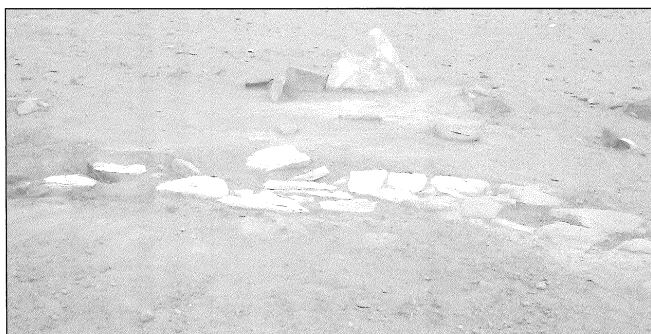


2. Location of structures in the *Ṭurayf al-Marāgh* area. "F" numbers refer to features that were cleared of drift sand and drawn.



3. View to SW of linear features F2, F6, and F5 (left to right); F2 begins near F1 at the left and F5 ends at Feature 7 at its right (NW) end. (Photo: G. Rollefson).



4. The end of the F2 pavement continues to the left (NE) of U-shaped F1. (Photo: G. Rollefson).

toward both ends. The southern end terminated abruptly near F1, but instead of leading directly to it, the alignment began to curve away toward the northeast. No evidence was found to link F2 with F1, so it cannot be demonstrated yet if the two are contemporaneous (and thus likely to be

associated in function) or if one was built some time after the other.

F2 consisted of a parallel double-leaf arrangement of unhewn stones of considerable size, both sandstone and granite, ranging from 60 x 36 to 70 x 47cm in surface area and 10-15cm in thickness; smaller cobbles and gravel filled in the interstices between the larger stones. Although the stone pavement was probably level when originally constructed, the fact that the construction was a single stone high and placed on a sand surface resulted in marked undulations, with general differences in elevation of about 15-25cm over a distance of only a couple of meters. The uneven surface suggests strongly that subsidence of the underlying sand was related to the effects of water. On the other hand, the sudden plunge (30-35cm) of the southern terminus of the pavement might be associated with the sinking of this part into a grave as the body decayed.

The reason for the geometry of F2 remains a mystery. From the southern end, the feature curves in a gentle arc for some 5-6m before it turns abruptly towards the north, continuing in a straight N-S direction for more than 11m until the direction once again shifts suddenly to the northwest, continuing for only about 8.1m before the feature comes to an unexpected halt; a quick test probe about two meters farther to the NW did not find a reappearance of the feature.



5. View to the SE of Feature 6 (Photo: G. Rollefson).

In essence, F2 has no understandable beginning or end (unless the southern end is somehow directly related to F1). How the alignment was associated with the daily (or special) lives of the people who constructed it remains speculative.

Feature 6. Once Feature 2 had been exposed at both its ends, we noticed that two other stone alignments were partly visible. One alignment was about 14m to the northeast of the northern end of F2 (F6) and another was about 20m to the northwest (F5). F6 was similar to F2 in terms of its construction, although there were also some differences. In its entirety, F6 was only just over 14m long, and was oriented in a (generally) straight line that was on a NW-SE axis along the direction of the slope. The pavement was two to three stones wide (83-115cm total, with stone dimensions ranging between 60 x 38 and 67 x 25cm), and the amount of cobble and gravel fill was much more prevalent in F6 (Figs. 2 and 5). The surface was particularly uneven along the entire length of the pavement, with variations reaching 35cm over short distances. Like F2, F6 terminates at both ends unexpectedly, with no indication of why it began and ended where

it did; small probes at either end did not find a continuation of the feature.

Feature 5. When we arrived at Turayf al-Marāgh at the beginning of the season, our impression from surface exposures was that Feature 2 continued from the vicinity of Feature 1 all the way towards the northwest for some 70-80m in a snakelike pattern. As it turned out, there was a 19.22m gap between the NW end of F2 and another double-leaf pavement that we called Feature 5 (Figs. 2 and 6). The southern arc is about 4 m in length, and then the pavement turns almost 90° to the NE before twisting towards the NW again after covering some 40m in length, reaching almost twice the length of F2. Although the width of F5 is about the same as F2, the stones in the pavement tend to be somewhat larger on average, with the upper range measuring between 62 x 49 and 90 x 52cm and a thickness of 15-25cm (Fig. 7). Once again, the spaces between the large pavement stones are filled with smaller cobbles and angular gravel, and occasionally there are major dips in the level of the surface



6. View to SSW of Feature 5 (Photo: U. Avner).



7. Detail of construction of Feature 5 (Photo: G. Rollefson).

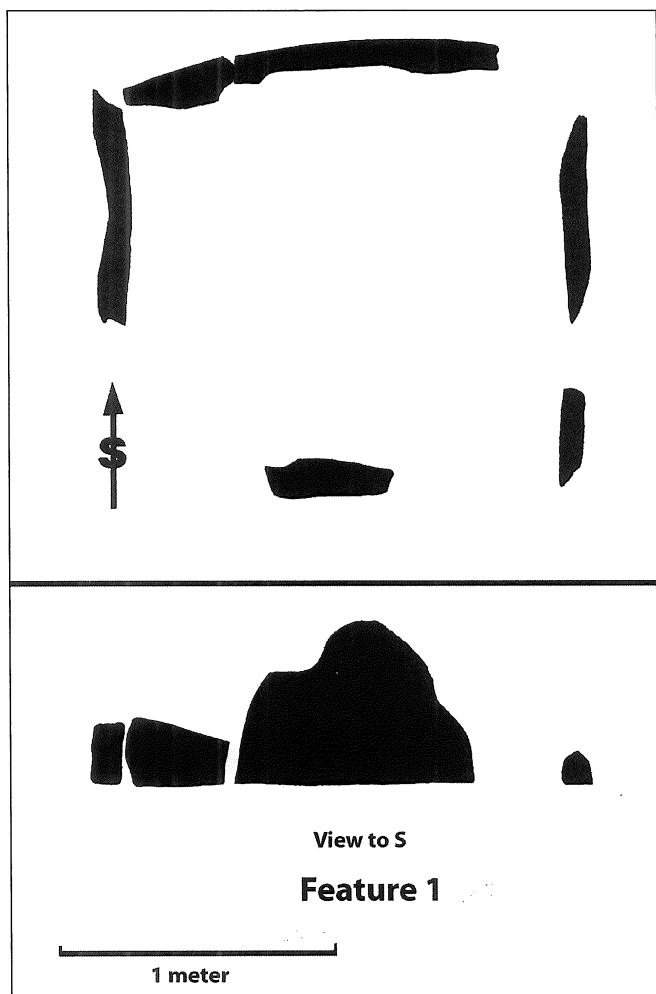
due to subsidence of the underlying sand.

Although F5 shares the suddenness of its southern end with F2 and F6, the northern end is terminated by a rectangular Feature (F7), and in its middle course F5 is interrupted by another rectangular structure (F8). Both of these structures are discussed below.

U-Shaped Structures

Feature 1. In addition to the linear pavements, one of the most striking things noted in the visit to the Ṭurayf al-Marāgh area on 2006 was a small structure with straight walls on its western, southern, and eastern sides. (A single stone placed on edge at the center of a line perpendicular to the southern wall is an indication of a northern “wall”, but this architectural element is only suggestive since it rises only a couple

of centimeters above the surface). While the eastern and western walls are defined by stones set on edge that project only 15 to 30cm above ground level, the southern wall is dominated by a large, roughly triangular slab arranged on edge that rises 60cm at its apex; next to it on the left is another slab, but this rectangular piece is only 30cm high (Figs. 2 and 8-9); none of the stones is much more than 20cm thick. The open space inside the rectangle defined by the stones spans 1.53m E-W and 1.4m N-S. The orientation of the structure is almost exactly 180° (S) through the center of the triangular slab and the low stone area along the northern side of the feature. Unlike some of the other U-Shaped structures, no paving stones were noticeable inside or outside the feature, although a weathered sandy surface may have covered sub-surface stones¹.



8. Plan and elevation of Feature 1 (Drawing: G. Rollefson).

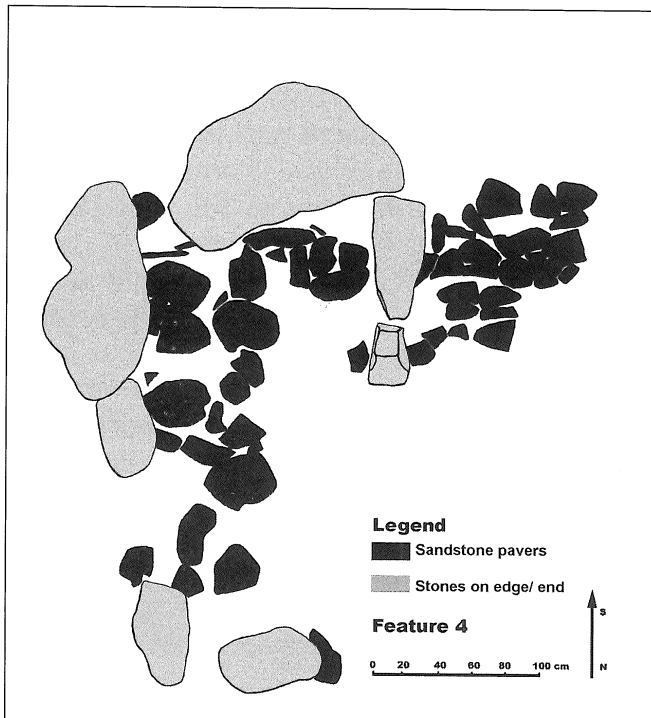
Feature 4. F4 is situated near the cliff face of Ṭurayf al-Marāgh atop a small knoll (Figs. 2 and 10). The orientation of F4 is 185°, almost due south. The interior dimensions of F4 are approximately 1.36m E-W by either 1.80 or 2.60m N-S. (It is not clear from the surface if there is only a short chamber or a longer one that extends downslope, perhaps damaged by erosion). The wall stones, set on edge, are much larger than the stones in F1: on the eastern wall one of the stones is 42cm high, 65cm thick and 1.34m long; on the western wall one stone stands on



9. View of Feature 1 towards the south (Photo: G. Rollefson).

1. On a visit to Ṭurayf al-Marāgh a month after the field season ended, it was discovered that Feature 1 was completely obliterated by a vandal. The space enclosed

within the stone walls was dug up, and the stones themselves taken away. None of the other features was disturbed, on the other hand.



10. Top plan of Feature 4. Stippled objects are stones set on end or edge; black objects are sandstone pavers (Drawing: G. Rollefson).

end to a height of 37cm and is 28cm wide and 40cm long, and another is 76cm long by 32cm wide and 30cm high. The massive central stone in the southern wall currently lies on its flat side, but when still on edge it was 78cm high and 1.46m wide.

Besides size and mass, F4 is also set apart from F1 by the presence of at least 24 tabular sandstone slabs that form a paved “apron” along the western side of the feature; there is no indication of pavement on the exterior of the other three walls. Other tabular sandstone slabs inside the structure indicate that the interior may also have been paved at one time, although the surface looks badly disturbed and uneven, probably partially the result of erosion down the slope towards the south and west.

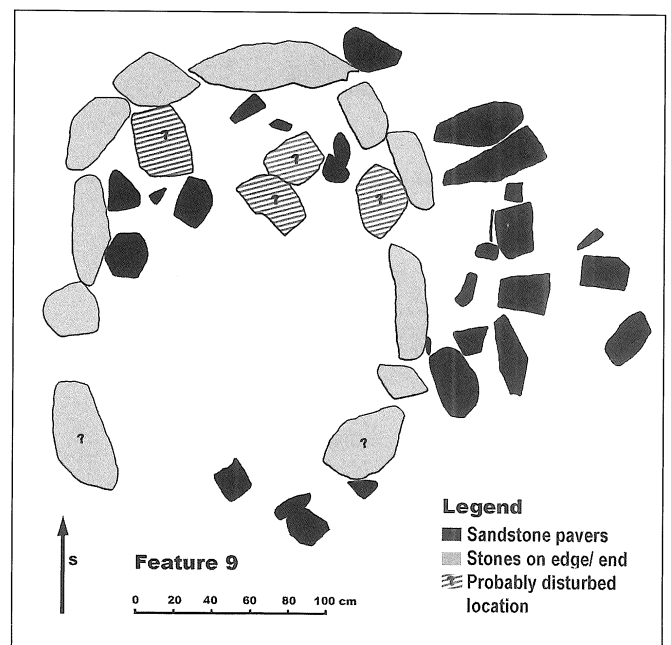
Feature 9. Like F4, F9 is also positioned near the cliff face, but at an elevation of about 4 m lower and ca. 25m towards the north; like F4, it is oriented almost directly south. The walls of F9 are also comprised of relatively large stones, with the central stone in the south wall measuring 92cm in length, 26cm in thickness, and set on edge to a height of 35cm above the local surface (Figs. 2 and 11). But as was the case for Feature 1, the stones in the side walls

are relatively low, ranging in elevation from 13 to 30cm. The interior space is 1.48m wide E-W and 2.0m long N-S.

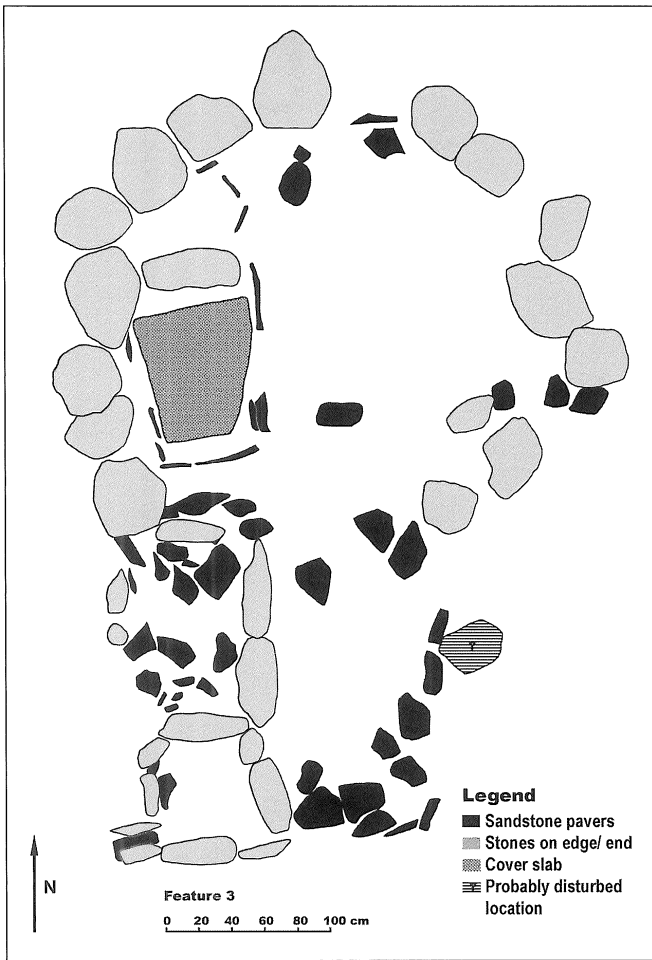
Feature 9 also features sandstone slab paving outside the western wall, but in this case the pavement has been badly broken up and there are many noticeable gaps. Sandstone slabs occur inside the walls as well, but how extensive the original paved surface was is not possible to determine without deeper probing. It appears that the northern (downhill) end of F9 suffered from erosion and subsidence, and there is clear evidence of a later use of the structure, with several stones rearranged inside F9. (These are not included in Fig. 11).

Complex Feature

Feature 3. The outline of Feature 3 is circular in general, with an interior diameter of about 2.70m (Figs. 2 and 12-13). The large granite stones that form the main wall range up to 60cm in length, 48cm in width, and stand on end/edge up to a height of 68cm. (In Fig. 12, one of the stones near the top center of the circle has fallen on its side, but its height, when still upright, it would have been 68cm high, the same as its companion just to the east). The rest of the stones in this circular arrangement range from 15 to 51cm, and the average height for all 15 of them is just over



11. Top plan of Feature 9. Stippled objects are stones set on end or edge; black objects are sandstone pavers; question marks indicate uncertainty as to disturbance (Drawing: G. Rollefson).



12. Top plan of Feature 3. Stippled objects are stones set on end or edge; black objects are sandstone pavers; question marks indicate possibly disturbed stones (Drawing: G. Rollefson).



13. View of Feature 3 to the NNE. (Photo: G. Rollefson).

40cm. The overall arrangement of the structure is oriented 20° NNE.

Inside the circular part of F3 are two chambers along the western wall. One is set aside by thin upright tabular sandstone slabs, creating a space ca. 75cm (NE/SW) by 30cm (SE/NW). Just to the south of it is another chamber, also defined by thin sandstone slabs, but also isolated

from the northern chamber (ca. 70cm E-W by 1.0m N-S) by a larger granite stone (60 x 26cm). This southern compartment is covered by a single slab of unhewn sandstone that measures 80 x 65cm; what the slab covers is, of course, a situation that begs speculation.

To the south of the circular “room”, (partly intruding into it), is a combination of two more compartments bordered by granite stones and tabular sandstone slabs. Of this pair of chambers, the northern one is just longer than 1m in a N-S direction and about 70cm wide. The southern chamber is somewhat smaller: 65 (N-S) by 56cm. The wall stones for both chambers are relatively small, ranging between 25 and 61cm in length, 10 to 26cm in width, and 12 to 22cm in height.

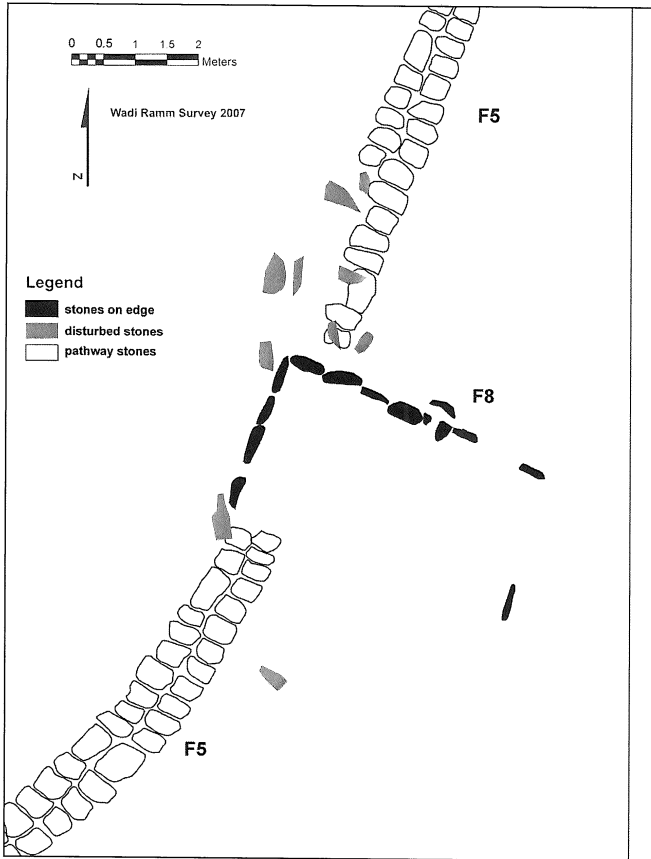
One curious aspect of F3 is a small “channel” leading from the SW corner of the southernmost rectangular compartment. The channel is open towards the west and consists of two upright slabs 26 to 34cm long, about 10cm thick, and about 15cm high; a “floor” to this channel is made of two tabular sandstone slabs of unknown thickness, but which underlie the upright slabs. The function of this curious element is again highly conjectural.

Incomplete Feature

Feature 8. The long N-S stretch of the paved pathway Feature 5 was interrupted near its center by a later construction that appears to be incomplete. Feature 8 removed nearly four meters of F5 before setting a number of stone slabs on edge to create a rectilinear outline, although remains of this walled enclosure can be found only on three sides (west, north, and east, with the last represented by a single stone) (Figs. 2 and 14-15). Although the southern wall is completely missing (as well as almost the entire eastern one), it appears that the interior dimensions may have been approximately 2.5m NE-SW by 5.0m NW-SE, with the long axis oriented 295°/115° (NW-SE). The interior space did not present any obvious intentional subdivisions or features. The re-use of stones from the pavement of F5 to erect the walls of F8 is very likely.

Elaborate Feature

Feature 7. The southeastern origin of Feature 5 is sudden; why it began there cannot be an-

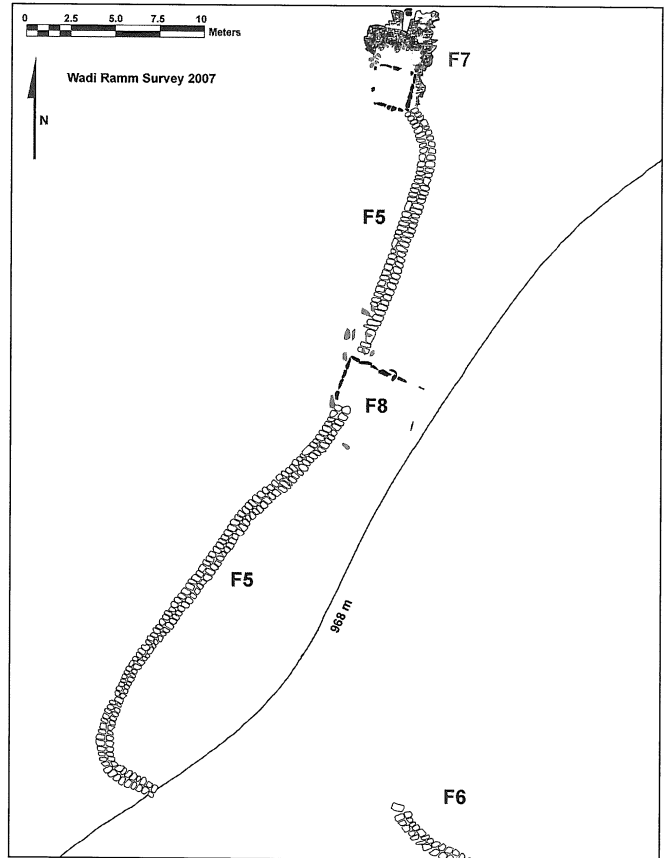


14. Top plan showing interruption of Feature 5 by later Feature 8 (Drawing: G. Rollefson).

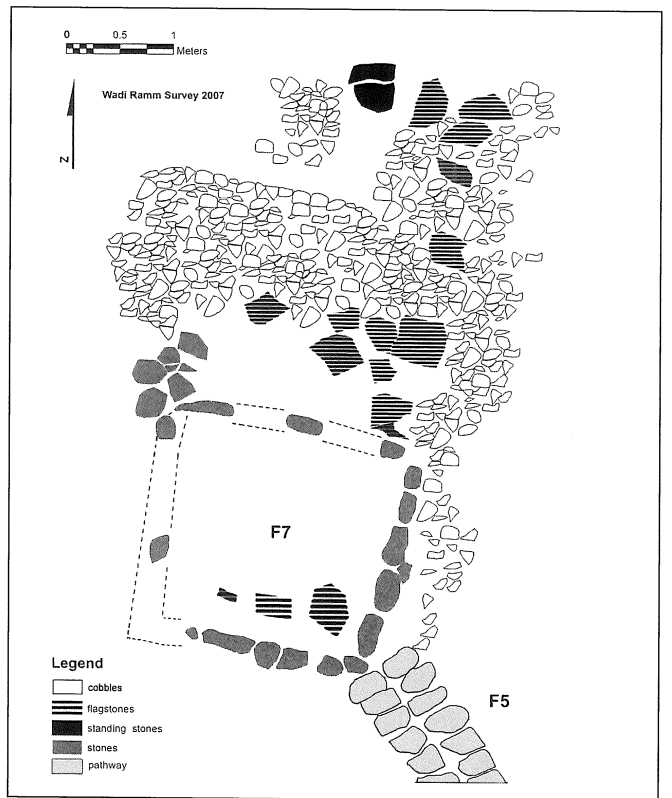


15. View towards the west of the interruption of Feature 5 by Feature 8 (Photo: G. Rollefson).

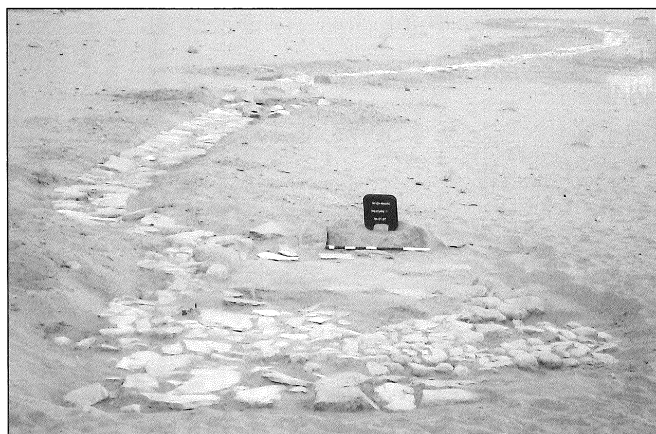
swered. The northwestern end of Feature 5 is truncated by Feature 7, a variant of a rectangular enclosure but with several components arranged in an elaborate manner (Figs. 16-18). F7 consists of seven or eight separate components, and there is some indication that F7 may have undergone expansion and renovation over time. The composition of F7 consists of 1) an open platform surrounded by 2) walls of large stones set on edge or on end; along the eastern edge of F7 is 3) a narrow cobbled area that is connected at the NE corner of the feature to 4) a larger cobble-paved terrace. Between the terrace and the platform is 5) an open area that may once have been paved with tabular sandstone slabs,



16. Plan of the relationship between Features 5, 8 and 7 (Drawing: G. Rollefson).



17. Top plan of Feature 7, showing the standing stones, open space, flagstones and the cobble-pavement "apron" to the east and north (Drawing: G. Rollefson).



18. View to the SE of Feature 7, with Feature 5 interrupted by Feature 8 at top center (Photo by G. Rollefson).

although much of this space is now empty sand. At the NW corner of the platform is 6) a cluster of large stones (ca. 35-40cm maximum dimension). There is a clear delineation of the northern edge of the cobbled terrace, but at some time it appears that 7) an extension (and perhaps two) was added towards the north using both small cobbles and broad tabular sandstone slabs. Finally, 8) a broken standing stone reminiscent of the central stones of the rectangular open-air sanctuaries (cf. Farès-Drappeau and Zayadine 2004: figs. 19-20, 2001: fig. 17) occurs near the northern edge of the cobble extension(s), just over 3m north of the open platform (**Fig. 17**).

The wall surrounding the platform is missing on the western side, and stones also seem to have been removed after abandonment of the feature along the northern and southern walls; it is possible that the cluster of large stones near the NW corner of the platform includes some of these wall stones. The platform itself, with interior dimensions of 1.95 (E-W) by 2.10 (N-S)m, is generally clear of any visible features with the exception of several broad tabular sandstone slabs near the southern wall; whether these are the last remnants of a more extensive pavement cannot be determined. The orientation of the complex is SSE at 196°.

Discussion

In the absence of the opportunity to make any excavations during our short season, it is not surprising that there are many unresolved questions that arose as we were conducting the fieldwork. A major problem was the absence of any directly associated artifacts, so the age of the various structures remains very obscure.

The variability in shapes and sizes of the stone alignments suggests an enduring use of *Ṭurayf al-Marāgh*, but exact dates (including interruptions) are unknown. The dating is elusive and the functions of the different constructions are enigmatic. Nevertheless, ruminations of these problems can lead to the formulation of some hypotheses that can be examined more rigorously in future seasons.

Linear Features

The long and meandering lines that define Features 2, 5, and 6 are fascinating because they are so different from the other structures in *Wādī Ramm* (and almost everywhere else, for that matter). They are not walls in the conventional sense of the term, for they do not appear to be boundaries to segregate one space from another: the fact that they are a single course high (and evidently never more than that) indicates they were not physical barriers to impede access for humans or animals, nor would they have served to control coursing water (F6, for instance, is aligned along the slope axis) or aeolian effects. On the other hand, we cannot determine in a paleopsychological way what the ancient concepts of “space” and “boundaries” may have been for the people who constructed and used these stone alignments.

The size of the stones used in these alignments demonstrates that considerable effort and planning was involved in the construction of all three. These are not the simple and expedient arrays seen in some recent temporary camps in the desert. In terms of construction and general arrangement, there are striking parallels between F2, F5 and F6 and the “paved avenue” in the “Classic Courtyard” phase at Chalcolithic *Tulaylāt al-Ghassūl* that links Sanctuary A with the “Altar Arc” (Seaton 2006: 73 and Plate 8; cf. Bourke 2001: 132). But the similarity with the Ghassulian avenue breaks down when we consider that the *Ṭurayf al-Marāgh* features do not lead to or from anything unless Feature 7 was originally conceived as a destination by the builders of F5. It is also possible that all three linear features in this part of *Wādī Ramm* have continuations still covered by sand that we have not found yet, and that the pavements do in fact lead to and from other features; remote sensing using ground penetrating radar (GPA) could

help to resolve this issue.

For the present, we suggest that Features 2, 5 and 6 are paved pathways, and that given the presumed ritual nature of the other features constructed at Ṭurayf al-Marāgh, that they can be considered to be “processionals” used by visitors to the area, perhaps as early as the Chalcolithic period.

U-Shaped Structures

Several visitors to the Ṭurayf al-Marāgh area during our research commented that F1 was possibly (if not probably) a *qibla* device in view of its orientation and simplicity, both aspects that characterize so-called “desert mosques” in many parts of the region. However, the due-south direction of the axis of symmetry of F1, while suggestive of an indicator to orient Muslims toward the Ka‘ba in Makkah during their prayers (K. Jbour, pers. comm.; cf. Abdali 1997) is not convincing. The “true” *qibla* from Ṭurayf al-Marāgh is 153°, fully a quarter-quadrant towards the east from the orientation of F1 (Durrani 1994). While high precision was probably not attainable for pastoralists who had no resort to astrolabes in the early Islamic period, the presence of several other south-facing U-Shaped structures with almost exactly the same orientation within 50-60m indicate that F1 was unnecessarily redundant if it indeed was intended as a *qibla*. F1 is much simpler in terms of its structural details, but the characteristics it shares with other nearby U-Shaped structures suggest it served a similar function.

The ritual character of the Ṭurayf al-Marāgh sector is clearly shown by the presence of several large tumuli, and the possibility that the U-Shaped structures such as F4 and F9 are tombs cannot be dismissed, although this cannot be resolved without excavation. The strong relationship of F1, F4, and F9 (as well as F3, see below) with a back-sighting on the North Star argues for some relationship with astronomy as an element in their construction. The presence of a dominating stone in the south wall of all three of these structures is possibly associated with symbolic meaning (cf. Avner 1990), and as a consequence the enclosures are potentially shrines dedicated to some celestially associated deity.

There are other U-Shaped structures at Ṭurayf al-Marāgh where the directional orien-

tation is other than directly N-S, such as S15 in Fig. 2, which also has large standing stones in the rear wall but whose axis of symmetry is aligned NE-SW. Future research in this part of Wādi Ramm could reveal if the changes in the structures and their orientation might represent change over long periods of time and/or if different tribal groups may have made use of the area from time to time.

Other Structures

In terms of its geometry, the circular nature of Feature 3 stands out as a singular construction. Its orientation also maintains a N-S direction, but in this case the building is directly pointed towards the north. The small compartments inside and outside the structure, which seem to indicate sequential renovations, are curious because of their different sizes and special characteristics. The interior diameter of the main “room” of Feature 3 is ca. 2.7m, large enough to have served as a residential area even in view of the presence of the chambers along the western wall, and the absence of a hearth in itself does not mean this was not a tent-like building. On the other hand, the circular wall composed of substantial stones set on edge is unlike any temporary domestic structure we have encountered in the literature. For the moment, pending further investigation, we prefer to regard F3 as another ritual structure whose specific role remains ambiguous.

The reason for the interruption of the Feature 5 pavement by Feature 8 is difficult to fathom, mostly because Feature 8 appears to be incompletely preserved or was not finished. The builders of F8 obviously recognized that F5 existed, for there is clear evidence that they consciously removed large stones from more than 3.5m of the double-wide pathway. Clarification of the use of F8 will require additional field research.

Feature 5 appears to continue under Feature 7, although a continuation of F5 beyond the NW corner of F7 was not visible; nevertheless, our working hypothesis is that the F7 structure was built on top of F5, a truncation that, like the interruption of F8, took place some time after the completion of F5. Whatever the relative construction history of the two features, it is possible that once F7 was finished, F5 continued to be used in conjunction with F7. The small cobbled area

along the eastern edge of F7 was built at the same height as F5, and this cobbled area might be a later continuation of the pathway around F7 to the northern side. The differences in the technical aspects of the small walkway and the F5 pavement are patently clear, with the cobbles averaging ca. 15cm in maximum dimension, while the F5 pavers are generally in the range of 65 by 40cm. The open area between the platform and the cobbled terrace is intriguing, and it might be the case that at one time another structure may have existed in this space, one that was made of organic materials. The presence of sandstone pavers here, on the platform, and in the terrace area might indicate later treatments and uses of the feature.

Concluding Remarks

One aspect of the evidence from *Ṭurayf al-Marāgh* that is abundantly apparent is that the poorly documented lifestyles of ancient pastoral groups obscures the richness of their ceremonial lives. The small area that we briefly examined represents only a small part (less than one-half) of *Ṭurayf al-Marāgh*, and this sector of *Wādī Ramm* is itself small in comparison to the overall distribution of cultic structures. We intend to continue our investigation into the variability of these structures, particularly focusing on attempts to date the features and to determine their functions and how they may have changed over time. In addition, the location of the temporary residences of the visitors to *Wādī Ramm* from the early to middle Holocene period remains vague, and additional remote sensing in the region might bring this crucial aspect into clearer focus.

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THE HELLENISTIC PETRA PROJECT: EXCAVATIONS IN THE QAŞR AL-BINT TEMENOS AREA: PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SECOND SEASON, 2005

*David F. Graf, Stephan G. Schmid and Elena Ronza
with a Coinage Report by Steven E. Sidebotham*

The Hellenistic Petra Project (hereafter HPP) was created in order to address an emerging problem. The growing accumulation of literary and epigraphic evidence for the Nabataean dynasty in the early Hellenistic period was not commensurate with the material record. The development of a distinctively Nabataean culture seems to appear only in the decades just before and after 100BC. This disparity has led to the popular theory the Nabataeans constituted a nomadic society from their first attested appearance in 312/11BC (Diodorus Siculus XIX,94.10; cf. II.48.1-2) until the emergence of a visible Nabataean material culture at Petra in the early first century BC as reflected in dynastic coins (Meshorer 1975), painted-pottery (Schmid 2000), and distinctive architectural remains (McKenzie 1990). The two centuries in between this development formerly lacked sufficient archaeological documentation, but papyri, inscriptions and literary evidence has been accumulating which suggests the purported transition from a nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary culture was not as dramatic and sudden as it had been postulated (Graf *et al.* 2005: 418). In particular, the mention of a Nabataean king in the recently published Milan papyrus containing the epigrams of Posidippus of Pella (ca. 272-252BC) provided a reference to a Nabataean king a century before the previous earliest attested Nabataean king (Graf 2006). This discovery of a Nabataean dynast in such a highly sophisticated Alexandrian context in association with legendary Greek and Persian kings suggests that the popular theory of a basically Nabataean nomadic society prior to 100BC deserved re-evaluation.

In spite of scattered surface finds of the Hellenistic period at Petra, the substantial excavations at the Nabataean capital over the past half

century have failed to discover any stratified settlement of the Hellenistic period, with one notable exception — the British excavations along the colonnaded street between 1958 and 1964 (Parr 1960: 127-129; cf. 1990: 15-16). Admittedly, all that was exposed was only some shabby structures built under and near the paved street, but even these discoveries never reached final publication and were never followed up by subsequent exploration of the area. It was for this reason that we organized the Hellenistic Petra Project as an effort to locate further evidence of this stratified settlement and define the perimeters of the elusive and obscure remains of the Nabataean occupation at Petra before 100BC. Our focus was the Roman Street, Gateway, and Temenos Precinct that dominates the Civic Center and that presumably was constructed over the prior Nabataean settlement of the early Hellenistic era. During our first season, our small exploratory trenches along the paved street and at the NW side of the Gate were immensely successful in exposing some earlier stratified remains and of substantial constructions of ca. 100-50BC. In our Trench 3, adjacent to Parr's discoveries along the street, we found the partial remains of a Hellenistic domestic complex, including walls, ovens, dinner utensils, and a few Hellenistic sherds (Graf *et al.* 2005: 421-427). Just inside the Temenos Gate, in Trench 2, we discovered the remains of a colonnaded wall constructed around 50-25BC that may have served as the prior entrance to the sacred precinct. Beneath it, and more importantly, there was the outlet of an aqueduct that ran from the southern hills into the Wādi Mūsā that had been constructed around 100BC. Hellenistic amphora and glazed ware, a Ptolemaic coin and some Arados (Phoenician) issues, all of the third century

BC, were found in the fill associated with these constructions (Graf *et al.* 2005: 428-432). These finds suggested that the Gateway might provide other evidence of earlier constructions. In addition, we were able to establish a date for the Temenos paved precinct of sometime after 75-100AD, and most probably connected with the Trajanic constructions immediately after the annexation of the Nabataean kingdom in 106AD. It now seemed clear that the earlier Hellenistic settlement existed along the southern banks of the Wādī Mūsā leading to Qaṣr al-Bint.

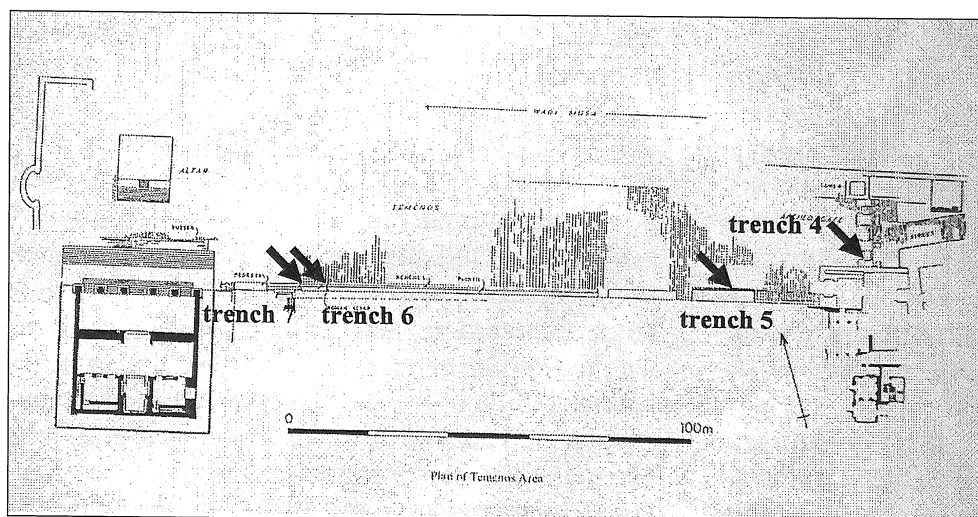
For our second season, we expanded our exploration to the SW side of the Gate and the Temenos wall, particularly at the western end. The relationship of the Temenos Gate, pavement, southern Temenos wall, and the benches that align it on each end remained controversial. Not only did we hope to illuminate the date of their construction, but we also were hopeful that we would find some evidence of a pre-100BC settlement beneath them. Trench 4 was located at the nexus of the gate and pavement in order to date the existing gate, confirm our date of the pavement, and expose any evidence of a prior Hellenistic gate. Our Trench 5 was located adjacent to the southern Temenos wall in an unobstructed space between the eastern benches and western benches to determine the date of the wall and reveal any traces of an earlier Hellenistic construction. Finally, our Trenches 6 and 7 were placed in front of the western benches, in order to obtain a firm date for this construction which has been associated with the building of the Qaṣr al-Bint Temple. All the trenches were backfilled after the excavation, and the pave-

ment slabs placed back in precisely their original position.

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I. The Temenos Gate: Trench 4 (Schmid)

Trench 4 was located immediately at the nexus of the Temenos Gate in the southwest corner (for location cf. Figs. 1, 2). The aim of this trench was twofold. Primarily, it provided the means to determine if there were any traces of older structures beneath the existing Gate that might suggest a Hellenistic predecessor and/or earlier occupation of that area. On the basis of the results of Trench 2 in the HPP 2004 excavations just southeast of the Temenos Gate in Temenos area, it seemed possible that there were structures dating at least to the first century BC corresponding to those that we exposed in the initial season (cf. Graf *et al.* 2005: 428-429). In addition, it seemed highly likely that a date could be established for the initial construction



1. General plan of the area between the Temenos Gate and Qaṣr al-Bint showing location of trenches 4 through 7.