

## What Cambria Isn't Known For...

- No “great” events happened here. No wars were started here; no treaties were signed here. The original depot was burned by Averill's troops in 1864, and there was a dual fought here in 1882, but that was about it.
- No “great” people were born here. Thomas Jefferson never visited. Captain Charles Schaeffer built a church and a school for the African American community at the top of the hill; Washington Carver taught at the Christiansburg Institute just down the tracks; and there is a rumor that Elvis used the facilities at the depot a couple of times, (he hasn't been sighted since), but that was about it.
- No “great” inventions were created here. No printing presses or flying machines or radios. That's not to say that nothing was made here. The Phoenix Furniture Company churned out side chairs; the land ownership rolls list blacksmiths and wheelwrights, cobblers and jewelers, and a host of other craftsmen and tradesmen.

**Cambria is the history of quiet lives in a quintessential railroad town. The mayor better known for his photographs than his governance. The minister better known for his models than his sermons.**

**It is the history of the rest of us.**

## Places to go... Things to do

### Sights & Activities

- Historic Cambria (Christiansburg) Depot & Scale Cabinetmaker Museum
- Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Art Center
- Starlite Drive-in Theater
- Christiansburg Aquatic Center
- Huckleberry Trail
- Christiansburg Library (great special events)

### Places to Shop

- Cambria Toy Station & Museum Shop
- Cambria Emporium (Antiques, Vintage Collectibles, Art, and Books)
- Crab Creek Country Store (Blue Ridge)
- Embroidery Etcetera
- Curious Anomalies



### Places to Eat

- Amelia's Italian Restaurant
- Lucie Monroe's
- Buffalo and More (Rt 8 in Riner)
- The Summit
- Due South Barbeque
- Grama's Bakery
- Gardner's Italian Ice
- Pizza Inn

### Places to Stay

- The Oaks Victorian Inn
- The Inn at Hans Meadow
- Ivycrest Inn Bed & Breakfast



# Cambria Historic District:

Where all  
the past is  
future...

Located at the  
Intersection of Depot Street  
NE and Cambria Street

Christiansburg, Virginia

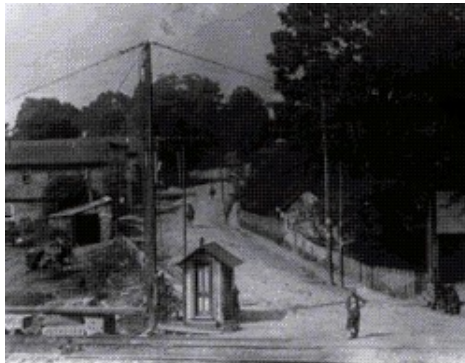
[www.historiccambria.com](http://www.historiccambria.com)

## Center of the Known Universe...

If Jeremiah Kyle hadn't insisted that the railroad come through Montgomery County to provide a way to ship coal from his mine at Merrimac, Blacksburg wouldn't exist in its current permutation and Virginia Tech might have been located elsewhere.

While Cambria is a bit off the beaten track these days, in its hayday, it really was the center of Montgomery County. From 1868 to 1960, the Cambria Depot was the shipping point for all the goods coming into and leaving Montgomery and Floyd Counties, including the Towns of Christiansburg and Blacksburg. Every Sears mail-order house and Wishbook gift; every letter and package; every rug and factory chair and wedding dress sold by the mail order firms from New England to the West Coast; every Model T and Stutz Bearcat; and every secret decoder ring came through the Cambria Depot.

From 1868 until 1908, the Cambria Depot also served as the passenger station, including during the height of immigration. The depot and Cambria welcomed the miners from Wales and Czechoslovakia, farmers from Germany and Ireland, cabinet-makers and home-builders, masons and seamstresses. The languages spoken in the freight-house were as diverse as the last names in the County.



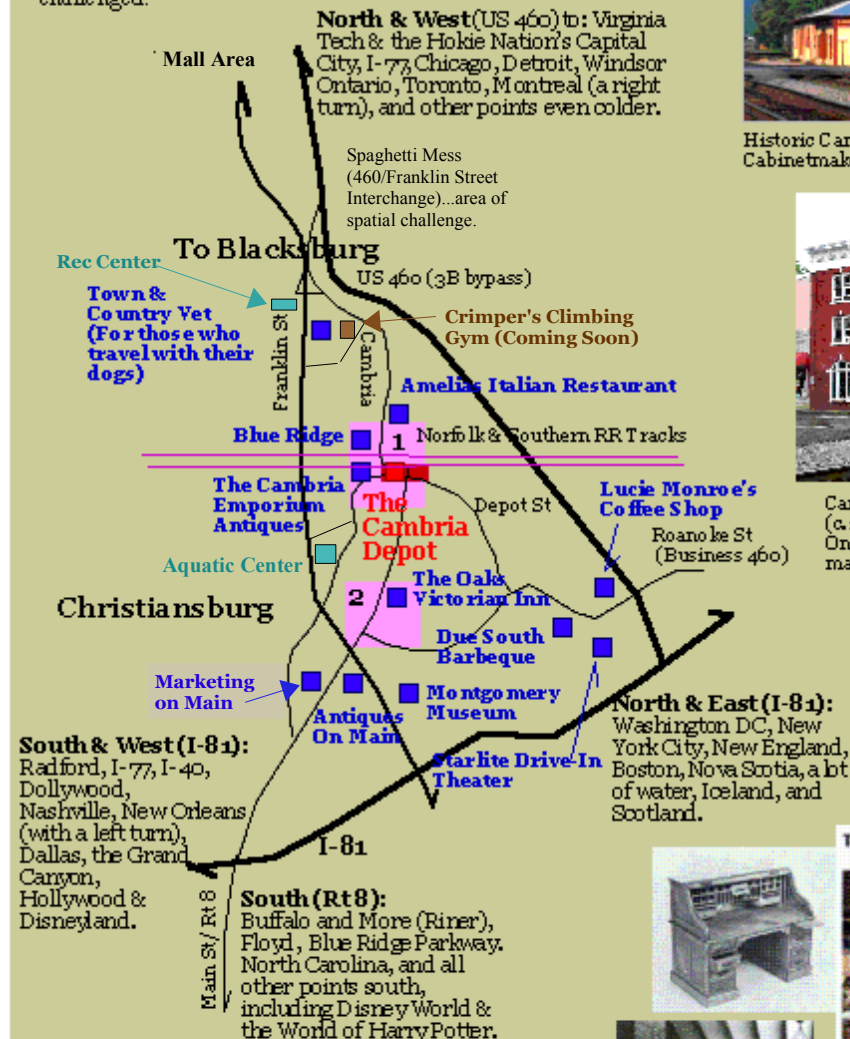
In its hayday, Cambria boasted of five merchantiles and general stores, a china shop, a notions shop, the Phoenix furniture factory, a grocery store, a couple of banks, more than a couple of hardware stores, three mills of various types, a creamery, four hotels, and more than its share of bars, brothels, and pool halls. While Cambria, like most railroad towns, went through a period of decline, a renaissance over the past 30 years has made Cambria a thriving neighborhood.

Come and explore the unique shops and the history, and if you listen quietly enough and let your imagination take over, you can still hear the songs of the gandy dancers, the rumble of the steam engines, and the jingle of coins.

## All roads lead to Cambria...

(Or the geographic equivalent to six degrees of separation)

NOTE TO USER: This map is not even remotely to scale and is somewhat directionally challenged.



Historic Cambria Depot (1868) & Scale Cabinetmaker Miniatures Museum



Cambria Emporium Antiques (c. 1908, Lee Merchantile) One of two large antique malls in Christiansburg.



The Scale Cabinetmaker Museum: a collection of unique, one-of-a-kind miniatures