Latif Oksuz[a], James W. Hardin[b] and Jared Wilson[c]

[ab] *Department of Anthropology and Middle Easter Cultures, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, US;* [c]*Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, US*

Latif Oksuz—Corresponding Author, e-mail; lo197@msstate.edu Phone; +44 7519-504-914 UK

Author Biographies

Latif Oksuz

Latif received my BA in Classic Archaeology at the Ataturk University in Turkey in 2012. In 2017, he graduated from Mississippi State University with an M.A. in Applied Anthropology. Latif is currently working on his PhD in Archaeology at Durham University. His previous archaeological experience includes four seasons of excavation at Parion in Canakkale, Turkey and one season working at the Middle Iron Age Kınık Hoyuk Excavation in Nigde, Turkey. His interest is in Near Eastern Archaeology and Household Archaeology.

Dr. James W. Hardin

Jimmy Hardin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology of Middle Eastern Cultures at Mississippi State University and Senior Research Associate in its Cobb Institute of Archaeology. Dr. Hardin specializes in the Bronze and Iron Age cultures of ancient Syria-Palestine with wider interests including early and secondary state formation, household archaeology, and multi-disciplinary approaches to understanding the archaeological record. He has participated widely in archaeological fieldwork, both in the southeastern and southwestern United States and at numerous sites in Cyprus, Israel and Jordan. He has been involved with the Lahav Research

Project's work at Tell Halif in Israel since 1986 and authored Lahav II in the final publication series. He currently co-Directs the Hesi Regional Project survey and excavation of Khirbet Summeily in the Hesi Region of southern Israel.

Jared Wilson

Jared graduated from Mississippi State University with a B.S in Computer Information Systems and Anthropology and an M.A. in Applied Anthropology. Jared is currently finishing coursework on his PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology at Andrews University. Jared has archaeological experience in the Southeastern United States, Israel, and Sicily, Italy. Jared's interests include Near Eastern Archaeology and 3D Reconstruction and Analysis.

The K8 House: A New Domestic Space from the Iron Age II at Tell Halif, Israel

In the Iron Age II period of the southern Levant (1000- 586 B.C.E., most data for household studies come from four room or pillared houses. Tell Halif in southern Israel gives us several examples of the four-room pillared house, including the one identified here as the K8 House, from the eighth century. The purpose of this research is to examine the K8 archaeological remains and add to our understanding of Iron Age houses and households as reflected in the patterning of artifacts in the buildings occupied by the household.

Based on the *remains preserved in the K8 House, we can identify a set of activities undertaken regularly inside the house. It can be demonstrated from Tell Halif's archaeological data that, once the specific activities are identified, their organization also can be identified. In order to understand how space functioned in the K8 House at Tell Halif, a spatial analysis of the archaeological materials was undertaken. Ceramics and microartifacts discovered on floors and in the covering fill provide important sources of data serving to identify activities and helping to assess what type of reductions of the "de facto" refuse may have taken place. The locations of artifacts in the K8 House help to identify activity areas within it. These are described in terms of "their composition, their relative density, number of artifact clusters and other remains, organized relationships that existed in space between architecture, features, and artifacts, and in terms of the locations and relative amounts of space utilized for each area" (Hardin 2012, 530).*

Keywords: K8 House, Household, Four-room House, Iron Age II, Tell Halif

Household Archaeology

Household archaeology emerged as a subfield in archaeology during the 1970s and 1980s (Godino and Madella 2013, 1; Hardin 2011, 10). Hulin (2017, 24) states that there were no differences between house – "a place of familial repose"- and household –"an economic unit"- before current studies and new or scientific archaeology played an important role in focusing on households during 1960s. Hulin provides two reasons why scientists believed there were no differences between "house" and "household": "The first was an explicit recognition of a large degree of arbitrariness in assigning functions to rooms that may in the past have been multi-functional. The second was a consequence of the incorporation of science-based approaches to archaeology, which added fine, previously invisible detail to recovery of plant and animal remains" (Hulin 2017, 24). Archaeologists realized that in any society in order to understand both social structure and the material conditions of life for the principal part of a community, there needed to be a focus on the household (Rathje and McGuire 1982, 707). For "households embody and underlie the organization of a society at its most basic level; they can, therefore, serve as sensitive indicators of evolutionary change in social organization" (Wilk and Ashmore 1981). Household archaeology has been especially impactful in the way we understand houses and household integration into larger socio-economic and political aspects of society. Several monographs, edited volumes, and articles over the last couple of decades attest to this impact in the Levant (e.g., Stager 1985; Daviau, 1993; Bunimovitz and Faust 2003; Aja 2009; Hardin 2004; 2010; 2011; Brody 2011; Yasur-Landau, Ebeling, and Mazow 2011; and Parker and Foster 2012). More recently, several scientific methods have been applied to the study of household contexts (Escalera and Conte 2013, 68; Kovacs 2013, 179-182). While early household studies provided core evidence of behavior because it relates to all

types of groups in many organizations (Wilk and Netting 1984, 2), more recent studies have gone deeper and provided a background to study the reproduction and social disparity of households through everyday life (Coupland 2013, 45).

A number of definitions of household have been proposed by archaeologists who are interested in household studies. These definitions generally seek to encompass how ancient people used their houses and what people regularly did as household activities in these houses. Households can be conceived "as groups in which there is a high density of activity" (Wilk and Netting 1984, 5).

For the present study, we believe it is useful to think of the household as a culturally defined, task-oriented domestic unit (see Carter and Merrill 1979) composed of three elements: 1) the social/ demographic 2) the material, and 3) the behavioral (Wilk and Rathje 1982). The social or the demographic unit indicates the number of members and the relationships between members of a household and can include simple, extended, and multiple-family households, Laslett discusses this relationship in his book entitled, *Household and Family in the Past* (Laslett 1972, 28-34). A household may contain "visitors, captives, servants, apprentices, laborers, lodgers, and boarders in addition to blood relatives and adopted members as occupants of its bounded residential space" as well as others (Netting 1982, 642–643). "The material unit includes the dwelling, activity areas, and possessions" (Wilk and Rathje 1982, 618). The behavioral unit includes "the activities in which the household engages" (Hardin 2011, 14). There are four basic groupings of household activities: production, distribution, transmission, and reproduction (Wilk and Rathje 1982, 621). However, evidence of these activities depends on the environment and the social category of the inhabitants (Wilk and Rathje 1982, 621). Archaeologists do not excavate households, but the preserved material remains produced by households during activities. For this reason, archaeologists tend

to focus on elements 2 and, to a less extent, 3. Inference is then used to understand better the ancient household.

Household Archaeology in the Southern Levant

Archaeological remains of domestic areas in the southern Levant from the Iron II period are very useful for examining households four a couple of reasons: there are many known examples of domestic architecture and many of these are well-excavated and well-preserved. The most important data are derived from the numerous excavated examples of pillared, four room houses, many of them found in destruction layers in tells from the southern Levant, including Tell Halif (Hardin 2010, 44). The well-excavated examples of four room houses from Tell Halif, including the K8 House, provide important information on houses and households during the Iron Age II (Hardin 2001, 77). This is especially the case since they are very typical of Iron Age domestic architecture in general.

Four Room House

The four-room house is a well-known architectural plan used during the Iron Age II in the southern Levant. Exhibiting great isomorphism, the typical structure has two basic subtypes and is known generally by scholars as “three-room” or “four-room houses” (Albright 1943; Wright 1985). (Fig. 1).

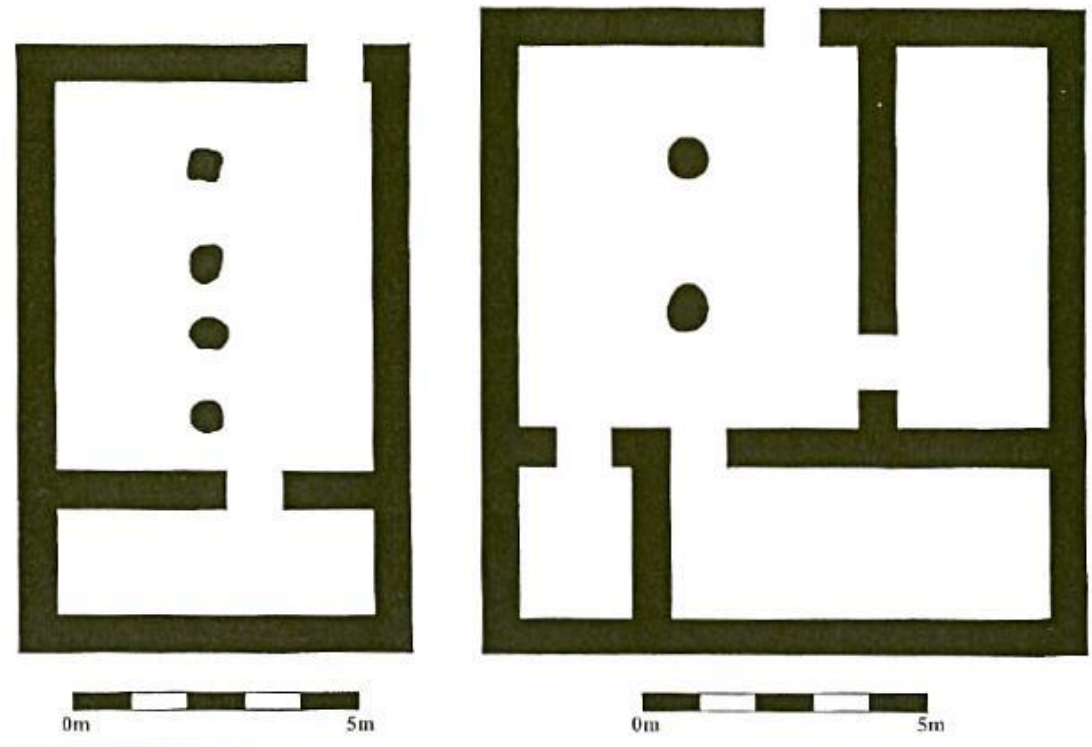

Fig. 1 Plan of typical three and four room houses in the Iron Age II. Adapted from Hardin 2010:17.

The most typical parts of the four-room house and its subtypes include a rectangular broad room, sometimes divided, placed along the back of the house, and two or three long rooms running perpendicularly forward from it. These long rooms were often separated by pillars (Shiloh 1970, 180, Stager 1985, 11). The size of these houses ranges generally from 35 m^2 to 80 m^2 but can be significantly larger (Hardin 2010, 44). This type of house appeared in spatially liberal hamlets and villages of the Iron Age I (ca. 1200-1000 BCE) (Shiloh 1970, 180; Finkelstein 1987) and continued as the dominant house type into the more urban settlements of the Iron Age II (ca. 1000-586 BCE. Other than size, there is no obvious distinction for any social class (Faust and Bunimovitz 2003, 30). Usage of space in this house form was quite flexible without changing the house's basic architectural plan. It possibly served as a residence for single soldiers, a dwelling for nuclear or extended families, or as an administrative building

(Bunimovitz and Faust 2003, 414). Whether settlements had a regular city plan or not, the principal architectural form is the same, the four-room house (Hardin 2010, 47). During the Iron II, it is clear that the four-room house correlates well with Israelite and Judahite settlement see (Faust and Bunimovitz 2003, 30). The four-room house type disappeared with the destruction of Israel and Judah, around 586 B.C (Shiloh 1970, 180; Faust and Bunimovitz 2003, 30).

The K8 House from Tell Halif, the focus of this study, clearly fits this house type and will be described by each of its components. After a brief introduction it will be demonstrated that each component of the K8 House was organized to serve specific purposes, which sometimes included more than one activity. In fact, functions of the rooms often are multiple and room use could change over time based on seasonal needs (see Kramer 1979; Brody 2011, 252).

History of Tell Halif

Tell Halif is located along their southern terminus of the Judean Hills at the northern boundary of the Negev desert. It is positioned on a small mount about 490m above sea level and was occupied from the Chalcolithic through the Byzantine and Islamic periods (Seger 1993; Hardin 2010, 89). Nineteen major strata were discovered (Seger 1993; Hardin 2010, 89). Hardin states that, "During the Iron Age II (1000-600 BCE), the Tell Halif settlement was one of a number of settlements characteristic of the extensive and intensive development of the northern Negev and southern Shephelah" (Hardin 2010, 92). Iron II-period remains at the site, similar to other nearby sites (spatially and temporally) include a fortification system, pillared houses, and a number of plastered cisterns (Hardin 2010, 192). These remains identified at Tell Halif as Stratum VIB were very well-preserved in a matrix consisting of much burned debris covering building floors with many restorable artifacts. Other artifactual remains mixed in the burned

debris include iron arrow points and stone ballista, suggesting military activity as the cause of the conflagration that resulted in the destruction of the settlement. This was most likely during the Assyrian King Sennacharib's 701 B.C.E. campaign (Hardin 2001, 191; Finkelstein and Na'aman 2004; contra Blakely and Hardin 2002). These artifacts are significant because they likely show an attempted defense of the settlement by at least some of its inhabitants. The many items found in the destruction debris and on floors probably remained in or near the locations where they were typically used (Hardin 2010, 98-124).

The earliest excavations at the site occurred in 1962 as a salvage project managed by the Department of Antiquities of Israel. Long-term research started at Tell Halif on the tell proper in 1976 with the creation of the Lahav Research Project. This project involved a group of American institutions and scholars who began studying Tell Halif and its surroundings using local survey, excavation, and ethnographic research (Seger 1993; Hardin 2010, 89). The Lahav Research Project continues through its Phase IV excavations, directed by Dr. Oded Borowski of Emory University, who continues to explore the remains from the 8th century BCE town to understand better the nature of daily life in that period (itellhalif).

K8 House

The K8 House from Stratum VIB is located along the western edge of Tell Halif and is in the southern terminus of Field IV. It is a typical rectangular complex, the original plan of which measured north to south approximately 7.5 meters, and east to west approximately 6.75 meters, or 50.62 m^2 (Fig. 2).

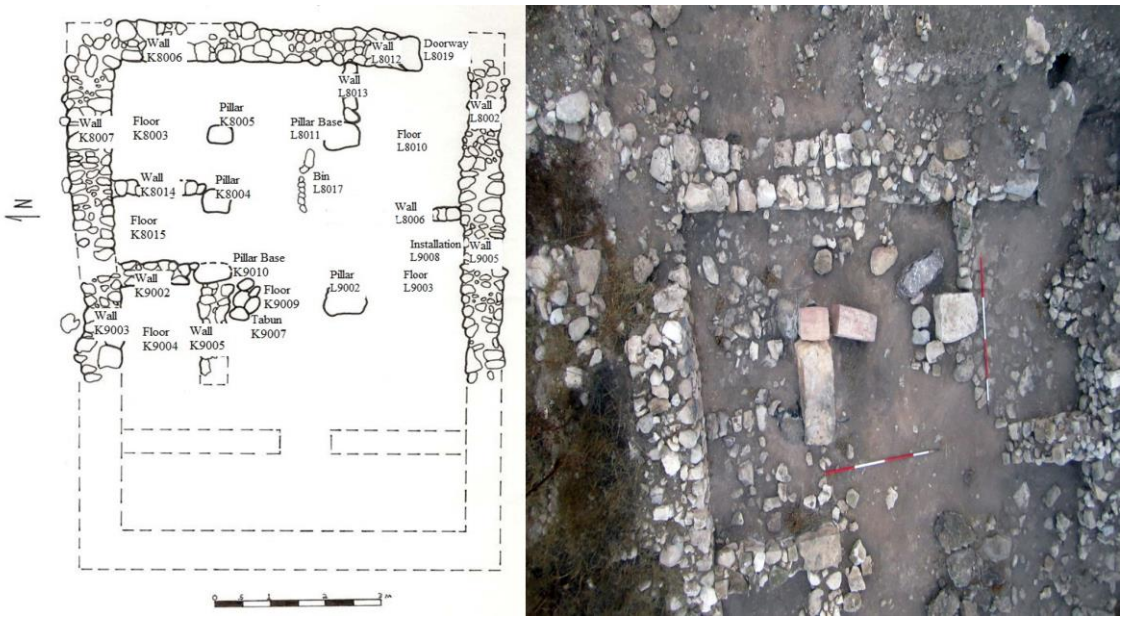

Fig. 2 Plan of the K8 House with recorded walls. Photo looking east. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

The broad room (back room, Room 1) was located in the western end of the house and was not preserved to floor levels due to its location along the eroded western slope of the tell. However, the western limits of the room can be established at the inner face of the Iron Age II city wall still preserved along the western edge of the tell, but only at a level lower than the house floors. It is clearly seen that the eastern ¾ of the complex contain three long rooms, which were divided by two rows of pillars. The southern most long room was subdivided into two sections (Fig. 3). The first section, Room 6, was enclosed by the eastern and western outer walls of the house and divided by a pillar to the east and a 2-course wall to the West. The second section, Room 3, contains the western extension and was divided by a pillar from the central space of Room 7. Another long room was placed along the north side of the complex (Fig. 3). It was divided into three sections; the first section, Room 5, is the eastern most room and was separated by pillars from Room 7- the central space, and from Room 4 by a solid

wall. The second section, Room 4, the middle of the northern long room, was divided from Rooms 2 and 5 by solid walls and from Room 7 by a pillar (Fig. 3). The last section, Room 2, the western end of the northern long room, was separated by solid walls on three sides and by pillars from Room 7. It was connected to the central space by a doorway. The central long room was identified as Room 7 and contained at least three activity areas. To summarize, the K8 House was divided into seven rooms that include a central space and nine different activity areas, A-I (Fig. 3).

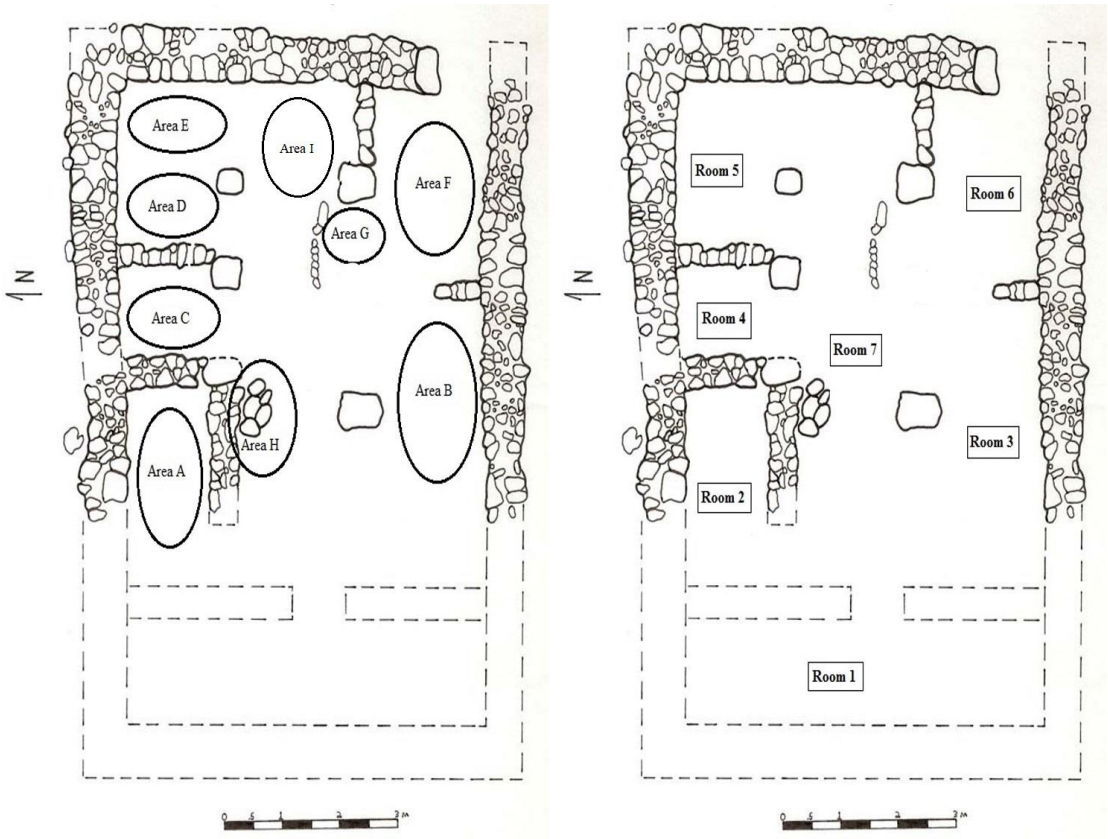

Fig. 3 Plan of the K8 House with rooms identified by number, and activity areas within the house. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project

The method of wall construction varies at Iron Age sites in the southern Levant even within the same building as exemplified in the K8 House. These include mud bricks laid on stone foundations consisting of small to large boulder-sized fieldstones. Some are dry laid and others are laid with some mortar. Also, the floors were generally

made of cobbles and beaten earth or a combination of the two. Many artifacts were found on the floors of the rooms in the K8 House. Some of these artifacts are non-portable, including a bin, three hearth/ovens, and grinding equipment. Many portable objects were also found, including weaving implements, ground stone objects, metal objects, loom weights, faunal remains, seed remains, and restorable ceramic vessels. All of these materials should all be considered when identifying activity areas. The vessel assemblages from the K8 House are similar to those from the F7 Dwelling in Field IV at Tell Halif, which Hardin studied (Hardin 2004, 2010), as well as at other southern Judah sites such as Beer Sheva Stratum II, Lachish Level III, Tell Beit Mirsim Stratum A, Tell en-Nasbeh and Tell 'Eton. All of these dated to the late 8th century B.C.E. (Hardin 2012, 527-28).

One of the most important groups of artifacts that was used to identify which activities took place where in the dwelling is the microartifacts that were recovered and analyzed by Arlene Rosen during the 1992 and 1993 excavation seasons. Microartifacts recovered from the K8 House are an important resource for identifying where normal daily activities took place and include fish bone, animal bone, cereals, legumes, bird eggshell, flint, beach rock mortar fragments, remains of cooked meals, weed stems, floral parts impressed in clay, and carbonized seeds. By collecting and analyzing the microartifacts, and addressing formation processes, the location of activities that took place within the house can better be understood. Microartifacts also help to affirm whether or not the de facto refuse was in fact associated with typical use (Hardin 2012, 529).

Paul Jacobs and James Hardin organized the vessel restoration efforts; and Hardin, Latif Oksuz, and Jared Wilson organized and analyzed the vessels and artifacts. They also established the find locations for materials in the K8 House. The locations of

artifacts in the K8 House were used to identify activity areas once other post depositional processes were accounted for. Activity areas are defined in terms of their composition, their relative density, our ability to separate artifact clusters, and other remains. Activity areas are also organized by relationships that existed in space between architecture, features, and the artifacts themselves (Hardin 2012, 530). Due to the archaeological methods employed, including both excavation strategies and recording methodology, it is possible to very specifically associate artifacts with the specific areas they were found and therefore to infer how the space was used and which activities were associated with which spaces. From this point it is possible to suggest who may have used or occupied the space. It is slightly more difficult, however, to say how these people and their activities were organized. Below, a discussion of archaeological remains from the K8 House is presented. This discussion will be organized by room and activity areas within the house.

While the present work does indeed look at a house that was partially analyzed and described in Dr. Shafer-Elliott's very significant monograph (Shafer-Elliot 2013), there are some striking differences in her spatial analysis and ours for a couple of reasons. First, Shafer-Elliott's work was unable to include the twelve or so cubic meters of materials from the balk removals of the 1999 field season since it is not included in the Digmaster Database materials on line. She thus ends here discussion of space at the terminus of the K8 and L8 excavation areas providing a very incomplete picture of the preserved remains. Our work was based on the original field notebooks from all seasons and the specific find spots as understood through analysis of the various artifacts (recorded with very specific 3-dimensional location data) and pottery basket descriptions (specific notes and plans from the field) by the individual responsible for the spatial analysis (Hardin). Further Oksuz and Wilson used and analyzed the same

materials as partial fulfillment of their M.A. requirements at Mississippi State largely before the work by Shafer-Elliott was published.

Regarding the Digmaster database, there are some very problematic issues with the interpretations therein (which Shafer-Elliott used), especially since much of the material was placed on-line with very little input from the principle excavator of the K8 House (Dr. Oded Borowski). Based largely on the primary field recordings, and input from Dr. Borowski and his continued work at the site our reconstruction of the space is quite different from that of Shafer-Elliott. An example from the first two rooms one encounters upon entering the K8 House will demonstrate this point.

As one enters the K8 House through Shafer-Elliott's Room 1 (our Room 6) a doorway is described as containing steps "leading up from Room One…." (Shafer-Elliot 2013, 80). The description as going up to a street is not supported by the more recent archaeological work. The stones described as stairs are in fact part of an architectural phase that dates much later and covers part of the Iron Age architecture- this was determined by late material mixed in with the stones of this feature as they were removed during later field seasons. Further her understanding of Room 1 as a stable (Shafer-Elliot 2013, 81) makes little sense from a flow pattern perspective. Any animals kept therein (perhaps two caprine, at the most, based on the small space available in the room) would obstruct entry and exit into the rest of the house and require individuals to walk through the stall! We also do not agree that the stable would be placed immediately adjacent to an area where food is served (according to Shafer-Elliott's reconstruction and food preparation based on ours) or feasting activity was taking place. Rather we would suggest that there are many positives to using a flagstone floor, the basis of her identity, beyond those associated with stabling or foaling animals. Shafer-Elliott's understanding of the grinding of bases of storage jars (she alternatively

suggests the possibility of storage taking place here) into the sediments in between the stones for standing vessels upright in this area also in unconvincing. The floor of Room 1 is quite well laid with little space in between the flagstones and none of the jars from the room show any signs of wear that one would associate with this activity. There are many examples from Halif where storage jars are found with their bases directly resting on the paved/flagstone floors and leaning against the walls or other vessels to keep them upright (e.g., Rooms 1 and 5 in the F7 House, but also from rooms in Fields III and V). The short wall dividing Room 1 to the west (Wall L8006) makes the most sense as roof support or perhaps a support for a staircase ascending to a second floor from this room. No other room preserved in the house provides a better candidate. A number of vessels described by Shafer-Elliott as coming from a second floor actually make contact with the floor in this room and we believe should be associated with Room 1 instead.

As one moves from Shafer-Elliott's Room 1 to the rest of the house, we believe that the doorway has been appropriately identified by her as the northwest corner of the room. However, she identifies the area just east of this as a storage bin (L8017 next to pillar base L8011) following Digmaster and suggests that food serving, and consumption activities occurred in this area of her Room 2 and Area 1B. We believe the activities associate with L8017 and her Room 2 are clearly (both functionally and structurally) associated with food preparation which she curiously dismisses. Remains around 1B in L8017 including several cooking pots, the micro remains of both food and fuel for fires, and especially a number of "tabun fragments" fit very well with the other artifacts in this area and are likely part of the primary cooking installation serving the occupants of the house (see fuller discussion below). A glaring omission from Shafer-Elliott's discussion is a large saddle quern found above the floor in Area C next to the space described above. Its placement above the floor at a slight tilt suggests to us that

the quern rests in its original context rather than falling from a second floor (as suggest in Digmaster and Shafer-Elliott's work). The remains of installation walls surrounding the area of the quern would have caught the ground food and facilitated its collection. A number of holemouth jars found nearby likely held cereals ground in the installation. An understanding of the remains of Room 2 and Area 1B as associated with food preparation is much more convincing. These two rooms demonstrate just a couple of the major differences in our understanding of the space in the K8 House and Shaffer-Elliott's.

Room 1

Room 1, the broad room, was located on the western end of the house but is now missing because of erosion along the western slope of the tell. Therefore, there are no archaeological remains from the floor that can be presented from Room 1. However, looking at the town plan with houses on both sides (north and south) of the K8 house, together with more recent archaeological work along the slope west of Room 1, it is possible to establish the limits of the room indicated by wall foundations preserved below floor level and identified with the settlement's fortification wall (Borowski personal communication).

Room 2

Room 2, which includes Area A (Fig. 3) is one of the subdivided areas of the north long room. Space in this room measured about 1.5 m x 2.1 m, or 3.15 m^2. It is surrounded on three sides by walls of dry laid fieldstones, 2-3 rows wide and 2-4 courses high (Loci K9002, K9003, and K9005) (Fig. 2). Wall K9005 ended at a pillar base (Locus K9010). Floor K9004 in Area A was not well-preserved, but it consists of compacted clay and was covered by ash and burned brick detritus. This ash debris likely includes the

remains of the roof and other building materials that collapsed during the conflagration that destroyed the K8 House. This layer was about 5 cm thick at the east side of the room and 20 cm thick at the west side near the wall.

Various ceramic vessels and other artifacts were found in this destruction debris (Fig. 4). A few restorable vessels from Area A included two storage jars (one with a narrow neck and the other a holemouth), two bowls, one cooking pot, and one juglet. Other types of artifacts found on the floor include one loom weight and significantly, a plow point which suggests farming activities involving the occupants of this house. However, there were sherds of many different types of vessels lying on top of the destruction debris; including numerous bowl sherds, jug sherds, cooking pot sherds, and a few krater sherds. Microartifacts, which are all taken from the floor, include a modest amount of cereal remains, bone fragments, and a considerable quantity of iron fragments associated with the plow and perhaps other iron implements in the complex (Rosen 1992). Other microartifact samples that were taken from Room 2 contained flint chips, fish bones, and charred seed.

Fig. 4 Room 2, Area A and discovered materials, pottery sherds and plow point. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Based on these artifacts and their spatial organization, a number of activities can be inferred for Room 2, Area A. Even though there are a number of bowl, jug and krater sherds, the room is too small to use for food serving and consumption even for a nuclear family. The iron plow and iron fragments provide evidence that an activity related to tool storage and/or perhaps iron working (maintenance, sharpening, etc.) took place in this area. We would suggest that the occupants of this complex could have repaired a plow in Area A of Room 2, preparing it for work during the next planting season. Dever (2012, 173) states that men and older boys could have made or repaired their tools during off seasons and stocked them nearby. Additional activities in Room 2 associated with storage are consistent with the remains described above.

Room 3

Room 3 is the longest room of the complex, and there is one activity area included in it, Area B (Fig. 3). The room is divided from the central long room (Room 7) by a pillar (Locus L9002). The western side of the room has been completely destroyed by erosion along the western slope of the tell. Room 3, Area B, measured about 2.43 m x 1.75 m, or 4.25 m^2, and the floor (Locus L9003) was constructed of small and large cobble-sized fieldstones and with some boulder-sized stones. The floor in this room was made of dry-laid flagstones and Paul Jacobs believes that the mortar of the surface may have been destroyed by erosion (Jacobs 1993). The south side of the room was delimited by an outer stone wall (Locus L9005) of the complex and made of dry-laid, cobble-sized fieldstones that ran E-W and likely topped with mudbrick. This wall was two to three rows wide and three courses high. The western portion was not preserved due to erosion along the west slope of the tell. The destruction layers were comprised of loosely compacted burned brick detritus, black ash and charred wood. The depth of destruction debris was ca. 15 cm at the east end of the room. Several artifacts were found in the destruction debris and on the floors (Fig. 5). Different types of pottery were found lying on the floor, including two storage jars, one cooking pot, one decanter, one jug and three bowls. Artifacts found on top of the destruction debris include numerous pottery sherds; jar, jugs, bowls, two loom weights, a pounder or pestle, and an iron arrow point. An installation (Locus L9008) was unearthed in Area B and measured 33 cm x 25 cm wide and 12 cm deep. It consists of a storage cavity that was stone-lined and possibly covered with a flat stone and associated with Floor L9003, alongside wall L9005. The Installation L9008 included two restorable ceramic, bowls (Fig. 5). A second possibility is that this locus was not an installation and was not associated with the flat stone.

Instead it is possible that the cavity was refilled and included the bowls as part of a foundation deposit.

Fig 5 Installation and restorable bowls from Room 3, Area B. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Furthermore, architecturally, there is a monolithic pillar present (Locus L9002), which was cut from local limestone. It measures 73 cm x 43 cm wide and 80 cm high and could easily have carried a second floor or roof. It is structurally related to the pillars lining both side of the central long room – Room 7.

Based on the artifacts found in Area B, especially the ceramic vessels, it can be inferred that this room was used for food consumption or storage. The function of the ceramic vessels found in this room was for food serving and consumption. Also, an installation in Area B with de facto artifacts provided evidence of another activity associated with food processing and consumption. Unfortunately, there were no microartifact samples taken from this room. This installation could have been used during winter months when cooking activities were commonly carried out in an inside area due to typically wet weather conditions (Kramer 1982). In addition, jugs could

have been used for liquid serving and consumption. Although it is difficult to make a more specific determination because of the small quantity of pottery found in the area. The paucity of physical remains preserved in the room leaves ample space for living room activities, such as food consumption or possibly sleeping. Another possibility is that storage items not preserved in the record such as sacks of food supplies, fuel supplies for cooking and warmth, etc., were kept in the room. While the flagstone floor might suggest stabling activity (Shafer-Elliot 2013), other artifacts in the area suggest that this is not the case.

Room 4

Room 4, Area C, is one of the better-preserved areas regarding archaeological remains in the complex (Fig 3). Area C is surrounded on three sides by walls. Wall K8007 on the north is made of dry-laid boulder-sized fieldstones 75 cm wide with 2- 3 rows and some rubble fill. Wall K9002 to the west is bonded with Wall K8007 and forms the western limit of the room. Wall K8014 adjoins Wall K8007 and abuts pillar K8004 to form the eastern limit of Room 4 and Area C. Area C measures approximately 1.60 m x 1.25 m or 2.5 m^2 and was accessed from the central space of Room 7. The floor (Locus K8015) of the room was made of unevenly dry-laid, cobble-sized stones (Fig. 2).

Area C provides one of the most easily identifiable de facto artifact assemblages of any area in the complex concerning room function. Four restorable storage jars - two with open mouths, one bowl, two lamps, and one jug were found in situ on the floor (Fig 6). Also, there are several microartifacts that presented limited evidence from Area C, including some charred seed and fish bones (Rosen 1992).

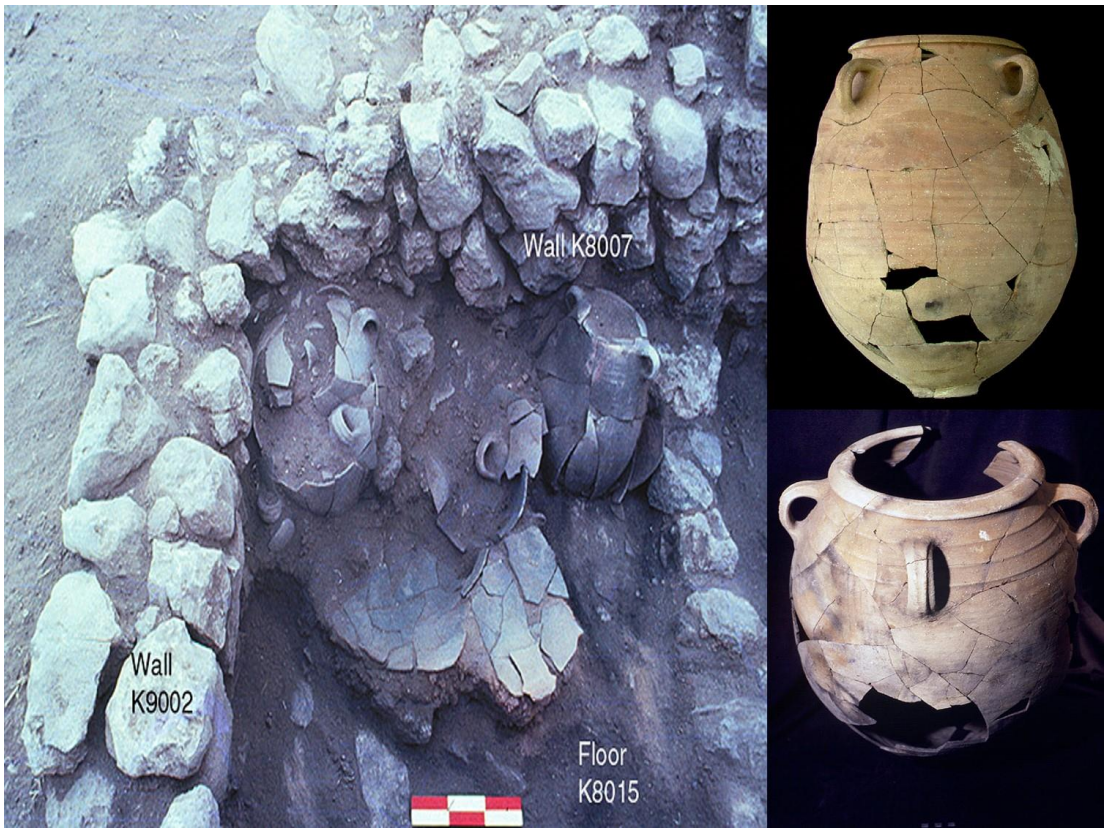

Fig. 6 Storage jars *in situ* (left), and after restoration (right). Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Based on the artifacts and their spatial organization, there is only one activity that can be inferred for Area C at the time of K8's destruction. The function of the ceramic vessels, especially the storage jars that were found in this area, was storage of either or both liquid and dry goods based on the different types of storage jars. Jacobs and Borowski state that the "unevenness of the floor was possibly made to facilitate the storage of jars using the depressions in the floor for placing jar bottoms" (Jacobs and Borowski 1992; Jacobs 1993). However, we would like to suggest another possibility for this storage room. These *"lmlk"* type and other storage jars could be used to store seeds, which were used during planting season, presuming the household members were engaged in farming as suggested by the plow point (Oksuz: 2017). This could possibly explain why these four jars are separated from other storage jars and storage areas in the

house as the seed would have been processed differently (see Borowski 1987, 71, 82). Moreover, charred seeds found near the jars further support the jars' used for storing seeds. Furthermore, the different types of jars could have been used for different types of seeds. Katz and Faust (2011) identified lentils, olives, and grapes in necked storage jars from Tell 'Eton. They provide further evidence from a number of sites where open-necked holemouth jars may be associated with oil storage and where groups of closed-necked vessels were found near scoops (e.g. Tell Batash/Timna; Katz and Faust 2011, 177). They further suggest that the type of storage vessels used has more to do with the length of the anticipated storage than with the commodity being stored (Katz and Faust 2011, 182). Inferentially, if the siege by the Assyrian king responsible for the destruction of Halif was near the harvesting period (see Luckbenbill 1989 for campaigning seasons), members of this household could already have collected and stored seeds for the next planting period.

Room 5

Room 5 is the third longest room of the complex (Fig 3) and is one of the more remarkable areas studied because of several features and the large number of artifacts preserved therein. The dwelling's outer walls, which were built of dry-laid, boulder-sized fieldstones, 2-3 rows wide and 2-3 courses high, enclosed the room on the north and the east sides (Loci K8007 and K8006, respectively). The western end was separated from Room 4 by Wall K8014. Two support pillars (Loci K8004 and K8005) separate this room from the central long room, Room 7. Room 5 measures approximately 3.05 m x 2. 21 m, or 6.75 m^2. The room has two different types of floor surfaces (Locus K8003): the northwestern segment of the floor was constructed of beaten earth with large cobbles, denoted as Area D (Fig 3). The other part of the floor was made of cobbles and is identified as Area E (Fig 3). The destruction debris (Locus

K8002) covering the floor includes burned brick fragments, charred beams, and pebble- to cobble-sized fieldstones. The debris level resting on the floor was very dense and measured 4 cm thick on the east side of the room and 45 cm thick on the west side. The debris on the east side is shallow because of its proximity to the two solids wall on the east side of the room, whereas space seems that the second floor collapsed into the west side of the room. Regarding the two pillars mentioned earlier, Pillar K8004 was hewn and roughly dressed, and measured 1.33 m x 50 cm x 40 cm. Pillar K8005 was hewn and dressed as well, and measured 1.38 m x 45 cm. x 40 cm.

Room 5 contained a large quantity of artifacts found preserved in situ (Fig. 7). On the floor were several ceramic vessels and other artifacts including seven storage jars, one jug, two juglets, one cooking pot, one bowl and a spouted krater, two lamps, two dipper juglets - one large-mouth dipper and one finely made and thin-walled – as well as several decanter and pitcher sherds (at least one of these is restorable). All of the ceramic vessels were located in the eastern half of Room 5 in Area E only. Other types of artifacts found on the floor include two beads, eight loom weights, one small perforated limestone with four holes (only one completely perforating the stone). Artifacts found in the debris covering the floor include: one pounder, one small mortar, one small, circular piece of bronze, three iron arrow points, three stone weights, one worked bone, three grinding stones, three ballistae, two iron straps, and an unfinished spindle whorl. Also, several microartifact samples taken from Room 5 by Rosen yielded fish bones, flint, shell, lithics, and charred seeds including grain seeds.

Fig. 7 Restorable ceramics and other artifacts from Room 5. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Based on these artifacts and their spatial organization, a number of activities can be inferred for Room 5. The function of the storage jars was to stock surplus, most likely liquids such as oil and/or wine since most of the vessels are closed-necked (however see discussion above). This would also explain the presence of the spouted krater which could have been used to transfer liquids from the large storage containers to other serving vessels or for direct consumption. It is likely that the these were stored for either the upcoming winter season or expectation of siege by the Assyrians. Other ceramic vessels such as the decanters, pitchers, and juglets, and a large open krater, also were possibly used in the service of liquid and other products. As mentioned above, Room 5 has two different types of surfaces with one of the surfaces completely cobbled (Area E), and the other surface made of mixed cobbles and beaten earth (Area D) (See Fig. 8). Area D was used for storage, likely for liquids. While we suggested earlier that

Room 4/Area C could have been used for storage of next year's seed crop, it is also possible that it contained non-liquid consumables and that Room 5 contained the liquids. It is also possible that Area D of Room 5 was used to store things such as sacks of grains or other perishables that did not survive in the archaeological records. However, we believe, that, if this were the case, we would have likely have found even more seed remains in Area D. A better suggestion for Area D is that it was probably used for weaving activities or to store items associated with weaving. This understanding is supported by the eight loom weights found resting on the floor and several other artifacts. The loomweights likely were suspended from the loom before they were baked in the conflagration and fell to the floor as the loom's other components were consumed in the fire. The unfinished spindle whorl provides further support that this area was used for textile production and it is possible that the perforated limestone was used in the weaving process, but how is unknown. The beads were likely for personal adornment possible by women and are consistent with ethnographic data supporting the notion that Area D was often used by them in association with textile production within the home. This relationship between women and textile production at the household level in southwest Asia is discussed by Glenda Friend (1996), and Debbie Cassuto (Forthcoming). In Judah, the textile tradition was very active during the 8th and 9th centuries. Friend states that the quantity of loom weights and other weaving implements found at Tell Halif is more than found at any other southern Levantine site in the Iron II period (Friend 1996; Hardin 2001, 233; Reynolds 2012, 103). Moreover, other artifacts like a mortar, a grinding stone, a pounder, a dipper juglet, and personal adornment are related to activities also associated with women. Therefore, when we look at these activities, there is a great likelihood that this area was mainly used by women (Meyers 1997, 24-26). Ethnographic research

shows that women played an important role in production and consumption and in all facets of the economic life of the household, including manufacturing materials, distributing them and transforming them into expendables (Meyers 1988, 145). Other important tasks that women traditionally carried out included processing harvested grain and other foodstuffs and converting raw supplies into edibles- all extremely time-consuming and labor-intensive (Meyers 1988, 145; 1997, 25). An example of these tasks pertinent to the discussion below includes grinding grain into flour and mixing it to make dough and then baking in the oven as bread. These tasks would also include tending fires in ovens or other cooking/baking installations for the occupants of the K8 House (see Meyers 1997, 25; Ackerman 2016).

In sum, a number of different activities took place the Room 5, including storage in Area E, and textile production and possibly food preparation in Area D– especially related to liquid preparation for consumption.

Fig. 8 Activity areas D and E from Room 5. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Room 6

Room 6 is the first room one would enter upon coming into the K8 House. This room exists at the southeastern end of the house and includes activity Area F (Fig. 3). The room was surrounded by four walls (Loci L8002, L8012, L8006, and L80013), two of which are outer walls of the dwelling (Locus L8002, the southern limit of the house, and Locus L8012, the eastern limit of the house). (Fig. 2). A narrow, one course wall made of medium to large cobbles runs e-w between Wall L8012 and Pillar L8011 and establishes the northern limit of the room, separating it from Area I of Room 7 (Fig. 2). Wall L8006 extends from the southern wall of the house for only approximately .75 m to partially separate Room 6 from Room 3 to the west. The wall is two courses wide and made of large cobbles and small boulders in its preserved height. Room 6 allowed access into the rest of the ground floor through its northwest corner and possibly to a second floor along its southern edge. The short Wall L8006 could have supported the top of a staircase/ladder to gain access to a second floor and could explain why the wall extended no further to the north. A staircase/ladder would have descended to the east, and, based on the layout of the other preserved rooms in the structure, and the placement of artifacts on floors, this reconstruction better than any other fits the preserved materials. The floor of Room 6 is an uneven cobbled surface (Locus L8010) that was dry- laid and made of cobble to boulder-sized cobblestones and fieldstones. It measured 2.05 m x 2.75 m, or 5.63 m^2. The doorway into the structure contains a threshold (Locus L8019), likely leading to an outer space such as a street or alleyway (unexcavated thus far). The threshold was constructed of smooth, large cobblestones and boulders placed in a step-like fashion between the ends of Walls L8012 and L8002 and this was the only entry into the house discovered during excavation. Entry into the

house from the east may have some ideological significance as has been discussed by Faust (2001).

Debris covering the floor (Locus L8005) includes ash pockets, and pieces of charred wood in a matrix of mud bricks and other debris. While it is preserved to depth of 50 cm, on the western end of the room, large stones introduced into the area by later building activity reduced the depth of the ashy debris in the eastern half of the room to an average of less than 25-30 cm. But many artifacts were well-preserved on or near the cobbled floor. These include five small jugs/pitchers of the same type – four in the very northeastern corner of the room near the threshold and one on the opposite side of the threshold next to a large jar and a large bowl. It is tempting to associate all of these vessels with the storage and retrieval of water from a source outside of the house, perhaps one of the two know wells outside of, and below the town, or one of the many plastered, waterproofed cisterns in the vicinity of the K8 House. The water and vessels could have been used for consumption as well as washing /bathing (especially the large bowl and jug found near the storage jar) before entering the house. Two additional storage jars were found in Room 6, both next to Pillar L8011 on the northern edge of the room. One was an ovoid type, closed neck jar and the other was a large, open-mouth pithos. We believe both area associated with activities involving Area G of Room 7. The same is true of two cooking pots, one a cooking pot and the other a cooking jug, that were found in the northwestern area of the Room 6 next to the Installation L8017 in Area G and should be associated with activities in that area. Additionally, three bowls, and one krater were found near the western end of the room (Fig. 9). Other types of artifacts found directly on the floor include four grinding stones, two stone mortars and one weight stone. Artifacts found in the destruction debris include two grinding stones,

one hammer stone, five figurine fragments, two weight stones, one ballista, and one bronze needle.

Fig. 9 Restorable ceramics from Room 6, Area F. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

Moreover, there were several microartifact samples from the room. In fact, Rosen (1993) states that this area yielded the richest microartifact samples in the dwelling. One sample taken from the north western area of the room was related to a collapsed tabun and includes large amounts of charcoal containing mostly cereal grains, with some legumes, bird eggshell, and fish bone. Most of the remains came from inside the tabun and possibly include remnants of cooked meals. Furthermore, cereal grains were present on the inside of the cooking pot left there at the time of destruction.

Based on these micro- and other artifacts and their spatial organization, a number of activities can be inferred for Area F. Entry, not only to the house itself, but also to both floors of the house (a second story is discussed further below) likely occurred in this room. The ceramic vessels including the five jugs, the large bowl and

the large storage jar near the entrance to the house in the eastern area of the room likely are associated with water storage and use. Further to the north and west, two of the storage jars (especially the holemouth), the cooking pot and jug, and microartifact materials, tabun fragments, copious amounts of charcoal, legumes, eggshell, and fish bone all suggest activities associated with food preparation and cooking and work very well with a number of activities associated with Room 7 discussed below. It also is possible the bowls and crater located in the western area of the Area F should be associated with these same activities. Also, four grinding stones and other flint implements further support that the western and northern section of Area F was used for food preparation like as part of the same activities in Room 7.

Room 7

The central space of the preserved building has been identified here as Room 7 and it composes the central room of the three long rooms. Room 7 provided the longest undivided space in the dwelling (Fig. 3) running west to east, and measuring approximately 10 m x 2 m, or 20 m^2. A few activities areas can be isolated in this room, and consequently, it has been divided into three activity areas: Areas G, H, and I (fig. 3). The first activity, beginning in the west, was identified as Area H. This Area includes the space around a tabun that abuts the south face of Area A's Wall K9005 (Figs. 2 and 3). The tabun was built of coils of clay on and against a ring of cobble-sized fieldstones. It was only partially preserved, measuring 23 cm high and 52 cm x 80 cm wide. Nearby artifacts include two in situ cooking pots, a well-preserved storage jar, a lamp, and a dipper juglet. Other ceramic sherds were found lying on Floor K9009 close to the tabun (Fig. 10). Tabuns generally were placed for easy access. This tabun is placed in the middle of the three long rooms and is easily accessible from most other areas of the ground floor. It also is located very near other areas associated with food

preparation. The tabun and other materials present in the space suggest that food preparation activities took place in Area H.

Fig. 10 Discovered restorable ceramics from Room 7, Area H. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project.

The space located to the east of Area H in Room 7, identified as Area G, also has been associated with food preparation. Area G is located in the central area of Room 7 and consists of space surrounding a large, rectangular installation or bin (Figs. 2 and 3). The installation was dry-laid and constructed of large cobble-sized fieldstones and covered with a mud-clay in areas (Fig. 3). It was 1.25 m long, with walls 15 cm wide, and 26 cm high. It was placed at the north side of Surface L8010 and joined the west face of Pillar L8011 where several stones were placed against the pillar (Fig. 2). The surface of the installation was built of beaten earth (Locus L8016) and includes

compacted clay. Three cooking pots were found mixed among the debris of the installation while another was found immediately to its north. Described above in the discussion of Room 6, a cooking jug and a cooking pot more were found next to the installation in Area F. Three jugs were found to the north and east of the installation and six storage jars were grouped mainly to the installation's north. One closed neck jar was located to its east next to pillar L8011 and two others were located immediately to its south in Room 6. Two jars had actually collapsed into the installation during the destruction of the building. Two lamps were located in the debris above the floor north of the installation and two bowls were found to the south near those in Room 6 and it is likely that all of these bowls were a part of the same functional assemblage. Debris removed from the installation included much ash and burned debris as well as microartifacts consisting of fish bone, egg shell, and burned grains of cereals and fuel. Artifacts from within the covering destruction debris included one spindle whorl (found in the northern part of Area G) and one hammer stone.

We believe that virtually all of the artifacts found in Area G within the vicinity of Installation L8011, including those in the northwestern part of Area F in Room 6, are consistent with food preparation, and that Area G was the main cooking hearth and food preparation area for the house. The remains of the installation in the immediate vicinity of Pillar L8011 are virtually identical to those of a cooking installation in the F7 house built against a pillar base (on the same side of the pillar even!) and identified as Area I therein (Hardin 2010, 152-3). Remains such as eggshell and microartifacts typical of fuel for fire are more consistent with food preparation and cooking than consumption. Further the store jars scattered in the vicinity of Area G likely held food stuffs being used at the time of the building's destruction. These easily could have belonged with the vessels stored immediately to their north in Area E of Room 5.

Continuing east in Room 7, the last area identified, Area I, includes the eastern most third of the room and centers around a very large saddle quern (Fig. 11). Area I is separated from Area E to the north in Room 5 and from the south by Area G and installation L8017. It is enclosed to the east by outer Wall L. L8012 and to the south by Wall L8013 that separates it from Room 6 and Area F. Area I contents include three bowls, one store jar (restricted neck) and one lamp. Additionally, a very large saddle quern (Fig. 11) was found resting above the floor among the remains of a poorly preserved installation consisting of some small cobbles covered by mud/clay. Regarding the artifacts from this room, Jacobs states that some of them, especially the saddle quern, fell down from a second story (Jacobs and Borowski 1992; Jacobs 1993). This may have been the case for the lamp that was found resting in debris 30 cm above the floor. However, we would suggest that the rest of the materials likely were used on the first floor. Some of the items likely were used or stored above the floor and tumbled into the destruction debris as the structure burned. Their location above the floor does not mean they had to come from a second story and most are at a level below partially preserved roof timbers. Jacobs' primary example was the saddle quern which he described as being above the floor and associated with a charred beam. However, when a saddle quern was used, it was generally raised well above the floor to make it higher and more ergonomic. Its excavated location above the floor consists of clay-like material upon which it rests, and the "tilt" of the quern suggest to us that it was placed atop a prepared platform to be used in association with other artifacts located in Area E. This especially includes the two holemouth pithoi resting immediately to the quern's west in Areas G and F, the two bowls found next to it to the southeast and a number of stones covered with a clay/mud plaster suggestive of an installation that once enclosed the quern and served to catch the ground wheat/barley. Many similar examples can be

cited from Iron II locations at Tell Halif in Fields II, III, IV and V (e.g., Seger and Borowski Forthcoming, Cole 2015, 124 and plan XV p. 263 Locus 4014).

Fig. 11 Saddle quern from Room 7, Area I. Courtesy of the Lahav Research Project

While bins could have been used in food or industrial production or as a storage place in the K8 House (Aja 2009, 374; Daviau 1993), no clear evidence for storage bins was identified in the building. Daviau states that bins generally served as storage containers that were placed where residents needed them (Aja 2009, 375; Daviau 1993, 61). Bins do not provide much help in defining which activities were carried out in their vicinity because they served different functions in a variety of places (Aja 2009: 491). Bin L8017 was placed close to areas where both weaving activity was carried out and to where food preparation was undertaken. Therefore, we suggest that the bin could have been used to store unused or broken vessels, when such were out of use for either food preparation or weaving activities.

In summary, information gained from Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were combined to provide a detailed understanding of the activities and use of the K8 House at Tell Halif

during the Iron Age II period. We have demonstrated that various spaces in this dwelling where domestic activities were carried out can be identified. However, based on the activities represented in the other rooms of the house we would suggest that the broad room(s) likely was used for additional storage or perhaps as a living room, since all other analysed areas, excepting Room 3 Area B, could not have served in this capacity. Activities such as sleeping, eating, socialization, and entertaining guests are the types of activities typically undertaken in living rooms. But since the broad room was completely eroded away, no more could be said about this space. Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are the best candidates for inner spaces. These domestic areas were mostly used as follows: related to living room activities (Room 3, Area B); as storage facilities (Room 2, Area A, Room 4, Area C and Room 5, Area D); as kitchens (Room 6, the northern portion of Area F and Room 7, Areas G, H, and I) and a courtyard (Room 7). Additionally, Room 5, Area D was used for textile production, and Area F of Room 6 additionally provided a space for entry, storage (likely associated with water) and possibly access to a second floor. Before talking about a second floor, however, a discussion should be presented of how much of the first floor was roofed.

Roofing

We believe that a large area of the house including Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 was entirely roofed. The presence of oil lamps in these rooms could help demonstrate the need for artificial light because the spaces were roofed. However, all but one of the lamps found in the K8 House were found in Room 7, the one room in the house we believe may not have been completely roofed. The presence of the lamps here could indicate the need to have light to eat or cook by, or some other related activities during the evening hours.

Regarding the central long room of the K8 house, Room 7, scholars long believed that one of the pillared long rooms generally was left open to serve as a courtyard (Hardin 2012, 544; Fritz and Kempinski 1983, 27; Herzog 1984: 77). However, others have more recently suggested that the entire building generally was roofed (e.g. Stager 1985; Holladay 1992). It is possible that Room 7 was unroofed or partially unroofed, to let in the necessary light for activities that were carried out therein. Also, this would have provided enough light during the day time for the other roofed rooms that were mainly divided from the central area by pillared walls to be used without the need for artificial light. Although Watson (1979) and McQuitty (1984) state that modern societies in Near East have a hearth in the living room and use it for cooking, heat, and light, we believe that the central area above the cooking installation in Area G and perhaps Area H was uncovered, allowing those areas to serve as a small courtyard. Another possibility is that Room 7 was vented in some way to allow for the smoke to escape (See Avitzur et al. 1971, 21; Watson 1979, 122; McQuitty 1984, 265 for ethnoarchaeological studies on how houses might be vented to allow smoke from cooking activities to escape). If Room 6 did not carry a second story, then it may also have been unroofed or partially unroofed if our tentative reconstruction of a stairway leading upwards is correct. Nothing found lying on the floors of Rooms 6's Area F and Room 7's Areas G and H could be identified as the burned remains of organic materials used in roof/ceiling construction. However, these remains were identified frequently in other rooms, especially near the bases of walls where they were better preserved. Further, if Room 7 was roofed we would expect the structural pillars that separate Room 7 from the rooms to its north and south to align so they could support a spanning beam. This, however, is not the case for the space above Activity Areas G and H. Apart from

this, there is no further evidence one way or the other about a roof above of Rooms 6 and 7, except that the area is the biggest and longest space in the compound.

As it is proposed above, the house's two outer long rooms were roofed. There is no evidence about the roof in Room 7 other than the circumstantial evidence mentioned above. Additionally, it is possible that all the roofed area carried a second story. The monolithic pillars and strong walls of the house would easily have carried the extra load adding support to this idea. It would have provided more living space for occupants of the house. However, no direct evidence of ladders or stairs were found during excavations. Furthermore, Yadin (1963) suggested that broad room walls generally were built higher, making this room the more likely one to carry a second floor. This is especially the case when these rooms are incorporated into a town's casemate fortification system as is the case in the K8 House discussed here. So, we believe that this area at the very least carried a second floor that served primarily as a living room or multiple living rooms. Unfortunately, however, our broad room(s) was destroyed through erosion, so neither stair nor broad room walls can be given as conclusive evidence for a second story. Even in the total absence of a second floor, the roof itself could still have functioned as sleeping space, as space for drying and processing of grains and legumes, consuming meals and entertaining guests etc. and it could have been accessed by ladders or stairs which were not preserved.

Having shown how the activity areas within the K8 house are organized we decided to compare the K8 House with another house (F7) from Tell Halif. We thought it pertinent to show that although the basic layout of the four-room house can be very similar, the organization of activity areas within each house can be very different. The following is a description of the F7 house and a comparison of the F7 and K8 houses.

The F7 Four-Room House

The F7 Dwelling, also from Tell Halif, was published fully in 2010. It sits approximately 10-15 meters to the north of the K8 House in the northern portion of Field IV (Hardin 2010). The dwelling has many of the same features that are common in pillared dwellings in the Iron Age in Israel and Judah and it falls squarely in the four-room house architecture type discussed in this research. There are three long rooms that are further separated into smaller spaces with two broad rooms sitting perpendicular to the long rooms at the rear of the building and it is incorporated into the western fortification wall, just as the K8 House would have been. The space inside the dwelling is quite substantial measuring at least 80 m^2. This space within was subdivided into five rooms and fourteen activity areas were identified in the space by the excavators.

A Brief comparison of the F7 and K8 Houses at Tell Halif

While there are certainly similarities between the F7 and K8 pillared dwellings, there remain some differences as well. Both dwellings fit the standard interpretation of a four-room house as described in this research. However, they yield differences in the ways that space is used and subdivided and the types and quantities of artifacts present. Both the similarities and differences are important here because the two dwellings are temporally and spatially the same.

Both dwellings are from the same tell, temporally and stratigraphically contemporary, and they both were destroyed in the same event. Both houses are incorporated into the town's casemate fortification on the western slope of the site, both houses are entered from the east, both use pillars in their long rooms, and both likely carried a second story on at least their broad rooms. They show us that the people who lived there had the same basic plan for their houses. Both houses have designated areas

in them that are used for cooking or food preparation, and for storage. And both houses organize these activities in very similar ways. The major storage areas where store jars and pithoi are used in storage are located in spaces in the northern long room, and, in both instances, next to these are several activity areas focused on the processing, including grinding, and cooking of foods. Both houses use the central space for the main hearth and in both cases the hearth is built into installations on the north side of one of the support pillars. In both houses, a series of activities related to food preparation are located nearby. So, the types of activities that were performed day-to-day (cooking, food preparation, storage) are quite similar. At least in food preparation, a pattern may be beginning to emerge in the use of this space.

Both the F7 and the K8 Houses also seem to be occupied by households practicing some form of agriculture. Hardin (2010, 195-198) argued that the household of a vintner occupied the F7 House. This was supported in part by the large number of store jars found there that chemically tested positive for wine when analysed, and a funnel and strainer found with the storage jars that were consistent with being used to fill (rather than empty) the jars – perhaps filling the jars with must to make wine. The evidence from the K8 house is best for a farmer who produces crops that require plowing, which is supported of course by the plow point found in storage in the house.

While many of the activities are the same or similar between the two houses, where they are carried out can differ greatly. And this should come as no surprise for just as houses now can have similar layouts, (i.e. ranch style, cabin, craftsman) the space usage on the inside are very different, for instance, kitchens and bathrooms are in different places. An activity that occurred in both houses is associated with weaving on a vertical loom. While this activity took place in long rooms in both houses, it was done on opposite sides in the two houses (northern long room in the K8 house in an area

largely dedicated to storage and the southern long room in the F7 house in an area that likely served as a living room.

It is interesting to note that, while, there are a great many activities that are the same or similar, a few activities are missing from the K8 house that the F7 house has evidence for. The most important difference is the stable. Many houses have them including the F7 Dwelling at Tell Halif (Hardin 2010, 2012), houses at Beersheba, Megiddo (Herzog 1992, 227), and House 1727 at Shechem (Wright 1978, 153) all likely had stables on their first floor. However, there is no evidence of a stable in the K8 House. While some (Shafer-Elliot 2013) may associate the flagstone floor in Room 6 with this activity, we find this reconstruction unconvincing. One would have to walk through the stable every time one enters or leaves the house, the space in Room 6 is quite limited and would hold only one small ruminant or perhaps two if they were really small, a number of vessels including storage jars, jugs and bowls further argues against this understanding, and it would be less than optimal to locate a stable immediately adjacent to the main cooking and food preparation area of the house.

Other omissions may have more to do with preservation than actual differences between the two houses and the activities they undertook. The F7 house yielded significant evidence for cultic activity – all from the larger of its two broad rooms. This include a polished triangular shaped stone, two finely dressed and bevelled standing stones, a broken pillar figurine, and a fenestrated stand (Hardin 2012, 535). Perhaps the occupants of the K8 house had a similar "toolkit" for cultic activity that existed in its broad room(s), or perhaps this is a very exclusive and atypical toolkit. For the K8 House, there is no way to address this presently. Also, regarding broad rooms, the larger broad room in the F7 House was the best candidate for a living room in the entire house. In addition to cultic activity, there were a number of artifacts that one would associate

with food consumption and serving. An example is a small, thin walled, straight sided bowl with a narrow rim most often understood as a drinking vessel. All examples of this type of vessel were found in or near the broad room and a similar pattern was noticed for three houses in the "Western Quarter" at Beer Sheva (Hardin 2010, 137-8). No bowls of this type were found in the K8 House either on the floors or in the covering destruction debris of an upper story. This would suggest that this very typical bowl, if it was present in the K8 House would have been present in the upper or lower story associated with broad room. Its lack of presence elsewhere in the house suggests to us that none of the other rooms described above were used for eating meals.

Neither the K8 nor F7 houses produced evidence for olive oil manufacture. The presence of oil presses demonstrates olive cultivation at several Iron II sites in Judah but is largely missing from Tell Halif (Schloen 2001, 138). For example, in southwestern Judah, Tell Beit Mirsim has different oil presses (Albright et al. 1943, 55–62). Also, near Jerusalem, Tell en-Nasbeh and Beth Shemesh provide parallels for oil presses in the Central Hill country, while Shechem House 1727 had oil pressing installations (Schloen 2001, 138).

As mentioned above, the F7 house was much larger than the K8 house – somewhere between twice as large and a third bigger. From the three long rooms of the F7 House, many more storage vessels were found than in the K8 house, providing evidence of greater wealth or a larger number of people occupying the space and in need of those supplies. Two partial bullae were found in the F7 house as well, possibly attesting to the high status of an individual using that space. There also was more evidence of space for living rooms in the F7 House, suggesting to us that, in addition to being bigger and wealthier, more people occupied its space. The K8 house, in addition

to being smaller, lacked the number of ceramic vessels and the variation in the both the ceramic repertoire and other artifacts discovered therein.

Based on a brief comparison of the two houses, we would suggest that both yielded remains supporting their association with families of agriculturalists and/or viticulturists that may have produced woven textiles to used outside of the household, and that the small K8 house was occupied by a nuclear or small extended family. Based on the differences in the space, quality (in only some), and variety of artifacts in the F7 House when compared to the K8 remains, we would suggest the occupants of the F7 house were relatively wealthier or perhaps of a higher status in the patriarchal, patrilocal society of Iron Age II Judah. Based on the houses' close proximity to one another, it is possible that the occupants were near kin, further pointing out that even in the same families or extended households, subtle differences in wealth and social status may be apparent in the archaeological record.

Conclusion

Regarding materials and interpretation of the spatial position of artifacts, we suggest that inhabitants of the K8 House were indeed a "household": they were active agriculturalists, producers of textiles, and performed most of the "regular" domestic activities associated with storage of commodities, and food preparation. Given the relatively small size of the house, we would like to suggest that the household who occupied the K8 house was a nuclear family that possibly included the father, mother and children who were not married. However, it is also possible that a small extended family occupied the house and was made up of three or more generations of a family. The large number of cooking pots may support this latter conclusion. Based on activities that took place in the house, we propose that the inhabitants were self-sufficient, producing agricultural goods and textiles for their consumption. They also

traded to procure other commodities, chief among these (based on the microartifact remains) are many examples of fish species found in the Mediterranean Sea and the Egyptian Nile (esp. *Lates niloticus* or the Nile Perch (Borowski 1998). The large number of *"lmlk"* type storage jars, (as well the great similarities of the entire ceramic corpus with other ceramic assemblages produced from sites like Beer Sheva, Lachish, Tell Beit Mirsim), and the organization of domestic space, show that this town and this house were integrated into the Kingdom of Judah and participated economically in trade (either direct or indirect) with others in the region even outside of Judah's territorial borders. This, in many ways, supports the results of analyses of other houses excavated in Judah, and especially other examples from Tell Halif such as the F7 House. Suffice it to say, that while four-room house architecture is ubiquitous throughout the region during this time, the inner workings and the activity areas of the dwellings can likely differ between each individual dwelling.

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