

NYAM

Issue No. 01

April 2024

HARMONEY HALL *UNVEILED*
ESTATE HOUSE
TO ESTEEMED
ART GALLERY

JAMAICAN HISTORY:
MEETS ARCHITECTURE

***“Harmony Hall:
A Gem of Jamaican
History and
Architecture -
Charting Paths for
Cultural Legacy and
Investment Growth”***

Preface

As stewards of Jamaica's rich heritage and cultural legacy, we are delighted to present to you "Harmony Hall: A Gem of Jamaican History and Architecture." Through this booklet, we invite you to embark on a journey through time and discover the beauty, charm, and significance of Harmony Hall. At [Jamaica Homes](#)ⁱ, we recognize the importance of preserving Jamaica's architectural heritage and celebrating its cultural diversity. Harmony Hall, with its rich history and architectural splendor, embodies the spirit of Jamaica and serves as a beacon of pride for our nation.

In these pages, you will delve into the fascinating history of Harmony Hall, from its origins as an estate house to its transformation into the esteemed Harmony Hall Art Gallery. You will marvel at the intricate details of its Jamaican-Georgian architectureⁱⁱ and learn about its cultural significance as a national monument. - As you explore Harmony Hall's past, present, and future, we hope you will be inspired by the enduring spirit of creativity, resilience, and innovation that defines Jamaica. Whether you are a history enthusiast, an art lover, or simply curious about the treasures of our island, we invite you to immerse yourself in the captivating world of Harmony Hall.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, let us celebrate the beauty and heritage of Jamaica and continue to cherish the legacy of Harmony Hall for generations to come.

Warm regards!



DEAN JONES

Founder of Jamaica Homes

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Harmony Hall: A Beacon of Inspiration

In Harmony Hall, where tales unwind, A gem of Jamaican lore, so finely defined. With history's brush and architecture's grace, It stands as a beacon, a timeless embrace. In its walls, echoes of days gone by, Where whispers of heritage reach for the sky. From plantation fields to art gallery's bloom, Each corner holds secrets, in silent commune.

A testament to resilience, it proudly stands, A symbol of strength in Jamaica's lands. Where cultures converge, and stories entwine, In Harmony Hall, inspiration divine. With each brick laid and each detail preserved, A legacy cherished, a treasure observed. For in its presence, we find our song, In Harmony Hall, where history belongs.

So let us walk through its halls with delight, And let its beauty ignite our sight. For in its embrace, we find our muse, In Harmony Hall, where dreams infuse.

Poem composed by Dean Jones, Founder of [Jamaica Homes](#)



Introduction

Welcome to "Harmony Hall: A Journey Through Jamaican History and Architecture."

Nestled in the lush landscapes of [Tower Isle](#)¹, St. Mary, Harmony Hall stands as a testament to Jamaica's rich heritage and architectural legacy. This booklet invites you to embark on a captivating journey through time, exploring the fascinating history and unique charm of this iconic landmark.



Dating back to the late nineteenth century, Harmony Hall began its story as the estate house of a small pimento and lime plantation. Over the years, it witnessed the

¹ Tower Isle is a serene haven with opulent resorts, immaculate beaches, and breathtaking ocean views located in St. Mary Parish, Jamaica.

ebb and flow of Jamaica's agricultural landscape, transitioning from pimento and lime to bananas and coconuts, mirroring the changing fortunes of the island's agricultural industry.

But Harmony Hall's significance extends beyond its agricultural roots. It served as the manse of the local Methodist church and even housed the esteemed Sherlock family during a pivotal period in Jamaica's history. Today, it stands as a cherished symbol of resilience and adaptation, a testament to the enduring spirit of the Jamaican people.

In this booklet which is a tribute to Harmony Hall, we will delve into the intricate details of Harmony Hall's architecture, exploring its unique blend of Jamaican-Georgian² style and Victorian influences. We will uncover the cultural significance of this historic site and trace its transformation into the beloved Harmony Hall Art Gallery.

Within Jamaica's vibrant canvas, adorned with over 100 strokes of artistic brilliance, lies a spectrum of expression—from the

² Between around 1750 and 1850, the Georgian architectural style gained popularity in Jamaica.

raw innocence of naivety to the intricate depths of refined sophistication.

Join us as we unravel the layers of history woven into the fabric of Harmony Hall, celebrating its past, present, and future. Welcome to a journey of discovery, where every page reveals a new chapter in the captivating story of Jamaica's architectural heritage.

History of Harmony Hall

The history of Harmony Hall is a tapestry woven with threads of agricultural innovation, cultural significance, and architectural splendor. Dating back to the late nineteenth century, Harmony Hall emerged as the estate house of a modest plantation, nestled amidst the verdant landscapes of Tower Isle, St. Mary.

Originally, Harmony Hall served as the heart of a small pimento and lime plantation, contributing to Jamaica's rich agricultural tapestry. Surprisingly sugar was not the

main crop cultivated on the estate. However, as the agricultural landscape evolved, so too did Harmony Hall's role. In 1910, like many other properties in St. Mary, Harmony Hall transitioned to banana cultivation, a crop that would become synonymous with Jamaica's agricultural heritage. By 1938, the estate expanded its agricultural pursuits to include the cultivation of coconuts, reflecting the resilience and adaptability of the Jamaican people in the face of changing economic landscapes.

Beyond its agricultural roots, Harmony Hall played a pivotal role in the social and cultural fabric of the community. It served as the manse for the local Methodist church, providing a spiritual haven for congregants and serving as a beacon of faith in the community. Additionally, Harmony Hall became the cherished residence of the distinguished Sherlock family, whose contributions to Jamaican society are etched into the annals of history.



'Harmony Hall in Saint Mary, Jamaica operated a restaurant led by Suzanne and Michelle ⁴ called Summerhouse Jamaica that served a fusion of Jamaican and international food. Some say the food was tasty and meant for sharing, and others say the meal was incredible in a beautiful garden and outdoor terrace.'

Throughout its storied history, Harmony Hall has borne witness to the ebbs and flows of Jamaican life, reflecting the resilience, innovation, and cultural richness of the island nation. Today, as a designated national monument ³ by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust ⁱⁱⁱ since April 3, 2003, Harmony Hall stands as a testament to Jamaica's enduring legacy and serves as a living testament to the vibrant spirit of its people.



S U M M E R H O U S E



In the annals of culinary history, the legacy of Suzanne and Michelle, two Jamaican sisters and esteemed business partners, is firmly etched. For a quarter of a century,

Provisions, earned international acclaim, solidifying their reputation in Caribbean cuisine discourse. Summerhouse brought their culinary magic to life.

³ The Harmony Hall House was declared a national monument by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust on April 3, 2003.

⁴ Suzanne and Michelle, Jamaican sisters and business partners, spent 25 years refining Modern Heritage Dining. Their cookbooks, *Caribbean Potluck* and

they dedicated their lives to perfecting the art of Modern Heritage Dining, a concept that seamlessly blended tradition with innovation. Their journey was one of relentless pursuit, marked by years of meticulous research, culinary experimentation, and globe-trotting adventures. Through their restaurants, catering services, television appearances, and scholarly pursuits, they curated a culinary experience that transcended borders and captivated palates worldwide. Their literary endeavors, notably their groundbreaking cookbooks, served as cornerstones of their culinary empire. "Caribbean Potluck: Modern Recipes from our Family Kitchen" catapulted them into the international spotlight, while "Provisions: The Roots of Caribbean Cooking" solidified their status as pioneers in Caribbean cuisine and culture. The latter garnered widespread acclaim,

earning accolades from esteemed publications such as The San Francisco Chronicle, The New Yorker, Epicurious, and Serious Eats. Yet, their journey was far from over. With boundless creativity and unwavering passion, Suzanne and Michelle embarked on their next venture: Summerhouse. Here, amidst the seasonal festivities of Caribbean culture, they sought to weave together the threads of tradition and innovation, inviting patrons to experience the enchantment of Modern Heritage Dining firsthand. Through Summerhouse, Suzanne and Michelle aimed to transcend mere sustenance, offering a culinary voyage that celebrated the rich tapestry of Caribbean flavors, traditions, and stories. It was a testament to their enduring legacy, a testament to the transformative power of food to unite, inspire, and enchant across generations.

Architecture and Design

The architectural splendor of Harmony Hall is a captivating blend of Jamaican-

Georgian style and Victorian influences, showcasing the evolution of architectural trends during the late nineteenth century. Situated amidst the picturesque landscapes of [Tower Isle, St. Mary](#), Harmony Hall is a testament to the

craftsmanship and ingenuity of its builders.

At first glance, Harmony Hall exudes an air of elegance and sophistication, with its intricate fretwork and gingerbread trimmings adorning the façade. These ornate details, characteristic of Jamaican-Georgian architecture, lend the building a sense of whimsy and charm, evoking a bygone era of colonial grandeur.



The architectural layout of Harmony Hall reflects its multifaceted history, with each phase of its evolution leaving its mark on the structure. From its origins as the estate house of a small plantation to its transformation into a Methodist manse^{iv} and later a private residence, Harmony Hall's design reflects the changing needs and aspirations of its inhabitants.

One of the most striking features of Harmony Hall is its eclectic mix of architectural styles, a reflection of Jamaica's diverse cultural heritage. The incorporation of Victorian elements, such as the balustrade and intricate fretwork, adds a touch of elegance to the building, while retaining its distinctive Jamaican character.

Throughout its restoration and preservation efforts, care has been taken to maintain the original historic design of Harmony Hall, ensuring that its unique architectural features are preserved for future generations to appreciate. The restoration of the fretwork, in particular, stands as a testament to the dedication and craftsmanship of those committed to preserving Jamaica's architectural heritage.

Cultural Significance

Beyond its architectural splendor, Harmony Hall holds profound cultural significance within the fabric of Jamaican heritage. As a repository of history and a symbol of resilience, Harmony Hall embodies the spirit of the

Jamaican people and their enduring commitment to preserving their cultural legacy.

Throughout its storied past, Harmony Hall has been more than just a physical structure; it has served as a gathering place, a sanctuary, and a beacon of community pride. From its origins as the estate house of a plantation to its role as a Methodist manse and later a private residence, Harmony Hall has borne witness to the ebbs and flows of Jamaican life, reflecting the resilience and ingenuity of its inhabitants.

One of the most notable chapters in Harmony Hall's history is its association with the esteemed Sherlock family^v. During Sir Hugh Sherlock's tenure as a Methodist minister in the Ocho Rios circuit from 1937 to 1940, Harmony Hall served as the family's residence. It was during this time that Sir Hugh Sherlock^{vi} penned the lyrics to "Jamaica, Land We Love," the national anthem of Jamaica, marking a significant moment in the nation's history.

Additionally, Harmony Hall's transformation into an art gallery in the

1980s further solidified its cultural significance within the community. By providing a platform for local and international artists to showcase their work, Harmony Hall became a hub of creativity and expression, fostering dialogue and collaboration across cultural boundaries.

Today, Harmony Hall stands as a living testament to Jamaica's rich cultural heritage, inviting visitors to explore its storied past and immerse themselves in its vibrant present. Whether admired for its architectural beauty, celebrated for its artistic endeavors, or revered for its historical significance, Harmony Hall remains a cherished symbol of Jamaican identity and pride.



*"In the Dance of
Time, a Shift
Profound, Harmony
Hall's Rebirth, a
Vibrant Sound. With
Brushes Bold, and
Hearts Aflame, Art's
Embrace Reclaimed
its Storied Name"*

Transformation into Harmony Hall Art Gallery

In the 1980s, Harmony Hall underwent a remarkable transformation that would forever change its trajectory and solidify its place in Jamaican cultural history. Purchased by Annabella and Peter Proudlock in 1980, Harmony Hall was reborn as an art gallery, breathing new life into its storied walls and ushering in a new era of creativity and expression.

The decision to transform Harmony Hall into an art gallery was born out of a desire to preserve its architectural heritage while also providing a platform for local and international artists to showcase their work. Under the guidance of the Proudlocks, Harmony Hall underwent careful restoration and renovation, ensuring that its unique character and charm were preserved for future generations to enjoy.

With its picturesque surroundings and elegant interior spaces, Harmony Hall proved to be the perfect setting for an art gallery, attracting artists and art enthusiasts from near and far. The gallery quickly gained a reputation as a cultural hub, hosting exhibitions, workshops, and events that celebrated the diverse talents of Jamaica's artistic community.

Over the years, Harmony Hall Art Gallery has become synonymous with excellence in the arts, showcasing a diverse range of artistic styles and mediums, from traditional paintings and sculptures to contemporary installations and mixed-media works. Its commitment to promoting emerging artists and nurturing artistic talent has made it a beloved institution within the Jamaican art scene.

Today, Harmony Hall Art Gallery continues to uphold its legacy as a beacon of creativity and inspiration, inviting visitors to explore its galleries, engage with its exhibitions, and immerse themselves in the vibrant world of Jamaican art. As a testament to the transformative power of art and culture, Harmony Hall Art Gallery stands as a

shining example of the enduring spirit of creativity and innovation.

Present-Day Harmony Hall



Today, Harmony Hall stands as a cherished landmark that continues to captivate visitors with its rich history, architectural beauty, and vibrant cultural offerings. Nestled amidst the verdant landscapes of Tower Isle, St. Mary, Harmony Hall remains a testament to Jamaica's enduring legacy and serves as a beacon of heritage and creativity.

As visitors step through its doors, they are greeted by the timeless elegance of Jamaican-Georgian

architecture, characterized by intricate fretwork and gingerbread trimmings that adorn its façade. The building's eclectic mix of styles reflects the island's diverse cultural influences, from its colonial past to its vibrant present.

While Harmony Hall has undergone various transformations over the years, its commitment to preserving its architectural heritage and promoting cultural enrichment remains steadfast. Today, the building continues to serve as a hub of creativity and expression, housing the renowned Harmony Hall Art Gallery.



In addition to its role as an art gallery, Harmony Hall serves as a venue for cultural events, performances, and celebrations, further enriching the cultural landscape of St. Mary and beyond. Its picturesque surroundings and serene ambiance make it a popular destination for weddings, receptions, and special occasions, offering guests an unforgettable setting steeped in history and charm.

As Harmony Hall continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of its community, its legacy as a cherished cultural institution remains unwavering. Whether admired for its architectural beauty, celebrated for its artistic endeavors, or cherished for its role in preserving Jamaican heritage, Harmony Hall stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of creativity, resilience, and innovation.

The Vibrant Corridor: Exploring the Potential of St. Ann and St. Mary

Stretching from the lush landscapes of Tower Isle to the serene shores of Boscobel, this vibrant corridor is poised for growth and development, fueled by a combination of strategic location, infrastructure investment, and burgeoning tourism interest.

Harmony Hall is located on what could be considered "The Hip Strip" of Tower Isles. It is directly opposite the Whispering Seas & The Waves. The property is a little over half an acre with a front building and an older building once operated as a Villa. The property has main road frontage and is within 10 minutes from the town of Ocho Rios. Nearby to Harmony Hall lies the Ian Fleming International Airport, a gateway to the region's endless possibilities. Formerly a military airfield, this airport has undergone significant transformation in recent years, emerging as a key transportation hub for both domestic and international travelers. With the introduction of two weekly American Airlines flights, the airport has seen a surge in passenger traffic, opening up new avenues for business growth.

Harmony Hall: Preserving Heritage, Cultivating Investment Opportunity



Harmony Hall presents a unique and compelling opportunity for those with a vision to contribute to the vibrant cultural landscape of Jamaica.

With its rich heritage, architectural splendor, and prime location in Tower Isle, St. Mary, Harmony Hall offers endless possibilities for investors looking to make a meaningful impact. As a designated national monument by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust, Harmony Hall holds significant cultural and historical value, making it an attractive prospect for preservationists, art enthusiasts, and forward-thinking investors.

The property's status as a landmark ensures its enduring appeal and provides a solid foundation for future development and enhancement. Investing in Harmony Hall offers numerous potential avenues for growth and diversification. The property's flexible zoning and expansive grounds provide ample opportunities for creative visionaries to bring their ideas to life. The establishment of Harmony Hall Art Gallery in the 1980s demonstrates the potential for cultural and artistic endeavors to thrive on the property. By continuing to support and expand upon its cultural offerings, investors can further solidify Harmony Hall's reputation as a premier destination for art, culture, and heritage tourism.

Furthermore, with Jamaica's burgeoning tourism industry and growing interest in heritage tourism, Harmony Hall is well-positioned to attract visitors from around

the world. Its proximity to popular tourist destinations such as Ocho Rios and its picturesque surroundings make it an ideal destination for travelers seeking authentic cultural experiences.



In addition to its cultural and tourism potential, Harmony Hall offers investors the opportunity to become stewards of a piece of Jamaican history. By preserving and enhancing this historic landmark, investors can leave a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy. Whether as a passion project, business venture, or investment opportunity, Harmony Hall offers a rare chance to be part of Jamaica's rich heritage and contribute to its ongoing legacy. With its rich history, architectural beauty, and cultural significance, Harmony Hall is more than just a property—it's a piece of living history waiting to be discovered and celebrated.

Closing Remarks

In conclusion, Harmony Hall stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Jamaican heritage, culture, and creativity. From its humble beginnings as an estate house to its transformation into a cherished cultural landmark, Harmony Hall has witnessed the ebb and flow of Jamaica's history and remains a symbol of resilience, innovation, and community.

Throughout its storied past, Harmony Hall has served as a gathering place, a sanctuary, and a source of inspiration for generations of Jamaicans and visitors alike. Its architectural splendor, cultural significance, and prime location make it a truly unique opportunity for those seeking to make a meaningful impact on Jamaica's cultural landscape.



As we look to the future, let us continue to celebrate and preserve the legacy of Harmony Hall, ensuring that its beauty and significance endure for generations to come. Whether as a cultural hub, a tourist destination, or a private retreat, Harmony Hall will continue to captivate hearts and minds, inspiring all who encounter its timeless charm.

In the spirit of 'harmony and unity', let us embrace the opportunity to invest in Harmony Hall and contribute to the ongoing legacy of Jamaican heritage and culture. Together, we can ensure that Harmony Hall remains a beacon of creativity, resilience, and cultural pride for many more years to come.

Engage with Us

Dear Esteemed Guest,

We extend our sincere appreciation for your esteemed interest in Harmony Hall. Whether you seek further insights into this distinguished property or simply wish to explore its rich history, we warmly encourage you to connect with us.

Discover more about Harmony Hall's illustrious past and timeless allure through our exclusive feature on [Jamaica Homes blog](#).

Should you desire tailored assistance or expert guidance, please feel free to reach out to Jamaica Homes via the esteemed channels provided below:

Telephone: +1 (876) 418-2524

Email: office@jamaica-homes.com

Website: <https://jamaica-homes.com>

We eagerly await the opportunity to further assist you and share the unmatched beauty and heritage of Harmony Hall.

Behind the Pen

[Jamaica Homes](#) is a pioneering online real estate portal dedicated to providing a seamless and comprehensive service for individuals and businesses looking to buy, sell, rent, or finance properties. Founded in August 2021 by Dean Jones, Jamaica Homes is quickly establishing itself as a trusted authority in the Jamaican real estate market.

[Dean Jones](#), the visionary founder behind Jamaica Homes, is a passionate advocate for the preservation of Jamaican heritage and the promotion of sustainable development. With a deep understanding of the local real estate landscape and a commitment to excellence, Dean has led Jamaica Homes to become an integral part of the Jamaican real estate industry.

Headquartered in the picturesque region of [St. Mary, Jamaica](#), Jamaica Homes serves as a hub of innovation and expertise, offering cutting-edge tools, [resources](#), and insights to empower

individuals and businesses to make informed real estate decisions. Under Dean's leadership, Jamaica Homes continues to innovate and expand its offerings, leveraging technology and industry expertise to revolutionize the real estate experience in Jamaica. With a focus on integrity, transparency, and customer satisfaction, Jamaica Homes is poised to shape the future of real estate in Jamaica and beyond.

About NYAM

What does "NYAM" mean on Jamaica Homes?

At Jamaica Homes, "NYAM"⁵ isn't just a word – it's a unique identifier for our online magazine dedicated to heritage properties, historical significance, exclusive property listings, and updates on Jamaica real estate. Through NYAM, we serve up a feast for the eyes and minds of our readers. With each page turn, you'll discover the unique blend of history, culture, and luxury that defines the Jamaican experience. While "NYAM" traditionally means "to eat" in Jamaican Patois, we've given it a special twist to represent the experience of indulging in rich and flavorful content about Jamaica's real estate landscape.

Why did Jamaica Homes choose "NYAM" for their online magazine?

We chose "NYAM" as the name for our online magazine to evoke a sense of satisfaction and enjoyment similar to enjoying a delicious meal. Just as savoring a flavorful dish can be a delightful experience, we believe that exploring our magazine's content – filled with fascinating insights into Jamaica's heritage properties, historical significance, and exclusive real estate opportunities – should be equally satisfying and fulfilling.

What can I expect from NYAM by Jamaica Homes?

NYAM is your gateway to discovering the hidden gems of Jamaica's real estate market. Within our online magazine, you'll find captivating articles, stunning visuals, and valuable information about heritage properties, historical landmarks, and exclusive listings across the island. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a property investor, or simply someone with a passion for Jamaican culture, NYAM offers something for everyone to enjoy.

How often is NYAM updated?

We strive to keep NYAM fresh and engaging by regularly updating it with new content and features. Our team works diligently to bring you the latest insights, updates, and property

⁵ NYAM" in Jamaican Patois means "to eat" or "to consume food." It's a common term used in Jamaican culture to refer to the act of eating or enjoying a meal.

listings, ensuring that each visit to NYAM is a rewarding experience. Be sure to check back frequently for the latest additions and discoveries in Jamaica's real estate world.

Can I contribute to NYAM?

Absolutely! At Jamaica Homes, we welcome contributions from individuals who share our passion for Jamaica's rich heritage and vibrant real estate scene. If you have a story to tell, a property to showcase, or valuable insights to share with our audience, we'd love to hear from you. Simply reach out to our editorial team at editor@jamaica-homes.com, and we'll be happy to discuss how you can contribute to NYAM. NYAM is available online at <https://NYAM.jamaica-homes.com>

Join us as we explore the intersection of indulgence and innovation, where every property tells a story and every detail is savored. From historic estates to modern marvels, NYAM is your passport to the world of Jamaican real estate, served with a side of sophistication and style.

So grab a seat at our virtual table, and let NYAM be your guide to the tantalizing world of Jamaican real estate. *Bon appétit!*

the very best of the Caribbean

HARMONY HALL

ST. MARY · JAMAICA

SUMMERHOUSE

GROUND LEVEL

ISLAND MAGNOLIA

FIRST FLOOR · UPSTAIRS

BUTCHER BLOCK

GROUND LEVEL

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End Footnotes

ⁱ Jamaica Homes is a real estate company in Jamaica that offers a platform for buying, selling, renting, and financing properties. The company was founded in August 2021 by Dean Jones and is headquartered in St. Mary, Jamaica.

ⁱⁱ The Georgian architectural style gained popularity in Jamaica between approximately 1750 and 1850. It blends the grace of Georgian architecture with elements made to survive the heat, humidity, earthquakes, hurricanes, and insects typical of tropical Jamaica.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Jamaica National Heritage Trust is responsible for the promotion, preservation, and development of Jamaica's material cultural heritage. The organisation maintains the list of National Heritage Sites in Jamaica. It is chartered by The Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, 1985.

^{iv} A minister typically resides in a manse, which is a clergy home in Christian traditions such as Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian. Mansus, which meaning "dwelling" in Latin, is where the term "manse" originates.

^v Philip Manderson Sherlock (Feb 25, 1902 - Dec 4, 2000), a poet and educator, married Grace Marjorie Verity on Dec 2, 1942, and had three children. Son of a Methodist minister, Sherlock started teaching at Calabar High School at 17 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts from London University in 1927 through private study, initiating his esteemed career in education.

^{vi} Hugh Sherlock was born March 21, 1905. Ordained in the Methodist Church in 1932, he served in various capacities, including in the Turks and Caicos Islands and as founder/director of Boys' Town in west Kingston until 1956. Marrying Thelma Coole in 1942, they had two daughters. From 1956-1966, he led the Methodist Church in Jamaica and became the first president of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas from 1966-1971.

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