



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

Watchung Borough **Somerset County, New Jersey**

MARCH 31, 1949

KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.

NOTE.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.

Elevations range from 129 to 561 feet above mean sea level.

Fire house shown thus

Fire apparatus designated by symbols thus:

- (V) Pumping engine and hose car
- (B) Booster car
- (H) Hose car
- (P) Booster tank or tanks on above
- Tractorized



1709
7763
South Ave
Straddling
Term 11 Rd

March 31, 1949.

WATCHUNG BOROUGH, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census — 1,158.

IN GENERAL: A residential community located north of and adjoining North Plainfield. Area 6.2 square miles. Elevations range from 129 to 561 feet. Main roads improved; others gravel and macadam in fair to poor condition.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for fire protection purposes is primarily obtained by fire department pumping engines taking suction from streams and ponds, except that along the North Plainfield boundary line there are a few hydrants supplied as extensions of the water system in that municipality. For a description of the supply works and distribution system, see report with map No. 124.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of one company under partial control of the borough which owns house, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$1,850 for the support of the department in 1948. The officers consist of a chief, an assistant chief, a foreman, and 3 engineers, who are elected annually by the department and confirmed by the council. The department consists of 50 members, 8 of whom are available at all times. **Company—Watchung Chemical Engine Company:** Located in the borough hall on Mountain Boulevard near Somerset Street. Building is a 2½-story joisted brick structure with a composition covered wood roof, concrete apparatus floor, steam heat, electric lights, telephone, hose tower, and siren. **Equipment:** A 1929 Pirsch 600-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying two 90-gallon booster tanks, 150 feet of booster hose, 1,300 feet of 2½-inch hose, 3 short ladders, 2 gas masks, and fair minor equipment. A 1933 Ford hose and booster car carrying a 250-g.p.m. pump, a 250-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 gas masks, 1 portable electric generator, 3 flood lights, and some minor equipment. One Federal truck carrying a 1,000-gallon water tank, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, a 150-g.p.m. portable pump, and some minor equipment. One O.C.D. 500-g.p.m. trailer pumping unit with standard equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. It is dried in hose tower, shifted at fires and drills, and tested annually at 200 pounds. There is 500 feet of 2½-inch hose in reserve and about 900 feet of the total supply of 2½-inch hose is over five years old. **Operations:** Department is governed by company by-laws. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. He may prefer charges to mayor and council. Eighteen mem-

bers are appointed drivers. Motors are started twice a week. **Drills and Training:** Drills held monthly under the supervision of the chief and drillmaster. They consist of hose laying, pump operation, and use of equipment. **Fire Methods:** Booster streams are used on incipient fires supported by engine lines where water is available. Four gas masks are provided, but no salvage equipment nor heavy stream appliances are carried. **Response to Alarms:** Entire department responds to all alarms in the borough. Outside aid may be secured from Warren Township, North Plainfield, and Plainfield. **Building Inspection:** Annual school inspections are made by the chief, but no records are kept of these inspections. **Records and Reports:** Records of all fires are kept consisting of attendance, location, and the amount and type of equipment used. The chief submits a monthly report to the council. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Plainfield Exchange to the North Plainfield Police Department where there is a push button to operate the siren on the Watchung fire house. At the Watchung fire house there is a magneto type phone directly connected to the North Plainfield Police Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: A chief, 1 sergeant, and 1 patrolman are on duty in 12-hour shifts. Eight special police are also available. A radio equipped car is provided.

BUILDING LAWS: Code adopted December 17, 1936 provides for the appointment of a building inspector and requires that plans be filed before a permit is issued. Code has some good regulations in regard to fire stops, garages, flammable liquids, and heating devices, but in general does not conform to the Code of Suggested Ordinances as recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. No fire limits are established and flammable roof coverings are allowed throughout the borough.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: No municipal regulations. 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: Adopted August 14, 1941.