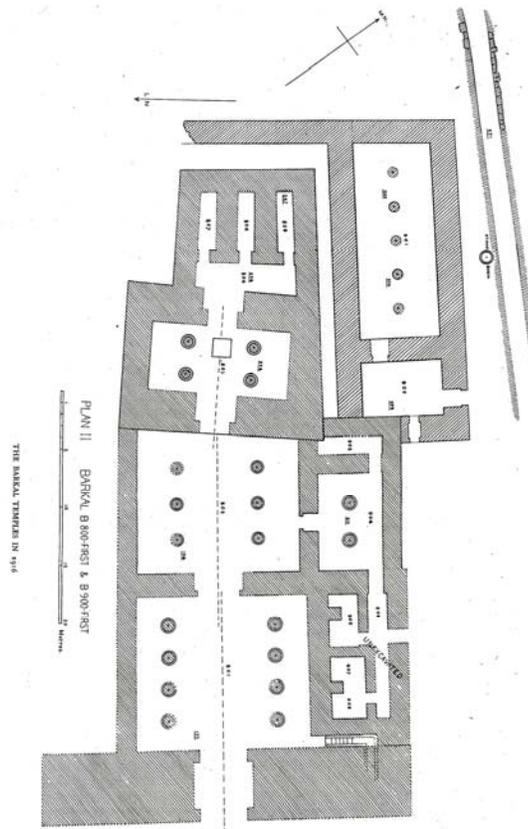
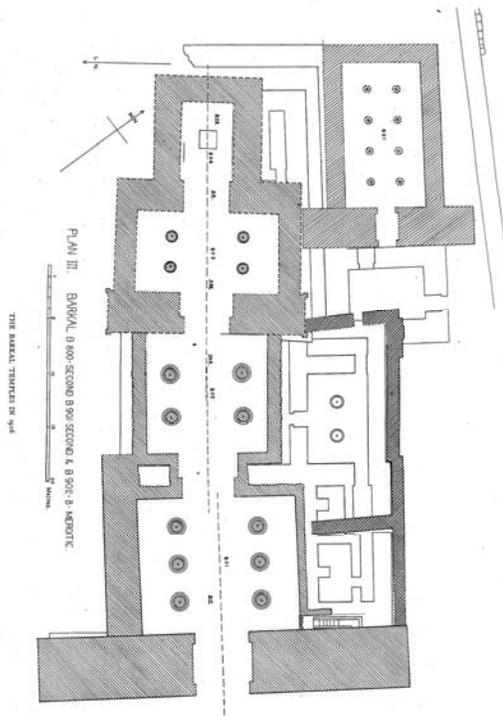


## B 900

B 900 is a small temple attached to the northern corner of B 800. It had two phases: the first (B 900-I) dating to the later reign of Piankhy (ca. 747-716 BC) (**fig. 1**) and the second (B 900-II), dating to the Meroitic period, about seven centuries later (**fig. 2**). The latter building, a single-room temple with eight columns (2 x 4) fronted by a pylon, is identical in form and comparable in size to the so-called "lion temples" of Naqa and Musawwarat es-Sufra. It may thus have housed the Meroitic lion god Apedemak, who, it seems, was closely associated with Amun, and in Meroitic times was probably conceived as a resident of Jebel Barkal (**fig. 3**). (Several seasons ago, the Italian Mission recovered a large stone uraeus with lion's head, suggesting a male leonine association of the Jebel Barkal pinnacle). Unfortunately, this "lion temple" preserved no carved decoration of its own, but incorporated a large number of blocks reused from B 900-I, over whose foundations it rose.



**fig. 1:** Plan of B 800 in the latter 8th century BC with B 900-I on upper right (east) side. From G. A. Reisner, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* VI (1920), pl. XXXI.



**fig. 2:** Plan of B 800 later the Napatan period with B 900-II on upper right (east) side. From G. A. Reisner, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* VI (1920), pl. XXXIV.



**fig. 3:** A vignette from one of the columns in the Lion Temple at Musawwarat es-Sufra, which possibly represents Apedemak in a shrine simulating Jebel Barkal together with the pinnacle. From F. Hintze, *Musawwarat Es Sufra, Band I, 2 Der Löwentempel, Tafelband*. Berlin 1971. Taf. 85.

B 900-I was quite different from its later counterpart; it seems to have had an inner room bisected by only one row of five columns. Over forty carved blocks were recovered from it. Some were still embedded in the walls of B 900-II; others were found scattered widely over the surrounding ground. These blocks, many of which were taken into storage in the Jebel Barkal Museum, bear the earliest Kushite reliefs known. The recovery of multiple cartouches made it clear that the builder of this temple was Piankhy and that it had been constructed in the latter half of his reign and was contemporary with B 500, court B 501. It had been carved on the exterior with rows of large, slightly over lifesize figures of deities (Amun, Osiris, Isis and Horus [?]) and multiple images of the king, now all very fragmentary (**fig. 4**).



**fig. 4:** *Blocks from B 900-I, dating from the later reign of Piankhy, showing part of a procession of deities including Osiris and Isis.*

(See T. Kendall, "Reused Relief Blocks of Piankhy from B 900: Toward a Decipherment of the Osiris Cult at Jebel Barkal," in J. R. Anderson and D. A. Welsby, eds. *The Fourth Cataract and Beyond: Proceedings of the 12th International Conference for Nubian Studies*. Leuven: 2014. pp. 663-686.)