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The Third Season of Excavations at VIII.7.1-15 and the *Porta Stabia* at Pompeii: Preliminary Report

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In 2007, the Pompeii Archaeological Research Project: *Porta Stabia* (PARP:PS) continued its campaign to uncover the structural and social history of *insula* VIII.7.1-15 and the *Porta Stabia* with a third season of archaeological excavations. Five trenches were strategically located with the aim of clarifying the temporal and spatial definitions and relationships of certain properties within the area. Trench 11000 was opened in the street-side room (Room 11) of property VIII.7.5; trench 12000 was located in the entire front room (Room 32) of VIII.7.7-8; trenches 13000 and 15000 were opened in the rear premises of VIII.7.9-11 (Rooms 56 and 55, respectively); and trench 14000 was opened within the *Porta Stabia* (fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Location of the trenches for each field season.

The following preliminary report, therefore, continues our tradition of publishing an initial phased narrative for each of our excavated trenches, and naturally anticipates the more thorough and considered monograph that will follow our final season of excavations[1]. Each trench is here organised by phase, although each treatment should be considered preliminary as we await a more comprehensive analysis of the ceramic and numismatic material. While our project has invested much time and resources into recovering and analysing the artefactual and bio-archaeological record, as well as conducting a comprehensive architectural and Total Station survey of the standing architecture and subterranean features, much of our reporting of those activities, if even at the preliminary level, must necessarily await the results of our forthcoming 'study seasons'.

Trench 11000:

Trench 11000 was located immediately inside doorway VIII.7.5, occupying the entire surface area of Room 11, and represents our first stratigraphical exploration of this property (fig. 2)[2]. In addition to the trench, some deep surface cleaning was carried out in the surrounding rooms (12-13) and sidewalk to clarify various structural relationships. One of the main objectives for opening Trench 11000 was to investigate further the southern property wall (WF 82)[3] which divided this space from the property at VIII.7.1-4 and which we have been focusing on for the past two years from the other side (Trenches 1000, 5000, and 6000)[4].

[1] DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007.
[2] Trench 11000 was excavated under the supervision of Nick Ray (University of Leicester).
[3] WF = Wall Face. The authors prefer to use the term 'wall face', rather than simply 'wall', as the latter can be less specific and prove misleading, particularly as a wall can cover several trenches, and divide several rooms. To refer to a wall face, on the other hand, enables one to more easily define and locate a specific segment of a wall on such complex urban sites.
[4] See DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007.

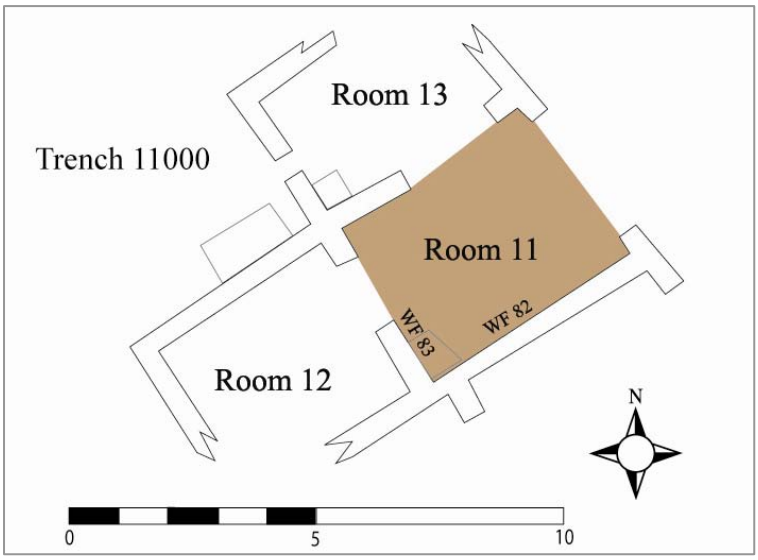

Fig. 2. Trench 11000 (Room 11).

Phase 1: Earliest Sequence of Packed Earth Surfaces

In almost every trench that we have opened across the *insula* thus far, the earliest structures and deposits were found to have been formed directly upon the ubiquitous Pompeian lava plateau. In Trench 11000, however, a considerable (around 0.40 m) layer of sterile soil (SU 11144) was deposited over the lava and natural volcanic material (SU 11173), upon which the first earthen floor surfaces (SU 11204) were constructed (fig. 3). The sterility of the soil deposit (SU 11144) might suggest it was a natural accumulation before construction began in this area, but it lacked any direct sign of organic matter that is usually present in such natural layers. More likely, the thickness of this deposit may have resulted from the need to create a level platform over an otherwise uneven topography to enable construction and other activities, and its sterility represents a specific choice made by the builders to not use what seems to have been the more common levelling fill – dump deposits made up of construction debris.

Fig. 3. Earliest sequence of deposits and surfaces for Trench 11000.

The earliest earthen surfaces in the area comprise at least three different floors, each topped by a smear of lime mortar (fig. 3 – SU 11204). No spatial definitions for the extent of these ephemeral surfaces were evident, nor did any physical connections with standing walls survive due to later subsurface developments in the area. As with most of these earliest layers in this dense urban neighbourhood, while we are able to recover them archaeologically, they more or less exist in stratigraphic isolation from later developments.

Phase 2: Definition of Space

Fig. 4. Remains of the Phase 2 opus incertum *wall (SU 11065).*

It is in the second phase that we can detect evidence for the organization of the space which would essentially remain fixed throughout the subsequent history of the *insula*. The dimensions and boundaries of this square room at the front of the property were established and the packed earthen surfaces of the previous phase were cut for a long *opus incertum* wall (SU 11065) that was installed along the north side of the trench (fig. 4). The latest earthen surface of Phase 1 must have continued to have been used after the construction of this wall since we were able to identify that some of the very earliest wall plaster lipped down over it.

At this time, the southern property wall (WF 82) and the western wall (WF 83) were probably built (although the relationship of the wall plasters suggests the southern property wall was built sequentially first). Later developments in the area obliterated any direct physical connections between the northern wall (SU 11065) and these other walls, but sequential relationships and similar construction techniques and elevations imply a shared phase for the complete enclosure of this area by these walls to form a space that opened onto the *Via Stabiana*.

Fig. 5. The masonry tank that occupied the northwest corner of the trench.

Fig. 6. The central pit from Phase 3 of Trench 11000.

Phase 3: First Industrial Phase

A small tank was installed along the west (back) wall (WF 83) of the room in Phase 3 (fig. 5). It was associated with a new earthen floor and cut through all of the earlier earthen floors below it. A round pit of about a metre in diameter was also set into the very centre of the space that must have also been associated with whatever industrial or semi-industrial activity occurring here in this phase (fig. 6). The poor state of preservation for these features gave no indication as to what the tank or pit could have been used for, but unlike all of the other tanks we have found before, this tank never seems to have had any plaster lining.

Phase 4: Industrial Re-organisation

In the fourth phase the space was modified, and probably also the associated activities. The tank in the western end of the room went out of use and was filled by a dump of soil mixed with broken ceramics. Next, the whole area was sealed by a new earthen surface whose date points to sometime during or after the late first century BCE. The industrial character of the space, however, continued with the introduction of two new tanks of similar dimensions that were sunk into the southern half of the room along the southern property wall (WF 82) (fig. 7). Both of these tanks incorporated WF 82 as one of their sides. Again, there was no surviving indication for what the tanks may have contained. As with the earlier tank along the western wall, neither of these two tanks were lined with plaster.

Fig. 7. The two tanks against the southern wall (WF 82) of Trench 11000.

Phase 5: From Industrial to Commercial Activities

One of the more enduring trends that is recognizable across the entire *insula* is a late first century BCE / early first century CE transition from industrial to commercial activities, a phenomenon that we will explore in greater detail in forthcoming public-

ations[5]. The results from Trench 11000 are no exception to this pattern. The two tanks were buried with fill deposits and sealed, along with all traces of their associated earthen surfaces, by an *opus signinum* floor surface. This sequence was precisely the same as that which we have witnessed across the *insula* whereby tanks and other industrial features associated with earthen floors were destroyed and replaced by commercial spaces associated with *opus signinum* floors.

A drain was installed with the new *opus signinum* floor. This suggests a larger, property-wide reorganization including the course of the drain throughout the building. The channel for the drain issued from the property through a small gap (SU 11147) at the southern end of the threshold from the street (fig. 8). A corresponding notch had been cut into the sidewalk's curbstone to facilitate the flow of the liquid waste into the street.

A very shallow *opus signinum* basin (SU 11061) was also installed with the new floor in the northwest corner of the room (fig. 9). There is no indication of what this basin may have been used for, but it will be present through the following phase.

Fig. 8. The outlet' of the Phase 5 drain from Trench 11000, through SU 11147, onto the via Stabiana (photo taken from the via Stabiana).

Fig. 9. The shallow opus signinum *basin from Phase 5 in the northwest corner of Trench 11000. Note the Phase 6 instillation of the amphora (SU 11021).*

Phase 6: Substantial re-organisation

Along with the pouring of a new layer of *opus signinum* flooring, almost every wall associated with Room 11 of Trench 11000 underwent a substantial rebuilding in phase 6, while maintaining their existing alignment. This rebuilding destroyed most of the *opus signinum* basin from Phase 5 in the northwest corner of Room 11. While the edges of the basin were left intact, the rest was smashed and an amphora embedded in its centre (fig. 9). This vessel had an intact bottom that was filled with a black silty sediment, of which 15% of its total matrix consisted of rodent bones.[6] This wholesale reconstruction of the space, which still maintained the original layout and design, is suggestive of the repair associated with the earthquake damage of 62 CE, and its aftershocks, that we see elsewhere throughout the city.[7] Indeed our ceramic chronologies from this phase support this interpretation.

Trench 12000:

Trench 12000 was located immediately inside doorway VIII.7.7-8 and occupied the entire northern half of Room 32 and some sections of its southern side (fig. 10)[8]. As with Trench 11000, our excavations here represent the first stratigraphical exploration in a previously un-investigated property. Our main objectives were to explore the use of this large street-side room and to delineate the structural relationship between this room and its southern neighbour

[5] For example, ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.
[6] This material is presently under analysis, and is the subject of a forthcoming article by Emily Holt and Susan Palazzo.
[7] For the structural damage to the city, see ANDREAU 1973; ALLISON 1995; MARTINI 1998. On the post-seismic activity at Pompeii, see FRÖHLICH-JACOBELLI 1995.
[8] Trench 12000 was excavated under the supervision of Gina Tibbott (George Washington University).

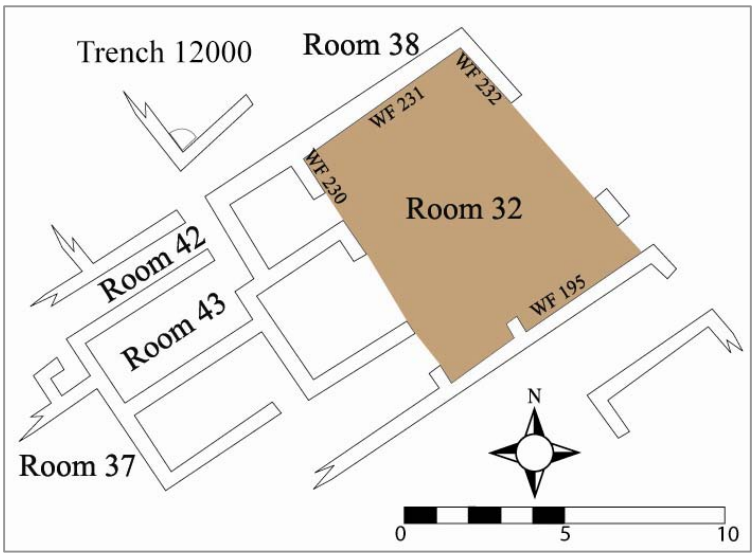

Fig. 10. Trench 12000 (Room 32).

Fig. 11. The earliest earthen floor sequence found in the northwest corner of the room, and as partly defined by the remains of the shallow wall seen at the far left of the image.

(beyond WF 195) at VIII.7.5-6, as well as that of its northern neighbour (beyond WF 231, a major partition wall for the insula) at VIII.7.9-11[9].

Phase 1: Earliest Constructions

The northern property wall of Trench 12000 (WF 231) was built directly atop the lava plateau foundation that exists across this area of Pompeii (see fig. 16). Built of *opus incertum* it did not possess any discernable foundation trench – probably given the hardness of the bedrock – but clearly represents the earliest substantial construction for this area, and possibly for the *insula* itself since this wall also represents a major longstanding division in the neighbourhood, neatly dividing the entire *insula* in half. This wall also was the most enduring feature that would determine the subsequent developments within Trench 12000.

Because of the lack of a construction trench, direct dating for this property wall was impossible except through associated contexts. The ephemeral remains of a small room with an earthen floor and shallow walls sat in the northwest corner of Trench 12000, all of which were also built directly atop the lava plateau (fig. 11). Pottery within this floor surface provided a *terminus post quem* of around the second half of the II century BC. It is not clear, of course, how long the property wall may have been standing before this early room was built.

Phase 2: The Industrial Phase

It is quite possible that an industrial tank (with internal measurements of 1.75m long, 0.9m wide, and about 1m deep) found during excavations in the eastern side of the trench, just inside the threshold from the street, is contemporary with the small room of Phase 1 (fig. 12). The bottom of the tank was built onto the lava plateau, but disturbance from later building activities has complicated its stratigraphic sequencing with the various phases. It is thus unclear if the tank had been constructed at the level of the lava plateau (and so, early in the sequence) or cut down into that level from above (and so, naturally, later).

This tank shares many of the characteristics with the tank found in the property to the north at entrance 7-8[10] and, significantly, with a number of similar tanks found elsewhere throughout the city (I.8.8, I.9.11, I.12.3, II.1.1/13, VI.1.2, VI.1.5, VI.1.17, VII.9.49, and VII.9.50)[11]. All of these tanks, and so ours included, are notable for the following:

- they were always located just inside the street-front threshold
- they were plaster lined, and of much the same size

[9] For the excavation of that space, Room 38, see Trench 3000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE *forthcoming*.
[10] See Trench 3000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.
[11] For the examples at Insula VI.1, see the preliminary report in JONES-ROBINSON 2005: 271.

- they were all partly destroyed, filled in, and sealed by a new surface that was usually given over to retailing early in the first century CE[12].

Fig. 12. The Phase 2 tank found just inside the threshold to Room 32, and the two cisterns from Phase 5.

This tank was structurally, and we believe functionally, distinct from the tanks associated with phases 3 and 4 from Trench 11000.

Fig. 13. The partial remains of the eastward flowing drain from Phase 3.

Phase 3: The First Drain

Another spatially isolated feature found during excavations was the remains of a long, well-made drain that ran eastward from the back of the property, along the northern property wall (WF 231), to empty onto the street (fig. 13). It was constructed mostly of plaster and a small amount of masonry. Another stretch of this drain was excavated in 2006[13] where it illustrated how that area (Room 43 and the corridor, 42) had a clear connection with Rooms 44-46, at least, in the back of the property; these premises would eventually be absorbed into the property of the northern neighbour at VIII.7.9-11. Although this drain was likely in use while the tank from Phase 2 continued to be maintained, its construction certainly obliterated the small room from Phase 1.

Phase 4: The Loss of Space

A wall to the west (WF 230) and a property façade wall to the east (WF 232) were constructed in this phase to define the boundaries of Room 32 (see fig. 10). These new walls, built to flank the northern property wall (WF 231), are important because they segmented the drain from Phase 3, rendering it inoperable. Additionally, it is during this phase that this property lost its back rooms (Rooms 42-47) due to the expansionist policies of their neighbour to the north[14]. The northern property wall (WF 231) also received some repair at this time.

The elevations of the foundations of these new walls, and their associated earthen floor surfaces, suggest that it is in this phase that the tank from Phase 2 went out of use and was filled in.

Because the drain from Phase 3 was rendered inoperable once this property no longer maintained access to the origin of that drain, another less substantial drain fragment was found above those remains of the earlier drain in the northeastern corner of the room (fig. 14). While this feature was considerably incomplete, its presence may suggest that there was some continuity between Phases 3 and 4 in the room before the wholesale switch to commercial activity in the next phase.

[12] Our surest dating evidence for the tanks found elsewhere throughout Pompeii is courtesy of Paolo Carafa who excavated the examples known at Insula VII.9. The authors extend their appreciation to Prof. Carafa for sharing with us his preliminary results. Cf. the brief statements in JONES-ROBINSON 2007: 394.

[13] See Trench 7000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006 and ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007.

[14] See Trench 7000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.

It was also in this phase that a single column was installed in the centre of Room 32, with a diameter of 0.45m, and preserved to a height of about 0.2m. The column was built of brick and sat on a mortar base, surviving until 79 CE (fig. 15).

Fig. 14. The later drain, at left, from Phase 4.

Fig. 15. The column base from toward the centre of Room 32.

Fig. 16. The remains of the cistern, at right, as built against the northern wall (WF 231) of Room 32.

Fig. 17. The double-drain from Phase 5.

Phase 5: The Commercial Phase

Although the general dimensions of Room 32 in Trench 12000 remained the same, Phase 5 represents a tremendous change in the scale and function of the space. Virtually all traces of the lesser drain from phase 4 were deliberately removed via a long cut into the surface along the entire length of the northern property wall (WF 231). Two massive cisterns were then installed, effectively obliterating large sections of earlier archaeology (which caused much of the uncertainty around the stratigraphy and phasing of the earlier phases in this trench) (see fig. 12). One cistern ran north-south along the entire length of Room 32 to abut the northern property wall (WF 231), actually using the lower foundations of the wall as the northern side of its structure (fig. 16). It was over 6.5 metres long, 2.7 metres wide, and about 1.5 metres deep with a vaulted roof. Its average wall thickness was 0.22 metres. The construction of this cistern, at least, must have involved a dedication since three votive cups were recovered from within the massive crater that was excavated in antiquity for its construction. In the southern half of the room this massive cistern connected to the second cistern that was of comparable dimensions but ran east-west along the southern property wall (WF 195; see fig. 12). Both cisterns were lined inside with plaster

and completely concealed under an extensive levelling surface for the *opus signinum* floor. Together the cisterns represent a single system of liquid storage with a single access hole for both built into the southern cistern.

Constructed directly on the *opus signinum* surface, but seemingly still part of this general phase, an equally impressive double-drain ran from the back of the truncated property eastward along the southern corridor of the property to the *Via Stabiana* (fig. 17). One channel had a terracotta pipe access hole that could funnel liquid directly into the southernmost cistern via its single access hole. The second channel – constructed later than the first, but probably as part of the same general event – ran alongside the first before joining it beyond the access hole to the cisterns, flowing as a single channel into the road (fig. 18).

The sheer scale of these cisterns raises immediate questions about the sorts of activities that would require such an effort to store such quantities of water. Their size is a direct inversion of the amount of space now under the control of this property, particularly after the loss of presumably half of the original property from Phase 4. The cisterns must have satisfied more than domestic purposes. The wide street-side entrance and replacement of the industrial activities with an *opus signinum* floor suggests a conversion to a more commercial operation. In the 2008 season we will investigate the origin of the drains, in Room 37, that filled these cisterns to try and understand better the purpose and function of these works. Earlier cleaning of Room 37 provided some evidence that at least one of the drain channels came from a down-pipe that funnelled rainwater from the roof, but no stratigraphic exploration has yet been made[15].

Fig. 18. Detail of the later attachment of the second drain, at right.

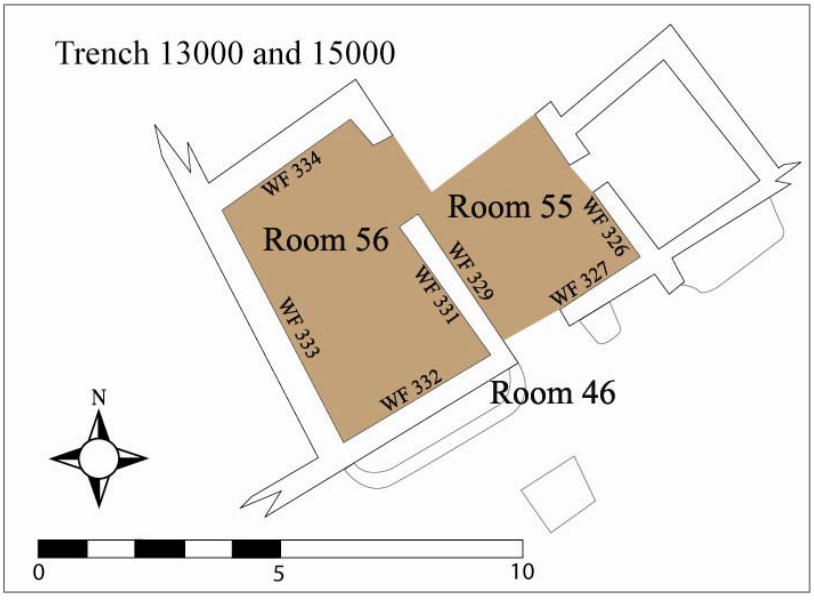

Fig. 19. Trenches 13000 (Room 56) and 15000 (Room 55).

Trenches 13000 and 15000:

Trench 13000 extended over the entire rear room (Room 56) of property VIII.7.9-11 whose western wall (WF 333) abutted against the eastern suite of rooms of the *Quadriporticus* (fig. 19)[16]. This trench was excavated to provide an understanding of the relationship between the property and the *Quadriporticus*. The division wall with property 7-8 demarcated its southern boundary (WF 332). It was therefore hoped that the strategic location for this trench might provide a date for the division between the two properties. Given our developing understanding of the range of retail activities for this property from the 2006 season of excavations[17], it was hoped that this trench might also confirm the role of this room as a dining or reception space.

Trench 15000 was an extension of Trench 13000, opened after it was discovered that the time taken to complete the earlier trench would be limited due to spatial constraints and because of the uncovering of extensive masonry features across much of Trench 13000. Trench 15000 was then opened in the room directly to the east of Trench 13000, in Room 55, to uncover more of a series of partially exposed features and to further reveal the developmental history of the division wall with the southern neighbour at property 7-8 (fig. 19). Given that one trench was simply the extension

[15] Cf. Eschebach 1984.
[16] Trenches 13000 and 15000 were excavated under the supervision of Kevin Dicus (University of Michigan).
[17] See Trench 7000 in Ellis-Devore 2006; Ellis-Devore *et al* 2007; and Ellis-Devore forthcoming.

of the other, and that the broad phasing married across each trench, they will be discussed together in this report.

Phase 1: Earliest Activity Prior to the Quadriporticus

Only a small part of a north-south aligned Sarno stone wall survives to represent the earliest phase for both trenches. This wall was discovered under the southern wall (WF 332) of Trench 13000, cut into natural soil (fig. 20). Some hard packed clay that was found in association with the wall stub might suggest an associated floor surface. Although a construction trench was revealed, none of the few artefacts recovered from it were of any assistance for dating the wall's construction. A cleaning of the area to the south of this room, Room 46 in property VIII.7.7-8, revealed that the wall likely terminated at the (later) property division of WF 332 and so did not extend further south. The wall projected about 80cm north from its junction beneath the later WF 332 but was sheered off during building activities for the following phase.

Fig. 20. Remains of the early Sarno stone wall from Phase 1.

Phase 2: The Tannery

Many more significant developments can be recognized in the second phase for both trenches. To begin, the shape of each space was defined through the construction of all the walls that would remain in use until 79 CE (see fig. 19). The first of these was the easternmost wall of the eastern suite of rooms of the *Quadriporticus* (WF 333), whose earliest possible construction dates from the second half of the second century BCE. The creation of the *Quadriporticus*, as a consequence, signals the close of Phase 1 as it destroyed the earlier Sarno wall, which had been just 0.5 m to the east. Had this wall delineated the edge of a room that earlier extended to the west, then it would represent another area that had been truncated for the construction of the *Quadriporticus* in the northern half of the *insula*[18].

With the *Quadriporticus* built, a large industrial operation was installed against this back wall of the property, configured as a room (Room 56) now for the first time with the construction of the three other walls of Trench 13000 (WFs 331, 332, 334; see fig. 19). Four large circular tanks (each measuring close to 1 metre in diameter and about 1.4m in depth) were installed, arranged in pairs in a cloverleaf pattern, lined with plaster, and occupying the northern two thirds of Room 56 (fig. 21). Each had footholds built into the side walls to facilitate access, while a walking platform ran between them and along their southern limit (fig. 22). The room now functioned as a tannery (*conceria*), and this identification marks it as only the second known tannery in Pompeii[19], and one of only five in all of Italy[20].

Fig. 21. The arrangement of the four circular tanks that occupied the northern portion of Room 56.

Fig. 22. Detail from the inside of one of the tanks. Note the 'foothold' built into the side wall.

[18] See Trench 9000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE *forthcoming*.
[19] The other is nearby at I.5.2. On that tannery, see BORGARD *et al.* 2005: 303-306; and BORGARD *et al.* 2003: 13-18.
[20] We would like to thank our friend and colleague, Jean-Pierre Brun, an expert on Roman tanneries, for his enthusiasm for our discovery and, especially, for sharing so much of his vast knowledge on the topic with us.

Fig. 23. Aerial view of Room 56, illustrating the primary features from Phase 2: the four tanks, the stone-lined rectangular tank (top right of room), and the original (although blocked in Phase 3) doorway.

Fig. 24. Detail of the rectangular tank from Phase 2.

Finally, a low *opus signinum* platform in the southeast corner of the room probably served as a work-surface. A purpose-built hole in WF 327 directly above the feature further confirms the association of activities in the neighbouring room (room 46)[21]. Since the drain beneath this feature channelled waste to the stone-lined tank in Room 56, the hides must have been treated in the tanning tanks in Room 56 and then processed and cleaned in Room 55 (with the waste draining into the tannery space).

Phase 3: The Dining Phase

In the late Augustan era, according to the ceramic data, the configuration and use of space in each room was significantly redeveloped. The four tannery tanks, as well as the rectangular tank in the southeast corner of Trench 13000, were filled with a massive dump of building debris and sealed with an

Of significance is the fact that this tannery did not survive until the end of the city, as had the larger tannery at I.5.2, but was instead replaced with a completely different kind of space in Phase 3.

Associated with these tanks was a rectangular stone-lined tank, located in the southeast corner of Room 56 (figs. 23-24). A drain ran from this tank through WF 331 to connect with another drain in the room to the east (Room 55 in Trench 15000), thereby linking the phases and activities of each room, which is to be expected given that space, otherwise unavailable in Room 56 because of the tanks, would have been necessary to prepare the skins for tanning. Access between the two spaces was through a doorway in the centre of WFs 331/329, which would eventually be blocked in the following phase (see figs 23 and 25).

As with Room 56 in Trench 13000, a series of walls were constructed to define Room 55 during this second phase (an eastern wall – WF 326, a southern wall – WF 327, and the shared western wall with Trench 13000 – WF 329; see fig. 19). A mortar floor was laid across the entire room, although modern disturbance has removed it from the northeast corner of the space (fig. 25). A pitch-sealed amphora base was sunk into this surface, toward the middle of the room (fig. 26). A narrow wall was built directly on top of this floor, extending from the west wall (WF 329) eastward approximately 1.2 metres. The masonry base of a staircase also belongs to these developments, at the eastern side of Room 55. This masonry platform was also built directly on top of the mortared surface without any use of a construction trench.

Fig. 25. The original mortar floor of Room 55. Note the original doorway into Room 56, later blocked.

[21] Trench 2000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005 and ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007.

opus signinum floor that extended across the entire room. The small doorway was blocked up and to the north of it a larger doorway was opened into Room 56 (see fig. 23). This wider entrance was now aligned with the long central passageway through the property and, as a result, visually connected with the street. It was in this phase that the owners of this property probably acquired the rear suite of rooms at the back of the neighbouring property to the south at VIII.7.7-8 (Rooms 42-47, at least)[22]. The area of Trench 15000, for which all of the (industrial) features were also sealed by a fine *opus signinum* floor in this phase, was converted into a passageway with access into the southern garden and dining space (Room 46) that was complete with a masonry *triclinium* couch, water displays, and a kitchen[23].

These changes represent a considerable departure from the formerly industrial use of space. Instead of a small-scale tannery tucked into the back of the property and accessible only through a discrete entrance, these rear spaces were now incorporated more openly with the entire property, becoming more of a destination at the end of the central corridor to the property and visible – perhaps enticingly so – from the street-side itself. This abandonment of industrial activities for commercial ones is evidenced in all of the trenches thus far excavated in this property, and suggests the property had become a restaurant or perhaps an early type of guild-hall (?)[24].

Fig. 26. The pitch-sealed amphora base sunk into the earliest floor of Room 55.

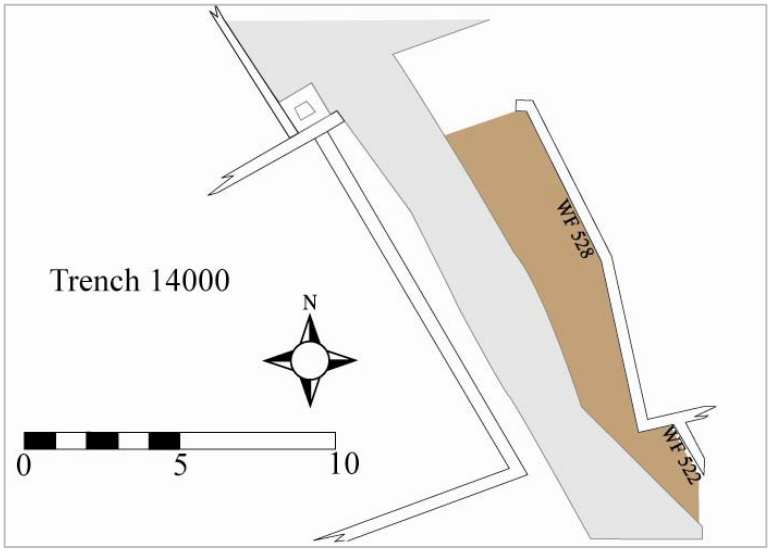

Fig. 27. Trench 14000 within the Porta Stabia.

Trench 14000:

Trench 14000 was a reopening and extension of trench 10000 inside the *Porta Stabia* from the 2006 season[25]. We expanded this trench in the eastern sidewalk of the *Porta Stabia* with the hopes of providing a more complete stratigraphic sequence associated with the construction of the previously-found street-side shrine, the phasing of the sidewalk, and the construction of the gate itself. The trench was therefore extended further along the sidewalk to the north as far as the arched gate, and to the south as far as the northern edge of the tomb of *Marcus Tullius* (WF 522) (see figs 27-29). The trench was also excavated more deeply than in 2006 to reveal some, if not many, earlier sequences of activity. The narrow confines of the trench within the sidewalk, however, inhibited our ability to recover much new information on the activities associated with each phase from the 2006 season, and these new deposits did not yield enough diagnostic artefacts to enlighten our understanding of their date. The following phase synthesis therefore supplements our report from the 2006 season by highlighting a few of the discernable developments in this area, without repeating too many of the general characteristics of each of the phases as outlined in our 2006 preliminary report[26].

[22] See Trenches 2000 and 7000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.
[23] See Trench 2000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE *forthcoming*.
[24] See Trenches 2000 and 7000 in DEVORE-ELLIS 2005; ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming. We thank Jennifer Trimble for the suggestion of a guild-hall, on which further investigations are now being made.
[25] Trench 14000 was excavated under the supervision of John Bennett (Boston University). For the report on that trench, see ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; ELLIS-DEVORE *et al* 2007; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.
[26] ELLIS-DEVORE 2006.

Fig. 28. The northern length of Trench 14000, abutting WF 528.

Fig. 29. The southern extremity of Trench 14000 and the northern limit of the tomb of Marcus Tullius *(right).*

Fig. 30. Aerial view of the southern extent of Trench 14000.

Several modern pipes that were encountered in Trench 10000 during the 2006 excavation season were found to be even more obtrusive through Trench 14000 than we had originally imagined. While the pipes ran along the entire length of the sidewalk curbstones, as had been expected, at the southern limit of the trench these pipes entered a large utility channel/manhole from where they turned eastward to cut through WF 522. As a consequence, only a small portion of stratified contexts remained *in situ* in the southern limit of the trench, therefore greatly impeding our potential to yield information on the stratigraphic relationship between the *Porta Stabia* and the construction of the tomb of *Marcus Tullius* (fig. 30).

Phase 1: Pre-Fortification Wall

The earliest phase of activity consisted of a hard-packed earthen surface that predated the construction of (the present standing version of) the *Porta Stabia* (fig. 31). Granite pebbles were embedded into a thin layer of clay to form this surface. Given the depth of this surface below the modern ground level (close to 3 metres), only small patches of it were revealed, and from which no datable materials were recovered. Excavations through this surface revealed a deep section of sterile soil to confirm that this surface represents the earliest known activity. The only sign of activity associated with the surface was the cutting of a pit. The homogeneity of the pit's fill, which consisted of sand/silt, suggests it may have served as a post-hole.

Fig. 31. Small patch of the earliest recovered surface in Trench 14000.

Phase 2: Construction of the Fortification Wall

The activities of Phase 2 were dominated by the construction of the Sarno limestone fortification wall (WF 528; see fig. 28) and the first phase of the gate. Substantial foundations were first created to support the monumental architecture. These foundations consisted of three alterna-

Fig. 32. The first foundation layer for the construction of the Porta Stabia.

Fig. 33. The limited remains of the projection of the east-west course of Sarno limestone.

Fig. 34. The first installation of the altar and niche in the eastern side (WF 528) of the Porta Stabia.

ting layers of lava stones and sand/silt. The first of these layers, which incorporated the largest lava stones of approx. 20cm diameter, was laid directly onto the earthen surface from Phase 1 (fig. 32); if a construction trench existed, no evidence for it could be found within the confines of this trench. These lava stones were then levelled with a deposit of sand/silt, onto which a second layer of smaller lava stones were laid. This second level was equally topped by sand/silt for a third layer of yet smaller lava stones. Three levels of large Sarno limestone blocks were built directly onto the foundation in a tiered, or slightly stepped, formation. The upper portion of the wall (WF 528) was then built onto this stepped platform.

Associated with the construction of WF 528, an east–west running course of Sarno limestone was laid perpendicular to the northern terminus of WF 528, corresponding to the level of the lowest course of foundation stones for WF 528 (fig. 33). This likely represents the foundation for the original gate itself, which would later be rebuilt for the arched gate that stands today (see Phase 3, below). It is noteworthy that the alignment of the later version of the gate would be exactly the same as this earliest version, and so somewhat skewed toward a southwest-northeast alignment from that of the fortification wall and the street itself.

It was in this phase that the altar and small lower niche discovered in Trench 10000 during the 2006 season were installed (fig. 34)[27]. A semicircular feature of mortar and masonry might also have been built at this time, or a little earlier, against the second tier of Sarno limestone for WF 528, a little over 1 metre to the south of the Sarno limestone projection of the gate (fig. 35). This feature might therefore have been laid for a device associated with the operation of the gate itself. This feature had an associated beaten earth surface that was replaced during this phase by an *opus signinum* surface of which small traces survived against WF 528.

[27] On the altar and niche, see Phase 2 of Trench 10000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006; and ELLIS-DEVORE forthcoming.

Fig. 35. Semi-circular masonry base (against WF 528) for an as yet unknown purpose, but probably associated with the operation of the gate.

Phase 3: The Raising of the Sidewalk

When the altar was initially discovered in our 2006 season, we found that it had become partly covered over – or rather, bisected – by the raising of the sidewalk, probably toward the end of the 2nd century BCE[28]. Excavations in 2007 indicated that the bisection of the altar was not simply caused by normal deposition and accumulation as we had assumed in 2006, but possibly as a direct result of a reorganisation of the city defences that can be seen in this trench.

PHASE 4: A New Gateway for the Colony

The surface that had bisected the altar was then cut for the foundation of a new arched gate (that which is present today) during the early Roman period of occupation. This foundation was of *opus incertum*, and built directly on top of the earlier configuration for the gate, as mentioned above, as well as the second tier of Sarno foundations for WF 528. This event, which might be considered a 'monumentalising' effort by the Roman colonists, caused the altar to be completely sealed by the raising of the *opus signinum* sidewalk in this area[29]. The religious significance of this space, however, was not abandoned in this process. Rather, a larger (religious) niche was cut into the wall, and at a higher level consistent with the raising of the sidewalk (see fig. 28).

Phase 5: Final Ancient Phase

During this sixth and final ancient phase the sidewalk surface was raised once more. Unlike all of the previous *opus signinum* sidewalk surfaces associated with the *Porta Stabia*, that belonging to Phase 4 displayed hardly any

[28] See Phase 3 for Trench 10000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006.
[29] See Phase 4 for Trench 10000 in ELLIS-DEVORE 2006.

sign of wear or patching. This suggests that it was not in use for very long before the final surface was added, which itself retained evidence of patching. The base of an amphora was found installed in the corner of the gateway, however its function is not clearly understood.

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