



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

Spotswood Borough **Middlesex County, New Jersey**

MAY 31, 1948

KEY

PROTECTED FIRE ZONE: Shown in Green.
Note.—For description of fire protection, etc., see other side.
Elevations range from 10 to 90 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:
① Automobile combination pumper and hose car
② Hose car
③ Booster tank or tanks on above



412

SPOTSWOOD BOROUGH, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Population — 1940 Census — 1,201.

IN GENERAL: Located on the Trenton Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad east of Helmetta. A farming and residential community with 3 industries employing about 350. Area 2.4 square miles. Elevations range from 10 to 90 feet. Main roads improved, others gravel in fair to good condition. Transportation to neighboring communities is afforded by railroad and bus lines. Railroad crossings at grade are said never to have interfered with response of fire apparatus.

WATER SUPPLY: Water for domestic and fire protection purposes is purchased from the Township of East Brunswick (see report with map No. 369), which in turn purchases water from the City of Perth Amboy. (See National Board Report on the City of Perth Amboy, January, 1947.) Borough owns distribution system which was installed during 1937. System is in charge of a superintendent who has held the position since 1937, and who is appointed annually by the mayor and council. All extensions and taps are made by a local plumber. No truck is provided. Records consist of detail sheets showing hydrant and valve locations. **Supply Works:** Spotswood is supplied by a long 8-inch unsupported line from the Runyon Pumping Station of the Perth Amboy Water Department. There is an 8-inch metered connection to the East Brunswick distribution system. **Distribution System:** In one service. See map. It consists of an 8-inch main through the mercantile district to the standpipe; balance of mains are mainly 4-inch and 6-inch dead ends. **Elevated Tank:** Located as shown on map. It is a 100,000-gallon steel tank 28 feet in diameter with an ellipsoidal bottom on a 77-foot steel tower. Elevation of base 65 feet. Elevation of overflow 158 feet. **Consumption:** The average and maximum daily consumption is estimated to be .034 and .051 m.g.d. There are 412 metered services. **Pipe:** Cast iron, tar coated, bell and spigot joint, laid with a 4-foot cover. Total length, 40,800 feet; 35.2% 8-inch, 32.4% 6-inch, and 32.4% 4-inch. No trouble from frozen mains or electrolysis. **Gate Valves:** There are 40 of Mueller manufacture set with iron boxes at grade. They are inspected annually. Fire department notified when valves affecting hydrant supply are operated. **Hydrants:** There are 37 of R. D. Wood manufacture with two 2½-inch outlets, one 4-inch outlet, 6-inch barrels and 6-inch gated branches. They are inspected annually. Those operated during inspection were found to be in good condition. All hydrant outlets are National Standard. **Pressures:** Readings taken at five hydrants widely distributed showed pressures ranging from 65 to 80 pounds with an average of 77 pounds. **Fire Flow Tests:** Probable supply available for fire protection purposes was measured on October 14, 1937 by means of Pitot tube. Location of hydrant, discharge in gallons per minute, pressure before flow and pressure during flow were as follows:

Englishtown Rd. and Main St., 1,300—79—29.
Mundy Ave. and Fernhead Ave., 680—81—20.
Main St. near Grand Ave., 570—77—12.
Stout St. and New Brunswick Ave., 520—65—40.
Main St. and Dora Ave., 810—80—35.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A volunteer organization of 23 men under control of borough which owns

house, apparatus, and equipment and appropriated \$350 for the support of the department in 1947. There are a chief, assistant chief, foreman, and assistant foreman who are elected annually by company and confirmed by borough council. About 12 men are available at all times. **Companies:** Companies are located in fire headquarters on Main Street near Red Bank Road. Building is a 2-story frame structure with a concrete apparatus floor, wood shingle roof, hot air heat, and electric lights. **Equipment:** A 1937 Pirsch-Diamond "T" 500-g.p.m. triple combination pumping engine carrying a 500-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, 800 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, 2 gas masks, and fair minor equipment. A 1930 Ford with a 250-g.p.m. Waterous pump carrying a 110-gallon booster tank, 200 feet of booster hose, 500 feet of 1½-inch hose, 300 feet of 2½-inch hose, 2 short ladders, and meager minor equipment. **Hose:** All 2½-inch hose is C.R.L. with National Standard screw couplings. Hose is tested at 150 pounds annually, shifted about every 3 months and dried on apparatus floor. There is about 400 feet in reserve. **Operations:** Governed by borough ordinance. Chief has control of apparatus at all times and of men at fires and drills. Chief can suspend members. Nine men are appointed drivers. Motors are turned over daily. **Drills and Training:** Drills held four times a year consist of pump operation and hose laying. **Fire Methods:** Booster lines used on incipient fires reinforced by engine and hydrant lines with shut-off nozzles. Heavy stream appliances are lacking. **Response to Alarms:** Both pieces of apparatus respond to all box alarms and one piece of apparatus responds to alarms in surrounding townships. Outside aid may be secured from Helmetta and East Brunswick. **Building Inspections:** Chief makes an occasional inspection of mercantile buildings. **Records and Reports:** A record is kept of each fire which includes the amount of damage and number of men responding. Annual reports are made to Mayor and Council. **Fire Alarm System:** Part of fire department and is in charge of a local electrician who does all maintenance work. There is no operating board and no circuit protection. Current is supplied by four 6-volt storage batteries located on a wood shelf under stairs to second floor in fire house. There is a single open circuit about 6 miles long of No. 8 hard drawn copper wire with some No. 10 soft drawn wire mounted on utility company poles below power wires. There is a register, horn and siren at fire house and 10 Gamewell interfering sector pull boxes mounted on utility company poles with red indicating bands. Boxes are tested monthly by pulling, and circuits are tested weekly. Alarms are telephoned to police desk and the siren operated from push button.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Consists of a chief, 1 sergeant, and 5 specials, all of whom are part-time, and use their own cars.

BUILDING LAWS: None.

FIRE PREVENTION LAWS: No municipal regulations. State laws adequately cover the storage and handling of flammables, the transportation of explosives, and the construction of motion picture booths. They also restrict the discharge of fireworks to responsible bonded parties.