

be a hearth closed on three sides and built of air-dried bricks, which had been heavily subjected to fire (see fig. 51). The walls consisted of the air-dried bricks set in pairs on edge. Those on the northwest wall were the best preserved in the whole brick course, the opposite wall, consisting of whole and fragmentary bricks, being much broken, while in the last wall the rear brick is wholly wanting. On the north edge the backward-lying bricks did not suffice to complete the rectangle. Fragments were, therefore, used for this purpose, but they are only partially preserved. The fire and ash bed of the hearth consisted of an earth floor, paved with small stones. Of this pavement only a small part is preserved at the open side. Anciently it had been repaired during the period of its use—not with repaving, however, but by application of several thin earth layers, which are only preserved in places. The hearth is shown in different stages of the excavation and from different sides in figs. 52, 53, and 54. Fig. 52 was photographed before the examination; figs. 53 and 54, after the examination.

This hearth is simply the last member of a series of superimposed hearths and fireplaces. The remains of an older hearth of similar construction were found immediately underneath the one just described. It was shoved a little northeast,

but, like the upper one, it opened on the opposite side. The preserved wall, consisting of simple rows of brick, had been completely slagged and glazed on the inside by the fire. Below this older hearth, ash layers can be observed to the level of +23 feet 7 inches. Where they stopped the earth floor is burnt and merges downward into the natural earth, which is the original floor of the room. This floor must have been gradually raised

to the level of +24.5 feet, for only in this way can we explain the upward succession of layers of ashes and hearths.

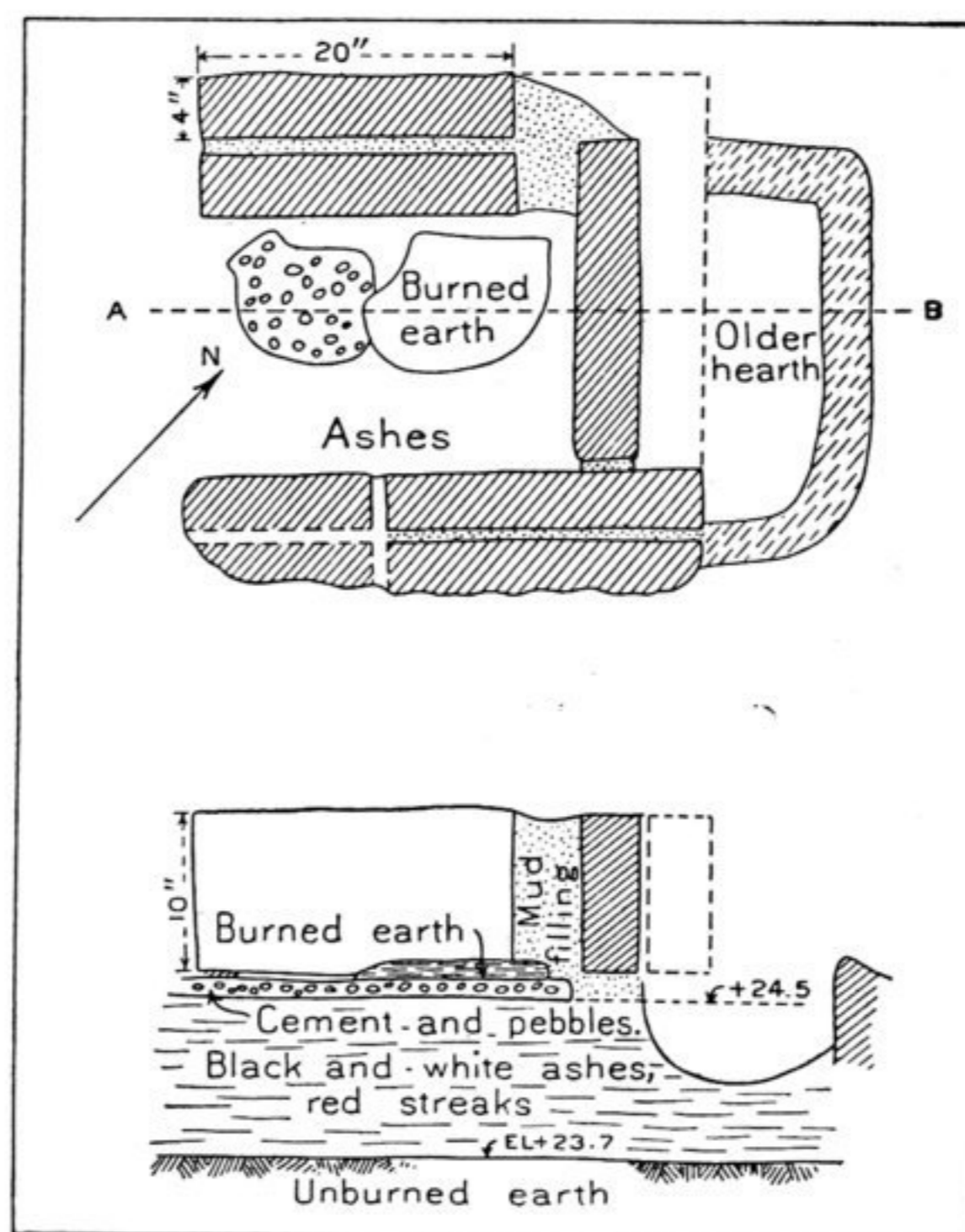


Fig. 51.—Sketch of Fireplace in Terrace C.

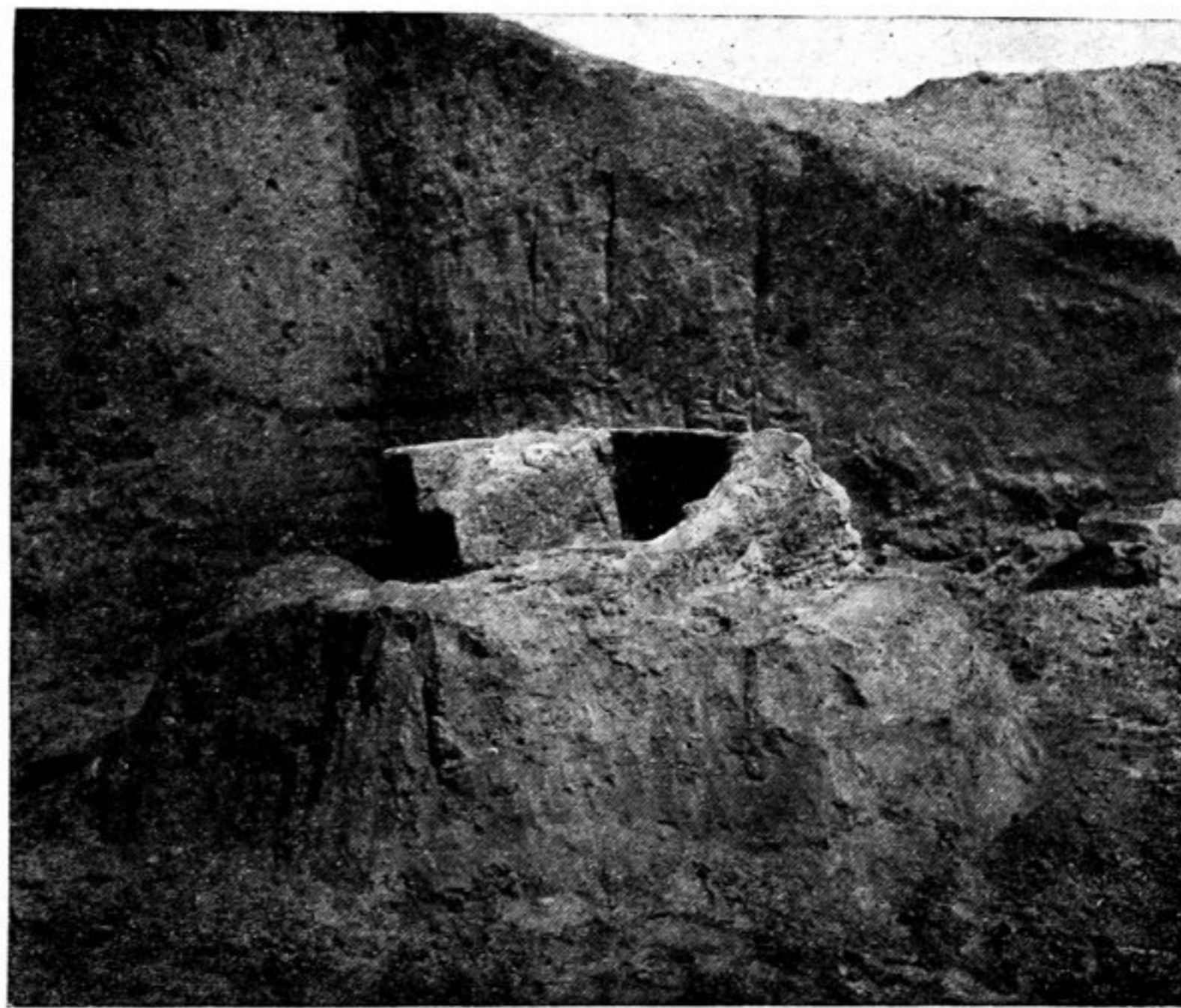


Fig. 52.—Fireplace in Stage of Excavation.