

PLACE NAMES OF THE FOOTHILLS

Naphtha

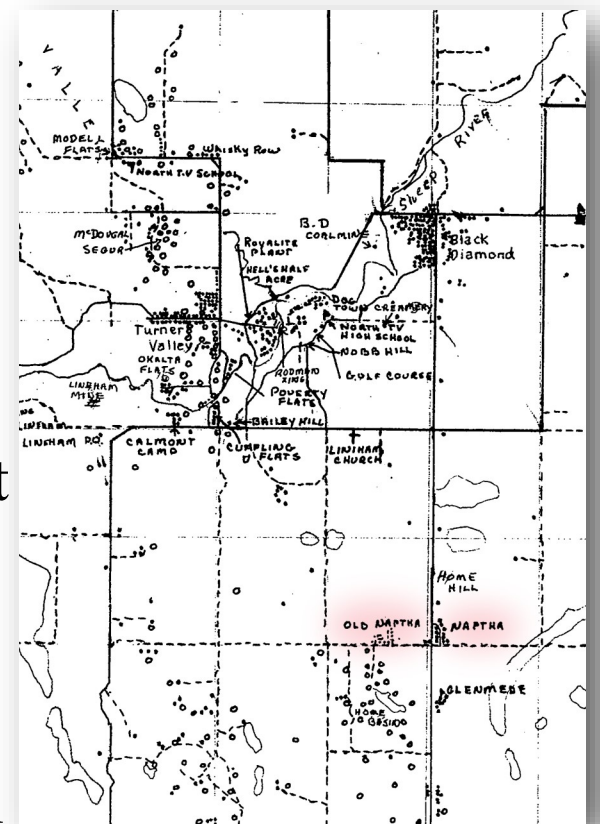
The hamlet of Naphtha is located on Highway 22 south of Black Diamond at SW28-19-2-W5.

The community's name is a legacy from the heyday of the oil and gas industry in the area. Naphtha is a product obtained through the dry distillation process in a crude oil refinery. Since it is the second lightest product of all the refinery yields produced, it is obtained immediately after liquefied petroleum gas but before other petroleum products such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, fuel oil, etc. Naphtha is used to dilute heavy oil to help move it through pipelines, make high-octane gas, make lighter fluid, and clean metal.

Early maps show the Naphtha settlement was first located on the west side of the road at Section 29, later moving to Section 28. These settlements consisted of bunkhouses and shacks to accommodate oil workers including those working for Home Oil which had its first lease on Section 20, four miles south of Black Diamond. Their No. 1 well came in March 1929 with a naphtha flow of 800 barrels per day, followed by Home Oil's No. 2 & No. 3 wells. The Calmont Oil Company also owned leases at Naphtha.

Most of the oil workers' shacks were gone by the 1950s. Since then more

permanent homes have been built and several families continue to call the hamlet of Naphtha home.



Hand-drawn map, 1945



Looking south on Gibson Street in Naphtha, 2019.



The hamlet today.

Sources: *In the Light of the Flares*, www.petropedia.com, and *County of Foothills*.