

## Home nominated to Registers of Historic Places

CLARENDON — A home built by one of the region's pioneer settlers has been nominated to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Stevens-Sommerfeldt House on Holley-Byron Road is called a rare surviving example of a late Federal period stone house. It was constructed of limestone quarried on-site in the late 1820s for John Stevens.

It is one of 22 properties nominated by the state Board for Historic Preservation. The board's recommendations were announced last week by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

The home is owned by Darryl and Donna Sommerfeldt. It has been vacant for several years, but is in the process of being rehabilitated for use as a single-family residence.

"The building reflects the translation of high-designed Federal style details to the available materials, skills and resources of Orleans County during the 1820s," according to the nomination prepared by the state Historic Preservation Office.

"Still a working farm, its setting evokes the feel of the nineteenth-century agricultural enterprise it was and would be recognizable to the original owner," it continues. "The development of the property is representative of the western migration of early nineteenth century America, the transformation of wilderness into productive farmland and the subsequent success of the farmers due to



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Submitted photo

**The Stevens-Sommerfeldt House on Holley-Byron Road, Clarendon, is shown in a photo taken about 1900. The property has been nominated to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.**

the convenience of shipping goods on the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825."

For all but six years of its history, the house has been owned by just two families.

The nomination includes the current 56-acre farm associated with the property.

The Stevens-Sommerfeldt House is said to have been constructed by a local stonemason known only as "Murphy." The Stevens family, which arrived in Orleans County in 1813, was one of the earliest settlers of the Clarendon area.

John Stevens played a large role in helping develop the Honest Hill area, as the neighborhood became known. Murphy, the stonemason, is credited with two other nearby Federal style limestone residences that were built about the same time. The Stevens-Sommerfeldt House is considered the best and most intact example.

The property has been

owned by the Sommerfeldt family for more than 90 years.

Darryl and Donna Sommerfeldt purchased it in 1997, but have never lived in the home. It is being rehabilitated by their son, Douglas E. Sommerfeldt.

Being listed in the State and National Register is a boost for property owners to revitalize their buildings, as it makes them eligible for various public preservation programs and services such as matching state grants and state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Once the recommendations are approved by the state historic preservation office, the properties are listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places and then nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, where they are reviewed and, once approved, entered on the National Register.