

Temples in Rubble

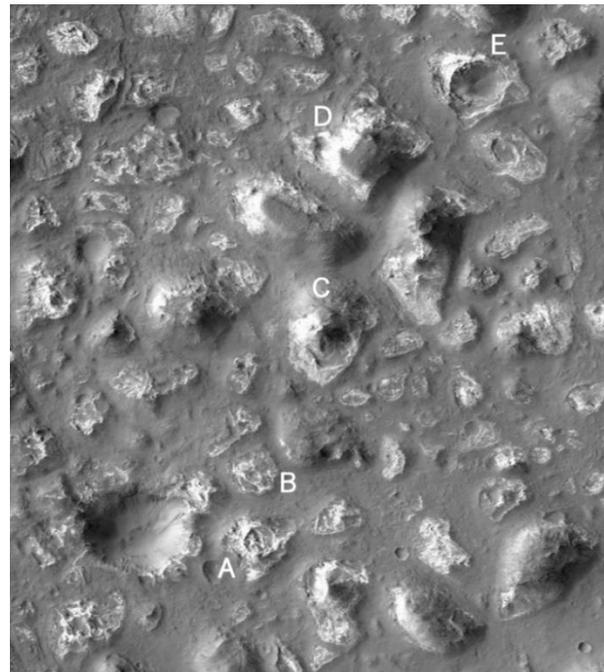
by George Haas

July 2011 (Revised February 2020)

**The Land of the Dead**

Terra Cimmeria region of Mars covers a large section of the southern hemisphere of the planet. It is located in the Eridania quadrangle below Elysium Planitia. Its Coordinates lie between 12° North and 73° South and 179° East to 98° West.<sup>1</sup> The word Terra means land, while the word Cimmerium refers to a seafaring people of Greek Mythology. It is believed they lived within a perpetual mist and darkness near the land of the dead.<sup>2</sup> According to Herodotus, the Cimmerians inhabited the region north of the Caucasus and the Black Sea,<sup>3</sup> unfortunately not much is known of their origins or accomplishments.

Beginning in the spring of 2000 NASA began taking numerous images of this area and in 2012 the MRO HiRISE CTX camera snapped an expansive image of the area that exposed the remains of a massive temple complex (Figure 1). The MRO HiRISE CTX image (D04\_028888\_1426\_XN\_37S195W), which has a resolution of 5.1 meters per pixel,<sup>4</sup> captured a series of highly symmetrical structures with exposed foundations and connective infrastructure.



**Figure 1**

The Temple Complex (context image)

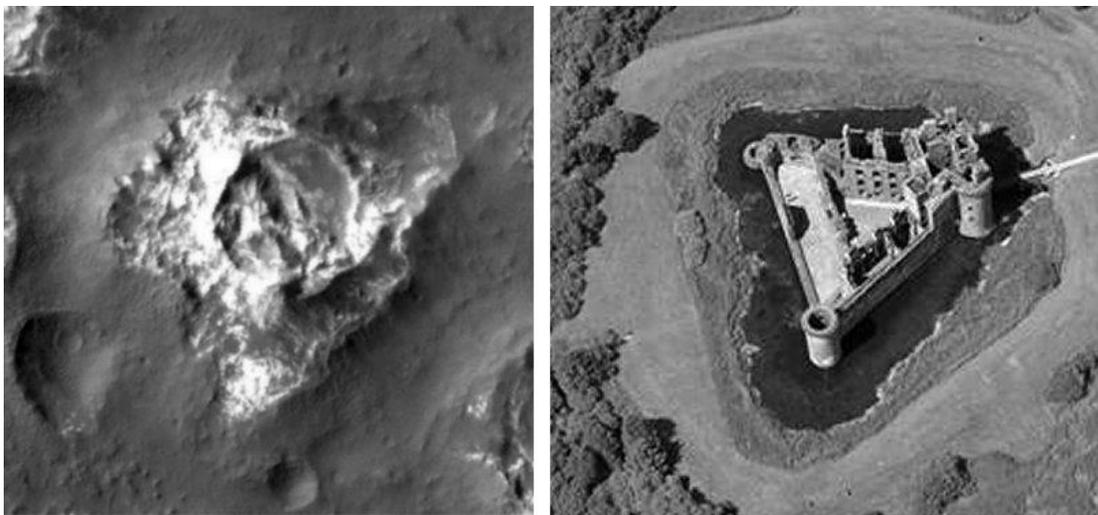
MOC CTX

D04\_028888\_1426\_XN\_37S195W (2012)

Notated A-E by the author

## Temples A-E

Starting with the highly degraded formation resting slightly to the eastern side of the large crater, in the lower left hand corner of the context image, I direct your attention to the formation labeled A in figure 1. Notice the formation's thick, triangular A-shape with a large circular impression within its center. Because of its overall A-shape, I have called this formation Temple A (Figure 2). The triangular, A-shape of the formation resembles the Caerlaverock Castle when viewed from above. The triangular, A-shaped castle was built within the southern coast of Scotland in the 13th century<sup>5</sup> (Figure 2).

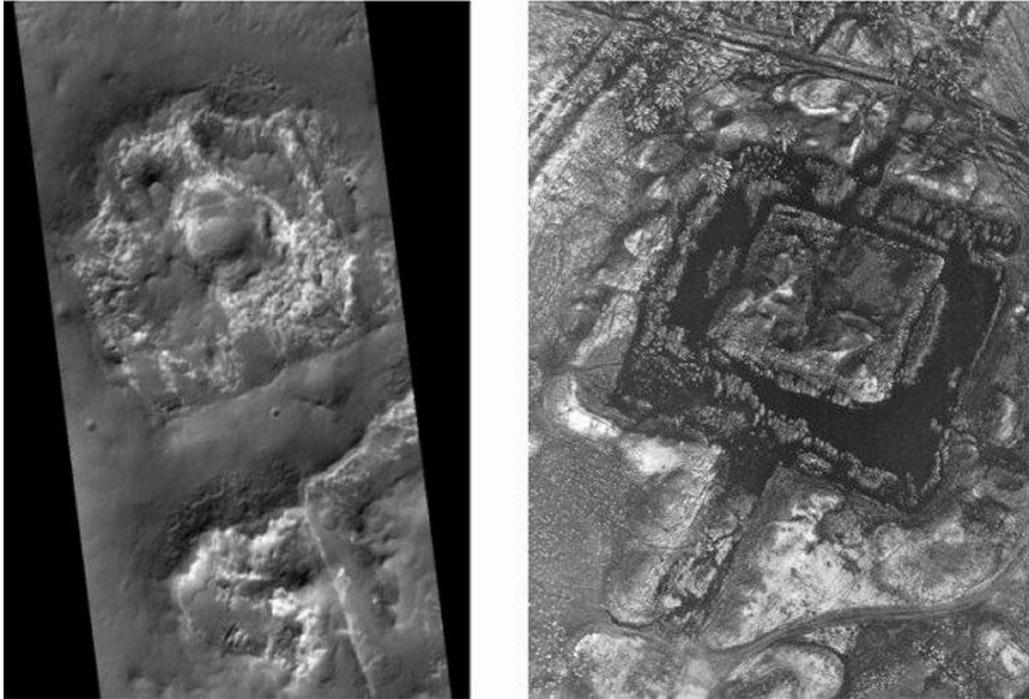


**Figure 2**  
Temple A

Left: Detail MRO CTX D04\_028598\_1426\_XI\_37S195W (2012)

Right: Caerlaverock Castle

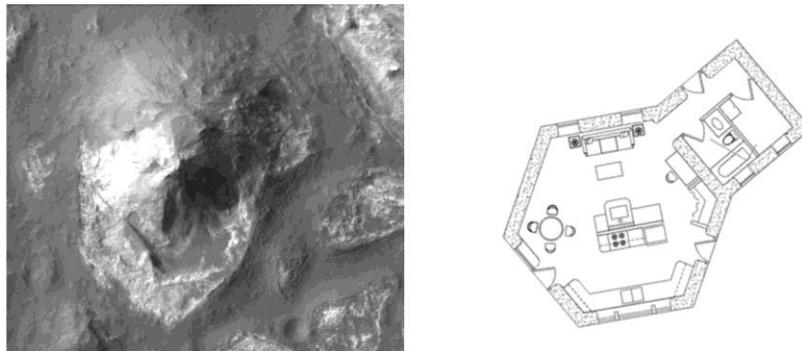
The second formation of interest in the area, labeled B in figure 1, is located just above the Temple A in a slightly north eastern direction (Figure 3). The best image acquired of this formation was taken in 2000 (FHA-01046) with a resolution of 2.81 meters per pixel.<sup>6</sup> Notice the symmetry of the structure and its segmented box-like infrastructure. Due to the fact that this was the first formation in this area to come to my attention,<sup>7</sup> I have titled this formation First Temple. When I first saw this amazing formation I immediately thought that it looked a lot like the ruins of a Sumerian Ziggurat pyramid found in Iraq (Figure 3).



**Figure 3**

First Temple (Labeled B in figure 1)  
Left: Detail MOC FHA-01046 (2000)  
Right: Sumerian Ziggurat (Iraq)

Continuing our exploration in a north eastern direction, the next structure we will examine is labeled C in figure 1. The formation has a basic hexagonal-shape with a square extension giving it an overall keyhole-shape (Figure 4). Its basic geometric design follows the modular form often seen in modern hexagonal pod homes (Figure 4).



**Figure 4**

Hexagonal Keyhole Temple (Labeled C in figure 1)  
Left: Detail MRO CTX D04\_028598\_1426\_XI\_37S195W (2012)  
Right: Hexagonal and square modular home.

Just above the Hexagonal Keyhole Temple in a north eastern direction, labeled D in figure 1, is another highly symmetrical structure, that I have called the Star Temple. The structure has a polygonal shape that radiates from rectangular-shaped central mound with four projecting points that traverse around the mound like wings (Figure 5). The wings act as bastions that form star-pointed corners giving the structure a defensive, military shape. The bastion design of the Star Temple on Mars can be compared to a star-shaped military structure, built during the colonial times of the United States, like Fort Stanwix located in New York<sup>8</sup>(Figure 5).

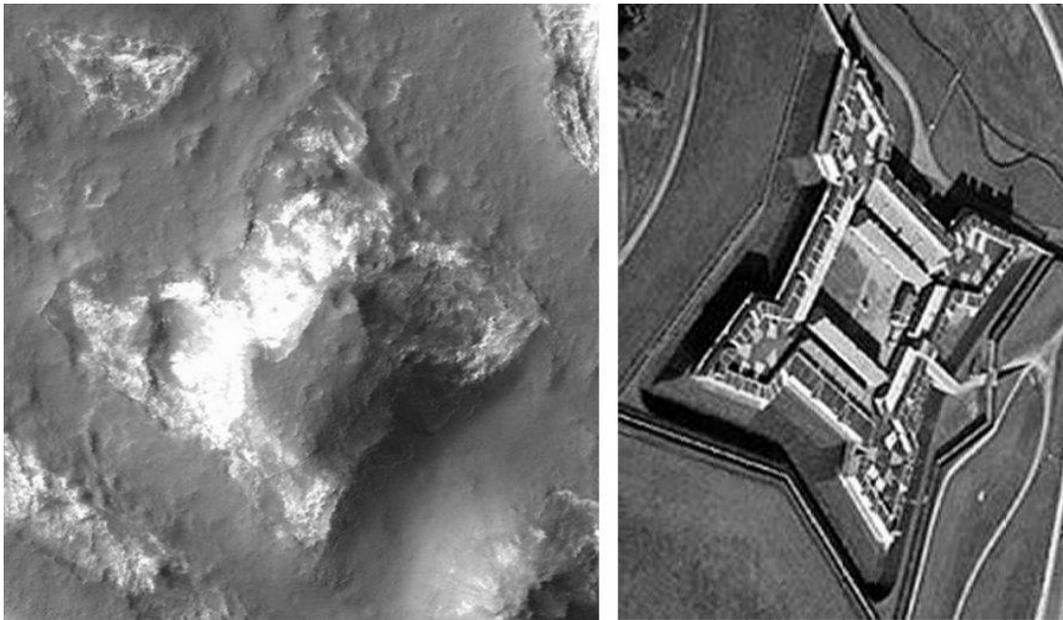
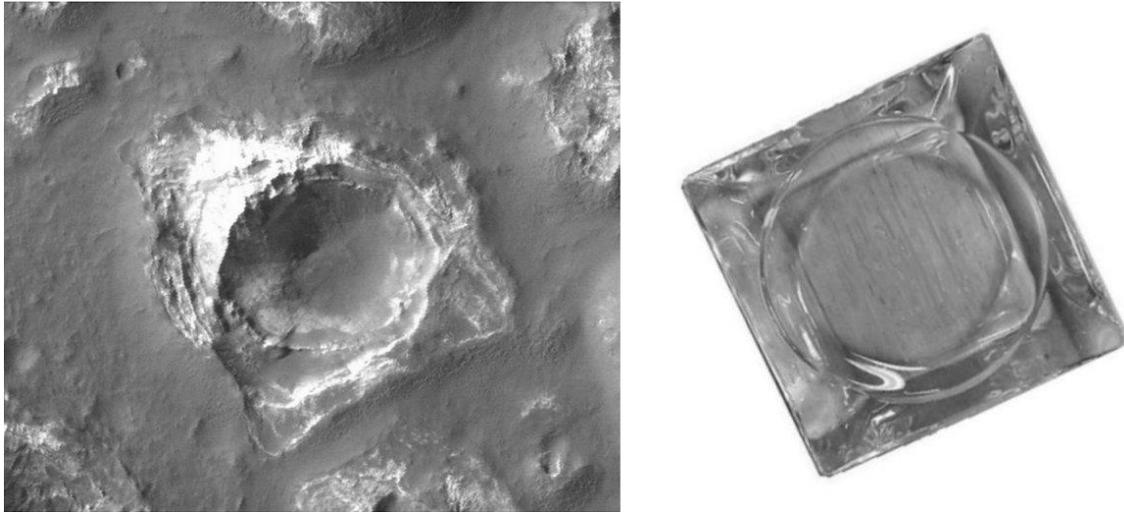


Figure 5  
Star Temple (labeled D in figure 1)  
Left: Detail MRO CTX D04\_028598\_1426\_XI\_37S195W (2012)  
Right: Fort Stanwix

The last structure in this study, labeled E in figure 1, is located just to the north east of the Star Temple, labeled D in figure 1. The somewhat triangular-shape of this highly eroded structure has a large circular depression at its center (Figure 6). The circular “pit” is flanked by a set of flat, bastion-like features that appear as docking platforms. Unfortunately, the northern platform appears to be missing. The fourth bastion may have been broken off or become submerged below scattered debris and drifting sands. If complete, the footprint of its Post-Modern architecture would suggest that it was based on the utilitarian design of a Hotel astray, complete with cigarette rests (Figure 6).



**Figure 6**  
The Temple of the Broken Astray (Labeled E in figure 1)  
Left: Detail MRO CTX D04\_028598\_1426\_XI\_37S195W (2012)  
Right: Square ashtray (glass)

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#### Footnotes

1. International Astronomical Union (IAU), *Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature*, Planetary Names: Terra Cimmeria.  
<https://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov/Feature/5930;jsessionid=2B939B622062F6B903A2AFDDC D5F3825>
2. Angus Stevenson, *Oxford Dictionary of English*, (OUP Oxford, 2010), 314.
3. Anne Katrine Gade Kristensen, *Who Were the Cimmerians, and where Did They Come From?: Sargon II, the Cimmerians*, Rusa I Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab, Volume 57 of *Historisk-filosofiske meddelelser*, (Kgl. Danske Videnskabernes Selskab, 1988), 6.
4. Mars viewer, MRO HiRISE CTX image D04\_028598\_1426\_XI\_37S195W, *Ride-along with HiRISE*, dated September 1, 2012.  
[http://viewer.mars.asu.edu/planetview/inst/ctx/D04\\_028598\\_1426\\_XI\\_37S195W#P=D04\\_028598\\_1426\\_XI\\_37S195W&T=2](http://viewer.mars.asu.edu/planetview/inst/ctx/D04_028598_1426_XI_37S195W#P=D04_028598_1426_XI_37S195W&T=2)

5. Gifford, John, Dumfries and Galloway. Pevsner Architectural Guides: The Buildings of Scotland, (Yale University Press, 1996), p.140.
6. Mars viewer, 'high standing' upland chaos, MOC image FHA-01046, Dated May 22, 2000.  
<http://viewer.mars.asu.edu/planetview/inst/moc/FHA01046#P=FHA01046&T=2>
7. This formation was originally noticed by Mars anomalist, Terry James (AKA kksamurai) and posted on his web site Mars a Red Planet Roundtable Discussion, soon after its release in 2000.
8. Kelly Cardwell, Red, White, Blue - and Gold, Fort Stanwix National Monument, New York. Retrieved December 12, 2016.<https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/flag-of-ftstanwix.htm>.