

INTRODUCTION TO THE LM IIIB:1 AND LM IIIA:2 SETTLEMENTS

by

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The LM IIIB:1 settlement within the Agia Aikaterini Square at Khania consists of four partially excavated buildings (*Fig. 1*). Buildings 1, 3 and 4 were new buildings erected at the beginning of the period, while in Building 2, which was erected in LM IIIA:2, the Courtyard, Room A and B were immediately reused with newly constructed floors. Building 1, built on top of the demolished LM IIIA:2 Building 1, was moved c. 2.3 westwards compared to the former eastern wall of the LM IIIA:2 Building 1 probably to create more space in front of Building 2's Courtyard, which was equipped with an enclosure wall in this period. Of Building 3, which continues under the modern street, we have only its outer wall facing the LM IIIB:1 Street and of "Building 4", constructed north of Buildings 1 and 2, only some superimposed floors and a few stones from two walls were preserved. The large Building 1 with its nine rooms and outdoor Space G is presently the best preserved of the LM IIIB:1 buildings in the Agia Aikaterini Square. However, we do not know its actual size as it continues west- and south-westwards below the modern streets. Building 2, where three Linear B tablets were found in 1990 and the first complete large stirrup jar inscribed with Linear B in Khania in 2005, seems, however, to have been larger and more important. Its Courtyard, published in this volume, contained several successive and well stratified floors, deposits and pits.

The LM IIIB:1 settlement also had a newly constructed Street with three successive layers between Building 1 and 3, a Rubbish Area Southeast containing five pits, an open area between Buildings 1 and 2 with two large stratified deposits and three pits. Finally the area north of Building 1 and 2 (and south of "Building 4"), which in its western part had some floor fragments, which presently and unfortunately cannot be connected to the excavated buildings. The remaining areas here consist of pits, deposits and two layers of accumulated rubbish from the buildings. The LM IIIB:1 settlement was destroyed by fire, but the site was immediately rebuilt in the following LM IIIB:2 period (*GSE III*, 22). A c. 0.40 thick layer with stones from the walls of the destroyed building was covering the rooms A, B, C, D and the southern part of the Cor-

ridor. As this destruction debris was not cleared away and reused in the following period, we found several complete or restorable vases in this area, especially in Room C, where vases had been stored in a cupboard in the southwestern part of the room.

The architectural phase of the LM IIIA:2 period (*Fig. 2*) probably covers a relatively short period of time, since most constructions i.e. the floor and walls contained LM IIIA:2 pottery which means that the constructions took place sometime into the period. As mentioned above Building 2 was constructed in this period while Building 1, underlying the LM IIIB:1 Building 1, to a great extent reused the walls of the LM I period. Part of four spaces and a large outdoor area, Space A-D, were found. Nevertheless some new walls were erected inside the building and a few remaining pieces of its floors have been preserved. This building was almost completely erased when LM IIIB:1 Building 1 was constructed somewhat further southeast. This is the reason why relatively few finds came from floor deposits in this building. The entire LM IIIA:2 period, however, is probably represented in the two main layers of pits excavated in the Rubbish Area Southeast and in the Rubbish Area North where we found a large LM IIIA:2 dump and some pits stratified between the LM IIIA:1 and LM IIIB:1 layers.

As was the case with the LM IIIC and LM IIIB:2 architecture much in the LM IIIB:1 and LM IIIA:2 settlements had been destroyed by later activities, mainly during the Venetian, Turkish and Modern periods. This is evident in LM IIIB:1 Rooms A, C and D where Venetian walls with deep foundations had destroyed the centre of the rooms, in the Annex and Room H, which except for Venetian walls was also destroyed by a Turkish chalk groove. This is also evident in Space I, where a large Modern well was cut through the southern part of the space and the southwestern wall of Room E and in the northwestern part of the space, where we found a large Turkish pit. Nevertheless, the preserved walls allowed a reasonably secure reconstruction of Buildings 1 and 2 in both periods and happily a lot of well stratified deposits were left undisturbed.

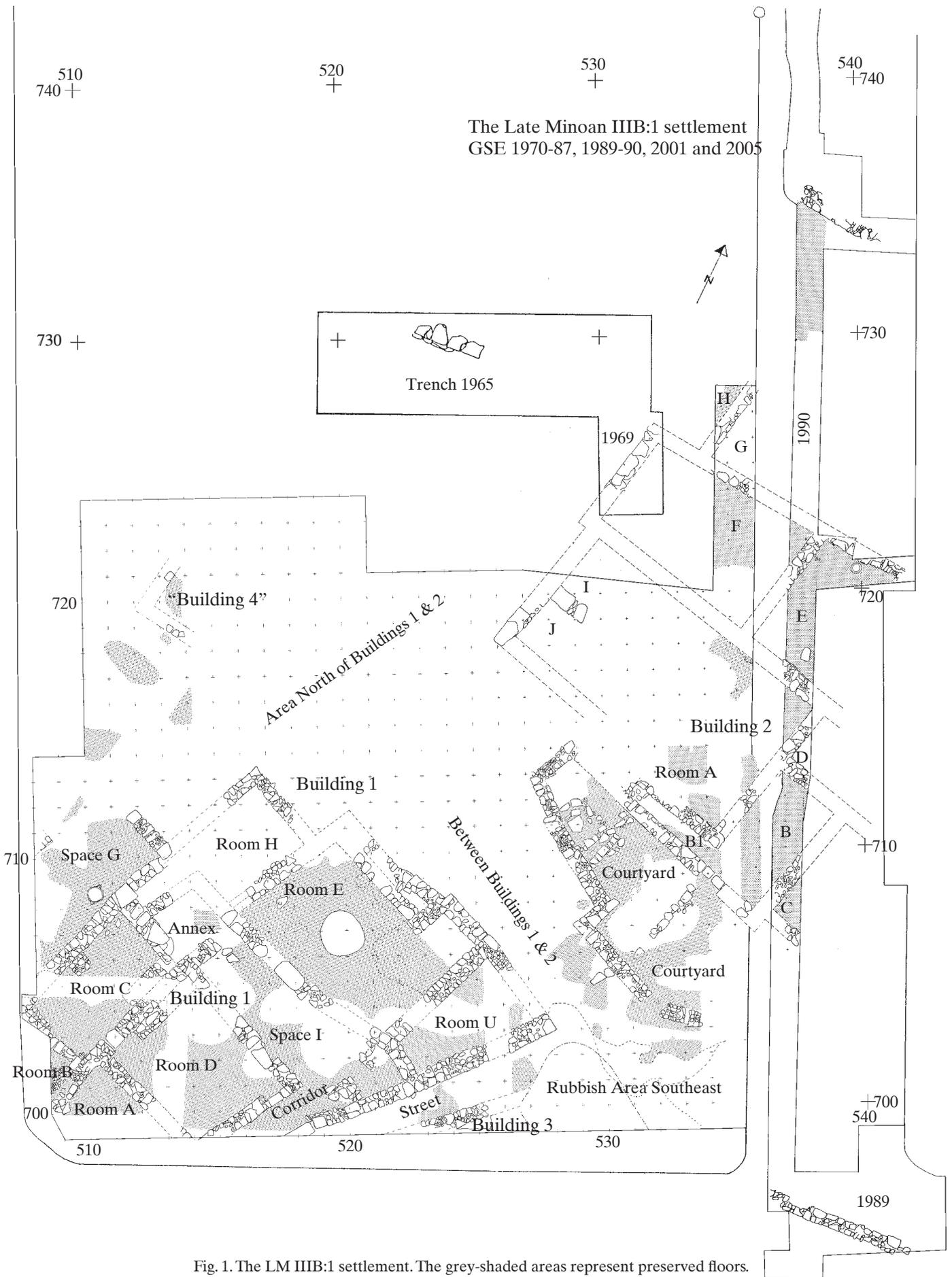


Fig. 1. The LM IIIB:1 settlement. The grey-shaded areas represent preserved floors.

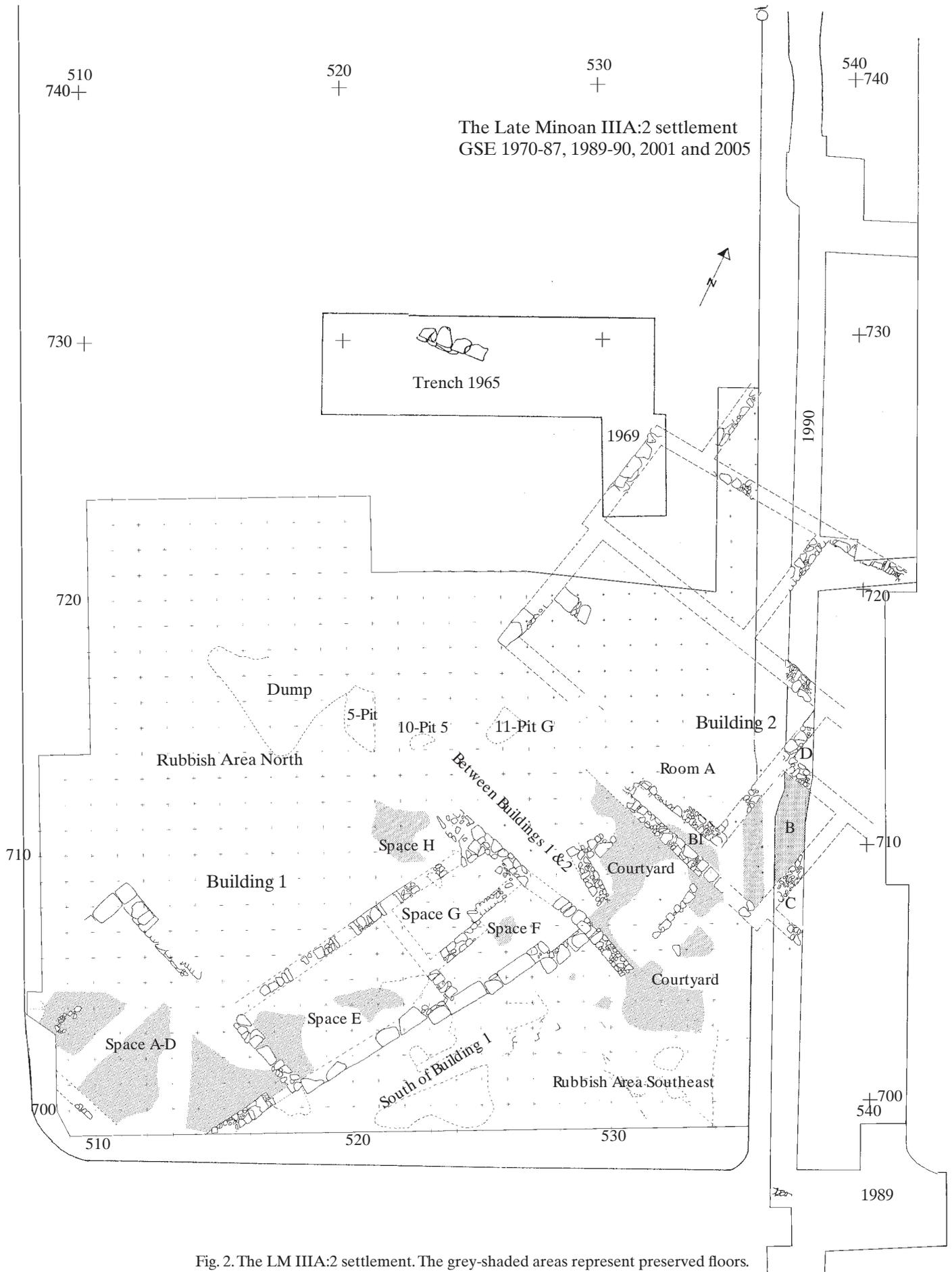


Fig. 2. The LM IIIA:2 settlement. The grey-shaded areas represent preserved floors.