



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

**Berlin Township**  
Including West Berlin  
**Camden County, New Jersey**

JANUARY 31, 1949

**KEY**

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.

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

Elevations range from 140 to 199 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:

Ⓢ Pumping engine and hose car

Ⓢ Booster tank or tanks on above

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP, CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.****Including West Berlin.****Population — 1940 Census — 1,771.**

**IN GENERAL:** Located adjacent to Berlin Borough on the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines Railroad about 18 miles southeast of Camden. It is principally a residential and farming community with practically no industry. Area about 3.1 square miles. Elevations range from 140 to 199 feet. Main thoroughfares are improved in good condition. Other streets are dirt or gravel in fair to poor condition. There are no features which should interfere with the response of fire apparatus.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is furnished by the Borough of Berlin which owns and operates the distribution system supplying water to Berlin Borough and Berlin Township. For details as to organization, supply works, pumping station, and storage facilities see report on Berlin Borough with map No. 304. **Distribution System:** In one service consisting of a 10-inch and 8-inch artery with incomplete 4-inch and 6-inch gridiron and unsupported 6-inch branches. See map. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption during 1947 in the entire territory served (953 live services) were 0.136 and 0.2 million gallons respectively. **Pipe:** All pipe is cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with about a 3½-foot minimum cover. Total length in the township, 34,100 feet; 0.4% 16-inch, 14.5% 10-inch, 8.5% 8-inch, 49.7% 6-inch, and 26.9% 4-inch. No trouble was reported from freezing or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 43 in the township of R. D. Wood and Mueller makes, set with valve boxes at grade. Direction of operation is uniform, but there is no regular inspection of valves. **Hydrants:** There are 52 in the township of R. D. Wood make with two 2½-inch and one 4½-inch outlets and 6-inch ungated branches. Hose outlets have 3½ inches outside diameter with 6 threads per inch. Larger outlets have 5¼ inches outside diameter with 7 threads per inch. Hydrants are inspected semi-annually and at time of resurvey those operated were found to be in good condition. **Pressures:** Readings taken at 3 well distributed locations showed pressures ranging from 47 to 53 pounds with an average of 49 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on September 9, 1948 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow, and pressure during flow were as follows:

Haddon and Franklin Aves., 1,160—47—37.

Franklin and Center Aves., 210—47—\*.

Route S-41 1,650 ft. N. of Franklin Ave., 210—53—1.

\*No reading taken.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A volunteer organization of one independent company which owns house, apparatus, and equipment. The township appropriated \$750 for the support of the department during 1948. Total active membership 40, of whom a minimum of about 12 are available at all times. Officers include a chief and 3 assistant chiefs who are elected annually by the company. Only the chief's election is confirmed by the township. **Company:** Located on Haddon Avenue at Clarence Avenue in a one-story

concrete block structure with composition covered wood roof, concrete floor, hot air heat, electric lights, and siren on tower at rear. **Equipment:** A 1945 Mack 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 150-gallon booster tank, 150 feet of booster hose, 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, 350 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and meager minor equipment. A 1929 Ford pumping engine provided with a Barton 400-g.p.m. front mounted pump and a 250-gallon booster tank and carrying 200 feet of booster hose, 450 feet of 2½-inch hose, 300 feet of 1½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and practically no minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with Jones snap couplings. It is shifted and tested at irregular intervals at about 100 pounds pressure. About 600 feet is over 5 years old and there are no drying facilities. Reserve hose is limited to 250 feet. **Operations:** The company is independently governed by company by-laws. The chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. Motors are started about every other day and there are about 6 appointed drivers. **Drills and Training:** Company drills are held monthly under the supervision of the chief officers. They consist of hose laying, pump operation, and some ladder work. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines are used on incipient fires supported by hydrant or engine lines with shut-off nozzles. Department is totally lacking in gas masks, salvage appliances, and heavy stream equipment. **Response to Alarms:** Both pieces of apparatus respond to all alarms within the township and outside aid may be secured from the volunteer departments in neighboring municipalities. **Building Inspection:** A deputy fire warden makes annual inspections of schools and mercantile risks, but no records are kept of such inspections. **Records and Reports:** Fairly complete records are kept of all fires and drills, but no regular report is made to the township committee. **Fire Alarms:** Alarms of fire are telephoned through the Berlin Telephone Exchange to the chief's residence where it is claimed that constant attendance is maintained. Alarms are sounded on siren at the fire house by means of push button.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** There are 10 special officers who are on a call basis, but no vehicle is provided. There are also 8 fire police.

**BUILDING LAWS:** The building code adopted March 26, 1923 provides for the appointment of a building inspector and embodies some desirable structural restrictions. On October 7, 1946 the township also adopted by reference "New Jersey Code of Minimum Construction Requirements for One and Two Family Dwellings" which is in effect in conjunction with the 1923 code. Neither code is sufficiently comprehensive from a fire protection standpoint. No fire limits are established and combustible roof covering materials are permitted.

**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:** None.