



The oldest urban building remains in Kuressaare

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INTRODUCTION

In April 2021, Garel Püüa, and Taniel Vares from Saaremaa Museum carried out archaeological excavations on the property located at Kitsas Street 16 in Kuressaare, where a residential building was intended to be built. The foundation area of pit was 460 m², but the construction of the road and car park required to enlarge the size of the excavation to approximately 820 m².

The Kitsas St. 16 property is only 300 metres away from the Kuressaare *Konventhaus* (bird's eye view), built in the 14th century and during the excavations, the foundations of the oldest residential building in the town were found (Fig. 1). During the fieldwork, the total of 100 artefact finds were recovered, which are now stored in the archaeological collections of Saaremaa Museum (SM 10889).



Fig. 1. In April 2021, during the construction of a new residential building on Kitsas Street, remains of the oldest building to date in Kuressaare were found.

Jn 1. Aprillis 2021 satuti Kitsal tänaval uue eluhoone ehitustöödel Kuressaare seni vanimatele hoonejäänustele.
Photo / Foto: Margus Muld

OLDER KNOWN BUILDINGS IN KUESSAARE

The Kuressaare castle (Germ. *Arensburg*) became the centre of the Saare-Lääne diocese during the reign of Prince-Bishop Winrich von Kniprode (1383–1419), who transferred his main residence from Haapsalu to Kuressaare (Püüa *et al.* 2016, 240–241). The settlement of craftsmen and small merchants (Low German *Wicbeld* / German *Weichbild*), which emerged next to the prince-bishop's castle, was first mentioned in written sources in 1427 (Tarvel 2007, 101). So far, no medieval cultural layer and buildings have been found outside the territory of the castle (Püüa 2018).

In the 15th–16th century, Kuressaare was a small settlement with sparse buildings and without town walls. It is estimated that during the late Middle Ages there were at least 20–30 houses and about 100 inhabitants residing in the urban-like settlement. A minimum of 60–80 inhabitants of the prince-bishop's castle were added to the urban population (Põltsam-Jürjo 2015, 48). The layout of buildings was probably quite chaotic in view of the low and uneven natural terrain around the castle. This is the impression also given by the first town plans from the 17th–18th century, and Georg von Schwengeln, a Swedish cartographer and fortification engineer, described the settlement of Kuressaare in his fortress plan from 1641 as irregularly built and with a great fire hazard (KrA 0406: 28: 002: 001). During and after the Russian-Livonian war (1558–1583) the urban settlement grew and developed significantly as the influx of refugees from the mainland brought a number of craftsmen and merchants to Kuressaare. During this time, in 1563, Kuressaare also received the town charter of Riga.

In the first half of the 17th century, the administrative and commercial center of the town moved to the new main square connecting Tallinn and Lossi streets. When the original St Lawrence Church near Castle Park burned down in 1612, a new church was built (Fig. 2: 2, 8) to the town centre that had already changed its place (ca. 1620–1630, Tallinna St. 13). The town hall (1670, Tallinna St. 2; Fig. 2: 6) and a weighing house (1663, Tallinna St. 3; Fig. 2: 7) were built near the church. They can be considered the oldest surviving urban buildings of Kuressaare.

The former pastorate building of the St Lawrence Church, located at Kauba St. 5, which is considered to be the oldest residential building in Kuressaare (Sild 2019; Fig. 2: 9), and the Port Storehouse located at Veski St. 9 (Basihhina & Hansar 1999, 43; Välja 2014, 79; Fig 2: 5) have generally also been considered to have been built in the 17th century. However, these buildings cannot be found in the first detailed city plan of Kuressaare from 1747 (RGVIA 349.3.1512).

It is possible that the construction time of the building at Tolli St. 4 (Fig. 2: 4) also dates back to the 17th century. The earlier construction stage of the current Tolli St. 3 building opposite it (Fig. 2: 3) probably dates back as far as to the 16th century. The house may have been destroyed during the great fire in 1612, which also involved the adjoining medieval church (Sepp 1990, 11; Fig. 2: 2).

However, according to several sources, the oldest building in Kuressaare is considered to be the so-called Pidula manor house at Pikk St. 44 (Miller 1959, 263; Välja 2014, 128). The building was largely demolished in 2009, and only its walls are still standing today. The main argument for dating the building was a carved stone placed in the end gable of the house with the years 1543, 1698, and 1837. At the same time, the magnificent stone building was located 1250 metres from the *Konventhaus* and was also located on the outskirts of the medieval wooden settlement (Fig. 2: 10). Examination of the ruins revealed no signs of a medieval building. Therefore, the dated carved stone (1543) must be a reused architectural element

coming from elsewhere, and thus the oldest surviving building in Kuressaare dates back to the 17th or 18th century (Altoa *et al.* 2019, 142).



Fig. 2. Probable location of the medieval settlement of Kuressaare and the oldest houses in the town. 1 – Kitsas St. 16, 2 – supposed medieval St Lawrence Church, 3 – building at Tolli St. 3, 4 – building at Tolli St. 4, 5 – port storehouse at Veski St. 9, 6 – town hall, 7 – weighing house, 8 – early modern St Lawrence Church, 9 – parsonage, 10 – building at Pikk St. 44.

Jn 2. Kuressaare keskaegse asula arvatav asukoht ja linna vanimad majad. 1 – Kitsas tn 16, 2 – arvatav keskaegne Laurentiuse kirik, 3 – Tolli 3 hoone, 4 – Tolli 4 hoone, 5 – Sadamaait (Veski 9), 6 – raekoda, 7 – vaekoda, 8 – vara-uusaegne Laurentiuse kirik, 9 – pastoraat, 10 – Pikk 44 hoone.

Drawing / Joonis: Garel Püüa

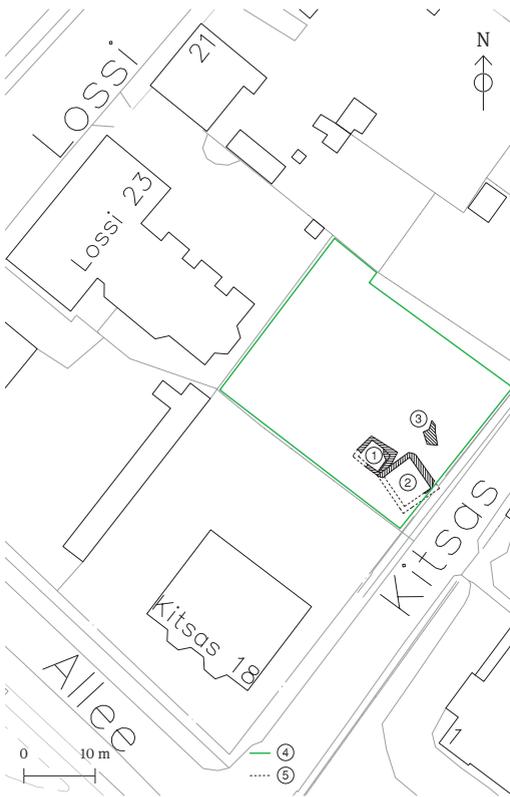


Fig. 3. Excavation plan. 1 – basement, 2 – front building, 3 – courtyard paving, 4 – excavation boundary, 5 – probable extension of walls.

Jn 3. Kaevandi plaan.

1 – kelder, 2 – eeshoone, 3 – hoovisillutis, 4 – kaevandi piir, 5 – müüride arvatav jätk.

Drawing / Joonis: Garel Püüa

RESEARCH ON THE PROPERTY AT KITSAS ST. 16

The property at Kitsas St. 16 (Fig. 3) is located on the border of the esplanade surrounding the entrenchments in the 17th–18th century, i.e., of the shooting range, which essentially remained undeveloped (Fig. 2: 1). According to the town plans known to us (since 1681, KrA 0406: 28: 002: 015), the current Kitsas St. 16 property had no buildings on it and was just the backyard of the historically adjacent building at Lossi St. 23, northwest from the discussed area. During the fieldwork, it became clear that the empty Kitsas St. 16 property was used in the 20th century mainly as a place for burying rubbish. The cultural layer had been damaged during the previous excavations in an area of about 340 m² (Püüa 2022). The height of the existing ground on the property was in the range of 3.9–4.4 m a.s.l., and the natural clay layer started at the height of 3.2–3.3 m a.s.l.

During archaeological excavations, the entire cultural layer in the excavation was peeled off in 15–20 cm thick layers, which were inspected both visually and with metal detectors. The most interesting part of the approximately one-metre thick cultural layer was a well-compacted soil layer of about 20–25 cm thick deposited on top of the natural clay layer, from which pottery and coins dat-

ing from the end of the 16th century and the 17th century were obtained.¹ The first medieval stray find of the town of Kuressaare was found in the same layer – a penny of Johannes VI Bey (1528–43), Prince-Bishop of Tartu.²

Half-basement type of building

Upon removal of the cultural layer, the foundation of the half-basement type of building dug to a depth of about 1 m (height 3.3 m above sea level) came out of the southern corner of the property (Fig. 3: 1; 4). During the construction of the basement the ground may have been 20–30 cm higher. The foundation walls of the basement were laid slightly sloping against the wall of the foundation pit, the thickness of the walls was measured to be 50–75 cm. It was a foundation laid of natural stone and limestone, where clay excavated from the same place was probably used as a binder. The internal dimensions of the basement were 3 × 3.5 m (floor area approx. 9.2 m²).

¹ SM 10889: 29–50, 87–100. All coins found during the excavations were identified by Mauri Kiudsoo (TLÜ AT), ceramics determined by Erki Russow (TLÜ AT).

² SM 10889: 34.

The upper part of the room was filled with 60–70 cm of demolition debris with visible signs of burning. The rubble layer contained pieces of roof tiles (S-stones), burnt red clay, pieces³ of limestone floor paving, bricks, charred wood, and some 17th-century pottery⁴ fragments. A larger one-metre-wide wall fragment bound with lime mortar (wall thickness 55 cm) which may have originated from the wall of the above-ground part of the basement, was also found at the same site. Based on the found construction details, it can be assumed that the property was not a wooden building with a thatched roof common in early modern period Kuressaare.

After removing the rubbish layer, the supposedly secondary floor of the basement, which filled more or less the entire space, was unearthed. It was laid directly on the previous ca. 30 cm thick fill. The filling layer contained burnt clay, pieces of charcoal and roof tiles as well as some sherds of pottery⁵ dating from the end of the 16th century or the beginning of the 17th century. The floor was stacked with regular square limestone slabs with a broken bottom. The slabs had strong burn marks, occasionally burned to pieces and sunk under the weight of the fallen debris.

When the floor and the base layer of the limestone slabs were removed, the original floor paving of the half-basement was revealed (Fig. 5). The paving consisted of cobblestones and single limestones embedded in a sand pad. The stones used in the floor were up to 30 cm in diameter. The fact that the paving of the half-basement and the lower part of the basement walls were not damaged was striking. Traces of burning began only at the height of the secondary limestone slab floor. In short, the walls of the basement were preserved to the height of one metre, measured from the original floor level, the second floor level built after the fire was about 30–40 cm higher than the initial floor. The fieldwork did not establish the floor of the front building, but the clay layer of the subfloor was one metre higher than the original paving of the basement.



Fig. 4. View of the found basement, the front building on Kitsas Street, and the preserved courtyard paving (to the left of the backhoe).

Jn 4. Vaade leitud keldrile, Kitsa tänava poolsele eeshoonele ja säilinud hoovisillutisele (kopast vasakul).
Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa



Fig. 5. Fragments of the limestone slab floor of the basement with later fire damage (higher area on the photo) and the original paving.

Jn 5. Keldri hilisema tulekahjustustega paeplaatidest põranda fragmendid (fotol kõrgemal) ja algne sillutis.
Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa

³ SM 10899: 74–76. The dimensions of the plates are 34 × 24.5 × 9.5 cm, 39.5 × 27 × 15 cm, 32 × 21 × 10 cm.

⁴ SM 10889: 73–86.

⁵ SM 10889: 69–72.

A 20 cm wide wall step protruded in the wall on the street side of the basement, at approximately 40 cm higher than the paving. The step could support a wooden staircase that connected the basement with an adjoining dwelling. The wall step supported an arched masonry cleaned out of the eastern corner of the room, which protruded up to 85 cm from the corner of the basement (Fig. 6). The convex wall was structurally connected to the basement wall and was probably built during the first construction phase. It is possible that the wall was the base of a stove or fireplace located higher.

Upon the removal of the cobblestone pavement, it turned out that a pit approximately 30 cm deep (area approx. 5 m²) had been dug in the bottom of the basement. It was filled with limestone pebbles and sand. Apparently, it was a drainage layer installed under the paving, where the water that had entered the basement seeped. Two *artigs* of the Free Town of Riga (1561–1581) and a series of pottery sherds dating from the same period were found in the filling layer under the paving.⁶ According to numismatist Mauri Kiudsoo, the construction period of the basement could be the 1580s, i.e., the final phase of the Livonian War (1558–1583). Kuressaare was back then owned by the Danes, who began to build entrenchments around the medieval fortress.⁷ These are the remains of the oldest building found in the town of Kuressaare, which is almost a hundred years older than the town hall and the weighing house.



Fig. 6. Foundations of the front building on the side of the basement (left) and Kitsas Street.

Jn 6. Keldri (vasakul) ja Kitsa tn poolse eeshoone vundamendid.

Photo / Foto: Gunnar Siiner

⁶ SM 10889: 54–68.

⁷ The first data on the construction of the 'rondelle' (one of the first bastions of the Kuressaare Castle) date back to 1589 (Püüa *et al.* 2016, 252).

Front building and courtyard paving

Peeling the soil on the side of the basement towards Kitsas Street unearthed the foundations of a presumable front building. Between the foundations, there was probably a 35–40 cm thick filling layer consisting mainly of clay and limestone pebbles, forming a layer under the floor of the building. The only items found in the filling layer were two fragments of pot-like stove tiles dating back to the 17th century.⁸

The foundation of the front building, laid of earth and limestone, had been preserved to a maximum height of 95 cm, and its southeast and southwest walls had practically been destroyed (Fig. 6). The foundation wall of the building was laid with a slight slope directly against the wall of the foundation pit, the binder being clay mortar. The thickness of the walls was measured to be 70–90 cm. The internal dimensions of the building were about 4.5 × 5.2 m (an area of about 23 m²).

The front building formed a strange angle to the basement as if the buildings dated back to different eras (Fig. 3: 2; 6). When cleaning the connection point of the two building structures, it turned out that the front building was built on top of the corner of the earlier basement (Fig. 7). The foundation of the front building did not extend beyond the southern corner of the basement.

Considering the different positions of the front building and the extension of its foundation beyond the corner of the basement, a later construction stage may have occurred at a time when the basement had already lost its function and disappeared from the landscape. The remains of the original (wooden?) residential house, built together with the basement, may have disappeared during the construction of the new building and subsequent excavations. Although the research did not reveal any specific traces of the original residential building located on the Kitsas St. 16 property, the previous stove tile finds obtained next to the southern corner of the basement can be indirectly related to the building. The stove tiles⁹ were made at the end of the 16th century, whereas according to the other artefacts, it can be assumed that the new front building was erected in the second quarter of the 17th century. It is possible that the basement was ‘rediscovered’ and re-commissioned, as indicated by its secondary limestone slab floor. Fragments of a similar floor slab were used to lay the foundation of the front building.

A fragment of the courtyard paving was found next to the building, which is probably related to the completion of the front building. The yard paving consisting of up to 40–50 cm large natural stones and limestone laid directly on the soil was located at 3.6–3.7 m a.s.l. (Fig. 3: 3). An *artig* minted in 1664 during the reign of Charles XI was found among the paving stones.¹⁰



Fig. 7. The foundation of the front building was built on top of the corner of the basement.

Jn 7. Eeshoone vundament oli keldri nurgale peale ehitatud.

Photo / Foto: Garel Püüa

⁸ SM 10889: 51–52.

⁹ SM 10889: 40–46.

¹⁰ SM 10889: 53.

It is important to note that there were no traces of demolition debris or fire in the vicinity of the basement of the building. The secondary floor of the basement and the interior above it were damaged in the fire. On the other hand, the surviving walls of the front building and the clay floor base were not damaged by the fire. The burnt layer of debris had survived only on the secondary floor of the basement. Rather, the front building seems to have been a timber-framed (Germ. *Fachwerk*) type of building. It is likely that the wall fragments found in the basement, the burnt remains of beams, the floor slabs, and the roof tiles came from the demolition of the ground floor of the basement. However, other explanations cannot be ruled out.

THE KURESSAARE HALF-BASEMENT TYPE OF HOUSE IN THE CONTEXT OF EARLY BUILDINGS IN WEST ESTONIAN TOWNS

What type of buildings are half-basements associated with? As a rule, half-basements are smaller stone buildings with one to two floors, partly below ground level, consisting of two parts: a (half-timbered) front building and a stone basement in the back. The latter is usually partially above-ground and thus can be called half-basement. In the written sources of the German-speaking areas, this type of building occurs under various names, the most common being *Steinwerk*, *Kemenate*, *Steinkammer*, etc. Researchers do not agree on whether these terms relate to the same type of building or to its different forms. Therefore, considering the method of use, a generalized name has also been proposed – the so-called rear building made of stone (Pärn 2010, 39). The latter arises from the position of the stone building, which generally remained either in the middle of the property or at the rear of it and was mostly built against the rear end wall of a wooden front building with a lattice structure. The fact that the house itself was an extension is indicated by the entrance on the street-side end wall of the half-basement, which connected the basement to the front building (Fig. 8).

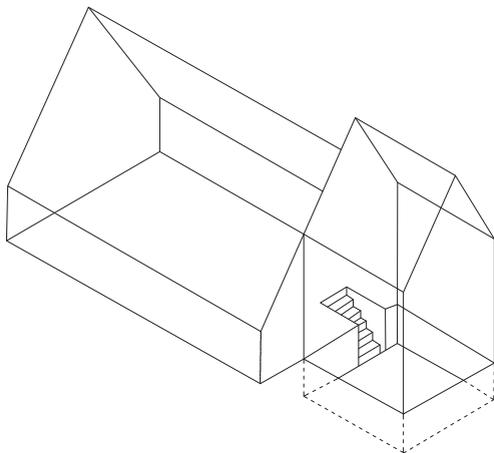


Fig. 8. Reconstruction of a barn-residential building.

Jn 8. Ait-elamu rekonstruktsioon.

Source / Allikas: Pärn 2014, fig./jn 4

In general, a half-basement is characterized by shallow depth and, as a result, a higher floor level of the ground floor. In addition to this type of building, there are also half-basements that were built into the back of a lattice building (Pärn 2010, 39–40). In the course of subsequent developments, a stone house was erected in place of the wooden front house. A similar process, in which the wooden house in front of the small stone house inside the property was replaced by a stone house, has been associated with 15th-century Tallinn (Pärn 2014, 41). In all, on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, excavations have found half-basements besides Haapsalu and Lihula, also in Tallinn, Tartu, Narva, and most numerous in Riga, usually dated to the 13th–14th centuries.

The half-basement houses studied in western Estonia are characterized by three important construction features: the location inside the property on the back of the

building body; a relatively small draught (about 1 metre), and a basement entrance at the end of the street, which is usually a long and narrow neck of stairs. Three half-basements (one of them assumed) have been found in Haapsalu, with internal dimensions of 5×3.5 and 5.5×3.3 metres (approx. 18 m^2) and a depth of up to one metre (Pärn 2014, 31–32). Two half-basements with internal dimensions of 7×5.2 and 6.5×5.6 metres, respectively (approximately 36 m^2) and a depth of approximately one metre, have been studied in Lihula (Pärn 2014, 34). Compared to them, the half-basement found in Kuressaare is significantly smaller. The internal dimensions of the basement are $3 \times 3.5 \text{ m}$ (approx. 9.2 m^2), the depth of about 1–1.2 m does not correspond to the previous findings within the territory of the Prince-Bishopric of Saare-Lääne (Pärn & Russow 2014).

According to Anton Pärn (SALM), archaeologist who has studied such buildings mainly in Haapsalu and Lihula¹¹, the base of the building found on Kitsas Street in Kuressaare reminds at first sight the typical layout of the building with a half-basement that has been known since the Middle Ages. Behind the front building by this street was a deepened half-basement, which is connected to the staircase (or the stairwell). A similar combination is traceable up to the 16th century. The consistent use of the site, even if it dates back to the 16th century, refers to a property with well-established boundaries.

In the case of the Haapsalu houses, one above-ground floor was built above the basement. The building on Kitsas Street in Kuressaare could be the result of a later development, where there was not necessarily a dwelling above the basement. At the same time, the demolition debris that filled the basement suggests that it actually did have a ground floor. The basement's connection to the front building is also not yet clear.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The destruction of the half-basement and the related former building on the border of the Kuressaare Castle Esplanade could be attributed in time to the events of the Kalmar War in Saaremaa that broke out between Denmark and Sweden in 1611. From 1611 to 1612 Swedish troops looted Saaremaa for four months and besieged the Kuressaare Castle. It is known that in 1613 the Swedes looted and burned down all the buildings that were still standing in the suburbs of Kuressaare (Arens 1997).

In the 17th century, a new building was built along Kitsas Street, and an earlier basement was probably taken into use, which got a new limestone floor. Based on the coins found on the paving of the yard and around the building, it can be assumed that the property was in active use in the 1660s and 1670s. No other buildings on the property have been marked on the rather detailed 1747 town plan of Kuressaare (RGVIA 349.3.1512). It is possible that the residential building was demolished during the modernization and extension of the castle, which began in 1684, in connection with the construction of new front fortifications.

Kitsas Street remained until the end of the 19th century the easternmost street of Kuressaare, from there the fields of Kaarma--Suuremõisa manor began. More precisely, the street was in fact an unpaved road on the border of the town and field that got a more distinct urban outline during the 18th–19th centuries. Thus it is difficult to juxtapose the orientation of the half-basement and front building with the present day street line as building activity became more intense only in the 20th century. Until now, Kitsas Street has been regarded as archaeologically inessential in Kuressaare, but the recent discoveries indicate the

¹¹ Written communication with Anton Pärn, 22.04.–25.04.2021.

necessity to reevaluate our opinion. The early modern period relatively well-off household with a paved courtyard unearthed right next to the arable land give enough reason for that. In addition to that, the town plan of 1681 states that nearby the discussed property was the so-called Governor's Garden with a small wooden house, that was also demolished during the building of the new outworks around the castle.

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VANIM HOONELEID KURESSAARE LINNAS

Garel Püüa

Aprillis 2021 viisid SA Saaremaa Muuseumi töötajad Garel Püüa ja Taniel Vares läbi arheoloogilised uuringud Kuressaares Kitsas tn 16 asuval kinnistul, kuhu hakati rajama eluhoonet. Kaevandi pindalaks kujunes ligikaudu 820 m² (jn 1), välitöödel koguti 100 esemeleidu.

Kuressaare piiskopilinnus kujunes Saare–Lääne piiskopkonna keskuseks piiskop Winrich von Kniprode (1383–1419) ajal. Linnuse juurde tekkinud käsitöölaliste ning väikekaupmeeste asulat mainitakse kirjalikes allikates esmakordselt 1427. Seni ei ole Kuressaares väljaspool piiskopilinnuse territooriumi keskaegsele kultuurkihile ja hoonestusele satunud.

17. saj esimesel poolel liikus administratiivne ja kaubanduslik linnakeskus linnuse eest Tallinna ning Lossi tänavat ühendava uue peaväljaku äärde. Kui 1612. aastal põles maha Lossipargi lähedal asunud algne Laurentiuse kirik, rajati uus kirikuhoone (jn 2: 2, 8) u 1620.–1630. aastatel juba nihkunud linnakeskusesse. Lähedal valmisid raekoda (1670, jn 2: 6) ja vaekoda (1663, jn 2: 7). Neid võibki pidada Kuressaare linna vanimateks säilinud hooneteks.

Kitsas tn 16 asuv kinnistu jääb Kuressaare konvendihoonest ligikaudu 300 m kirde poole. Välitöödel kogutud varasemad esemeleidu pärinevad küll 16.–17. sajandist, kuid õnnestus leida Kuressaare linna esime keskaegne juhuleid – Tartu piiskopi Johannes VI Bey (1528–1543) penn.

Kinnistu lõunanurgast tuli välja looduslikku savikihti kaevatud poolkeldri vundament (jn 3: 1). Tegemist oli maa- ja paekividest laotud müüriaga, kus sideainena kasutati savi. Keldri alusmüürid olid laotud kerge kaldega otse vastu vundamendisüvendini seinaga ning nende paksuseks mõõdeti kuni 75 cm. Vundament oli süvendatud umbes meetri jagu looduslikku savipinda, mis algas kõrgusel 3,3 m ümp (jn 4). Välitööde käigus tehti kindlaks keldri kaks erinevat kasutusperioodi.

Rusu eemaldamisel leiti korrapärastest paeplaadidest laotud põrand, mis seostus keldri hilisema kasutusetaipiga. Plaadid olid tugevate põlemisjälgedega ning põranda kõrguselt algasid nähtavad tulekahjustused ka keldri seintel. Kivipõrand toetus varasemale umbes 30 cm paksusele täitekihile, mis sisaldas üksikuid 16. saj lõppu või 17. saj algusesse dateeritavaid keraamikakatkeid. Täitekihi all satuti poolkeldri algsele põrandasillutisele (jn 5).

Munakivisillutise eemaldamisel ilmnas, et keldri põhja on kaevatud ligikaudu 30 cm sügavune, pae-

klibu ja liivaga täidetud süvend (pindala u 5 m²). Ilmselt oli tegemist sillutise alla paigaldatud dreniiva kihiga, kuhu valgus keldrisse tunginud vesi. Sillutise alusest täitekihist leiti kaks Riia vabalinna (1561–1581) killingit ja hulk samasse perioodi dateeritavaid keraamikakatkeid. Numismaatik Mauri Kiudsoo arvates võiks keldri ehitusajaks olla 1580. aastad ehk Liivi sõja (1558–1583) lõpuperiood. Kuressaare oli toona taanlaste valduses, kes hakkasid keskaegse linnuse ümber rajama muldkindlustusi. Poolkelder on vanim Kuressaare linnast seni leitud hoonejäänus.

Keldri Kitsa tänava poolsel küljel satuti eeshoone vundamendile (jn 3: 2). Eeshoone maa- ja paekivist vundament oli säilinud maksimaalselt 95 cm kõrgusena ning selle kagu- ja edelapoolsed müürid olid praktiliselt hävinud. Hoone alusmüür oli laotud otse vastu vundamendikraavi seinaga, sideaineks savimört. Müüride paksuseks mõõdeti 70–90 cm. Hoone sisemised mõõtmed olid u 4,5 × 5,2 m (pindala u 23 m²).

Kuna eeshoone moodustas keldri suhtes kummalise nurga, jäi mulje, et tegemist on eriaegsete ehitistega (jn 6). Kahe ehituskonstruksiooni liitekohaga puhastamisel selgus, et eeshoone on varasema keldri nurgale peale ehitatud (jn 7). Eeshoone võidi rajada ajal, mil kelder oli juba maastikult kadunud. Võimalik, et kelder nn taasavastati ja võeti uuesti kasutusele, millele viitab tema sekundaarne paeplaadidest põrand. Alge (puidust?) eluhoone jäänused hävisid tõenäoliselt uue hoone ehitamisel või veelgi hilisematel kaevetöödel. Eeshoone kõrvalt leiti hoovisillutise fragment (jn 3: 3), mis seostub ilmselt uue eluhoone valmimisega. Suurtest maa- ja paekividest (läbimõõt kuni 40–50 cm) otse mullapinnasele laotud hoovisillutise vahelt leiti Karl XI 1664. a killing.

Kindluse esplanaadi piirile jäänud keldri ja sellega seotud varasema hoone hävingut võiks ajaliselt seostada 1611. aastal Taani ja Rootsi vahel puhkenud Kalmari sõja sündmustega Saaremaal. Hiljem ehitati Kitsa tänava äärde uus hoone, ilmselt võeti kasutusele varasem kelder. Leidude põhjal käis kinnistul aktiivne elutegevus veel 1660.–1670. aastatel. Tähelepanu väärib asjaolu, et keldri ega eeshoone ümbruses ei leidunud mingeid jälgi hoonete lammutusrusust või neid tabanud tulekahjust. Seetõttu on keeruline kinnitada, et mõlema näol oli tegemist kivihoonega. Küllaltki detailsel 1747. a Kuressaare linnaplaanil hooneid enam kujutatud pole. Kuna Kitsas tn 16 kinnistu jäi 17.–18. sajandil muldkindlustusi ümbrisenud hoones-tamata laskevälja piirile, pole välistatud, et hooned

lamutati 1684. alanud kindluse moderniseerimis- ja laiendamistöde käigus. Ajaloolistele plaanide põhjal jäi krunt hiljem hoonestamata ning seda on kuni tänaseni kujutatud pigem rohealana.

Kuressaarest Kitsalt tänavalt leitud hoonepõhi meenutab oma olemuselt juba keskajast tuntud keld-

riga hoone põhiplaani, mis on levinud 16. sajandini. Täna äärses eeshoone taha jäi maasse süvendatud poolkelder ning mõlemad ruumid olid omavahel ühendatud (jn 8). Haapsalu näidetel võis kivist keldri kohale jääda üks maapealne korrus.