

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tillson Farm Barn other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Warrenton Road city, town Glen Cove state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04846

not for publication vicinity

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 11/5/90 State or Federal agency and bureau: Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. 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:)

Entered in the National Register

[Signature] 12/18/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural  
Building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Ornamental trusswork and  
modillion block cornice

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Tillson Farm Barn is a long rectangular frame building with two cupolas, ornamental woodwork, and a shed addition along part of one side. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation.

Facing south, the focal point of the principal elevation is the large, two-leaf board-and-batten door mounted on a track and surmounted by a transom. To its left at the southeast corner is a smaller board-and-batten door sheltered by a narrow hood. A pair of six-over-six double-hung windows framed by eared surrounds are located above the main door. These windows also have hoods. The gable peak features a truss whose horizontal and vertical members are chamfered and whose extension through the roof is detailed with sawn ornamentation and a turned cap. A pendant hangs below the truss. Modillions decorate the raking cornice. The building's opposite gable end is identical except that it lacks the smaller door. Symmetrically mounted atop the roof ridge are two handsomely detailed cupolas with a pair of windows on each side separated by chamfered posts. A bellcast hip roof covers each cupola.

The long west side elevation is unbroken except for a narrow door and diamond pane window located, one above the other, at the northwest corner. By comparison, the east side features four small windows, two on each story, and the substantial shed addition. This latter component, which probably dates to the turn of the century, contains a number of door and window openings of more modest design than their earlier counterparts. On both side elevations the cornice features the modillion blocks found on the gable ends.

The barn's impressive exterior is matched by the interior. Its cavernous space is divided into a series of storage bins with slat dividers along the west side, and a two-level configuration along the east side. The broad center drive runs beneath what was probably at one time a hay mow, but it is evident that a number of the cross beams and the floor have been removed. Narrow tongue and groove sheathing covers the walls and ceiling of the shed which was used as a stable. Three stalls with turned posts and tongue and groove gates are still in place.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1880  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1880  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

An agricultural building of unusual architectural merit, the Tillson Farm Barn is a commodious wooden frame structure built about 1880. It was erected on the farm property of Rockland resident Davis Tillson (1830-1895), a civil engineer and former Adjutant General of the Maine State Militia. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C because of its architectural distinction.

The vast majority of Maine's surviving agricultural buildings exhibit an external appearance that testifies to the local vernacular building traditions which produced them, as well as to their utilitarian function. Unlike contemporary residential or commercial buildings, innovation in barn design most often occurred in the arrangement of internal spaces, although there were also episodes of major change that were evident externally (i.e., the change from a transverse drive or English style to axial drives, or the use of a gambrel roof). Thus, barns do not typically display the type of ornamentation or massing that conveys a stylistic expression in the way that, for example, Federal or Greek Revival style dwellings exhibit classical architectural elements. Of the four individually listed barns in Maine (Elmbrook Farm Barn, N.R. 1/10/86; Shrewsbury Round Barn, N.R. 2/19/82; Hexagon Barn, N.R. 1/24/80; and the Maine Experiment Station Barn, Pending), three are noteworthy because of their unusual form, whereas the fourth is historically significant.

From a stylistic standpoint the Tillson Farm Barn stands apart from its contemporaries. The handsome construction of its board-and-batten doors and cupolas, the eared window surrounds, the modillion block cornice, and the highly ornamental gable trusses represent a level of detailing rarely encountered. This extends to the finish and arrangement of the interior, including the attached stable.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Knox County Deeds. Rockland, Maine.

Shore Village Story: An Informal History of Rockland, Maine. Rockland: The Rockland Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Town of Rockport Tax Records. Rockport, Maine.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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4	9	2	8	2	0
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4	8	8	6	1	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn to embrace the physical limits of the barn and its immediate grounds. Since the significance of the barn lies in its architectural development, the nearby twentieth century cottage is not included, nor is the balance of the former Tillson Farm.

See continuation sheet

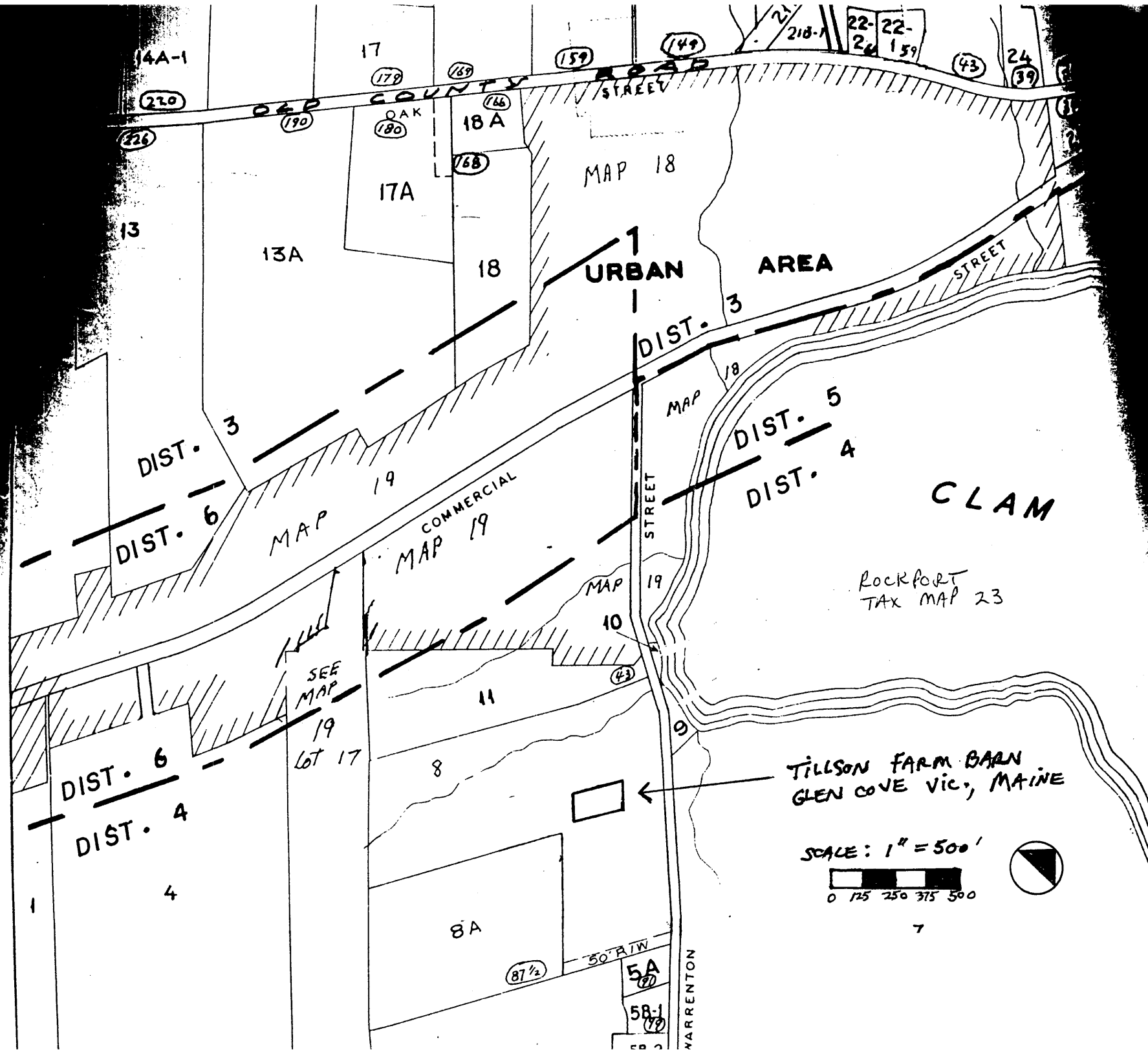
**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/1990  
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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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Although the precise date of the barn's construction is not certain, two sources suggest that it was probably erected during the early 1880s. The first of these are a set of deeds dating from late 1878 and 1879. In these deeds Davis Tillson was acquiring the parcels of land that would comprise the so-called Tillson Farm, upon which the barn was built. While at least one of these parcels was part of the Shibbles Farm, there is no indication that Tillson purchased existing buildings. Since Tillson's residence was located in Rockland (it is individually listed in the N.R. as the General Davis Tillson House) and a c. 1895 photograph shows no house in the immediate vicinity of the barn, it appears that his farm was that of a gentleman farmer. The stylishness of his barn and its plan would appear to support this theory. It is certain that the barn was standing by 1886 when Tillson paid taxes on it. At that time it was valued at \$600.00, and was listed as the only building on the property. Prior to his death the farm was acquired by his daughter Monira (Tillson) Day. It was later sold to Benjamin Smith who built the adjacent cottage, which although still a part of the present property, is not significantly related to the barn and therefore excluded from this nomination.



14A-1

17

159

149

218-1

22-22-

24 159

43

24

230

DEP COUNTY STREET

179

169

166

OAK

180

18A

168

MAP 18

13

13A

18

1 URBAN AREA

DIST. 3

DIST. 3

DIST. 6

MAP 19

COMMERCIAL MAP 19

MAP 18

DIST. 5

DIST. 4

CLAM

ROCKPORT TAX MAP 23

SEE MAP

19

LOT 17

11

8

MAP 19

10

9

DIST. 6

DIST. 4

4

8A

50' R/W

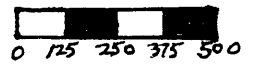
5A

5B-1

WARRENTON

TILLSON FARM BARN  
GLEN COVE VIC., MAINE

SCALE: 1" = 500'



7