## Listoric Lem Incorporated

T OFFICE BOX 865

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 / PHONE (617) 745-0799

18 Webb Street
Built for
HENRY F. HOOD, trader
by the year 1840

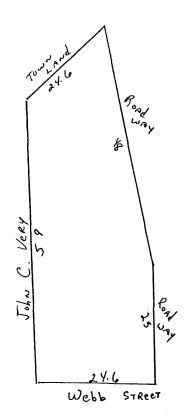
Research by, Joyce King August 1980

ve Historic Sites, Buildings and objects, ork for the education of the community to value of the same."

"Webb street was laid out about 1800, and was called a highway leading from Derby street to Essex street, 1801; and Webb street since 1810." (Essex Antiquarian, vol. 9 pg. 162)

Originally a narrow road, Webb street was widened in 1835. "John Very removed his fence on the east side of Webb near the Junction of Derby street to make Webb 40 feet wide and James Daverause agreed to do when Webb street was joined on Essex street." (Street Department book for the year 1835 stored at the Essex Institute)

What is now known as Fort Avenue was an ancient shore road called East Webb Street. The entrance to this road was on the east side of this lot, as indicated in the deed from John and Mary Very to Henry P. Hood, Nov. 23, 1839. In this deed Mr. and Mrs. Very sold to Mr. Hood for the sum of \$100, a lot of land but "reserving privilege to the well on the premises"



(book 320 page 119) (see also appendix A)

Apparently Mr. Hood set under way to build a house on his newly gained property shortly after its purchase, for the tax records assess Henry P. Hood as having an unfinished house in 1839 valued at \$200. In 1840 the assessment had risen up to \$700 indicating the completion of the house by this date.

On Aug. 26, 1841 Henry P. Hood trader, mortgaged to Ingalls Kittredge a physican, of Beverly, for the sum of \$800 "all that my dwelling house situated on Webb street now occupied by John Low together with the land as described in the deed of John Very book 320 page 119." (book 326 page 245)

Dr. Kittredge obtained possession by foreclosing the mortgage on Dec. 14, 1844. Even though Henry lost possession the Hood family lived in this house and remained there for many years. According to the tax records the house was numbered as 9 Webb St. with its tenants in 1845 being:

Abraham Hood
Henry P.Hood age 32 - house \$800
Asa Hood Jr. " 33
Hiram Hood " 21
David B. Hood " 19

The 1850 census gives a closer insight into the Hood family at this time:

```
age 60
                                                           born Mass
    Abraham Hood
                                                             11
                                                                Vt.
    Elizabeth "
                            56
                                                             11
                                                                  11
                        Ħ
                11
                            37 Ins. agent
    Henry P.
                                                             11
                        11
    Catharine "
                            19
                                                                Mass
                                                             11
                            16
    Susan M.
                                                                Canada
                            5
    Joseph Preston
2nd family
                                                             11
                                                                Vt.
                            32 carpenter
    William L. Hood
                                                             11
                        11
                                                                Mass
    Ann M.
                  11
                            24
                                                             11
                  11
                        11
                            11 months
    William E.
```

In 1856 the tax records note a new tenant:

Abraham Hood age 70 owner Dr. Kittredge, value \$1,000 Joseph Deffell age 33

Dr. Ingalls Kittredge died in Beverly on June 17, 1856. Dr. Kittredge had a very successful practice, particularly in surgery, which extended to the surrounding towns. In politics he was an outspoken adherent of the "Anti-Slavery" party, a companion of Sumner, Garrison, Phillips, Whittier and other notable men. He was a manager in the so called "under-ground railroad," and helped many slaves escape to freedom. (History of Essex County, by Hurd) It is worth noting that Abraham Hood was also a member of the Anti-Slavery Society, but what role he played in this movement is unknown.

In 1857 the property was assessed to the estate of Dr. Kittredge with the taxes being paid by Mr. Hood. The occupants at this time were Abraham Hood age 70, farmer; and Stephen Powers age 32, pilot.

In the 1860 census the complete family units are listed:

Abraham Hood Elizabeth "	age	70 65	gardener	born	Mass Vt.
Catherine "	11	29	tailoress	11	Mass
Susan "	11	26		11	11
Joseph Preston	11 .	15		11	Canada
2nd family					
Stephen Powers	11	31	pilot	11	Mass
Elizabeth "	11	22		11	11
Jenny "	11	2		11	11
Mary (illegible)			•	11	Maine
Jenny Moody	11	18		11	Mass

By 1866 the Powers family had moved out and the house was occupied entirely by the Hoods once again:

9	Webb	Street	_	Abraham Hood	age	76	owner Dr. Kittredge, Be	verly
_				Henry Hood	11	51	tax to Hood	
		•		David B. Hood	11	38	house value \$400	)
							land value 400	į.

On May 15, 1868 the heirs of the late Ingalls Kittredge, for \$1,500 sold their interest to David B. Hood housecarpenter, the dwelling house on Webb St. now occupied by Hood together with the land and all outbuildings thereon, the same described in the deed from John C. Very to Henry P. Hood in book 320 page 119. (book 746 page 214)

On May 21, 1868 David B. Hood for the sum of \$1,600 conveyed to Timothy and Ellen Collins all the land and buildings that were conveyed to him by the Kittredge heirs. (book 748 page 180)

Since this is the last transaction concerning the Hoods, mention should be made of the fate of Henry P. Hood, found in a news clipping of March 19, 1886:

"Dr" Henry Hood, the well known old phrenologist (one who reads character by means of the conformation of the skull) who has been examining person's bumps for many years in Salem, died at the almshouse on Tuesday night at the age of 74. He was born in Vermont in 1812 and formerly kept a wood wharf on Allen's Wharf."

The change in ownership is also reflected in the taxes for the year 1868:

9 Webb Street - Henry-Hood owner Kittredge now Collins

Bavid-Br-Hood house value \$800

Timothy Collins land value 400

The street was renumbered in 1869. This house was changed from #9 to #16 Webb Street:

9 Webb St. - Timothy Collins age 45 owner house \$800 Michael Collins " 19 land 300

The 1870 census shows the Collins family:

Timothy Ellen	Collins	age	-	laborer keeps ho	on wharf	ро	rn	Ire.
Jeremiah	n .	11			on wharf		11	Mass
Charles	11	tt	18	11	11		11	11
John	11	11	13	attends	school		11	11
Ellen	11	11	9				11	11
2nd family								
Lewis Te	rrill	11	23	laborer			11	11
Annie	11	11	24				11	11

Mr. Collins purchased the adjoining land and by 1873 his property was comprised of what was then #16-22 Webb St:

#16 Timothy Collins age 55 - owner Timothy Collins house \$1,000
Thomas Pope " 43 land 300
#18-20 vacant land 300
#22 Edward H. Boston

(see appendix B)

Tragedy struck the Collins family on Nov. 14, 1875, as recounted in a news article at the time:

"Another fatal accident occurred in Salem on Thursday evening.

Mrs. Ellen H. Collins, a lady of 52 years, came down from Boston in the 5 P.M. train, and got off the cars before the train stopped. She was seen by a brakeman, who shouted to her not to get off just then; but it appears that she was hard of hearing and probably did not hear the caution. She stepped off backwards and falling, rolled under the train. Mr. Flint, the brakeman, jumped after her and attempted to draw her out, but the wheel had caught her clothing and he was unsuccessful. Both trucks of the rear car ran over and crushed her legs. The train was still in ten seconds.

The unfortunate woman was taken to Salem Hospital, where she received surgical aid, but she died at about 7 o'clock. An inquest was held and a verdict was returned in accordance with the facts."

Major street changes were made in 1877 which directly effected this house. Not only was the street changed from one side of the house to the other, but was directed right through the back of the house. This accounts for the strange angle on the Fort Avenue side of the building. This deformity is evidence of its close call with total destruction. The Salem Gazette followed the progress of the road in its March issue:

March 20, 1877 - "New Salem Neck Road designed to promote convenience and greater safety in approaching Salem Neck, now visited by many thousands of people, in barges, and otherwise, during the summer months. The present route to Salem Neck is the straight course through Derby street— those going by way of Essex street turning into Derby street at the railroad crossing through East Webb street. There are some half a dozen railroad tracks at this point, which is quite near to the wharf, and one or two shifting engines, and when business is thriving the cars are backing and passing over these tracks, which are, besides destructive to wheels, and require very careful driving to pass them in safety. To obviate this difficulty, new routes have been proposed, which have been abandoned as being very costly. The present plan is to

strike out a road through the nest of old dwellings to the west of the present road. This does not avoid crossing the tracks, but it reduces the number to be crossed from 6 or 7 to two; it removes the crossing point beyond the constant liability of car shifting; and makes a comparatively direct course from the foot of Essex street to Neck Gate. The estimated expense, including the damages, is \$5,479.75."

May 11, 1877 - "The new road on Webb street is progressing. stone work is well along, the filling up is progressing, the corners of buildings "standing in the track" are shaved off and other buildings are pulled up by the roots, as a tribute to the march of events. A liberal slice is to be shaved off from the lot at the Essex street corner, and, during the coming summer and henceforth, the sojourner and visitor at Salem Neck will be enabled to drive his way thither by a process of graceful sweeps and curves, instead of by "turning sharp corners" as heretofore. Whether this improvement is one which will actually gain enough in safety and convenience, to pay for its cost, is a fair question with a negative presentation not altogether weak; but that the new way of getting to and through "Neck Gate" will be unanimously and justly regarded as an improvement in itself considered, there can really be no question. road has been fixed up quite nicely, and the new location of the Horse R.R. over it will certainly be much better for the public, and will prove more renumerative to the road. Where one person will ride to the Willows in a private carriage, fifty will go in the cars; and one of the benefits of horse car travel is that foot passengers may "hop on" when the cars come along. The Willows will probably be well patronized this summer."

## The 1880 census:

	Timothy	Collins	age			born	Ire.
	John	11	Ħ	22	son - laborer	11	Mass
	Nellie	11	11	19	daughter - dressmaker	. 11	11
2nd	family				•		
	Charles	Collins	11	26	laborer	11	11
	Kate	11	11	26	wife	11	11
	Timothy	11	11	3		11	11
	Annie	11	11	ĺ		11	11

Timothy Collins died on Sept. 1, 1881. In his probate (#60711) the heirs are listed as John A., Margaret T., Nellie B. and Charles J. Collins. The estate was appraised as:

dwelling	house	and	land	16	Webb	St.	\$1,500
11	11		11	18	Webb	St.	600
small tr	iangle	on	Fort	Ave.			40
furniture	9						200

On Jan. 6, 1885 John A., Margaret T., and Nellie Collins signed their shares in the estate to Charles J. Collins for the sum of \$600. (book 1142 page 191)

The 1910 tax shows Chalres J. Collins as the owner of - 16 Webb St. value \$200, 18 Webb St. value \$600, land 4500 sq. ft. value \$600.

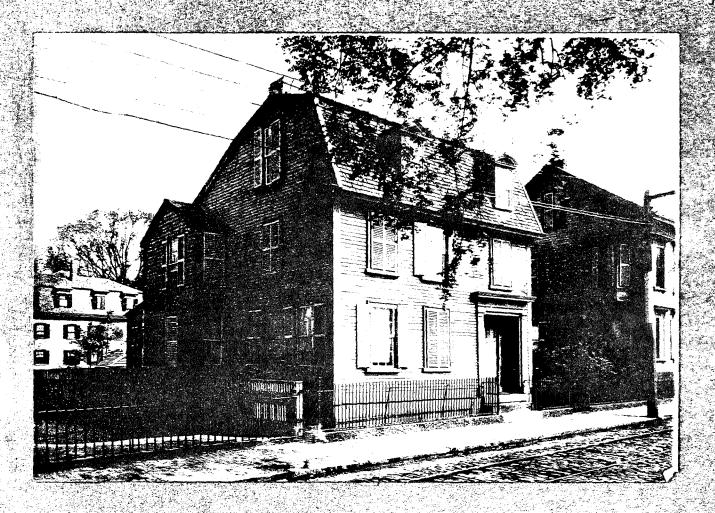
On Oct. 18, 1935 Charles J. Collins conveyed to Mary A. and Charles J. Collins the land and buildings Lot B (appendix C) part of the premises conveyed to my father Timothy Collins by David B. Hood book 748 page 180. (book 3054 page 89)

The property descended down to James E. Harkins, grandchild of Charles J. Collins. Mr. Harkins died on May 13, 1963. The inventory of Mr. Harkins estate listed his real estate as house and land Webb and Fort Ave. valued at \$6,250. This house and land was devised to the grandchildren of Mr. Harkins: Barbara Harkins, Frances Munroe, James Munroe, Sarah Harrington and Mary Boland.

On Aug. 26, 1964 the heirs of James E. Harkins conveyed the land and building, being the greater portion of Lot B., to John J. and Elizabeth Arundel. (book 5205 page 54)

On May 18, 1966 John J. and Elizabeth Arundel sold to Carroll F. and Arlene Dickinson the land and building 18 Webb St. the same conveyed by deed of Barbara Harkins et. al. (book 5362 page 101)

After the purchase of the property the house was converted into a ceramic studio under the management of Estelle McNeil.



– Estrophilip Malkapateren

See neg. # 1382

Although almost half of this house was cut away & removed, and although its exterior resembles nothing so much as a mid-eighteenth century Georgian mansion house, yet there is a possibility that this is one of Salem's few remaining seventeenth-century houses.

A brief history of the house was written by the historian Sidney Perley, in his <u>History of Salem</u> (vol. II, pps. 309-10), as follows (with my own notes interspersed):

"This lot was probably granted to Christopher Babbidge before 1683, when he owned it, having erected a house, in which he lived. This house was one of the best in the neighborhood, and the staircase is still in use in that section of the house which remains upon the original site." Perley provides an illustration of the newel post & balustrades of the staircase; unfortunately, they are no longer in the house. "Mr Babbidge died about 1711, and his son Christopher succeeded him on the Son Christopher was a cordwainer (shoe-maker). 1717, the building committee of the East or Second Church met here & considered the plans of its first meeting house, which was built on the opposite side of the street" on the western corner of Essex & Hardy Streets. "Mr Babbidge died in 1755, and the adminstratrix of his estate conveyed the land and buildings to Richard Derby, the merchant, Nov. 8, 1757" by deed 105:16. Mr Babbidge's daughter Mehitable administered his estate, which was worth about 268 li; his homestead, "House & Barn & about 60 poles of Land", was appraised at 153.6.8 (probate docket #1155).

Richard Derby, one of the great merchants of his day, evidently presented this house to his daughter Mary when she married Capt Ceorge Crowninshield about 1764; either Mr Derby or Capt & Mrs Crowninshield completely remodelled the house to its present Georgian appearance. "Mr Derby died in 1783, having devised to his daughter Mary Crowninshield this 'House in which she lately dwelt now occupied by Joseph Moses' "who was a sailmaker. "Mrs Crowninshield conveyed the estate to James Cheever, a merchant, Aug. 24, 1799" by deed 165:180, for \$3500.

"Mr Cheever died Sept 23 1839; and his children conveyed the buildings and land to Phineas R Weston on June 1, 1840" for \$2,075, with a store thereon, by deed 320:14. "In 1859, Mr Weston cut off the eastern end of the house and moved it to Grant Street, where it still stands." Grant Street is now Kosciusko Street, near Derby Wharf; evidently this other half

of the house was demolished within the past ten years. "Mr Weston's family conveyed the remainder of the house and the land to Charles Bowker on July 21, 1885, and Mr Bowker lived there until his decease."

Mr Bowker's heirs conveyed the property for \$7500 to Ezma Abdo of Salem (along with another piece of real estate) on 1 Sept 1914, soon after the Salem fire (2276:322). With hundreds of people homeless in Salem, Mr Abdo moved the old Babbidge house to the back yard, and built the present brick tenement at the street-front. He sold the property 29 Nov 1918 to Nicolai S Jensen of Worcester (2402:174); on 1 May 1922 Mr Jensen sold the premises to Esther Tarlow of Salem (2512:153).

Mrs Tarlow owned the property for 23 years, selling it to Margaret Solovicos of Salem on 19 July 1945 (3417:597); on 28 Oct 1946 she granted it to The Solovicos Trust of Salem (3519:573). The Solovicos family sold it to the Maguires in 1975 (6188:766), and the Messrs Maguire sold it 6 Jan 1976 to the trustees of Hibbard Realty Trust of Marblehead, the present owners (6212:346).

This is just a preliminary history of this property, and draws no definite conclusions about the age of the house. Certainly, the remaining original oak chamfered beams tend to indicate a building date of 1715 or before—and it seems that Christopher Babbidge built a house here by 1664. In a case such as this, where there is very little documentary evidence relating to the house before the 1750s, the construction methods & evidence are crucial to assigning a date to the building. I would suggest calling in an expert on 17th—century construction from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Robert Booth

## CHRISTOPHER BABBIDGE

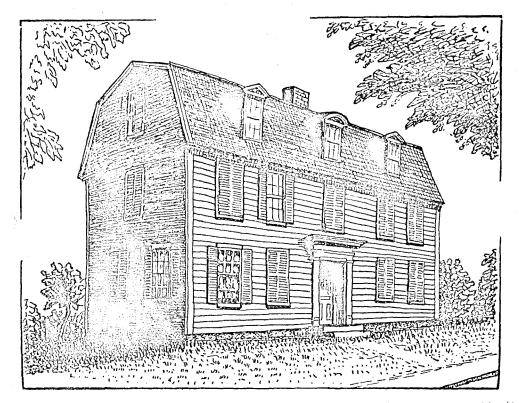
Christopher Babbidge (1640?-1711?), a tailor, was the son of Roger and Hester Babbidge of Totness, Devonshire, England, where he was apprenticed to George Marks, tailor; about 1660 he married Agnes Triggs of Totness, and in 1661 they came to America in the ship Nathaniel; they settled in Salem that same year, when their first child, Ruth, was born.

Mr Babbidge was listed as one who owned a Salem cottage or dwelling place in or before 1661; the location of this house is not known. On 24 Feb 1662 the town of Salem recorded the sale of house-lots along the northern side of what is now lower Essex Street; one of the purchasers was "Mr Babbidge"--Christopher Babbidge. On 24 July 1664 Joseph Porter was granted a house-lot "next adjoining Lt George Gardner's spot of land in the common near Xtopher Babbidge his house..." and on the same date it was "voted to Anthony Ashby also a lot of the same quantity with the range (of lots) where Goodman Bavedg (sic) lives, paying for it as others did." From these two items, it is clear that by 1664 Christopher Babbidge was living in a house on the lot he'd been granted in 1662--the same lot that this house stands on today.

By 3 May 1665 Mr Babbidge had been made a freeman, and in the next year he served as a grandjuryman--a position generally held by the town's leading citizens. He would go on to serve in the same capacity in 1670, 1675-6, 1678-9, and 1681-4. he served as a Salem constable in 1673 and many times after, and held many other town offices. By the time of the witch trials, he owned a shop; it was in Mr Babbidge's shop that John Proctor was accused of practicing witchcraft.

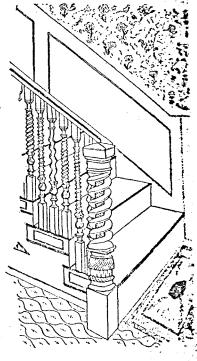
Robert Booth 23 Mar 1977

An Inventory of the Eftate of MI Christopher Late of Salen Desedet. J House & Barn Va bout bo Poles of Landabout 3/4 Sores of Land in South field a piw of Land by the Common Containing " 4 sog Pors - 30 a a pew in the East Mulinhouse -44. 0/ parter a st po s Walnut Table 241. 1 2081. pine D. 1/4\_ 3-17.14 I Chest of Braws 4/8. I Old Chast 1/4. I feather bead & Bolster 18:042. 14:0 I De 68. d s/ Sute Curtains & Valents 8/ Large Chest 2/ \_3,13.0 I Great Cout 40/ I Strait Bodied Coat 19/4. 2 Small Boxen/07 2-15-19 6 Leathern Chairs n/ 1 Brafs hittle 26. Del. Brafs Gover 2/ - 2-00-0 Brafs Candlestick of swarming pan 2/1 Brafs Skillet 4/- 0-07.8 Chanse Crofs but Saw 8/ 2 Books 5/4. Spitt 2/ -Chaise, Chair & old Bunners with old Harnis 5:6=8 - 5-6-8 While horse 3/4. 8 Bay horse 4. 0 0. 22 Fland hay all populate 7 = 4 Diggs 25/2/4. Iflax Comb 2/ 3/ Bufhel Corne 11/2 \_\_\_\_ J. 18-2/4 Bell Melle Morter 6/8. 16lever 2/. J Joons Frammel 4/. \_ 0-12-8 I Plow 2/8. Old Cart DE D. I bette 1/4 -Junivies at Mi Nather Osgoods I walnut Tables of Framel 4. Looking sof frying pan 1/ 2 .. 5.0 2 Brafs hittles 40. 2 .. Old Bell Mettle Dott for \_ \_ 2 .. 10.00 a Large Sermon Book of8 To She How! Thomas Porry Efg. Judge of Dorbales Vo. for the County of Class appointed of Vivon By Rezry 1 46 mehetabet Boblinge Epoxy Junioch May 16 1757 of the add what should gurther supregr John Shoate gu pas



CHRISTOPHER BARBIDGE HOUSE.

As the house appeared before being cut in half in 1859 (Perley, vol II, p 309)



STAIRCASE IN BABBIDGE HOUSE

From Perley's
History of Salem
vol II, p 310

(6) Tuches:	eutu '1991 (	(16) aux-16	about ninet	taeard Xeas	ph E	SOUTHEASTERLY:
				land with the treet, in sai		ne 1√2, 48 and
		[yns li	and encumbrances,	[Description		
Hibbard **  Of Trust-dated afficients	Trustees of Declaration I with Xaputa In Covenants	. W. Fice, nusetts, a ? S Hibbar sh Quitela	e and Peter ty, Wassach o Lis Allwi thusetts wit	o.00) nd Ann M. Ato d, Essex Cour recorded horo recorded horo	Fig. (\$103,01).  M. Mace and M. Mace and Idea and Tell.  Discovery and Tell.  Second Tell.  Mace And Tell.  Ma	being Kumarried, I Ten Dollars grants to Willia Realty Trust of Octocomber 30, Road, Marblehe Road, Marblehe
						WE, ROBERT M.
	9	P6346	BK 6212			

EVERY deed presented for record shall consideration thereof in dollars of the full name, residence and post office address of the grantees and a recital of the amount of the full consideration thereof in dollars of the nature of the other consideration therefore, if not delivered for a specific monetary sum. The full consideration shall mean the total price for the conveyance without deduction for any liens of recomply with this section shall not affect the validity of any deed. No register of deeds shall be recorded as part of the deed for incorping uniters around this section shall not affect the validity of any deed. No register of deeds shall accept a deed for recording unless it is in compliance with the requirements of this schion.

CHAPTER 183 SEC. 6 AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 497 OF 1969

(\*Individual - Joint Tenants - Tenants in Common - Tenants by the Entirety.)

Then personally appeared the above named ROBERT M. MAGUIRE and GEORGE E. MAGUIRE

The Commonwealth of Massachnestts

Tosa. Exetse Strang.

the amount of approximately \$65,000.00, and in a second mortgage held by James M. Solovicos and Raymond T. White, Trustees under the will of Margaret Solovicos, in the This Parcel is subject to a mortrage held by the George Peabody Co-Operative Bank, in

Will of Margaret Solovicos, dated October 14, 1975, and recorded with the Essex South Registry of Deeds, Book 6188, Page 766. For title, see deed of Hames M. Solovicos and Raymond T. White, Trustees under the

The documentary stamps necessary are based on the difference between \$103,010.00 and mortgages assumed of \$95,000.00.

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their

amount of \$30,000.00, which the buyers agree to pay.

кэвед

My conmission expires

( +1/# ISN W7

1881

PROPERTY REPORTS

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petote me

Tannary |

Walter A. Costello, Ir. Moun Public - XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

by land now or formerly of Hayman, about one hundred forty-nine

by land now or formerly of the City of Salem, about one hundred

forty-seven (147) feet, excepting so much thereof as may have been taken by the City of Salem for the prupose of widening said

Essex Street.

and seals this ...... day of ........... this end seals

and cancelled on back of this instrument

ROBERT M. MAGUIRE

Ebnsd .. mo... nands

**SOUTHWESTERLY:** 

NORTHWESTERLY:

by land now or formerly of Davis about seventy (70) fett;

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NORTHEASTERLY:

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