1932 EXCAVATION PHOTOGRAPHS

The Egypt Exploration Society archive contains 35 negatives that cover the excavation of the Long Temple. They are not individually datable and the numbering of the negatives seems not to reflect the order in which they were taken. Only one was definitely taken whilst the excavation was in progress. This is Photo 32/1 (p. 18) and was taken as the sand and stone fill that covered the interior of the First Court of the second temple was being removed. Photos 32/16 and 32/9 (pp. 19, 12) were probably taken also during the course of the excavation. The remaining photographs, in so far as it is possible to judge, show the site fully excavated, the appearance conforming to how the site looks in the 1935 aerial photograph. No workmen are visible (although one or two guards appear in Photo 32/3, p. 15), and there is no sign of the Deauville railway that had produced the linear dumps that are scattered around the sides of the excavation. This points to the bulk of the photographs having been taken after the end of the excavation, perhaps in the course of a single day. The shadows in Photos 32/35 and 32/12 (pp. 6, 7), although the places from which they were taken are close, show a lapse of time between morning and perhaps late afternoon. In Pendlebury’s field diary, entries for January 20–22 refer to ‘photography’ although the last day of work at the temple seems to have been January 1st. ‘Photography’ could have referred to object photography as much as field photography.

In just one place do we know that there was further archaeological activity after the photography. This concerns Photos 32/42 and especially 32/36 (pp. 13, 11). The easternmost of the two sets of rectangular basins belonging to the first temple appears clean and empty. But when re-excavated in 2013, it was found that the individual basins were filled with pieces of carved stone, a few of them bearing expedition numbers. Thus, after the photography, unwanted decorated stones were collected from somewhere, placed in the basins and presumably covered with sand.

The EES archives contain a typed catalogue of negatives. This group is part of the ‘A’ (= Architecture) series for 32–33. At the end of each of the following notes, the entry for the particular negative, as given in the catalogue, is added.

In the majority of cases the position from where the photograph was taken is obvious, as is the direction in which the camera was pointing. As far as possible, the position and direction of each photograph is marked on the annotated plan of the 1932 excavations made by the expedition architect, Ralph Lavers, in the file: Annotated Lavers Plan.pdf.

In The City of Akhenaten III and the EES photographic catalogue, the terms Per-hai and Gem-Aten are used for the large colonnade that stood in front of the stone pylon of the second temple (and which was then mistakenly interpreted as having been surrounded by a thick wall which rose to roof height so that it became an enclosed hall) and for the series of stone pylons and open courts that ran in a line eastwards, respectively. These terms are not used by the current expedition. The 1932 expedition also numbered the courts, as we have. In the photographic catalogue the courts reach the number 7, and in the scheme by us the final court is also the Seventh. But the numbers in the catalogue are not used in a consistent way, and in The City of Akhenaten III, p. 15, their Court 4 is our Fifth Court, our Fourth Court having been taken as a subdivision of Court 3 or separately termed the ‘Colonnade’ as it appears in The City of Akhenaten III, p. 19.
View eastwards along the temple axis, taken from the area of the threshold of the mud-brick pylon. The foreground is crossed by a line of rectangular bases made of limestone blocks laid on a north–south axis and belonging to the earliest phase of the temple. Beyond runs Pendlebury’s wide trench dug along the temple axis and cutting through the layer of levelling rubble that separated the floors of the first and second temple. Just beyond the left rectangular base the gypsum concrete foundation for the entrance vestibule of the Small Palace is visible. On the axis, and further to the east, comes the first of the line of rectangular gypsum-lined basins laid along the axis of the first temple. To the left and on top of the layer of levelling rubble is a basin surrounding a rectangular pedestal belonging to the second temple. The levelling rubble on the right (south) side of the trench has also been cut by a narrow exploratory trench. In the mid-distance comes the pale layer of gypsum concrete that belongs to the entrance portico and pathway of the approach to the second temple, and the mud-brick ‘wall’ that extended in front of it. On the left and right sides it can be seen how Pendlebury piled the spoil from the excavation over the layer of levelling rubble, the pile on the left partly covered by a heap of large stone fragments.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. View East from entrance.’
View south-westwards across the entrance ramp on the inside of the temple mud-brick pylon. The inside face of the southern pylon is clearly visible, rising away from the entrance and then dropping again as it approaches a particularly tall spoil heap. The ground in front of the spoil heaps at the left edge of the picture shows a vertical face (in shadow) where debris has been removed to expose the top of the layer of levelling rubble. The middle distance is largely occupied by the entrance ramp, composed of sand with a thick layer of mud on top. The excavation has cut into this, to create a vertical section across it. It is bounded on the left by the inclined mud-brick wall that forms its southern edge and which extends towards the lower left-hand side of the picture. To the left of this runs a Pendlebury trench (its southern face in deep shadow) cut through the levelling rubble down to the mud floor of the first temple. The removal of the ramp fill has exposed the mud floor of the first temple and a clearly defined area of very well preserved white plaster coating. The line of limestone bases crosses the bottom of the picture, defined by narrow trenches dug in 1932. Originally the tops of the bases seem to have been flush with the mud floor. The blocks of the right-hand base had been removed during one of the rebuilding phases of the temple.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple, entrance. Stone bases, Ramp and earlier floor.'
The gypsum concrete foundations of the main columned hall of the Small Palace, the building also named as the ‘Altar’ on the 1932 plan. The pattern of foundations was the normal one for columns, roughly square blocks joined into lines by short linking walls. The spaces between the lines had been filled with sand, which the excavation has removed to a sufficient depth to expose the foundation pattern. Behind the foundations rises the east face of the northern mud-brick pylon tower covered by one of the large excavation spoil heaps. Towards the left side of the picture, this has been cut back to a vertical face. View to the west.


Photo 1932/4
The gypsum concrete foundations of the Small Palace (the 'Altar'), viewed to the south. The southern portion formed a pattern of foundations for walls and columns made from gypsum concrete that had been heaped into shape by hand, the spaces then filled with sand. On the upper surface traces remained to show that limestone talatat-blocks had then been laid on top and this had been the final foundation layer. Closer to the camera, the gypsum concrete foundation had been laid as a thinner bed on the desert surface, so that an extra layer of blocks was needed to bring the foundations to a common level. One explanation for the closely spaced walls is that they created stable compartments filled with sand over which a layer of paving stones had been set, to create an enclosed courtyard. The nearest strip of ground, in which shallow holes have been dug, contains a northwards continuation of the foundations that the 1932 excavation did not expose.

On the right of the picture the eastern face of the mud-brick pylon is visible. Just before it disappears beneath a large spoil heap, a brick wall can be seen projecting eastwards for a short distance. This is one of a number of short projecting walls built against the face of the pylon at a late stage in the temple’s history.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. Foundations of Pavilion N of Entrance.'
View north-eastwards across the ground in front of the colonnades that stood in front of the second stone temple. When Pendlebury began, the then surface of the ground must have approximated to the top of the layer of levelling rubble that separated the floors of the two temples. In this picture it has been removed from across the whole area in front of the brickwork, except along the right side of the picture. The edge of the excavation runs diagonally across the picture. The undisturbed ground to the right is mainly a continuation of the levelling rubble that must have buried the field of mud-brick offering-tables (see Photo 32/40, p. 9). The circular, gypsum-lined basin of Photo 32/19 (p. 8) must have lain a short distance beyond the right side of the picture.

Two rows of separate rectangular foundations of gypsum concrete cross the floor of the first temple from west to east. Stone talatat-blocks still remain in place on three of the foundations, showing that each was built up as a separate rectangular structure, presumed to be an offering-table. The one with two complete courses is on the foundation that is in the north-east corner of square L27 of the 2014 excavations. By this time, however, the blocks had been removed. Unlike the blocks that survived on the foundations in the first court of the second temple (see Photo 1932/18, p. 21), these were not also foundations but were part of the visible final structure. Although they could have been plastered, the plainness of finish is noteworthy. See also Photo 32/12 (p. 7).

Behind the bases runs the thick mud-brick retaining wall that probably belongs to the construction phase of the second temple and was of temporary use only. Its weathered western face probably reflects the fact that the Petrie/Carter excavation of 1891/2 had outlined the two large colonnade foundation platforms and had thus left the brickwork exposed. The top of the southernmost of these platforms, also made from gypsum concrete, is the pale surface behind the wall.

In the mid-distance a rough stone wall can be made out. This was built by the Pendlebury expedition to enclose a part of the modern cemetery that had intruded into the north-east part of the First Court of the second temple.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. SW corner of Per Hai. Brick pylons and earlier bases.'
A closer view of the three offering-tables still retaining some of their stones, built on the ground of the first temple. View to the east. See also Photo 32/35 (p. 6). Behind them is the mud-brick retaining wall for the foundations of the second temple. The southern face of the wall looks relatively fresh, as if it had not been exposed before by the Petrie/Carter excavation. Running into the middle distance on the right is Pendlebury’s trench along the line of the right-hand line of offering-tables and along the face of the brick wall. It extends not much further than the end of the line of offering-tables. The right side of the trench is a vertical cut through the thick layer of levelling rubble that has not been cut back sufficiently to expose the mud-brick offering tables that it had buried and which must lie a short distance further to the south. This section face is visible in the background of Photo 32/18 (p. 21).

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. SW corner of Per Hai. Earlier stone bases.’
A circular basin lined with gypsum plaster. One such basin is reported in *City of Akhenaten* III, p. 14, and appears in the reconstruction drawing of Lavers on Pl. VIA. It is faintly visible on the 1935 aerial photograph. The 2014 excavation located it again and re-excavated it, but also found a second similar basin further to the south (in excavation squares K26/L26). This also seems to be visible in the 1935 aerial photograph although it is not mentioned in *City of Akhenaten* III. A comparison of the remains of both basins, as exposed in 2014, with a print of this photograph strongly points to the photograph being of the second, southerly basin, the one not mentioned. The basin, like its northerly companion, had been formed in a pit dug through the layer of levelling rubble and down for a short distance into the underlying mud floor and desert. The photograph shows it surrounded by a flat rim of gypsum plaster. The position of the camera must have been close to where photograph 32/35 (p. 6) was taken. If taken at almost the same time, the direction of the shadows suggests that the direction of this photograph is towards the east.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. SW corner of enclosure. Plaster depressions.’
The photograph shows a portion of the field of mud-brick offering-tables that lay to the south of the Long Temple. Each offering-table lies within a small separate excavation pit, although in the case of the two nearer ones the pits have been extended, especially towards the left of the picture’s edge. These pits must have been dug into the layer of levelling rubble that raised the ground level for the second temple. Within and around the edge of the nearest pit lie many pieces of worked stone. Many of them appear to be rounded corner mouldings that have been knocked from corner blocks although the one in the bottom middle seems to be complete.

When was this excavation done? Sand has blown in and the sides of the pits are weathered. There is no sign of adjacent spoil heaps; the spoil has evidently been carried some distance away. The 1935 aerial photograph shows the pattern of pits, how it extends widely to the south and east of the Long Temple. There are extensive spoil heaps on the north, beside the temple, but these can be seen to have derived from the clearance of the temple itself. Others lie beyond the southern edge of the pits and so probably derive from the examination of the offering-table, but these spoil heaps are less distinct. The conclusion to be drawn is that Photo 32/40 (p. 9) shows a small part of the area examined by the Petrie/Carter excavation, that had taken place forty years before, an interval that had led to the weathering of the spoil heaps and partial filling of the pits. It follows that the Pendlebury expedition probably did hardly any excavation in this area, the Lavers plan relying largely upon the Petrie/Carter exposures, although it is possible, to judge from the same aerial photograph, that a small patch towards the north-west of this area was excavated, perhaps to reveal just where the northernmost row of the offering-tables was located.

If the photograph was taken in sequence with the others, the direction of the camera is probably to the north-east.

1932 excavation photographs

Photo 1932/10

A view, to the north-east, across the brickwork at the north-west corner of the Long Temple. Tomb enclosures of the modern village cemetery can be seen in the background. The brickwork belongs to a thick extension of the revetment wall that runs north-westwards at an angle to the temple axis and probably is the remains of a construction ramp used in the building of the colonnade of large sandstone columns that fronted the second temple. In the middle rises a block of brickwork that is perhaps plastered white. It is separately marked on the 1932 plan. It is one of the mud-brick offering-tables that belongs to a field that extended on the north side of the temple and had been buried by the construction ramp. Along with the remains of several others, it was examined again in 2014.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. NW corner of Per Hai. Angle built out and running over earlier piece.’
A photograph taken diagonally, towards the north-west, across the wide trench dug through the levelling rubble along the temple axis. The nature of the levelling rubble is displayed, the rubble itself covered by a thick, dark horizontal layer of mud that served as the floor of the second temple. Only one feature is on top of this floor, and that is a rectangular platform, plastered with gypsum and surrounded by a continuous basin without subdivisions. Behind that the upper floor is still covered with unexcavated debris and a heap of worked stones, presumably put their by the Pendlebury expedition.

Along the axis of the lower floor lie two sets of gypsum-lined basins surrounding rectangular pedestals. The nearer one was, subsequent to the photograph being taken, partially filled with decorated stone fragments, a few of them bearing Pendlebury expedition numbers and uncovered again in 2013.

Close to the right side of the photograph is the junction with a northwards trench which ran along the side of the broad mud-brick revetment wall.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, inside Entrance. Earlier and later floors with plaster baths.’
The explanation for this photograph comes from the EES catalogue entry (below) and a statement in *The City of Akhenaten* III, p. 14. In describing what was interpreted as the front of the building housing the giant columns which stood in front of the stone temple (and which was there called the Per-hai), it is said: ‘On either side in front of the entrance are the remains of two trees.’

The upper surface of the picture is the desert surface before excavation. A trench has been cut into it, to a lower flat surface that is the mud floor of the first temple. Towards the bottom left of the section up to three courses of mud bricks are exposed. These belong to the wide temporary revetment wall around the foundations of the large colonnades in front of the stone temple and which stood to only a few courses high. The photographer’s interest is the spherical mass that protrudes from the face of the trench. The 30 cm scale rests above it. According to the EES catalogue entry, it is a ball of soil in which a tree had been planted. If this were so, the pit would have been dug from a now lost surface that was the floor of the second temple and which, close to the temple itself, was covered with a thick layer of gypsum concrete which had probably supported stone paving. The photograph does show that the tree (if that is what it was) stood on the line of the mud-brick revetment wall and not ‘in front’. If it stood within the gap in the brickwork that resembled a doorway, and had a second counterpart, the trees would have been separated by a gap far less than the width of the stone-paved pathway that followed to the east.

This photograph was taken at roughly ninety degrees to 1932/36 (p. 11), facing south-west. The axis of the first temple is coming in from top right towards bottom left, but has been cut by the foundation trench for the stone wall that formed the edge of the stone pathway between the two large foundations for the colonnades at the front of the second stone temple. The trench has cut through another set of rectangular, gypsum-lined basins that surrounded a central platform. They are mentioned in *City of Akhenaten* III, pp. 5, 13–14. The 2014 excavation revealed that half of this set of basins lies behind the trench but remained unnoticed by the Pendlebury expedition (they had been filled with mud that looked the same as the surrounding floor). The limestone block beneath the left-hand basin seems to have been accidentally left when the post-Amarna Period demolition of the stonework took place. Note how the brickwork of the revetment wall ends irregularly and also partially covers the basin to the left.

The opposite side of the trench is shown in Photo 32/17 (p. 14).

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. Plaster impressions cut into by later W wall of Per Hai.'
The location of this photograph is given by the EES catalogue entry (below). It is set at the system of foundations for the monumental colonnade at the front of the second stone temple, and the reference to the ‘bird-baths’ must be to the set of gypsum-lined basins that were cut through by the foundation trench of the second temple. The west side of the trench is shown in Photo 32/42 (p. 13). The present photograph is presumably of the east side, opposite, where the remains of the basins had been more badly damaged. The mud floor of the first temple, into which the basins were cut, stands out sharply. What little remains of the damaged basin is caught in the section in the middle of the picture.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, Per Hai. Earlier system of ‘bird-baths’ broken away.’
At the front of the second stone temple stood a pylon entrance and, in front of that, two colonnades on massive gypsum foundations. Between these ran a short length of stone-paved pathway (Pendlebury’s ‘causeway’) that would have continued eastwards between the pylon towers and on into the body of the temple. In this photograph, that points towards the west, the wide foundation trench for the stone pylon has been cleared. In this part, almost all of the gypsum-concrete foundation for the stonework has been destroyed, leaving a narrow edge strip that runs along the base of the section. For the lower half of its depth, the trench has been cut through natural desert sand. The top of the desert had been given a mud floor when the first temple was created. This is preserved as a dark horizontal line about half way up the section face (it is a continuation of the floor that appears in Photo 32/17, p. 14). Above this is the equivalent of the levelling rubble at the front of the temple, now a layer of sand and stones containing occasional pieces of broken architectural sculpture. Finally, at the top, comes a thick bed of gypsum concrete. On the 1932 plan, this shown covered with impressions from limestone slabs that had formed a pavement.

At the left side of the picture, a short length of mud-brick wall rises to the height of the mud floor of the first temple. It is visible in Photo 32/37 (p. 20). It must have stood on the narrow space between the wall of the trench which, at this depth, was natural sand, and the wall of limestone blocks that stood on the gypsum-concrete foundations.

The scale in the photograph appears to be 30 cm long.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. East end of causeway in Per Hai, showing earlier floor.’
View to the north-west of the eastern face of the southern pedestal of gypsum concrete that served as the foundation for the southern colonnade in front of the stone pylon of the second temple. The irregularly shaped gaps in the platform along its east side are highlighted by the strong shadows. They had originally been filled with limestone blocks to create extra strength for supporting heavy objects. In front comes the foundation trench for the stone pylon. At this southern end the gypsum concrete foundation layer is not only intact but still supports part of the original lowest layer of talatat-blocks.

In the distance, in front of the screen of trees, the linear mound that represents the northward continuation of the mud-brick enclosure wall of the temple is clearly visible. Most of this has now been obliterated by the modern cemetery of the village of El-Till.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. Per Hai from S.E.'
View westwards along one of the foundation trenches surrounding the two gypsum-concrete pedestals that supported the colonnades in front of the second temple. Two large pieces of column drum lie on the gypsum-concrete layer on the floor of the trench. They are almost certainly made from sandstone and derive from large columns in the shape of a cluster of papyrus buds. Beyond them, the mud bricks of the temporary retaining wall can be seen crossing the end of the trench.

The catalogue entry identifies the trench as being along the southern side of the southern pedestal, which rises on the right side of the picture.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. Per Hai. Foundation trench and fragments of columns, South of Platforms.’
1932 excavation photographs

Photo 1932/1

Apparently the only photograph taken whilst the excavation was in progress. On the skyline a man stands, the upright handle of his hoe (touria or fas) beside him, and appears to be either taking off or putting on his galabiya. The darker shape to the left is presumably another figure, or more than one, but it is hard to decide what he/they are doing. The triangular extension on the left of the shape is perhaps a basket being carried on a shoulder. Several more men are present towards the left side, but they are further away. All are on the far side of the foundation trench for the southern wall of the second temple. Many large pieces of stone lie on the edge of the nearer excavation. The picture looks to the south-east.

The location is the southern half of the First Court of the temple, where several of the offering-table positions still supported some of their talatat-blocks. The two shown here belonged to the third east–west row from the south. The blocks are covered by a homogeneous layer of dusty sand mixed with stone fragments. Towards the left part of the picture it appears to reach the surface. In the right part of the picture it is covered with a layer, irregular in thickness, of what looks like stone chippings and white dust. In *City of Akhenaten* III, footnote 1 on p. 7 refers to ‘the layer of cement – actually no doubt merely a thick layer of fallen rubble that had coagulated in the course of time’ and not ‘a deliberate sealing-in of the accursed spot’. This seems a reasonable explanation.

This is the only photograph which shows the nature of the material that buried the large areas of foundations for stonework. When, at the end of the Amarna Period, the stone blocks were removed down to foundation level, the sand levelling layer that had been put down to raise the floor level of the temple must have been turned over as the demolition proceeded. This is the material that is illustrated in section in this picture.

In front of the nearer blocks lies a retractable tape measure probably extended to the length of 1 metre.

See also Photos 32/18 and 32/37 (pp. 21, 20).

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, Court 1, Gem Aten. Offering stands and later cementing.’
The subject is probably a section cut into the levelling fill that separated the floors of the two temples. The pale patches below could be exposed areas of the main gypsum-concrete foundation layer for the second temple, and above that the levelling fill that seems to be of sand mixed with stones. On top comes a layer of irregular thickness of gypsum concrete. To judge from the small dark patch towards the top left-hand corner, which seems to depict the tops of trees, the location is towards the front part of the excavation area. Taking into consideration sunlight and shadow, the direction could be towards the north or, if the photograph had been taken fairly early in the morning, towards the west. One possible location is the bank or ‘platform’ of levelling fill that separates the First Court from the foundation trench for the first stone pylon.

EES catalogue entry: ’Great Temple, court 1 (Gem Aten). Causeway from Per Hai, stepping up to platforms.’
The south-western quarter of the First Court of the temple, viewed to the west. The entire area was originally surfaced with a layer of gypsum concrete on which the rectangular outlines where stone offering-tables were to be built were marked. The central area, however, had been destroyed by the time of the Pendlebury expedition. One cause was the use of the area for burials from the village of El-Till. One such burial, at a higher level, has been surrounded by a stone cairn (which no longer survives). On the surviving area of gypsum surface, the remains of four lines of offering-tables are visible. In six of the positions either one or two courses of limestone talatat blocks still remained in 1932 (but no longer). On the west and south sides the excavation ends with a near-vertical face of sand mixed with pieces of stone. This is not the remains of a gebel platform surrounding a sunken floor. The sand is an artificial layer (that contains broken pieces of sculpture) and is part of the layer of levelling material that covers a great part of the temple enclosure. At the front and outside to the south and north it is composed largely of alluvial rubble, but within the walls of the stone temple it was largely sand. Over the top had been spread a thick layer of gypsum concrete that is visible as a pale horizontal layer that crosses the picture from one side to the other. This had served as the foundation for a stone pavement.

The two further stone offering-tables in the right-hand line are the subject of Photo 32/1 (p. 18).

The embanked material has a gap in the middle distance beyond which can be seen its continuation underneath the site of the paved pathway between the two colonnade platforms. This part of the picture should be compared to the close-up in Photo 32/3 (p. 15).

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. Gem Aten, court 1. Offering bases and platforms.'
A large part of the southern side of the First Court of the second temple, viewed to the south-east. In the foreground stand some of the offering-tables where one or two courses of limestone blocks remained in 1932. The main gypsum surface is interrupted about half way along by the low step upwards in the surface, made to accommodate the slightly rising ground level. See Photo 32/15 (p. 22). The embanked levelling sand on the right (south) side of the excavation shows an undulating surface. This could be the result of trenches cut across the site a long time previously.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, court 1 (Gem Aten) General view of S half from W.’
Midway along the First Court the gypsum concrete foundation rises by means of an irregular step to a higher level, reflecting a slight rise in ground level. The line does not run between two rows of offering-table foundations but almost down the middle of one of the rows. This would have had no effect on final appearance since everything that is visible now would have been buried. The break in the foundations in the foreground is probably the site of one or more modern burials.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, court 1 (Gem Aten) Offering tables running over steps.’
The view is eastwards along the gypsum-concrete foundation of the northern half of the Second Court. Down the centre runs the ‘platform’ of levelling fill that supported only stone pavement and did not need, therefore, to rest on the full thickness of the concrete which was, along this line, dispensed with. The northern edge of the concrete, where it met the similar bank of levelling fill, follows closely the left edge of the picture. As the gypsum concrete layer recedes, it rises by two shallow steps to take into account the slight natural rise in the desert surface. The undulating surface of the central ‘platform’ probably reflects earlier digging at the site by means of irregular pits.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. Gem Aten, court 2 from W.’
A companion photograph to 32/32 (p. 23) but taken from further south, looking east along the southern section
of the Second Court. Note the two shallow steps in the gypsum-concrete foundation layer. Beside it on the right
is the bank or ‘platform’ of levelling fill, and beside that and along the right edge of the picture is the foundation
trench for the southern wall of the temple with its flooring of gypsum concrete. The pits and trenches dug into
the levelling fill in previous times are particularly clear.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. General view Eastwards.’
The Second Court of the second temple, near the east end, view to the south. The camera is pointing along a broad strip of gypsum concrete which, according to the 1932 plan, was covered, towards the middle, with impressions from stone slabs, implying that this was a support layer for a stone pavement. To the left runs a broad strip from which the concrete is missing. This is where the pylon ran that divided the Second from the Third Court. The place, in the mid-distance, where it narrows is where the pylon was continued by a dividing wall. The ancient levering up of the blocks when the temple was demolished also broke and removed the concrete layer to which the blocks were mortared. Towards the left side of the picture and also in the mid-distance can be seen the strip where the layer of levelling sand has been left, covered by the gypsum-concrete layer on which the paving had been laid.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple, East end. The surface of the last N–S platform.'
View across the Third Court, with subsequent courts beyond, towards the north-east. Tomb enclosures of the modern cemetery are in the background. This court contained three short lengths of ‘platform’, isolated areas of sandy levelling fill with gypsum-concrete capping. The middle one runs across the centre of the picture. On the near side, at both ends, are short lengths of mud-brick wall, two courses high. The further one is probably the subject of Photo 32/11 (p. 27). These might be examples of the ‘shuttering’ mentioned in The City of Akhenaten III, 6. On the far side of the ‘platform’ one of the offering-tables has retained the lowest two courses of limestone blocks. Compare Photos 32/32 and 32/5 (pp. 23, 28).

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple. Court 3 (?) from SW.’
Photograph of a length of laid mud bricks standing in front of layered fill material. The latter appears to be sand/gravel below, a layer of cemented material of irregular thickness above, and a final layer of sand/gravel. The 30 cm scale seems to be propped on the ground; thus the camera was also placed on the ground, perhaps on a gypsum surface. The most likely identification is the brickwork at the east end of the Third Court, at the south-east corner of the central ‘platform’, the strip of sandy levelling material beneath a layer of gypsum concrete. Thus the direction of view would be to the north. This is the brickwork visible in Photos 32/43 and 32/5 (pp. 26, 28).

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, East end. Brick facing to central causeway.’
1932 excavation photographs

View to the west across the Fourth Court, the Third Court lying beyond. A large piece of column drum of the papyrus cluster type lies in the foreground. At the left edge of the picture are square breaks in the gypsum-concrete foundation layer where square column foundations were once marked. In the mid-distance on the right a small mud-brick construction stands beside a ‘platform’, probably the wall that is the subject of Photo 32/11 (p. 27).

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, east end. Column fragments and foundation marks.’
Photo 1932/21

View south-eastwards across the Fourth Court, taken from the edge of a spoil heap on the north. The irregular edge to the ground at the bottom of the picture is perhaps the edge of the spoil heap rather than the broken edge of the gypsum-concrete foundation layer which the 1932 plan shows to be intact along this line. The complicated pattern of builders’ lines on the foundation layer, marking the positions of square column bases, shows clearly. Towards the left edge lies a fragment from a column, from the swelling bud element near the top of the column. Just above the middle of the picture is a darker strip running east–west, on a line with the length of ‘platform’ that runs towards the top left of the picture. This appears more clearly in Photo 32/22 (p. 37) and is a rectangular patch of brick rubble that is probably a variant of the levelling fill within the temple. Along its north-east edge, (left-hand edge in the picture) is a length of mud-brick wall, perhaps an example of the ‘shuttering’ mentioned in City of Akhenaten III, 6. It appears at a closer distance in Photos 32/39 and 32/20 (pp. 30, 31). Beyond, and slightly to the right of the middle of the picture, is the large fragment of column that appears in the foreground of Photo 32/5 (p. 28).

A similar view to Photo 32/21 (p. 29), the photographer having climbed down from the nearby spoil heap to stand on the gypsum-concrete surface.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple, court 6. Column fragments and foundation marks.'
For the location of this picture, of a portion of the Fourth Court, see Photo 32/21 (p. 29). The gypsum surface shows particularly well-preserved impressions of limestone blocks from the pattern of linked squares marking the positions of columns. Note the brick ‘shuttering’ at the top right edge of the picture. View to the south-east.

View east-south-east from the Fourth Court across the Fifth Court to the rear of the temple. At the left edge, beyond the junction between the two courts, stands the ‘platform’ of sandy levelling fill that ran along the centre line of the court. Its line was continued towards the camera by a rectangular break in the gypsum which, instead of being filled with levelling sand is filled, at the same level as the gypsum, with a darker material that looks like brick rubble. It appears to have been removed from the nearest part, the natural desert surface showing through. The 1932 plan fills this area with a pattern suggestive of laid bricks but the photo suggests a broken material. Whilst generally the levelling fill inside the stone temple was of sand mixed with pieces of stone, here it looks as though it was replaced with the kind of material used for the levelling fill outside the temple.

EES catalogue entry: ‘Great Temple, East end. Brick foundations before final stretch of causeway.’
Photo 1932/33

The photographer is standing in the northern part of the Sixth Court, facing south-west. In the middle of the picture is the 'platform' of levelling fill that runs down the centre of the Fifth Court.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple. Gem Aten court 6, end of causeway.'
The rear of the temple, the Sixth and Seventh Courts, viewed eastwards along the temple axis. In the foreground are the remains of the first of the two sets of nested rectangular foundations for the main offering-table or ‘altar’ that presumably stood upon a low stepped platform. By this stage, the gypsum surface of the foundations is close to the natural desert surface, as can be seen from the section face at the back.

The very rear of the temple, at the back of the Seventh Court, looking almost due south. The gypsum-concrete foundation is fully preserved in a strip parallel to the rear line of the temple (on the left). The slightly darker strip running parallel to this and passing close to the heap of stones bears the block impressions of a continuous wall that defined a series of tiny courts that ran along the back of the temple, each containing a row of three offering-tables.

EES catalogue entry: ’Great Temple, court 7. Rooms at extreme East end.’
An example of the way that the builders marked the positions of offering-tables to be built on the surface of the gypsum-concrete foundation layer. After marking the outlines with ink (usually black) the lines were emphasised by cutting them into the gypsum surface using a chisel. The catalogue entry identifies the location as within the easternmost court, the Seventh.

EES catalogue entry: 'Great Temple, court 7. Mark for offering base.'
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