

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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: Doe Creek Farm

Other names/site number: Hoge Brothers Farm; VDHR File No. 035-0018

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: 412 Doe Creek Farm Road

City or town: Pearisburg State: Virginia County: Giles

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official: _____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ Date _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

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

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY: cemetery

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: energy facility

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, METAL, CONCRETE, SYNTHETICS (Vinyl)

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Doe Creek Farm, located at 412 Doe Creek Farm Road in central Giles County, Virginia, is an extensive farm complex with historic resources dating from the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The farm centers on the Sam and Mollie Hoge House, a Greek Revival farmhouse built in 1883. The two-story frame house has vinyl siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a symmetrical three-bay façade dominated by a two-tier porch combining historic and modern elements. Inside the porch are elaborate molded panel treatments around the first and second-story entries. Other exterior features include a coursed-rubble limestone foundation, replacement windows, brick end chimneys (one original, one a replacement), and a two-story ell with an attached garage. The interior has a center-passage stair with turned detail; two and four panel doors, some with fluted surrounds; and Greek Revival mantels. Near the house stand historic resources including a half-dovetailed log smokehouse, a small frame honey house, and a 1908 concrete mounting block. Farm buildings include a late 1930s apple packing house of cinder block and board-and-batten construction; cinder block and frame barns; a scales house with Fairbanks Morse scales; and a cinder block tenant house. Two migrant houses were built in the 1980s and a modern residence was built in recent years. At the south end of the property is an

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

African American cemetery with numerous fieldstone grave markers, some with apparent nineteenth century obit dates. The farm has pastureland, a modern apple orchard, and wooded acreage and it encompasses spurs of Salt Pond Mountain. Elevations range from around 2,100 feet above sea level at the south end to over 3,000 feet on the mountainous northeast end, and there are numerous ridges and valleys. The farm is drained on the north side by Doe Creek, a tributary of the New River, and on the south side by branches of Sinking Creek, also a tributary of the New. The parcels encompassed by the nomination boundaries (30-4, 30-4A, 30-4B, 30-5D) and the cemetery total approximately 415 acres in area. A total of thirty historic and non-historic resources are inventoried. Contributing resources are those that were built or in existence during the period of significance (1883 to 1967) and which retain sufficient integrity. A possible exception is the two non-contributing transmission line towers, which may have been erected toward the end of the period of significance but which are not technically a part of the farming operation.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Sam and Mollie Hoge House. 1883; ca. 2010. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. 1880s. Contributing building.
3. Honey house. 1880s. Contributing building.
4. Chimney and shelter. 1880s; 20th c. Contributing structure.
5. Ice house ruin. Ca. 1900. Contributing site.
6. Water tank (concrete). Mid-20th c. Contributing structure.
7. Mounting block. 1908. Contributing object.
8. Machinery shed. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.
9. Water tank (metal). Ca. 2010. Non-contributing structure.
10. Apple packing house. Late 1930s; 2012. Contributing building.
11. Sheep barn. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
12. Bull barn. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
13. Scales house. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
14. Silo. Ca. 1970. Non-contributing structure.
15. Corncrib. Mid-20th c. Contributing structure.
16. Garage. Mid-20th c.; 1980s. Non-contributing building.
17. West hay barn. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
18. South hay barn. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
19. Tenant house. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
20. Tenant house outbuilding. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.
21. Foundation. Mid-20th c. Contributing site.
22. Cemetery. 19th-20th c. Contributing site.
23. Spring box. Mid-20th c. Contributing structure.
24. Orchard. Ca. 2010. Non-contributing site.
25. Hollopter House. Ca. 2013. Non-contributing building.

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

26. Migrant worker housing. 1980s. Non-contributing building.
27. Migrant worker housing. 1980s. Non-contributing building.
28. Migrant worker housing foundation. Ca. 1970. Non-contributing site.
29. Transmission line tower. 3rd quarter 20th century. Non-contributing structure.
30. Transmission line tower. 3rd quarter 20th century. Non-contributing structure.

Sam and Mollie Hoge House: Exterior

The two-tier porch, the dominant feature of the front of the Hoge House, has a pedimented gable containing an original round-arched window with a key block in the surround. The current rectangular-section columns, four on each tier, replace slender twentieth century classical columns which in turn replaced the original square posts. The pilasters from the original porch treatment survive against the house wall and are ornamented with molded caps. The porch balustrade is modern and the porch foundation, which evolved during the historic period but formerly had limestone stonework, is now covered with lattice.

The porch shelters elaborate wall treatments on both stories. The treatments feature tall molded panels that flank post-and-lintel-form entry surrounds. The surrounds have stack-molded pilaster caps and lintels, the latter with central projecting elements reminiscent of the center tablets of Federal and Federal/Greek Revival style mantels. On the first story the surround encloses an entry with sidelights and a transom, the historic glass replaced with decorative modern glass, and an early twentieth century wood and glass panel door with a decorative brass bell pull. The upper entry surround is similar but less elaborate, and the spaces that would have been occupied by the sidelights and transom have molded panels instead. The upper entry has a replacement modern door.

The replacement windows have a two-over-two pattern that evokes the original sash pattern. The peaked vinyl lintels evoke the original shallowly peaked lintels. The original brick chimney on the east gable end is constructed in stretcher bond and has stepped shoulders, white penciling, and a brick inscribed with the date 1883. The west chimney, which dates to the late twentieth century, has stretcher-bond brick construction or veneer. The rebuilt brick cap of a historic chimney projects from the ridge of the ell roof. A one-story gabled porch, possibly added in the second quarter of the twentieth century, covers a secondary entry beside the east chimney. The two-story ell appears to be integral to the house. It has a one-story shed-roofed extension on the end that appears in a 1951 photo, and a shed-roofed attached garage on the east side that extends or replaces a shed wing and porch.

Sam and Mollie Hoge House: Interior

Plaster on lath walls and ceilings and wood floors are typical throughout the interior (the laths are circular-sawn and are attached with cut nails). The front entry opens into a center passage containing a stair with turned balusters and a bulbous turned newel at the foot. Slender turned newels make the turn at the top of the stair. The front entry sidelights have unusual hinged inner sidelights, perhaps a weatherizing treatment (the treatment is historic although the hinges are

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

modern replacements). The room to the left of the passage is the parlor, which features a Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantel decorated by narrow applied panels with pointed tops (on the pilasters) and ends (on the frieze). The room's doorway and windows have fluted surrounds with molded lintels (other door and window surrounds in the house are similar although they lack fluting). There are paneled aprons under the windows. The parlor has a modern raised brick hearth and brick fireplace surround and the room is heated and cooled by a chase that wraps around the walls at ceiling level. Similar chases wrap around the walls of the opposite first-floor room, which has no connection to the center passage, and the dining room in the ell.

The other first-floor front room has a Craftsman brick mantel with a bricked-up fireplace openings and a tile hearth. This room was entered from the secondary entry and porch on the east end of the house and did not connect to the center passage; this and the Craftsman mantel suggest it was reworked in the second quarter of the twentieth century to serve a new function such as an apartment or farm office, although there is no family tradition of such a use. The dining room has a simple Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantel (as do the two front upstairs rooms) flanked by decorative doorways. The right doorway was converted from a built-in china cabinet in recent years, and the left doorway, which was formerly a door to the kitchen at the end of the ell, has been converted to a furnace alcove and has double-leaf swinging doors. The kitchen has modern finishes. The room above the kitchen, formerly accessed by an exterior stair, was occupied by a servant. In the room, revealed by the removal of lath and plaster, is a chimney constructed of limestone and brick. The chimney's corners are formed of limestone blocks and the space between the corners is brick (at least on the visible part). This unusual construction technique, which would not have been visible historically, may have served to economize on bricks (the first-floor part of the chimney appears to be entirely brick). The attic, reached by a stair with a grained two-panel door in the second-floor center passage, has common rafters butted at the ridge. The house does not have a cellar.

Other Resources

Near the house stand several outbuildings and structures of primarily domestic function. The half-dovetailed log **smokehouse** is large for its type. Its logs are circular-sawn rather than hewn, although the beams that span its interior, from which meat was hung, are all or mostly hewn. Cut nails are observed in construction contexts such as the affixing of the door frame to the log ends, which suggests the smokehouse dates to the same decade as the house (1880s). Other features include frame sheds with vertical board siding across the back and a side (the back shed was in existence by 1951); a historic-period gable roof with butted rafters and modern metal roofing; a concrete floor; a batten door; and weatherboard gable sheathing. Loose sapling poles for hanging the meat lie on the hewn beams.

The **honey house** is a small frame building with board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The interior is lined with modern particle board, however nail patterns on the exterior suggest the building is boxed construction with corner posts between which span horizontal girts at about four-foot level. The siding boards are nailed to these girts with cut nails, suggesting the outbuilding dates to the same decade as the house (1880s). Some siding boards are replacements,

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

as are the battens which are attached with wire nails. The building's three windows (one one-pane, one two-pane, and one six-pane) are also constructed with wire nails and appear to date to the second quarter of the twentieth century. The windows may have been added when the building was converted to a honey house for processing honey and storing beekeeping equipment (bee pollination is essential for successful apple cultivation). Other features include a z-braced batten door; a diamond-shaped vent in the front gable; and creosoted exterior finish (possibly whitewash or white paint earlier). It is possible the honey house was moved to its current location from another close by in the yard.

The **chimney and shelter** consist of the brick chimney of a former detached kitchen to which was added a car port in the late twentieth century. The chimney is constructed of handmade bricks laid in stretcher bond with random headers, and it and the one-story, gable-roofed kitchen it served were presumably built about the same time as the house (1880s). The fireplace opening has an iron lintel and a partial backing of yellowish fire-resistant bricks that may have been inserted after the chimney was built. Other features of the chimney include stepped shoulders and a concrete hearth. The car port portion, which now serves to shelter a utility vehicle, has a gable roof, log posts, and a concrete floor.

The **water tank** behind the smokehouse is a poured concrete basin of rectangular form, formerly with a lid. The tank was used to mix water and pesticides for spraying orchard trees. The **icehouse** was a small structure with a cellar-like form which utilized ambient soil temperature to insulate the ice. The pit and collapsed limestone rubble walls of the icehouse are all that are evident. Ice for the icehouse was cut on nearby Mountain Lake. The molded concrete **mounting block** was used for mounting horses, horse-drawn conveyances, and/or automobiles. The block, which has molded overhangs on the platform and steps, stands at the foot of the walk in front of the house. Inscribed on a corner at the top is the name Hoge and what appears to be the date 1908.

Just beyond the front west corner of the front yard are a modern shed-roofed **machinery shed** and a metal **water tank** that, although it may have been made during the historic period, was moved to the farm in recent years for watering the new orchard and will be removed from the farm at a future date. The **apple packing house** is a large building of cinder block and frame construction. Its front-gambrel roof has modern metal roofing and its frame walls are clad with historic-period and modern board and batten siding. Original nine-pane awning windows have been replaced with modern window sashes; a loading dock on the south side has been made into a porch, accessed from added glass-panel doors; and an original front porch and apple reception dock which was upgraded in a 2012 renovation. On the porch stands a Chicago Scale Company scale with a blue finish and painting or decal portraying a globe, bald eagle, flags, and laurel wreath. A dining deck extends on the north side at basement level. The building has three levels: a basement-level cold storage room, lined on the interior with sheets of foam insulation (believed to date before 1978); a main level, the grading room, which was refinished in recent years as a wedding reception venue; and a box storage loft with exposed roof structure. In a front corner of the main level is the original stamp room, a board and wire mesh-enclosed office dominated by a nailboard on which are hung the stamps used to identify apple varieties (York, Red Stayman, US

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Fancy, and so forth) with the names stamped on the wood. Also in the room is a sign reading “Please no talking to the graders and packers” (relocated from elsewhere on the main floor) and a 1940 calendar printed for the Riverside Manufacturing Company of Murfreesboro, North Carolina. The rest of the main level has modern finishes such as wood floors, panel-board ceilings (the ceiling structure was originally exposed), and cased posts. The box storage loft, which is reached by an enclosed corner stair in the stamp room, has box-making equipment and piles of old apple boxes. An elevator was added to the building around 1980 but since removed and the cut in the floor of the box loft floored over. A shed somehow related to the function of the packing house formerly stood off the building’s west end.

The main farm building complex is located to the east of the house. The largest building in the complex is the **sheep barn**, a cinder block building with a metal-sheathed front-gambrel roof. At the front (south) end of the roof is a pointed hay bonnet over large hay mow doors. A hay rail projects under the bonnet (the hay fork still hangs inside). At the north end of the roof is a vent made by laying the blocks on their sides so that their hollow interiors allow air to flow through them. Other exterior features include a poured concrete foundation; an integral one-story rear shed wing; and several infilled and replacement doors. The main level has a center line of posts which are reused hewn timbers from a log building. Similar in form and construction is the **bull barn** which stands downslope to the south of the sheep barn. The bull barn has cinder block walls, a metal-sheathed front-gambrel roof, a pointed hay bonnet, and a block-lattice vent, but unlike the sheep barn it retains sliding doors on its front (north) end.

Between the two barns stands the **scales house**, a one-story frame building with vertical board siding, a metal-sheathed front gable roof, and a block foundation. The building is open at its two ends. Cattle were driven into the east end, weighed on the scales inside, and then backed out or driven through the west end across a small loading dock and onto a truck for shipment. A narrow shed extension on the side of the building contains the scales mechanism and a wall-mounted cabinet and shelf for tools and supplies. The scales mechanism is enclosed in a tall beaded tongue-and-groove cabinet stenciled “Fairbanks Scale, Fairbanks Morse & Co., Baltimore.” On the end of the cabinet is the stenciled name Fairbanks and a painted or decal depiction of a globe with a ribbon wrapped around it. On each side of the scales platform in the main part of the building are tall board railings which kept cattle from damaging the scales mechanism on one side and the exposed structure of the building on the other. The railings are painted with the date 1958 and are carved with rows of tick marks. Also between the two barns stands a concrete stave **silo** with a domical metal roof. On the silo is a sign for the Brandon Silo Company of Richmond, Virginia. The sign has a ca. 1970 appearance (the company may have been formed in the late 1960s). A Belt Utility Elevator manufactured by the Belt Corporation of Orient, Ohio, extends to the side.

Near the bull barn stands a **corncrib** of conventional slatted frame construction. The corncrib has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, poured concrete footers, and floor beams made from heavy timbers from a disassembled building (one beam still has a treenail projecting from it). Next to the corncrib is a **garage** built in two phases: a mid-twentieth century original section at the east end and a long 1980s section on the west end. The original section is a cinder block building

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

with a metal-sheathed front gable roof and novelty weatherboard sheathing in the gable. The building was constructed of three batches of cinder blocks, the roughest ones forming stepped corner patterns. The long addition has walls and a side-gable roof with metal sheathing. Off the end of it stand two mid-twentieth century gas pumps.

Other farm-related buildings have more peripheral locations. In the western part of the nominated area stands the **west hay barn**, a long frame building with vertical board siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. Similar in form and construction, although not as large, is the **south hay barn**. Both barns have cattle feeding troughs running down the center lines of their main levels with hay mows above. Differences include a split-level hay mow in the south hay barn and partial metal siding on the west hay barn. South of the south hay barn stands a **tenant house**, a one-story dwelling of cinder block construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, brick stove flue, six-over-six windows, a shed-roofed front entry porch, and a rear shed wing (possibly an enclosed porch) with modern siding. The interior features four rooms arranged around the central stove flue, and the walls and ceiling have partially completed modern gypsum board finishes. Behind is the **tenant house outbuilding**, a shed-roofed frame building with vertical board siding. The building may have functioned as a chicken house and/or privy. To the north and east of the tenant house is a concrete **foundation**, most likely of a former barn. A low shed-roofed cinder block wing is the only standing portion of the building to which the foundation belonged.

On the southern edge of the nominated area is a **cemetery**. The cemetery is wooded (the woods are the tip of woods that continue up a mountain slope to the east) and is bounded on its south edge by a field-clearing stone wall. Approximately twenty to thirty fieldstone grave markers have been observed in the cemetery, although there are likely more hidden under brush and fallen trees. The markers are a mix of limestone and sandstone stones, some fairly large and tabular, others as small as a common brick. Two inscribed markers were observed, although there are reported to be others (the unusual characteristics of the inscribed markers are described in section 8). The markers form north-south rows. In historic times the cemetery may have been bounded on its east side by a farm lane. At the eastern edge of the nominated area, high on a mountainside, is the **spring box**, a poured concrete enclosure with a segmentally vaulted concrete roof and a heavy iron hatch. A black rubber waterline runs from the spring box down a swale toward the main farm buildings. Tanks are located near the spring box.

Several of the slopes around the main farm buildings were historically planted with apple trees. The trees, having aged out, were removed in recent decades, although there are traces of them in furrows and depressions in the pastures that occupy the location of the former orchards. A new apple **orchard** was planted to the south of the house within the past decade. On a ridge near the northwest end of the nominated area is the modern **Hollopter House**, a two-story frame residence with a gambrel-roofed barn form, a tower, and an attached garage. On the winding driveway that connects the main farm buildings to Doe Creek Road are two buildings used for **migrant worker housing**. The one-story frame buildings have asphalt-shingled gable roofs and vinyl siding. The buildings are currently used by Doe Creek Kennels. Near them lies a poured concrete **migrant worker housing foundation** with a stepped or terraced appearance. The

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

housing that stood on the foundation may have been built in the late 1960s or early 1970s when the farm began using Mexican migrant labor. Two or more tenant houses likely stood in the vicinity of the migrant worker housing in the mid-twentieth century, and it is possible the foundation represents evidence of one of these houses. Two steel **transmission line towers** stand within the nominated area. According to one of the current property owners, the towers were standing when she became familiar with the property in the late 1970s. The towers presumably date to between 1950 and the late 1970s.

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

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

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1883-1967

Significant Dates

1883

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

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.)

Doe Creek Farm, located on the flanks of Salt Pond Mountain in Giles County, Virginia, is a commercial apple orchard and stock farm established in 1883. The farm centers on the 1883 Greek Revival farmhouse of Samuel Sayers Hoge Sr. and Mollie Price Hoge, a two-story frame house with elaborate paneled entry surrounds. Near the house stand a large half-dovetailed log smokehouse, a molded concrete mounting block, and a board-and-batten honey house. The latter, used in beekeeping, relates to the farm's twentieth century specialization of apple production. Samuel and Mollie's sons—Samuel Sayers Jr., Joseph Haven Jr., and Dr. Albert Hammond Hoge—expanded an existing focus on apple production in the 1920s and by the eve of World War II had built the farm's large apple packing house. Hoge Brothers, as the family business was known, also engaged in sheep and cattle production and built multiple gambrel-roofed stock and hay barns by the early 1950s. Also on the farm are a historic-period corncrib, scales house, tenant house, and African American cemetery. Doe Creek Farm, as the farm is known today, continues in use for apple production and is also operated as a wedding and event venue. Doe Creek Farm is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the Agriculture and Architecture areas of significance for the period 1883 through 1967. The cemetery was probably begun before 1883, but since no legible obit dates from 1883 or earlier have been identified, an earlier begin date for the period of significance is not proposed. The period of significance ends with the traditional fifty-year cutoff for properties where significant activities have continued into the more recent past.

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

Agricultural History

The Hoge family of Giles County is a branch of the prominent colonial-era Virginia Hoges. Joseph Haven Hoge settled in Giles in the 1840s and erected a Greek Revival brick mansion near Doe Creek Farm (this house, known as Wheatland, is gone). Joseph's son Samuel Sayers Hoge Sr. (1856-1927) married Mollie R. Price (ca. 1861-1950) in 1882 and the couple began the development of Doe Creek Farm on the hillsides above the antebellum plantation, building a Greek Revival frame farmhouse in 1883. An 1890s photograph shows the house with Sam, Mollie, and their children in the front yard. Samuel and Mollie's great-grandson Charles Hoge recalls that the plantation from which Doe Creek Farm was formed was worked with slave labor and that freed slaves and their descendants lived on and near Doe Creek Farm in the 1940s. One was Thornton Parks, who is thought to have been born a slave on the farm and who lived in a house across Doe Creek Road from the current property. There is a tradition that during the era of Jim Crow one of the Hoges wanted to make Thornton foreman of the farm but feared opposition from the white community. Although Thornton did not have the official title of foreman, he was relied upon by the Hoge family and was the de facto leader of the family's

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

African American tenants and workers up into the 1940s. The family also employed local whites as farm workers.¹

Sam Sr. and Mollie's children included three sons who became active in the management of the farm in the early twentieth century. These were Joseph Haven Hoge Jr. (1884-1952), Albert Hammond Hoge (1885-1943), and Samuel Sayers Hoge Jr. (1892-1962). As young men the three sons developed connections with the city of Bluefield, West Virginia. Joseph, who attended Roanoke College, incorporated the Bluefield Produce and Provision Company in 1904. Joseph was described as a "wholesale commission merchant" in a 1913 West Virginia history, and his grandson Charles Hoge recalls that his company distributed food from Delmonte, Kraft, and other corporations to communities in southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia. Albert, who graduated from Richmond's University College of Medicine in 1908, commenced the practice of medicine in Bluefield in 1909 and co-founded the city's St. Luke's Hospital. Samuel served on the board of directors of Bluefield Supply, although unlike his two older brothers he did not make his home in Bluefield but lived instead in his native Giles County (in Pearisburg). An early indication of the sons' role in the operation of the farm is a 1923 deed in which Sam Sr. and Mollie sold them thirty-five acres. The acreage, which appears to have been in the southern part of the current property, had on it an orchard "recently planted" by the sons. The deed also refers to an "old orchard," lending support to a tradition that the first orchard was planted on the farm in the 1890s.²

Sam Sr. died in 1927. According to family genealogists Kathryn Hoge McClaugherty and Byrd Hoge Bryan, daughters of Sam Jr., "Sam [Jr.], Joe, and Albert bought the interests in the family farm and established Hoge Brothers, a large and widely respected livestock and apple orchard operation. The apples from this orchard were famed for high quality and sought by buyers throughout the East and South." The brothers' connections with the produce and supply businesses presumably positioned them to go into commercial apple production.³

According to period statistics, at the turn of the twentieth century Giles County led the counties of its region (the mountainous counties of Southwest Virginia) in apple production, although production was small compared to apple-growing powerhouses like Albemarle and Frederick counties. A 1927 economic survey of the county noted: "Fruit growing is rapidly reaching a position of more importance to the farmers all over the county. In the past farmers who engaged in fruit growing did so mainly as a side issue but now many large farms have been taken up almost entirely with orchards." Hoge Brothers was a part of this development.⁴

Aerial photographs taken for the US Department of Agriculture from the 1930s to the 1960s provide detailed information on the evolution of the Doe Creek Farm orchards. The earliest photo, dated 1937, shows two main concentrations of orchard trees representing as many as six discrete plantings. The largest trees were located on the north-facing slope behind and to the west of the farmhouse; these may have constituted the 1890s orchard. The rows are irregular, with unequal-sized or missing trees that may have been the result of die-off and selected replacement. A larger orchard extended from the vicinity of the packing house (which is not shown in the view) to the current property's southern tip. The trees in the eastern part of this orchard area were

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

more regular and relatively large; they may have represented the “recent” planting described in the 1923 deed. The trees in the western part of this area are smaller and presumably later. Another large orchard covered the south-facing hillside to the north of the farmhouse (the modern Hollopter House stands near the west end of this area). The trees here were uniform and small, suggesting they were planted not long before the photo was taken, possibly in two plantings (or two varieties of trees that create a different appearance in the photo). Last was a small orchard behind and downslope from the smokehouse. This orchard may have been fenced in and its fruit may have been for family use. It may have been planted with fruit trees that were not apple trees.⁵

The 1937 aerial shows the farmhouse and smokehouse but all of the farm buildings shown in the view—with the possible exception of the corncrib—are now gone. Several barns stood to the east of the farmhouse in the general vicinity of the current barn complex (they may have included the cattle barn mentioned in the 1923 deed). The largest building on the farm stood in the property’s south end, just north of the cemetery. It appears in the photo as a multi-component structure with higher and lower sections, possibly a two-story gabled section with one or more one-story shed wings. Farm lanes extended from the building across a pasture to the large orchard at the south end of the property. This may have been the original packing house, perhaps built in the early 1920s with the first major orchard expansion. The building’s position at the south end of the farm and at a lower elevation may have made it more convenient to the road that connected the east and central parts of the county (roughly corresponding to current US 460) and also possibly to seasonal workers. What appears to be a road or lane runs southward from the building, past the cemetery and into the earlier Hoge plantation. The building had been demolished by the date of the next aerial in 1953.⁶

The 1953 aerial shows currently extant farm buildings such as the packing house, the two cinder block barns, the scales house, and the two peripheral hay barns. Land book records provide a rough index of construction between 1937 and 1953. In 1939 the value of buildings on the farm jumped from \$1,400 to \$2,800, an increase that probably reflected construction of the cinder block packing house and possibly other buildings. The value jumped again in 1947, to \$3,260, and again to \$3,560 by 1950. The 1939 increase was accompanied by the marginal note “Equalization Board” and the 1947 increase first appeared in a reassessment book, suggesting the improvements may have been made some years before the two dates (although not before 1937). Nevertheless, the preponderance of evidence points to two main phases of construction: the late 1930s and the years immediately following World War II. It may be that the war interrupted what was planned to be a single phase of construction. The area planted in orchard in 1937 was virtually the same in 1953, although trees that were young in 1937 had matured. A 1968 aerial shows an extension of the south orchard but otherwise shows few major changes to the farm.⁷

The nineteenth-century frame outbuilding in the back yard of the farmhouse may have been converted to its current function as a honey house during the period, perhaps in the 1930s or 40s as suggested by the construction of its added windows. Charles Hoge recalls the operation of the apple packing house during the 1940s and early 1950s period when he was well acquainted with it during family visits and as a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the nearby town of

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Blacksburg. Apples were received at the porch on the east end and placed in a water trough with brushes for cleaning off pesticides. The fruit proceeded to conveyor belts for grading into four or five grades based on size. The smallest apples, the “culls,” were sold for apple butter. The next larger apples, called “bag apples,” were bagged in three-pound bags. The largest apples were boxed.⁸

Charles Hoge recalls that Hoge Brothers received advice from specialists at Virginia Polytechnic Institute on the application of fertilizers and pesticides. The farm was noted for the sweetness of its apples, which was attributed to the farm’s limestone soils. Fertilizer use is documented by a 1951 Virginia Cooperative Extension photograph of a spray rig on the farm. The rig is portrayed hitched to two workhorses (Hoge recalls four or five workhorses were stabled on the farm at any given time). Also shown in the view is part of the large cinder block barn known as the sheep barn. Hoge recalls that a barn burned on the farm during World War II and was replaced, possibly by this barn. A 1952 inventory of the farm listed six barns, a count that probably included surviving buildings such as the sheep barn, the other large cinder block barn known as the bull barn, and the two frame hay and stock feeding barns. The inventory listed 167 cattle of various types (cows, bulls, heifers, and so forth) and 105 ewes. Sheep raising had grown in importance by 1962 when another inventory counted 180 ewes. Corn was grown on the place, as evidenced by the corncrib, but the family was not impressed by the property’s suitability for crop cultivation. One family member called the farm a “damn rock garden.”⁹

Doe Creek Farm underwent a number of important changes in the 1930s and 1940s. Appalachian Electric Power built a transmission line through the property in 1937 and provided the family free use of electricity. The arrangement may have been a factor in the construction of the modern packing house, which ran on electricity. (Earlier, in 1931, the family had granted an easement to the Lake Hotel Corporation for running electric, telephone, and telegraph lines to the Mountain Lake resort.) World War II and the economic changes that followed placed pressures on the farm’s labor supply. Men left the farm to enter the service or work in war industries. After the war, local plants like Celanese drew labor away, and Charles Hoge states that Celanese virtually “killed picking apples.” The farm’s surviving cinder block tenant house dates to this period and may have been built to attract and keep tenant labor. The tenant house is likely one of the six tenant houses enumerated in the 1952 inventory (at least some of the other tenant houses, which are now gone, were cinder block). One inducement Hoge Brothers offered to its pickers was the right to harvest all apples from the trees at the edges of the orchard for their own use. Toward the end of the Hoge family’s operation in the 1970s the family turned to Mexican migrant labor to replace the dwindling supply of local pickers. Migrant housing was built in the swale near the two surviving 1980s migrant houses, but Charles Hoge recalls the housing was torn down because it did not comply with federal regulations. Hoge recalls that the main farmhouse was occupied by the foremen and their families during the 1940s and 1950s. These families were the Taylors and (in the early 1950s) the Whites. A Mr. Clarkson may have been the foreman earlier.¹⁰

In his 1948 will, Joseph H. Hoge Jr. stated, “It has been the source of much interest and no little family pride to work with my brothers on the old home place in Giles County, Virginia, in

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

developing an orchard business under the firm name, 'Hoge Brothers.'" Joseph's brother Sam, by virtue of his residence in the county, was responsible for day-to-day operation of the farm for Hoge Brothers. Upon Sam's death in 1962 his wife, Evelyn Meyrick Byrd Hoge, took over operations with her nephew William E. Hoge. Evelyn, who attended Agnes Scott College, served a number of positions in community affairs, on the Red Cross and Ration Board during World War II and as a charter member and president of the Pearisburg Woman's Club. Doe Creek Farm was acquired by William and Rosemary Freeman in 1978 and is now managed by their daughter, Georgia Haverty. The farm remains an apple orchard, watered by the same mountain spring used during the historic period, and in recent years has added wedding hosting and pick-your-own apple harvesting to its activities. The farm was featured in the September 19, 1979, issue of the *Virginia-Leader* which noted that the orchard's apples were marketed at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.¹¹

Architectural Discussion

Doe Creek Farm's 1883 farmhouse relates stylistically to similar late Greek Revival houses in the adjacent Greater Newport Rural Historic District. The chief similarity is the house's elaborate Federal/Greek Revival-inspired entry surrounds. An 1890s photograph of the house provides detailed information on its early appearance (Figure 1). The photo, though black and white, shows that the house was painted at least three colors: the weatherboards a light tone, probably white; the porch posts and house trim a dark color; and the caps on the corner boards and perhaps other elements an intermediate hue. Lacy sawn balustrades connected the porch posts. An hourglass or diamond pattern bordered the first and second-story entries. The pattern may have been painted (on the transom and sidelight panes on the first story; on the panels on the second story) although on the first story it may have been created by gathered fabric on the inside of the glass. The arched window in the porch gable had a similar hourglass treatment, either painted for fabric. Fences with lattice panels or gates extended from each chimney, presumably to enclose and protect the front yard which was planted with ornamental shrubs. A sunken walk, not paved but part of the lawn, extended from the front porch steps (in the twentieth century a double row of boxwoods defined the walk). The angle of view is too limited to show the smokehouse although it appears to show another outbuilding (one story high, gabled, possibly weatherboard-sided) which would have stood near it.

The farm's smokehouse combines the tight-fitting half-dovetail log construction that was common for such buildings during the nineteenth century with the use of circular-sawn logs, a reflection of the local availability of such material by the end of the nineteenth century when railroads and industrial-scale lumbering operations began to penetrate the region. The surviving agricultural buildings are normative for their period of construction, which evidence suggests was during the period 1937 to 1953. The hay and stock barns have the gambrel roof form which replaced the traditional gable form regionally during the first half of the twentieth century (the pre-existing barns shown on the 1937 aerial appear to have had gable roofs). A factor in the nationwide popularization of the gambrel barn form was the adoption of hay forks for the efficient loading and unloading of hay mows, and it so happens Doe Creek Farm's largest barn,

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

the sheep barn, has a hay fork system (the bull barn may also have or have had a hay fork and rail).¹²

The apple packing house also has a gambrel roof, in keeping with period aesthetics but also to provide capacious unobstructed storage space for boxes and box-working machinery. The packing house represents an early use of cinder block, a material that was just coming into use regionally at the end of the 1930s (it is possible the cinder block sheep and bull barns also date to the late 1930s). The Doe Creek Farm apple packing house is broadly similar to such buildings documented in a recent farm survey of Bedford County. The Bedford examples are also long buildings with box storage lofts. The use of gambrel roofs for the packing house and barns creates a harmonious architectural appearance.¹³

The Doe Creek Farm cemetery is probably the oldest historic resource on the property. It appears to have originated as a slave cemetery associated with the pre-existing Hoge plantation to the south of Doe Creek Farm. It may originally have occupied the edge of the woods on the north side of the Hoge plantation's cleared land. This is suggested by the stone wall that defines the south edge of the cemetery, which appears to be a field-clearing pile. The cemetery likely continued in use through the end of the nineteenth century and possibly into the twentieth, as was common for rural African American cemeteries in the region, and as may be suggested by a possible 1899 (or 1879) obit date on one of two observed inscribed tombstones. The two stones (which will be called the GW and GO stones owing to initial-like letters in their inscriptions) have unusual characteristics. Both have rounded tops, and the GW stone also has a scored border which crosses the stone below the inscription to create an arched inscription panel. The rounded area at the top of each stone has a jumble of letters. On the GO stone the letters appear to be G, G, and GO, with the first G crudely pecked and apparently abandoned by the carver. The GW stone has or appears to have the letters and numbers GW, C, 8, and AB. The (completed) letters on both stones are carefully formed. Several letters have serifs and the W in GW is created by intertwined Vs. Below the letter jumbles are lines of intermittently legible inscription including the word "deceased" on the GO stone and a possible date: May 29, 1899 (or 1879). The similarities between the stones suggest they were carved by the same anonymous, semi-literate carver, perhaps a tenant on the adjacent Hoge farm or on Doe Creek Farm, who emulated the inscription techniques and arched forms of professionally carved tombstones of the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Other inscribed tombstones are reported for the cemetery, including a stone with upside-down As in the inscription and a stone for a five-year-old child.¹⁴

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State



Figure 1. 1890s Photograph of the Primary Dwelling at Doe Creek Farm

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Endnotes

- ¹ Charles Hoge personal communication; McClaugherty and Bryan, "Hoge," 268.
- ² Charles Hoge personal communication; Callahan, *History of West Virginia*, 591; Miller and Maxwell, *West Virginia and Its People*, 1230; Giles County Deed Book 40, p. 90.
- ³ McClaugherty and Bryan, "Hoge," 268.
- ⁴ Alwood, *Orchard Technique*, 115; Snidow and McComas, *Economic and Social Survey of Giles County*, 483.
- ⁵ Giles County aerial photos (1937 flight 12 photo 2071).
- ⁶ Giles County aerial photos (1937 flight 12 photo 2071 and 1953 flight 14 7L-71 [November 2, 1953]).
- ⁷ Giles County aerial photos (1953 flight 14 7L-71 [November 2, 1953] and "1967" flight 18 ERY 17 50 [June 14, 1968]); Giles County land books.
- ⁸ Charles Hoge personal communication; Giles County Deed Book 40, p. 90. Owner Georgia Haverty believes there is a photograph of the apple packing house dated 1937, and Charles Hoge believes it was standing at the time of his earliest firm memory of the farm as a seven-year-old in 1939.
- ⁹ Charles Hoge personal communication; Giles County Deed Book 11, p. 70, and Deed Book 14, p. 269; "Giles Co., VA, spray rig on Hoge farm."
- ¹⁰ Charles Hoge personal communication; Giles County Deed Book 153, p. 857.
- ¹¹ Georgia Haverty personal communication; Giles County Deed Book 153, p. 857; *Roanoke Times and World News*, November 3, 1971; *Virginia-Leader*, September 19, 1979.
- ¹² Pezzoni, "Bedford County Farm Survey Report," 11.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, 30-31.
- ¹⁴ Georgia Haverty personal communication.

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Blacksburg: Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, 1899.

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Conservation Service Office, Christiansburg, Virginia. (Note: the photos in the
overflight folders dated 1967 are stamped with 1968 dates.)

Giles County deed, land book (tax), plat, and will records. Giles County Courthouse,
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"Giles Co., VA, spray rig on Hoge farm." Photograph (1951) in Virginia Cooperative
Extension Record Group 26/2. Online at Virginia Tech Image Base
(https://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/view_record.php?URN=AGR3131&mode=popup),
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Haverty, Georgia. Personal communication with the author, August and November 2016.

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History-Families*. Giles County, Va.: Giles County Historical Society, 1982.

Miller, Thomas Condit, and Hu Maxwell. *West Virginia and Its People*. New York: Lewis
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Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "Bedford County Farm Survey Report." Prepared for the Virginia
Department of Historic Resources by Landmark Preservation Associates, 2014.

Roanoke Times and World News (Roanoke, Va.).

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Snidow, Francis A., and F. W. McComas Jr. *An Economic and Social Survey of Giles County.*
University of Virginia Record Extension Series 11:8 (February 1927).

Virginia-Leader (Pearisburg-Narrows, Va.).

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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR File No. 035-0018

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 415 acres

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: 37.329780 | Longitude: -80.590310 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.336370 | Longitude: -80.575200 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.334360 | Longitude: -80.559750 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.322990 | Longitude: -80.576230 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.321970 | Longitude: -80.580870 |

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The boundary encompasses Giles County tax parcels 30-4, 30-4A, 30-4B, 30-5D, and a small cemetery at the southern edge of 30-4. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Sketch Map/Photo Key.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the historic farm's core and peripheral historic resources and associated farm acreage during the period of significance, and captures the property's historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: VA zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: December 1, 2016

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.)

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

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: Doe Creek Farm
City or Vicinity: Pearisburg vicinity
County: Giles State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni
Date Photographed: August and November 2016

1 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0001
View: Sam and Mollie Hoge House front (south) elevation with honey house beyond, view facing northwest. November 2016.

2 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0002
View: Smokehouse, view facing north. August 2016.

3 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0003
View: Apple packing house, view facing northwest. August 2016.

4 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0004
View: Sheep barn (left), silo (center), and bull barn (right), view facing north. November 2016.

5 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0005
View: The "GO" tombstone in the cemetery, view facing east. November 2016.

6 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0006
View: Tenant house with outbuilding behind, view facing northeast. November 2016.

7 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0007
View: Spring box, view facing northeast. November 2016.

8 of 8: VA_GilesCounty_DoeCreekFarm_0008
View: Access road with the migrant worker housing foundation to left and the two migrant worker houses to right, view facing northeast. November 2016.

Doe Creek Farm
Name of Property

Giles County, Virginia
County and State

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.

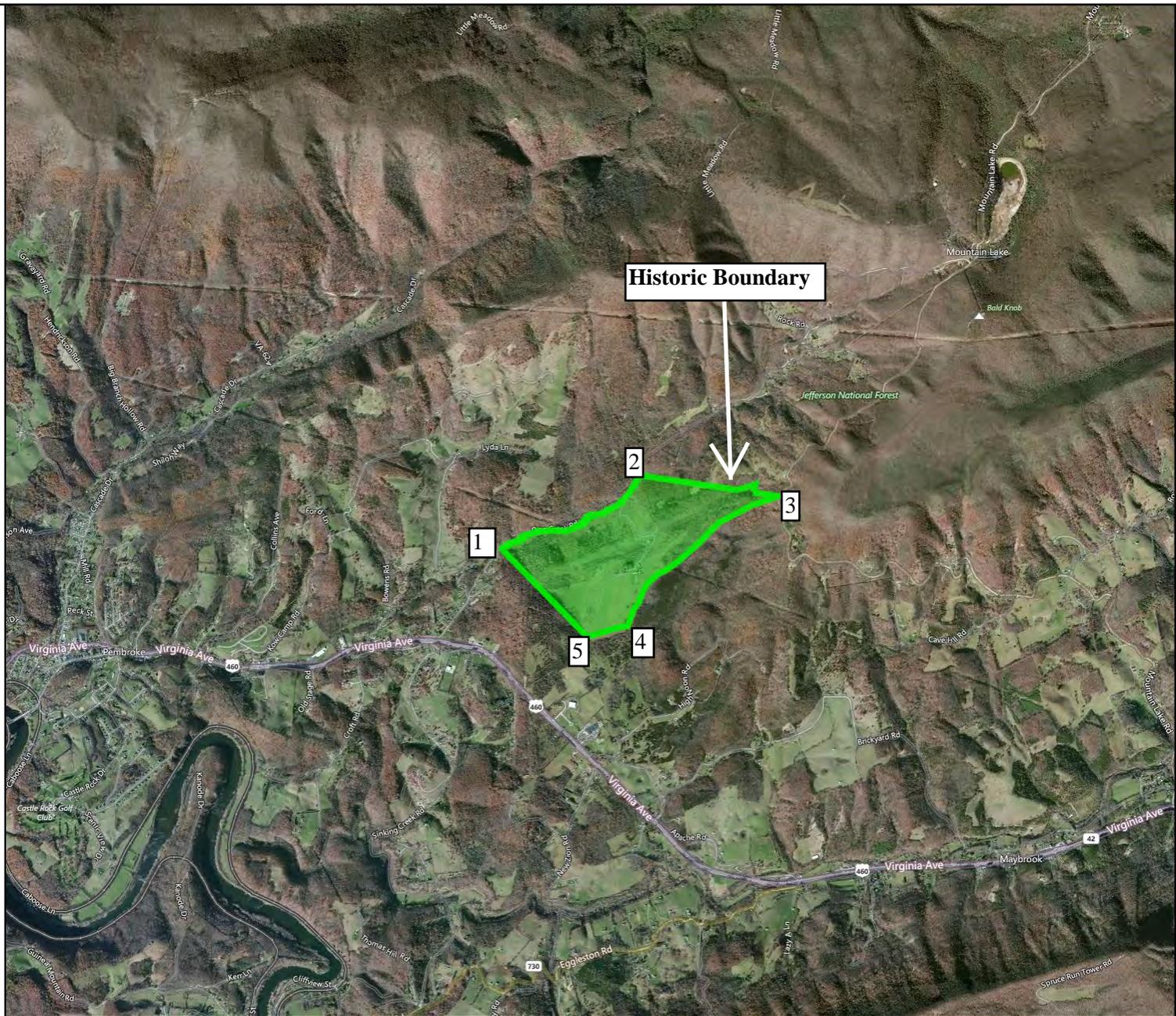


LOCATION COORDINATES

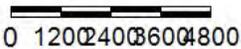
Doe Creek Farm
Giles County, Virginia
DHR No. 035-0018

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 37.329780
Longitude: -80.590310
- 2. Latitude: 37.336370
Longitude: -80.575200
- 3. Latitude: 37.334360
Longitude: -80.559750
- 4. Latitude: 37.322990
Longitude: -80.576230
- 5. Latitude: 37.321970
Longitude: -80.580870



Feet



1:72,224 / 1"=6,019 Feet

Title: Doe Creek Farm

Date: 2/6/2017

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Doe Creek Farm

Sketch Map/Photo Key

Giles County, Virginia

DHR No. 035-0018

Map adapted from "Family Subdivision Plat of Tax Map 30-4" (2011; LR110000490) and county GIS maps. Map not to scale. Size, footprint, and location of resources approximate.

Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers.

