1940 QUESTIONNAIRE—CENSUS OF VACANT DWELLINGS

(16" X 19," printed on two sides, space for 15 entries on each side, reverse side identical excerpt that lines were numbered 16 to 30, yellow stock.) “Color or race of head” and “Number of persons in household” (items 3 and 4 on “Occupied-Dwelling Schedule”) did not appear on the “Vacant-Dwelling Schedule;” items 8-17 were the same as items 8-17 on the “Occupied Dwelling Schedule;” items 18-31 which appeared on the “Occupied Dwelling Schedule” were omitted from the “Vacant-Dwelling Schedule.”

Instructions to Enumerators

The term “structure” was roughly comparable with “dwelling house” used in previous censuses, and 1940 “occupied dwelling units” could be equated with “homes” in 1930. The 1940 housing census, however, included vacant, habitable dwelling units and structures. It excluded units occupied by quasi households (defined as 10 or more lodgers) and various types of institutional and other places (later called “group quarters”) not generally considered as part of the U.S. housing market. The dwelling unit itself was defined as “the living quarters occupied by, or intended for occupancy by, one household.”

1950 QUESTIONNAIRE—POPULATION

The basic schedule, form P1, was a white 19" X 22" sheet, printed in green ink on both sides. The front included space for population information for 30 persons, with a separate line for each person enumerated. (The reverse side, the housing schedule, contained spaces for information for 12 dwelling units that housed the persons enumerated on the population side of the form.) Questions 15 through 20 were asked only for persons 14 years of age and over.

Questions at the bottom of the schedule (21-33c) were asked for the one person in five whose name fell on a sample line that was indicated in black. (There were five printings to vary the sample lines.) The person whose name fell on the last sample line was also asked the additional questions from 34 on. Of the sample items, Nos. 29 on applied only to persons 14 years of age and over.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20a</th>
<th>20b</th>
<th>20c</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For persons 14 years of age and over

1. If employed (Wk in Item 15, or Yes in Item 18 or Item 19), describe job or business held last week
2. If looking for work (Yes in Item 17), describe last job or business
3. For all other persons, leave blank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What kind of work was he doing?</th>
<th>What kind of business or industry was he working in?</th>
<th>Class of worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For example:</td>
<td>For PRIVATE employer (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails being made.</td>
<td>Hosiery mill.</td>
<td>For GOVERNMENT employer (G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In OWN business (O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WITHOUT PAY on family farm or business (NF)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(For persons working at least 16 years of age)

How many hours did he work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business)

Armored forces

Never worked

(Yes or No) (Special Class below)

(Number of hours) (Occupation) (Industry) (F, G, O, or NF)
### 1950 Questionnaire—Population

#### FOR ALL AGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>Was he living in the same house a year ago?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>What county and state was he living in a year ago?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County/State</td>
<td>Leave blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What county and state was his father and mother born?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave blank</td>
<td>What is the highest grade of school that he attended?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>Did he finish this grade?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Has he attended school at any time since February 1st?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example Row:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County/State</td>
<td>County: State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
<td>Mother:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**FOR DISTRICT OFFICE USE ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Cont.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Definitions of Family Head:**

- A family head is an individual 15 years old and over who is the husband or wife of the head of the household.
- A family head is never married or is separated or divorced, or is widowed, or is the widow of a veteran.
- A family head is a person living with an unrelated individual who is also a family head.
- A family head has a mother, father, or both a mother and a father who are also family heads.
- A family head is a person living with a nonfamily member who is also a family head.
- A family head is a person living with a person who is also a family head.

---

**Notes:**

- **Elementary:** Includes kindergarten and first through eighth grades.
- **Secondary:** Includes ninth through twelfth grades and postsecondary education.
- **Full-time:** Includes persons who worked part-time and full-time and worked at least 16 hours in the reference week.
- **Part-time:** Includes persons who worked part-time and worked at least 16 hours in the reference week.
- **Occupation:** Includes persons who worked at any job during the reference week.
- **Employment status:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment.
- **Employment status:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment but did not work for pay or self-employment.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment and earned wages or tips.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment but did not earn wages or tips.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment and earned wages or tips but did not work for pay or self-employment.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment but did not work for pay or self-employment and did not earn wages or tips.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment and earned wages or tips but did not work for pay or self-employment and did not earn wages or tips.
- **Earnings:** Includes persons who worked for pay or self-employment but did not work for pay or self-employment and did not earn wages or tips and did not work for pay or self-employment and did not earn wages or tips.

---

**For those under 20 years old:** Yes or No
For those 20 years old or over: Check Yes or No.
### 1950 Questionnaire—Population

#### FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last year, in how many weeks did this person do any work at all, not counting work around the home? (Number of weeks in 1949)</th>
<th>Last year (1949), how much money did he earn working as an employee for wages or salary? (Enter amount before deductions for taxes, etc.)</th>
<th>Last year, how much money did he receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)?</th>
<th>Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household earn working for wages or salary? (Amount before deductions for taxes, etc.)</th>
<th>Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household earn in own business, professional practice, or farm? (Net income):</th>
<th>If Male—Did he ever serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II?</th>
<th>Any other time, including present service?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31a</td>
<td>31b</td>
<td>31c</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>32a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
<td>(Weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 34. To counteract: If worked last year (1 or more weeks in Item 30): Is there any entry in Items 29a, 29b, and 29c?

- Yes—Skip to Item 30
- No—Make entries in Items 35a, 35b, and 35c

#### 35a. What kind of work did this person do in his last job?

#### 35b. What kind of business or industry did he work in?

#### 35c. Class of worker (P, G, O, or NF, as in Item 20b)

#### 36. If ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep in item 12)—Has this person been married more than once?

- Yes
- No

#### 37. If Mar—How many years since this person was married?

- If Wd—How many years since this person was widowed?
- If D—How many years since this person deserted?
- If Sep—How many years since this person was separated?

- Yes, or Less than 1 year

#### 38. Female and ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep in Item 12)—How many children has she ever borne, not counting stillbirths?

- children, or None
Instructions to Enumerators

Changes from 1940 were few. Special pains were taken in the 1950 census, however, to distinguish among institutions, households, and quasi households (five or more nonrelatives of the head, other than employees).

College students were to be enumerated where they lived while attending school, rather than where their homes were located. Members of the Armed Forces who slept off post would be counted where they slept rather than where they were stationed.

The instructions continued to allow anyone to be designated as head of the household for relationship purposes, but if a woman was listed as head and her husband was present, he was reclassified as the head when the completed schedule was reviewed in the office. (At the time, the number of such cases was relatively small.)

A “family” was distinguished from a “household” in that the family represented a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A household could contain one or more families, or none, but would occupy only one dwelling unit (quarters with separate cooking equipment or (new for 1950) a separate entrance.)

As in 1940, there was a separate form a respondent could use to report income. However, this was now a self-mailing piece (form P6) which the householder was asked to complete and post (rather than hand it to the enumerator).

A supplemental schedule (form P8) was used to obtain additional information on Indian reservations. In addition to entering each person’s name as it appeared on the regular schedule, the enumerator wrote in any other name(s) by which that person was known.
Instructions to Enumerators—Housing

The census takers continued to define "nondwelling-unit quarters" (item 3) as they had in 1940, including as dwelling units those places with fewer than 10 lodgers. However, in subsequent office coding, any residence with 5 to 9 lodgers was reclassified as a nondwelling unit and excluded from the housing inventory. Vacant trailers, tents, boats, etc., were not enumerated.

There were detailed instructions for classifying various facilities (such as plumbing), equipment, and rooms for inclusion in the census.

In item 7 (condition of unit), the enumerator had to decide whether or not the place was "dilapidated," which, in conjunction with the information on plumbing facilities (items 10-13) would provide an indicator of housing quality. The reference manual had a special illustrated section devoted to item 7 and training was augmented with a filmstrip.

With this background, "dilapidated" or "not dilapidated" was to be checked without asking the householder about the condition of the unit. The decision was to be made on the basis of observation, looking for critical and minor housing deficiencies or for the adequacy of the original construction. A dilapidated unit, the census taker was told, was "below the generally accepted minimum standard for housing." It failed to protect the occupants from the elements or endangered their health or safety. It could be dilapidated because it had been neglected or because the original construction had been inadequate in the first place. A unit was not to be reported as "dilapidated" simply because it was old or dingy, nor was it "not dilapidated" because it happened to be freshly painted or shingled over.

Items 14 and 15 were five different sets of questions, and each household answered the set found on the line on which it was enumerated (thus constituting a 20-percent sample for these items).