

Picture: GRAMAM TIDY

□ Pam Hicks enjoys her pets' company in the front yard of her home — Majura House.

◻ I M A G E

## Majura House preserves its pastoral tradition

By JOANNA LITCHFIELD

□ No information from primary sources can pinpoint the exact date Majura House was built, nor is there confirmation of the belief that it was built for a Mayo. It is thought however, to have been the first house in the Majura Valley and was built on land which belonged to Robert Campbell.

land which belonged to Robert Campbell.

From the mid 1850s there is written verification that the house belonged to the Mayo family through generations, well into this century. Author of *An Autobiography or Tales and Legends of Canberra Pioneers*, Samuel Shumack records that in 1856-7 "our next door neighbour at Duntroon was Alfred Mayo".

troon was Alfred Mayo".

□ □ □ □

Alfred Mayo married Mary Ann Smith in 1846 at St John's church, Reid; theirs is the second marriage on the register.

Mary was one of only two women in the area with any knowledge of obstetrics and was called upon frequently. Shumack wrote of one occasion when, in her capacity as midwife, she had to cross a flooded Molonglo River in a tub placed on a raft which had been hurriedly constructed of two boards. One of the Duntroon workers, known only as "The Black Trencher", swam across with the raft, delivering its occupant safely to shore on the other side so that she in turn could deliver a baby.

Both Alfred and Mary died in 1897, leaving four sons and a daughter. The third

youngest son, William, who was christened at St John's church, married and raised nine daughters and a son. His eldest daughter, Ethel, was married in 1908 at St John's to the second son of J. F. Sells, of Sydney.

The house appears to have passed into the hands of the Sells family from that time and it was from a Mrs May Sells that the present owners purchased the property in 1981.

Tony Sullivan spotted the house from a distance and instantly fell in love with the place. When it came up for sale some time later he and his wife, Pam Hicks, seized the chance to buy.

The Sullivans demolished the 1950s fibro and brick additions, used local stone to extend the house, matching wall thicknesses and the roof line and have now begun restoring the original cottage.

"When the house was first built it seems it consisted of just one big room with the central, vast fireplace which would have been used for cooking until the separate kitchen was built later," explained Pam, from the centre of the partially-laid new floor in Majura House.

"Originally the floor would have been beaten earth, then at some stage when it was decided to put in a ceiling (initially there was none) they laid the floor, which was just

slats on the earth with boards put on top." Later the kitchen and storage area was built three metres behind the west side of the house and was connected by a covered walkway. When Pam and Tony demolished the fibro sections six years ago they excavated some wonderful old bottles and an earthenware jelly mould.

ed some wonderful old bottles and an earthenware jelly mould.

The land was cleared and gardens planned and laid out. Rather than adding to the original building the new stone extension was constructed beside it, with a veranda acting as a hallway to connect old and new. The tunnel effect creates a natural courtyard front and back.

Four years of living in the house as it was when they bought it were not without incident.

"The stove which provided the hot water leaked like fury, the pipes ran down the outside of the stone cottage through to the bath on the old veranda and in the winter by the time the water came through you were lucky if the ice had melted! We really appreciated having hot water and a real stove after that," Pam admitted.

The new farm kitchen is warm and light with one wall of glass admitting spectacular views across the valley. Willow-pattern china once belonging to Pam's grandmother is displayed on a large, honey-coloured Welsh dresser. Open shelves across one wall display decorative pots and pieces of crockery. The small hallway off the kitchen divides into two, providing access to the sitting room on one side and the master bedroom,

bathroom and a laundry on the other.

Country colours and polished timbers prevail throughout.

The old parlour has been restored and in contrast to its original function now serves as Pam's office. Computers and printers have taken the place of the old piano and dresser.

The Sullivans are anxious to restore and retain the historic significance of Majura House. The shearing shed, built in the early part of the 20th century, is an example of the use in those days of whatever material was at hand. An iron bedstead had been utilised as part of the sheep pen leading to the shed and the words, "HEADMASTER, PRIMARY SCHOOL" are burned into a plank on the inside of a gate.

The old shearers' "dunny" was retained and given a 20th-century update. Pam's present from Tony on their first Christmas at Majura House was a septic tank!

The dairy still stands, although overrun with ivy, Pam says the separator is still in working order.

Ten years on, the gardens are taking shape. Fruit trees, acacias, wattles, lavinias, Mexican pines and claret ash surround the house, replacing Chinese trees of Heaven. In the centre of the turning circle a plane tree, planted the year Tony's father died, in memory of him, is flourishing.

The National Trust values the property as the oldest continuous working farm in the ACT. The Sullivans are upholding the traditions.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Chaston, Daisy](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Re: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House  
**Date:** Friday, 6 November 2020 5:26:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[Majura house.pdf](#)

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Not a whole lot more in this article, but a bit ...

On Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 3:17 PM Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Register Taskforce,

We have heard from the owner of a private rural residence which has long been on the nomination backlog: 'Majura House.' We are always happy to hear from private residential/rural owners who are supportive of heritage listing. To this end, I propose adding Majura House to the priority list for assessment. As you can see from the email chain below, I have arranged a site inspection with [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] on **Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 10:00am**. I do not know a great deal about Majura House, and we have very little available info on the place in electronic files. As such, a site visit will be excellent. I'd like to invite one Councillor along, and I think I would leave it at one Councillor and one member of ACT Heritage, at least for an initial site visit. Is there anyone free that day who would like to join me? Sensible closed-toe shoes essential!

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Sounds great Daisy, probably best to put aside a couple of hours as there is a lot to see!

See you then,

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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:56, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Yes, if it's ok with you I would like to do a bit of a site visit of the historic structure(s) as well as chat to you about any questions to do with listing processes that you might have. Do you have any instructions on how I should best access the property? Further, I might also have one other person with me, hopefully from the Heritage Council. Would that be ok?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
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**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Sounds good, [REDACTED]

Regards,

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[REDACTED]

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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:22, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Smashing! How about Wednesday 2 December at, 10:00am, does that work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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That would be great, whenever works for you.

Many thanks,

On Thu, 5 Nov 2020 at 4:45 pm, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

No worries [REDACTED], does any day in the first week of December work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Hi Daisy,

Thank you for all this information, all sounds very encouraging. We'd love to have you out to Majura House and advance our heritage assessment; when is suitable for you? I would say our application is non-urgent but we would like to progress the application as soon as possible.

Thank you to you and the team for all your help.

Cheers,

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On Fri, 30 Oct 2020 at 16:40, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Fred,

Very good to hear from you. If you are still interested, I would like to visit your property for the purposes of heritage assessment. I have attached a bit of information on how heritage listing works in the ACT, and of course I am happy to discuss further to clarify anything. Your property 'Majura House' has appeared as nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for a while now, in fact we believe it was nominated under the repealed *Land (Planning and Environment Act) 1991*. Under that legislation, detailed nomination information was not a requirement as it is under the current *Heritage Act 2004*, and in light of this, we have thus far have had difficulty locating the original nomination form. It is quite likely that Majura House was nominated as part of a broader, 'Majura Valley' precinct prior to construction of the Majura Parkway.

Although locating the original nomination form may require some additional searching at our end, I should still advise you that we have treated Majura House as genuinely nominated to the Heritage Register. For nominated places, of note is section 60 of the Heritage Act, in which the Council may give the planning and land authority advice on the effects of a development on a nominated place that, in the opinion of the Council, is likely to have heritage significance.

However, nominations represent the initial, threshold stage of the heritage assessment process only. Places and objects can remain 'nominated' for some time, until they are subject to active assessment by the Council, unless an application is made for the Council to make an urgent decision on provisional registration. For urgent applications, once the application is made, and the fee paid, the Council must, as far as practicable, make a decision within 20 working days for a place and 60 working days for a precinct.

Should the Council make a decision to provisionally register a place or object, a four-week period of public consultation ensues. Following a five-month provisional registration period (9 months for a precinct), the Council must make a decision on (final) registration. A decision on (final) registration under section 40 of the Heritage Act is a reviewable decision in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Links to factsheets are here:

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf)

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf)

Hope this helps. Note my details are in the signature block below.

Best regards

Daisy

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** Gleeson, Mary  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:26 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Majura House

UNOFFICIAL

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will pass your email to the registration team who will be in contact with you about the process.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson | Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Hi Mary,

Apologies for the slow reply, [REDACTED]. I hope you've been well. Thank you for providing the guidelines and working copy of the application form.

We are interested in ACT Heritage visiting our property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register. What is involved? We are particularly interested in creating a heritage precinct of European and Aboriginal heritage values on the property of Majura House, similar to the [Elm Grove Homestead Precinct](#). What would be the process for an assessment against the heritage significance?

Let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,



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On Thu, 20 Aug 2020 at 10:55, Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**UNOFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Weber

Thank you for your email inquiring about heritage grant funding for Majura House.

The grant round is usually announced in March each year with applications closing 7-8 weeks later and successful projects announced in August/September.

Attached is the link to the grants page which gives you some background on the grants program should you wish to apply in future rounds. For your convenience I have attached this year's Guidelines and a working copy of the application form. Please note these are for reference only as the Guidelines are updated for each round and the official application is an online Smartform which is not available after the round closes. The Word version, attached, is just for reference to see the information you will need to provide but is not to be used as an application form.

On another note, if you would like a member of ACT Heritage to visit the property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register, please let me know and I will pass this on.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson|Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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Cheers,

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## Majura House, another early cottage

Sir, — I would like to correct an error in Mr D. I. McDonald's article 'Plains settled by wealthy squatters' (*The Canberra Times*, January 27).

He refers, in talking of Duntroon station, to Blundell's cottage as the sole remaining cottage on the former station. I am currently living in 'Majura House', a stone cottage

built around 1839 by Campbell for his foreman Mayo.

The cottage is located in the Majura valley and my information comes from the former owner of the property, Mrs Sells, whose husband was related to the Mayos. I have not found anything to indicate she may have been mistaken.

PAMELA HICKS  
Woden.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Chaston, Daisy](mailto:Chaston,Daisy)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [Hekimian, Richard](mailto:Hekimian, Richard); [Lulic, Adriana](mailto:Lulic, Adriana); [Swetekelly, Maryclare](mailto:Swetekelly, Maryclare)  
**Subject:** Re: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House  
**Date:** Saturday, 7 November 2020 12:01:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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Hi Daisy

I'm free to go at that time.

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**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

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**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

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**OFFICIAL**

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**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

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Cheers,

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On Fri, 30 Oct 2020 at 16:40, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Very good to hear from you. If you are still interested, I would like to visit your property for the purposes of heritage assessment. I have attached a bit of information on how heritage listing works in the ACT, and of course I am happy to discuss further to clarify anything. Your property 'Majura House' has appeared as nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for a while now, in fact we believe it was nominated under the repealed *Land (Planning and Environment Act) 1991*. Under that legislation, detailed nomination information was not a requirement as it is under the current *Heritage Act 2004*, and in light of this, we have thus far have had difficulty locating the original nomination form. It is quite likely that Majura House was nominated as part of a broader, 'Majura Valley' precinct prior to construction of the Majura Parkway.

Although locating the original nomination form may require some additional searching at our end, I should still advise you that we have treated Majura House as genuinely nominated to the Heritage Register. For nominated places, of note is section 60 of the Heritage Act, in which the Council may give the planning and land authority advice on the effects of a development on a nominated place that, in the opinion of the Council, is likely to have heritage significance.

However, nominations represent the initial, threshold stage of the heritage assessment process only. Places and objects can remain 'nominated' for some time, until they are subject to active assessment by the Council, unless an application is made for the Council to make an urgent decision on provisional registration. For urgent applications, once the application is made, and the fee paid, the Council must, as far as practicable, make a decision within 20 working days for a place and 60 working days for a precinct.

Should the Council make a decision to provisionally register a place or object, a four-week period of public consultation ensues. Following a five-month provisional registration period (9 months for a precinct), the Council must make a decision on (final) registration. A decision on (final) registration under section 40 of the Heritage Act is a reviewable decision in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Links to factsheets are here:

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf)

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf)

Hope this helps. Note my details are in the signature block below.

Best regards

Daisy

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

**ACT Heritage | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | ACT Government**

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[www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)



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---

**From:** Gleeson, Mary  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:26 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Majura House

UNOFFICIAL

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will pass your email to the registration team who will be in contact with you about the process.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson | Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mary,

Apologies for the slow reply, [REDACTED]. I hope you've been well. Thank you for providing the guidelines and working copy of the application form.

We are interested in ACT Heritage visiting our property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register. What is involved? We are particularly interested in creating a heritage precinct of European and Aboriginal heritage values on the property of Majura House, similar to the [Elm Grove Homestead Precinct](#). What would be the process for an assessment against the heritage significance?

Let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,

Image removed by sender.



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On Thu, 20 Aug 2020 at 10:55, Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email inquiring about heritage grant funding for Majura House.

The grant round is usually announced in March each year with applications closing 7-8 weeks later and successful projects announced in August/September.

Attached is the link to the grants page which gives you some background on the grants program should you wish to apply in future rounds. For your convenience I have attached this year's Guidelines and a working copy of the application form. Please note these are for reference only as the Guidelines are updated for each round and the official application is an online Smartform which is not available after the round closes. The Word version, attached, is just for reference to see the information you will need to provide but is not to be used as an application form.

On another note, if you would like a member of ACT Heritage to visit the property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register, please let me know and I will pass this on.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson|Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 I Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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Cheers,

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Chaston, Daisy](#); [REDACTED]; [Hekimian, Richard](#); [Lulic, Adriana](#); [Swetekelly, Maryclare](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House  
**Date:** Saturday, 7 November 2020 6:31:08 AM

---

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Sounds good, look forward to hearing about the site visit.

cheers

[REDACTED]

On 7 Nov 2020, at 12:01 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Daisy

I'm free to go at that time.

On Fri, 6 Nov 2020, 3:16 pm Chaston, Daisy, <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Register Taskforce,

We have heard from the owner of a private rural residence which has long been on the nomination backlog: 'Majura House.' We are always happy to hear from private residential/rural owners who are supportive of heritage listing. To this end, I propose adding Majura House to the priority list for assessment. As you can see from the email chain below, I have arranged a site inspection with [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] on **Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 10:00am**. I do not know a great deal about Majura House, and we have very little available info on the place in electronic files. As such, a site visit will be excellent. I'd like to invite one Councillor along, and I think I would leave it at one Councillor and one member of ACT Heritage, at least for an initial site visit. Is there anyone free that day who would like to join me? Sensible closed-toe shoes essential!

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sounds great Daisy, probably best to put aside a couple of hours as there is a lot to see!

[REDACTED]

See you then,

[REDACTED]

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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:56, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Yes, if it's ok with you I would like to do a bit of a site visit of the historic structure(s) as well as chat to you about any questions to do with listing processes that you might have. Do you have any instructions on how I should best access the property? Further, I might also have one other person with me, hopefully from the Heritage Council. Would that be ok?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sounds good, [REDACTED]

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Majura Valley Free Range Eggs

[www.mveggs.com](http://www.mveggs.com)

(02) 6257 5761

Majura House, 728 Majura Road, Majura, ACT Australia 2609

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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:22, Chaston, Daisy  
<[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

Smashing! How about Wednesday 2 December at, 10:00am, does that work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

That would be great, whenever works for you.

Many thanks,

On Thu, 5 Nov 2020 at 4:45 pm, Chaston, Daisy  
<[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**OFFICIAL**

No worries [REDACTED], does any day in the first week of December work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daisy,

Thank you for all this information, all sounds very encouraging.

We'd love to have you out to Majura House and advance our heritage assessment; when is suitable for you? I would say our application is non-urgent but we would like to progress the application as soon as possible.

Thank you to you and the team for all your help.

Cheers,



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On Fri, 30 Oct 2020 at 16:40, Chaston, Daisy  
<[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED],

Very good to hear from you. If you are still interested, I would like to visit your property for the purposes of heritage assessment. I have attached a bit of information on how heritage listing works in the ACT, and of course I am happy to discuss further to clarify anything. Your property 'Majura House' has appeared as nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for a while now, in fact we believe it was nominated under the repealed *Land (Planning and Environment Act) 1991*. Under that legislation, detailed nomination information was not a requirement as it is under the current *Heritage Act 2004*, and in light of this, we have thus far have had difficulty locating the original nomination form. It is quite likely that Majura House was nominated as part of a broader, 'Majura Valley' precinct prior to construction of the Majura Parkway.

Although locating the original nomination form may require some additional searching at our end, I should still advise you that we have treated Majura House as genuinely nominated to the Heritage Register. For nominated places, of note is section 60 of the Heritage Act, in which the Council may give the planning and land authority advice on the effects of a development on a nominated place that, in the opinion of the Council, is likely to have heritage significance.

However, nominations represent the initial, threshold stage of the heritage assessment process only. Places and objects can remain 'nominated' for some time, until they are subject to active assessment by the Council, unless an application is made for the Council to make an urgent decision on provisional registration. For urgent applications, once the application is made, and the fee paid, the Council must, as far as practicable, make a decision within 20 working days for a place and 60 working days for a precinct.

Should the Council make a decision to provisionally register a place or object, a four-week period of public consultation ensues. Following a five-month provisional registration period (9 months for a precinct), the Council must make a decision on (final) registration. A decision on (final) registration under section 40 of the Heritage Act is a reviewable decision in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Links to factsheets are here:

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf)

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf)

Hope this helps. Note my details are in the signature block below.

Best regards

Daisy

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** Gleeson, Mary

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:26 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Majura House

**UNOFFICIAL**

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will pass your email to the registration team who will be in contact with you about the process.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson | Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mary,

Apologies for the slow reply, [REDACTED]. I hope you've been well. Thank you for providing the guidelines and working copy of the application form.

We are interested in ACT Heritage visiting our property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register. What is involved? We are particularly interested in creating a heritage precinct of European and Aboriginal heritage values on the property of Majura House, similar to the [Elm Grove Homestead Precinct](#). What would be the process for an assessment against the heritage significance?

Let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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On Thu, 20 Aug 2020 at 10:55, Gleeson, Mary  
<[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Dear 

Thank you for your email inquiring about heritage grant funding for Majura House.

The grant round is usually announced in March each year with applications closing 7-8 weeks later and successful projects announced in August/September.

Attached is the link to the grants page which gives you some background on the grants program should you wish to apply in future rounds. For your convenience I have attached this year's Guidelines and a working copy of the application form. Please note these are for reference only as the Guidelines are updated for each round and the official application is an online Smartform which is not available after the round closes. The Word version, attached, is just for reference to see the information you will need to provide but is not to be used as an application form.

On another note, if you would like a member of ACT Heritage to visit the property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register, please let me know and I will pass this on.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson|Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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Cheers,



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<image001.png><image002.png><image004.jpg><image002.jpg>

**From:** [Chaston, Daisy](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Hekimian, Richard](#); [Lulic, Adriana](#); [Swetekelly, Maryclare](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 November 2020 11:54:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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OFFICIAL

Thanks all, I have locked in [REDACTED].

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 4:35 PM  
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Hekimian, Richard <[Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au)>; Lulic, Adriana <[Adriana.Lulic@act.gov.au](mailto:Adriana.Lulic@act.gov.au)>; Swetekelly, Maryclare <[Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House

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Daisy, I'm very happy to attend this inspection.

[REDACTED]

**FRAIA MPIA**

Architecture | Urban Planning | Heritage Conservation | Photography

...sent from my mobile phone [REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

From: "Chaston, Daisy" <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

Date: 6/11/20 3:26 pm (GMT+10:00)

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Cc: "Hekimian, Richard" <[Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au)>, "Lulic, Adriana" <[Adriana.Lulic@act.gov.au](mailto:Adriana.Lulic@act.gov.au)>, "Swetekelly, Maryclare" <[Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au)>

Subject: Suggested addition for assessment and site visit - Majura House

OFFICIAL

Hi Register Taskforce,

We have heard from the owner of a private rural residence which has long been on the nomination backlog: 'Majura House.' We are always happy to hear from private residential/rural owners who are supportive of heritage listing. To this end, I propose adding Majura House to the priority list for assessment. As you can see from the email chain below, I have arranged a site inspection with [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] on **Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 10:00am**. I do not know a great deal about Majura House, and we have very little available info on the place in electronic files. As such, a site visit will be excellent. I'd like to invite one Councillor along, and I think I would leave it at one Councillor and one member of ACT Heritage, at least for an initial site visit. Is there anyone free that day who would like to join me? Sensible closed-toe shoes essential!

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 11:41 AM

**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Sounds great Daisy, probably best to put aside a couple of hours as there is a lot to see!

See you then,

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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:56, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Yes, if it's ok with you I would like to do a bit of a site visit of the historic structure(s) as well as chat to you about any questions to do with listing processes that you might have. Do you have any instructions on how I should best access the property? Further, I might also have one other person with me, hopefully from the Heritage Council. Would that be ok?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 6 November 2020 10:48 AM

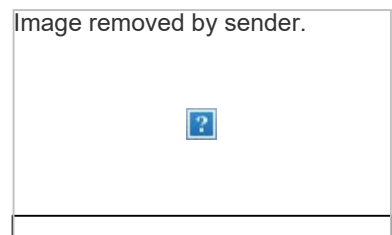
**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Sounds good, [REDACTED]

Regards,



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On Fri, 6 Nov 2020 at 10:22, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Smashing! How about Wednesday 2 December at, 10:00am, does that work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 6:07 PM

**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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That would be great, whenever works for you.

Many thanks,

On Thu, 5 Nov 2020 at 4:45 pm, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

No worries [REDACTED], does any day in the first week of December work for you?

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 5 November 2020 12:36 PM

**To:** Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Majura House

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daisy,

Thank you for all this information, all sounds very encouraging. We'd love to have you out to Majura House and advance our heritage assessment; when is suitable for you? I would say our application is non-urgent but we would like to progress the application as soon as possible.

Thank you to you and the team for all your help.

Cheers,

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On Fri, 30 Oct 2020 at 16:40, Chaston, Daisy <[Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Very good to hear from you. If you are still interested, I would like to visit your property for the purposes of heritage assessment. I have attached a bit of information on how heritage listing works in the ACT, and of course I am happy to discuss further to clarify anything. Your property 'Majura House' has appeared as nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for a while now, in fact we believe it was nominated under the repealed *Land (Planning and Environment Act) 1991*. Under that legislation, detailed nomination information was not a requirement as it is under the current *Heritage Act 2004*, and in light of this, we have thus far have had difficulty locating the original nomination form. It is quite likely that Majura House was nominated as part of a broader, 'Majura Valley' precinct prior to construction of the Majura Parkway.

Although locating the original nomination form may require some additional searching at our end, I should still advise you that we have treated Majura House as genuinely nominated to the Heritage Register. For nominated places, of note is section 60 of the Heritage Act, in which the Council may give the planning and land authority advice on the effects of a development on a nominated place that, in the opinion of the Council, is likely to have heritage significance.

However, nominations represent the initial, threshold stage of the heritage assessment process only. Places and objects can remain 'nominated' for some time, until they are subject to active assessment by the Council, unless an application is made for the Council to make an urgent decision on provisional registration. For urgent applications, once the application is made, and the fee paid, the Council must, as far as practicable, make a decision within 20 working days for a place and 60 working days for a precinct.

Should the Council make a decision to provisionally register a place or object, a four-week

period of public consultation ensues. Following a five-month provisional registration period (9 months for a precinct), the Council must make a decision on (final) registration. A decision on (final) registration under section 40 of the Heritage Act is a reviewable decision in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Links to factsheets are here:

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1062245/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-Registered.pdf)

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1062242/Heritage-Factsheets-How-heritage-is-determined.pdf)

Hope this helps. Note my details are in the signature block below.

Best regards

Daisy

**Daisy Chaston | Manager (Registrations)**

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: [daisy.chaston@act.gov.au](mailto:daisy.chaston@act.gov.au)

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**From:** Gleeson, Mary

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:26 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Majura House

UNOFFICIAL

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will pass your email to the registration team who will be in contact with you about the process.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson | Grants Officer *(Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)*

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:01 AM

**To:** Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Majura House

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Hi Mary,

Apologies for the slow reply, [REDACTED]. I hope you've been well. Thank you for providing the guidelines and working copy of the application form.

We are interested in ACT Heritage visiting our property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register. What is involved? We are particularly interested in creating a heritage precinct of European and Aboriginal heritage values on the property of Majura House, similar to the [Elm Grove Homestead Precinct](#). What would be the process for an assessment against the heritage significance?

Let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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On Thu, 20 Aug 2020 at 10:55, Gleeson, Mary <[Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Gleeson@act.gov.au)> wrote:

**UNOFFICIAL**

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email inquiring about heritage grant funding for Majura House.

The grant round is usually announced in March each year with applications closing 7-8 weeks later and successful projects announced in August/September.

Attached is the link to the grants page which gives you some background on the grants program should you wish to apply in future rounds. For your convenience I have attached this year's Guidelines and a working copy of the application form. Please note these are

for reference only as the Guidelines are updated for each round and the official application is an online Smartform which is not available after the round closes. The Word version, attached, is just for reference to see the information you will need to provide but is not to be used as an application form.

On another note, if you would like a member of ACT Heritage to visit the property to further progress the nomination to the Heritage Register, please let me know and I will pass this on.

Best regards

Mary Gleeson | Grants Officer (Mon-Tues Thursday-Friday)

Phone: +61 2 6207 2160 | Email [mary.gleeson@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.gleeson@act.gov.au)

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Cheers,

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