

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria (**Attachment E**) and also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-2024.pdf](#)

How to help your nomination be successful:

- Fill out this form with as much information as possible.
- Expand answer fields as required and append information to the form.
- Include images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos where possible.

For assistance, contact:

- Your local historical society or heritage adviser.
- Heritage SA - Assessment Officer on **8372 7521**

Please note:

- Places which have been previously nominated during the past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council, unless you can provide significant **new** information.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of place:	Tintara winery complex in the main street of McLaren Vale
Former name/s:	Mortlock Mill
Is the place already on another heritage list?	Local Heritage Place, City of Onkaparinga

2. Location	
Street Address:	202 – 206 Main Road
	Suburb / Town: McLaren Vale Post Code: 5171

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LGA (Council Name):	City of Onkaparinga				
Land Description (if known):	Title Type: CT5335/766	Volume No:	Folio No:	Plan Type:	Plan No: FP36507AL57
	Allotment Type:	Allotment No:	Hundred Name:		
GPS Coordinates (if known):	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

3. Ownership

Name of Owner/s:	
Contact person (explain relationship to property if not owner):	
Postal Address:	
	Suburb / Town: Post Code:
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	

4. Nominator (Your details)

Your Name/s:	
Organisation / Position:	
Phone No:	
Postal Address:	
Email Address:	

B. Description

5. Description of nominated place

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Description of the nominated place and its current condition:	Hardy's Tintara property in McLaren Vale is a landmark complex of buildings set on the northern side of McLaren Vale's main road and framed by extensive heritage landscaping. The site includes many buildings dating back to the early farming days of the Southern Vales region. The site has an enduring connection to the earliest South Australian investors in wine in South Australia, followed by the development of Thomas Hardy and Son as one of Australia's largest and most successful wine companies. There are many other buildings and other facilities on the large site, which straddles Pedlar Creek. These include a brick and ironstone bondstore, cottages and offices, a brick circular water tank among many others. There are also large modern winemaking and storage facilities. The complex addresses McLaren Vale's main street with a long frontage including large entrance gates, lawns and a large Moreton Bay fig trees thought to date to 1868.
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place and can you provide dates for these changes?	Many of the buildings have been modified over the years to enable their ongoing use.
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground, and do you think an archaeological investigation should be considered?	Unknown
Date you inspected the place:	January 22 2026
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	No

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Current use of the place:	The site has been a major centre of winemaking for Hardys since the 1870s thus much of the site is dedicated to the processing and storage of wine. There are also offices, cellar door and display, storage and an art gallery. Upon Hardys acquisition by global wine company [REDACTED] in 2025 it was announced that from 2026 – 2027 the winemaking operations are being moved from the site.
Original or former use/s of the place:	The site includes a multi-level flour mill built in 1852-5 Later called Mortlock's Mill, the mill was designed to process some of the State's early grain output at a time when McLaren Vale was considered a "bread basket" of South Australia. The ironstone mill and brick chimney were later converted to winemaking, but some of the original milling machinery is still in evidence. As grain growing struggled with declining fertility in the area the mill was sold, first in 1862, for conversion to winemaking by the Tintara Vineyard Company, backed by some of the State's most important figures in early enterprises. By 1876 it had been sold to Thomas Hardy, who continued to acquire property around the original site.
Are there any current or long-term threats to the nominated place?	The relocation of winemaking, administration and sales functions as announced by [REDACTED], will significantly threaten the coherence and rationale of the site. The historic winemaking facilities and landscaping currently occupy a substantial proportion of the site and if these functions are removed the concern is that the site might be sold. The town of McLaren Vale lies in a region protected from expansion by the Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012 so is under constant pressure for subdivision for housing.

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Name of Builder:	NA
Any other information:	

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1852 Finish:
Name of Designer / Architect:	
History of the nominated place:	In 1852-5 a multi-level flour mill was built on the site. In 1862 the site was sold to the Tintara Vineyard Company and converted to wine production and storage. In 1876 the site bought by Thomas Hardy. Since then there has been continuous winemaking on the site through various iterations and ownerships of Hardy wines: Thomas Hardy & Sons (1887), BRL Hardy (1992), Hardy Wine Company (2006), Constellation Wines Australia (2008), Accolade (2011), [REDACTED]
Historical sources used to support your nomination (please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate):	See attached

D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State significance - Why is this place important to the State of South Australia?

This place is of State Heritage significance because

- it includes many buildings of locally sourced materials and dating back to the earliest farming days of the Southern Vales region.
- it has an enduring connection to the earliest South Australian investors in wine in South Australia,
- it is intrinsically linked to Thomas Hardy, considered the 'father of winemaking in South Australia' and the development of Thomas Hardy and Sons as one of Australia's largest and most successful wine companies.
- the complex addresses McLaren Vale's main street with its historic buildings, a long frontage including large entrance gates, lawns and two Moreton Bay fig trees probably dating to the 1880s and can be taken to form part of the qualities of character preservation referred to in the 2012 Act of Parliament referencing McLaren Vale.

8. Significance criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which a place is assessed. Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

☒ It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.	The buildings on the site mirror the development of agriculture in this region of the State. When white settlers first came the McLaren Vale area was seen as the 'bread basket' of the state. It was cleared for cereals production. Traditional hand made hay stooks would remain a feature of the landscape into the 1970s. A threshing floor was built in William Colton's barn at Daringa on Kangarilla Road as early as 1840. The McLaren Vale Flour Mill was built at the future Hardy's site in McLaren Vale (the part then known as Bellevue) between 1852 and 1855 by Mr Charles Hewett and others. It was re-named Mortlock Mill by one of its subsequent owners William Ranson Mortlock. By the 1860s the land around McLaren Vale was coming to be considered 'worked out', soil fertility had declined, yields were poor and profits were low. The work force was depleted as many
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labourers had left for the Victorian goldfields. This coincided with the loss of other industries in the area and the district was in serious economic decline.

In 1863 the Tintara Vineyard Company bought the mill site. This Company had been formed in 1861 by local wine-making authority Dr A. C. Kelly and a group of Adelaide investors (Thomas Elder, Edward Stirling, Samuel Davenport, Walter Hughes and Robert Barr Smith). They had previously bought 213 acres of scrub north-east of McLaren Vale to develop grape growing. There, they built the original Tintara winery on Whittings Road, Blewett Springs. The remains of old Tintara were considered for State Heritage listing in 2023.

The old flour mill buildings in Bellevue were used for wine production and cask storage. The Company ran into a series of problems and was wound up in 1873.

In 1877-78 Thomas Hardy bought the site and about two years later added the vineyards developed by the Tintara Vineyard Company in Blewett Springs. The sale included 27000 gallons of wine in storage and by astutely developing markets for this wine Hardy was able to cover the purchase price.

Thomas Hardy would produce table wine, and fortified wines including port and sherry as well as brandy. The district also grew table grapes for currants and raisins.

He proceeded to purchase and develop more land and was to become the largest wine-producer in the colony.

Hardy's growing demand for workers and for winegrapes stimulated the entire district and helped usher in a new period of prosperity.

☐ It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

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

- a. Thomas Hardy had profited from the Australian goldrush not by mining, but by raising and selling stock to feed the huge influx of miners and prospectors, especially in Victoria.
- b. Hardy's ownership of the wineries and their considerable stocks of wine enabled him to make shiraz table wines. He set out deliberately and carefully to develop a wine "suitable for the English

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market". These were distinctive because the wines could ferment naturally to alcohol levels of up to 16%, or close to the levels found in fortified ports. That meant the wine could be produced cheaply and was exceptionally robust for a table wine, able to survive storage and long distance transport and yet be attractive.

- c. South Australia's long history of exports of red table wines to the United Kingdom, with brands from the Happy Valley, Reynella, Morphett Vale and McLaren Vale areas grew out of this practice.
- d. Natural History: Thomas Hardy was able to produce fortified and table wines in many styles because of McLaren Vale's very complex geological and topological overlays. It presents a dramatically wide variety of terroirs with soils range from heavy Bay of Biscay clays to glacial sands, and from many substrata including the limestone and ironstone preferred for table wine styles. It has a maritime influence from the adjacent Gulf St Vincent, moderating its weather, and it has hills and basins ranging from the Willunga Escarpment rising to more than 300 metres as well as wetlands fed by Pedlar Creek, which flows through McLaren Vale, and Wirra Creek, which flows through Willunga.

☐ It is an outstanding
representative of a particular
class of places of cultural
significance.

☐ It demonstrates a high degree of
creative, aesthetic or technical
accomplishment or is an
outstanding representative of
particular construction
techniques or design
characteristics.

☐ It has strong cultural or spiritual
associations for the community
or a group within it.

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|--|---|
| ☒ It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Thomas Hardy was one of the greatest figures in South Australian agricultural history and his work at McLaren Vale established the commercial success of the wine industry in the Southern Vales.b. Thomas Hardy is intrinsically linked with McLaren Vale. He was instrumental in the development of early facilities in the McLaren Vale township – developing what became the Bellevue hotel, donating land for the Anglican church and initiating the building of a public hall and institute.c. Twenty six years after his death in 1912 the local community erected a stone monument to him in the main street – the only public monument to a winemaker in Australia. “To the memory of Thomas Hardy, pioneer vigneron.” In the grounds of Thomas Hardy & Sons a bust of Thomas Hardy (1830-1912) was unveiled by Mrs Tamie Fraser (wife of then Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser) on 23 October 1978 to commemorate 125 years of winemaking |
|--|---|

E. Additional Information

9. Images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos

A full range of images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place being nominated within a map or plan
- high quality images of the place
- a list and description of the images being provided (including file name, subject, date created, author and copyright holder (if known))

Paste images here or attach separately:

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Location of Tintara Winery complex



Key features of the site

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Flour mill and chimney

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Water tank and ironstone cottage



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Cellar door



Administration building

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Winery

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, unless authorised or required under the privacy principles.

I do not want my personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

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I, [REDACTED] nominate the following place: **Tintara winery complex in the main street of McLaren Vale** for listing on the South Australian Heritage Register.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date:

22/1/2026

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- ☐ a clear indication of the place's location and significant elements within it, by marking points and boundary lines on a map;
- ☐ a history of the place explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination (which help supports arguments of cultural significance);
- ☐ a clear description of the nominated place;
- ☐ a Statement of Heritage Significance, explaining why the associated State Heritage Place is important to the State of South Australia;
- ☐ photograph/s of the object;
- ☐ Have you discussed your nomination with a heritage assessment officer before submitting?

Please forward your nomination form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

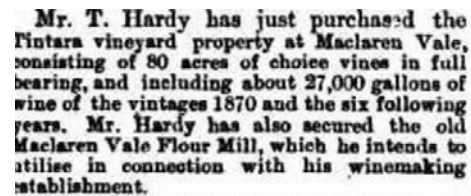
Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**

Sources of information:

City of Onkaparinga, *Winery group (former Mortlocks Mill) and trees*, Built Heritage, website

Pridmore, A. 1949 *The rich valley: an account of the early life of McLaren Vale*. McLaren Vale Institute Committee,

Linn, R. 1991 *Cradle of adversity: a history of the Willunga district*. Historical Consultants for District Council of Willunga



Mr. T. Hardy has just purchased the Puntara vineyard property at McLaren Vale, consisting of 80 acres of choice vines in full bearing, and including about 27,000 gallons of wine of the vintages 1870 and the six following years. Mr. Hardy has also secured the old McLaren Vale Flour Mill, which he intends to utilise in connection with his winemaking establishment.

From SA Chronicle and Weekly Mail 15 Sept 1877

THE TINTARA VINEYARDS.

[By our Agricultural Editor.]

The Tintara Vineyards are situated close to McLaren Vale township, a few miles beyond Noarlunga, and can be closely approached by way of the main South-road. Belle Vue is a township to the north of McLaren Vale proper, and, like the latter, was once a place of importance, possessing its district school, a flourmill known as Clark's, Chapels, public-houses, and stores. This was in the palmy days of place, when the wheatgrowers were able to sit with pipes in their mouths and look over immense fields of waving corn running up to 40 and 50 bushels per acre. Then McLaren Vale was one of the best wheatgrowing districts in the colony—indeed the whole South was a prolific wheat-field—and many were the flourmills that were built to convert the golden grain into its constituents of flour, bran, pollard, and “sharps.” All the mills of the South but two are idle now, and most of them have been dismantled. The soil has been worried with wheat till it refuses to produce any more, and it is said that there will not be nearly enough wheat this year to supply flour for the few straggling inhabitants who now represent the large population which once occupied the place. The farmhouses in very many cases are deserted and dilapidated—the windows broken, the doors gone, and great gaping gaps are visible in the roofs. The schools are closed, the “hotels” no longer supply the maddening draughts to the thirsty teamsters and others who thronged their thresholds, and the storekeepers and other tradesmen have “shut up shop,” because customers no longer need their skill nor goods.

The Tintara Vineyard was planted many years ago by Dr. Kelly, who was most enthusiastic about the future of winemaking in South Australia, and had his practical knowledge been equal to that acquired through a study of the literature of viticulture he would at once have achieved success. But he had a great deal to learn in respect to the climate, soils, situation, &c., of the locality, and also as to the best kinds of vines to plant in each circumstance. Even in respect to fermentation and the after-

in respect to fermentation and the after-treatment of wine he found that there was much to learn as well as to forget, so that it is no wonder that his winemaking for many years was of an experimental character, though it cannot be denied that the Tintara wines, even in his day, were far above mediocrity. Not so with a great many winemakers in the South, however, who, finding that no one would buy their so-called wine, tried to drink it all themselves, and consequently greatly injured themselves.

Before Dr. Kelly attained to perfection in winemaking—which he was rapidly acquiring—he was taken with the illness which resulted in his death, and Tintara (from Tintarara in Italy) was put upon the market for sale. After remaining under offer for some considerable time Mr. Thomas Hardy, of Bankside Vineyards, made a bid for it, and he became the purchaser. He at once set about reforming the place and enlarging the plantations, purchasing also a considerable area of land in the neighbourhood with the idea of extending the area under vines. During the past four years he has employed a great deal of labour in clearing, digging, planting, and otherwise within an area of 4 miles of Belle Vue, and as a consequence trade and commerce in the district have greatly revived. It was hoped that the establishment of the cellars at McLaren Vale and the extension of the vineyards by Mr. Hardy would have induced the residents in the district to begin planting vines, but very little notice seems to have been taken of the example set them, and only two or three have attempted the work, of whom two at least have selected very unsuitable land, and, besides that, have merely “stuck the vines in,” and given no attention to their cultivation afterwards. This is much to be regretted, because there are many thousands of acres of land all through the South that are perfectly adapted for the culture of the vine, and there is a permanency about viticulture that must ensure prosperity if it is taken up in a proper manner. The destruction of the whole of the vineyards of Europe as well as of those of the United States (California) by phylloxera is only a matter of

A GRAND OLD PIONEER.

MR. THOMAS HARDY DEAD.

Very general regret will be felt throughout the community, and especially in business circles, concerning the death of Mr. Thomas Hardy, the pioneer of the wine trade in South Australia, which occurred on Wednesday. Mr. Hardy had been a resident of this State for 62 years, and he was 80 years old when he arrived in Adelaide. Immediately after setting foot in South Australia he started operations in connection with the industry, with which his name has been associated so prominently and so honorably for so many years. His first employer was Mr. John Reynell, who was the earliest winemaker in the district south of Adelaide.

After two years' experience there Mr. Hardy was attracted to the goldfields of Victoria, where he met with success. His most profitable work was done there as a butcher in partnership with a friend whom he had known in England. In 1853 Mr. Hardy and companion grew tired of the diggings, and returned to South Australia. Soon afterwards Mr. Hardy, utilising the experience gained under Mr. Reynell, secured a block of land two miles from Adelaide and began planting of what is now the Bankside vineyard and orangery. This marked his entry into the wine trade, and he has never looked back. In 1854 he married his cousin, who came to South Australia in the ship the British Empire, in 1850.

Mr. Hardy has done much to set the Australian wine trade on a sound footing. In 1873 he purchased the Tintara vineyard, established by Dr. Kelly, at McLaren Vale, and in 1870 he bought one of the abandoned flourmills in the same town, which he converted into a winery. This proved a great advantage to the residents, as grapes were dealt with from all parts of the district. In 1880 a large four-storey building was erected in Currie-street as a depot for wines, and in addition a centre was established at Mile-End to facilitate business. In 1883 Mr. Hardy took a trip to Europe and America, and again visited the old country in 1898. He was one of the oldest members of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, while the Wine-growers' Association, the Chamber of Manufactures, the Agricultural Bureau, and the West Torrens School Board of Advice all had the advantage of his services. The influence Mr. Hardy has exercised with regard to the wine industry of South Australia has been great, and it has not altogether been selfish.

"Look through that window," said Mr. Hardy from his study, to a reporter of "The Advertiser" on his 80th birthday about two years ago, "and see that gum tree. Sixty years ago, when I came here, it was not as thick as your knee, and today it is one of the finest gums on the

day it is one of the finest gums on the Adelaide plains." And the tree in fact was a magnificent specimen. "Eighty years," he exclaimed. "That is my age; I may not see many more birthdays—the Lord's will be done. But I'm thankful that every morning I can get out at 6 o'clock to do a bit of digging or hoeing."

Mr. Hardy always lived an industrious life, and he so conducted his business that everyone associated with him held him in the very highest esteem.

A wedding ceremony had come to a close. The mother sniffed convulsively, and the bride dabbed her pretty eyes with a handkerchief. One of the bridesmaids was also affected to tears. "Why do you weep?" asked a groomsman of the bridesmaid; "it's not your wedding." The girl looked at him scornfully. "That's the reason, you stupid." And she sighed.