



**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 31 to 235 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

⊙ Booster tank or tanks on above

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

**Raritan Township**  
**Fire District No. 3**  
**Middlesex County, New Jersey**

JANUARY 15, 1953

## RARITAN TOWNSHIP, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

### FIRE DISTRICT No. 3

Population—Township Census of 1940 was 11,470.  
Estimated Local Population 1,500.

**IN GENERAL:** Located on a branch line of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and State Highway Route No. 25 east of Metuchen. A residential community with a few manufacturing plants. Area 5.2 square miles. Elevations range from 31 to 235 feet. Main roads concrete, others gravel and macadam in fair to poor condition. Railroad crossings at grade and traffic on main highway is said never to have interfered with the response of fire apparatus.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Middlesex Water Company. For details as to organization, supply works, distribution system, and appurtenances see report with Map No. 136. **Distribution System:** System in one service; see map. Supply to this fire district is from a 12-inch transmission main from the Park Avenue Pumping Station. Arterial system is generally poor with numerous 6-inch dead end lines supplying hydrants. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption in the entire territory served, (12,360 services) during 1940, was 6.782 and 8.088 m.g.d. On December 31, 1940 there were 986 services in Raritan Township all of which were metered. **Pipe:** Cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with a 3- to 4-foot cover. Total length 80,300 feet; 15.9% 12-inch, 11.4% 8-inch and 72.7% 6-inch. No trouble reported from frozen mains, electrolysis, or tuberculation. **Gate Valves:** There are 70 of various makes set in iron boxes and manholes to grade. Direction of operation is uniform. No regular inspection. **Hydrants:** There are 76 of Corey and Wood makes of standard type with two 2½- and one 4½-inch outlets and 6-inch gated branches. Hose outlet threads are National Standard. Steamer outlet threads are 4¼ inches outside diameter and have 6 threads per inch. Hydrants are inspected annually. Those operated during inspection were found to be in fair condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 4 hydrants well distributed showed pressures ranging from 58 to 72 pounds with an average of 64 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on December 12, 1941 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

King George's Post Road 400 ft. W. of Road to House Lot Meadows, 440—60—10.

New Brunswick Ave. and Seventh St., 1,060—58—35.

Morris Ave. and Howard Ave., 570—72—25.

Woodbridge Rd. and Parsonage Rd., 720—67—19.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of one company under supervision of a board of fire commissioners consisting of 5 members who are elected for a three-year term. District owns house, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$9,302 for the support of the company in 1941. Total active membership 40 of whom 16 are available during the day and 27 during the night. There are a chief, an assistant chief, a foreman, and an assistant foreman who are elected annually by the company and confirmed by the board of fire commissioners. **Company—Raritan Engine Company**

**No. 2:** Located on New Brunswick Avenue near Burchard Street. Building is a 2-story brick structure with a slate roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, and siren. **Equipment:** A 1925 Stutz 600-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying two 40-gallon chemical tanks, 125 feet of chemical hose, 1,500 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 gas masks, 2 short ladders, and fair minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is tested four times a year at from 150 to 200 pounds, shifted at fires and drills, and dried on apparatus floor. There is no hose in reserve and no hose is over five years old. **Operations:** Department governed by district ordinances and company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. He may suspend members pending a hearing before company. There are 20 members of the department who are assigned to drive apparatus. Motors are started daily. **Drills and Training:** Drills held monthly under the supervision of the chief officers consist of hose laying, pump operation, and use of equipment. **Fire Methods:** Chemical streams used on incipient fires reinforced by engine and hydrant lines with shut-off nozzles. Two gas masks are carried, but no salvage covers or heavy stream appliances are provided. **Response to Alarms:** Company responds to all alarms in district. Outside aid may be secured from adjacent fire districts in Woodbridge Township and Metuchen. **Building Inspection:** Chief officers of department make an annual inspection of all schools and factories. **Records and Reports:** Records kept of all fires consist of attendance, location, equipment used, and loss. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through either the Metuchen or the New Brunswick exchange to police headquarters in District 1. Police call General Ceramic's plant from where a coded signal is sounded on siren at fire station.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Consists of a chief, 3 lieutenants, and 10 patrolmen working in 8-hour shifts. A desk man is always on duty. Three cars equipped with two-way radio are provided. Police respond to alarms of fire and report unauthorized building construction to building inspector. Department covers entire township.

**BUILDING LAWS:** Code adopted March 18, 1927 provides for the appointment of a building inspector and requires that plans be filed before permits are issued. Code has fair regulations with regard to chimneys, and fire stops, and the protection of vertical openings, and openings in fire walls. No fire limits are established and combustible roof coverings are allowed throughout the township.

**EXPLOSIVES AND FLAMMABLES:** Building code requires that a permit be secured before a person manufactures, stores, keeps, sells, uses, or handles for any purpose explosives and flammable liquids. 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.