

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 8 1975**
DATE ENTERED **NOV 2 1975**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hiram F. (Okanogan)

~~Okanogan~~ Smith Orchard

AND/OR COMMON

Thorndike Orchard

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Located on the east shore of Osoyoos Lake,

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

approx. 2 miles north of Oroville

VICINITY OF

#4 - Honorable Mike McCormack

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Washington

53

Okanogan

047

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

—UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. David Thorndike

STREET & NUMBER

RR 1, Box 210

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Oroville

Washington

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Okanogan County Assessor - Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Okanogan

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hiram Smith's original orchard is located at Smith Point on the sloping hills which border the east side of Lake Osoyoos, a few miles south of the Canadian border. Within the Okanogan Valley, the area is sheltered and enjoys mild winters and notably sunny and warm summers. Only six of the original apple trees survived out of 1,200 planted in 1856-57 but they still bear fruit. The older trees stand randomly among newer growth.

The exact number of structures originally associated with the orchard homestead is not known; early photographs indicate at least two. Both were log structures one-and-a-half stories high with shake covered gable roofs, although one was executed with considerably more skill than the other. The cruder of the two was made of rough hewn logs, poorly chinked, and measuring approximately 15' x 20'. A doorway and window were placed in one of the long sides as was a shed roofed porch. Adjacent to this building was a more impressive structure of squared logs, individually larger than those in the first structure, and somewhat dimensionally larger. One end of the gable roof extended to cover a stairway to the balcony and top floor space. The roof extension was supported at the extremity of each eave by a post set in the ground and the gable end itself was partially covered with filleting boards. This structure survives today but is much altered. It has been reroofed and the gable extension and stairway removed. About 30 years ago, it was covered with drop siding, hiding the dovetail corner joints. A door and two small windows appear on the south side and it is now used as a tool shed.

Another small structure remains from the Hiram Smith period of occupancy and is identified variously as a fruit dryer or storage shed; the degree of dilapidation makes any identification tentative. It has vertical board bearing walls with a small door in end; immediately above the door is a smaller square hatchway. The gable roofed building is largely collapsed from heavy snow loads and is overgrown with vines.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1858-1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hiram F. Smith was born in Kennebec County, Maine, on June 11, 1829. His parents brought him as far west as Iowa in 1841 and then to Michigan in 1845. At that time he returned to the east to New York to learn the printing and newspaper business.

Working for the New York Tribune, in the employ of Horace Greeley, Smith made his way to California in 1849 and in the early 1850's moved to Washington territory. As a mail carrier from the Hudson's Bay Company post at Hope, British Columbia to Washington territory points, he passed through the Okanogan Valley, a place of mild winters and sunny warm summers. He resolved to build his home here, taking up squatters rights at a location along the east shore of Lake Osoyoos, just below the present Canadian border. Smith later purchased land from Chief Tonasket and had a domain of almost 1,000 acres.

While still engaged as a mail carrier, he obtained 1,200 small apple trees from Fort Hope, wrapped them in a small box or a blanket, and transported them, in 1856-57, by packhorse and snowhoe to his homestead. Eventually, he planted twenty-four acres of apples on the slopes along the east shore of the lake. Smith later added eight acres of peaches grown from pits, and three acres of grapes. His was the start of the apple industry in Washington.

In 1860 he joined the gold rush to British Columbia and established a trading post at Rock Creek. Engaging in mining, he is credited with originating the "rock bottom" sluice box, a great aid in the recovery of fine gold. Returning to his ranch in 1861, he married 14 year old Mary, daughter of Chief Manuel, of the Colville-Okanogan tribe.

Hiram Smith developed a trade with miners, trappers, and Indians with dried fruit as a mainstay of his trade. His trading post, erected in 1863, in connection with his orchard, became the center of commerce within a 100 mile radius. His farm was expanded to a large and prosperous stock ranch and became round-up headquarters for neighbors who began to settle in the area during the 1860's. He operated the post for twenty-five years. At his 24 foot dining table, laden with the produce of his lands, he welcomed all who passed through the remote country.

Although he was much occupied with the management of the ranch, trading post, and mining properties, he also taught his wife to read and write. Later, circa 1880, he built the first customs house about a mile from his home on the lake.

His orchard and ranch were threatened twice. Before the Canadian-United States boundary was established, there were doubts whether his property was located in Canada

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Okanogan Smith Trees Nurtured At Oroville", Omak Chronicle Horticultural Magazine, February 6, 1975.

Warings, Guy. My Pioneer Past. B. Humphries Inc., Boston.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	3	2	2	7	5	5	4	2	6	3	7	5
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert M. French

ORGANIZATION

Okanogan County Historical Society

DATE

October 10, 1969

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Okanogan

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur M. Skolnik
Arthur M. Skolnik

TITLE

State Conservator

DATE

October 1, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

John A. [Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/12/75

ATTEST:

DATE

NOV 10 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 8 1975
	NOV 12 1975
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

or the United States. In 1872, the federal government was making preliminary efforts to establish a reservation for Chief Moses and his people. The reservation was to include Smith's orchard and ranch and would obliterate his happy, peaceful existence as well as his fortune. Smith protested vigorously and offered to sell for \$250,000 but no action was taken by the government. The matter was subsequently dropped and Chief Moses ultimately lived on the reduced Colville reservation.

Occasionally extreme winter weather came to the region. Such was the case in 1908-09. All the apple trees in the country froze except those of Smith's at Lake Osoyoos. His survived the cold winter and the fruit industry started all over.

In 1967 one of the original trees, a Winesap 3-1/2 feet at the base and covering a 70 foot area, yielded 100 boxes of fruit. In 1948 it gave 112 boxes. Three other original Winesaps provide 75 boxes annually. Another original tree is a Gloria Mondane which also yields 100 boxes of apples. A Blue Pearmain has been grafted to a more recent Red Delicious but bears very few Pearmains. Currently only six apple trees and a single pear tree survive from the original orchard.

The trees surviving from the original 1857 orchard are still objects of great interest and known to orchardists throughout the country because of articles in trade magazines. Switches from the trees for grafting have gone as far distant as Australia. Four varieties remain: Winesap, Delicious, Blue Pearmain and Gloria Mondane; one of the Winesaps is three-and-a-half feet at the base and spans 70 feet with its branches. Because of recent extreme winters, the trees are in weakened condition but continue to bear fruit. The fruit is used in an annual memorial apple and pear salad prepared by the present owner in honor of Smith at Thanksgiving.

A year before his death, Smith divorced his wife Mary in favor of a young Seattle woman. While traveling from Oroville to Puget Sound by horseback, he developed a cold. He stayed in Seattle for treatment, but his strength failed and he contracted pneumonia and died in 1893. He was buried in Lakeview Cemetary between two prominent Seattle pioneers, Henry Yesler and Otto Ranke.

Hiram F. Smith served in the territorial and state legislatures at which time it is assumed he received the name "Okanogan" Smith. Greatly respected by all, this genial, honest, fair-minded man also earned the title of "Father of Washington State's Million Dollar Apple Industry" as well as "Father of Okanogan County". He founded an industry which spread to the benchlands and valleys of Central and Eastern Washington, covering a production area of tens of thousands of acres.