

# Baseline Survey Census Research

## Venango 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.

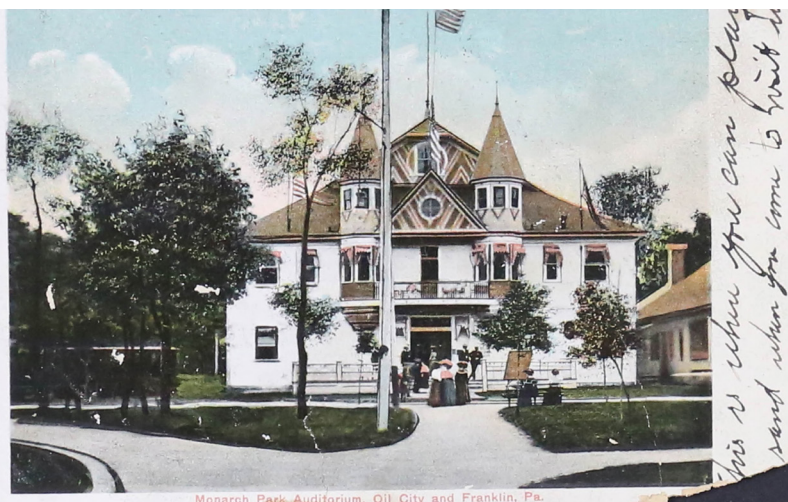
Pennsylvania's historical racial and ethnic diversity and the surviving older and historic places that embody that diversity is not well understood or well documented. By understanding what populations were present, when, and where they lived, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO)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

Venango 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](#).



Monarch Park Auditorium, Oil City and Franklin, Pa.

Historic Postcard of Monarch Park Auditorium, Oil City, Venango County

### Learn More:

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

# Baseline Survey Census Research

## Venango County

Venango County was created in 1800 and formally organized on September 1, 1805. It contains 31 municipalities and as of the 2020 federal census, the total population was 50,454. The population of Venango County was first recorded in the 1800 US Census. A total of 1,130 inhabitants were recorded, 1,124 of whom were White and 6 of whom were “other Free persons of non-White race.” Zero enslaved people were noted in the 1800 census in Venango County. Total population growth in Venango County continued on an upward trend from 1800 to 1970 with a brief dip from 1870 to 1880.

The Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population of Venango County have historically represented 1% or less of total population from 1800 to 1970. The BIPOC population in Venango County from 1790 to 1970 were predominantly Black. The Black population was at its largest in 1880, with 328 individuals. From 1880 to 1970, the number of Black residents in Venango County gradually lessened over time, bottoming out at 53 individuals in 1970.

Asians were documented as living in Venango County beginning in 1880 and were predominantly of Chinese descent until 1960. In 1960, the number of Japanese residents (5) and Filipino residents (2) surpassed the number of Chinese residents (0). Native Americans were recorded in Venango County in the 1890, 1920, 1960, and 1970 censuses. Four people of Hispanic descent were recorded in Venango County in the 1930 census. The “Other” category has been used to describe different groups through time. In 1790 and 1800, “Other” specifically noted BIPOC people, predominantly Black Americans, who were not enslaved. 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.

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Other
<b>1790</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1800</b>	1124	0	0	0	0	6
<b>1810</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1820</b>	4887	28	0	0	0	0
<b>1830</b>	0	3	0	0	0	0
<b>1840</b>	17873	27	0	0	0	0
<b>1850</b>	18270	40	0	0	0	0
<b>1860</b>	24974	69	0	0	0	0
<b>1870</b>	47492	433	0	0	0	0
<b>1880</b>	43120	547	0	3	0	0
<b>1890</b>	46158	473	1	8	0	0
<b>1900</b>	49107	522	0	19	0	0
<b>1910</b>	55807	541	0	11	0	0
<b>1920</b>	58574	593	10	6	0	0
<b>1930</b>	62622	593	0	6	4	0
<b>1940</b>	63397	558	0	0	0	3
<b>1950</b>	64380	948	0	0	0	0
<b>1960</b>	64869	414	3	7	0	2
<b>1970</b>	61885	393	14	30	0	31

# Baseline Survey Census Research Venango County

This graph shows the relationship between BIPOC populations (right side axis) and total population (left side axis) in Venango County from 1790 to 1970. Significant events that had a bearing on the population are included below the graph to show Venango County's total populations at these important points in time.

The 1810 federal census is not digitized and therefore there is no population data. The 1830 census only provided the total population, total number of free persons, and total number of enslaved persons. There were three enslaved people in Venango County in 1830 and no distinction of race among free people, therefore the BIPOC total for 1830 based on what is known is three people.

