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(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name: Paulsdale

other name/site number: Paul, Alice, House

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**2. Location**

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street & number: 126 Hooton Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mt. Laurel Township

vicinity: N/A

state: NJ

county: Burlington

code: 005

zip code: 08054

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**3. Classification**

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current: domestic
social

Sub: single dwelling
civic

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century
Other: vernacular

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation- sandstone roof- slate
walls- stucco other- wood porches

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \_X\_ See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: national

Applicable National Register Criteria: B
NHL Criteria: 2

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: politics/government
social history

NHL Theme: XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements
Sub Theme: C. Women's Rights

Period(s) of Significance: 1885-1920

Significant Dates: 1916

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Significant Person(s): Paul, Alice

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Hooton, Benjamin

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
\_X\_ See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

\_X\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
X previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
Other state agency
X Federal agency
Local government
- University
X Other -- Specify Repository: Alice Paul Centennial Foundation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 6.56

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 18 505920 4422740 B
C D

See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the center line of Hooton Road measured South 45 degrees 45 minutes West along said center line of Hooton Road from its intersection with the center line of Moorestown to Mount Laurel Road (66 feet wide), said beginning point also being the intersection of the center line of said Hooton Road and the center line of a certain stream; thence (1) South 45 degrees 45 minutes West and running along center line of said Hooton Road 360.13 feet to an angle in the same; thence (2) South 66 degrees 45 minutes West still along center line of Hooton Road 57.66 feet to the line of lands now or formerly of William Paul; thence (3) South 16 degrees 38 minutes East and passing over a monument in the Southeast line of Hooton Road and running along line of lands of said Paul 755.19 feet to a corner to same; thence (4) North 75 degrees 18 minutes East and still running along line of lands of said Paul 318.10 feet to a corner to same; thence (5) North 16 degrees 18 minutes West still running along line of lands of said Paul 236 feet to an angle in same; thence (6) North 10 degrees 46 minutes 45 seconds West still running along line of land of said Paul 685.16 feet to the southeast line of Hooton Road, said point also being the intersection of the center line of said stream and the Southeast line of Hooton Road; and thence (7) North 44 degrees 15 minutes West and running along center line of said stream 24.75 feet to the center line of Hooton Road and place of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The property delineated above is known as "Paulsdale" and constitutes the remaining structures of what has historically been associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Jill S. Topolski

Organization: National Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History

Date: June 10, 1991

Street & Number: 400 A Street, SE

Telephone: (202) 544-2422

City or Town: Washington

State: DC

Zip Code: 20003

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DESCRIPTION OF SITE:<sup>1</sup>

"Paulsdale" is a large, three-story, five-bay stucco over brick farmhouse, located on 6.56 acres on the south side of Hooton Road between the Mt. Laurel/Moorestown Road and Church Road, Mount Laurel Township, New Jersey. Probably built for/by Benjamin Hooton before 1849 in a vernacular Greek Revival style, the house is located approximately 425 feet from Hooton Road at the end of a long lane bordered by pine trees and remains much the same as it did when Alice Paul was born there in 1885. The original parcel consisted of 173.4 acres and, in addition to the main house, contained a horse and cow barn, chicken house and laying coops, calf stables, hog house, pig pen, granary, carriage house, ice house, wagon and cart sheds and two outhouses. Of these buildings, only the frame ice house remains as a contributing structure; it is in poor condition with the stone foundation crumbling and the walls near collapse. Next to it is a contemporary, non-contributing open-ended frame storage shed. The house, situated well back from Hooton Road, has a deep lawn on the north side where Alice Paul played tennis and engaged in the sports activities which were her favorite pastimes. The house is shielded from view by a variety of evergreen and deciduous trees and bushes including a red maple and a very large, old copper beech, several hollies, locust trees, dogwood, lilacs, fruit trees and blue spruce. On the south side, where the front entrance is located, the property contains dogwoods, maples, pin oaks, a magnolia tree and a perennial garden. The dwelling itself is almost unchanged since Paul lived there.

The north facade, partially hidden by trees and bushes, is the first part of the house to be seen as one approaches it. Although it faces Hooton Road, this is actually the rear of the house. The entryway here has a timbered sill and three-light transom; three sidelights and two molded wood panels are on each side of the door. The door has four glass and two molded wood panels. All lights contain the original glass. There are three shuttered french windows on the first floor, one east of the entryway, two on the west. On the second floor are four unshuttered double-hung windows with 2/2 glass panes. The slate roof contains two pedimented dormers with ornamental wood brackets. The dormer windows are double-hung and have 2/2 glass panes. The porch which ran along this facade was removed prior to 1960. Two end brick chimneys are clearly visible. The north wall of the 1951 west-end addition is windowed and has wood siding. The screened porch with sloping roof on the east end of the house wraps around to this facade.

The south facade, the front of the house, retains the original one-story wooden porch with four partially beveled wood columns; the floor and one column were replaced due to rot. The south entrance has an ornate wood floor-to-ceiling double door with two small octagonal glass panels having an etched design and four octagonal molded wood panels. It has a large brass key plate and knob, the latter decorated

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with the head of a centurion. The name, "A. Rankin," was discovered inside the lock by its former owner, Marvin Feyerherm. There are two shuttered eight-paned french windows to the west of the entrance and one on the east. On the second floor are five unshuttered, double-hung windows with 2/2 glass panes. The slate roof has two pedimented dormers on this side, also with ornamental wooden brackets. The dormer windows are double-hung with 2/2 glass panes. On this facade, the west-end slope-roofed addition contains five jalousied windows with four glass panes each and a storm/screen door entry reached by three steps. The screened porch on the east end carries to this facade and has a screen door entrance reached by three steps.

The 1951 addition on the west end of the house was built on the foundation of the original summer kitchen, and it is composed of a kitchen, breakfast room, clean-up area and porch. The one-story wooden porch which originally ran along the east end of the house was replaced with a screened area with a sloping roof during the same period.

Except for the 1951 addition and the removal of the large corner fireplace in the original kitchen, the interior of the Alice Paul birthplace is essentially the same as it was when Alice Paul was born and lived there. In 1951 a new fireplace was installed in the present dining room which encompasses the area of the original kitchen; the brick support for the original kitchen fireplace may still be seen in the basement of the house. Stairs to the basement are located in the northeast corner of the dining room; two of the french windows are on the north wall of the dining room.

The library, located on the south side of the house and in front of the dining room, has two floor-to-ceiling French windows on the south wall; a third french window on the western wall acts as the entry to the contemporary kitchen wing. A brick wall separates the library and dining room. These rooms are west of the main entry hall.

The living room, on the east of the main entry hall, is two rooms deep and retains the original fireplace on the exterior east wall, between two floor-to-ceiling french windows which look out onto the screened porch. There is also a floor-to-ceiling french window on each of the south and north walls.

The main stairway is located in the center hall on the west and north walls, adjacent to the dining room. The stairway is simple yet elegant. The carved staircase balusters are octagonal as is the mahogany newel post which has carved acanthus leaves. The newel post and acanthus leaves appear to be carved out of a single piece of wood.

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On the second floor are four rooms and a bath, two on each side of the small upstairs hallway. The bathroom, on the south wall, is entered through the hall; one room is located on each side of the bathroom and one room is located on each side of the second floor stair landing. A rear hall staircase to the third floor is located along the northeast wall of a small bedroom.

On the third floor are four small rooms which were probably used by the domestic staff. Alice Paul referred to "Irish serving girls" in several of her taped interviews. A kitchen and bath were added sometime in the 1950s.

All interior doors, windows and floors are original. The windows have wide wood moldings. Mortise and tenoned beams can be seen in the attic crawl space. The exterior brick walls vary from twelve to sixteen inches in thickness (twelve inches on the east and west walls and sixteen inches on the north and south walls). Exterior brickwork has one inch stucco covering and the interior plaster is one inch thick over wood lath. "Paulsdale" is currently inhabited by a caretaker, and is occasionally used for Alice Paul Centennial Foundation fundraising activities.

<sup>1</sup>Information derived from 1988 National Register Nomination Form for Alice Paul Birthplace, prepared by Gail Greenberg, Alice Paul Centennial Foundation. The property is now owned by the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, Inc. There have been no changes to the structure since the completion of the National Register nomination form.



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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

"Paulsdale" served as the home of suffrage leader Alice Paul from her birth in 1885 until 1905, and for the next fifteen years as her home base and retreat, and from 1920 until 1958 as a site of frequent visits. Located in the New Jersey Quaker community near Moorestown, "Paulsdale" greatly influenced Paul's life. She went on to secure passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920, securing the vote for women, and continued to fight for women's rights by drafting the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1920s and fighting to obtain its congressional support. A contemporary of Ghandi, Alice Paul was one of the first to advocate non-violent civil disobedience, combining British suffrage militancy and Quaker pacifism. Later, Paul was responsible for the inclusion of the sex equality clause into the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It is on this declaration that many democratic countries based their constitutions. Thus, it was Paul's strong Quaker upbringing that taught her equality of the sexes, and molded her for the work she was to accomplish. Eleanor Flexner's much respected work Century of Struggle attributes to Paul the pivotal role of "taking up that issue [suffrage] when it was dead and [bringing] it very much to life."<sup>1</sup> In analyzing Paul's special contributions Sally Hunter Graham in the article "Woodrow Wilson, Alice Paul and the Women Suffrage Movement," which appeared in the Political Science Quarterly emphasizes Paul's political theory which evolved around the use of suffrage pressure groups to gain publicity and to change both the public's and the politician's views on suffrage.<sup>2</sup> Nancy Cott summarizes Paul's career in an article in the Journal of American History by stating: "It was a great credit to Paul and her immediate Lieutenants that they asserted the ongoing need for an association dedicated to women's power, not to social service or good government, but to 'the removal of all remaining forms of subjection' of the female sex."<sup>3</sup> According to the National Park Service Thematic Framework, "Paulsdale" falls under theme: XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements, C. Women's Rights.

Since Paul never lived in a home of her own, "Paulsdale, the family home, served as her home base for a large portion of her life. Thus it is the appropriate site to commemorate her life. When Paul was twenty she no longer lived permanently at Paulsdale but instead moved around frequently. Yet "Paulsdale" always served as her personal "headquarters," where she would meet with supporters to discuss suffrage strategy. Paul attended college at Swarthmore, and then lived in a New York City settlement house for a short time. She attended graduate school in England, and after returning to the United States, in Philadelphia. During her suffrage activities in Washington in the 1910s, she had no permanent address. Beginning in 1929 she had a room at the Sewell-Belmont House, which also served as the headquarters of the National Women's Party. Although she remained on the move, she retained a room at the Sewell Belmont House until the 1970s. Alice Paul spent many

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summers in a house in Echo Lake, Vermont from the mid-1930s until 1946; it is no longer standing. She spent time in the 1940s at her sister's house in Ridgefield, Connecticut in order to be close to the United Nations headquarters in New York City. "Paulsdale" was sold, after her brother's death, in 1958. In 1974, Alice Paul entered a succession of two nursing homes, where she died in 1977.<sup>4</sup>

Although the Sewell-Belmont house, now a National Historic Site affiliated with the National Park Service and located in Washington DC, is also associated with Paul, it is important to note that Paul's association with this property did not begin until 1929. The Women's Party, founded in 1916, had several headquarters prior to receiving the Sewell-Belmont House as a gift from Alva Belmont. By the time the Women's Party moved to the Sewell-Belmont House, Paul was forty-four years old. Her vigorous leadership in the suffrage movement and her work to secure the final passage of the 19th amendment had occurred many years before. Furthermore, Paul's role as a strategist in the early years of the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment began in 1920, almost a decade prior to the move to the Sewell-Belmont House. Thus Paul's association with the Sewell-Belmont House does not focus on the most productive years of either Alice Paul or the Women's Party. However, "Paulsdale", which served as a home base for Paul from the time of her birth in 1885 until the house was sold after her brother's death in 1958, conveys the roots and priorities that shaped her life. And unlike the Sewell-Belmont House, which focuses on the National Women's Party and a whole coalition of women activists, "Paulsdale's" primary affiliation is with Alice Paul.

Alice Paul was born on January 11, 1885, in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. The eldest of four children, she received a strong Quaker upbringing by her parents, William Mickle Paul and Tacie Parry Paul. "Paulsdale" became a gathering place for her extended family. Alice's parents, along with the rest of her family, were active in the local Hicksite meeting.<sup>5</sup> Alice recalls her mother taking her to a suffrage meeting at the home of a neighboring Quaker. Despite the fact that she knew women did not vote, Paul "never heard of anybody being opposed to the idea of [suffrage or equality]." Gaining the vote for women "was one thing that had to be done."<sup>6</sup> Alice's father died suddenly in 1901, but her mother nevertheless was able to support Alice financially and emotionally, thus allowing Alice to pursue her suffrage and sex-equality activities.<sup>7</sup>

Alice Paul's childhood reflected a strict Quaker upbringing. According to Paul, "I never met anybody who wasn't a Quaker, and I never heard of anybody who wasn't a Quaker." Growing up she never heard any music, but after her father's death when she was sixteen, her mother purchased a piano and proceeded to teach her younger sister how to play. At Swarthmore, although it was a Quaker school, Paul sang hymns for the first time in her life. Paul was an avid tennis player, and "read just endlessly,

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ceaselessly, almost every book it seem[ed]." "Paulsdale" had an extensive library, so that Paul "remember[s] reading every single line of Dickens as a child over and over and over and over again. . . . [She] just read whatever books there were, and there was pretty nearly everything."<sup>8</sup>

Alice's social life also revolved around "Paulsdale." Myra McNally, who was the Wellesley College roommate of Alice's sister Helen, described "how wonderful it was to be on such a farm, with cereal and fresh peaches with lots of cream for breakfast." Among the guests for a weekend at "Paulsdale" was Scott Nearing, a suffrage advocate, who had been a teacher of Alice's while she was a student at the University of Pennsylvania (1911-1912) and earning her Doctoral Degree. He was part of the circle of friends who returned to "Paulsdale" for visits.<sup>9</sup> Through family and social associations at "Paulsdale," in a house where visitors and family were all keenly aware of the political and social issues of the day, Alice Paul would become one of the country's foremost feminist leaders.

Alice Paul's academic interests in the legal status of women began while she was a student at the University of Pennsylvania. After earning her bachelor's degree, she became interested in research which eventually became her doctoral dissertation: "Towards Equality"-- an examination of legal status of women in Pennsylvania. Paul earned a master's degree in sociology in 1907, but interrupted her studies for the doctorate to accept a fellowship at the Quaker Woodbrooke Settlement in England to study social work at the Central Training School for Quakers. While there, Paul embarked upon the path that "united her family heritage, service-oriented Quaker education, and interests in political science, economics, and the status of women." It was while she was in London that she honed her political skills. Demonstrating with British suffragist Cristabel Pankhurst and the Women's Social and Political Union, Paul protested, was arrested, and took part in hunger strikes to assert her political position.<sup>10</sup>

Once back in the United States, Paul embarked on an active political program to secure the vote for women. She joined the Philadelphia Woman Suffrage Association, and organized Philadelphia's first street meetings for suffrage. By 1912, she chaired the National American Woman Suffrage Association's Congressional Committee. In Washington, she lobbied for a constitutional amendment for suffrage with new tactics that included parades and pickets. She formed the Congressional Union, which was a national organization that educated Congressmen's home districts.<sup>11</sup>

In 1916 the Congressional Union became the National Woman's Party, under the direction of Paul. Their non-violent methods of demonstration, initiated by Paul, drew criticism from the National American Woman Suffrage Association. But nevertheless Paul, persisted. Even with the advent of World War I, Paul sent "silent

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sentinels" to picket the White House, bearing banners with slogans critical of the President. Mob violence ensued, the women were prohibited from picketing and when they did they were sent to jail. Paul was imprisoned three times, once in the District of Columbia insane ward; after beginning a hunger strike, she was force fed. Finally, Woodrow Wilson conceded-- Congress passed the suffrage bill in 1919. The states ratified the amendment by August, 1920.<sup>12</sup>

Until Paul was thirty-five, she returned to "Paulsdale" frequently. According to Alice Paul's biographer Amelia Fry, "Paulsdale" became a retreat for Paul from her political activities in Washington. She often spent time with her mother who lived at "Paulsdale" until 1920, and Paul recuperated from a case of Bright's disease there. Her vast library along with most of her personal possessions remained at "Paulsdale" until 1920, despite Alice Paul's travels. Paul celebrated holidays with her family at "Paulsdale," and while there she wrote letters and continued to organize her suffrage activities. After 1920 when her mother moved into Moorestown, Paul's involvement with "Paulsdale" declined, but did not cease. When her mother died, she inherited a farmhouse, located in close proximity to "Paulsdale" in which she never lived, but rented out. When she was in the area to administer the property, she stayed at "Paulsdale," which was owned by her brother.<sup>13</sup>

Following the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, Paul began working toward an Equal Rights Amendment. Originally titled the Lucretia Mott Amendment, supporters spent almost four decades trying to secure ratification. Early opponents of the Amendment included Florence Kelley, Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt, who feared that it would nullify protective legislation for women in the workplace. In later years, it was clear that this would not be the case. Congress supported the Amendment as early as 1936, and it was finally passed in 1972. The Amendment then needed to be ratified by a minimum of thirty-eight states, which proved to be more difficult than ERA supporters originally anticipated. Despite securing an extension to the seven-year time period, the Amendment was never ratified by enough states. The amendment officially failed in 1982.<sup>14</sup>

As a pioneer for equal women's rights worldwide, Paul succeeded in having the Pan American Union adopt the Equal Nationality Treaty in 1934. Signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the treaty's result was that a woman's nationality would no longer be determined by that of her husband.

In more recent decades, Paul's accomplishments included the incorporation of Equal Rights statements in several sections of the 1945 United Nations Charter and Preamble, as well as Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act-- the only federal protection for equal job opportunity and pay that women have today. Title VII has resulted in more legal suits and ensuing activity before the Civil Rights Commission than all the other titles combined.

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NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Eleanor Flexner, *Century of Struggle: The Women's Rights Movement in the United States*, (New York: Atheneum, 1972), 270.

<sup>2</sup>Sally Hunter Graham, "Woodrow Wilson, Alice Paul, and the Woman suffrage Movement," *Political Science Quarterly* 98 (Winter 1983-84), 667.

<sup>3</sup>Nancy F. Cott, "Feminist Politics in the 1920s: The National Woman's Party," *Journal of American History* 71 (June 1984), 54.

<sup>4</sup>Amelia Fry, "Alice Paul" draft rewrite for *Past and Promise: Notable Women of New Jersey*, December 1986. Copy in possession of NCC.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Alice Paul interviewed by Amelia Fry, 24 November 1972, Ridgefield, Connecticut. Copy of transcript in possession of NCC.

<sup>7</sup>Fry, "Alice Paul."

<sup>8</sup>Alice Paul to Amelia Fry.

<sup>9</sup>Amelia Fry to Barbara Irvine, 30 March 1988, copy in possession of NCC.

<sup>10</sup>Christine Lunardini, *From Equal Suffrage to Equal Rights: Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party, 1910-1928* (New York: New York University Press, 1986), 13-14.

<sup>11</sup>Fry, "Alice Paul."

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Amelia Fry, telephone conversation with author, 5 March 1991.

<sup>14</sup>Fry, "Alice Paul." For further information on the Equal Rights Amendment, see Mary Frances Berry *Why ERA Failed: Politics, Women's Rights, and the Amending Process of the Constitution* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1986).

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