

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

LISTED ON:  
VLR 06/19/2009  
NRHP 08/27/2009

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**


historic name **Anderson-Doosing Farm**  
other names/site number VDHR File No. 080-0009

**2. Location**

street & number 7474 Blacksburg Road (State Route 785) not for publication N/A  
city or town Catawba vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Roanoke code 161 zip code 24070

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide X locally. (       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official July 16, 2009  
Date  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria. (       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>10</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>manufacturing facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Wood

other Glass, Concrete

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
X 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 a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1830-ca. 1950

Significant Dates ca. 1830, ca. 1883

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 25 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing								
1	17	571000	4	131730	2	17	571470	4	131870	3	17	571580	4	131530	4	17	571120	4	131360

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni  
 organization Landmark Preservation Associates date February 23, 2009  
 street & number 6 Houston Street telephone (540) 464-5315  
 city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jack McDonald III and Mary A. McDonald  
 street & number 7474 Blacksburg Road telephone (540) 384-7080  
 city or town Catawba state Virginia zip code 24070

**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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Anderson-Doosing Farm  
Roanoke County, Virginia

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Summary Description

The Anderson-Doosing Farm stands in the Catawba Valley of northern Roanoke County, Virginia. The nominated area—approximately 25 acres at the core of a once larger farm—occupies both sides of the headwaters of Catawba Creek, a tributary of the James River. The north end of the nominated area along the creek lies at an elevation of approximately 1,900 feet above sea level. The land rises to approximately 2,000 to 2,050 feet at the south end on the slopes of wooded outlying knolls of Catawba Mountain. The north end of the nominated area is bounded by Blacksburg Road, also known as State Route 785, a historic road that links the historic towns of Blacksburg in Montgomery County and Fincastle in Botetourt County. Virtually all of the nominated area is cleared pastureland. An intermittent branch flows from a gap between two knolls through the farm to empty into Catawba Creek. Of the twelve resources on the farm, all but two are contributing. The dominant building is the John and Barbara Ellen Doosing House, a two-story Greek Revival frame house built ca. 1883. Larger in size, but at a lower elevation, is a double-crib log bank barn built about 1830 and enclosed in early or original shed wings and a twentieth-century straw shed. The barn is adjoined by a drive-through corncrib and a cinder block milking parlor with concrete silos. Other resources include a log cabin that has served a number of functions in addition to its original domestic use, including a blacksmith shop; a log meat house; an equipment shed that incorporates an originally stand-alone blacksmith shop; and a prehistoric archaeological site.

#### Inventory

1. John and Barbara Doosing House. Ca. 1883. Contributing building.
2. Meat house. Early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
3. Log cabin. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
4. Equipment shed/blacksmith shop. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
5. Chicken house. First half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
6. Chicken house. First half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
7. Barn. Ca. 1830. Contributing building.
8. Privy. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.
9. Corn crib. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
10. Milking parlor. 1940s. Contributing building.
11. Utility building. Late 20<sup>th</sup> c. Noncontributing building.
12. Site 44RN0251. Prehistoric. Noncontributing site.

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### Description (continued)

#### Detailed Description: John and Barbara Ellen Doosing House

The north-facing, two-story frame house has white-painted weatherboard siding attached with cut nails and a hip roof with metal sheathing and metal and glass lightning arrestors. The foundation is finely constructed of limestone, as are the two exterior end chimneys and a chimney that rises through the middle of an integral two-story ell. The end chimneys have sloped shoulders, corbelled courses at their tops, and mortar joints that appear to have been neatly repointed in the twentieth century, perhaps in the second quarter of the century. The symmetrical three-bay front has a one-story entry porch with square wood columns and flat pilasters with simple molded caps. The wooden porch railing has rectangular-section balusters and the ceiling is sheathed with slatted boards. The present railing replaces the original, which had decorative sawn slats. The porch shelters an entry with a transom and sidelights in a simple molded surround. Under the sidelights are wood panels with moldings that define cruciform decorative panels. The present door is a modern six-panel replacement of a mid- to late twentieth-century ranch-type door, itself a replacement, that has been moved to a rear furnace wing.

Most window sashes were replaced with fake-muntin vinyl sashes before 2007. Exceptions include the front second-story middle window, which has the original six-over-nine sashes; two four-pane windows flanking the west chimney on the first story; a horizontal multi-pane window added over a kitchen sink at the end of the ell; and the sashes of the enclosed one-story porch on the east side of the ell, which has two pair of stack-pane two-over-two windows. The six-over-nine window is taller than the others because it formerly served to access a balcony on the roof of the porch. (The porch roof formerly had a sawn railing like the one below.) The front windows retain original louvered wood shutters painted green. To the rear of the house is a two-story bathroom addition made in the late twentieth century; a small modern wood balcony over the enclosed ell side porch; and two small cinder block additions to the end of the ell, one with a flue for the furnace, the other for the well pump. The fenced yard surrounding the house has large maple shade trees and in the northwest corner is a poured concrete lily pond of rectangular form.

The interior is characterized by plaster wall and ceiling finishes and wood floors. Some of the downstairs rooms have ceilings and crown moldings that appear to have been redone/added in the late twentieth century. Some rooms have the original walnut floor boards; others have narrower boards laid on top of the original ones in the twentieth century. Four-panel doors with butt hinges, cast iron rim locks (manufacturer labels now illegible), and pottery and porcelain knobs are typical. A number of doors and door surrounds retain original or early graining. In some door/surround combinations the door panels and stiles are grained a light brown or honey-toned oaken color and the surround is grained brown in imitation of walnut. In others both the

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### Description (continued)

door and the surround have this two-tone treatment. One upstairs door has panels grained in imitation of quarter-sawn oak. Most of the graining is in poor condition due to what appears to be extreme alligating of the overlying varnish.

In the center passage is a two-run stair with rectangular balusters and a turned newel at the bottom. The newel has a vernacular double-vasiform form and a matte dark brown finish. It supports a walnut handrail with a round terminus. Under the stair is a small closet with a double-panel walnut door. Most rooms retain their original Greek Revival pilaster-and-frieze mantels. The pilasters are tapered and have molded caps and bases and there are thick bed molds under the mantel shelves. Some fireplaces are the original limestone, albeit with repointing and mid-twentieth-century sandstone flagstone hearths. The fireplace in the living room (first-floor front west room) has traces of red oxide paint on the stones and on the hearth, which was covered with a layer of cement in the twentieth century when new floorboards were added to the floor, raising its height. This fireplace was partially infilled with crude brickwork and parging, perhaps when a heating unit was added (this infill has been removed). The dining room fireplace was built out with rustic stonework that was formerly fitted with an iron door. Inside the dining room fireplace is an iron fire back, and next to it is a closet with modern shelving and cabinets constructed inside. The inner side of the closet door has unfigured (that is, not grained) two-tone painting with the rails and stiles brown and the panels honey-toned, and there is a three-pronged metal clothes hook at the top with acorn finials and the cast letter S. The kitchen has a floor-to-ceiling rustic stone fireplace with a wood mantel shelf supported by stone corbels. The fireplace, which may date to the 1940s or 1950s, was constructed over the original stone fireplace.

The kitchen also has an enclosed winder stair with a reused six-panel door replete with HL hinges and a Suffolk latch. The reused door was probably inserted when the house was built ca. 1883. (In addition to the fact that the door is much older than other fabric in the house, the scar from a former latch without a corresponding scar on the door frame is evidence that the door was reused.) The stair has a vertical board enclosure and a simple rail balustrade around the well in the room above. The kitchen cabinets were added in the late twentieth century. The modern two-story rear addition contains bathrooms on both floors, the upstairs bathroom with a Jacuzzi and the downstairs bathroom a pre-existing room (probably a pantry) off the now enclosed side porch. In the shallow crawlspace under the front of the house are visible log joists, hewn sills, and hewn beams under the center passage walls. In the attic is visible a common rafter roof system with circular-sawn dimensional rafters that butt at ridgeboards, circular-sawn joists, and evidence of former wood shingle roofing in the form of multiple nails projecting through the roof boards. The recent installation of an underground power line on the west side of the house uncovered pipes that are believed to have provided carbide gas from a carbide plant located in the yard. The pipes may still exist in the walls of the house.

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Anderson-Doosing Farm  
Roanoke County, Virginia

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### Description (continued)

#### Detailed Description: Domestic and Farm Outbuildings

The meat house is a small one-story building constructed of v-notched logs and covered by a metal-sheathed gable roof. The building has a number of features associated with its historic function: tight-fitting logs (some chinked with long slabs of wood), stout hewn and mortise-and-tenon roof members, interior work shelves and pegs, and salt bleaching on the logs and shelves. The vertical boards that sheathe the gables are secured at the bottom on front and back by boards that are attached with cut nails with augmented (domed) heads. Other exterior features include a few surviving battens over the gaps between the boards in the front gable, miscellaneous peg holes, a pegged door jamb, exposed and shaped rafter ends, and half-dovetailed top logs. Inside, in addition to the aforementioned features, are a concrete floor, pegged and probably lapped rafters, and various wires and nail hooks once used to hang the meat. The batten door, which is not the building's original one, is a reused ca. 1800 door with wrought nail construction and decorative wrought strap hinges. The door is hung upside-down from its original orientation, as indicated by a carved upside-down inscription on the lower (originally upper) cross batten. The inscription reads "John L Daniel 1864" and has reversed Ns and 4. The door has a wood latch that is wrought nailed to the battens. A second set of iron pintles on the door frame, no longer used, are additional evidence that there was a door before the present one. Between the meat house and the farmhouse is a large concrete pad, possibly the top of a cistern. Next to the meat house and directly behind the farmhouse is a modern utility building, a long one-story building with metal siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a poured concrete foundation, and an open south side.

The log cabin is a one-story-with-garret building is constructed of v-notched logs and covered by a metal-sheathed gable roof. A large exterior stone chimney rises on the east gable end. The chimney has sloped shoulders and a corbelled cap and is of mostly limestone construction with a few large sandstone blocks interspersed. Flanking the chimney are two windows—both now without glazing and covered over—and there are two entries, one of the north-facing front and the other at the back west corner facing the intermittent creek. The east gable is weatherboard-sided whereas the west gable is sheathed with replacement vertical boards attached with wire nails. The plate logs on the north and south sides are half-dovetail-notched. A notch near the eaves on the northeast corner may represent a point of attachment for a former front porch, although there is no corresponding notch on the northwest corner. A chamfered post lodged between two front logs may have come from this porch, or it may be from some other context. A horizontal opening cut into a log on the west side is associated with former use of the building as a blacksmith shop. Evident between many logs are small wood boards used for chinking along with traces of mud daubing. The front entry has a simple molded surround attached with cut nails. Next to the entry are peg holes for pegs that may have once supported a shelf.



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### Description (continued)

The cabin's one-room interior has whitewashed exposed log walls and chamfered ceiling joists, an earthen floor, and simple molded door and window trim with traces of red paint. The cooking and/or laundry fireplace has a finely crafted segmental arch and an iron pot crane. The crane is partly constructed of machined iron, suggesting it dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Inside the flue is a flat iron bar, regularly perforated with holes, that may also have served for suspending pots over the fire. Standing in the room is a broken-down Richmond Stove Company cook stove with decorative fittings. In the corner under the horizontal opening is a stone platform associated with a former blacksmith forge. Two large upright flagstones of shale or slate are tucked into the corner itself. They apparently served to protect the logs from heat, and they have partially delaminated, perhaps an affect of heat. A crude stair rises on the west wall. The stair, which appears to be constructed with both cut and wire nails, is a replacement for an earlier stair at the same location. Lying on the floor is a beaded batten door constructed with wrought nails and fitted with butt hinges and decorative hardware. The door may have been used for the cabin during its history, but it appears to have been reused from an earlier (and finer) house. In the unfinished garret are crudely shaped log rafters that are lapped and pegged at the ridge. The log cabin has begun to settle unevenly, causing the logs to separate.

The equipment shed and blacksmith shop is a long one-story building that was built in at least three phases, the first being a pole-framed core section which was erected as a blacksmith shop in the early twentieth century. The shop is rectangular in form with dimensions of about ten by fourteen feet. It has a metal-sheathed shed roof and red-painted vertical siding boards—some of which have been removed—attached with wire nails. On its west rear side is a horizontal window opening with a lift-up board shutter on barn hinges. On the front east side is a z-braced batten door on barn hinges. Inside are a shelf under the horizontal window, a higher work bench or shelf next to it, the stump on which the anvil stood, and other features associated with the shop's function. When surveyed in the early 1990s the shop retained an anvil inscribed with the date 1906 and the eagle trademark of the Fisher and Norris firm. A pole shelter for equipment storage and presumably also repair was built around two sides of the blacksmith shop, probably about 1950 (the addition appears in a 1954 aerial photo), and the expanded building was further enlarged by the construction of a pole shelter on the north end, formerly sheathed with metal siding, at some point after 1954, perhaps in the 1960s or 1970s. The pole shelter additions, especially the later north one, are beginning to lean and show other signs of deterioration. This blacksmith shop has been recorded as an archaeological site and given a site number.

Between the equipment shed and log cabin and the modern utility building are two small one-story chicken houses. The rectangular frame buildings are similar in form with shallow-pitched shed roofs covered with metal; horizontal window openings, now without glazing or screening,

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### Description (continued)

on their south sides; and a single door on their east ends. One chicken house has vertical board siding and a frame constructed with reused hewn timbers. The other chicken house has board-and-batten siding. To the south of the log cabin are two poured concrete spring boxes for a former spring house or houses.

The double-crib log bank barn is the farm's largest building as well as its oldest dated building. The core structure, which consists of two tall v-notched cribs, has early mortise-and-tenon frame shed extensions on the west and south sides and a cantilevered forebay on the east side. The log cribs rest on limestone footers and they are covered by a metal-sheathed gable roof that extends over the west shed and east forebay and wraps around the south shed as a hip. The forebay was extended as a straw shed, probably in the early twentieth century, and enlarged again to its present extent in the mid-twentieth century. (In a 1937 photograph the siding boards on the original section of the straw shed look new, suggesting the section was recently constructed.) The exterior of the barn, sheds, and straw shed is sheathed with vertical boards on which there are traces of red paint. Single diamond-shaped ventilation openings have been cut at the apex of each gable, and there are metal and glass lightning arrestors along the roof ridge.

The interior has many notable features. The cribs are constructed with two large openings—one above the other—on each side facing the central drive-through or threshing floor. Carved on the logs of the north crib are various initials and dates dating back to the 1830s, the inscription "W.L.D. 1890," paint splashes, and random holes made with augur bits. Only random whittled patterns and no dates or initials have been observed on the drive-through side of the south crib. Suspended from the hewn rafters are a metal hayfork track and a part of the fork mechanism. Inside one of the front sheds are large built-in grain bins. A stair in the forebay has a batten door on wooden hinges. The log cribs extend down to the lower level of the barn where they form animal stalls with batten doors formerly hung on wrought strap hinges (the hinges are in place but not operational). Log posts have been inserted under the forebay for added support. Under the south shed are animal stalls and mangers, and under the straw shed are more mangers and a poured concrete watering trough. Throughout the barn are other carved dates, initials, and names as well as painted signs ("No smoking") and cartoons of a boy ("Papa's Baby") and a fight scene with bearded antagonists. Lower-level carved inscriptions include the initials AEM, AFM, and MPM, all dated April 13, 1920. On the north side of the barn, shielded from view from the house, is a small frame privy of conventional shed-roofed form with vertical board siding and sheet-iron roofing. A wood ventilation flue extends from the roof. A narrow batten door on barn hinges and with a wood catch opens to the unfinished interior, in which there is a wooden commode with evidence for a former lid attached with leather hinges.

The corncrib is a one-story building of frame construction with slatted cribs on either side of a

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Roanoke County, Virginia

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### **Description (continued)**

center drive-through. Other exterior features include a metal-sheathed gable roof, red paint on the roof and vertical board siding, replacement metal siding on the east side, and large board doors hung on barn hinges, or evidence of same, on the ends of the drive-through. The cribs have doors and hatches that open to the drive-through. The milking parlor is a long one-story building constructed of cinder blocks with metal-framed windows and a metal-sheathed gable roof with a metal ridge-top ventilator. A concrete platform, sheltered by an extension of the roof eaves, extends along part of the east side to provide access through z-braced batten doors to a work room and storeroom at the north end of the building and the milking parlor itself at the south end of the building. The milking parlor has a large opening at the south end and a contoured concrete floor to aid sanitation. The stanchions and equipment have been removed from the space, in which is stored a mantel from the second floor of the house. A batten door on a track leads from the milking parlor to a room that connects to the silos. The walls and ceilings of the milking parlor and the work room are painted white. Nailed to the wall in the small storeroom is a notice entitled "Maintenance Instructions De Laval Milker Vacuum Pump" which is dated in pencil August 1, 1966. Attached to the west side of the barn are two cylindrical silos constructed with concrete staves kept in place by tension rings, and capped by domical metal roofs.

In 1990 the former garden area to the south of the house was identified as a prehistoric archaeological site and given the Virginia Department of Historic Resources site designation 44RN0251. The site was identified as an Early Archaic-Late Woodland camp based upon the collection by the former landowner of diagnostics including LeCroy, Savannah River, and triangular projectile points. The site is classified as noncontributing because its period falls outside the period of significance defined for the nomination, and it has not been investigated to the extent that it could be evaluated.

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Anderson-Doosing Farm  
Roanoke County, Virginia

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### **NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Statement of Significance**

The Anderson-Doosing Farm, located in the Catawba Valley of northern Roanoke County, Virginia, meets National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture for the quality and diversity of its buildings. Joseph Anderson probably established the farm in the 1810s, and the farm's impressive double-crib log bank barn, probably built ca. 1830, dates from the period of Anderson's ownership. Other early buildings include a log meat house and a log cabin with a finely crafted stone chimney and evidence for later use as a blacksmith shop. The farmhouse, a two-story frame dwelling detailed in the Greek Revival style, was built ca. 1883 for then owners John W. and Barbara Ellen Doosing. Later buildings include a drive-through corncrib, a milking parlor with concrete silos, and an equipment shed that contains at its core an early twentieth-century blacksmith shop. The McNeil family owned the farm for much of the twentieth century. The period of significance begins with the construction of the bank barn ca. 1830 and ends ca. 1950 to include the construction of the milking parlor, which was apparently built in the late 1940s. The Anderson-Doosing Farm is eligible at the local level of significance.

#### **Acknowledgements**

A number of individuals assisted the preparation and review of this nomination, foremost among them the owners of the property and the sponsors of the nomination, Jack McDonald III and Mary A. McDonald. Others who contributed to the project included Catawba Valley residents Marilyn R. Mink and Charles Aikens as well as Quatro Hubbard, Thomas Klatka, Jean McRae, Michael Pulice, Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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Roanoke County, Virginia

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

#### Historical Background

The original owner of the land on which the Anderson-Doosing Farm was later established was apparently William Sampson. On September 23, 1789, Sampson patented 675 acres “on the head waters of Catawba Creek a branch of James River and the head waters of the north fork of Roanoke.” The patent is described as being in Botetourt County, even though the headwaters of the North Fork of the Roanoke River were in Montgomery County at the time. William Sampson does not appear as a grantee in Montgomery County records; nevertheless, the description of the tract as extending into the Roanoke River drainage implies that the tract did encompass the Anderson-Doosing property, which is located near the James/Roanoke divide. Sampson presumably received the land as compensation for military service during the Revolutionary War. At the time, a regionally important road known as the “road up Catawba” and other names passed through the valley, presumably along the course of the present Blacksburg Road (State Route 785) where it passes the farm. In 1809, Sampson, then of Garrard County, Kentucky, sold 150 acres to Samuel Myers for £75. Myers in turn sold 152 acres to Joseph Anderson in 1814 for \$1,000. Anderson may have been the first owner to develop the property. He was listed as owning \$120 in buildings on his 152-acre parcel in 1820, a value that increased to \$150 in 1827. It seems likely that a log house that formerly stood across Blacksburg Road from the present farm, and known as the Jacob Doosing House after the mid-nineteenth-century owner, was Anderson’s residence and was built before 1820, presumably shortly after Anderson purchased the property in 1814. The \$30 increase in the value of buildings in 1827 may record the construction of the double-crib log bank barn (see architectural discussion below). Several whittle dates from the 1830s—the earliest 1830—strongly suggest construction of the barn by the end of 1830.<sup>1</sup>

Little is known about Anderson. Research by Terry Jay Anderson suggests he was descended from a Scotch-Irish branch of the family that settled in what is now Botetourt County in the early 1770s. The 1830 census lists him as the head of a household consisting of himself, aged 40 to 50; a woman of similar age, presumably his wife, Christina; a second, younger woman who may have been a daughter or servant; and five children and teenagers. In 1837 Joseph and Christina Anderson sold the farm to John C. Gish, who with his wife, Cassy, sold it to Jacob Doosing for \$1,800 in 1845. The 1845 deed described the tract as embracing 278 acres on both sides of Catawba Creek.<sup>2</sup>

Jacob Doosing (ca. 1788-1868) was listed as a Pennsylvania-born farmer in the 1850 census. That year his household included his wife, Rachel (b. ca. 1805), a girl named Ann M. Carper (b. ca. 1841), and a laborer named John Deeds (b. ca. 1829). In 1849 and 1852 Doosing served as justice of the Roanoke County Court. No indication that Doosing was a slaveowner has been uncovered, and in fact slaveholding was the rare exception in the Catawba Valley. The 1850 census listed only one

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

valley slaveholder: James McConkey, with seven slaves. Jacob Doosing valued his farm of ninety improved and 188 unimproved acres at \$2,500 in 1850. He kept small herds of horses, sheep, swine, milch cows, and other cattle. Farm production included crops of wheat, rye, oats, and corn as well as two hundred pounds of butter and one hundred pounds of cheese, the last item a relatively unusual product for Roanoke County farmers. Doosing's farm was valued at over \$4,000 in 1860. An 1864 map of Roanoke County suggests the Doosings lived in the former log house across the road from the present Anderson-Doosing Farm. The same map also suggests that the farm and the valley in which it sat had the basic character in 1864 that they have today, with the lower and more level land on either side of Catawba Creek cleared and the mountain slopes to north and south covered in woods. A Civil War-period tradition preserved by later owners, the McNeil family, states that the log cabin was built by two women during the war to serve as their dwelling. It later served as a wash house.<sup>3</sup>

An appraisal made after Jacob Doosing's death in 1868 suggests a much reduced farming operation from the antebellum period, with one horse (there were three in 1850), one cow (five in 1850), and four sheep (twenty-four in 1850). John Deeds, who presumably cared for the Doosings and their farm during their old age, rented the farm while the estate was being settled. The farm was sold to Jacob's nephew John W. Doosing in two transactions in 1870 and 1872. According to family tradition, some of it recorded in the 1920s, John Woods Doosing (1846-1917) enlisted in the Confederate army in 1864 and fought in seventeen engagements. He married Barbara Ellen Thomas (1850-1914) in 1871 and the couple raised four children. Family tradition records that "John was a quiet, reserved man and known throughout the county as a fair man when he served on juries." Like his uncle before him, John Doosing served the county in a local governing capacity. An 1880 business directory listed Doosing as one of the Catawba area's largest landholders, with 648 acres. (This figure is far more than the 278 acres given in deed and tax records of the era.) On his farm he operated a stone lime kiln which is now located on an adjacent parcel on the north side of Blacksburg Road.<sup>4</sup>

Land tax records suggest John W. Doosing did not come into full ownership of the farm until 1880. That year he was listed as the owner of 278 acres on which stood buildings valued at \$300. An explanatory note stated that the acreage has been assigned to Doosing from Ann Doosing, presumably one of Jacob Doosing's heirs. In 1882 Doosing sold off thirty-seven acres valued at \$274.54. The following year the value of buildings on Doosing's 241 acres increased from \$300 to \$1,100, a sizable jump that no doubt reflected the construction of the present farmhouse. The Doosing family referred to this house as the "New House," presumably to differentiate it from the early nineteenth-century log house that stood across the road, but possibly to differentiate it from the log cabin or another, unknown house. A person indirectly associated with the farm is John L. Daniel, whose name and the date 1864 are carved on the reused meat house door. A sixty-five year-old

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

African American farm laborer named John Daniel lived in the Catawba district of Roanoke County in 1880.<sup>5</sup>

In 1916 John W. Doosing sold the farm, which then contained 240 acres, to J. W. McNeil of Tazewell County. By the mid-twentieth century J. W.'s son Augustus Edward "Ed" McNeil (ca. 1905-1972) operated the farm. After Ed McNeil's death, his wife Katherine Morehead McNeil (d. 2004), a former school teacher, occupied the property. The McNeil family operated a small blacksmith shop in the original part of the equipment shed during the first half of the twentieth century. According to archaeologist Thomas Klatka, who has documented this shop and others in the Catawba Valley, "Use of the [McNeil] shop was confined to farrier tasks and the maintenance and repair of farm equipment and household items. Neighbors also used the shop for shoeing their horses." According to McNeil family tradition a blacksmith shop operated on the farm before 1916, possibly in the building that forms the core of the equipment shed. (The use of wire nails in the construction of that building suggests it was built within a decade or two before 1916.) There is architectural evidence that the log cabin that stands near the present blacksmith shop/equipment shed was also used as a blacksmith shop, presumably during the Doosing period. Both of these shops apparently operated as what Klatka terms farm shops, intended to serve primarily the needs of the farm on which they stood, as opposed to commercial shops such as that of Griffith John, which operated several miles to the west and produced wagons and carriages in addition to more basic ironware. Blacksmithing in the equipment shed shop ceased by the mid-1960s. By the end of the 1940s the McNeil family operated a modern dairy on the farm, building the milking parlor and silos to provide sanitary and efficient facilities. In 2007 the core portion of the farm was acquired by present owners Jack and Mary McDonald.<sup>6</sup>

### Architectural Discussion

The historic resources of the Anderson-Doosing Farm illustrate many themes in the architecture of the area and region. The barn—the largest building on the farm and its oldest dated building—features the double-crib log form that was standard among the larger barns built in the Catawba Valley during the nineteenth century. Over a dozen double-crib log barns survived to be documented in a 1990 survey of the valley. The form is defined by two log cribs of rectangular or approximately square plan joined under a single roof with an open drive-through or threshing floor between. Also common was the barn's bank siting, which permitted grade-level access to the hay mows on the upper level and the animal stalls below. Unlike most of the double-crib log barns of the valley, which can be only approximately dated, the barn on the Anderson-Doosing Farm can be dated to the late 1820s or 1830 using architectural and possibly documentary evidence. The architectural evidence is in the form of 1830s dates carved on the logs of the north

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

crib facing the drive-through. The earliest of these whittle dates is 1830; others are dated 1831 and 1835. Accompanying the dates are the carved initials AA, CA, and MA—possibly sons or young relations of Joseph Anderson, who owned the farm from 1814 to 1837. (The 1830 census recorded three males in the five to twenty age range in Anderson’s household.) Several of the As are carved in decorative fashion, and a C is expertly carved with a serif and modulated line weight. A 1937 WPA report noted an inscription that read “Cam A. June 7, 1831,” however this inscription has not been relocated. The documentary evidence for the construction of the barn is the increase of \$30 in the building valuation for the year 1827. Thirty dollars may seem like a small sum for such a large building, but considering that most of the materials were likely harvested on the place and construction labor donated, the amount could represent the barn.<sup>7</sup>

The barn incorporates a number of special features that provided it structural reinforcement or that appear to have been intended to do so. The hay mows were originally filled through large rectangular openings on each side of the center drive-through, into which a wagon could be driven, but rather than the customary single opening on each side there are two openings—one above the other—separated by two or two-and-a-half logs. The logs spanning between the upper and lower openings provide extra reinforcement for the cribs as well as additional enclosure for the heaped hay, without interfering with access to the mows. Double logs also span between the two cribs at their top corners, tying the whole barn together. The top plate logs that span between the cribs are especially massive square-hewn beams. Each plate is formed of two beams joined with a pegged scarf joint (technically, a “true scarf joint” with angled joint surfaces), and the scarf joints are staggered so that the one on the front of the barn occurs near the north crib and the one at the back near the south crib—another feature that helped rigidify the structure. Another notable feature is the grate-like floor of the south crib, with gaps between the rough log poles or split logs that ventilated the bottom of the hay pile (the north crib also presumably has such a floor, although hay hid it from view at the time of survey). Similar floors have been documented in the forebays of some of the valley’s single- and double-crib log barns. It is possible the feature also allowed livestock “self-serve” access to the hay from below. The haphazard appearance of the crib floor contrasts with the sturdy construction of the drive-through floor, which retains at least some original or early thick boards that are pegged to the joists—a floor construction technique documented in other Catawba Valley barns.<sup>8</sup>

Structural strength may also explain an unusual treatment of the tops of the cribs. At each of the inner four corners of the two cribs are short partial beams aligned with the inward-facing sides of the cribs. Three of the beams have two notches on their undersides and one has a single notch. The notches may have been points of attachment for beams extending across the drive-through, parallel to the spanning plate logs, that could have provided extra bracing. If so, the reason why the extra spanning beams were removed is a mystery. Perhaps they were felt to be unnecessary



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### **Statement of Significance (continued)**

and removed for use in another application, or perhaps they were removed because they interfered with the operation of the hay fork added to the barn in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A similar emphasis on the structural strength of corners is seen in the meat house, which has stout log sections pegged to the top three or four logs at each interior corner. The log sections do not appear to be associated with features such as the shelves and beams used to hold the cured meat, so their purpose must be structural, a way to compensate for the dead load placed on the structure by the hanging meat.

The meat house and cabin share a peculiar structural detail: the door and window jambs, which are pegged to the log ends as is common in log construction, are also pegged at their top corners with diagonal pegs. The advantage of this treatment is unclear. It does suggest, however, that the meat house and cabin were built at roughly the same time or by the same builder or team of builders. Another implication is that the meat house is antebellum, like the cabin, so why it stands behind a house built in the 1880s is difficult to explain. Perhaps it originally stood closer to the log cabin, or even across the road behind the former log house.

The farm's two blacksmith shops are in some ways representative of local blacksmith shops and in other ways different. Archaeologist Thomas Klatka, who has documented the blacksmith shops of the Catawba Valley, notes that the valley's shops utilize a range of wooden construction techniques, principally frame and log. The shops typically feature narrow horizontal windows that provided illumination for work benches or shelves placed directly below them and, in combination with the entry, ventilated the hot interior. Klatka adds, "The window openings were enclosed by a horizontal plank shutter mounted to the top of the opening with strap hinges. The shutters could be fully opened during good weather or partially opened during inclement weather. A partially opened shutter allowed illumination and ventilation of the shop interior and offered some protection from precipitation." Horizontal windows are prominent features of both buildings on the Anderson-Doosing Farm that were used as farm blacksmith shops. The equipment shed shop retains the hinged shutter seen in other shops, but the log cabin shop lacks such an exterior shutter. There are, however, two peg holes centered over the log cabin shop's horizontal window that may have been attachment points for a shutter. The log cabin shop's window appears to be an afterthought, a possibility that agrees with the tradition that the cabin was originally used as a dwelling. Of the equipment shed shop, Klatka notes the convenience of having the shop immediately accessible to the equipment and machinery needing repair. Klatka also comments on the existence of an open area inside the shed just outside the original shop entry, which he proposes is analogous to the covered outside work areas of earlier shops.<sup>9</sup>

The log building tradition that governed construction on the farm before the Civil War was superseded by frame construction afterward, as illustrated by the ca. 1883 John and Barbara

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

Ellen Doosing House. The house is typical of those built by the prosperous farmers of the valley and the region at large during the broad middle part of the nineteenth century: two stories in height, symmetrical, with a center-passage plan and classically-derived detail. In this event the detail is Greek Revival, a style that would have been out of fashion in more urban settings during the 1880s but that remained popular in rural areas of western Virginia for a decade or two after the Civil War. Interior treatments like the pilaster and frieze mantels, four-panel doors, and beveled trim are conventional, whereas the turned newel at the base of the stair has a more idiosyncratic character. The graining that survives on some doors—unfortunately marred by failure of the varnish in an extreme version of alligating—has a two-tone character that was common during the late nineteenth century, with darker tones mimicking walnut and boldly patterned golden tones meant to evoke plain and quarter-sawn oak grains.<sup>10</sup>

### Endnotes

1. Montgomery County tax records and Deed Book D, p. 656; Deed Book E, p. 460; Weaver, “Joseph Anderson Barn;” Weaver, “Jacob Doosing Home;” “Catawba Rural Historic District;” Hildebrand, “Historical Map of Montgomery County;” Virginia Land Office card catalog. The property was located in Montgomery County until Roanoke County was created in 1838.
2. Anderson, *Anderson and Hackney Genealogy*, 5, 143; U.S. census; Montgomery County Deed Book M, p. 337.
3. Mink, “Ancestors in the Catawba Valley;” U.S. census; Kagey, *When Past is Prologue*, 130, 705; “Catawba Rural Historic District;” Gilmer, “Map of Roanoke County;” Pezzoni, Crowther, and O’Dell, “Doosing-McNeil Farm.”
4. Mink, “Ancestors in the Catawba Valley;” Roanoke County common law and inventory/appraisement/sales records; Chataigne, *Chataigne’s Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 443.
5. Roanoke County tax records; McDonald and McDonald, “Doosing House;” U.S. census.
6. Jack McDonald, Mary McDonald, and Thomas Klatka personal communication; Roanoke County Deed Book 83, p. 110; Klatka and Kern, “Blacksmith Shops in Catawba,” 101-102, 146; McDonald and McDonald, “Doosing House;” *Roanoke Times*, May 10, 2004.
7. “Catawba Rural Historic District;” Weaver, “Joseph Anderson Barn.” A researcher has offered to date log buildings on the property using dendrochronology, but as of this writing (December

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### **Statement of Significance (continued)**

2008) has not followed through on the offer (McDonald and McDonald, "Doosing House").

8. "Catawba Rural Historic District."

9. Klatka and Kern, "Blacksmith Shops in Catawba," 108-109, 139-142.

10. "Catawba Rural Historic District."

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### **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated area are shown on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the approximately 25-acre nominated area correspond to the boundaries of the present property and encompass the historic resources currently associated with the property. The early nineteenth-century log house that was apparently the principal dwelling on the farm before the construction of the present farmhouse, the site of which is now located on a separate property, has been dismantled and placed in storage after collapsing in recent years, and its chimney and foundation as well as a lime kiln formerly associated with the Anderson-Doosing Farm are now located on a separate property.

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs are of:

#### **ANDERSON-DOOSING FARM**

Roanoke County, Virginia

DHR file no. 080-0009

J. Daniel Pezzoni, Photographer

Negatives are stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: Milking parlor on left, barn on right, and house beyond. View facing southeast.

NEG. NO. 24432.31

PHOTO 1 OF 6

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: Buildings with house prominent. View facing northwest.

NEG. NO. 24432.19

PHOTO 2 OF 6

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: Front (north) elevation of house. View facing southwest.

NEG. NO. 24432.24

PHOTO 3 OF 6

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: House stair, first floor.

NEG. NO. 24432.7

PHOTO 4 OF 6

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: Log cabin on left and equipment shed/blacksmith shop on right. View facing south.

NEG. NO. 24432.32

PHOTO 5 OF 6

DATE: December 2008

VIEW OF: South crib in barn.

NEG. NO. 24432.35

PHOTO 6 OF 6

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# Anderson-Doosing Farm

Roanoke County, Virginia, VDHR File No. 080-0009

Triangular markers indicate number and angle of view of nomination photos.  
Resources keyed to nomination inventory.

## Inventory

1. John and Barbara Doosing House. Ca. 1883. Contributing building.
2. Meat house. Early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
3. Log cabin. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
4. Equipment shed/blacksmith shop. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
5. Chicken house. First half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
6. Chicken house. First half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
7. Barn. Ca. 1830. Contributing building.
8. Privy. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.
9. Corn crib. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
10. Milking parlor. 1940s. Contributing building.
11. Utility building. Late 20<sup>th</sup> c. Noncontributing building.
12. Site 44RN0251. Prehistoric Noncontributing site.

Property Boundary

