



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

# **Bloomsbury Borough** **Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

JULY 31, 1948

## **KEY**

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.  
NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.  
Elevations range from 270 to 400 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:  
⊙ Hose car  
⊙ Booster tank or tanks on above

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
53

**BLOOMSBURY BOROUGH, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.**

Population — 1940 Census — 704.

**IN GENERAL:** Located on the C. R. R. of N. J. and the L. V. R. R. in the Musconetcong Valley about 6 miles south-east of Phillipsburg. It is the home of commuters to Phillipsburg and Easton, but has some nearby farming and 2 plants that employ about 50. Area about one square mile. Elevations range from 270 to 400 feet. Streets are mainly macadam in good condition. One railroad grade crossing has not interfered with the response of fire apparatus.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Supply works were built in 1906 by the Bloomsbury Water Company. The borough acquired the entire system in 1926 and supplies water for domestic and fire protection purposes to the borough only. **Organization:** System is in charge of a superintendent who is appointed annually but who has held office for about 25 years. He is assisted by one man who cares for filters. Shop and a small amount of spare parts are located at filter plant. Superintendent usually responds to alarms of fire, but no truck is provided. Records are limited to a fairly up-to-date distribution map and some tabulations on consumption. **Supply Works:** Water is obtained from a small collecting well southwest of the borough which is fed by springs and a mountain stream. Collecting well is connected by a short pipe line to a sedimentation basin at about elevation 583 feet, whence water flows by gravity to two 0.144-m.g.d. pressure filters, thence to distribution system with a reservoir acting as equalizer. Estimated yield is 0.3 m.g.d. There is an 0.086-m.g.d. emergency pump driven by a 10-h.p. electric motor which can be used to give additional supply from the Musconetcong River, but pump is of small capacity and has not been used in a number of years. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of a 6-inch supply line from the supply works and 8-inch main to the reservoir with 6-inch arteries, 4-inch cross connections, and 4-inch and 6-inch dead end branches. **Reservoir:** Located in Bethlehem Township about one-half mile south of the borough as shown on map. It is in one section, being an excavation lined with 18 inches of concrete; capacity about 0.36 million gallons. Elevation of bottom about 510 feet. Elevation of overflow about 523 feet. **Consumption:** Accurate consumption figures were not immediately available, but it is estimated that the average and maximum daily consumption were 0.05 and 0.075 million gallons respectively. There are about 175 services, 10 of which are metered. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with from 3-foot to 3½-foot cover. Total length, 18,400 feet; 16.3% 8-inch, 62.0% 6-inch, and 21.7% 4-inch. No trouble from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 22 of Crane make set with iron boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform; but no routine inspections are made. **Hydrants:** There are 28 of Glamorgan and Smith makes. All hydrants have two 2½-inch outlets and 4-inch or 6-inch barrels. About 11 hydrants have 6-inch gated branches and the balance have 4-inch ungated branches. Hydrant outlets have an outside diameter of 3¾ inches with 6 threads per inch. Hydrants are inspected at least annually. At time of resurvey those operated were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 3 well distributed hydrants showed pressures ranging from 82 to 104 pounds with an average of 91 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on April 1, 1948 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Church St. and Brunswick Ave., 680—104—19.

East St. and Railroad Ave., 680—82—35.

Main St., 250 ft. E. of Gardner St., 720—87—12.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of one company under partial control of the borough, which owns house, apparatus, and equipment and makes an annual appropriation for the support of the department. Total active membership 30, of whom about 18 are available at all times. Officers include a chief, assistant chief, second assistant chief, and 2 foremen who are elected annually by the company with elections subject to approval by the borough. **Company:** Located on East Street south of Brunswick Avenue in a 2-story concrete block building with slate on wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, electric lights, steam heat, hose rack, and siren on roof, but no telephone. **Equipment:** A 1933 Studebaker hose car equipped with a 300-g.p.m. Barton front mounted pump and a 300-gallon booster tank and carrying 850 feet of 2½-inch hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, 100 feet of booster hose, 2 short ladders, a 1,500-watt portable electric generator, 3 portable lights, and fair minor equipment. A 1932 Chevrolet hose car carrying 1,450 feet of 2½-inch hose, 1 short ladder, and meager minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with screw couplings having an outside diameter of 3¾ inches and 6 threads per inch. It is shifted and tested annually at hydrant pressures and dried on hose rack at fire house. Practically all hose is over 7 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 daily, and five members are appointed as drivers. **Drills and Training:** Drills are held bi-weekly during summer months, under the supervision of the chief officers and consist chiefly of laying hose. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on small fires reinforced by 1½-inch lines and by hydrant lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is totally lacking in gas masks, salvage equipment, and heavy stream appliances. **Response to Alarms:** The Studebaker responds to alarms within the borough with the Chevrolet being held for second alarms, except that the Chevrolet alone responds to grass or automobile fires. Outside aid may be secured from Phillipsburg and Easton. **Building Inspection:** No routine inspections are made, although chief makes occasional inspections upon request. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of fires and drills, but chief does not make a regular report to the borough. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms are sounded on 4 sirens located throughout the borough which are controlled by 11 industrial type boxes located at street corners. Current is supplied from the 220-volt line of the N. J. Power and Light Company and system is maintained by the water superintendent. Telephone alarms are handled through the Easton, Pennsylvania, Telephone Exchange and are relayed to homes of various members of the fire department.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of one part-time chief who is on call and who uses his own car.

**BUILDING LAWS:** Code adopted July 9, 1929 closely follows the Code of Suggested Ordinances for Small Municipalities. Code prohibits use of wood shingled roofs except for 10% replacement, and prohibits frame construction within the fire limits, which, however, are not established.

**FIRE PREVENTION LAWS:** An ordinance adopted July 29, 1929 regulates the use of fireworks and explosives and restricts the burning of rubbish. An ordinance also adopted July 9, 1929 regulates garages and has fair provisions for storage and use of flammable liquids in connection therewith. State laws adequately cover the storage and shipment of explosives, the transportation of flammables, and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.

**ZONING ORDINANCE:** None.