

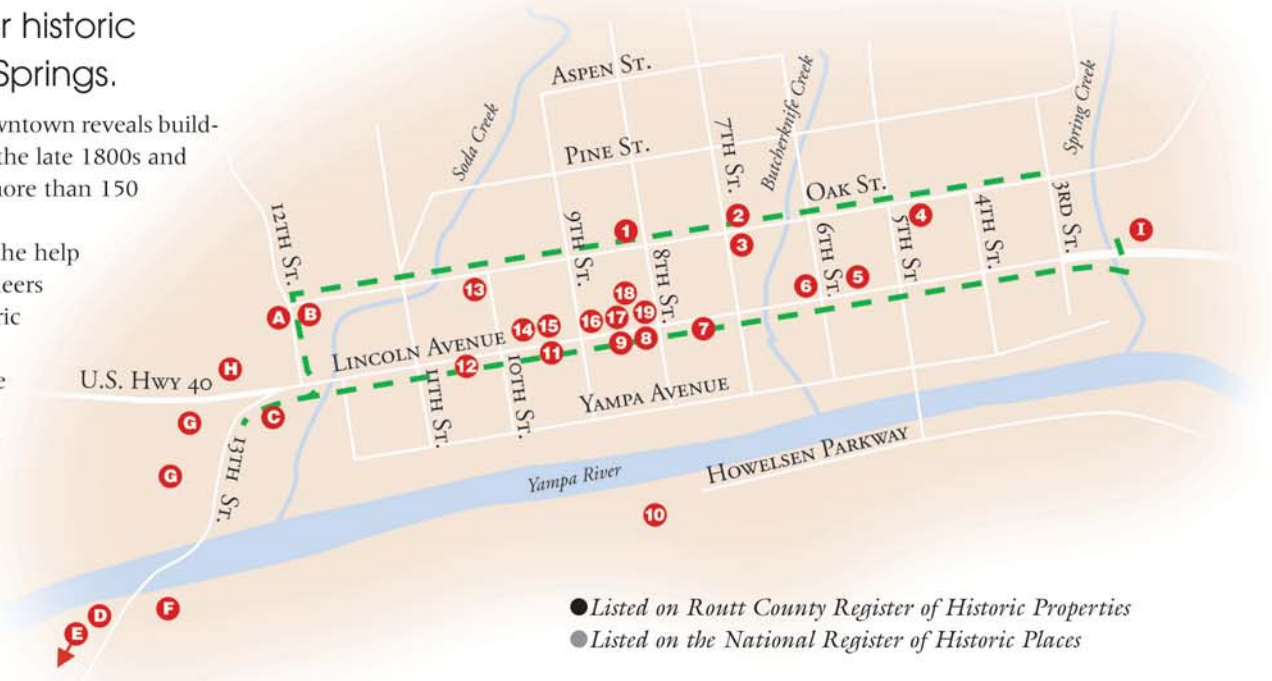


# Historic Walking Tour

Walk back in time and discover historic Steamboat Springs.

A stroll through downtown reveals buildings dating back to the late 1800s and nine of the area's more than 150 mineral springs.

Compiled with the help of the Tread of Pioneers Museum and Historic Routt County!, the main tour takes one to two hours. Parking is available in city lots and on the street. Please note two-hour parking limit signs.



1.

800 Oak St.

## 1. Tread of Pioneers Museum

800 Oak St.

Constructed by Ernest Campbell in 1908, this was home to the Zimmerman family from 1913-1956. In 1959, the Tread of Pioneers Museum opened in this building. The Queen Anne-style house was once located at Fifth and Oak streets, and was moved to this location in 1988. The adjoining Utterback House ●● was moved to the site in 1997 from its original location at Fourth and Oak. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

## 2. Giamboni House

646 Oak St.

Camillo Giamboni built this structure in 1889. Hidden under the siding is the original log building. This was home to

brothers from Switzerland who were shoemakers in Steamboat for many years. Henry and Camillo Giamboni were the first to make skis commercially in Steamboat.



3.

Seventh and Oak

## 3. Christian Science Church ●

Seventh and Oak

Margaret Crawford, Steamboat's pioneer mother, was a charter member of the town's Christian Science Society, organized in July 1908. The lot had been the site of the Onyx Hotel (Steamboat's second hotel), built in 1901. The log building, which continues to house the Christian Science Church, was completed in November 1934.

## 4. Willett House

443 Oak St.

Doc Willett came to Steamboat from Laramie, Wyo., in 1912 and took ownership

of this house following World War I. The well-known doctor made house calls in a bearskin coat that can be seen at the Tread of Pioneers Museum.



5.

522 Lincoln Ave.

## 5. Routt County Courthouse ●

522 Lincoln Ave.

The cornerstone for the Routt County Courthouse was laid on Sept. 9, 1922. Designed by noted Colorado architect Robert Fuller, the three-story building was completed in December 1923 at a cost of \$122,000. The exterior walls are constructed of cream pressed brick, trimmed with pulschrome terra cotta. The floors are finished with terrazzo marble. Before this courthouse was built, the Lorenz building (928 Lincoln Ave.) housed the courthouse from 1912-1923, when the county seat was moved to Steamboat Springs from its previous locations in Hayden (1877) and Hahn's Peak (1879-1912).

## 6. The Old Town Pub

600 Lincoln Ave.

Built in 1904 by Ernest Campbell, this structure was originally the Albany Hotel, one of the finest hotels catering to visitors who arrived by train after 1909. From 1914-1921, the building was a hospital, remodeled and run by Dr. F.E. Willett. After the hospital relocated, the second floor became the popular Odd Fellows dance hall. The first floor served as a grocery, post office, electric store and public library from 1924-1967. In 1969, the building opened as the Cameo Restaurant and in 1984 was renamed the Old Town Pub.



6.

600 Lincoln Ave.

## 7. Pioneer Building ●

700 block of Lincoln Ave.

The Pioneer Building, built by J.W. Critchfield, was in continuous use as a hotel from 1923 until 1979, when it was converted to retail and office space. In its heyday, the upstairs rooms were run as a classic Western boarding house and the downstairs housed the colorful Pioneer Bar.



8.

Eighth  
and Lincoln

## 8. First National Bank/ Rehder Building ●

Eighth and Lincoln

The First National Bank of Steamboat Springs, chartered in 1902, occupied a small frame structure on this site until the present building was constructed in 1905. Dakota sandstone from Emerald Mountain and handmade bricks from Trogler's local brickyard were used in the construction. The bank occupied this building from 1905-1919, when it moved across the street to a larger facility.



9.

813 Lincoln Ave.

## 9. Chief Theater

813 Lincoln Ave.

The Chief Theater was the second motion picture theater to open in Steamboat. It was built by Harry Gordon, a Miami Indian chief who came to Steamboat after making a fortune mining lead, zinc and silver in Oklahoma. The Chief was the first theater equipped to project "talkies," while its competitor, the Alden Theater (located in the present Allen's Clothing store), was limited to showing silent films.



10.

Seen from Ninth  
and Lincoln

## 10. Howelsen Hill ●

Seen from Ninth and Lincoln

Rising up steeply from the south side of the Yampa River, this section of Emerald Mountain is named for Norwegian ski jumper Carl Howelsen, the "Flying Norseman" of Barnum and Bailey's Circus. Carl arrived in Steamboat in 1913 and introduced the townspeople to ski jumping and recreational skiing. By the 1930s, Howelsen Hill facilities included slalom and downhill courses and a "boat tow" consisting of two sleds pulled up the mountain by a cable powered by a Model T engine and transmission. In 1947, a combination chair/T-bar lift to the top of Emerald Mountain was installed and was one of the longest lifts in the U.S. at that time. A 90-meter jump was installed by 1950. Howelsen Hill is the only ski area in Colorado listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Places.

## 11. Harwig's Saddlery

911 Lincoln Ave.

This structure dates back to the 1890s. It was originally a drug store and then a meat market. In 1908, it became the Armstrong and Kemmer Saddlery and Harness Shop. Charles Harwig purchased it in 1916, and it became Harwig's Saddlery and Western Wear, which was run by the Harwig family until 1984. The historic cowboy sign over the storefront was painted in the 1950s or 1960s by noted Western artist Merrill Mahaffey.



11.

911 Lincoln Ave.

## 12. The Pilot Building

1009 Lincoln Ave.

James Hoyle began northwest Colorado's first newspaper, *The Steamboat Pilot*, on July 31, 1885. It was printed in a small one-room log house near the Yampa River until Hoyle and his printing press moved to a sawed log building on this site. In 1905, Charles H. Leckenby, the paper's typesetter, became an owner, and was the first of three generations of Leckenbys to run the newspaper. Four years later, the building and press burned down. This brick and stone building was constructed in fall 1909 for the newspaper printing office, which occupied the building until 1999.



12.

1009 Lincoln Ave.

## 13. Carver Power Plant ●/ Centennial Hall

Tenth Street between Lincoln and Oak

In 1900, a coal-powered plant was devised to make Steamboat Springs the first town in northwest Colorado to provide its residents with electricity. The

steam, a by-product of the system used to create electricity, was used to heat nearby schools and residences. In keeping with the City of Steamboat Springs' award-winning historic preservation efforts, this building was rehabilitated to house city services.



14.

928 Lincoln Ave.

#### 14. Lorenz Building

928 Lincoln Ave.

This building was completed in 1893 and was originally a general store. In 1912, it became the courthouse when the county seat relocated from Hahn's Peak. After 1921, the courtroom occupied the second floor, while the clerk, treasurer and jail shared the ground floor. When the present-day courthouse was completed in 1923, the building became the site of a dance hall called the Social Benefit Association or SBA. Don Lorenz purchased the property in 1958 and it now houses offices.



15.

912 Lincoln Ave.

#### 15. Hugus Building/Thiesen Mall

912 Lincoln Ave.

Built in 1890, this was the site of J.W. Hugus & Co., one of the nation's first general store chains. It sold farm equipment, furniture, stoves, feed and gasoline in barrels, among other items, in a facility equipped with electric lights, cash carriers and other labor saving devices. The store housed Steamboat's first telephone in 1900.

#### 16. Maxwell/Squire Building ●/ Lyon Drug Store

840 Lincoln Ave.

Once known as the Maxwell Building, this structure was built by J.D. Maxwell of local pressed brick from Trogler's brickyard, stone trim and plate glass. It was originally heated by steam and was considered one of

the finest buildings of its time. In 1947, Frank Squire became the owner. A post office occupied a room on the ground floor from 1909 to 1962. In 1920, Chamberlain-Grey Drug Store was the first drug store to occupy this site. It is now Lyon Drug.



16.

840 Lincoln Ave.

#### 17. F.M. Light & Sons

830 Lincoln Ave.

The F.M. Light family moved from Hicksville, Ohio, to Steamboat in 1905. Soon after their arrival, they purchased the lot, erected the building and secured enough merchandise to open this clothing store. The building has grown over the years, after being extended and widened with the purchase of the Boys Market grocery store. Light family members traveled throughout northwest Colorado and southern Wyoming, displaying their merchandise and taking orders from ranchers for Western wear, hats, boots, saddles and equipment. The retail store is still owned by family members. Travelers from all directions can see the historic yellow F.M. Light signs.



17.

830 Lincoln Ave.



18.

810 Lincoln Ave.

#### 18. The Furlong Building

810 Lincoln Ave.

This building was erected in the 1920s using stone from the Emerald Mountain quarry to frame the windows. Norwegian ski jumper Carl Howelsen completed the brickwork and masonry. This structure first housed a store that sold hardware, skis and furniture.

#### 19. The Routt County National Bank Building ●●

802 Lincoln Ave.

Built in 1918 with stonework by Carl Howelsen, this building is a unique landmark of two different periods. The Lincoln Avenue façade shows the rehabilitated 1918 exterior, and the Eighth Street side displays the changes from the 1940s. For more than 30 years, Carl's handsome stonework was hidden under a stucco veneer and shingle-covered mansard roof in an effort to "modernize" the building. A 2001 restoration project successfully returned the building to its original appearance.



19.

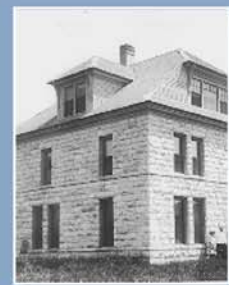
802 Lincoln Ave.

## Extended Tour

#### A. and B. Crawford Houses ●●

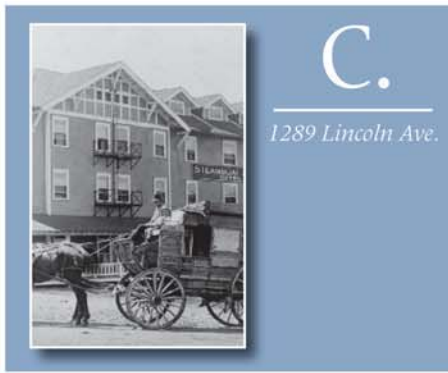
1238 and 1184 Crawford

The second and third houses built by the Crawfords are still standing. The second home, at 1238 Crawford Ave. (on 12th Street), was built in 1886 from native lumber from the Suttle Mill. The bay window was added later to accommodate their daughter's wedding reception. The large stone house at 1184 Crawford Ave. ●● was built in 1894 of stone from the Emerald Mountain quarry. The Crawford family occupied this house until the death of Mrs. Crawford in 1939, when all remaining family members left Steamboat. James Crawford's great-grandchildren have recently purchased the house to carry on the Crawford legacy in Steamboat.



B.

1184 Crawford



**C.**  
1289 Lincoln Ave.

**C. Cabin Hotel/  
Bud Werner Memorial Library**

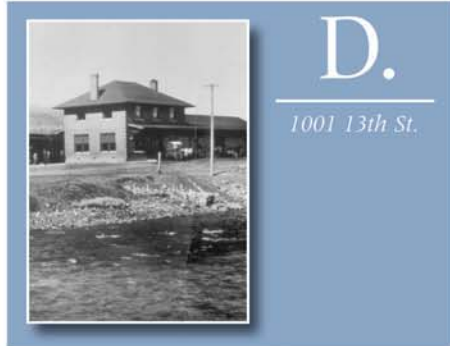
1289 Lincoln Ave.

The Cabin Hotel was built on this site in 1909 to serve passengers coming to Steamboat by train. It was one of the most luxurious hotels in the country and the largest in northwest Colorado. In 1939, it burned to the ground in less than one hour, claiming two lives. Actual footage of this fire can be seen at the Tread of Pioneers Museum. In 1967, a library was built in its place to honor Wallace "Buddy" Werner (1936-1964), a three-time Olympic skier and local athlete who died in an avalanche in Switzerland.

**D. The Depot ●**

1001 13th St.

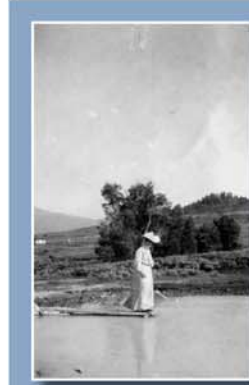
Designed by famous Denver architect Frank E. Edbrooke, The Depot was completed in 1909, shortly after the Moffat Line reached Steamboat in December 1908. During the early 1910s, Steamboat was the largest cattle-shipping center in the country. The train provided passenger service until 1968. Constructed of local stone and brick brought in by rail, The Depot now houses the Steamboat Springs Arts Council and the Eleanor Bliss Center for the Arts. In 1978, The Depot became the first property in Steamboat Springs to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**D.**  
1001 13th St.

**Springs Tour**

Starting from the Depot



**E.**  
13th Street, Past  
The Depot

**E. Lithia Spring**

About a 10-minute walk on 13th Street from the Depot

The milky waters of the Lithia Spring contain a high content of lithium, which is believed to have many beneficial and medicinal qualities. In the early 1930s, H.W. Gossard constructed the stone columns at the entrance. Prior to The Depression, he had plans to bottle the water and call it "Miraquelle."

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G.

13th and Lincoln

**F. Steamboat Spring, Black Sulphur Spring, Narcissus/Terrace Springs**

13th and Lincoln

(across the river from library)

The once geyser-like Steamboat Spring used to make a puffing sound that reminded early settlers of a steamboat, giving the town its name. Black Sulphur Spring has turned a dark, inky color as nature has continuously reduced its hydrogen sulfide to sulfur. A few yards further up the river, the Narcissus and Terrace springs have mud that was once regarded as an effective treatment for skin disorders.

**G. Sulphur Spring/Sweetwater Spring/Lake Spring/Soda Spring**

13th and Lincoln

Sulphur Spring is the most fragrant of

the springs with its odiferous sulphur gas. The Utes regarded it as having curative powers. On several stones the rings used by early settlers to tether their horses are still apparent. The pond is fed by numerous springs, including the Sweetwater Spring. Soda Spring, under the gazebo, was a favorite for Cabin Hotel guests who used its water for lemonade.

Crawford Pritchett describes in her classic book, *The Cabin at Medicine Springs*.



I.

136 Lincoln Ave.

**I. The Heart Spring/Bathhouse**

136 Lincoln Ave. (about a one-mile walk from the Iron Spring at 12th and Lincoln)

The Heart Spring was a favorite summer encampment for the Yampatika Utes. The hill behind the Heart Spring is reputed to have been the site of the last battle between the area's Arapaho and Ute tribes. In 1887, the Crawfords built a log bathhouse here. In 1909, it was replaced by a large stone bathhouse with indoor and outdoor pools fed by the spring. The natural bicarbonates and lithium found in the springs' warm waters continue to provide bathers with a stimulating experience at the Old Town Hot Springs. \*



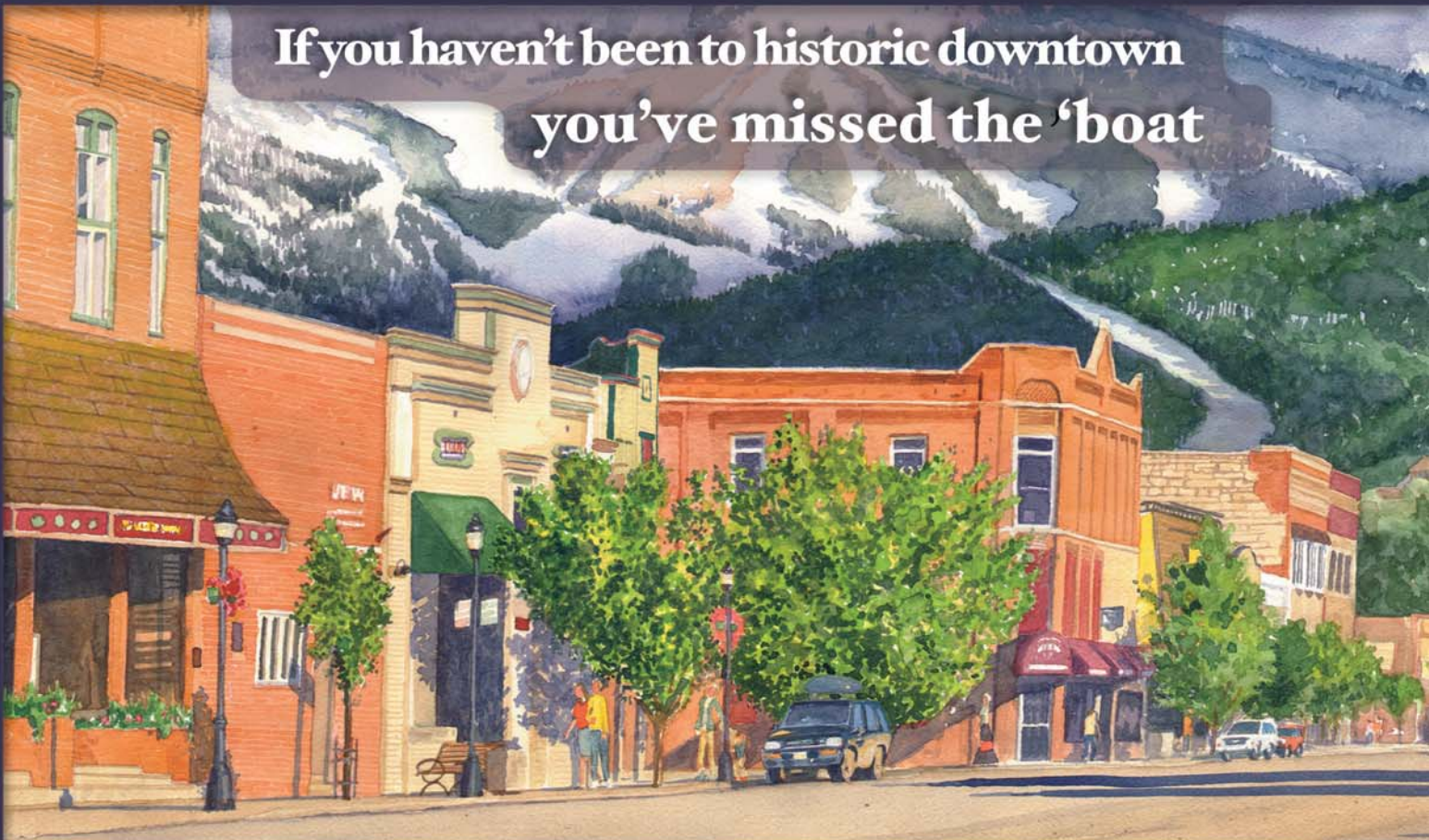
H.

12th and Lincoln

**H. Iron Spring**

12th and Lincoln (across the street in the park)

The Ute Indians once used the colored mud from this spring for various ceremonies. In 1875, the Crawford family arrived and built a log cabin just above the spring. The Crawfords found many uses for the spring water, including "iron water lemonade," which Lulita



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you've missed the 'boat

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## Outside the City



Rod Hanna

### Mesa Schoolhouse ●

*U.S. 40, at the base of Rabbit Ears Pass*

The Mesa Schoolhouse was built in 1916 by noted local builder Art Gumprecht. It served as a school and rural community center until 1959, when Routt County's 96 rural schools were then consolidated into three large districts and rural schools ceased to operate. In private ownership for many decades, Historic Routt County facilitated the school's restoration and donation to Steamboat Springs.

## Guided Heritage Tours

Take in the sights and stories of Steamboat's history with knowledgeable guides from Yampatika, the Tread of Pioneers Museum and Historic Routt County! All of these easy-to-walk tours are free. Call 970-871-9151 to sign up.

### Historic Downtown Steamboat

Visit the homes and buildings of downtown Steamboat's earliest settlers with a guide who will fill you in on the lively characters and local lore.

**When:** 9:30-11 a.m., Thursdays, June 28 through Sept. 6

**Where:** Tread of Pioneers Museum

### Olympic Heritage

Explore the history of skiing in Steamboat and the growth of the city's Olympic tradition.

**When:** 9:30-11 a.m., Tuesdays, June 26 through Sept. 4

**Where:** Tread of Pioneers Museum

## Mineral Springs

Stroll among Steamboat's many natural mineral springs (including the one for which Steamboat was named) and learn about their medicinal qualities and Native American significance.

**When:** 9:30-11 a.m., Wednesdays, June 27 through Sept. 5

**Where:** Bud Werner Memorial Library

## Brown Bag Lecture Series

Learn about Steamboat's history from the locals who lived it. Casual talks reveal stories from long-gone mining towns to personal histories of resident outlaws, ranchers and founding families.

**When:** Noon - 1 p.m., Fridays, throughout July and August

**Where:** Tread of Pioneers Museum

**Cost:** Free

**Information:** 970-879-2214



## 41 Restaurants, 93 Shops & Galleries

- ☞ Historic Depot Art Gallery
- ☞ Steamboat Art Museum
- ☞ Old Town Hot Springs
- ☞ Tread of Pioneers Museum
- ☞ Alpine Slide
- ☞ Biking/Walking Core Trail
- ☞ Free Concerts
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