

POLISH-EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION MISSION OF THE

TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT AT DEIR EL-BAHARI



PRELIMINARY REPORT

SEASON 2010-2011

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INTRODUCTION

Working from 19 October 2010 to 10 April 2011, the Polish-Egyptian Mission of the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari focused attention on the main tasks, Fig. 1, which comprised:

A. The ongoing restoration and study in the Complex of the Royal Mortuary Cult (CRC), Fig. 2; our activity in the Royal Complex are carried on in order to prepare a further restoration project.

B. We have excavated in three places, Fig. 13:

In the Middle Terrace (MT) – alongside the foundation of the North Retaining Wall and we have cleaned the area of terrace block-yard, close to the eastern part of the wall.

In the Lower Terrace (LT), in two places: - in the areas to the east of two T-shaped ponds,
- by the Hathor Ramp Gate.

C. The ongoing conservation and stabilisation of the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine (HS-V), in the Middle Terrace. Three other limestone roof-slabs of Niche D were consolidated. The previously excavated area (L.1/08), located between the Vestibule and the southern Punt Portico wall, was filled with “gebel-material” and closed.

D. We have started to restore two of the sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut discovered in pieces by the Metropolitan Museum of Art Expedition in the 20s of the last century (see below).

E. Epigraphic documentation was carried on in the Upper Terrace (Room with a Window, walls above the Lower Anubis Shrine) and in the Middle Courtyard (North Retaining Wall).

Groups of building-dipinti, unearthed in several places of the Hatshepsut's precinct, cf. Fig. 18, as well as those in the Temple of Tuthmosis III, were also a special task of the documentation during this season.

F. Documentation of the temple architecture, i.e. walls in the Upper Terrace - above the Lower Shrine of Anubis, the western wall of Room with a Window, North Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard, and northern part of the Hathor Ramp Gate in the Lower Terrace.

G. We have continued restoration of the Osirides - monumental figures of Hatshepsut of the façade of the Upper (Coronation) Portico (see below).

H. Conservation work was restricted to the southern balustrade of the Upper Ramp (UR), Fig. 19, as well as to selected blocks and sandstone sphinxes fragments (see D) stored in magazines and exhibited in Lapidarium of the Lower Terraces of the Temple. Conservation materials are those indicated in former rapports submitted to the Supreme Council of Antiquities and in publications dealing with the Mission's activity at Deir el-Bahari.

I. Beside the work in the temple, documentation works and studies were carried on in magazines (see below):

Storage room of the temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari;

Magazine-tomb located behind the Mission's dig-house (“Metropolitan House”), the so-called „tomb of mummies” (MMA 828);

Magazine in the Luxor Museum.

J. The so-called Room with a Window, an undecorated and unfinished compartment, is used by the Mission as a store-place for the temple's decorated blocks. Inside the room, we have build more shelves in order to create better conditions for stored blocks.

K. Registration of damages caused by installation of a new lighting system in the temple and in

Deir el-Bahari, Figs. 4A, 4B, 16B.

High-tension cables were assembled with screws to ancient (sic!) walls and architraves of the temple. Recent cable trenches connected with floodlighting Deir el-Bahari had destroyed some parts of the stratigraphy (sic!) in the areas of the temples of Mentuhotep II, Tuthmosis III and Hatshepsut.

L. Registration and preliminary documentation of 693 decorated block fragments found in three old wooden chests, rediscovered in rubbish, laying (since 1994?) behind (north of) the North Retaining Wall of the Middle Terrace, Fig 5.

M. Construction of banks (mastabas) in stone-yards of the Middle and Lower Terraces, Fig. 17.

N. The photographic documentation in various places of the temple.

O. An iconographic project, entitled The Representation of Private Costume in Egyptian Art from the 25th to the 31st Dynasty, has been conducted by A. Hallman-Mikończak in the Late Period tombs TT 27, TT 33, TT 34, TT 36, TT 196, TT 279, TT 312 and TT 414 at Asasif. Documentation (CD) has been submitted to the SCA office in el-Gurna.

II. CONSERVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION WORK

II.A. COMPLEX of the ROYAL MORTUARY CULT (CRC)

Tracing and photographic documentation of the relief decoration in various parts of the Complex progressed. New blocks have been attributed to the East Wall in the Courtyard. The epigraphic documentation of the north niche (Niche A) of the Vestibule has been completed.

The conservation work in the Complex was restricted for the present to the parts in need of urgent treatment; it is synchronized with the progress of documentation work.

II.A.1. Chapel of Hatshepsut (CH)

The false door in the west wall of the Chapel, reused as apse in Coptic time, has been cleaned. In the result of this work, we had expected that some parts of hieroglyphic text would appear. At the same time, we intend to preserve and conserve parts of Coptic original decoration which exists now on the false door. In an undecorated area (84 cm by 14 cm), in the central part of the false door, Coptic gesso-mortar has been removed, Fig. 6. Beneath, it has appeared that the granite door was completely destroyed during Coptic activity. Ergo, hieroglyphic inscriptions, not destroyed, may be expected but at the edges of the granite slab.

Documentation of the Chapel's decoration with application of a Leica-scanner has been elaborated and photo-mosaics, calibrated with 3D cloud, were completed, Fig. 7.

(We have planned to put 21 new original fragments in the walls of the Hatshepsut Cult Chapel; this is the result of the Egyptological studies carried on in previous seasons. Unfortunately, in the result of the Revolution in Egypt, the conservation team left the country and the work was postponed for next season.)

II.A.2. EAST and NORTH WALLS of the COURTYARD (CRC-C)

Four new layers (2 registers) of a list of nomes of Lower Egypt in the Eastern Wall of the Courtyard have been restored in previous seasons; the wall is located in front of the Cult Chapel of Tuthmosis I. (Decoration in the first register and two representations of nomes in the second register, above dado, were restored in the 19th cent.¹ The reconstruction of upper registers, up to the full high of the wall, was the result of, most probably, Baraize's activity.)

The reconstruction study of the wall has been carried on during this seasons. Several new

1

blocks of this wall were found during excavations in the Chapel of Hatshepsut. The reconstruction and study are elements of a larger and general project of the restoration of the Complex the Royal Mortuary Cult.

Studies on iconographic repertory of the Northern Wall of the Courtyard is a complementary element of the restoration of the eastern wall. The joint of the two walls is of special importance and this is a problem the restores will face during next season.

II.A.3. NICHE A (in CRC-V)

The conservation work in Niche A, located in the Eastern Wall of the Vestibule (CRC-V), has been carried on. The conservation treatment was applied to the ceiling slab of the niche. The floor of the niche has been reinforced and restored with new pavement blocks originated from the temple masonry, Fig. 8A & 8B.

II.B. HATHOR SHRINE (HS), MIDDLE TERRACE

The conservation and consolidation work inside and outside the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine (HS-V) was now completed; the space behind the northern wall of the Vestibule to the south wall of the Punt Portico, being backfilled with sand, stones and filling which came from the excavations inside the Chapel of Hatshepsut. Layers of the filling were consolidated with a wire net. The objective was to reduce the impact of the filling and atmospheric factors on the structure and the façade of the Vestibule.

The presented sketch (above, by M. Michiewicz) shows, from north to south, cracks in two big slabs (each: c. 160 x 81 x 60 cm) and in two smaller slabs (c. 92 x 61 x 50 cm; c. 70 x 40 x 50 cm) of Niche D (the northern niche) in the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine. Most dangerous and main cracks are marked in red (lower part of the slabs) and in green (upper part of the slabs).

The sketch (to left, by M. Michiewicz) illustrates the idea of protection and reinforcement of the slabs above Niche D of the Vestibule of the Hathor Shrine.

The three slabs were drilled, less than 35 cm deep, in order to install steel arbors. In five holes (diameter 22 mm), resin HILTI was injected. Five steel arbors (bowstrings), with thread (M2M) in their upper edge, were installed inside the holes. After 24 hours, the arbors were twisted to three steel beams (2? 140) positioned above the limestone roof slabs, Fig. 9.

II.C. NORTHERN CHAMBER OF AMUN-RE (NA)

The lighting system has been already introduced into the Chamber and it is ready to be opened for the public. The newly restored sandstone sculpture of Amenhotep I was placed in the Chamber. A small limestone basis for this statue has been made during this season.

II.D. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE SPHINXES OF HATSHEPSUT

We have started restoration of two sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut discovered in pieces by the Metropolitan Museum of Art Expedition in the 20s of the last century. During season 2010-2011, we plan to restore one, Fig. 10, (or two?) of the sandstone sphinxes of Hatshepsut discovered in pieces by the Metropolitan Museum of Art Expedition in the 20s of the last century².

The restored sphinxes will flank the processional way of the Lower Terrace, along eastern edge of the T-shaped pools with garden. The prepared for the restored sculptures area has been checked – excavated (S.1/11 and S.2/11 trench 1), Fig. 13.

II.F. OSIRIDE STATUES OF HATSHEPSUT

2

From Osiride IV, a fragment of the statue basis, that with a round corner³, was mounted into the basis of Osiride XIII – located at the entrance (north) to the Upper Portico, Fig. 11. A fragment of the basis of Osiride XIII was moved and mounted into Osiride XVI – a new statue of the Queen in the form of Osiris, to be restored.

Some of the previously restored figures went under cleaning treatment. Hands of thousands of tourists have left their visible dirty marks on the lower parts of the sculptures in the Upper Portico. The cleaning work of these devastations has costed the Mission a lot of time, see Fig. 19.

III. STUDIES ON OBJECTS IN MAGAZINES

III.A. Storeroom of the Temple of Tuthmosis III at Deir el-Bahari

The program of the mission encompassed several fields of activity:

Drawing in Corel Draw scenes from the eastern wall of the Hypostyle Hall. The decoration of this wall, concerning river journey during the Feast of the Valley and scenes with king being prepared for the feast, are very fragmentarily preserved. Establishing the proper sequence of them, although very difficult, is of paramount importance for understanding the early stages of the cultic performance on such festival occasions.

Final check of existing drawings of scenes from rooms D, G and H, checking the accuracy and adding details. All these drawings will be finished in Poland after the field season.

Photographic reconstruction of the figure of king from the middle scene in wall N of room H. This scene was chosen for reconstruction due to its interesting and well preserved details.

Photographing blocks and fragments of blocks coming from the Hypostyle Hall (wall E), entrance to room H, details of the middle scene of wall N in room H, etc.

Studying schema of decoration of the Bark Hall.

Studying parts of decoration of chamber with ritual vases (room I).

Assembling two sets of shelves in the eastern part of the magazine for storing fragments of scenes.

The first set of shelves is prepared for fragments of procession of the Feast of the Valley; the other one is waiting for fragments of scenes from room D. In the next season we intend to build two or three more sets of shelves, to store in good order assembled fragments of scenes coming from different walls. The present situation, when due to the lack of storage place fragments of scenes are stored haphazardly in different places, makes our work less efficient.

Checking possibilities of infrared and ultraviolet photography in case of vanishing graffiti and dipinti as well as repainted surfaces; some trial photos were made.

Devising new coverings for columns with hieratic graffiti. Previous methods of protecting columns proved to be unsatisfactory. Sun and wind won over wires and strings.

Transporting fragments of inscribed columns from the temple platform to the specially built “mastabas” in the open-air lapidaries near the lower court of the Hatshepsut temple.

Transfer of some other fragments (architraves, pillars, fragments of geometric ornaments) to other “mastabas”.

Changing electricity system in the storeroom. The first line in the main room is finished, the second line in the side room will be done in the next season.

Transfer of 3 blocks from the Carter House magazines. These blocks were taken from the Tuthmosis III storeroom several years ago for the travelling exhibition in America. Since they belong to longer sequences of blocks which are planned to be reconstructed (in the first place the large block with the head of Amun-Kamutef and cartouches of Tuthmosis III which comes from the wall of the sanctuary), it was very important to have them back in the Tuthmosis III storeroom, so that they could be prepared for the future site museum.

III.B. The „Tomb of Mummies” (MMA 828)

3

A magazine-tomb located behind the Mission's dig-house (the Metropolitan House), the so-called „tomb of mummies” (MMA 828). In previous season, during examination of the stored material, a fragment of architrave bearing the name of Khenemet-ankch was discovered. This is the name of the temple of Tuthmosis I in Western Thebes, the temple known only from written sources.⁴ The documentation work has been carried on in this magazine-tomb during the first part of this season.

III.C. Magazine of the Luxor Museum

The extant objects from the Baraize find at Deir el-Bahari⁵ are stored in museums and magazines, among them, there are those in the basement of the Luxor Museum. Photographic documentation of two outer coffins, found in the temple of Hatshepsut and stored in the Luxor Museum, namely those of Vizier Nespaqashuty (ii) – J.844 and Vizier Padiamonet (ii) – J.845, has been carried on during this season, Figs 12.A & 12.B.

IV. Excavations

Archaeological excavations were conducted in four places of the temple:

- 1) – in the Lower Courtyard (LC), at the so-called T-shaped pools with gardens - S.1/11 and S.2/11, Figs. 13 & 14;
- 2) – in the Lower Terrace (LT), at the modern southern enclosure wall - S.2/11 Trench 7, Figs 13 & 15;
- 3) – in the Lower Terrace, at the Hathor Ramp Gate (HRG) and the modern southern enclosure wall – S.3/11, Figs 13 & 16;
- 4) – in the Middle Courtyard, alongside foundation of the Northern Retaining Wall (RW-N).

IV.A. Sondages at the T-shaped Pools

Along eastern edge of the T-shaped pools with garden, there were two sondages: S.1/11 – located in an area of 5 by 10 metres) and S.2/11 Trenches 1 & 2 – located in an area of 2.5 by 10 metres, Figs 13 & 14.

The main objective of the above mentioned works was to carry out an archaeological excavations in the adjacent areas from the east of the pools and from the south to the avenue leading to the temple before planned erection in this place of Hatshepsut's sphinxes of sandstone tentatively reconstructed.

Through the excavated areas there was not recognized any remains of architectural constructions or any evidence for the existence in this place of bases for sphinxes. A group of numerous pieces of paper and news papers was found in the filling of S.1/11. The fragments of newspapers bear the date “January 1924”. The filling was deposited due to archaeological excavations conducted in this area by Herbert Winlock; he worked on this area in winter 1924.

Besides, in Sondage S.2/11 Trenches 1, 2 & 7, the 2011 excavations revealed the trenches of former excavators searching for internal structures. They were spaced about a metre apart and were comparatively narrow (0.5m) and vertical sided, though within the excavation it was low material, Fig. 14.B. There were a number of modern finds from these trench fills which may allow them to be dated: it is suspected that they come from an early phase of the investigation of the temple, perhaps by Eduard Naville⁶.

Excavations at the modern restored southern enclosure wall of the Lower Courtyard (S.2/11 Trench 7) revealed any foundation or any trace of an ancient wall, Fig 17. It seems that there are no

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archaeological evidence (sic!) for the modern restoration of this wall in this place, as well as in the area of the southern limb of the Hathor Ramp Gate (S.3/11 Trench 2), see below.

Concerning the dating of the the ancient archaeological material found in the course of the excavation it comes from Hatshepsut's times onwards, until Coptic period. The whole ancient material discovered in the fillings was totally mixed.

IV.B. Excavation at the Hathor Ramp Gate (HRG)

This excavation trench was dug along the east face of the South Portico of the Lower Terrace and around the south end and west face of the projection of its line forming a gate into the Hathor Shrine Ramp area (S.3/11). The aim of the excavation was to examine the footing of the walls and locate and document traces of the foundation of the Gate. A part of the project, it was intended to strengthen the foundation of the wall at this point and rectify the damage caused.

The area was treated as three separate trenches (S.3/11 Trenches 1, 2 & 3); these were later joined and excavated as one unit. Removal of the upper layers revealed the fill of earlier excavation trenches and other disturbances extending over most of the area. The whole area was crossed by recent cable trenches connected with floodlighting the Temple, Fig. 13B, which had destroyed some parts of the stratigraphy (sic!).

It seems clear that a tunnel was dug under the northern limb of the Gate, visible in the west profile of Trench 1, Fig. 16.A. No such deposit is documented in the archives, neither is there any documentation of this trench. The tunnel was dug for a Third Intermediate Period tomb, once discovered perhaps in a search for a foundation deposit under the limb; it seems possible that it was dug by Winlock. The tomb was robbed and refilled with the remains of its grave goods. This is well testified in the east profile of Trench 3, Fig. 16.B.

The facing stones of the modern reconstruction of the southern precinct's wall are set into recess of the sandstone slabs of footings laid as part of the Mentuhotep's building work. However, there is no archaeological evidence to support the idea that the modern wall was based on these footings (southern profile in S.3/11 Trench 2); this is also visible in the south profile of Trench 7 in S.2/11, Fig. 15. No archaeological traces of any foundations of the southern limb of the Hathor Ramp Gate were found.

V. Construction of Banks (mastabas)

In previous seasons, in the lapidarium of the Lower Terrace, the Mission built banks (mastabas) in aim to collect sets of block fragments representing temple decoration. The idea was to create a "Hatshepsut Temple Block-yard Open-air Museum".

On the request of Mr. Mustafa Waziri, MA, General Director of West Thebes, six new mastabas has been built in the northern part of the Middle Courtyard, Fig. 17. The work will be continued during next season.

VI. The Polish-Egyptian Dig House (“THE METROPOLITAN HOUSE”)

Constructed almost a century ago by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Metropolitan House, or Beit el-Bulandi as it is commonly called, houses scholars and archaeological teams working in the area of Deir el-Bahari, Khokha, Asasif, Sheikh Abd'l Gurna and the Valley of the Kings. The world famous building, older than the Carter House Museum, is a very important monument in the West Bank environment. This an essential part of the history of research and Egyptological studies on ancient Thebes and Egyptian history.

Studies on history of the Polish-Egyptian Mission's dig house have been carried on by Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafranski (PCMA)⁷, Dr. Nicholas Waren (ARCE), Mr. Mariusz Caban (Wrocław

Technical University), Ms. Abla (University of Sohag) and Mr. & Mrs. Marcel and Monica Maessen⁸.
Dr. Zbigniew E. Szafrński
Director of the Mission
LIST OF FIGURES

Cover page: Bark Hall of the Main Sanctuary of Amun-Re (photo M. Jawornicki)

1 Plan of the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari: areas of activity in season 2010-2011 are marked in green (drawing T. Kaczor and D.F. Wiczorek)

2 Plan of the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari with names of units (drawing T. Kaczor and J. Iwaszczuk)

3 Middle Courtyard. Northern Retaining Wall, northern elevation (drawing E. Owsiana)

4 Recent cables connected with floodlighting had destroyed some parts of the Temple:

4.A Architraves of the North Colonnade, Middle Courtyard (photo M. Jawornicki)

4.B Southern wall of the Portico of the Obelisks, Lower Terrace (photo M. Jawornicki)

5 Decorated block fragments found in three old wooden chests, rediscovered behind the Northern Retaining Wall of the Middle Terrace (photo M. Jawornicki)

6 False door in the Chapel of Hatshepsut: uncovered areas of an hieroglyphic inscription (left) and damaged (in Coptic times) middle part of the door (photo M. Jawornicki)

7 Chapel of Hatshepsut, Southern and Northern Walls, photomosaics calibrated with 3D cloud (photos M. Jawornicki, photomosaics J. Kościuk)

8 Complex of the Royal Cult - Vestibule, Niche A:

8.A After excavations inside the floor and consolidation of the niche's foundation (photo W. Wojciechowski)

8.B Floor of the niche after restoration (photo M. Caban)

9 Hathor Shrine – Vestibule, Niche D: three steel beams (2? 140) positioned above the limestone roof slabs of the niche (photo M. Jawornicki)

10 Preliminary reconstruction of an Hatshepsut sandstone sphinx (photo W. Wojciechowski)

11 Fragment of the statue basis with a round corner was mounted into the basis of Osiride XIII – located at the entrance (north) to the Upper Portico (photo W. Wojciechowski)

12 Outer coffins in the Luxor Museum (photos M. Jawornicki):

12.A Coffin of Vizier Nespaqashuty(ii) – J.844;

12.B Coffin of Vizier Padiamonet (ii) – J.845.

13 Lower Terrace, excavation along eastern edge of the T-shaped pools with garden (drawing T. Kaczor and D.F. Wiczorek)

14 Lower Terrace, trial trenches to the eastern edge of the T-shaped pools with garden:
14.A Trench S.1/11 (photo D.F. Wiczorek)
14.B Trench S.2/11 – excavations revealed two trenches of former excavators (photo D.F. Wiczorek)

15 Lower Terrace, excavation along the northern edge of the modern restored southern enclosure wall - S.2/11 Trench 7 – the excavation revealed any traces of ancient wall (photo Z.E. Szafrński)

16 Lower Terrace, excavation by the foundation of the Hathor Ramp Gate – S.3./11. A Third Intermediate Period tomb was dug under the northern limb of the Gate, disturbed and robbed in a search for a foundation deposit, at the beginning of and in the 20th century. The area was crossed by recent cable trenches connected with floodlighting the Temple which had destroyed some parts of the stratigraphy.

16.A Tunnel visible in the west profile of Trench 1. Note the steeply-dipping geological deposits visible in the side of the feature (photo P. M. Barford)

16.B Tunnel and remains of grave goods visible in the north and east profiles of Trench 3 (photo Z.E. Szafrński)

17 Construction of matabas in the Middle Courtyard of the Temple of Hatshepsut (photo W. Wojciechowski)

18 Building dipinti recorded in the Middle Terrace (photos D.F. Wiczorek):

18.A Dipinti on the outer wall of the Punt Portico (L.1/08, N wall, D.10);

18.B Dipinti recorded in the foundation of the Northern Retaining Wall of the Middle Courtyard (RW-N, D.30)

19 Cleaning and conservation work on the southern balustrade of the Upper Ramp (photo W. Wojciechowski)

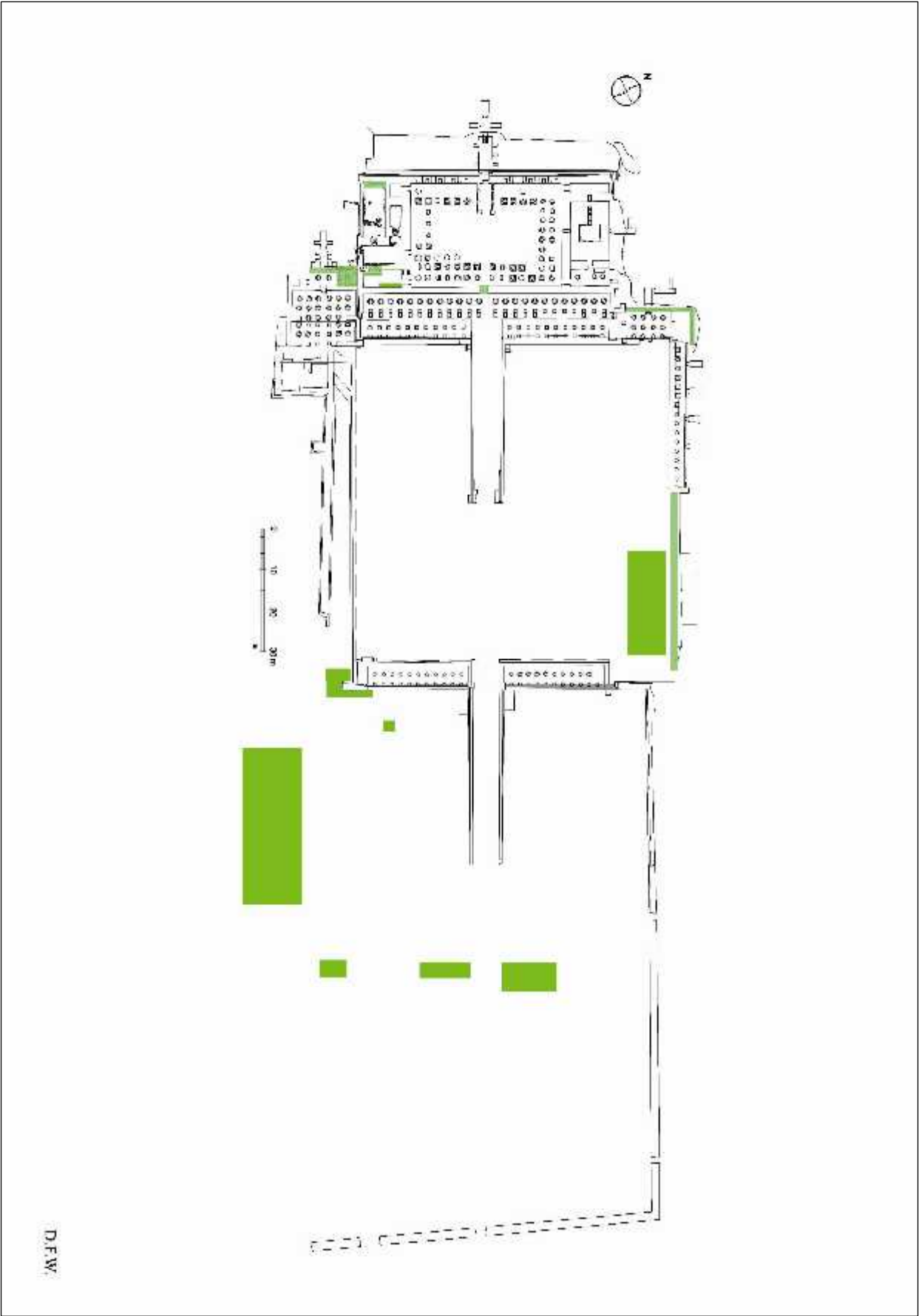


Fig. 1

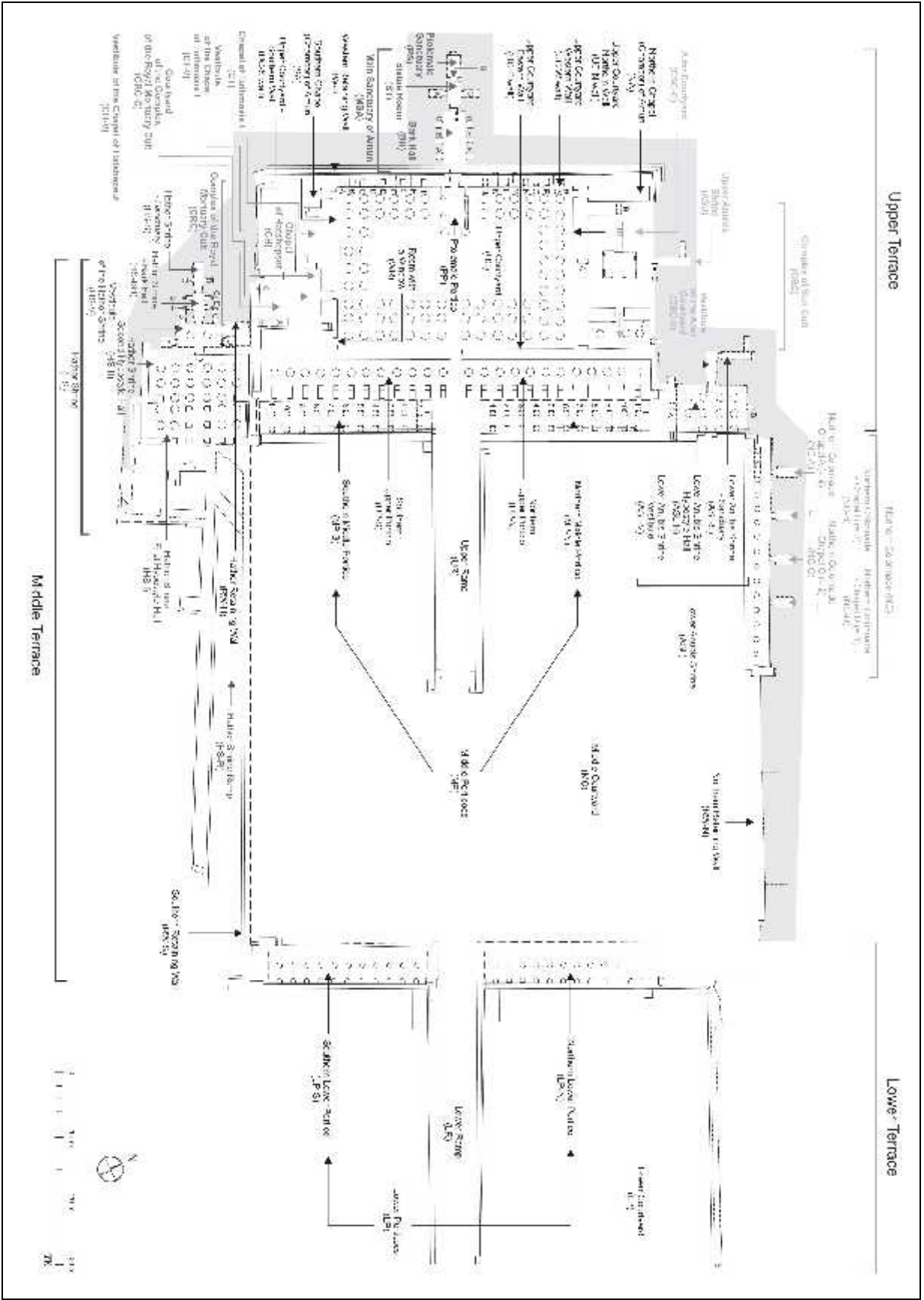


Fig. 2

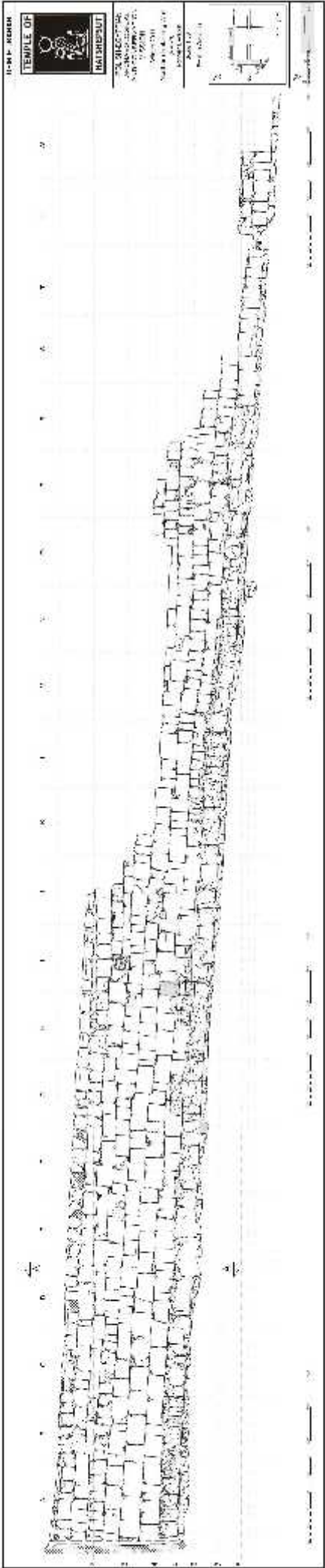




Fig. 4.A



Fig. 4.B



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

SOUTHERN WALL



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130.00

130.00

W

E

129.00

129.00

128.00

128.00



DEIR EL BAHR

TEMPLE OF



HATSHEPSUT

POLISH-EGYPTIAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE IN LUXOR
MUSEUM
30.04.2011

NORTHERN WALL



132.00

132.00

131.00

131.00

130.00

130.00

E

W

129.00

129.00

128.00

128.00



CHAPEL
OF
HATSHEPSUT

PHOTOMOSAIC

SCALE 1 : 40

WITH PHOTO-TEXTURES

PHOTOMOSAIC

HAS BEEN

CALIBRATED

WITH 3D CLOUD

3D-SCANNING

Barbara

Chlebodzińska

Jacek Kozłowski

Włodzisław

Włodzisław

PHOTOS:

Marek Jaworski

PHOTOMOSAIC:

Jacek Kozłowski



Fig. 8.A



Fig. 8.B



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12.A



Fig. 12.B

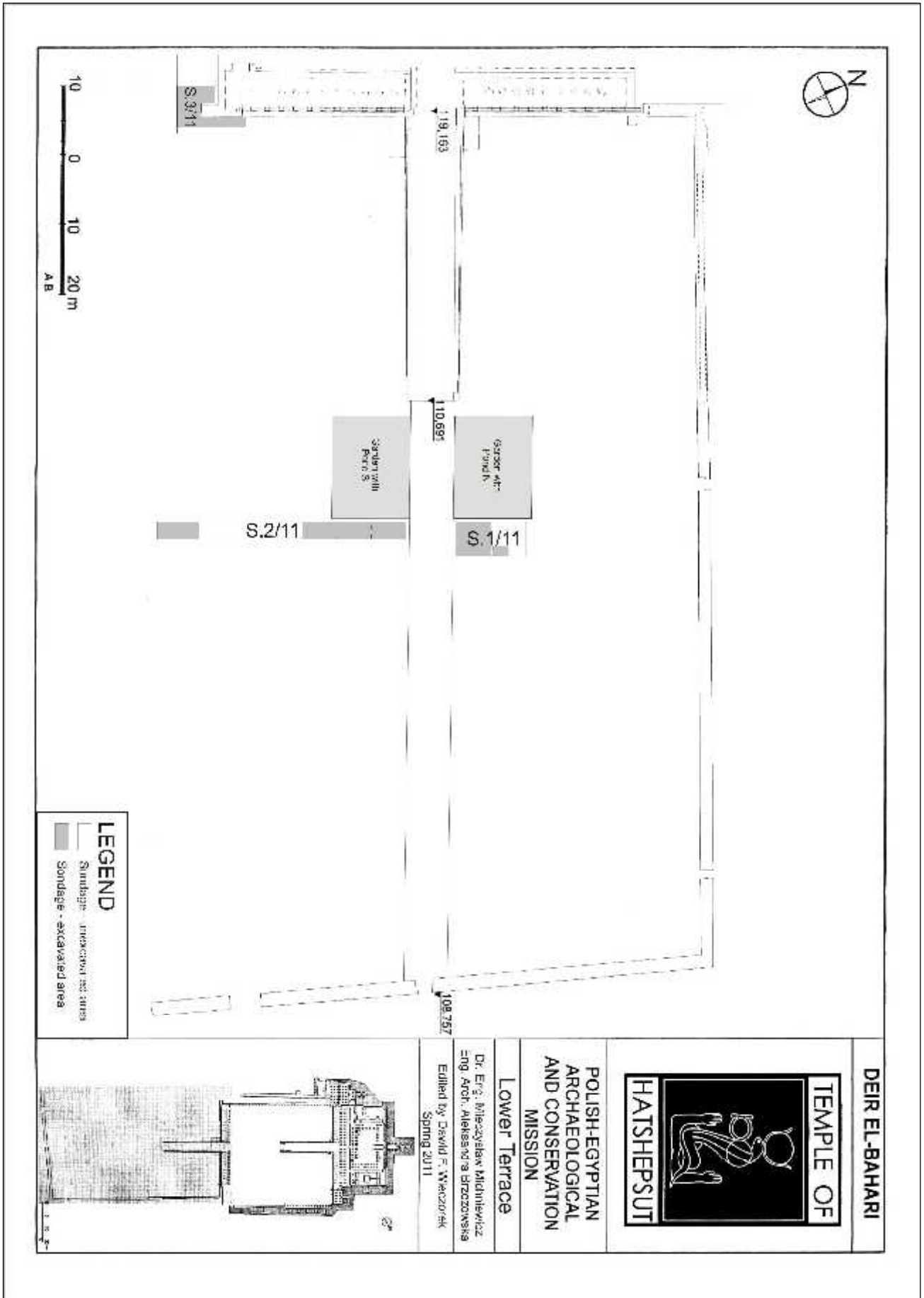


Fig. 13



Fig. 14.A



Fig. 14.B



Fig. 15



Fig. 16.A



Fig. 16.B



Fig. 17