is presumed to be founded very deeply (both because it is the north wall of the courtyard and because a wall of the same dimensions and construction in CB 2.6 NE has a foundation level of 463.35 m). The courtyard floor (CB36035) is made of crushed limestone or plaster and is in a state of poor preservation, being uneven with numerous pits and holes. It runs up against the courtyard wall for approximately 1 meter (the rest of it has deteriorated away from the wall), and as such I conclude that the wall and floor were in use at the same period. The floor was taken up this season in CB 2.6 NE and in 2000 in CB 2.7, so these final reports may be consulted for more detailed dating. It is assumed here that the wall and floor were built in the Persian period and continued in use through the Hellenistic period.

PHASE II - HELENISTIC ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING USE

Though no Hellenistic floor contemporary with the administrative building was found outside of the courtyard floor, it is assumed that there was nevertheless a living horizon in this period in CB 3.6 SW. The crappy east-west wall (CB36037) and the crappy north-south wall (CB36036) in the north of the square are bulldozed and are much more shallowly founded than the courtyard wall (464.79 m and 464.74 m, respectively), and though no foundation trench was found for either wall, their foundation levels correspond to pre-"squatter" (i.e., pre-Late Hellenistic) levels of stratified soil.

Furthermore, the paving stones in the northeast corner of the square (CB36017; CB36017.1) are dated to the period of the administrative building and were built up against the east-west wall (CB36037). Numerous factors collaborate to suggest that in the time of the administrative building this area was some sort of work room or tool storage area: the discovery of an enormous amount of metal,2 painted, molded, and painted-and-molded wall plaster, a hard stone and fragmentary mortar base, a stone basin, and a ceramic furnace in the upper levels of this ca. 2 m x 2.8 m area of the square, along with the heavy-duty surface of the paving stones (CB36017), plus the fact of the contemporaneity of the paving stones with the crudely built north-south and east-west walls (CB36036 and CB36037) which are within a few meters of the courtyard, a plaster-faced wall, and an opus sectile floor, and the lack of any indication of a visible floor surface from this period. It is possible that some or all of the finds came from later

1 See also the Persian LDM in unit CB 3.6.088, which is the 0.2 under the paving stones. The ER LDM in the unit which includes the removal of the paving stones may be attributed to later use. The stones, which were hefty, had a lot of soil between them. Indeed, the removal of this soil between the stones and the soil that continued to stick up vertically after the removal of the stones filled 12 buckets (120 liters of dirt).
2 The metal included an iron chisel, an iron rod, an iron tool, an iron arrowhead, an iron nail, a bronze tool, and 9 other pieces of iron or bronze.
or that they date to the period of the administrative building but came from another area as part of later fill (as they were found at higher levels). However, given what we know of the administrative building and the later use phases within the building, it seems best to attribute the discovery of these tools in units with higher elevations to upward movement from later disturbance. (N.B., these are units which often had Iron-MR pottery spans and which also had painted and molded plaster, known to have come from the administrative building.)

PHASE III – LATE HELLENISTIC “SQUATTER” PHASE

We know from previous seasons of excavation that after the abandonment of the administrative building there was another late Hellenistic use phase, often referred to as the “squatter” phase. The main suggestion of the existence of this phase in this area is the discovery of two halves of a broken stone basin (K065024) sitting side-by-side, ca. 30 cm east of the craggy north-south wall (CR36036) and nearly touching the craggy east-west wall (CB36037). Though the basin halves do not mend, it appears that the break on both halves was worn and that they are indeed the same basin (the directors agreed: the halves were inventoried as one item). The upper elevations of these basin halves were at 463.16 m (northern corner of northern half of basin), 465.68 (southern corner of northern half of basin), and 465.07 (southern corner of southern half of basin), and the basin halves are ca. 25 cm thick. They were found to be sitting on dirt (in fact, a large piece of yellow painted wall plaster was visible just below the northern basin before removal). There was then no floor surface to be associated with the basin halves and they were discovered with rubble in them, as well as to the west and south. This might suggest that they were part of the upper MR/LR rubble layer (phase IV) except that they were found side-by-side and level, and looked to have been intentionally placed in that position for secondary reuse. The rubble had clearly tumbled into and on top of the basin halves (and it is very unlikely that the two basin halves would have ended up almost perfectly level and oriented exactly side-by-side while touching the craggy east-west wall), that rubble layer had a ceramic LDM of Middle-Late Roman, and everything below the basin halves was Hellenistic. Furthermore, CB 3.6 SE, directly to the east of this square, is one of the squares in which squatter activity was found, and one of the evidences of squatter activity was a tabun/tamur which was found which had a floor at elevation of 464.67 m. It is unknown whether the floor of the tabun was dug into the ground or if it sat on the surface. While it is possible that the halves of the stone basin fell or were thrown up against the craggy east-west wall with a bunch of rubble in or after the MR/LR period, landing in near-perfect alignment, that they happened to be at nearly the same level as the squatter phase ca. 5 meters to the east (a phase characterized by extensive reuse of parts of the administrative building), and that they happened to land immediately on top of a Hellenistic layer of soil, it seems unlikely.

1 It should be noted that there is a rim sherd in this phase (unit 074) that mends with a rim sherd in Phase VI (unit 058). This rim has been interpreted as upward movement within the soil as a result of disturbance. The elevations of the two units are between 32 cm - 75 cm apart (058 beginning high: 465.2; ending low: 465.22; 074 beginning high: 464.50; ending low: 464.63). In addition, there is a layer of lower rubble with consistently MR/LR LDMs in between. It is possible that one rubble layer with an Islamic LDM continues from just below the soil down to the level of the rubbed-out wall, but it is unlikely.
PHASE IV - MIDDLE-LATE ROMAN FILL. AFTER WALL ROBBING

This phase is characterized by rubble over the entire square south of the crappy east-west wall (CB36037) and east of the crappy north-south wall (CB36036) that comes down on the robbed-out courtyard wall (CB36034) and on the courtyard floor (CB36035). It is also characterized by less rubble-filled soil to the west of the crappy north-south wall (some first- to head-sized stones, but not the rubble field to the east and south of the crappy walls). The LDWs in the two loci that make up this phase (CB36027 and CB36028) are Middle or Late Roman cookspot body sherds. Because this fill comes down on the courtyard floor and the robbed-out courtyard wall, it can be determined that the courtyard wall was robbed sometime before the Middle or Late Roman period. This assessment fits well with the discovery of extensive Early Roman wall robbing elsewhere in the building. It is assumed, though not known for sure, that the courtyard wall stood in the "squatter" phase, as its existence would help to make a usable living/working space.

PHASE V - BYZANTINE (OR LATER) BURIAL

At the east end of and directly on top of the robbed-out courtyard wall (CB36034) we discovered a structure which was found to be an infant burial (CB36026). The structure, after all of the soil was excavated from around it, was that of a wall built of fieldstones one to two courses high and one course wide around the entire grave. The fieldstones were often turned on edge. There were no stones capping the grave, and the highest point of the stone wall was 466.32, while the height of the courtyard wall on which it was built is 464.84. Once the soil was excavated out from the inside of the grave it was clear that the infant's head was at the east end. The bones were badly deteriorated, such that the skull was fragmented and the rest of the bones were mostly unarticulated (see the photo which was taken when we had excavated all of the soil that we could find around the skeleton). The LDWs in the soil fill were Late Roman or Byzantine cookware body sherds (there were few identifiable sherds). Along with the skeleton, at roughly the elevation of the bones ("roughly" because of the disarticulation of the bones), were found two small bronze bells with iron clappers (K06M033; one of the clappers was already detached). There is a potential parallel to these bells from a tomb complex at Khirbet el-Shubeibkah in Western Galilee, where a bronze bell with incised horizontal lines was recovered from a tomb that had evidence of activity from the 4th-10th centuries CE, with the main period of use in the 6th century CE. One difference between our bell and that from Khirbet el-Shubeibkah is that the loop (or a string?) at the top of the bell goes through a hole and attaches to the clapper, while the loop was cast as part of the bell itself at Khirbet el-Shubeibkah. The authors of the article in about the finds at Khirbet el-Shubeibkah drew parallels to 3rd-5th century Tarsus (H. Hill, "A Tomb at el Bassa of c. A.D. 396," ZDPV 7 (1934), 81-91 and pl. VIII:12) and to 6th-7th CE Sardis (J. C. Waldhauser, "Metalwork from Sardis: The Finds Through 1974" (London, 1983), p. 45; pl. 8:93).

Given how well-centered on and parallel to the robbed-out courtyard wall the grave was, it would be ludicrous to suggest that the builders of the grave had no idea that the wall was below it when they began to dig. Nevertheless, the stones which make up

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the rectangular/oval wall of the grave sat ca. 70 cm above the wall itself and there was ca. 10 cm of earth between the skeleton and the top of the wall. The latest datable pottery on top of the wall outside the grave was Middle or Late Roman. It is possible that the soil on top of the courtyard wall across the width of the square was laid down at the same time or after the burial and happened to have only MR/LR pottery in it, but the unlikelihood of the stones comprising the wall of the grave to have been able stood on their own without soil outside of them (they were fieldstones turned on edge and they were very unstable) after we excavated the earth from around them suggests that the grave was dug and lined with stones, as opposed to having been built above ground. Furthermore, it would be curious that two Byzantine cookpot sherds were found in the grave fill but nothing later than MR/LR was found above the level of the wall or courtyard floor up to the level of the Islamic rubble. It must then be concluded that the builders of the grave knew of the existence of the courtyard wall below the surface level and chose to put the burial on top of it. Perhaps the courtyard wall on which they built the grave existed at an above-ground level further to the west and the grave builders followed its line eastward looking for the top of a wall that would be below ground level and would provide a good surface. A similar burial, also an infant with the head toward the east, was found in the square to the southeast of us (CB 2.6 NE) with a top elevation of 464.74 and bottom elevation of 464.53. It is possible that the builders of that grave in CB 2.6 NE dug down into soil that they thought would lend them on top of the same wall that the builders of our grave found: though the grave in CB 2.6 NE is ca. 1 m south of the line of our wall (and deeper, just above the opus sectile floor), it is exactly parallel with our grave in orientation. In other words, it is exactly parallel with the line of the wall.

PHASE VI - ISLAMIC DISTURBANCE/FILL
This phase, just below topsoil, is a rubble field that covers the entire square south of the crappily east-west wall (CB36027) and, with the exception of one unit dug on the west side of the crappily north-south wall (CB36026) to clear out the last of the rubble on that side, the rubble field stays to the east of the "crappily north-south wall." It is characterized by inclusions typical of late rubble - Islamic LDM pottery, painted and molded wall plaster, an astragalus, a nail, etc. This rubble layer seems to be the rubble of Phase I of the final report of CB 3.6 SE (Dug the summer of 2000).

PHASE VII - MODERN DEPOSITION
This phase is topsoil and is completely uninteresting.

Locus List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB36000</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB36017</td>
<td>Pavers in northeast of square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB36017.i</td>
<td>0.1 under pavers (=unit 087)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB36023</td>
<td>Islamic rubble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CB36026</td>
<td>Baby burial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 It should be noted that that burial was built on top of the opus sectile floor, which was at elevation 464.36(7) (in other words, the grave in CB 2.6 NE was built lower than our grave but only a little bit higher relative to the surface underneath it).
CB36027 – Rubble post-wall robbing phase
CB36028 – Non-rubble on west side of crappy north-south wall
CB36029 – Non-rubble layer down to the bottom of the baths (squat phase)
CB36030 – Below squat phase
CB36031 – C cancelled
CB36032 – Triangle north of the crappy east-west wall
CB36033 – Two halves of the basin
CB36033.1 – 0.1 under the basin halves (unit 079)
CB36034 – Courtyard wall in the south
CB36035 – Courtyard floor in the south
CB36036 – “Crappy north-south wall” in northwest of square
CB36037 – “Crappy east-west wall” in north of square