

Baseline Survey Census Research Pike 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.

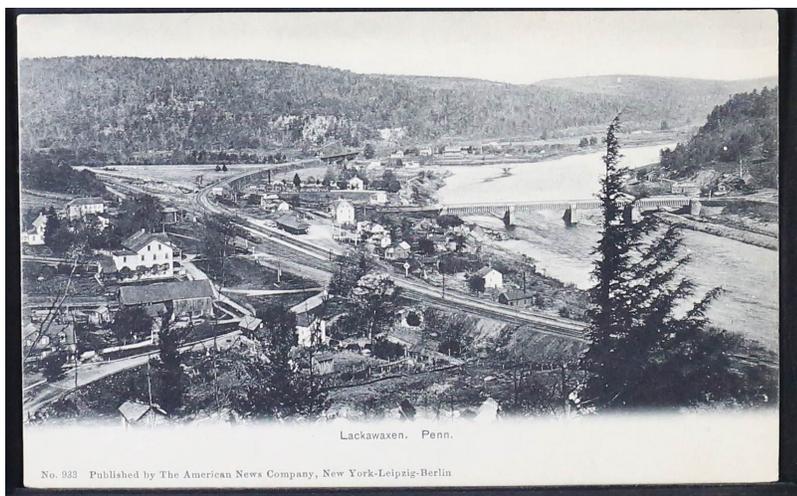
Pennsylvania's historical racial and ethnic diversity and the surviving older and historic places that embody that diversity is not well understood or well documented. By understanding what populations were present, when, and where they lived, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) 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.

Pike 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 Birds-Eye Postcard of Lackawaxen, Pike County

Learn More:

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

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Pike County

Pike County was founded on March 26, 1814. It is comprised of 13 municipalities and as of the 2020 federal census, the total population was 58, 535. The population of Pike County was first recorded during the 1820 census. A total of 2,394 inhabitants were recorded, 51 of whom were Black people and 28 of whom were mixed-race people. One enslaved Black person residing in Delaware Township was recorded in the 1820 census. Between 1820 and 1960, the total population of Pike County was highest in 1880 at 9,663 individuals. Overall, population trends in Pike County have been generally positive despite a long period of population decline from 1890 to 1920. The population of Pike County gradually increased from 1930 onward

The Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population of Pike County has historically represented between 0.5 and 3.8 percent of the total population. The population of BIPOC in Pike County does not follow the trendline established by the total population; it was at its highest in 1850 with 189 individuals, all of whom were Black. After 1850, the BIPOC population in the county began to decrease. The BIPOC population was predominantly Black from 1820 to 1960.

Asians were documented as living in Pike County only in 1960, all three of whom were Japanese. Pike County is within the ancestral homeland of the Lenape people, though Native Americans were only recorded in the 1900 and 1960 censuses. One person of Hispanic descent, then categorized as Mexican in the census reports, was recorded in the 1930 census. The “Other” category has been used to describe different groups through time. It is inconclusive whether “Other” includes only mixed-race people or people of Black, Native American, Asian, or Hispanic descent during any given decade.

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Other
1790	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800	0	0	0	0	0	0
1810	0	0	0	0	0	0
1820	2839	51	0	0	0	4
1830	0	1	0	0	0	0
1840	3683	149	0	0	0	0
1850	5692	189	0	0	0	0
1860	7018	137	0	0	0	0
1870	8323	113	0	0	0	0
1880	9579	84	0	0	0	0
1890	9305	107	0	0	0	0
1900	8683	81	2	0	0	0
1910	7960	72	0	0	0	1
1920	6771	47	0	0	0	0
1930	7423	59	0	0	1	0
1940	7430	21	0	0	0	1
1950	8392	27	0	0	0	6
1960	9140	11	4	3	0	0

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This graph shows the relationship between BIPOC populations (right side axis) and total population (left side axis) in Pike County from 1820 to 1960. Significant events that had a bearing on the population are included below the graph to show Pike County's total populations at these important points in time.

No data is available for Pike County prior to 1820 because the county was yet to be established. The 1830 census only provided the total population, total number of free persons, and total number of enslaved persons. There was 1 enslaved person in Pike County in 1830 and no distinction of race among free people, therefore there are no BIPOC totals for that decade.

