

# *FREEDOM* *75*



**WHAT ALMOST WAS...**

**FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON  
HARBOR ISLANDS  
JUNE 28, 2011**



# BOSTON 1776



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

ty of  
MENT AUTHORITY  
ay



# Position Title





# BOSTON 1776



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
Harbor  
Authority



# BOSTON 1776



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
Harbor  
Authority



# BOSTON 1776



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
HARBOR  
ISLANDS  
Authority



BOSTON,  
and its  
ENVIRONS.

# BOSTON 1800

SCALE OF MILES



## REFERENCES.

- 1 State formerly King Street.
- 2 Faneuil Hall & Dock Square.
- 3 Old South Meeting House.
- 4 Beacon Hill.
- 5 Fort Hill.
- 6 Cape also Cape Hill.
- 7 Fort on Needles I<sup>st</sup> erected after Boston was evacuated.



Published Sept. 18 1800 by J. Phillips, Printer, Street, near the Custom House.



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

by  
MENT AUTHORITY  
ay



# BOSTON 1900



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of BOSTON  
MAINE AUTHORITY



# SOUTH BOSTON-DORCHESTER 1880



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
Harbor  
Authority



POSSIBLE SITE

**FREEDOM**  
**75**

**THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**  
**A WORLD FREEDOM FAIR IN BOSTON**  
**APRIL – OCTOBER 1975**



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
MAINE AUTHORITY



***THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
A WORLD FREEDOM FAIR IN BOSTON  
APRIL – OCTOBER 1975***

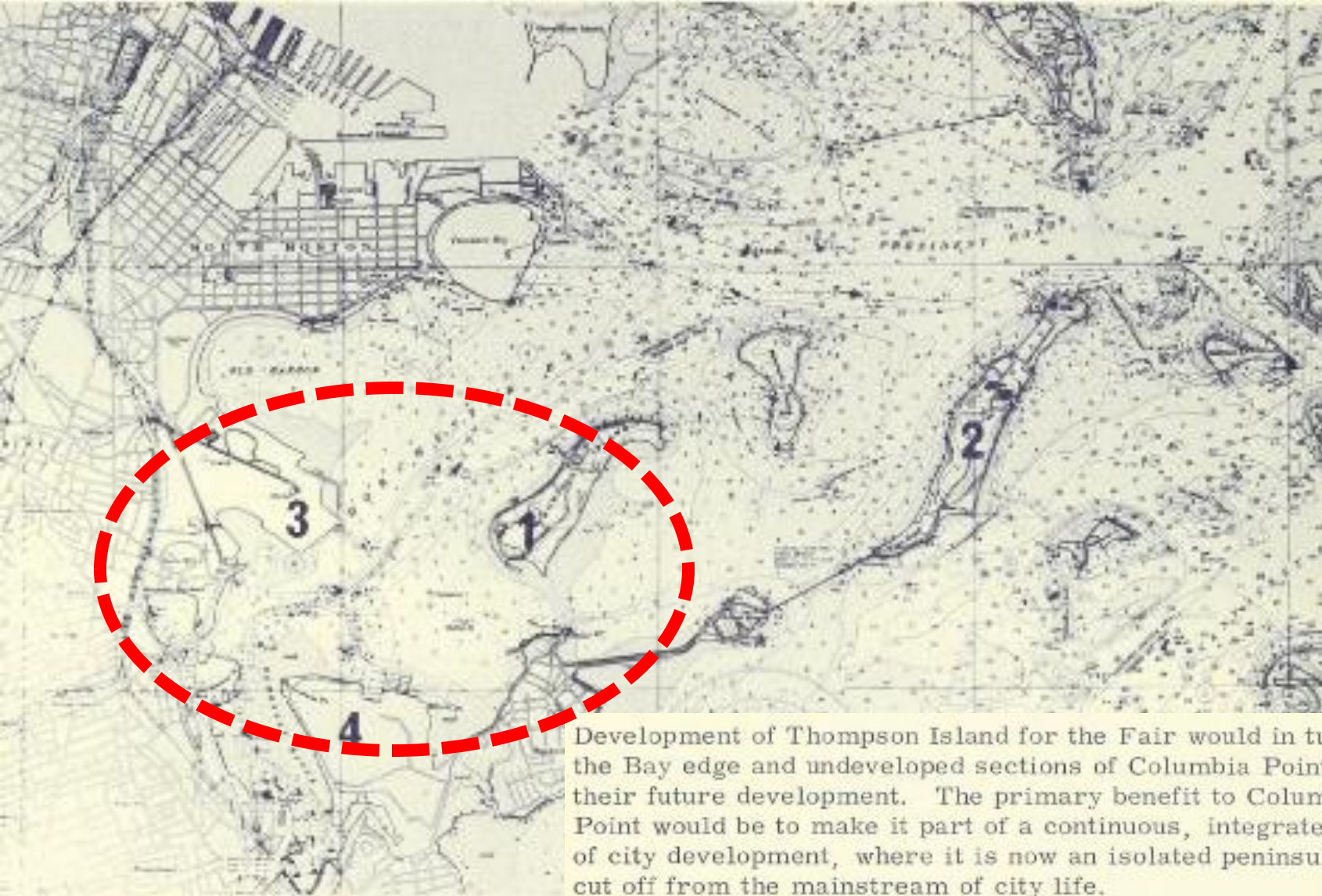
8. Create 400 acres of prime residential land for the land-starved cities of Boston and Quincy . . . stimulate major new development in the Dorchester Bay-Neponset River basin area.
9. Create costly buildings, streets, utilities, and amenities for the Bicentennial which would serve as the nucleus of an entirely new residential community, larger than the Back Bay.



**FREEDOM  
75**

City of  
MAINE AUTHORITY  
City





1. Thompson Island    3. Columbia Point  
2. Long Island        4. Squantum "Air Base"

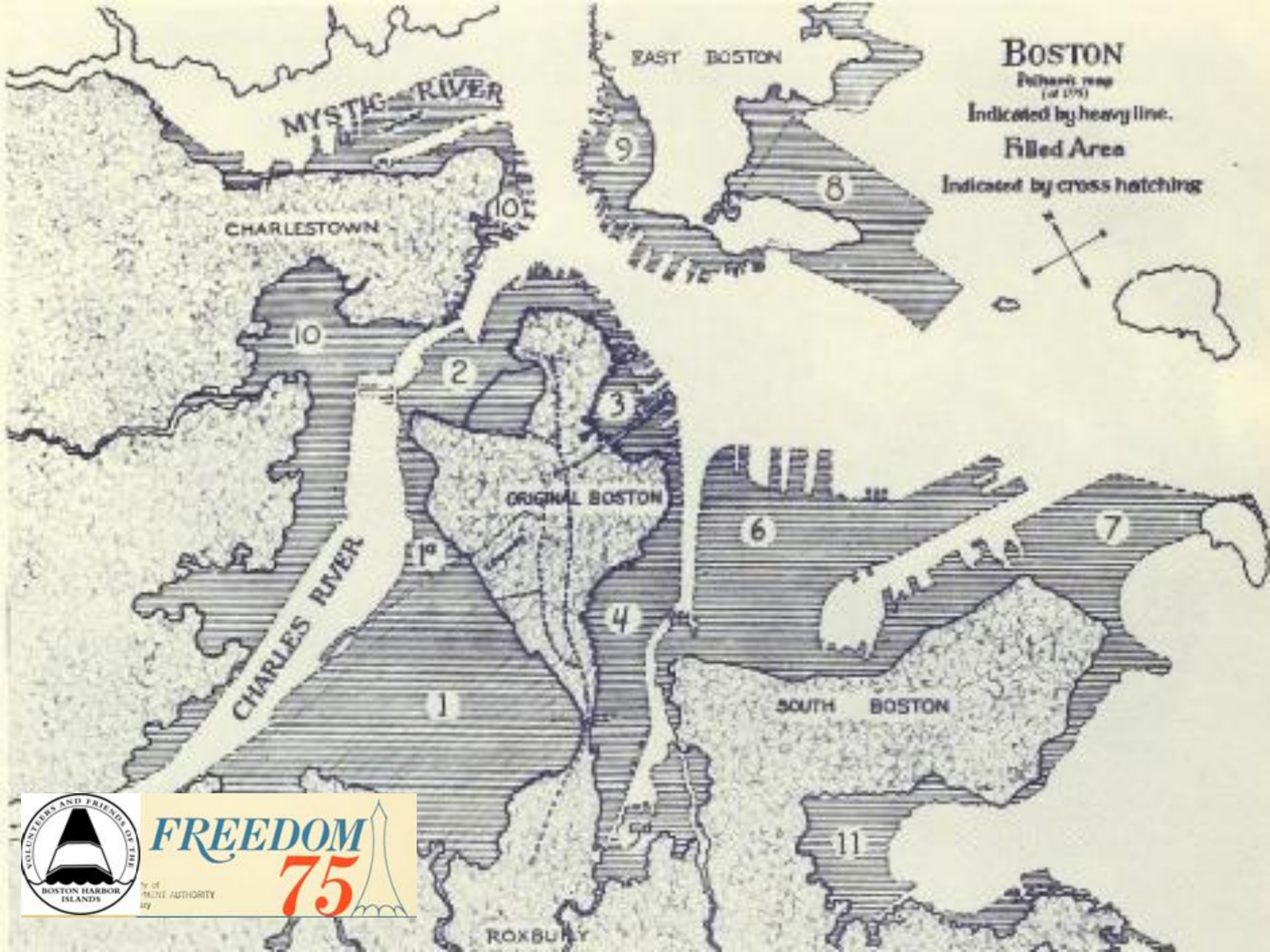
Development of Thompson Island for the Fair would in turn aid the Bay edge and undeveloped sections of Columbia Point (3) in their future development. The primary benefit to Columbia Point would be to make it part of a continuous, integrated pattern of city development, where it is now an isolated peninsula, largely cut off from the mainstream of city life.

Bicentennial development on Thompson Island would benefit the large, former naval airbase at Squantum (4) which is being held by its owner for future development, but which lacks the topographical and other advantages of Thompson Island for use as the principal Fair site.



**FREEDOM**  
**75**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT





**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
Harbor Authority





The problem of finding a suitable new downtown site for the Bicentennial would be solved by filling in the tidal flats along the southern edges of Thompson Island and thus creating a new peninsula at Squantum. Far from being unique, this approach is as old as the city itself.



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
 BOSTON  
 MAINE AUTHORITY



- Con-  
devo  
ture,  
amu  
plan  
The  
exp  
ec  
op  
C  
c  
n





- 6 Housing
- 7 Institutional
- 8 Parking areas
- 9 Mass Transit stops

Columbia Point

Savin Hill

Thompson Island

Natural Gas Tank

Naval Air Station

Squantum





# OPPOSITION TO THE FAIR

- ✖ Senator Joe Moakley (as well as many others, formed grass roots opposition to the plans).
- ✖ Moakley opposed EXPO '76, as the fair was called, based on the potential damage that its facilities would cause to the Boston Harbor Islands and the beaches of South Boston.





# BEFORE... THOMPSON ISLAND



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

ty of  
MENT AUTHORITY  
ity



# BEFORE... SQUANTUM NAVAL AIR STATION



**FREEDOM**  
**75**

City of  
BOSTON  
MAINE AUTHORITY



Figure 4 -- Proposed Columbia Point - Thompson Island MDC Dam

In addition to the minimum fill scheme explained above (1) a flood-control dam for the Neponset River, with locks and roadway, between what would now be the Thompson peninsula and Columbia Point, would be one of many significant improvements which, though not essential to the Bicentennial, would nevertheless be spurred on by it. The dam would: create a constant-level, all year boat basin at the mouth of the Neponset River, more than twice the size of the Charles River



basin (2), thus flooding the offensive tidal flats around Dorchester Bay that inhibit better development of adjoining lands; incorporate Columbia Point and Thompson Island into a primary circulation system, thus greatly furthering their development; and, of course, provide direct highway access to the Bicentennial from the downtown via the roadway on the dam.

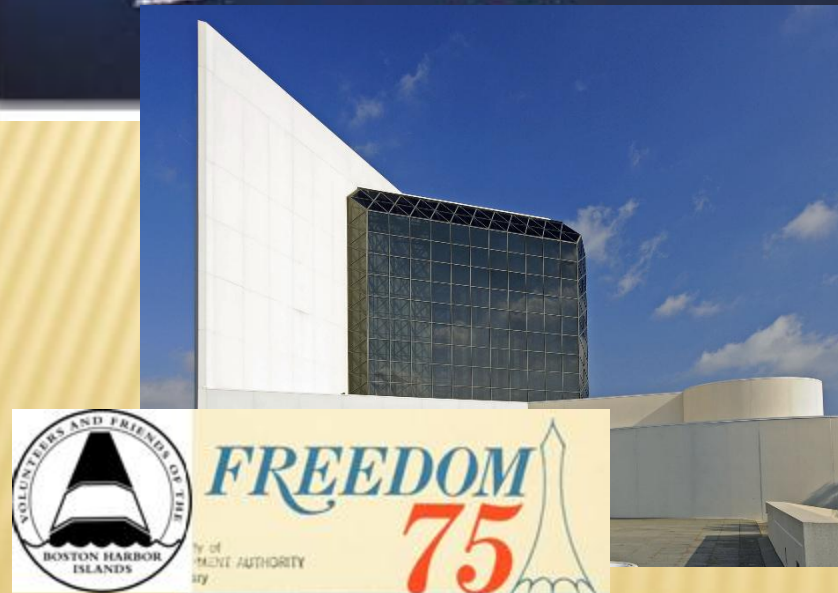


# TODAY...THOMPSON ISLAND



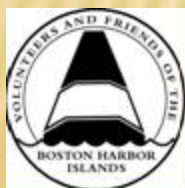


# TODAY...COLUMBIA POINT





# TODAY...MARINA BAY







TODAY...

Western Way

Thompson Island

Thompson Island

Nickerson Beach/  
Chappel Rock

Squantum  
Point Park

Marina Bay

NAS  
Squantum

Huckin Ave  
Squantum

Mo



# SOURCES

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

- ✕ <http://www.archive.org/stream/freedom75uniteds00free#page/n1/mode/2up> (the report by ADL)
- ✕ [http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/siege\\_of\\_boston.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/siege_of_boston.htm)
- ✕ <http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/maps/bostonmap/>
- ✕ <http://maps.bpl.org/> (Norman B Leventhal Map Center)
- ✕ [www.suffolk.edu/files/CollegeAdvising/Laura\\_Muller\\_Honors\\_Thesis.doc](http://www.suffolk.edu/files/CollegeAdvising/Laura_Muller_Honors_Thesis.doc)
- ✕ <http://www.lib.umb.edu/files/uploads/images/archives/FarmBoys2.jpg>
- ✕ National Park Service
- ✕ <http://thompsonisland.wordpress.com>
- ✕ <http://www.vpassociation.org/squantum.htm>
- ✕ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thompson\\_Island\\_\(Massachusetts\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thompson_Island_(Massachusetts))
- ✕ <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/shorething.html>
- ✕ <http://mirror.www.umb.edu/about/columbia.html>
- ✕ <http://hubpages.com/hub/Segregated-Shunned-The-American-Poor-in-Urban-Areas>
- ✕ [http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/North\\_America/United\\_States/Northeast/Massachusetts/Boston/photo1021240.htm](http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/North_America/United_States/Northeast/Massachusetts/Boston/photo1021240.htm)
- ✕ <http://www.examiner.com/dating-in-boston/patio-hopping-and-you>
- ✕ <http://www.flickr.com/photos/papadunes/3756960159/>
- ✕ Google maps

