



THE COLEBROOKDALE RAILROAD PRESERVATION TRUST

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Highway Access to Colebrookdale Railroad

The following is a tour designed to offer the best views of the Colebrookdale line from the highway. Bear in mind that much of the line is inaccessible from the highway. This possible itinerary is offered as a convenience. **The Trust bears no responsibility for your safety nor is this document meant to induce you to embark on a tour of the line. Obey all traffic safety rules and do not trespass on the railroad or private property.**

Starting in Pottstown:

A. . High Street Overpass: Colebrookdale passes over Pottstown's main street, High Street, adjacent to Pottsgrove Manor. Go east on High Street under Colebrookdale RR bridge. Pottsgrove Manor is on left before bridge. Go to light, turn left onto Manatawny St. Then make next left onto King Street. Carousel Museum on left just after creek crossing. Go 1 block west to...

B. King Street Road Crossing: Colebrookdale crosses King Street, PA Route 663, here adjacent to Pottsgrove Manor. Manatawny Park, Pottstown's municipal park, is on the opposite side of the street from the Manor and the Carousel. Likely future location for Pottstown station. Continue west to Route 100. Make right. Head north toward Shoemaker Road. Cross over Shoemaker Road to...

C. Route 100 RR Crossing: Colebrookdale crosses one of PA's busiest North-South highways; 4 lane, divided highway, just north of the intersection of Shoemaker Road and Rt 100. Continue over RR on Route 100 North. Turn around at Upland Square shopping mall, head back to King Street in the opposite direction on Rt 100 ie, Rt 100 South). Make left onto King Street. Go straight ahead to Manatawny Street. Turn left.

D. Manatawny Road: The RR will be on your left, on the other side of the creek. Keep an eye out for the West Pottsgrove Twp Park. Keep an eye out for waterfall on right.

E. Glasgow Street: Turn left. Cross over RR on bridge. First right onto Old Glasgow St. See little RR bridge with junk yard behind. Glasgow Manor will be on your left. Just beyond curve, spot for future picnic grove?

Head back to Manatawny St, make left.

E. Grosstown Road Crossing: Turn left on Manatawny Street. Take next left onto Grosstown Rd. See RR overpass. Make U turn and go back to Manatawny Rd. Between the Grosstown Road bridge and the Manatawny Road crossing below there is a great spot for a picnic grove where a tributary meets the Manatawny. Continue on Manatawny Road to the...

F. Manatawny Road Crossing. RR will be on your right as you climb Rattlesnake Hill and then descend into Pine Forge. Turn right at T-intersection with Pine Forge Road. Road curves to the right as you cross over Manatawny Creek. Go straight until you pass under...

G. Stone Arch and Steel Bridge over the Confluence of Manatawny and Ironstone Creeks. Cross under RR bridge. Road turns left after passing under bridge. Look left immediately at that left turn. Notice old mill building converted to house RR is behind and above it; notice small RR bridge behind house. Continue straight on Grist Mill Road (do not make the next right that goes up the hill, stay straight to parallel the RR that is on the other side of the Creek.

H. Trestles. As you drive, keep looking left. You parallel the RR (imagine antique car race!) Notice old mill on left and great stone farm house on right. A wooden RR trestle is hidden back in these woods and you should see it through the trees.

I. Township Park/Baseball Field/Trestle over Grist Mill Lane. Notice the trestle over the road and the commanding view from the RR of the park. Go under bridge. Turn around where possible Go back under bridge and retrace your route to make the first left onto Locust Road.

Left onto Winding Road. Stay on Winding Road as it winds around. Do not turn right onto Creamery Road as it splits off; stay left on Winding Road. After Creamery Road, Red Shale Road will split off to the left as Winding Road goes to the right. Take RED SHALE ROAD.

J. Red Shale Road Bridge. Pass underneath the RR. Be sure to look at the RR from both sides of the bridge...spectacular angle. After passing under RR Bridge, turn around and retrace your route on Red Shale Road. Make left onto Birch Lane

K. Birch Lane Railroad Parallel: Birch Lane will hug the RR here. Left onto Winding Road. Stay left onto Winding Road and continue to parallel the RR, which will be on your left. Pass by Woodside Lane on your Right (don't take it). Turn LEFT onto Greshville Road and cross over the RR tracks. Notice the signal box.

Make a U turn and head the opposite direction on Greshville Road. Stay on Greshville (do not turn back onto Winding Road). Left onto Farmington Avenue.

J. Colebrookdale Foundry. Will be on left half mile after your turn off of Greshville Road. Turn in and see the RR tracks crossing creek on old wooden trestle to join up with the RR. Track and switch still in place. Foundry was the reason RR built. Continue .4 miles to...

K. Colebrookdale RR crossing of Farmington Ave. Notice mansion on hill. Continue on Farmington Ave to Route 562. Turn Right onto 562. Drive .3 miles to Mill Street. Turn Right.

L. Mill Street Bridge and Ironstone Creek Bridge. Pass under RR, continue to Jonica Lane. U turn on Jonica. Look at RR...see Ironstone Creek thru-truss bridge build for Port Clinton and re-assembled here just south of Mill Road bridge. Retrace steps back to 562. RR on right as you head into Boyertown. Right onto Second Street.

M. Second Street Bridge—Turn left onto S Chestnut Street BEFORE crossing over RR. Turn right onto Third Street, then left onto Washington. RR yard on your left. Notice Phoenix Column crane at 3rd and Washington. Continue on Washington, cross over Philadelphia Ave Rt 73 (main intersection of the two is on your left).

N. Fourth Street Bridge. Notice RR bridge over fourth street. Washington Ave becomes 7th Street, curves to the left sharply and passes under RR one last time. Track ends at this bridge over Reading Ave.

Proposed Extension to Wal Mart: basically follow North Reading Ave and you'll cross the old ROW a few times. This part of the line is easier to follow than above.