

Raleigh's Biggest Fires, By Numbers

02/23/07 315 W - + 19 - 15

How did yesterday's fire compare to historic losses suffered by the city? Below are some of the largest blazes from back in the day. Maybe we can compare some stats from the incident. Note that totals are not available past 1950. Mike hasn't done that research (yet). Thus, say, the Mangel's Building fire of 1981 isn't included.

4/10/26 - Insane Asylum - Durham mutual aid
15 lines, 7000 feet of hose, 34 engine hours

7/3/28 - Yarborough Hotel - Durham and Smithfield mutual aid
15 lines, 7200 feet of hose, 30 engine hours

2/17/26 - Commercial Printing Company
Nine lines, 3500 feet of hose, 6 engine hours

12/17/31 - 321 South Blount Street, Sanders Motor Company
Nine lines - 3800 feet of hose - 7.3 engine hours

3/23/39 - 235 Fayetteville, Ammons Clothing Store
Nine lines - 450 feet of hose - 0.5 engine hours

3/3/52 - K&W Motor Company
Nine lines - 4200 feet of hose - 400 (40?) engine hours

7/15/25 - Ambassador (?) Theatre
Eight lines - 4000 feet of hose - 4 engine hours

4/18/27 - 112 West Hargett Street
Eight lines - 6000 feet of hose - 1.5 engine hours

3/19/35 - 210 Fayetteville Street
Eight lines - 4950 feet of hose - 16.3 engine hours

1/26/43 - 108 East Martin Street, Quinn Furniture
Eight lines - 5150 feet of hose - 14.1 engine hours

12/28/43 - Wilmington Street and Martin Street, Bellas-Hess Department Store
Eight line - 6050 feet of hose - 23.5 engine hours

11/18/48 - 324 South Blount Street, Farmers Co-Op Exchange
Eight line - 3000 feet of hose - 4.15 engine hours

3/23/52 - A&P Grocery Store
Eight lines - 3250 feet of hose - 335 engine hours

1/28/25 - Motor Service Company
Seven lines - 3000 feet of hose - 3 engine hours

10/24/30 - City Auditorium
Seven lines - 3200 feet of hose - 6 engine hours

11/27/31 - 110 East Morgan Street, B&N Motor Company
Seven lines - 3450 feet of hose - 1.15 engine hours

7/20/36 - Motor Service Company
Seven lines - 3500 feet of hose - 1:40 engine hours

3/26/48 - 507 West Morgan Street, Capital Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Seven lines - 5550 feet of hose - 12.3 engine hours

More fun with numbers...

From Wake County real estate records, the average square footage of the homes in Pine Knolls Townes is/was 1,428.75.

Thus each two-story, four-unit building measured 5,715 square-feet.

There were twelve buildings that burned, partially burned, or had to be protected. The rest were empty lots.

Ergo, a total of 68,580 square-feet.

When Raleigh's Yarborough House burned in 1928, and tied up the entire fire department plus mutual aid engines from Durham and Smithfield, the three-story building measured some 46,500 square-feet (from insurance maps).

Has Raleigh burned buildings with more than 70,000 square-feet? Maybe. More research needed.

Legeros - 02/26/07 - 22:15

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What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

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