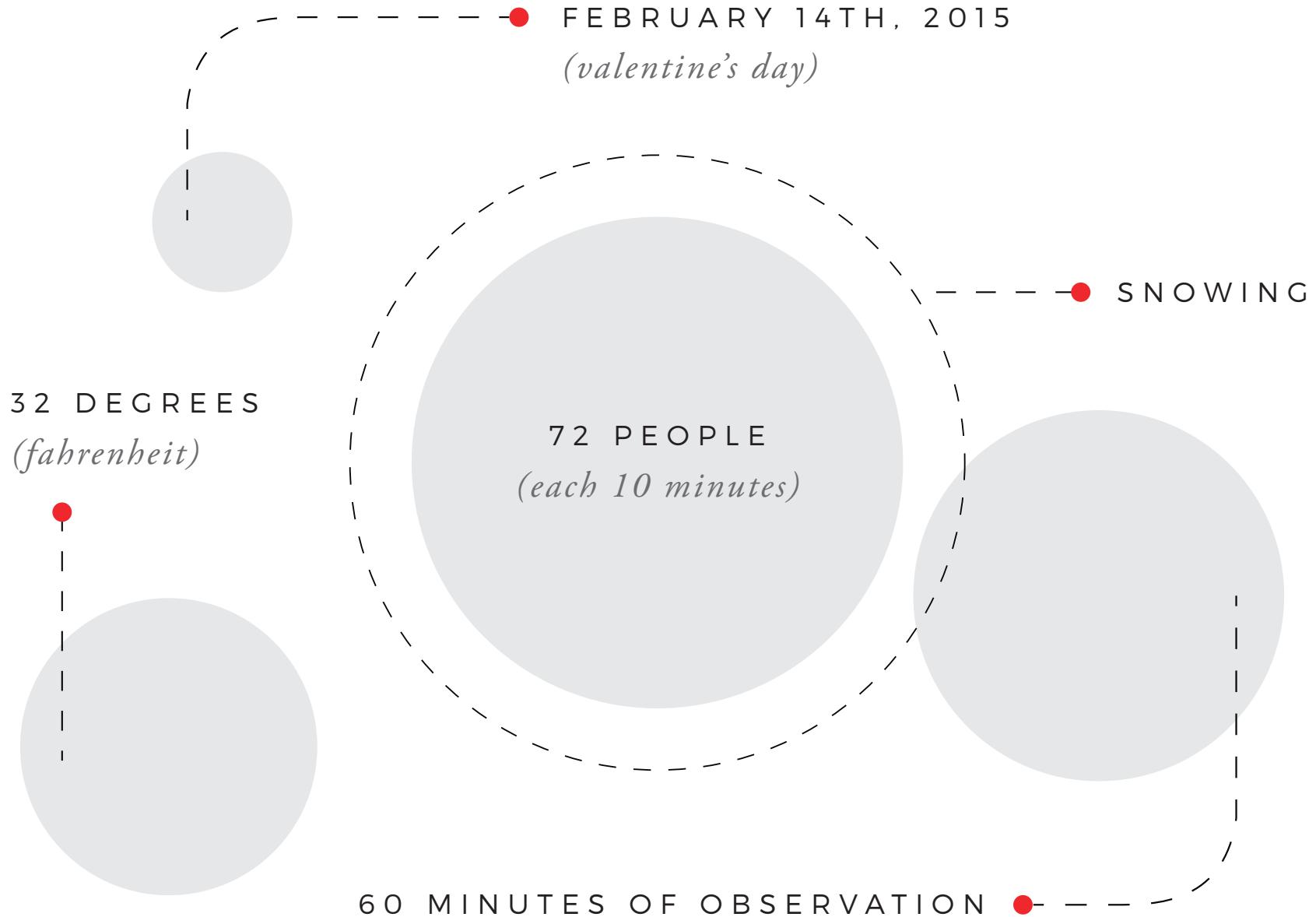


ASSIGNMENT 1B - DATA DIGGING

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# WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

*Julia Spohr Reinhardt*





The Arch.



One of the four lateral passages to access the park .

Washington Square Park, a 9.5 acres Greenwich Village version of Central Park, has twenty thousand of bodies beneath the ground because, according to New Yorker magazine it has one day been a potter's field used to burry anonymous people. In addition to that, the lively Park was once "a place where they used to hang criminals and bury yellow fever victims" (BROWN), adds The L Magazine. But the park have faced some lighter days too, or better yet, frivolous. In 1914, the artist Marcel Duchamp sett off balloons from the top of the arch declaring the independent Republic of Greenwich Village. Ten years latter, Bob Dylan sang his first songs close to the fountain. This effervescent cultural scene last to today, "the Village has retained that sense of freedom and disposition toward the avant garde, nowhere more so than the Park" (BROWN).

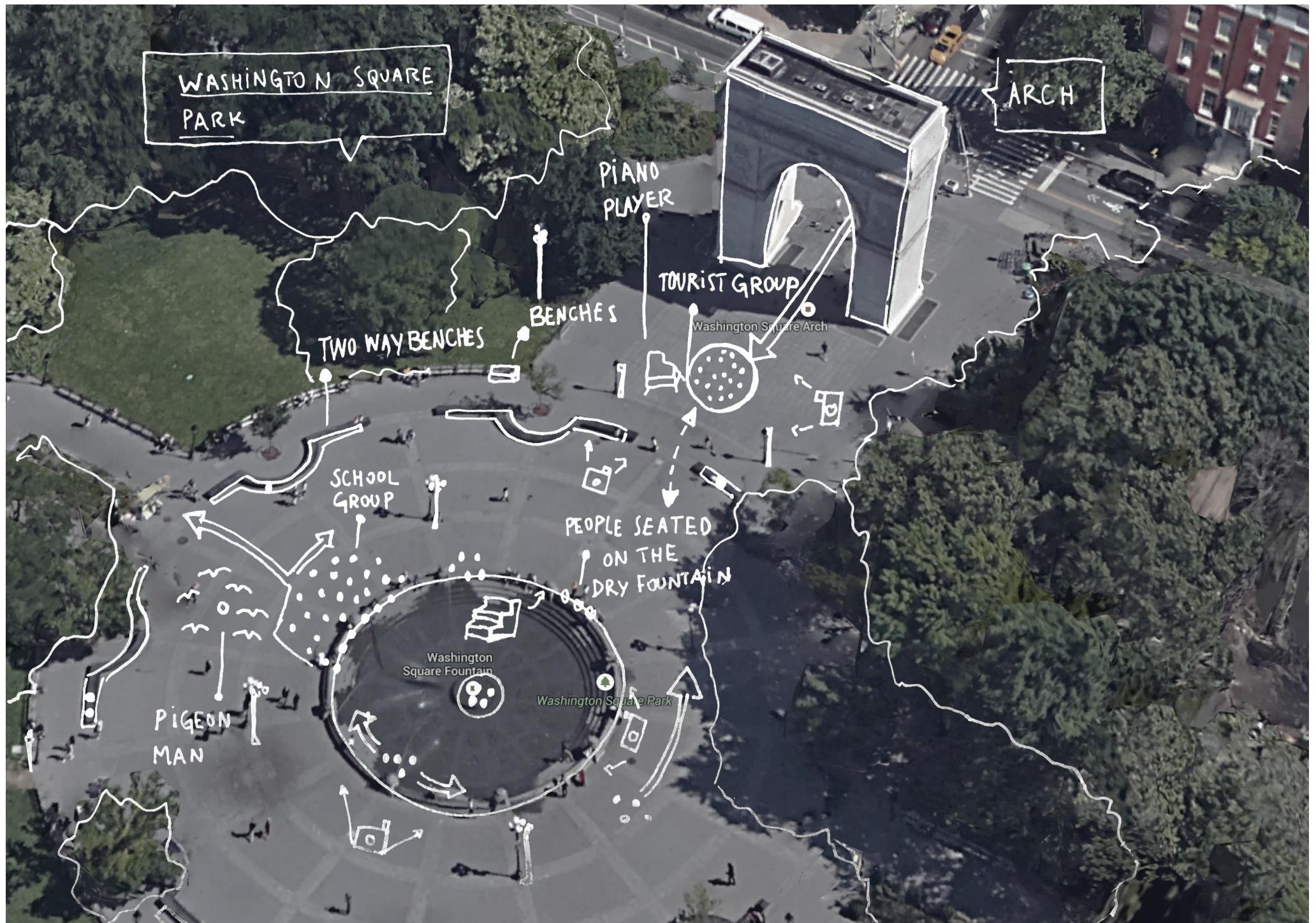
#### RESEARCH FINDINGS

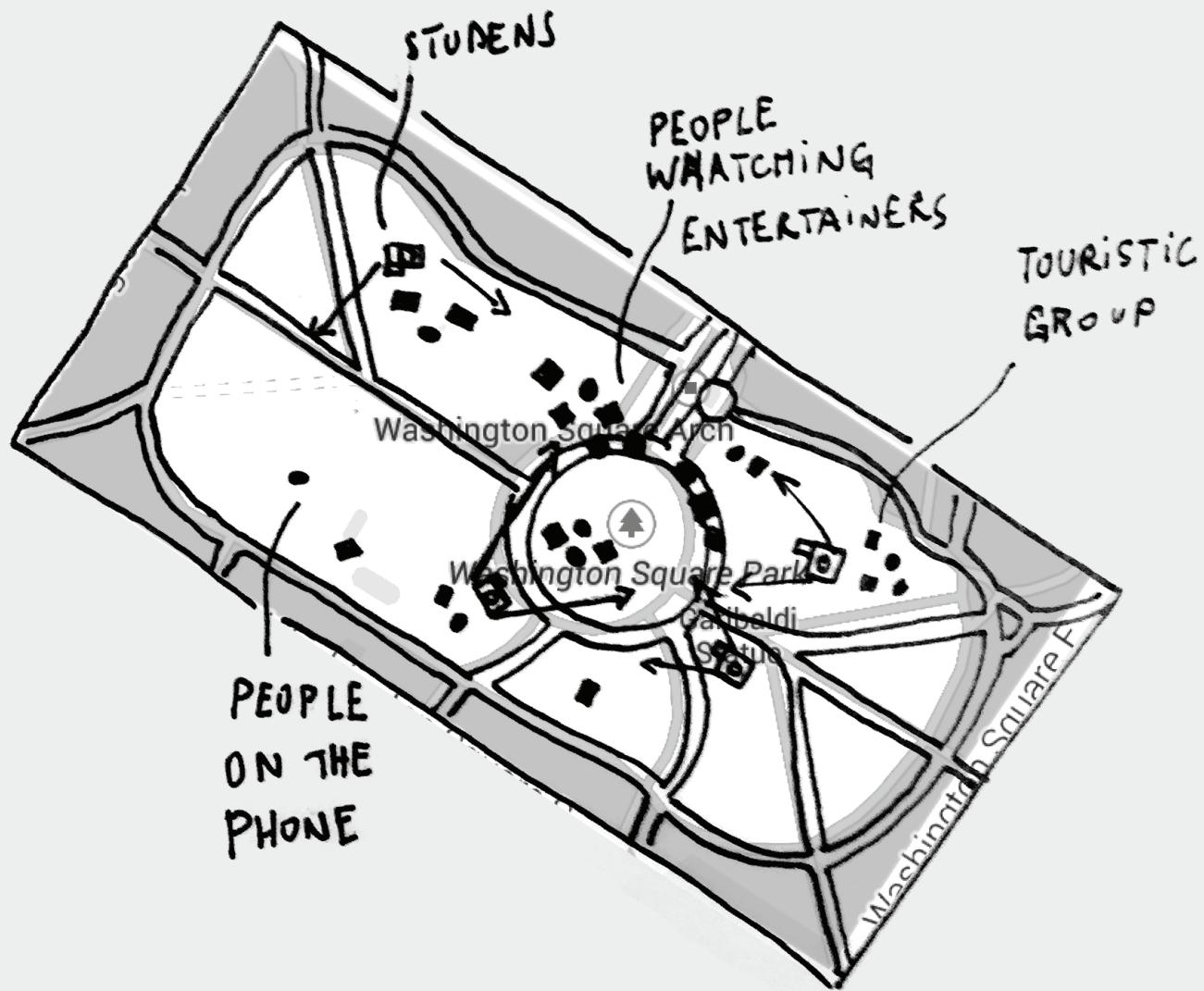
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Taxa: families.

The Park has recently been the focus of big discussions about a possible redesign. Even though the neighbors approved the arc makeover, they were not so pleased with the 2.5 million dollars spent to move the Park's fountain to be centered on the arch. Other plans, which included removing the rat-infested asphalt play mounds and the installation of a fence around the park were even less welcomed. According to NY magazine, "redesign opponents fund and staff a formal study of Park use. Their findings: People "like the Park the way it is" (Charles). Despite all the disapproval, the redesign started on December of 2007.





## TAXONOMY OF USERS

*“laws of arrangement and division” (Enghoffc 442)*

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Tourists

Students

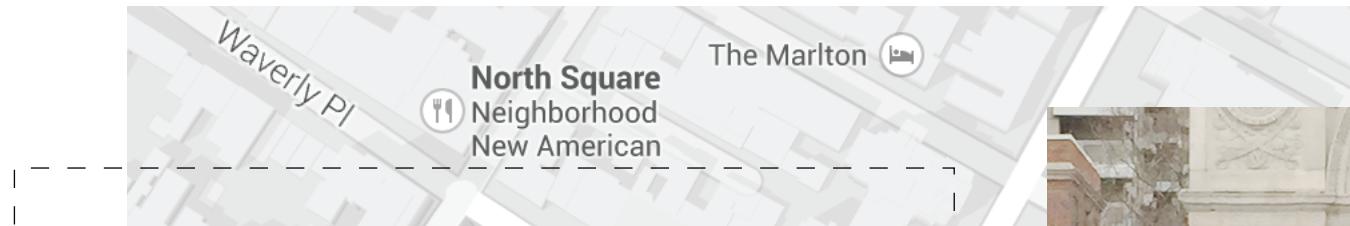
Couples\*

Families

Entertainers

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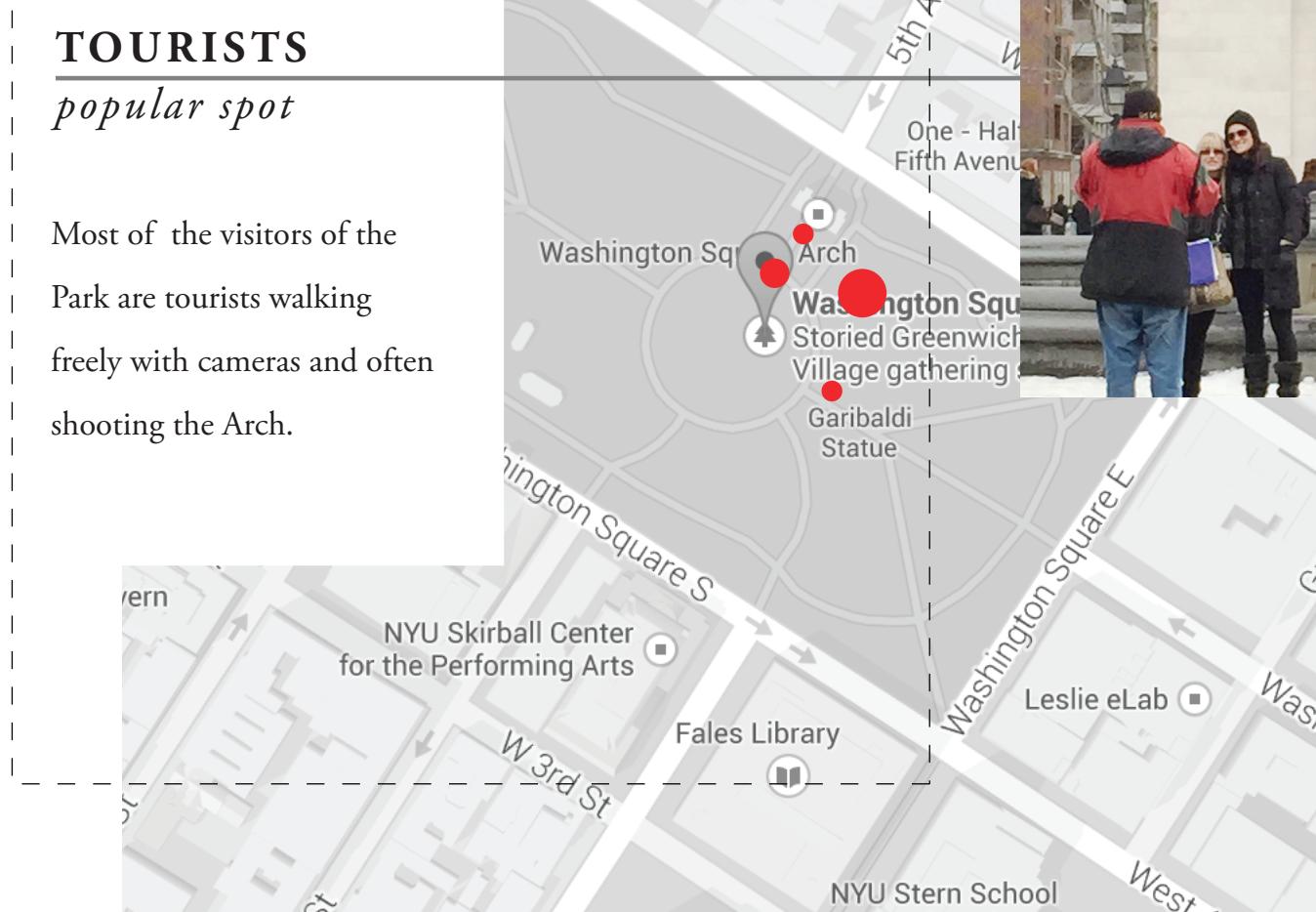
\* Couples received a separated taxa because the visited day was Valentines Day and therefore couples composed a big share of site users.

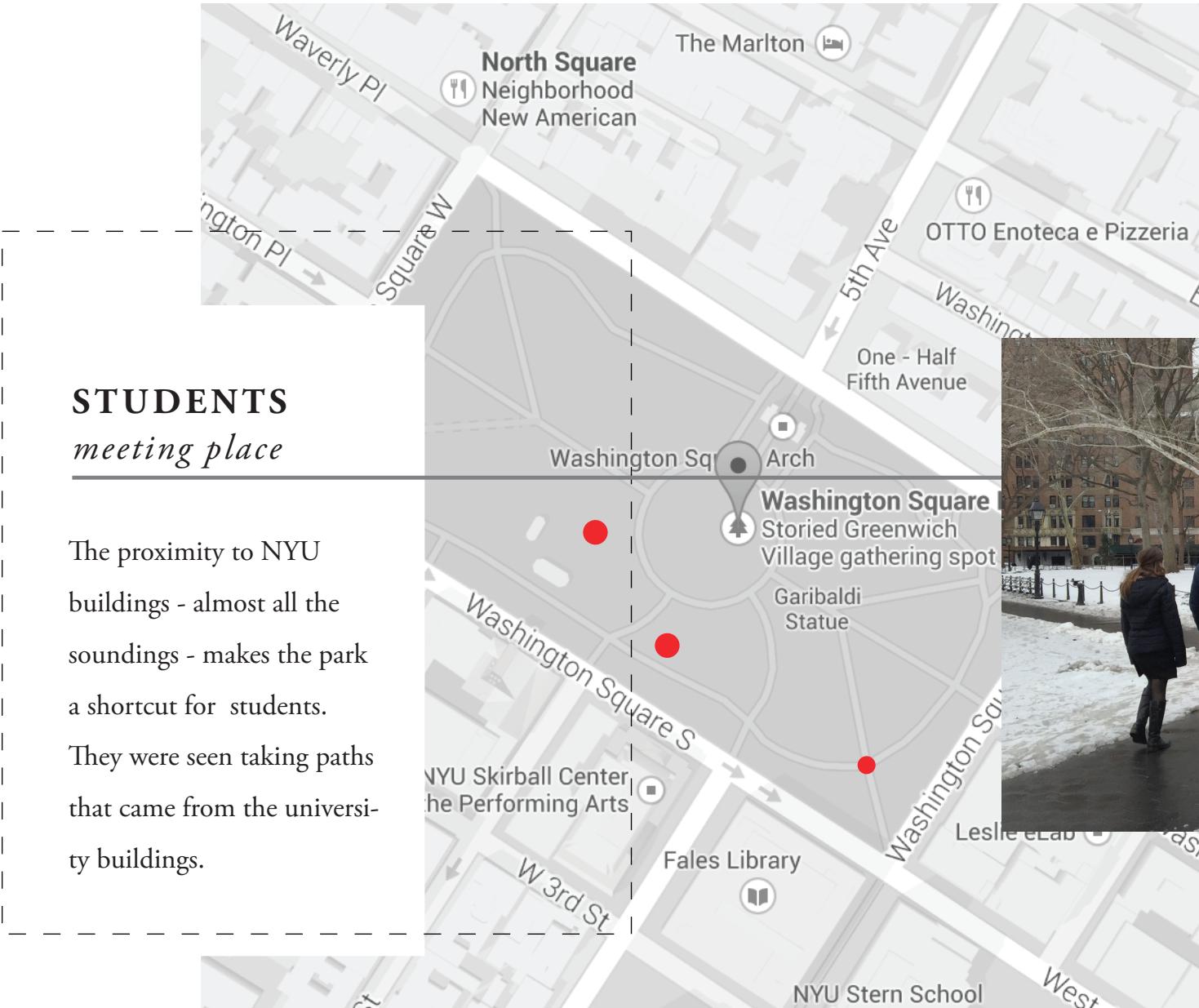


## TOURISTS

*popular spot*

Most of the visitors of the Park are tourists walking freely with cameras and often shooting the Arch.





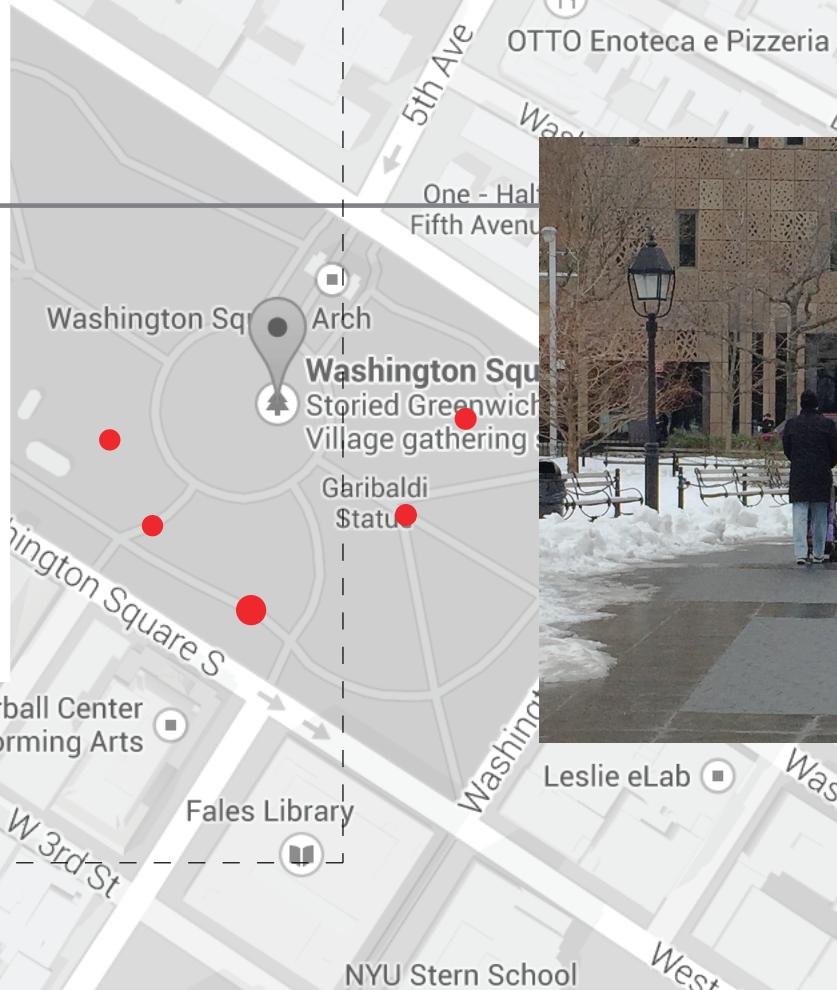


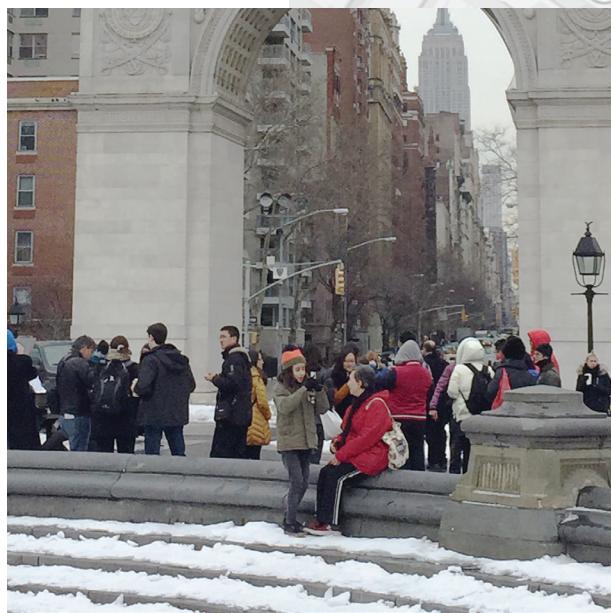
## COUPLES

*everywhere*

Couples appear to have chosen Washington Square as a hot spot in this Valentine's Days.

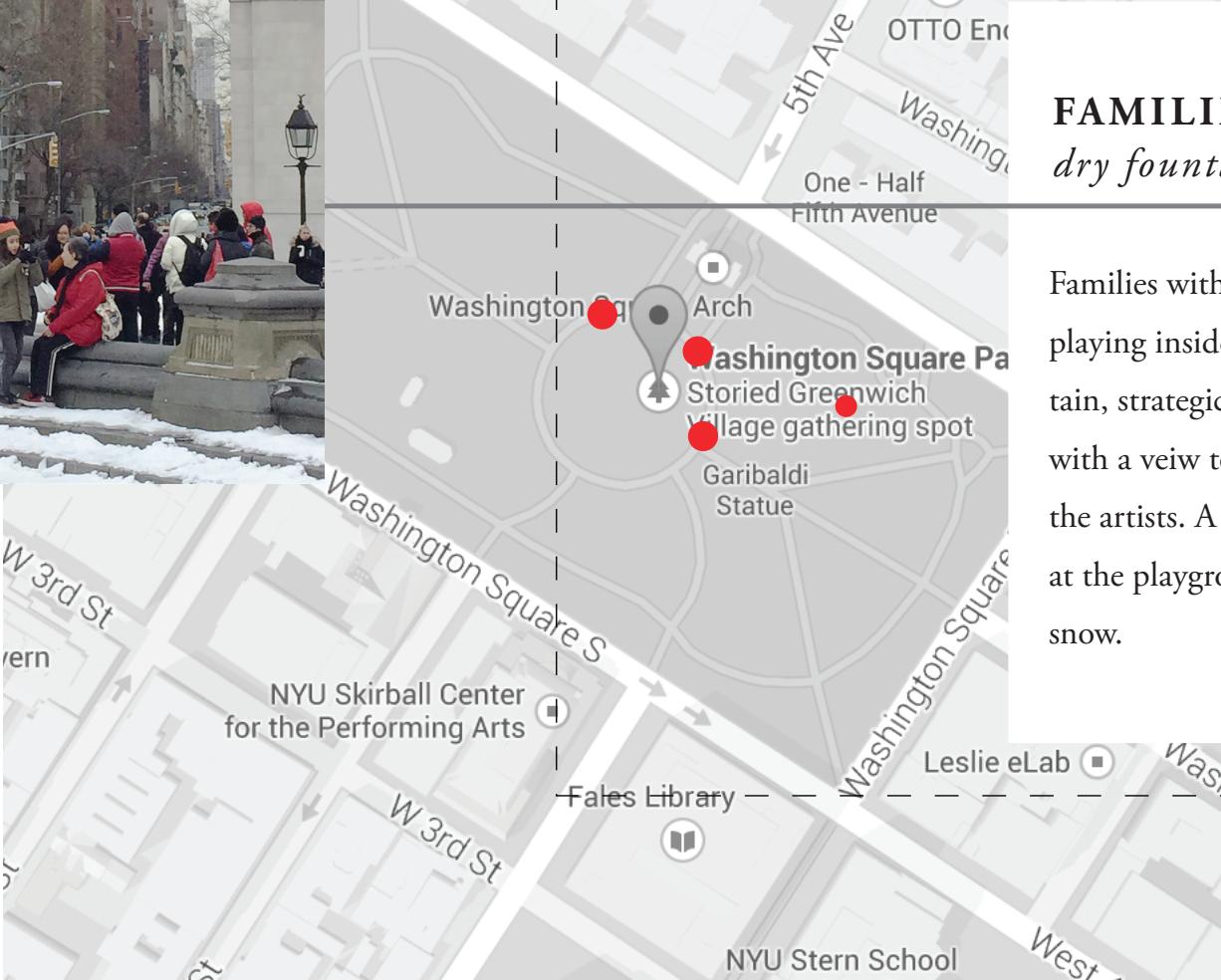
Despite the cold, many were sitting in the benches.





## FAMILIES *dry fountain*

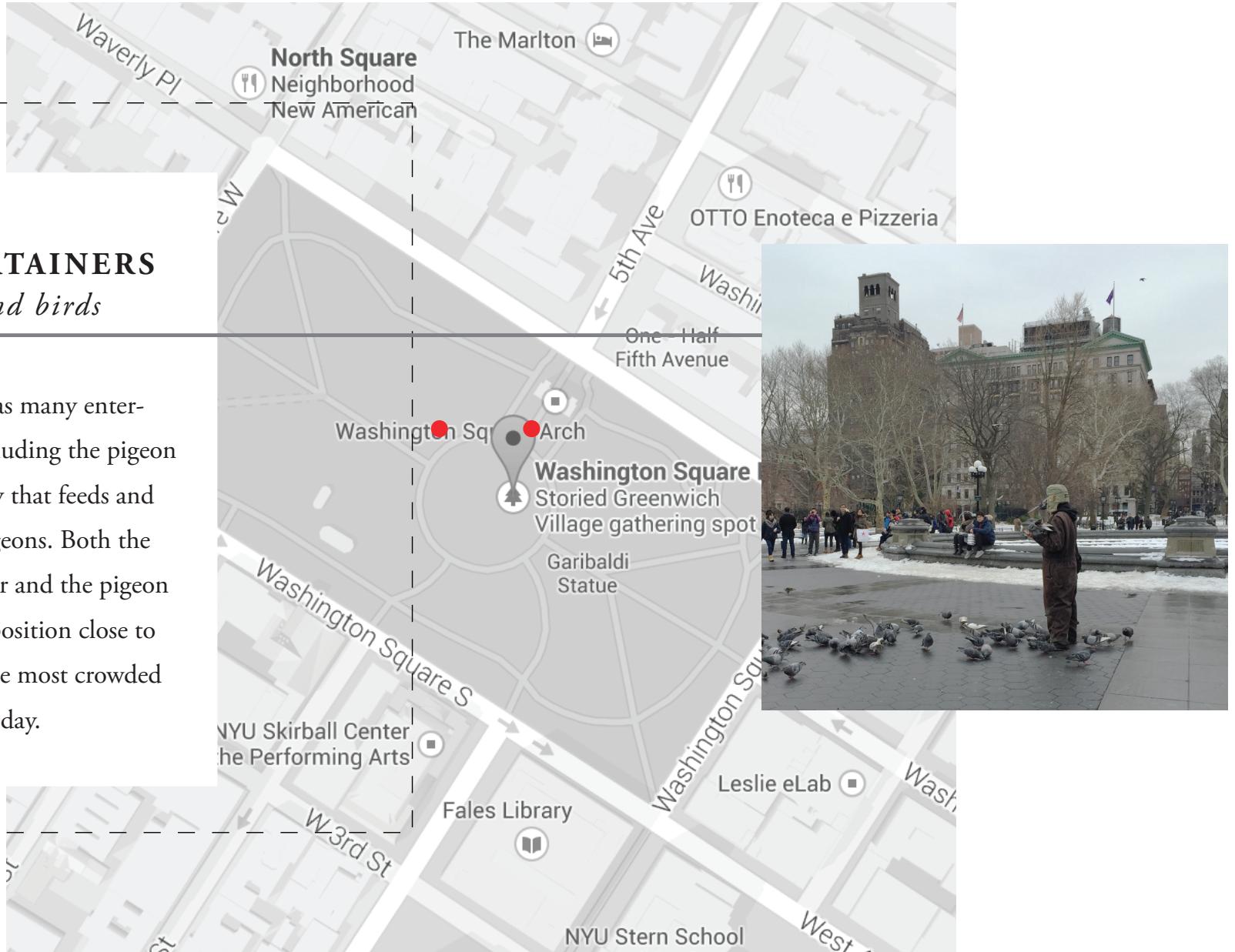
Families with kids were seen playing inside the dry fountain, strategically positioned with a view to the arch and the artists. A few were seen at the playground covered in snow.



## **ENTERTAINERS**

*piano and birds*

The Park has many entertainers, including the pigeon man - a guy that feeds and pets the pigeons. Both the piano player and the pigeon man were position close to the arch, the most crowded area in this day.





There are many signs prohibiting activities, as no cycling, no skateboarding and no feeding the birds. Close to the fountain there is also one about not touching the water at all.



Controversial part of the 2007 redesign of the park: fences. This was a strategy to lock out drug dealers after the park is closed.

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