#### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received SEP 2 8 (983 date entered

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

# 1. Name

					· · · · ·		
historic East Ninth Street	Hist	oric Dis	trict				
and/or common King, M.L., Bou	levar	<u>d Histor</u>	ic Distric	t (Preferred	)		
2. Location				a (1 <sup>2</sup> ) (1 ) (1 ) (1 ) (1 ) (1 ) (1 ) (1 ) (			
street & numberRoughly M.L. Kin	ng Blv	vd. betwe	een Houstor	n and Universi Streets	ity N4	∠A_ not for pub	lication
city, town Chattanooga		N/A_ v	icinity of	congressional d	istrict		
state Tennessee	code	47	county	Hamilton		code	065
3. Classification							
Category  Ownership    _X_district public   building(s)  _X_private   structure  _X_both   site  Public Acquisition   object  N/A   being consider		Accessib _X_ yes: I	cupied in progress I <b>le</b>	Present Use agricultur X. commerci education x. entertainn governme industrial military	al al nent	museun park X_ private religiou scientifi transpo other:	residence s c
4. Owner of Prop Multiple Ownership		ty					
street & number N/A							
city, town N/A		N/A—V			state	N/A	
5. Location of Lo	ega	Des	criptic	)n			and a state of the
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Hami	ilton Cou	unty Court	nouse			<u>.</u>
street & number	Geor	rgia Aver	nue				
city, town	Chat	ttanooga			state	Tennessee	37402
6. Representation	on i	n Exi	sting S	Surveys			
Chattanooga-Hamilton title County Landmarks Survey			has this pro	perty been determ	ined el	egible? _X_ ye	es n
date 1976				federal	stat	teX county	X loca

depository for survey records Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

city, town Chattanooga

state Tennessee

# 7. Description

Con	diti	on	

oonantion		
X_ excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
_X_ good <sup>_</sup>	ruins	_X_ altered
_X_ fair	unexposed	

Check one \_\_\_\_\_\_ original site \_\_\_\_\_ moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Check one

The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District is an elongated area lying approximately five blocks in an east-west direction and one block wide in a north-south direction. The district contains thirty-six primarily brick commercial buildings constructed mostly in the period from the late 1890's to about 1917. Twenty-seven of these buildings contribute to the general architectural significance of the district. This street has been a principal center of black life in Chattanooga since the mid 1800's. M.L. King Boulevard, the major thoroughfare through the district, was recently (1981) renamed from East Ninth Street. The district is located on an eastern axis perpendicular to the Chattanooga central business district.

The general area boundaries are easily perceived. The southern boundary is formed by a change in land use to heavy manufacturing and warehousing along llth Street. The eastern boundary is Central Avenue which is a major thoroughfare, and parallel to another manufacturing, warehouse, railyard area. The northern boundary, McCallie Avenue, is the principal westbound corridor into the Chattanooga central business district. Lindsay Street is the easily recognizable boundary on the west between the central business district and the M.L. King Boulevard area. Each of these boundaries separate the M.L. King Boulevard area from significant changes in land use and character of the area. From within this general area or neighborhood, the commercial district was selected to include a compact distinctive area containing the concentration of commercial properties of the area.

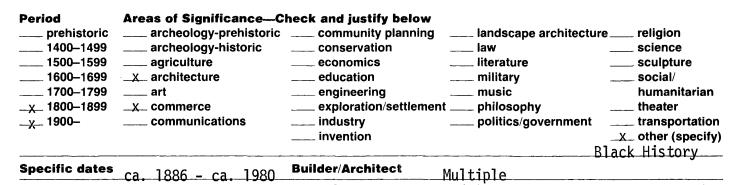
The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District includes a mixture of commercial and residential uses. The commercial uses predominate in the district. However, many floors above ground level in the commercial structures are used as apartments. There are also some scattered apartment houses in the district. There are two significant intrusions in the M.L. King Boulevard: these include Church's Fried Chicken and the Whole Note Restaurant and Lounge. Both of these buildings are recent additions to the area and differ significantly from the architectural character of the district. In addition to these two major intrusions, there are seven smaller scale intrusions that include a beverage store, small restaurants and other businesses.

Growth in the M.L. King Boulevard area was gradual until the turn of the century. The boom period was from the late 1890's until approximately 1917. The majority of the present buildings were constructed during this time. The commercial structures in the historic district are predominately of brick construction with some decorative brick and limestone trim. Capital in the black community was scarce and this fact is apparent in the plain architectural design of the commercial buildings.

The cohesiveness of the M.L. King Boulevard area is accentuated by the architectural style and the rolling topography which aligns the commercial area along the foot of a hill. Setbacks are relatively uniform and the street pattern is a traditional grid. The grid street pattern is altered periodically to allow for railroad right-of-ways through the community.

In general, many of the structures in the area are in poor condition. Portions of the area have long been among the city of Chattanooga's poorest neighborhoods and an area with a high transient population. Some commercial interests have altered their store fronts in an effort to increase business. Community pride and action is strong within the area as evidenced by the creation and operation of the East Ninth Street Community Development Corporation (recently renamed to the M.L. King Boulevard Community Development Corporation), the existence of neighborhood groups, and the well maintained churches of the community.

# 8. Significance



#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District is nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its significance in architecture, commerce, black history, and social interaction to the City of Chattanooga. Within the district exists a collection of small primarily brick commercial buildings representative of simplistic architectural styles and influences adopted by the black community as commerce along M.L. King Boulevard (historically known as East Ninth Street) began to grow and flourish in the period from the late 1890's to 1930. The district is important to local and regional history for the social role the community played in developing and supporting a black culture and society in southeast Tennessee. Furthermore, the district is the only remaining cohesive, well-defined area of black social, cultural and commercial activity in the city.

The history of the M.L. King Boulevard area can be traced to the early 1800's. The earliest reference to the area, refers to a pond where the housewives of what was to become Chattanooga did their washing. As the settlement grew, residential construction began creeping south from the Tennessee River along the hillsides east and west of Broad and Market Streets to this pond that would eventually be known as M.L. King Boulevard.

By the time of the Civil War, black families had built some houses in the M.L. King Boulevard area. The relegation of this land to black settlement may have been due to undersirability for white settlement since it was low-lying and contained a pond. During the period of the Civil War, the few black families who lived in the vicinity were mostly government employees in the Commissary Department. Others served as cooks, hostlers, etc., for both the Union and Confederate Armies. By the end of the Civil War, the M.L. King Boulevard area was an identifiable black community.

The growth of the area was gradual until the late 1880's. The M.L. King Boulevard area was not the only black settlement in Chattanooga. Other settlements grew up on West Ninth in the section called Tade and near St. Elmo. However these areas have been lost as a historical resources through the growth and change of Chattanooga.

The boom period of M.L. King Boulevard began near the turn of the century in the late 1890's. Most of the present buildings were constructed from 1900 to 1917. Some were built in the 1920's. The number of churches listed on the 1889 <u>Atlas of the City of Chattanooga</u> are indicative of the concentration of black religious and social activities: Shiloh Baptist stood on Gilmer Street (now East 8th) between C and D Streets (now Mabel and Douglas); Zion M.E. Church on E Street (now University) and one other Baptist church on B Street (Houston) between 10th and 11th Streets.

Many of the early residents of the area worked in the iron furnaces and rolling mills, most of which were located at the west end of 9th Street. These men received a substantially higher wage than that of other black laborers and domestics. There were also a few professional blacks such as Dr. O.W. James who owned the Eastside Pharmacy in the James Building. The amount of capital amassed from all these sources was pitifully small as exemplified in the plain architectural design of most of the M.L. King Boulevard buildings constructed before the First World War.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chattand	ooga City Dire	ctories 1880 to the p	resent.		
Livingoo Winds	od, James W., ( sor Publication	<u>Chattanooga An Illust</u> ns, 1981.	rated History, Wood	land Hills, California	
			th Street Area", Cha Valley Authority, I	attanooga, Unpublished	
10.	Geograp	hical Data			
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665), I her according	signated State Histo reby nominate this p	pric Preservation Officer for the property for inclusion in the N procedures set forth by the H	he National Historic Preser lational Register and certify		
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For HCF I he	S use only	or Tennessee Historic s property is included in the N Million		date 8/22/83 date 3/20/1984 date	
	Registration				

#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

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М	.L. King Boulevard			
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The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District contains twenty-seven buildings (C) which contribute to the architectural and historical time frame of the district. All of these structures are of a harmonious scale and complementary architectural style. The noncontributing buildings (N) in the district are generally of a comparable scale to the contributing structures but were constructed at a later time in different architectural styles and frequently at differing setbacks from the traditional block face. The historic name of a building is in parenthesis after its address. The current occupants of a building are listed at the end of each description.

- 837-841 Douglas St. Ca. 1900. Vernacular. Two-story, nine-bay brick; flat roof with parapet and brick corbeling; two-story veranda with brick piers. Elite Apartments. (C)
- 905-907 Douglas St. Ca. 1890. Vernacular. Two-story, seven-bay brick; flat roof with parapet; two-story veranda with first-story masonry piers and second-story wooden posts. Apartments. (C)
- 231-239 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1893. Vernacular. Two-story, fifteen-bay brick; flat roof with parapet and brick corbeling; l x l second-story windows with elliptical arches. Three of five storefronts altered. Ace Bargain Store, Red Flame Steak House, Your Florist, Up-to-Date Confectionary, Cloverleaf Lunch, and apartments. (C)
- 4. 301 M.L. King Blvd. (Fryar Allen Saloon). Ca. 1906. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet and rectangular attic vents; 1 x 1 second-story windows with flat arches. Storefront altered. Mason's Lodge. (C)
- 5. 303 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1906. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet; original storefront with transoms. Laundromat. (C)
- 6. 305-307 M.L. King Blvd.(Friedman Brothers Grocery). Ca. 1886. Vernacular. Two-story, seven-bay brick; flat roof with metal cornice; 4 x 4 second-story windows with elliptical arches and simple keystones and springers. Storefronts altered. Dan's Outlet Store, The Shack, apartments. (C)
- 309 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1975. Vernacular. One-story, one-bay concrete; flat roof; windowless. Armistice Lodge No. 440 (Elks). (N)
- 8. 315-321 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1886. Vernacular. Two-story, twelve-bay brick; flat roof with parapet and rectangular attic vents; 2 x 2 second-story windows with elliptical arches of stone and simple keystones and springers. Storefronts somewhat altered but retain decorative cast iron columns. Dayton Sundries, Thunderbird Tavern, Paramount Hairstyles, vacant. (C)
- 9. 320 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1975. Vernaculær. One-story, three-bay concrete; flat roof; storefronts face King Street. Fish and Chicken Box, Liberty Bail Bonding, vacant. (N)

Continuation sheet

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M.L. King Boulevard

Historic District

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- 10. 324-326 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. One-story, one-bay brick and oneand-one-half-story brick; flat roof with parapet. Storefronts altered. Satin Doll Lounge, Zeke's Liquors. (C)
- 328-330 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. Two-story, six-bay brick; flat roof 11. with parapet; 1 x 1 second-story windows with flat arches. Storefronts altered. Mason's Lounge, Reuben's Shoe Shop. (C)
- 332-334 M.L. King Blvd. (Kelley Building). 1910. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay 12. stone; flat roof with stepped parapet with name and date of building and rectangular attic vents; second-story windows altered. Storefronts altered. Little Duke's Tavern, vacant, apartments. (C)
- 336 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1920. Vernacular. One-story, two-bay brick; flat roof; 13. windows and doorway altered. Pier 9. (C)
- 401 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1980. 14. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; mansard roof. Church's Fried Chicken. (N)
- 15. 400 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1970. Vernacular. One-story, five-bay concrete; flat roof. Vacant. (N)
- 411-413 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1900. Vernacular. Three-story, six-bay brick; flat 16. roof with parapet; pilaster strips with pendant motif; third-story windows partially altered. Storefronts altered. Prince Hall Fraternal Order of Masons, tavern, poolroom. (C)
- 17. 412-416 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; flat roof. Pat's Inn, Esquire Shine Parlor, Lindsay's Barber Shop. (C)
- 415-419 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. Two-story, eight-bay brick; flat 18. roof with stepped parapet and rectangular attic vents; 4 x 1 second-story windows with flat arches; second-story brick panels in geometric patterns. Storefronts altered. Black Boutique Tavern, Gay Hawk, Helton Brother's Hatters. (C)
- 19. 418-420 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. Two-story, three-bay brick; flat roof with parapet, cast stone cornice, and rectangular attic vents; second-story windows partially altered; first-story central doorway with semicircular cast stone arch. Storefronts altered. Ed's Inn, vacant. (C)
- 42] M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. Two-story, two-bay brick; flat roof with 20. stepped parapet. Storefront altered. Vacant. (C)
- 21. 422 M.L. King Blvd. (T.I. Kelley Building). 1942. Vernacular. Two-story, five-bay glazed brick; flat roof with parapet with name and date of building; 9 x 9 secondstory windows with flat arches. Storefronts altered. Linda's Florist, vacant, Disco City. (N)

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- 22. 423 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1890. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet, corbeling, and rectangular attic vents; second-story windows with flat stone lintels. Storefront altered. Renewal Barber Shop, apartment. (C)
- 23. 428-430 M.L. King Blvd. (Tadley Building). 1915. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet with name and date of building, corbeling, and rectangular attic vents; second-story windows with flat arches. Storefronts altered. Vacant, Memo's Grill, apartment. (C)
- 24. 431 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1960. Vernacular. Two-story, eight-bay brick; flat roof; 1x1 second-story windows; recessed first-story entrance. Vacant. (N)
- 25. 432-436 M.L. King Blvd. (Tadley Building). 1928. Vernacular. Three-story, three-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet with name and date of building, circular attic vents with cast stone trim, and corner terra-cotta shields; 4 x 4 third-story windows arranged in three banks with transoms, 1 x 1 paired second-story windows with flat arches and cast stone corner blocks. Storefronts somewhat altered. Vacant. (C)
- 26. 435 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. One-story, one-bay brick; flat roof. Storefront altered. East Side Grocery. (C)
- 27. 437-439 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1920. Vernacular. One-story, two-bay brick; flat roof. Vacant. (C)
- 28. 500-504 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1900. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay brick; flat roo'f with metal cornice and rectangular attic vents; 1xl paired second-story windows with elliptical arches; cast iron pilasters on first-story. Storefronts altered. Regency Liquors, Half Note, Stack Lounge, apartments. (C)
- 29. 507-511 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1910. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; flat roof with corbeled cornice and rectangular attic vents. Storefronts altered. Vacant, Oasis Tavern, Cammies Beauty Salon. (C)
- 30. 508 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1980. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; flat roof; canvas entrance awnings. Whole Note Restaurant and Lounge. (N)
- 31. 513-515 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1905. Vernacular. Two-story, four-bay brick; flat roof with parapet, corbeling, and rectangular attic vents; pilaster strips separate second-story bays; paired second-story windows with flat arches of cast stone and brick. Storefronts altered. Takara Lounge, Turntable Record Shop. (C)
- 32. 517-521 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1950. Vernacular. Two-story, six-bay brick; flat roof; metal casement windows on second story. Edward's Cafe, Kirby's Book Store, John Confectionary. (N)

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- 33. 526 M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1950. Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick; flat roof; two bays have garage doors. A&A Grocery. (N)
- 34. 526 (rear) M.L. King Blvd. Ca. 1900. Vernacular. Two-story, five-bay brick; flat roof; two-story frame veranda. Apartment. (C)
- 35. 528-534 M.L. King Blvd. (Mandre Building). 1905. Vernacular. Two-story, seventeen-bay brick; flat roof with stepped parapet with name and date of building and with corbeling and cast stone; 2 x 2 second-story windows with cast stone lintels; cast stone string courses. Storefronts somewhat altered. ABC Furniture, Carousel Lounge. (C)
- 36. 915 University. Ca. 1890. Vernacular. One-story, five-bay brick; flat roof; two large arched openings contain large double-leaf doors. Originally two-story building used as a city jail in 1893. Second story removed after fire in 1920's. Also used as an early firehall. Storage. (C)

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M.L. King Boulevard

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The black commu	nity of the M.L. King are	ea responded to th	ne circumst	tances of the times and

sought to provide their own necessities. In 1905 the Tennessee Legislature passed a stringent "Jim Crow" law for street cars. In response, Chattanooga blacks organized their own transportation system of horse-drawn cars which connected the district area with other black settlements and work areas in Chattanooga. Various organizations important to the black struggle for equal rights were located in the M.L. King Boulevard community. In the 1880's and 1890's, for example, there were the Colored Wheel and the Colored Farmer Alliance. In the period following the First World War, there was some activity in support of the Marcus Garvey Movement.

The buildings within the M.L. King Boulevard District express an architectural cohesiveness through the similarity of design, materials used, and the scale or size of the structures with respect to areas adjacent to the community. Another factor which contributes to the architectural cohesiveness of the area is the fact that little new construction has occurred in the district and the majority of structures were constructed in a relatively compact historical time frame.

While individual structures may possess little distinction, the cumulative effect and cohesiveness of the district is clearly distinguishable even to a casual observer. The district includes much of the remaining original black community and thus contains a variety of simple storefronts. Also included in the district are associated commercial structures such as apartment houses. In general, the commercial structures are representative of simplistic architectural styles adopted by the black community as commerce along M.L. King Boulevard began to grow and flourish in the black community. They are functional buildings depicting the architectural development of a typical turn-of-the-century major black community in the South.

Two significant intrusions of relatively new construction which exist in the district include Church's Fried Chicken and the Whole Note Restaurant and Lounge. Both of these structures are similar in size and scale to the buildings in the district. However, they do not add to the cohesiveness of the district architecture. Seven other smaller-scale intrusions include a beverage store and several small restaurants.

In summary, the history of the M.L. King Boulevard area is a major chapter in the history of Chattanooga, and continues to be. The M.L. King Boulevard Historic District is important in Chattanooga's history of architecture, commerce, and social interaction. Within the district exists a collection of cohesive commercial structures representative of simplistic architectural styles adopted by the black community as commerce along M.L. King Boulevard began to grow and flourish. Finally the district is significant to local and regional history for the social role the community played in developing and supporting a black culture and society in southeast Tennessee.

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M.L. King Boulevard Continuation sheet Historic District

Item number 10 Page

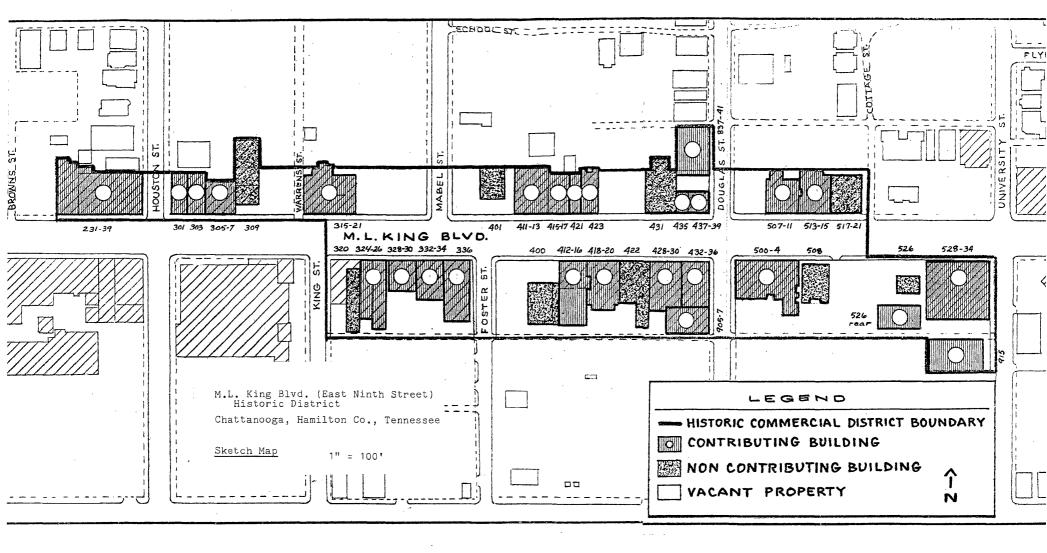
#### Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The district contains only the cohesive commercial area historically associated with Chattanooga's black community. The area is surrounded by warehouse and industrial buildings and borders the city's central business district.

The boundaries generally include the buildings on the north and south sides of M.L. King Boulevard between Houston and University Streets. Excluded from these boundaries are the block between Houston and King Streets on the south side of M.L. King Boulevard and the quarter block between College Alley (Street) and University Street on the north side of M.L. King Boulevard. The boundaries of the district extend on the north side of M.L. King Boulevard beyond Houston Street to include the building at 231-39 M.L. King Boulevard and up Douglas Street to include the building at 837-41 Douglas Street. Also within the district is the building at 915 University Street south of M.L. King Boulevard.

Specifically the southern boundary runs parallel to M.L. King Boulevard along an alley at the rear of the buildings facing M.L. King Boulevard on the south between King and University Streets. The southern boundary line deviates slightly from the alley at its intersection with University Street. This slight deviation is necessary to include an old Chattanooga prison and firehall at 915 University Street in the district boundary. The northern boundary roughly follows the rear property lines of the buildings facing M.L. King Boulevard on the north between Houston Street and College Alley (Street). The northern boundary deviates from this line to include the building at 231-39 M.L. King Boulevard immediately west of Houston Street and the building at 837-41 Douglas Street north of M.L. King Boulevard.

The eastern boundary of the district is College Alley (Street) north of M.L. King Boulevard and University Street south of M.L. King Boulevard. The western boundary north of M.L. King Boulevard is the western property line of the building at 231-39 M.L. King Boulevard, and the western boundary south of M.L. King Boulevard is King Street.



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