

**END-OF-FIELDWORK AND  
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS SUMMARY  
BOYD'S STORE AND HOUSE SITE  
[7NC-G-169; CRS N-12742.002]  
BOYDS CORNER INTERSECTION  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**ST. GEORGES HUNDRED  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

**Treatment of Adverse Effect through Archaeological Data Recovery (Phase III)**

**Parent Agreement 1415 Task 3**

*Prepared for:*

Delaware Department of Transportation

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**MARCH 20, 2009**

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**END-OF-FIELDWORK AND PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS SUMMARY  
BOYDS CORNER INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
ST. GEORGES HUNDRED, NEW CASTLE COUNTY**

**BOYD'S STORE AND HOUSE SITE [7NC-G-169; CRS N-12742.002]**

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**1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK**

Projected improvements to the intersection of U.S. Route 13 (Dupont Highway) and Poles Bridge/Boyd's Corner Road north of Odessa will adversely affect an identified archaeological property, Boyd's Store and House Site [7NC-G-169]. This property was identified in a 2006 study (*Environment and Archaeology, LLC 2006: 66-69 and Figures 22 and 23*). The integrity of the property and its eligibility for the National Register was investigated in a Phase II study by Hunter Research, Inc., the results of which were presented in a summary report to the Department dated November 30, 2007. This report was reviewed by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and by the Delaware Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and the results and recommendations discussed in a conference call on February 11, 2008. DelDOT and HPO have agreed that the site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Treatment of the adverse effects of the road improvements on the property, pursuant to 36CFR800.6, is being accomplished through an agreed program of historical and archaeological research within the framework of the Delaware Comprehensive Preservation Plan and associated historic contexts. This management summary reports on the results of site-specific documentary research and data recovery excavation. The site is providing information important in the history of Delaware, particularly in advancing understanding of the role of stores in rural Delaware in the first half of the 19th century.

**2. BACKGROUND RESEARCH SUMMARY**

**A. Introduction**

There are two components to the historical research for the Boyd's project. The first is the detailed property history. This is summarized below. The second is the contextual study of the store and other aspects of the property in its wider setting. This research is ongoing and is not addressed here.

We are grateful to Gladys Lester for making available some of her research on the property and the area. This raised some interesting issues about the location of the property and the earlier alignments of U.S. Route 13, which have resulted in greater clarification of the history of the property.

**B. Early Deeds and the "Appoquinimink Road"**

In 1697, William Patterson sold 150 acres on the south side of the Augustine Creek in St. Georges Hundred to Thomas Rothwell. The 150 acres was conveyed in two adjacent tracts that were bounded on the north by the Augustine Creek and on the west by the "Appoquinimink Road," a rough predecessor to U.S. Route 13 (New Castle County Deeds B1/185 and T1/211). Nearly every subsequent deed of sale for this 150-acre farm until 1884 when Charles S. Boyd sold the property to James Raymond Claghorn described the as the western boundary of the property (New Castle County Deed X10/39). On the surface, this would seem to place the modern northwest quadrant of Boyd's corner outside of the bounds of the land being transferred – and outside of Boyd family ownership.

Yet, this contradicts most other available evidence. A title search on the lot at the northwest corner of Boyd's Corner produced a chain of title that clearly and definitively links the modern parcel to the above referenced deed in which the road is described as the western boundary. Moreover, historic map evidence undoubtedly shows the Boyd family owning land on the northwest corner of the intersection (Figures 1 and 2). What then accounts for the discrepancy? Did the Boyd family actually own land at the northwest corner of Boyd's Corner?

A deed executed in 1759 provides a clue. In 1759, the sheriff of New Castle County seized the above referenced 150-acre tract, which was then owned by Francis Land. The sheriff sold 70 acres out of those 150 acres to James Piper. The deed offered a description of this new tract in which one line of the property is described as traveling in a northeasterly direction to the Kings Road (New Castle County Deed T1/211). This most certainly transferred property on the *west* side of King's Road from Francis Land to James Piper. James Piper eventually acquired the rest of the 150-acre tract as well, and in subsequent deeds of sale, the 150-acre tract was again described according to its original account as bounded on the west by the Kings Road/Appoquinimink Road .

A shifting road alignment, rather than shifting property boundaries, is the most viable explanation for the inconsistency in the property descriptions. In the 17th century the "Appoquinimink Road" was apparently situated to the west of modern-day U.S. Route 13 and shifted to the east sometime before the description of the 70 acres was written in 1756. Thus the modern northwest corner of Boyd's Corner was once indeed situated within the boundaries of the 150-acre farm.

### **C. Ownership to 1812**

There is no firm evidence to suggest that any structures were situated on the northwest corner of Boyd's Corner before 1812. Samuel Mahoe owned the property from 1727 to 1733. Archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of State Route 1 estab-

lished the location of what was probably his house on the south bank of Augustine Creek. Archaeologists concluded that the house went out of use after the Mahoes sold the property (Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. 1998).

This certainly makes sense. Subsequent owner James Piper, a shopkeeper, lived outside of the farm in a house at the intersection of the Kings Road and the Road from Bohemia Manor to Reedy Island – which was then located well to the south of the present intersection of U.S. Route 13 and Boyd's Corner Road.

After James' Piper's death, his wife Susannah continued to live in the area until her death around 1780. There are three possibilities for the location of her home: first, she may have stayed in the family home to the south of present Boyd's Corner. Although this had been sold to John Golden, a deed was not formally executed until 1784, and Susannah could have remained in the home as a condition of the original purchase (New Castle County Orphans Court Records F1/303; New Castle County Deed F2/98). She may have lived briefly in the old Mahoe house on Augustine Creek, or she may have lived elsewhere on the 70 acres that James Piper had purchased in 1759, possibly within the project area (New Castle County Deed T1/211).

Upon James Piper's death, his land was divided among his children: John, Ruth, Hannah, Mary and Margaret. In the following years the Reverend Thomas Read purchased the Pipers' shares piecemeal. In 1790 Ruth sold her interest directly to Thomas Read. Subsequently, John and Mary sold their shares to Robert Haughey whose estate sold the interest to Thomas Read. Likewise Hannah and Mary sold their shares to William Frazer who transferred interest to Thomas Read (New Castle County Deed N3/128). Thomas Read's daughter Mary S. married John Boyd and thus, in 1812 Thomas Read sold full interest to the entire property to Boyd (New Castle County Deed N3/128).

#### **D. The Boyd Ownership (1812-1877) and After**

John Boyd built a “stone house” and a store on his property shortly after he purchased it in 1812 (New Castle County Board of Assessments 1813, 1816). The store was certainly in operation in 1831, for that year Charles Foster, collector of St. George’s Hundred, wrote “A list of the number of retailers of furren [*sic*] goods & merchendize [*sic*] stating that John Boyd ran a store “near the Trap.” Boyd is the only merchant listed in this location; the others were located in Middletown, Cantwells Bridge, Port Penn, and Summit Bridge (Foster 1831). Boyd likely operated the store until his death in 1837, as the following year an inventory of his goods lists “sundry items in store room” (New Castle County Probate Records, John Boyd).

In his will, John Boyd divided his real estate amongst his four sons. Thomas J. Boyd received one half of one-eighth interest, John R. Boyd received three-eighths interest, a two-eighths interest passed to William S. Boyd and the last two and one-half eighths interest was left to Charles S. Boyd (New Castle County Probate Records, John Boyd). Though his brothers retained interest in their father’s property at Boyd’s Corner, John R. Boyd seems to have actually settled on the property and continued running the store, as indicated on Rea and Price’s *Map of the State of Delaware* published in 1849 (Figure 2). John R. Boyd purchased the full interest in the property from his siblings in two deeds executed in 1852 and 1860 (New Castle County Deeds K6/442 and I7/121).

Boyd then remained on the property until 1875. While he continued to farm the 150 acres, it is uncertain how long Boyd’s store remained in operation. The United States Census of 1850, 1860 and 1870 listed farming as his primary occupation and Boyd was indeed a prosperous farmer – by 1870, his farm was valued at \$20,000 (United States Census 1850, 1860, 1870). During this time, Boyd was able to enlarge and alter his home at Boyd’s Corner and also to build another house farther to the east, outside of the project area on the other side of the King’s Road (see Figure 3).

Charles Boyd, of Philadelphia, owned the property briefly until 1877 when he sold it to James Raymond Claghorn (New Castle County Deed X10/39). And a deed executed between Claghorn and James Padley in 1884 lends further support to the idea that the Boyds certainly owned land on the modern west side of U.S. Route 13. The deeds of sale for the modern parcel at the northwest corner of Boyd’s corner can be traced directly to this 1884 deed which clearly describes the 150-acre farm as “being divided into two lots by the road from Odessa to St. Georges” (New Castle County Deed F13/500).

#### **E. The Sartin Ownership (1910-1966) and After**

The farm passed through a number of hands until 1910 when George W. Sartin purchased the property. At this time, the property contained a frame dwelling house and other buildings (New Castle County Deed D23/76). The Sartin’s house and outbuildings remained on the site of the former Boyd Store until the mid-20th century (see Figure 3). The house was removed from the site between 1968 and 1988 in advance of road improvements at the intersection of U.S. Route 13 and Boyd’s Corner Road (New Castle County Deed L77/506). The site of the former Boyd Store then became and remains a vacant lawn associated with the Parkway Motel, which had been built to the north between 1952 and 1954 (New Castle County Deed N52/111; Delaware DataMil 1954).

### **3. FIELDWORK SUMMARY**

#### **A. Excavation Strategy and Implementation (Figure 4)**

The accepted research design called for a staged excavation strategy with the objective of identifying and sampling all archaeological features within the defined project limits. Excavations were conducted from November 10, 2008 to January 2, 2009. The field crew consisted of William Liebeknecht (Principal

Investigator), Sue Ferenbach (Senior Archaeologist), John Ferenbach, Glen Mellin, Wayne Mellin, Joelle Browning, Tim Hichens and Samantha Bell (Plate 1).

#### *Removal of Backfill from Phase II Excavation Units*

All units excavated during the Phase II investigations, which covered 4% of the available site area, were re-excavated. These had been lined with blue plastic tarps prior to backfilling to facilitate re-excavation and to protect unexcavated features.

#### *Phase III Excavation Units*

Following completion of the re-excavation of the Phase II units, a series of Phase III units were opened. Hand excavation in these units was taken down to the base of the plowzone, with exposure and limited investigation of sub-plowzone features. The original goal was to expose 5% of the site by hand prior to mechanical stripping of the plowzone. It was intended that these units would provide reference points for the machine stripping of the remainder of the project area. In the event, the numerous structural remains encountered during this process were found to be both shallow and fragile. Since it was clear that such features would not easily survive the pressure/weight of a vehicle used for mechanical stripping, more extensive hand excavation was undertaken (Plate 2).

#### *Mechanical Stripping*

Following the intense hand excavation, a trackhoe with rubber tires and a flat-bladed bucket was employed to strip the uppermost context, using the depth data from the hand-dug units as a control. Mechanical stripping was largely restricted to the southwest corner of the site, an area of about 2,000 square feet, (Plate 3). The full basement of the J. Boyd house, which had been filled with demolition and road debris when the house was moved, was also excavated using the trackhoe down to an earthen floor. A brick-lined well was also excavated to a depth of 14 feet with the assistance of the trackhoe.

#### *Feature Excavation*

Following the removal of the topsoil across the site all features were mapped, photographed and fully excavated. Soil samples were taken as appropriate from selected features for botanical and soil chemistry samples.

## **B. SITE DEVELOPMENTAL SEQUENCE (WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY)**

This narrative chronological summary is based on stratigraphic analysis, documentary research, and preliminary artifact analysis. It is subject to change in detail when the artifacts have been fully cataloged and further analyses undertaken.

### ***Circa 1770 to 1800***

Construction of a dry-laid field wall [context 209] running north/south.

### ***Circa 1812 under the ownership of John Boyd***

John Boyd's house was constructed. The foundation consisted of mortared stone placed in a shallow trench [contexts 203-206 and 20] (no basement or crawl space). The structure measured 22 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south.

John Boyd's store was constructed at the same time. This building was a post-in-ground structure measuring 21 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south. Supplemental pier supports on the southern end suggests the existence of a possible ramp for unloading goods.

A barrel feature, located 22 feet west of the southwest corner of the store, was probably used as a privy [contexts 261, 262] (Plate 4).



Plate 1. Boyd's Corner Data Recovery field crew. Standing from left to right: Wayne Mellin, Tim Hitchens, Glen Mellin, Bill Liebeknecht and Joelle Browning. Kneeling: John Ferenbach, Sue Ferenbach and Samantha Bell (Photographer: Ian Burrow, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D2:118].



Plate 2. View of the hand excavated portion of the site from the bucket truck looking east (Photographer: DelDOT, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D4:001].



Plate 3. View of the mechanically stripped area looking southeast (Photographer: Sue Ferenbach, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D5:070].



Plate 4. Barrel privy fully excavated looking west (Photographer: Sue Ferenbach, January 2009) [HRI Neg.#08050/D5:147].

Numerous postholes dating to this period located west of the store probably represent fences, paddocks and pens associated with the Boyd farm.

### **Mid-19th-century John R. Boyd improvements to the property**

Rotting posts under the store were removed and re-enforced with rubble piers [236-243] to support the structure.

A new red brick well [147] was dug with a brick drain [149] pitched southeast running through the 18th-century dry-laid field wall, and snaking under the store between piers and posts (Plates 5 and 6).

A new house with a full basement was constructed connecting the original house and the store. The house foundation [219, 220, 222, 223] as excavated measures 38 feet north-south by 16 feet east-west. The lower portion of the foundation was constructed of whitewashed stone with the upper exposed portion constructed of red brick. The north and south ends exhibit supports for interior fireplaces [244, 254] (Plate 7). The main entrance is marked by remnant brick steps [217] on the east side of the foundation facing the DuPont highway. The west side of the foundation exhibits the remnants of wooden stairs leading down into a basement entrance [227-229]. In the process of constructing this new house, the eastern foundation wall of the original house was removed.

Numerous postholes dating to this period located southwest of the well likely represent fences, paddocks and pens associated with the Boyd farm, but as with the earlier phase no clear patterning was discernible.

### **1920 to 1966, Under the ownership of the Sartin Family**

The store was out of use by this time and had been torn down.

*Improvements to the house consisted of:*

- i) a porch [211] with a 4-foot long-by-1.5-foot-wide granite step positioned on the east side of the main house foundation capping the old brick steps to the front door.
- ii) a framed shed addition located on the south side of the original house extending to the main house, built on a shallow stone foundation capped by concrete [224, 226, 233, 234].
- iii) Three brick piers [230-232] for a small porch or supports for a roof support over a rear (west) entrance attached to the framed shed addition.
- iv) The northern fireplace support was blocked-in around a pipe to allow smoke to rise from a basement stove.

A posthole situated in Excavation Unit 31 represents a picket fence as shown on as-built maps of the property.

Numerous post holes dating to this period located southwest of the well likely represent fences, paddocks and pens associated with the Sartin farm.

Black plastic hoses were run from a basement washing machine to the brick well to dispose of grey water.

### **Post 1968 to Pre-1988**

The house was moved when U.S. Route 13 was widened and the intersection improved.

The basement was then filled with debris left behind when the structure was moved with materials resulting from roadway widening.

### **Post 1988**

The property became and remains a vacant lawn associated with the motel.

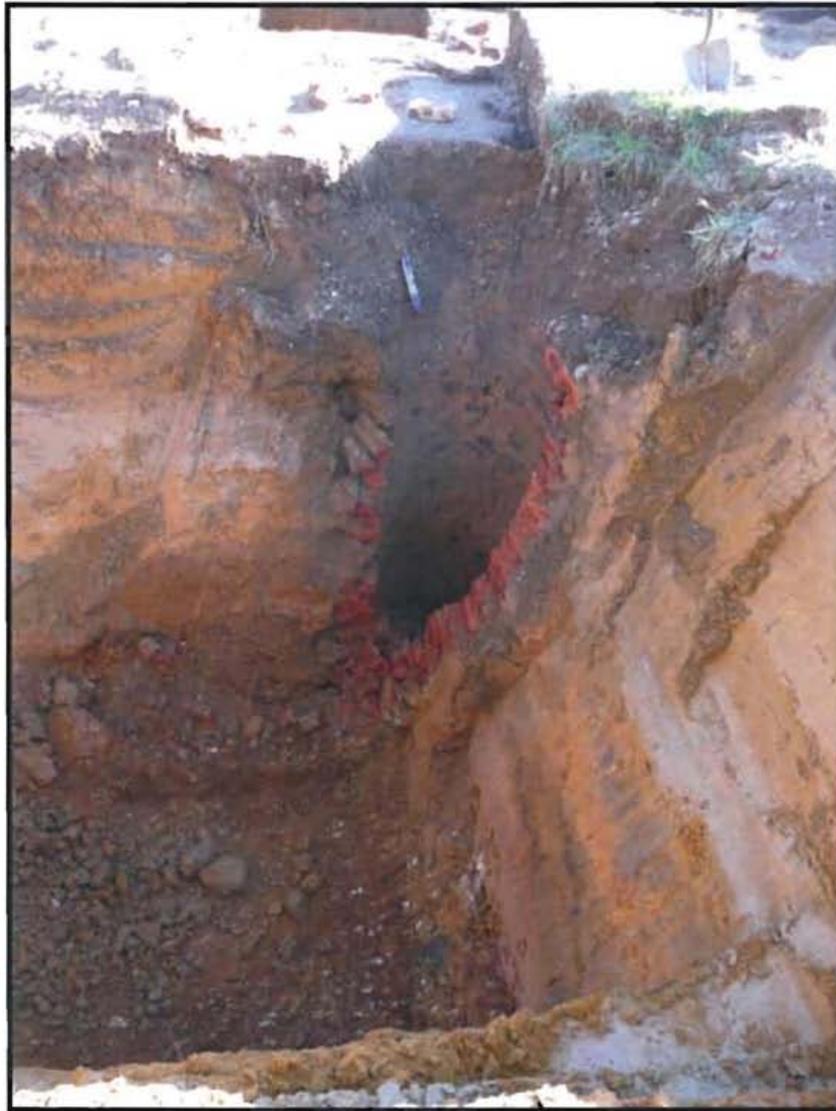


Plate 5. Well excavated with the assistance of the trackhoe looking southeast (Photographer: Sue Ferenbach, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D5:079].



Plate 6. Brick drain and rubble re-enforcing piers under the store looking northwest (Photographer: DelDOT, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D4:004].



Plate 7. Chimney support in the basement of James Boyd's house on the north end looking north (Photographer: Sue Ferenbach, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D5:095].

The well was open and eventually filled with clean clay soils capped by a layer of plastic corrugated advertisement signs for Appoquin Farms development (mid-1990s) followed by more clean clay.

Two electrical lines used to control the traffic signal were installed in narrow, shallow trenches running northeast-southwest across the site. Impacts to the site from these utilities were minor.

The two electrical lines were abandoned and replaced by new lines encased within a two-inch metal pipe which was laid in another narrow shallow trench running northeast-southwest across southeast corner of the site, impacting the brick drain.

Currently the property is for sale for commercial development.

#### 4. ARTIFACT SUMMARY

The preliminary analysis of the artifacts is presented on the accompanying tables. A total of 5926 artifacts were recovered, all but 36 of which were historic. The prehistoric materials suggest the presence of a low-density upland site of unknown date and cultural association. The total recovered in the data recovery was actually less than in the Phase II.

Notable in the historic collection is the dominance of ceramics, forming almost half of the material and well ahead of glass (about 30% all types) and building materials (about 15%). This contrasts with the Phase II data, where building materials predominated. Building materials and glass often form higher percentages of collections on historic sites, and this observation suggests that this assemblage may not be typically domestic. In Phase I features 19 and 21 at the roughly contemporary Dickson Store site ceramics made up 37% of the sample. Comparative research at the full reporting phase will further explore the issue.

Vessel and bottle glass are also dominant in the Boyd's collection, making up another 17%+ of the material, a percentage notably higher than in the Phase I Dickson features (6.7%).

#### 5. PUBLIC OUTREACH

The site is located at a busy intersection with no on-site parking for visitors. The following measures were however implemented in the spirit of 36CFR800.2(d).

The site was open to the public during working hours within the parameters of safety concerns. An orange fence restricted visiting public from portions of the site immediately adjacent to U.S. Route 13 and Boyd's Corner Road. All visitors received an informational site brochure and were introduced to the site by a member of the Hunter Research field staff. The site was made available to University of Delaware anthropology students working with Dr. DeCunzo who stopped by on a routine basis to observe excavations and be updated on the site's progress.

A media day was scheduled and held on December 9, 2008. This event was orchestrated by Jim Westoff, Community Relations Officer for the Delaware Department of Transportation. The meeting was kicked off with a speech from David Clarke, DelDOT Archaeologist followed by interview of Ian Burrow and William B. Liebeknecht by radio, internet, newspaper and television news crews (Plate 8).

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

The project has successfully exposed and analyzed the multi-phase, 19th-century house and store complex, and has provisionally integrated the archaeological and historical evidence. Of particular importance is the identification of the probable store building, a two-phase structure of about 400 square feet, similar in size to the Dickson Store. The provisional hypothesis that the house itself was used as a store can be rejected.

**END-OF-FIELDWORK SUMMARY: BOYDS CORNER INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

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**BOYD'S STORE AND HOUSE SITE  
[7NC-G-169; CRS N-12742.002]:  
ARTIFACT SUMMARY BY CLASS**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Bead	1	0.02
Bell, Sleigh	1	0.02
Building Materials	903	15.24
Buttons	26	0.44
Ceramics	2705	45.65
Clay Tobacco Pipe	59	1.00
Coal	38	0.64
Coins	9	0.15
Faunal	162	2.73
Glass: Curved/Bottle	1026	17.31
Glass: Flat/Window	752	12.69
Gun Flint	3	0.05
Marbles	6	0.10
Metal	148	2.50
Misc. Other	50	0.84
Prehistoric Debitage	15	0.25
Prehistoric FCR	16	0.27
Prehistoric: Biface	1	0.02
Prehistoric: Stone tool	4	0.07
Token	1	0.02
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5926</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**BOYD'S STORE AND HOUSE SITE  
[7NC-G-169; CRS N-12742.002]:  
ARTIFACT SUMMARY BY FREQUENCY**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Ceramics	2705	45.65
Glass: Curved/Bottle	1026	17.31
Building Materials	903	15.24
Glass: Flat/Window	752	12.69
Faunal	162	2.73
Metal	148	2.50
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Misc. Other	50	0.84
Coal	38	0.64
Buttons	26	0.44
Prehistoric FCR	16	0.27
Prehistoric Debitage	15	0.25
Coins	9	0.15
Marbles	6	0.10
Prehistoric: Stone tool	4	0.07
Gun Flint	3	0.05
Bead	1	0.02
Bell, Sleigh	1	0.02
Prehistoric: Biface	1	0.02
Token	1	0.02
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5926</b>	<b>100.00</b>



Plate 8. Media Day (Photographer: Sue Ferenbach, December 2008) [HRI Neg.#08050/D2:125].

The artifact assemblage appears to be dominated by ceramics to an unusual extent, and further analysis can be expected to confirm and offer explanations for this.

Other portions of the research design will be addressed through ongoing contextual research and full analysis of the artifacts, soils samples and stratigraphic data.

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