

Guide to Searching the Census by New York City Address

The earliest census that can be searched by address is the 1870 Federal Census, 2nd Enumeration (December 1870) for New York County only. It is on this census that the census taker first noted the street and building number of the households enumerated. From that point forward addresses were noted on all census records.

Searching the Census by Address:

- If necessary, obtain the address by looking at New York City directories in the Milstein Microfilm Room (Room 119) Many directories are also available through the database Footnote.com.
- Using the various resources and finding aids listed below identify the address' district, ward, or book numbers which will be used to browse the Census records.
- For the Federal Census years use the Ancestry Library Edition or FamilySearch database or the microfilm in Room 119.
- For the NY State census use the microfilm in room 119 or use the FamilySearch database.

Note: The boroughs of Brooklyn (Kings), Queens, Staten Island (Richmond) and areas of the Bronx did not become part of New York City until 1898. The Bronx did not exist as a separate borough until 1898. New York City (Manhattan) annexed the area west of the Bronx River in 1874 and annexed the area east of the Bronx River in 1895.

Note: As microfilmed census records and indexes are currently being digitized, you should always check with a librarian to see if a census has become available online.

Finding Aids mentioned on this handout:

- One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse - <http://www.stevemorse.org/>
- Jensen, Howard M. *Aid to finding addresses in the 1890 New York City Police Census.*
- Silinonte, Joseph M. *Street Index to the 1892 New York State Census, City of Brooklyn*

1870 Federal Census – 2nd Enumeration (Manhattan)

The Census Map on Table 7 in Room 121 can be used to find the Ward and District of the address.

1875 State Census (Brooklyn)

At the Milstein Division Reference desk in Room 121 there is a guide that converts 1875 addresses to Wards and Election Districts.

1880 Federal Census (Manhattan and Brooklyn)

For Manhattan: At the Reference Desk in Room 121 there is a guide used to convert addresses into districts.

For Brooklyn: On Table 7 in Room 121 there is a Census Map showing the districts.

1890 New York City Police Census (Manhattan and West Bronx)

At the Reference Desk in Rooms 121 and 119, Howard Jensen's book can be used to convert addresses to "Book" numbers. **Note:** Some "books" are missing. Stephen Morse's website can be used to obtain the correct districts. Ancestry Library Edition also has a partial name index that lists the appropriate book and page number for an individual.

1892 State Census (Brooklyn)

At the Reference Desk in Rooms 121 and 119, Joseph Silinonte's book can be used to convert addresses to appropriate Ward/Election District numbers.

1900 Federal Census

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Census Maps on Table 7 in the Milstein Division can also be used to find the Ward and Enumeration District of an address in Manhattan.

*Irma & Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History & Genealogy
The New York Public Library*

1905 State Census (Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn)

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Additionally, in Room 119 there is a microfilmed copy of the *Card index to street names and house addresses in NY County, for the NY State census for 1905, 1915, and 1925*, through which the correct district numbers can be found.

1910 Federal Census

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Alternatively, at the Reference Desk in Rooms 121 and 119 there is a set of books that convert addresses to the ED number for Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Richmond counties. For Queens County see the Census map on Table 7 in Room 121.

1915 State Census (all of New York City)

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Additionally, in room 119 there is a microfilmed copy of the *Card index to street names and house addresses in NY County, for the NY State census for 1905, 1915, and 1925*, through which the correct district numbers can be found. The Map Division (Room 117) has census maps for all boroughs in New York City.

1920 Federal Census

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Census maps for the 1920 Census are also available on Table 7.

1925 State Census (all of New York City)

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Additionally, in room 119 there is a microfilmed copy of the *Card index to street names and house addresses in NY County, for the NY State census for 1905, 1915, and 1925*, through which the correct district numbers can be found. The Map Division (Room 117) has census maps for all boroughs in New York City.

1930 Federal Census

Stephen Morse's site can be used to obtain the correct districts. Census maps for 1930 are also available on Table 7.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Supplementary Finding Aid for the Federal Census: In Room 119 there are microfilmed Enumeration District maps for New York City from 1900-1940. Call # *R-USLHG *ZI-415

The Federal Census records become available to the public after 72 years. The 1940 Census will be released in 2012. There are no New York State Census Records after 1925.

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<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/lhg/genea.html>

E-mail reference: histref@nypl.org

Hours: Monday 10-6, Tuesday & Wednesday 10-7:30, Thursday-Saturday 10-6