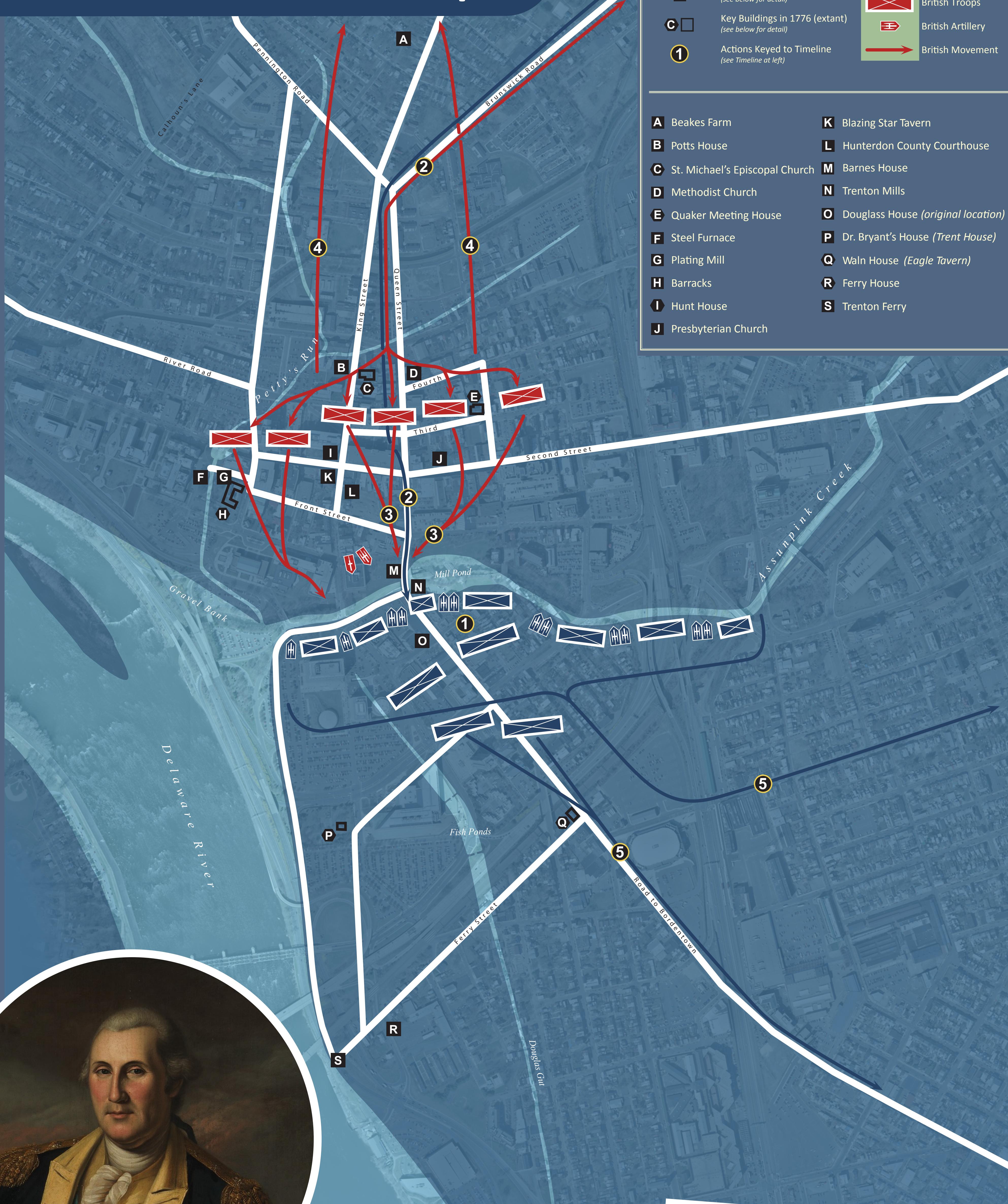


Thursday, January 2, 1777

1777 battle map



George Washington after the Battle of Trenton by Charles Willson Peale.

THE SECOND BATTLE of Trenton

Downtown Trenton is one of the most significant battlefields of the **Revolutionary War**. The street network today is essentially the same as it was when the town center served as the setting for two key engagements that saw the Continental Army turn the tide of military conflict against British and Hessian forces.

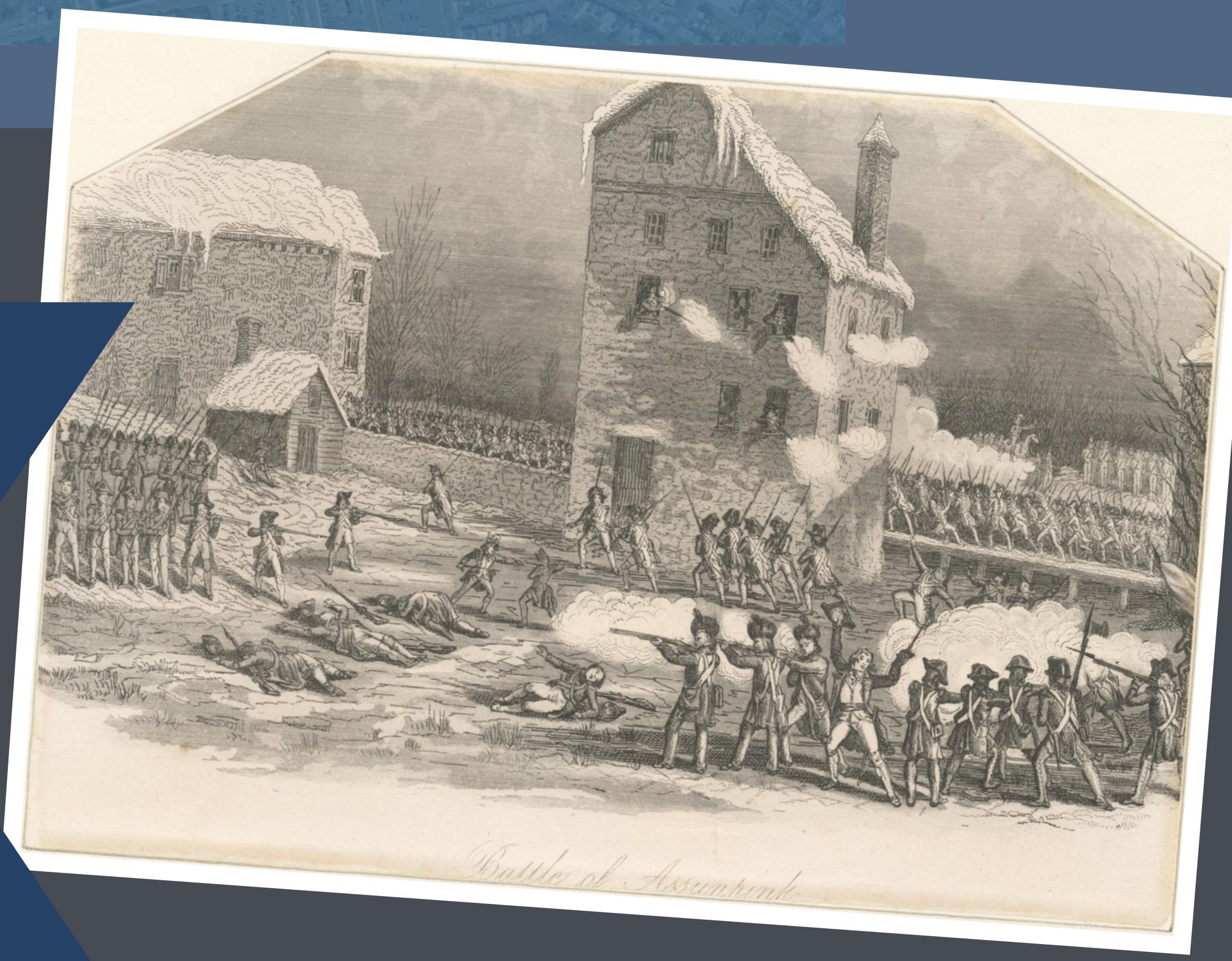
The First Battle of Trenton raged through the streets from the site of the Battle Monument down to the Assunpink Creek on the morning of December 26, 1776, following Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night. Fighting culminated in the capitulation of Hessian troops close to this very spot where Captain von Biesenrodt surrendered the von Knyphausen Regiment to Brigadier General Arthur St. Clair.

The Second Battle of Trenton, also known as the Battle of the Assunpink, was fought, in part, across what today is Mill Hill Park on January 2, 1777. Washington successfully repelled a British thrust into the town by deploying troops on the south bank of the Assunpink Creek. The higher ground occupied by the American forces can be seen from this sign by looking southward across the creek and just beyond the South Broad Street Bridge. More than 5,000 British soldiers under the command of Lord Cornwallis attempted to force their way across the bridge and the creek, facing an onslaught of American gunfire. The British made at least three attempts before retreating.

While the British regrouped and planned a renewed assault for the next day, Washington moved his army off to Princeton under the cover of darkness. At Princeton, Washington scored another victory against the British rearguard, foretelling how fast-moving American actions would ultimately win the War of Independence.



Funding for signage from the New Jersey Historic Trust and the City of Trenton. Sign design by Hunter Research, Inc. Image credits: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Public Library.



Battle of Assunpink by John Benson Lossing.



General Lord Cornwallis by Samuel Hollyer.

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