

Irwin Shire Council

Municipal Inventory Place Record

Place Details **Place Number:** 052 **Category:** 1B **HCWA No:** 12480
TPS No: 13 **Assessment Date:** 16/10/1996 **Last Revision Date:**

Name: Irwin River Mouth
Former Name: Thungarra
Type of Place: Site
Address: off Church Street
Map Reference: HUNT 1:2000 BE42/35.03
Locality Name: Dongara **Area of Site:**
GPS Northing: **GPS Easting:**

Photograph

Date of Photograph: 12/07/2004 **Source:** G. W. Grundy



View looking west

Ownership

Owner: Benedictine Community, New Norcia **Owner Phone/Fax:**
Address: New Norcia

Site Details

Lot/Locn: see Description **Diagram/Plan:** **Vol/Folio:**
Reserve: **Purpose:**
Assess No: 2023 **Vesting:**
Occupied: No **Occupier:**
PubAccess: Yes **Lease:**

Irwin Shire Council

Municipal Inventory Place Record

Uses of the Place

Original Use:

Current Use:

Description

Walls: N/A

Roof: N/A

Condition: N/A

Integrity: N/A

Orig'l Fabric:

Modifications

Sited between the townsites of Dongara to the north and Port Denison to the south, the Irwin River Mouth is an attractive location. A sand bar which blocks the river's flow into the Indian Ocean opens during the winter months and at times of high river levels.

2004

A walk trail along the northern boundary of the estuary has been constructed with timber stairs that connect the lookout at Church Street to the river estuary walk. The Shire of Irwin constructed the lookout and stairs and the Dongara Townscape Committee designed interpretive signage at the lookout which was funded by a Lotterywest Grant.

The adjoining land to the south is currently being subdivided and land titles are being prepared.

History

Const'n Date: N/A

Source:

Architect: N/A

Builder: N/A

The Irwin River Estuary was the site of the first port, the first harbourmaster's house, the first flour mill (Place No. 63) and the first tillage lease (Loc 688) dating from the 1850's. The area also had two quarries, one located on the south bank of the river east of fmr. Denison House (Place No. 63) the other on the north bank west of the lookout. The latter had an access road running south from Church Street, "Quarry Street". The wreck site of the 'Albatross' is sited just beyond the estuary. The wreck occurred in 1873 with great loss of life.

(Source: IDHS Records)

Chronology Entries

1857 A cottage was built on the south bank, some 300 yards from the mouth of the Irwin River, by Lockier Burges for Edward Downes and his family. Downes was required to fly a flag to signal passing ships to call in to collect goods.

Ancient Landmarks, Bain, M. A., UWA Press, Perth, 1975 Pages 160

Historic Theme(s)

HCWA

AHC

104 Land allocation and subdivision

3.3.5 Laying out boundaries

201 River and sea transport

3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports

310 Manufacturing and processing

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

Statement of Significance

The Irwin River Mouth has high historic significance, given its connection to the establishment of the first port and harbourmaster's house dating from the early 1850's and the wreck of the Albatross.

The area has high aesthetic significance, and as such makes a high contribution to the character of the area.

The area has high social significance given its aesthetic qualities and the high use of the walktrails for recreation by the community.

Management Category: 1B

POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON THE STATE REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES.

Highest level of protection appropriate: warrants further assessment for possible entry into the State Register of Heritage Places. Provide maximum incentives under the Town Planning Scheme with

Irwin Shire Council

Municipal Inventory Place Record

encouragement to the owner to conserve the significance of the place. Prepare a floor plan and photographically record the place prior to any redevelopment.

Other Listings

Shire of Irwin - Town Planning Scheme (13); 16/10/1996

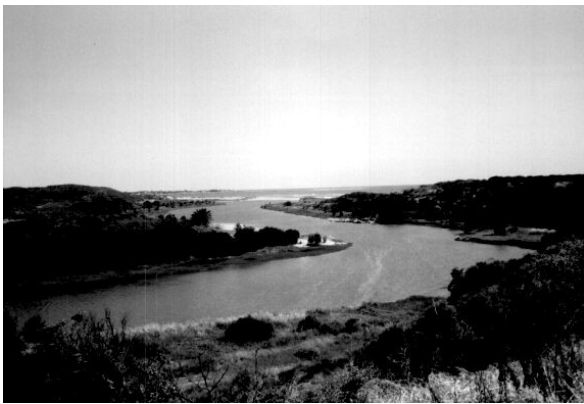
Supporting Information

IDHS Records
Bain M. A., "Ancient Landmarks", UWA Press, 1975.
HCWA Database No. 12480

Additional Photographs

Date of Photograph: 16/10/1996 IR052-1

Source: *Suba & Grundy*



Irwin River Estuary looking west.
