

### Abstract

During the 2024 season of the Antiochia ad Cragum Archaeological Research Project (ACARP), excavation began on a building identified by previous researchers as a church. This poster presents the results from the first season of excavation, including preliminary phases of construction, updated and phased architectural plans of the building, and initial interpretations.



Northern wall of building showing encased columns from earlier structure

### Research Goals

Our goals for this season were twofold:

1. Update the floorplan and determine the phases of construction
2. Clarify the building's function, in particular whether it is a church at all

### Acknowledgments

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### Phases of Construction

We have tentatively identified at least three phases of construction:

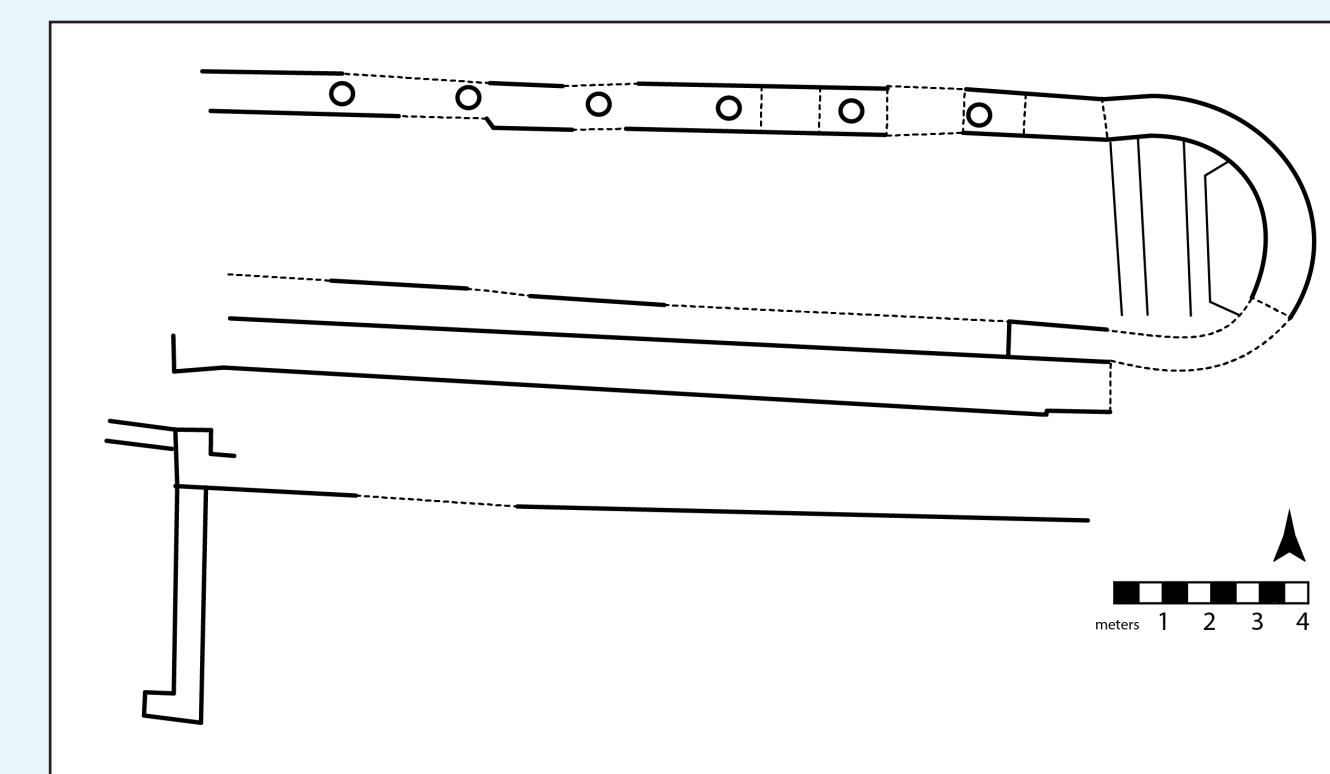
- Phase 1 - 2nd century CE(?): ashlar foundation (south corridor, western wall of apse chamber)
  - Phase 1A: addition of columns
- Phase 2 - between 4th and 7th centuries CE: columns enclosed by north wall; addition of eastern apse with painted plaster, inner south wall, floor; creation of subfloor chambers in apse
- Phase 3 - 7th/8th century CE: addition of reinforcing south wall, perhaps after destruction of earlier wall by earthquake; construction of new floor



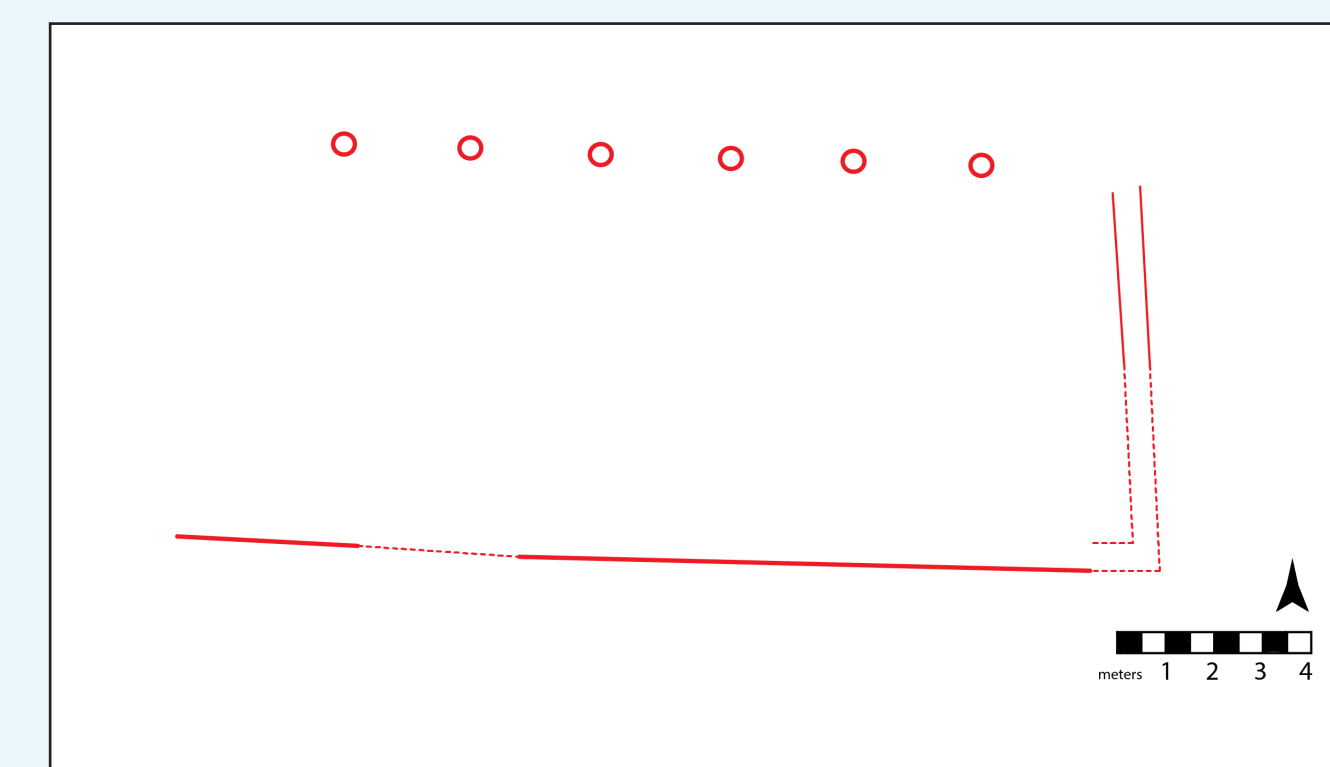
The Phase 3 floor is dated by the presence of several 7th/8th century lamps found directly beneath the paving stones.



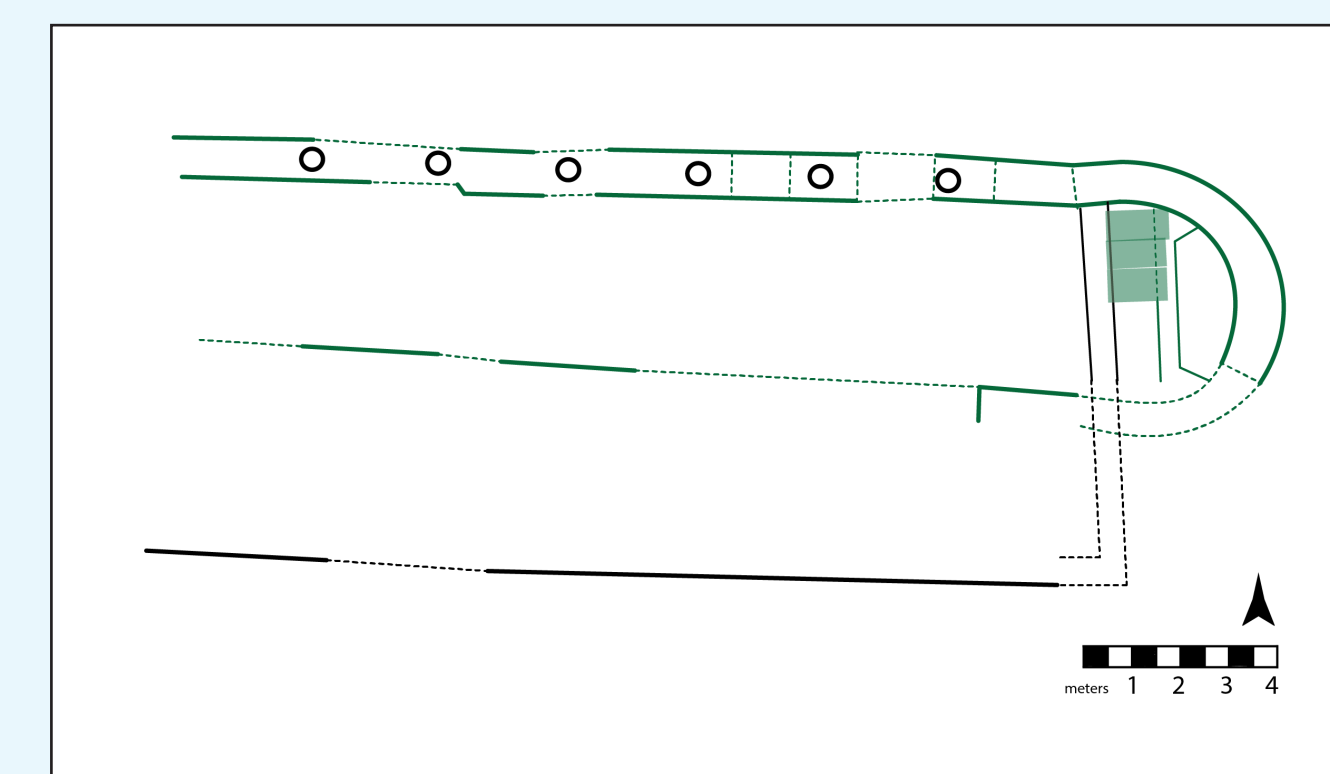
Orthophoto captured via drone



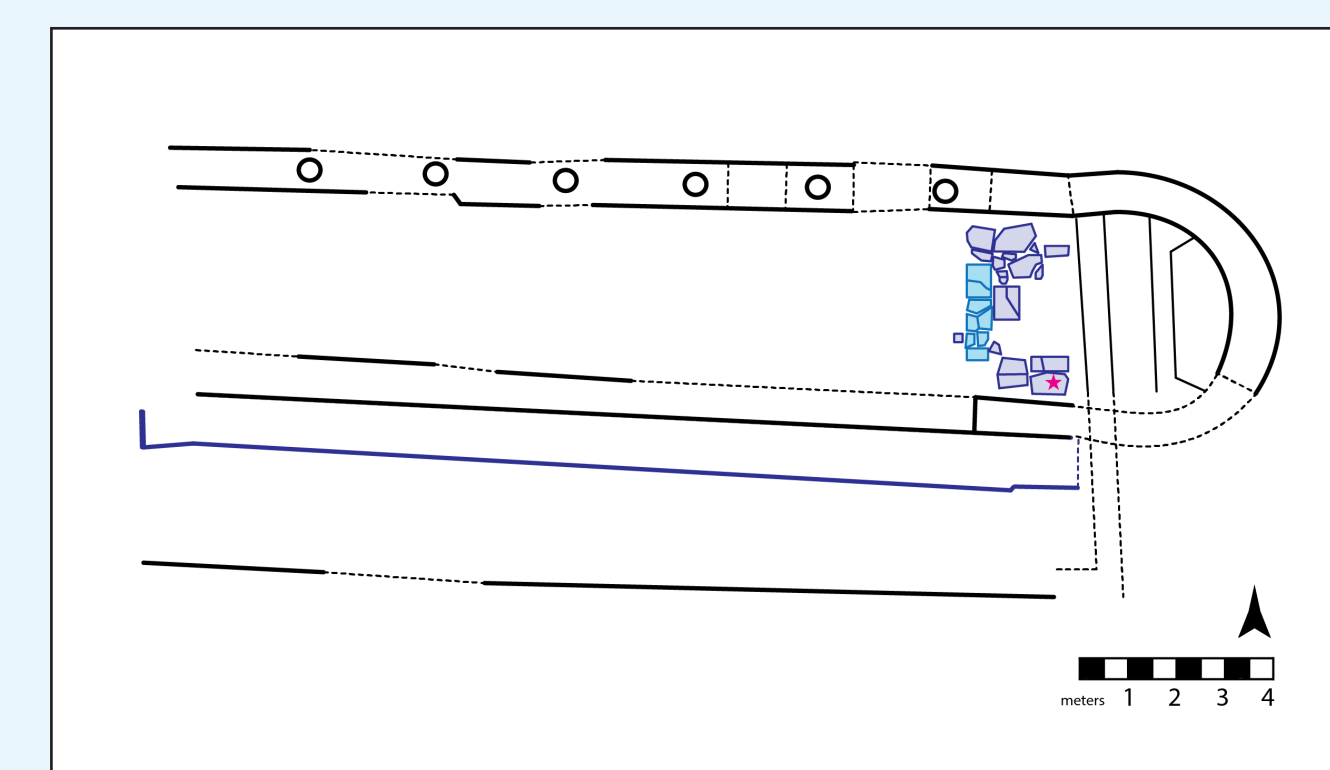
Overall floorplan



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3. The inscription (see right) depicted in light blue and lamp findspot indicated with a red star.

### Interpretation

Although the exact function of the building (and particularly its status as a church) remains unclear, key findings from this season have raised important questions for future years of work.



Selected translation:  
 "In the fourteenth year of the Emperor Nero Trajan Caesar Augustus Germanicus Dacicus..."  
 This specific naming dates the inscription to the year 112 CE.

The inscription also mentions Marcus Pompeius Macrinus, the governor of Cilicia at the time, as well as honors given to and benefactions made by members of the local aristocracy.

Spolia was an important building component, with myriad potential implications. The reuse of an inscribed block containing a 1st century honorific inscription in the 7th/8th century floor is particularly interesting given the time gap of several centuries between its original creation and its installation in the floor. Other significant pieces of spolia include (clockwise from top left) column bases and drums, an altar, an osteotheke lid, and several blocks with carved reliefs.

