



## Place Names

### Moccasin Flats

Moccasin Flats was long a local name for the strip of land between Linnet Lake and Middle Waterton Lake, now known as Linnet Landing. It was associated with First Nations people who originally camped at this sheltered location. At least three personal accounts given by former residents refer to this site by that name.<sup>1</sup>

Today, the greater part of Moccasin Flats is a paved parking lot and has become a staging area for boaters who use the launching ramp and the docks at that sheltered location. But perhaps as long as 8,000 years ago, First Nations people camped there naming Middle Waterton Lake shore “Smooth-Even-Sized-Pebble-Beach” in the K’tunaxa language.<sup>2</sup> According to archeologist Dr. Brian Reeves, the entire area below the Prince of Wales Hotel was “a highly significant complex of archeological sites” where both K’tunaxa and Piikani peoples camped and hunted.<sup>3</sup>

When the lots for the townsite were surveyed in 1910, four lots were established at this site. The first applicant for the lots was W. O. Lee of Cardston, a man who had already established his “Upper Tent Camp” here<sup>4</sup> and who wanted to retain the spot under formal lease. Before he could complete the paperwork, however, W. O. Lee died. His successor was Christian Jensen of Aetna, Alberta who built a five-room frame house, becoming the



*Moccasin Flats, right, was chosen as a camp site because it was well sheltered from Waterton’s notorious winds.  
(Photo: WLNP Archives)*

first person to open a fixed-roof hotel in the park. When applications for leases were formally invited in the fall of 1911, Jensen was granted the two lots he already occupied. His business lasted only one more season and in February, 1911 he surrendered his leases and sold his building to John George Kootenai Brown. The building was moved across the road to accommodate Brown and his wife.<sup>5</sup> It is not clear when these lots were withdrawn from leasing and made a public reserve.

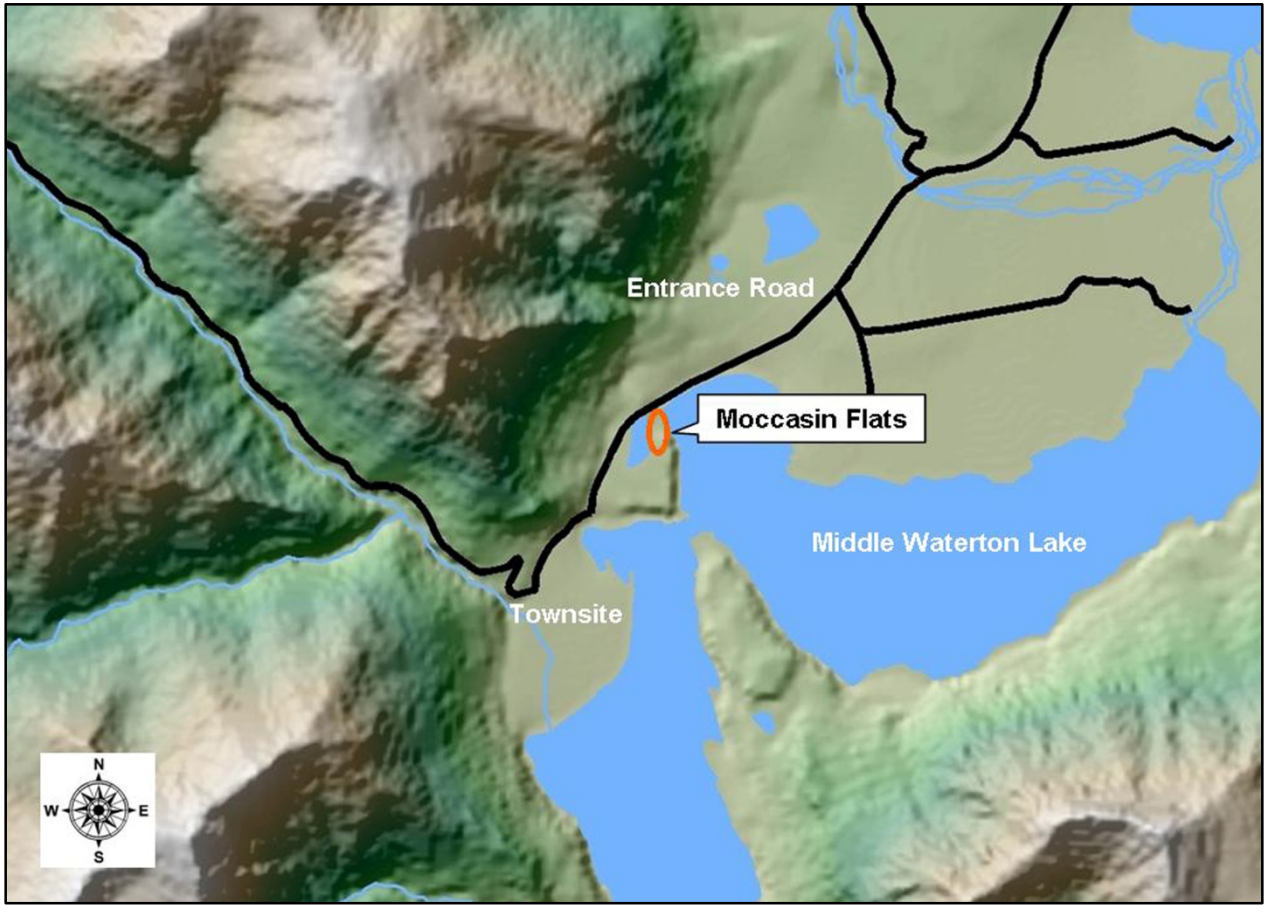
A portion of Moccasin Flats, immediately to the west and adjacent to Linnet Lake, once provided space for two log bath houses (change rooms) to accommodate swimmers. The first was opened for use the summer of 1923 and was demolished in 1960; the second



*The first bath house, built for swimmers at Linnet Lake, was sited partially on what was once known as Moccasin Flats.  
(Photo: WLNP Archives)*

**bath house, which became known as the ladies bath house, was situated parallel to the first on the northwest side. It was opened in 1936 and was expected to be moved to the park compound circa 1960.<sup>6</sup>**

**Linnet Landing is a popular day-use area complete with parking, boat launch, two docks, washrooms, picnic tables and large shade trees.**



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<sup>1</sup> Betty Baker, oral history, WLNP Archives, Box 117, binder E. K. Goble, *Waterton Park History: Historical*, unpublished, 1976, WLNP Archives, Box 115, Item 7; and Aunt Lu (Lula Nielsen), WLNP Archives, Box 115, Item 9.

<sup>2</sup> At one time the bay here was known as Aldridge Bay.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Brian Reeves and Dr. Sandra Peacock, *Our Mountains are our Pillows An ethnographic Overview of Glacier National Park*, (Glacier National Park, Montana, 2001), 60 & 63. (Report on file, United States National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver).

<sup>4</sup> The Lower Tent Camp was at the Maskinonge.

<sup>5</sup> Chris Morrison, *Waterton Chronicles, People and Their National Park*, (Lethbridge: Goathaunt Publishing, 2008), 35-38.

<sup>6</sup> "Linnet To Continue as Bathing Beach," *Lethbridge Herald*, March 21, 1960, 5. WLNP Archives, Box 130, Item 8.