

# Baseline Survey Census Research Montour 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.

Montour County is one of the fifty-two counties in Pennsylvania where PA SHPO and its contractors will be working over the next three 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 Montour County

## Learn More:

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

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## Montour County

Montour County was founded on May 3, 1850 and is currently comprised of 11 municipalities. As of the 2010 census, the population was 18,267. The county's population has remained between 12,000 and 16,000 residents from its inclusion in its first census in 1850 to 1960, with slow increases between census years. The first census in Montour County occurred in 1850, where there were 13,155 White people and 84 Black people, none of whom were enslaved.

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) of Montour County have not experienced the same growth pattern as the population at large. The highest numbers of BIPOC in the county were in the late 19th century and predominantly made up of Black people. In 1890, the number of BIPOC residents in the county began to slowly decrease, settling at 53 BIPOC residents in 1920. From 1920 onward, numbers remained around 50-60 individuals.

Native Americans were not documented in Montour County until 1960. Conversely, individuals of Asian descent were documented in 1890 and 1900 then not again until 1960, when there were 14 Asians living in the county. No people of Hispanic descent were documented in Montour County prior 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>	13,155	84	0	0	0	0
<b>1860</b>	12,939	100	0	0	0	14
<b>1870</b>	15,265	79	0	0	0	0
<b>1880</b>	15,361	107	0	0	0	0
<b>1890</b>	15,548	96	0	1	0	0
<b>1900</b>	15,437	88	0	1	0	0
<b>1910</b>	14,791	77	0	0	0	0
<b>1920</b>	14,027	53	0	0	0	0
<b>1930</b>	14,464	53	0	0	0	0
<b>1940</b>	15,406	59	0	0	0	1
<b>1950</b>	15,944	55	0	0	0	2
<b>1960</b>	16,671	35	1	14	0	9

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## Montour County

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

No data is available prior to 1850 because Montour County was not yet established.

