

# Irwin Shire Council

## Municipal Inventory Place Record

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**Place Details**      **Place Number:** 111      **Category:** 2      **HCWA No:** 1216  
**TPS No:** 05      **Assessment Date:** 05/08/1997      **Last Revision Date:** 20/09/2004

**Name:** Obawarra  
**Former Name:** Oobawarra  
**Type of Place:** House  
**Address:** Brand Highway  
**Map Reference:** HUNT 1:2000 BE42/35.03  
**Locality Name:** Yardarino      **Area of Site:**  
**GPS Northing:**      **GPS Easting:**

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### Photograph

**Date of Photograph:** 22/03/2003      **Source:** J. Bygrave



Northwest facade, Obawarra Homestead

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### Ownership

**Owner:** H. & J. Bygrave      **Owner Phone/Fax:**  
**Address:** PO Box 190, Dongara, 6525

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### Site Details

**Lot/Locn:** Loc 270      **Diagram/Plan:**      **Vol/Folio:**  
**Reserve:**      **Purpose:**  
**Assess No:** 4532      **Vesting:**  
**Occupied:** Yes      **Occupier:**  
**PubAccess:** Restricted      **Lease:**

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### Uses of the Place

**Original Use:** Residence

**Current Use:** Residence

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### Description

**Walls:** Limestone

**Roof:** Corrugated Iron

**Condition:** Good

**Integrity:** High

**Orig'l Fabric:**

**Modifications**

1996

This large random rubble limestone house has a hipped corrugated iron roof with a separate verandah roof, which covers the surrounding verandahs. The stonework has a pink mortar, which was made from the red sand found on the property. The openings and corners of the building have red brick quoins. The verandahs are supported on timber posts, which are set onto concrete block piers. Windows are timber frame and double hung. There are stone extensions to the east and west and a brick chimney to the west.

2004

The house is being maintained by the owners.

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### History

**Const'n Date:** c1900

**Source:**

**Architect:** Unknown

**Builder:** Unknown

1996

Originally part of the Cattle Company lease from 1850, it was taken over by Thomas Kearney in 1861 when the large lease holders had to release some of their land. Thomas Kearney, a relation to the Burges family, was manager for L.C. Burges. The original Oobawarra building was a shepherd's hut built near the west boundary of the Cattle Company lease and a peg which locates that boundary is located across the river in "Claremont" (loc1791). Later the property passed back to L.C. Burges and then to Peter Healy c.1900 and then Nelson Healy. Extensions were made to the house with materials taken from Dr Bartlett's farmhouse at loc 2772. In c.1947 the property was sold as a soldier settlement farm to Mr Connaughton and then Colin and Ronnie Dawson (Ronnie was the nursing post sister for Dongara in the early 1950s). Later it was sold to the Bygrave family and is now run by Haydn and Judy Bygrave, who along with running the farm, have opened the old home as a farm stay.

2004

The property continues to be used as described in 1996.

(Source: IDHS Records; Mingenew History Book)

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### Chronology Entries

1848

Dr Ferdinand von Summer was appointed by the Executive Council to undertake a geological survey of the Victoria District. He sailed on the Champion accompanied by A.C. Gregory, they camped at Oobawara Spring then travelled east to the coal seam.

Governor Charles Fitzgerald took up his appointment as Governor and A.C. Gregory accompanied by Lockier Burges returned to explore the Victoria District. Lockier Burges as a 'flock holder' was to accurately report the value of the lands for grazing purposes. Their route took them inland and north to the Gascoyne River thence south along the coast. In the area of the Bowes River, A.C. Gregory reported a find of garnets, iron pyrites and a mineral resembling plumbago. This was confirmed as lead ore. Burges later reported that the Victoria district had 100,000 acres of good grazing lands which could support 17,000 sheep. He reported that the Irwin district was more suited to cattle than sheep. On their journey south, the party camped near Oobawara Spring. Within a month of their return, Governor Fitzgerald decided to visit Champion Bay and the site where the lead ore had been found.

Ancient Landmarks, Bain, M. A., UWA Press, Perth, 1975 Pages 28-30

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### Historic Theme(s)

HCWA

AHC

105 Exploration and surveying

3.3.3 Prospecting for precious metals

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104 Land allocation and subdivision  
602 Early settlers

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements  
3.9 Farming for commercial profit

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### Statement of Significance

The house at Obawarra has historic significance for its connection to the development of the Irwin District. The large scale of the house combined with the use of local materials and the picturesque setting near the Irwin River in well maintained gardens gives the place high aesthetic appeal.

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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 (05); 10/03/1998

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### Supporting Information

IDHS Records  
AHC Reference 009647 01-01  
HCWA Database No.1216

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### Additional Photographs

**Date of Photograph:** 5/08/1997      IR111-1

**Source:** *Suba & Grundy*



North façade.

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