Key Census Resources

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Disclaimer

• Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau

• Historical content on the Census Bureau history site and in historical census documents may contain outdated terminology or views which, reflecting the authors’ attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today

• This information is for illustration only, not a reflection of the Census Bureau commentary on or approval of any particular person, historical event, or action
What Happens to the Records?

- Transferred to National Archives
- Microfilmed/digitized/transcribed
- Originals destroyed
- Released to the public after 72 years
- Access through various public sites

A newspaper photograph captured the scene after a devastating fire and pointed out the need for safe storage of national records.

Photo courtesy of the National Archives.
What Can You Find on the Records?

- Snapshot of life in a time and place
- Different for each census
- Details can include
  - Name
  - Age as of census day
  - Place of birth
  - Street address
  - Occupation
  - Parents’ birthplaces
  - Marriage status
  - Number of children born and still living
  - Immigration dates
Beyond the Names

- Nonpopulation schedules
- Final reports
  - Economic data
  - Agricultural data
  - Vital statistics
  - Social data
  - Internal migration
  - Family background
  - Education data
  - Cultural context

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/
Other resources

• 1890 Veterans census
• 1900 W.E.B. Dubois and Alexander Graham Bell reports
• Census of American Indians
  • 1880 *Special Census of Indians and Alaska: Its Population, Industries, and Resources*
  • 1890 *Report on Indians Taxed and Not Taxed*
  • 1907 *Census of Seminole County, OK*
  • 1900 and 1910 Special Schedules
  • 1930 *Indian Population of the United States and Alaska*
https://www.census.gov/history
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