

Coudersport, PA – Potter County, “God’s Country”

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Emergency Phone Number: 911; Event Assistance: Lorraine Jackson @ 240-298-1278



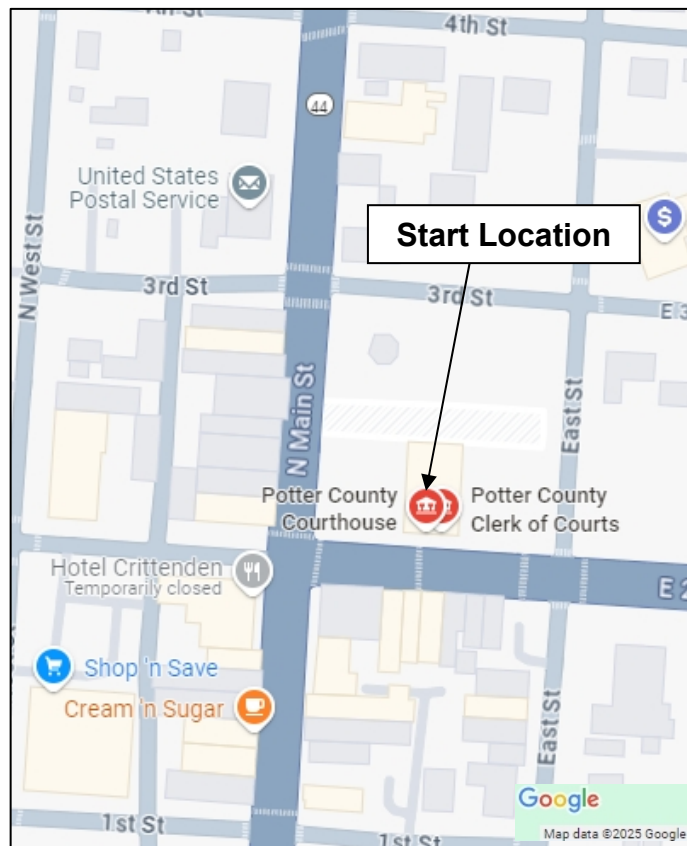
Start Location: Gazebo in Courthouse Square, Main Street, Coudersport, PA 16915

Driving Directions to get to the Start Location:

Follow US-6 west to Coudersport. The courthouse is at the intersection of US-6 and PA-44. Do not park in the lot for the courthouse, because that lot is for permit-parking only. The streets close to the center of town are metered (the sticker on these meters says that there is free parking at these meters on Sunday and Holidays). Park on the street near the Post Office, 301 N Main St, Coudersport. Find a spot that does not have a meter or a restricted amount of time that you can park and then walk back to the gazebo at the courthouse.

Walk Description: Coudersport is the county seat of Potter County, PA. Located in the Pennsylvania Wilds, Coudersport is also called "Dark Sky Central", because the few lights from civilization translate to dark skies at night, making the area a Mecca for star gazers. Our walk highlights some beautiful homes that were built in the 1880s when Coudersport flourished from the lumber industry. Trace the wealth of the Rigas family, from John Rigas' first business venture to the collapse of his empire after his conviction of fraud. Monitor the progress on the restoration of the world-famous F.W.Knox Mansion, also known as "Old Hickory". Visit one of Pennsylvania's living Moon Trees! See where Eliot Ness and Margaret Sutton (author of the Judy Bolton mystery book series) once lived!

The 10K walk consists of two loops, each 5K long. For a 5K walk, you can walk either of the loops. For a 10K walk, walk both loops.



AVA Special Programs:

- Par for the Course
- Step to the Beat
- Town Hall / City Hall
- Walking with America's Veterans
- Walking with the Wild Things
- KSVa Counties Program (Potter County)

Restrooms: There are no restrooms at the Start/Finish location where you will park your car. However, there are restrooms available at businesses along the way. There *might* be a seasonal portajohn near the start at a Farmer's Market.

Walk Completion and Credit: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.

These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Coudersport, PA – Potter County, “God’s Country”

5K and 10K Volkswalk Route

Rated 1B

Emergency Contact: Call 911

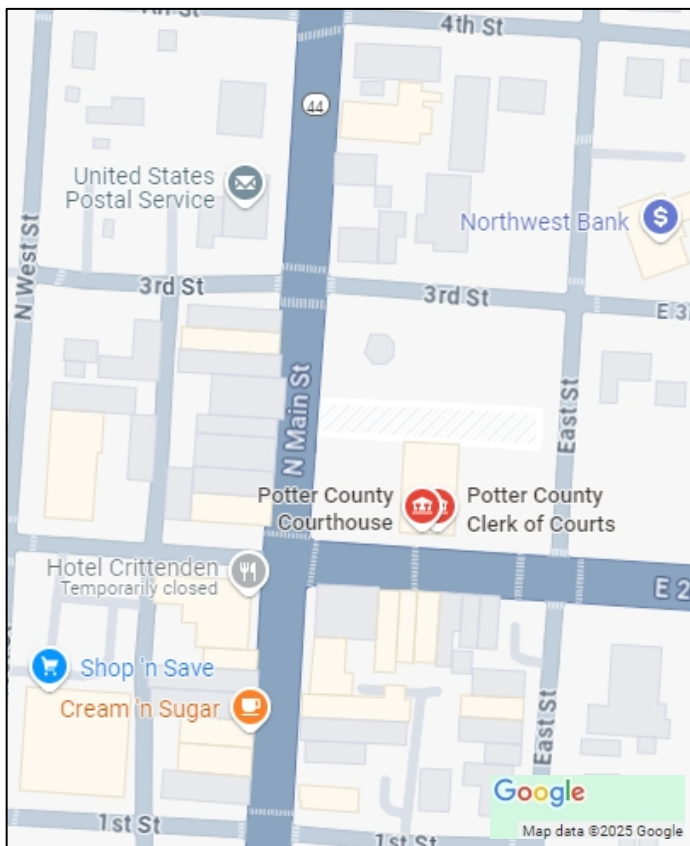


Coudersport, the county seat of Potter County PA, is nestled in the Endless Mountains and has many historic buildings. Information on some of them are interspersed with the walk directions. A centerpiece is the Potter County Courthouse with its cupola clock, which can be seen from many vantage points along today's route. Note the gas-style lamp posts along Main Street. You will make 4 Allegheny River crossings during this walk.

Around 3:00 in the afternoon of Tuesday May 18, 1880, a fire was noticed in a small shed that was tucked between two stores on Second St. It was a breezy day, and by the time anyone got close enough to do anything about the fire, it was too late. The shed was engulfed and the flames were spreading to the adjacent buildings. The fire was whipped by winds and raced through the town. The courthouse came close to catching fire, but was saved by heroic efforts. Men, women and children carried water and worked to exhaustion, to wet down homes and buildings. By nightfall, Coudersport's entire business district had been leveled to the ground. Wood had been the favored material for building in Coudersport until the Great Coudersport Fire of 1880. After the fire, the town enacted a building code that required brick or stone construction with slate or tin roofs for future buildings. Most of the buildings you will see along this walk were built in the 30 years following the 1880 fire.

- Not suitable for stroller or wheelchairs because of some short distances on gravel and the lack of curb cuts.
- Watch your step as you do this walk; many of the sidewalks are rough and uneven.
- There are a few hills on this walk, but they aren't too bad.
- You might want to time your walk to arrive at Cream 'n Sugar Café to have lunch. As of this writing, their hours are Mon-Fri 7AM-5PM, Sat 9AM-5PM, Sun CLOSED
- Throughout the walk, notice the banners honoring local veterans on the utility poles in town with the heading “Coudersport Pennsylvania Salutes”. **(WALKING WITH AMERICA'S VETERANS SPECIAL PROGRAM)**

Start/Finish Location: Gazebo in Courthouse Square, Main Street, Coudersport, PA 16915



Do not park in the lot for the courthouse, because that lot is for permit-parking only. The streets close to the center of town are metered (the sticker on these meters says that there is free parking at these meters on Sunday and Holidays). Park on the street near the Post Office, 301 N Main St, Coudersport, PA 16915. Find a spot that does not have a meter or a restricted amount of time that you can park. From your parking spot, walk to the Gazebo in the park at the courthouse to begin your walk.

There might be a portajohn RESTROOM in the lot across Third St from the courthouse. It is there for the Farmers Market, which is set up 12:00 noon until 6pm on Fridays, May through October. Unfortunately, the courthouse does not allow the public to use its restrooms. ☹️

The 10K walk consists of two loops, each 5K long. For a 5K walk, you can walk either of the loops. For a 10K walk, walk both loops.

The Potter County Courthouse is in Courthouse Square. Its cupola clock keeps time for the town. It was constructed of brick around 1853 in the Greek Revival style, and was Victorianized with Italianate features in an 1888 remodeling. The Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. County government offices are still housed in the building.

In the park at Courthouse Square, there are several veterans memorials **(WALKING WITH AMERICA'S VETERANS SPECIAL PROGRAM)**.

During “Food Fun Fridays” on some Fridays in the evening during the summer, the gazebo in the park is used as a stage for musical performances **(STEP TO THE BEAT SPECIAL PROGRAM)** (and there are food trucks in the park during that time as well!)

1. **LOOP # 1:** Exit gazebo and turn LEFT at bottom of stairs. Turn LEFT again onto the sidewalk and walk to the corner (Main St & Third St).
2. Turn RIGHT onto Main St.

The Potter County Historical Society is at 308 N Main Street. The Society and especially Dave Castano was very helpful in laying out the initial walk route in 2012, which these directions are based on. Stop and say “Hi” and “Thanks to Dave.” Restrooms available, when open.

Just past the Historical Society building, notice a fountain in the yard. This is the Mann Fountain, and was erected in 1903 as a memorial to the Mann family for their leadership in the local Underground Railroad movement and in the fight against alcohol. It originally stood in front of the Mann house across from the Post Office, and was a three-tiered fountain that served pets, people and horses. The fountain was damaged in 1934, then subsequently disassembled, but in 2009 was restored and placed in its current location.

3. Walk 6 blocks to North St, crossing Fourth St.

At Fourth Street is the First Presbyterian Church of Coudersport, which dates to 1902.

4. Cross Fifth St and Sixth St.

Across North St at Sixth St is Christ Episcopal Church, which dates to 1883.

5. Cross Seventh St and Ellison St. The block between Seventh and Ellison is very long. The sidewalk stops just before Ellison (1K). Walk on the grass to North St.
6. Turn RIGHT onto North St, walking on the left side to the end of the road. Then walk straight ahead across the grass to the bridge ahead of you.
7. Continue across the bridge (1st Allegheny River crossing) into CARP (Coudersport Area Recreation Park).
8. At the end of the bridge, turn RIGHT and follow the gravel road straight into the park. Pass a playground on your left. **(PAR FOR THE COURSE SPECIAL PROGRAM).**

There is a RESTROOM in the building adjacent to the large picnic pavilion on the left, IF it is open.

9. The road curves LEFT at a red dumpster.

Look through the three large pine trees just before the dumpster, slightly to the right to find a smaller sycamore tree with a rock next to it. Walk to the front of the rock. This is the Potter County Moon Tree!

The Apollo 14 on January 31, 1971 carried variety of tree seeds including American Sycamore. One of the astronauts aboard this mission, Stuart Roosa, was a former US Forest Service smokejumper. He wanted to see what, if any, genetic changes would occur due to weightlessness in space once the trees were planted on Earth. Would they even be able to sprout? This could be vital information for scientists working on creation of a self-sustaining environment in space. Taking things a step further, NASA officials felt that the Moon Tree seedlings and saplings would make a nice gift for towns and cities across the US for the celebration of the nation's 200th birthday, our Bicentennial in 1976.

After arriving safely back on Earth, NASA quarantined the seeds in an isolation chamber for 17 days. Everything the astronauts carried with them, including the seeds in sealed bags, went through a decontamination procedure. Unfortunately, the sealed bags burst due to air pressure difference. The exposed seeds scattered all about the chamber.

The seeds were scooped up and rushed to National Forest Service laboratories in Placerville, California and Gulfport, Mississippi where they were gently sorted by hand. Many seeds did not survive, but after much tender-loving care, some germinated into seedlings and saplings.

As a Bicentennial gift, Pennsylvania received several Moon Tree saplings. On NASA's website today, seven locations with Moon Trees are listed in Pennsylvania. The Potter County tree gift was due to the efforts of retired Susquehannock District Forester Robert Lewis from Potter County.

On April 30, 1976 - Arbor Day - Potter County's Moon Tree was presented to the Coudersport community; but that day was snowy and too cold to put a sycamore seedling in the ground. The little sycamore seedling was also suddenly stricken with anthracnose, a common fungal disease, and was now teetering on the brink of death.

Coudersport's Carol Patterson, who owned a tree nursery in nearby Colesburg, rescued the tree, reviving it and nurturing it in her greenhouse until it was healthy enough to plant. "The tree barely survived," explained Carol, "We don't have the best climate for sycamores, but this one did make it." When the little

sycamore was finally healthy enough, she moved it to where it now thrives, in Coudersport Area Recreation Park (CARP).

The Lions Club paid for a plaque that was to be placed at the base of the tree along with garden bricks and mulch, but unfortunately the plaque wasn't put in place at that time. It was decided not to call attention to the little tree and let it flourish, undisturbed. The Moon Tree would live on, becoming taller, stronger and virtually unnoticed for 10 more years. The Lions Club President held on to the plaque at his residence.

On Saturday, May 1, 2021, that plaque was mounted on a boulder and placed in front of the Moon Tree for people passing by to know exactly what it is and where it all started.

10. After visiting the Moon Tree, return to the gravel road and continue past the red dumpster. then RIGHT at the Falcons stadium. Don't count on the restrooms at the stadium being open – they were locked when I tried them!

Note that there are also several ball fields and basketball courts in this park (Again, **PAR FOR THE COURSE SPECIAL PROGRAM**).

Falcon Stadium is Coudersport Area Junior Senior High's football stadium. The school's music department has a marching band, and they perform in this stadium. **(STEP TO THE BEAT SPECIAL PROGRAM)** You will pass the high school on Loop 2.

11. Continue to stop sign at Seventh St. (2K)
12. Cross Seventh St and continue straight ahead on Woodlawn Ave.

House #19 on the right has a gnome that is reclining, perched on the edge of the wishing well, in front of the house **(WALKING WITH THE WILD THINGS SPECIAL PROGRAM)**.

13. At the end of Woodlawn Ave, turn RIGHT to cross the walking bridge (2nd Allegheny River crossing).

This is a "King Bridge", named so because it was designed and manufactured by the King Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Co of Cleveland, OH. This bridge dates to 1883.

Straight ahead to the left is the red carriage house of the Consistory, which you will see later on the walk, on Loop # 2.

14. Walk on the left side of the street one block to East St. Turn LEFT and walk one block to Third St.
15. Turn LEFT on Third St and walk one block to the end.

On your left is the house where "Untouchable" Eliot Ness lived at the time of his death.

16. Turn around and retrace your steps to East St. Cross East St and continue one more block to Main St, passing the start point gazebo.
17. Cross Main St in the crosswalk, and then turn LEFT onto Main Street.

Ahead of you on the side of the brick building is the Coudersport Community Mural. This mural, created primarily by local artist Judy Johnston and Coudersport art teacher Sarah Batson, was painted in 2008. It depicts a well-known local storyteller, Bill Thompson, sharing a story about Coudersport's heritage of farming, maple production, industry, railroading, hunting and logging with a group of children. The ceramic tiles underneath the mural were painted by community members of all ages and were added to complete the project in 2009.

The Potter County Artisan Center is a worthwhile stop! They feature art and hard-crafted items by local artisans. Look for the gorgeous photography by Curt Weinhold (my favorite!). They also have a restroom in the back of their store ... ☺

18. Continue walking down Main St.

Just before the corner of Main St and Second St, on the right side, is the Eliot Ness Museum.

19. Cross Second St.

The Hotel Crittenden is on the right corner after you cross Second St. This hotel, built in 1891, replaced a previous 1840 hotel on the site that burned in the Fire of 1880. The hotel had even some famous patrons including Joan Crawford and of course Eliot Ness, who frequented the Crittenden's "tap room". Ness, along with Oscar Fraley, wrote the book "The Untouchables" mainly at the hotel.

Sadly, the Hotel Crittenden is currently closed. In early April 2023, the hotel suffered a terrible fire on the third floor, resulting in significant damage to the hotel.

20. Continue walking down Main St.

Between Second St and First St on the right side is a little café, Cream 'n Sugar. I highly recommend this as a place to eat! If you do patronize them, be sure to also use their RESTROOM – not just to do your business, but also because they have very interesting historical pictures of Coudersport hanging on their bathroom walls!

21. Cross First St.

On the right at Main St and First St is the Coudersport Theater, completed in 1923. It was originally built in 1923 as a venue for silent films, complete with live piano accompaniment, as well as for various other entertainment performances. The theatre has had many owners over the years, but has retained much of its nostalgic charm including its marquee and the Spanish-themed curtain that were both added in 1928. John Rigas, the founder of Adelphia Communications, bought the theatre in 1952 as his first business venture. You will encounter more about John Rigas later in this walk.

22. Continue on Main St.

Just before you reach Water St, look across Main St to your left to see the FW Knox Villa, a historic house currently under renovation. You will pass this house on the other side of the street later on Loop 2, and more details are provided about the house then.

23. Turn RIGHT onto Water St, just before the bridge. (3K)

24. Walk one block to West St. Cross West St and turn RIGHT, walking on the sidewalk on the left side of West St.

25. Walk eight blocks to Eighth St.

As you walk up West St, notice some of the homes with especially interesting architecture. Many of these were built in the 1800s, some before the Great Coudersport Fire of 1880.

*The house on the left, across from Third St (with a Statue of Liberty in the yard) has a gargoyle near the left corner of the house, and a gnome in the garden to the right of the door.
(WALKING WITH THE WILD THINGS SPECIAL PROGRAM)*

After crossing Fourth St, notice 401 N. West St, a red house with white trim on the left. This house is the best example in town of Gothic Revival Architecture. Showcasing fine woodworking skill, the house was built in 1852 with an addition in 1862 by local carpenter Miles White. The two-and-one-half-story steeply pitched roof structure features wide bracketed eaves, looped bargeboards, and a central chimney.

26. At Fifth St, the sidewalk becomes old and in poor repair. It is walkable, but you may choose to walk along the left edge of the road instead.

27. At Eighth St, turn right and walk one block to Main Street. (4K)

28. Turn RIGHT on Main St, walking on the grass for about 10 yards and then picking up the sidewalk on the right side of the road. Walk to Third St.

This part of Main St also is lined with many houses with beautiful and unique architecture that date from the 1800s, including before the Great Coudersport Fire of 1880.

Just before Third Street you will come to the post office. It stands on the site where a house built for John Mann, in 1856, was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad in the first few years of the Civil War (remember the Mann fountain next to the Historical Society?). In 1937, the current building was built as part of FDR's "New Deal".

Stop in to see the art work on the left lobby wall: A relief sculpture of three woodsmen and passenger pigeons (now extinct) depicting Coudersport's lumber heritage. This sculpture was created and installed as part of FDR's program to place murals and sculptures in post offices across the country.

29. At the corner of Third and Main, turn LEFT to cross Main at the crosswalk. Turn RIGHT and return to the gazebo.

30. **LOOP # 2:** Leave the gazebo and proceed straight ahead past the monument to East St.

31. Turn right on East St and walk 1 block to Second St (US-6), passing the Potter County Courthouse on your right.

32. Carefully cross US-6 at the crosswalk and turn LEFT.

On the corner of Second and East is the Potter County Jail, built in 1850, and still in use.

33. Walk along the right side of US-6 (3rd Allegheny River crossing) to the entry of the grassy field right before the Juniata Valley Bank (JVB).

Across the street you can see the Coudersport Consistory. The 1888 lighter colored western section of the building (with the flag in the front of it) was originally the home of Isaac Benson. His Victorian chateau was constructed with brick and embellished with sawn wood gingerbread, lattice work and bracketing, as well as towers, bays and steep rooflines. In 1913 the building was purchased by the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masonry and the middle section was added using Tudor architecture. The easternmost section was completed in 1930 in stone, and is the most massive section. It resembles a Norman castle, modified by the influence of Art Deco design. The consistory's red carriage house, which you saw earlier, is to the left of the Consistory.

34. Turn RIGHT into the grassy field, walking along the silver pipe with the Allegheny River spillway to your right.

As you walk across the grass, look to the left to see a huge brick house through the trees. This is the Lewis Mansion, and you will see it again later in this walk, where it will be described in more detail.

35. At the end of the pipe, continue walking along the curve of the spillway to the point where it intersects with the Mill Creek spillway.

Notice the small, mossy memorial stone in the ground here. This is a memorial to Jim Bashline (1931-1995), a prominent outdoor writer and angler, who grew up in Potter County. This place was called the Goodsell Hole: "Located on the headwaters of the Allegheny River at the center of Coudersport village near the New York/Pennsylvania border, two equally flowing waters join their forces. There the Allegheny River and Mill Creek formed a pool known, since 1865, as the Goodsell Hole for a century as the greatest trout-producing pool in Pennsylvania." This was before the Allegheny River / Mill Creek flood control project – ie the concrete dykes that contain the two bodies of water today.

The concrete channels today were initially built in the 1950s, in part to address concerns after a devastating flood in 1942. The flood was caused by unprecedented rainfall, resulting in extensive property damage, loss of life, and infrastructure damage including to the Coudersport and Port Allegany Railroad. (You will visit the railroad's depot later in this walk.)

36. Turn around and follow the Mill Creek spillway (not along the Allegheny River that you walked next to to get here), keeping it the creek on right, to Mill St. You can still see the Lewis Mansion on your left. Cross Mill St and continue straight ahead onto Park Ave.
37. Walk down Park Avenue, passing the Coudersport Library and Mitchell Park. There is a playground in this park (**PAR FOR THE COURSE SPECIAL PROGRAM**).

RESTROOMS are available in the library, all the way in the back, but they ask for a donation from non-library patrons if you use it.

There is a small building at the rear of the library parking lot with restrooms, but when I passed it, they were locked.

38. Continue past the stop sign and the ball field on the left. Turn LEFT onto Dwight St, a one-way street (walking the wrong way), passing Coudersport Area Junior Senior High School.

On your left are the school's practice football fields. The trailer for the school's music marching band might also be parked here. The marching band performs at the school's football games in Falcon Stadium in Coudersport Area Recreation Park (CARP), which was on Loop 1.

39. Bear slightly right to continue on the left side of Dwight St, passing School St and Dodge St. Pass Gordnier St and continue to Mill St.
40. Turn LEFT on Mill St for one block.

House #202 Mill St on the right side was the Lewis Mansion. It was built as the homestead for the Lewis Family in 1901. Potter County Judge Robert Lewis and his family resided here, as did fiction writer Margaret Sutton, author of the Judy Bolton book series (written from 1932-1967). Judy Bolton enthusiasts come to Coudersport each year for The Judy Bolton Weekend annual convention, which is sometimes hosted at the mansion (the house is "Farrington-Pett Mansion" in the Judy Bolton mystery books).

The mansion has undergone renovations and restorations over the years, and has been preserved in the inside of the house to its original woodwork. Most recently, the mansion has become a boutique hotel called "Mill Street Mansion" with luxury rooms. For more information about its history and for pictures inside, check out their website: <https://millstmansion.com>

41. Across from the Mill Street Mansion, turn LEFT onto Ross St.
42. Turn RIGHT onto Gordnier St.

43. Walk 1 blocks to Park Ave. Cross Park Ave, then turn LEFT, passing in front of the library.
44. Turn RIGHT into the library parking lot and walk to the back of the library building (**RESTROOMS** again in the back of the library). Bear RIGHT, and then left across the grass. Walk across the bridge over Mill Creek.
45. Continue on the trail, up the small hill and walk along the split rail fence. At the end of the fence, the swimming pool will be on your left.
46. Curve to the RIGHT with the split rail fence and onto Oak St (no sign, but there is a beautiful blue house on the left and a white garage on the right where Oak St begins here). Walk along the left sidewalk one block to Isabella St.

The third house on the right, 503 Oak St, was commissioned by Dr. A.F. Domaleski in 1949. The house was designed and built by architect Raymond Viner Hall, who was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright. He favored the use of "advanced applications of concrete, masonry, steel, wood and pipe in integrated systems aiming at sound construction at lower than normal costs." The real impressiveness of the house is inside and in the rear, which "dramatically opens to the private pool, terrace, and garden complex at the off-street side"

47. Turn LEFT on Isabella St. Cross Maple St and continue on Isabella St as it bends to the left and becomes Ross Glenn.
48. After the bend, behold the huge mansion on the right side of Ross Glenn!

The never-completed huge mansion at 210 Ross Glen Rd, is sometimes referred to as "Fraud Mansion".

This stunning structure has stood abandoned and unfinished since 2001, shrouded in a fascinating yet troubled history. Originally intended as a luxurious residence, construction came to a halt amidst turmoil when the owners, the Rigas family, faced charges of fraud related to their ownership of the Coudersport-based Adelphia Communications Corporation. The government seized the property, leaving the giant, turreted Victorian mansion untouched for years. The house remains frozen in time, its interiors incomplete, an empty reminder of the scandal that rocked this picturesque small town in rural Pennsylvania.

The home, which features eight bedrooms, nine bathrooms, multiple fireplaces and over 100 windows, was being built in 2001. It was to be a 10,000-square-foot home and was modeled after the historic Lewis Mansion that you saw earlier in your walk. The Rigas Mansion sits on seven acres. The small, three-bedroom rancher in the front yard is part of the estate, and was used by contractors who were working on the house.

The house was being built by James Rigas, a son of John Rigas. John Rigas was a prominent American businessman, the founder of Adelphia Communications Corporation and former owner of the Buffalo Sabres ice hockey team. Adelphia had more than 5 million subscribers in its heyday. But in 2002, the Rigases were accused of "looting the business of hundreds of millions of dollars." John Rigas was convicted of fraud in 2005, leading to a 15-year prison sentence from which he was released early in 2016 due to declining health. He died in Coudersport in 2021.

49. After viewing the Rigas Mansion, turn around and retrace your steps on Ross Glenn to Isabella St. Turn RIGHT on Isabella St for a short distance.
50. Turn LEFT onto Maple St and walk two blocks to Borie St.
51. Turn RIGHT on Borie St for one blocks.
52. Turn LEFT on Oak St for three blocks, walking on the left sidewalk, to Main St.

As you approach the end of Oak St, you get a good view of the Adelphia headquarters building, which was built at a cost of \$30 million but never occupied by Adelphia. This majestic building with its Palladian windows also was swept up in the Adelphia scandal, and sat vacant for years. The building was bought by American Metro Bank, and now has tenants Zito Media ... which is a cable company that was started in 2005 by James Rigas ... as well as UPMC Cole Home Health and Hospice.

53. Turn LEFT onto Main St using the sidewalk on the left side of the road.
54. Walk to the crosswalk at Maple St, just across from the McDonalds.
55. CAREFULLY cross Main St in the crosswalk toward McDonalds (**RESTROOMS**).
56. Continue ahead on the sidewalk of Maple St with McDonalds to your right. Follow the sidewalk leading to the former Coudersport train station, now the Borough Office (**TOWN HALL / CITY HALL SPECIAL PROGRAM**) and police station. Notice the passenger train car from the Coudersport & Port Allegany Railroad to your left as you enter the little park.
57. Follow the path to walk around the right end of the station. Turn LEFT on the brick sidewalk, walking in front of the station. You are now on West St.

On the right side of the station is a large veterans memorial (**WALKING WITH AMERICA'S VETERANS SPECIAL PROGRAM**).

The train station, built in 1899, is only surviving building from the Coudersport & Port Allegany Railroad. The railroad was a shortline railroad, fueled by the lumber industry, that operated in Potter and McKean Counties in Pennsylvania in the United States between 1882 and 1964.

The station building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Also look through the park through the trees to see a small covered stage with benches in front of it. "Live Music Wednesdays" is hosted here from 6:00pm-8:00pm. (**STEP TO THE BEAT SPECIAL PROGRAM**)

58. Continue on West St to the corner at Chestnut St (US-6).

On the left notice the sign for The Coudersport Arboretum, and the old caboose from the Coudersport & Port Allegany Railroad.

59. Turn left at Chestnut St (US-6) and walk to the light at the corner of Main St. Cross Main St at the crosswalk with the light.
60. Turn LEFT and follow the sidewalk on the right side of Main St.

St. Eulalia Catholic Church is on the right, and dates from 1903.

61. Continue on Main St, passing Maple St, Oak St and Allegheny Ave on the right, and cross a bridge (4th Allegheny River crossing).

The bridge is the Potter County World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge (**WALKING WITH AMERICA'S VETERANS**).

Immediately after crossing the Allegheny River bridge is a house that is still called the Old Hickory Tavern. It was completed in 1880 as the private residence for prominent businessman, well-known lawyer and former president of the Coudersport-Port Allegany Railroad F.W. Knox. The Italianate Villa style house was once one of the most magnificent in the county, built using mostly materials produced in Potter County.

The three-story, 5,070-square-foot Italianate villa was

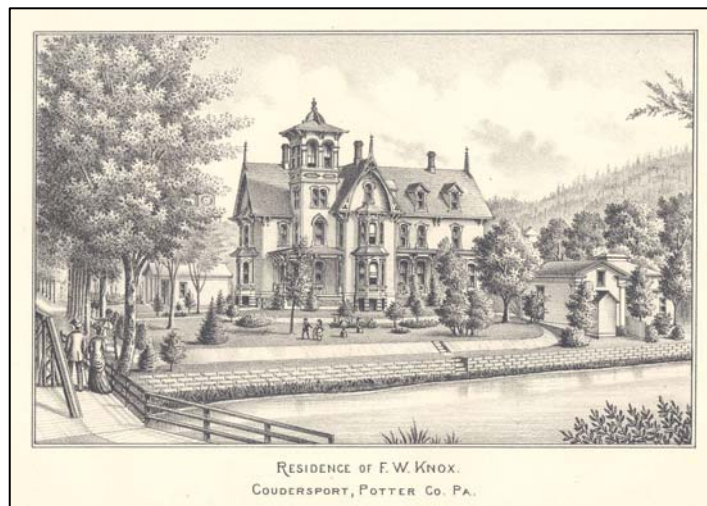
constructed with locally-sourced wood. The 55-foot tower that gives views of downtown Coudersport is made of oak with floors of maple and birch. There are three main bedrooms with a parlor, a basement, high ceilings and many bay windows. There are two double spirals in the main staircase.

In 1928, the house was converted for commercial use as a popular inn and bar known as the Old Hickory Tavern.

In 1987 the house was purchased by John Rigas. The property was to be renovated and expanded with intentions to use it as a bed and breakfast for guests of Adelphia. However, presented as evidence at the Rigas scandal trial was the alleged theft and misuse of billions of dollars, intended to renovate this landmark building. Doris Rigas, John Rigas' wife, spent over half a million dollars on antiques allegedly to furnish Old Hickory. The antiques were paid for with company money, but were charged back to the Rigases on the company books. The renovations were never done.

In 2016, it was purchased by the Mauser family of the Lehigh Valley. The new owners have been renovating it since, a labor of love – and they post pictures of their progress periodically on Facebook. Below is a picture of the F.W. Knox residence in its former glory. Notice the steps that go down to the river – and notice today that the river banks are concrete.

The house is known worldwide. Holly Mauser said at least three people have a tattoo of the house and a tattoo artist in London reached out to her to learn the story of the house because she had just done a tattoo of it. It appears in a Muppets haunted house episode and a few books have the silhouette of the house.

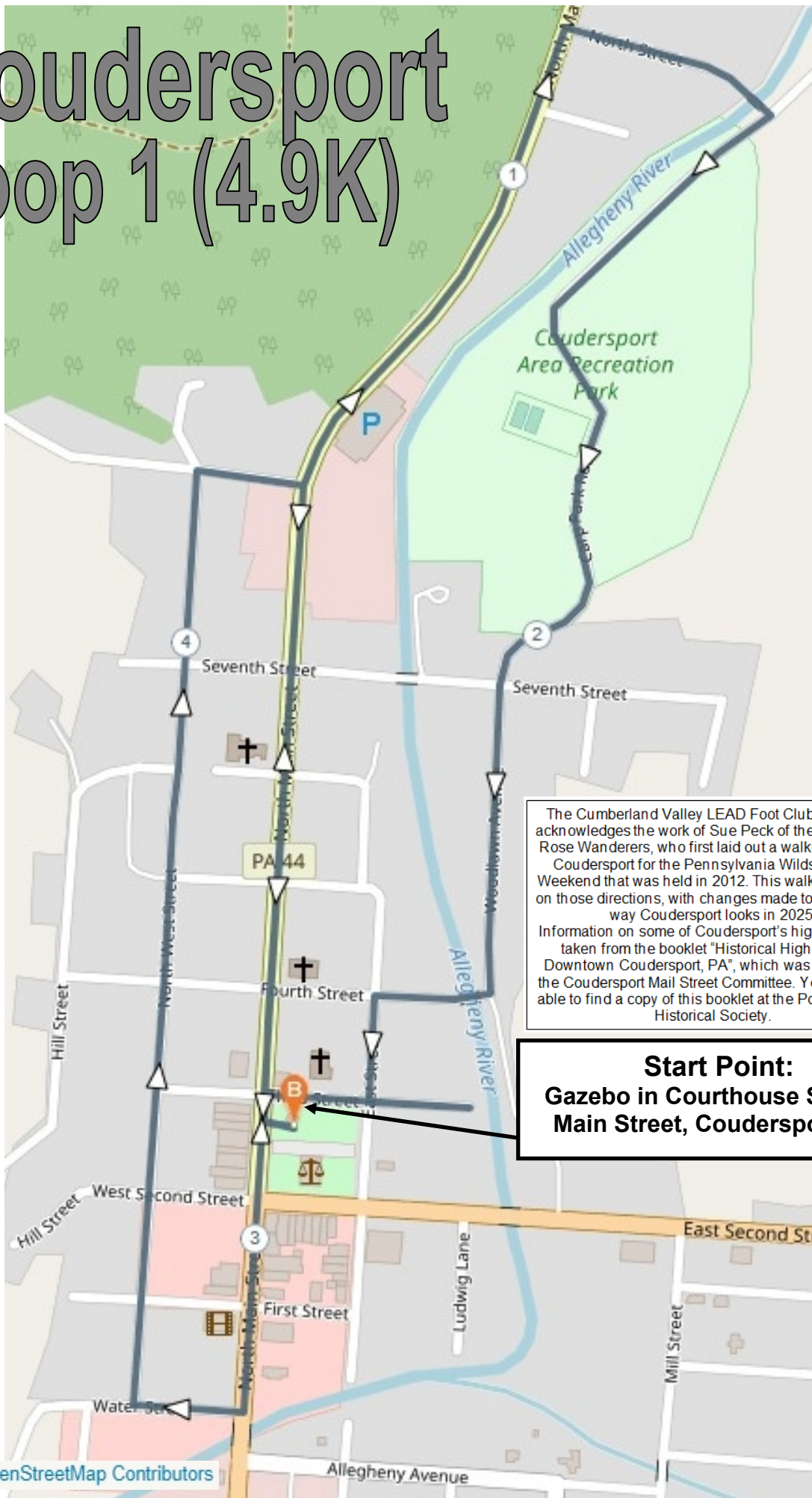


62. Continue on Main St, passing Water St, then crossing First St and Second St. Return to the gazebo in Courthouse Square.
63. Return to your car. Don't forget to check in with the Online Start Box! And thank you very much for supporting the Cumberland Valley LEAD Foot Club on this walk! We hope you enjoyed it! ☺

Special Programs for this walk:

- Par for the Course
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- KSVa Counties Program (Potter County)

Coudersport Loop 1 (4.9K)



The Cumberland Valley LEAD Foot Club gratefully acknowledges the work of Sue Peck of the York White Rose Wanderers, who first laid out a walking route in Coudersport for the Pennsylvania Wilds Walking Weekend that was held in 2012. This walk was based on those directions, with changes made to present the way Coudersport looks in 2025. Information on some of Coudersport's highlights was taken from the booklet "Historical Highlights of Downtown Coudersport, PA", which was created by the Coudersport Main Street Committee. You might be able to find a copy of this booklet at the Potter County Historical Society.

**Start Point:
Gazebo in Courthouse Square,
Main Street, Coudersport, PA**

Start Point:
Gazebo in Courthouse Square,
Main Street, Coudersport, PA

Coudersport Loop 2 (5.1K)

