

EXCAVATION AT CORINTH: 1954

(PLATES 58–62)

IN June of 1954 an excavation of two weeks duration was carried out on the north side of Temple Hill at Corinth under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies.¹ Its purpose was to learn more about the roof of an early archaic building in this area. In 1937 and 1938, while digging some trenches on this part of the hill (Pl. 58, a, W.I, W.V, W.Va, W.Vb), Mr. Saul Weinberg had uncovered some of the building debris from the construction of the present temple; under this debris he found a fill of poros blocks and terracotta roof tiles from an earlier archaic structure.² In the course of my preparation of a second volume on the Architectural Terracottas from Corinth,³ it became apparent that these roof tiles were of very considerable importance for the reconstruction of the history of early Greek roofing and that its development in the Corinthian area was not what had previously been supposed. But the tiles recovered by Mr. Weinberg made possible only a partial reconstruction of the roof and left many questions unanswered. This summer, therefore, further trenches (Pl. 58, a, R.I, R.II, R.IV, R.V, R.VI)⁴ were dug in this area in an attempt to locate more tiles and blocks and to solve some of these problems. The undertaking proved most satisfactory. Not only were many tiles and blocks found, but other objects of considerable interest were discovered. In addition the excavation yielded valuable topographical information.

The archaic temple of Apollo stands on the high point of the rock hill which dominated the center of ancient Corinth. The rock has been smoothed here to form a firm foundation for the temple. At the north, south and east the rock of the hill has been cut into at various times to provide space for buildings along its sides so that it now drops sharply. To the west there is a gentler slope toward the fountain of Glauke. North of the existing archaic temple the hilltop extends almost twenty-five meters before it is cut down to the level of the North Stoa and North Market. For about eighteen meters out from the east end of the temple to about ten at the west this fill is

¹ I wish to express my appreciation to the American Philosophical Society, a grant from which made this investigation possible. I should like also to thank the American School of Classical Studies and its director, Mr. J. L. Caskey and the Greek Archaeological Service for their help and cooperation. The plan of the new trenches was made by Mr. C. W. J. Eliot; the photographs are the work of Mr. Emil Seraph.

² *Hesperia*, VI, 1937, pp. 489 f.; VIII, 1939, pp. 195 ff.; *A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 595. Mr. Weinberg suggested (*Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, p. 197, note 1) that the earlier structure was a temple.

³ A first volume, including all the pieces found up to 1929, was published by the late Mrs. B. H. Hill (*Corinth*, IV, i).

⁴ In the notebook account of the excavation the western part of Trench I was called Trench III.

prehistoric (Neolithic and Early Helladic)⁵ except for occasional later intrusions, most of which are alongside the temple stylobate. But beyond this prehistoric fill to the north, the hill underwent a number of changes in later times and it was in this latter section that most of the investigation this summer took place.

THE EARLY ARCHAIC ROAD

The most important topographical discovery of the investigation was the course of an early road which ran across the north slope of the hill from northeast to southwest. It is evidently the continuation of a road located behind the rear wall of the North Market on the northeast shoulder of the hill which has already been discussed by Mr. R. L. Scranton in his publication of the buildings in that area.⁶ Those of our trenches dug along an extension of the line of this road to the southwest (Pl. 58, a, R.I, R.V, R.VI) all picked up its course. Presumably it connected with the road to Sikyon which ran north from the Agora between the present temple and the Fountain of Glauke at a point near the northeast corner of the fountain. This spring would be a very convenient place for the junction of two important roads.

In the section of the road previously discovered the rock surface at the edge of the hill had been cut down *ca.* 1.50 m. to make a level bed and easy grade for the roadway. Here the road was *ca.* 3.00 m. in width. On the south or hillward side, a retaining wall, two blocks of which are *in situ*, kept the earth from washing down from above over the road. Well-worn ruts in the rock indicate long use of the thoroughfare. We found that as the road proceeded to the west, it rose. By the time it reached the easternmost of our trenches (Pls. 58, a, R.V; 58, b, A) the cutting in the rock for the roadbed was only *ca.* 0.45 m. in depth. In this section the road was no longer bedded directly on the rock but on a very hard packing of small stones, pebbles, earth and bits of pottery measuring about 0.10 m. in depth.⁷ Farther to the west (Pls. 58, a, R.VI; 59, b) the rising grade brought the road to the level of the rock surface of the hill, so that here no cutting was necessary for its bed. In fact the hard-packed road metal, as deep as 0.15 m. at the north side of the road (Pl. 59, b, A), was used to build up a level surface since the rock sloped downwards to the north (Pl. 59, b, B). When the road reached our westernmost trench (Pls. 58, a, R.I; 59, c) it was nearly at the level portion of

⁵ The shaded sections in Trenches R.II, R.IV, R.V, and R.VI indicate prehistoric fill which was left undug. Some was also left in the western half of the room shown in R.V. The shading does not represent the total extent of the prehistoric fill, however, since some was removed in the southern part of Trench R.II and a little to the north of the shading in R.II, R.V and R.VI. The rectangle running north and south in R.IV is the northern end of an early trench dug by the late Mrs. Kosmopoulos. A number of obsidian blades (MF 9682-4) and an arrow head (MF 9681) as well as some very fragmentary pottery were among the prehistoric objects found.

⁶ Robert L. Scranton, *Corinth*, I, iii, *Monuments in the Lower Agora and North of the Archaic Temple*, Princeton, 1951, pp. 155-157, pl. 71, 1, plan K.

⁷ When a small section of it was dug, it proved to be in two layers (Pls. 58, b, E; 59, a, A) but there was no distinguishable difference in the contents of the two.

the hilltop. At the east end of the trench (Pl. 59, c, B) an outcropping of rock had apparently been cut down to provide a level surface but at the west the road seems to be upon the natural rock top. The natural pockets in the rock surface were filled with hard-packed road metal. In this section deep ruts have been worn in the rock, in places to a depth of 0.08 m.—0.09 m. with an axial width of *ca.* 1.90 m. Throughout the roadbed measured *ca.* 3.00 m. in width.

In the sections which we uncovered there was no indication of a retaining wall.⁸ In the easternmost trench a foundation trench was cut, probably in the Roman period, along the south side of the roadway, beside the rock scarp, through the hard-packed road metal to the rock (Pls. 58, b, C; 59, a, B).⁹ One block of this foundation was found *in situ*, resting against the rock scarp (Pl. 58, b, B) and extending into the undug earth to the east. This foundation wall was in its turn plundered in the late Roman period. In the westernmost trench another wall block resting on a piece of rock ledge (Pl. 59, c, A) also belongs to a later operation, probably of Roman date. In the intermediate section there is a filling of prehistoric date along the south side of the roadbed. Generally speaking the road marks the termination of the thick layer of prehistoric fill. Probably the road was cut through it along the side of the hill. Some prehistoric fill is found to the north of the road in the central and western sections but it forms only a thin layer on the sloping rock. It seems likely that when the road was in use the fill to the north of it was not very deep.

It is not possible to say when the road was first laid out and traffic started, although the depth of the ruts and general signs of wear suggest a long period of use. However, we do have very clear evidence as to when the road went out of use. In each of the areas investigated it was found that a mass of fragmentary poros blocks, broken roof tiles, mud bricks and pieces of charred wood from an archaic building had been piled up on the road. In the western section there were more blocks and fewer tiles and mud bricks, in the center large quantities of all, at the east end more mud bricks and tiles and signs of charred wood, fewer blocks. This material covered the roadway to a depth of from *ca.* 0.50 m. to *ca.* 1.00 m. At the western end of Trench R.I (Pls. 58, a; 59, c) where the road level was almost at the level part of the hill, it was clearly petering out.

Over all this except at the east end where the fill was late and to the north of it where it extended down to bed rock or a thin layer of prehistoric fill, was a layer of poros chips. Evidently chips were thrown in first over the blocks, tiles and bricks, then more were dumped beyond to the north on the side of the hill. The same general situation was found in the earlier digging. There can be no doubt that this filling of poros chips comes from the construction of the existing archaic temple. The resem-

⁸ Perhaps a wall found by Mr. Weinberg (Pl. 58, a, W.V) is part of a retaining wall on the north side of the road.

⁹ The west end of this foundation trench is to be seen in Pls. 58, b, D; 59, a, C.

blance to the fill within the foundations of the temple,¹⁰ the presence of chips obviously from the fluting of large poros columns, the finds which date it to the middle of the sixth century B.C. or a little later, all fit only that explanation. That the piling up of the blocks, bricks and tiles on the road and the dumping of the poros chips above belong to a single general plan of operation is shown by the similar nature of the finds from both. No distinction in date can be made and they in turn confirm Mr. Weinberg's dating of the construction of the temple. This means that an earlier building, destroyed by fire, was dismantled and its remains piled up on the roadway when the present archaic temple was built around the middle of the sixth century or a little later. The roadway went out of use at that time, not any earlier, since the blocks, tiles and bricks rest right on the rock and road metal. The objects in the road metal too, small as they are, agree with this. At the same time the hill was built out and leveled to the north by the poros chip fill.

The roadway was next disturbed in the Roman period when the foundation trench in Trench R.V and the wall in Trench R.I, mentioned above, were put in. In the Byzantine period a building was constructed to the south of the road in the area of Trench R.V (Pls. 59, a, D; 59, d, A), while in Late Byzantine or Turkish times a number of tile graves were laid in the same section and over the road itself, cutting into the tile and block fill somewhat.

As we have already mentioned, no particular distinction can be made as to the date of the poros chip and the tile, brick and poros block fills. Aside from prehistoric finds, the earliest objects belong to the Late Proto-Corinthian period, the latest to Late Corinthian of around the middle of the sixth century. As might be expected, the fill of tiles, bricks and blocks yielded more finds than the poros chip fill. Fragments of many small vases suitable for votive offerings were found, skyphoi and cups, small bowls, lekythoi and aryballoi. The greater number were decorated with linear designs.

Aside from a few fragmentary Late Proto-Corinthian conical oinochoai, decorated with horizontal lines, the earliest pieces in the tile fill belong to the Early Corinthian period. Among them are a kalathos¹¹ with decoration inside and out of purplish red bands (Pl. 60, No. 1) and a fragment from a skyphos decorated with a band of coursing hounds (Pl. 60, No. 2).¹² Several terracotta horses date in the late seventh or early sixth century. One (Pl. 60, No. 11)¹³ is from the poros chip fill, another (Pl.

¹⁰ *Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, pp. 193 ff.

¹¹ Inv. C-54-10. H. 0.04 m. For other kalathoi see *Corinth*, VII, i, p. 45, pl. 22, nos. 148-150, p. 48, pl. 23, no. 169, all of the third quarter of the seventh century; Payne, *Perachora*, I, p. 99, pl. 30, nos. 20-23, of the last third of the seventh century, and *Art and Archaeology*, XXXI, 1931, p. 225. I am indebted to Mrs. Stillwell for her opinion on the date of this piece.

¹² Inv. C-54-8. Max. dim. 0.036 m. For the type see Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 279, no. 191 and p. 23, fig. 9C; *Corinth*, VII, i, p. 65, no. 249, pl. 33 = *A.J.A.*, XLI, 1937, p. 224, no. 18.

¹³ Inv. MF 9686. Max. L. 0.049 m. On such horses see *Corinth*, XV, ii, pp. 164-166.

60, No. 12),¹⁴ with red lines on the front of the neck and mane, black lines above the tail and red on the tail, from the block and tile fill. Two others,¹⁵ one with traces of a rider (Pl. 60, No. 13), come from later fill near by.

A variety of pieces of the Middle Corinthian period are worthy of mention. The poros chip fill yielded the lower part of a conical oinochoe of the black polychrome style (Pl. 60, No. 3).¹⁶ The black glaze has burned to a metallic tone. The stripes around the body are a purplish red. Most interesting of the finds of this period from the tile and block fill is the upper part of a plastic vase (Pl. 60, No. 9)¹⁷ consisting of a female figure wearing a polos. Her hands are held clasped in front, with the arms bent. The hair and polos show traces of purplish black glaze. The body is covered with purplish brown to black spots. The opening of the vase is through the top of the polos. Plastic vases of this sort heretofore found have been in the form of animals, sirens, sphinxes and male figures;¹⁸ this seems to be the only human female figure except for a protome in Naples.¹⁹ The closest parallels are to be found in the squatting comast vases such as one from Perachora²⁰ and one in the British Museum.²¹ Ours would seem to date close to the end of the Middle Corinthian period.²² Also from this fill came part of an aryballos with a frieze of warriors (Pl. 60, No. 4).²³

The most important single find of the excavation, also belonging to the Middle Corinthian period, came from later fill along the north side of the road. This is a very fine Corinthian aryballos (Pls. 63, 64),²⁴ complete except for the front of the lip. This small vase, with a scene representing a dancing contest, is of great interest, not only

¹⁴ Inv. MF9688. Max. L. 0.085 m.

¹⁵ Inv. MF9687. Max. L. 0.042 m., max. H. 0.05 m. MF9689. Max. L. 0.042 m., max. H. 0.035 m.

¹⁶ Inv. C-54-6. Max. H. 0.042 m., diam. of base 0.069 m. Compare Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 299, no. 758, fig. 136.

¹⁷ Inv. C-54-3. Max. H. 0.065 m.

¹⁸ Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, pp. 170 ff.; M. I. Maximova, *Les vases plastiques dans l'antiquité*, Paris, 1927; *A.J.A.*, X, 1906, pp. 420 ff.; Payne, *Perachora*, I, pp. 235 ff.; *J.H.S.*, LV, 1935, pp. 124 ff., pl. 9.

¹⁹ Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 179; *Mon. Ant.*, XXII, 1913, pl. 74, 1. Mrs. Stillwell, who was kind enough to examine this and some of the other finds, tells me that the head is similar to some from moulds of the Potters' Quarter at Corinth, but not identical.

²⁰ Payne, *Perachora*, I, p. 235, pl. 104, no. 199, dated ca. 590 B.C.

²¹ Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 180, fig. 84.

²² Ours seems closer in date to the sirens (*Perachora*, I, pp. 238-39, pl. 105, nos. 217, 218) and to the Louvre Comast (*Necrocorinthia*, pp. 175 f., pls. 44, 5 and 48, 13-14) than to the other comasts. Compare the head to those from Middle Corinthian plastic vase handles (Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, pl. 48, nos. 1-4, 8-9, 12, 15).

²³ Inv. C-54-7. Max. dim. 0.049 m. Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 320, nos. 1244 ff., fig. 160; *Corinth*, VII, i, p. 80, no. 361, pl. 43 (with snowstorm, Late Corinthian); P. N. Ure, *Aryballoi and Figurines from Rhitsona in Boeotia*, Reading University Studies, Cambridge, 1934, pl. VIII, 95.43, pp. 38-40 (Middle Corinthian, closest to our example).

²⁴ Inv. C-54-1. H. 0.045 m. to top of lip.

for its unusual scene and fine workmanship, but for its inscription, one of the longest we possess in archaic Corinthian letters. Since this aryballos is being discussed more fully at the end of this report (pp. 158-163), it will not be described further now. Another Middle Corinthian object from later fill is part of a plastic vase in the form of a duck (Pl. 60, No. 10).²⁵ The way in which the very neat feathers of the wings are formed suggest a date in the early part of the sixth century.²⁶

Objects of the Late Corinthian I period are two mesomphalic bowls. One (Pl. 60, No. 5),²⁷ with a linear decoration of concentric circles in the interior and parallel lines around the edge of the rim, comes from the poros chip fill. The other (Pl. 60, No. 6),²⁸ smaller and more crudely made, was found in the tile and block fill. From this fill also is a handle plate from a large krater decorated with a swan (Pl. 60, No. 7).²⁹ A linear aryballos in the white style (Pl. 60, No. 8),³⁰ also belonging to the Late Corinthian I period, came from the later fill.

Parts of a number of Type I lamps were recovered.³¹ All are wheel made and none seems to have had a handle. All are of unglazed soft pinkish or yellowish buff clay, typically Corinthian. Some (Pl. 60, Nos. 16, 20, 21) are from the poros chip fill, others from the tile and block fill (Pl. 60, Nos. 17, 18) and still others from disturbed fill in the same area (Pl. 60, No. 19). One (Pl. 60, No. 16)³² has no central socket. The only noticeable variation in the others is in the angle of the wall of the central hole. Type I lamps of this form are among the early examples and should not be later than the middle of the sixth century B.C. in date.³³ A Type XVI lamp, complete except for the handle (Pl. 60, No. 22),³⁴ came from later fill.

From the poros chip fill also, and therefore not later than the middle of the sixth century, is a miniature poros Doric capital (Pl. 61, a).³⁵ A number of poros tools

²⁵ Inv. C-54-11. Max. W. 0.039 m.

²⁶ See Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 75, fig. 20 (Middle Corinthian cock), pl. 34, 7 (Middle Corinthian shield), and pl. 39, 1, 3 (Late Corinthian I shield).

²⁷ Inv. C-54-2. Diam. 0.066 m.

²⁸ Inv. C-54-9. Diam. 0.033 m., H. 0.017 m.

²⁹ Inv. C-54-5. W. of handle plate 0.082 m. See *B.S.A.*, XLVIII, 1953, pl. 20, D 42, p. 57 for a similar one from the Agamemnoneion at Mycenae; for an earlier one (Middle Corinthian) see *Corinth*, VII, i, p. 76, pl. 40, no. 318.

³⁰ Inv. C-54-4. Max. H. 0.045 m. For the type see Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, p. 291, no. 641, fig. 127; *Hesperia*, VIII, 1939, p. 197, no. 1; Ure, *Aryballoi and Figurines from Rhitsona*, pl. V, 92.6, pp. 22-23, 27.

³¹ CL4022, CL4018 (Pl. 60, Nos. 17, 18) from the tile fill; CL4016, CL4019 (Pl. 60, Nos. 16, 20) from the poros chip fill; CL4017 (Pl. 60, No. 19) from fill of later date. See *Corinth*, IV, ii, pl. I, 11 and p. 32, fig. 14, profile 5.

³² CL4016 (Pl. 60, No. 16). *Corinth*, IV, ii, pl. I, 23.

³³ *Corinth*, IV, ii, p. 35.

³⁴ CL4023. This type first appeared in the Augustan period and lasted until the beginning of the second century after Christ (*Corinth*, IV, ii, p. 57, fig. 25, no. 230; p. 150, fig. 78, no. 204, and p. 59).

³⁵ Inv. MF9698. W. of abacus 0.06 m.

for polishing were also found in this fill (Pl. 61, b).³⁶ Some of them are much worn, others fairly fresh.

A few other unusual pieces were found in later fill. One is part of an interesting terracotta figurine of moderate size (Pl. 60, No. 14).³⁷ It consists of the upper portion of the front of the body of a female (?) figure. The figure wears a buff colored garment with a red cloak over its left shoulder. The flesh of the neck and right hand are pinkish. Clasped in the right hand, which is held in front of the body, originally was a deer, of which only the front legs and a bit of the body now are preserved. It seems likely that Artemis is represented. Such a figurine would be a suitable dedication for the temple.

Another terracotta, of very fine workmanship, is part of a plastic relief (Pl. 61, g),³⁸ possibly an architectural piece. Preserved are a portion of the forelegs and lower body of a lion on top of the upturned belly of another animal, perhaps a bull, of which only the belly and part of a hind leg remain. The modeling and finishing of the surface are excellently done. The lion is cream colored with reddish brown hair on the under side of its body; the other animal is covered with a light gray matt paint. Probably this piece dates in the late archaic period.³⁹

Three fragments from an imported vase of blue faience (Pl. 60, No. 15)⁴⁰ should also be mentioned. It is made of white clay, covered on both the interior and exterior with a vitreous blue glaze. The outer side is decorated with horizontal bands of reliefs. In one band is a table with supports in the form of animal legs. In the band below this is something which cannot be too certainly identified. Another piece preserves vertical raised ribs and what looks rather like the spreading branches of a palm tree. The third piece shows more ribs in what may be a continuation of the design on the second. A bit of the foot of the vase is preserved on the third fragment. Faience of this general sort is found in Greece in archaic times and later. The table is similar to one on the Phineus cup, although the parallel is not exact.⁴¹

THE EARLY ARCHAIC TEMPLE

As we have already seen, the debris from the earlier building extended along the roadway from one end to the other of the present temple. It would seem, therefore, that the first structure was of considerable size. Since it is unlikely that debris of this sort would be brought up to the hill from a lower level, it is probable that there was an earlier building on the hill. It would scarcely be built upon the prehistoric filling

³⁶ Inv. MF9699. H. 0.10 m. MF9700. H. 0.117 m.

³⁷ Inv. MF9690. Max. H. 0.099 m.

³⁸ Inv. MF 9691. Max. dim. 0.195 m.

³⁹ See Payne, *Necrocorinthia*, pl. 50, 3-4 for a stone lion from Corinth of an earlier date.

⁴⁰ Inv. C-54-15.

⁴¹ Ernst Pfuhl, *Malerei und Zeichnung der Griechen*, pl. 38, no. 164.

between the roadway and the present temple; the only place where it might find a firm foundation is at the top of the hill on the bedrock where the present temple is located. To ascertain if any traces for cuttings for it survived, the beddings of the present temple cut in the rock of the hilltop were cleaned this summer and examined. The cuttings for the later building have largely obliterated any others for an earlier structure, but enough was found to suggest that there was an earlier building with a cella approximately the same size and in much the same position as that of the present temple. Along the north edge of the bedding for the south cella wall of the present temple are to be seen very apparent traces of a cutting of earlier date and different type (Pl. 61, e). In contrast to the bedding, the side and floor of this cutting are roughly finished or, perhaps more accurately, are not finished. The bedding of the present temple is cut 0.05 m. below the floor of the other. Where the cross wall of the present building comes, the bedding has cut through and destroyed the traces of the earlier building. The older cutting may be traced the entire length of the bedding for the cella of the present temple. Its greatest preserved width is *ca.* 0.70 m.

In the bedding for the north wall of the present cella there are scantier traces of a similar earlier cutting along its north edge.⁴² These cuttings would give the overall dimensions for a cella without porch of *ca.* 10.90 m. x 33.20 m. No traces were found of cuttings for porch columns or for a colonnade or for interior arrangements. Presumably, if they existed, the beddings for the later structure have obliterated them.⁴³

Is it possible to reconstruct the superstructure of this earlier building? The debris which was piled upon the roadway consisted of fragmentary poros blocks, many pieces of terracotta roof tiles, mud bricks and a few small pieces of charred wood. Some of the blocks were calcined from fire but most were not. The bricks and tiles, however, show many traces of such a destruction, so we may assume that this early temple was destroyed by fire and that the blocks probably all came from the lower part of the building, from its wall socle.

The condition of all of the blocks is very fragmentary—only one preserves its original length and none its complete thickness. Most of the large pieces, however, preserve their height.⁴⁴

⁴² *Corinth*, I, i, pl. V shows traces of the earlier cutting in the bedding of the south cella wall, but not of that in the north bedding.

⁴³ On re-examination of the cuttings it seems doubtful that the road to the north turned and crossed the top of the hill as has been suggested (Scranton, *op. cit.*, p. 157). The marks thought to belong to a road could be the result of weathering. The new evidence of the course of the road to the west as well as the relationship of the road to the area along its south side also lead to this conclusion. It seems probable too that the earlier temple stood on this area which would have been crossed by the road if it had turned.

⁴⁴ The greater number of block fragments from the earlier structure and the largest pieces were found in trenches R.I, R.VI and W.V, Va, Vb. Unfortunately most of the blocks from Weinberg's trenches were destroyed during the war and were not available for study.

Two types of blocks were recognized. By far the greater number were from slabs which were apparently used in the socle of the wall (Pls. 61, f; 62, a). Six fragments, however, were cut down on either side of a central projecting band and may have been used to bed timbers (Pl. 62, c and d). Possibly they belong to the crowning course of the wall socle. Both types of blocks had parallel grooves for ropes cut on the lower surface and, in a few cases, around the end also (Pl. 62, b). The blocks are cut from a fine-grained, brownish white poros. The length of the slabs of the first type, as indicated by the one fully preserved specimen, was 0.78 m. (Pl. 62, a). The thickness may be calculated from several pieces which have one edge and both rope grooves (Pl. 61, f) as *ca.* 0.62 m.⁴⁵ The height of the slabs varies between 0.21 and 0.245 m., most of the blocks falling into two groups with heights of 0.21-0.22 m. and 0.23-0.24 m. respectively. Perhaps we have the remains of two courses of the socle. The blocks are comparatively roughly finished. The chisel marks are most apparent on the ends and on the lower surface in which the rope grooves are cut. On the top surface and sides they are largely smoothed away but even these sections are not finely finished. The grooves for the ropes are roughly chiselled out to a depth of *ca.* 0.03 m. and are 0.03-0.04 m. in width at the top with a slight taper to the bottom of the cut. The grooves are parallel and are usually set in *ca.* 0.10 m. from the edge, although this measurement varies.

A few fragments indicate that the exposed faces of the slabs were covered with stucco. On three pieces patches of a single coat of white stucco remain, while one small piece (Pl. 61, d) preserves polychrome decoration, possibly purple and black tongues separated by a thin stripe of white. The piece is too small to give any clue as to where this polychrome decoration was applied.

These slabs would have been laid lengthwise with the rope grooves on the resting surface. A piece which preserves stucco on its exposed face and a rope groove on the lower surface indicates this. The thickness of the wall, then, would have been *ca.* 0.62 m. If it was made up of two courses of slabs as suggested above, its height would have been *ca.* 0.45 m. There are no traces of clamps on the preserved ends of the blocks, but one small fragment has an iron pin (Pl. 61, c), probably a dowel; two pieces of such pins were found in the debris. Apparently dowelling was used sparingly, perhaps only for the slabs at the corners of the structure.

The other type of block consists of a slab similar to the first but cut down on each side of the top surface so that a projecting band is left in the center (Pl. 62, c and d). The best preserved piece provides us with some measurements. The height is 0.21 m. in all (0.13 m. to the cutting). The thickness of the band is 0.18 m. and of the cutting 0.22 m. so that the complete thickness may be restored as 0.62 m. Pre-

⁴⁵ Weinberg (*A.J.A.*, XLIII, 1939, p. 595) found a wall block of 0.70 m. It may be that one wall was thicker for some reason.

sumably the length was similar to that of the slabs, 0.78 m. The other fragments show slight variations as to measurements, one being as much as 0.24 m. in height. At first glance these block fragments suggest ceiling coffers, but that is hardly possible in such a brick and timber building. They would serve equally well as a crowning course of the socle with the cuttings designed to hold timbers on which the mud bricks of the wall were set. The correspondence in measurements with the slabs would bear this out. If so the complete socle would be *ca.* 0.66 m. in height (0.21 + 0.24 + 0.21 m.) and 0.62 m. in thickness.

The rope grooves present something of a problem in this reconstruction. It is difficult to understand why they were cut in light blocks destined for a socle which could have been set in place easily by two men. But it is more difficult to restore the blocks on the top of a mud brick wall. Perhaps the rope grooves were cut so that they might be lifted out of the quarry or onto carts more easily.

That the walls were constructed of mud brick is indicated by the large quantities of them found in the debris with the blocks and tiles. Unfortunately no complete brick was found but their height was normally 0.07 m. with a few being as much as 0.08 m. The greatest dimension obtained was 0.27 m. so it is possible that a single large brick *ca.* 0.60 m. in width or two, *ca.* 0.30 m. in width, set side by side were used.⁴⁶ Straw and some grits were used as filler in the bricks but they contained no sherds.

The roof of the building was of terracotta tiles. As has already been mentioned they were of unusual form. Tiles from the ridge (Pl. 62, g), slopes (Pl. 62, e), hips (Pl. 62, f) and edges have been recovered. They are combination tiles, that is, each consists of a cover and a pan joined together into a single piece. This is not in itself unusual in the archaic period, particularly at Corinth. What is noteworthy is the fact that the pans instead of being flat have a concave curve, while the covers instead of having straight sides joining at an angle to form a ridge have a convex curve. That is common enough in separate tiles but most unusual in combination tiles. This is true not only of the tiles on the slopes but also of those on the ridge. The hip tiles combine both curved and angular elements as well as having cover and pan in a single piece. Moreover the eaves tiles forming the edge of the roof change gradually within the space of a single tile from the curved variety to the flat and angular type. The edge of the roof seems to have been undecorated, although some of the other tiles were covered with a black or reddish brown glaze and it is possible that there may have been a glazed band around the roof at some point on the slope. These tiles are certainly earlier in form and construction than those from Thermon, Kalydon, and Corcyra, so that they must go back beyond the last quarter of the seventh century in date. Perhaps the fact that the earliest Corinthian pottery found in connection with them is Late Proto-Corinthian is significant. Unusual as they are, they are not an isolated phenomenon, for some of a

⁴⁶ The bricks used in the city wall core at Corinth, much later in date (late 4th c.), are 0.28 m. in thickness.

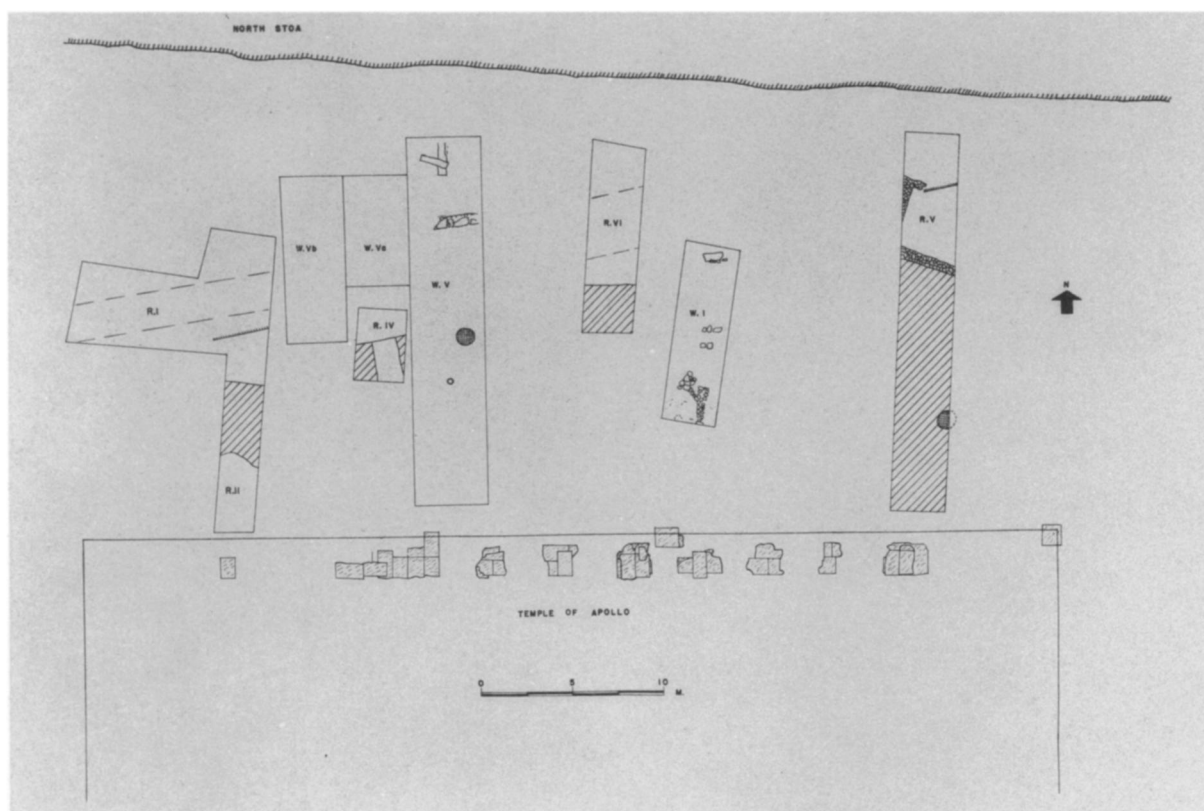
similar type were found at Perachora and just this last spring a large number, so similar as to be interchangeable with ours, were found in the excavations at Isthmia along with poros blocks like ours (see above, p. 112).

We should then envisage this early building as set on a low stone socle with mud brick walls and timber construction. These were topped by a very heavy terracotta roof with hips at least at one end, apparently not yet decorated along the edges with the Corinthian designs later to become so popular. Perhaps it had a porch and colonnade but no identifiable fragments of stone columns were found in 1954.⁴⁷ The apparent location of the structure and its construction make it almost certain that it too was a temple. The nature of the finds from the poros chip and tile and block fills, as well as from the later filling to the north of the roadway, strengthen this identification. They are very suitable to a temple area and may well come from temple dedications and deposits. It is to be hoped that the rest of the area may be excavated in the near future since it holds promise of much valuable early archaic material.

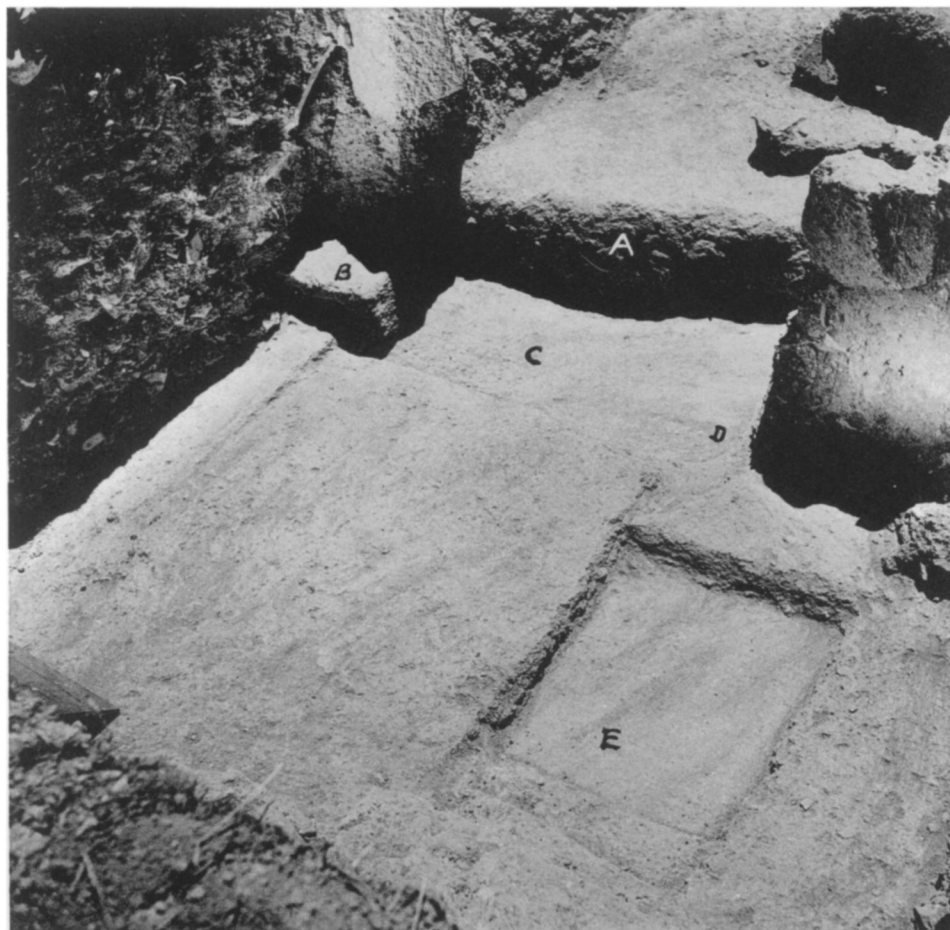
MARY CAMPBELL ROEBUCK

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

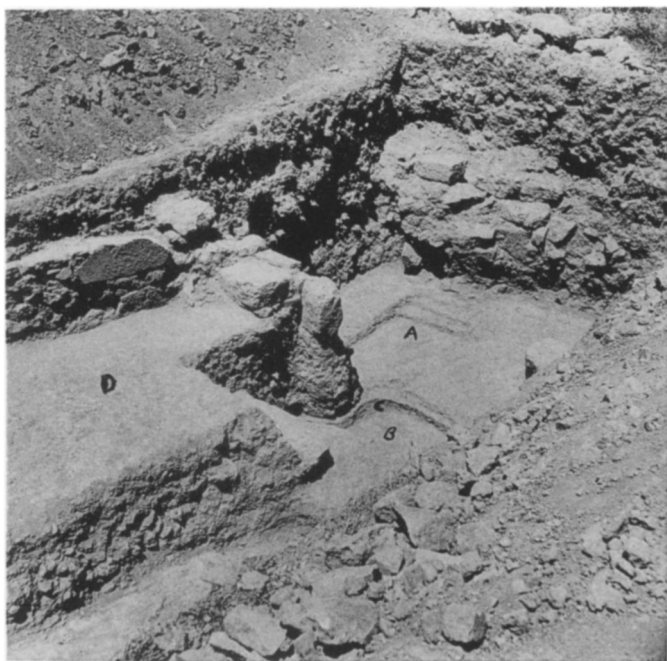
⁴⁷ Mr. Weinberg reports some fragments of hexagonal columns were found in his trenches; unfortunately they have disappeared.



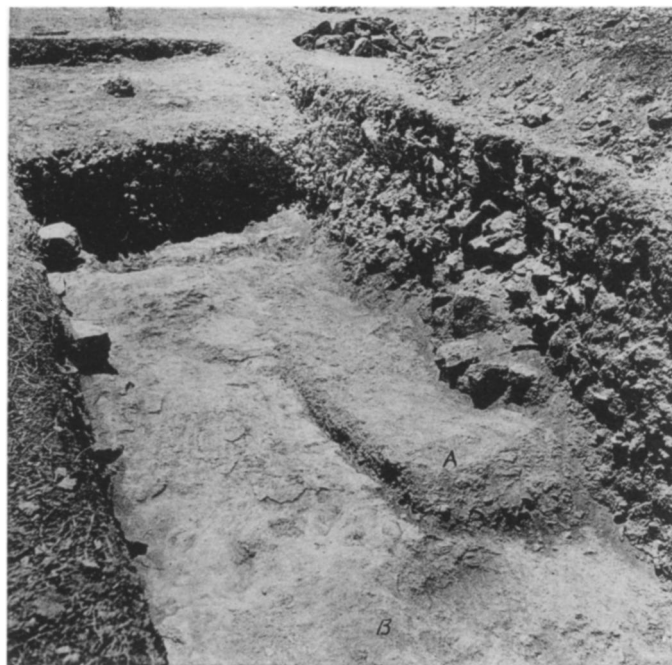
a. Trenches North of Temple of Apollo



b. Trench R.V, North End, looking South



a. Trench R.V, North End, looking North



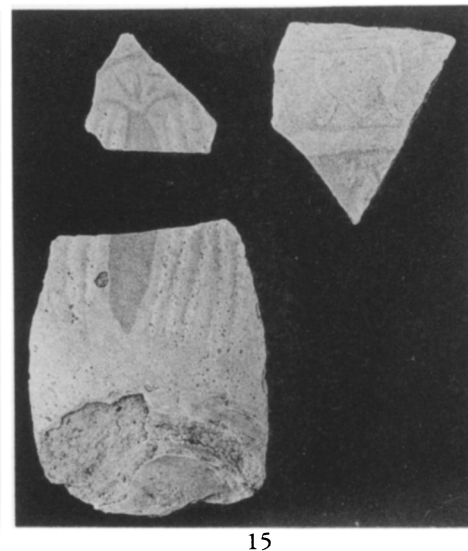
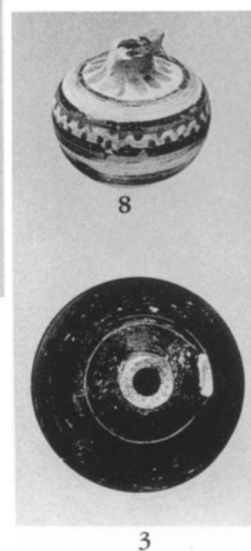
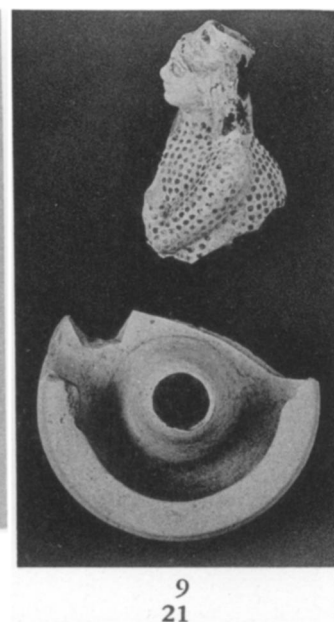
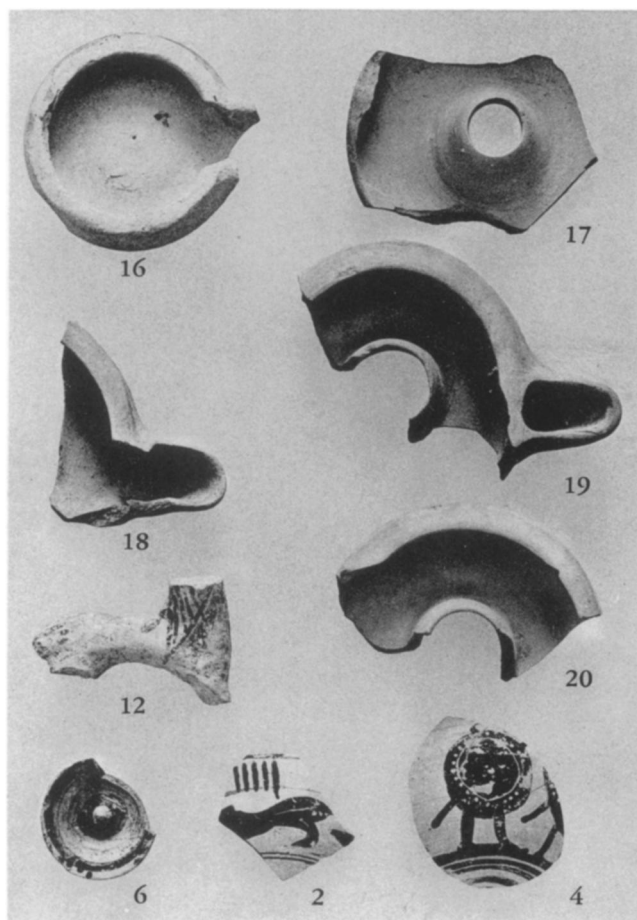
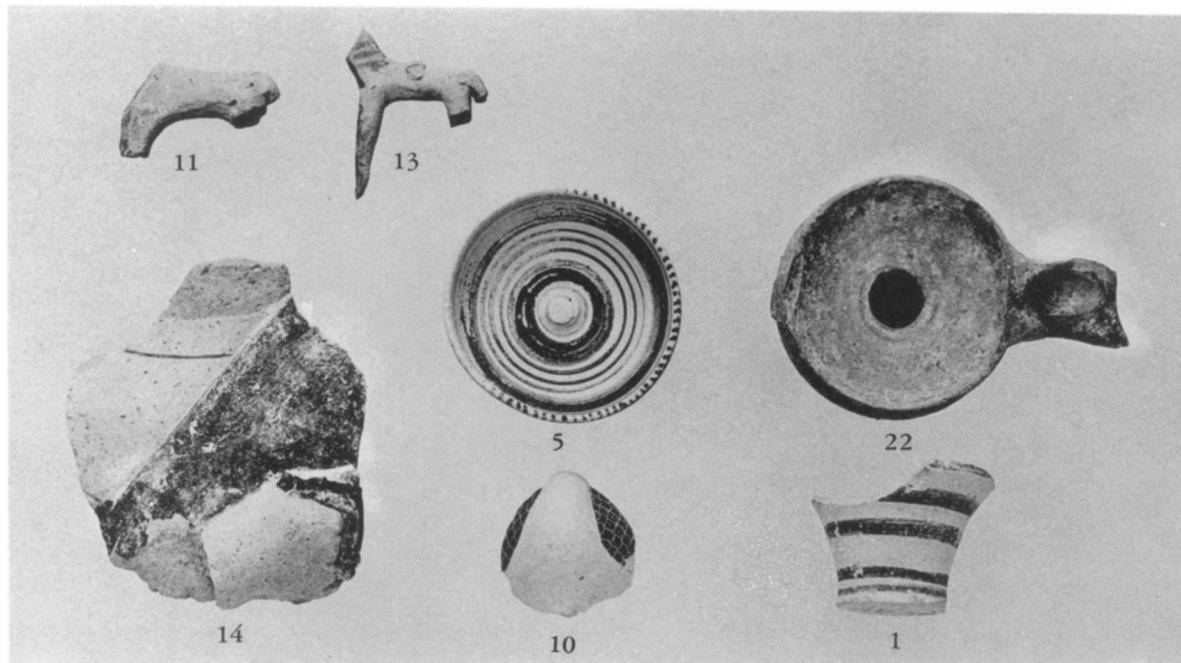
b. Trench R.VI, looking South



c. Trench R.I, looking East



d. Trench R.V, looking South



Objects from Tile and Block and Poros Chip Fills



a. Miniature Capital from Poros Chip Fill



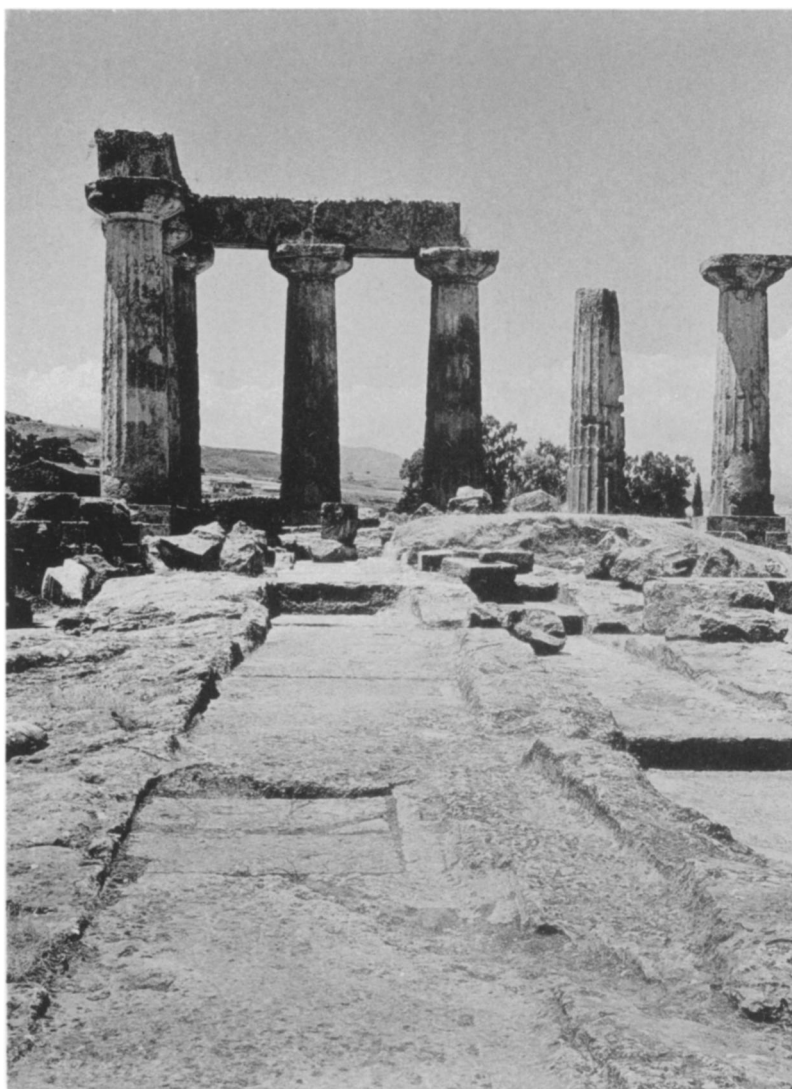
b. Poros Tools from Poros Chip Fill



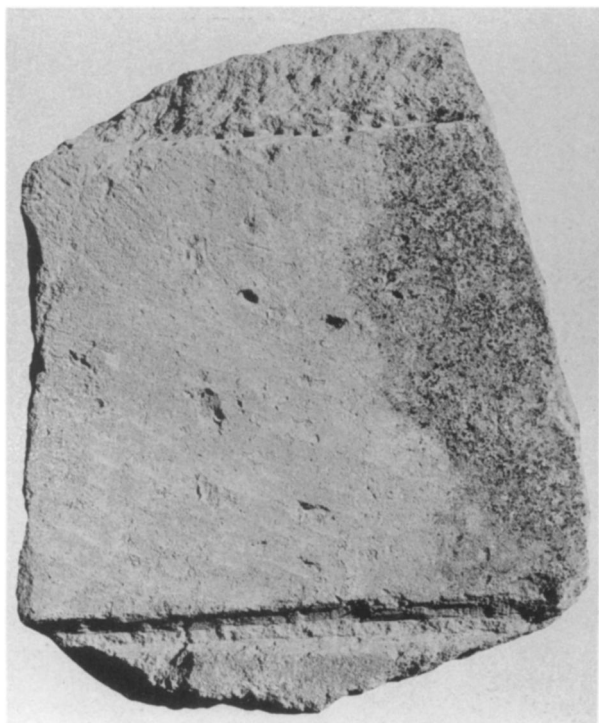
c. Dowel in Wall Block



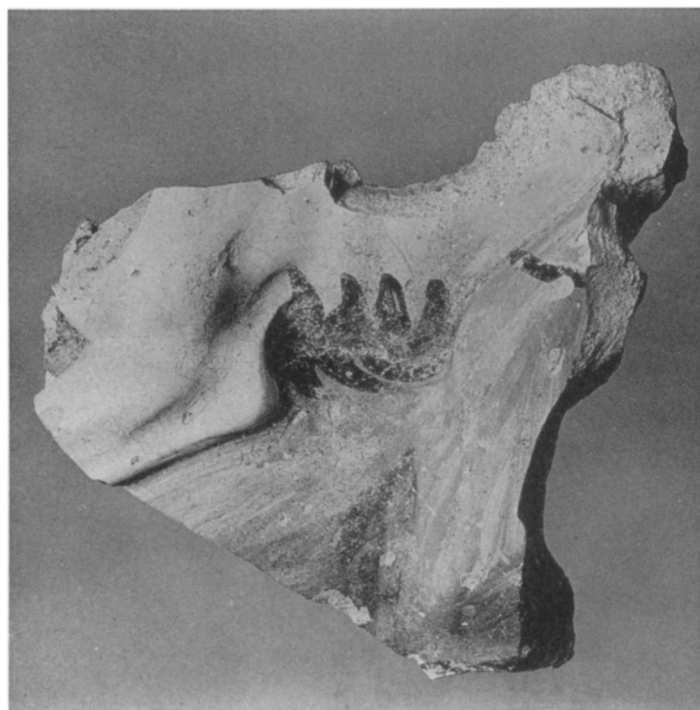
d. Painted Stucco on Wall Block



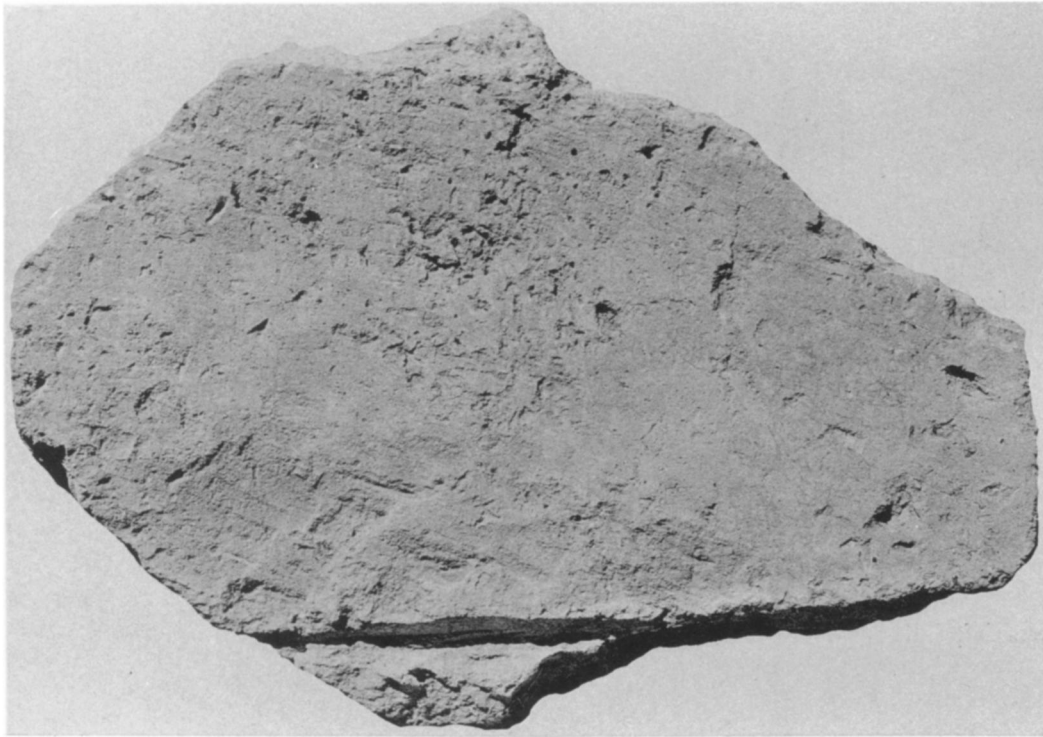
e. Temple of Apollo, showing cuttings for Earlier Temple



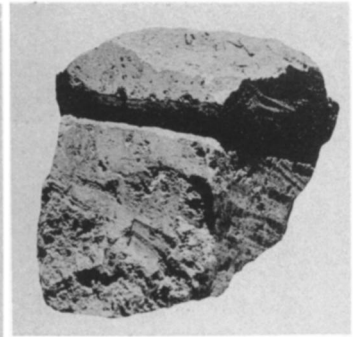
f. Lower Surface of Block of Wall Socle



g. Fragmentary Terracotta Relief



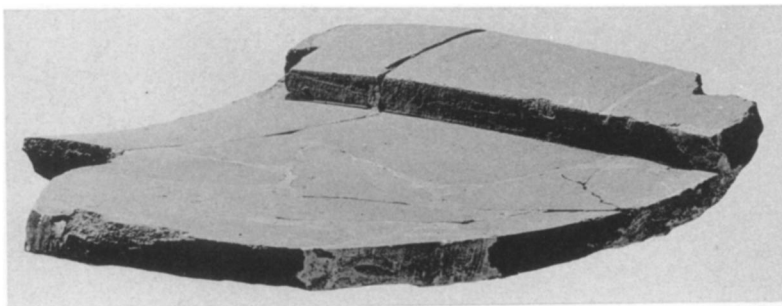
a. Lower Surface of Block of Wall Socle



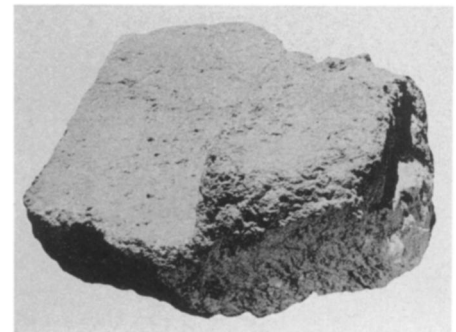
b. Rope cuttings



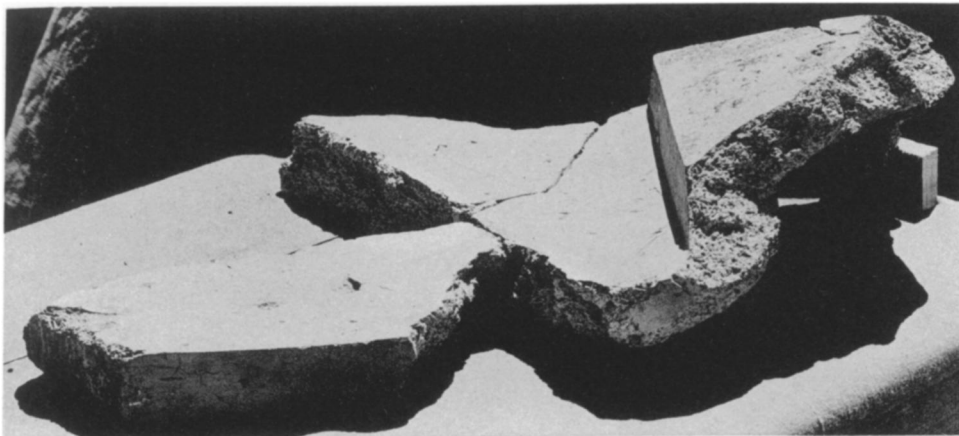
c. Fragment of Wall Block



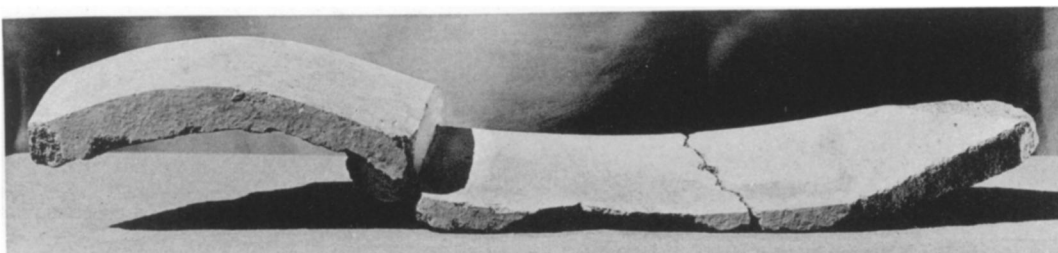
e. Combination Tile from Slope of Roof



d. Fragment of Wall Block



f. Hip Tile



g. Ridge Tile