

1790 – 1980 POPULATION CENSUS ITEMS

1790 – 1840 Names only the head-of-household. Numbers males and females in age categories -- number in household may include others besides his own children. I.E. Laborers, Parents, Grandchildren, etc.; to include slaves. And, provides the location of the head-of-house.

1850 First time they name everyone in the household. Ask place of birth; if married in the year; if a person can read or write, and the physical condition of each person in the household.

1870 First time free blacks listed on census.

1880 First time the census asks relationship to the head-of-house.

1900 Census became very detailed with many new and important questions; such as, month and year of birth, number of years married, mother of how many children and how many now living, year of immigration and naturalization.

1910 Asks if person is a survivor of the Civil War.

1930 Asks if person is a veteran of a war.

1940 Asks each member of the household where they were living on 1 April 1935.

1790

Name of family head; free white males of 16 years and up, free white males under 16; free white females; slaves; other persons.

1800

Name of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves.

1810

Name of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves.

1820

Name of family head; age; sex; race; foreigners not naturalized; slaves; industry (agriculture, commerce, and manufactures).

1830

Name of family head; age; sex; race; slaves; deaf and dumb; blind; foreigners not naturalized.

1840

Name of family head; age; sex; race; slaves; number of deaf and dumb; number of blind; number of insane and idiotic and whether in public or private charge; number of persons in each family employed in each of six classes of industry and one of occupation; literacy; pensioners for Revolutionary or military service.

1850

Name; age; sex; race; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; value or real estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether a pauper or convict. Supplemental schedules for slaves,

and persons who died during the year.

1860

Name; age; sex; race; value of real estate; value of personal estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb; blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict; number of slave houses. Supplemental schedules for slaves, and persons who died during the year. (Personal property included slaves).

1870

Name; age; race; occupation; value of real estate; value of personal estate; birthplace; whether parents were foreign born; month of birth if born within the year; month of marriage if married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; male citizens

21 and over, and number of such persons denied the right to vote for other than rebellion. Supplemental schedule for persons who died during the year. (First time free black on the census).

1880

Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; month of birth if born within the census year; occupation; months unemployed during the year; sickness or temporary disability; whether blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled, bedridden or otherwise disabled; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents. Supplemental schedules for persons who died during the year.

1890

Most of the General schedules were destroyed by fire in 1921. Fragments

remain for some counties in al, DC, GA, IL, MN, NJ, NY, nC, OH, SD and TX. Supplemental schedules for Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows. Per the July/August 2014 family tree magazine, p 33 – “1890: adds more detailed capture of race, household structure, naturalization status and disability/illness; number of children borne/living and years in the United States; months attending school; parents’ birthplaces; whether a homeless child, convict, prisoner or Civil War veteran/widow; native tongue (if not English). Sadly, all but a handful of schedules for this census were ruined after a Census Bureau fire.”

1900

Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; month and year of birth; marital status;

number of years married; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born; year of immigration/number of years in the US; and whether naturalized; occupation; months not employed; school attendance; literacy; ability to speak English; whether on a farm; home owned or rented and if owned; whether mortgaged.

1910

Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years of present marriage; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace and mother tongue of person and parents, if foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized, and whether able to speak English, or if not, language spoken; occupation, industry, and class of worker; if

an employee, whether out of work during year; literacy; school attendance; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; whether farm or house; whether a survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy; whether blind or deaf and dumb.

1920

Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to the U.S., whether naturalized, and year of naturalization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; mother tongue of foreign born; ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; home owned or rented; if owned, whether free or mortgaged.

1930

Address; name; relationship to family head; home owned or rented; value or

monthly rental; radio set; whether on a farm; sex; race; age; marital status; age at first marriage; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, language spoken in home before coming to U.S., year of immigration, whether naturalized, and ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; whether at work previous day (or last regular working day); veteran status; for Indians, whether of full or mixed blood, and tribal affiliation.

1940

Address; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; whether on a farm; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status; school attendance; educational attainment; birthplace; citizenship of foreign born; location of residence 5 years ago and whether on a farm; employment status; if

at work, whether in private or nonemergency government work, or in public emergency work (WPA, CCC, NYA, etc); if in private or nonemergency government work, hours worked in week; if seeking work or on public emergency work, duration of unemployment; occupation, industry, and class of worker; weeks worked last year; income last year.

1950

Address; whether house is on farm; name; relationship to household head; race; sex; age; marital status; birthplace; if foreign born, whether naturalized; employment status; hours worked in week; occupation, industry, and class of worker.

1960 and 1970

Address, name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status.

1980

Address; name; household relationship; sex; race; age; marital status; Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent.

1990

Used a short & long form. Short covered address; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age & year of birth; marital status; Spanish/Hispanic origin. The Long form included all these questions plus a series of population, housing, social, and economic questions and was asked of a sample households.

2000

Used a short & long form. Short form had 8 basic questions. Number of people living at address; name; telephone number; age & date of birth; Spanish/Hispanic / Latino descent; race; marital status; education. The Long form included the basic 8 questions plus 29

questions on education, population, citizenship, housing, social, and economy and was asked of a sample of households.

2010

Shortest form in history with only 10 questions covering number of people living at address; home owned/rented; name; telephone number; age & date of birth; Latino/Spanish/Hispanic origin; race does person sometime stay somewhere else.