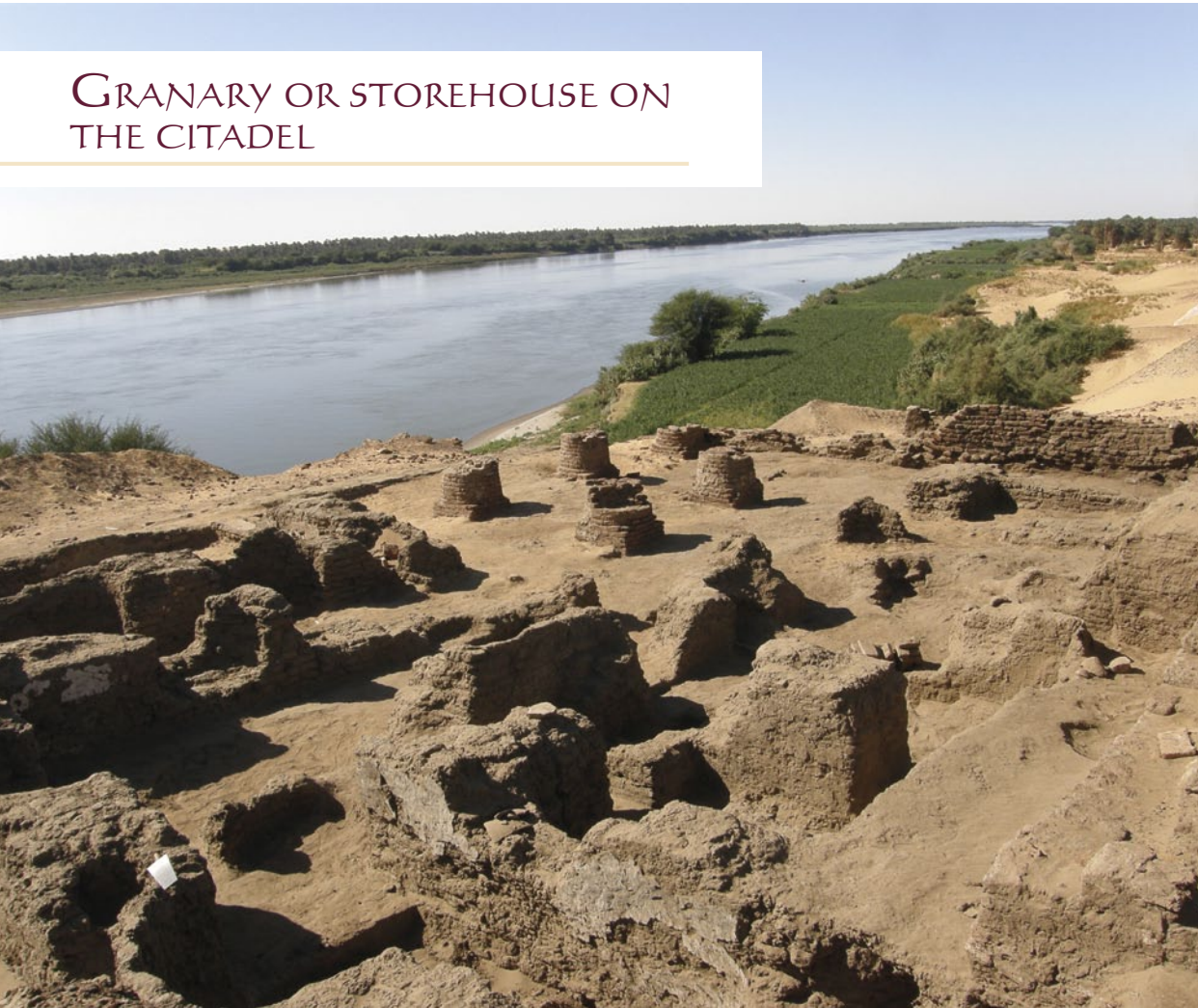


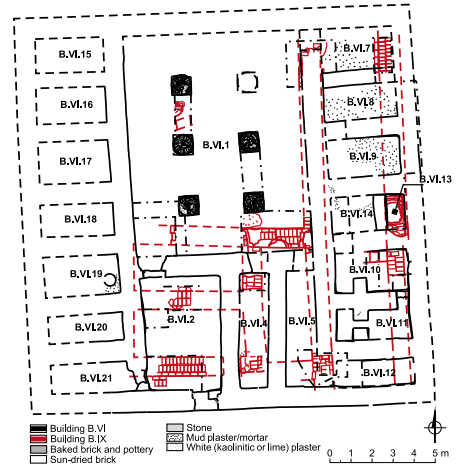
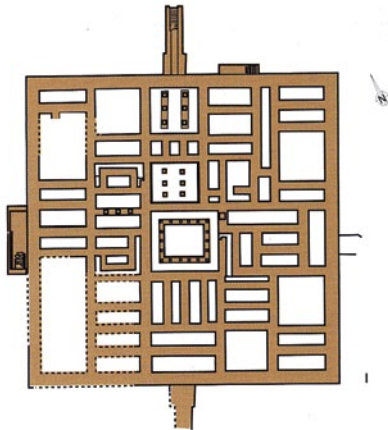
GRANARY OR STOREHOUSE ON THE CITADEL



Storehouse or granary on the citadel (B.VI)

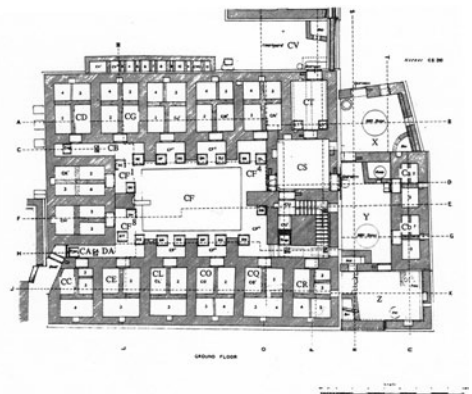
A large mud-brick building was located in the northwestern part of the Citadel (Site C). It comprised a central hall with six round pillars and rows of narrow rooms on opposite sides. The south side was occupied by a set of similarly narrow rooms and an entrance vestibule. The north part of the building was destroyed. The walls of the rooms bear no remains of plaster, as well as no evidence of floors, either inside the central hall or inside the narrow rooms. The structure was erected in the 12th century on the ruins of earlier architecture, which has yet to be explored and identified. The interpretation of Building VI and its furnishings is still pending, but it could have been a storehouse, as suggested by the many narrow rooms, the location of the building near a river harbor and analogous layout as some Meroitic buildings, referred to as "palaces", which were erected from the 1st century BC through the 3rd century AD. Such structures are known from Gebel Barkal, Meroe and Wad Ben Naga.

Structures along parallel lines are known also from Graeco-Roman Egypt, from Karanis and Tebtynis in the Fayum, where they have been interpreted as granaries. In this context it merits note that in the Late Period (12th-14th century) the ruined and rubble-filled houses in the northwestern part of the citadel and the area just south of the



Storehouse or granary (Building VI) with underlying remains of an earlier Building IX

Pillar Church were occupied by large, deep siloses. The features were excavated into the rubble and the inside walls were rendered with a thick coat of mud. No remains of the food kept in these siloses were discovered in the five excavated structures. The location of these features near Building VI and next to the bend in the Nile, which is interpreted as a potential commercial harbor on the river, permits a provisional interpretation of the northwestern part of the citadel as the location of storeroom facilities serving the river harbor in the Late Period, that is, in the 12th through the 14th centuries.



Architectural parallels: Meroe in Nubia (left) and Karanis in Egypt (right)