

## 7. TEMPLE A

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Temple A was not part of the research in the years 2013–2014, since the temple was already thoroughly examined by Michel Azim in 1974 and by Jean-François Carloti in 2010. The results were presented in 2012<sup>109</sup> and are currently being prepared for final publication as a monograph, including the relief decoration.<sup>110</sup> The evaluation of its architectural evolution published in 2012 served as the basis for the 3-D reconstruction of the temple in context to the entire town area for the present study.

The temple was located on the eastern side of the settlement, presumably adjoining the eastern enclosure wall and situated directly to the north of the so-called governor's palace SAF2. The two main streets of the town, Rue EO1 and Rue NS1 met at the southwestern corner of Temple A. The remains of the temple are rather scarce; only the sandstone pavement and the lower courses of the sanctuary walls have survived (Pl. 23). Through foundation deposits, the cella of the earliest temple can be dated to Thutmose III.<sup>111</sup> Another building phase can be dated to the year 25 of this king through a building inscription on a pillar (S.1), written in the name of viceroy Nehi.<sup>112</sup> In total, five construction phases were worked out for Temple A, of which four fall

within the reign of Thutmose III and the last is attributed to the reign of Amenhotep III.<sup>113</sup> Close parallels to Temple A can be found at other Nubian sites, e.g. Kumma and Semna, where similar construction phases are accounted for.<sup>114</sup>

In regard to the reconstruction plan and also the 3-D model of the fortified town of Sai, the fourth construction phase of Temple A (Thutmose III) was chosen, because this phase is already more advanced and clearly shows the orientation of the temple towards the east, with the sanctuary in the west and a pillared porch and entrance in the east.<sup>115</sup> The temple was enclosed by a mudbrick wall, of which only the northern, eastern and southern parts are attested for, the western enclosure wall is hypothetical. As already discussed in Chapter 6, this hypothetical western wall does not fit into the assumption that the north-south oriented street Rue NS1 continued northward from SAV1 – alongside Temple A and further to Building A – since it would be blocking the way. The dimensions for the temple can be given with a length of about 33.0m and a width of 15.50m (assuming a mudbrick enclosure on all four sides). The width of the sandstone pavement in the interior measures 10.70m.

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<sup>109</sup> AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012.

<sup>110</sup> The publication is being prepared by J.-F. Carloti together with L. Gabolde.

<sup>111</sup> See THILL 1997, 105–117; AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012, 39, 45; BUDKA 2014b, 60.

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<sup>112</sup> BUDKA 2014b, 60 with reference to BREASTED 1908, 98; VERCOUTTER 1956, 74–75, Doc. 13. See also GEUS 2004, 115; AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012, 46, note 84, and most recently DAVIES 2014, 7–9.

<sup>113</sup> AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012, 45–47, 65, pl. XVIIb.

<sup>114</sup> AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012, 44, 65, pl. XVI.

<sup>115</sup> AZIM/CARLOTTI 2011–2012, 46, 65, pl. XVIIb.