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The 2010 Field Season at I.1.1-10, Pompeii: Preliminary report on the excavations

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The Pompeii Archaeological Research Project: *Porta Stabia* (PARP:PS) recently completed its sixth campaign of excavations during which three trenches were excavated across the extent of I.1.1-10. This expansion – both spatially and conceptually – to include *insula* I.1 on the eastern side of the *via Stabiana* proved an important development for the project. The generous invitation from the *Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei* to include *insula* I.1 in our research facilitates a yet more comprehensive and detailed analysis of an entire Pompeian neighbourhood. Combined with our continued activities at VIII.7, the *Porta Stabia* itself and its necropolis, as well as our close relationship and direct access with the newly formed 'Pompeii Quadriporticus Project' (PQP)[1], we now have the opportunity to link all of these research activities – their data and results – together in a centralized online database for the purpose of integrating the stratified data spanning several centuries of history for a fundamentally important corner of Pompeii[2].

Fig. 1. Location of trenches in I.1.1-10 during the 2010 field season.

In general, four separate properties dominate the *insula*, each with their own attached shops and retail spaces: I.1.1/10; I.1.2; I.1.3-5; I.1.6-9. The principal activity for all four properties appears to have been based on hospitality, at least in their final manifestation. At this still very early stage of our study of I.1, and as we have seen across the *via Stabiana* at VIII.7, fish-salting and other light-industrial activities dominated the *insula* between the 2nd century BCE and the Augustan period (early 1st century CE), at which time the street-side rooms, especially, were converted more exclusively to retailing activities.

The project opened three trenches across I.1.1-10 in the 2010 field season (fig. 1). The choice of trench locations for the 2010 season was aimed at establishing a chronological framework for the development of each property. To that end, the three trenches were each located in a separate property, in rooms where at least part of

[1] Poehler and Ellis 2011.
For the online profile of the Pompeii Quadriporticus Project, see http://www.umass.edu/classics/Pompeii%20Quadriporticus%20Project.htm.
[2] Publication of this research includes: Devore and Ellis 2005; 2008; Ellis 2011; Ellis and Devore 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; Poehler and Ellis 2011.
For the online profile of the Pompeii Archaeological Research Project: *Porta Stabia*, see http://www.uc.edu/pompeii/.

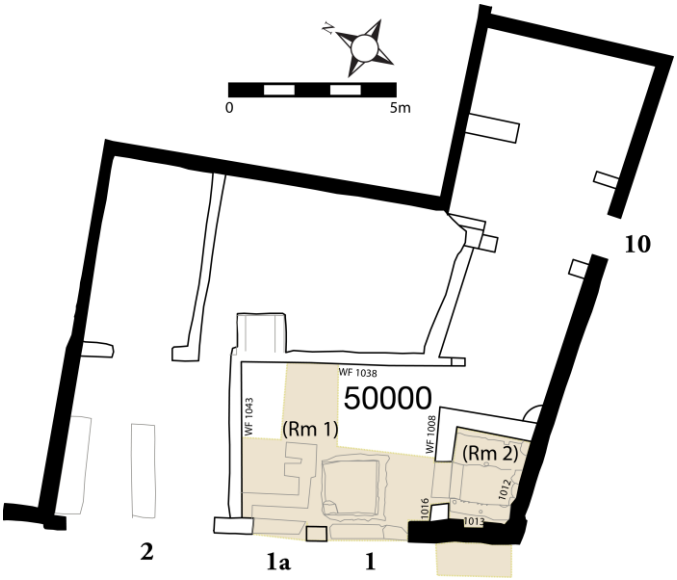

Fig. 2. Layout of Trench 50000 in I.1.1/10.

the initial construction and/or partition wall between a neighbouring building were known. Trench 50000 was opened in the street-side rooms (Rooms 1-2) of I.1.1/10; Trench 51000 was located in the street-side room (Room 18) of I.1.3-5; and Trench 52000 was opened in the street-side room (Room 22) of I.1.6-9.

Along with the stratified excavations, the project continued several lines of integrated research. The careful collection and detailed analysis of the bio-archaeological record of VIII.7.1-15 and I.1.1-10 continued under a team led by Emily Holt (Michigan), while Mark Robinson (Oxford) continued his study of the paleosols of VIII.7.1-15 and I.1.1-10 to develop an understanding of the geological terrain of the area prior to, but also including, the earliest human presence[3]. Archer Martin (American Academy at Rome) led a team of ceramics specialists in the analysis of the finds from I.1, while Myles McCallum (St Mary's Halifax) continued the study of the finds from VIII.7. Eric Poehler (UMASS Amherst) directed our architectural survey of the entire zone in addition to his efforts at the PQP[4]. John Wallrodt advanced (yet further) the digital infrastructure of the Project, concentrating on our data collection procedures and database; our team was equipped with tablet computers (iPads) so that all of the data was collected using streamlined digital methods (a veritable 'paperless project')[5].

Trench 50000[6]

Trench 50000 was opened inside I.1.1/10, the southernmost property of the *insula* (figs 1-2). Excavations exposed the western half of Room 1, the entrance room to the property that faces onto the *via Stabiana*, and all of a subsidiary room (Room 2) to the south. A primary goal was to corroborate, with stratified evidence, the phasing of the property that we had developed through architectural analysis. Namely, the later phase of the two walls (WFs 1012-13) at the property's southwest corner suggested that Room 2 originally was open to the street and not enclosed inside property I.1.1/10. Excavations sought to explain why this corner was accessible to the street traffic and when it became a private space. The excavation of Trench 50000 was also intended to determine whether this property followed the same spatial and functional paradigms as have been observed among the properties across the street at VIII.7.1-15[7]: the presence of some isolated 4th century BCE buildings, abandoned at the end of that century, followed by a hiatus in urban activity until the *insula* as we see it today was laid out in the 2nd century BCE and then dominated by industrial activities until the Augustan period when the area became more exclusively retail in nature.

Prehistoric volcanic deposits were reached in the course of our excavation of Trench 50000. This consisted of an indeterminably deep layer of Mercato ash which dates from around 8000-7000 BCE. While the narrowness of the trench did not allow us to excavate deeply enough to reach any layer below the ash, we can be sure, based on the results of our previous excavations nearby[8], that this Mercato ash overlaid the solid lava from the Pleistocene-Holocene volcanic activity; the same pattern is observed in Trenches 51000 and 52000, below[9].

Phase 1: activity in the 4th century BCE (?)

The earliest evidence for cultural activity in the trench consisted of minute fragments of pottery found within the fill of a pit that had been cut through a deep and early layer of Mercato ash in the centre of Room 1 (fig. 3). The

[3] Robinson 2011.
[4] Poehler and Ellis 2011. On the architectural methodologies, see Ellis *et al*. 2008.
[5] These new digital methods, and indeed the philosophies behind them, are helping to revolutionize archaeological fieldwork. For more information see: http://paperlessarchaeology.wordpress.com/.
[6] Kevin Dicus (Michigan) supervised the excavations of Trench 50000.
[7] See note 2, above.
[8] See, most recently, Trenches 24000 (Ellis and Devore 2010: 2); 25000 (Ellis and Devore 2010: 5); 27000 (Ellis and Devore 2010: 9); 28000 (Ellis and Devore 2010: 12).
[9] Robinson 2011.

Fig. 3. The pit in the Mercato ash layer.

Fig. 4. The frontage of I.1.1/10, with the jamp in the center of the threshold.

small size of the fragments precludes any reasonable tightening of the chronological range, but one recovered Black Gloss piece dates generally to the 4th century BCE. A layer of gray ash was deposited over the Mercato ash, the uppermost parts of which were exposed at the south-west corner of Room 1, where it was interrupted at the south and west by the construction of the Phase 2 walls. This deposit was conspicuously hard-packed. The consistency recalls other early surfaces that have been identified as a ca. 4th century BCE sidewalk or road (see Phase 1 of Trench 51000 [fig. 14, below] and Phase 2 of Trench 52000, below)[10], and thus is likely the continuation of the same surface.

Phase 2: earliest delineation of private space; construction of the public well

Fig. 5. The public well (looking west).

A dramatic intensification in construction activity occurred in the 2nd century BCE as the general form of the property, and indeed the *insula* itself, took shape. The front room (Room 1) was designed originally as a single open space, with the large entrance divided by a single free-standing jamb north of the threshold's centre, dividing the opening in two unequal parts (fig. 4). The remains of a hard-packed earthen surface are associated with this phase of habitation. Room 2, as it appears today (a small enclosed space accessed through a door in Room 1), did not exist. Instead, a large public well was dug here at this time; our discovery of this well marks it as only the ninth known public well at Pompeii (fig. 5)[11]. The well is one of the largest uncovered at Pompeii, at least in terms of its girth; its inner dimensions measure 1.54m X 1.08m. Massive cut Sarno blocks were used in its construction[12], three courses of which were exposed as our excavations descended approximately 2m into its (later) infilling. Future excavations could potentially reveal the well's depth. Access to the water was from the sidewalk of the *via Stabiana* on the west. Two Sarno blocks laid end to end delimited a threshold between the sidewalk and well, and a very hard, packed surface extended from the threshold to the well. Several vertical semi-circular grooves were deeply etched into the upper western face of the well's interior, attesting to the great time span during which ropes rubbed against the wall as they drew up countless buckets of water (fig. 6). Faint traces of similarly worn grooves are observable on

[10] For a nearby example of a seemingly contemporary road surface, albeit topped with cobblestones and further west of the (later) *via Stabiana*, see Phase 1 of Trench 29000 that was excavated in VIII.7.11 in Ellis and Devore 2010: 16.

[11] For other examples of public wells, see Maiuri 1931: 546-552, who counts seven examples, both in public spaces and bath complexes. An eighth has been identified by Coarelli and Pesando 2006: 5. See also Richardson 1988: 51-53; Jansen 2002; Ellis 2011; Esposito, Kastenmeier, and Imperatore 2011. We are grateful to Duncan Keenan-Jones (Macquarie) for his on-site discussions of Pompeian wells with us.

[12] The top course block on the well's western side measures 1.76m X .45m X .32m, for example.

Fig. 6. Close up of the western side of the well, with rope-worn grooves in the uppermost block.

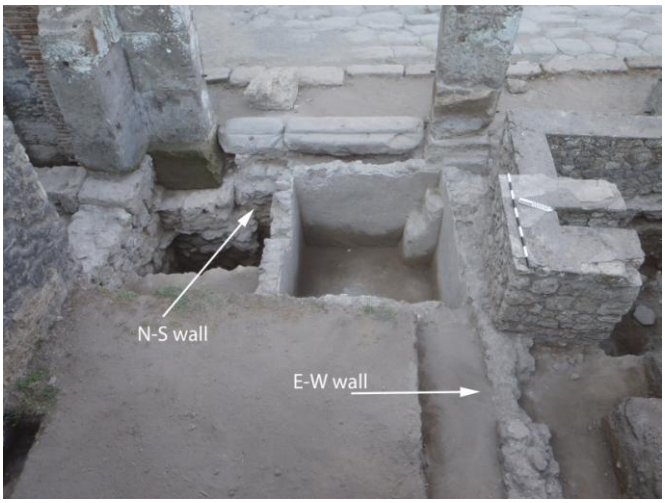

Fig. 7. The N-S wall along the frontage, and the perpendicular E-W wall (looking west).

the eastern face of the well, indicating that access from the east was possible, but that the great majority of the traffic came to the well from the *via Stabiana*.

Phase 3: the configuration and division of Room 1

An *opus incertum* wall running N-S was erected along the front of the property alongside the *via Stabiana* in this phase (fig. 7)[13]. Much of it today is blocked by the subsequent construction of a vat, but we were able to trace this frontage from the southern quoin up to the northern (and currently) free-standing jamb within entrance 1. It thus served as a division between the property and the street, but did not continue between the jamb and the northern extent (WF 1043) of the property, leaving a doorway that must have been the main entrance from the street into at least the northern half of the room. The wall appears to postdate the Phase 2 delineation of the property because of the cutting of the Phase 2 surface to accommodate this newer wall's construction and by its abutment onto the early architectural feature of the southern quoin. A second *opus incertum* wall, running E-W, was also erected to divide Room 1 into two spaces (fig. 7). It abutted the free-standing jamb and continued east, where it abutted the rear interior wall (WF 1038) of Room 1. There is evidence of a possible doorway at the centre of this wall; this would have allowed movement between the two rooms and explains why no other doorway into the southern room has yet been located.

Fig. 8. Overhead view of the fish-salting vat. Note the two stairs at the top-right.

Phase 4: industrial activity from the mid 2nd century BCE to the early 1st century BCE

Following the pattern seen across VIII.7.1-15[14], if not also – but if only currently confirmed in Trench 51000 (Phase 2 of 51000, below) – across I.1 itself, small-scale industry characterized the front of property I.1.1/10 from as early as the mid 2nd century BCE. A large, nearly square subterranean vat (1.6m X 1.55m, with a depth of at least 1.2m), was installed along the street-side frontage of Room 1 (fig. 8). As with the four others of its kind found nearby, this appears to be the type of vat used for the salting of fish[15]. The interior walls were plastered, and the floor was

[13] Due to limitations of access, we were unable to reach the bottom elevation of the wall, but it did continue approximately 1m below.
[14] Synthesized in Ellis 2011. See also, for example, Phase 4 of Trench 24000 in Ellis and Devore 2010: 3-4.
[15] Ellis 2011. For the four other vats, see: Vat A: Devore and Ellis 2008: 5-6; Vat B: Devore and Ellis 2005: 2-3 and Ellis and Devore 2007: 121-2; Vat C: Ellis and Devore 2010: 17-8; Vat D: Ellis and Devore 2009: 9-13.

Fig. 9. Fill of vat with floor in Phase 5. Note the drain, at top of photo, from Phase 6.

made of a thick layer of cement. The construction of the vat utilized pre-existing walls from Phase 3 for both the north and west faces: the E-W wall now served as the northern face of the tank, while the N-S wall was plastered to become the west face. Both the eastern and southern faces were constructed by courses of stones set against a construction trench.

Both of the Phase 3 walls were dismantled at this time, at least down to the floor level. Clear evidence of this exists for the N-S aligned wall where the vat construction lipped over its remains at ground level. This development caused a significant change to the entrance to the property. The dismantling of the N-S wall enabled a new, wide entrance into the property (over some kind of wooden cover for the vat). Phase 4 thus marks the beginning or resumption of the wide entrance to I.1.1/10, as well as the creation of the large, open space of Room 1 that persisted through the later phases. The dismantling of the E-W wall is mostly presumed, given that the later (Phase 6) construction of the bar counter caused the destruction of any analogous evidence in that area. Even so, two access steps were built into the vat's northern face at its westernmost corner, which would have been entirely ineffectual had the E-W wall remained standing.

The approach to the public well from the *via Stabiana* was elevated at around this time. A large Sarno block was placed on top of the two smaller blocks that had marked the Phase 2 threshold. The new walking surface consisted of Sarno flagstones that were worn smooth from the continuous long-term traffic. A fine layer of silt, approximately 8cm thick, underlies this and overlies the earlier Phase 2 surface, and provides an indication as to why this elevation was necessary. The silt was free of any cultural material and occurred most likely as a result of natural deposition, the result of more than a century or more of runoff coming down the *via Stabiana*. The elevated surface was flush with the top of the well and a built superstructure became necessary to isolate the mouth of the well from those drawing water from it. A series of holes bored into the top of the east and west courses are probably the traces of this structure (partly visible in fig. 5). A very large vertical block at the south of the well, and now incorporated into the wall (WF 1012) that enclosed it in Phase 6, could also be associated with this device. The method for collecting the water thus changed from buckets pulled by ropes against the western interior face to something akin to a pulley system placed above the centre of the mouth of the well.

Phase 5: abandonment of the small-scale industrial activity in the later 1st century BCE

Toward the end of the 1st century BCE, the owners of the property put an end to their street-side fish-salting venture. The vat in Room 1 was partially dismantled and filled, and a hard-packed earthen surface was laid down over its interment (fig. 9). The fill of the vat is notable for both the quantity and range of finds. Stones from the upper part of the vat itself were knocked down and thrown in. Large *cubilia*, many of which still had 'Pompeian Red' plaster on their faces, were found in great numbers, attesting to the contemporary dismantling of a large internal wall in the vicinity. Close to 70 coins were recovered from the fill, along with large quantities of pottery – the most numerous being amphorae, followed by coarseware – and many bronze and iron pieces. Once the coins have been cleaned and analysed[16], a more definitive *terminus post quem* for this event can be established.

Phase 6: privatization of the well and conversion to retail space in the 1st century CE

The shift from cottage-industry to retail space that defines the use of space for much of VIII.7.1-15[17] took place in this property at the same time (ie. in the early 1st century CE). In Phase 6 the property at I.1.1/10 appears to have served as a food and drink outlet (a so-called *thermopolium* or *taberna*)[18]. A bar counter was constructed on the northern side of Room 1, directly in front of, and essentially blocking, the northern threshold (entrance 1a; fig. 10). This retail outlet likely took good advantage of the steady flow of pedestrian traffic into Pompeii, being the closest of its kind to the *Porta Stabia*. Along with the counter, a new floor of *opus signinum* was laid across all of

[16] The coins are under the study of Giacomo Pardini (Salerno).
[17] See, for example, Phase 5 of Trench 24000 in ELLIS and DEVORE 2010: 4.
[18] On the retail fabric of Pompeii, see ELLIS 2004; 2005; 2008.

Fig. 10. The bar counter at entrance 1a to I.1.1/10.

Fig. 11. Impressions of wooden beams and other architectural elements in the hardened ash within the well.

Room 1. At its southern extent a drain, running E-W toward the *via Stabiana,* was constructed into the hard packed surface of the previous phase and within this latest phase floor (see fig. 9).

This phase also witnessed significant changes to the access and use of the well, doubtless caused by the arrival of a constant supply of water into the city via the *Aqua Augusta* aqueduct; the connection of Pompeii to the *Aqua Augusta* wholly transformed both the city and the region. Pompeii's public wells became impractical and ultimately obsolete as public fountains sprang up around the Augustan city; indeed, at the *Porta Stabia* one such fountain was constructed directly across the street from the well. It was under these new and thriving civic conditions that the public well was enclosed within a private property. Two new walls (WFs 1012-13) were erected to enclose the well within Room 2 (see fig. 2), which was fully delineated by this phase. A doorway was cut from within Room 1 through the south wall (WF1008/16) to give access to this newly acquired space. The once-public well, which for over two centuries was an integral civic feature in one of Pompeii's most heavily trafficked areas, was now hidden within a room that was only accessible from inside the residence. A smear of mortar spread over the top of the well's cut blocks indicates that a concrete floor also surrounded the mouth of the well at this time.

Phase 7: The 79 CE eruption of Vesuvius

Trench 50000 provided very rare archaeological instantiation of the 79 CE eruption, the remains of which were usually erased by the 19th century clearing of the site. The well, now incorporated into the residence, remained open or perhaps capped by a wooden covering, such as for the pulley system (?), until the final destruction of Pompeii in 79 CE. When the accumulated Vesuvian debris collapsed the house, significant volumes of the volcanic material and rubble filled the interior of the well. Our excavations descended ca. 2m through a very dense concentration of ash and lapilli, containing a large quantity of varied structural elements: from wall stones and wall plaster, *opus signinum* flooring, roof tiles and bricks, to ephemeral elements such as wooden roof beams and boards, long since decayed and evident principally through their surviving impressions in the ash (fig. 11). Many household items were also found within the volcanic fill: pottery sherds, glass vessel shards and game pieces, and numerous bronze and iron fragments were among the finds. An impression of a woven wicker basket was also detected in the ash, which we were able to remove intact for future phytolith analysis (fig. 12). Based on the nature of these finds, it seems most likely that there was a second-story room over Room 2. Thus the ceiling of Room 2, the flooring, walls and household goods of the second-story room, and the roof are all represented within the 79 CE eruption fill inside the well.

Fig. 12. Impression of the basket in the hardened ash (50cm scale).

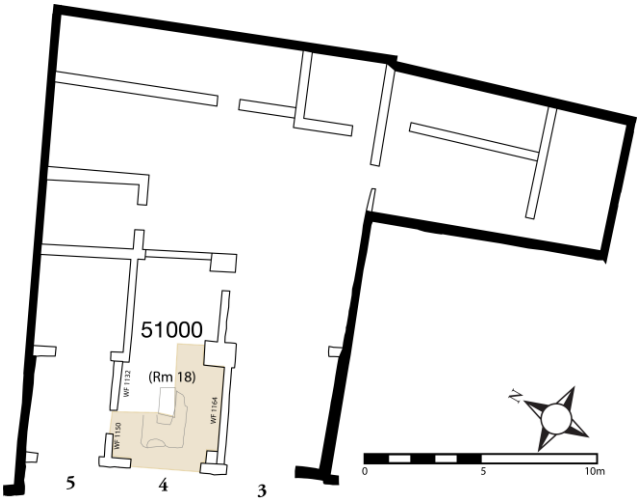

Fig. 13. Layout of Trench 51000 in I.1.4.

Trench 51000[19]

Trench 51000 was excavated in the street-side room (Room 18) of I.1.4, with the aim of exploring the architectural and functional development of property I.1.3-5, the central and largest property of this *insula* (fig. 13). The excavation extended down to the prehistoric volcanic deposits observed previously on the other side of the *via Stabiana* in *insula* VIII.7[20], as well as in Trenches 50000 and 52000 (see each, above and below) in *insula* I.1; here, solid grey lava with white inclusions, likely deposited by a Late Pleistocene (c. 12000 BP) eruption of the Pompei volcano, was overlain by yellow sandy silt, the remains of ash from the Mercato eruption of Mt. Vesuvius c. 8000-7000 BCE[21].

Fig. 14. Earliest surface (road?) in Trench 51000.

Phase 1: early surface

The earliest human activity was represented by a large fill deposited over the natural volcanic paleosols. The fill consisted of redeposited volcanic ash and loam containing some occupational material, most often small, non-diagnostic sherds, and seems to have functioned as a terracing fill to level the natural surface. Above this a dark grey, very hard-packed earthen surface was laid down (fig. 14). This surface was also found in Trench 50000 in the southernmost property of this *insula* (I.1.1/10) and in Trench 52000 in the northern property (I.1.6-9 [see fig. 23]), and perhaps represents an early road or sidewalk running through the area (see Phase 1 in Trench 50000, above; and Phase 2 in Trench 52000, below). To the north and south, however, there were no signs of terracing as we see here. It seems that the natural soils must have been unevenly deposited throughout the *insula*, with a dip in the central area that required terracing to create this level surface; similarly significant – and likely related – elevation drops were recorded in *insula* VIII.7 to the west of the *via Stabiana*[22]. A Black Gloss bowl found in the fill immediately below the packed earthen surface in Trench 51000 dates this activity to the 4th century BCE. The earliest structures in pappamonte found in *insula* VIII.7 date to the same period, suggesting that they might have been associated with the potential road[23].

[19] Allison Emmerson (Cincinnati) supervised the excavations of Trench 51000.
[20] See, for example, Trench 24000 in ELLIS and DEVORE 2010: 2.
[21] ROBINSON 2011.
[22] For example, Trench 24000 in ELLIS and DEVORE 2010: 2.
[23] ELLIS and DEVORE 2009: 2-3; 2010: 16.

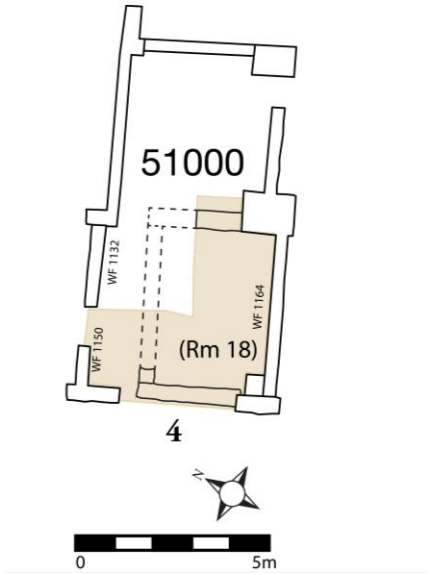

Fig. 15. Configuration of the earliest walls that divided the space into at least three areas.

Fig. 16. Work surface along the southern extent of the trench.

Phase 2: 2nd century BCE industrial activity

As has been observed elsewhere in the neighbourhood around the *Porta Stabia*, the earliest phase was followed by a long hiatus in activity that ended in the 2nd century BCE[24]. At this time, several large pits were cut through the early surface and terracing in order to reach the natural soils below. After the soils had been extracted to be used for construction material, the pits were filled and a new terracing event raised the level of the space by ca. 0.5m. This phase saw the first architectural activity, with the construction of three walls along the northern, eastern, and western edges of the trench. These walls divided the trench into three rooms: a central room, an eastern room, and a small northern room or passageway (fig. 15). The central room had generally the same dimensions from east to west as would Room 18 in 79 CE, but its northern wall was 1.25m to the south of its final iteration. The southern extent of the central room was defined by a large work surface feature, suggesting an industrial function of the space, although no further clues as to the nature of the industry were found (fig. 16). This work surface had two phases. In its first phase (see Phase 3, below, for the next), the surface resembled a counter or bench, raised ca. 0.5m above floor level. The central room was floored with a packed earthen surface covered in light grey, crushed volcanic stone. Campanian pottery found in the surface and fill below it, including a northern Campanian Lamboglia 3 Black Gloss sherd, suggest a date of the mid 2nd century BCE for these developments. The northern and eastern rooms were encountered only in small window trenches, and their functions cannot be reconstructed: the eastern room also had a packed earthen floor surface, but the floor of the northern room was missing due to later ancient construction activity.

Fig. 17. First phase of the amphora soak-away.

Phase 3: second industrial phase

In this phase, a new packed earthen surface was laid down over a fill, raising the level of the central room by 40cm. This activity significantly decreased the height of the work surface, bringing it to about 10cm above ground level. A semicircular sluice drain was cut into the work surface, which was lined in smooth plaster and sloped towards the east (see fig. 16). The drain seems to have operated with a soak-away feature that had been cut into

[24] Cf. ELLIS and DEVORE 2009: 3; 2010: 6.

Fig. 18. Opus signinum surface for the second phase of the amphora soak-away.

Fig. 19. The large rectangular cistern in the centre of the space.

Fig. 20. Large brick pillar in the SE corner of the room (top-right); remains of a possible bar counter in the centre, with the repagulum *to the right.*

the SE corner of the packed earthen floor. The soak away feature itself had two phases of operation. For the first, an amphora with its toe broken off was inserted upside down into a pit. Large pieces of rubble, including very large vessels and broken sections of walls with attached decorated wall plaster, were packed around the amphora, and a small (3cm diameter) terracotta pipe surrounded by Sarno stones was mortared on top (fig. 17). It is likely that a surface of some sort, perhaps *opus signinum*, was then placed over the amphora, covering the pit fill, but it was later removed. In this form, the soak-away could drain a small amount of liquid through the narrow pipe.

It seems that the first iteration of the soak-away proved insufficient for the drainage needs in this area, and the feature was later rebuilt. In its second phase, the amphora itself and the tube leading into it were left in place, but covered completely with an *opus signinum* work surface with a divot in the centre and several large breaks that allowed liquids to drain into the pit below (rendering the amphora of the original soak-away redundant; fig. 18). Soil sample analysis of the contents of the soak-away amphora and soak-away pit showed that their activity did not involve organic matter. Samples from both the amphora and the pit, however, did return very high quantities of charcoal (cf. the soak-away in Phase 7b of Trench 52000, below). The form of both phases of the soak-away suggests that only small amounts of liquid were disposed of here: in the first, any liquid must have drained through the very narrow pipe into the amphora, and in the second the only access into the pit was through the intentional cracks in the *opus signinum* surface.

The eastern room also received a new packed earthen surface at this time, but again our understanding of the surface of the room to the north is unclear because of later construction in that area.

Phase 4: introduction of the cistern

The later 2nd century / early 1st century BCE brought a major change to the use of this area with the abandonment of the earlier industrial features and the introduction of a large rectangular cistern to the centre of the room (fig. 19). A new packed earthen surface covered with a mortar smear was laid down, and extensive architectural changes redefined the space. The early eastern and northern walls were destroyed, merging the three rooms that had existed during the earlier phases (2 and 3) into one room. The north wall of the northern room was

left in place, but reconstructed and possibly extended to its final form (WF 1150/32). A large brick pillar, approximately 1.25m X 1.25m, was constructed in the SE corner of the room, using the work surface and the earlier eastern wall as part of its foundation (fig. 20). A brick buttressing in the SW corner was also built at this time to support the brick façade wall in the SW, which also likely dates to this phase. There was still no south wall (WF 1164) in this period. Along with these changes, the first evidence for security appeared – a *repagulum* (door stop) was added on the SW side of the trench.

The large brick pillar and brick buttressing constructed in this phase suggest the presence of an upstairs space that required an unusually strong support system downstairs. A hole (55cm X 40cm, 40cm deep) was found near the pillar, likely once a posthole for the support of the upper floor while the buttressing and pillar were under construction. This seems to have been in use only for a short time, during the construction period between Phases 3 and 4: it was cut into the packed earthen surface of Phase 3, and covered over when the new (Phase 4) packed earthen surface with mortar smear was put in place.

To build the cistern and the foundations of the northern wall's extension, a large pit was cut in the northern side of the room, destroying most of the earlier stratigraphy in this area. This pit cut through all earlier phases, including the earliest road surface and the terracing below it. Two smaller pits found in the SE area of the trench also seem to have been related to the extensive changes that took place in the transition from Phase 3 to Phase 4, although their precise purpose could not be determined.

The cistern, which now dominated the space, measured 2.40 X 1.80m, and was 2m deep (allowing for the thickness of the walls, its internal volume could have been as much as $8m^3$). It was unusual for its rectangular (rather than round) mouth, although other examples of this shape exist at Pompeii, e.g. in the House of Casca Longus (I.6.11).

Phase 5(a-c): resurfacing events in the Augustan period

The large cistern continued to be used during this phase. Heavy traffic in the room is evidenced by three sub-phases of packed earth floors laid directly on top of one another, likely as repairs. This heavy traffic also affected the cistern, which was resurfaced during this period. There were no architectural changes to the room during this phase, although the *repagulum* added in Phase 4 was removed by the last resurfacing. Ceramic evidence indicated a late 1^{st} century BCE to early 1^{st} century CE date for these resurfacings.

It is possible that traffic was not as heavy in the north and east as it was immediately south of the cistern. In these areas there is only one packed earth surface in this phase, on level with the middle surface in the south (Phase 5b). This might indicate that the cistern was primarily accessed from the south. The stratigraphy to the north of the cistern, however, was very disturbed at this level by the insertion of power cables on the north side of the room in recent years.

Phase 6: commercial activity in the 1^{st} century CE

In this final phase, Room 18 was entirely redeveloped for commercial use. The cistern was filled (at the top, this fill consisted of light grey crushed volcanic stone, perhaps indicating that temper and other building materials associated with the reconstruction of the room were used as fill) and covered by a mortar-smeared packed earthen surface, which extended throughout the room. This surface had been greatly disturbed by post-79 CE activity, and existed only in small patches scattered throughout the southern side of the trench. It was entirely absent in the north, where it was cut by the modern power cables, but it could be seen in section running over the top of the cistern.

The closing of the cistern brought with it some architectural changes. Specifically, the south side of the room was closed off with the construction of WF 1164, giving Room 18 its final architectural appearance. The three threshold stones lining the west side of the trench indicate the presence of a typical wide door for a commercial space, with grooves for removable shutters and a hinged night door. An interest in security seems to have returned in this phase as a new *repagulum* was placed almost directly on top of the earlier one, where it could secure the inward-swinging night door (fig. 20).

Lastly, our excavations confirmed that at least the outer facing of the bar counter that stands in the centre of Room 18 is modern (fig. 20). The exposure of two of its faces demonstrates that these were constructed on top of modern material, including lapilli from the eruption of 79 CE. It remains possible that the outer structure represents a reconstruction of an ancient masonry core. If so, the original counter might have been L-shaped: a small round pit surrounded by mortared Sarno stones was found alongside the threshold, and could have held a wooden support for the same counter, while a larger round divot cut into the west side of the cistern might have allowed for the installation of a now-lost inset storage container.

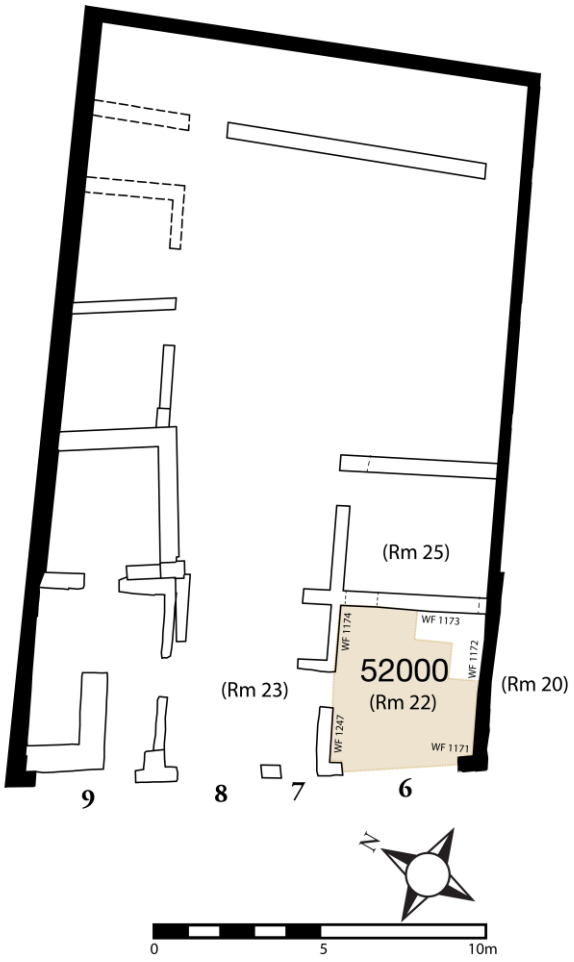

Fig. 21. Layout of Trench 52000 in I.1.6.

Fig. 22. The early road of Mercato ash with possible wheel rut at bottom (looking east).

Trench 52000[25]:

Trench 52000 was opened in the western half of the street-side room (22) of I.1.6 (fig. 21). The primary aim of this trench was to investigate the foundations of the southern wall (WF 1172) in an attempt to determine the earliest construction date of this northernmost property (I.1.6-9; commonly referred to as the *Hospitium Hermetis*), to establish a preliminary stratigraphic sequence for the development of the property, and to identify its structural and chronological relationship to its southern neighbour (I.1.3-5)[26].

Phase 1: first 'pre-via Stabiana' road

The earliest human activity in Trench 52000 is represented by the compacting of the *in situ* yellowish Mercato ash deposits (laid between 8000 – 7000 BCE), likely for the creation of a road (fig. 22). In addition to the compaction of this deposit, an indication that this surface was a road is a N-S running depression that may be a wheel rut (ca. 10cm wide and 70cm long, ranging from 10-15cm in depth), within which was found water-borne sand, very much like that which accumulates today in the ruts in Pompeii's ancient paved streets. The true N-S path of this wheel rut – instead of the NW-trending path that the current *via Stabiana* follows – indicates that this portion of the early road represents the southernmost section present within our *insula*, the remainder being covered by the later *via Stabiana*; this early road does not appear in Trenches 50000 and 51000. Part of a handle from a Black Gloss vessel was found within the matrix of this Mercato ash, indicating that this road was in use during the 4th century BCE.

[25] Amanda Pavlick (Cincinnati) supervised the excavations of Trench 52000.
[26] Excavation began along the southern half of Room 22 but was suspended on the first day when a minor collapse indicated a small subterranean void, making this area unsafe for excavation. The focus was then switched to the western half of the room, meaning that only a portion of the southern wall was investigated.

Fig. 23. The second early road (looking east).

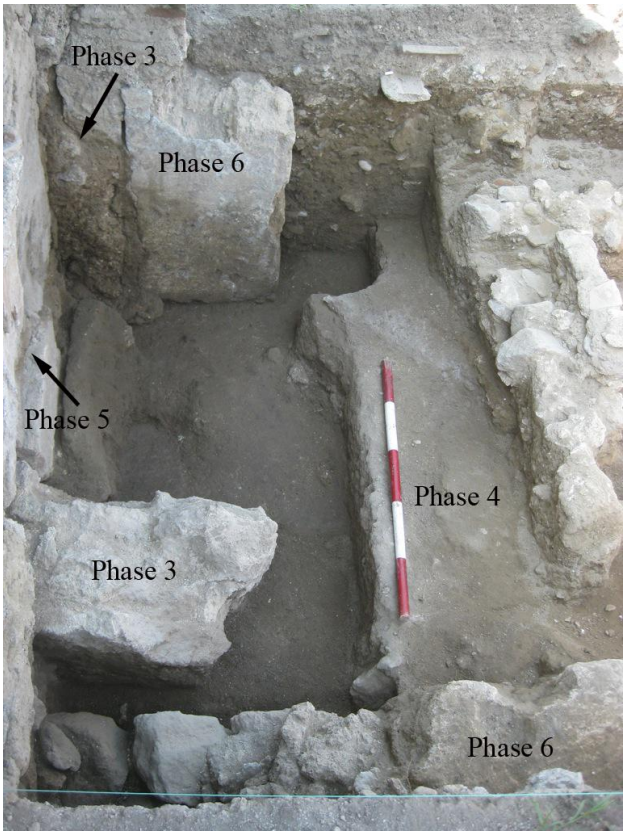

Fig. 24. Variously phased features at the southern end of Trench 52000 (looking west).

Phase 2: second 'pre-via Stabiana' road

A second road was laid on top of the earlier road in this phase, made up of a ca. 5cm layer of gray ash placed over, where necessary, a thin levelling layer of crushed Sarno ranging from 1-2cm in thickness (fig. 23). This ash, the product of earlier volcanic activity, naturally overlies the Mercato ash in several areas of Pompeii and was quarried from those locations for use as road surfacing material due to its ease of access and durability[27]. This road surface originally extended beyond the boundaries of the trench in all directions. As it was also found in Trenches 50000 (Phase 1, above) and 51000 (Phase 1, above [see fig. 14]), however, we may infer that the true N-S path of the road seen in Phase 1 was now replaced by a more NW trending path; the later *via Stabiana* ultimately followed the same trajectory of the road from this phase. A slight slope to this surface, downward from east to west, may have been created to facilitate drainage. This road was later resurfaced with beaten earth, packed to a sharper downward slope to the west, perhaps indicating a greater need for, or change in the proximity of, drainage.

Only un-diagnostic fragments, all of Campanian A Black Gloss, were found in association with this phase; however a diagnostic Black Gloss sherd found in levelling fills for this road in Trench 51000 date this surface to the 4th century BCE (see Phase 1 for Trench 51000, above).

Phase 3: first architecture

The first architectural activity to be found within the bounds of Trench 52000 is a wall aligned N-S, identified by a surviving Sarno orthostat, which was installed in the centre of the area (figs 24-25). A construction trench ended 0.4m to the north of the end of the orthostat, identifying this as the wall's northernmost limit; its southern trajectory extends at least into (the later defined) Room 20, thus indicating that a different set of property divisions existed in this phase. In addition to this wall, a portion of the street-side façade (following the line of later WF 1171) may also have been installed in this phase (figs 24-25); though its relationships were obscured by later building activity, relative sequencing indicates that this western boundary was created either in this phase or the phase immediately thereafter. The packed earth surface which was laid in between these two features is the earliest interior surface within the trench, demonstrating that the course of the earlier roads had shifted by this time to follow more closely the path of the current *via Stabiana*.

[27] Mark Robinson (Project Geomorphologist; Oxford) *pers. comm*.

Fig. 25. Variously phased features at the southern end of Trench 52000 (looking south).

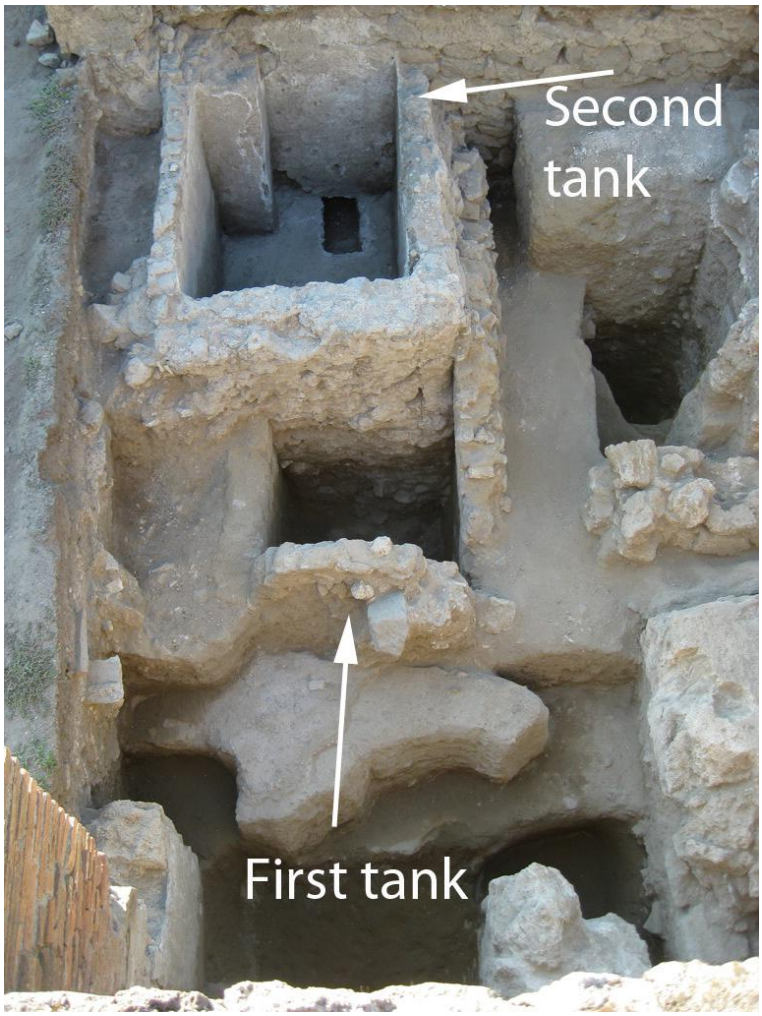

Fig. 26. The first tank of Phase 6, at bottom, with the second tank of Phase 7a built above it (looking north).

Phase 4: raising of the floor level

Phase 4 witnessed the introduction of a new surface, located within the southern portion of the trench and made of very compacted beaten earth. This new surface was of such a significant thickness as to also represent a raising of the floor level by ca. 30cm. This surface was later cut on all sides so its original extent is unknown, and no alteration to the room's architecture is detectable in this phase.

Phase 5: delineation of the southern boundary wall

The first iteration of the southern boundary wall (following the line of later WF 1172) was created in this phase, though seemingly only a short section of the wall was constructed at this time (figs 24-25). Built of an *opus quadratum* style, this section was placed between the N-S aligned Sarno orthostat wall and the western street-side facade built in Phase 3, thus creating a very small and narrow (ca. 0.9m) space. A packed surface of fine, light gray volcanic material was associated with this new construction.

Phase 6: construction of the first tank and changes to the eastern and western walls

A pit cut down to bedrock through the volcanic surface still in use from Phase 5, was the first activity in this phase. This pit removed a significant volume of earth to allow for the construction of a masonry tank built of small stones and rubble (fig. 26), finished inside with a coarse, brown mortar. The base of the tank lay on bedrock and was unlined, indicating that the tank was intended to be non-hydraulic. The northern limits of the tank were destroyed by later construction, as was the top of the tank, but we know it was significant in size, measuring 0.8m X at least 2.5m on the interior, and ca.1.2m deep. None of the remains associated with the use of the tank were recovered, unfortunately, thus obscuring any understanding of its purpose.

The construction of the tank raised the floor level in the room ca. 20cm. Following the completion of this installation, a cut was made into the new packed earth floor to alter the eastern and western limits of the room. The western wall (later WF 1171) was extended to the north by at least 0.5 m, and a new eastern wall was constructed on a slightly different line, just 0.1m further east and extending 1m further north than the previous wall from Phase 3 (figs 24-25). At this early stage of our investigations of this pro-

perty, and not least this phase of activity, we remain uncertain how the tank related spatially and functionally to the (seemingly unusual) delineation of space.

Fig. 27. The opus signinum *surface of the soak-away (looking east).*

Phase 7a: installation of a second tank; delineation of the northern, eastern, and southern walls

This phase is characterized by the definition of three of the walls of Room 22 (WF 1172, 1173, and 1174/1247) and the destruction and replacement of the early tank with a smaller, plaster-lined tank (fig. 26). A fragment of a Bailey A volute lamp found in the fill for this phase dates these events to the Augustan age.

The first activity in Phase 7a saw the construction of the northern and eastern walls (WFs 1174/1247 and 1173, respectively) in *opus incertum* (fig. 21), which, due to access issues, could only be excavated in limited areas. At the time of this construction, both of these walls appear to have served as solid boundaries, with no doorways to their adjoining spaces. The southern wall was also built in this phase; though its construction style is slightly different (loosely packed rubble in light brown mortar) from the northern and eastern walls (neatly stacked volcanic stones with light gray mortar, built with a shuttering technique), its stratigraphic sequence securely locates it within this phase (fig. 25).

In addition to the architectural developments, the earlier tank was put out of use and a new tank was constructed, incorporating a portion of the northern *opus incertum* wall (fig. 26). This new tank, built largely within the void of the previous tank, measured 0.9m X 1.5m on the interior, and was lined with hydraulic plaster. Its NW corner appears to have incorporated an earlier brick pillar, respected in its inner shape, though the tank itself obscured any of the relationships which could provide more information about the pillar's construction and reuse. A packed earth surface completed the construction activity for this phase.

Phase 7b: installation of the soak-away

Following the construction of the previous sub-phase, but contemporary with the continuing use of the new tank, a cut was made through the present floor surface and fills for the installation of a soak-away. This cut was 1.5m deep, proceeding 0.5m into bedrock. Two complete and one half amphorae were stacked within this cut, and the top was capped by a sloping *opus signinum* surface with a central drainage outlet (fig. 27). Our flotation of the associated waste deposits demonstrated a considerable amount of large charcoal pieces and almost no food remains. This has significant implications for understanding the use of the tank, which otherwise provides little indication of its function; in spite of its seeming similarities to the five identified fish-salting vats nearby, the 'industrial' nature of the associated environmental assemblages and its arrival later in the chronological sequence instead point to a different kind of activity[28]. A more 'industrial' function for the tank is equally indicated by the patent need to remove seemingly toxic material as far from the work area as possible, but not onto the public street; not only was the depth of the soak-away's void – and thus the effort expended to construct the soak-away – significant, but only the bottom-most amphora was punctured along the sides. The upper amphora was only punctured at its base, making it act more like a channel than a diffusion point. The substance being drained through this soak-away was thus likely noxious and/or malodorous.

Phase 8: drain and mortar surface

Both the tank and the soak-away were put out of use in Phase 8. In the southern portion of the room a drain was constructed, overlying the previous packed earth surface of Phase 7a. Made of rubble with a smooth inner channel formed of gray mortar, this drain originally ran westward through the south of the room. The eastern origins of this drain are presently unknown because they lay outside of the bounds of the trench. Additionally, the outlet, which would have been through one of the curb-stones in the street, was removed in the modern period. With the

[28] ELLIS 2011.

Fig. 28. The mortar floor and curved ridge (top left) of Phase 8, with a remaining section of the drain on the right.

added problem of a pit being cut through the drain in the following Phase 9, no undisturbed section of the drain's fill could be recovered to reveal anything of the environmental nature of its waste[29].

The fill that surrounded the drain was ca. 40cm deep, thus raising the floor level again. This fill was sealed by a mortar floor that appears to have covered much of the extent of the room. In the north, this floor supported a feature which only remained in ephemeral traces. A ridge of plaster, preserved at a height ranging from 2-6cm, (fig. 28), ran from the northern wall in a curve toward the west before turning south at a 90° angle, and must have run against or served as the boundary to some unknown feature. The destruction of this feature may be due to the installation of the doorway in the northern wall, seen in the following phase.

Phase 9: final phase

Little is known of the final phase of activities within Room 22, as neither original excavation documents nor early published accounts comment upon this room specifically, nor was much of the latest phase preserved following these earlier excavations[30]. Only small patches of very faded monochrome wall plaster remain on the eastern and southern walls. No floor surface survived. A large pit was dug along the southern wall which destroyed the drain of the previous phase and much of the stratigraphy against the southern wall, but any construction following the cutting of this pit and its associated activity was undetectable.

A more significant event was the installation of a doorway and threshold stone in the northern wall (WF 1174/1247), which occurred either in this or the previous phase; the thorough destruction of the feature along the northern wall in the previous phase provides a clue that the cut for the doorway may have been part of, or the reason for, this feature's near-complete removal, thus placing the creation of the new doorway in this ultimate phase. This created direct access between Room 22 at entrance 6 with Room 23 at entrance 8, indicating that Room 22 may have had a function more directly associated with the operation of the 'inn' in its final phase.

[29] For previous discussion of the archaeological value of such samples from the Project's excavations, see ELLIS and DEVORE 2010: 4-5.
[30] For example, FIORELLI 1875: 34-35; MAU 1875: 30-32; VIOLA 1879: 9.

A final architectural alteration may have occurred around this time. The eastern wall (WF 1173) preserves evidence of a blocked doorway. When this wall was constructed in Phase 7a, it was a solid wall, but at some later date a ca. 2.8m wide doorway was created, providing access between Rooms 22 and 25. The cut for this doorway only went as low as the modern topsoil, so excavation was not able to provide any stratigraphic indications of when precisely this activity occurred. This doorway was certainly blocked by 79 CE, but the condition of the mortar and plaster was so poor that we were unable to ascertain any more specific relative dating of this opening and re-blocking.

Conclusion

Our 2010 field season intended to establish a preliminary chronological framework of the development of each property in *insula* I.1, and to begin to connect the related histories of the two *insulae* (I.1 and VIII.7) that flanked the southernmost limit of the *via Stabiana*. With just a single trench being opened in each of the properties, only limited statements can be made about the specific developmental histories of each building; more trenches will be excavated across each property in our 2011 field season from which we hope to start developing more definitive conclusions. Even so, some general statements can already be made based on the recognisable similarities in the broader phases of each trench and on their connections to the more fully understood history of *insula* VIII.7 to the west.

While the shared geological sequence between each of the three trenches is logically to be expected, the presence of the road surface (or sidewalk) that topped those sequences in each trench, and which represents the earliest example of significant human activity, is of patent importance. With similar 4th century BCE surfaces being uncovered under VIII.7, our aim will be to further refine the delineation of this feature and to map its trajectory. That it seemingly straddled the (later paved) course of the *via Stabiana* could indicate its use as a sidewalk to a main thoroughfare, or otherwise as a broad extension of that passage. On the other hand, the possible identification of two distinct thoroughfares, perhaps somewhat parallel to each other, might indicate the presence of a seasonal stream that ran between them in the 4th century BCE under what would later become the paved *via Stabiana*. Because this is the lowest area of the city – in parts less than 10m asl – the natural valley that formed here must have been susceptible to at least periodic water movement; indeed, the paved street still continues to channel considerable volumes of rain water. The formalisation of the *via Stabiana* in the 2nd century BCE might have served to smother a seasonal stream, with the pavement and curb stones allowing for any residual channeling of water.

Regardless of the motivation to pave the *via Stabiana*, what followed was the 2nd century BCE construction of the buildings that would stand until 79 CE. As with the pattern observed in our excavations at VIII.7, the earliest activities of these buildings centred on industry and production. Moreover, the evidence from the three trenches in I.1 indicates that the industrial activities were mostly abandoned in the Augustan period, as with those at VIII.7, with retailing activities dominating at least the frontages of these properties until their final destruction.[31]

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