



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Enumeration District (ED) Census Maps, 1880–1930

In 1880, the Bureau of the Census began using enumeration districts (EDs). An ED is the area one enumerator (census-taker) could cover during the allotted time. In urban areas, the ED was usually no larger than a few city blocks, and in rural areas the ED could be as large as an entire county. The Bureau did not create its own maps; instead they subdivided pre-prepared maps into small areas. The enumerator counted the number of individuals, recorded the addresses of residents, and gathered any other information required for that census year.

The process of locating an ancestor in the census records can be difficult especially when there is no index or the information was missing from an index. The maps can help you determine the correct enumeration district to search if you have an idea of where your ancestor lived at the time of the census. The census maps are generally annotated with large circled numbers or large handwritten numbers. Please note that enumeration districts changed from census year to census year, so you will have to repeat this process if you would like to locate your ancestor on multiple census schedules.

Microfilmed Records

___M1930, *Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. 36 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by state, alphabetically by county, then alphabetically by locality. These maps are in color and were used for the 1930 census. A complete list of all maps can be found within the DP or on the roll 1.

___M1931, *Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1930 Census*. 7 rolls. DP. Within each of the 57 volumes the arrangement is as follows:

- Title Page—indicates city or cities within volume
- List of ED numbers
- Alphabetical list of named streets
- Numerical list of numbered streets
- Alphabetical list of institutions and named apartments
- Alphabetical list of unnamed apartments

___T1224, *Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830–1890 and 1910–1950*. 155 rolls. DP. Arranged numerically by census year, alphabetically by state, numerically by the supervisor's districts, and then by enumeration district; with the exception of 1930. The 1930 descriptions are arranged alphabetically by county. This series contains the descriptions of the boundaries for enumeration districts. Rolls 4–90 cover the time period 1880–1930.

Finding Aids

The National Archives Building, Washington, DC, holds copies of some enumeration district maps. An inventory of these maps is available in the Microfilm Research Room.

Preliminary Inventory No. 103, Cartographic Records of the Bureau of the Census (National Archives Record Group 29). Lists the census map holdings for 1880 through 1940 of the National Archives and Records Administration. The lists are arranged by state and territory (such as American

Samoa, Guam, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), and then by county. Maps are not available for all counties or cities for all census years.

The maps are available for viewing at the Cartographic Room, National Archives at College Park, Maryland:

National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 301-837-3200

Published Works

Carpenter, Bruce. "Using Soundex Alternatives: Enumeration Districts, 1880–1920," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration* 1993 (Vol. 25, No. 1): 90–93.

Prechtel-Klusdens, Claire. "Plans of Division: Describing the Enumeration Districts of the 1930 Census," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration* 2003 (Vol. 35, No. 3): 46–53. This article is available online at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2003/fall/1930-eds.html>

Schlesinger, Keith R. "An Urban Finding Aid for the Federal Census." *Our Family Our Town: Essays on Family and Local History Sources in the National Archives*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1987.

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