Form 1 (July 1	NATIONAL REG	FILE DEPARTMENT OF T IONAL PARK SERVIC ISTER OF HISTO Y - NOMINATIO	HE INTERIOR CE DRIC PLACES	()NG. DIST BTATE: Washing COUNTY: Okanoo	iton gan USE ONL Y	у].
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13. CI	CATEGORY	r		1	ACCESSIBLE	-
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	🗋 Object	Both	Being Consi	dered X Preservation w in progress	OFK TI No	
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DESCRIPTION 7.

CONDITION

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					Altered		X	Unalter	ed
DESCRIBE	THE	PR	ESENT	AND	ORIGINAL	(11	known)	PHYSIC	: 41

X	Unaltered
wn)	PHYSICAL

APPEARANCE

(Check One)

Deteriorated

Ruins

(Check One)

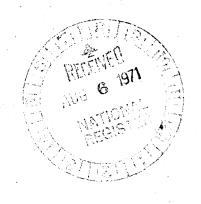
Moved

Unexposed

X Original Site

The Parson Smith Tree is dead, but by joint efforts of the Okanogan County Historical Society and the Okanogan National Forest Service, it has been preserved. The top has been cut out of it and a shelter has been built over it, housing both the tree and a sign made and erected by the Historical Society. The tree is far off of the beaten path and plans at one time were made to move it where more people could see it. However, it was decided best to leave it in the primitive area where it was found.

The United State Forest Service is using a picture of the old tree in its advertising folder of the Okanogan National Forest and the Cascade Primitive Area. The Forest Service has also built a trail to the tree so people can get to it.



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ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1886		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ock One or More as Appropria	te)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
- Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
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Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	

TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Close to monument 85 on the Canadian border, nineteen feet inside the U. S. and about a quarter of a mile west of where the Pasayten River flows from the North Cascade Primitive Area, into British Columbia, stands the Parson Smith Tree. On this large tree, which is now dead, is the following inscription:

> "I've roamed in foreign parts my boys, And many lands have seen, But Columbia is my idol yet Of all lands, she is Queen."

Parson Smith, 1886.

The words do not appear in neat lines but are carved below each other, two-or three at a time, starting about as high as a man can conveniently reach with a knife.

Few people had penetrated this rugged, primitive area and no trail lead to the tree. However, a man by the name of John Bell of Tonasket, Washington, is reported to have seen the tree, in 1902 or 3 when he was working with a border survey crew. A forest service ranger found the tree in 1913 and in the 1930's the forest service made an attempt to preserve the tree by putting a shelter over it. A couple of years ago, the forest service and the Okanogan County Historical Society joined forces for a marking and preservation program.

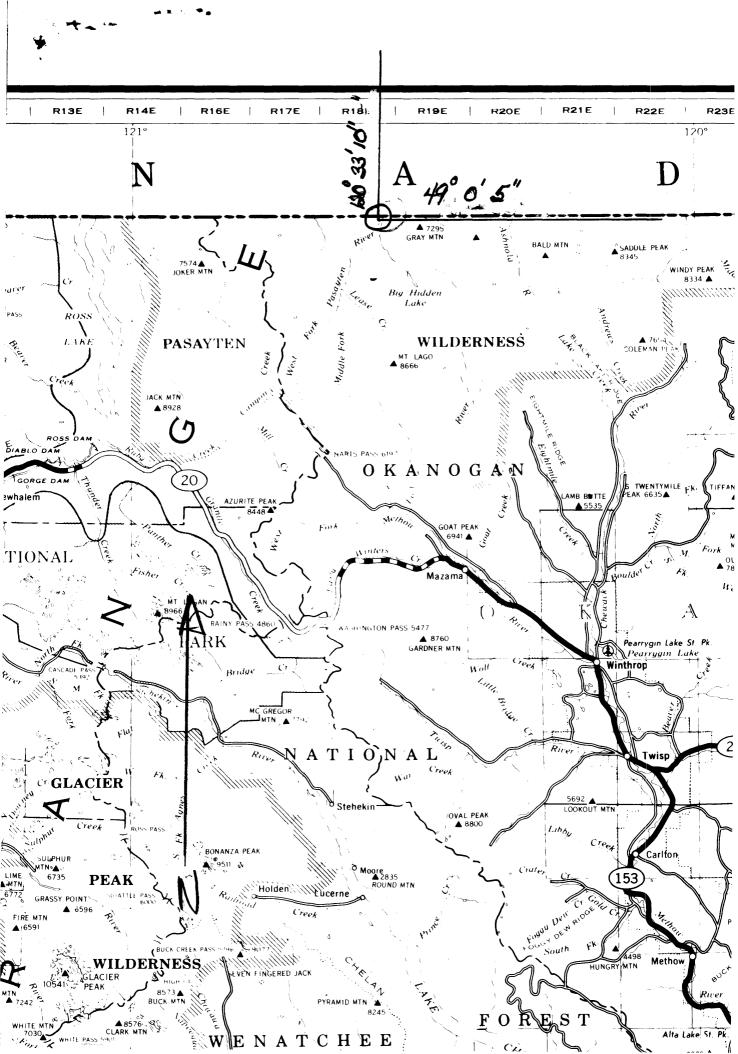
The sign erected reads:

PARSON SMITH TREE

This Smith, a mighty man was he. A tireless, life-loving man, who shouldered packs that would stagger a mule. He has been prospecting around Hope, B. C., with no luck to speak of, so he struck across the wilderness, relaying several hundred pounds of gear and supplies. Smith came past here in June of 1886, pausing to carve this doggeral into this tree. He went on to spend the winter, trapping in the upper Methow. Alfred L. (Parson) Smith died on the Coast about 1920. His poetry never won a pulitzer prize but sure enough came from the heart.

Site marked by the Okanogan National Forest and the Okanogan County Historical Society.

	Okanogan County	/ Heritage,	Decemb	er, 1964	4 and D	ecembo	er, 196	5.	
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Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF T NATIONAL PARK SERVIC		STATI	Washington	n	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTO			Okanogan		
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	(Type all entries - attach to or enc	lose with map)	ENTRY NUMBER	1972	
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AND/OR H	ISTORIC:					
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THIS AREA IS NOT COVERED BY THE U. S. G. S.

MAP SURVEY