

the assembly of the grinding implement (N24C) to the west

- The piercing of the coated floor surface N24F11NWP (possible postholes related to Installation N24D)
- The occupation of the area resulting in deposit (N24De1e) on Floor N24F11NWP and, in the N24E area, Deposit (N24De1d) lying on Floor N24ELam1
- The plastering of the eastern face of Wall 08W's medial section, the blocked access point
- The coating of the area of N24E with the flooring surface N24ELam.

B.5.3 Building phases of N24

(Fig. 16, 23 and 26)

Because of varying altitudes in the natural gravelled soil, an extensive assessment of N24's building phases proves to be challenging. From the south-eastern corner of building unit N24, where the bricks of the wall's footing course sit directly upon the top of the natural surface, this ground slopes downwards both to the west and the north. There are thus discrepancies between the footing levels of the different walls and installations of N24 (Fig. 15), for which the builders may have occasionally added a pebble layer to counter the irregularities.

Despite these difficulties, an interpretation of the phasing was attempted. The first building phase (N24-b) began with the construction of N24's perimeter walls – leaving space for access through the western and northern sides of the building – their respective bonded pilasters, and the internal wall 07S. Also belonging to this initial phase of construction is the shaping of storage bin N24F, three nearby shallow depressions cut into the ground, probable storage pit N24B, as well as the arrangement of mortared bricks around bins N24F and N24B. During Phase N24-b, there was also a levelling with pebbles of the naturally sloping ground soil. This pebble layer, lying beneath the footing course of internal wall 08S and dividing walls N24Div1 and N24Div2, preceded the construction of these three walls and the occupational deposit (N24DeG). The plastering of the inner faces of Walls 08W, 08S and 08N¹⁶² followed this early stage of occupation, after which the floor coatings labelled N24F11 or

N24ELam1 were laid upon the initial occupational deposit. Installation N24C also belongs to the first building phase, N24-b. The phase of occupation identified within N24 by deposits (N24De1e) and (N24De1d) and outside the building as (N24De1a), (N24De1b), (N24De1c), comes after the first building stage N24-b.

At the second construction phase, N24-a (Fig. 22), the access points through western Wall 08W and northern Wall 08N were blocked. The arrangement of the composite north and west sides of Installation N24A also belong to N24-a because they were built upon the earlier Floor N24F11NEP.

The plastering of dividing walls N24Div1 and N24Div2 (Plaster D) and the arrangement of the grinding implement from Installation N24C also followed the earliest flooring stage. Though there is sparse evidence of the subsequent flooring phase within N24 (Fig. 23), it can be more substantially documented outside the building (N24F12N, IIB.5.1.3.). The final plastering (Plaster C) over Pilaster N24Pil3, as well as the western face of Wall 08W, the eastern face of the medial part of Wall 08W and the northern face of Wall 08N may also date to this Floor 2 stage of the N24-a construction phase.

C BUILDING UNIT N25

C.1 Introduction

The perimeter mud brick walls of building unit N25 (02E, 02N and 25W) are severely degraded both in length and height (Pl. 14), but it is still possible to determine that they are half-a-brick thick and made of running stretcher brick courses. Each corner of the building unit was found in a different state of preservation. On the eastern side of N25, in the northeastern corner there is evidence for the joint of the northern perimeter wall 02N and eastern perimeter wall 02E, while the masonry of the southeastern corner is entirely lost. To the west, given the orientation of the crossing headers running eastward at the northern end of western perimeter wall 25W, one may consider that these bricks were once joined to the northern perimeter wall 02N, thus forming N25's northwestern corner. Finally, only a negative impression of a crossing brick may potentially support the former presence of the building unit's southwestern corner.

¹⁶² The plasters covering the northern perimeter wall include Plasters A and A' (over the southern/inner face of Wall 08) and Plaster B (over the southern face of N24Pil3).

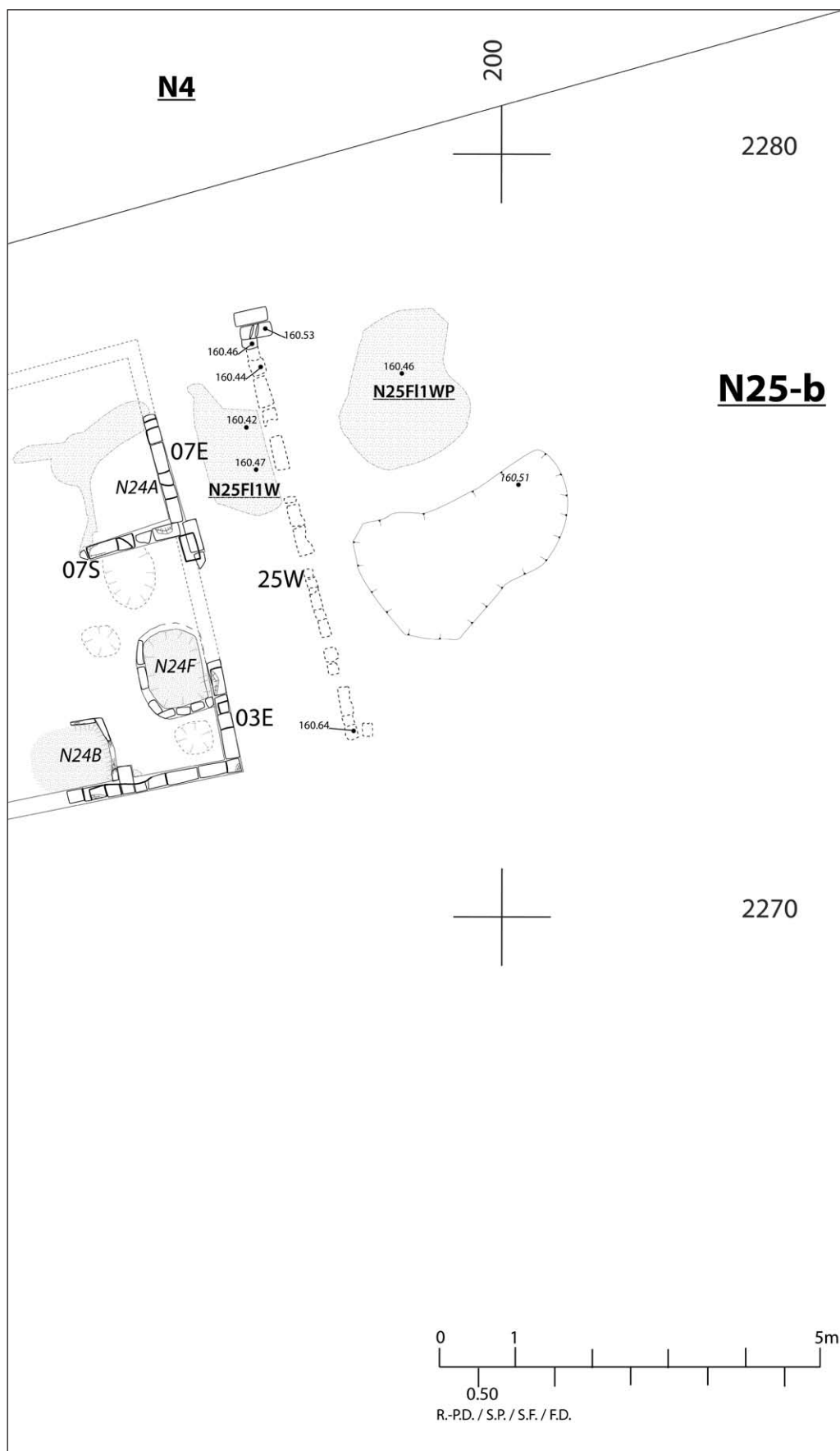


Fig. 27 Plan of Phase N25-b: levels of the perimeter walls and floors

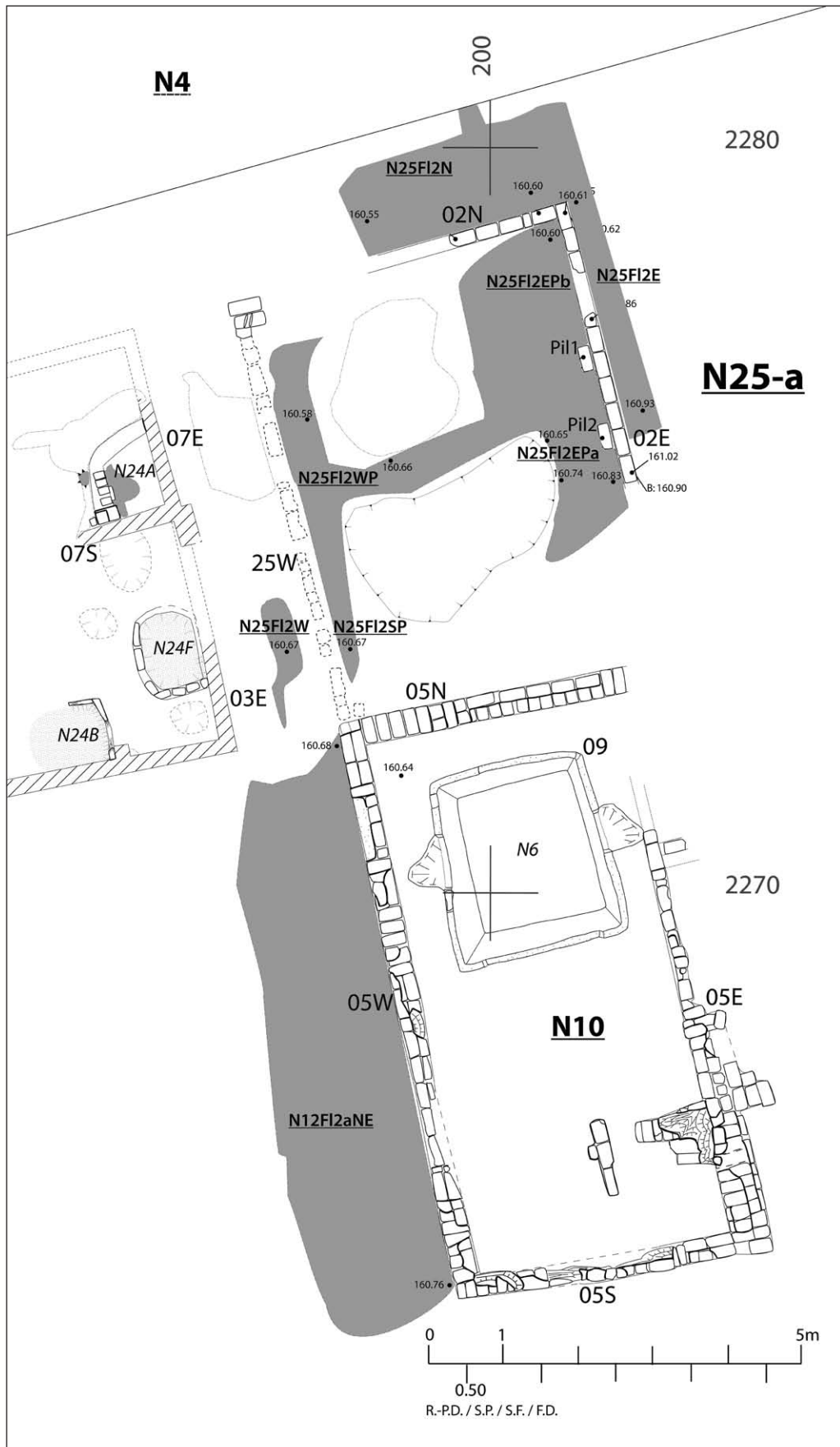


Fig. 28 Plan of Phase N25-a: levels of the perimeter walls and floors

Building unit N25 is surrounded by three streets or passageways (Fig. 28). One is the 1.60m wide wall street, which runs east–west between Wall 02N’s outer/northern face and the inner/southern face of the northern Enclosure Wall N4. Another lane, north–south oriented and *c.* 1.40m wide, separates the western side of N25 from the nearby building unit N24. Finally, to the east of N25 there is a third, narrower alleyway, also north–south oriented and 1m wide.

Due to the loss of the brickwork, the external lengths of N25’s sides can only be estimated as follows:

- The northern side is 4.55m long
- The eastern side is 5.80m long
- The southern side is 4.75m long
- The western side is 5.60m long

If only the bricks are taken into account, it would appear that N25’s perimeter walls all belong to the same period of construction. In support of this assumption, the bricks are all fairly similar in size (Fig. 29). Furthermore, some bricks from each walls’ footing course feature the same type of finger marks, two central oblique grooves.¹⁶³ However, when also taking associated coated floors into consideration, two successive building phases, N25-b and N25-a, seem more likely.

C.2 Description of N25’s perimeter walls (Figs. 27 and 28)

C.2.1 Southern perimeter wall

No bricks forming the N25’s southern perimeter wall were found.¹⁶⁴

C.2.2 Wall 02E

Forming the eastern side of building unit N25, Wall 02E is only preserved with a single footing course. This wall is north–south oriented and runs perpendicular to both Wall 02N and the northern Enclosure Wall N4. Wall 02E is half-a-brick thick and consists of mostly stretcher bricks lying on bed, 35 × 16 × 10.5cm in size. There is a 0.55m long gap (one and half stretcher bricks) in the masonry after the first three northern bricks, 0.75m away from the inner corner formed with Wall 02N. Six stretchers

beyond this gap, the footing course of Wall 02E is also truncated at its southern end. The total span of the gap and wall segments results in 3.75m for the present length of Wall 02E. Because bricks are lost south of this footing course, it is not possible to trace the original length of Wall 02E, but drawing on the length of the parallel Wall 25W’s bedding joint mortar (IIC.2.4.), it can be tentatively assumed that the Wall 02E was around 5.80m long.

At its preserved southernmost part, the top of Wall 02E’s footing course culminates at 161.02m and its base at 160.90m. At the northern end of Wall 02E, at the corner with the adjacent Wall 02N, the top of Wall 02E’s footing course is levelled at 160.75m, the base at 160.62m. The difference between the elevations indicates the uneven character of the ground soil that slopes gradually downward from south to north.¹⁶⁵ As can be seen from side views of Wall 02E and its truncated masonry (Pl. 15), Wall 02E was built on a 3–7cm thick deposit that in turn overlies a mud-coated surface (IIC.6.1.2).

C.2.2.1 Facing plasters of Wall 02E

Neither of 02E’s faces bears surface treatment.

C.2.2.2 Pilasters of Wall 02E: N25Pil1 and N25Pil2

Spaced 0.70m apart, two stretcher bricks lying on their broad side run along the inner/western face of Wall 02E’s southern segment. Both these bricks are situated upon a similar deposit that underlies the footing course of Wall 02E (IIC.2.2) and may thus belong to the same phase of construction as the wall. Given the location of these features, it can be suggested that they were the footing bricks of two inner pilasters buttressing N25’s eastern perimeter wall 02E, which must have been longer than its current length. Moreover, both bricks are identical in size (35 × 16 × 10.5cm) to those from the adjacent Wall 02E. At this lowest level of construction, there is no evidence of bonded masonry between Wall 02E’s footing course and the pilasters’ footing brick that runs parallel to it. With respect to this building technique, throughout the site SAV1 North there are several documented instances of pilasters associated with walls that show no specific bonding between the footing courses of a wall and its

¹⁶³ Finger mark Type B category = Azim Type 8 (IIA.3).

¹⁶⁴ At a right angle to Wall 25W’s (IIC.2.4) underlying mortar, there is a roughly square bedding joint mortar running east-

wards. This poorly preserved evidence might indicate the former southern perimeter, east–west oriented

¹⁶⁵ A gentle steep of 7.4 % (gradient 4.12°).

Building Unit N25		Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Total l + w + t	Format
Perimeter walls	25W finger mark Type B	33	15/16	10	58.5cm	<i>small</i>
	02N finger mark Type B	33	15	10.5	58.5cm	<i>small</i>
	02E finger mark Type B	35	16	10.5	61.5cm	<i>medium</i>
	N25Pil1	35	16	10.5	61.5cm	<i>medium</i>
	N25Pil2	35	16	10.5	61.5cm	<i>medium</i>

Fig. 29 Walls and Pilasters of N25: brick sizes

adjacent pilaster. According to the above-suggested interpretation of the two remnant western bricks as pilasters' footing bricks, these two features have been named N25Pil1¹⁶⁶ and N25Pil2,¹⁶⁷ to the north and to the south of Wall 02E's southern segment respectively. Pilaster N25Pil1 is located 1.65m away from N25's northeastern inner corner and N25Pil2 2.70m from that same corner.

C.2.3 Wall 02N

Like Wall 02E, only the footing course of Wall 02N, with a length of four running stretcher bricks that are 33 × 15 × 10.5cm in size. Wall 02N is east–west oriented, half-a-brick thick, and runs perpendicular to Wall 02E and parallel to Enclosure Wall N4's southern/inner face, *c.* 1.60m away from the latter. West of the intact footing bricks of Wall 02N, there are remains of a 0.80m long mud layer, bedding for at least two missing stretchers. Moving westwards, beyond the 2.20m span of intact bricks and negative impressions, the projected length of now lost mud-bricks is 1.75m.

At the eastern end of Wall 02N, its stretcher brick abuts the brick located at the northern end of Wall 02E at a right angle. With only the footing courses remaining in the northeast corner, it is impossible to determine what bonding technique most likely existed between these contiguous walls' upper courses. The top of Wall 02N's footing course culminates at a height ranging from 160.71–160.73m.¹⁶⁸ This wall was built on a thin layer of deposit (IIC.6.1.3)

that overlies a coated floor surface N25FI2N levelled at 160.58m.

C.2.3.1 Facing plasters of Wall 02N

Neither face of Wall 02N bears surface treatment.

C.2.3.2 Pilaster of Wall 02N

There is no evidence of any pilaster associated with Wall 02N.

C.2.4 Wall 25W

With the exception of two crossing header bricks from the footing course at the northern end of Wall 25W, all the bricks of the western perimeter wall are lost. Nevertheless, thanks to the remains of the bricks' bedding joint mortar, it is possible to determine that the brickwork that was once made of stretcher bricks. The negative impressions of the now missing footing course indicate that this wall was north–south oriented and half-a-brick thick.

The two crossing headers of Wall 25W's northern end run perpendicular to the southward stretch of the wall. The size of these mud bricks (33 × 15/16 × 10cm) is similar to those of Wall 02N. The orientation of these two headers may suggest that both the Walls 25W and 02N were once bonded at the northwestern corner of building unit N25. Such a juxtaposition between the two headers may also indicate that N25's northwestern corner was reinforced, formed as a corner pilaster with an interlocking brick pattern.

¹⁶⁶ The top of Pilaster N25Pil1 is levelled at 160.83m and its base at 160.75m.

¹⁶⁷ The top of Pilaster N25Pil2 is levelled at 160.92m. South of N25Pil2, the floor plaster N25FI2EPb laid on the ground is levelled at 160.83m (IIC.6.2.2).

¹⁶⁸ At its eastern end, the base of Wall 02N's footing course is levelled at 160.62m.

C.3 Description of N25's dividing walls (Pl. 14)

Together with the perimeter walls, remains of several later wall additions were documented within N25 that belong to Post-New Kingdom periods. The best preserved of these, 04E, is a 1.20m long, northwest oriented wall, and runs perpendicular to the outer/northern face of Wall 05N, the northern perimeter wall of building unit N10. Wall 04E is preserved up to two courses of staggered stretcher bricks and culminates at 161.22m. Wall 04E's mud bricks are $33 \times 16 \times 11$ cm in size and some of them have medium-sized pebble content. At a right angle to the northern end of Wall 04E's footing course is a contiguous footing course of bricks from the east–west Wall 04N. The footing course of Wall 04N is currently one and half stretcher bricks long, *i.e.* 0.50m. Both Walls 04E and 04N run over a deposit layer (N25DeB) (IIC.6.2.3) with a ceramic content that was assessed to belong to a recent, post-Medieval period.¹⁶⁹ Because of this late dating, Walls 04E and 04N must be considered intrusive.

Running *c.* 0.50m parallel to and west of Wall 04E is a short segment of another north–south running wall, 06E. Only two stretcher bricks ($33 \times 15 \times 10$ cm) are left of the footing course of Wall 06E, for a length of 0.65m and culminating at 160.91m.¹⁷⁰ Wall 06E runs on top of a gravel layer covering the Floor N25F12SP, laid across the southwestern part of N25 (IIC.6.2.3) and is therefore clearly post-dating the Level 3 phase of construction of N25.

C.4 Layout and dimensions of N25 building unit (Fig. 28)

The construction of building unit N25 began with western perimeter wall 25W, when it was probably intended as a freestanding building. With the ensuing construction of southern Structure N10, likely in the second building phase of Level 3 (N25-a), this was no longer the case. N25 is roughly rectangular; its two longer sides run north–south and are perpendicular to the two shorter sides, running east–west. The northern side of N25 runs parallel to Enclosure Wall N4, as is consistent with the pattern of SAV1's settlement grid.

The external surface area of N25 is 26.78m ($4.75 \times 5.80 \times 4.55 \times 5.60$ m) while the internal surface area is 22.92m ($4.30 \times 5.45 \times 4.15 \times 5.25$ m) (see Fig. 14). From the three remaining walls delineating

the building unit N25, two brick formats were identified (see Fig. 29). According to the classification described above (IIA.3), the bricks from Walls 02N ($33 \times 15 \times 10.5$ cm) and 25W ($33 \times 15/16 \times 10$ cm) fall into the small format category, while bricks of Wall 02E ($35 \times 16 \times 10.5$ cm) fall into the medium format category. Some bricks of these walls bear the same type of finger marks, namely two central oblique grooves (Type B, see IIA.3).

As mentioned above, all the perimeter walls of N25 are severely damaged. Any of the spots where the brickwork or wall's mortar bed is currently missing may potentially suggest a gap creating an access point, although there is no preserved evidence of relevant features to support this. However, throughout SAV1 North the pilaster feature has been commonly noted near an access point and thus the presence of the two pilasters' footing bricks along the inner/western side of Wall 02E, N25's eastern perimeter wall (IIC.2.2.2), may tentatively suggested that this wall was opened with one or two access points. Drawing on this assumed entry for both N25 and its westward neighbouring building unit N24 (IIB.4), it can be suggested that both structures share a similar layout and may have functioned as open-air courtyards.

C.5 Description of N25 installations

No specific installation related to the building phases of Level 3 was recorded within N25.

C.6 Coated surfaces associated with N25 (Figs. 27 and 28)

C.6.1 Outside N25

C.6.1.1 To the south of N25

Though nothing remains of the southern perimeter wall, the preserved brick impressions of the southwestern corner indicate that it likely abutted Wall 05N of the neighbouring Structure N10. Because of this close spatial relationship, anything falling to the southern exterior of N25 is now attested within 05N itself. Thus, the lower patch of coated floor within the inner northwestern corner of building unit N10 might correspond to the flooring surfaces N25F12W (IIC.6.1.4) and N25F12SP (IIC.6.2.3), identified on either side of Wall 25W's southern end. This floor surface abuts the base of the wall at the fifth course from the top and is levelled at 160.64m.

¹⁶⁹ Lauriane Miellé, personal communication, 8 July 2009.

¹⁷⁰ The base of Wall 06E is levelled at 160.78m.

C.6.1.2 To the east of N25

As observed below the footing course of the contiguous Wall 02N (IIC.6.1.3), the footing course of N25's eastern perimeter wall 02E was also built on a layer of compacted fine sand, designated (N25De2b).¹⁷¹ Below the deposit (160.61m at the northeastern corner of the N25 building unit) the coated surface N25F12E is preserved only in a few scattered patches¹⁷² along the lane separating Wall 02E from Wall 13W (see Fig. 3).

C.6.1.3 To the north of N25

A large piece of mud-coating, preserved up to *c.* 4m in surface area, was laid on the wall street separating the northern Enclosure Wall N4 from N25's northern perimeter, Wall 02N. Where this surface N25F12N abuts N4's southern facing, it covers the pebble and brick backfill of the enclosure wall's foundation trench, which concealed the three lowest courses of the enclosure wall. The top of surface N25F12N varies from 160.60m to 160.55m. Despite the assumed heavy traffic patterns of a wall street, the *c.* 5cm thick mud-coating was unevenly laid and the surface of N25F12N is fairly bumpy.

Surface N25F12N lies under a *c.* 3cm thick layer of compacted fine sand (N25De2a) upon which the footing course of Wall 02N was built. Because of the truncation of the floor surface near N25's north-western corner, the content of further deposit layers underlying the surface N25F12N may be observed. Below this surface, there is a *c.* 15cm thick deposit (N25De1b) that overlays a gravel backfill. This backfill is also attested further west along the wall street, where it overlies the surface N24F12N.

C.6.1.4 To the west of N25

For the lane separating N25 from its western neighbour N24, only two patches of mud-coated floor remain, each representing a different phase of coating the alleyway. The top of the lowest patch of Floor N25F11W is levelled from 160.47–160.42m. This floor is 3–4cm thick and covers a layer of gravel

backfill. To the east, the surface N25F11W connects to the bedding mud mortar of Wall 25W's now missing stretcher bricks, while to the west the connection of this floor to the outer/eastern face of Wall 07E is lost (IIB.5.1.2). The gravel soil underlying Floor N25F11W served as a ground foundation to Wall 25W and once concealed the footing course of the northern segment of N24's eastern perimeter wall (07E).

To the south, the upper flooring patch N25F12W runs between N25's southwestern and N24's southeastern corners. This surface is also 3–4cm thick and overlies a 15cm thick deposit layer densely mixed with pebbles, (N25De1a), that buried the footing courses of Walls 25W and 03E. The top of the floor coating N25F12W is levelled at 160.67m. Despite truncation to the south of N25F12W, this floor may nevertheless coincide with Floor N12F12aNE identified along the north–south running passageway separating N10 from N12 (IID.6.1.2).¹⁷³ The laying of the floor coating N25F12W may also be contemporaneous to Floor N25F12N, which was laid over the gravel material that filled the foundation trench of the northern enclosure, N4.

C.6.2 Inside N25

C.6.2.1 The western part

Throughout N25, the most dominate remaining features are much younger than those found in the neighbouring structures. The surface itself (Level 1), is a *c.* 15cm thick upper layer of æolian sand with ceramic sherd content.¹⁷⁴ Below this, Level 2 is a substantial stratum with a mixed content of sherds, brick waste and other refuse material, such as dumped stones or bone pieces.¹⁷⁵ It also contains a *c.* 1.10m in diameter fireplace located in the north-western quadrant of N25. A half-ring of stone fragments surrounded the western base of this fireplace, the bottom of which is levelled at 160.52m. Below the stones, there is evidence of some residual patches of mud-coated Floor N25F12WP. The top level of

¹⁷¹ South of Wall 02E, this layer (N25De2b) is 7cm thick with its top levelled at 160.90m and its base at 160.83m. At the opposite end of Wall 02E, the layer (N25De2b) is thinner and only 2–3cm thick between 160.63m and 160.61m.

¹⁷² The southern patches of Floor N25F12E are levelled at 160.93m.

¹⁷³ The top of Floor N12F12aNE is levelled from 160.76m (south of Wall 5W) to 160.68m (outer northern end of Wall 5W).

¹⁷⁴ Before digging, at the southeastern corner of Square 190/2270, the top of the surface level's altitude was measured at 161.46m and at 161.03m at the northeastern corner of the same square.

¹⁷⁵ The top levels of this demolition layer range from 161.35–161.21m.

this floor, cut by the fireplace from Level 2, ranges from 160.66–160.58m. Despite several large truncations, Floor N25F12WP expands continuously across the inner room of the N25 building unit and corresponds to the Floor N25F12EP identified in the eastern part of N25 (IIC.6.2.2). Where the hearth was located, Floor N25F12WP overlies a 7cm thick layer of deposit, (N25De1c), composed of sand, pebbles and ceramic sherds. Underlying Deposit (N25De1c), a trampled coated surface N25F11WP was laid over gravelled ground.

C.6.2.2 The eastern part

In the eastern part of N25, other distinct layers of sandy deposits belong to the demolition layer named Level 2. One meter west of the inner side of Wall 02E, a north–south section cut through the accumu-

lated strata revealed a valuable deposit sequence (Pl. 16). Below a 6–7cm thick layer of hardened sand with ash and ceramic content, there are three layers/lenses mostly composed of sandy silt mixed with sherds, thin chopped straw, ash or charcoal.¹⁷⁶

It is clearly visible from the section that these loose sandy deposits, named (N25DeA),¹⁷⁷ overlie a different layer of compacted fine sand, (N25De2d).¹⁷⁸ This deposit in turn overlies a 3cm thick mud-coated material N25F12EPa that was laid on a layer of gravel backfill, c. 15cm thick. Floor surface N25F12EPa slopes gradually downwards from south to north, ranging from 160.74–160.65m. This surface is identical to the surface N25F12EPb identified further east, along the inner side of N25's eastern perimeter wall 02E.¹⁷⁹ The floor coatings identified on the eastern part of N25 run westwards

Outside, north of N25	Outside, west of N25	Outside, east of N25	Inside N25, western part	Inside N25, eastern part	Inside N25, southern part	Building phases of N25
Surface Level 1						
Level 2						
			fireplace c. 1.10m Ø	(N25DeA)	(N25DeB)	
(N25De2a)		(N25De2b)	(N25De2c)	(N25De2d)		
<u>N25F12N</u> 02N	<u>N25F12W</u> // <u>N12F12aNE</u>	<u>N25F12E</u>	<u>N25F12WP</u>	<u>N25F12EPa</u> <u>N25F12EPb</u> 02E	<u>N25F12SP</u>	N25-a Second building phase
(N25De1b)	(N25De1a)		(N25De1c)	(N25De1d)	(N25De1e)	
	<u>N25F11W</u> 25W		<u>N25F11WP</u>			N25-b First building phase
Gravel backfill						
Natural ground						

Fig. 30 Floors, fills and building phases of N25

¹⁷⁶ The upper layer of hardened sand is levelled between 160.99–160.92m. The three lower layers or lenses are c. 16cm thick.

¹⁷⁷ In the eastern section, the sandy deposits (N25DeA) are c. 22cm thick.

¹⁷⁸ The compacted fine sand deposit is c. 5–10cm thick.

¹⁷⁹ At that place, one observes a similar downward slope from south to north and the top level of N25F12EPb ranges from 160.83–160.60m.

(N25F12WP, see IIC.6.2.1) and though the coatings were given different names due to their distinctive locations, they all belong to the same horizon.

The deposit below the Floor N25F12EPa is visible through the section. This deposit (N25De1d) mainly consists of pebbles and is c. 15cm thick. Under this deposit, there is another stratum of gravel, the top of which is covered by a superficial chalky crust. Such a crust below Deposit (N25De1d) may indicate the presence of the natural gravelled ground, levelled here at 160.51m.

C.6.2.3 The southern part

As previously mentioned (IIC.3), below the footing courses of Walls 04E and 04N, there is clear evidence of a deposit layer, (N25DeB). This 22–28cm thick deposit upon which the walls were built, may correspond to Deposit (N25DeA) identified in the eastern part of building unit N25. In the south-eastern quadrant of N25, there is no evidence of a coated surface underlying Deposit (N25DeB). The floors identified in the eastern part of the building unit (IIC.6.2.2), N25F12EPa and N25F12EPb, were truncated in the area of Walls 04E and 04N, which belong to later phases.

Nevertheless, in N25's southwestern quadrant, a patch of coated floor levelled at 160.67m is visible. This small piece of coated material N25F12SP most likely corresponds to the Floor N25F12WP laid across N25's northwestern part. Now truncated, Floor N25F12SP must have at some stage been connected to both the base of Wall 06E that was built upon the deposit, as well as to the top of the footing course of Wall 25W. Similar to Floors N25F12WP, N25F12EPa and N25F12EPb, the surface N25F12SP overlies a layer of gravel backfill (N25De1e)¹⁸⁰ This deposit layer buried the inner/eastern side of Wall 25W's footing course, much like layer (N25De1a) buried the outer/western side of the same wall's footing course (IIC.6.1.4).

C.6.3 Building phases of N25 (Figs. 27, 28 and 30)

Given that in most places one (or less) brick courses remain of building unit N25's walls,¹⁸¹ it is only pos-

sible to provide a tentative account of their building phases. Nevertheless, despite the walls' poor preservation, several intact patches of floors may provide information about the floor layer phasing and intervening deposits sequence.

Firstly, the remnants of Floor N25F11W are clearly associated with the bedding joint mortar below the footing course of Wall 25W, attributing the western perimeter wall of N25 to the first building phase, N25-b. This early phase was contemporaneous with the foundation of the enclosure wall (Phase N3-b) and the levelling of the uneven ground surface in the surrounding area. Following this levelling stage is the construction of N25's northeastern corner walls – the associated floors designated N25F12 lie on top of the gravel fill, placing them in the second building phase of Level 3, *i.e.* N25-a.¹⁸² Finally, the fireplace and its half-ring of stone pieces, as well as the short segments of Walls 04 and 06, post-date the building phases within N25 assigned to Level 3.

D BUILDING UNIT N12

D.1 Introduction

The outline of building unit N12 (Pl. 17) consists of four perimeter walls: 42S, 42E, 42N and 52W. In addition to these, two north–south oriented internal walls, 46W and 53E, divide the building unit into three areas. The layout of building unit N12 is thus related to the tripartite type¹⁸³ of Egyptian house plan with an entrance vestibule¹⁸⁴ (*i.e.* the front section N12/1 between Walls 52W and 46W, Fig. 33), a central room or court (N12/2, between Walls 46W and 53E) and a rear space (N12/3, between Walls 53E and 42E). The rear space is in turn also subdivided into a smaller space (N12A) in the southeastern corner of the structure, divided by the east–west running Wall 57. All of N12's perimeter and internal walls are half-a-brick thick and were built using layers of mud brick stretchers of a traditional running bond pattern. While both the eastern corners of building unit N12 are joined, these connections are formed by two distinct joining patterns; on the western side both corners are missing (Fig. 31). The

¹⁸⁰ In the southern part of N25, the top the c. 10cm thick gravel deposit layer (N25De1e) ranges from 160.77–160.64m.

¹⁸¹ It may be suggested that the dismantling of western perimeter wall 25W down to its foundation course is to be ascribed to a later phase, after Floor N25F12W was laid, and after the time of construction of the adjacent Structure N10.

¹⁸² The construction of the adjacent building enclosure N10 may also belong to this subsequent phase.

¹⁸³ BIETAK 1996, 24, fig. 2. For a detailed assessment of the tripartite layout, see VON PILGRIM 1996a, 190–196.

¹⁸⁴ BUDKA and DOYEN 2013, 176.