

CRITICAL ISSUES ANALYSIS

Clapboard Island, Falmouth, Maine



November 2013

Prepared by:

Aaron Svedlow

**Falmouth Conservation Commission
Town of Falmouth, Maine**

CLAPBOARD ISLAND SUMMARY
CRITICAL ISSUES ANALYSIS by Aaron Svedlow

The purpose of the Critical Environmental Analysis, written for the Friends of Clapboard Island by Aaron Svedlow, a member of the Falmouth Conservation Commission, is to provide general information on the natural resources known to occur on and near the island that may be of interest in the proposed acquisition of a 17-acre portion of Clapboard Island by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, with assistance from the Friends of Clapboard Island and the Falmouth Land Trust.

Clapboard Island is 1 mile east of the Falmouth Town Landing. The northeast end of Clapboard, comprising 17 acres, is now for sale for the first time since 1898, when it was bought by the Houston family of Philadelphia.

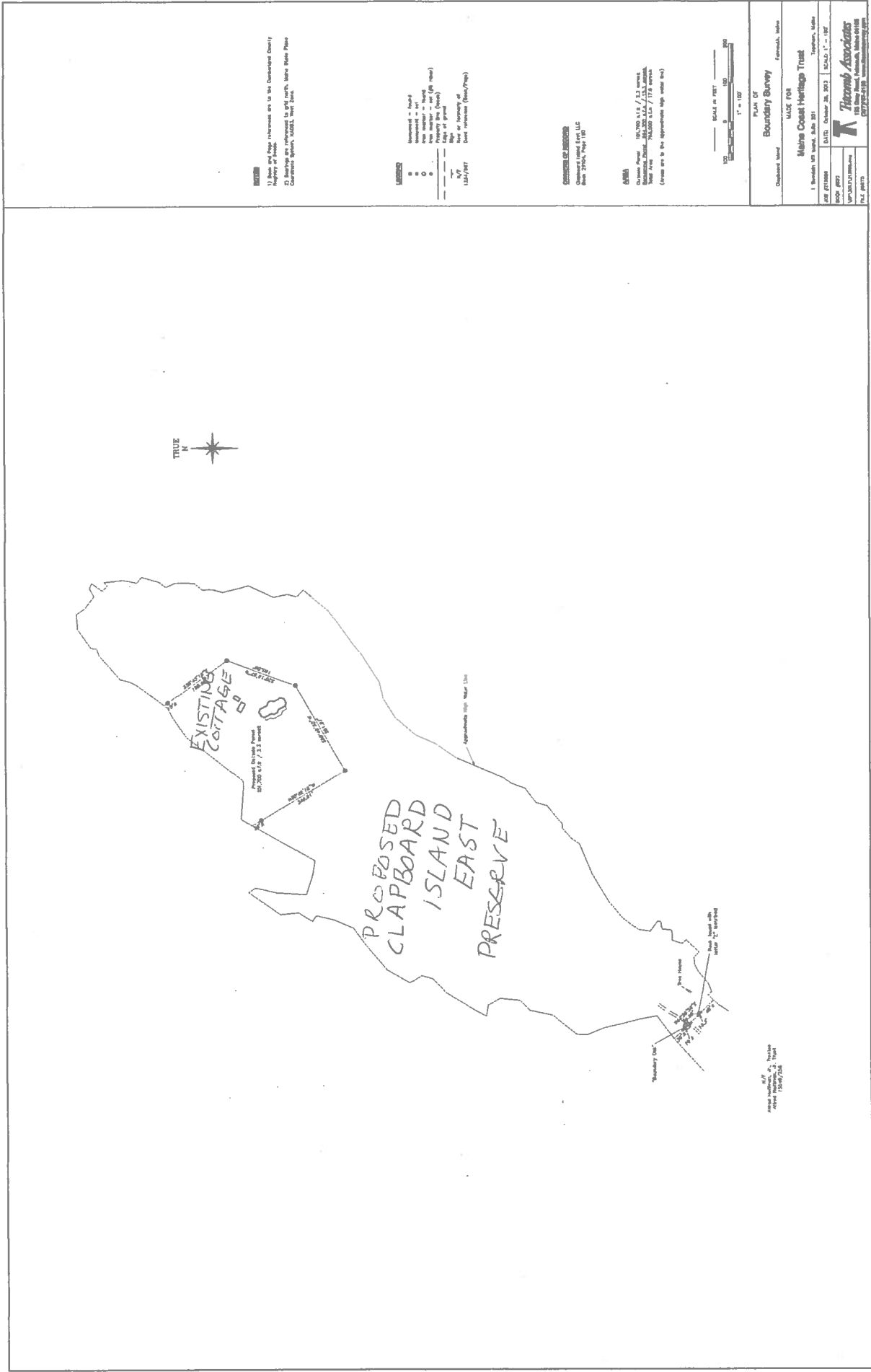
Clapboard Island has relatively undisturbed maritime spruce-fir and pine-oak forests, with healthy well-developed understories, and a generally natural disturbance regime. Oaks near the middle of the island may be some of the largest specimens in Casco Bay. The coastal beaches and small headlands provide easy access to the island for small watercraft. Existing well-maintained trails provide access to the island's interior, as well as the entire coast of the parcel proposed for purchase. The island provides habitat for a breeding pair of bald eagles, and a pair of osprey.

The island is substantially different from other inner Casco Bay islands of similar size, such as Little Chebeague Island, Mackworth Island, and Little Diamond Island (the author has not visited Sturdivant Island). Unlike the aforementioned islands, Clapboard Island appears to have been subjected to less anthropogenic impacts, and has undergone natural succession back to a forest community growing under generally natural conditions. This is likely a result of the history of single family ownership. Constraints on development uphold the natural character of the island.

The protected Significant Wildlife Habitat areas on the southern end of the island, and Clapboard Ledges are of regional importance. Habitats on Clapboard Island are not present elsewhere in Falmouth, with the exception of some areas on Mackworth Island, there are few completely natural coastal areas in the town. Similarly, there are few areas of maritime spruce-fir forest in Falmouth, which although not a rare community in the state, is at its southern limits in Cumberland County.

The complete text of the Critical Issues Analysis is available from the author, Aaron.Svedlow@tetrattech.com.





NOTES

- 1) Bore and Tide references are to the Caspary Coastline
- 2) Bearings are referenced to grid north, Maine State Plane Coordinate System, NAD83, West Zone.

LEGEND

- Surveyed - Bound
- Surveyed - Unbound
- Iron marker - Bound
- Iron marker - Unbound (in situ)
- Edge of ground
- Bed or boundary of
- Best estimate (bore/tide)

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUES
 State of Maine
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OWNER
 Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 100 State Street, Portland, ME 04101
 (From any to the appropriate sign holder use)

SCALE in FEET
 1" = 100'

Client Name	Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Project Name	Boundary Survey
Map Scale	1" = 100'
Map Date	June 2024
Map No.	2024-001
Map Title	Boundary Survey
Map Author	Thomas Associates
Map Date	June 2024
Map No.	2024-001
Map Title	Boundary Survey

