

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

For assistance with this form you may contact:

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins, Manager's and Workers' Cottages
Any other or former name(s):	
Is the place already on another heritage list?	Yes, the winery ruins are local heritage listed. Manager's cottage located on the south-east and Workers' cottage located on south-west of the winery ruins are not local heritage listed.

2. Location					
Street Address:	207 Whittings Road				
	Suburb / Town: Blewitt Springs			Post Code: 5293	
Local Council Name:	City of Onkaparinga				
Land Description: (if known)	Title: CT	Volume: 5597	Folio: 84	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	Plan Type: H	Plan No: 10600	Section: 683	Hundred: Willunga	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X			Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)	

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	1861- 1887 Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly C1887 – 1912 Thomas Hardy and Sons Pty Ltd 1955 – 1984 Richard Degiden Clark and Kenneth Thomas Hardy 1984 – 1988 Richard Degiden Clark and Robert Gordon Hardy 1988 – 1990 Robert Gordon Hardy and Andrew Martin Hardy 1990 – 2023 Estate of Mr R G Hardy

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	
Organisation/Position:	

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Daytime Phone:	
Fax:	
Postal Address:	
Email Address:	

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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	<p>Former Tintara Winery ruins include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five intact slate fermenting tanks abutting original north-east wall of former Tintara Winery cellar • Three slate fermenting tanks with brick exterior shell • Surviving bases of former slate fermenting tanks with masonry plinths • Other surviving remains of masonry elements of former upper level of Tintara Winery cellar • two elliptical rendered masonry tanks with fixed cast-iron rods • brick tank with rendered masonry dome with cast-iron banding • numerous surviving examples of cast iron machinery associated with former winery operations • manager's cottage on south-east of ruins • workers' cottages on south-west of ruins <p>See Attachment 1 – Report by [REDACTED] (GGA) and [REDACTED] on Former Tintara Winery ruins.</p> <p>Current condition: The cellar building and the fermenting house (that housed the slate fermenting tanks) were demolished in the late 20th century. The surviving structures are in reasonable to poor condition and are currently exposed to the elements.</p> <p>There have been additions and alterations to the manager's and workers' cottages over a period of time.</p>
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	There may be remains of walls and footings of the demolished former Tintara Winery cellars and outbuildings
Date you inspected the place or object:	The place was inspected in 2021 by [REDACTED] (GGA) [REDACTED] as part of [REDACTED] City-wide Heritage Review. The place was inspected in 2023 by [REDACTED]
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	The owners were notified of [REDACTED] City-wide Heritage Review, and they have recently been notified of the potential State Heritage Listing of their place. The owners were also contact by GGA to set up a time for their inspection in 2021.
Current use of the place or object:	Ruins except for one of the slate fermenter that was made functional in 2018

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Original or former use(s):	Commercial viticultural production complex
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	The surviving structures are exposed to the elements.
Name of Builder:	Unknown
Any other information:	

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1861 Finish: 1862
Name of Designer / Architect:	Designed by Dr Alexander Kelly
History of the nominated place or object:	<p>Alexander Kelly established Tintara Winery in 1862 with funds from Tintara Vineyard company that included some of the key South Australian businessmen (Sir Thomas Elder, Alexander Lang Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr Smith and Sir Edward Stirling) as its shareholders.</p> <p>A house was built as Kelly's residence in 1861 and a large cellar by 1866 and a fermenting house was built in 1867.</p> <p>In 1873, Kelly had started building a mansion on the hill. However, at this time Kelly's Tintara vineyard was enduring financial difficulties associated with the colony's financial depression and a weakening British export market.</p> <p>The property was acquired by Thomas Hardy (later Thomas Hardy & Sons) in 1877-8; expanding the vineyard and increasing both intercolonial and international production.</p> <p>Under the Hardy's ownership, there were 360 residents on the property.</p> <p>Hardy built homes for his permanent employees and huts for his seasonal employees. The cellar building was operational until 1927.</p> <p>In 1955, the cellar building and fermenting house were impacted by bushfire and were demolished in late 1970s with only the surviving fabric mentioned under description of the nominated place.</p> <p>The manager's cottage and workers' cottages still exist.</p> <p>See attachment 1 and attachment 2 for detailed history</p>

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Historical sources used to support your nomination: Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	<p>Burden, Rosemary & Thomas Hardy & Sons. 1978, <i>A family tradition in fine winemaking: one hundred and twenty-five years of Thomas Hardy and Sons, 1853-1978</i>, Thomas Hardy and Sons Board of Directors, Mile End, S.A.</p> <p>McDougall, Katrina. 1983, <i>Winery Buildings in South Australia 1836 to 1936 The Southern Districts</i>, Adelaide: University of Adelaide.</p> <p>https://oxhardywines.com.au/slate-fermenters/</p> <p>See attachment 1 and attachment 2 for more sources.</p>
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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?
<p>It is of State heritage significance as it is representative of the important role wine production played in State's economy, early growth of commercial viticulture in South Australia and the substantial contribution by Alexander Kelly, who was one of the three medical practitioners (Dr Christopher Penfold and Dr William Angoves were others) turned winemaker in South Australia and was an early viticultural identity in the Southern Vales.</p> <p>The site is also strongly associated with Thomas Hardy who contributed to the growing international reputation of South Australian Wines during late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is one of South Australia's oldest surviving examples of gravity-fed fermenting system with extant slate fermenting tank made from slate sourced from the local Delabole quarry.</p>

8. Significance Criteria	
<p>The South Australian <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.	<p>The ruins are a tangible remains of Tintara Winery which was established, in 1862, by Dr Alexander Kelly and financed by the Tintara Vineyard Company that included some of the key South Australian businessmen (Sir Thomas Elder, Alexander Lang Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr Smith and Sir Edward Stirling) as its shareholders.</p> <p>Cuttings from the Tintara vineyard were used to establish various other wineries in the McLaren Vale district.</p> <p>It is one of the McLaren Vale district's earliest and historically successful commercial wineries, providing a place of employment for local residents. It also showcases the use of contour planting for the vines to reduce erosion of the soil.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.	
<input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	

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<input type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	<p>The former Tintara Winery ruins display the evolution of wine making in South Australia. The fermenting tanks were made of locally sourced slate from the Delabole quarry in Willunga. The tanks worked on the gravity-feed principle and were last used in late 1920s.</p> <p>One of the fermenting tanks was made operational by the current wine owner in 2018 and it is claimed that the slate tanks offer a distinct state to the wines fermented in them.</p> <p>The slate fermenting tanks were a template for many other wineries in the region such as Wirra Wirra and Kay Brothers.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	<p>Former Tintara Winery ruins is strongly associated with Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and with Thomas Hardy of Thomas Hardy & Sons. Both were significant local residents and important figures in the history of South Australian winemaking.</p> <p>Dr Kelly was also responsible for several influential publications on vineyard production, including his 1867 book 'Wine Growing in Australia'.</p> <p>Thomas Hardy spent 36 years at the Tintara Winery, where he made wine, developed the business established by Alexander Kelly, and went on to have a substantial influence on the development of the wine industry in South Australia. The former Tintara Winery site has a long association with him (36 years) and an ongoing association with the Hardy family.</p>

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:



Aerial image of former Tintara Winery Cellar (site highlighted in red)

1. Surviving structures of cellar building and fermenting house
2. Manager's cottage (south-east)
3. Workers' cottage (south-west)

Source: Nearmap 2024

Other images are part of Attachment 1 and 2.

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/we, [REDACTED] nominate 'Former Tintara Winery ruins, manager's cottage and worker's cottage' to be state heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s:



Date: 18/8/25

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- ☒ A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- ☒ A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination.
This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- ☒ A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- ☒ A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- ☒ Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer? It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

NAME: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 207 Whitings Road, BLEWITT SPRINGS

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5293

CURRENT USE:	Cellar ruins
FORMER USE:	Commercial viticultural production complex
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	C.1863 with later additions
LOCATION:	207 Whitings Road, BLEWITT SPRINGS
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5865/707, Section 582, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
REGISTER STATUS:	Local, HID 5293



Ruins of former Tintara Winery, including early slate tanks (GGA, 2021)

NAME: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 207 Whitings Road, BLEWITT SPRINGS

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5293

DESCRIPTION:

C.1863 former Tintara Winery cellar in ruinous form. Remaining original elements include two rendered masonry elliptical tanks with fixed cast-iron rods, one brick circular tank with cast-iron bandwork and rendered masonry dome. Substantial excavated site in rectangular form comprising lower level of former cellar building. Upper excavated level comprises early rendered masonry walls, brick walls, areas of slate paving (now overgrown) and numerous former brick and slate tanks, many now dismantled, with large slate slabs comprising floors of former slate tanks. Eight intact tank examples abutting rendered masonry wall comprising brick plinths with slate tank sides and walls with cast iron structural rods. Numerous surviving examples of cast iron machinery associated with former winery operations remain on site.

It is recommended that the former 'Tintara Winery' ruins at 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs be retained on the SA Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

It is believed that currently-identified heritage significance relating to the former 'Tintara Winery' ruins at 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs may meet State Heritage criteria a), b), d), e) & g) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The former 'Tintara Winery' ruins at 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs are of high significance to the history of wine-making in South Australia, with particular relevance to the development of viticulture in the McLaren Vale district in the 19th century. Established in the 1860s, wines produced at the Tintara Winery site by Thomas Hardy & Sons during the late 19th & early 20th centuries strongly contributed to the growing international reputation of South Australian wines during this period. Constructed using an innovative gravity-fed design, the site retains important examples of slate fermenting tanks constructed from local Willunga slate sourced from the Delabole quarry. The site is strongly associated with Dr. A. C. Kelly and Thomas Hardy, important local citizens and major figures in the history of winemaking in South Australia.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being the ruinous form of the Tintara Winery cellar complex, a highly significant viticultural production facility dating to the mid-19th century which through the ownership of Dr. A. C. Kelly and Thomas Hardy made significant contributions towards the viticultural development of the McLaren Vale district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the development of the international reputation of South Australian wines.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being a significant viticultural production facility for the McLaren Vale district from the mid-19th century, retaining distinctive and rare examples of intact slate tanks constructed from locally sourced Willunga slate.

c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents; being one of the McLaren Vale district's earliest and historically successful commercial wineries, providing a place of employment for local residents. The site has also been owned and managed by the Hardy family and by Thomas Hardy & Sons. since the 1870s, a significant local family and South Australian commercial enterprise.

d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; the winery complex ruins retaining significant and rare examples of fermenting tanks constructed of local Willunga slate, documented as having been sourced from the Delabole quarry.

e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; being strongly associated with the of Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and with Thomas Hardy of Thomas Hardy & Sons, significant local residents and important figures in the history of South Australian winemaking.

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 6: Viticulture

6.1 Early wineries of the Southern Vales (1840s-1890s)

6.2 Development of the McLaren Vale viticultural industry (1890s<)

Theme 4: Local Settlers and Local Entrepreneurship

4.2 Early viticultural identities of the Southern Vales

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The former Tintara Winery building was first assessed in the 1979 Noarlunga Heritage Survey. Not yet in ruinous form at that time, the 1979 Survey identified the site history as dating to 1861, when Dr. Alexander C. Kelly purchased seven hundred acres of land in association with Sir Samuel Davenport, Sir Thomas Elder, S W. W. Hughes and Messrs. Cleland, Stirling, R. Barr-Smith and A. L. Elder. In 1861 a house was built and Kelly moved to the site, having previously established a vineyard at 'Trinity' in Section 634, now part of the suburb of Lonsdale. A subsequent, larger two-storey residence was commenced atop the hill overlooking the vineyard. The 1979 Survey noted that vines were planted by Kelly in 1862 using the contour-planting method to solve the problem of steep slopes, an innovative planting method for the period.

The 1979 Survey noted that by 1863 the cellars were excavated into the hillside adjacent the house, with fermenting tanks constructed from Delabole slate from Willunga. Local timber was used for the vats which were assembled at the winery (identified in 1979 as now part of the Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars). In 1873, the winery was purchased by Thomas Hardy, who constructed homes for permanent employees and huts for seasonal pickers. Hardy was responsible for cellar extensions, including grape presses and twenty-one fermenting tanks on the upper cellar level, with vats holding 32,000 gallons on the lower level. The 1979 Survey identified that the last vintage crushed at 'Tintara' by Hardy was in 1927.

The 'Tintara Winery' ruins were again assessed as part of the 2003 Noarlunga Local Heritage Register Survey. The 2003 Survey noted that while Dr A. C. Kelly's 1861 residence remained, the cellar structure constructed in 1863 had been removed by this time. The 2003 Survey noted that

Hardy purchased the site in 1876 and that following the final 1927 vintage, the site's vats were transferred to Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars. The 2003 Survey also noted that Kelly's large two-storey residence was never completed and became workman's quarters during Hardy's ownership. This building was destroyed in the Black Sunday bushfires of January 1955.

Current research largely supports the historical findings of previous surveys. While Dr. A. C. Kelly was responsible for the establishment and initial planting of the Tintara Winery site in the early 1860s, it was during the ownership of Thomas Hardy (1830-1912) from the mid-1870s onwards that the high international reputation of the winery's produce was established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, contributing greatly to both the development of viticultural production in the McLaren Vale district and the dissolution of local prejudice against colonial wine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Born in Devonshire, England and emigrating to South Australia in 1850, Hardy initially gained viticultural experience through employment with early South Australian vintner John Reynell. Described as entrepreneurial and highly-energetic, Hardy quickly established his first vineyard at Bankside (now Underdale) in the late 1850s. While Lands Title records of Hardy's Tintara purchase date to September 1878, Hardy is recorded as having purchased the Tintara site in 1873, quickly undertaking extensive improvements and additional plantings over time. Hardy also purchased a disused flourmill at McLaren Vale in 1879 and converted the site into a wine manufactory complex, proving a great boon to the district as Hardy was able to process his own grapes in addition to a great deal of other local fruit. By the early 20th century, the reputation of Hardy's Tintara winery was recorded as being well-established in Great Britain. Hardy's 1912 obituary records that Hardy was one of the oldest members of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, The Winegrowers' Association, the Chamber of Manufacturers, the Agricultural Bureau and the West Torrens School Board of Advice. Hardy was also recorded as establishing Adelaide's first wine bar.

An 1895 newspaper article provides a detailed description of the Tintara Winery cellar operations at that time:

The Tintara vineyard is three and a half miles long, and is situated to the north-east of McLaren vale. The original plantation was formed by the late Dr. Kelly 30 years ago, and when Mr. Hardy came into possession 100 acres were planted at Tintara proper. He has added another 80 acres and with lower Tintara the vineyard embraces an area of 288 acres...

At the Tintara cellars only the produce of the vineyard is dealt with, so that the winery is much smaller than that at McLaren Vale. In the fermentation-room there are 23 slate tanks of 800 gallons and seven oak vats of 1,000 gallons each. In the storage cellars on a lower level are vats of 1,000 gallons and casks of 500 and 300 gallons sufficient to contain 40,000 gallons of wine. These are all made of oak, and at the time of visiting were filled with wine, and the tanks and vats in the fermenting-room and even some of the rainwater tanks outside the building had to be used temporarily to hold the abundant vintage. A Bagshaw separator is used here being driven by horsepower, and the grapes are delivered direct from the drays into the machine.

All the arrangements are complete; but very little storing is done here, as nearly all the wine is removed to the McLaren Vale cellars before the succeeding vintage. Everything is done at the Tintara cellars by gravitation, from the receiving loft to the storing cellars, and it is doubtful whether there is a better arranged cellar of a similar capacity in the colony.

(Among the Southern Vineyards, 1895, p.6).

Current research has also identified that a Willunga slate sawyer James Vanstone was likely responsible for the former Tintara Winery cellar's surviving slate tanks, described as having

[REDACTED]

“...erected the first slate tanks at the McLaren Vale vineyard for the late Thomas Hardy and put in those in use at the Tintara cellars.” (In *Bygone Days*, The Register, 1917).

It is understood that the derelict cellar building was demolished in the late 20th century, evidently after documentation relating to the 1979 Noarlunga Survey. The remains of the ruinous cellar building remains largely as described in the 2003 Survey.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all surviving elements relating to the former ‘Tintara Winery’ cellar, including all masonry tanks with cast iron rods and banding, all surviving masonry walls, areas of slate paving, surviving elements of slate fermenting tanks. All forms and materials relating to the eight remaining intact slate and brick fermenting tanks should be retained and conserved. Actions should be undertaken to ensure the stability and survival of all surviving masonry elements, particularly the surviving intact slate fermenting tanks, which are currently unprotected and exposed to weather.

The rectangular, excavated form of the site, formerly the lower floor of the former cellar, is of significance and should be retained and conserved. Various elements of cast iron machinery evident on the site should be retained and conserved and should retain their association with the site.

REFERENCES:

Historical CTs 287/47; 1774/31; 2388/124; 3698/78; 4233/824; 4361/861; etc.
Among the Southern Vineyards.- No. II., A Heavy Vintage, The Advertiser, Tue 21 May 1895, p.6.
A Veteran Vigneron, The Register, Thu 11 Jan 1912, p.5.
Fifty Years Ago, The Register, Sat 10 Sep 1927, p.14.
In Bygone Days, The Register, Sat 24 Mar 1917, p.9.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of Tintara Winery cellar, 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs in 1936; cellar building highlighted in red (ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP1942, Run 4S, Frame 6393, dated 3rd April, 1936. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au/>, accessed 13/10/2021).



2021 Google Maps satellite imagery of former Tintara Winery cellar, site highlighted in red (Google Maps, 2021).

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



THE LATE MR. T. HARDY.

Early 20th century photograph of Thomas Hardy. (A Veteran Vigneron, Observer, Sat 13 Jan 1912, p.37).



MR. JAMES VANSTONE.

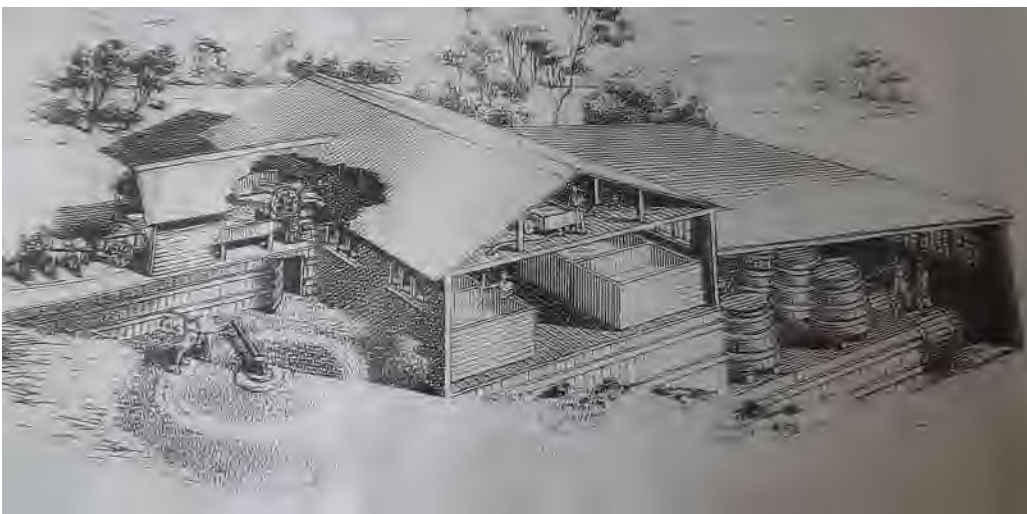
Early 20th century photograph of Mr James Vanstone, a Willunga slate sawyer attributed as responsible for constructing the Tintara Winery slate tanks (In Bygone Days, The Register, 24 Mar 1917, p.9).



C. 20th century photograph of former Tintara Winery cellar before demolition. (Courtesy of Hardy family)



Former Tintara Winery cellars and outbuildings photographed in the 1979 Noarlunga Heritage Survey before demolition (1979 Noarlunga Heritage Survey)



Cross-sectional diagram of former Tintara Winery building, demonstrating the gravity-fed processing procedure of the site in the late 19th century (courtesy of Hardy family)

OTHER IMAGES:



Excavated site of former Tintara Winery cellar, with associated masonry walls, water tanks and slate fermenting tanks (GGA, 2021).



Surviving bases of former slate fermenting tanks to upper level with masonry plinths (GGA, 2021).



One of two rendered masonry water tanks immediately south-west of excavated site (GGA, 2021).



Brick tank with rendered masonry dome with cast-iron banding, immediately south of excavated site (GGA, 2021).



Surviving masonry elements of former upper level of Tintara Winery cellar (GGA, 2021).



Three surviving slate fermenting tanks relating to former upper level of cellar with intact brick exterior shell (GGA, 2021).



Surviving bases of former slate fermenting tanks to upper level with masonry plinths (GGA, 2021).



Five intact slate fermenting tanks abutting original north-east wall of former Tintara Winery cellar. Further three slate cellars to the immediate south-east (with brick lining) (GGA, 2021).

State Heritage Review

Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 207 Whitings Road,
Blewitt Springs

DA234531 Issue –

14.12.2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was
founded in 1964 and has
since established itself as
one of South Australia's
leading exponents of
designing architecture
responsive to its context.

Operating across the fields
of architecture & interiors,
heritage, management,
strategies and placemaking,
the firm's approach centres
on running projects as a
collaborative process with
clear communication
strategies, rational planning
and rigorous cost controls.

1.0 Introduction

[REDACTED] have been engaged by the City of Onkaparinga to provide heritage advice as to whether 'Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs' is likely to be of State Heritage value. This work includes:

- a review the Local Heritage assessment for the property
- a site visit to property
- high level assessment as to whether the place is likely to satisfy the Section 16(1) criteria of the Heritage Places Act (SA) to warrant pursuing a State Heritage listing.

'Former Tintara Winery Ruins – remnants of walls, foundations and tanks' was listed as a Local Heritage Place in 2004 under Section 23(4) of the then *Development Act 1993* (SA), and was found to meet two of the prescribed criteria (a and e) (SA Heritage Places Database Search 2023). These criteria are noted below with their assessment from the Onkaparinga Heritage Survey Stage 2 ([REDACTED] 2020: 579-580):

(a) *it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area*

The ruinous form of the Tintara Winery cellar complex, a highly significant viticultural production facility dating to the mid-19th century which through the ownership of Dr A. C. Kelly and Thomas Hardy made significant contributions towards the viticultural development of the McLaren Vale district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the development of the international reputation of South Australian wines.

(e) *it is associated with a notable local personality or event*

[It is] strongly associated with the of Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and with Thomas Hardy of Thomas Hardy & Sons, significant local residents and important figures in the history of South Australian winemaking.

The 2020 Heritage Survey also noted that the place is likely to meet criteria (b), (c), and (d) although this is not covered by the Local Heritage listing (Grieve Gillett Anderson 2020:580):

(b) *it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area*

[It is] significant viticultural production facility for the McLaren Vale district from the mid-19th century, retaining distinctive and rare examples of intact slate tanks constructed from locally sourced Willunga slate.

(c) *it has played an important part in the lives of local residents*

[It is] one of the McLaren Vale district's earliest and historically successful commercial wineries, providing a place of employment for local residents. The site has also been owned and managed by the Hardy family and by Thomas Hardy & Sons since the 1870s, a significant local family and South Australian commercial enterprise.

(d) *it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area*

The winery complex ruins retaining significant and rare examples of fermenting tanks constructed of local Willunga slate, documented as having been sourced from the Delabole quarry.

██████████ (2020:579) noted that the place is likely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under Section 16(1) criteria (a), (b), (d), (e) and (g) of the Heritage Places Act, however no assessment was undertaken to support this statement at the time.

2.0 History of the Place

The following history of the place has been taken from the Onkaparinga Heritage Survey Stage 2 (██████████ 2020:580-582):

The former Tintara Winery building was first assessed in the 1979 Noarlunga Heritage Survey. Not yet in ruinous form at that time, the 1979 Survey identified the site history as dating to 1861, when Dr. Alexander C. Kelly purchased seven hundred acres of land in association with Sir Samuel Davenport, Sir Thomas Elder, S W. W. Hughes and Messrs. Cleland, Stirling, R. Barr-Smith and A. L. Elder. In 1861 a house was built and Kelly moved to the site, having previously established a vineyard at 'Trinity' in Section 634, now part of the suburb of Lonsdale. A subsequent, larger two-storey residence was commenced atop the hill overlooking the vineyard. The 1979 Survey noted that vines were planted by Kelly in 1862 using the contour-planting method to solve the problem of steep slopes, an innovative planting method for the period.

The 1979 Survey noted that by 1863 the cellars were excavated into the hillside adjacent the house, with fermenting tanks constructed from Delabole slate from Willunga. Local timber was used for the vats which were assembled at the winery (identified in 1979 as now part of the Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars). In 1873, the winery was purchased by Thomas Hardy, who constructed homes for permanent employees and huts for seasonal pickers. Hardy was responsible for cellar extensions, including grape presses and twenty-one fermenting tanks on the upper cellar level, with vats holding 32,000 gallons on the lower level. The 1979 Survey identified that the last vintage crushed at 'Tintara' by Hardy was in 1927.

The 'Tintara Winery' ruins were again assessed as part of the 2003 Noarlunga Local Heritage Register Survey. The 2003 Survey noted that while Dr A. C. Kelly's 1861 residence remained, the cellar structure constructed in 1863 had been removed by this time. The 2003 Survey noted that Hardy purchased the site in 1876 and that following the final 1927 vintage, the site's vats were transferred to Hardy's McLaren Vale

cellars. The 2003 Survey also noted that Kelly's large two- storey residence was never completed and became workman's quarters during Hardy's ownership. This building was destroyed in the Black Sunday bushfires of January 1955.

Current research largely supports the historical findings of previous surveys. While Dr. A. C. Kelly was responsible for the establishment and initial planting of the Tintara Winery site in the early 1860s, it was during the ownership of Thomas Hardy (1830-1912) from the mid-1870s onwards that the high international reputation of the winery's produce was established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, contributing greatly to both the development of viticultural production in the McLaren Vale district and the dissolution of local prejudice against colonial wine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Born in Devonshire, England and emigrating to South Australia in 1850, Hardy initially gained viticultural experience through employment with early South Australian vintner John Reynell. Described as entrepreneurial and highly-energetic, Hardy quickly established his first vineyard at Bankside (now Underdale) in the late 1850s. While Lands Title records of Hardy's Tintara purchase date to September 1878, Hardy is recorded as having purchased the Tintara site in 1873, quickly undertaking extensive improvements and additional plantings over time. Hardy also purchased a disused flourmill at McLaren Vale in 1879 and converted the site into a wine manufactory complex, proving a great boon to the district as Hardy was able to process his own grapes in addition to a great deal of other local fruit. By the early 20th century, the reputation of Hardy's Tintara winery was recorded as being well-established in Great Britain. Hardy's 1912 obituary records that Hardy was one of the oldest members of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, The Winegrowers' Association, the Chamber of Manufacturers, the Agricultural Bureau and the West Torrens School Board of Advice. Hardy was also recorded as establishing Adelaide's first wine bar.

An 1895 newspaper article provides a detailed description of the Tintara Winery cellar operations at that time:

The Tintara vineyard is three and a half miles long, and is situated to the north-east of McLaren vale. The original plantation was formed by the late Dr. Kelly 30 years ago, and when Mr. Hardy came into possession 100 acres were planted at Tintara proper. He has added another 80 acres and with lower Tintara the vineyard embraces an area of 288 acres...

At the Tintara cellars only the produce of the vineyard is dealt with, so that the winery is much smaller than that at McLaren Vale. In the fermentation-room there are 23 slate tanks of 800 gallons and seven oak vats of 1,000 gallons each. In the storage cellars on a lower level are vats of 1,000 gallons and casks of 500 and 300 gallons sufficient to contain 40,000 gallons of wine. These are all made of oak, and at the time of visiting were filled with wine, and the tanks and vats in the fermenting-room and even some of the rainwater tanks outside the building had to be used temporarily to hold the abundant vintage. A Bagshaw separator is used

here being driven by horsepower, and the grapes are delivered direct from the drays into the machine.

All the arrangements are complete; but very little storing is done here, as nearly all the wine is removed to the McLaren Vale cellars before the succeeding vintage. Everything is done at the Tintara cellars by gravitation, from the receiving loft to the storing cellars, and it is doubtful whether there is a better arranged cellar of a similar capacity in the colony. (Among the Southern Vineyards, 1895, p.6).

Current research has also identified that a Willunga slate sawyer James Vanstone was likely responsible for the former Tintara Winery cellar's surviving slate tanks, described as having "...erected the first slate tanks at the McLaren Vale vineyard for the late Thomas Hardy and put in those in use at the Tintara cellars." (In Bygone Days, The Register, 1917).

It is understood that the derelict cellar building was demolished in the late 20th century, evidently after documentation relating to the 1979 Noarlunga Survey. The remains of the ruinous cellar building remains largely as described in the 2003 Survey.



Figure 1: Former Tintara Winery Cellar (in box), outbuildings & houses, 1936 [Source: ICSM Aerial Mapping]



Figure 2: Former Tintara Winery Cellar and outbuildings, pre-1950s [Source: [REDACTED] 1979:80]



Figure 3: Family gathering at Tintara Winery in front of cellar, 1953 [Source: source Hardy Family]; note circular

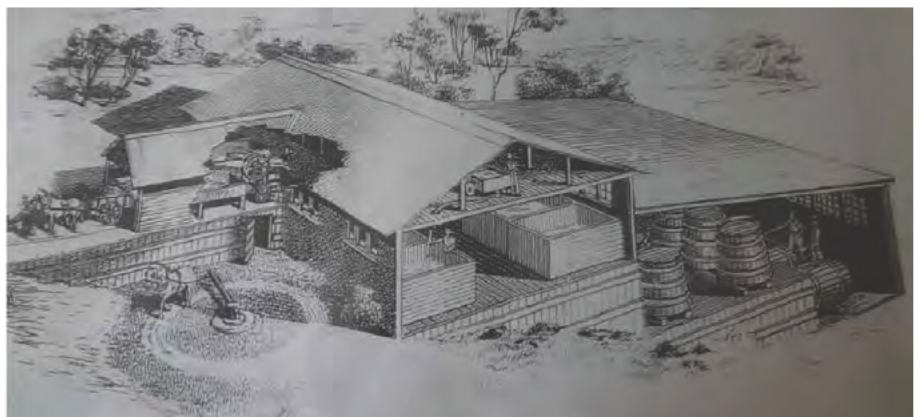


Figure 4: Cross section of Tintara Winery building, Late 19th century [Source: 2020:585, original source Hardy Family]



Figure 5: Aerial of former Tintara Winery Cellar [Source: [REDACTED] 2020:583, original source Google Maps]

Supplementary History

Alexander Kelly planted 17,000 vine cuttings that he purchased from George Manning for a total cost of £20 for the new Tintara Vineyard. George Manning and his family settled in the McLaren Vale area in 1850 and they established a farm and winery named 'Hope Farm'. George Manning also had a long association with Thomas Hardy.¹

Thomas Hardy (1830-1912) arrived in Adelaide in 1850. He first worked at John Reynell's farm at Reynella for a year in the southern values, then he purchased six hectares on the banks of the River Torrens, west of Adelaide near Thebarton, a property he called 'Bankside', where the planted vines, olives and fruit trees, and he made his first wine by 1857. By 1865 he was producing 64,000 litres of wine each vintage and by the mid 1870s this had increased to 240,000 litres made from his own grapes and fruit purchased from other growers. Hardy purchased Tintara Vineyards in 1876 and by 1901 there was 219 hectares of vines at McLaren Vale, as well as a wine store at Mile End (now a SHP) and office in Currie Street Adelaide (demolished 1961). Cellars to store the large quantities of wine were built on the corner of East Terrace and Henley Beach Road Mile End (now State Heritage listed).²

Bankside Winery was destroyed by fire in 1904 and around 110,000 gallons of wine were lost. The winery was never rebuilt. The property at Bankside was used by the Hardy family until the 1920s when the property was used a market garden, and around 1862 Hardy's house was demolished to make way for construction of a bulk store. Hardy focused his wine making in the McLaren Vale region. In 1912 when Thomas Hardy died, age 82, his son Robert took control of the family business, which was followed in 1928 by his nephew Thomas Mayfield Hardy.³

¹ Manning 1980:14

² Manning 1980:14; Prest 2022:240; Danvers Architects 1991:27; Bishop 1977:63,68

³ Bishop 1977:63-67

The current property owner of Tintara, [REDACTED], is a descendant of Thomas Hardy, his great-great grandfather. ⁴

2.1 Timeline History

The following timeline history is provided:

Table 1 – Timeline History of the Former Tintara Winery

Date	Activity
1861	Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly purchased and cleared land, and built a house
1862	Kelly & five Adelaide businessmen (Sir Thomas Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr Smith & Sir Edward Stirling) formed the Tintara Vineyard Co with Kelly as Manager; Vines planted in contour method
1863	Gravity fed cellars and tanks constructed in the hillside
c1873-1876	Thomas Hardy purchased Tintara Winery, built cellar extension and homes for workers on site
c1887-1889	Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd was established with his sons as partners (James, Thomas & Robert); Hardy & wife Johanna also had four daughters ⁵
1890s	Addition vines planted by Thomas Hardy
1912	Thomas Hardy dies (two of his three sons died years earlier, James in 1904 and Thomas in 1911)
1927	Last vintage was crushed at Tintara Winery, and vats were moved to McLaren Vale cellars (off-site)
1955	Bushfire destroyed Kelly's 1861 house and winery buildings
2023	Property is managed by Andrew Hardy, including some of 1890s vineyard

3.0 Description of the Place

The privately owned property, located at 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs (CT 5865/707), consists of the following winery elements: ⁶

- ruins of two masonry elliptical tanks, c1870s
- ruins of one brick circular tank, c1870s
- ruins of lower level cellar, c1870s
- several slate tanks, c1870s
- several brick tanks, c1890s

⁴ Ox Hardy Wines 2023

⁵ *Evening Journal* 1889, 27 Apr p.4 – First mention of Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd in newspapers;

⁶ Dates of various winery ruin elements advised by Simon and Andrew Hardy, 2023

- cast iron machinery, heavily corroded
- rectangular form of the excavated site.

In addition to the c1870s-1890s winery ruins, there are two cottages south of the winery ruins, which are shown in the 1936 aerial above (Figure 1). These cottages are likely former workers residences that were constructed in the 1870s (Figure 13 and Figure 14), and do not appear to have been considered previously as part of the local heritage listing of the site.



Figure 6: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, top of cellar ruins, looking south



Figure 7: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, looking east



Figure 8: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, looking west



Figure 9: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, slate fermenting tanks



Figure 10: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, masonry rendered tanks for skins at base of cellar ruins



Figure 11: Former Tintara Winery Ruins, 2023, domed brick water tank at base of cellar ruins



Figure 12: Two cottages on Former Tintara Winery site, looking north towards winery ruins on other side of creek



Figure 13: Cottage one on Former Tintara Winery site, south-west of winery ruins



Figure 14: Cottage one on Former Tintara Winery site, south-east of winery ruins

4.0 Heritage Assessment

4.1 Historic Themes

Historic themes have been compiled for South Australia to assist in the identification, assessment, interpretation and management of heritage places, which are consistent with the Australian Thematic Framework (South Australian Heritage Council 2023). Historic themes considered relevant to this assessment are summarised below.

Table 2 – Historic Theme(s) relevant to the Former Tintara Winery

South Australian Historical Themes	Sub-themes
4. Building Settlement, Towns and Cities	4.1 Planning the settlement of South Australia
5. Developing South Australia's economies	5.4 Developing the wine industry

4.2 State Heritage Assessment

A place is considered to be of State Heritage value if it meets at least one of the seven criteria under Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (SA).

The following high-level assessment considers the likelihood of the place meeting the threshold for State Heritage listing under the seven criteria.

(a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Possibly / probably meets the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- The Tintara Vineyard Co. was established in 1862 as a business venture between Dr Alexander C. Kelly, Sir Samuel Davenport, Sir Thomas Elder, S W. W. Hughes and Messrs. Cleland, Stirling, R. Barr-Smith and A. L. Elder. They established cellars and planted vines.
- By the early 1860s various wineries were established in South Australia. Eleven winery complexes from the period 1830s to 1850s are listed as State Heritage Places (**Table 3**).
- Whilst Tintara Winery was not one of the earliest winery complexes, it could be said to have contributed to the early development of the wine industry in SA, especially when it was taken over by Thomas Hardy c1873 and the cellars and vineyard expanded.
- Hardy could be said to have established himself as a wine maker whilst at Bankside, which flourished at Tintara.
- Cuttings from the Tintara vineyard were used to establish various other wineries in the McLaren Vale district.
- Whilst the building and vats are no longer extant, the ruins of the various tanks and the rectangular form of the excavated site are a tangible link to the former winery complex that closed in 1927 and Hardy's tenure, as he expanded the cellar building.
- Whether the extant winery ruins and excavated levels are considered sufficient in themselves to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing remains however, finely balanced. A more detailed assessment will inform whether State Heritage listing is justified.

Table 3 – Early State Heritage listed winery complexes

SHP Registered Name	SHP No.	Address	Year Listed	Vineyard Planted
RF Hamilton Winery [Leconfield Wines]	10337	23-29 Murray Street, Eden Valley, Barossa	1993	1837
Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards (incl. wine-making plant & machinery)	14663	291 Hamiltons Road, Springton, Barossa	1995	1838
Hardy's Reynella Winery	12720	38-44 Panalatinga Rd, Old Reynella, Onkaparinga	1989	1841
Penfolds Cottage [Penfolds Magill Estate Winery]	10211	78 Penfold Road, Rosslyn Pk, Burnside	1985	1844
Hillside House and Wine Cellars	12269	50 Daly Road, Lyndoch, Barossa	1996	1850
Dwelling, Sheds & Cellar - Former Hope Farm [Seaview Winery]	14502	114 Chaffreys Road, McLaren Vale, Onkaparinga	1993	1850

SHP Registered Name	SHP No.	Address	Year Listed	Vineyard Planted
Winery and Cemetery - Seppeltsfield Winery and Mausoleum	12963	Seppeltsfield Road, Seppeltsfield, Light Regional Council	1989	1850
Sevenhill Complex, comprising St Aloysius Catholic Church, St Aloysius College, Sevenhill Cellars & Sevenhill Cemetery	13056	College Road, Sevenhill, Clare and Gilbert Valleys	2001	1851
Bleasdale Winery	10338	Wellington Road, Langhorne Creek, Alexandrina	1983	c1852
Quelltaler Winery [Annie's Lane]	13025	Great Northern Road, Watervale, Clare and Gilbert Valleys	1993	1854
Winery - 'Mamre Brook' Saltram Winery	12205	419 Angaston Road Angaston, Barossa	1990	1859

(b) It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- There are many wineries from the 19th century, including some that are operational and others in a ruinous state. The Tintara Winery ruins are not considered to be rare or uncommon.
- Gravity fed winery design was used at various other wineries in South Australia, and it was used overseas prior to the 1860s.

(c) It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- Details about the winery are well known in historical sources and records held by the Hardy family, current property owners. It is unlikely that the site would yield further information that would meaningfully contribute to knowledge about the State's history that cannot be found in historical sources.

(d) It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- The winery ceased operation in 1927 and the vats were transferred to Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars. The cellar building was destroyed by a bushfire in 1955.
- The site as a whole is considered to have moderate integrity with only some principal characteristics remaining. It is not considered to be an outstanding representative of a 19th century winery complex.

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- There are no elements at the site that are considered to have a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or be an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.
- Gravity fed winery design was used at various other wineries in South Australia, and it was used overseas prior to the 1860s.
- Slate fermenting tanks were used elsewhere in South Australia, including at Sevenhill Winery in Clare Valley from the early 1850s (Figure 15), which is a State Heritage Place (13056).⁷



Figure 15: Slate fermenting tanks at Sevenhill Winery [Source: Department of State Development 2016:15]

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion

- There is no evidence to suggest the site has any strong cultural or spiritual associations with the community or any group.

⁷ Department of State Development 2016:15

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Possibly / probably meets the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion in relation to its association with Thomas Hardy

Unlikely to meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under this criterion in relation to its association with Alexander Kelly

- **Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly** (1811-1877) was a medical practitioner and wine grower. He came to Adelaide in 1840 and bought 80 acres of land near Morphett Vale where he built his first home 'Trinity' and planted his first vineyard c1845.
- Kelly established the company 'Tintara Vineyard Co' with 5 other businessmen, was the company's manager, and was responsible for construction of the house, cellar and establishment of the vineyards at McLaren Vale from 1861 to 1873 (12 years). He sold Trinity in 1863 to concentrate his winery business at McLaren Vale (age 52). In 1871 Tintara shareholders sent him to London to search for new markets.
- Kelly wrote several books on vineyard production, such as in 1861 'The Vine in Australia' and in 1867 'Wine Growing in Australia'. Kelly's books did much to establish Australian technical expertise in viniculture.
- Whilst Kelly was involved in the winery industry in the mid 19th century, he is not considered to be a person of historical importance when compared to other winemakers, such as Joseph Ernst Seppelt (1813-1868), Thomas Hardy (1830-1912), Christopher Rawson Penfold (1811-1870) and John Reynell (1809-1873).
- **Thomas Hardy** took over the Tintara Winery site in c1873 from Kelly and he expanded the vineyard and cellars. Thomas Hardy has a 36 year association with Tintara. In 1887 Thomas Hardy formed the company 'Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd' along with his three sons, James, Thomas and Robert.
- Prior to Tintara, Hardy planted vines and made wine for 19 years at Bankside, west of Adelaide. Hardy lectured, wrote articles in the local press and books on the wine industry, and was the member of Phylloxera Board, Wine Growers' Association, South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society and the Chamber of Manufactures, and he judged local horticultural shows.
- The Hardy family have owned and managed the vineyard at the former Tintara Winery site since 1873 (150 years). By 1895, Hardy's were the largest wine makers in the State.
- The 'Hardy' name is associated with at least three State Heritage Places:⁸
 - Hardy's Wine Cellars, 2-4 Henley Beach Road, Mile End, SHP 12365
 - Hardy House, 44 Maitland Terrace, Seacliff, SHP 14465
 - Hardy's Reynella Winery, former Reynell Winery, 38-44 Panalatinga Road, Old Reynella, SHP 12720.

⁸ O'Neill 2006; *The Pictorial Australian* 1893, 1 Oct, p.3 'Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd, New Wine Cellars'

- Thomas Hardy likely had minimal association with the 'Hardy's Wine Cellars', which was built c1893 (Figure 16). The cellar was primarily used to store wine.
- The 'Hardy House' in Seacliff was built for Thomas Hardy's grandson Tom Hardy in 1920, therefore Thomas Hardy had no association with this place.
- Thomas Hardy only spent a year working at John Reynell's winery at Hurtle Vale (Old Reynella), therefore has only a tenuous association with that site.
- As Thomas Hardy spent 36 years at the Tintara Winery, where he made wine, developed the business established by Alexander Kelly, and went on to have a substantial influence on the development of the wine industry in South Australia, the former Tintara Winery site has a long association with him (36 years) and an ongoing association with the Hardy family and the ruins are a tangible link.



Figure 16: Hardy's Wine Cellars, Mile End [Source: Google Street View 2023]

4.3 Additional Comments

Further to the assessment of the winery ruins above, the two c1870s workers cottages (Figure 13 and Figure 14) do not appear to have been considered for Local Heritage listing in association with the ruins of the Tintara Winery site. Whilst these residences were only photographed from the exterior and they have substantial additions, it is recommended that Council undertake further investigations to determine if they are likely to reach the threshold for local heritage listing.

4.4 Summary and Recommendations

This high-level State heritage review has determined that it is **possible / probable** that the former Tintara Winery ruins would meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under criteria (a) and (g). The ruins of the former Tintara Winery have a tangible association with the development of the winery industry in the late 19th century in McLaren Vale and a long association with well-known wine maker Thomas Hardy. Further detailed assessment would be required to determine if the c1870s workers cottages contribute towards the site's potential State heritage values.

In relation to GGA's 2020 recommendations, it is unlikely that the former Tintara Winery ruins would meet the threshold for State Heritage listing under criteria (b) as wineries are not rare or uncommon places in SA. In relation to criteria (e),

gravity fed winery design was used at various other wineries in SA and overseas prior to the 1860s. Slate fermenting tanks were used elsewhere in SA, including at Sevenhill Winery in Clare Valley from the early 1850s.

The potential for this place to meet the threshold for State listing under criteria (a) and (g) remains, however, finely balanced as the cellar ruins have only moderate integrity.

This report also identified two additional places that may be worth considered for Local Heritage listing at the site of the former Tintara Winery, the two likely c1870s workers cottages, south of the winery ruins, which are also associated with the winery operations and Hardy's period of winery operations.

5.0 References

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