

built environment

CASE STUDIES

context, eligibility, and effect



Nancy Pierce



what do we see?

NR CRITERIA

- Architectural Style

ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

- Design
- Workmanship
- Materials

what do we NOT see?

NR CRITERIA

- Details about the builder or architect
- Association with broad patterns of history
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Potential to yield additional information important to our history

ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

- Location
- Association
- Setting
- Feeling



judging the book only by its cover?

ELIGIBLE OR NOT ELIGIBLE?

Nina Simone Childhood Home

- Tryon, North Carolina
- Nina Simone: Civil Rights icon and revolutionary musician
- Mrs. Muriel Mazzonovich taught Nina the piano in this home
- At her first recital, Nina's parents were forced to give up their seats for white patrons and she refused to play until her parents could sit front and center; an experience that shaped Nina's later activism against racial discrimination
- Home designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Permanently protected by a preservation easement held by Preservation North Carolina
- Preservation work led by the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, by and for the community
- In this case, not yet listed in the NRHP, but eligibility is clear



To learn more, visit:

AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTION FUND

<https://savingplaces.org/african-american-cultural-heritage>





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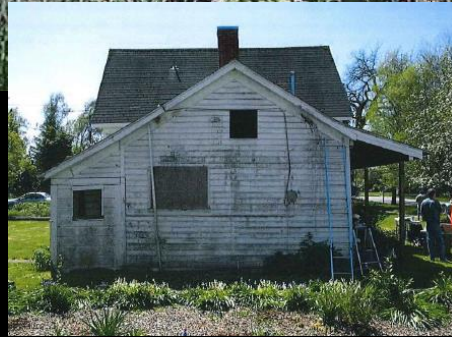
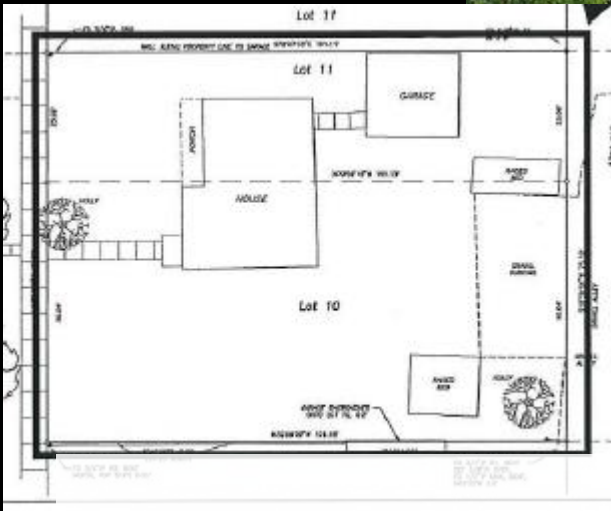
ELIGIBLE OR NOT ELIGIBLE?

Hannah & Eliza Gorman House

- Corvallis, Oregon
- Built approximately 1857 to 1866
- Eligible under Criterion A for association with Exploration/Settlement
- One of only a few remaining settlement-era houses in Corvallis
- ***Also eligible under Criterion A for association with Ethnic Heritage representing Oregon's Black pioneer history***
- Owned and occupied by mother and daughter Hannah & Eliza Gorman; freed from slavery and Oregon Trail emigrants
- Purchased and expanded home and outbuildings when Black pioneers were prohibited from owning property
- Potentially the oldest surviving building in the state associated with Black pioneers
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, noting that while not specified in the nomination, property is likely eligible under criteria D as well for potential to yield information about the lives of Black pioneers



Eliza died on July 13, 1869, at the age of 30. Her obituary appeared in the *Corvallis Gazette* on Saturday, July 17, 1869, and the passage below gives us a glimpse as to what Eliza and Hannah meant to the community:



The Corvallis Gazette.

"Her intelligence, modesty, kind and sympathetic disposition, consistent with Christian life and uniform courteous behavior has won the respect and confidence of the entire community. Herself and aged mother, by industry and economy, had built them a comfortable home, furnished it in good style and surrounded it with fruit, flowers and everything necessary to human comfort and happiness. They seemed to live only for each other, and to make others happy.

....The large number of citizens in attendance and the attention she received during her illness was the strongest proof of the high estimation in which she was held. She will be missed, and her loss mourned, by nearly every family in Corvallis."

To learn more, visit:
OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
<https://oregonblackpioneers.org/>



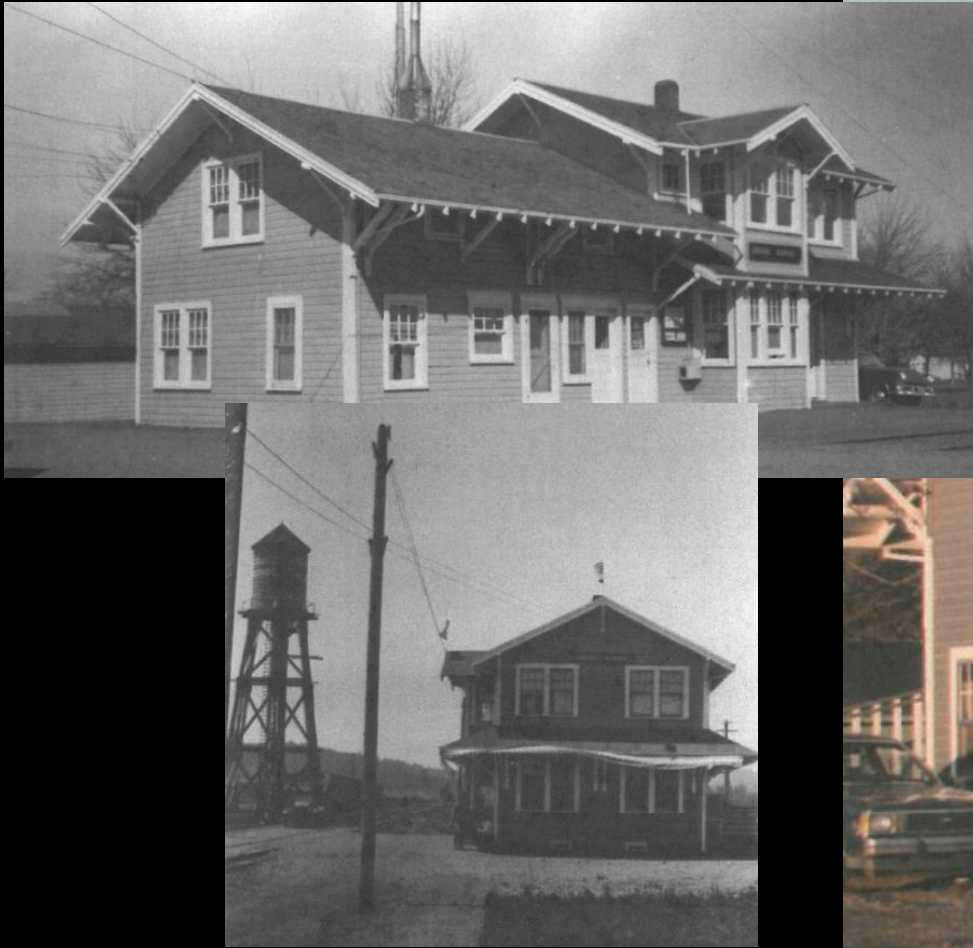


assumptions at a glance:

- Eligible under Criterion A for association with Transportation
- Eligible under Criterion C for distinctive Architectural type, period, or method of construction

Grand Ronde Rail Depot

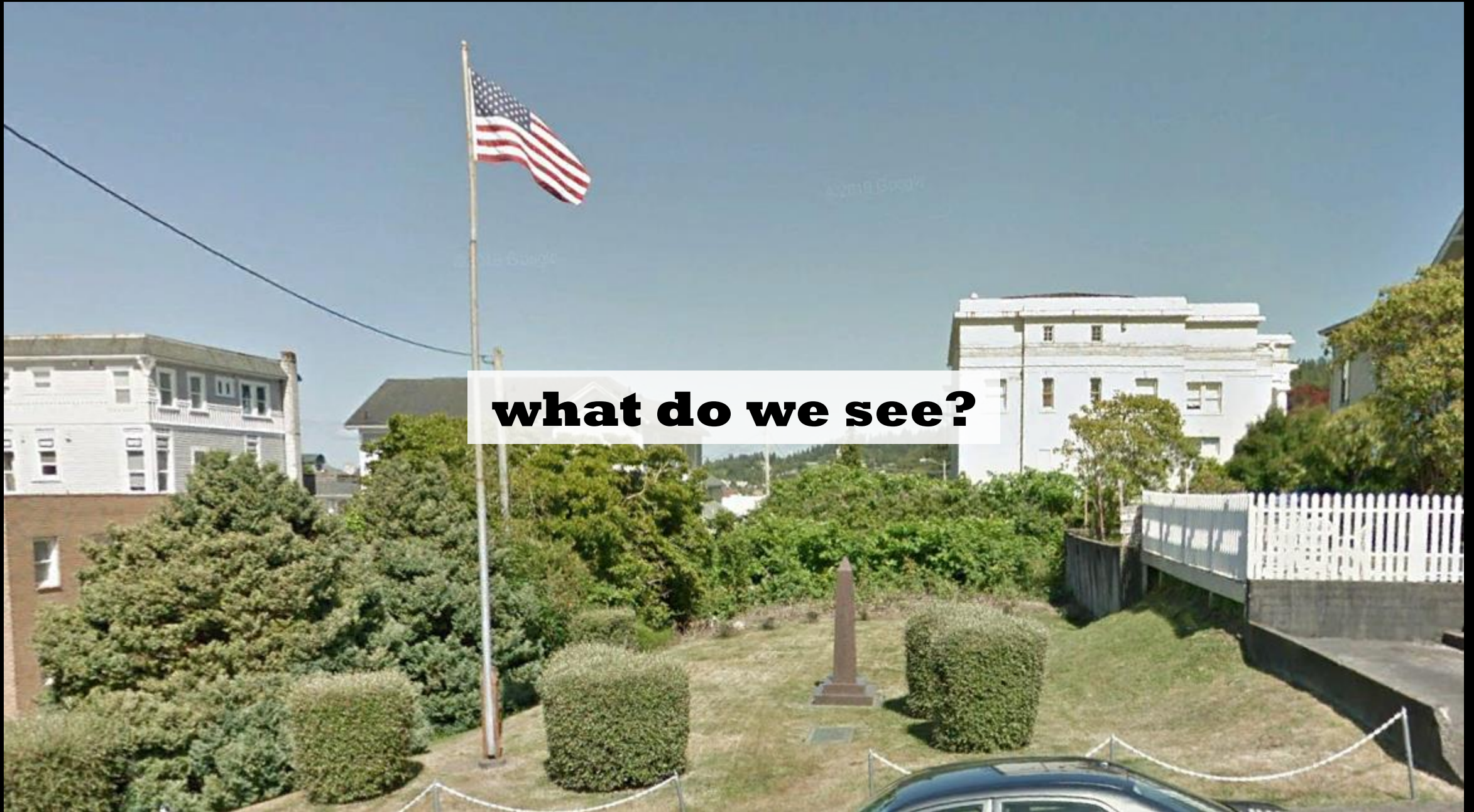
- The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Built 1922
- Former Willamina & Grand Ronde Railroad depot
- Eligible under Criterion A for association with Ethnic Heritage representing Native American history
- The depot was acquired by CTGR in December of 1984
- First building purchased by CTGR following the Grand Ronde Restoration Act signed by Ronald Reagan in 1983
- Served as CTGR administrative offices until 1997
- Criteria Consideration for a Period of Significance from less than 50 years ago
- Listed in the NRHP in 2012, prepared by CTGR and approved by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



To learn more, visit:

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON
Cultural Resources & Tribal Historic Preservation Office
<https://www.grandronde.org/history-culture>



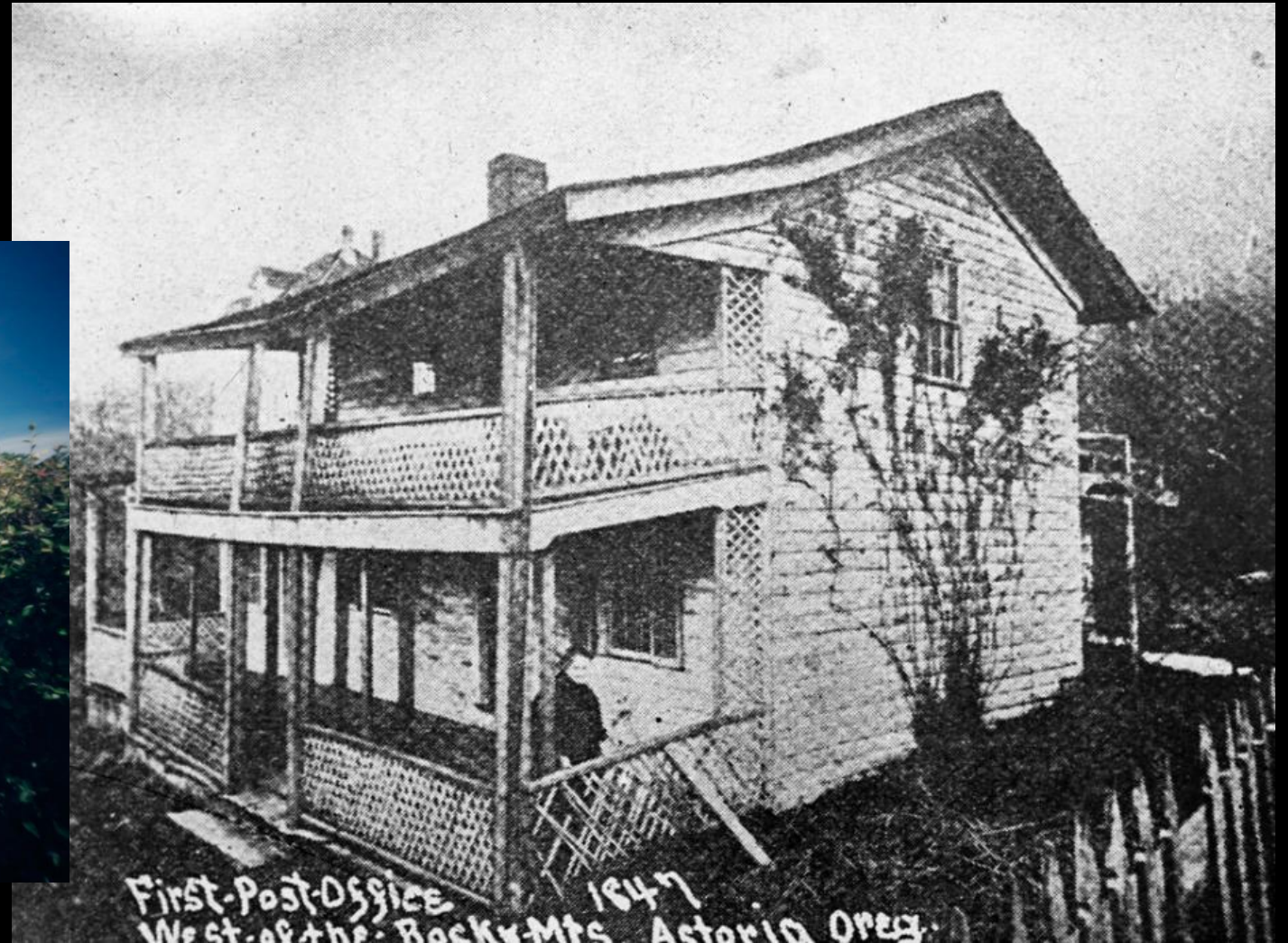


what do we see?



Astoria Post Office Landmark

- Built 1955
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 as a contributing structure to the Shively-McClure Historic District
- Consists only of a granite obelisk with inscription “United States Post Office 1847” and brass plaque that reads “Site of the first United States Post Office west of the Rocky Mountains – John M. Shiveley (sic) appointed first postmaster by President Polk 1847”
- Circa 1847 post office building was destroyed in 1906 as despite its historic importance “it had become disreputable in appearance and would have been of no practical value if repaired”
- However, at the time of evaluation, it was said to be “easily the most significant site in the neighborhood”



To learn more, visit:
LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY
<https://www.lcpsociety.org>

why it matters

- In these case studies, the significance of each property is not immediately apparent based on appearance or superficial research alone
- The associated historic context makes all the difference
- Without contacting the appropriate stakeholders and interested parties, these stories remain hidden
- Who decides what history is “significant” or “eligible”? Hint, it shouldn’t be up to just a few individuals!
- How do we know the full extent of the effect on a historic property, if we don’t fully understand the resource within its historic context?

**if you are going to speak *about* someone,
you need to speak *to* them first**

why it matters

**“...when the place disappears, frequently,
the story does too.”**

Myrick Howard, President of Preservation North Carolina

[Willamette Week: Portland Once Had a Thriving Little Italy – What the Hell Happened?](#)

August 22, 2017 by Matthew Korfhage



“Portlanders often will tell you it's not our fault, that we've never had a real Italian population like [other] cities. Except, of course, we did.”

“It was not just Little Italy, it was also the Jewish Quarter. It was Jewish and Italian side by side.”

“The downtown area was embarrassed by this Southwest Portland area with run-down 1800s houses with laundry lines hanging out front...They started what they called the urban renewal project. They did what cities do: They paid as little as possible to move them all out...It started in 1958. By 1962...All of the buildings were gone.”

To learn more, visit:

Italian Benvenuti Club: www.ibcpdx.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland: www.jewishportland.org



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