

# Baseline Survey Census Research Fulton County

The Federal population census is an important tool for understanding the history of a community and how that community has changed over time. The census provides data that can help us to better understand Pennsylvania's diverse racial and ethnic populations (referred to as underrepresented communities for purposes of this Baseline Survey effort), where these populations settled historically, and how they left their mark on the Commonwealth's landscape.

Pennsylvania has a history of being ethnically diverse in both the urban areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and in the commonwealth's smaller cities and rural areas. Native Americans have called Pennsylvania's lands home for centuries. Dutch, Swedish, and Finnish settlers moved to Pennsylvania in the late 17th century, and were quickly followed by English, German and other Europeans by the turn of the 18th century. Both enslaved and free Africans and African Americans lived in Pennsylvania as early as 1690 and the commonwealth's Black communities grew exponentially with the First Great Migration in the early 20th century. By the mid-20th century, people from almost all racial and ethnic groups had settled in Pennsylvania.

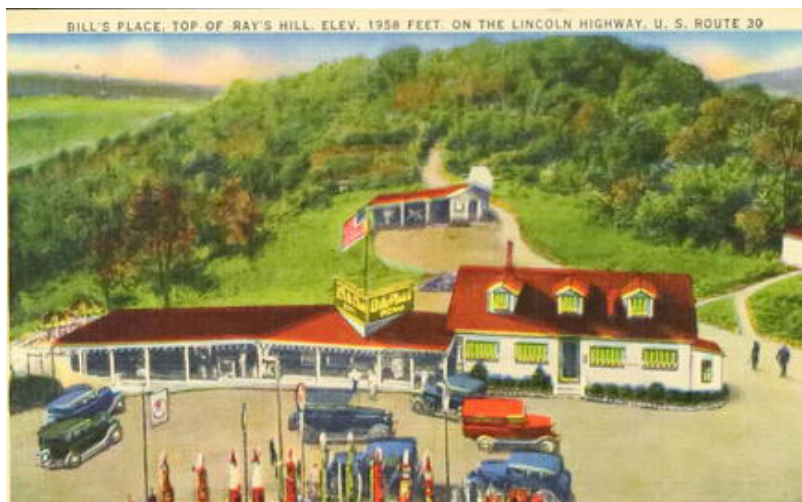
Pennsylvania's historical racial and ethnic diversity and the surviving older and historic places that embody that diversity is not well understood or well documented. By understanding what populations were present, when, and where they lived, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) can identify and document the older and historic places associated with these underrepresented communities through targeted survey work.

Once this information is collected and added to PA-SHARE, Pennsylvania's online database of older and historic places, this important information will be available to professionals and the public alike, providing everyone with data to support the need to tell broader and more inclusive stories.

It is important to note that census data is only one part of the extensive research that is necessary to understand Pennsylvania's varied and changing communities over the last four hundred years. The information collected, methods for collecting it, and categories and definitions changed from census taker to census taker and from year to year.

Fulton County is one of the fifty-two counties in Pennsylvania where PA SHPO and its contractors will be working over the next two years to collect information about historic places that are underrepresented in Pennsylvania's statewide historic inventory.

It is important that PA SHPO collects information about the older and historic places that Pennsylvanian's value in their communities. PA SHPO welcomes public recommendations for places that should be documented in this survey. If you would like to provide your feedback, please fill out this [short survey form](#).



Historic Postcard of Bill's Place Rest Stop in Fulton County

## Learn More:

[Historic Resources Survey in Pennsylvania](#)  
[PA SHPO's Baseline Survey Project](#)  
[PA-SHARE](#)

# Baseline Survey Census Research

## Fulton County

Fulton County was founded on April 19, 1850, from a portion of Bedford County. It is comprised of 12 municipalities and as of the 2010 federal census, the total population was 14,845. The first recorded federal population census in Fulton County occurred in 1850. A total of 7,567 inhabitants were recorded, 93 of whom were Black. The total population of Fulton County increased from 7,567 in 1850 to 10,149 in 1880. A period of gradual decline began in 1890, hitting a low of 9,281 residents in 1930. Between 1930 and 1940, the population increased by 1,392 individuals. This increase continued through 1960.

The Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population of Fulton County represented approximately 1% of the total population between 1850 and 1960. The BIPOC population in Fulton County are predominantly Black. Between 1860 and 1870, the Black population increased by 50 individuals, peaking at 151 individuals in 1870. The BIPOC population then declined through the remainder of the 19th century and into the 20th century.

Asians were documented as living in Fulton County in 1960, all of whom were Japanese. No people of Hispanic or Native American descent were documented as living in Fulton County from 1850 to 1960. In later decades, it is inconclusive whether "Other" includes only mixed-race people or people of Black, Native American, Asian, or Hispanic descent during any given decade, though Fulton County has not had anyone identify as such from 1790 to 1960.

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Other
<b>1790</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1800</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1810</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1820</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1830</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1840</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1850</b>	7474	93	0	0	0	0
<b>1860</b>	9030	101	0	0	0	0
<b>1870</b>	9209	151	0	0	0	0
<b>1880</b>	10020	129	0	0	0	0
<b>1890</b>	10025	112	0	0	0	0
<b>1900</b>	9818	106	0	0	0	0
<b>1910</b>	9609	94	0	0	0	0
<b>1920</b>	9531	86	0	0	0	0
<b>1930</b>	9180	101	0	0	0	0
<b>1940</b>	10577	96	0	0	0	0
<b>1950</b>	10309	78	0	0	0	0
<b>1960</b>	10510	84	0	3	0	0

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## Fulton County

This graph shows the relationship between BIPOC populations (right side axis) and total population (left side axis) in Fulton County from 1790 to 1960. Significant events that have a bearing on the population are included below the graph to show Fulton County's total populations at these important points in time.

No data is available prior to 1850 as Fulton County had yet to be organized.

