



Early Census Schedules for the District of Columbia, 1790–1840

The early census records for the District of Columbia often pose challenges to researchers because the schedules for some portions of the District from 1790 to 1840 are missing or often appear among the enumerations of its parent states, Maryland or Virginia.

1790 Census

The census schedules relating to the parts of Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties that subsequently became part of the District of Columbia in 1800 are among the schedules of Maryland for 1790. Schedules for that part of Virginia (Alexandria County) that became part of the District were enumerated with the schedules for Virginia. The 1790 census schedules for Virginia have not survived, but reconstructed schedules from state enumerations and tax lists are available.

___M637, *First Census of the United States, 1790*. 12 rolls. Original census schedules for Maryland appear on roll 3.

___T498, *First Census of the United States, 1790*. 3 rolls. Published schedules for Maryland appear on roll 1; published schedules for Virginia appear on roll 3.

1800 Census

Census schedules for 1800 only include the portion of the District of Columbia that was originally included in the Maryland population schedules. The schedules for the part of the District originally included in Virginia, along with the rest of the state schedules for Virginia, have not survived.

Entries for the existing schedules have been alphabetized and printed in Artemas C. Harman, "U.S. Census of the District of Columbia in Maryland for the Year 1800," in *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vols. 38 (Dec. 1950): 105–110, and 39 (March 1951): 16–19 and (June 1951): 56–59.

___M32, *Second Census of the United States, 1800*. 52 rolls. Enumerations for the District of Columbia appear on roll 5.

1810 Census

The 1810 census schedules for the District of Columbia have not survived.

1820–1840 Censuses

Census schedules for the District of Columbia include Alexandria County, the part of the District that was retroceded to Virginia in 1846. For the location of the ward boundaries of Washington City and Georgetown for each of the decennial years 1820 to 1840, see Laurence F. Schmeckebier, "Ward Boundaries of Washington and Georgetown," *Records of the Columbia*

Historical Society (1955): 51–52 and 66–77, with maps. The National Archives has large-scale copies of these maps.

___M33, *Fourth Census of the United States, 1820*. 142 rolls. Enumerations for the District of Columbia appear on roll 5.

___M19, *Fifth Census of the United States, 1830*. 201 rolls. Enumerations for the District of Columbia appear on roll 14.

___M704, *Sixth Census of the United States, 1840*. 580 rolls. Enumerations for the District of Columbia appear on roll 35, and include Washington City, Washington County, Georgetown, and Alexandria County.

Nonpopulation Censuses, 1810–1820

The earliest nonpopulation census schedules related to industry and manufacturers. Congress approved the collection of data on manufacturing establishments and manufacturers in an act of May 1, 1810 (2 Stat. 605). The 1810 industry/manufacturers schedules for the District of Columbia no longer exist. The 1820 schedules detail the nature and names of articles produced; annual market value; kind, quantity, and cost of raw materials consumed annually; number and category of employees; quantity and kinds of machinery; amount of capital invested; annual wages; and contingent expenses.

___M279, *Records of the 1820 Census of Manufactures*. 27 rolls. DP. Schedules for the District of Columbia appear on roll 17.

Indexes

Published indexes are available for the 1800, 1820, 1830, and 1840 population schedules for the District of Columbia. These books are available in the Microfilm Research Room of the Robert M. Warner Research Center in the National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

Online indexes are also available for most Federal population censuses through Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com, and Footnote.com. Researchers may access these databases for free within NARA facilities.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Federal Census Records Relating to the District of Columbia, 1800–1930*.

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