

“H”, “I”) which are almost uniformly wide—about 3 m. No traces of their entrances have been preserved, but the foundation slabs of the partition wall between the fore-part of the Bark Hall and the “I” room adjacent to it do not show guide lines of any entrance up to the middle of room, and in the further part of this wall an entrance seems inconceivable.

The reconstruction of the doorways leading to these three chapels is based on studies of the restored colonnades in the southern part of the Hypostyle Hall. The first three rows of columns along the southern wall should have been arranged in strict symmetry to the northern ones and especially the third row, which supported the superstructure of the raised central part of the Hall. And this very third row is exactly on the longitudinal axis of the middle southern room “H”, what would have prevented the provision of it with an entrance. The preserved wall foundation slabs of its southern wall do not reveal traces of a door, so the only other possibility is to reconstruct it as having been accessible from the chamber to the north (“I”—Plans II–III). In such a case, the latter chamber should have been provided with an entrance from the Hypostyle Hall, but that would mean shifting the row of columns and creating a passageway here.

There was undoubtedly another transversal room behind “I”, located to the south of the Hall of the Offering Table (“B”). It is impossible to decide now, if this was connected to this Hall, or to the chapel “I” adjacent to the Bark Hall. The reconstruction of the entrances is based upon suggestions drawn from the arrangement of chambers in the small temple of Tuthmosis III at Medinet Habu, where the two sanctuaries each have their respective Halls of the Offering Table,⁶³ and upon the assumption that there must have been two sanctuaries in the discussed temple; one for Amun and one for Kamutef, since both forms of the god are richly represented among the preserved blocks with wall reliefs.

There is no definite evidence, as yet, of the function of this group of chambers, possibly a study of the reliefs would help to clear up some of the problems connected with them.

4. The shrine of Hathor

This shrine, located behind the north-western end of the Mentuhotpe temple platform (cf. phot. 21—fore-ground) was discovered by E. Naville in December 1904, and finally cleared in 1906.⁶⁴ The speos, in which the magnificent statue of the Hathor-cow was discovered,⁶⁵ is the only part of the temple of Tuthmosis III preserved in a perfect state. As the shrine, considered then to be an independent sanctuary, has been removed from its original place,⁶⁶ only the hole cut in the rock remains, and the bench around it shows precisely where the walls were built. The floor was laid after the walls had been constructed, so when the bed rock was cut away to take the floor slabs, this bench was left.

The removed sanctuary made of richly decorated sandstone slabs is 4.02 m. long, 1.57–1.6 m. wide, and 2.44 m. high. The roof is a false vault made of two slabs abutting each other and cut to form an arch. The entrance to the sanctuary was only 0.8 m. wide, and the slots for the wooden door are still preserved in place.

The level of the Hathor shrine is 12.75 m. below the pavement of the Hypostyle Hall, and 1.10 m. above the level of the Mentuhotpe temple platform (Plan V).

In front of the speos, at the same level, there is a recess which was formed by cutting a triangle of the rock away, and the space thus obtained was limited from the west and north by the cliff, from the east by the balustrade of the Mentuhotpe platform, and from the south by the wall of the Mentuhotpe Inner Court. This space was first overlaid with limestone and sandstone foundation blocks, then covered with huge sandstone paving blocks and the guide lines on the preserved paving denote the building scheme (Plan I). The general lay-out of the shrine leaves little room for doubt, though the position of the entrance to the southern room is rather vague as is the plan and entrance of the southernmost chamber. The main section consisted of the central passage leading to the speos (cf. Plan II) and flanked by two narrow side rooms. To the south there was another chamber, of which

⁶³ D. ARNOLD, *Wandrelief*, pp. 15–16, 47–48.

⁶⁴ E. NAVILLE, H. R. HALL, *The XIth Dyn. temple*, I, pp. 36–37.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 63–67; a very vivid description of the discovery was written by J. L. SMITH who was present at the very moment when NAVILLE was “warning his head *reis* not to continue digging at this spot for fear that a loosened boulder would case the whole mass to fall like an avalanche. I started away and a moment later heard the tremendous roar of Naville’s expected avalanche. I turned and was enveloped in clouds of dust. As the dust settled, I saw Naville and the *reis*, both uninjured, gazing at an opening in this hill of rubbish. And on the exact spot where Naville had given the warning to cease digging was the opening into a shrine with vaulted roof. At the entrance was a life-sized stone statue of the goddess Hathor, represented as a cow, in perfect condition, standing on a stone platform and led by a man. (..) In later years, whenever I looked at this treasure in the Cairo Museum, I recalled Naville’s expression of stunned amazement at his first sight of this enshrined Hathor cow”. (*Tombs, Temples & Ancient Art*, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1956, p. 50).

⁶⁶ Immediately after being discovered both the shrine and statue were removed to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

only a part of the western wall and some of the guide lines for the partition wall are preserved. There are many indications (the floor slabs only roughly dressed) that the shrine was never entirely completed; this is especially evident in the southern part of it.

The central passage has in its middle part two distinct slots for the wooden door, properly plugged with stone after the door has been erected. When WINLOCK described it in his notes, he wrote that there were traces of lime plaster around the place where the door socket used to be. As the two chambers adjacent to the central passage had evidently been devoid of their own wooden doors, this one in the passage served for both of them.

The preserved lower course of the western wall of the passage is covered thickly with whitewash, and it was evidently applied there in several layers. Also the door-sills show unmistakable signs of wear. In spite of the fact, that in the southernmost chamber the floor had never been properly dressed, the Hathor shrine had been used and attended for a longer period of time. The side rooms, however, have a thinner layer of whitewash on the preserved lower courses of their western walls, and the traffic was certainly not so heavy there.

The most striking feature of this building is the thickness of its partition walls. The central passage is only a little more than 6.5 m. long and 2 m. wide, but its walls are of an average thickness of 1.44 m., as is the wall between the southern chambers. The dimensions of the southernmost chamber are difficult to estimate, since there is nothing to indicate whether it had its own southern wall, or simply shared the wall of the Mentuhotpe Inner Court (which is a trifle improbable.)⁶⁷ The width of the northern chamber was only 1.6 m., and that of the southern one 1.75 m. In relation to the rooms so narrow, the walls were indeed huge, and the entire appearance of the building is that it had been completely incorporated into the substructure of the Tuthmosis III temple platform, and that these thick walls were built to carry the heavy mass of masonry which reached the height of the temple platform (Plan V). The western wall was much narrower, since it abutted the rock; but there is a problem concerning the eastern wall of the shrine.


Just behind the balustrade bordering the north-western corner of the Mentuhotpe temple platform

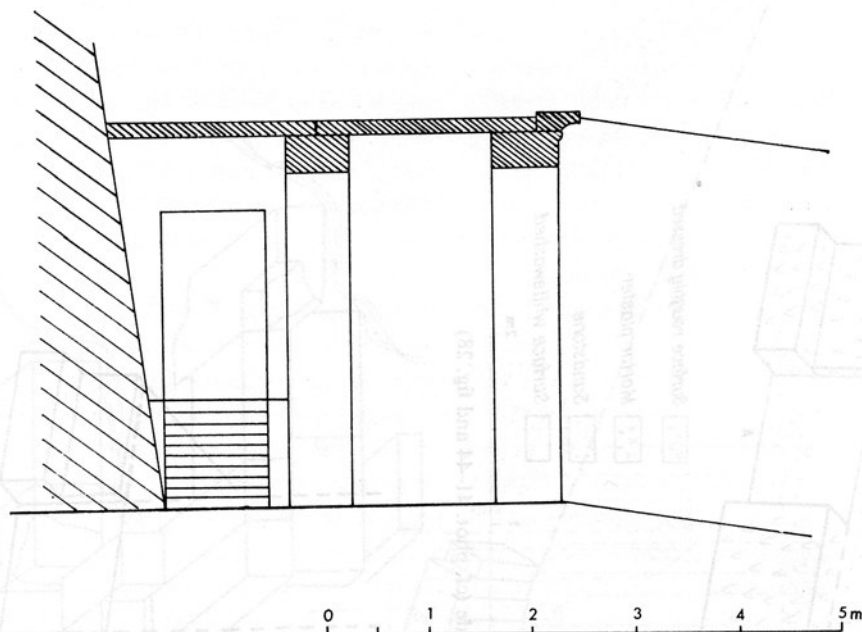
begins the raised structure of the Hathor shrine (phot. 41) with the lower part of the sandstone door-jamb still in place.⁶⁸ The face of this jamb was once covered with a slab 0.08 m. thick, which has disappeared, and now only the recess cut to take it has remained (phot. 42). The inner side of the post bears the end of an inscription in raised relief: "... *di* [*nḥ*] *dt*". The doorway was 0.97 m. deep—and that would have also been the thickness of the eastern wall. As the inner partition walls were built much thicker, this comparatively thin wall seems to be inadequate to resist the strain of the heavy masonry of the temple platform. It seems thus probable, that this wall had no constructional function, and that another one, built at some distance before it, served to support the huge escarpment. There is part of such a wall at a short distance to the north, of which two lower courses (phot. 43) resting on a foundation slab are preserved. The blocks are of sandstone, and their faces are polished. This wall abruptly ended in a corner, which followed the shape of the rock here; the last stone is cut to form a bedding for the corner block (fig. 28 D–E). But there are the remains of yet another wall at a short distance to the east; this is already inside the Mentuhotpe temple, and not outside its platform like the former wall. The westernmost pillars of the upper northern colonnade of Mentuhotpe were still standing, when the builders of Tuthmosis III closed this portico from the west by erecting a wall against the pillars, and two of the blocks forming the screen wall still remain there (phot. 44 and fig. 28 F–G). A thick layer of mortar on the side of block F covering the surface which had once abutted to the side of the pier attests, that the colonnade of Mentuhotpe had not been destroyed at this time.

Block G does not follow a straight line and its side was cut to form a wide angle with block F. The guideline on the Mentuhotpe platform pavement follows the course began by the setting of block G at an angle to F and indicates the existence of a wall erected beside the N/W corner of the colonnade and running diagonally to the northern end of the platform. There is no indication of the height of this wall.

It seems obvious that the straight portion of the wall, which screened the colonnade at its western end, had served to cut off part of the platform to provide

⁶⁷ WINLOCK presumed that the outer southern wall was built independently of the Mentuhotpe wall and that its thickness was 2.94 m. (notes in M. M. A.).

⁶⁸ H. R. HALL wrote about this: "The sandstone entrance door (seen in Pl. V), was discovered on December 10th, and identified then as belonging to the XVIIIth Dynasty. It bore the end of a royal inscription in relief painted blue, of which only the signs  remained (Tokyo University Museum)" (E. NAVILLE, H. R. HALL, *The XIth Dyn. temple*, I, p. 36). E. NAVILLE (*ibid.*, p. 63) again mentioned the doorpost as having been sent to Tokyo. Something evidently went wrong with the transportation project, as the doorpost is still standing in its place at Deir el-Bahari...



31. Reconstructed main entrance to the Hathor shrine

the Hathor shrine with a kind of vestibule. The axis of the shrine and of its partially preserved doorway agrees with the axis of a passage between the northern outer wall of the Mentuhotpe ambulatory wall and the inner row of piers forming the northern upper colonnade. The main entrance to the Hathor shrine could easily have been situated at the end of this colonnade, between the ambulatory wall and the first of the portico piers (fig. 31). The level of the Mentuhotpe platform is 1.10 m. below the level of the Hathor shrine pavement—so the entrance had to be provided with a stairway; the height of the portico—3.67–3.78 m.⁶⁹ would be the upper limit for the entrance wall. In this way the height of the entire shrine would seem to be more or less even from the entrance to the sanctuary, since the preserved ceiling of the sanctuary was 3.54 m. high, in relation to the level of the Mentuhotpe platform pavement, what approximately agrees with the supposed height of the entrance wall. What purpose the diagonal wall served is difficult to guess—for between this and the other wall behind it a triangular space was left, and this was probably roofless.

The reconstruction of the vestibule to the Hathor shrine is a comparatively difficult task.

The vestibule was ca. 4 metres deep, measuring the distance between the face of the existing door-post and the presumed façade (one must from this deduce the thickness of the entrance wall). The northern wall

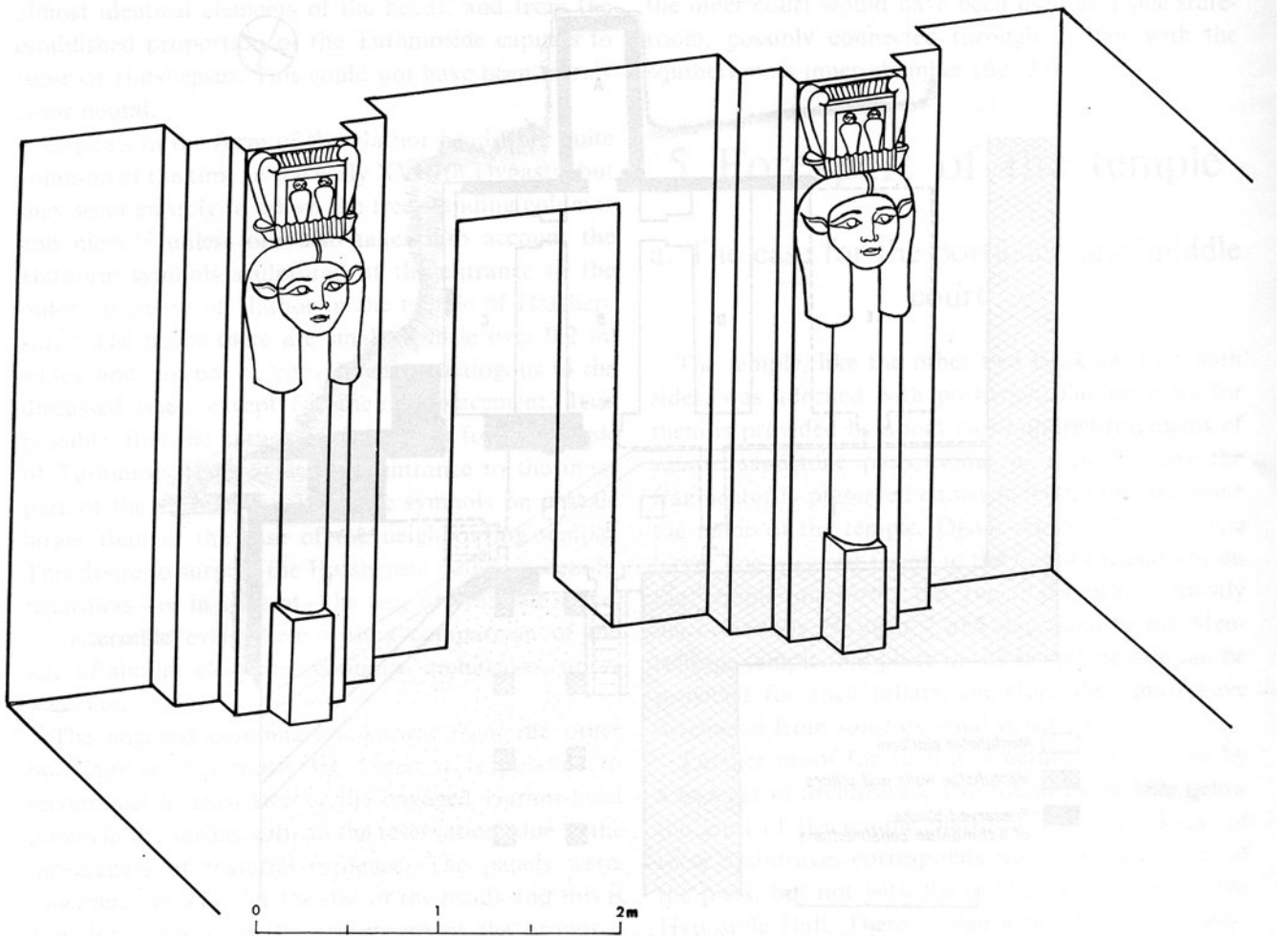
could only have begun at the corner bedding cut in the block A (figs. 28 and 29), and the northern half of the vestibule would thus be 3 m. wide. There is the problem of the southern side, since from the south the inner rooms of the shrine are not arranged in symmetry to the northern ones and the distance from the main axis to the northern wall of the Mentuhotpe Inner Court is about 9.5 m.

On the foundations of the Hathor shrine, there is a block (C on figs. 28 and 29) with part of its outer surface whitewashed and the rest, divided from it by a guide line, is roughly dressed. This block certainly originated from some corner, but although it was found by NAVILLE near its present position,⁷⁰ an attempt to use it in the reconstruction failed. It does not agree with any data: its whitewashed surface goes much deeper than the level of the vestibule pavement (which is attested by the level of the doorsill, and the pattern of the front surfaces of blocks A and B partly whitewashed and partly left roughly dressed), the face of it does not match the line of the wall, and the corner indicated by the guide line and the lumps of mortar would not accord with a symmetrical arrangement of the vestibule. So this block was excluded from the studies on reconstruction as one not originating from the vestibule western wall.

Before proceeding further with considerations on the possible shape of the vestibule, it must be mention-

⁶⁹ D. ARNOLD, *Der Tempel des Königs Mentuhotep*, I, p. 20.

⁷⁰ E. NAVILLE, H. R. HALL, *The XIth Dyn. temple*, I, pl. V. Later shifted aside by WINLOCK during the excavations of M. M. A. in the temple of Mentuhotpe (photo M. M. A. No. MCC 12), afterwards replaced on — or beside the original spot.



32. Western wall of the vestibule—reconstruction of the Hathor-head capitals on the pilasters

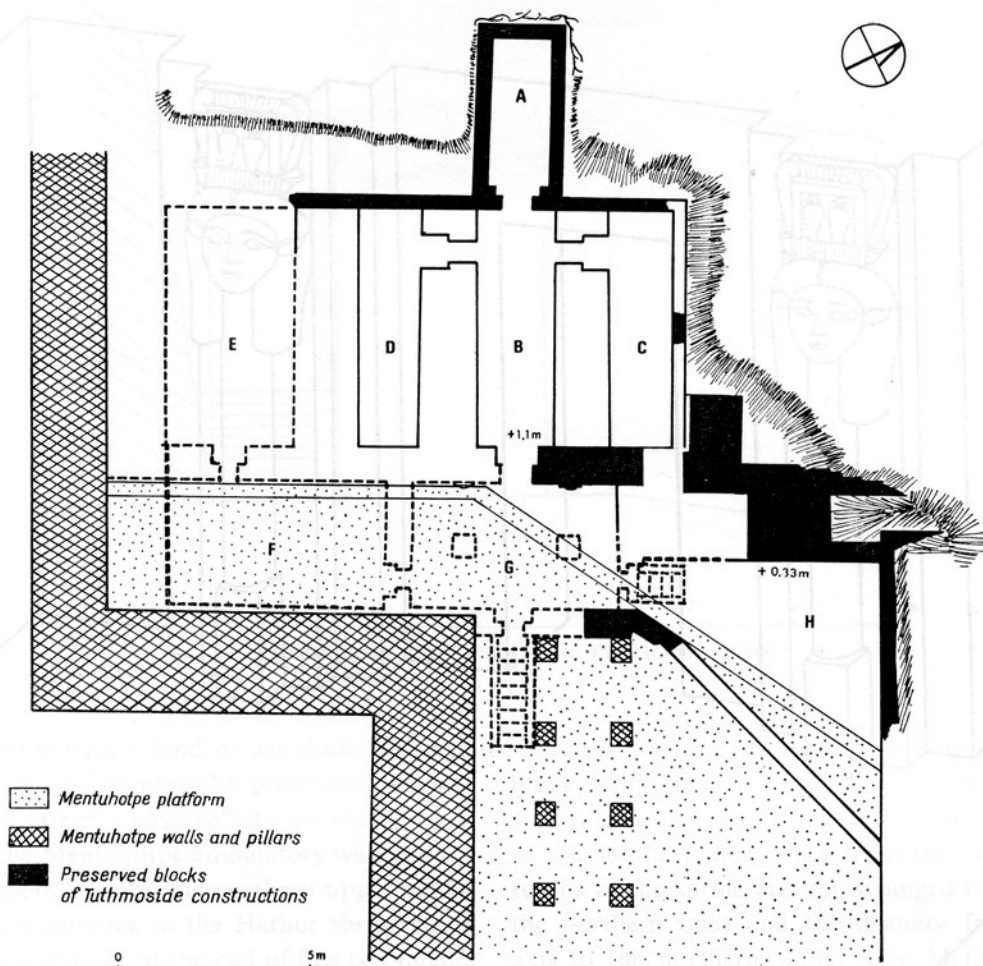
ed, that among the scattered fragments of the Tuthmoside blocks found by NAVILLE in the Mentuhotpe temple, there are some pieces of the Hathor-head capitals made of sandstone.⁷¹ These richly painted pieces are too fragmentary to permit a reconstruction, but some indications can nevertheless be drawn from this incomplete material (phot. 45–46).

It was possible to discover three pieces on which there was a repetition of the same element of the *sh ntr* shrine which crowned the heads; this indicates that there were at least three capitals—probably four (or even more). There is a strong similarity between the preserved pieces and the Hathor-head limestone capitals on the square piers in the vestibule of the Hathor shrine in the Hatshepsut temple, the only difference is that on the Tuthmoside capitals the shrines were adorned with two uraei, while on the Hatshepsut ones there is only one (there are two on similar capitals, but these belong to columns, not piers). There is also a slight difference in the height of the red painted element supporting the shrines—the

Hatshepsut capitals have it lower. There are in all over 20 fragments, but the only way to estimate the original dimensions of the capitals is to compare them with the analogous ones in the temple of Hatshepsut. Such a comparison, based on measurable elements as the ears or elements of the *sh ntr* shrines, provide in each case a ratio of 1:1.4 in relation: Tuthmosis III to Hatshepsut, so the original width of the Tuthmoside capitals would thus be about 0.6 m.

There is one grave difference between the discussed capitals: the ones in the Hatshepsut temple are monolithic, while at least some of the Tuthmoside capitals were made of separate, jointed stones. The other peculiar feature is that some of the fragments have their back surfaces dressed and covered with mortar, and the thickness of such fragments in no case exceeds 0.15 m. The final characteristic feature is that on the preserved side surfaces, which in the Hatshepsut temple are decorated, there is no decoration or traces of any. Some of these side surfaces are preserved up to a width of 0.20 m. and they are dressed and partially white-

⁷¹ Not published.



33. Reconstructed plan of the Hathor shrine (cf. Plan I and II)

A—sanctuary (now in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo); B—central passage; C—northern side room; D—southern side room; E—store-room (?); F—side chamber (?); G—vestibule; H—room of unknown character

washed, at times having traces of mortar but never of any decoration.

In summing up these data it seems probable, that the capitals belonged to the pilasters, and not to the piers, and were sculptured on an already panelled surface. The meagre material does not permit any definite conclusions to be drawn and it is equally possible, that these pieces originated both from the pilasters and the square or rectangular pillars which were decorated on their front sides only, but the pieces that show the flat surface of a joint across the hair or a forehead—and there are two such cases—and the ones with the back surface dressed could hardly originate from the usual capitals.

The obvious place for the Hathor-head capitals is the vestibule of the Hathor shrine. The scheme for its rear wall can be studied only with the help of two blocks (A and B on fig. 29), belonging to its northern part. Block A is very peculiar, having a recessed portion whitewashed upon its upper part. The level of whitewash is the same as that of the sill and both

indicate that the pavement of the vestibule was laid in accordance with the level of the pavement in the inner part of the shrine. The recessed surface of block A also agrees with the recess in block B made for supporting the facing slab of the doorpost. Thus, the original face of the rear wall of the vestibule is ascertained, and this wall had evidently been panelled. The lower part of a panel, 1.05 m. wide, was formed by the protruding sides of blocks A and B, and this reaches the height of 0.15 m. above pavement level. This, and the fact that the panel was cut out of two adjacent blocks, shows plainly that it really existed and the present appearance of it is not fortuitous. Another such panel was presumably situated on the other side of the entrance (fig. 30).

The idea of adorning the panels with the Hathor-head capitals would have presented itself to the builders of this shrine. The vestibule is small and there was not enough space for the copying of the scheme applied earlier in the Hathor Chapel of Hatshepsut. That the actual copying indeed occurred is apparent from the

almost identical elements of the heads, and from the established proportion of the Tuthmoside capitals to those of Hatshepsut. This could not have been merely coincidental.

Capitals in the form of the Hathor head were quite common at the time of the early XVIIIth Dynasty, but they seem entirely to adorn the free-standing columns and piers,⁷² unless one also takes into account the Hathoric symbols sculptured at the entrance to the outer sanctuary of Hathor in the temple of Hatshepsut.⁷³ The heads there are small (a little over 0.2 m. wide), and can not be considered as analogous to the discussed ones, except for their emplacement. It is possible, that the author of the project for the temple of Tuthmosis III provided the entrance to the inner part of the shrine with Hathoric symbols on a scale larger than in the case of the neighbouring temple. This desire to surpass the Hatshepsut edifice in details, regardless—or in spite of—the lack of available space, is discernible everywhere with a comparison of the size of similar elements: columns, architraves, doorways etc.

The engaged columns are known from the other buildings of Tuthmosis III,⁷⁴ and it is possible to reconstruct at least two of the engaged Hathor-head pillars in the shrine, with all the reservations due to the meagreness of material evidence. The panels were, however, too wide for the size of the heads and this is a major obstacle to the acceptance of the proposed reconstruction—unless the pilasters were set on the panels (fig. 32). This solution does not seem plausible, but the idea has to be advanced for lack of any arguments to the contrary based on the preserved elements.

Some of the fragments of the capitals could have originated from the pillars, and there seems to be a constructional necessity for providing the vestibule with at least two piers to support its ceiling, which was heavily loaded down by the structure above it. The scheme of the vestibule should have been, more or less symmetrical, and the overall width in such a case would have been ca. 6 m. The remaining space between its southern wall and that of the Mentuhotpe wall of

the inner court would have been used as a side storeroom, possibly connected through a door with the southernmost inner chamber (fig. 33).

5. Fore-part of the temple

a. The case for the porticoes and middle court

The temple, like the other two flanking it on both sides, was adorned with porticoes. The evidence for them is provided by about two hundred fragments of square sandstone piers, some of them bearing the fragmentarily preserved names of Tuthmosis III, some the name of the temple, Djoser-Akhet. Only a single larger one was ever found in the recent excavations on the temple platform, the remainder was evidently discovered by NAVILLE⁷⁵ and deposited in the Mentuhotpe temple. No place in the temple proper can be provided for such pillars, therefore they must have originated from some external structure.

Further proof for such a structure is furnished by a number of architraves, also found by Naville below the level of the temple platform.⁷⁶ The thickness of these architraves corresponds with the dimensions of the piers, but not with the polygonal columns of the Hypostyle Hall. There is also a number of the polygonal, sixteen-sided column drums similar to those described above (Chapter II, 7) but their diameters are slightly larger—or smaller than the former ones. These were found by Naville in the Northern Court of the Mentuhotpe temple⁷⁷ and by WINLOCK under the southern side of the middle court of the Hatshepsut temple.⁷⁸

The final evidence for external porticoes seems to be provided by two fragments of large-scale wall reliefs in sandstone (phot. 47–48), one being the leg of the victorious sphinx trampling the captives⁷⁹ the other a right fist holding a mace—evidently part of a stereotype scene depicting the smashing of the heads

⁷² One upper part of a sandstone pilaster with Hathor-head capital was found by H. RICKÉ in Karnak (Das Kamutef Heiligtum Hatshepsut und Thutmoses' III in Karnak, Beiträge Bf. 3, 1952, p. 5 and Pl. 4 d) but was considered by him as of a later date.

⁷³ E. NAVILLE, *The temple of Deir el Bahari*, IV, Pl. 103.

⁷⁴ I.e. in the so-called Botanic room in the Festival Hall of Tuthmosis III at Karnak.

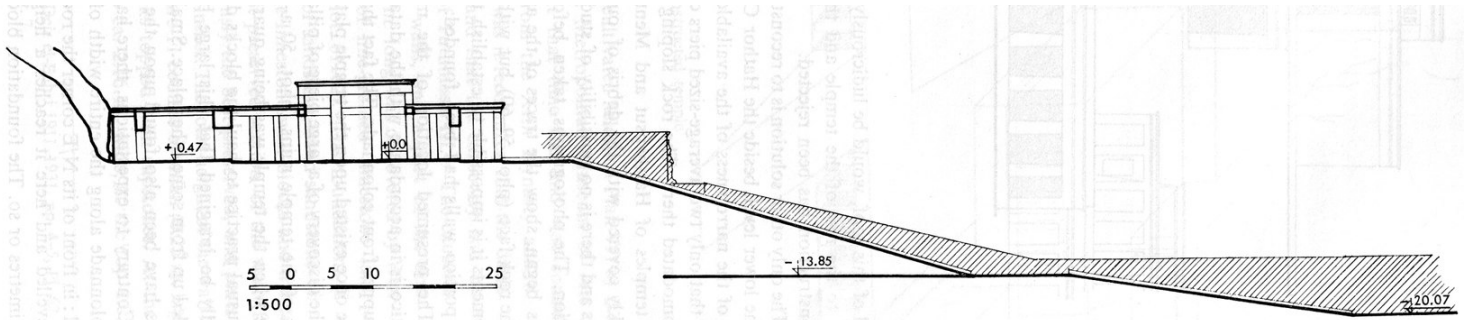
⁷⁵ Not mentioned where.

⁷⁶ In the Northern Court, E. NAVILLE, H. R. HALL, *The XIth Dyn. temple*, I, p. 17.

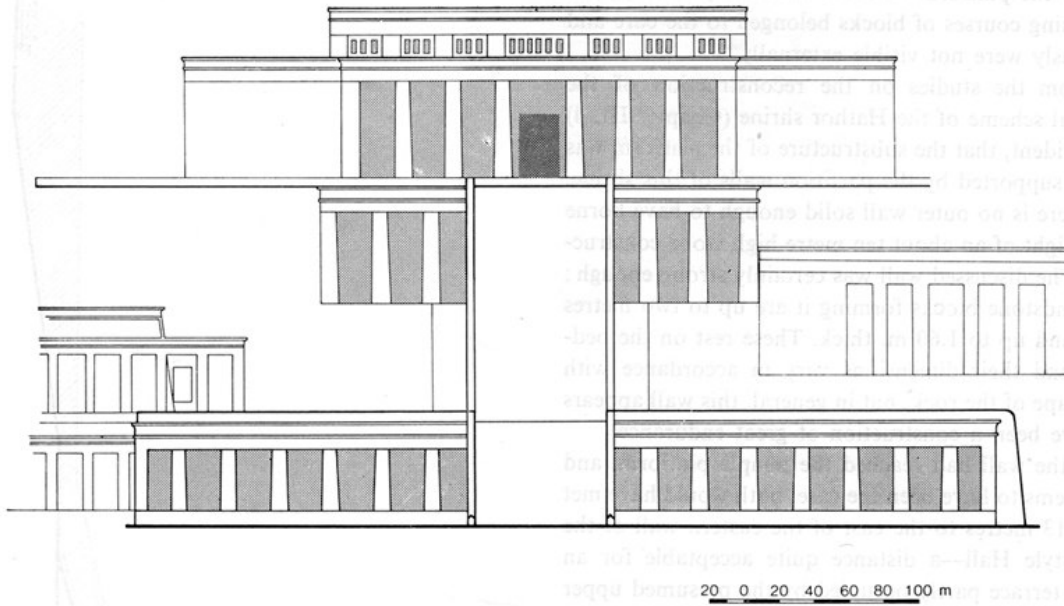
⁷⁷ In the Northern Court, *ibid.* l.c.

⁷⁸ WINLOCK's notes in *M. M. A.* The blocks were dumped there probably during the time of building the Ptolemaic Shrine in front of the Punt Portico (cf. *M. M. A.* photos Nos. M12 C 205–217).

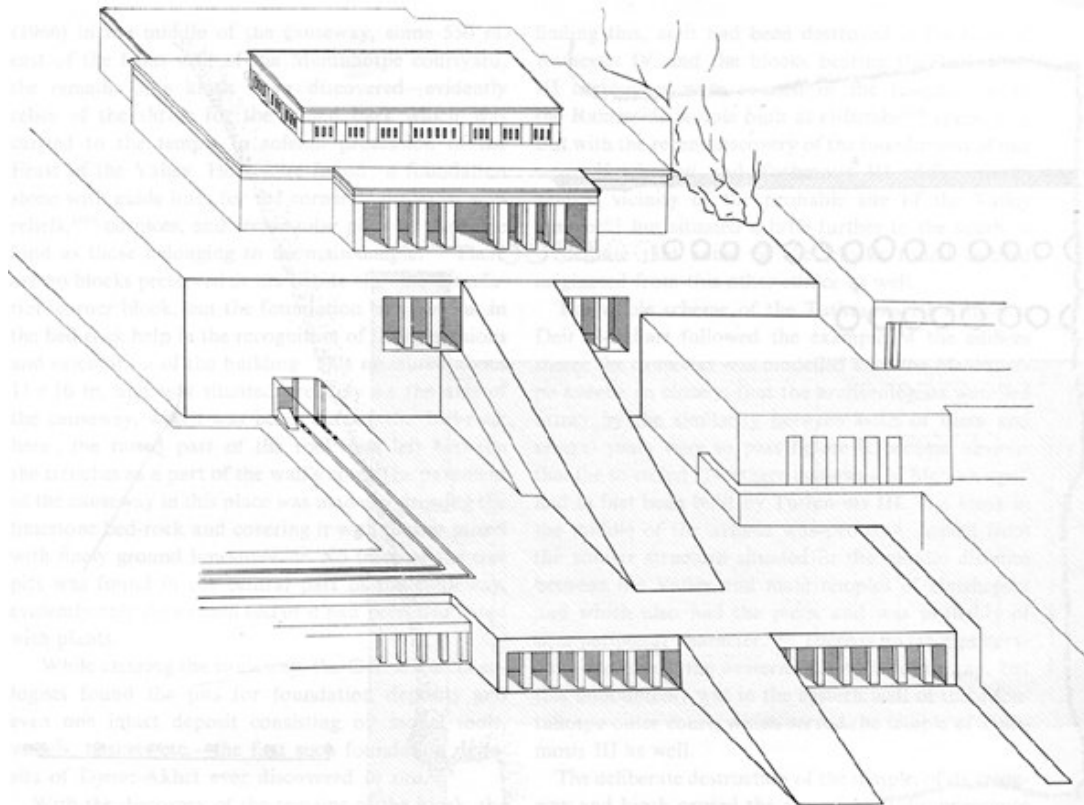
⁷⁹ E. NAVILLE, H. R. HALL, *The XIth Dyn. temple*, III, pl. XIV, 2. Found probably near the ramp. Dimensions of the block are: height 1.08 m., length and thickness indeterminate.



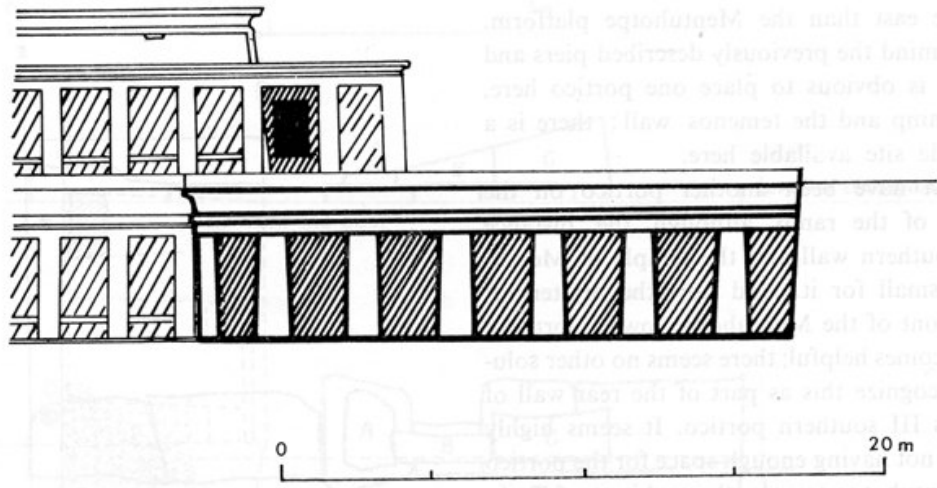
50. Longitudinal section of the temple (Section A-A Plan VI)



51. The façade of the temple



52. Axonometric perspective of the reconstructed temple



48. Reconstructed view of the southern lower portico of Tuthmosis III screening the temple of Mentuhotpe