

A Brief History of the Kettle Falls Area

Kettle Falls has long been a significant crossroads for travelers going between Rainy and Namakan lakes. Archeological evidence suggests that aboriginal people hunted and fished at Kettle Falls at least 5,000 years ago. By the early to mid-1700s, the Ojibwe Indians had moved into the border lakes region. Some Bois Forte Ojibwe families lived in the Kettle Falls area and retain connections today.

Throughout the peak of the fur trade from 1731 to 1842, a substantial amount of canoe traffic passed through the lakes now included in Voyageurs National Park. The U.S. Canadian boundary passes over Kettle Falls and was established following the “customary route of the voyageurs.” In the early days of the fur trade, the traditional route from Namakan Lake to Rainy Lake included a portage at the “Falls of the Chaudiere River” or Kettle Falls. Later, traders chose a shorter route to Rainy Lake via two portages (Neuf or New Portages) on the Bear River and used the Kettle portage when low water conditions prohibited travel on the Bear River.

In the early 1900s, Edward W. Backus saw the business potential in the falls and constructed dams at International Falls and Kettle Falls to provide additional water for power generation for his paper mills. Construction of the dams at Kettle Falls became central to the controversy surrounding the use of the border lakes along the international boundary and competing business and conservation interests.

Lodging has been available at Kettle Falls since the 1890s gold rush, but the construction of the Kettle Falls Hotel in 1910 provided the first permanent lodging. Although Ed Rose constructed the hotel to accommodate construction workers on the dam, the Williams family operation of the hotel made it a charming and much-loved tourist destination for 75 years.

The National Park Service acquired the hotel in 1977 and started extensive renovations to the “Tiltin’ Hilton” in 1986. The significance of the hotel was recognized by its acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and the surrounding district in 1978.

Kettle Falls Timeline (a work in progress)

1789-1793	Sir Alexander Mackenzie traveled the water route from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg and describes the Kettle Falls area, “...a narrow strait communicates with Lake Namaycan, which takes its name from a particular place at the foot of a fall, where the natives spear sturgeon.”
1821	“..we arrived at the Portage de Chaudière which is about 400 Paces and is made to avoid a very fine Waterfall.” (Nicholas Garry) “...arrived at the Portage Neuf which is 400 paces when we arrived at a small Channel of the same character as the last, beautiful white Water Lilies, high Grass, Underwood and wild Rice growing in the water. After 10 minutes paddling we came to the second Portage Neuf which is about

	300 Paces. After passing this we again found ourselves in the same Description of Channel which ended in a Swamp covered with wild Rice. The Annoyance of the Musquitoes was dreadful from which we suffered nearly an Hour, the Distance of the Swamp being about two miles, the Course tedious and difficult.” (Nicholas Garry, later in 1821)
1823	“After leaving the (<i>Rainy</i>) Lake, we observed a water fall (<i>Kettle Falls</i>) on our right, at which there is a Portage called the Kettle P. by which canoes usually pass up the river (<i>Kettle Channel</i>) in a low stage of water. But in high waters as at present the route we have taken is preferred as being much shorter. By the other route...there is but one Portage, but the great length of the way by that route to Lake Nam-máka-kon (<i>Namakan</i>), or Sturgeon Lake, which we entered at the second (<i>Bear</i>) portage...” (Stephen H. Long)
1852	“...we soon came to the Kettle Rapids, so called, I suppose, from the whirlpools in these rapids. Here the Indians catch white fish in great abundance, by scooping them up from the eddies and whirlpools in these rapids.” (Peter Jacobs)
1872	“Kettle Falls is scarcely entitled to that name when the water is so low as at present, though it no doubt deserves it in the spring, for a huge semi-circle in the rock on each side of the rapid presents a kettle-like appearance, in which the water doubtless boils as in a cauldron. In searching for a reason for the name of these falls, I discovered a hole in the rocks very like the inside of a kettle, perfectly smooth, and which would probably hold about five or six gallons.” (Justus Griffin)
1874	“...Arriving at ten o'clock at night at Kettle Falls portage, about a quarter of a mile wide, where a large steamer was ready to take us over Rainy Lake, we slept on board wrapped in our blankets and laying anywhere on deck.” (Peter O'Leary)
1876	The <u>Louisa Thompson</u> was one of the first steamboats to cross Rainy Lake to Kettle Falls. The steamer made the trip every other day, transferring freight and materials for construction of a canal at Fort Frances that was part of the Dawson Trail. The Dawson Trail was an all-Canada immigrants' route started in 1871 between Lake Superior and the Red River country. Canal construction was abandoned in 1878 with the focus on construction of Canadian Pacific Railway. The remnants of the canal are still visible beneath the International bridge.
1893	Waymond (Wyman) M. French applied for a homestead at Kettle Falls but his application was later cancelled. Gold discovered on Little American Island on Rainy Lake.
1894	The Rainy Lake Chronicle reported, “Wyman French is building a substantial hotel at Kettle Falls.” His daughter Carrie married the engineer of the steamer <u>Walter S. Lloyd</u> in 1895. The Lloyd made regular trips between Kettle Falls and Rainy Lake City providing transportation for entrepreneurs of the Rainy Lake gold rush. A reporter from the September 16, 1894 <i>Decatur Review</i> traveled to the

	gold fields of Rainy Lake. When he reached Kettle Falls, he reported that there where 150 Indians and 17 white people there. "The white people were in 2 families and keeping a boarding house for a stage and tug line that carried people from Tower, Minnesota to Rainy Lake City."
1895	Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Wetmore were operating a stopping place at Kettle Falls. Wetmore previously operated a restaurant at Rainy Lake City. A deputy revenue collector for Customs was assigned to Kettle Falls. William E. Rose of Rainy Lake City staked a timber claim near Crane Lake. He would later build a hotel at Kettle Falls.
1897	Plans were announced by a transportation company to install derricks to raise freight over Kettle Falls and construct a tramway to transfer supplies over the portage from one boat to another. Frank Sullivan acquired the Frenches stopping place. Sullivan previously ran a stopping place at Moose River on Namakan Lake. He moved a "big tent" that was used as a hotel at Rainy Lake City to Kettle Falls to be used as a hotel there. George Greek cooked for him. Steamers were making six trips a week between Rainy Lake City and Kettle Falls and Kettle Falls to Crane Lake.
1898-1909	Harry Berger operating a stopping place on the Canadian side at Kettle Falls. (SQUIRREL FALLS)
1899	4,000,000 feet of logs from Senator Clarence Buckman's camp at Daley Brook towed over Kettle Falls on their way to Rat Portage [Kenora]. Buckman was a lumberman from Little Falls, Minnesota and also a state senator.
1900	State zoologist Henry F. Nachtrieb stopped at Kettle Falls as part of Minnesota Zoological Survey. Federal census records 3 residents at Kettle Falls—steamboat pilot Joseph Lloyd, steamboat fireman Wm. Desautell, and laborer George Fuller.
1903	Timber cruiser, Lyman.B. Ayer, was delayed at Kettle Falls because of a log jam containing 75,000 cords of spruce headed for a Canadian mill.
1905	Professional photographer Roland Reed spent a week at Kettle Falls photographing Native Americans in the area. Reed had a studio in International Falls for a short time. Federal census records 7 residents at Kettle Falls.
1908	Four million feet of logs arrived in Ranier from Kettle Falls to be shipped to the Cook-O'Brien mill in Virginia. Charley Comiskey, manager of the White Sox, Ban Johnson, president of the American League and their hunting party went to Kettle Falls to hunt moose.

1909	Construction of the hydroelectric dam at International Falls was completed. Authority for the International Falls dam included provision for water storage dams at Kettle Falls. Construction of wood coffer dam at Kettle Falls began in 1909.
1910	<p>Ida May Winslow acquired the homestead patent to Kettle Falls area. A log cabin was constructed on Namakan Lake at Kettle Falls as sleeping space for the dam construction workers. Chris Monson started working for M&O (Minnesota and Ontario or Mando) paper company hauling supplies from Kettle Falls to International Lumber Co. camps on Namakan.</p> <p>Oliver Knox and family constructed a house on the Canadian side of Kettle Falls. Oliver recalls seeing a village of Indian wigwams near his property when he arrived.</p> <p>The International Joint Commission, the arbiter of boundary water disputes, came into existence with the ratification of the Bryce-Root Treaty, but it would be another 30 years before the IJC had regulatory powers to govern water levels.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the Kettle Falls Hotel in 1987 revealed that the east/west wing may have been constructed as early as 1910.</p> <p>A blacksmith shop operated near the falls from 1910-1912, possibly by blacksmith Neil Berger.</p> <p>Federal census records 5 residents at Kettle Falls, however there is a large transient population working on the dam. They stayed in the log cabin and in scattered tents.</p>
1911	<p>Although it was a very dry year, a log stopping house and store washed away during a high water episode.</p> <p>U.S. authorized Backus' Rainy River Improvement Co. to construct a dam at Kettle Falls.</p>
1912	Construction of wood coffer dam completed. The International Joint Commission adopted rules of procedures and the Kettle Falls dam was the first item of business on their agenda.
1912-1913	A post office operated at Kettle Falls from 10/12/1912 to 6/28/1913
1912	Chris Monson became damtender. Monson also constructed an ice house north of the 1910 cabin. He used Rosie the pony to pull ice from the lake into the ice house. Rosie lived in what is now known as the "horse barn."
1912	<p>Jack Ryan constructed a cabin and trading post/store where the Kettle Falls camp store sits today.</p> <p>Gus Peterson, FB Lees and Wm. Byron of the Minnesota Forest Service claim they operated the first boat to ever go over Kettle Falls without</p>

	<p>taking on any water.</p>
1913	<p>Timber cruiser William E. ("Big Ed") Rose acquired property at Kettle Falls and probably constructed the north-south wing of the hotel. Construction of the hotel was reportedly financed by madame Nellie Bly.</p> <p>Records show that Rose acquired the property from Frederick A. Dunsmoor. Dr. Dunsmoor was a surgeon from Minneapolis credited with introducing the use of antiseptics in 1882. He had a summer home on Rainy Lake during the 1920s and was part of what was later called "The Rainy Lake Aristocracy." There is no record showing how Dunsmoor acquired the property from Ida May Winslow.</p> <p>Fred Lessard installed a hand-operated narrow gauge rail to portage freight and fish around the falls.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works of Canada approved plans for construction of the Kettle Falls dams.</p> <p>A small Canadian crew from the International Boundary Commission conducted a reconnaissance trip on Rainy and Namakan Lakes to investigate the area that would be surveyed next year. They stored their gear over the winter at Kettle Falls.</p>
1914	<p>Construction began on the stone and concrete dams under the direction of Supt. J.A. Smith and Foreman John Flynn. Flynn was also construction foreman for the International dam and the Catholic church in International Falls. About 50 men worked on the dam crew, joining the homesteaders and fishermen already living there. Kettle Falls was a beehive of activity with the dam construction project and lumbermen sluicing logs to Rainy Lake. The dams were completed by March 1914.</p> <p>In April, the Canadian survey crew crosses Namakan Lake on ice from Hoist Bay to retrieve their gear at Kettle Falls. They repaired their boats and equipment and in May met the U.S. survey crew. This crew mapped the terrain along Kettle Channel and at Kettle Falls. One topographer stayed on at Kettle Falls until September to map Hale Bay. The crews converged again in October at Kettle Falls to finish for the season and store their gear.</p>
1915	<p>A small crew from the Canadian survey crew went to Kettle Falls in early May to make repairs to their camp outfit and boats and the crew moved to finish mapping on Sand Point and Lac la Croix. The crew arrived back at Kettle Falls on October 30, hauled out the boats and stored their equipment.</p> <p>The earliest known photo of the Kettle Falls Hotel shows a large group of bartenders and musicians assembled in front of the hotel for the annual "Bartender's Picnic."</p>

1915-1920s	Blindpiggers (sellers of illegal liquor) John and "Jazzbo" Beaton lived at Kettle Falls, not too far from the dam.
1916	<p>Nellie Bly arrived on the first boat of the season on May 6 at 6:30 pm.</p> <p>International Boundary Commission survey crews gathered at Kettle Falls in late May to continue mapping of Lac la Croix and other lakes east.</p> <p>Charles "Chappy" Kampman was one of 31 blindpiggers arrested for illegal sale of liquor on Rainy Lake. Chappy and Nellie Kampman were year round caretakers at Kettle Falls and had a cabin on the east side of the path to the dam and a big screen house on the west side where he sold beer to the loggers or traded beer for a case of jam or other food. When the loggers were sluicing logs through the dam, they could sit in the screen house and watch and only go down to work when it looked like there would be a log jam.</p> <p>Major flood year with flood waters flowing over the tops of the dams at Kettle Falls.</p>
1918	<p>Robert Sloan Williams acquired Kettle Falls from Rose for \$1,000 and 4 barrels of whiskey. Williams was born in 1879 in Milwaukee and moved as a young man to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He was a professional chef at the Palmer House in Chicago before settling in Ranier in 1910. There he operated a hotel and nightclub and in 1918, took over the Kettle Falls Hotel as a supplemental source of income. He arrived the first time at Kettle Falls aboard a boat called the <u>Mayflower</u>.</p> <p>John Erickson brought down a record load of fish on the <u>Manitowoc</u>—412 hundred-pound boxes—from the auction at Kettle Falls. Over 50 commercial fishermen operated camps in the vicinity. Fish auctions were held on the Namakan dock and on the boardwalk to the hotel. Fish buyers came from St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Kansas City and other large cities. Commercial fishing peaked about 1920.</p> <p>32-volt direct current electrical system introduced in the hotel.</p> <p>Kettle Falls and a number of other places on Rainy Lake were raided by an area joint law enforcement team under orders from the State Safety Commission. A quantity of illegal whiskey and moose meat was seized at Kettle Falls. Bob Williams was arrested at his Ranier establishment on a charge of selling liquor without a license and having a beaver skin in his possession. Chappy Kampman's Crystal Beach resort, Frank "McBourbon" McMahon's establishment on Dryweed Island, Frank Fostin's "Golden Gate" on Rainy Lake, Island View, and several other places were also raided.</p>
1919	<p>Illegal whiskey, moose meat and venison were seized at Kettle Falls, three people arrested and a warrant issued for the arrest of Bob Williams.</p>

1920	Federal census records 145 residents on Namakan Lake. Many probably lived at Kettle Falls.
1920-1933	Bob Williams operated a number of stills and a distribution network for his own as well as smuggled liquor from Canada.
1921	Bob Williams married Hilma ('Lil) Maria King. William "Ed" Rose died. Miss Nellie Bly Helmer of Vancouver, British Columbia, signed the guest register on May 2.
1923	International Boundary Commission survey crew visited Kettle Falls. Bad forest fire year—forest rangers working in the area stopped many times at Kettle Falls for Lil Williams' famous fish, fowl and steak dinners.
1924	State Senator Magnus Johnson (later a U.S. Senator) and forest ranger Fred Bessette (who became a state legislator) visited Kettle Falls. They watched logs being sluiced through the dam by the Shevlin-Clark Lumber Co. of Ft. Frances. Lil served walleye, roast beef, smoked sturgeon, and a number of side dishes.
1925	Border Lumber Company crew at Kettle Falls. The International Joint Commission studied the dams to begin answering the public's questions about water level regulation for the most advantageous use of the waters for domestic, sanitary, navigation, industrial, fishing, power, irrigation and reclamation purposes.
1926	Jack Ryan, who operated a small store at Kettle Falls, was found murdered. His body was found near his store with a crushed skull and a bullet hole in the head and abdomen. He was known to have a large sum of money with him from valuable furs he had recently sold. The murder was never solved.
1927	Addition built on the east side of log damtender's cabin. Nickelodeon brought to the hotel. Flood waters nearly reach the hotel.
1928	Minnesota legislature's Forestry Interim Committee including the Lt. Governor and 15 state senators and representatives spend the night at Kettle Falls. The committee was organized to study forestry and water resource problems along the border lakes. Later that year high ranking U.S.F.S. officials, several U.S.Senators, including Henrik Shipstead, timber magnate E.W. Backus and conservationist Ernest Oberholtzer stayed at Kettle Falls for a "dramatic, informal, fast-moving" public hearing about Backus' plans for construction of additional dams along the border. Hotel menu consisted of fried walleye pike, roast beef, smoked sturgeon and a variety of side dishes, all served family style.
1929	The Timber Producers Association met at Kettle Falls. Professors from Iowa State University's civil engineering camp at Browns Bay visited Kettle Falls. The Virginia & Rainy Lake lumber company sluiced their last million board feet of pine through Kettle Falls.
1930	Jack Ryan's trading post burned down. Chris Monson constructed a trading post near the lakeshore on what is now the front lawn of the damtender's house. He operated the trading post in the front half of the building and lived in the back. He sold clothes, tobacco, canned goods at the store—mainly things for loggers.

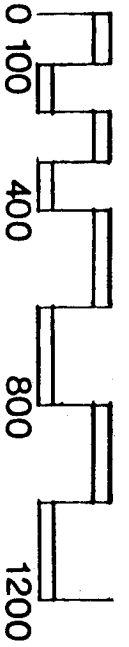
	Federal census records 30 residents at Kettle Falls.
1931	International Joint Commission met at Kettle Falls. Blanche Jespersen and Charley Williams marry.
1933	Forest fire rangers visited Kettle Falls. International Falls police chief Al Couture and his new wife honeymooned at the hotel. June Williams born.
1934	Dale ("Buck") Williams born. E.W. Backus died.
1935	<p>Three meals and a room at the hotel cost \$2.50 a day. The Williams' advertised "comfort in the wilderness, electric lights, charming rustic porch, 22 fine sleeping rooms, excellent dining, cozy lobby, bar and boat service."</p> <p>A screened pantry was added to the east end of the hotel sometime between 1935 and 1942.</p> <p>Article in International Falls <i>Daily Journal</i> describes the hotel as a "somber old structure past its boom days."</p> <p>An enormous cut of logs originating at Crane Lake was sluiced through Kettle Falls and into Rainy Lake by the International Lumber Company.</p>
1936	Robert ("Robbie") Williams born. Fire on the Kabetogama Peninsula raced toward Kettle Falls. Civilian Conservation Corps foreman Noble Trygg and the men at camp S-81 on Kabetogama were credited with saving the hotel by constructing a firebreak between Mica Bay and Anderson Bay.
1937	<p>Norman Selsaas worked at the hotel—"The floors were straight then. † Former prostitute, Lumberjack Carrie, was the main cook that year." Norman lived in a log cabin a short distance east of the hotel. Norman later became superintendent of the M&O company.</p> <p>The piano came to the hotel from Bob Williams' sister.</p> <p>While sluicing logs through the dam, Captain Jim McGaw lost control of the tugboat <u>Archie</u> and McGaw and his engineer went over the dam. The men survived but the boat sank in 80 feet of water and was recovered the following September.</p>
1938	Major flood year at Kettle Falls.
1939	Arnold Kerr started doing chores for Lil Williams in 1938. In 1939, Lil asked him to go under the hotel to see what could be done about the rolling floors. He dug out all the mud that had collected and put cribs around the support posts. A couple years later a heavy rain brought more mud and the floors were never straight again. Kerr said he repaired the nickelodeon to keep Lil from throwing it out. He also raised the price from a nickel to a dime. He started to replace the boardwalk in 1939. He got about 50' from the hotel when Lil told him to stop because it was getting too expensive. The original boardwalk to the hotel had been made out of salvaged boom logs laid about 4' apart with planks on top.

1941	<p>Minnesota historian and author Grace Lee Nute visited Kettle Falls.</p> <p>Bob Williams started spending winters in Florida where he operated a resort in Key Largo.</p>
1942	<p>Photographs show striped awnings over the windows, a canopy over the entrance steps and flower beds added to the hotel by this time.</p> <p>Norton & Peel who photographed many scenes around the state, photographed a log drive through Kettle Falls.</p> <p>Chris Monson's trading post closed.</p>
1944	<p>A new damtender's house, called the company house, was designed by Ferdinand Hilke, who was an architectural draftsman for the Insulite company in International Falls. His design included a concrete engine room with a deck on top, a battery storage room, a radio room, 1 bedroom, bath, and kitchen on the main floor.</p>
1945	<p>The company house was constructed by Scott Erickson of Orr, and wired by Jack Blixt of the M&O for 32 volts to handle the 2 generators that charged the glass jar batteries. The radio, located in a special radio room, was a GE model on a special logging frequency. The damtender worked 7 days a week and had to radio in to the office at 9 am, 2 pm and 5 pm.</p>
1946	<p>Mike Williams born. The "big house" or guest annex was constructed behind the hotel to accommodate large fishing groups.</p>
1946-47	<p>Repairs were made to the dam. "Stubby" Harris, son of Billy Harris, who was a welder on the dam project, fell over the dam and drowned.</p>
1947	<p>Lauren Erickson became the radioman at Kettle Falls for M&O. "I could never leave and I was paid very little so I quit after one season. A log workshop and Monson's store were still standing on the Namakan lakeshore. These were eventually torn down by damtender Herb Williams.</p>
1948	<p>Charles A. "Chuck" Williams born.</p>
Late 1940s	<p>Witte 110/120-volt electrical power plant installed in the Kettle Falls Hotel and tied into existing "knob and tube" wiring.</p>
1950	<p>Chris Monson died. Herbert R. Williams (no relation to Charlie and Blanche) became damtender (1950-1965). Herb was a commercial fisherman and also ran the portage business at Kettle Falls. He trapped in the fall and winter. Mabel Williams helped out with cooking at the hotel. A major flood year with lots of snow, rapid thaw, and torrential spring rains that brought water to the porch of the hotel.</p>
1952	<p>Peggy Williams born.</p>
1954	<p>Charles "Chappy" Kampman died. The Williams' recalled, "Chappie and Nellie were well educated people. They spent 25 years here and never went to town once. Chappy later was bartender at the Moose Club in Ranier. He and Nellie lived up in the Carr Building."</p> <p>Major flood year at Kettle Falls.</p>
1956	<p>Bob Williams died. Charlie and Blanche help Lil run the hotel. Witte</p>

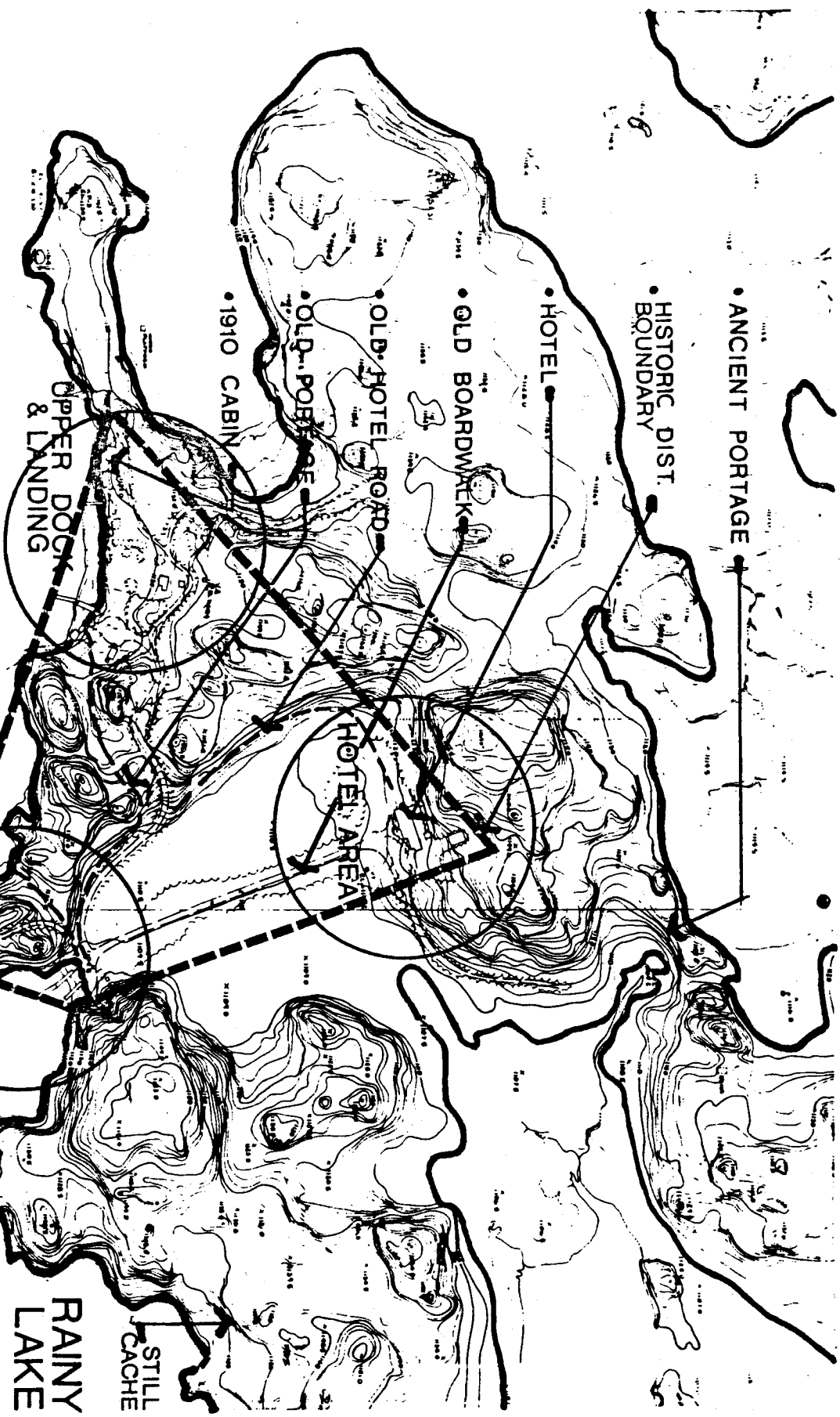
	<p>power plant and 2 other buildings at Kettle Falls were consumed by fire. One was a log cabin near the power plant that Oscar Nelson was living in the winter while caretaking the hotel. He moved to the 1910 log cabin after the fire.</p> <p>Power plant replaced by a Buda 20/25 KW power plant. Downstairs wiring replaced with Romex wiring. Running water installed in the kitchen and to a sink in the upstairs hallway. Screen pantry converted into auxiliary kitchen with walk-in cooler. Laundry built on east end of auxiliary kitchen.</p> <p>A shower house was constructed behind the hotel sometime between 1956 and 1958.</p>
1957	Guest cabin constructed on the point west of the log cabin.
1958	Mrs. Charles (Ellen or Nellie) Kampman died. Another guest cabin constructed west of the log cabin.
1950s	Hamm Brewing Company starts using the slogan "Born in the Land of Sky Blue Waters" and films the background scenery for the Hamm's bear commercials at Kettle Falls.
1950s (?)	<p>Reuben Christenson was responsible for maintaining all the M&O radios including the one at the company house. They were 2-way FM systems. When Boise Cascade acquired M&O, the radio was replaced with a radio phone through Canada. Reuben moved the light plant from the concrete "vault" at the company house to a small building north of the house on the trail to the hotel. Rail system to work the stop logs installed sometime during the 1950s (?)</p> <p>The hotel starts to seriously deteriorate but its undulating charm becomes a tourist attraction.</p>
1961	Lil Williams died in Florida. Charlie Williams retired from the paper mill and Charlie and Blanche took over ownership of the hotel. Norman Selsaas became Superintendent at M&O and therefore was in charge of the dam and company house at Kettle Falls. A 10 kw Witte power plant replaced the Buda power plan. Plumbing was extended to provide men's and women's toilets on the first floor of the hotel, in a former storage area behind the barroom, and on the second floor.
1962	New roof on the hotel. Dam renovations began.
1964	An addition, built at the north end of the second floor, provided two shower rooms, each with a lavatory and water closet. A radio telephone was installed in the hotel. Boathouse constructed on Namakan shore.
1965	Charles (Chuck) R. Williams became damtender (1965-1975) after Herb Williams died.
Mid-1960s	Company house was resided, reroofed and insulated (before 1965)
1968	Dam renovations continued.
1969	Gas stove installed in the kitchen of the hotel. Blanche baked 36 loaves of bread a day. Blanche's niece Sherry cooked and did laundry at the hotel that summer. Witte power plant replaced with a 20kw General Motors

	diesel power plant. Dam renovations completed. The work included extensive repairs to piers and abutments, reshaping the upstream faces of several piers and replacement of timber sills with concrete sills in the sluices.
1970	Part of the kitchen rewired, additional lighting and a gas heater installed in the barroom.
1971	Bell Telephone system installed.
1973	Bedrooms 3 and 5 combined to provide more space for Charlie and Blanche.
1975	Garage constructed on Namakan side. Voyageurs National Park established.
1974	Second floor rewired, replacing original 1918 knob and tube wiring with concealed wiring, pull chain lights with switch-operated lights.
1976	Kettle Falls Hotel placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
1977	Mike Williams officially became damtender (unofficially since 1971). He was damtender until 1982. The National Park Service acquired the hotel. Kettle Falls Hotel, Inc. is created with Mike Williams as president and Chuck Williams as vice-president and the hotel is operated by the Williams' under a concession agreement.
1978	Kitchen remodeled. Kettle Falls Historic District added to National Register.
1982	Chuck Williams became president of Kettle Falls, Inc. and concessioner of the hotel.
1983	The first year that menus were used at the hotel.
1986-87	The hotel is closed for 2 seasons for major renovation.
1990	Auxiliary lodging units constructed between the hotel and the dam.
1992	Blanche Williams died at age 79 followed by Charlie Williams at age 83.
1992-1995	DARJO, Inc. operates the Kettle Falls concession.
1996	KAB CON acquires the Kettle Falls concession.

KETTLE FALLS AREA & HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



NAMAKAN LAKE



LOWER DOCK, LANDING & DAM

RAINNY LAKE

STILL CACHE