

Baseline Survey Census Research Juniata 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.

Juniata 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 a bridge in Juniata County

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

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Juniata County

Juniata County was founded on March 2, 1831. It is comprised of 16 municipalities and as of the 2010 federal census, the total population was 24,636. The first recorded federal population census in Juniata County occurred in 1840. A total of 11,077 inhabitants were recorded, 106 of whom were Black. One enslaved Black person was recorded as a resident of Juniata County in 1840. The total population of Juniata County peaked in 1880 with 18,227 residents. After 1880, the total population slowly declined, hitting an all-time low in 1930 with 14,325 total residents before slowly increasing to 15,874 in 1960.

The Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population of Juniata County represented around 1% of the population from 1840 to 1960. The BIPOC population in Juniata County were predominantly Black from 1840 to 1960. The Black population of Juniata County increased from 131 individuals in 1850 to 261 individuals in 1860. It remained steady until 1890, when the total Black population dropped to 171 individuals. The BIPOC population continued to decline through the remainder of the 20th century.

One Filipino person was documented as living in Juniata County in 1960, the only Asian documented living in the county from 1840 to 1960. Two people of Native American descent were documented living in Juniata County in 1960. No people of Hispanic descent were recorded as living in Juniata County between 1840 and 1960. 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	0	0	0	0	0	0
1830	0	0	0	0	0	0
1840	10971	106	0	0	0	0
1850	12898	131	0	0	0	0
1860	16725	261	0	0	0	0
1870	17389	234	0	0	0	0
1880	17966	261	0	0	0	0
1890	16485	170	0	0	0	0
1900	15882	172	0	0	0	0
1910	14842	171	0	0	0	0
1920	14369	95	0	0	0	0
1930	14256	69	0	0	0	0
1940	15290	78	0	0	0	5
1950	15212	28	0	0	0	3
1960	15861	10	2	1	0	0

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

No data is available prior to 1840 because Juniata County did not exist prior to that decade.

