



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

Riverdale Borough
Morris County, New Jersey

APRIL 30, 1949

KEY
 PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
 NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
 Elevations range from 200 to 220 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
 (B) Booster tank or tanks on above

RIVERDALE BOROUGH, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census — 1,110.

IN GENERAL: Located on the Greenwood Lake Branch of the N. Y., S. & W. R. R. on the south and west bank of the Pequannock River opposite Pompton Lakes, about 10 miles northwest of Paterson. It is a residential community with 2 small industries normally employing about 20. Area about 2 square miles. Elevations range from 190 to 760 feet. Main thoroughfares are macadam or concrete in good condition. Some outlying streets are dirt in fair condition. Grade crossings and other features are such that there should be no serious delay in the response and operation of the fire department.

WATER SUPPLY: The borough owns and operates the distribution system supplying water for domestic and fire protection purposes within the municipal limits and purchases water from the Borough of Pompton Lakes, which purchases their supply under contract from the Borough of Butler Water Department. The supply is delivered through the Borough of Bloomingdale distribution system which connects with an 8-inch line extending to Pompton Lakes with a pressure regulator and 6-inch meter at the northwesterly borough limits and a 6-inch meter at the Pompton Lakes line to the east. **Organization:** The local distribution system is in charge of the borough clerk who serves as superintendent. Maintenance and repairs are made by a local plumber at the direction of the clerk and mayor and council. No shop or vehicle provided by the borough. Clerk's office is in municipal building. No arrangements for the response of employees to alarms of fire, but assistance is available on call from the Boroughs of Pompton Lakes and Butler. **Supply Works:** For details as to Butler Water Department organization, supply works, and transmission mains see report on Butler with map No. 184. **Distribution System:** The Riverdale distribution system is in one service consisting of the 8-inch supply main from Pompton Lakes and 6-inch incomplete gridiron and dead end mains in the developed areas. See map. **Consumption:** The average daily consumption for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 1948 in the entire territory served by the Butler Water Department was approximately 1.83 million gallons, of which average daily rates of .07 and .30 million gallons were used respectively in Riverdale and Pompton Lakes. At time of inspection there were 291 services in Riverdale, all of which were metered. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, Universal joint, except some recent installations of cement asbestos pipe, laid with about a 4-foot cover. No serious trouble reported from frozen mains or electrolysis. Total length, 31,400 feet; 76.5% 6-inch and 23.5% 8-inch. **Gate Valves:** There are 55 on the system of Eddy make, except a few of Darling make set with iron boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform, but no regular inspection practice has been established. **Hydrants:** There are 49 on the system in Riverdale of standard type of Eddy make with two 2½-inch outlets and 6-inch gated branches. A few residential hydrants have one 4½-inch outlet in addition. Outlets are National Standard. Hydrants are inspected occasionally by the fire department and at time of inspection they were found to be in fair condition. **Pressures:** No recording or direct reading gauges on the system. Readings taken at 4 well distributed hydrants showed pressures ranging from 88 to 105 pounds with an average of 93 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

July 22, 1942—

Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike and Mead Ave., 520—90—17.

Morris Ave. next to dead end south, 480—105—15.

Posts Lane and Mead Ave., 480—90—15.

August 22, 1945—

Route No. 23 S. of Macopin Ave., 350—88—*.

*No reading taken.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under the control of the borough which owns quarters, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$800 for the support of the department during 1948. Total active membership 17 including a chief, assistant chief, 2 captains, and 4 lieutenants, of whom a minimum of 8 members are available at all times. Officers are elected by the company for terms of 2 years, subject to confirmation by the mayor and council. Membership is limited by the usual age and physical condition requirements. **Company—Riverdale Volunteer Fire Company:** Located on the Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike near Mead Avenue as shown on map. Building is a 2-story cement block and frame structure with composition covered wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, electric lights, and steam heat. Telephone is provided in offices on the second floor. **Equipment:** One 1926 American La France 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying one 60-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 200 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and poor minor equipment. One 1942 U.S.A.-Chevrolet 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine with a new 1947 motor carrying a 300-gallon booster tank, 300 feet of booster hose, 200 feet of 1½-inch hose, 400 feet of 2½-inch hose, one 32-foot three-section ladder, 3 gas masks, and fair minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. The total supply of 1,400 feet is carried on the apparatus. Hose is tested about twice each year at about 160 pounds and of the total supply about 50% is more than 5 years old. **Operations:** Department is governed by municipal ordinance and company by-laws. General supervision is exercised by the chief officers. Motors are started twice weekly and at least 8 men are designated as drivers. **Drills and Training:** Company drills consisting of pump operation, hose and ladder work, and use of appliances are held monthly under the direction of the chief officers. **Fire Methods:** Hand extinguishers and booster and 1½-inch lines are used on incipient fires supported by engine streams with shut-off nozzles. Two gas masks are provided, but salvage equipment and heavy stream appliances are lacking. **Response to Alarms:** Company responds to all borough alarms, and substantial aid may be secured from the surrounding volunteer departments in Butler, Bloomingdale, Pequannock, and Pompton Lakes. **Building Inspection:** A board of fire officers, consisting of the chairman of the fire and police committee, the fire chief, and the chief machinist, are required by ordinance to make semi-annual inspections of business occupancies and public schools. **Records and Reports:** Records are limited to fire reports including nature of alarm and attendance. Monthly reports are made to the mayor and council. **Fire Alarms:** Telephoned through the Pompton Lakes Central Office to the Public Service bus garage near the business area where someone is on duty at all times, and sounded from that location on a siren mounted on tower at fire station.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief and 3 part-time officers subject to call. One vehicle is provided and equipped with three-way radio.

BUILDING LAWS: Building code adopted May 15, 1925 and amended October 13, 1936 provides for the annual appointment of a qualified building inspector and requires non-combustible roofs on all but outbuildings, and masonry walls within 10 feet of other buildings. No fire limits are established. Otherwise code in general follows the Code of Suggested Ordinances recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: No local regulations other than the requirement for inspections embodied in the fire department ordinance. Effect of inspections is restricted by the lack of complete specifications governing hazards. The 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.