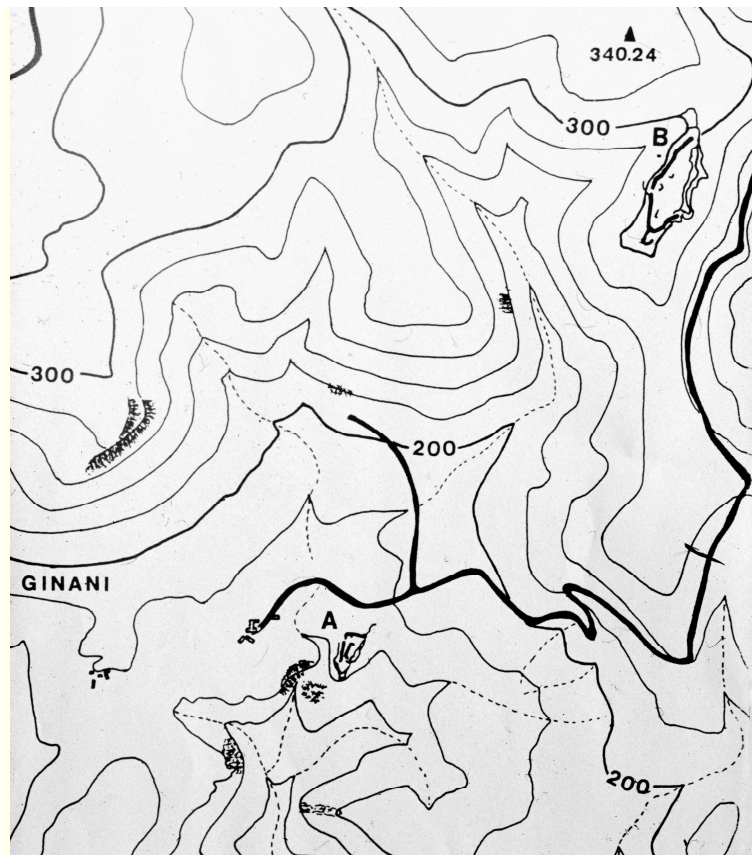


Plateau of Ginani

Important antiquities of early historical times are located on the plateau of Ginani (officially an archaeological site since 2004), on the southern side of ancient Mt. Akamas (modern day Maliza), in a well-preserved natural landscape.

The archaeological significance of the area of Ginani was first highlighted by the late Prof. Demetrios I. Pallas. Since 1997, intensive surveys of the Unit of Archaeology of the University of Ioannina in this area, comprising clearing of visible architectural remains, drawing, photographing and collection of selected surface pottery and other finds, have offered a full archaeological documentation for an extensive settlement site in the area. This settlement system consists of two fortified citadels (Citadel A at the site of Kastro and Citadel B at the site of Aspri Rachi) and other residential areas, retaining or peribolos walls and a segment of a road (chiefly on the south slope of the hill of Venista and elsewhere). The systematic study of all data has offered a final dating of this large settlement in the Early Iron Age, i.e. from the end of the Mycenaean to the Geometric period (end of 12th/beginning of 11th century B.C.- end of 8th century B.C.).

Indeed, a complete residential system is attested at Ginani, which includes a number of monuments and other features of post-Mycenaean date; they constitute a unity which is almost unparalleled in Early Iron Age Greece, mainly due to its excellent state of preservation. Furthermore, it is extremely important for the study of the early history and culture of Salamis, especially with reference to the events which followed the fall of palatial power and the abandonment of the Mycenaean capital at Kanakia on the southwest coast (seat of the Aiacid dynasty and Ajax according to Greek tradition).



Topographical plan of Ginani, with Citadels A and B of the Early Iron Age. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.



Ginani, Citadel A. View of the citadel, from the east. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.



Ginani, Citadel A. The north part of the defensive peribolos, from the north. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.



Ginani, Citadel B. The west part of the defensive peribolos, from the northwest. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.



Ginani, Citadel A. One-handled cup, of Late Geometric date, from a room inside the citadel, now on display in the Archaeological Museum of Salamis. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.