New York City's Lower East Side, 1880-1930, Constance Potter, NARA

Population Census Schedules, 1880 – 1930:
New Questions by Census Year

Beginning in 1880, the Census Bureau broke down the geographic areas into enumeration districts (EDs). An ED is an area that could be covered by a single census taker in one census period (2-4 weeks for the 1930 census). EDs varied in size from several city clocks in densely populated urban areas to an entire county in sparsely populated areas.

1880 Census
- ❖ Each person's relationship to the head of the household
- ❖ House numbers and street names for households in cities, but not in small towns
- ❖ Occupation, profession, or trade of each person, male or female
- ❖ Civil condition [marital status]: single, married, divorced
- ❖ Number of months this person has been unemployed during the census year
- ❖ If, on the day of the enumerator's visit, the person sick or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties; if so, what was the sickness or disability
- ❖ Place of birth of person, father, and mother

1900 Census
- ❖ Mother of how many children and number of those living
- ❖ Number of years married
- ❖ Month and year of birth
- ❖ Citizenship status (AL-alien, PA-has filed first papers, NA-naturalized)
- ❖ If home owned or rented

1910 Census
- ❖ Distinction between trade or profession and nature of business or industry
- ❖ If an employee, whether out of work on April 15, 1910, and number of weeks out of work during 1909
- ❖ Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army
- ❖ Whether able to speak English

1920 Census
- ❖ If naturalized, the year of naturalization

1930 Census
- ❖ Value of home, if owned; monthly rental, if rented
- ❖ Does the family have a radio set?
- ❖ Whether actually at work yesterday (or last regular working day)
- ❖ Whether able to read or write
- ❖ Whether a veteran of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, Mexican Expedition, World War
- ❖ Separate census for merchant seamen