



THE FIRE INSURANCE RATING
ORGANIZATION OF N. J.
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEWARK 2, N. J.

Ramsey Borough
Bergen County, New Jersey

JUNE 30, 1951

- KEY**
PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
 NOTE.—Fire protection report on file in Engineering Department of F. I. R. O. of N. J.
 Elevations range from 280 to 520 feet above mean sea level.
 Water mains 8 inches and larger in diameter
 Water mains 6 inches in diameter
 Water mains 4 inches in diameter
 Fire hydrants shown thus
 Gate valves shown thus
 Fire house shown thus
 Fire apparatus designated by symbols thus:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| (V) Pumping engine and hose car | (B) Booster car |
| (H) Hose car | (L) Ladder truck |
| (Q) Booster tank or tanks on above | |

Superseding Map No. 28 of February 15, 1947. Please destroy old issue.

February 15, 1947.

RAMSEY BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.**Population — 1940 Census — 3,566.**

IN GENERAL: Located on the Erie Railroad about 11 miles north of Paterson. It is mainly a residential community with 5 small industries normally employing about 55. Area is about 5.9 square miles. Elevations range from 280 to 520 feet. Main thoroughfares are macadam with other streets being gravel in fair condition. Grades are moderate and 3 railroad grade crossings, one of which is located in the mercantile district, are said not to interfere with the response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: The borough owns and operates the supply works and distribution system and supplies water for domestic and fire protection purposes to the borough only. **Organization:** System was installed in 1913. The water department is under the control of the superintendent of public works. Office is in municipal building and the pipe yard and shop are located at the pumping station. Department is provided with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton pick-up truck, and available to the department from the public works department are 4 employees, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton Chevrolet dump truck, a 3-ton Federal dump truck, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton Chevrolet pick-up truck. One of the department employees is a member of the fire department and responds to all alarms of fire. Records are incomplete and consist chiefly of fairly up-to-date distribution map and some pumpage records. **Supply Works:** Supply is obtained from 2 wells located on North Central Avenue in Mahwah Township near the borough line. A third well has been constructed on Oak Street southeast of Park Street, but is not yet in operation. **Well Station No. 1:** Located approximately 250 feet west of North Central Avenue and 250 feet north of the borough line in Mahwah Township. Well is 8 inches in diameter by 250 feet deep. Building is a small frame shed with composition shingle on wood roof, dirt floor, and electric lights, but no heat and no hand protection. Exposures are negligible. Elevation of floor about 290 feet. **Equipment:** A Fairbanks-Morse 250-g.p.m. deep well pump direct driven by a 30-h.p. Fairbanks-Morse electric motor. **Well Station No. 2:** Located adjacent to Well Station No. 1. Well is 8 inches in diameter by 200 feet deep. Building is a small frame structure with concrete floor, composition shingles on wood roof and sheathing, electric lights, but no heat and no hand protection. Exposures are negligible. Housekeeping is fair. Elevation of floor about 292 feet. **Equipment:** A Fairbanks-Morse 150-g.p.m. deep well pump direct driven by a Fairbanks-Morse 20-h.p. electric motor. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of an 8-inch artery from the two well stations to the reservoir and 8-inch artery to the business district with unsupported 6-inch mains supplying the balance of the borough. See map. Two 6-inch metered connections with the Allendale Borough water system are normally closed. **Reservoir:** Located west of Airmount Avenue as shown on map. It is an open circular structure in two sections con-

structed of an earth embankment with Gunitite lining on rip rap sides and bottom; capacity 1.3 million gallons at overflow elevation of 537.5 feet. Reservoir is so constructed and gated that one section may be cleaned while other section is in operation and connected with both the line from the wells and the line to the distribution system. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1945 were 0.2268 and 0.358 million gallons. Accurate statistics were not available, but it is estimated that there were about 1,250 services, all of which are metered. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, with the exception of about 32,400 feet of Transite pipe. Pipe is laid with about a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -foot cover. Total length 157,700 feet; 20.2% 8-inch, 67.3% 6-inch, and 12.5% 4-inch. No trouble has been reported from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 225 in the borough of Eddy make with iron boxes set at grade. Direction of operation is uniform and valves are inspected annually. **Hydrants:** There are 272 hydrants in the borough of Mathews and Eddy makes of standard type. Practically no hydrants have independent gates. Hydrants have 6-inch branches except where the street main is 4-inch. Sixteen hydrants have three $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch outlets, 144 have two $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch outlets, and 112 have two $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and one $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch outlets. All outlets have National Standard screw threads. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually and when tested they were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 9 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 16 to 83 pounds with an average of 61 pounds. Direct reading gauge at the municipal building indicated pressures ranging between 100 and 104 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on October 16, 1946 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

E. Main and Mechanic Sts., 1,040—83—38.
Grove St. 2,500 ft. N. of Darlington Ave., 460—76—18.
Darlington Ave. and Shadyside Rd., 360—83—26.
Woodland Ave. and Shadyside Rd., 310—72—12.
Wyckoff Ave. 250 ft. S. of Forest Ave., 310—63—10.
S. Central Ave. 325 ft. N. E. of Allendale Borough Line, 330—73—11.
E. Crescent Ave. 1,100 ft. N. E. of Allendale Borough Line, 960—60—20.
E. Crescent Ave. 300 ft. S. W. of Carlough Rd., 360—20—0.
Airmount Ave. 600 ft. S. E. of Mahwah Township Line, 50—16—0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under the control of the borough which owns apparatus and equipment and appropriated about \$2,000 for the support of the de-

RAMSEY BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Continued.

partment during 1946. Company owns the fire house. Total active membership 41, of whom a minimum of about 15 are available at all times. Officers include a chief, assistant chief, 1 captain, and 4 lieutenants who are elected annually by the company subject to approval of the borough council. **Company:** Located north of West Main Street and west of Erie Railroad as shown on map. Building is a 2-story frame structure with composition roof, concrete floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, punch register, and siren on roof. **Equipment:** A 1928 American La France 600-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 60-gallon booster tank, 400 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 1 salvage cover, and fair minor equipment. A 1939 Diamond-T 50-foot city service ladder truck carrying 9 ladders ranging from 10 to 50 feet and totaling 208 feet, a 1,500-watt portable electric generator and 3 flood lights, 2 salvage covers, and good minor equipment. A 1946 F.M.C. International high pressure pumping engine carrying a 430-gallon booster tank, 500 feet of booster hose, 4 short ladders, an oxygen breathing mask, 1 salvage cover, and very meager minor equipment. In addition, located in a small 1-story frame private garage at the rear of a store on East Main Street west of Arch Street, is a 1934 Chevrolet hose car carrying a booster pump, a 150-gallon booster tank, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 750 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 2 salvage covers, and meager minor equipment. Building housing this apparatus has a composition on wood roof, wood floor, and an extension of the telephone at the main fire house. No heat or lights. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is dried on floor in basement of municipal building and shifted and tested about quarterly at 250 pounds pressure. Practically all of the hose is over 5 years old and there is no reserve hose. **Operations:** Department is governed by borough ordinance and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started every other day and all members may drive apparatus. **Drills and Training:** Drills are held monthly during winter months and semi-monthly during the summer under the supervision of the chief officers. They consist of the usual evolutions. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on incipient fires reinforced by engine and hydrant lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is provided with 6 salvage covers, but is totally lacking in any other salvage equipment and in heavy stream appliances. **Response to Alarms:** All pieces of apparatus respond to all alarms of fire unless fire is known to be of automobile or brush nature, in which case engine and either high pressure pump or hose car respond. Outside aid may be secured from the volunteer departments of the surrounding municipalities. **Building Inspection:** No routine inspections are made by the fire department. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records of all alarms and drills are main-

tained and chief makes a monthly report to the mayor and council. **Fire Alarms:** Fire alarm circuit consists of about 2½ miles of No. 10 hard drawn copper, triple braided weatherproof, carried on utility company poles. Current is provided by an oxide film rectifier located at the fire house, but there is no secondary source of current. Circuit is normally closed and carries 8 fire alarm boxes of sector pull type, two of which are located in schools and not accessible to the public. Other boxes are mounted on poles with red and white indicating bands, but no indicating lights. Equipment consists of a punch register at the fire house, relays to operate siren, and a 45-wheel Gamewell transmitter. In addition there is a button on the front of the fire house and one located at a private residence, which buttons operate the siren directly. Circuit is tested daily, but system is not under the supervision of any one person, is poorly maintained, and there are no regular tests made of boxes or equipment. Telephone alarms are received at the borough hall during the day by the police in the mercantile district, or at a private residence during the night. There are 41 box locations, 33 of which are phantom, and alarms are sounded on the siren by means of break wheel transmitter at the municipal building.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief and 3 patrolmen who work in 8-hour shifts. Police do not maintain constant duty at any one location, but are generally available through a telephone with extensions in street call boxes in the mercantile district. Police are provided with a patrol car with short wave radio receiver. When possible police respond to alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted September 27, 1927 provides for the appointment of a building inspector, and requires plans, specifications, and permits for building operations. Code establishes fire limits and prohibits wood shingled roofing and frame construction within the fire limits. Code has some good provisions for wall thicknesses, chimneys, fire stops, and fireproof construction, but is not sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: No municipal regulations except an ordinance prohibiting open fires without permits. State laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives and flammables and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

ZONING ORDINANCE: Adopted March 10, 1936.