



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

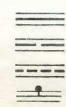
Ventnor City

Atlantic County, New Jersey

NOVEMBER 30, 1950

KEY
PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
 Elevations range from 0 to 12 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:
 (Y) Pumping engine and hose car
 (L) Ladder truck
 (B) Booster tank or tanks on above
 (O) Ladders on above



VENTNOR CITY, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population—1940 Census—7,905. Estimated Summer Population—15,000.

IN GENERAL: Located south of and adjacent to Atlantic City. A sea-shore resort mainly composed of better class of private residences. Practically no manufacturing. Area about 2.1 square miles. Elevations range from 0 to 12 feet. Roads are mainly concrete or macadam in good condition. Traffic on main thoroughfares might slightly interfere with response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the city which owns supply works and distribution system. Organization: System is under the supervision of Chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee of the Common Council and is in charge of an acting chief engineer who with four engineers operates pumping station. Extensions and taps are made by members of the water and sewer department. Alarms of fire are received at the pumping station over fire alarm system or telephones. The chief engineer does not respond to alarms of fire. Several well-equipped trucks are available for emergency work. Records, consisting of a wall map showing the hydrant and valve locations, are incomplete. Yard and shop at pumping station, office at city hall. **Supply Works:** Built in 1903 and remodeled in 1923 and 1950. Water is obtained from two 6-inch and four 8-inch wells at main pumping station, and from a 12-inch well at pumping station on Surrey Avenue. Wells are 810 feet deep and have an aggregate safe yield of 3.12 m.g.d. Wells at main pumping station discharge directly into a 600,000-gallon concrete covered suction reservoir which is located in front of pumping station, and from which high lift pumps take suction and discharge directly into distribution system with elevated tank acting as equalizer. The deep well pump at the Surrey Avenue Pumping Station discharges directly into the distribution system with elevated tank acting as equalizer. **Pumping Stations—Main Station:** Located at Cornwall and Winchester Avenues, as shown on map. Building is a one-story brick and tile structure with unprotected steel truss roof with tile on wood, concrete floor, steam heat, electric lights, and telephone. No hand protection. Exposures negligible. Wiring in conduit. Housekeeping good. Elevation of pump room floor about 11 feet. **Equipment:** A 0.115-m.g.d. Peerless deep well turbine pump driven by a 7½-h.p. U.S. electric motor, a 0.432-m.g.d. Peerless deep well turbine pump driven by a 15-h.p. U.S. electric motor, two 0.864-m.g.d. Fairbanks-Morse deep well turbine pumps, each driven by a 30-h.p. G.E. electric motor, a 0.864-m.g.d. Peerless deep well turbine pump normally driven by a 30-h.p. U.S. electric motor, but with a Continental gasoline motor as a reserve power unit, and a 0.864-m.g.d. Peerless deep well turbine pump normally driven by a 30-h.p. U.S. electric motor, but with a 38-h.p. LeRoi gasoline engine as a reserve power unit. High lift pumping units consist of a 2.88-m.g.d. Peerless centrifugal pump driven by either a 75-h.p. Century electric motor or a 125-h.p. Continental gasoline engine, a 2.16-m.g.d. DeLaval centrifugal pump driven by a 60-h.p. G.E. electric motor, two 1.44-m.g.d. DeLaval centrifugal pumps, each driven by a 40-h.p. G.E. electric motor, and a 1.44-m.g.d. DeLaval centrifugal pump driven by a 65-h.p. Waukesha gasoline engine. **Surrey Avenue Pumping Station:** Located on Surrey Avenue opposite Calvert Avenue, as shown on map. Building is a small area cement block structure with a tile on wood roof, concrete floor, oil stove for heat, and electric lights. No hand protection. Exposures negligible. Wiring in conduit. Housekeeping good. Elevation of floor about 11 feet. **Equipment:** A 1.44-m.g.d. Fairbanks-Morse deep well turbine pump driven by a 75-h.p. G.E. electric motor and with a 75-h.p. Continental gasoline engine as a standby power source. Pump operates automatically when pressure drops below 48 pounds. **Distribution System:** In one service, see map. Supply to district is through 14- and 12-inch feeders well supported with 8-inch arteries. System is well gridironed and has few dead end mains supplying hydrants. There are two 8-inch closed emergency connections to the Atlantic City distribution system and one 4-inch closed emergency connection to the Margate City distribution system. **Elevated Tank:** Located on Surrey Avenue opposite Calvert Avenue as shown on map, it is steel, 42 feet in diameter by 36 feet high on a 116-foot steel tower. Elevation of base 11 feet. Elevation of overflow 127 feet. Capacity 300,000 gallons. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1949 were 1.32 and 3.5 m.g. respectively. On December 31, 1949 there were 1,780 live services. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3-foot cover. Total length 147,600 feet; 7.7% 14-inch, 5.9% 12-inch, 17.6% 8-inch, 12.0% 6-inch, and 56.8% 4-inch. **Gate Valves:** There are 469 of various makes set with iron boxes to grade. Part open to right and part to left. No regular inspection. **Hydrants:** There are 192 of Mueller, Corey, Ludlow, and Eddy makes, with two 2½-inch outlets, one 4½-inch outlet, and 4- or 6-inch barrels and branches; newer installations have gates on hydrant branches. Hose outlets have National Standard threads; large outlets have 5½-inch outside diameter with 7 threads per inch. Hydrants are inspected annually; those operated during inspection were found to be in good condition. Hydrants are painted according to the color code recommended by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. **Pressures:** Readings taken at gauge in pumping station showed a pressure of 45 pounds. Readings taken at 7 hydrants widely distributed showed pressures ranging from 45 to 50 pounds, with an average of 48 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on April 26, 1950 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Ventnor Ave. at Victoria and Little Rock Aves., 1,750—48—43.
Ventnor and Newport Aves., 980—48—40.
Atlantic and Martindale Aves., 400—47—43.
Washington and Fulton Aves., 500—47—12.
Cornwall Ave. and Marston Place, 420—50—24.
Vassar Square and Atlantic Ave., 430—45—43.
Oxford and Balfour Aves., 680—50—30.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A full-paid organization under control of the Chairman of the Fire Committee of the Common Council. There are 27 members, including a chief, two captains, and two acting captains. Members are appointed to department by Chairman of Fire Committee and confirmed by the Common Council after a physical and mental examination. Men are divided into two platoons on duty alternately 10 and 14 hours every third day. No meal periods allowed. Firemen receive 14 days annual vacation. No substitutes are provided. Off-shift men may leave city at any time provided they report before they leave. They are required to respond to all second alarms. During vacation seasons each platoon is usually shy one man per shift. Two men are assigned to drive the ambulance. A pension fund for paid members established by state law is supported by assessments from salaries of members and by the city. Members may retire on half salary in case of total disability, or after 20 years of service if 50 years of age. They are protected by state tenure of office act. City owns all apparatus and appropriated \$84,560 for the support of the department in 1950. **Companies—Headquarters:** Located at New Haven and Winchester Avenues. Building is a 2-story joisted brick structure with a

tile roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and hose tower. **Equipment:** A 1923 White triple combination pumping engine with a 400-g.p.m. front mounted Barton pump and carrying a 135-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 900 feet of 2½-inch hose, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, a two-way turret pipe, one short ladder, and good minor equipment. A 1923 Seagrave 1,000-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 140-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, one Siamese connection, two short ladders, and good minor equipment. A 1924 Seagrave 75-foot aerial ladder truck carrying 11 ground ladders ranging from 12 to 45 feet and totaling 222 feet, a 40-gallon booster tank with CO₂ for expellant, 150 feet of booster hose, a ladder pipe, one distributor nozzle, a 300-watt portable electric generator, one flood light, two all-purpose gas masks, and good minor equipment. A 1940 Indiana-Cresci 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 400-gallon booster tank, 250 feet of booster hose, 550 feet of 1½-inch hose, 500 feet of 2½-inch hose, a Siamese connection, 4 salvage covers, one all-purpose gas mask, two short ladders, and fair minor equipment. There are also a 1946 Dodge chief's car and a Willys utility truck. **Heights Fire House:** Located on Surrey Avenue opposite Calvert Avenue. It is a one-story frame building with concrete floor, composition covered wood roof, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, tape register, and gong. **Equipment:** A 1929 Ahrens-Fox 750-g.p.m. quadruple combination pumping engine carrying six ladders ranging from 8 to 35 feet and totaling 109 feet, a 100-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 450 feet of 1½-inch hose, 1,100 feet of 2½-inch hose, a Siamese connection, 2 salvage covers, and good minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is shifted and tested at 200 pounds pressure every six weeks and dried in hose tower at headquarters. About 25% of the total supply is over 5 years old, and there is a reserve supply of 2,900 feet. **Operations:** Department is governed by a city ordinance. Chief has full control of apparatus and men at all times. He has power to suspend men pending a hearing on charges before Chairman of Fire Committee. All men can drive apparatus, but one operator is designated for each shift for each piece of apparatus. Motors are started daily. **Drills and Training:** Drills are held weekly under the supervision of chief and captain. Drills consist of use of equipment, ladder raising, and pump operation. **Fire Methods:** Booster streams are used on incipient fires reinforced by engine lines with shut-off nozzles. Salvage covers and gas masks are carried and used to good advantage. Heavy stream appliances are provided. **Response to Alarms:** The aerial truck and two pumpers respond to all first alarms within the city, and outside aid may be secured from Atlantic City, Margate, and Ocean City. **Building Inspection:** Members of the fire department make quarterly inspections of all hotel and mercantile buildings. Records are limited to sketches made and kept on file of all the important hotel and mercantile risks. **Records and Reports:** Complete records consisting of a card system and a journal tabulation of all operations are filed in the chief's office. Captain submits report in duplicate at end of each shift. Monthly reports are made by the chief to the Fire Committee. **Fire Alarms:** Fire alarm system is part of the fire department and is maintained by the chief of the fire department. Firemen under the supervision of chief make all tests and extensions. Headquarters equipment is located in a cut-off room on the ground floor of fire headquarters. Room is fireproof and not exposed. Apparatus is of Gamewell make and consists of a four-circuit non-interfering repeater and a ten-circuit slate operating board with the usual devices for testing and operation. All inside wiring is in conduit. Circuits are protected on operating board by ½-ampere fuses and by inert gas lightning arresters. Current for operation of the system is supplied by five oxide film rectifiers serviced from the 110-volt lighting circuit with five banks of storage batteries of from 11 to 15 cells each floating. Batteries and rectifiers are protected by 2-ampere fuses. Batteries are located in a cut-off section of fire alarm headquarters. They are well mounted and are in good condition. There are a gong, tape register, and break-wheel transmitter with 22 wheels at fire headquarters, a tape register and gong at Heights Fire House, a gong and register at police headquarters, and a gong and siren at pumping station. There are four box circuits carrying 49 fire alarm boxes of Gamewell make; all are of the succession type. Boxes are located on pedestals at or near street intersections and have blue indicating lights. All circuits are underground in telephone company's conduit. Wire is No. 14 copper, rubber covered, in lead sheathed cable. There are two telephone trunks to police switchboard, one of which is reserved for fire alarms, and there is one private line to the telephone exchange. In addition, the Heights Fire House is provided with one line to police switchboard, and one direct line to the telephone exchange. All alarms of fire are telephoned to police headquarters, whence they are relayed to fire headquarters and the Heights Fire House. Fire chief's car is provided with a two-way short wave radio connecting with the fire department's own transmitter. Alarm circuits are tested twice a week and after every alarm. No records are kept of tests. There is a map showing the location of all fire alarm circuits and boxes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, three sergeants, one detective, 16 patrolmen, and four desk men, working in 8-hour shifts. There are 16 police signaling boxes over which patrolmen report every hour. Three radio equipped patrol cars, four motorcycles, and one truck are provided. A patrol car is dispatched to all alarms of fire. Police report unauthorized building construction to the building inspector.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted April 16, 1914 provides for the annual appointment of a building inspector and requires plans and specifications to be filed and a permit obtained before building operations may be started. No fire limits are established, but wooden shingle roofs are prohibited throughout the city. Code has some good regulations concerning wall thicknesses, chimneys, and heating devices, but in general does not conform to the code recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. State laws provide some good regulations for construction of factories, tenement houses, and public schools, and fire protection and safety features for hotels.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: An ordinance adopted June 22, 1911 has some good regulations in regard to the control of storage of gasoline, naphtha and benzene. An ordinance adopted December 24, 1928 regulates the installation and use of oil burning equipment. State laws adequately cover the manufacture, storage, and handling of explosives, and provide for regulations governing the intrastate transportation of explosives and flammable liquids. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties, and embody good requirements for motion picture booths and the hazard incident to the display of motion pictures, except that flammable film and portable booths are permitted for temporary exhibitions, and enclosures for projection equipment are not required in schools. The State Tenement House Act restricts keeping and handling of certain combustible materials in tenements.

ZONING ORDINANCE: Adopted July 30, 1947.