

Trench #466  
Locus 1 and Locus 2  
7.17.14

Today we began articulating the 4cm x 3cm rectangular stone feature (hereafter referred to as Locus 1) in the southeast corner of the unit. Trowels and small paintbrushes were used to remove soil and dustpans and buckets were used to move this soil away. Once the feature was cleaned of soil and ready for photography we closed Locus 1. In the northwest corner of the unit we opened Locus 2. Using the probe-and-peel method with trowels and small picks we removed 5cm of the brown soil (Munsell 7.5 YR 5/6). In the center left of Locus 2, in a circular area 27cm from the north sidewall and 50cm from the west sidewall we found 17 pieces of amphora, including one toe, 1cm in diameter, made from a red clay fabric (see drawing below).

As we excavated Locus 2, we found a curvilinear opening in the northern interior stone wall. We have not removed enough soil as yet to determine whether this opening is purposeful and human-made or the result of wall-fall or animal activity. But because of the curved pottery mortared into the hole's lining, and the circular nature of the hole itself, I think it is probably intentional, most likely a support niche for a floor beam like we have seen in other buildings of this type nearby. When we return tomorrow we will examine the entire wall carefully as we excavate to see if other such holes emerge in Locus 2. If they do, and they match the other support holes we have seen, then we will have found clear evidence that Trench 466 contained a two-story building.