

Baseline Survey Census Research

Wyoming 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.

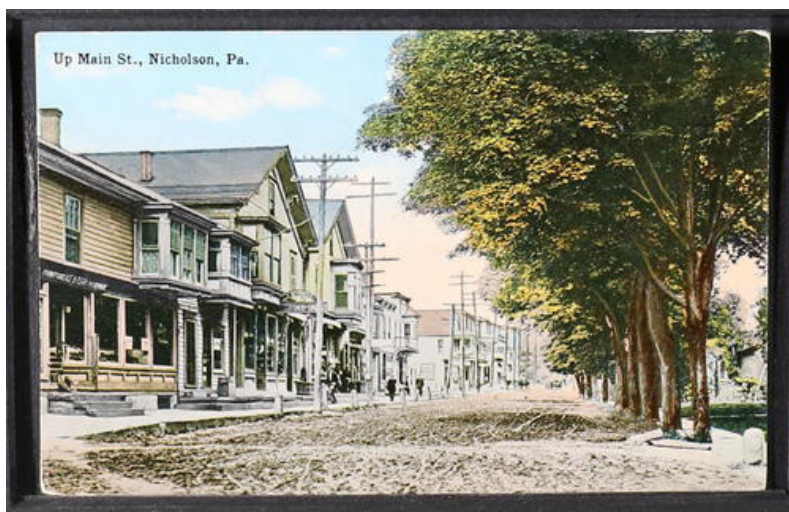
Pennsylvania's historical racial and ethnic diversity and the surviving older and historic places that embody that diversity is not well understood or well documented. By understanding what populations were present, when, and where they lived, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO)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

Wyoming 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 Nicholson, Wyoming County

Learn More:

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

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Wyoming County was established on April 4, 1842 from portions of Luzerne County. There are 23 municipalities in Wyoming County. As of the 2010 federal census, the population was 28,276. The total population of Wyoming County steadily increased since it began to be tracked by the federal census, with a brief decrease in 1920 before beginning to rise again the following decade. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) of Wyoming County consistently represented a small portion of the total population. The majority of BIPOC in Wyoming County identify as Black.

The first federal population census for Wyoming County was in 1850 and counted 10,655 individuals: 10,650 White people and 5 Black people, all of whom were free. As the table below shows, Wyoming County's total population has remained relatively stable, while its BIPOC residents, predominantly Black, have increased over time.

Native American people have been counted by the means of the federal census in 1890 and 1960. Chinese people have been counted and documented only in 1890. Hispanic people have been counted and documented only in 1960.

	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
1850	10650	5	0	0	0	0
1860	12535	4	0	0	0	1
1870	14575	10	0	0	0	0
1880	15577	21	0	0	0	0
1890	15877	8	5	1	0	0
1900	17138	14	0	0	0	0
1910	15497	6	0	0	0	6
1920	14082	19	0	0	0	0
1930	15504	13	0	0	0	0
1940	16696	6	0	0	0	0
1950	16741	18	0	0	0	7
1960	16762	46	1	0	2	2

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

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

