

25318

T25NR41ES21

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Spokane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Battle of Spokane Plains State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 miles west of Spokane on U.S. 2 across from the entrance to Fairchild
City Air Force Base

ST: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Spokane CODE: 063

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Washington State Parks and Recreation Department

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN: Olympia STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: same as ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Spokane Metropolitan Area Transportation Study

DATE OF SURVEY: Feb. 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Spokane City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: N. 221 Wall St.

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane STATE: Washington CODE: 53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Spokane

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Presently a large basaltic rock pyramid with a bronze plaque. The inscription reads "Commemorative of the Battle of Spokane Plains, fought on September 5, 1858". Another plate on the monument also gives the further information "The battle of Spokane Plains was fought near this spot on September 5, 1858. In which the U.S. Troops under command of Col. George Wright defeated the allied Coeur D'Alene, Palouse and Spokane Indians." This monument and grounds are situated on the now agricultural, huge battle-site. The nominated area gives a commanding view of the flat lands over which the troopers and Indians fought.

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6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) September 5, 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Colonel George Wright with 700 men decisively defeated the Indians at this point after a 14 mile running battle from Four Lakes. The allied Indians included the Coeur d' Alenes, Palouse and Spokanes. This battle helped establish white supremacy fought on September 5, 1858. This was the last great Indian fight in the Northwest which started a few days earlier at the Battle of Four Lakes which also defeated the Indians.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

All major military histories of the PNW.

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one (1) acre, monument and park.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William H. Trogdon

ORGANIZATION: Eastern Washington Historical Society DATE: March 10, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
West 2316 First Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane ZIP: 99201 STATE: Washington CODE: 53 ~~46~~

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

Perhaps, one of the most important episodes in our history as well as the most deplorable, is our treatment of the American Indian. But no matter how one views this treatment, it cannot be denied that the Indian wars which occurred across the country, fulfilled our destiny, our "manifest destiny", stretching the United States land claims from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the State of Washington, for it was the Battle of Spokane Plains which opened up all of the Washington Territory for colonization, increasing the population to such an extent that becoming a state was no longer a dream, but a reality.

Before one can understand the significance of the Battle of Spokane Plains, one must first understand the events that lead up to the battle. Clashes between settler and Indian, was not something new to Washington; but by 1855, these clashes turned in high-pitched battles. In an attempt to put a stop to the fighting, Governor Stevens convened the first Walla Walla Council; out of this council, a series of treaties were reluctantly agreed upon, by the Eastern Washington Indians and Stevens. Three treaties were established; one with the Nez Perce, another with the Walla Walla, Coyuse and Umatilla tribes, and one with the Yakima's. The treaties provided that the various tribes would cede all their land except a small portion to be used as a reservation. In return the United States would provide the head chief with a house and a tilled section of land, and once the treaty has been ratified by Congress, the United States would provide schools and agricultural implements.

To illustrate the large amount of land which was to be ceded, one need only look at the Yakima treaty; for the cession of land described in this treaty covered about half the present state of Washington. The treaties were reluctantly agreed to by the head Chief of the various tribes involved, only because they feared the

REPRISOLS OF Stevens volunteers if they didn't sign.

It wasn't long until the Chief;s dissatisfaction gegan to surface. A number of chiefs protested that stevesn would not negotiate any of the provisions of the treaties. The unrest was further intensified by different views held by Governor Stevens ^{and} General Wool.. The crux of theri difference was that Stevens believed that under this Walla Walla treaty all of the land, except that provided to the Indians as a reservation, was immediately open to white settlement. While General Wool and the Army believed that absolutely no land could be taken or settled until the treaty was ratified by Congress (as the rreaty was not ratified until 1859, according to Wool all actions taken to enforce the treaty was unlawful).

However, the white settlers accepted Governor Stevens interpretation and began to appropriate Indian lands. By early Autumn of 1855, another Indian war was in progress. Governor Stevens proceeded to put volunteers forces into the field to crush the Indians. General Wool, however, felt that Stevens and his supporters were in the wrong, and he ordered the regular army to protect th' rights of the Indians. It soon became apparent that one of the forces would have to be disbanded. Thus, by the end of 1856, the volunteer army was no longer as operative. A letter written by the Secretary of War on March 3, 1859, explains shy the Volunteers were disbanded:

" in the summer of 1856, the "strike" to use his own words, was made by Lt. Colonel Shaw of the Washington Volunteers. He reports that "with 160 men and officers he charged the indians assembled here on the morning of the 17th of July, near their village are dispenced them following and killing them, until they hid themselves in the Rocky Corens... This exploit may be regarded as the last "strike" of the Washington Volunteer army raised by the Governor of, that Territory and sent June 8, 1956 to the Walla Walla Valley. Unfortunately for the of their acheivement it has been reported that "The whole object was to plinder the Indians of their horses and cattle and provoke a

With the ousting of the volunteer forces, 1857 was us

With the ousting of the volunteer forces, 1857 was ushered in in an aura of peace, for unlike the confusion of the wild lands of the volunteers, an order was established by the regulars. The order was accomplished by the establishment of garrisoned Forts, Fort Simco in Yakima County and Fort Walla Walla in Walla Walla County and since the army blocked all immigrant routes into the interior of Washington, the Indians were content with the forts.

However, peace was not to last more than a year, as a series of incidents were soon to develop which could lead to another war. First, such violent complaints of Wool's Indian Policy were sent to Washington D.C. that Wool was replaced by General Norman S. Clarke. Second, Indian Agent A.J. Bolan was murdered along with several miners from Colville. As a result of these deaths, Captain Steptoe's march was begun. The purpose of his mission was to find the murderers of Bolan and the miners and to punish those Indians who ran off cattle from Walla Walla and most importantly to "adjust amiably" the differences between Indians and whiteman. It was Steptoe's Mission and its disastrous defeat, which led to the Battle of Spokane Plains.

Throughout 1857, peace was kept because of the continued maintenance of General Wool's policy. This policy was the promise that no white invasion of any sort, either military or civilian would cross to the north side of the Snake River. This promise was a basic condition insisted upon by all the tribes of that region. Thus, on May 17, 1858, the Steptoe Mission expedition started north from the Snake River, general unrest among the tribes was triggered automatically, for them this was proof that the United States was trying to break the peace that General Wool established. However the United States government had no intention of breaking the peace with the Indian tribes.

In fact, the main purpose of Steptoe's expedition was to assure the Indians that no war was desired by the whitemen and that the United States government had

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had no intention of enforcing the treaty of 1855. When the Steptoe's expedition commenced and he journeyed over the Snake River, the troops were ambushed by a number of Indians and Steptoe was forced to retreat. The retreat was followed by an expedition led by Colonel Wright and the final submission of the Redman. It is obvious that the whole Steptoe's Affair was a dreadful mistake for if the Indian had realized that they had a friend in Colonel Steptoe, the Battle of Spokane Plains could have been avoided.

When news of Steptoe's defeat reached the War Department, the Secretary of War came to the conclusion that Steptoe's retreat must be met with a stern reprisal. The Indians were now "intoxicated by victory, growing more and more arrogant, boasting they would drive back any force that the United States would dare send north of the Snake River". Hence, reinforcements were sent to Fort Walla Walla with the intention of sending a strong column under Colonel George Wright, into Eastern Washington to show the tribes the white man's superiority. The following is an excerpt of Colonel Wright's orders, dated July 4, 1858:

"The objects to be obtained, are the punishment and submission of the Indians engaged in the late attack on the command of Steptoe, and the surrender of the Pelouse Indians who murdered two miners last April... you will attack All the hostile Indians you meet, with vigor; make their punishment severe and persevere until the submission of all is complete.

With these objectives in mind Colonel Wright began his expedition in the fall. On September 1, 1858, Wright encountered a number of Indians in the vicinity of Four Lakes, 20 miles from the Spokane Falls. The mounted Indians were in the scattered woods on the shores of the lakes. After a barrage of fire, the Indian line broke and the fleeing Indians were followed by the charging soldiers/

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As Lawrence Kip Wrote: //; ; ; ; /

As Lawrence Kip Wrote: Soon began ! A wild race for life with the fleeing Indians rushing desperately for cover in the rocks and woods." the fighting lasted for four hours and extended over a field of three miles, with Wright suffering no casualties but the Indians suffered with 20 men killed and 40 - 50 wounded. Wright camped and rested for three days. Beyond the Four Lakes to the Northwest lays a great plain which stretches out for miles, terminated only by bare grassy hills, It was on this plain that the Battle of Spokane was fought and the Indians suffered their final defeat. On the morning of September 5, at 6 o'clock Colonel Wright's expedition continued on their way. They had marched 5 miles when they became aware of an increasing number of Indians gathering together just about ahead of their troops. As their numbers increased the Indians became bolder and more defiant, riding parallel to the massive marching column. A high wind was blowing from the south, and the Indians set fire to the dry grass of the prairies. A great roaring fire soon encompassed the troops. Under cover of a great column of smoke, the Indians partially encircled Wright's men, and poured rifle fire upon them. The soldiers however, with great courage charged through the smoke and flames, the Indians broke and fled to the cover of the woods and canyons. The howitzers soon discovered them and flushed them out. After a continuous fight for seven hours, covering a distance of fourteen miles, over hills, ravines woods, rocks, and level plains. With the victory secured, Wright stopped and encamped on the banks of the Spokane River. On September 8, Wright met with the Chief of Spokanes (Spokane Garry) and laid down his terms for peace:

"I have met you in two bloody battles; you have been badly

whipped; you have lost several chiefs and many warriors killed and wounded. I have not lost a man or animal;

I have a large free, and you Spokanes, Coeur d'Alerres, Palouses

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and Pend d' oreilles may unite, and I can beat you as badly as before I did not come into this country to make peace; I came here to fight. Now when you are tired of the way and ask for peace, I will tell you what you must do: you must come to me with your arms, with your women and children, and every thing you have, and lay them at my feet; you must put your faith in me and trust my mercy. If you do this, I shall then dictate the terms upon which I will grant peace. If you do not do this, war will be made on you this year and next, and until your nation shall be exterminated... Also, you must deliver to the Officer in Command at Fort Walla Walla one Chief and four officers men, with their families, from each of the three tribes who will be held as hostages for the future good conduct of their respective nations.

Defeat in Battle and the knowledge that war would continue until they submitted as well as the loss of 900 horses, which Wright viciously slaughtered and the burning of their foodstuffs, convinced the Indians to submit to the overwhelming superiority of the whites. Thus ended the era of Indian wars in Eastern Washington and began an era of great growth and stability for the white settlements in Washington paving its way to statehood. As for the tribes, with this battle began the deterioration of the American Indian, not only numerically but culturally as well. With that in mind, when we recall the significant events of the Battle of Spokane Plains, we should ~~consider~~ consider the at what cost our statehood was obtained.

INVENTORY FORM

The Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

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725N 242E S

NAME								
COMMON: Spokane Plains (Battle of) State Park <i>MARKER</i>								
AND/OR HISTORIC:								
LOCATION								
STREET AND NUMBER: 12 miles west of Spokane on U.S. 2, across from the entrance to Fairchild								
CITY OR TOWN: Air Force Base			COUNTY: Spokane					
CLASSIFICATION								
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>		OWNERSHIP		STATUS				
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress				
				ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
DESCRIPTION								
CONDITION	<i>(Check One)</i>							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed							
	<i>(Check One)</i>		<i>(Check One)</i>					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site					
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE								
Describe briefly on the back; attach a small photo.								
SIGNIFICANCE								
PERIOD <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>								
<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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century								
SPECIFIC DATE(S) <i>(If Applicable and Known)</i>								
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>								
<table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Aborigin <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation </td> <td style="width:25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music </td> <td style="width:25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation </td> <td style="width:25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ </td> </tr> </table>					<input type="checkbox"/> Aborigin <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Aborigin <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____					
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE								
Briefly describe the significance on the back.								
FORM PREPARED BY								
NAME AND TITLE:								
ORGANIZATION				DATE				
STREET AND NUMBER:			CITY OR TOWN:					

The inventory of historic places is an attempt to develop a catalog of all properties in the state that demonstrate a contribution to our present by peoples of the past. It is a basic part of the State Historic Preservation Plan that can tell planners, engineers, government officials and others what features in our cities, towns and rural areas they should be aware of as they develop new projects. The inventory form is not a substitute for a nomination to the National or State Registers of Historic Places but it will alert the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation staff to potential nominations and their locations; it will enable the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to more effectively assist you in the preparation of actual nominations.

No one knows how many historic sites there are in Washington; that is one of the purposes of the inventory; There are certainly thousands and, consequently, the inventory will be in progress for several years. Eligible properties are those which bear the mark of man: houses, commercial buildings, mines, vessels, archaeological sites and the sites of historic events, transportation facilities -- virtually any evident structure, object or site that has played a part in our collective heritage. Generally, properties less than 50 years will not be a part of the inventory.

Send the completed form to: Office of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation
Washington State Parks
P.O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98504

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