

York River Study

ELIOT, KITTERY, SOUTH BERWICK AND YORK

March 14, 2017

Dear York River watershed landowners,

I am writing to you on behalf of the York River Study Committee (see below) to let you know of an exciting project that will be taking place in your area of the York River watershed. As part of our three-year study to identify and evaluate outstanding values in and around the river, our group has identified cultural resources as an important element of the York River's history. We hired the project team of Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc. and Groundroot Preservation Group, LLC to conduct archaeological and architectural history surveys, respectively. The goal is to document and learn more about important prehistoric and historic archaeological sites as well as historic buildings, landscapes, and structures.

An area of about 2,000 acres in parts of Eliot and York along the upper York River and around York Pond has been identified as likely containing important above ground and below ground historical resources. A map of the survey area is shown on the back of this letter. A project team member may contact you seeking permission for access to your property to conduct visual surveys, either from roads and driveways or by walking over your land. The project team will not access any property without landowner permission.

The project team is planning a four-day archaeology dig in June in four to eight locations identified as priorities. We plan to involve five or six community volunteers each day. Community participation is an important element of our study to help build awareness of river-related resources. **We invite you to learn more about the project when we meet to discuss it with the Eliot Historical Society at its April 10, 2017 meeting at 7:00 PM at the Grange Hall, 1412 State Road in Eliot.**

Information gathered from the surveys ultimately will be used by the Study Committee in developing a watershed management plan and evaluating the eligibility of the York River for designation in the national Wild and Scenic River system. Project findings will be shared with the towns and with local historical societies and presented in a public meeting at the conclusion of the project. Historic resources provide valuable insight into our past and can be important to our culture and history at local, state or national levels. We hope you share our enthusiasm for this project to learn more about our local historic resources.

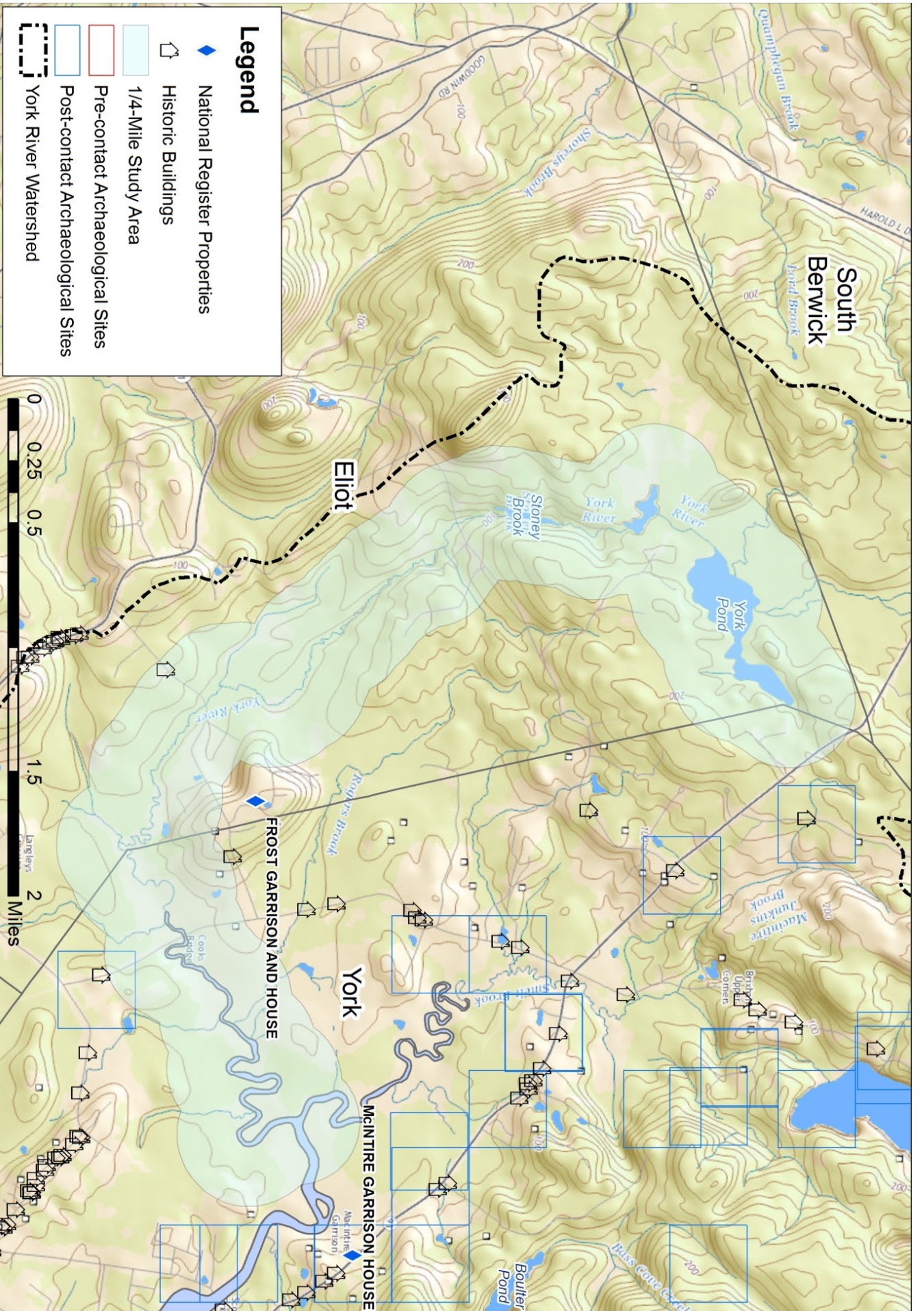
Information about the overall York River Study is enclosed, and additional information is available on the Study Committee's website (www.YorkRiverMaine.org).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hunter, York River Study Coordinator

jh.yorkriver@gmail.com or (207) 641-9122

The York River Study Committee was formed to work with community members from Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick and York to develop a York River watershed management plan and evaluate the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the river and its communities. Town-appointed York River Study Committee members include Karen Arsenault, Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Charles Ott, and Beth Walter from York; Stefan Claesson and John (Jack) Murphy from Eliot; Judy Spiller from Kittery; and Jean Demetracopoulos from South Berwick. Agency members include Jamie Fosburgh and Jim MacCartney, National Park Service; Paul Dest, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; David Gardner and Judy Gates, Maine Department of Transportation; and Claire Enterline, Maine Coastal Program.



York River Headwaters Architectural History and Archaeological Study Area, Eliot and York, Maine

The study area (light green on the map) includes the land extending one-quarter mile from the shoreline of the York River and York Pond.