

1940 Census – Connecting with the Past

After 72 years the 1940 census records are now available for public access. On April 2, 2012, the *National Archives and Records Administration*, NARA, released the digital images of the 1940 United States Federal Census online. These handwritten images of actual census schedules are available to view or download for free. <http://1940census.archives.gov>

Frequently asked questions about the 1940 Census
<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/faqs.html>

The 1940 United States Census included several standard questions, such as: name, age, gender, race, education, and place of birth. But the census also introduced some new questions. One example is that the enumerator was instructed to mark (with a circled x) who in the household responded to the census questions. Other questions included whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940, and the income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939.

New, interesting questions were asked:

- Where people lived 5 years before
- Highest educational grade achieved
- Detailed income and occupation

As part of the census, 5% of respondents (two names per page) were asked supplemental questions, which included the place of birth of the person's father and mother, the respondent's usual occupation (not just for the week of March 24-30), and questions related to marriage for all women who were or had been married. The enumerators asked women if they had been married more than once, the age at first marriage, and the total number of children to whom they had ever given birth.

Here are the specific questions, as contained on the NARA website:

Location:

- Street, avenue, road, etc.
- House number (in cities and towns).

Household Data:

- Number of household in order of visitation.
- Home owned (O) or rented (R).
- Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented.
- Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No).

Name:

- Name of each person whose *usual place of residence* on April 1, 1940, was in this household. Be sure to include:
 - Persons temporarily absent from household. Write “Ab” after names of such persons.
 - Children under 1 year of age. Write “Infant” if child has not been given a first name.
 - Enter X after name of person furnishing information.

Relation:

- Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger’s wife, servant, hired hand, etc...

Personal Description:

- Sex – Male (M), Female (F).
- Color or race.
- Age at last birthday.
- Marital status – Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D).

Education:

- Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)
- Highest grade of school completed.

Place of Birth:

- If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.

Citizenship:

- Citizenship of the foreign born.

Residence, April 1, 1935:

IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON April 1, 1935? For a person who, on April 1, 1935, was living in the same house as at present, enter in Col. 17 “Same house,” and for one living in a different house but in the same city or town, enter “Same place,” leaving Cols. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instances. For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and State, as directed in the Instructions. (Enter actual place of residence, which may differ from mail address.)

- City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter “R” for all other places.
- County.
- State (or Territory or foreign country).
- On a farm? (Yes or No).

Persons 14 Years Old and Over – Employment Status:

- Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Gov’t. work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).
- If not, was he at work on, or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).

If neither at work nor assigned to public emergency work. (“No” in Cols. 21 and 22).

- Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No).
- If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No).
- For persons answering “No” to question 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H), in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (Ot).
- If at private or nonemergency Govt. work. “Yes” in col. 21.
- Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940.
- If seeking work or assigned to public emergency work. (“Yes” in Col. 22 or 23).
- Duration of unemployment up to March 30, 1940 – in weeks.

Occupation, Industry and Class of Worker:

For a person *at work, assigned to public emergency work, or with a job* (“Yes” in Col. 21, 22, or 24), enter *present* occupation, industry, and class of worker. For a person seeking work (“Yes” in Col. 23): a) if he has previous work experience, enter *last* occupation, industry, and class of worker; or b) if he does not have previous work experience, enter “New worker” in Col. 28, and leave Cols. 29 and 30 blank.

- Occupation: Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as *frame spinner, salesman, laborer, rivet heater, music teacher*.
- Industry: Industry or business, as *cotton mill, retail grocery, farm, shipyard, public school*.
- Class of Worker.
- Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks).

Income in 1939 (12 months ended December 31, 1939):

- Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions).
- Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No).
- Number of Farm Schedule.

Supplementary Questions 35-50:

For persons enumerated on lines 14 and 29 [about a 5% sample of the population]

- Name.

For Persons of All Ages:

Place of Birth of Father and Mother

If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish: Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland.

- Father.
- Mother.

Mother Tongue (or Native Language):

- Language spoken in home in earliest childhood.

Veterans:

Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran?

- If so, enter "Yes."
- If child, is veteran-father dead? (Yes or No)
- War or military service.

Social Security:

- Does this person have a Federal Social Security Number? (Yes or No)
- Were deductions for Federal Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)
- If so, were deductions made from (1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3) part, but less than half, of wages or salary?

Usual Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker:

Enter that occupation which the person regards as his usual occupation and at which he is physically able to work. If the person is unable to determine this, enter that occupation at which he has worked longest during the past 10 years and at which he is physically able to work. Enter also usual industry and usual class of worker. For a person without previous work experience, enter "None" in column 45 and leave columns 46 and 47 blank.

- Usual occupation.
- Usual industry.
- Usual class of worker.

For all women who are or have been married:

- Has this woman been married more than once? (Yes or No)
- Age at first marriage.
- Number of children ever born (do not include stillbirths).

Symbols and Explanatory Notes

| COLUMN NUMBER AND HEADING | CODES USED | CODE MEANING |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Column 10:</i> Color or Race | W Neg In Chi Jp Fil Hin Kor | White Negro Indian Chinese Japanese Filipino Hindu Korean |
| <i>Column 11:</i> Age at Last Birthday | 11/12 10/12 9/12 8/12 7/12 6/12 5/12 4/12 3/12 2/12 1/12 | April 1939 May 1939 June 1939 July 1939 August 1939 September 1939 October 1939 November 1939 December 1939 January 1940 February 1940 |
| <i>Column 14:</i> Highest Grade of School Completed | 0 1 to 8 H-1 to H-4 C1 to C4 C-5 | None Elementary School, 1st to 8th High School, 1st to 4th year College, 1st to 4th year College, 5th year or more |
| <i>Column 16:</i> Citizenship of the Foreign Born | Na Pa Al Am Cit | Naturalized Having First Papers Alien American Citizen Born Abroad |
| <i>Columns 30 and 47:</i> Class of Worker | PW GW E OA | Wage/Salary Worker in Private Work Wage/Salary Worker in Gov't Work Employer Working on Own Account |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| | NP | Unpaid Family Worker |
| <i>Column 41:</i> War or Military Service | W SSW ROt | World War Spanish-American War; Philippine Insurrection or Boxer Rebellion Spanish-American War & World War Regular Establishment or Peace-Time Service Other War or Expedition |

The NARA website currently does not have a name index, so you will need to know the address and enumeration district of the person you are attempting to locate. If you only know the state, city and street you will select option 1 – which asks for the location where the person lived.

The screenshot shows the NARA search interface. At the top, it says "Search" and "why can't I search by name?". Below this, there are two radio buttons: "Location" (selected) and "Enumeration Districts". To the right, a yellow box titled "What happens after I search?" contains three steps: "Search by Location" (Enter a location to return a list of enumeration district numbers, maps and descriptions), "Browse Results" (Review search results to identify the enumeration district number, e.g. 39-27), and "View Census Images" (Click an enumeration district result to view images, print download and share).

On the left, there is a search form with the following fields:

- Search by:** (Location selected)
- Browse** | **Search**
- Enter what you know...**
- State** (Required): Maryland
- County** (Optional): Baltimore City County
- City** (Optional): All
- Street** (Optional): Bellona Av
- Search** button

A red arrow points to the "Search" button. At the bottom left, there is a note: "Street indexing made possible by One-Step work of Stephen Morse and Joel Weintraub."

Search by: 

Location Enumeration Districts

Browse **Search**

Enter what you know...

State *Required*
 Maryland 

County *Optional*
 Baltimore City County 

City *Optional*
 All 

Street *Optional*
 Bellona Av 

Search

 Street indexing made possible by One-Step work of Stephen Morse and Joel Weintraub.

City Search Search by name

"Bellona Av, Baltimore City County, Maryland" We found 2 results.

Maryland » Baltimore City County

Maps (1) **Descriptions (2)** Census Schedules (5)

Maryland » Baltimore City County

View Description (2 Pages)

Includes ED 4-787, ED 4-788, ED 4-789

[Browse Related Maps »](#)

 [Bookmark](#)
[Share This](#)

Description text: ED 4-787: BALTIMORE CITY WARD 27 (TRACT 27-8 - PART), ED 4-788: BALTIMORE CITY WARD 27 (TRACT 27-8 - PART), ED 4-789: BALTIMORE CITY WARD 27 (TRACT 27-12 - PART)

Maryland » Baltimore City County

View Description (4 Pages)

Includes ED 4-790, ED 4-791, ED 4-792, ED 4-793, ED 4-794

[Browse Related Maps »](#)

 [Bookmark](#)
[Share This](#)

Description text: ED 4-790: BALTIMORE CITY WARD 27 (TRACT 27-12 - PART), ED 4-791: BALTIMORE CITY WARD 27 (TRACT 27-12 - PART), EDGEWOOD SANITARIUM, ED 4-792: BALTIMORE ...more +

If you know the street name you may click on the *One-Step* link below the Search button which provides a street index provided by the work of Stephen Morse and Joel Weintraub.

Unified 1940 Census ED Finder

(Obtaining the Enumeration District for a 1940 Location in One Step)

[Stephen P. Morse, PhD](#) & [Joel D. Weintraub, PhD](#)

Tutorial Quiz

ED Maps

Frequently Asked Questions

My Other Webpages

Enter as much of the 1940 location as you know

If you select your city from the list of cities displayed, you will be able to enter street-level information

If you select "other" from the city list, you will be able to type in your city or town name

State County City or Town

House Number Street

If you know the 1930 ED for this location, enter it here

State ED

1940 ED numbers corresponding to your location

Enter as much of the 1940 location as you know

If you select your city from the list of cities displayed, you will be able to enter street-level information
If you select "other" from the city list, you will be able to type in your city or town name

State County City or Town

House Number Street

You can reduce the number of EDs by selecting cross streets and back streets that complete the city block

Cross or back street on same city block

Cross or back street on same city block

If you know the 1930 ED for this location, enter it here

State ED

1940 ED numbers corresponding to your location

[4-794](#) 

After clicking on the Enumeration District (ED) link provided there are several viewers available for accessing the images of the census schedules. The Street names are handwritten in the first column of the Location box (2nd column from the left) of the form. The street number is in the next column to the right.

There may be numerous pages associated with each ED. You will need to scroll through the images to find the street name and street number you are looking for or look at the names in the Name column to identify the person(s) of interest.

State Maryland
County _____

Incorporated place Baltimore City
Ward of city 27
Township or other division of county _____

Unincorporated place _____
(Name of unincorporated place having 100 or more inhabitants)
Block Nos. 1-2
Institution _____
(Name of institution and town in which address are made)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

S. D. No. _____ E. D. No. 4-719
Enumerated by me on April 17, 1940.

Sheet No. 1A
Enumerator Przemek G. Jankowski

POPULATION SCHEDULE

1118

Main population schedule table with columns for location, household data, name, relation, personal description, education, place of birth, residence, and employment status.

Supplementary questions table for persons of all ages and persons 14 years old and over, including marital status, social security, and military service.

SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES: Includes instructions for symbols used in the table, such as 'X' for deceased, 'O' for color, and 'R' for race.