

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY 1. 942 (West Road) TL 4458 16/255B 10.5.62 II 2. Built in 1931-4. Architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Long half H-shaped building. Red brick. Stone plinth, stringcourse and cornice. Pantiled roof. Projecting centre with round-headed rusticated archway, 4 windows over, pediment and tall tower. On each side of this, recessed portions of 3 windows each, and then blocks of 12 tall strip windows with recessed penthouse storey and widely overhanging eaves. At each L-shaped block of lower elevation, 2 storeys and 7 windows. Included inside are a number of C17 and C18 bookcases including the ones designed for the Old University Library by James Essex in 1731-4. (RCHM 21, bookcases only).

Listing NGR: TL4416158411

Legacy

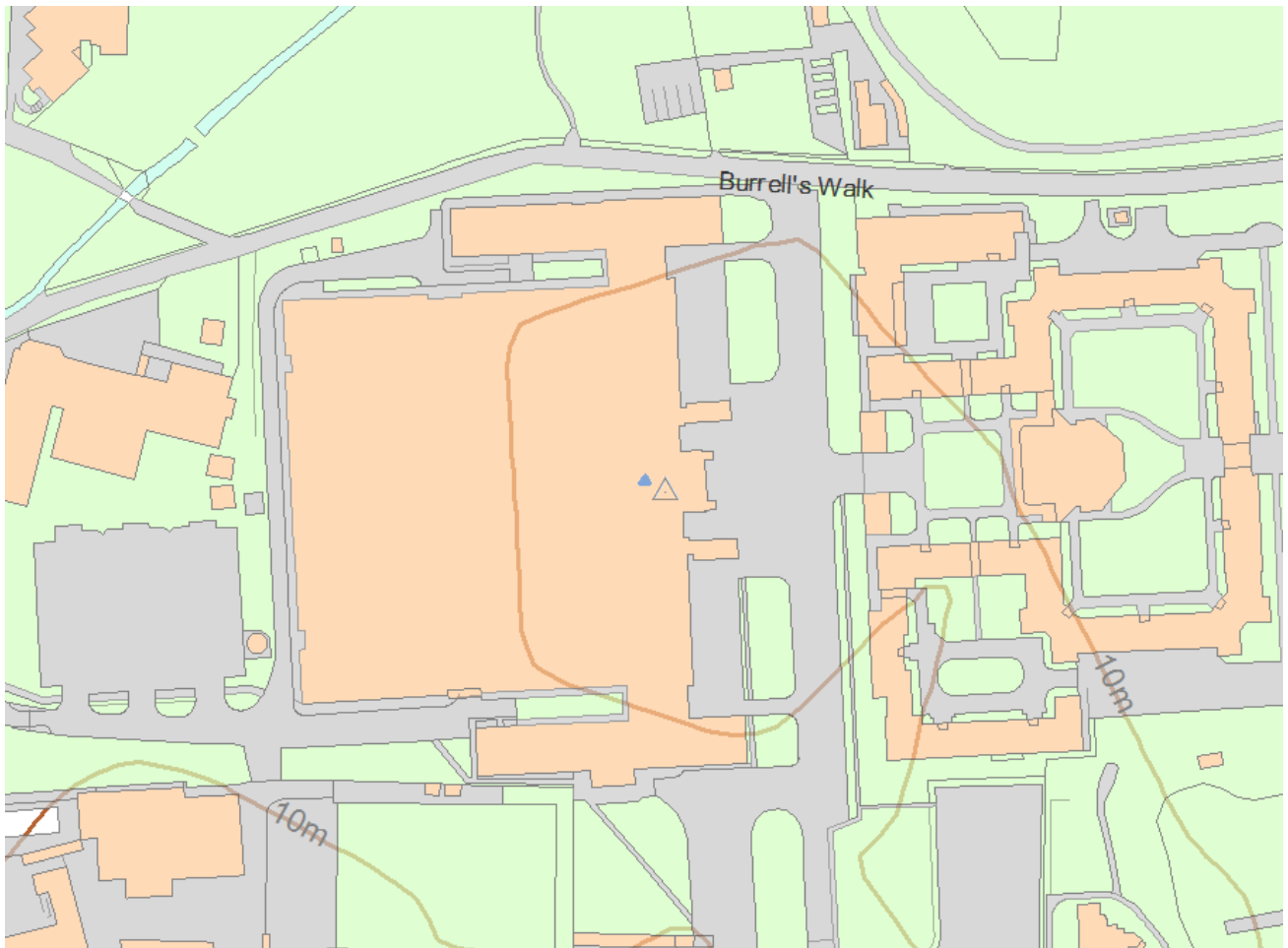
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Legacy System: **LBS**

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Map

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End of official list entry

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: I

List Entry Number: **1126084**

Date first listed: **26-Apr-1950**

Date of most recent amendment: **02-Nov-1972**

List Entry Name: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT**

Statutory Address 1: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, MARKET HILL**

Statutory Address 2: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, ST MARY'S PASSAGE**

Statutory Address 3: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, ST MARY'S STREET**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

[Understanding list entries](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/>)

[Corrections and minor amendments](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>)

Location

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, MARKET HILL**

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, ST MARY'S PASSAGE**

Statutory Address: **CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT, ST MARY'S STREET**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Cambridgeshire**

District: **Cambridge (District Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **TL 44846 58460**

Details

667/6/9 ST MARY'S STREET 26-APR-50 (South side) CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT MARKET HILL (West side)
CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT ST MARY'S PASSAGE (North side) CHURCH OF ST MARY THE GREAT

GV I

Early C14 chancel. Nave and aisles begun 1478 but not completed until c.1520. W tower begun 1491 but not completed until 1606. Aisle galleries added 1735. Restored by James Essex 1766, and again in 1850-1 by Gilbert Scott with further work by Anthony Salvin in 1857. S porch rebuilt 1888. Some C20 restoration.

MATERIALS Rubble with some ashlar, and dressings of oolitic limestone. Interior faced largely in clunch. Some of the stone comes from the ruins of Ramsey and Thorney abbeys. Lead roofs.

PLAN Chancel, nave, W tower, N and S aisles extending alongside the tower and the western part of the chancel, S porch.

EXTERIOR A very large and impressive church that forms an important landmark in the centre of Cambridge. The

exterior is wholly perpendicular in appearance, and is embattled throughout with low pitched roofs. The windows are late perpendicular in style and have vertical tracery, with transoms in the aisle windows and chancel E window. Tall four stage W tower, with a very large W window and polygonal corner turrets. It is c.1490-1550 to the top of the W window, with the upper part added in 1593-1608. The W door is C19 and replaces a late C16 Elizabethan door. Clerestoried nave, the clerestory windows unusually tall. The aisles extend across the western bay of the chancel to form chapels, and there is a polygonal rood stair turret on the S side at the junction of aisle and chapel. Gabled S porch, added in 1888 to replace a porch demolished in 1783. The chancel was refaced externally in 1857 by Salvin.

INTERIOR A lofty interior, particularly notable for the rich decoration on the arcades and the survival of the C18 aisle galleries. the chancel E window is C14 internally and there is also evidence for former C14 N and S doors and windows. There is an early C14 tomb recess in the chancel, and C14 two ogee-headed statute niches flanking the E window. The arches to the chancel chapels are late C15. The tall, slender nave arcades, the N and S tower arches and the chancel arch have richly panelled spandrels with blind tracery and a moulded frieze of quatrefoils. The internal string courses in the aisles and chapels are also decorated with paterae, flowers, masks and heraldic devices. The nave roof stands alternately on slender shafts that descend to the piers and corbels between the clerestory windows. The tower arch rises through two stories to the head of the clerestory windows; it is partially closed by the organ gallery. The lower part, with a Perpendicular-style doorway in artificial stone, is probably part of the former W gallery of 1819. The aisle galleries were installed in 1735. Screens closing the entrance to the chancels from the aisles were made up in the C19 from parts of the C18 pulpit.

Very fine late medieval roofs in the nave, aisles and chapels with carved bosses and openwork tracery in the spandrels of the braces; the bosses in the nave are very fine. There is a further C18 roof designed by James Essex above the medieval nave roof. N and S aisle doors are early C16; those in the chapels are late C16, as is that to the rood stair. The N tower screen wall door is C17; that on the S is C15.

PRINCIPAL FIXTURES Remains of a C14 double piscina and sedilia in the chancel, and two C14 statue niches flanking the E window. Late C15 piscina in the S aisle. Excellent and very unusual font of 1632, polygonal, with strapwork cartouches on the bowl and Renaissance foliage carving on the stem. The cover is also C17. Late medieval chest, much restored in the C19. Some C16 or C17 poppyheads survive on the C17 benches at the back of the galleries. The other gallery seating is C18. Good nave benches of 1863 with finely carved poppyheads, and C19 choir stalls, also with poppyheads. Organ of 1698, rebuilt in 1870, in a fine late C17 case. Very good C19 pulpit of 1872, with openwork tracery; it is mounted on rails in the floor allowing it to slide to the centre of the church when needed. Wooden eagle lectern of 1867. Some late C19 and early C20 glass. E window of 1872 by William Chance. The clerestory windows, installed 1902-4, use portraits of noted Victorian clergymen for the faces of the apostles. Clock face of 1679 on the tower.

Many monuments, mostly wall and floor tablets. Notable monuments include an early C14 tomb recess in the chancel, probably for John of Cambridge, d. 1335, and William Butler, d.1617/8, an alabaster wall tablet with a half-figure flanked by putti. Also many good C18 wall tablets, and a number of palimpsest ledger slabs made from former brass indents. A small brass plaque marks the former burial place of Martin Bucer, d.1551. There is a good set of C18 and early C19 bequest boards under the W tower and in the galleries.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES Good cast iron churchyard railings with floral finials including lilies.

The datum point for road mileage from Cambridge, established in 1732, is cut into the SW tower buttress.

HISTORY There may have been a church on this site, adjacent to the marketplace, before the Conquest, and it was certainly in existence by the late C12 or early C13, when it was known as St Mary-by-the-market. It was used by scholars of the nascent university from their arrival in 1209. There was a fire in 1290, and the chancel was rebuilt in the early C14 and consecrated in 1351. The rest of the church was entirely rebuilt from the late C15. The work began in 1478, but carried on into the early C16. The nave roof was being framed in 1506, the altar in the Lady chapel was set up in 1518, the nave seats were made in 1519. Craftsmen associated with the work include the masons William Burdon, John Bell and William Rotherham, and the carpenter William Buxton. The W tower was begun in 1491, but by 1550 it had only reached the height of the W window. The bell chamber was complete by 1596, and the top of the tower was finished in 1608. The medieval pulpit was replaced by a new one (now in Orton Waterville church) in 1618. A projected spire was never built. The galleries in the aisles were added in 1735, and a chancel gallery, subsequently removed, was installed in 1754. A three decker pulpit and box pews were also installed in the mid C18. James Essex carried out restorations to the nave roof and altered some of the windows in 1766. A W gallery, also later removed, was installed in 1837 to designs by Edward Blore. Blore also intended to add a spire to the tower, but this was never carried out. The Elizabethan W door of 1576 was replaced by a Gothic-style door in 1850-1 by Gilbert Scott, and the old vestry was demolished and the chancel re-clad in 1857 by Anthony Salvin. The S porch was rebuilt along its original lines in 1888, and the tower was restored in 1892. There was also some refurnishing and restoration in the C20, including reordering in the chancel in 1958.

SOURCES RCHME City of Cambridge: II (1959) , 275-80 Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire (1970), 219-20 Hall, R. Great St Mary's: The University Church, Cambridge, Guidebook and History (2006)

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION The church of St Mary the Great, Cambridge is designated at Grade I for the following principal reasons:

* Outstanding late Perpendicular church, with well documented construction dates. * Excellent font of 1632 * Unusual survival of C18 nave galleries * Interesting restoration by James Essex in the mid C18, including the installation of a new roof over the medieval roof. * High quality surviving furnishings.

Legacy

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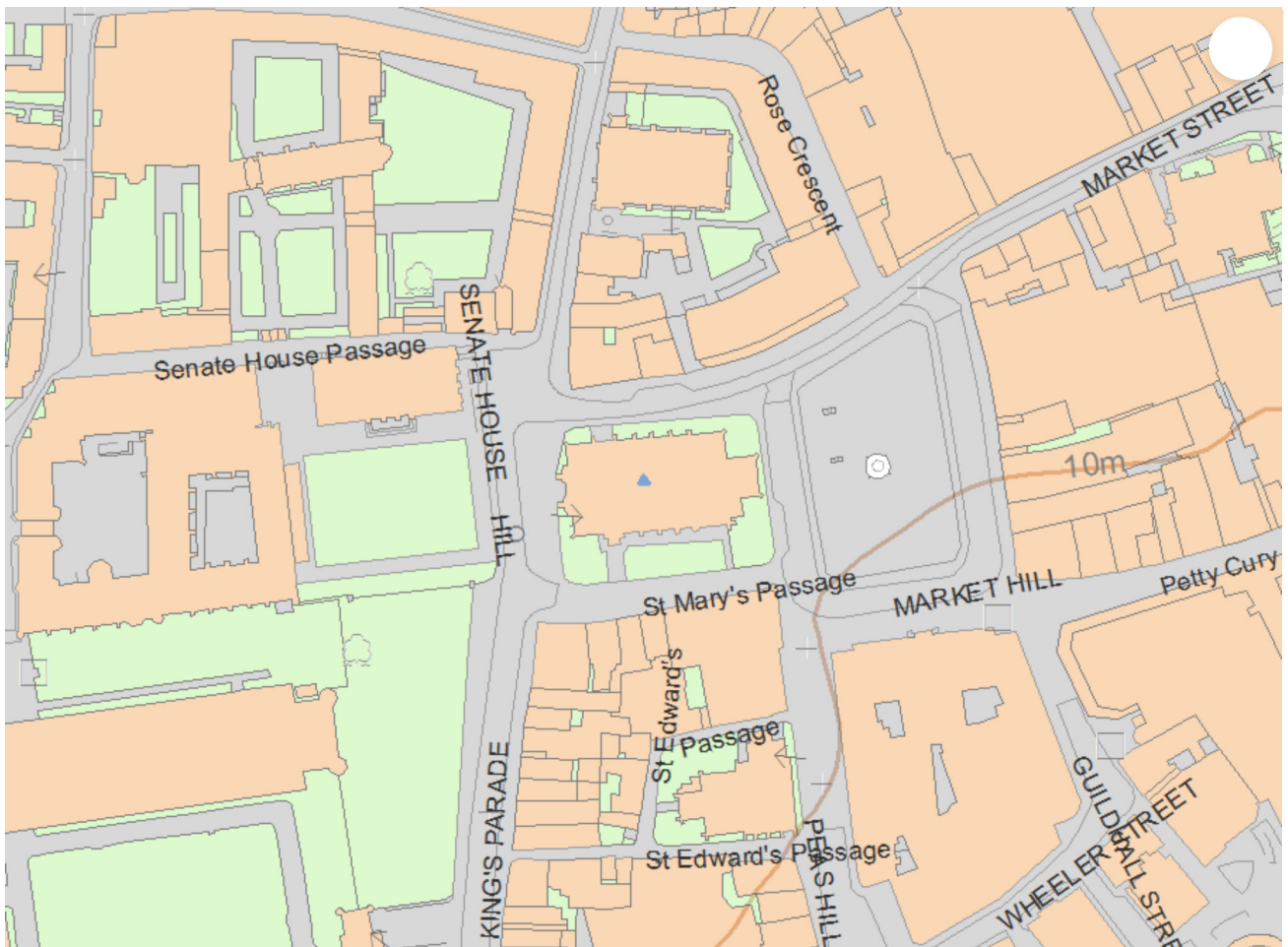
Sources

Other

Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of Cambridge, (1959)

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



Map

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APPENDIX 4
IMPACT ASSESSMENT – IMMEDIATE
CONTEXT - TABLE

ASSET	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE	CONTRIBUTION OF SETTING	CONTRIBUTION OF SITE TO SETTING	EFFECT(S) ON SETTING PREVIOUS SCHEME	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE PREVIOUS SCHEME	EFFECT(S) ON SETTING CURRENT SCHEME	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE CURRENT SCHEME
Mill Road	Conservation area	Good	Good beneficial	Moderate/high adverse	Neutral Minor - moderate beneficial Minor/ moderate adverse	Neutral, Negligible beneficial - minor beneficial Minor adverse	Neutral Minor - moderate beneficial Minor adverse	Neutral Negligible beneficial - minor beneficial Minor adverse
The Church of St Matthew	Grade II	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
247 Newmarket Road	Grade II	Good	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Cambridge Gas Company War Memorial	Grade II	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
St Andrew the Less	Grade II	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

York Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Good beneficial	Moderate/high adverse	Minor/moderate beneficial Minor/moderate adverse	Negligible beneficial – minor beneficial Minor adverse	Minor/moderate beneficial Minor adverse	Minor beneficial Minor adverse
Ainsworth Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Good beneficial	Low - Moderate adverse	Minor beneficial Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial Negligible adverse	Minor beneficial Minor adverse	Minor beneficial Minor adverse
Stone Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral
Sleaford Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral
York Terrace(s)	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral
33-38 Abbey Walk	Buildings of Local Interest	Moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Sturton Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/Moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral

179 Sturton Street	Positive unlisted building	Low/moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
192-198 Sturton Street	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Milford Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Gwydir Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral
Edward Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral
Norfolk Street Terraces	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Norfolk Terrace	Positive unlisted buildings	Low/moderate	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral Negligible adverse	Neutral

APPENDIX 5

IMPACT ASSESSMENT – WIDER CONTEXT - TABLE

ASSET	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE	CONTRIBUTION OF SETTING	CONTRIBUTION OF SITE TO SETTING	EFFECT(S) ON SETTING PREVIOUS SCHEME	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE PREVIOUS SCHEME	EFFECT(S) ON SETTING CURRENT SCHEME	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE CURRENT SCHEME
Central	Conservation Area	High	Good/high beneficial	Neutral	Minor adverse	Neutral/negligible adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Riverside and Stourbridge	Conservation Area	Good	Good beneficial	Minor adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Kite	Conservation Area	Good	Moderate beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
New Town and Glisson Road	Conservation Area	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Castle and Victoria Road	Conservation Area	Good	Good/high beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Negligible adverse
West Cambridge	Conservation Area	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
University Library	Grade II	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
King's College Chapel	Grade I	Very High	High beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

St John's College	Grade I	Very High	High beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
All Saints Church	Grade I	Very High	High Beneficial	Neutral	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor/moderate adverse	Minor adverse
Jesus College	Grade I	Very High	High beneficial	Neutral	Minor adverse	Negligible adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs	Grade II*	Good/high	Good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Christ Church	Grade II	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate/minor adverse
Mill Road Cemetery	Grade II Registered Park and Garden	Good	Good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Custodian's House	Grade II	Good	High beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Old Cheddars Lane Pumping Station	Scheduled Monument	Good	Moderate/good beneficial	Neutral	Negligible adverse	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Chapel of St Marys Magdalene	Grade I	Very High	Good beneficial	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Church of St Mary the Great	Grade I	Very High	Good beneficial	Neutral	N/A	N/A	Neutral	Neutral
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