4. Geographic Shapefile Concepts Overview

The following sections describe the geographic entity type displayed in each shapefile, as well as the record layout for each file, in alphabetical order. A listing of all available shapefiles, including vintage and geographic level (state, county and national), precedes the description of the entity type. Shapefiles do not exist for geographic layers where there is no data in the MTDB (e.g., states that have no American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Areas will not have an AIANNH shapefile).

4.1 American Indian / Alaska Native / Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas

4.1.1 Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs)

Alaska Native Regional Corporations geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) State Shapefile (Current)

ANRCs are corporations created according to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Pub. L. 92–203, 85 Stat. 688 (1971); 43 U.S.C. 1602 et seq. (2000)). The laws of Alaska organize Regional Corporations to conduct both the for-profit and non-profit affairs of Alaska Natives within defined regions of the state. The Census Bureau treats ANRCs as legal geographic entities. Twelve ANRCs cover Alaska except for the area within the Annette Island Reserve (an AIR under the governmental authority of the Metlakatla Indian Community). The Census Bureau offers representatives of the twelve ANRCs the opportunity to review and update the ANRC boundaries.

TIGER/Line Shapefiles represent ANRCs with a 5-character FIPS code unique within Alaska and a nationally unique 8-character ANSI code.

See Appendix F-1 for ANRC record layout.

4.1.2 American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas

American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian area geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Area National Shapefile (Current)

This shapefile contains both legal and statistical AIANNH entities for which the Census Bureau publishes data. The legal entities consist of federally recognized AIR and ORTL areas, state-recognized AIRs and Hawaiian Home Lands (HHLs). American Indian Tribal Subdivisions (AITS) and Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs) are additional types of legal entities, displayed in separate shapefiles discussed in this chapter. The statistical entities displayed in these shapefiles are Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs), Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs), Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs), and State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs).

The AIANNH shapefiles contain a unique polygon record for each AIR or ORTL, HHL, ANVSA, and American Indian statistical geographic entity.

For example, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation will have two records: one for the reservation portion and another for the Off-Reservation Trust Land portion.

Entities with only a single component (e.g., HHL, ANVSA, American Indian statistical geographic entity, reservation without any associated ORTL, or an entity that is only ORTL), will contain a single record.

AIANNH areas cannot overlap another tribal entity. Tribal subdivisions are the exception, which subdivide some American Indian entities and ANVSAs that exist within ANRCs. In cases where more than one tribe claims jurisdiction over an area, the Census Bureau creates a joint-use area as a separate entity to define this area of dual claims.

See Appendix F-2 for AIANNH record layout.

4.1.2.1 Legal Entity Definitions

American Indian Reservations—Federal (federal AIRs)

Federal AIRs are areas set aside by the United States for the use of federally recognized tribes. The exterior boundaries of federal AIRs are in tribal treaties, agreements, executive orders, federal statutes, secretarial orders and/or judicial determinations. The Census Bureau recognizes federal reservations as territory over which American Indian tribes have governmental authority (e.g., colonies, communities, Indian colonies, Indian communities, Indian Rancherias, Indian Reservations, Indian villages, pueblos, rancherias, ranches, reservations, reserves, settlements, villages, or other descriptions). The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within the U.S. Department of Interior regularly publishes a list of federally recognized tribal governments in the Federal Register. The Census Bureau contacts representatives of these federally recognized American Indian tribal governments to identify the boundaries for federal reservations. Federal reservations may cross state, county, county subdivision, and/or place boundaries.

Contact information for federally recognized tribes; please visit the Bureau of Indian Affairs website at <https://www.bia.gov/>

< https://www.usa.gov/tribes>

Census Bureau assigns each federal AIR and reservation equivalent joint-use area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (0001 to 4999). These census codes are in alphabetical order of AIR names nationwide, except that joint-use areas appear at the end of the code range (4900 to 4999). Federal AIRs and reservation equivalent joint-use areas also have a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

American Indian Reservations—State (state AIRs)

Some state governments establish state AIRs for tribes recognized by the state. A governor-appointed state liaison provides the names and boundaries for state-recognized AIRs to the Census Bureau. State reservations may cross county, county subdivision and/or place boundaries.

Census Bureau assigns each state AIR with a nationally unique 4-character census code (9000 to 9499) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

American Indian Trust Lands

American Indian Trust Lands are areas for which the United States holds title in trust for the benefit of a tribe (tribal trust land) or for an individual American Indian tribal member (individual trust land or allotment). Trust lands may be located on (on-reservation) or off an AIR (off-reservation). The Census Bureau recognizes and tabulates data for reservations and ORTLs because American Indian tribes have governmental authority over these lands. Tribal governmental authority generally applies to lands located off the reservation only when the lands are in trust status. In Census Bureau data tabulations, ORTLs are always associated with a specific federally recognized reservation and/or tribal government. A tribal government appointed liaison provides the name and boundaries of their ORTLs. The Census Bureau

does not identify on-reservation trust land, fee land (or land in fee simple status), or restricted fee lands as specific geographic categories and are not identified in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles.

Hawaiian Home Lands (HHLs)

HHLs are areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by Hawaii (Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended). The Hawaii Admission Act (a compact between the federal government and Hawaii in 1959) vested land title and responsibility for the program with the State. An HHL is (not a governmental unit) a tract of land with a legally defined boundary that is owned by the state, which, as authorized by the Act, may lease to one or more Native Hawaiians for residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, pastoral and/or any other activities authorized by state law. The Census Bureau obtains the names and boundaries for HHLs from State officials. The names of the HHLs are based on the traditional ahupua'a names of the Crown and government lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii from which the lands were designated or from the local name for an area.

HHLs are equivalent to ORTL areas with an AIANNH area trust land indicator coded as “T”. Census Bureau assigns each HHL area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (5000 to 5499) in alphabetical sequence of each HHL name. Each HHL has a 5-character FIPS code in alphabetical order within Hawaii and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Joint-Use Areas (Legal)

Joint-Use Areas (Legal) designate land administered jointly and/or claimed by two or more federally recognized American Indian tribes. The Census Bureau designates legal joint-use areas as unique geographic entities for presenting statistical data. Census Bureau assigns each Joint-Use Area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (4800 to 4999) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

4.1.2.2 Statistical Entity Definitions

Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)

ANSVAs are a statistical geographic entity that represents the residences, permanent and/or seasonal, for Alaska Natives who are members of or are primarily receiving governmental services from the defining Alaska Native Village (ANV) and that are located within the region and vicinity of the ANV’s historic and/or traditional location. ANVSAs represent the relatively densely settled portion of each ANV and ideally include only an area where Alaska Natives, especially members of the defining ANV, represent a significant proportion of the population during one season of the year (three consecutive months). Officials of the ANV delineated or reviewed ANVSA boundaries. If no ANV official chose to participate in the delineation process, officials of the non-profit ANRC, in which the ANV is located, delineated or reviewed the boundaries. In some cases, if neither the ANV nor ANRC official chose to participate in the delineation process, the Census Bureau reviewed and delineated the ANVSA. An ANVSA may not overlap the boundary of another ANVSA or an AIR.

Census Bureau assigns each ANVSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (6000 to 7999) based on the alphabetical sequence of each ANVSA’s name and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Joint-Use Areas (Statistical)

Joint-Use Areas (Statistical) designate land administered jointly and/or claimed by two or more American Indian tribes and only apply to overlapping OTSAs. The Census Bureau designates statistical joint-use

areas as unique geographic entities for presenting statistical data. OTSA Joint-use areas have a nationally unique 4-character census code (5900 to 5999) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs)

OTSAs are statistical entities identified and delineated by the Census Bureau in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes that formerly had a reservation in Oklahoma. The boundary of an OTSA is generally that of the former reservation in Oklahoma, except where modified by agreements with neighboring federally recognized tribes that are eligible to delineate an OTSA. Tribal subdivisions can exist within the statistical Oklahoma tribal statistical areas. Census Bureau assigns each OTSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (5500 to 5899) based on the alphabetical sequence of each OTSA's name and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs)

SDTSAs are statistical entities for state-recognized American Indian tribes that do not have a state-recognized reservation. State liaisons chosen by the governor's office in each state identify and delineate SDTSAs for the Census Bureau. SDTSAs are generally a compact and contiguous area that contains a concentration of people who identify with a state-recognized American Indian tribe and in which there is structured or organized tribal activity. An SDTSA may not be located in more than one state unless both states recognize the tribe and may not include area within any other AIANNH areas. Note that for Census 2000 these areas were termed State Designated American Indian Statistical Areas (SDAISAs); SDTSAs bring consistency to tribal statistical area terms.

Census Bureau assigns each SDTSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (9500 to 9998) in alphabetical sequence of SDTSA names nationwide and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs)

TDSAs are statistical entities identified and delineated for the Census Bureau by federally recognized American Indian tribes that do not currently have a reservation or ORTL. A TDSA should be comparable to AIRs within the same state and/or region, especially for tribes that are of similar size. A TDSA is generally a compact and contiguous area that contains a concentration of individuals who identify with the delineating federally recognized American Indian tribe and in which there is structured or organized tribal activity. A TDSA may be located in more than one state but may not include area within any other AIANNH areas. Census Bureau assigns each TDSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (8000 to 8999) in alphabetical sequence of TDSA names nationwide and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

The AIANNH codes are in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles with a 4-character census code field, and a single alphabetic character AIANNH area reservation/statistical area or ORTL indicator field, shown as Component Type (COMPTYP). The census codes are in alphabetical order in assigned ranges by AIANNH area type nationwide, except that joint-use areas appear at the end of their applicable code range. There is also a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code. ORTLs have the same code assigned as the associated reservation. ORTLs associated with tribes that do not have a reservation have codes assigned based on their tribal name. There is one record created for each unique combination of AIANNH code and component type.

The type of AIANNH area can be identified either by census code (AIANNHCE), MAF/Tiger Feature Class Code (MTFCC), or FIPS class code (CLASSFP). The range of census codes allocated to each AIANNH area and the valid FIPS class code(s) associated with each are in Figure 7.

Type	Census Code Range	Valid FIPS Class Codes	MTFCCs
Federal American Indian Reservation (AIR) or Off-Reservation Trust Land (ORTL)	0001 to 4799	D1, D2, D3	G2100
Federal AIR or ORTL joint-use area	4800 to 4989	D0	G2170
Hawaiian home land (HHL)	5000 to 5499	F1	G2120
Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSA)	5500 to 5899	D6	G2140
OTSA joint-use area	5900 to 5999	D0	G2170
Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA)	6000 to 7999	E1	G2130
Tribal Designated Statistical Area (TDSA)	8000 to 8999	D6	G2160
State AIR	9000 to 9499	D4	G2100
State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSA)	9500 to 9998	D9	G2150

Figure 7: Census Codes for each AIANNH area

Notes:

- MTFCC G2100 can represent both federally and state-recognized areas (see Figure 8).

Type	Federal/State Recognition Flag (AIANNHR)
Federally recognized	F
State recognized	S

Figure 8: AIANNHR Recognition Flag

- MTFCC G2170 are Joint-use areas (see Figure 9).

Type	Functional Status (FUNCSTAT)
Federally AIR/ORTL joint-use areas	A
OTSA joint-use areas	S

Figure 9: Functional Status for G2170 joint use areas

- FIPS Class Codes for Federal AIRs or ORTLs (see Figure 10):

FIPS Class Codes	Description
D1	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of reservation and associated Off-Reservation Trust Land.
D2	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of reservation only.
D3	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of Off-Reservation Trust Land only.

Figure 10: FIPS Class Codes for Federal AIRS or ORTLs

Type	Component Type (COMPTYP)
American Indian Trust Land	T
Reservation or Statistical Entity	R

Figure 11: Component types for AIANNH areas

See Appendix F-2 for AIANNH record layout.

4.1.3 American Indian Tribal Subdivisions

American Indian Tribal Subdivision geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

American Indian Tribal Subdivision (AITS) National Shapefile (Current)

AITS are legally defined administrative subdivisions of federally recognized AIRs and/or ORTLs or OTSAs. Tribal Subdivisions are known as additions, administrative areas, areas, chapters, county districts, districts, or segments. These entities are internal units of self-government or administration that serve social, cultural, and/or economic purposes for the American Indians on the reservations, Off-Reservation Trust Lands (ORTLs). The Census Bureau obtains the boundary and name information for tribal subdivisions from the federally recognized tribal governments.

AITS codes are in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles with a 3-character census code and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code. The Census Bureau assigns the 3-character AITS code alphabetically in order and uniquely within each AIR and/or associated ORTL or OTSA.

See Appendix F-3 for AITS record layout.

4.1.4 Tribal Census Tract

Tribal census tract geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Tribal Census Tract National Shapefile (Current)

Tribal census tracts are relatively small statistical subdivisions of an AIR and/or ORTL defined by federally recognized tribal government officials in partnership with the Census Bureau. While tribal census tracts (and block groups, see below) were delineated in the Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) in 2010, organizational changes to the PSAP allowed for greater flexibility in the geographies reviewed under that program, and proposed 2020 Decennial changes for tribal statistical geographies were solicited through this venue. Tribal census tracts are conceptually similar and equivalent to standard census tracts. Tribal census tracts may cross state, county, and standard census tract boundaries.

Tribal census tracts generally have 1,200 persons (480 housing units) to 8,000 persons (3,200 housing units), with an optimal size of 4,000 persons (1,600 housing units). AIRs and/or ORTLs that have less than 2,400 persons (960 housing units) will only have one tribal census tract that covers the entire AIR and/or ORTL. AIRs and/or ORTLs with 2,400 (or more) people will have more than one tribal census tract.

A tribal census tract usually covers a contiguous area but, in some cases, may consist of more than one discrete area. Tribal census tracts nest within individually federally recognized AIRs and/or ORTLs. In some cases, an AIR and/or ORTL might be noncontiguous, so the tribal census tracts will be as well.

Tribal Census Tracts Codes—Tribal census tracts have a 4-character basic name/code plus a 2-character suffix (for tribal census tract splits in the future). All tribal census tract suffixes are currently zeroes (00) because the 2010 Census was the first to use this coding and no subsequent splits were performed for 2020. Tribal census tract codes all begin with the letter "T" followed by three digits and the 2-character suffix.

For example:

T00200

Tribal census tract codes have an implied decimal between the basic code and the suffix and are unique within an American Indian Reservation and/or ORTL. The code is in the current Tribal Census Tract Code (TTRACTCE) field.

Tribal Census Tract Names—the tribal census tract code also acts as its name, with the suffix only appended if required. While the TTRACTCE field contains the 6-character code format (including the suffix), the NAME field contains the tribal census tract name as displayed in Census Bureau printed reports and on mapping products. The name will consist of the first four characters ("T" followed by three digits, including any leading or trailing zeroes) and a decimal point followed by the 2-character suffix if the suffix is something other than zeroes (00). When the suffix is only zeroes, the tribal tract decimal point and suffix are absent. For example, tribal census tract code "T01000" has a tribal census tract name of "T010". The NAMELSAD field includes both the translated legal/statistical area description and the tribal tract name (e.g., "Tribal census tract T010").

For more information on the PSAP, please visit:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>

See Appendix F-4 for Tribal Census Tract National Record Layout.

4.1.5 Tribal Block Group

Tribal block group geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Tribal Block Group National Shapefile (Current)

Tribal block groups are subdivisions of a tribal census tract. For the 2010 Census, federally recognized tribal government officials in the Census Bureau's TSAP defined tribal block groups. If a tribal government declined to participate in the TSAP, the Census Bureau delineated tribal block groups on the AIR and/or ORTL. As above, for the 2020 Census tribal block group changes were managed through PSAP.

Tribal block groups should contain 600 to 3,000 persons (240 to 1,200 housing units). Many AIRs and/or ORTLs have less than the minimum population thresholds will only have one Tribal block group that covers the entire AIR and/or ORTL.

Unlike standard block groups, the cluster of blocks that comprises each tribal block group will not necessarily begin with the same first digit of their 4-character census block number but may contain blocks from several different standard census block groups.

A tribal block group usually covers a contiguous area but, in some cases, may consist of more than one discrete area. Tribal block groups nest within tribal census tracts and within individual federally recognized AIRs and/or ORTLs. In some cases, an AIR and/or ORTLs might be noncontiguous, so the

tribal block groups are as well. In addition, tribal block group boundaries may cross standard census tract, standard block group, county, and/or state boundaries.

Tribal block groups have unique names within tribal tracts. Tribal block group names and codes are identical and are a single capital letter character from “A” to “K” (except for the letter “I”). No relationship exists between the tribal block group identifier and the numbering of census blocks within the tribal block group. A tribal block group will always be identified in conjunction with the tribal census tract within which it is contained.

For example:

T00100A.

For more information on the 2010 TSAP, please visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/partnerships/2010-census-partnerships/tsap.html>

See Appendix F-5 for Tribal Block Group Record Layout.

4.2 Blocks (Census Block)

Block geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Block State-based Shapefile (2010 Geography)

Block State-based Shapefile (2020 Geography)

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Generally, census blocks are small in area (e.g., a block in a city). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. (See Figures 12 and 13).

Census Block Numbers—Census blocks are numbered uniquely within the boundaries of each state, county, census tract with a 4-character census block number. The first character of the tabulation block number identifies the block group. A block number can only be unique by using the decennial census state (STATEFP<YR>), county (COUNTYFP<YR>), census tract (TRACTCE<YR>), and block (BLOCKCE<YR>)+. There is no consistency in block numbers from census to census.

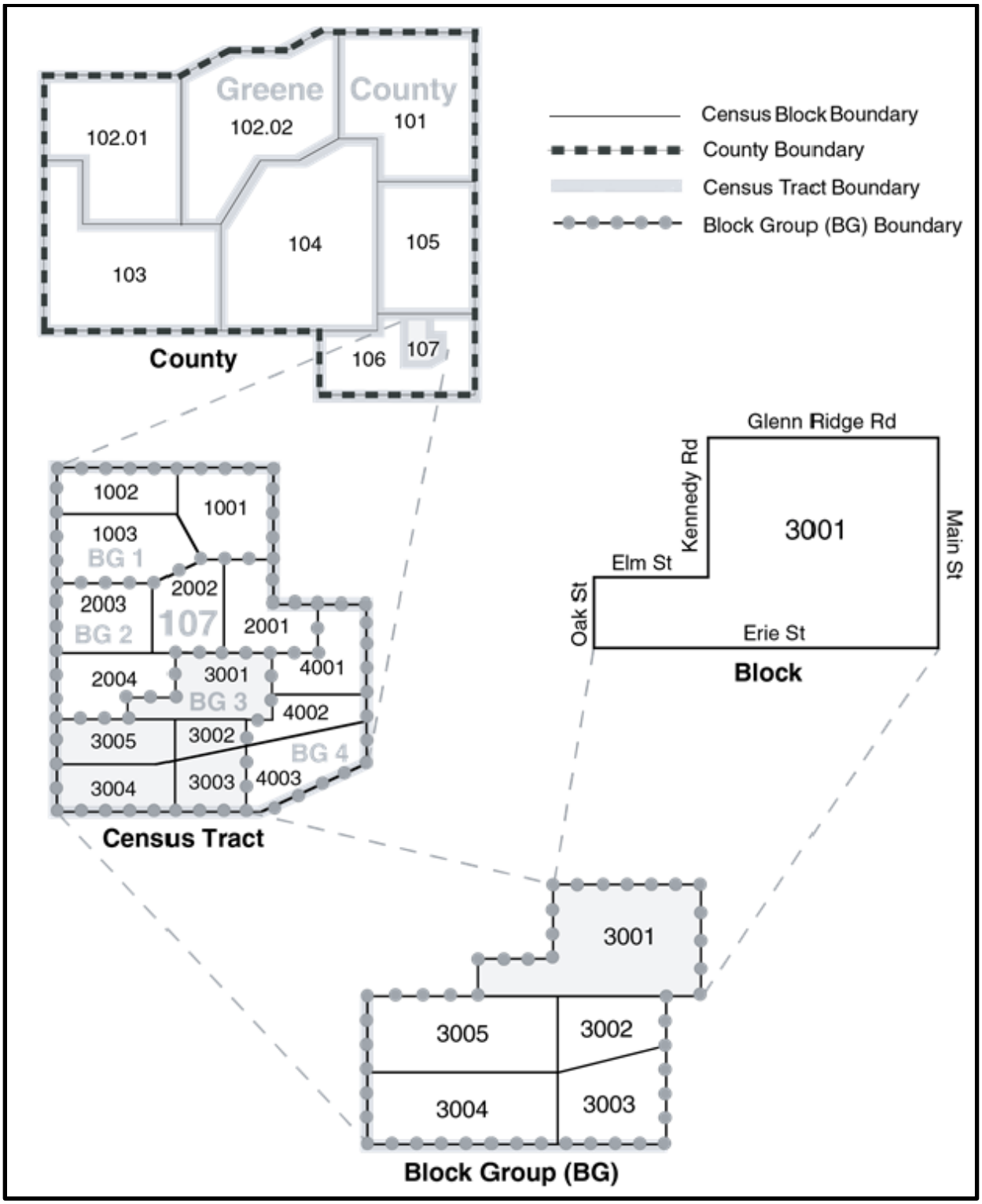

Figure 12: Census Block

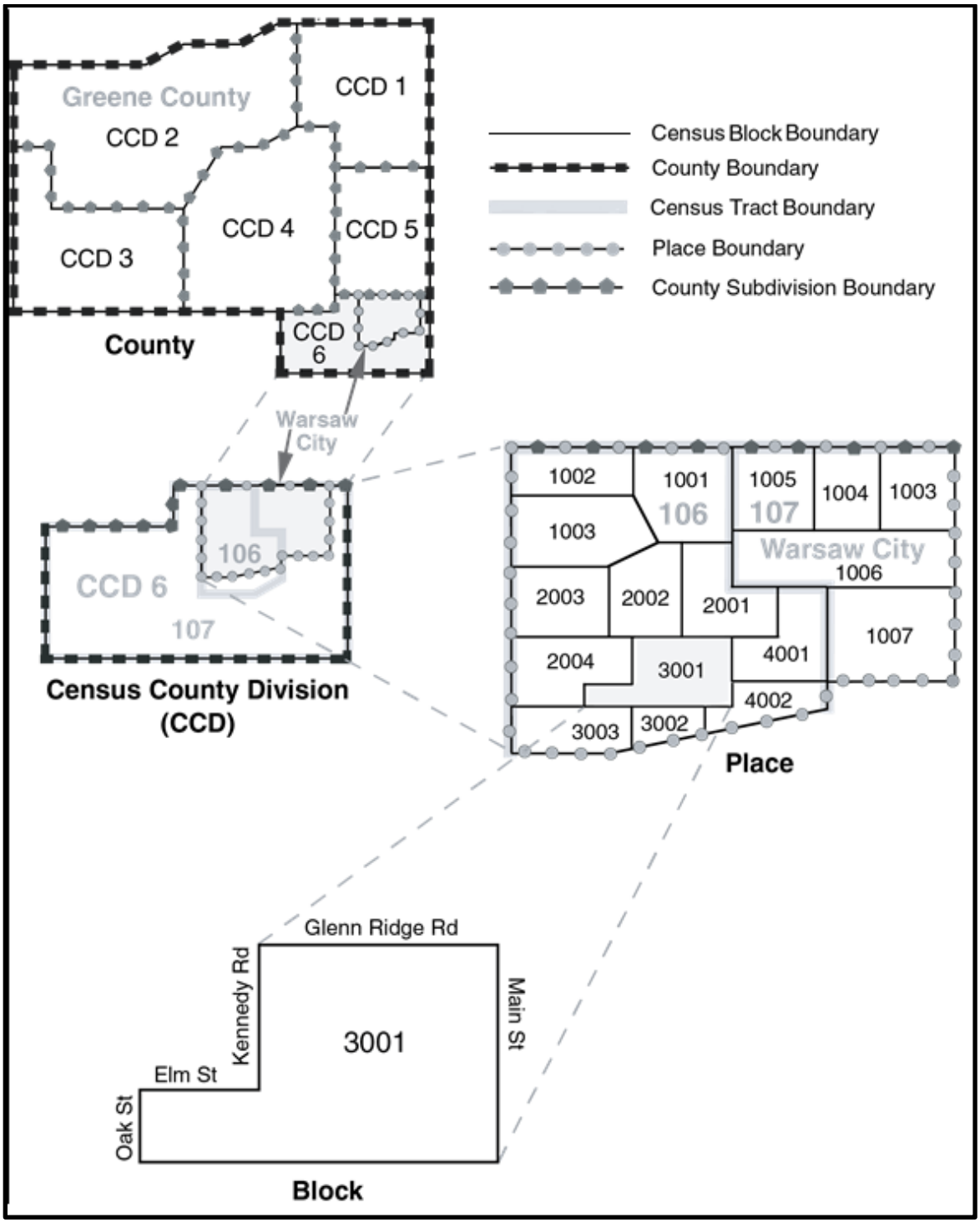

Figure 13: Geographic Relationships: County Subdivision Place Block

See Appendix K: Block State-based Record Layout.

4.3 Block Groups

Block Group geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Block Group State-based Shapefile (Current)

Standard block groups are clusters of blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Current block groups do not always maintain these same block number to block group relationships due to boundary and feature changes that occur throughout the decade. For example, block 3001 might move due to a change in the census tract boundary. Even if the block is no longer in block group 3, the block number (3001) will not change. However, the GEOID for that block, identifying block group 3, would remain the same in the attribute information in the TIGER/Line shapefiles because block GEOIDs are always built using the decennial geographic codes.

Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people. Local participants delineated most block groups as part of the Census Bureau's PSAP. The Census Bureau delineated block groups only where a local or tribal government declined to participate or where the Census Bureau could not identify a potential local participant.

A block group usually covers a contiguous area. Each census tract contains one or more block groups and block groups have unique numbers within census tract. Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, block groups never cross county or census tract boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and AIANNH areas.

Block groups have a valid range of zero (0) through nine (9). Block groups beginning with a zero generally are in coastal and Great Lakes water and territorial seas. Rather than extending a census tract boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the 3-mile territorial sea limit, the Census Bureau delineated some census tract boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore.

For more information about the PSAP, please visit:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>

See Appendix G-2 for Block Group State-based Record Layout.

4.4 Census Tracts

Census tract geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Census Tract State-based Shapefile (Current)

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity, and are reviewed and updated by local participants prior to each decennial census as part of the Census Bureau’s PSAP. The Census Bureau updates census tracts in situations where no local participant existed or where local or tribal governments declined to participate. The primary purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of decennial census data.

Census tracts generally have a population size of 1,200 to 8,000 people with an optimum size of 4,000 people. The spatial size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement. Ideally, census tract boundaries remain stable over time to facilitate statistical comparisons from census to census. However, physical changes in street patterns caused by highway construction, new development, and so forth, may require boundary revisions. In addition, significant changes in population may result in splitting or combining census tracts.

Census tract boundaries generally follow visible and identifiable features. Census tract boundaries may follow legal boundaries (e.g., MCD or incorporated place boundaries in some states to allow for census tract-to-governmental unit relationships where the governmental boundaries tend to remain unchanged between censuses). State and county boundaries always are census tract boundaries in the standard census geographic hierarchy.

In a few rare instances, a census tract may consist of noncontiguous areas. These noncontiguous areas may occur where the census tracts are coextensive with all or parts of legal entities that are themselves noncontiguous.

Census Tract Codes and Numbers—Census tract numbers have up to a 4-character basic number and may have an optional 2-character suffix:

For example:

1457.02

The census tract numbers (used as names) eliminate any leading zeroes and append a suffix only if required. The 6-digit census tract codes, however, include leading zeroes and have an implied decimal point for the suffix. Census tract codes (000100 to 998999) are unique within a county or equivalent area.

The Census Bureau assigned a census tract code of 9900 to represent census tracts delineated to cover large bodies of water. In addition, census tract codes in the 9400s represent American Indian Areas and codes in the 9800s represent special land use areas.

The Census Bureau uses suffixes to help identify census tract changes for comparison purposes. Local participants have an opportunity to review the existing census tracts before each census. If local participants split a census tract, the split parts usually retain the basic number, but receive different suffixes. In a few counties, local participants request major changes to, and renumbering of, the census tracts. Changes to individual census tract boundaries usually do not result in census tract numbering changes.

Relationship to Other Geographic Entities—Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, census tracts never cross state or county boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and AIANNH areas.

Census Tract Numbers and Codes:

- 000100 to 939999 - Basic number range for census tracts
- 940000 to 949999 - American Indian Areas
- 950000 to 979999 - Basic number range for census tracts
- 980000 to 989999 - Special land use areas
- 990000 to 990099 - Basic number range for census tracts in water areas

- 990100 to 998900 - Basic number range for census tracts

See Appendix G-3 for Census Tract State-based record layout.

4.5 Congressional Districts

Congressional district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

116th Congressional District National Shapefile

Congressional Districts are the 435 areas from which people elect their voting delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives and the 5 areas with nonvoting delegates from state equivalents (District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands). After the apportionment of congressional seats among the states based on decennial census population counts, each state is responsible for establishing the boundaries of congressional districts. All congressional districts in a state should be as equal in population as is practicable.

The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain the 116th Congressional Districts. All congressional districts appearing in the 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles reflect the information provided to the Census Bureau by the states by May 1, 2018. The 116th Congressional District shapefile contains the areas in effect from January 2019 to 2021.

Congressional District Codes—Congressional districts have a 2-character FIPS code. Congressional Districts have unique numbers within state.

FIPS Code	Description
01 to 53	Congressional District Codes
98	Nonvoting delegate (District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas)
00	At large (single district for state)

Figure 14: Congressional Districts: FIPS Codes

See Appendix H for 116th Congressional District Record Layout

4.6 Consolidated Cities

Consolidated city geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Consolidated City State-based Shapefile (Current)

A consolidated government is a unit of local government for which the functions of an incorporated place and its county or MCD have merged. This action results in both the primary incorporated place and the county or MCD continuing to exist as legal entities, even though the county or MCD performs few (or no) governmental functions and has few (or no) elected officials. When one or more other incorporated places in the county or MCD is included in the consolidated government but continues to function as separate government, the primary incorporated place is referred to as a consolidated city. The Census Bureau

classifies the separately incorporated places within the consolidated city as place entities and creates a separate place (balance) record for the portion of the consolidated city not within any other place. The shapefiles represent consolidated cities with a 5- character numeric FIPS code and an 8-character National Standard (GNIS) code. Consolidated City (Balance) Portions refer to the areas of a consolidated city not included in another separately incorporated place.

For example,

Butte-Silver Bow, MT, is a consolidated city (former Butte city and Silver Bow County) that includes the separately incorporated municipality of Walkerville city. The area of the consolidated city that is not in Walkerville city is assigned to Butte-Silver Bow (balance). The name always includes the "(balance)" identifier. Balance portions of consolidated cities are included in the incorporated place shapefiles.

See Appendix I-1 for Consolidated City Record Layout.

4.7 Counties and Equivalent Entities

County and equivalent entity geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

County and Equivalent Entity National Shapefile (Current)

Counties and equivalent entities are primary legal divisions of states. In most states, these entities are termed "counties." Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineate these census areas for statistical purposes. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states. These incorporated places are also known as independent cities. The Census Bureau treats the following entities as equivalents of counties for purposes of data presentation:

Place	Entity
Alaska	Organized Borough
Alaska (census areas)	Unorganized Borough
District of Columbia	-
Louisiana	Parishes
Maryland	Independent Cities
Missouri	Independent Cities
Nevada	Independent Cities
Virginia	Independent Cities
Puerto Rico	Municipios
American Samoa	Districts and Islands
Guam	-
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	Municipalities
U.S. Virgin Islands	Islands

Figure 15: County Equivalents

Each county or statistically equivalent entity has a 3-character FIPS code that is unique within a state, and an 8-character ANSI code.

The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles reflect available governmental unit boundaries of the counties and equivalent entities as of January 1, 2019.

Core-based Statistical Area (CBSA) Codes

CBSA Codes – The 2019 County and Equivalent Entity shapefiles also contain fields with codes for Combined Statistical Area, metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area, and metropolitan division. Counties form the building blocks for CBSAs, and a user can merge county records to form these areas without having to acquire the individual CBSA shapefiles.

See Appendix I-2 County and Equivalent Entity National Record Layout.

4.8 County Subdivisions

County subdivision geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

County Subdivision State-based Shapefile (Current)

County subdivisions are the primary divisions of counties and their equivalent entities for the reporting of decennial census data (e.g., census county divisions, census subareas, minor civil divisions, and unorganized territories). County subdivisions may represent legal or statistical entities. The shapefiles contain a 5-character FIPS code field for county subdivisions and an 8-character GNIS code.

Legal Entity Definitions

Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs)

MCDs are the primary governmental or administrative divisions of a county in many states. MCDs represent many kinds of legal entities with a wide variety of governmental and/or administrative functions. MCDs include the following areas:

American Indian Reservations	Assessment districts	Barrios	Barrios-pueblo	Boroughs
Census subdistricts	Charter townships	Commissioner districts	Counties	Election districts
Election precincts	Gores	Grants	Locations	Magisterial districts
Parish governing authority districts	Plantations	Precincts	Purchases	Supervisor's districts
Towns	Townships			

Figure 16: MCD areas

The Census Bureau recognizes MCDs in 29 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the Census Bureau treats the incorporated place of Washington as an MCD equivalent for statistical purposes. In 23 states, all or some incorporated places are not part of any MCD. These places also serve as primary legal county subdivisions and have a FIPS MCD code that is the same as the FIPS place code. The GNIS codes also match for those entities. In other states, incorporated places are part of the MCDs where located or the pattern is mixed—some incorporated places are independent of MCDs and others are included within one or more MCDs. The MCDs in 12

states (see Figure 17) also serve as general-purpose local governments that generally can perform the same governmental functions as Incorporated Places. The Census Bureau presents data for these MCDs in all products that contain place data.

Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New York	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	Vermont	Wisconsin

Figure 17: MCD States

In Maine and New York, AIRs exist outside the jurisdiction of any town (MCD) and thus serve as the equivalent of MCDs for purposes of data presentation.

Statistical Entity Definitions

Census County Divisions (CCDs)

CCDs are areas delineated by the Census Bureau in cooperation with state and local officials for statistical purposes (non-governmental units and have no legal functions). CCD boundaries usually follow visible features and, in most cases, coincide with census tract boundaries. The Census Bureau gives each CCD a name based on a place, county, or well-known local name to identify its location. CCDs exist where:

- There are no legally established MCDs
- The legally established MCDs do not have governmental or administrative purposes
- The boundaries of the MCDs change frequently
- The MCDs are not generally known to the public

The Census Bureau has established CCDs for the following 20 states:

Alabama	Arizona	California	Colorado	Delaware
Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Kentucky
Montana	Nevada	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Oregon
South Carolina	Texas	Utah	Washington	Wyoming

Figure 18: Census County Divisions

Census Subareas

Census subareas are statistical subdivisions of boroughs, city and boroughs, municipalities, and census areas. Census areas are the statistical equivalent entities for counties in Alaska. Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineate the census subareas to serve as the statistical equivalents of MCDs.

Unorganized Territories (UTs)

UTs defined by the Census Bureau in nine MCD states and in American Samoa, where portions of counties or equivalent entities are not included in any legally established MCD or incorporated place. The Census Bureau recognizes such separate pieces of territory as one or more separate county subdivisions for census purposes. Each UT is given a descriptive name, followed by the designation “unorganized

territory" and county subdivision FIPS and GNIS codes. The Census Bureau recognizes UTs in the following states and equivalent areas:

Arkansas	Indiana	Iowa	Maine	Minnesota
New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	South Dakota	

Figure 19: Unorganized Territories

Undefined County Subdivisions

In water bodies, primarily Great Lakes waters and territorial sea, legal county subdivisions do not extend to cover the entire county. For these areas, the Census Bureau created a county subdivision with a FIPS code of 00000 and GNIS code of 00000000 named "county subdivision not defined." The following states and equivalent areas have these county subdivisions:

Connecticut	Illinois	Indiana	Maine	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York
Ohio	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	Wisconsin	Puerto Rico

Figure 20: Undefined County Subdivisions

New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Codes

The county subdivision shapefiles also contain fields with codes for combined New England city and town area, New England city and town area, and New England city and town area division. The NECTAs consist of county subdivisions in New England only and users can merge county subdivision records to form these areas without acquiring the individual NECTA shapefiles.

See Appendix I-3 County Subdivision State-based Record Layout.

4.9 Estates (United States Virgin Islands)

Estate features and attributes are available in the United States Virgin Islands in the following shapefile:

Estate State-based Shapefile (Current)

Estates are subdivisions of the three major islands in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). The estates have legally defined boundaries and are generally smaller in area than the Census Subdistricts (county subdivisions), but do not necessarily nest within these districts. The boundaries of the estates are primarily those of the former agricultural plantations that existed at the time Denmark transferred the islands to the United States in 1917. The names and boundaries of the estates are in common usage by residents and in government administration. Estate boundaries have been substantially revised for the 2020 Census at the request of the USVI Office of the Lieutenant Governor, effective as of January 1, 2020. The 2010 and 2011 TIGER/Line products contain estate data in the Subminor Civil Division (submcd) shapefiles.

See Appendix I-4 Estate (U.S. Virgin Islands Only) Record Layout.

4.10 Hydrography (Area and Linear)

Hydrography features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Area Hydrography County-based Shapefile
Linear Hydrography County-based Shapefile

The area hydrography shapefile contains the geometry and attributes of both perennial and intermittent area hydrography features (e.g., ponds, lakes, oceans, swamps, glaciers, and the area covered by large streams represented as double-line drainage). Single-line drainage water features exist in the all lines shapefile and the linear hydrography shapefile.

The linear hydrography shapefile contains all linear features with Hydrography ("H") type MTFCCs in the MTDB by county. The Census Bureau provides these shapefiles at a county geographic extent and in linear elemental feature geometry. The linear hydrography shapefile includes streams/rivers, braided streams, canals, ditches, artificial paths and aqueducts. A linear hydrography feature may include edges with both perennial and intermittent persistence.

Single-line drainage water features include artificial path features that run through double-line drainage features (e.g., rivers and streams) and serve as a linear representation of these features. The artificial path features may correspond to those in the USGS National Hydrographic Dataset (NHD). However, in many cases the features do not match NHD equivalent feature and will not carry the NHD metadata codes.

Shorelines for Area Hydrography exist in the all lines shapefiles and have MTFCCs of either "P0002" (shoreline of perennial water feature) or "P0003" (shoreline of intermittent water feature).

See Appendix J-1 for Area Hydrography County-based Record Layout.

See Appendix J-2 for Linear Hydrography County-based Record Layout.

4.11 Landmarks (Area and Point)

Landmark features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Area Landmark State-based Shapefile
Point Landmark State-based Shapefile

The Census Bureau includes landmarks in the MTDB to locate special features and help enumerators during field operations. Some of the more common landmark types include area landmarks (e.g., airports, cemeteries, parks and educational facilities) and point landmarks (e.g., schools and churches).

The Census Bureau adds landmark features to the database on an as-needed basis (and does not attempt to ensure that all instances of a feature were included). The landmarks were not used to build or maintain the 2010 Census address list and the absence of a landmark (e.g., hospital or prison) does not mean that associated living quarters were excluded from the 2020 Census enumeration.

Area landmark and area water features can overlap. For example, a park or other special land-use feature may include a lake or pond. In this case, the polygon covered by the lake or pond belongs to a water feature and a park landmark feature. Other kinds of landmarks can overlap as well. Area landmarks can contain point landmarks, but TIGER/Line Shapefiles do not contain links to these features.

All landmarks have a MTFCC that identifies the type of feature and may or may not have a specific feature name. A full MTFCC list with definitions for the 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles is in Appendix E. Each landmark has a unique area landmark identifier (AREAID) or point landmark identifier (POINTID) value.

See Appendix K-1 for Area Landmark State-based Record Layout.

See Appendix K-2 for Point Landmark State-based Record Layout.

4.12 Linear Features

Linear elemental features are the spatial representation of 1-dimensional roads, hydrography, railroads, and other miscellaneous features in the MTDB. A linear elemental feature can span one edge or multiple connecting edges that share a common name and feature classification (MTFCC).

More than one linear elemental feature can share the same edge or group of connected edges. For example, an edge may be associated with a linear feature called Oak Street. This same edge may be one of several edges also associated with another linear feature called State Highway 57. The edge in question has two names: Oak Street and State Highway 57. The Census Bureau designates one of these names as primary and the others as alternates; usually the common street name (Oak Street) will be primary.

The MTDB breaks/ends linear elemental features when the feature name changes. All spelling differences result in a new feature. Features will also break at county boundaries, changes in primary/alternate designation, MTFCC, and gaps in the geometry.

4.12.1 All Lines

Each all lines shapefile describes the universe of edges that bound or are included within a county or equivalent entity. The shapefile describes the geometry of each edge along with descriptive attributes and unique identification numbers. These identification numbers provide the means for linking the edges to alternate features (e.g. their names, address ranges, and adjacent faces).

The all lines features, and attributes are in the following shapefile:

All Lines County-based Shapefile

The all lines shapefile contains visible linear feature edges (e.g., roads, railroads, and hydrography), as well as non-feature edges and non-visible boundaries. Additional attribute data associated with the edges are available in relationship files that users must download separately.

The all lines shapefile contains the geometry and attributes of each topological primitive edge. Each edge has a unique Topological Line Identifier (TLID). An edge's left and right faces are identified by the Topological Faces Identifier on the left side of the edge (TFIDL) and the Topological Faces Identifier on the right side of the edge (TFIDR) attributes, which link to the TFID attribute in the Topological Faces shapefile.

The left and right side of an edge is determined by the order of the points that form the edge. An edge is oriented from the start node to the end node. If a person stands on an edge at the start node and faces the end node, data listed in the fields carrying a right qualifier to the right of the edge. Users can employ GIS software to plot the edges as directional vectors with arrows showing the orientation of edges.

In the MTDB, edges may represent several types of features. The series of feature indicator flags (Hydrography [HYDROFLG], Road [ROADFLG], Rail [RAILFLG] and Other Linear [OLFFLG]) indicate the classes of features that share the edge. For example, a road may have embedded railroad tracks; the corresponding edge will have both the ROADFLG and RAILFLG set. Generally, certain feature types appear together on the same edge:

Feature Type	Description
Road and Rail	Roads with adjacent tracks, tracks embedded in roadways or tracks located in the median
Rail and Other Linear Feature	Rail features located on dams and levees
Road and Other Linear Feature	Road features located on dams and levees

Figure 21: Feature Types

The MTFCC identifies the specific code for the primary feature on the edge. For edges that represent roads in combination with other features, the MTFCC in the all lines shapefile will reflect the road feature.

See Appendix L-1 for All Lines County-based Record Layout.

4.12.2 Coastline

The coastline boundary is available in the following shapefile:

Coastline National Shapefile

The coastline shapefile includes all features within the MTDB class "Coastline," distinguished by the MTFCC of L4150. The coastline shapefile uses the MTDB based on water measurement class for display of statistical information only. The name assigned to each coastline feature is a short form of the name of the large body of water bordered by this coastline feature.

See Appendix L-2 for Coastline National Record Layout.

4.12.3 Roads – Primary, Secondary and All Roads

Linear road features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Primary Roads National Shapefile
Primary and Secondary Roads State-based Shapefile
All Roads County-based Shapefile

Primary roads are generally divided limited-access highways within the Federal interstate highway system or under state management. Interchanges and ramps distinguish these roads, and some are toll highways. The primary roads shapefile contains all linear street features with a MTFCC of primary roads (S1100) in the MTDB.

The primary and secondary roads shapefile contains all linear street features with MTFCCs of primary roads (S1100) or secondary roads (S1200) in the MTDB. Secondary roads are main arteries, usually in the U.S. highway, state highway, or county highway system. These roads have one or more lanes of traffic in each direction, may or may not be divided, and usually have at-grade intersections with many other roads and driveways. These roads often have both a local name and a route number.

The all roads shapefile contains all linear street features with Street ("S") type MTFCCs in the MTDB (e.g., primary roads, secondary roads, local neighborhood roads, rural roads, city streets, vehicular trails [4WD], ramps, service drives, walkways, stairways, alleys and private roads).

The Census Bureau works continuously to improve the accuracy of the features in the MTDB, including a recent focus on highway review. However, some street features may have a misclassified MTFCC. There can be gaps in features in the primary roads or the primary and secondary roads shapefiles, if a segment of the feature was misclassified as a local neighborhood road, rural road, or city street (S1400) instead of a primary road (S1100) or secondary road (S1200).

The all roads shapefile will contain multiple overlapping road segments where a segment is associated with more than one road feature. For example, if a road segment is associated with US Route 36 and State Highway 7 and 28th Street, the all roads shapefile will contain three spatially coincident segments, each with a different name. The all lines shapefile contains the set of unique road segments for each county, along with other linear features. Note that the linear feature address range identifier (LINEARID) field can link the linear features back to the featnames table. From there the TLID can relate the feature back to the all lines shapefile.

See Appendix L-3.1 Primary Roads National Record Layout.

See Appendix L-3.2 Primary and Secondary Roads State-based Record Layout.

See Appendix L-3.3 All Roads County-based Record Layout.

4.12.4 Address Ranges

Linear address range features and attributes are available in the following layer:

Address Range Feature County-based Shapefile

- The address range feature county-based shapefile contains the geospatial edge geometry and attributes of all unsuppressed address ranges for a county or county equivalent area. All the TIGER/Line address range files contain potential address ranges, not individual addresses. Potential ranges include the full range of possible structure numbers even though the actual structures may not exist. The Census Bureau suppresses single-address address ranges in order to maintain the confidentiality of the described addresses as specified by Title 13 of the U.S. Code, and does not currently provide any address ranges for the Island areas.

The address range feature shapefile contains all the address range to street name relationships in the address range feature name relationship file. The address range feature shapefile also contains all possible relationships between the address range county-based relationship file (see Appendix R-1) and the all lines shapefile. The address range feature shapefile will result in better geocoding match rates compared with using the all lines shapefile. The all lines shapefile only contains the most inclusive address range associated with each side of a street edge and the primary street name assigned to the edge.

See Appendix L-4 for Address Range Feature County-based Record Layout.

4.12.5 Railroads

Linear railroad features and attributes are available in the following layer:

Railroads National Shapefile

The railroad shapefile includes spur lines and rail yards, mass transit rail lines (e.g., carlines, streetcar track, monorail or other mass transit rail), and special purpose rail lines (e.g., cog rail lines, incline rail lines, and trams). The railroad shapefile contains all linear rail features with rail ("R") type MTFCCs in the MTDB. The Census Bureau provides these shapefiles at a national geographic extent and in a linear elemental feature geometry.

See Appendix L-5 for Railroads National Record Layout.

4.13 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Related Statistical Areas

Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and related statistical area geography and attributes are available in the following current shapefiles:

Combined New England City and Town Area (CNECTA) National
Combined Statistical Area (CSA) National
Metropolitan Division National
Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA) National (Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas)
New England City and Town Area (NECTA) National
New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Division National

Figure 22: Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

In March 2020, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced updates to metropolitan and micropolitan delineations, superseding the delineations published on July 15, 2015, and based on official standards published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2010 (OMB 17-01). The interagency Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee developed these standards to provide a nationally consistent set of geographic entities for the United States and Puerto Rico. The OMB has not defined metropolitan or micropolitan geography in the Island areas.

A metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area contains a core area with a substantial population nucleus, as well as adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) term became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Each metropolitan statistical area must have one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have one urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 inhabitants. The categorization of CBSAs as either metropolitan or micropolitan statistical areas is based on the population in the most populous (or dominant) core, not the total CBSA population or the total population of all (multiple) cores within the CBSA.

Counties or equivalent entities form the building blocks for metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Central counties are those counties or equivalent entities in which 50 percent of the population resides within urban areas of 10,000 (or more) population, or that contain 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 (or more) population. Additional outlying counties that meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties may be included in the CBSA.

In New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), the OMB has defined an alternative county subdivision (generally city and town) based definition of CBSAs known as New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs). NECTAs have the same criteria as metropolitan

and micropolitan statistical areas (urbanized area of 50,000 [or more] inhabitants or an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 inhabitants).

Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs)

CSAs consist of two or more adjacent CBSAs that have significant employment interchanges. The CBSAs that combine to create a CSA retain separate identities within the larger CSAs. CSAs represent groupings of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and should not be ranked or compared with individual metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Combined New England City and Town Areas (CNECTAs)

CNECTAs consist of two or more adjacent NECTAs that have significant employment interchanges. The NECTAs that combine to create a CNECTA retain separate identities within the larger combined statistical areas. CNECTAs represent groupings of NECTAs and should not be ranked or compared with individual NECTAs.

Metropolitan Divisions

Metropolitan divisions are smaller groupings of counties or equivalent entities within a metropolitan statistical area that contains a single core with 2.5 million inhabitants. Not all metropolitan statistical areas with urbanized areas of this size will contain metropolitan divisions. A metropolitan division consists of one or more main counties that represent an employment center or centers, plus adjacent counties associated with the main county or counties through commuting ties. Metropolitan divisions represent subdivisions of larger metropolitan statistical areas and should not be ranked or compared with metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Divisions

NECTA Divisions are smaller groupings of cities and towns within a NECTA that contains a single core with 2.5 million inhabitants. A NECTA Division consists of a main city or town that represents an employment center, as well as adjacent cities and towns associated with the main city or town through commuting ties. Each NECTA Division must contain a total population of 100,000 or more. NECTA Divisions represent subdivisions of larger NECTAs and should not be ranked or compared with NECTAs.

OMB designates one or more principal cities within each metropolitan statistical area, micropolitan statistical area, and NECTA. Principal cities can be either incorporated places or CDPs. In addition to identifying the more significant places in each metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area or NECTA in terms of population and employment, principal cities also title metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, CSAs, NECTAs, NECTA Divisions, and combined NECTAs. A principal city may be only a part of a place if a portion of that place is outside of the metropolitan statistical area, micropolitan statistical area, or NECTA.

Core Based Statistical Area Codes (CBSA)

CBSAs are the metropolitan statistical areas, micropolitan statistical areas, NECTAs, metropolitan divisions, and NECTA divisions use a 5-character code. The codes for metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and metropolitan divisions are in alphabetical order by area title. Metropolitan divisions have a code ending in "4". NECTA and NECTA Division codes are in alphabetical order by area title. NECTA Divisions have a code ending in "4".

Core Based Statistical Area Codes	Length	Range
Metropolitan Statistical Areas	5 digits	10000 to 59999
Metropolitan Divisions	5 digits	10004 to 59994
Micropolitan Statistical Areas	5 digits	10000 to 59999
New England City and Town Area (NECTA)	5 digits	70000 to 79999
NECTA Divisions	5 digits	70004 to 79994
Combined Statistical Areas (CSA)	3 digits	100 to 599
Combined NECTAs	3 digits	700 to 799

Figure 23: CBSA codes

Since CBSA codes are defined nationally, no additional codes are required to provide a unique entity identifier. Since lower level divisions nest within CBSA and CBSAs nest within combined areas, the higher-level codes exist in the record layouts for the subordinate entity types.

The metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area and related statistical area boundaries, names, and codes appearing in the 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles are those defined as of March 2020 by the OMB.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>

See Appendix M-1 for Combined New England City and Town Area (CNECTA) Record Layout.

See Appendix M-2 for Combined Statistical Area (CSA) Record Layout.

See Appendix M-3 for Metropolitan Division National Record Layout.

See Appendix M-4 for Metropolitan Statistical Area (CBSA) National Record Layout.

See Appendix M-5 for New England City and Town Area (NECTA) National Record Layout

See Appendix M-6 for New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Division National Record Layout.

4.14 Military Installations

Military installation geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Military Installation National Shapefile

The Census Bureau includes landmarks such as military installations in the MTDB to locate special features and help enumerators during field operations. The Census Bureau adds landmark features to the database on an as-needed basis and does not attempt to ensure that all instances of a particular feature are included. For additional information about area landmarks, please see Section 4.11, Landmarks (Area and Point).

This file does not include the three-point landmarks identified as military installation features in the MTDB. These point landmarks are included in the point landmark shapefile.

Although almost all military installations have assigned 8-character ANSI codes, the Census Bureau has not loaded most of this data into the MTDB. The 2020 military shapefiles contain few values in the ANSICODE field.

See Appendix N Military Installation National Record Layout.

4.15 Places – Incorporated Places and Census Designated Places

Place geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Place State-based Shapefile (Current)

The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles include both Incorporated Places (legal entities) and Census Designated Places (statistical entities).

Incorporated Places

Incorporated places are those reported to the Census Bureau as legally in existence as of January 1, 2020, under the laws of their respective states. An incorporated place provides governmental functions for a concentration of people. Incorporated places may extend across county and county subdivision boundaries, but never across state boundaries. An incorporated place usually is a city, town, village, or borough, but can have other legal descriptions.

Census Designated Places (CDPs)

CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which the CDPs are located. The Census Bureau defines CDP boundaries in cooperation with local partners as part of the PSAP. CDP boundaries usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent Incorporated Place or another legal entity boundary. CDPs have no legal status and do not have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions. CDP boundaries may change from one decennial census to the next with changes in the settlement pattern; a CDP with the same name as in an earlier census does not necessarily have the same boundary. There are no population size requirements for CDPs. In the nine states of the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) as well as Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, a CDP may represent a densely settled concentration of population within a town or township; in other instances, a CDP represents an entire town or township.

All places shown in data products for Hawaii are CDPs. The Census Bureau (in an agreement with Hawaii) does not show data separately for the city of Honolulu (coextensive with Honolulu County). Puerto Rico only has CDPs, which are comunidades or zonas urbanas. Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also have only CDPs.

Place Codes

Place Codes—the FIPS place code uniquely identifies a place within a state. If place names are duplicated within a state and represent distinctly different areas, a separate code is assigned to each place name alphabetically by the primary county in which each place is located, or, if both places are in the same county, alphabetically by their legal descriptions (e.g., city before village). All places also have an 8-character GNIS code.

Dependent and Independent Places

Dependent and Independent Places—Depending on the state, incorporated places are either dependent within, or independent of, county subdivisions. Some states contain a mixture of dependent and independent incorporated places. Dependent places are part of the county subdivision; the county subdivision code of the place is the same as that of the underlying county subdivision(s) but is different from the FIPS place code. Independent places are not part of any Minor Civil Division (MCD) and serve as primary county subdivisions. The independent place FIPS code usually is the same as that used for the MCD for the place. The only exception is if the place is independent of the MCDs in a state in which the FIPS MCD codes are in the 90000 range. (The FIPS code range 90000 to 98999 is reserved for CCDs and nonfunctioning MCDs where they cover whole States, whole counties, or their statistically equivalent entities). Then, the FIPS MCD and FIPS place codes will differ. CDPs are always dependent within county subdivisions and all places are dependent within statistical county subdivisions.

Independent Cities

Independent Cities are not part of any surrounding county:
Baltimore city, Maryland
St. Louis city, Missouri
Carson City, Nevada
All cities in Virginia (38)

The Census Bureau treats these cities as equivalent to both counties and MCDs (in MCD states). The FIPS code for St. Louis City is the same as the FIPS county subdivision code. All the others have differing FIPS place and county subdivision codes. At the county level, Independent Cities have a 3-character county code of 500 or higher.

Geographic Corridor

A geographic corridor (formerly called corporate corridor) is a narrow, linear part of an incorporated place (or in a very few instances, another type of legal entity). The geographic corridor includes the street and/or right-of-way or a portion of the street and/or right-of-way within the incorporated place. Geographic corridors do not include structures from the incorporated place (e.g., houses, apartments, or businesses that front along the street or road).

Geographic Limit Offset Boundary

A geographic limit offset boundary (formerly called corporate limit offset boundary) exists where the incorporated place lies on only one side of the street and may include all or part of the street and/or the right-of-way. The geographic limit offset boundary does not include the houses or land that adjoins the side of the street with the geographic limit offset boundary. Two or more geographic limit offset boundaries can be on the same street or right-of-way. Geographic limit offset boundaries use the same map symbology as non-offset boundaries. Figures 24 and 25 depict geographic corridors and geographic limit offsets.

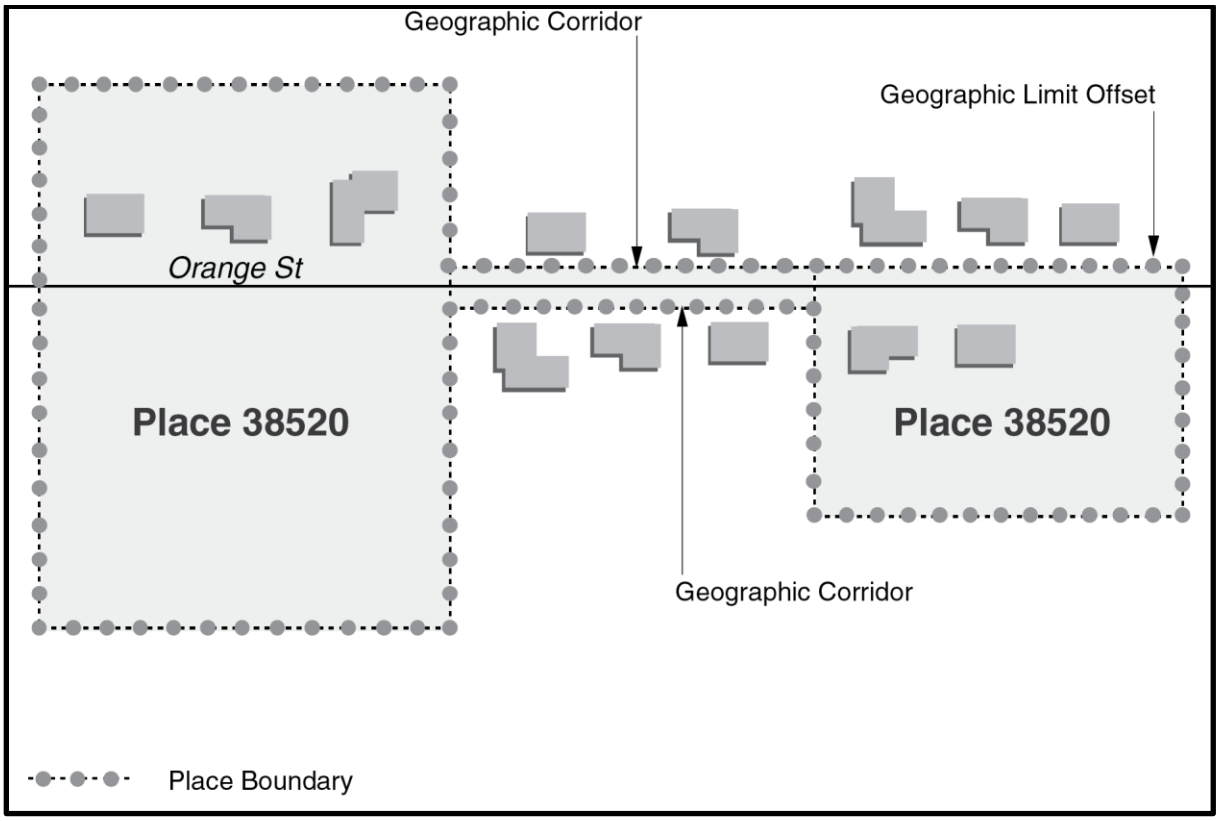

Figure 24: Geographic Corridors – Overview

This diagram (Figure 24), using symbology typical of a census map, shows a geographic corridor linking the two larger areas of Place 38520. Shading highlights the actual area within the corporate limits. Part of the geographic limit along Orange St. is an offset boundary. A geographic limit offset covers only one side of the street or right-of-way, not the entire street or right-of-way, as is the case with a geographic corridor.

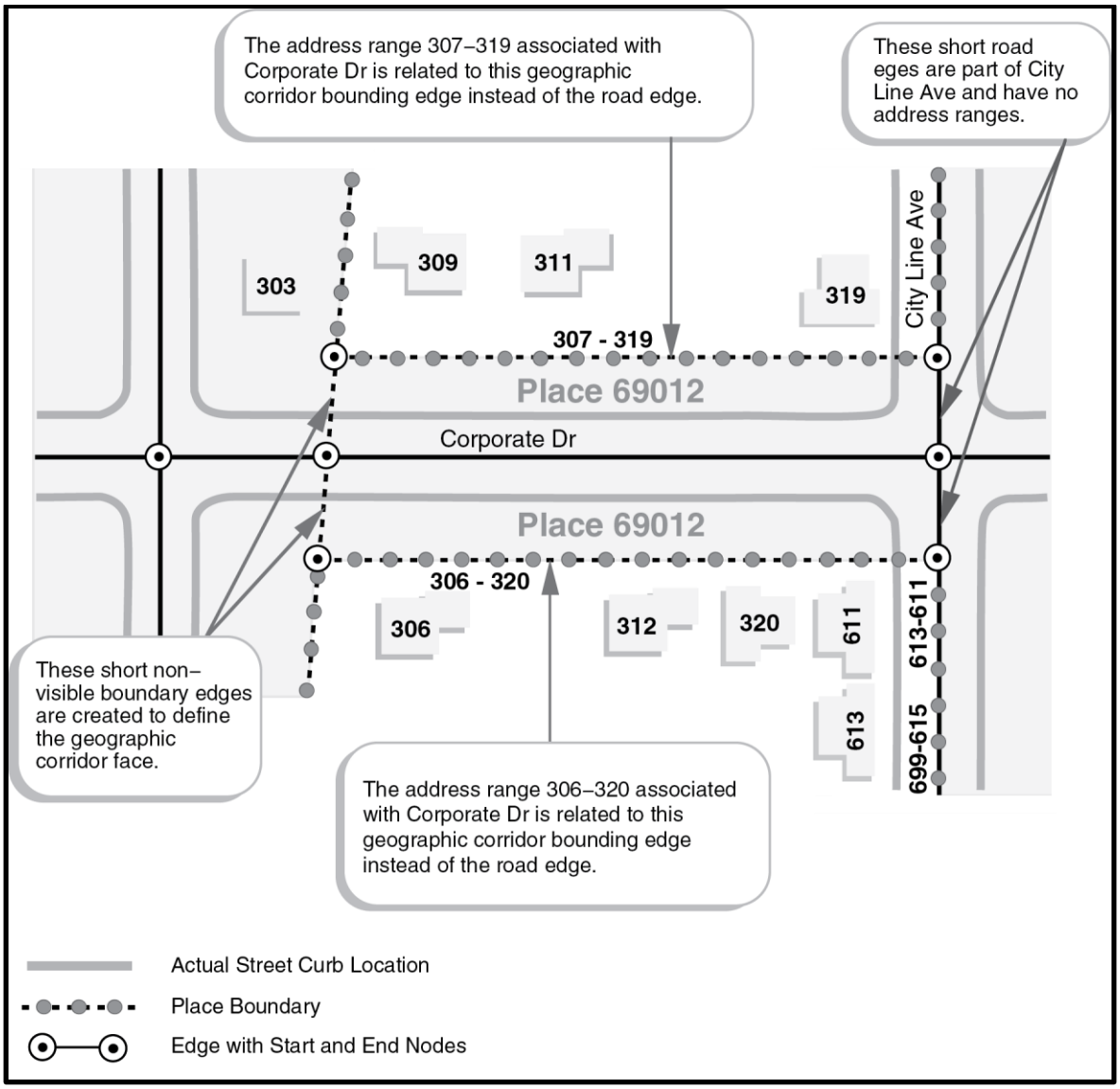

Figure 25: Geographic Corridors Address Ranges

The diagram (Figure 25) shows the address ranges associated with a geographic corridor that runs along Corporate Dr. In order to correctly geocode structures outside the geographic corridor in the correct block and place, the address ranges associated with Corporate Dr. are located on and related to the geographic corridor bounding edge instead of the road edge. For example, 311 Corporate Dr. is located outside the geographic limits. Using address ranges on the road edge for Corporate Dr. will incorrectly geocode the structure to Place 69012. Assigning the address ranges to the geographic corridor edge alongside Corporate Dr. will correctly geocode the structure to the block outside of Place 69012. Note that the geographic corridor edge splits City Line Ave. road edge at one end of the corridor. In this case, the road edge outside of the geographic corridor is the address range and the road edge for City Line Ave. inside the corridor does not have address ranges.

The all lines shapefile and address ranges relationship TLID relate geographic corridor address ranges to the corridor bounding edge adjacent to the road edge. The address range-feature name relationship file relates street names to address ranges on geographic corridor bounding edges. By assigning the address

range to the geographic corridor edge rather than the road edge, structures will geocode correctly outside of the geographic corridor.

Consolidated city (Balance) portions refer to the areas of a consolidated city not included in another separately incorporated place. For example, Butte-Silver Bow, MT, is a consolidated city (former Butte city and Silver Bow County) that includes the separately incorporated municipality of Walkerville city. The area of the consolidated city that is not in Walkerville city is assigned to Butte-Silver Bow (balance). The name always includes the "(balance)" identifier. Balance portions of consolidated cities are included in the place shapefiles.

See Appendix I-5 Place State-based Record Layout.

4.16 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)

Public Use Microdata Area geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) State-based Shapefile (2010 Census)

PUMAs are decennial census areas that permit the tabulation and dissemination of Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data, American Community Survey (ACS) data, and ACS period estimates.

For the 2010 Census, the State Data Centers (SDCs) in each state, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico had the opportunity to delineate PUMAs within their state or statistically equivalent entity. All PUMAs must nest within states and have a minimum population threshold of 100,000 persons. 2010 PUMAs consist of census tracts and cover the entirety of the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa do not contain any 2010 PUMAs because the population is less than the minimum population requirement.

For detailed information about PUMAs, please visit the PUMAs website at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/pumas.html>

See Appendix O-1 Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) State-based Record Layout.

4.17 School Districts (Elementary, Secondary, and Unified)

School district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Elementary School District State-based Shapefile (Current)
Secondary School District State-based Shapefile (Current)
Unified School District State-based Shapefile (Current)

The Census Bureau obtains school district boundaries, names, local education agency codes, grade ranges, and school district levels annually from state education officials. The Census Bureau collects this information for the primary purpose of providing the U.S. Department of Education with annual estimates of the number of children aged 5 through 17 in families in poverty within each school district, county and state. This information serves as the basis for the Department of Education to determine the annual allocation of Title I funding to states and school districts.

The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles include separate shapefiles for elementary, secondary, and unified school districts. The 2020 shapefiles contain information from the 2020 school year (i.e. districts in operation as of January 1, 2020).

Unified school districts provide education to children of all school ages. In general, if there is a unified school district, no elementary or secondary school district exists (see exceptions described below). If there is an elementary school district, the secondary school district may or may not exist (see explanation below). In addition to regular functioning school districts, the TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain pseudo-school districts as described below.

The Census Bureau categorizes school districts based on the grade ranges for which the school district is financially responsible. These may or may not be the same as the grade ranges that a school district operates. (The grade range that reflects financial responsibility is important for the allocation of Title I funds.) A typical example would be a school district that operates schools for children in grades Kindergarten (KG)-8 and pays a neighboring school district to educate children in grades 9–12. The first school district is operationally responsible for grades KG-8, but financially responsible for grades KG-12. Therefore, the Census Bureau would define the grade range for that school district as KG-12. If an elementary school district is financially responsible for grades KG-12 or Pre-Kindergarten (PK)–12, there will be no secondary school district represented for that area. In cases, where an elementary school district is financially responsible for only lower grades, there is generally a secondary school district that is financially responsible for providing educational services for the upper grades.

The following are exceptions to the above information:

The Census Bureau depicts one unified school district each:

- Hawaii
- Five counties that represent the five boroughs of New York City.

Pseudo-elementary school districts

In the school district shapefiles, Illinois contains pseudo-elementary school districts that represent regular unified school districts in an area where the unified school districts share financial responsibility service with secondary school districts. The Census Bureau created pseudo-elementary school districts linked to the unified school district in order to allocate the elementary school aged children to the unified school district. In this area, there was no regular functioning elementary school district serving the area and the secondary school district in this area was not paying tuition to the unified school district (the secondary school districts' financial responsibilities did not extend to kindergarten).

Pseudo-secondary school districts

In the school district shapefiles, the following states contain pseudo-secondary school districts that represent regular unified school districts in areas where the unified school districts share financial responsibility service with elementary school districts:

California	Georgia	Illinois	Kentucky	Massachusetts
Minnesota	Oklahoma	South Carolina	Tennessee	Texas

Figure 26: School Districts: Pseudo-secondary

The Census Bureau created pseudo-secondary school districts linked to real unified school districts in order to allocate the high school aged children to the unified school districts. In these areas, there were no regular functioning secondary school districts serving the area, and the elementary school districts in these areas were not paying tuition to the unified school districts (the elementary school districts' financial responsibilities did not extend to grade 12).

Pseudo-unified school districts

In the school district shapefiles, New Jersey contains a pseudo-unified school district that represents a regular unified school district, a regular secondary school district, and a regular elementary school district in an area where the unified, secondary, and elementary school districts share financial responsibility service. The Census Bureau created a pseudo-unified school district and linked it to the regular unified, secondary, and elementary school districts in order to allocate the elementary and secondary school aged children to the unified, secondary and elementary school districts.

A list of pseudo-elementary, pseudo-secondary, and pseudo-unified school districts and their codes appears in Appendix A. Pseudo school districts are in the elementary, secondary, and unified school district tables with an 'A' in the school district type (SDTYP) field.

School District Codes

School District Codes—the 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain 5-character school district codes. The school district codes are the local education agency codes used by the U.S. Department of Education and are unique within a state. The value 99997 is the school district code assigned to water or land where the state does not define an official school district.

School District Names— the names of school districts include their description and no other field (NAMELSAD) is required.

See Appendix P-1 Elementary School District State-based Record Layout.

See Appendix P-2 Secondary District State-based Record Layout.

See Appendix P-3 Unified School District State-based Record Layout.

4.18 States and State Equivalent Entities

State and equivalent entity geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

State and Equivalent Entity National Shapefile (Current)

States and equivalent entities are the primary governmental divisions of the United States. In addition to the fifty states, the Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) as statistical equivalents of states for the purpose of data presentation. Census regions and divisions consist of groupings of states and equivalent entities. Region and division codes are included in the state shapefiles and users can merge state records to form those areas.

See Appendix P-4 State and Equivalent Entity National Record Layout.

4.19 State Legislative Districts (Upper and Lower)

State legislative district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

State Legislative District Lower Chamber (SLDL) State-based Shapefile (Current)
State Legislative District Upper Chamber (SLDU) State-based Shapefile (Current)

SLDs are the areas in which voters elect a person to represent them in state or equivalent entity legislatures. Most state legislatures consist of upper (senate—SLDU) and lower (house—SLDL) chambers with separate legislative districts. The Census Bureau first reported data for state legislative districts as part of the 2000 Public Law (P.L.) 94-171 Redistricting Data File for the states that chose to submit legislative district boundaries. Starting with the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau updates state legislative district boundaries every two years.

State Legislative Districts (2018 Election Year): All 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, participated in Phase 4 of the Census Redistricting Program (part of the P.L. 94-171) and provided the Census Bureau with the 2012 election cycle boundaries, codes, and in some cases names for their state legislative districts. States had the opportunity to provide additional updates to their plans in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

The most recent plans collected by the Census Bureau are the 2018 election year SLDs. The Census Bureau holds the 2018 SLDs until the postcensal state legislative plans for the 2022 state legislatures are collected. Any changes between the 2018 election and the postcensal collection are not reflected in the 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefile products.

A unique 3-character census code (SLD code), identified by state participants, is assigned to each SLDU (senate) and SLDL (house) within a state. The SLD code ZZZ is assigned to areas with no SLDs defined (usually large water bodies) and are a single SLD for purposes of data presentation. The following states contain unassigned SLD (code ZZZ) areas:

Connecticut	Illinois	Louisiana	Maine
Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan	Ohio
Puerto Rico			

Figure 27: State Legislative Districts

Other Notes on State Legislative Districts

- Nebraska has a unicameral legislature and the District of Columbia has a single council, both of which the Census Bureau treats as upper-chamber legislative areas for the purpose of data presentation. Therefore, there are no data by the lower house of the state legislative districts for either Nebraska or the District of Columbia.
- Ohio generated their state legislative plans using custom geography from the state's Ohio Common and Unified Redistricting Database produced by Cleveland State University. These shapefiles approximate those plans using Census Bureau geography.
- New Hampshire uses floterial districts in their lower-chamber (SLDL) plan. Floterial districts are overlay districts made up of two or more discrete districts. These discrete or component districts are those represented in the New Hampshire SLDL shapefile. A listing of the floterial districts and their component districts is available as a report (pdf) at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/rdo/mapping-files/2012/2012-state-legislative-bef/nh-2012-floterial-list.pdf>

See Appendix H for records layouts on SLDL and SLDU.

4.20 Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) (Puerto Rico)

Subbarrio (Subminor civil division - sub-MCD) geography and attributes for Puerto Rico are available in the following shapefile:

Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) State-based Shapefile (Current)

Subbarrios, located in Puerto Rico, are legally defined subdivisions MCDs named barrios-pueblo and barrios. Subbarrios do not exist within every MCD in Puerto Rico nor do they necessarily cover the entire area of an MCD where they do exist. The Puerto Rico Planning Board through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) provided the boundaries of the subbarrios to the Census Bureau. The subbarrio boundaries are as of January 1, 2019. For more information, please visit: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>

The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain the 5-character FIPS codes for subbarrios and an 8-digit GNIS code.

See Appendix I-6 Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) State-based Record Layout.

4.21 Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes)

Topological face information is available in the following shapefile:

Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes) County-based Shapefile (Current)

The topological faces shapefile contains the attributes of each topological primitive face. The attributes associated with each face in this shapefile contain both current and 2010 census block information. The Census Bureau created a set of census blocks for the 2010 Census, identified by a 4-digit number with the first digit representing the block group. Throughout the decade, changes to census blocks can occur due to changes in boundaries of the incorporated places, legislative districts, and census tracts that form census block boundaries. The Census Bureau may also split a large census block into more than one piece. All resulting blocks keep the original census block number, followed by a unique alpha character suffix (e.g., block 1001A and 1001B). In a few cases, especially with census tract and block group changes, the first digit in the census block number may no longer represent the current block group.

Due to potential updates to the codes, do not to mix 2010 Census geographic codes with current geographic codes. A block can only be unique by using the decennial census state, county, tract, and block group (STATEFP10 + COUNTYFP10 + TRACTCE10 + BLKGRPCE10) to get the correct block group corresponding to the BLOCKCE or BLOCKCE10. (BLOCKCE10 and BLOCKCE are always identical.) Replacing any of these decennial codes with current codes can lead to false duplicate and/or noncontiguous blocks, as well as state, county, tract, and/or block group changes.

See Appendix Q Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes) County-based Record Layout.

4.22 Urban Areas

Urban area geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

Urban Area National Shapefile (2010 Census)

For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau classified all territory, population, and housing units located within Urbanized Areas (UAs) and Urban Clusters (UCs) as urban. The Census Bureau delineates UA and UC boundaries to represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the urban footprint. Rural areas consist of territory, population, and housing units located outside of UAs and UCs.

For the 2010 Census, the urban and rural classification applied to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas.

Urbanized Areas (UAs) consists of densely developed territory that contains 50,000 (or more) people. The Census Bureau delineates UAs to provide a better separation of urban and rural territory, population, and housing surrounding large places. The Census Bureau first introduced the urbanized area concept for the 1950 Census.

Urban Clusters (UCs) consists of densely developed territory that has 2,500 to 49,999 people. The Census Bureau first introduced the UC concept for the 2000 Census to provide a more consistent and accurate measure of urban population, housing, and territory throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The Census Bureau identifies all qualifying urban areas in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as urban clusters based on agreements with the local governments. Thus, in the Island Areas, urban clusters may exceed 50,000 people.

Urban Area Titles and Codes—The title of each UA and UC may consist of up to three incorporated place or CDP names and will include the 2-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviation for each state or statistically equivalent entity into which the UA or UC extends. However, if the UA or UC does not contain an incorporated place or CDP, the urban area title will include the single name of an MCD or populated place recognized by GNIS.

Each UC and UA has a 5-character code, based on a national alphabetical sequence of all urban area names. A separate flag is included in data tabulation files to differentiate between UAs and UCs. In printed reports, this differentiation is included in the name.

Relationship to Other Geographic Entities

The Census Bureau delineates urban areas at the block level. Urban areas may cross the boundaries of all other geographic areas for which the Census Bureau presents data, which means that all areas, other than blocks, may include both urban and rural areas.

For more information, visit
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>

4.23 ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (5-digit)

ZIP Code tabulation area geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

5-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) National Shapefile (2010 Census)

ZCTAs are approximate area representations of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) 5-digit ZIP Code service areas that the Census Bureau creates using census blocks to present statistical data from censuses and surveys. The Census Bureau defines ZCTAs by allocating each block that contains addresses to a single ZIP Code tabulation area, usually to the ZCTA that reflects the most frequently occurring ZIP Code for the addresses within that block. Blocks that do not contain addresses but that are completely surrounded by a single ZIP Code tabulation area (enclaves) are assigned to the surrounding ZCTA; those surrounded by multiple ZCTAs will be added to a single ZCTA based on the longest shared border. The Census Bureau identifies ZCTAs using a 5-character code that represents the most frequently occurring USPS ZIP Code within that ZCTA. This code may contain leading zeros.

Users should not use ZCTAs to identify the official USPS ZIP Code for mail delivery. The USPS makes periodic changes to ZIP Codes to support more efficient mail delivery. ZIP Codes that cover primarily nonresidential or post office box addresses may not have a corresponding ZCTA because the delineation process uses primarily residential addresses, resulting in a bias towards ZIP Codes used for city-style mail delivery.

For more information on ZCTAs, visit:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/zctas.html>

See Appendix O-3 5-digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) National Record Layout.

5. Relationship File Concept Overview

Relationships files are database files that provide additional attribute information that users can join to the TIGER/Line Shapefiles. The following sections describe, in alphabetical order, the geographic entity type displayed in each relationship file as well as the record layout for each file.

5.1 Address Ranges

Address range information is available in the following relationship file:

Address Ranges County-based Relationship File

Address ranges fall along an edge side relative to the coded direction of the edge. The 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain potential address ranges, not individual addresses. Potential ranges include the full range of possible structure numbers even though the actual structures might not exist (see Figure 26).

The address ranges relationship file contains the attributes of each address range. Each address range applies to a single edge side and has a unique address range identifier (ARID) value. A user can determine the edge to which an address range applies by linking the address range to the all lines shapefile using the TLID attribute. Multiple address ranges can apply to the same edge because addresses with different number sequences (e.g., 101, 103, 1622, 1624, etc.) or alphanumeric characters (e.g., N101, N103, S099, S97) can appear along that edge. The most inclusive address range associated with each side of a street edge appears in the all lines shapefile.