

SAN VINCENZO 1996

Site report for FF96 Room E and Room E corridor by David Tyler

Introduction

The following report summarises the results from the excavation of Room E and the Room E corridor carried out between July and October 1996. The excavation formed part of a wider programme of work investigating a range of collective workshops to the south of San Vincenzo Maggiore and the associated corridor. The eastern end of the range had originally been investigated in 1983 and subsequent trial excavations in that area have taken place since that date.

The western half of Room E had already been partly excavated within San Vincenzo Maggiore Trench 16 (SVM 16) excavated in 1995 (Coutts 1995).

Excavation results

The earliest identifiable phase of Room E consists of four bonded walls, thought to be contemporary; 3091 to the west, 3237 to the north, 3228 to the east and 3208 to the south. The internal dimensions measured 8.60m x 5.95m. An eastern continuation of the south wall (3330) was identified during the excavation in Room D in 1996. The south and north walls (3159 and 3149 respectively) also continue to the west and were evident during the excavation of SVM 16 (Coutts 1995, 3). The four walls were of random uncoursed, unworked limestone and travertine masonry (100mm-0.30m) with occasional larger stones (<0.50m) and fragments of tile, bonded with yellow-brown sandy clay. The walls have been faced with clay to provide a surface flush with the outer edges of the stones. The walls measure 0.50m-0.60m wide and have been exposed to a maximum height of 0.78m. There are two doorways, c.1.50m wide, providing access to the room; one at the southern end of the west wall (3091) and the other in the north wall (3237) to the east of centre. The latter has the charred remains of a wooden sill. No evidence relating to the function of Room E during this phase has yet been recovered. A rectangular depression in the north west corner of the room, measuring 2.50m x 1.60m, may indicate the presence of an underlying tank or cistern.

At a later date the southern workshop range was rebuilt, incorporating Room E, and an 'artisans refectory', with two associated rooms, constructed at the western end.

The original south wall (3208) of Room E was demolished to floor level but the continuation of the wall (3159) was retained as a structural element to form part of the south wall of the 'artisans refectory'. The replacement south wall (3188 and 3150) was constructed to the immediate south of, and abutted, the original south wall (3208 and 3159) and also butted the

north-south aligned extension (3229) of the east wall (3228). The replacement south wall (3188 and 3150 (the continuation of wall 3188 identified in SVM 16) was of random uncoursed construction consisting of unworked travertine masonry (100mm-0.30m) and occasional tile fragments bonded with grey-white mortar. The wall appears to have been faced with mortar to provide a moderately smooth surface flush with the outside edges of the stones. A doorway, 2.60m wide, was evident in the south wall (3188) in the south-west corner of the room. The east facing termini of walls 3150 and 3159 provide the western doorjamb, the base of the opposite doorjamb being represented by a concentration of tile fragments set within the south wall (3188)

The internal surfaces of the walls of Room E have the remains of plaster rendering adhering to them although it is unclear in which phase this was applied.

The earliest identifiable floor surface exposed in Room E consists of mid brown silty clay containing occasional travertine and tile fragments and flecks of mortar and plaster (3364). Only a narrow strip (<1.34m) was exposed on the east side of the room abutting the east wall (3228), however it is thought to extend across the whole room. It is unknown to which phase the floor surface maybe attributed. A slight depression in the floor surface, (2.20m x 1.60m) 1.10m south of the doorway in the north wall (3237) and 1.10m from the east wall (3228), suggests that this area is heavily worn, possibly due to work benches situated against the east wall.

In the centre of the room, cut into the floor surface, an irregularly shaped pad (3294), 0.75mx 0.80m, of coarse mortar provided a base for a dressed travertine block which had a circular hole cut from the upper face. The block had been moved a short distance from its base at a later date. It may have held a post for roof support or part of a timber structure such as an olive or grape press.

In the south-west corner of the room, opposite the doorway, was a raised platform (3117), 70mm-0.22m in height, abutting wall 3091 and overlying the floor surface (3364) and the original south wall (3208). The platform measured 4.70m north-south x 1.10m east-west and was constructed of silty clay and limestone and travertine rubble. The platform was retained in part by a low, single course wall (3164) of limestone and travertine masonry with the remains of plaster rendering. The wall stood to a maximum height of 0.22m. The platform provided a base for a stairway of three steps (3098), aligned north-south, abutting the east wall (3091). The steps were constructed of well dressed travertine blocks with tiled treads and were possibly rendered with plaster on the east and north faces. The structure measured 2.0m long, 0.90m wide and rose to a height of 0.72m. The stairway led to a small platform 0.95m x 0.90m. It has been suggested that the platform represents a readers podium which gave access, via a window in wall 3091, to the 'artisans refectory' (Coutts 1995, 4).

Within the south-west doorway of the room are the remains of a

tiled surface (0.68m x 0.58m) bedded on a layer of cocciopesto (3178). The tiled surface overlay part of the stairway platform (3117) and part of the southern wall (3188). Originally, it may have extended across the platform from the doorway to the stairway with which it is thought to be contemporary. Areas of tiles and cocciopesto floor surfaces were revealed in the 'artisans refectory' during the excavations of SVM 16 (Coutts 1995, 3).

The eastern end of the original south wall (3208) was cut by a sub-circular, vertical sided pit (3284), 0.45m deep, backfilled with a sterile grey-brown silty clay containing fragments of plaster, tile and charcoal (3283). The pit may have been used to rob stone from wall 3208.

The construction of the atrium south wall (4618) of San Vincenzo Maggiore effectively created a corridor immediately north of the southern workshop range. The alignment of the atrium south wall caused the Room E and the 'artisans refectory' sections of the corridor to taper, that of Room E measuring 2.20m at the western end and 2.90m at the eastern end.

The earliest deposit exposed in the Room E corridor consisted of a compact mixture of yellow sand and mortar containing large fragments of tile and small stones (3347). The deposit butted the north wall of the room (3237) and extended the length of the corridor. The surface of the deposit was very uneven and it appears to represent a dump of waste/ unused building material (this deposit was not excavated in 1996). Parallel and adjacent to the atrium south wall, a 0.75m wide foundation trench (3352) cut the building material. Within the trench the atrium south wall foundations could be seen offset 100-150mm (the depth of the foundations remains unknown as the trench was not fully excavated in 1996). The width of the trench suggests that the foundations were free standing as opposed to trench built. The foundation trench was backfilled with brown-grey silty clay containing rubble and tile fragments and flecks of mortar (3351). Next to the foundation trench was a sub-square post-hole (3350) infilled with grey-brown silty clay containing rubble and tile fragments (3349). The post-hole is probably associated with scaffolding for the construction of the atrium south wall. Sealing both the construction cut and the post-hole and overlying the building material was a compacted deposit of grey-brown silty clay, 50-100mm in depth, containing frequent fragments of animal bone and pottery in addition to fragments of tile and worked stone (3332). This deposit may be contemporary with the construction of the atrium south wall. There did not appear to be a floor surface associated with the Room E corridor.

At some point following the construction of the atrium south wall, the Room E corridor was defined by doorways opposite the termini of the east and west walls (3228 and 3091). At the western end, two well dressed travertine blocks (3175) abutting the atrium south wall form the remains of a doorjamb. Similar well dressed blocks have been mortared onto the end of wall 3091 to provide the opposing doorjamb. The western doorway was

formed by the construction of a mortar bonded, squared uncoursed wall (3005) (1.50m long, 0.90m wide and 1.80m high) of dressed travertine blocks, aligned north-south, and bonded with an east-west aligned wall (3076) in the Room D corridor. A dressed travertine block situated at the junction of walls 3228 and 3237, and opposite wall 3005, represents the opposing doorjamb.

Extensive spreads of destruction debris and burnt material provide archaeological evidence to support the documented Saracen attack on the monastery in 881 A.D.

Overlying the area of the Room E corridor and extending through the doorway in the north wall (3237) was a layer of dark brown-black sandy silt containing fragments of tile and rubble (3331) with a maximum depth of 100mm. The deposit was thickest next to the atrium south wall and represents burnt timbers fallen from the corridor roof. Sealing the burnt material and filling the corridor to a depth of 100-150mm was a layer of scorched tiles (3231) representing the collapsed corridor roof, most of which appear to have broken on impact with the building material (3347). The angle at which many of the tiles rested suggests that the roof collapsed en masse. Approximately 5% of the tiles were inscribed.

The surface of the clay floor (3364) had been burnt resulting in a dark brown layer (3301) extending across most of the floor area. In the north-west corner of the room, overlying the floor surface, was a black deposit (3.80m x 2.50m) of in situ burnt material (3269), up to 150mm in depth, containing a few fragments of burned pottery. These deposits were not fully excavated and represented the downward limit of the 1996 excavations in Room E. Overlying the stairway and the floor surface in the southern half of the room were deposits of dark grey-black burnt material (3099 and 3120), up to 0.25m in depth, containing fragments of tile, stone, pottery, mortar and charcoal. Situated centrally within the room, measuring 6.80m x 4.60m, was a deposit of mid brown- dark grey burnt silty clay with charcoal and ash, containing frequent tile, mortar and plaster fragments (3273). The deposit varied in depth up to a maximum of 0.20m, overlay the floor layer (3301) and the edges of deposit 3269, and was intermixed with the burnt material in the south of the room (3120). The deposit was thought to be residual as it was very mixed and contained lenses of unburnt mortar; it is possible that it represents burnt material from the room disturbed during salvage operations soon after the fire. Due to the frequency of tile fragments within the burnt deposits (3120 and 3273) it has been suggested that Room E was roofed with tiles. Situated between the mortar post-pad (3295) and the stairway platform (3117) was a a pit (3298) (1.50m x 0.85m x 0.40m) cut from the floor layer (3301) and infilled with material of similar composition (3297) to the overlying deposit (3273). It is unclear during which phase the pit was dug, however it may be the result of the removal of an object/s after the fire.

In the period after the fire the monastic community departed from San Vincenzo al Volturno and the building appears to have been abandoned. The presence of undisturbed burnt material overlying the stairway (3099) reinforces this hypothesis.

Abutting the west wall (3091) and overlying the burnt material (3269) was a narrow (<0.40m), wedge shaped deposit of ashy silty clay, c.2.0m long and 100mm deep, containing building debris (3225). It would appear that this deposit represents building material that has fallen, or been washed, from the west wall due to the lack of a roof. Overlying this deposit and most of the room was a thick (<0.30m) deposit of mid yellow-brown silty clay mixed with frequent limestone, tile fragments and lumps of plaster and mortar (3239 and 3291). Several tip lines were identified within the deposit and a large quantity of pottery was recovered. These deposits may represent partial collapse of the walls in addition to deliberate dumping or backfilling. Pottery sherds from the same vessel were recovered from this and the underlying layer (3273) suggesting that they were deposited within a short period of time. Overlying this deposit was a layer (3241) of yellow-brown clay, up to 0.40m in depth, containing fragments of mortar and tile and travertine rubble, some of which was quite large (<0.40m) and faced with plaster. The layer was confined to the western side of the room and probably represents the collapse of the west wall (3091).

Overlying the destruction debris on the eastern side of the room and abutting the east wall (3228) was a deposit of mid yellow-brown clay (6.0m long and c.1.50m wide), 0.20m deep, containing fragments of limestone and plaster (3251). The composition of this deposit was similar to that of the underlying destruction debris (3241, 3239 and 3291) and is probably collapse from the east wall from which the building stone has then been robbed. The collapse of the north wall (3237) is represented in part by a mixed deposit of orange-brown scorched clay with burnt mortar, masonry and tile (3250), infilling the doorway and overlying the remains of the wall.

Discrete areas of mortar with stone and tile fragments overlay the destruction debris and abutted wall 3164 and the north face of the stairway (3279 and 3281 respectively). It has been suggested that these were part of a floor surface representing re-use of the building, however the lack of evidence for any occupation at this level suggests that the layers represent a temporary trampled surface. These surfaces may possibly represent Phase 6a activity dating to the early 10th century.

Overlying the destruction debris from the collapse/ demolition of the walls of Room E was an extensive deposit of mid brown silty clay, up to 0.30m in depth, covering most of the room (3240). The deposit contained occasional fragments of tile and limestone masonry and un-painted plaster. This layer appears to have been laid down following the salvage of any useful material and the subsequent levelling of the destruction debris, possibly after the return of the monastic community to the monastery. At a similar level in the Room E corridor, overlying the destruction rubble, was a layer of grey-brown silty clay containing tile fragments (3105).

Sealing the north wall of the room (3237) and overlying the grey-brown silty clay (3105) in the corridor area was a residual dump of yellow sandy mortar containing frequent tiles and tile fragments, several of which were inscribed, and many of which showed evidence of burning.

The south, east and west walls of Room E and the Room E corridor were sealed by a 1.0m thick deposit of light brown clay loam containing blocks of stone, mortar, tiles, window glass and many fragments of fresco (3062). It is thought to relate to the destruction of the atrium and church in the 11th century prior to abandonment. Most of this layer was removed during the excavation of SVM 16 in 1995 and it was at this level that the 1996 excavations began.

Summary

The phases of construction, use and dis-use identified in Room E and the Room E corridor may be incorporated within the overall archaeological phasing established for San Vincenzo al Volturno.

Phase 3/ 4a

The original southern workshop range consisting of at least three rooms with clay bonded walls, of which Room E was the middle one. It is possible that the clay bonded range was constructed during Phase 3 and formed a range of rooms or workshops, possibly for agricultural use, contemporary with the early monastic complex to the north. Alternatively, it was established during the construction of San Vincenzo Maggiore and functioned as part of the builders yard identified during previous excavations to the east. The deposit of building material (3347) abutting the north wall of the room (3237) and cut by the foundation trench (3352) for the atrium south wall (4618) provides supporting evidence for this.

Phase 4b

The atrium south wall was constructed during this phase creating the corridor to the north of the workshop range and the restructuring of the workshops appears to have been planned and implemented as part of the construction programme.

During this period the workshop range appears to have been rebuilt and expanded with the 'artisans refectory' complex constructed at the western end. The room to the east of Room E was demolished entirely and replaced by Room D which respects the alignment of the atrium south wall (4618). The foundations of the original wall (3330) formed part of the floor of Room D. The south wall of Room E (3208) was demolished and a new wall constructed alongside (3188). The room to the west of Room E was demolished in part, with the remaining walls (3159 and 3149) retained as structural elements for the 'artisans refectory'. The 'reader's podium' (3098) was constructed within Room E as

part of the re-building work.

The precise function of the room prior to its restructuring remains unclear. Minimal excavation of the tank/ cistern indicated that it had been deliberately backfilled with rubble prior to the destruction of the room in 881 A.D. suggesting that the room had undergone a change of use.

Phase 5a

Following the construction of the atrium south wall, the delimitation of the Room E corridor occurred, during Phase 5a or 4b, due to the construction of a doorway (3175) in line with the west wall of the room (3091) and the construction of wall 3005 and wall 3076 in the Room D corridor.

Phase 5c

The fire associated with the Saracen attack of 881 A.D. led to the destruction of Room E and the associated corridor and burnt deposits (3099, 3120, 3269, 3273, 3301, 3331) and tiles from the collapsed roofs (3231, 3273) were widespread. Re-usable material from the room appears to have been salvaged soon after the fire resulting in the layer of mixed material (3273) over the charred floor surface (3301). The quantity of pottery recovered from the overlying layer of yellow-brown clay with tile and limestone rubble (3239 and 3291) suggests that the room was infilled with destruction debris from other areas in addition to collapsed or demolished material from the walls. The absence of many larger pieces of masonry within this deposit may be the result of salvaging re-usable building material. Overlying deposits of wall material within the room (3241, 3250, 3251) indicate further collapse or demolition.

Phase 6

After the return of the monks, the wall debris was levelled and a 0.30m deep layer of mid brown silty clay (3240), possibly topsoil, was deposited to raise the ground surface and bury the destruction debris and no further activity appears to have taken place in this area.

Phase 8

The eventual abandonment of the abbey is represented by the 1.0m thick layer of light brown loam (3062) containing demolition debris overlying the entire area.

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Discussion

In the following discussion an attempt will be made to place Room E within the overall context of the collective workshops, especially its relationship with the 'artisans refectory', and develop some of the ideas that have been generated following the excavations and perusal of the SVM 16 archive.

The excavations to date have provided important evidence relating to the demise of the room from the Saracen attack of 881 A.D. through to the collapse and/ or demolition of the walls and the subsequent abandonment. Insufficient information however, has been recovered to fully understand the function and previous history of the room and its role within the workshop complex.

As mentioned above, it is currently thought that Room E, and at least two other rooms, comprised a range of clay bonded rooms or workshops, the remains of which underlie the later Rooms C and D and the 'artisans refectory'. The range may have been for agricultural use and the possible tank or cistern in the north west corner of the room associated with grape or olive processing. The tank certainly appears to have gone out of use and backfilled with rubble prior to the Saracen attack. It is suggested here that the building/s were constructed during Phase 3, rather than 4a, pre-dating the construction of San Vincenzo Maggiore and supporting evidence for this is provided by the different alignment of the rooms and the dump of un-used or waste building material (3347) butting up against the north wall of Room E and deposited before the construction of the atrium south wall (4618). Further excavation is necessary to investigate this range of rooms about which very little is known.

The clay bonded range was demolished in part prior to the construction of the atrium south wall and the Phase 4b southern collective workshops and associated 'artisans refectory' complex were built, incorporating Room E. The clay bonded walls to the west of Room E (3159 and 3149) were retained to form part of the north and south walls of the 'refectory' and the west wall (3091) was kept to divide it from Room E. The clay bonded wall to the east of Room E (3330) was demolished and Rooms C and D were constructed on a different alignment parallel with the atrium south wall. The south wall of Room E (3208) was demolished and replaced with a mortar bonded wall (3188) in keeping with the rebuilt workshops and 'refectory' complex. Three deep post-holes (3189, 3196 and 3198) within the south walls (3170 and 3176) of the 'refectory' complex suggests that

the walls were of stone and timber composite construction.

Part of the west wall (3192) of the south west room of the 'refectory' complex appears to have been added at a later date, as it abutts the existing north and west walls (3165 and 3171 respectively) of the room and is of different construction. Wall 3192 is bonded to the west wall (3191), raising the possibility that these rooms were constructed in Phase 4b as part of the restructured range of workshops, and originally the room that later became the 'refectory' was open or timber fronted and a doorway existed in the west wall (3171) of the south west room. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that the cocciopesto surface (3166) of the south west room seals the later wall (3192). This may suggest that the workshop range was associated with the building works and restructured during the construction of San Vincenzo Maggiore. Upon its completion in 824 A.D. in Phase 5a, the western rooms of the workshop range were refurbished, during which walls 3191 and 3192 were constructed, to form the 'refectory' complex and the southern collective range used as 'artisans'' workshops. The original doorway in the west wall (3171) may have been replaced, following the construction of wall 3192, by a narrower doorway at the southern extent of the wall. Possible evidence for this is provided by the 'step' (3175) in the south west corner of the room and the charred remains of possible door sill (3222) overlying the west wall (3171) and adjoining the step.

The stairway leading to the 'reader's podium' (3098) was constructed in Room E, possibly during Phase 5a. No evidence was recovered to suggest a function for the room during this period and it may have been used as a store room for foodstuffs for use in the kitchen room in the 'refectory' complex. The tiled surface (3178) laid in the doorway (3212) in the south west corner of the room is almost certainly contemporary with the tiled surfaces and cocciopesto floors in the 'refectory' complex.

The construction of the atrium south wall (4618) in Phase 4b created a corridor to the north of the southern collective workshop range. The alignment of the atrium south wall caused the corridor sections of both Room E and the 'refectory' to taper. The width of the 'refectory' corridor at the western end is only 1.70m. No floor surfaces were found in the Room E corridor and yet a mortared floor surface was found in the Room D corridor. The earliest identifiable deposit in the Room E corridor consisted of compact sandy mortar (3347) containing tile fragments and had an uneven surface. A floor surface for the corridor could not exist beneath this deposit as the construction trench for the atrium south wall (3352) was cut through it. Overlying the deposit was a midden layer (3332), in turn overlain by burnt material (3331) from the Saracen attack. This raises the possibility that the Room E corridor was of relatively low status providing ease of access between the 'refectory' corridor or anteroom and the other workshop rooms. The corridor was rendered with plaster and had a well constructed doorway (3157) at the western end; the doorway structure however, may have provided necessary support for the tiled roof.

A large buttress (10061) which abutts the atrium south wall, and occupies a large area within the 'refectory', appears to have been constructed to provide necessary support for the atrium south wall following the earthquake in 848 A.D. A similar, contemporary buttress (3012) was constructed a short distance to the west. The dressed stone used in the construction of the buttress (10061) suggests that it did not have concealed foundations and the burnt facing stone raises the interesting possibility that it was constructed prior to the sacking of the monastery in 881 A.D. The remnants of a plaster surface on the east face of the buttress, below the level of the mortar 'floor' (10015) abutting the west face, suggests that the room continued in use following the construction of the buttress with a tiled roof constructed around it. The large quantity of fragmented tile evident in the burnt deposits (3120, 3158, 3167 and 3168) supports the hypothesis that the room had a tiled, rather than thatched, roof.

The rooms appear to have suffered in the decline of the monastery in the latter half of the 9th century; compact, possibly trampled, midden type layers containing fragments of animal bone and pottery (3169 and 3332) were evident overlying the floor of the 'refectory' and in the Room E corridor immediately beneath the burnt deposits. Interestingly, the midden deposit in the 'refectory' overlay the floor make-up surface (3182) in addition to the tiled floor (3181) suggesting that at least some of the tiles had been removed prior to the sacking of 881 A.D.

Both Room E and the 'refectory' complex appear to have gone out of use following the sacking of the monastery in 881 A.D. and both rooms have similar stratigraphy representing the salvaging of re-usable material. Following the collapse/ demolition of the walls the destruction debris is levelled and the area may have been used for cultivation following the return of the monks in the 10th century.

List of Contexts

(please note that the relationships given below are stratigraphical not physical.)

- 3005 Wall constructed of well dressed travertine blocks bonded with mortar. Abutts atrium south wall 4618. Situated in the Room D/ E corridor. Over 3351 and 3349, under 3332.
- 3062 Light brown clay loam containing masonry blocks, mortar, charcoal and fresco fragments. Overlies Room E and part of Room D and their associated corridors. Over 3104, under 3073.
- 3091 Phase 3/ 4a west wall of Room E. Aligned north-south, limestone and travertine masonry bonded with clay. Over ?, under ?.
- 3098 Stairway consisting of three steps abutting wall 3091 in Room E. Over 3117, under 3099 and 3120.
- 3099 Dark grey-black gritty silt, burnt material containing tile fragments and small stones. Same as 3120. Over 3098, under 3273.
- 3104 Yellow sandy mortar containing frequent fragments of roof tile in Room E corridor. Abutts atrium south wall 4618. Over 3105 and 3240, under 3062.
- 3105 Grey-brown silty clay containing tile, animal bone, glass and fresco fragments. Abutts atrium south wall and is confined to the Room E corridor area. Similar to 3240. Over 3250, under 3104.
- 3117 Platform for stairway 3098 in south west corner of Room E. Over 3164, under 3098 and 3178.

- 3120 Dark grey gritty clay, burnt material containing tile fragments and charcoal. Concentrated in the south of Room E and excavated in 1995. Same as 3273 ?. Over 3178 and 3098, under 3291.
- 3149 Phase 3/ 4a north wall of 'artisans refectory'. Limestone and travertine masonry bonded with clay, aligned east-west. Over ?, under ?.
- 3150 Continuation of Phase 4b south wall of Room E. Forms a structural element of the south wall of the 'artisans refectory'. Over ?, under ?.
- 3157 Two dressed travertine blocks forming doorjamb of west doorway of Room E corridor. Abutt atrium wall 4618. Over 3332, under 3331.
- 3159 Continuation of Phase 3/ 4a south wall of Room E. Forms a structural element of the south wall of the 'artisans refectory'. Abutts wall 3151. Over ?, under ?.
- 3164 Low wall of travertine and limestone masonry rendered with plaster, retains platform 3117. Over 3301, under 3117.
- 3178 Area of tiled floor on cocciopesto foundation in south-west doorway of Room E. Over 3117, under 3120.
- 3188 Phase 4b south wall of Room E. Limestone and travertine masonry bonded with mortar, aligned east-west. Abutts wall 3208 and wall 3229. Continuation of wall 3150. Over ?, under ?.
- 3208 Phase 3/ 4a south wall of Room E. Limestone and travertine masonry bonded with clay, aligned east-west. Abutts wall 3188, bonded to wall 3228. Continuation of wall 3159. Over ?, under ?.
- 3231 Yellow-brown clay and mortar with 75% tiles and tile fragments. Roof collapse from Room E corridor. Over 3331, under 3273.
- 3237 Phase 3/ 4a north wall of Room E. Limestone and travertine masonry bonded with clay. Bonded to walls 3091 and 3228. Over ?, under?.
- 3239 Extensive deposit of yellow-brown clay, limestone masonry and tile fragments containing pottery. Destruction debris covering much of Room E. Same as 3291. Over 3273 and 3225, under 3241, 3250, 3251 and 3279
- 3240 Mid-dark brown silty clay containing occasional tile and limestone rubble. Overlies most of Room E. Similar to 3105. Over 3281, 3296, 3251 and 3250, under 3104.
- 3241 Yellow-brown clay with plaster containing masonry rubble and tile fragments within Room E. Probably collapse of walls 3091 and 3237. Over 3239, under 3281.

- 3250 Orange-brown clay with plaster containing limestone and travertine masonry and tile fragments within Room E and Room E corridor. Collapse of wall 3237. Over 3239, under 3105 and 3240.
- 3251 Yellow-brown clay containing masonry and plaster fragments. Collapse of wall 3228. Extends over top of wall 3228 into Room D. Over 3239 and 3291, under 3240.
- 3255 Narrow deposit abutting wall 3091 consisting of ashy silty clay and masonry rubble from wall 3091. Over 3269, under 3239.
- 3269 Black silty clay abutting wall 3091 and stairway 3098. In situ burnt material from fire of 881 A.D. Not fully excavated in 1996. Over 3098, under 3255.
- 3273 Extensive deposit of mixed/ disturbed burnt material covering much of Room E. Same as 3120. Over 3269, 3301 and 3297, under 3239, 3280 and 3291.
- 3279 Temporary trampled surface of grey-white mortar containing stone and tile fragments. Over 3239, under 3296.
- 3281 Yellow-white mortar containing stone and tile fragments. Over 3241, under 3240.
- 3283 Grey-brown silty clay containing fragments of plaster, tile and charcoal. Fill of pit 3284. Over 3284, under 3291.
- 3284 Sub-circular pit with vertical sides positioned at east end of wall 3208. Over 3364, under 3283.
- 3291

created at each end of the Room E corridor

