



The Fire Insurance Rating Organization of N. J.
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEWARK, N. J.

Wood-Ridge Borough **Bergen County, New Jersey**

DECEMBER 15, 1945

KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
Elevations range from 10 to 200 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 Automobile combination pumper and hose car
A Ambulance, Squad or Auxiliary car
C Chemical tank or tanks on above
B Booster tank or tanks on above



WOOD-RIDGE BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census: 5,739.

IN GENERAL: Located on the New Jersey and New York Railroad about 10 miles north of Jersey City. It is a suburban residential community with a small amount of manufacturing. Area about 1.1 square miles. Elevations range from 10 to 200 feet. Streets are mostly paved, in fair condition. A few steep grades and 2 railroad crossings are said not to have interfered with the response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is supplied by the Hackensack Water Company. The portion of this system in Wood-Ridge is on the New Milford Low Service with the higher portion of the borough supplied by the Carlstadt High Service through a 12-inch main in Monroe Street, Carlstadt. Supply is through a 12-inch and 24-inch main from the New Milford Pumping Station cross-connected at numerous points and by the 12-inch main from the Carlstadt Booster Station with the Carlstadt Elevated Tank acting as equalizer and the Carlstadt Storage Tank feeding pumps at times of peak loads. For a detailed description of the Hackensack Water Company system see report with map No. 59. Supply for industrial purposes in the northern corner of the borough is furnished by a 24-inch main from the Passaic Valley Water Commission with a closed emergency 20-inch connection to the Hackensack Water Company. **Distribution System:** In two services consisting of 6-inch and 8-inch mains fairly well gridironed. A 24-inch main on Valley Boulevard is segregated from the distribution system in Wood-Ridge by numerous closed valves. See map and description above. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1944 in the entire territory served (83,823 live services) were 39,129 and 47,447 million gallons respectively. The maximum daily consumption was 42.01 and 7.5 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. The average daily consumption was 34,542 and 6,052 million gallons respectively on the low and high services. On December 31st, 1944 there were 1,528 services in Wood-Ridge, all of which were metered. It is estimated that 0.9% of the total consumption is used in Wood-Ridge. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3-foot minimum cover. Total length exclusive of 24-inch transmission main, 83,361 feet; 10.08% 12-inch, 14.97% 8-inch, 74.95% 6-inch. No trouble from electrolysis, and freezing during severe weather is generally confined to service connections. **Gate Valves:** There are 292 within the borough of various makes set with valve boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform. Inspection is continuous resulting in about one complete annual inspection of all valves and semi-annual inspection of major control valves. **Hydrants:** There are 68 within the borough of Corey and Smith makes. One has two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 4-inch branch. Balance have two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 6-inch branches. All outlets have National Standard threads. All branches are gated. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually, after use, and frequently during freezing weather. At time of inspection hydrants were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 5 well distributed locations on both the low and high services showed pressures ranging from 40 to 110 pounds with an average of 66 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on October 31st, 1945 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow and pressure during flow were as follows:

Carlstadt High Service—

Hillcrest and Woodridge Aves., 960—40—29.5.
Highland Ave. and Valley Blvd., 1,100—53—43.
Sussex Rd. and 10th St., 1,060—60—45.

New Milford Low Service—

Hackensack St. 200 ft. N. of Moonachie Ave., 1,080—53—35.
Moonachie Ave. and Railroad St., 420—110—55.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under the control of the borough which owns house, apparatus, and equipment. Borough makes an annual appropriation of about \$4,000 for departmental support. Total active membership 27, of which a minimum of about 8 are available at all times. Officers consist of a chief, 2 assistant chiefs, 1 captain, and 1 lieutenant, and are elected by the company. **Company:** Located at Humbolt and Union Streets as shown on map. Building is a 2-story frame structure with composition shingle on wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, air whistle on roof, and phone in police headquarters on second floor. **Equipment:** A 1929 American La France 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine with an 80-gallon booster tank, 100 feet of booster hose, 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. A 1921 Reo 300-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine with a 35-gallon chemical tank, 700 feet of 2½-inch hose, and meager minor equipment; the chemical tank is not in use and no chemical hose nor recharges are provided. A 1939 Ford emergency truck with 1.8-k.w. portable electric generator, 3 portable flood lights, 1 portable spot light, a 38-foot extension ladder, 300 feet of 2½-inch hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, and some minor rescue and emergency equipment. A 1939 Cadillac ambulance with respirator and all-service mask. **Hose:** All hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is shifted and tested semi-annually at engine pressures and repacked wet. There are no provisions for drying. About 50% is over 5 years old with a small percentage over 7 years old. 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, and can suspend members pending a hearing before the borough council. Motors are started at least weekly. About 6 drivers are appointed for the American La France, but all may drive and operate pumps in absence of drivers. **Drills and Training:** Drills are held weekly in good weather and about monthly in winter. They are held under the supervision of the chief officers and consist of hose laying, connecting pumps to hydrants, and some ladder work. **Fire Methods:** Booster and 1½-inch lines are used on incipient fires with hydrant and engine lines with shut-off nozzles used on larger fires. There are 6 all-service masks, but little heavy stream appliances and no salvage equipment are provided. **Response to Alarms:** All apparatus responds to alarms within the borough. Outside aid may be secured from the volunteer departments of Hasbrouck Heights and Carlstadt. **Building Inspection:** Annual inspections of schools only are made by members of the fire department. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires. Monthly reports of departmental activities are made by the chief to the borough council. **Fire Alarms:** No fire alarm telegraph system. Alarms are telephoned to police desk on the second floor of the fire house where call is sounded on air whistle, located on roof of building, by means of a push button.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, captain, sergeant and 6 men. Twenty-four hour watch at police headquarters is provided. There are 8 police call boxes located throughout the borough and 2 patrol cars equipped with short wave radio receivers. One member of the department responds to all alarms of fire.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted July 7th, 1920 and subsequently amended has some provisions for chimneys and heating appliances, but does not establish fire limits and is generally lacking from a fire prevention standpoint.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: Amendment to building code has some good provisions for installation of oil burning systems. No other municipal regulations for fire prevention are established. 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 November 12th, 1936.