

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Spruce Pine School Other names/site number: FD 802 Name of related multiple property listing: NA **2. Location**Street & number: 5994 State Route 2030 City or town: Banner State: Kentucky County: Floyd Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: national statewide X localApplicable National Register Criteria: X A B C DSignature of certifying official/Title: Craig Potts/SHPO

Date

 Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Spruce Pine School

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Floyd, KY

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

2

2

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

5. Function or Use

Historic Functions

- EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

- SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

<u>NO STYLE</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

Foundation: Concrete and wood

Exterior walls: Wood planking

Fenestration: Metal rods

Roof: Tin

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Spruce Pine School (FD 802) is a former school building that served the community of Honaker, in Floyd County, Kentucky. The current mailing address for the school is given as Banner, the community with mail service to the school; Banner is located 12 miles north-northwest of the school. The county seat Prestonsburg is 23 miles northwest of the school. These distance measurements are straight line lengths; the distance traveled would be much farther by car due to the twisting nature of the roads. Constructed in 1935, the school features a simple three-room T-plan with a cross-gable roof. The structure is wood frame with shiplap wood siding with a functional design. Inside, the schoolhouse retains many original items used during its operational years, such as old school desks, a chalkboard, a water bucket, a potbelly stove for winter heating, and various small school items, including an original alphabet, school bell, and framed pictures of teachers and students. It ceased to function as a school in 1987. Since then, it has been used as a community center, and has taken the name "Little Mud Community Center" after a nearby stream. The area proposed for National Register listing is 0.85 acres, and includes one contributing building and two non-contributing modern shelter structures.



Spruce Pine School, Floyd County, Kentucky Latitude: 37.515943° Longitude: -82.676506°

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Narrative Description

The school site is defined by a 6' chain link fence topped by barbed wire. An asphalt oval track, at the base of the fence, encircles the building. Two metal-poled metal-roofed free-standing shelters, often used to cover cars on residential sites, cover concrete pads on which wooden picnic tables are found toward the back of the property. Modern playground equipment is on the southern portion of the schoolyard. An asphalt covered basketball court occupies some of the southern portion of the yard as well. Swings and a volleyball net occupy the northwest quadrant of the property. A flagpole rises from the corner of the front porch.

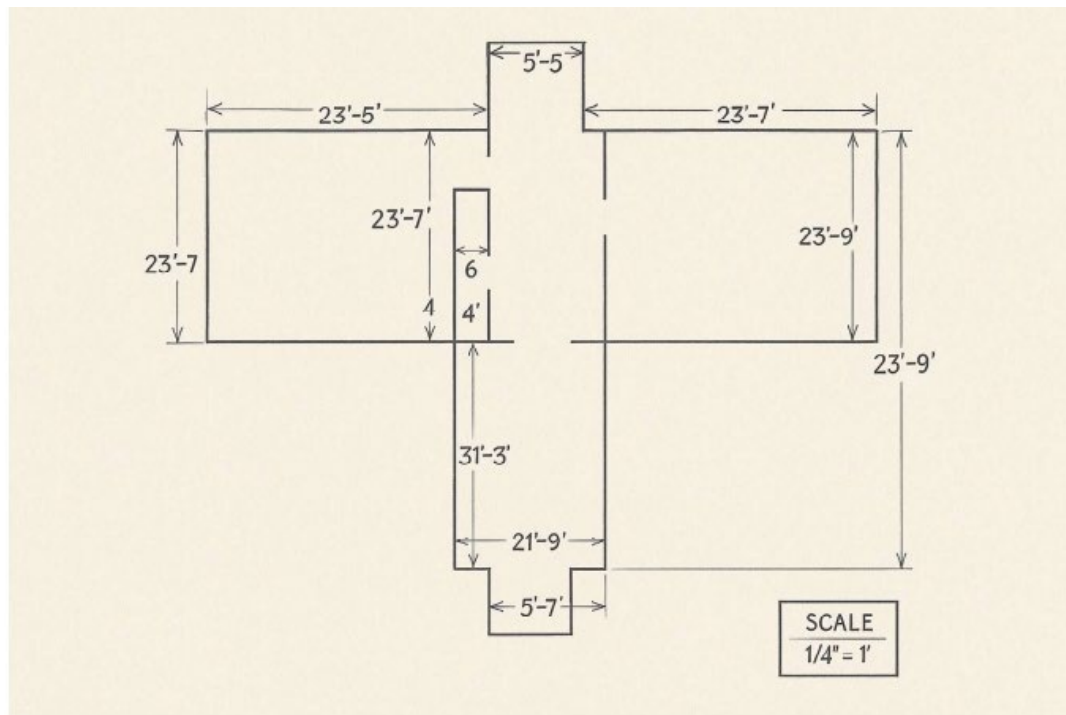


General view of site, to northeast

The building faces westerly, with three entrances, one in the central bay (that bay forms the base of the plan's T), and one each on the west faces of the two projections that form the crossing arms of the T. The building's windows are 6-over-6-light double-hung sash openings. On the projecting central bay is what appears to be the main entrance, marked by a small gable-roofed porch held up by two square wood posts. Rafter tails project at the eave level around the building. The foundation is cedar wood beams. The roof is covered by asphalt shingles in a diamond pattern.

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Overview Sketch Blueprint



Front (west) side

The three doors in the west face of the building differ from each other. The central door and the one to the north of it are 4-panel solid wood doors. That northern-most door has a small pent-roof covering held up by 2" x 4" wooden supports. The door on the southern bar of the crossing-T has 6 panes of glass, suggesting it's a replacement; that door also lacks the pent roof covering seen over the north door. The windows that light the two classrooms flanking the entry bay have a filler panel above the top of each window; they are 6-over-6 windows like the historic windows on the building, but the filler panel suggests they have been replaced.

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The building has two south facing sides, one which is a side of the central bay, the other being the southern gable end the building's crossing T bay. Three windows light the south side of the central bay. One of those windows is a replacement, with a one-over-one double-hung sash. The other two are historic windows with wood sash, double-hung and six-over-six light. The gable end of the crossing-T bay is unwindowed. There is a panel covering the opening in the attic, and a sheet metal panel the width of the bay covering the foundation and what appear to be small basement windows.



North Side of the building



South Sides of the Building

The north-facing sides of the building have three historic windows lighting the central bay, and the north crossing-T bay has no windows on the north side. The only opening in the crossing-T bay is an attic panel, enclosing the attic and matching the attic opening on the opposing side of the T.



Back (east) Side of the building

The east (back) side of the building faces the Spruce Pine Branch of the Little Mud Creek, which flows southward outside of the chained link fence surrounding the property. A gable-roofed vestibule extension projects from the back of the building, splitting the east wall of the building into halves. The vestibule's primary entry from the outside was a door on its eastern wall. The clapboard siding of the vestibule has been covered over with a composition board or plywood. In the covering of the horizontal siding, the door was

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removed and a covered panel installed. The door originally was a back entry point into the building, and three steps that led up to the door remain to give evidence of the door placement.

On either side of that vestibule are banks of six windows. All of the windows on the wall to the north of the projection are boarded shut. Four windows to the south of the projection are still open. Those windows are double-hung-sash six-over-six windows.

Building Interior

The interior of the building is organized into rooms. Among the features of the school which give it additional feeling are vintage school desks, chalkboards, and a water bucket used for drinking. A potbelly stove, once essential for heating the schoolhouse, remains a prominent feature, although a chimney is not visible on the main roof. Additional historical items include the original alphabet, a school bell, and framed photographs of both the teachers and students who once attended.

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

The Spruce Pine School has changed since it stopped its teaching function in 1987. The community leased the building from the board of education for 50 years. It was then that the caretakers rehabilitated the building from deteriorating by adding a new roof, new windows, and plumbing for a bathroom and kitchen.

Surrounding the building those workers installed a chain link fence, picnic shelter, volleyball net, horseshoes, play structure and basketball court. A walking track encompasses the building as well. Keeping the property as intact as possible has been the goal of the support group tending to the property. In the school's first room interpreted by that group, actual items were installed from when the building's use as a school, many of which were donated by former students. These items include original desks, a cursive alphabet that bordered the top of the classroom, and a water bucket for drinking water. The stove was also restored.

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Applicable National Register Criteria

☒

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

☐

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

☐

B. Removed from its original location

☐

C. A birthplace or grave

☐

D. A cemetery

☐

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

☐

F. A commemorative property

☐

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
EDUCATION

Period of Significance
1935-1987

Significant Dates
1935: Date of Construction
1987: Date the building ceased being used as a school

Significant Person
NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Spruce Pine School (FD 802) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant for its association with the history of education in Floyd County, Kentucky. Constructed in 1935, it is one of the few remaining examples of early 20th-century rural schoolhouses in the region. The building is significant not just because it served an educational purpose, but because it played a role in the development of the local community's educational system during a time of economic hardship and social change. Built likely with support from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the building's functional design reflects the modest resources available in the rural areas of Floyd County. The Spruce Pine School remained in use as a school until 1987, making it a lasting educational resource for children in this part of Floyd County. While many similar schoolhouses have been demolished or repurposed, the Spruce Pine School stands as one of the few intact examples from the era, making it an important symbol of the community's educational history.

Historic Context:

Floyd County came into the Commonwealth in 1799, and its immense area was split into all or parts of 12 smaller counties during the nineteenth century. It took its current shape in 1884, when part of it was ceded to make Knott County. It remained a relatively isolated county of Kentucky throughout the nineteenth century.

In 1904, the C&O Railway entered Floyd County, through which its rich harvest of timber and coal could begin on an industrial level. This infusion of investment brought elements of modern culture to the area. Floyd County schools also began to organize to serve long time residents as well as the newcomer worker class. The entry of the L&N Railroad in 1911-12 opened the county to a new era of natural resource development and establishment of many company-owned mining communities.

Schools were part of that development. Of the scores of schools that were built over time, the files of the Kentucky Heritage Council, the SHPO, contain records of six historic schools. These include: Wheelwright Elementary (FD 42), Auxier Consolidated (FD 60), a Church/School on Simpson Branch Road (FD 101), Bosco Elementary School (FD 148), a one-roomed school on Toler Creek Road (FD 217), and Spruce Pine School (FD 802).

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ARCHITECTURAL STYLE QUERY				
SITE_NUMBER	DISTRICT_CODE	HISTORIC_NAME	LOCATION	STATUS_DESCRIPTION
FD 42	018	WHEELWRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE	MAIN WHEELWRIGHT	N/R DISTRICT CONTRI. SITE
FD 60	000	AUXIER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL	RIVER ST AUXIER KY 41602	UNDETERMINED
FD 101		CHURCH/SCHOOL	EAST SIDE OF SIMPSON BRANCH ROAD	UNDETERMINED
FD 148		BOSCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/WAREHOUSE	SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD BOSCO KY	UNDETERMINED
FD 217		ONE-ROOM SCHOOL/HOUSE	4984 TOLER CREEK ROAD GRETHEL KY	UNDETERMINED

History of Nominated Property

The Spruce Pine School operated as an educational facility from 1935-1987. The school played an important role in the community. It was built during the 1930s, when the only options for education required students to walk to school or ride to school on horseback. The teachers appointed by the board of education were greatly influential in shaping students' lives. It wasn't until the 1950s that school buses became available in Floyd County, giving students the opportunity to attend high school, though often outside of their home community due to the limited number of county high schools.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Property within the Historic Context

During the early 20th century, rural Kentucky faced significant challenges related to education. The lack of accessible school buildings, coupled with the economic hardships of the Great Depression, made it difficult for children in isolated communities to receive a proper education. The Spruce Pine School, constructed in 1935, was part of a broader initiative to improve educational infrastructure in rural America. Funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the school was designed to meet the needs of the local community by providing a safe and functional learning environment for children in a region that had long struggled with educational accessibility.

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The WPA's investment in rural schools like the Spruce Pine School was critical in ensuring that children in these underserved areas had access to an education that would prepare them for the challenges of the modern world.

Evaluation of the Integrity Between the Significance and the Property's Physical Condition

Spruce Pine School has a high degree of intactness relative to other historic schools in Floyd County. Since the period of significance, a number of changes have been made that reduce its intactness. These include changes to one room, converting it into a kitchen that is used to host community events, and replacement of some windows. There have also been additions to the site, which include a walking track, volleyball and basketball courts, a covered picnic area with tables, and additional parking space.

Despite the changes to the property since the school ceased operation in 1987, the Spruce Pine School retains significant architectural integrity, especially in terms of its historical form and materials. The building's T-shaped floor plan, original wood frame construction, and shiplap siding remain largely intact. Although some windows and doors have been replaced, the building's general configuration and exterior detailing maintain a strong connection to its original period of significance.

Interior elements, such as the original school desks, potbelly stove, and framed photographs, further contribute to the building's historical integrity, offering a glimpse into the day-to-day educational activities that took place here. The addition of modern structures, including picnic shelters, a volleyball net, and playground equipment, while non-contributing to the building's historic character, do not significantly detract from the property's overall integrity.

Major Bibliographical References

- "Former Residents of Spruce Pine School." Personal Interviews, 2024.
- Floyd County Board of Education Archives.
- Honaker Community Histories, compiled by local historians, 2023

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

___ previously listed in the National Register

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___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): FD 802 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .85 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Latitude: 37.515943° | Longitude: -82.676506° |
| 2. | Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. | Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. | Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or UTM References Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Zone: Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. | Zone: Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. | Zone: Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. | Zone: Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description

The area proposed for listing is defined on Floyd County Property Valuation Administrator Map 080-20-03-006.00. The physical boundary of the property is defined by fencing that surrounds the entirety of the property, starting at the main road and extending to the back of the property along Little Mud Creek.



The proposed boundary is marked by light blue line.

Boundary Justification

This is an appropriate boundary because it was the area used for the school during its historic period. The area continues to have sufficient integrity of setting to serve as the National Register boundary.

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Property Owner:

name Floyd County Board of Education street & number

442 KY Route 550

telephone

city or town Eastern state Kentucky

zip code 41622

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Bonnie Humble

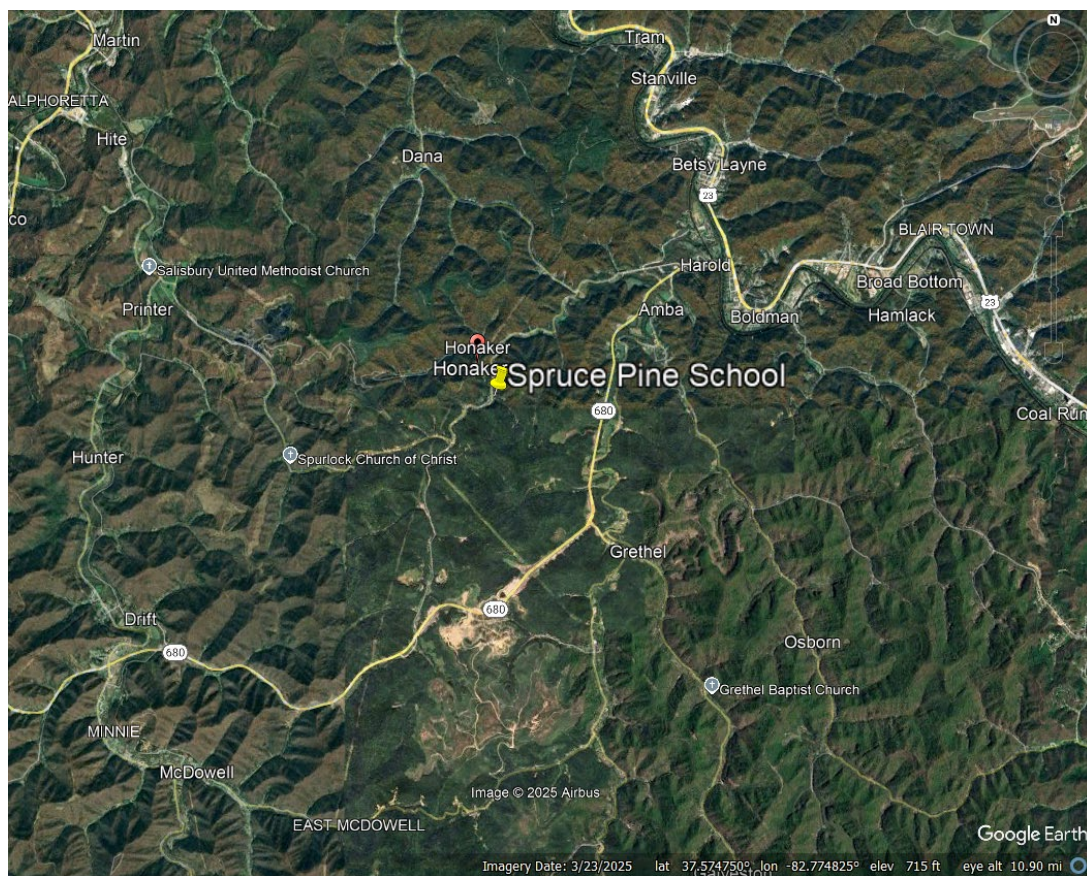
street & number: 7089 Creekway Ct

city or town: Ypsilanti state: Michigan zip code: 48197

e-mail bhum12345@aol.com

telephone: 734-693-1989

date: August 2025



Vicinity map showing property at center

Spruce Pine School



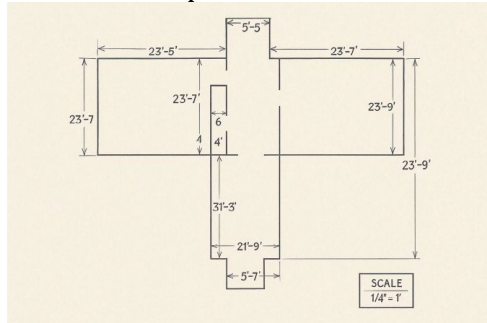

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Photographs

Photo Log

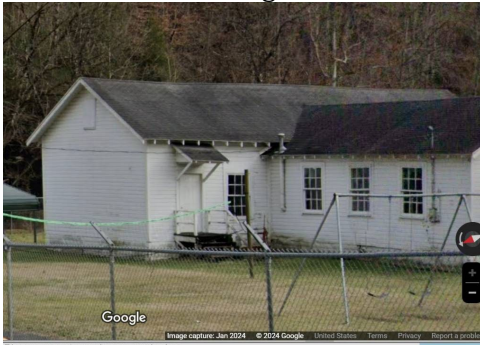



Photo #	Description	Direction of View
1	<p>Aerial view of Spruce Pine School facing main road of Little Mud</p> 	General View of site, to northeast
2	<p>Front (west) side of building</p> 	Facing east
3	<p>Overview blueprint sketch</p> 	N/A (sketch) 1/4" = 1" scale
4	<p>Front (west) side</p> 	Facing east

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5	North side of building 	Facing south
6	South side of building 	Facing north
7	Back (east) Side of the building 	Facing west
8	Vicinity map of property, from Floyd County PVA (property in light blue lines) 	N/A (map)

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9	<p>Property boundary as defined by Floyd County PVA</p> 	<p>N/A (map) Vicinity map of property, from Floyd County PVA (property in light blue lines)</p>
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