HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

15 October 2026

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE:**	26624
ADDRESS:	Kaurna Country 207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs		

Based on the information available to it, Heritage South Australia of the Department for Environment and Water presents this heritage assessment that considers the place satisfies criteria (a) and (g) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



Source: DEW, 2026

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) demonstrates an important evolution in South Australia's wine industry. The winery was established in 1862 and was managed by pioneering winemaker and vigneron Dr. Alexander Charles for Tintara Vineyard Company, founded the previous year. It was here that Dr. Kelly introduced new grape varietals, contour planting and a cooling system that enabled experimentation with cooling the fermenting must. The success of the Tintara Winery and Vineyard also led to the expansion of South Australia's wine exports to other Australian colonies and the direct representation of South Australian wines in the United Kingdom.

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part) also has a special association with prominent winemaker Thomas Hardy and his role in the development and growth of the South Australian wine industry. Hardy purchased the site in 1877-1878 as a part of the expansion of his business into McLaren Vale, which became a centre of his operations. It was at Tintara that Hardy and later his company Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd made their wine until 1927. Hardy initially employed John George Kelly, Dr. Kelly's son, as his winemaker at Tintara and expanded on Dr Kelly's initial achievements, implementing them across his other McLaren Vale holdings. Hardy's contributions have led to him being known as the father of South Australia's wine industry.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.8: Making homes for South Australians

Theme 5: Developing South Australia's economies

5.4: Developing the wine industry

Comparative Analysis:

Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (part) (hereafter Tintara Blewitt Springs) is associated with McLaren Vale, wineries, slate tanks, vineyards, Tintara Vineyard Company, and with winemaking firm, Thomas Hardy & Sons (hereafter Hardy's). Each association is considered in turn.

McLaren Vale

The township of McLaren Vale grew from an early agricultural settlement, anchored by the twin villages of Bellevue and Gloucester, and was not gazetted until 1923. Local industry began with small mixed farms, expanding to grain-growing and grazing, and then to horticulture, alongside slate quarrying and secondary processing industries. Many early homesteaders planted a patch of vines, although it is not always certain whether these bore grapes for dried fruit production or wine.

More serious commercial winemaking commenced in the 1850s, at George Pitches Manning's property, Hope Farm (later Seaview Winery (SHP 14502)), following in the footsteps of Southern districts wine pioneers such as John and George Morphett, Edward John Peake, and John Reynell. In 1861, the Tintara Vineyard Company was formed to make wine, backed by a group of Adelaide investors, with a commercial vineyard of over 80 acres established by Dr Alexander Kelly at Blewitt Springs from 1862-1863 (subject of this assessment).

After Kelly's death, in 1877-1878 winemaker Thomas Hardy purchased the Tintara Blewitt Springs winery and vineyards and leased the old McLaren Vale Union mill site in the township, establishing a produce store, another winery, and vineyard there. Hardy also purchased extensive land parcels in the district, turning McLaren Vale into his second major centre of operations after Bankside (established in 1853). Hardy's became one of the major employers in the district, and Thomas Hardy's success

encouraged others to enter the wine industry. Many early winery buildings and cellars were adapted from existing rural barns and outbuildings. Others were purpose-built; such structures were often built a few years after the establishment of vineyards, as grapevines achieved full bearing capacity and as available funds increased alongside wine production and sales. From this early basis the region developed, by the mid-twentieth century, into one of South Australia's premium wine regions.

From the nineteenth century, 'McLaren Vale' was used as a name for the wider geographical region around the villages of Bellevue / Gloucester. Only two State Heritage Places exist within the township of McLaren Vale proper: the Congregational church (1844) and its associated graveyard (Religious Building - Former Congregational Church Complex; SHP 14069) and the larger church built for the same community (1862) (SHP 26273). Beyond the township, but within McLaren Vale there are five State Heritage Places entered in the Register. While all are wineries not all are State heritage listed for their associations with wine production, namely:

- Dwelling, Sheds & Cellar - Former Hope Farm [Seaview Winery] (SHP 14502, confirmed 4 March 1993), established by George Pitches Manning, who from the 1850s planted vineyards until he had thirty acres under vines; this became the first commercial winery in McLaren Vale, noting that Manning's vines are no longer extant.
- Seaview Farm [Samuel's Gorge Winery] (SHP 14505, confirmed 11 May 1995 under criteria (a), (b), (e) and (g)); a smallholding established in the mid-nineteenth century by the Luney family; it was later owned by Chief Justice, Sir Samuel Way. Now used as a winery, the site appears to have been listed as an example of an early homestead complex; buildings include a nineteenth-century cellar; two steam-driven olive presses by John Shaw & Sons Ltd. of Salford likely date to the 1920s.
- Kay Brothers Amery Winery (SHP 14506, confirmed 19 August 1993), established by the Kay Brothers in 1891 on the site of an existing farm and vineyard, with the cellars (1895) built using a gravity feed design by John George Kelly, winemaking son of Alexander Charles Kelly of Tintara Blewitt Springs, which adjoins the Kay Brothers' site.
- Coriole Winery (SHP 14503, confirmed 4 March 1993), established in 1963 on the site of an 1860s farm; vines were planted in 1918, with some records indicating earlier plantings dating to the late 1870s.
- Chapel Hill Winery – Former Church (SHP 14504, confirmed 4 March 1993), established in the 1970s by Tom and Philippa Nelson on the site of the former Bible Christian Church (built 1865); from 1972, the Nelsons extended the existing small vineyard with further plantings, reopening as a winery in 1979.

There are a further 52 Local Heritage Places within McLaren Vale, including 26 within the township.



Religious Building - Former Congregational Church Complex

Source: DEW Files, 2006



Part of the Former Congregational Church Complex – 1862 Church

Source: Google Street View, 2026



Dwelling, Sheds & Cellar - Former Hope Farm [Seaview Winery]

Source: DC Onkaparinga



Seaview Farm [Samuel's Gorge Winery]

Source: DEW Files, 2018

Wineries

Approximately 58 wineries or structures associated with wineries are entered in the South Australian Heritage Register (the Register).

Early colonists recognised that South Australia's climate was well-suited to viticulture for both dried fruit production and winemaking. The South Australian Company planted vines in 1837, followed by private individuals including John Barton Hack (1837-1838), George Stevenson (1838), and John Horrocks (1839). 33 State Heritage Places and 25 Local Heritage Places associated with wineries are entered in the Register. Of these, the majority are in the Barossa wine region (23 sites; just over 40%); one third are in the Mount Lofty Ranges wine region, which includes the Clare Valley (18 sites); one quarter in the Fleurieu (15 sites); and a further two sites in the Limestone Coast. The Far North, the Lower Murray, and The Peninsulas contain no State or Local Heritage Places that are wineries (see Table 1).

The oldest Fleurieu winery entered in the Register is John Reynell's farm (Hardy's Reynella Winery, SHP 12720; Old Reynella), where vines were first planted in 1838-1839 and the cave cellar built in 1845.

Table 1. Wineries – State and Local Heritage Places in S.A.

S.A. Wine Region	*Wineries – State Heritage Places*	*Wineries – Local Heritage Places*	*Total*
Barossa ***Includes Barossa Valley and Eden Valley Regions***	9	14	23
Mount Lofty Ranges ***Includes Adelaide Hills, Adelaide Plains and Clare Valley Regions***	13	5	18
Fleurieu ***Includes Currency Creek, Kangaroo Island, Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale and Southern Fleurieu Regions***	9	6	15
Limestone Coast ***Includes Coonawarra, Mount Benson, Mount Gambier, Padthaway, Robe and Wrattonbully***	2	0	2
Total	33	25	58

NB. The above table uses Wine Australia's Geographical indicators (GIs) to describe wine zones and regions.[1]

About half of Fleurieu wineries entered in the Register are gravity feed designs, making use of the hilly terrain. Across the State, by comparison, gravity feed wineries represent a relatively small proportion of historic wineries.

Examples of gravity feed wineries in the Fleurieu that are State Heritage Places include:

- Winery – Clarendon Winery Complex (SHP 11193, confirmed 9 January 1992), where vines were planted in 1847-1849, with the winery constructed in 1860, and extended in the mid-1860s.
- Kay Brothers Amery Winery (SHP 14506, confirmed 19 August 1993), established by the Kay Brothers in 1891 on the site of an existing farm and vineyard, with the cellars (1895) built using a gravity feed design with assistance from John George Kelly, winemaking son of Alexander Charles Kelly of Tintara Blewitt Springs, which adjoins the Kay Brothers' site.
- Horndale Winery and Distillery Complex (SHP 10573, confirmed 24 March 1983), built in 1896 to a design by R.V. Cholmondeley.
- Mount Hurtle (SHP 11045, confirmed 20 November 1986), built in 1898 to a design by R.V. Cholmondeley.

Examples of gravity feed wineries in the Fleurieu that are Local Heritage Places include:

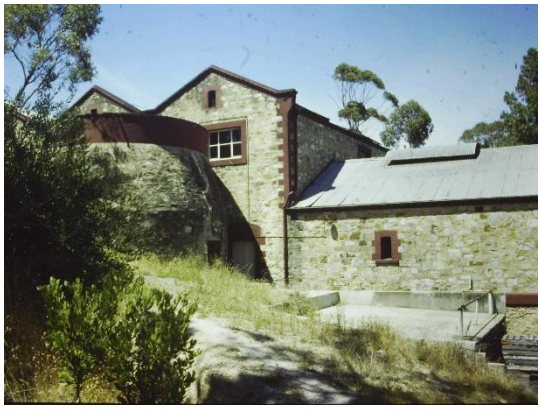
- Tintara Blewitt Springs (subject of this assessment; LHP), established in 1862-1863 by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly to produce wine for the Tintara Vineyard Company.
- Wirra Wirra (LHP), whose vineyard was established (1893) and cellar built (1902) by Robert Strangways Wigley.



Winery – Clarendon Winery Complex
Source: DEW Files, c.1970s



Kay Brothers Amery Winery
Source: DEW Files, 2009



Horndale Winery and Distillery Complex
Source: DEW Files, c.1980s



Wirra Wirra Winery
Source: Onkaparinga Council, 1997

Slate tanks

In 1840, slate was discovered near Willunga, enabling entrepreneurs such as Edward Loud and Sampson Dawe to establish quarries, providing material for local construction, sale, and export.[2] This occurred over a decade before English stonemason, Thompson Priest, began quarrying slate at Mintaro in the mid-North. Many Cornish miners came to work in the Willunga quarries, bringing technical skills and traditional building practices to the industry.[3] Slate was used for diverse purposes in local building, including: roofing, damp courses and channels, paving and flooring, bridges, steps and doorsteps, fencing, fireplaces and mantelpieces, headstones for graves, walls, and even cricket pitches.[4]

Open slate tanks were constructed from five large slabs, bolted and banded together, for water storage and for use as wine fermenters. However, slate's tendency to flake 'meant that tiny pockets of bacteria could infect and spoil successive batches of wine, and the practice was discontinued.'[5]



Slate rainwater tank, Legal Building – Former Police Station and Courthouse, Willunga

Source: DEW Files, 2025



Dwelling – Former Sisters of St Joseph

Source: DEW Files, 2014



Cottage Ruins & Slate Tank, Willunga

Source: McDougall and Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants, via DC Onkaparinga, 1997

Approximately eighteen examples of slate tanks are entered in the Register. Half of these are located within three State Heritage Places, namely:

- Legal Building – Former Police Station and Courthouse (SHP 10342; 61 High Street, Willunga); now the National Trust Museum, the complex includes two slate rainwater tanks adjacent to the stables;
- Dwelling – Former Sisters of St Joseph (SHP 14038, 16 St Georges Street, Willunga), which has a large slate tank adjacent to the former convent of the Sisters of St Joseph;

- Sevenhill Complex, comprising St Aloysius Catholic Church, St Aloysius College, Sevenhill Cellars and Sevenhill Cemetery ('Sevenhill Complex') (SHP 13056, College Road, Sevenhill), includes six open fermenter tanks constructed from Mintaro slate.

All sites with slate tanks in the Register except two (Sevenhill Complex (SHP 13056) and the Former Globe Hotel, Mt Barker (LHP)), are located on the Fleurieu Peninsula, with five of them being in Willunga.

Of those sites with slate tanks entered in the Register, two are known to be associated with winemaking:

- Sevenhill Complex, comprising St Aloysius Catholic Church, St Aloysius College, Sevenhill Cellars and Sevenhill Cemetery ('Sevenhill Complex') (SHP 13056);
- Tintara Blewitt Springs (LHP; Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs) (subject of this assessment), which retains five open fermenter tanks constructed of Delabole slate from Willunga.



Slate fermenter tank, Sevenhill Complex (Sevenhill)

Source: DEW Files, 2010



Slate fermenter tanks, Tintara Winery Ruins (Blewitt Springs)

Source: DEW Files, 2026

Kay Brothers Amery Winery (SHP 14506; 57 Kays Road, McLaren Vale) has a shallow slate trough that 'was once used for washing winery equipment'.[6]

Vineyards

Early vineyards that have retained their use as working horticultural/viticultural sites have generally been subject to continuous cultivation and renewal since first planting, making the age of extant vines difficult to identify visually. Viticultural registers such as the McLaren Vale Old Vines Register and Barossa Old Vine Charter contain examples of 'centenarian' vines that are over 130 years old.[7]

Only one winery that is a State Heritage Place has a vineyard included as part of its listing:

- "Penfolds Cottage", Penfolds Winery and Vineyard Complex (SHP 10211; 78 Penfold Road, Rosslyn Park.

One other State Heritage Place, and one Local Heritage Place, include vineyards as part of the listing:

- Dwelling – 'Wattiparinga' (SHP 14101, 1 Selgar Avenue, Clovelly Park; Marion), associated with horticulturists and conservationists, the Ashby family, contains a small remnant vineyard.
- Vineyard (LHP, 222R Hendrie Street Adjacent Oaklands Road, Park Holme; Marion), planted in 1907, is associated with twentieth-century grape-growing and wine-making in the Marion district.



View of Penfolds Winery and Vineyard Complex (SHP 10211)

Source: DEW Files, c.1980s

The Block 42 Cabernet Sauvignon vines at Kalimna Winery, Nuriootpa (LHP) are listed on the Barossa Old Vines Charter as an 'Ancestor Vine' (equal or greater than 125 years of age). The oldest identified vines at Tintara Blewitt Springs are the Hardy Ancestor Vines, a 2.54ha contour-planted block of Shiraz grapes planted in 1891; continuity of the genetics is managed through propagation by layering. These are the second-oldest documented vines in McLaren Vale, after Paxton Wines's Thomas Block vineyard, planted in 1887.

Tintara Vineyard Company

Tintara Vineyard Company was an early winemaking firm established and managed in 1861 by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly, with financial backing. It was the second commercial winery in McLaren Vale, with vines first planted at Blewitt Springs in 1862-

1863. For over fifteen years, Tintara remained the largest and most important of the two commercial wineries in McLaren Vale, with approximately 86 acres under vines, until Thomas Hardy purchased the site and significantly expanded it in 1877-1878. While Tintara Vineyard Company was relatively short-lived, its long-term influence was significant (see History). There are no other sites associated with Tintara Vineyard Company. The site of Dr. Kelly's first vineyard, 'Trinity', established 1843-1845 and situated near present-day Lonsdale, has been redeveloped for housing.[8]

Thomas Hardy & Sons

Tintara Blewitt Springs was acquired by winemaker Thomas Hardy (1830-1912) in 1877-1878, after the dissolution of Tintara Vineyard Company.

Thomas Hardy & Sons was one of the longest-running family-owned firms in South Australia. Prior to incorporation in 1887, founder Thomas Hardy commenced winemaking at Bankside in 1853, beginning his association with McLaren Vale in the mid-late 1870s when he acquired Tintara Blewitt Springs and the former Mortlock mill site. Thomas Hardy & Sons remained under the sole ownership and control of the Hardy family until 1992, a period of approximately 139 years. Tintara Blewitt Springs is still owned by the Hardy family, and sixth-generation descendants of Thomas Hardy continue to make wine there.

State Heritage Places associated with Thomas Hardy & Sons include:

- Hardy's Reynella Winery (SHP 12720) (38-44 Panalatinga Road, Old Reynella), significant as the site of John Reynell's farm and vineyard, established 1839; Thomas Hardy was briefly employed there in 1850-1851; the firm of Thomas Hardy & Sons eventually purchased the site in 1982, with the site name reflecting that ownership. It was confirmed in the Register 23 November 1989.
- Hardy's Wine Cellars (SHP 12365, confirmed 1984) (2-4 Henley Beach Road, Mile End; West Torrens), now the site of Temple Christian College; built in 1893, at the eastern end of Hardy's 'Bankside' property.



Chateau Reynella and vineyards

Source: DEW, 2018



Hardy's Wine Cellars

Source: Google Street View, 2022

Local Heritage Places associated with Thomas Hardy & Sons include:

- Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex (202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale; LHP; subject of a separate assessment), a large winery established by Thomas Hardy in the late 1870s on the site of an old flour mill; the site has since been continuously owned and operated as a winery, in association with Thomas Hardy & Sons and its subsequent companies;
- Dwelling (former Morphett Vale Union Chapel) (52 Bains Road, Morphett Vale; LHP, authorised 2004, criteria a and d); constructed in 1849 and opened in 1850 as the Morphett Vale Union Chapel, in 1889 it was purchased by Thomas Hardy for use as a wine cellar, and later sold and converted into a private home;
- Cottage – 'Glen Hardy' (128 Hunt Road, McLaren Vale; LHP, authorised 2004, criteria a, b, d and e); a small stone cottage, formerly a vineyard site known as 'Glen Hardy', purchased by Thomas Hardy in the late 1880s;
- Hotel (208-210 Main Road, McLaren Vale; LHP, authorised 1996, criteria a, c, and e); formerly known as the Clifton Hotel (1857-1901) and Belle Vue Hotel (1901-c.1938), now the McLaren Vale Hotel; purchased in 1901 by Thomas Hardy, and extended with gable wings on each end; the hotel is still owned by the Hardy family.



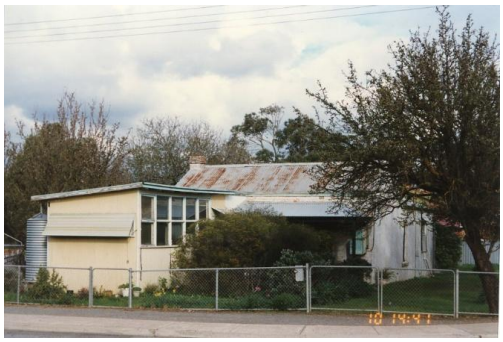
Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex, McLaren Vale

Source: DEW, 2026



'Glen Hardy' cottage, McLaren Vale

Source: DC Onkaparinga, 1997



House, former Union Chapel, 52 Bains Road, Morphett Vale

Source: Onkaparinga Libraries, N934, n.d.



Belle Vue Hotel, McLaren Vale

Source: Google Street View, 10 August 2026

Assessment against Criteria under Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the *Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Places* (approved by the South Australian Heritage Council on 14 March 2024).

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

> A place is of importance to the evolution or pattern of South Australia's history if that place is the product of, or is an example of, or was influenced by, or has influenced, or is associated with, or has a symbolic association with, or is the site of – an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life (including values, aspirations, tastes and fashions) which has made a **strong, noticeable or influential contribution** to the **evolution or pattern** of the settlement and development of South Australia.

Tintara Blewitt Springs demonstrates the South Australian historic themes on p.2.

Tintara Blewitt Springs demonstrates the evolution of South Australia's wine industry through the introduction of new growing techniques, grape varietals and the expansion of South Australian wine exports into international markets. Established and managed by Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly for Tintara Vineyard Company, Tintara Blewitt Springs was the second commercial winery in McLaren Vale. It was also the first winery and vineyard to be established via a consortium of investors rather than as a small-scale, single-operator enterprise; Tintara Blewitt Springs was the largest and most significant winery in McLaren Vale for almost fifteen years.

At Tintara Blewitt Springs, Dr. Kelly implemented the contour planting method that he had previously trialled at his own property, Trinity, and that he publicised in his well-received technical books on winemaking, which achieved an international readership. Contour planting represented a significant technical innovation in winemaking, as did Kelly's method of cooling the fermenting must (crushed grapes). At Tintara Blewitt Springs, Dr. Kelly trialled grape varietals, including ones he had personally imported from France. His winemaking method used of slate fermentation tanks. Kelly made wines in sufficient quantity to export to other colonies and overseas, making Tintara Vineyard Company one of the first two firms to gain direct London representation for South Australian wines. Tintara Blewitt Springs wines under the Tintara label were promoted in Australia and London by agent Philip Bond Burgoyne.

Under Dr. Kelly's stewardship, the names of Tintara and McLaren Vale became associated with fine table wines, particularly red Burgundy-style wines. The name Tintara was kept by Thomas Hardy as a marketing label and brand for the firm of Thomas Hardy & Sons, including for Hardy's export wines and spirits. Hardy's continued to make wines at Tintara Blewitt Springs until 1927; replicated the improvements and innovations implemented at Tintara Blewitt Springs at other sites, notably Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex (subject of a separate assessment); and utilised and expanded the national and international wine markets established by Tintara Vineyard Company.

It is recommended that the nominated place **satisfies** criterion (a).

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

The place must demonstrate qualities of cultural significance to South Australia that are rare, uncommon or endangered. Cultural significance may include building class, historic themes, construction techniques, ways of life, social customs, scientific achievement, industrial processes, topographical or natural features, or land use, etc that may no longer be practiced, are in danger of being lost or rarely found in South Australia. This may encompass places that were always rare or places that have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

The place must have both cultural significance to South Australia and also possess uncommon, rare or endangered qualities. Places that are few in number and considered at risk of being lost for reasons such as changing land use, industrial processes and lifestyles, and economic pressures may be considered endangered. Places that might become rare or uncommon but are not yet uncommon or rare do not satisfy criterion (b). Determining if a place is uncommon, rare or endangered requires contextual analysis to understand how common the place once was and how many examples still survive. A place may be uncommon, rare or endangered but not culturally significant to South Australia, in this instance the place is considered to not satisfy criterion (b).

Tintara Blewitt Springs is a winery in the McLaren Vale that employed a gravity-fed system to move the grape juice through the fermentation and barrelling processes, key steps in the manufacturing of wine. Now in a ruinous state, only some of the slate fermentation tanks, two workers cottages, water tank, and contour planted vineyard remain intact. While wineries and vineyards are of cultural significance to South Australia, Tintara Blewitt Springs is one of many wineries and vineyards in the State (see comparative analysis). Although there are fewer examples remaining of gravity-fed wineries they are still numerous with five examples in McLaren Vale entered in the Register as either State or local heritage places that demonstrate this production method to either a higher degree. Consequently, Tintara Blewitt Springs is not considered to represent qualities that are rare, uncommon or endangered.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (b).

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

A place may satisfy criterion (c) if it has the potential to yield information, typically in the form of physical evidence that will contribute to an understanding of South Australia's history. There must be strong existing evidence, in any form, to substantiate that the place is likely to yield information about South Australia's history that is not readily available from other sources and that sufficient integrity remains to yield the information.

> The place should provide, or demonstrate a high likelihood of providing, tangible evidence that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The place may be a built structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological, palaeontological, speleological or historic site.

Tintara Blewitt Springs is associated with the early settlement of the McLaren Vale area and the development of the wine industry on the Fleurieu Peninsula in the mid-nineteenth century. However, the settlement patterns and management practices associated with viticulture and winemaking, including contour planting, are well-documented through a range of primary and secondary sources, including two books on viticulture and winemaking authored by Kelly. Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that Tintara Blewitt Springs will yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history that is not already well known and documented.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (c).

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

> The satisfy criterion (d), a place must belong to a class of place, be an outstanding representative of the class and the class of place must also be of cultural significance to South Australia. To be an outstanding representative of a class of place the place needs to be an exceptional example of the class and/or and influential example of the class and/or and a pivotal example of the class. The place must also retain sufficient intactness to represent the class with a high level of integrity.

Tintara Blewitt Springs represents, in ruined form, an example of a nineteenth century winery. The two surviving cottages and remnant fabric of the former stone winery building and cellar, set on a sloping site and grouped around the winter creek, indicate the former extent of the winery complex and show how it once operated. However, the main fabric of the winery is no longer intact, parts of the site having been either demolished or now being in a ruinous state. In comparison with other places of the same class, nineteenth century wineries, such as Hardy's Reynella Winery (SHP 12720) and Seaview Farm (SHP 14505), which exist in a high state of intactness, Tintara Blewitt Springs is not considered to be an outstanding representative of its class.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (d).

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

> To satisfy criterion (e) the place must demonstrate a high degree of accomplishment that is creative and/or aesthetic and/or technical or is an outstanding representative of particular design characteristics or construction techniques. A place may demonstrate only one or a number of these distinguishers to satisfy the criterion.

> The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its time. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly demonstrates them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Tintara Blewitt Springs is a gravity feed winery complex that was erected using vernacular building techniques and materials. Over time a number of the structures have become ruinous with only two cottages and the slate fermentation tanks remaining intact. As such, the place no longer demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is it an outstanding representative of a particular construction technique or design characteristic.

It is recommended that the place **does not satisfy** criterion (e).

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

> To satisfy criterion (f), there needs to be clear evidence of a cultural or spiritual association between the community or a group within it and the place. The reasons for the attachment may be spiritual, religious, cultural, political or derived from common experience. The attachment must be enduring and strong.
>
> Places that meet this criterion embody meanings and values that are important to a community or cultural group. The place should demonstrate strong and direct associations for a community or group within it that resonates into the broader community and links to the South Australian identity. The community or group within it must be one that would be broadly recognised by most South Australians as a community or group. The association between the community or group and the place must be enduring, with evidence to demonstrate that there is at least one generation (about 25 years) of association, acknowledging that levels of attachment may fluctuate over time.

Tintara Blewitt Springs may have strong cultural associations for members of the Hardy family and their descendants. Thomas Hardy acquired the site in 1877-1878, and since then it has been associated with members of the Hardy family. While wine production ceased in 1927, members of the Hardy family recommenced fermenting wine in the slate tanks in 2018. Although Tintara Blewitt Springs remains an important place for members of the Hardy family there is no evidence to suggest that their cultural associations with the place resonate with the broader South Australian community.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (f).

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

> To satisfy criterion (g), the place must have an association that is considered to be special with the life or work of a person, organisation or event. The person, organisation or event must be notable or important to the history of South Australia and the place must be associated with why the person, event, or organisation is notable or important.

> There needs to be evidence of a special association between the place and the person, organisation or event that has played an important role in South Australia's history. The association may be demonstrated through the fabric of the place or other evidence, such as archaeological fabric, documentary sources and/or oral history. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why the place being assessed has associations that are significant at the State level.

Tintara Blewitt Springs is associated with the Tintara Vineyard Company, Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and Thomas Hardy & Sons.

Tintara Vineyard Company was established in 1861 by a consortium of businessmen, with Dr Alexander Charles Kelly as the main shareholder. The company purchased land at Blewitt Springs in 1862 founding the Tintara winery. It was the second commercial winery to be established in McLaren Vale, after George Manning's farm, and was the largest commercial winery in the region operating for about 15 years, with nearly 90 acres under vines. Dr Kelly managed the winery and vineyard until it was sold to Thomas Hardy in 1877. While the work of the Tintara Vineyard Company and Dr Kelly, in particular, at Tintara Blewitt Springs influenced viticulture and winemaking the associations of the individual and organisation are short lived. It is recommended that the influence on the history of winemaking and viticulture in South Australia is more appropriately considered under criterion (a).

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not** satisfy criterion (g) for its associations with the Tintara Wine Company and Dr Alexander Charles Kelly.

Tintara Blewitt Springs has a special association with winemaker, agriculturist and businessman, Thomas Hardy. Hardy is a major figure in South Australian agricultural and viticultural history; he is often referred to as the 'father' of the South Australian wine industry. After Hardy purchased the site in 1877-1878, he significantly expanded the vineyard holdings around Tintara Blewitt Springs and under winemaker John George Kelly, Dr Kelly' son, continued the site's use for making blended table wines, notably including wines for export.

Hardy's new vines were planted followed Dr Kelly's contour method. Hardy kept the established name, Tintara, and put it to use in his own wine and spirits businesses. Wines produced at the site were transported to Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex (subject of a separate assessment) in the McLaren Vale township (site of the former Mortlock mill cellars), to be stored and matured prior to sales and distribution. The expansion and success of Thomas Hardy's wine enterprises were continued by the limited company he established with his sons, Thomas Hardy & Sons and its successor businesses in the twentieth century, making it a household name. Hardy family members remained in control of the business until the early 1990s, making Thomas Hardy the founder of one of the longest-running family businesses in the State. Tintara Blewitt Springs has been owned continuously by the Hardy family for nearly one hundred and fifty years.

There are two State Heritage Places associated with Thomas Hardy: Hardy's Reynella Winery (SHP 12720) and Hardy's Wine Cellars (SHP 12365). A third site Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex is the subject of another assessment. The Reynella Winery was only acquired by Thomas Hardy & Sons in 1982, seventy years after the death of Thomas Hardy; its strongest association is with pioneering agriculturist and winemaker, John Reynell, although Thomas Hardy briefly worked there as a young man. Hardy's Wine Cellars was a central store and distribution centre, chosen by Hardy's for its location adjacent to the rail line and tram. Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex site is the only other place to directly demonstrate the historical importance of Thomas Hardy and Thomas Hardy & Sons and the contribution of the individual and company to South Australia's wine industry.

It is recommended that the nominated place **satisfies** criterion (g) for its association with Thomas Hardy.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Tintara Blewitt Springs is a nineteenth century winery ruin, with two extant cottages and comprises a domed stone and brick water tank, slate fermentation tanks, other masonry tanks, and two cottages.

Features include:

- Two masonry, open wine fermenters, of elliptical form, with metal reinforcing bands, set on a masonry base,
- Cylindrical brick rainwater tank, with metal reinforcing bands, with domed masonry roof,
- Five slate tanks, set on brick footings, and partial fabric of a further three slate tanks that exist in ruined form,
- Three open fermenters, of brick, with cement lining,
- Rainwater tank of corrugated metal, set on stone masonry base,
- Remant fabric from the former Tintara winery, including slate slabs, masonry rubble, remnant foundations, metal pins, and remnant masonry walls, including retaining walls of stone rubble and lime mortar,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery cellar, extant mainly as rectangular depression indicating plan of excavation, together with remnant retaining walls of stone rubble and brick, embankment, slate slabs, and masonry rubble,
- Worker's cottage, of wattle and daub construction (c.1860s), square in plan, with Dutch gable roof of corrugated metal, verandah of corrugated metal to four sides, supported by round timber posts, with external brick chimney,
- Manager's cottage, rectangular in plan, with two brick chimneys and a further masonry chimney to northeastern elevation, set in cottage garden plot,
- Remnant winery machinery of cast iron,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Two masonry open wine fermenters,
- Cylindrical brick rainwater tank,
- Five slate tanks, and partial fabric of a further three slate tanks,
- Three open brick fermenters,
- Metal rainwater tank,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery, together with remnant fabric,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery cellar, together with remnant fabric,
- Wattle and daub worker's cottage,
- Manager's cottage,
- Remnant winery machinery,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Native and exotic trees, and remnant native vegetation,
- Winter creek and remnant small dam,
- Contemporary shedding and infrastructure associated with Ox Hardy Wines,
- Contemporary post and wire and corrugated metal fencing,
- Contemporary site access infrastructure, including graded roads, driveways, and crossovers,
- Round window to western gable of wattle and daub cottage,
- Lean-to, with skillion roof, to south-eastern elevation of manager's cottage,
- Twentieth-century vineyard blocks.

HISTORY

McLaren Vale

McLaren Vale is located at the northern end of the Fleurieu Peninsula and has for thousands of years formed a part of the traditional lands of the Kaurna people.[9] Southern Kaurna people practiced their traditional lifestyles, fishing, hunting, gathering, basketry/weaving, and trading ochre obtained from the cliffs near Maslins/Moana with other Aboriginal groups.[10]

Colonisation had an immediate and detrimental impact on the Kaurna people. Kaurna country was surveyed and sold to the newly arrived colonists within 10 years of settlement. Traditional practises like relocating between seasonal camps and firestick farming were hindered or prohibited, while European methods of farming decimated traditional food sources. Many Kaurna people were also taken off country and sent to missions at Raukkan/Point McLeay and Point Pearce.[11] Despite this Kaurna have retained an ongoing connection to country and culture and have been engaged in a process of reasserting their ongoing relationship with and on country and 'reclaiming their cultural and linguistic heritage.'[12]

Government land surveys were completed in areas south of Adelaide by 1838 and released for sale in 1840.[13] Debate still continues as to whether the Vale is named for surveyor John McLaren or resident manager of the South Australian Company David McLaren.[14] Wheat was a primary crop of early settlers. In 1840, slate was discovered, enabling entrepreneurs such as Edward Loud and Sampson Dawe to establish quarries, providing material for local construction, sale, and export.[15] However, it was the wine industry that would have the most significant and lasting impact on McLaren Vale's economy, environment and culture.

Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and Tintara Vineyard Company

Commercial-scale winemaking began in McLaren Vale in the 1850s at Hope Farm. Between 1860 and 1870, South Australia's wine industry transformed from single-owner, small-scale vineyards to major industrial operations, backed by investors.[16] In McLaren Vale, the first major injection of capital came from the Tintara Vineyard Company, established in 1861, with the vineyard purchased and planted at Blewitt Springs in 1862-1863 by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and underwritten by five notable businessmen including Thomas Elder and Robert Barr-Smith.[17] Until the late 1870s, with over 80 acres under vines, Tintara Blewitt Springs was the largest and, together with Hope Farm, one of only two commercial wineries in McLaren Vale.

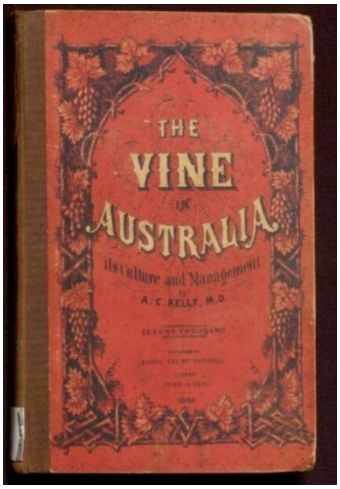


Alexander Charles Kelly, 1832

Source: SLSA, B12312

Kelly (1811-1877), born in Leith, Scotland, arrived in South Australia in 1840[18] and set up in private practice at Port Adelaide, before obtaining a position as Dispenser at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.[19] In 1843, Dr. Kelly acquired land near present-day Lonsdale where he established a vineyard and winery which he named 'Trinity.'[20] Like other prominent medical practitioners who migrated to South Australia, Kelly turned to winemaking, an activity that in part reflected nineteenth-century medical understanding of the therapeutic uses of wine and spirits.[21] Later, Dr William Angove continued the tradition.[22]

In 1846, Dr. Kelly was appointed Emigration Lecturer for South Australia and returned to England. He returned to South Australia the following year with his mother and settled at Trinity.[23] Dr. Kelly's winemaking efforts were contemporaneous with those of other pioneering winemakers in South Australia including John Reynell, Johann Gramps, and Samuel Smith and preceded the passage of the 1858 Act, "to encourage the culture of the vine in South Australia by permitting distillation of the fermented juice of the grape."

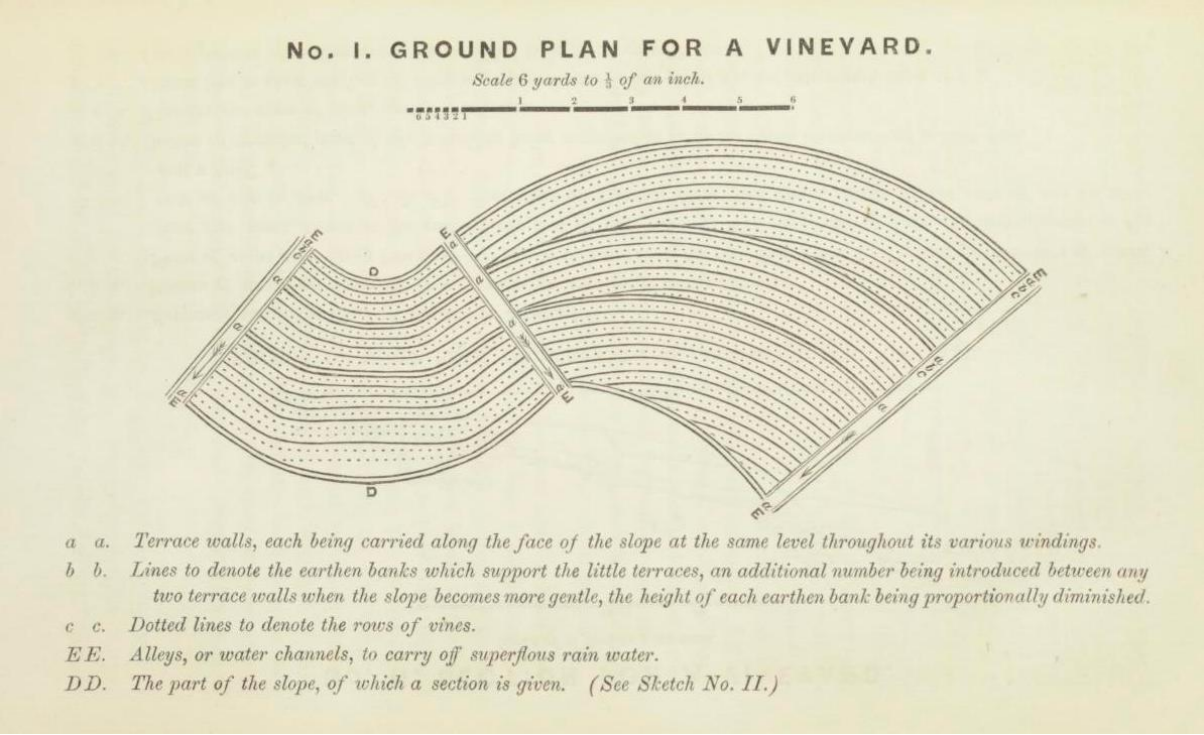


Dr. A.C. Kelly, *The Vine in Australia* (2nd printing, 1862 edition)

Source: National Library of Australia

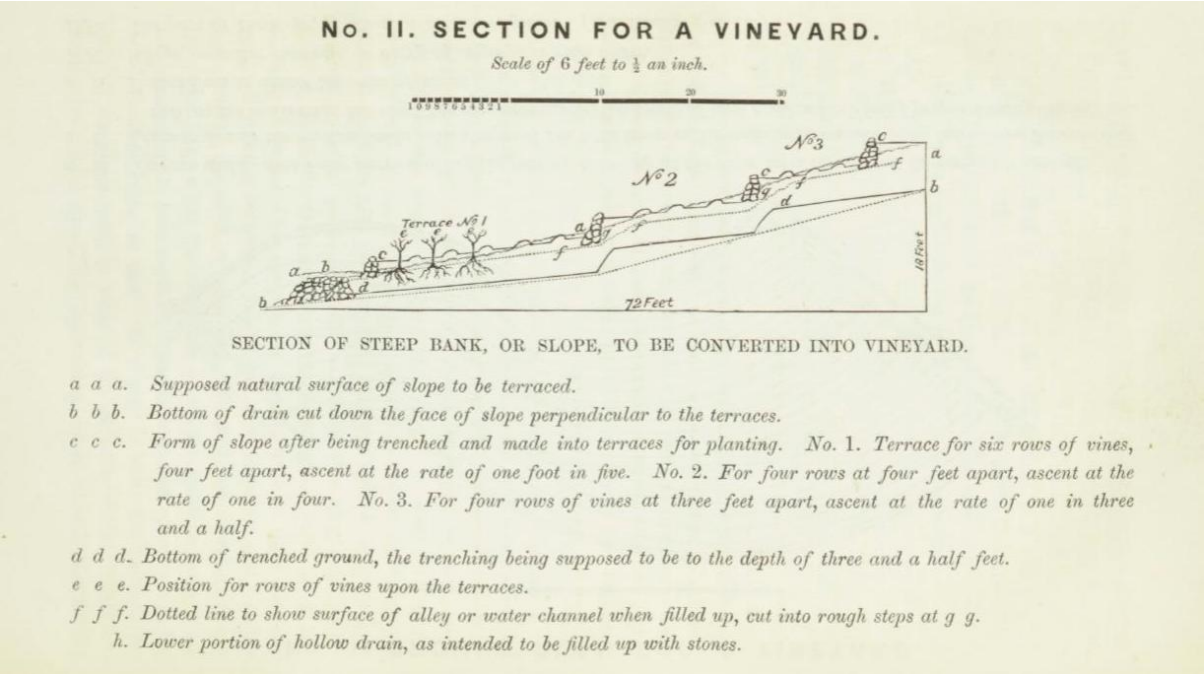
Dr. Kelly quickly became an authority on viticulture. He was a foundation member of the Vignerons' Club (est. 1869), and published two technical books on winemaking, *The Vine in Australia* (1861) and *Wine-Growing in Australia* (1867).[24] In these books, Kelly translated French winemaking texts, making the latest technical information and European expertise available to the Australian wine industry.[25] Dr. Kelly's chapter on fermentation was later reproduced by the French viticultural authority, Professor Lucien Roos,[26] in his *Wine-making in Hot Climates* (1898), a standard industry text in Europe.[27] Kelly promoted the contour method of planting (see: 'Ground Plan for a Vineyard' (1861) below), an industry innovation he demonstrated at his Trinity vineyard, which had the advantages of facilitating vine pruning and maintenance and reducing water requirements by minimising erosion and runoff.

Dr. Kelly also described a simple method to cool the fermenting must, to slow and control the fermentation process.[28] In this, as Roos later noted, Dr. Kelly was '*greatly in advance of the times.*'[29] Dr. Kelly's son, winemaker John George Kelly, would supervise the installation of a water-driven cooling system at Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars in the late 1890s; one of only two such systems then installed in South Australia, the other being at Seppeltsfield.[30]



***'Ground Plan for a Vineyard'*, 1861**

Source: Dr A.C. Kelly, The Vine in Australia, p.201



***'Section for a Vineyard'*, 1861**

Source: Dr A.C. Kelly, The Vine in Australia, p.201

In 1861, together with prominent South Australian businessmen, Thomas Elder, Alexander Elder, Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr-Smith, and Edward Stirling, Dr. Kelly formed a syndicate to create Tintara Vineyard Company, with nominal capital of £3000.[31] Dr. Kelly owned half the shares, with the remainder divided between the other members; he was appointed manager on a salary of £200 per year.[32] In 1862, the company purchased a parcel of land at what became Blewitt Springs (McLaren Vale) (Sections 681, 682, and 683, Hundred of Willunga) and Dr. Kelly was charged with clearing it, planting vines, building cellars, and making table wines.[33] Kelly announced his intention, on behalf of the company, *'to establish large vineyards for the growth of the same kind of vine and the manufacture of wine of a uniform quality.'*[34]

By 1866, his annual report to the Company detailed sixty acres under vines, and a further twenty acres cleared and prepared for planting.[35] Two wells had been sunk; extensive fencing put in; a manager's house of 'six rooms and a kitchen' built; and a 'large airy cellar or wine-house 60 feet x 24 feet' erected.[36] A large fermenting house (40 feet x 40 feet) was also erected, with half of it completed before the 1867 vintage and the remainder later that year. It was planned to be fitted with six fermenting tanks, built from solid slate slabs, together with a 10,000 gallon masonry tank which Dennis Hall and Valmai Hankel later described as 'a marvel of design and construction' because it pre-dates the use of reinforced concrete in South Australia.[37] The cost of the vats was estimated at £48, the tank at £15.[38] Motive power for the equipment was provided by horse winch.[39] Later, Dr. Kelly began work on a large family house, with servants' quarters, and started a cooperage.[40]

'Tintara' was simultaneously the name of the company formed to make wine, the name given to the vineyard selected by Dr. Kelly, and the name used to label and market the wines produced there. It was reported in 1886 that the company's name derived from an Italian name, 'Tintarara',[41] which was apparently deemed 'too long' to fit on wine labels.[42] The name may refer to a phrase in Italian ('tinta rara' in Italian: 'rare colour'); or Portuguese ('tinta rara' in Portuguese: 'rare red wine grape').[43] When Thomas Hardy later purchased the site, he kept the name, Tintara, and put it to use in his own businesses. Thomas Hardy & Sons would apply to trademark the name 'Tintara' in 1901.[44]



Dr. A.C. Kelly, 'Tintara', sketch, 1874

SLSA, B 5764/2

At Tintara, Dr. Kelly changed vineyard plantings over time as he learned which varietals performed well, and which wines were preferred by consumers. By the mid-1870s, the majority of the Tintara vineyards were reportedly planted to Mataro, Shiraz, Burgundy (Pinot Noir) and Carbinet (Cabernet Sauvignon).[45] In 1875, Kelly changed his Grenache vines at Tintara, which by then were 'disapproved of as a wine grape,' grafting them to Doradilla and Sauvignon Blanc.[46] Sauvignon Blanc was one of the grape varieties, together with Clairette, Furmint, and Semillon, that Dr. Kelly imported to South Australia in 1872 as cuttings obtained from his contacts in Bordeaux and Montpelier, France.[47] His action incurred the disapproval of some local growers who feared that new imports could facilitate the introduction of pests and diseases to South Australia, especially 'oidium' (powdery mildew) and the devastating new disease of phylloxera.[48] However, Sauvignon Blanc was used successfully by Dr. Kelly to make Sauternes- and Barsac-style white wines.[49] After Thomas Hardy acquired Tintara, he expanded the Sauvignon Blanc vine plantings, but the vineyards remained dominated by red varietals. Hardy continued to use Kelly's contour planting method.[50]

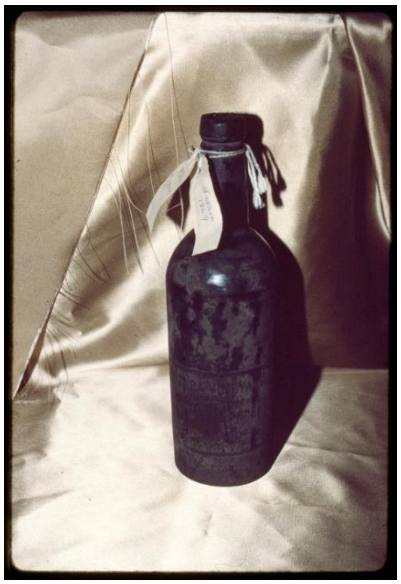
In 1879, Hardy wrote:

> At Tintara, near Maclaren Vale, I have eighty-five acres of vines in bearing and have made 13,600 gallons from them, the kind most predominant being Mataro, which makes a fine deep-colored dry wine, the land being rich in iron stone and lime. There being but few white grapes grown there, I have planted twenty acres of Doradilla which makes a delicate light wine, and ten acres of a new

> sort, the Sauvignon Blanc, brought from France by the late Dr. Kelly, in 1872; they are a very shy bearing grape, but wine already made from them is A1. I notice these vines are rather subject to oidium.[51]

Rosemary Burden wrote in 1976 that, 'a row of [Kelly's] original Sauvignon Blanc contour-planted vines are still bearing.'

Dr. Kelly's efforts achieved a degree of international success and positive press from the early 1870s.[52] Small quantities of Tintara wine had been imported to London in around 1871 by the Cohen brothers, and the firm of Elders, but reportedly these were not available for public purchase; likely, they were used in private tastings.[53] Back in Adelaide, winemakers discussed the potential to develop an export trade for South Australian wines.[54] In 1871, Dr. Kelly was commissioned by Tintara Vineyard Company to travel to Europe, with the aim of exploring European markets. Kelly's aunt, Mrs Thomas Colton (née Bond), gave him a letter of introduction to her nephew, Peter Bond Burgoyne.[55] In London, Dr. Kelly met Burgoyne, who agreed to represent Tintara. Thomas Elder and Edward Stirling raised additional capital to finance the creation of the Tintara Vineyards Association, as a marketing organisation, with premises at 50 Old Street.[56] Tintara Vineyard Co.'s representation on a London high street was, alongside Patrick Auld's office for the Australian Wine Company (also established 1871), the first such presence achieved by a South Australian wine company.[57]



'Oldest Wine' (1867 'Tintara' Claret). Wine made by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly for the Tintara Vineyard Company; the oldest known Australian wine.

Source: SLV, H2012.140/527, Photograph by Rennie Ellis, 1982.

Ill-health meant that Dr. Kelly had to cut his trip short, and he returned to Adelaide early in 1872.[58] He advised fellow winemakers that the wine export trade could not achieve its potential without a guaranteed supply chain and quality control.[59] Kelly foresaw that the making of blended wines would be important to the export industry's future.[60]

Tintara Vineyards Association appears to have become the Australian Vineyards Association until 1873, when Edward Stirling died and Thomas Elder withdrew.[61] Captain Walter Watson Hughes then invested funds and the business was divided into two concerns: P.B. Burgoyne and Company, and the Australian Vineyards Association.[62]

Through Burgoyne, the name 'Tintara' came to be associated with dry red, Burgundy-style wines. In 1874, at the exhibition of Australian wines at the Albert Hall, a London newspaper described Tintara as '*perhaps the best red wine shown by Mr. Burgoyne*.'[63] In 1875, Burgoyne exhibited an 1867 Tintara wine at the Vienna Exhibition, Austria, and at London's South Kensington Exhibition.[64] Tintara wine was one of eighteen wine exhibitors from the Australian colonies to be awarded a Supplementary Award at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876 (USA).[65]

While Burgoyne succeeded in bringing Tintara and other South Australian wines to public notice, he also sought to protect his commercial interests in ways that wine producers found problematic. Robert Barr-Smith wrote three letters to Burgoyne in 1874, demanding a full explanation of his gross expenditure (over £2500); by 1875, Burgoyne's advertising spend alone had risen to £700 per annum.[66] In 1872, Kelly had offered '*to extend the benefits of [Tintara Vineyard Company's] London agency to other large wine-growers in Australia [...] and [the Company] will undertake the sale of wines approved by Dr. Kelly, as such parties may ship to the consignment of their London agent, Mr. P.B. Burgoyne*,' with Tintara Vineyard Co. taking one-fourth of the net profit from sales.[67] By 1886, Burgoyne's tactics included ring-fencing the proceeds of sales arising from his presentation of South Australian wines at international wine exhibitions, and trademarking wine names and brands that he represented in Britain by labelling and selling them under his own imprint, for example, 'Burgoyne's Tintara,' 'Burgoyne's Auldana'.[68] His dominance caused resentment from winemakers and industry observers and was a factor in the founding of the South Australian Wine and Produce Depot in London (regulated in 1893), which to Burgoyne's dismay, competed with private distributors such as himself.[69]

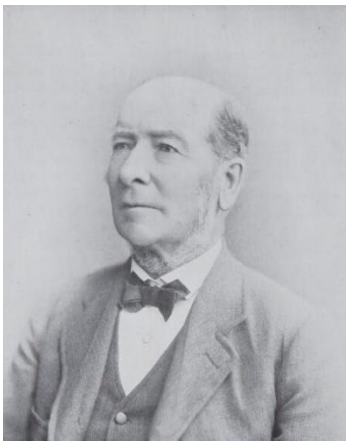
Tintara Vineyard Company eventually foundered under the combined pressures of inter-colonial tariff barriers,[70] consumer taste,[71] and the lack of an end-to-end system for handling the logistics of international wine export, marketing, and sales.[72] Dr. Kelly retired in 1876, having completed vintage for that year,[73] and by September, the Tintara estate was offered for sale.[74] Tintara Vineyard Company was dissolved around this time.[75] The following year, with no settlement on the Tintara property, Dr. Kelly's grape crop was offered for sale at vintage time, with the land agents mentioning that '*arrangements for use of cellar, &c., might be made*.'[76] The Tintara crop was purchased by Thomas Hardy.[77]

Thomas Hardy

After Dr. Kelly, the second major agent in the wine industry's expansion in McLaren Vale was Thomas Hardy. By his own achievements and those of the winemaking firm

he founded, Thomas Hardy & Sons, Hardy was to play a significant role in McLaren Vale's prosperity and in the broader development of the State's wine industry.

Thomas Hardy arrived in South Australia on 14 August 1850. In 1851 he left for the Victorian goldfields. After returning to Adelaide, he purchased Bankside (near Underdale) where he planted grapes and established a mixed farm in 1853-1854.[78] It was from Bankside that Hardy expanded his wine business to McLaren Vale.



Photographic portrait of Thomas Hardy

Source: NLA, J.J. Pascoe (ed,), History of Adelaide and vicinity, 1901, http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-32986578

In 1877-1878, Hardy bought the Tintara Blewitt Springs vineyard, winery, and stock including 27,000 gallons of wine. He sold Kelly's wine, with the profit covering the cost of the property.[79] In October 1877, Hardy advertised Kelly's ten-room house and a 30-acre paddock for rent. Hardy would later use it for workers' accommodation.

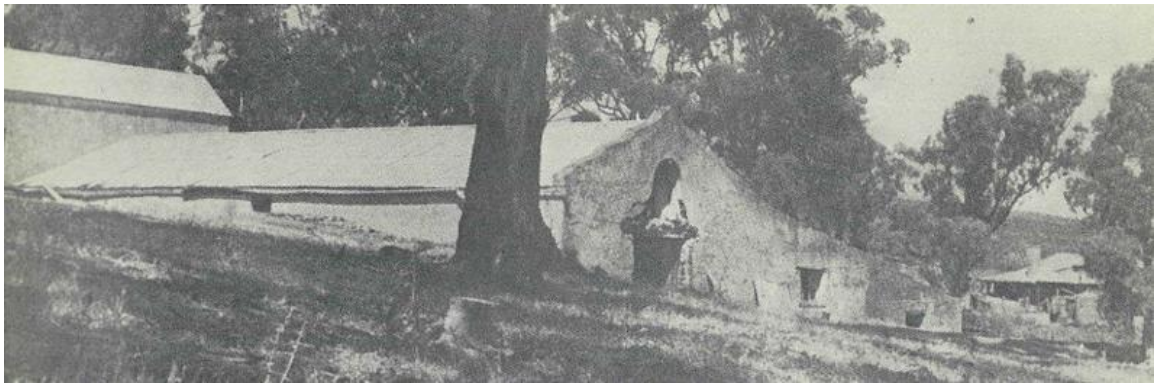
While Tintara's vines were now in full production, poor local roads and the lack of rail transport inhibited distribution of its wines.[80] By 1878, Thomas Hardy had leased the former McLaren Vale Union mill,[81] and subsequently purchased it as a produce store, cellar and depot for Tintara.[82] This became Hardy's operational centre in McLaren Vale; offering a central location at which to deposit and cellar his wines and dried fruit crops before transporting them to Adelaide.

Hardy continued to expand his winemaking sites beyond Bankside and McLaren Vale, establishing a small winery at Morphett Vale in 1880 and building large cellars in Currie Street in 1881-1882. This eventually became the Company's registered address, serving as cellars and main offices, and was known as 'Tintara House'.[83]

In 1882, John G. Kelly, son of Dr. A.C. Kelly, was appointed manager for Hardy's McLaren Vale holdings, while Hardy managed the Bankside operation.[84] Two years later, Hardy further expanded his business in McLaren Vale by purchasing 640 hectares of additional land adjacent to the Tintara Blewitt Springs site. This enabled him to construct a road along the full length of his vineyards, joining up with the main road; creating a significant boost to the accessibility of his Blewitt Springs site.[85] Hardy's continued to invest in the facilities at Tintara Blewitt Springs and by the mid-1880s,

Hardy extended the cellars, excavating '*on the hillside lower than the old cellar*,'[86] to support the increase in production while maintaining the gravity feed design.

In 1887, Hardy formed his business into a limited liability company, Thomas Hardy & Sons, with his three sons, James J. Hardy, Thomas N. Hardy, and Robert B. Hardy as partners.[87] The Blewitt Springs vineyard and winery site continued to be known as 'Tintara', but as the Mclaren Vale holdings of Thomas Hardy & Sons expanded, it eventually came to be distinguished as 'Upper Tintara', with adjoining vineyard properties purchased by Hardy known as 'Lower Tintara.' Hardy continuously updated his plant and equipment and expanded the footprint of his McLaren Vale / Blewitt Springs wine empire.



Old 'Tintara' Winery [now in ruins]. The Manager's Cottage [extant] can be seen to the right.

Source: Lester Firth and Murton Pty Ltd. Noarlunga Heritage Study, City of Noarlunga, 1979.



Aerial view of Tintara Blewitt Springs (1949), showing the position of the former winery building.

Source: DEW, EnvMaps, 27 April 1949.

In 1892, in an important address to the Society of Arts (Foreign and Colonial Section, London) on South Australia's economy, Sir Edward Braddon acknowledged that the name 'Tintara', like 'Hermitage', had become a national byword for wine of quality.[88] By 1897, the footprint of Thomas Hardy & Sons' land holdings at Upper and Lower Tintara extended to 1,100 acres of land, with around 300 acres under vines.[89]

The last vintage was crushed at Tintara Blewitt Springs in 1927, but grapes grown at the Tintara vineyards continued to be used in making Hardy's wines. In 1955, the Black Sunday bushfire destroyed the remains of the Kelly mansion. In 1992, Thomas Hardy & Sons merged with Berri Renmano to form BRL Hardy, ending the long period of single-family ownership and control for the firm of Hardy's, but the Tintara Blewitt Springs property continued to be held and managed by the Hardy family. In recent years, the sixth-generation of Hardy family members have re-commenced winemaking at Tintara Blewitt Springs, using the historic slate fermentation tanks.

Chronology

Date	Event
1832	Scottish-born Dr Alexander Charles Kelly, M.D., L.R.C.S. (1811-1877) graduates in medicine from the University of Edinburgh.
1840	**John McLaren leads the survey of lands south of Adelaide.** **9 March: Dr. Kelly arrives in South Australia on the barque, *Baboo*, and becomes the colony's twelfth medical practitioner.** He sets up private practice at Port Adelaide.
1842	June: Kelly is made resident dispenser at Adelaide Hospital.
1843	21 August: Kelly purchases land near present-day Lonsdale (Sec. 634, Hd of Noarlunga).
1844	Medical practitioner and vigneron, Dr Christopher Penfold and his wife, Mary Penfold, plant 10 acres of their Magill property with Shiraz cuttings obtained in France.
1845	**Kelly builds his home, Trinity, and plants his first vineyard with the intention to make wine.**
1846	9 Feb.: Dr. Kelly travels to Scotland via London, having been appointed Emigration Lecturer for South Australia. Towards the end of 1847, he returns to South Australia and settles at Trinity.
1850s	McLaren Vale is farmed by wheat-growers. The thin soils over clay are rapidly exhausted; by the late 1850s, farms and mills are abandoned and settlements, including the township of Belle Vue, become near ghost towns.
1861	**Dr. Kelly publishes *The Vine in Australia*.**
1861	**November: Dr. Kelly, together with five of Adelaide's businessmen, Sir Thomas Elder, Alexander Lang Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr-Smith and Edward Stirling, forms Tintara Vineyard Company to make wine.**
1862	**Dr. Kelly clears land at Tintara Blewitt Springs, and plants the first 90 acres of vines, using the contour method described in *The Vine in Australia*.**
1863	**Cellars are dug into the hillside, adjacent to the house. Dr. Kelly advertises Trinity for sale, to concentrate on Tintara.**[90]
1864	Dr. Kelly moves from Trinity to Tintara Blewitt Springs.
1867	Kelly publishes *Wine-Growing in Australia*.

1869	**September: Kelly joins the newly-founded Vignerons' Club.** Encouraged by Thomas Hardy, the Club has two aims: to exchange information on viticulture and winemaking, and to lobby the Government to reduce inter-colonial tariffs on wines and spirits. John Reynell is elected the first President, in February 1870.
1871	**Tintara shareholders sent Kelly to London to search for new markets. Kelly engages Peter Bond Burgoyne to represent Tintara wines in Britain and Europe.**
1874	**Tintara wine is exhibited at the Albert Hall, London.**
1875	**Tintara wine (1867 vintage) is exhibited at the Vienna Exhibition, Austria, and the South Kensington Exhibition, London.**
1876	**After completing vintage for the year, Dr. Kelly retires to his home in Norwood. Tintara Vineyard Co. struggles financially and is wound up. September: the Tintara Blewitt Springs estate is offered for sale.**
1877	9 October: Death of Dr. Kelly. Kelly is buried at Clayton Chapel Cemetery, Kensington.
1877	**Tintara Blewitt Springs is purchased by Thomas Hardy.** The sale process is drawn out; reportedly, it remained under offer 'for some considerable time' before the sale was finalised. The land title was only transferred to Hardy in June 1878.
1878	Hardy leases the former Mortlock mill in McLaren Vale and converts it into wine cellars and a produce store.
1886	February: The *South Australian Register*'s agricultural editor visits Tintara Blewitt Springs and Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars, describing the expansion of Hardy's business interests in the district including his production of currants, raisins, and olive oil, as well as wine. **April: Hardy receives an additional order from Messrs P.B. Burgoyne and Co., London, for 15,000 gallons of his Tintara wine. This wine was considered *'a most valuable wine for blending purposes.'***
1889	Dr William Angove purchases 33 acres of farmland adjoining his house in Tea Tree Gully, and plants vines to make wine.
1891	**Thomas Hardy plants the 'Ancestor Vines' block of Shiraz grapes at Tintara Blewitt Springs using the contour method.**
1900s	The district retains a rural character.
1910s	Concrete is increasingly used in winery buildings, including in the construction of tanks.
1920s	With the arrival of the motor car, McLaren Vale and surrounds become an increasingly popular and accessible destination for day-trippers from Adelaide.
1927	**The last Hardy's vintage is crushed at Blewitt Springs. The vats are transferred to Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars.**
1930s-1992	**The vineyards continue to be maintained by Hardy's and are used to grow grapes for premium wines made at Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars.**

1992	**Thomas Hardy & Sons merges with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited. The Tintara Blewitt Springs property continues to be privately held by the Hardy family.**
1955	Black Sunday: bush fire destroys the Kelly mansion (latterly, working mens' quarters).
1999-2000	Robert 'Bob' Hardy and Andrew Hardy begin to make small-batch Shiraz wines from the historic 'Ancestor Vines.' The wines are cellared for nearly two decades before the first public release in 2019.
2018	**Andrew Hardy refurbishes two of the slate fermenter tanks, and beings using them to make wine, marketed under his own label.**

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SITE RECORD

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624

FORMER NAME:	Upper Tintara	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Ruins of Tintara Winery, including slate tanks, elliptical masonry tanks, circular stone and brick tank, remnant masonry walls, remnant winemaking machinery, manager's cottage and worker's cottage.	
HISTORIC THEME/S	4. Buildings settlements, towns and cities 4.8: Making homes for South Australians 5. Developing South Australia's economies 5.4. Developing the wine industry	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1863-1864, wattle and daub worker's cottage 1860s, cellar and domed water tank 1866, manager's cottage 1866-1867, fermenting house and slate tanks	
REGISTER STATUS:	Date of Provisional Entry/Rejection]	
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	Local Heritage Place	
CURRENT USE:	Vineyard and winery Vineyard: 1862 - 2026 Winery: 1862 – 1927, 2018 – 2026	
BUILDER:	James Vanstone (slate tanks)	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	DC Onkaparinga	
LOCATION:	**Street No.:**	207
	Street Name:	Whitings Road
	Town/Suburb:	Blewitt Springs
	Post Code:	5171
LAND DESCRIPTION:	**Title and Plan References:**	CT 5597/84, H106000 S683
	Hundred:	Willunga

PHOTOS

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624

All images were taken by DEW, 20 May 2026, unless otherwise stated.



Approach to winery site. Showing domed water tank.



Modern signage.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of winery site looking towards creek line.

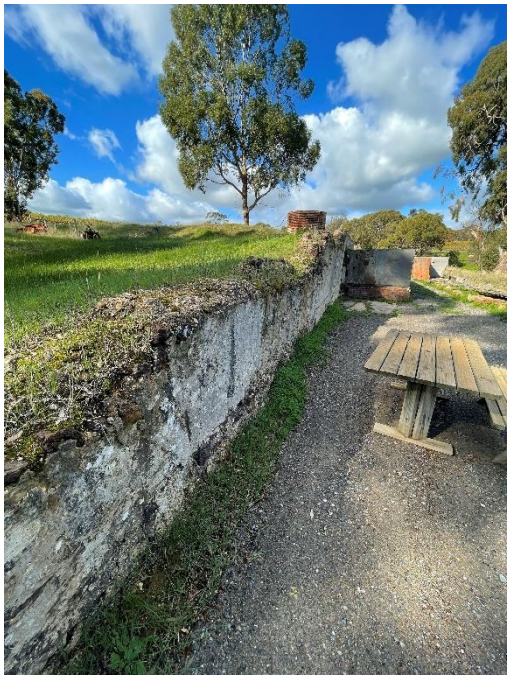


View of creek line.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624

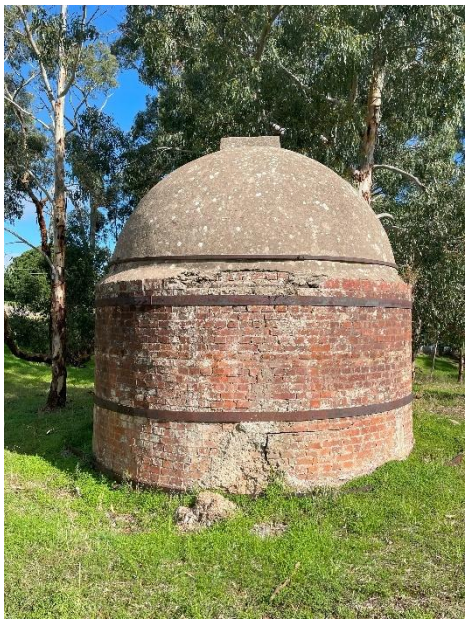


View of winery ruins.



Masonry wall, part of former winery building.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



Domed stone and brick water tank.



Elliptical open wine fermenters, and domed water tank.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of interior of elliptical open wine fermenter, showing iron reinforcing bands.



Side view of elliptical fermenter, showing iron reinforcing bands.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of extant slate tanks. The leftmost two tanks have been recently refurbished with beeswax and are being used to ferment wine.



Remnant fabric of former slate tanks.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of brick fermenter tanks and remnant masonry wall, looking southeast. The wattle and daub worker's cottage can be seen to the right.



View of brick fermenter tanks.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of brick fermenter tanks, and remnant masonry wall showing the gravity feed winery design using the natural slope of the hillside and remnant slate flooring.



Rear view of remnant masonry wall, constructed from limestone rubble.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



Metal water tank, and remnant masonry walls and foundations.



View of ruinous masonry wall, showing remnant cast iron winery equipment and water tank of corrugated metal. At left are a bank of slate tanks; at right, a bank of brick tanks.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



View of masonry wall, cast iron winery equipment, and brick drainage channel. The earthen mound at right contains buried fabric of the former winery.



View of manager's cottage (south-eastern façade), with stone rubble garden edging. Lean-to addition is not significant fabric.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



Manager's cottage. View of south-western façade.



View of wattle and daub worker's cottage.

NAME:	Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines' contour-planted vineyard block, planted 1891.



Vine cordon, Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines'.



Vine cordon, Hardy's 'Ancestor Vines', showing layered stem.

SITE PLAN

NAME:	Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)	**PLACE NO.:**	26624



Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)
(CT 5597/84, H106000 S683, Hundred of Willunga)

N ↑

LEGEND

Parcel boundaries

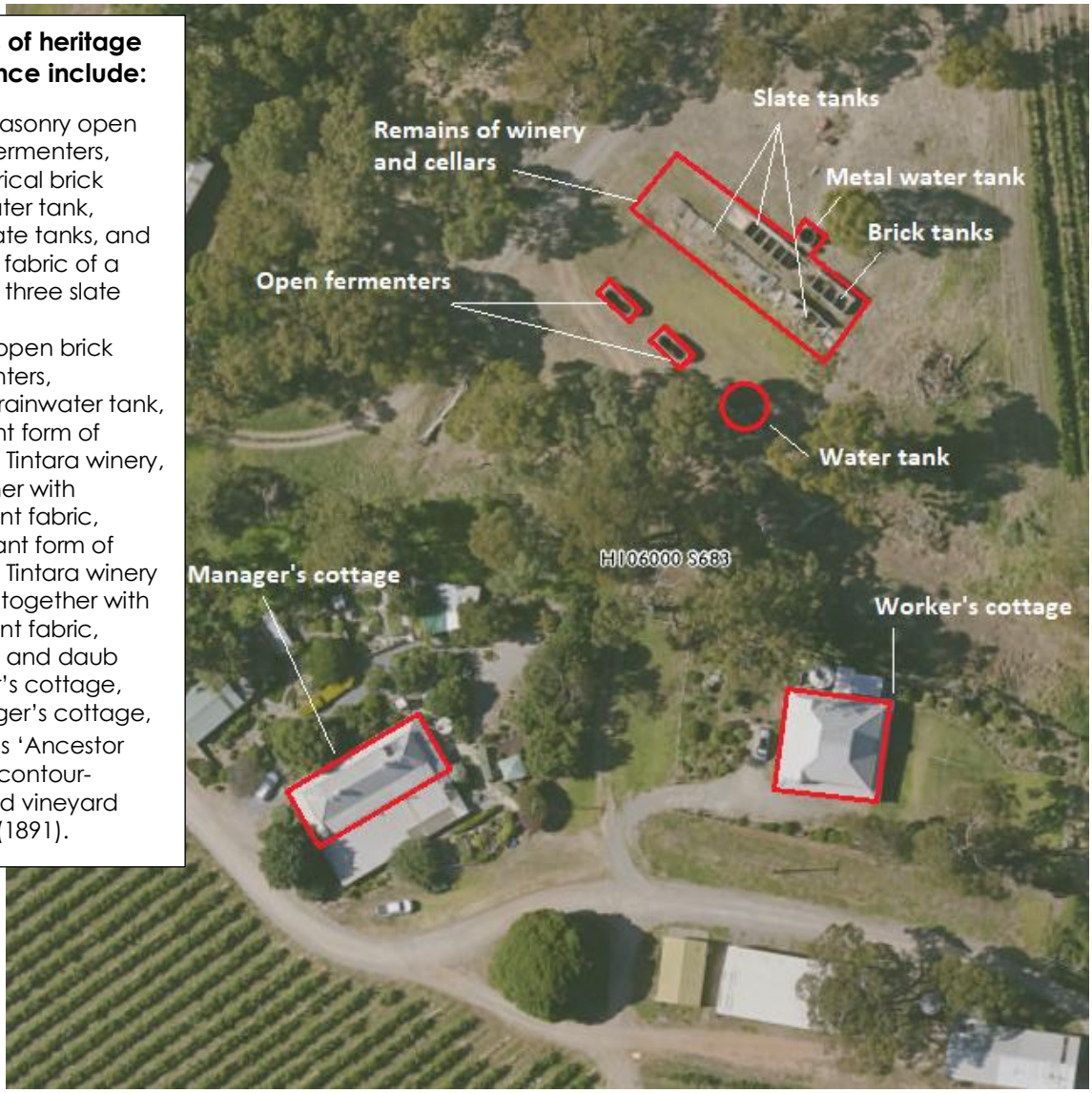
Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre for the site.

Site Plan: Detail

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Two masonry open wine fermenters,
- Cylindrical brick rainwater tank,
- Five slate tanks, and partial fabric of a further three slate tanks,
- Three open brick fermenters,
- Metal rainwater tank,
- Remant form of former Tintara winery, together with remnant fabric,
- Remnant form of former Tintara winery cellar, together with remnant fabric,
- Wattle and daub worker's cottage,
- Manager's cottage,
- Hardy's 'Ancestor vines' contour-planted vineyard block (1891).



Former Tintara Winery Ruins and Vineyard (Part)
(CT 5597/84, H106000 S683, Hundred of Willunga)

LEGEND

Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Native and exotic trees, remnant native vegetation, Winter creek and remnant small dam,
- Contemporary shedding and infrastructure associated with Ox Hardy Wines,
- Contemporary fencing,
- Contemporary site access infrastructure, including graded roads, driveways, and crossovers,
- Round window to western gable of wattle and daub cottage,
- Lean-to, with skillion roof, to south-eastern elevation of manager's cottage,
- Twentieth-century vineyard blocks.

Table of Changes

Date	Action	Officer
Date change made	This document was last updated to record the date the SAHC provisionally entered/rejected the place on page [add page number of the site record table]	Who made the change

Subject Index

Group	Category
Manufacturing and processing	Winery
Residential	Cottage
Utilities	Water Tank

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[62] Hall and Hankel (1980), n.p.
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