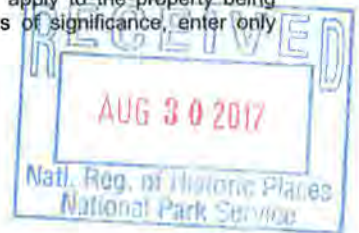


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1741

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Tolman Cemetery  
Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 39 Lake Avenue  
City or town: Rockland State: Maine County: Knox  
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Krist A. Mahoney, SHPO</u>	<u>8/17/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<b>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</b>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Jon Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*10-12-17*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

buildings

1

\_\_\_\_\_

sites

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

structures

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone / marble, granite, slate

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

Tolman Cemetery was established in 1783 on a roughly square one acre lot and is located in the City of Rockland, Knox County, Maine. The cemetery is located on the north edge of town on a slight rise in a built-up area that still maintains a rural feel. The cemetery is separated from the inside curve of Lake Avenue by a field stone wall that encircles the property. There are several mid-twentieth century houses on the west side of Lake Avenue but no buildings immediately surrounding the cemetery which is circled by trees and open fields just outside the stone wall. The cemetery was created from an open field as a public burying ground without an associated religious affiliation or buildings. An opening at the southwest corner of the stone wall provides limited vehicle access from Lake Avenue to a sunken dirt track. The 202 gravestones are a mixture of modestly carved Thomaston black marble and white marble slabs with only two of granite and one of slate. They are roughly organized in rows parallel to the road at the west. Two larger monuments are present, a rough granite memorial cube and a marble obelisk grave marker. The graves of Revolutionary and War of 1812 veterans are marked with American flags in holders, and there are four simple steel pipe enclosures around family plots. Three-quarters of the burials and associated stones date to 1848 or earlier. The well-maintained property retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity with the grave markers and stone wall in fair condition.



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**Narrative Description**

The cemetery is located on the east side of a curve on Lake Avenue which runs roughly north and south. The cemetery is on the top of a slight rise in a built-up rural area of rolling forested hills. A steep five feet tall embankment faced with a field stone wall separates the cemetery from Lake Avenue. The embankment continues around the cemetery on the other three sides as a low piled field stone wall. Vehicle access is through an opening in the stone wall at the southwest corner. The sunken lane has a grass covered center between wheel tracks. It parallels the south stone wall for approximately half the depth of the cemetery at which point the tracks fade into lawn. The dirt lane appears to be for limited maintenance use by vehicles with high clearance. The roughly square shape of the cemetery is a uniform lawn with a few deciduous trees in mid-life scattered across it. There are no paths, benches or other human accommodations to encourage walking, setting, or lingering.

The gravestones face the road to the west and are roughly in rows parallel to it. The 202 stones are distributed evenly across the cemetery and are roughly uniform size upright slabs of dark or white marble. The eighteen earliest stones date from 1788 to 1800. These stones are Thomaston black marble with rounded tops and carvings of names and simple decoration at the top. Ten of these early stones have death head carvings, four have a simple banner and trumpet motif, and four have a simple transitional urn or branch. Of the death head stones four have raised shoulders and the other six have square shoulders. One hundred and seventeen stones are Thomaston black marble and most date to 1840 or earlier. Other than the early death head, banner carvings, and simple urn/branch carvings, all prior to 1800, the majority of black marble markers have a fairly uniform willow and urn motif lightly carved at the top. These decorative images were so lightly carved that due to weathering they are barely discernable unless viewed with raking light. Unlike the earlier stones, the design is very uniform from stone to stone including the uniformly shallow carving. These stones typically have more deeply incised clear text often beginning with "in memory of." None of these stones have shoulders. They either have a rounded top or a simple rectangular shape. The eighty-one white marble markers are either rectangular or have a slight arc at the top, most without decorative carving. Many of the white marble stones have weathered and stained to a gray color on their most exposed surfaces. Only four have decoration: a book, curtain, willow or urn carved on them in addition to names and death dates. These white marble stones date mostly from 1830 to 1900. There are two later granite markers as well with death dates of 1894 and 1897. There is a single slate marker as well. One hundred and sixty burials and stones date from before 1850 with forty-two after and of the latter only two since 1900.

There are two larger markers and four fenced family plots spread across the cemetery. An eight feet tall nineteenth century white marble obelisk serves as a grave marker and is noticeable for its height and form. Its material and plain carving style are similar to other markers, but its size and shape stand out. The other large marker is a roughhewn three feet granite cube with a bronze plaque. It was installed in 1947 to honor twenty-one Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the cemetery. The four roughly one hundred square feet family plots are

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fenced by one rail of two-inch diameter steel pipe. Two of the plots have support posts of the same steel pipe and two have roughhewn granite posts.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

ART

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1788 to 1848

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Tolman Cemetery is in a built-up rural section of Rockland, Knox County, Maine. The cemetery was donated to the town by Isaiah Tolman in 1783 as the first public burial ground in the vicinity. The cemetery is significant under Criterion A for its association with early exploration and settlement in the area. The majority of graves dates from 1788 to 1848 and represents early families who settled the area. Many of the graves are of early town officials, Revolutionary War soldiers or War of 1812 soldiers. The graves represent a cross-section of the early settlers of Blackington's Corner the rural settlement that was later overshadowed by the City of Rockland as economic forces changed and the population center shifted to the coast. The marble grave markers reflect the local stone industry that drove the shift from a subsistence farming economy to one based on exploitation of raw materials and trade. The cemetery is also significant under Criterion C for folk art carvings on many of the stones. The primitive death heads and other early stones appear to be the work of an unidentified local carver or carvers. The Tolman Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries because it derives its primary significance from its age, association with early local settlement patterns and folk art. The locally significant cemetery has a period of significance from 1788 to 1848. The period is established by the date of the earliest grave marker and the date of the most recent stones displaying folk art.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Early Settlement**

The area surrounding the Tolman Cemetery was one of the first areas permanently settled by Europeans in what is now known as Rockland. Early European settlement in this area was fostered by Samuel Waldo. Waldo's large land holding, the Waldo Patent, was acquired in 1731 for his work to clear English land rights for the Proprietors of the Plymouth Colony which held the earlier and larger Muscongus Patent. Even with clear title to the land, European presence along Maine's mid-coast around 1730 was limited to widely scattered forts held by the French and English along the contested colonial border. The fort at the head of the St. George River within the boundaries of the current town of Thomaston was the most important local settlement in the mid-eighteenth century. No Europeans had yet settled near the future cemetery site five miles away. With the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 European settlement away from the fort in the upland area of Thomaston, later Rockland, began. Even with the war ended and settlement beginning, land rights in the area were disputed between Waldo's heirs and the other Proprietors. It took until



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1768 for a boundary agreement to be reached, and shortly thereafter more numerous settlers arrived in the upland portion northeast of Thomaston center.

Isaiah Tolman came to the area around 1765 from Stoughton, MA and settled on 500 acres near what would become the northeastern boundary of Thomaston and later Rockland.<sup>1</sup> Tolman arrived with his wife and eleven children. Isaiah Junior was the oldest at eighteen. He and his two teenage brothers helped their father build a house and a grist mill on the outlet stream of the large lake that bordered the property. This first mill in the area continued to hold its importance due to year-round water power from Chickawaukie Lake. When other mills in the area were idle due to drought, the Tolman mill continued to operate.<sup>2</sup>

Other early settlers in the region included Captain John Ulmer, Benjamin Blackington, Joseph Ingraham, John Spear, Hugh Killsa, and Oliver Robbins. These prominent early settlers and Isaiah Tolman Jr. are all buried in Tolman Cemetery. Like Isaiah Tolman and his family, many of the early settlers came from Massachusetts towns around Boston. A small settlement of subsistence farms which would come to be known as Blackington's Corner grew in this area along County Road which connected Thomaston to Camden overland. The village name came from a local store operated by John Blackington. The presence of waterpower and the early construction of a grist mill were the early core of the upland settlement that still had relatively easy access to ocean transportation. The early settlers' livelihood was supplemented by raw materials such as lumber and limestone. A deep vein of high quality limestone ran along the ridge County Road followed.

When Thomaston was incorporated as a town in 1777, many of the early town officials came from the Blackington's Corner area. From 1780 to 1840 the names above mentioned occupied prominent positions including selectman, assessor, treasurer, town clerk or representative. Many of the same names also appear on the military rolls during the revolution. Like Isaiah Tolman these early settlers came early and settled on large farms with choice resources. Because it was an inland settlement over a mile from shore on high ground, Blackington's Corner weathered the revolutionary period and later the War of 1812 better than coastal communities where British ships were an ever-present threat. After the war ended, Thomaston developed around the St. George River, Blackington's Corner developed in the highland area, and Shore Village, which would become the center of the city of Rockland and the dominant city in the region by 1860, developed along the coast.

Tolman donated the land for the cemetery to the Town of Thomaston in 1783.<sup>3</sup> Prior to that date the closest public cemetery within Thomaston's boundary was located near the former fort on Mill River. Before more widespread settlement after 1765, the main population center was near the fort and small family plots served settlers further from town. Tolman's donation of one acre of his land near his grist mill may have been an attempt to more firmly establish Blackington's Corner as a village center. While there was the mill, a store and other buildings in the area, the cemetery was never associated with a church building. In fact, there was never a church building or meetinghouse in Blackington's Corner. The 1820 meetinghouse at

<sup>1</sup> Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston*. (Hallowell, ME: Masters, Smith & Co., 1865), 96.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 96

<sup>3</sup> Knox County Registry of Deeds.

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Brown's Corner, west along County Road, was the first in the area closer than the church in Thomaston center.

With Tolman's grist mill, multiple farms and Blackington's store which opened in 1792<sup>4</sup> the area away from the shore continued to develop. The Town of Thomaston divided into five school districts in 1790. One school was placed in Blackington's Corner reflecting a relative population center. In 1793 Isaiah Tolman Jr. was licensed to operate the first tavern in the portion of Thomaston that became Rockland. The tavern was located on Lake Avenue in Blackington's corner.<sup>5</sup> The limestone deposits in the area and their value had been recognized early. Initial land grants reserved the lime and mineral rights to the patent holders, but later land transfers included quarrying rights. Early settlers exploited lime on a small scale, and many small lots were sold to provide small deep quarries to individual settlers. The quarried lime was burned in small batches to make quicklime. The process developed slowly as a side business, but as profitability and demand grew, additional kilns were built near the quarries. It was around 1810 that development along the shore southeast of Blackington's Corner first began to develop as the lime industry expanded. Kilns had developed along the road from Thomaston to Blackington's corner in response to the limestone nearby. New lime kilns were also built along the coast where they could more easily be supplied with wood to fire them.

After the War of 1812, the lime market in Boston and New York became the focus of the trade, and as the quickest and easiest shipping point was near Shore Village (as Rockland was called at the time), that village began to grow quickly. The finished product was shipped out from the coast, and as lumber near the quarries was exhausted, more kilns were built along the shore where wood could easily be shipped in and the finished lime shipped out. Blackington's Corner was still a significant population center in 1810 when the town of Thomaston voted to pay Jacob Ulmer \$50 to build a stone wall around the Tolman Cemetery. At the same time the town fenced the Thomaston burying ground with a stone wall and later two burying grounds at Owls Head and Jameson Point.<sup>6</sup> While Shore Village received little attention in these and other town affairs as late as 1810, by 1828 there were seventeen kilns at Blackington's Corner, eighteen at Brown's Corner further west on County Road, and fifty-one at the shore. In 1848 the harbor at Shore Village was busy enough to require a custom house. In that same year Thomaston split into Thomaston, South Thomaston, and East Thomaston. In 1850 East Thomaston which included Blackington's Corner was renamed Rockland. With 125 kilns burning lime, limestone's importance was formalized in the name.<sup>7</sup> At this time the former Shore Village, now Rockland, had clearly overtaken Blackington's Corner as the primary settlement in the area. In 1854 Rockland was incorporated as a city further reinforcing its local prominence. Blackington's Corner continued as a quiet farming and quarrying settlement on the edge of the much larger port city.

As commerce and settlement shifted toward Rockland and the coast, Blackington's Corner's growth slowed. In the cemetery that early resident Isaiah Tolman donated in 1783, the graves

<sup>4</sup> Ann Morris, *A History of Blackington's Corner and the Highlands: 200 Years of Farms and Quarries*. (Rockland, ME: Lake Avenue Publishing Company, 2015), 9.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 10.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, 167.

<sup>7</sup> Morris, 18.

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reflect the same shift of population. One hundred forty-six out of 202, graves, date from before 1848. As commerce shifted toward the shore so did burials. Achorn, Glen Cove and Seaview Cemeteries were established around the edge of Rockland. These cemeteries are large compared to Tolman and have few burials prior to 1850. The Tolman Cemetery reflects early settlement in the area which began in 1765. It is filled with veterans of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 and with early town officials. While the later cemeteries near the shore hold Civil War veterans, later generations of politicians and many elaborate monuments and tombs reflecting the wealth achieved through trading.

**Criterion C: Folk Art**

The Tolman Cemetery's early use of local stone and primitive carving reflects early establishment. The ability to quarry, shape and write text on the stones was more widely available than the ability to carve images. The later cemeteries in town, Achorn and Sea View, have stones with skilled carvers using nationwide motifs on white marble or granite. The early folk art of the Tolman Cemetery death heads clearly conveys the religious or theological beliefs of the initial settlers. Based on the limited population of the area at the time, these stones are likely the work of a part time carver, or several, with adequate quarry and shaping skills, familiarity with contemporary gravestone imagery and language, but less than polished artistic skills.

The art depicted on the stones within the period of significance appears to be represented by two periods with a third period after the period of significance. The early art (1788-1800) is characterized by primitive death heads and transitional urn and branch motifs on local stones with some variation in stone shape (photos 6-16). The second period art is overwhelmingly uniform in both stone material and shape and in a locally standardized interpretation of the willow and urn motif (photo 17). There is slight variation of tympanum, but it appears to be transitional and follows a clear timeline. The final period has uniform material, shape, and decoration. The stone material shifted to white marble for this last period but the text and shape are similar to the earlier period. The shape is a simple rectangle with almost no decoration on these stones; only five of eighty-one have a design. There is an overlap of years between the last two groupings but the early stones have a distinct date separation from the second period.

The death head designs vary slightly when this isolated element of the stone's design is compared. All ten are very primitive simple compositions with limited cuts and detail. They are a very simplified expression of this motif at a relatively late date. In larger settled cities like Boston or Portland, the death heads were more ornate and finely carved and most carvers had moved to cherubs or faces before this time and around 1790 were beginning the transition to willows and urns. Figure 1 below illustrates a typical transition of gravestone design from winged death head through winged cherub and finally willow and urn. The death head and cherub below are both moderate to simple designs compared to most New England gravestones. Note the simplified skull and wings of the Tolman stones (photos 6 thru 12) compared to the death head in the figure below. The transitional winged cherub or human face is not found in the Tolman Cemetery.



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Figure 1 Typical succession of gravestone designs in New England.<sup>8</sup>

While the Tolman heads are very primitive, the text is clear, spelling consistent, and all text uses the "In memory of ..." language which is present in the larger population areas around 1790. At Tolman the death heads are older in style while the text is up to date. In fact, the overall appearance, tympanum, shoulders, and additional decorative details of the ten death head stones vary widely across the burial dates from 1788 to 1797. Compare the markers of Caleb Ulmer, 1795 (photo 6) and Isaac Keen, 1794 (photo 8). Note that both have death heads with slight variation in design, but the Ulmer stone has stylistically earlier shoulders with rosettes and a curved stepped tympanum while the year earlier Keen stone has moved to a simple arched tympanum with no shoulders and only the simplest of border for decoration. The mix of established and evolving styles across these stones is variable across time. Research has not determined if the death heads are the work of more than one carver. The form of all stones and the level of additional decoration vary across the years even with similar death head styles. The period is a transitional one which may account for some variation, but there is much variation in shape, lettering, imagery and design among the few stones within the group.

The transition away from death heads and the severe language of the Puritans that is taking place at the time is reflected in the Tolman Cemetery markers.<sup>9</sup> Death heads are a typical New England grave stone decoration that originates from the Puritan's avoidance of decoration and idolatry. The skull visage with wings is an earthly representation intended to remind an individual of their mortality. As time passed and Puritans softened their religious views, their grave art shifted to a winged cherub which was closer to representation of a heavenly being. None of the Tolman stones, even those with death heads, carry the typically stark language of early Puritan inscriptions like "here lies" or "the body of \_\_\_ lies here." The Tolman stones already have the softer evolving memorial language of, "In memory of," while retaining the older tradition of death heads.<sup>10</sup> This language continues throughout the second group of local Thomaston marble stones, those with uniform, though faint, urn and willow carvings. Finally, the transition to white marble and text without illustration takes over.

<sup>8</sup> James Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. (New York, NY: Anchor Books, 1996), 97.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 96.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 99.



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In addition to the death heads, there are eight other folk art stones in the 1792 to 1800 period. These stones fall into two subgroups: banner and trumpet and urn and branch. Four early stones have an uncommon banner and trumpet motif (photo 13) which symbolize victory and resurrection and is an abrupt shift from the more severe death head imagery to the softened symbols of memorial like the willow and urn which dominate the next group of stones in the cemetery. Unlike the death heads at Tolman which have the additional decorations of rosettes, stars and borders on the tympanum, these banner and trumpet stones have no additional decoration. The banner and trumpet stones also have a simple arched tympanum without shoulders which is one of the two dominant shapes in the second period stones with willow and urn motif. The four stones appear to have different lettering from the death head stones as well and are all dated to 1792. Since these stones are so distinct from the death head stones but fall in the middle of their date range, it seems a single individual different than the death head carvers carved these stones. These stones mark graves of young children from the same family which may also account for their distinct appearance.

The other subgroup suggest a clearer development toward the uniform urn and willow period that begins after 1800. Two of these stones have both urns and branches while one each has only an urn or branch. In all four examples the images are very simple in line like the death heads but distinct from the elaborate and uniform detail of the mature urn and willow period. See photos 14 thru 16. These stones show both a local design development reflecting a wider national trend and a local continuity of simplified folk art which appears to be striving to depict a more cosmopolitan image without the level of artistic development to achieve that goal.

For most of the early stones dating from 1788 to 1800, there were no probate records. The four banner stones were young children as were several of the death heads. Women who preceded their husband in death were also represented. No probates were found for these individuals since they had no property of their own or what they had was considered by default their surviving husband's or father's. The probate records that were found for the men indicated no payment for headstone. There were also no initials present on the stones or identified stone carvers in the area up to 1800. The population of Thomaston at the first census in 1790 was 799. This included the portions later set off as South Thomaston and Rockland. With such a small population and only about one marker per year in this cemetery, grave carver would have been a part time trade locally.

The transition from the eighteen more primitive stones to the next group of dark marble stones is quite abrupt with no overlap. This middle grouping of 106 stones is about two-thirds of the quantity with a willow motif and one-third with no decoration. There are a few urn carvings and two double stones, but again the majority fall into neat categories. The earlier stones in the group, about 1800 to 1815, have a rounded tympanum with the later stones, 1815 to 1840, moving to the flat top with a rectangular shape. These stones typically begin their text with "In memory of . . ." The text carving is much deeper and remains clearer than the imagery. In fact, the number of undecorated stones may be less than noted. The carved designs were so lightly incised that with normal weathering they are often almost undetectable without raking light at the correct angle (photo 17). The willow image is very uniform in appearance and depth of carving. This group of stones mirrors national trends of the time period. Due to the widespread travel and interchange of information for the burgeoning coastal community, the carving on

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these stones reflects the patterns that arose across the settled regions of the east coast. The art, shape, material, and text on these stones, while still unique and local, begins to have a commercial uniformity that sets these and later stones apart from the widely variable early period stones.

The transition from black marble to white was fairly abrupt around the 1830s. Before 1830 stones are generally black and after 1839 they are generally white marble (photo 18). Some variation here appears to be caused by independent stones for husband and wife who died years apart spanning the 1830s. These stones often match in material and may be matched on purpose regardless of current style at the time of the later death date.

The white marble stones predominate from 1840 to the end of the century and are almost uniformly rectangular without decorative imagery. The material, lack of imagery, and shape of the stone are in keeping with national trends and appear to be reflecting them. There are a few later granite markers which represent the next trend in grave markers, but with few burials after 1890, granite markers are an anomaly in this cemetery.

Large ornate funerary structures are not present in the cemetery, and the two larger monuments are only a slightly larger scale. The tall white marble obelisk is the tallest marker in the cemetery, but it is simple in design and text only like the smaller rectangular white marble markers. The granite cube was placed in 1947 after the cemetery reached its mature appearance. The layout of the cemetery, markers, simply fenced family enclosures and other features were largely unaffected by later cemetery trends like the rural cemetery.

The period of significance extends from 1788 to 1848. The beginning date is the date of the first burial in the cemetery. The closing date represents the end of the early settlement pattern in the area and the shift away from local folk art in the cemetery. In 1848 East Thomaston's separation from Thomaston ended the early settlement period. The split was a response to the shift in settlement pattern from the upland meadow between Thomaston Village and Blackington's Corner to Shore Village (Rockland). The subsequent name change to Rockland and incorporation as a city by 1854 indicate the continuing growth and development along the coast after the early settlement period. By 1848, minimally decorated white marble grave stones were favored over the locally carved black marble grave stones with folk art designs.

The Tolman Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D: cemeteries because it derives its primary significance from its age, association with early local settlement patterns and folk art. The cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in Rockland. Its location is a clear indication of early settlement patterns in the area and reflects the shifting population and commercial centers after the initial settlement pattern. Finally, the early funerary imagery is an important local representation of this style of New England folk art.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)**

The exclusive use of local stone for headstones is an important component of early settlement in this area. Early cemeteries throughout New England show reliance on nearby stone from the

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County and State

sandstone in the Connecticut River valley to slate or schist in the Boston area. The presence of abundant pure limestone near the surface in the Thomaston area was a draw for early settlers. Most of the material from an early date was burnt to create quick lime for the building trades. However, small pockets of the limestone had been transformed by high temperature and pressure into marble. These pockets of marble were also commercially developed. Dark marble makes up the majority of early grave markers in the Tolman Cemetery. Dark marble markers are distinctive to early cemeteries in the Thomaston area which became famous for black marble in early to mid-eighteen hundred. The material was shipped widely down the east coast for use as fireplace surrounds and other building components. The grave stones in the Tolman Cemetery are lighter than the polished black marble mantle pieces in town possibly due to weathering or extraction from a lighter local vein of marble.

Quarries in Thomaston and along the County Road were established as early as 1785 by Wheaton and Tilson.<sup>11</sup> General Henry Knox had a water powered marble mill installed sometime before 1805, though it was only briefly functional.<sup>12</sup> By 1810 Sullivan Dwight was in Thomaston with a marble mill and quarry.<sup>13</sup> He and later apprentices likely produced the 117 black marble stones in the Tolman cemetery. Dwight in 1810 is the first black marble dealer in the area specifically identified. The black marble stones were quarried in Thomaston to the east where the lone outcropping of this marble existed.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Batignani, Karen Wentworth. *Maine's Coastal Cemeteries A Historic Tour*. Down East Books; Camden, ME 2003.

Blachowicz, James. *From Slate to Marble: Volume I Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts: 1770-1870*. Graver Press, Evanston, IL 2006.

Blachowicz, James. *From Slate to Marble: Volume II Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts: 1750-1850*. Graver Press, Evanston, IL 2015.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. Anchor Books: New York, NY 1996.

Eaton, Cyrus. *History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston*. Masters, Smith & Co.; Hallowell, ME 1865.

Forbes, Harriette Merrifield. *Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them 1653 – 1800*. Da Capo Press: New York 1967.

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<sup>11</sup> Eaton, 173.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 224.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 280.



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Jackson, Charles T. M. D. *Third Annual Report on the Geology of the State of Maine*. Smith and Robinson; Augusta, ME 1839.

Lincoln County Maine, Registry of Deeds, Probate Records. Various years and documents.

Morris, Ann. *A History of Blackington's Corner and the Highlands: 200 Years of Farms and Quarries*. Lake Avenue Publishing Company; Rockland, ME 2015.

Richards, Joanne and Helen Shaw. *Tolman Cemetery Survey*. Unpublished, September 9, 2016.

*Tolman Cemetery Survey, 1993*, no author indicated. Provided by Lady Knox Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Work Projects Administration. *Tolman Cemetery Survey and Registration War Veterans Graves*.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1



**TOLMAN CEMETERY**

Name of Property

**KNOX COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 490166 | Northing: 4886218 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located on the parcel described by the City of Rockland tax map number 75, lot A2.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described above represents the current and historic extent of the Tolman Cemetery property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain, Architectural Historian  
 organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 street & number: 55 Capitol Street, State House Station 65  
 city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065  
 e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov  
 telephone: (207) 287-5435  
 date: 23 May 2017

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Tolman Cemetery  
 City or Vicinity: Rockland  
 County: Knox State: Maine  
 Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain  
 Date Photographed: 1 June and 10 August 2017

**TOLMAN CEMETERY**

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0001.TIF  
View of cemetery from Lake Ave; facing south.
- 2 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0002.TIF  
View of cemetery from Lake Ave; facing northeast.
- 3 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0003.TIF  
View of cemetery entry road from Lake Ave; facing northeast.
- 4 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0004.TIF  
View of cemetery from back; facing northwest.
- 5 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0005.TIF  
View of cemetery from the south; facing north.
- 6 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0006.TIF  
View of Caleb Ulmer stone with death head; facing east.
- 7 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0007.TIF  
View of Lucy Ulmer stone with death head; facing east.
- 8 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0008.TIF  
View of Isaac Keen stone with death head; facing east.
- 9 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0009.TIF  
View of Eben Thomson stone with death head; facing east.
- 10 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0010.TIF  
View of Martha Jameson stone with death head; facing east.
- 11 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0011.TIF  
View of James Thomson stone with death head; facing east.
- 12 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0012.TIF  
View of Jacob Keen stone with death head; facing east.
- 13 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0013.TIF  
View of Chloe Jameson stone with banner and trumpet; facing east.
- 14 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0014.TIF  
View of Jenny Ulmer stone with early urn and branch carving; facing east.
- 15 of 18 ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0015.TIF

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View of P. Bexter Thomson stone with urn carving; facing east.

16 of 18

ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0016.TIF

View of William and Rebecca Spear double stone with branch; facing east.

17 of 18

ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0016.TIF

View of Jacob Achorn stone with typical second period urn and willow; facing east.

18 of 18

ME\_KNOX COUNTY\_TOLMAN CEMETERY\_0016.TIF

View of mix of black and white marble stones of second and third periods; facing east.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

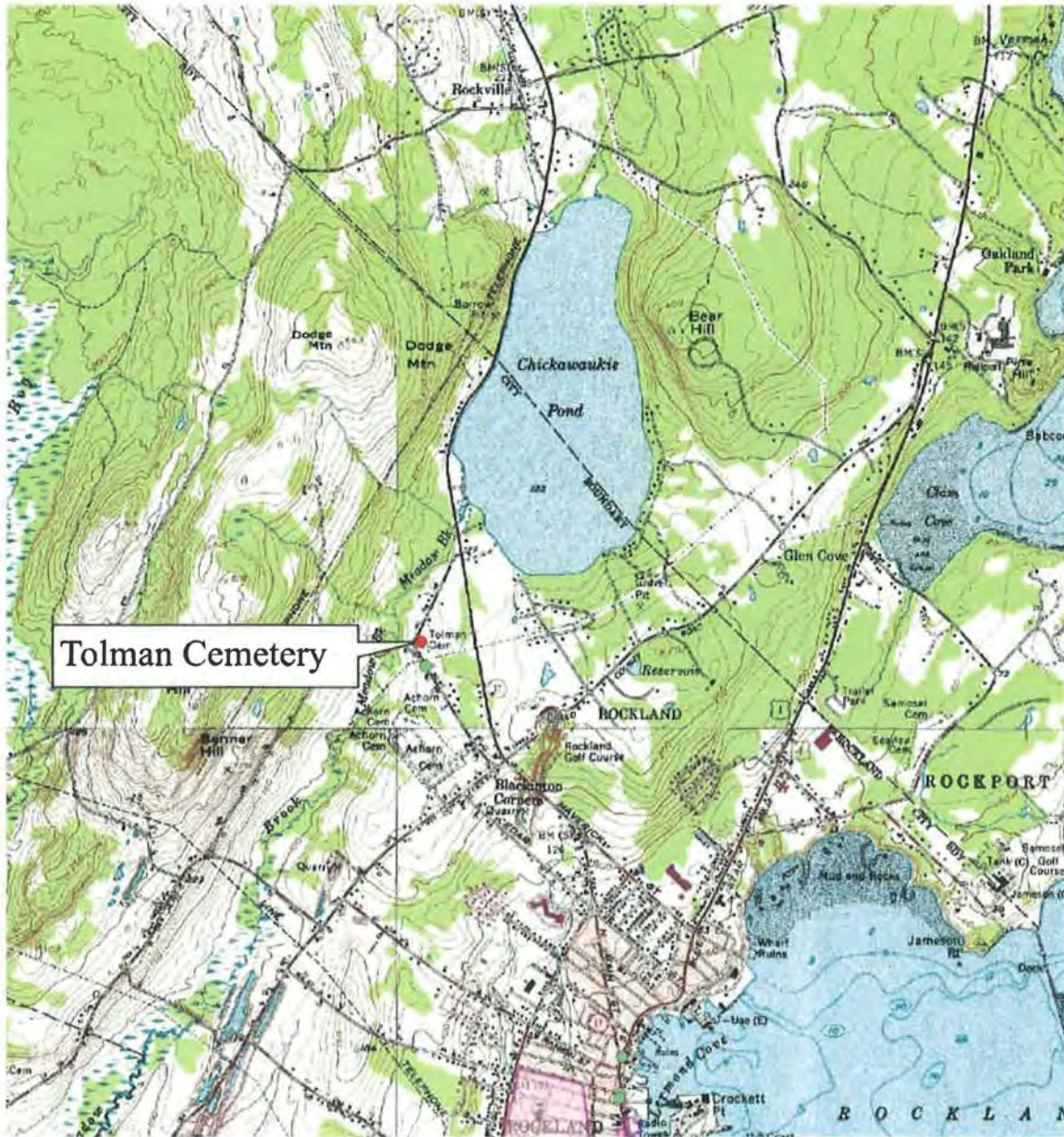


**TOLMAN CEMETERY**

Name of Property

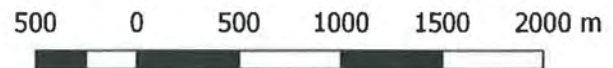
**KNOX COUNTY, MAINE**

County and State



**Tolman Cemetery**  
**Rockland, Knox County, Maine**  
**7 July 2017**

**UTMs in NAD 83**  
**19 / 490166 / 4886218**

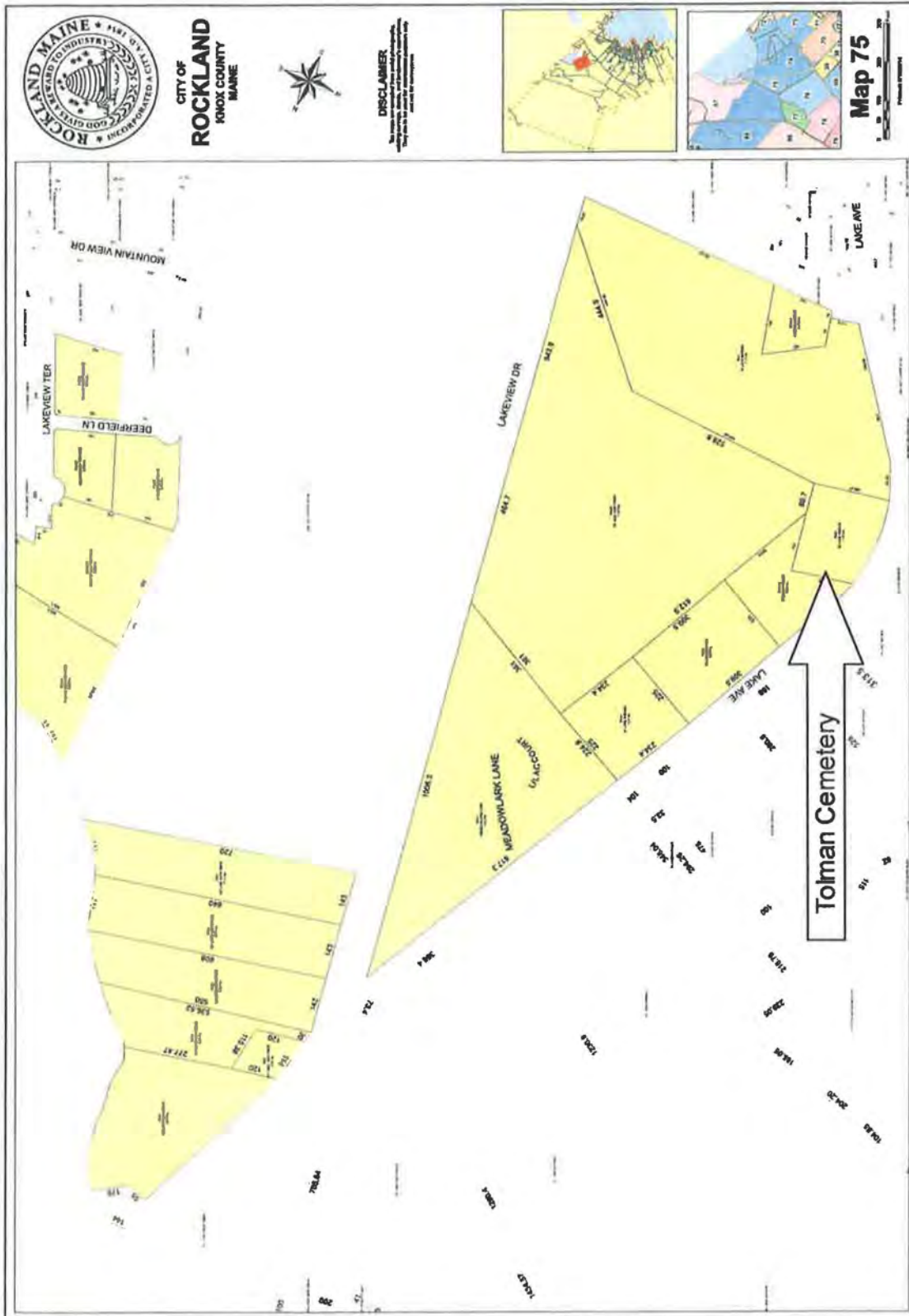


**TOLMAN CEMETERY**

Name of Property

**KNOX COUNTY, MAINE**

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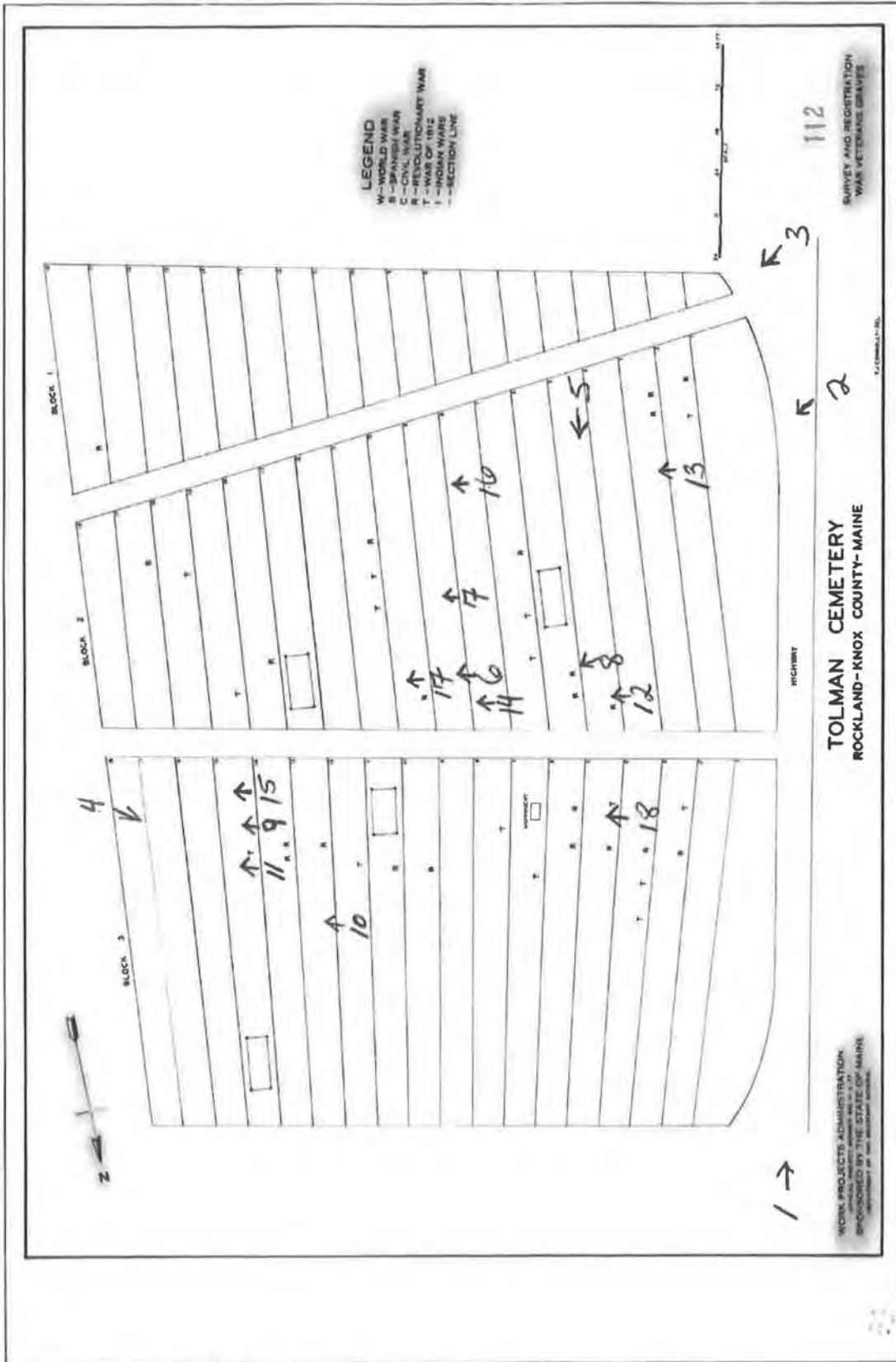


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**KNOX COUNTY, MAINE**

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Tolman Cemetery Photo Key











Cemetery Wide  
Clean-Up  
1997-2000














In memory of  
Caleb Ulmer Son of  
John & Eunice Ulmer  
Who Died January<sup>th</sup> 2  
1795 Aged 4 Month<sup>s</sup>  
& 2 Days








In memory of  
Lucy Ulmer  
Daughter of  
Jacob Ulmer  
Who Died October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1792 Aged  
2 YEARS & 2 DAYS

son of  
Ulmer  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
A Month





In Memory of  
Haac Keen Son of  
Jacob Keen Who  
Died This Late  
October 7 Years  
Month





In Memory of  
Eben Thomson Son  
of N. E. & M<sup>rs</sup> Mary  
Thomson Who  
Departed This Life  
Feb 16 1797 Aged 5 Days





In memory of  
MRS. Martha Jameson Wife of  
Robert Jameson & Daughter of





In Memory of  
James Williamson  
Son of Mr. Elders





In Memory of

Mr. Jacob Keen Who Departed





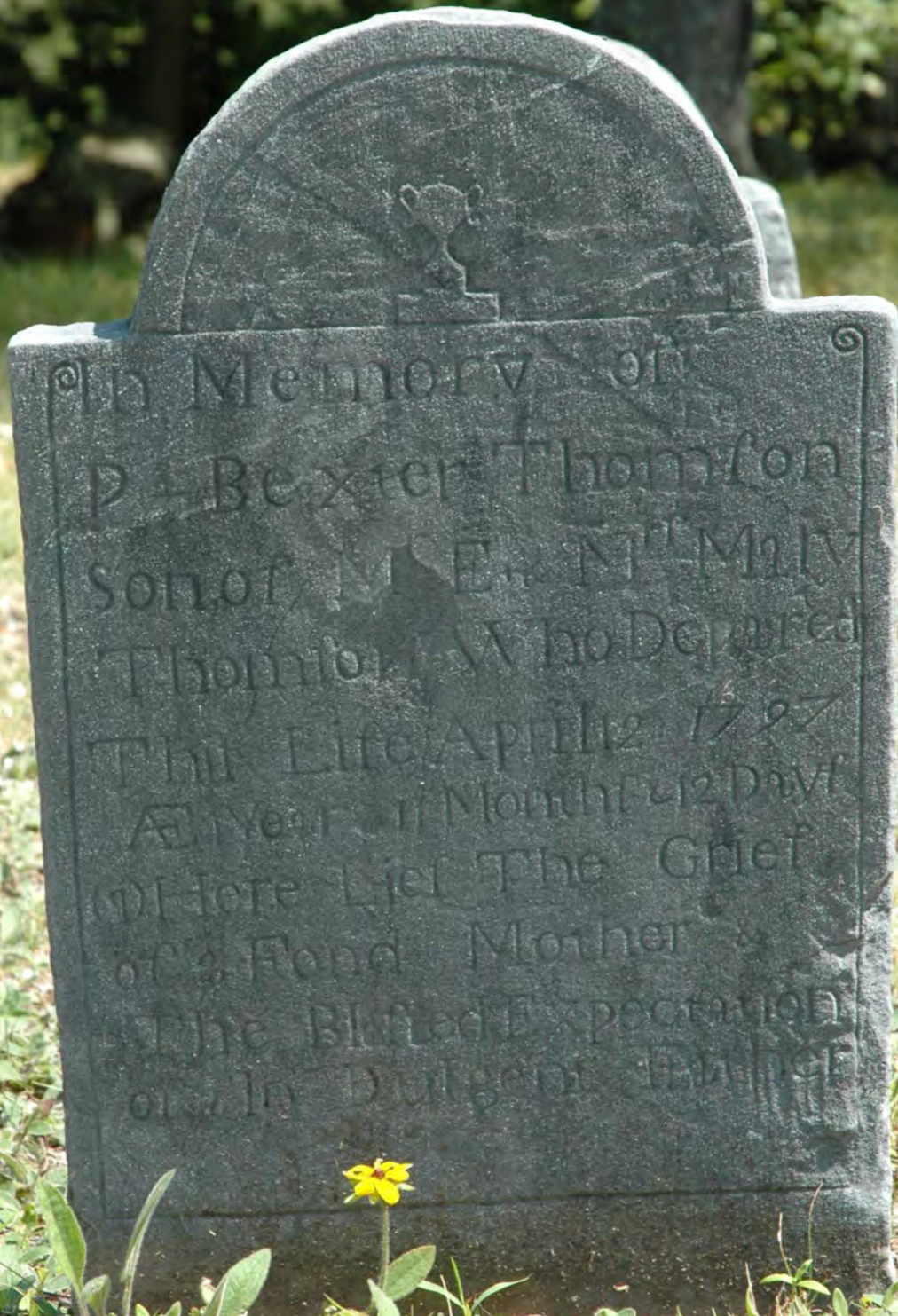
Chloe Daught  
of Mr Alexander





In Memory  
of Jenny Ulmer  
Daughter of M<sup>r</sup>  
Matthias & Elizab<sup>h</sup>  
Ulmer Who Died  
Sep - 11 1800  
Aged 1 Year & 7<sup>m</sup> & 2 D.





In Memory of  
 P. Baxter Thomson  
 Son of Wm. & N. M. M. Thomson  
 Who Departed  
 This Life April 2 1797  
 At the Age of 12 Months 12 Days  
 Where Lie the Grief  
 of a Fond Mother  
 The Blessed Expectation  
 of a Joyful Reunion





In In

Memory of	Memory of
Wm Spear	Rebecca Spear
Son of Cap.	Daughter of
Wm & Polly	Cap Wm
Spear who	Polly Spear
Died June	Who Died
2. 1788	1788
Age 45	Age 45





A detailed carved relief of a willow tree with long, drooping branches, centered on the upper half of the gravestone. The stone is a dark, textured material, possibly granite or slate, with a rectangular border around the entire inscription area.

JACOB ACHORN,

*died Sept. 19, 1836;*

A small American flag with a wooden peg, positioned to the right of the gravestone. The flag is partially visible, showing the stars and stripes.





CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

ELKANAH SPEAR  
DIED  
MAY 14 1845  
AGE 71

PENNINAH  
WIFE OF  
ELKANAH SPEAR  
DIED  
MAY 16 1845  
AGE 71

CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

CHARLES SPOTTORNO  
DIED  
MAY 11 1851  
AGE 71

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/30/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017      Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017      Date of 45th Day: 10/16/2017      Date of Weekly List: 10/12/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      10/12/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333



18 August 2017

Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed please find one (1) National Register nomination for the Tolman Cemetery, Knox County Maine.

If you have any questions relating to the nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain  
Architectural Historian

Enc.