

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **SEP 16 1980**

date entered **NOV 18 1980**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Cambria Casino

and/or common Flying V Guest Ranch

**2. Location**

*N of Newcastle*

street & number NW 1/4 Section 21, T46N, R61W — not for publication

city, town Newcastle *sub*  vicinity of congressional district First

state Wyoming code 56 county Weston code 045

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Frank B. and Norma Napolitano

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Newcastle \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Wyoming 82701

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Weston County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Building

city, town Newcastle state Wyoming

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1967 (revised 1973)  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 604 East 25th Street

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

## 7. Description

### Casino Building Only

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Flying V Guest Ranch or Cambria Casino-Park Memorial as it was originally called, is a resort in the western foothills of the Black Hills of northeast Wyoming. It is about fifty yards east of U.S. Highway 85, and midway between the town of Newcastle and a place called Four Corners Junction. Seven miles east of the resort is the Wyoming-South Dakota state line which, at that point, is also the western boundary of the Black Hills National Forest. Both west and east of the resort the landscape consists of the foothills apron of the Black Hills. The Flying V and its complex of facilities are on the flood plain of Salt Creek, a stream which cuts through that apron from north to south. Its water has a confluence with Stockade Beaver Creek and, via Beaver Creek and Cheyenne River, flows to the Missouri River and is thus part of the Mississippi River drainage system.

The impressive dimensions of the main lodge building or Casino at the Flying V are somewhat diminished by comparison with tall ponderosa pines that blanket sharply-rising canyon slopes on either side of the lodge. Ridge brows rise up more than 700 feet above the 4,930-foot elevation of the valley floor. Just a few miles north of the Flying V are three distinct hills that rise even higher: Mount Pisgah (6,401 ft.), Red Butte (5,720 ft.), and Sweetwater Mountain (6,432 ft.). Less than two miles to the southwest, just over the ridge that flanks Salt Creek Canyon on the west, is the site of Cambria, a once-flourishing coal-mining area for which the resort was named.

The main structure at the Flying V Cambria Casino is a two-story sandstone lodge loosely adapted from Medieval English sources. Like other so-called "period" structures the Flying V displays a blend of Anglo-Saxon and English Tudor details and materials within an overall Tudor massing and physical placement. In its horizontal expansion the resort blends comfortably with surrounding rolling foothills.

The configuration of the Flying V Cambria Inn is derived from Medieval Manor Houses which contained interior spaces grouped around an open rectangular court. Entrance to the manor house was through a gatehouse, opposite which, on the other side of the court, was a porch leading to the great hall. The Flying V Cambria Casino conforms to an irregular "L" plan, its north-south wing being 32 feet wide by 106 feet long, and its east-west wing being 60 feet wide by 106 feet long. The wings are not fully joined because of a notch in the southwest corner of the "L", and contact between the two wings is restricted to a 16-foot long area. Arched breezeways once bisected the wings, providing easy access to the open interior court. Today, however, only the east-west breezeway which flanks a semi-circular tower remains. Although the resort does not fully enclose the quadrangle, its placement strongly suggests English Tudor design.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** Bruce Rabenold

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

\*Attached to this nomination is an addendum describing the relationship of the Flying V Guest Ranch to the history of Cambria, a Black Hills coal mining operation. Cambria no longer exists but the Cambria Casino serves as a reminder of Cambria traditions.

The significance of the Cambria Casino-Park is not that of a memorial. The function of the site since 1929 has been that of a resort or recreation complex. Its significance is therefore partly social in nature. But its chief importance lies in the distinctive architecture of the Cambria Casino designed in 1927 by New York architect Bruce Rabenold. The Casino reflects Rabenold's romantic eclecticism in his skillful use of Tudor, Anglo-Saxon and classic details. In orientation, plan and materials, the Casino remains a well-preserved example of the late Victorian outburst commonly termed the "period house." Few period buildings exist in northeastern Wyoming, and the Casino is the largest and most impressive example of that style in Weston County. Furthermore the craftsmanship displayed by the use of native materials in the Casino and its outbuildings, and the scale of the Casino itself compare favorably with other notable historic and commercial establishments in the state. Although the present owners of the property have performed some restoration work on the Casino's interior, National Register status may may enhance eventual restoration of the exterior.

\*See Addendum, Item #8, Page 2

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum, Item #9, Pages 1-3

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### UMT References

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum, Item #10, Page 1

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark G. Junge and Gregory D. Kendrick, Historians

organization Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office date August 4, 1980

street & number 604 East 25th Street telephone 307-777-7695

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Jan L. Wilson*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 4, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Carol D. Skell</i> Keeper of the National Register	date 11-18-80
Attest: <i>Paula Souer Reed</i> Chief of Registration	date 11/10/80

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Exterior details also suggest the Casino's English Tudor and Anglo-Saxon inspiration. These details include prominent ashlar chimney stacks, random ashlar sandstone walls, and dark-stained half-timbering with stucco nogging. Other hints of the Anglo-Saxon include first floor arcades incorporating segmental arched openings and the apse-like or semi-circular towered stairwell. A detached palladian-style window within the rear of the chapel accentuates the eclecticism of the architect, Bruce Rabenold.

Interior arrangement and detail also have been adapted from Medieval sources. The largest and probably the most significant room of the inn is the ballroom, located on the second floor of the building's east-west wing. In design it is akin to the great hall that was the central feature in the home of the medieval noble, the place where the suzerain and his family and guests cooked, ate, slept and entertained. Whereas the medieval great hall was dimly lit by small windows covered with shutters, the capacious ballroom of the Flying V Cambria Inn is somewhat better provided with light by a set of windows, eight lights in each, located in the upper portion of each wall. Heat for the great hall of the medieval noble radiated from a central hearth or wall fireplace. In the ballroom of the Inn two fireplaces at either end of the south wall provide warmth, although central steam heating is provided the building by a coal-burning furnace. A gable roof, its ridge about 20 feet above the dance floor, is supported by heavy wooden rafters, tie beams, and hammer beam trusses that are typical of the English Tudor, timber roof. It is said that some of these great beams previously served as support timbers in the mines at Cambria.

Below the ballroom, and on the east end of the Inn's main floor, is a sitting room and six sleeping rooms originally intended to serve as quarters for the directors of the Cambria Park Casino. West of the sitting room is an auxiliary dining room; adjacent to the auxiliary dining room is the main dining room; and in the southwest portion of the building is the kitchen. Below each of these three sections is a basement, the one beneath the main dining room containing the furnace. In the vertical leg of the building just north of the dining room, is a bar containing a fireplace. Above the bar are the living quarters of the Inn's owners, accessible by a staircase located in a turret that protrudes slightly from the west face of the Inn. Connecting the bar to the chapel on the extreme north end of the building is the gateway previously mentioned.

The Flying V Cambria has been modified over the years. Fortunately, the modifications have not seriously compromised the resorts architectural integrity. A large, north-south breezeway located in the center of the horizontal leg of the building has been enclosed and, like the porch around the ballroom, it has been covered with a fiberglass siding manufactured to imitate native rock. The vertical leg of the Inn does not

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appear to have been significantly altered although the north portion, built to serve as a museum, is presently being used as a chapel where weddings are occasionally performed. The latter use was undoubtedly suggested by the room's rustic features: an oak floor; walls of rough-hewn stone into which are set nine stained-glass windows; a steeply-gabled, open-timber roof; and a choir loft, or balcony, in the rear of the room. Only a few museum items remain in the room that was originally planned to serve as a focal point of the recreational memorial to Cambria miners. Finally, a second story veranda once surrounded the ballroom, contributing light and air - in contrast to the traditional oak panelling of English Tudor homes - but this feature has been enclosed by walls to provide sleeping rooms.

The architectural integrity of the Flying V Cambria Inn appears generally to have been maintained, considering the design was initially an eclectic one. Yet the conception of the design was essentially that of an English manor house of the late medieval or early-modern period, and that conception has been altered. Asbestos has replaced wood shingles in the roofs, in some places fiberglass has been substituted for sandstone, and stucco may have replaced some glass. A neon "V" atop the turret serves as a type of modern-day, heraldic emblem, but the turret itself is not functional. It flanks a gate-way which opens, not to an inn courtyard or porch, but simply to a Wyoming zephyr blowing down Salt Creek Canyon. No moat or portcullis protects the structure, forbidding entrance to an inner courtyard, but just east of the Inn are two swimming pools, one of fresh water and one of salt water. Between them is a bath house built of the same stone as the Inn, and architecturally compatible to the Inn. Stables and corrals situated against the hillside a few yards west of the Inn, and wagon wheels propped against a rail fence on the southwest end of the Inn lend flavor to the setting, but the flavor is of an era far removed from that of medieval Europe. Parked cars and trucks, pieces of earth-moving equipment, propane and gasoline tanks, and other items scattered about the premises are of the twentieth century, and indicate the commercial nature of the establishment.

The entire complex is part of an enterprise of more than 1,000 acres; however, the specific property that ought to be enrolled in the National Register centers upon the Inn and its immediate, subsidiary facilities. It includes the Casino, the bath house and the stables - all of ashlar construction

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The history of the Cambria Casino Park relates to a mining operation in the American West called Cambria, a place which was nearly faded from memory. Indeed, the original purpose of the Flying V, or Cambria Casino-Park as it was originally called, was to serve as a memorial to the miners and traditions of Cambria. Although the complex dates to 1928, it is a memorial to traditions that stretch further back into time, to 1889 when the Cambria mines were put into operation. Its ties to those traditions were close, in that former employees of the Cambria Fuel Company helped build, and for a period of time managed and maintained, the establishment.

Time and a shuffle in ownership have caused memories of Cambria to fade, but the Cambria Casino-Park remains essentially unchanged. Visitors to the resort will be struck by the architecture of the Casino, and perhaps will wonder what motives lay behind its construction. If those motives were explained, it would be seen that they derive from, and are inextricably a part of, the Cambria coal-mining operation. Following is a brief essay on the history of that operation.

The Black Hills area of Western South Dakota and northeast Wyoming was for many centuries controlled by tribes of Indians, and evidence of their presence has been found there in the form of pictographs, tipi rings, and projectile points. According to a legend of the Sioux who were among the most recent of Indian tribes to frequent the region, the Black Hills was the dwelling place of the Great Spirit. It is probable that the Sioux and other tribes entered the hills not only for religious reasons, but also to hunt game and procure lodge poles for their tepees. Although the white man distantly viewed the Black Hills at an early date in Rocky Mountain-High Plains history, not until late in the first quarter of the nineteenth century did he explore them. Credited as the first white party to penetrate the hills is that of about a dozen fur trappers led by Jedediah Smith. The first, United States Government, exploration to the Black Hills was led by Lieutenant G.K. Warren in 1857.

During the Black Hills gold rush of 1876, and following an era of High Plains Indian Wars, the foothills area of the Black Hills was sought as a place of permanent settlement by ranchers and farmers who sold agricultural products to the denizens of the mining region. However, even during the gold rush there were not many people living in the particular area of the foothills that is today Weston County, Wyoming. In the late 1870's a salt spring was discovered along Salt Creek in the northeast portion of the county, and there a camp was established. For a number of years salt water was evaporated, and the precipitate collected and hauled overland to Deadwood and Lead City, South Dakota. But after a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad reached Rapid City from Nebraska in the summer of 1886, the industry ceased to make a profit. By 1887 evaporators and buildings were in a state of decay, and the property was being held for its owners by a certain Patrick Donegan. At that time,

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wrote historian C.G. Coutant, a ranch called the YT owned by Colin Hunter was located six miles west of Salt Creek Canyon. About ten miles southeast of the salt spring, on Stockage Beaver Creek, were a few small stockmen and a prominent ranch called the LAK, owned by Allerton and Spencer; about ten miles north was a small herd of cattle under the EVA brand; and some eighteen miles northwest, at the head of Oil Creek, was a horse ranch operated by LaGrave and Delaney. There were a few settlers engaged in farming and stockraising on Oil, Skull and Plum Creeks, and Hanson and Davis had a sawmill on Stockage Beaver Creek. Just over the ridge that forms the west side of Salt Creek Canyon lived the Valentine and Fuller families who farmed and raised horses. Thus the population of the area was sparse, although further settlement would take place following the discovery of coal and the arrival of the railroad.

According to Burlington Railroad historian, Richard C. Overton, the quarter of a century from 1880 to 1905 was the greatest period of expansion in the nation's railroad facilities, and that expansion is reflected in the growth of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad (today the Burlington Northern). Between December 31, 1880 and December 21, 1890 the tracks of the B&M grew from 2,772 miles to 5,216 miles. On June 30, 1905 the company controlled and operated a total of 8,879 miles of road. During that period of expansion the railroad constructed numerous branch lines to accommodate the growth of farms, ranches, mines and towns that was taking place in the northern Great Plains. In 1887 the B&M reached Alliance, Nebraska in a drive to link with the Northern Pacific Railroad at Billings, Montana. But construction was held up at Alliance, apparently until B&M locomotives were assured a suitable supply of coal that could be obtained somewhere along the projected railroad route.

A 1912 United States Geological Survey Report indicates that all the known coal in the Black Hills is in the western portion, in the outer rim of foothills sloping away from the central uplift. Much of it is sub-bituminous or lignite in quality and is located in Wyoming. It was on Hay Creek at the northwest end of the Black Hills in Wyoming that coal was discovered sometime between the years of 1875-1880, and was mined by settlers who, in order to protect themselves against Indian attack, lived in a stockade near what is today Aladdin, Wyoming. But it was at Cambria, north of present-day Newcastle and on the upper reaches of Little Oil Creek, that bituminous coal was sufficiently thick to be worked in an area of more than just a few acres. The coal was workable for about twelve miles in a vein three to ten feet thick.

Seeking a contract for the construction of the Burlington line from Alliance to the Northwest, the firm of Kilpatrick Brothers and Collins



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Contracting Company of Beatrice, Nebraska in 1887 sent Jefferson B. Weston and a party of railway engineers to explore for coal of a quality that could be burned in Burlington locomotives. Following a tentative railroad route surveyed in 1886 by Edward Gillette, Burlington locating engineer, Weston's party met up with a prospector named Mikkel Gladhough who had found pieces of coal washed out of Fuller Canyon by the waters of Little Oil Creek. Gladhough led Weston to the site of the discovery and there Weston found a three-foot-thick seam of bituminous coal. Upon his return to Beatrice, Weston met with J.D. and R.J. Kilpatrick, told them of the Fuller Canyon prospect, and recommended a survey. Consequently a survey was organized and Frank Mondell, who later served 26 years as a United States Congressional Representative from Wyoming, was chosen to lead it. In October, 1887 Mondell arrived at the deposit found by Weston, and with a few experienced coal miners he began to drift, or dig, the out-cropping. Through the winter and following spring the men searched for a place where the coal deposit could be worked, and in the latter part of July, 1888, by drifting and prospecting with diamond drills, they revealed a workable seam at a place two or three hundred feet below the tableland. Still, not until the following spring was the existence of a large body of coal proven by the prospectors. In June, 1889 the officers of the Burlington Railroad decided to extend their track northwest from Alliance to the coal field. In late November, 1890 the tracks finally reached the latter place, which was renamed "Cambria". Eventually, in 1894 the Burlington made a connection with the Northern Pacific at a point near Billings, Montana. The Alliance-Billings line and other branch lines enabled the Northern Pacific and the Burlington to cooperate in providing a shorter transportation route between the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf of Mexico.

Meanwhile, early in the spring of 1889 preparations were made by Kilpatrick Brothers and Collins for opening up the Cambria mines on a large scale. Titles to government land were acquired, wagon roads were constructed and main entries - or tunnels - and parallel air courses on both sides of the canyon were driven and strongly timbered. A sawmill constructed the previous fall was run to full capacity, and probably supplied the boards that went into the construction of the mining operation, including power plant, workshops, offices and dwellings. A gravity water system was constructed, the water being supplied by Sweetwater Creek, Pisgah Springs, and a deep well. Over 14 miles of steel pipe was laid in a few months, and by 1890 water reached taps in Coal Canyon and Newcastle to the south. The Kilpatrick Brothers brought in a prominent coal-mining engineer, Joseph L. Hemingway, to install mining machinery and a power plant. Hemingway, aided by Frank Mondell, designed entries and trestles and planned the installation of tipples, boilers and air compressors. He was instructed to prepare for the delivery of coal by December, 1889. Although much mining machinery, including an air-compressor and four large boilers, had to be laboriously hauled overland from railheads one hundred or more miles to the east, the first

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load of coal from the mines were ready for shipment on December 4, 1889.

The largest mine at Cambria was the Jumbo, located on the east side of Coal Canyon. It extended 3,400 feet from east to west through the rim or escarpment bordering Salt Creek on the west, and 8,000 feet from north to south. North Opening, and Antelope Mines One, Two, Three and Four were other entries located on the same coal vein. The mines were worked mainly by the room-and-pillar method in which a coal deposit was divided into sub-districts, and then into chambers or rooms which were 300 feet in length and supported by pillars of coal 20 feet wide. In three rooms the tallest of men could work, operating air-powered cutting and drilling machines that bit into the bituminous coal in preparation for blasting. When a series of rooms in an entryway were exhausted, interior pillars of coal were drawn in reverse of the original work, and rooms were abandoned and eventually filled by roof-falls. The mines were free of gas or coal damp, although large exhaust fans up to 25 feet in diameter were placed at the entrances of the main shafts in order to clear the vitiated air.

The elevation of the nearly horizontal seam, situated about 60 feet above, and on either side of, the canyon floor afforded a convenient means of coal delivery and kept the mines free of water. Coal from all of the mines was deposited at a common tipple on the east side of Coal Canyon where it was dumped, crushed, screened, and loaded into open railroad cars for boxcars positioned below on five, separate tracks. Loaded cars were then pulled along a single-track, spur line extending along the bottom of the canyon from the mine to the main Burlington Railroad stem, located 7.8 miles south at Newcastle.

About 85 per cent of Cambria coal went into the furnaces of the Burlington's locomotives. Some went into Cambria's 75 beehive ovens, which each day produced 75 tons of coke. The rest, called slack, was used in power plants. Cambria's coke was shipped to gold smelters in the Black Hills, but when smelter production fell the production of coke also fell and the ovens were idle after 1903.

An interesting sidelight to the Cambria operation is that the coal itself was found to contain gold. According to W.E. Mouck, Superintendent of the Cambria Mines, an assay of ashes from the boiler house was made by the company's chemist, showing \$10 worth of gold to the ton. When soot from the furnace stack was assayed the result was \$4 worth of gold per ton. The coal itself showed from \$0 to \$2 per ton in gold at a time when coal sold for \$1.50 per ton. In 1896, when Cambria coke sold for \$3.50 per ton, car samples were assayed by the company's chemist, showing an average of \$2.46 per ton in gold and 28¢ in silver. In fuel value, however, Cambria coal varied little from coal shipped from the Glenrock, Hanna and Sheridan areas of Wyoming.

The town of Cambria, containing at its peak about 1,500 people, was

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distinctly a coal-mining camp, a company town built upon land owned by the Cambria Fuel Company. The headquarters of the company was a two-story office building in the middle of town, at the forks of the canyon. About 500 miners of 23 different nationalities were employed at the mine, and they and their families lived in individual houses, or in a large hotel, all of which were owned and supplied by the company with water, electric lighting and steam heat. Plans called for the location of the town on the tableland above the canyon, where there arose a small village called Antelope City consisting of about 40 houses. There the company built a two-story school, away from the noise and traffic of the mine, and it was reached from the canyon by a flight of 365 wooden steps. But houses and other company-owned buildings also lined the sides of the canyon. A general store, meat market, drug store, opera house, post office, barber shop, the company office building, homes for the superintendent and the doctor, and other homes - all alike and numbered - stretched up the canyon. At the head of the canyon was an Episcopal Church. Lawns, flower gardens, and terraced vegetable gardens could be seen on both sides of the canyon. The company owned and operated the main store in Cambria, supplying miners and ranchmen living in a radius of several miles from town. Through their ownership of the land around Cambria the Kilpatricks were able to prohibit the sale of liquor, and the nearest saloon was seven miles south at New-castle. Nevertheless, it is said that beer wagons rolled up the canyon from that place to Cambria on Saturday nights. The company maintained a hospital and staff, and also built a miner bathhouse furnished with hot and cold water, wash basins, showers, tubs, and 250 lockers in which the men could leave their work clothes. A three-story recreation building was built to serve the camp's social life. On the lower story of the structure was a gymnasium and stage, on the second floor was a large amusement hall containing a bowling alley, two pool tables, a billiard table and card stands, and on the third floor was a meeting hall.

The utopian vision of a happy, cosmopolitan community operated under the proprietary eye of the Cambria Fuel Company, where there were no labor unions but also where there were no strikes or other similar disturbances, where there were no mine disasters, where there were was no police force, where the mines were closed on Sunday, and where all of the physical and social needs of the miners and their families were met, is a part of available literature on the subject. It is exemplified by the story that is told about how the town's three churches - Methodist, Episcopal and Catholic - were able to work together so harmoniously as to allow the proceeds from any money-raising undertaking to be divided equally among the three. Author John M. White, who visited the camp about 1893, seemed impressed by the scene - the modern efficient mining operation and the cosmopolitan community of human brotherhood - and concluded his essay in the following words:

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The five or six hundred people thus removed "far from the madding crowd" present a wide social range, and yet there is a bond of union in their isolation and busy lives that unifies their interests and blends their sympathies to an extent that would elsewhere be impossible. The town is off the line of general travel, and offers no attraction for idlers. The hotel, which affords accommodation for over three hundred persons, is not intended for transient guests, but for such of the workmen as do not "keep house." Visitors are entertained at the hotel quarters in the office building, where the administration corps have elegant apartments. Even the ladies of their families find a residence amid these picturesque surroundings wholly delightful, and experience little temptation in the more varied life of the outside world. Each one employs his gifts for the common entertainment, and it would be an exceptional situation in such a company, were there any lack of wholesome amusement for leisure hours. There is abundant evidence that the poetic muse is no stranger here, and as an illustration of the effect of the divine afflatus upon the coal-laden mind, I append a native tribute to the capacity of the local coal measures:

"Beneath those rugged, pine-clad hills.

    Within those rocky walls,  
They say there's coal enough on hand  
    To boil Niagara Falls-  
To thaw the Arctic regions down,  
    And melt the Northern Pole;  
All h--l might run ten million years  
    On Cambria's stock of coal.

"There's coal enough, so I've been told,  
    To fry a thousand moons;  
The coal that's hauled out every day  
    Would heat a thousand Junes.  
It's rather tough, with all this coal  
    Beneath a Western sun,  
That I must nearly break my back  
    To buy a half a ton."

Until the end of 1902 Kilpatrick Brothers and Collins operated the Cambria mines under the name of Cambria Mining Company, when the operation was transferred to the Cambria Coal Mining Company. In February, 1904 the property went back into the hands of the original owners who reincorporated as the Cambria Fuel Company. The latter continued to operate the mines until 1910 when they sold their holdings to eastern investors headed by Elwood Rabenold of New York. The happy scene described by author White and others ended in 1928 when the mines closed. About 85 men were employed at Cambria when, on March 15, 1928,

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a whistle blew an end to the operation and the mines were shut down permanently. The end did not come by surprise, even though it is said that some did not believe the mines would close. The reason for the end of the operation was not due to competition offered by other coal fields, nor was it due to the changeover to oil-consuming diesel engines which occurred at a later date. It was due to a dwindling supply of coal. The output from the Cambria mines began with 2,985 short tons in 1889 and increased to 542,649 tons in 1899. Although it is not known at what date peak output was reached, it is estimated that by the time the Cambria seam played out in 1928, a total of about 12,500,000 tons of coal had been mined. The significance of that production in the history of the American West, is yet to be assessed. Cambria was significant on a local basis in that it contributed to the economic development of the immediate area. It was economically important on a regional basis because the coal which came from Cambria was used to supply power for a portion of the American transportational network. But further research of Cambria and other Wyoming mining operations needs to be done in order to correctly assess their further significance in the history of the American West.

In the early 1930's Cambria was a ghost town when salvage contracts were let to recover whatever of value remained at the site. When Farm Security Administration photographer Russell Lee visited the place in 1941 there were a number of frame shells standing in the canyon, but today almost all physical evidence of the settlement and mining operation is gone. Before the mines were shut down plans were made by the Cambria Fuel Company to erect a memorial to Cambria miners and traditions. Plans called for a recreational complex, called Cambria Casino-Park Memorial, the focal point of which would be a large sandstone building located in Salt Creek Canyon at a point about a mile northeast of the town of Cambria. The main building, called the Cambria Casino, was designed by New York architect Bruce Rabenold in 1927 and construction was begun in the spring of 1928, continuing through that year into the summer of 1929. The facility was opened in piecemeal fashion and the grand opening of the dance hall was held on January 12, 1929. The Casino's manager was R.T. Spurgeon, the former cashier of the Cambria Fuel Company, and its assistant manager was Harold Cone, a former employee of the Burlington Railroad. The casino was situated on 2,280 acres of land donated by the company, and had a subsidiary ranch of 15,560 acres. A fresh water pool supplied by the water of Salt Creek, and a salt water plunge supplied by water piped from a salt springs two miles north of the casino, were primary features of the complex. According to a 1929 article printed in a newspaper, the Sheridan Journal, 75 guests could be accommodated in six cottages - which no longer exist - and the main casino building. The resort was reportedly booked solid by the Black Hills Transportation Company which carried tours from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Chicago and North Western, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroads.

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In 1936-37 a room at the casino was leased for use as a bar. From 1939 to 1949 the Flying V Ranch, as the Cambria Casino-Park Memorial was then called, was leased to the Reno Livestock Company. Since 1949, when the commissioners of Cambria Park sold the property, the Flying V has been under ownership of at least four, separate parties, the present owners being Mr. and Mrs. Frank Napolitano.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for this nomination is shown on the enclosed aerial photograph and encompasses approximately 122 acres. These boundaries include the structures described in the nomination and the surrounding grounds which protect the site and contribute to the sense of time and place demonstrated by the Inn's unique architecture and setting.

Beginning at a point along U.S. Highway 85, 500 feet south of a line coinciding with the south wall of the Cambria Inn the west boundary extends north along the highway to a point 500 feet north of a line coinciding with the north wall of the corrals; from that point the north boundary extends directly east to a point 500 feet east of a line coinciding with the east wall of the bathhouse; from that point the east boundary runs due south to a point 500 feet south of the line which coincides with the south wall of the Cambria Inn; from that point the south boundary extends due west to the point of beginning.

Although somewhat arbitrary these boundaries best define what has been described in the nomination. The golf course has not yet been defined due to a lack of archeological evidence, but may someday be uncovered as scientific methods improve. Should this happen the boundaries could be revised to include the golf course and any other relevant sites uncovered. This boundary encompasses the resource, protects the site and excludes excess acreage.