

## CHAPTER 7

# AREA H

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## INTRODUCTION

Area H of the renewed excavations is located in the northern sector of the site, within Area D of the University of Chicago Expedition (Figs. 7.1-7.2). The short-term goal of fieldwork in this area was to explore the stratigraphy and material culture of Strata III and IVA of the University of Chicago Expedition in one of the few places where these strata had not been removed by previous excavations. The long-term goals were to dig a sectional trench close to the University of Chicago Expedition's Area AA in order to clarify its stratigraphy, and further, to excavate the remaining portion of the Late Bronze Age palace of Area AA.

In the 1994 season the excavation in Area H was constrained by the deep cut of Area AA to the north and east and Assyrian Palace 1369 (Stratum III) to the south (Figs. 7.1, 7.13). The excavation area, therefore, consisted originally of one row of complete and one row of partial squares, which were united and excavated as one row of rectangular units, aligned on the pre-existing University of Chicago Expedition grid. After the 1994 season safety concerns made further excavations in this ca. 8 x 40 m. strip impossible; hence, a change of location and orientation was needed. A local grid was established in the 1996 season immediately to the west of University of Chicago Area AA, perpendicular to the edge of the mound and roughly diagonal to the area excavated in 1994 (Figs. 7.2-7.3). Area H was then established as the major stratigraphic section of the Megiddo Expedition (see also Chapter 1)

Research in Area H was complicated further by a number of factors. First, Strata I-III had been previously excavated by the University of Chicago Expedition, leaving many of the remains exposed for more than 60 years, which resulted in significant erosion. Moreover, during recent decades the National Parks Authority conducted extensive and undocumented restoration of the standing architecture. Therefore, while significant new architecture was encountered in the 1994 and 1996 excavations, in some cases within the uppermost 20 cm., virtually all surface loci were regarded as topsoil. Second, obstacles were created by the excavation techniques of the Oriental Institute excavators. Palace 1052 was removed during excavation. In the corner of the building which

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was not removed the rooms and trenches were refilled by the excavators. This required that the Megiddo Expedition excavate the University of Chicago trenches to establish exactly where they had dug. It was discovered that their fills not only contaminated the structure itself, but spilled out onto the surrounding surfaces. A third complication stemmed from the desire to preserve as much as possible of Palace 1369, the finest example of an Assyrian palace in Israel. Hence, excavations in its main courtyard, which revealed fragments of significant earlier architecture, could not be expanded.



Fig. 7.1. Aerial view of Area H in 1994; looking south. Area AA of the University of Chicago Expedition (depression in the foreground), Palace 1369 of Level H-1 (Stratum III) after being cleaned and the row of rectangles of the 1994 grid between the two.

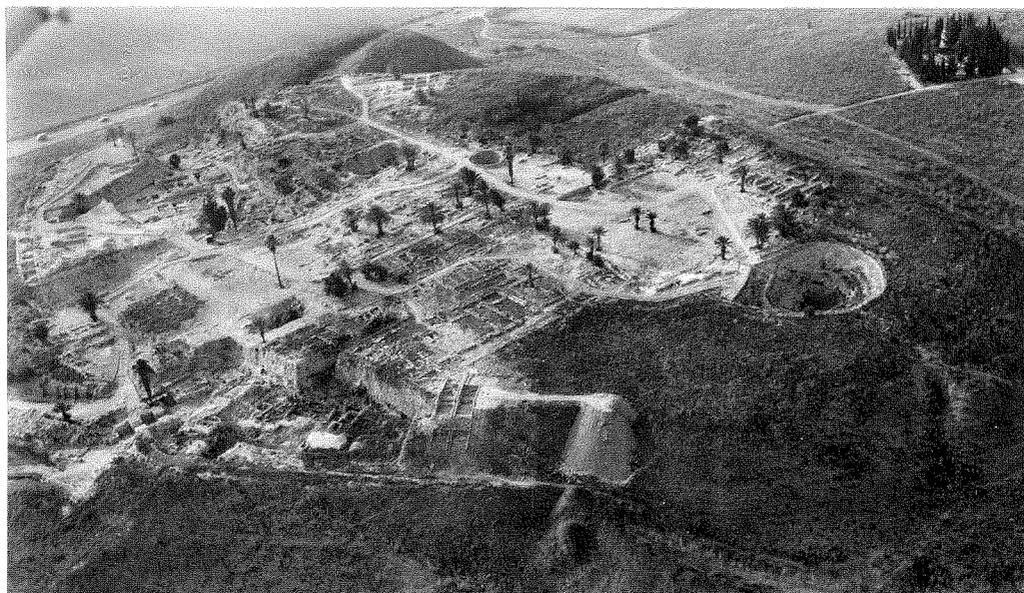


Fig. 7.2. Aerial view of Area H in 1996; looking south-east. Note new sectional trench and grid change.

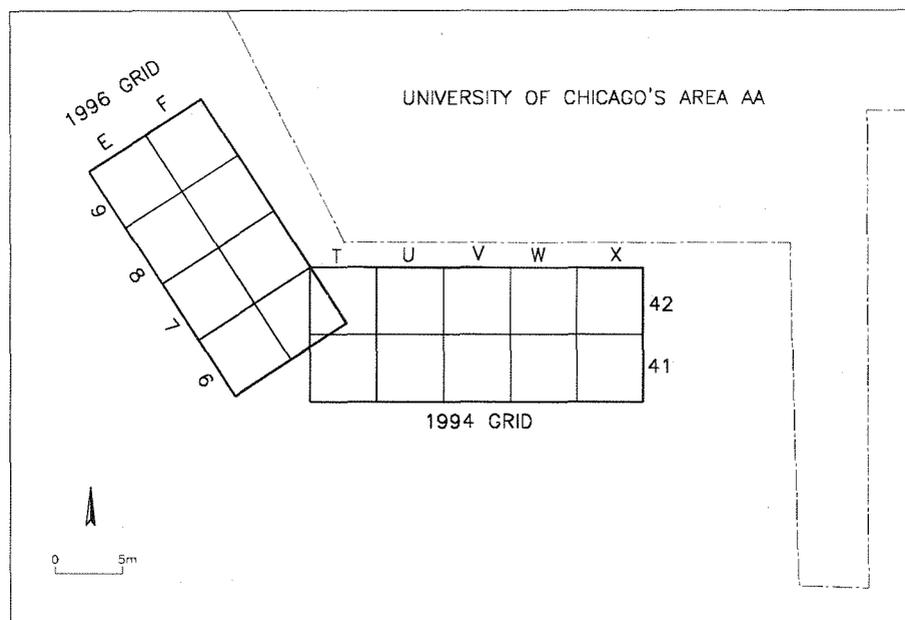


Fig. 7.3. Plan showing the location of Area H and the relationship between the grid of 1994 and the grid of 1996.

To the west, the 1996 excavations were hampered by the need to remove the foundations of a ramp, built by the University of Chicago Expedition at the crest of the tell to support railroad tracks, which carried railcars of excavated material away from their fields. The bulk of this ramp was removed mechanically and the remainder by hand. The ramp introduced considerable contamination into the uppermost loci. A further, most unfortunate, discovery was that the Oriental Institute excavators had trenched the interior of City Wall 325 (Wall 96/H/19 in the data system of the renewed excavations), thus severing its stratigraphic connection with the buildings inside the wall in all but one small corner of Square E/7 (see below). This has limited the efficacy of City Wall 325 as a safe, indisputable means of stratigraphic connection between Areas H and K. In any event, once the city wall is removed it will be possible to bracket the Area H stratigraphy from below, thus supporting its co-ordination with other fields.

Four levels were discerned in the excavation of Area H. Only the top of the walls of Level H-4 were exposed in the seasons reported in this volume. Level H-3 is a major phase in Area H, exhibiting a rich pottery assemblage and evidence of destruction by fire. It is to be equated with University of Chicago Stratum IVA. Level H-2 consists of poor remains between Level H-3 and the Assyrian buildings and was not detected during the Oriental Institute excavations. Level H-1 contained Assyrian Palaces 1369 and 1052 and Building 1853, including several architectural phases, all belonging to Stratum III of the University of Chicago Expedition.

#### LEVEL H-4

Only the top of the remains of Level H-4 was uncovered in Squares E-F/6-7 and T-U/41-42. They were incorporated in Level H-3 into floors constituted of paving stones.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Level H-4 was fully excavated during in 1998 and was found to belong to an early phase of University of Chicago Stratum IVA.

### LEVEL H-3

Level H-3 is the major occupational phase excavated thus far in Area H. Since it lies under the remains of Stratum III and is probably related to City Wall 325, it belongs to Stratum IVA of the University of Chicago Expedition, a fact which is also evident from its pottery assemblage (see Chapter 11). Level H-3 consists of small domestic structures immediately below Building 1853 and the open courtyard to the north of Palace 1369. In the east and south these buildings were badly damaged by the broad and shallow foundation trenches for Wall 94/H/15 (Level H-2) and especially by those excavated for Palace 1369. In the west they are better preserved, consisting of a series of burnt rooms with roof collapse, which produced large quantities of restorable pottery. It is possible that the walls of this stratum underwent some minor changes during its existence, though the connection of pottery sherds from disparate loci during restoration proves beyond doubt that the entire depth of the collapse, and the entire area, belongs to one occupational phase.

The poor preservation of the houses in the eastern sector of the area prevents the reconstruction of a coherent plan. The western rooms in Squares F/6-7 and T-U/41-42 seem to be divided into two units, 94/H/8 and 96/H/11.

#### *THE EASTERN SQUARES (V-X/41-42; Fig. 7.4)*

The remains in the eastern squares show no evidence of burning. In Square X/42 only one wall fragment, 94/H/20, was found. It had been cut by Wall 94/H/5, the western wall of Palace 1052 of Stratum III. No secure loci were associated with this wall. In Square W/42 the situation was clearer. Three walls, 94/H/19, 94/H/22 and 94/H/23, formed the east, north, and west walls, respectively, of a small room. Remains were detected that could be those of a badly preserved southern wall. The latter, the upper courses of which appear to have been removed or destroyed, consisted only of an irregular line of small stones which cornered with Wall 94/H/23. The southern wall was apparently cut by a broad and shallow foundation trench associated with the construction of Wall 94/H/15 of Level H-2. Two loci — 94/H/26, consisting of collapse debris, and 94/H/45, an earthen surface beneath it — were contained between the walls of this room.

In Squares V/41-42 the architecture was more complex. The major element was Wall 94/H/25, which was preserved to at least three courses. It was most substantial in the centre of the square, where it made a corner and continued southward in the direction of Wall Fragment 94/H/26, which was covered by mudbrick material. It is possible that the gap between the two served as a doorway. Surface 94/H/49 consisted of compact grey material and included some pebbles. Found set into its floor was a shallow stone-lined pit, in which was uncovered a crushed, inverted storage jar. In the south-eastern quadrant of Square V/42 was Locus 94/H/86, characterized by grey mudbrick material.

#### *THE WESTERN SQUARES (T-U/41-42 and E-F/6-8; Figs. 7.4-7.6)*

Two architectural units were encountered in the western squares (Fig. 7.5): 94/H/8 in Squares T-U/41-42 and F/6-7 (Fig. 7.4), and 96/H/11 in Squares E/6-7 (Fig. 7.6). They comprise the most important remains of Level H-3 and provide evidence for its destruction by fire. In the north both units leaned on City Wall 325, the inner face of which was well preserved in these squares, whereas the outer face was difficult to trace because of erosion and collapse down the steep slope.





Fig. 7.5. Level H-3. General view of the remains of Units 94/H/8 (background, with person standing) and 96/H/11 (foreground); looking north-east. Note City Wall 325 on the left.

A burnt room with an accumulation of mudbrick and roof collapse was found in Squares T-U/42 (Fig. 7.8). Square U/42 was one of the more productive of the 1994 season, consisting of a single stratigraphic phase — as demonstrated by the restoration of pottery from the entire horizontal and vertical range of the key loci: 94/H/8, 94/H/48, 94/H/57, 94/H/74 and 94/H/104 — which represents an accumulation of almost a metre. Unfortunately, the layout of the building is unknown, since the area immediately to the north was not properly excavated by the University of Chicago Expedition, and the only significant architectural element in the renewed excavation was Wall 94/H/27.

Immediately below Pavement 94/H/5 of Level H-1 were Wall 94/H/27 and Unit 94/H/8 (Fig. 7.7), the latter apparently consisting of roof collapse. The wall was constructed of two rows of stones, including both slightly dressed and unworked field stones, averaging from 10 to 50 cm. and reaching a maximum width of 80 cm. The wall had two phases, the first employing some squared stones, the second including a doorway, 1.25 m. in width, which was blocked at some later juncture. In the south, Wall 94/H/27 ended without properly cornering with any other feature. In Square U/42, Wall 94/H/27 was as much as a metre high, but its extension into Square U/41 to the south was of a much reduced height, only about 25 cm., probably due to the wide and shallow trench dug in connection with the construction of Palace 1369. The flagstone pavement beneath Unit 94/H/8 utilized the remaining upper portions of earlier walls of Level H-4. It was bordered on the south by poorly preserved Wall 94/H/35. The collapse on this floor included stones, large slabs of plaster, plastered basins and burnt mudbricks (Fig. 7.8). The depth of the debris may indicate that the structure originally consisted of two storeys (see below).

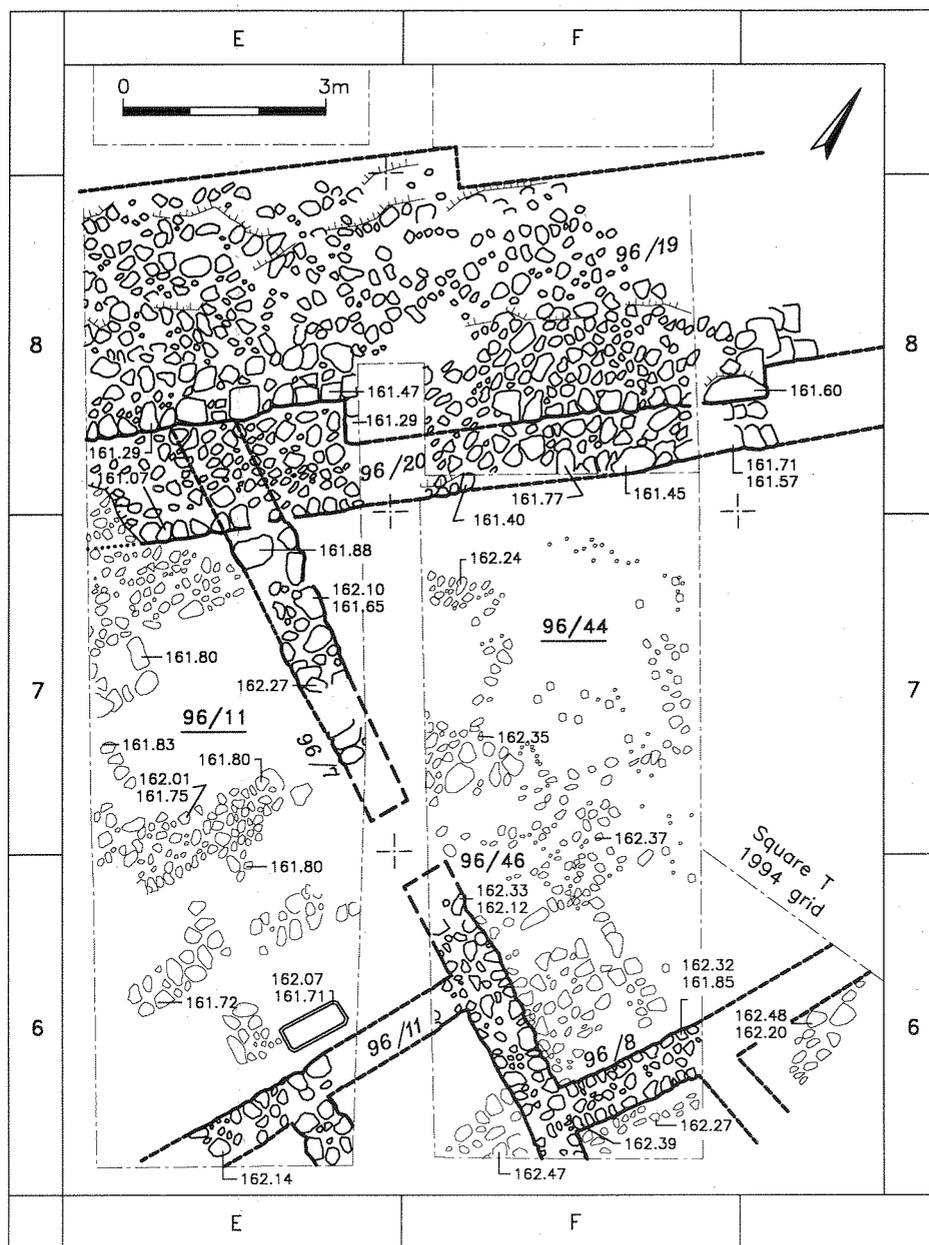


Fig. 7.6. Plan of Level H-3 in the western squares (1996).

Unit 94/H/8 contained two basalt grinding stones, two basin-like vessels and a large amount of pottery, including whole vessels (Figs. 7.7, 7.8). The unit extends over all of Square U/42. Most of the finds were concentrated immediately to the west of Wall 94/H/27. The basins were each approximately 50 cm. in diameter and constructed of a coarse, *tabun*-like ware. On the western edge of U/42 there were areas of intensely burnt mudbrick. It was within and around this burnt mudbrick material that the three bullae reported in Chapter 12 were found, along with Cult Stand 94/H/8/VS010 (Fig. 11.48). To the south of the major accumulation of debris, in Square U/41, the situation was vague. There was no clear continuation of Unit 94/H/8. Locus 94/H/19 was excavated at the same elevation as Unit 94/H/8, but was of a different consistency, i.e., fine mudbrick material and pebbles.

Fig. 7.7. Level H-3. Pottery and grinding stones in Unit 94/H/8 next to Wall 94/H/27; looking north. Note pebble Pavement 94/H/5 of Level H-1 on the left.



Fig. 7.8. Level H-3. Eastern part of Unit 94/H/8 close to floor level; looking east. Note remains of plaster installations.



Unfortunately, the sections did not show a clear transition between the two loci. One possibility is that Locus 94/H/19 was an outdoor courtyard. A more likely possibility is that it contained construction debris connected with Palace 1369; in one place it seemed that the material of Locus 94/H/19 covered the southern tip of Wall 94/H/27.

Below Unit 94/H/8 was Surface 94/H/48, visible in patches along Wall 94/H/27 and sporadically throughout the square. This was a beaten earth surface which included pebbles and pieces of plaster. It was traced primarily along Wall 94/H/27, below the concentration of pottery of Unit 94/H/8, and on the western edge of the square, but not in its centre. It seems clear that Unit 94/H/8 included material which rested on the roof, while Surface 94/H/48 was the collapse of the floor of the roof itself. Below

Surface 94/H/48 there was a significant change. Locus 94/H/57 contained a light brown material with a few mudbrick chunks and sherds at odd angles, none lying flat. This locus was probably the roof on which Surface 94/H/48 rested, though no traces of beams or any demonstrable roofing material was noted. This material abutted Wall 94/H/27 and covered Plaster Installation 94/H/74, which had fallen onto Pavement 94/H/104 (Fig. 7.8). The nature of Plaster Installation 94/H/74 could not be discerned. It consisted of slabs of white plaster 10 to 15 cm. thick and up to 30 or 40 cm. on a side. They rested on their sides, crushing additional fragments beneath them. Below them was uncovered a very large, rectangular, basalt quern, approximately 40 x 75 cm. The plaster slabs were clearly not *in situ*, making it difficult to suggest what their original position might have been. They seemed too tightly clustered and too thick to have been parts of the roof, although this possibility should not be dismissed.

The slabs of Plaster Installation 94/H/74 rested on Pavement 94/H/104, the original floor of the room. The pavement was made of 20 to 40 cm. angular stones, clearly chosen to produce a flat floor. The pavement abutted Wall 94/H/27 to the east and Wall 94/H/35 to the south. Its east-west extent was approximately 2.25 m., its north-south ca. 3 m. To the north, the floor continued as Floor 94/H/105, a pebble surface containing white plaster in the north-eastern corner of the square.

In Square T/42 the remains of Level H-3 had been significantly disrupted by the construction of Wall 94/H/12, the eastern wall of Building 1853 (Level H-1). The burnt mudbrick material of Debris 94/H/13 seemed similar to Unit 94/H/8, and their pottery connected in restoration. Debris 94/H/13 rested on a thin, beaten earth surface. Further below were brown earthen debris, burned mudbrick chunks and plaster, all lying beneath Wall 94/H/12 and upon Pavement 94/H/103, the continuation of Pavement 94/H/104. Both pavements incorporated the tops of earlier walls.

The excavation of Unit 94/H/8 continued in 1996 in Squares F/6-7. In the excavated area, no wall separation between the floors of Squares T/42 and F/6-7 was detected. Moreover, pottery retrieved in 1994 from Square T/42 connected in the restoration laboratory with pottery uncovered in 1996 in Squares F/6-7.

Immediately below the paving of Building 1853 (of Level H-1) were several loci (marked on the plan as Unit 96/H/44), all characterized by burnt mudbrick debris which was very similar to the destruction debris found in Square U/42. The burnt mudbrick debris rested on several patchy surfaces, which in turn rested on Pavement 96/H/46.

Wall 96/H/7 separated Unit 94/H/8 and Unit 96/H/11. (Note that Units 96/H/44 and 94/H/8 are here tentatively considered as constituting one greater unit, though a physical connection between them was not established, due to the University of Chicago Area AA cut. Despite this assumption, Wall 96/H/8 has been restored on Figures 7.4 and 7.6 to extend between the two units.) It is noteworthy that during the restoration of the pottery there was no connection between pottery fragments of loci to the west of Wall 96/H/7 and those to the east. The remains of Unit 96/H/11 were uncovered in Squares E/6-7 (Fig. 7.9). They were characterized by a series of pounded earth surfaces, which rested on patches of pebble floor. Here too, pottery fragments from all loci, top to bottom, connected in the restoration laboratory. A rectangular plaster basin was found directly below architectural remains of Level H-2. Though the floor of Unit 96/H/11 was ca. 0.5 m. lower than the floor of Unit 94/H/8, there is no doubt that they belong to the same stratum. The difference in level should be explained in light of the slope of this side of the mound toward the west. It seems that the two units were built on two different platforms, with Wall 96/H/7 serving as a sort of terrace. It also seems reasonable to assume that a door in the wall connected the two units.<sup>3</sup>

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3 This reconstruction was rechecked and confirmed in the 1998 season.



Fig. 7.9. Level H-3. Unit 96/H/11; looking north-east. Note City Wall 325 on the left.



Fig. 7.10. Level H-3. Inner face of City Wall 325 (Wall 96/H/19 of the renewed excavations) on the right and upper surface of Wall 96/H/20 adjacent to it; looking north-west. Note the pebble floor of Unit 96/H/11 covering Wall 96/H/20. Before being trenched by the Oriental Institute excavators it probably connected to the city wall.

The connection between the Level H-3 remains and City Wall 325 is unclear, because the Oriental Institute excavators trenched the interior face of the city wall. Study of Lamon and Shipton's plans (1939) and the results of sections of the renewed excavations demonstrate that the University of Chicago Expedition widened its trench whenever an offset was encountered. One such offset lies at the eastern edge of Square E/8. As their trench proceeded to the east, toward what would become their Area AA, it widened even more. However, enough evidence remained in the north-western part of Square E/7 to show that patches of the pebble floor of Unit 96/H/11 originally connected to the city wall (Fig. 7.10).

Fig. 7.11. Level H-3. Section of the University of Chicago Expedition immediately to the east of Square F/8 of the renewed excavations; looking north-west. City Wall 325 (Wall 96/H/19 of the renewed excavations) and adjacent Wall 96/H/20.



This latter evidence sheds light on the question of the nature of the city wall of Stratum III. The Oriental Institute excavators believed that their Wall 1055, constructed inside and adjacent to City Wall 325, was a Stratum III addition. The top of this wall was lower than the top of the city wall. However, at several points Stratum III structures overlaid this addition (Lamon and Shipton 1939:69, Fig. 89). Though the trenching along City Wall 325 made stratigraphic observations difficult, traces of the pebble floor of Unit 96/H/11 covered this so-called addition (Wall 96/H/20) to the city wall (Fig. 7.10) in Square E/7. This means that the addition was constructed together with City Wall 325 in Level H-3 (Stratum IVA), apparently as a support to its foundations (see also Fig. 7.11).<sup>4</sup> It also implies that there were no changes in or additions to the wall during the days of Stratum III.

## LEVEL H-2

This architectural phase, which yielded a limited number of finds, was not detected by the Oriental Institute excavators. Its stratigraphic affiliation was determined according to five pieces of evidence:

- In the south, remains of Level H-2 were uncovered below the courtyard of Level H-1 Palace 1369.
- The orientation of the remains under and to the north of Palace 1369 was different than that of the walls of Level H-1.
- In the north, the foundation of Wall 94/H/15 was higher than the foundations of the Level H-3 walls immediately to its north.
- A pierced stone from the 'stables' of University of Chicago Stratum IVA was reused in Wall 94/H/15.
- Several orphaned architectural elements were detected below Building 1853 (see aerial photographs of Square L6 in Lamon and Shipton 1939: Fig. 116; Guy 1931: Fig. 13) and on top of the Level H-3 burnt debris. These probably represent a minor squatter rebuilding above the Level H-3 destruction.

<sup>4</sup> This conclusion was supported by the results of the 1998 excavations, which demonstrated that the so-called addition cut into a floor of Level H-4.

The most prominent remains of Level H-2 were uncovered immediately to the north of Palace 1369 (Figs. 7.12-7.13). They consisted of Wall 94/H/15 in Squares V-Y/41 and of several walls which extended from Wall 94/H/15 to the south. The *tabun* uncovered in the north-western corner of this building (Square V/41) was the only evidence for domestic activity in Level H-2 in this part of Area H.

Walls 94/H/16 and 94/H/38, which ran south from Wall 94/H/15, must have continued under Palace 1369. Indeed, the outline of walls of the same orientation (Fig. 7.12) was noticed in the stone pavement of the courtyard of the palace. The walls were traceable because the courtyard's floor had sunk except in those areas which rested upon the underlying walls. To test this hypothesis, it was decided to open Square X/39 in the north-eastern corner of the courtyard (Fig. 7.14).



Fig. 7.12. Plan of Level H-2 (1994).



Fig. 7.13. General view of Area H in 1994; looking north-west. Note the remains of Level H-3 in the rectangles on the upper right; walls and courtyard pavement of Palace 1369 of Level H-1 on the left; remains of Level H-2 at lower centre.

Excavation began by removing the pavement of the courtyard of Palace 1369. The make-up of the pavement covered Wall 94/H/17, which was cut by a threshold built of large paving stones, 55 cm. wide. On the north-western corner of the threshold, apparently inside the structure, was a flat stone, 40 x 50 cm., with a worn door socket. Associated with these elements was Surface 94/H/66. A lower surface, made of pounded earth, was apparently contemporary with Wall 94/H/18 and with another door socket below the first. In summary, at least three phases are apparent in Square X/39. The upper phase is the pavement of Palace 1369 of Stratum III. Below are at least two intermediate phases of a substantial structure, the orientation of which fits that of Wall 94/H/15 and the walls which run southward from it. The upper of these two phases should apparently be associated with Level H-2, the lower with Level H-3. Alternatively, they may be identified as two phases within Level H-2. The sounding in Square X/39 yielded a small amount of pottery, but an exceptionally large number of bones, including those of pigs.

As mentioned above, Level H-2 was apparently encountered in 1996 in Square F/7, where it consisted of a few isolated elements uncovered beneath Building 1853 (Level H-1) and above the destruction layer of Level H-3 (Fig. 7.15). Some of these elements are visible in Oriental Institute aerial photographs (Lamon and Shipton 1939), but are not mentioned in the accompanying text. It seems that they represent a badly preserved squatter reuse of the area after the destruction of Level H-3, but prior to the construction of Building 1853.

Fig. 7.14. Square X/39: remains of Level H-2 under pavement of courtyard of Level H-1 Palace 1369; looking east.

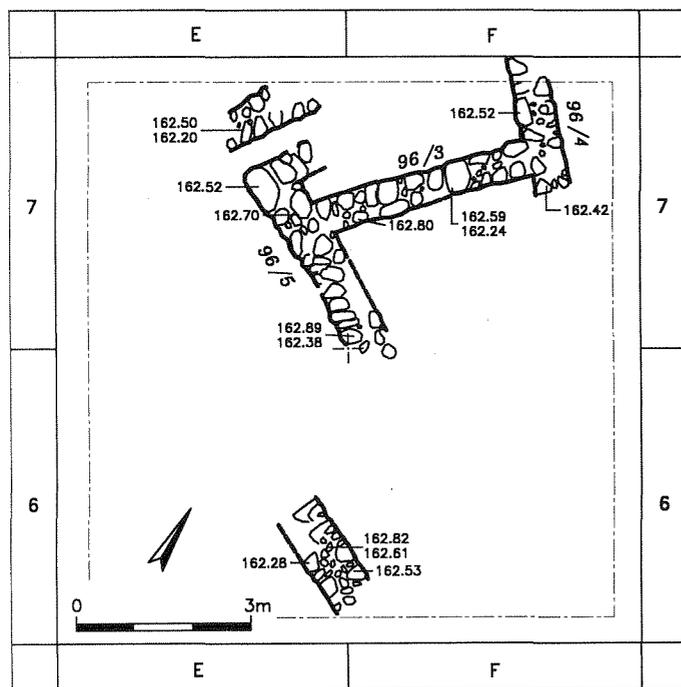


Fig. 7.15. Plan of Level H-2 (1996).

## LEVEL H-1

Level H-1 is equivalent to University of Chicago Stratum III. The remains consist of the two Assyrian palaces, 1369 and 1052, and of Building 1853 (Figs. 7.16-7.18). They include several architectural phases: Palace 1369 seems to cut into the south-eastern corner of Building 1853 and the south-western corner of Palace 1052; further, there are several architectural phases within Palace 1052 itself. The activity of the renewed excavations in Level H-1 consisted mainly of cleaning the remains unearthed by the Oriental Institute excavators and removing parts of Building 1853 and the pebble floor to its east. No significant pottery assemblage or small finds were unearthed.





Fig. 7.17. General view of Palace 1369 after being cleaned; looking north-west.



Fig. 7.18. Level H-1. Connection between north-eastern end of Palace 1369 and south-western corner of Palace 1052; looking north.

## PALACE 1369

The primary elements of Palace 1369 are walls which have remained on the surface since the University of Chicago Expedition. The pavement of the courtyard of this building was excavated in Square X/39. It was built of stones 30 to 40 cm. in length and 20 to 30 cm. in width, laid vertically and set with black fill. The stones were very tightly set, perhaps even rammed into place, a characteristic feature of Assyrian palatial architecture. Their removal was difficult. The make-up of this pavement was a coarse black material containing small chunks of plaster.

Wall 94/H/2, the northern wall of the building, comprised the western half of the forecourt of Palace 1369. It framed the ashlar threshold of the building and was constructed of carefully selected medium-sized stones for the faces, between which was a rubble core. Wall 94/H/2 was supported on the north by a series of low revetments, Fills 94/H/34 and 94/H/44. These fills are visible in the aerial photographs and are depicted on the plan (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Fig. 89) as part of a series of stone-covered revetments which encircled all exterior walls of Palace 1369. Fill 94/H/44 consisted of a compact, dark brown material. It lay next to and apparently beneath Wall 94/H/2, covering two insubstantial semicircular stone installations which extended north from Wall 94/H/2. These installations, approximately 25-30 cm. in diameter, were built of small 5-15 cm. stones, loosely fitted together. Their purpose is unclear.

Immediately to the west of Fill 94/H/44, along Wall 94/H/2, lay Fill 94/H/34, another revetment against the wall. It consisted of a loose grey debris, including some stones, that covered a white plaster surface, which ran beneath Wall 94/H/2 and was visible on the south side of the wall in the area of Locus 94/H/88. What may have been a fragment of this white plaster is visible to the north of the threshold in the Oriental Institute report (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Fig. 116). Within Fill 94/H/34, and continuing east into 94/H/44, was a row of small 20-30 cm. stones standing upright at a distance of about 50 cm. from Wall 94/H/2. These appear to be a segment of the stone revetment.

While the purpose of Fills 94/H/34 and 94/H/44 was clearly to serve as a revetment, the plaster surface covered by the previously excavated ashlar threshold of Wall 94/H/2 and Fill 94/H/44 is highly problematic. One possibility is that the plaster surface was a construction feature in the area of the threshold of Palace 1369, designed to waterproof the fills below the threshold and possibly channel water toward Pavement 94/H/90 and the drain which had been cut through Wall 94/H/15 of Level H-2. A second possibility is that the plaster originated in an earlier occupation level (Level H-2), prior to Palace 1369. Given the complexity of the Assyrian construction techniques seen elsewhere in Area H, the waterproofing interpretation seems preferable.

Wall 94/H/2 must have had a counterpart east of the threshold, though no remains of it were located. Immediately below its projected line was a series of stone pavement fragments and stone-built Drain 94/H/60. The pavements belong to Level H-2. The drain was constructed of carved stone slabs up to 1 m. long and 50 cm. wide, alternated with smaller, fitted, flat stones 50 cm. long and 30 cm. wide, held in place with upright stones. The northern and southernmost portions of the drain, unlike its mid-section, were covered with large flat stones 40 to 60 cm. wide. Similar drain segments are shown in Oriental Institute photographs (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Figs. 82 and 103). It is assumed that the drain emptied through a channel cut through Wall 94/H/15 of Level H-2, though indeed the elevations of the stones covering the drain increase to the north, which would suggest a flow in the opposite direction if the slope of the channel itself followed that of the stones which covered it. This channel was approximately 90 cm. long through the wall and 30 cm. wide and was

flanked by large stones up to 75 cm. long, including one which was perforated, suggesting it had been reused, perhaps from a 'stable' structure. Drain 94/H/60 was one of the few loci where a few Persian period sherds were found, a fact to which little importance should be attached, considering the nature of their findspot.

### *PALACE 1052*

When Wall 94/H/3 was built Palace 1052 was significantly reconfigured. The Oriental Institute excavators suggested that the latter structure originated in Stratum III and continued in use, with modifications, through Stratum II (Lamon and Shipton 1939:70). Since the bulk of this structure had been completely removed by the University of Chicago Expedition, it was not possible to investigate the question in detail. Moreover, the remaining interior spaces of Palace 1052 had been at least partially excavated by the University of Chicago Expedition, leaving none of the 1994 loci clean.

The Oriental Institute excavators had trenched the exterior of the western wall of Palace 1052 (Wall 94/H/5). The trench, Locus 94/H/24 of the renewed excavations, is visible in Oriental Institute photographs (Lamon and Shipton 1939 aerial photographs, particularly Fig. 117). It was approximately 60 cm. at its maximum depth, reaching below the lowest courses of Wall 94/H/5. The trench became much shallower as it turned eastward into the narrow space between Walls 94/H/6 and 94/H/15 (the latter belonging to Level H-2), where it cut what may have been a surface associated with Wall 94/H/15. The surface was covered by Wall 94/H/6 of Level H-1. To the west, Wall Fragment 94/H/20 of Level H-3 ran into and below Wall 94/H/5.

Above the point where Wall Fragment 94/H/20 intersected Wall 94/H/5, approximately 2.2 m. from the north baulk, sat a large circular stone, 1.25 m. in diameter, flattened on its upper side and roughly rounded on its lower side. A hole approximately 45 cm. in diameter was cut through the centre of the stone, and a sloping trough was cut in the upper side from the centre to the perimeter. This stone lay above three stones which formed a construction set into Wall 94/H/5. The hole in the centre of the circular stone led to covered stone-lined Drain 94/H/70, which was constructed of flat stones, ca. 20-25 cm. The interior width of the drain was approximately 30 cm., while the covering stones were approximately 25 x 40 cm. and were laid widthwise across the drain along its entire exposed length. The drain crossed Wall 94/H/7, but could not be followed further due to the deep cut of Area AA. The circular stone and Drain 94/H/70 are visible in the Oriental Institute photographs (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Fig. 117), but are not visible in Figure 89, the overall plan of the palaces, nor are they mentioned in the text. The circular stone is labelled Locus 1041 and listed as belonging to Stratum II. The drainage system appears to be a later modification of Stratum II, which involved a refitting of Wall 94/H/5.

The stratigraphic situation in Squares Y/41-42 and Z/42 was especially fragmentary. These squares contained elements of the south-western corner of Palace 1052, excavated and subsequently refilled by the University of Chicago Expedition. The complex series of differently aligned walls and superimposed floors indicates that Palace 1052 underwent multiple construction phases. None of the loci excavated in these squares in 1994 should be considered clean.

The fill in Locus 94/H/72 covered a lower phase wall, 94/H/11, which ran below Wall 94/H/7 and parallel to Wall 94/H/6. Wall 94/H/11, which is visible in Lamon and Shipton (1939: Fig. 117), was associated with a lower phase plaster floor of Palace 1052. Fragments of this floor were recovered below Fill 94/H/72 and in the narrow space between Walls 94/H/7 and 94/H/8. Wall

94/H/10, which lay above Wall 94/H/11, was a particularly problematic element. It seemed to be split along its length, its southern component clearly forming the northern wall of Room 510 of Palace 1369, while its northern component constituted the southern wall of Room 1049 of Palace 1052. The continuation of Wall 94/H/10 to the east was cut by a trench dug during the occupation of Stratum I (Lamon and Shipton 1939:71). The join between Wall 94/H/3 of Palace 1369 and Walls 94/H/6, 94/H/7, 94/H/10 and 94/H/11 of Palace 1052 is also problematic and will not be fully understood unless the two structures are completely dismantled. It appears that Wall 94/H/3 was constructed at a higher level, of much larger stones, in a style consistent with the technique seen in Palace 1369. Considering the evidence from this area of the excavations, it seems that Palace 1369, or its later phase, cut into Palace 1052.

Several loci were excavated in Square Z/42. Since this square, corresponding to Room 1049 of the Oriental Institute excavations, was previously excavated and refilled, most of its material was removed quickly and discarded. Debris 94/H/68 constituted the bottom of the University of Chicago Expedition fill, which covered an enigmatic circular stone construction set into the floor of Room 1049. A *tabun* in the southern sector of the room had two construction phases, evidenced by two thick wall layers.

In the eastern half of Square Z/42 a series of University of Chicago Expedition fills were excavated to reveal the floor of Room 1049 and its eastern and northern walls. Cobble Floor 94/H/91 abutted Wall 94/H/9 and covered most of Room 1049. It continued to the *tabun* and the enigmatic circular feature in the eastern half of the room. This cobbled floor extended only to within 1 m. of the eastern wall of Room 1049 without connecting to it. It appears that the Oriental Institute excavators removed a strip of Cobble Floor 94/H/91 to expose the lower plaster surface, which extended below Wall 94/H/10 and was traced to the south into the area of Room 510. This suggests that the earlier phase of Room 1049 was considerably different than its final form in Palace 1052.

Cobble Floor 94/H/91 appears to be an upper phase floor. However, since it ran south under Wall 94/H/10 into the area of Room 510, it cannot be the final floor of Room 1049 and must precede the latter. As Cobble Floor 94/H/91 ran south under Wall 94/H/10 into the area of Room 510 it must precede that room as well. The relationship of Cobble Floor 94/H/91 to Wall 94/H/11 was not revealed. The stratigraphic data suggest that there were at least three phases in what was to become Room 1049: a lower phase with a plaster floor; an intermediate phase with a cobbled floor and a *tabun*; and an upper phase, the floor of which is now gone, which saw the addition of Wall 94/H/10.

### BUILDING 1853

Building 1853 featured two phases; an original phase, related to the two door sockets found adjacent to Wall 94/H/12, and a later phase, related to the pebble pavements in and around the building.

Below Pavement 94/H/14, that of the later phase of the building, were loci related to the original phase of the building. Immediately below the pavement was Surface 94/H/32, off-white in colour, of beaten earth and pebbles, with many sherds lying flat upon it. This surface extended to Wall 94/H/12 and to two features connected with it, Door Sockets 94/H/31 and 94/H/35 (Fig. 7.19; see also inset in lower left of plan). The southern door socket (94/H/31) was a nearly circular stone installation, with an exterior diameter of 60 cm. and an interior of 30 cm. A large flat stone, 30 x 20 cm., formed its pivot base. The installation was approximately 20 cm. deep and contained brown fills and the remains of an iron door pivot. To the north of Door Socket 94/H/31, 1.3 m. along Wall 94/H/12, was the second door socket (94/H/35). This installation was 75 cm. wide and protruded 60 cm. from Wall

94/H/12. It was semicircular and constructed of a few large stones and a few small chinking stones. It was approximately 20 to 25 cm. deep and contained an iron door pivot, which was very similar in dimensions to that from 94/H/31. The base stones of the sockets show considerable wear, i.e., a depression approximately 5 cm. in diameter ground into their surfaces.

The door sockets framed a threshold of the earlier phase of the structure. The width of the threshold from one pivot centre to the other was 2 m. The door sockets were found several centimetres below the top of Wall 94/H/12, suggesting that they were at or slightly below the original floor level, probably fragmentary Surface 94/H/41. The stones that make up the wall of this threshold area are smaller than the stones on either side, and when viewed in profile they appear to have been stacked into place to fill the doorway. The present uppermost courses of Wall 94/H/12 are also constructed of stones of slightly different size than those of Walls 94/H/13 and 96/H/1. These walls to the south and west consist of two rows of well-fitted stones between 30 and 40 cm. in size, with 20 to 30 cm. stones set tightly in the centre of the wall. The stones of Wall 94/H/12, however, range more widely in size, and are particularly large, up to 50 x 70 cm., where Wall 94/H/1 interrupts the corner. It is suggested that Wall 94/H/12 was rebuilt when Wall 94/H/1 was added, along with the addition of interior and exterior Pavements 94/H/14 and 94/H/5, which consequently put Door Sockets 94/H/31 and 94/H/35 out of use.

Several buried walls and fills of Level H-2, located to the west and north-west of Building 1853, apparently acted as revetments for the building of Level H-1. Approximately 2.5 m. from the south-eastern corner of Building 1853 and below Wall 96/H/1 was Wall 96/H/5, a fragment some 2 m. in length running at an oblique angle to the overlying wall. Poorly constructed of 30 to 40 cm. fieldstones, this wall acted as an underground revetment for the exterior courtyard of Building 1853.

In the later phase of Building 1853, Pavement 94/H/14 covered the southern third of the eastern room of the building. The pavement had extended further to the north when it was excavated by the Oriental Institute excavators but, as with the entire northern third of the building, appears to have been partially disrupted and eroded during the University of Chicago excavations and afterward. This pavement lay at the same elevation as Pavement 94/H/5, which continued to the east of Wall 94/H/12 into the courtyard between the Assyrian buildings. The pavements consisted of irregular, well-fitted, 10 to 25 cm. cobbles. The pavement was disturbed where Wall 94/H/1 joins Walls 94/H/12 and 94/H/13.



Fig. 7.19. Level H-1. Door sockets against Wall 94/H/12.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results in Area H are noteworthy for the following reasons:

1. The discovery of a destruction layer of Level H-3 (University of Chicago Stratum IVA), which had not been detected by the Oriental Institute excavators, sheds light on the last days of Israelite Megiddo before the Assyrian conquest.
2. The large assemblage of pottery from Level H-3 is the first stratigraphically reliable group of vessels which can be securely attributed to University of Chicago Stratum IVA.
3. This is the first time that domestic architecture has been unearthed in University of Chicago Stratum IVA.
4. Level H-2, not detected by the Oriental Institute excavators, can now be added to the Iron II sequence at Megiddo. It should apparently be placed after the Assyrian conquest but before the major Assyrian building effort.
5. The contribution to the understanding of the development of the Assyrian city (University of Chicago Stratum III). Especially noteworthy is the clarification of the relationship between Palaces 1052 and 1369. It seems that the former was the original building in the area, that it went through several changes, and that it was disrupted by the construction of Palace 1369 (or a later phase of the latter).

## REFERENCES

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