

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received DEC 8 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Gen. Davis Tillson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 157 Talbot Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Rockland, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Knox code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gregory

street & number 157 Talbot Avenue

city, town Rockland, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04841

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockland, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The General Davis Tillson House [1853] is a two and one-half story brick Gothic Revival cottage with wooden trim and vergeboarding, and a slated roof. The house sits on a generous lot at the fringe of Rockland's Victorian residential district.

The main portion of the house has an almost square base diameter, although the first story is three-bayed on the north and south ends and two-bayed east and west. The second and attic stories are covered by a steeply pitched roof with vergeboarded gables, with gable ends north and south.

An entrance porch stretches across the base of the south gable end, a doorway and brick vestibule filling its left-hand corner. The doorway is framed by simple transom and side lights. The porch is supported by Gothic Revival columns, and its roof is bordered by thin, iron, decorative cresting. There are two rectangular windows above the porch and a narrow Gothic window in the gable's peak. The north gable end has similar fenestration on its second and attic stories.

The house's east wall, facing town, has two rectangular windows on its first story. Above these, the eave is broken by two steeply pitched gable-dormers holding Gothic windows. Both gables are vergeboarded.

A one and one-half story brick ell, similarly pitched roof, projects from the house's west wall to a length of three bays. The ell's south wall holds a door flanked by rectangular windows. Above the door is a steeply pitched gable-dormer, also vergeboarded and holding a Gothic window.

A one-story, flat-roofed, brick extension connects the ell with a large wooden barn, its gable ends facing north and south. The barn is a two and one-half story pitched-roof structure with clapboarded walls and cedar-shingled roof. Three windows surround the barn door in the south gable end. A wooden lean-to is affixed to the barn's west wall.

All of the house's rectangular windows are 6/6 (original glass) and have granite sills and lintels. The Gothic windows have granite sills only. All windows retain their original exterior shutters.

The house has a fieldstone foundation, the brick walls beginning just below ground level. Chimneys stand at both gable ends, snaking around the third-story Gothic windows in a precarious fashion.

The house's front door opens into a rectangular entrance hall with a curved-railing staircase. The entire east half of the first floor is a long parlor, a marble fireplace mantel at either end (one red, one grey marble; both arched). The second story is all bedrooms. The ell holds a dining room and kitchen.

A one-story brick addition housing a single bedroom was added to the rear (north wall) of the house around 1900-10. The bedroom moldings are of dark stained wood, in contrast to the white painted pine moldings in the rest of the house, and a wooden fireplace mantel with carved floral decoration stands in a corner.

The present barn is probably of twentieth century construction, although there seems to have been a building, probably another barn, on the same site during the last century.

The house is presently being re-slated, some roof and floor timbers are being replaced, and certain foundation problems are being remedied.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1853 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The General Tillson House is the finest of Knox County's Gothic Revival cottages and the only significant example of the Gothic Revival in Rockland. The house is also notable for its unique configuration and floor plan, its building material (brick was seldom used for Gothic Revival houses), and the quality and profusion of its vergeboarding.

The great majority of Maine's Gothic Revival cottages (as opposed to villas) have symmetrical main portions with entrance halls in the central bay of a three-bayed facade, the ell being relegated to the house's rear. The Tillson House manages the irregularity of a Gothic Villa by placing a porch and entrance-way against a gable end, using the ell as an integral part of the house rather than an adjunct (the ell contains the dining room as well as the kitchen), and punctuating the limited roof surfaces with generous gable dormers. The house refuses to sacrifice space in any of its downstairs rooms--the parlor, entrance, and dining room being extremely generous for so small a structure. The Tillson House is actually either a Gothic Revival villa reduced to cottage scale, or a cottage incorporating the best features of a villa.

Brigadier General Davis Tillson (1830-1895) was one of the highest-ranking Maine officers in the Civil War, and a prominent Rockland entrepreneur before and after the conflict. Tillson served as Adjutant General of Maine 1859-61, and organized the Second Maine Artillery Battalion at the outbreak of hostilities. As chief of artillery under Generals Ord and McDowell in 1862, Major Tillson saw action at Cedar Mountain, Rappahanock Stream, and Bull Run. As a Brigadier General in March, 1863, he commanded the defense of Cincinnati and the Louisville-Nashville Railroad. In December, 1863, Tillson was Chief of Artillery of the Department of Ohio, where he organized the Army's first heavy artillery for black troops. In 1866, he headed the Freedman's Bureaus in Memphis and Georgia.

Returning to Rockland after the war, Tillson engaged successfully in the granite and lime industries (Rockland's largest) and built the huge city wharf as a speculative venture. Tillson had inherited extensive lime quarries in 1853, and with A. D. Nichols, had invented the "Hewitt Kiln", the industry's most advanced lime kiln when first marketed in 1854.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hardin, Brian, ed. Shore Village Story, Rockland, Maine: Courier-Gazette. 1976.

Grindle, Roger L. Quarry & Kln.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Rockland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	9	0	2	4	5	4	8	8	3	8	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 64, Block A, Lot 10

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Eileen S. Feltwood

title S.H.P.O.

date 11/27/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Alma Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/1/83

Attach:
Chief of Registration

date