



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE INNER COURTYARD OF THE PUPPET THEATRE ‘NUKU’

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INTRODUCTION

In the summer and autumn of 2013 archaeological studies were conducted in the inner courtyard of a puppet theatre ‘NUKU’ with the aim to specify the existence and nature of possible construction remains and the character of cultural layers. The study concluded that more than half of the excavated area (total area *ca.* 350 m²) consisted of construction remains of various periods (walls, vaulted cellars, limestone floors) that the National Heritage Board and the Advisory Panel of Archaeological Monuments suggested to preserve. This decision made it possible to study the virgin cultural layer below the floors of the Early Modern and Modern Times constructions in the main pit with the area of 120 m² and two smaller pits with areas of 15 m² and 5 m², covering the total area of *ca.* 140 m² (Fig. 1). The archaeological studies in the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre were directed by archaeologists Peeter Piirits and Eero Heinloo from MTÜ AEG (Heinloo & Piirits 2014).

CONTEXT

The study area was located in the western part of the Old Town of Tallinn, more precisely in the first quarter bordering with the streets Lai, Nunne, Suur-Kloostri and Väike-Kloostri. In the Middle Ages Lai street that bordered the quarter on the south-east was one of the main streets in Tallinn, while Nunne street on the south-west of the quarter connected the city with its western and north-western suburbs and gardens and the town’s pastures and meadows (Nurk *et al.* 2009a, 8). In the Middle Ages the northern part of the first quarter belonged to the St Michael’s Cistercian convent¹, established in the mid-13th century (Tamm 2009, 25). At that time the convent used their lands mainly for vegetable and fruit gardens. Building activities boosted on the convent plots in the 17th century (Pantelejev 2012, 4), when after the reformation the premises used by noble maidens were assigned to the boys’ gymnasium (Tamm 2009, 60). The oldest constructions in the southern part of the first quarter, which includes also the studied area, may date from at least the 14th century (see Kangropool 1995a, 1), yet the busiest construction time started in the 15th century, when both dwelling houses and various granaries started to be built in this area (Pantelejev 2012, 4–5). Manuscripts by Leo Tiik and Rasmus Kangropool (see Tiik 1970; Kangropool 1995b) present in-depth summaries about the development of historic properties in the first quarter, based on written records.

¹ The convent was located at the present main building of Gustav Adolf Gymnasium.

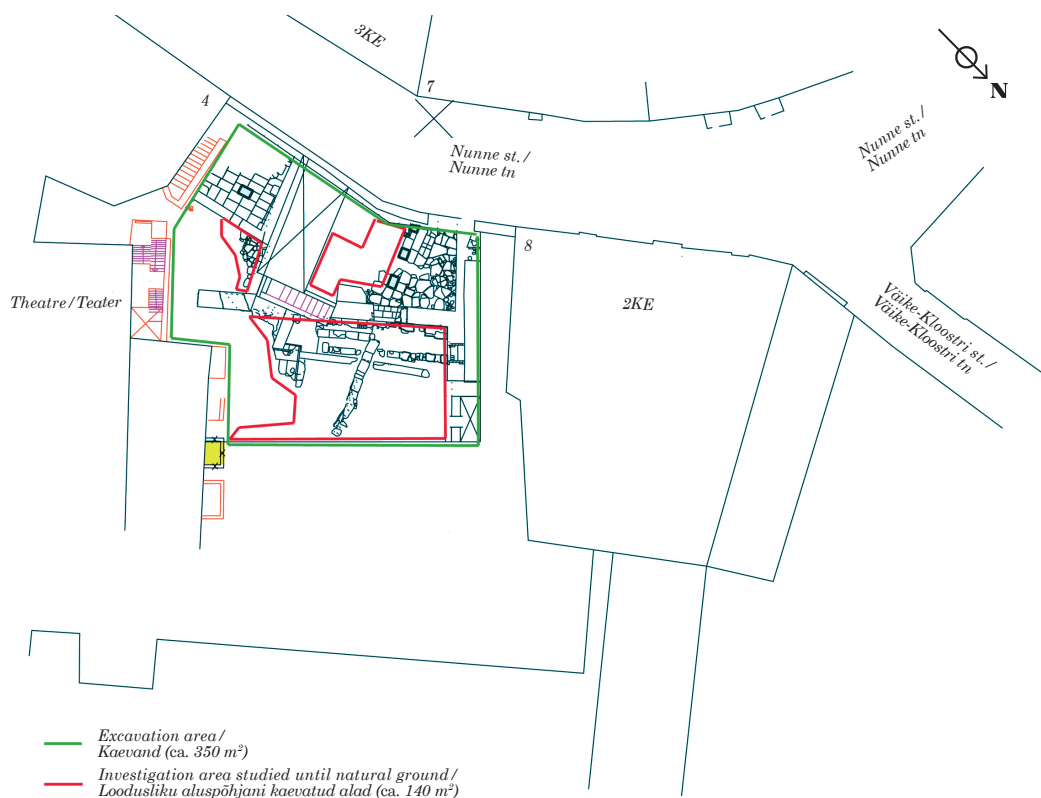


Fig. 1. Plan of the archaeological excavations of the NUKU Theatre.

Jn 1. NUKU teatri arheoloogiliste uuringute asendiplaan.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper

In the beginning of the 19th century Tallinn Theatre acquired four plots at the streets of Lai and Nunne. The old stone buildings and granaries were torn down and replaced by two new prominent stone buildings (Pantelejev 2012, 26). A so-called Stock Club House was built to the corner of the Lai and Nunne streets, whereas a theatre was built to the plot in Lai street (completed in 1809, destroyed in 1902) that extended from Lai street deep into the plot (Pantelejev 2012, 26), standing in its south-western part largely on the territory of the NUKU Theatre inner courtyard (Fig. 2).

The stone constructions of the old theatre building were first documented during archaeological excavations in 2008–2009, which covered the north-eastern part of the inner courtyard (area of excavations *ca.* 150 m²) (see Fig. 1). The excavations were undertaken due to the construction of a tunnel that was to connect buildings at Nunne Street 4 / Lai Street 1 and at Nunne Street 8 (see Nurk *et al.* 2009a). In addition to the wall constructions of the theatre house from the beginning of the 19th century also several stone constructions preceding the theatre were documented, including a well with limestone curbs (filled up no later than in the 17th century), but also stone walls and basements from different time periods. A number of timber constructions

and stone pavements were also recorded. The objective of the studies of those times did not foresee research of medieval layers (see also Nurk *et al.* 2009b).

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The 2013 excavation established that the natural relief of the inner courtyard was in a slight downfall towards the north-east / east. Hence the natural brownish loam in the street side of the excavation trench was *ca.* 20–30 cm higher than in the north-eastern part of the trench. A shallow natural hollow was distinct in the eastern part of the studied area, which had been filled by 20–25 cm with greyish varicoloured loam prior to occupying the area. The natural topsoil was covered with loam containing humus and some organics. From the upper part of the layer a few fragments of ceramics were found (Paffrath-type ware, Siegburg proto-stoneware, incl. some older fragments typical rather to the first half of the 13th century, see Russov 2006, 46–47, and early (ornamented) glazed redware), which indicate first traces of human activities and suggest that the earliest settlement there dated from the second quarter of the 13th century. The excavations revealed no prehistoric finds.

The first occupation of the area in the second quarter of the 13th century may be associated with the limestone well discovered in the northern corner of the trench (Fig. 3: I). The round shallow well (diameter 65 cm, depth *ca.* 1 m) was erected from coarse limestone blocks, with occasional whitish clay loam in between. The probable function of the well was to collect fresh water, yet it is also possible that it was used for draining the ground. This is the oldest known limestone well found in the area of the Tallinn old town.

The early stage of the settlement is indicated by soil containing organics with a few additives. Closer to natural topsoil the content of organics and additives diminished and the content of brownish loam in turn increased. The lower part of the layers containing purer organics may be associated mainly with the second half of the 13th century, the upper part with the first half of the 14th century. Layers were separated by horizontal intermediate strata, which could be associated with filling up the limestone well and building a massive stone construction (Fig. 3: II), bound with yellowish lime mortar. The intermediate strata mark a change in the function of the area that took place in the beginning of the 14th century. The changes in the area are referred to also by the diversification of the find material – among other, leather finds started to appear in the layer, which the lower layer totally lacked.

A significant change occurred in the character of the cultural layer in the mid-14th century, when a timber building (measuring 3.4×2.5 m) of round logs, deepened

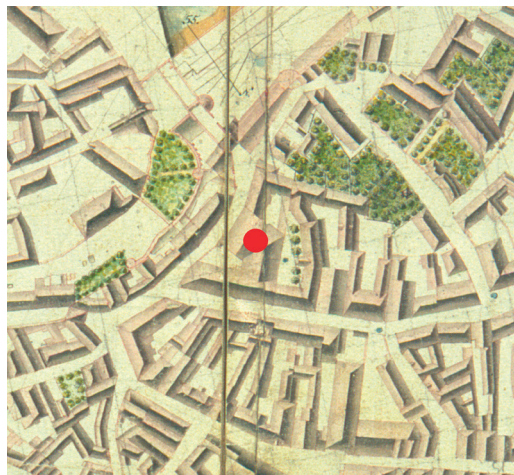
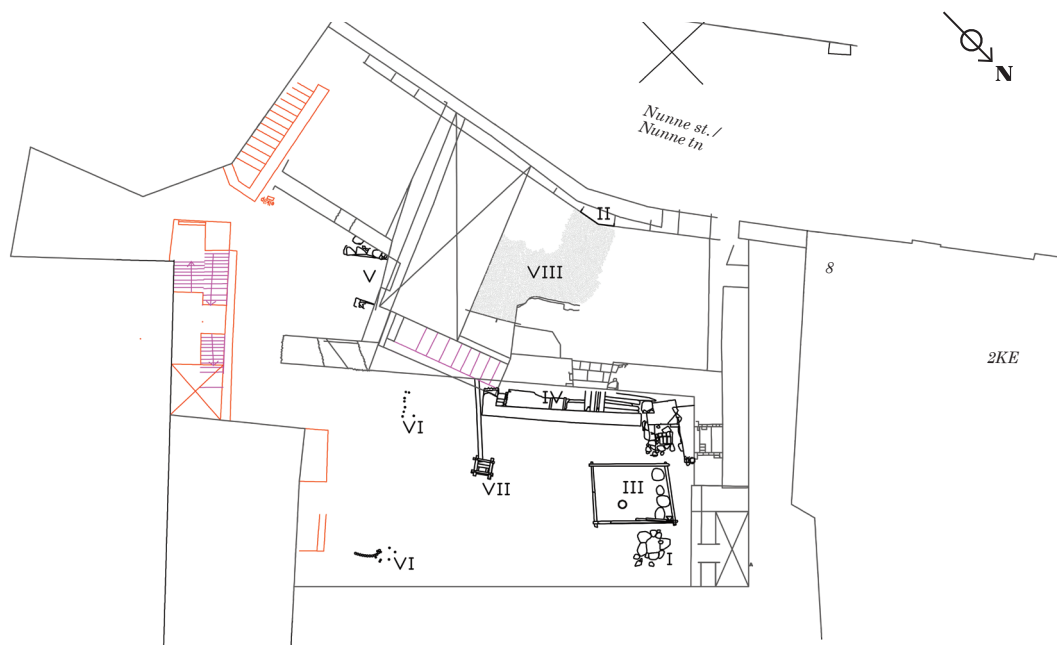


Fig. 2. Roof plan of the first quarter of the Tallinn old town from 1825.

Jn 2. Tallinna vanalinna I kvartali hoonete katuste plaan 1825. aastast.

(Fragment taken from Üprus 1965, fig. XII.)



I – limestone well / paekivist kaev

II – massive stone construction / massiivne kivikonstruktsioon

III – timber building / puithoone

IV – stone building / kivihoone

IVA – annex to the stone building / kivihoone juurdeehitus

V – shaft / šaht

VI – wattle / põimtare

VII – timber well / puidust kaev

VIII – cobblestone pavement / kivisillutis

Fig. 3. Area of the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre in the Middle Ages.

Jn 3. NUKU teatri sisehoovi ala keskajal.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper

into the ground, was erected in the area (Fig. 3: III). This timber building had a dirt floor, with a wicker cask with no bottom side below it (Fig. 4), in order to reduce excess damp under the building. Above the floor a layer of dung and rotten wood contemporary to the use of the building had formed. A level surface made of field stones was in the north-western side of the building – a threshold to the building. The timber building, which according to the find material was used until the fourth quarter or end of the 14th century, was probably an auxiliary building, since no hearth that is necessary for a dwelling was discovered. No traces of a main building that would have belonged to the auxiliary building were found in the trenches; therefore it is possible that the main building is under the preserved stone constructions.

Topsoil contained a lot of chips and organic material (including manure, chips, bark and branches) after the timber building was erected, intermediate strata contained mainly dung. However, in addition to organic material the layer included also some brick pieces. Typical finds in the soil were leather fragments, most of all residues from leather work and rawhide.² The character of leather finds testify that leatherworking took place in close vicinity, this is also supported by several written sources: the

² Krista Sarv (AM) assisted in analysing leather finds.

earliest record on the plots in the NUKU Theatre inner courtyard tells us that in 1372 the widow of Vrederick van Molen had given a timber house on the plot to shoemaker Vritze van Kotlin (Kangropool 1995a, 1). The soil rich in chips associated with the timber house(s) erected to the area and was dated to the period from the mid-14th century to the fourth quarter of the 14th century.

PERIOD OF THE MEDIEVAL STONE HOUSES

Soon stone buildings replaced timber houses. In the main trench walls of a modest medieval house (the width only 4.4 m) (Fig. 3: IV), made of limestone and bound with yellowish lime mortar were discovered (Fig. 5), built in the fourth quarter / end of the 14th century. The building that had at least three clearly distinguishable wooden floors, had been repeatedly reconstructed. An annex to the building, partly deepened into the ground, was found next to the north-western part of the building. The north-eastern wall of the main building had partly been demolished for building the annex. Yet the middle floor level connected both the main building and the annex indicate that the main building was in use also after the annex was built. The annex had a brick horizontal plane, which was covered by traces of soot. Bricks had been laid on top of a rectangular lime slab, below the lime slab there was a gutter (Fig. 6), which from the top was covered with pieces of limestone. The V-shaped limestone gutter, deepened into the ground, had been isolated with greyish clay from the outside. The clay was probably to prevent moist from the sides from getting into the gutter, or to prevent fluid from draining out of the gutter. Although the brick layer with traces of burning would suggest first and foremost a stove, it cannot ex-



Fig. 4. Timber building deepened into the ground and a cask with no bottom side under the floor.

Jn 4. Maapinda süvendatud puithoone ning põrandatasandi alla asetatud põhjata tünn.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 5. Medieval stone building in the area of the main trench.

Jn 5. Põhikaevandi alale jäänud keskaegne kivihoone.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 6. Annex of the medieval stone building, with a V-shaped chute in the lower part, made of pieces of limestone and covered from above.

Jn 6. Keskaegse kivihoone juurdeehitus, mille alaosas paiknes pealt kaetud V-kujuline paekivitükkidest renn.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



Fig. 7. Fresh water well, possibly connected to the water pipes on Nunne street.

Jn 7. Joogiveekaev, mida võis veega varustada Nunne tänaval olev veetorstik.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

plain the gutter below the bricks and the limestone slab, which leaves the purpose of this construction uncertain. The annex itself had been destroyed by a massive L-shaped limestone construction, which had also taken into account the basic constructions of the medieval stone building. The repeatedly rebuilt stone house has been conclusively destroyed in the beginning of the 17th century at the latest.

Another possibly medieval stone building is connected with a shaft (Fig. 3: V) made of limestone and bound with clay. The lower and mid part of the shaft was filled with a dense layer of faeces, referring that the shaft was used as a toilet. Also the finds from the shaft confirmed its use as a toilet – whole wooden items (dozens of stave dishes with one or two wickers, a bucket, a shoemaker's last, a spinning top, details of furniture), but also fragments of leather and textile were found. Locally, an intermediate charcoaly layer distinguished in the lower part of the faeces layer, from where a broken wheel-thrown pot with a line decoration was found, was dated to the 14th /15th century. There was a slumped floor of round logs and boards inside the shaft that contained also fragments of a two-place toilet seat. The slumped logs and the toilet seat mark the end of the use of the toilet. Hereafter the shaft had a more varied use, i.e. it was filled with mixed refuse. The toilet was first used in the end of the 14th century / beginning of the 15th century, while the finds from the mixed refuse in the upper part of the shaft suggest that the secondary use of the shaft was in the mid-15th century. The constructions of the stone building that are associated with the shaft are largely based below the Early Modern and Modern Times stone construction, therefore the purpose and the extent of the building have remained uncertain.

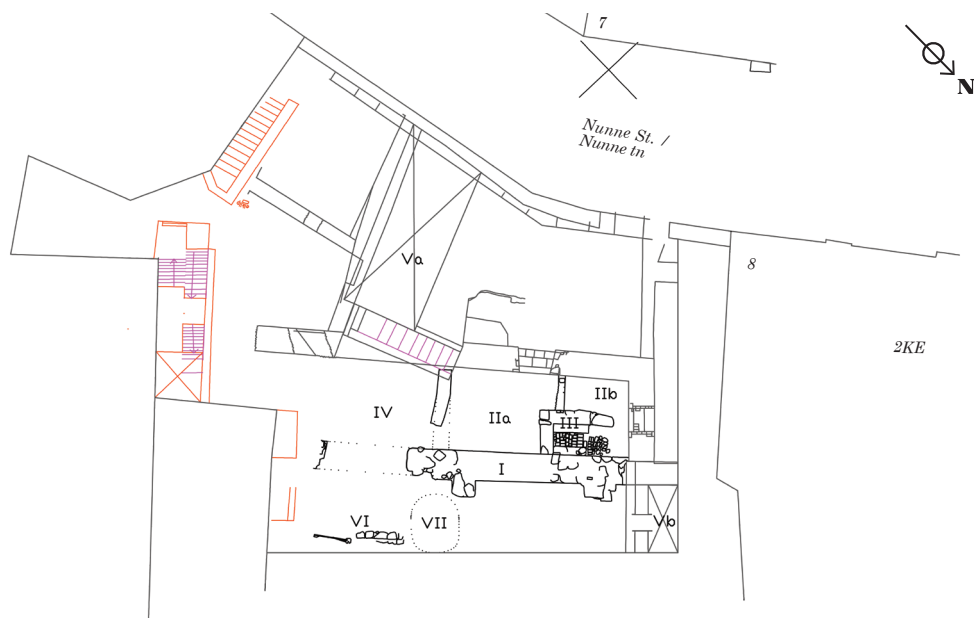
A number of timber constructions discovered in the studied area are associated with the period of medieval stone buildings. Approximately a dozen pickets (diameter 5 cm) were located in the area between the two stone buildings, in the NE/SW direction, marking an old wattle (Fig. 3: VI). The wattle was in use at the same time with the medieval stone buildings and was located at the border between the plots. Also a well-curb of split logs (Fig. 7) was located in the central part of the main trench, towards the courtyard of the medieval stone building (Fig. 3: VII). From the street side a log with a diameter of *ca.* 20 cm and with a 12–13 cm wide groove hollowed out ran into the well. From above the groove was covered by a board, fastened with nails. From the outside the pipe was isolated with birch bark; also the outside of the well was enwrapped with birch bark. The characteristics of the well suggest that it had been for drinking water, the water was probably supplied from a (presumable) water pipe on Nunne street. The well had been erected later than the medieval stone building, and was in use in the 15th century. After the well ceased to be used for water, the timber construction was filled with debris that included also wooden items (incl. a piggin with the craftsman's and owner's mark), but also a footing of a leather shoe and a fragment of a whetstone.

PERIOD OF EARLY MODERN STONE BUILDINGS

In the 17th century the medieval building was replaced by a new stone building (Fig. 8: I). The building extended further from the northern trench and continued towards the NUKU Theatre, Nunne street and the stone building at Nunne Street 8. Two parts of different time periods were distinguishable in the stone building. From the original part the north-eastern limestone wall had preserved, supported from the outside by two buttresses (see Fig. 9). The south-eastern wall had been demolished, but the south-western and the north-western wall could not be documented, since the building continued under the preserved stone constructions. In the early part of the building unearthed in the main trench two rooms (Fig. 8: IIa–b) were documented, separated by a thin limestone wall. A so-called *keris*-type stove (Fig. 8: III), which walls were laid of limestone slabs and originally covered with a pile of cobblestones (Est. *keris*), was located at the north-western side of the wall, with three separate brick floors (Fig. 10). Burnt stones from the *keris* had fallen to the latest brick floor, after which the stove seems to have lost its function. The mouth of the stove or the side of heating was in the north-western room, and at least four hearths, laid of field stones or bricks on top of each other, were found in front of the mouth. Also a lime slab that may have indicated a threshold could be associated with this room.

On the south-eastern side of the building a later addition (Fig. 8: IV) was made, in the construction of this later part a new *ca.* 60 cm wide intermediate wall was built between the old and the new part. The new wall was built because the old one had fallen apart, since the wooden well had remained below the earlier stone building and the moist leaching from the well may have damaged the wall. The floors of the two rooms separated by the wall were made of limestone slabs. The new part of the building was made in the mid-17th century / second half of the 17th century.

The (cylinder) vaulted cellars in the courtyard in the northern and south-eastern part of the studied area (see Fig. 8: Va–b) have been constructed slightly later than the 17th century stone building. It is likely that the vaulted rooms may be associated with



I – stone building/kivihoone

II a–b – original parts of the stone building/kivihoone algsed osad

III – keris type stove/kerisahi

IV – later part of the stone building/kivihoone hilisem osa

Va–b – cellars with barrel vaults/silindervõlvidega keldrid

VI – stone basement and timber cesspit/kivivundament ja puidust jäätmekast

VII – refuse pit/jäätmeauk

Fig. 8. Area of the NUKU Theatre inner courtyard in the Early Modern Times.

Jn 8. NUKU teatri sisehoovi ala varauusajal.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper



Fig. 9. Walls of the stone buildings from different periods: a – medieval, b – Early Modern Times, c – Modern Times.

Jn 9. Eriaegsete kivihoonete müürid: a – keskaegne kivihoone, b – varauusaegne kivihoone, c – uusaegne kivihoone.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

the Early Modern stone building, discovered in the main trench, but since direct evidence had been destroyed in the process of constructing Modern Times stone buildings, this suggestion can only be a hypothesis.

A stone line basement in the north-eastern part of the trench (Fig. 8: VI) is also associated with the Early Modern dwelling house. A section of the stone basement was discovered below ground level. The construction on the basement had been demolished. The character of the basement suggested that the building on it had been a modest (timber) house, deepened into the ground, functioning as an auxiliary building. Also a timber cesspit south-west to the stone basement may be connected with it. The corner of

the timber construction was a vertical unhewn log, with side boards attached to grooves at its sides (the total of at least five side boards had survived). The timber construction was located north-east of the main trench, it was studied more profoundly during archaeological surveillance in 2009 (see Nurk *et al.* 2009a, 25). The research in 2009 established that the timber cesspit (measurements 280 × 290 cm) was filled with a dungy layer, suggesting that it may have been a garbage deposit.

An unplanked regular size (ca. 2 × 2 m) hole was located from the Early Modern building towards the courtyard (Fig. 8: VII), which was a refuse pit under the above ground (timber) construction of an earth closet. The refuse pit contained first and foremost ceramics (typical Early Modern Times glazed redware, glazed tiles) and leather (e.g. fragments of a shoe, a glove), but also textile, wood (e.g. side boards of small wooden stave dishes, matchwoods), glass (fragments of window glass, sherds of glass beakers), bone (a comb) and metal (nails, a spur). Pottery finds from the pit suggest that the refuse pit was in use in the first half of the 17th century.



Fig. 10. Structure of the keris type stove in the Early Modern Times stone building.

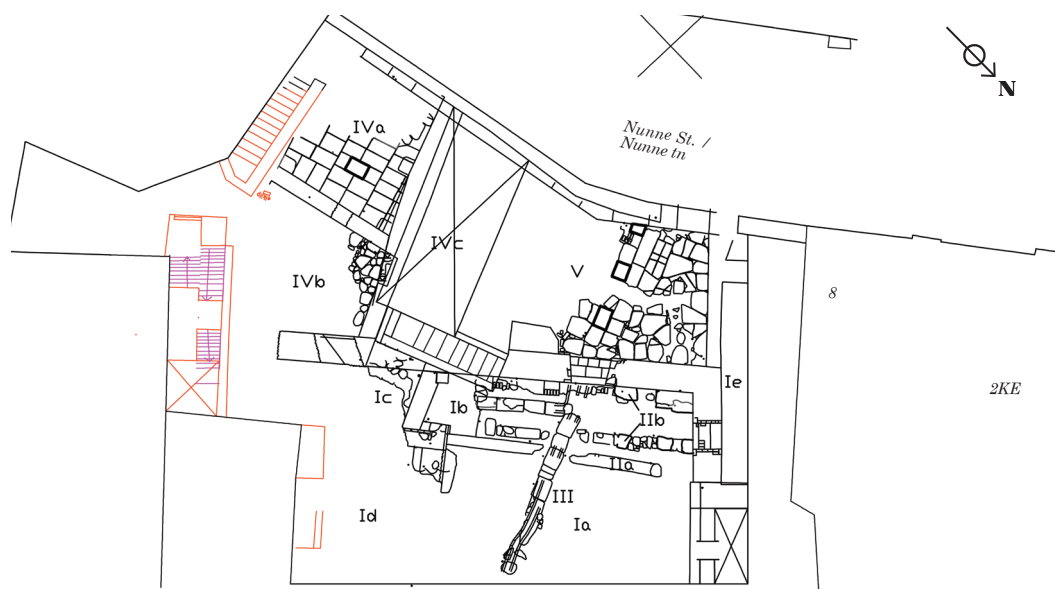
Jn 10. Varauusaegse kivihoone sees paiknenud kerisahju konstruktsioonid.

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

PERIOD OF THE 19TH CENTURY STONE BUILDINGS

Buildings that stood on the plot in the beginning of the 19th century were pulled down and replaced by new stone buildings. Massive limestone walls (thickness up to 125 cm) (Fig. 9) of the old theatre house, built in 1809 and completely demolished in 1902, were located in the north-eastern part of the study area. The total of five separate rooms was distinguished in the old theatre, yet secondary masonry constructions testify that the floor plan had changed in time. The central room was a half cellar; above it was the theatre hall (Fig. 11: Ia). Several simple stone constructions (Fig. 11: IIa–b) were documented within the room, which formed the supporting constructions for lateral balconies on the upper floors. Similar constructions were found also during the excavations in 2008–2009 (Nurk *et al.* 2009a, 18). Two support systems from different times were distinguished. It is known from written sources that in the first half of the 19th century the town's folk had complained about boxes reaching out too far and blocking the view to the stage (Pantelejev 2012, 28). So in 1848 construction work began (Nurk *et al.* 2009a, 7), which may have included also reconstruction of the boxes. No floor constructions were noted in the half cellar, the floor level was indicated by burning marks on the walls. Below the floor level a (hot) air flue (Fig. 11: III), made of red bricks and covered with limestone slabs, was discovered. The flue was probably built during the 1848 reconstruction work. In the half cellar the flue was divided into two. One of the lines headed diagonally up across the theatre hall towards north-east, the other line was directed to the back of the half cellar, where a separate fire room³ was located (Fig.

³ In the 2009 excavations a brick stove was discovered in a similar room (Nurk *et al.* 2009a, fig. 2). It is possible that there was also a stove in this room, which had been demolished by the time of archaeological excavations.



Ia–e – cellars and half-cellar of the old theatre house /
 vana teatrimaja keldrid ja poolkeldrid
 IIa–b – supporting structures for balconies /
 rõdude kandekonstruksioonid
 III – air flue / õhulõõr

IVa–c – southern part of the stone building /
 kivihoone lõunapoolne osa
 V – northern part of the stone building /
 kivihoone põhjapoolne osa

Fig. 11. Area of the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre in the 19th century.

Jn 11. NUKU teatri sisehoovi ala 19. sajandil.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tepper

11: Ib). In addition to the above mentioned rooms also a room below the stage (Fig. 11: Ie), a cellar with a limestone floor in the middle part of the theatre building (Fig. 11: Id) and a corridor – like passage (Fig. 11: Ic), constructed after the big fire in 1855 (Heinloo & Piirits 2014, 6–9) were documented.

In the Nunne street side of the inner courtyard there were cellars and half-cellar that in the beginning of the 19th century had belonged to the houses at Nunne street. A stone building, which presumably has accommodated two separate houses under one and the same roof (Üprus 1965, fig. II), has been erected soon after the theatre house was completed (or built at the same time). However, the house stood at the site of an earlier stone building and therefore some of the (vaulted) cellars of the house are older than the Modern Times stone building. The total of four separate rooms was documented, from which three (Fig. 11: IVa–c) belonged to the southern part of the building and one (Fig. 11: V) to the northern part. In the mid-19th century at the latest both parts of the building had been integrated with the old theatre complex by doors or passages (Heinloo & Piirits 2014, 9–12).

FINDS

The majority of finds were imported ceramics, but also local wheel-thrown pottery finds existed. A noteworthy amount of the imported ceramics was finds from the second half of the 13th century (Siegburg proto- and early stoneware, early stoneware of Southern

Lower Saxony, Langerwehe early stoneware, early glazed redware), but also a significant amount of imported ceramics associated with the earliest medieval settlement (Paffrath-type ware, early stage of the Siegburg proto-stoneware, early (ornamented) glazed redware), which may most likely be dated to the second quarter of the 13th century (Fig. 12) (see Russow 2006). Ceramics included also a large number of fragments of stove tiles, which were unearthed from under the floor level of the Modern Times stone building at Nunne street. The tiles, covered with brown or dark glaze, wore baroque motifs (Fig. 13) and most probably date from the beginning of the 17th century.

Other types of finds featured for example wooden items, since both the shaft that was used as a toilet and the timber well for drinking water contained whole finds, including e.g. dozens of small wooden stave dishes, a piggin, a shoe last (Fig. 14) and a bucket. An interesting find was a two-place toilet seat and an exceptional spinning top (Fig. 15) that is unique in the context of Estonian urban archaeology. Apart from wooden items also textile and leather objects were present, including several whole leather shoes and knife sheaths. The majority of leather finds was, however, residue material, which may refer to leather working in the area. Metal finds (mostly nails, a horseshoe, a spur, a knife, two crossbow arrowheads) and bone items (e.g. four bone combs) were more modest.



Fig. 12. Early imported ceramics. 1 – Paffrath-type ware, 2 – Siegburg proto-stoneware, 3 – early (ornamented) glazed redware.

Jn 12. Varane importkeraamika. 1 – Paffrathi tüüpi keraamika, 2 – Siegburgi protokivikeraamika, 3 – varane (ornamenteeritud) punane glasuurkeraamika.

(AI 7146: 69, 245, 1, 5, 245, 52, 369, 67, 271, 306, 307, 308, 311.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



0 1 cm

Fig. 13. Stove tile with baroque motifs.
 Jn 13. Baroksete motiividega ahjukahhel.
 (AI 7146: 1482.)
 Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo



0 1 cm

Fig. 14. Shoe last that bore the marks of both the craftsman and the owner.
 Jn 14. Meistri- ja omanikumärgiga jalatsiliist.
 (AI 7146: 1439.)
 Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

RESEARCH RESULTS

Archaeological excavations in the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre established that transition from natural topsoil to the cultural layer formed as a result of human activity at the studied area was segue, the surface had not been levelled down or filled with other layers, which has often been noted in archaeological excavations elsewhere in the Tallinn old town (e.g. Mäll 2004). The only exception in this area was in the eastern part, where the natural lower ground had been filled with greyish sandy loam. Artefact finds collected from straight above the natural layers (Paffrath-type ware, early Siegburg proto-stoneware, early (ornamented) glazed redware) suggest human occupation in the second quarter of the 13th century, i.e. post-conquest period (see Mäll & Russow 2003, 184). No prehistoric finds were discovered in the area, and this supports the opinion that on the territory of the Tallinn downtown no permanent settlement existed in the Prehistoric Times (Tamm 1995, 24; Pärn 2002; Mäll 2004). Quite possibly a prehistoric settlement may have been more inland, somewhere between the streets of Pärnu and Liivalaia, where a 20 cm thick cultural layer has been documented (Karro *et al.* 2011).

The amount of early imported ceramics found is considerable, but still more modest than for example the finds that were documented during archaeological excavations on the Town Hall square (see Mäll & Russow 2003). Comparing the

two excavations demonstrates that in 1953 the archaeological studies on the Town Hall square took place in a ca. 500 m² area, 36 fragments of Paffrath-type ware, 440 Siegburg proto-stoneware and 256 early (ornamented) glazed redware were collected (Mäll & Russow 2003, Appendix 1). The 2013 excavations in the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre covered a ca. 140 m² area and the number of collected finds was the following: 6 fragments of Paffrath-type ware, 65 fragments of Siegburg proto-stoneware and 37 fragments of early (ornamented) glazed redware (Heinloo & Piirits 2014). Hence the intensity of early finds per square metre in the Town Hall square doubles the finds in NUKU Theatre courtyard. Therefore the NUKU Theatre plot may be considered as outskirts

compared to the Town Hall square. Outskirts are characterised by a certain uniformity of early layers, scarcity of additives in the layers and absence of constructions (excl. the limestone well). Window glass among the find material from the layers associated with the second half of the 13th century may be transported to the studied area, at least partly, from elsewhere. At the same time filling of the natural depression and construction of the limestone well demonstrate clearly that the area was occupied purposefully. Soil samples taken during the research will hopefully provide supplementary information

on the character of early occupation. Indirect references to the original purpose of the area are vivianite crystals on the fragments of early ceramics that are formed in contact with urine, suggesting that in the second half of the 13th century the area might have been used for cattle yards.

A distinct change in the area took place in the beginning of the 14th century, when the limestone well in the courtyard was filled and a new stone building with thick walls was erected, which presently is largely under the current Nunne street (see Fig. 3: II). Stone buildings in the beginning of the 14th century were rather rare, limestone was primarily used for public and sacral buildings. The building dates from a time when significant changes took place in the townscape – it is contemporary to the reconstructing of the town wall (Kadakas & Mäll 2002). The plot at Nunne Street 7, which is opposite the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre, is associated with the first public sauna of the town, first mentioned in written sources (in so-called Letter of Canne) in 1310 (Kangropool 2003, 22). The characteristics of the medieval streets had not yet fully developed by the beginning of the 14th century and therefore it cannot be excluded that the sauna was partly located under the present Nunne street, reaching as far as the south-western part of the 2013 excavation area. The location of the medieval Nunne street might be associated with the cobblestone pavement (see Fig. 3: VIII) with burning marks, dated to the end of the 14th century, found to the south-west of the excavation area and located from the present street line well towards the inner courtyard of the NUKU Theatre.

More intense activities characterise the area from the mid-14th century, when timber buildings were erected there. Multiple fragments of leather working residue and rawhide, found in the layers of the timber housing period, testify that leather working took place in the area. A shoe-maker may have worked there, as mentioned in written records (Kangropool 1995a, 1). Also the shoe last among the finds seems to support this. Timber buildings were replaced by stone buildings in the fourth quarter / end of the 14th century. The plot border, documented during the excavations, is also associated with the beginning of the period of stone buildings and was not traceable for an earlier period.



Fig. 15. Wooden spinning top.

Jn 15. Puidust vurr.

(AI 7146: 1413.)

Photo / Foto: Eero Heinloo

CONCLUSION

Archaeological research in the inner courtyard of NUKU Theatre supplemented considerably to the information concerning the early settlement history of Tallinn and gave an overview about the changes in buildings on the plot over time. The research concluded that prehistoric layers were absent on the territory of the inner courtyard, the first traces of human activity (incl. the oldest known limestone well on the territory of Tallinn old town) date from straight after the conquest time, i.e. the second quarter of the 13th century. The character of earlier layers suggests that the area was an outskirt area, but the occupation of the area has been purposeful. Specific changes both in the character of the layers and the use of the territory occurred in the mid-14th century, when timber houses were built in the inner courtyard. Soon, in the fourth quarter / end of the 14th century, stone buildings replaced the existing timber houses. The study distinguished three different periods of stone buildings – medieval houses built in the end of the 14th century / beginning of the 15th century, Early Modern stone buildings of the 17th century and 19th century Modern Times stone buildings.

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ÜLEVAADE NUKU TEATRI SISEHOOVIS TOIMUNUD ARHEOLOOGILISTEST UURINGUTEST

Eero Heinloo

Seoses Sihtasutus NUKU teatri sisehoovi alale projekteeritud juurdeehitusega toimusid 2013. a suvel ja sügisel arheoloogilised uuringud Nunne tänaval Tallinnas. U 350 m² suurusest uuritud alast moodustasid üle poole kivihoonete konstruktsioonid, mida otsustati uuringutel mitte lõhkuda. Varauus- ja uusaegsete hoonete põrandatasapindade alla jäävat puutumata kultuurikihti uuriti ühes suures ning kahes väikeses kaevandis, kokku u 140 m² suurusel alal (jn 1).

Uuritav ala jääb Tallinna vanalinna lääneosas olevasse I kvartalis. Kvartalit kaguküljelt piirav Lai tänav oli keskajal vanalinna üheks peatänavaks, samas kui kvartali edelaküljele jääva Nunne tänav kaudu oli linn ühenduses lääne- ja loodepoolsete eeslinnade ja aiakruntide, samuti linnasarases asuvate karja- ja heinamaadega. I kvartali lõunapoolsemas osas, kuhu jääb ka uuritav ala, on vanimad ehitised seostatavad hiljemalt 14. sajandiga, samas kui aktiivsem ehitustegevus leidis aset alates 15. sajandist. 19. saj alguses omandas Tallinna Teater Laia ja Nunne tänavate ääres neli krunti. Kruntidel paiknenud vanad kivihooned ja -aidad lammutati ning nende asemele ehitati kaks uut esinduslikku kivihoonet – nn Aktsiaklubi hoone ning teatrimaja (jn 2). 2008.–2009. a arheoloogilistel uuringutel dokumenteeriti lisaks 19. saj alguse teatrihoone seinajäänustele mitmeid sellele hoonetele eelnenud kivikonstruktsioone, sh hoonejäänused ja kaks paekivirakete kaevu. Tulenevalt nende kaevamiste lähteülesandest ei jõutud keskaegsete ladestusteni; 2013. a välitöödega õnnestus dokumenteerida selle ala kujunemislugu alates inimtegevuse algusest piirkonnas.

Sisehoovi alal esineb looduslikul reljeefil kerge kirde/ida suunaline langus. Uuritava ala idaservas eristus madal looduslik vagumus, mis piirkonna kasutusele võtmise eel täideti 20–25 cm paksuse hallikaskirju liivsaviga. Loodusliku pinnase peal paiknes huumuse sisaldusega vähese orgaanikaga liivsavikiht, mille ülasest saadud üksikud keraamikaleiud lubavad siinset varaseimat asustust seostada 13. saj II veerandiga. Muinasajaga seostatavaid leide uuringutel ei saadud. Piirkonna esmase kasutuselevõttuga seostub ka suure kaevandi põhjanurgas ilmnunud paekivikaev. Asustuse varasemas etapis on sisehoovi alale iseloomulikud väheste lisandiosakestega orgaanikat sisaldavad pinnased. Kihtide alaosa seostub valdavalt 13. saj II poolega, ülaosa aga 14. saj I poolega. Kihtide vahel eristuvad tasapinnana vahekihid, mis seostusid paekivikaevu kinni ajamise ning massiivse, kollaka lubimördiga seotud paekivilaos kivikonstruktsiooni ehitamisega, markeerides maa-ala otstarbe muutumist 14. saj alguses. 14. saj keskpaika on dateeritav maapinda süvendatud ümarpalkidest puithoone rajamine (jn 4). Puithoonel on olnud muldpõrand, mille alla oli paigutatud kahevitsaline põhjata tünn, eesmärgiga vähendada hoonealust liigniiskust. Hoone loodeserva jäi maakividest ukseesine lävi. Puithoone puhul oli tegu eeldatavasti kõrval- või abihoonega, kuna elamiseks vajalikku küttekollet ruumist ei tuvastatud. Puithoone rajamise järgselt sisaldas pinnas rohkelt laaste ja orgaanikat, nahaleidude seas esines märkimisväärsel hulgal töötlemisjääke ja toornahka.

Puithoonestus on 14. saj IV veerandil / lõpus asendatud kivihoonestusega. Suure kaevandi alal avastati tagasihoidliku kivihoone müürid (jn 5). Hoonet on korduvalt ümber ehitatud. Hoone loodeossa jäi osaliselt maapinda süvendatud juurdeehitus, mille rajamise käigus lõhuti osaliselt põhihoone kirdemüür. Juurdeehitusele oli iseloomulik tellisest tasapind, mis oli pealt kaetud tahmajälgedega. Tellised olid laotud ristkülikukujulise paekiviplaadi peale, mille all omakorda asetses pealt paekivitükkidega kaetud renn (jn 6). Kuigi põlemisjälgedega tellisetasapind viitab ennekõike ahjule, ei seleta see renni olemasolu telliste ja paekiviplaadi all, mistõttu jääb konstruktsiooni olemus lahtiseks. Juurdeehitus oli omakorda lõhutatud L-kujulise massiivse paekivikonstruktsiooniga. Korduvalt ümber ehitatud kivihoone on lõplikult hävinud hiljemalt 17. saj alguses. Teise eeldatava keskaegse kivihoonega seostub paekividest šaht, mida kasutati käimlana. Leidudest saadi käimlast terviklikke puitsemeid, aga ka naha- ja tekstiilikatkeid. Šahti sisse jäi sisse vajunud ümarpalkidest ja laudadest põrand, mis tähistab käimla kasutusaja lõppu. Edasi täideti šahti segajäätmatega. Käimla kasutusaja algus jääb 14. saj lõppu / 15. saj algusesse ning šahti sekundaarne kasutus 15. saj keskpaika. Kahe kivihoone vahelisele alale jäid kümnekond püstposti, mis tähistavad omaaegset põimtara. Tara oli kasutusel keskaegsete kivihoonetega üheaegselt, paiknedes kruntide vahelisel piiril. Suure kaevandi keskossa jäi omakorda lõhandikest palkraketega kaev (jn 7), eeldatavasti joogiveekaev, mida võis võis veega varustada Nunne tänaval olev (oletatav) veetorustik. Veekaev oli kasutusel 15. sajandil. 15. sajandil kasutusel olnud veekaev täideti seejärel jäätmatega, mille hulgas oli ka mitmeid puitsemeid (sh nii meistri- kui omanikumärgiga kibu).

Keskaegse hoone kohale rajati 17. saj alguses uus kivihoone. Kivihoonel eristus kaks eriaegset hooneosa (jn 8). Varasemal hooneosal eristati vähemalt kaks ruumi, mida teineteisest eraldas kitsas paekividest laotud vahesein. Vaheseina loodeküljel paiknes kerisahi (jn 10), millel eristus kokku kolm tellistest laotud

ahjupõhja. Ahjusuu jäi loodepoolsesse ruumi, selle ees tuvastati vähemalt neli üksteise peal asetsevat munakividest või tellistest laotud leosa. Kivihoone kaguküljel paiknes hilisem hooneosa, mille rajamine jäi 17. saj keskpaika / II poolde. Varauusaegsest kivihoonest mõnevõrra hilisemad on sisehoovi alal olevad (silinder)võlvidega keldriruumid, mis jäid uuritava ala põhja- ja edelaossa (vt jn 10). Varauusaegse eluhoonega seostus kaevandi kirdeervas avastatud ühe kivirea laiune kivivundament. Vundamenti olemust arvestades oli tegu maapinda süvendatud tagasihoidliku (puit)hoonega, mis oli kasutusel abi- või kõrvalhoonena. Kivivundamendiga võis seostuda ka temast vahetult kagu poole jäänud puidust kast. Puitkonstruktsioon jäi suuresti kaevandialast kirde poole ning mõnevõrra enam õnnestus seda uurida 2009. a arheoloogilise järelevalve ajal. Siis tuvastati, et kasti (mõõtmetega 280 × 290 cm) täitis sõnnikune kiht, mis ennekoike viitaks jäätmekastile. Varauusaegsest kivihoonest vahetult hoovi poole jäi korrapärase kujuga (u 2 × 2 m suurune) vooderdamata auk, mille puhul oli tegu välikäimla maapealsete (puit)konstruktsioonide alla jääva jäätmeauguga. Arvestades august saadud keraamikaleide, jäi jäätmeaugu kasutusaeg 17. saj I poolde.

19. saj alguses krundil asetsenud hooned lammutati ning nende asemele rajati uued kivihooned. Uuritava ala kirdepoolsemasse ossa jäid 1809. aastal valminud ja 1902. aastal lõplikult hävinenud vana teatrimaja massiivsed paekivimüürid (jn 11). Keskse ruumi moodustas poolkeldriruum, mille kohal paiknes teatrisaal. Ruumist leiti ülemistele korrustel asunud külgrõdude kivist tugikonstruktsioonide jäänuseid ja pealt paekiviplaatidega kaetud (sooja)õhulõõr, mille üks liinidest suundus diagonaalselt üle kaevandi praeguse teatrilava kaguosa suunas, teine aga poolkeldriruumi tagaossa, kus paiknes eraldiseisev kütteruum. Lisaks eristati teatrihoonel lavaalune ruum, teatrihoone keskosas jäänud paekivipõrandaga keldriruum ning koridorilaadne käik (vt jn 13). Sisehoovi Nunne tänava poolsele kolmandikule jäid keldri- ja poolkeldriruumid, mis 19. saj alguses kuulusid Nunne tänava ääres paiknenud elamu hoonekompleksi koosseisu. Kivihoone oli rajatud vahetult peale teatri valmimist (või ehitatud samal ajal), samas paiknes ta varasema kivihoone kohal, mistõttu osa elamu koosseisus olevaid (võlvitud) keldriruume olid uusaegsest kivihoonest varasemad. Kokku dokumenteeriti neli eraldiseisvat ruumi (vt jn 13), millest kolm kuulusid lõuna- ning üks põhjapoolse hooneosa juurde. Hiljemalt 19. saj keskpaigaks olid mõlemad hooneosad uste või läbikäikude abil integreeritud vana teatrimaja hoonekompleksiga.

Leidudest moodustavad enamuse importkeraamika katkendid, vähem esineb kohaliku kedrakeraamikat. Importkeraamika puhul on tähelepanuväärne 13. saj II poole leidude suur arvukus (Siegburgi proto- ja varakivikeraamika, Lõuna-Alam-Saksi varakivikeraamika, Langerwehe varakivikeraamika, varane punane glasuurkeraamika), samas esineb märkimisväärselt palju ka keskaja varaseima asustusega seonduvat importkeraamikat (Paffrathi keraamika, Siegburgi protokivikeraamika varasem etapp, varane (ornamenteeritud) punane glasuurkeraamika), mille puhul tuleb dateeringuna ennekoike kõne alla 13. saj II veerand (jn 12). Keraamika puhul võib eraldi ära mainida ka arvukaid baroksete motiividega ahjukahlite katkeid (jn 13), mis on ennekoike seostatavad 17. saj algusega. Muust leiuväinest võib esile tõsta puitleide, mille hulka kuulusid nt kümned väikesed laudnõud, kibu, jalatsiliist (jn 14) ja ämber. Tähelepanuväärsamad puitleidud on kahe auguga prill-laud ning mänguasjana kasutatav vurr (jn 15). Puitleidude kõrval esineb nii tekstiili kui ka nahka. Suurema osa nahaleidudest moodustab jääkmaterjal, mis võib anda tunnistust piirkonnas aset leidnud nahatöötlemisest. Tagasihoidlikult on esindatud metall- ja luuesemed.

NUKU teatri sisehoovis toimunud arheoloogilised uuringud näitasid, et uuritaval alal on üleminek looduslikult pinnaselt inimtegevuse tõttu tekkinud kultuurkihile sujuv ning pinnase maha planeerimist või täitekihina kohale toomist pole toimunud. Vahetult looduslike kihtide pealt saadud leiumaterjal võimaldab varasemat inimtegevust seostada 13. saj II veerandi ehk vallutusjärgse perioodiga. Varase importkeraamika hulk on mõnevõrra tagasihoidlikum, kui näiteks Raekoja platsil aset leidnud arheoloogilistel kaevamistel. Sellest tulenevalt võib NUKU teatri krunti pidada Raekoja platsiga võrreldes äärealaks. Samas näitavad loodusliku vagumuse täitmine ja paekivikaevu rajamine selgelt, et piirkonna kasutuselevõtt on toimunud eesmärgipäraselt. Selge muudatus leidis piirkonnas aset 14. saj alguses, mil sisehoovi alal paiknenud paekivikaev täideti ning rajati paksude seintega hoone, mis jääb suuresti tänapäevase Nunne tänava alla. NUKU teatri sisehoovi vastu jääva krundiga (Nunne tn 7) on seostatud linna vanimat avalikku sauna, mida esmakordselt on kirjalikes allikates mainitud 1310. a. Pole välistatud, et omaaegne saun paiknes osaliselt tänapäevase Nunne tänava all, ulatudes kuni 2013. a uuringuala edelaservani. Keskaegse Nunne tänava asukohale võib omakorda viidata 14. saj lõpu dateeritud põlengujälgedega munakivisillutis, mis jäi uuringuala edelaossa, paiknedes tänapäevasest tänavajoonest tunduvalt NUKU teatri sisehoovi pool. Aktiivsem elutegevus on antud alale iseloomulik alates 14. saj keskpaigast, mil piirkonda rajati puithooned. Puithoonestuse perioodiga seonduvatest kihtidest saadud arvukad nahatöötlemisjäägid ja toornaha katkendid annavad tunnistust nahatöötlemisest. Võimalik, et tegu on olnud kingsepaga, millele viitavad kirjalikud allikad. 14. saj IV veerandil / lõpus asendati puithoonestab kivihoonestusega. Sellega seoses dokumenteeriti esmakordselt ka krundipiir.