National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.			<u></u>	
1. Name of Property				
historic name Cambria Hist		ict		
other names/site number 154-	·48			
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		oot_St., 500-600		gomery St., 900-100
	imbria St	and railroad d	epots N/A N/A	vicinity
city, town Christiansburg	de III	county	code 121	· ····································
state Virginia co	ode VA	county Montgomery	code[2]	zip code 24073
3. Classification		<u></u>		
Ownership of Property	Categor	y of Property	Number of Reso	ources within Property
x private		ing(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	⊠ distri	<u> </u>	34	15buildings
public-State	site	•	0	0_ sit es
public-Federal	struc	ture	0	0 structures
	Objec		0	0_objects
	colec		3 4	
Name of related multiple property	lieting: Dw-L-i			ibuting resources previously
distoric Resources of M				ional Register1
TISTURIC RESOURCES OF M	ontgomery (ount y	iisteu iit tiie ivati	onal register
. State/Federal Agency Cert	ification			
Signature of certifying official	(L)			21 N @ 1990 Date
<u>Director</u> , <u>Virginia Div</u> State or Federal agency and bureau	rision of H	istoric Landmarks —	<u> </u>	
In my opinion, the property Li	neetsdoes	not meet the National Regis	ter criteria. L See d	continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other o	fficial			Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	<u> </u>			
National Park Service Certi	fication			
hereby, certify that this property				
entered in the National Register				
See continuation sheet.	•			
determined eligible for the Natio	nai —			
Register. See continuation she				
determined not eligible for the				
National Register.				
_				
removed from the National Regi				
other, (explain:)				
		Signature of the	Keener	Date of Action
		oldustria of the	Anaha.	

		
Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) Transportation: rail-related		
Commerce/trade: speciality store Commerce/trade: organizational		
Vacant: not in use Domestic: single dwelling		
Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
foundation brick walls brick wood: board-and-batten roof metal: tin		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cambria Historic District is located about one mile from downtown Christiansburg on the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks that follow Crab Creek. It is on the north side of Zion Hill, a steep ridge that separates the downtown from the district. most significant historic buildings surround three sides of a rough square that has on its north side the railroad tracks. earliest building is the already-listed Christiansburg Depot of 1869 (154-48-1), a dramatic Italianate structure of frame construction clad in board-and-batten. It is equipped with a hip-roofed central tower and a long freight wing to the rear (east). Opposite the station is a three-story, brick-clad, heavy timber-frame commercial building. The Surface-Lee Block (154-48-5) has a finished first floor with an ornamental stamped metal ceiling and tongue-and-groove sheathing on the walls, many original counters and shelves, and an early twentieth-century freight elevator. The first floor is reached through a recessed central entry on the east front, flanked by a pair of arched tripartite windows. The remaining windows on the north front and the upper floors of the east front are six-over-six sash doublehung windows with a white painted keystone in the jack arch above.

The south side of the square is occupied by a pair of commercial buildings joined into one structure once known as the Dew Drop Inn (154-48-4). The two-story brick building is built in two equal sections. The first floor has intact original wood and glass storefronts with recessed doorways to each. Each half of the second floor is reached by a separate stair opening onto the sidewalk. Each section of the building has a different elaborate pressed metal cornice, metal window hoods, and quoins. A shed roof is concealed behind the parapet walls. The interior of the west section has intact features including a pressed metal ceiling and an old original bar. The building is currently vacant on the first floor and owner-occupied on the second. is in a good state of repair. The second floor retains the room layout of the Altamont Hospital, the county's first hospital, which operated during the early twentieth century.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in the considered of the significance of the property in the considered of the significance of the property in the considered of the significance of the sign	roperty in relation to other properties: statewide locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria 🖾 A 🔲 B 🔯	c 🗆 o	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	C D DE DF G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture Transportation Commerce		Significant Dates 1854 1869 1906
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cambria Historic District is significant under criteria A and C as an important and well preserved town built principally in order to take advantage of the advent of the railroad. functioned as a "port" for the nearby town of Christiansburg and did not develop its own identity until the late nineteenth The district houses one of the region's finest railroad depots, which is also one of the earliest in the state (already listed in the National Register). It also houses two of the county's most important commercial and institutional buildings. The three-story Surface-Lee Block (154-48-5) was built as a wholesale grocery business dependant upon the railroad and good roads to bring produce to Cambria, while the Dew Drop Inn (154-48-4) originally housed the county's first hospital over a drug store. Both buildings are among the most architecturally significant and substantial commercial buildings in the county. The district's houses and other buildings illustrate Cambria's relative importance as a transportation and commercial center by their fine detailing and substantial size. Their vernacular and popular forms detail the changes allowed by access to ready markets for mail-order homes and precut lumber and decorating material between the 1850s and the 1910s.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1851 the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad chose a site along Crab Creek, nearly a mile north of the Montgomery County Courthouse at Christiansburg, for the location of the Christiansburg Depot. The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, originally chartered in 1836, was the first railroad to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains into Southwest Virginia, enabling farmers and manufacturers to reach desirable markets in eastern Virginia and beyond. The railroad was unable to locate any closer to Christiansburg due to the steep grade up from Salem and down to the New River.

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Ansell. Annette. "Mistorical Documentation and Surface-Lee Block Building." paper for cla	
parmara, Susam. "Cambria Antique Mall." (dapti	we rause project report, TPI&SU, April 1987.
"Pressawn Fire Pestrovs Entire Block." Montraome	ery News Messenger. February 13, 1947, p. 1.
"I. I. Lee Dies" <u>Montzomerv News Messenger</u> . Se	ptember 1942, p. 10.
Jamestown Festival Committee, 1957.	Christiansourg, VA. the Montgomery County
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	See continuation sheet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
cesignated a National Historic Landmarkrecorded by Historic American Buildings	Local government University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	Virginia Division of Historic Lindmarks
	221 Governor Street
10. Geographical Data	Richmond, Virginia 23219
Acreage of property <u>aproximately thirty-four acres</u>	·
UTM References A (1 7 1 5 5 2 6 0 0 4 1 1 0 3 6 0 Zone Easting Northing C 1 7 5 5 2 9 6 0 4 1 1 0 6 8 0	B 1 7 5 5 2 5 4 0 4 1 1 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0 0 7 0
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at point A on the south side of Depot of the intersection of Schaeffer Street and Dep side of lots on the south side of Depot Street, the rear (south) lot lines of houses on the sou north along the east lot line of site 154-48-3, Depot Street, thence east along the north side of to point E 25 feet beyond the east wall of site Boundary Justification	ot Street, proceeding 225 feet along the west to point B, proceeding east 1,200 feet along th side of Depot Street to point C, thence 300 feet to point D on the north side of
·	
The boundaries were chosen based upon visual ch to a construction of buildings which do not sha historical periods, or forms with the contribut	re similar architectural traits,
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Gibson Worsham	
organization Gibson Worsham, Architect	date June 1988
street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs	telephone (703) 552-1730
city or town Christiansburg	state <u>Virginia</u> zip code 24073

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Other commercial buildings line Cambria Street to the north, including the 1920s Epperly Pontiac dealership (154-48-6) and the Cambria Hardware Company Building (154-48-13). Both are built of rusticated concrete blocks, a popular building material of the period. The two-story buildings are well preserved and both are in use. Diagonally across the street from the Cambria Hardware Building stands the late nineteenth-century Palmer Store (154-48-8), a two-story frame building covered with bricktex and housing a well preserved wooden storefront in its gable front. building is in good condition and is currently used as a residence. Among the dwellings in the district which line Depot and Montgomery streets is the Daniel Brown House (154-48-7), which was built in the post-Civil War era to house one of Cambria's first developers. The two-story brick center-passage dwelling resembles a number of other substantial vernacular houses from the mid-nineteenth century in form and material. features wood lintels with bull's-eye cornerblocks and a hipped roof. It has been renovated for use as apartments. At the far west end of the Montgomery Street part of the district stands the Lee House (154-12), an elaborate balloon-frame Queen Anne-style house with inset porches, bays, and carved shingle walls under a high hipped roof. The interior features parquet floors, stained glass, and oak wainscoting. The Charlie Morgan House (154-49) is a small log house of apparent hall-parlor form. The three-bay house, which has a two-story brick chimney at its east gable end, was the home of the family of Charlie Morgan, a black who lived in the town during the early twentieth century, when Cambria It is the oldest house in the district. projecting log plates and probably dates from the 1850s, when Cambria was first settled. The other houses are for the most part typical of the mass of vernacular dwellings built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including one-and two-story frame T-plan houses with elaborate decorative woodwork along the south side of Depot Street, on the hill above the railroad tracks, and conventional large frame center-passage and T-plan houses on Montgomery and Cambria streets. A pair of identical frame gable-fronted bungalows (154-48-10), both with clipped gables, concrete foundations, and porches with fluted Doric columns were very likely ordered from a mail-order catalog in the 1910s.

The Cambria Baptist Church of 1928 (154-48-12) has Gothic details. The brick church has a two-stage corner tower with brick soldier courses for contrasting relief over openings.

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Stone panels and label molds are used over a pair of entry doors, and buttresses divide the side wall bays. The New Christiansburg Depot of 1906 (154-48-32) is also built of brick. The one-story structure has a hipped roof with a wide overhang on all sides. A gable-roofed projecting element on each front houses toilets on the south and the ticket office observation bay on the north. the interior two waiting rooms flank the central ticket office in The western end housed the freight rooms. station is used for offices by the Norfolk-Southern Railroad.

Noncontributing buildings include the rebuilt sections of the Surface-Lee Block's south end, which burned in 1947. Bane Coal and Oil Building on the northeast corner of the railroad intersection was built after 1940. Several noncontributing modern residential and commercial buildings are dispersed throughout the district, most of which were built within the last thirty years.

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CAMBRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

NOTE: All resources are contributing unless marked (NC) for noncontributing

CAMBRIA STREET 900 Cambria Street 1869, 1-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, frame with board and batten, Italianate Cambria Depot 915 Cambria Street early-20th-century, 3-story, 3-bay, flat-roofed, brick, Colonial Revival Surface-Lee Block (commercial) 920 Cambria Street 1940s, 2-story, 9-bay, flat-roofed, brick, modern Bane Oil Company (NC) 930 Cambria Street 1920s, 2-story, 4-bay, flat-roofed with parapet, rusticated concrete block, commercial vernacular Virginia Mountain Housing (originally Epperly Pontiacl واع 936 Cambria Street 1990, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, steel-frame with aluminum siding, modern garage (NC) 938 Cambria Street 1990, 1-story, 9-bay, gable-roofed, steel-frame with aluminum siding, modern IPP Plumbing Supply (NC) η0 940 Cambria Street 1970s, 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame and vertical wood siding, modern Vaughn Brothers Construction (NC) 1025 Cambria Street ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gableroofed, frame and bricktex, Victorian commercial Palmer's Store 1030 Cambria Street 1928, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed,

Church

brick, Gothic Revival Cambria Baptist

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1035 Cambria Street	1960s, 1-story, 6-bay, gable-roofed, concrete-block, modern Linkous Plumbing and Heating/R.P.M. Motorcycle Accessories (NC)
- 1050 Cambria Street	<pre>late-19th-century, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame dwelling</pre>
-15 1070 Cambria Street	1920s, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling
1075 Cambria Street	<pre>ca. 1920, 1 1/2-story, 2-bay, hip- roofed, frame, Crafsman-style dwelling; garage - contributing</pre>
-10 1085 Cambria Street	early-20th-century, 1 1/2-story, 2-bay, hip-roofed, frame, Craftsman-style dwelling; garage - (NC)
DEPOT STREET	
10 515 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gable- roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling
35 525 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gable- roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling
535 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gable- roofed, frame, Victorian vernacular dwelling
1 555 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 1 1/2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian Cottage
39 565 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 1 1/2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian Cottage
1/2 575 Depot Street	1990, 1-story, 7-bay, gable-roofed, steel-frame with aluminum siding, modern garage (NC)

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- 3년 591 Depot Street	1950s, 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, concrete-block, modern garage with concrete-block addition (NC)
_33 594 Depot Street	1970s, 1-story, 5-bay, flat-roofed, modern Electrical Supply (NC)
- 4 605 Depot Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 8-bay, flat-roofed, brick, Victorian commercial Home Main- tenance Service (originally Dew Drop Inn)
-41 615 Depot Street	1950s, 1-story, 5-bay, flat-roofed, concrete-block, modern Cambria Service Center (NC)
635 Depot Street	1970s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, modern dwelling (NC)
-2 645 Depot Street	early-20th-century, 2-story, gable- roofed, frame and brick Sidney's Trading Post
-43 647 Depot Street	<pre>ca. 1920, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed frame, vernacular dwelling</pre>
655 Depot Street	<pre>late-19th-century, 2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, frame, vernacular dwelling</pre>
Depot Street	1906, 1-story, 11-bay, hip-roofed, brick, Cambria Railroad Depot

MONTGOMERY STREET

470 Montgomery Street

Also 154-48-44

500 Montgomery Street

1906, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, modified Queen Anne-style John Turner Lee House; garage - contributing

1960s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Modern dwelling (NC)

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-29	515	Montgomery	Street	1890s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling
-27	520	Montgomery	Street	1960s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame and brick, Modern dwelling (NC)
30	, 525	Montgomery	Street	late-19th-century, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian I House
9	540	Montgomery	Street	late-19th-century, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame Victorian I House
13/	545	Montgomery	Street	1920s, 1 1/2-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, frame vernacular dwelling
re	560	Montgomery	Street	1890s, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian vernacular dwelling
1	565	Montgomery	Street	mid-to-late-19th-century, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, vernacular I house
13/	615	Montgomery	Street	early-20th-century, 2-story, 4-bay, flat-roofed, brick N.R.C. Management Services (formerly Cambria Hardware Company)
21	630	Montgomery	Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, frame, Victorian vernacular dwelling; garage - contributing
12	645	Montgomery	Street	1950s, 1-story, 5-bay, flat-roofed, concrete-block, modern Christiansburg Senior Center (NC)
24	655	Montgomery	Street	1940s, 1-story, 1-bay, shed-roofed, frame, commercial garage (NC)

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No 665 Montgomery Street

680 Montgomery Street

ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling; garage - contributing

ca. 1900, 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular T-plan dwelling

1030 Plum Street

(also 154-48-45)

mid-19th-century, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, log and weatherboarded, vernacular Charlie Morgan House

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The railroad reached Christiansburg in 1854, and a permanent station was built in 1857 where the main north-south road, the Jacksonville and Christiansburg Turnpike (completed in circa 1855), crossed the tracks. There it joined the road to Blacksburg and the Yellow Sulphur Turnpike (completed in 1854 to give access to the resort by rail). The site of the depot and the right of way for the tracks were given by prominent landowner and county clerk Rice D. Montague in return for the significant profits he would realize as land around the depot increased in value (Deed Book 5, p. 81).

The next year in 1855, Montague sold a parcel just south of the tracks and on the Jacksonville and Christiansburg Turnpike to Daniel A. Brown. In 1869 Brown bought an adjacent lot from Montague and mention was made in the deed of Brown's Store and Montague's Store. In this and a contemporary deed to the railroad company, Montague reserved a rectangular space to "forever remain open for the public accommodation in connection with their interactions and dealings with the Railroad." This is the first time that the square is mentioned and, not incidentally, the year before a new depot was built to replace the first one, which had burned to the ground by the Union Army several years before. The new depot (154-48-1) was a dramatic addition to the village, representing to the community the latest in architectural fashion and a dramatic towered silhouette. Brown continued to buy land on the north side of the tracks as His brick house (154-48-7), built before 1880, is one of the district's oldest structures. When Brown died in 1900 his land south of the tracks was divided into lots. His store stood on lot number one, located on the west side of the square.

The village meanwhile had been known as Bangs from circa 1873 to 1885, when its name was altered to Ronald in honor of a local Confederate hero. In 1892 it took the name Cambria from the underlying geological stratum and, in 1906, having experienced considerable growth, was officially incorporated under that name.

A group of businessmen, principally C. W. Surface, of Riner, and G. W. Mitchell, of Christiansburg, purchased the Brown lots in 1908 and removed the Brown Store. The Surface Grocery Company, with Surface and Mitchell among the officers, built a large brick-clad wholesale grocery building on the lot nearest the tracks in the same year, the building known today as the

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Surface-Lee Block (154-48-5). The Bank of Cambria, founded at the same time as the grocery company and with a similar roster of officers, built a matching building on the remaining lots to the south, forming a large coherent block. It housed the bank, the Cambria post office, and a general store. The store was located on lot number one, the original site of the Brown Store (Ansell p. 19), and was apparently operated by the Brown daughters who lived upstairs. A club or lodge meeting room was located over the bank and post office, and a pool room behind it (Sanborn Insurance map, 1913).

Several hotels, stores, and businesses had been built north of the tracks and west of the Surface-Lee Block. The Economy Lumber Company, the Phoenix Furniture Factory, the Rigby and Son Flour Mill, as well as many smaller businesses and factories, flourished near the depot by the time the 1913 Sanborn Insurance map was prepared. A funeral home, blacksmith shop, Dixon's Jewelry, Sam Moses Dry Goods, and the Cambria Hotel were lined up along the west side of Cambria Street north of the tracks (Ansell p. 12). A store had been built at the intersection of Montgomery and Cambria streets (the Palmer Store, 154-48-8) some years before, and a hotel (no longer standing) was directly across the tracks from the depot.

The east half of the Dew Drop Inn (154-48-4) was built at approximately the same time as the Surface-Lee Building and, by 1913 the west half had been built. The second floor of the east section housed Christiansburg and Montgomery County's only hospital, Dr. Showalter's Altamont Hospital, above Hickok's Drug Store. The buildings were constructed during Cambria's boom years before 1930. The Epperly Pontiac Company built a large two-story rock-faced concrete block building (154-48-13) and the Cambria Hardware Company built its second building (154-48-6) of the same material, both on the east side of Cambria Street, north of the railroad tracks.

The Christiansburg Depot was relegated to use as a freight station in 1906, when a new depot (154-48-32)was built a short distance to the east. The value of Cambria as an outlet to the farmers of Floyd County, to the south, is shown by the acquisition of the Surface Grocery Company Building in 1918 by the Farmers Supply Company of Floyd for use as a farm supply store. J. T. Lee arrived in Cambria at about the same time from the town of Floyd, possibly in connection with the Farmer's

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Supply purchase. He managed a store in the original location of the Brown Store. In 1931 he bought the farm supply business. Jack Mitchell, a nephew of G. W. Mitchell, opened a feed store in the general store building in 1938 (Barnard p. 35).

A fire leveled the bank, post office, and store building next to Lee's Store in 1947. These were rebuilt on a smaller scale, but the Surface-Lee Building remains largely as it was after its construction in 1908. Both it and the 1869 depot have received substantial rehabilitation since their purchase by members of the Cambria Development Corporation, who hope to restore the vitality of the district.

Although a number of the buildings that stood to the north of the railroad before 1940 have been gone for many decades, and the depot square suffered a serious fire in 1947, the architectural fabric of Cambria comprises one of the densest commercial and residential neighborhoods in the region. district's structures represent architectural changes throughout the period of significance, from the log and frame structures of the mid-nineteenth century through the concrete-block commercial structures of the 1930s. It shows the change of the county's most vital transportation and industrial center and many of its various ancillary structures. Restoration and rehabilitation efforts now under way are striving to follow the Secretary's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects in every respect, in order to enhance the district's historical assets. built outside of the period of significance account for many of the noncontributing structures. In a number of cases they take their form from earlier building types and thus echo the form and materials of contributing buildings.

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100 feet north to point F on the south side of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks, thence 500 feet west along the north side of the tracks to point G, thence north 425 feet along the east property line of a house on the south side of Montgomery Street to point H on the south side of Montgomery Street, thence west 150 feet to point I 25 feet east of the house at 154-49, thence north 175 feet to point J, thence 375 feet west following the rear property line of the lots on the north side of Montgomery Street, to point K, thence 300 feet north following the rear lot lines on the east side of Cambria Street to point L. thence 350 feet west along the south side of Church Street to point M on the rear lot lines of the properties on the west side of Cambria Street, thence south following those lines to point N on the rear lot lines of the lots on the north side of Montgomery Street, thence 575 feet to point 0 on the east side of Acorn Street, thence south 150 feet to point P on the north side of Montgomery Street, thence 225 feet east to point Q, thence 175 feet to point R on the rear lot lines of the properties on the south side of Montgomery Street, thence east 500 feet to point S on the east lot line of site 154-48-7, thence north 125 feet to point T on the north side of Montgomery Street, thence east 125 feet to point U on the east side of Cambria Street, thence south 450 feet to point V on the southside of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks, thence west 150 feet to point W on an alley, thence 200 feet south following the west side of the alley to point X on the south side of Depot Street, thence 800 feet west to the point of origin following the south side of Depot Street.



