

# Reflections



A Program of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

## BUILT TO SEPARATE, STANDING UNIFIED:

### THE GORDON CAMPUS OF THE GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Tiffany Tolbert, African American Programs Assistant  
Historic Preservation Division

Prior to the 1830s, the education of the deaf was overlooked in Georgia. Since most of the African American population was enslaved during this period, the opportunity for an education was available to whites for many years before any education for Georgia's black deaf population was implemented. The earliest effort to educate Georgia's deaf was in 1834 when an act was passed that appropriated funds for the education of Georgia's deaf and blind. In 1847 this act was amended and called for the establishment of a school and asylum for the deaf and dumb in Georgia. The Georgia School for the Deaf was established in 1848 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly. The newly formed institution was located in Cave Spring (Floyd County) and named the Georgia Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.

Beginning in the 1860s, some southern states began establishing either separate deaf schools or "colored" departments in the white schools. The first of these state schools was created in North Carolina in 1869. In the following years, Georgia and other states established African American deaf schools.

Near the end of Reconstruction era, Georgia began to address the education of deaf African Americans. On February 23, 1876 the Georgia General Assembly passed an act that

authorized the purchase of a building and ten acres of land for the establishment of a school for African American deaf. The building that was chosen was located on a hill above the white campus in Cave Spring. The school for African American deaf opened on March 15, 1882. The school's first principal was F.M. Gordon. Gordon was born in 1853 and graduated from Clark University. He



**F.M. Gordon**  
Principal, 1882-1928  
Photo courtesy of  
Georgia School for the Deaf



The classroom building on the Gordon Campus at the Georgia School for the Deaf was constructed in 1939 and is still in use today. It is located in the central part of the campus, and was built as the academic building for African Americans on the segregated campus.  
Photo by Tiffany Tolbert.

was a Methodist minister, and remained principal of the school until his death in 1928. Mrs. Maria Lucinda Gordon served at the school in a dual role as both teacher and matron. During their time as leaders of the school, the Gordons became well respected in the community due to their commitment and devotion to the African American deaf students.

With the creation of an African American school, the education of Georgia's black and white

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BUILT TO SEPARATE, STANDING UNIFIED:  
THE GORDON CAMPUS OF THE GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Tiffany Tolbert, continued from page 1



A circa 1892 granite and wood barn already existed on the farm when the African American campus at the Georgia School for the Deaf was relocated just outside of the town of Cave Spring. Photo by Tiffany Tolbert

deaf were equal by law yet separate in many ways. The black deaf school was not adequately funded or maintained. For example, Georgia's African American deaf school did not receive heat or electricity until 1913.

By the 1930s, building issues were problematic on both the white and black campuses. After his appointment as superintendent, Clayton Hollingsworth soon realized that the buildings on these separate campuses were unsafe and in disrepair. In 1937 a campaign was started to upgrade the schools' facilities. In that same year, the federal government implemented a repair/building program through the Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration. With these additional federal funds, several new buildings were erected on the white campus and the black campus was relocated to the outskirts of Cave Spring.

A new dormitory and classroom building was constructed for the black students by Robert and Company of Atlanta. A stone barn, constructed circa 1892, already was located on the property,



The 1939 classroom building on the Gordon Campus is used for academic purposes and is the home of the school store. Photo by Tiffany Tolbert

and the black students immediately used this building for farming. The new dormitory, classroom building and Rock Barn officially became known as the Gordon Campus of the Georgia School for the Deaf. It was named in honor of F.M. Gordon, the African American school's first principal.

The classroom building was the first building completed on the new campus. Designed similar to other educational structures of the period, it is a single-story, red brick building with a centrally located doorway along its front façade. The building is still intact and has continuously been used as a classroom building since its construction. The dormitory was completed shortly after the



This historic photo of the dormitory on the Gordon Campus was taken shortly after its construction in 1939.

Photo courtesy of Georgia School for the Deaf

classroom building and soon became home to many African American students as well as new teachers who moved to Cave Spring. It is a large, one-story, red brick building with separate wings for boys and girls. It also contains the former dining hall and kitchen.



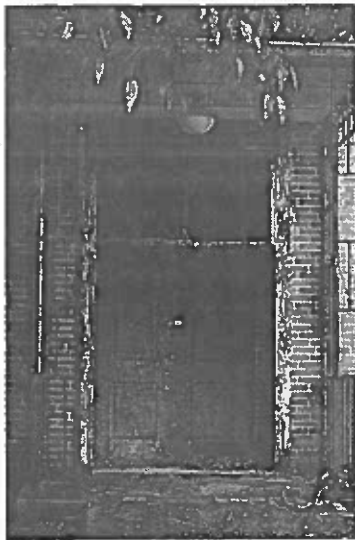
Today, a concrete walkway stands in front of the old dormitory on the Gordon Campus and provides a shelter for students. It extends to the dormitories that were added for boys and girls in the 1960s.

Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

Beginning in the 1950s, another campus improvement program began and new buildings were added to the campus. During this time, the dormitory and classroom buildings were renovated and additions were added. Despite these changes, both buildings

still contain much of their historic integrity and are easily recognizable as they make up the core of the Gordon Campus.

As medical advancements controlled rubella and the population of boarding students declined over the years, the need for the dormitory ceased. Separate boys' and girls' dormitories



The wooden doors and arched entrance to the main hallway of the dormitory are defining features of the building. Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

were constructed around the campus quadrangle, and the old dormitory that is located in the central part of the campus is presently in disrepair. Asbestos in the building presents a health issue for its continued use. It has stood vacant since the late 1980s, and due to its condition is slated for demolition.

The Georgia School for the Deaf has been an integral part of the Cave Spring community throughout its history. Not only did the school provide jobs for many in the local community, it also caused a lasting connection and devotion to the education of deaf children. Many Cave Spring residents are members

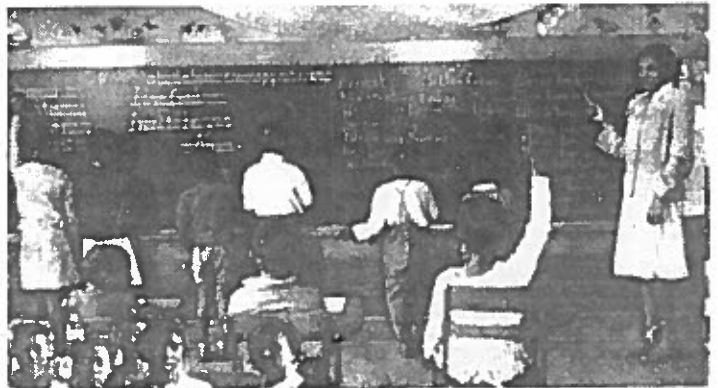
of families who have long been associated with or worked at the school. Katrina Jones is the third generation of her family to work at the Georgia School for the Deaf. Her mother, Esther Neal, worked as a houseparent for 28 years and her grandmother, Juanita Boone Neal, worked for the school for approximately 20 years. While coming to work with her mother, Katrina learned sign language, and it helped her to communicate with the students as well as her deaf sister.



Katrina Jones  
Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque

The availability of qualified teachers willing to teach African American deaf students remained a problem for many schools. States such as North Carolina and Virginia tried to solve this problem by locating their schools near black colleges in order to recruit graduating teachers. Other states allowed former students, both black and white, to work on the black campus in order to fill vacant positions. This practice was common on both the black and white campuses of the Georgia School for the Deaf.

Gabe Sinclair was a student on the African American campus during the 1950s. He was born in Jeffersonville, and became deaf at the age of five after suffering from meningitis. To address



This historic photo illustrates an African American teacher instructing students on the Gordon Campus.

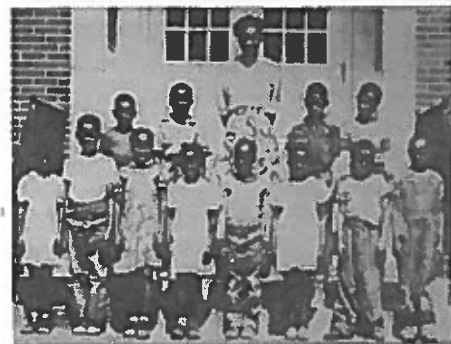
Photo courtesy of the Georgia School for the Deaf

his illness, doctors removed part of his ear and vocal chords, leaving him with limited hearing and speech. For a few years he attended the local public school, where a classmate taught him how to read lips. Since the teachers were inexperienced with working with the deaf, he was sent to the Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD) at the age of 15. Sinclair recalls that during his time at GSD, there were approximately 75 students on the African American campus. The campus was surrounded by land where the students raised their own food. There was also a dairy and the Rock Barn was used as a cow barn. As a student, Gabe Sinclair lived in the old dormitory and was trained in brick laying. He played basketball for the school and became a barber while practicing the art of cutting hair on his fellow students.



Gabe Sinclair  
Photo by Tiffany Tolbert

Gabe Sinclair graduated from the Georgia School for the Deaf in 1957. In 1960, Gabe returned to Cave Spring where he began a 29-year career at the school. His first job was a house parent in the old dormitory on the African American campus. Sinclair recalls that during this time they were permitted to discipline the children, but he never needed to resort to corporal punishment. "All I had to do was go up to them and look at them, and they would stop." He attributes this to the fact that even though he had fun



A teacher poses for a class photo with her students in 1953. Photo courtesy of the Georgia School for the Deaf

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## BUILT TO SEPARATE, STANDING UNIFIED...

*Tiffany Tolbert, continued from page 3*

and played with the children, they still respected him. After integration, Gabe Sinclair became the home-life coordinator for the high school boys. This is a position that he held until 1989 when he retired from GSD. For the last 30 years, Sinclair has lived in nearby Cedartown, where he owned a barbershop. A father of four children, he presently spends his time fishing and periodically visits the campus.



*John Johnston, Jeanne Cyriaque and Gabe Sinclair have a laugh outside the old dormitory while Gabe tells stories about some of the students who lived there while he was a houseparent.  
Photo by Cherie Bennett*

Integration officially occurred at GSD during the 1960s. As early as the 1950s, children began going back and forth between the white and black campuses in order to play on sports teams. Some of the white students voluntarily chose to live on the black campus, preferring it to the white campus. The process of integration had many effects on the Georgia School for the Deaf. It not only integrated the races, but it also integrated the teaching methods of the white and black campuses.

In the 1970s, many of the operations of the Georgia School for the Deaf began to move to the Gordon Campus. By the 1980s the historically white campus was used mainly for administrative purposes and in 1985, the white campus officially closed.

All of the operations of the Georgia School for the Deaf are now located on the Gordon Campus. Since the consolidation of the Georgia School for the Deaf onto the Gordon Campus, there has been concern over its history. Unlike many African American resources that are endangered, it is not the buildings that are in jeopardy but the history that is attached. John Johnston, a retired art teacher from GSD, is leading the effort to document the history of the Gordon Campus. Johnston is currently developing an oral history project focusing on recording the experiences of students and staff associated with the Gordon Campus. It is his hope that this project will aid in teaching future GSD students about the history of the school and foster a greater understanding of the significance of the Gordon Campus to the education of African Americans during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## RETURNING TO THE ANCESTRAL HOME: THE DANIEL FAMILY REUNION

*Jeanne Cyriaque, African American Programs Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division*

Since 1973, the Daniel family visits states where their family Smigrated from Georgia during the 20<sup>th</sup> century to host a family reunion. Like many African Americans, they are interested in seeking cultural heritage sites that reconnect them with places that are significant to their family. In fact, this family is representative of the \$90 billion minority travel market, as travelers combine a reunion with the annual family vacation. In July 2005, six generations of the Daniel family attended their reunion in the hometown of their ancestors: Crawfordville, Georgia.

Crawfordville is the county seat of Taliaferro County in east central Georgia. Crawfordville was an agricultural town when cotton was booming in Georgia. In the 1860s, the town's population was about 2,900 and 1,200 residents were enslaved. Today, Crawfordville is home to approximately 542 residents, and it is the place where the Daniel family called "home."

The Daniel family progenitors are William "Billy" Daniel and Adeline Gaines Daniel. Both William Daniel and Adeline Gaines Daniel were born enslaved in Georgia in the 1850s. Billy was an entrepreneur in his time. He was a farmer, and after enslavement ended, he acquired considerable land.



*Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network*

**Photograph Not Available**

*Photo courtesy of the Daniel family*

Billy Daniel was a lifelong member of the Level Hill Baptist Church. He was a deacon at Level Hill from 1888, and used an old gin house that he owned to operate the Level Hill Sunday School. In 1896, Billy Daniel was elected president of the Level Hill Builders Club. As the church membership grew, Daniel was instrumental in the construction of the present Level Hill Baptist Church.



*While William Daniel was president of the Level Hill Baptist Church Builders Club, the church was constructed in 1906 that still stands today.*

*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*



*William and Adeline Daniel are buried in the Level Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. The church purchased four acres of land in the 1870s. The Daniel ancestors' graves lie east of the church in the oldest section of the cemetery.*  
*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Adeline Gaines married Billy Daniel in 1875. They were married for 56 years and raised 13 children. Adeline Daniel was a local midwife and active member of the Level Hill Baptist Church, where she was a founding president of the "Willing Workers Club."

Llewellyn "Lew" Daniel is the oldest direct descendant of William and Adeline Daniel. He is now 92, and was born in Crawfordville. He lived in Crawfordville as a child, where he attended Level Hill Baptist Church and School. He still remembers William Daniel's house as the finest one owned by an African American in the region. William Daniel was his grandfather.

Lew Daniel's father moved his family to Springfield, Ohio when cotton prices plummeted, and eventually they migrated to Chicago. In 1942, he was drafted for service in the U.S. Army. He served in the Pacific in World War II, and published a weekly newsletter for the segregated African American 93<sup>rd</sup> Division. He received the Bronze Star in 1947, but did not actually get the medal until years later when it was presented to him by then U.S. President Richard M. Nixon.

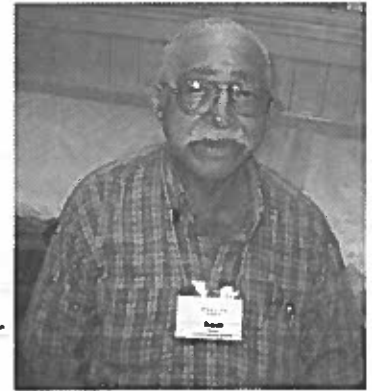


*Llewellyn "Lew" Daniel*  
*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

Inspired by Billy Daniel's business savvy, Lew Daniel saved his military pay to fulfill his dream of opening a restaurant in Chicago. After his military career ended, he opened a chain of diners known as the "Hamburger Hub" and successfully operated these and other businesses in Chicago until he retired in his mid-seventies.

Samuel "Sam" Daniel is a member of the second generation of the Daniel clan. He was born in Crawfordville in 1923. Sam Daniel is a graduate of Atlanta's historic Booker T. Washington High School. In 1941, Sam Daniel entered the Merchant Marines, and served until the 1960s. Sam Daniel was an instructor at the National Maritime School in New York during his career with the Merchant Marines. He was featured in a Public Broadcasting System documentary that featured Georgians who served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

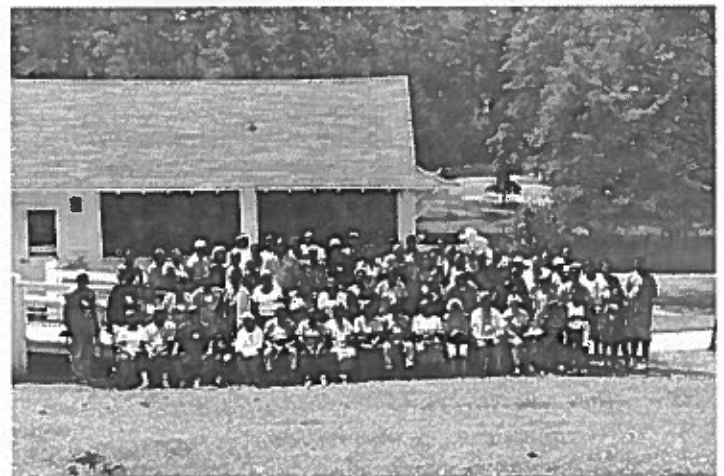
Sam Daniel maintains a second residence in Crawfordville. He hosted a family fish fry during the reunion. After his military career, Sam Daniel worked in Atlanta at the Sheridan Hotel as an air conditioning engineer and eventually retired from Fort McPherson, where he was a boiler engineer. He taught a program in air conditioning at the Atlanta Technical College.



*Samuel "Sam" Daniel*  
*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Daniel Family Reunion was held at the Alexander H. Stephens State Historic Park. The park is named in honor of Alexander H. Stephens, who was born near Crawfordville in 1812. Stephens practiced law in Crawfordville and served six consecutive terms in the Georgia House of Representatives. In 1843, Stephens was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and served through 1859. Stephens was a leading southern statesman. He opposed Georgia's secession in 1861, but was chosen as vice president of the Confederacy that same year. After the war, Stephens was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1873, and held this post until he was elected governor of Georgia in 1882. He died in March 1883.

The park was constructed in the 1930s through land acquisitions and New Deal programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. It features tours of Stephens' home, Liberty Hall, cottages and recreational facilities dispersed throughout the 1,177-acre site. The State Parks & Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources manages the park.



*The Daniel Family Reunion concluded with a barbecue as descendants celebrated their Crawfordville past at the Alexander H. Stephens State Historic Park.*  
*Photo by Jeanne Cyriaque*

The Daniel Family Reunion represents a growing trend in African American heritage tourism in Georgia. For more information on hosting your family reunion at a Georgia state park, visit [www.GeorgiaStateParks.org](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org) or call 1-800-864-7275 for an information guide.

## THE L. AND M. KINDER FARM: AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CENTENNIAL FAMILY FARM

Jeanne Cyriaque, African American Programs Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division

Each fall, Georgia recognizes historic farms that remain in families and have been continuously farmed for 100 years or more. These farms contribute to the state's agricultural heritage, and are recognized each year at a luncheon on the opening day of the state fair. In October 2005 the L. and M. Kinder Farm near Colquitt in Miller County received a Centennial Family Farm Award. The Kinder Farm is the seventh African American-owned farm to receive this award.



W. Ray Luce, Historic Preservation Division director, presents the Centennial Family Farm Award to descendants of Littleton and Millie Kinder. HPD File Photo

The Kinder farm had its beginnings with Littleton Kinder. He was born enslaved in Decatur County around 1853. After emancipation, Littleton Kinder began to purchase a series of land tracts from A.L. Bowen. By 1890, he acquired 249 acres, and this farm is still owned by Kinder's descendants. The elder Kinder paid for his farm by selling turpentine sap from the abundant pine trees that grew on his land. Kinder cultivated his own crops and labored in the turpentine industry that flourished in southwest Georgia and northern Florida. Because he was literate, he aided numerous African American farmers to protect their farms in the Jim Crow era.

The Kinder farm crops include cotton, corn, sugar cane and peanuts. A large garden provides fresh vegetables for the family. The Kinder farm livestock includes chickens, cows, hogs, goats, guineas and turkeys. Some of the livestock and honeybees are sold.

Littleton Kinder died in 1937, and by the onset of World War II, his children continued farm operations with economic challenges that impacted all farmers during that time. Many of the Kinder descendants migrated during this period, especially the young males, who were subjected to death threats by hostile white farmers who wanted their land. The elder Kinder males and females persevered, and continue to raise livestock and farm. Uncle "Boss" Kinder died in 1997, and today the oldest Kinder, Martha, who is now 97, is the last surviving child of Littleton Kinder. In 1952, a fire razed all the original farm buildings except Rosie Kinder's house that was built with timber from the farm about 65 years ago.



Rosie Kinder shows off her collard greens that are almost as tall as she is. HPD File Photo



Willie Kinder, Martha Kinder Payne, David Payne and Janice Kinder stand under pecan trees on the farm.

HPD File Photo

With the approval of Martha Kinder Payne, the Kinder heirs decided to ensure the continuation of this African American farm for another 100 years by forming the L. and M. Kinder Farm Corporation. Only heirs of Littleton and Millie Burke Kinder, the family ancestors, can own shares in the corporation. Thirty heirs made this commitment to protect their ancestors' farm. Today, the Kinder farm sets aside 120-140 acres in pine and hardwood trees for a reforestation program, while maintaining at least 120 acres for livestock and vegetable production.



# THE CENTENNIAL FARM PROGRAM

Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Division

In 1992, Georgia joined several states in establishing a program to recognize historic farms. The purpose of the program is to honor Georgia's farmers for their contributions to the state's agricultural heritage and to encourage preservation of agricultural resources for future generations. To qualify, the working farm must remain in the same family for over 100 years or the farm must be at least 100 years old and be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Each farm must be a working farm with a minimum of ten acres or \$1,000 annual income. Recognition is given to farms through one of three distinguishing awards:

**Centennial Heritage Farm Award** – This award honors farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Centennial Farm Award** – This category does not require continual family ownership, but the farm must be at least 100 years old and must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Centennial Family Farm Award** – this category honors farms that were owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

To receive an award, an application with supporting documentation must be completed. Applicants must submit photocopies of supporting documents showing original family purchase, proof of 100 years of continual family ownership, and a brief description of the history of the farm.

Applications are approved and selected by the Centennial Farm Program Committee. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be received by **March 1, 2006** to qualify for the next award cycle.

For more information or an application, contact Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, at 404/651-6782 or email her at: [gretchen\\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:gretchen_brock@dnr.state.ga.us).

*African American  
Centennial Heritage Farms  
2001*  
Carranza Morgan Farm  
Sumter County  
*2003*  
Zack Hubert Farm  
Hancock County

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*African American  
Centennial Family Farms*

**1994**  
John and Emma Jane Rountree Farm  
Brooks County

**1995**  
Carranza Morgan Farm  
Sumter County

**1996**  
Lewis Clark Estate  
Thomas County

**2000**  
James Fowler Farm  
Worth County

**2001**  
Dave Toomer Estate  
Houston County

**2002**  
Zack Hubert Farm  
Hancock County

**2005**  
L. and M. Kinder Farm  
Miller County

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Georgia African American  
Historic Preservation Network

The Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN) was established in January 1989. It is composed of representatives from neighborhood organizations and preservation groups. GAAHPN was formed in response to a growing interest in preserving the cultural and ethnic diversity of Georgia's African American heritage. This interest has translated into a number of efforts which emphasize greater recognition of African American culture and contributions to Georgia's history. The GAAHPN Steering Committee meets regularly to plan and implement ways to develop programs that will foster heritage education, neighborhood revitalization, and support community and economic development.

The Network is an informal group of over 2,075 people who have an interest in preservation. Members are briefed on the status of current and planned projects and are encouraged to offer ideas, comments and suggestions. The meetings provide an opportunity to share and learn from the preservation experience of others and to receive technical information through workshops. Members receive a newsletter, *Reflections*, produced by the Network. Visit the Historic Preservation Division website at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org). Preservation information and previous issues of *Reflections* are available online. Membership in the Network is free and open to all.

## Reflections

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