

# CHS Landmark: 140 Sunset Trail

## LANDMARK PROFILE:

### WINDSWEPT FARM

(Note: This is the first of a series that will appear from time-to-time on the sites in the Town of Clinton that have been designated as Landmarks by the CHS.)

#### THE KERSHAW FARM

Windswept Farm, located in the Town of Clinton, is an architecturally and historically significant example of a nineteenth century Hudson Valley farm that includes a vernacular Federal style farmhouse and related historic barns and outbuildings. Built by Amos Lyons in 1823, the highly intact farm dwelling is a sturdy, one-and-one-half story, rectangular, heavy timber block with a standard center-hall floor plan. The influence of the Federal style is primarily expressed in the highly crafted mantel, door, and window surrounds and the dwelling's decorative interior woodwork. These characteristics define a regional vernacular building type, common in the mid-Hudson Valley during the early nineteenth century, which combined regional interpretations of national Federal design with a distinctive, colonial pattern of massing, scale, and fenestration. Associated with the house are two intact mid-nineteenth century barns and a cider mill (three contributing buildings) that recall Windswept Farm's history as a prosperous nineteenth-century farm during the 1823 to 1899 period of significance. The eighty-acre tract of original farmland, still used for agricultural purposes today, preserves the agrarian character of the setting. The property belonged to the Lyon family from 1782 until 1956 and since 1956 has been the home of Warren and Dacie Kershaw. The house is a representative example of its type in Dutchess County and is one of the few remaining early farmhouses in the county that have not been separated from their historic tracts by later subdivision and development.

Windswept Farm is on the National Register.

(article taken from the National Register application)

This article from the Feb. 1991 issue of the CHS newsletter *Historian*