

# Ancient city ruins found in Iraq

NEW YORK (AP) — Archeologists have discovered the ruins of an ancient Mesopotamian city that flourished 4,000 years ago and rivaled Babylon.

The site of Mashkan-shapir, 150 km (95 miles) south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, has not been occupied since it was sacked and burned about 1720 BC.

Elizabeth Stone, one of the archeologists, discovered a cuneiform inscription on a clay fragment with the name Mashkan.

"We have a whole city plan laid out there for us," said Stone, who, with her husband, Paul Zimansky, identified the site.

"A complete, undisturbed city — that's what's really exciting about it as an archeological site," Stone said yesterday.

It may rank among the region's major archeological finds of the last four decades.