

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>
COUNTY: <b>Sevier</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>MAR 16 1976</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Roaring Fork Historic District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**5 miles southeast of Gatlinburg, (on the Roaring Fork motor-nature trail)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Gatlinburg**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**1st of Tennessee**

STATE: **Tennessee**      CODE: **47**      COUNTY: **Sevier**      CODE: **155**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>cultural</b>
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. AGENCY**

**National Park Service, Department of the Interior**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
**Southeast Regional Office**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Atlanta**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3401 Whipple Ave.**

STATE: **Georgia**      CODE: **13**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Sevier County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Sevierville**

STATE: **Tennessee**      CODE: **47**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Building Survey**

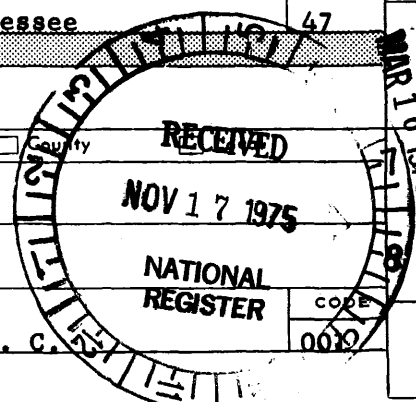
DATE OF SURVEY: **1935**       Federal       State       County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE: **D. C.**      CODE: **0010**



STATE: **Tennessee**

COUNTY: **Sevier**

ENTRY NUMBER: **10010**

DATE: **MAR 16 1976**

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The boundaries of the Roaring Fork Historic District are so designated to protect the two cabins and the components that accompany them.

The land encompassed by the district is indicative of the rugged mountains once occupied by the settlers of the Smokies. Sharply rising mountains and rocky slopes are distinctions ever present.

The intrusions within the district are few; a motor-nature trail and visitor sanitation facilities.

The motor nature trail, in part, follows a road bed which was once used by the settlers as a market road. Portions of the old road are included in the District and constitute a reason for the designation of this large area as a district.

<u>Corner</u>	<u>Lat.</u>	<u>Long.</u>
NW	35° 42' 17"	83° 28' 31"
NE	35° 42' 17"	83° 27' 37"
SE	35° 41' 31.5"	83° 27' 37"
SW	35° 41' 31.5"	83° 28' 31"

1. Ephraim Bales Cabin: Building #135  
 Recommended treatment: Preservation  
 Cost estimate: N/A  
 Location: Lat.: 35° 41' 47"                      Long.: 83° 28' 11:

The Ephraim Bales Place is a 1½ story rectangular shaped cabin with two rooms and a "dog trot" between.

The exterior walls are constructed of hand-hewn dove-tail notched logs and has a gabled roof made of hand-cut shake shingles. The foundation is constructed of both log and fieldstone piers.

There is only one window in the cabin; it is located on the south side of the structure on the same wall as the fireplace. The window has no special components.

The structure has five doors: one in the north wall, one in both the east and west walls, and two leading into the "dog trot" that enables access to the two room adjoined by the breezeway.

All of the doors are constructed of random-width board and have hand forged hinges and hand-made wooden latches.

The floor is constructed of random width hand-hewn logs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><b>cultural</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Order of significance: 3rd

The valley of the Roaring Fork is an extremely narrow, rock-strewn hollow that heads beneath Mount LeConte and ends near Gatlinburg. Rock is more common than soil. The pitifully small, overgrown fields, where corn was once planted, are poignant reminders of man's willingness to sacrifice for the right to live in a forlorn (beloved) land. The slope of some of the abandoned fields is so steep that it is difficult to believe they were ever farmed, but they were. As the old mountain adage goes, oft times a handful of soil was placed between the rocks so the corn could be planted.

1. Ephraim Bales Cabin

Level of significance: 3rd

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this cabin is tied to the personality of the owner. "Eph" was a "stereotype of the popular conception of the mountain man who feuds with his neighbors and has no dealings with outsiders."<sup>1</sup> "He was, without doubt, a hard cruel man who was despised by his neighbors, and in turn despised them."<sup>2</sup> Eph Bales farmed 71.7 acres of land in the Roaring Fork area.<sup>3</sup> This, in itself, is a feat when the terrain is considered; the inclines are steep and the earth rocky. The Ephraim Bales Cabin was built around 1880 and is a good example of the sturdy cabins built by the pioneer of the late 19th century.

2. The Ephraim Bales Barn

Level of significance: 3rd

This large barn played an essential role in the Roaring Fork area. Cattle being driven across the mountains were allowed to stop here. Eph was able to collect some pay for this service in the form of grain.

<sup>1</sup>Ephraim Bales Historic Structures Report, Robert Maden, April 1970, Great Smoky Mountain National Park. pp. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. pp. 8

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. pp. 8

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Madden and Jones, Ephraim Bales Wood Shed and Meat House Historic Structures Report, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1970.

Madden and Jones, Alfred Reagan House and Tub-Mill: Historic Structures Report, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1969.

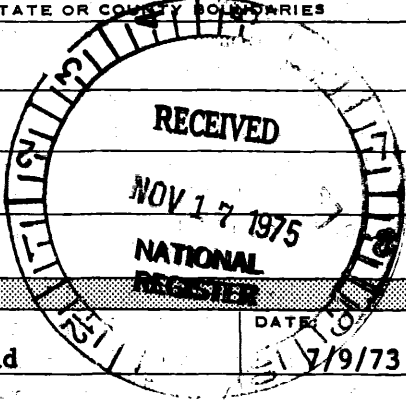
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	35 ° 42 ' 17 "	83 ° 28 ' 31 "				
NE	35 ° 42 ' 17 "	83 ° 27 ' 37 "				
SE	35 ° 41 ' 31.5 "	83 ° 27 ' 37 "				
SW	35 ° 41 ' 31.5 "	83 ° 28 ' 31 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **156**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Paul Gordon, Historian--Sam Easterby, Park Aid**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Sugarlands Visitor Center**

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: **(615) 436-5615**

CITY OR TOWN: **Gatlinburg** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><i>Lauren Henry</i>                  State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>Robert B. Rettig</i>                  Deputy Assistant Secretary                  Title</p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><i>Sam Easterby</i>                  Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <b>3/16/76</b></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>Robert B. Rettig</i>                  Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <b>3-14-76</b></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

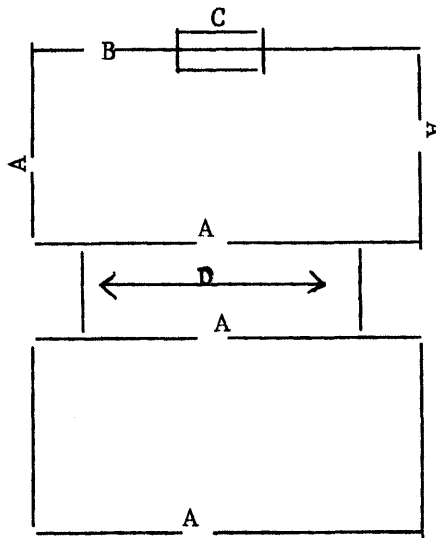
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Swain	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 16 1975

(Number all entries) Item #7 cont'd (1)

The basic plan of the interior is shown in the following diagram.

- A: Doors
- B: Window
- C: Fireplace
- D: "Dog Trot"



The interior walls are log with batten and the ceiling of the first story is constructed of random-width boards laid over log joists while the loft is unceiled.

The cabin's fireplace, located on the south wall, has a field-stone hearth and masonry rubble firebox, chimney piece, and chimney.

The first restoration work on this cabin was in 1941: the work accomplished was not itemized but listed as "repair and restoration." In 1948, the following work was accomplished: "straightened up building with rock pillars, braced walls, sheathed with salvage material, covered with 65 #asphalt roofing, replaced 8 new rafters. Used locust pins in rafters as before, stabilized foundation." In 1959, the roof was reshaked, and the building treated. In 1960, work order B-2 accomplished: repairs or replacement of hand-hewn and notched beams, rafters, and sills of the framing and walls; hand-hewn logs for floors, ceiling and other enclosures; roofing with hand-made shake shingles; repairs to chimneys, fireplace and other stone masonry structures.

2. Ephraim Bales Barn

Recommened treatment: Preservation

Estimated cost: N/A

Lat.: 35° 41' 47"

Long.: 83° 28' 11"

Building #137

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Tennessee	
COUNTY	Sevier	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 16 1970

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) Item #7 cont'd (2)

The Bales barn is a 1 story structure with a loft in the shape of a rectangle. The walls are constructed of hewn logs notched in a dove-tail fashion. The roof is gabled and is made of hand-cut shake shingles. Loose fieldstone makes up the foundation.

There is one window, in the south pen of the barn, which has no special components. However, there is evidence that a shutter was once attached to the window.

There are two small doors in the barn: one on the west side of the north pen, the other is located on the north side of the south pen. Both doors are constructed of random-width boards and have a combination latch-hinge arrangement made of hardwood sappling.

The basic interior plan is: a central throughway with pen on north and south side and a shed on the west side of the structure.

The loft is unceiled and the floor of the loft is random-width hewn boards.

Some restoration work was accomplished in 1948: "New sill under shed; foundation stabilized, gabled in full with salvaged material, covered with 65% asphalt roofing, new right barn rafters and new gable rafter, braced north gable." In 1959 the building was re-roofed with oak shakes. In 1959-1960 (work order B-2) some rehabilitation work was done, but the work was not specified.

3. Ephraim Bales Corn Crib

Reccommended treatment: Preservation

Cost estimate: N/A

Lat.: 35° 41' 47"

Long.: 83° 28' 11"

Building #136

The "Eph" Bales corn crib is a one story, rectangular, hand-hewn saddle notched log structure with a gabled roof made of hand-split shake shingles resting on a loose fieldstone foundation. The structure has two cribs on either side of a breezeway. Two openings on the east side of each crib provide accessibility to the enclosures. The openings at one time had some sort of shutter but none are in place at this time. The flooring of the crib is earth and rock.

In 1958, the roof was covered with oak shakes. Also the crib was rehabilitated, but the specific work was not shown on the PCP of the completion report. In 1959, additional rehabilitation was done, on work order B-2, but the actual work was not specified.

4. Ephraim Bales Pig Pen

Reccommended treatment: Preservation

Cost estimate: N/A

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sevier	
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	MAR 10 1976

(Number all entries)

Item #7 cont's (3)

Lat.: 35° 41' 47"

Long.: 83° 28' 11"

Building #138

The pig pen is rectangular one story structure with walls constructed of saddle-notched logs and is covered by a gabled roof constructed of shake shingles. The pen rests on a loose fieldstone foundation. There is one door, on the south side of the pen, which has no special components. The pen has an earthen and rock floor and is unceiled.

In 1948, the following work was accomplished:

"Foundation stabilized, roof sheathed with salvaged material, covered with 65# roofing, end 5 gabled, and door made of salvaged material (the door is no longer a component.) In 1958, the roof was covered with oak shakes. In 1959, work order B-2 listed rehabilitation, but did not list specifically the work done.

5. Alfred Reagan House

Recommened treatment: Preservation

Cost estimate: N/A

Lat.: 35 42' 8"

Long.: 83 28' 16"

Building #134

Originally a one story hewn log structure on stone piers. At an undetermined date the walls were raised to provide two attic rooms. This extension as well as the gables are of stud construction. The lower exterior walls are covered with vertical boards and battens and the gables are covered with lap siding. The central chimney is fieldstone with mortar. Two first-floor rooms are connected by a passage at the rear of the house which also gave access to a former kitchen ell. Access to the attic is by an enclosed stair from the front porch in the space created by the chimney. The first floor rooms are panelled with random width vertical boards. The building is a good example of a "saddlebag" house.

Circular sawed, random width boards make up the flooring for the structure. The roof is constructed of wood shingles.

The first floor walls and partitions are finished with vertical board paneling.

The attic floor is board over joists and the walls and ceiling are unfinished, exposing the framing members.

The first floor windows are 4 over 4, double hung with a fixed top sash. All sash are missing.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sevier	
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(Number all entries) Item #7 cont'd (4)

A five panel door opens from the porch into each first-floor room. The door frames have no trim. A framed opening from the rear passage formerly provided access to the kitchen wing.

The fieldstone chimney is laid with mud mortar. Both fireplaces originally had mantels although the living room mantel is missing. Both fireplaces have a fieldstone hearth.

- 6. Alfred Reagan Tub Mill  
 Reccommended treatment: Preservation  
 Cost estimate: N/A  
 Lat.: 35° 42' 8" Long.: 83° 28' 16"  
 Building #406

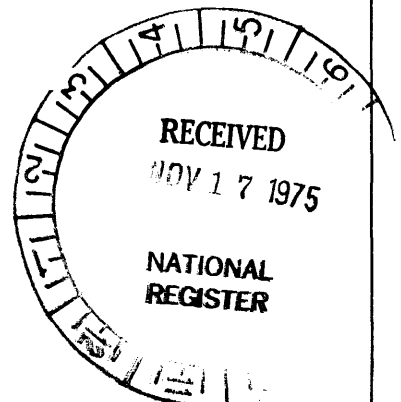
The Tub Mill is a one story rectangular structure constructed on a sloping creek bank. Circular sawn dimension timbers, boards and siding, are the principal construction materials. The foundation is fieldstone and log post.

The roof, originally wood shingle on shingle laths and rafters, has been replaced with modern construction covered with roll roofing.

The exterior walls are random-width boards. A board and batten door is located in the west or front wall and the only window is in the south or right side. Neither of these openings are trimmed. The window sill is missing and there is no evidence that a sash was ever installed in the opening.

There is no interior wall finish or ceiling in the building.

Very little of the Gristmill machinery is in place. It is understood that parts of the machinery were removed and placed in storage pending restoration.





**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Sevier	
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	MAR 10 1976

(Number all entries)

Item #8 cont'd (1)

3. The Ephraim Bales Corn Crib

Level of significance: 3rd

Because of the terrain in the Roaring Fork area a necessity was created to protect the harvest that a few acres of corn yielded. The corn crib, quite common to the mountains solved the problem.

4. Ephraim Bales Pig Pen

Level of significance: 3rd

The hog played a part in the diet of the mountain man. During the spring and summer months he would allow the hogs to roam the mountains; to eat acorns and berries. When it came time to fatten the hog and prepare him for slaughter, the pig-pen played an important role. The hog or sow was penned-up until ready for the kill.

5. Alfred Reagan House

Level of significance: 3rd

Originally a log house typical of the mountains, the Reagan house was built between 1886 and 1894. The construction of the cabin predates Reagan's ownership. At an undetermined date Reagan renovated the structure: raising the roof and adding a porch and kitchen ell.

An interesting feature of the cabin is a double fireplace in the center of the house; it was used to keep the bedroom and living room warm and besides a wood burning cook stove in the kitchen was the only source of heat.

6. Alfred Reagan Tub-Mill

Level of significance: 3rd

The grist mill, constructed around 1900, was a turbine or "tub" mill, the most common type found in the mountains. Water was channeled to strike a primitive horizontal wooden turbine wheel, which turned and provided direct drive power to the mill stones.

The only unusual feature known about the mill is that it had a hand-powered, home-made bolting machine. Apparently some wheat was ground there, and the bolting machine was needed to remove the chaff and separate the ground wheat into different grades.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Alfred Reagan House and Tub Mill Historic Structures Report, Robert Madden, Oct. 12, 1969, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, pp. 15-16.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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NOV 17 1975
DATE ENTERED
MAR 16 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Geographical Data - Roaring Fork Historic District (Great Smoky Mountains N.P.)

UTM References

- A. 17/277410 / 3953790
- B. 17/277410 / 3952380
- C. 17/276010 / 3952410
- D. 17/276030 / 3953830