

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: St. Jacob's Lodge #28 Survey Number: AA-894

Property Address: Bacontown, Md.

Project: CDBG Bacontown Sewer Installation (9203650) Agency: Anne Arundel Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

District Name: Bacontown Historic District Survey Number: AA-

Listed Eligible _____ Comment

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

The resource contributes/ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

Location Design Setting Materials

Workmanship Feeling Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

St. Jacob's Lodge #28 Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham is a two-story frame gable-end building which dates from 1909. Vinyl siding has been installed over the original siding. In addition to serving the needs of the beneficial society, this structure also housed a school for African-Americans in the community during the early 20th century. This lodge contributes to the National Register eligible Bacontown Historic District as part of the collection of three buildings that hold local significance in the history of African-Americans in Anne Arundel County. It is significant under Criterion A as part of a group of structures that possess symbolic historical significance that represent the development of African-American communities in Anne Arundel County.

Documentation on the property is presented in: Review and Compliance Files and Maryland Inventory Files

Prepared by: Donna M. Ware, Anne Arundel County

[Signature] Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services 12/17/92 Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

[Signature] Reviewer, NR program 12.31.93 Date

[Signature]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village/Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Lodge/School

Known Design Source: None

AA-894

July 1909

St. Jacobs Lodge #28, The Benevolent Sons
and Daughters of Abraham and cemetery
Bacontown
Private

St. Jacobs Lodge #28 is located in the predominately African-American community of Bacontown near Laurel, Maryland. This building is an important surviving example of early-20th century, black benevolent society architecture, and its two-story form with upper level ceremonial area is typical of benevolent society and fraternal organization buildings found nationwide. Furthermore, as a benevolent society, St. Jacobs Lodge #28 represents an important national humanitarian movement, organized to promote the social and moral welfare of African Americans, and played an important role in the community development of Bacontown. A cemetery is located adjacent to, and is owned by, St. Jacob's Lodge.

AA-894

St. Jacobs Lodge #28 and cemetery

Bacontown

Private

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. Geographic Organization: western shore

II. Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes: N/A

IV. Historic Period Themes: Architecture/ Social

V. Resource Type

Category: building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): lodge meeting hall

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-894

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Jacobs #28, The Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham; and cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3586 Whiskey Bottom Road ___ not for publication

city, town Bacontown ___ vicinity of ___ congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Samuel Fields, Trustee of St. Jacobs Lodge #28

street & number 3586 Whiskey Bottom Road telephone no.:

city, town Laurel state and zip code: Maryland 20724

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber GW 102

street & number Church Circle folio 126

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town ___ state ___

7. Description

Survey No. AA-894

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story, gable-front, frame building faces northeast. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has slightly overhanging eaves and a plain wooden cornice. The roof is pierced on the east side by an interior stove chimney. St. Jacobs Lodge is rectangular in plan and rests on a foundation of brick piers, later interspaced with concrete blocks. The anterior and posterior facades each contain one bay, with two bays present in each side facade. All exterior walls are sheathed with artificial siding designed to imitate wood.

Fenestration consists of two-over-two, double hung sash windows with wide, plain, surrounds. Entry into the building is provided by a five-horizontal-panel door, centered in the building's front wall and approached via a low concrete step. The west wall contains a second-story entrance that is accessed by an exterior, wooden stair, the bottom of which rests on three concrete steps.

St. Jacobs Lodge is a plainly designed building, largely lacking architectural embellishment. The only non-functional building features is a cornerstone, located in the lower left corner of the front facade. This marble stone rests flush against the front facade and

reads: St. Jacobs Lodge
No. 28 B.S.D. of A
Organized June 21, 1890
Bldg. Erected July 3, 1909

A cemetery is also associated with this property, and is located west of the lodge building, in back of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Containing marked graves from as early as the late 19th century, this two acre cemetery is owned by the trustees of St. Jacobs Lodge.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909	Builder/Architect
Check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Built in 1907, St. Jacobs Lodge #28, The Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham is an important example of early-20th century black benevolent society architecture. While restrained in its stylistic detail, its two-story form with upper level ceremonial area is typical of benevolent society and fraternal organization buildings found nationwide (1)(2). Furthermore, as a benevolent society, St. Jacobs Lodge #28 represents an important national humanitarian movement organized to promote the social and moral welfare of African Americans. On a local level, St. Jacobs Lodge #28 played an important role in the community development of the Bacontown area, and is closely associated, physically and operationally, with St. Jacobs Cemetery, situated on the Lodge's property, and Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, located directly adjacent the lodge.

St. Jacobs is located in the predominately African-American community of Bacontown and is eponymously named for a family, at least some of whose members were held in slavery by the Dorsey family. Much of Bacontown is built on land formerly owned by the Dorseys, one of Anne Arundel County's oldest and more prominent families. Collectively, they owned very extensive acreage south and west of Annapolis Junction, with several branches living in close proximity. This region of the county was particularly well suited to truck farming, which by the mid-19th century was the Dorsey's, as well as the area's, chief occupation.

Truck farming is highly labor intensive, and as the 19th century progressed its practitioners looked increasingly to the large population of European immigrants, particularly those from Slavic nations arriving in Baltimore, for seasonal labor. It is known that various branches of the Dorsey family held slaves until the Emancipation Proclamation of 1864, but also notable is the large number of slaves manumitted by the Dorsey's. Between 1799 and 1860, ten different members of the Dorsey family freed over ninety slaves, with the rate of release increasing through the 19th century. This indicates the Bacontown area had a significantly large free-black population prior to the Civil War. It also raises the following question: Is there a causal link between the influx of European immigrants and the increased number of manumissions occurring prior to the abolition of slavery? This issue requires further research before any conclusions can be offered.

With respect to the development of Bacontown, the family of Maria Bacon (A.K.A. Moriah Baker) appears to be particularly prominent in the development of the community. In 1860 Acsah Dorsey manumitted several slaves, including Maria Bacon, and Maria's daughter, Virginia "Jerry" Moore. Twenty years later Acsah made her will. In her final instructions she ordered the 30 acre parcel where Maria Bacon had lived divided into three equal parts, with the parcel containing the house to go to Maria, a second parcel to go to Jerry. The third piece was allotted to Lou Scoat (also Scott), who was also a manumitted slave. It is interesting that both Maria and Jerry were married, to Samuel Bacon and Dennis Moore respectively, but neither man is mentioned in the manumission records (perhaps suggesting they were free) nor Dorsey's will. (see continuation sheet)

8.1 Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The cornerstone of St. Jacobs Lodge states that it was established in 1890. The current building erected in 1907 and stands on land once owned by Virginia "Jerry" Moore. It is possible that an earlier building stood on the site. 1890 is the year which Moore sells a portion of her land to Alexander Thomas. A connection between Thomas and the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham is not established, but in 1904 Thomas' widow conveys the .38 acres to the trustees of the lodge.

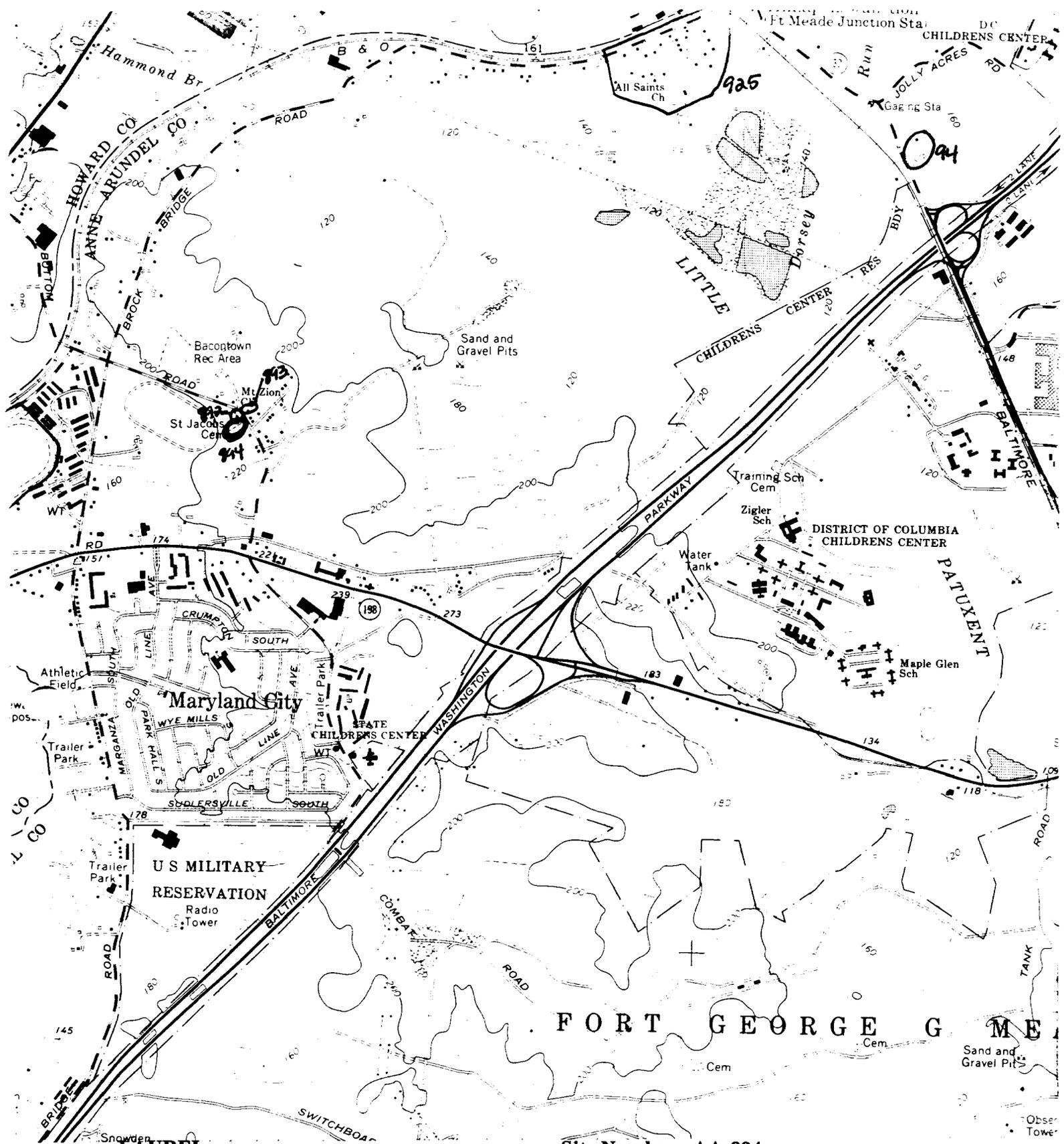
St. Jacobs Cemetery is located on two acres purchased in 1913 by lodge trustees from William Elliot. Benevolent organizations frequently provided burial for deceased members and St. Jacobs ownership of a cemetery suggests this was among the benefits provided to its members.

St. Jacobs Lodge is a rare surviving example of a black benevolent society, a voluntary organization dedicated to providing aid and support to members in time of need. While the foundation precepts of the different benevolent groups varied, certain commonalities existed. Members paid dues to the Lodge. In return, in time of sickness members received monetary relief, and health care from volunteer members.

Recent research suggests that benevolent societies have produced a greater impact on the African-American community than even the church. While more research needs to be done, it is known that benevolent groups first developed in 1780s. By 1835 there were forty such groups operating in Baltimore, and eighty in Philadelphia. By 1848, almost half of Baltimore's free black population were affiliated with benevolent groups.

James B. Browning has characterized benevolent societies as primarily cooperative, economic enterprises that provided a form of insurance against sickness, accident and death. In his 1979 study, William Harris, Jr. stresses that these organizations were not simply mirror images of similar white organizations, and argues that they served different functions due to the distinctive needs of the black population. In his opinion, these voluntary associations served as the linchpin of the black community, and built churches, sponsored fraternal orders, building societies and insurance companies.

St. Jacobs Lodge is located in what was formerly a rural part of the county. Its location, and the rural situation of the Sons and Daughters of Levi, located near Millersville, Maryland, challenge the existing theory that black benevolent groups were predominately an urban form. St. Jacobs Lodge #28 represents an important and inadequately understood aspect of the African-American community.



LAUREL
 USGS 7.5 minute series
 Scale: 1:24,000
 1965, photo revised 1979

Site Number: AA-894
 Site Name: St. Jacob's Lodge
 Location: Wiskey Bottom Road, Bacontown



AA-894

St. Jacobs Lodge # 28, The
Benevolent SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Donna M. WARE

January 1996

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

Camera facing approximately South

Photo 1 of 2

ST. JACOBS LODGE

No. 28 B. S. D. of A.

ORGANIZED JUNE 21. 1890

BLDG. ERECTED JULY 3. 1909

AA-894

St. Jacobs Lodge #28, The Benevolent
Sons and Daughters of ABRAHAM

Anne Arundel Co., MARYLAND

Donna M. Ware

January 1996

Neg. at Maryland SHPB

Cornerstone

Photo 2 of 2



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