

## CHAPTER IX

### HOUSING

Collection of housing statistics on a nation-wide basis is relatively new. The first Census of Housing was taken in 1940. The data collected in that census have been used extensively by Federal, State and municipal agencies, by Congressional committees, and by private organizations. Proposed housing legislation has been evaluated with these statistics; and market research and planning have frequently been based on the housing inventory. New basic figures were needed to replace the 1940 data, and in 1949, Congress authorized decennial censuses beginning in 1950.

The housing schedule comprised one side of the Population and Housing Schedule (P1), which was the basic enumeration form for the 1950 Censuses of Population and Housing. The population schedule was on the other side. Information was entered on the housing schedule for the dwelling units of the persons enumerated on the population schedule. When either the population or housing side of the schedule was filled, another sheet was used. Thus the housing information could be conveniently matched with the population information.

The housing questionnaire was designed so that very little processing was required. Every question was to be answered either by checking a box or by entering a number. Thus, interpretation and coding of word entries was avoided. Number entries were punched directly on the punch card, and the check-box entries were precoded by printing the code beside the answer. For example, an owner-occupied house was indicated in item 16 by checking the first of the six following boxes:

- Occupied--
- 1 (X) By owner
  - 2 ( ) By renter
  - 3 ( ) Rent free
- Vacant--
- 4 ( ) For rent
  - 5 ( ) For sale only
  - 6 ( ) Not for rent or sale

A "1" was punched for this unit as indicated beside the checked box.

Mechanical editing, after punching, was used to eliminate inconsistencies in many of the marked entries. A limited amount of screening and editing preceded the punching operations to insure that the questionnaires were suitable for mass handling.

Although all living quarters were accounted for on the housing schedule, detailed data were obtained only for dwelling units. In general, a dwelling unit is a group of rooms or a single room occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters by a family or other group of persons living together, or by a person living alone. Nondwelling-unit quarters (for which data are not published) are usually in places like large lodging houses, transient accommodations (tourist courts, hotels, etc. predominantly for transients), institutions, labor camps, and military barracks.

The group of persons living in a dwelling unit was termed a household. Usually, the household comprised a family, but it might also be made up of unrelated persons living together, of one person living alone, or of one or more families and one or more unrelated persons (such as lodgers) living with them. The usefulness of the statistics for both dwelling units and households was increased by presenting the data so that various types of units could be related to each other.

#### Identification of Living Quarters

Complete identification of living quarters was unnecessary on the housing schedule, because this information had been entered on the population schedule. Three identification entries, however, were required. They were: the sheet number, the serial number (item 1), and, in the larger cities, the block number (item 2). The

number of persons living in the dwelling unit (item 8) was used to match the dwelling unit with the household when the serial numbers were confused.

#### Sheet Number

The enumerator was instructed to enter the sheet number on both the population and housing schedules. In Washington, portfolios were screened to locate duplicate sheet numbers and numbers of 100 or more. These were edited to appropriate 2-digit numbers and those numbers were transferred to the housing schedule.

#### Serial Number and Coverage Question

A serial number was to be assigned to each dwelling unit (whether occupied, vacant, or occupied by nonresidents) and to each nondwelling-unit quarters. It was copied from the population schedule to item 1 on the housing schedule.

When the enumerator came to housing item 8, he said, "We have listed (number) persons who live here. Have we missed anyone away traveling? Babies? Lodgers? Other persons staying here who have no home anywhere else?" If some persons had not been enumerated, the enumerator listed them on the population schedule and entered the final total in housing item 8. Because this item insured better coverage, in addition to giving the number of persons in the dwelling unit, it was called the coverage question.

For each serial number listed on a sample of the population schedules, the screening clerk located the identical serial number on the housing schedule. He then checked the number entered in housing item 8 against the number of persons enumerated in that household on the population schedule. If the entries disagreed, he examined adjacent households on the sheet to see if the enumerator had confused the serial numbers. When the number in item 8 was too large, he also looked for additional household members on out-of-order sheets. If he could not explain the discrepancy and if the two items appeared to be for the same household, he changed the entry in item 8. Similarly, he entered the appropriate number in item 8 if it had been omitted. An "X" in the "Vacant" or "Occupied entirely by nonresidents" box of housing item 8 should be matched by a similar entry on the population schedule. The population coder checked all serial numbers on the population schedule and corrected them on both schedules if they were in error.

Correction of serial numbers was described in Chapter VIII. The corrected serial number was entered, of course, in housing item 1.

#### Block Number

For cities with 50,000 or more inhabitants in 1940 or in a subsequent special census, block numbers were entered on the enumerators' maps before they were sent to the field. The enumerator was to copy in item 2 the number of the block in which the dwelling unit was located. All block numbers entered by the enumerator were matched with the block numbers entered on the enumerators' maps.

Blanks in item 2 were not permitted in blocked cities, so the editor had to find the proper block number if it was omitted. If the entries for dwelling units enumerated on the lines before and after the missing number were the same, he could assume that that number was also correct for the missing number, because the enumerator had been instructed to complete enumeration of one block before starting another. If the entries were not the same, he traced the address to the enumerator's map and obtained the missing block number.

## QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS

If a block number not on the enumerator's map had been entered, maps for adjoining enumeration districts were examined to see if the enumerator had canvassed a block outside his district. If he had, all entries for that block were canceled and if they did not appear in the proper enumeration district, they were transcribed to that portfolio.

If a block number on the enumerator's map was not entered on any of the schedules, Sanborn maps and other records were examined to see if that block had any residential structures. If it did not, it was properly omitted from the schedule. If it did, all addresses in the portfolio were examined; if an address in the missing block was found with the wrong block number, the number was corrected. If necessary, the portfolios of adjoining enumeration districts were searched for the missing block number. Again, entries for persons and dwelling units enumerated in the wrong district were transcribed to the correct one. If the block was not canvassed at all and only a few persons and dwelling units appeared to be missed, nothing was done; however, if a sizable number of persons and dwelling units evidently were missed, the portfolios were sent back to the field for checking. Field checks were made on problem cases in 36 cities. Generally, the blocks in question were entirely commercial or vacant, or the enumerator assigned the wrong block number and entered addresses which were not clear enough to disclose the error. In a few cases, the entire block had houses still under construction.

#### Type of Living Quarters

In item 3 (type of living quarters), the enumerator classified the living quarters as "nondwelling-unit quarters" or as one of the following types of dwelling unit: (1) house, apartment, flat; (2) trailer; (3) tent, boat, railroad car. This was the last entry made on the housing schedule for nondwelling-unit quarters. All subsequent items refer to dwelling units.

For portfolios rejected in screening, the editor corrected blanks and multiple entries in this item on the basis of information on the population schedule. For example, nondwelling-unit quarters could usually be identified by the entry in heading item e. An apartment could be recognized by the address. If specific information was not available, the box for "house, apartment, flat" was checked. That classification was also used in tabulation for cards with impossible codes.

When the boxes for trailer, tent, boat, or railroad car were checked, the editor looked to see if the unit was vacant. If it was, the housing line was canceled because these places are considered dwelling units only when they are occupied.

Lodging houses were classified as quasi households in the 1940 Census of Population if they had more than 10 lodgers. However, lodging houses with 5 or more lodgers usually are more like quasi households and nondwelling-unit quarters than like regular households and regular dwelling units. In 1950, data were collected so that separate figures could be given for the smaller houses (those with five to nine lodgers) as well as for those with 10 or more lodgers. The enumerator checked the nondwelling-unit quarters box in item 3 if the lodging house had 10 or more lodgers. Then, when the coders found a household in which five to nine persons were coded as nonrelative of the head (other than an employee and his family), they entered a code of "9" in item 3 and canceled the enumerator's entry. All places with five or more lodgers were thus separately identified so they could be excluded from the dwelling unit count. Moreover, data for the units with five to nine lodgers could be separately analyzed.

#### Structure Characteristics

A structure, by definition, has open space on all four sides or is separated from other structures by walls extending from ground to roof. It may be a house with only one dwelling unit or an apartment house with one hundred dwelling units. In apartment developments, each building with open space on all four sides is a separate structure. To determine the characteristics of structures which had dwelling units, the enumerator was asked to indicate the type of structure (item 4), the number of dwelling units in the structure (item 5), and whether it contained a business unit (item 6).

#### Type of Structure and Number of Dwelling Units

The enumerator was to classify the structure in item 4 as one of three types; (1) detached, (2) semidetached, or (3) attached. A detached structure, the most easily recognized, has open space on all four sides. A semidetached structure is one of two (and only two) adjoining residential structures. An attached structure is one of three or more adjoining structures (residential or nonresidential) or one of two adjoining structures, one of which is nonresidential.

In item 5, the enumerator entered the number of dwelling units in the structure. When a structure had six dwelling units, the entries on six consecutive housing lines should be "6" (unless some of the dwelling units were enumerated on out-of-order sheets), because the enumerator canvassed all units in the structure before going to the next one.

The screener examined items 4 and 5 for blanks and double entries, for a unit classified as semidetached in item 4 with an entry of "4" or more in item 5, and for inconsistencies in the number of dwelling units for units on successive lines.

The editor corrected blanks and double entries by examining the street address and other information on the population schedule and also the entries in adjacent housing lines. Thus, if item 5 were blank for a detached house, the entry should be "2" if, according to entries on the population schedule, two households lived at that address, and one was described as "downstairs," and the other "upstairs." The entry in item 5 for the other dwelling unit should also be "2".

The editor suspected entries of "4" or more in item 5 for a semidetached structure, because semidetached houses usually have one dwelling unit in each and occasionally two. Enumerators sometimes considered two semidetached structures as one, and entered in item 5 the number of dwelling units in both structures. The correct number could sometimes be determined by examining the addresses on the population schedule.

Errors in the number of dwelling units in the structure could be detected by counting the entries on adjacent lines. If the enumerator entered "6" in item 5, but filled only four housing lines for the structure, the editor changed the entry to "4". He of course looked through the portfolio for other dwelling units at that address before correcting the entry.

The final tabulations did not provide a classification for "not reported" in type of structure or number of dwelling units. Dwelling units for which data were not available at this stage were classified as detached structures with one dwelling unit.

#### Business Unit in Structure

The usual type of business unit is a commercial establishment, such as a regular store, shop, or restaurant. Certain types of business activities carried on in the home do not constitute a business unit for this item. For example, a doctor's office or a music studio in the home are not business units. Similarly, serving meals to boarders or selling home-grown produce are not businesses in this sense. The enumerator checked the "Yes" box in item 6 if a business unit was in the structure and the "No" box if not.

Information from this item was not tabulated separately, but was combined with the data on type of living quarters, type of structure, and number of dwelling units in the structure. Accordingly, a mechanical recode was set up to classify the significant combinations. In this recode, a blank in item 6 was interpreted as "no business unit in structure." (See Fig. 20.)

Data for this item were used only for mortgage and value statistics, which were restricted to dwelling units with no business unit in the structure.

#### Condition of Dwelling Unit

Housing analysts use information on the condition of the unit (dilapidated or not dilapidated) with information on plumbing facilities to classify dwelling units as "standard" and "substandard", according to the Public Housing Administration's definition. A "substandard" unit, according to this definition, lacks hot running water, private toilet, or bath, or it is dilapidated.

Figure 20. --Type of Structure Recode

Type of structure	Recode	Schedule entries			
		Type of living quarters (item 3)	Number of dwelling units in structure (item 5)	Type of structure (item 4)	Business unit in structure (item 6)
1 dwelling unit, detached, no business unit.....	1	House, etc. <sup>1</sup>	1	Detached	No, NR <sup>2</sup>
1 dwelling unit, attached, no business unit.....	2	House, etc.	1	Attached	No, NR
1 and 2 dwelling unit, semidetached, no business unit.....	3	House, etc.	1,2	Semidetached	No, NR
1 dwelling unit, detached, business unit.....	4	House, etc.	1	Detached	Yes
1 dwelling unit, attached, business unit.....	5	House, etc.	1	Attached	Yes
1 and 2 dwelling unit, semidetached, business unit.....	6	House, etc.	1,2	Semidetached	Yes
2 dwelling unit, other.....	7	House, etc.	2	Detached, Attached	Disregard
3 and 4 dwelling unit.....	8	House, etc.	3,4	Disregard	Disregard
5 to 9 dwelling unit.....	9	House, etc.	5-9	Disregard	Disregard
10 to 19 dwelling unit.....	0	House, etc.	10-19	Disregard	Disregard
20 dwelling unit or more.....	X	House, etc.	20 or more	Disregard	Disregard
Trailer.....	V	Trailer	Disregard	Disregard	Disregard

<sup>1</sup> House, apartment, flat, tent, boat, or railroad car.

<sup>2</sup> Not reported.

Data on condition are combined with data on plumbing facilities to provide a more comprehensive measurement of quality than can be obtained by using plumbing items alone. In rural areas, such a large proportion of dwellings lack plumbing facilities that it is not practical to use them as the sole indicator of housing quality. In urban areas, while plumbing facilities are an important element in determining housing quality, the mere presence of facilities does not preclude the possibility of serious housing deficiencies on other counts.

Measuring the structural condition of a dwelling unit is extremely difficult. The use of the term "dilapidated" was decided upon by a Federal interagency committee after considerable study and field experimentation. Because its application is highly subjective, special efforts were made to train the enumerator in uniform application of this concept. These efforts included a special section of the Enumerator's Reference Manual illustrated by photographs, and a separate film strip used during the training session. With the background acquired in this training, the enumerator checked "Dilapidated" or "Not dilapidated" in item 7 without asking the householder about the condition of the unit. He made his decision on the basis of critical and minor housing deficiencies or of the adequacy of the original construction.

A dilapidated unit, he was told, is below the generally accepted minimum standard for housing. It fails to protect the occupants from the elements, or it endangers their health or safety. It may be dilapidated because it has been neglected or damaged or because the original construction was inadequate.

Critical deficiencies, minor deficiencies, and inadequate original construction were illustrated in the Enumerator's Reference Manual. The enumerator was cautioned not to describe a place as "Dilapidated" only because it was drab and dingy or because it was old. Neither was he to describe it as "Not dilapidated" because it was freshly painted or newly covered with tar paper or composition shingles.

There is evidence that some enumerators obtained too large or too small a count of dilapidated units. Consequently, data on condition for small areas, which depend on the work of one or two enumerators, are subject to a wider margin of error than is to be expected for larger areas, where the data represent the returns made by several enumerators.

Blanks in this item could not be filled logically by examining other items of the schedule. Accordingly, a dwelling unit with no entry was tabulated as "not reported" except for vacant non-seasonal dwelling units; to get a complete inventory of vacancies; blanks in those units were edited to "not dilapidated."

#### Number of Rooms

The number of rooms is needed not only to determine the size of dwelling units but also to compute the number of persons per room, which is a measure of crowding. The enumerator entered in housing item 9 the number of whole rooms in the dwelling unit which were used or were suitable for use as living quarters. Bathrooms, pullman kitchens, halls, closets and the like were not considered separate rooms. A combined kitchenette and dinette separated by shelves or cabinets was counted as one room. A room, such as a kitchen, which was shared by two dwelling units was counted in the dwelling unit to which it was most accessible.

This item was not edited, so blank entries were carried through to final results as "not reported." To get the number of persons per room, a mechanical recode combined the data from this item with those from item 8, which gave the number of persons in the dwelling unit. (See Fig. 21.)

#### Plumbing Facilities

Plumbing facilities were described not only by the type in the dwelling unit, but also by availability. For piped water supply (item 10), the enumerator indicated whether it was: (1) hot and cold piped running water inside this structure, (2) only cold piped running water inside this structure, (3) piped running water outside this structure, or (4) no piped running water (hand pump, well, etc.). The type of toilet for the unit was checked in item 11; then in item 12, the enumerator indicated whether the toilet was for this unit's exclusive use or was shared with another unit. If an installed bathtub or shower available to the dwelling unit was located inside the structure, the enumerator indicated in item 13 whether it was for exclusive use or was shared with another dwelling unit.

These items were not screened or edited before cards were punched; so blanks were punched, "not reported," and if two entries were made, the first was punched. In the mechanical edit, the entries for the various items were made consistent. For example, a unit with a flush toilet or installed bathtub or shower inside the structure was assumed to have running water. It was also assumed that a bathtub would be for exclusive use if the structure had only one dwelling unit.

A recode was set up to combine the data for condition of unit with those for plumbing facilities. This recode provided the categories which show different levels of housing quality. (See Fig. 22.)

QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS

Equipment, Fuels, and Year Built

Sample questions on housing were divided into five groups, and each household answered the questions in one group. This is different from the method used for the population sample, where one person in five answered all the sample questions. Sample results were multiplied by five.

In housing, one household in five gave information on heating equipment and heating fuel used most. Another responded to "Does this unit have electric lighting?" and "What type of refrigerator does this unit have?" A third household was asked, "Is there a radio in this unit?" and "Is there a television set in this unit?" The fourth household answered questions concerning the kitchen sink and the cooking fuel used most. The fifth household had only one question, "When was this structure built?"

Heating equipment available during the winter months was reported as: (1) piped steam or hotwater, (2) warm-air furnace, (3) other means--with flue, (4) other means--no flue, or (5) not heated. A usable heating system or furnace was to be reported even though it was temporarily out of order or was not in operation because of cost or inconvenience.

For heating fuel, the enumerator checked the fuel used most. If two fuels were used for equal periods, the one appearing first in the following list was reported: (a) coal or coke, (b) wood, (c) utility gas, (d) bottled gas, (e) liquid fuel, (f) electricity, and (g) other fuel. Utility gas was distinguished from bottled gas. Utility gas is piped into the dwelling unit from mains leading from a central system operated by a public utility company or by the municipal government. Bottled gas, on the other hand, is supplied in containers (bottles or tanks) which are replaced or refilled as needed.

Electric lighting was to be indicated if the house was wired for lights even if the service was temporarily discontinued.

Four choices were given in the refrigerator question: (1) electric, gas, or other mechanical refrigerator; (2) ice box or ice refrigerator; (3) other refrigeration; and (4) none. All types of mechanical refrigerators were to be checked in the first box; nonmechanical refrigerators which have to be supplied with ice were checked in the second; other refrigeration, such as a spring house, cooler, well cooler, ice house, or evaporative cooler operated by constant application of water, was checked in the third box.

If the household had a radio or television set, it was to be reported even if it was temporarily out of order or was being repaired in another place. If the household had a television set but no separate radio set, the "No" box was to be checked for the radio question.

A kitchen sink was defined as a sink inside the structure with a drain pipe to carry water outside. It need not have running water piped to it. Usually it is located in the kitchen; however, a sink which is located in a hall, pantry, enclosed porch, or room adjacent to the kitchen and used in washing dishes or cooking utensils is also a kitchen sink. A washbowl or basin located in a bathroom or bedroom, however, was not classified as a kitchen sink.

The rules for reporting cooking fuel were the same as those for heating fuel.

The exact year in which the structure was built was to be given only for houses completed after 1939. Other houses were to be reported in one of the following groups: 1930-1939, 1920-1929, and 1919 or before. If the occupants could not give this information, the enumerator was to consult the owner or a neighbor, and finally to enter his own estimate if other information was not available.

The sample items were not examined during screening or editing. The kitchen sink item was subjected to a mechanical edit so it would be consistent with entries for type of living quarters and number of dwelling units in the structure. For example, a kitchen sink in a "house, apartment, flat" was assumed to be for exclusive use if the structure had only one dwelling unit. Other items were tabulated as enumerated, and blanks were tabulated as "not reported."

Occupancy and Tenure

Occupied dwelling units were reported in item 16 as occupied by owner, by renter, or rent free. Vacant units were checked as for rent, for sale only, or not for rent or sale. This item was used with condition and seasonal character of the dwelling unit to determine the number of vacant dwelling units on the housing market.

A unit was occupied if people were living in it or were temporarily absent (on vacation, for example). It was owner-occupied if the owner lived in it even though he had not fully paid for it, and renter-occupied if the occupant paid or contracted for any

Figure 21. --Persons Per Room Recode

Persons per room	Recode	Schedule entries		Persons per room	Recode	Schedule entries	
		Number of rooms (item 9)	Number of persons (item 8)			Number of rooms (item 9)	Number of persons (item 8)
0.50 or less....	1	2-10+	1	1.01 to 1.50....	5	2	3
		4-10+	2			3	4
		6-10+	3			4	5
		8-10+	4			4-5	6
		10+	5			5-6	7
0.51 to 0.74....	2	3	2	1.51 to 2.00....	6	6-7	8
		5	3			6-8	9
		6-7	4			7-9	10+
		7-9	5			1	2
		9-10+	6			2	4
0.75.....	3	10+	7	2.01 or more....	7	3	5
		4	3			3	6
		8	6			4-5	7
		1	1			5	8
		2	2			5-6	10+
0.76 to 1.00....	4	3	3	Not reported....	V	1	3
		4-5	4			1	4
		5-6	5			1-2	5
		6-7	6			1-2	6
		7-9	7			1-3	7
		8-10+	8			1-3	8
		9-10+	9			1-4	9
10+	10+	1-4	10+				
		Not rep.	1-10+				

Figure 22. --Condition and Plumbing Facilities Recode

Condition and plumbing facilities	Recode	Schedule entries <sup>1</sup>			
		Condition of unit (item 7)	Water supply (item 10)	Toilet (items 11 and 12)	Bath (item 13)
<b>NOT DILAPIDATED</b>					
With private toilet and bath, hot running water....	1	Not Dil.	HC	FE	EX
With private toilet and bath, and only cold water..	2	Not Dil.	CO	FE	EX
With private bath and running water, lacking private toilet.....	3	Not Dil.	HC,CO	FS,FO,NO	EX
With private toilet and running water, lacking private bath.....	4	Not Dil.	HC,CO	FE	SH,NO
With running water, lacking private toilet and bath	5	Not Dil.	HC,CO	FS,FO,NO	SH,NO
No running water.....	6	Not Dil.	PO,NO	Disregard	Disregard
<b>DILAPIDATED</b>					
With private toilet and bath, hot running water....	7	Dil.	HC	FE	EX
With private toilet and bath, and only cold water..	8	Dil.	CO	FE	EX
With private bath and running water, lacking private toilet.....	9	Dil.	HC,CO	FS,FO,NO	EX
With private toilet and running water, lacking private bath.....	0	Dil.	HC,CO	FE	SH,NO
With or without running water, lacking private toilet and bath.....	X	Dil.	HC,CO	FS,FO,NO	SH,NO
		Dil.	PO,NO	Disregard	Disregard
		NR	Disregard	Disregard	Disregard
Not reported.....	V	Disregard	NR	Disregard	Disregard
		Disregard	Disregard	NR	Disregard
		Disregard	Disregard	Disregard	NR

<sup>1</sup> Entries are abbreviated as follows: Dil, dilapidated; HC, hot and cold running water; CO, cold running water only; PO, piped running water outside; FE, flush toilet for unit's exclusive use; FS, flush toilet shared with another unit; FO, flush toilet outside; EX, bath for unit's exclusive use; SH, bath shared with another unit; NO, no facility.

money rent. A rent-free unit was usually occupied by a janitor, farm worker, or other worker in exchange for services rendered. Sometimes the right to occupy the rent-free unit was the gift of a friend or relative. A tenant farmer who did not pay money rent was to be reported as occupying the unit rent free.

A unit was vacant if no persons were living in it at the time of enumeration and it was not one from which the occupants were only temporarily absent. It was vacant whether it was furnished or unfurnished. Thus, a furnished home kept for the owner's summer use was classified as vacant if he was not living there during enumeration.

A vacant unit which was both for rent and for sale was reported for rent. Units neither for rent nor for sale include: (1) units recently rented or sold but not yet occupied; (2) newly constructed units rented or sold but not yet ready for occupancy; (3) units held for settlement of an estate; (4) units held off the market by the owner for personal reasons; (5) units temporarily used for nonresidential purposes; and (6) units in a multiunit structure being held for sale of the entire structure.

Blanks or multiple entries in this item were disposed of in the mechanical edit. A unit was classified as vacant if the "Vacant" box was checked in the coverage question (item 8); it was classified as occupied if a number of persons was entered in item 8 or if the "X" box (occupied by non-residents) was checked. An occupied unit was tabulated as owner-occupied if item 20, 21, or 22 (for owner-occupied units) was filled; it was tabulated as renter-occupied if item 23, 24, 25, or 26 (for renter-occupied units) was filled. If one or more items in both series were filled, the unit was assumed to be owner-occupied. If items 20-26 were all blank, however, the number of dwelling units in the structure (item 5) was examined. A unit in a structure with three or more dwelling units was tabulated as renter-occupied; but if the structure had only one or two dwelling units, a classification was arbitrarily assigned. The unit was classified as owner-occupied if the serial number was odd and renter-occupied if the number was even.

Blanks in item 16 for units determined to be vacant by the coverage question were filled from items 18 and 19. Since item 18 was to be filled for units for rent, an entry there indicated that the unit was for rent; similarly, an entry in item 19 indicated that the unit was for sale. If neither of these items was filled, the unit was reported "not for rent or for sale." If both were filled, the unit was edited "for rent."

Inconsistencies between the entries in item 16 and the coverage question (item 8) were corrected during the screening and also in the mechanical edit. If a unit was reported as vacant in the coverage question and occupied in item 16, item 16 was treated in the mechanical edit as though it were blank.

**Vacant Units**

Information on vacant units was obtained in items 17, 18 and 19. All vacant units were classified as either seasonal or nonseasonal in item 17, but items 18 and 19 were limited to nonfarm units. The monthly rent for those for rent was entered in item 18, and the sale price for those for sale only was entered in item 19.

Seasonal or Nonseasonal

A vacant unit was classified as nonseasonal in item 17 if it was intended for year-round occupancy. Seasonal units are often vacation homes or places occupied during the summer by migratory farm workers. The primary purpose of the seasonal classification was to determine the number of "available" vacancies. These are nonseasonal units which are not dilapidated and are for rent or for sale.

This item was not edited; so blanks were punched "not reported." In tabulation, however, the "not reported" units were combined with those reported to be nonseasonal. The number of nonseasonal units was usually far greater than the number of seasonal units; consequently, the inclusion of the "not reported" units made little difference in this group.

Monthly Rent or Value

The enumerator entered in item 18 the monthly rent asked for nonfarm units for rent and in item 19 the sales price asked for those for sale only. A nonfarm unit is one which is not on a farm or ranch, as shown in population item 4.

If both items 18 and 19 were blank, no attempt was made to estimate the rent or sale price, and the rent or value was classified as not reported. If both are filled, item 18 was tabulated if "for rent" was checked in item 16; item 19 was tabulated if "for sale only" was checked.

## QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS

## Financial Characteristics of Nonfarm Occupied Units

The financial characteristics of owner-occupied units were reported in items 20-22 and those of renter-occupied units in items 23-26.

## Market Value and Mortgage, Owner-Occupied Units

The value of the property was entered in item 20, the number of dwelling units in the property in item 21, and whether the property was mortgaged in item 22. These questions related to the property on which the dwelling unit was located and did not refer to the dwelling unit or to the structure alone unless they were identical with the property.

The enumerator asked, "How much would this property sell for?" If the respondent was in doubt, the enumerator asked what amount similar properties currently sold for under ordinary conditions. Tabulations of value were limited to one-dwelling-unit structures without a business unit and with only one dwelling unit in the property.

If value and mortgage were not given, they were tabulated as "not reported." If number of dwelling units in the property was blank, it was tabulated as "one."

In addition to providing information on financial characteristics of dwelling units, the mortgage item was used as the basis for selecting the sample of dwelling units for the Survey of Residential Financing.

## Rent and Utilities, Renter-Occupied Units

The amount of monthly rent paid was entered in item 23 and the amount paid for various types of utilities in item 24. Whether

the unit was rented furnished or unfurnished was entered in item 25; if it was rented furnished, the rent on an unfurnished basis was entered in item 26. For rent-free units, rent was not estimated.

The amount paid for utilities (item 24) was examined in the screening and editing procedure. The screener looked for illegible entries, entries with more than two digits for electricity, gas or water, entries with more than 3 digits for wood, coal, or oil, and entries in which two or more utilities were bracketed together.

The editor corrected illegible entries, by examining entries for dwelling units which were enumerated on adjacent lines and hence were located near the dwelling unit in question. If an entry could not be determined in this way, the illegible entry was canceled and the item was left blank.

Entries with too many digits were examined. Often the enumerator entered the cents instead of rounding the amount to the nearest dollar, and the correct entry was obvious.

If two or more utilities were bracketed and the amount given only for the group, the amount was entered for one of the utilities and the others were given a special code (VO) to indicate that their cost was included with another utility.

Gross monthly rent was determined by combining in a recode the estimated rent without furniture in item 26 and the monthly amount paid for utilities in item 24. If item 26 was blank or was larger than the contract monthly rent in item 23, item 23 was used instead of item 26. Gross monthly rent is thus the amount paid (or which would be paid) for an unfurnished unit plus amounts paid for utilities. Contract monthly rent is the actual amount of rent paid. It may or may not include payment for utilities, services, and/or furniture. Blanks in the utilities items were generally tabulated as "not reported."

Figure 23. -- Questions on Agricultural Operations in Section I of the Agriculture Questionnaire (A1)

## Section I.—PERSON IN CHARGE, APRIL 1, 1950; AND AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

(If a member of the family or anyone else fills this questionnaire for the person in charge, please be sure that all the information is given FOR the PERSON IN CHARGE.)

1. What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person in charge) (If a partnership, give names of all partners)
2. What is your address? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Route or street number) (Post Office) (State)
3. What is your race?  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (a) \quad \square \text{ White} \\ (b) \quad \square \text{ Negro} \\ (c) \quad \square \text{ Other; What race? } \end{array} \right.$  \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check one)
4. How old were you on your last birthday? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
(Years)
5. Is this place a farm?  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \square \text{ NO. IF "NO," ANSWER QUESTIONS 6 AND 7.} \\ \square \text{ YES. IF "YES," SKIP TO QUESTION [8].} \end{array} \right.$   
(Check one)
6. What is the total acreage in this place? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acres)
7. Were there in 1949 or will there be in 1950 on this place—
  - (a) 25 or more chickens? ducks? geese? pigeons?  
or other poultry? . . . . .  No  Yes  
(If you have checked "Yes" for this question, skip to question [8] and fill the remainder of this questionnaire; likewise, as soon as you check "Yes" for any of the questions (b) through (f), skip to question [8] and complete this questionnaire.)
  - (b) Any hogs? cattle? sheep? horses? goats? domestic  
rabbits? fur animals? other livestock? or bees? . . . . .  No  Yes
  - (c) Any crops grown, such as corn, oats, wheat, etc.? . . . . .  No  Yes
  - (d) Any hay cut? or land pastured or grazed? . . . . .  No  Yes
  - (e) Any fruits? nuts? or nursery and greenhouse products?  No  Yes
  - (f) Any vegetables or berries grown for sale? . . . . .  No  Yes  
(If you have checked "No" for all questions, 7(a) through 7(f), do not fill the remainder of this questionnaire.)