

081
1933

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 5 1933
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic NORTH SANDWICH MEETING HOUSE (preferred)

and/or common North Sandwich Friends Meeting House

2. Location

street & number Quaker-Whiteface Road n/a not for publication

city, town Sandwich X vicinity of property is located at the north-west side of the intersection of Quaker-Whiteface Rd. & Brown Hill Road.

state New Hampshire code 33 county Carroll code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name North Sandwich Monthly Meeting, Society of Friends

street & number c/o Marion Spaulding, Red Gables, RFD

city, town Tamworth n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03886

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Strafford County Courthouse
Strafford County Registry of Deeds

street & number County Farm Road

city, town Dover, state New Hampshire 03820

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The North Sandwich Meeting House is a wooden meetinghouse that stands on its own lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Quaker-Whiteface Road, Brown Hill Road, and Durgin Bridge Road in the town of Sandwich. (The meeting house lot is bordered by the Quaker-Whiteface Road on the south and by Brown Hill Road on the east.)

Rectangular in plan, the gable roofed meeting house appears to be two and a half stories high on the main facade (the south gable end facing Quaker-Whiteface Road), but only one story high on the east and west side facades. These differences reflect the internal arrangement of the building, which is occupied by a large tall, one story auditorium, with a vestibule and a balcony to its south. The meeting house's cut granite block foundation is broken only by a single small three pane window on the west side, which opens into the unfinished, dirt floored crawlspace beneath the building. The clapboarded walls are trimmed with simple corner "pilasters" which have simply moulded capitals at their tops. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by a wide box cornice with mouldings, architrave, frieze, and returns. The roof ridge is broken near its north end by a simple brick chimney with a concrete cap.

The main (south) facade has a central entry in its three bay wide first story (corresponding to the vestibule.). The double doors have three paneled leaves with moulded panels. The entry's plain side boards are topped by simple mouldings. And the entry is crowned by an entablature with mouldings, architrave and frieze. A wide, board floored platform in front of the entry is served by wide board steps, two on each of the three sides of the platform. The two side bays of the first story each contain a six over six sash window, with louvred shutters and a lintel topped by a simple decorative moulding. Windows of the same design and size also appear in the upper stories, two in a second story (directly above the first story windows) to light the balcony, and one in the gable to light the attic. At each end of the first story is a painted wooden sign, the simple eastern one naming the service hours, the western one, set in a moulded frame, announcing the "Friends Meeting". Beneath the western sign is a shallow, glass fronted, bulletin board case with a simple wooden frame and two plain supporting brackets. The building's east and west side facades each contain three tall, large and wide six over six sash windows with louvred shutters and the same lintels with decorative mouldings as are found on the southern windows. The rear (north) gable end is windowless.

The entry opens into the vestibule, a simple room with a board floor, plaster walls, with plain baseboards, and a plaster ceiling. Plain frames surround the entry (the double three-paneled doors) and the two six over six sash windows in the south wall, the two four paneled doors to the auditorium in the north wall, and the two doors that almost fill the west wall (a southern four-paneled door to the balcony stairs and a northern paneled door with two tall panes of frosted glass for the restroom beneath the stairs). A book cupboard with two paneled doors hangs on the south wall east of the eastern window.

The restroom beneath the stairs has a board floor, plaster walls with plain baseboards, a simple door frame, and a plaster ceiling. The south wall slants over the small space, reflecting the stairs above it. At the east end of the small room is a one hole privy, with beaded board front and beaded board seat cover.

The balcony stairs, with their plain board treads and risers, rise along the south outer wall, then along the west outer wall, to the balcony. The stairwell has the same plaster walls with plain baseboards as the balcony, as it is separated from the balcony only by a low partition of vertical beaded boarding topped by a simple moulding. The balcony has a board floor and the already noted plaster walls with plain baseboards. The balcony actually shares its plaster walls and ceiling with the auditorium, as it is

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separated from the larger space only by a low balcony front to the north. The balcony is lit by two plain framed six over six sash windows in the south wall. It contains three long pews with board seats and backs, and paneled pew ends with scrolled arm rests.

A plain framed beaded board "door" in the plaster ceiling above the balcony opens into the attic. The unfinished attic has exposed joists, studs and rafters. It is lit by a single southern window, an untrimmed six over six sash window. At the north end of the attic, the floor joists support a brick chimney, which is served by a stovepipe from the stove in the auditorium below.

The auditorium is a large tall room that occupies most of the building. Its board floor is carpeted in the aisles between the pews and around the facing bench. The plaster walls have wainscoating of vertical beaded boarding topped by a wide moulding which also serves as the stool for the windows in the side walls. Save in two areas, the wainscoating is the same height all around the room. The wainscoating rises to a higher level on the north wall behind the facing bench in the center of that wall. The wainscoating between the two entry doors in the south wall is not only taller, but also boasts a baseboard with a simple moulding, a feature not found on the other auditorium walls. The auditorium, as already noted, shares its high flat plaster ceiling with the balcony to its south.

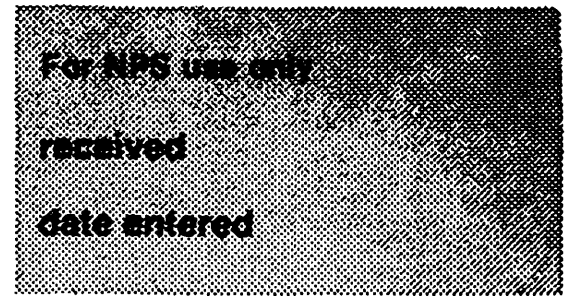
In the auditorium's south wall appear the two plain framed four-paneled doors from the vestibule. Above these entries is the cantilevered balcony front which stretches the full width of the room. The one and a half foot deep balcony projection is plastered on its underside. The balcony front is faced with vertical beaded boarding and topped by a simply moulded coping. Each side (east and west) wall of the auditorium has three tall and large plain framed six over six sash windows.

The auditorium is largely filled with pews. Three north facing rows of pews, one on each side wall and a central row of longer pews, are divided by two aisles from the entry doors. In the northeast and northwest corners, shorter rows (of two pews each) face the facing bench in the center of the north wall. The western side row still has ten pews, while the eastern side row only has nine pews, the front (northernmost) pew, having been removed to accommodate an organ. The central row now has seven pews, a rear pew having been removed in 1985 to accommodate a larger modern stove, which replaced an earlier stove. (The stovepipe rises from the stove, then turns north, traversing most of the room before exiting through a plain framed recess, in the ceiling to connect with the chimney in the attic.) The pews in the auditorium are all of the same design, with board seats covered by upholstered cushions and solid board pew ends with simply curved arm rests. The pew backs of horizontal beaded boards are topped by simple mouldings. At each end of the pew, a small quarter circle has been cut off the top of the pew back. The facing bench in the center of the north wall of the room is a pew of the same design as the other pews, set against the wall and facing the central row of pews. The facing bench is set on a platform raised two steps above the floor and fronted by a waist high partition. A simple board step is found at each end of the narrow platform, whose board floor is now carpeted. The partition on the front of the platform is ornamented by tall, deeply recessed rectangular panels and is trimmed by a plain baseboard and a simply moulded cornice.

The meeting house lot is relatively flat, although rising slightly to the north behind the building. The lot is bounded by two dirt roads, Quaker-Whiteface Road on the south and Brown Hill Road on the east. (A drainage ditch borders most of the Brown Hill Road frontage.) A low stone wall marks part of the northern boundary. The grounds are grassed and dotted with trees and shrubs. Shrubs are found near the corners of the building and in an intermittent row along Quaker-Whiteface Road and facing the road intersection. Mixed trees grow along the north boundary, along much of the west

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boundary and in the northwest corner of the lot. Large white pines grow along the north half of the Brown Hill Road frontage, while single white pines stand near the southwest and northeast corners of the meeting house.

The nominated property consists of one (1) contributing building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1881 **Builder/Architect** William F. Quinby, Builder

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The North Sandwich Meeting House is architecturally significant both as an almost perfectly preserved late 19th century Quaker meeting-house (virtually the only unchanged Quaker meetinghouse in Carroll County) and as a good example of the Quaker plain style, here seen in the vernacular tradition of the late 19th century.

In New Hampshire, the Quakers tended to settle near each other, concentrating in a few towns, rather than spreading generally throughout the state. Early in its history, Sandwich attracted a large number of Friends. And in 1783, the Sandwich Meeting of the Society of Friends was organized. In 1802, the Sandwich Meeting was elevated to the status of a Monthly Meeting, with two meetings subsidiary to it, one in the south part of the town, the other in North Sandwich. The South Meeting soon had the use of a meetinghouse, built in 1804. But, it was another decade before a meetinghouse was erected to serve the North Meeting. In November of 1813, a study committee recommended to the Sandwich Monthly Meeting the construction of a one story high, thirty foot square meetinghouse in the northeast part of town, for the use of the North Meeting. The location suggested was a prominent site at the northwest corner of the intersection of the roads now known as the Brown Hill Road, the Quaker-Whiteface Road, and the Durgin Bridge Road, on the land of John Folsom, a member of the meeting. The meeting accepted the report and selected a five man building committee to acquire the land and erect the meetinghouse. John Folsom sold the land to the committee for \$5.00, by a deed dated August 2, 1814. In the same month, the building committee reported that the meetinghouse had been completed.

The first meetinghouse served for over sixty years, but eventually fell into disrepair. The number of Quakers in Sandwich declined, as did the general population of the town, largely due to the emigration of farmers to the better lands of the West. The South Meeting dwindled to a few members and was dissolved in 1884. But, the North Meeting was given a renewed vitality by the arrival in 1876 of a Quaker preacher, John B. Cartland. This revival was soon reflected in the North Meeting's building. In June of 1880, five men (Russell Hoag, Lewis Hoag, Paul Hoag, Otis Meader and John B. Cartland) were "appointed a committee to ascertain...whether it would be better to repair the North Meeting House or build new" by the Sandwich Monthly Meeting. In August, the committee reported that it was "united that it will be far better to build at the North than to repair".² The Monthly Meeting accepted the report and promptly appointed Russel Hoag, Otis Meader, and John B. Cartland "a committee to make a draft of such a house as they think it best to build, ascertain what it will cost as near as possible and report at next meeting."³ The following month, "the committee in regard to the North Meeting house report that they believe a suitable house may be built for \$700 which report is accepted, and the committee is continued and requested to ascertain

1. "Records, Sandwich, N.H. Monthly Meeting, 4-15-1852--8-12-1910" (manuscript, Sandwich Historical Society, Center Sandwich, N.H.) p.247

2. Ibid. p. 248

3. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

David H. Hill "Friends" in "Town of Sandwich", HISTORY OF CARROLL COUNTY, ed.
Georgia Drew Merrill (Somersworth, NH, 1971 reprint of 1889 ed.)
John B. Hoag "The Friends in Sandwich" TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL EXCURSION OF THE SANDWICH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Sandwich, 1942) continued.....

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ .46 acres

Quadrangle name Mt. Chocorua, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	3	0	9	8	5	0	4	8	5	9	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is a rectangular lot (roughly 130 feet by 160 feet) bounded on the south by Quaker-Whiteface Road, on the east by Brown Hill Road, and on the north and west by property of Lester and Barbary Dobyns.
Continued.....

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Ruell

organization Lakes Region
Planning Commission

date January 30, 1986

street & number Main Street

telephone (603) 279-8171

city or town Meredith,

state New Hampshire 03253

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William R. P. O.*

D.S. P. O.

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/27/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 6-5-86

William R. P. O.
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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how much money may be raised and to make further inquiries and arrangements as they may deem proper and necessary." ⁴ (Thomas W. Hoag was subsequently added to the committee.) In January of 1881, the committee was given the authority "to build the house if in their opinion there had been sufficient subscribed" to pay the estimated \$700 cost of the building. ⁵

At the March Monthly meeting, the building committee announced "that they have let the Job for building the Meeting House above the underpinning to William F. Quinby according to specification for \$725. ⁶ William F. Quinby (1837-1900) was a carpenter who lived on Quaker-Whiteface Road, a short distance west of the meetinghouse. 1881 is the date usually given by local historians for the construction of the new meetinghouse. But the records of the Society of Friends do not describe the progress of the building. And the building committee did not make its final financial report until February of 1884, suggesting that either the construction of the meetinghouse or the collection of subscriptions may have continued until then. Save for \$21 obtained for the sale of the old meetinghouse, the \$995.97 cost of the building was met by the free will offerings of Friends, their individual donations ranging from 15¢ to \$50. S. Whitten received \$56. for the stone work. The builder, William F. Quinby, was paid \$916.26. \$9.25 was dedicated to "other small bills" and \$14.46 to "interest." ⁷ The last amount does suggest that the committee had to borrow money to complete the building, and that the slowness of the fund raising, rather than of the construction, was responsible for the delayed report. (The committee also noted the donation by the committee member of a stove and a "door with ground glass", presumably the present restroom door. ⁸)

There have been only a few minor changes to the Meeting House since its construction. The only new elements on the exterior are the bulletin board and the present front steps and platform, all probably dating from the 1920's or 1930's. Carpeting was installed in the auditorium at some unknown date and replaced about 1980. The installation of an organ in 1900 required the removal of one eastern pew. Another pew in the central section was removed in 1985 when the old stove was replaced by a larger modern stove. But with these few exceptions, the Meeting House appears the same today as it did a century ago.

The North Sandwich Meeting House represents a later state in the evolution of the Quaker meetinghouse. Earlier buildings, such as the meetinghouses in Unity and Henniker, were distinguished from the churches and meetinghouses of other groups by a unique design, resulting from the separation of the sexes at the meetings. These earlier buildings had two separate entrances, one for each sex, and an auditorium that could be divided by a movable partition to allow separate meetings for the men and women. The North Sandwich Meeting House, with its single entry and undivided auditorium with three rows of pews, was obviously built for an integrated meeting.

4. Ibid., p. 249

5. Ibid., p. 252

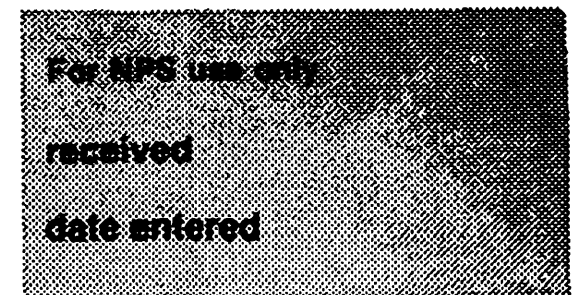
6. Ibid., p. 254

7. Ibid., p. 282

8. Ibid., p. 283

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In fact, the North Sandwich Meeting House differs little in plan and form from the simpler churches of other rural religious groups of the mid and late 19th century. The gable roofed, rectangular form, the use of the gable end as the main facade, the central entry, the vestibule beneath the balcony, the auditorium with its three rows of pews divided by two aisles, and the short rows of pews in the corners, even the three large auditorium windows in each side facade, are all typical of the rural New Hampshire church of the period. The only truly distinctive element of the North Sandwich Meeting House is the facing bench, which occupies the spot usually devoted to the platform and the pulpit in other churches. This is not to say that the meetinghouse is not clearly Quaker in character, for it does follow the "plain style" architecture of the Society of Friends. Ornament is limited to a few elements, an entablature over the entry, mouldings above the windows, simple corner pilasters, and a box cornice on the exterior, a few simple mouldings, the quarter circular cutouts on the pew backs, and a paneled front for the facing bench on the interior. This deliberate plainness and avoidance of ostentation was important to the Friends, who could easily have erected a more pretentious building, by adding brackets, shingling, elaborate mouldings, and other decorative details that were coming into style in the 1880's, even in the rural areas of central New Hampshire. The North Sandwich Meeting House is therefore a good example of the vernacular tradition, not mixed with any 19th century high style elements, save those Federal and Greek Revival elements, such as the box cornice and the simple entablature, that had already been incorporated into the vernacular building tradition. Although "plain" in style, the meetinghouse is nevertheless an attractive building, relying on its symmetry, good proportions, and quiet dignity for its success. We may not be able to name its designer, but we can respect his good taste.

The North Sandwich Meeting House is today the only Quaker meetinghouse in active use in Carroll County. The only other surviving Quaker meetinghouses in the county are the Wolfeboro meetinghouse and the third meetinghouse of Sandwich's South Meeting.⁹ The Wolfeboro meetinghouse, built c.1825, was later moved and remodeled into a residence. It is now indistinguishable from any other mid 19th century, one and a half story house. The South Sandwich Meeting House was built in Center Sandwich in 1866.¹⁰ The little changed exterior of the Center Sandwich meetinghouse is quite similar to that of the North Sandwich building. Both buildings have cut granite block foundations, clapboarded walls with corner pilasters, a gable roof trimmed by a box cornice, a three bay wide gable end front with a central entry, and three bay wide side facades with large windows. However, the interior of the Center Sandwich meetinghouse was extensively remodeled in the 1890's, when it was converted to its present use as a Grange Hall. The North Sandwich Meeting House is unique in retaining both its original exterior and interior.

The North Sandwich Meeting House, as the county's only well preserved Quaker meetinghouse and as a fine example of the late 19th century vernacular style, must certainly be ranked high among the architecturally significant religious buildings of Carroll County.

9. The first two meetinghouses of the South Meeting, as well as the original meetinghouse of the North Meeting, no longer exist.
10. The Center Sandwich meetinghouse was placed on the National Register on December 22, 1983, as part of the Center Sandwich Historic District.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Davis Marvel "A tradition of peace" NORTHERN LIGHT (Rochester, N.H.) September 18, 1984

Henry Cole Quimby THE QUINBY-QUIMBY FAMILY OF SANDWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE (New York, 1932)

"Records, Sandwich Monthly Meeting" two volumes covering 9th month, 1802 to 3/15/1832 and 4-15-1852 to 8-12-1910, (manuscripts, Sandwich Historical Society, Center Sandwich, N.H.)

"The Religious Life of Sandwich, Part I" TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXCURSION OF THE SANDWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Sandwich, 1941)

Sandwich Historical Society TWELFTH ANNUAL EXCURSION OF THE SANDWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY COVERING A SECTION OF SANDWICH, N.H. CALLED THE QUAKER NEIGHBORHOOD (Sandwich, 1931)

interview, B. Kimball Ayers, Jr., November 20, 1985

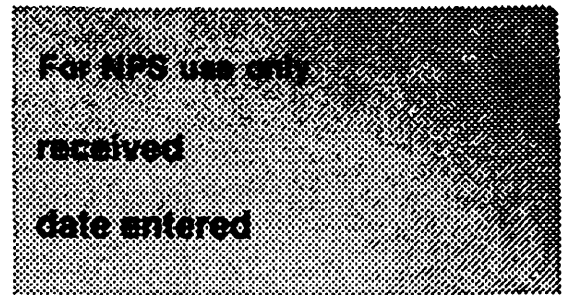
interview, John Houston, November 20, 1985

interview, Marion Spaulding, December 6, 1985

interview, Harrison Moore, January 6, 1986

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The nominated property includes the North Sandwich Meeting House and the lot on which it has stood since its construction. (Sandwich Property Map R-4, Parcel 16)

The boundaries of the nominated property have been highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.

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