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Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

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Coordinates: 40°30′56.94″N 80°9′46.05″W﻿ / ﻿

Coraopolis (pronounced /kɔːrɪˈɒplɪs/) is a **borough** in **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA**. The population was 6,131 at the **2000 census**. In 1940 the population peaked at 11,086. It is a small community located to the west of **Pittsburgh**, along the **Ohio River** and to the east of the **Pittsburgh International Airport**. The borough is noted for its steep topography, numerous brick streets and many large, old and exquisite homes. The **American Bridge Company** is headquartered in Coraopolis.

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History [\[](#)edit]

Coraopolis has a history replete with the names found on the borough's street signs; names like Montour, Vance, Ferree, McCabe, Neely and Watson.

On April 3, 1769, **Andrew Montour**, an **Indian interpreter** who had provided service to **English settlers** during the **French and Indian War**, was granted a **land patent** for approximately 350 acres (1.4 km²) of what would later become the borough of Coraopolis and **Neville Island**. It is a matter of uncertainty whether he ever lived upon this tract, and highly probable that his residence was not long. The first permanent white settler in Coraopolis was Capt. Robert Vance, who settled in the vicinity of Montour's tract around 1773, just prior to the beginning of the **American Revolution**. Vance, a **Virginian**, had been a member of the regiment commanded by **George Washington** at the **Braddock expedition** during the **French and Indian War**. For the protection of himself and his neighbors, of whom several arrived within a few years, Vance had a log **stockade** built with a stone **blockhouse** to protect the area against **Indian** raids. This was known as Vance Fort (or Fort Vance). The site of the fort was around present-day

Coraopolis, Pennsylvania Borough



5th Avenue, Coraopolis, PA



Coat of arms

Official name: Borough of Coraopolis
 Koreopolis: "maiden city"
 Nickname: *Cory*

Country	United States
State	Pennsylvania
County	Allegheny
Coordinates	40°30′56.94″N 80°9′46.05″W﻿ / ﻿
Population	6,131 (2000)
Settled in 1773	Incorporated in 1886
Mayor	John Haberland
Timezone	EST (UTC-5)
- summer (DST)	EDT (UTC-4)
ZIP code	15108
Area code	412
School District	Cornell

Broadway and Chestnut streets, near Second Avenue. Over time the community grew and developed, and it became known as Middletown in the 1800s, because it was situated midway between [Pittsburgh](#) and [Beaver, Pennsylvania](#).

One of the most important early industries in the area was begun by the Watson family, [English immigrants](#) who arrived in [America](#) in 1830. The Watsons built a [sawmill](#) on the site of the present municipal building on Fifth Avenue. Later, they operated a much larger [grist mill](#) on the river bank at Mill Street, until 1887.

The [borough](#) was incorporated on June 7, 1886. It was previously known as a [village](#) under the name of Middletown, while the post office name was Vancefort. It was established in August 1861, and changed to Coraopolis in March 1886. Legend has it that the borough was named for a member of the Watson family, Cora Watson, who was born on February 2, 1870. However, an old newspaper uncovered by longtime resident and local historian Dr. Frank Braden, Jr. suggests it more likely took the appellation from a [Greek](#) word for "maiden city". According to page 7 of the book *Coraopolis*, by Gia Tatone, Coraopolis Historical Society (2007), "The newspaper [Dr. Frank Braden, Jr. uncovered] was simply called the *News* and was published in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, on June 5, 1897. The newspaper discusses the confusion that was occurring with the post offices in regard to the name Middletown. Several other areas in the state of Pennsylvania shared the same name. With a borough now being established, the Reverend Josiah Dillon, a pioneer clergyman, suggested the name to be changed to Coraopolis. Dillon knew [Greek](#) and was also the first [burgess](#) (*mayor*) at the time. So he suggested combining *Kore* meaning 'maiden' and *opolis* meaning 'city' ('maiden city') to achieve *Koreopolis*. However, when [Greek](#) letters and pronunciation were turned to [English](#), it is said the spelling therefore accidentally got changed."^[1]

Community development in Coraopolis moved along gradually with the building of the [Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad](#) in 1877. Several Coraopolis residents were stockholders in this enterprise. In 1890, oil was discovered at both ends of the borough, which briefly stimulated a population boom. The effects did not last long, however, as the oil supplies were found to be rather modest.

In 1892, community development took off with the construction of the first high-speed electric street railway in the United States. The railway was scheduled to run up to 40 mph, going from Coraopolis, over [Neville Island](#) and to [McKees Rocks](#). Along with the railway came Consolidated Lamp and Glass Company to Coraopolis, moving from its location in [Fostoria, Ohio](#). Consolidated Glass employed up to 350 people. Other Coraopolis residents worked for the new industries established on Neville Island.

Coraopolis' first municipal building was built in 1897 on State Avenue and was used until 1929, when the current building was constructed.

Two significant contributions to modern educational practice took place in the area. In 1955, Dr. Harry Houtz



Location of Coraopolis in Allegheny County



Location of Coraopolis in Pennsylvania



Location of Pennsylvania in the United States

Website: [Coraopolis](#)

published a six year study in the *National Education Journal* demonstrating that **phonics** was a more effective way of teaching reading, and in 1957, Herbert Snell published his study of performance-based academic tracking in junior high, which became widely adopted. Coraopolis and **Neville Township** merged to form **Cornell School District** in 1971, and all students reported to the new Cornell Educational Center in 1976.

Coraopolis is the birthplace of actors **Michael Keaton** and **S. William Hinzman**.

Geography

[[edit](#)]

Coraopolis is located at 40°30′57″N 80°9′46″W﻿ (40.515818, -80.162791)^[1].

According to the **United States Census Bureau**, the borough has a total area of 1.5 square miles (3.8 km²), of which, 1.3 square miles (3.5 km²) of it is land and 0.1 square miles (0.4 km²) of it (9.46%) is water.

Surrounding communities

[[edit](#)]

Coraopolis is situated along the banks of the Ohio River in Western Pennsylvania. The borough is bordered by **Moon Township** and **Robinson Township**. Coraopolis is connected to **Neville Island** (via **Coraopolis Bridge**). The borough sits across the river from **Haysville** and **Osborne**.

Demographics

[[edit](#)]

As of the **census**^[2] of 2000, there were 6,131 people, 2,880 households, and 1,552 families residing in the borough. The **population density** was 4,582.3 people per square mile (1,766.6/km²). There were 3,119 housing units at an average density of 2,331.1/sq mi (898.7/km²). The racial makeup of the borough was 84.96% **White**, 12.43% **Black** or **African American**, 0.08% **Native American**, 0.28% **Asian**, 0.02% **Pacific Islander**, 0.57% from **other races**, and 1.66% from two or more races. 0.98% of the population were **Hispanic** or **Latino** of any race.

There were 2,880 households out of which 21.4% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 38.0% were **married couples** living together, 11.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 46.1% were non-families. 40.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 19.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.10 and the average family size was 2.85.

In the borough the population was spread out with 19.4% under the age of 18, 7.2% from 18 to 24, 30.3% from 25 to 44, 21.6% from 45 to 64, and 21.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41 years. For every 100 females there were 84.1 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 81.7 males.

The median income for a household in the borough was \$32,321, and the median income for a family was \$41,081. Males had a median income of \$31,374 versus \$25,269 for females. The **per capita income** for the borough was \$17,595. About 6.4% of families and 9.7% of the population were below the **poverty line**, including 10.9% of those under age 18 and 11.8% of those age 65 or over.

Council Members

[[edit](#)]

Mayor - John Haberland

Council President - *John Pessy*

Dan LaRocco

Ettore Pitassi

Anthony Celeste

Shelly Jones

Ray McCutcheon

Paul Pollastro

Gerard Thompson

Coraopolis Manager - *Tom Cellante Jr.*

Coraopolis Engineers - *Lennon, Smith and Souleret - (Ned Metrovich)*

Coraopolis Solicitor - *Richard Start*

Water Superintendent - *Rich Deems*

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [List of cities and towns along the Ohio River](#)
- [Coraopolis Bridge](#)

Gallery

[[edit](#)]



The old [Coraopolis Railroad Station](#).



Coraopolis municipal building.



Coraopolis library.



A building that is part of the [American Bridge Company](#)'s headquarters in Coraopolis.



The [Coraopolis Bridge](#).



The [Neville Island Bridge](#) as viewed from a hill in Coraopolis.



[Coraopolis Armory](#).

References

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ "[US Gazetteer files: 2000 and 1990](#)". [United States Census Bureau](#). 2005-05-03. Retrieved 2008-01-31.
- ↑ "[American FactFinder](#)". [United States Census Bureau](#). Retrieved 2008-01-31.

External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Official website of the borough of Coraopolis](#)
- [National Weather Service Forecast for Coraopolis](#)

v • d • e

[Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area](#)

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v • d • e

[Municipalities and communities of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania](#)

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