

# Irwin Shire Council

## Municipal Inventory Place Record

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**Place Details**      **Place Number:** 102      **Category:** 2      **HCWA No:** 11880  
**TPS No:** 09      **Assessment Date:** 16/10/1996      **Last Revision Date:**  
**Name:** Downes' Cottage  
**Former Name:** Sketchblock Cottage  
**Type of Place:** House  
**Address:** Brand Highway  
**Map Reference:** HUNT 1:2000 BE42/35.03  
**Locality Name:** Dongara      **Area of Site:**  
**GPS Northing:**      **GPS Easting:**

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### Photograph

**Date of Photograph:** 16/10/1996

**Source:** *Suba & Grundy*



North facade former Downes' Cottage

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### Ownership

**Owner:** G & S Mobilia      **Owner Phone/Fax:**  
**Address:** PO Box 282, Dongara, 6525

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### Site Details

**Lot/Locn:** Lot 1 Loc 933      **Diagram/Plan:**      **Vol/Folio:**  
**Reserve:**      **Purpose:**  
**Assess No:** 4024      **Vesting:**  
**Occupied:** Yes      **Occupier:**  
**PubAccess:** No      **Lease:**

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### Uses of the Place

**Original Use:** Residence

**Current Use:** Residence

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### Description

**Walls:** Limestone/Brick

**Roof:** Corrugated Iron

**Condition:** Good

**Integrity:** Medium

**Orig'l Fabric:**

**Modifications**

1996

Originally a four room rendered stone cottage, additions constructed of rendered brick have been added to the south east and west. The original central section has a hipped corrugated iron roof with extending broken back verandah supported on pine posts. There are two french doors either side of the main front entry door. The central section has a lean-to roof to the rear and a stone chimney to the east. The additions have similar design and timber fittings as the original structure.

2004

A large addition to the south east side was added in about 1999.

The place is maintained by the owners.

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### History

**Const'n Date:** Unknown

**Source:**

**Architect:** Unknown

**Builder:** Unknown

This house was built on S. F. Moore's land, being part of location 933, for spinster Charlotte Downes who was a dressmaker. Charlotte died in c.1900 and the house was taken over by her brother, William and family. After the death of S.F. Moore all the blocks on location 933 were sold. Mr Tollson Mason bought the cottage in the 1950s. In 1971, the Irwin River flooded the cottage and for many years it stood empty till purchased in the 1980s by Barbara and Robert Miller. The Miller's restored the cottage, which they named "Sketchblock Cottage", and operated an artists studio there. It was sold in about 1992 and was owned by the Yates family until 2003 who further restored the cottage and added a wing to the south east side.

(Source: IDHS. Records)

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### Historic Theme(s)

HCWA

AHC

104 Land allocation and subdivision

3.10.2 Encouraging women into employment

603 Local heroes and battlers

8.10.2 Creating visual arts

605 Famous and infamous people

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### Statement of Significance

The former Downes' Cottage has historic significance for its connection to the development of the 'East End' of Dongara and the early settlers, the Downes family. Further the place adds to the character of the East End of Dongara.

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### Management Category: 2

MAXIMUM INCENTIVES UNDER THE TOWN PLANNING SCHEME.

High level of protection appropriate: provide maximum protection under the Town Planning Scheme with encouragement to the owner to conserve the significance of the place. Prepare a floor plan and photographically record the place prior to any redevelopment.

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### Other Listings

Shire of Irwin - Town Planning Scheme (09); 16/10/1996

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### Supporting Information

IDHS Records

AHC 009676 01-02

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HCWA Database No. 11880