Cut #5. S 2193. A 349.
Pottery: Mid 7th - 6th C.
Other: stone, bone, shell, bronze.
Stone pounder.

We begin in the corner of wall 2 and wall 5. The soil is brown, soft, with medium rubble. There are no sherds here.

We encounter sherds as we move west. They seem to lie on a fairly rocky/tumble layer. It is interesting to see what the tumble is on:

area A: draunc to the left is very dark and soft. This is similar to what we found in the center of the trench at this level in TR 82A.

In the southeast corner of the trench, there are a lot of mid-size stones, but no other contamination, vessels, bones, etc.

We begin another pass at this level and will continue tomorrow.

7/30

We begin the second pass in the same location, the northeast corner. Again, there are very few sherds here, but there is a fair amount of mid-size tumble, probably from this strip of wall 2.

As we move toward the center, we encounter softer, darker soil. Close to wall 3 we again encounter more rubble. This is similar to the soil pattern we had in TR 82A.
As we excavate along wall 5, we discover its lowest course. This will be fully exposed in the next phase.

Towards the south, we begin to uncover more large flat sherds and one overturned cup that will be exposed in the next phase.

If we use TR82A as a guide, we should be very near to the surface of burning found at 4.29, and the finds associated at that level, the broken vessels against the side of wall 2.

We are keeping our eyes open!

3:49

- soil: soft brown, small stones
- level: 4.27 - 4.91
- pottery: MS
- Cat #5: C9668
- other: pumice, shell, bone, olive pit

We begin in the northeast corner. Immediately we expose several broken sherds pumice, shell, bone. As this is very close to the level where we had the floor deposit in TR82A, we decide to use small picks to find the floor.

We excavate down to a burnt level, with limpets and flat sherds in the southeast corner.
I am not completely convinced that we have found a floor as the earth is still fairly loose, and thus lacks the "packed" quality of a floor.

We return to the northeast corner and hit the expected floor. Just as in TR 82A, this floor shows lots of broken vessels against wall 2, and the burnt area concentrated in the center.

Associated with this floor we have impressed limpets, bone, and pumice.

As we continue to excavate many south, it becomes clear that the concentrated burnt area in the center extends only c. 30 cm into the area of the trench, and the area east of that resembles the other area of this floor: bones, flat sherds, limpets and claire soil.

This could indicate that the fire was in the center of the collective space of TR 82 A, B — (House Z from here on out) — and the eating and drinking occurred in the space around the fire.

It is very comforting to have hit this floor where we expected it and to have the N/S wall of House Z (wall 3) exposed as well. This way we know that we are working completely in one space, with no outside contamination possible.
This is an excellent time to mention that the surface of burning and impressed impressions found at 4:69 in TR82A was accidentally dug through the clay that I used in Psidia. This is really not a big deal, as the pottery will show the level and there were no finds left without a context. I am only mentioning this now to show the interconnectedness (absolute) between TR82A and D.

In any case, see opp. page, for the floor at 4:29 in TR82B, this is the floor that corresponds to the threshold and the walls (2,5) of House 2.

Photo: 4-60 j 60

We finish cleaning the floor and have our photo.

We take all exposed sherds to include them with 3:49. We then open 4:50, the pair that excavates through this floor, which is Geometric surface 2.

We find mid size tumble along the face of wall 2.

4:50

C 9687
soil: brown, at tumble, soft
C 9681, C 9723, C 9722, level: 4:425 - 4:33
C 9723, pottery: MG
C 9680, C 9723, C 9679, others: bone, furnace, shell, possible
We also find coarse cooking sherds in this area.

As we move toward the center we encounter an area of mass burning, exactly like what we had in IR82A, Paul 5:27 and 5:34. Here we have lots of large broken vessels (coarse), bones, soft, black, moist earth, and several egg shaped stones that are black, possibly burned.

The way that this central burning is exposed seems to indicate a discrete fire that was used over a long period of time. The soil to the immediate N and S of this burn is rocky, brown, and rubble.

Note: This is a VERY heavily sherded level producing 3 full pails of sherds. Based on the positioning of these sherds, lying flat, and clustered, it is possible that this is another use surface, of the same occupation period.

We will clean it and change pails; but first we will take away the soil accumulated on top of the extension of Wall 5. This will be 3:51 below: + 4.35

soil: hard, brown, rocky

pottery: C.17

other: —

Wall clean, we will return to
The center on Monday.

A note about Wall 5. Because Wall 5 does not make a corner with Wall 1, but rather with the geometric Wall 2, we have been assuming that it is the N/S wall of House 2, constructed along with Wall 2, by the geometricists.

However, Wall 5 is the same width as the two E/W walls (1, 2) and is constructed in a very neat, thought-out manner, unlike Wall 2 which is a hodge-podge of rubble.

We are wondering if Wall 5 perhaps makes a corner with Wall 3 and is indeed of Minoan construction. At this point, it is just a matter of waiting and finding out where it ends. (Wall 5 is in the end, too.)

(NB. This wall joins with 81B wall 761)

8/3

We begin today by opening 4:59, continuing under the floor.

4:52
- Soil: brown, soft, loamy and the rubble and lots of broken sherds
- Level: V4.15 - 4.24
- Pattern: E.G., MG
- Cat. #: 9698
- Other: bone, shell, pottery

Just to note: it is possible that this surface represents a period of use during the MB period, prior
to the time when the floor deposit was created (see p. 129).

Note: No limits at the side of wall 2 - but as we move toward the center we encounter the very mixed debris soil: ash/loam/shells/limestone. We are finding some ash deposits mixed in with the soil in the center - this is a very clean ash layer that is visible in the baulk. For excavating this, we will change levels after completing this pass with 4.52.

Along the edge of wall 3, no burning, some midsize rubble.

We now change to 4.53.

Soil: Some ash, soft brown level is 4.05 - 4.17
Pottery: EG-M6
Cat#s: C9705, C9729
Other: bone, shell, bead, IV painted plaque

We start picking along wall 2. The soil here has less rubble than the level above. We hit the level of black earth visible in the rapidly diminishing to baulk. There doesn't seem to be a discrete surface that goes with this.

Against the wall Andreas exposes a very well preserved geometric bead! (X)

We continue south with this pass. In the southeast corner we encounter an area of discrete burning. This raises the possibility...
that at the time of this fire there was not a roof on House E and the area around it, people were making outdoor fires. Of course, it is also possible that this was an interior fire.

We do not complete this pass, will finish tomorrow and then change pail.

Note on wall S:
Now that the lower course is visible, it seems as though the upper course of stone to the north is preserved to a width of 70 cm, but the lower course is 90 cm.

8/4

We continue with 4:53. We start by removing some large tumble from the southwest corner.

Finish - open 4:54

Soil: brain - soft, sandy
Level: 3.97 - 4.02
Pottery: E G - MG
Other: bone

We begin along wall 2. The soil here is very sandy and moist. We expect to soon reach the first Geometric phase, that was associated with the beehive and wall 4 in TR52A.

Note: we are no longer finding limpets.
This level is producing less sherds also - which has been the pattern as we go deeper.

We move south without encountering anything of interest. The ash layer has disappeared - and for the time all evidence of five.

We remove 12-15 tumbling mid-size blocks from along wall 3.

As we finish this pass we notice trace burning (X) and decide to change bail and level for the next clearing. We are very close to the Leo Phase I surface found in TR82A.

41:55
level 6: 3.95 - 3.87
soil: brown/soft/trace burn
pottery: M6?
other: bone, shell, soil sample, plaster

We begin along wall 2.

In the center we hit an area of immense burning. We do a test sieve of the soil and find burnt bones, shells, and shell. We excavate approx. 5 cm of soil at a time. We will finish this pass tomorrow.

Note: Along wall 2 the soil is very brown and there is mid-size rubble. This ends near the burnt soil in the center.
We continue with 4:55.

The very black soil continues to appear in the middle area of the trench (ABCD). The strips of soil along the walls is brown and rubble-ish.

As this fire is continuing through several levels and is in a discrete area - it is obvious that a: we have the continuation of the fire from TR82B and b: the fire represents continual re-use rather than a destruction.

We remove one 5 gallon spit and return to the north side. We are at V3.89 and are expecting the first line of fire at V3.75. We continue cleaning rubble against the wall (2) and burnt soil in the center.

We are approaching the level of the expected surface and are having considerable trouble defining it! In TR82A we had the heart and wall lines a guide - but as there are no stone features and very few shards here identification is difficult.

We clear to V3.75 and call this the continuation of the surface from TR82A (that goes with the first Geometric area of this area). To note: This is a very ambiguous surface - but is evidenced by the burning patch.

Large rubble removed next to 0-5.
To go under this surface we open 5:56

Soil: brown/black = soft
level: 3.81 - 3.72
pottery: LM III B

other: shell, pumice, bone

We immediately hit a layer of tufnol where we begin in the northeast corner. The burnt patch is still visible and extends to 3.79 in the center.

We will continue tomorrow with this pail.

8/6

We continue with this pail. The patch of burning in the center has disappeared - the soil is now uniform. Very few sherds.

We begin the second pail of this pail. In the northeast corner we encounter a patch of burning (X). As we excavate a bit deeper more we uncover an overturned (partial) vessel. As this is at the level where we were excavating the floor of P we will finish this pass and then change pails to excavate the level immediately above the floor.

The area of burning (X) is now clearly visible in the baulk - it seems that this is fairly concentrated.
In the NE corner, we finish this pass, remove some large tumble from the west trench line and open 5.57; the level above to anticipated floor of P.

5.57

Soil: soft, brown, variable thickness
Level: 3.63 - 3.71
Pattern: LM III A 21b
Other:

Note: It is clear from the line of burning under wall S (X) that this goes with the first geometric surface in this trench; the level of the burning is 4.37G, and the level of that surface is ±3.75.

We begin this pass along the west, balk line as we hope to join up with the floor exposed there.

We expose immediately an irregular line of tumble extending along the west balk line. We decide to clean around this and then use the skaldaki to reveal the floor.

We're beginning to become a little perplexed as we've hit the level where we expected the floor - and it's not here. We have several signs that we will be finding it shortly: flat stones on overturned vessels in the corner (NE) and very few scattered sherds.

As we dig further, we begin to expose a curious line of stone (see...