



# *National Archives and Records Administration*

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700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408-0001

## **ENUMERATION DISTRICT (ED) CENSUS MAPS, 1880-1930**

In 1880, the Bureau of the Census began using enumeration districts (EDs). An ED is the area one enumerator (census-taker) could cover during the allotted time. In urban areas, the ED was usually no larger than a few city blocks and in rural areas the ED could be as large as an entire county. The Bureau of the Census did not create its own maps, but the Bureau subdivided pre-prepared maps into small areas known as enumeration districts (EDs). The enumerator counted the number of individuals and recorded the addresses of residents and other information.

The process of locating an ancestor in the census records can be difficult especially when there is no index. If you have an idea of where your ancestor lived at the time of the census, census ED maps may show the enumeration district number. The census maps are generally annotated with large circled numbers or large handwritten numbers. Please note that enumeration districts changed from census year to census year, so you will have to repeat this process if you would like to locate your ancestor on multiple census schedules.

## **MICROFILMED RECORDS**

- *M1930, Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*

This microfilm series contains the enumeration district maps used for the 1930 census. The maps are in color and are arranged in the following order: state, county, and locality.

## **FINDING AIDS**

The National Archives and Records Administration (Washington, D.C. location) holds copies of some enumeration district maps. An inventory of these maps is available at the Microfilm Research Room.

*Preliminary Inventory No. 103, Cartographic Records of the Bureau of the Census (National Archive Record Group 29).* Preliminary Inventory No. 103 lists the census map holdings for 1880 through 1940 of the National Archives and Records Administration (maps are not available for all counties or cities for all census years). The lists are arranged by state and territory (such as American Samoa, Guam, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), and then by county.

The maps are available for viewing at the Cartographic Room of the:

National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: (301) 837-3200

- *M1931, Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1930 Census*
- *T1224, Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830-1890 and 1910-1950* (rolls 4-90)

This microfilm series contains the descriptions of the boundaries for enumeration districts that were used by the Bureau of the Census. The volumes are arranged by census year followed by state. With the exception of 1930, they are arranged numerically by the supervisor's districts, thereunder by enumeration district. The Bureau arranged the 1930 ED descriptions alphabetically by county.

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

Carpenter, Bruce. "Using Soundex Alternatives: Enumeration Districts, 1880-1920," Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration 1993 (Vol. 25, No. 1): 90-93.

Prechtel-Kluszens, Claire. "Plans of Division: Describing the Enumeration Districts of the 1930 Census," Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration 2003 (Vol. 35, No. 3): 46-53. This article is available online at:  
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2003/fall/1930-eds.html>

Schlesinger, Keith R. "An Urban Finding Aid for the Federal Census." Our Family Our Town: Essays on Family and Local History Sources in the National Archives. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1987:126-140.

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