

## DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE BUILDING

This small frame structure was built at the turn of the 20th century to be used as a doctor's office. Its exterior appearance speaks strongly of the Queen Anne style with an arrangement of beveled clapboards, fishscale shingles and a gambrel roof. The interior with its tiny waiting room and examination room says much about space requirements in an earlier period of Towson's history. The waiting room was finished with tongue-and-groove paneling on the ceiling and walls and was heated by a fireplace with a marbled slate mantel.

Dr. Jarrett's Office was one of several Queen Anne period buildings that once occupied the corners of the Washington and Allegheny Avenues intersection. They have all been either altered or demolished. In March, 1978 this building was moved to its present site in order to save it from the fate of its neighbors, and it is currently being restored for use as an office and medical museum.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA- 1426  
MAGI #0314265611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE**  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**506 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

CITY, TOWN **TOWSON** \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE **MARYLAND 21204** COUNTY **BALTIMORE**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Towson Jaycees** Telephone #: **821-6469**

STREET & NUMBER  
**408 York Rd.**

CITY, TOWN **Towson** \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code **Maryland 21204**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **New Courts Building**

Liber #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Folio #: **See Attachment**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE Nov., 1977

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This turn of the century example of a doctor's office is a 1 1/2 story symmetrical frame and shingle structure with a stone foundation. The plan is longitudinal with the main entrance on the east end. Fish-gale shingles decorate each of the west and east ends of the gambrel roof. On the north and south sides there are gabled dormers set with 1/1 windows. The building has deep eaves with soffits of 1" x 3" boards. A brick chimney is centrally located. The first story has beveled clapboard siding. The building has a regular fenestration of large 1/1 windows. For example, on the east or main facade, the window measures 35"x60". All the windows have louvered functional shutters. The main entrance of the structure is a wooden double panel and glass door. The door fixtures are ornate brass with floral designs. The second entrance leading to the upper level on the west facade is a wooden four paneled door with brass fixtures.

The plan of this building provides for two laterally partitioned rooms on the first and second levels. The east room on the first level, probably a waiting room, has a centrally located fireplace. The mantlepice has ornate geometric decorations. The fireplace opening measures 32"x32". On either end of the fireplace there is a cupboard constructed of 3 1/4" tongue and groove paneling. Each cupboard is four feet high, one foot wide and 1 foot deep. The entire room is paneled with light green 3 1/4" tongue and groove paneling which extends to the eight foot ceilings. Characteristic turn of the century decorations can be found around the window and door frames. These include reeded moulding and bullseye corner blocks. The two rooms on the lower level are complete with early twentieth century lighting fixtures.

The west room on the first floor, probably the examining room, has the same green 3 1/4" tongue and groove paneling on three walls. The fourth wall is paneled with 1 3/4" tongue and groove paneling which closes off the interior access to the string staircase which leads to the second level. This alteration allows for the exterior entrance to the west side of the second floor. In addition, a small sink is found in the southwest corner of the room.

The hallway which leads to the second level has a combination of 1 3/4"+3 1/4" natural pine tongue and groove paneling. Walls are plastered with animal hair plaster and supported by machine cut laths. Circular cut lumber and machine cut nails were also observed in the stairway.

The second level has two rooms with the same ornate door and window mouldings as the first level. The baseboards are plain. The wooden door which separates the two rooms has ornate metal hardware, floral patterned hinges and porcelain doorknobs. The same animal hair plaster walls that existed in the stairway are found here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building can be considered significant for several different reasons. It is significant architecturally, educationally as an early commercial structure and also in relation to its surrounding architectural environment.

The structure itself is a fairly well preserved example of a turn of the century Victorian building with a specialized use. Typical details such as wooden frame construction, decorative shingles and ornate fixtures indicate this to the observer. In its present state, the Jarrett office can be functional in a predominately commercial area. (i.e. as a small office)

This building is also valuable in educating people about the social life of the period in which it was built. The growth of small commercial concerns during the turn of the century in Towson can be discovered by examining this structure. The lifestyle of the early medical profession can be gleaned by examining this structure in detail. This building can show how people in an earlier period lived.

This structure also holds significance to the surrounding neighborhood. It is a part of a complex of three buildings which occupy one of three corners of the intersection of Allegheny and Washington Avenues which are dotted with turn of the century structures. The Jarrett office in conjunction with the other old structures help to preserve an antique atmosphere in the heart of a commercial town. It also serves as a focal point of contrast to the new structures which surround this complex. These older buildings taken as a whole can also constitute a buffer zone of old structure to protect the next block bound by Allegheny, Baltimore and Washington Avenues, which is a potential National Register district, from the advances of modern day society and architecture.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

*Wayne L. Field #  
Historic Sites Surveyor*

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

KATHERINE PINTO

ORGANIZATION

GOUCHER COLLEGE

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

TOWSON

STATE

MARYLAND

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

According to William Lickle, as recorded by Katherine Pinto:

Dr. James Henry Jarrett (General Practitioner) (1832-1922) Office built approximately 1900.

1. He was a Civil War Union Army Surgeon. After the war he wrote for the State of Maryland a documentary history of Maryland's soldiers in the Civil War.
2. During the Gubernatorial Convention in 1859 he cast the tie-breaking vote which kept Maryland in the Union.
3. The office was situated on his son-in-law's property; he lived across the street.
4. At one time he was the oldest practicing doctor in the state of Maryland.
5. During the Civil War he was one of the first people to hear the commencement of the battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac. He witnessed the message of the battle being sent to Washington.
6. His son Harry Jarrett practiced with his father for a while in this structure.
7. The upper part of the building was used for storage.
8. After he died, other doctors, i.e. Dr. Daniel Jenifer, and real estate, lawyers and insurance people occupied the structure.
9. During the Civil War, his brother, Dr. Martin Jarrett, a Confederate soldier was captured by the Union forces; Dr. James Jarrett used his influence to spring his brother, who went back to support the South. It is said that in their later years both brothers would reminisce about the War Between the States and cry.

Results of title search:

Plot size 150'/100'

Washington Townsend to William Lee

November 13, 1882

131/S14

from Tax map

Only other mention was the sale of 1/9th of ownership in book 5560/299, 303.

I. Sources Dr. Jarrett is mentioned in:

Genealogy and Biography of the Leading Families of the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, Maryland. Chapman Publishing Co., New York and Chicago, 1897.

Additional comments:

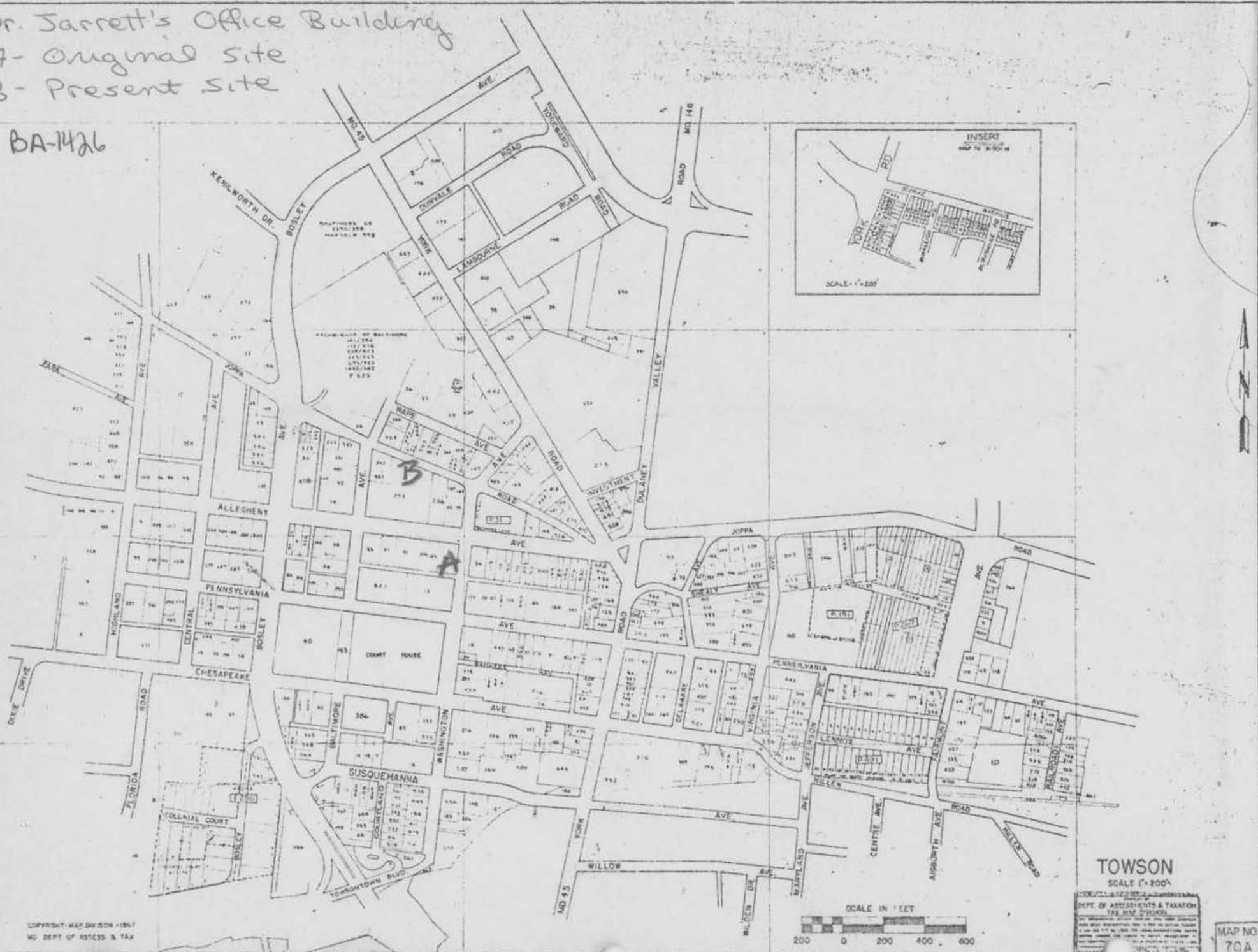
- (1) In 1855-1856 he was a representative from Harford County in the Maryland State Legislature.
- (2) Jarrett played an indirect role in keeping Maryland in the Union. At the State Convention of 1859 three candidates were running for Governor. (1) Thomas H. Hicks who favored the North. (2) Recaud a Southern sympathizer. (3) Pernell. There was a tie between Hicks and Recaud. Jarrett changed his vote from his friend Pernell who had no chance to Hicks, the Northern sympathizer, who was then the nominee.

II. The book Dr. Jarrett was instrumental in writing:

History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers from the War of 1861-65. Prepared by order of the General Assembly by A. Wilmer, J. H. Jarrett and George Vernon. (This volume was compiled in 1896 during Governor Lloyd Lowndes' time in office)

Dr. Jarrett's Office Building  
 A- Original site  
 B- Present site

BA-1426



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 MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

SCALE IN FEET  
 200 0 200 400 600

TOWSON  
 SCALE 1" = 200'  
 DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
 THE BALTIMORE

MAP NO.  
 70A



BA-1426

DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE  
BLDG.

N.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



BA-1426

DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE BLDG.  
S. E. CORNER

W. NIELD  
WINTER 77-78



BA-1426

JARRETT OFFICE Bldg.  
(MOVE)

W. NIELD

MAR. 11, '78



BA-1426

JARRETT OFFICE BLDG.  
(MOVE)

W. NIELD  
MAR. 11, 1978



BA-1426

JARRETT OFFICE BLDG.  
(MOVE)

W. NIELD  
MAR 11, 1978



BA-1426

DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE BLDG.  
S.W. CORNER

W. NIELD  
9/78



BA-1426

JARRETT OFFICE BLDG.  
(MOVE)

W. NIELD  
MAR 11, 1978



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JARRETT OFFICE BLDG  
MOVE

W. NIELD  
MAR 11, 1978



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BLDG.

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W. NIELD  
WINTER 77-78



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DR. JARRETT'S OFFICE BLDG  
DETAIL

RD

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