CHAPTER TWELVE

RAS HUMSAH

LANDSCAPE UNIT 20

View from the Jordan River of the mountain ranges of the Desert Fringes
etching by D. Roberts (1839)
Site 198: 19 – 18/42/2

Umm er-Rkab (C)

Israel grid: 1941 1827
UTM grid: 7323 5697
Elevation: 110 m a.s.l., 30 m a.s.a.
Name type: nearest place
Site type: courtyard
Area: 0.5 dunam (0.13 acre)
Topography: slope
Rock type: Judah formation
Soil type: Mediterranean brown forest soil and mountainous rendzina; quality: 3
Cultivation: none
Cisterns: none
Nearest water source: Wadi el-Far’ah (no. 104), 3 km distant
Nearest road: Wadi el-Far’ah – Tel el-Hilu (C23), 1.5 km distant
Visibility: 5
May 1, 1992; 41 shards

A courtyard on a western slope of Umm er-Rkab Range, with a fine view of Moshav Beqa’ot and the central Buqei’ah.

The courtyard, 9x11 m in size and built of large stones, has 1 m wide walls. A considerable shard scatter was found around and inside.

It belongs to a group of sites of this type in the Manasseh fringes, which apparently had an agricultural function.

*Pottery:* Byz – 100%.

*Previous surveys:* none.